



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 National Park Service Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Russell Garrison
Other names/site number: formerly DAR-900
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Fort Street
City or town: Dartmouth State: MA County: Bristol
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>		<u>June 4, 2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

for *Jane H. Sutton*
Signature of the Keeper

8/6/18
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Defense: fortification; battle site

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: monument/marker

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Reconstruction: Other __

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Granite and fieldstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Russell Garrison Site (sometimes referenced as “Russell’s Garrison” in 19th - and early 20th -century accounts) is located off Fort Street in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Early Dartmouth settler John Russell built his home adjacent to the Apponegansett River sometime between 1662 and 1664. During King Philip’s War (1675–1676), Russell’s home was used as a garrison and was the location of several recorded events involving Native Americans and colonial settlers. The cellar holes (designated as the North Room and South Room) that identified the site were well-known to local residents from the 19th through mid-20th centuries, and in 1951 the Old Dartmouth Historical Society (ODHS) purchased the property in order to preserve the site. That same year, archaeologist Oliver G. Ricketson, Jr. completed an excavation and partial reconstruction of the buried stone foundation on behalf of ODHS, and the Garrison became a commemorative site open to the public. In 1989, the property was deeded to the town of Dartmouth. The exposed foundations were overgrown and in disrepair. The town decided to fill the majority of the exposed site to prevent further damage and make the site safer for visitors. Today, the site is maintained in an open grassy meadow with the upper portion of the reconstructed 25-foot-square North Room foundation visible above the ground surface. While adjacent residential construction has partially limited the view and likely destroyed the South Room portion of the foundation, the site’s natural setting at the river’s edge with long views to the opposite shore have been maintained. Portions of the site area have remained undeveloped, and there is the potential for additional archaeological deposits associated with the 17th -century colonial occupation to be present as well as earlier Native American deposits.

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Narrative Description

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century (Post-Abandonment) Context

According to early 20th-century Dartmouth historian William A. Wing, John Russell's second Dartmouth house was still standing in 1935. No homes dating to the period are listed in the Dartmouth Massachusetts Historical Commission historic building inventory. Dorothy Russell died in 1687 and John in 1695, after which the second home was used as a school and town meeting location (1935:8–9). After his death, the Garrison homestead went to eldest son John Jr., who died one year after his father. The homestead then passed to John Russell's grandson, also named John.

The fate of the Garrison in the 18th century has not been documented, and there is no clear record to indicate when the house may have been abandoned or demolished. Additional deed research may help to pinpoint the date(s) when the original structure was no longer standing.

Following the death of John Russell, in 1695, the next reference to the site appears in a footnote to Samuel Drake's 1825 edited version of Benjamin Church's history of King Philip's War. In describing one of the events at the Garrison, Drake notes that "on the north side of this river, about a mile from its mouth, is to be seen the cellars of the old garrison; opposite to which was an Indian fort (1825:38). John Warner Barber's description of Dartmouth in *The History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts* notes that, "The cellars of Russell's Garrison are still to be seen" (1839:116). These two citations indicate that by the early 19th century, the Garrison structure was no longer standing, but its location was clearly visible on the landscape and was known to local residents as the former Russell homestead the site was clearly associated with King Philip's War.

A copy of a January 4, 1889 newspaper article (name of paper unknown) on file at the Dartmouth Historical Commission includes a very detailed description of the Russell Garrison Site given by local resident Captain Jacob Howland, who toured the site with the article's author:

Leaving our carriage near the rail fence, we cross the running brook at the south, twenty feet away and we stand by the ruins of Russell's [*sic*] garrison. Walking up the slight elevation our feet are on the edge of a cellar, the outline of which is as clearly defined, evidently, as when seen by Drake in 1827 [*sic*]. The space indicates that the house was about twenty feet square with an ell on the south side about ten feet square. Capt. Howland tells us that in his boyhood [he was 75 when interviewed] the walls of rude mason-work were about four feet high, with an entrance, at the northeast corner, leading directly to the running brook. These walls have been depleted from time to time, so that little remains in sight; but enough, however, to mark the original outline.

On the south side and adjoining is the similar excavation that undoubtedly was directly connected with the other. From the center of this cellar a lone tree has grown... This, too, has its wall outline, and the captain tells us that 60 years ago he assisted his father, Mr. David Howland, in moving the door or entrance stone from its position, and placed it in the wall as a stepping stone. One hundred feet south of the garrison, after a long and diligent search, we find it; and he recognizes it as the identical stone. His enthusiasm finds expression in a vigorous leap over the wall to examine it more closely and to chip off a bit for a memento.

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Leonard Ellis's *History of New Bedford* (1892) provides another post-occupation description of the site, noting that it was owned at that time by Captain Charles Gifford. The text appears to be drawn, at least partially, from the 1889 article cited above.

Ellis writes;

The cellars are still as clearly defined as when visited by Drake [see above] in 1827. The space indicates that the house was about 20 feet square, with an ell on the south of about ten feet square. Years ago there were walls of rude masonry about four feet high, with an exit on the northeast corner, leading to a brook near by [sic]. On the opposite side of the river, and a little to the southward, is Heath's Neck, where were located an Indian fort and settlement (1892:25).

Much of the modern interpretive information about the Russell Garrison appears to have originated with William A. Wing, who in 1935 delivered an address to the ODHS that was published by the Society that same year. Wing was a sixth-generation descendant of John Russell, Sr., tracing his family line from John Russell, Jr. and the "Russell twins." Wing began his address to the Society by noting that virtually all of Dartmouth's early town records were lost in 1725 when a fire destroyed the home of Thomas Hathaway, who was Clerk of the Proprietors (1935:1). The address included a lengthy background on John Russell's time in Marshfield and his arrival in Dartmouth, as well as detailed accounts of King Philip's War that were clearly derived from some of the same original records reviewed for this nomination. Wing also presented his view of the architecture of the original Russell home, which was largely based on late 17th - century structures that were still standing, though largely altered, in the early 20th century. As described below, archaeologist Oliver Ricketson relied heavily on Wing's discussion for his interpretation and reconstruction of the Garrison site.

A 1939 *Dartmouth News* article provides a brief reference to some type of site identification or preservation that occurred prior to the 1951 Ricketson excavations. At the time, the land was owned by Mary Kirby, who had inherited it from her father Charles Gifford. The reporter notes the two depressions, but then describes "some stones and rocks in one corner of the larger depressions," which, according to Mrs. Kirby, "is the original step leading to the door of the stockade. The step was reconstructed from old records, a number of years ago." Mrs. Kirby is quoted describing the site: "There were two houses within the stockade, the smaller hole was the cellar of the women's division, which was somewhat divided from the men's."

These accounts help to document the memory of the Russell Garrison as a locally important historic site, and provide documentation that the site was preserved as a ruin long after the structure itself was gone.

Ricketson's Excavation and Reconstruction (1951)

Ricketson's association with the Russell Garrison Site appears to have come initially from his association with the ODHS. Ricketson's original handwritten field notes (hereafter cited as RGFN) are archived at the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library (copies are on file at the Dartmouth Historical Commission) and include dated entries that begin on June 2, 1951 and end on September 13, 1951. The notes include Ricketson's daily observations about the site work, notes on visitors, accounts of time and effort for the paid laborers and equipment, sketches and scaled drawings of the site and features, and general questions and interpretations. The note pages are numbered, although it is not clear if the numbers are original to the field notes or if they were added later. In 1964, the ODHS published a site report that had been delivered by Ricketson at a Society meeting in 1951 (Ricketson 1964). The published report included photos of the

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site taken before and after the fieldwork as well as scaled plans of the site and identified features (Figure 6a and b).

The site excavation work was conducted between June and September 1951 on a more or less daily basis, with periods of inactivity when Ricketson was away or when his workers were not available. The excavation was overseen by Ricketson, who employed local laborers Ventura Silvia and Lawrence (Laurence) and Frank Gonet. Ricketson's notes do not indicate how he knew these men or why they were hired, but it is likely they were locals. According to the 1940 federal census (accessed at www.ancestry.com), Silvia was a Dartmouth farmer and both Gonets were mill workers from Poland who lived two streets apart, suggesting that they may have been relatives. Dartmouth resident Frank Metcalf visited the site with Ricketson on his initial visit and occasionally joined the excavation; Mr. Metcalf was an avocational archaeologist and Massachusetts Archaeological Society member who collected information about numerous archaeological sites in the area (Herbster and Cox 2002). The field notes also mention a visit and some site work by Howard Mandell, who was identified by Ricketson as an amateur archaeologist.

Prior to initiating excavations, Ricketson's knowledge about the site and its history was limited (by his own admission). His knowledge was based primarily on a review of William A. Wing's (1935) ODHS paper on John Russell, which included a description of the Russell house as having walls "constructed entirely of stone" with a large stone chimney and "'so-called salt-box ell' at the north" (Ricketson 1964:25). Wing's description (1935:4), which was based on surviving examples of 17th-century homes and a painting of the Thomas Tabor House in Fairhaven, appears to have figured largely in Ricketson's site interpretations.

Ricketson visited the Russell Garrison site for the first time on June 2, 1951, accompanied by Ralph Metcalf and ODHS Secretary, Ted Rice (Ricketson 1964:25; RGFN 1). The Society had decided to purchase the property, and Ricketson was consulted for advice about how to best preserve the site. The Garrison site had been part of the "old Kirby property" purchased in 1950 by local resident Carl Manchester who had planned to divide the land into house lots (see Figure 3). In 1951, the site "lay upon the top of a small grass-covered knoll, rising 12–15 feet above the tidewater and about 30 feet south of Old Fort Brook... Meadow grass covered the whole area of the terrain, with a half dozen oaks scattered here and there" (Ricketson 1964:25). At the time of Ricketson's first visit, some preliminary grading associated with the previously planned site development had occurred. He noted that "The bulldozer uncovered bones (badly fragmented and therefore unidentified) 12 paces east of the NE wall," and "Further to the east the bulldozer uncovered a layer of oyster, clam and quahog. Shells mixed with black ash—an old Indian clambake site?" (RGFN:2). He also sketched the location of a "mound" located to the southwest of the foundation depression near the edge of the marsh (RGFN:1a). It appears that after the ODHS became interested in purchasing the site, the construction work around it did not continue.

Ricketson's initial description of the main depression, or "North Room" provides important context for the later reconstruction and interpretation of the site:

The garrison itself appeared as a 4-1/2-foot depression in the top of the knoll. Alignments of stone roughly shaped by sledging appeared at ground level on the northwesterly and southeasterly margins of the depression, suggesting a location of walls beneath. Quantities of stone, some sledged, filled the bottom of the depression, many stones showing a thin layer of mortar still adhering, the mortar containing grit and pieces of quahog shell, some of the grit quite coarse. The sides of the depression were highest on

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the southeast and lowest on the northwest; it measured roughly 20 feet square, which tallies with Wing's description (1964:26).

The "south room" was described prior to excavation as follows:

Twenty feet southeast of the depression [North Room]...an oak was growing out of another obviously artificial depression, this depression more or less circular in shape, and eight to ten feet in diameter. The bottom of this depression was so completely filled with small stones weighing from one to two pounds that there was not enough soil to support any grasses. No demarkable periphery indicated possible inside walls; its appearance suggested a filled-in well... [but] upon excavation it turned out to be a second rectangular room with badly dilapidated walls, measuring roughly 10 feet by 13 feet (1964:26).

Ricketson began his site work with an exploratory trench designed to determine the likelihood that archaeological deposits associated with the site were still present. The initial trench was excavated perpendicular to the northwest wall from the base of the slope into the slope towards the wall, and was designed to collect information on both the natural stratigraphy of the site and the potential construction technique of the garrison. This side of the knoll, which faced the river, had the gentlest and lowest slope and therefore required the least amount of soil removal to reach the foundation. As later excavation revealed, the knoll was dug out from this direction in order to build the original structure, with excavated soils deposited to the south and southeast.

The initial exposure of the stone foundation indicated that at least the base layers had been set in mortar, some of which were "roughly squared or shaped by sledging" (Ricketson 1964:7). This wall was built on top of "yellow dirt" that Ricketson interpreted as the undisturbed glacial subsoil encountered in various places around the site and which Ricketson said comprised the natural knoll. At the head of the trench, the northwest foundation wall was encountered 35 inches below the surface of the knoll and stood 34 inches high.

The excavations also exposed an ash lens mixed with burned quahog shell that was present above the yellow dirt and a layer of "soot-stained stones" that were found above the ash. Both deposits contained nails, so they were interpreted as colonial rather than Native American deposits. Ricketson felt that the ash lens was likely indicative of an area where the Garrison's builders had burned shell to obtain lime for mortar, and the soot-covered stones were likely a large stone chimney fall from a period after the site was abandoned (1964:12). Upon reaching the northwest foundation wall, the excavations focused on clearing away soil to expose the interior and exterior faces of the foundation walls.

On July 18, 1951, approximately six weeks after starting, Ricketson's field notes indicate that the bulk of the excavation at the site was done. He wrote, "now that no new areas remain to be excavated, I am somewhat appalled at the amount (and cost!) of labor necessary for the preservation and partial restoration of what little we have" (RGFN:16). The completed excavation revealed two rooms. The larger North Room measured roughly 25 by 25 feet and a smaller South Room measuring 13 by 10 feet. (Figure 6b). Both rooms were oriented at nearly an exact 45-degree angle off of compass north. While Ricketson found no archaeological evidence of a connection between the two rooms, he inferred that they were linked by a ground-level passage level between sets of stairs at the corners of each room. The South Room was shallower than the North. Both appeared to have had dirt floors although Ricketson identified parallel linear soil stains in the floor of the North Room that he thought could have been evidence of wooden floor boards.

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The North Room had walls that varied in thickness but were widest along the north wall, where Ricketson determined there had been a stone fireplace and chimney (see Figure 6b, Figure 7). The remnants of a mortared stone base extended almost six feet inside the wall along with discolored soil, and the soot-stained fieldstones identified in the exploratory trench supported his interpretation.

On the opposite (southern) wall, Ricketson identified what he termed a “cooking fireplace” that included an approximately three-foot-wide beehive-shaped oven that sat in a recessed cavity 40 inches above the fireplace and was lined with flat stones (see Figure 6b and 8). Ricketson’s interpretation and subsequent reconstruction of this feature, including the added wooden lintel, were based largely on F. Kelly’s *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (1924) which depicted an “almost identical fireplace” from the White Farm in Trumbull. In addition to the seven stone steps at the North Room’s southeast corner, there was a three-foot-seven-inch-wide opening at the northwest corner. Though no evidence of a jamb or post features in the floor were observed, Ricketson determined that this must have been a doorway (1964:14).

The excavation of the South Room produced little evidence of its internal configuration or use. Aside from the three steps at the eastern corner leading down to a dirt floor, the walls were so collapsed inward that there was little more for Ricketson to identify.

In the beginning of August, Ricketson and his crew began the process of reconstructing the foundation walls. He wrote that the men, “prepared the short southeast wall between the southwest wall and the fireplace and rebuilt it almost from ground up as it was displaced inwards. This meant digging out behind (outside) it, so it could be rebuilt straight (up and down)” (RGFN:22). The notes indicate that while the bulk of the materials used were those present at the site, the work was largely done by the site laborers as a construction project. Based on Ricketson’s notes and available site photos, the reconstructed southern and eastern foundation walls were banked into the earthen knoll (either the natural knoll or the soils excavated from the interior), while the interior walls were exposed to the level Ricketson had identified as the “floor” of the Garrison (see Figures 7 and 8). The western and northern walls were more exposed on the exterior and followed the natural slope of the ground that was lowest at the northwestern corner of the foundation.

Ricketson’s field notes and report indicate that the excavations produced very little cultural material (excluding building stone, mortar fragments, and shell remains). The daily notes rarely mention artifacts. The initial trench excavation resulted in the identification of “a few hand made nails (iron) and an ox-shoe” (RGFN:3), and about a month later Ricketson wrote that the crew had “found the usual half dozen nails” (RGFN:8). There is no record at the New Bedford Whaling Museum (which is the public outlet of the ODHS) or in any ODHS records to indicate that Ricketson collected or inventoried artifacts associated with the 1951 excavations. It seems likely that materials such as nails may not have been considered important and/or temporally associated with the site, and therefore were not saved. Ricketson’s notes suggest that some items from the excavation may have been given to ODHS members or local residents. On July 5 he wrote “Mr. Tripp & Tabor & 2 guests in pm. Gave Mr. Tabor the button, the unknown piece of something (like pewter?) & the little flat washer-shaped ring that could have been brass or bronze” (RGFN:10). No additional information about the location of these items or any others from the site was obtained as part of the National Register research.

The overall conclusion drawn by Ricketson after completing the excavation was that the structural remains were not in fact John Russell’s home, but rather a garrison “hastily built as an emergency measure after the inception of King Philip’s War; that it served its purpose and was immediately abandoned, inasmuch as there was no longer any threat from the Indians after King Philip’s defeat and death on August 12, 1676” (Ricketson 1964:15). Ricketson (1964:12) cites several earlier historians

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(including Benjamin Church and Daniel Ricketson [1858]) who describe the garrison as being in John Russell's orchard, suggesting that the structure was on his property but was not his actual home. He also references Plymouth Colony records (also cited by Wing) that he interprets as a directive for Dartmouth's residents to prepare fortifications against Indian attack. Wing's 1935 address, however, indicates that he assumed the cellar holes and foundation remains to be those of John Russell's home, basing this interpretation on similar structures from the late seventeenth century. In 1989, Boston University historical archaeologist Dr. Mary Beaudry also interpreted the site as likely being a typical late 17th-century residential structure based on information provided to her (letter dated November 4, 1989 to Mrs. William R. Bullard, Jr., copy on file Dartmouth Historical Commission, Dartmouth, MA).

Ricketson interpreted the Garrison to have been strategically sited on a raised knoll where it would provide a perspective on the surrounding water and landscape. The well-drained and sandy, stony soils could be used to buttress the foundation, and there was an immediately adjacent source of fresh water. Ricketson noted that these favorable characteristics were likely the same reasons the site had been previously selected by Native Americans (1964:6).

Ricketson found no evidence of external wooden structural elements—not wooden walls above the stone foundation, nor wooden roof beams or shingles. The amount of fallen stone that Ricketson and his crew removed from the interior of the main depression convinced him that Wing (1935) had been correct and that the Garrison walls had been made entirely of stone (1964:12). He believed that any wooden structural elements, at least a wooden roof and wooden doors, would have certainly been present when the garrison was in use and hypothesized that the building would have resembled “some type of redoubt or block-house above ground” (Ricketson 1964:15). Since there was not extensive charring or evidence of burning (outside the fireplaces), he assumed that these materials were removed. “In the ravaged countryside, the lumber—if boards and beams—would have been invaluable. Consequently, it was immediately removed and reused” (Ricketson 1964:15). He also used the lack of artifacts at the site to support his interpretation that the garrison was “a temporary shelter for refugees who brought in very little and were careful to take that little with them when they left” (Ricketson 1964:15).

The Russell Garrison as a Commemorative Site (1951–present)

The site was open as Ricketson reconstructed it from 1951 until 1989, when the ODHS deeded the property to the Town of Dartmouth. A single family home was built on the adjacent lot (Lot 22; see Figure 2) less than 15 feet from the southern edge of the North Room in 1963 (Town of Dartmouth Assessor's Office), and any remaining evidence of the South Room was destroyed as part of the construction (see Figure 4).

By 1989, the reconstructed structural remains were in poor condition. Many of the walls were in disrepair and vegetation had taken over most of the excavated interior (Figure 9). The DHC recommended that the site be filled to protect the exposed foundation and prevent further damage, and to make the site safer for visitors. Former DHC chairperson Kathleen Fair (1996) noted that the site was filled with sand so that future researchers would easily be able to locate and identify the original reconstruction work.

The present-day site is well-maintained with manicured grass inside and outside of the foundation (see attached photos). The site is visible and easily accessed from Fort Street, which ends in a cul-de-sac just north of the site. There is no indication that the site has been subjected to vandalism or disturbance, despite its accessibility. The site's setting, in a quiet residential neighborhood with one home located immediately adjacent and several others across the street, likely contributes to its overall security.

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Most of the internal features of the reconstructed North Room, including all but one of the stone steps and the possible stone chimney base on the north wall, are no longer visible (Figure 10). The “beehive oven” that extends into the south wall is still exposed, and the heavily applied cement mortar used by Ricketson to reconstruct the interior of the oven is easily visible in this space, which has been protected from the elements. The base of the “beehive” is at the current interior ground surface level, although when the reconstruction was completed it was 39 inches above the interior floor (Ricketson 1964:13). Using this feature as a guide, the 1989 fill in this area is more than three feet deep. A double row of bricks lines the ground in front of the oven (Photo 10, Figure 10). These bricks were clearly placed on top of the 1989 fill, but their original location and origin are unknown. Ricketson’s notes, site report, and photos do not indicate brick anywhere in or around the foundation, so they are therefore considered to be a recent addition and not a contributing element to the National Register-eligible site.

The exposed lower courses of the foundation walls have visible cement mortar and are in generally good condition; some evidence of what appears to be modern cement repair is visible, but this may be associated with Ricketson’s original reconstruction. Some of the upper fieldstone courses are loose or are sitting in partially loose cement (Photo 14). The east wall includes a section of loose fieldstones on the ground surface, and a pile of tumbled loose stones is located near the southeast corner adjacent to the steps (Photo 11).

The exterior portions of the south and east walls are at or just above ground level, which is likely similar to how they were left after Ricketson’s reconstruction. The outer walls on these sides of the foundation were banked into the existing knoll and/or the soils excavated from the interior of the foundation. As described above, the major difference between the 1951 reconstruction and the current site is the filled interior. As a result of the filling, the maximum height of the exposed stone walls today is only about 30 inches above the ground surface (see attached photos).

The foundation is surrounded by a series of cut-granite posts to which an iron link chain is attached. The chain sits near or at the ground surface on several sides, making it easy to access the foundation and walk around in the interior. A boulder with commemorative copper marker (Photo 1) sits outside the southeastern foundation wall facing Fort Street and reads:

THE RUSSELL GARRISON

A Place of Refuge for the
Early Settlers of Dartmouth During
KING PHILIP’S WAR
1675–1676

Foundations Restored by the
Old Dartmouth Historical Society
1951

Metal signs direct visitors to the site from the main road (Elm Street) and the DHC has also placed a metal sign on a metal stake reading “Russell Garrison c. 1675” at the northeast corner of the foundation.

The landscape immediately surrounding the foundation includes several features of unknown temporal association. A modern surface feature sits approximately 40 feet due north of the northeast foundation corner. This cluster of four to five fieldstones surrounded by modern trash and charcoal appears to have been used as a fire pit, although the stones may have been discarded from the foundation area during

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Ricketson's excavation. A short row of fieldstones crosses the western property line and marks the edge of the Fort Brook wetland. Like the fire pit, the stones that form this single row are similar in size and shape to those in the reconstructed foundation, and may have been discarded outside the foundation area during Ricketson's site work.

Two other features are located west of the west foundation wall at the edge of the marsh area. A pile of loose fieldstones approximately two feet in diameter is located in a slight depression of the same size ten feet south of the western foundation wall. The stones are of similar size and shape to the foundation stones. A small open hole sits approximately thirteen feet south of the stone pile, within the tall marsh grass, and is surrounded by mottled top and subsoil, small fieldstones, and bricks and brick fragments. The hole appears to have been made by a burrowing animal, and without archaeological investigation it is impossible to determine if either feature is associated with intact Garrison site deposits, materials redeposited by Ricketson, or modern activity.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The site's aboveground contributing resources include the 1951 reconstructed North Room foundation; eight ca. 1951 granite posts and linking iron chain (considered to be one object) that form a boundary around the foundation; and a ca. 1951 commemorative marker mounted on a boulder at the foundation's edge (see Figure 11 and Data Sheet). Any potential subsurface archaeological deposits associated with the construction, use, demolition, and/or reconstruction of the Russell Garrison are also considered to be contributing resources.

Non-contributing resources include a row of bricks of unknown provenance that sit on the ground surface against the inside of the south foundation wall; a modern fire ring near Fort Street; and loose fieldstones that dot the property and have been used as either barriers or boundaries (see Figure 11 and Data Sheet).

Any structural or archaeological deposits associated with the South Room were destroyed by modern residential construction on the adjacent lot (Lot 22; see Figure 2).

Further Notes on Archaeological Integrity

Oliver G. Ricketson Jr.'s field records (RGFN) indicate that the laborers he employed for excavation and masonry reconstruction of the Russell Garrison focused on locating masonry features, most of the work occurring in the interior of the cellar and on the tops of located stone foundation walls. Some seemingly limited excavation also occurred at the exterior of cellar walls where necessary to facilitate reconstruction of masonry segments. Sidewalls of excavated areas were left undisturbed, preserving intact strata beyond excavated areas. Some trenching was abandoned, and areas under large, fallen rocks were also unexcavated. A "pathway" was left intact and then "paved" for use by a draft horse, which would have sealed any subsurface archaeological deposits and features beneath the pathway. Examples of clues in Ricketson's field notes include: "Beneath ... trench ... was a layer of sandy clay, not loam, which we did not disturb;" "encountered 3 very large rocks ... left them in situ and continued the trench;" "for lack of time, this trench was stopped;" "visible in the side of the trench lenses of ash + charcoal. Russell I guess had built on top of an earlier Indian camp-site" (RGFN: 3, 3 June 1951). "[T]he path we paved for the horse to walk down" (RGFN: 11, 9 July 1951). Ricketson was conscious about limiting unnecessary impacts when using mechanical excavation to expose the tops of stonewalls around the cellar so that masonry restoration could occur (RGFN: 18, 20 July 1951). The excavation and recording methods were not designed as modern, controlled, stratigraphic methods with broad area exposure, with screening of excavated soil. Such earlier archaeological practices lost much information in excavated areas, but left

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other portions of sites unexcavated. Determination of which portions of the property were unexcavated or not completely excavated cannot be determined without systematic archaeological re-excavation to access preserved archaeological deposits and features.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

Archeology: Historic Aboriginal

Military

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Period of Significance

ca. 1662–1967

1662–post 1676 (original construction and use by John Russell)

Post 1676–1951 (important local/regional historical landmark)

1951–1967(commemorative site)

Significant Dates

1675–1676

1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

John Russell

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Russell Garrison Site, Dartmouth, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C, and D at the local level. Under Criterion A, the site is significant for the period beginning ca. 1662 as the homestead of one of Dartmouth’s earliest colonial settlers and as the location of several eyewitness-documented events during King Philip’s War (1675–76), a major conflict in New England’s early colonial history. Under Criterion B, the site is significant for its association with John Russell, one of Dartmouth’s earliest residents and a Plymouth Colony leader; and for its association with Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr., whose excavation and reconstruction of the site in the early 1950s is the basis for the commemorative site. Under Criterion C, the site is significant as an historical commemorative property, meeting Criteria Considerations E, as a reconstructed property that is located in its original physical and environmental setting and is a rare example of a property that survives from the period of King Philip’s War; and F, as a highly publicized local archaeological effort that resulted in the creation of a commemorative site considered by the community to be Dartmouth’s most important historic resource. Under Criterion D, undisturbed portions of the site area, including the open yard surrounding the reconstructed foundation, have the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with Native

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American habitation and land use as well as the use of the site by Dartmouth residents in the seventeenth century. The site may also contain archaeological deposits created in the 1950s as part of the Ricketson excavation and reconstruction that could contribute additional information about the commemorative period of significance. The period of significance extends from Russell's ca. 1662 construction of the original building through the 1951 reconstruction to the 50-year cutoff, 1967. After King Philip's War and the removal or demolition of the house, the physical site remained well-known to local residents continuously through the 18th, 19th, and mid-20th centuries as an important historical landmark, and the cellar holes were still recognizable on the undeveloped property more than 250 years later when Ricketson undertook his excavations. The subsequent reconstruction and creation of a commemorative site in 1951 created a more visible site that remains today.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Russell Garrison Site represents a historic resource that has maintained its significance over a period spanning more than 350 years. As the homestead of John Russell, one of Dartmouth's most prominent early settlers and progenitor of a family with generations of subsequent Dartmouth residents, the Russell Garrison Site is significant as one of few 17th -century colonial house sites in the Dartmouth area that can be physically located with accuracy. The importance of the homestead is made more significant by its association with specific events in 1675 and 1676 during King Philip's War, events that were recorded by eyewitnesses including Captain Benjamin Church and are reported in the original Plymouth Colony records. Many of the locations associated with King Philip's War are known only by general location or do not have associated cultural deposits and/or archaeological features. In the case of the Russell Garrison, the physical location of the homestead, adjacent to Old Fort Brook and on the banks of the Apponegansett River, has been continuously visible on the landscape over three centuries; first as a standing structure, then as a cellar-hole ruin, and finally as a reconstructed commemorative property.

Research Sources

The events that connect the Russell Garrison to King Philip's War are reported in both primary and secondary sources. Primary-source information comes from the transcribed official records of Plymouth Colony (Shurtleff and Pulsifer 1855–1861, hereafter cited as PCR), which include acts and orders dating to the period before, during, and after the war. These records also help to place John Russell first as a resident of Marshfield, and later in Dartmouth, and document the positions he held within the town and at the Colony Court. Other contemporary sources include historical accounts of King Philip's War written from eyewitness accounts. Captain Benjamin Church's *History of King Philip's War*, published in 1865, includes a narrative account of two events he witnessed at the Russell Garrison.

Secondary sources include articles and addresses by 19th and early 20th -century local historians, often affiliated with the ODHS, who reported on John Russell and the King Philip's War events that are associated with his homestead. The most complete of these is a 1935 paper delivered to the ODHS by William A. Wing, a Russell descendant and historian who researched available records for his address, which was later published. Most subsequent newspaper articles and historians cite Wing or repeat his information with minor variations. Oliver Ricketson acknowledged the importance of Wing's research in his 1951 site excavation, interpretation, and reconstruction.

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John Russell

John Russell, together with his wife Dorothy and their sons John, Jr., Jonathan, and Joseph established a homestead in present-day Dartmouth sometime between 1662 and 1664 (Fair 1996, Wing 1935). Russell was in his fifties when he arrived from Marshfield, Massachusetts, and had already established himself as a community- and Plymouth Colony officeholder. The town of Dartmouth was officially established to include the areas formerly known as “Acushena, Ponagansett and Coaksett” by a June 6, 1664 Plymouth Colony court order, with John Russell one of its earliest representatives (PCR 4:65).

Russell’s landholdings encompassed 400 acres at “Ponagansett” that stretched across the present-day South Dartmouth peninsula between Clark’s Cove and the Apponegansett River and, according to Wing, were originally allotted to Plymouth Colony’s Myles Standish. John Russell built his home on land adjacent to what had historically been known as “Old Fort Brook.” Wing described his residence as “about 20 feet square with large stone chimney, and so-called ‘salt-box’ ell at the north. This house was undoubtedly similar to the [ca. 1680] Thomas Tabor House at Fairhaven a fragment of which still remains and belongs to this Society” (1935:4). He also wrote, “The entire sides of the Russell house were probably constructed of stones. Nearby, he planted his apple orchards well fenced” (Wing 1935:5).

John Russell appears in the records as a resident of Dartmouth in a June 1665 legal dispute, and on October 13, 1665 was appointed “to make enquiry concerning some damage done to some Indians without the bounds of Acushenah by the horses of the English...and to settle the [controversy] by taking course for the satisfying of such damage as shall appear unto them” (PCR 4:109). In 1671, Russell was again appointed by the Court to “view the Damage done to the Indians by the Horses and Hogs of the English” (PCR 5:62). These citations suggest that John Russell may have been familiar with the area’s Native residents, or at least that he had occasional contact with Native individuals as a colonial representative prior to the events of King Philip’s War.

Over the next ten years John Russell appears frequently as an official representative for Dartmouth, holding the positions of deputy, selectman, and constable during this period. In April 1667, John Russell and two other Dartmouth men were appointed by the Court to “exercise the inhabitants in armes” and to meet with Sergeant James Shaw “incase [*sic*] of any danger [presenting] for the best defence of the place in such respect, and to see how the men are [provided] with armes and ammunition, and to returne the defects to the said Court” (PCR 4:146).

John Russell’s importance as a significant individual in the early history of Plymouth Colony and Dartmouth extends beyond the association with his garrison house and is documented in numerous local tributes, including addresses by William A. Wing delivered to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1909 and 1935 (both later published by ODHS). In the 1935 presentation, Wing, a fifth-generation Russell descendant, described John Russell’s prominence in Marshfield, stating that soon after his arrival in Dartmouth, Russell became “what might be termed a ‘favorite son,’ for he was the first to represent his township as Deputy to the Colonial Government” (Wing 1935:3). A *New Bedford Standard-Times* (1935) newspaper article reporting on Wing’s 1935 talk describes John Russell as “an important figure in the history of New Bedford and vicinity, as the first of his name to settle Dartmouth” and as the ancestor (through his marriage to Dorothy Howland) of many later prominent Dartmouth and New Bedford civic and social leaders.

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Seventeenth-Century Context and King Philip's War (1675–1676)

The onset of King Philip's War in July 1675 included Native American raids on the towns of Dartmouth, Middleborough, and Taunton, where homes and other buildings were reported burned. At some point before or after these attacks, John Russell appears to have fortified his home as one of two central defensive shelter locations in the area (the other being Pope's Island in Fairhaven). Wing writes that Russell "strengthen[ed] his home place with a garrison and a strong stockade for the protection of neighboring settlers" (1935:5). Russell may have volunteered or may have been asked to make his home a place of refuge since he was a prominent Dartmouth leader and representative to the Plymouth Court, or perhaps his home was selected as a strategic location as the brook provided an adjacent source of fresh water and the river offered easy transport and commanding views of the landscape. It is also possible that Russell wanted to protect his homestead from possible damage or destruction. Likely some combination of these factors led to the home being thereafter known as the "Russell Garrison."

In July 1675, during a period of intense hostilities, a group of more than 100 Native American individuals came to the Russell Garrison to seek protection. At least one member of the group was known to and may have been employed by colonist Ralph Earle, and they were promised safety and fair treatment as part of an effort to end the war. After being transported to Plymouth as prisoners, the Native Americans were sold into servitude against the protest of those to whom they had surrendered. According to Church, this single event prolonged the fighting and was responsible for another year of casualties on both sides.

On July 29, 1675 Benjamin Church described the primary King Philip's War event associated with the Garrison. A group of English soldiers had come to Dartmouth,

And coming to Russels [*sic*] Garrison at Poneganset, they met with a Number of the Enemy that had surrendered themselves Prisoners on terms promised by Capt. Eels of the Garrison; and Ralph Earl had perswaded them (by a friend Indian he had employed) to come in. And had their promises to the Indians been kept, and the Indians farely treated, 'tis probable that most if not all the Indians in those Parts, had soon followed the Example of those that had now surrendred themselves; which would have been a good step towards finishing the War. But in spite of all that Capt. Eels, Church, or Earl could say, argue, plead, or beg, some body else that had more Power in their hands improv'd it... and without any regard to the promises made them on their surrendering themselves they were carry'd away to Plymouth (cited in Slotkin and Folsom 1978:411).

Samuel Eels (Eells), like Church, appears in numerous records relating to King Philip's War as a military leader who commanded groups of soldiers and settlers throughout the region. It is interesting to note that John Russell's name does not appear in Church's recounting of the event nor in the official Plymouth record; however, there is no doubt the surrender occurred at the Garrison, and it is probable that Russell, as the occupant and a Plymouth colony representative who had previously dealt with Native residents, was present or at least involved.

Wing (1935:5) cites a letter written several days later by Captain Daniel Henchman of Tiverton to Massachusetts Bay Governor John Leverett. Wing quotes Henchman: "On the 29th day landed here one hundred men to relieve Dartmouth being reported in some distress. At break Mr. Amie bro't [*sic*] word from Dartmouth that several parties of Indians with their arms to the number of four score gave themselves to the garrison for mercy, who set them on an island" (Wing 1935:5, citing July 31, 1675 letter by Capt. Daniel Henchman. Location of original letter unknown). Wing notes that the "island" was

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Little Island, which was part of John Russell's landholdings and was located within sight of the Garrison in the middle of the Apponegansett River. Wing and later writers refer to the island as a detention site, where the surrendered Native Americans were temporarily housed until they could be transported.

On August 4, 1675 the Plymouth Colony Court records describe the fate of the group:

In reference to a companie of natives now in custody, brought in to Plymouth, being men, women, and children, in number one hundred and twelve...the conclusion is...that several of them have bine actors in the late rising and warr of the Indians against us, and the rest compliers with them therein...the counsel adjudged them to be sold, and denoted into servitude (PCR 5:177).

Church relates a second event that occurred at the Garrison, likely in July 1676 near the end of the war (Slotkin and Folsom 1978:468, footnote). Church and a company of men under his command had been involved in a series of skirmishes with Native American fighters first in Assawompsett, then Acushnet, and finally followed them into Dartmouth. He returned:

...to the Rivers side towards Poneganset, to Russels Orchard, coming near the Orchard they [Church's men] clap'd into a thicket and there lodg'd the rest of the Night without any Fire; and upon the morning light appearing, moves towards the Orchard, discovers some of the enemy, who had been there the day before, and had beat down all the Apples, and carry'd them away; discovered also where they had lod'd that Night, and saw the ground where they set their baskets bloody, being as they supposed and as it was afterwards discovered to be the flesh of Swine, &c. which they had killed that day: They had lain under the fences without any fires; and seem'd by the marks they left behind them to be very numerous, perceived also by the dew on the grass that they had not long been gone (cited in Slotkin and Folsom 1978:437).

There is also an anecdotal story associated with the Garrison that is reported by Wing and repeated in later local histories of King Philip's War. A temporary Native American "fort" had supposedly been built on John Earle's land directly across the river from the Russell homestead at a place called "Heathen's Neck." In response to a rude gesture made by a Native man towards one of the Garrison's defenders, a shot was fired by the colonist that reportedly hit the offender from a great distance. While there is no primary source documentation for this incident, the 1773 inventory of Dartmouth resident Abraham Sherman's possessions included "A gun which killed an Indian across 'Ponagansett River from ye olde [*sic*] castle on Russell's land to Heathen Neck" (cited in Wing 1935:6-7).

Shortly after the fighting ended (March 1676/77), John Russell was one of three Dartmouth representatives appointed by Plymouth Colony to distribute 22 pounds from a fund donated by Irish Christians to assist with rebuilding efforts (PCR 5:222). Sometime after 1676, John Russell built a second home on present-day Rockland Street, located east of the original homestead in South Dartmouth. The original "Garrison" homestead was then occupied by John's son Joseph and his wife Elizabeth, whose twin sons were born there. The "Russell Twins," as they are known in local historical accounts, were later among the original settlers of present-day New Bedford (Wing 1935:8).

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The date of abandonment of the Garrison structure is not known, nor did Ricketson's excavations provide much information about any post-1676 occupation or use of the site. This is perhaps because the excavation and reconstruction were focused only on the 17th-century history of the site. While details of the structure's removal or demolition are lacking, the site itself remained important and well-documented as a local historical resource throughout the entire period leading up to 1951.

Historians Samuel Drake (1825), John Warner Barber (1835), and Leonard Ellis (1892) all note that the Russell Garrison cellar holes were visible in the 19th century, more than 150 years after the events of King Philip's War, indicating that the site had not been developed and that its history was known to local residents. A 1889 newspaper article, focused on the events of July 1676, included a detailed description of a tour of the site led by local resident Captain Jacob Howland. Howland remembered stone foundation walls that were still visible around the site during his childhood in the early 1800s.

The tradition of reporting on the known site location continued into the 20th century, as documented in a 1939 *Dartmouth News* article, which notes that "Two hundred and fifty years is a long time, and it is no wonder that there is nothing left of the original building built by John Russell. Yet, for the curious there is still something to be seen at the site of the old stockade." Mary Kirby, the property owner in 1939, noted that the original doorstep to the house, visible at that time, had been "reconstructed from old records, a number of years ago."

A copy of a 1951 local newspaper article provides information about the decision to excavate and preserve the site as a commemorative property. The article notes that the need to preserve the site was "brought to a head by the expansion of residential Dartmouth," a threat that had not been imminent in the 275 years since the site had been occupied. The work as described as "one of the long-time ambitions of many [Old Dartmouth Historical] society members" and the article notes that "the fact its foundations still existed was common knowledge among those interested in Greater New Bedford's past."

These dated written accounts of the Russell Garrison establish a timeline that documents the site's location as well as its importance to local residents over more than 125 years.

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr., and the Russell Garrison as a Reconstructed and Commemorative Site

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr. was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Sr. and Margaret Coleman Carnegie. Oliver, Sr. was born in Pennsylvania but was a descendant of William Ricketson, one of present-day Dartmouth's earliest settlers who established a homestead at Ricketson's Point in South Dartmouth. Margaret was the niece of industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Oliver Jr. spent his early years at a Carnegie family compound on Cumberland Island, Georgia, then attended the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, and Harvard University. While at Harvard, Ricketson studied anthropology under E.A. Hooten, a leading archaeological scholar at that time. After graduating in 1916, he entered the Harvard Medical School, left to serve in the Navy during World War I, and then briefly returned to Harvard where he decided he no longer wanted to be a doctor.

Ricketson's interest in archaeology took him to Arizona in the 1920s. He worked with Samuel Guernsey of Harvard's Peabody Museum at Marsh Pass, Arizona, and with the American Museum of Natural History's Cartier expedition in Arizona and Utah. In 1921, he met Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley of the Carnegie Institute of Washington and served as a mule driver on an expedition across the Yucatán Peninsula. In 1922, Ricketson joined an expedition to the Maya city of Tulum where his talents for

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mapping and drawing were utilized for several archaeological surveys. Ricketson's interest in archaeology was formalized during this period, and in 1923 he accompanied W. A. Lowe to survey several Maya cities in the Petén jungle.

Ricketson led his first excavation, at Baking Pot, in Belize, in 1923. That same year, he worked on the Carnegie Institute excavations at Chichén Itzá and completed his M.A. at Harvard. In 1926, Ricketson initiated what would be a long-term archaeological project at the Maya site of Uaxactun in Guatemala. During this period Ricketson accompanied Charles A. Lindbergh on an aerial reconnaissance of the Maya Lowlands region. Ricketson left the field in 1929 and moved to Guatemala City with his wife, where he set up a laboratory for the analysis of collected artifacts and samples. While there, Ricketson also worked on the Uaxactun site report, which was published as his Harvard Ph.D. dissertation in 1937.

In 1941, Ricketson's connection with the Carnegie Institute ended, and he decided to leave archaeology as a profession. His interest in archaeology continued, however, and he travelled in Central and South America, lectured on his work, and spent time doing professional illustration and drafting before retiring to a family home in South Dartmouth, where he had lived on and off since 1937. Dr. Ricketson's last archaeological project was the excavation of the Russell Garrison, which he completed less a year before his death, at the age of 58, in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dr. Ricketson's obituary appeared in *The New York Times* and the journal *American Antiquity*, an indication of his social and professional prominence. He was associated with many archaeological "firsts" in the American Southwest and in Central and South America and worked with many of the pioneers in the field. Although his excavations at the Russell Garrison are not considered to be formative in the development of American archaeology, Ricketson was known for his contributions in other areas.

Dr. Ricketson's archaeological excavations and site reconstruction were carried out with the assistance of untrained laborers and using methods that would not today be considered to meet professional standards. American historical archaeology was a developing field in the 1950s, but Ricketson's background was as a pre-Columbian archaeologist. His excavation techniques relied heavily on his Central American field experience, and his interpretations were drawn from local histories and his own impressions about defense works. Despite these shortcomings, Ricketson's excavation of the Russell Garrison was among the first by 20th-century archaeologists to investigate a 17th-century New England Euro-American site. His excavations in Dartmouth preceded by several years the New England work of James Deetz, considered to be a founder of historical archaeology.

While the excavation and subsequent reconstruction likely compromised the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features associated with the two foundations, Ricketson appears to have concentrated only on these areas. He did not locate or identify any other structures (e.g. outbuildings, privy, barn) or features (e.g. well, trash midden, garden, orchard) associated with the Russell Garrison that may survive in the surrounding undeveloped lot. Ricketson also identified disturbed Native American deposits that likely pre-date the Russell occupation, and other residents have reported artifact finds in the immediate area. Based on these reports and archaeological research in the surrounding area, Native Americans may have utilized the site thousands of years ago and/or into the Contact Period (ca. 8,000 years before present to ca. 1600).

Ricketson's detailed notes, photographs, and field drawings, coupled with the 1989 sand fill placed in and around the reconstructed foundation, provide important information that could be used by professional archaeologists to identify undisturbed or partially disturbed areas where additional archaeological deposits could be located. If present, these deposits represent potentially significant archaeological

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resources that could be related to Native American site use as well as to the entire period of occupation by the Russell family. Since the date of the Garrison's abandonment and/or destruction is not known, any remaining archaeological evidence of the site would be of great importance to its history and documentation.

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr.'s significance under Criterion B is based on his archaeological excavation and reconstruction of the Russell Garrison Site, which was completed under the direction of the ODHS for the express purpose of creating a permanent and visible commemorative site at the original house location. Ricketson's fieldwork was heavily covered in local newspapers and in public talks during and after the fieldwork, and his written report was published by ODHS in 1964 as part of Dartmouth's Tercentenary celebration. After completing his reconstruction, the site was more formally identified as a permanent commemorative location with the installation of granite posts and an iron link chain around the foundation, and the placement of a boulder and copper marker in front of the foundation facing Fort Street.

The reconstructed foundation sits in its original location, and with fieldstone that was on the property but that may or may not have all been part of the ca. 1662 John Russell house. Ricketson used modern materials including mortar and cement to build the reconstructed walls based on the archaeological footprint of the cellar holes that were visible during his fieldwork.

The foundation walls as Ricketson reconstructed them were visible and open to the public from the time ODHS took over the site in 1951 until 1989 when the town of Dartmouth took over ownership of the property and site. The exposed foundation walls were substantially filled in for safety reasons, leaving only the upper portions visible as the outline of the North Room. The granite posts, iron chain, and boulder with plaque were all left in place. The Russell Garrison's significance as a commemorative property is derived from the visible foundation walls, the granite post and iron chain that surround the foundation, and the boulder and plaque that identify the site. Viewed in the open grassy parcel, these visible elements clearly identify the site to a visitor as a historically important location. Since its creation 65 years ago, the basic components of the commemorative site have remained unchanged and the site has been maintained, first by the ODHS and later by the town of Dartmouth, as a public memorial to the house and its associations with King Philip's War. The construction of a modern house a few feet from the site boundary has not significantly affected the site's value as a commemorative property. The site is easily accessed from the public road, and the open grassy yard that surrounds the aboveground elements set the site off with longer views across the wetlands of the Apponegansett River.

The Dartmouth Historical Commission has repeatedly described the Russell Garrison as the town's most significant historical site, in large part because of its associations with so many important local and regional people and events. It was the home of one of Dartmouth's founding proprietors, who was also a leader in Plymouth Colony's colonial government. It was the site of several interactions between colonial settlers and Native Americans during King Philip's War, recorded by eyewitnesses and passed down in local histories for more than 300 years. It is one of the few known sites from this period that survived into the twentieth century with relatively little disturbance, and it was, in 1951, one of the earliest excavations by a trained archaeologist of a 17th-century historical site in New England.

The factors that make the site significant historically are also likely the reasons that it was not lost to development over the nearly 300 years between its occupation and its excavation. The location and history of the site were known to local residents continuously over the centuries, as documented by periodic newspaper articles and references. Elements of the site were visible over this entire period, first as foundation ruins, later as slight mounds and depressions with scattered fieldstones.

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Over the past four decades, residential development has filled in some of the area surrounding the site, including the construction of a home over the South Room excavated by Ricketson. Despite these modern additions, the Russell Garrison Site maintains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as the commemorative site that was established in 1951. Although the reconstructed foundation walls are no longer fully exposed, the present-day view of the site, with its granite posts and plaque, is largely the same as that when the site was first recognized by the ODHS as a commemorative property in 1951.

Due no doubt to its local importance, the foundation footprint survived more than 350 years without any development or alteration. After the 1951 reconstruction and 1989 filling, the foundation now sits in an open grassy knoll and visitors can stand at the site and view the adjacent Old Fort Brook or look across the Apponegansett River to the western bank, just as the site's inhabitants would have. The Garrison lot extends to the river's edge, where Little Island is visible to the south, as well as more distant views to the harbor.

The town of Dartmouth has become the most recent steward of the Russell Garrison Site and is committed to its long-term preservation. As a National Register-listed property, the Russell Garrison Site will serve as an example of a significant 17th-century New England historical site that is also important for its commemorative value to the regional community.

Research Questions with Further Considerations of Historical and Archaeological Significance Pertaining to Criterion D

1. How can the methods and goals of the 1951 archaeological project be understood within the context of the history of archaeology in Massachusetts?

Based on the seeming lack of mention or citation by other archaeologists in their published writings to Ricketson's obscurely published investigation results, the Dartmouth project would appear to have had no influence in the development of historical archaeology nationally or within Massachusetts. Yet, in retrospect, Ricketson's methods and goals were on par with parallel efforts in the nascent field of historical archaeology that focused on locating and exposing masonry building foundations for reconstruction in the era of "historic sites archaeology." Well-known examples of that approach—employing laborers and mechanical equipment to expose masonry foundations for reconstruction—occurred at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, and in many projects undertaken by Roland Wells Robbins, but there are several other examples. Ricketson's method to expose and reconstruct masonry at Russell Garrison was undoubtedly informed by his investigations of Maya structures in Central America, where similar architectural exposure and reconstruction methods were long employed. Ricketson's association with Harvard University; the consultative participation of Howard Mandell and Ralph Metcalf—amateur archaeologists as Ricketson characterized them in his field notes (pp. 1 and 9), despite at least one of them being paid; and, the historical and architectural sources in Ricketson's notes and his publication, provide information for understanding the social and intellectual networks of avocational and professional archaeologists in Massachusetts, a promising historical research area recently considered by Katie Kirikosian (2015). Ricketson's field records also served to record days and hours his laborers worked, days they unexpectedly failed to appear (to Ricketson's evident surprise and consternation), their relative productivity, and their earned pay. Understanding the range of methods and goals used from the early to mid-20th century at other historical archaeological sites would provide a context to consider Ricketson's approach to the Russell Garrison, as it would be applicable to implementing and interpreting re-excavation of the site. Fully understanding the intellectual, social, and methodological contexts employed

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by Ricketson and his laborers would be important to retrospective re-interpretation of Ricketson's results, and the changing, multivocal, symbolic meanings of Russell Garrison as a commemorative "historical place."

2. Does the surviving documentation of Ricketson's investigation have any potential to provide important information?

The existing collection of original field records, photographs, and the published report of Ricketson's project are curated at the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library. Ricketson's handwritten field documentation contains detailed narrative descriptions, plan and section drawings, and detailed measurements. The data encoded in the field records and photographs can be analyzed and evaluated using modern forensic methods. The reevaluation of curated documentation of early archaeological projects is an established method that has been highly productive in Massachusetts. Mary C. Beaudry, et al. (Beaudry 1984, 1986; Beaudry and George 1987; Beaudry et al. 2003), reanalyzed curated collections of artifacts and associated documentation from 17th-century Plymouth Colony archaeological sites. Beaudry's "Plimoth Project" reinterpreted the architecture of the earliest Alden house site in Duxbury, Mass. (NHL) and other notable Plymouth Colony sites, and reconsidered the material implications of 17th-century Plymouth Colony lifeways, social structure, economy, and architecture in comparison to the Chesapeake region. Beaudry's project reinvigorated prospects for analysis of Plymouth Colony archaeological collections; advocated excavation approaches (beyond cellar holes) to capture data lacking in previous archaeological forays; and rigorously applied a comparative research and interpretive orientation grounded in anthropology, history, and material culture studies. Donald C. Linebaugh (1994; n.d.; 2004) undertook reevaluation of Roland Wells Robbins' excavation records for the site of Thoreau's Cabin at Walden Pond at Concord, Mass. (NHL) and several other places excavated by Robbins, as have William Griswold and Linebaugh (n.d.) of Robbins' records for Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (NHL). Brian S. Robinson, et al. (2009) undertook reanalysis of the documentation, artifacts, and samples from the Bull Brook Paleoindian Site, Ipswich, Mass. Kathryn Curran (2017) also did so for the Adena Burial Site, Brookfield, Mass. (NRDOE), in combination with systematic archaeological testing and re-excavation. In these examples, forensic examination of original archaeological documentation joined with modern, computer-aided cartographic and photographic techniques, (and additionally field testing in the Brookfield example), revealed previously unknown and important information about the nature of archaeological features and deposits that were excavated, and identified areas left unexcavated by earlier archaeological forays. These proven methods of archaeological reanalysis can be applied to the data preserved in the curated archaeological and historical documentation for Russell Garrison to reveal new and important information, independently or conjoined with archaeological re-excavation.

3. Would the results of analysis of the curated archaeological documentation with re-excavation of the Russell Garrison property provide any important information in history or "prehistory"?

Evidence in Ricketson's field records that Russell Garrison contains unexcavated areas with apparently anthrosols that were visible in the excavation sidewalls, that other areas were left intact, and based on expectations of archaeological resources there comparable to other ancient and historical places, indicate that further archaeological investigation at the site would be productive. Ricketson's excavators curiously reported few artifacts: nails, an ox shoe, a button, "the unknown piece of something (like pewter?) & the little flat washer-shaped ring that could have been brass or bronze" (page 10, 5 July 1951) are the only historical objects that are described in his notes. There is no mention of any ancient period artifacts, such as pottery or lithics. Other than brief mentions of deposits of shell and bone in black soil that may have, in fact, been cohesive features, and strata that are likely anthrosols, Ricketson's notes indicate no recognition of ancient or historical period cultural soil features such as pits, post holes and postmolds, or

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trenches. The lack of historical or ancient period artifacts and features is unexpected and may be accounted for by the inexperience of the hired laborers and Ricketson in the material culture and features of both the ancient and historical times when the location was evidently used and occupied. The rough means of soil removal with the primary goal to locate and expose masonry, rather than modern systematic, stratigraphic, contextual excavation with screening of soil, may also account for the low rate of recovery of historical period artifacts, the apparent absence of ancient period artifacts, and no elucidable observation of any cultural soil features. As Beaudry et al. (Beaudry 1984, 1986; Beaudry and George 1987; Beaudry et al. 2003) surmised with Robbins' similar cellar foundation excavation of the Alden House in Duxbury, Mass. (NHL), Ricketson's focus on masonry portions of the structure would not have appreciated that archaeological evidence of earthfast portions of the same or of earlier structures may have been present beyond the cellar hole. Excavation beyond the footprint of the masonry part of the building foundation may locate an earthfast building extension, or other earthfast structures, such as fencing, attached lean-to sheds, and outbuildings, along with artifacts and cultural features from ancient and historical periods.

Ricketson's field notes (RGFN: 24, undated) indicate that his provisional interpretations of the masonry architecture were in part informed by reference to an academic study of colonial architecture, J. Frederick Kelly's *The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, published in 1924. Ricketson's field notes are replete with confusion, mystery, and speculation about the absence of defensive elements as would be expected at a fort. It is increasingly understood that references in historical documents to "garrisons" might have been intended to mean a refuge or gathering location at a domestic structure, rather than a fortification, per se. With over a century of scholarship about historical colonial architecture in New England, Ricketson's field records and the several historical photographs of the site of the Russell Garrison could be viewed to reconsider and reinterpret the architecture of the historical structure(s) once present. The form of the cellar could be compared to preserved examples of structures also said to be "garrisons" of which there are several in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Preserved archaeological features and deposits associated with this 17th-century habitation would be rare and highly significant in Massachusetts. Surprisingly few places in Massachusetts with 17th-century colonist-settler archaeological deposits and features have been investigated intensively or extensively and compared, as Harper, et al. (2017) observed in their report of the data recovery excavation conducted at the earlier (ca. 1638) Waterman House in Marshfield, Mass. Locating and investigating 17th-century archaeological sites is a long-standing priority in Massachusetts.

Ricketson recognized likely evidence of ancient or historical period Native American land use and habitation at the Russell Garrison site. His field records provide several instances where he surmised that the elevated location at the confluence of Old Fort Brook and the Apponagansett River, and the observation of black soil, shellfish remains, and some bones, indicated that a Native American site was present at that location. Ricketson's observations of intact strata that seem to be anthrosols that were left undisturbed in sidewalls are particularly interesting. His provisional suggestion that the anthrosol-appearing strata are associated only with the colonial occupation (due to the discovery of nails somewhere) is disputable because of the lack of stratigraphic and contextual excavation control. Surviving archaeological evidence of faunal remains and archaeological features at this location would be expected to provide new and significant information about the chronology and details of Native lifeways, habitation location choices, resource procurement and processing, and feature and tool technologies. Documentary sources demonstrate John Russell's interactions with Native people from the mid- to late 17th century in Dartmouth and at this property. The continuation of Native occupation and land use at this locale, both in ancient and in historical times before, during, and possibly after Russell's occupation, should be considered when interpreting archaeological deposits and artifacts from this location.

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Russell's choice to locate his residence at a traditional, likely ancient and re-occupied Native place within Wampanoag homelands is one of a myriad of instances of colonist-settlers' appropriation of favored locales that disrupted cyclic visitation and access by Native peoples to their food gathering places. Kathleen J. Bragdon (1999: 136) inferred a Native cultural metaphor of "intimate possession" of places that embodied notions about food, eating, and a deep historical consciousness of traditionally visited and occupied areas as part of social and spiritual networks of reciprocity and thanksgiving. There are compelling historical facts embedded in stories associated with this location, and with other locations in view of and historically connected to this commemorative site, that can be examined and reconsidered using contemporary theoretical approaches to primary and secondary oral and written "texts" as material culture, per se, such as through documentary archaeology and microhistory. That Russell's home, situated on a traditional Native place, became a garrison during the most famous historical act of resistance by New England Native people to colonist-settler dispossession and depredations, provides contrasting and compelling interpretive facts to convey the causes and events of Metacom's (King Philip) Rebellion. Russell Garrison is the physical location associated with the infamous act of treachery that promised protection to over 100 non-combatant, refugee Native men, women, and children, who were then relegated to the "Little Island" in the Apponogansett River in view of the Russell Garrison—as William A. Wing (1935: n.p.) pointedly observed, "thus making an early 'prison-camp' for the enemy and an ideal place for such, keeping them safe and in sight"—but who were then transported to Plymouth to be sold into slavery. In a broader cultural and historical geography, the location could be placed and viewed, in Russell G. Handsman's (2008) evocative title, among other "Landscapes of Memory in Wampanoag Country—And the Monuments Upon Them."

Increasingly, so-called post-postprocessual archaeology projects at historically charged locales are designed deliberately as collaborative projects with cultural educators and public historians, primarily as public educational performative events to challenge powerful antiquarian and colonialist historical narratives. A collaborative public archaeology project at the Russell Garrison could provide an opportunity, in Linda Coombs's (2002) metaphoric phrase, "to peel away layers of inaccuracies and sift through centuries of misconceptions and misrepresentations." Any artifacts recovered that can be associated with the thematic interpretation—even those from modern, disturbed contexts—are employed to illustrate counter-narrative points. Traditional archaeological values that give priority to artifacts with secure depositional context, date, association, etc. that can be explicitly and demonstrably linked to *technical* archaeological research questions, are separate considerations when invoking the mere presence of any rediscovered objects that may be illustrative to an overarching *public* interpretive theme. Patricia E. Rubertone (1995), in a brief chapter "The Search for Philip," began to approach the idea that known, marked, commemorative places associated with King Philip's War could be locales where new history-making projects may occur to "evoke ... images of the hardships and injustices endured by New England's native people and serve as vivid reminders that for them the war never really ended." In her own edited volume, Rubertone (2008) and other contributing authors explored the intersections of place-based microhistorical and archaeological interests in this and other regions. Local historical narratives and place-based interpretative histories of the war and its aftermaths continue to evolve and remain in the consciousness of the living descendants of the Native and English people, other residents, and visitors to this region. Conjoined with traditional technical archaeological methods to record, retrieve, and preserve empirical data with robust and explicit depositional, contextual, and associational information, archaeology at the Russell Garrison as a performative, public event could provide opportunity to confront pervasive settler-colonialist propaganda to reveal the factual causes, conduct, events, immediate outcomes, and long-term aftermaths of Metacom's Rebellion.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government;

Dartmouth Historical Commission, Town Hall, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth,
Massachusetts 02747

University

Other

Name of repository:

New Bedford Whaling Museum/Old Dartmouth Historical Society
18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DAR-HA-3

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 336901 | Northing: 4606956 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property consists of the 15,654-square-foot parcel designated as Lot 23 on the town of Dartmouth's Assessor's Map 127 (Figure 2), which was conveyed by the ODHS to the town of Dartmouth and recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 8519, Page 315. The property is described as Lot #37 on Revised Plan of Manchester Heights and recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 8519, Page 315 (Figure 3). The parcel is bounded on the north and west by Old Fort Brook and the Apponegansett River; on the east by Fort Street, and on the south by a modern residence.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Russell Garrison are defined by the visible foundation and the stone post-iron chain enclosure that surrounds it. The entire 15,654-square-foot lot (Assessor's Map 127- Lot 23) owned by the town of Dartmouth serves as an approximate limit of the site area and includes all areas that may contain additional archaeological deposits associated with the site. With the exception of the reconstructed foundation, the entire lot is undeveloped and is bounded on all sides by wetlands and/or modern development, so it is unlikely that any resources associated with the site lie outside the lot boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Holly Herbster, Senior Archaeologist, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: January 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: **Russell Garrison**

City or Vicinity: **Dartmouth**

County: **Bristol**

State: **Massachusetts**

Photographer: **Holly Herbster**

Date Photographed: **November 20, 2014 and January 13, 2015**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 15. Commemorative boulder and plaque, view west (January 2015).

Photo 2 of 15. Typical granite post and iron link chain surrounding site, view southwest (January 2015).

Photo 3 of 15. View of south wall looking southwest to Apponegansett River (November 2014).

Photo 4 of 15. View north across site towards northeast corner, Fort Street in background (November 2014).

Photo 5 of 15. View north across site towards north wall, Old Fort Brook in background (November 2014).

Photo 6 of 15. View south looking across north wall to south wall and adjacent house (January 2015).

Photo 7 of 15. View east across northeast corner foundation (January 2015).

Photo 8 of 15. View west along north wall (January 2015).

Photo 9 of 15. View south across southeast corner foundation, with stair and "beehive oven" (November 2014).

Photo 10 of 15. Detail of "beehive oven", view southeast (January 2015).

Photo 11 of 15. South wall, close-up southeast corner with stair (January 2015).

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Photo 12 of 15. View southwest across interior of foundation towards Apponegansett River (January 2015).

Photo 13 of 15. View west across north wall towards Old Fort Brook and Apponegansett River (January 2015).

Photo 14 of 15. Close-up of reconstruction masonry, northwest foundation corner (January 2015).

Photo 15 of 15. View southwest of fire ring (front left) and loose fieldstones (right, along wetland margin) with Russell Garrison site in background (January 2015). * location not shown on photo key

List of Figures

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Figure 4. Aerial image of Russell Garrison Site showing reconstructed foundation and surrounding landscape (source: Google Earth, image downloaded 3 January 2015).

Figure 5a. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

Figure 5b. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

Figure 6a. Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

Figure 6b. Detail of Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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Figure 8. Photo of south wall with "beehive oven", lintel, and commemorative boulder, view southeast from interior of North Room (source: Ricketson 1964: frontispiece).

Figure 9. Photo of Russell Garrison Site in 1993, prior to Town filling. View northwest across foundation with Fort Street in background (source: Dartmouth Historical Commission).

Figure 10. Site plan showing existing conditions, Russell Garrison Site (PAL 2014).

Figure 11. Site Plan key to Russell Garrison Data Sheet.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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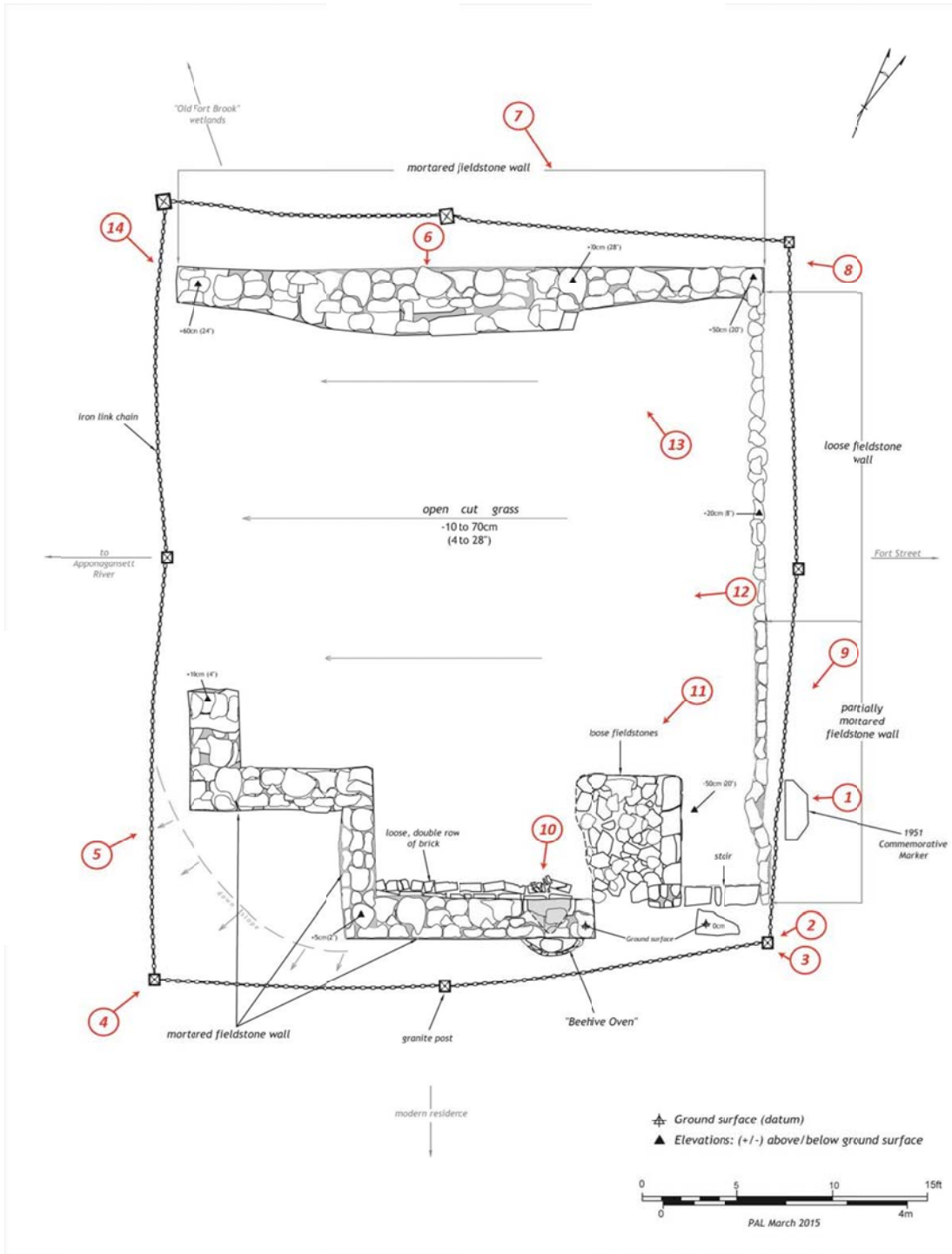


Photo Key for Russell Garrison Site.

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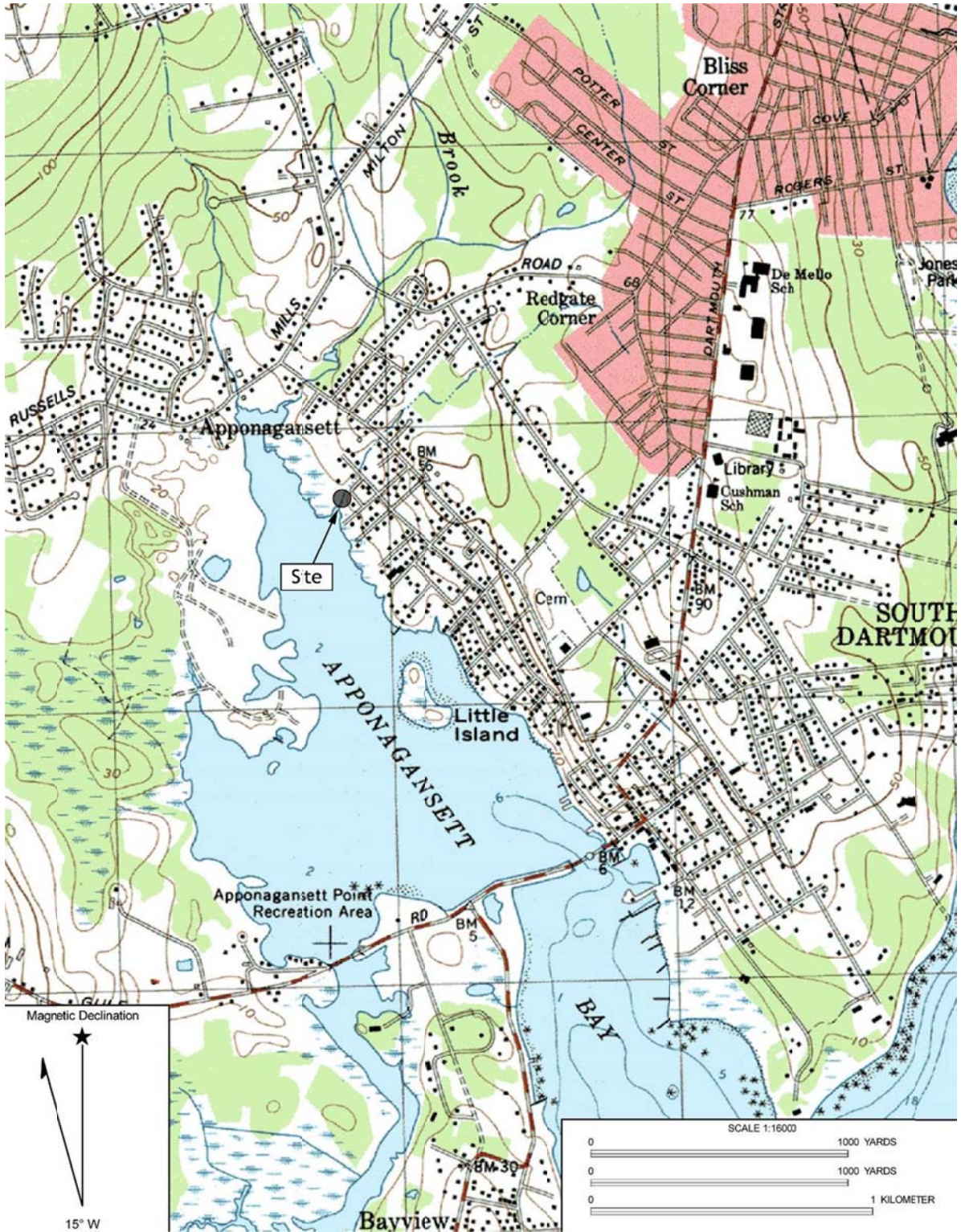


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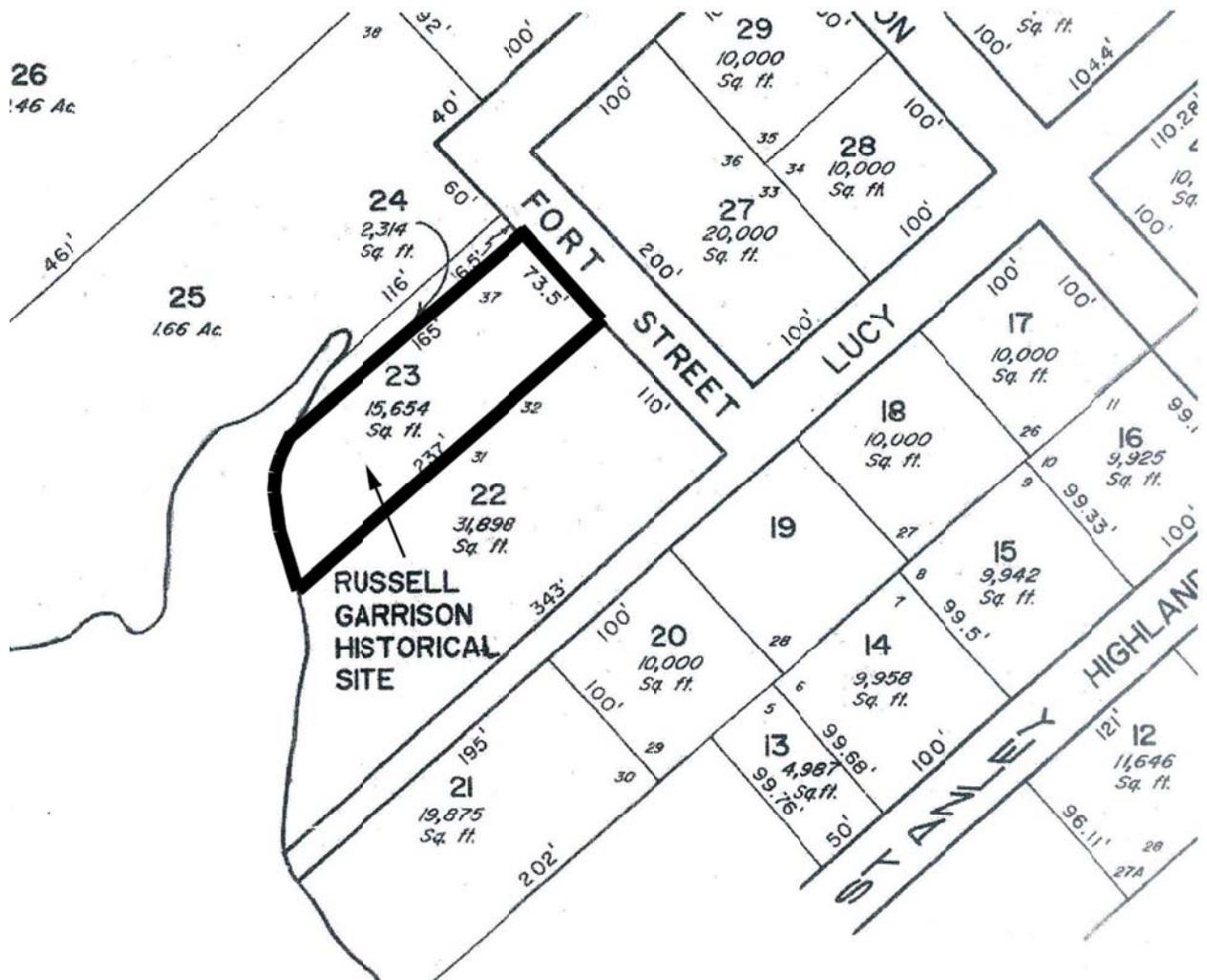


Figure 2. 1985 Assessor's map showing Town of Dartmouth's Russell Garrison lot (copy on file, Dartmouth Historical Commission).

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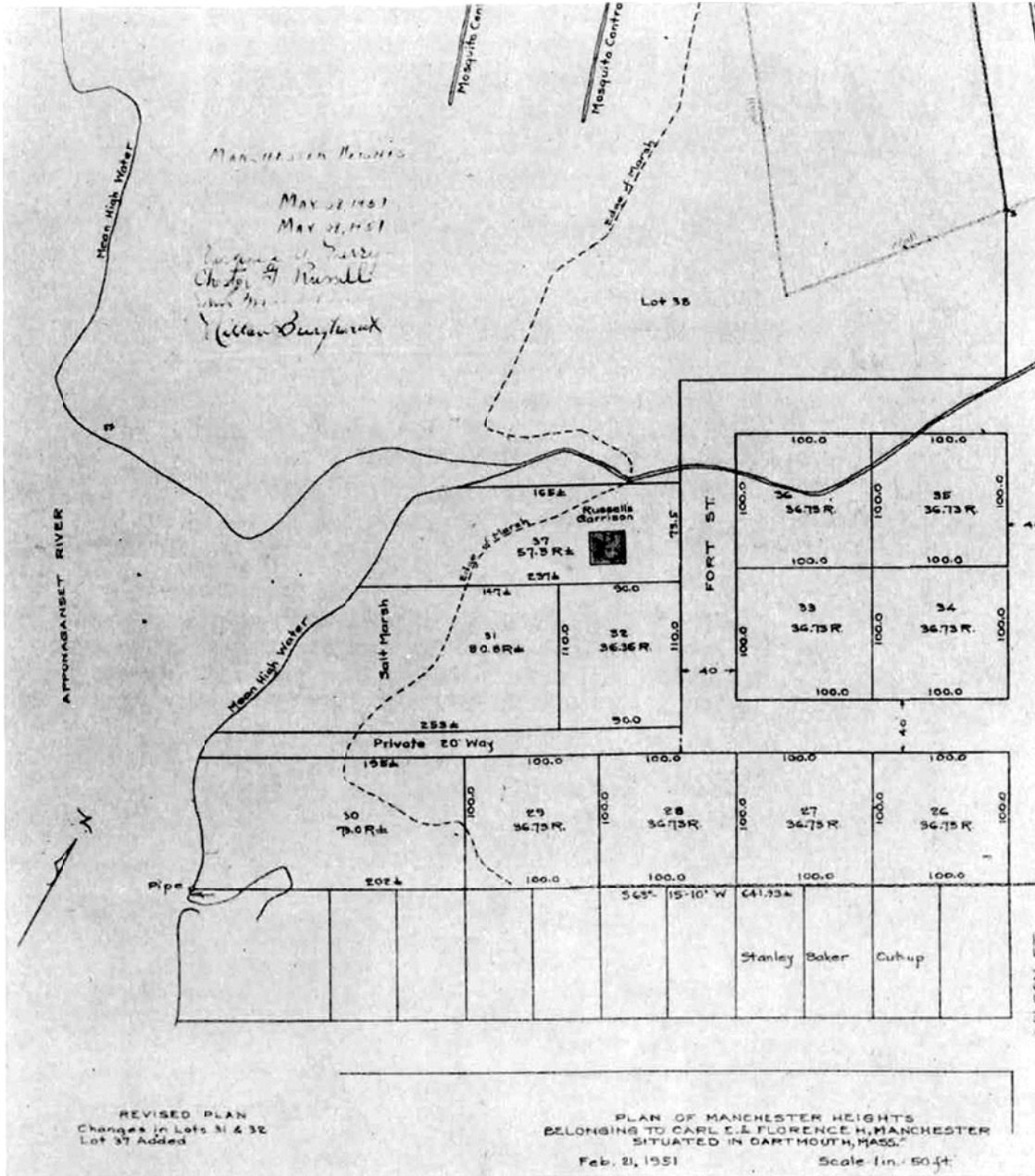


Figure 3. Plan of proposed 1950 subdivision showing location of Russell Garrison Site (source Ricketson 1964:2).

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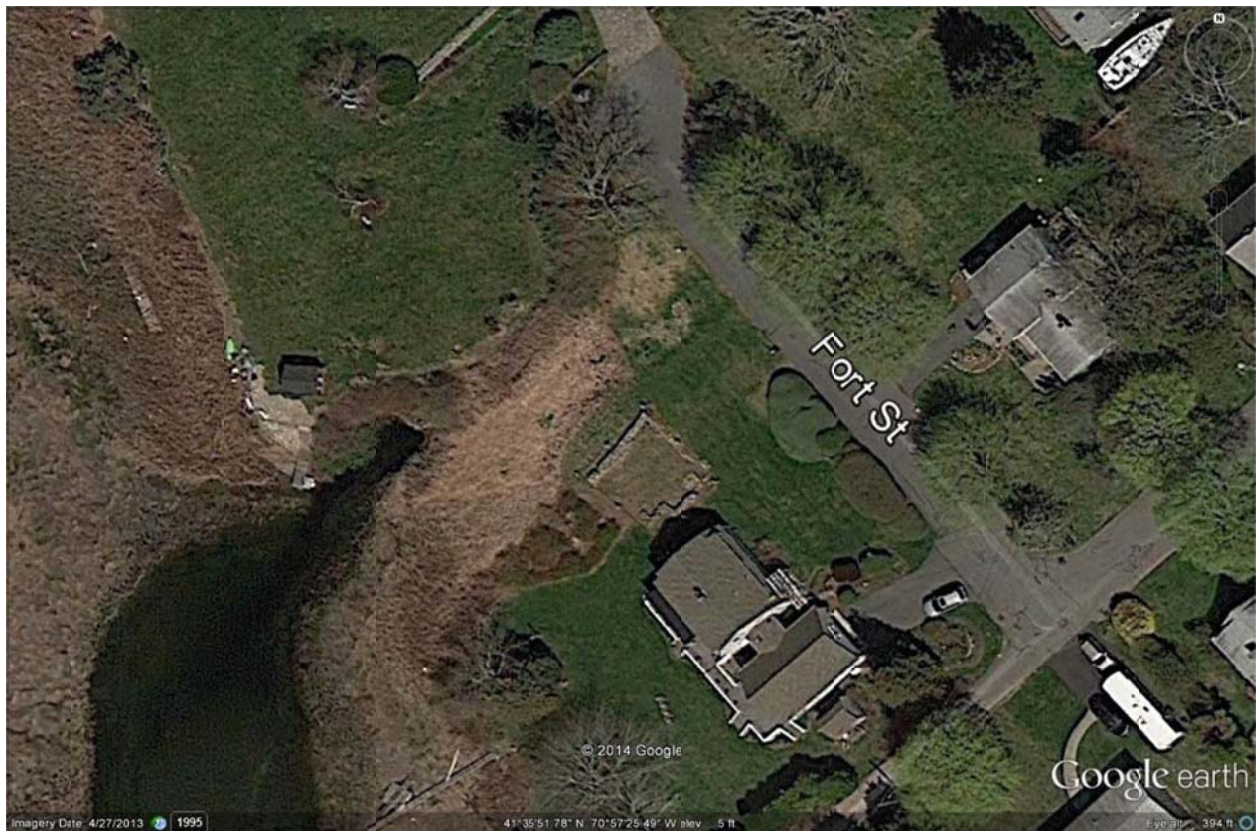


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Figure 5a. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

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Figure 5b. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

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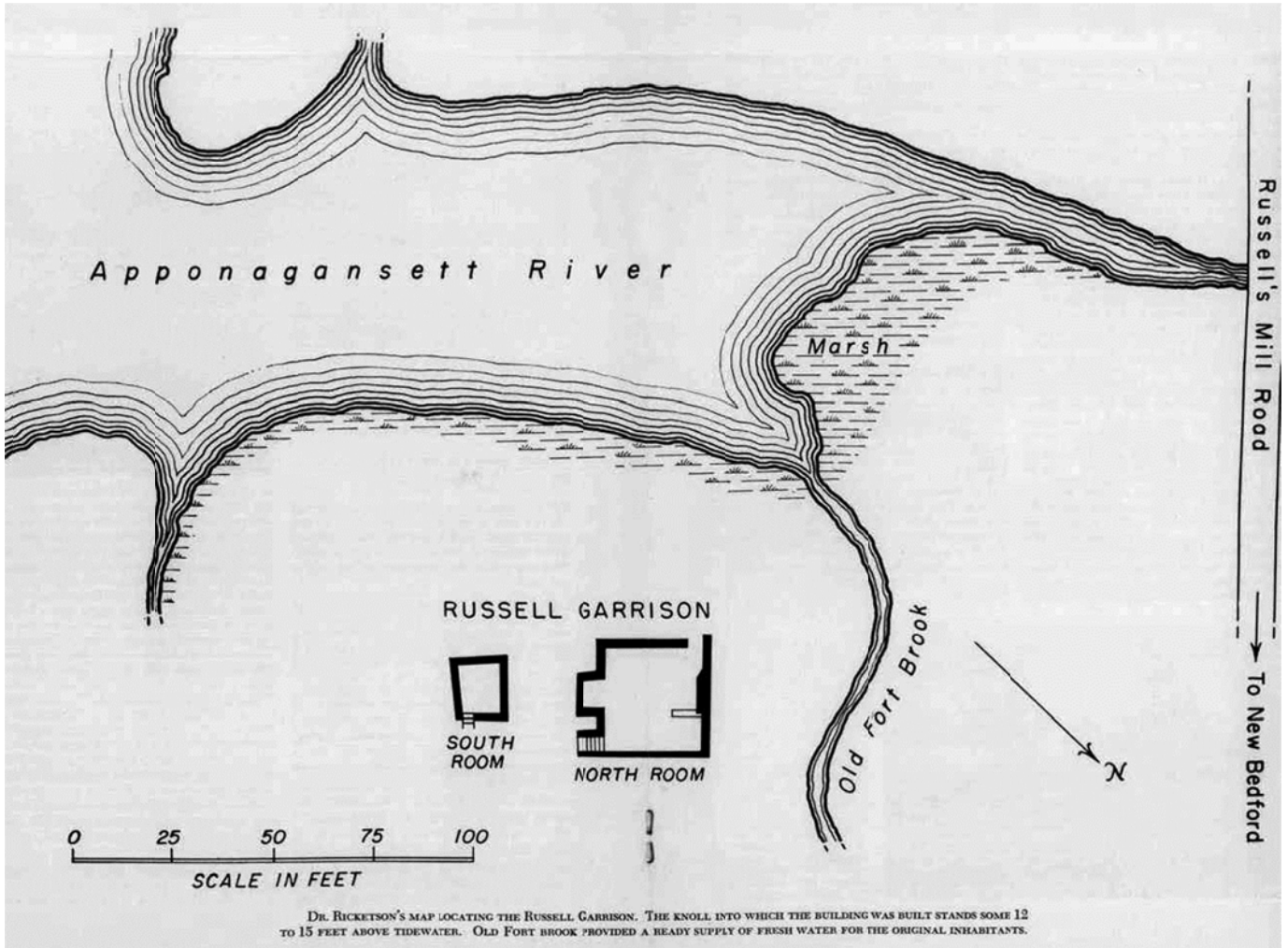


Figure 6a. Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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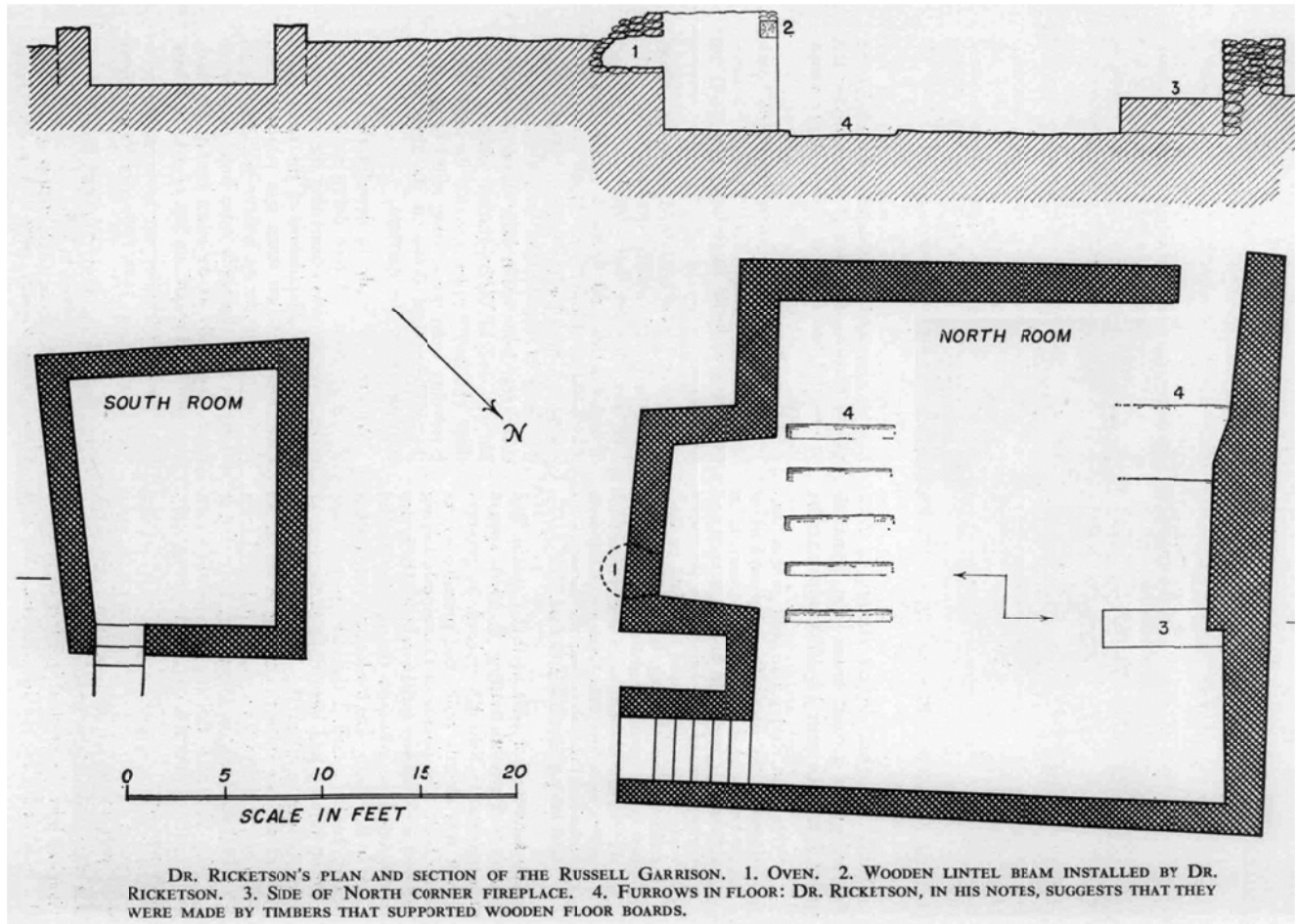


Figure 6b. Detail of Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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Figure 7. Photo of west wall with fireplace base, view north from interior of North Room (source: Ricketson 1964:14).

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Figure 8. Photo of south wall with “beehive oven”, lintel, and commemorative boulder, view southeast from interior of North Room (source: Ricketson 1964: frontispiece).

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Figure 9. Photo of Russell Garrison Site in 1993, prior to Town filling. View northwest across foundation with Fort Street in background (source: Dartmouth Historical Commission).

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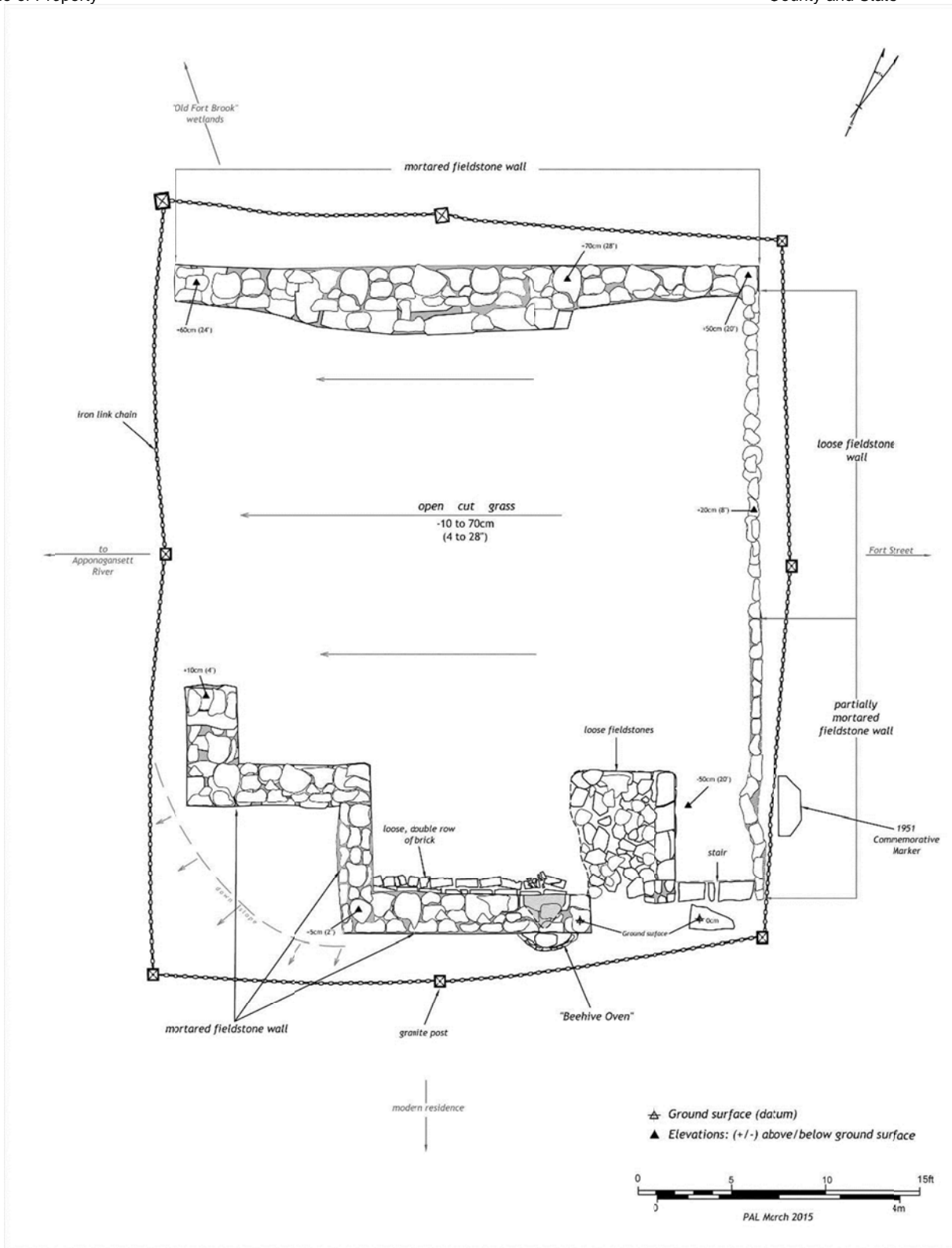


Figure 10. Site plan showing existing conditions, Russell Garrison Site (PAL 2014).

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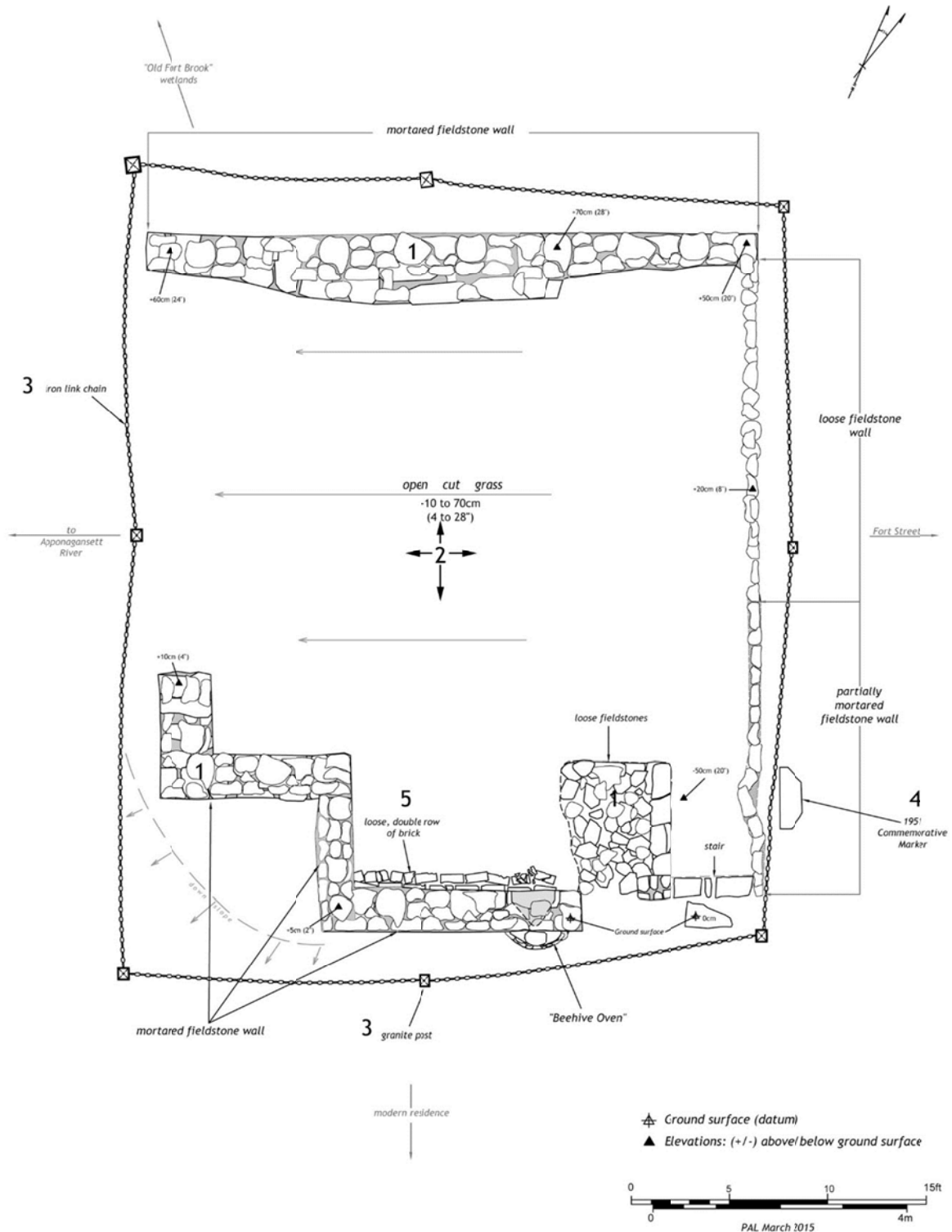


Figure 11. Site Plan key to Russell Garrison Data Sheet.

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**Russell Garrison Site
 Dartmouth, Bristol county Massachusetts
 DATA SHEET**

Plan Number	Photo No.	Resource	Date	Material	Resource Type	Count	Status
1	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Reconstructed North Room Foundation	1951	Stone	Object	1	C
2	12, 15	Russell Garrison Site	ca. 1675	N/A	Archaeological Site	1	C
3	2, 3, 7, 8	Granite Posts w/ Link Chain	1951	Granite Iron	Object	1 (8 posts & 1 chain)	C
4	1	Commemorative Plaque on Boulder	1951	Stone Copper/Brass	Object	1	C
5	10, 11	Row of Bricks along South Wall	Unknown	Brick	Object	1	NC
N/A	15	Fire Ring	Modern	Stone	Object	1	NC
N/A	15	Loose Fieldstones	Unknown	Stone	Objects	N/A	NC
N/A	15	South Room Foundation	ca. 1675; 1951	Stone	N/A	N/A	N/A (Destroyed)

THE RUSSELL GARRISON
A PLACE OF REFUGE FOR THE
EARLY SETTLERS OF DARTMOUTH DURING
KING PHILIP'S WAR
1675 - 1676

FOUNDATIONS RESTORED BY THE
OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1951





























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/22/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 8/6/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 8/6/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Julie Ernstein  Discipline Archeologist

Telephone (202)354-2217 Date 8/6/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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



January 19, 2018

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Russell Garrison, Dartmouth (Bristol), 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 property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Deborah Cox, Holly Herbster, PAL, consultants
Judith N. Lund, Chair, Dartmouth Historical Commission
Frank S. Gracie III, Chair, Dartmouth Select Board
David Cressman, Town Administrator
Joel Avila, Chair, Dartmouth Planning Board

5610-2215

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Russell Garrison
Other names/site number: formerly DAR-900
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Fort Street
City or town: Dartmouth State: MA County: Bristol
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

Returned

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>January 19, 2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SHPO</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Returned

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Defense: fortification; battle site

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: monument/marker

Returned

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Reconstruction: Other__

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Granite and fieldstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Russell Garrison Site (sometimes referenced as "Russell's Garrison" in 19th - and early 20th -century accounts) is located off Fort Street in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Early Dartmouth settler John Russell built his home adjacent to the Apponegansett River sometime between 1662 and 1664. During King Philip's War (1675-1676), Russell's home was used as a garrison and was the location of several recorded events involving Native Americans and colonial settlers. The cellar holes (designated as the North Room and South Room) that identified the site were well-known to local residents from the 19th through mid-20th centuries, and in 1951 the Old Dartmouth Historical Society (ODHS) purchased the property in order to preserve the site. That same year, archaeologist Oliver G. Ricketson, Jr. completed an excavation and partial reconstruction of the buried stone foundation on behalf of ODHS, and the Garrison became a commemorative site open to the public. In 1989, the property was deeded to the town of Dartmouth. The exposed foundations were overgrown and in disrepair. The town decided to fill the majority of the exposed site to prevent further damage and make the site safer for visitors. Today, the site is maintained in an open grassy meadow with the upper portion of the reconstructed 25-foot-square North Room foundation visible above the ground surface. While adjacent residential construction has partially limited the view and likely destroyed the South Room portion of the foundation, the site's natural setting at the river's edge with long views to the opposite shore have been maintained. Portions of the site area have remained undeveloped, and there is the potential for additional archaeological deposits associated with the 17th -century colonial occupation to be present as well as earlier Native American deposits.

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Narrative Description

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century (Post-Abandonment) Context

According to early 20th-century Dartmouth historian William A. Wing, John Russell's second Dartmouth house was still standing in 1935. No homes dating to the period are listed in the Dartmouth Massachusetts Historical Commission historic building inventory. Dorothy Russell died in 1687 and John in 1695, after which the second home was used as a school and town meeting location (1935:8-9). After his death, the Garrison homestead went to eldest son John Jr., who died one year after his father. The homestead then passed to John Russell's grandson, also named John.

The fate of the Garrison in the 18th century has not been documented, and there is no clear record to indicate when the house may have been abandoned or demolished. Additional deed research may help to pinpoint the date(s) when the original structure was no longer standing.

Following the death of John Russell, in 1695, the next reference to the site appears in a footnote to Samuel Drake's 1825 edited version of Benjamin Church's history of King Philip's War. In describing one of the events at the Garrison, Drake notes that "on the north side of this river, about a mile from its mouth, is to be seen the cellars of the old garrison; opposite to which was an Indian fort (1825:38). John Warner Barber's description of Dartmouth in *The History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts* notes that, "The cellars of Russell's Garrison are still to be seen" (1839:116). These two citations indicate that by the early 19th century, the Garrison structure was no longer standing, but its location was clearly visible on the landscape and was known to local residents as the former Russell homestead the site was clearly associated with King Philip's War.

A copy of a January 4, 1889 newspaper article (name of paper unknown) on file at the Dartmouth Historical Commission includes a very detailed description of the Russell Garrison Site given by local resident Captain Jacob Howland, who toured the site with the article's author:

Leaving our carriage near the rail fence, we cross the running brook at the south, twenty feet away and we stand by the ruins of Russell's [*sic*] garrison. Walking up the slight elevation our feet are on the edge of a cellar, the outline of which is as clearly defined, evidently, as when seen by Drake in 1827 [*sic*]. The space indicates that the house was about twenty feet square with an ell on the south side about ten feet square. Capt. Howland tells us that in his boyhood [he was 75 when interviewed] the walls of rude mason-work were about four feet high, with an entrance, at the northeast corner, leading directly to the running brook. These walls have been depleted from time to time, so that little remains in sight; but enough, however, to mark the original outline.

On the south side and adjoining is the similar excavation that undoubtedly was directly connected with the other. From the center of this cellar a lone tree has grown... This, too, has its wall outline, and the captain tells us that 60 years ago he assisted his father, Mr. David Howland, in moving the door or entrance stone from its position, and placed it in the wall as a stepping stone. One hundred feet south of the garrison, after a long and diligent search, we find it; and he recognizes it as the identical stone. His enthusiasm finds expression in a vigorous leap over the wall to examine it more closely and to chip off a bit for a memento.

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Leonard Ellis's *History of New Bedford* (1892) provides another post-occupation description of the site, noting that it was owned at that time by Captain Charles Gifford. The text appears to be drawn, at least partially, from the 1889 article cited above.

Ellis writes;

The cellars are still as clearly defined as when visited by Drake [see above] in 1827. The space indicates that the house was about 20 feet square, with an ell on the south of about ten feet square. Years ago there were walls of rude masonry about four feet high, with an exit on the northeast corner, leading to a brook near by [sic]. On the opposite side of the river, and a little to the southward, is Heath's Neck, where were located an Indian fort and settlement (1892:25).

Much of the modern interpretive information about the Russell Garrison appears to have originated with William A. Wing, who in 1935 delivered an address to the ODHS that was published by the Society that same year. Wing was a sixth-generation descendant of John Russell, Sr., tracing his family line from John Russell, Jr. and the "Russell twins." Wing began his address to the Society by noting that virtually all of Dartmouth's early town records were lost in 1725 when a fire destroyed the home of Thomas Hathaway, who was Clerk of the Proprietors (1935:1). The address included a lengthy background on John Russell's time in Marshfield and his arrival in Dartmouth, as well as detailed accounts of King Philip's War that were clearly derived from some of the same original records reviewed for this nomination. Wing also presented his view of the architecture of the original Russell home, which was largely based on late 17th - century structures that were still standing, though largely altered, in the early 20th century. As described below, archaeologist Oliver Ricketson relied heavily on Wing's discussion for his interpretation and reconstruction of the Garrison site.

A 1939 *Dartmouth News* article provides a brief reference to some type of site identification or preservation that occurred prior to the 1951 Ricketson excavations. At the time, the land was owned by Mary Kirby, who had inherited it from her father Charles Gifford. The reporter notes the two depressions, but then describes "some stones and rocks in one corner of the larger depressions," which, according to Mrs. Kirby, "is the original step leading to the door of the stockade. The step was reconstructed from old records, a number of years ago." Mrs. Kirby is quoted describing the site: "There were two houses within the stockade, the smaller hole was the cellar of the women's division, which was somewhat divided from the men's."

These accounts help to document the memory of the Russell Garrison as a locally important historic site, and provide documentation that the site was preserved as a ruin long after the structure itself was gone.

Ricketson's Excavation and Reconstruction (1951)

Ricketson's association with the Russell Garrison Site appears to have come initially from his association with the ODHS. Ricketson's original handwritten field notes (hereafter cited as RGFN) are archived at the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library (copies are on file at the Dartmouth Historical Commission) and include dated entries that begin on June 2, 1951 and end on September 13, 1951. The notes include Ricketson's daily observations about the site work, notes on visitors, accounts of time and effort for the paid laborers and equipment, sketches and scaled drawings of the site and features, and general questions and interpretations. The note pages are numbered, although it is not clear if the numbers are original to the field notes or if they were added later. In 1964, the ODHS published a site report that had been delivered by Ricketson at a Society meeting in 1951 (Ricketson 1964). The published report included photos of the

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site taken before and after the fieldwork as well as scaled plans of the site and identified features (Figure 6a and b).

The site excavation work was conducted between June and September 1951 on a more or less daily basis, with periods of inactivity when Ricketson was away or when his workers were not available. The excavation was overseen by Ricketson, who employed local laborers Ventura Silvia and Lawrence (Laurence) and Frank Gonet. Ricketson's notes do not indicate how he knew these men or why they were hired, but it is likely they were locals. According to the 1940 federal census (accessed at www.ancestry.com), Silvia was a Dartmouth farmer and both Gonets were mill workers from Poland who lived two streets apart, suggesting that they may have been relatives. Dartmouth resident Frank Metcalf visited the site with Ricketson on his initial visit and occasionally joined the excavation; Mr. Metcalf was an avocational archaeologist and Massachusetts Archaeological Society member who collected information about numerous archaeological sites in the area (Herbster and Cox 2002). The field notes also mention a visit and some site work by Howard Mandell, who was identified by Ricketson as an amateur archaeologist.

Prior to initiating excavations, Ricketson's knowledge about the site and its history was limited (by his own admission). His knowledge was based primarily on a review of William A. Wing's (1935) ODHS paper on John Russell, which included a description of the Russell house as having walls "constructed entirely of stone" with a large stone chimney and "so-called salt-box ell' at the north" (Ricketson 1964:25). Wing's description (1935:4), which was based on surviving examples of 17th-century homes and a painting of the Thomas Tabor House in Fairhaven, appears to have figured largely in Ricketson's site interpretations.

Ricketson visited the Russell Garrison site for the first time on June 2, 1951, accompanied by Ralph Metcalf and ODHS Secretary, Ted Rice (Ricketson 1964:25; RGFN 1). The Society had decided to purchase the property, and Ricketson was consulted for advice about how to best preserve the site. The Garrison site had been part of the "old Kirby property" purchased in 1950 by local resident Carl Manchester who had planned to divide the land into house lots (see Figure 3). In 1951, the site "lay upon the top of a small grass-covered knoll, rising 12-15 feet above the tidewater and about 30 feet south of Old Fort Brook... Meadow grass covered the whole area of the terrain, with a half dozen oaks scattered here and there" (Ricketson 1964:25). At the time of Ricketson's first visit, some preliminary grading associated with the previously planned site development had occurred. He noted that "The bulldozer uncovered bones (badly fragmented and therefore unidentified) 12 paces east of the NE wall," and "Further to the east the bulldozer uncovered a layer of oyster, clam and quahog. Shells mixed with black ash—an old Indian clambake site?" (RGFN:2). He also sketched the location of a "mound" located to the southwest of the foundation depression near the edge of the marsh (RGFN:1a). It appears that after the ODHS became interested in purchasing the site, the construction work around it did not continue.

Ricketson's initial description of the main depression, or "North Room" provides important context for the later reconstruction and interpretation of the site:

The garrison itself appeared as a 4-1/2-foot depression in the top of the knoll. Alignments of stone roughly shaped by sledging appeared at ground level on the northwesterly and southeasterly margins of the depression, suggesting a location of walls beneath. Quantities of stone, some sledged, filled the bottom of the depression, many stones showing a thin layer of mortar still adhering, the mortar containing grit and pieces of quahog shell, some of the grit quite coarse. The sides of the depression were highest on

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the southeast and lowest on the northwest; it measured roughly 20 feet square, which tallies with Wing's description (1964:26).

The "south room" was described prior to excavation as follows:

Twenty feet southeast of the depression [North Room]...an oak was growing out of another obviously artificial depression, this depression more or less circular in shape, and eight to ten feet in diameter. The bottom of this depression was so completely filled with small stones weighing from one to two pounds that there was not enough soil to support any grasses. No demarkable periphery indicated possible inside walls; its appearance suggested a filled-in well... [but] upon excavation it turned out to be a second rectangular room with badly dilapidated walls, measuring roughly 10 feet by 13 feet (1964:26).

Ricketson began his site work with an exploratory trench designed to determine the likelihood that archaeological deposits associated with the site were still present. The initial trench was excavated perpendicular to the northwest wall from the base of the slope into the slope towards the wall, and was designed to collect information on both the natural stratigraphy of the site and the potential construction technique of the garrison. This side of the knoll, which faced the river, had the gentlest and lowest slope and therefore required the least amount of soil removal to reach the foundation. As later excavation revealed, the knoll was dug out from this direction in order to build the original structure, with excavated soils deposited to the south and southeast.

The initial exposure of the stone foundation indicated that at least the base layers had been set in mortar, some of which were "roughly squared or shaped by sledging" (Ricketson 1964:7). This wall was built on top of "yellow dirt" that Ricketson interpreted as the undisturbed glacial subsoil encountered in various places around the site and which Ricketson said comprised the natural knoll. At the head of the trench, the northwest foundation wall was encountered 35 inches below the surface of the knoll and stood 34 inches high.

The excavations also exposed an ash lens mixed with burned quahog shell that was present above the yellow dirt and a layer of "soot-stained stones" that were found above the ash. Both deposits contained nails, so they were interpreted as colonial rather than Native American deposits. Ricketson felt that the ash lens was likely indicative of an area where the Garrison's builders had burned shell to obtain lime for mortar, and the soot-covered stones were likely a large stone chimney fall from a period after the site was abandoned (1964:12). Upon reaching the northwest foundation wall, the excavations focused on clearing away soil to expose the interior and exterior faces of the foundation walls.

On July 18, 1951, approximately six weeks after starting, Ricketson's field notes indicate that the bulk of the excavation at the site was done. He wrote, "now that no new areas remain to be excavated, I am somewhat appalled at the amount (and cost!) of labor necessary for the preservation and partial restoration of what little we have" (RGFN:16). The completed excavation revealed two rooms. The larger North Room measured roughly 25 by 25 feet and a smaller South Room measuring 13 by 10 feet. (Figure 6b). Both rooms were oriented at nearly an exact 45-degree angle off of compass north. While Ricketson found no archaeological evidence of a connection between the two rooms, he inferred that they were linked by a ground-level passage level between sets of stairs at the corners of each room. The South Room was shallower than the North. Both appeared to have had dirt floors although Ricketson identified parallel linear soil stains in the floor of the North Room that he thought could have been evidence of wooden floor boards.

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The North Room had walls that varied in thickness but were widest along the north wall, where Ricketson determined there had been a stone fireplace and chimney (see Figure 6b, Figure 7). The remnants of a mortared stone base extended almost six feet inside the wall along with discolored soil, and the soot-stained fieldstones identified in the exploratory trench supported his interpretation.

On the opposite (southern) wall, Ricketson identified what he termed a "cooking fireplace" that included an approximately three-foot-wide beehive-shaped oven that sat in a recessed cavity 40 inches above the fireplace and was lined with flat stones (see Figure 6b and 8). Ricketson's interpretation and subsequent reconstruction of this feature, including the added wooden lintel, were based largely on F. Kelly's *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (1924) which depicted an "almost identical fireplace" from the White Farm in Trumbull. In addition to the seven stone steps at the North Room's southeast corner, there was a three-foot-seven-inch-wide opening at the northwest corner. Though no evidence of a jamb or post features in the floor were observed, Ricketson determined that this must have been a doorway (1964:14).

The excavation of the South Room produced little evidence of its internal configuration or use. Aside from the three steps at the eastern corner leading down to a dirt floor, the walls were so collapsed inward that there was little more for Ricketson to identify.

In the beginning of August, Ricketson and his crew began the process of reconstructing the foundation walls. He wrote that the men, "prepared the short southeast wall between the southwest wall and the fireplace and rebuilt it almost from ground up as it was displaced inwards. This meant digging out behind (outside) it, so it could be rebuilt straight (up and down)" (RGFN:22). The notes indicate that while the bulk of the materials used were those present at the site, the work was largely done by the site laborers as a construction project. Based on Ricketson's notes and available site photos, the reconstructed southern and eastern foundation walls were banked into the earthen knoll (either the natural knoll or the soils excavated from the interior), while the interior walls were exposed to the level Ricketson had identified as the "floor" of the Garrison (see Figures 7 and 8). The western and northern walls were more exposed on the exterior and followed the natural slope of the ground that was lowest at the northwestern corner of the foundation.

Ricketson's field notes and report indicate that the excavations produced very little cultural material (excluding building stone, mortar fragments, and shell remains). The daily notes rarely mention artifacts. The initial trench excavation resulted in the identification of "a few hand made nails (iron) and an ox-shoe" (RGFN:3), and about a month later Ricketson wrote that the crew had "found the usual half dozen nails" (RGFN:8). There is no record at the New Bedford Whaling Museum (which is the public outlet of the ODHS) or in any ODHS records to indicate that Ricketson collected or inventoried artifacts associated with the 1951 excavations. It seems likely that materials such as nails may not have been considered important and/or temporally associated with the site, and therefore were not saved. Ricketson's notes suggest that some items from the excavation may have been given to ODHS members or local residents. On July 5 he wrote "Mr. Tripp & Tabor & 2 guests in pm. Gave Mr. Tabor the button, the unknown piece of something (like pewter?) & the little flat washer-shaped ring that could have been brass or bronze" (RGFN:10). No additional information about the location of these items or any others from the site was obtained as part of the National Register research.

The overall conclusion drawn by Ricketson after completing the excavation was that the structural remains were not in fact John Russell's home, but rather a garrison "hastily built as an emergency measure after the inception of King Philip's War; that it served its purpose and was immediately abandoned, inasmuch as there was no longer any threat from the Indians after King Philip's defeat and death on August 12, 1676" (Ricketson 1964:15). Ricketson (1964:12) cites several earlier historians

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(including Benjamin Church and Daniel Ricketson [1858]) who describe the garrison as being in John Russell's orchard, suggesting that the structure was on his property but was not his actual home. He also references Plymouth Colony records (also cited by Wing) that he interprets as a directive for Dartmouth's residents to prepare fortifications against Indian attack. Wing's 1935 address, however, indicates that he assumed the cellar holes and foundation remains to be those of John Russell's home, basing this interpretation on similar structures from the late seventeenth century. In 1989, Boston University historical archaeologist Dr. Mary Beaudry also interpreted the site as likely being a typical late 17th-century residential structure based on information provided to her (letter dated November 4, 1989 to Mrs. William R. Bullard, Jr., copy on file Dartmouth Historical Commission, Dartmouth, MA).

Ricketson interpreted the Garrison to have been strategically sited on a raised knoll where it would provide a perspective on the surrounding water and landscape. The well-drained and sandy, stony soils could be used to buttress the foundation, and there was an immediately adjacent source of fresh water. Ricketson noted that these favorable characteristics were likely the same reasons the site had been previously selected by Native Americans (1964:6).

Ricketson found no evidence of external wooden structural elements—not wooden walls above the stone foundation, nor wooden roof beams or shingles. The amount of fallen stone that Ricketson and his crew removed from the interior of the main depression convinced him that Wing (1935) had been correct and that the Garrison walls had been made entirely of stone (1964:12). He believed that any wooden structural elements, at least a wooden roof and wooden doors, would have certainly been present when the garrison was in use and hypothesized that the building would have resembled "some type of redoubt or block-house above ground" (Ricketson 1964:13). Since there was not extensive charring or evidence of burning (outside the fireplaces), he assumed that these materials were removed. "In the ravaged countryside, the lumber—if boards and beams—would have been invaluable. Consequently, it was immediately removed and reused" (Ricketson 1964:14). He also used the lack of artifacts at the site to support his interpretation that the garrison was "a temporary shelter for refugees who brought in very little and were careful to take that little with them when they left" (Ricketson 1964:15).

The Russell Garrison as a Commemorative Site (1951–present)

The site was open as Ricketson reconstructed it from 1951 until 1989, when the ODHS deeded the property to the Town of Dartmouth. A single family home was built on the adjacent lot (Lot 22; see Figure 2) less than 15 feet from the southern edge of the North Room in 1963 (Town of Dartmouth Assessor's Office), and any remaining evidence of the South Room was destroyed as part of the construction (see Figure 4).

By 1989, the reconstructed structural remains were in poor condition. Many of the walls were in disrepair and vegetation had taken over most of the excavated interior (Figure 9). The DHC recommended that the site be filled to protect the exposed foundation and prevent further damage, and to make the site safer for visitors. Former DHC chairperson Kathleen Fair (1996) noted that the site was filled with sand so that future researchers would easily be able to locate and identify the original reconstruction work.

The present-day site is well-maintained with manicured grass inside and outside of the foundation (see attached photos). The site is visible and easily accessed from Fort Street, which ends in a cul-de-sac just north of the site. There is no indication that the site has been subjected to vandalism or disturbance, despite its accessibility. The site's setting, in a quiet residential neighborhood with one home located immediately adjacent and several others across the street, likely contributes to its overall security.

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Most of the internal features of the reconstructed North Room, including all but one of the stone steps and the possible stone chimney base on the north wall, are no longer visible (Figure 10). The "beehive oven" that extends into the south wall is still exposed, and the heavily applied cement mortar used by Ricketson to reconstruct the interior of the oven is easily visible in this space, which has been protected from the elements. The base of the "beehive" is at the current interior ground surface level, although when the reconstruction was completed it was 39 inches above the interior floor (Ricketson 1964:13). Using this feature as a guide, the 1989 fill in this area is more than three feet deep. A double row of bricks lines the ground in front of the oven (Photo 10, Figure 10). These bricks were clearly placed on top of the 1989 fill, but their original location and origin are unknown. Ricketson's notes, site report, and photos do not indicate brick anywhere in or around the foundation, so they are therefore considered to be a recent addition and not a contributing element to the National Register-eligible site.

The exposed lower courses of the foundation walls have visible cement mortar and are in generally good condition; some evidence of what appears to be modern cement repair is visible, but this may be associated with Ricketson's original reconstruction. Some of the upper fieldstone courses are loose or are sitting in partially loose cement (Photo 14). The east wall includes a section of loose fieldstones on the ground surface, and a pile of tumbled loose stones is located near the southeast corner adjacent to the steps (Photo 11).

The exterior portions of the south and east walls are at or just above ground level, which is likely similar to how they were left after Ricketson's reconstruction. The outer walls on these sides of the foundation were banked into the existing knoll and/or the soils excavated from the interior of the foundation. As described above, the major difference between the 1951 reconstruction and the current site is the filled interior. As a result of the filling, the maximum height of the exposed stone walls today is only about 30 inches above the ground surface (see attached photos).

The foundation is surrounded by a series of cut-granite posts to which an iron link chain is attached. The chain sits near or at the ground surface on several sides, making it easy to access the foundation and walk around in the interior. A boulder with commemorative copper marker (Photo 1) sits outside the southeastern foundation wall facing Fort Street and reads:

THE RUSSELL GARRISON

A Place of Refuge for the
Early Settlers of Dartmouth During
KING PHILIP'S WAR
1675-1676

Foundations Restored by the
Old Dartmouth Historical Society
1951

Metal signs direct visitors to the site from the main road (Elm Street) and the DHC has also placed a metal sign on a metal stake reading "Russell Garrison c. 1675" at the northeast corner of the foundation.

The landscape immediately surrounding the foundation includes several features of unknown temporal association. A modern surface feature sits approximately 40 feet due north of the northeast foundation corner. This cluster of four to five fieldstones surrounded by modern trash and charcoal appears to have been used as a fire pit, although the stones may have been discarded from the foundation area during

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Ricketson's excavation. A short row of fieldstones crosses the western property line and marks the edge of the Fort Brook wetland. Like the fire pit, the stones that form this single row are similar in size and shape to those in the reconstructed foundation, and may have been discarded outside the foundation area during Ricketson's site work.

Two other features are located west of the west foundation wall at the edge of the marsh area. A pile of loose fieldstones approximately two feet in diameter is located in a slight depression of the same size ten feet south of the western foundation wall. The stones are of similar size and shape to the foundation stones. A small open hole sits approximately thirteen feet south of the stone pile, within the tall marsh grass, and is surrounded by mottled top and subsoil, small fieldstones, and bricks and brick fragments. The hole appears to have been made by a burrowing animal, and without archaeological investigation it is impossible to determine if either feature is associated with intact Garrison site deposits, materials redeposited by Ricketson, or modern activity.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The site's aboveground contributing resources include the 1951 reconstructed North Room foundation; eight ca. 1951 granite posts and linking iron chain (considered to be one object) that form a boundary around the foundation; and a ca. 1951 commemorative marker mounted on a boulder at the foundation's edge (see Figure 11 and Data Sheet). Any potential subsurface archaeological deposits associated with the construction, use, demolition, and/or reconstruction of the Russell Garrison are also considered to be contributing resources.

Non-contributing resources include a row of bricks of unknown provenance that sit on the ground surface against the inside of the south foundation wall; a modern fire ring near Fort Street; and loose fieldstones that dot the property and have been used as either barriers or boundaries (see Figure 11 and Data Sheet).

Any structural or archaeological deposits associated with the South Room were destroyed by modern residential construction on the adjacent lot (Lot 22; see Figure 2).

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

Archeology: Historic Aboriginal

Military

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Period of Significance

ca. 1662–1967
1662–post 1676 (original construction and use by John Russell)
Post 1676–1951 (important local/regional historical landmark)
1951–1967(commemorative site)

Significant Dates

1675–1676
1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
John Russell
Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Returned

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Russell Garrison Site, Dartmouth, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C, and D at the local level. Under Criterion A, the site is significant for the period beginning ca. 1662 as the homestead of one of Dartmouth's earliest colonial settlers and as the location of several eyewitness-documented events during King Philip's War (1675–76), a major conflict in New England's early colonial history. Under Criterion B, the site is significant for its association with John Russell, one of Dartmouth's earliest residents and a Plymouth Colony leader; and for its association with Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr., whose excavation and reconstruction of the site in the early 1950s is the basis for the commemorative site. Under Criterion C, the site is significant as an historical commemorative property, meeting Criteria Considerations E, as a reconstructed property that is located in its original physical and environmental setting and is a rare example of a property that survives from the period of King Philip's War; and F, as a highly publicized local archaeological effort that resulted in the creation of a commemorative site considered by the community to be Dartmouth's most important historic resource. Under Criterion D, undisturbed portions of the site area, including the open yard surrounding the reconstructed foundation, have the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with Native

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American habitation and land use as well as the use of the site by Dartmouth residents in the seventeenth century. The site may also contain archaeological deposits created in the 1950s as part of the Ricketson excavation and reconstruction that could contribute additional information about the commemorative period of significance. The period of significance extends from Russell's ca. 1662 construction of the original building through the 1951 reconstruction to the 50-year cutoff, 1967. After King Philip's War and the removal or demolition of the house, the physical site remained well-known to local residents continuously through the 18th, 19th, and mid-20th centuries as an important historical landmark, and the cellar holes were still recognizable on the undeveloped property more than 250 years later when Ricketson undertook his excavations. The subsequent reconstruction and creation of a commemorative site in 1951 created a more visible site that remains today.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Russell Garrison Site represents a historic resource that has maintained its significance over a period spanning more than 350 years. As the homestead of John Russell, one of Dartmouth's most prominent early settlers and progenitor of a family with generations of subsequent Dartmouth residents, the Russell Garrison Site is significant as one of few 17th-century colonial house sites in the Dartmouth area that can be physically located with accuracy. The importance of the homestead is made more significant by its association with specific events in 1675 and 1676 during King Philip's War, events that were recorded by eyewitnesses including Captain Benjamin Church and are reported in the original Plymouth Colony records. Many of the locations associated with King Philip's War are known only by general location or do not have associated cultural deposits and/or archaeological features. In the case of the Russell Garrison, the physical location of the homestead, adjacent to Old Fort Brook and on the banks of the Apponegansett River, has been continuously visible in the landscape over three centuries; first as a standing structure, then as a cellar-hole ruin, and finally as a reconstructed commemorative property.

Research Sources

The events that connect the Russell Garrison to King Philip's War are reported in both primary and secondary sources. Primary-source information comes from the transcribed official records of Plymouth Colony (Shurtleff and Pulsifer 1855-1861, hereafter cited as PCR), which include acts and orders dating to the period before, during, and after the war. These records also help to place John Russell first as a resident of Marshfield, and later in Dartmouth, and document the positions he held within the town and at the Colony Court. Other contemporary sources include historical accounts of King Philip's War written from eyewitness accounts. Captain Benjamin Church's *History of King Philip's War*, published in 1865, includes a narrative account of two events he witnessed at the Russell Garrison.

Secondary sources include articles and addresses by 19th and early 20th-century local historians, often affiliated with the ODHS, who reported on John Russell and the King Philip's War events that are associated with his homestead. The most complete of these is a 1935 paper delivered to the ODHS by William A. Wing, a Russell descendant and historian who researched available records for his address, which was later published. Most subsequent newspaper articles and historians cite Wing or repeat his information with minor variations. Oliver Ricketson acknowledged the importance of Wing's research in his 1951 site excavation, interpretation, and reconstruction.

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John Russell

John Russell, together with his wife Dorothy and their sons John, Jr., Jonathan, and Joseph established a homestead in present-day Dartmouth sometime between 1662 and 1664 (Fair 1996, Wing 1935). Russell was in his fifties when he arrived from Marshfield, Massachusetts, and had already established himself as a community- and Plymouth Colony officeholder. The town of Dartmouth was officially established to include the areas formerly known as "Acushena, Ponagansett and Coaksett" by a June 6, 1664 Plymouth Colony court order, with John Russell one of its earliest representatives (PCR 4:65).

Russell's landholdings encompassed 400 acres at "Ponagansett" that stretched across the present-day South Dartmouth peninsula between Clark's Cove and the Apponegansett River and, according to Wing, were originally allotted to Plymouth Colony's Myles Standish. John Russell built his home on land adjacent to what had historically been known as "Old Fort Brook." Wing described his residence as "about 20 feet square with large stone chimney, and so-called 'salt-box' ell at the north. This house was undoubtedly similar to the [ca. 1680] Thomas Tabor House at Fairhaven a fragment of which still remains and belongs to this Society" (1935:4). He also wrote, "The entire sides of the Russell house were probably constructed of stones. Nearby, he planted his apple orchards well fenced" (Wing 1935:5).

John Russell appears in the records as a resident of Dartmouth in a June 1665 legal dispute, and on October 13, 1665 was appointed "to make enquiry concerning some damage done to some Indians without the bounds of Acushenah by the horses of the English...and to settle the [controversy] by taking course for the satisfying of such damage as shall appear unto them" (PCR 4:109). In 1671, Russell was again appointed by the Court to "view the Damage done to the Indians by the Horses and Hogs of the English" (PCR 5:62). These citations suggest that John Russell may have been familiar with the area's Native residents, or at least that he had occasional contact with Native individuals as a colonial representative prior to the events of King Philip's War.

Over the next ten years John Russell appears frequently as an official representative for Dartmouth, holding the positions of deputy, selectman, and constable during this period. In April 1667, John Russell and two other Dartmouth men were appointed by the Court to "exercise the inhabitants in armes" and to meet with Sergeant James Shaw "incase [sic] of any danger [presenting] for the best defence of the place in such respect, and to see how the men are [provided] with armes and ammunition, and to returne the defects to the said Court" (PCR 4:146).

John Russell's importance as a significant individual in the early history of Plymouth Colony and Dartmouth extends beyond the association with his garrison house and is documented in numerous local tributes, including addresses by William A. Wing delivered to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1909 and 1935 (both later published by ODHS). In the 1935 presentation, Wing, a fifth-generation Russell descendant, described John Russell's prominence in Marshfield, stating that soon after his arrival in Dartmouth, Russell became "what might be termed a 'favorite son,' for he was the first to represent his township as Deputy to the Colonial Government" (Wing 1935:3). A *New Bedford Standard-Times* (1935) newspaper article reporting on Wing's 1935 talk describes John Russell as "an important figure in the history of New Bedford and vicinity, as the first of his name to settle Dartmouth" and as the ancestor (through his marriage to Dorothy Howland) of many later prominent Dartmouth and New Bedford civic and social leaders.

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Seventeenth-Century Context and King Philip's War (1675-1676)

The onset of King Philip's War in July 1675 included Native American raids on the towns of Dartmouth, Middleborough, and Taunton, where homes and other buildings were reported burned. At some point before or after these attacks, John Russell appears to have fortified his home as one of two central defensive shelter locations in the area (the other being Pope's Island in Fairhaven). Wing writes that Russell "strengthen[ed] his home place with a garrison and a strong stockade for the protection of neighboring settlers" (1935:5). Russell may have volunteered or may have been asked to make his home a place of refuge since he was a prominent Dartmouth leader and representative to the Plymouth Court, or perhaps his home was selected as a strategic location as the brook provided an adjacent source of fresh water and the river offered easy transport and commanding views of the landscape. It is also possible that Russell wanted to protect his homestead from possible damage or destruction. Likely some combination of these factors led to the home being thereafter known as the "Russell Garrison."

In July 1675, during a period of intense hostilities, a group of more than 100 Native American individuals came to the Russell Garrison to seek protection. At least one member of the group was known to and may have been employed by colonist Ralph Earle, and they were promised safety and fair treatment as part of an effort to end the war. After being transported to Plymouth as prisoners, the Native Americans were sold into servitude against the protest of those to whom they had surrendered. According to Church, this single event prolonged the fighting and was responsible for another year of casualties on both sides.

On July 29, 1675 Benjamin Church described the primary King Philip's War event associated with the Garrison. A group of English soldiers had come to Dartmouth,

And coming to Russels [*sic*] Garrison at Pondsunset, they met with a Number of the Enemy that had surrendered themselves Prisoners on terms promised by Capt. Eels of the Garrison; and Ralph Earl had perswaded them (by a friend Indian he had employed) to come in. And had their promises to the Indians been kept, and the Indians farely treated, 'tis probable that most if not all the Indians in those Parts, had soon followed the Example of those that had now surrendred themselves; which would have been a good step towards finishing the War. But in spite of all that Capt. Eels, Church, or Earl could say, argue, plead, or beg, some body else that had more Power in their hands improv'd it... and without any regard to the promises made them on their surrendering themselves they were carry'd away to Plymouth (cited in Slotkin and Folsom 1978:411).

Samuel Eels (Eells), like Church, appears in numerous records relating to King Philip's War as a military leader who commanded groups of soldiers and settlers throughout the region. It is interesting to note that John Russell's name does not appear in Church's recounting of the event nor in the official Plymouth record; however, there is no doubt the surrender occurred at the Garrison, and it is probable that Russell, as the occupant and a Plymouth colony representative who had previously dealt with Native residents, was present or at least involved.

Wing (1935:5) cites a letter written several days later by Captain Daniel Henchman of Tiverton to Massachusetts Bay Governor John Leverett. Wing quotes Henchman: "On the 29th day landed here one hundred men to relieve Dartmouth being reported in some distress. At break Mr. Amie bro't [*sic*] word from Dartmouth that several parties of Indians with their arms to the number of four score gave themselves to the garrison for mercy, who set them on an island" (Wing 1935:5, citing July 31, 1675 letter by Capt. Daniel Henchman. Location of original letter unknown). Wing notes that the "island" was

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Little Island, which was part of John Russell's landholdings and was located within sight of the Garrison in the middle of the Apponegansett River. Wing and later writers refer to the island as a detention site, where the surrendered Native Americans were temporarily housed until they could be transported.

On August 4, 1675 the Plymouth Colony Court records describe the fate of the group:

In reference to a companie of natives now in custody, brought in to Plymouth, being men, women, and children, in number one hundred and twelve...the conclusion is...that severall of them have bine actors in the late rising and warr of the Indians against us, and the rest compliers with them therein...the counsel adjudged them to be sold, and denoted into servitude (PCR 5:177).

Church relates a second event that occurred at the Garrison, likely in July 1676 near the end of the war (Slotkin and Folsom 1978:468, footnote). Church and a company of men under his command had been involved in a series of skirmishes with Native American fighters first in Assawompsett, then Acushnet, and finally followed them into Dartmouth. He returned:

...to the Rivers side towards Poneganset, to Russels Orchard, coming near the Orchard they [Church's men] clap'd into a thicket and there lodg'd the rest of the Night without any Fire; and upon the morning light appearing, moves towards the Orchard, discovers some of the enemy, who had been there the day before, and had beat down all the Apples, and carry'd them away; discovered also where they had lod'd that Night, and saw the ground where they set their baskets of booty, being as they supposed and as it was afterwards discovered to be the flesh of Wyne, &c. which they had killed that day: They had lain under the fences without any fires; and seem'd by the marks they left behind them to be very numerous, perceived also by the dew on the grass that they had not long been gone (cited in Slotkin and Folsom 1978:437).

There is also an anecdotal story associated with the Garrison that is reported by Wing and repeated in later local histories of King Philip's War. A temporary Native American "fort" had supposedly been built on John Earle's land directly across the river from the Russell homestead at a place called "Heathen's Neck." In response to a rude gesture made by a Native man towards one of the Garrison's defenders, a shot was fired by the colonist that reportedly hit the offender from a great distance. While there is no primary source documentation for this incident, the 1773 inventory of Dartmouth resident Abraham Sherman's possessions included "A gun which killed an Indian across 'Ponagansett River from ye olde [*sic*] castle on Russell's land to Heathen Neck" (cited in Wing 1935:6-7).

Shortly after the fighting ended (March 1676/77), John Russell was one of three Dartmouth representatives appointed by Plymouth Colony to distribute 22 pounds from a fund donated by Irish Christians to assist with rebuilding efforts (PCR 5:222). Sometime after 1676, John Russell built a second home on present-day Rockland Street, located east of the original homestead in South Dartmouth. The original "Garrison" homestead was then occupied by John's son Joseph and his wife Elizabeth, whose twin sons were born there. The "Russell Twins," as they are known in local historical accounts, were later among the original settlers of present-day New Bedford (Wing 1935:8).

Russell Garrison: 1676 to 1951

The date of abandonment of the Garrison structure is not known, nor did Ricketson's excavations provide much information about any post-1676 occupation or use of the site. This is perhaps because the

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excavation and reconstruction were focused only on the 17th-century history of the site. While details of the structure's removal or demolition are lacking, the site itself remained important and well-documented as a local historical resource throughout the entire period leading up to 1951.

Historians Samuel Drake (1825), John Warner Barber (1835), and Leonard Ellis (1892) all note that the Russell Garrison cellar holes were visible in the 19th century, more than 150 years after the events of King Philip's War, indicating that the site had not been developed and that its history was known to local residents. A 1889 newspaper article, focused on the events of July 1676, included a detailed description of a tour of the site led by local resident Captain Jacob Howland. Howland remembered stone foundation walls that were still visible around the site during his childhood in the early 1800s.

The tradition of reporting on the known site location continued into the 20th century, as documented in a 1939 *Dartmouth News* article, which notes that "Two hundred and fifty years is a long time, and it is no wonder that there is nothing left of the original building built by John Russell. Yet, for the curious there is still something to be seen at the site of the old stockade." Mary Kirby, the property owner in 1939, noted that the original doorstep to the house, visible at that time, had been "reconstructed from old records, a number of years ago."

A copy of a 1951 local newspaper article provides information about the decision to excavate and preserve the site as a commemorative property. The article notes that the need to preserve the site was "brought to a head by the expansion of residential Dartmouth," a threat that had not been imminent in the 275 years since the site had been occupied. The work as described as "one of the long-time ambitions of many [Old Dartmouth Historical] society members" and the article notes that "the fact its foundations still existed was common knowledge among those interested in Greater New Bedford's past."

These dated written accounts of the Russell Garrison establish a timeline that documents the site's location as well as its importance to local residents over more than 125 years.

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr., and the Russell Garrison as a Reconstructed and Commemorative Site

Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr. was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Sr. and Margaret Coleman Carnegie. Oliver, Sr. was born in Pennsylvania but was a descendant of William Ricketson, one of present-day Dartmouth's earliest settlers who established a homestead at Ricketson's Point in South Dartmouth. Margaret was the niece of industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Oliver Jr. spent his early years at a Carnegie family compound on Cumberland Island, Georgia, then attended the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, and Harvard University. While at Harvard, Ricketson studied anthropology under E.A. Hooten, a leading archaeological scholar at that time. After graduating in 1916, he entered the Harvard Medical School, left to serve in the Navy during World War I, and then briefly returned to Harvard where he decided he no longer wanted to be a doctor.

Ricketson's interest in archaeology took him to Arizona in the 1920s. He worked with Samuel Guernsey of Harvard's Peabody Museum at Marsh Pass, Arizona, and with the American Museum of Natural History's Cartier expedition in Arizona and Utah. In 1921, he met Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley of the Carnegie Institute of Washington and served as a mule driver on an expedition across the Yucatán Peninsula. In 1922, Ricketson joined an expedition to the Maya city of Tulum where his talents for mapping and drawing were utilized for several archaeological surveys. Ricketson's interest in archaeology was formalized during this period, and in 1923 he accompanied W. A. Lowe to survey several Maya cities in the Petén jungle.

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Ricketson led his first excavation, at Baking Pot, in Belize, in 1923. That same year, he worked on the Carnegie Institute excavations at Chichén Itzá and completed his M.A. at Harvard. In 1926, Ricketson initiated what would be a long-term archaeological project at the Maya site of Uaxactun in Guatemala. During this period Ricketson accompanied Charles A. Lindbergh on an aerial reconnaissance of the Maya Lowlands region. Ricketson left the field in 1929 and moved to Guatemala City with his wife, where he set up a laboratory for the analysis of collected artifacts and samples. While there, Ricketson also worked on the Uaxactun site report, which was published as his Harvard Ph.D. dissertation in 1937.

In 1941, Ricketson's connection with the Carnegie Institute ended, and he decided to leave archaeology as a profession. His interest in archaeology continued, however, and he travelled in Central and South America, lectured on his work, and spent time doing professional illustration and drafting before retiring to a family home in South Dartmouth, where he had lived on and off since 1937. Dr. Ricketson's last archaeological project was the excavation of the Russell Garrison, which he completed less a year before his death, at the age of 58, in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dr. Ricketson's obituary appeared in *The New York Times* and the journal *American Antiquity*, an indication of his social and professional prominence. He was associated with many archaeological "firsts" in the American Southwest and in Central and South America and worked with many of the pioneers in the field. Although his excavations at the Russell Garrison are not considered to be formative in the development of American archaeology, Ricketson was known for his contributions in other areas.

Dr. Ricketson's archaeological excavations and site reconstruction were carried out with the assistance of untrained laborers and using methods that would not today be considered to meet professional standards. American historical archaeology was a developing field in the 1950s, but Ricketson's background was as a pre-Columbian archaeologist. His excavation techniques relied heavily on his Central American field experience, and his interpretations were drawn from local histories and his own impressions about defense works. Despite these shortcomings, Ricketson's excavation of the Russell Garrison was among the first by 20th-century archaeologists to investigate a 17th-century New England Euro-American site. His excavations in Dartmouth preceded by several years the New England work of James Deetz, considered to be a founder of historical archaeology.

While the excavation and subsequent reconstruction likely compromised the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features associated with the two foundations, Ricketson appears to have concentrated only on these areas. He did not locate or identify any other structures (e.g. outbuildings, privy, barn) or features (e.g. well, trash midden, garden, orchard) associated with the Russell Garrison that may survive in the surrounding undeveloped lot. Ricketson also identified disturbed Native American deposits that likely pre-date the Russell occupation, and other residents have reported artifact finds in the immediate area. Based on these reports and archaeological research in the surrounding area, Native Americans may have utilized the site thousands of years ago and/or into the Contact Period (ca. 8,000 years before present to ca. 1600).

Ricketson's detailed notes, photographs, and field drawings, coupled with the 1989 sand fill placed in and around the reconstructed foundation, provide important information that could be used by professional archaeologists to identify undisturbed or partially disturbed areas where additional archaeological deposits could be located. If present, these deposits represent potentially significant archaeological resources that could be related to Native American site use as well as to the entire period of occupation by the Russell family. Since the date of the Garrison's abandonment and/or destruction is not known, any remaining archaeological evidence of the site would be of great importance to its history and documentation.

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Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr.'s significance under Criterion B is based on his archaeological excavation and reconstruction of the Russell Garrison Site, which was completed under the direction of the ODHS for the express purpose of creating a permanent and visible commemorative site at the original house location. Ricketson's fieldwork was heavily covered in local newspapers and in public talks during and after the fieldwork, and his written report was published by ODHS in 1964 as part of Dartmouth's Tercentenary celebration. After completing his reconstruction, the site was more formally identified as a permanent commemorative location with the installation of granite posts and an iron link chain around the foundation, and the placement of a boulder and copper marker in front of the foundation facing Fort Street.

The reconstructed foundation sits in its original location, and with fieldstone that was on the property but that may or may not have all been part of the ca. 1662 John Russell house. Ricketson used modern materials including mortar and cement to build the reconstructed walls based on the archaeological footprint of the cellar holes that were visible during his fieldwork.

The foundation walls as Ricketson reconstructed them were visible and open to the public from the time ODHS took over the site in 1951 until 1989 when the town of Dartmouth took over ownership of the property and site. The exposed foundation walls were substantially filled in for safety reasons, leaving only the upper portions visible as the outline of the North Room. The granite posts, iron chain, and boulder with plaque were all left in place. The Russell Garrison's significance as a commemorative property is derived from the visible foundation walls, the granite post and iron chain that surround the foundation, and the boulder and plaque that identify the site. Viewed in the open grassy parcel, these visible elements clearly identify the site to a visitor as a historically important location. Since its creation 65 years ago, the basic components of the commemorative site have remained unchanged and the site has been maintained, first by the ODHS and later by the town of Dartmouth, as a public memorial to the house and its associations with King Philip's War. The construction of a modern house a few feet from the site boundary has not significantly affected the site's value as a commemorative property. The site is easily accessed from the public road, and the open grassy yard that surrounds the aboveground elements set the site off with longer views across the wetlands of the Apponegansett River.

The Dartmouth Historical Commission has repeatedly described the Russell Garrison as the town's most significant historical site, in large part because of its associations with so many important local and regional people and events. It was the home of one of Dartmouth's founding proprietors, who was also a leader in Plymouth Colony's colonial government. It was the site of several interactions between colonial settlers and Native Americans during King Philip's War, recorded by eyewitnesses and passed down in local histories for more than 300 years. It is one of the few known sites from this period that survived into the twentieth century with relatively little disturbance, and it was, in 1951, one of the earliest excavations by a trained archaeologist of a 17th-century historical site in New England.

The factors that make the site significant historically are also likely the reasons that it was not lost to development over the nearly 300 years between its occupation and its excavation. The location and history of the site were known to local residents continuously over the centuries, as documented by periodic newspaper articles and references. Elements of the site were visible over this entire period, first as foundation ruins, later as slight mounds and depressions with scattered fieldstones.

Over the past four decades, residential development has filled in some of the area surrounding the site, including the construction of a home over the South Room excavated by Ricketson. Despite these modern additions, the Russell Garrison Site maintains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials,

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workmanship, feeling, and association as the commemorative site that was established in 1951. Although the reconstructed foundation walls are no longer fully exposed, the present-day view of the site, with its granite posts and plaque, is largely the same as that when the site was first recognized by the ODHS as a commemorative property in 1951.

Due no doubt to its local importance, the foundation footprint survived more than 350 years without any development or alteration. After the 1951 reconstruction and 1989 filling, the foundation now sits in an open grassy knoll and visitors can stand at the site and view the adjacent Old Fort Brook or look across the Apponegansett River to the western bank, just as the site's inhabitants would have. The Garrison lot extends to the river's edge, where Little Island is visible to the south, as well as more distant views to the harbor.

The town of Dartmouth has become the most recent steward of the Russell Garrison Site and is committed to its long-term preservation. As a National Register-listed property, the Russell Garrison Site will serve as an example of a significant 17th-century New England historical site that is also important for its commemorative value to the regional community.

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Bristol County, MA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Drake, Samuel G. editor. *The History of King Philip's War; also of expeditions against the French and Indians in the eastern parts of New-England, in the years 1689, 1690, 1692, 1696 and 1704, by his son, Thomas Church, Esq.* Boston, MA: Howe and Norton Printers, 1825.

Ellis, Leonard Bolles. *History of New Bedford and its Vicinity 1620-1892*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1892.

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"Dr. Ricketson Dies; Archaeologist, 58." *New York Times* Sunday, October 19, 1987. New York, 1952.

Ricketson, Daniel. *History of New Bedford*. Published by the author, New Bedford, MA, 1858.

Ricketson, Dr. Oliver G. Jr. Russell Garrison Field Notes [RGFN]. Original unpublished manuscript on file, New Bedford New Bedford, MA :Whaling Museum Library, , 1951.

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Rodman, Thomas Rotch. "The King Philip War in Dartmouth." In *Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches*, No. 3. Old New Bedford, MA: Dartmouth Historical Society, , 1903.

Shurtleff, Nathaniel and Daniel Pulsifer, editors. *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*. 12 vols. Boston, MA: William White, 1855-1861.

Slotkin, Richard and James K. Folsom (editors). *So Dreadfull a Judgement: Puritan Responses to King Philip's War, 1676-1677*. Middletown, CT :Wesleyan University Press, 1978.

Wing, William A. "Five Johns of Old Dartmouth." Proceedings of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society. *Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches*, No. 25. Bedford, MA: Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New, 1909.

"John Russell." Paper read at the Meeting of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.. *Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches*, No. 69. New Bedford, MA :Old Dartmouth Historical Society, , 1935

Worth, Henry B. "The Homesteads of Apponegansett Before 1710." Proceedings of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, 30 June, 1909. *Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches*, No. 25. New Bedford, MA: Old Dartmouth Historical Society, 1909

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government;

Dartmouth Historical Commission, Town Hall, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth,
Massachusetts 02747

University

Other

Name of repository:

New Bedford Whaling Museum/Old Dartmouth Historical Society
18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DAR-HA-3

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: **19** Easting: **336901** Northing: **4606956**
2. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
3. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property consists of the 15,654-square-foot parcel designated as Lot 23 on the town of Dartmouth's Assessor's Map 127 (Figure 2), which was conveyed by the ODHS to the town of Dartmouth and recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 8519, Page 315. The property is described as Lot #37 on Revised Plan of Manchester Heights and recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 8519, Page 315 (Figure 3). The parcel is bounded on the north and west by Old Fort Brook and the Apponegansett River; on the east by Fort Street, and on the south by a modern residence.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Russell Garrison are defined by the visible foundation and the stone post-iron chain enclosure that surrounds it. The entire 15,654-square-foot lot (Assessor's Map 127- Lot 23) owned by the town of Dartmouth serves as an approximate limit of the site area and includes all areas that may contain additional archaeological deposits associated with the site. With the exception of the reconstructed foundation, the entire lot is undeveloped and is bounded on all sides by wetlands and/or modern development, so it is unlikely that any resources associated with the site lie outside the lot boundaries.

Returned

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Holly Herbster, Senior Archaeologist, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.,
with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: January 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: **Russell Garrison**

City or Vicinity: **Dartmouth**

County: **Bristol**

State: **Massachusetts**

Photographer: **Holly Herbster**

Date Photographed: **November 20, 2014 and January 13, 2015**

Description of Photograph(s) and number. Include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 15. Commemorative boulder and plaque, view west (January 2015).

Photo 2 of 15. Typical granite post and iron link chain surrounding site, view southwest (January 2015).

Photo 3 of 15. View of south wall looking southwest to Apponegansett River (November 2014).

Photo 4 of 15. View north across site towards northeast corner, Fort Street in background (November 2014).

Photo 5 of 15. View north across site towards north wall, Old Fort Brook in background (November 2014).

Photo 6 of 15. View south looking across north wall to south wall and adjacent house (January 2015).

Photo 7 of 15. View east across northeast corner foundation (January 2015).

Photo 8 of 15. View west along north wall (January 2015).

Photo 9 of 15. View south across southeast corner foundation, with stair and "beehive oven" (November 2014).

Photo 10 of 15. Detail of "beehive oven", view southeast (January 2015).

Photo 11 of 15. South wall, close-up southeast corner with stair (January 2015).

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Photo 12 of 15. View southwest across interior of foundation towards Apponegansett River (January 2015).

Photo 13 of 15. View west across north wall towards Old Fort Brook and Apponegansett River (January 2015).

Photo 14 of 15. Close-up of reconstruction masonry, northwest foundation corner (January 2015).

Photo 15 of 15. View southwest of fire ring (front left) and loose fieldstones (right, along wetland margin) with Russell Garrison site in background (January 2015). * location not shown on photo key

List of Figures

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Figure 2. 1985 Assessor's map showing Town of Dartmouth's Russell Garrison lot (copy on file, Dartmouth Historical Commission).

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Figure 4. Aerial image of Russell Garrison Site showing reconstructed foundation and surrounding landscape (source: Google Earth, image downloaded 3 January 2015).

Figure 5a. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

Figure 5b. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

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Figure 6b. Detail of Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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Figure 9. Photo of Russell Garrison Site in 1993, prior to Town filling. View northwest across foundation with Fort Street in background (source: Dartmouth Historical Commission).

Figure 10. Site plan showing existing conditions, Russell Garrison Site (PAL 2014).

Figure 11. Site Plan key to Russell Garrison Data Sheet.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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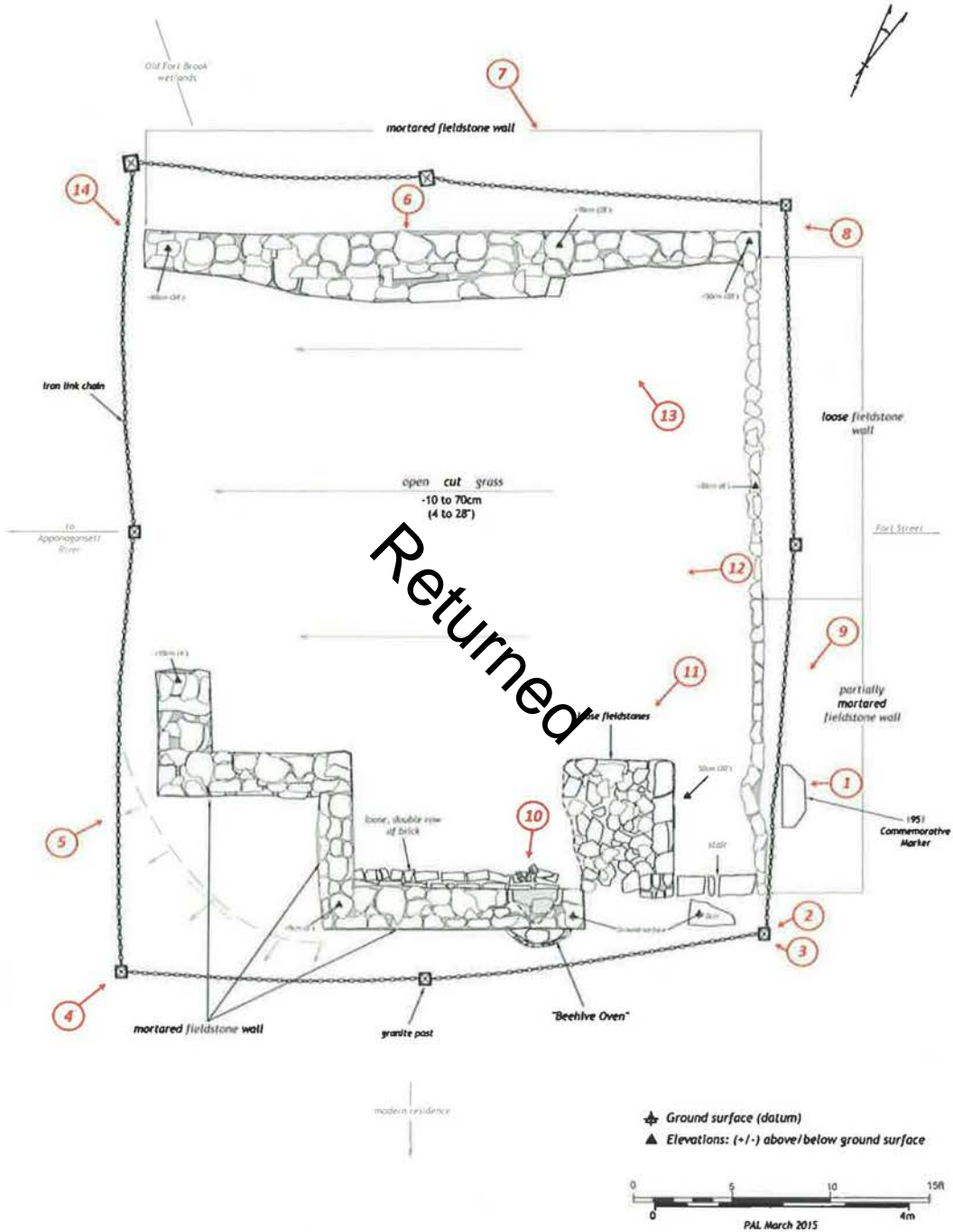
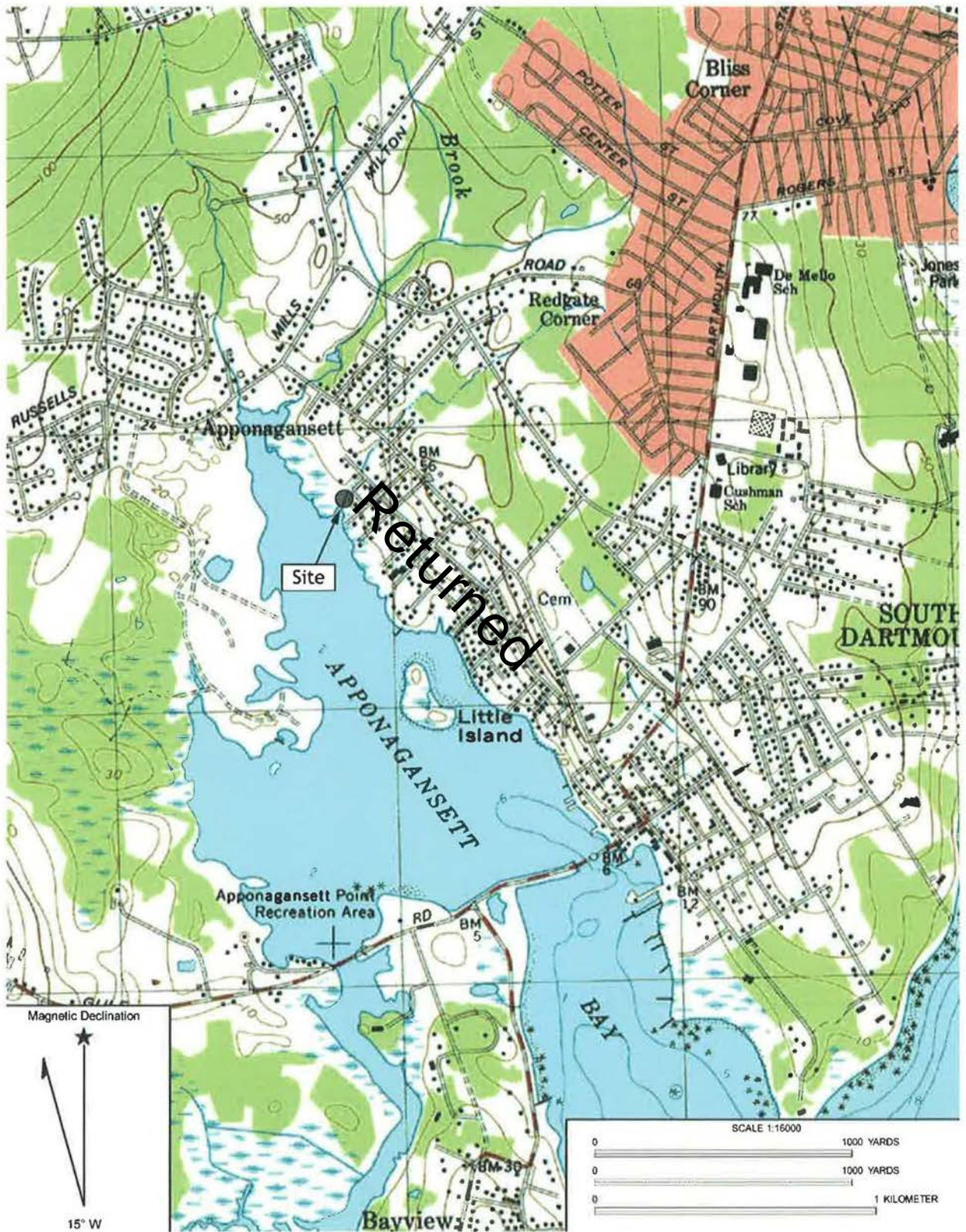


Photo Key for Russell Garrison Site.

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Figure 1. Location of the Russell Garrison on the New Bedford South USGS quadrangle, 7.5 minute series.

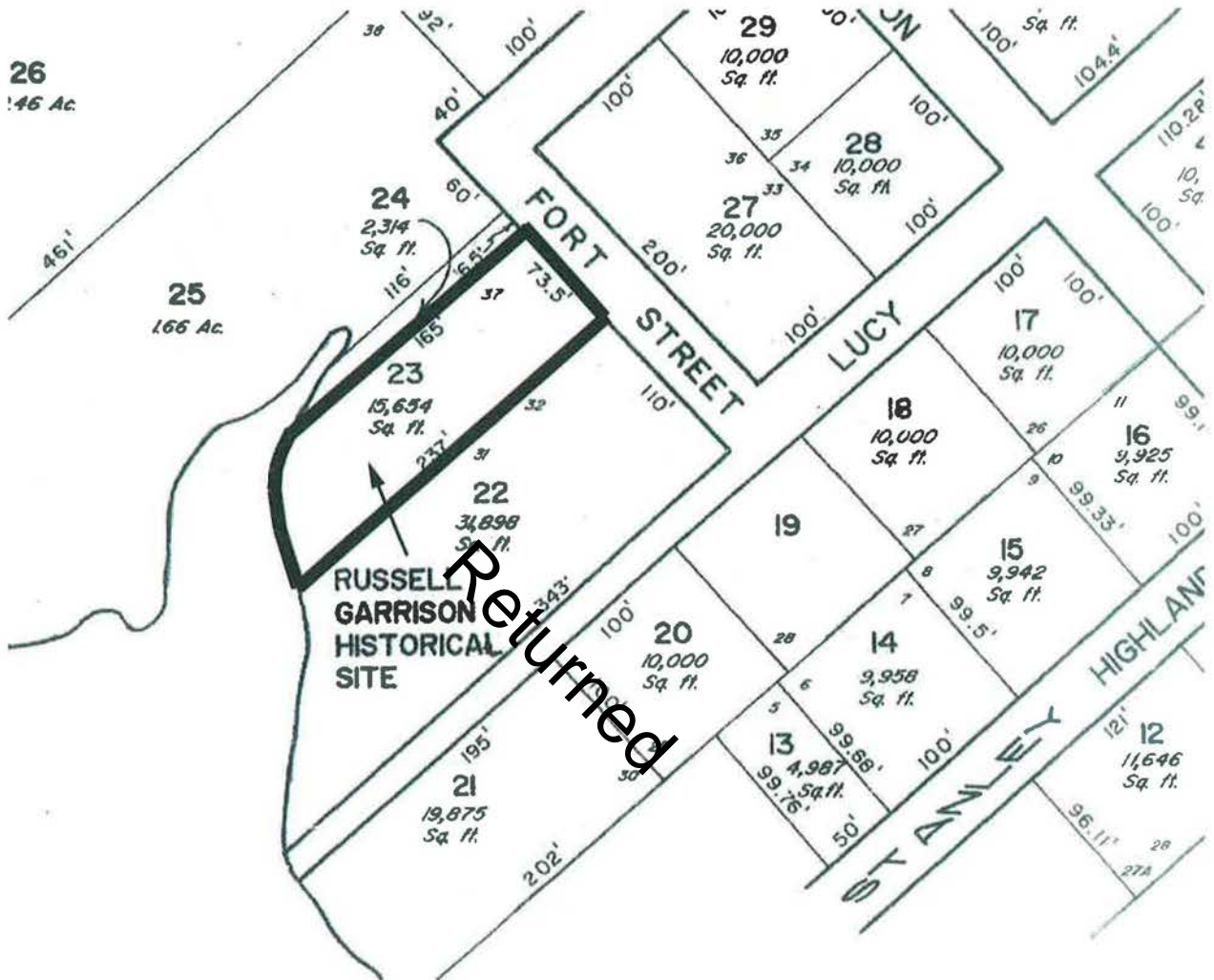


Figure 2. 1985 Assessor's map showing Town of Dartmouth's Russell Garrison lot (copy on file, Dartmouth Historical Commission).

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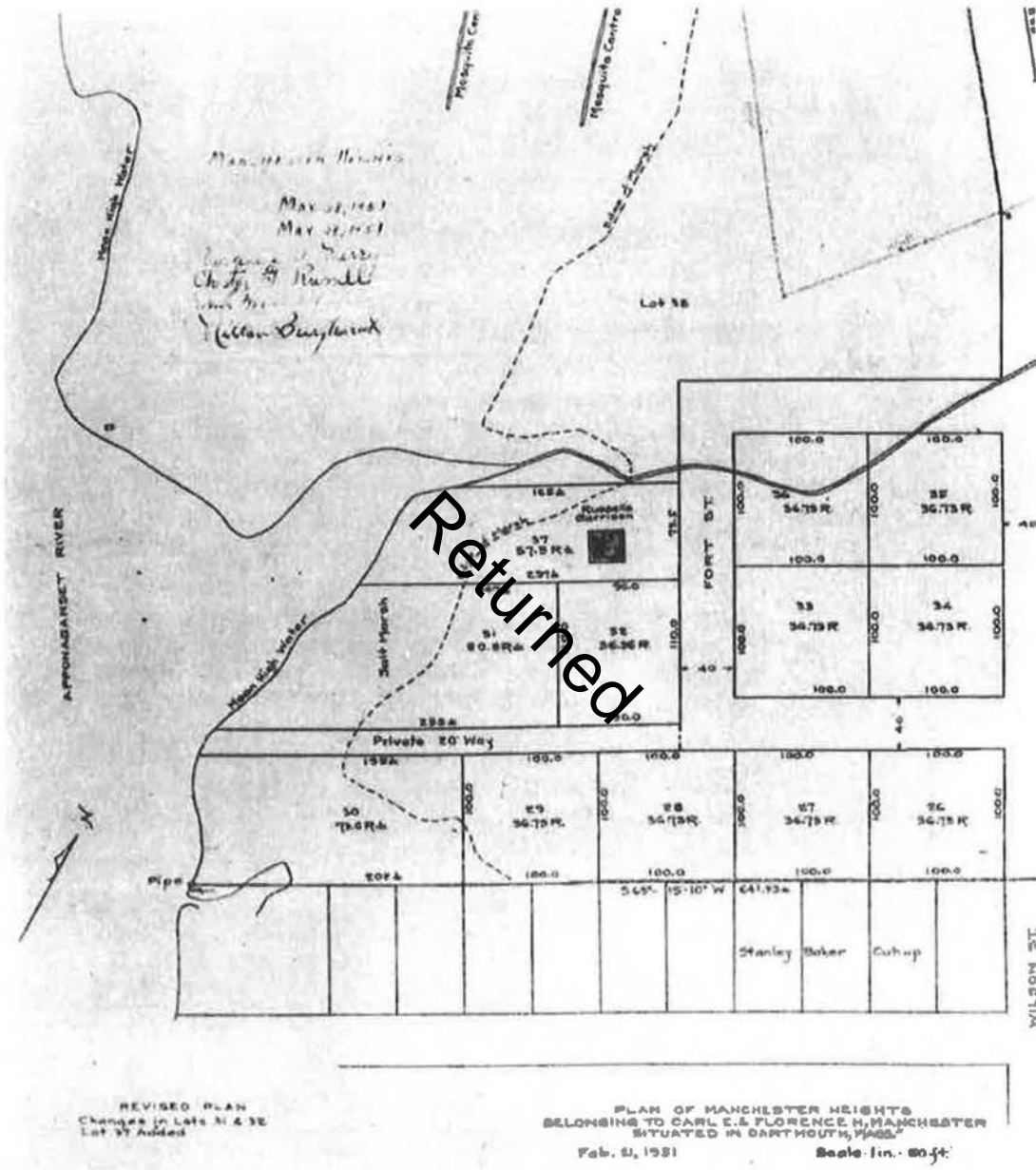


Figure 3. Plan of proposed 1950 subdivision showing location of Russell Garrison Site (source Ricketson 1964:2).

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Figure 4. Aerial image of Russell Garrison Site showing reconstructed foundation and surrounding landscape (source: Google Earth, image downloaded 3 January 2015).

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Figure 5a. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

Russell Garrison
Name of Property

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Figure 5b. Ca. 1905 Fred Palmer negative of Russell Garrison Site (image Courtesy New Bedford Whaling Museum).

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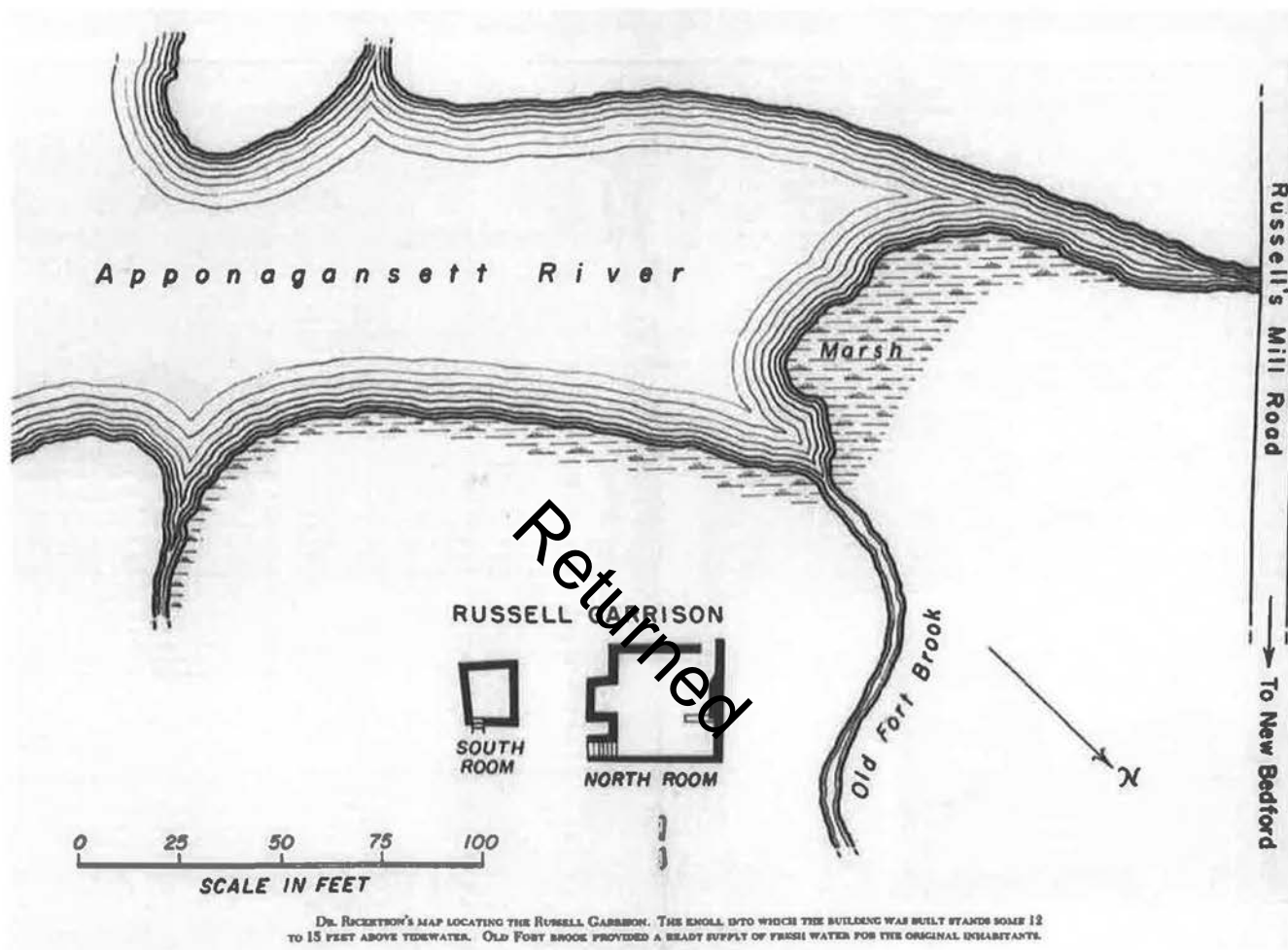
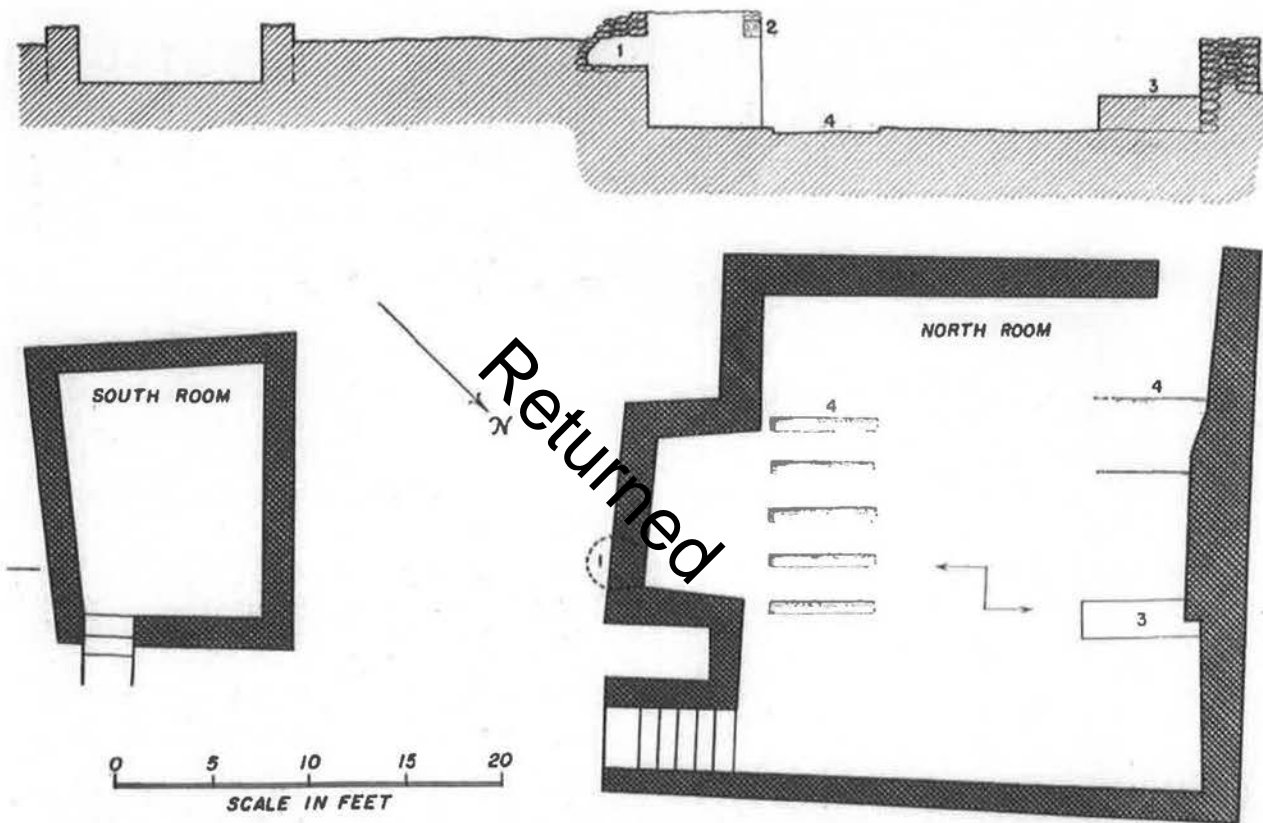


Figure 6a. Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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DR. RICKETSON'S PLAN AND SECTION OF THE RUSSELL GARRISON. 1. OVEN. 2. WOODEN LINTEL BEAM INSTALLED BY DR. RICKETSON. 3. SIDE OF NORTH CORNER FIREPLACE. 4. FURROWS IN FLOOR: DR. RICKETSON, IN HIS NOTES, SUGGESTS THAT THEY WERE MADE BY TIMBERS THAT SUPPORTED WOODEN FLOOR BOARDS.

Figure 6b. Detail of Russell Garrison site plan (source: Ricketson 1964:8-9).

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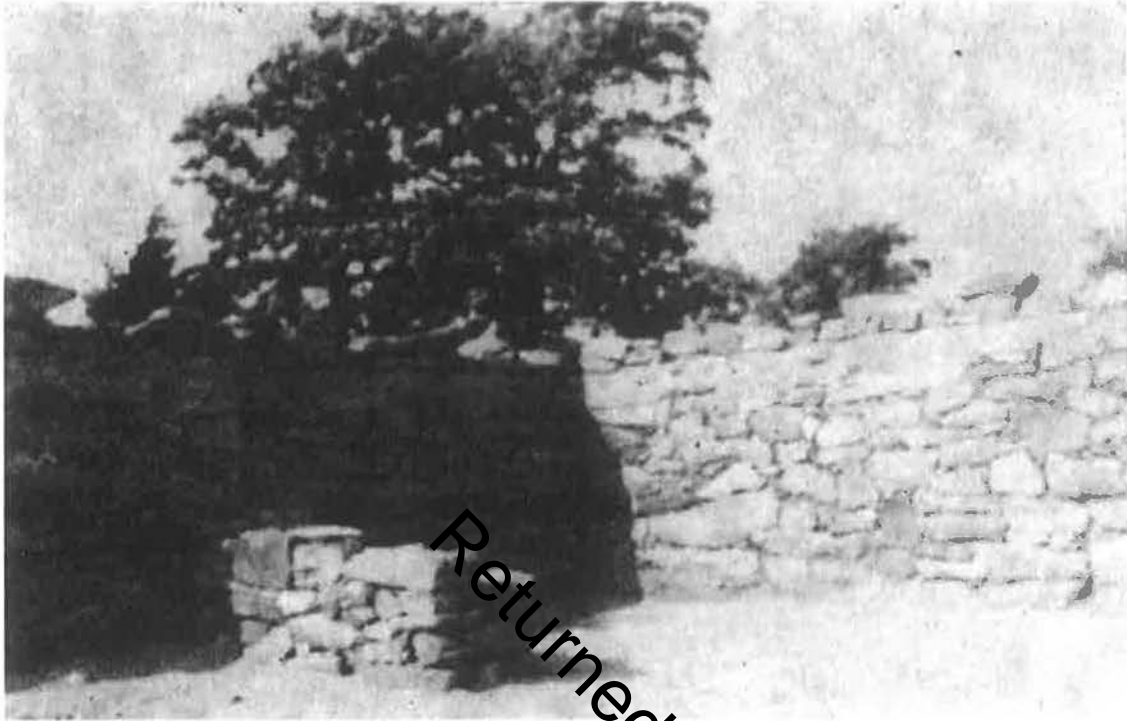


Figure 7. Photo of west wall with fireplace base, view north from interior of North Room (source: Ricketson 1964:14).

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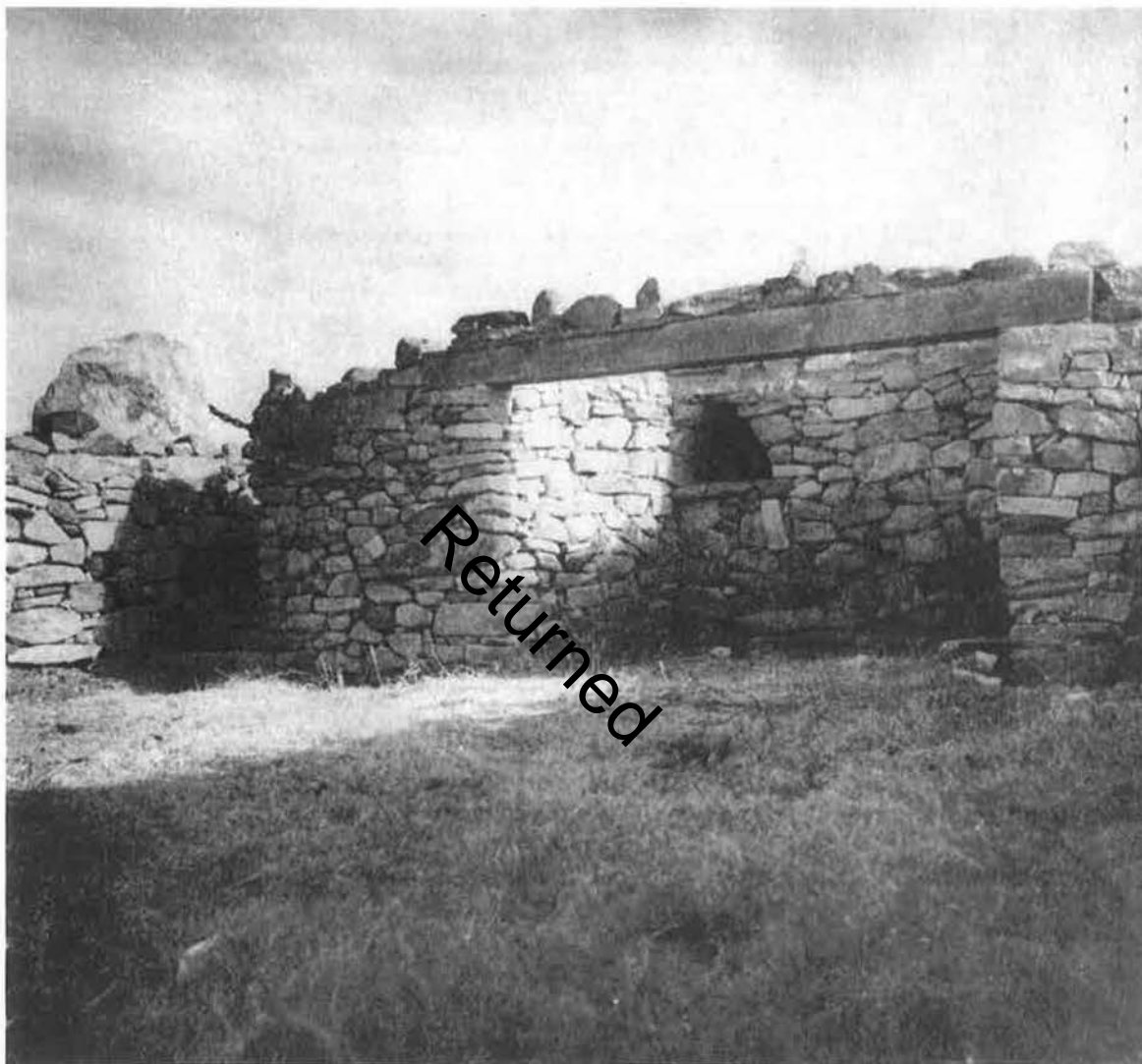


Figure 8. Photo of south wall with “beehive oven”, lintel, and commemorative boulder, view southeast from interior of North Room (source: Ricketson 1964: frontispiece).

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Figure 9. Photo of Russell Garrison Site in 1993, prior to Town filling. View northwest across foundation with Fort Street in background (source: Dartmouth Historical Commission).

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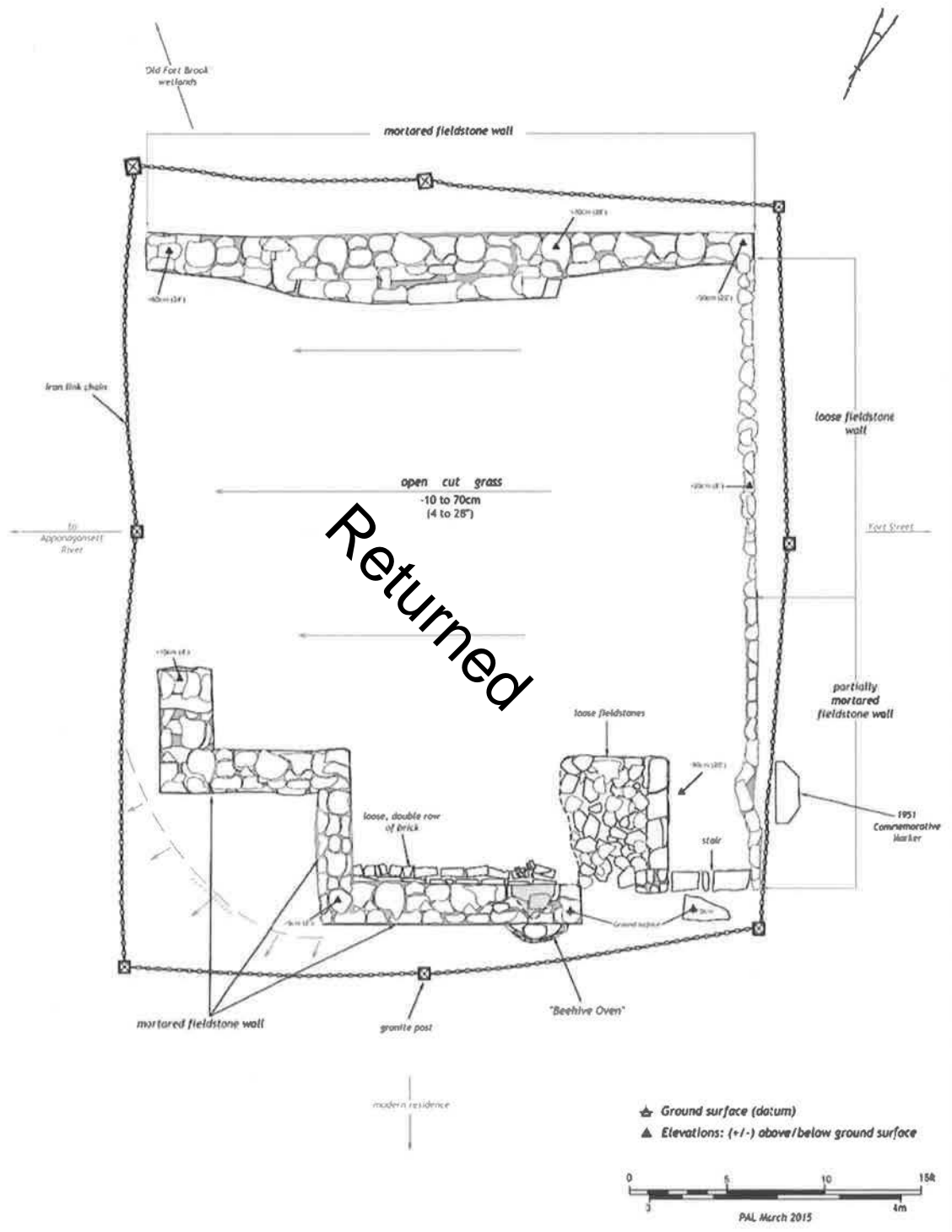


Figure 10. Site plan showing existing conditions, Russell Garrison Site (PAL 2014).

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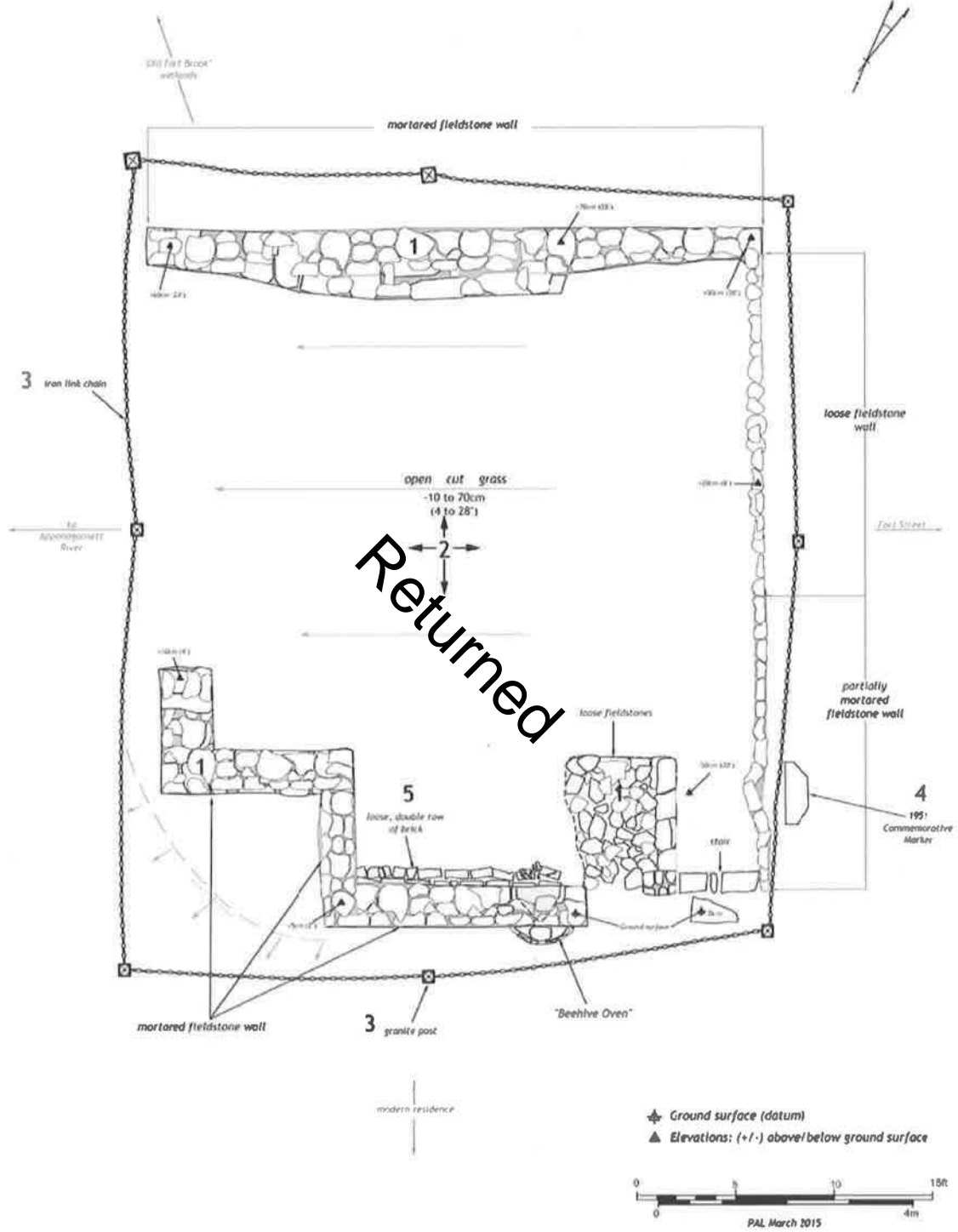


Figure 11. Site Plan key to Russell Garrison Data Sheet.

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**Russell Garrison Site
 Dartmouth, Bristol county Massachusetts
 DATA SHEET**

Plan Number	Photo No.	Resource	Date	Material	Resource Type	Count	Status
1	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Reconstructed North Room Foundation	1951	Stone	Object	1	C
2	12, 15	Russell Garrison Site	ca. 1675	N/A	Archaeological Site	1	C
3	2, 3, 7, 8	Granite Posts w/ Link Chain	1951	Granite Iron	Object	1 (8 posts & 1 chain)	C
4	1	Commemorative Plaque on Boulder	1951	Stone Copper/Brass	Object	1	C
5	10, 11	Row of Bricks along South Wall	Unknown	Brick	Object	1	NC
N/A	15	Fire Ring	Modern	Stone	Object	1	NC
N/A	15	Loose Fieldstones	Unknown	Stone	Objects	N/A	NC
N/A	15	South Room Foundation	ca. 1675; 1951	Stone	N/A	N/A	N/A (Destroyed)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Russell Garrison

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

Date Received: 1/29/2018 Date of Pending List: 2/26/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/13/2018 Date of 45th Day: 3/15/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002215

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/15/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria Nomination must be returned for substantive problems. See attached Return Sheet for detailed comment.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 3/15/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Andrus, Patrick <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>

Russell Garrison Return

1 message

Andrus, Patrick <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>

Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 9:33 AM

To: Betsy Friedberg <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>

Hi Betsy: As discussed, attached is a pdf of the National Register Return for the Russell Garrison nomination for problems with Criterion D. Per our new policy the original nomination will not be physically returned to your office.

Regards,

Patrick

Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
(202) 354-2218
patrick_andrus@nps.gov

RusselGarrisonRETURN.pdf
121K



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Russell Garrison (Bristol County, MA)
Reference Number: SG100002215

Reason for Return:

This nomination establishes the significance of Russell Garrison under National Register Criteria A, B, and C, but it does not adequately justify the property as meeting Criterion D.

As currently written, significance under criterion D is not sufficiently supported. First and foremost, we have major concerns regarding the site's remaining subsurface integrity. Second, we understand that there was once archeology done there, but it does not appear to have resulted in significant new information and no research questions to which it might speak are provided.

Archeological Significance

What exactly is it that archeology might reveal about this site that is new and important information (i.e., that is not already known in some way)? If this could be addressed in the narrative and accompanied by even three or four substantive research questions that archeology might address, then the nomination might well make a successful case for Criterion D. As written, however, the fact that early archeology was conducted here--especially given the little that seems to have been learned as a result of that work--isn't making a strong case for the site's archeological significance.

Integrity

It is not clear that the site retains sufficient subsurface integrity to make a case for its significance under Criterion D for research potential. Several items factor into this assessment, including:

- The discussion in Section 7, pp. 7-8 of the "preliminary grading" of the site associated with the planned development of the site that was initiated--but not completed--prior to Ricketson's excavations. It is unclear from the excerpt provided in the nomination how extensive--both

horizontally and vertically--this grading was.

- References to Ricketson's field notes suggest that he encountered a dearth of cultural materials, and the question is raised in S. 7, p. 9 as to whether the nails found at the site were even temporally associated with the Garrison period and were therefore not retained. Without any further discussion of the collection, this throws into question the value and context for the materials that were saved.
- The authors are candid in their assessment of the 1963 construction of a home on an adjacent lot that lies less than 15 ft. from the southern edge of the North room, and the photograph really brings this point home. This appears to write off almost half of what was known of the Garrison ruin in the early 20th century.
- The nomination seems to be suggesting in S. 7, p. 10 that we would use archeology at the site to study Ricketson's reconstruction--as opposed to using it to better understand the 17th-century use of the site, especially as relates to what further information it might supply regarding King Phillip's War, or information about earlier Native American occupation of the parcel and surrounding area. Moreover, the loss of internal features is unfortunate as it means that is yet another avenue that could not be revisited.

In short, the nomination would benefit from a clearer discussion of what exactly the potential for undisturbed archeological deposits at the site is. For instance, what percent of the known remaining foundation/cellar did Ricketson dig?

Please either revise the nomination as suggested, or consider dropping Criterion D. If revising the nomination we strongly recommend the discussion of "Evaluating Archeological Properties Under the Criteria," in *National Register Bulletin 36: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties* to the authors' attention as they revisit site integrity and see whether the archeology conducted at the site contributes (or not) to Criterion D.



Julie H. Ernstein, Ph.D., RPA

supervisory Archeologist, National Register & National Historic Landmarks Program

202-354-2217

Julie_ernstein@nps.gov

3/15/2018



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

June 14, 2018

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are resubmitting the enclosed nomination form:

Russell Garrison, Dartmouth (Bristol), MA

The nomination was returned to us with questions regarding Criterion D. Those questions have now been addressed by MHC staff, with additions to both the Description and Significance sections of the nomination. We are enclosing both a hard copy of the nomination and a CD. Please let me know if you have further concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure