

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAY 23 1983 date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic South Natick

and/or common John Eliot Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

Union, Eliot, Pleasant, and Auburn Sts.

street & number Multiple

N/A not for publication

city, town Natick

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025

county Middlesex

code 017

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes checkboxes for district, building(s), structure, site, object, public/private/both ownership, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress status, and various present uses like agriculture, commercial, educational, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple -- see attached owner list

street & number

city, town Natick

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 108 Cambridge Street

city, town Cambridge

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

John Eliot Historic District, Natick Massachusetts

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Eliot Historic District is located in South Natick, a physically distinct village within the political town limits. The 71-acre X-shaped district is characterized by 18th and 19th century residential, institutional and commercial architecture distributed on both sides of four major arteries which radiate out from Eliot Square: Eliot Street or Route 16 (southwest and northeast), Union Street (northwest) and Pleasant Street (southeast). The district occupies the site of the original mid 17th century European settlement in Natick and a contemporary Indian Praying Village. Although it has been continuously occupied since that time, its components -- river, parks, mature plantings, and irregularly spaced and setback buildings -- preserve a strong sense of the district's historical visual landscape. Included in the district are fifty buildings, three parks, two burial grounds, a number of archaeological sites, a bridge and dam spanning the Charles River (Photo 8) and a monument marking the site of the John Eliot Oak.

Architecturally, the district contains a variety of styles and forms, predominantly Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and Early to Late Victorian, which share a basic uniformity of scale. There are four mid 20th century intrusions in the area; however, they mirror the earlier structures in scale (#s A, B, C, and E). The district (with slightly different boundaries) was designated a local historic district in 1974, enhancing its physical preservation.

Key and representative properties are described below:

Map #52 (Photo 1) Eliot Church, Federated, Eliot and Union Streets, 1828. Standing on a discrete triangular lot at the intersection of Eliot, Union and Pleasant Streets at the center of the district, this Federal period institutional building anchors the district both visually and historically. It is the fifth meetinghouse on or near the site of the first which was constructed by John Eliot in 1650. Constructed in 1838, the church is distinguished by its well-preserved modest wood-frame design and lack of elaborate embellishment. Architectural interest is focussed on the main entry and gable-end elevation. The projecting pedimented frontispiece contains a shallow in antis entry surmounted by a similarly scaled Palladian derived window with louvered wood fan and shutters. A square two stage tower topped by an octagonal cupola and containing an arcaded belfry (the first bells in Natick) and a four-sided clock rises from the frontispiece. On the four-bay flanking sides large 20/20 pane windows light the sanctuary.

Surrounding the Church, the Indian Burying Ground, located at the corner of Eliot and Pleasant Streets, marks the grave of Rev. John Eliot's Indian successor, Daniel Takawampait as well as many other Indians. The Burying Ground contains a tall monument to John Eliot which was erected by the Hon. Henry Wilson, who was later to become U. S. Senator and Vice President of the United States under Ulysses S. Grant.

Map #51 (Photo 2) Bacon Free Library, Eliot and Pleasant Streets, 1880. Also at the center of the district, this small but assertively massed structure, designed in 1880 by architect Colonel Robert G. Shaw, is a handsome example of scaled-down Renaissance Revival architecture. Its compact symmetrical, cruciform plan features a three-story central square block with four two-story wings, one bay wide and deep.

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A steep pyramidal hip roof with a richly detailed dormer on each flank accentuates the central element; the wings have flat roofs. The institutional stature of the building is underlined by the skillful use of brick and stone for exterior facing and details, notably stone facing framed by brick corner and window quoins at the first story and the exclusive use of brick in the upper stories as facing, quoins, entablature, and window surrounds. All windows are segmentally arched with double hung sash; the entry consists of a round head arch opening, framed by brick pilasters.

Progressing east from the Eliot Church along Eliot Street:

South side of Eliot Street:

Map #33 John Eliot Memorial Hall, Eliot Street, 1862.

This modest wood-frame Carpenter Gothic building features pointed arch windows on all elevations and trefoil windows in the gable fields. Entrance is through a small side vestibule. Dedicated in October 1862, the building served as the John Eliot Congregational Church until ca.1940.

Map #32 (Photo 3) Eliot Elementary School (Eliot Street), 1937.

Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, this Georgian Revival school was erected in 1937. The 2½-story brick, main building features symmetrically placed elements: 6/9 double hung sash windows; central entry, round windows at either end of the main 8-bay facade; end chimneys; and a well detailed high central lantern cupola. The use of round arched windows and arcades distinguishes the southwest wing. Although a relatively recent building, the school contributes to the district as a carefully designed and scaled institutional building.

Map #30 Edward Down House (32 Eliot Street), 1878.

Among a handful of late 19th century houses in the district, this is also one of the largest, though fairly simple; it is 2½ stories of frame construction with a three bay sidehall plan with semi cross gable and a small 2-story side addition. The facade is articulated by eaves' returns, roundhead window in the gable field and columned entry porch.

Map #28 (Photo 4) Weigand House (24 Eliot Street), ca. 1825.

A late Federal period house which features a 5-bay by 3-bay 2½ story plan with double interior chimneys and hip roof, this house retains its period character despite several modifications: central gable with roundhead window and enclosed projecting entry porch.

North side of Eliot Street:

Map #21 Peletiah Morse Tavern, 33 Eliot Street, 1748.

Built in 1748 by Peletiah Morse and used as a tavern, this is a spare 2½-story building with 5-bay facade and rear ell. It retains its original plain entry surround; a pair of rear chimneys has replaced the original central stack.

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Map #23 Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Eliot Street), ca.1870.

This wood frame Carpenter Gothic Church with apsidal plan and inset spire was built ca.1870. It retains its original pointed arch windows, ornamental trim, slate roof and shingled spire, although the body of the building is now covered in vinyl siding.

Map #22 (Photo 5) David Morse House (21 Eliot Street), ca. 1800.

From indications during renovations, an earlier house, dated by deeds to 1729, is incorporated into the present ca.1800 structure. Most likely, it originally was a 1-story or 2-story lean-to design. In its present form, the house is a wood-frame 2-story structure with double internal chimneys and a 4-room square plan. A 2-story square rear addition is set ajog; both portions are enclosed by shallow hipped roofs. Decorative quoins frame the symmetrical 5-bay facade which is further articulated by a projecting pedimented entrance surround.

Map #24 Morse-Dana-Leach House (3 Eliot Street) 1759.

Standing at the extreme eastern end of the district on the Natick-Wellesley town line, this 2-family house is composed of two almost mirror image four bay wide sections under a common gable roof. Both are 2½ stories tall with a hooded entry occupying the inner central bay. Additional features include projecting window surrounds and several large 19th century ells to the rear.

Progressing west from Eliot Church along Eliot Street (north side):

Map #6 (Photo 6) Goin Bailey House (49 Eliot Street), 1839.

One of two well-developed examples of the Greek Revival temple form (see Map #39) in the district, this house features a monumental Ionic portico supporting a wide entablature and pediment. In plan, it follows the typical 3-bay sidehall design with triple hung windows and a second story porch with wrought iron railing on the main facade.

Beyond it and across from Bacon Library stands a cluster of three 2-story wood-frame amid to late 19th century commercial buildings (Map #5, 2, 3 and 4). Outstanding among them is the South Natick Pharmacy (57 Eliot Street) of the 1850s which retains its handsome 6-bay comlunned storefront facade with double recessed entrances. The south side of the short stretch of Eliot Street is occupied by the Old Town Park, extending along the Charles River.

North from Eliot Church on Union Street are the Old Natick Burying Ground (1731) and a group of relatively modest Greek Revival and Victorian houses and cottages.

Moving south from John Eliot Church along Pleasant Street:

Map #37 Harriet Beecher Stowe House (2 Pleasant Street), 1816.

This is a 2½-story Federal period house with a symmetrical 5-bay facade, hip roof dormers, and a sidelighted and trabeated entrance surround.

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Map #39 Eames House (6 Pleasant Street), 1839.

One of two well-developed examples of the Greek Revival temple form in the district (see Map #6), this house features a monumental Doric portico supporting a wide entablature and pediment. In plan, it follows the mandatory 3-bay sidehall design; additional features include a central square cupola and triple hung windows on the main facade.

Map #41 (Photo 7) Horatio Alger House (16 Pleasant Street; NHL), ca.1825.

This is a 2½-story wood-frame transitional Federal/Greek Revival structure with a symmetrical 5-bay facade articulated by a 1-story, shed roofed, balustraded, and pier supported porch. Additional architectural interest is focused on the center entry which carries a trabeated and sidelighted surround. The house retains its period character despite alterations in chimney arrangement, window sash, and additions of a rear ell on a late 19th century bay window at the south gable end.

Archaeology

The John Eliot Historic District overlays lands on both sides of the Charles River, including what was once a rapids (now a dam), which is one of two locations in Natick identified as particularly sensitive for prehistoric occupation sites. Testing conducted at a site on the east bank as part of a survey of the Charles River Basin in 1967 produced no artifacts; however, the Natick Historical Society collections (Bacon Free Library) indicate the area was occupied since the Archaic period. Very little is known about the Contact period in the area; however, it does not appear to have been occupied during the Woodland period.

The internal components and historical configuration of the Praying Village community of 1651 has been well documented by contemporary 17th century accounts and subsequently by local residents, historians and archaeologists up to the present day. The focal point of the community was the meetinghouse which stood on or near the present John Eliot Church at the center of the district. Adjacent to the meetinghouse or enclosing it was a circular palisaded fort of approximately ¼ acre surrounded by a ditch. The associated Indian cemetery is well known, due to the disturbance of between 50 and 100 graves from the early 19th through early 20th centuries. As early as 1830 it was described as including portions of Eliot and Pleasant Streets and the grounds of the Bacon Free Library and as being unenclosed. All materials recovered from the graves post date 1651, and the graveyard appears to have been utilized until at least 1797.

Houselots were laid out around this central cluster with surrounding pasturage held in common. Settlement initially focused north of the river, but soon spread to the south bank. Eliot, Pleasant and Union Streets appear to correspond to the early road system, and on or near the site of the present bridge stood a bridge and a fish weir (see Elia 1980: pp.4-14).

8. Significance

John Eliot Historic District, Natick, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1651; multiple **Builder/Architect** Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Colonel

Robert G. Shaw

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Possessing integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the John Eliot Historic District is significant as the site of the first Indian Praying town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the area of initial colonial settlement in Natick in the 17th century. Many people of both local and national importance have resided in the district which is further notable for its group of fine buildings representing various architectural styles and periods, including Natick's most finely-detailed Federal period structures. Although the district has been extensively occupied for over 300 years, it retains substantial historical qualities of the 18th and 19th centuries and contains excellent and rare opportunities for research concerning the interface of native American and European cultures in New England. The John Eliot Historic District thus meets criteria A, B, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places.

The name "Natick" is derived from an Indian word for "place of hills." Founded by Rev. John Eliot in 1651, the Natick Community was conceived -- physically, ecclesiastically and administratively -- as a model for all subsequent towns, and eventually for the reservation system. The site chosen on the Charles River had already been cleared, suggesting a previous native occupation. In plan, the town comprised three streets: two on the north side, one on the south side of the river, and all probably based on existing native trail routes. A foot bridge over the Charles and a fish weir were constructed in the vicinity of the present bridge; houses were initially built in the native style as "wigwams." At the center of the village, where the present John Eliot Church of 1828 (Map #52; Photo 1) is located, stood a frame meeting-house, surrounded by or adjacent to a circular palisade and ditch. Within ten years, the settlement comprised of sixty Indian families from several tribal subgroups, an Indian Church was officially established (1660), and Natick ranked as a major missionary center in the region.

In accord with the colonists' intent to create a self-sufficient and viable native community based on European standards, the Indians governed under an imposed government structure and owned virtually the entire town for almost one hundred years. Following King Philip's War (1675-1676), in which much of Natick's population was displaced, and the death of John Eliot in 1690, the church membership gradually declined. However, it was not until 1745, when Natick was established as a parish district by the Massachusetts General Court, that the Indians relinquished their share of the civil administration.

During the 18th century, diffused English settlement throughout Natick rose dramatically, increasing from one family in 1700 to 649 in 1800; the Indian population, on the other hand, dropped from 180 individuals in 1698 to a count of 20 in 1797. Beginning in 1745, this demographic shift produced a sixty-year dispute over the location of the meetinghouse, with the growing numbers of white settlers in the northwest part of town lobbying for a new meetinghouse in their geographic domain. Accomplishment of this in 1800 followed by Natick's incorporation as a Town (1781) confirmed

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Map reference: John Eliot Historic District,
Town of Natick, October 2, 1978

Acreeage of nominated property 71.22 acres

Quadrangle name Natick, Massachusetts

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

19	309300	4682820
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

19	309140	4682500
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

19	309220	4682200
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

19	309020	4682100
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

19	308840	4682330
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

19	308730	4682550
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

19	308820	4682620
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

19	308950	4682540
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, with Natick Historical Commission and
name/title Natick Historical District Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia W. Westbrook

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/28/83
Massachusetts Historical Commission

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/23/83

J. Alloues Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the whites' supremacy and influenced subsequent settlement and development patterns in the town.

As the Town of Natick grew during the 18th and 19th centuries, its citizenry reflected its prosperity. One of the initial and most successful local families to settle in the district in the early 18th century was the Morse family. David Morse of Sherborn purchased land in South Natick in the 1730s and constructed a lean-to residence which has undergone extensive alterations and additions to date, resulting in an elegant Georgian structure (Map #22; Photo 5). David Morse's son, Peletiah, built a house in 1748 which also served as a tavern and inn for the town center, there being no hostelry in the area at the time (Map #21). Peletiah was an active businessman who purchased grain, saw, and fulling mills at the dam of the Charles River in 1752. Industrial activity in the vicinity had already begun when these mills were originally constructed by Rev. Oliver Peabody and Hezekiah Broad in 1733. This area, now known as The Old Town Park (Map #49), is a picturesque place for relaxing and fishing. Several mill stones are used today for sitting benches. The first Charles River Dam (Map #48), also built by Reverend Peabody, was stabilized in 1935 and remains active.

Although South Natick remained a focus of residential and limited industrial development in the early 19th century, Natick Center soon emerged as the nerve center of the town. Nevertheless, the continuity of religious and social fabric in South Natick is reflected in the erection of the John Eliot Church, Federated (Map #52; Photo 1), a well-designed Federal period church, in 1828 (originally Unitarian) and, in 1862, of the John Eliot Congregational Church, now John Eliot Memorial Hall (Map #33). The Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Map #29), an imposing Carpenter Gothic structure of 1873, stands testimony to population diversity after mid century and continues to serve the Catholic community.

Several prosperous and influential figures established their residence in South Natick in the 19th century, most notably Horatio Alger and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Horatio Alger (1834-1899) spent many summers in his childhood home on Pleasant Street. Alger was educated at Harvard Divinity School and ordained a minister. Dissatisfied with the theological profession, he turned to writing fiction, gaining national recognition as an author. Alger's heroes were lower middle class boys who, through the virtues of honest, hard work and luck, could achieve material success. His "Ragged Dick" series depicted the rags to riches theme of the American dream. Horatio Alger's House (Map #41; Photo 7) has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Harriet Beecher Stow, another literary figure of national importance, also resided within the district (Map #37). Mrs. Stowe (1811-1896), daughter of the prominent Rev. Lyman Beecher, sister of the vocal abolitionist Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and wife of the Rev. Calvin Stowe, won her own reputation as the author of the abolitionist novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. She later wrote Old Town Folks, a fictional portrayal of her husband's reminiscences of people and places in South Natick.

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Members of the Alger, Bigelow, Morse, and Stowe families as well as many other local residents are buried in the Old Natick Burying Ground (Map #17), located on the corner of Union and Eliot Streets.

The Bacon Free Library was initiated in 1871 when Mrs. Oliver Bacon started a small library in her home. It remained there until 1870 when her husband built a small brick building near the Eliot monument, and in 1880 the present Bacon Free Library (Map #51; Photo 2) was built. Today, this active library contains a museum containing Indian artifacts and an 1685 Eliot Bible in the Algonquin language.

Today South Natick and Natick Center are not only geographically divided, but also functionally divided. Starting with the meetinghouse dispute, Natick Center gained political power over South Natick and subsequently grew as a commercial hub due to the railroad passing through to the north in 1835. These factors coupled with a prosperous shoe industry and the influx of immigrant labor to work in the factories, has created a population and activity center in the town away from its original settlement. Conversely, South Natick remains a quiet, almost self-contained residential community, rich in local history.

Archaeology

In 1979, the Massachusetts Historical Commission identified the analysis of existing prehistoric collections and field checking of known sites as a priority for the eastern Massachusetts survey unit in which Natick lies (see Cultural Resources in Massachusetts: a Model for Management, MHC 1979: pp.75, 112). Extensive recent ethnographic research and field testing concerning the praying village component of the John Eliot Historic District has provided strong evidence of the area's potential to yield important information for research designs concerning acculturation, land use, and the authenticity of ethnohistorical accounts as well as addressing questions of methodology and identifying the present level of knowledge and the extent and significance of disturbance in the area. Further, questions of mortuary practices may be addressed. The materials which have been recovered to date are notably similar to artifacts recovered from contemporary burials of Indians who had not sought refuge under the protective English wing, suggesting a strong continuity of traditional cultural practices despite English missionary work. The extremely low visibility of physical remains of the praying village as demonstrated by the results of a recent sampling design (no artifacts or features from that period were found) supports this supposition; it appears that the Christian Indians may not have been as sedentary and nucleated in the colonial manner as portrayed by John Eliot et al., but perhaps continued to practice an aboriginal settlement-subsistence system (Brenner 1983). As the first, the "model," and the largest, as well as one of the best documented of the mission towns established in the Commonwealth, the John Eliot Historic District can thus provide critical information to supplement ethnohistorical data and aid in our understanding of the acculturation process through the study of internal site composition and comparison with data from other praying villages and with Contact period sites. In addition to this aspect of primary importance, the district is known to contain prehistoric cultural remains which may exist undisturbed in isolated locations, and should be considered to contain discrete and scattered trash deposits and subsurface features associated with its historic period component.

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KEY TO MAP:

- #1 Sam Lawton House (69 Eliot Street) (c. 1798)
- A Office Building (65 Eliot Street) (1981)
- #2 63 Eliot Street
- #3 61 Eliot Street
- #4 South Natick Pharmacy (57 Eliot Street)
- #5 Old Natick Inn Park (Eliot Street)
- #6 Goin Bailey House (49 Eliot Street) (1839)
- #7 Robbins House (47 Eliot Street) (1934)
- B Office Building (#203, 205, and 207 Union Street) (1982)
- #8 Forsythe House (201 Union Street) (1795)
- #9 Hancock-Bishop House (199 Union Street) (c. 1845)
- #10 Callahan House (197 Union Street) (c. 1845)
- #11 Berry House (195 Union Street) (c. 1862)
- #12 Tuck House (193 Union Street) (c. 1840)
- #13 Little Brown School House (190 Union Street) (1840; altered 1960, 1964)
- #14 John Jennings House (194 Union Street) (c. 1842)
- #15 Sheehan-Tarpy House (198 Union Street) (c. 1850)
- #16 Robbins-Butler House (200 Union Street) (c. 1850)
- #17 Old Natick Burying Ground (1731)
- #18 Natick Fire House (Eliot and Union Streets)
- #19 William Oakes House (43 Eliot Street) (1878)
- #20 Atkins Fair House (39 Eliot Street) (1839)
- #21 Peletiah's Tavern (33 Eliot Street) (1748)
- #22 David Morse House (21 Eliot Street) (1729, altered)
- #23 Sacred Heart Church Rectory (19 Eliot Street)
- C White's Garage (Eliot Street) (1970)
- #24 Morse-Dana-Leach (3 Eliot Street) (1759)
- #25 Boinay House (10 Eliot Street) (c. 1870)
- A Boinay House Annex (6 River Street) (c. 1870)
- #26 Welles-Hopf House (16 Eliot Street) (c. 1870)
- #27 Schaller Barn (22 Eliot Street)
- #28 Weigand House (24 Eliot Street) (c. 1825)
- #29 Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Eliot Street) (1873, dedicated 1888)
- #30 Edward Dowd House (30 Eliot Street) (1878)
- #31 James Dowd House (32 Eliot Street) (c. 1890)
- #32 Eliot Elementary School (Eliot Street) (1937)
- #33 John Eliot Memorial Hall (Eliot Street) (1862)
- #34 Dr. Spaulding House (42 Eliot Street) (c. 1823)
- #35 Martin Van Buren Bartlett Building (Olde Towne Market)
(48 Eliot Street)

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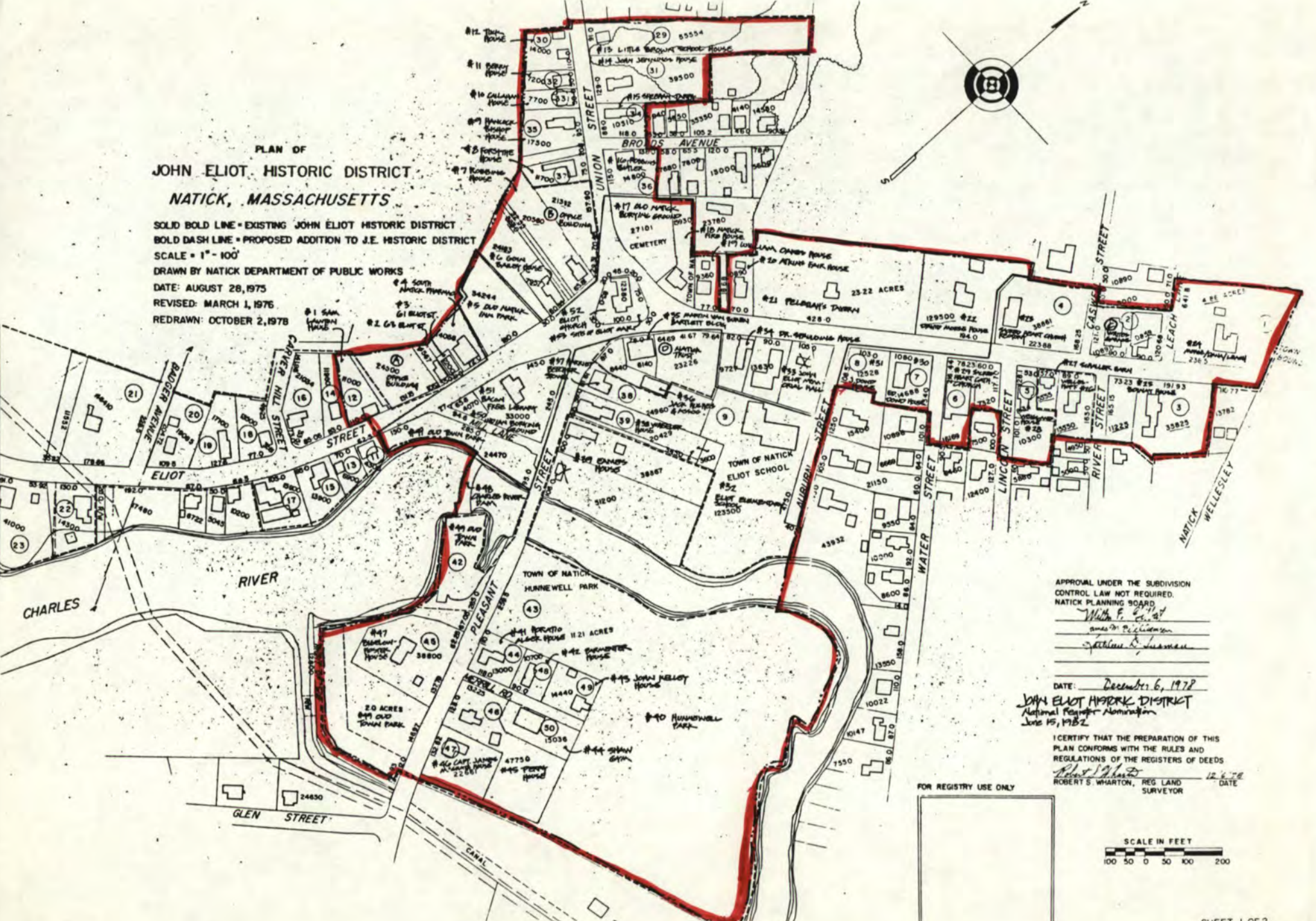
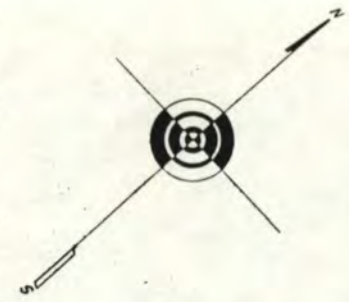
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KEY TO MAP (CONTINUED)

- #36 Jack Hughes and Associates (Eliot Street)
- #37 Harriet Beecher Stowe House (2 Pleasant Street) (1816)
- #38 The Wheeler House (4 Pleasant Street) (c. 1845)
- #39 The Eames House (6 Pleasant Street) (1839)
 - E Office Building (8 Pleasant Street) (1983)
- #40 Hunnewell Park
- #41 Horatio Alger House (16 Pleasant Street) (c. 1825)
- #42 The Parmenter House (4 Merrill Road) (1852)
- #43 The John Kelley House (8 Merrill Road) (1852)
- #44 The Shaw Gym (Merrill Road) (c. 1825)
- #45 The Perry House (18 Pleasant Street)
- #46 Captain James McGrath House (20 Pleasant Street) (1836)
- #47 Bigelow-Foster House (17 Pleasant Street) (1825)
- #48 Charles River Dam
- #49 Old Town Park (Eliot and Pleasant Streets)
- #50 Indian Burying Ground (Eliot and Pleasant Streets)
- #51 Bacon Free Library (1880)
- #52 Eliot Church, Federated (1828)
- #53 Site of Eliot Oak

PLAN OF
JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

SOLID BOLD LINE - EXISTING JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 BOLD DASH LINE - PROPOSED ADDITION TO J.E. HISTORIC DISTRICT
 SCALE = 1" = 100'
 DRAWN BY NATICK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 DATE: AUGUST 28, 1975
 REVISED: MARCH 1, 1976
 REDRAWN: OCTOBER 2, 1978



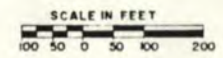
APPROVAL UNDER THE SUBDIVISION
 CONTROL LAW NOT REQUIRED.
 NATICK PLANNING BOARD

DATE: December 6, 1978
JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 National Register Nomination
 June 15, 1982

I CERTIFY THAT THE PREPARATION OF THIS
 PLAN CONFORMS WITH THE RULES AND
 REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS

 ROBERT S. WHARTON, REG. LAND SURVEYOR

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

John Eliot Historic District
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 23 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 6/23/83-7/7/83

Action: ACCEPT 6/23/83

Entered in the _____ RETURN _____

National Register _____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments: _____

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

8807 E S YAM

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



THE ELST CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICES
10:00 AM
11:00 AM
7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking North;
Eliot Church Federated

JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Corner Eliot & Pleasant Streets

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Avenue
Natick, MA 01760

Photo #1 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking East: Bacon Free Library
Eliot & Pleasant Streets

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Avenue
Natick, MA 01760

Photo #2 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking South: Eliot Elementary School
Eliot Street

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Avenue
Natick, MA 01760

Photo #3 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking Southeast: Weigand House
24 Eliot Street

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Avenue
Natick, MA

Photo #4 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking North: David Morse House
21 Eliot Street

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Street
Natick, MA

Photo #5 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking North: Goin Bailey House
49 Eliot Street

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Street
Natick, MA

Photo #6 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

Looking Southeast: Horatio Alger House

~~42 Eliot Street~~

16 Pleasant St

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers

Negative: 98 South Street
Natick, MA

Photo #7 of 8.



JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MA

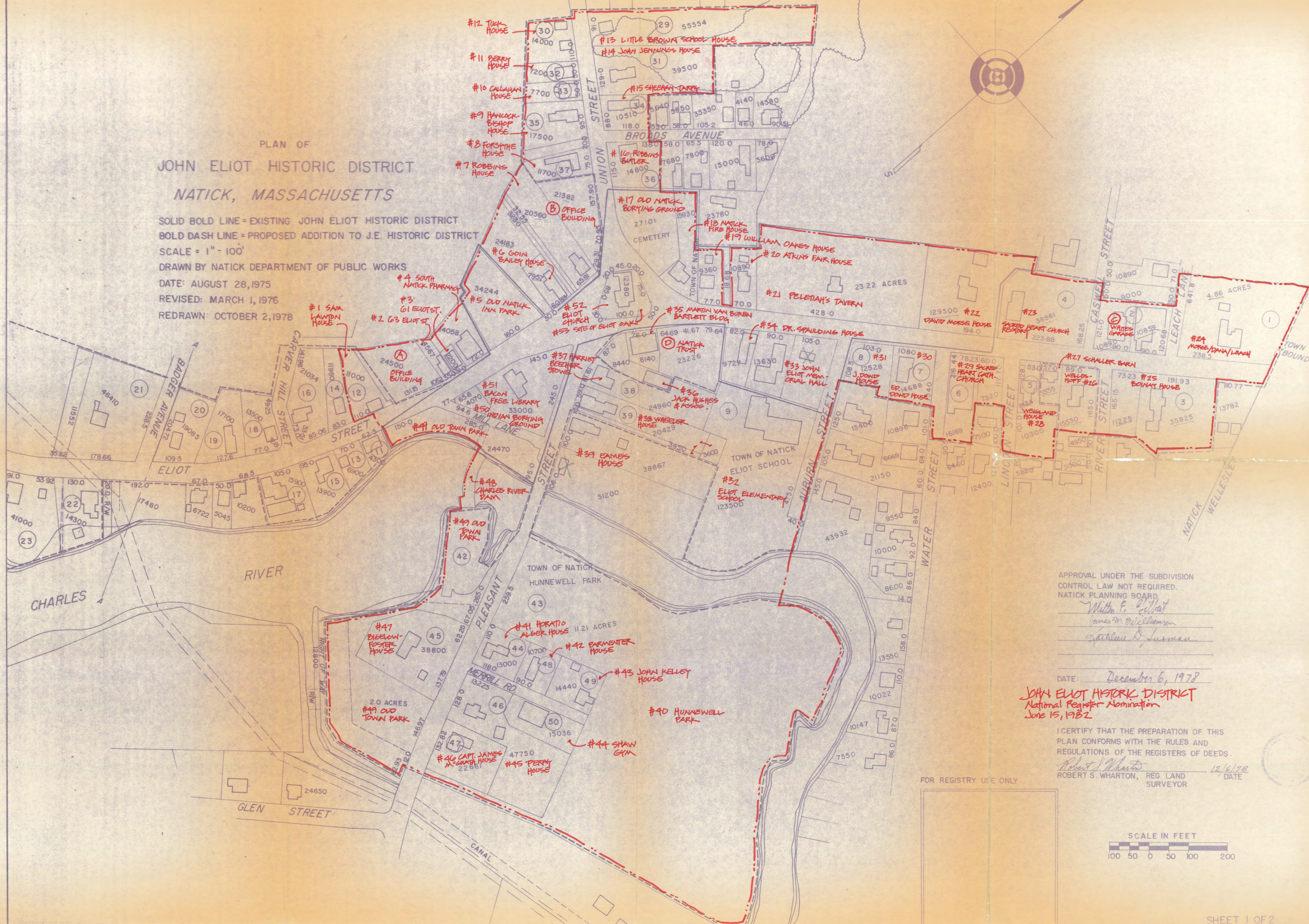
Looking Southwest: Charles River Dam
Pleasant Street

Photo Credit: Stephen N. Evers
Negative: 98 South Street
Natick, MA

Photo #8 of 8.

PLAN OF
JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

SOLID BOLD LINE = EXISTING JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOLD DASH LINE = PROPOSED ADDITION TO J.E. HISTORIC DISTRICT
SCALE = 1" = 100'
DRAWN BY NATICK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DATE: AUGUST 28, 1975
REVISED: MARCH 1, 1976
REDRAWN: OCTOBER 2, 1978



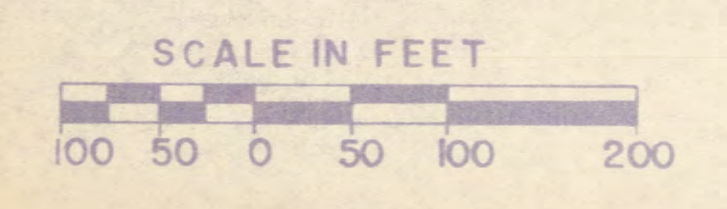
APPROVAL UNDER THE SUBDIVISION CONTROL LAW NOT REQUIRED.
NATICK PLANNING BOARD
William E. Gillet
James M. Williamson
Stephen D. Lusman

DATE: *December 6, 1978*

JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
National Register Nomination
June 15, 1982

I CERTIFY THAT THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN CONFORMS WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS.
Robert S. Wharton
ROBERT S. WHARTON, REG. LAND SURVEYOR
12/6/78
DATE

FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

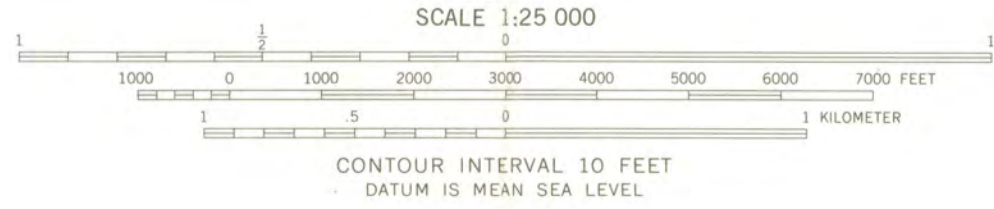
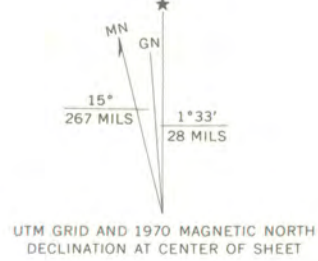




**John Elliot Historic District
Natick, MA**

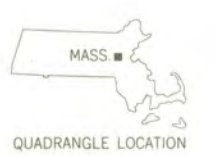
UTMs
A - 19/309300/4682820
B - 19/309140/4682500
C - 19/309220/4682200
D - 19/309020/4682100
E - 19/308840/4682300
F - 19/308730/4682550
G - 19/308820/4682620
H - 19/308950/4682540

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NATICK, MASS.
N4215—W7115/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 IV SE—SERIES V814

LAW OFFICES
OF
SULLIVAN AND MATHESON
4 PLEASANT STREET
SOUTH NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS 01760

MASS. HIST. COMM.

JOHN F. SULLIVAN
PETER A. MATHESON

AREA CODE 617
NATICK 653-5400
BOSTON 235-5210

March 2, 1983

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Re: John Eliot Historic District
Natick, Massachusetts

Attn: Ms. Valerie Talmage, Director

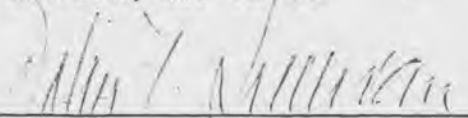
Dear Ms. Talmage:

Mrs. Sullivan and I acknowledge receipt of the notice dated February 28, 1983 concerning nomination of the John Eliot Square Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. We are both very pleased by the proposal and wish to be noted as being in favor of same.

In addition to the many historic buildings located in the district, there are also burying places including some Indian burial grounds, the Charles River, some public parks, a museum and library, the famous Eliot Church which was the original meeting house in the area dating back to about 1655. People who lived in some of the existing structures or were intimately involved with the district include Reverend John Eliot and his Indian successors at the Eliot Church, Harriet Beecher Stow and Horatio Alger, Jr.

Very truly yours,

John F. Sullivan
Joan M. Sullivan
4 Pleasant Street
So. Natick, MA 01760



not notarized

RECEIVED

MAR 28 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

40 Denton Road
Wellesley, MA 02181
March 25, 1983


Ms. Valerie Talmage
Executive Director
MA Historical Commission
294 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

In re: 52 Eliot Street
John Eliot Historic District
So. Natick, MA

Dear Ms. Talmage:

In reply to your letter of February 28, 1983,
I respectfully decline to have the above listed
property nominated to the National Register of
Historic Places.

Very truly yours,


Julio DiGiando

VF



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Office of the Secretary of State

**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

March 30, 1983

Julio DiGiando
40 Denton Road
Wellesley, Mass 02181

Dear Mr. DiGiando:

Your property at 52 Eliot Street, Natick is being considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the John Eliot Historic District. The merits of an historic district are judged upon the relationships of buildings and their joint ability to convey a sense of community history, rather than on the specific qualities of the component buildings. Listing in a National Register district places no constraints or reviews on what owners may do with their property, unless they are using state or federal funds.

The John Eliot Historic District is significant as the site of the first Praying Indian Village in Massachusetts; as the location of the first Colonial settlement in Natick; and also as a well preserved historic town center.

All of the property owners in the John Eliot Historic District have been notified by mail of the pending National Register consideration. If a majority of owners submit notarized objections, the district cannot be listed, even if it is found to be significant.

Please be aware that according to Federal regulations governing the National Register program (36CFR 60) objections must be notarized to be valid. If you object to the listing of your property, you must submit a notarized statement before April 13, 1983.

The nomination of the John Eliot Historic District represents a substantial amount of work by many local citizens, most notably the Natick Historical Commission. We sincerely hope that you will support their effort to recognize and help preserve Natick's heritage by withdrawing your objection.

Sincerely,

Virginia Fitch
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VF/lk



TOWN OF NATICK
MASSACHUSETTS 01760

April 5, 1983

Stephen Evers, Chairman
Natick Historical Commission
98 South Avenue
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is to confirm the action of the Board of Selectmen to support the impending nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, through the Natick Historical Comm.

It is the understanding of the Board that the following properties are to be included in this nomination:

Old Town Park, Eliot and Pleasant Streets;
Site of Eliot Oak, Eliot Street;
Old Natick Inn Park, Eliot Street;
Eliot Elementary School, Eliot Street;
Hunnewell Park, Pleasant Street;
Old Natick Burying Ground, Union Street;
Natick Fire House, Eliot and Union Streets.

If there is anything else that you need from the Board of Selectmen, please do not hesitate to call this Office.

Very truly yours,

Kathryn Fleming
Administrative Assistant

cc: Natick District Commission

MASS. HIST. COMM.
NOTICE 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.
299, Washington Street
Boston, Ma. 02108

RECEIVED

APR 15 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

JOHN ELIOT HISTORIC DISTRICT
National Register Application
Notuk, Ma.

Enclosed please find copies of letter from Notuk
Board of Selectmen and for Town owners
papers for listing in Nat'l Register

Very truly yours,
Stephen W. ...
Chairman, Notuk
Historic Commission