

120

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Plympton Village Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street, Elm Street, Parsonage Road, Mayflower Road N/A not for publication

city or town Plympton N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02367

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon January 4, 2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Carlson H. Beall 3.7.07

Plympton Village Historic District
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	building
<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	structures
<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>45</u>	<u>24</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NONE

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single and multiple dwellings
COMMERCE: Specialty store
SOCIAL: Meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall
EDUCATION: School and library
RELIGION: Religious facility and related residence
FUNERARY: Cemetery and graves
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural fields and outbuildings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single and multiple dwellings
COMMERCE: Specialty store
SOCIAL: Meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: Town Hall
RELIGION: Religious facility & related residence
FUNERARY: Cemetery and graves
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural fields and outbuildings
CULTURE: Monuments & markers

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19TH C.: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Second Empire,
Victorian Eclectic
LATE 19TH C. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Fieldstone, granite; CONCRETE
walls WOOD, BRICK, SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
roof ASPHALT, STONE: Slate
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 1 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Located along a stretch of Main Street between Parsonage and Palmer roads, the Plympton Village Area is a linear village that includes approximately twenty buildings surrounding the Plympton Green. Though primarily residential, the buildings in the area include the town library, the Plympton Town House (town offices, formerly a school), the Plympton Fire House, the First Congregational Church, and a store. In addition to the green, the Plympton Village area includes two other significant landscapes: Hillcrest Cemetery, the oldest burial ground in town, and the First Congregational Church cemetery.

The Plympton Village area is characterized by relatively level topography, though the northern end, including Hillcrest Cemetery, features some gentle hills. Mature trees line Main Street, and the buildings exhibit a similar scale of one-and two-story buildings, most of which are set back about 15' from the street. The predominant architectural style is Greek Revival, reflecting the area's primary period of development in the mid-19th century, although Georgian, Federal, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles are also represented.

Located on the east side of Main Street and stretching from Mayflower Road north to Hillcrest Cemetery, the **Plympton Green** (MHC #901, 1702, Photos # 2 and 4) serves as the focal point of the Plympton Village area. Occupying two acres, the Plympton Green is a long, narrow swath of grassy, open space. Vegetation consists of a few dozen deciduous trees, mostly located along the green's perimeter. Two rows of trees are planted on the green's western edge, buffering the green from Main Street and forming an alley. Stretches of fieldstone walls and split-rail wooden fences separate the eastern edge of the green from some of the residential properties that abut it. Access to these homes is provided by four rights-of-way, finished with gravel, which cut through the green. Plympton Green was part of 30 acres that were surveyed and laid out in 1702 for use by the ministry and as a burying ground and military training green. The church sold all but the green and burying ground by 1843 (Sherman 1907:3, 7; Wright: 1973:23, 111). The dimensions of the Plympton Green have remained essentially the same since that time.

Several objects and structures are located on the Plympton Green. The **Bandstand** (MHC #904, ca. 1920) is located at the southern end of the green. The octagonal, fieldstone base is topped with a wood-shingled cupola (erected in 2000) supported by eight wood, Doric columns. Access is provided via a set of stone steps on the east side of the Bandstand. Bronze plaques commemorating those who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam are set into the Bandstand's fieldstone base. The plaques dedicated to veterans of the world wars include names of all of those from Plympton who served.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The **Grange Pump** (MHC #906, 1911) is located just to the southwest of the Bandstand. It consists of an iron water pump with a concrete trough, on which the words "PLYMPTON GRANGE / 1911" are inscribed.

The **Civil War Soldiers' Monument** (MHC #902, 1889), located north of the Bandstand, features the figure of a soldier standing atop a granite base on which is inscribed the following: "ERECTED / BY THE LADIES' / MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION / OF PLYMPTON / TO COMMEMORATE THE / DEEDS OF HER LOYAL SONS / WHO IMPERILED THEIR LIVES / FOR THE PRESERVATION / OF THE UNION / 1861 1865." Low granite curbing, which sources indicate was installed around 1894, surrounds the monument (Wright 1973:27).

The **Deborah Sampson Boulder** (MHC #903, 1906) is located further north on the green. The large, granite boulder includes a bronze plaque which reads as follows: "IN HONOR OF / DEBORAH SAMPSON / WHO FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY SERVED / TWO YEARS AS A SOLDIER IN THE / WAR OF THE REVOLUTION / SHE WAS BORN IN PLYMPTON MASSACHUSETTS / DECEMBER 17, 1760 / THIS MEMORIAL ERECTED BY THE / DEBORAH SAMPSON CHAPTER / DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION / OF BROCKTON AND THE TOWN OF PLYMPTON / 1906."

A steel **Flagpole** (MHC #905, late-twentieth century) is sited to the north of the Deborah Sampson Boulder. Research indicates that this modern pole may have replaced an approximately 90 ft-tall, wooden pole that was erected by the Ladies' Memorial Association around 1895 (Wright 1973:27; Wright 1981:43).

The north edge of the Plympton Green abuts **Hillcrest Cemetery** (MHC #801, 1706, Photo #10) at Main Street and Palmer Road. Now covering 14 acres of gently sloping terrain (approximately six acres of which contain burial plots, the remainder being woodland), Hillcrest Cemetery was included in the 30 acres set aside for use by the ministry and as a training green and burial ground in 1702, but probably did not receive its first burial until around 1706 (Sherman 1907:7; *Plympton 275th Anniversary Celebration* 1982:3).

The southern, triangular section of the cemetery – particularly the area across the street from the Plympton Public Library – contains the oldest burials, and over 500 stones survive. A cut granite wall runs along the west and south edges, while the eastern boundary is delineated by a fieldstone wall. This area has predominantly slate headstones dating from the 18th and early-19th centuries, many of which display skull and wings and willow-and-urn motifs, laid in rough rows and facing west. With the notable exception of the Wright family plot, located at the southern

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 3 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

end of the cemetery, there are very few family plots. The Soule family tomb occupies the southwest corner of the cemetery. Vegetation in this section of the cemetery is limited to a few scattered evergreen trees. There are three pedestrian entrances: one near the oldest burials (across the street from the Library) and two on the southern edge, providing access from the green. The entrance across from the Library and the easternmost entrance on the southern edge are marked with iron gates.

The burial ground was expanded just before 1900 and again around 1905, and it became known as Hillcrest Cemetery, a name that is now applied to the entire burial ground (Wright 1973:58; Wright 1977:194). The northern section of the cemetery is divided into four quadrants by dirt drives that provide three entrances from Main Street. The two southern entrances are marked by wood gates. A fieldstone wall runs along the west edge of the cemetery, buffering it from Main Street. A boulder, inscribed with "HILLCREST / 1706" is located along this edge, midway between the two gated entrances.

Generally, burials in the southwest quadrant date from the late 19th to early-20th centuries. Those in the southeast quadrant are mostly from the mid-20th century. The northwest quadrant contains graves from the mid- to late-20th century, while the most recent burials are concentrated in the northeast quadrant.

There are hundreds of grave markers, most of which are granite headstones. There are several family plots with monuments and a few flush markers are located among the more recent burials. Two unmarked tombs, which appear to date to the 19th century or earlier, are located in the northern section of the cemetery. One is sited at the north end of the eastern path. The other is located at the edge of the original burial ground, and is probably the former town tomb. Research suggests that the tomb may have been moved from a location closer to Main Street in the early 20th century, though this is unconfirmed (Wright 1973:57). Vegetation in this section of Hillcrest Cemetery consists primarily of scattered evergreen trees and shrubs, though some deciduous trees are located along the perimeter wall.

Diagonally northwest of Plympton Green at the intersection of Main Street and Palmer Road is the former **Central School, 5 Palmer Road** (MHC #88, 1935, Photo #11) which currently serves as the Plympton Town House (municipal offices). The Central School is situated on a graded terrace above the level of Palmer Road. The building is set back from the roadway and the front door is approached by a set of stone steps. A large paved parking area on the south side provides direct access to the building. A wooden ramp on the north side provides some degree of barrier-free access.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 4 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The school was originally designed as a one-story T-shaped structure with red brick walls, large multi-pane (6/6) windows, and intersecting hipped roofs with a louvered cupola centered on the ridge. The double-leaf front entrance is set within a double classical surround. The semi-elliptical main pediment extends through the roofline and is supported by engaged pilasters. The outer surround encloses a smaller broken pediment and pilasters that frame the main doors.

The original building measured 51 by 71 feet and had four main classrooms on the 1st floor. The finished basement was set half above grade with large multi-pane windows providing natural light to the basement playroom. The basement also held the lavatories, a kitchenette, and mechanical equipment. In 1955, the school was expanded to the west with two large gable-roofed additions with metal industrial-style windows. A one story flat-roofed addition at the southwest corner and a flat-roofed canopy over the south entrance were added later. The school was vacated in 1973 and converted to municipal offices in 1975. Just south of the Town House is a new fire station (MHC #87) also erected in 1975.

The next building south on the west side of Main Street is the **Plympton Public Library at 248 Main Street** (MHC #77, ca. 1905), located across the street from Hillcrest Cemetery. Designed by R.L. Young, a Boston architect, and built by E. Laurence Grover of Halifax (MA), the 1-story, 3-bay, Colonial Revival-style building is comprised of a rectangular main block with a granite foundation and a large, rear addition built during a renovation in the early 1990s, which rests on a concrete foundation. The entire building is sheathed with wood clapboard and topped with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, pierced by a single, brick chimney. Windows are primarily fixed sash. A bay window, containing five sash, is located on the north elevation of the main block. Other notable features include the center entry on the east elevation of the main block, which has a pedimented gable and Doric columns; this entry was filled in during the 1990s renovation.

Immediately to the south is the **First Congregational Church Parsonage at 252 Main Street** (MHC #78, 1853-1854). A 1-story, Greek Revival-style Cape, the building is comprised of an east-facing, rectangular main block with an ell extending to the south. The residence features wood-clapboard siding; a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof; two brick chimneys; and a continuous, shed-roof dormer on the east slope of the roof. Windows are primarily 6/6, double-hung sash. The primary entry is located in the center bay of the main block and features an entablature, pilasters and sidelights. The building was rotated to face Main Street in the 1980s, at which time it was placed on a new, concrete foundation (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:27, 45).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 5 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The **First Congregational Church at 254 Main Street** (MHC #18, 1830, Photo #5) is located to the south of the parsonage. Built in 1830 by Whittemore Peterson of Duxbury, the Greek Revival-style building rests on a granite foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The asphalt-shingled, front-gable roof is topped with a bell tower and spire, built after an earlier steeple was toppled by Hurricane Carol in 1954. The main entry is located in the center bay of the 3-bay façade, and features a porte-cochere, built around 1903, supported by wood columns on stone bases. Paired corner pilasters and a fully returned cornice characterize the main façade. Brackets are located under the eaves of the north and south elevations. Windows include 1/1, double-hung replacement sash, as well as full-height, round-arched windows on the north and south elevations and a fanlight in the gable peak of the main façade. A large, L-shaped wing extends off the north elevation of the church, the result of two additions: one in the 1980s and another in 1998 (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:17, 27, 32; Wright 1973:76).

The **First Congregational Church Cemetery** (MHC #800, ca. 1850, Photo #6) is located on the rear lot immediately west of the church. Occupying about two acres and owned by the Town, the cemetery was established around 1850, with the first burial occurring in 1856 (Wright 1973:57-58). A fieldstone wall runs along the cemetery's north, west, and south boundaries. There are no established drives or paths in the cemetery, though an informal grass path runs along the southern edge. Gravemarkers date mostly from the 1860s through the 1910s, and are primarily of granite and marble. Family plots are usually demarcated by granite curbing, and monuments, such as obelisks, are common. Vegetation consists mostly of evergreen trees and shrubs, though some deciduous plants are also present.

Located to the south of the church is the **Gilbert H. Randall House at 260 Main Street** (MHC #79, ca. 1890). The 1-story, Queen Anne-style residence rests on a brick foundation. The building is clad in wood clapboards and shingles arranged in a fish-scale pattern. The cross-gable roof is sheathed in slate and topped with two brick chimneys. Windows are mostly 1/1, double-hung replacement sash, though 10-light casement windows are also present. The main entry features a pedimented porch. Two outbuildings are located on the property: a large, 1-story, 19th-century barn and a modern, 1-bay garage.

Immediately to the south is the **Zacheus T. Parker House at 264 Main Street** (MHC #80, ca. 1850). The 1-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival-style house rests on a granite foundation, is sheathed in wood shingles and has a front-gable, asphalt-shingled roof and two brick chimneys. The main façade is characterized by a fully returned cornice with a wide entablature and corner pilasters. The recessed main entry, which is located in the third bay, has a broad entablature and sidelights.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 6 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Windows are primarily 6/6, double-hung sash with louvered exterior shutters. The north and south slopes of the roof each have a single, gabled dormer. A modern, attached garage is connected to the rectangular main block by a small ell on the north elevation. A modern ell extends off the rear (west) of the building.

Further south on Main Street is the **Z.T. Parker Store at 266 Main Street** (MHC #81, 1893). The 2-story, 3-bay building features a granite foundation, variegated wood shingle and clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with one brick chimney. The main entry is located in the center bay of the east façade, and is housed beneath a porch that stretches the width of the building and features wood columns and a simple railing. The double-leaf entrance is topped by a transom window and flanked by large, multi-pane, fixed-sash windows. A one-story, former outbuilding at the rear of the lot has been converted to a residence.

Immediately to the south is the **Randall Shoe Shop at 268 Main Street** (MHC #82, ca. 1875, Photo #7). The south section of the building, which is topped by a side-gable roof, was built around 1875 to serve as a shoe shop; soon after, the business expanded and the building was extended to the north, with the addition of the mansard-roof section (Wright 1981:359). The entire structure rests on a granite foundation and is clad in wood shingles. Two brick chimneys pierce the asphalt-shingled roof. Windows are primarily 6/6, double-hung, replacement sash. Two entrances, largely unadorned, are located on the east façade. A garage is located at the rear of the property.

Union Hall / Grange Hall at 270 Main Street (MHC #20, 1852) is located at the northwest corner of Main and Elm streets. Set back approximately 30' from Main Street, the 2-story, Greek Revival-style building has a granite foundation, clapboard sheathing, and a front-gable, asphalt-shingled roof with a fully returned cornice. Each elevation exhibits a wide entablature and corner pilasters. The main entrance is located in the center of the 3-bay façade; it is recessed, with double doors and a surround that features a wide entablature and pilasters. The long, narrow window openings are filled with 12/12, double-hung sash. A triangular window is located in the gable peak on the main façade.

At the southwest corner of Elm Street and Main, across from Union Hall is the **Reverend John Briggs House at 1 Elm Street** (MHC #21, ca. 1801). The rectangular, 2-story, 5-bay, Georgian-style residence faces north. It has a granite foundation, clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with two brick, interior end chimneys. The main entry is located beneath a hip roof porch supported by paired columns, in the center of the north façade. The entrance is flanked by pilasters. Windows are primarily 6/6 and 2/2, double-hung sash.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 7 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

A small, rectangular, 1-story building is located just to the south of the Reverend John Briggs House, at **274 Main Street** (MHC #84, early to mid-19th century). Probably a former outbuilding to the Briggs House, the structure features wood-shingled siding, an asphalt-shingled, front-gable roof, and an entry located in the center of the 3-bay-wide east façade. Two fixed storefront windows flank the entry at the first floor of the main façade; a window with 2/2, double-hung sash is located over the entry, in the gable peak. Architectural ornamentation is limited to the building's plain cornerboards.

Located to the south, at the northwest corner of Main Street and Parsonage Road, is the **Joshua V. Peck House at 2 Parsonage Road** (MHC #85, ca. 1894, Photo #8). The Queen Anne-style residence is 1½ -stories tall, rests on a brick foundation, is sheathed in wood clapboards, and features a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The roof has cornice returns and is pierced by a single, parged-brick chimney painted with the date "1894." The main entry is located on the south façade, within a hip-roof porch supported by turned posts and eave brackets. Windows are 2/2 and 1/1, double-hung sash. A gable dormer is located on the east slope of the roof. The property includes a small, one-story, front-gable **outbuilding** (MHC #85, late-19th century), probably a former blacksmith shop that is currently used as a basket shop.

At the south end of Plympton Green, the **Nathaniel S. Lucas House at 277 Main Street** (MHC #23, ca. 1840) stands at the southeast corner of Main Street and Mayflower Road. The 1-story Cape has a north-facing, rectangular main block with a 1-story ell extending off the east elevation. The building is clad in wood shingles and clapboard siding. The side-gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and features a single, brick center chimney. The main entrance is located in the center bay, is accessed by granite steps, and is flanked by sidelights. Window openings feature 6/6, double-hung sash. A continuous, shed-roof dormer runs along the north slope of the roof and contains five windows. A wood-shingled outbuilding, in poor condition, is located to the south of the residence.

The **Martin Perkins House at 4 Mayflower Road** (MHC #24, ca. 1820) is located on the lot immediately to the east, facing north on Plympton Green. The 2-story, 5-bay, Federal-style residence consists of a rectangular main block with a hip roof and a gable-roofed ell that extends off the rear (south) elevation. The building is clad in weathered wood shingles and features simple wood cornerboards. The main entry is located in the center bay of the north façade, and has a wide entablature, pilasters, and sidelights. Three brick chimneys pierce the roof. Windows are primarily 6/6, double-hung sash; those on the first floor have drip caps. A 19th-century, wood-shingled, front-gable barn is located to the south of the residence. Several large, mature trees are located along Mayflower Road, at the property's northern boundary.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 8 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Mayflower Road, **the J. T. Ellis - L. B. Parker House at 271 Main Street** (MHC #83, ca. 1850) is a 1½ -story, 5-bay, Victorian Eclectic-style building that fronts the Plympton Green. In addition to the rectangular main block, the building includes an extensive rear ell. Clad in wood shingles and clapboards, the residence rests on a granite foundation and is topped by a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof with two brick chimneys. A center-bay, gabled dormer dominates the main (west) façade. The main entry is located in the center bay and features sidelights and a flat-roof porch supported by simple wood posts. Windows are mostly 2/2, double-hung sash. A bay window is located on the south elevation of the main block. The residence occupies a large lot that is currently used as a horse farm. Several outbuildings are located at the rear of the property, not easily visible from the public way along Plympton Green.

The **William H. Soule House at 263 Main Street** (MHC #19, 1843) is located immediately to the north. The 2-story, Greek Revival-style building is sheathed in wood shingles and clapboard and is topped by an asphalt-shingled, front-gable roof with two brick chimneys. The main entry is located in the third bay of the 3-bay-wide west façade, beneath a full-width, hip-roof porch supported by wood, Doric columns. It is flanked by sidelights. Windows are mostly 6/6, double-hung sash with louvered shutters. A triangular, multi-pane window is located in the gable peak. Granite posts at the west boundary presumably mark the location of a former fence that separated the property from the Plympton Green.

To the immediate north is the 2-story, Greek Revival-style **George Sherman House at 259 Main Street** (MHC #22, ca. 1845, Photo #9). The rectangular, 3-bay-wide main block has an ell extending off the rear (east) elevation. The main block rests on a granite foundation, is sheathed in vinyl siding and is topped by an asphalt-shingled, front-gable roof with a fully returned cornice and a single brick chimney. Corner pilasters provide architectural ornament. The main entry is located in the first bay, and is characterized by a wide entablature and pilasters. Windows are 6/6, double-hung sash. Two wood-shingled barns are located to the south of the residence. Fieldstone walls demarcate the north and east property boundaries.

The northernmost residence fronting the Plympton Green is the **Reverend Ezra Sampson House at 255 Main Street** (MHC #17, late 18th century, Photo #12). Reportedly dating from around the time of the Revolutionary War and featuring a granite stoop inscribed with the date "1776," the rectangular, 2-story, 5-bay-wide, Georgian-style residence is the earliest extant building in the Plympton Village Area. It rests on a fieldstone foundation, features exterior walls clad in wood shingles and is topped by an asphalt-shingled, side-gable roof with a large, brick, center chimney. The main entry is located in the center bay and has a pedimented gable with

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section Number 7 Page 9 Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

dentils, a transom window and fluted pilasters. Windows are primarily 12/12, double-hung sash with louvered shutters. The property includes three wood-shingled outbuildings, among them a large, ca. 1740, front-gable barn that was moved to the property from Lake Street in Kingston in the mid-1980s and small potting shed that was moved from across the street (260 Main St.) and expanded about 1990. Several mature trees dot the property.

Non-contributing buildings with the Plympton Village area are generally small wood-frame garages built after the period of significance. The only major non-contributing building is the Plympton Fire House (3 Palmer Rd.), a one-story maintenance and office facility constructed in 1975 between the Town House (Center School) and the Library. The firehouse is set back from the road and is not highly visible. The only visual intrusions in the Plympton Village area are standard highway accessories such as street lamps and signage.

Beyond the boundary of the Plympton Village historic district, the development pattern consists primarily of low-density suburban residences and small-scale commercial strips. The area north of the district along Main Street and Palmer Road is characterized by modern single-family homes on large lots interspersed with several older houses. The new DPW headquarters on Palmer Road and the Old Town House (now the Plympton Historical Society) on Main Street are the major public buildings outside the district.

To the east along Mayflower Road, the pattern of modern single-family suburban development continues along with several large tracts of farmland. To the south, the intersection of Main Road and Parsonage Road is marked by a small modern gasoline station, a new one-story post office building, and a small commercial strip. To the west along Elm Street, scattered single-family homes predominate.

The pattern of development beyond the immediate vicinity of Plympton Village is severely constrained by the extensive wetlands in town and the continued cultivation of cranberry bogs. The major threats to the preservation of Plympton Village would seem to come from the encroaching commercial development at the south end of the district and the potential for highway widening or other improvements along Main Street (Route 58).

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded in the proposed district, sites may be present. One site has been identified in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 7 Page 10Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

wetlands) that are generally favorable for the presence of Native sites. Most of the district includes level to moderately sloping upland terraces and other terrain with the northern and northeastern portions of the district located within 1,000 feet of wetlands. Soils in the district are usually well drained, very stony, and formed in glacial till. Wetlands include unnamed tributary streams of the Winnetuxet River, swamplands, and a pond. Stony soils may adversely affect the site sensitivity of the district. Given the above information and the size of the nominated area (60 acres), a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Structural evidence may survive from the town's first three meetinghouses (1695-98, 1714, 1772) all located on the green. The green may also contain archaeological evidence of the liberty pole; erected on the green in 1774, the Town pound, stocks, and armory. Structural evidence from a barn and post molds from a fence line associated with Jonathan Parker residence, town minister from 1731-76, may survive at the northern end of the green. Structural evidence may also survive from a store, post office, and school, no longer extant and originally located on the east side of the green. Structural evidence may exist from a chapel built in 1886 then demolished in the 1980s or 1998 when additions were constructed for the First Congregational Church (1830) at 254 Main Street. At the Hillside Cemetery, structural evidence may exist from the Town Tomb, moved in the early 1900s and hearse house, also moved about the same time. Unmarked burials may survive at both the Hillcrest Cemetery (1706) and the First Congregational Church Cemetery (ca. 1850). While no residential sites have been identified in the district, sites may exist. The area around the green was a locus of settlement beginning in the late 17th and early 18th century. Structural evidence may exist from early farmsteads and residences originally located in this area but no longer extant. Most of the existing properties in the district are represented on the 1857 Walling Atlas with residences around the green dating from the late 18th through late 19th centuries. Historical research combined with archaeological testing may locate additional residences; presently undocumented, that survive as archaeological sites from the late 17th through 19th century period. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist with the many extant buildings in the district and at archaeological sites.

(end)

Plympton Village Historic District

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☒ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Plymouth, Massachusetts

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1702 - 1956

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Zacheus Sherman (Plympton) Whittemore Peterson
(Duxbury, MA), R.L. Young (Boston), Harry L. Meacham
(Worcester, MA)

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Plympton Historical Society, Plympton Public Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section Number 8 Page 1Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA**8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Plympton Village Historic District in the center of Plympton is a linear village centered on an historic common and flanked by an historic burial ground. The area and the buildings retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, fulfilling Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level.

Under **Criterion A**, the District has served as a focal point for the Town since its earliest days of European settlement. At the District's center lies the Plympton Green, a linear strip of common land established in 1702, five years before Plympton's incorporation as a Town. The Green served first as a burying place and military training ground, and housed the first meetinghouse (c. 1695-1698). By the 20th century, it had become a commemorative space, holding the Civil War monument, Veterans' Memorial, bandstand, and at the northernmost end, a 14-acre cemetery. Throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, religious, civic, commercial, and residential properties developed around the Green, including the First Congregational Church and Cemetery (1830), Parsonage (1853-54), Plympton Public Library (1905), Center School (1935) and the Firehouse (1975).

Under **Criterion C**, the District contains intact buildings and landscapes from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape architectural styles, as well as many fine examples of funerary art. While the Greek Revival style predominates (reflecting the period of greatest prosperity), the area also contains buildings reflecting the Georgian, Federal, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Colonial Revival styles. The tree-lined, long, linear form of the Plympton Green typifies the design of commons in many New England towns. The monuments and carvings of both the Hillcrest and First Congregational Church Cemeteries display the materials of the local environment as well as the work of notable local stonecarvers.

CRITERION A: PATTERNS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Originally a part of Plymouth, present-day Plympton received its first European settlers sometime between 1670 and 1680. In 1695, the western precinct of Plymouth, which included present-day Plympton and Carver, was established. Forty-five families resided in the precinct at the time. Plympton was incorporated as a separate town on June 4, 1707. The Town's size was reduced on various occasions in the 1700s and 1800s, through setting off land to form the neighboring towns of Kingston, Halifax, Middleborough and Carver. Plympton achieved its current configuration in 1863, when the boundary with adjoining Halifax was finalized (MHC 1981:1; Sherman 1907:3-4; Wright 1973:23).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 2Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Plympton's economic base was primarily agricultural, and early white settlements concentrated along Brook and Crescent streets and in two primary nodes located in North Plympton and around the Plympton Green. Topographical constraints discouraged significant changes in Plympton's road system, which has changed little from the end of the 1700s to the present day. For example, Main Street, which bisects the Plympton Village Area, probably served as the primary north-south route during the Contact Period (1500-1620), as it does today. Consequently, Plympton's early settlement pattern persisted through the 1800s, with new development focused along existing roads. Eighteenth and 19th-century industrial pursuits were limited and were sited mainly near the Winnetuxet River, located to the south of the Plympton Green, although some small mills were located along streams in other parts of town. Almost all of the industrial sites in Plympton had disappeared by the 1920s (MHC 1981:1-3).

Colonial Period (1670-1780)

The Plympton Village Area has served as a focal point for the Town since its earliest days of European settlement. Shortly after the establishment of the western precinct of Plymouth in 1695, a meetinghouse was erected on the southern end of the present-day green. This structure was probably built between 1695 and 1698, when a separate parish was organized to serve the residents of the new precinct. It was replaced around 1714, when a new meetinghouse was erected on the green. This, in turn, was replaced with a third meetinghouse, built around 1772 at the location of the present-day Civil War Soldiers' Monument. None of these three buildings survives. A fourth meetinghouse, the present-day **First Congregational Church at 254 Main Street** (MHC #18, 1830, Photo #5), across the street from the green, was built in 1830 (see below).

The **Plympton Green** (MHC #901, 1702, Photos #2 and 4) was established at a town meeting held in Plymouth on March 16, 1702, when the town voted to set aside 30 acres for use by the ministry and as a militia training green and burial ground. This land was surveyed by William Shurtleff and Samuel Sturtevant on April 23, 1702. (Of these thirty acres, all but the training green and burial ground was sold by the parish during a period of financial trouble in 1843.) In 1706, an acre of land was cleared by Benjamin Soule and Isaac Cushman to create a burying ground (**Hillcrest Cemetery**, MHC #801, 1706, Photo #10). Burials began soon after, concentrated in the portion of the cemetery located near the intersection of present-day Main Street and Palmer Road (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:7-11; Sherman 1907:3, 7; Wright 1973:23, 57). The cemetery features numerous headstones carved by

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 3Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Nathaniel Fuller and the Soule family, Plympton residents (Benes 1969; Forbes 1989:85-86). Most are slate slabs featuring a semi-circular tympanum, though round-arched and rectangular slabs are also present. There are numerous stones carved by Nathaniel Fuller, including those of William Coomer (d. 1741) and Elizabeth Parker (d. 1743), as well as by Ebenezer Soule (1710-1792), a Plympton native.

In the 18th century, the Plympton Green served many purposes. As noted above, Plympton's first three meetinghouses were located on the present-day green. At various times, the green also included the Town Pound and stocks. An armory stood at the southern end of the green (at some point, the building was split in half and each half was moved to Parsonage Road to a location outside the Plympton Village historic district boundary). A Liberty Pole was erected in 1774, near the site of the present-day Grange Pump. Jonathan Parker, the town minister from 1731 to 1776, cultivated the north end of the green and had a barn on the property. A fence ran along the west side of his field, which extended from the present-day Civil War Soldiers' Monument to the burial ground (Sherman 1907:7; Wright 1977:417; Wright 1981:41).

In the late 1700s, the **Reverend Ezra Sampson House at 255 Main Street** (MHC #17, late 18th century, Photo #12) was erected by the town's new minister on the east side of the green. This was the first of several residences to be built along the green's eastern perimeter, and points to the long history of homes fronting on the Plympton Green. Reverend Sampson served Plympton until 1796, when he moved to Hudson, New York and became the editor of a newspaper (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:12; Bricknell 1974:8). He was distantly related to Deborah Sampson, the Revolutionary War soldier and Plympton native (b. 1760) for whom a boulder (MHC #903, 1906) was placed on the Plympton Green. Deborah Sampson lived on Elm Street (outside the district), and after marrying c. 1785, moved to Sharon. Ezra Sampson and Deborah Sampson shared the same great-grand parents, Isaac Sampson and Lydia Standish.

Federal Period (1780-1830)

Throughout the 18th century, Plympton's population fluctuated as boundaries were adjusted and neighboring towns were set off. The inland location and the shortage of good farmland kept the community fairly small with a population of 956 residents in the 1790 census declining to 861 residents in 1800 (after the boundary with Carver was established). By 1830, the population of Plympton was up to 920, but would fall again in 1831 when a portion of the town was annexed to neighboring Halifax.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 4Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The shortage of arable land that limited colonial settlement made Plympton more attractive to artisans, craftsmen, and merchants who could take advantage of the town's established network of roads and perhaps acquire homelots more cheaply. A shovel factory with a water-powered forge and triphammer on the Winnatuxet River was established in 1786 by Jonathan Parker and operated until 1860. The first of several small textile mills was established in 1812 when a cotton factory was constructed on the Winnatuxet River south of the town center. The town also supported a number of small gristmills and sawmills.

The Plympton Village area began to take on its current appearance in the early to mid-19th century. As in other Massachusetts communities during the same period, the image of the green or common changed from a place on which public buildings were located to that of an open park-like space surrounded by buildings.

The erection of the **First Congregational Church at 254 Main Street** (MHC #18, 1830, Photo #5) in 1830 was probably one of the most significant developments of the period. Following the separation of church and town in 1827, the church began to establish itself as an independent entity. Around the same time, the parishioners debated whether to repair the existing meetinghouse, which had been built on the green around 1772, or to erect a new facility. Ultimately, Polly and Jonathan Parker, the son of Reverend Parker, donated a lot of land on the west side of Main Street and Whittemore Peterson of Duxbury was hired to erect a new meetinghouse on the site.

The ca. 1772 meetinghouse was razed in April 1830, and construction of the new building began the following month. Measuring 66' x 44', the new building cost \$3,364 and featured a steeple and a 1,100 pound bell, which was cast by George W. Holbrook of Medway for \$386. (The steeple has since been damaged and reconstructed several times: after being struck by lightning in the 1850s, after a gale in 1928 and after Hurricane Carol in 1954.) The building was dedicated in front of a crowd of 800 on September 29, 1830, and the first service was held on October 4 of that year. Later alterations included the addition of the entry portico in 1903, through a donation from Maria L.H. Pierce of Middleborough, a Plympton native who provided funds for the erection of a new Library around the same time (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:13-19; Sherman 1907:5; Wright 1973:75-76).

Numerous residences were built in the Plympton Green area during this period, as well. The first of these was the large, Georgian-style **Reverend John Briggs House at 1 Elm Street** (MHC #21, ca. 1801) located at the corner of Main and Elm streets. The residence was built on land

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 5Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

given by the parish to Reverend Briggs when he assumed the ministry in 1801. He served as Plympton's minister until 1807 (Bricknell 1974; Sherman 1907:6). The **Rev. John Briggs outbuilding at 274 Main Street** (MHC #84, early to mid-19th century) may have been built around the same time as an outbuilding to the Briggs House; a small structure appears in its location on the 1857 map.

The **Martin Perkins House at 4 Mayflower Road** (MHC #24, ca.1820), a Federal-style residence, was built around 1820 (Bricknell 1974). Research indicates that Martin Perkins, or possibly his heirs, retained ownership until at least 1879; on both the 1857 and 1879 maps, the name "M Perkins" appears next to the property (Walling 1857; Walker 1879). In the 1867 directory, Martin Perkins is listed as a carpenter.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

Plympton's population of 920 people in 1830 rose to a peak of 1,000 residents in 1855, then settled at 804 by 1870 (after the boundary between Plympton and Halifax was adjusted in 1863). The local economy in the early industrial period was still primarily based on skilled crafts and trades with continuing efforts to harness limited waterpower on small manufacturing sites. Cotton and woolen mills, the Parker shovel factory and piecework shoe manufacturing were the largest employers. The only railroad link passed through the northern part of Plympton in 1845.

By the mid-19th century, the Plympton Green area looked much as it does today, as evidenced by the appearance of almost all of the extant properties in the area on the 1857 atlas (Walling 1857). The 1857 map shows a town center that accommodated many uses, including civic, religious, residential, and commercial activities.

The **Nathaniel S. Lucas House at 277 Main Street** (MHC #23, ca. 1840) a simple Cape, was built at the corner of Main Street and Mayflower Road around 1840. The 1857 map shows "N Lucas" as the owner of the property; Nathaniel Lucas is listed as a blacksmith in the 1867 directory (Walling 1857). By 1879, the property was owned by J. Lucas, presumably a descendant of Nathaniel (Walker 1879).

Three residences were built on the east side of the Plympton Green during the mid-19th century, and reflect the popularity of the Greek Revival style at the time. These include the **William H. Soule House at 263 Main Street** (MHC #19, 1843), built in 1843. The Soule family traces its lineage back to the *Mayflower*; George Soule was a passenger on the *Mayflower* and his

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 6Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

grandson, Benjamin, was one of the first settlers in Plympton (Wright 1977:199-200). As mentioned above, Benjamin Soule was one of two men who surveyed the burial ground in 1706. Research indicates that William H. Soule, who is listed as a "gentleman" in the 1867 directory, retained ownership of the property until at least 1857 (Walling 1857). By 1879, the property had passed to his son, William Strobbridge Soule, owner of a trunk manufacturing company in Cambridge, who kept the property as a summer home until his death in 1900 (Walker 1879; Wright 1973:137).

The Greek Revival-style **George Sherman House at 259 Main Street** (MHC #22, ca. 1845, Photo #9), located just north of the William H. Soule House, was built around 1845 by George Sherman, a carpenter (Bricknell 1974; 1867 Directory). The **J. T. Ellis – L. B. Parker House at 271 Main Street** (MHC #83, ca. 1850, located immediately to the south of the William H. Soule House), exhibits some Greek Revival-style features, such as its center-bay entry with sidelights. It is shown on the 1857 map as belonging to the heirs of J.T. Ellis, while by 1879 it was owned by L.B. Parker (Walling 1857; Walling 1879).

Located immediately across the street is another Greek Revival-style building, the **Zacheus T. Parker House at 264 Main Street** (MHC #80, ca. 1850). Labeled "Z Parker" on both the 1857 and 1879 atlases, the house was likely occupied by Zacheus Parker, a trader, who operated a store a few lots to the south (see below) (Walling 1857; Walker 1879; 1867 Directory).

Union Hall / Grange Hall at 270 Main Street (MHC #20, 1852), also executed in the Greek Revival style, was built by a group of residents who objected to the site of the Town Hall, which had been built in 1850 at the intersection of Main and Center streets, north of the Plympton Village Area. Union Hall served as a community gathering space, hosting meetings, dances, concerts, and banquets. Shortly after it was built in 1852, it housed the Samoset Lyceum, which offered lectures, poetry readings, and debates. Union Hall served as a primary school around the turn of the 20th century. Research indicates that the Plympton Grange was meeting in the building by at least 1910; the Grange purchased the building in 1926. In the late 20th century, it served as an office building (1910 Directory: 51; MHC Inventory Form; *Plympton 275th Anniversary Celebration* 1982:3; Wright 1973:25-26, 51; Wright 1977:78-79).

Around 1850, the **First Congregational Church Cemetery** (MHC #800, ca. 1850, Photo #6) was established, presumably due to crowding at the original burial ground at the north end of the green; the first burial, that of Shadrach Standish, took place in the new cemetery in 1856 (Wright 1973:57-58).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 7Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The Greek Revival-style **First Congregational Church Parsonage at 252 Main Street** (MHC #78, 1853-54) was built by the church on land formerly owned by Jonathan Parker, son of the minister. A building committee was formed on March 16, 1853, and a plan for the building, drawn up by committee member Zacheus Sherman, was approved soon after. Lorenzo Miller of Fall River constructed the building, which was completed in the summer of 1854. According to church records, the 25' x 35' residence was to be painted white with green shutters and plastered throughout, and included a parlor, study, nursery, buttery / pantry, a 13' x 15' porch (not extant), three chimneys and door handles of rosewood and glass. The building appears on the 1857 atlas of the town, at which time its front elevation faced the church; the building was rotated to face Main Street and placed on a new foundation in the 1980s (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:27, 43-45; Walling 1857).

Two hotels near Plympton Green offered accommodations for travelers in the mid-19th century. H.E. Briggs operated a hotel at the **Reverend Ezra Sampson House at 255 Main Street** (MHC #17, late 18th century, Photo #12) by at least 1856; a photo in Eugene Wright's *Tales of Old Plympton, Volume I* shows a sign reading "PLYMPTON HOUSE / 1856 / H.E. BRIGGS" (Wright 1977:354). This sign remains with the house today. The 1867 directory lists Herschell E. Briggs as a shoemaker, suggesting that he either supplemented his hotel earnings with a second job or had closed the hotel by that time.

The 1857 map shows D. White's Hotel at the **Reverend John Briggs House at 1 Elm Street** (MHC #21, ca. 1801). In the 1867 directory, Darius White is listed as a farmer; he, too, may have operated his hotel on the side. Other establishments included a store on the west side of Main Street, just north of Union Hall (not extant; see below), and a post office (not extant) and a school (not extant) on the east side of the green, just south of the William H. Soule House at 263 Main Street. As noted above, many of the residences remained in the hands of their original builders or their heirs.

Late Industrial Period 1870-1910

While the late industrial period was not a time of rapid population growth in Plympton, it was a period in which the community began to assume its current character. The decline in population from 804 in 1870 to only 561 residents in 1910 does not include the gradual increase in summer residents who owned or rented property in Silver Lake Grove, a summer resort established in north Plympton by the Old Colony Railroad in 1845.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 8Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The local economy continued to be based on skilled crafts and trades, including a shoe factory run by George Randall (see below). In the 1890s, the Randall Brothers also pioneered the beginnings of commercial cranberry production, a viable use for Plympton's many bogs and wetlands. The celebration of the town's 200th anniversary in 1907 also renewed interest in the Plympton Green as an important commemorative space.

Plympton Green (MHC #901, 1702, Photos #2 and 4), the geographical focus of the community since the 17th century, continued to hold a significant place in town. A number of improvements to the green were undertaken by the residents of the Plympton Village area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. According to town historian Eugene Wright, in 1871 Lewis B. Parker, resident of 271 Main Street, planted a series of maple trees along the west side of the green, across from Z.T. Parker's store. Soon after, George Sherman and Herschel Briggs, who lived at 259 Main Street and 255 Main Street, respectively, planted a number of elms on the north end of the green. Ash trees were planted at the southern tip of the green by Darius White, whose hotel was at 1 Elm Street, in 1873 (Wright 1981:371). A split granite perimeter wall was erected on the south and west sides of the burial ground, thereby demarcating the boundary between it and the green, in the 1880s (Wright 1973:57).

In addition, several monuments and memorials were placed on the Plympton Green during this time period. On October 20, 1886, the Ladies' Memorial Society was formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to commemorate soldiers from Plympton who had served in the Civil War. Led by Mrs. William Fuller, Mrs. Z.E. Sherman, Mrs. Thomas W. Blanchard, and Miss Evelyn Sherman, the Society erected the **Civil War Soldiers' Monument** (MHC #902, 1889) on the green. The monument, which cost \$1,400, was dedicated on November 20, 1889, with war veterans from the area in attendance. Eugene Wright notes that the grounds around the monument were laid out in the 1890s. It is not clear whether this refers to the simple curbing that is still extant or whether any more elaborate design was ever in place (*Plympton 275th Anniversary Celebration* 1982; Wright 1973:26-27).

The **Deborah Sampson Boulder** (MHC #903, 1906), which commemorates the service of Plympton-born Deborah Sampson as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, was installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution of Brockton and the Town of Plympton in 1906 (Wright 1973:27).

The **Grange Pump** (MHC #906, 1911) was installed in 1911, the first of three wells dug by Grange member Levi Gordon for use by the town as a source of drinking water for residents and horses (Plympton Historical Commission).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 9Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Veterans of World War I were recognized with the erection of the **Bandstand** (MHC #904, ca. 1920) around 1920. World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans were acknowledged with later plaques on the Bandstand.

Around the same time, **Hillcrest Cemetery at Main Street and Palmer Road** (MHC #801, 1706, Photo #10) was expanded: once with the addition of a two-acre abandoned field to the north just before 1900, and again in 1905, when another acre was added. The name "Hillcrest Cemetery" was initially given to the first area of expansion, but is now applied to the entire burial ground (Wright 1973:58). Research suggests that in the early 1900s, perhaps as part of the expansion to the north and the ensuing improvements, the town tomb was moved from a site along Main Street to its current location at the perimeter of the old burying ground and the newer section to the north. A hearse house, which Eugene Wright describes as "a bleak plain little building" located next to the town tomb, was removed around the same time (Wright 1973:57; Wright 1977:417).

Several buildings were erected in the Plympton Village Area in the last quarter of the 19th century. The **Randall Shoe Shop at 268 Main Street** (MHC #82, ca. 1875, Photo #7) was built by George Randall around 1875, and originally consisted of the five southernmost bays of the present-day building. The 1879 atlas shows the building, labeled "GW Randall S Shop," in its location just north of Union Hall (Walker 1879). Soon after he built the shop, Randall nearly doubled its size with the addition of another five bays to the north, beneath a mansard roof. The factory, which operated off of steam power, manufactured shoes, boots, and leggings, and remained in business for about 20 years.

As of 1902, the building was occupied by Randall Brothers, cranberry growers and trout breeders. (The Randall Brothers were among the first cranberry growers in town, although Plympton's cranberry industry was never as extensive as that of neighboring towns.) Beginning around 1910, it was home to Bryant & Soule, a grocery store owned by Henry Soule and George Bryant of Middleborough and managed by W.F. Jackson (1902-1903, 1910 and 1914 Directories; MHC 1981:13; Wright 1973:21; Wright 1981:359-360).

Built in 1893, the **Z.T. Parker Store at 266 Main Street** (MHC #81, 1893) replaced an earlier store that appears on the 1857 and 1879 maps (Walling 1857; Walker 1879). The business was operated by descendants of Reverend Jonathan Parker until 1908: first by Zaccheus Parker, and then by his son, Zaccheus T. Parker, who had gained experience working in a large store in Framingham (Wright 1981:303-305). In addition to offering "dry goods, groceries, boots and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 10Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

shoes," the store functioned as a post office (1902-1903 Directory). Subsequent owners included Mrs. L.F. Dickerson, postmaster from around 1910 to at least 1914 (1910 and 1914 Directories). Most recently the building housed a gift and crafts shop.

Two residences in the Plympton Village Area exhibit features of the Queen Anne style which, though common elsewhere in the late 19th century, was relatively rare in Plympton (MHC 1981: 13). The **Joshua V. Peck House at 2 Parsonage Road** (MHC #85, ca. 1894, Photo #8) does not appear on the 1879 atlas, but is shown on a map from 1903 (Walker 1879; Richards 1903). Today the chimney is painted with "1894," the presumed date of construction. From at least 1903 to 1914, the home was owned by Joshua V. Peck, a blacksmith and wheelwright. The blacksmith shop was located in an **outbuilding** (MHC #85, late-19th century) that still stands on the property (Richards 1903; 1903, 1906, 1910 and 1914 Directories).

The **Gilbert H. Randall House at 260 Main Street** (MHC #77, ca. 1890) also exhibits features typical of the Queen Anne style, such as a complex roof line, a combination of wood clapboard and scalloped shingle sheathing, bay windows, and an offset entry with pedimented porch. Research suggests that the house may have replaced an earlier building; a structure appears on this lot in the 1857 map, but the property is empty as of 1879. By 1903, the existing residence had been erected which, in combination with visual analysis, suggests a construction date of ca. 1890 (Walling 1857; Walker 1879; Richards 1903). As of 1903, the property was owned by Gilbert H. Randall, owner of Randall Brothers cranberry growers and trout breeders at 268 Main Street (see above).

Early Modern Period (1910-1954)

Plympton's year-round population remained small throughout the first half of the 20th century, staying under 1,000 until 1940. The population of the town has increased steadily and dramatically since the end of World War II.

Small mills and manufacturing sites proved not to be economically feasible in the 20th century, but Plympton did become more popular as a summer retreat. Commercial cranberry cultivation continued to increase and the production of cranberry packing barrels was a major component of the local economy until the use of wooden boxes and plastic cartons became widespread. The rural electrification program in the 1920s made electrical service available throughout the town. Main Street and other major roads were paved with asphalt for the first time in the 1920s to accommodate automobile traffic.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section Number 8 Page 11Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

By the early 20th century, virtually all of the buildings included in the Plympton Village area had been constructed and the major landscapes – the Plympton Green, Hillcrest Cemetery and the First Congregational Church Cemetery – had taken on their current form. As in the rest of town, little development took place in the Plympton Village area in the early to mid-twentieth century, with two notable exceptions: the **Plympton Public Library at 248 Main Street** and the **Central School at 5 Palmer Road**.

The **Plympton Public Library at 248 Main Street** (MHC #77, ca. 1905) was erected at the north end of the Plympton Village Area around 1905, through the efforts of the Town of Plympton Improvement Association (later the Town of Plympton Library Association) which was formed in the summer of 1894. Since its establishment in 1891, Plympton's library had been housed at the Town House. With the aid of a \$3,000 donation from Maria L.H. Pierce of Middleborough, a Plympton native, a new, \$5,000 building was constructed at the corner of Main Street and Palmer Road.

The Library was designed in the Colonial Revival style by R.L. Young, an architect from Boston, and built by E. Laurence Glover of Halifax. A Reading Room was added in 1918-1919, but removed during a renovation and expansion in the early 1990s ("Plympton Public Library," Wright 1973:27-28). Early librarians included Betsy W. Sherman, who served from the establishment of the library in the Town House in 1891 until 1894; John Sherman, who oversaw the construction of the Library during his tenure from 1894 to 1911; and Helen Robbins, who headed the library as of 1914 (Wright 1973:21, 1914 Directory).

The **Central School or Plympton Elementary School at 5 Palmer Road** (MHC # 88, erected 1935, Photo #11) opened in 1935 and replaced the previous system of three smaller district schools (Shaw School, Town Hall School, and Stevens School). It accommodated children in grades K-8 who were transported by bus from their homes throughout town.

A Special Town Meeting was called in December 1933 to consider whether to take advantage of a 30% grant for new school construction offered by the Federal government under the National Recovery Act. The application was not immediately successful, so the Town voted in April 1934 to proceed without Federal aid. The Plympton Library donated two acres of land and two more acres were purchased from Nellie Stedman and Eugene Wright.

The architect selected for the school was Harry L. Meacham of Worcester. Charles H. Curtiss served as consulting engineer. William F. Germain of Millbury (MA) was the general

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 12Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

contractor. The WPA program provided assistance in grading the school site and preparing the playing fields. The local PTA donated playground equipment in 1940.

While there was no new residential construction around Plympton Green in the early 20th century, garages (either newly-constructed or adapted from older buildings) became more common. Many of the older residences were retained by heirs of the original owners, including members of the Briggs, Parker, Peck, Sherman and Soule families. Increasingly, some properties were occupied only in the summer.

As of 1910, Emily F. Walton and Eugene W. Briggs (from Brockton) spent summers at the **Reverend John Briggs House at 1 Elm Street** (MHC #21, ca. 1801) and the **Reverend Ezra Sampson House at 255 Main Street** (MHC #17, late 18th century), respectively. Susan Emeline Soule and her daughter, Mabel, remained at the **William H. Soule House at 263 Main Street** (MHC #19, 1843) during the summers from at least 1902 to 1914. Rebecca Parker summered at the **J. T. Ellis – L. B. Parker House at 271 Main Street** (MHC #83, ca. 1850) during the same period (1902-03, 1906, 1910 and 1914 Directories; Wright 1973:137). Residents of the area in the mid-20th century included members of the Eldridge, Harriman, MacFarlane, Proctor and Robbins families (*Plan of Plympton Green* 1952).

Recent history (since 1954)

Plympton's current population of about 2,700 residents is the largest in the town's history and reflects improvements in transportation as well as the widespread impact of suburbanization. Although Plympton retains the feel of a small town, it has increasingly functioned as an outer suburb for larger urban centers in southeastern Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. Commercial cranberry bogs are still in operation, but not on the same large scale as in nearby communities. The most striking change in the landscape occurred in the 1970s when hundreds of acres of woodland were cleared for cultivation by the Cumberland Farms company. The town still has very limited commercial activity.

After World War II, the development of suburban housing and the nationwide Baby Boom resulted in a greater number of school age children in Plympton, but most new residential development took place outside of the Plympton Village area. The **Central School** was enlarged with a sizable addition to the west in 1955, but the continued increase in student population, the effort to accommodate special needs students and the introduction of mandatory kindergarten resulted in the need for a new school. The Central School was replaced by the newly-constructed Dennett School in 1973.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 13Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Rather than leave the old school vacant or try to rent it, the Town voted to move the municipal offices from the old Town House to the former Central School in 1975. The school was renovated in 1985, 1989, and 2000 to better suit the new use. The old Town House was rented to the Historical Society for a museum, archive, and meeting hall.

The only non-historic building in the Plympton Village area is the **Plympton Firehouse at 3 Palmer Road** (MHC # 87, 1975). Set between the Library and the Town House (former Central School), the Plympton firehouse is the culmination of almost 20 years of debate about the needs of the mostly-volunteer Fire Department, the best location for a new station and the cost of modernization. As early as 1950, the Fire Department was complaining at each annual Town Meeting that its existing facilities were too small for all of the department's vehicles and equipment to be kept inside.

In 1966, Town Meeting approved the appointment of a committee to look into the prospect of a new fire station and to consider possible locations. By 1970, it had become a joint Fire Station – Police House Study Committee and was “working for a badly needed and adequate station.” The Town's Capital Expenditures Committee recommended that the town address the need for a new elementary school first, and then turn attention to the needs of the Police and Fire Departments.

In 1971, Town Meeting rejected the idea of constructing a new combined police and fire station and directed architect Kenneth F. Parry of Quincy to evaluate the feasibility of remodeling the former elementary school (Central School) on Palmer Road. When the estimated cost of converting the school to a police and fire station came in at \$73,339 that idea was rejected.

In 1973, the Fire Station – Police House Study Committee announced that they had rejected all possible sites except “the location at the rear of the paved parking area at the old elementary school.” The 1974 Town Meeting approved \$140,000 for construction of a new fire station. Architect Kenneth F. Parry of Quincy was selected as the designer and the Ferguson Construction Company, Inc. of Plympton was selected as the General Contractor.

The new firehouse was occupied in the spring of 1975 and formally accepted by the Town on August 25, 1975. The new structure was featured on the cover of the Town's Annual Report.

The **Plympton Green** has changed little in the last fifty years, except for minor curbing and drainage improvements connected to the improvement of Route 58 (Main Street).

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 14Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Hillcrest Cemetery has also survived with very few changes although it is still actively used for burials. As with the green, the cemetery has been marginally affected by roadside improvements along Main Street (Route 58). The more dramatic effects seem to come from natural weathering and biological growth that have obscured or damaged the carvings and inscriptions on many stones. There is also evidence of damage at the base of many stones, most likely from mowers and trimmers used to maintain the cemetery.

For the most part, the residential and institutional buildings in the Plympton Village area retain their historical form, materials and exhibit a high level of architectural integrity. Although there are examples of vinyl siding, replacement windows and modern additions, the impact is not widespread. As in most communities, home ownership has changed more rapidly in recent years with the older Eldridge and Proctor families on Plympton Green joined by members of the Dunn, Gilchrest, Lewis, Martin, Porter, Siegfried and Smith families by the 1970s (1974, 1978 and 1980 Street Lists).

The most significant alterations in the proposed district have occurred at the institutional buildings. The **First Congregational Church** was expanded with the addition of a Christian education center in the late 1980s and a large wing housing the Parish Hall / Chapel in 1998 (*A History of the First Congregational Church* 1998:27, 38; Batson). A chapel, built in 1886, was demolished to make room for the additions. The **Plympton Library**, was also renovated and expanded in the early 1990s with a sympathetic new addition that doubled its size.

CRITERION C: SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN

While the architectural achievements of local carpenters and builders in the Plympton Village area are often fairly modest, the work of local stonecarvers represented in the Hillcrest Cemetery is considered quite noteworthy. Hillcrest Cemetery in Plympton, because of its great age and continuous use, is recognized as having one of the finest assortments of carved grave markers in southeastern Massachusetts.

The carvings and inscriptions in Hillcrest Cemetery represent the work of several generations of 18th century stonecarvers and their descendants and successors. The stones and markers also illustrate the evolution of mortuary art and memorial styles throughout the 18th and 19th century. The Farber Collection of Gravestone Photographs at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester includes 31 images from Plympton representing 17 individual stones by three groups of carvers (8 stones by Nathaniel Fuller, 6 by Ebenezer Fuller and sons, 2 by Bildad Washburn, as well as one by "multiple carvers").

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 15Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

The earliest, most prolific and best-documented stonecarver in Plympton was **Nathaniel Fuller (1687-1750)**. Extensive research conducted by historian Peter Benes identified more than 300 Fuller gravestones in cemeteries throughout southeastern Massachusetts (Benes, *Nathaniel Fuller, Stonecutter of Plympton, Massachusetts*). Most of the stones are green slate, quarried locally. Although probate and land records list Fuller as housewright and mason, his fame today is based on his stonecarving.

Fuller's long career reflects his own skill and artistic development as well as the changing tastes of his colonial patrons. His carved gravestones are almost always cut in the traditional three-lobed arched shape with a winged skull or death's head in the tympanum at the top of the stone and a wide geometric border enclosing the inscription. The earliest identified stones carved by Nathaniel Fuller date from 1710 to 1725 and include flat, sober motifs and compass-based designs. His middle-period stones dating from 1726 to 1740 are marked by more elaborate lettering in the inscriptions and a more three-dimensional representation of the death's head at the top of the stone. The later stones from 1740 to 1750 show a more animated approach to iconography and even an exploration of freehand lettering.

In Hillcrest Cemetery in Plympton, Fuller's work is represented by several superb examples, including the gravestone of Sarah Soul (d. 1716) with its simple skull and compass-based border in low relief; the gravestone of Isaac Cushman (d. 1727), with a deeply-shadowed border; the tall (4 1/2 foot high) grave marker of Lieutenant Samuel Bradford (d. 1740) with a winged death's head and deeply-carved scrolled border; the gravestone of Mrs. Sarah Bryant (d. 1741/42), a double-lobed stone with a feathered background; the gravestone of Ebenezer Lobdel (d. 1748), with a double scrolled border and a scrolled backdrop to the death's head. The gravestones of Lydda King (d. 1711), Mrs. Joanna Briant (d. 1736), and Daniel Prat (died c. 1740) also show Fuller's distinctive touch.

Seth Tinkham (1705-1751) of Middleborough and Carver (Massachusetts) worked in the same time frame as Fuller and may have competed with him for commissions. Because Tinkham and other carvers used the same three-lobed green slate as Fuller and the standard iconography of a severe skull in the tympanum and a decorative border enclosing the inscription, further research and documentation are required to identify examples of Tinkham's work.

William Cushman (1715-1758) of Middleborough and **Nathaniel Hayward (1720-1794)** of Bridgewater and Carver represent the second generation of stonecarvers whose work survives in cemeteries in Plympton and nearby towns. They too used the local green slate and the traditional

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 16Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

three-lobed stone with a winged skull or death's head in the tympanum, but gradually developed a motif of more geometrical faces on the headstones. As with Seth Tinkham, the work of William Cushman and Nathaniel Hayward will require further research and documentation in order to identify distinguishing features .

Ebenezer Soule (1710-1794) of Plympton began his career in stonecarving about 1754. With five sons to follow him in the trade (Ebenezer Jr. 1737-1811, Asaph 1739-1823, Coomer 1747-1777, Beza 1750-1835 and Ivory 1760-1846), the influence of the Soule family of stonecarvers in Plympton is especially strong. The Soules typically used the same green slate as other carvers, but created a distinctive iconography based on traditional forms. The restrained winged skulls of the early period were gradually replaced by bewigged or wild-haired heads known by gravestone aficionados as "Medusa stones." Toward the end of the 18th century, the Soule clan began carving realistic "portrait" heads with curled wigs and scalloped collars that represented a new and more peaceful view of the transition from death to eternal life.

The Soules' work in Hillcrest Cemetery is illustrated by several gravestones, including: the gravestone of Elijah Bisbee (d. 1743) with its distinctively bovine skull; the gravestone of Luke Perkins (d. 1748) with its wild-haired Medusa; the gravestone of Samuel Wright (d. 1773) with a smiling bat-winged cherub; the grave marker of Jonathan Parker (d. 1776) with an angelic portrait; the gravestone of Olive Soule (d. 1795) with a smiling winged cherub; and the gravestone of the second Elijah Bisbee (d. 1804) with a winged cherub and a Memento Mori inscription. The influence of the Soules extends far beyond southeastern Massachusetts, since members of the family carried their trade inland to Worcester, Barre, and Deerfield, and to Hinsdale in southwest New Hampshire.

Bildad Washburn (1762-1832) of Kingston and Carver was strongly influenced by the work of the Soule family and may have learned stone carving from them. His work is represented in Hillcrest Cemetery by the gravestones of Gideon Bradford (d. 1793) and Captain Thomas Loring (d. 1795). Washburn's stones present a very capable rendition of the winged portrait head, but without the stylistic flair of other carvers.

The evolution of mortuary art and memorial motifs in the 19th century follows prevailing artistic trends with a focus on simple tablet stones and obelisks, increased use of marble as a material, more poetic inscriptions and a refined use of romantic symbolism such as weeping willows, clasped hands, Christian crosses and lambs. While the Hillcrest Cemetery includes many good examples of the new Romantic style, the 18th century burial ground stones which illustrate early Puritan traditions are the most notable resources in the cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 17

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

SUMMARY

The buildings, sites and structures of the Plympton Village historic district preserve and illustrate the long history of the town and the significant forces and events that have contributed to its development. The establishment of the town's first National Register Historic District around Plympton Green will highlight the history of the community and contribute to planning for its future.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Plympton are poorly understood, any surviving sites located in the town or in the vicinity of the Green could be significant. Ancient sites in this area could be important by contributing information related to Native American subsistence and settlement activities on the coastal plain of southeastern Massachusetts and at the headwaters of the Taunton River drainage. While Native settlement and subsistence patterns in the Taunton River basin are one of the better-documented river drainage basins in Eastern Massachusetts, the headwaters of that drainage are poorly documented. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information that helps document site type, function, and variability in this area and their relationship to larger, regional Contact Period cores. Core areas to the south and southwest include the Taunton River/Narraganset Bay Core with major Contact Period Native settlements at Titicut, Nemasket, and Wampanucket. The Buzzards Bay Core is also located south of the district, extending north to the Wampanucket area. The North River/Plymouth Core, Pembroke Ponds Core is also located north and east of the district with major Native Contact Period Native settlements in Mattakeeset and Patuxet (Plymouth). Ancient sites in the district locale may contain important information that documents the presence of Contact Period Native Core areas during earlier ancient periods and/or the development of cores in those areas. Ancient sites in this area may contain information that tests the importance of drainage system boundaries versus geographic proximity and their influence on Native American subsistence and settlement systems. Ancient sites in the district may also contain important information related to Native lithic technologies and food procurement and processing activities.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information related to the development of the Plympton Green Historic District as the center focus of a linear village in the late 17th and early 18th centuries and the evolution of that focus in the 20th century as a commemorative space for the town. Historical research combined with

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 18Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

archaeological survey and testing may contribute important information related to the architectural, social, cultural, and economic characteristics that typified the district and the town during its long period of historical development. Historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate the exact sites of the town's first three meetinghouses responsible for the institutional/religious community focus that developed around the green. Structural evidence associated with each meetinghouse may contribute important architectural information relating to late 17th and 18th century institutional buildings, possible patterns of adaptive reuse for consecutive structures, and site integrity. Archaeological research in the vicinity of each meetinghouse structure may also locate facilities associated with the activities conducted at each structure. Barns, stables, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist around each meetinghouse structure. Evidence may exist that identify the reuse of some facilities from one meetinghouse to the next. Structural evidence may also exist that identifies the location and design of other municipal facilities on the green including the 1774 liberty pole, town pound, stocks, and armory. Structural evidence may exist from a chapel (1886) demolished in the 1980s or 1998 when an addition was added to the First Congregational Church. Archaeological evidence may survive that identifies architectural details from the chapel and any parts of the structure that were incorporated into the existing church.

Historical research combined with archaeological testing may locate unmarked burials in the vicinity of the Hillside Cemetery (1706) and at the First Congregational Church Cemetery (ca. 1850). Identification and mapping of unmarked burials may help identify accurate boundaries and burial patterns for each cemetery. Unmarked graves may exist and the current pattern of gravestones may not, in every instance, represent their actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from older cemeteries then later replaced, at times in different locations. Descendants of individuals also erected gravestones as commemorative markers after their deaths. This scenario has been observed at several burying grounds in Massachusetts. Archaeological research can help identify these graves as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century unmarked graves may also be present representing paupers and other unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of the existing boundaries at the cemetery. Marked bounds may not accurately represent the actual cemetery boundaries. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers or other indigent persons, may have intentionally been buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death or individuals and groupings of individuals at later dates.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 8 Page 19Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Important stylistic information and verse can be recorded from gravestones. Remote sensing techniques of investigation might also prove useful. Social, cultural and economic information relating to the 18th and 19th century Plympton settlement can be obtained in this manner, however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the burial ground have the potential to offer a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies and cause of death. Much of the information presented above can be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. Documentary records and archaeological testing can determine whether actual human remains were moved with the stones or if the move was commemorative only. Commemorative graves may lack burial shafts and human remains or contain partial reburials. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains can provide information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to the individual, the overall settlement and, the Plympton society.

Historical and archaeological research may contribute important information related to residential settlement in the district and early patterns of agricultural development. Archaeological evidence may survive from 17th and 18th century farmsteads that may have been located in the vicinity of the Plympton Green. While no archaeological sites from this period are known, one 18th century residence and several 19th century extant residences and farmsteads are documented in the district. At potential archaeological sites, structural evidence of residential buildings may survive. Structural evidence of barns, stables, outbuildings, and evidence of occupational related features may survive at both archaeological sites and around existing 18th and 19th century structures in the district. Identification and mapping of the structures and features listed above may help identify the evolution of farmsteads and residential sites in the district through time. Important information may also exist that identifies the architectural characteristics of residential and agricultural related buildings and the internal configuration buildings and features on farmsteads and residential sites. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features may contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the inhabitants in the district from the 17th through 19th centuries.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 1

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 2

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 3

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 4

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Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

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Plympton Village Historic District
Name of Property

Plymouth, Massachusetts
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 60

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	349550	4646620
Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	349650	4646600
Zone	Easting	Northing

3. 19	349650	4645900
Zone	Easting	Northing
4. 19	349500	4645900
Zone	Easting	Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Lyon & Gregory Farmer, consultants, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2006

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetSection Number 10 Page 1Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA**10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA****UTM References**

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
E	19	349500	4646200
F	19	349340	4646200
G	19	349340	4646460
H	19	349500	4646450

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Plympton Village Historic District are defined as shown by the bold lines marked on the attached "District Sketch Map," drawn on the Town of Plympton Assessor's Map C3. Map and parcel numbers are listed on the Plympton Village District Data Sheet. The boundary includes the entire parcel of each nominated property in the district and follows rear lot lines.

Boundary Justification

The Plympton Village Historic District includes the residential, commercial, civic and commemorative properties and monuments lining the east and west sides of the Plympton Green along Main Street in the Town of Plympton. This area, along with one other in North Plympton, was the primary English settlement in the town in the late 17th and early 18th century, and was established as a typical Colonial linear village centered around a common or green. The Plympton Green and adjacent Hillcrest Cemetery date to the earliest days of this settlement. The stores, schools, homes, church, and municipal buildings surrounding the Green were added mostly in the mid to late 1800s, making Plympton a self-contained 19th century village. The district retains much of this 19th century character to this day.

The long, linear Plympton Green forms a spine through the district, and all the properties bordering the green are included in the district. Intersections of roadways further define the district by marking its the northern and southern edges -- the intersection of Main Street,

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 Page 2

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

Mayflower and Parsonage Roads stands at the southern end, and the intersection of Main Street and Palmer Road lies at northern end. These intersections provide visible and tangible points of entry to and exit from the district. Visitors know when they are entering because they (1) see the green, and (2) pass through a confluence of roadways.

Rear lot lines of each of the properties define the district's eastern and western edges. Because Plympton was an agricultural community, several of the properties, particularly along the east side of Main Street, contain many acres of open space, located behind the houses. The district includes the entire parcels, despite their size, as they reflect the history of farming in the area.

The district's one non-contributing building, the Plympton Fire House, was constructed in 1975. Because it shares a parcel with the Plympton Town House (formerly the Central School) and serves an important civic function within the community, it has been included as part of the district.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number N/A Page N/A
(Additional Documentation)

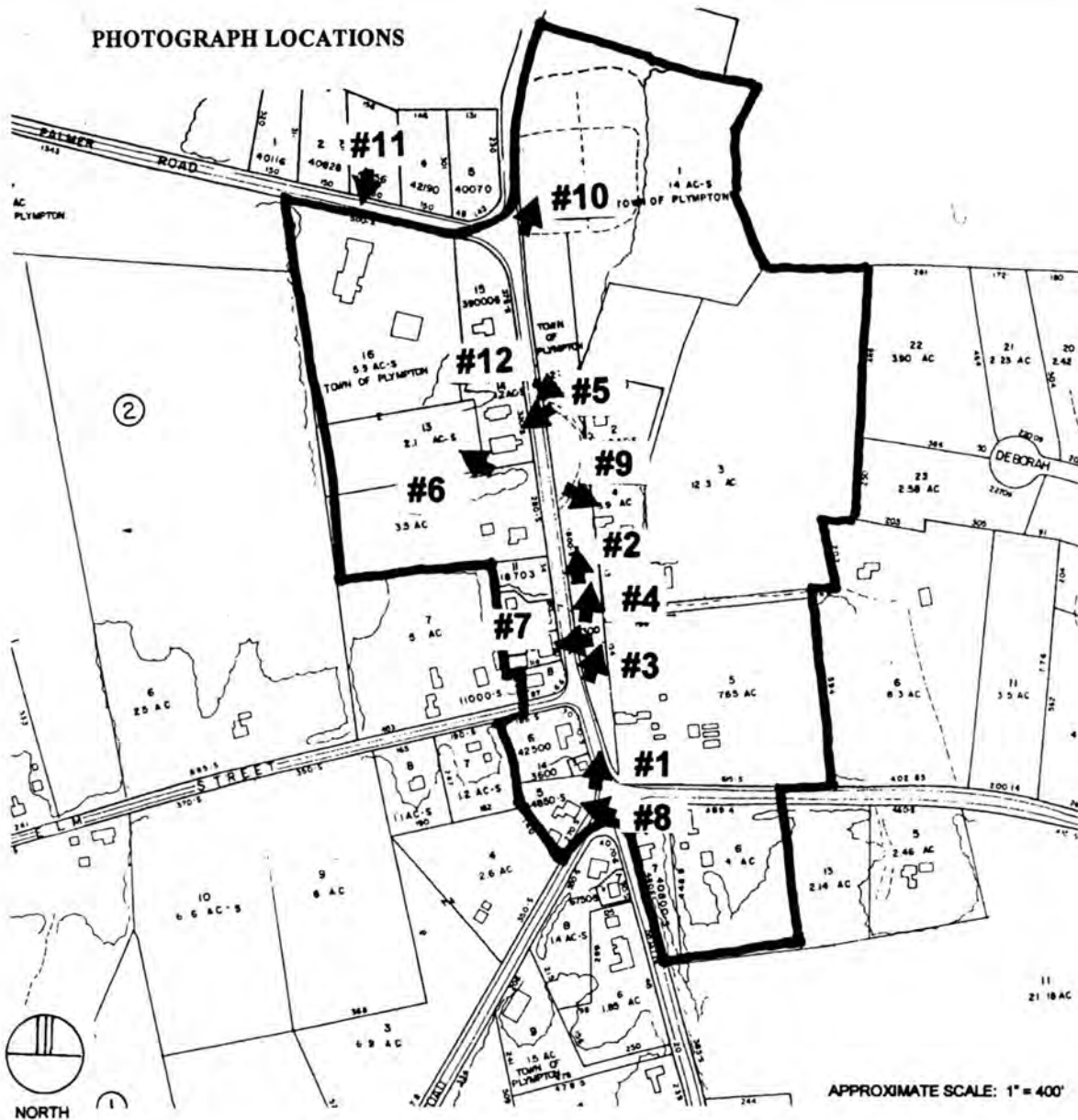
Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- #1 The southern entrance to the district, from the intersection of Main Street (Route 58) and Parsonage Road, looking north.
- #2 The Plympton Green from south of the Civil War Monument, looking north.
- #3 The circular gravel drive leading from Main Street to properties on the east side of the Green, looking northeast.
- #4 The eastern edge of the Green, lined with granite posts and Sugar Maple trees, looking north.
- #5 The First Congregational Church (254 Main Street), looking west.
- #6 The First Congregational Church Cemetery (254 Main Street), taken from the southwest corner of the Church, looking northwest.
- #7 The Randall Shoe Shop (268 Main Street), looking west.
- #8 The Joshua V. Peck House (2 Parsonage Road), looking northwest.
- #9 The George Sherman House (259 Main Street), looking southeast.
- #10 Hillcrest Cemetery, taken from the southern end looking north across the oldest section.
- #11 The Plympton Town House (Central School) taken from the south side of Palmer Road, looking south.
- #12 The Ezra Sampson House (255 Main Street) taken from the east side of Main Street, looking southeast.

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS

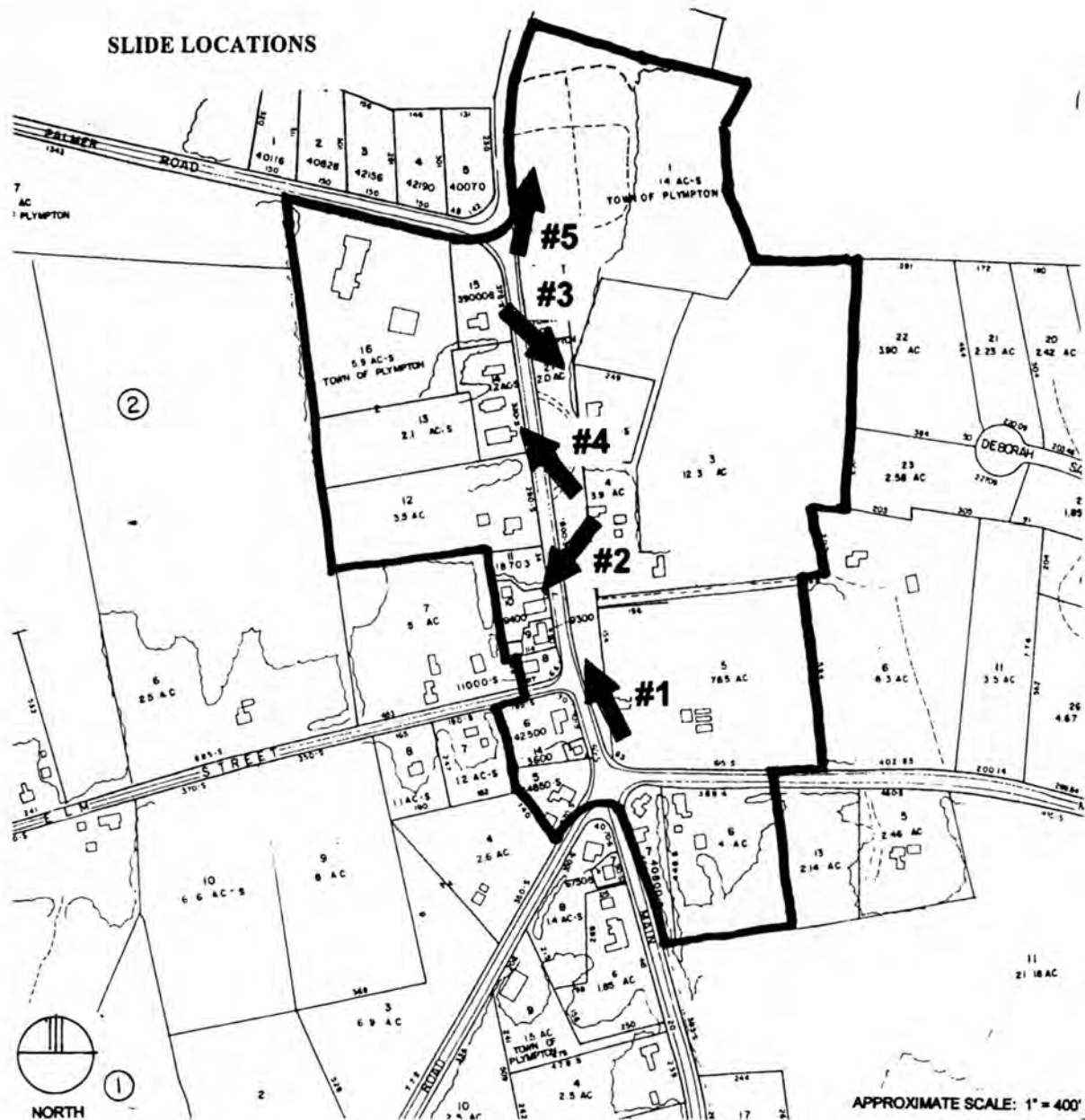


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number N/A Page N/A
(Additional Documentation)

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA

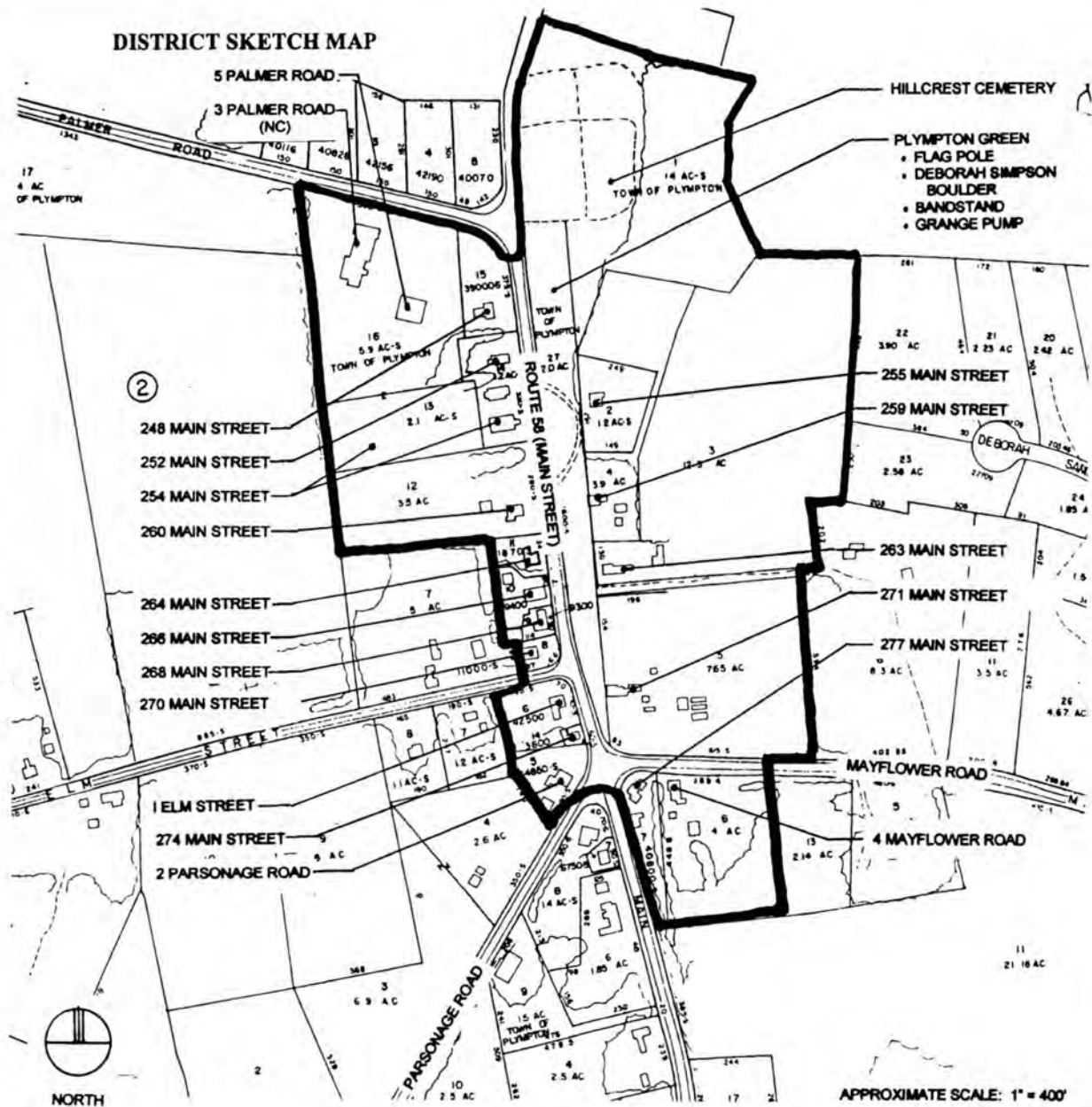


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number N/A Page N/A
(Additional Documentation)

Plympton Village Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, MA



PLYMPTON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Parcel Number	MHC Number	Street Address	Historic Name (if known, otherwise building type)	Description (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	Date	Style	Resource Type	Status
C3-2-7	PLM.21	1 Elm Street	Rev. John Briggs House	2-story, hip roof	c. 1801	Georgian	Building	C
C3-1-16	PLM.88	5 Palmer Road	Central School/Plympton Town House	2-story, hip roof, cupola	1935	Colonial Revival/ Georgian Revival	Building	C
			Commemorative Boulder	Boulder	Late 20th c.	No Style	Object	NC
C3-1-16	PLM.87	3 Palmer Road	Plympton Fire House	1-story, hip roof, three bay	1975	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
C3-2-1	PLM.801	Main Street	Hillcrest Cemetery	Cemetery (Photo #10)	1702/c.1900/1905	No Style	Site	C
			Stone Wall	Cut Stone Wall w/ Iron Gate	c. Mid 19th c.	No Style	Object	C
			Stone Wall	Dry-laid Field Stone Wall	c. 1800	No Style	Object	C
			Soule Tomb	Private Mound Tomb	Unknown	No Style	Structure	C
			Receiving Tomb	Public Mound Tomb	Unknown	No Style	Structure	C
			Private Tomb	Private Mound Tomb	Unknown	No Style	Structure	C
N/A	PLM.901	Main Street	Plympton Green	Green (Photos #2 and 4)	1702	No Style	Site	C
			Sugar Maple Allee	5 Sugar Maple Trees (south of Bandstand)	c. 1900	No	Object	C
N/A	PLM.902	Main Street	Civil War Soldiers' Monument	Monument	1889	No Style	Object	C
N/A	PLM.903	Main Street	Deborah Sampson Boulder	Monument	1906	No Style	Object	C
N/A	PLM.904	Main Street	Bandstand	Bandstand	c. 1920	No Style	Structure	C
N/A	PLM.905	Main Street	Flag Pole	Flag Pole	Late 20th c.	No Style	Object	C
N/A	PLM.906	Main Street	Grange Pump	Pump	1911	No Style	Object	C
C3-2-15	PLM.77	248 Main Street	Plympton Public Library	1-story, hip roof, cupola	c. 1905	Colonial Revival	Building	C
C3-2-14	PLM.78	252 Main Street	First Congregational Church Parsonage	1-1/2-story, side gable roof	1853-1854	Greek Revival Cape	Building	C
			Outbuilding	1-story shed	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
C3-2-14	PLM.18	254 Main Street	First Congregational Church	2-story, front gable, steeple (Photo #5)	1830	Greek Revival	Building	C
			Church Annex	2-story, side gable	1998	No Style	Building	NC
C3-2-13	PLM.800	254 Main Street	First Congregational Church Cemetery	Cemetery (Photo #6)	c. 1850	No Style	Site	C
			Stone Wall	Dry-laid Field Stone Wall	c. 1850	No Style	Object	C

Parcel Number	MHC Number	Street Address	Historic Name (if known, otherwise building type)	Description (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	Date	Style	Resource Type	Status
C3-6-2	PLM.17	255 Main Street	Rev. Ezra Sampson House	2-story, side gable	Late 18th c.	Georgian	Building	C
			Barn (moved from Town of Kingston c. 1990)	2-story	c. 1740	No Style	Building	NC
			Potting Shed (moved from 260 Main St)	1-story	Late 19th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Pool House	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Pump House	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
C3-6-4	PLM.22	259 Main Street	George Sherman House	2-story, front gable (Photo #9)	c. 1845	Greek Revival	Building	C
			Barn	2-story, front gable	c. 1845	No Style	Building	C
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Stone Wall	Dry-laid Field Stone Wall	c. 1845	No Style	Object	C
C3-2-12	PLM.77	260 Main Street	Gilbert H. Randall House	2-story, cross gable	c. 1890	Queen Anne	Building	C
			Barn	2-story, front gable	Late 19th c.	No Style	Building	C
			Garage	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
C3-6-3	PLM.19	263 Main Street	William H. Soule House	2-story, front gable	1843	Greek Revival	Building	C
			Barn	2-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Granite Fence Posts	25 granite fence posts outling front and sides of property	Mid-19th c.	No Style	Object	C
C3-2-11	PLM.80	264 Main Street	Zacheus T. Parker House	1-1/2-story, gable front	c. 1850	Greek Revival	Building	C
			Garage	1-story, attached to house	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Outbuilding	1-story, hip-roof	Late 19th c.	No Style	Building	C
			Stone Wall	Dry-laid Stone Wall with Granite Posts	Late 19th c.	No Style	Object	C
C3-2-10	PLM.81	266 Main Street	Z. T. Parker Store	2-story, hip roof	1893	No Style	Building	C
C3-2-9	PLM.82	268 Main Street	Randall Shoe Shop	2-1/2-story, Mansard roof (Photo #7)	c. 1875	Second Empire	Building	C
			Garage	1-story	Late 20th C.	No Style	Building	NC
C3-2-8	PLM.20	270 Main Street	Union Hall/Grange Hall	2-story, front gable	1852	Greek Revival	Building	C
C3-1-5	PLM.83	271 Main Street	J. T. Ellis - L. B. Parker House	1-1/2-story, cross gable	c. 1850	Victorian Eclectic	Building	C
			Barn	2-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Barn	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Barn	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Stone Wall	Dry-laid Field Stone Wall	Late 19th c.	No Style	Object	C
			Sugar Maple Allee	6 Sugar Maple Trees	c. 1900	No Style	Object	C
			Wood Fence	Wood Rail Fence	Late 20th c.	No Style	Object	NC
C3-1-6	PLM.84	274 Main Street	Former Outbuilding-Rev. John Briggs House	1-story, front gable	Early-Mid 19th c.	No Style	Building	C
			Barn	1-story	Early-Mid 19th c.	No Style	Building	C

Parcel Number	MHC Number	Street Address	Historic Name (if known, otherwise building type)	Description (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	Date	Style	Resource Type	Status
C3-5-7	PLM.23	277 Main Street	Nathaniel S. Lucas House	1-1/2-story, side gable	c. 1840	No Style Cape	Building	C
			Barn	1-story	c. 1840	No Style	Building	C
C3-5-6	PLM.24	4 Mayflower Road	Martin Perkins House	2-story, hip roof	c. 1820	Federal	Building	C
			Barn	2-story	c. 1820	No Style	Building	C
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
			Shed	1-story	Late 20th c.	No Style	Building	NC
C3-1-5	PLM.85	2 Parsonage Road	Joshua V. Peck House	1-1/2-story, cross gable (Photo #8)	c. 1894	Queen Anne	Building	C
			Outbuilding	1-story, front-gable	Late 19th c.	No Style	Building	C
				TOTAL	Contributing	Non-Contributing	Total	
				Buildings	25	22	47	
				Sites	3	0	3	
				Structures	4	0	4	
				Objects	13	2	15	
				Total	45	24	69	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Plympton Village Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/28/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/08/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000120

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3.7.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

MIDDLEBORO 7
←

58



#1

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

NARRITA H. WAY. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE DISTRICT, FROM THE INTERSECTION OF
MAIN ST. (ROUTE 58) AND PERSONAGE ROAD, LOOKING NORTH.



#2

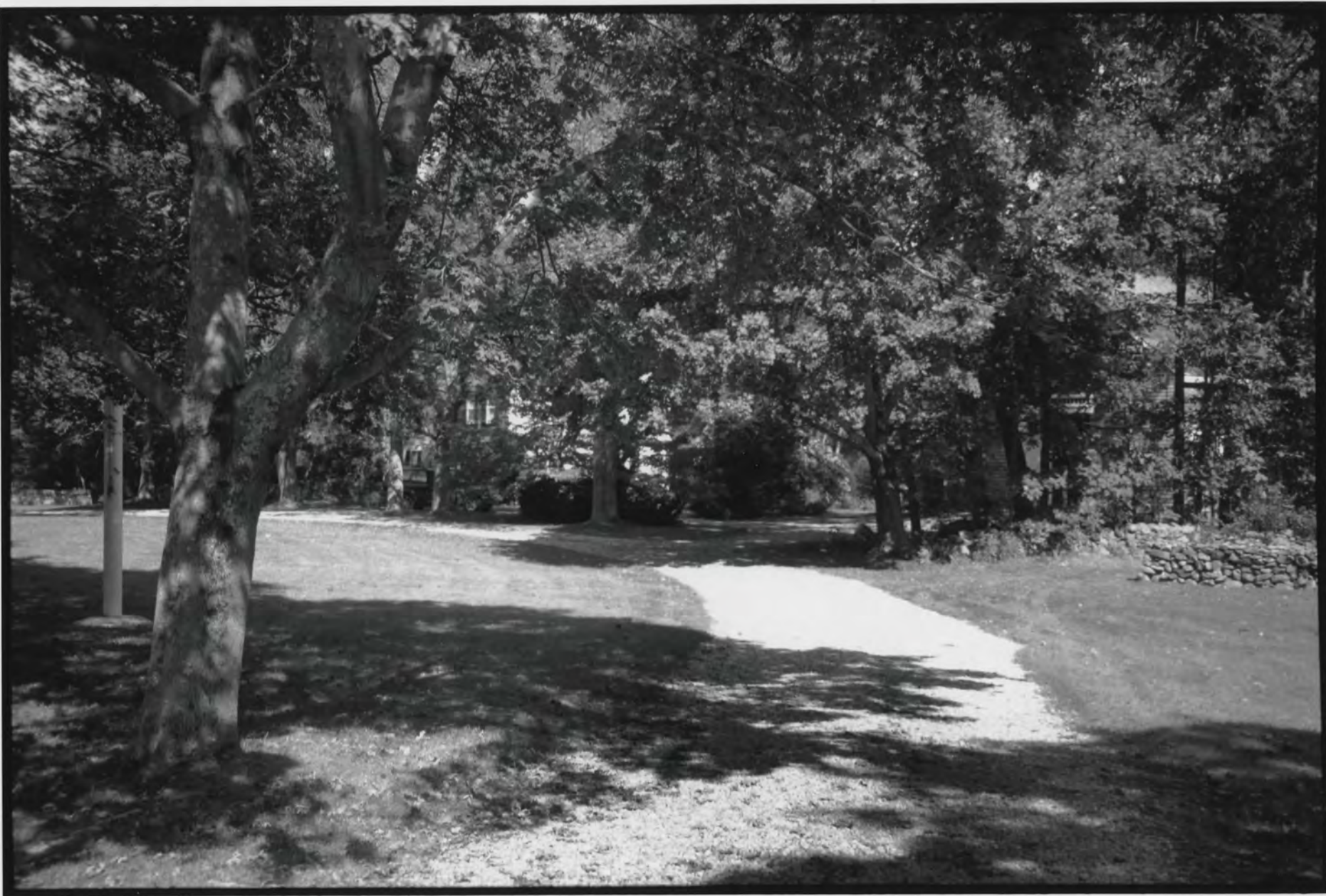
PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARSHA H. WOOD. 213 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE PLYMPTON GREEN FROM SOUTH OF THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT, LOOKING NORTH



#3

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

NORTHEAST CORNER 213 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE CIRCULAR GRAVEL DRIVE LEADING FROM MAIN STREET TO PROPERTIES ON
THE EAST SIDE OF THE GREEN, LOOKING NORTHEAST.



#4

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. HON. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE GREEN, LINED WITH GRANITE POSTS
AND SUGAR MAPLE TREES, LOOKING NORTH



#5

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. WYN 313 ELM ST NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (254 MAIN ST),
LOOKING WEST.



#6

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. WYN. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CEMETERY (254 MAIN ST), TAKEN
FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CHURCH, LOOKING NORTHWEST.



#7

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

NORTHA H. WOOD. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE PANDOL SHOE SHOP (268 MAIN ST), LOOKING WEST.



#8

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MICHA H. MON. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE JOSHUA V. PEIR HOUSE (2 PARSONAGE ROAD), LOOKING NORTHWEST.



#9

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. LYON. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060.

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE GEORGE SHERMAN HOUSE (257 MAIN ST.), LOOKING SOUTHEAST.



#10

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. LYON. 313 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060.

SEPTEMBER 2004.

HILLCREST CEMETERY, TAKEN FROM THE SOUTHERN END LOOKING
NORTH ACROSS THE OLDEST SECTION.



PLYMPTON TOWN HOUSE

#11

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. WOOD. 713 ELM STREET. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE PLYMPTON TOWN HOUSE (CENTRAL SCHOOL) TAKEN FROM THE SOUTH SIDE OF
PALMER ROAD, LOOKING SOUTH



#12

PLYMPTON GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

MARTHA H. WOOD. 213 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE ERA CAMPION HOUSE (255 MAIN STREET) TAKEN FROM THE EAST SIDE OF
MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.

Plympton Green
National Register District
Plympton Mass.

A. 349550, 4646620
B. 349650, 4646620
C. 349650, 4645900
D. 349500, 4645500
E. 349500, 4646200
F. 349340, 4646200
G. 349340, 4646460
H. 349500, 4646450

CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters



Feet Meters

1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters

multiply by 3048

To convert meters to feet

multiply by 3.2808



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1937. Revised from aerial

photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975

Polyconic projection. North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,

mainland zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,

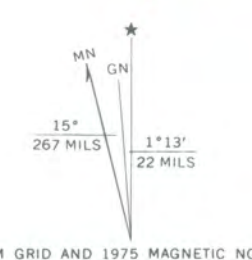
zone 19

Fire red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where

generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Map photoinspected 1977

No major culture or drainage changes observed

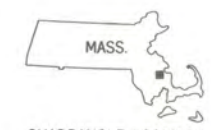


THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



PLYMPTON, MASS.

N4152.5-W7045.7.5

PHOTOINSPECTED 1977

1977

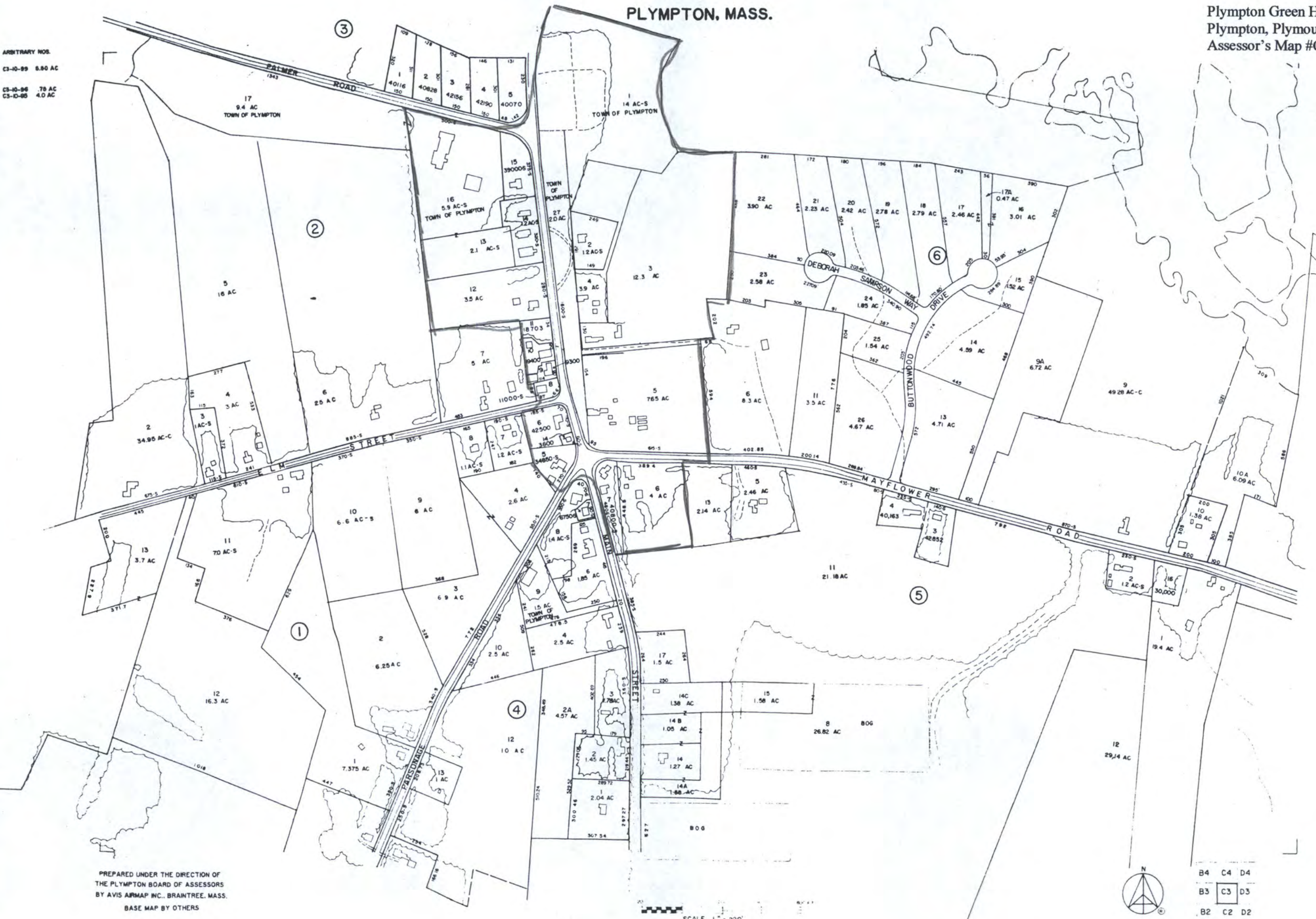
AMS 6867 IV NE-SERIES V814



PLYMPTON, MASS.

Plympton Green Historic District
Plympton, Plymouth County, Massachusetts
Assessor's Map #C3

ARBITRARY NOS.
C3-10-99 8.80 AC
C3-10-96 .78 AC
C3-10-95 4.0 AC



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE PLYMPTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY AVIS ARMAP INC., BRAintree, MASS.
BASE MAP BY OTHERS

SCALE 1" = 200'



B4 C4 D4
B3 C3 D3
B2 C2 D2

Massachusetts Historical Commission
C/O William Francis Galvin, Chairman
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

11/13/03
Date

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that I do not wish to have my property at
Plympton Center listed in the National Register.

Respectfully Yours.

Thomas F. Bowes
Name

274 MAIN ST
Street

PLYMPTON, MA. 02367
Town, state and zip code

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Plymouth ss

November 13, 2003

Date

Then personally appeared the above name THOMAS F. BOWES
Before me and acknowledged that the foregoing to be his free act
and deed.

Carolyn A. Northon CAROLYN A. NORTHON
Notary Public

My Comm. Expires 9-6-2007

Massachusetts Historical Commission
C/O William Francis Galvin, Chairman
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED
NOV 26 2003
MASS. HIST. COMM

21 Nov 03
Date

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that I do not wish to have my property at
Plympton Center listed in the National Register.

Respectfully Yours.

Thayer Eldridge
Ray M. Eldridge
Name

One Elm Street
Street

Plympton, Ma 02367
Town, state and zip code

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Plymouth ss

11/21/03
Date

Then personally appeared the above name THAYER ELDRIDGE
Before me and acknowledged that the foregoing to be his free act
and deed.

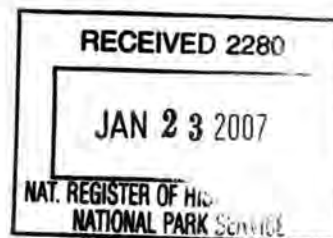
Thomas F. Bowes
THOMAS F. BOWES Notary Public
My Comm. Expires 9/6/2007



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 4, 2007

Dr. John Roberts
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Dr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Plympton Village HD, Plympton (Plymouth Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of objection (2003) have been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Jon Wilhelmsen, Maxwell West, Plympton Historical Commission
Robert Vautrinot, Plympton Board of Selectmen
Martha Lyon, Gregory Farmer, consultants
Jack O'Leary, Planning Board