

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area

Area letter

B

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

✓ MA
✓ Essex County
Town Methuen

Name of area (if any) Pleasant-HighStreet Historic District (M. MRA)General date or period 1810-1910

Roughly bounded by Broadway,
High, Vine, Charles, and Pleasant
Sts.

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

See attached map.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Selection of boundaries for the Pleasant-High Street Historic District was based on consideration of topographical features, historic development patterns and extent of modern development. In general, the boundaries include the core of a residential district which developed adjacent to Methuen's downtown between 1810-1910. Specifically, the western boundary was drawn to exclude altered buildings and new construction along the corridor of Broadway and to dove tail with the eastern boundary of the Spicket Falls Historic District. The southern boundary includes fine examples of period houses facing on Pleasant Street while excluding mixed development and open space on the lots behind which are further disassociated from the district by a fall in ground level. The western and northern boundaries were drawn to exclude residential areas with increasing proportions of post-1930 elements.

UTM References: Lawrence Quad 1:25,000

A 19 321320 4733080

B 19 320980 4732620

C 19 320820 4733000

Recorded by Carole ZellieOrganization Landscape ResearchDate May, 1983

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Pleasant-High Street Historic District was among the first portions of Methuen which developed with houses not connected to agriculture. The residential buildings of the area - including approximately 25 structures from the survey, situated on a hilly site overlooking the Spicket River - are representative of late Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Italianate, Queen Anne and Period Revival styles, built between ca.1810 and 1910. The area contains some of the town's best post-Civil War high-styled residential architecture, and an outstanding Gothic Revival church built in 1855.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Pleasant-High Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and important associations with the development of central Methuen. It is significant as the town's largest and most intact collection of 19th century residential buildings, with good examples of almost all the major styles. It is also important as an indicator of the town's settlement patterns in the 19th century, when commercial, civic, industrial and residential activities were all becoming consolidated in one central location. Thus the district meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The first residences of the district were oriented to the views of the Spicket (and its early cotton mills) provided by the steep ridge which is the backdrop of the area. George (now High) Street and Pleasant Street experienced residential development by 1810, shortly after the construction of the 1806 Essex Turnpike (now Broadway). When 36 High (Map 60-1) and 18-20 Pleasant Street (Map 56-17A) were built, Methuen was a small settlement with only a grist mill and cotton mill in the present-day town center.

With the expansion of the Methuen Cotton Mills in 1826 and 1855, the Pleasant-High Street Historic District accommodated the mill workers, merchants, managers, and professionals of the growing town. Well-crafted Second Empire style houses were favored by hat manufacturer Daniel Gleason at 2 Gage Street (1870; Map 57-2) and druggist S. J. Harris at 30 High

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

(CONTINUED)

James K. Barber. Map of Methuen, Mass. (facsimile of 1806 map).

Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts 1872. 1884.

Town of Methuen Pictorial Souvenir. 1903.

Nevins Park. ca.1895 (promotional brochure).

Business directories, 1861-1912.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Community: Methuen | Form No: B |
| Property Name: Pleasant-High St. Historic District | |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Street (1870; Map 60-30). With the nucleation of a village near the Spicket Falls, the town meeting and religious functions presently held in rural locations were brought closer to Broadway and the Pleasant-High Street area. The location of the First Church Congregational at 30 Pleasant Street (Map 56-1) in 1832 signalled the change in growth patterns; the present granite Gothic Revival style church, replacing an earlier one, was built in 1855 (NR; 1978).

Lawrence was incorporated in 1847 from a portion of lands formerly belonging to Methuen. With the successful development of Lawrence as a textile manufacturing center, Methuen provided homesites for a number of Lawrence cotton and woolen mill managers. This was evident in the development of Nevins Park, a small subdivision platted in the 1890s by Methuen Mills owner David Nevins. The area was promoted as a streetcar commuter's haven. The Nevins Park subdivision was small (approximately 100 lots) in contrast to the 700-lot development in more peripheral areas of Methuen. It was well-promoted, with its own descriptive brochure. Queen Anne and Georgian Revival houses were built in Nevins Park between ca.1890 and 1905. Among the best architectural examples are the Queen Anne Alfred Sagar House at 6 Stevens Street (Map 60-2) and the ca.1911 G. W. Copp House at 10 Gage Street (Map 57-4).

The Pleasant-High Street Historic District landscape retains its quality with a variety of retaining walls, granite fenceposts, and 19th century wooden fences still evident. The 1888 Civil War Monument commissioned by Methuen businessman Charles H. Tenney, situated at Pleasant and Charles Street on a triangular site, preserves important open space at the south of the area. The granite monument, flanked by lions and capped by a spread-winged eagle, is a neighborhood focal point (Map 55-1).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS
 PLEASANT-HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

| BLOCK/ LOT | INVENTORY NUMBER | HISTORIC NAME | ADDRESS | DATE | STYLE |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| 57-4 | 35 | G. W. Copp House | 10 Gage Street | ca. 1911 | Georgian Revival |
| 57-3 | n/a | House | 6-8 Gage Street | ca. 1900 | Colonial Revival |
| 57-2 | 36 | Daniel Gleason House | 2 Gage Street | ca. 1870 | Italianate |
| 57-1 | n/a | House (NC) | 22 High Street | ca. 1950 | Colonial Revival |
| 60-29 | 37 | House | 26 High Street | ca. 1870 | Second Empire |
| 60-30 | 38 | S. H. Harris House | 30 High Street | ca. 1870 | Second Empire |
| 60-31 | n/a | House | 32 High Street | ca. 1900 | Shingle |
| 56-8 | 39 | C. Wilson House | 21 High Street | ca. 1905 | Georgian Revival |
| 56-7 | 40 | Frank Remick House | 23 High Street | ca. 1895 | Queen Anne |
| 56-6 | n/a | House | 25 High Street | ca. 1895 | Queen Anne |
| 56-5 | 41 | Arthur Crosby House | 27 High Street | ca. 1895 | Queen Anne |
| 60-1 | n/a | House | 36 High Street | ca. 1820 | late Federal |
| 61-6 | 42 | House | 38 High Street | ca. 1900 | Queen Anne |
| 61-7 | 43 | J. A. Stevens House | 42 High Street | ca. 1820 | late Federal |
| 56-4 | n/a | House | 29 High Street | ca. 1895 | Queen Anne |
| 56-3 | n/a | House | 31 High Street | ca. 1880 | Italianate |
| 56-2 | n/a | House | 33 High Street | ca. 1890 | Queen Anne |
| 60-2 | 44 | Alfred Sagar House | 6 Stevens Street | ca. 1890 | Queen Anne |

METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS
 PLEASANT-HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

| BLOCK/ LOT | INVENTORY NUMBER | HISTORIC NAME | ADDRESS | DATE | STYLE |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 61-5 | n/a | House | 5 Stevens Street | ca. 1880 | Italianate |
| 61-4 | 49 | House | 7 Stevens | ca. 1900 | Shingle |
| 56-17B | n/a | House | 2 Stevens | ca. 1900 | |
| 63-2 | 52 | Edward Archibald House | 4 Central Street | ca. 1900 | Shingle |
| 56-15 | 54 | J. Milton Tenney House | 12 Pleasant Street | ca. 1905 | |
| 56-16 | n/a | House | 16 Pleasant Street | ca. 1875 | Italianate - late additions |
| 56-17A | 55 | Howe House | 18-20 Pleasant Street | ca. 1810 | Federal |
| 55-2A | 56 | Peirce House | 13 Pleasant Street | ca. 1845 | Greek Revival |
| 55-2 | 57 | Albion Peirce House | 15 Pleasant Street | ca. 1855 | Queen Anne |
| 56-1 | 58 | First Church Congregational | 30 Pleasant Street | 1855 | Gothic Revival |
| 63-1 | 63 | Edward Archibald House (second) | 38 Pleasant Street | ca. 1880 | Second Empire |
| 65-20 | 64 | Walton-Hartshorne House | 40 Pleasant Street | ca. 1880 | Second Empire |
| 65-21 | 65 | Charles Austin House | 42 Pleasant Street | ca. 1840 | Greek Revival |
| 65-22 | 66 | House | 46 Pleasant Street | ca. 1860 | Victorian Gothic |
| 55-1 | 59 | Civil War Monument | Pleasant Street at Charles Street | 1888 | |

UTM P

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Pleasant-High Historic District (Methuen MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC - 7 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 1/5/84 - 1/21/84

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 1/20/84

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*THE DISTRICT APPEARS TO MEET CRITERIA AHC, BUT IS BEING
REJECTED FOR BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION AND UTM'S.*

Recom./Criteria: RETURN

Reviewer: MA [signature]

Discipline: ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Date: 1/20/84

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification _____

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

X 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

X UTM References *Please provide 300 more UTM reference points*

Verbal boundary description and justification

PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXPLICIT BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION WHICH EXPLAINS THE CHOICE OF BOUNDARIES FOR THE DISTRICT BASED ON ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to *BRUCE MAC DONALD / DELORES BEYERS*

Signed *[Signature]* Date *1/20/89* Phone: _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 12/7/87
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. House at 50 Pelham Street ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

22. House at 526 Prospect Street ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

23. House at 9 Park Street ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

24. Johnson House ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

25. Lawrence Street Cemetery ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

26. Methuen Water Works ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

27. Morse, Moses, House ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

28. Nevins Memorial Library ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

29. Nevins, Henry C., Home for
Aged and Incurables ~~Entered in the~~
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 1/20/84

Attest

30. Pleasant-High Historic
District ~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper Ann Van Duzend 1/20/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pleasant-High Historic District (Methuen MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Working No. 12/7/83
 Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
 Date Due: 6/22/84
 Action: ACCEPT 6/20/84
 RETURN
 REJECT
 Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ACCEPT/ARC
 Reviewer John D. ...
 Discipline A.H.
 Date 11-10-84
 _____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
 _____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed

Check one unaltered altered

Check one original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



PLEASANT - HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

①

PLEASANT AND STEVENS STREET - LOOKING NORTH

16-20 PLEASANT STREET (56-17A) AT LEFT



PLEASANT - HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

(2)

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL 1888

PLEASANT STREET AT CHARLES STREET - LOOKING EAST

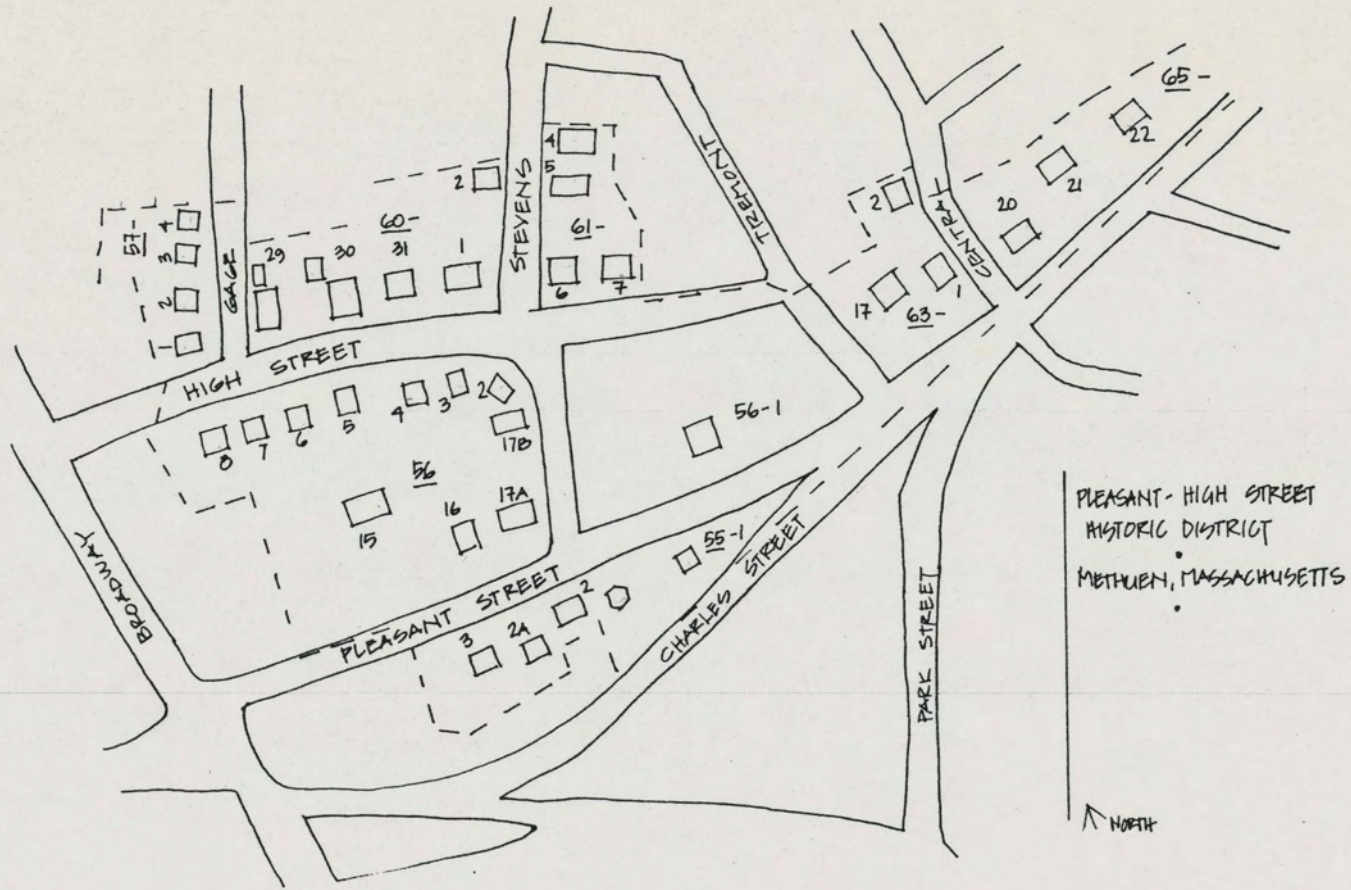


PLEASANT-HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
GAGE STREET AT HIGH STREET - LOOKING NORTH
2 GAGE STREET (57-2) AT LEFT

③

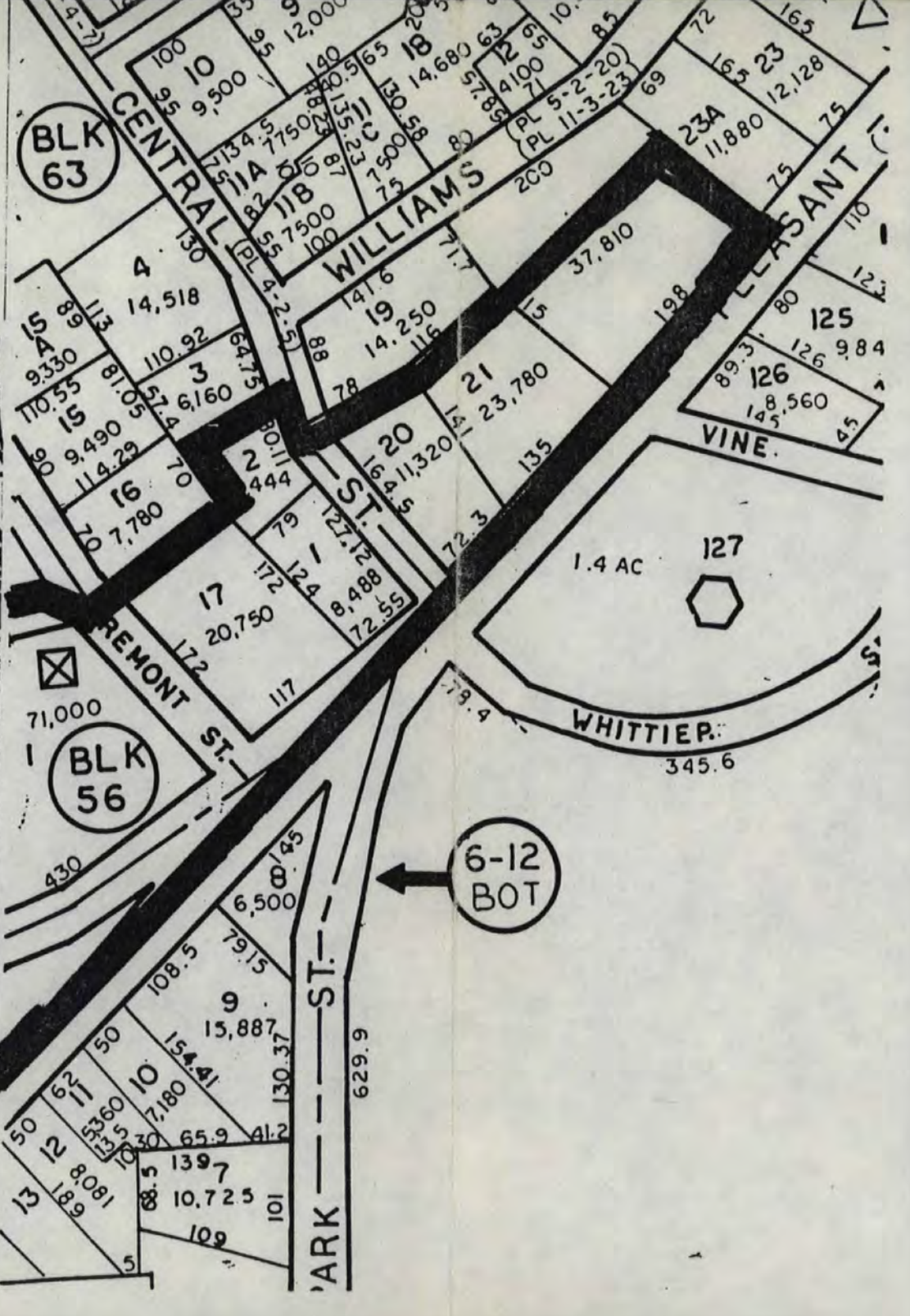
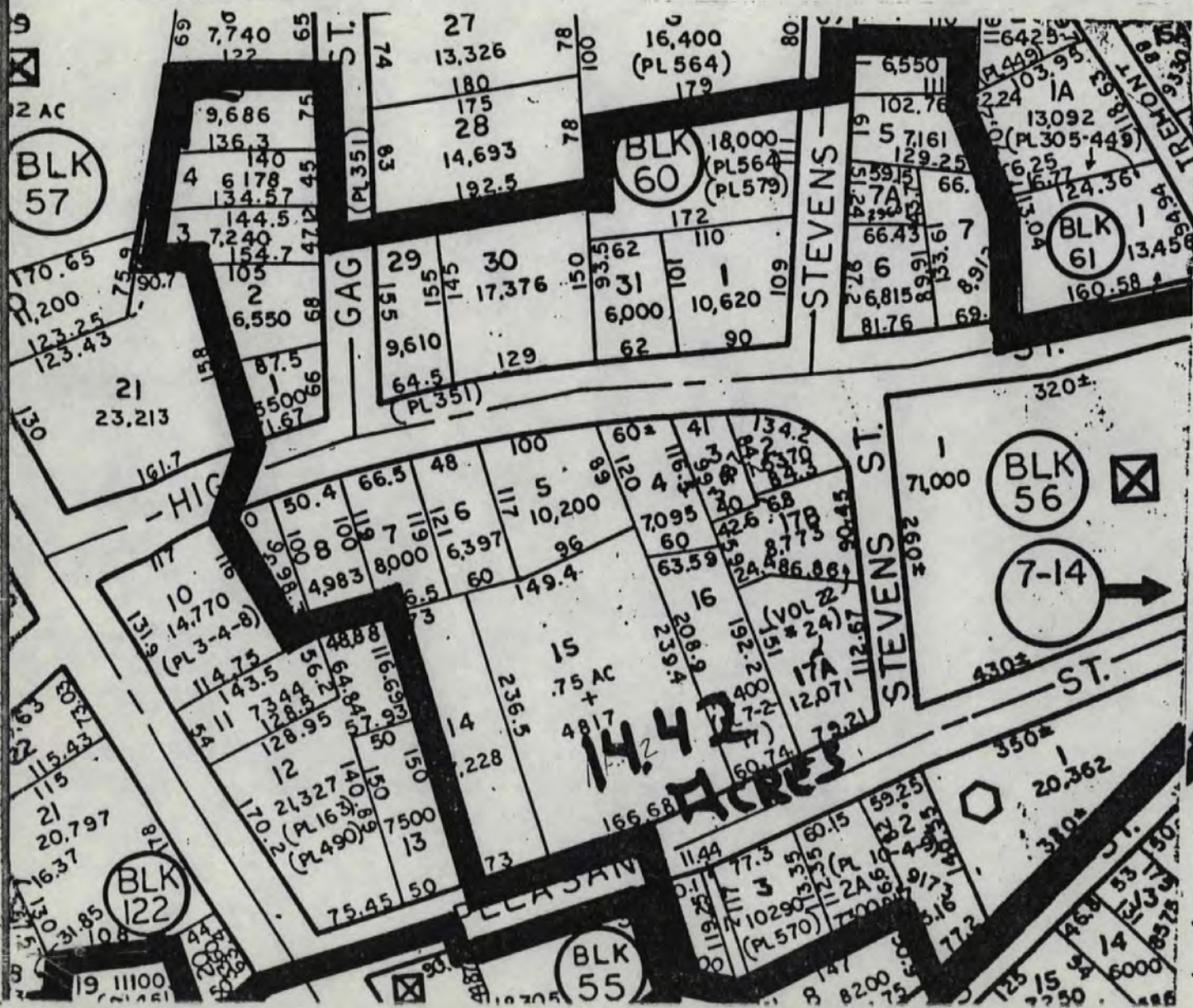


HIGH STREET, NEAR GAGE STREET LOOKING EAST (4)
30 HIGH STREET (60-30) AT LEFT; 32 (60-31) AT RIGHT
PLEASANT-HIGH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT



PLEASANT-HIGH STREET
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTH



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000284