

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name WPA Field House and Pump Station

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7-19 Henry Turner Bailey Road not for publication

city or town Scituate vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02066

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Brona Simon
Brona Simon, SHPO

April 14, 2009
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

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

5/29/2009

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	building
	sites
7	structures
1	objects
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)

Recreation and Culture: sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete and granite fieldstone

walls brick, granite fieldstone

roof slate

other wood trim

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

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

The WPA Field House, constructed in 1938-1939, is located in the northern part of Scituate, a coastal town equidistant between Boston and Plymouth, MA (approximately 30 miles to the north and south, respectively). The immediate neighborhood of Gannett's Corner is centered on the intersection of Country Way (a major north-south thoroughfare) with Henry Turner Bailey Road (extending to the west) and Gannett Road (to the east). A railroad line that was established in 1871 crosses diagonally through this intersection. An early 20th-century railway station still stands on the southeast side of this intersection, on County Way, and a new commuter rail station (serving the recently re-opened Greenbush line) is located on the northwest quadrant of the intersection.

Identified as potentially eligible for the National Register, the Gannett's Corner area contains a variety of free-standing buildings constructed from the 17th through the 20th centuries. They are primarily 19th-century residential structures ranging from 1 to 2½ stories in height, with several small-scale commercial and civic buildings clustered at the crossroads. The WPA Field House stands to the southwest of the Gannett's Corner intersection, approximately 150 feet from Henry Turner Bailey Road.

Site Features

The property rises gently up to the south from Henry Turner Bailey Road. It is bordered on the west by Bound Brook, and on the south and east by private properties. The field house faces north and is set on a low bermed platform at the southeast corner of the site, at an angle to the road. A set of five fieldstone steps is built into the berm and leads to the main door of the field house.

To the west of the field house is a long grassy space that was formerly used as a play area with basketball and shuffleboard courts. A metal swing set and the concrete pads for two shuffleboard courts are now located here. A fieldstone **retaining wall** lines the back (southern) boundary of the property. Framing much of the north side of this lawn is another fieldstone **retaining wall** running east-west in the middle of the site; adjacent to its south side are two small sets of **fieldstone steps** that accommodate the lawn's slight slope downward from east to west.

Four tennis courts originally stretched along the front of the property, between Henry Turner Bailey Road and the retaining wall on the interior of the site; they have recently been replaced by a 124-car parking lot for the new commuter rail line. This asphalt-paved area is edged with granite curbing and features a landscaped median running east-west through the center.

In the northwest corner of the parcel, outside of the area that was designed and landscaped as a recreational facility, stands a small, one-story brick **pump station**, set back about 20 feet from Henry Turner Bailey Road. Approximately 12 x 16 feet in plan, this simple rectangular structure rises from a poured concrete foundation to a cross-gabled slate roof. The doorway on its north façade is flanked by narrow wood pilasters and surmounted by a semicircular fanlight. A single, 9/6, double-hung window is centered on each of the south (back) and east cross gables. A third section of **fieldstone wall** separates the pump station from the present parking lot, running southward from Henry Turner Bailey Road for approximately 30 feet.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Architectural Design of the Field House

The WPA Field House is a relatively small rectangular building, 38 x 41 feet in plan and 1½ stories high, with a slate-covered, side-gable roof. The front slope of its broad roof covers a recessed, ten-foot deep porch that spans the entire facade. The exterior walls and porch pillars on the first floor are constructed of granite fieldstone, while the gable ends are sheathed with vertical shiplap wood siding and simple wood trim. A continuous fascia band composed of flat, wood trim boards rings all four elevations, forming the roof eave at the facade and back elevation and the horizontal cornice of the gable ends.

The field house's symmetrical, three-bay north façade contains a center doorway flanked by one large window opening on each side. Four 18"-square pillars support the overhanging roof at the front porch, while fieldstone pavers form the porch floor. A large fieldstone chimney rises from the center of the back slope of the roof.

The side and rear elevations of the field house are asymmetrical. The west elevation features two doors towards the back of the building, and a window opening into the main room at the front of the building. The back (south) elevation has a doorway in the central section, flanked by two window openings to the left and one to the right; basement window wells are set below the outer windows. The east elevation contains a doorway towards the back and a window into the front room.

Ground floor windows in the main room of the field house contain steel sash with no trim; these are configured as a pair of casement windows bordered on three sides by a row of fixed panes of glass. Each of the gable ends features a circular wood window that originally contained a wagon-wheel arrangement of panes. All the window openings are presently covered with plywood on the exterior.

The building's doorways feature very slightly arched fieldstone lintels; the side and back entrances all have a concrete threshold step and fieldstone landing. The two entrances to the main interior space (one located on the front of the building, one on the west side) contain six-panel wood doors with two glazed upper panels. The secondary doors on the side and back elevations (leading into the bathrooms and basement stairway) are constructed of vertical wood boards. The window openings have no decorative edge treatment, with the exception of fieldstone sills on the side and back windows. All windows are set at the very top of the walls, directly under the continuous wood fascia band.

The exterior walls feature remnants of original or early light fixtures in the form of decorative metal collars, mounted next to the doorways on the side and back elevations. The lamps themselves are missing, however.

The floor plan of the field house consists of three main areas. A single, large room extends across the front of the building, accessed by one doorway each on the facade and west elevation. This space is finished with a vinyl tile floor on a concrete slab, plaster surfaces on the ceiling and on the three exterior walls, and, on the interior partition wall at the back of the room, full-height wood paneling and a massive fieldstone fireplace and chimney that are centered in the room.

Two narrow bathrooms at the back of the building are accessed only from the outside, with one doorway on the west elevation and one at the back. A full basement under these back rooms is accessed by a doorway on the east elevation.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

Overall, the WPA Field House has experienced few significant exterior alterations. The slate roof has recently been repaired, consolidating existing slates on the front slope and adding matching slate tiles on the back slope. The original sash of the circular windows in the gable ends has deteriorated and is being replaced in kind.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the WPA Field House property, it is possible that sites are present. Two ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The field house is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping terrace within 1,000 feet of Bound Brook. The entire town of Scituate lies within the North and South River watershed. Bound Brook drains to Hunters Pond, and ultimately Cohasset Harbor and Massachusetts Bay. While grading and construction of landscape features associated with 20th century recreational use of the area have adversely effected potential ancient resources located on much of the property, undisturbed soils may exist in the western part of the parcel bordering Bound Brook - the most sensitive area of the property. Given the above information, the size of the property (five acres), and known site distributions in the area, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the property although most of those resources may have limited research value. Structural and stratigraphic evidence may survive from landscape features associated with recreational use of the area beginning in the late 1930s. Several of these resources, including the field house, stone walls, tennis courts, basketball courts, shuffleboards, and playground equipment, have been documented; however, other recreational resources including volleyball courts, paths, seats, stands, shelters, horseshoe pits, and some utilities have been identified from plans but not physically verified. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may contribute evidence of these resources and their locations.

While Scituate was incorporated in 1636 and the Gannett's Corner area first settled in the mid 17th century, no evidence of historic land use on the property has been identified prior to recreational construction in the area in 1938-1939.

(end)

WPA Field House and Pump Station

Name of Property

Plymouth, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance

1938-1959

Significant Dates

1938-1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

M. Joseph Milano

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Scituate Historical Society, Scituate Town Hall

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Introduction

The WPA Field House in Scituate is a unique and remarkably well-preserved example of its building type and architectural style in the town of Scituate. It is significant at the local level for its associations with the suburban development of Scituate in the early 20th century, and with the influence of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. Distinguished by its use of bold, simple forms and natural materials, the building is also a notable example of the Craftsman style of architecture and a rare example of historic recreational architecture in Scituate. The field house possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Historical Significance

Incorporated in 1636, Scituate's economy was based on shipbuilding and fishing well into the 19th century. By the late 19th century, however, the town's relatively shallow North River was unable to accommodate construction of the larger ships that came into demand. In the same period, the mackerel fishing in which the town specialized also declined sharply. Although shoe and boot manufacturing filled some of the economic gap, production of these items peaked in 1865. In 1871, however, the arrival of the Cohasset and Duxbury Railroad brought forth intense summer resort activity and eventually a year-round population base of commuter residents.

The area in North Scituate in which this property is located, known as Gannett's Corner, was first settled in the mid 17th century. A dense cluster of houses appeared here by the early 19th century, with residents attracted by a nearby iron foundry, sawmill, and gristmill. The area grew dramatically with the coming of the railroad in 1871, and by the early 20th century, it was well developed with houses, shops, a post office, and railroad station. The railroad stop, located at the southeast corner of Gannett Road and Country Way, drew summer residents and visitors to North Scituate, as well as local families who built houses and businesses to take advantage of the area's growing popularity. Seavern's Country Store, for example, was built for a grocery in the late 19th century and occupies the northwest corner of the intersection of Country Way and Henry Turner Bailey Road.

Henry Turner Bailey Road was established between 1931 and 1935 as a spur road connecting Gannett's Corner with the new Route 3A—a modern automobile highway that still serves as a primary north/south route on Boston's South Shore. Around the same time that Henry Turner Bailey Road was laid out, the town of Scituate erected on this property the extant pump station, a small brick structure in a simplified Classical Revival style, which serviced an underground water line under the new roadway. The pump station is historically, functionally, and stylistically unrelated, however, to the park that was constructed to the east of it.

Scituate's growing summer and year-round populations coincided in the early 20th century with three new cultural trends: increased leisure time, interest in health and fitness, and increased concern for the welfare of children. Between the world wars, when the local population increased by more than 50%, the town built two new recreational areas—one at Sand Hills, where an area of summer cottages opened in 1910, and one in North Scituate, which contains the WPA Field House.

The North Scituate recreational area was developed with major assistance from the federal Works Progress Administration. The Park Commissioners report for 1937 (p. 315) states "At North Scituate, we made a park, which we

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

called Bound Brook Park. Due to the town widening of Henry Turner Bailey Road, the park was slightly damaged, but next spring we intend to greatly improve it."

Indeed, the park was intensively developed in 1938 and 1939, filling a need for active recreational uses and also providing much-needed employment during the Great Depression. In March of 1938, town meeting voted to transfer the property on which the field house stands to the Park Department "for the purpose of erecting and maintaining thereon four tennis courts and other recreational facilities[,] and raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000... to defray expenses for same" (Annual Report for 1938, p. 71). In the same year, the Planning Board voted "to go on record as favoring study of additional supervised playground facilities for the children of Scituate" (*ibid*, p. 177). Land at the Sand Hills area, to the east, was purchased by the town two years later for a public bathing beach, playground, and recreation center.

The North Scituate recreational facility was an important economic investment for Scituate, which leveraged a much larger contribution of \$23,500 from WPA funds. As noted by the town's WPA agent in his report for 1938,

Scituate has been particularly fortunate during the year in having approved WPA Projects covering a wider range of labor employed than heretofore. One project,-- the North Scituate Recreational Centre, on Henry Turner Bailey Road, employed a larger number of classified workmen than any other previously operated WPA project in Scituate, and this work is expected to continue well into the forthcoming year. (*ibid*, p. 169)

The federal WPA project files for 1938 note the effort to "develop a recreational area in the Town of Scituate, Plymouth County, including constructing tennis and volleyball courts, paths, steps, seats, stands, shelters, horse shoe pits, shuffle boards, parking area, walls, and field house; erecting fence; installing drains; laying pipes; cutting fill; grading; and performing incidental and appurtenant work. Town-owned property."

The Selectmen's Report for 1938 observed that "the new Recreational Park at North Scituate being built under a W.P.A. Project, although incomplected [*sic*] at this writing[,] already shows promise of its fulfillment as an ideal playground and recreational center for that section of the Town" (*ibid*, p. 13). The 1939 Town Report confirms that work on this new recreational facility—including the "Field House, Tennis Courts and other facilities for games"—began in August 1938 and was completed in December 1939 (contrary to the plaque on the field house, which states "Built by Works Progress Administration 1937-1938") (1939 Town Report, p. 58). The 1939 Town Meeting entertained an unsuccessful motion to rename the park as the Henry Turner Bailey Playground, in honor of one of North Scituate's most prominent residents during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The original site plans for the North Scituate recreational area accommodated a variety of activities. Parking spaces for 20 to 30 cars wwere set along Henry Turner Bailey Road. To the south was a group of tennis courts, almost completely encircled by a stone wall. Two basketball/volleyball courts and two shuffleboard couts are shown in the space behind the tennis courts and to the west of the field house. Gravel paths lined the back (south) and west side of the tennis courts. Another path ran between Henry Turner Bailey Road and the entrance to the field house, passing the tennis courts on the west and a horseshoe pit, seat and shelter, and water fountain on the east.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

The tennis and basketball courts were constructed but have been removed, and a small, child-powered, merry-go-round recently stood to the east of the original path from the road to the Field House. It is not known if the gravel paths around the tennis courts, or the horseshoe pit, seat and shelter, or water fountain were actually built. Of the landscape features shown on the 1938 plan, only three stone walls (or portions thereof), two small sets of fieldstone steps on the south side of the retaining wall between the lawn and the tennis courts, and the fieldstone steps up to the field house entrance survive. A commuter rail parking lot has recently replaced the tennis courts.

The original plans and specifications for the WPA Field House indicate that the basement was used for storage and a workroom, with tools and a workbench labeled there on the architectural drawings. The main room on the ground floor is labeled "Storage and Club Room." Tennis matches were reportedly viewed from lawn chairs on the spacious porch, and tennis lessons were held at the courts each summer. The basketball courts, shuffleboards, and playground equipment were used until several years ago, but the building was used as a field house only until about 1960. It subsequently hosted community band rehearsals, recreation department programs for children, and meetings of various community groups, such as the PTA, Boy Scouts, and local art association.

The architect for the WPA Field House was M. Joseph Milano, who resided in the Roslindale section of Boston with his mother and five adult siblings. Milano is listed in the Boston directories from 1930 through 1945, although he is described as an architect for only part of that time (1938 and 1940). Prior to that, his occupation is listed as clerk (1930) and draftsman (1935); by 1945 he was a member of the United States Army. No separate business address is given for Milano in any of the directories; he may have been self-employed and/or unemployed through much of the Depression.

The Works Progress Administration was created in 1935 by executive order of President Franklin Roosevelt (from July 1939 onward, it was known as the Works Projects Administration). In a detailed 1943 study of *The WPA and Federal Relief Policy*, the WPA is described as

... the administrative agency responsible for providing employment on socially useful projects for as many needy unemployed workers meeting prescribed eligibility requirements as can be given jobs with funds appropriated by Congress for this purpose from year to year. As such it has been one of the most highly praised and bitterly denounced agencies in the country. (Howard, p. 105)

In a public poll conducted in 1939, the WPA was concurrently named both "the greatest accomplishment" and the "worst thing" done by the Roosevelt administration (*ibid*, p. 105). It became one of the most famous of Roosevelt's New Deal programs because of its widespread and unprecedented impact on American society.

The extent of unemployment during the Great Depression called forth a number of relief programs that altered historic American ideals of individual self-sufficiency and independence. Major public relief programs of this period included Social Security benefits to the old, dependent children, and the blind; farm security grants; the Works Progress Administration; and a short period from 1933-1936 of Federal welfare assistance to needy individuals and families outside of the first three categories.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

The WPA program was the most broad-based of these four programs, providing assistance to people in all areas of the country and of all social and economic classes, for projects addressing public health, infrastructure, building construction, job training, education, and arts and culture. During its lifetime, the WPA was estimated to have provided jobs to more than 8,000,000 different individuals—one-fifth of all the workers in the country at the time—with indirect benefits extending to 25 to 30 million individuals (including spouses and children), or about one of every four or five persons then living in the U.S (Howard, p. 33). More than \$11 billion was spent, and more than a quarter of a million projects were undertaken in the WPA's first six years (Howard, p. 125, 129).

WPA projects were undertaken in conjunction with state and local agencies (or other public agencies), known as sponsors, which had significant roles in administering the projects and were responsible for approximately one-fourth of project costs (Howard, p.30). WPA construction projects included the beautification of cemeteries and roadways; construction and improvement of highways, streets, bridges, viaducts, and airport runways; construction of and repairs to water and sewer service; and the construction or rehabilitation of libraries, schools, auditoriums, recreational facilities, stadiums, and other public buildings.

Of the \$11.4 billion spent on WPA projects through June 1941, more than \$4 billion was for highway and road projects and more than \$1 billion on public buildings (Howard, p.129). As of February 1940, construction and engineering projects accounted for more than three-quarters of all employment provided through the WPA, and public buildings provided employment for 7% of the workers employed (Howard, p.129). Statistics showed that "public buildings constructed or reconstructed [through the WPA] included more than 110,000 public libraries, schools, auditoriums, or other public buildings. If only the *new* buildings constructed were distributed evenly among the 3,000 counties in the United States, each could have had about ten"(Howard, p.128). More than 15,000 parks and recreational areas and facilities were built or improved. The goals of the WPA were to employ workers in areas in which they were skilled—white collar to blue collar—and to give work only to people competent to perform their particular assignment.

The New Deal encompassed other building-related programs as well, but these had more focused goals and their influence was more limited in scale. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), for example, was established in 1933 as part of the National Park Service, contemporaneous with the initial restoration of Williamsburg and the establishment of the first historic districts in the United States. HABS's mission was to preserve the past through the documentation of endangered, culturally significant properties, while also providing unemployment relief to the architects and draftsman who were hired to study, measure, draw, and photograph historic buildings.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), also established in 1933, was oriented primarily toward land conservation and the employment specifically of young men. The enabling legislation for the CCC called for employing 300,000 young men between the ages of 18 and 25 (later extended to ages 17 to 28) in camps administered by the army; approximately 2 million men eventually took part in the program. CCC programs included planting trees to reduce soil erosion, mapping the locations of different species of timber, fighting forest fires, eliminating stream pollution, and creating fish, bird, and game sanctuaries. As part of their work in maintaining forests and parks, the CCC also built structures such as observation towers, lodges, and camp cabins in a rustic style that was similar to, but generally simpler than, WPA buildings.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

The WPA was disbanded in 1943, as wartime production expanded private employment and increased prosperity enough to make the Works Projects Administration unnecessary. The agency's impact continued much longer, however. The extension of federal responsibility to the improvement of general welfare indicated a new kind of social consciousness in the United States. Moreover, memories of the economic downturn following World War I led the government to begin to plan, even as the WPA was ending, for the social and economic consequences of post-World War II, peace-time unemployment.

In this context, Massachusetts had a very high share of employees, and many tangible projects to show for it. Approximately 150 WPA properties are included in Massachusetts' *Inventory of Historic Assets*; five of these are identified as field houses. A small number of walls, fields, and other park structures built by the WPA are also listed in the statewide Inventory. Other WPA-funded projects in Scituate included insect control, indexing and new systems of town records, installation of water mains, roadway improvement and construction, construction of fire trails, conservation of shade trees, and distribution of surplus food and clothing.

The field house is the only known building in Scituate that was constructed through the WPA, and represents the town's most conspicuous reminder of this program. The only other known examples of recreational buildings in Scituate include a handful of utilitarian buildings used by beach associations for their meetings, and a nondescript, wood-frame building at the Sand Hills Recreation Center that was constructed in the mid 20th century.

Typical Craftsman-style features employed within the WPA Field House include simple volumes and massing, a prominent roof with integral porch, the use of cobblestone and other indigenous building materials, restrained detailing, and an open floor plan. The design exemplifies the simplicity and honest use of materials that were hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement, and the design is especially fitting in a recreational facility with progressive ideals for improving both individuals and society.

Vacant since 1981, the WPA Field House is undergoing restoration and reuse as a visitors and community center by the privately organized Scituate Visitors Center, Inc. The Town of Scituate continues to own both the building and the surrounding land that comprise this property, including the commuter rail parking lot.

Archaeological Significance

While ancient Native American sites have been identified within the coastal zone of Scituate, patterns of Native occupation in the town as a whole remain poorly documented. In coastal areas few sites have been systematically studied, leaving researchers with mostly locational information for subsistence and settlement studies. Only studies of artifact collections have gone beyond these limitations to produce regional, local, and intrasite studies that indicate the temporal and functional range of sites in the area. Given the above information, any ancient resources that survive on the WPA Field House property could be significant. Native American resources on the nominated property can be significant by providing systematically studied examples of local ancient resources. This information can be used to help interpret extensive surface collections assembled over the past 75 years or more from ancient sites in the area. These studies can

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

help us better understand the full range of site types and functions present in the coastal zone area, and their relationship to more interior areas of the town and region. Information might also be present on prehistoric sites that help better understand the importance of the area to early Colonial inhabitants and the reasons why they settled in this locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the full range of recreational and support activities conducted and their internal configuration within the North Scituate recreational area located on the WPA Field House property. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may verify if and where designed recreational activities were constructed and their role in the early 20th-century suburban development of Scituate. Historical and archaeological resources may also contribute important information related to the influence of the WPA in the design and construction of buildings and structures within the facility. Stratigraphic evidence may help locate landscape features and determine the extent of grading and/or filling prior to construction of the WPA Field House and recreational area.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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- Howard, Donald S. *The WPA and Federal Relief Policy*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1973 (reprint of 1943 edition).
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Form B, WPA Field House, Scituate." 2005.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Form A, Gannett's Corner Area." 2000.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MACRIS Profile of Scituate" (10/7/2007) and "MACRIS Statewide Maker Index" for Joseph Milano and for WPA Properties (9/5/2007 and 10/7/2007).
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report for Scituate*. No date [ca.1980s].
- National Archives. WPA Project Files for Scituate, 1937, 1938, 1939.
- Scituate Historical Society. Pages from scrapbook in Dorothy Langley Collection and Vertical File for the WPA Field House.
- Scully, Vincent J. Jr. *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1952, 1971.
- Smith, Sandra Taylor. "The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942." Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (Dept. of Arkansas Heritage), n.d.
- Stickley, Gustav. *Craftsman Homes; Architecture and Furnishings of the American Arts and Crafts Movement*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1979 reprint (orig. publ. 1909).
- Town of Scituate Annual Reports, 1935-1943.
- Letter from Carol Miles, Archivist at the Scituate Historical Society, dated 8/31/2007.

Maps, Atlases, and Architectural Drawings

- Litchfield, Henry A., C.E. "Plan of Land in Scituate, Mass. Surveyed for Standard Oil Company of New York." Dec. 18, 1924; amended January 15, 1931.
- Litchfield, Henry A., surveyor. "Plan of land in Scituate Surveyed for Standard Oil Company of New York." December 18, 1924; amended January 15, 1931 and February 2, 1935.
- Milano, M. Joseph (architect). Two sheets of architectural drawings for "A Field House for Henry Turner Bailey Playground; North Scituate, Mass." 1938. (At Massachusetts State Archives. Includes a record card by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Inspection; no date, but a Certificate of Approval is noted as 9/28/1938.)
- Sanborn Map Co. *Map of Scituate*. 1908, 1926, 1939.
- Tomfohrde, Karl M. "Approved Plan for Henry Turner Bailey Playground; North Scituate, Mass." April 1938.
- Walker, George W. *Atlas of Plymouth County*, 1979.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

Internet Resources

"Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)." www.nps.gov/hdp/habs 6/24/2008

"Outline of U.S. History; The New Deal and World War II."

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/public/historyotln/newdeal.htm> 8/6/2007

"Surviving the Dust Bowl: People & Events; Works Progress Administration." The American Experience.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/peopleevents/>

"Works Projects Administration." The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, 2001.

<http://www.bartleby.com/65/wo/WorkProj.html> 4/28/2005

"Works Progress Administration." Reader's Companion to American History.

<http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html> 4/28/2005

(end)

WPA Field House and Pump Station
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property five acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19 352480 4675360
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

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 Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2009

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Town of Scituate, MA / Town of Scituate Water Division

street & number Town Hall, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Way telephone 781-545-8740

city or town Scituate state MA zip code 02066

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

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**WPA Field House and Pump Station
Scituate (Plymouth), MA**

Section number 10, photos Page 1

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Scituate Assessors' Map 12 (enclosed), lots 18A and 18B. The total lot area is five acres.

Boundary Justification

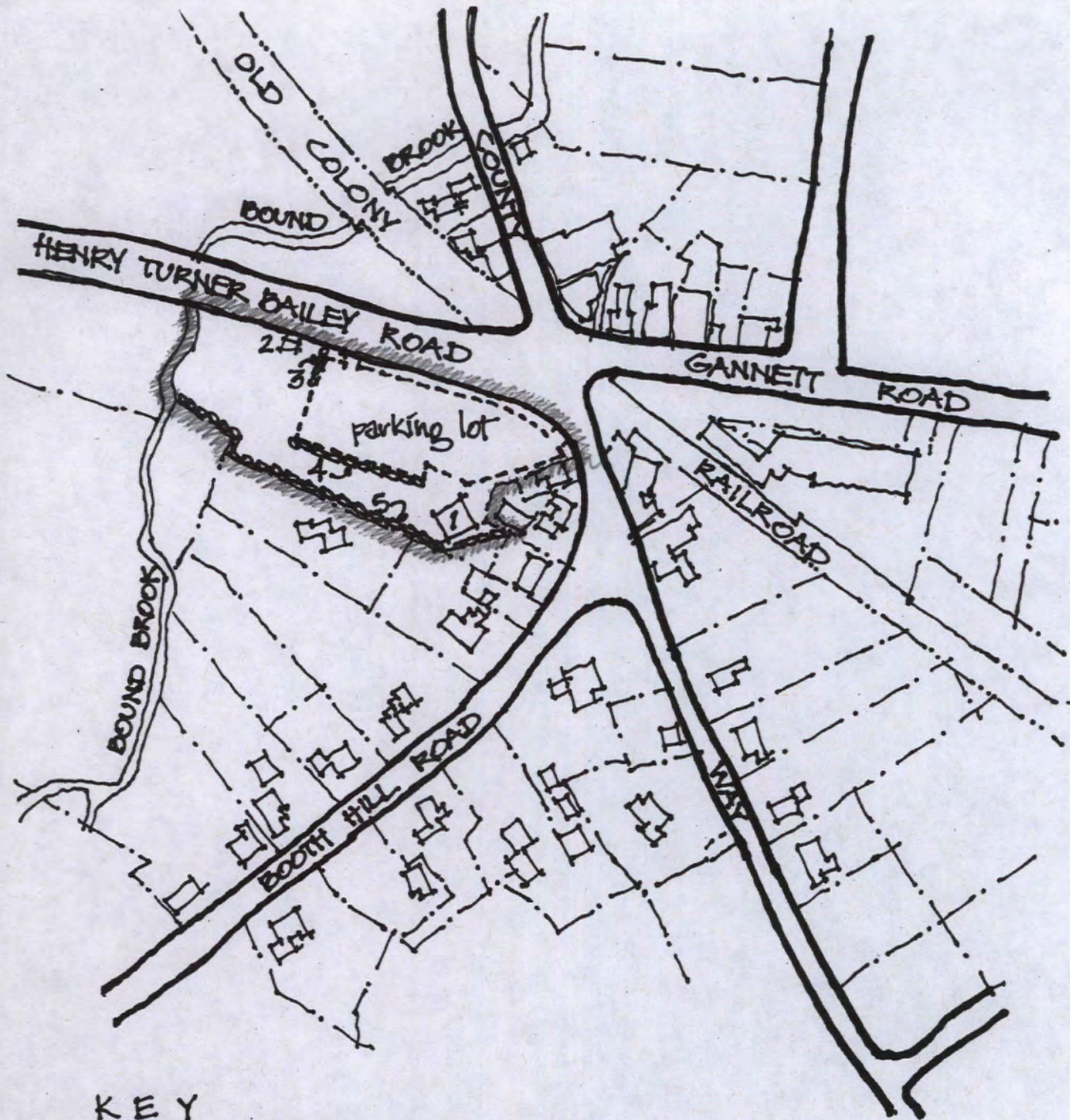
The nominated property includes the entire parcel owned by the town of Scituate and historically associated with the WPA Field House. Although the northern portion of the site is now occupied by a commuter rail parking lot, the layout of the parking lot coincides with the site of earlier tennis courts. While the use of this portion of the site has changed, this part of the property has always been characterized by a paved ground surface.

(end)

Digital Photographs

The images below are represented in 5 x 7" black and white prints. Photograph taken in September 2008 by Wendy Frontiero, 32 Abbott Street, Beverly, Mass.

1. Field House, N and E facades, looking SE
2. Field House, parking lot, looking NW
3. Field House, N and E facades, looking SE
4. Field House, S façade detail, looking N
5. Field House, detail front porch, looking NW
6. Field House, detail stone pillar, playground, looking N
7. Field House, rear (W) elevation, looking NE
8. Fieldstone retaining wall
9. Pump House, parking lot entrance, looking W
10. Pump House, N and E facades, looking W



KEY

- 1 WPA FIELD HOUSE
- 2 PUMP STATION
- 3 } FIELDSTONE WALLS
- 4 }
- 5 }

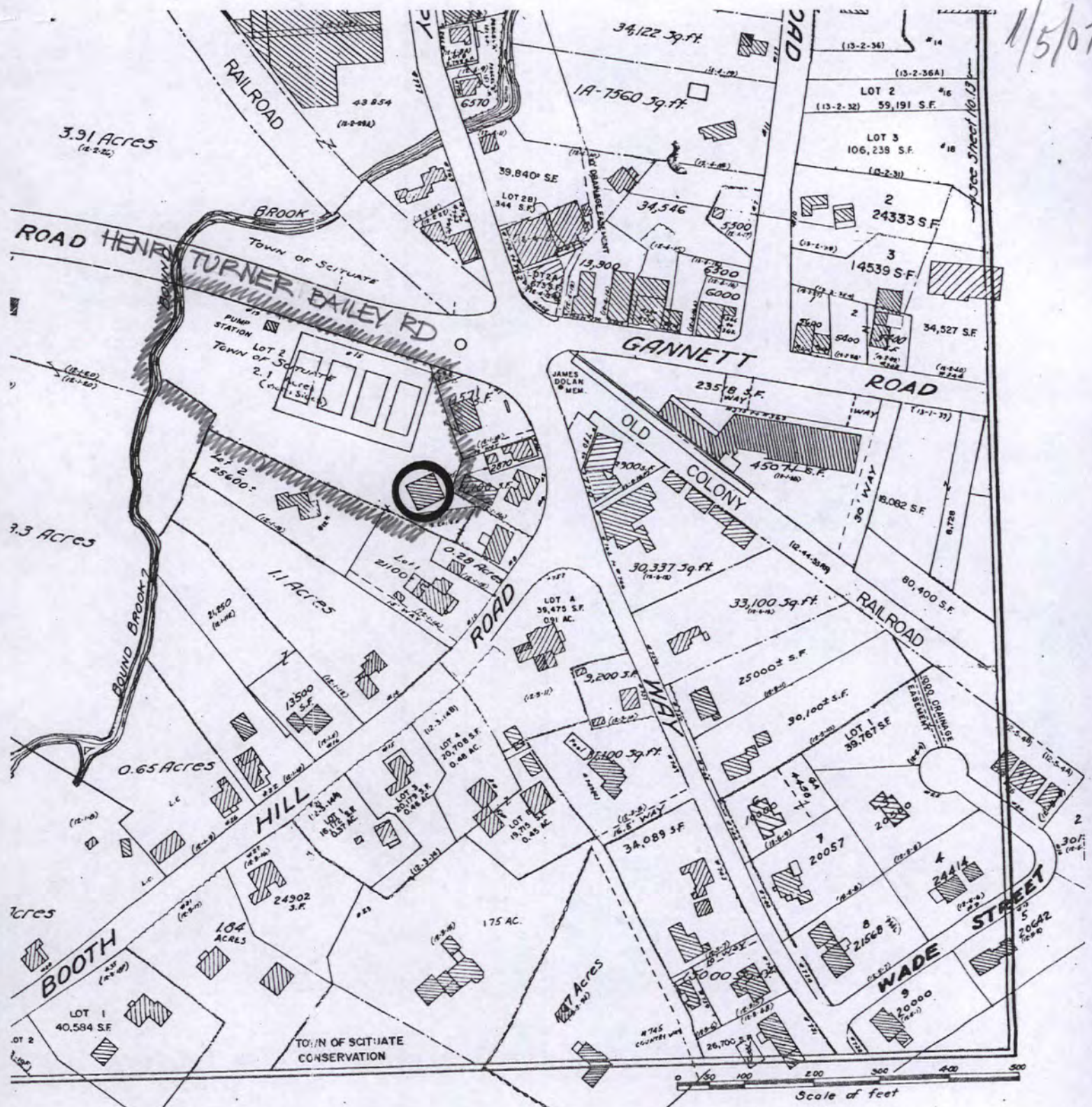
1" = 200'



SKETCH MAP

WPA FIELD HOUSE
 7-19 HENRY TURNER BAILEY RD
 OCUTUATE (PLYMOUTH CO.), MASS.

1/5/07



WPA FIELD HOUSE
7 HENRY TURNER BAILEY RD
SCITUATE, MASS.

1" = 200'



WPA FIELD HOUSE and PUMP STATION

7-19 Henry Turner Bailey Road,
Scituate (Plymouth County), Mass.

Data Sheet

Resource	Date	Materials	Type of Resource	Status
WPA Field House	1938-39	Granite field stone; concrete foundation; slate roof shingles	Building	C
WPA Field House plaque	ca. 1938	Bronze	Object	C
Pump Station	ca. 1935	Brick; slate roof	Structure	C
Retaining wall (south boundary of property)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Retaining wall (east/west through center of property)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Retaining wall (north/south between field house and pump station sites)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Steps at front of field house	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Steps adjacent to east/west retaining wall (#1)	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Steps adjacent to east/west retaining wall (#2)	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Total number of resources				9 contributing; 0 non-contributing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY WPA Field House and Pump Station
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/04/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/19/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000355

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/29/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/29/2009

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA001

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION
WENDY FRONTIER photo

PHOTO 1

VIEW of N, E FACADES, looking SE



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 002
SCITUATE

WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIERO photo

PHOTO 2

E facade, parking lot, looking NW



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 003

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIER photo

Photo 3

View of N, E FACADES, looking SE



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 004

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIEND photo

PHOTO 4

DETAIL, S FACADE, LOOKING N



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 005

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIER photo

PHOTO 5

DETAIL, FRONT PORCH, LOOKING NW



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 006

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIERO photo

PHOTO 6

DETAIL, STONE PILLAR, PLAYGROUND, LOOKING N



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 007

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIERO photo

PHOTO 7

REAR (W) ELEVATION, FACING NE



MA_SCITUATE(PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 008

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIER photo

PHOTO 8

FIELDSTONE RETAINING WALL



MA - SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 009

SCITUATE, WPA FIELD HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIER photo

PHOTO 9

PUMP STATION, PARKING LOT ENTRANCE, LOOKING W



MA. SCITUATE (PLYMOUTH COUNTY) - WPA 010

SCITUATE, WPA ^{FIELD} ~~PUMP~~ HOUSE & PUMP STATION

WENDY FRONTIERO photo

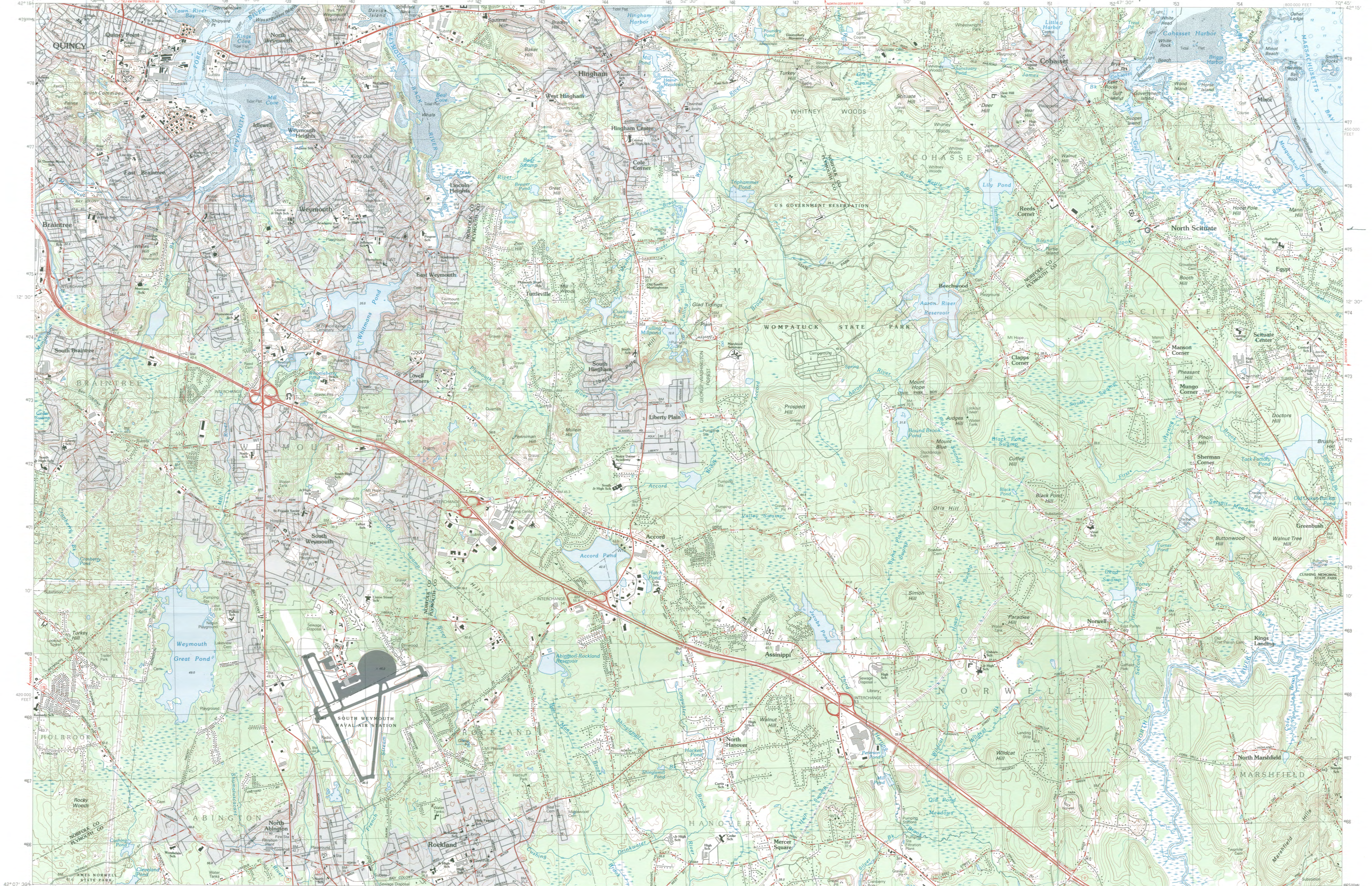
PHOTO 10

PUMP STATION, N, E FACADES, LOOKING W

WPA FIELD HOUSE
7 HENRY TURNER BAILEY RD, SCITUATE, MASS.
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
352480
4675360

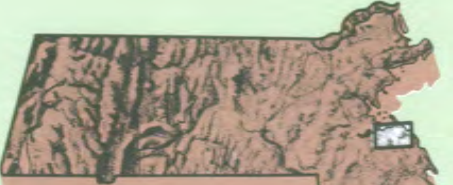
42070-B7-TM-025

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Weymouth MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



WPA FIELD HOUSE
7 HENRY TURNER BAILEY
SCITUATE, MASS.

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

1984

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

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

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1978. Field checked 1979. New edition 1984.
Supersedes Weymouth and Cohasset 1:25 000-scale
maps dated 1971 and 1974.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13269 (1980)
and 13270 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Projection and 100,000-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
42 meter 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
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE.
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.7 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	
1	3.2808		1	2	3	
2	6.5617		4	5		
3	9.8425		6	7	8	
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 1984 magnetic declination both) at center of map Diagram is approximate				
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048						

ISBN 0-607-23435-0

9 780607 234350

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	.....	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....	.....
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....	.....
Boundary:		
National, with monument	.....	.....
State	.....	.....
County, parish	.....	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....	.....
Land grant with monument; forest; section corner	.....	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....	.....
Range, township, section line: location approximate	.....	.....
Fence or field line	.....	.....
Power transmission line, location approximate	.....	.....
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	.....	.....
Disrupted surface: strip mine, levee, 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	.....	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

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

SCALE 1:25 000

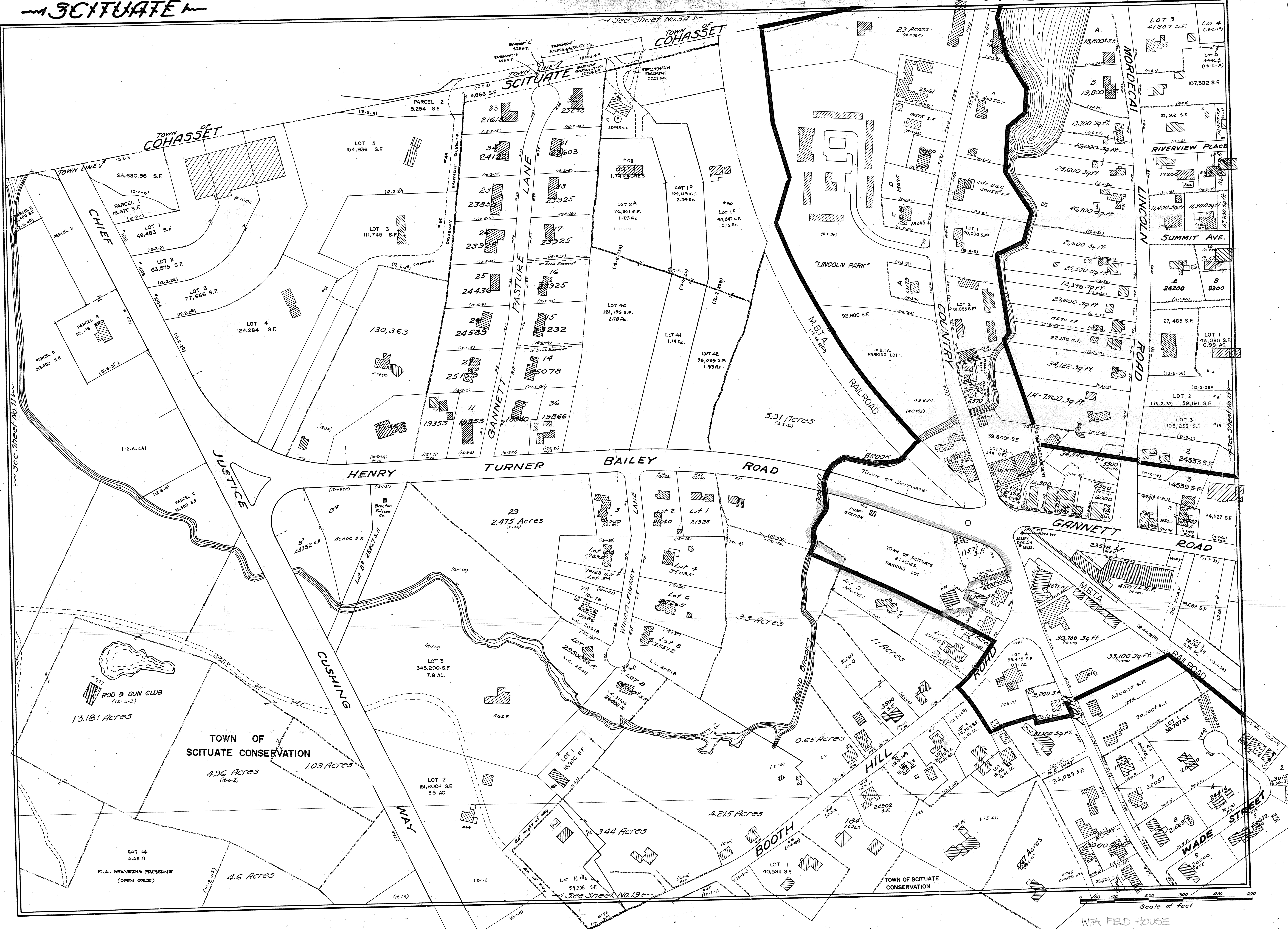
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

42070-B7-TM-025

1984





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RECEIVED 2280

APR 17 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 14, 2009

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

WPA Field House & Pump Station, 7 Henry Turner Bailey Road, Scituate (Plymouth), MA

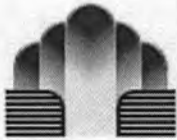
The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Wendy Frontiero, consultant
Scituate Water Department
Richard Murray, Scituate Board of Selectmen
Douglas Smith, Scituate Historical Commission
Donald Walter, Scituate Planning Board



Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS
06/03/2009 05:54 AM

To "Friedberg, Betsy @ SEC" <Betsy.Friedberg@state.ma.us>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: WPA Field House and Pump Station

Betsy: that would be fine. Since the 15 day comment Federal Register notice listed it as the "WPA Field House and Pump Station," we will have to list it in our weekly notice under the same name. Once I get your letter and new pages we will treat it as a name change and additional information to show the pump house as non-contributing.

Thanks,

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov
"Friedberg, Betsy @ SEC" <Betsy.Friedberg@state.ma.us>



"Friedberg, Betsy @ SEC"
<Betsy.Friedberg@state.ma.us>
06/02/2009 04:57 PM

To <Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov>
cc
Subject RE: WPA Field House and Pump Station

Hi Patrick,
We would like to change the status of the pump station from contributing to noncontributing. We could easily revise our nomination to reflect that change and to change the name of the property to simply the WPA Field House. (We'd be changing the continuation sheet page headings and the data sheet as well as the cover form.) Can I send you a letter asking that the name be changed and enclosing the revised pages?
Betsy

-----Original Message-----

From: Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov [mailto:Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2009 7:27 AM
To: Friedberg, Betsy (SEC)
Subject: WPA Field House and Pump Station

Hi Betsy: I listed the WPA Field House and Pump Station in Scituate in the NR, but I am puzzled by the inclusion of the pump station as a contributing structure. The pump station is outside of the defined period of significance (predates) and the nomination notes that it "is historically, functionally, and stylistically unrelated to the park that was constructed to the east of it." Yet the data sheet lists it as a contributing feature and it is even included in the name of the nomination.
I see no justification for considering the pump station as contributing.

Am I missing something? If not, then I propose preparing a SLR to change its status to non-contributing.

Please let me know what you think.

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

09000355



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

1. Name of Property

historic name WPA Field House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 7-19 Henry Turner Bailey Road not for publication

city or town Scituate vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02066

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Brona Simon
Brona Simon, SHPO

6/10/09
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): Additional Documentation Accepted

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

7.15.09

WPA Field House
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(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	
1		building
		sites
6	1	structures
1		objects
8	1	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)

Recreation and Culture: sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete and granite fieldstone
walls brick, granite fieldstone
roof slate
other wood trim

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

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

The WPA Field House, constructed in 1938-1939, is located in the northern part of Scituate, a coastal town equidistant between Boston and Plymouth, MA (approximately 30 miles to the north and south, respectively). The immediate neighborhood of Gannett's Corner is centered on the intersection of Country Way (a major north-south thoroughfare) with Henry Turner Bailey Road (extending to the west) and Gannett Road (to the east). A railroad line that was established in 1871 crosses diagonally through this intersection. An early 20th-century railway station still stands on the southeast side of this intersection, on County Way, and a new commuter rail station (serving the recently re-opened Greenbush line) is located on the northwest quadrant of the intersection.

Identified as potentially eligible for the National Register, the Gannett's Corner area contains a variety of free-standing buildings constructed from the 17th through the 20th centuries. They are primarily 19th-century residential structures ranging from 1 to 2½ stories in height, with several small-scale commercial and civic buildings clustered at the crossroads. The WPA Field House stands to the southwest of the Gannett's Corner intersection, approximately 150 feet from Henry Turner Bailey Road.

Site Features

The property rises gently up to the south from Henry Turner Bailey Road. It is bordered on the west by Bound Brook, and on the south and east by private properties. The field house faces north and is set on a low bermed platform at the southeast corner of the site, at an angle to the road. A set of five fieldstone steps is built into the berm and leads to the main door of the field house.

To the west of the field house is a long grassy space that was formerly used as a play area with basketball and shuffleboard courts. A metal swing set and the concrete pads for two shuffleboard courts are now located here. A fieldstone **retaining wall** lines the back (southern) boundary of the property. Framing much of the north side of this lawn is another fieldstone **retaining wall** running east-west in the middle of the site; adjacent to its south side are two small sets of **fieldstone steps** that accommodate the lawn's slight slope downward from east to west.

Four tennis courts originally stretched along the front of the property, between Henry Turner Bailey Road and the retaining wall on the interior of the site; they have recently been replaced by a 124-car parking lot for the new commuter rail line. This asphalt-paved area is edged with granite curbing and features a landscaped median running east-west through the center.

In the northwest corner of the parcel, outside of the area that was designed and landscaped as a recreational facility, stands a small, one-story brick **pump station**, set back about 20 feet from Henry Turner Bailey Road. Approximately 12 x 16 feet in plan, this simple rectangular structure rises from a poured concrete foundation to a cross-gabled slate roof. The doorway on its north façade is flanked by narrow wood pilasters and surmounted by a semicircular fanlight. A single, 9/6, double-hung window is centered on each of the south (back) and east cross gables. A third section of **fieldstone wall** separates the pump station from the present parking lot, running southward from Henry Turner Bailey Road for approximately 30 feet.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Architectural Design of the Field House

The WPA Field House is a relatively small rectangular building, 38 x 41 feet in plan and 1½ stories high, with a slate-covered, side-gable roof. The front slope of its broad roof covers a recessed, ten-foot deep porch that spans the entire facade. The exterior walls and porch pillars on the first floor are constructed of granite fieldstone, while the gable ends are sheathed with vertical shiplap wood siding and simple wood trim. A continuous fascia band composed of flat, wood trim boards rings all four elevations, forming the roof eave at the facade and back elevation and the horizontal cornice of the gable ends.

The field house's symmetrical, three-bay north façade contains a center doorway flanked by one large window opening on each side. Four 18"-square pillars support the overhanging roof at the front porch, while fieldstone pavers form the porch floor. A large fieldstone chimney rises from the center of the back slope of the roof.

The side and rear elevations of the field house are asymmetrical. The west elevation features two doors towards the back of the building, and a window opening into the main room at the front of the building. The back (south) elevation has a doorway in the central section, flanked by two window openings to the left and one to the right; basement window wells are set below the outer windows. The east elevation contains a doorway towards the back and a window into the front room.

Ground floor windows in the main room of the field house contain steel sash with no trim; these are configured as a pair of casement windows bordered on three sides by a row of fixed panes of glass. Each of the gable ends features a circular wood window that originally contained a wagon-wheel arrangement of panes. All the window openings are presently covered with plywood on the exterior.

The building's doorways feature very slightly arched fieldstone lintels; the side and back entrances all have a concrete threshold step and fieldstone landing. The two entrances to the main interior space (one located on the front of the building, one on the west side) contain six-panel wood doors with two glazed upper panels. The secondary doors on the side and back elevations (leading into the bathrooms and basement stairway) are constructed of vertical wood boards. The window openings have no decorative edge treatment, with the exception of fieldstone sills on the side and back windows. All windows are set at the very top of the walls, directly under the continuous wood fascia band.

The exterior walls feature remnants of original or early light fixtures in the form of decorative metal collars, mounted next to the doorways on the side and back elevations. The lamps themselves are missing, however.

The floor plan of the field house consists of three main areas. A single, large room extends across the front of the building, accessed by one doorway each on the facade and west elevation. This space is finished with a vinyl tile floor on a concrete slab, plaster surfaces on the ceiling and on the three exterior walls, and, on the interior partition wall at the back of the room, full-height wood paneling and a massive fieldstone fireplace and chimney that are centered in the room.

Two narrow bathrooms at the back of the building are accessed only from the outside, with one doorway on the west elevation and one at the back. A full basement under these back rooms is accessed by a doorway on the east elevation.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA**

Section number 7 Page 3

Overall, the WPA Field House has experienced few significant exterior alterations. The slate roof has recently been repaired, consolidating existing slates on the front slope and adding matching slate tiles on the back slope. The original sash of the circular windows in the gable ends has deteriorated and is being replaced in kind.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the WPA Field House property, it is possible that sites are present. Two ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The field house is located on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping terrace within 1,000 feet of Bound Brook. The entire town of Scituate lies within the North and South River watershed. Bound Brook drains to Hunters Pond, and ultimately Cohasset Harbor and Massachusetts Bay. While grading and construction of landscape features associated with 20th century recreational use of the area have adversely effected potential ancient resources located on much of the property, undisturbed soils may exist in the western part of the parcel bordering Bound Brook - the most sensitive area of the property. Given the above information, the size of the property (five acres), and known site distributions in the area, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the property although most of those resources may have limited research value. Structural and stratigraphic evidence may survive from landscape features associated with recreational use of the area beginning in the late 1930s. Several of these resources, including the field house, stone walls, tennis courts, basketball courts, shuffleboards, and playground equipment, have been documented; however, other recreational resources including volleyball courts, paths, seats, stands, shelters, horseshoe pits, and some utilities have been identified from plans but not physically verified. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may contribute evidence of these resources and their locations.

While Scituate was incorporated in 1636 and the Gannett's Corner area first settled in the mid 17th century, no evidence of historic land use on the property has been identified prior to recreational construction in the area in 1938-1939.

(end)

WPA Field House

Name of Property

Plymouth, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance

1938-1959

Significant Dates

1938-1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

M. Joseph Milano

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Scituate Historical Society, Scituate Town Hall

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Introduction

The WPA Field House in Scituate is a unique and remarkably well-preserved example of its building type and architectural style in the town of Scituate. It is significant at the local level for its associations with the suburban development of Scituate in the early 20th century, and with the influence of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. Distinguished by its use of bold, simple forms and natural materials, the building is also a notable example of the Craftsman style of architecture and a rare example of historic recreational architecture in Scituate. The field house possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Historical Significance

Incorporated in 1636, Scituate's economy was based on shipbuilding and fishing well into the 19th century. By the late 19th century, however, the town's relatively shallow North River was unable to accommodate construction of the larger ships that came into demand. In the same period, the mackerel fishing in which the town specialized also declined sharply. Although shoe and boot manufacturing filled some of the economic gap, production of these items peaked in 1865. In 1871, however, the arrival of the Cohasset and Duxbury Railroad brought forth intense summer resort activity and eventually a year-round population base of commuter residents.

The area in North Scituate in which this property is located, known as Gannett's Corner, was first settled in the mid 17th century. A dense cluster of houses appeared here by the early 19th century, with residents attracted by a nearby iron foundry, sawmill, and gristmill. The area grew dramatically with the coming of the railroad in 1871, and by the early 20th century, it was well developed with houses, shops, a post office, and railroad station. The railroad stop, located at the southeast corner of Gannett Road and Country Way, drew summer residents and visitors to North Scituate, as well as local families who built houses and businesses to take advantage of the area's growing popularity. Seavern's Country Store, for example, was built for a grocery in the late 19th century and occupies the northwest corner of the intersection of Country Way and Henry Turner Bailey Road.

Henry Turner Bailey Road was established between 1931 and 1935 as a spur road connecting Gannett's Corner with the new Route 3A—a modern automobile highway that still serves as a primary north/south route on Boston's South Shore. Around the same time that Henry Turner Bailey Road was laid out, the town of Scituate erected on this property the extant pump station, a small brick structure in a simplified Classical Revival style, which serviced an underground water line under the new roadway. The pump station is historically, functionally, and stylistically unrelated, however, to the park that was constructed to the east of it.

Scituate's growing summer and year-round populations coincided in the early 20th century with three new cultural trends: increased leisure time, interest in health and fitness, and increased concern for the welfare of children. Between the world wars, when the local population increased by more than 50%, the town built two new recreational areas—one at Sand Hills, where an area of summer cottages opened in 1910, and one in North Scituate, which contains the WPA Field House.

The North Scituate recreational area was developed with major assistance from the federal Works Progress Administration. The Park Commissioners report for 1937 (p. 315) states "At North Scituate, we made a park, which we

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

called Bound Brook Park. Due to the town widening of Henry Turner Bailey Road, the park was slightly damaged, but next spring we intend to greatly improve it."

Indeed, the park was intensively developed in 1938 and 1939, filling a need for active recreational uses and also providing much-needed employment during the Great Depression. In March of 1938, town meeting voted to transfer the property on which the field house stands to the Park Department "for the purpose of erecting and maintaining thereon four tennis courts and other recreational facilities[,] and raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000... to defray expenses for same" (Annual Report for 1938, p. 71). In the same year, the Planning Board voted "to go on record as favoring study of additional supervised playground facilities for the children of Scituate" (*ibid*, p. 177). Land at the Sand Hills area, to the east, was purchased by the town two years later for a public bathing beach, playground, and recreation center.

The North Scituate recreational facility was an important economic investment for Scituate, which leveraged a much larger contribution of \$23,500 from WPA funds. As noted by the town's WPA agent in his report for 1938,

Scituate has been particularly fortunate during the year in having approved WPA Projects covering a wider range of labor employed than heretofore. One project,— the North Scituate Recreational Centre, on Henry Turner Bailey Road, employed a larger number of classified workmen than any other previously operated WPA project in Scituate, and this work is expected to continue well into the forthcoming year. (*ibid*, p. 169)

The federal WPA project files for 1938 note the effort to "develop a recreational area in the Town of Scituate, Plymouth County, including constructing tennis and volleyball courts, paths, steps, seats, stands, shelters, horse shoe pits, shuffle boards, parking area, walls, and field house; erecting fence; installing drains; laying pipes; cutting fill; grading; and performing incidental and appurtenant work. Town-owned property."

The Selectmen's Report for 1938 observed that "the new Recreational Park at North Scituate being built under a W.P.A. Project, although incomplected [*sic*] at this writing[,] already shows promise of its fulfillment as an ideal playground and recreational center for that section of the Town" (*ibid*, p. 13). The 1939 Town Report confirms that work on this new recreational facility—including the "Field House, Tennis Courts and other facilities for games"—began in August 1938 and was completed in December 1939 (contrary to the plaque on the field house, which states "Built by Works Progress Administration 1937-1938") (1939 Town Report, p. 58). The 1939 Town Meeting entertained an unsuccessful motion to rename the park as the Henry Turner Bailey Playground, in honor of one of North Scituate's most prominent residents during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The original site plans for the North Scituate recreational area accommodated a variety of activities. Parking spaces for 20 to 30 cars were set along Henry Turner Bailey Road. To the south was a group of tennis courts, almost completely encircled by a stone wall. Two basketball/volleyball courts and two shuffleboard courts are shown in the space behind the tennis courts and to the west of the field house. Gravel paths lined the back (south) and west side of the tennis courts. Another path ran between Henry Turner Bailey Road and the entrance to the field house, passing the tennis courts on the west and a horseshoe pit, seat and shelter, and water fountain on the east.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

The tennis and basketball courts were constructed but have been removed, and a small, child-powered, merry-go-round recently stood to the east of the original path from the road to the Field House. It is not known if the gravel paths around the tennis courts, or the horseshoe pit, seat and shelter, or water fountain were actually built. Of the landscape features shown on the 1938 plan, only three stone walls (or portions thereof), two small sets of fieldstone steps on the south side of the retaining wall between the lawn and the tennis courts, and the fieldstone steps up to the field house entrance survive. A commuter rail parking lot has recently replaced the tennis courts.

The original plans and specifications for the WPA Field House indicate that the basement was used for storage and a workroom, with tools and a workbench labeled there on the architectural drawings. The main room on the ground floor is labeled "Storage and Club Room." Tennis matches were reportedly viewed from lawn chairs on the spacious porch, and tennis lessons were held at the courts each summer. The basketball courts, shuffleboards, and playground equipment were used until several years ago, but the building was used as a field house only until about 1960. It subsequently hosted community band rehearsals, recreation department programs for children, and meetings of various community groups, such as the PTA, Boy Scouts, and local art association.

The architect for the WPA Field House was M. Joseph Milano, who resided in the Roslindale section of Boston with his mother and five adult siblings. Milano is listed in the Boston directories from 1930 through 1945, although he is described as an architect for only part of that time (1938 and 1940). Prior to that, his occupation is listed as clerk (1930) and draftsman (1935); by 1945 he was a member of the United States Army. No separate business address is given for Milano in any of the directories; he may have been self-employed and/or unemployed through much of the Depression.

The Works Progress Administration was created in 1935 by executive order of President Franklin Roosevelt (from July 1939 onward, it was known as the Works Projects Administration). In a detailed 1943 study of *The WPA and Federal Relief Policy*, the WPA is described as

... the administrative agency responsible for providing employment on socially useful projects for as many needy unemployed workers meeting prescribed eligibility requirements as can be given jobs with funds appropriated by Congress for this purpose from year to year. As such it has been one of the most highly praised and bitterly denounced agencies in the country. (Howard, p. 105)

In a public poll conducted in 1939, the WPA was concurrently named both "the greatest accomplishment" and the "worst thing" done by the Roosevelt administration (*ibid*, p. 105). It became one of the most famous of Roosevelt's New Deal programs because of its widespread and unprecedented impact on American society.

The extent of unemployment during the Great Depression called forth a number of relief programs that altered historic American ideals of individual self-sufficiency and independence. Major public relief programs of this period included Social Security benefits to the old, dependent children, and the blind; farm security grants; the Works Progress Administration; and a short period from 1933-1936 of Federal welfare assistance to needy individuals and families outside of the first three categories.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

The WPA program was the most broad-based of these four programs, providing assistance to people in all areas of the country and of all social and economic classes, for projects addressing public health, infrastructure, building construction, job training, education, and arts and culture. During its lifetime, the WPA was estimated to have provided jobs to more than 8,000,000 different individuals—one-fifth of all the workers in the country at the time—with indirect benefits extending to 25 to 30 million individuals (including spouses and children), or about one of every four or five persons then living in the U.S (Howard, p. 33). More than \$11 billion was spent, and more than a quarter of a million projects were undertaken in the WPA's first six years (Howard, p. 125, 129).

WPA projects were undertaken in conjunction with state and local agencies (or other public agencies), known as sponsors, which had significant roles in administering the projects and were responsible for approximately one-fourth of project costs (Howard, p.30). WPA construction projects included the beautification of cemeteries and roadways; construction and improvement of highways, streets, bridges, viaducts, and airport runways; construction of and repairs to water and sewer service; and the construction or rehabilitation of libraries, schools, auditoriums, recreational facilities, stadiums, and other public buildings.

Of the \$11.4 billion spent on WPA projects through June 1941, more than \$4 billion was for highway and road projects and more than \$1 billion on public buildings (Howard, p.129). As of February 1940, construction and engineering projects accounted for more than three-quarters of all employment provided through the WPA, and public buildings provided employment for 7% of the workers employed (Howard, p.129). Statistics showed that "public buildings constructed or reconstructed [through the WPA] included more than 110,000 public libraries, schools, auditoriums, or other public buildings. If only the *new* buildings constructed were distributed evenly among the 3,000 counties in the United States, each could have had about ten"(Howard, p.128). More than 15,000 parks and recreational areas and facilities were built or improved. The goals of the WPA were to employ workers in areas in which they were skilled—white collar to blue collar—and to give work only to people competent to perform their particular assignment.

The New Deal encompassed other building-related programs as well, but these had more focused goals and their influence was more limited in scale. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), for example, was established in 1933 as part of the National Park Service, contemporaneous with the initial restoration of Williamsburg and the establishment of the first historic districts in the United States. HABS's mission was to preserve the past through the documentation of endangered, culturally significant properties, while also providing unemployment relief to the architects and draftsman who were hired to study, measure, draw, and photograph historic buildings.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), also established in 1933, was oriented primarily toward land conservation and the employment specifically of young men. The enabling legislation for the CCC called for employing 300,000 young men between the ages of 18 and 25 (later extended to ages 17 to 28) in camps administered by the army; approximately 2 million men eventually took part in the program. CCC programs included planting trees to reduce soil erosion, mapping the locations of different species of timber, fighting forest fires, eliminating stream pollution, and creating fish, bird, and game sanctuaries. As part of their work in maintaining forests and parks, the CCC also built structures such as observation towers, lodges, and camp cabins in a rustic style that was similar to, but generally simpler than, WPA buildings.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

The WPA was disbanded in 1943, as wartime production expanded private employment and increased prosperity enough to make the Works Projects Administration unnecessary. The agency's impact continued much longer, however. The extension of federal responsibility to the improvement of general welfare indicated a new kind of social consciousness in the United States. Moreover, memories of the economic downturn following World War I led the government to begin to plan, even as the WPA was ending, for the social and economic consequences of post-World War II, peace-time unemployment.

In this context, Massachusetts had a very high share of employees, and many tangible projects to show for it. Approximately 150 WPA properties are included in Massachusetts' *Inventory of Historic Assets*; five of these are identified as field houses. A small number of walls, fields, and other park structures built by the WPA are also listed in the statewide Inventory. Other WPA-funded projects in Scituate included insect control, indexing and new systems of town records, installation of water mains, roadway improvement and construction, construction of fire trails, conservation of shade trees, and distribution of surplus food and clothing.

The field house is the only known building in Scituate that was constructed through the WPA, and represents the town's most conspicuous reminder of this program. The only other known examples of recreational buildings in Scituate include a handful of utilitarian buildings used by beach associations for their meetings, and a nondescript, wood-frame building at the Sand Hills Recreation Center that was constructed in the mid 20th century.

Typical Craftsman-style features employed within the WPA Field House include simple volumes and massing, a prominent roof with integral porch, the use of cobblestone and other indigenous building materials, restrained detailing, and an open floor plan. The design exemplifies the simplicity and honest use of materials that were hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement, and the design is especially fitting in a recreational facility with progressive ideals for improving both individuals and society.

Vacant since 1981, the WPA Field House is undergoing restoration and reuse as a visitors and community center by the privately organized Scituate Visitors Center, Inc. The Town of Scituate continues to own both the building and the surrounding land that comprise this property, including the commuter rail parking lot.

Archaeological Significance

While ancient Native American sites have been identified within the coastal zone of Scituate, patterns of Native occupation in the town as a whole remain poorly documented. In coastal areas few sites have been systematically studied, leaving researchers with mostly locational information for subsistence and settlement studies. Only studies of artifact collections have gone beyond these limitations to produce regional, local, and intrasite studies that indicate the temporal and functional range of sites in the area. Given the above information, any ancient resources that survive on the WPA Field House property could be significant. Native American resources on the nominated property can be significant by providing systematically studied examples of local ancient resources. This information can be used to help interpret extensive surface collections assembled over the past 75 years or more from ancient sites in the area. These studies can

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

help us better understand the full range of site types and functions present in the coastal zone area, and their relationship to more interior areas of the town and region. Information might also be present on prehistoric sites that help better understand the importance of the area to early Colonial inhabitants and the reasons why they settled in this locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the full range of recreational and support activities conducted and their internal configuration within the North Scituate recreational area located on the WPA Field House property. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may verify if and where designed recreational activities were constructed and their role in the early 20th-century suburban development of Scituate. Historical and archaeological resources may also contribute important information related to the influence of the WPA in the design and construction of buildings and structures within the facility. Stratigraphic evidence may help locate landscape features and determine the extent of grading and/or filling prior to construction of the WPA Field House and recreational area.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

Internet Resources

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(end)

WPA Field House
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property five acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 352480 4675360
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

— 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 Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2009

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Town of Scituate, MA / Town of Scituate Water Division

street & number Town Hall, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Way telephone 781-545-8740

city or town Scituate state MA zip code 02066

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

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**WPA Field House
Scituate (Plymouth), MA**

Section number 10, photos Page 1

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Scituate Assessors' Map 12 (enclosed), lots 18A and 18B. The total lot area is five acres.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel owned by the town of Scituate and historically associated with the WPA Field House. Although the northern portion of the site is now occupied by a commuter rail parking lot, the layout of the parking lot coincides with the site of earlier tennis courts. While the use of this portion of the site has changed, this part of the property has always been characterized by a paved ground surface.

(end)

Digital Photographs

The images below are represented in 5 x 7" black and white prints. Photograph taken in September 2008 by Wendy Frontiero, 32 Abbott Street, Beverly, Mass.

1. Field House, N and E facades, looking SE
2. Field House, parking lot, looking NW
3. Field House, N and E facades, looking SE
4. Field House, S façade detail, looking N
5. Field House, detail front porch, looking NW
6. Field House, detail stone pillar, playground, looking N
7. Field House, rear (W) elevation, looking NE
8. Fieldstone retaining wall
9. Pump House, parking lot entrance, looking W
10. Pump House, N and E facades, looking W

WPA FIELD HOUSE

7-19 Henry Turner Bailey Road,
Scituate (Plymouth County), Mass.

Data Sheet

Resource	Date	Materials	Type of Resource	Status
WPA Field House	1938-39	Granite field stone; concrete foundation; slate roof shingles	Building	C
WPA Field House plaque	ca. 1938	Bronze	Object	C
Pump Station	ca. 1935	Brick; slate roof	Structure	NC
Retaining wall (south boundary of property)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Retaining wall (east/west through center of property)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Retaining wall (north/south between field house and pump station sites)	1938-39	Field stone	Structure	C
Steps at front of field house	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Steps adjacent to east/west retaining wall (#1)	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Steps adjacent to east/west retaining wall (#2)	1938-39	Cobble stone	Structure	C
Total number of resources				8 contributing; 1 non-contributing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY WPA Field House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 7/02/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/09

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000355

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

TELEPHONE

DISCIPLINE

DATE

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

JUL 02 2009

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 10, 2009

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following revised nomination form:

WPA Field House, 7 Henry Turner Bailey Road, Scituate (Plymouth), MA

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

We request that the name of the previously submitted nomination be changed to reflect its chief contributing feature, and the change of status for the adjacent pump station from contributing to noncontributing, according to the direction of our NR reviewer, Patrick Andrus.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Wendy Frontiero, consultant
Scituate Water Department
Richard Murray, Scituate Board of Selectmen
Douglas Smith, Scituate Historical Commission
Donald Walter, Scituate Planning Board