



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 13, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Weymouth Meeting House Historic District

other names/site number Weymouth Heights

2. Location

street & number Church, East, Green, North, and Norton streets ☐ not for publication

city or town Weymouth ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02189

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 October 21, 2010
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

Edson H. Beall 12-14-10

Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA
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	
13	8	buildings
5	1	sites
3	1	structures
9	3	objects
30	13	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

1 - John Adams School (NRIND 1986)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility, church-related residence
EDUCATION: school
FUNERARY: cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
LANDSCAPE: park
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility, church-related residence
EDUCATION: school (day-care center)
FUNERARY: cemetery, graves/burials
DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum, outdoor recreation, monument/marker
LANDSCAPE: park
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
MID 19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
STONE
roof ASPHALT
other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District is a medium-density residential neighborhood defined by almost four centuries of association with Weymouth's first meetinghouse, an area which is further associated with Abigail Smith Adams, wife of John Adams, the second U.S. President; and mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth President. These properties are located along North Street, from the Old North Cemetery southward—through the triangle defined by North, East, and Green streets and bisected by the South Shore railroad—to the properties surrounding the Weymouth Common from its intersection with North Street to a half block down Church Street. South of the cemetery, the neighborhood has been known more recently as Weymouth Heights. The approximately 31-acre district includes the First Church in Weymouth (also known as Old North Congregational), its cemetery, two parsonages associated with the church, and the oldest surviving school building in Weymouth: the John Adams School (NR 1986, now a day-care center). Significant landscapes in the district include the Old North Cemetery (which contains the oldest burial ground in Weymouth), Weymouth Common, a town park, and several commemorative sites. This neighborhood served as the religious and political center for all of Weymouth during the early colonial period until 1723, when a separate south parish and precinct were established, and for northern Weymouth for another century, until further parish fragmentation in the early 19th century and political disestablishment in 1833.

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District is characterized by very hilly, glacially derived landscapes, which are part of two promontories that look out over the Mill Cove of the Weymouth Fore River to the northwest: Watch House Hill (Burial Hill in the North Weymouth Cemetery) and a companion rise of King Oak Hill. These two promontories are separated by a valley where the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) new Greenbush commuter rail line occupies a railroad bed built in 1849. The scattered residences in the district date primarily from the 19th and early 20th centuries and include good examples of Cape Cod vernacular, Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Italianate, and Colonial Revival-style houses. Though an important early crossroads, the district did not subsequently develop as an industrial or commercial center, and therefore retains much of its early character. Today the district is surrounded primarily by medium-density, suburban-style residential development from the 20th century.

The **North Weymouth Cemetery/Old North Cemetery** (MHC #802, ca. 1636, Photograph #1) **126 Norton St.**, makes up over half of the district in terms of acreage. Though nearly four centuries old, it is still used for burials. At the terminus of a large glacial esker that extends towards Hingham, the cemetery has a highly varied topography, a result of both the uneven deposition of sand and gravel by glaciers and the subsequent mining of that gravel around—and within—the edges of the cemetery. Because it is bisected by North Street, Old North Cemetery is considered as two separate lots by the Weymouth Assessor's office. Both lots open onto North Street with formal entry drives. All together the cemetery has approximately 9,000 burials and 4,000 stones. With its first recorded burial in 1636, and its oldest stone dating to 1678, it is claimed locally to be the second-oldest cemetery in Massachusetts, after Burial Hill in Plymouth. According to a 1940 WPA (Work Projects Administration) map of the cemetery, it contains the remains of at least one veteran of the Colonial wars, 31 veterans of the Revolutionary War, 15 of the War of 1812, two of the Spanish-American War, 118 of the Civil War, and seven of the First World War; later records list men killed in action in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. For the purposes of this nomination, the two lots are designated as separate contributing sites and will be described separately.

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The **Old North Cemetery/Old Burying Ground (east of North Street)** is a 2.58-acre gravel knob that stands high above the surrounding landscape, and contains the cemetery's oldest section. Narrow terraces lead from its northern half down to North Street, while the land falls away in cliffs on the other three sides. A single blacktopped driveway climbs from North Street northeastward to the relatively flat top of the knob, where it forms a tight oval among the later graves. A row of widely spaced granite posts near the cliff's edge marks its northern boundary only. The oldest marked graves are along the western half of the northern boundary, in a relatively steep, north-facing slope called the "Old Burying Ground." The oldest stone whose date is still discernible is that of John Tay (d. 1678), a round-topped slate stone with a deeply etched winged skull in the central arch, flanked by an hourglass and crossed bones on the stone's shoulders. Several other 17th-century stones survive here, all of slate and most round arched, with matching footstones: Edward Bate (1686, no decoration), Jeremiah Cloter (1695, winged skull flanked by raised tassels on inset shoulder panels), Elizabeth Holbrook (1688, winged skull and swag), Thankfull Humphery (1698, winged skull), Ephraim Hunt (1686, winged skull), and Capt. Samuel White (1699, winged skull). The 18th century stones include the broken stone of Nathaniel Humphrey (1700, winged skull), which has been pieced together and encased in concrete. Near North Street are the graves of the Pittee family, including the aged William (1728) and three young children—James (d. 1744, aged twelve), James 2nd (1749, aged six), and Sarah (1751, aged two)—all bluish gray slate with winged skulls in the arch. The parents of these three Pittee children, James and Hannah Pittee, outlived their children (until 1764 and 1779, respectively); their later headstones are reddish-gray slate with heads and laurels in the arch. The earliest stone of reddish slate appears to be Mary White (1716), and the earliest stone where an angel or portrait head has replaced the skull or death's head appears to be that of John Hunt (1724), although winged skulls are used as late as 1752 (Deacon Thomas White). At the eastern edge of the Old Burying Ground, near the drive, is the extraordinary slate headstone of Elizabeth Cotton (1710), which includes a winged skull, hourglass, crossed bones, sun, wind, pinwheels, fruit, foliage, and the Latin motto "*Sic transit.*" The legend of the stone reads "Who died upon ye road by reason of a fall from her horse October ye 31 1710 aged about 45 years burried in hopes of a joyfull Resurrection." Close nearby are two table tombs, for the Rev. Samuel Torrey (1707), "Pastor of the Church of Christ in Weymouth," and his wife Mary (1692), thick horizontal slate slabs on stone-walled pedestals. Nearby are a half-dozen other Torrey family stones (1717/18-1729), all bluish-gray slate with winged skulls. Also nearby is the **Bicknell Monument**, an eleven-foot tall, five-ton, square stepped marble monument (three bases, a die, and cap) topped by a fluted urn, erected by Bicknell descendants in 1882. It commemorates the Bicknell family ancestors, especially Zachariah, whose otherwise unmarked burial here in 1636 was the first recorded in the cemetery.

An important collection of later stones is located at the entry to the eastern section of the cemetery, on either side of the driveway near the base of the slope. The **Tufts Bank Tomb and Gateway Wall** (1816+) defines the north side of the driveway. The tomb of Dr. Cotton Tufts (dated 1816) is set into the bank about fifteen feet from the drive, its wide-set wingwalls framing a small flat forecourt paved with stone. A single, massive, arched granite lintel caps the front of the tomb, while movable marble panels allow entry and bear the tomb inscriptions. A granite post at the end of the western wingwall connects to an entry/retaining stone block wall of a presumably later date, its pillars and panels similar to the stone walls and entries (1916) for the cemetery section across North Street (but without evidence of gates). A short distance up the driveway on the north side are the stones of John Randel (1730, bluish-gray slate with a winged skull) and Susannah Randel (1761, reddish-gray slate with an angel head). Directly south across the driveway from the Tufts tomb are the oversized reddish-gray slate tombstones of the parents of Abigail Smith Adams: the Reverend William Smith (1783), pastor of the First Church in Weymouth, and his wife Elizabeth (1775). Each stone has a small portrait face in the tympanum with what appear to be laurel branches in the arch above. William Smith's stone memorializes "As a preacher of the Gospel eloquent and devotional in life he exhibited the Virtues of the Religion which he had taught[,] in Death left

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its supports and closed a long and useful life with hope full of Immortality"; Elizabeth Smith is honored as "amiable and pious consort." A half-dozen other stones dated from 1730 to 1761 are scattered on this south side hill along the drive, including the stone of Samuel Badlam (1761), which sports a side-view portrait. At the base of the stone for 23-year-old Silence Whitmarsh (1736, gray slate with winged death's head with hollow eyes) is an added line indicating that her fourteen-day-old daughter Deborah was buried with her. They died eight days apart, presumably after a troubled delivery. The rest of the burials in this part of the cemetery on the eastern side of North Street, atop the hill on the eastern side of the parcel, are primarily from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These burials are laid in long north-south rows, both singles and family plots, most notably the Cleverly family plot (ca. 1890s), with its stone boundary wall and center zinc monument displaying crosses and topped with an urn. Perched high atop the southern end of the bluff are two nearly inaccessible bank tombs for the Pratt (undated) and Blanchard (1857) families.

Directly overlooking North Street, the highest point in this eastern section of the cemetery—once known as Watch House Hill and sometimes said to be the site of the first Weymouth Meeting House—is now topped with the **Soldiers' Monument** (MHC #909, 1867, Photographs #1 & 2).

This teardrop-shaped parcel—which comes to a point where its sidewalk meets the cemetery drive—is located entirely within the boundaries of the eastern section of the cemetery, set atop a series of stepped terraces. The monument is a 25-foot-high obelisk of Quincy granite set on a five-foot-deep, 8 by 8 feet square, granite block foundation. Broad staircases on the eastern and western sides of the foundation provide access to obelisk. Shield-shaped tablets of white Italian marble are set into panels on the four sides of the pedestal. Together the shields list the names of the 99 Weymouth soldiers who died in the Civil War, grouped together primarily by regiment and secondarily by manner of death (Killed in Battle, Died of Wounds, Died in Rebel Prisons, and Died of Disease). Carved in the tympana above the arches are crossed sabers (south side), crossed cannons (north), and two mottoes: "They Died for their Country" and "1861 to 1865" (east side), and "Weymouth to her Heroes" and "Erected 1868" (west side). A band partway up the shaft above holds four small shields, depicting (one per side) a wreath, a flag, thirteen stars, and a monogram "U.S." Designed by Boston architect Charles Edward Parker and sculpted and erected by E.C. Sargent of Quincy, the monument was dedicated on the Fourth of July, 1868. After a lightning strike (date unknown), part of the granite shaft of the monument was damaged, and replaced in kind. Four **Navy Cannons** (1898), resting on concrete bases, are set about the monument on this terrace, pointing outwards in four directions. The two western cannons were subsequently (date unknown) relocated one terrace eastward (and higher), to be on town rather than cemetery land. Early postcard views show that piles of cannonballs—now gone—also decorated the highest terrace on the site. A single tombstone (1727) remains in place directly east of the monument, reset (1983) flat into the ground: that of the infant Robert Treat Paine (brother and namesake of the signer of the Declaration of Independence). Nearby, a small granite marker (20th century), set on a concrete pad, reads "Original Burial Ground Weymouth."

The **North Weymouth Cemetery/Old North Cemetery (west of North Street)**—bounded by Norton Street on the west, Beals Street and Bleakney Drive on the northwest, and Saning Road on the northeast—is the largest section (14.95 acres) of the cemetery. Several parcels along the streets on the undeveloped northern edges of the cemetery were sold off for house lots early in the 20th century and are not considered part of the district. This section of the cemetery is dominated by two high hills. The floor of the intervening valley contains a blacktopped drive, which extends from North Street near Colasanti Road westward to Norton Street near Laudervale Road. A second drive skirts the south side of the southern hill from North Street westward, and then crosses the first drive to the chapel. The North Street side of the lot is defined by the

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Pratt Entry Gates and Retaining Wall (1916), a long stone-block object. A gift to the cemetery by Laban Pratt, this wall includes two formal entry gates into the cemetery at the eastern ends of the lanes. The southern gate has eight-foot-high stone gate piers and separate vehicle and pedestrian entries, fitted with swinging spike-topped iron gates (see Photograph #1). The northern gate also features double swinging iron gates at its single vehicular lane. These northern gates attach to six-foot-high square openwork iron posts, which in turn attach by iron panels to the stone wall. The stone street wall here steps into the cemetery several feet, by quarter-circle stone walls between stone piers. The northern quarter circle, not far from the Laban Pratt family tomb, is fitted with a stone shelf bench.

Of the two hills in the western section of the cemetery, the southernmost—directly opposite the Soldiers' Monument and sometimes said to be the site of the second meeting house (1636)—contains the oldest burials and gravestones. The oldest graves are arranged in rows or concentric rings around the highest two points on the hill, most of them defined by both headstones and footstones—the latter often bearing both the name and death date of the occupant—fashioned out of the bluish or reddish slate. On this hill is what appears to be the oldest marked grave extant in this section of the cemetery: Abiah Whitman (1727/8). However, most of the graves on this hilltop are mid to late 18th century. The death's heads and skulls of the earliest slate stones give way to angels and portrait heads wreathed in laurels as the century progresses, advancing to urns and willows late in the 18th century and into the 19th century. The reddish-slate stone of Peter Jacobs (1764) shows a side view of a man with ribbons in his wig. Another stone with paired winged cherubs marks the resting place of two sons of Joseph and Thankful Loud: Elliot (1800) and 2nd Elliot (1805), who died at 13 and 11 months, respectively. Farther down the sides of this southern hill (and moving forward in time), the old slate stones give way to newer but badly weathered marble stones and to more elaborate 19th-century stone monuments: obelisks, draped urns, and cairns with plaques. In some of the steeper areas, sets of **Retaining Walls and Steps** (19th century +) stabilize the slope or provide access; individually designed and irregularly placed, they may have been added by individual families.

Because of the cemetery's hilly topography, the dozens of **Bank Tombs** (see Photograph #1) are a defining character of this section of the cemetery, lining the base of both hills along the driveways, each inscribed with a patriarch or family name on its heavy granite lintel. Many have contrasting marble door panels with brass handles. The oldest appears to be the one inscribed "Capt. Elliot L. Loud's Family Tomb" (1814), with the further legend "My work is done so I resign/That flesh which is no longer mine." Others include Capt. Joseph Pratt and Augustus Pratt (1830), "Eben Loud's Family Tomb" (1834), French (1842), another Pratt (1842-43), Dunbar (1843), the "Noah Tirrell Family Tomb" (1847), J. White (1850), the "Fred Lincoln Family Tomb" (1850), Holbrook/Flayford (1853), Zachariah Bicknell (1855), "David Pratt His Family Tomb" (1855), "Isaac French's Family Tomb" (1860) and William Rice (1861). Near the north gate is the bank tomb of "A. & P. Pratt" (no date), its facade composed of deeply striated stone blocks, the striations forming interesting criss-cross patterns. It is round-arched rather than the conventional post-and-lintel form, with a deeply cut willow design in the enlarged keystone.

Most of the recent burials in the Old North Cemetery have taken place in the peripheral areas of the western part of the cemetery. The southern slope of the northern hill contains both bank tombs, and marble and granite mid 19th-century monuments. The area atop this hill, sometimes called "Up Top," shows the transition from marble to primarily granite monuments as the 19th century continued. "Up Top" contains a wide variety of stones, including an obelisk commemorating Benjamin F. Pratt, Lieut. Col. of the 36th U.S. Colored Troops in the Civil War, and later a state representative and senator from Cohasset. A Beals family monument (1886) sports a pedestal surmounted by a polished granite orb inscribed "God's Love is Universal." The unusual W.B. Andrews monument (1892) is a brass plaque affixed

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atop a rough pedestal of Roxbury puddingstone. A Torrey monument (ca. 1916) is surmounted by the only human statue, a life-sized draped woman atop a pedestal, holding an open book and pointing to a line in the book. The catafalque of philanthropist Laban Pratt (1924) has a gable roof studded with acroteria. At the highest point, overlooking the site of the former Fore River Ship Yards he founded across the valley below, is the monument above the grave of Thomas A. Watson (1934). Its inscription points to his best-known accomplishment, as "The Associate of Alexander Graham Bell in the Discovery of the Telephone."

No gates or significant walls mark the later Norton Street edge of the cemetery, but at the western intersection of the two drives, near Norton Street, sit two 20th-century brick buildings used by the Old North Cemetery, both sheathed in Weymouth seam-faced granite. Northeast of the intersection is the **Receiving Tomb** (MHC #1085, 1910). This windowless building is about the size and shape of a single-car garage, with a gabled roof (now covered in asphalt shingles). The front of the building has a doorway slightly wider than a house door to accommodate caskets. The building is faced on all four sides with Weymouth seam-faced granite, blocks of which decoratively define the gable pediments on each end. Light-colored blocks form quoins on either side of the door and a flat arch caps the door, with a keystone/dateblock engraved "1910." Northwest of the intersection of the two lanes is the second brick building, the Pratt-Rogers Memorial Chapel (ca. 1966, noncontributing due to its age), 126 Norton Street (at its intersection with Colonial Road). This single-story, side-gabled building is set on a poured concrete foundation. The four-bay, west-facing facade is covered in Weymouth seam-face granite. Its main doorway, in the southernmost bay, has a front-gabled portico, leading into the ground-floor chapel. The basement level garage and office are reached through a garage entry and door on the south side where the ground slopes away. Modeled after a larger chapel at Evergreen Cemetery in Kingston, Massachusetts, and built by Ambrosia Builders of Quincy, the chapel was paid for by bequests from Laban Pratt and Clara Rogers. The wood-paneled chapel is infrequently used today except for meetings of the North Weymouth Cemetery Association. It displays 19th-century bottles recovered during recent openings in an old bottle dump in the cemetery's northeast corner alongside North Street. Later areas of the cemetery are nicknamed for their proximity to 20th-century developments, including the "Abigail Adams section," developed in the late 1940s in the southern corner next to the newly established museum, and the "Chapel Section" along Norton Street from the late 1960s. Several areas along the northern boundary of the cemetery have been opened in recent decades.

The **Abigail Adams Birthplace** (MHC# 324, Photograph #3), **180 Norton Street**, is adjacent to and directly south of the western section of the Old North Cemetery, at the junction of North Street and Norton Street. The house faces Norton Street, to which it is connected by a brick sidewalk. A stone **retaining wall** with a steep slope above separates most of the lot from North Street, which climbs steeply as it moves northward past the lot and through the cemetery towards North Weymouth. A two-rail wooden fence separates the building lot from the cemetery. Northeast of the house is the single-story, side-gabled **visitor shop**, a board-and-batten-sided building with a small leanto rear shed. Both roofs are covered in wooden shingles. Southeast of the house is a **Colonial Revival Garden**, with informal plantings along the rear of the lot (North Street), a millstone set into the ground, a formal garden with a sundial and geometric gravel paths. The paths lead to the building and to a flagpole near Norton Street. Since the period of significance, later commemorative elements have been added to the site: a U.S. Bicentennial time capsule buried beneath an unmarked squarish steppingstone, with a flush-granite marker south of it directing that the time capsule be unearthed at the Tercentennial in 2076; and, close to Norton Street, a city-issued historical marker. The latter, erected by the Weymouth Historical Commission in 1966, reads "ABIGAIL ADAMS BIRTHPLACE: ABIGAIL SMITH ADAMS, THE WIFE OF JOHN ADAMS, 2ND PRESIDENT, AND MOTHER OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, 6TH PRESIDENT, WAS BORN HERE IN 1744."

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The Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage itself (built ca. 1685 nearby, moved to this site 1947) is a two-story, gambrel-roofed, timber-framed, plank-walled building with a saltbox restored addition along the northern 4/5 of its rear elevation. The building is sheathed in gray clapboards with contrasting red-painted cornerboards, cornice boards, and window trim. The facade is five bays wide but not symmetrical; the southern room is larger than the northern, so that the middle bay containing the door is offset slightly to the left (north). Four front-gabled roof dormers emerge from the lower gambrel slope: single dormers over the stairs and smaller northern room, double dormers to the south. The main block of the house—on both the north and south end elevations—has a single window bay above and below. The rear exit is in the southern end of the rear saltbox addition. A single rectangular block of granite functions as the front door step. An eight-paneled front door is set within a pilastered doorframe.

Inside, the Abigail Adams Birthplace building is set on a poured concrete foundation, with cement block basement walls topped by a granite stone wall above (where visible on the exterior). The floor plan of the main block consists of two rooms per floor (as typical of the center-chimney, hall and parlor layout), with a winder staircase tucked between the front entry and chimney stack. The saltbox addition has a large central kitchen with cooking hearth, the side rooms opening off it functioning as restroom (north) and bedroom/vestibule (south). Access to the basement is via a straight staircase at the rear (eastern) side of the larger southern room in the main block. The downstairs front rooms have paneled fireplace walls, with the rest of the wall wainscoted below and plastered above. The ceilings are plastered as well. Of the building frame, only the edges of the posts and girts are visible. The saltbox kitchen has unpainted pine paneling. The northern chamber (interpreted as Abigail Smith's room) has a simple bolection mantel set into the plastered wall, with commemorative bricks in the hearth that were donated in 1951 by several then-surviving First Ladies: Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, and Mrs. Harry Truman.

The Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage was first built within this district (just across North Street). It has been moved twice during the period of significance; but was returned to the district and restored at this site in 1947. The cottage was built ca. 1685 by the Reverend Samuel Torrey on the parsonage lot (now known as 8 East Street). A much larger parsonage was added onto the cottage by the Rev. William Smith in the 1730s and demolished by the church a century later. At that time the original 17th-century building—which had been preserved as an ell to the later (razed) building—was moved north to Bicknell Square (many blocks north of the district boundary), where it served as a residence for another century. The 1947 move, building restoration, and redesign of the grounds were a multiyear collaborative work of several designers and craftsmen: noted restoration architect and author Frank Chouteau Brown, muralist and architect Carroll Bill, artist and landscape architect Theron I. Cain, restoration carpenter Charles Peaselee, and restoration mason Frank Osborne. Although the two moves and complicated history of the building make it difficult to absolutely prove its age and historical connections, it is certainly important as the final restoration of a First Period structure by Frank Chouteau Brown, an important historian of Colonial houses and practitioner of Colonial Revival restoration. The present landscape setting appears to include elements designed by Brown and Cain, although further research should be done to determine how much actually survives from the original plan.

Across North Street is the **First Church Parsonage** (MHC# 542, 1838, Photograph #4), **8 East Street**. This five-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house faces East Street, and is set at least 50 feet back from the street on a large flat lot at the base of the Old Burying Ground hill. Set on a granite block foundation, it has a clapboarded front, wood-shingled ends, and a roof covered with asphalt shingles. Two identical large chimneys, equally spaced and centered on the roofline, indicate a likely center hall, double pile, interior room arrangement. A single-story, cross-gabled rear ell, connected to the

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eastern side of the north elevation, terminates in a single-car garage. This rear ell is clapboarded, its asphalt-shingled roof containing a skylight; it appears as extant in a 1922 view of the building. Stylistically, the house appears to be late Federal style, with a Greek Revival-influenced cornice and an added later Italianate-style door hood with oversized scroll brackets. A row of four sidelights flanks the paneled door on each side, while its outer frame is fitted with a tempered-glass storm door. The 6/6 double-hung sash windows are flanked by black shutters. The frame of the building, raised on May 17, 1838, reportedly included some beams from the main 1730s parsonage which stood on this site until razed for the construction of this building (at which time the original ca. 1685 birthplace ell was moved away). A Weymouth Tercentenary plaque (1923) is affixed under the ground-floor window in the second bay, identifying the site as the birthplace of Abigail Smith Adams. A garden with a pergola and white picket fence occupy part of the lot east of the ell. First Church sold the parsonage in 1970; it is now privately owned.

The Abigail Adams Green (MHC# 924, 1978), at the southeast corner of North and East streets, is a rectangular town park on the east side of North Street, between East Street and the South Shore Railroad roadbed. Although dedicated as a park in 1978 (designed by Howard & Whitman), this plot appears to have always been open space, and throughout the latter part of the period of significance was the undivided backyard of the Samuel Thompson House at 479 Green Street. Controlled by the Weymouth Conservation Commission, the park appears to have been built largely on fill atop low, swampy woodland such as that wet, wooded corner that remains in the southeast quarter. The park planting design is generally Colonial Revival, with beds of native perennials informally placed alongside gravel and cinder paths. The contemporary park furniture is limited to trash cans and benches: five plastic-coated steel benches and a single steel-framed bench with resin slats, the latter dedicated in 2006. The idea for the park is credited to Theron I. Cain, a former member of the Weymouth Conservation Commission and an artist and landscape architect (who earlier had redesigned the Colonial Revival garden at the Abigail Adams Birthplace). Cain served as technical advisor in its completion. Although legally a separate parcel, a long sliver of city-owned land (East Street right-of-way) begins along the northeastern corner of the park and extends eastward along East Street as far as Green Street.

Located at the extreme northwest corner of the Abigail Adams Green is the **Laban Pratt Lion Fountain** (MHC# 900, 1909), donated by the same philanthropist who provided the gates along North Street for the North Weymouth Cemetery (where he is buried). This granite fountain, about six feet tall and six feet wide, has a bowl in the front and to the rear a pedestal drinking fountain (the rim of which is partially broken off). An arched central backdrop, topped with an open scroll, rises above the bowl. The panel on the front of the backdrop holds the raised sculpture of a lion, whose mouth originally contained the fountain's spigot. The sides of the central backdrop are supported with a scroll design, lined with carved cattails, and terminating in an acanthus leaf. The fountain bowl, now used as a planter, bears on its rim the inscription "LABAN PRATT 1909." Whether this fountain has been at this street corner since 1909, or was moved here at a later date, is unknown.

The only building on this block is the **Samuel Thompson House** (MHC# 1084, ca. 1868), **479 Green Street**, a front-gabled house with gable-end returns, two details that suggest late Greek Revival stylistic influences. This two-story (with full attic), clapboard-sheathed house fronts on busy Green Street, with a driveway off East Street. Because the land drops away significantly between Green Street and the western end of the lot, the house has a rear entry at the basement level into the rear ell. A one-story open front porch with turned posts fronts on East Street. A small Victorian stained-glass window is set in the eastern end of the southern elevation, presumably lighting a staircase. The house has some condition issues, including falling eaves-troughs.

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Across Green Street from the Samuel Thompson House is the **Capt. Stephen Bicknell House** (MHC# 1083, ca. 1818, Photograph #5), **476 Green Street**. This 1½-story Cape Cod house has a large center chimney on the ridgeline, a five-bay facade, and two distinctive roof dormers with shed roofs that rise all the way to the ridgeline. It faces Green Street and is set back from the street on a hill. Set on a granite-block foundation, this clapboarded house has a dentil molding at the cornice on the front facade and a later open porch to the south. A long two-story cross-gabled rear ell with a center chimney on the ridgeline, not visible from the corner of Green and East streets, attaches to the southern half of the rear and terminates in a one-story leanto topped with a balustraded deck. The ell has a three-sided bay window to the south. A single-story leanto connects to the rear of the house in the north. These rear additions are shingled or clapboarded; the entire roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The paneled front and side doors are late 19th-century replacements, each with white and colored frosted-glass window panes in its upper half. Northeast of the house, fronting on East Street, is a two-car detached garage, built in the late 20th century. It appears to replace an earlier outbuilding shown near that site on older maps. The most recent owner of the house says that he was told the enormous copper beech tree in the front yard of the home grew from a plant brought from England by Benjamin Franklin. This lot now also incorporates a small triangle of land at the intersection of Green Street and the railroad roadbed, formerly the roadway and right-of-way for Vernon Street. Previously, Vernon Street crossed the railbed at grade and connected with Green Street here. Though now an extension of the Bicknell House lawn, legally it remains a separate parcel.

The two remaining parcels in the district north of the railroad roadbed both lie to the west of North Street. The **Humphrey House** (MHC# 1086, ca. 1876, Photograph #6), **537 North Street**, occupies an L-shaped lot that runs from North Street at its intersection with the railroad roadbed, and then jogs north to Abigail Adams Circle. The house itself faces south, oriented towards the sun (and incidentally towards the railbed) rather than Abigail Adams Circle, and it is connected to North Street by a lane. The lot originally was much larger and included several barns or outbuildings (razed) just to the west and large open fields to the north, the site of the post-World War II development along Abigail Adams Circle and John Quincy Lane. This rambling house has a 2½-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival, symmetrical front elevation, and a large two-story, cross-gabled rear ell. The exact age or original form of the house is difficult to determine; a Humphrey farmhouse is recorded near this site on the 1830 map, but not on the 1853 map. It appears on this location again on the 1876 map, and the house shown here in the 1880 bird's eye view of the neighborhood appears consistent with the current house. The house has been divided into five apartments, its attic fitted with skylights and a second-story western entry off a large raised deck. The building is sheathed in artificial siding and shutters and has asphalt shingles. Directly to the west of the house is a small gambrel-roofed shed, added in 1997. Northeast of the house, at the intersection of North Street and Abigail Adams Lane, the Stephen Squillante House at 533 North Street (No MHC#, 1987) is a modern two-story raised ranch house, built by its current owner in 1987—long after the period of significance—on a lot subdivided from the Humphrey House lot.

The **South Shore Railroad Railbed** (1849) was laid out through a natural valley between the Old North Cemetery hill and King Oak Hill in the 1840s and thereafter became a defining characteristic of this neighborhood through its 2008 reactivation for the Greenbush Commuter Rail line. The railbed here achieved its current width in 1886 when it was widened to accommodate a second track. Ridership peaked around 1900; the second track was removed by 1941 and passenger service suspended entirely in 1959. At the northwest corner of the site, alongside the tracks directly south of the James Humphrey House at 537 North Street, is an electrical shed (ca. 2007), an eight-by-eight-foot metal shed hooked into a power corridor that parallels the railbed. While some neighborhood roads, such as Green and Vernon streets,

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formerly crossed the railbed at grade, the rail line has crossed heavily traveled North Street by bridge since at least 1904. The current North Street Bridge (ca. 2007) replaces an earlier bridge (MHC# 912, 1923), which in turn replaced an even earlier bridge (shown on the 1904 Sanborn map). Part of the dark stone abutment of the 1923 bridge has been preserved as the base of the abutment to the new bridge. The 2007 rebuilding of the bridge abutment preserved a **Stone Retaining Wall** (ca. 1920s, Photograph #7), of uncoursed rough-cut, smooth-faced stone, which extends alongside North Street from the bridge abutment base past the houses at 555 North Street and 3 Church Street to the corner of North and Church streets. Directly south of the railbed, in the vee on the northern side of the intersection of North and Green streets, is a small triangle of open land. This lot is the site of the Weymouth Heights RR Depot (ca. 1876) a two-story hillside depot building razed sometime after 1966. In 2006-2008, when it reactivated the rail line for commuter rail, the MBTA rebuilt the railbed, replaced the North Street Bridge, and added a bridge at Green Street. No station was rebuilt at Weymouth Heights.

The **Francis and Josephine Boutilier House** at **555 North Street** (MHC# 1087, ca. 1928, Photograph #7) is a two-story Dutch Colonial Revival house, with a side-gambrel roof and full shed dormer on the front. The house faces south on a lot subdivided from the rear of 3 Church Street, accessible from North Street—which it fronts at an angle—only by three concrete steps set into the stone retaining wall and an arcing walk. Set on a stone block-and-brick foundation, the house itself is a basic three-bay design with paired windows in each bay, its pedimented front-entry extended porch enclosed. Now a two-family house with a second covered entry, it is sheathed in aluminum siding and combination screens and roofed with asphalt shingles. Automobile access to the property is through the driveway of 3 Church Street; the macadam driveway ends in a freestanding **Gambrel Garage** (ca. 1960), sheathed in plastic siding.

The **W.O. Nash House** (MHC# 1079, ca. 1868, Photograph #8), **3 Church Street**, is a large two-story house, with a full third-story mansarded attic, lit by three or four projecting shed dormers on each side. Its foundation is made of large granite blocks. Prominently sited above the intersection of Church, Green, and North streets, it is the only Second Empire-style building in the district. A telescoping two-to-one-story rear ell off the northwest corner dates to 1904 or before, according to the Sanborn maps. A free-standing mansarded carriage house to the northwest of the Nash House, dating from 1880 or earlier, was taken down sometime after 1940. The straight mansard roof retains its fishscale shingles, although the dormers and cornice brackets are sheathed in plastic siding, as is the rest of the house. The front brick-and-concrete steps are a recent replacement. The building now contains four or more apartments.

The **Dr. L. Fuller House** (MHC# 411, ca. 1843, Photograph #9), **11 Church Street**, is a rambling two-story house that fronts on Church Street in a two-bay, end-gable form, pointing to its initial Greek Revival style. Its main entry is tucked under an open porch on its western side. The T-shaped main block ends in a cross-gabled middle section, with a long, two-part, 1½-story rear ell. The 1880 *Weymouth Bird's Eye View* shows several elements subsequently removed: a single-story porch in the southeast corner (matching the porch that remains in the southwest corner) and a two-story barn attached to the northwestern corner of the rear ell. The building has a granite foundation and a new bulkhead in the western side of the ell. A three-sided bay window lights the ground floor on the western side of the cross-gabled center block. The asphalt-shingle roof has two brick chimneys with corbelled tops in the main block, and a third brick chimney with a flat top in the rear ell. This lot may have been the site of the fourth meetinghouse. The building serves as church offices (downstairs) and a rental apartment (upstairs). In a ca. 2002 renovation by the First Church, the house was covered in aluminum siding, fitted with combination windows and doors, and accessed by new wheelchair ramps.

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The **First Church in Weymouth** (MHC# 310, 1833, Photograph #10), **17 Church Street**, has also been known as the "Old North Church" or "First Congregational Church," but officially incorporated by its oldest name, "First Church in Weymouth," in 1911. First Church is a two-story, Greek Revival church atop a granite foundation that fronts on, and is aligned with, the Weymouth Common and Church Street. Nearly two centuries old, this current building is the fifth (and only surviving) building constructed for worship by the First Church. The site of the first building is unrecorded, though it may have stood near where the second building stood within what is now known as the North Weymouth/Old North Cemetery. The third church building was built here, on land near the new school, in 1682. It burned in 1751; its replacement building was, in turn, razed and replaced by the fifth (and current) building in 1833. According to building committee records, the church purchased a new lot from Deacon John Bates in 1833, presumably adjacent and to the west of the previous meetinghouse, to build this church. The fourth meetinghouse was dismantled and moved out of the district for use as a bake shop; its current status is unknown. The 1833 meetinghouse was extended by ten feet to the north in 1837. The architect of the 1833 meetinghouse is unknown, but a reasonable attribution might be made to call it the work of Elnathan Bates.

The First Church (1833) is a large (68 x 54 foot) two-story, end-gabled building with a temple-like projecting front pavilion and a steeple that straddles the main building and the pavilion. On its principal elevations, the church is three bays wide with windows over doors in the façade pavilion and two-story paired windows on each side. Apart from the building's general form, Greek Revival stylistic elements are most evident in this central facade pavilion: the four two-story pilasters that frame the bays of the front pavilion and support the wide divided trim band and prominent triangular pediment. A large fanlight is the sole decoration of the pediment. The three-part steeple includes a cubic base, a louvered belltower, and a squat steeple atop an octagonal drum, with a crowning compass weathervane. The facade windows are 8/8 sash, while the double-height side windows are 6/6 sash.

The interior of First Church, though periodically updated and refurbished, retains much of its original character, including the large two-story sanctuary hall with a coved ceiling. Across its southern end, a narthex/entry vestibule supports an open balcony above. Three north-south aisles provide circulation in the sanctuary. The box like slip pews, which retain their paneled doors and brass numbers, are arranged in two wide double-pile ranks in the center, with more characteristic box forms along the east and west walls. The sanctuary windows are all clear glass, with the exception of stained glass recently installed in the single northwest corner window. The most significant of the interior renovations took place in 1923-1924, when architect Alfred Darrow of Boston oversaw the modernization of the sanctuary.

The basement of the main building includes a central youth room and classrooms along side hallways. The attic, accessible from above the rear balcony, displays elements of the building's braced frame, including five king-post trusses. These trusses are further strengthened with secondary vertical braces between the tie beams and long rafters at the point where king-post uprights meet the rafters. Up in the belltower, the current bell, dated 1857, was cast by Henry N. Hooper & Co. of Boston, according to the legend on the bell itself.

The church building has undergone periodic renovations and restorations, including several different reconfigurations of its rear extensions since its first expansion. A "chapel" (vestry, or meeting room) was added to the rear in 1856, and expanded in 1899-1900 by the Ladies Benevolent Society. In 1953-1955, the congregation had the chapel removed, the entire building lifted and set aside, and a new foundation put in place, under the direction of Boston architects Collens, Willis & Beckonert. The firm also designed the rear addition to the church, including a large below-grade gymnasium/meeting hall, designed as the foundation for a parish hall above (which has remained unbuilt). The windows in this brick,

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flat-roofed, half-story extension serve as clerestory lights for the below-grade hall. Between the church and gymnasium is a narrow single-story frame addition, slightly wider than the church itself, from which rises a tall, square, brick chimney. This narrow extension, which has been renovated since 2000, provides for circulation between the sanctuary, its basement, and the gymnasium/auditorium, and includes a gallery highlighting the church's connections with Abigail Adams.

The building is sheathed in synthetic siding, which obscures the building's corner pilasters and divided cornice trim. A small, end-gabled vestibule was constructed in 2008 at the southern end of the eastern facade to provide covered access into the sanctuary basement.

As is still the case with the John Adams School across the Weymouth Common, throughout the period of significance, the church lot was restricted to the building footprint and a few feet beyond. The horse sheds (1833) were still shown across the rear of the lot in 1904 in the first Sanborn map of the site, close to the rear extension, but they had been removed by 1917. Since the end of the period of significance, the church has purchased land between the building and the railbed, and from adjoining property owners on either side. These additional areas have all been paved over for parking and access lanes have been added on either side of the church building, connecting with an oval driveway in front of the church. This driveway is supported by a retaining wall (parallel to Church Street). Between the retaining wall and the street is a metal sign (1966) provided by the Weymouth Historical Commission explaining the significance of the First Church.

The **Weymouth Common** (1681, foreground in Photographs #11 & 12), is an open lawn between the paved roadway of Church Street and the lots to the south of Church Street. The Weymouth Common and Church Street occupy a slight valley, which further accentuates the prominence of the First Church and John Adams School on hilltops directly across from each other. Legally two separate lots, the Weymouth Common is further divided by the driveways crossing from Church Street to two otherwise inaccessible properties on its south side, 16 and 24 Church Street. Though municipally owned, Weymouth Common has none of the usual 19th- and 20th-century landscaping elements that clutter a town common. A single deteriorated macadam sidewalk cuts diagonally across the eastern end, paving a shortcut from the convenience store on North Street towards the church. A utility corridor on wooden poles lines the street side of the Common, and a few mature deciduous trees are scattered about. At the intersection of North and Church streets, a new concrete pad and macadam skirt are a result of a recent public works street update. Here is the only sign on the Weymouth Common, and unrelated to it, a brass plaque (with flag-holder pockets) atop a pole designating the street corner as a memorial to a Korean War soldier: "In Memory of PFC William C. Shores, USMC, Killed in Action October 26, 1952." A topographical marker is set in the Weymouth Common in front of John Adams School, but most of the brass medallion is broken off and it is illegible. Some early 20th-century Sanborn maps show Weymouth Common as part of Church Street itself (before Church was paved) or as an open space associated with the school. Postcard views from the same decades show that the Common originally was on the same level as the buildings on either side, but was lowered to make Church Street more accessible for automobiles.

Two properties define the southern boundary of Weymouth Common. The **John Adams School** (MHC# 218, NR 1986, Photograph #11), **16 Church Street**, is a large (33 x 45 foot) two-story, Greek Revival, school building erected in 1854, set atop a hill across the Common directly opposite the First Parish Church, with which it is aligned. In addition to its prominent front-gable form, other Greek Revival design elements include the wide cornices and the large wooden pilasters, which support gable end returns. Secondary Italianate details include the widely overhanging eaves supported by

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decorative brackets and the articulated frames—with projecting hoods supported by brackets—around each door and window. A surprising third stylistic element is Gothic Revival, in the form of an outsized three-lobed, clover-like foil window centered in the gable of each end. The symmetrical, flat-boarded three-bay front includes two paneled heavy entry doors, separated for boys and girls, accessible by contemporary concrete step units with two-bar steel railings. Both clapboarded side elevations are symmetrical four-bay compositions of eight windows. The rear—not visible from any street—is also clapboarded, with fire escapes and emergency exits. Set on a granite base, the building has combination screens with decorative shutters, affixed to the side of the building. The roof has asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys at the ridge. The small side yard serves as a fenced playground.

The interior of the building has been largely preserved, both in plan and detail. A large schoolroom occupies the rear (south) three-quarters of the building on each floor. Staircases occupy the front (north) corners of the building, with coat hooks in the entry halls and horizontal board wainscoting angling up the staircase alongside the steps, with plaster walls above. The second-floor schoolroom has wooden floorboards, horizontal board wainscoting, slate chalkboards, and tin-paneled upper walls and ceiling. The ground floor classroom is similar, with the exception of four interior support posts and a plaster ceiling.

Schools have existed around the Weymouth Common since the town's first school building was erected there in 1681. Constructed in 1854 as the Second District School but known in later years as the John Adams School, this building is thought to be the oldest surviving school in Weymouth. The area directly in front of the building is blacktopped, accessible by a half-circle entry drive. In the grassed center of the driveway are a small wooded signboard and flagpole with barrel planter. They do not appear in the National Register documentation photographs, and likely were added as part of the adaptive reuse of the school into a day care center.

The **James M. Taylor House** (MHC# 1081, ca. 1876, Photograph #12), **24 Church Street**, is a large three-story house on a large irregularly shaped lot that marks the southwest corner of the district. Visible in the 1880 birdseye view map of Weymouth, this three-bay house faces northwestward, formally aligned with the Weymouth Common and Church Street. The side-gabled house form, with a slightly smaller but still prominent centered gable, would seem to indicate an Italianate stylistic approach. This centered gable is further emphasized by a squarish nine-by-nine feet projecting open porch topped with a balustrade and squared-off bay window. The roof of the bay window further accents the center gable, with an upswept roof that comes to a single point halfway up the gable end. The gabled roof dormers on either side of the center gable, which at first glance seem Colonial Revival in nature, have a widely overhanging roof more consistent with the Italianate style. Other Italianate details include the overhanging end gables and gable-end returns, which frame the slightly protruding third-floor triple window bay. Flat-roofed, squarish bay windows at the front of both the eastern and western ends give an expansive view of both directions down Church Street. Although much of the house has been encased in vinyl siding, combination screens, and decorative shutters, the original woodwork of the porch is unaltered, as well as defining facade entry details, such as the pilasters and dentiled cornice that frame the front door and its diamond-within-circle sidelights. On a slight rise behind the house is an irregularly shaped in-ground pool with Pool House. To the west of the house is a tool house with a small woodlot beyond. The house is set on a rise, separated from the Common below by a thick, four-foot-high uncoursed **Stone Retaining Wall** of drylaid rubblestone with some recent concrete patching. This stone retaining wall provides both a backdrop for the Common and a podium for displaying the house atop it.

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Beyond the boundary of the Weymouth Meeting House Historic District, the development pattern consists primarily of 20th-century, medium-density suburban infill and small-scale commercial strips. The topographical barriers (particularly hills and wetlands) surrounding the neighborhood presented a natural limit on other types of development. While some other 19th-century houses are widely scattered along the older arterial streets that intersect in the district (North, Church, Green, East, and, late in the century, Norton streets), the 20th-century infill both isolates these houses from one another and separates them from the district. Church Street may have more of these houses than any other street, but they, too, are each surrounded by later infill. Though set back from the street, the recent condominium complex that replaced the Abigail Adams School at the western edge of the Weymouth Common effectively precludes further expansion of the district along Church Street in that direction. Those streets that surround the Old North Cemetery on its north and west also demonstrate a later infill pattern. To the southwest of the cemetery, Abigail Adams Circle and John Quincy Lane were laid out after the Abigail Adams Birthplace moved to its current site in 1947.

Archaeological Description

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District is located in an area of documented ancient Native American settlement in the northern part of town between the Fore and Back rivers. Ten ancient Native American sites are located in the general area (within one mile), including one site, the Sweet Grass Creek Site (19-NF-93), which is located within the district. Evidence of the site has been recovered in the Old North Cemetery and on land occupied by the Abigail Adams House on Norton Street. The site is recorded as an extensive occupation site, containing lithic artifacts and pottery diagnostic of Middle Archaic through Woodland period occupations. Grave digging and street construction have reportedly disturbed portions of the site.

Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient Native American sites. The district contains several well-drained, level to moderately sloping plains, terraces, knolls, and other landforms formed in glacial till and outwash deposits. In many areas, soils form a thin mantle overlying bedrock. In some areas urban land deposits are also present where the original soils have been covered with impervious surfaces, including asphalt, concrete, and buildings. In many places, the underlying soils have been cut away and filled. The district is located within 1,000 feet of a tidal marsh, creek, and Mill Cove along its northwestern and western boundary. The area is located on a neck of land roughly midway between the Fore and Back Rivers within the Weymouth and Weir River drainage in the Boston Harbor watershed.

Given the information presented above, the size of the district (approximately 31 acres), and the extent of historic land use, the presence of ancient Native American resources is documented in the district and a high potential exists for locating additional ancient resources. While grave digging and other forms of historic period land use activities have likely destroyed many ancient resources in the cemetery and in other areas of the district, significant ancient resources may survive in undisturbed and peripheral areas of the cemetery and district.

There is also a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological resources in the district. Structural evidence from several 17th- through 20th-century residential, civic, and religious buildings may survive, as well as evidence of residences and outbuildings that housed cottage industries. Structural evidence may survive from as many as four earlier meetinghouses/churches erected before the extant First Church in Weymouth (1833) was built at 17 Church Street. The first meetinghouse site, possibly built as early as 1623, is unreported, though it may have stood on Watch House Hill or

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the old Burying Ground near the site of the second meeting house (ca. 1635, ca. 1645) in the North Weymouth/Old North Cemetery. The third Church building, which burned in 1751, was built in 1682 in the vicinity of the extant church at 17 Church Street near the new school. The fourth church replaced its predecessor shortly after it burned in 1751 and was, in turn, razed and replaced with the present structure in 1833. Structural evidence may survive from an earlier school replaced by the current John Adams School (1854) on the same site at 16 Church Street.

Unmarked graves may also exist at the North Weymouth Cemetery/Old North Cemetery (ca. 1636) located at 126 North Street. Unmarked graves may result from lost or stolen gravestones, markers that have deteriorated, and graves that were left intentionally unmarked, as with indigents and paupers. The cemetery, which comprises over one-half of the district's acreage, contains over 9,000 recorded burials and 4,000 gravestones. The first recorded burial was in 1636; however, the oldest gravestone is 1678. Unmarked and marked graves may contain a grave shaft, coffin remains, human remains, and personal items related to the deceased. Individual graves may contain single or multiple interments. Memorial-type graves may contain no human remains at all. Structural evidence may also exist from barns, stables, hearse houses, and other structures related to the operation and maintenance of the cemetery.

Structural evidence of 17th- through 20th-century residential buildings may also exist in the district. An earlier house preceded the Humphrey House (ca. 1876) at 537 North Street. A carriage house, originally located northwest of the extant Nash House (ca. 1868) at 3 Church Street, was demolished sometime after 1940. The Old Badlam Homestead was demolished at the northwestern corner of East and Green streets. The former First Church parsonage was torn down and a new parsonage built on the same site. The Old Whitman House, shown on the 1830 Humphrey and Torrey Map but no longer extant, was located closer to North Street than the extant Humphrey House. A carriage house also originally stood southwest of the James M. Taylor House (ca. 1876) at 24 Church Street.

Structural evidence of barns, stables, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence of occupational- related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist with both archaeological sites and extant buildings in the district. Archaeological evidence of a hearse house, woodshed, two outhouses, and eight horse sheds may survive on the Meeting House lot. Several barns and smaller outbuildings, now razed, originally existed on the Humphrey House lot.

Other important sites in the district may include the site of the Weymouth Heights RR Depot, removed after 1966 from a small triangle of open land on the north side of the intersection of North and Green Streets, and the potential structural remains of abutments related to two earlier bridges located at the site of the current North Street Bridge.

Archaeological resources may also survive at the original site of the Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage (ca. 1685) at 8 East Street. The cottage was originally built by the Reverend Samuel Torrey on the parsonage lot, then expanded by Adams father, the Rev. William Smith in the 1730s. While Smith's addition was later demolished, the cottage section was moved twice; now resting at 180 Norton Street, near, but not on its original site. Structural evidence may survive from the original cottage foundation, builder's trenches, barns, outbuildings, and occupational- related features at the original house site.

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Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA
County and State

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1636 to 1960

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Adams, Abigail (Smith); Watson, Thomas A.

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Bill, Carroll (Adams Birthplace supervising architect)

Brown, Frank Choteau (Adams Birthplace rest. archit.)
(continued)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

First Church of Weymouth
Abigail Adams Birthplace Society Archives

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. Architect/Builder (continued)

Ambrosia Builders (builder of Old North Cemetery chapel)
Bates, Elnathan (designer/builder of First Church in Weymouth and possibly the Parsonage)
Cain, Theron Irving (Adams Birthplace landscape designer)
Collens, Willis and Beckonert (architects for the 1954 First Church foundation and gymnasium rear addition)
Darrow, Alfred (architect for 1920 First Church renovation)
Gordon, James J. (Adams Birthplace restoration contractor and house mover)
Hooper, Henry N., & Co. (maker of the current bell (1857) at First Church)
Osborne, Frank (Adams Birthplace restoration mason)
Parker, Charles Edward (architect of the Civil War monument)
Peaselee, Charles (Adams Birthplace restoration carpenter)
Pratt Family of Stonecutters (carver of several gravestones 1767-1780)
Sargent, E.C. (contractor of the Civil War monument)
White, Charles (Adams Birthplace restoration mason)

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District is a linear village centered on North Street, extending from the town's oldest burial ground at its north end, through a triangular residential district defined by the intersection of three early streets (later bisected by a railroad), to the Weymouth Common and the buildings surrounding it at the district's southern end. The area and the buildings, as a group, retain historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, fulfilling Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

Under **Criterion A**, this district along North Street has served as a focal point for the town for nearly four centuries, almost since its earliest days of European settlement. At the northern end of the district is the town's oldest Burying Ground and the earliest known site of a meetinghouse. At the southern end of the district, around the Weymouth Common, is the site of the town's subsequent meetinghouses and first school—dating from 1681-1683—and its oldest standing meetinghouse and school. Linking these two elevated sites is a narrow valley traversed by several early roads, a triangular configuration further fixed in place when bisected by the South Shore Railroad in 1849. Other developments in the neighborhood have been limited to residential uses, from the first parsonage (ca. 1685), through a few scattered 19th- and early 20th-century houses. This neighborhood served as the religious and political center for all of Weymouth during the early Colonial period until 1723 when a separate south parish and precinct were established, and for northern Weymouth for another century until further parish fragmentation in the early 19th century and the completion of the first Town Hall elsewhere in 1854.

Under **Criterion B**, the district is significant for its numerous connections with the birth and childhood of Abigail (Smith) Adams (1744-1818), whose husband John Adams and son John Quincy Adams became, respectively, the second and sixth presidents of the United States. Her father, the Rev. William Smith (1707-1783), served as minister of First Parish from 1734 to 1783. He and his wife, Elizabeth Quincy Smith (1721-1775), lived in the parsonage the rest of their lives, raising their family of four children there. Abigail Smith was born in the parsonage and schooled there by her parents. She was received into the membership of First Church in 1759. She was courted by John Adams at her Weymouth house, and married him at First Church in 1764. Her parents died in Weymouth and both are buried in prominent graves in Old North Cemetery, as is Susanna Adams, one of the children of John and Abigail Adams. (Abigail herself lies elsewhere, buried beside her husband John Adams, her son John Quincy Adams, and daughter-in-law Louisa Catherine Adams, at the

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First Unitarian Church, 1306 Hancock Street, in nearby Quincy, Massachusetts.) The Weymouth neighborhood has increasingly attracted commemorative elements responding to its connections with the birth and childhood of Abigail Adams, the most important being the 1947 relocation and restoration of the first parsonage as the Abigail Adams Birthplace. The district is also significant as the final resting place of Thomas A. Watson (1854-1934), famed as the assistant to Alexander Graham Bell during the discovery of the telephone. In 1883, Watson founded the Fore River Shipyards, on the opposite bank of the Weymouth Fore River from his final resting place.

Under **Criterion C**, the district contains intact landscapes and buildings from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape types and styles, including some important early gravestone carvings by the Pratt family. The earlier house styles represented include two Cape Cod houses, a late Federal parsonage, and several examples of Greek Revival, including houses, a church, and a school (the latter sporting Italianate details and a pair of outsized Gothic foil windows). Later styles represented include mansions in Italianate and Second Empire styles and Colonial Revival houses. The iconic Abigail Adams Birthplace is a Colonial Revival restoration, the last known project planned by the important scholar and restoration architect Frank Chouteau Brown, and carried out after his death by local enthusiasts and professionals following his plans. The period of significance begins ca. 1636, with the earliest known burial in the Old Burying Ground, and closes in 1960.

CRITERION A: PATTERNS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Weymouth is a town of 21.6 square miles, located in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, 12 miles southeast of Boston. The northern third of Weymouth, including the Weymouth Meeting House Historic District, is a peninsula defined by the Weymouth Fore River to the west, Boston Harbor to the north, and the Weymouth Back River to the east. Weymouth shares land boundaries with Braintree and Holbrook to the west, Abington and Rockland to the south, and Hingham to the east. The town is composed of low rock outcrops, rolling hills (glacially derived drumlins, eskers, and kames), and sand plains. The soils are generally mixes of clay, sand, or gravel, studded with glacial boulders (erratics). The town is dotted with former sand or gravel pits, and Weymouth granite is well known as a building stone (Kevitt 1981: 1-2; Johnson 2000).

At the time of European contact, the Native American population was the Massachusett tribe, and they called the place "Wessagussett." After a particularly ill-fated start as an English trading post in 1622, it became the second permanent settlement in Massachusetts in 1623, part of the new Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, and then incorporated (and renamed) as the Town of Weymouth in 1635. It was named after the English coastal town of Weymouth in Dorset. During Weymouth's first two centuries, residents established fishing villages in the north and practiced subsistence farming in the south, supplemented by the operation of saw, grist, and fulling mills, and the raking (gathering) of bog iron. The primary industry of the 19th and early 20th centuries was shoe- and bootmaking, at one point employing three-quarters of the town's workers. Secondary industries included shipbuilding, nailmaking, and fertilizer production. In the 20th century, many residents worked at the Fore River Shipyard across the river in Quincy or at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station (in operation 1940-1997). In 1953, U.S. Route 3 opened, bisecting Weymouth, providing a fast direct automobile commute to Boston, and leading to the closing of commuter railroad shortly thereafter. Today, many residents commute to work in Boston by automobile, or again by commuter rail with the reopening of the Greenbush rail line, Weymouth now has three commuter rail stations. In 1999, Weymouth voted to adopt a city form of government with a mayor, although the municipality is still known formally as the Town of Weymouth. The 2000 census recorded 53,988 people in Weymouth, a population density of 3,174.2 people per square mile. Besides Abigail Adams, noted people born in Weymouth include abolitionist Maria Weston Chapman, and artists Abbott Fuller Graves, Edmund Aubrey Hunt, and Susan Torrey Merritt. Joshua Bates of East Weymouth, who as a boy studied under the Rev. Jacob Norton at First Parish, became an American

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partner in Baring Brothers & Company of London, and largely financed the construction of the current Boston Public Library (Chamberlain 1906: 718-721). Bates Hall, the BPL's grand reading room, was named after him. Weymouth has a long record of military service and sacrifice, including five Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; most of Weymouth's public primary schools are named after soldiers (Kevitt 1981; Johnson 2000; Town of Weymouth Website 2008; "Weymouth, Massachusetts" 2008).

First Settlement Period (1622-1676)

The first English visitors known in Weymouth established a trading post in an area called Wessagussett in 1622. The trading post was along either Mill Cove or Kings Cove in northwest Weymouth. Ill-prepared and faced with harsh weather and resistance from the native peoples (whom they treated badly), they were forced to abandon the post. A second group, led by Robert Gorges and known as the Gorges Company, landed in Wessagussett in 1623, moved into the empty buildings, and quickly expanded the post, establishing a permanent settlement in northwest Weymouth. With the Gorges Company came the Rev. Morrill, a rector in the Church of England (Anglican), but Morrill and many of the company departed the next year. Over the next few years, Wessagussett remained inhabited, while various Anglican and Separatist ministers came and left, as the denominational factions in the settlement contended for power. The settlement became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. In 1635, 21 families of settlers and the Rev. Joseph Hull arrived from Weymouth, England, and the settlement incorporated as "Weymouth," marking the official start of both town and parish history (Nash 1885; *History of Weymouth* 1923: 1.21-1.75).

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District preserves historic landscapes and sites dating back to the earliest days of European settlement—and even before. **North Street** began as a secondary Native American trail, which connected with the main east-west trail (today's Commercial Street) just below the district. North Street, along with portions of **East Street and Green Street**, began as trails leading to the northern beaches and mudflats of Weymouth, vital for their year-round supplies of fish, clams, and other shellfish (Johnson 2000: 5). Thus the major streets of the district predate the earliest English colonists. The uneven, marshy topography of Weymouth limited the routes available to these arterial streets. With its extensive natural resources, protected nature, and proximity to a major trail, nearby Mill Cove (west of the district beyond a subdivision) became a natural focus for the early settlement. Mill Cove got its name from a tidal mill built there in 1669, which remained in use for over a century (Kevitt 1981: 111).

The nearest promontory, Watch House Hill, provided a focus for village life. According to a standard town history (Fearing 1923: 218), the first Weymouth Meeting House may have been erected as early as 1623 on Watch House Hill, or the Old Burying Ground in the **Old North Cemetery** (MHC #802, ca. 1636, Photograph #1), **126 Norton Street**. Meetinghouses were often erected on high hills such as this, partially for their defensive advantages. The second meetinghouse, begun in 1635 or 1636 (but still unfinished in 1645) stood on Watch House Hill for half a century (PAL, "Old North Burial Ground" 2000). Zachary Bicknell (1590-1636) was the first burial recorded for the site, while the oldest stone whose date is still discernible is that of John Tay (1678).

After decades of religious disagreement and strife, the Puritans secured control of the pulpit of the meetinghouse, and several subsequent Puritan ministers enjoyed relatively long stays in the pulpit. The Rev. Thomas Thacher was installed on January 2, 1644, and filled the pulpit in Weymouth for 20 years. Shortly after his arrival, the Meeting House that had begun in 1635-1636 was finished; it was extensively repaired in 1652. After the death of his first wife in 1644, Thacher married to a Boston woman, and in 1669 became the first minister of Boston's Old South Church. His successor, the Rev. Samuel Torrey, served the Weymouth pulpit for over forty years, from his installation in 1665 until his death in 1707. A gifted speaker and teacher, Torrey was widely respected, preaching at the General Court three times and declining the presidency of Harvard College in 1684. Under his guidance the town added galleries and a bell to the second

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meetinghouse (on Watch House Hill) in 1667, hired a sexton in 1668, and further repaired the meetinghouse in 1673 (Nash 1884; Fearing 1923: 220-22). Much of this early history comes from scattered secondary sources; the earliest official records for Weymouth are quite fragmentary, with the oldest surviving town records dating to 1643 and the oldest surviving church records—mostly births, baptisms, deaths, and marriages—not until 1734 (Kevitt 1981: vi).

According to one account, Watch House Hill (the Old Burying Ground) got its name during King Philip's War when the colonists gathered in and around the meetinghouse for protection (Johnson 2000: 6). Weymouth was raided three times: on February 12, 1675 when "several houses and barns were burned"; in March 1676, when "seven houses and barns were burned"; and on April 19, 1676, when eight houses were burned and Sgt. Thomas Pratt was killed (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 107). At least 50 Weymouth men fought in the war, and a half dozen or more perished in battles. Reviewing other accounts, the standard town history notes that one of the battle sites was purported to be "at the base of Cemetery Hill, near Judgment Valley, which is near the present Weymouth Heights railway station" (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 109). After the conflict, Weymouth was forced to appeal for help from neighboring towns for food to pass the following winter.

Colonial Period (1677-1777)

After the upheaval and impoverishment it experienced during King Philip's War, Weymouth eventually entered a long period of growing prosperity. In 1681, the town purchased land from Captain John Holbrook, just off North Street, for its first school; it spent 36 pounds building and furnishing the school (Nash 1885: 125-126; Kevitt 1981: 32). The land was atop the next promontory south of Watch House Hill, the broad western flank of King Oak Hill, also overlooking Mill Cove. This act established the **Weymouth Common** (1681, foreground in Photographs #11 & 12). The following year, a committee found the old meetinghouse "rotten and weak in many places, and also too small to accommodate the people" and decided to replace it (Fearing 1923: 222). Rather than attempting to raise another Meeting House within the cramped, hilly confines of the cemetery, the town purchased additional land from Holbrook near the new school. It hired Jacob Nash to build a larger and grander building than the old one; the replacement was 40 by 45 feet with four gable ends. This site has held the Weymouth meetinghouse ever since, although the current building is the third on this site.

Some accounts place the first school directly west of the current site of the First Church, just outside the district; a marker to that effect occupies the front lawn of the condominium complex there. The Town first paid a schoolmaster in 1651, and in 1680 bought the first house for the schoolmaster to occupy. By 1717, the southern part of town had its own separate school (Nash 1885: 125-127). The first school of 1681 was replaced on its same site in 1730 by another, "a two-story, ridge-hipped form built on a three by two bay plan [and] lit by multi-pane double-hung sash" (Johnson 2000: 11). The street known today as Church Street connected the Common to North Street, and soon provided a shortcut from North Street to Commercial Street. An early postcard view from the first decades of the twentieth century shows the Common at the same level as the front of the church, a divided roadway with a row of mature elms down a center grassy strip. To accommodate the automobile, the median was removed and the road was lowered beginning in the 1920s (Pepe & Pepe 2004: 25).

The history of parsonages is unexpectedly complicated, as they were usually deeded over to the minister and often remained in his possession until his death, at which point the town would have the first option to purchase the parsonage back. In 1685, the Rev. Samuel Torrey gave up the old parsonage, somewhere north of the Burying Hill, and built a new parsonage—commonly known as "the Mansion"—within the district on land to the south of the Burying Hill, several blocks closer to the new meeting house. In early church records it was sometimes known as the "South Parsonage," to distinguish it from the earlier "North Parsonage." This South Parsonage site is now known as 8 East Street, and Torrey's house is the oldest extant building in the district. Today the **Abigail Adams Birthplace** (MHC# 324, Photograph #3), **180 Norton Street**, preserves this parsonage on a different site, a half-block (approx. 300 feet) west of where it was originally

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located (on the other side of North Street). The Rev. Torrey was succeeded by Peter Thacher (serving 1707 to 1718), the grandson of his predecessor. He was followed in turn by Thomas Paine of Barnstable, who served from 1719 to 1734; both moved to Boston from Weymouth (Fearing 1923: 222-223). The Revs. Torrey and Paine are some of the earliest of the town's ministers buried in Old North Cemetery, as is Paine's son Robert Treat Paine (b. & d. 1727; *Weymouth Vital Records*). His younger brother, also named Robert Treat Paine (1731-1814), was a Massachusetts representative to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Part of the reason the Rev. Paine left the job was the ongoing financial strain caused when those in South Weymouth split off and started their own parish and precinct in 1723. Not only did the northern precinct now have to pay the entire salary of its minister, but it also endured protracted legal difficulties as the southern precinct fought for half of all the church property of the northern precinct. The suit over the old parsonage, for example, was not settled until 1785 (Nash 1885). In fact, despite the establishment of the political and religious center in the Meeting House district late in the 17th century, already by the early 18th century, growth in Weymouth was occurring elsewhere. East Weymouth had become a full-fledged village with a mill and a tavern by 1675, South Weymouth also developed throughout this time, and development around Mill Cove shifted southwestward to the more accessible Weymouth Landing. The area around the Weymouth Meeting House never again recaptured its leading commercial role, even within the northern precinct. But its intermediary location between East Weymouth and Weymouth Landing made its survival a matter of convenience and civic compromise.

The Rev. Paine's successor, the Rev. William Smith, served from 1734 until his death in 1783. Amid ongoing disputes over the old parsonage, in 1737, the Rev. Smith purchased "the Mansion" (built by the Rev. Samuel Torrey in 1685) and expanded it by building a new ell that was larger than the original house. On April 23, 1751, the meetinghouse burned down. The Rev. Smith noted in the church records on that date: "The Meeting House in Weymouth took Fire and was consumed to ashes in a very short time. There were 3 barrels of Gun powder (the Town Stock) in a sort of loft in the House, which made a surprising noise when it blew up" (qtd. in Fearing 1923: 225). Despite the concurrent outbreak of "throat distemper," which killed one in ten of its inhabitants, Weymouth rebuilt quickly, and the new meetinghouse opened in 1752. Rather than the squarish post-medieval meetinghouse, this church was 55 by 40 feet, "a side-gabled form with a tower, built on a seven by five-bay plan and lit by multi-pane double-hung sash" (Johnson 2000: 10).

On May 21, 1774, the British advanced on Weymouth. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., reported:

A landing was momentarily expected, and it was even reported to have taken place, and that three hundred soldiers were advancing on the town. Three alarm guns were fired, the bells were rung and the drums began to beat. The panic and confusion were very great and worth recording, for it is the only time in the long history of the town that Weymouth has ever had cause to fear that a civilized and disciplined foe was at her threshold. Every house below the present North Weymouth Station was deserted by the women and children. Mr. Smith's family fled from the old parsonage, and Dr. Tuft's wife being ill at the time, had a bed thrown into a cart, and, putting herself upon it was driven to Bridgewater. (Adams 1888: 74-75)

The invasion was merely a foraging party collecting hay on Grape Island, and the citizens managed only to burn the hay before it could be loaded. "But it showed the spirit of the town." (*ibid.*) On August 11, 1776, the Rev. Smith read the Declaration of Independence from the pulpit at First Church.

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Federal Period (1778-1830)

While the Weymouth Meeting House (now known as the First Church) retained its political importance even after religious disestablishment in 1833, its religious role greatly diminished in the decades before 1830. Weymouth's population doubled during the Federal period, from 1,400 to over 2,800, but two new churches also arose in the precinct. The Union Church of Weymouth and Braintree (1811) just across the border drew off the members who lived around Weymouth Landing, while a new Methodist Episcopal Church (1822) became the focus of religious life there (Johnson 2000: 11). As in the case of South Weymouth, each of these villages benefitted from connections to turnpikes and the expanding boot and shoe manufactories, while the Meeting House district remained largely rural. Even the rural area north of the Meeting House began to develop after 1812, when drawbridges across the Weymouth Fore and Back rivers provided direct access between Boston and Hingham through upper Weymouth, along the new Quincy and Hingham Turnpike.

A romantic image of the parsonage and its neighborhood can be found in the diary of an unlikely occupant in the mid 1780s, Peggy Hazlitt. She was the older sister of the English literary critic William Hazlitt. Their father, the Rev. William Hazlitt, preached and lectured in Boston for several years, where he founded a church. Peggy remembered that

The house stood in a most romantic spot. On a little, low hill to the eastward stood the house of prayer, and below it Dr. Tuft's, the road to Boston passing close by them. . . . From the tops of these hills we had a distant view of the Bay of Boston, and many of its islands and hills beyond it, with Dorchester Heights, famous for the Battle of Kells; Bunker Hill where so many British officers fell in the space of five minutes; to the south, dark and frowning woods, and nearer to us the river, with a mill and two houses on its banks, and a variety of meadows, fields, and trees below. (Qtd. in Chamberlain 1906: 713)

The only surviving building constructed in the district during this period is the **Capt. Stephen Bicknell House** (MHC# 1083, ca. 1818, Photograph #5), **476 Green Street**. This 1½-story Cape Cod house has a five-bay facade, large center chimney on the ridgeline, and two distinctive roof dormers with shed roofs that rise all the way to the ridgeline. It is emblematic of its time period: the recent comprehensive survey of Weymouth architecture and development notes that the Cape Cod was the single most common house type from this period (Johnson 2000: 15). Stephen Bicknell (1779-1856) was a master mariner and sea captain. In 1804, he married Lydia Loud (1782-1833), and they raised their children in this house.

In 1885, Gilbert Nash wrote an account called "North Weymouth about 1800," parts of which cover the Meeting House district. In Nash's reconstruction (republished in the 1923 Weymouth history), he imagines a journey that begins along Commercial Street, just beyond Weymouth Landing. He passes the Burrell House and shoe shop at the west end of Church Street, then leaves Commercial Street and goes toward the meetinghouse:

Passing along Church Street, there was no building until the meeting-house was reached, which stood upon the site of the present edifice. . . . The [1682 meeting house], destroyed by fire about 1751, . . . probably stood somewhat to the eastward of the present position, not far from the Town Pump. (Nash 1923: 913)

No other reference has been found to the Town Pump, which must have stood somewhere on the eastern end of the common. This quote also underscores the point that although a school and meetinghouse have existed on the town common since 1682, their positions have changed over time, through various building campaigns.

Nash continues his description of North Weymouth in 1800, turning onto North Street:

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Just below [north of] the corner of Church Street, upon North Street, lived Hon. Cotton Tufts, physician and storekeeper (his store being a little to the south of his house and about where the butment of the South Shore railroad rests). For more than half a century he was one of the most important men of the town . . . selectman, representative (and sometimes senator). . . . The house was one of the old dwellings belonging to the Whitman family. (Nash 1923: 913)

Cotton Tufts (1731-1815) was born in Medford; after being educated at Harvard, he settled in Weymouth. A leader of the patriots in Weymouth during the Revolution, he was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, serving as its president 1787-1793 (Kevitt 1981: 148-149). Although his house and shop are both gone, his **Tufts Bank Tomb** (1816), just north of where they stood, is one of the defining elements of the Old North Cemetery. The Tufts Bank tomb is located just east of North Street, at a prominent site on the north side of the cemetery driveway. For the purposes of this nomination, it is important not primarily as a gravesite, but rather as the earliest of the many bank tombs that characterize the 19th-century development of Old North Cemetery. Cotton Tufts' grandchildren, Quincy Tufts and Susan Tufts, left the bequests that founded Tufts Library, the main public and research library in Weymouth.

Nash finishes his description by mentioning the houses along East Street, east of North:

The first house upon the left and almost directly under the hill was the old parsonage, since replaced by the present dwelling, and still the "parsonage." It was then the residence of Rev. Jacob Norton, and the old barn, which still remains, stood then as now a little to the west, and at nearly right angles with the house. (Nash 1923: 913)

The site of the barn is now open lawn. Beyond the parsonage, "the next house upon the left, upon the northwesterly corner of [East Street and] Green Street, was the old Badlam homestead, then owned by Dr. Cotton Tufts and occupied by Mr. Bela Cushing. The old house was demolished years ago" (Nash 1923: 914). Passing eastward out of the district, Nash mentions the future Capt. Stephen Bicknell House to be erected in a few years on the southeasterly corner of the intersection. Nash's description of the Old Meeting House district is already tinged with nostalgia for an ancient crossroads in transition.

Early Industrial Period (1830-1870)

The recent architectural survey of Weymouth notes that "the Early Industrial Period in Weymouth was a time of intense expansion of industrial output and population," affecting even bypassed neighborhoods such as the Meeting House district (Johnson 2000: 16). In just 40 years, Weymouth's population more than tripled to 9,010 people. Weymouth's proximity to Boston, and its wharves, turnpikes, and eventually rail links, pushed its general expansion. The Old Colony Railroad opened in 1845 in southwest Weymouth, and the South Shore Railroad through the center of the district in 1849. During this period the villages of Weymouth Landing and East Weymouth became the dominant centers of Weymouth, and "the corridor between Weymouth Landing, North Weymouth and East Weymouth, primarily along Commercial Street, became a curving conglomeration of residential development" (Johnson 2000: 16). The First Church apparently continued to function as the northern precinct's town hall until 1852. That year, the first Town Hall was built at the corner of Washington and Middle streets, equidistant between the two main northern villages and South Weymouth, inaugurating another district that became known as Weymouth Center. The area north of the Meeting House district began to develop rapidly, especially along Bridge Street, where in 1862 the former Quincy and Hingham Turnpike became a public road, and shoe shops and factories sprang up along it. Increasingly the name "North Weymouth" designated the area north of the Old North Cemetery and the Meeting House district; the latter increasingly was referred to as "Old North Weymouth" (Nash 1885) or Weymouth Heights.

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Weymouth may have responded, as did many other communities, to the official and final disestablishment of religion in Massachusetts in 1833 by rebuilding its church. Yet parish records also indicate widespread dissatisfaction with the old building and its cracked bell in 1831, and the formation of a committee to pursue the options of a new meeting house in March of 1832 (*Records of the North Parish in Weymouth 1824-1838*). The current **First Church in Weymouth** (MHC# 310, 1833, Photograph #10), **17 Church Street**, was quickly completed: the fifth building for the church, and the third on the Weymouth Common near the school. In May of 1832 the church voted to purchase a one-third-acre lot from Deacon John Bates, apparently slightly to the west of its old lot, and constructed the current two-story Greek Revival church atop a granite foundation. According to the final report of the Building Committee, the total cost for the new meetinghouse was \$8,445.14.

The building is likely the work of Elnathan Bates of Weymouth, although no clear attribution of an architect or builder for the church appears in the church records. Elnathan Bates was a housewright, and member of the initial building committee of five men elected on March 21, 1831. On April 5 they reported their findings:

Taking into consideration the age in which we live, and that the wings of time are continually consigning our ancient, and more especially our ill constructed edifices to oblivion, and that the march of improvement with rapid strides [is] erecting others in their stead of more modern improvement in style as well as more convenient, and when we survey with the eye of curiosity our neighboring churches as well as those more distant, we have to regret that we have fallen in the rear of modern improvement, and in the background when compared with our neighboring societies. (*Records of the North Parish in Weymouth 1824-1838*)

Although the rest of the report deals with mundane matters of pew numbers and sill repairs, it seems that interest in style and modernity was the foremost reason for building a new church.

Elnathan Bates was re-elected to the First Parish building committee on March 19, 1832, and then chosen as moderator for the meeting of April 9, where the parish discussed what specific attributes it wanted in its meetinghouse. On April 19, 1832, the parish meeting voted "to choose a building committee of five to draught a plan for a Meeting house, and obtain proposals for building & to lay before the parish at the adjourned meeting" (*Records of the North Parish in Weymouth 1824-1838*). At the next (adjourned) meeting on May 7, the parish voted "to accept a plan for a meeting house presented by the building committee." They then voted to make several changes in the plan, voting to leave all changes to the discretion of the building committee and authorizing it to contract the building. This sequence seems to indicate that one single plan was presented, likely one drawn up by Elnathan Bates. Bates continued as a member of the building committee throughout the process. In 1833, after the building committee had completed its work and made its final report, the parish decided to build a row of outbuildings across the rear of the lot: hearse house, woodshed, two outhouses, and eight horse sheds (to be rented yearly to the highest bidder). On August 19, 1833, the parish voted to let the completed horse sheds to parishioners, and "Voted to allow Elnathan Bates ten dollars for building the sheds more than his contract." In a final report by a committee on sheds, the following year, the minutes read "Having posted notices for persons disposed to undertake to build sheds and fence at the Meeting House, to state their terms. Mr. Elnathan Bates proposals were more foreseeable than any others made; accordingly we contracted with him" (March 14, 1834). These last entries establish that Bates designed and built the sheds, and thus make him the primary candidate for having designed and built the church as well.

Elnathan Bates (1792-1863) married Nancy Humphrey and raised a family in Weymouth; he was the grandson of Deacon Elnathan Bates of First Church (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 4.48). Although no other large public buildings previously have been attributed to Bates, he does appear to have had at least some experience. Tucked in amongst the records of First

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Parish is a signed "Contract for Building Weymouth & Braintree Academy" between Elnathan Bates, housewright of Weymouth, and the proprietors of the academy, from 1828: four years before the construction of the First Parish Church. This two-story building was to be 45 feet by 30 feet. One of the proprietors of the Academy who signed the contract was Joseph Loud, later a member of the First Parish building committee. While the evidence is circumstantial, in the absence of any other possibilities, it seems permissible to attribute the design and construction of the current First Church to Elnathan Bates.

The church interior varies in several details from that initially proposed, including two side galleries; it is unknown if they were actually built ("Report of Committee for Building Meeting House" 1832). The 1833 meeting house was extended by ten feet to the north in 1837 ("Second Report of the Committee on the Enlargement of the Meeting House," April, 1837). The church held its meetings in the school—which by this point stood across the common—until 1856, when it built a chapel (vestry; razed) to the rear of the church; this chapel had an "annex" added in 1899-1900 (Nash 1885; "Brief History of the First Church in Weymouth" 1912: 16).

In 1852, First Church suffered another loss of parishioners when Pilgrim Church formed to the north in Old Spain (a neighborhood along Bridge Street in North Weymouth), resulting in a loss of 51 members. Nash reflected on the history of First Church, and the five churches which formed from it:

This ancient church has suffered greatly from circumstances beyond its control. . . . Thus the mother has been exhausting her resources and impoverishing herself in the establishment of a family of vigorous and prosperous children; but it has been at a serious cost to her, since the removal of so many members, and the decline of business in the village near have reduced it from the only church in the town to the smallest of six of the same fellowship. Yet she still keeps on her way and bravely sustains the burden that is thus cast upon her, doing her work with diligence and fidelity. (Nash 1885: 107)

In order to settle a new minister (the Rev. Joshua Emery, Jr.), the First Church decided to tear down its former parsonage and build a new one on the same site, at the base of the Old Burying Ground hill. It had repurchased the building in 1826. The new **First Church Parsonage** (MHC# 542, ca. 1838, Photograph #4), **8 East Street** is a five-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house, set on a granite block foundation. Some beams from the 1730s parsonage were reportedly used in the construction of the new parsonage, while the old 1685 ell where Abigail Adams had been born was moved north to Bicknell Square, at 450 Bridge Street. Although the church members embraced the new Greek Revival style for their church, for their parsonage they chose the more conservative—and outmoded—Federal style, with a Greek Revival-influenced cornice. Sometime later in this period they added an Italianate-style door hood with oversized scroll brackets over the front door ("First Church Parsonage" 2000).

The largest-scale change in the neighborhood was the construction of the **South Shore Railroad** (1849) through the valley between the Old Burying Ground and the Weymouth Common. The South Shore opened service to East Weymouth on January 1, 1849. Construction of the railroad caused the removal of one of the few early commercial properties known from the district, the store begun by Cotton Tufts (Nash 1923: 913). Although the industrial development that characterized the other villages did not occur around the district, residential development accelerated. The **Dr. L. Fuller House** (MHC# 411, Photograph #9), **11 Church Street**, was built about 1843 next to the First Church on the Weymouth Common. This rambling two-story house has a two-bay end-gable form, characteristic of Greek Revival style. Its main entry is tucked under an open porch on its western side. The T-shaped main block ends in a cross-gabled middle section, with a long two-part, 1½-story rear ell. A barn connected to the northwest corner of the rear ell, but was subsequently razed (Bigelow 1880).

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In about 1854, the Second District replaced its old school with another on the southern side of Weymouth Common, a building now known as the **John Adams School** (MHC# 218, NRIND, Photograph #11), **16 Church Street**. This large (33 x 45 feet) two-story, Greek Revival school building was built across the common directly opposite the First Parish Church. Besides its prominent front gable form, other Greek Revival design elements include the wide cornices and the large wooden pilasters, which support gable end returns. It also introduces some new elements of style to the common, with secondary Italianate details including widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, and the articulated frames—with projecting hoods supported by brackets—around each door and window. The National Register nomination for the building details the school's importance in illustrating the transition between Greek Revival and Italianate (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 656; Fannin & Lehner 1984). A third stylistic element is Gothic Revival, an outsized three-lobed, clover-like foil window centered in the gable of each end. The architect is unknown. The building bears a striking resemblance to another Weymouth school, the Bicknell or Commercial Street School, which later functioned as the Reynolds Post of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) until badly damaged by a fire in 1939 (Sullivan & Tighe 2001: 103; Pepe & Pepe 2004: 71).

Weymouth had established eight school districts in 1799, each district operating almost independently, building its own school and hiring its own teacher. The town continued the district system until 1869, when state laws compelled most towns to scrap their districts and maintain a single inclusive system that was usually fairer to all students. It is difficult to say how many schools preceded the John Adams School on the Weymouth Common—at least two, probably three or more. It is now the oldest school known to survive in Weymouth. By 1885, Weymouth had two high schools, twelve grammar schools, twenty intermediate schools, and fourteen primary schools (Nash 1885: 132). The Second District School was renamed the John Adams School in 1870 to commemorate President Adams (Fannin & Lehner 1984). From 1860 to 1897, it served as the northern Weymouth high school.

Preservation consultant Christine Beard noted of the district, “By the mid-nineteenth century, development in Weymouth Heights had leveled off and the area became characterized as an historic area with civic functions. . . . [But] the area has always been primarily residential” (Christine S. Beard, 1988: 33). Another wave of residential construction took place during the financial recovery after the Civil War. About 1868, the **W.O. Nash House** (MHC# 1079, ca. 1868, Photograph #8), **3 Church Street** was raised directly next to the Fuller House, at the corner of Church and North streets. This large two-story house, with a full third-story mansarded attic (complete with fishscale shingles), lit by three or four projecting shed dormer windows in each side, is the only Second Empire-style building in the district. It originally had a freestanding mansarded carriage house to the northwest. At about the same time, a block away on the corner of Green Street and East Street, another house was being built, the **Samuel Thompson House** (MHC# 1084, ca. 1868), **479 Green Street**. This two-story (with full attic), clapboard-sheathed house fronted on busy Green Street, which had become a major arterial street. This late Greek Revival-style house is front-gabled with gable-end returns.

The Civil War greatly affected Weymouth, as at least 99 soldiers with Weymouth connections lost their lives. Weymouth became one of the earliest communities in Massachusetts to erect a Civil War monument. Directly overlooking North Street, on the highest point on Watch House Hill, the **Soldiers' Monument** (MHC #909, 1867, Photographs #1 & 2) is a 25-foot obelisk of Quincy granite set on a 5-foot deep, 8 by 8 foot square, granite-block foundation. Its shield-shaped tablets of white Italian marble list the names of 99 soldiers by regiment and secondarily by manner of death. The monument, designed by Boston architect Charles Edward Parker and sculpted and erected by E.C. Sargent of Quincy, was dedicated on the Fourth of July 1868 (*An Oration* 1869; Roe 1910: 125-26). A study of the Civil War records for centennial observances discovered that over a period of four years, “the town of Weymouth sent out a total of 936 men to war, including enlistments. 120 of these men did not return” (“Weymouth in the Civil War” 1963: 11). It is difficult to imagine how harshly such losses would affect any community.

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Late Industrial Period (1870-1916)

Weymouth became an increasingly densely settled suburb of Boston during the Late Industrial period, with population climbing from 9,000 to nearly 14,000 by about 1915. Norton Street was put through atop former marsh land from North to Pearl, roughly parallel to North Street, between 1880 and 1888, the last major street to be added in the Meeting House district.

Transportation links to the district reached their pre-automobile peak during the decades after the Civil War, first with the extension of the horse-drawn cars of the metropolitan street railway, which provided links to Boston from the district northward through North Weymouth. The trolley lines expanded throughout Weymouth and were electrified in the early 1890s; one of the first major trolley lines went down North Street to East Weymouth ("Map of Quincy and Boston Street Railway" 1896). Trolleys ran through Weymouth until the last line stopped in 1929. Even more important to the district, the South Shore Railroad opened a depot (razed) at the junction of North, Green, and Church streets in 1875, named either "North Weymouth Station" (Sherman 1876) or "Weymouth Heights Station" (Whiting 1907). With the term "North Weymouth" increasingly being applied to another area further to the north, between the bridges to Quincy and Hingham, this neighborhood gradually became known as "Weymouth Heights." And with the political and religious centrality of the First Church stripped away by subsequent changes, the district became best known at this time for its railroad station. Shown abandoned and decrepit in a 1966 photograph and subsequently demolished, the **Weymouth Heights Railroad Depot** (ca. 1876) was a two-story hillside depot building, but now is simply a site. In 1871, the line was extended as far as South Duxbury with the opening of the Duxbury & Cohasset Railroad. In 1877, the Old Colony Railroad bought out the South Shore Railroad; it widened the railbed to accommodate a second track in 1886. Around 1890, the New York, New Haven, & Hartford (N.Y.N.H. & H) Railroad took control of the Old Colony railroad. Ridership peaked around 1900 when four trains daily ran between Boston and South Duxbury (McGinley Hart & Associates 1989; Kevitt 1981: 66-70; Sherman 1876; Bigelow 1880; Johnson 2000). Although no trace of the Weymouth Heights depot remains today, it was the center point of the Meeting House neighborhood for eighty years.

Residential development in the district continued during this time, so that almost all of the houses present today appeared on the 1876 map (Sherman) and the 1880 bird's eye view (Bigelow). Two houses, in particular, appear on these maps on sites which appear unbuilt on the 1853 map (Walling). North of the railroad roadbed and west of North Street is the **Humphrey House** (MHC# 1086, ca. 1876, Photograph #6), **537 North Street**. A Humphrey house appears on the same lot, closer to North Street, on the 1830 (Humphrey & Torrey) map; this may have been the old Whitman house once occupied by Dr. Cotton Tufts and sold to the Humphreys by Susan Tufts (Nash 1923: 913-914). Until well into the 20th century, the lot was much larger and included several barns and smaller outbuildings (razed) just to the west of the house and large open fields to the north, open all the way to the salt marshes on the edge of Mill Cove. This rambling house has a 2½-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival symmetrical front elevation, which faces southeast. Since 1880, a full-width single-story front porch has been removed, and a large two-story, cross-gabled rear ell added (Bigelow 1880).

At about the same time the last and largest of the current houses was built around the Weymouth Common, the **James M. Taylor House** (MHC# 1081, ca. 1876, Photograph #12), **24 Church Street**. Visible in the 1880 Bird's Eye View map of Weymouth, this large, three-story, three-bay house faces northwest, formally aligned with the common and Church Street. The side-gabled house form, with a slightly smaller but still prominent centered gable, would seem to indicate an Italianate stylistic approach. Other Italianate details include the overhanging end gables and gable end returns, which frame the slightly protruding third-floor triple window bay. The house is set on a rise, separated from the Common below by a thick, four-foot-high uncoursed **stone retaining wall** of drylaid rubble stone, with some recent concrete patching. This stone retaining wall provides both a backdrop for the common and a podium for displaying the house atop it; it was probably built in the 1920s when the level of Church Street and the Weymouth Common was lowered. A carriage house originally stood southwest of the house.

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The commemorative impulses that had led to the erection of the Soldiers' Monument directly after the Civil War continued during this time atop the highest hill in the Old North Cemetery. A heightened increase in local history and genealogy, spurred by the national centennial of 1876 and coupled with the age of the graves in the cemetery, led to the publication of several family histories—especially among the Bicknells and the Pratts—which traced families back to early members buried in Old North Cemetery (*The Bicknells and the Family Reunion* 1880; Pratt 1890). The Bicknell Family Association formed in Boston in 1879, organized several large reunions and observances, and published at least two commemorative volumes of family history. In 1880, for example, the association promised a day of pilgrimages throughout Weymouth, beginning with the supposed site of Zachary Bicknell's 1636 house, and then commencing "to 'King Oak Hill' where a fine land and sea view can be obtained; and to the ANCIENT CHURCH AND CEMETERY, where the first BICKNELLS worshipped and were buried; and to other points of interest made dear to the hearts of RIGHT LOYAL DESCENDANTS" (*The Bicknells and the Family Reunion* 1880: 15). When the day drew near, each of the family members present (340 people from 10 states) journeyed to the Methodist Episcopal Church in East Weymouth, donned a silk badge, and sat patiently through a long dedicatory service. The *Boston Advertiser* sent a reporter, who dutifully commented on the Bicknell-themed speeches, hymn, and poem all especially composed for the day, and wryly noted of the historian's report that "his record involved much patient research and care in arrangement, albeit when finished it sounded, as one of his auditors remarked, like one of the chapters of the Bible that are composed mainly of a series of 'begat sandwiches'" ("The Bicknells" 1880). Apparently their trip to the Old North Cemetery seemed incomplete, since no gravestone remained for Zachariah Bicknell. Two years later, in 1882 the association dedicated the **Bicknell Monument**, an eleven-foot tall, five-ton, square stepped marble monument (three bases, a die, and cap) topped by a fluted urn ("The Bicknell Family Association," 1913). It commemorates the Bicknell family ancestors, especially Zachariah, whose otherwise unmarked burial here in 1636 was the first recorded in the cemetery.

Other memorial additions to the district date from this time period, and are concentrated along the North Street corridor. In 1898, four **Navy Cannons** were set about the Soldiers' Monument on the same hilltop as the Bicknell Monument. In 1909, Boston businessman and Weymouth native Laban Pratt donated the **Laban Pratt Lion Fountain** (MHC# 900, 1909), a granite fountain six feet tall and six feet wide, with a bowl in the front and a pedestal drinking fountain in the rear. It is now a focal point of the subsequent Abigail Adams Park. Pratt bought a cemetery lot for his family not far from North Street and made a number of bequests to the town. He formalized the cemetery's public entry off North Street by contracting for the construction of the **Pratt Entry Gates and Retaining Wall** (1916) and donating them to the cemetery. This long stone-block wall includes two formal entry gates into the cemetery at the eastern ends of the lanes. The southern gate has eight-foot-high stone gate piers and separate vehicle and pedestrian entries, fitted with swinging spike-topped iron gates (see Photograph #1). The northern gate also features double swinging iron gates at its single vehicular lane. These northern gates attach to six-foot-high square openwork iron posts, which in turn attach by iron panels to the stone wall. The stone street wall here steps into the cemetery several feet, by quarter-circle stone walls between stone piers. The northern quarter circle, not far from the Laban Pratt family tomb, is fitted with a stone shelf bench. An early composite view of the district, sited from the Soldiers' Monument, amalgamates historical and modern items, showing Old North Cemetery with the Laban Pratt Retaining Wall and the Navy Cannons, while on North Street below, electric trolleys vie with early automobiles for control of the roadway (Cook 1918: 294).

The Old North Cemetery passed from church ownership to the private North Weymouth Cemetery Association in 1865 ("History" 2008). Now that Norton Street had become a through street, it provided a secondary entry to the western part of the cemetery without the steep drives. The Cemetery Association built a new **receiving tomb** (MHC #1085, 1910) to hold its winter burials. This windowless building, with a gabled roof, is about the size and shape of a single-car garage. The front of the building has a doorway slightly wider than a house door to accommodate caskets. The building is faced

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on all four sides with Weymouth seam-faced granite, blocks of which decoratively define the gable pediments on each end. Light-colored blocks form quoins on either side of the door and a flat arch caps the door, with a keystone/dateblock engraved "1910." The granite likely came from one of the quarries along Washington Street on the Weymouth and Hingham town line, where it was quarried beginning in the 1890s (Clark 1923: 144).

Modern Period (1917-1960)

The Modern period saw more substantial changes in Weymouth, as the town developed into a densely settled suburb, even in Weymouth Heights: "The corridors of Norton, North and Green Streets between the burgeoning beach village of North Weymouth and the villages connected by Commercial Street increased in density" (Johnson 2000: 26). Weymouth's population increased from 14,000 in 1915 to 48,000 in 1960.

During the period there were great changes in transportation, as forms of shared mass transit declined and eventually ended in Weymouth, with the last street railway trolley leaving in 1929 and the last commuter rail train of the 20th century stopping at a Weymouth station in 1959. Both gave way to the rise of the automobile. The streets of the district were widened and paved. Even the former South Shore (now N.Y.N.H. & H.) Railroad had to make accommodations to the automobile, building a new bridge (MHC# 912, 1923; razed and replaced 2007) to carry the rail lines over busy North Street. This 1923 bridge replaced an earlier bridge at the same site, shown on the 1904 Sanborn map (McGinley Hart & Associates 1989). Most likely the street was widened at that time, leading to the construction of a **Stone Retaining Wall** (ca. 1920s, Photograph #7), of uncoursed rough-cut smooth-faced stone, which extends alongside North Street from the bridge abutment base past the houses at 555 North Street and 3 Church Street to the corner of North and Church streets.

The only residence added to the district during this period was the **Francis & Josephine Boutilier House at 555 North Street** (MHC# 1087, ca. 1928, Photograph #7), a two-story Dutch Colonial Revival house with a side-gambrel roof and full shed dormer on the front. Dutch Colonial Revival was a common stylistic choice in Weymouth between the two World Wars (Johnson 2000:28). The house faces south on a lot subdivided from the rear of 3 Church Street, accessible from North Street—which it fronts at an angle—only by three concrete steps set into the retaining wall and an arcing walk. Automobile access to the property is through the driveway of 3 Church Street; this driveway ends in a freestanding **gambrel garage** (ca. 1960).

With the celebration of the Weymouth Tercentenary in 1923 and the publication of a four-volume history of the town, interest continued to build in Abigail Smith Adams and her connections with the district. The intersection of Church, North, and Green streets was designated Adams Square (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 300). A Weymouth Tercentenary plaque was affixed to the 1838 Parsonage, under the ground-floor window in the second bay, identifying the site as her birthplace. In 1931, a new school building went up next the Weymouth Common, just to the west of the First Church (and just outside the district), named the Abigail Adams School (Howard B.S. Prescott, architect; razed). The local newspaper hailed the school as "the sole memorial which has been erected in Massachusetts to Abigail Adams" ("New School Building a Memorial to Adams Family" 1932).

The birthplace ell had been recognized as an historic building as early as 1898, when the Abigail Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its inaugural meeting, March 8, 1898, at which the Hon. Charles Francis Adams spoke ("Brief History of the First Church in Weymouth" 1912: 17). Charles Francis Adams, Jr. (1835-1915) was the grandson of President John Quincy Adams, a brigadier-general in the Civil War, and president of the Union Pacific Railroad. He wrote about, and spoke in Weymouth on several occasions. The WPA Guidebook cited the Abigail Adams Birthplace—then a private house—as one of a dozen places worth visiting in Weymouth ("Weymouth, Aggregate of Villages" 1937). In 1941, the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) photographer also visited and photographed the birthplace ell on Bridge Street.

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This wave of interest culminated in the relocation and restoration of the 1685 parsonage, on a site a half block from where it was first built, as the **Abigail Adams Birthplace** (MHC# 324, Photograph #3), **180 Norton Street**. Directly south of the western section of the Old North Cemetery, in the "V" formed by the junction of North Street and Norton Street, this site was otherwise unused town land resulting from the construction of Norton Street as a through street.

Over the next two decades, incremental work continued on the new birthplace commemorative site, beginning with a stone **retaining wall** at the base of the steep slope that separates most of the lot from North Street. A **Colonial Revival garden** was installed, with informal plantings along the rear of the lot, a millstone set into the ground, a formal garden with a sundial and geometric gravel paths to the southeast of the building, and a flagpole toward Norton Street. Initially members of the association set up a fundraising shop in the basement of the Weymouth Heights Depot to sell antiques. The shop eventually was relocated to the downstairs rooms of the house itself. In 1959 they completed a single-story, side-gabled **visitor shop**, a board-and-batten sided building with a small leanto rear shed, as their seasonal shop.

The 1947 move, the building restoration, and the redesign of the grounds were a multiyear collaborative work of several designers and craftsmen: noted restoration architect and author Frank Chouteau Brown, muralist and architect Carroll Bill, artist and landscape architect Theron I. Cain, restoration carpenter Charles Peaselee, and restoration mason Frank Osborne. As restored, the Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage is a two-story, gambrel-roofed, timber-framed, plank-walled building with a saltbox addition to the northern 4/5 of its rear elevation. When relocated, it was set on a poured concrete foundation, with cement block basement walls topped with a granite stone wall above (where visible on the exterior). The floor plan of the main block consists of two rooms per floor (as typical of the center-chimney, hall and parlor layout) with a winder staircase tucked between the front entry and chimney stack. The saltbox addition has a large central kitchen with cooking hearth, the side rooms opening off it functioning as restroom (north) and bedroom/vestibule (south). The downstairs front rooms have paneled fireplace walls, with the rest of the wall wainscoted below and plastered above. The ceilings were plastered as well, with only the edges of the posts and girts visible. The saltbox kitchen has unpainted pine paneling. The northern chamber (interpreted as Abigail Smith's room) has a simple bolection mantel set into the plastered wall, with commemorative bricks in the hearth donated by several then-surviving First Ladies: Edith Wilson, Grace Coolidge, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Bess Truman. Historically, the restoration is important as a culminating moment of the Colonial Revival-influenced, early 20th-century practice of restoration. This practice took houses with a complex history and restored them to an important point in their early history, in this case the house during Abigail Smith's childhood.

The First Church in Weymouth conducted a major expansion in 1953-1955, demolishing the former chapel and its annexes, moving the church, and building an entirely new foundation, and adding a large below-grade gymnasium/hall (Paterson 2007). The work was overseen by the Boston architectural firm of Collens, Willis and Beckonert (Building Inspection Cards).

Recent History (Since 1960)

In the half-century since the period of significance, changes within the district have been relatively minor, mostly affecting outbuildings. In general, several of the major buildings have been sheathed in synthetic siding and fitted with combination screens. An attached barn was removed in 2002 from the Dr. L. Fuller House (11 Church Street), and carriage houses were removed from behind two of the houses around Weymouth Common: the W.O. Nash House at 3 Church St. and the James M. Taylor House at 24 Church Street (both still stood in 1948, according to the last Sanborn map of the district). A new garage replaced two smaller outbuildings next to the Capt. Stephen Bicknell House (476 Green Street). Two sheds were raised next to the James M. Taylor House (24 Church Street) and another near the Humphrey House (537 North Street). Additionally, a corner of the Humphrey House lot at the intersection of North Street and Abigail Adams Lane was sold and the only new house in the district built upon that lot: the Stephen Squillante House at 533 North Street (1987), a modern two-story raised ranch house.

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The Old North Cemetery has expanded to the northwest, in a triangle of land on the east side of Norton Street once owned by the Town of Weymouth ("Work Starts on Terraces," 1967). The town used the deposits of sand and gravel on the site for roadway work, and then sold the flat land to the Cemetery Association. On part of this land the association built the Pratt-Rogers Memorial Chapel (ca. 1966), 126 Norton Street (at its intersection with Colonial Road). This single-story, side-gabled brick building, set on a poured concrete foundation, is faced in Weymouth seam-face granite, like the receiving tomb. It has a ground-floor chapel and a basement-level garage and office. Modeled after a larger chapel at Evergreen Cemetery in Kingston, Massachusetts, and built by Ambrosia Builders of Quincy, the chapel was paid for by bequests from Laban Pratt and Clara Rogers. The Old North Cemetery continues to sell lots for burials, although mostly in the newer areas west of North Street, around the northern perimeter of the cemetery.

Few changes have occurred at the Abigail Adams Birthplace (MHC# 324, Photograph #3), 180 Norton Street, with the exception of the addition of small later commemorative elements: a Bicentennial time capsule (1976) and, close to Norton Street, a city-issued historical marker (1966). A similar historical marker was placed at the First Church that same year. In 1978, the Town of Weymouth's Conservation Commission converted a large swampy empty lot into the Abigail Adams Green (MHC# 924). This rectangular town park is on the east side of North Street, between East Street and the South Shore Railroad roadbed, and was designed by Howard & Whitman ("Village Green Dedicated," 1978). It is across a busy traffic circle from the Abigail Adams Birthplace.

At the end of the period of significance, the former **South Shore Railroad Railbed** (1849) went into a long period of decay and dormancy, as passenger service along the line was dropped in 1959. The Weymouth Heights Railroad Depot was abandoned and, some time after 1966 when an enthusiast took a photograph of its ruined state, demolished. In the first decade of the 21st century, the rail line was reactivated for commuter rail. As part of this reactivation, new bridges were installed over North and Green streets and the railbed newly graded and fenced. Part of the original dark stone abutment of the North Street bridge was preserved as the base of the abutment to the new bridge. The rebuilding of the railbed and bridge preserved the stone retaining wall (ca. 1920s, Photograph #7) of uncoursed rough-cut, smooth-faced stone that extends alongside North Street from the bridge abutment base to the corner of North and Church streets. At the northwest corner of the site, alongside the tracks directly south of the James Humphrey House at 537 North Street, an **electrical shed** (ca. 2007) was installed. Beginning in October of 2007, commuter rail trains (the MBTA's Greenbush Line) once again were running along the tracks through the center of the district, although they do not stop at Weymouth Heights.

Substantive changes around the Weymouth Common since the period of significance have been few. On the lot directly adjacent to the First Church (but just beyond the district as drawn), the Abigail Adams School (with a rear addition from 1949) was torn down recently and a five-building condominium complex erected on its site. However, a different fate befell the John Adams School (1854), thought to be the oldest surviving school building in Weymouth and shuttered in 1979 ("Former Weymouth Schoolhouse Named to National Register" 1986). In 1967, it was operated as part of the Abigail Adams School across the common, but an "educational consultant" sniffed that the school was "charming but obsolete" and "more of interest to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities than to parents or teachers seeking a modern educational program" (John E. Marshall, "School Building Needs in Weymouth, Massachusetts" 1967). Carmella LoPresti bought the building in 1984 and hired consultants to nominate it individually to the National Register of Historic Places, which occurred in 1986. Converted into a day care center, it charms children and parents alike with its modern educational program. The adaptation of the building was very conservative, preserving many historic elements of the building's architecture, on the interior as well as the exterior.

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In contrast to the relatively minor 20th-century changes within the Weymouth Meeting House historic district, changes outside the district have been quite significant, a development pattern consisting primarily of 20th-century, medium-to-high-density suburban infill and small-scale commercial strips. The topographical barriers (particularly hills and wetlands) surrounding the neighborhood presented a natural limit on other types of development. The available 20th-century Sanborn and Town Assessors maps show the wider patterns of neighborhood development. In 1907-1908, for example, the eastern side of Norton Street is almost entirely undeveloped. The cul-de-sacs of Colonial Road and Laudervale Road were in place by 1938, but only the former was developed. Abigail Adams Circle and John Quincy Lane were not laid out until after the relocation of the Abigail Adams Birthplace in 1947. North of Old North Cemetery, Bleakney Drive and much of the development along Beals Street came after 1907-1908, while Saning Road was not plotted until after 1938. Immediately north of the Old Burying Ground there was no development, even along North Street, before 1938. Colasanti Road and Altrura Road were platted sometime between 1938 and 1948. Most of the lots north of East Street did not begin to fill in until between 1938 and 1948. While some scattered commercial development took place along North Street south of Church and Green streets, the older buildings all appear to have been supplanted by later buildings. Particularly significant was the replacement of the former store on North Street just south of Church Street and the Weymouth Common—a 2½-story Victorian house with a single-story general store block added over the front yard—displaced by a strip mall anchored by a 7-11 store. And along Church Street, southeast of Weymouth Common, the few older houses were surrounded by numerous later arrivals.

CRITERION B: ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OF ABIGAIL SMITH ADAMS AND THOMAS A. WATSON

Under **Criterion B**, the district is significant for its numerous connections with the birth and childhood of **Abigail (Smith) Adams** (1744-1818), whose husband John Adams and son John Quincy Adams became, respectively, the second and sixth presidents of the United States. Recent general biographies are *Abigail Adams: A Biography* (1987) by Phyllis Lee Levin, *The Adams Women: Abigail and Louisa Adams* (1999) by Paul C. Nagel, and *Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams* (2002) by Lynne Withey. The most recent of the many compilations of the extraordinary letters John and Abigail wrote to each other during their long separations is *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams* (2007) edited by Margaret A. Hogan and C. James Taylor. Since literally hundreds of books have been written about John and Abigail Adams, and dozens about Abigail alone, this discussion will limit itself to Abigail's connections with this district in Weymouth.

Abigail's father, the Rev. William Smith (1707-1783), served as minister of First Church in Weymouth from his ordination there in 1734 until his death. Born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, to William and Abigail (Fowle) Smith, in 1725 William graduated from Harvard College, as his father and grandfather had before him. In 1738, the Rev. Smith bought the old parsonage at the southern base of the Old Burying Ground—built in 1685 by the Rev. Samuel Torrey—from John Whitmarsh (who had purchased it from the Torrey family). In addition to the small house, the one-acre property had a barn, blacksmith shop, sheepfold, and piggery. The Rev. Smith sold pigs and sheep to supplement his ministry income. Shortly after he bought it, the Rev. Smith expanded the house with a new wing much larger than the original.

In 1740, the Rev. Smith married Elizabeth Quincy (1721-1775). She was the daughter of Col. John and Elizabeth (Norton) Quincy of Wollaston (a neighborhood in today's city of Quincy). Col. Quincy served as Speaker of the Massachusetts Assembly for 40 years. William and Elizabeth Smith lived in the parsonage the rest of their lives, raising a family of four children there, with the help of servants and two slaves. Of the other three Smith children, Mary (1741-1811) married

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Richard Cranch, a State Senator and judge; they lived in Quincy. William (1746-1787) married Martha White (1st) and Catherine Salmon. Elizabeth (1750-1815) married the Rev. John Shaw of Haverhill (1st) and the Rev. S. Peabody.

Abigail Smith was born in the parsonage and baptized at First Church on November 18, 1744. Her parents schooled her in the parsonage; her generally frail health as a child kept her from attending school. She read from her father's and maternal grandfather's extensive libraries. According to the website of the Unitarian Universalist Church, the Rev. Smith "was an Arminian. He did not preach the doctrines of predestination, original sin, or the full divinity of Christ. Rather, he emphasized the importance of reason and morality in religious life" ("Abigail Adams" 2008). Abigail was received into the membership of First Church on June 24, 1759 ("Historical Sketch of the First Church in Weymouth" 1863: 87).

Abigail Smith met John Adams, a lawyer nine years older than her, in 1759, at her sister Mary's wedding. Apparently the Rev. Smith was skeptical of the prospects of John Adams. The oft-repeated story of their courtship indicates that Smith did not allow Adams to put his horse in his barn when he came to call, but rather forced him to tie it to the front fence. John Adams and Abigail Smith were married (either in the parsonage or First Church) on October 25, 1764 ("Brief History of the First Church in Weymouth" 1912: 11). After that date, Abigail visited Weymouth but lived elsewhere. She certainly visited the graves of her family. In addition to Abigail's parents, John and Abigail Adams' third child, daughter Susanna (1768-1770), was buried in Old North Cemetery—not far from the Smiths ("Birthplace of Abigail Smith Adams").

The neighborhood has increasingly attracted commemoration for its connections with the birth and childhood of Abigail Adams, the most important being the relocation and restoration of the first parsonage ell as the Abigail Adams Birthplace (1947). One of the most recent commemorations took place on October 25, 2007. The Abigail Adams Historical Society, First Church in Weymouth, and the Adams National Historic Park together staged a re-creation of the marriage of John Adams and Abigail Smith, with Abigail Elias, a lineal descendant, portraying Abigail Smith. The couple traveled from the Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage to the First Church in Weymouth to the John Quincy Adams Birthplace in Quincy.

The district is also significant as the final resting place of **Thomas Augustus Watson** (1854-1934), famed as the laboratory assistant to Alexander Graham Bell during the discovery of the telephone in 1876. Watson's grave is atop the highest hill in the western lot of the North Weymouth Cemetery. From this hilltop, you can see the far bank of the Weymouth Fore River, where Watson founded and built the Fore River Shipyards.

Born in Salem, Massachusetts, Watson was 22 when he heard Bell call to him through the telephone: "Mr. Watson, Come here! I want you." Watson left Bell Telephone in 1881 and two years later founded the Fore River Ship and Engine Building Company in Braintree. The company later moved north along the Fore River to Quincy. Under the ownership of Bethlehem Steel Company, it became one of the most important shipyards for submarines and battleships during the Second World War. Later purchased by General Dynamics, the Fore River Shipyard closed in 1986. In 1915, Bell and Watson reunited briefly for the first transcontinental telephone call; Bell placed the call in New York City and Watson received it in San Francisco. Watson lived in Braintree, but he appears to have had no other connection with Weymouth, apart from his final resting place.

CRITERION C: SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

Under **Criterion C**, the district contains intact landscapes and buildings from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape types and styles. The house styles represented include two Cape Cod

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houses, a late Federal parsonage, and several examples of Greek Revival, including houses, a church, and a school (the latter sporting Italianate details and a pair of outsized Gothic foil windows). Later styles represented include mansions in Italianate and Second Empire styles, and several Colonial Revival houses. Of the numerous makers identified in connection with this district, several craftsmen and one collaborative project will be discussed here. Given their age, number, and exceptional craftsmanship, the gravestones in Old North Cemetery must be acknowledged as one of the artistic treasures of the district, including several carved by members of the Pratt Family. An important but little-discussed architectural element is the church bell, such as the one cast by Henry N. Hooper & Co. for the First Church in Weymouth. Finally, the Colonial Revival restoration of the Abigail Adams Birthplace is an important collaborative effort—the last known project planned by the important scholar and restoration architect Frank Chouteau Brown, carried out after his death by local enthusiasts and professionals faithfully following his plans.

Pratt Family of Stonecutters

Despite their antiquity and the quality of their carving, the stones in the Old North Cemetery appear to be little studied. Zachary Bicknell (1590-1636) was the first burial recorded for the site, while the oldest stone whose date is still discernible is that of John Tay (1678). Since North Weymouth had outcrops of black, gray, and red slate visible at the surface (Clark 1923: 134), it is likely the stones were quarried there and most carved by local artisans. However, the standard texts on early gravestones concentrate, for the most part, on Boston or Plymouth County examples (Benes 1977; Blachowicz 2006; Forbes 1927). Expert evaluation of these stones is necessary.

One important group of stones at North Weymouth has been studied and identified. Peter Benes noted, in passing, the carver of at least one of the stones in Old North Cemetery: Robert Pratt. According to Benes, Pratt carved the portrait face on the gravestone of Abiah Whitman (1690-1770) in Old North Cemetery (Benes 1977: 145, 206).

Lt. Nathaniel Pratt and his grandsons made stones in several styles, each easily recognized by their distinctive “Pratt” faces. Their early markers (1758-1775) were dark red in color and massive in size—some are seven or eight feet in height and are estimated to weigh over 800 pounds. These portrait stones made by Lt. Pratt are found principally in Abington, as well as in Braintree and Weymouth, where he had numerous relatives. Later Pratt family stones were somewhat smaller and were decorated with stereotyped faces and angels’ faces which derived stylistically from the portraits. . . . [These] are distributed in large numbers in burying grounds throughout the northern part of [Plymouth] county, central Massachusetts, and a handful of towns in Maine. (Benes 1977: 143)

Benes’ description of the typical early Pratt stone seems to exactly match the oversized stones of the Rev. William (1783) and Elizabeth Smith (1775), parents of Abigail Adams, at the base of Watch House Hill in the Old North Cemetery, not far from their parsonage. A gravestone expert should make a final determination. Interestingly, Benes states that the source of the red slate used by the Pratt carvers is unknown, and speculates that it might have come all the way from Wrentham (Benes 1977: 242 16n). He was apparently unaware of the surface outcroppings of “reddish or purplish calcareous slate” formerly found in northern Weymouth “around the shores of [Mill] cove, and extend[ing] eastward along Pearl Street to a point a few hundred feet beyond North Street.” These outcrops were few in extent, and were already rapidly disappearing early in the 20th century, when the neighborhood was “becoming so thickly settled that even now many of the outcrops are being obscured, and in a few years more most of them will be covered with buildings” (Clarke 1923: 131-33). Nathaniel Pratt likely would have been familiar with that reddish slate from his home town.

Benes notes that although his life was relatively brief, Robert Pratt (1753-1791) and his brother Noah, Jr., were quite prolific carvers:

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More commercial and productive than their grandfather, Robert and Noah engraved the several hundred stern, staring faces which are found on grave stones throughout Norfolk and northern Plymouth counties, and which are concentrated in and around the town of Hanover where Robert Pratt moved after 1780. Possessing a distinct and witty individuality of their own, these faces nevertheless vary little from stone to stone. The usual wig or close-fitting bonnet identified a man or a woman; sometimes faces were illustrated in profile. (Benes 1977: 144-145)

Benes illustrates the portrait face in profile by reproducing the drawing from the gravestone of Abiah Whitman (1690-1770) in Old North Cemetery. Robert's brother, Noah Pratt, Jr. (1758-1825), moved to Brunswick, Maine, in about 1781 and worked as a stone carver there. Noah Jr.'s son, Cyrus Pratt (1783-1846), returned to Hanover, Massachusetts, where he continued the family trade (Blachowicz 2006: 79-81; Tucker 1997).

Building on Benes' work, Ralph L. Tucker lists nine additional stones in the Old North Cemetery by Robert Pratt and his father, Noah Pratt, Sr., of whom Benes was unaware (Tucker 1997). Noah Pratt, Sr., carved stones for Hannah Pratt who died in 1760, David Rice (1767), Elizabeth Waterman (1768), and Mary Bicknell (1780). Robert Pratt carved stones for James Bicknell (1768), Abner Pratt (1776), and three Bicknells who died in 1778: Ebenezer, Stephen, and Zachariah. According to Tucker, the Pratt gravestones were an important advance in the art of gravestone portraiture:

Gravestones displaying portraits are rare in pre-revolutionary period in New England. The earliest type of decorated gravestone generally featured winged skulls; later, these gave way to winged faces (or cherubs), which were not really portraits. To find a significant number of realistically rendered full human figures, half figures, or even heads without wings, one generally has to look in the post-revolutionary period. It was only then that there was a noticeable shift from winged skulls and/or faces to other styles. Exceptions to this general pattern are found on Boston's south shore in the work of John New and the Pratt family, who are among the first to use realistic faces and figures. (Tucker 1997)

Even though Tucker lists nearly 200 stones by the Pratt Family in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island, the concentration of these stones in the Old North Cemetery in Weymouth is important.

According to Tucker, the Pratts learned stonecutting from John New. While Nathaniel Pratt, Noah Pratt, Sr., and Robert Pratt are all recorded as being paid for gravestones, Nathaniel appears to have been acting as financial agent for New or his son, Noah Pratt, Sr. Lieutenant Nathaniel Pratt (1702-1779) was a native of Weymouth (*History of Weymouth* 1923: 4.510; Pratt, Jr. 1890). The family moved to Abington, where Noah Pratt, Sr. (1731-1781), apprenticed to John New. Noah's sons Robert, Noah, Jr., and Seth all learned the trade as well.

Henry N. Hooper & Co.

The bell in the belfry of the First Church in Weymouth has this raised cast lettering: "Henry N. Hooper & Co., Boston Mass 1857." Henry Northey Hooper (1799-1865) began work as the agent for Boston Copper Co., operated by partners William Blake, Paul Revere III, and John W. Sullivan, from 1823 to 1830. Hooper, Blake, and Thomas Richardson formed the successor firm to Boston Copper: Henry N. Hooper & Co., which began in Boston in 1830 and operated until 1869. In addition to many individual bells, Hooper & Co. produced chimes for a number of prominent New England carillons, including Christ Church (Episcopal) in Cambridge (1860), Arlington Street Church in Boston (1860), Grace Church (Episcopal) in Providence (1861), and First (Parish) Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts (1868). Hooper also made Civil War cannons, chandeliers, lighthouse equipment, and statues, including the first (1847) Nathaniel Bowditch statue at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, important as the first life-size bronze figure statue cast in the United States ("Index to Carillons and Chimes by Hooper/Blake," 2008). After Hooper's death, William Blake and William S. Blake ran the successor foundry, William Blake & Co., from 1869 to 1890.

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Henry N. Hooper & Co. cast bells for uses across North America: Pinewood Lutheran Church in Burlington, MA (1846); Courthouse/Town Hall, Plymouth, NH (1849); St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Marysville, CA (1851); Monhegan Museum, Monhegan, ME (1855); Sandy Cove Methodist Church, Digby, Nova Scotia (1863); and Orford Congregational Church, Orford, NH (1863). The MHC database, MACRIS, lists at least 9 commissions for Henry N. Hooper in Massachusetts: the Greek Orthodox Church in Arlington (1841; MHC #606); Soldiers Monument in Concord (1866; MHC #961); two Henry N. Hooper field guns in Holbrook Square, Holbrook (1861; MHC #909-910); North Reading Third Meetinghouse (MHC #1); First Congregational Church of Royalston (1851; MHC #23); Pilgrim Evangelical Church in Southborough (MHC #31); Tyngsborough Evangelical Congregational Church (1868; MHC #8); and First Congregational Church in Woburn (1860; MHC #20).

The Restoration of the Abigail Adams Birthplace

The 1947 restoration of the Abigail Adams Birthplace was a multi-year collaborative work by several designers and craftsmen: noted restoration architect and author Frank Chouteau Brown, muralist and architect Carroll Bill, artist and landscape architect Theron I. Cain, and four craftsmen experienced in restoration work: contractor James Gordon, masons Frank Osborne and Charles White, and carpenter Charles Peaselee. Although the two moves and complicated history of the building make it difficult to absolutely prove its age and original form, the Abigail Adams Birthplace is undoubtedly important as a restoration of a First Period structure planned by Frank Chouteau Brown and carried out by a group of designers and craftsmen passionately interested in honoring his principles in achieving their goals.

The traditional story of the Abigail Adams birthplace can be summarized briefly, based on town and parish histories and the extensive files of the Abigail Adams Historical Society, Inc. In 1685, this gambrel-roofed Cape Cod house was built for the Rev. Samuel Torrey on land to the south of the Old Burying Ground (at what is now 8 East Street in the current district). It was commonly known as "the Mansion." In 1737-1738 the Rev. Smith purchased the mansion from the parish and expanded it by adding a larger house onto it, likely before 1740, when he married. In 1826, the First Church in Weymouth purchased the lot back, and in 1838 it pulled down the Rev. Smith's large addition. Under the direction of a parish building committee that included housewright Elnathan Bates, a stylish large new parsonage arose, using some of the lumber salvaged from the old parsonage. The committee, who also had to raise the money to pay for the new parsonage, sold the original ell (built by the Rev. Samuel Torrey in 1685, and containing the upstairs room where Abigail Adams was born in 1744) to Nathaniel Ford. Ford had it dragged by oxen a mile north to his farm on Bridge Street in North Weymouth. For the next century the building, with a rear addition, housed workers on the farm. In 1943 the U.S. Government Housing Agency bought the farm to redevelop as housing (the Wessagussett Federal Housing Project) and cleared all the farm buildings except the Adams Birthplace. In 1947, Weymouth residents formed an association to save the house, purchased a lot at the intersection of North and Norton Streets from the Town, and moved the Birthplace ell back close to its 1685-1838 location, where they restored it.

The women and men who formed the Abigail Adams Historical Society grew up in the golden age of building restoration, the first four decades of the 20th century, when dozens of houses across Massachusetts were restored, often quite extensively, to some earlier point in their history. The results were dramatic, especially in the case of First Period houses like this, although sometimes not very true to the history of the building. In the decades since, a more conservative preservation policy has prevailed, in which many of the layers of later additions often are preserved. One of the people responsible for that shift was Frank Chouteau Brown. Brown brought a meticulous archaeological approach to preservation, carefully measuring and drawing the buildings before restoration. He investigated the framing and core details using the least invasive methods of the times and restored conservatively, with as little conjecture as possible.

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Frank Chouteau Brown (1876-1947) was born in Minneapolis and trained as an architect, working as a draughtsman there for several years and touring Europe before moving to Boston in 1902. Brown began in the Boston office of architect James T. Kelley before establishing his own practice, specializing in domestic architecture—from restorations to large estates (Withey & Withey 1970). He wrote and published throughout his career, beginning with an influential book on calligraphy, *Letters and Lettering* (1902), and an album of bookplate designs published in 1905. These early works were important in bringing a unique artistic sensibility to his measured drawings of historic houses. His later architectural books included *The Orders of Architecture* (1904-1906), *New England Houses* (1915), *Modern English Churches* (1917), and *Modern English Country Houses* (1923). Brown served as editor of the journal *Architectural Review* from 1907 to 1919. He contributed many articles and measured drawings to the influential White Pine monograph series, which he co-edited for a time with Russell F. Whitehead. At the end of his career he worked for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) and edited its periodical *Old-Time New England*.

Frank Chouteau Brown knew about and valued the Abigail Adams Birthplace as early as 1941. Beginning in 1934, Brown served as Boston's District Officer for the WPA-funded Historic American Building Survey (HABS), processing the documentary drawings and images that the Boston office sent to Washington. Two of the photographs currently archived on the Library of Congress's *American Memory* HABS website have connections with the Meeting House District, although in unique ways. The "Abigail (Smith) Adams House" depicts the Birthplace ell, but at its former site, a mile north of the district, on Bridge Street. The accompanying card notes "Built 1635?" The dislocation of the ell may have disoriented the photographer, Frank O. Branzetti, who took a second North Weymouth photograph, also on May 23, 1941. The image is labeled "First Church, Weymouth, Norfolk County, MA," but an examination of the steeple reveals that the image actually depicts another Greek Revival house of worship, the Pilgrim Church (Congregational; 1851) in North Weymouth. Brown forwarded both images to Washington for archiving.

Brown also taught, joining the faculty of Boston University in 1916 and becoming chair of its department of art and architecture in 1919. By the mid 1940s, he was teaching at the Massachusetts School (College) of Art, where he shared an office with Edwin A. Hoadley of Weymouth. Brown's passion for historic architecture inspired his office mate, and when the Abigail Adams Birthplace was endangered, Hoadley signed on as Restoration Chairman and hired his friend to help out. Together, in July of 1947, they measured and investigated the house, cutting small ports into the building fabric where necessary to examine its structure. Brown produced a handsome pair of blueprints for the house based on these measurements and investigations, conforming to the HABS standards. They are in the possession of the association, but they do not appear to have been officially filed in Washington. The house was moved to its new site in October; but on November 18, 1947, Brown died. Besides the blueprints and his site visits and consultations, Brown left behind drafts of an article for *Old-Time New England* and a sketch of how the building and its site might look when completely restored (Appendix 1). Brown's widow sent the unfinished drafts to the association. In the article drafts, Brown ruminates on the special problems presented in investigating and restoring a building with such a complicated history.

After Brown's death, two other local artists and designers carried out the restoration: Carroll Bill as architect and Theron Cain as landscape architect. **Carroll Meredith Bill** (1877-1968) was born in Philadelphia and a graduate of the architecture program at Harvard in 1900. He built a career as "one of Boston's most successful designers in the field of interior decoration and period furnishings. Mr. Bill had an avid interest in old houses, buildings, marine subjects, and historic landmarks. His oil and watercolor paintings of those subjects were in such demand that he decided to devote full time to painting" (Kevitt 123). He married another artist, Sally Cross, and moved to Weymouth. "Bill decorated the interiors of a number of ships built at Fore River, those of the old Dollar Line Company and United Fruit Company" (Kevitt 123). **Theron Irving Cain** (1893-1988) was born in Braintree and graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1916. After working in landscape architecture at Olmsted Brothers, he returned to Massachusetts College of Art,

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where he taught from 1921 to 1957 (*Ask Art Online*). He worked with the Association from at least 1950 to 1962; several of his planting plans for the site remain in the association's collection. Cain produced a scale model of the house and grounds for display in the Tufts Library in 1950. He also inspired the creation of, and served as a consultant for, the nearby city park, Abigail Adams Green, in 1978.

In the detailed reports Edwin A. Hoadley filed as chair of the restoration committee, the deliberation and conservative approach the committee employed in restoring the Adams Birthplace become evident. Craftsmen who had worked on other restoration projects were carefully chosen to undertake the work. James J. Gordon of Hingham oversaw the moving, with the house cut in half and carted southward in two sections. He served as contractor for the long process of restoration, employing masons Frank Osborne and Charles White and carpenter Charles Peaselee (d. 1955) (the latter both residents of Hingham). Peaselee had considerable restoration experience and old-fashioned hand tools that he employed in the restoration. In one report Hoadley documents White's restoration masonry, listing architects and projects (including the Old Ordinary in Hingham) on which White worked.

Decisions were made on a case-by-case basis. Decaying items like sills were carefully tested to see if they could remain in place with bracing. The restoration principles of the time dictated that the age of any replacement materials was almost as important as provenance. The restoration includes foundation stones from the ell's Bridge Street site, doors from a house-wrecking project in Quincy, three thousand old bricks from an old house in Newburyport, 1,100 old hand-wrought nails from Boston, floorboards from old Fort Independence in South Weymouth, kitchen beams and panels from a tavern in Hingham, other bricks from streets around the Old North Church in Boston, and sockets for the fireplace cranes salvaged from the ruins of a recently demolished house in Lovell's Corner, Weymouth. Age and style were so important that two doors, which previously had been installed, were removed and replaced when it was discovered they dated from the 1790s rather than 1744, the date to which Brown had suggested restoring the house. Another association member did a title study to confirm the age of the Malvena Tavern in Braintree, whose paneling was found the right vintage for use in the Adams Birthplace restoration. Still other elements were copied directly from surviving details and manufactured new for the restoration: clapboards by Rhines Lumber Company and window frames by Sward Brothers, based on the single dormer window in Abigail's room. Hugh Burgess hand-turned the balusters for the staircase. Hoadley documents a trip he made to South Wareham with Brown, down a dirt road, to investigate salvaging an old barn for the site. Hoadley became an expert on ovolo mouldings, ogees, and quirks. While on vacation Hoadley visited the Egremont Tavern (ca. 1730) a noted restoration in South Egremont, Massachusetts. The rear saltbox addition to the gambrel roof of the Adams Birthplace was made only after painstaking investigation of the frame, careful reading of Brown's suggestions, and a search for other examples.

While Carroll Bill directed the restoration under Hoadley's watchful eye, the public face of the organization was its President, Amy Hill Duncan, a Weymouth activist and newspaper columnist. She organized a "clean-up" of the house on Bridge Street by advertising that *Life* magazine photographers would cover the event and lining up a fiddler to play "Turkey in the Straw" and waltzes to entertain the workers. The dedication of the site on July 13, 1947, included guest speaker Stewart Mitchell, executive secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society and editor of a volume of Adams letters; and the widow of telephone pioneer (and Old North Cemetery occupant) Thomas Watson. Duncan saw to it that all the area newspaper photographers captured images of the severed halves of the house parading down North Street to their new home. She approached the railroad executives and convinced them to allow her to open an Abigail Adams (thrift) Shop in the basement (the former coal room) of the Weymouth Heights Railroad Station in 1948. A natural culmination of this publicity campaign was the 1951 solicitation of bricks from all the surviving first ladies, resulting in bricks from Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, Mrs. Harry Truman, and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson being used in the hearth of Abigail's room.

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Two further items show how iconic the Adams House restoration has become. By 1958, it was natural for an aspiring politician such as Senator John F. Kennedy to visit the Abigail Adams Birthplace for a photo opportunity. The association still has the autographed copy of *Profiles in Courage* that Kennedy presented to them on his visit. In 1970, Gertrude Vaughan hired architect Peter Worden to build a replica of the Adams Birthplace house on a lot she owned in Harwich on Cape Cod (Petro 1990). Given the current national resurgence in interest in John and Abigail Adams, the history of the birthplace of Abigail Adams, the country's "first Second Lady and second First Lady," is increasingly important to document and register.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Weymouth are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information related to Native subsistence and settlement patterns in the Boston Harbor drainage. Ancient sites might also contribute information about the relationship between important regional Native core areas along the Neponset and Charles River estuaries to the west and north and the Plymouth area to the south. Ancient sites in the district may contain important information about the relationship between Native socio-political groups in the Boston Harbor drainage that includes most of the town, and the Taunton River drainage, and North and South Rivers of the South Coastal drainage that include small areas of the town along its southern border.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important and detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in one of the earliest Massachusetts colonial settlements during its transition from an agrarian community with fishing interests to an economy where shoe manufacturing played a major role. Historic archaeological resources may help document the characteristics of 17th- and 18th-century resources for the Weymouth Meeting House Historic District locale for which few known examples survive. Archaeological resources may also help document the town's period of rapid residential and industrial growth during the 19th century. While many residences are still extant from this period, numerous structures have been demolished. Since few contributing industrial and commercial resources survive within the district, historic and archaeological survivals may offer unique insights into the cottage shoe industry and the development from small "ten-footer" manufacture to larger factory-type operations. Structural evidence from residential homes and outbuildings used in cottage shoe manufacture may survive. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features and specialized trash areas may contribute important information related to the technologies used in shoe manufacture and a better understanding of individuals or groups of people involved in shoe manufacture and the shoe industry. Archaeological resources may also contribute information related to the importance of the cottage- and later factory-oriented shoe industry and its relationship to local and regional markets in the Massachusetts area.

Potential historic archaeological resources may contribute important information related to early settlement in the district and the town of Weymouth during the 17th and 18th centuries, both periods that are poorly represented. This information may help to better understand how and why the district developed as the religious and political center for all of Weymouth during the First Period, and for all of northern Weymouth, until parish fragmentation in the early 19th century and the completion of the first Town Hall elsewhere in 1854. Structural evidence from buildings in the district may contribute important information relating to the architectural characteristics of early buildings and collectively towards a reconstruction of 17th- and 18th-century landscapes in the district.

Analysis of structural evidence of outbuildings and the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important information related to domestic use and potential cottage industries in the district, especially shoe manufacturing.

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Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute direct evidence of the functional variability of related outbuildings and residences. Features and structures that had more domestic functions may contain evidence of food processing, consumption, and waste, while similar features associated with industrial activities may contain evidence of boot- and shoemaking technology, raw materials, and products manufactured. Archaeological remains of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features are important because of the detailed information they contain, and because they usually survive with both archaeological sites and extant structures.

Detailed analysis of structural evidence and the contents of occupational-related features related to the original location of the Abigail Adams Birthplace cottage may contribute important information to assist in a more complete restoration of the birthplace cottage and the social, cultural, and economic lives of its inhabitants during Abigail Adams' youth. Detailed analysis of structural remains and construction features associated with the cottage may contribute architectural details of the cottage, its construction, and demolition. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute information about the lives of Adams and her family that may not be documented in written form. Occupational-related features may contain stratified deposits and artifactual evidence that enable the features and their contents to be associated with the Smith family, the time period of Abigail Adams' youth, or with Adams herself.

Historic archaeological resources described above at the North Weymouth Cemetery/Old North Cemetery also have the potential to contribute important information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of one of the earliest Massachusetts coastal communities as it evolved from an agrarian community with maritime interests to an economy where shoe manufacture played a major role. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing within and around the current cemetery boundaries, can identify the full range of graves and the burial patterns present at the cemetery. The North Weymouth/Old North Cemetery currently contains approximately 9,000 burials and 4,000 headstones in an approximately 17.53-acre area that includes the cemetery east and west of North Street and the Old Burying Ground. As the discrepancy between known burials and the number of headstones indicates, unmarked graves are probably present and the current pattern of the 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. Some stones were also potentially erected as commemorative stones by descendants of individuals after their deaths. This pattern has been observed at other burying grounds in Massachusetts. Archaeological research can help identify these graves, as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Eighteenth and 19th 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. These 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 (possibly the entire cemetery) at later dates.

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. Social, cultural, and economic information relating to the 18th and 19th century Weymouth 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. This information can be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. 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 Congregational society.

(end)

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(continued)

Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Name of Property

Norfolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 31 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 339247 4677687
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 339462 4677748
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 339630 4677460
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 339754 4677240
Zone Easting Northing

X 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 Timothy T. Orwig for the Weymouth Historic Commission, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2010

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.

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Archives (large collections pertaining to the district, in addition to the individual resources listed above)

Abigail Adams Historical Society, Weymouth.

First Church in Weymouth, Weymouth.

"First Church (Weymouth, Mass.) Records 1724-1839." Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston. 3 document boxes and 1 oversize container.

Tufts (Public) Library, Weymouth.

10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTM References:

5.	19	339540	4677020
6.	19	339534	4677220

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries of the Weymouth Meeting House Historic District are defined by the marked lines on Weymouth assessor's maps 10 and 13. Map and parcel numbers are listed on the Weymouth Meeting House District Data Sheet. The boundary includes the entire parcel of each nominated property in the district, with one single exception: Map 16, Block 158, Lot 1. This parcel number designates the entire railbed of the South Shore Railroad, a very narrow parcel several miles in length; however, only that section of the railbed shown outlined on the map, which is bordered on both the north and the south by other district properties, is included in the district. A second included reference is a Weymouth GIS aerial photograph with the boundary marked in red.

Boundary Justification

The Weymouth Meeting House Historic District includes the civic, religious, residential, funerary, and commemorative properties and monuments associated with the Weymouth Meeting House and Abigail Smith Adams. These properties are located along North Street from the Old North Cemetery southward; through the triangle defined by North, East, and Green, streets, and bisected by the Old Colony Railroad railbed; to the properties bordering the Weymouth Common at the head of Church Street, which date from the period of significance.

(end)

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Weymouth (Norfolk), MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Additional Documentation—Photographs

Timothy Orwig was the photographer for all the photographs, which were taken on 25 March 2008. They were produced with black and white film, developed with black and white processing, and printed on standard black and white paper. The negatives are in Mr. Orwig's possession. All of the photographs show the Weymouth Meeting House Historic District, Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

1. Looking east, showing the North Weymouth/Old North Cemetery (126 Norton St.) on both sides of North Street. The foreground shows the southern drive, with several of the numerous Bank Tombs on the left and the southern pair of the Pratt Entry Gates. Across North Street, atop the terraced hill, is visible the Soldiers' Monument and two of four Cannons. The Old Burying Ground is on the hillside to the left (north) of the Soldiers' Monument.
2. Looking east, showing the Soldiers' Monument within the North Weymouth Cemetery, atop the highest point in the plot east of North Street.
3. Looking east, showing the Abigail Adams Birthplace (180 Norton St.): NW & SW elevations of the House (right) and Visitor Shop. Norton Street is in the foreground, with the extreme SW corner of the North Weymouth Cemetery visible to the left.
4. Looking northeast, showing the NW and SW elevations of the First Church Parsonage, 8 East St.
5. Looking east, showing the west elevation (facade) of the Capt. Stephen Bicknell House, 476 Green St., with the garage in the background left.
6. Looking northwest, showing the S and E elevations of the Humphrey House, 537 North St.
7. Looking northwest, showing the S and E elevations of the Francis & Josephine Boutilier House, 555 North Street. In the foreground, just behind the car on North Street is the North Street Stone Retaining Wall.
8. Looking north, showing the SE and SW elevations of the W.O. Nash House, 3 Church St.
9. Looking north, showing the SE and SW elevations of the Dr. L. Fuller House, 11 Church St.
10. Looking north, showing the SE and SW elevations of the First Church in Weymouth, 17 Church St.
11. Looking south, showing the NE and NW elevations of the John Adams School, 16 Church St.
12. Looking east, showing the NW and SW elevations of the James M. Taylor House, 24 Church St.

Additional Documentation—Historic Images:

1. Two photographs of Weymouth Heights from Louis A. Cook, A History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts (Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1918), 294.
2. "Preliminary Study Abigail Adams Site Weymouth, Frank Chouteau Brown Architect Boston," Abigail Adams Historical Society Archives, Weymouth.

Meeting House Historic District

Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

10/15/2010

Assessor's Street Address	Map, Block and Lot #	MHC Inve Number	Historic Name (if known)/Building Type/Resources on Lot	Date of Origin	Architect	Style	Resource Type	District Status
0 Church St.	13-174-8&3	928	Weymouth Common	1681			Site	C
3 Church St.	13-157-14	1079	W.O. Nash House	ca. 1868		Second Empire	Building	C
11 Church St.	13-157-13	411	Dr. L. Fuller House	ca. 1843		Greek Revival	Building	C
16 Church St.	13-174-10	218	John Adams School (NR 1986) Signboard and Flagpole	1854 ca. 1978		Grk/Ital/Gothic	Building Object	NR NC
17 Church St.	13-157-12	310	First Church in Weymouth (Old North) Weymouth Historical Comm. Sign	1833 1966	Elnathan Bates		Building Object	C NC
24 Church St.	13-174-9	1081	James M. Taylor House Pool Shed & Tool Shed Stone Retaining Wall	ca. 1876 ca. 1980s ca. 1920s		Italianate	Building Buildings Object	C NC (2) C
Commercial St. (on North St.) (on North St.)	16-158-1	929 1409 930 931	South Shore Railroad Railbed Electrical Shed New North Street Bridge Stone Retaining Wall	1849, 1886 ca. 2007 ca. 2007 ca. 1920s		No style	Structure Building Structure Object	C NC NC C
East St.	13-159-6		Vacant land (East St. right-of-way)	NA	NA	NA	NA	
0 East St.	13-159-1	924	Abigail Adams Green	1978	Howard & Whitman		Site	NC
0 East St.		900	Laban Pratt Lion Fountain	1909			Object	C
8 East St.	13-122-11	542	First Church Parsonage	1838		Federal	Building	C
0 Green St.	13-159-2		Vacant land (now lawn): former traffic lane				NA	
476 Green St.	13-159-3	1083	Capt. Stephen Bicknell House 2-car detached garage	ca. 1818 late 20th c.		Cape	Building Building	C NC
479 Green St.	13-159-7	1084	Samuel Thompson House	ca. 1868		Greek Revival	Building	C

Meeting House Historic District

Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

Assessor's Street Address	Map, Block and Lot #	MHC Inve Number	Historic Name (if known)/Building Typ Resources on Lot	Date of Origin	Architect	Style	Resource Type	District Status
0 North St.	10-122-10	802	N. Weymouth Cem./Old Burying Ground	ca. 1636			Site	C
		932	Bicknell Monument	1882			Object	C
		933	Tufts Bank Tomb and Gateway Wall	1816 +			Structure	C
0 North St.	10-122-18	909	Soldiers' Monument	1867	Chas. E. Parker & E.C. Sargent		Object	C
		934	4 Cannons	1898			Object	C
126 Norton St.	10-127-2	802	North Weymouth Cemetery (west. lot)	ca. 1636			Site	C
		935	Pratt Entry Gates and Retaining Wall	1916			Object	C
		936	Retaining Walls and Steps	19th cent. +			Object	C
		937	Bank Tombs	1814-1861			Structure	C
		1085	Receiving Tomb	1910		No Style	Building	C
		1410	Pratt-Rogers Memorial Chapel	ca. 1966		No Style	Building	NC
180 Norton St.	10-127-4	324	Abigail Adams Birthplace	ca. 1685, Frank Chouteau Brown and 1947 & Carroll Bill			Building	C
		1411	Visitor Shop	1959		Colonial Revival	Building	C
		938	Retaining Wall	ca. 1950			Object	C
		939	Colonial Revival Garden (sundial, millstone)	1949-62	Theron Irving Cain		Site	C
		940	Later Commemorative Elements	1959-76			Object	NC
North St.	19-158-7		Site of the Weymouth Hgts. RR Depot	ca. 1876			Site	C
533 North St.	13-130-60	1412	Stephen Squillante House	1987		Raised ranch	Building	NC
537 North St.	13-130-20	1086	Humphrey House	ca. 1876		Colonial Revival	Building	C
			Shed	1997		No style	Building	NC
555 North St.	13-157-15	1087	Francis & Josephine Boutilier House	ca. 1927		Colonial Revival	Building	C
			Gambrel Garage	ca. 1960			Building	C

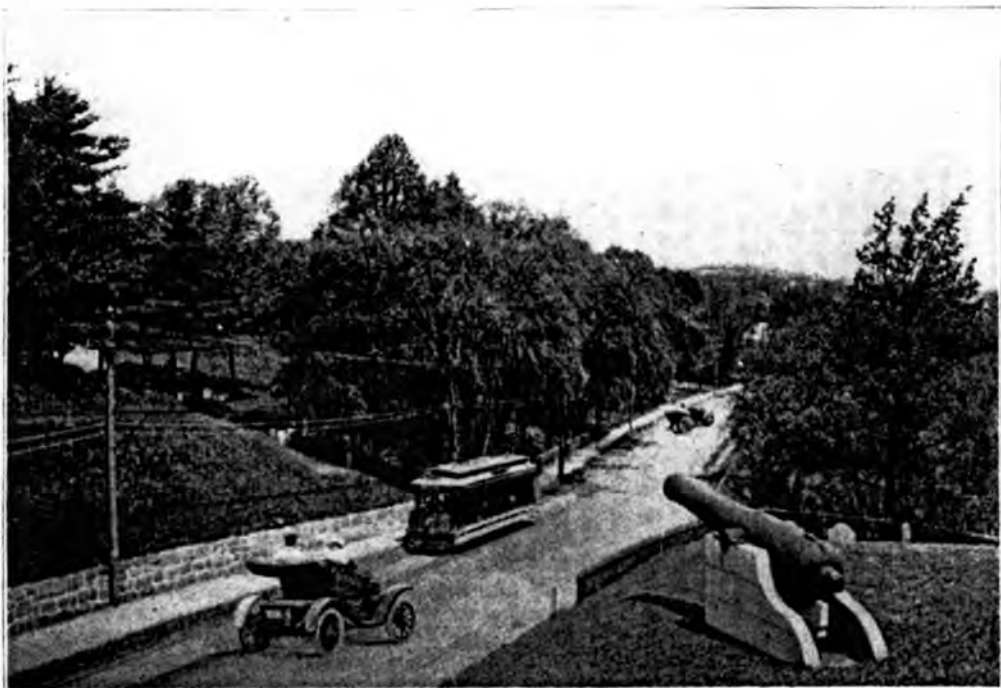
**Meeting House Historic District
Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts**

10/15/2010

<u>Total Contributing Resources:</u>	<u>Non-Contributing:</u>
13 Buildings	7 Buildings
5 Sites	1 Site
3 Structures	1 Structure
9 Objects	3 Objects
30 Total	12 Total



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS



VIEW FROM SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS

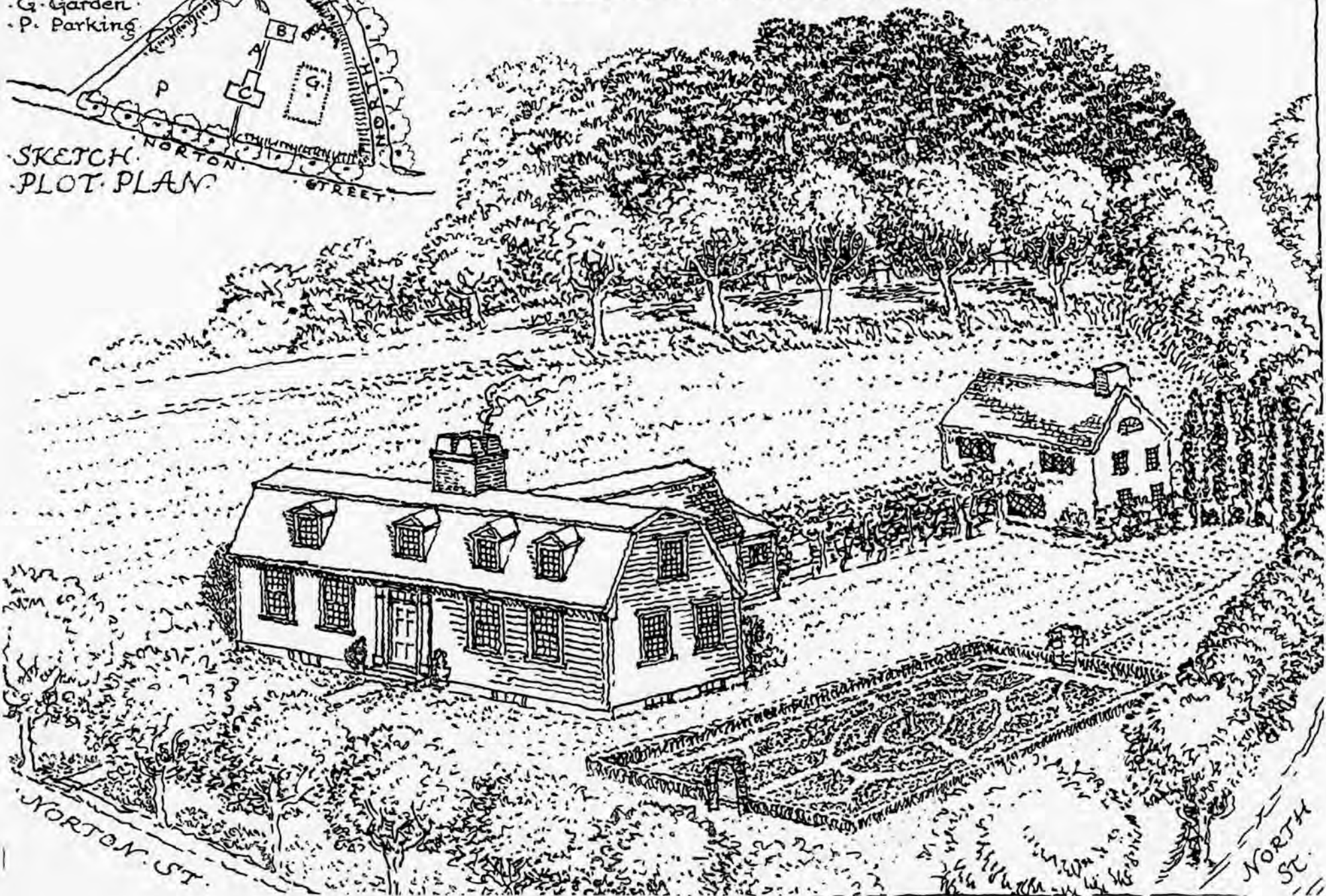
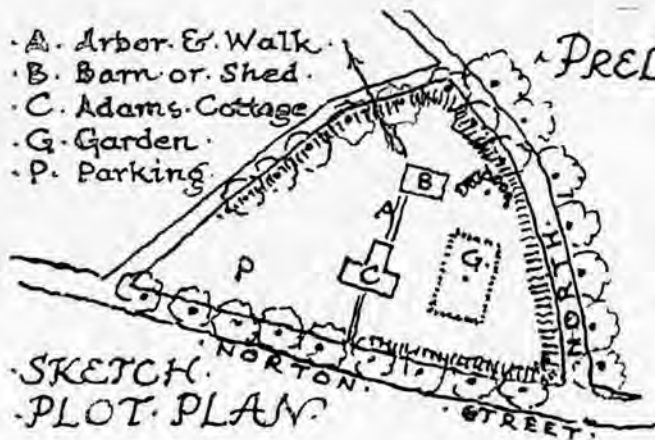
from: Louis A. Cook, *History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts, 1622-1918*.
New York: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1918, p. 294

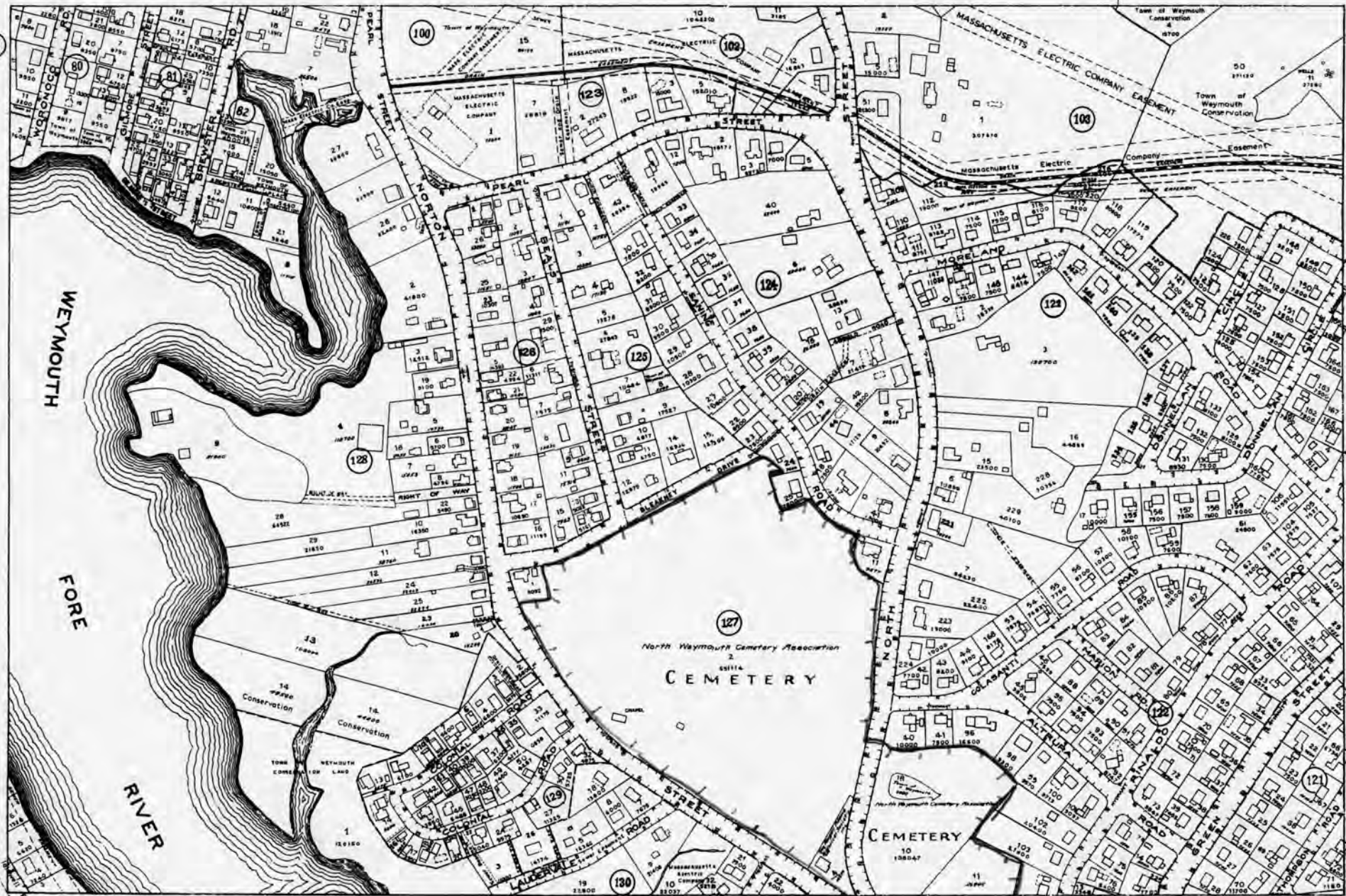
- A. Arbor & Walk
- B. Barn or Shed
- C. Adams Cottage
- G. Garden
- P. Parking

PRELIMINARY STUDY ABIGAIL ADAMS SITE WEYMOUTH

Frank Chouteau Brown Architect Boston

SKETCH
PLOT PLAN

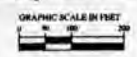




PLAN OF A PART OF WEYMOUTH

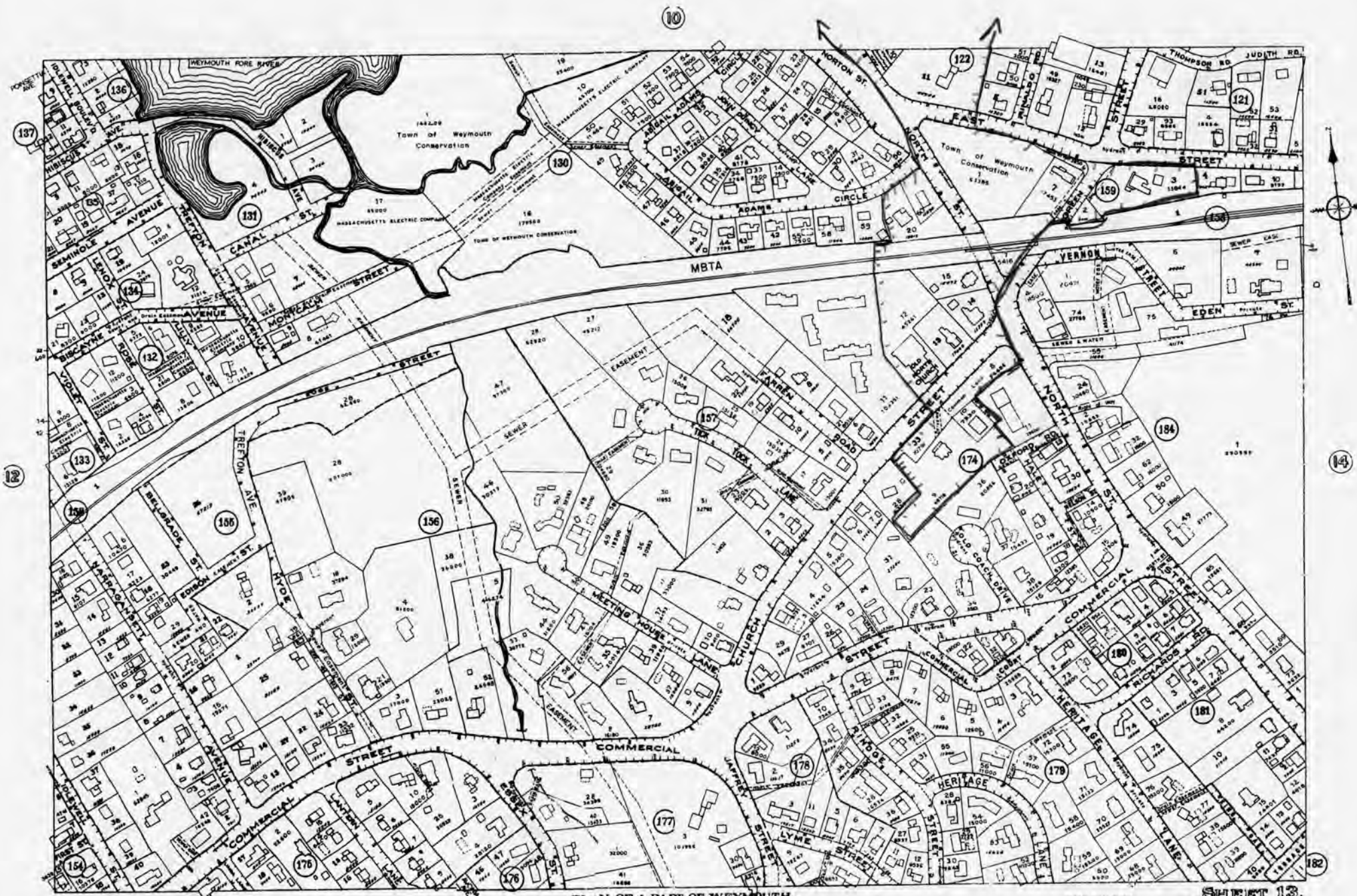
1907

ENGINEERING DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Weymouth Meeting House Historic District

MAP 172



PLAN OF A PART OF WEYMOUTH
1906
ENGINEERING DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

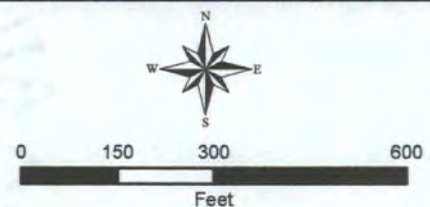
SHEET 13.

MAP 2 of 2 Weymouth Meeting House Historic District



Weymouth Meeting House Historic District Weymouth, Norfolk County Massachusetts Total District Area - 30.7 Acres

Proposed Historic District Boundary in Red.
2005 MassGIS color orthophoto base



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 10/26/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/30/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/15/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001007

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 12.13.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

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.



1. North Weymouth Cemetery, 1~~20~~ Norton St. (126)
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



2. Soldiers' Monument, in N. Weymouth Cemetery
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



3. Abigail Adams Birthplace, 180 Norton St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



4 First Church Parsonage, 8 East St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



5. S. Bicknell House, 476 Green St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



6. Humphrey House, 537 North St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



7. Boutilier House, 555 North St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



8. W.O. Nash House, 3 Church St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



9. Dr. L. Fuller House, 11 Church St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



10. First Church in Weymouth, 17 Church St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



11. John Adams School, 16 Church St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



12. James M. Taylor House, 2^d Church St.
Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Norfolk Co., MA



Weymouth Meeting House Historic District
Weymouth
MASSACHUSETTS
WEYMOUTH (NORFOLK), MA

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
1984

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts
agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1984.
Supersedes Weymouth and Cohasset 1:25 000-scale
maps dated 1971 and 1979.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13269 (1980)
and 13270 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-foot grid: zone 19, Universal
Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, established 1927.

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meter west as shown by dashed corner ticks.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.7 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3	
1	3.2808			1	2	3	
2	6.5617			4	5		
3	9.8425			6	7	8	
4	13.1234						
5	16.4042						
6	19.6850						
7	22.9659						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5275						
10	32.8084						

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence
(GN) and 1984 magnetic
declination (M)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1 Boston South
2 Hull
3 Norwood
4 Scituate
5 Brockton
6 Whitman
7 Duxbury

ISBN 0-607-23435-0
9 780607 234350

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road, trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate, U. S., State	.....
Railroad: standard gage, narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument, forest section center	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township, section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery: grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Well; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; salt or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Disrupted surface: strip mine, levee, sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	.....
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

42070-B7-TM-025
1984



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

October 21, 2010

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Weymouth Meeting House Historic District, Weymouth (Norfolk), 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.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Theodore Clarke, Weymouth Historical Commission
Mayor Susan Kay
Timothy Orwig, consultant
James F. Clarke, Jr., Jody Lehrer, Planning & Community Development