

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in 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 North Avenue Rural Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 85-147 North Avenue, 6-8 Trask Road, 4-16 Hopedale Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Mendon ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester 027 zip code 01756

Code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 for Cara H. Metz, SHPO, MA Historical Commission

6/5/03
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

Date of Action

Patrick Anders

7/25/2003

North Avenue Rural HD

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
37	9	buildings
12	0	sites
13	0	structures
0	0	objects
62	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingAGRICULTURE: agricultural field, storage, animal facilityLANDSCAPE**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC : single dwellingCOMMERCT/TRADE : specialty store, warehouseEDUCATION : schoolAGRICULTURE : field, storage, animal facilityLANDSCAPE**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: FederalMID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, ItalianateEARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONEwalls WOODSYNTHETICSroof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The North Avenue Rural Historic District contains 345 acres representing a distinctive rural component of the historic hilltop farming community of Mendon, Massachusetts. The historic district extends along North Avenue from just north of Esty Road on the south to just south of Powers Road (and the Upton town line) on the north. Properties on adjoining sections of Hopedale and Trask roads are included in the district. Boundaries were determined by using the current boundaries of historic farm parcels that in their buildings and landscapes visually evinced a rural setting. The district contains 62 contributing and 9 noncontributing features, including farmhouses, barns, fields, woods and marshes (and the Muddy Brook), and stone walls. Archeological resources were not evaluated.

The Town of Mendon is located in the southeastern corner of Worcester County, east of Uxbridge, south of Upton and Milford, and north of Blackstone and Millville, all towns comprised of parts partitioned from it at various points in its long history. Located on the southeasterly edge of the Worcester Plateau, which extends from the coastal lowlands to the Connecticut River Valley, the topography of the district slopes gradually down in an easterly direction to the course of the Muddy Brook and thence up the opposing incline of Neck Hill. This small creek is a tributary of the Mill River, the town's principal waterway. Both are part of the Blackstone River watershed. Land in this intervalle still remains undeveloped with some of it still in agricultural uses, although increasing acreage has begun to return to forest. Farmland here was some of the first cultivated in the town and remains associated with the history of the Mendon town center (see Mendon Center Historic District, nomination pending, 2003). However, much of the farmland on the North Avenue ridge has been subdivided and built-up with recent residential and development that does not contribute to the significant periods or themes of either the rural or town center historic district. As such, it has divided the two historic districts. Nevertheless, the North Avenue Rural Historic District represents an intact and a distinctive rural landscape that provides a visual sense of town planning and community development during the late 17th and early 18th centuries in the town of Mendon, as well as the transformation of the architectural design and agricultural practices in the 19th century. The North Avenue landscape is also a remarkable survival in the context of the tremendous growth of the Boston metropolitan area in the period following the Second World War.

The North Avenue Rural Historic District is composed of eight historic farms that, with only one exception, remain spatially intact to boundaries recorded in the mid-19th century.¹ These farms also coincide with the area of six farms identified on John G. Metcalf's Map of Mendon published in 1831. The precise configuration and ownership of farms along the ridge north of Mendon Center prior to this date still remains ambiguous, and it will require extensive archival and field research before the 18th-century history of the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

landscape can be defined. However, North Avenue was likely in existence since before the time Upton separated from Mendon in 1735, and it was the location of the earliest homestead divisions in the town.² The quality on the land sloping down from the ridge to the Muddy Brook was coveted by the town's proprietors and was why the town center was located where it was. One published account has suggested that by 1678 homesteads extended along the ridge from "Seth Davenport's to Alby's [sic] Mill and from the Muddy Brook to the pond."³ Seth Davenport's Farm was located on both sides of North Avenue at its intersection with Hopedale Road at the northern end of the historic district. Ironically, this is the one farm in the historic district that has been lately subdivided for house lots, a large regional high school, and a site for a new public library building.

One of the eight rules the General Court established for the governance of the town in 1662 determined the division of land. Each proprietor was to be granted 150 acres of land for every 100 Pounds of personal worth. Of this land, thirty acres were allocated to the house lot, ten acres to meadow, five to swamp, and 105 to the "great lott."⁴ This amount would vary in proportion to the actual size of each proprietor's personal estate. The land between the North Avenue ridge and Neck Hill was well suited for this method of division where a house lot could extend down across the fertile slope of the ridge and incorporate meadow and swamp land along the Muddy Brook. The "great lott" was presumably the land initially held in common. Settlement began at a slow pace. Few of the proprietors moved to the town when it was established in 1667. Joseph White was the oft-repeated first settler, whose homestead and saw pit were referenced as adjacent to the proposed meetinghouse at the center. Other proprietors are not identified with specific lands along the ridge. The first tax assessment in Mendon was made in 1668 for wolf bounties, implying that farmers were present with livestock. These early farms may have been managed by servants as only one-third of the residents were freemen in 1672. In his bicentennial address made in 1867, the Rev. Carleton A. Staples purported that "not less than 40 houses...[were] scattered up and down this eastern and northern slope" in 1678.⁵ This was during the aftermath of King's Philip's War when the town was starting to rebuild, and the number sounds exaggerated, yet the ridge was clearly where the first farms were divided.

The farms in the historic district originate at the north end of the town at the headwaters of the Muddy Brook, and where there was a good deal of marshland, which was the prime, grass-producing component of the 17th-century farms. Beef cattle were the principal product of early farms in New England, and the combined grass and pasture land of the ridge was ideal for this kind of agriculture.⁶ Farms on the east side of the road would have been the most desirable, and it appears that long narrow lots fronting the road and extending at least to the brook and, depending on the size of the farm grant, across and beyond it were the norm. The present map of the district indicates that this lot pattern configuration existed, and that a remarkable amount of that pattern survives. Farms would have been of different sizes from the start, reflecting the varied wealth among the proprietors. The wealthiest, or at least the best-informed proprietors

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

would have selected farms on the east side of the road. Land on the west side of the road was less fertile and diversified than that on the east side. Farms there did not benefit from the fertile meadows on the slope of the ridge nor the proximity of the Muddy Brook, but the land was full of marshy areas that were desirable. In some cases, larger farms may have bridged the road, but this was probably not a common condition. By the 19th century, only one farm occupied land on both sides of the road (Adeline A. Davenport Farm), but that was likely a consolidation of smaller east-side and west-side farms belonging to earlier owners.

The southern limits of the historic district have been drawn where the intact farm properties abut a built-up area at the intersection of North Avenue and Northbridge Street. While this portion of the ridge landscape had been divided and cultivated as farms through to the end of the 19th century, it has evolved into a dense residential area that has diminished its rural character. This trend began early in the 19th century when a schoolhouse was built on North Avenue and non-farm house lots were created (e.g., Quigley-Eldridge House, MHC #150, 93 North Avenue). It was spurred as Mendon Center expanded out North Avenue and later accelerated by the opening of trolley service in the town in 1901 (the tracks coming from Hopedale intersected North Avenue south of Northbridge Street) and the construction of the Center School on the road in 1903. Today, the section of North Avenue between Hastings and Northbridge streets is an indistinct architectural zone between the center and the rural historic district. Older farmhouses still exist in this zone, although the intervening space along the road has been subdivided and contain numerous 20th century suburban house types, many of them much less than fifty years old. If the agricultural land behind these houses has not been subdivided, it has gone fallow and become substantially forested.

The present appearance of the rural landscape in the historic district reflects the extent of farm development there in the early 20th century. Historic farm divisions are still very pronounced, both in the landscape and on parcel maps, but most of the earlier divisions between fields, meadow and pasture within farms have been leveled to allow for cultivation by modern farm machinery (PHOTO 1). The smaller farm spaces of the 18th and 19th centuries, neatly separated by stonewalls, fences and hedgerows, have been, by-and-large, consolidated into large areas. Stonewalls and tree rows are still evident at parcel boundaries and along the road where visual divisions and picturesque leafy canopies are of value (PHOTO 2). Even in this well-preserved landscape, a certain amount of forestation has occurred, especially along the Muddy Brook. Marsh harvesting has been obsolete for a century or more, and the wetlands that were once a critical component of farms in the 18th century and earlier, have been functionally abandoned (PHOTO 3).

The architecture of the district is largely 19th century in character, which represents an active phase of updating and redesigning buildings (houses and barns) that is consistent with the transformation that Town of Mendon and the broader New England rural landscape were experiencing in the Federal Period. Two of the houses predate this era, however. The house at the Seth Davenport Farm, MHC #157, 133 North

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

Avenue, appears to be one of the oldest dwellings in the district (PHOTO 4). With its roofline extending across the façade just above the heads of the second-story windows, center chimney (later reduced in size) and projecting window surrounds that indicate plank construction, the house has distinctive 18th-century characteristics. It has a distinctive granite foundation. The house's historical association with Seth Davenport also supports an eighteenth-century date for the residence. The house located at the Smith-Nelson Farm, MHC #149, 85 North Street, is similar in form to, though smaller in scale than, the Seth Davenport House (PHOTO 5). It, too, has a roofline snug against the second-story window tops but has two internal chimneys suggesting that the house contains a more innovative double-pile, center-passage plan.

According to Metcalf's 1831 map, the one-story house at the Davenport-Goss Farm, MHC #154, 106 North Avenue, was the home of George L. Davenport, Seth's grandson, in 1831 (PHOTO 6). The geometric form and plain decoration of the building dates to a time earlier in the 19th century. Like the Smith-Nelson Farm, the traditional chimney mass center in the center of the house has been split into two for a passage. This house has numerous exemplars in the town that were constructed in the Federal Period. This was the most common farmhouse type in Massachusetts at the time of its construction.⁷ A kitchen wing is engaged to the southwesterly corner of the house, with a string of outbuildings behind. The dwelling on the Lundy-Trask Farm, MHC #272, 8 Trask Road, appears to have been built during the ownership of Peter Lundy who is identified with the property in 1831. Though altered by a large 20th-century shed dormer and piazza, the 1½ story house is another example of this distinctive 19th-century house form (PHOTO 7).

The house associated with the Lovett-Quigley Farm, MHC #268, at 100 North Avenue is a more innovative Federal Period dwelling (PHOTO 8). Its south-facing façade, now obscured by a large two-story pavilion, is five bays wide, but this orientation positioned the gable end as the road elevation, an indication of the growing popularity of the Classical pedimented element in regional architecture. If there were any attached outbuildings, as might be expected, they have been removed. A barn is sited off the southwesterly corner of the house. The Davenport-Taft House, MHC #155, at 111 North Avenue differs from the previous two in that the entrance was moved to the street-facing, gable-end west façade (PHOTO 9). The pediment is defined by thin, shallow cornice returns, but the most pronounced feature is the trabeated doorway that introduced a decided Greek Revival-style element to the building. The house is otherwise quite altered; a rear two-story ell appears to be a later addition. The Greek Revival motif is most evident along the roof lines and corners of the Quigley-Eldridge House, MHC #150, a small non-farm dwelling at 93 North Avenue (PHOTO 10). This house and small one-acre lot was occupied tradesmen and its scale and orientation is similar to many houses in the town center. It includes attached outbuildings and a small carriage barn consistent with its non-agricultural use. Located close to the Northbridge Street intersection and the schoolhouse, this house also reflects the build-up of this area into a more nucleated community. The schoolhouse, MHC #263, still exists, having been converted into a dwelling at 86 North Avenue. The typical

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

front-gable orientation of the one-classroom building was embellished with Greek Revival style ornament dating this building to the 1840s period (PHOTO 11). Set back from the street just north of the schoolhouse is the community cemetery, MHC #805, where gravestones of members of the abovementioned farm families were buried (PHOTO 12). It has a distinctive wall and gated entrance at the road that leads to a large open forecourt that may have been reserved for expansion that never occurred.

The house at Maple Farm, MHC #153, 101 North Avenue, was built by Charles A. Davenport, in the 1850s or later (PHOTO 13). It apparently replaced an earlier house on near the site that was assigned to Joseph G. Davenport on the 1831 Metcalf map. Charles A. Davenport was the son of Joseph G. Davenport's brother and neighbor across the road, George L. Davenport. The house is the only example of a mid-19th century building in the district. Even though it retains the traditional boxy form of earlier farmhouses, its south-facing three-bay façade represents the influence of the Picturesque Italianate taste in the period as an alternative to the strict order and symmetry of the Greek Revival style. The house has a brick foundation, at least where it is exposed, shadowy eaves on all sides of the roof, a wide front piazza, and end chimneys (not removed) venting stoves on the interior. The gable end faces the street, but it does not have the classical proportions or detailing of its predecessors.

A number of small 20th-century non-farm dwellings have been included within the southern boundary of the historic district. They were part of the expansion of the residential community that developed at Northbridge Street. All but one of these lots were subdivided from the Lovett-Quigley Farm on the west side of the road; the other was a triangular lot caught between the Quigley-Eldridge House and the Smith-Nelson Farm on the east side. The one-story house at 98 North Avenue, MHC #268, is a distinctive example of the early phase of the ubiquitous revival building type known as the Cape Cod (PHOTO 14). Its gable end faces the road in the manner of the buildings near it, and has a building of equal size engaged to its southwest corner in the traditional fashion. This house, together with a similar house located on the cemetery property at 90 North Avenue, MHC #264, have wood shingles as an exterior siding, which is consistent with the rural Colonial Revival taste in the early 20th century. The houses at 91 North Avenue (PHOTO 15) and 96 North Avenue, MHC #265,267, are Post-WWII-era Capes that illustrate the suburban style and siting characteristic of that later period. They are oriented with their gables at the side, and they are devoid of the rustic materials that embellish the earlier Capes. As such, they aptly represent the reorganization of rural architecture and landscape in the automobile age.

There are two farmhouses in the historic district that were built in the 20th century. The house on the Rufus G. Beals Farm, MHC #158, 139 North Avenue, was built in the early 1900s after a fire destroyed the original house (PHOTO 16). A large, square, hipped-roof building, it is similar to the nearby J. Davenport House, MHC #156, 134 North Avenue, which is a more organized pattern-book house erected ca.1910

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 6

(PHOTO 17). Both these houses show the growing trend towards more universal tastes in domestic architecture during the early 20th century. Virtually any hint of the regional tradition has been removed from these buildings. In 1900, after decades of inactivity and isolation Mendon had entered a period of revitalization and redefinition that looked forward and outward. These farmhouses are also landmarks to the improvements that were made in agricultural practice in the period.

Barns are an important physical and visual elements of rural landscapes, and a number survive in the historic district that illustrate the evolution of barn design and use during the 19th and 20th centuries. More than houses, barns were constantly adapted, expanded, and replaced to meet the changing demands of individual farms and regional farm economies. In Mendon, significant changes occurred in agriculture in the 19th century as farm commodities shifted from meat to dairy products and agricultural practice became increasingly scientific and mechanized. This trend continued into the 20th century with increasing emphasis on standardized production and farm management. The barn at the Rufus G. Beals Farm on 139 North Street represents a late manifestation of the traditional New England barn, with its large rectangular form, gable roof and central wagon door (PHOTO 16). This barn type dates from antecedents in the 17th century, and this example illustrates the greatest extent of its development in size and function. The conventional barn plan of a central wagon bay and threshing floor flanked by grain and hay storage areas was, in this case, augmented by cow stalls in the basement. By the mid-19th century, when this building was erected, the basement barn had become a national standard of improved farm architecture and was promoted in agricultural journals everywhere. Similar barns are preserved with the J. Davenport House, 134 North Avenue (PHOTO 17); the Lovett-Quigley Farm, 100 North Avenue (PHOTO 8); and the Lundy-Trask Farm present, 8 Trask Road.

Growing dairy herds and an inexhaustible demand for hay for cow feed and fodder led to larger and larger barns and eventually to the complete redesign of the traditional barn form. The huge barn at the Seth Davenport Farm at 135 North Avenue epitomizes the scale and style of dairy barns in the later 19th century (PHOTO 4). It was still a basement barn but a much longer and voluminous version. Most of the building above the basement was devoted to hay storage with the prominent, decorative cupola serving as a ventilator. (Ventilation was critical in barns of this size and many of these barns were consumed by fires caused by the heat generated by highly combustible hay mass.) The barn was also embellished with more decorative siding and windows typical of the picturesque design tastes of the period. The most recent dairy barn is located on Maple Farm at 101 North Avenue (PHOTO 13). This gambrel-roof structure is a modern dairy structure built ca.1950. The long horizontal band of windows on the street elevation coincides with cow stations within. In this incarnation, the dairy herd would occupy the ground level in fixed positions with access to a automated vacuum milking system. Hay and feed were housed under the enormous roof. An array of additional buildings are sited behind (east of) the barn serving ancillary functions for animal

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

housing, machinery storage and work space. A small silo is attached to the south side of the barn; it is likely a more recent replacement for a larger masonry silo built in the period of the barn.

Barns once associated with other farmhouses in the district no longer exist, which is a typical condition of rural landscapes in suburban transition. Once the agricultural function of the barn is obsolete, their preservation is threatened. A few properties may have had the distinction of connected outbuildings. The Seth Davenport Farm, 133 North Avenue, has outbuildings extending in an "L" shape from the rear elevation of the main house (PHOTO 4). Outbuildings at the Davenport-Goss Farm, 102 North Avenue, may have had been attached to the string of buildings that are now aligned behind it including a barn, which is now absent from the site (PHOTO 6). The Quigley-Eldridge House, 93 North Avenue never would have had a farm barn, but it does have attached outbuildings like many houses in Mendon Center (PHOTO 10). As would be expected, automobile garages have been added to a number of the properties in the district. The houses have various additions that reflect changing and modernizing living function occurring within.

The farm landscapes are perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the rural historic district. With one exception, each of the farms preserve their historic boundaries and land use, although in all but one case, farming no longer actively takes place on the properties. The exception is the Seth Davenport Farm at 133 North Avenue. In this case, the entire 212-acre farm occupying both sides of North Avenue that was identified with Adeline A. Davenport at the turn of the 20th century has been subdivided into house lots along Hopedale Street, Miscoe Road, and the west side of North Avenue (PHOTO 18). The distinctive farmhouse and barn was relegated to a 7-acre lot at the corner of North Avenue and Hopedale Street (PHOTO 4). One conspicuous and scenic 30-acre parcel on the southeast corner of North Avenue and Hopedale Street will be the site of a new public library building; however, successful efforts have been made to minimize the impact of the new facility and preserve the open space as much as possible (PHOTO 18). North of the Davenport farm, the 30-acre Rufus G. Beals Farm is still predominantly open and exists as unused meadow. It has been subdivided into three parcels so that the children of the present owners could build houses on the property. The 60-acre Lundy-Trask Farm is also intact with field patterns visible from the road and wooded land in its northernmost section.

South of the Seth Davenport Farm is a narrow 16-acre lot that belonged to Edward H. Taft in 1898. This small farm remains intact as one large field with the house at 111 North Avenue in its southwest corner. There is a gated entrance in the stonewall that parallels the road, and a wall-and-tree row along its northern boundary with the Davenport lot, which Taft was farming in 1898 (PHOTO 19). The 16-acre field is now used by the Maple Farm, which is the only functioning agricultural facility remaining on North Avenue. The front (eastern) half of its 106-acre parcel is occupied by active fields that extend down to the Muddy Brook, beyond which the land becomes forested. An expansive vista of the landscape north of the ridge is

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 8

available from this location (PHOTO 20). The house lots in the subdivision of land on the east side of North Avenue end at. Much of the 23-acre parcel associated with the Davenport-Goss Farm, 106 North Avenue, has returned to forest but a stubby, fallow field still survives with a stonewall and mature tree line against the road (PHOTO 21). The neighboring 40-acre farm at 102 North Avenue, was identified as owned by N. & N. Lovett on the 1831 map. In 1870, Joseph Albee farmed it as well as the 24-acre lot on the west side of the road (85 North Avenue), and both parcels were identified as having been Davenport lands in the 1868 tax assessment. The landscape of the property on the east side of the road is still involved in agriculture, again likely worked by Maple Farm, its northerly neighbor. The westerly lot is largely wooded today indicating that it has been inactive for fifty or more years. James Quigley was identified as the owner of the old Lovett place in 1898. He had relocated from the small 1-acre house lot at 95 North Avenue he had occupied in 1870. A recent dwelling is hidden in the woods at the center of this property. Farther south and outside the southern boundary of the historic district, reforestation is more common and affects the integrity of the historic rural landscape. Together with the increased density of suburban housing, the character of the street changes dramatically, thus the boundary line has been drawn to exclude these areas and focus on the farms that exhibit intact, if not functioning, agricultural lands.

The North Avenue Rural Historic District represents over three hundred years of growth and development of a New England farm community. Each stage of its long history is evinced in the buildings and landscape comprising the district. While the physical remains of the 17th-century farms are no longer extant, the setting on the eastern ridge of the Worcester Plateau and the continued existence of farmland are subtle but significant landmarks of this antiquity. The late 18th and 19th centuries are well represented in historic resources that are increasingly visible as the town reached its heyday in the 1840s. From there, the slow evolution of a bypassed rural town through the next century-and-a-half is evident, but the more compelling vision of the district is how effectively the qualities of the rural landscape has been preserved, both through isolation from the mainstream of progress and conscious community desire.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites have been identified in the North Avenue Historic District, sites may be present. Two sites have been identified in the general area (within one mile) located on upland terraces on the northern shore of Nipmuck Pond. Environmental characteristics (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) indicate a high potential for the presence of ancient sites in many areas of the district. The general locale is situated on the southeastern edge of the Worcester Plateau in a transition zone between the coastal lowlands and the Central Massachusetts uplands. While sloping land surfaces characterize much of the district, well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, knolls and other landforms are present, frequently located within 1,000 feet

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 9

of Muddy Brook, Rock Meadow Brook, and several unidentified ponds and meadows. Each of the above wetlands are part of the Mill River drainage, a tributary of the Blackstone River. The Charles River drainage is also located approximately one mile east of the district. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 345 acres) and the availability of open space, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American sites in the district. Known sites, documented regional settlement patterns, and environmental characteristics indicate potential sites may be characterized by smaller, short-term special purpose type sites.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the North Avenue District. No physical or documentary evidence has been found for most houses and farm buildings located on the ridge that runs through the district in spite of the fact that the area was settled during the 17th and 18th century. By 1678, not less than 40 houses were reported scattered up and down the eastern and northern slope of the ridge. Farmlands leading from the ridge to Muddy Brook were reportedly coveted by the town's proprietors. Only the open landscape of the historic district has remained in use since the 17th century and survives as remnant of that period. Structural evidence of early homesteads including farmhouses, barns, and agricultural related outbuildings may survive along the North Avenue corridor. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist at homestead sites.

Potential 18th century farmstead sites should be more numerous than similar sites from the preceding period; however, most sites from this period remain undocumented and their locations unknown. Only the Seth Davenport House (ca.1780) at 133 North Avenue survives from the 18th century period. The original Davenport farmhouse may have been built at an earlier date. The 19th century farms that compose the district coincide with six farms identified on John G. Metcalf map of Mendon published in 1831. The precise configuration and ownership of farms along the ridge prior to this date remains ambiguous. Extensive archival and field research are needed before the 18th century history of the landscape can be defined. Structural evidence may survive in the district from 18th century farmhouses, barns and outbuildings whose locations are presently unknown. Occupational-related features should survive at the sites of farmhouses and at the Davenport farm. Archaeological evidence of earlier barns and outbuildings may also survive with the Davenport farm.

The North Avenue Historic District is presently composed of eight historic farms that with one exception remain intact with boundaries recorded in the mid-19th century. Given this information and the early to mid-19th century dates of farmhouses associated with the eight farms, the survival of most 19th century farmhouses appear documented. Structural evidence may survive from 19th century farmhouses that are presently undocumented and buildings not associated with specific farms. One probable house site, possibly dating to the 19th century period, is located at 113 North Avenue. Structural evidence of barns and agricultural-related outbuildings may survive with existing farms and archaeological sites. Occupational-related features should also exist at the above locations.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 10

Twentieth-century archaeological sites have not been identified in the district, however, they may exist. Potential sites from this period may include agricultural related residences, barns and outbuildings. Residential sites separate from farms may also exist.

(end)

ENDNOTES

¹ Taxation and Tax List of May 1, 1868, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Mendon for the Year Ending March 1, 1869 (Milford, 1869).

² See John G. Metcalf, "Mendon," in History of Worcester County, vol. II, (Boston: C.F. Jewett, 1879), 42-63, for the standard account of Mendon's early settlement pattern. Peter Hackett's essay "An Historical Account of Mendon, Massachusetts," in Mendon, Massachusetts, 1667-1967, Mother of Municipalities, (Mendon Historical Society, 1967) is a more recent rewrite of this history.

³ Rev. Carlton A. Staples, "Address," Proceedings in Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Mendon Massachusetts (Worcester, 1868), p 19.

⁴ Peter Hackett, "An Historical Account of Mendon, Massachusetts," Mendon, Massachusetts, 1667-1967, Mother of Municipalities (Mendon Historical Society, 1967), p 27.

⁵ Staples, p 19.

⁶ Joseph S. Wood and Michael Steinitz, The New England Village (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997), Ch 1.

⁷ Ibid., Ch. 3.

8 Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1663-1953

Significant Dates

1667

1680

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

None

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

None

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

N/A

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Avenue Rural Historic District in the Town of Mendon is historically and architecturally significant as an upland farm landscape in eastern Massachusetts that represents over three hundred years of growth and development. The significance of the district has been established under National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. It contains 62 contributing features and 9 noncontributing features, including 15 contributing buildings, 9 noncontributing buildings, 22 contributing outbuildings, 13 contributing structures (mostly stone farm and field division walls), and 12 contributing sites (mainly agricultural landscapes). One of the sites is a cemetery with approximately 50 markers, which were not enumerated as objects.

First settled in 1663 by proprietors from Braintree and Weymouth, Mendon retains rare rural features that evince the landscape conditions that attracted 17th-century farmers to the town. Sited on the eastern edge of the Worcester Plateau, above a fertile intervale watered by the Muddy Brook, the landscape was well suited to farming practices of the period. The proprietors laid out their farm lots down the western slope of the intervale and across the wetlands of the brook. Their houses and barns were aligned along the ridge with a meetinghouse in their midst. North Avenue was in place by the late 17th century linking dispersed farms along northern sections of the ridge to the meetinghouse at the town center. It was a well-established route by 1735, when the Town of Upton had separated from Mendon, and it was part of an early highway connecting Worcester and Providence. In the early 19th century, Mendon enjoyed being the center of early industrial development along the Blackstone River, rivaling Worcester as the population and economic nexus of the county, and the center expanded and was transformed into a quintessential New England village. With the additions of a stylish new meetinghouse, an imposing town hall, and exceptional mansions and commercial buildings, Mendon Center thoroughly eclipsed its Colonial identity. (See National Register Nomination Form for the Mendon Center Historic District.) The proprietors' farms along the ridge had also prospered and displayed large, stylish houses, up-to-date farm buildings and fruitful agricultural landscapes. Following this boom period, the center experienced a depression and went into an isolation that lasted for nearly 100 years. During this period, the productivity of the ridge farms sustained the local economy, bolstered by income from summer boarders, as Mendon became popular as a rural retreat for people from neighboring industrial villages. When a trolley line connected the center with Milford, Hopedale, and Uxbridge in 1901, not only did the recreational economy improve, but also people from these towns began moving to Mendon and commuting to work. This trend was only enhanced when the trolley was replaced by the automobile as the principal mode of regional transportation. The town as a whole has grown dramatically since World War II, and recent dwellings are now evident in most places. Yet the 19th-century

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 2

landscape of the North Avenue Rural Historic District survives as a significant surviving element of this historic agricultural community.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Mendon was one of the first towns created in Worcester County. On October 16, 1660, the General Court granted the Town of Braintree the privilege to establish a plantation eight miles square, and when a "full number of persons, with an able minister among them, should appear, they would assign them due bounds."¹ Three years later, after thirteen proprietors from Braintree and ten from Weymouth, together with their minister, were presented to the Court, a settlement was planted in an area known as Quinshepaug. A survey was made, and on May 15, 1667, the town of Mendon was incorporated in the county of Middlesex. Mendon was probably named for Mendham, Suffolk County, England. The original boundaries of the town included all or portions of present towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Upton, Milford, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Millville; these partitions resulted in the tremendous reduction in the size of the town from 40,960 acres to 11,375 acres. Because of this, Mendon has become known as the "Mother of Towns." Nevertheless, the town's original center remains within the bounds of Mendon. Its site was determined in 1669 with the construction of the first meetinghouse at the intersection of present-day Hastings and Main streets.

The proprietors distributed land in a manner consistent with the prevailing patterns in Massachusetts. The town held title to the land. Proprietors received grants of 150 acres for each 100 Pounds of personal estate value. In the first division, each grant was divided into a thirty-acre house lot parcel, five acres of swamp, ten acres of meadow, as well as 105 acres in the "great lott" on the upland plateau. These first farms were spread out along a five-mile stretch of road extending from the Mill River northwest to the Upton town line, or what are presently Providence and Main streets and North Avenue. Proprietor Joseph White's thirty-acre house allotment was mentioned in the description of the first meetinghouse lot in 1668; here he is said to have operated a sawpit. His first house was burned in King Philip's War, but he later rebuilt it. When he died in 1706, he was reputedly the wealthiest man in Mendon. His well was an important landmark in the early center.²

Mendon was the first settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be attacked during King Philip's War. The raid, led by the Nipmuck leader Matoonas, occurred on July 14, 1675; Cotton Mather reported that four or five Mendon residents were slain. The settlers fled, and the Nipmucks burned the town.³ As the war came to a close, families began returning to Mendon, and the town government was reorganized in 1680. The townspeople immediately rebuilt the meetinghouse on its former site and preserved the location of the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

town center. In 1682, Matthias Puffer rebuilt Benjamin Albee's gristmill on the Mill River. The same year, Josiah Chapin built a sawmill on the Muddy Brook, just north of the Old Post Road (and very near the historic district). Assessors were elected for the first time in 1694, and the first pound and stocks were built for restraining rule-breaking men or beasts, respectively. The principal official town activity was fence viewing and paying wolf bounties indicating that crop areas and the number of livestock were increasing. By 1703, there were seventy names on the Mendon tax list.⁴ No evidence of the homes and farm buildings of these people have survived, although the open landscape of the historic district has been in agricultural uses since that time.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In 1764, the General Court directed the towns take an exact census of "dwelling houses, families and people, including as well as Indians civilized, Negroes and Mulattos." At that time, 336 families comprised of 907 white males, 922 white females, resided in 184 houses. In addition, there were five Negro or Mulatto males and four Negro or Mulatto females. No Indians were counted, but a total of five French Neutrals or Arcadians were recorded.⁵ Seth Davenport would have built his farmhouse (133 North Avenue) by this time. The large two-story main block with its low front wall and center chimney plan was a late manifestation of the traditional Massachusetts house. Its large scale represented Davenport's wealth and position in the community; most rural dwellings in the period were smaller, simpler, one-story buildings. His success was also represented in his property, well situated at the headwaters of the Muddy Brook with a favorable combination of crop, pasture and marshgrass land. Even by the late 18th century, agricultural production in the region still relied on beef as its principal product, and grazing land as well as swamps providing grasses for feed dominated the landscape. Seth Davenport had amassed over 200 acres of land, which was apparently divided among other members of the family. In fact, nearly all the land within the historic district has been associated with the Davenports at one time or another. Seth Davenport, Jr. and his sons, Joseph G. and George L. Davenport all had farms in the vicinity by the time John G. Metcalf's *Map of Mendon* was published in 1831. Another of Seth Davenport's sons, Benjamin Davenport, established a farm on North Avenue south and outside the historic district that was continued by his son and namesake until H.W. Darling purchased it in the mid-19th century. Other 18th-century houses and farm buildings would have present on the ridge, but no physical or documentary evidence of them has been found.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

As the 18th century came to a close, what land area that was left in the Town of Mendon was completely settled in a pattern of farms spreading in all directions from the center. Population in the town would have been around 2000 persons. In 1800, a portion of the Ninth (Hartford-Boston) Turnpike was created in

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 4

Mendon following a route along the present roads of Hartford Avenue West, Uxbridge Street, Maple Street, Main Street, George Street, Neck Hill Road, and Hartford Avenue East. By this time, North Avenue was part of a route formed with Providence and Main streets that was an important regional highway linking Providence and Worcester. The new road routing was part of a change that transformed Mendon Center from its 18th-century role as a geographical, governmental and spiritual center of dispersed farms loosely arranged around the meetinghouse to a modern commercial village. Mendon Center never developed as far as becoming a central place in its region like Uxbridge or Milford did; however, it grew significantly in size, density, and commercial function. The early decades of the 19th century were the years where Mendon reached its peak in population, its widest range of activities, its greatest prosperity, and the fullest extent of architectural development. The significance of the North Avenue Rural Historic District was established in this period, and whatever Colonial-era buildings were left at this point were replaced.

Large, lavish houses were built along Hastings Street during this brief heyday. Hastings Street was named much later in memory of Seth Hastings, who was one of the principals in the growth and economic development of Mendon Center. Hastings was a lawyer native to Cambridge who established his connection to Mendon when he married Seth Davenport's daughter Chloe in 1796. Hastings built a stylish new brick residence in 1820 on the street that now bears his name; his farm was reputed to be a showplace.⁶ Following his example, Caleb and Ebenezer Hayward, descendants of one of Mendon's founding families as well as officers in Hastings's Mendon Bank (Caleb Hastings was also Seth Hastings's son-in-law), built distinguished Federal Period mansions on Hastings Street. These buildings, together with the new meetinghouse, set a highly stylish standard for the developing village. They also influenced farmhouse architecture on North Avenue. The two-story, double-pile, center passage house with two internal chimneys located at the Smith-Nelson Farm, 85 North Avenue, shows this evolution in style as well as the sense of the continuity of traditional forms and functions in rural architecture.

Less conspicuous, smaller dwellings appeared in greater numbers. One-story, gable-roof cottages with a center passage plan were the predominant house type in rural New England during this period. There are many farmhouses in Mendon and its offspring towns that illustrate this phenomenon, and the historic district contains a particularly distinctive one at 102 North Avenue. Cited as the farm of Seth Davenport's grandson George L. Davenport on Metcalf's 1831 map, the one-story double-pile house also has a kitchen ell attached to its southwest corner in a fashion typical for farmhouses in the period. It also has two small chimneys placed on either side of the center passage, which represents the deconstruction of the center chimney mass and the effects of new technology in heating. The farmhouse on the Lundy-Trask Farm, 8 Trask Road, is also an example of this distinctive 19th-century New England house form, although it experienced substantial alteration in the early 20th century.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 5

Gable front houses were domestic versions of Roman and Greek temple forms popular in the first half of the 19th century. While public buildings, such as the Second Unitarian Church (1820) and the town hall (1845) were designed with monumental Classical porches, no dwellings in the Town of Mendon received this pretentious treatment. Rather, houses like the Quigley-Eldridge House, 93 North Avenue, utilized a projecting cornice along the raking edge of the front roofline with short returns supported by corner pilasters to convey the sense of a pediment. This house has the additional feature of attached outbuildings and barn. The narrow front of the gable front house was frequently adapted to the linear site plan of one-acre lots such as this one. The house at the Lovett-Quigley Farm, 100 North Avenue, has an entablature that returns across the façade making a complete triangular pediment. The house at the Davenport-Taft Farm, 111 North Street, has a front gable with particularly light cornice embellishment, particularly in contrast to its entrance, which has the most pronounced trabeated architrave in the district. These hefty post, beam and pediment elements were defining features of the Greek Revival taste popular in the 1840s in rural communities.

The *Map of Mendon* published by John G. Metcalf in 1831 provides a view of the district at the peak of its farm development. Seth Davenport's expansive holding at the north end of the district is evident. In 1831, it was occupied by his son, Seth Davenport, Jr. Two more Davenport farms are identified farther south. Joseph G. Davenport occupied the house that is now identified as the Davenport-Taft Farm, 111 North Avenue, and George L. Davenport resided at the Davenport-Goss Farm across the street at 106 North Avenue. Both these men were sons of Seth Davenport, Jr. Rufus Coffee's name is positioned in between these two on the west side of the road, which coincides with land now subdivided and redeveloped with new houses. North of the Davenport holding were farms identified with Peter Lundy (Lundy-Trask Farm, 8 Trask Road) and Nathan Tyler (Rufus G. Beals Farm, 139-147 North Avenue). A farm belonging to D. Smith (Smith-Nelson Farm, 85 North Avenue) abutted Davenport land on the south side of the district. Farm boundaries on the map are indistinct; it will require more intensive field and documentary research to document this early land distribution. Nevertheless, the Davenport family controlled a large proportion of the farmland on both sides of North Avenue and along the Muddy Brook in the historic district. The 1831 map also shows a schoolhouse that still exists and is contained within the southern boundary of the historic district (88 North Avenue), as well as a string of ridge farms stretching south to the town center, which have excluded because of the subdivision of their agricultural land.

By the time the next map was published in 1870, while the Davenports were still in control of most of the landscape, properties at the southern end of the district had become more numerous. This resulted from the division of Joseph G. Davenport's estate. The more than 200 acres that remained with Seth Davenport's

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 6

homestead had passed undivided to Adeline A. Davenport, his grandson's widow, and she would continue to inhabit the property into the early 20th century. With land and buildings taxed at \$97.11 in 1868, she was one of the wealthiest property holders in the town.⁷ Her property entry in the town records read as follows:

Davenport, Adeline A., house 1400, 2 barns 1700, brick house 200, shed 100, tool-house 30, carriage do. 40, cider do. 100, crib 25, hen-house 30, 213 a. land 7000, horse 50, cow 60, sheep 5, beach wagon and harnesses 75, wagon 35, 5 shares Hopkinton National Bank 575.....97.11

Her substantial house, Seth Davenport's homestead, was valued at \$1400, a significant amount in the neighborhood. By comparison, the small but relatively new (it was not pictured on the 1831 map) and stylish Greek Revival-style Quigley-Eldridge House at 93 North Avenue, then owned by Calvin Turner, was assessed for \$450. Charles A. Davenport's house at 101 North Avenue was assessed for even more (\$1500). This was a new house he had built, having sold his father's house and 13 acres of land to Edward H. Taft. The new house was designed in a conservative version of the Italianate fashion of the day, but with its gable end oriented to the street in a more traditional manner. It is evident that much of the land that belonged to Adeline A. Davenport had to have been farmed by her neighbors, who were all related. Joseph G. Davenport's estate, included many of the later properties at the southern end of the district. The estate had been divided by the time Beers's Atlas of Worcester County was published in 1870. Administered by his widow, Mary H. Davenport, the estate paid \$67.45 in tax in 1868. At over \$46.00 per acre, Charles A. Davenport's thirty-acre parcel on the fertile east side of the road was assessed at nearly twice the value of the seventy acres of wood and pasture land in Joseph G. Davenport's estate on the west side. Adeline A. Davenport's 213 acres was assessed with a very low value (\$3.29 per acre), which probably reflects the extraordinary size of the holding.

Joseph Albee had acquired a significant portion of Joseph G. Davenport's estate, described here as the Smith-Nelson Farm (85 North Avenue), which included the house (valued at \$900 in 1868), barn (\$100) and twenty-four acres of land (\$900) on the east side of the road. Albee also owned a house (\$550) and barn and shed (\$150) and thirty-six acres of land on the west side of the road that appears to be what is now the Lovett-Quigley Farm at 98-102 North Avenue. This southern area had become more densely developed in the intervening years or, at least, mapped in greater detail. The schoolhouse is present on the second map with a cemetery, not illustrated on Metcalf's map, just to the north of it. Edward H. Taft had acquired sixteen acres from the Davenports at 111 North Avenue in the period between the maps. The northern farms had also changed hands: Nathan Tyler's thirty acres was sold to Michael Burk and Peter Lundy's sixty acres belonged to Mrs. Roba M. Bennett in 1870.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 7

An important transition had occurred in the town in the period between the 1831 and 1870 maps. Blackstone's perennial petition to erect a separate town was finally granted by the Mendon selectmen in 1845, and a certain economic and spiritual depression beset the community. The enthusiasm of industrial development quickly abated, and the luster of financial success was soon dulled as Mendon's rapid expansion abruptly ceased. The egos of town leaders were bruised from years of resisting the secession of Milford and Blackstone, and its futility. The success of these towns was long resented and Mendon's self-identity underwent a change. At the town's 200th anniversary celebration in 1869, nostalgia was still tinged with remorse. Farming became the primary factor in the local economy once more, but a review of the 1868 tax assessments for the farms in the historic district reveals an aging farm population, modest activity, and few farm animals. Where dairy cows, sheep, swine and poultry once thrived, the assessors' 1868 census showed meager populations of livestock and out-dated facilities. Adeline A. Davenport's farm still had the barns, brick (smoke?) house, cider house, hen-house and crib, but only one horse, one cow, and one sheep was recorded. Charles A. Davenport was more active with four cows and two heifers, but this still does not read like a very productive enterprise. Yet few other farms on the list posted many more animals. While it appears that poultry were not counted and orchards were not itemized, the reported number of cows, swine, and sheep are consistent indicators of low levels of farm production in the era.

Life went on, but little of it had an impact on the physical development of the community. There is a significant gap in the architectural catalog of the town for the last half of the 19th century, and it coincides with this period when Mendon reverted to being an isolated rural frontier once more. Wendell Williams said of Mendon at the end of the 19th century, "I can't think of but one house erected in the village during the twenty-five years of my residence there."⁸

Then suddenly, Mendon became thought of as an unspoiled place where there was open space, picturesque landscape, fresh air, cool temperatures, and a quiet existence. Many of the people who had rejected the country for the promise of the city now regarded the country with nostalgia. They began returning to Mendon Center as summer visitors, and the town developed renown as an unspoiled country place. The venerable farms and their pastoral setting attracted summer boarders seeking respite from the industrialized towns nearby. The Darling Farm on North Avenue had an excellent reputation with tourists, occupying Benjamin Davenport's substantial Greek Revival-style house. Sky Farm, another old farmhouse on North Avenue, closer to the center, was equally renowned as a resort. There are stories of the rich-and-famous from Boston and other Northeastern cities frequenting the town's summer retreats; however, Mendon Center was most popular with those who found it most accessible: the middle- and working-class residents of its offspring towns.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 8

The district's distinctive old ridge farms endured through this period, perhaps taking in summer boarders themselves, though many of the hardscrabble farms elsewhere in the town had been abandoned and were to already returning to forest. Though it appeared to be static, the community was evolving in its own quiet, organic way. Improvements in agricultural practice and technology had led to an improvement in farm productivity and diversity. There was still excellent farmland in Mendon. Its principal productions were hay, potatoes, corn, and rye. Numerous fruit trees had been planted over years, and many bog meadows had been cultivated with cranberries. Quantities of milk were sold from the town, principally to consumers in Milford.⁹ And Mendon was rebuilding its reputation. In 1890, U.S. Senator George F. Hoar used the town as an example to refute assertions that agriculture in Massachusetts was declining. A correspondent to the Worcester Spy provided the following "facts" in support of the Senator's defense of the farming community.

When we compare [Mendon's] condition twenty-five years ago with the present, we see that our advance, in nearly every respect, except population, has been as decided as that of any neighboring town. In 1865, the town was heavily in debt and had been for years; now we are entirely out of debt, and financially in fine condition. At that time we had no high school; now we have a flourishing one, and all our schools and their furnishings have been greatly improved. In 1865, we had no public library. At present, we have a library of 2700 volumes, a large proportion of which are valuable works. Formerly, very few of our young people went away to the higher institutions of learning; now the statistics show that the number who go away is as great, perhaps greater, in proportion to the population, than in any other town in Worcester County, and they have won their share of student honors, too...Mendon farmers are continually bettering their condition. The furnishings, if not their homes, are much more luxurious than at any previous time, and many farms are improved. They now have luxuries and comforts uncounted, not enjoyed twenty-five years ago. Then there were scarcely more than two or three pianos in town; now there must be more than fifty. Thus it will seem that financially, socially and educationally the mother town and its inhabitants have advanced as really as the noisier and richer towns and villages occupying its ancient domain. The difference, if we consider the difference, in everything except population and aggregate wealth, some would claim, is in our favor. Comparing the value of the products of Mendon farms of 1890 with those of 1860 and 1870, it is believed that the hay crop has steadily increased, and the amount of milk and poultry products was never so large as now. In 1868, the assessors found 228 cows; this year they find 512, and the enormous wagons daily carrying their milk to the railroad for use in Boston are constantly increasing in number. At the same time there is no visible diminution in the amount daily distributed to surrounding towns. The falling off of our population does not necessarily indicate an abandonment of farms, as is thought by many. From 1845, when the last division of the town was made, until 1878, the population of the town was about 1200. About that time, the large boot shops which had been running here were closed, and this chiefly accounts for subsequent decrease in population.¹⁰

When L.J. Richard's Atlas of Worcester County was published in 1898, names had changed on the properties in the North Avenue Rural Historic District, but the spatial organization and physical components of the rural landscape remained essentially intact. Adeline A. Davenport's 212-acre farm still dominated

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 9

the northern part of the district. Rufus G. Beals owned the farm to the north (139 North Avenue) and Joseph Scrivner the Lundy-Trask Farm to the east (8 Trask Road). John L. Davenport had inherited Charles A. Davenport's farm, although his land is listed as 110 acres in the 1890 tax assessments. (This increase did not come from Adeline A. Davenport's land.) Edward H. Taft farmed 203 acres between the two Davenports according to the map, though much of it was probably not his own. The map also shows three dwellings on the Taft property where only one currently exists (the 2002 parcel map does show two house lots along the road within the larger farm lot). James Quigley is shown to occupy one house and Ellen Quigley another on the old Lovett, later Davenport, later Albee property centered around the front gable house at 100 North Avenue. Charles B. Goss replaced Liberty Goss on the property north of there. The 1898 town directory listed Goss's occupation as "fine portraits." Alfred C. Eldridge, a painter, resided in the Greek Revival-style, front gable house with attached outbuildings where Calvin Turner had lived in 1870. The picturesque additions to the house had been made by then, but perhaps this explains the addition of a large north-facing dormer was raised in the roof of the attached barn. William W. Nelson occupied 85 North Avenue, which was the Smith farm in 1831 and later part of Joseph G. Davenport's estate.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The 20th century opened with prospects for the town's economy substantially improved. On December 20, 1901, the Milford and Uxbridge Trolley Line opened, and it was constructed through Mendon. A cut had been made through the eastern ridge separating Hopedale and Mendon and tracks emerged on North Avenue a short distance north from the site of the Old Post Lane. From there, the line ran down the west side of North Avenue, across the intersection with Milford Road and along Main Street to Maple Street. At the center, the line turned west on to Maple Street and out to the Uxbridge Road where it continued past Nipmuck Lake to its western terminus. According to the newspaper, the people of Mendon were jubilant. Houses along the route were festively decorated for the inaugural trip. The headline announced that there was "enthusiasm everywhere."¹¹ The trolley company built a park on Nipmuck Lake and Mendon became even more of a resort town for working families living in surrounding towns. The trolley also made it possible for people to live in rural Mendon and work in one of the neighboring urban towns. Mendon had cast itself in the role of a kind of garden suburb to neighboring towns. If the real estate market is any indication, with little new construction evident in the center from the period, there does not appear to have been the expected population and economic booms. Nevertheless, the town's image and self-confidence had improved.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 10

During the trolley era, new dwellings began appearing in the center as well as farther out along North Avenue, close to the line, and particularly in the vicinity of the new Center School. Two shingled cottages were introduced at 90 and 98 North Avenue. They were their era's Romanticized version of the traditional Cape Cod house. The large Four-Square house at 134 North Avenue was built in this period, and the reconstructed farmhouse at 139 North Avenue reflects the modern domestic influence as well. And the Trask family moved in and modernized the appearance and plan of the old Lundy farmhouse (8 Trask Road). The suburban taste was extending out North Avenue and into the rural zones as well. Farm families were as responsive to current styles as anyone else, although rural journals and family magazines promoted more modest versions of contemporary suburban taste. Like everyone else, farm families were enjoying the conveniences and luxuries of other middle-class families. Farm families in eastern Massachusetts were intimately intertwined in the suburban economy and lifestyle; it was not like these folks on North Avenue were living on the prairie. The 1920 U.S. Census recorded 961 people living in Mendon. By comparison, there were 13,471 people in Milford, 5,384 in Uxbridge, and 4,299 in Blackstone (Millville had incorporated in 1916 and contained 2,224 people). Mendon was still a small, relatively static place. The value of Mendon's real estate in 1923 was \$904,420, which ranked it fifteenth among the sixty-one municipalities in Worcester County. For the value of personal estates, the town ranked even lower. Its \$138,080 assessment was the third lowest in the county.¹²

In the great house-building frenzy that followed the Second World War, Mendon's housing stock was noticeably expanded, although not in any planned or systematic manner. Dozens of Cape Cod-style dwellings were built in the town between 1940 and 1960. They are scattered throughout the town and represent the continued, gradual growth of Mendon as a bedroom community. These small, modest homes reflect the middle-class status of the newcomers. Two Capes were built in the district at 91 and 96 North Avenue. They are both located at the southern end of the district consistent with the gradual expansion of a residential community at the intersection of North Avenue and Northbridge Street that began in the early 19th century and is distinguished by the landmark of the schoolhouse. Suburban growth emanating from the center had directed residential development out North Avenue, spurred by the appearance of the trolley in 1900, the construction of the Center School in 1903, and the decline of farming along the ridge, which invited residential subdivisions.

Hundreds of houses have been built in the town since 1970, and they are again scattered around and mixed into fabric of the historic district. A number them are concentrated on the west side of North Avenue and on Hopedale Street where Adeline A. Davenport's farm was subdivided. Where possible, these non-historic and non-contributing properties have been excluded from the historic district, but in the northern portion of

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 11

the district they are a visual intrusion. Even though they are non-contributing resources, these houses do signify the revival of a vitality Mendon has not experienced since the early 19th century. The town is feeling the impact from the sprawling growth of the Boston metropolis. Many of the historic farms surrounding the center have been the targets of dense housing subdivisions. Ironically, the best farmlands, which were concentrated in and about the center, have made the best sites for housing. Thus, the historic district is becoming hemmed in with suburban housing while much of the hard scrapple parts of the town remain less intensively developed. Surviving farms on the ridge face the constant threat of development, which would have an adverse effect on the historic rural setting for the center. The automobile has had its inevitable impact with roads and traffic threatening to overwhelm the historic character and rural quiet of the community. The relocation of the town's middle school and, soon, the Upton-Mendon Public Library to the historic district has occurred only because school bus and automobile transportation make it possible. Fortunately, North Avenue has long been a regional transportation route, so the constant traffic on the road is not unusual. The scale, site plan and architectural character of this historic district remain intact, however. And the North Avenue Rural Historic District has emerged from the 20th century with its rural relationship to its Colonial past, its distinctive Federal Period farm plans and buildings, and the improvements and scars of the ensuing 150 years of maturation well in place. It is a graphic representation of the exceptional history of a New England farming community.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Mendon are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Native sites in this area may contain important information that helps understand the relationships and variations between subsistence and settlement patterns based in the uplands and those concentrated in the coastal lowlands. The North Avenue Rural Historic District, while located in the southeastern part of the Worcester Plateau in the Central Massachusetts uplands, also occupies a location at the headwaters of two important regional coastal drainages. The district lies within the Mill River drainage that converges with the Blackstone River and flows southerly to Narragansett Bay. The Charles River drainage is also located with one mile east of the district and drains northeasterly to Boston Harbor. Ancient sites in the district may contribute important information that indicates the extent that Native Americans in the Central Massachusetts uplands adopted unique or specialized strategies in their exploitation of plant, animal and mineral resources that varied from the exploitation of similar resources in coastal locales. Ancient sites may also contribute information that indicates the extent social, technological, and exchange patterns on the Worcester Plateau were affected by relationships with different socio/political groups in the Boston Harbor and Narragansett Bay regions.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 12

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the social, cultural and economic characteristics representative of over 300 years of growth and development of a New England upland farm community. Documentary studies combined with archaeological research may help reconstruct the 17th and 18th century landscape of the district and contribute physical examples of the farmsteads from those periods that no longer exist today. Parcel level deed research combined with archaeological testing may help locate the 18th century predecessors of the eight historic farms present in the district today and the six farms identified in that area on the 1831 map of Mendon. That information may help locate the earlier farms that lined the ridge during the 17th century.

Detailed mapping of structures and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) at the sites of 17th and 18th century farmsteads may contribute important information on the layout of early farms and the function of barns and outbuildings that were present. That information may be important to understand the transformation of architectural design and agricultural practice that occurred in the 19th century. The location and layout of local farms may also be important in understanding the dispersed agricultural landscape that characterized Mendon Center and its relationship to regional patterns of farmstead distribution and layout. Documentary evidence and the analysis of contents from occupational related features may also the effect, if any, that ethnic composition and change in the population had on farmstead layout.

During the 19th century, structural evidence from barns and outbuildings may play an important role in understanding farmsteads since most farmhouses survive in the district but related buildings have been lost and/or replaced. Architectural details and artifacts associated with barns and outbuildings may play an important role in understanding agricultural change on farmsteads, the extent of tenancy or boarding on farms, and the type, extent and importance of manufacturing activities in the farm/family economy. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features can contribute important information in these studies by providing information on activities, groups, families and individuals at different periods and over time. Many farms in the district remained intact and were occupied by the same families over long periods of time. Archaeological evidence may help understand how social structures influenced these patterns and helped retain the rural character of the district for over 300 years.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 13

ENDNOTES

¹ John G. Metcalf, "Mendon," in History of Worcester County, vol. II. (Boston: C.F. Jewett, 1879), 42.

² "Mendon Historic Resources Survey Narrative History," Massachusetts Historical Commission, 21.

³ Metcalf (1879), 43. The writer also referred to a petition by Mattias Puffer he had found in the state archives affirming that Puffer's wife and eldest son were among those killed at Mendon.

⁴ Metcalf (1879), 45.

⁵ Hackett, 47.

⁶ See D. Hamilton Hurd, comp. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*. Vol. 1. (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1889). Wendell Williams, "Early Reminiscence of Mendon." A personal account made 17 May 1950. Mendon Historical Society Collections, "Mendon" Binder, Mendon-Upton Public Library. "Mendon Historic Resources Survey Narrative History," p 19.

⁷ "Taxation and Tax List of May 1, 1868, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Mendon for the Year Ending March 1, 1869 (Milford, 1869).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Metcalf (1879), p 61.

¹⁰ "Decadence of Farming Towns," Milford Daily Journal, August 2, 1890.

¹¹ "M & U Line Opened," Milford Daily Journal, December 21, 1900.

¹² Ellery Bicknell Crane, ed. History of Worcester County Massachusetts. (New York and Chicago: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924), 88-90.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Maps & Atlases

- 1831 Map of Mendon, Massachusetts. John G. Metcalf.
- 1858 Map of Mendon, Massachusetts. H.F. Walling.
- 1870 Map of Mendon, Massachusetts. F.W. Beers.
- 1898 Map of Mendon, Massachusetts. L.J. Richards

Baldwin, Thomas W., comp. Records of Mendon, Massachusetts to the year 1850. Boston, 1920.

Barber, John Warner. Historical Collections of Massachusetts. Worcester, 1838.

Boston, MA. Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance-Level Survey Report for the Town of Mendon.

Coleman, E. Jane. "Summer Hotels in Mendon or Mendon as a Summer Resort." Read to the Hopedale Community Historical Society 23 March 1964. Mendon Historical Society Collections, "G-H" Binder, Mendon-Upton Public Library.

Crane, Ellery Bicknell, ed. History of Worcester County Massachusetts. New York and Chicago: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924.

"Decadence of Farming Towns," Milford Daily Journal. August 2, 1890.

Hackett, Peter. "An Historical Account of Mendon, Massachusetts." in Mendon, Massachusetts, 1667-1967, Mother of Municipalities. Mendon Historical Society, 1967.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, comp. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1889.

Mendon, Massachusetts. Annual Reports of the Town of Mendon.

"Mendon's Electric Railway," Milford Daily Journal. August 12, 1890.

(continued)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 2

Metcalf, John G. "Mendon," in History of Worcester County, vol. II. Boston: C.F. Jewett, 1879, 42-63.

Annals of the Town of Mendon from 1659 to 1880. Providence, 1880.

Milford, Massachusetts. Milford Public Library. Milford Daily Journal.

Nason, Elias. A Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts. Boston: 1874.

Resident and Business Directory of Upton, Hopedale and Mendon, Massachusetts for 1898. Needham MA:
A.E. Foss & Co., 1898.

Staples, Rev. Carlton A. "Address." Proceedings in Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the
Incorporation of Mendon, Massachusetts. Worcester, 1868.

Williams, Wendell. "Early Reminiscence of Mendon." A personal account made 17 May 1950. Mendon
Historical Society Collections, "Mendon" Binder, Mendon-Upton Public Library.

Wood, Joseph S. and Michael Steinitz. The New England Village. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.

(end)



Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property approximately 345 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	287580	4668200
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	19	287960	4667720

3	19	287780	4667370
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	19	287980	4667030

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Neil Larson & Associates, Inc. with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director</u>		
organization	<u>Massachusetts Historical Commission</u>	date	<u>May 2003</u>
street & number	<u>220 Morrissey Boulevard</u>	telephone	<u>617-727-8470</u>
city or town	<u>Boston</u>	state	<u>MA</u> zip code <u>02125</u>

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	<u>multiple</u>		
street & number	<u></u>	telephone	<u></u>
city or town	<u></u>	state	<u></u> zip code <u></u>

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References (continued)

5: 19 288480 4667300
6: 19 288820 4666920
7: 19 288470 4666460
8: 19 287350 4665860
9: 19 287190 4666580
10: 19 287720 4666500
11: 19 287520 4667000
12: 19 287340 4667070
13: 19 287270 4667580
14: 19 287460 4667680
15: 19 287330 4667860

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic district encompasses the buildings and lands of a grouping of historic farms in the northern side of the Town of Mendon on North Avenue. The eastern boundary represents the historic boundaries of the area and is aligned with the town boundary between Mendon and Hopedale. This boundary follows a ridgeline that with the ridge along which North Avenue runs, enframes a small valley and the watershed for the Muddy Creek. The western boundary is more arbitrary and irregular being defined by non-historic residential subdivisions that have been recently developed there. The northern boundary is determined by a large public school facility on the west side of the road and recent residential construction on the east side of the road that interrupts the rural landscape at this point. Further north, the land is in forest. Likewise, the southern boundary represents the termination of the farm landscape as North Avenue approaches the denser pattern of village development of Mendon Center. The boundary has been drawn where the break-up of farm lots into individual residential parcels small multiple-dwelling subdivisions has occurred.

See historic district boundary map for more particular details about this boundary.

Boundary Justification

The North Avenue Historic District was created to designate a distinctive rural landscape characterized by surviving farmhouses, barns, outbuildings and agricultural lands of the prominent "ridge" farms in the town of Mendon. The boundaries were drawn to convey the physical and visual condition that historic landscape. This nomination was developed in conjunction with a companion nomination: the Mendon Center Historic District.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Section number photo Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Neil Larson

Date: 6/2002

Negatives at: Mendon Historical Commission

Photos 1-4 are 8 x 14"

Photos 5-21 are 4 x 6"

1. SE in vicinity of 101 North Avenue
2. 101 North Avenue (r), 106 North Avenue (l)
3. NE in vicinity of 91 North Avenue
4. Seth Davenport farm, 133 North Avenue
5. Smith-Nelson farm, 85 North Avenue
6. Davenport-Goss farm, 106 North Avenue
7. Lundy-Trask farm, 8 Trask Road
8. Lovett-Quigley farm, 100 North Avenue
9. Davenport-Taft farm, 111 North Avenue
10. Quigley-Eldredge house, 93 North Avenue
11. District One schoolhouse, 86 North Avenue
12. Cemetery, 90 North Avenue
13. Maple Farm, 101 North Avenue
14. Quigley House, 98 North Avenue
15. 91 North Avenue
16. Rufus Beals farm, 139 North Avenue
17. J. Davenport farm, 134 North Avenue
18. Hopedale Road from North Avenue
19. Field gate, 113 North Avenue
20. Vista, looking NE at 85 North Avenue
21. Stone wall and tree line, 106 North Avenue



NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Page 1 of 4

DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
3-143-4-0-R	259	4 Hopedale St	House; formerly part of Seth Davenport Farm	2-story, side gable roof; attached garage	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
3-143-6-0-R	260	6 Hopedale St	House; formerly part of Seth Davenport Farm	2-story, side gable roof; attached garage	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
3-143-12-0-R	261	12 Hopedale St	House; formerly part of Seth Davenport Farm	2-story, side gable roof; attached garage	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
3-143-16-0-R	262	16 Hopedale St	House; formerly part of Seth Davenport Farm	2-story, side gable roof; attached garage	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
5-189-85-0-R	149	85 North Ave	Smith-Nelson Farm	2-story, side gable roof; detached garage; stone walls along street and north boundary; approx 20 acres: functioning fields and woods, Muddy Brook along eastern boundary	c1800	Federal	Building Outbuilding Structure Site	C C C C
5-189-86-0-R	263	88 North Ave	District I Schoolhouse	1-story, front gable roof, full front porch, rear ell; detached garage	c1831	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
5-189-90-0-R	805 264	90 North Ave	Cemetery House	small community burial plot set back 100 ft. from street, approx. 50 stones, enclosed by stone wall with wood gate, stone wall, gate and stile at street, mature trees; also 1-story cottage, side gable, side ell, detached garage at street	(c1800-present) c1950	n/a Cape	Site Building Outbuilding	C C C
5-189-91-0-R	265	91 North Ave	House	1-story, side gable roof, side ell; detached garage	c1940	Cape	Building Outbuilding	C C
5-189-93-0-R	150	93 North Ave	Quigley-Elbridge House	1 ½-story, front gable roof with attached ell and barn; stone wall along southern boundary	c1850	Greek Revival	Building Structure	C C

NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Page 2 of 4

DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
5-189-94-0-R	266	94 North Ave	House	1-story, side gable roof, attached garage	c1960	Ranch	Building	NC
5-189-96-0-R	267	96 North Ave	House	1-story, side gable roof, attached garage	c1950	Cape	Building	C
5-189-98-0-R	268	98 North Ave	Lovett-Quigley Farm	1 ½-story, front gable roof, side and rear ells; detached garage	c1870	Colonial Revival	Building Outbuilding	C C
5-189-100-0-R	152	100 North Ave	Lovett-Quigley Farm	2-story, front gable roof, side entrance and rear ell; detached barn; stone wall along street	c1850	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding Structure	C C C
5-189-101-0-R	153	101 North Ave	Maple Farm Charles A. Davenport Farm	2-story, gable roof, south façade, rear ell; 20 th century gambrel barn complex; detached garage; approx 105 acres of functioning fields and woods, Muddy Brook crosses property midway between west bounds along road and east bounds on ridge at Hopedale town line; stone walls along road and in interior	c1870	Italianate	Building Outbldg (2) Structure Site	C C (2) C C
5-189-102-0-R	925	102 North Ave	Lovett-Quigley Farm	Approx 39 acres of farm land mostly reforested, stone wall along street; noncontributing house hidden in woods	c1850 c1980	n/a Ranch	Building Structure Site	NC C C
5-189-103-0-R	269	103 North Ave	Maple Farm	2-story, side gable, noncontributing dwelling	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building	NC
5-189-106-0-R	154	106 North Ave	George L Davenport – Charles B. Goss Farm	1-story, gable roof, center chimney, side ell; detached barn and two detached garages; 23 acres of fallow fields, woods and marsh; stone walls along street and on interior	c1800	Federal	Building Outbldg (3) Structure Site	C C (3) C C
5-189-109-0-C	926	109 North Ave	Joseph G. Davenport – Edward H. Taft Farm	Approx. 15 acres of functioning fields and woods, Muddy Brook at eastern boundary	c1831	n/a	Site	C

NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Page 3 of 4

DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known, otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
5-189-111-0-R	155	111 North Ave	Joseph G. Davenport – Edward H. Taft Farm	2-story, front gable roof; detached garage; stone wall along street	c1820	Federal	Building Outbuilding Structure	C C C
5-189-113-0-C	927	113 North Ave	Joseph G. Davenport – Edward H. Taft Farm	vacant land (probable house site); stone wall along street	c1970	n/a	Structure Site	C C
3-189-131-0-R	928	131 North Ave	Seth Davenport Farm	Approx 30 acres of fallow fields and woods, Muddy Brook within eastern boundary; stone walls along North Ave, south boundary and on interior; site for planned new library building	c1780	n/a	Structure Site	C C
3-189-133-0-R	157	133 North Ave	Seth Davenport Farm	2-story, gable roof, rear ell; detached barn and outbuildings (3); Muddy Brook contained in eastern part of property	c1780	Federal	Building Outbldg (4)	C C (4)
3-189-134-0-R	156	134 North Ave	J. Davenport Farm	2-story, hipped roof, rear ell; detached barn (c1850) and outbuildings (2)	c1900	Classical Revival	Building Outbldg (3)	C C (3)
3-189-139-0-R	158	139 North Ave	Rufus G. Beals Farm	2-story, hipped roof, rear ell; detached barn (c1850) and detached shed; approx 7 acres of fallow farmland and woods; stone wall along street	c1900	Classical Revival	Building Outbldg (2) Structure Site	C C (2) C C
3-189-143-0-R	270	143 North Ave	Rufus G. Beals Farm	2-story, gable roof, noncontributing dwelling; approx 5 acres of fallow farmland and woods; stone wall along street	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building Structure Site	NC C C
3-189-147-0-R	271	147 North Ave	Rufus G. Beals Farm	2-story, gable roof, noncontributing dwelling; approx 10 acres of fallow farmland and woods; stone wall along street	c1990	Colonial Revival	Building Structure Site	NC C C

NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Page 4 of 4

DISTRICT DATA LIST

Parcel Number	MHC No.	STREET ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME (if known; otherwise building type)	DESCRIPTION (all buildings frame construction unless otherwise noted)	DATE	STYLE	RESOURCE TYPE	STATUS contributing or non-contributing
------------------	------------	-------------------	--	--	------	-------	------------------	---

3-230-6-0-C	929	6 Trask Rd	Seth Davenport Farm	woods	c1780	n/a	Site	C
3-230-8-0-R	272	8 Trask Rd	Lundy-Trask Farm	1 ½-story, side gable roof, full front piazza, side ell; detached barn, approx 60 acres of functioning fields and woods; stone walls along road	c1831, c1900	Greek Revival	Building Outbuilding Site Structure	C C C C

TOTALS: Contributing Buildings.....15	Contributing Outbuildings22	Contributing Sites13	Contributing Structures13	Contributing Objects ...0
Non-contributing Buildings9	Non-contributing Outbllds0	Non-contributing Sites ...0	Non-contributing Structures ..0	Non-contributing Obj. ...0

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

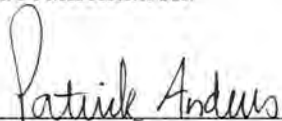
NRIS Reference Number: 03000683 Date Listed: 7/25/2003

Property Name: North Avenue Rural Historic District

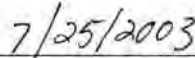
County: Worcester State: MA

Multiple Name

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



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR amends the district's Period of Significance to begin in 1780, the date of the oldest extant contributing resource in the district.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: North Avenue Rural Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 6/12/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/09/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/25/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/27/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000683

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7/25/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C

REVIEWER Patricia Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 7/25/2003

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

583



Kodak
PICTURE
Processing
JUN 2002

North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #1

View, SE, vic. 101 North Ave.



Kodak
PICTURE
Processing
JUN 2002

North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002
Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #2

View north - 101 North Ave. on right
106 North Ave on left



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #3

View NE vic. 91 North Ave.



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #4

Seth Davenport Farm (133 North Ave.)

Kodak
PICTURE
Processing
JUN 2002



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at Mendon Historical Commission

PHOTO #5

Smith-Nelson Farm (85 North Ave.)



North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO#6

Davenport-Goss Farm (106 North Ave.)



7

North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

APR 2002 FRK

APR 2002 FRK

APR 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #7

Lundy-Trask Farm (8 Trask Rd.)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #8

Lovett-Quigley Farm (100 North Ave.)



North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #9

Davenport-Taft Farm (111 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #10

Quigley-Eldridge House (93 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

Photo #11

District I Schoolhouse (86 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #12

Cemetery (90 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2000

Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #13

Maple Farm (101 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm

PHOTO #14

Quigley House (98 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #15

House at 91 North Ave



North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #16

Rufus Beals Farm (139 North Ave.)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #17

J. Davenport Farm (134 North Ave)

Proposed



Mendon-Upton Joint Public Library

North Avenue Rural Historic District

Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002

Neg. at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #18

View of Hopedale Rd. from North Ave.



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larsen, 2002
Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #19

Field gate (113 North Ave)



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

Photo by Neil Larson, 2002

Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #20

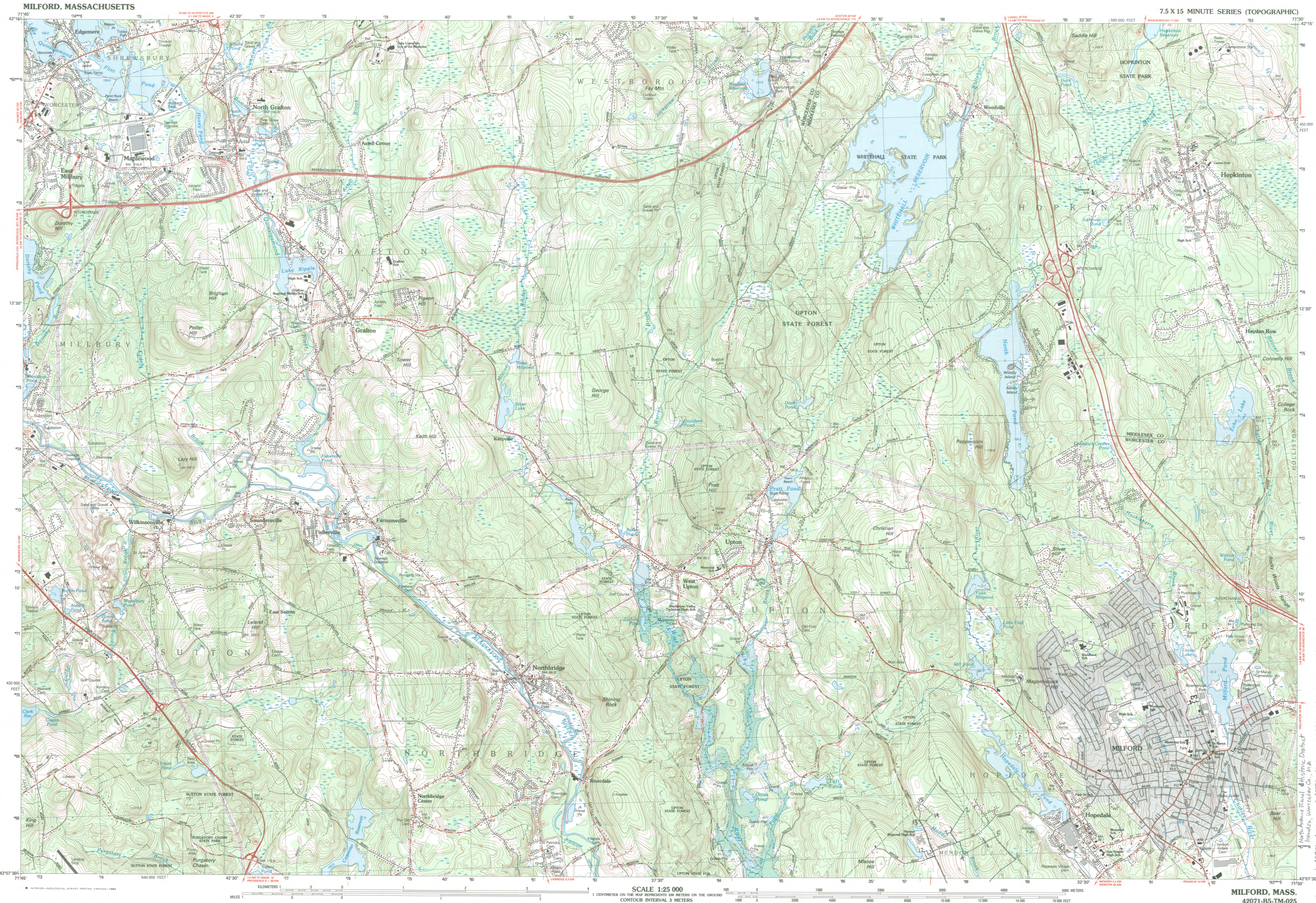
Vista, NE vic. of 85 North Ave.



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
Photo by Neil Larson, 2002
Neg at: Mendon Historical Comm.

PHOTO #21

Stone wall & tree line, 106 North Ave.



Milford
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

1982

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

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982

Supersedes Milford and Grafton 1:25,000-scale maps
dated 1968 and 1969

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 40 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	UTM grid convergence (CON) and 1983 magnetic declination (MAG) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.		1	2	3
1	3.2808	15° 267 MILS 1740° 31 MILS		4	5	
2	6.5617			6	7	8
3	9.8425					
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5275					
10	32.8084					

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

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

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road, trail
Route marker: Interstate, U. S. State
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
Bridge, drawbridge
Fence; boundary: underground
Built-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
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
Sandy, mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

1-257530 446720 4-257580 446780 11-257520 446700 14-257460 446760
2-257460 446720 5-257580 446780 12-257520 446700 15-257460 446760
3-257530 446720 6-257580 446780 13-257520 446700 16-257460 446760

North Adams Road, 8th St., District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA

1-257530 446720 4-257580 446780 11-257520 446700 14-257460 446760
2-257460 446720 5-257580 446780 12-257520 446700 15-257460 446760
3-257530 446720 6-257580 446780 13-257520 446700 16-257460 446760

MILFORD, MASS.
42071-B5-TM-025
1982

MAP
1 of 2

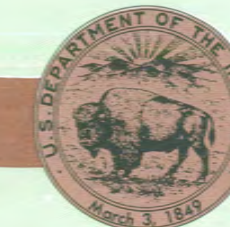
Uxbridge MAP 2
MASS. — R. I. 3 2

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

1982

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

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1982
This area also covered by 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale
maps: Uxbridge and Blackstone dated 1969

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system, 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 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

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet			1	2	3
1	3.2808			4	5	6
2	6.5617			7	8	9
3	9.8425			10		
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5275					
10	32.8084					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1982 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map		1 Milwaukee South 2 Milwaukee 3 Milwaukee 4 Webster 5 Milwaukee 6 Thompson (7.5°) 7 Chequamegon (7.5°) 8 Green Bay (7.5°) 9 Ashleboro		
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048		Diagram is approximate				

ISBN 0-607-23420-



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
Bathymetric contour: depth, soundings
House, barn, church, school, large structure
Boundary
State
National, with monument
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, approximation
Fence or field line
Power transmission line, located tower
Dam, with lock
Canal
Cemetery, grave
Well, cistern, water tower
Windmill, water well, spring
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
Contour: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contour: index, intermediate, supplementary, depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand
Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate
Prenatal lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Reef, lagoon and small lake, barge, canal
Submerged marsh, marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
Scrub, mangrove

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

NORTH AVENUE RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Town of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts

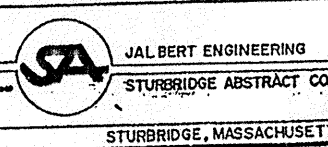
Boundary Map

Solid lines represent district boundary
Dotted lines indicate tax map divisions (panel numbers in boxes)
Refer to nomination form for boundary justification
SOURCE: Town of Mendon Assessors Tax Map

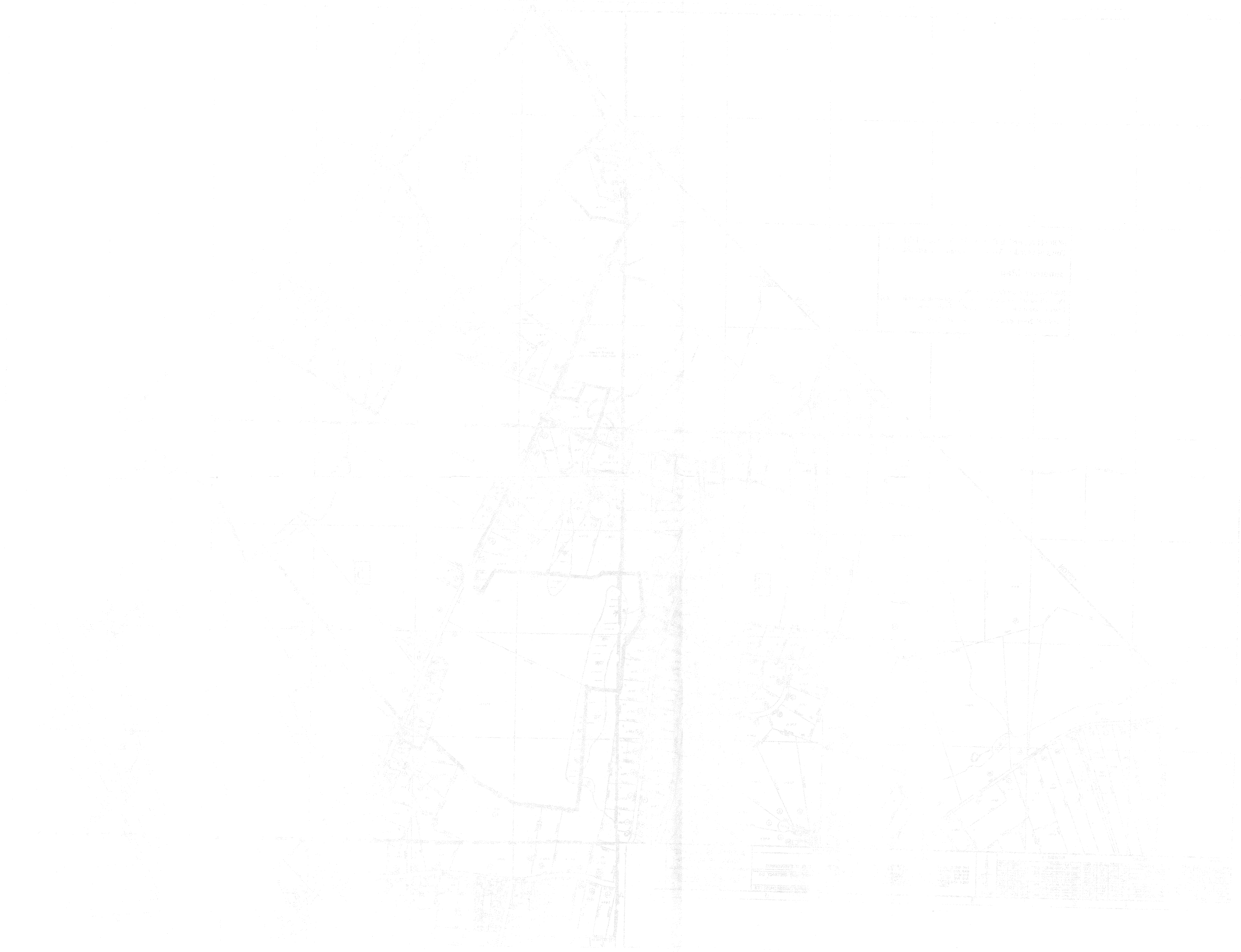
REVISIONS									
DATE	BY	REVISION	DATE	BY	REVISION	DATE	BY	REVISION	DATE
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM
1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM	1/1/81	AM

NOTE

THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, GROUND SURVEY AND RECORD. ROAD, RAIL, RIVER AND WIDE ARE TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR CONVEYANCE.



ASSESSORS TAX MAP
TOWN OF MENDON
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
SCALE: 1" = 200'



North Avenue Rural Historic District
Mendon, Worcester Co., MA
BOUNDARY MAP



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

May 23, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

North Avenue Rural Historic District, Mendon (Worcester), 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.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Neil Larson, consultant
Colleen Conley, Mendon Historical Commission
Dennis Shaheen, Mendon Board of Selectmen
Mendon Planning Board