

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Buck's Hill, "The City"
other names/site number Buck's Corner Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 216 Wildwood St. 580, 584, 588, 590, 602, 603, 604 Woburn Street n/a not for publication
city or town Wilmington vicinity _____
state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01887

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

10/8/03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Ball

Date of Action

11/21/03

Buck's Corner HD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	2	building
		sites
		structures
		objects
8	2	Total

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

First Period Houses of MA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (Buck House, First Period TRA 1990)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single, multiple dwellings

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single, dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Agricultural: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

First Period Federal Italianate Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

vinyl siding

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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**Buck's Corner HD
Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

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Narrative Description, Buck's Corner Historic District

The Buck's Corner Historic District in the southeastern part of the town of Wilmington encompasses about ten acres. A former agricultural node, the nearly linear district consists of a collection of 17th and 18th century farmhouses and barn, mid-to-late 19th century houses and their barns, and a contemporary house. Two houses occupy the triangle formed by the intersection of Wildwood Street and Woburn Street; the others are ranged south along the gently curving Woburn Street, with most on the east side of the street and one the west side south of the intersection.

Domestic suburban development from the mid-20th century to the present surrounds the surviving historic buildings, but the built historic resources have been less affected than the landscape. To the south on Woburn Street, two houses belonging to members of the Sheldon family, originally part of this node but now separated by suburban development face each other across the thoroughfare. They retain historic integrity and are proposed as the Gowing - Sheldon Historic District (pending 2003).

The Buck's Corner District contains one of Wilmington's oldest houses, The Buck Homestead or Ephraim Buck House, 216 Wildwood Street (NRTRA and NRIND, MHC# 216) now listed on the National Register as part of the First Period Houses of Massachusetts Thematic Resource Area. It also contains examples of the town's well-preserved 18th century houses as well as fine examples of 19th century houses constructed by members of three families residing in the district.

The houses are wood frame and clad in clapboard, although two are vinyl sided and one has been both shingled and vinyl sided. All have front yards and several retain some of the once extensive land surrounding the house. Thus, the group retains a sense of ensemble through materials, scale and design.

The district contains six principal buildings and three barns that contribute to the district's architectural and historic character and integrity and two non-contributing buildings. Most of the buildings in the district have been altered over time, but retain their historic design integrity.

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Residential Buildings

The originally two-family Ephraim Buck House at 216 Wildwood Street (MHC # 216, Photo #2) is thought by local historians to have been built ca. 1672, but it was identified as constructed in 1704 by the First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts NRTRA 1990. One of the oldest houses in Wilmington, it is two rooms deep with the front half probably dating from ca. 1704 and the rear, perhaps constructed ca. 1745. The façade was apparently altered ca. 1770 in the Federal style. The south-facing house has a very wide, five bay facade with a center entrance. Beverly jogs at both corners, one with entry, extend the house. A central chimney on the front slope of the roof, perhaps a ca. 1745 replacement of an earlier chimney, and later chimney on the rear slope survive. The broad side-gable roof has flush eaves and a boxed cornice. The Federal style door surround features $\frac{3}{4}$ length sidelights and an entablature.

Another Georgian period side-gabled house with Federal period alterations, the Daniel Eames House, 584 Woburn Street, (ca. 1714-1723, MHC # 121, Photo #3) was built by Ephraim Buck but was the long-time home of the Eames family. Similar in form to the Ephraim Buck House but constructed at a more modest scale, like all the Georgian and Federal style houses in the district, it faces south. As at 604 Woburn Street, (Photos # 1 and 4) this siting preference causes the side elevation to face the street. The house is five bays wide and two piles deep with a central entry, which, in the late 19th or early 20th century was sheltered by a now missing portico. The Federal style door surround features plain capped pilasters on plinths and full-length sidelights. The roof is framed without returns and has a boxed cornice. A massive central chimney rises from the ridge and a one-story ell extends to the rear. Behind the house is a large, side-gable barn with two sliding doors ornamented with eight-light transoms. Massive fieldstone walls surround the lot.

The house at 604 Woburn Street, (MHC # 117, Photos # 1 and 4) reported to have been constructed by William Eames in the late seventeenth century was more probably built ca. 1785-1791. After 1835 it was the longtime home of farmer Asa G. Sheldon, giving the now Federal style house its present historic name. The building is 2½ stories high and

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two piles deep, but unlike the other surviving Federal style houses in the district it is three bays wide with the entry in the first bay. Extending the house are a lean-to ell, a Beverly jog on the north elevation and a long, 1½ story wing on the east elevation that appears to have been built before 1900. Clearly constructed in stages, the most remote segment of eastern wing was formerly an attached barn, now remodeled as part of the residence. The south-facing dooryard configuration formed by the main block and wing remains despite a contemporary attached barn. The large chimney rises from the ridge behind the entry whose door surround retains its half-length sidelights and eight-light transom. This composition has been reworked to include a more recent pediment.

The Jonathan Buck House, 571 Woburn Street (ca. 1794-1820, MHC # 122, Photo # 5) an excellent example of the Federal style, is the only hip roof house in the district and one of few in Wilmington. It is two stories high, five bays wide and two bays deep. The central entry has a door surround with wide pilasters supporting a two-part, shallow pedimented entablature and enclosing full-length sidelights and transom.

Two houses constructed in the district in the mid-19th century and late Victorian periods are oriented to the street and are of the long-popular front-gable, side hall type of three bays wide and 2½ stories high. Both have lower rear ells. The Henry Sheldon House, 603 Woburn Street, (ca. 1861-1862, MHC # 118, Photo # 6) is the only Italianate style house in the district. Bracketed pillars that ornamented the now-altered wrap-around porch across the façade, paired scrolled brackets at the eaves, and an arched attic window are local features of the Italianate style. The John Howard Eames House, 590 Woburn Street, (ca. 1883, MHC # 120, Photo # 7) with its carriage barn, is one of the town's best examples of the Queen Anne style. Presently vinyl sided, it nevertheless retains many of its character-giving stylistic elements. The house is enriched by an elaborate decorative gable over the entry steps, porch across the façade with bracketed pillars, and a decorative rail, long, first floor façade windows and square bay window. The somewhat anachronistic door surround features half-length sidelights. A well-preserved 1½ story stable, probably also 1883, is clad in vertical boards. Its hayloft and diagonally laid double doors survive.

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Changes in the district's appearance include the addition of ells and wings to several houses; the recent demolition of a ca. 1791 Buck family house at 585 Woburn Street now just outside the district and the demolition of the Ephraim Buck House barn. Vinyl siding on several of the houses covers original fabric, somewhat obscuring the design. The non-contributing building, the Leonard Eames House, 580 Woburn Street, was built about 1860 by a member of one of the three families that played an important role in the development of the district. It has been inappropriately rehabilitated and no longer retains design integrity.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located within the district, sites may be present. Five sites are located in the general area (within one mile), including two sites bordering the northern and southern ends of the district. Archaeological evidence of site 19-MD-28 was located on the west side of Federal Street at its junction with Woburn Street immediately north of the district. That site was reported as a large site containing "many varieties of artifacts" including ground slate and soapstone that may be evidence of a Late Archaic occupation. The Buck's Hill Site (19-MD-324) is located immediately south of the district near Lowell, Wildwood and Woburn Streets overlooking Meadow Brook. The Buck's Hill Site is described as a habitation site and confined to the area above the 100 foot contour. Artifacts collected by local collectors at the Buck's Hill Site include projectile points, cremation remains, and pottery representing possible Paleo Indian thru Archaic and Woodland occupations. Environmental characteristics of the district indicate a high potential for the presence of Native American resources in the area. The district includes a level to moderately sloping land surface in close proximity to wetlands. Maple Meadow Brook lies approximately 1,000 feet west of the district and swamplands are also located southeast and south of the area. The district lies within the Ipswich River drainage. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 9.88 acres) and the availability of open land around the existing homes, a high potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources in the district.

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A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. The district is architecturally significant for its well-preserved collection of 17th, 18th, and 19th century houses and their farm outbuildings. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate presently unknown house sites in the district, however, none have been identified to date. Historic archaeological resources in the district may be limited to structural evidence of alterations to extant houses, barns, outbuildings, and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with extant buildings. Potential archaeological resources may span the entire 17th thru 20th century period of settlement known for the district, town, and state.

(end)

Buck's Corner HD

Name of Property

Middlesex, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

Ca. 1704-1953

Significant Dates

N/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

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Narrative Statement of Significance, Buck's Corner Historic District

The Buck's Corner Historic District is a residential area of well-preserved houses dating from the late 17th century to the late 19th century. The five surviving major houses were the home of three interrelated farming families, each of which maintained residence here over a long period of time. The district reflects community planning and development in the early settlement of Wilmington that persisted for three hundred years. It is also distinguished by the relative density of early development in thinly settled Wilmington that earned it the nickname "The City" in the early 19th century. Agriculture and later butchering, remained important economic pursuits in the district until the early 20th century. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets National Register criteria A and C on the local level.

Woburn Street may have been a Native American trail but it almost certainly existed as a first settlement period path before the setting off of the Town of Wilmington from Reading, Woburn, Charlestown, and Billerica in 1730. Lying adjacent to the marshy, boggy interior of Wilmington, this road represents a north-south continuum of dry land and was thus an early transportation route. The Town of Woburn laid out the Andover Road, now Woburn Street, in 1672.

Wildwood Street first appears on the Atlas of 1857 but from the marshy area at the approximate midpoint of Middlesex Street to Woburn Street it is shown only as a path. The path appears to have joined Woburn Street between the Buck houses at 216 Wildwood Street and 571 Woburn Street. However, by 1875 Wildwood Street is shown terminating at about its present junction south of these houses. Electric trolley tracks laid out on Wildwood and Woburn Streets ca. 1895 connecting the area to Wilmington Center and Woburn, Reading, and Billerica and were abandoned in the 1920s.

Local historians believe Roger Buck (b. 1617 in England) and his son Ephraim, (b. 1646 in Cambridge) built 216 Wildwood Street (MHC # 216, Photo #2) in 1672, although deeds have been traced only to 1704. Ephraim was taxed by the church in Woburn in 1672 and had married Sarah Brooks of Woburn in 1670/1671. They were among the first

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wave of residents of the area that became Wilmington, then a nearly roadless region prey to wolves, bears and a few surviving Native Americans who in 1707 attacked the John Harnden family on Woburn Street.

The Bucks may have selected the spot for its accessibility and for the adjacent tillable fields rising above the marsh. A local 19th century historian claimed that Native Americans, most of whom had died in a smallpox epidemic in 1609, had used Buck's Hill to the west on Wildwood Street as a summer home and cleared fields there. As Roger was a widower and Ephraim was a newly married man of 26, the dwelling was constructed as a two-family house from its inception and remained as a divided house for centuries. Even the barn, now demolished, was divided in half.

Ephraim Buck played an important role in town matters as magistrate appointed to try small causes by the General Court. On his 140-acre farm that ran to Maple Meadow Brook he kept sheep, cows, and hogs and grew corn and hay. In 1775 his son Constable Ephraim turned over the town's taxes to the treasurer of Wilmington rather than to the British Crown's representative, an act of rebellion which has survived in local history. Hops were a major product of the town, giving it the name "Hoptown." The Bucks and perhaps their neighbors participated in the growing of hops in the surrounding fields in the first three decades of the 19th century.

Benjamin Buck lived in the house in 1875. He was notable for his generous return of the Church's parsonage to the Town after receiving it as payment for a loan in 1876. The house remained the home of the family until 1923, a period of Buck family residence for over 250 years.

A now demolished house on the site of 585 Woburn Street just outside the district was built for Asa Buck ca. 1791-1797. In 1797 it became the home of the Rev. Freegrace Reynolds, pastor of the Congregational Church of Christ. Cordwainer James Buck owned the house in 1832 and his heirs retained it until 1906, maintaining the tradition of long family ownership in this area.

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Another Buck house located adjacent to the original Buck homestead is the house at 571 Woburn Street, (MHC # 122, Photo # 5). It may have been built ca. 1794 or ca. 1820 as the home of Darius Buck or Jonathan Buck. The Sargent family inherited house the in the late 19th century.

Charles Sargent, a butcher and later lumber dealer, was Selectman in 1890. His marriage to Abbie Sheldon of 642 Woburn Street united two of the three families. The colorful, reclusive Henry Wilson Sargent, known as Henny Penny kept a bicycle shop in the in the east wing of the house in the early 1900s. By 1935 he had married and was described as a machinist. Ed Sargent, a later owner, was the much-admired Superintendent of the Wilmington Water Department from 1941 to 1979.

Theories about the Daniel Eames House, 584 Woburn Street, (MHC # 121, Photo # 3) differ but it may have been built about 1714 by Ebenezer Buck around the time of his marriage to Lydia Eames and sold to Daniel Eames around 1724 after her death. Alternatively, it could have been built by Ephraim Buck about 1720 at the time of his marriage to Abigail Harnden and sold soon afterwards. Abigail was a survivor of the Harnden Massacre in 1707. Daniel, a farmer, partnered with another prominent citizen of Wilmington in purchasing nearly worthless certificates the Colony distributed to soldiers in the French and Indian Wars. They became large landowners years later when the certificates were redeemed for land in Maine. Among the later residents were Catherine and Lemuel C. Eames. He was described as a farmer and butcher in 1855 and was a selectman and state legislator. In 1870 he farmed more than 150 acres. The house remained in the Eames family for about 150 years.

John Howard Eames, son of Lemuel and Catherine, was born in the family homestead in 1853 and married Martha Joy of Wilmington in 1883. A provisions dealer in 1900, he purchased the lot from his father on which he built his house at 590 Woburn Street, (MHC #120, Photo # 7) months after the death of his brother, who had bought the two-acre lot but died before building on it. J. Howard and Martha and their heirs occupied the house until 1945, a period of sixty-two years. The ca. 1856-1875 Leonard Eames House at 580 Woburn Street, (MHC # 227) does not retain architectural integrity but is further evidence of the familiar organization this settlement node.

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Part of the Asa G. Sheldon House, 604 Woburn Street, (MHC # 117, Photo # 4) may have been built as early as 1690 but more probably a member of the Eames family constructed it ca. 1785-1791. Asa G. Sheldon and Clarissa Eames married in 1815 and purchased the house in 1835. Asa was born to a poor family in Lynnfield in 1788. At the age of ten he was bound out to work for a farmer in Wilmington. Intelligent, hard-working and ambitious, he learned teamstering, farming, lumber milling (he owned Nod's Mill on Salem Street for a time) and butchering, but was particularly drawn to trading in such goods as hops, shoes, timber, groceries, and flour. He is best known for his work as the director of work and chief teamster who cut down Pemberton Hill in Boston in 1835 and deposited the fill in Dock Square, an organizational feat of the time. A master mason, he built many bridge and culvert abutments for the Boston and Lowell, Boston and Maine Railroads.

His autobiography, Life of Asa G. Sheldon, a Wilmington Farmer of 1862 tellingly relates his experience as a youth of the grinding and lonely work as a bound out child. His forthright opinions on and experience of farming techniques illustrate in detail best practice in farming, apple and cranberry production in the rural Massachusetts of early Republic. Sheldon must have been proud of his rags-to-relative-riches life, jealous of his reputation and eager to share the wealth of his large experience in commerce, teamstering and agriculture as well as his common-sense ideas. In 1855 he employed five men, two from Ireland, and one woman on this property. The couple experienced family tragedy in the death of four daughters between 1823 and 1849 aged two to twenty-two years and the death of two grandchildren in the 1860s.

Asa and Clarissa's son Harrison Alden Sheldon married Catherine Buck of Wilmington in 1853 and the couple lived in the family homestead in the 1870s and 1880s. He was the Town's Inspector of Animals and the founder of the Farmers and Mechanics Club in 1875 that held annual cattle shows in the family fields for years, then elsewhere in Wilmington. The well-popularized September fairs drew large crowds of locals and residents of surrounding communities.

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Henry, another of Asa and Clarissa's sons, began purchasing land across the street from his family home in the 1860s, some of it from James Buck, victualler. His construction of the house at 603 Woburn Street, (MHC # 118, Photo # 6) probably occurred around the time of his marriage to his second wife, Sarah Gowing of Amherst in 1861. Henry was a butcher in 1855, then became "one of the prominent men in Wilmington," raising "apples in a large way" [Hurd, 1885] in orchards located near the house. Sheldon may also have been the owner of the cranberry field on the west side of Lowell Street indicated on the atlas of 1875.

A third of Asa's sons, Horace, lived nearby at 642 Woburn Street. Another Sheldon family residence was constructed nearby ca. 1893 when Henry's son Henry L. and wife Lucy built a house at 643 Woburn Street on land Lucy purchased from Henry Sr. in 1892. These two houses constitute the Gowing - Sheldon National Register Historic District (2003) a short distance to the south.

Town Planning and Architectural Significance

Laid out along a late 17th century road to Andover and Woburn, the Buck's Corner Historic District is an example of linear settlement occurring in the absence of a centralized land granting mechanism. Family relationships and landholding patterns became the organizing settlement principle. Although development was dense enough to be characterized as "The City" the area remained rural until the mid-20th century. The tradition of accessing houses directly from the old road continued to operate until the 1950s when the first subdivision street was developed north of the district. The 1970s and 1990s saw additional dead-end streets laid out off Woburn Street for single family homeowners.

Buck's Corner District is architecturally significant for its well-preserved collection of 17th, 18th, and 19th century houses and their farm outbuildings. The Ephraim Buck House at 216 Wildwood Street, (MCH # 216, Photos # 1 and 4) is listed on the National Register as part of the First Period Houses of Eastern Massachusetts Thematic Resource Area under Criteria D as likely to yield information about late 17th-early 18th century framing in Middlesex County. Little is known about the framing techniques used in these

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houses due to the low survival rate of buildings of the period. However, the later Federal style exterior is a fine one. Its broad, low proportions, use of two interior chimneys and two Beverly jogs, clipped eaves with boxed cornice and intact door surround make it a valuable example of its type. Retention of its two-family organization for so long a period is also significant.

The district presents a mix of relatively high style and vernacular examples of domestic architecture. The Federal hip roofed Buck house at 571 Woburn Street and the Queen Anne J. Howard Eames House, 590 Woburn Street belong to the former group--the Colonial Daniel Eames House, 584 Woburn Street and the Italianate Henry Sheldon House, 603 Woburn Street to the latter. Both houses built after the mid-19th century are front-gabled and are oriented to the street while the earlier houses are side gabled or hip and are oriented to the south.

The fine state of preservation of these houses, several of them restored by recent owners, and the existence of associated outbuildings is an important aspect of their significance. While they have been added to and slightly altered over the years, they generally maintain integrity of design and materials. In addition, while the fields associated with most of these houses are no longer farmed, the original density of this residential node's siting reduces the impact of their lost agricultural setting.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Wilmington are poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information relating to patterns of Native settlement and subsistence in the interior Ipswich River drainage, an area that is poorly documented when compared to more coastal locales. Native sites in this area may contain information that indicates the seasonal, functional, and socio/political role of sites located along interior tributary streams and wetlands with larger sites located along the Ipswich River and coastal areas within the Ipswich drainage. Most of Wilmington's western and northern boundary

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borders the Shawsheen River drainage, a tributary of the Merrimack River. Ancient Native American sites in the district may contain information that indicates the importance of riverine drainage boundaries in the social, cultural and economic systems of Native inhabitants in the area. Ancient Native American sites in the general area (within one mile) may contribute valuable information documenting a continuum of landuse history for over 10,000 years. Potential Paleo Indian through Woodland period occupations combined with known and potential sites of First Period European settlement in the District indicate archaeological sites in the area may represent the entire range of human settlement in northeastern North America. This information may prove valuable in understanding past and present environmental change, particularly as it effected changes in the economic and social history of both Native Americans and Europeans that lived in the district.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that allowed the Buck's Corner Historic District to continue patterns of community planning and development established in the early settlement for over 300 years. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help identify the complete landuse history of the district by locating evidence of 17th thru 19th century houses that are presently unknown, if they exist. Archaeological research may also help document the construction dates for buildings in the district, especially First Period houses, many of which have debatable construction dates. Archaeological research may document the date of construction for the Buck Homestead or Ephriam Buck House (NR 1990) at 216 Wildwood Street, deciding whether local historians, who believe the house was built in 1672, or deed references that trace the house to 1704 support the correct date of construction for the house. Archaeological research may settle a similar debate for the Asa G. Sheldon House at 604 Woburn Street, where claims have been made for a 1690 date of construction or a more probable date of ca. 1785-1791.

Archaeological testing in the area immediately surrounding extant houses in the district may also contribute important information relating to the evolution of the house through time including its architectural details and relationship to barns, outbuildings, and

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Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

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occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells). This information can be used to document 17th and early 18th century farming techniques in the district and in Middlesex County during a period for which few examples survive. Structural change of existing residences and the layout of farmstead buildings may contribute information relating to social and economic change that occurred in families and in communities in the region. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features can assist in these studies as well as contribute information on the lifeways of individuals and families that inhabited homes. Refuse patterns at the Buck Homestead may be especially interesting since the house remained divided as a two-family home for centuries after its First Period construction and was inhabited by the Buck Family for over 250 years.

Archaeological resources have the potential to contribute important information that cannot be gained from documentary and architectural resources in the district. In many instances, especially with 17th and early 18th century resources, the archaeological record is the only surviving source of information relating to early homesteads and the individuals, families, and communities they represent. This information is especially valid for the Buck's Corner Historic District where a relative density of early settlement was present that evolved along principles of family relationships and landholding patterns. Rural settlement persisted in the Buck's Corner Historic District until the mid-20th century.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buck's Corner HD
Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maps:

Town of Wilmington	Thompson, Samuel	1794.
Town of Wilmington	Edmund Parker	1831
Map of Middlesex County	Walling, Henry F.	1857
Atlas of Middlesex County	Beers, F. W.	1875
Atlas of Middlesex County	Walker, George H. and Co.	1889
Town of Wilmington	Dept. of Public Works?	1935
Map of Wilmington	Alden N. Eames, Surveyor	1953
Map of Wilmington	Whitman and Howard	1955
Wilmington (in 1775)	Murray, James	1977
People and Points of Interest in Wilmington	Wilmington Hist. Comm.	199?

Public Records and Sources

Kyprianos, J. First Period Survey Form, 216 Woburn St., MHC 198?.

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Massachusetts Historical Commisison, Reconnaissance Survey Report, Wilmington, 1981.

North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Deeds and Plans.

Town of Wilmington, Annual Reports, 1897, 1900, 1935,

Town of Wilmington, Valuation, 1885.

Published Materials

Bond Collection, Photographs, clippings, etc.

Boston Globe, "Never Rode on A Steam Train" Aug. 14, 1904.

Carter, Alfred J. "The Friendly Visitor", 1879. (news clipping, no publication information).

Conklin, Edwin, Middlesex County and Its People, Vol. II, Lewis, 1927.

Deming, Henry, R., Historical Sketch: Growth and Progress of Wilmington, Sub-committee of the 200th
Anniversary Committee, Boston, 1930.

Hurd, Hamilton, D., History of Middlesex County, J. W. Lewis, Philadelphia, 1890.

Kelly, James E., Wilmington Records: Births Marrages and Deaths, Lovell, 1898.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buck's Corner HD
Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

Section number 9 Page 2

Lainhart, Ann S. (compiler), Massachusetts Census: 1855-1865, Boston, 1985.

Noyes, Rev. Daniel P., Wilmington: Historical Address, Cochrane & Sampson, Boston, 1881.

McKie, Madelyn, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

Passmore, Adel C., "Selected Eighteenth Century Wilmington Historical Sites", Wilmington Historical Commission, 1976.

Passmore, Adel C., 250th Anniversary, Wilmington, Massachusetts, Hampshire Press, Wilmington, 1980.

Passmore, Adel C., "The Story of Harnden Tavern".

Wilmington Rotary Park, Inc., Wilmington's 225th Anniversary: 1730-1955.

(end)

Buck's Corner HD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 9.88 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 323300 4712540
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 323420 4712180
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 323450 4712580
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 323300 4713160
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

The boundary is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying Assessor's maps # 49, 58-60

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heli Meltsner, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 2003

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buck's Corner HD
Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Buck's Corner Historic District Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Buck's Corner Historic District were selected to encompass properties with architectural integrity that were historically related. While most of the properties in the district historically contained more extensive acreage, post World War II and late twentieth century subdivision has diminished their size. Lot lines have been used to define district boundaries except in one instance where a contemporary house at 602 Woburn Street is set far back on its lot so as to be visually inaccessible. Here the boundary was drawn as a projection of a line of the adjacent lot and parallel to Woburn Street to exclude the house.

Post World War II and late 20th century subdivision borders all but one of the properties in the district. An attempt was made to extend the district south to include the properties of the historically connected Gowing-Sheldon Historic District. However, the number of intrusions due to post war development made this inadvisable and the Gowing-Sheldon Historic district is separately nominated.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buck's Corner HD
Wilmington (Middlesex), MA**

Section number photo Page

PHOTOGRAPHS

BUCK'S CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Wilmington

Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Photographer Heli Meltsner
Date December 10, 2001
Negative location Massachusetts Historical Commission, 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

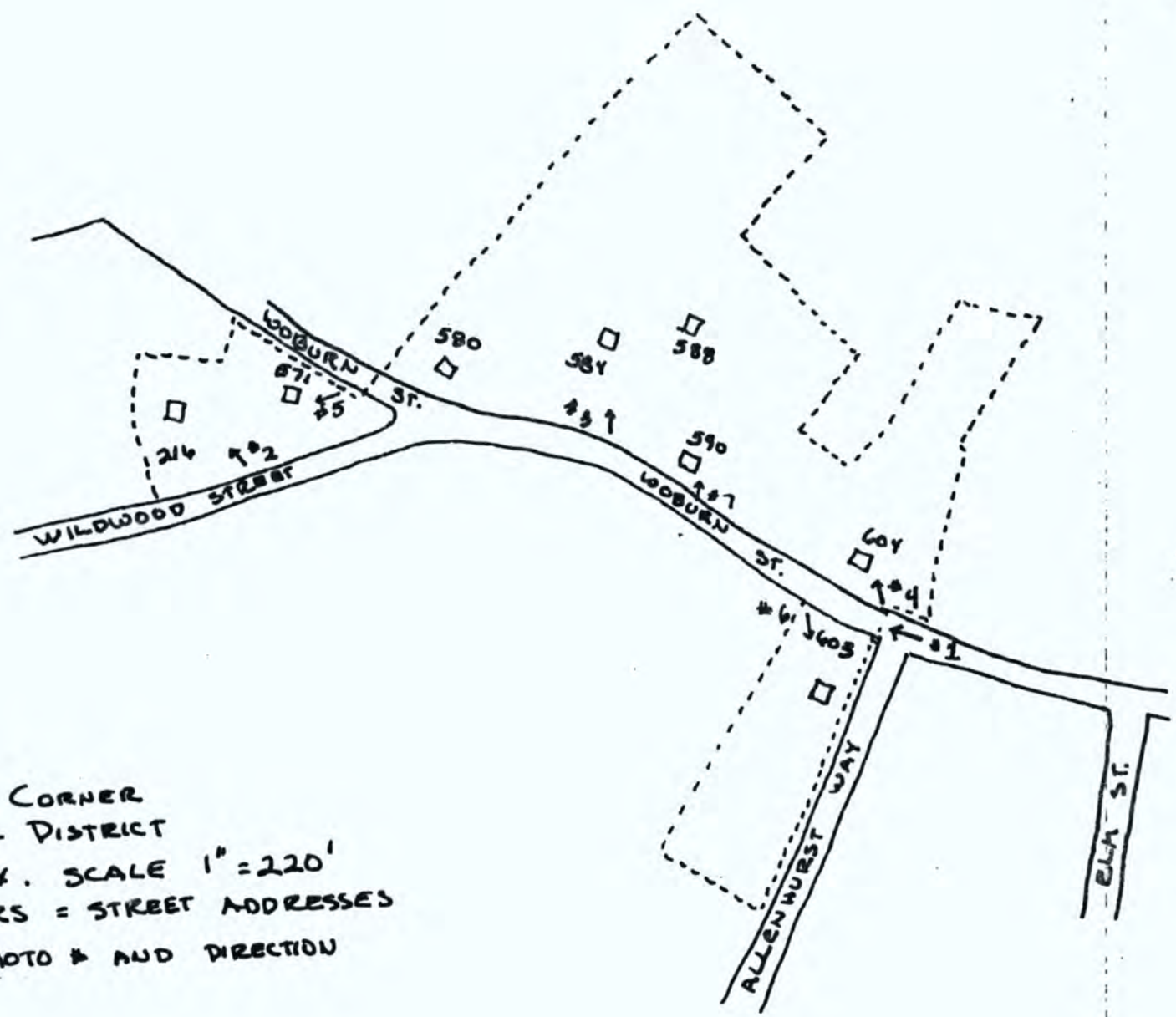
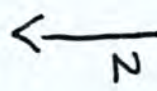
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Streetscape: Asa Sheldon House, 604 Woburn Street
Henry Sheldon House, 603 Woburn Street | looking northeast |
| 2. Ephriam Buck House, 216 Wildwood Street | looking northeast |
| 3. Daniel Eames House & barn, 584 Woburn Street | looking northeast |
| 4. Asa Sheldon House, 604 Woburn Street | looking northeast |
| 5. Jonathan Buck/Darius Buck House, 571 Woburn Street
Ephriam Buck House, 216 Wildwood Street at rear | looking northwest |
| 6. Henry Sheldon House & barn, 603 Woburn Street | looking southwest |
| 7. John H. Eames House & carriage house 590, Woburn Street | looking east |

**BUCK'S CORNER HD
WILMINGTON (Middlesex), MA
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MHC#	Map	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	
216	60-29	216 Wildwood Street	Ephraim Buck House	ca. 1704	Federal	B	NR
122	60-30	571 Woburn Street	Jonathan Buck/Darius Buck	ca. 1794-1820	Federal	B	C
	59-17A	580 Woburn Street		ca. 1856-75	contemporary	B	NC
121	59-17	584 Woburn Street	Ephraim Buck/Dan. Eames barn	ca. 1714-1723	Georgian	B B	C C
228	58-12A	588 Woburn Street		1999	contemporary	B	NC
120	59-12	590 Woburn Street	John Howard Eames House barn	ca. 1883 ca. 1883	Queen Anne	B B	C C
118	49-57	603 Woburn Street	Henry Sheldon House barn	1861-62	Ital / QA	B B	C C
117	58-15	604 Woburn Street	Will. Eames?/Asa Shelton	ca. 1785-91	Federal	B	C

TOTAL RESOURCES 11

Contributing buildings 8 Non contributing buildings 2
Previously NR listed 1



BUCK'S CORNER
HISTORIC DISTRICT
APPROX. SCALE 1" = 220'
NUMBERS = STREET ADDRESSES
-> = PHOTO # AND DIRECTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Buck's Corner Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/05/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/21/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/28/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001209

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/21/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



BUCK'S CORNER HD
WILMINGTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

Streetscape

PICTO #1



216 Wildwood Street
Wilmington, Middlesex Co., MA
Buck's Corner Historic District
Photo #2

05/00-15 2011 N
05/00-15 2011 N-12 DR09 2118/100



584 Woburn Street
Wilmington, Middlesex Co., MA
Buck's Corner Historic District

Photo #3

F&D<##### V014 BN
0555 07 N N N-1-13 GR08 2118/100



BUCK'S CORNER HTD
WILMINGTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

604 WOBURN ST.

PHOTO # 4



BUCK'S CORNER 14D
WILMINGTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

571 WOBURN ST.

216 WILDWOOD ST (rear)

PHOTO # 5



603 Waburn Street
Wilmington, Middlesex Co., MA
Buck's Corner Historic District
Photo # 6

0555 07 N N N 07 0508 2118-108
F008 BN



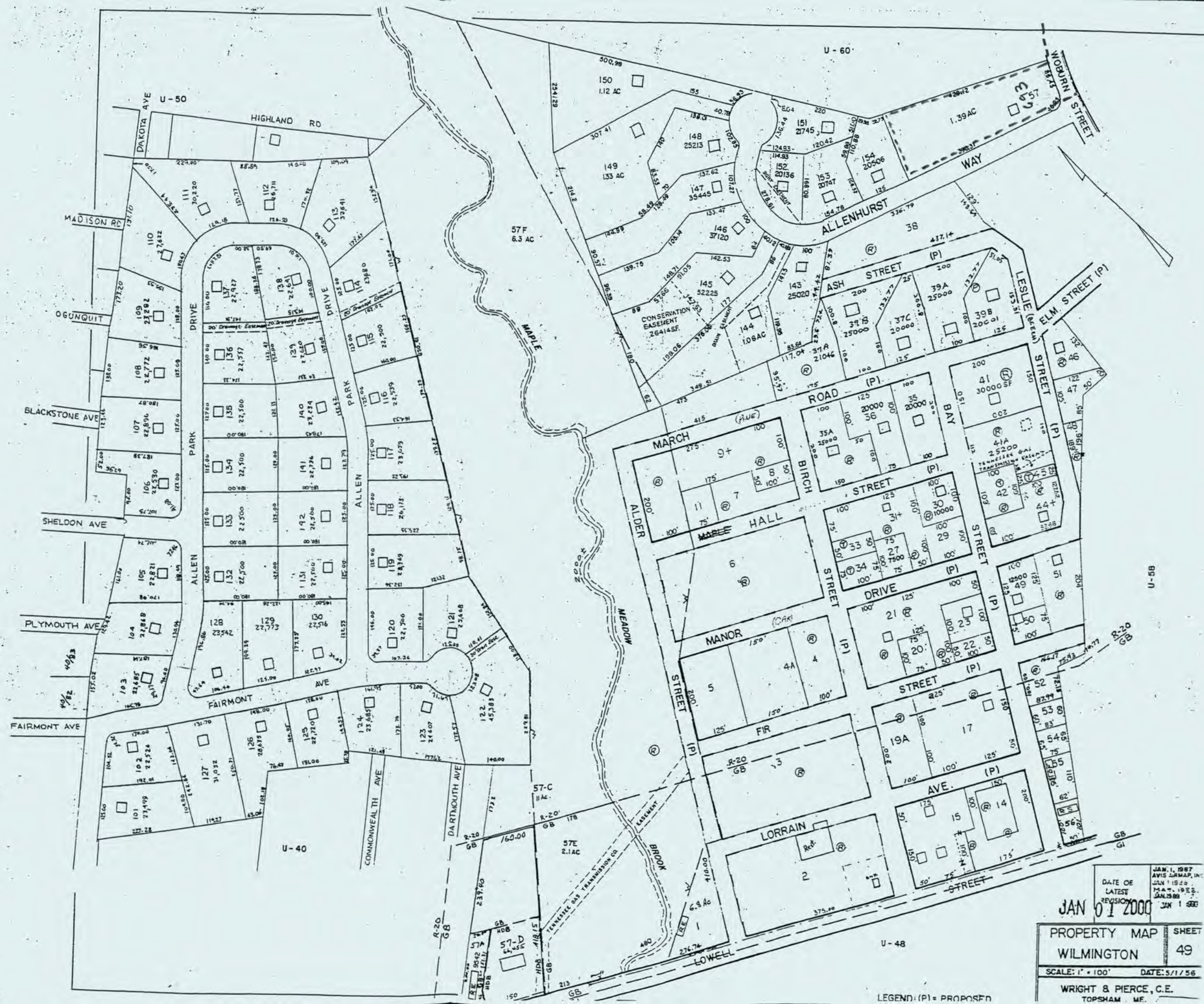
590 Woburn Street
Wilmington, Middlesex Co., MA
Buck's Corner Historic District

Photo # 7

800A #111 3017 EN
0555 07 N 111 15 GR00 2112/100

SCALE APPROX.
1" = 220'

BOUNDARY = - - - - -



JAN 01 2000

PROPERTY MAP	SHEET
WILMINGTON	49

SCALE: 1" = 100' DATE: 5/1/56

WRIGHT & PIERCE, C.E.
TOPSHAM, ME.

LEGEND: (P) = PROPOSED

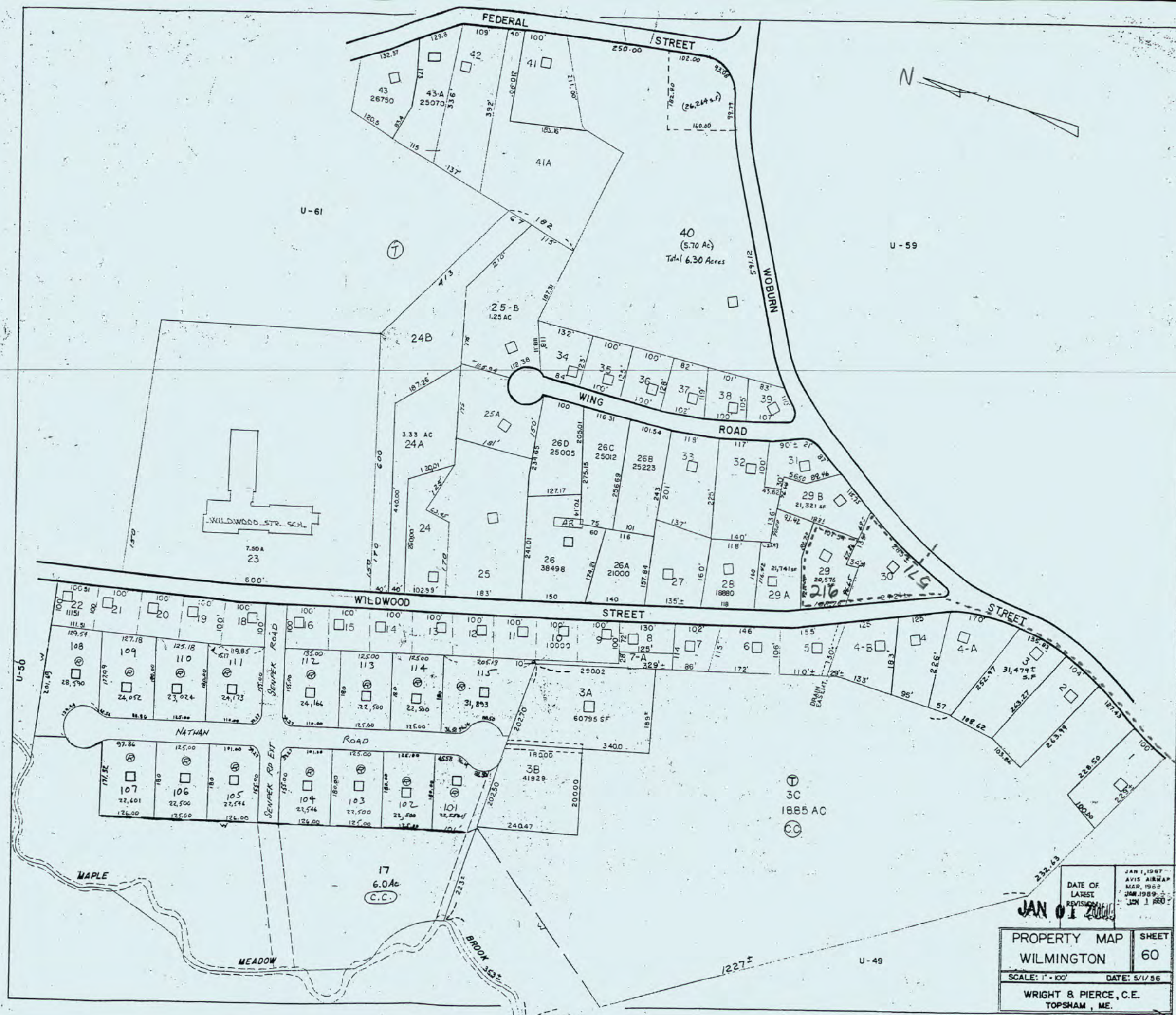
BUCKSCORNER

BUCK'S CORNER
HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE APPROX.
1" = 220'

NUMBERS INDICATE
STREET ADDRESSES

BOUNDARY = - - - - -



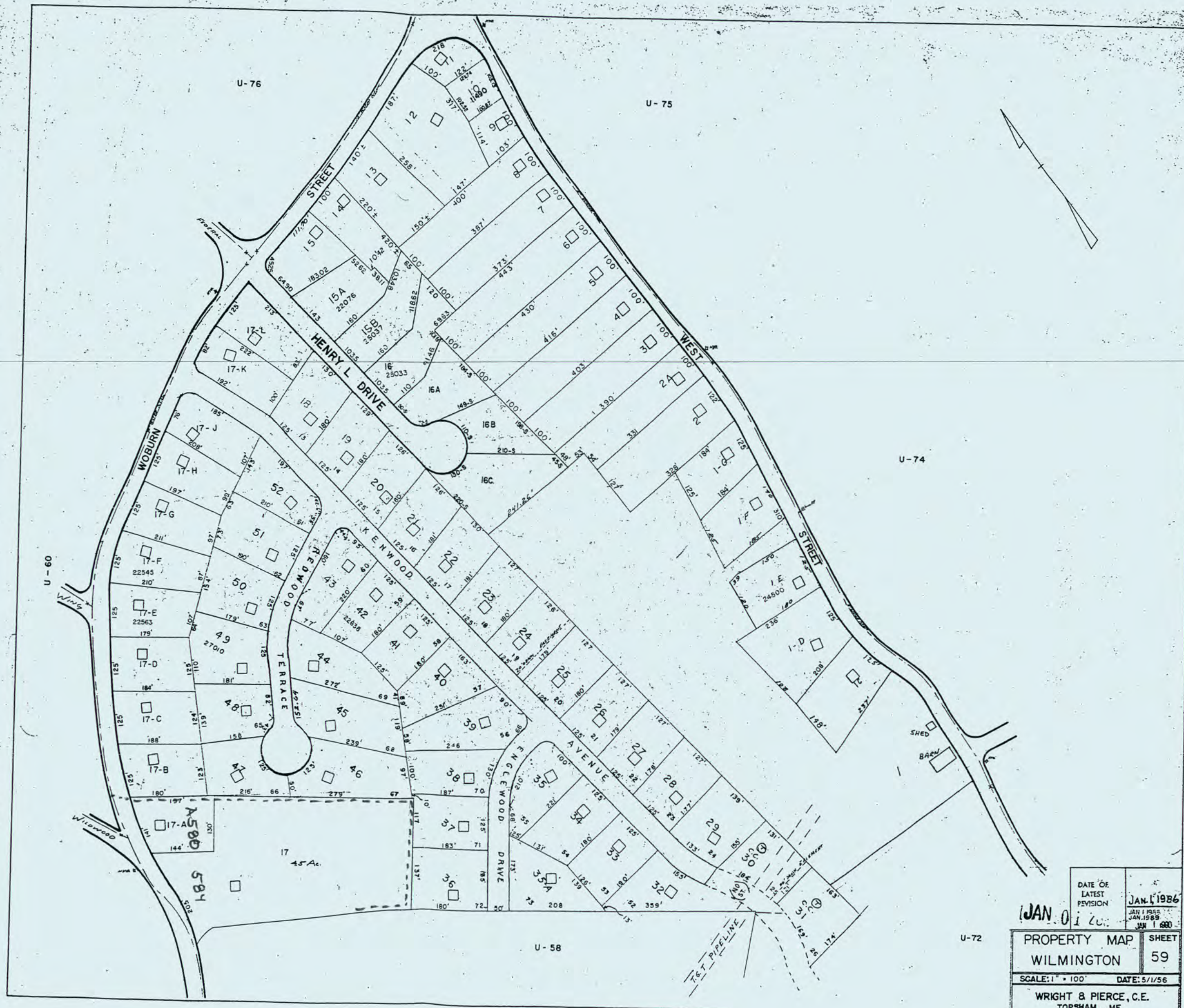
DATE OF LATEST REVISION		JAN 1, 1987 JAN 1, 1988 JAN 1, 1989 JAN 1, 1990	
PROPERTY MAP		SHEET	
WILMINGTON		60	
SCALE: 1" = 100'		DATE: 5/1/56	
WRIGHT & PIERCE, C.E. TOPSHAM, ME.			

BUCK'S CORNER
HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE APPROX.
1" = 220'

NUMBERS INDICATE
STREET ADDRESSES

BOUNDARY = - - - - -



DATE OF LATEST REVISION		JAN 1 1986	
JAN 01 1986		JAN 1 1986	
PROPERTY MAP		SHEET	
WILMINGTON		59	
SCALE: 1" = 100'		DATE: 5/1/56	
WRIGHT & PIERCE, C.E. TOPSHAM, ME.			

BUCK'S CORNER
HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE APPROX
1" = 220'

NUMBERS INDICATE
STREET ADDRESSES

BOUNDARY = - - - - -



DATE OF LATEST REVISION		SHEET	
JAN 01 2000		58	
PROPERTY MAP		WILMINGTON	
SCALE 1" = 100'		DATE 1/1/00	



BUCK'S CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT
WILMINGTON, MA 42071-E1-TM-025

Reading MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

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

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

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Wilmington 1965 and Reading 1966
1:24,000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM of 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet			1	2	3
2	6.5617			4	5	
4	13.1234			6	7	8
6	19.6851					
8	26.2468					
10	32.8085					

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence
(GTM and 1987 magnetic
declination (MM)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1 Lowell
2 Lawrence
3 Ipswich
4 Billerica
5 Salem
6 Lynn
7 Boston North
8 Lynn



Topographic Map Symbols

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



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 8, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Buck's Corner Historic District, Wilmington (Middlesex), MA

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

We request an expedited review of this nomination.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Heli Meltsner, consultant
Kathleen Black Reynolds, Wilmington Historical Commission
Robert J. Cain, Wilmington Board of Selectmen
Lynn Duncan, Planning Director