

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 23 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Daniel Webster Estate

other names/site number Thomas-Webster Estate (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 238 Webster Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Marshfield N/A ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02050

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Judith B. McDonough 2/16/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Date Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State of 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 the 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

Beryl L. Savage 4-5-93

Thomas-Webster Estate
Name of Property

Plymouth County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(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	
3	1	buildings
10	1	sites
7	5	structures
		objects
20	7	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**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field,
agricultural building
LANDSCAPE: natural feature, garden

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE: natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne
Craftsman
No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof Asphalt
other

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

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Marshfield (Plymouth County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1**7. DESCRIPTION**

The Daniel Webster Estate is the historic core of an eighteenth-century farm and a nineteenth-century agricultural estate. Initially settled by the Thomas family in the 1640s, the property became the heart of "Green Harbor" from 1832 to 1852 when it belonged to Daniel Webster (1782 - 1852), noted statesman, scholar, and local farmer. The nominated property as it exists today is largely defined by its historic landscape with site features and plantings. It includes the Caroline Webster House (Map #1, 1878-1880, William Gibbons Preston, architect), one laundry house (Map #3, late 18th or early 19th century), one garage (Map #2, ca. 1900), several small structures and day camp-related features, and both prehistoric and historic period archaeological resources. The nominated property encompasses 22.56 acres lying between Webster Street (south) and the salt marshes of Green Harbor River and its Wharf Creek tributary (north and northeast). It is situated approximately two miles west of Massachusetts Bay and several miles southeast of Marshfield town center. The undulating terrain ranges from sea level to 40 feet in elevation. The informal landscape encompasses woods, open lawns interspersed with trees, man-made ponds, flat terrain and knolls (e.g., Cherry Hill), former agricultural fields, stone walls, gravel drives and paths, and plantings. These elements comprise both the bucolic landscape and provide the setting for the buildings. The buildings are set back approximately 200 feet north of Webster Street and are reached by a tree-lined, unpaved drive. The Queen Anne style house sits on a gentle rise and is oriented south, overlooking a spacious, tree-dotted lawn. It was built by Webster's daughter-in-law following the destruction by fire of his house and barn in 1878 and is a contributing element. The small 18th or 19th century shed is also contributing, while the other buildings, swimming pool, and camp features are noncontributing. Daniel Webster's Law Office which originally stood on the property was moved approximately a half mile to the grounds of the 1699 Isaac Winslow House (also owned by Daniel Webster) in 1966 in order to preserve it from poor maintenance and vandalism. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974. The foundations and sites of several buildings no longer standing (barn, spring house, well, etc.) are known, and others may exist. Prehistoric archaeological remains have also been found on the property. No archaeological investigations have been conducted to date. The Daniel Webster Estate contains 20 contributing buildings, sites, and structures and 7 noncontributing resources.

Between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, Daniel Webster's large estate farm of approximately 400 acres diminished in size as land was sold. Lands to the south, west, and north are housing subdivisions (1950s to 1980s); land to the northeast is approximately 500 acres of conservation land owned by the Massachusetts Audubon

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Society. These areas were formerly part of the Webster Estate. A separate detail study would be required to determine the integrity and eligibility of the 500 acres for future addition to this nomination. Land to the east is privately owned and undeveloped. The western section of the nominated property containing the buildings (Assessor's J5-12-1 [10.87 ac.]) and Webster Pond (Assessor's K6-2-10 [5.0 ac.]) has been used as a children's day camp since the 1950s, causing only moderate impacts to the landscape and house. The eastern section of the nominated property, which is town-owned recreation and conservation land, contains Cherry Hill, the Duck Pond, and former kitchen and flower gardens area (Assessor's K5-1-32 [6.69 ac.]).

Historical Development Summary

The nominated property was contained within the seventeenth and eighteenth century land holdings of the Thomas family from 1640 to 1832, when it was sold as part of a 160-acre tract to Daniel Webster. The property under Thomas and Webster ownership extended northwest, north, and northeast of the nominated core, lying on both sides of Green Harbor River. It included the Winslow Burying Ground (where Webster is interred), as well as the sites of Marshfield's first meeting house and public school. A former Native American trail, which in 1637 became part of Plymouth Colony's first court-ordered road, passed through the property on a north-south alignment. It was incorporated into the drive leading to the dwelling complex.

The appearance of the landscape in the eighteenth and first quarter of the nineteenth century is not well known, but it is likely to have been open farm fields and marsh meadows with vistas north and east to Green Harbor River and the ocean. By 1772, when Nathaniel Ray Thomas constructed a house on the knoll site now occupied by the existing house, this site had become the center of a large farm. It is said to have had many ancillary buildings: stables, carriage house, blacksmith shop, bake and smoke houses, and barns. The pond north of the house had been established from five "boiling springs".

Under Daniel Webster's ownership from 1832 to 1852, the estate property was enlarged by a series of purchases to total approximately 2,000 acres. Given the name "Green Harbor" by Webster, it possessed the salient characteristics of a nineteenth-century gentleman's farm and encompassed the buildings complex, domestic gardens and orchards, open farm land, pine woods, salt marshes, three ponds, and ocean beach frontage. Daniel Webster's published correspondence of the 1830s and 1840s (Webster 1853; Wiltse 1974) contains numerous references to landscape improvements, both for aesthetic and practical farming purposes. Because Webster's professional obligations

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caused him to often be away from Marshfield, the farm was to great extent managed by regular letters between Webster and Charles Henry Thomas, his chief employee. His comments and directives encompassed the whole of his estate from the domestic center to the river front and ocean. Among the most consistent and extensive activities were the improvement of the sandy and clayey soil and the planting of approximately 100,000 trees, both from seed or nursery stock. Study of the correspondence and contemporary descriptive accounts, along with nineteenth-century views, allow a relatively accurate understanding of the configuration of the buildings and landscape during Webster's ownership. Although the nominated property is only a small portion of the entire estate farm, the following discussion pertains both to the smaller section and its relationship to the whole.

One of the earliest views of the property is a ca. 1830 wood cut published in Gleason's Pictorial, showing the southwest aspects of a five-by-three bay wood frame house, rising 2 1/2-stories to a hip roof with a low-pitch gable roofed monitor. There were two interior chimneys and a porch along the southern five-bay facade. A small angled bay projected from the west side and a one-story gable roofed service ell extended to the rear. The interior plan consisted of a center hall with adjoining rooms (Anon. 1858). A barn stood between the pond and the house, and a sweeping line of trees partially encircled the house on the west and south.

By about 1840, the house was enlarged almost double in size by a one-story, gable roofed library ell attached to the west side. The ell had two Gothic Revival polygonal dormers, each with two gable roofed windows set at an angle. A porch extended around the south and west sides, sheltering full length windows. The interior, said to have been designed by Webster's daughter Julia Webster Appleton, contained a vaulted ceiling and trefoil and Tudor arch decorative motifs. A recessed alcove over the fireplace contained a stained glass window (room illustrated in Harvey 1877). Dormers were also added to the main house roof at this time. Recent restoration of the Law Office (MHC Preservation Grant, 1988) revealed that a portion of the building may have been the angled bay removed from the west side of the house when the library was added.

Contemporary accounts at the time of Webster's death mention approximately 30 buildings existing on the farm. They included the "mansion house and adjoining out-houses, the residence of the chief tenant, the dairyman's cottage, the fisherman's house, the landlord's agricultural office [Law Office], several large barns, the gardener's house, and a variety of subordinate outbuildings" (Lanman 1852, p. 74). The main barn was north of the house, the Law Office east of the house, and a small Greek Revival gardener's cottage (1847) southeast of the house. Ancillary buildings included a laundry

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house (north of house), a spring house (northeast of house), as well as a pig sty, and other smaller outbuildings. Only the laundry house survives on the site. The other extant buildings from this period are the Law Office, which was moved off site in 1966, and the gardener's cottage, which was moved to 47 Marginal Street, Green Harbor, about 1882. The main barn north of the house, built ca. 1857, replaced an earlier Thomas-family barn of ca. 1772, approximately on the same site. It stood until ca. 1979, when its delapidated condition, along with fire and vandalism damage forced demolition. It was a large wood-frame, gable-roof structure with round-arch windows in the gable end. The extensive foundation of brick and stone is extant.

The landscape surrounding the buildings and coinciding with the property being nominated was predominantly domestic in nature. The entrance drive (formerly part of the Pilgrim Path) originated at a gateway in a stone wall on Webster Street. It was a long sheltered avenue, approximately 30 feet wide, bordered on both sides with a hawthorne (or buckthorne) hedge, beyond which were moderate sized forest trees. It passed by a small knoll on the west side where a cottage stood. At the rise on which the main house sat, the drive split, with the right branching off to the stables and the left veering towards the side door of the house. A tremendous elm stood in the fork and overhung the east side of the house (Anon. 1858). The area around the house was planted in lawn interspersed with copses and clumps of trees and shrubs (Webster letter to Mrs. Curtis in Anon n.d.). From time to time, correspondence suggests, sections may also have been planted with field crops (Webster in Wiltse 1974).

Soil enrichment occurred throughout the farm, using large quantities of kelp and menhaden carted from the beach, along with purchased lime and composted manure. By 1842, Webster noticed marked improvement in land production. Crops were planted primarily in the north part of the farm (outside nomination boundaries) and included corn, turnips, oats, barley, winter rye, potatoes, beans, carrots, pumpkins. Much of the field product was used for feeding stock. The north area also contained two large fruit orchards ("old" and "new") and stock pastures for grazing beef cattle, oxen, milk cows, and sheep (Webster in Wiltse 1974). A pig sty was located just east of the barn.

The great variety of the 100,000 trees planted and mentioned in Webster's planting directives included pine, dogwood, American lime, Glutinous acacia, elm, sumac, locust, catalpa, pear, apple, quince, peach, oak, ash, horse chestnut, linden, and sycamore. Cherry Hill was to be planted with a great number of dogwoods (Webster in Wiltse 1974). In an 1832 letter Webster admonished Charles Henry Thomas to be sure to set out enough trees, suggesting they be planted in grouped clumps of three to six, but noting that a single tree is often handsome (Webster in Wiltse 1974).

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A circulating system of drives and walking paths meandered through the lawn and adjacent wooded areas to the fields and pastures beyond. Just east of the house and drive, a garden for flowers and vegetables sloped down to the marsh, protected from tidal flow by a wall. North of the house were the barns and other outbuildings. To the north and northwest of the buildings was a large spring fed freshwater pond surrounded by grass. It had a stand of trees planted by Webster on one side and was encircled by a walking path. The east side contained a causeway separating the pond from the salt marshes and providing access to the northern parts of the farm (Webster letter to Mrs. Curtis in Anon n.d.). A spring house stood near the causeway. In the large pond, Webster constructed one or two small islands in what proved to be a successful and early attempt to domesticate wild geese. The two smaller spring fed ponds, one east of the house and one north of the large pond, were populated by common geese and ducks (Lanman 1852). It is thought that Webster created the two smaller ponds. The bigger one was originally constructed during the Thomas-family era. Referred to by Webster as the "yellow bog pond", it was excavated and enlarged for use as a trout pond about 1838 (Webster in Wiltse 1974). Cherry Hill was converted from a bare sandy knoll to a tree-covered eminence, through soil enrichment and planting.

Following Webster's death, his family and heirs lived on the estate until the original Thomas-Webster House was destroyed by fire 14 February 1878. Caroline Webster, widow of Webster's son (Daniel) Fletcher Webster (killed at the Second Battle of Bull Run, 1862), engaged a well-known Boston architect, William Gibbons Preston, to design a large Queen Anne style house incorporating symbolic elements from the earlier house and to house artifacts and memorabilia rescued from the fire. This house, completed in 1880 and essentially unaltered except for the partial removal of the porch, is the house standing today (described below). The entrance drive appears to have been expanded to include a circular section in front of the south facade of the new house.

The estate was known in the second half of the nineteenth century as the "Webster Place". The area in the immediate environs of the house were maintained as Webster had left them, in accordance with his wishes. However, financial difficulties resulted in an initial series of land sales in 1855, followed over the next thirty years by several mortgages, auctions, and the sale of peripheral lands to sustain the core of the property. In 1884, Caroline Webster was forced to sell the family homestead estate, relinquishing it to Walton Hall of Marshfield. The property included the house, barn, Law Office, etc., as well separate sales of some of Daniel Webster's personal belongings and house furnishings so that they would stay with the estate (List, 1884; Deed, June 9, 1884).

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Walton Hall continued to maintain the property as a family farm and as a memorial to Daniel Webster. He reacquired additional lands around Green Harbor River that had once been part of the Webster Estate, where he established a series of cranberry bogs. By the mid-twentieth century, many of the ancillary nineteenth-century outbuildings were no longer standing. A map of the property drawn May 26, 1948 shows five buildings: the main house, Law Office, barn, garage, and small shed northwest of the house (copy attached).

In the 1950s, the Hall heirs sold the estate lands to Vincent Cohee, who established a childrens' day camp, Camp Daniel Webster, on the property. Cohee installed the swimming pool (1964) immediately west of the house and a roller skating rink on Webster Street (burned 1958), and other camp-related facilities. Financial considerations resulted in the sale of lands south, west, and north of the core for housing development. In 1966, James and Phyllis Anderson purchased the camp, which they continued to operate until 1986, when it was acquired by the current owner.

The Estate Today

The Daniel Webster Estate as it exists today encompasses the site of the core of the agricultural estate buildings' complex and domestic landscape, centered since 1880 on a well-designed Late Victorian Queen Anne House.

The Caroline Webster House (Map #1) is a roughly rectangular, 2 1/2-story, Queen Anne style house rising from a random stone foundation with full basement. The arrangement of bays and massing is asymmetrical and picturesque. An underlying order is evident and a sense of movement is created by the presence of a projecting pavilion on each elevation. The house is set on a gentle rise and is oriented south, perpendicular to the entrance drive. It is said to incorporate the foundation of the earlier house; historic views and maps substantiate oral tradition that it is built on the same site.

The house is little altered. On the exterior, the major changes have been the removal of a roof balustrade and a veranda which wrapped the west, south, and east sides of the house. It had a pedimented gable over the main entrance and bracketed posts with a spindlework screen. The present two side porches may be remnants of the original veranda. These alterations occurred prior to 1940 (historic photographs, copies attached).

The walls of the wood frame structure are sheathed in clapboards and in both plain and decorative scalloped shingles in the end gable sections. Other eclectic decorative

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elements include stick work; scalloped fascia board; decorative window architraves; and curved brackets above windows and at corners along the cornice line. The typical original windows on the first and second levels are wood double hung sash, either of two-over-two arrangement or consisting of clear glass ribbon strips surrounding a larger central pane in the upper sash and a two-light lower sash. These windows are set both singly and in pairs, usually with simple board surrounds. The dormer windows include twelve-over-twelve and twelve-over-two arrangements. In the 1940s, the windows had shutters which are no longer existing.

The house is capped by an asphalt-shingle-clad complex roof consisting of a hip core with three intersecting gable-roof pavilions, a pyramidal hip-roof pavilion, and gabled dormers. The original roof sheathing is not known, but is thought to have been wood shingles. The present asphalt roof was installed in the 1960s. Four tall brick chimneys with channeled stacks and corbelled caps project from the northern and western roof slopes. The house has wood gutters and aluminum downspouts.

The primary south elevation faces the main lawn and former circular drive now grown over in grass but still legible. It is composed of three bays with a central recessed entrance bay and a 2 1/2-story projecting gabled pavilion in the eastern bay. The front was originally screened by a one-story veranda which extended around the west and east sides of the building. The front section of the veranda was removed in the 1920s or 1930s and replaced with the present brick terrace. The central entrance is deeply recessed in a segmental arched porch alcove framed by wood piers and architrave. Simple moulding with corner blocks creates the surround for multi-light double leaf doors. One aluminum and one wood storm door have been added to the exterior. Built-in plank benches ornamented at the exterior end with heavy turned balustrade and post arm rests line each side of the porch. A wider than typical window surmounts the entrance, and a gabled dormer lights the attic story.

The pavilion bay has a large glazed opening on the first floor with five-light double leaf french doors and broad sidelights, corner lights, and transom. The sidelights are single pane clear glass with panels below ornamented by decorative incised scroll patterns. Above the doors, stained glass corner lights flank the central transom with a stained glass image of the Webster crest, based on a horse's head. Photographs taken about 1940 show that a square lattice grid once covered the sidelights and transom. A pair of second floor windows is set just below a paneled and bracketed cornice under the gable overhang. The gable, sheathed in scalloped shingles and cross bracing, contains a single window above a rendition of the Webster crest ornately worked in patterned shingles, which is intact except for the horse's head. The bargeboard has a pentagonal cut out in

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the gable peak. The western bay of the south elevation contains paired windows on each story.

The east elevation, overlooking the drive as it continues back (north) to the former service and farm compound area, has two distinct sections. The main block of the house has irregularly arranged openings with two windows on the first story, three on the second, and a gabled dormer above. The shed-roof porch on chamfered posts with exposed rafter ends across the first story may be a portion of the original veranda, of which the south facade section was removed prior to 1940. The northeast corner of the elevation is occupied by a two-story, six-sided projecting pavilion with a hip roof. The three first story windows of the pavilion have shingled awnings with scalloped edges. The second floor window of the east-facing side contains original clapboard and cross bracing infill. A paneled wood door on the south side under the porch leads to the dining room.

The north elevation is the rear and service-oriented section of the exterior. Here, the intersecting massing forms join in the most complex fashion. The east corner is formed by the extension of the six-sided corner bay at the eastern end. There is a one-bay section with an extended roof slope and gabled dormer near the center indicating the location of the rear service stair. A broad, 2 1/2-story, projecting gabled pavilion containing the kitchen occupies the western portion of the elevation. Further variation is expressed in a small round-arch stained glass window near the east end associated with the dining room fireplace (see description below), the placement of gable pavilion second story windows intersecting a scalloped overhang, and a vertical slat bargeboard screen in the gable peak. A simple, one-story, hip-roofed service ell extends northward from the gable pavilion. It rests on a stone foundation and is sheathed in clapboards. It appears in early twentieth-century photographs (looking northeast) and was either part of the original construction or added shortly thereafter. The interior was reworked in 1980 and it is currently used as a locker room.

The west elevation is composed of three unequal bays with irregularly arranged fenestration. Like the east elevation, it possesses a one-story porch that appears to be a survival from the partial removal of the veranda before 1940. The widest, southern bay contains two windows on the first story, a pair of windows in the second story, and a gabled dormer in the roof slope. The gabled pavilion is set north of center and has a simple original multi-light door and a small window on the first story. The second story contains a three-part window of identical eight-light vertical sections, each with a stained glass square transom. It lights the main staircase on the interior. The attic section consists of a slightly overhanging gable on brackets. Sheathed in scalloped shingles, it

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contains a single window and has a vertical slat bargeboard screen with a sawn "W" design in the gable peak.

The first floor interior plan (see enclosed) is laid out around a wide central hall flanked by four primary spaces. Service stairs, pantry, and kitchen area are located at the central rear (north) and northwest sections of the house. The interior finishes are wood and plaster and are mostly original, reflecting a Queen Anne/early Colonial Revival design aesthetic. They include: hardwood floors; wall paneling; intricate moldings and fireplace surrounds; paneled doors; smooth plaster walls and ceilings; and decorative ceiling beams.

The hall extends from the front entrance to an elaborate fireplace near the rear of the house. Recess paneled wainscotting with a reeded chairrail and raised medallions adorn the walls. The fireplace mantel of wood and plaster has flanking pairs of fluted columns, a frieze of ribbon-wrapped reeding, rosettes, and swags, and a paneled over mantel. The broad dog-leg main staircase with lower and central landings is situated west of the fireplace adjacent to a smaller cross hall leading to the west side door. The massive square newel posts have corner rope moulding and spiral finials. Alternating spiral and knob-and-rod balusters support the shaped handrail.

The parlor (southwest) and drawing room (southeast) are reached by doors in splayed wall sections, while the dining room opens off the hall opposite the staircase. The dining room has a bay window at the east end and a built-in china closet topped with a pediment and dentil cornice on the south wall. Its primary feature, however, is the north wall fireplace which is loosely modeled after the fireplace in Daniel Webster's ca. 1840 "gothic library". The over mantel of the original possessed a stained glass window in a Tudor arch recessed alcove. The late nineteenth-century rendition is similarly composed of a stained glass window with a floral arrangement motif set in a round arch alcove. The southeast drawing room fireplace has wide piers supporting a dentil cornice and mantel shelf. An arched opening along the south wall separates a seating area adjacent to the french doors from the main room. Interior furnishings are sparse, but include two large gilt mirrors (over the hall and drawing room mantels) sold by Caroline Webster to Walton Hall in 1884.

The second floor interior plan has four bedrooms opening off a large central hall. Two bathrooms are located above the first floor pantry. Finishes are similar to but simpler than those of the first floor.

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In its function as the administrative center and shelter of the childrens' day camp, the interior of the house has been remarkably unaltered. The first floor parlor is used as the office, and the dining room functions as a play area. The drawing room appears to be the least used space.

The older outbuildings standing on the property are the small shed (Map #3) northwest of the house and the garage (Map #2) north of the house. The one-story gabled shed appears to date from the late eighteenth or nineteenth century. It is set on a stone foundation, sheathed in vertical board siding, and has six-over-six windows. It was built near the privy and was used as the laundry during Webster's ownership. Its current function is for storage. The 22'x24' Craftsmen style garage constructed of cobblestones with a gabled roof was erected ca. 1900. Both buildings are contributing.

The remaining noncontributing outbuildings and structures were built after 1960 and are associated with the camp use of the property. They include the in-ground swimming pool (Map #21) and an associated one-story, wood-frame pool equipment shed (Map #22) immediately west of the house. East of the house there are two small open wood sheds used for archery (Map #23) and a target range (Map #20). The lawn area south of the house contains an asphalt paved play area (Map #25), a baseball field with a section of chainlink fence at home base (Map #26), and a small miniature golf course (Map #24). Various play equipment, such as a jungle gym, slide, and volleyball net are also scattered about the grounds.

Much of the underlying structure of the historic eighteenth- and nineteenth-century landscape is still readable, and many landscape features as well as some plantings remain. The inevitably ephemeral nature of historic landscapes is evident here, where most original plantings have been lost and once-open areas are overgrown. However, Webster's design intent for the setting of the house amidst an open lawn dotted with trees has been retained.

Webster's approach to landscape design was focused on enhancing the natural qualities of the property and creating a pleasant rural retreat/working farm. In the nominated portion of the estate property, the major elements of the executed landscape and the relationship between different areas of land use (open lawn, ponds, woodlands) as interpreted from the historic record have survived reasonably intact. The legacy of his soil improvements no doubt also remain. Perhaps one of the most notable changes is the loss, due to dense and tall vegetation, of the views to the ocean that Webster so admired. However, his extensive tree planting program would no doubt have eventually modified the vistas originally created during his ownership.

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The inherent and man-made topographical features that underly the landscape remain intact: the south knoll (Map #15), Cherry Hill (Map #16), undulating lawn (Map #19), Webster Pond (Map #11), and the Duck Pond (Map #12). Cherry Hill, a site specifically mentioned for arboral attention in Webster's letters, is a prominent landscape feature as the highest knoll in the northern part of the property. As the site of his last public speech, it is also a place of historical importance. Two of the three ponds lie within the nominated property, as well as the geese habitat island in Webster Pond and the causeway at the east end of Webster Pond. The causeway (Map #18) is constructed of an earthen berm, which is the eighteenth-century dam expanded by Webster. Dry laid stone work is visible in some sections. The causeway has been breached at the creek, and a modern steel culvert installed (date unknown). Other surviving sections of drylaid stone walls are a stock enclosure (Map #6) between the garage and the barn foundation, retaining walls at the northern barn entrance, and around the spring house. Portions of the flower and vegetable garden retaining wall may also survive, but are not readily visible on the surface.

Portions of the circulation system remain, including the tree-lined entrance drive (Pilgrim Path) (Map #9) and its continuation pattern around buildings, although the wall along Webster Street is gone. The late nineteenth-century circular drive in front of house is grassed over, but its location can still be discerned. Low traffic on the walking paths, such as the path around Webster Pond, would suggest that little surface evidence would remain after the passage of 150 years. A series of farm drives (Map #10) includes a route leading northward from the buildings to cross the causeway at the east end of Webster Pond.

Plant material relating to the period of Webster's ownership is sparse, as might be expected. The garden area east of the house, though much overgrown, still contains remnants of plant material such as daylilies. Many of the trees growing on the property may be deliberate or volunteer replacements of those planted by Webster. One tree, referred to as the "Great Linden" (Map #14), has been evaluated as being over 250 years old in age and may have been planted by the Thomases. It is an English Little Leaf Linden, 74 feet in height, with a circumference of 180 inches, and a spread of 84.5 feet. Local tradition states that Webster's body was laid in state beneath the tree.

The extensive agricultural fields, pastures, and orchards lie outside the nominated property. Much of the land in the immediate vicinity has been converted to residential housing, but the establishment of the approximately 500-acre Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1984 has protected what was once the northern part of the estate farm.

(continued)

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The property contains a number of documented historic archaeological features and has potential to possess additional as yet unidentified features and buried material culture remains associated with the period of Webster's ownership and from all phases of its history. Little is known of how the land was used by the Thomas family prior to the erection of the first house on this site in 1772, and features postdating that event may have continued to be used by Webster in the nineteenth century. Possible components of the eighteenth century archaeological record might include privies, wells, and outbuilding foundations (see below). Remains associated with the three-month long British encampment of 1775 could include hearths, tent sites, privies, and scattered cultural items. However, it is not known whether the troops were quartered within or outside the nominated property bounds.

The most prominent and visible archaeological feature is the extensive stone and brick foundation (Map #4) of the ca. 1857 barn north of the house. Portions of the foundation may relate to the earlier ca. 1772 barn. Other known features include a privy (Map #17), the spring house foundation (Map #7), and an unidentified line of stones east of the barn which may be the pig sty (Map #8). The Law Office site (Map #5) may contain buried cultural material; no subsurface investigations were conducted when it was moved. Other possible features, as yet unidentified, include the privy(ies); physical remains of the farmyard area; trash dumps; scattered field trash; the causeway structure at the east end of Webster Pond; and the buried foundations or footings of as many as 30 buildings. Among these are the Thomas-era stable, carriage house, blacksmith shop, bake and smoke houses. There is also a possibility of remains associated with British troops quartered on the property for three months in 1775. Buildings associated with Daniel Webster's ownership include numerous outbuildings that are no longer standing and at least one house, the gardener's house, which stood in the southern section of the property and was moved off-site in 1882. There are also references to a summer house on Cherry Hill.

Impacts from later periods of development may have effected Thomas-family era features (during Daniel Webster's ownership) and, similarly, Daniel Webster era features (during subsequent periods). Construction of the new house in 1878-1880 on the site of the ca. 1772 house probably impacted the earlier site significantly, but may have left surrounding areas relatively undisturbed. The barn construction sequence also suggests restricted impacts. There appear to have been limited changes from the late nineteenth century through about 1960. Changes since 1960 include construction of the swimming pool which has had major impact on the west side of the house area. Otherwise, buildings are on slab or footings, and there is little evidence of significant ground

(continued)

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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

OTHER: COMMEMORATIVE

Period of Significance

ca. 1772 - ca. 1940

Significant Dates

1832, 1852, 1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Daniel Webster

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Gibbons Preston

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Marshfield Historical Commission

Thomas-Webster Estate

Plymouth County, MA

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.56 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	361040	4659530
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2	19	361080	4659520

3	19	361120	4659720
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4	19	361180	4659720

☒ 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 Betty Bates & other members of the Marshfield Hist. Comm., and Virginia Adams NR Edit. Consultant PAL, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 1993

street & number 80 Boylston telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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disturbance activities. Therefore, the property has high potential for both Thomas and Webster related remains in most areas.

A second category of historic archaeological remains are those associated with the **historic landscape**. They include opportunities for stratigraphy examination and soil analysis regarding topsoil additives and improvements in comparison to naturally occurring soils, as well as for flotation analysis of garden area soils to indicate what was grown and possibly to determine the extent of the garden. The location of lost drives and paths may be evident through changes in soil texture and type, and buried walls and other landscape features/structures may exist.

Evidence has also been found that the property is likely to contain a subsurface record of **prehistoric period occupation**. This area was on the alignment of a Contact Period Native American trail, which was incorporated into a Colonial Period road, and then into the Webster Estate drive. It also had several natural springs (now ponded) and other environmental characteristics indicative of high prehistoric potential. At least 11 sites are also known to exist within one mile of the Webster property. Surface find artifacts in the drive area east of the barn (Map #27) following recent bulldozing include two pounding stones, possibly dating to the Early Woodland Period (3000-1600 before present). The extent of disturbance from historic period activities is not known. The find spots are located adjacent to the barn, an area among the most heavily used and developed in the historic period with construction of ponds and buildings. Extensive soil enhancements and plowing during Webster's ownership would have also disturbed upper portions of buried sites. Nevertheless, the strong possibility remains that prehistoric resources are present within the property, but would need to be verified by controlled subsurface testing.

(end)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Daniel Webster Estate possesses local significance in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture, and is important at the state and national levels for its associations with Daniel Webster. It is significant as the surviving portion and the heart of "Green Harbor", Daniel Webster's home from 1832 until his death in 1852 during the height of his illustrious career as a statesman. Webster was a key figure in national history through his contributions to domestic affairs as a Massachusetts Senator and to international diplomacy as Secretary of State. Existing today as an historic landscape

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and archaeological site in relation to Webster's period of ownership, the core of the estate still provides the physical record that complements his copious written legacy about living and farming. It testifies to the constant effort placed in achieving his vision of the agricultural estate, reflects his constant yearning to be in Marshfield when national duty required him to be elsewhere, and is the one place with which his memory is most closely associated. It also provides context for understanding the Law Office, a National Historic Landmark, which since 1966 when it was moved, has been an isolated structure in a relatively arbitrary setting. The history of the property following Webster's death is run through with a theme of maintaining it as a memorial in his honor. Each successive owner well into the twentieth century took specific actions in this regard, and the public response was strong. The house standing on the property, designed in 1878-1880 by a notable Boston architect for Webster's daughter-in-law, is significant as the most elaborate Queen Anne style house constructed in Marshfield in the late nineteenth century. It derives further importance from the aspects of the design that refer to Daniel Webster. Although not well maintained, the portions of the nineteenth-century designed and agricultural landscape that is contained within the property embody both Webster's philosophy and nineteenth-century design tenets. Finally, although no archaeological investigations have been undertaken, evidence exists that the property has strong potential to contain historic period remains associated with Webster's era, as well as the earlier (and later periods) of its history. The potential for prehistoric remains is also high. The Daniel Webster Estate possesses integrity of location, the framework of its landscape design and the design of the house, setting, materials with respect to the house and many components of the landscape, workmanship, feeling, and association. On the basis of current information, the property is significant for the period from ca. 1772 to ca. 1940. It meets National Register of Historic Places Criteria B and C, and Criteria consideration F. With additional study the property be shown to meet Criterion D.

The early history of the nominated property lying within the original larger parcel is of local historical interest, although it does not meet the strict National Register integrity and significance standards. It may meet standards in the future if archaeological resources are demonstrated to exist. In 1640, William Thomas, one of Marshfield's first settlers, was granted a landhold including the nominated property. Through it passed a Native American trail which became the first road in Plymouth Colony (Old Colony Records, Vol. I, p. 38). Green Harbor Path, now known as Pilgrim Trail, connected Plymouth, Duxbury, Marshfield, and Scituate. The Thomas property eventually covered almost two square miles in the period of ownership from 1640 to 1832.

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The Thomas family were active in local governmental and town affairs for many generations. One hundred acres of land donated by William Thomas to the town of Marshfield for "ministerial lands" contained the first meetinghouse (1643), public school (1645), and burying ground. Family members served as judges, magistrates, Court representatives, and held numerous town offices during the 192 years that they owned the property.

During the American Revolution, Nathaniel Ray Thomas, a Tory, was appointed Mandamus Councillor by King George III. Fearing repercussions from townspeople, Thomas requested protection from British General Thomas Gage. As a result, 114 British troops of the King's Own Fourth Regiment, were quartered on Thomas land from January 23 to April 20, 1775. The exact location of the encampment is not known, but Marshfield was the only town in Plymouth Colony to quarter British troops.

The primary historical significance of the property is its association with Daniel Webster. Webster was born 18 January 1782 in Salisbury (now Franklin), New Hampshire. He died 24 October 1852 in his house at Marshfield, Massachusetts. Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and Dartmouth College, where he studied law and oratory, he apprenticed in the office of Christopher Gore, Boston. Upon being admitted to the Bar in 1805, Webster established a practice in Portsmouth, NH two years later. He married Grace Fletcher (1781-1828) in 1808, with whom he had five children.

Between 1813, when Webster was first elected to the House of Representatives, and 1832, when he purchased the Marshfield estate, Webster's legal and political career propelled him to the forefront of state and national affairs. Serving two terms as representative from New Hampshire, Webster moved to Boston in 1817, and was elected to the House from Massachusetts (1823) and then to the Senate, from 1828 to 1840 and again from 1845 to 1850. During this period he argued several important cases in the courts and made a number of well remembered speeches in Congress and at commemorative events.

In 1828, Grace Webster died, and one year later Webster married Carolyn LeRoy of New York City (1797-1882). They had no children. Webster had been accustomed to going to Sandwich, MA for hunting and fishing recreation, but construction of the new glass factory and a related increase in population diminished his enjoyment of the area. Webster first saw the Thomas farm at Marshfield in 1824 and in 1832 arranged to purchase it from Captain John Thomas. Captain Thomas and his wife Lucy retained the right to remain on the property until their deaths, and both the Thomas children, Ray and Charles Henry, worked for Webster running the farm.

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During his 20 year ownership of "Green Harbor" from 1832 to 1852, Webster was at the height of his career as a lawyer and statesman. He spent a total of 13 years in the Senate and served three presidents as Secretary of State (Presidents William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Millard Fillmore). Many of Webster's accomplishments in this period obviously took place in Washington DC, England, or elsewhere, and the nature of the career required often lengthy absences from Marshfield. Webster's writings make clear, however, his affection for Green Harbor, his home. Marshfield was the place with which the people of Massachusetts identified him, where he was directly accessible to them, and several important national diplomatic negotiations occurred at Marshfield.

In 1840 during meetings in the Law Office at "Green Harbor" (Law Office National Historic Landmark; moved off site, 1966), Webster and Alexander Baring, Lord Ashfield, laid the groundwork for the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 which set the boundary between Maine and Canada. In 1850, it was to Marshfield that Webster retreated after delivering his famous 7th of March speech. The speech in essence postponed the Civil War giving the North additional time to build its industrial strength, while the South remained agrarian. In 1852, shortly before his death, Webster met in Marshfield with the British Minister, Lord Compton, to discuss the fishing industry and the status of a 1818 treaty. As a result of these discussions, Webster obtained continuance of the treaty, which Britain was threatening to dissolve. The action established perpetual fishing rights for New England Fisheries (and the United States) on the Grand Banks off Canada. Webster referred to this treaty in his last public speech, given at Cherry Hill on the estate, 24 August 1852, two months before his death. Other accomplishments included the introduction of a pioneering postage stamp resolution to the Senate in 1840, in an attempt to reduce postal rates.

Webster's contributions to the early history of the Republic were numerous and far reaching. His compelling personality and mastery of constitutional law, logic, and oratory forged an eloquent champion of the Union and a fierce advocate of industrial interests. He played a major part in establishing the framework for preserving the Union in the tests of the 1860s after his death.

Webster's primary interest, outside his professional career, was farming and scientific improvement of the "poor sandy sea-shore" land at Marshfield, of which he stated, "There is good land enough, if people would but work it well, & manure it" (Webster 1842 in Webster 1857). The "Green Harbor" estate at Marshfield illustrated the mode of American gentry estate established in an agricultural setting following the romantic principles espoused by eighteenth-century English landscape gardeners Batty Langely

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and Humphrey Repton. Formal, informal, and functional agricultural components were combined rather than isolated in a manner adapted to the uniquely American landscape. Webster's extensive traveling exposed him to English design and horticultural and agricultural practices. His correspondence notes new ideas which he gathered from observation or books and implemented at "Green Harbor". He imported seeds and livestock, and may have brought over English gardeners. His extensive use of soil nutrient additives contributed both to the farming and aesthetic aspects of the estate. These efforts and his agricultural accomplishments reflected the leading concepts of the day in scientific agriculture and horticulture. While Webster applied many new concepts to the design of the estate, there appears to have been no specific grand "plan", but a rather a systematic attempt to enhance and improve existing qualities and conditions.

At "Green Harbor", the environs of the house were laid out as a picturesque lawn with trees, but were sometimes planted with hay or vegetables. The gardens and agricultural complex were located near the house. The ponds provided habitat for fish and waterfowl and contributed to the design as water features. The water fowl population of the northern part of the property became the subject of John James Audubon's illustrations of Canada geese, published in Birds of America. A massive tree planting program transformed a barren wind-swept landscape to a protected one with orchards, wooded dells, focal points, and framed vistas across lawns, fields, and marsh. A pattern of winding walks and driving paths linked the various components. In describing the entrance, Webster said, "Take care that the wall, at the gate makes a handsome curve; & along that curve, inside, trees should be planted (Webster 1832 in Webster 1857). The carriageway leading from the road to the house was, "... not bold and impudent, right up straight to the front door, like the march of a column of soldiers, but winding over the lower parts of the ground, sheltering itself among trees and hedges, and getting possession at last, more by grace than force, as other achievements are best made" (Webster in Anon. n.d.).

As the last quotation illustrates, the physical form of the landscape at "Green Harbor" mirrored the philosophies of one of the finest American minds of the nineteenth century. Webster's use of grace rather than force in his professional life no doubt contributed to his success as a statesman. The portion of the core of the estate that remains relatively intact and is the subject of nomination continues to retain the physical record of this landscape and to convey the application of some of Webster's ideas.

Daniel Webster's funeral was held on 29 October 1852, five days after his death. As requested in his will, it was a simple ceremony at Green Harbor, where he was laid out under the Great Linden. Three thousand people attended the service and followed the

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cortege to the Winslow Burying Ground. Among the illustrious guests in the group that stood on the knoll south of the house was Franklin Pierce, soon to become President.

Upon the death of his father, (Daniel) Fletcher Webster (1813 - 1862) the oldest son, inherited the estate lands and his father's debts. By 1855, he had become insolvent, and his creditors took him to court. At that time, he sold his own place, "Careswell", and with his wife Caroline White Webster and five children moved to "Green Harbor". Between 1836, when Fletcher and Caroline were married, and 1841, they had lived in Peru, Illinois, where Fletcher set up a law practice and managed Daniel Webster's farm investments in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. With the death of Ray Thomas, who was to assist Fletcher, the Websters had agreed to abandon the west, and Fletcher moved to Marshfield, settling about a mile from his father's farm. Fletcher Webster served as Surveyor for the Port of Boston prior to the Civil War. During the war he served as Colonel of the 12th Massachusetts Regiment, which he raised in April, 1861. Colonel Webster was killed leading his Regiment at the 2nd Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) on 30 August 1862.

Fletcher Webster's will, written in 1861, clearly articulates his father's desires concerning the care of the estate, as well as Fletcher's intent to fulfill Daniel Webster's wishes. He had already published two volumes of his father's private correspondence in 1857 (Webster 1857). In the will Fletcher stated, "It was the great + leading wish of my father, the late Daniel Webster, in respect of his property, to preserve the Estate at Marshfield, with all his Books, Plate, Pictures, Statuary, Furniture + other personal property in his Mansion House in the blood and name of his own family." He continued that Daniel had established a Trust in which the Estate was to pass from Fletcher to a male heir. Fletcher designated Ashburton Webster, one of his two sons, as his heir (Vol. 104, p. 215). Ashburton died in 1878, and the other son, Daniel, Jr., had already died in 1866. None of the children of Fletcher and Caroline Webster had issue.

Thus, by 1878, when a fire destroyed Daniel Webster's house, Caroline White Webster, widow of Fletcher Webster, was responsible for the property. The daughter of Stephen White, a wealthy manufacturer and friend of Daniel Webster, and the niece of Justice Joseph Storey, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Caroline was from Tonawanda, New York. Although she was forced by financial difficulties to sell estate lands, Caroline sustained the continuity of Daniel Webster's legacy through the retention of the core of the property. The house constructed in 1878-1880 reflects the care taken to honor Daniel Webster.

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William Gibbons Preston (1844-1910), architect of the new Queen Anne style house, trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris prior to beginning his own Boston practice in 1862. In association with his father, then later on his own, Preston designed many major commercial, industrial, and institutional Boston buildings, as well as numerous houses in the Back Bay and outlying areas. His key large-scale works included the first Massachusetts Institute of Technology building on Boylston Street (gone); Museum of Natural History, now Louis, of 1862 (Boylston Street at 234 Berkely Street); Richardson Block (109-151 Pearl Street), 1873; Mechanics Hall (Huntington Avenue), 1881; the oldest corner portion of the Hotel Vendome (160 Commonwealth Avenue), 1871; Chadwick Leadworks (184 High Street), 1887; First Corps of Cadets Academy (130 Columbus Avenue at Arlington), 1891-1897; and International Trust Building (45 Milk Street), 1893, enlarged 1906. Preston was well versed in the eclectic architectural vocabulary of the late nineteenth century and his range of styles encompassed the French Academic, Romanesque, Renaissance Revival, Beaux-Arts, and Queen Anne. The latter appeared particularly in residential designs, as illustrated by the Webster house.

The Webster House combines a strong underlying axial organization with carefully controlled asymmetrical massing and lively ornamentation. A moderately restrained house within the full scope of the Queen Anne style, its wood construction and relative simplicity aptly suited the rural surroundings. Given the history of family finances, cost may have also been a factor in the design. Nevertheless, Caroline Webster selected one of Boston's best architects of the time to design a building replete with Webster references (see section 7) and one which stood apart in its large scale and sophistication from other period Queen Anne houses in the Marshfield community. Its modern and up-to-date features included indoor plumbing and central heating.

The Webster Estate property, which appears to have quickly lost the name "Green Harbor" following Daniel Webster's death, remained in family ownership until 1884. In 1882, a large centennial celebration was held in honor of Daniel Webster's birth. Participants included President Chester A. Arthur, Robert Todd Lincoln, several New England governors, and other dignitaries. After a breakfast reception for dignitaries in the house dedicated to the memory of Daniel Webster, there was a gravesite memorial service. That evening, 500 people gathered under three large tents on the main lawn for a dinner at which the President was the main speaker. The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company served as Honor Guard.

Caroline Webster sold the property to Walton Hall in 1884 and moved to Boston where she died two years later. Supplementary documents between Caroline Webster and

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Walton Hall included the sale of furnishings and Daniel Webster's personal belongings, as well as authorization for Hall to take charge of the Webster tomb. These documented transactions, along with Hall's subsequent activities make clear the intent that he should continue to maintain the property in Webster's memory. Hall attempted to purchase surrounding land to reassemble the Webster farm, which he achieved to some degree. He maintained the property as a working farm, introducing cranberry bogs along the Green Harbor River marshes. In a letter of 2 August 1927 to the Plymouth County Commissioners regarding a recently constructed sluice that negatively effected his bogs, Hall equated his own love for the place and his wish to keep it intact for his family with the dying wishes of Daniel Webster. Hall died five months later in December 1927.

In the early twentieth century, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts considered acquiring the property. A 1906 report of a House commission appointed to "investigate the Desirability of establishing a Memorial Reservation on the Daniel Webster Homestead at Marshfield" stated that while the owner (Walton Hall) had once expressed interest in selling it for \$100,000, he had changed his mind. The commission recommended that the Commonwealth not incur the expenses of either purchase or taking of the entire estate. Instead, it suggested that the Winslow Cemetery which retained the graves of Daniel Webster, Governor Josiah Winslow of Plymouth Colony, and other early Marshfield citizens be acquired from the town. It further recommended that at such time as the owner became willing to sell, the Law Office building be purchased, moved to a site closer to the highway, and established as a small museum containing "articles commemorative of Mr. Webster".

During the period of Hall-family ownership, the house was open to the public periodically, and visitors came from all over the world, including Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge. Events of the Marshfield Trecentenary Celebration were held at the estate in 1940, when it was owned by Walton Hall's son Lincoln Hall. Dignitaries present included Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Governor Leverett Saltonstall, and Stephen Vincent Benet, author of The Devil and Daniel Webster. The estate also figured in recent (1990) town's 350th celebration, and a tablet has been placed on Cherry Hill. In 1966, 60 years after the House report, the Law Office building and some of Daniel Webster's personal effects were acquired by the Marshfield Historical Commission and moved to the grounds of the 1699 Winslow House for use as a museum. The Winslow House was also owned by Webster.

In the period following Daniel Webster's death in 1852 until the 1940s, the estate property was maintained as a memorial to Daniel Webster. With the passage of time

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and the change in use from private home to children's day camp, the level of maintenance and respect for Webster's legacy has diminished, but the commemorative function still holds strong for those aware of the property's history. As a transitional actual/commemorative property, the estate includes both elements designed and installed by Webster himself and components, particularly the present house, established in his honor.

Camp Daniel Webster was opened in 1950 by Vincent Cohee as a summer facility. In 1966, its services expanded under the ownership of the Andersons. It currently offers recreational care for approximately 300 children from kindergarten through junior high school. Much of the present camp activity occurs both on the grounds surrounding the house and within the house itself. As noted in the description, with the exception of the swimming pool, camp usage has had a minimal impact on the landscape and the fabric of the house.

Potential Archaeological Significance

The history of the Daniel Webster Estate and the presence of known features as well as the likelihood of currently unidentified features indicate several potential areas of archaeological significance. Any remains of building foundations or activity areas from its earliest period of history as the settlement home of the Thomas family would be a valuable record of the seventeenth and early eighteenth-century in Marshfield. Domestic and agricultural archaeological record of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Thomas farmstead, if discernable from the subsequent periods, could offer comparative insights into changes in practice instituted by Daniel Webster. The British encampment of 1775, if it were located within the nominated property and if any traces survive, would provide information on a little documented and unique local event.

The most historically significant person and period associated with the property relates to Daniel Webster's ownership from 1832 to 1852. Due to the loss of his house and barn, the landscape and archaeological components are the sole surviving physical record. Systematic archaeological investigations of the property to identify features from this period would permit a better understanding of how the core of the estate was laid out and operated under the ownership of this nationally important individual.

The presence of prehistoric cultural material suggests that the property may also contain a valuable record of prehistoric occupation. Controlled subsurface investigations and accurate mapping of buried cultural materials and features would indicate whether the

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site has potential to contribute to our understanding of coastal plain settlement and lifeways during the prehistoric period.

(end)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anon. "A Visit to Marshfield". 1858.

Anon. The Webster Centennial. n.d.

-- . Dictionary of American Biography. Vol X, pp. 585-592. New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1964.

Harvey, Peter. Reminiscences of Daniel Webster. Boston: Little & Brown, 1877.

Krusell, Cynthia Hager and Betty Magoun Bates. Marshfield, A Town of Villages, 1640 - 1990. Marshfield: Historic Research Associates, 1990.

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Webster, Fletcher. Private Correspondence of Daniel Webster, Vols. I & II, 1853.

Wiltse, Charles M., Ed. The Papers of Daniel Webster, Correspondence. Hanover, NH, 1974.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThomas-Webster Estate
Marshfield (Plymouth County)
MassachusettsSection number 10 Page 1**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

UTM References: (continued)

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
5)	19	361180	4659800
6)	19	361360	4659800
7)	19	361160	4659940
8)	19	361180	4659980
9)	19	361000	4660000
10)	19	360940	4659900
11)	19	360980	4659820
12)	19	360920	4659820
13)	19	360920	4659700
14)	19	360880	4659710
15)	19	360880	4659690
16)	19	360920	4659690
17)	19	360920	4659660
18)	19	361040	4659600

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated Daniel Webster Estate property conform to the boundaries of Town of Marshfield Assessor's Maps J5-12-1, K6-2-10, and K5-1-32 as shown on the accompanying maps. The property is landlocked except in two places: where the main entrance road joins Webster Street on the south, and where a secondary access road joins Winslow Cemetery Road on the west.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property boundaries have been drawn to include the intact core of the nineteenth-century estate domestic landscape and surviving buildings. The present lot lines developed between the late nineteenth century and mid-twentieth century. Surrounding lands, once part of the estate, have been excluded due to incompatible recent housing use on the south, west, and north. Lands to the east/southeast were under historically other ownership. Land to the north/northeast is approximately 500

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas-Webster Estate
Marshfield (Plymouth County)
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 2

acres of conservation land formerly agricultural lands of the estate. A separate detailed study would be required to determine the integrity of this area and eligibility for future addition to this nomination.

(end)



BOSTON 26
1.1 MI. TO INTERCHANGE

5'

4660

4659

6868 III SE
(HANOVER)

SEMBROKE 4.5 MI.



**THOMAS-WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET**

MAP #	RESOURCE	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	C/NC
1	Webster House	1878-1880	Queen Anne	Building	C
2	Garage	ca. 1900	Craftsman	Building	C
3	Laundry Building	late 18th or early 19th century	Vernacular	Building	C
4	Barn Foundation	ca. 1772; 1857; demolished 1960s	--	Site	Unev.
5	Law Office Site	ca. 1840, bldg. moved 1966	--	Site	Unev.
6	Stone Stock Enclosure	ca. 1830	--	Structure	C
7	Spring House Foundation	18th or 19th century	--	Site	Unev.
8	Pig Sty (?) Foundation	ca. 1840	--	Site	Unev.
9	Entrance Drive (Pilgrim Path)	1637	--	Structure	C
10	Farm Drives	ca. 1840	--	Structure	C
11	Webster Pond and Geese Island	18th century; ca. 1840	--	Structure	C
12	Duck Pond	ca. 1840	--	Structure	C
13	Flower and Vegetable Garden	ca. 1840	--	Site	C
14	Great Linden	ca. 1840	--	Site	C
15	South Knoll	--	--	Site	C

count as 1

**THOMAS-WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET**

MAP #	RESOURCE	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	C/NC
16	Cherry Hill	--	--	Site	C
17	Privy	--	--	Structure	C
18	Causeway	18th century; ca. 1840	--	Structure	C
19	Lawn	ca. 1840	--	Site	C
20	Target Range	1960s	Vernacular	Structure	NC
21	Pool	ca. 1964	--	Structure	NC
22	Pool Shed	ca. 1964	Vernacular	Building	NC
23	Archery Shed	1960s	Vernacular	Structure	NC
24	Paved Play Area	1960s	--	Site	NC
25	Miniature Golf	1960s	--	Structure	NC
26	Baseball Diamond	1960s	--	Structure	NC
27	Find Spot	Prehistoric - Woodland	--	Site	C

TOTAL RESOURCES: 20 Contributing; 7 Noncontributing

3 Contributing Buildings	1 Noncontributing Building
5 Contributing Sites	1 Noncontributing Site
6 Contributing Structures	5 Noncontributing Structures
5 Unevaluated sites	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

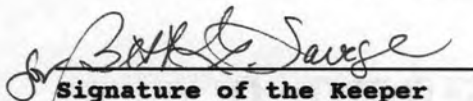
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000206 Date Listed: 04/05/93

Thomas-Webster Estate Plymouth MA
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4-5-93
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

5. Resource Count: 14 C; 7 NC total

C Buildings	3
C Sites	5
C Structures	6
Unevaluated sites	5
NC Bldgs.	1
NC Sites	1
NC Structures	5

8. Statement of Significance: Area(s), Criteria, Period(s) and Sig. Dates

The property's significance is justified under Criteria A, B, and C in the areas of Social History, Landscape Architecture, and Architecture. The period of significance is clarified as 1832-c.1940 reflecting Webster's direct association with the estate and the construction date of the main house. The significant dates are amended as: 1832, 1852, 1880, and 1884.

This information was discussed with MASHPO staff by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Thomas--Webster Estate

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 2/23/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/09/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/25/93 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/09/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000206

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 4/5/93 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNEAUX
DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN
DATE 4/5/93

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

CLASSIFICATION

____count ____resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

____historic ____current

DESCRIPTION

____architectural classification

____materials

____descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

____summary paragraph

____completeness

____clarity

____applicable criteria

____justification of areas checked

____relating significance to the resource

____context

____relationship of integrity to significance

____justification of exception

____other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

____acreage

____verbal boundary description

____UTMs

____boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

____sketch maps

____USGS maps

____photographs

____presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield Ma
Photos: Krusell/Scolponetti
Neg: mfd HC 6/91
1 of 63
Webster mansion house

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG. MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. SOUTH ; EAST ELEVATIONS
LOOKING NORTH-WEST
7. PHOTO #1 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield, Ma.
Photos: Krusell & Scolponetti
neg. Mfd. H.C.
2 of 63
Chimney/Roof Detail

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA
3. KRUSSELL/ SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. CHIMNEY ROOF DETAIL, N:E ELEVATIONS
7. PHOTO # 2 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield, MA
Photos: Krusell-Scolponeti 6/91
Neg: Mfd H.C.
#3 of 63
North Elevation.

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. NORTH ELEVATION
7. PHOTO # 3 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield, Ma
Photos: Kruse & Scolponetti
Neg: M.F.D. H.C. 6/91
#4 of 63
South elevation

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. SOUTH ELEVATION
7. PHOTO # 4 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield MA.
Photos: Krusell-Scolponeti 6/91
Neg: mfd. H.C.
5 of 63
East elevation

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. EAST ELEVATION
7. PHOTO # 5 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield, Ma.
Photos: Krusell & Scolponetti
Neg. mfd H.C. 6/91
#6 of 63
West elevation

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. LIST. COMM.
6. WEST ELEVATION
7. PHOTO # 6 OF 11



Daniel Webster Estate
238 Webster St.
Marshfield, Ma
Photos: Krusell / Scolponetti
neg. mfd HC 6/91
7 of 63
Gable detail - west facade

1. WEBSTER HOUSE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. WEST FACADE: GABLE DETAIL
7. PHOTO # 7 OF 11



1. ENTRANCE DRIVE
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL/SCOLPONETTI
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. LOOKING SOUTH
7. PHOTO # 8 OF 11



1. GREAT LINDEN TREE
THOMAS. WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL/SCOLPONET
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. LOOKING WEST
7. PHOTO # 9 OF 11



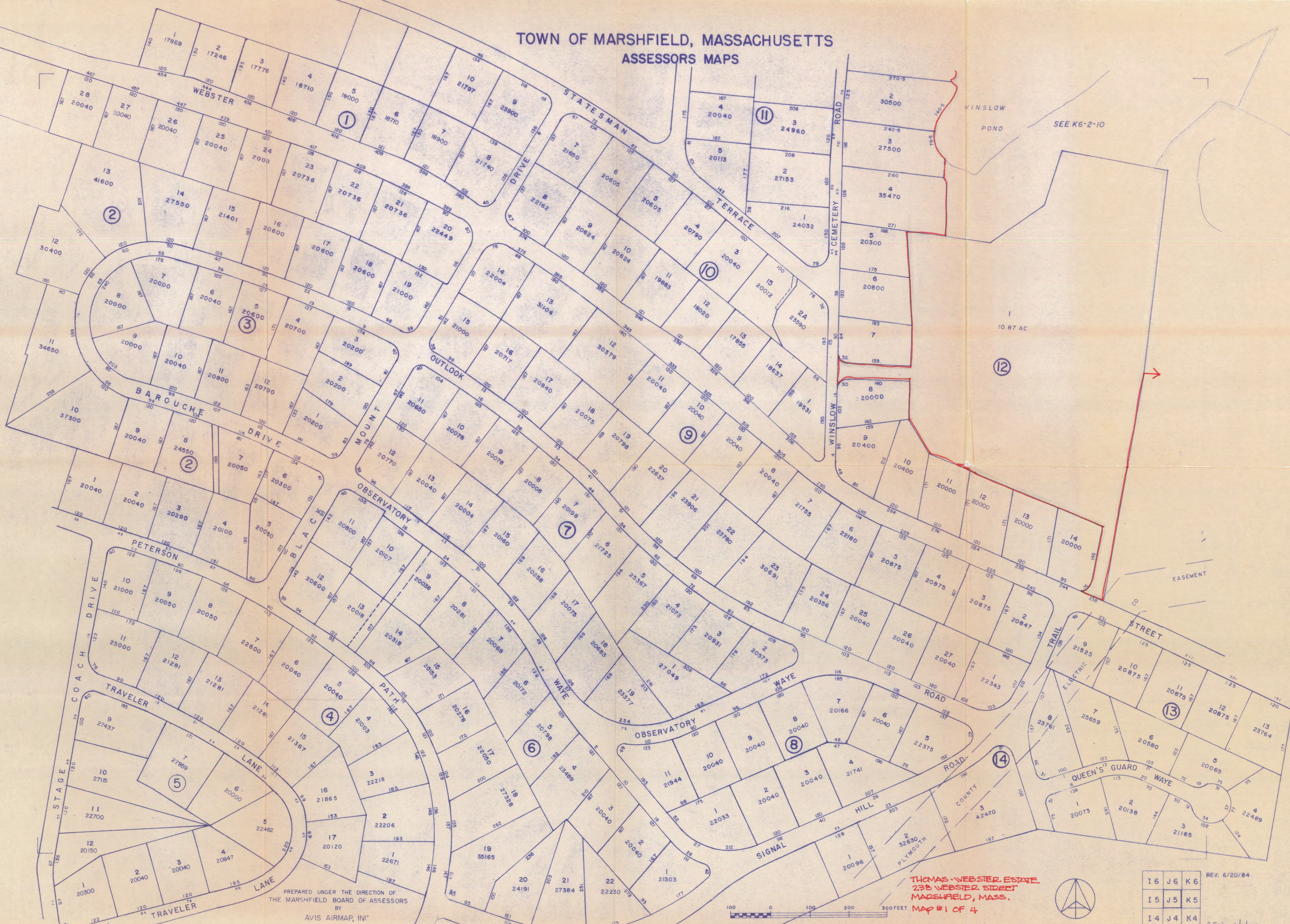
1. WEBSTER POND
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KUSELL / SCOLPONET
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. LOOKING NORTH
7. PHOTO # 10 OF 11



1. KNOLL SOUTH LAWN
THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER ST.
2. MARSHFIELD
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
MA.
3. KRUSELL / SCOLPONET
4. JUNE 1991
5. NEG.: MARSH. HIST. COMM.
6. LOOKING SOUTH
7. PHOTO # 11 OF 11



TOWN OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS ASSESSORS MAPS



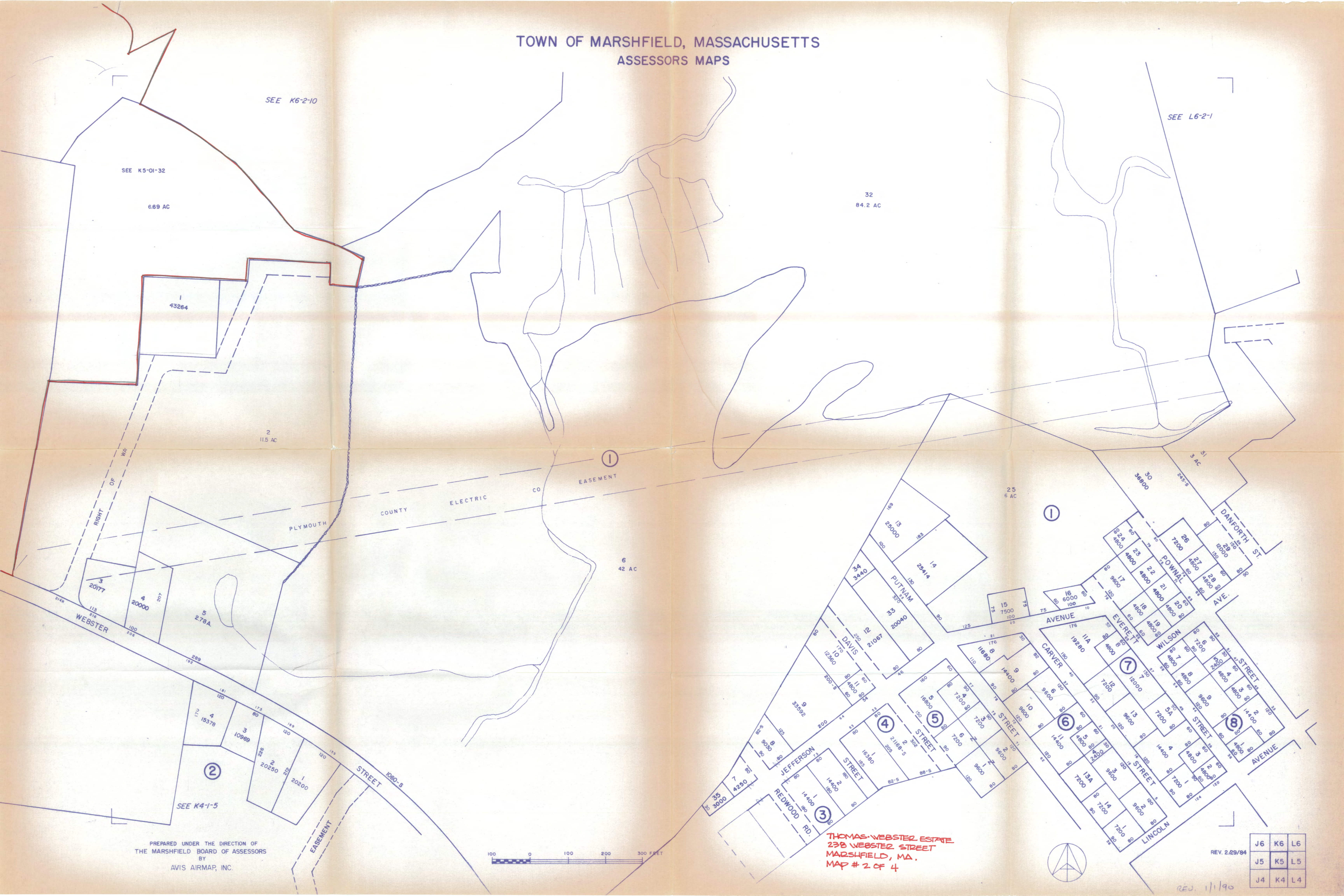
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE MARSHFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.

THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MASS.
MAP #1 OF 4

16	J6	K6
15	J5	K5
14	J4	K4

REV. 6/20/84
REV. 1/1/90

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
ASSESSORS MAPS



SEE K6-2-10

SEE L6-2-1

SEE K5-01-32

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COUNTY

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SEE K4-1-5

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE MARSHFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.

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THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MA.
MAP # 2 OF 4



REV. 2/29/84

J6	K6	L6
J5	K5	L5
J4	K4	L4

REV. 1/1/90

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
ASSESSORS MAPS

SEE L7-2-1

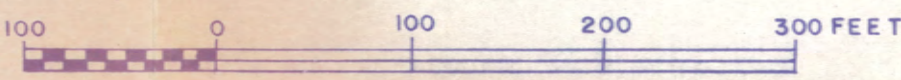
SEE L6-1-1

SEE L7-2-1

SEE L6-2-1

SEE K5-1-32

THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
238 WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MA
MAP # 3 OF 4



J7	K7	L7
J6	K6	L6
J5	K5	L5

REV. 2/29/84

REV. 1/1/90

WEBSTER

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PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE MARSHFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.

②

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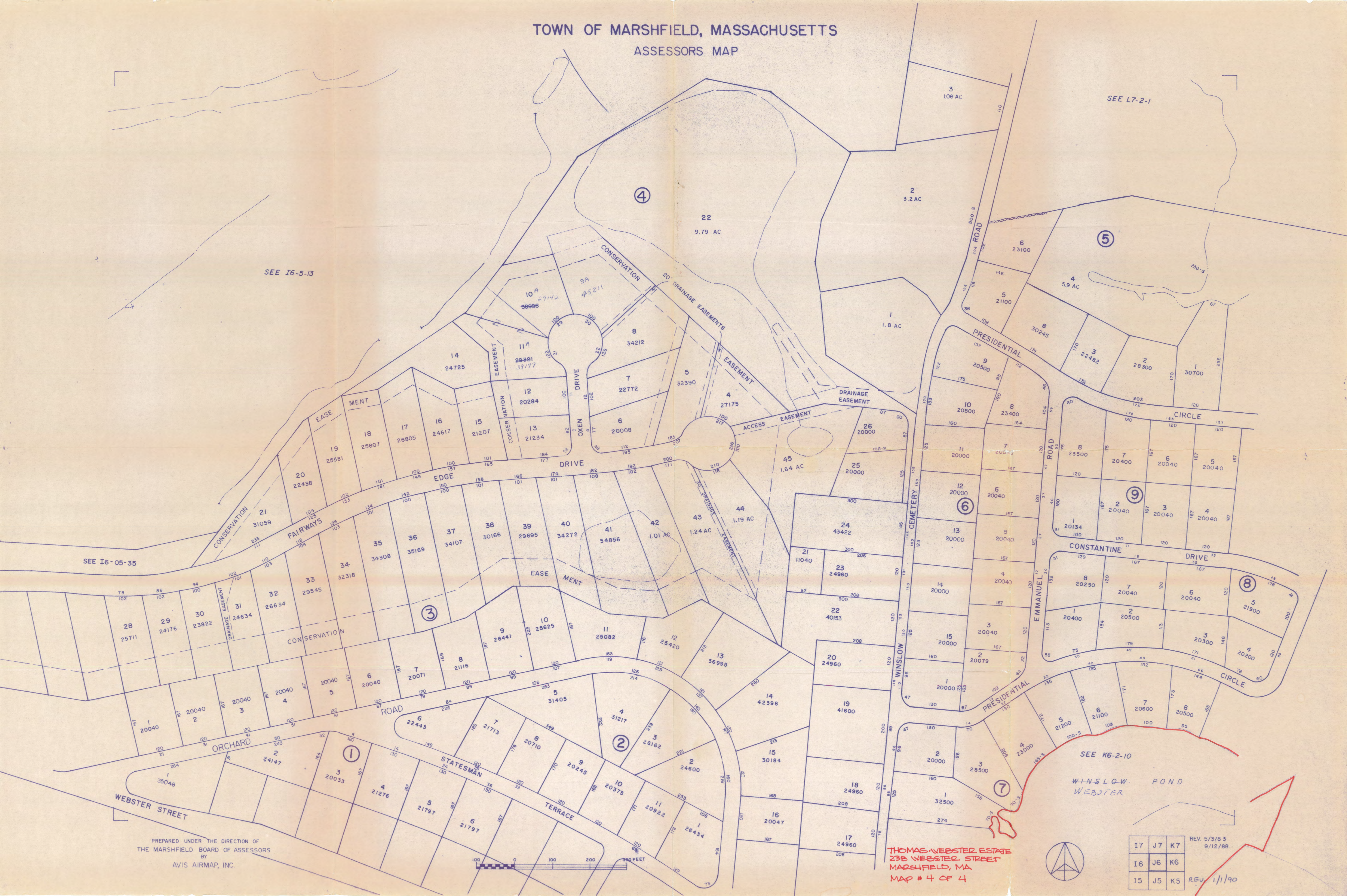
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TOWN OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
ASSESSORS MAP



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE MARSHFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS
BY
AVIS AIRMAP, INC.

THOMAS WEBSTER ESTATE
23B WEBSTER STREET
MARSHFIELD, MA
MAP # 4 OF 4

17	J7	K7
16	J6	K6
15	J5	K5

REV. 5/3/83
9/12/88
REV. 1/1/90



FEB 23 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

February 16, 1993

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Thomas-Webster Estate, 238 Webster Street, Marshfield (Plymouth County),
Massachusetts, 02050.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

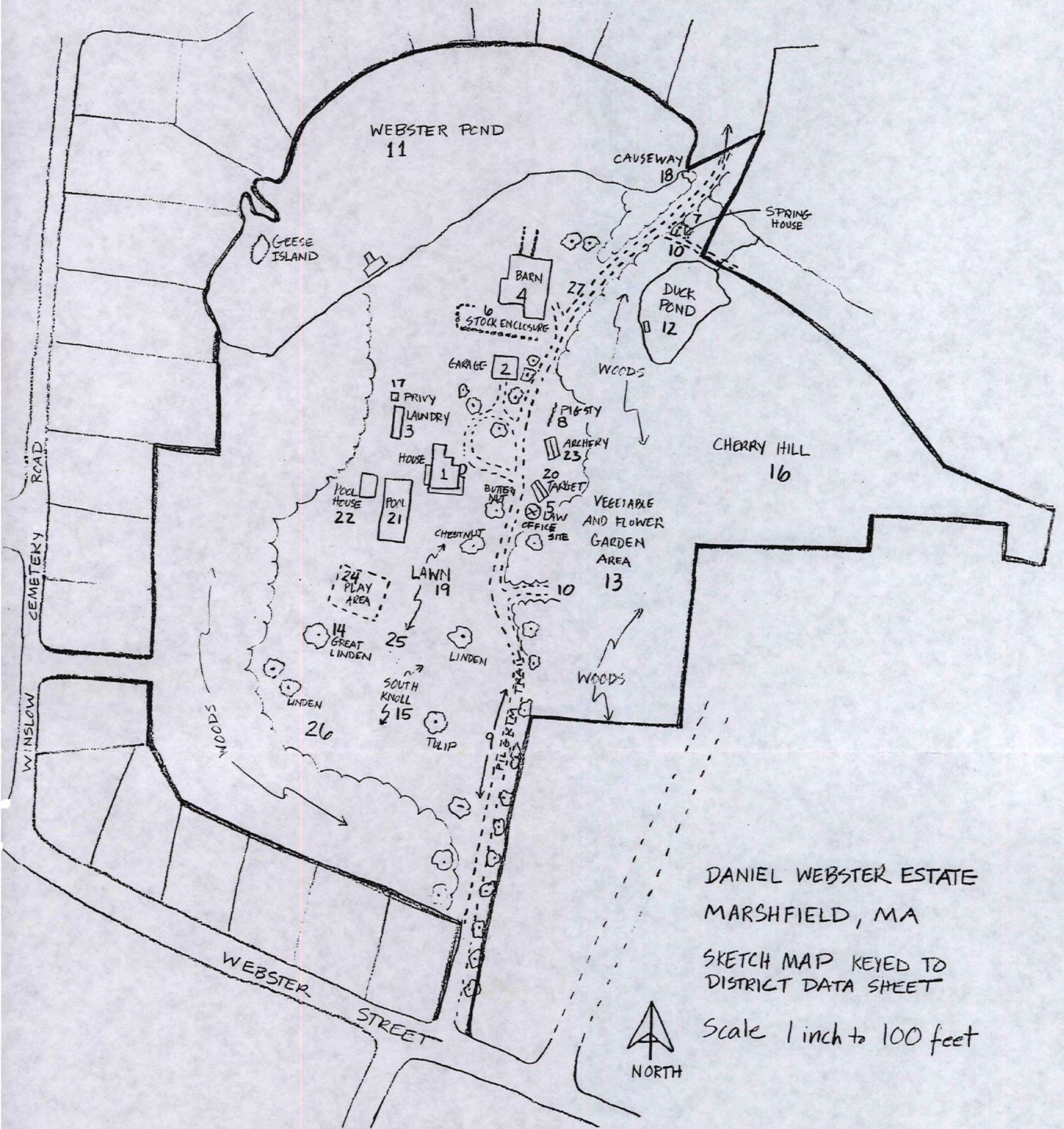
Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Betty Bates, Marshfield Historical Commission
Robert M. McCracken, Chairman, Marshfield Historical Commission
William J. Francis, Chairman, Marshfield Board of Selectmen
William Last, North Star Realty Trust
Marshfield Conservation Commission
Virginia Adams, The Public Archaeology Lab., Inc.
Dennis Corcoran, Ventress Memorial Library

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

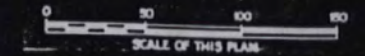


PLAN SHOWING PORTION OF
WALTON HALL ESTATE
MARSHFIELD MASS

MAY 26 1948

S. Litchfield Engineer
N. SCITUATE MASS

SCALE 1" = 50'



WESTER STREET

WESTER STREET

TO WINSLOW CEMETERY

STATE

WALTON HALL ESTATE

15.26 Acres

Area = 31,134 sq. ft.
or 1 Acre, 2774 sq. ft.

DRIVE WAY

WALTON HALL ESTATE

POND

