

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 Millis Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Curve, Daniels, Exchange, Irving, Lavender, Main, Union Streets

☐ not for publication

city or town Millis

☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts

code MA

county Norfolk

code 021

zip code 02054

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.)

Brona Simon

July 26, 2007

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon

Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Patrik Anders

Date of Action

9/14/2007

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	
163	45	building
3	0	sites
2	2	structures
3	5	objects
171	52	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: town hall

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility, church related residence

RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, industrial storage

LANDSCAPE: park, plaza

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: government office, fire & police

RELIGION: religious facility, church related residence

RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, industrial storage

LANDSCAPE: park, plaza

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian; MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek

Revival, Gothic Revival; LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic,

Italianate, Queen Anne,

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY: Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN: Bungalow

MIXED

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

walls WOOD, BRICK, ASBESTOS, SYNTHETIC

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description

The Millis Center Historic District is located at the geographic center of the town of Millis and includes a discrete neighborhood north of Main Street (MA Route 109) consisting of several residential streets, two industrial complexes, a segment of the east-west railroad line, and the institutional landscape along the main route through Millis. Properties lining the streets in this district are reminiscent of the patterns of development of this small late 19th century industrial village and include dwellings, some commercial and industrial properties, and several civic and institutional properties that supported the industry of the town. There are 171 contributing resources – buildings, sites, structures and objects - which together form this village center. Millis is located southwest of Boston in Norfolk County and is bordered by Medfield on the east where the Charles River forms much of this town boundary; Norfolk on the southeast and south; Medway and Holliston on the west; and Sherborn on the north.

The district boundaries follow property lines which for the most part identify house lots laid out and built in the 19th and early 20th century. There are a total of 219 resources of which 169 are contributing and 50 are non-contributing. Most of the contributing resources maintain a residential use. Non-contributing resources include 45 buildings (of which 16 are garages or small outbuildings) constructed after the period of significance or substantially altered disguising the original design intent. One object, the World War II Memorial, erected in 1998 was constructed after the period of significance as well as three other objects that are small granite markers installed by the American Legion to memorialize Millis soldiers who died in action during other 20th century wars. The size and scale of non-contributing dwellings tends to be consistent with other modest dwellings in the district. The remaining non-contributing resources are garages or low one-story commercial structures that are less consistent, particularly due to site location towards the back of lots rather than at the street edge. The Plain Street Bridge also is a non-contributing resource due to reconstruction in 2003.

Setting

Millis Center is located on the main east-west route, Main Street (Route 109), which cuts through Millis connecting Medfield to the east and Medway to the west and is framed by Plain Street on the east and Exchange Street on the west. The district consists of three triangular shaped areas; the first includes both sides of Main Street and extends north along Exchange and Plain Streets to their joint intersection with Curve Street; the next extends northeasterly along Exchange and Curve to Union Street; and the third is formed by Union, Irving and Daniels Streets. The railroad right-of-way slices through this district parallel to Main Street with an at-grade crossing at Exchange Street. The railroad is submerged well below Plain Street, which is carried over the tracks by a modern concrete bridge that in 2003 replaced an earlier concrete bridge (MHC # 909).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

The terrain is relatively flat in this central part of Millis with the exception of a bowl-like depression in the middle bound by Exchange, Union and Curve Streets. This area is wooded and creates a sense of privacy behind houses that line densely built streetscapes. The road system is irregular with the arching Curve Street and others cutting diagonally northeast and northwest from Main Street. These roads, laid out on the diagonal, converge forming irregular and wide intersections in at least three locations: Exchange and Union (**photo 1**), Exchange, Curve and Plain; and Union and Curve. Several of the intersections are named and have small triangular green spaces with minor monuments or markers. Only Main and Exchange Streets have curbs, the others blend into the grassy strip at the edge. Some properties have low stone walls; others have low picket fences, but most have nothing between the building and the street.

The district is a densely developed industrial village with factories, the railroad, housing to support the factories, and commercial and institutional properties as well. Modernization of the road system and many of the buildings tell of continued prosperity. Today Millis Center is characterized by mid to late 19th and early 20th century modest dwellings (one exception is the ca. 1750 Moses Richardson House) lining the roads north of Main Street, two late 19th century industrial facilities, and early- to mid-20th century commercial and institutional buildings. Most buildings are on modest lots creating a sense of an industrial village center. The presence of the railroad is an important feature as it supported the industries that were so vital to the development of this community. Some remnants of the railroad remain to convey this sense of the former railroad industrial hub including the tracks, the 1886 railroad station, and railroad spurs at the station and factories.

Buildings

The buildings are discussed in chronological order and by style or form to convey the sense of development of the overall landscape and to understand the interplay of the various resources. Only one dwelling remains from the 18th century. A few houses and one church were built prior to 1852, but most were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Nearly all buildings are of wood frame construction and range from the three- and five-bay side gable form to the 1½ or 2½ story front-gabled block with side wings and rear ells. The 20th century infill housing tends to be of a modest scale – 1½ story bungalows, capes and ranch-style houses. Originally, buildings had wood shingle or clapboard siding; however, several have been covered with asbestos shingles and many more with vinyl siding. The 19th century buildings rest on granite or brick foundations. In the early 20th century field and rubblestone were the preferred foundation materials, followed by concrete a bit later. Roof material varies with most having asphalt shingles; a few have slate, in particular the long stone buildings at the old Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning factory on Curve Street. In spite of the change of siding material, architectural trim has been retained in many instances, and it is the trim together with the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

dimensions and use of materials that distinguish periods of construction as well as economic status of the first owners.

Residential

Basic house forms did not change as much as proportions and styles of architectural trim. With only a few exceptions nearly all of the dwellings are representatives of every-day architecture with only modest elaboration. Many of the dwellings represent more than one period of construction. Building dates in most cases are approximate and have been determined by reviewing atlases and maps which date back only to 1852 for Millis Center. At least two streets in the district – Irving and Lavender – were subdivided and built out for factory employees; thus they are discussed as a group.

One center-chimney Georgian dwelling survives from the mid 18th century. The John Richardson House (191 Curve Street, MHC #100, **photo 2**) is a two-story, five bay, center-chimney dwelling sheathed in wood clapboards and having an enclosed entrance porch. In addition there is a side wing which is reported to have been a cooper's shop. Windows have late 19th or early 20th century 2/2 sash set in plain frames with narrow wood shutters. At the road edge is a low ancient stone wall with flat cap stones. In front of the house which is close to the road is a large mature maple tree. Interior detail is reported to include paneling, fireplaces, and wrought iron hardware. The Jonathan Adams House (153 Union Street, MHC #126), also constructed ca. 1750, had similar details to the John Richardson House; however, it was demolished in 2005.

Only four 19th century dwellings are known to pre-date 1852. The only brick residential building in the district is a cape named the Joseph L. Richardson House (226 Union Street, MHC #174), which was built by 1852 and may well have been built using bricks from the Richardson Brickyard of this period. It is located on one of the more locally celebrated sites as it is believed to be the place where Peter Adams (1622-1690) settled and where the first town meeting and public worship occurred in 1713. The Adams house burned and this brick structure was in place by 1852 and attributed to Joseph L. Richardson who was a farmer and builder. Now the property consists of two single-story Capes; one brick (the earlier one) and the other wood frame on a concrete foundation. They are linked by a wood-frame hyphen. The wood-frame house unit is an addition that postdates 1942. Characteristics of the brick part include the granite block foundation, brick walls, three bays, and an off-center entrance in the side gabled façade. Wood window frames with 6/6 sash are set into the brick walls. Full shed-roof dormers have been added to the property.

At the intersection of Exchange, Plain and Curve Streets is the Samuel Dudley House (111 Exchange Street, MHC #163) which was constructed prior to 1852. The 2½ story side-gabled house rests on a stone foundation. The five-bay main block, which is three bays deep, has been covered with asbestos shingles and once had full

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 4

corner boards under the molded eave and under the returns at the corners. Additions include a two-story rear ell, a shed roof modern wing on the east side, and an enclosed single story entrance porch at the centered entrance. Another side gable dwelling built before 1852 is the Appleton Foster House (103 Curve Street, MHC #183). It is three bays wide with the entrance positioned as a side hall entrance. This dwelling, which has been covered with vinyl siding, rests on a granite foundation.

A house form that was repeated many times – the gable front side hall plan – is found in the H. Kingsbury House (916-920 Main Street, MHC # 156) built by 1852. The main block rests on a granite block foundation, is 2½ stories high and two bays wide. This Greek Revival form has corner posts, a wide frieze, and full returns in the gable peak. Italianate updating includes the two-story projecting bay resting on a brick foundation on the main façade. Other additions are of the 20th century. A three-bay, 1½ story gable front example is the E. Phillips House (283 Exchange Street, MHC # 173), also built by 1852. The house retains its corner posts carrying narrow returns and a wide entablature, and side-lights flanking the side-hall door. This house has a large three bay nearly flat roof side wing faced with an enclosed shed roof porch. The house is built into a slope in the land and garages have been added under the wing and next to the rear ell.

Over the next 25 years between 1852 and 1876 only a handful of houses were constructed in Millis Center. However several of those were substantial with architectural elaboration, fitting for a prosperous resident. Three fine examples of Italianate style architecture are: the R.T. Morse House (166 Exchange Street, MHC #165, **photo 3**), built ca. 1855; the Joseph L. Richardson – Dr. E. L. Hill House (128 Curve Street, MHC #82, **photo 4**) from ca. 1865; and the First Parish Congregational Church Parsonage (now known as Church of Christ) (151 Exchange Street, MHC #60) built in 1872. The Morse House consists of two attached elements: a four-bay, two-story, side gable block behind a bent house consisting of a 2½ story L-shaped building with an entrance porch within the L. Italianate features include raking eaves with wide returns, paired cornice brackets, wide frieze board, wide corner posts, and squared chamfered posts carrying the two bracketed entrance porches. The Joseph L. Richardson Jr. House, a gable front L-plan structure has similar detail to the Morse House. The bracketed eaves, entrance porches with chamfered posts and brackets, and pointed arched projecting bracketed consoles over second-story windows make this house one of the better local examples of the Italianate style. An additional decorative feature is the incised pattern on the lintels over main façade windows. The Parsonage also is a good example of the Italianate style. The gable front side hall house has bracketed eaves, double arched window in the gable peak, a projecting polygonal bay, pediment consoles over first and second story windows and full side lights flanking the side hall entry. The hipped roof porch carried by turned posts appears to be a slightly later addition. The Parsonage Carriage House (117 Curve Street, MHC #117) with mansard roof was converted to a residence in the 20th century.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 5

During the third quarter of the 19th century some residences were established on Main Street. The William P. Frink House (878 Main Street, MHC #153) is one of two remaining pre-1880s examples between Plain Street and Exchange Street the east and west boundaries of this district. Although altered with additions, the original L-plan with gable front main block and side wing on brick is evident. Two-story projecting bays have been added to the main façade of the side wing and to the west wall of the gable front block. The three-bay façade with center entrance has a full width screened 20th century porch.

Millis Center's most elaborate residential property is the Helen Van Kleeck House (also known as Rocklawn, 270 Exchange Street, MHC #68, **photo 5**) designed and built in 1887 by Boston architect Frank W. Weston. The siting of this house on a V-shaped lot accentuates its prominence with two main facades facing Exchange and Union Streets. The house, now a restaurant, is set back from the roadways on a landscaped large lot which has imposing spruce and copper beech trees. A hedge screens the parking lot from the road. The complex asymmetrical plan of the house adds to the variety and interest of this property. The three-story house has multiple roof lines, shingles, clapboards and half-timbering wall surface, projecting bays, wrap porches, balconies, a *porte-cochere*, and various window shapes most of which have 6/2 sash. It rests on a field stone foundation.

Many modest dwellings survive from the 1890s when several nearby industries became firmly established. The Millis Company financed the construction of approximately 60 cottages. New streets were laid out including Lavender and Irving Streets. Lavender Street (**photo 6**) is a mature streetscape with moderately sized lots, most of which are just under 15,000 square feet and similar setbacks, and most have large mature deciduous trees. There are twelve gable front dwellings all built ca. 1890. Most retain a similar form with sidehall plan, are 1½ - 2 story dwellings and have a variety of rear ells and side wings as well as enclosed full width or entrance porches. Two examples of the Victorian Eclectic cottages with slightly more elaboration than others are 16 and 64 Lavender Street. Each has decorative shingles in the gable peaks. The house at 16 Lavender Street (MHC #117) has a two-story projecting round bay on the southeast corner of the house, and the dwelling at 64 Lavender Street (MHC #105) has an oriel above the enclosed wrap porch as well as a single-story projecting bay on the west side. Each of these houses is on a corner lot that is slightly larger (17,000+ sq. ft.) than others on Lavender Street.

The western end of Irving Street was part of an 1891 subdivision of land that included twenty-seven lots on Irving, an extension of Curve Street, and a few lots on the northeast side of Union Street (MHC Area Form B). The lots are of similar size between 5,600 and 10,000 square feet with a couple of exceptions. The most prevalent building form in this area is the gable-front side-hall entrance dwelling of which there are nine that were built in the 1890s. Resting on mortar and stone foundations, most now are sheathed in a range of materials including wood clapboard or shingles and synthetic siding. These houses have asphalt roofs, boxed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA**

Section number 7 Page 6

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 7

eaves, and a single brick chimney to one side of the ridge; some have returns. While all retain a side-hall entrance, the facades have been otherwise altered with single-story porches, some of which are enclosed. Each house is two stories with a pair of second-story windows in the gable peaks. The windows were likely 2/2 originally although most have been replaced. Several of these gable-front residences have two-story projecting bays. Many of the dwellings have single-car garages.

An important house in Millis Center is the Arthur E. Appleyard House (324 Union Street, MHC #175) built in ca. 1890 in the Colonial Revival style. The two-story, side-gable, main block rests on a granite foundation, has been covered with vinyl siding but retains trim details, and has a five-bay façade with a symmetrical fenestration pattern and predominantly 2/2 windows. A two-story centered entrance bay projects slightly; it has pilasters, a Palladian window on the second floor, and is capped by a broken pediment. A single-story *porte-cochere* extends from the bay to cover the driveway and front porch. It has a half-hipped roof supported by plain Doric columns that are paired in the front, and single closer to the house. The asphalt shingled roof has a pair of hipped dormers on the north roof slope, a slightly off-center brick chimney at the ridgeline, and a large stone chimney on the north slope of the east gable end. There are raking cornices and returns at the gable ends and a window in each gable peak. The house has a side wing with porch on the northwest end, and a porch on the southeast side. Also on this side there is a rudimentary breezeway connecting this late 19th century dwelling with a set of town houses that face Pollard Street but retain the 324 Union Street address. The attached arrangement was necessary to meet zoning requirements.

Another late 19th century house of note is the S. A. Newhouse House (909-911 Main Street, MHC #155), which has always been a two-family dwelling. Built by the Millis Company for workers' housing between 1890 and 1892 on a fieldstone and mortar foundation, this gambrel-roofed structure is divided vertically to form a duplex with two-story projecting polygonal bays on each and 20th century entrance porches covering the entrance bays of each unit. Late 20th century modifications include vinyl siding and shutters, shed roof dormers built on top of the projecting bays, and enclosure of one entrance porch. The duplex also has three brick chimneys spaced across the roof ridge.

At the east end of Irving Street and along Daniels Street the land was subdivided into lots and some dwellings were built ca. 1900 (between 1890 and 1909). Two Osgood T. Dean Houses (45 Daniels Street, MHC #176 and 53 Daniels Street, MHC #178) were built on land that Dean purchased in 1898; hence the ca. 1900 dates on these two houses. The dwelling at 53 Daniels Street is on a deep flat lot with the Queen Anne house set well back from the road. The house consists of a two-story main block with irregular fenestration, a two-story square addition on one corner, and a two-story polygonal tower with a pyramidal roof on another corner. The house has been covered with vinyl siding. The other Dean house (45 Daniels Street), an Italianate dwelling, sits close to the road and is shielded by overgrown shrubs and trees and a low post and rail fence. The gable front side

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 8

hall house has a two-story cross gable on the north side, polygonal projecting bays on the south side, and a simple added entrance porch at the side hall entrance.

On the southwest corner of Irving and Daniels Streets is the Queen Anne style James Mullen House (46 Daniels Street, MHC #177), ca. 1900. The two-story main block has an ell on the south side and a large projecting bay on the west side. Resting on a mortar and stone foundation it is covered in vinyl siding. Features include an irregular fenestration pattern, projecting bay, a square stairhall casement window, a square and turned posts carrying the porch, spindle screening, decorative verge boards, 2/1 window sash, and a single brick chimney. Opposite this property is the Herbert Wade House (3-5 Irving Street, MHC #179), also from ca. 1900. The 2½ story structure consists of a large side-gable block with additions to the front and east sides. The building is covered in vinyl siding and asbestos shingles, and the foundation is a combination of mortar and stone, cinder blocks, and poured concrete. The roof is of varied pitches and asymmetrical lines, part of which is a gambrel roof. Queen Anne features include turned posts and balusters on the porch, a paneled entrance door with a large square light, and projecting elements. Other features include 1/1 sash and four brick chimneys.

Residential infill along Exchange and Curve Streets occurred in the 1910s; some are modest dwellings such as 192 Exchange Street (MHC #121); and others are larger Colonial Revival houses such as 231 Exchange Street (MHC #171). The land on which this latter property was constructed was part of a larger triangular parcel bound by Union and Exchange Streets and included at least one other house (225-227 Exchange Street also owned by Arthur Appleyard, MHC #) in the early 1900s. The Colonial Revival two-story house at 231 Exchange has a steeply pitched pyramidal hipped roof with two lower cross gables. The cross gables cover two-story projecting bays on the west and south elevations. The house, which has been converted to a two-family, has a rubble foundation, is covered with vinyl siding, and has an asphalt roof. The two entrance doors on the façade are sheltered by a two-story porch supported by square posts carrying a second story balustrade.

Other infill properties from this period are American Four Squares such as houses at 98 Exchange Street (MHC #161), 90 Curve Street (MHC #181), and 98 Curve Street (MHC #212). All built in ca. 1915 are two-story square shaped houses with steeply pitched pyramidal roofs, boxed cornices, and wide cornice boards. The house at 98 Exchange Street is covered in wood clapboard on the first floor and wood shingles on the second floor. The façade has a symmetrical fenestration pattern with 6/1 double hung sashes and casement windows with patterned glazing, while the other elevations are irregular. A single-story enclosed porch with a hipped roof spans the entire façade. There are two, single-story, projecting bays on the south elevation; one is square and one is canted. The hipped roof dormers also have casement windows. On Curve Street each rests on a rubblestone foundation. The house at 90 Curve has been covered with vinyl siding, while its neighbor (98 Curve) retains wood clapboards and shingles.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 9

A number of bungalows appeared in Millis Center during the 1910s to 1930s. As infill housing, the style worked well on subdivided lots and offered additional variety and interest to the landscape, while providing modest housing in a popular form. Examples are 93 Curve Street (MHC #182), 180 Exchange Street (MHC #166), and 954 Main Street (MHC #264), which now has a commercial use. The Curve and Main Street examples have side-gable orientations with wide raking eaves, 6/1 sash, and dormers with narrow verge boards. The house at 93 Curve Street has bracketed eaves, an incorporated porch which is enclosed with multiple 2/2 windows, and a flared roof at the rear that kicks out over a single story rear ell. The house on Exchange Street has a gable front orientation. It sits on a high rubblestone foundation, has a projecting bay on the south side and a shed roof entrance porch with clustered round collonettes on high wood shingled bases, and 6/1 windows.

Many of the houses built at the turn of the last century have small single-car garages that date to the 1920s. They are similar with wood clapboard or modern vinyl siding, a set of double doors or a single modern overhead door, and generally a single window and door on the long side closest to the house. There are over 20 such garages, with only a few which have been altered substantially so that they are non-contributing resources. Two-car garages that tend to be slightly later are more likely to have been altered or date outside the period of significance so that about half of those are non-contributing. Only a couple of examples of small barns converted to garages are evident.

Non-Residential

Millis Center has institutional, commercial and industrial resources, which round out the story of this industrial village's development. The earliest non-residential structure is the First Parish Congregational Church (142 Exchange Street, MHC #4, **photo 7**), now known as the Church of Christ. Built in 1850 as the Fourth Meetinghouse, the church retains its meetinghouse form with a long gable front sanctuary and a smaller projecting entrance portico that is topped with a square three-stage bell tower. Although the building has been covered with vinyl siding, it retains its window hoods (arched on the enclosed portico and rectangular labels on the sides of the main block) its full pediments in the gable peak and bracketed tower.

The oldest known civic building in Millis Center is Niagara Hall (4 Exchange Street, MHC #74, **photo 8**), built as a firehouse for the hand-tub fire engine known as the "Niagara." The 2½ story, gable-front building sits close to the edge of the road near the intersection of Exchange Street with Main Street. The main façade was restored to its original appearance in 2001 with the use of a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant. The centered fire engine doors at street level are topped by a bracketed doorhood. Clapboard siding has been restored and the building retains its Italianate details including the doorhood, bracketed eaves, and round window in the gable peak. Windows on the main façade have been restored to 2/2 sash set in plain slightly projecting frames. The building has lost its cupola or tower but retains its two brick chimneys on the ridge.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 10

There is a ca. 1920 rear addition. Some interior plaster walls retain murals reported to have been painted in 1897. The murals include two scenes painted on walls in the second story front room. Each is framed by painted tapestry or curtains (*trompe l'oeil*). A rural scene depicts a farmstead with fire shooting out of the barn roof with onlookers watching an old fire pumper extinguishing the fire; the other is a bucolic scene of a family picnic in front of a waterfall with rainbow. Restoration of the murals was part of the 2001 grant work.

The 1885 Lansing Millis Memorial Building (64 Exchange St., MHC #72, **photo 9**) was constructed as a railroad station and town library. The stone structure has a steeply pitched roof with a wide overhang creating a walkway around the building. The walls and the round tower attached to the southeast corner are made of stone and trim including quoins, arches and horizontal banding is brownstone. Stones used to build the building and tower were collected locally and 27 stones were contributed by various out-of-town businesses with whom Millis had been associated. Each is inscribed with the initials or the full name of the donating company. There is a wide two-story projecting curved bay on the track side of the building. Inscribed on the brown stone band is "W. 14.8 m B. 22.7 m" to indicate the number of miles from the Millis station to Worcester to Boston. Large hipped roof dormers with two windows each are found on the north and south roof slopes and a wood balcony wraps around the tower from the north corner of the building to the eastern gable end.

The industrial properties are clustered at the eastern end of Curve and Union with the Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant (60 Curve Street, MHC #40, **photo 10**) established here in 1889 as the most prominent. The nearby Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company (114 Union Street, MHC #128, **photo 11**) had begun as J. W. Thompson Shoe Company by 1891. Each retains part of its old structure and has additions. The 1889 Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant has a long rectangular stone building at its core. This is marked by a three-story square tower with a pyramidal hipped roof. Additional buildings are connected to the late 19th century factory. A high chain link fence encloses the property on the north, east, and west sides, and the railroad runs along the southern boundary separating this factory from the Cliquot factory which fronts on Main Street and is not included in this district. The J. W. Thompson Shoe Company (114 Union Street, MHC #128) is a four-story wood frame structure that is covered with asphalt shingles. The main building and its additions have low pitched nearly flat roofs. A centrally located low tower is at the center of the original block.

At least two low One-Part Commercial Blocks (as defined by Richard Longstreth's Building of Main Street) line the lower part of Exchange Street. These blocks are defined by their height of only one story and facades that generally have storefront windows and entrances generally with some cornice trim uniting the storefronts. Constructed in 1916 is the one-part commercial block that wraps the corner known as the Patent Medicine Store (2 Exchange Street, MHC #84, **photo 8**). This building, which wraps the corner, is a single-story building with storefront windows. The rough faced concrete block remains; however the storefront windows have been

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 11

modified. A one-part commercial block is located at 16-18 Exchange Street (MHC #158) which has been altered although it retains its low single story flat roof form with a high false front with small paired brackets at the top. The building has four entrances each flanked by a nearly square 20-light window. Although there was a five unit building at this location in 1892, it is not likely that this low commercial style would have been built at that time. In addition the existing building appears to have less frontage than the one shown on Sanborn maps in 1892, 1903, and 1910. The Winiker Block (26-30 Exchange Street, MHC #159, **photo 12**) is a one-part commercial block constructed in 1935 to replace Snow's Hall (movie house), which burned in 1934. The Winiker Block is brick with three recessed store entrances and a cast-stone decorative parapet over the central bay with "Winiker Block" on the sign plaque. Attached to the building is a two-story gable front building 32 Exchange Street (MHC #261, **photo 12**) that was constructed in ca. 1895 as a grocery store. It survived the fire and the brick Winiker Block was attached to it.

Memorial School (900 Main Street, MHC #73, **photo 13**) was constructed in 1913 with a major addition in 1931 as the Millis High School – all in the Classical Revival style. The red brick building is rectangular in shape with projecting pavilions on the west and north elevations. The main façade faces west and has five groupings of openings with a central projecting entrance pavilion. Wide brick pilasters with projecting molded capitals separate panels of first and second story windows. The projecting pavilion rises higher than the rest of the building and has cast-stone banding marking the parapet as well as a cast-stone sign reading "Millis High School." The recessed entrance has a cast-stone arched quoin surround topped by a minor three-part, second-story window. The north elevation facing Main Street was the original entrance before the school was expanded to the south. This elevation also has a projecting central pavilion with two entrances, each with bracketed pedimented lintels over multi-light transoms. A multi-light oriel is centered in a band of windows over a cast-stone sign reading "Memorial School." Just above the water table on this projecting pavilion is a date stone: "1913." Unifying features are two horizontal bands that wrap around the entire building; the molded cornice and the water table above the raised basement. Brick paneling is an additional decorative feature. This building was refurbished for town offices and rededicated in 1999 as the Veterans Memorial Building.

Two churches were built in the Center district in the first half of the 20th century. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (903 Main Street, MHC #154) was constructed in 1912 in the Arts and Crafts style. Designed by George L. Smith the stucco and wood single-story church building is on a large flat grassy lot with mature trees, several benches, and signs identifying the site. The building has a steeply pitched roof, exposed rafters under the raking eaves, false half-timbering along the water table and in the gable ends, and board and batten doors with wrought iron strap hinges. In 1937 the Catholics built St. Thomas the Apostle Church (66 Exchange Street, MHC #160) designed by Thomas M. McDonough. The neo-Gothic Revival building is on a flat lot with a low fieldstone

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 12

wall at the sidewalk, young trees, and sculptured evergreens nestled against the building. The steeply-pitched gable front building has been covered with vinyl siding but retains its Gothic features including pointed arched door and stained glass window surrounds, buttresses between each side window bay, and a rosette window in the gable peak. Celtic crosses are placed on the ridge at each gable peak.

The American Legion Hall (130 Curve Street, (aka 136), MHC #186), a Craftsman bungalow-type building, was constructed by members of the American Legion in 1925. The 1½ story, five-bay building has side-gable roof with wide overhanging eaves. The Hall rests on a concrete foundation and is covered in wood clapboards at the first story level and wood shingles on the gable peaks and gable dormers. The porch roof is an extension of the roof eaves and is supported by six plain square wood posts resting on a solid porch balustrade. Windows have 6/1 double-hung sashes and the steel front door is ornamented with the American Legion crest. The exterior brick chimney penetrates the east eave on the north gable end.

Landscape Features

The Millis Center Historic District has several small park-like areas – a common, squares, and memorials. Some were laid out in the 19th century; others more recently. At the intersections of Exchange, Curve and Plain Streets is Holbrook Square and a common which once belonged to the Congregational Church (142 Exchange Street). The long triangular common, Memorial Park (Exchange Street, MHC #917) has several tall attenuated pine trees on its edges and a War Memorial (Exchange Street, MHC # 917, **photo 14**) from 1935. The monument consists of a large rock which is reported to have been a meteorite, which is topped by a bronze eagle. Several clipped yews encircle the monument. It is fittingly across the wide intersection from the American Legion Hall, home of the Millis Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Grant Square (MHC #916) is at the intersection of Exchange and Lavender Streets. Once a square-shaped piece of land it became a small triangle when Lavender Street was laid out in 1892. Today, on the grassy triangle rests the Leonard DiCenzo Marker (MHC #921, noncontributing) a small granite monument with a bronze plaque including the following inscription: "Leonard O. DiCenzo Pvt. Det. 12 1262D ASW US Army Korea died 5 Nov. 1953."

The grounds on the north and west sides of the Memorial School have several important artifacts and monuments. Along Main Street there is a World War II monument which consists of a large cut granite stone with a plaque, cobblestone path, and granite benches as well as plantings to soften the landscape. A Holbrook bell (900 Main St. MHC #905) has been placed on the grassy lawn along Main Street. It dates to 1832 and was installed here in 1976. A clock (MHC #923, noncontributing) on a fluted column is located near the sidewalk and the exit driveway. Behind the Memorial School off Park Road is a large town park known as Hosmer Field (MHC #904). It contains playing fields, a play area, tennis courts and a 1931 stone bandstand (MHC #919) set up on a knoll and shielded by mature trees.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 13

The Lansing Memorial Building has a park between it and Exchange Street. On one grassy plot there is a tall stone cairn-like structure (MHC #915) built over a well. It has shrubs in front of it and is similar to late 19th century photographs of the structure. Between the driveway and the railroad tracks there is another grassy area on which sits a structure holding another Holbrook bell (MHC #914) cast in 1845 and situated here in 1985.

Noncontributing Resources

There are several modest infill dwellings that do not contribute to the historic fabric but that are consistent in size and scale with other dwellings in the district or with the original intent of early houses. The most common form is the ranch style – low single story dwellings, some of which were built just prior to the end of the period of significance; however as single-story buildings they vary enough from contributing resources to be determined noncontributing. Some buildings have been so altered that it is difficult to recognize the original intent in which case they are noncontributing.

Although considered noncontributing due to substantive changes the form of the ca. 1920s Herman House Hotel (6-14 Daniels Street, MHC #218) is still evident. It retains a concrete foundation, wood siding, projecting oriels on each end, and its size and scale. The transformation from a hotel to apartments occurred by 1942; however, recent updating with new entrances is reason to categorize it as noncontributing.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known within the district, sites may be present. Five ancient sites have been identified in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. Much of the western portion of the district includes well-drained, relatively flat terrain containing landforms formed in glacial outwash within 1,000 feet of wetlands. The entire district is located within the Charles River drainage with several tributary streams, wetlands, and ponds associated with Great Black Swamp and Bogastow Brook located within 1,000 feet of the western half of the district. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 110 acres), the extent of historic land use, and the presence of urban land, a low to moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district. Any ancient sites that were located in the district were destroyed by 18th through 20th century residential, industrial, commercial, and civic development.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 14

There is a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological resources in the district. Structural evidence may survive from a variety of 17th through 20th century buildings ranging from 17th and 18th century farmsteads and residences to 19th century commercial block developments, railroad depots, and early 20th century movie theaters. Structural evidence of outbuildings, barns, horse sheds, stables, and archaeological evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with both archaeological sites and extant buildings may also survive.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries and well into the 19th century, East Medway (Millis) was a community of scattered farmsteads engaged in cattle grazing and agriculture. Structural evidence of farmsteads including outbuildings and occupational-related features may survive from the earliest settlement in Millis Center, demolished during King Philip's War in 1675. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of settlement that occurred in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Potential sites of early settlement are known at 191 Curve Street where Jonathan Richardson built a house (no longer extant) in 1678, and at 226 Union Street where Peter Adams also settled in 1678. The extant John Richardson House (1750) at 191 Curve Street, which replaced the earlier 1678 Richardson House is the only surviving 18th century house in the district. The side wing at the extant Richardson House was reportedly built as a coopers shop. No 17th century properties survive in the district. Structural evidence may also survive at the site of the Jonathan Adams House (ca.1750) at 153 Union Street. Only a few houses and a church were located in the Millis Center Historic District prior to 1852. Most industrial, commercial and residential buildings were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Structural evidence may exist from an old depot building that originally stood on the triangle of land on Union Street at the railroad crossing. Structural evidence from the 19th century Charles Wesley Emerson House (demolished in 1982) may survive next to the Dean House at 45 and 53 Daniels Street. Archaeological evidence may survive from an 1894 Second Empire commercial block next to 32 Exchange Street and Snow's Hall (1910s), a movie theater that burned in 1934 and was replaced by the Winiker Block at 26-30 Exchange Street. Archaeological resources and extant residential, commercial, religious, and industrial buildings in the district may exist with social, cultural, and economic associations to the town's diverse population. Many homes in the district were company-owned housing. In the 1890s, the Millis Company financed and constructed approximately 60 homes in the district; possibly inhabited by the town's Irish and later Russian immigrants. A recreational community also existed in the district locale as indicated by the summer community that developed in the Pleasant and Village Street area south of the district and the existence of several late 19th and 20th century hotels that catered to Jewish guests. Potential industrial resources in the district may include structural evidence of outbuildings and occupational-related features associated with extant late 19th/early 20th century industries on Union Street and Curve Street and earlier potential industrial production at outbuildings and in homes.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 15

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca. 1750 to 1957

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Frank Weston – 324 Exchange St.

Thomas M. McDonough – 66 Exchange St.

George L. Smith – 903 Main St.

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Millis Public Library

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

8. Statement of Significance

The Millis Center Historic District, an area that developed to support growing local industries, is significant for its association with this important part of Millis' industrial and transportation history and for the remaining architecture that demonstrates its place in the continuum of the community's history. The Millis Center Historic District fulfills Criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials in some instances, craftsmanship, feeling and association. It is significant at the local level for a period extending from the construction date of the earliest extant building, ca. 1750 to 1957. During this time the village evolved and retained its distinction as the industrial and civic center of Millis from the mid to late 19th century to the present day.

Overview of the Development of the Town of Millis

The political boundaries of Millis were formed through a number of shifts in town lines and separation from larger earlier settled towns. Prior to English settlement, the territory belonged to Native Americans known as the Nipmucs. Its English settlement history began in the 1640s when there was reference to a large area west of the Charles River as part of Dedham. In 1650 the western part of Dedham including territory that eventually became Millis and Medway was set off to form Medfield. The part that would become Millis had been known as Boggastowe, named by the Nipmucs. Medfield land that was west of the Charles River was incorporated as Medway in 1713. The first meetinghouse was constructed at Bare Hill (outside this district) in the eastern section of Medway. Throughout the 18th and most of the 19th century Medway had two distinct villages: East Medway and West Medway. In 1885 East Medway became incorporated as the town of Millis, named after successful businessman and railroad executive, Lansing Millis (1823-1885).

Millis's situation on the Charles River made it a favored location for substantial Native American activity. Several east-west routes in the vicinity crossed the eastern town boundary, the Charles River, from Medfield into East Medway. These routes eventually became main roads in East Medway such as the Old Mendon Road which followed Dover Road and Village Street in a southwesterly direction and Union Street that led from the Dover Road across to the northern part of Exchange Street. Plain Street and the upper part of Exchange Street formed an early north-south route, connecting East Medway with Sherborn to the north. The Millis Center Historic District evolved along the northern part of Exchange, Plain, Union and Curve Streets. Main Street became a main east-west transportation route with the opening of the Hartford and Dedham Turnpike (later to be called Main Street) in 1809. Exchange Street was extended to the turnpike (Main Street) by the early 19th century.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA**

Section number 8 Page 2

Throughout the 18th and well into the 19th century East Medway was a community of scattered farms engaged in agriculture and cattle grazing. There were two mill sites – saw and grist mills – during the early days: one at Boggastowe Pond and the other at Rockville, where a small mill village evolved in the 18th century. Industrial development of the early to mid 19th century led to the evolution of the village at Millis Center. This development began in the 1810s when George Holbrook cast his first church bell in East Medway (now Millis). This was the beginning of a long and profitable business of manufacturing church and institutional bells, pipe organs, and clocks.

Although the railroad passed through Millis (then East Medway) as early as the 1850s and 1860s it was not until the 1870s that service was firmly established. Known as the Woonsocket Division of the New York & New England Railroad when it first opened in the 1850s and 1860s, it had a number of fits and starts due to financial difficulties of the various lines. In 1898 it became known as the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad through a lease arrangement. It was the railroad and the entrepreneurship of Lansing Millis that turned Millis into a small but thriving industrial village following the town's incorporation in 1885. Millis became the site of at least three substantial businesses: a shoe factory, a steel company, and a bottling company. Each took full advantage of sites next to the railroad for easy shipping of the products made. Each added to the work force which led to a building boom for housing in the 1890s and early 1900s. Services too had to be improved including fire, schools, and other town amenities such as water and electricity. Lansing Millis and his heirs played significant roles in each of these later patterns of development. Additional transportation was provided at the turn of the last century by the street railway which passed through Millis along Main Street connecting Dedham and Medfield to the east with Medway and Milford to the west.

With significant growth of industries in Millis there came a need for an increased work force. Immigrants filled many of these jobs with Irish being the largest group followed by Russians after 1915. Besides the industrial development which was concentrated at Millis Center, there was a summer community that grew up in the area of Pleasant and Village Streets. In 1898 the first Jewish family moved to Millis and began to take in boarders from Boston who were seeking a quiet summer location with clean air. Soon several hotels catering to Jewish guests were built. This thriving hotel business in the early 1900s was referred to as the "Borscht Circuit." In 1910 under the leadership of Joshua Mael, the House of Jacob Synagogue was organized. From that time on the Jewish population of Millis grew substantially. Although many families moved to Millis permanently others still patronized the hotels which were able to remain in business until World War II. Other religious societies were established including an Episcopalian parish organized in 1905, while land for the Catholic parish was purchased in 1909 but not built upon in 1937. These two denominations built their houses of worship within this Millis Center Historic District while the synagogue is located outside the district.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

Families of Early Settlers at Millis Center

A few of the early settlers built the first dwellings in what became Millis Center. These were demolished during the King Philip's War in 1675. Records indicate that there were dwellings attributed to the Richardson and Adams families from the late 17th and early 18th century. Jonathan Richardson settled on Curve Street where he built a house in 1678 and farmed the surrounding land. Subsequent members of his family continued farming and during the 18th century a cooper's shop was added to the ca. 1750 dwelling, the **John Richardson House** (191 Curve Street, MHC #100), which had replaced the first Richardson house. The coopers produced barrels that were used for overseas shipments between England and Boston.

Many generations of Richardsons lived in and near Millis Center well into the 20th century and were pillars of the community. One of the first known burials at Prospect Hill Cemetery (NR, 2006) was that of John Richardson in 1713; the oldest legible gravestone is marked David Richardson who died in 1724. Most of the land north of the railroad on either side of Exchange Street and Plain Street up to Curve Street was owned by Richardsons throughout the 19th century. The old Richardson homestead on Curve Street was owned by **Henry Richardson, Esq.** who in 1849 gave a piece of his land to the Congregational Church. The builder of the Fourth Meetinghouse (142 Exchange Street, MHC #4) was **Joseph L. Richardson** who lived on Union Street at the time. Subsequent Richardsons living here also served the town with land donations and in public office. **Evan F. Richardson** (1867-1951), who built the Queen Anne house at **163 Curve Street** (MHC #187) on family land, served his town and region for many years as town treasurer (30 years), school board, representative in the Massachusetts General Court in 1904 and a Norfolk County Commissioner from 1907 to 1928. He and his wife, Genieve Richardson, donated eleven and a half acres, part of their former farmland, to enlarge the Prospect Hill Cemetery (outside the district).

The Adams family also was among the early settlers. **Peter Adams** (bef. 1632-ca.1690) settled on Union Street as early as 1678 when he constructed a house (on the site of **226-234 Union Street**) - MHC #174; his son, Peter Adams (1653-1723) married Experience Cook, who is reported to have been the first school teacher in the settlement and, according to oral history, she taught children in her kitchen. The first town meeting and the first public worship were held at Peter and Experience Adams' house following the incorporation of Medway in 1713. These events occurred prior to the construction of the First Meetinghouse that stood on Bare Hill (Prospect Hill) adjacent to the cemetery. The Adams house later burned and was replaced by the only brick residential structure in the district, which by the mid 19th century was owned by Joseph L. Richardson, and likely was built by him of bricks from his brickyard.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

19th Century Development of East Medway

In the 1810s a church bell manufactory was established in East Medway by Major George Holbrook (1767-1846) who had apprenticed to Paul Revere. The Holbrook Bell Foundry made its first bell in 1813 which was installed in the second Congregational meetinghouse, located on Prospect Hill outside of the district. The bell foundry, located on Main Street near Auburn Road/Spring Street (outside the district), was taken over by Holbrook's son, Colonel George H. Holbrook (1798-1875) in 1820 and expanded in later years to manufacture pipe organs and clocks. Many churches and institutions, particularly colleges, town halls, and lighthouses across the United States boast a Holbrook bell in their respective buildings. In the late 19th century the business was run by Edwin L. Holbrook. Some members of the family, Charles P. Holbrook and George F. Holbrook (son of Edwin L. and Abigail Holbrook), lived in the district on Exchange and Main Streets. **Two Holbrook bells** have been returned to the district and stand as objects reminding one of this industrial past. One, cast in 1832, is located at the old **Memorial School** (also known as the Millis High School, which houses the Town Hall) where it was placed in 1976; the other, cast in 1845, is a memorial erected at the **Lansing Millis Memorial Building**, presented to the town by a former selectman in 1985.

East Medway (later Millis) also was home to a number of brick factories with the first one established in 1775 by Stephen Clark. Joseph Richardson is reported to have run the Richardson Brickyard located near Orchard Street (outside the district), one of six mid-19th century brickyards in East Medway. It is likely that he built his brick house at 226 Union Street (on the site of the former Peter Adams House) of bricks from his yard. Many mid to late 19th century dwellings in the village area have brick foundations, no doubt from one of the local yards.

The First Parish Meetinghouse had been constructed at Bare Hill (now known as Prospect Hill) in 1715; the society had been founded in 1714 as the East Parish of Medway and worship services had been held in the home of Peter Adams on Union Street. The first two meetinghouses (1715 and 1749) were located at the edge of the Prospect Hill Cemetery, which is Millis' only burial ground used from 1713 to the present day (NR, 2006). The third meetinghouse was located at Bullard Hill (also outside the district) in 1816. The meetinghouse locations did not become the permanent town center in part due to the hilly topography. Instead the village of Millis Center took root east of these first meetinghouse locations.

Thus, in 1850 the fourth meetinghouse of the **First Parish Congregational Church** (142 Exchange Street) was located in Millis Center, more central to the growing community. The congregation would eventually become known as the Church of Christ. The land was donated to the Parish by Henry Richardson, Esq. who lived in the **John Richardson House or Homestead** (MHC #100) at 191 Curve Street at that time. He gave two acres

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

along with the privilege to build 220 feet of horse sheds along the western line of the property and 80 feet along the northern line. A condition was that the site had to be used for religious purposes. The church was built by Joseph L. Richardson of the same East Medway/Millis family. A long line of horse sheds, as allowed by the agreement, was built and remained until modern times when they were removed for the construction of the attached parish house (1950-1954). At the time of construction of this fourth meetinghouse, the Holbrooks asked to swap the bell so that the company could reclaim the first bell ever cast in their foundry as stated above. The new bell was hung in the steeple in 1854 at the same time that E. L. Holbrook built and installed the organ in the church.

The First Parish constructed a **Parsonage** (MHC #60, 151 Exchange Street) opposite the meetinghouse in 1872. The Italianate plan and elaboration displayed at the Parsonage was similar to two nearby dwellings that were constructed years before: the **R. T. Morse House** (MHC #165, 166 Exchange Street, ca. 1855) and a **Joseph L. Richardson, Jr. House** (MHC #82, 128 Curve Street, ca. 1865). The pastor and first occupant of the Parsonage was the Rev. E. O. Jameson who wrote *The History of Medway*. After Millis was incorporated Jameson served on the school committee and was chairman and superintendent from 1885 to 1892. He also served as Town Moderator, a library trustee and was a supervisor for Emerson College of Oratory started by Millis resident, Charles W. Emerson (see below). This dwelling continues to serve as the Parsonage for the Church of Christ.

The level of development and activity in Millis escalated after the railroad was completed with a stop in Millis (then East Medway) by the 1870s. A depot was built south of the tracks on the west side of Exchange Street opposite the location of the 1886 **Lansing Millis Memorial Building** (MHC #72). As noted above, service was irregular until the 1870s. While West Medway had thriving shoe and cotton industries most of the residents in East Medway still worked on farms. In 1885 at the time of incorporation there were 638 residents in East Medway and sixty-one farms.

The first fire company organized in East Medway was the Niagara Engine Company #4 which had 33 members in 1855. It was named after the parent company located in Niagara Falls, New York. The first piece of equipment, the Niagara Hand Tub, was purchased in 1857 and it was not until 1879 that the **Niagara Engine House** (MHC #74) was built to house the horse-drawn hand tub which continues to be housed in this building. Built by local carpenter, Abijah Partridge, the fire house was constructed near the nucleus of the community at the edge of the main east-west route of Main Street and just south of the railroad depot on Exchange Street, on land that the company had purchased years before. In 1880 Charles LaCroix a local artist engaged an artist friend, George Storey of Boston, to create murals on the walls of the Firehouse. Storey lived in the Niagara Engine Company building while completing the murals. Only one fire apparatus was housed here until the 1920s when the main façade was altered to accommodate two doors for additional equipment.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

Industrial Village of Millis after Incorporation in 1885

The arrival in ca. 1880 of **Lansing Millis** (1823-1885) was pivotal in the development of this town. Lansing Millis had made his fortune as general manager of the "through freight" department of the Vermont Central Railroad, president of the Chicago, Boston and Liverpool Refrigerator Line (a railroad company also), and president of the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain Railroad Company. He had married Harriet Philadelphia Lavender from Sandhurst in County Kent, England and they had lived in New York, until moving to Boston in 1855. Millis started as a railroad agent and manager and worked his way up to various high level positions over the next thirty years of his life. In his last years, Millis moved to East Medway for its quiet bucolic setting and established a substantial dairy farm on Exchange Street (outside the district), which he called Oak Grove Farm. On his farm he started a small beverage (ginger ale) business in ca. 1880, which some years after Millis' death was incorporated in 1901 as Cliquot Club Company. Lansing Millis was honored for his upstanding character when East Medway separated from Medway and was incorporated in February 1885 as the town of Millis. Immediately he was appointed the town's first moderator and was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; however he died three months later and was unable to enjoy his namesake town.

Six months later, Millis's heirs (son, Henry Lansing and daughter, Helen) sought permission from the Millis town meeting to construct a memorial to their father. It was granted and they built the **Lansing Millis Memorial Building** (64 Exchange Street, MHC #12) alongside the railroad tracks on Exchange Street. The Richardsonian Romanesque stone building was truly a memorial with special stones donated and inscribed by business friends of Lansing Millis that were embedded in the stone walls. These stones were used in the tower with eighteen in the top half and nine in the lower half, and still are clearly visible as a reminder of the many companies with which Millis was associated. Uses for the building combined Lansing Millis' interests. The first story was a railroad station and the second story housed a public library and town offices. The first town clerk, Louis LaCroix, also served as station master and librarian. Town offices continued here until 1998 when the **Memorial School** (MHC #73) was refurbished as the town hall and renamed the Veterans Memorial Building.

The heirs of Lansing Millis, particularly his son, carried on his legacy of entrepreneurship and public service. Henry Lansing Millis (1855-1915) was involved in nearly every important business in Millis until he moved to Chicago in 1898. He ran his father's farm (outside the Center District) which soon was one of the region's largest commercial dairies – the Oak Grove Farm Milk Company. Henry Millis served as treasurer of the **Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Company** (60 Curve Street, MHC #40) and built the new shoe shop (114-124 Union Street, MHC #128) for **J. W. Thompson Shoe Company** of Medway to occupy. He also started the Millis Company that financed the construction of approximately sixty houses on new streets laid out to accommodate the modest workers' housing. Lavender, Irving and Daniels Streets were among these. Millis

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 7

fulfilled his civic duties by serving as a selectman from 1887 to 1894 and as the first Millis representative to the General Court in 1886.

Helen Millis (1849-1942), daughter of Lansing Millis, married Livingston VanKleeck who owned a stationery company in New York. In 1887, Helen Millis VanKleeck, living in Brookline at the time, constructed one of the town's most elaborate residences as her summer home. The **Helen E. VanKleeck House**, called "**Rocklawn**" (270 Exchange Street, MHC #68) is an ornate Queen Anne style house designed by Boston architect Frank W. Weston. His commissions ranged from middle class housing in Jamaica Plain to the grand 1894 Burnham Memorial Town Hall and Library in Essex, Massachusetts (NR pending). Mrs. VanKleeck remained here until 1921 when she sold the property to J. Allen and Ida Evelyn Cole who had moved to Millis ca. 1910 from Medfield. Cole made his money as a builder and eventually owned the Medway Box Company which made boxes for the Herman Shoe Company.

The **Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant**, mentioned above, was established here in 1889 in the long stone buildings with stone tower adjacent to the railroad on Curve and Union Streets (60 Curve Street). It was constructed on land that had been owned by Henry L. Millis. The stones for the construction of these buildings were brought from local farms, with the largest portion from Millis' Oak Grove Farm. **Arthur E. Appleyard** who built the fine Colonial Revival **Arthur Appleyard House** at 324 Union Street (MHC #175), known as "**White Lodge**," held a patent for soldering irons for which Steel Edge Stamping had the exclusive right. Another local resident who held a patent for one of the plant's main products was **Dr. John S. Folsom** (1840-1907) who had moved to East Medway in 1873 and had purchased the fine Italianate Morse House at 166 Exchange Street (MHC #165). He was a dentist and also served on the first Board of Selectmen with Lansing Millis. His patent that was produced by the Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant was for a steel edge dustpan.

In spite of the early success this plant closed in 1895 and the buildings were either vacant or had temporary tenants until 1908 when it became occupied by United Cork and Seal Company (also known as Crown Cork and Seal), a manufacturer of bottle caps. This company, located on one side of the railroad with Cliquot Club on the other, remained until 1917 when the property was purchased by Safepack Mills. From 1918 to 1929 Safepack manufactured waterproof paper used to protect food, clothing, and supplies that were shipped to armed forces around the world. In 1929 the business was reorganized and took on the name of the parent company, the Ruberoid Company. This business continued to manufacture roofing materials, waterproof papers, and reflective insulation until 1967 when it was purchased by GAF as one of its 14 facilities producing shingles and rolled roofing. The factory continues to operate today.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

In 1896 the **Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company** was established when Herman purchased the 1891 J. W. Thompson factory (114 Union Street, MHC #128). This building, constructed by Henry Millis, was located on the east side of the tracks opposite the Steel Edge factory which was on the west side of the railroad. Each had spurs that led into their yards for easy shipping of the product which was a critical part of the success of these businesses. The Herman Shoe Company manufactured many types of boots and shoes including those for the United States Army and employed 600 persons in its heyday at the 1920s. The company was particularly known for specialty shoes and boots produced for the military. Herman Shoe made the "Rough Rider" for the Spanish American War soldiers, the "Doughboy" during World War I, and the "GI Joe" for World War II and the Korean War. The Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company remained in business until 1982.

Although not in the district it is important to recognize the far-reaching effect that the Clicquot Club Company had on Millis Center. Lansing Millis, his son, Henry, and friend Charles LaCroix started carbonating cider and bottling it for distribution among friends. Soon they made ginger ale using high quality Jamaican ginger and distributed through the Oak Grove Farm Milk wagons that advertised cider and soda. Henry Millis coined the name "Clicquot" for the well-known French champagne at the time and had a bottling facility next the Herman Shoe Company on the south side of the railroad before leaving town in 1898. At the turn of the last century the business had been languishing, no doubt due in part to Henry Millis' departure; however it was revived in 1901, incorporated as the Cliquot Club Company, and production of ginger ale, and other sodas took off becoming a multi-million dollar corporation and employing 250 persons by the late 1920s. The company was purchased by Cott in 1962 and continues in business.

The increased work force which came to work at Cliquot as well as Safepac and the Herman Shoe Company all contributed to the need for housing and services. Many who lived in the district worked at Cliquot such as Herbert Frink, who lived in the William Frink House (878 Main Street, MHC #153) in the 1910s.

By the time that these businesses were established in Millis a train station had been built on Union Street on the west side of the tracks next to the **Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant** and opposite the Thompson, (later Herman) Shoe Company. Thus there were two stops in Millis – this one referred to as East Millis Station and probably was a freight depot and the passenger station in the **Lansing Millis Memorial Building** on Exchange Street. Each company had spurs where freight trains could pull into the businesses yards for loading and unloading. In the same vicinity there were hotels and boarding houses for workers. The **Herman House Hotel** (MHC #218, NC) was opposite the station on Daniel Street and the **Stafford House** (65 Curve Street, MHC #209) also took in boarders and ran a restaurant for factory workers in the early 1900s.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 9

Housing built by the Millis Company was close to several factories and at the center of town. **Lavender Street**, named for Henry Millis' mother (Harriet Lavender Millis) was laid out in the early 1890s and accepted by the town in 1892. It stretched from Plain Street on the east to Grant Square (MHC #916) at Exchange Street. **Grant Square**, once a square-shaped piece of land at the edge of Exchange Street, had been dedicated to Ulysses S. Grant at the end of the Civil War. When Lavender Street was laid out the square was reduced to a grassy triangle, which retained the name of Grant Square. Most of the houses on Lavender Street were simple gable front cottages ranging from one to two stories. Some have minor embellishments such as decorative shingles in the gable peaks, modest porches, and an occasional doorhood at the side hall entrance. One exception is the building on the northeast corner of Exchange and Lavender Streets (16 Lavender Street, MHC #117), at Grant Square which has more elaborate trim and a round corner tower. Some records indicate that for a short time this was the Millis Savings Bank, which was incorporated in 1892 with Henry Millis as president.

Irving and Daniels Streets were developed in much the same way. Undeveloped fields owned by Henry Millis (west end of Irving, and along Union and Curve) and by Cyrus Daniels (east end of Irving and Daniels) were subdivided in separate plans and the Millis Company financed the building of new single-family homes for workers. The creation of this workers' housing coincided with the rapid growth of the **Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Company** (1889) and **J. W. Thompson Shoe Company** (1891), which became Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company in 1896. Both factory complexes were located just south of Irving Street along Union Street, making this an ideal location for their employees to live. The **Millis Company's worker's houses** were clustered on the west end of Irving Street, while the east end of Irving, like Daniels Street, developed with a few larger, privately-owned, single-family properties that became multi-family dwellings over time.

The Millis Company struggled during the depression of the 1890s and the Irving Street development was sold to creditors in 1897; W. P. Holcomb of Boston purchased approximately six acres in this area including the existing dwellings. While research to date has not revealed information about Holcomb's profession, it is likely that he was a developer, as he purchased a substantial amount of land in Millis and the surrounding towns between 1897 and 1908. Holcomb owned most of the properties in this six-acre parcel on Irving and Curve, until at least 1909, although he had sold off a few of the individual lots and houses by that time.

Daniels Street was likely named for Cyrus Daniels, a farmer who owned most of the land on the east end of Irving Street extending south to Union Street until his death in the late 19th century. **James E. Mullen**, who was a shoemaker, purchased parcels of land from E. M. Daniels (1900) and from Edward Daniels, the son of Cyrus Daniels (1901) and built his house at **46 Daniels Street** (MHC #177). Across the street lived Osgood T. Dean who was an insurance broker and owned two houses (**45 and 53 Daniels Street**). Next to Dean's houses was a dwelling (no longer extant) owned by Charles Wesley Emerson (1837-1908) one of Millis' more illustrious

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 10

citizens. Emerson, founder and president of Emerson College of Oratory in Boston from 1880 to 1903, had lived at Buttercup Farm on Orchard Street until he retired in 1903 when he moved to Daniels Street. He was a noted educator, orator, and author and after retiring from the College he continued to publish textbooks under the label of Emerson Publishing Company. Emerson's widow remained on Daniels Street for a number of years after her husband's death. Eventually their house was demolished and replaced by multi-family units in 1982.

Commercial activity in Millis Center was robust with a number of stores in several locations, a post office, a movie theatre, and an opera house. Holbrook Square (the intersection of Exchange, Plain and Curve Streets) had the large Partridge Hall which burned in 1892. It was replaced by a low commercial structure with several store fronts that was called the **Fuller Department Store** or the Fuller Block (132 Curve Street). Although substantially altered this building remains at 132 Curve Street. The early 20th century **Millis Post Office** (106 Exchange Street, MHC #162) was housed in a building owned by E. F. Richardson located diagonally across this wide intersection. Nearby was **Frank and Amelia Clark's Drygood store (MHC #259)**. The substantially-altered building is extant and located at the edge of the St Thomas property parking lot.

In ca. 1891 at about the same time as the housing boom on Lavender, Daniels, and Irving Streets among others, a five-store commercial block (location of 6-18 Exchange Street) was constructed near the 1879 **Niagara Engine Company** on Exchange Street. Although it appeared to be vacant off and on over the next 10-15 years in its early days it housed a drug store, a clothing store, and one for cigars, billiards and confectionary as well as a barber. This string of shops appears to have been replaced in the 1910s with a slightly smaller **low commercial block** (16-18 Exchange Street), which housed a grocery store and club room in the 1920s. Farther north on Exchange Street, a large Second Empire commercial block was erected in 1894. It was built as an Opera House to seat 700 persons for staged performances. By 1903, the Thorne Block (no longer extant), as this building was known in the 20th century, was converted to Thorne Brothers Hay and Grain store. Next to the Thorne Block was a late 19th century **grocery store** (32 Exchange Street, MHC #262) built at about the same time as the Second Empire structure. Adjacent to the grocery store, Snow's Hall was constructed in the 1910s as a movie theatre for "moving pictures." This was an important resource in this thriving industrial community and when it burned in December 1934 it was considered the end of an era. Snow's Hall was replaced with the **Winiker Block** (26-30 Exchange Street, MHC #159), a low single story row of store fronts in 1935. The **Patent Medicine Store** (2 Exchange Street, MHC #84) was built in 1916 at the corner of Main and Exchange Streets. It was located on the streetcar line which was used to send medicines to neighboring towns. A drug store continued to occupy this location throughout the 20th century.

The **First Parish Congregational Church** continued to grow and in 1903 was incorporated as the Church of Christ. It had been the only religious institution with a building until the early 20th century. Catholics had held

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 11

mass in homes and later in public halls such as the Grange Hall which was located behind the Congregational Church (Church of Christ) on Exchange Street. In 1905 an Episcopal parish was organized in Millis when local women founded **St. Paul's Church** and held services in the home of Mrs. Anna Hoff (**16 Lavender Street, MHC #117**). The cornerstone for the church building (903 Main Street, MHC #154) was laid on May 15, 1910, by Rt. Rev. William Lawrence and the building was completed in 1912. Local architect George Smith designed the project and also donated oak beams, cut in Millis. Interior furnishings such as the altar, pews, and baptismal font came from Christ Church in Needham.

When Irish workers came to Millis seeking employment in the new factories the Catholic population increased substantially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1909 Father Dwyer, the priest of the Medway Catholic Church, with the help of Jeremiah Shannon had purchased land for the construction of a church at Millis Center. However construction of **St. Thomas the Apostle Church** (66 Exchange Street, MHC #160) did not take place until 1937. The architect was Thomas M. McDonough of Boston and F. G. Jacques Construction Company also of Boston erected the building. The rosette and stained glass windows were donated in memory of early Catholics including Shannon and Father Dwyer.

When Millis separated from Medway it had three schools. At the Center was the Adams School which was located on Main Street where the present **Fire and Police Station** (901 Main Street, MHC #272) is situated. In 1892 the town purchased the land on the south side of Main Street opposite the Adams School on which to build a secondary school; however construction of the **Memorial School** (900 Main Street, MHC #73) – now the Veterans Memorial Building (Town Hall) - did not take place until 1913. In the interim Millis high school students met at the Grange Hall due to overcrowding in the other schools. Osgood T. Dean, who lived at **53 Daniels Street** (MHC #178), was one of the three members of the school building committee which constructed the five-room brick building (900 Main Street) with its main entrances in the Main Street elevation. In 1931-32 the building was expanded which resulted in the reorientation of the Millis High School to face Park Road. This addition included nine classrooms, a library, and an auditorium. For years Snow's Hall on Exchange Street had been used for large school gatherings such as games, proms, and graduation. The timing of the new construction at the High School was fortuitous as Snow's Hall burned in 1934.

Traditional civic organizations in Millis included the Grange which had its Hall (no longer extant) behind the Congregational Church on Exchange Street. This Hall opened in 1893, but the East Medway Grange had held its first cattle show and fair in 1886 after the incorporation of Millis. The **Millis American Legion Post #208** (MHC #186) was organized in 1920 and members built the Craftsman style bungalow at 130 Curve Street in 1925. Legion members participated in the construction of **Memorial Park** (MHC #917) on the church

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 12

common just across Curve Street at Exchange. This small plot of land was donated to the town by the Church of Christ in 1935. Members of Post 208 of the American Legion assisted in erecting the monument here in memory of Spanish American War and World War I veterans. The large rock on which an eagle is mounted is reported to be a meteorite which was found in a nearby swamp and moved to this location.

When Memorial Park was established the Millis Parks Commission had been in business for nearly 40 years. One of the first purchases of the newly formed Commission in 1889 was a small piece of land at Curve and Union Streets that was purchased by the town from Henry Millis. It was turned over to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in 1913 for the railroad station near the factories. In 1922 the town purchased 21 acres known as **Hosmer Field** and the Town Park that sits behind the old **Memorial School - Millis High School** was established. It was laid out with baseball diamonds, tennis courts and other recreational facilities. A stone **bandstand** (MHC #919) was constructed in 1931 and the large town park continues to serve the community.

Millis Today

Commuter service on the railroad ended in 1967 and the freight lines were taken over by Bay Colony. The industrial complexes at Millis Center – GAF and Cott – continue to have freight rail service. The old depot building that once sat on the tiny triangle on Union Street at the railroad crossing has been removed. However, these businesses maintain railroad spurs onto their properties to facilitate shipping.

The town has engaged in a number of preservation efforts including Niagara Hall and the Memorial School which was expanded to the Millis High School in 1931. In 1998 the old Millis High School was converted to the Memorial Building housing town offices. It was established in memory of the Millis veterans and a large **World War II Monument** was installed in front on Main Street. An important resource to the community is the extensive display set up in glass cases that line the halls of this town office building. It is the Hindy Rosenfeld Collection of historic photographs, postcards, documents and records pertinent to the history of Millis.

Town offices had been located in the **Lansing Millis Memorial Building** (the old train station) on Exchange Street and **Niagara Hall** which had been reconfigured for town offices in 1978. Once the town offices were consolidated into the old **Memorial School** now dedicated as the Veterans Memorial Building, the old train station was leased to a small private school. The town voted to sell Niagara Hall but first to remove the mural. However, a number of residents were alarmed by this decision and rallied support behind preservation of this

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 13

important town resource. A one-time assistance grant of \$50,000 was received from the Department of Travel and Tourism. One of the primary advocates of the move to preserve this structure, Jeffrey Hardin and his colleagues hired Joseph Hamm Carpentry of Medway to restore the main façade of the building. Thus the **Niagara Engine Company** (now referred to as Niagara Hall) was returned to its original appearance with the removal of the synthetic siding and restoration of one fire apparatus opening in the main façade as well as reusing the late 19th century paint scheme. Additional funds from the Massachusetts Council of Arts and Humanities have helped to restore the mural in the fire house.

Many of the intersections now carry the name of Millis war veterans who gave their lives. The American Legion's program renamed the intersection and placed a granite marker with bronze plaque at each location. The **Stanley Pollard Marker** (MHC #920) is located at Pollard Square at the wide intersection of Exchange, Union, and VanKleeck Streets. Pollard was killed in 1943 during World War II in the South Pacific. The **Joseph Tamuleviz Marker** (MHC #923) at the intersection of Union and Curve Streets (called Tamuleviz Square) and commemorates Joseph Tamuleviz who was wounded in 1943 while flying a bombing mission during World War II. He died from complications in 1949. This site was chosen for its proximity to Irving Street where Tamuleviz lived. The **DiCenzo Marker** (MHC #921) on the grassy triangle at Grant Square (Named in 1892 when Lavender Street was laid out) is dedicated to Leonard O. DiCenzo who died in 1953 in the Korean War.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Millis are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in the district area may contribute important information relating to Native settlement and subsistence activities in the Charles River drainage, especially the least documented interior portion of that drainage. Native American sites along tributary streams of the Charles River may include smaller sites related on a functional and/or seasonal basis with larger sites and core areas along the main drainage of the Charles River. Ancient sites in this area may represent a specialized adaptation to specific resources and environmental characteristics located in the uplands and wetlands that surround the district.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the early settlement of East Medway/Millis and the evolution of the town's economy from cattle grazing and agriculture to an industrial village. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of the town's early settlement, all of which was destroyed during King Philip's War in 1675.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 14

Scattered farmsteads were known to exist in the area prior to 1675; however, no specific examples are known at this time. Historical and archaeological research may also locate examples of late 17th and 18th century settlement in the district. Only one extant example from this period is known to survive; however, the sites of several additional farmsteads are known. Structural evidence of early farmsteads may contribute important evidence relating to the architectural characteristics of early residences and barns and the internal configuration of early farmsteads. Structural evidence of 19th century residential, commercial, and industrial buildings may also contribute important architectural details related to their form, construction, and variations that might have existed between private and company-owned worker housing. In the 1890s, the Millis Company financed construction of approximately 60 houses, many of which are located within the district. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features and outbuildings may contribute important information related to 19th and 20th century ethnic studies, especially the town's Irish and Russian population. The information described above may contribute important information related to the living conditions of workers, subsistence farming, and cottage industries that supplemented worker's wages. Any information related to home manufacture or cottage industries may contribute important information related to the growth of later larger-scale industry. Archaeological resources associated with the two larger industries located in the district may contribute important information related to the original facilities at the Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant at 60 Curve Street and the Joseph H. Herman Shoe Company at 114 Union Street. Structural evidence from outbuildings at each of these industrial concerns may help identify how their physical organization and manufacturing facilities changed over time. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features, especially industrial trash deposits, may contribute important evidence of products that were manufactured, technologies in use, and raw materials used for production. Some industries, such as shoe manufacture, may have continued a relationship in the production process with smaller cottage industries located in private homes that prepared components used to manufacture shoes.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA**

Section number 9 Page 1

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1858. Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of the County of Norfolk, Massachusetts*.

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

Other Sources

Hindy Rosenfeld Collection. Cases at Millis Town Hall. Photographs, postcards, reports, etc.

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Town of Millis. <http://www.millis.net/>

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 110 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet. (Medfield Quad Map)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 305130 4671710
3. Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 305280 4671480
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 305680 4671610
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 305660 4671400
Zone Easting Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gretchen G. Schuler, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2007

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125-3314

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 Millis and others

street & number 900 Main Street telephone 508-376-7040

city or town Millis state MA zip code 02054

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA**

Section number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTM REFERENCES

All UTM references are in Zone 19.

POINT	EASTING	NORTHING
E	305 720	4671 370
F	305 650	4671 290
G	305600	4671 300
H	305 370	4671 120
I	305 240	4671 200
J	305 140	4671 160
K	305 220	4671 120
L	305 110	4671 000
M	305 210	4670 900
N	305 280	4670 880
O	305 280	4670 630
P	305 200	4670 610
Q	305 250	4670 370
R	305 100	4670 380
S	305 010	4670 630
T	304 810	4670 580
U	304 930	4671 020
V	304 840	4671 020
W	304 850	4671 100
X	304 950	4671 100
Y	305 020	4671 460
Z	304 940	4671 570

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries follow lot lines on Assessors Map #s 19, 23, 24, and 30. All properties are at Millis Center on Curve, Daniels, Exchange, Irving, Lavender, Main and Union Streets and Park Road.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include contiguous properties that tell the story of Millis Center as the village that grew up around the several industries, the railroad and the institutions that make a community. The boundaries are drawn to include housing in the immediate area that was built for workers and that retains integrity. Some parts of the center are not included in the boundaries due to substantial alterations or removal of historic fabric.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Millis Center HD
Millis (Norfolk), MA**

Section number 10 Page 3

Photographs

All photographs included with this Nomination were taken in April, 2005 by Millis Commission member, Mitch Bobinski. The negatives have been deposited with the Millis Historical Society.

Photo #	View
1. Exchange and Union Sts.	Looking south.
2. John Richardson House	191 Curve St. - main façade looking west.
3. R. T. Morse House	166 Exchange St. – looking northwest
4. Richardson-Hill House	128 Curve St. – ¾ view looking southwest.
5. Helen VanKleek House	270 Exchange St. – looking northwest.
6. Lavender Street	Looking east.
7. Fourth Meetinghouse	142 Exchange St. – looking west.
8. Niagara Engine Company	4 Exchange St. – streetscape looking northwest
9. Lansing Millis Memorial Building	64 Exchange St. – looking northwest.
10. J. W. Thompson Shoe	114-124 Union St. – looking west, northwest
11. Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning	60 Curve St. – looking east
12. Winiker Block	26-30 Exchange St. looking northwest.
13. Memorial School	900 Main St. looking southeast.
14. Memorial Park and War Memorial	Exchange Street looking north.

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/FORM	TYPE	STATUS
180	19-198	16 Curve St	Millis, Henry L. House	ca. 1891	Dutch Colonial	B	C
203	19-162	21 Curve St	house	late 20th c.	No style/alterd	B	NC
40	24-023	60 Curve St	Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant / Safepack Company Mills / GAF	1889	Industrial Complex	B	C
		60 Curve St	large metal building outside fence (on Union)	late 20th c.		B	NC
209	19-192	65 Curve St	Stafford House	ca. 1910	No style	B	C
210	19-171	67 Curve St	house	1940s	No style	B	NC
211	19-190	81 Curve St	house	ca. 1935	Bungalow	B	C
181	24-024	90 Curve St	house	ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	B	C
	24-024	90 Curve St	attached barn	ca. 1930s	(altered)	B	C
182	19-189	93 Curve St	house	ca. 1925	Bungalow	B	C
	19-189	93 Curve St	1-car garage	ca. 1925		B	C
212	24-025	98 Curve St	house	ca. 1915	Four Square	B	C
	24-025	98 Curve St	barn - now 2-car garage	early 20th c.		B	C
183	19-187	103 Curve St	Foster, Appleton - Mason, George House	by 1852	Greek Revival / Colonial Revival	B	C
213	24-026	106 Curve St	house	post 1909	Italianate	B	C
184	24-010	109 Curve St	house	ca. 1925	Four Square	B	C
	24-010	109 Curve St	1-car hipped roof garage	ca. 1925	Colonial Revival	B	C
185	24-009	117 Curve St	Parsonage Carriage House	1872	Mansard	B	C
	24-009	117 Curve St	1-car garage	ca. 1933		B	C
82	24-030	128 Curve St	Richardson, J. L. Jr. - Hill, Dr. E.L. House	ca. 1865	Italianate	B	C
	24-030	128 Curve St	attached barn -converted to garage	late 19th c.		B	C
214	24-032	132 Curve St	Fuller's Department Store	ca. 1895	Commercial (altered)	B	NC
187	24-001	163 Curve St	Richardson, Evan F. House	1890-1909	Queen Anne	B	C
	24-001	163 Curve St	garage - converted to apartments	ca. 1920s	No Style (altered)	B	NC
188	23-016	177 Curve St	Richardson House (was attached to barn)	pre-1890	Cape	B	C
100	23-010	191 Curve St	Richardson, John House	1750	Georgian	B	C
	23-010	191 Curve St	shed	late 19th c.		B	C
215	24-027	118-120 Curve St	house	post 1909	Italianate	B	C
186	24-031	130 (136) Curve St	Millis Post #208 American Legion Hall	1925	Bungalow	B	C
216	24-020	19 Daniels St	Richardson, E.F. House	late 19th/early 20th cent	No Style /Italianate features	B	C
217	24-016	30 Daniels St	house	1960s	Ranch	B	NC

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
176	24-018	45 Daniels St	Dean, Osgood T. House	ca. 1900	Italianate	B	C
	24-018	45 Daniels St	garage	ca. 1925		B	C
177	24-147	46 Daniels St	Mullen, James House	ca. 1900	Queen Anne	B	C
	24-147	46 Daniels St	1-car garage	early 20th c.		B	C
178	24-017	53 Daniels St	Dean, Osgood T. House	ca. 1900	Queen Anne	B	C
	24-017	53 Daniels St	1-car garage	ca. 1925		B	C
218	24-015	6-14 Daniels St	Herman House Hotel	ca. 1922	Altered	B	NC
219	24-015	16-22 Daniels St	house	late 20th c.	No Style	B	NC
220	24-019	21-31 Daniels St	house	1982	Duplex	B	NC
221	24-019	33-35 Daniels St	house	1982	Garrison Colonial	B	NC
84	23-073	2 Exchange St	Patent Medicine Store	1916	One-Part Commercial	B	C
74	23-072	4 Exchange St	Niagara Engine House / Niagra Hall	1879	Italianate	B	C
263	23-052	29 Exchange St	house	1934-1942	No Style	B	C
262	23-049	32 Exchange St	Grocery Store (now combined with Winiker Blk.)	1892-1897	No style	B	C
261	23-048	36 Exchange St	house	1978	Commercial	B	NC
86	23-053	37 Exchange St	Whitings, W. W. House	1890	No style	B	C
260	23-047	40 Exchange St	Cobbler Shop	ca. 1920	Hipped roof store	B	C
72	23-032	64 Exchange St	Lansing Millis Memorial Building	1885	Richardsonian Romanesque / Shingle Style	B	C
914	23-032	64 Exchange St	Holbrook Bell	1845	cast metal bell	O	C
915	23-032	64 Exchange St	Historic Well Stone Cairn	late 19th c.	no style	St	C
160	23-034	66 Exchange St	St. Thomas the Apostle Church	1937	Gothic Revival	B	C
258	23-035	81 Exchange St	house	1937	Dutch Colonial	B	C
257	23-036	89 Exchange St	house	ca. 1925	Arts and Crafts	B	C
256	23-037	97 Exchange St	house	ca. 1915	Four Square	B	C
161	23-018	98 Exchange St	house	ca. 1915	Four Square	B	C
	23-018	98 Exchange St	barn (now 2-car garage)	ca. 1915		B	C
255	23-038	103 Exchange St	house	ca. 1910	Colonial Revival	B	C
162	23-017	106 Exchange St	Millis Post Office - Richardson, E.F. House	pre-1909	Gable front	B	C

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
163	23-039	111 Exchange St	Dudley, Samuel House - St. Thomas Rectory	pre-1852	Side Gable	B	C
4	24-002	142 Exchange St	First Parish Congregational Church - Fourth Meetinghouse	1850	Italianate	B	C
60	24-005	151 Exchange St	First Parish Congregational Church Parsonage	1872	Italianate	B	C
	24-005	151 Exchange St	garage	mid 20th c.		B	NC
164	19-186	156 Exchange St	Daniels, Milton House	ca. 1855	Gable front	B	C
254	24-006	163 Exchange St	King, Rudolph F. House	ca. 1915	Arts and Crafts	B	C
165	19-177	166 Exchange St	Morse, R. T. House	ca. 1855	Italianate	B	C
	19-177	166 Exchange St	tennis court	late 20th c.		St	NC
253	19-176	172 Exchange St	house	1920s	Four Square	B	C
	19-176	172 Exchange St	shed			B	NC
125	24-007	175 Exchange St	Beasley, Dr. A. S. House	1912	Colonial Revival	B	C
	24-007	175 Exchange St	2-car hipped roof garage	ca. 1920s	Craftsman	B	C
166	19-175	180 Exchange St	house	1909-1922	Craftsman	B	C
252	19-188	183 Exchange St	Hill, C. Est - M. L. King House	ca. 1875	Greek Revival / Italianate	B	C
	19-188	183 Exchange St	garage	early 20th c.	Altered	B	NC
251	19-174	184 Exchange St	house	1930s	Cape-altered	B	C
121	19-173	192 Exchange St	house	1911	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
	19-173	192 Exchange St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C
120	19-172	193 Exchange St	West, M. J. House	1880	No style	B	C
	19-172	193 Exchange St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C
167	19-131	196 Exchange St	Partridge, E. II House	pre-1876	Gable front	B	C
168	19-132	205 Exchange St	Clark, Mary House	pre-1909	Queen Anne	B	C
169	19-126	214 Exchange St	Adams, L. House	pre-1876	Queen Anne/CR	B	C
250	19-125	215 Exchange St	house	1920s	Four Square	B	C
	19-125	215 Exchange St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s	altered	B	NC
249	19-95	224 Exchange St	house	ca. 1935	Colonial Revival	B	C
171	19-097	231 Exchange St	house	1909-1922	Queen Anne/CR	B	C
248	19-087	236 Exchange St	house	1954	Garrison Colonial	B	NC
172	19-098	239 Exchange St	house	1909-1922	Queen Anne/CR	B	C
247	19-086	244 Exchange St	house	1970s	Cape	B	NC
246	19-084	257 Exchange St	house	ca. 1924	Bungalow	B	C
245	19-083	261 Exchange St	house	ca. 1925	Arts and Crafts	B	C
	19-083	261 Exchange St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
244	19-058	267 Exchange St	house	ca. 1930	Arts and Crafts	B	C
	19-058	267 Exchange St	3-car garage	late 20th c.		B	NC
68	19-049	270 Exchange St	VanKleeck, Helen E. House, "Rocklawn"	1887	Queen Anne	B	C
243	19-057	273 Exchange St	house	ca. 1915	Arts and Crafts	B	C
173	19-048	283 Exchange St	Phillips, E. House	pre-1852	Greek Revival	B	C
	19-048	283 Exchange St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C
157	23-070	12-14 Exchange St	house	1910-1922	Italianate	B	C
	23-070	12-14 Exchange St	1-car hipped roof garage	ca. 1930		B	C
158	23-068	16 (18) Exchange St	stores	ca. 1892	One-Part Commercial	B	C
170	19-096	225-227 Exchange St	Appleyard, Arthur E. House	ca. 1905	Side Gable	B	C
159	23-051	28 (26- 30) Exchange St	Winiker Block	1935	One-Part Commercial	B	C
920	19	Exchange St	Stanley Pollard Marker	late 20th c.		O	NC
259	23-019	Exchange St	Frank & Amelia Clark's Dry Good Store (now part of St. Thomas property)	ca. 1900	Altered	B	NC
917	24-004	Exchange St	Church Common / Memorial Park	1855/1935	Landscape	Si	C
918	24-004	Exchange St	War Memorial	1935	n/a	O	C
222	19-153	11 Irving St	house	1954	Cape	B	C
	19-153	11 Irving St	2-car hipped roof garage	ca. 1954		B	C
223	24-146	12 Irving St	house	1964	Neo-Colonial	B	NC
224	19-152	21 Irving St	house	1921	Bungalow	B	C
	19-152	21 Irving St	2-car garage	ca. 1950s		B	NC
225	19-157	22 Irving St	house	1959	Ranch	B	NC
226	19-158	32 Irving St	house	1959	Ranch	B	NC
227	19-151	35 Irving St	house	pre-1933	Queen Anne	B	C
	19-151	35 Irving St	2-car garage	pre-1933		B	C
228	19-159	38 Irving St	house	ca. 1950s	Ranch	B	NC
229	19-160	44 Irving St	house	ca. 1950s	Ranch	B	NC
230	19-150	45 Irving St	house	ca. 1925	Bungalow	B	C
231	19-149	47 Irving St	house	ca. 1925	Bungalow	B	C
	19-149	47 Irving St	1-car garage	ca. 1930s		B	C
189	19-148	57 Irving St	Millis, Henry L.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
	19-148	57 Irving St	1-car garage	ca. 1930s		B	C
148	19-161	62 Irving St	house	1927	No style	B	C
	19-161	62 Irving St	shed	ca. 1930s		B	C

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
190	19-147	63 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
191	19-120	67 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	ca. 1890	Bungalow	B	C
192	19-146	69 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
193	19-145	75 Irving St	Millis, Henry L.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
194	19-144	81 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	pre-1909	Gable front	B	C
195	19-163	84 Irving St	house	pre-1922	No style	B	C
	19-163	84 Irving St	garage (on Curve St.)	pre-1922	altered	B	NC
196	19-143	87 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
	19-143	87 Irving St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C
197	19-164	90 Irving St	house	1918	Four Square	B	C
	19-144	90 Irving St	barn	ca. 1900		B	C
198	19-142	93 Irving St	Holcomb, W.P.	pre-1909	Gable front	B	C
199	19-165	94 Irving St	Millis, Henry L.	ca. 1890	Gable front	B	C
200	19-141	95 Irving St	house	pre-1922	Four Square	B	C
	19-141	95 Irving St	2-car garage	late 20th c.		B	NC
201	19-166	100 Irving St	house	pre-1922	Gable front	B	C
202	19-140	105 Irving St	Millis, Henry L.	ca. 1890	No style	B	C
179	19-154	3-5 Irving St	Wade, Herbert House	pre-1909	Queen Anne/CR	B	C
41	23-055	15 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
	23-055	15 Lavender St	garage			B	NC
117	23-045	16 Lavender St	Millis Savings Bank - S. G. Hoff	1890	Queen Anne	B	C
	23-045	16 Lavender St	long shed	1940s		B	C
115	23-056	23 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
114	23-044	26 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
113	23-057	29 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
	23-057	29 Lavender St	1-car garage	ca. 1930s		B	C
112	23-043	34 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
	23-043	34 Lavender St	1-car garage			B	NC
111	23-058	37 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
110	23-042	42 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
109	23-041	50 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
	23-041	50 Lavender St	2-car garage	mid 20th c.		B	NC
108	23-043	54 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	No style	B	C
	23-043	54 Lavender St	shed	mid 20th c.		B	NC
107	24-048	55 Lavender St	house	1919	Four Square	B	C
105	24-046	64 Lavender St	Millis Company Worker Housing	1890	Queen Anne	B	C
273	24-050	69 Lavender St	house	early 20th c.	No style	B	C

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
916	23	Lavender St	Grant Square	1892	Landscape	Si	C
921	23	Lavender St	Leonard O. DiCenzo Marker	late 20th c.		O	NC
153	24-114	878 Main St	Frink, William P. House	ca. 1870	Queen Anne	B	C
	24-114	878 Main St	1-car garage	early 20th c.		B	C
73	23-116	900 Main St	Memorial School / Millis High School	1913/1931	Classical Revival	B	C
905	23-116	900 Main St	Holbrook Bell	1832	cast metal bell	O	C
918	23-116	900 Main St	World War II Memorial	1998	Monument	O	NC
923	23-116	900 Main St	Clock			O	NC
272	23-060	901 Main St	Police and Fire Station	1960	Modern	B	NC
154	23-061	903 Main St	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	1912	Arts and Crafts	B	C
271	23-063	915 Main St	house	1970	1-story commercial	B	NC
270	23-114	924 Main St	house	1921	Bungalow	B	C
269	23-066	931 Main St	house	1922	Mansard	B	C
268	23-113	936 Main St	house	1920	Colonial Revival	B	C
	23-113	936 Main St	garage	ca. 1920	altered	B	NC
267	23-067	943 Main St		1953	commerical-altered	B	NC
266	23-112	946 Main St	house	1922	No Style	B	C
	23-112	946 Main St	barn	late 20th c.	Dutch Colonial	B	NC
265	23-111	954 Main St	house	1924	Bungalow	B	C
	23-111	954 Main St	shed-shop	early-mid 20th c.		B	NC
155	23-062	909-911 Main St	Millis Company Housing / Newhouse, S. A. House	ca. 1892	Dutch Colonial	B	C
156	23-155	916-920 Main St	Kingsbury, H. House	pre-1852	Greek Revival	B	C
	23-155	916-920 Main St	1-car garage	early 20th c.		B	C
264	23-064	925 (929) Main St	house	1962	Office block	B	NC
904	30-20	Park Rd	Hosmer Field - Town Park	1922	Landscape	Si	C
919	30-20	Park Rd	Bandstand	1931		St	C
276	24-033	16 Plain St	house	early 20th c.	No Style	B	C
275	23-040	29 Plain St	house	1922-1933	No Style	B	C
	23-040	29 Plain St	1-car garage	1922-1933		B	C
274	24-044	31 Plain St	Clark, W.P. House	1890s	Queen Anne	B	C
909	24	Plain St	Plain St. Bridge over NY,NH & H RR	2003	Concrete	St	NC
232	24-021	150 Union St	house	late 20th c.	modern	B	NC
233	24-013	171 Union St	house	1920S	No Style	B	C

MILLIS CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STREET INDEX

MHC #	MAP / PARCEL	STREET STREET # NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE/Form	TYPE	STATUS
	24-013	171 Union St	1-car garage	ca. 1920s		B	C
204	24-012	175 Union St	Millis, Henry L. House	ca. 1890	No Style	B	C
	24-012	175 Union St	1-car garage	early 1900s		B	C
205	24-011	187 Union St	house	pre-1933	Queen Anne	B	C
206	19-197	199 Union St	house	pre-1922	No Style	B	C
207	19-194	217 Union St	house	pre-1922	No Style	B	C
208	19-167	233 Union St	house	pre-1922	Four Square	B	C
234	19-168	236 Union St	house	1930s	Bungalow-altered	B	C
235	19-169	240 Union St	house	1950s	No Style	B	NC
46	19-170	244 Union St	Zoldan, Hazel House	1920	Colonial Revival	B	C
236	19-139	247 Union St	house	1930s	Four Square	B	C
237	19-134	252 Union St	house	1920s	No Style	B	C
	19-134	252 Union St	garage	ca. 1920s	Craftsman	B	C
44	19-135	253 Union St	house	ca. 1910	Colonial Revival	B	C
	19-135	253 Union St	2-car garage			B	NC
238	19-133	258 Union St	house	1900s	Queen Anne/CR	B	C
43	19-123	261 Union St	La Croix House	1920	Colonial Revival	B	C
	19-123	261 Union St	garage	1920s		B	C
239	19-124	262 Union St	house	1950s	Ranch	B	NC
240	19-100	273 Union St	house	late 20th c.	Cape	B	NC
241	19-099	285 Union St	house	unknown	Colonial Revival	B	C
	19-099	285 Union St	1-car garage	pre-1922	Craftsman	B	C
242	19-085	320 Union St	house	1960s	Cape	B	NC
175	19-052	324 Union St	Appleyard, Arthur E. - "White Lodge"	ca. 1890	Colonial Revival	B	C
	19-052	324 Union St	2-car garage			B	NC
128	24-066	114-124 Union St	Thompson, J. W. Shoe Company / Herman, Joseph M. Shoe Company	1891	No style	B	C
174	19-193	226-234 Union St	Richardson, Joseph L. House /Peter Adams House site	pre-1852	Capes connected	B	C
922	19	Union St	Joseph Tamuleviz Marker	late 20th c.		O	NC

Total Contributing = 171

Buildings = 163

Sites = 3

Structures = 2

Objects = 3

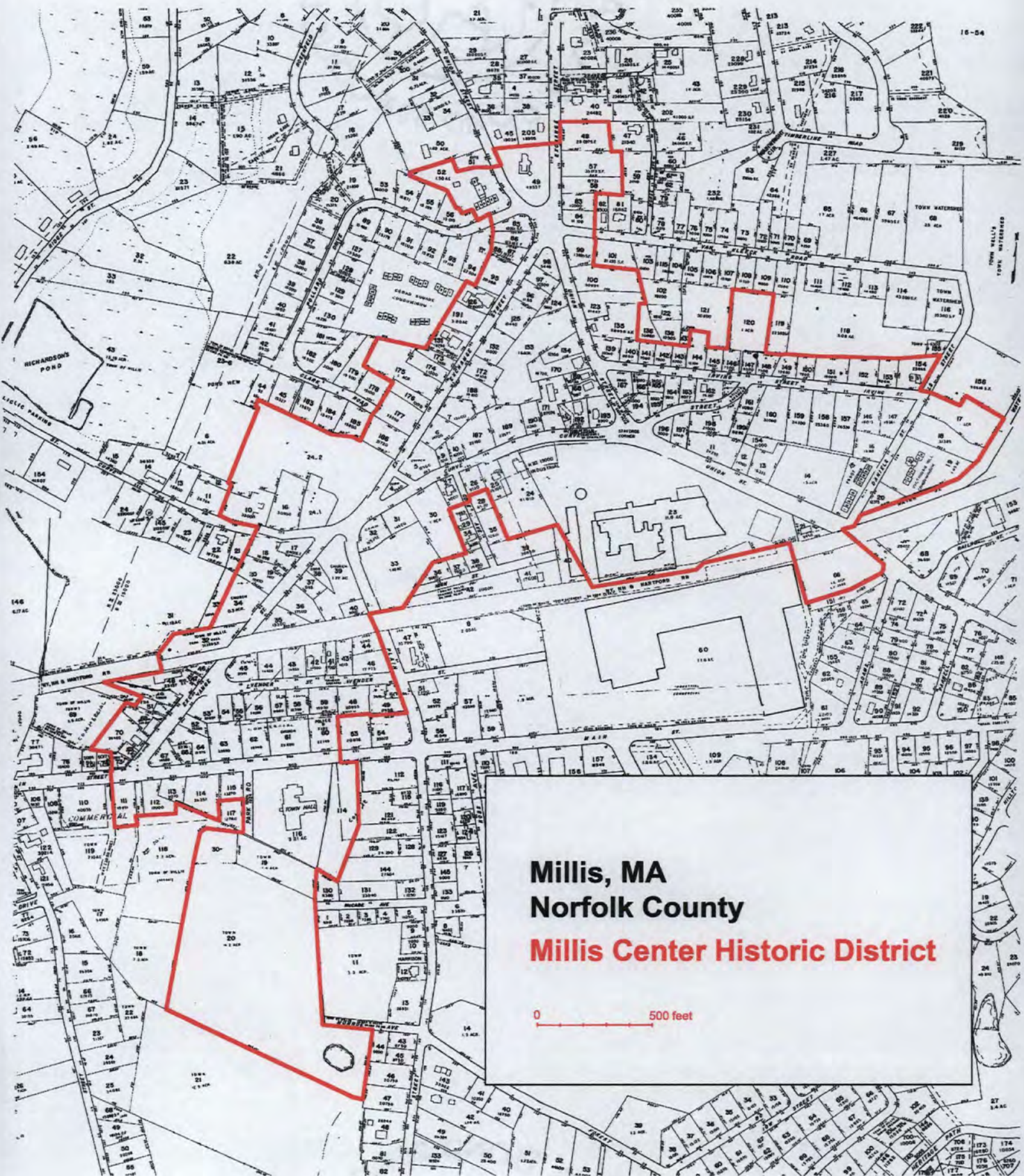
Total NonContributing = 52

Buildings = 45

Sites = 0

Structures = 2

Objects = 5



Millis, MA
Norfolk County
Millis Center Historic District

0 500 feet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000944

Date Listed: 9/14/1997

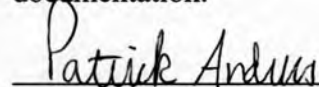
Property Name: Millis Center Historic District

Multiple Name:

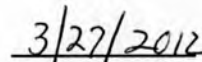
County: Suffolk Norfolk County

State: Massachusetts

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



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

In a letter dated March 19, 2012, the MA State Historic Preservation Officer has notified the National Register of an erroneous statement contained in the Statement of Significance for the Millis Center Historic District. The nomination references the purported apprenticeship of Major George Holbrook to Paul Revere. Additional research by the State has demonstrated that there is no documented evidence to support this claim and printed references to this have no basis in fact.

The nomination form for the Millis Center Historic District is now amended on page 4 of Section 8, line 2, by removing the phrase "...who had apprenticed to Paul Revere." The corrected sentence should now read: "In the 1810s a church bell manufactory was established in East Medway by Major George Holbrook (1767-1846)."

=====

DISTRIBUTION:**National Register property file****Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Millis Center Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 8/03/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/20/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/04/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/16/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000944

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/14/2007 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 9/14/2007

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.



Mills, MA NORFOLK County

Exchange St. from North - Rossi's

4.9.05

Photo #1

05 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK



Millis, MA NORFOLK COUNTY
191 Cedar St: John Richardson House
G G SCHULZ: photographer
October 2005
photo # 2



Millus, ITA

Norfolk Co

166 Exchange St

R.T. Rose House

G.G. Schuler: photographs

October 2005

Photo #3



MILLIS, MA
128 Curve St.

Norfolk County

4.9.05
Photo #4

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK



Millis, MA Norfolk County
270 Exchange St Wankleek House
G G Schuster: photographs

October 2005
Photo # 5



Millis, MA Norfolk County

lavender St. from West

4.9.05

Photo #6

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK



Mills, MA Norfolk County
Fourth Mtg house 142 Exchange St

G G Schuster

AK October 2005 NOV 2005 CAK

NOV 2005 CAK

NOV 2005 CAK

Photo # 7



MILLIS, MA NORFOLK County

Exchange St. From South - 109

4.9.05

Photo #8

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK

APRIL 2005 CAK



Millis, MA Norfolk County
64 Exchange St. - Lansing Hills Memorial
Bldg

Photo # 9

NOV 2005 CAK

NOV 2005 CAK

NOV 2005 CAK

GG Schuster

October 2005



Mills, IA Norfolk County
114-124 Union St J. W. Thompson Shoe
G G Schuler: photographer

October 2005
Photo # 10

NOV 2005 CAK

NOV 2005 CAK



MILLIS, MA Norfolk County
Steel Edge Stamping - now GAF
~~Chapel Hill St. Union St.~~ 60 Curve St

4.9.05
Photo #11



MILLIS, MA Norfolk County
28(26-30) Exchange St

4-9-05

Photo #12



Millis, MA

900 Main St

Norfolk County
Memorial School

G.G. Schuster: photographer

October 2005

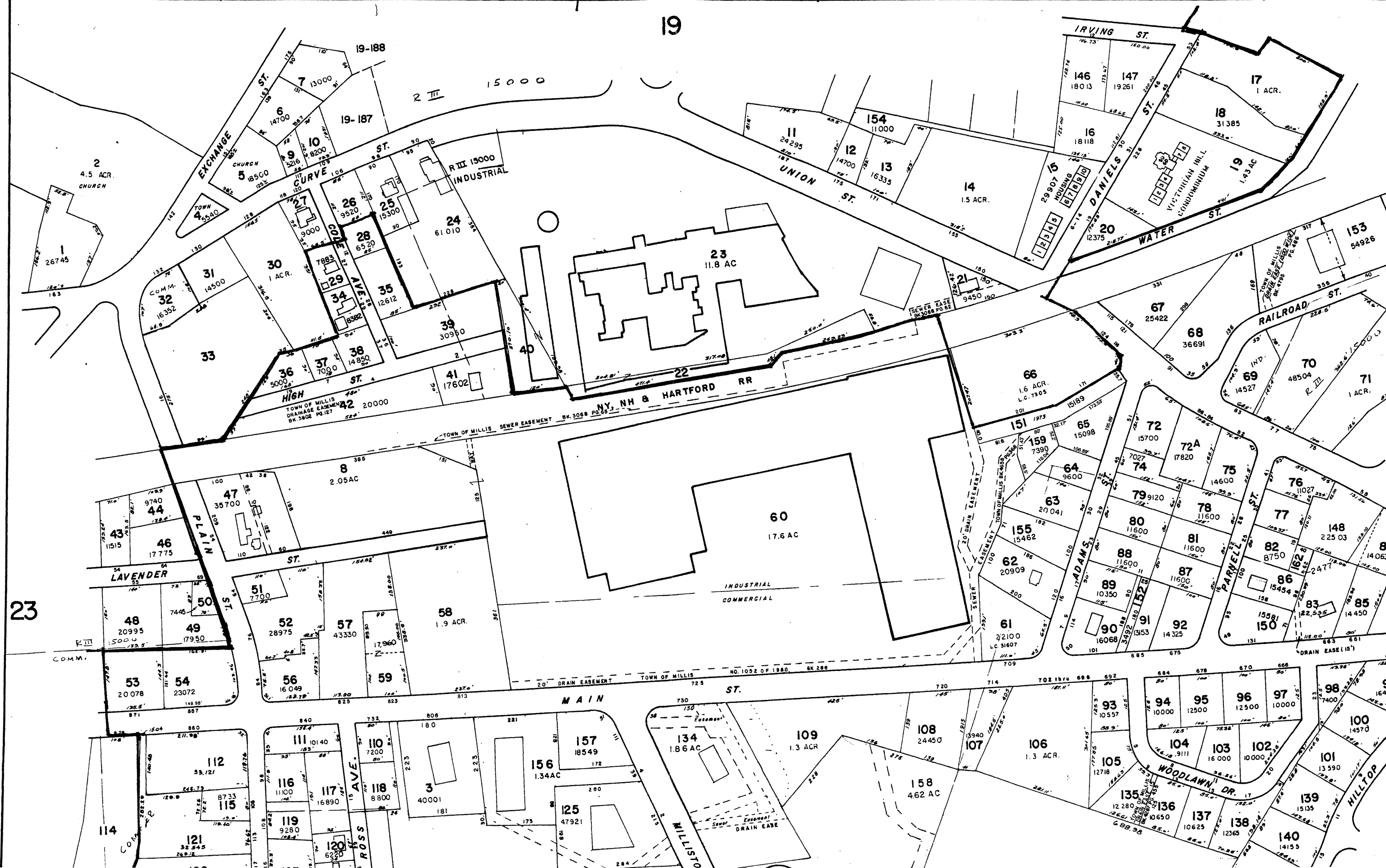
Photo #13



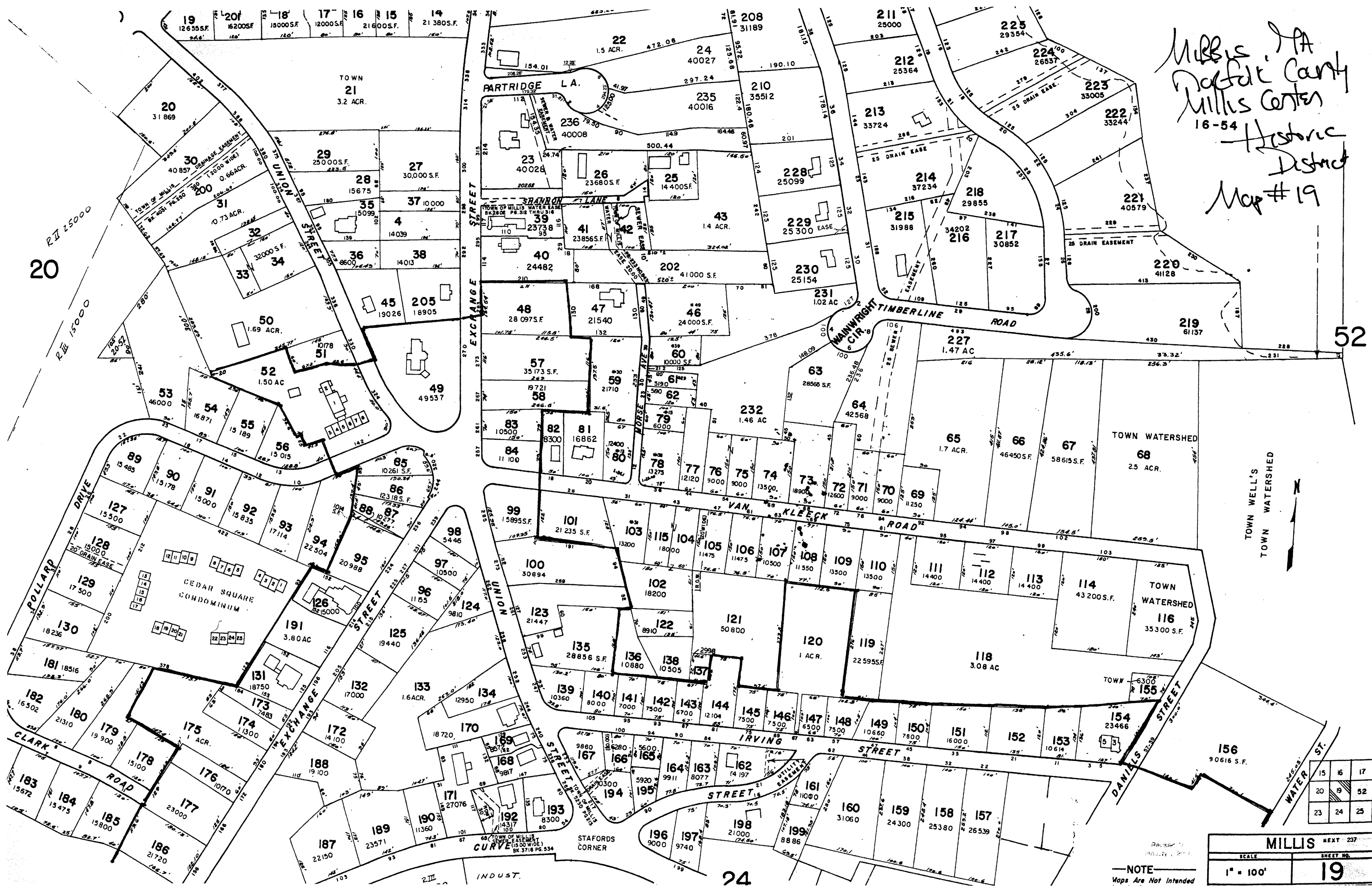
Mills, MA Norfolk County
Exchange St. Triangle - Close Up
4-9-05
Photo #14

MAP #24

R III 15000



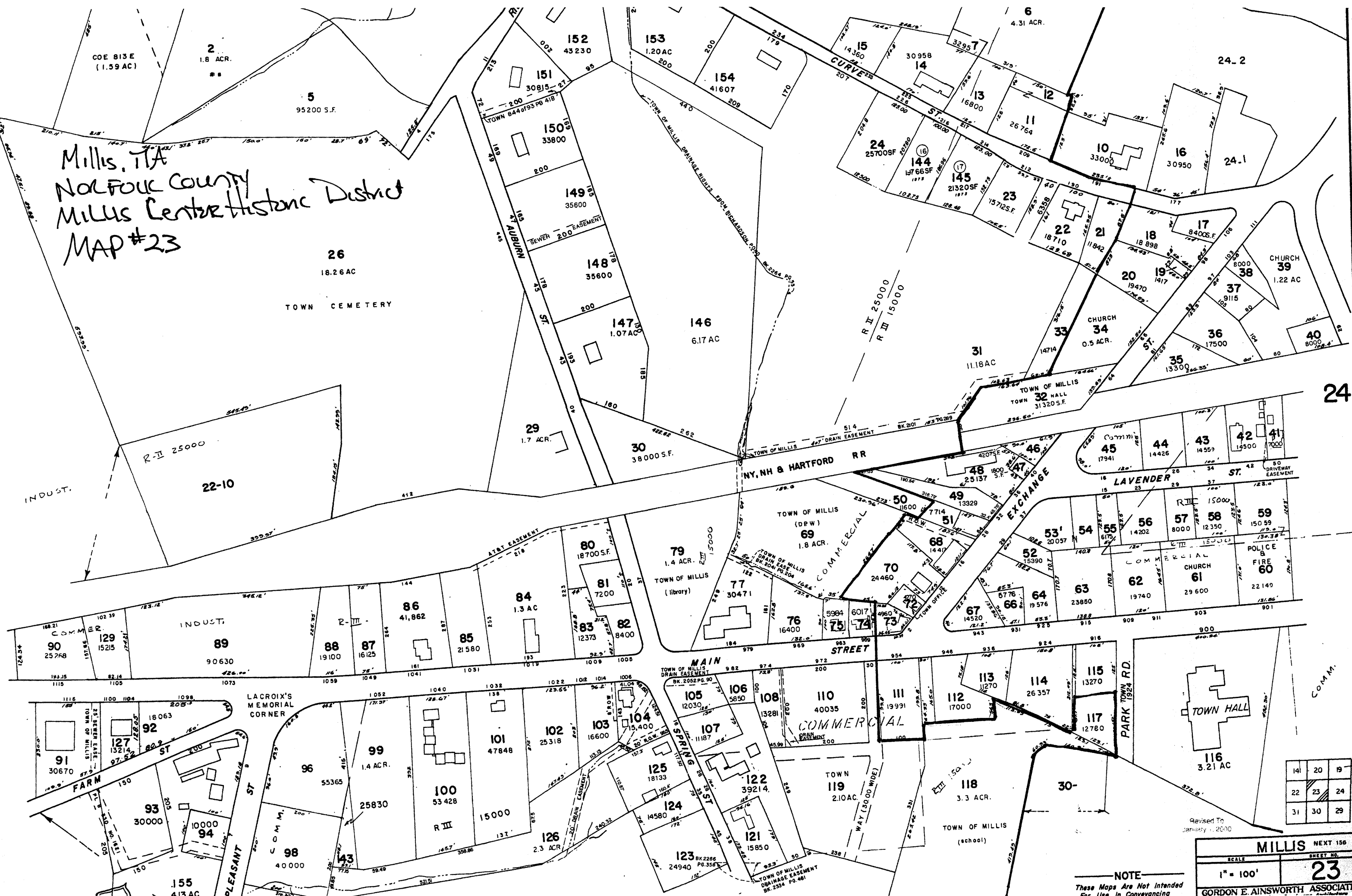
MILLIS, MA
Dorset County
Millis Center
16-54
Historic
District
Map # 19



NOTE
Maps Are Not Intended

MILLIS		NEXT 237
SCALE	SHEET NO.	
1" = 100'	19	

Mills, MA
Norfolk County
Mills Center Historic District
MAP #23



24

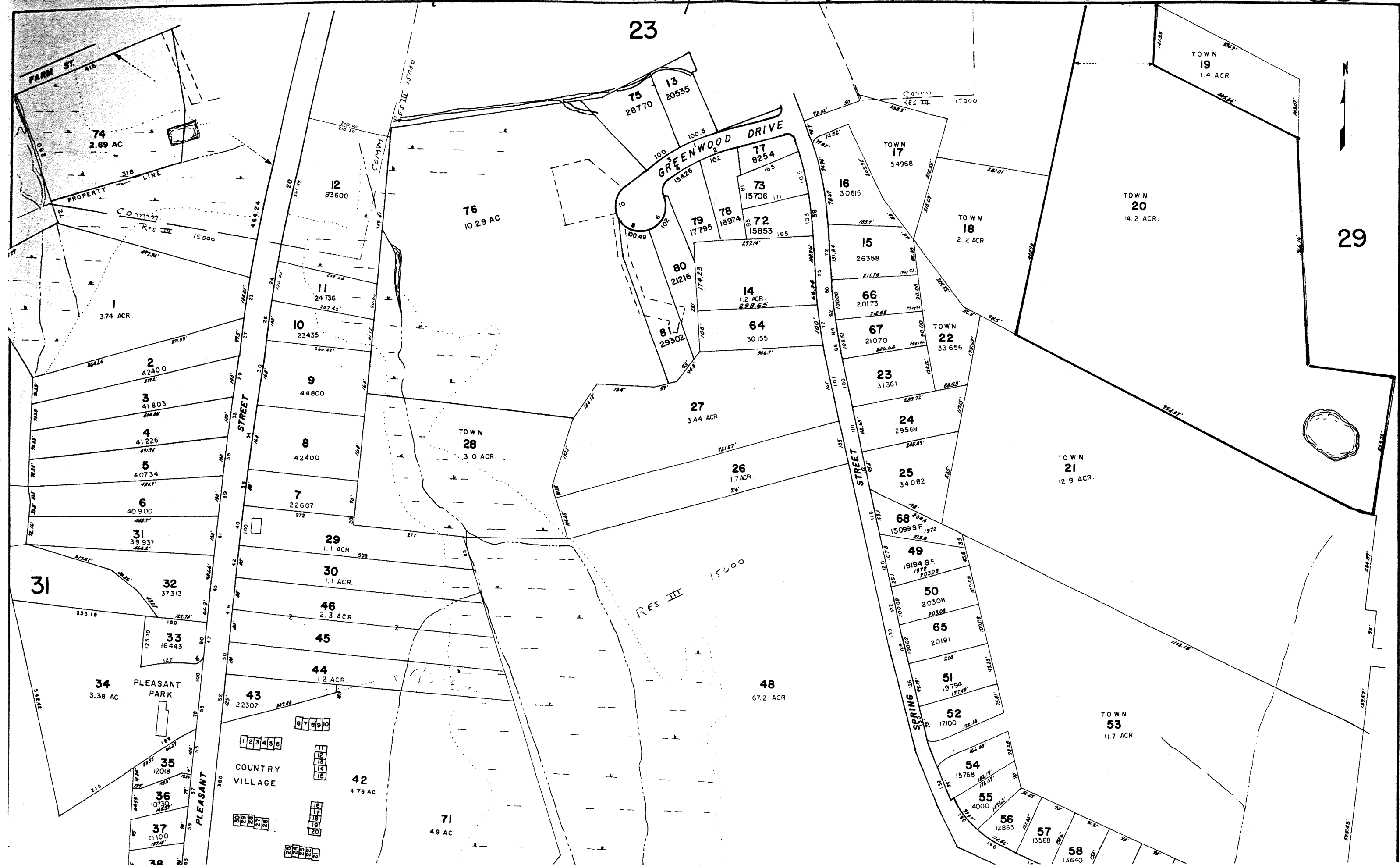
14	20	19
22	23	24
31	30	29

Revised To
January 1, 2000

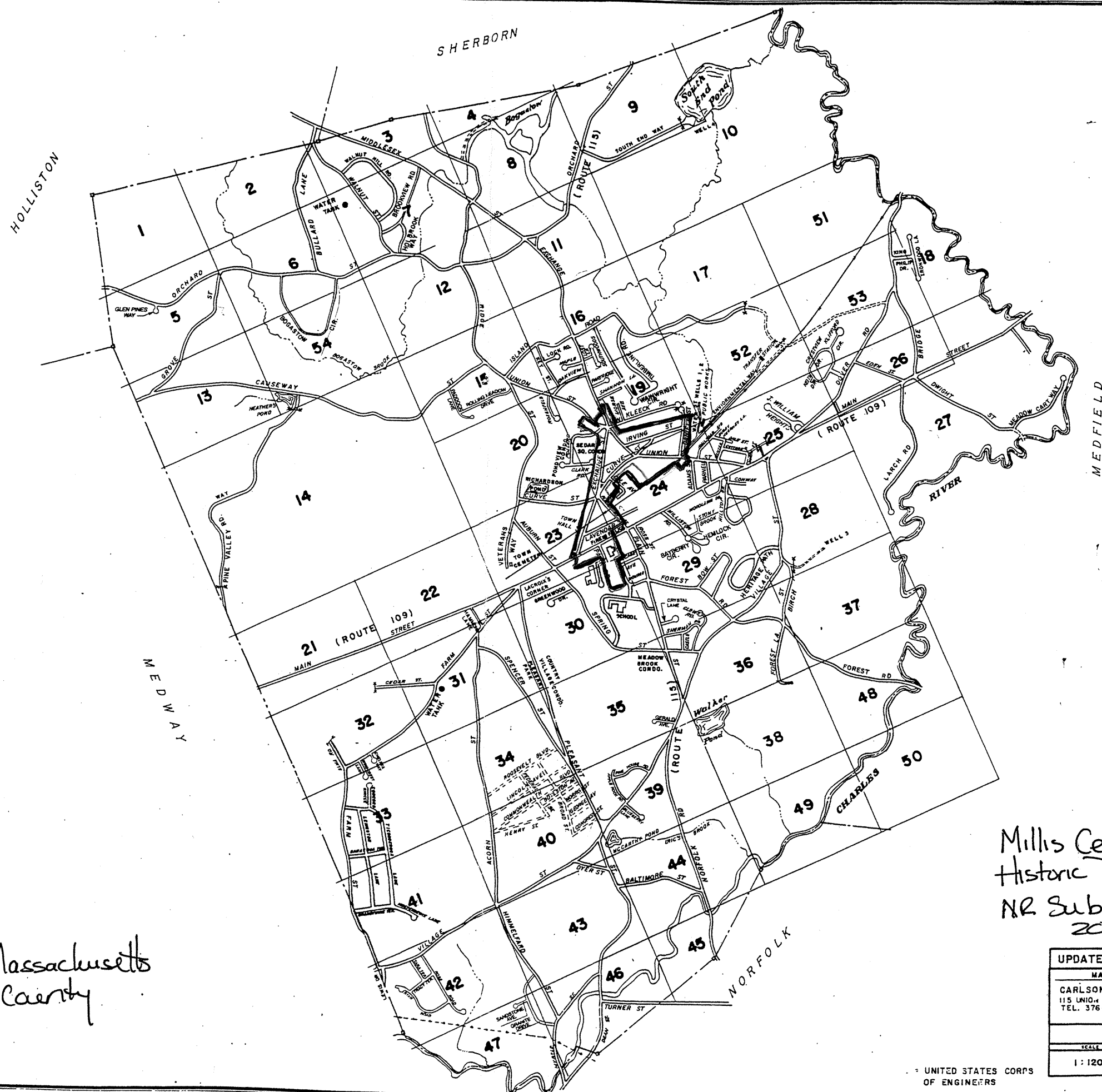
NOTE
These Maps Are Not Intended
For Use In Conveyance

MILLS NEXT 156	
SCALE	SHEET NO.
1" = 100'	23
GORDON E. AINSWORTH ASSOCIATES	

MAP#30



Millis, Massachusetts
Norfolk County



Millis Center
Historic District
NR Submittal
2006

District
Map

UPDATED JANUARY 2006	
MAINTAINED BY	
CARLSON SURVEY COMPANY	
115 UNION ST - MILLIS	
TEL. 376-2310	
MILLIS	
SCALE	SHEET NO.
1 : 12000	SHEET INDEX

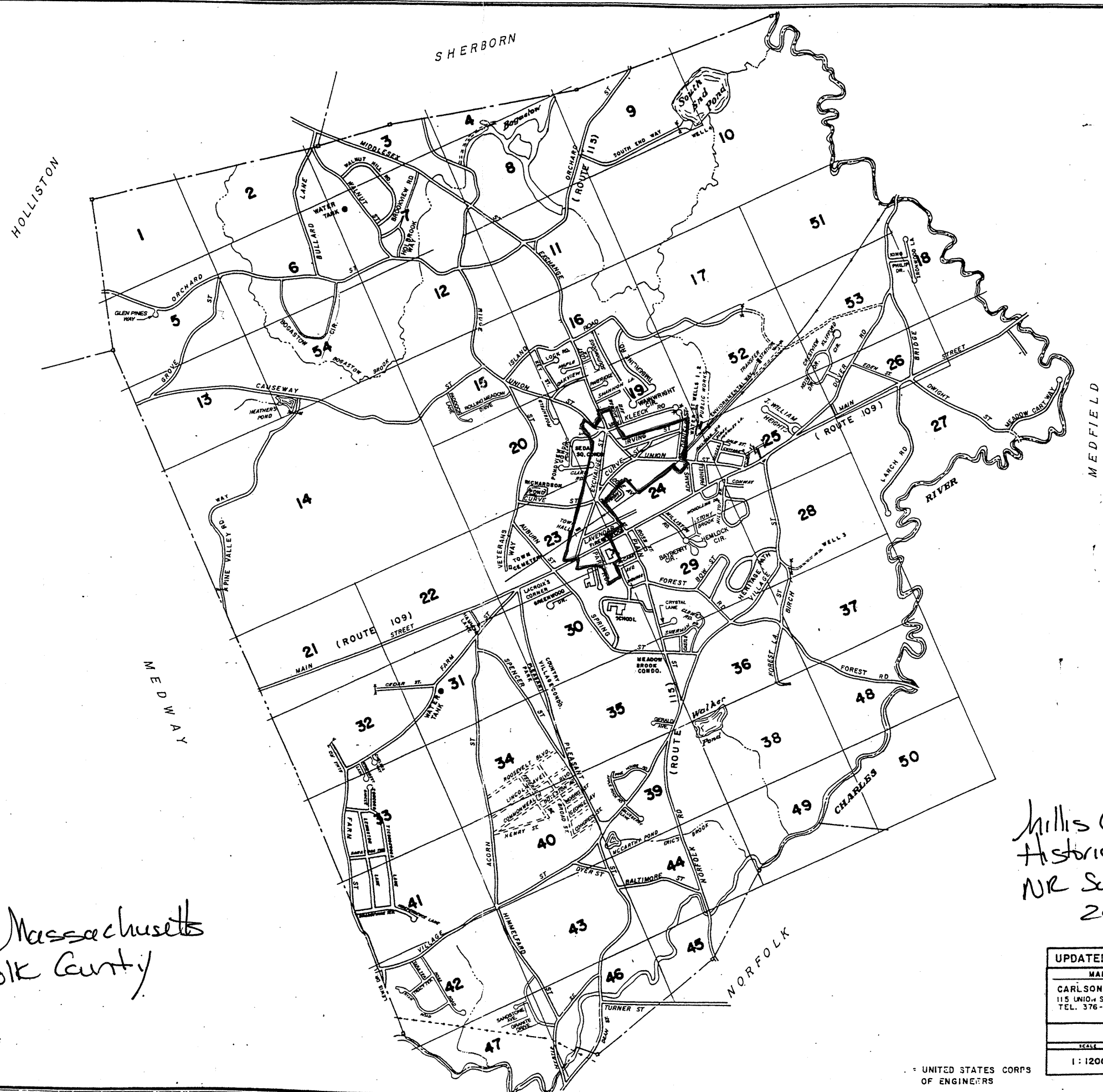
UNITED STATES CORPS
OF ENGINEERS

CURRENT TO JANUARY 1, 2006

Mills Massachusetts
Norfolk County

Mills Center
Historic District
NR Submittal
2006

DISTRICT
MAP



UPDATED JANUARY 2006	
MAINTAINED BY	
CARLSON SURVEY COMPANY	
115 UNION ST - WILLIS	
TEL. 376-2310	
MILLS	
SCALE	SHEET 28
1:12000	SHEET INDEX

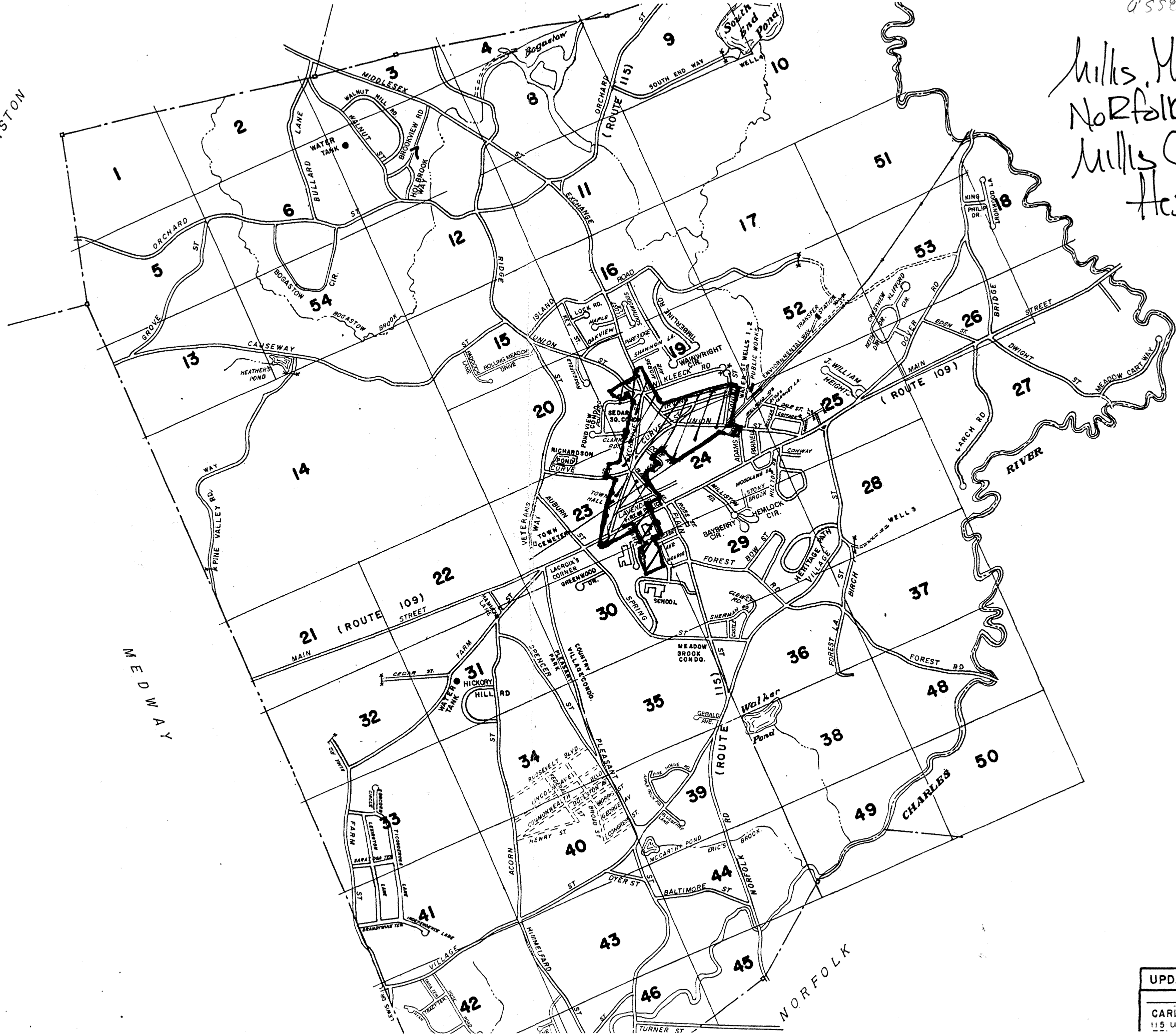
UNITED STATES CORPS
OF ENGINEERS

CURRENT TO JANUARY 1, 2006

Assessor maps
Set 1

Mills, MA
Norfolk County
Mills Center
Historic
District

HOLLISTON



Medfield
MASSACHUSETTS

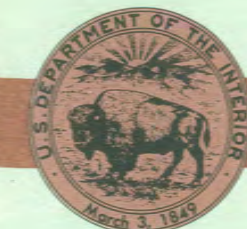
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

(NORFOLK) MA



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

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

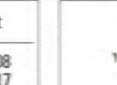
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of
Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1981. Field checked 1981 and 1982. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Holliston 1969 and Medfield 1970
1:25,000-scale maps
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal
Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

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

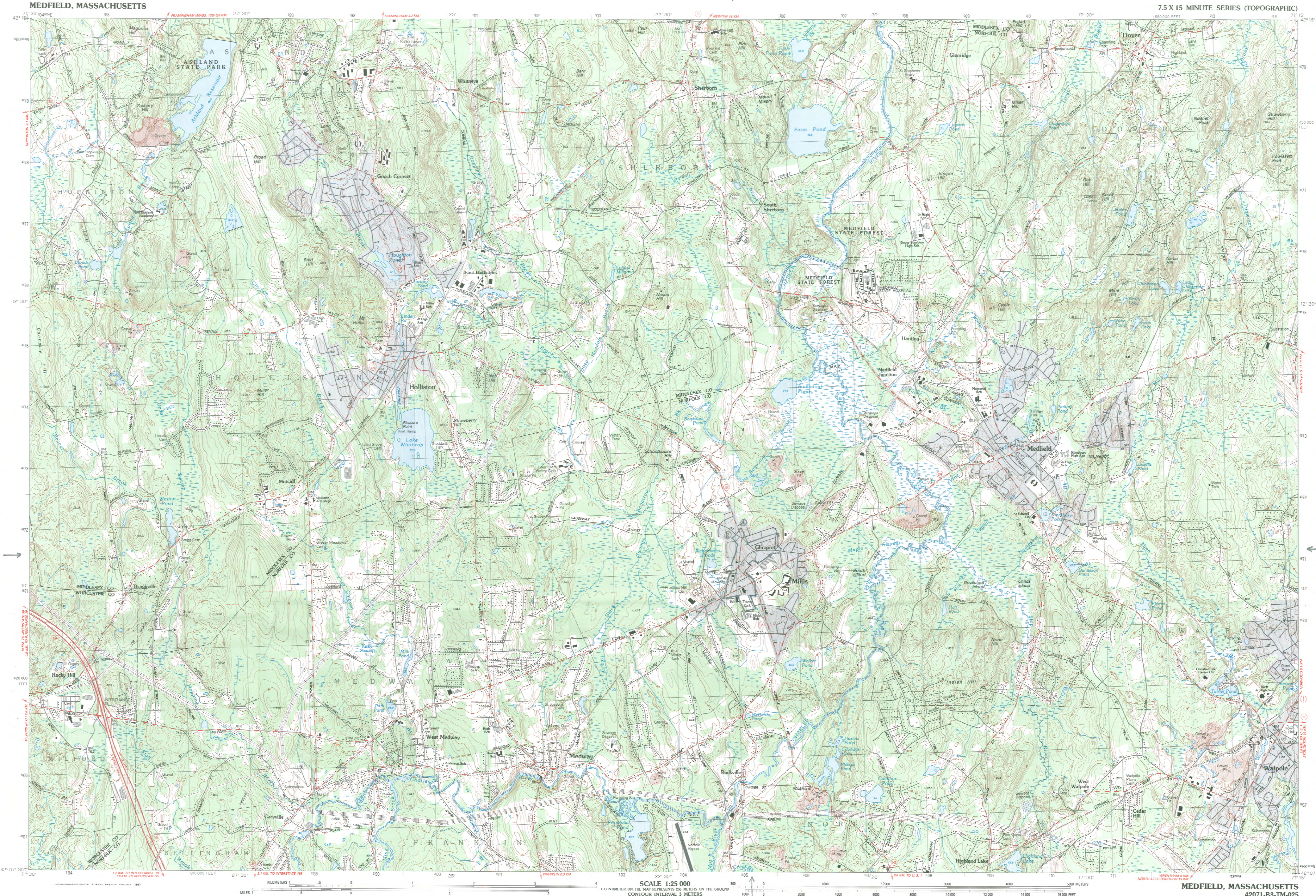
CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet			1	2	3
1	3.2808	UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate		1	2	3
2	6.5617			4	5	6
3	9.8425			7	8	9
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5276					
10	32.8084					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 0.3048						1 Marlborough 2 Framingham 3 Boston South 4 Milford 5 Needham 6 Uxbridge 7 Franklin 8 Brockton
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048						



Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road, road	.....
Route marker: Interstate, U. S. State	.....
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge: overpass; underpass	.....
Swamp 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	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section	.....
Range, township, section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery, grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	.....
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	.....
Grass, meadow	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



MILLS CTR HD		
ZONG 19		
A.	305130	4671710
B.	305280	4671480
C.	305680	4671610
D.	305660	4671400
E.	305720	4671370
F.	305650	4671290
G.	305600	4671300
H.	305370	4671120
I.	305240	4671200
J.	305140	4671160
K.	305220	4671120
L.	305110	4671000
M.	305210	4670900
N.	305250	4670880
O.	305280	4670630
P.	305200	4670610
Q.	305250	4670370
R.	305100	4670380
S.	305010	4670630
T.	304810	4670580
U.	304930	4671020
V.	304840	4671020
W.	305850	4671100
X.	304950	4671100
Y.	305020	4671460
Z.	304940	4671570

BUILDING MATERIALS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
1361 Alps Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

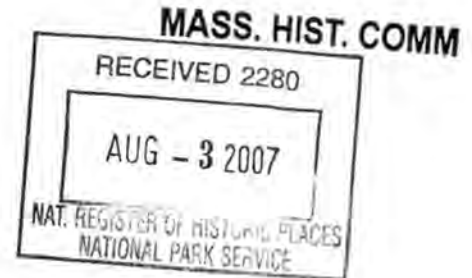
June 11, 2007

RECEIVED

JUN 12 2007

BY FACSIMILE AND HAND DELIVERY
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Re: Proposed Millis Center Historic District:
60 Curve Street, Millis, MA (Parcel 24-023)



Dear Sirs/Madames:

We are in receipt of your letter, dated May 4, 2007, giving notice that the above referenced property (the "GAF Property") is located within the boundaries of the proposed Millis Center Historic District (the "Proposed District") under consideration by the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC") for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (the "National Register"). Please be advised that Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation ("BMMC") is the sole owner of the GAF Property and objects to the inclusion of the GAF Property in the Proposed District.

I. National Register Criteria

Pursuant to the federal regulations (36 CFR 60.4), the following criteria are used to determine whether a proposed area qualifies as an historic district:

Sec. 60.4 Criteria for evaluation.

National Register criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*

- (d) *that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

Criteria considerations. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria of if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) *A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or*
- (b) *A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or*
- (c) *A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life.*
- (d) *A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or*
- (e) *A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or*
- (f) *A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or*
- (g) *A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance...*

We note that in the Statement of Significance contained in the draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form prepared by MHC (see Section 8 of the Registration Form), MHC identified criteria A and C as qualifying the Proposed District for National Register listing. BMMC disagrees that the GAF Property satisfies such criteria, and accordingly should not be included in the Proposed District, for the following reasons:

Criterion A: GAF Property not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

The Statement of Significance in the Registration Form does not set forth evidence of events at the GAF Property that have made a *significant* contribution to broad patterns of history. The

buildings at the GAF Property have housed a number of unrelated industrial businesses over time. The fact the GAF Property is an industrial site should not be automatically interpreted as meaning the GAF Property has made a significant contribution to a broad historical pattern – otherwise every industrial site in the country more than 50 years old would be deemed to have made such a significant contribution unless proven otherwise.

Criterion C. GAF Property does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, does not represent the work of a master, and does not possess high artistic values

We note generally that the Proposed District is primarily a residential district comprised of residential structures, with a number of retail buildings and several civic buildings. The GAF Property does not reflect the residential flavor and typical streetscapes within the Proposed District. Moreover, the buildings at the GAF Property do not exhibit an architectural style or styles which are in common with the architectural styles prevalent within the Proposed District. With respect to other commercial structures within the Proposed District, the retail structures have a completely different scale and massing than the GAF Property; even the other industrial sites within the Proposed District have substantially different architectural styles than those at the GAF Property (see, for example, the J.W. Thompson Shoe Company/Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company site at 114 Union Street which the Narrative Description in the Registration Form notes is a wood frame structure).

Further, we are not aware that the buildings at the GAF Property “represent the work of a master,” nor can we identify any “high artistic values” possessed by the buildings. The Narrative Description in the Registration Form makes no mention that the buildings at the GAF Property were designed or built by a “master” or represent any “high artistic values.”

II. Proposed District Boundary Should be Revised to Exclude GAF Property

The GAF Property is located along a boundary of the Proposed District. The properties directly to the west of the GAF Property are not included in the Proposed District and the boundary takes many turns as it approaches the GAF Property. It would be logical to redraw the boundary to exclude the GAF Property. Doing so will not compromise the Proposed District as it would skirt the GAF Property much the same way as it skirts the various properties to the west of the GAF Property. The boundary could then proceed to the east without creating a “hole” in the balance of the Proposed District.

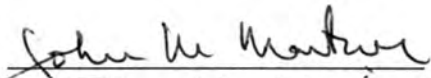
III. Conclusion

The inclusion of the GAF Property in the Proposed District is not necessary to preserve the integrity of the Proposed District because the GAF Property does not meaningfully contribute to the architectural and historic character of the balance of the Proposed District. Furthermore, exclusion of the GAF site will result in a more cohesive historic district. Therefore, we urge MHC to modify the boundaries of the Proposed District to exclude the GAF Property before the proceeding with the nomination of the district to the National Register.

We thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

BUILDING MATERIALS
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

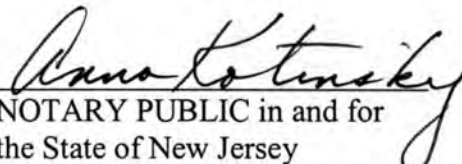
By: 
Name: John M. Maitner
Title: Vice President-Treasurer

cc: Ruth H. Silman, Esq., Nixon Peabody LLP

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF PASSAIC)

On this 11th day of June, 2007, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of New Jersey, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared John M. Maitner, to me known who, being by me duly sworn, did depose, acknowledge before me and say that he resides at 109 Cleveland Pk. Westrock Heights, NJ 07604; that he is the Vice President and Treasurer of Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation, a Delaware corporation, the corporation described in and that executed the foregoing instrument; and that he signed his name thereto under authority of the board of directors.

WITNESS my hand and seal hereto affixed the day and year first above written.


NOTARY PUBLIC in and for
the State of New Jersey

My Commission expires:

ANNA KOTINSKY
NOTARY PUBLIC NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Aug. 29, 2011

ANNA KOTINSKY
NOTARY PUBLIC NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Aug. 29, 2011

NIXON PEABODY^{LLP}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 Summer Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2131
(617) 345-1000
Fax: (617) 345-1300

Ruth H. Silman
Direct Dial: (617) 345-6062
Direct Fax: (866) 947-1897
E-Mail: rsilman@nixonpeabody.com



August 31, 2007

VIA FAX (202-371-6447) AND U.S. MAIL

National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Opposition to Pending Nomination for Millis Center Historic District, Millis,
Massachusetts – Published in 72 Federal Register 46514 (August 20, 2007)

Dear Sir or Madam:

This firm represents Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation (“BMMC”), owner of the property at 60 Curve Street, Millis, Massachusetts (the “GAF Property”). BMMC has reviewed the Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions issued by the National Park Service/National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 2007, published at 72 Fed. Reg. 46514. Pursuant to 36 CFR 60.6(t), BMMC opposes the inclusion of the GAF Property in the proposed Millis Center Historic District (the “Proposed District”) and requests that the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places substantively review the nomination. BMMC submits the following information in support of its objection and request:

I. National Register Criteria

Inclusion of the GAF Property in the Proposed District does not meet the National Register criteria. Pursuant to the federal regulations (36 CFR 60.4), the following criteria are used to determine whether a proposed area qualifies as an historic district:

Sec. 60.4 Criteria for evaluation.

National Register criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings,

structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

Criteria considerations. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria of if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or*
- (b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or*
- (c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life.*
- (d) A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or*
- (e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or*

- (f) *A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or*
- (g) *A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance...*

BMMC reviewed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form prepared by the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC") and notes that the Statement of Significance contained in the Registration Form (see page 3, Section 8 of the Registration Form), identifies criteria A and C as qualifying the Proposed District for National Register listing. BMMC disagrees that the GAF Property satisfies such criteria, and accordingly should not be included in the Proposed District, for the following reasons:

Criterion A: GAF Property not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

The Statement of Significance in the Registration Form does not set forth evidence of events at the GAF Property that have made a *significant* contribution to broad patterns of history. The buildings at the GAF Property have housed a number of unrelated industrial businesses over time. The fact the GAF Property is an industrial site should not be automatically interpreted as meaning the GAF Property has made a significant contribution to a broad historical pattern – otherwise every industrial site in the country more than 50 years old would be deemed to have made such a significant contribution unless proven otherwise.

Criterion C. GAF Property does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, does not represent the work of a master, and does not possess high artistic values

The Proposed District is primarily a residential district comprised of residential structures, with a number of retail buildings and several civic buildings. The GAF Property does not reflect the residential flavor and typical streetscapes within the Proposed District. Moreover, the buildings at the GAF Property do not exhibit an architectural style or styles which are in common with the architectural styles prevalent within the Proposed District. With respect to other commercial structures within the Proposed District, the retail structures have a completely different scale and massing than the GAF Property; even the other industrial sites within the Proposed District have substantially different architectural styles than those at the GAF Property (see, for example, the J.W. Thompson Shoe Company/Joseph M. Herman Shoe Company site at 114 Union Street which the Narrative Description in the Registration Form notes is a wood frame structure).

Further, there is no evidence that the buildings at the GAF Property "represent the work of a master," nor can we identify any "high artistic values" possessed by the buildings. The Narrative Description in the Registration Form makes no mention that the buildings at the GAF Property were designed or built by a "master" or represent any "high artistic values."

II. Proposed District Boundary Should be Revised to Exclude GAF Property

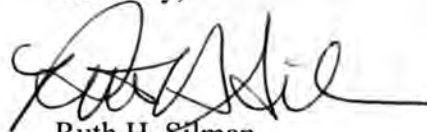
The GAF Property is located along a boundary of the Proposed District. The properties directly to the west of the GAF Property are not included in the Proposed District and the boundary takes many turns as it approaches the GAF Property. It would be logical to redraw the boundary to exclude the GAF Property. Doing so will not compromise the Proposed District as it would skirt the GAF Property much the same way as it skirts the various properties to the west of the GAF Property. The boundary could then proceed to the east without creating a "hole" in the balance of the Proposed District.

III. Conclusion

The inclusion of the GAF Property in the Proposed District is not necessary to preserve the integrity of the Proposed District because the GAF Property does not meaningfully contribute to the architectural and historic character of the balance of the Proposed District. Furthermore, exclusion of the GAF site will result in a more cohesive historic district. Therefore, we urge MHC to modify the boundaries of the Proposed District to exclude the GAF Property before the proceeding with the nomination of the district to the National Register.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,



Ruth H. Silman

cc: Michael J. Maratea, Esq. (via email)
Matthew R. Lynch, Esq. (via email)

P. Andrus
9/27/2007

H32(2280)

Ms. Ruth K. Silman
Nixon Peabody LLP
Attorneys at Law
100 Summer Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2131

SEP 27 2007

Dear Ms. Silman:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2007, objecting, on behalf of your client Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation, to the inclusion of their property within the Millis Center Historic District, located in Millis, Norfolk County, MA, and your request, pursuant to National Register of Historic Places regulations, 36 CFR 60.6(t), that the nomination for the historic district be substantively reviewed.

The Millis Center Historic District was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office (the Massachusetts Historical Commission) under National Register Criteria A and C for its historic and architectural importance. The defined Period of Significance for the historic district spans the period ca. 1750 to 1957, and the nomination documents the role of the historic district as the industrial and civic center of Millis during that period. After undertaking a substantive review and carefully considering all documentation submitted, including the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and the contents of your letter, the Millis Center Historic District was found to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and the historic district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 14, 2007, for its historic and architectural importance.

The property referenced in your letter (located at 60 Curve Street) is documented in the National Register of Historic Places registration form for the Millis Center Historic District as the Steel Edge Stamping and Retinning Plant, an industrial complex whose earliest section dates from 1899. This factory complex was important in the history and development of the community and it is categorized as a property that contributes to the significance of the historic district.

Please let us know if we may provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places

cc: Massachusetts/ SHPO

bcc: 2285
2201

Basic File Retained In 2280

FNP:PAndrus:OP:09-27-07:S:\appeal\millis

7 Pheasant Avenue
Sudbury, MA 01776
January 19, 2012

12 JAN 26 PM 2: 13

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-2102

Dear Senator Brown,

The enclosed United States Department of the Interior publication contains flawed data which I suggest should be corrected. I am requesting that your staff forward this letter and document to the appropriate personnel at the Department of the Interior for their consideration.

I have conducted considerable research of bell making in Massachusetts. The credible information to correct the highlighted errors follow:

In 1816, George Holbrook contracted to cast a single bell for a new meeting house being constructed in East Medway, MA.

After casting the a bell in a makeshift, temporary foundry in East Medway in 1816, George Holbrook decided to establish a permanent Holbrook Bell Foundry in East Medway, MA.

The first bell was cast in the Holbrook Bell Foundry in 1820.

According to a written report I received from the Revere House Boston Research Director, they have no documentary evidence that George Holbrook was ever an apprentice to Paul Revere. There is no basis for this assertion.

Would you please direct your staff to send me a copy of the letter of transmittal so that I can identify the recipient.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Brown

Joseph E. Brown

cc; J. Seremetjh

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Norfolk County
Millis Center Historic District

Section number 8 Page 3

Adams families from the late 17th and early 18th century. Jonathan Richardson settled on Curve Street where he built a house in 1678 and farmed the surrounding land. Subsequent members of his family continued farming and during the 18th century a cooper's shop was added to the ca. 1750 dwelling, the **John Richardson House** (191 Curve Street, MHC #100), which had replaced the first Richardson house. The coopers produced barrels that were used for overseas shipments between England and Boston.

Many generations of Richardsons lived in and near Millis Center well into the 20th century and were pillars of the community. One of the first known burials at Prospect Hill Cemetery (located west of this district) was that of John Richardson in 1713; the oldest legible gravestone is marked David Richardson who died in 1724. Most of the land north of the railroad on either side of Exchange Street and Plain Street up to Curve Street was owned by Richardsons throughout the 19th century. The old Richardson homestead on Curve Street was owned by Henry Richardson, Esq. who in 1849 gave a piece of his land to the Congregational Church and the builder of this fourth meetinghouse of the **First Parish Congregational Church** (142 Exchange Street, MHC #4) was Joseph L. Richardson who lived on Union Street at the time. Subsequent Richardsons living here also served the town with land donations and in public office. Evan F. Richardson (1867-1951), who built his Queen Anne house at **163 Curve Street** (MHC #187) on family land, served his town and region for many years as town treasurer (30 years), school board, representative in the Massachusetts General Court in 1904 and a Norfolk County Commissioner from 1907 to 1928. He and his wife, Genieve Richardson, donated eleven and a half acres, part of their former farmland, to enlarge the Prospect Hill Cemetery (outside the district).

The Adams family also was among the early settlers. Peter Adams (bef. 1632-ca.1690) settled on Union Street as early as 1678 when he constructed a house (on the site of **226-234 Union Street** - MHC #174); his son, Peter Adams (1653-1723) married Experience Cook, who is reported to have been the first school teacher in the settlement and, according to oral history, she taught children in her kitchen. The first town meeting and the first public worship were held at Peter and Experience Adams' house following the incorporation of Medway in 1713. These events occurred prior to the construction of the **First Meetinghouse** that stood on Bare Hill (Prospect Hill) adjacent to the cemetery. The Adams house later burned and was replaced by the only brick residential structure in the district, which by the mid 19th century was owned by Joseph L. Richardson, and likely was built by him of bricks from his brickyard.

19th Century Development of East Medway

In the 1810s a church bell manufactory was established in East Medway by Major George Holbrook (1767-1846) who had apprenticed to Paul Revere. The Holbrook Bell Foundry made its first bell in 1813 which was installed in the second Congregational meetinghouse, located on Prospect Hill outside of the district. The bell foundry, located on Main Street near Auburn Road/Spring Street (outside the district), was taken over by Holbrook's son, Colonel George H. Holbrook (1798-1875) in 1820 and expanded in later years to manufacture

SCOTT P. BROWN
MASSACHUSETTS

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

ARMED SERVICES

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SMALL BUSINESS



Department of the Interior
Ms. Stephanie Toothman
1849 C Street NW
Room 3128
Washington, DC 20240

January 30, 2012

Re: Mr. Joseph E. Brown

Dear Ms. Toothman,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Joseph Brown, a constituent of mine from Sudbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Brown has been in contact with my office regarding a publication about the Millis Center Historic District. Mr. Brown believes that there may be an error in this publication regarding Major George Holbrook's apprenticeship to Paul Revere. I have included a copy of his letter along with this inquiry.

Any assistance or consideration you are able to render would be greatly appreciated. Please keep me informed of the progress of this case. For additional information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact my aide, Erika Paulhus, at (617) 565-3170. Thank you again for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott P. Brown
United States Senator

2400 John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203
SPB/ELP

P. Andrus 2/17/2012

FEB 24 2012

J. Paul Loether

MAR 1 2012

H32(2280)

MA 012

The Honorable Scott P. Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 2012, forwarding the correspondence of your constituent Mr. Joseph E. Brown concerning the Millis Center Historic District in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Brown has expressed concern regarding the accuracy of a statement concerning Paul Revere contained in the National Register nomination form for the historic district. Federal regulations (36 CFR Part 60) specify that amendments to National Register documentation must be submitted by the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer. We have contacted the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, Ms. Brona Simon, and asked her to review Mr. Brown's letter and inform us if the National Register nomination form needs to be amended. We will advise Mr. Brown of any action we take regarding the Millis Center Historic District documentation.

We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephanie Toothman

Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

cc: MA SHPO

Mr. Joseph E. Brown
7 Pheasant Avenue
Sudbury, MA 01776

bcc: 2280 Loether
Basic File Retained In 2280

FNP:PAndrus:OP;02-16-2012;s:\NR_correspondence\SenatorBrown

P. Andrews 2/17/12

FEB 24 2012

FEB 24 2012

J. Paul Loether

H32(2280)

Ms. Brona Simon, SHPO & Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

We are writing concerning the Millis Center Historic District in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Senator Scott P. Brown recently forwarded to the National Park Service a letter from Mr. Joseph E. Brown of Sudbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Brown has expressed concern over what he considers an erroneous assertion contained in the National Register nomination form for the Millis Center Historic District. He notes that in Section 8, page 4 of the nomination form, it states that Major George Holbrook apprenticed to Paul Revere and that this assertion is not supported by any documentary evidence.

We would appreciate it if you would review Mr. Joseph E. Brown's letter and inform us if the National Register nomination form should be amended. We have enclosed a copy of Mr. Brown's letter pertaining to a page of the nomination form.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Loether

J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
and National Historic Landmarks Program

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Scott P. Brown

Mr. Joseph E. Brown
7 Pheasant Avenue
Sudbury, MA 01776

bcc: 2280 Loether

Basic File Retained In 2280

FPN:PAndrus:OP:02-16-2012:s\NR_correspondence\MillisCenter



Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS
03/15/2012 12:42 PM

To "Bergen, Phil (SEC)" <phil.bergen@state.ma.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Millis Center NRDIS procedure

Hello Phil: The way to handle this would be to have Brona write to Paul Loether explaining that your office has looked into this issue and there is no evidence that he apprenticed to Paul Revere and ask that we add this information to the file. We will then write to Mr. Brown and Senator Brown explaining that we have amended the nomination form.

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov
"Bergen, Phil (SEC)" <phil.bergen@state.ma.us>



"Bergen, Phil (SEC)"
<phil.bergen@state.ma.us>
03/15/2012 12:21 PM

To "patrick_andrus@nps.gov" <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>
cc "Friedberg, Betsy (SEC)" <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>
Subject Millis Center NRDIS procedure

Hi Patrick:

Looking for your take on an editing question for a 2007 NRDIS (Millis Center, Millis (Norfolk), MA).

We recently received a letter from Paul Loether (Feb 24 2012) enclosing a letter that had been sent to Sen. Scott Brown's office from a constituent claiming that a phrase in the Millis Center nomination was in error. The point in question was whether bell manufacturer George Holbrook had ever apprenticed to Paul Revere -- the nomination stated that he had, the constituent's letter (also from a Mr Brown) claimed that he hadn't.

We checked in a number of locations, including the Paul Revere House's research person, and have concluded that there is no tangible proof that Holbrook did indeed apprentice with Revere. Thus, we would want to change the text of the nomination, omitting the portion (not even a sentence long) that states this. [In the nomination itself it is in Section 8, p. 4, if you need to check this.] Would we need a technical amendment, complete with Brona's signature, or can we supply a new single page with the sentence portion omitted? We would need to write to Mr. Brown, Paul Loether, and Sen. Brown with this change.

Suggestions about the right way to do this?

Thanks,

Phil Bergen
MHC



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 19, 2012



Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Millis Center Historic District (Norfolk), MA

Dear Dr. Toothman:

I am writing regarding your letter of March 1, 2012, concerning the accuracy of a statement made in the National Register nomination for the Millis Center Historic District, Norfolk County (listed September 14, 1997). The nomination referenced the purported apprenticeship of Major George Holbrook to Paul Revere. In response to the comments of Mr. Joseph E. Brown, conveyed to you by Senator Scott Brown, MHC staff have researched online accounts of Holbrook's bell-casting career, and have also consulted with Patrick Leehey, Research Director at the Paul Revere House in Boston. It is our conclusion that Mr. Brown is correct; there is no documented evidence to support the claim that Holbrook did in fact apprentice to Revere, and the several printed references to this have no basis in fact.

Paul Revere started his bell casting foundry in 1792, when Holbrook was 24 years old, an unusually late date for someone to apprentice, and the Revere House files contain no mention of any apprentices at the foundry, George Holbrook or otherwise. The Revere House research facility contains considerable information on Holbrook and his own career as a bell caster, and there is no basis for this claim.

We therefore request that the Millis Center Historic District nomination (NPS #07000944, listed September 14, 1997) be amended on page 4 of section 8, line 2, by removing the phrase "...who had apprenticed to Paul Revere." The corrected sentence should now read as follows: "In the 1810s a church bell manufactory was established in East Medway by Major George Holbrook (1767-1846)." We appreciate Mr. Brown's bringing this error to our attention.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Senator Scott Brown
J. Paul Loether, National Park Service
Joseph E. Brown, Sudbury, MA