

JAN 24 1990

228
FORM NO.

47

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 17:19 facade
- 17:20 detail, chamfer and stop, 2nd floor right chimney girt
- 17:14 fireplace wall, right-hand room
- 18:0 summer tie, right-hand room

Town Haverhill 009

Address Merrimack Road

Historic Name Ephraim Davis House

Use: Present Garage/storage

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1705

Source Noyes, "Early Haverhill Houses"

Style First Period

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Ship lap

Outbuildings Other buildings on property

include late 18th c. house, late 19th/early 20th c. barn and shed

Major Alterations (with dates) Most of exterior walls replaced, 20th c.; left half added by mid 18th c.

Condition Deteriorated

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage part of 47 acres parcel

Setting On hill in open field setting.

above rural road, backed by woods - In

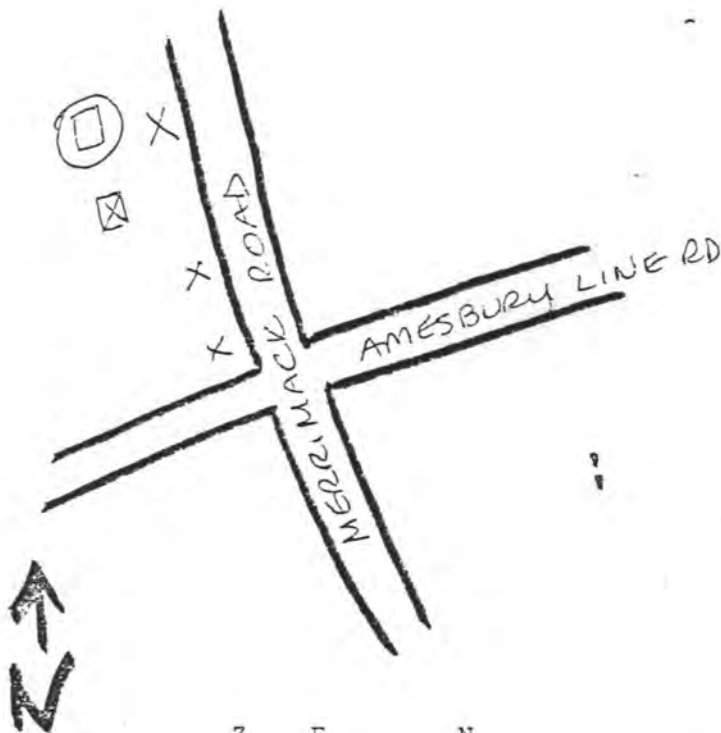
complex with later 18th c. farmhouse and outbuildings - modern houses to southwest

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date June 1986

Sketch Map:



Z E N

UTM REFERENCE 19 / 335-740 / 4741-750

USGS QUADRANGLE Haverhill

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: HAVERHILL	Form No: 47
Property Name: Ephraim Davis House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Davis House has integrity of location, design, material and workmanship in its First Period frame. The frame, precisely decorated with beveled chamfers, lamb's tongue stops and pips, embodies distinctive characteristics of design and construction, making it eligible under Criterion C.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Ephraim Davis House is a 2 1/2 story structure with rear lean-to. The right hand room, chamber, and chimney bay, (and possibly the lean-to behind them,) comprise the original part of the house dating, according to local history, to 1705. The left hand rooms were added by the mid 18th century. The house has been unoccupied since 1929, has since served as a chicken coop, and is now used as a garage, with large garage doors cut into the main facade on either side of the chimney.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Most of the exterior of the walls and roof of this building are 20th century material. Much of the interior finish has been removed and what is left is naturally badly deteriorated. The important First Period survival is the superbly chamfered oak frame of the original part of the house.

In the amply dimensioned first floor right-hand room, the longitudinal summer beam, 12 1/2 inches wide, has always been exposed, and although covered with many layers of paint reveals 2 1/4" beveled chamfers with lamb's tongue stop and pips on both sides and at both ends. The chimney girt into which the summer beam is framed is boxed, in keeping with the early Second Period trim of high mantel shelf and crown molding on the fireplace wall. The front and rear girts have 2 inch wide beveled chamfers and the same type of lamb's tongue stops and pips. These girts, along with the front and rear chimney posts were boxed, not too long after fabrication and so their careful chamfering, stopping and pipping are revealed in nearly pristine condition. As an added refinement, the chimney posts are finished with a simple stop at the lower ends of their beveled chamfer as well. There is evidence of exposed sills in the right hand room and there were previously partitions dividing off the outer part of the space into two rooms. The rear girt in this room and the one upstairs has stud mortises 28 to 32 inches apart indicating that there might have been an exterior wall here originally. Rafters visible in the attic extend all the way from the ridge to the rear

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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wall of the lean-to; thus either the rafters were replaced when the lean-to was built or the lean-to was integral. Lean-to framing is plainly finished, except for the post at the chimney bay, which has a beveled chamfer and taper stop.

In the small stair hall there is an enclosed triple run staircase. The chimney posts are more crudely chamfered and stopped on the stair hall side than on the room side. The stair hall features are a notch in the chimney post to receive a door bolt, similar to that found in the Emerson House in Haverhill.

In the second floor right-hand chamber, the summer tie beam has the same wide beveled chamfer, lamb's tongue stop and pip. Front and rear plates are plain, but the chimney posts are finished in the same careful manner as the summer tie beam. There are no fireplaces on the second floor, and since the rear chimney post is chamfered on both sides, perhaps the space behind the chimney was floored over, useable space from the beginning

The roof framing in 4 structural bays is of principal rafters, 2 purlins per slope, and a substantial ridge piece. (Struts between the rear rafters and tie beams are a later addition.)

SIGNIFICANT LATER FEATURES

The frame of the left hand room and chamber were clearly added to the existing frame, and all framing members here were either never meant to be exposed or are still boxed in cases with broad quirked beads. The left hand 1st floor room has Second Period raised-field paneling. The chimney is either 1705 and remodeled in the Second Period, or rebuilt in the mid-18th century. The chimney exhibits well-fashioned beehive ovens beside each downstairs fireplace and a compartment built into the front of the chimney under the stairs.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house was built by Ephraim⁸ Davis for his bride in 1705. Members of the Davis family continued to live in the house until c. 1880. The house has been empty since 1929, and now serves as a garage.

REFERENCES

The Ephraim Davis House. Typescript in the Haverhill Public Library Historical Collections.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Ephraim Davis House is situated near the Merrimac Road frontage of the 47 acre parcel. A line of convenience to include the house and related outbuildings and approximately 1 1/2 acres has been drawn around the buildings with about 300 feet of frontage on Merrimac Road.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1/24/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
11. Coker, Benjamin, House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
12. Conant, Exercise, House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
13. Corning, Samuel, House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
14. Davis, Ephraim, House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
15. Davis--Freeman House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
5204 16. Dickinson--Pillsbury--Witham House Substantive Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Bobby Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
17. Dustin House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
18. Dyke-Wheeler House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
19. Emerson House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
20. Foster, Phineas, House	Entered in the National Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper <u>Melores Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Davis, Ephraim, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000228

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/8/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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 _____



Merrimack Road,
Flaverhill, MA
Ephraim Davis House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

17:09

1985



Haverhill, MA

↳ Phraim Davistone

Merrimack Rd

1st Postal Buildings of E. Mass, TR

17:14

1985



Haverhill, MA

Memmick Rd.

Ephraim Davis House

17:20

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

1985



Haverhill, MA

Merrimack Road

Ephraim Davis House 8:00

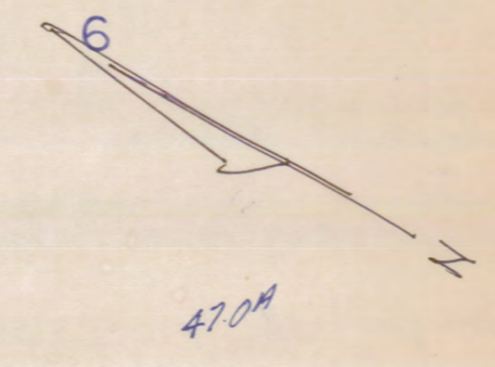
1st Period Building of E. A. A., TR

1985

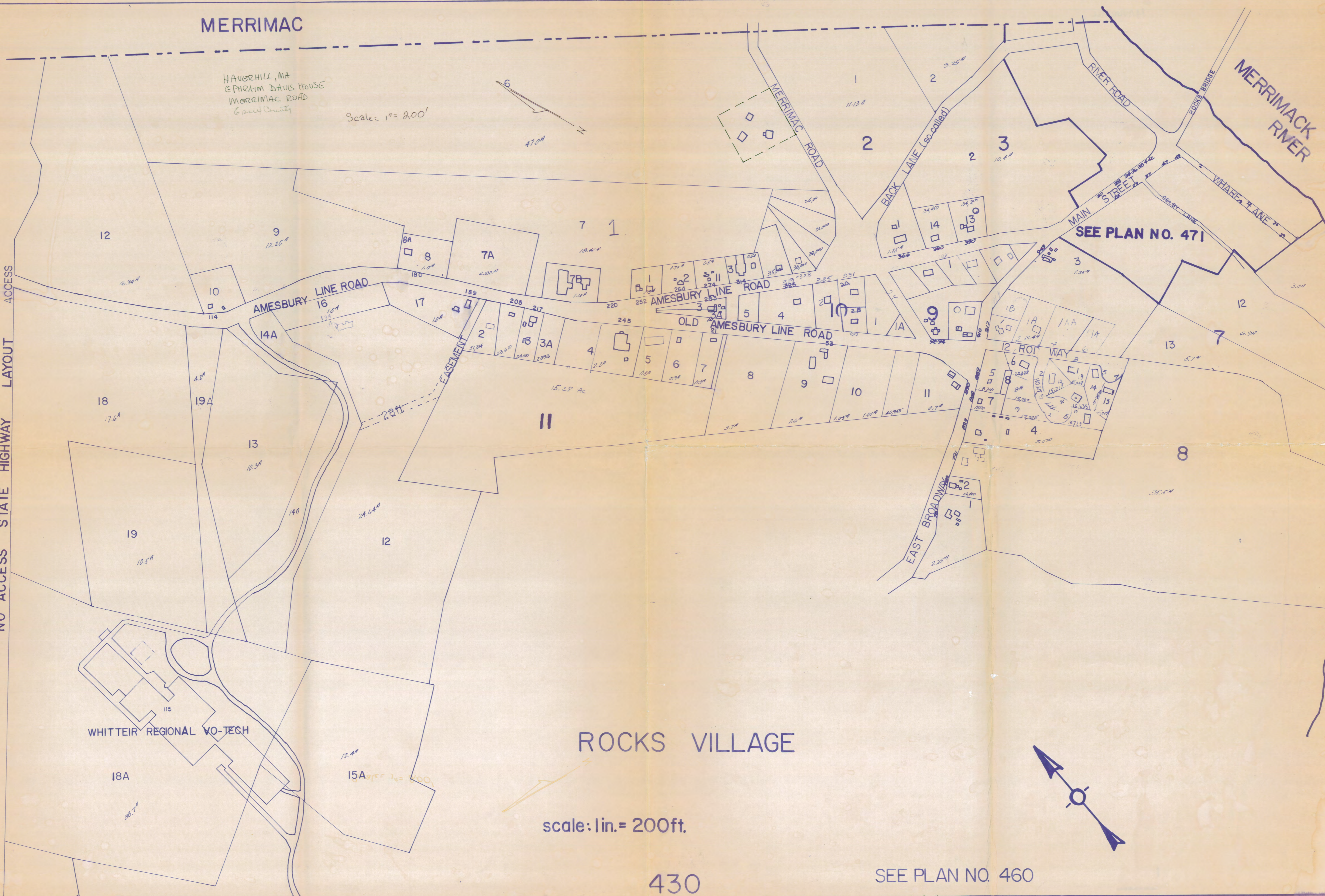
MERRIMAC

HAVERHILL, MA
EPHRAIM DAVIS HOUSE
MERRIMAC ROAD
Essex County

Scale: 1" = 200'



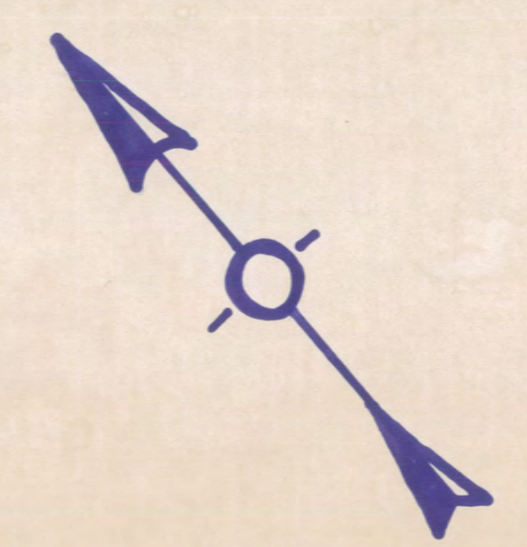
INTERSTATE ROUTE 495
NORTHBOUND
NO ACCESS STATE HIGHWAY LAYOUT ACCESS



SEE PLAN NO. 471

ROCKS VILLAGE

scale: 1 in. = 200 ft.



WHITTEIR REGIONAL VO-TECH

18A

15A

Scale: 1" = 200'

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281