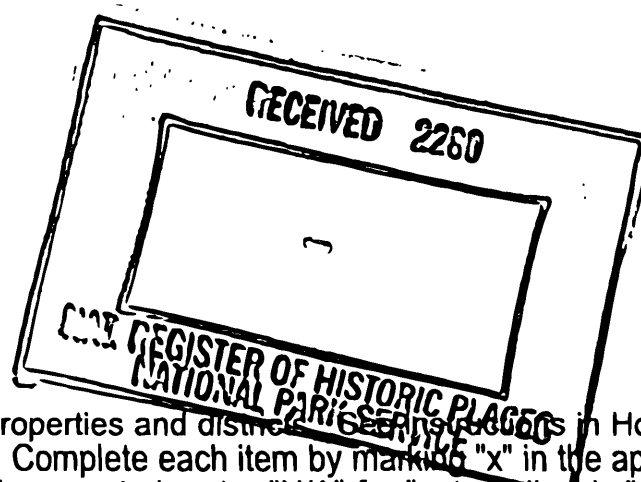


1460

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 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 Osborn-Bennett Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1137, 1148, 1168, 1188 Main Road not for publication

city or town Tiverton vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Newport code 005 zip code 02878

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Frederic C. Williams 9/14/2005
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
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 the 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
 See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- other (explain)

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall 12-22-05
Date of Action

Osborn-Bennett Historic District
Name of Property

Newport County, Rhode Island
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	1	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
13	1	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Federal

Italianate

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE:granite; CONCRETE

walls WOOD:shingle; WOOD:weatherboard; STONE

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK; METAL:iron

Narrative Description

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

Osborn-Bennett Historic District
Name of Property

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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.)

- agriculture
- architecture
- community planning and development

Period of Significance

ca. 1790 – ca. 1941

Significant Dates

ca. 1790, Thomas Osborn House built; ca. 1822, Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House built; ca 1845, Osborn House and Judge Joseph Osborn House built

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Rhode Island Historical Society Library

Osborn-Bennett Historic District
Name of Property

Newport County, Rhode Island
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 27 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	3	1	6	3	2	4	4	6	1	2	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing											
2	1	9	3	1	7	5	8	8	4	6	1	2	1	5	8

3	1	9	3	1	7	5	3	4	4	6	1	2	1	5	2
Zone	Easting			Northing											
4	1	9	3	1	6	7	0	1	4	6	1	2	2	4	6

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 Joanna M. Doherty, Architectural Historian; Virginia H. Adams, Senior Architectural Historian

organization PAL date July 2001

street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue telephone 401 728-8780

city or town Pawtucket state RI zip code 02860

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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DESCRIPTION

The Osborn-Bennett Historic District is a small, linear district located along Main Road in Tiverton, Rhode Island. The area is bounded by the Route 24 on-ramp on the south and extends north to include 1188, 1168, and 1148 Main Road on the east side of the street and 1137 Main Road on the west side. The district contains four houses, nine associated outbuildings or ruins, a cemetery, and landscape features such as open fields and stone walls.

Main Road is a busy, north-south thoroughfare that dates to around 1683 and links Tiverton with Fall River, Massachusetts, to the north (Nebiker 1983:8). The tree-lined road curves gently to the east as it moves north through the district. The district's landscape is characterized by gently rolling terrain; the southernmost properties at 1188 and 1168 Main Road are sited on land that is level with the road, while the northernmost properties at 1148 and 1137 Main Road are slightly elevated.

All of the residential properties included in the district are wood-frame buildings dating from the late-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. They include good, local examples of the Federal and Italianate styles. All of the properties include outbuildings dating from the historic period. The neighborhood surrounding the district is residential, and includes properties dating from the nineteenth through the late-twentieth centuries.

INVENTORY

Main Road

1137 Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House (ca. 1822): is located at Block 51, Lot 18, on the west side of Main Road at the north end of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District. The residence (Photograph 1) is set back approximately 45 feet from the road, on an approximately 1.7-acre lot that slopes down toward the Sakonnet River to the west. The lot is landscaped with grass, trees, and shrubs, and features stone walls on its perimeter. A driveway is located to the south of, and lower than, the house due to a southerly slope at that portion of the parcel.

The dwelling is a small, east-facing, one-and-one-half-story, Federal style house. It consists of a rectangular-plan, five-bay-wide, side-gable main block that is approximately 30 feet wide and 26 feet deep. An approximately 14-foot by 18-foot, one-story, front-gable ell extends west off the north end of the rear elevation. Although possibly not original to the residence, the ell has been in place since at least 1895 (Everts & Richards 1895). An approximately 12-foot by 22-foot deck is located at the intersection of the main block and ell. A modern, one-story, side-gable ell extends off the north elevation of the west ell. Judging by a photo of the residence that is included in *Early Homes of Rhode Island*, first published in 1936, the roof was replaced or altered at some point after

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1936. As a result, the pitch of the rear slope of the roof was raised and exposed rafter tails were installed. The main block and west ell rest on a stone foundation that is exposed on the south elevation, while the north ell rests on poured concrete. The building's roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and its walls are clad in wood shingles. The primary entrance is located in the center bay of the five-bay-wide facade, and consists of a simple wood-plank door with simple wood trim. A secondary basement entrance is housed within an enclosed, gabled entry that is located in the center bay of the south elevation. Fenestration of the main block consists primarily of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows with simple wood trim and slightly projecting sills and flared lintels. The west ell features replacement casement-sash windows. The north ell features modern, 6/6, wood-sash windows with wood trim that matches that of the main block. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap pierces the ridge of the main roof, at the center bay. Other notable exterior architectural features include the building's plain wood corner boards and its visible rafter tails. The existing front door, window and door trim, corner boards, and the 6/6, double-hung windows at the main facade were in place by the 1930s (*Early Homes of Rhode Island* 1977:102-103).

In addition to the dwelling, the property at 1137 Main Road includes a one-and-one-half-story barn (Photograph 2) located to the south of the residence. It rests on a stone foundation and is topped by an asphalt-shingled, side-gable roof. The barn's exterior walls are sheathed in wood shingles, with the exception of the west elevation, which features wood clapboards. A pair of vertical wood-plank sliding doors hung from a top-mounted track is located on the south end of the east elevation. A pair of vertical wood-plank hinged doors occupies the center bay of the north elevation. Fenestration consists of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows with simple wood trim. The barn is built into a hillside, and therefore has a raised foundation on its west elevation. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the barn was built in the mid- to late nineteenth century. Wood shingles became popular as wall sheathing in the 1830s, and sliding barn doors were introduced in the 1850s (Visser 1997:30-35). In addition, the barn appears on the 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards.

- 1148** **Osborn House (ca. 1845):** is located at Block 92, Lot 14, across the street from 1137 Main Road. The dwelling (Photograph 3) is sited on a slightly elevated, quarter-acre lot and is set back approximately 60 feet from, and at an angle to, the road. The lot is landscaped with grass, trees, and shrubs, and has a low, stone retaining wall along Main Road. In 1991, the lot was set off from a much larger parcel, the remainder of which is now Block 92/Lot 14a.

The large, west-facing, one-and-one-half-story, Italianate style house was constructed circa 1845. It includes a rectangular-plan, five-bay-wide, side-gable-roofed, main block that is approximately 30 feet wide and 20 feet deep. A one-story, flat-roof porch wraps around the west and north elevations of the main block. An approximately 40-foot-long ell, constructed some time before 1895, extends off the east elevation of the main block (Everts & Richards 1895). Built into a

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Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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hillside, the ell is two stories tall. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the northern half of the ell may have been added some time after 1895. Unlike the gabled southern half, the northern half features a flat roof. In addition, the 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards shows the ell to be narrower than existing conditions. A small, flat-roof porch is located on the south elevation of the ell, at its intersection with the main block. The dwelling's foundation is of stone, its roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and its exterior walls are clad with wood shingles and clapboards. The primary entrance is located within the wrap-around porch, in the center bay of the five-bay-wide main facade. It consists of a wood door with a large plate-glass window and simple wood trim. Secondary entrances are located at the south porch and on the south and north elevations of the rear ell, at ground level. Fenestration consists of tall, narrow window openings with simple wood trim and slightly projecting sills and drip caps. The openings are filled with 6/6, 2/2, 2/1, and 1/1, double-hung, wood-sash units. A projecting, cross-gable dormer is located in the center of the main facade. It is flanked by two small, gabled wall dormers. Projecting bay windows are located on the building's north and south elevations, immediately to the rear of the main block. The residence has four brick chimneys: two interior end chimneys at the ridge of the main block, and two on the ridge of the rear ell. Other notable exterior architectural features include carved-wood roof brackets and elaborate turned-wood balusters and posts on the wrap-around porch.

An 18.5-acre parcel located at **Block 92/Lot 14a** surrounds the residence at 1148 Main Road on the north, east, and south. Now a largely empty lot, it was united with Block 92/Lot 14 until 1991, at which time the house at 1148 Main Road was sold with a quarter-acre of land. The property retains much of its agricultural character. The western portion features rolling, grassy fields dotted with mature trees and delineated by numerous low, fieldstone walls. The eastern portion, which abuts Route 24 on its south, is now largely wooded, with well-preserved, three- to four-foot-tall stone walls that demarcate the property boundaries and former agricultural fields. In addition, numerous outbuildings that were once associated with the Osborn farm remain on this property. These include a small, one-story **barn** (Photograph 4) located to the east of 1148 Main Road. This front-gabled building is sheathed in wood shingles and features a barn door and pedestrian pass door in its west elevation. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the barn dates from the mid- to late nineteenth century. Front-gable barns became common beginning in the 1830s, around which time wood shingles became popular sheathing materials (Visser 1997:30-33, 74-75).

An early-twentieth-century, front-gable **garage** is located to the southwest of 1148 Main Road. It is sheathed in wood shingles and has two paneled garage doors in its north elevation. The **ruins of an outbuilding** are located immediately to the west of the garage, and consist of remnants of wood-shingled walls and a stone foundation. The **ruins of a barn** are located to the south of 1148 Main Road, and consist of portions of four approximately three-foot-tall stone walls. These two sets of ruins likely date from the mid- to late nineteenth century, when the property was being farmed by the Osborn family. The 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards shows an L-shaped barn in the general vicinity of the barn ruins. In addition, a small, one-story, mid-twentieth-century **shed** is

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Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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located to the immediate southeast of the barn ruins. It features an asphalt-shingled, front-gable roof and exterior walls of board and batten.

- 1168** **Thomas Osborn House (ca. 1790):** is located on Block 92, Lot 15, immediately to the south of 1148 Main Road. The residence (Photograph 5) is set back approximately 35 feet from the road, on an approximately four-acre lot that stretches back to the Route 24 on-ramp. The extensive property includes wooded areas as well as open fields, and is landscaped with grass, trees, and shrubs. Fieldstone walls are located along the perimeter of the property, and a cut-stone retaining wall and iron fence are located along the Main Road property boundary. A long dirt and gravel road is located to the south of the residence, leading to the rear of the property and the Osborn family cemetery, described below.

The large, west-facing, two-story, Federal style dwelling was constructed circa 1790. It includes a rectangular-plan, five-bay-wide, side-gable main block that is approximately 36 feet wide and 28 feet deep. An approximately 16-foot by 20-foot, two-story, front-gable ell extends off the north end of the rear elevation. A one-story, front-gable ell with sliding barn doors on its south elevation, measuring approximately 16 feet by 20 feet, extends off the rear elevation of the two-story ell. This ell's east wall has an attached, one-story, wood-framed privy that is heavily deteriorated. Historic research and visual analysis indicate that the two-story ell dates from some time before 1895, when it appears on the Everts & Richards atlas, and may be original to the building. The map does not provide sufficient detail to determine whether the one-story ell was in place by that time. The dwelling has a stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled roof, and exterior walls clad in wood shingles. The primary entrance is located in the center bay of the five-bay-wide main facade and consists of a four-panel wood door with a six-light transom. The elaborate wood door surround includes fluted pilasters with ogee bases and a wide, molded cornice with drip cap. The door features a metal knocker that bears the last name of Thomas Osborn's great-great-grandson, Isaac T. Haddock, who occupied the house in the 1930s (Armstrong 1937:96; Armstrong 1941:133; Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:72). Secondary entrances are located in the east elevation of the main block and in the south elevation of the two-story ell, at the second-floor-level. Fenestration consists primarily of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows with simple wood trim with slightly projecting sills. A two-story, flat-roof projecting bay, probably added in the late-nineteenth century, is located on the south elevation of the main block (Garman 1983:30). The building features three brick chimneys: a large, center, ridge chimney in the main block; a small chimney on the south slope of the north ell's roof; and an exterior end chimney on the east elevation of the one-story ell. Other notable exterior architectural features include the building's simple cornice trim and gable-end cornice returns.

In addition to the residence, the property at 1168 Main Road includes two outbuildings and a cemetery. A large, rambling, south-facing barn (Photograph 6) is located to the east of the

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dwelling. It includes a rectangular-plan, one-and-one-half-story, timber-framed, stone-walled barn with a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof. A pair of sliding wood doors is located on the south elevation. The stone building features wood clapboards in its gable peaks. A small, one-story, side-gable ell extends off the main barn's west elevation. Sheathed in wood clapboards and vertical boards, the ell rests on a raised stone foundation and is elevated several feet off the ground, allowing access to its basement level. A one-story, side-gable ell extends off the east elevation of the main barn. Sheathed in wood clapboards, the east ell houses three garage bays. A brick chimney pierces the ridge of its roof. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the stone barn is the earliest component of the barn, and that it dates from the mid-nineteenth century. Sliding barn doors became common around 1850, and the building appears on the 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards (Visser 1997:33-36). The west ell was likely added in the late nineteenth century, while the east ell probably dates from the mid- to late twentieth century (Osborn 2001).

A small, one-story **shed** is located to the west of the barn. The north-facing, front-gable building is sheathed in wood clapboards and features a center-bay door with a shed-roof hood at its three-bay-wide main facade. The entry is flanked by window openings that are currently boarded up. The east and west elevations of the shed each feature two pairs of 6/6, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The south elevation has a single, boarded-up window opening. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the shed, which appears to be included on the 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards, was constructed in the late nineteenth century (Everts & Richards 1895).

The **Osborn family cemetery** (Photograph 7) is located to the southeast of the residence, at the end of a long dirt and gravel road. The land surrounding the cemetery is characterized by woods and open fields. The Route 24 on-ramp abuts the cemetery to the southeast, though the road is at a significantly lower elevation. The cemetery perimeter is approximately 45 feet square, and it includes about 35 grave markers arranged in rows within its approximately three-foot-tall stone walls. An entrance, marked by an iron gate, is located near the east end of the north wall. Most of the grave markers are made of granite, though some iron examples exist. Decorative motifs are limited to simple scrollwork and borders. A large granite monument erected by Judge Joseph Osborn in 1883 in honor of his parents, Thomas and Ann Osborn, is located at the west end of the cemetery. Its inscription reads:

This monument is erected to the memory of Thomas and his wife Ann Osborn, by their son Joseph Osborn A.D. 1883. This burial lot is conveyed by Thomas and Joseph Osborn, by deed, dated March 27, 1874 recorded April 6, 1874, Book 25, pages 164-166, to the council of Tiverton and their successors, in trust for a burial ground, for descendants of Thomas and Ann Osborn. Also right of way to pass and repass from the road by the driftway as it now is.

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Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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The earliest grave is that of Captain Thomas Osborn, the first owner of the property at 1168 Main Road, who died in 1833. The most recent is that of Mary Macomber, the wife of Henry Clay Osborn, Jr., who died in 1972. Other markers indicate the graves of members of the Haddock, Burdick, Gardner, and Brackett families, all of whom married into the Osborn family (Rhode Island Historical Society, n.d.).

1188 **Judge Joseph Osborn House (ca. 1845):** is located on Block 92 Lot 16, to the immediate south of 1168 Main Road. The house (Photograph 8) is set back approximately 60 feet from the road, on an approximately 2.3-acre lot. Fieldstone walls mark the property boundaries. The Route 24 on-ramp, constructed in the 1960s, cut diagonally through the original property, and now forms its southern boundary. The property is landscaped with grass, trees, and shrubs.

The large, west-facing, two-and-one-half-story, Italianate style dwelling was erected around 1845. It consists of a rectangular-plan, two-and-one-half-story, front-gable-roofed main block that is approximately 22 feet wide and 54 feet deep. A one-story, flat-roof porch wraps around the west and south elevations of the main block. A two-story projecting bay is located roughly in the center of the south elevation, and a small, one-story, hip-roof, enclosed entry porch extends off the south end of the east elevation. Although the majority of the building rests on a stone foundation, rusticated concrete blocks support the wrap-around porch. The building's roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and its exterior walls are clad in a combination of wood shingles and clapboards. The primary entrance is located in the first bay of the three-bay-wide main facade, within the entry porch. It consists of a single modern door set within a wide opening that has been partially filled in. Wood pilasters mark the edges of the original door opening. Fenestration consists primarily of 1/1, double-hung, metal-sash windows with simple wood trim with slightly projecting sills and lintels, though some round, modern window openings are located on the building's north elevation. Two brick chimneys pierce the ridge of the gable roof. Other notable exterior architectural features include the building's gable-end cornice returns and elaborate wrap-around porch. The porch features turned-wood balusters; square wood posts with flared capitals and scroll-work brackets; and decorative wood brackets at its eaves. Its stairs and floor are of poured concrete.

The house at 1188 Main Road has experienced a number of alterations since the time of its construction. An interior inspection of the residence reveals that the rear part of the main block, from just behind the projecting bay on the south elevation, was added at some point after the building's initial construction, probably in the late nineteenth century. The 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards indicates that at the time the house had a substantial ell that extended off the north elevation of the main block. None of the early twentieth-century maps that were consulted include this part of Tiverton, and it is therefore difficult to determine when the ell was removed. It had definitely been removed by 1953, however, by which time the property had essentially the same

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Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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footprint as today, although the porch wrapped around part of the north elevation at the time. At some point between 1953 and 1966, the northern portion of the porch was removed (RIDPW 1953, 1966). The original porch flooring and steps were replaced with poured concrete at some point before 1959 (Melcher 2001).

In addition to the residence, the property at 1188 Main Road includes a large **barn/garage**, located to the southeast of the dwelling. It is made up of a one-story, rectangular-plan, front-gable, wood-shingled barn/garage; a one-story, gabled, concrete-block ell that extends off the west elevation of the barn/garage; and two connected, one-story, wood-shingled sheds that extend off the north elevation of the ell. Visual analysis and historic research indicate that the front-gable, wood-shingled portion of the barn/garage was constructed in two phases. The southern half of the structure, which is built partly into a hill to the south, features a stone foundation, while the northern half rests on poured concrete. An interior inspection reveals that there are two side-by-side center posts at the rear elevation, where the later, northern half abuts the pre-existing, southern half of the structure. The southern half was likely built around the same time as the house, at which time the land was being farmed by Joseph Osborn. It was definitely in place by 1895, when an outbuilding appears in its general location on the map by Everts & Richards. The northern half of the structure likely dates from the early twentieth century; it was definitely in place by 1959, when the property was purchased by George and Eleanor Melcher. During this period, two sets of carriage doors were located in the building's west elevation. The southern pair were removed in the 1960s, while the northern pair survived until the late 1970s. Currently, there are four plate-glass windows and a single door in the west facade, though the outlines of the former garage door openings are still evident in the wall sheathing. The concrete-block ell, built around 1960 as a shooting range for the Rhode Island Marksmen's Association, features wood shingles in its gable peaks. A pair of modern doors is located in its east elevation. Two connected wood-shingled sheds, built in the late-1970s, extend off the north elevation of the concrete-block ell. The southern shed has a shallow-pitched, side-gable roof, and features a single, double-hung window in its east elevation and a garage door flanked by two windows in its west elevation. The northern shed is topped by a shed roof and its west elevation includes a pedestrian door with two windows to its south (Melcher 2001).

(end)

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Property name Osborn-Bennett Historic District, Newport County, Rhode Island

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Osborn-Bennett Historic District reflects Tiverton's evolution from an eighteenth-century agricultural town to a modern suburban community. Consisting of a coherent group of well-preserved historic buildings, the district contains excellent, local examples of the Federal and Italianate styles. The district includes four dwellings, dating from circa 1790 to circa 1845; nine associated outbuildings and ruins, most of which date from the historic period; the Osborn family cemetery, located to the rear of the original Osborn homestead at 1168 Main Road; and landscape features such as open fields and stone walls. The period of significance extends from ca. 1790, when the earliest house was constructed in the district, to ca. 1941, the date of the last directory consulted in which Henry Clay Osborn, Jr., a descendant of Thomas Osborn, is listed as a cattle dealer at 1148 Main Road, indicating the enduring importance of agriculture in the district.

Tiverton was first settled by English colonists during the seventeenth century. The area was originally among the lands granted to Plymouth Colony by royal charter. In 1691 Plymouth was united with the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and three years later the town of Tiverton was incorporated. Tiverton remained a part of Massachusetts until 1746-47, at which time it was transferred to the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and became part of Newport County (Nebiker 1983:1). The town's current boundaries were not established until 1862, when a portion of the town's north end was transferred to the city of Fall River, Massachusetts (Nebiker 1983:10).

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the economy of Tiverton was based primarily on agriculture. Commercial pursuits expanded in the later half of the seventeenth century as transportation routes were improved. During this period, several ferries began to operate between Tiverton and Aquidneck Island. Main Road, which forms the spine of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District, was laid out around 1683, providing a direct overland route between Tiverton Four Corners to the south and Fall River, Massachusetts to the north. In the 1700s, Tiverton grew into a relatively prosperous agricultural community, and its economy expanded to include maritime activities (Nebiker 1983:8-9). The Stone Bridge was constructed near a ferry landing to the south of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District in 1794-95. Subsequently, a settlement known as Stone Bridge Village developed, becoming one of the largest villages in the town (Nebiker 1983:15, 54).

While Stone Bridge Village developed into a relatively dense commercial center, the area around the Osborn-Bennett Historic District remained primarily agricultural and more sparsely settled well into the twentieth century. The Osborn-Bennett Historic District is located to the west of a rock ledge and east of the Sakonnet River, and is characterized by relatively flat, arable land suitable for farming. The presence of Main Road, which provided farmers with a means of transporting their goods to market, would have been an additional attraction for early settlers. The land that comprises the eastern part of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District was settled in the late-eighteenth century by Thomas Osborn. The **Thomas Osborn House at 1168 Main Road** was erected around 1790. Edward Bennett established his home and farm across the street from the

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Osborn homestead in the early-1800s, building the Federal-style **Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House at 1137 Main Road** around 1822. Thomas Osborn and Edward Bennett occupied their homes until their deaths in the 1830s, at which time the properties were passed to their children. The Thomas Osborn House has been continuously owned by members of the Osborn family ever since its construction; it is currently owned by Henry Clay Osborn IV and Jason W. Osborn, both great-great-grandsons of Thomas Osborn. In contrast, the Edward Bennett House left the Bennett family in the mid-1800s, passing through numerous owners. In 1867, it was sold to James Otis Hambly, whose descendants resided there into the mid-1900s. Around 1845, the Osborn family erected two other houses at the original family homestead: the **Judge Joseph Osborn House at 1188 Main Road** and the **Osborn House at 1148 Main Road**. Both properties remained in the hands of Osborn descendants until the mid- to late twentieth century.

Thomas Osborn (1766-1833), the first white settler in the Osborn-Bennett Historic District, was the fifth child of William and Elizabeth Shrieve Osborn of Newport. Thomas Osborn participated in Tiverton's maritime economy as a ship cooper. He purchased a large tract of land to develop as a homestead farm in the late-1700s, erecting the **Thomas Osborn House at 1168 Main Road** soon after (Beers 1908:1270; Nebiker 1983:75; Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:72, 78). Although the exact date of construction is not known, the dwelling has been dated to circa 1790 based on stylistic evidence. According to *Early Homes of Rhode Island*, "much of the molding detail about the dwelling suggests it to be definitely of the period preceding the beginning of the Nineteenth Century." In particular, the door surround resembles that of two Tiverton houses that date from before 1775 (*Early Homes of Rhode Island* 1977:102). With a five-bay-wide, two-story, side-gable main block; center-bay entry with transom lights; and center, ridge chimney, the property exhibits the massing and detailing that are hallmarks of the Federal style. In 1797, Thomas Osborn married Ann Durfee (1775-1845), and the couple had nine children, including Thomas Osborn, Jr. in 1800 and Joseph Osborn in 1803 (Beers 1908:1270).

Thomas Osborn died in 1833, at which time he was buried to the southeast of the residence, in what is now the **Osborn Family Cemetery**, an approximately 45-foot by 45-foot burial ground containing about 35 grave markers. Thomas Osborn was the first member of the family to be buried there. In 1883, his sons Joseph and Thomas conveyed the burial ground to the town and established a right-of-way along the existing dirt road. Joseph Osborn erected a large granite monument at the west end of the cemetery in that year, dedicating the burial ground to the descendants of his parents. It is possible that the stone walls and iron gate were installed around the same time. The cemetery remains in active use today. Though cemeteries are ordinarily excluded from the National Register, the Osborn Family Cemetery is an important historic feature, directly related to the history of the district, and an important source of genealogical information. In addition, the presence of a cemetery here on the Osborn family land reflects a typical Rhode Island pattern of burial in family graveyards (in contrast to Massachusetts towns, where cemeteries are typically located in church yards).

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Following Thomas Osborn's death in 1833, the Osborn family homestead appears to have been divided between two of Thomas Osborn's children, Thomas and Joseph. At the time, their mother, Ann, was still alive and some of their siblings were still young. It is likely that several members of the family remained at the homestead on Main Road at least until Ann's death in 1845. According to Walling's 1850 atlas, the property had passed to Thomas Osborn, Jr., by that time. Little information is available about Thomas Osborn, Jr. Headstones at the Osborn Family Cemetery indicate that he lived from 1800 to 1884, and was married to Elizabeth (1799-1833), who died while she was in her thirties. Like his father, Thomas Osborn, Jr., farmed the property on Main Road. According to the agricultural schedule of the United States census from 1850, he owned approximately 100 acres, about half of which were improved, supporting a variety of livestock, grains, and produce. At the time, the farm was valued at \$2,400 (United States Census 1850).

Thomas Osborn continued to reside in the house at 1168 Main Road until at least 1870, when "T. Osborne" appears on Beers' *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. After his death in 1884, the property passed to his daughter, Ann Eliza, and her husband, Henry B. Gardner, whose name appears on the 1895 atlas by Everts & Richards (Bayles 1888:962; Everts & Richards 1895). According to an 1894 agricultural directory of Rhode Island, Ann E. Gardner owned 275 acres in Tiverton; it is not clear whether all of the land was contiguous, or if the Gardners owned several lots in town (Sampson, Murdock, & Co. 1894:89). The Gardners continued to farm the property at 1168 Main Road well into the twentieth century. Henry Gardner is listed as a farmer on Main Road, near Evans Avenue, in the 1913-1914 Tiverton directory (Union Publishing Company 1913:39). Gravestones at the Osborn Family Cemetery indicate that Ann Gardner died in 1913, and Henry Gardner died two years later.

The property at 1168 Main Road continued to pass through the family; as of 1936, it was occupied by Isaac Haddock, a grandson of Henry and Ann Gardner and the great-great-grandson of Thomas Osborn, the dwelling's builder (Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:72). By the late-1930s, it appears that the property was no longer being farmed. The 1937 Tiverton directory lists Isaac T. Haddock, a vice president, as living on Main Road with his wife, Jennie B. (Armstrong 1937:96). Isaac Haddock died in 1941, leaving his widow in the home at 1168 Main Road (Armstrong 1941:133). His cousin, Henry Clay Osborn III, purchased the property in the 1940s and remains the owner today (Osborn 2001). The Thomas Osborn House retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Alterations to the residence include the addition of the rear ell, in place by 1895, and the bay window on the south elevation, which likely dates from the late-nineteenth century (Everts & Richards 1895). A photograph included in *Early Homes of Rhode Island*, originally published in 1936, indicates that the exterior of the residence has changed little since that time, retaining the same door, wood trim, and window sash (*Early Homes of Rhode Island* 1977:110). Likewise, the barn has survived largely intact, with the exception of the west ell, added in the late nineteenth century, and the east ell, which dates from the mid- to late twentieth century.

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Historic research and visual analysis indicate that the **Osborn House at 1148 Main Road** and the **Judge Joseph Osborn House at 1188 Main Road** were constructed around 1845. They both exhibit elements of the Italianate style, which first became popular in America around 1840 (McAlester & McAlester 1984:211-214). These include elaborate, wrap-around porches with turned-wood posts; tall, narrow window openings; and decorative wood brackets at the eaves. Both properties appear on H.F. Walling's *Map of Newport County, Rhode Island* from 1850. On that map, the footprint at present-day 1188 Main Road is labeled "Jos. Osborne," while that at present-day 1148 Main Road is labeled simply "J. Osborne." While it is possible that this refers to James Osborn, the youngest of Thomas and Ann's children, historical accounts indicate that James relocated to Fall River, Massachusetts around 1845 (Beers 1912:39). It therefore seems more likely that Joseph Osborn owned the properties at both 1188 and 1148 Main Road. This theory is supported by the fact that both dwellings had passed to Joseph's children by the end of the nineteenth century (Everts & Richards 1895). In addition, the agricultural schedule of the United States census from 1850 lists only Thomas and Joseph Osborn in Tiverton. Like his brother, Joseph owned approximately 50 improved and 50 unimproved acres of land as of 1850. His farm, which supported livestock, grains, and produce, was valued at \$5,000 at the time (United States Census 1850). According to the 1850 map by Walling, Joseph Osborn also owned property a little north of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District, on the west side of Main Road (Walling 1850).

Judge Joseph Osborn (1803-1883) has been described as "perhaps [the] most distinguished member" of the Osborn family of Tiverton. He "began his career as a poor boy," working as a teacher, fisherman, and farmer, eventually running a successful business in livestock trading (Beers 1908:1270). It seems likely that Fall River, Massachusetts, an urban center just north of Tiverton, provided a market for Joseph Osborn's stock. The city experienced enormous growth in the mid-1800s with the rise of the textile industry. Fall River's population increased by 540% between 1820 and 1870, and continued to grow until the early-twentieth century, providing a ready market for livestock and crops (MHC 1982:9-17). The proximity of the Stone Bridge and Fall River Turnpike, chartered in 1838 and constructed along the shore, to the west of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District, and the Old Colony and Newport Railroad, which opened in 1864, would have provided Osborn with a means of transporting his stock (Nebiker 1983:15,17).

Whether or not Joseph Osborn marketed his livestock in Fall River, it is clear that he benefitted financially from the city's enormous industrial growth in the mid-1800s. Indeed, historical sources indicate that he made his fortune primarily through investments in Fall River's cotton mills. He was a director of the Osborn Mills in Fall River, which were established by his younger brothers, Weaver (1815-1894) and James (1822-1898), in 1872 (Beers 1908:1270-1271; Beers 1912:37-40; Stone 1930:174). ~~Previously, the two brothers had been active in the establishment of several other Fall River mills, earning Weaver the distinction of being "more closely connected with the industrial growth of Fall River" than almost any other man (Beers 1912:38). The Osborn Mills produced "fine and fancy goods, and print cloths" (Stone 1930:174), and, as of 1906, employed 550 people and produced 6,500 pieces per week (Fenner 1906:86). After the death of Weaver and James, the business passed to James' son, James Edward (Sampson & Murdock Company 1919). James Edward Osborn~~

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~~and his wife, Delia Carr, lived on Rock Street in Fall River, in a National Register-listed, Greek Revival-style residence that was designed by noted architect Russell Warren around 1842 (MHC 1980). The Osborn Mills closed in 1927 (Phillips 1945:128).~~

In addition to his interests in the mill industry, Joseph Osborn was active in two Fall River banks. He served as a director of the Pocasset Bank (established 1854) and was the president of Citizens Savings Bank from its founding in 1851 until his death in 1883 (Beers 1908:1271; Phillips 1945:111, 115). In addition, Judge Osborn served on the Court of Common Pleas, was a member of the 1841 Rhode Island state Constitutional Convention, was elected to each branch of the State Assembly, served as Tiverton's treasurer for 44 years, and was a member of the Board of State Charities and Corrections (Beers 1908:1270-1271). In 1830, Joseph Osborn married Eliza Gardner (1804-1866), the daughter of Captain Samuel Gardner, ~~an old and prominent Tiverton family~~. The couple had five children: Ann Catherine (b. 1832), who married Samuel B. Allen of Fall River; William Joseph (b. 1836), who became a banker and broker in New York City; Jason William (1838-1860), who died at the age of 22; Eliza Gardner (b. 1840); and Henry Clay (1844-1916) (Bayles 1888:941-942, 962; Beers 1908:1271).

The Judge Joseph Osborn House appears to have passed to Eliza Gardner Osborn, who never married, after her father's death in 1883 (Bayles 1888:940). The 1895 atlas published by Everts & Richards shows the building as belonging to "E.G. Osborne." Eliza Gardner Osborn was still in residence as of 1916, at which time the homestead was known as "Brookside" (Beers 1908:1271; Union Publishing Company 1916:77). By 1921, the property had passed to Frank X. and Mabel Osborn Syren, the daughter of Judge Joseph Osborn's son, Henry Clay. Frank X. Syren worked as a baker in Fall River. He and Mabel lived in the house at 1188 Main Road with their sons, Frank S. and Joseph O., both of whom were students as of 1937 (Armstrong 1937:180; Beers 1908:1272; Dunham 1921:114). By 1941, the younger Frank had joined his father in the bakery business, while Joseph had become a civil engineer. The two sons, along with Joseph's wife, Dorothy, continued to live with their parents on Main Road (Armstrong 1941:251). The property remained in the Syren family until 1959, when they sold it to George S. and Eleanor M. Melcher. Their son, Dean Melcher, owns the property today (Melcher 2001).

Overall, the property at 1188 Main Road retains a high degree of integrity. Alterations at the residence are limited to the expansion of the main block to the rear, the removal of a north ell, minor alterations to the porch, and the replacement of the original windows. The barn has been expanded three times. The northern half of the front-gable portion was added in the early-twentieth century; the concrete-block ell was added around 1960; and the wood-shingled sheds were built in the late 1970s.

After Judge Joseph Osborn's death in 1883, the **Osborn House at 1148 Main Road** appears to have passed to his son, Henry Clay Osborn (1844-1916), who "grew to manhood on his father's farm, and when the latter retired, the son rented the place and engaged in farming and dairying and also in stock dealing, now [1908]

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being one of the largest stock dealers in Newport county." Like his father, Henry Clay Osborn also served as a State Senator and as the Tiverton town treasurer (Beers 1908:1272). An 1894 agricultural directory of Rhode Island lists Henry C. Osborn as owning 250 acres in Tiverton (Sampson, Murdock, & Co., Publishers 1894:91). A map from 1895 shows the footprint of the residence, labeled "H.C. Osborne," along with a large, L-shaped barn (which survives as ruins) and a windmill (not extant) to the rear (Everts & Richards 1895).

Henry Clay Osborn had six children with his first wife, Sarah Slocum, including Mabel, who married Frank Syren, and Henry Clay, Jr. After being widowed in 1904, he married Lydia Cranston of New Bedford (Beers 1908:1272). The 1913-1914 Tiverton town directory lists Henry Clay Osborn, cattle dealer, in residence with his son, Henry Clay, Jr., who is listed as a farmer (Union Publishing Co. 1913:55). Gravestones at the Osborn Family Cemetery indicate that Henry Clay Osborn died in 1916, leaving his son and widow, Lydia, in the house at 1148 Main Road. By 1927, Henry Clay Osborn, Jr.'s wife, Mary, had joined the household. Town directories indicate that, from about 1921 until at least 1935, Lydia lived at 1148 Main Road during the summer, spending the winters in Florida (Dunham 1921:103; Dunham 1935:70). Lydia had either died or moved away by 1937, when Henry Clay Osborn, Jr., listed as a cattle dealer, his wife Mary, and son Henry, a student, were in residence (Armstrong 1937:138). Town directories indicate that Henry Clay III continued to live with his parents at 1148 Main Road until at least 1941. At the time, his father was still listed as a cattle dealer and, as such, was the last resident of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District known to be engaged in agriculture (Armstrong 1941:196).

Henry Clay Osborn III purchased the Thomas Osborn House, next door at 1168 Main Road, in the 1940s, and sold the property at 1148 Main Road to a developer in the late 1980s (Corr 2001; Osborn 2001; RIHPHC National Register files). In 1991, the property was divided into two parcels. The residence was sold with a quarter-acre of land, while 18.5 acres of largely vacant land surrounds it on the north, east, and south. Despite this recent parcelling, the residence at 1148 Main Road survives largely intact, with alterations limited to the addition of the rear ell at some point before 1895, and Block 92/Lot 14a continues to reflect the property's agricultural history with its stone walls and grassy fields dotted with mature trees.

The **Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House at 1137 Main Road**, across the street from the Osborn homestead, was built by Edward Bennett (1792-1830) in the early nineteenth century. According to a history of Tiverton that was published in 1936, Bennett purchased the land from Margaret Barker, a widow of Joseph Barker, and erected a Federal-style Cape around 1822 (Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:73). Its five-bay-wide facade; center-bay entry; and center, ridge chimney are all typical of the Federal style. Edward Bennett married Amy Durfee (1800-1822) in 1816. The couple had three children, two of whom grew to adulthood: Nelson (b. 1817) and Rodney (b. 1818) (*Scrapbook* n.d.). When he died in 1830, Edward Bennett left his real estate to be divided equally between his two young sons. His will, on file at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, lists his sister Abigail and his neighbor, Thomas Osborn's son, Joseph, as executors of his estate. Thomas Osborn, Jr. signed the document as a witness. Shortly after Nelson and Rodney Bennett

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were orphaned, they left for New Bedford, Massachusetts, where they became harness makers (*Scrapbook* n.d.). It is not known who resided in the house at 1137 Main Road between Edward Bennett's death and 1846, when the property was sold to Abiatha Hall of Fall River. Historical sources indicate that it was purchased by Peter Dunbar in 1849 (whose name on a map from 1850) and sold to Abbie S.C. Webber three years later (Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:73; Walling 1850). A map from 1854 indicates that "O. Webber" was the owner at that time (Borden 1854). In 1867, the property was purchased by James Otis Hambly, a farmer and butcher. It remained in the Hambly family until at least the 1930s (Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:73)

James Otis Hambly (1837-1912) was one of eleven children born to Joseph S. and Mary Ann Briggs Hambly. In 1859, he married Ann Maria Negus (1841-1923), and the couple had ten children. In addition to farming his property, Hambly operated a butchering business (Rose 1998:22, 38; Bayles 1888:966). According to one source, he owned a farm on the west side of Fish Road, east of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District, for part of the nineteenth century, though it is not clear whether this farm was in operation before, during, or after his tenure on Main Road (Rose 1998:38). On an atlas from 1870, the building at present-day 1137 Main Road is labeled "J O Hambly." Several other Hambly residences are in the immediate vicinity, including a property owned by "J Hambly" on Fish Road (Beers 1870). An 1895 atlas lists the owner of 1137 Main Road as "Jno. Hambly," and the farm on Fish Road is labeled "Jas O Hambly" (Everts & Richards 1895). It is possible that the property on Main Road had passed to a descendant of James Otis Hambly by that time. Hambly's widow, Ann, apparently lived in the Main Road property after her husband's death in 1912. Ann M. Hambly, "widow James O," is listed in the 1913-14 Tiverton directory as in residence on Main Road. She continued to live there until her death in 1923 (Union Publishing Co. 1913:42; Dunham 1923:69). Due to the large number of Hamblys in Tiverton, it is difficult to determine the twentieth-century residents of 1137 Main Road through town directories. It is clear, however, that it was occupied by members of the Hambly family until at least 1936 (Tiverton Tercentenary Committee 1936:73).

The Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House at 1137 Main Road retains a high degree of integrity overall. Alterations include the addition of the rear ell sometime before 1895; the raising of the roof before 1936; the replacement of the original window sash; and the addition of the north ell.

The Osborn-Bennett Historic District has survived largely unaltered from the time of its initial development, despite dramatic changes in the town of Tiverton as a whole. The town's agricultural character was greatly affected by the arrival of the Old Colony and Newport Railroad in 1864. The railroad ran from Fall River, Massachusetts to Newport, Rhode Island via Tiverton, where it crossed the Sakonnet River about a mile north of the Stone Bridge and approximately one-half mile southwest of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District. This critical transportation link prompted substantial growth in the population of Tiverton, particularly among seasonal residents (Nebiker 1983:18). Between 1860 and 1895, the population of Tiverton grew from 1,927 to 2,964 (Tiepke 1898). The train and, subsequently, the automobile also facilitated Tiverton's development as a

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suburb of Fall River. Increasing automobile traffic in the mid-1900s led to the construction of a new automobile bridge over the Sakonnet River. Although the Rhode Island Department of Transportation considered repairing the existing Stone Bridge, they decided instead to construct a new, multi-lane, high-clearance bridge just south of the railroad bridge, which opened in 1956 (Nebiker 1983:24). The bridge had little direct impact on the Osborn-Bennett Historic District. The construction of Route 24 connecting Fall River to Newport via the Sakonnet River Bridge, however, dramatically altered the district's surrounding landscape. Completed in 1966, Route 24 includes a set of ramps which form the southern boundary of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District (Kierstead 2000). During construction, several properties in the vicinity, including a home immediately to the south of the Judge Joseph Osborn House at 1188 Main Road, were taken by the State (RIDPW 1966). In addition, the state took several acres of land at the three Osborn properties at 1148, 1168, and 1188 Main Road (Town of Tiverton).

Despite these mid-twentieth-century changes to the landscape, the Osborn-Bennett Historic District retains a high degree of historic integrity. The individual properties have survived largely unaltered, and the landscape within the district retains significant aspects of its agricultural character. In addition, the district's connection to the Osborn family remains strong: the Thomas Osborn House, at 1168 Main Road, is currently owned by two great-great-great-grandsons of its builder.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References

- 5. 19 316693 4612208
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District are shown on the attached assessor's maps. The boundaries encompass all of the properties at Block 57, Lot 18 and Block 92, Lots 14, 14a, 15, and 16. The boundaries follow the rear lot lines.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District encompass four residential buildings, nine associated outbuildings and ruins, and a historic cemetery. The contributing properties within the district exhibit a high degree of integrity and have strong associations with people and events that contributed to Tiverton's history and development from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. Originally built as homestead farms, the buildings reflect the evolution of Tiverton from an agricultural to a suburban town. Three of the residences were occupied by members of the Osborn family from the time of their construction until the mid-to late twentieth century. The properties represent excellent, local examples of the Federal and Italianate styles. The district is surrounded primarily by residences dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which lack a historical association with the properties in the district and/or lack architectural integrity.

The boundaries of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District are determined by the lot lines of the properties within the district and are drawn to exclude buildings and land that are not associated with the district's historic properties. Although the eastern portion of the property at Block 92/Lot 14 has been compromised somewhat

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by the construction of Route 24, which abuts the property on the south, its historic, agricultural character continues to be reflected in numerous extant, well-preserved, 3 to 4 foot tall stone walls that demarcate the boundaries of the property and its former agricultural fields.

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District Data Sheet

Block/Lot	Address	Historic Name	Construction Date	Style	Status	Resource Type
57/18	1137 Main Road	Edward Bennett / James Otis Hambly house	c. 1822	Federal	Contributing	Building
		Barn	mid-late 19 th century	No Style	Contributing	Building
92/14	1148 Main Road	Osborn House	ca. 1845	Italianate	Contributing	Building
92/14a		Barn	mid-late 19 th century	No Style	Contributing	Building
		Garage	early 20 th century	No Style	Contributing	Building
		Outbuilding Ruins	mid-late 19 th century	No Style	Contributing	Site
		Barn Ruins	mid-late 19 th century	No Style	Contributing	Site
		Shed	mid-20 th century	No Style	Non-Contributing	Building
92/15	1168 Main Road	Thomas Osborn house	ca. 1790	Federal	Contributing	Building
		Barn	mid-19 th century et seq.	No Style	Contributing	Building
		Shed	late 19 th century	No Style	Contributing	Building
		Osborn Family Cemetery	1833 et seq.	No Style	Contributing	Site
92/16	1188 Main Road	Judge Joseph Osborn house	ca. 1845	Italianate	Contributing	Building
		Barn/Garage	mid-late 19 th century et seq.	No Style	Contributing	Building

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The information in numbers 2 through 5 apply to all photographs for the Osborn-Bennett Historic District

2. Newport County, Rhode Island
3. Joanna M. Doherty and Jonathan Mekinda
4. February 2001 – Photographs were field verified in July 2005 by Jeffrey Emidy
5. Negatives on file at: Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
210 Lonsdale Avenue
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

1. 1137 Main Road, Edward Bennett/James Otis Hambly House
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
6. View showing east and south elevations of the house, facing north
7. Photograph #1

1. 1137 Main Road
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
6. View showing east and south elevations of barn at the house, facing north
7. Photograph #2

1. 1148 Main Road, Osborn House
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
6. View showing west and south elevations of the house, facing east
7. Photograph #3

1. Main Road, Block 92/Lot 14a
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
6. View showing west and south elevations of barn, facing east
7. Photograph #4

1. 1168 Main Road, Thomas Osborn House
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
6. View showing west and south elevations of the house, facing east
7. Photograph #5

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-
1. 1168 Main Road
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
 6. View showing west and south elevations of barn, facing east
 7. Photograph #6

 1. 1168 Main Road
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
 6. View of Osborn family cemetery, facing southeast
 7. Photograph #7

 1. 1188 Main Road, Judge Joseph Osborn House
Osborn-Bennett Historic District
 6. View showing west and south elevations of the house, facing east
 7. Photograph #8

 1. Osborn-Bennett Historic District
 6. Streetscape along Main Road, from south end of district, facing north
 7. Photograph #9

 1. Osborn-Bennett Historic District
 6. Streetscape along Main Road, from 1168 Main Road, facing northwest
 7. Photograph #10

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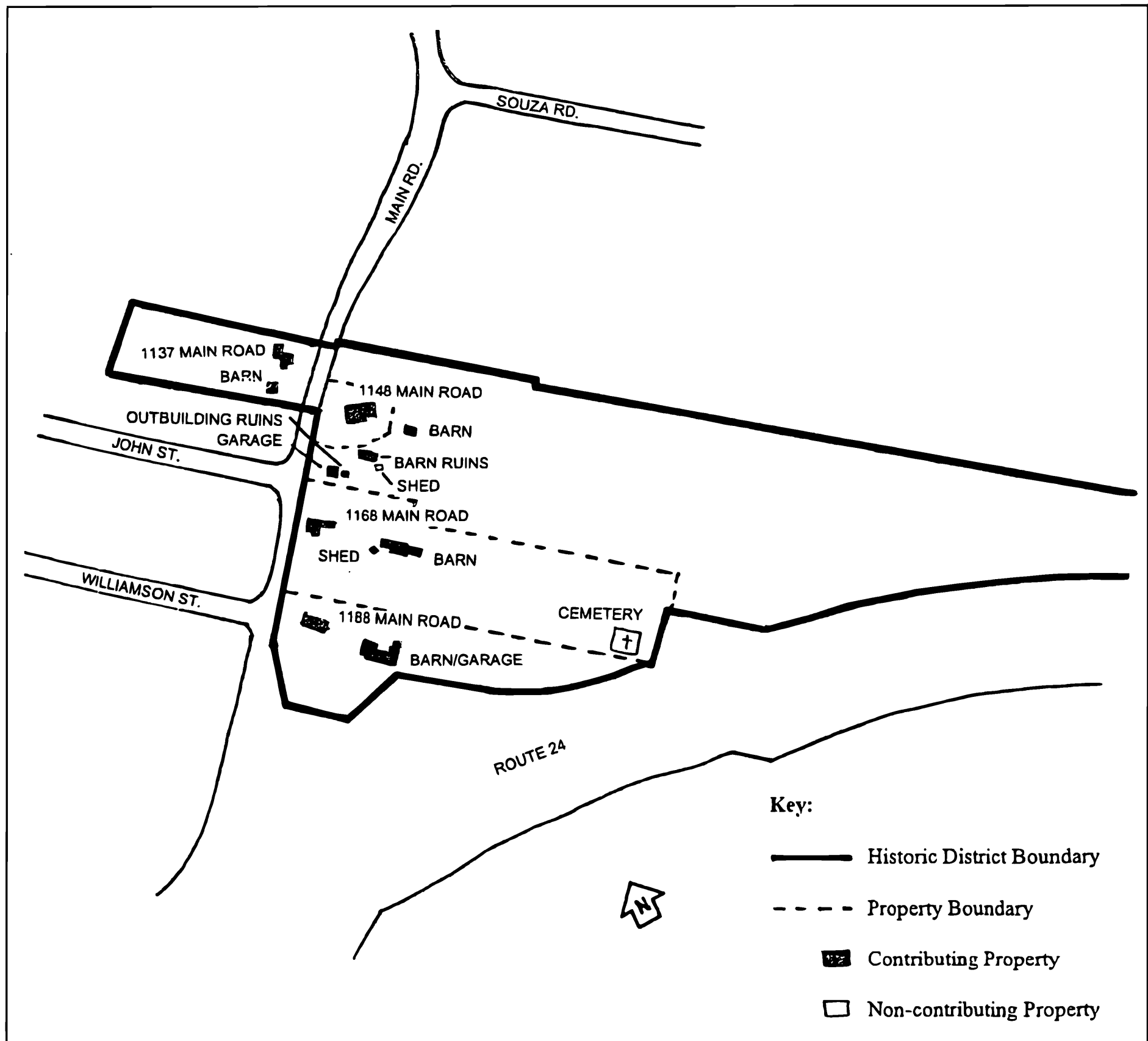
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Osborn-Bennett Historic District Map (source: Tiverton Assessor's maps)



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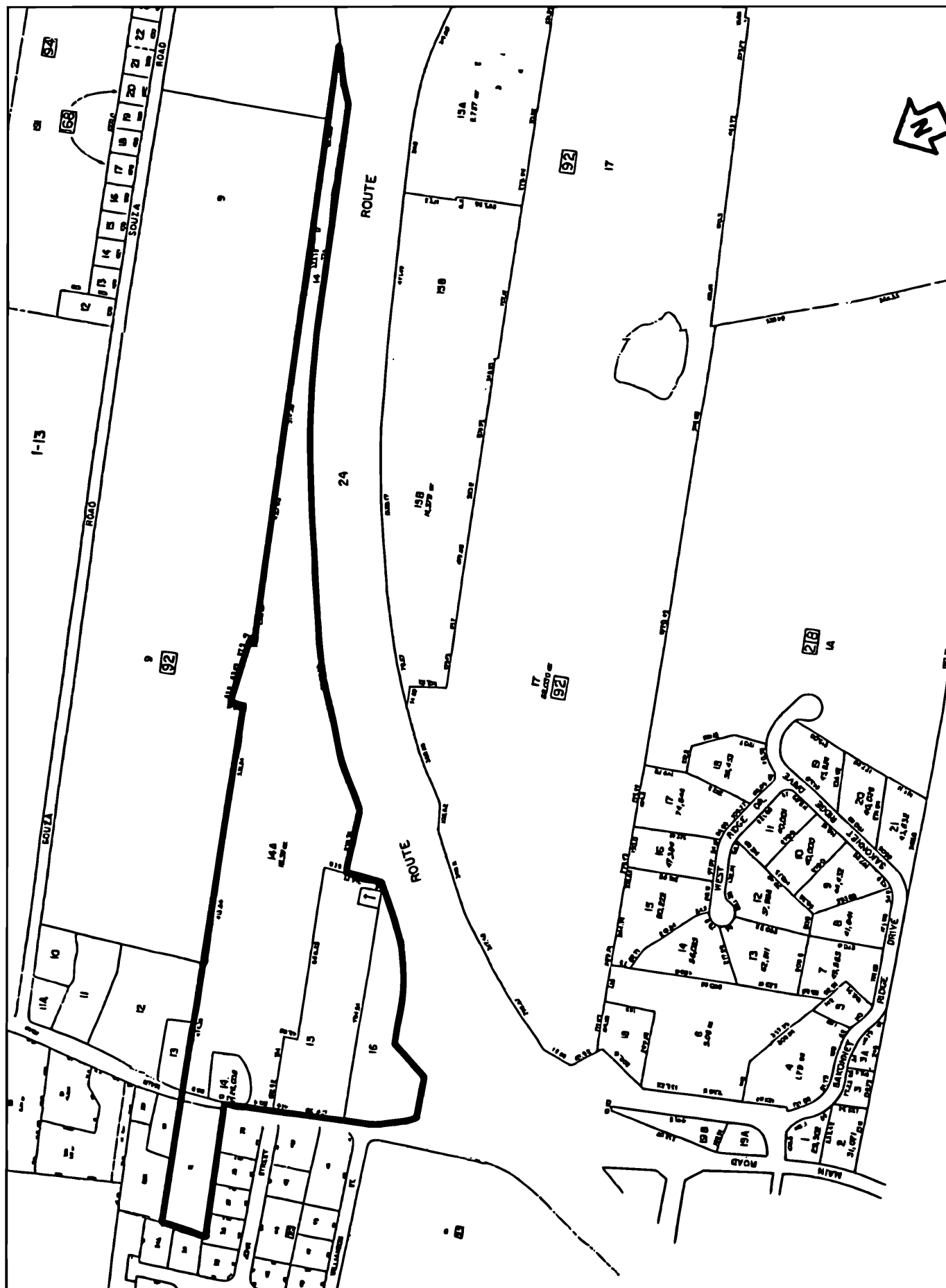
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Composite of Tiverton Assessor's maps 1-12, 2-11, 6-7, and 7-8 showing the boundaries of the Osborn-Bennett Historic District



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