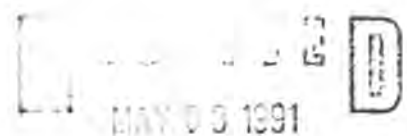


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hixville Village Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Old Fall River, Hixville and North Hixville Roads N/A not for publication  
city, town Dartmouth N/A vicinity  
state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005 zip code 02747

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Judith B. McDonough 4/26/91  
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission,  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Ross Savage 6/17/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; SecondaryStructure; HotelCommerce/General StoreReligion/Religious StructureFunerary/Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling; SecondaryStructureReligion/Religious Structure; Church-related residenceFunerary/Cemetery**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/FederalMid-19th Century/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Syntheticroof Asphaltother Granite; Cut Stone, Aluminum

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hixville Historic District is located at the intersection of Hixville Road and Old Fall River Road in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The area of the proposed district is quite small, following the lot lines of buildings and sites still reflecting the nineteenth century flavor of the village. The district contains seven structures and one cemetery. The topography of the land in and around the district is generally flat, with open fields and second-growth woodland. Roads are two-lane macadam roads, lined with small sidewalks in the village and grassy margins outside the village, typical of rural Dartmouth roads.

The predominant structure in the district is the Hixville Christian Church, built in 1853, which occupies the northwest corner of Hixville and Old Fall River Roads. This was the site of the first meetinghouse erected by the congregation of Elder Daniel Hix in 1785, and a second meetinghouse in 1811. The church is a 2 1/2-story wood-frame structure, clad with white-painted wooden clapboard. It is Greek Revival in style, with its gable end (east facade) facing Hixville Road. The building has a wide roof overhang with boxed cornice and simple brackets suggesting the continuance of the roof rafters. The overhang and wide frieze continue along the gable end while brief returns offer the suggestion of the front pediment. The east facade has a full-width wooden porch with a latticework apron, added presumably when the church was raised to accommodate a full ground story for a vestry in 1897. The wooden porch has a wide central stairway, divided in two by a simple railing, all guarded by a wooden balustrade of square balusters and newel posts topped with a turned, grooved ball. The facade is balanced, with two four-panel entry doors flanked with engaged recessed-panel pilasters and capped by a wide frieze. Between the two doorways is a single window opening with 6/6 double-hung sash with simple casings and a protruding cap molding on the header. Above each doorway is a similar window. The rooftop is completed by a simple steeple.

The north, south and west sides of the church reveal the upper, original church with the basement story added beneath. The upper portion has two large windows, the lower story has simple 6/6 windows and a simple doorway on the south and west sides. The entire building is clad with wooden clapboard, with cornerboards, painted white. On the rear (west) facade is a one-story

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gable-roofed addition with simple cornerboards, shingled and painted white. The addition occupies approximately 3/5 of the rear width.

A ca. 1980 ministers house has been built on the adjacent north lot, next to the church and is considered noncontributing. A propane gas storage tank stands near the northwest corner of the church and a chain-link fence is located along the rear (west, and part of the northwest) section of the property dividing it from the lot to the west.

Directly across Old Fall River Road from the church (and occupying the southwest corner of the intersection with Hixville Road) is the Hixville Christian Church Cemetery (ca. 1820). The cemetery is set off from the two roads by a carefully built dry-laid stone wall of cut, but undressed, granite blocks leveled and filled with smaller random-sized stone. The gate in this wall is located on the Old Fall River Road side and is hung on granite posts. The gate was originally wooden, but has been replaced with a chainlink metal gate. The other two sides of the rectangular cemetery lot (south and west) are defined by the more common, random-sized fieldstone walls. The cemetery itself contains approximately one hundred and thirty graves of many local Dartmouth citizens, mostly members of the Hixville congregation, with dates of death generally in the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The graves are generally marked with relatively simple gravestones, plainly shaped, unpolished, with engraved names and dates. The cemetery is now owned by the Town of Dartmouth.

The building immediately west of the church is the Sabin Store, 783 Old Fall River Road (ca. 1805), a Greek Revival dwelling 1 1/2 stories in height, wood-frame construction, with its gable end to the street. It originally housed a store on the first floor, thus accounting for the unexpected center entrance. The building has been remodeled, including conversion of the store space to residential use; residing of the original clapboard with white painted asbestos shingles; replacement of most of the double-hung 6/6 sash with 2/1 double-hung sash, and the addition of double 2/1 windows flanking the center front entrance. There are three roof dormers on the west side of the building, two small single windows flanking a larger double window dormer, all dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Except for the asbestos shingles and aluminum gutters and conductors, the building is largely as it was in the nineteenth century. There is a single car, wood-frame, painted wooden shingle garage on the east side of the house. The property is set off from the road by a painted wooden picket fence, from the church lot by a wire fence supported by wooden posts and 2 foot by 2 foot rails and from the lot to the rear (north) by a stone wall.

Occupying the northeast corner of the intersection of Old Fall River Road and Hixville Road (at the geographic point where Hixville Road becomes North

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Hixville Road) is the 2 1/2-story wood-frame Clothier Pierce House, 1177 North Hixville Road (ca. 1810). This is the largest residential structure in the district and the one most nearly in its original condition. The building's front entrance was originally on Hixville Road (as the address indicates), a centrally located entrance, quite typical of Federal architecture of the time, but was been moved to the south gabled end, facing Old Fall River Road. A full width, one-story porch whose hipped roof is supported by double squared posts standing on fieldstone piers connected with a simple wooden balustrade was added ca 1930. Most of the original clapboarding on the south elevation, especially in the gable area has been replaced with shingles. This elevation also accommodates a gable vent and replacement window headers. The other elevations of the building are clad with shingles and narrow cornerboards, and have symmetrically spaced 6/6 double-hung windows with splayed lintels on the first floor and headers blended into the narrow frieze on the second floor. There are returns in the gable ends of the house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is punctuated by a small central chimney. The two street sides of this corner lot are defined by a stone wall. A noncontributing two car, wood-frame, shingled garage building (ca. 1910) is located north of the house fronting on North Hixville Road.

The Colonel Jacob Collins Inn, 770 Hixville Road (ca. 1800) is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Hixville Road and Old Fall River Road. This building is a wood-frame, one-story, gable-roofed residential building, with its main entrance facing Hixville Road. It appears to be a double cape and served as an inn for the New Bedford-Fall River stagecoach service in the nineteenth century (labeled as a "hotel" on mid-nineteenth century maps). The wavy contour of the roof suggests widely spaced roof rafters and is asphalt shingled. This building retains its original configuration; however, much of the building has been obscured by the recent application of vinyl siding and the replacement of most of the windows and entry door. These alterations are unfortunate because of the significance of this structure in the development of Hixville. This property is defined by a chainlink fence. There are no outbuildings or other structures on the property.

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## Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district, well drained soils on a relatively level terrace in close proximity to the Copicut River/Cornell Pond and its tributaries, indicate favorable locational criteria for native subsistence and settlement activities. In general, however, the small size of the district (3 acres), its historic period development and the fact that most of the district is nearly 300 meters from these wetlands indicate at best a moderate sensitivity for prehistoric resources.

There is a high potential for significant historic archaeological remains within the district. Controlled testing and excavation can determine whether or not structural survivals remain of several important buildings in the district. These structures include the first (1785) and second (1811) meetinghouses on the site of the Hixville Christian Church (1853), the Lee house/tavern/store/stables and other building, which burned in 1856 (located across from the Collins Inn). Each of these sites evolved around the intersection of Hixville Road and the Old Fall River Road. Other potential historic sites in this area include a shoe store, blacksmith shop and several residences. Outbuilding sites associated with the above structures are also probably common in the area. Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) also likely exist associated with most of the structures listed above.

(end)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally  statewide  locallyApplicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1785-1900

Significant Dates

1785

1807

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hixville Historic District, Dartmouth, Massachusetts, stands alone in North Dartmouth as an intact village and a thriving, rural nineteenth century crossroads. The area first grew in 1785 as the center of religious activity in the area, later as a stop-over for the early stagecoach service between New Bedford and Fall River, and finally, in the late nineteenth century, as a stop on local railroad service, which provided services to local farmers. Hixville never experienced the economic boom of the advantaged seacoast areas of Old Dartmouth, but instead quietly thrived as a rural center. Though quiet now, a victim of its backwater position economically and politically, Hixville still retains its nineteenth century character, with strong visual remnants of its heritage, and potentially rich archaeological sites. The village is an important representative of a rapidly vanishing community type once common throughout southeastern Massachusetts. The Hixville Historic District meets Criteria A and C and Exceptions A and D for listing of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level, maintaining its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Its period of significance is from 1785 to 1900.

The village of Hixville is located in the northern part of the town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, near the boundary with the City of Fall River and the Town of Freetown. It is situated on the crossroads of a jog in the Old Fall River Road (which runs roughly from east to west from New Bedford to Fall River) at the intersection with (North) Hixville Road (which runs roughly north to south and leads from Assonet to Smith Mills and Westport). The land is generally flat, although slightly undulating to the nearby Shingle Island River (east of Hixville, running under the Old Fall River Road).

Dartmouth was once a much larger geographic and political entity encompassing present Dartmouth, Westport, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet and some portions of Tiverton and Little Compton, Rhode Island. The original town was purchased from the Wampanoag Indians in 1652 by thirty-four colonists from Plymouth. Although few of the original purchasers ever lived in Old

 See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission;  
Dartmouth Historical Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 3.24 acres

UTM References

A 19 | 330820 | 4616280  
Zone Easting Northing

C 19 | 330850 | 4616300  
Zone Easting Northing

B 19 | 330850 | 4616270  
Zone Easting Northing

D 19 | 330880 | 4616320  
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Attached Assessor's Map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Peter Jacobson, Arnold Robinson, Consultants with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 15, 1990

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

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Dartmouth, settlement of the area began soon after the purchase. Dartmouth's many small rivers promoted scattered, water-powered mills for grinding flour and sawing wood, necessities of life in the 17th century. Unlike South Dartmouth, Fairhaven and New Bedford, North Dartmouth is considerably removed from the seacoast so that the principal economic activity was farming. Dartmouth was rich in forested land and virgin soil, though the work of clearing trees, brush and stone was formidable.

The land around the present Hixville Village was first owned by the Joseph Allen family, one of the original proprietors. Upon his death, the land was one of several tracts inherited by his two sons; Joseph Jr. and John. The ownership of the Hixville tract, approximately 300 square acres, was split between the brothers, each retaining individual ownership of one half of the 300 acres. When Joseph Allen Jr. died in 1735, his wife and five children each received a share of the property. The heirs of Joseph Jr. then sold their land to Ezekiel Chase and his brother-in-law Ebenezer Petty for 360 pounds. The Chase family played a large role in the development of the town of Dartmouth, especially the Hixville area. Chase and Petty split the land holding, with Petty owning the land to the north of the Old Fall River Road to the "new sawmill lot," and Chase owning the land to the south.

The other Allen brother, John, died in 1754, bequeathing his 150-acre lot to his son Philip, who in turn sold it in 1755. The new owner was Judah Chase, second cousin to Ezekiel. This parcel was to the north of Ezekiel Chase's and Petty's holdings. At this point in time, Hixville was clearly Chaseville, and in fact, most of the families settling on these 300 acres in the next 75 years were somehow related to the Chase family. Ezekiel Chase (1711-??) was born in Swansea, Massachusetts. He married his second cousin Rebecca Chase, and together they had eight children. The most significant was Simeon Chase who married Elizabeth Cornell, daughter of Israel and Susannah Baker, on July 17, 1758. Of their eleven children, two daughters would marry men who played important roles in the property ownership and economic development of Hixville village. Chloe married Clothier Pierce of Swansea on June 24, 1781 and Martha married Ira Washburn from Bridgewater on May 17, 1781.

The Washburn family was the second major family to arrive in the Hixville area. Moses Washburn and his wife Hannah (Cushman) came to Dartmouth with their four sons about 1750. They settled to the north and east of Hixville. Their son Peter was the most important descendant of the family in Hixville, going on to own most of the property east of the village towards New Bedford. Peter bequeathed this land to his nephew Ira, who in turn sold a small mill lot (containing 12 rods) to Daniel Turner for \$15.00. Upon this lot Daniel built a store which he sold to his brother Calvin in 1826. Calvin K. Turner was to become a prominent real estate holder in nearby New Bedford.

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Like the Chase family, the Collins family figures prominently in the original settlement of this area. They constructed a mill on the nearby Shingle Island River, erected early houses and engaged in farming as well as mill work. Other family names from the early development of Hixville were Briggs, Gifford and Howland.

By the later 18th century, the portion of Dartmouth around the intersection of the two roads supported a large agricultural community, but the village of Hixville itself had not developed. As late as 1780, deed references from the area include mentions of "undivided land," from the original purchase of Dartmouth in 1652.

Generally speaking, the town of Dartmouth attracted two types of religious groups, the Quakers and the Baptists, both anxious to escape the persecution of the dominant religious factions in Plymouth Colony or the Providence Plantations. Many of the settlers of North Dartmouth were Baptists who built scattered farms along the roads connecting coastal Dartmouth to more populous areas such as Newport, Boston, Plymouth and later, New Bedford and Fall River. Although isolated and scattered, the Baptists in North Dartmouth held regular religious services at one another's houses. The nearest organized church was in nearby Rehoboth where the North Dartmouth Baptists traveled for organized Sabbath services, weddings and baptisms, ministered by Elder Jacob Hix. To better meet the spiritual needs of that community, Elder Hix organized the First Baptist Church of North Dartmouth with 63 members in 1780. In October of 1781, Jacob's brother Daniel was installed as minister of this church. In 1785, the newly organized Baptist Church erected its first meetinghouse at the intersection of Old Fall River Road and Smith Mills Road (now Hixville Road).

This wood-frame, one-story building soon became known as Hix's Meeting House in literature and maps demonstrate its importance and prominence in the area. By this time, the road was also known as the road to (or by) Hix's Meeting House.

Daniel Hix (1755-1838) was one of eight children born to Hannah and Elder John Hix of Rehoboth. He seemed the least likely of his family to be marked for the ministry, as pranks and mischief marked his youth. With little education, Daniel supported himself as a cooper until he joined the Baptist Church in earnest, converting in 1779. He joined his brother's church in 1780, preached his first sermon in March and was ordained in July. He was known as an effective preacher of considerable charisma and noted for his understanding and common sense. Elder Hix developed a great following throughout the area, infusing a spirit that not only led to the growth of his own congregation, but also the establishment of churches in New Bedford, Fairhaven, Long Plain, Rochester and Freetown.

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In 1807, all of the North Dartmouth members and their affiliated branches voted to reorganize, taking the Bible alone as the rule of faith and practice. With Elder Hix still as their pastor, the church renamed itself the First Christian Church. The ultimate consequence of this reorganization, and Elder Hix's determined position in favor of religious tolerance and liberty, was the vote in 1811 to exclude the Hixville church (and its affiliates) from the Groton Baptist Conference, which Elder Hix's congregation had joined in 1786.

Hix's own church was the "mother" church and Hix nurtured the "daughter" churches in nearby towns and villages by baptizing and preaching the circuit, so that by 1808, the parent and offspring churches had grown to nearly 700 members. It was in this period of revivalist spirit and large membership that the earlier meetinghouse was replaced in 1811 by a larger church structure. The growth in this period is generally attributable to the relative degree of religious liberty enjoyed by the First Christian Church as it was fostered by its leader Elder Daniel Hix. It was also during this period of growth that the church established its cemetery on the land to south, across the Old Fall River Road (the cemetery is now owned by the Town of Dartmouth).

Elder Hix remained pastor of his ever-growing congregation until poor health forced his resignation in 1834. Although he died in 1838, his name continued to identify the crossroads where his church was built. Interestingly, middle and late 19th century cartographers often incorrectly spelled the name of the village as "Hicksville" rather than "Hixville."

Although suffering temporary setbacks such as the rift over military service during the War of 1812 (in which sixteen members left to form their own church at the Head of Westport), the church continued to grow until the 1840s. At that time, the teachings of William Miller were greatly followed, and many members were drawn away. Miller taught that Christ would come in October of 1842, a date later revised to October of 1843. Although neither date was correct, his teachings had been divisive enough to cause church attendance to fall off dramatically, not recovering until the next decade.

In 1853, with a new influx of members, the third church building was constructed. The building was used throughout the later nineteenth century, and was raised and altered in 1897 to accommodate a large foundation and basement for use as a vestry and community space for social occasions. The building as altered remains as the present Hixville Christian Church.

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, the congregation dwindled despite the alterations to the church building, so that by 1901 membership was only twenty-one people. For most of this century, membership has been similarly small, although the church has continued to be active. In most recent years, there has been a limited increase in attendance.

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The significance of the Hixville Christian Church and its impact on the surrounding area can be understood by the assertion in the 1960s that this single church had been responsible for the establishment and growth of thirty-five other churches throughout the area.

The growth of Hixville Village can be attributed not only to the presence of the meetinghouse itself, but also to the economic activities of the area and the nearby towns and cities. In January of 1826, a stagecoach line began to run between New Bedford and Fall River, with Hixville as a way station on the regular route. Land travel between the two towns had long been on the Old Fall River Road through the village, but after 1826 stages stopped regularly at Hixville, and by 1844 three times a week.

In 1826 Captain Jacob Collins, seeing that a rest stop would be necessary, prudently purchased a property located "on the road that leads from Hix Meeting House to Smith Mills" (now known as Hixville Road), and converted it to a tavern. Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Hixville Road and Old Fall River Road is the village inn. The lot upon which this building stands was once a part of a larger parcel, occupying most of this intersection, owned by the Washburn family.

In 1829 Calvin K. Turner purchased six acres with "a dwelling house and other buildings," located across from Jacob Collins' land, from Zebedee Jones. In 1830, Turner sold half of this property, with dwelling house, to his future brother-in-law, Thomas J. Lee, who subsequently converted the house into a tavern for the increased stagecoach traffic. In 1842 Lee sold his half to his brother-in-law John Chase, and in 1850 Calvin and John sold the entire dwelling house/tavern, store, stables and other buildings. Apparently the tavern burned down shortly thereafter, for the 1856 map of "Hicksville" shows no building on that site. (By 1871, a new dwelling had been built on the site, labelled "J. Chase," and in the 1891 Atlas, "D. Green." The house was pulled down sometime in the mid-twentieth century, and the site has remained vacant.)

In the meantime, however, George Collins improved his father's tavern directly across the road. In the 1860s, that property was conveyed to Mercy Carpenter, wife of Henry G. Carpenter, a successful innkeeper elsewhere in the state, and was still an inn at this point.

Identification of Hixville as a village seems to have taken place in the early part of the nineteenth century, with the meetinghouse as the central structure, and with the stage route as a catalyst for commerce. The principal activity of those living in North Dartmouth in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was farming. The Hixville crossroads provided a logical spot for a store to help supply the needs of otherwise self-sufficient farmers. The

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building at 783 Old Fall River Road was constructed as a store for the village. It was owned and operated by a number of owners in the nineteenth century, including the Sabin family, who lived across the Old Fall River Road near the cemetery. By the 1870s, the store was owned and operated by Abraham Reed. The mills of the North Dartmouth area played an important role in the economic activity of the area, and although no mill site was in the village itself, several were located on the nearby Copicut River and its tributaries.

Real estate transactions and atlases in and around Hixville in the late eighteenth and through the nineteenth century show that Clothier Pierce and his son (Clothier) seem to dominate. Just as earlier land records bear the names of Chase, Washburn, Collins, Hathaway and Briggs, the name Pierce dominates the later period. It was around the period of the 1780s that Clothier Pierce was beginning to acquire land in and around the crossroads. He and his son would acquire much of the property in the village area, owning the dominant residential structure. Clothier Pierce rapidly accumulated land around two parts of the Hixville Road and Fall River Road intersection. The first section is near the cemetery and spreads south along Hixville Road. The second area of land is directly across the road from the cemetery on the northeast corner of the intersection and is dominated by a ca 1790 2 1/2-story wood frame residential building that was the home of Clothier Pierce.

The senior Clothier Pierce was born in 1784 and married Bethia C. Cleaveland (1802-1882) in Boston on July 22, 1822. Among their six children was Clothier, Jr. who was the business associate and later principal beneficiary of the elder Clothier upon his death in 1875. The son, who never married, survived his father by only five years, dying at his North Dartmouth residence in 1880. Unfortunately there is little documentary information available on the two Pierces, although it is clear that they were real estate holders and gentlemen farmers. The earlier acquisitions of land included an existing farm, while later additions enlarged their holdings and added other structures in and around Hixville. At the turn of the century the house was used as a boarding house. Their descendants retained ownership-as did the Collins family-of their respective property until the early decades of this century when uninterested heirs sold off the property.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the village of Hixville had completely evolved. An 1856 map of the area (labeled "Hicksville") locates the Baptist Church, three residences for "C. Pierce" (father and son), the Hotel, cemetery, Mr. Sabin's store and his residence, as well as J. (John) Briggs' residence and store, a shoe shop, blacksmith shop, a carpentry shop and another ten or so residences. The 1871 Map of Dartmouth shows that there were not many changes in the village, with houses still owned by the Briggs, Hathaway and Pierce families; there is a new school to the south along Hixville Road, and Abraham Reed has succeeded Mr. Sabin at the store, but the village is largely unchanged.

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Hixville's political and economic significance was recognized when the newly constructed railroad running north-south through Dartmouth built a small depot in 1875 some distance to the south of the village and bearing the name "Hixville". Another recognition was by the Postal Department, which at that same time located a Post Office at the village (later consolidated and moved to Plainville).

The village continued to exist unchanged into the twentieth century, although as farming in the area became less common, commerce and traffic in the village decreased. From 1890-1920, the area became a backwater, as agricultural activity decreased and no new occupations were pursued. Second-growth woods began to invade cleared fields and farm buildings fell into disuse.

In the immediate village, the tight grouping of historic buildings around the intersection survived: the church, Clothier Pierce's residence, the hotel, cemetery, Sabin store and some of the residential structures on both Hixville Road and Old Fall River Road. However, outside of the district, there have been some modern intrusions and insensitive alterations in recent decades. Many of the buildings noted on the Atlases of 1856, 1871 and even 1895 are no longer recognizable, or have been demolished, such as the shoe store and blacksmith shop.

To the east of the district, some poorly constructed and inappropriate residential structures have been constructed along Old Fall River Road. To the west on Fall River Road, there is evidence of twentieth century growth and development of North Dartmouth. Here, as with the eastern section of Old Fall River Road, there has been modern infill construction and insensitive remodeling of historic structures, out of character with the district's heritage. To the north of the district on North Hixville Road, there has been infill house construction, and additions to two historic structures. To the south, scattered farmhouses have been severely altered, and tract housing is encroaching.

The uniqueness of Hixville is not in its growth, development or location, or in the people who lived there or the religion they practiced. Similar villages grew in Dartmouth and elsewhere in southeastern Massachusetts, around a mill, a church or crossroads. However, many of these villages have been obliterated by modern accelerated growth that demolished and replaced older structures with new ones. What is significant about Hixville is that it survived with its village context intact.

The survival of Hixville is now in doubt, as it is threatened by the pressures of modern commerce and real estate development. The uninformed or apathetic developmental approach to whole sections of historic North Dartmouth has resulted in sprawling retail malls, eight-lane superhighways and hazardous

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hixville Village Historic District,  
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 7

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waste sites, leaving virtually none of the area's historical fabric intact. Hixville exemplifies a rural village that evolved in North Dartmouth; its central core remains intact, with strong architectural and visual ties to the nineteenth century.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHixville Village Historic District,  
Dartmouth, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 8

## Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Dartmouth are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area can be important by establishing the relationship of sites on secondary interior drainages like the Copicut River with coastal estuaries and the Buzzard's Bay drainage. While the district area is within the Buzzard's Bay drainage, its close proximity to Mount Hope Bay, part of the Narraganset Bay drainage, also offers the potential for a study of the similarities and/or differences between native settlement in the two areas.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized a village that developed for convenience rather than as a planned Colonial village. They can also help document the growth in an agricultural community and village that grew around a rural crossroad and Baptist Meetinghouse in the early nineteenth century to a through village by the mid-nineteenth century. Archaeological resources can also help document when and how industry began to play an important role in the village. Occupational-related features can provide information pertaining to individuals and family units when associated with residences. Similar features, when associated with stores, inns and civic structures, can provide information on the community as a whole.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHixville Village Historic District,  
Dartmouth, MassachusettsSection number 9 Page 1

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Andrews, S.M., a Sketch of Elder Daniel Hix. E. Anthony & Sons, New Bedford, Mass. 1880.

Dartmouth Historical Commission, survey Form B's and other research material prepared for the Commission by various sources, Town of Dartmouth, Dartmouth, Mass.

Ellis, Leonard Booles, History of New Bedford and its Vicinity. Mason & Company, Syracuse, New York, 1892.

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Maps of the Town of Dartmouth, 1856, 1871, 1895.

Registry of Deeds, Bristol County, Southern District, New Bedford, Mass., various deeds.

Tax Assessors Records, Town of Dartmouth, Town Hall, Dartmouth, Mass.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hixville Village Historic District,  
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Hixville Historic District follow the lot lines of properties associated with the village's growth and development in the period of significance from 1785 to 1900. Boundaries encompass the core of historic buildings in the village, excluding radically altered, noncontributing buildings, as well as modern infill construction.

Areas outside the district are generally later than the period of significance or badly altered to the point of losing historical significance. On the west side of Hixville Road, to the south of the district, is a modern twentieth century fire station attached to an early, twentieth century wood frame schoolhouse, although the latter was not integrated into the framing of the new building. The school was on the site occupied by an earlier building, a lot sold to the Town of Dartmouth "for the purpose of erecting a school" building by Clothier Pierce in the 1860s.

There are some poorly constructed and inappropriate structures along Old Fall River Road to the east of the district. To the west on Old Fall River Road there is evidence of twentieth century growth and development of North Dartmouth. Here, as with the eastern section of Old Fall River Road, there is modern infill construction and insensitive remodeling of historic structures, out of character with the district's heritage.

Going north on Hixville Road the area remains undeveloped, retaining feeling of the nineteenth century. On one side of the road is the ruins of possibly John Briggs' store or outbuilding. On the west side of Hixville Road as it runs north out of the district is a modern cape that serves as the parsonage for the church (constructed in 1967). To the north is a ca. 1800 Cape Cod residence with outbuildings that has had an unfortunate addition (ca. 1989). This house was owned and occupied for much of the nineteenth century by Danforth Hathaway, who owned approximately 70 acres to the north of the village. Just to the north of this house, Danforth's son Jeremiah constructed a somewhat unusual, though modest, Greek Revival residence ca 1850. This property remained undivided in the hands of the Hathaway family until 1918. Both sides of the road are wooded, with only intermittent structures.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Hixville Village Historic District,  
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

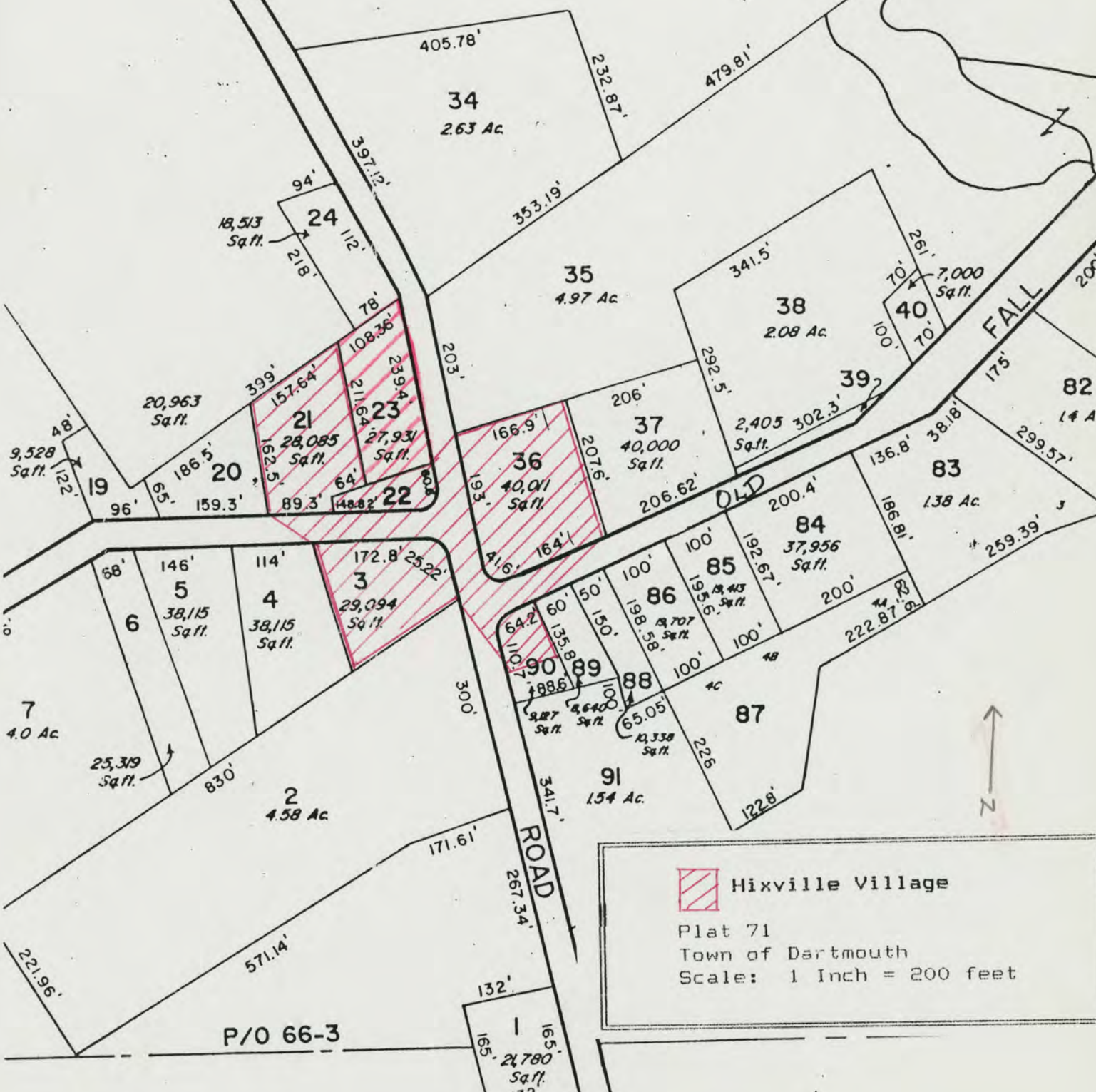
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E	19	330900	4616260
F	19	330990	4616290
G	19	330960	4616120
H	19	330840	4616120

25.33 Ac.

HIXVILLE

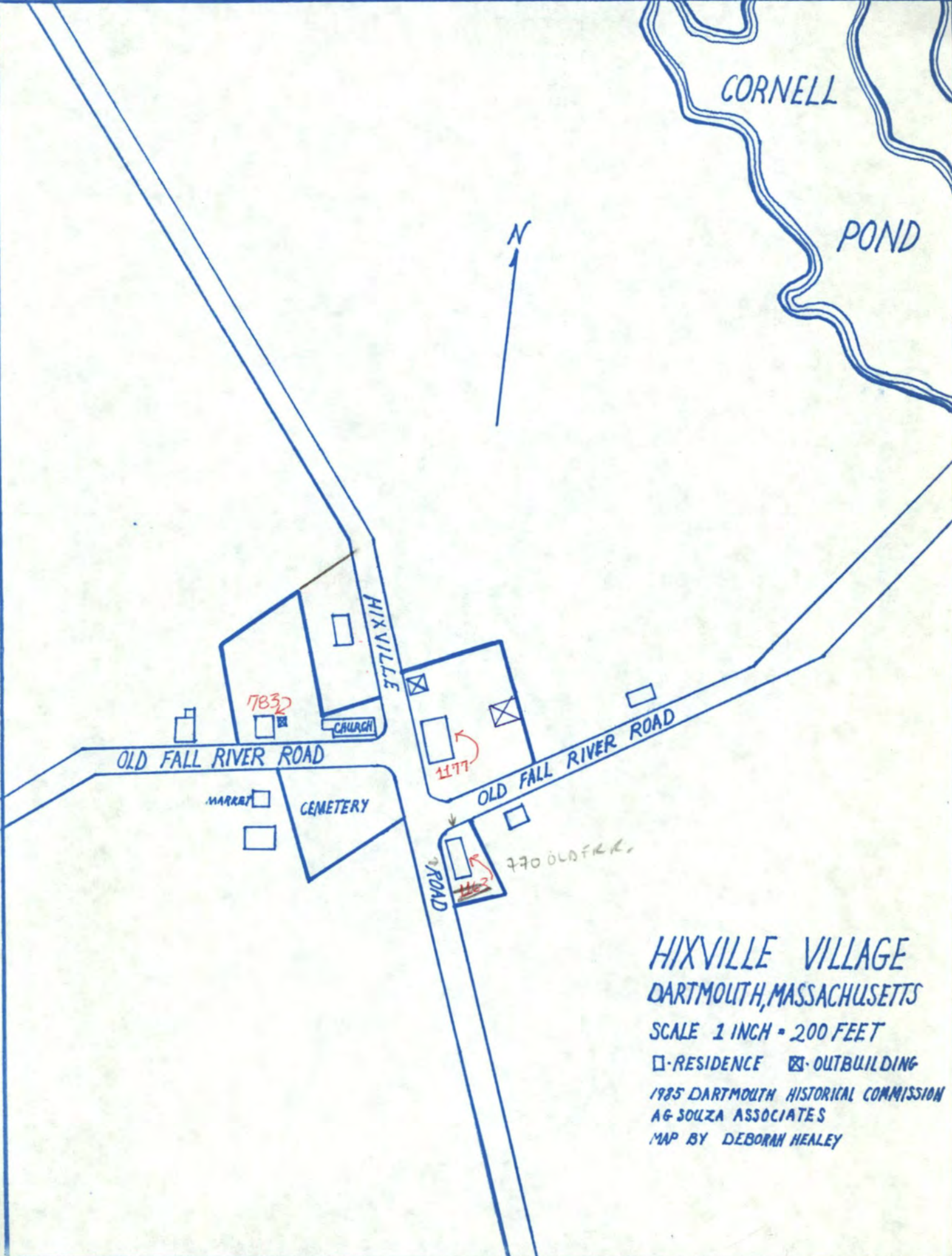
Pond



Hixville Village

Plat 71  
Town of Dartmouth  
Scale: 1 Inch = 200 feet

P/O 66-3



CORNELL

POND

N

HIXVILLE

OLD FALL RIVER ROAD

OLD FALL RIVER ROAD

CEMETERY

MARKET

CHURCH

7832

1177

770 OLDFR.

ROAD

# HIXVILLE VILLAGE DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

SCALE 1 INCH = 200 FEET

□ - RESIDENCE    X - OUTBUILDING

1985 DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
AG-SOUZA ASSOCIATES

MAP BY DEBORAH HEALEY

## DISTRICT DATA SHEET

### Hixville Historic District North Dartmouth, Massachusetts

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date of Const.</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>
783 Old Fall River Rd.	Sabin Store	ca. 1805	Greek Revival	B	C
garage		ca. 1960	N/A	B	NC
770 Old Fall River Rd.	Col. Jacob Collins Inn	ca. 1800	Federal	B	C
1177 N. Hixville Road	Clothier Pierce House	ca. 1810	Federal	B	C
garage	N/A	ca. 1910	N/A	B	NC
1182 Hixville Rd.	Hixville Christian Church	1853	Greek Rev.	B	C
Hixville Rd.	Ministers House	ca. 1980	N/A	B	NC
SW Corner Hixville & Old Fall River Roads	Hixville Christian Church Cemetery	ca. 1820	N/A	Si	C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000698 Date Listed: 06/17/91

Hixville Village  
Historic District  
Property Name

Washington  
County

VT  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/17/91  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Area(s) and Criteria**

Community Planning and Development is not a justified area of significance. Criterion C applies to the documented architectural significance of the property. This information has been confirmed with Betsy Friedburg, MASHPO, by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hixville Village Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/05/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/17/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000698

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6/17/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Swale  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 6/17/91

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

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period              Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage               verbal boundary description  
 UTM's               boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Hixville Village H.D.  
CHURCH, looking NW  
11/87  
Photo #1

ROCESSED BY  
Kodak  
MAR. 88 N

PROCESSED BY  
Kodak  
MAR. 88 N

PROCESSED BY  
Kodak  
MAR. 88 N

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PROCESSED BY  
Kodak  
MAR. 88 N

*Hixville Village H.D. Bristol Co. Mass*

- 1) Hixville Church looking northwest showing front (east facade) south side. Photo by Peter Jacobsen, November, 1987.



HIXVILLE VILLAGE HD

HIXVILLE CHURCH

DARTMOUTH, MA

11/ 1987



Hixville Village HD  
Bristol Co MA

2) Hixville Church looking north from cemetery. Photo by Peter Jacobsen, November, 1987.



HIXVILLE VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
EAST ALONG OLD FALL RIVER RD  
DARTMOUTH, MA Bristol Co

11/87

Photo # 3

ROCESSED BY  
**Kodak**  
MAR. 88 N

ROCESSED BY  
**Kodak**  
MAR. 88 N

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MAR. 88 N

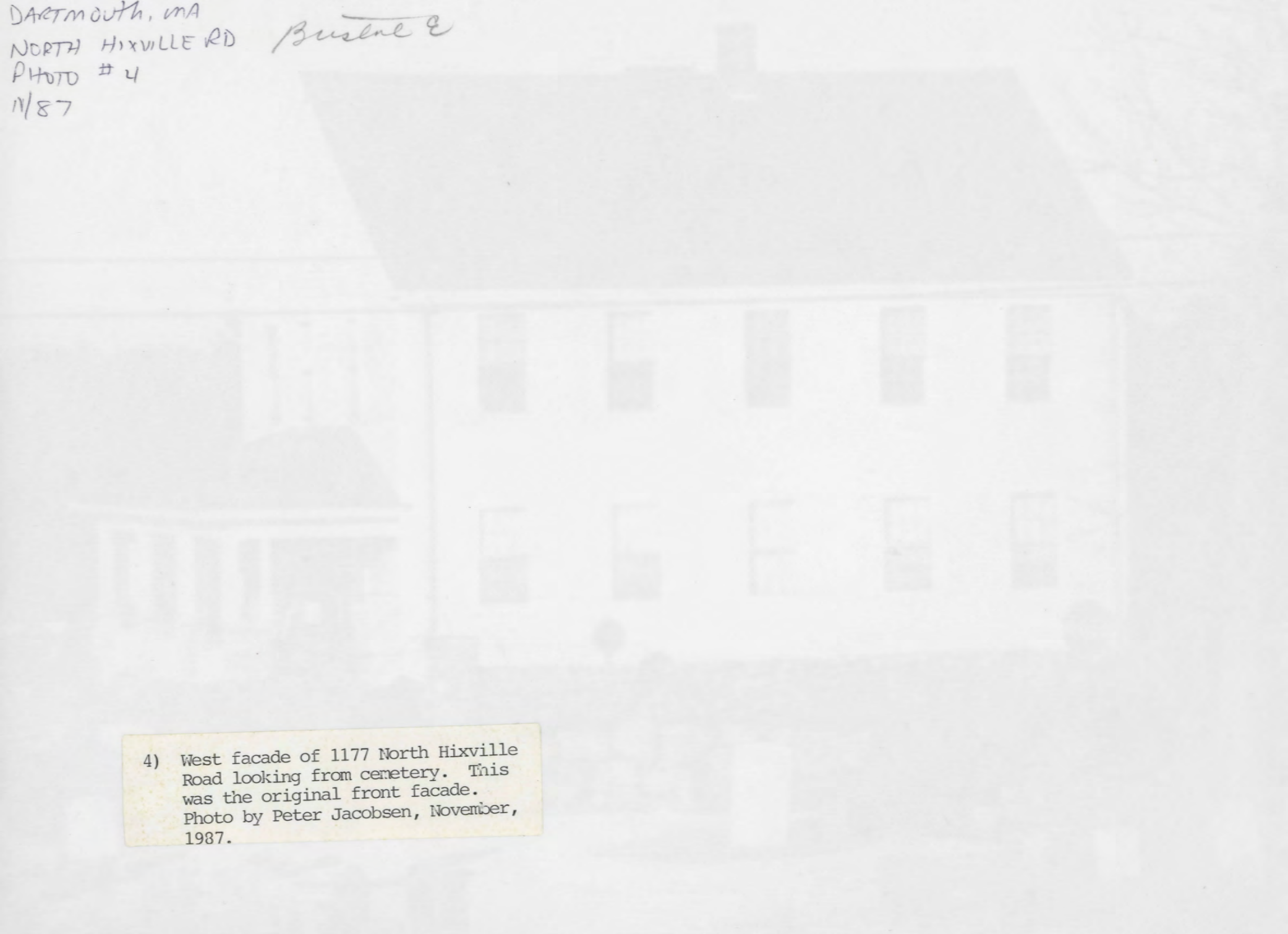
- 3) Hixville Village looking east along Old Fall River Road to the intersection with Hixville Road. Photo by Peter Jacobsen, November, 1987.



STOP

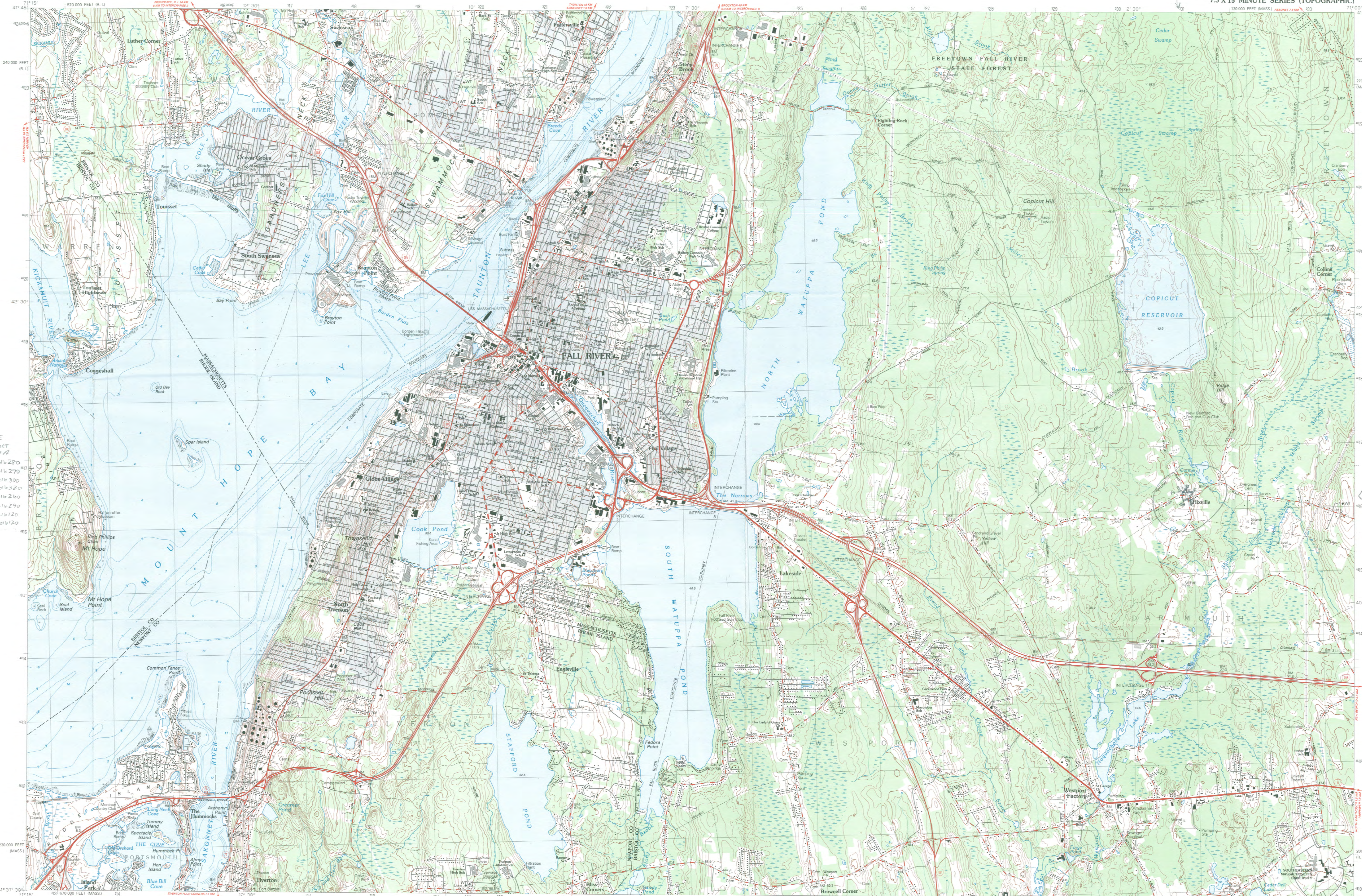
DARTMOUTH, MA  
NORTH HIXVILLE RD  
PHOTO # 4  
11/87

*Bustrel &*

- 
- 4) West facade of 1177 North Hixville Road looking from cemetery. This was the original front facade. Photo by Peter Jacobsen, November, 1987.

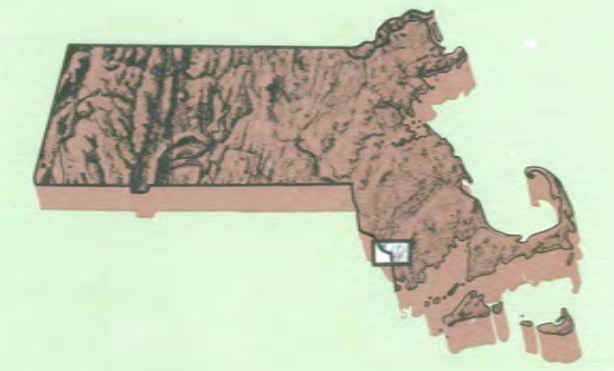
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS—RHODE ISLAND

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Fall River MASSACHUSETTS RHODE ISLAND

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1985

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 1980. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1985  
 The west half of this area also covered by 7.5 minute 1:25,000-scale map Fall River dated 1967  
 The east half of this area supercedes Fall River East 1:25,000-scale map dated 1978  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from New charts 13221 (1982) and 13227 (1980). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
 Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19  
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS  
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
 SPECIMENS SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.3 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet	DECLINATION DIAGRAM			ADJOINING MAPS		
1	3.2808				1	2	3
2	6.5617				4	5	
3	9.8425				6	7	
4	13.1234				8	9	
5	16.4042				10		
6	19.6850						
7	22.9659						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5275						
10	32.8084						

To convert meters to feet multiply by 2.2046  
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GM) and true magnetic declination (MD) at center of map  
 Diagram is approximate

1 Providence  
 2 Assonet  
 3 Assonet Pond  
 4 Assonet Pt  
 5 New Bedford North  
 6 New Bedford (D.S.)  
 7 Westport  
 8 New Bedford South

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Road marker: Interstate, U.S., State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Railroad: only selected railroad buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; County, parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation; small park; Land grant with monument; found section corner; U.S. public lands survey; range, township; section; Range, township; section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Compass rose; picnic area; U.S. border monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Disturbed surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Railroad: loop and switch; trestle; bridge
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



April 18, 1991

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

Hixville Village Historic District, Old Fall River, Hixville and North  
Hixville Roads, Dartmouth (Bristol County), Massachusetts 02747.

There has been no owner objection for the property listed above.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

cc: Chairperson, Dartmouth Historic Commission  
Peter Jacobsen, A.G. Souza Associates  
Arnold Robinson, Providence Preservation Society