

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buttonwood Park Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Kempton St., Rockdale Ave., Hawthorne St. and Brownell Ave. not for publication

city or town New Bedford vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 004 zip code 02741

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

7/6/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- ☒ entered in the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
 - ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
 - ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ removed from the National Register
 - ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

8/24/00

Buttonwood Park HD
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ private | ☐ building(s) |
| ☒ public-local | ☒ district |
| ☐ public-State | ☐ site |
| ☐ public-Federal | ☐ structure |
| | ☐ object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
250	21	building
1		sites
19	14	structures
1	1	objects
271	36	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation: park

Landscape: park

Domestic: single and multiple dwellings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation: park

Landscape: park

Domestic: single and multiple dwellings

Commerce/Trade: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival Bungalow/Craftsman Queen Anne

Tudor Revival No Style Other: Four Square - Cape -

- Contemporary - Ranch

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone, brick

walls wood shingle, wood clapboard, wood

shiplap, stucco, brick

roof wood shingle, asphalt shingle, slate

other TRIM: brick

MONUMENTS: granite

Narrative Description

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The Buttonwood Park National Register District is located west of the center of New Bedford, a port city on the south coast of Massachusetts. The district includes Buttonwood Park and portions of the surrounding neighborhood which developed concurrently with the park. It is roughly bounded by Kempton Street on the north, Brownell Avenue on the west, Hawthorne Street on the south and Rockdale Avenue on the east. Residences along the south and east side of the latter two streets are also included within the district.

The focal point of the 113-acre district is Buttonwood Park, a multi-use park initially planned in the 1890s by Charles Eliot of the landscape architectural firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. Since the 1890s, the park has continued to develop in response to changing municipal priorities and reflects the layering of many years of evolving community needs. The spatial organization of the park and the extant facilities reflect the major park development themes of the past century: pastoral scenery, recreation, zoo development, public horticulture, public works programs of the depression era, and memorialization.

The surrounding area is significant as an unusually cohesive and well-preserved turn-of-the-century residential neighborhood which provides a complementary architectural frame for the park. The properties are generally of moderate scale and include representative examples of the popular architectural styles of the period. The Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles are especially well represented. The houses also provide a showcase of the work of several local builders and architects. The small garages that accompany so many of the dwellings clearly speak to the importance of the automobile in the development of this outlying area.

The district contains 307 resources not previously listed on the National Register: 271 buildings, 33 structures, 2 objects and 1 site. The district retains a high level of integrity to the period of significance (1892 - 1950) with relatively minor alterations to its major features since that date.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 2

The park is described first, followed by the neighborhood.

BUTTONWOOD PARK

Buttonwood Park is the largest multi-use park and one of the most heavily used of the 28 parks and playgrounds in New Bedford. The 97-acre park is comprised of 57 acres of active and passive recreation grounds with roads, paths, 23 acres of forest, 10 acres of open water, and 7 acres of fields. There are 9 buildings in the park dating from 1921 to 1972 and 33 structures which include a dam and several monuments. Vegetation includes the great lawn, perimeter plantings, and allees of trees, as well as the formal garden adjacent to the greenhouse.

The initial plan for the park was based on nineteenth century romantic principles of landscape design with a naturalistic landscape character and few built elements. However the park has been modified over the past century, with the many additions and alterations cumulatively resulting in a more eclectic design. Buttonwood Park has become a multi-use park with a wide range of public recreational activities including ball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, tot lot, fishing, passive recreation and municipal zoo. The current spatial organization of the park reflects its evolutionary development.

The main public use areas are the active recreation zone in the east central portion of the park, the zoo in the southwest corner, and the pond to northwest. The city greenhouse which grows annuals for use throughout the city is also located in Buttonwood Park. Secondary functions within the park include library, senior center, veterans building and citywide park maintenance headquarters.

Park Buildings

Warming House (1934-35; park map #3)

The largest and most prominent building within the park is the warming house east of the pond, built as an ERA project to replace an earlier pavilion. The one-story red brick building, with main section roughly 40' x100' was designed by Nat C. Smith. It consists of a main gable-end section with protruding double-gabled front section and gabled former porch facing the pond. There are large fieldstone chimneys at either end, reflecting the original function of the building. The warming house has been remodeled several times and since 1977 has functioned primarily as a senior center for the city.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 3

Potting House (1921; park map #2) and **Greenhouse** (1976, park map #2)

Another prominent park building is the greenhouse complex, consisting of a potting house, designed by Browne and Poole architects of New Bedford, and a replacement greenhouse. The potting house is a two-story, hipped-roof brick building of 30' x 20' with an attached boiler room of 18' x 12'. Distinctive features include wide overhanging eaves, wooden brackets, a wooden cornice and double-hung sash windows. The replacement greenhouse is a single range, gabled structure which is used to grow annuals for the city's parks.

Comfort Station (1921; park map #1)

The one-story comfort station near the baseball field, also designed by Brown and Poole, has a brick exterior and a prominent mock-hipped slate roof with the lateral slopes forming a small gable. The comfort station is one of the oldest buildings in the park.

Field House (1939-41; park map #4)

The one-story brick field house at the south end of the ball field was designed by Everett T. Blossom and built as a WPA project. It is now used for park storage.

Hay Barn (1922; park map #7)

The hay barn is a wood-frame shingled barn designed by Labrode & Bullard, with a two-story gabled main section and a one-story flat-roofed addition. A small wooden rustic arbor is located adjacent to the barn, date unknown. It has been used for park maintenance but will be adapted for zoo use.

Zoo Buildings

There have been a number of zoo buildings over the years. Almost all have been demolished, many within the past year as part of a major zoo rehabilitation project. There is one contributing structure within the zoo complex, a **bear den** (1936; park map #8) designed by Cal B. Poulin and built by the WPA of fieldstone and concrete with iron railings in a rustic style intended be planted with shrubs and flowers to look like a rock garden. This reflects zoo design of its period of construction but is not considered adequate for humane animal use today. The only other existing building within the zoo complex is the large concrete **elephant house** (1985; park map # 9).

Non-contributing buildings include several buildings which have been built in the park since the 1950s which do not relate directly to park activities. These include: the **Buttonwood Branch Library** (Francis J. Lawler Library) (1960; park map # 6) at Rockdale Avenue and Lake Street, and the **Joseph F. Waldron Barracks** (Veterans Memorial Building) (1972; park map #5) on Kempton Street.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

Structures/Monuments

The **dam/causeway** (1902-5; park map #10) across the southern end of the pond was designed by City Engineer William F. Williams to enhance the recreational potential of Buttonwood Pond and to address flooding within the park. It has been modified several times, most recently in 1998 when it was rebuilt to eliminate seepage problems. It consists of a stone dam with several sets of steps leading from Court Street down to the former pathway along the canal to the south. Other remnants of Williams' design include a circular **cobblestone post** (19034-5; park map #11) at the west end of the causeway and the remains of the canal below the dam. The current simple **wooden bridge** (1970-1; park map # 13) over the canal replaces an earlier rustic bridge.

A mortared rustic **fieldstone wall** (1939-41; park map #12) built by the WPA extends along Kempton Street from Brownell Ave to Ilion Street forming the northern edge of the park, and separating it from the busy commercial area to the north. This wall is a prominent landmark for visitors entering the city from Route 140.

Many of the recreational facilities in the park post-date the period of significance and are not considered contributing resources although some are replacements of earlier contributing features. These include: the ball fields, tennis courts and basketball courts on the east side of the park, as well as the children's playground. However, sports activities have always been central to the park and most of the existing facilities blend fairly well into the existing landscape. Similarly, most park furnishings, notably benches and light fixtures, are non-contributing as they date to the 1980s, although some recent replacement furnishings have been carefully chosen to compliment the character of the park.

In 1969 Buttonwood Park was designated as "Veterans Memorial Park and Zoo at Buttonwood" and in this capacity serves as the site of numerous monuments and memorials as well as the city's veterans building. The two earliest monuments are described below.

The **Barnard Monument** (1914; park map #17), designed by Hungarian-born sculptor George Julian Zolnay, is the oldest and most prominent monument within the park. It is also known as the labor monument. It is located in the traffic circle at the intersection of Court and Buttonwood Streets. Its inscription reads:

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 5

Dedicated as a tribute to the sturdy whalemens who early won fame for New Bedford and to their successors who inheriting ideals and resourcefulness gave the city new prominence by creating a great manufacturing center.

The monument was a gift to the city from George D. Barnard to commemorate New Bedford's evolution from a whaling town to a manufacturing center. The carved reliefs on the massive granite base represent the city's industrial present growing out of the older whaling era. The heroic bronze figure of a worker stands atop the pedestal. The large size, careful sculpting and prominent location make the Barnard monument a landmark within the park.

The **British Memorial monument** (1936; park map #18) designed by Harold Kenworthy was the first war memorial located in Buttonwood Park. It was erected to honor New Bedford servicemen who died in the British and Canadian forces during World War I. It is a stepped granite shaft located on a traffic island at the west end of Court Street at the Brownell Avenue entrance.

The remainder of the monuments post-date 1950. Most commemorate war veterans of various ethnic groups, such as Italian, Portuguese, African American and Jewish, a reflection of the diverse ethnic heritage of New Bedford. These are primarily of granite in a wide range of styles and some have associated formal evergreen plantings.

Nearly all of the park furnishings are non-contributing post-1950 replacements except for a cast iron drinking fountain located near the playground at the center of the park. It has four small bubblers and a central well and an adjacent stone block to assist children in reaching it.

Circulation System

The park circulation system reflects the phased development of the park. Individual roads, parking lots and the few extant paths date to different periods and most bear little relationship to the original park design or to each other.

Court Street (circa 1904; park map #29, also known as Fuller Memorial Parkway) is a major east-west route, which bisects the park. It is a two-lane road, which begins at the western entrance to the park where it is divided by a small traffic island bearing the British Memorial monument. It crosses the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 6

dam/causeway at the southern end of Buttonwood Pond and continues east to Buttonwood Street where it is bisected by a circular traffic island with the Barnard monument at the center. After crossing Rockdale Avenue at the eastern edge of the park, Court Street continues east beyond the district as a city street. The western section of Court Street within the park has recently been resurfaced with new asphalt paving and granite curbing. A paved sidewalk runs along most of Court Street. The prominence of Court Street is re-enforced by the allee of oak trees which run along most of its length.

William Saltzman Way (circa 1914; park map # 30) is a two-lane paved road that leads north from Hawthorne Street a few hundred feet to a turnaround at the zoo entrance and a large parking lot (circa 1970) used for sports activities and zoo visitors. Saltzman Way has recently been rebuilt in accordance with the recommendations of the 1988 master plan for the park. The southern section is winding and lined with boulders in a rustic style while the northern end, at the zoo entrance, has a more formal geometry and is curbed.

Buttonwood Street (1907; park map #32), a two-lane paved street with granite curbing, extends south from the residential district, carrying the residential grid into the park. It intersects with Court Street at the circular island where the Barnard monument is located.

Resources which post-date the period of significance (1950) are considered non-contributing to the historic character of the district. These include many of the roads and parking lots within the park such as **Veterans Memorial Parkway** (1972; park map #31), a short service road providing access from Kempton Street at the north side of the park; **Oneida Street** (N.D.; park map #33), the westernmost of the streets extending south from Kempton Street to the park (which continues into the park as the senior center parking lot); and the service roads in and around the zoo.

Other than the concourse described below and the perimeter sidewalk, there is not an extensive pedestrian circulation system. The one exception is a small segment of path running south from Court Street to the zoo. This former service road has been converted to a **pedestrian concourse** (1890s; park map #34) in accordance with the concept initially envisioned by Charles Eliot and the recommendations of the 1988 master plan.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 7

Vegetation

The vegetative character of the park has also evolved since Eliot's initial vision, although it still reflects some of Eliot's key concepts, notably woodlands at the forest edges and an open lawn area for recreational use. In 1988 there were more than 1,200 trees in the park.

The **perimeter woodlands** (park map #35) are a common feature of naturalistic park design, creating a distinct edge to the park and separating the park from the surrounding city. These consist of 23 acres of mixed woodlands along the south, west and north perimeter of the park. The woodland along the southern edge is particularly thick, creating the illusion of a wilderness within the park, while the woodland edges along the west and north are considerably narrower. Secondary natural areas include the wetlands north of Buttonwood Pond and much of the zoo area which consists of scrubby meadow vegetation with scattered trees.

The **great lawn** (1890s; park map #39) is the next largest area of vegetation. It consists of seven acres of fields in the east-central portion of the park. This area reflects Eliot's intent that there be broad expanses of open lawn area, although today it is mowed turf, portions of which are used for ball fields, rather than the meadow that Eliot envisioned. A key achievement of the 1988 master plan has been to re-establish this important area.

Street trees (various dates; park map #36) line some sections of the park, creating a formal urban edge. This is most notable along Rockdale Avenue, there is a double row of mature deciduous trees. This is also true to a lesser extent along Brownell Avenue and Lake Street, where the trees are smaller, and form a less consistent edge. One of the most distinctive vegetation features in the park is a double allee of mature **oak trees** (circa 1904; park map #37) lining Court Street. This relatively even-aged stand forms a consistent vertical feature running through the center of the park.

The **formal garden** (circa 1923; park map #38) adjacent to the greenhouse complex is a small but distinctive feature. Since the 1920s this has been a municipal showcase, the center of horticulture in New Bedford, with a display garden consisting of geometric planting beds featuring annuals grown in the greenhouse. The area enclosed by hedges except on the east where there is an allee of mature **Norway spruce** (N.D.; park map #40).

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 8

Topography and Water Features

One of the most distinctive aspects of the site is that it is relatively flat and portions are subject to frequent flooding. This was a primary consideration in Eliot's design and remains a major factor in park management today.

The primary surface drainage system flows into the park as a small stream, known as Buttonwood Brook (pre-1890; park map #43) at the northwest corner, through an emergent wetland area and then into **Buttonwood Pond (pre-1890; park map #42)**, an 8.9-acre pond at the western edge of the park which is based on a natural pond but has been dredged and enlarged several times to enhance its recreational potential. From the pond, the stream flows south through the remnants of an old **canal** (circa 1902; park map #44) designed by City Engineer William Williams, which flows along the route of a former stream bed into the zoo area. The portion of the stream running through the zoo has been modified extensively since the 1960s. The stream empties into a culvert near the southwest corner of the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Buttonwood Park is surrounded by a suburban residential neighborhood whose early twentieth century buildings provide a complementary frame for the large expanse of open space. It includes Hawthorne Street on the south side of the park, Rockdale Avenue on the east side and Kempton Street on the north side. Brownell Avenue, which borders the west side is not included because it developed primarily in the post-War period. A small grid of streets carved into the northeast corner of the park is included as well. A mix of modest single and two-family dwellings, with the former predominating, characterizes these streets. A church at the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street is the only important non-residential building.

The streets that border the park were laid out as broad thoroughfares that act as a transition between park and neighborhood. They are lined by paved sidewalks with low granite curbs and grassy planting strips that invite pedestrian activity, thus extending recreational uses beyond the borders of the park. On Rockdale Avenue especially, wide sidewalks are combined with unusually generous planting strips that support mature maples. This extends the spacious feel of the park into the densely-developed residential neighborhood. On Hawthorne Street, the scale of the oaks in the park lends a gracious air to the facing

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 9

houses. Sidewalks and planting strips are continued on the side streets, but all are narrowed in response to the scale of the houses that line both sides. Mature maples appear on the front lawns of many houses on the odd numbered side of Buttonwood Street, creating a canopy there. They appear to be contemporary with the houses. Street lighting throughout the district is minimal and modern. Utilities are carried on wooden poles. Street signs consist of simple metal poles and name plates.

Residential Buildings

Dwellings in the district occupy small rectangular lots with narrow frontages of approximately 40 to 50 feet; depths commonly range from 75 to 100 feet. Occasionally two are combined to create one larger lot. This practice is especially prevalent on Hawthorne Street. Shallow, uniform setbacks create a continuous street wall that frames the open space of the park. Lots are level and simply landscaped with turf and foundation plantings. Paved driveways, some retaining grass center strips, occupy most side yards. In many cases, the driveways lead to small (one-car), freestanding garages whose form and materials echo those of the houses they accompany. Typical elements include hip or gable roofs, rusticated concrete block walls, and double-leaf doors.

Houses range from small to moderate scale and from one to two-and-one-half story height. All are built on rectangular plans, with some extended by wings, and many graced by generous porches and verandahs. Some of the larger dwellings accommodate two-family flats. Two-family dwellings are found throughout the district with a concentration at the northern end of Rockdale Avenue. Several examples of larger single-family dwellings are present as well, including the Foursquare at **12 Buttonwood Street**, the Colonial Revivals at **350 Hawthorne Street** and **666 Rockdale Avenue**, and the Tudor Revival at **383 Maple Street**.

Wood-frame construction is nearly universal and wood shingle and wood clapboard are the most common exterior siding materials. Shiplap, asbestos shingle, and brick veneer also appear in limited numbers. In some cases, the shingles are laid in alternating wide and narrow bands. The house at **784 Rockdale Avenue** is a very unusual example that extends this banded treatment to shiplap siding. The most common foundation material is concrete block, in many cases rusticated to appear as stone. Cobblestone, granite block, and brick are encountered less frequently. Gable, hip, and gambrel roofs are covered with asphalt shingle or wood shingle. A surprising number of houses, along with a few garages, retain original slate roofs.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 10

A variety of early twentieth century architectural styles are represented within the district with examples ranging from modest to moderately ambitious. The most common is Colonial Revival including several variants. The Craftsman style, especially its rustic one story bungalow form, is well represented throughout the district. Some houses continue to exhibit elements of the Queen Anne style which was so popular in the late-19th century. One of the most elaborate houses in the district is designed in the Tudor Revival style.

Houses of similar form, style, and/or materials often appear in groups, reinforcing the cohesive character of the district. One good example is the collection of front-gable cottages that march down the west side of Hussey Street. Most rise from concrete foundations, rusticated to resemble masonry blocks or cobblestones; that latter treatment is unusual. Smaller group of Queen Anne and Craftsman style houses appear on the east side of Hussey.

Others groupings of similar houses include the one and one-half story cross-gambrels at the corner of Lake and Jenny Lind Streets, and the two-family houses at the north end of Rockdale Avenue.

Two-Family Dwellings

The majority of houses in the district are single-family but many two-family dwellings are found as well. Several are clustered at the north end of Rockdale Avenue. An example is the Catherine McCabe House at **396-398 Hawthorne Street** (1923; map #38-045). It rises 2 and 1/2 stories from a concrete foundation to a jerkin-head gable roof. The north facade is covered by a three-sided bay to the east and a balustraded porch to the west. Windows contain a mix of original 6/1 sash and 1/1 replacements. The aluminum siding is a typical alteration for this building type. Adelard Alie constructed the house with offices at 159 Query Street, New Bedford.

The Jeremiah and Katherine Sullivan House at **656-658 Rockdale Avenue** (1922; map #44-071) is a two-family dwelling that rises two stories to a hip roof with hip roof dormers on the front and side slopes. The foundation is stone, the exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingle, and the roof is covered with slate. A verandah with Tuscan columns extends across the facade. It was constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company of 6 Market Street, New Bedford at a cost of \$9,000. Each unit or tenement contained five rooms and one bath.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 11

The John and Margaret Carroll House at **720 Rockdale Avenue** (1927; map #50-417) is another two-family residence. It rises 2 and 1/2 stories to a front-gable roof. A two-story porch covers one side of the facade. The entrance retains its original glazed door with large central light framed by narrow panes on all sides. This is a characteristic pattern for early-twentieth century doors. It was constructed by New Bedford builder Edward E. Dalrymple at a cost of \$10,000.

The Marie M. Doumoulin and J. Alfred House at **780-782 Rockdale Avenue** (1922; map #50-442) is a well-preserved two-family house that rises 2 and 1/2 stories to a pedimented front-gable roof. Exterior walls are covered with clapboard at the first story and shingles at the second, providing a hint of the Queen Anne style. Windows contain 6/1 sash. A two-story porch covers one side of the facade. The house was built by New Bedford contractor James Sykes at a cost of \$8,000.

The House at **773 Rockdale Avenue** (ca. 1920; map #49-134) is an exceptionally well-preserved two-family house that is very similar to its neighbor at 780-782 Rockdale Avenue. Here, the mixed clapboard and shingle siding is trimmed with cornerboards at the first story, a molded water table, a broad raking entablature, and boxed cornice. The first story of the porch which rises along the north half of the facade, displays battered and shingled piers, a molded balustrade, and diagonal-pattern lattice apron. Original wooden stair rails have been replaced with cast iron. The second story porch has been enclosed but retains its flared, bellcast base, a shape that is echoed in the projecting three-sided bay that covers the south half of the facade. The entrance consists of a door with glazed upper panel framed by half-sidelights.

Four Square

Not surprisingly, many houses in the district assume the Four Square form that was so popular for modest houses built during the period ca. 1895 - ca. 1930. They are distinguished by their square or nearly square footprints, boxy massing, 2 and 1/2 story height, hipped roofs, asymmetrical facades, and one story porches. Typically, many lack distinguishing stylistic features while some display elements of the Craftsman (exposed rafters), Colonial Revival (Tuscan columns), and Queen Anne (mixed materials) styles.

An especially fine grouping of Four-Square dwellings is found on Hawthorne Street at the southern end

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 12

of the district. All exhibit Colonial Revival style detail and place hip roof dormers on the front roof slope. They include 374, 384, 392, and 430 Hawthorne Street.

The Manuel and Nettie Avila House at **374 Hawthorne Street** (1925; map #38-051) features a three bay facade centered on an entrance whose pedimented porch is supported on paired Tuscan columns. It cost \$12,000. The Manuel Avila House at **384 Hawthorne Street** (1925; map #38-049, 050) is trimmed with corner pilasters and modillion cornice. Its asymmetrical two bay facade features an entrance with 3/4 length sidelights, elliptical fanlight and elliptical hood. Both Avila houses were constructed by local builder J. O. Manny.

The Fisher and Evelyn Abramson House at **392 Hawthorne Street** (1926; map #38-046) is similar to 384 Hawthorne in its form and details. The entrance is fronted by a pedimented portico with modillions and paired Tuscan columns. This six-room dwelling was one of several constructed by local builder J. O. Manny.

The three bay Victor Smith House at **430 Hawthorne Street** (1926; map #38-034) features a pedimented porch with paired columns fronting the entrance which occupies the east bay.

The Four Square house at **784 Rockdale Avenue** (1916; map #50-502) rises two stories to a deeply projecting hip roof with center chimney and heavy exposed rafter ends derived from the Craftsman style. The handsome banded (alternate wide and narrow courses) wood shiplap siding that cover the exterior walls is a regionally unusual variant on another characteristic Craftsman style element that commonly appears in wood shingle. Banded shiplap also covers rail and posts of a verandah that extends across the entire facade. The latticework apron that appears beneath the verandah retains the square pattern that is typical of the early twentieth century. The house sits on a cobblestone basement.

Other Four Square residences in the district include **26 Buttonwood Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-111), **38 Buttonwood Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-100), and identical houses at **62 Hussey Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-016), and the commodious **12 Buttonwood Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-123).

Craftsman Style

The Craftsman style is also well represented within the district. In some cases it is hinted at with

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 13

isolated details like exposed rafters that are applied to four-square or small cottage forms. There are also many well-detailed bungalows.

Bungalows in the district are characterized by one to one and one-half story height, wood shingle siding, rusticated concrete block foundations, side or front gable orientation, deeply overhanging roofs with exposed rafter or joist ends and/or braces, grouped windows, and, full front verandahs, often with shingled rails and battered posts.

The house at **44 Hussey Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-032) displays many characteristics of the classic Craftsman bungalow. It is a small shingled cottage that rises one story from a masonry foundation to a low-pitched side-gable roof extended on notched joist ends. A large gabled dormer on the front roof slope also exhibits exposed rafter ends. A verandah with shingled corner posts and vertical board apron extends across the entire facade. Windows are typically grouped and contain multi-pane sash.

The House at **58 Hussey Street** (ca. 1920; map #49-004) represents a simplified example of a Craftsman bungalow combined with elements of the Colonial Revival style. It is a small shingled structure that rises one story to a hip roof extended on carved rafter ends. The entrance, which is centered on the facade, is headed by an elliptical fanlight and framed by louvered shutters. It is fronted by a porch whose curving roof is supported on Tuscan columns and displays rafter ends similar to those of the main roof. Windows appear singly and in pairs and contain 6/6 double hung sash.

The house at **694 Rockdale Avenue** (ca. 1920; map #44-310) is an unusually well-detailed example of a Craftsman style bungalow. It faces gable end to the street and rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a brick foundation to a low-pitched and deeply overhanging gable roof with bracing in the front and exposed rafter ends along the side elevations. Low shed-roof dormers are found on the lateral roof slopes. It is fronted by a full verandah with shingled rails and battered posts; a gabled hood marks the location of the entry in the left (north) bay. A triple window occupies the south bay and a paired window is found in the gable. The windows contain 6/1 sash. The house is sited on a narrow lot with a one-bay garage to the rear.

The neighboring house at **690 Rockdale Avenue** (1922; map #44-311) is another excellent example of a Craftsman style bungalow, and is nearly identical to the house at 44 Hussey Street. It is a shingled cottage that rises one story from a rusticated concrete foundation to a low pitched side-gable roof

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 14

extended on stepped joist ends. Exposed rafter ends appear across the front. A large gabled dormer on the front roof slope exhibits similar joist and rafter ends. A verandah with shingled corner posts extends across the entire facade. The enclosed vestibule that now fronts the main entrance is probably a later addition. Windows are typically grouped and contain multi-pane sash. An exterior chimney rises along the south wall. The house is sited on a narrow lot with a one-bay garage to the rear.

The James P. and Evelyn Cash House at **686 Rockdale Avenue** (1922; map #44-312) joins its neighbors at 690 and 694 Rockdale Avenue to complete a nearly identical trio of bungalows. This example has been altered several times. It was designed by architect F. A. Rousseau and built by local contractor, Carleton C. Paine. They are probably responsible for all three buildings.

The house at **778 Rockdale Avenue** (1919; map #50-443) provides an example of a bungalow with a hip roof with large hip roof dormers on the front and side slopes. The verandah has been enclosed. This is one of five dwellings in the 700 block of Rockdale Avenue constructed by real estate developer James T. Francis using day labor.

Other well-designed and preserved bungalows are found at **36 Hussey Street** (ca. 1910s; map #49-127), **472 West Clinton Street** (SE corner Rockdale; date; map #44-462, 463), and 408 Hawthorne Street (1928; map #38-041, 042).

Colonial Revival Style

The Colonial Revival style, and its numerous sub-divisions, has dominated residential design in New England throughout the twentieth century. Well over 50% of the houses in the Buttonwood Park National Register District display at least some Colonial Revival style elements, and range from modest to fairly sophisticated interpretations. They include standard two story examples, gambrel cottages, Dutch Colonials, and Cape Cod cottages. Most are characterized by symmetry, classical detail such as Tuscan columns, and windows with multi-pane sash, most commonly 6/1. Wood shingles are the most common exterior sheathing, but some clapboards and shiplap are found as well.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 15

Two Story

The house at **350 Hawthorne Street** (ca. 1920; Colonial Revival; map #38-058) is the most imposing example of a two-story Colonial Revival style house in the district. It is distinguished by its large scale, well-conceived proportions and detail, quality materials, and a large lot at the southwest corner of Rockdale Avenue. This elegant house is built on a rectangular plan and rises 2 and 1/2 stories from a brick foundation to a slate gable roof with a narrow molded cornice and small end returns. Three gable-roof dormers with arched lights are evenly spaced across the front roof slope. One chimney rises along the left exterior end wall and another rises through the right rear roof slope. The exterior walls are sheathed with shiplap. Simply framed windows appear singly and in pairs and contain 8/1 sash. The symmetrical Hawthorne Street facade is centered on the main entrance which consists of a paneled wooden door surmounted by a segmental fanlight. It is fronted by an open porch whose curved roof is supported on slender, paired, Tuscan columns. The white with black shutters paint scheme is typical of the style.

The house is shown off to advantage on a comparatively large and visible corner lot that is maintained in turf with foundation plantings. A small one-bay garage with an unusual Palladian window in the gable stands to the right of the house.

The Isaac and Marie Dawson House at **666 Rockdale Avenue** (1925; map #44-528) is a less elaborate, but still fine, example of a two story Colonial Revival style house. Its broad, symmetrical facade is centered on an entrance headed by a broken, segmental pediment. Three-part windows with 6/1 and 4/1 sash frame the entrance. Second story windows are paired. With a 29' x 39' footprint, the house contained nine rooms plus a sunroom. It cost \$20,000. The house was designed by architect Leo LaBronde and constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company, both local New Bedford firms.

The Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodland House at **789 Rockdale Avenue** (1929; map #49-045) is an unusual two story Colonial Revival style house whose boxy proportions hark back to the mid-19th century. It is enclosed by a slate gable roof with cornice returns and a gabled dormer centered on the front slope. The foundation is brick. Exterior walls are covered with clapboard. Trim consists of wide corner pilasters for this date and an entablature. An exterior chimney rises along the north wall. The center entrance is fronted by a porch with paired Tuscan columns. The house was designed by architect E. G. Bullard and constructed by builder James Sykes, both of New Bedford.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 16

Gambrel-roof

One and one-half story gambrel-roof cottages are very popular in the district, especially on Lake, Hussey, and Jenny Lind Streets. Most face gambrel-fronts to the street, while others display more complex cross-gambrels. Many exhibit details associated with the Colonial Revival style in addition to the gambrel roof form. Front porches with balustrades, windows with 6/1 sash, and Tuscan columns are the most common of those elements.

The House at **73 Lake Street** at the northwest corner of Jenny Lind and Lake Streets (1910; map #49-033) is a typical and well-preserved example of the cross-gambrel type. It is built on a rectangular plan and rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a rusticated concrete block foundation to an asphalt shingle roof. Exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles. Windows contain 1/1 replacement sash. A paired window with heavy molded lintel appears in the cross-gambrel. The main entrance is located beneath the cross-gambrel and is fronted by a porch with shingled rails and triple Tuscan columns. The corner lot is set off by a picket fence.

The House at **55 Hussey Street** (ca. 1910s; map #49-102) represents the front-gambrel type. It is wood shingle clad, and rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a concrete block foundation to an asphalt shingle roof with shed dormers on the lower slopes. A porch with shingled rails extends across the facade. A three-sided bay window occupies the south bay at the upper story.

Dutch Colonial

The Fisher & Evelyn Abramson House at **388 Hawthorne Street** (1925; map #38-047) is an outstanding example of the Dutch Colonial style with exceptionally fine details. It exhibits the typical 1 and 1/2 story, gambrel roof form with full shed dormer across the front roof slope. The foundation is brick, exterior walls are sheathed with wood clapboard, and the roof is covered with slate. What sets this building apart is the trim which includes a molded water table, Tuscan corner pilasters, an entablature, and carved brackets similar to those of its Four Square neighbor at 392 Hawthorne Street. Another unusual feature is the curved portico that fronts the center entrance. Windows appear singly and in groups and contain 4/4 and 6/6 sash. A stained glass window is found on the east side. A small wing which extends from the west side exhibits the same fine details as the main block. This seven-room dwelling was one of several constructed by local builder J. O. Manny.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 17

The House at **796 Rockdale Avenue** (1916; map #50-533) is another good example of the Dutch Colonial style. It rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a brick foundation to a slate gambrel roof with full shed dormer across the front slope. Exterior walls are wood shingle. The symmetrical facade is centered on an entrance framed by elliptical fanlight and sidelights, and fronted by a gable roof portico supported on Tuscan columns. Paired windows containing 8/1 sash frame the entry. The house was constructed by Edwin D. Lawton who does not appear to have lived there. Lawton also constructed **3 Lake Street**.

Cape Cod Cottages

Cape Cod cottages began appearing in the 1910s and reached their height of popularity in the 1940s. They are based on historic models that characterize Cape Cod. Typically they are small, 1 and 1/2 story, side-gable cottages built on a simple rectangular plan. Most are sheathed with wood shingles or clapboards and display symmetrical, center-entrance facades. Windows commonly contain double-hung multi-pane sash such as 6/1. Early examples often have dormers on the front roof slope. Later examples often include breezeways and attached garages. Detail is usually simple and derived from the Colonial Revival style.

The Grace M. Coffin House at **752 Rockdale Avenue** (1934; map #50-459, 460) is a well-detailed Cape Cod cottage. It rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a brick foundation to a gable roof with two small gable-roof dormers on the front slope and two chimneys at the ridge. The symmetrical five bay facade is centered on an entrance with an enclosed, pedimented vestibule. Windows contain 12/12 sash. The house was constructed at a cost of \$11,000 by New Bedford builder, John F. Tinkham.

The Timothy G. McCrohan House at **372 Hawthorne Street** (1947; map #38-052, 053) represents the later examples of this style. Typically, it rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a concrete foundation to a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Exterior walls are sheathed with wood clapboard and trimmed with simple corner boards. Windows contain 8/1 sash, a pattern that is repeated in the paneled front door which incorporates eight lights in its upper portion. An exterior chimney rises along the west wall and a small garage extends to the east. The three bay "half-Cape" form with entrance in the east bay and slightly set back east wing is less common than a symmetrical five or three bay facade. The Tuscan portico is also unusual.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 18

Tudor Revival

The Frank W. Pease House at **380 Maple Street** (1924; map #44-460) occupies a prominent site at the northeast corner of Rockdale Avenue and Maple Street, where it faces south toward the latter. It is the one of the largest and most imposing houses in the district, and the only example of the Tudor Revival style. The house is built on a rectangular plan and rises two stories to a tile-covered gable roof. A shallow wing, left of center on the south facade rises to a steep cross-gable. The main entrance is located to the right where it is highlighted by a gabled porch. The porch extends across most of the facade. The first story is covered in brick while the second story is half-timbered. Windows appear alone and in groups of two or three; they contain multi-pane sash. A period garage is located northeast of the house.

Non-residential Buildings

The Howard M. E. Church/St. Paul's Methodist Church at **884 Kempton Street** (1925; map #49-009) is the only important historic non-residential building located within the neighborhood portion of the Buttonwood Park National Register District. That status is derived from its institutional, community-oriented use, its prominent location at the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street, and its substantial size. A Methodist Church stood on this site in the early-twentieth century, but the present building results from an extensive remodeling and enlargement by the local architectural firm of Browne & Poole in 1925. The change appears to be related to redesignation as St. Paul's Methodist Church.

The church is built on a rectangular plan and is set diagonally on its lot to face the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street. It is a wood-frame structure that rises from a stone foundation to a gable roof. Exterior walls are sheathed with unpainted wooden shingles. Wooden trim, consisting of narrow belt courses, window and door surrounds and half-timbering at the entrance, is painted white.

The somewhat asymmetrical and awkward gable end facade is focused on the main entrance. The entrance is fronted by an open porch whose half-timbered gable reflects the form of the main roof. This central section is framed by rather squat, square towers that rise above the roofline to belfries with louvered arched openings and pyramidal roofs. The left (east) tower contains triple openings while the right tower contains pairs. The right tower has lost its roof.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 19

The multi-bay commercial garage on **Jenny Lind Street** (corner of Kempton Street; ca. 1920; No Style; map #49-159) reflects the importance of the automobile in the development of this district in the early-twentieth century. Like many of the private garages that accompany single-family dwellings in the district, this one is built of rusticated concrete-block, a popular period building material.

Modern Change: Non-Contributing Elements

Like almost all historic districts, the Buttonwood Park National Register District has continued to evolve since 1940, the end date of the Period of Significance. The small number of new buildings that have been added, are generally compatible with the scale, style, and siting of their older neighbors.

The New Bedford Gas & Electric Company Building at **768 Rockdale Avenue** (1956; map #50-445) Avenue is one of the few non-residential and non-contributing buildings in the district. It retains the general residential scale and feeling by its small scale and a design that is based on the Cape Cod cottage. It is constructed of brick and is one of the very few masonry buildings in the district.

The Samuel Gottesman House at **440 Hawthorne Street** (1951; map #38-031) is one of the newer residences in the district. It is a one story Ranch built on an unusual U-plan. Its attached garage is typical of the period.

New construction on Kempton Street, which has slowly evolved to commercial use, is less sympathetic. The most glaring intrusion is the one story Dunkin Donuts at **1012 Kempton Street** (mid to late twentieth century; map #055-134, 135) that is set back behind a large paved parking lot at the southwest corner of Kempton and Oneida Streets.

Older buildings have been altered to some degree, but in most cases the changes are minimal and have left the historic architectural character readily apparent. Typical alterations include artificial siding on walls and roofs, and new window sash and doors. Lateral or vertical additions are uncommon. Demolition is rare. The most severe alterations are found on Kempton Street former residences have been converted to commercial use. Several are so greatly altered that they no longer contribute to the historic character of the district. An example is the Animal Hospital at **920 Kempton Street** (ca. 1920s; map #049-099). In contrast, the House at **1026 Kempton Street** (ca. 1910s; map #055-133) has not

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 20

experienced any significant change to its Four Square form and Craftsman style details of exposed rafter ends, wood shingle siding, and verandah with battered posts.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are located in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district indicate the limited presence of locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. The natural landscape at the park originally included some landforms formed in glacial till that were well drained, level to moderately sloped and within 1000 feet of wetlands. Buttonwood Brook, which includes a now dammed pond, drains through the district along its western border. Buttonwood Brook drains southerly, approximately 2 miles to Apponagansett Bay. New Bedford Harbor and Clarks Cove are also located approximately one mile from the district. Much of the district land, however, is characterized by level to moderately sloping poorly drained stony and rocky soils, unfavorable characteristics for most prehistoric sites. Urban land deposits, usually characterized by disturbed soils are also present in the district especially in its northeastern and southeastern areas. In 1986, an archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted (Davin and King 1986) of Buttonwood Park. The survey included background research and fieldwork aimed at determining the archaeological sensitivity of the park. Background research indicated the land was used for pasturage and a wood lot during most of the 18th and 19th centuries. Some late 19th century residential properties were reported in the area, however, these properties were removed when the park land was purchased. Fieldwork included auger testing and test pits where auger testing indicated part of the original landscape remained intact and in a few selected areas to investigate the extent of disturbance. Both disturbed and undisturbed soil profiles were found. A few test pits also exhibited a plowzone. Some historic artifacts characterized as 18th and 19th century field trash (glass, brick, metal, coal slag) were recovered. No prehistoric cultural materials were found in Buttonwood Park. The archaeological reconnaissance survey concluded that extensive landscaping and construction have significantly altered the original contours of the park. The survey further concluded that "As a result, there is little possibility that prehistoric or historic depositions, if they were ever present, remain intact (Davin and King 1986:64)."

Given the above information, the potential for recovering archaeological resources, either prehistoric or historic in the district is low. The results of a professionally conducted, systematic archaeological survey

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 21

of the Buttonwood Park area indicated little if any potential for archaeological resources to survive as a result of historic land use of the property. Similar potential also exists for the northeast corner of the district not included in the archaeological survey. That area, at the junction of Kempton Street and Rockdale Avenue, has been extensively developed for residential homes in the early 20th century.

(end)

Buttonwood Park HD

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Bristol, MA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1892-1950

Significant Dates

N/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-american

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 1

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Buttonwood Park National Register District consists of New Bedford's largest and most heavily used park and the cohesive residential neighborhood immediately surrounding it. Development of the area began in the 1890s and continued through the first half of the twentieth century. By the advent of World War II, the district was well-established as a stable neighborhood within the City of New Bedford. The district as a whole possesses substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations. It meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level with a period of significance extending from 1892 to 1950.

The district meets National Register Criterion A as an example of a large urban park which has evolved over time in response to both community needs and changing ideas about park design. It is significant as the city's largest park, its primary recreational resource, and an important focus of civic pride. It is equally important for its role in the expansion of New Bedford's residential neighborhoods into outlying areas at the turn-of-the-century. This trend reflects the continuing prosperity of this old whaling port as a major textile center and the advent of transportation improvements such as street cars and private automobiles. As the area around Buttonwood Park was laid out into house lots, it became very attractive to New Bedford's flourishing middle class. Residents of the single and two-family dwellings included both owners and tenants and embraced salesmen, business managers, police and firemen, lawyers, telephone operators, and clergy. Several of the architects, builders, and developers who shaped the area chose to live here as well.

The district also meets National Register Criterion C as an example of evolving municipal park and community design. Parks designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) and his successor firms have recently gained prominence as the focus of a growing landscape preservation movement. The innovative ideas of landscape design, their application to public rather than private spaces, and the sheer number of commissions throughout the country, have all contributed to this well-deserved reputation. However, the Olmsted firm's involvement in park projects varied considerably, ranging from an initial consultation to full design services. Many projects, including Buttonwood Park, had some initial Olmsted firm involvement but were not fully implemented in accordance with the firm's ideas. This category of "evolved" Olmsted parks is far larger than the "pure" Olmsted parks and reflects more diverse aspects of late nineteenth and early twentieth century park design.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 2

BUTTONWOOD PARK HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The initial design of the park by Charles Eliot, a partner in the Olmsted firm, epitomized nineteenth century romantic ideas of park design, while later alterations were a response to other civic needs. Recreation was an important aspect of the park from the beginning, but Eliot's vision of sports adapted to the landscape gave way to the landscape adapting to sports, with increasingly specialized and hard surfaced facilities. The same was true for the zoo, which began in the 1890s as a small collection of animals, and over time has required increasingly elaborate structures. Resolution of drainage problems dominated early twentieth century park improvements. The introduction of formal design elements, such as the Barnard monument, and the need for increased circulation characterized this period as well. Horticulture flourished beginning in the 1920s with construction of greenhouses and associated display gardens. Public works projects associated with the depression of the 1930s brought additional park facilities, including several of the park's most substantial buildings. Since World War II, additional recreational facilities have been built and several new structures, not directly related to the park, have been added. More recently, the Olmsted park movement of the 1980s has brought new recognition to the original park values, resulting in efforts to restore some of the early ideals to the park.

Origins of Buttonwood Park

Passage of the Massachusetts Park Act of 1882 provided the enabling legislation for creation of municipal parks within the Commonwealth. New Bedford followed the lead of many other Massachusetts communities in creating a park system. Through the advocacy of an active Park Commission, led by Stephen A. Brownell, a prominent businessman who later became mayor of New Bedford, land for Buttonwood Park was first acquired in 1892. Located one mile to the west of the city center near the border with Dartmouth, Buttonwood Park was intended as the central park of the New Bedford system. Its primary features were to be a large pond and an open meadow, both of which would provide winter and summer recreational activities.

In 1894 Brownell sought the advice of the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, the pre-eminent landscape architectural firm of the day which had been responsible for the design of numerous well-known parks, including New York's Central Park, Boston's Emerald Necklace, and South Park in nearby Fall River. Charles Eliot, one of the three partners in the firm, toured the proposed New Bedford park system in June of that year.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 3

Eliot (1859-1897), son of Harvard president, Charles W. Eliot, was apprenticed to Frederick Law Olmsted between 1883 and 1885. Eliot subsequently traveled abroad for several years before opening his own practice. In 1893, as Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. was nearing retirement, Eliot joined with the senior Olmsted and his step-son John Charles to create the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. Eliot is best known for his work in creating The Trustees of Reservations and Boston's Metropolitan Park system. He also worked on many other projects before his untimely death in 1897 at the age of 37.

In the report summarizing his findings, Eliot commented that the Buttonwood site possessed "limited but pleasingly secluded and quiet inland landscapes which can be greatly enhanced in their effectiveness by judicious alterations and additions." Eliot assumed that,

"the creation of pleasing landscapes on these tracts [Buttonwood and a proposed park in the Brooklawn area] will be the principal object of the Park Board" and that
"playgrounds, amusement houses, all constructions however useful will be subordinated to the scenery, because of the well known fact that nothing is so refreshing to tired townspeople as pure rural landscape . . ."

Eliot described the advantages of Buttonwood Park,

"The central and unifying element in the existing and prospective landscape of Buttonwood Park is the gentle hollow along the course of the brook. Hollow glades like this, when they are fringed with hanging woods and carpeted with soft grass are among the loveliest of rural scenes."

Eliot's approach was based on methodology for which the Olmsted firm was particularly well-known -- to create a park where existing natural features were deliberately enhanced to heighten the sense of scenery and rural character as a retreat from the pressures of the rapidly growing city.

The Olmsted firm was subsequently hired to prepare a preliminary plan for Buttonwood Park, which was submitted in February 1895. The 1895 illustrative plan (see copy attached) shows the park as a parallelogram bounded by Kempton Street, Rockdale Avenue, Hawthorne Street and Brownell Avenue. The center of the park is occupied by a generous meadow, which encompasses most of the park. The other primary feature is an expanded pond with a warming hut located at the eastern edge. A carriage

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 4

drive runs around the perimeter, leaving the central portion free of vehicular traffic. The perimeter of the park is densely planted while street trees line the surrounding roads. It is a bold and simple plan which responded to the natural conditions of the site and was based on naturalistic park principles.

The report which accompanied the plan elaborated on Eliot's ideas for the park. He urged that park boundaries be enlarged to include the area enclosed by the four surrounding streets -- Kempton, Rockdale, Hawthorne and Brownell. The pond was to have an irregular shoreline with both concave and convex sections to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for both boaters and pedestrians. The large meadow adjacent to the pond provided broad expanses of lawn dotted with mature specimen trees. This offered "passages of scenery" and opportunities for informal recreation such as lawn tennis, a children's playground and ball fields. Perimeter plantings of undulating woodland screened out the surrounding city streets. The carriage drive around the outer edge provided the only vehicular access to the park, with a series of pedestrian paths radiating into the center. The only public building that Eliot proposed for the park was the warming house located east of the pond. A maintenance and administrative building was proposed for the northern edge of the park, near Kempton Street.

Park Development

In the 1890s land acquisition proceeded slowly and early park development, under the guidance of the park superintendent and city engineer, was primarily in the western portion of the park. Even though the park did not fully reflect Eliot's design ideas, it quickly flourished as a center of civic pride and recreational activity. Early activities included boating, skating, children's playground and band concerts. The first baseball diamond was laid out in 1896, a reflection of the growing interest in organized sports during that period. As early as 1894 Buttonwood Park also had an early version of a zoo, known as the menagerie, which initially consisted of native animals such as rabbits, hawks, bears, foxes and deer, housed in temporary shelters. This too was a common feature in parks of the period, intended to expose urban children to animals.

One of the first major construction projects was an attempt to resolve the drainage issues. City Engineer William F. Williams oversaw the dredging of the pond and construction of a **dam and causeway** (1902-5; park map #10) across the southern end to replace an earlier wooden sluiceway. Williams also designed steps leading down from the dam to a stone-lined **canal** (circa 1902; park map #44) to the south, with adjacent paths intended for strolling.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 5

Buttonwood Park quickly fulfilled the prediction of the early park commissioners in becoming the largest and most frequented park in the New Bedford system. Its central location within the city, wide range of opportunities for both active and passive recreation, and the continued presence of a collection of animals have added to its popularity over the years. By 1904 the park had more or less taken its present form. **Court Street** (circa 1904; park map #29) was largely laid out, bisecting the park at the center. The northwestern quadrant was occupied by the newly expanded pond, the southwestern portion by the zoo and children's playground, and the southeast by ball fields of various sorts.

In 1905 consulting landscape designer Warren H. Manning, a former member of the Olmsted firm who specialized in planting design, was called in to prepare a planting plan for the southwestern portion of the park, which was still subject to frequent high water, but Manning's plans were never implemented. Some planting was done during the early part of the twentieth century, but it was more typically rows of trees lining the drives rather than the more naturalistic and diverse plantings that the early landscape architects had envisioned. The **Norway spruce allee** (N.D.; park map #33) south of Court Street dates to this period.

Monumentality was another emerging theme, reflected in the layout of the park during the early twentieth century, and also in the decision to locate the **Barnard monument** (circa 1914; park map #17) in the park. This new formality further distanced the park from Eliot's romantic ideals.

As the surrounding city grew in the early part of the twentieth century, so did Buttonwood Park. With the advent of the automobile, the park became more accessible to the community at large. Additional roads and athletic facilities were built to serve the growing public use. Some additional land was acquired but other acreage initially intended for the park was diverted to residential use. The pond continued to be an important source of recreation, used for skating in winter and boating and fishing in summer.

New recreational facilities, including additional play equipment, were added to satisfy the rapidly growing demand. Tennis was begun in 1909, and by 1926 there were a total of 8 clay courts. In 1937 the United State Lawn Tennis Association selected Buttonwood Park as the site of the annual New England public parks championships. Two cricket creases, used primarily by the English and Portuguese, were available by 1910 but had been converted to other uses by the 1930s. In 1915 a "speedway" was constructed for horseback riders at the south end of the park; a bridle path was laid out around the perimeter in 1928. Baseball remained popular, and in 1920 a new football field was added.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 6

The wooden bleachers first installed in 1909 were periodically extended to accommodate the growing number of spectators. Grandstand seating was established in 1923. Public celebrations such as band concerts and the Fourth of July fireworks frequently took place in the park.

Horticulture gained prominence in the 1920s with construction of the city **greenhouse** (1921; park map #2) and an extensive formal **display garden** (circa 1923; park map #38). During this period local garden clubs became involved in the horticultural development of the park, donating flowering shrubs and trees to add increased color and visual interest. Willows were planted along the canal in 1923, and in 1931 spruces were planted around the pond as part of the beautification efforts. Several additional beds were planted in 1937 as part of sesquicentennial events. During World War II portions of the park were used for community or victory gardens.

For Buttonwood Park the depression years of the 1930s brought important public investment in park infrastructure. Some of the subtle improvements such as dredging, draining and planting have disappeared over time but the **warming house** (1934-5; park map #3), **field house/storage building** (1939-41; park map #4), **bear den** (1936; park map #8) and the **fieldstone wall** (1939-41; park map #12) along Kempton Street derived directly from federal programs. The final two-acre parcel of land, located west of Oneida Street, was also added in 1935 bringing the park to 97 acres. The zoo was at a minimum during this period because of limited funding. The **British Memorial** (1936; park map #18) was added in 1936, forming a focal point at the western end of Court Street. During World War II funding for parks was reduced and labor was in short supply, resulting in a gradual decline at Buttonwood Park.

The post-war years brought numerous memorials of various sorts and several new structures of a distinctly contemporary character, notably the **library** (1960; park map #6) and the **veterans memorial building** (1972; park map #5). Adaptation of the warming house to a senior center in 1977 was also part of the growing trend towards placing non-park facilities in city parks. A period of zoo expansion began in the late 1960s, with new facilities and a wider range of animals than had previously been included in the collection, including the much-loved elephants. Many of the original drainage problems persisted, however, and there were ongoing efforts to resolve them.

In the 1980s, as part of a state-wide Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, a master plan was prepared for the park by the Walker•Kluesing Design Group. The 1988 plan, entitled "Reclaiming the Useable Past" offered a

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 7

renewed vision for the park, which incorporated key concepts from the original Eliot plan and also integrated current programmatic needs. In the intervening decade, The Friends of Buttonwood Park has become a strong advocacy group for the park and important steps have been taken to implement the master plan. The most notable accomplishments include re-establishment of the great lawn and concourse as intended by Eliot. Current projects include major zoo improvements and relocation of the park maintenance facilities away from the center of the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

New Bedford's historic development reflects a typical Massachusetts pattern. It originated in the seventeenth century as part of the Town of Dartmouth (1652), a large settlement whose territory encompassed much of the state's southern coast on Buzzard's Bay. The sparse population and dispersed settlement pattern of this early community reflected the nature of its agricultural economy.

Dartmouth remained intact until 1787 when New Bedford to the east, and Westport to the west were incorporated as separate towns. New Bedford's independence resulted from the growing success of maritime endeavors and its enviable position on a large, deep harbor at the mouth of the Acushnet River. Population and economic growth were initially centered on a mixed-use village that continues to form the core of present-day New Bedford center. Although maritime industries such as whaling and shipping generated a great deal of wealth in New Bedford in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, there was little differentiation of neighborhoods by income.

The second half of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century were a period of expansive growth for New Bedford. Prosperity was largely fueled by the city's textile industries which gradually superseded the earlier maritime economy. By 1911, New Bedford was the state's preeminent textile production center.

Economic success was directly reflected in rapid population growth. In 1850, four years after New Bedford's incorporation as a city, its population stood at 16,443. By 1890 that figure had increased to 40,733. Growth continued unabated at an average of 2,000 to 3,000 a year until 1920 when the population reached a high of 120,485. Since that time, New Bedford, like so many other industrial cities in New England, has experienced slow population loss.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 8

New Bedford's expanding population was accommodated in residential neighborhoods that gradually spread outward from the early harbor-side center, generally following streetcar lines. These neighborhoods ranged from clusters of workers housing to enclaves of the wealthy and middle-class.

Development of the Buttonwood Park area reflects that of the city as a whole. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the land in and around Buttonwood Park was owned by the prominent Russell and Gifford families. It was used primarily as pasture and wood lots. During the nineteenth century the Russell and Gifford holdings were subdivided into smaller parcels but little or no building occurred in the vicinity prior to establishment of the park in the early 1890s. When the first land for Buttonwood Park was purchased in 1892, development was just reaching this area on the Dartmouth town line, directly west of the city center.

The roads that frame the park -- Rockdale Avenue, Kempton Street, Brownell Avenue, and Hawthorne Street -- were proposed in the late nineteenth century and appear on numerous plans of the 1890s. One plan from 1894 shows Rockdale and Kempton at a generous 80' width and Brownell at 100'. Construction of these roads in the early years of the twentieth century allowed residential development to proceed.

The park proved to be a very marketable amenity, attracting strong interest from the city's growing middle-class and ensuring successful development by both individuals and speculators. In fact, creation of the park raised surrounding land values and competition with developers made it impossible for the city to acquire all of the recommended acreage, most notably the northeast corner at Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street.

Prominent local real estate developer F. William Oesting, Jr. purchased land in this area from the Booth estate in the first decade of the twentieth century and created a small, early subdivision known as Parkview. In 1910 he erected eight similar gambrel roof cottages at the corner of **Lake and Jenny Lind Streets**. Advertisements which touted Parkview as "that beautiful and sightly tract situated just north of Buttonwood Park . . ." clearly demonstrate the Park's value as an attractive amenity for residential development. Other touted amenities included wide streets; granolithic sidewalks; shade trees; sewer, water, and gas connections; electricity; and nearby police and fire protection. Advertisements also promised a better investment return and greater safety than a bank account. In addition to "FREE" amenities, Oesting offered easy credit terms and "prices within the reach of everyone with an ambition to have a home of his own."

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 9

James T. Francis was another developer who owned and built the bungalow at **774 Rockdale Avenue** in 1920. This eight room cottage measured 24' by 28' and was 18' tall. The construction cost was \$4,000. Francis was responsible for five other nearby dwellings including **778 Rockdale Avenue** which contained seven rooms, measured 24' by 28', and cost \$4,500. It was constructed with the use of day labor.

On a smaller scale, several individuals bought multiple lots and constructed multiple homes, apparently agreeing with Oesting on the investment value of the area surrounding the park. For example, local lawyer Fisher Abramson and his wife Evelyn owned both **388 Hawthorne Street** (1925 Dutch Colonial) and **392 Hawthorne Street** (1926 Four-Square Colonial) and resided at the latter. Similarly, Manuel F. and Nettie Avila owned Four-Square dwellings at **374 and 384 Hawthorne Street**, both constructed in 1925. Avila was President and Treasurer of the Sun Auto Supply Company, 674 Pleasant Street, New Bedford in 1930. Local builder, J. O. Manny constructed all four houses. Catherine McCabe, who lived at **251 Rockdale Avenue**, also owned the two family house at **396-398 Hawthorne Street**. The latter was constructed by Adelard Alie whose offices were located at 159 Query Street, New Bedford.

Most houses within the district appear to have been constructed for individuals. Early owners represent a broad cross-section of New Bedford's middle class.

Jeremiah and Katherine Sullivan House at 656-658 Rockdale Avenue (1922; map #44-071)

This two family house was constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company of 6 Market Street, New Bedford at a cost of \$9,000. Each unit or tenement contained five rooms and one bath. Mr. Sullivan was employed by the builder as a manager. James H. and Ethel Mahoney occupied the other unit. James was a captain at Fire Engine House #3 on Kempton Street.

John and Margaret Carroll House at 720 Rockdale Avenue (1927; map #50-417)

This two-family residence was constructed by New Bedford builder Edward E. Dalrymple at a cost of \$10,000. The Carrolls, who lived at 51 Liberty Street, rented this house. Early occupants were David McGill and James D. Watson, a salesman.

Marie M. Doumoulin and J. Alfred House at 780-782 Rockdale Avenue (1922; map #50-442)

This two-family house was built by New Bedford contractor James Sykes at a cost of \$8,000. The tenant, Leonard C. Harris, was the pastor of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in New Bedford.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 10

Fisher and Evelyn Abramson House at 392 Hawthorne Street (1926; map #38-046)

This six room dwelling was one of several constructed by local builder J. O. Manny. Abramson was a lawyer with offices at 7 North Sixth Street, New Bedford.

James P. and Evelyn Cash House at 686 Rockdale Avenue (1922; map #44-312)

This bungalow was designed by architect Fa. A. Rousseau and built by local contractor, Carleton C. Paine. They are probably responsible for all three buildings. James Cash was a policeman and Evelyn was a telephone operator.

Isaac and Marie Dawson House at 666 Rockdale Avenue (1925; map #44-528)

This two-story Colonial Revival style house cost \$20,000. It was designed by architect Leo LaBronde and constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company, both local New Bedford firms. Isaac Dawson was a the owner of the Dawson Brewery.

Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodland House at 789 Rockdale Avenue (1929; map #49-045)

This Colonial Revival style house was designed by architect E. G. Bullard and constructed by builder James Sykes, both of New Bedford. Percy worked for John Woodland & Son, a grocery store located at 478 Kempton Street.

796 Rockdale Avenue (1916; map #50-533)

This House was constructed by Edwin D. Lawton who does not appear to have lived there. Lawton also constructed **3 Lake Street**. He worked for a plumbing company known as the E. F. Penney & Company prior to founding the firm of Lawton & Delano.

Grace M. Coffin House at 752 Rockdale Avenue (1934; map #50-459, 460)

This house was constructed at a cost of \$11,000 by New Bedford builder, John F. Tinkham. Grace was the widow of James H. Coffin.

Architects and Builders

All of the architects and builders identified as working in the park and its surrounding neighborhood were local firms based in the New Bedford area. Most of the city's prominent turn-of-the-century architects designed at least one building within the district. They include Browne & Poole, Nat C. Smith, Samuel C. Hunt, Louis Destremps, William Tallman, and Egbert Bullard.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 11

The local architectural firm of Browne & Poole designed the Howard M.E. Church/St. Paul's Methodist Church (**884 Kempton Street**; 1925) and the **Buttonwood Park greenhouse complex**. Francis Clifton Browne was born in New Bedford on January 11, 1883 and died at age 86 on November 2, 1969. He married Lucy May Pierce of Taunton on December 8, 1915 and together they had three sons. The Brownes lived at 139 Hillman Street. According to his obituary, Browne was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Construction Specifications Institute, the Pilgrim United Church, and the Eureka Lodge. Erford Wilson Poole was born in neighboring Dartmouth in 1877 and died on May 10, 1965 at the age of 88. He graduated from Massachusetts State College. Poole served as President of the New Bedford Port Society for seven years. Browne & Poole operated successfully as partners for many years before dissolving the firm and going on to individual practice.

One of the best known New Bedford architects was Egbert G. Bullard. He designed many buildings in the city's emerging downtown at Purchase and Union Streets and in the city's North End. His work includes the 1906-1908 addition to City Hall, the 1908 Bristol County Registry of Deeds at North Sixth Street, and the Edward J. Lafferty House at 584 Rockdale Avenue (south of the district). Bullard briefly worked in partnership with Leo LaBrode. Within the district, Bullard designed the large Colonial Revival style house at **789 Rockdale Avenue** for Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodward in 1929. He also designed his own residence at **97 Lake Street** overlooking the pond in 1920. This site was originally part of the Parkview plan.

Leo LaBrode was a founding partner of a prominent New Bedford architectural firm that remains active today. He was born in Pittsfield and began his practice there in 1904-1909. LaBrode subsequently moved to New Bedford where he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Louis Destremps. The firm was responsible for the Star Department Store at 182 Union Street and the New Bedford Gas & Edison Building at 693 Purchase Street. Following Destremps' death, LaBrode joined E. G. Bullard in another successful practice. In 1938, the firm of Tallman, LaBrode, and Rounseville was formed. Within the district, LaBrode designed a large Colonial Revival style dwelling at **666 Rockdale Avenue** for Isaac and Marie Dawson in 1925.

Other architects known to have worked within the district include F. A. Rousseau (**686-688 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), Walter B. Ahearn (**698 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), M. A. Haskell of Acushnet (**712 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), A. M. Lucas (**775 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow, 1923) and Nat C. Smith (**Buttonwood Park warming house**, 1934-1935, park map #3).

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 12

Many local builders are also known to have worked in the district. They include Adelard Alie with offices at 159 Query Street, New Bedford (two-family, **396 Hawthorne Street**), Jethro Ashley of Acushnet (**712 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), the Barnes Construction Company of 35 Green Street, Fairhaven (**740 Rockdale Avenue**), the J. W. Bishop Company (**666 Rockdale Avenue**, Colonial Revival; and **656-58 Rockdale Avenue**, 1922, two-family), George Bosworth (**698 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), Edward E. Dalrymple (**720 Rockdale Avenue**, two family), Napoleon Gregoire (**736 Rockdale Avenue**, 1915, bungalow as own home), Carleton C. Paine (**686-688 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow), J. O. Manny with offices at 2083 Achushnet Avenue, New Bedford (**374, 383, 384, and 392 Hawthorn Avenue**), Herbert Ohm (**775 Rockdale Avenue**, bungalow, 1923), James Sykes (**780-782 Rockdale Avenue**, 1922, two-family; and **789 Rockdale Avenue**, 1929 Colonial Revival), and John F. Tinkham (**752 Rockdale Avenue**, 1934, Cape).

As described in Section 7, the neighborhood surrounding Buttonwood Park is a showcase of early twentieth century residential architecture designed for New Bedford's middle class by local architects and builders. Developed largely in the 1910s - 1930s, the neighborhood includes excellent examples of that period's most popular architectural forms, styles, and materials. While there is variety of expression, a general uniformity of building scale, set back, and lot size create a strong sense of unity.

The small one-car garages that accompany many houses are important contributing elements that demonstrate the importance of that mode of transportation in the development of the district. The consistent presence of sidewalks, street trees, and planting strips extend the greenery of the park into the neighborhood and help to achieve a sense of harmony between open and developed areas. The buildings, outbuildings, streetscapes, settings, and relationship to Buttonwood Park that distinguish the surrounding neighborhood retain a high degree of integrity. Thus, they possess a remarkable ability to illustrate New Bedford's suburban growth in the early twentieth century.

The period of significance for the neighborhood surrounding Buttonwood Park extends to 1950 which is the 50 year cut-off date established by the National Register. While the majority of development occurred prior to 1940, buildings constructed in 1940 - 1950 are consistent with the location, scale, style, siting, and residential use of their earlier neighbors. Most are Cape Cod cottages, an important twentieth century house form that contributes to the architectural evolution of the district and would otherwise be represented by only two properties. This final decade also pre-dates the extensive alteration of many dwellings on Kempton Street to accommodate commercial uses.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 13

Much of New Bedford's early core (New Bedford Historic District 11/13/1966; Central New Bedford Historic District 4/24/1980), and many of its residential neighborhoods (County Street Historic District 8/11/1976; Acushnet Heights Historic District 11/28/1989; Howland Mill Village Historic District 5/30/1996; Moreland Terrace Historic District 6/3/1996; and North Bedford Historic District 9/19/1979) have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Buttonwood Park National Register District, with its Olmsted-evolved Park and its concentration of well-preserved early twentieth century dwellings will add an important dimension to the understanding and preservation of the city's diverse heritage.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Note: for a comprehensive listing of source materials pertaining to Buttonwood Park through 1987, see "Bibliography/Sources for a History of Buttonwood Park in New Bedford, Massachusetts" by Joy Kenstenbaum.

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(end)

Buttonwood Park HD
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 113 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 336970 4611030
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 337760 4610090
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 337630 4610910
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 337280 4610040
Zone Easting Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Berg and Candace Jenkins, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2000

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol county)
Massachusetts**

Section number _____ Page _____

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**Boundary Description**

The district is located entirely within New Bedford in the southwestern section of the city near the boarder with the Town of Dartmouth. The district boundary encompasses roughly the area bounded by Kempton Street on the north, Rockdale Avenue on the east, Hawthorne Street on the south and Brownell Avenue on the west.

The northern edge of the district runs along the south side of Kempton, between Brownell and Rockdale Avenues, including the several blocks north and east of the park. The eastern boundary includes properties on the east side of Rockdale facing the park between Hawthorne and Lake Streets, and on both sides of Rockdale Avenue north of lake to Kempton Street. A modern commercial block at the southeast corner of Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street is excluded. An early 20th century dwelling at the southeast corner of Rockdale and Hawthorne is included. The southern boundary of the district includes Hawthorne Street and the properties on the south side of Hawthorne facing the park between Rockdale and Brownell Avenues. The western boundary of the district runs along the west side of Buttonwood Park between Hawthorne and Kempton. It does not include the Brownell Avenue properties facing the park on the west side. See sketch map.

Boundary Justification

Buttonwood Park forms the centerpiece of the proposed NR district and accounts for most of its approximately 113 acres. The district encompasses the entire area initially proposed for Buttonwood Park in 1892, the northeastern corner of which was subsequently developed as a residential neighborhood. It also includes the houses that frame the park on the east and south. The Howard M.E. Church/St. Paul's Methodist Church which anchors the prominent southwest corner of Rockdale and Kempton is the only neighborhood institutional building in the proposed district.

The adjacent residential areas are an integral part of the park neighborhood and were developed concurrently with, and in response to the park. The houses fronting the park along Rockdale Avenue and Hawthorne Street are included because they present a unified early 20th century character which compliments the park. The houses fronting the park along Brownell Avenue are not included because they were developed after the

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol county)
Massachusetts**

Section number _____ Page _____

1892-1950 period of significance. The north side of Kempton Street is excluded because of its commercial character and because it too post-dates the period of significance. The south side of Kempton is included because it is developed primarily with turn-of-the-century residences. Some have been converted to commercial use, but most retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic character of the proposed district.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number ____ Page 1 - photos

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

<i>NR Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
1	Buttonwood Park - Great Lawn and Comfort Station (looking southeast towards Rockdale)	5/99	Shary Berg
2	Buttonwood Park - Potting house, greenhouse and formal garden (looking south from Court Street)	5/99	Shary Berg
3	Buttonwood Park - Warming House with Buttonwood Pond in foreground (looking northeast from Court Street)	5/99	Shary Berg
4	Buttonwood Park - Fieldstone Wall (looking east along Kempton Street)	5/99	Shary Berg
5	Buttonwood Park - Barnard Monument (looking west from near Court Street)	5/99	Shary Berg
6	Buttonwood Park - Court Street with oak trees (looking east from near warming house)	5/99	Shary Berg
7	Buttonwood Park - Concourse with spruce allee (looking south towards zoo)	5/99	Shary Berg
8	Buttonwood Park - Buttonwood Pond (looking north along western edge of pond)	5/99	Shary Berg
9	Buttonwood Park and Rockdale Ave (looking south along Rockdale with park on right)	11/98	Shary Berg
10	12 Buttonwood Avenue	5/99	Candace Jenkins
11	350 Hawthorne Street	11/98	Candace Jenkins

12	55 Hussey Street (looking South along Hussey)	11/98	Candace Jenkins
13	73 Lake Street at Jenny Lind	11/98	Candace Jenkins
14	1026 - 1028 Kempton Street	5/99	Candace Jenkins
15	690 - 694 Rockdale Avenue (looking south)	11/98	Candace Jenkins

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number ____ **Page** 1-maps

LIST OF MAPS

Figure 1 - "Preliminary Plan of Buttonwood Park", Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, 1895.

Figure 2 - "Existing Conditions Buttonwood Park", Walker•Kluesing Design Group, 1986.

Figure 3 - "Illustrative Master Plan, Buttonwood Park", Walker•Kluesing Design Group, 1988.
(Note: this plan has only been partially implemented.)

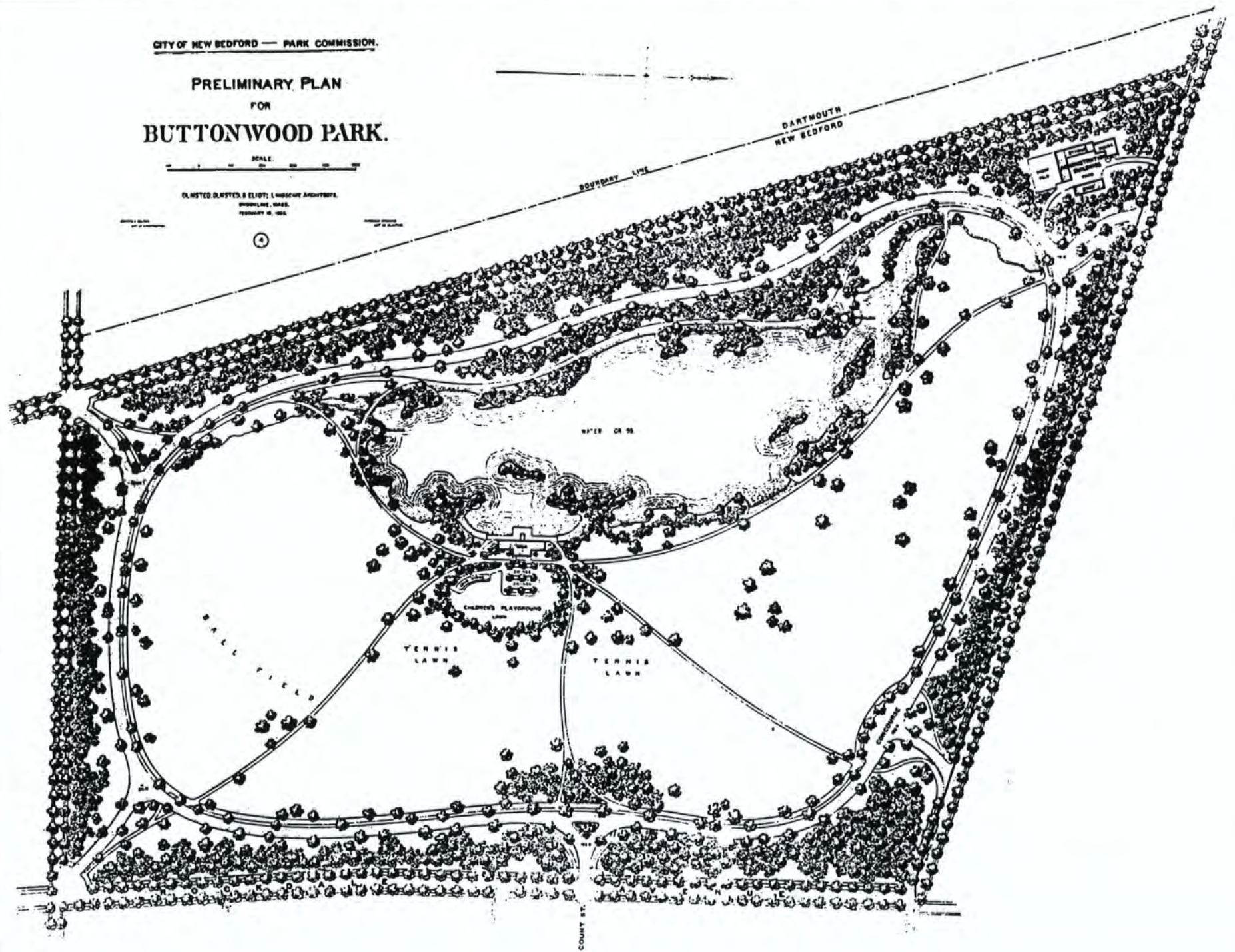
Figure 4 - "Existing Conditions Buttonwood Park", 1999.
Modification of Walker•Kluesing Design Group 1986 Existing Conditions map to show recent changes to park and NR boundary. Note: numbers on this 11 x17 map are keyed to the district data sheets.)

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD — PARK COMMISSION.
PRELIMINARY PLAN
FOR
BUTTONWOOD PARK.

SCALE
0 100 200

OLINSTEAD, BLISS & ELIOT; LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.
BOSTON, MASS.
FEBRUARY 16, 1945.

4



Existing Conditions
 Veterans Memorial Park and Zoo at
BUTTONWOOD PARK
 New Bedford, Massachusetts
 Massachusetts Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program
 Department of Environmental Management, Contract No. 853-95

Wilbur-Klanning Design Group
 Zooplan Associates, Inc.
 Geochemical Engineers, Inc.
 William H. Rowe & Associates
 F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.

Landscape Architecture
 Zoo Planning
 Hydrological Engineering
 Engineering & Architecture
 Arboriculture

Scale in feet
 0 100 500
 North

New Bedford, Massachusetts
Massachusetts Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program
Department of Environmental Management, Contract No. 851-85

Walker-Klausig Design Group
Zooplan Associates, Inc.
Geotechnical Engineers, Inc.
William H. Rowe & Associates
F. A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.

Scale in feet

0 100 500

1908

North

**Wetland Memorial Park and Zoo at
BUTTONWOOD PARK**
New Bedford, Massachusetts
Massachusetts (United States) Landscape Preservation Program
Department of Environmental Management, Contract No. 201-00

Wallace-Kierulff Design Group
Zachman Associates, Inc.
Geotechnical Engineers, Inc.
Williams H. Hume & Associates
F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.



Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

1

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type
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Note: Assessors map numbers are used to identify residential properties. Numbers for park features shown in column three are keyed to an 11x17 map of existing conditions at Buttonwood Park. The map, initially drawn in 1986, has been revised to reflect changes through 1999.

Buttonwood Park - Buildings

	1	1	near baseball field (1919 plans by Nat C. Smith; HLR: I-10, 11; VII:4)	Comfort Station; Browne & Poole, archt's	1921	No style	C/B
	2	2	SE of pond	Potting House, boiler room, greenhouse (VII: 4; Browne & Poole, archt's (HLR: I-11) GH enlarged 1927 (I-12) new GH 1976-77 (I-20)	1921	No style	C/B
	3	3	immediately east of pond	Warming House by Nat C. Smith; ERA project (HLR: I-13) interior remodeled 1941 (HLR: I-17) renovated as Parks Dept headquarters/Senior Center (I-20)	1934-35	No style	C/B
		4	south end of ball field	Field House/Storage Building; WPA (HLR: VII-7)	1939-41	No style	C/B
		5	Kempton Street	Joseph F. Waldron Barracks; Veterans Memorial Building (HLR: VII-7)	1972	No style	NC/B
		6	Rockdale Avenue and Lake Street	Buttonwood Branch Library; Francis J. Lawler Library	1960	No style	NC/B
		7	maintenance area	Hay Barn (HLR: VII:5) shingled, Labrode & Bullard	1922	No style	C/B
		8	zoo area	Bear Den (HLR: I-14)	1936	No style (fieldstone and concrete)	C/B

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

2

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		9	zoo area	Elephant House (HLR: VII-7)	1985	No style	NC/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

3

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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Buttonwood Park - Structures/Monuments

		10	south end of pond	Dam/Causeway (with 2 sets of steps) designed by William F. Williams (HLR:VII-9)	1902-5, repaired 1921, 1998		C/St
		11	west end of causeway at Court and Brownell	Cobblestone Post William F. Williams, only surviving remnant of retaining	1904-5		C/St
	4	12	Kempton Street	Fieldstone Wall (HLR:VII-10) WPA	1939-41		C/St
		13	zoo area	Bridge over canal	1970-1		NC/St
		14	east side of park	Ball fields (note: first baseball diamond laid out in 1896)	post 1950		NC/St
		15	east side of park	Tennis courts (tennis first played in 1909 (HLR: 34), current courts replaced earlier ones)	1980s		NC/St
		16	east side of park	Basketball courts (HLR: 45)	1970		NC/St
	5	17	at rotary, center of park	Barnard Monument , designed by George Julian Zolnay	ca 1914		C/St
		18	west end of Court Street at Brownell entrance	British Memorial Monument , designed by Harold Kenworthy	1936		C/St
		19	North west corner of Rockdale and Hawthorne	Jewish War Veterans Memeorial	1962		NC/St
		20	Rockdale near Maple	Holocaust Memorial	1998		NC/St

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

4

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		21	Southwest corner of Rockdale and Court	Black War Veterans Memorial	1976		NC/St	
		22	Northwest corner of Rockdale and Court	American-Portugese Veterans Monument	1950		NC/St	
		23	Northeast corner of Court and Buttonwood	Municipal Employees Monument	1973		NC/St	
		24	Southwest corner of Rockdale and Lake Street	Firemen's Memorial	1962		NC/St	
		25	Southeast corner of Buttonwood and Lake	Italian-American Veterans Memorial	1958		NC/St	
		26	near playground	Drinking fountain cast iron	N.D.		C/O	
		27	formal garden	Henry J. Wareing Memorial Fountain (HLR: VII-15), cast iron	1966		NC/O	
		28	near zoo	Playground (first plaground isntalled by 1900) (HLR: fig13)	circa 1980s		NC/St	
Buttonwood Park - Circulation								
	6	29	east-west through center of park	Court Street ; Lt. Walter E. Fuller Memorial Parkway (sign) or Alvin Fuller Parkway (HLR: 45)	circa 1904		C/St	
		30	off Hawthorne Street	William Saltzman Way (zoo entrance road & 1970 parking lot)			NC/St	
		31	NW corner of park off Kempton Street	Veterans Memorial Parkway (includes veterans bldg. parking)	circa 1972		NC/St	
		32	NE section of park	Buttonwood Street extension (HLR: Fig 29)	1907		C/St	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

5

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		33	north central portion of park	Oneida Street extension (includes senior center parking)			C/St	
	7	34	central portion of park	Concourse	1890s		C/St	
Buttonwood Park - Vegetation								
		35	south, west, north of park	Perimeter woodland	circa 1904		C/St	
		36	perimeter of park, especially Rockdale Ave.	Street trees			C/St	
	6	37	Court St/Fuller Parkway	Allee of trees	beginning circa 1904		C/St	
	2	38	near greenhouse	Formal garden (HLR: 35-6)	circa 1923		C/St	
	1	39	southeastern portion of park	Great Lawn	1890s		C/St	
		40	east of greenhouse	Norway spruce allee			C/St	
		41	west of library	Maple grove (near library)	unknown		C/St	
Buttonwood Park - Water Features								
	8	42	west side of park	Buttonwood Pond ; dredged 1890s, 1921 (HLR: 22 and VII-9), enlarged 1901 (HLR: 27), enlarged 1933-5 (HLR: 39)	pre-1890	8.9 acres with 4 acres of emergent wetland at northern end (HLR:48)	C/St	
		43	north of pond	Buttonwood Brook ; cleaned and widened, 1933-5 (HLR: 38)	pre-1890		C/St	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

6

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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		44	south of pond	Canal (constructed along route of former stream bed), designed by William F. Williams, includes small man-made pond constructed 1970-1 and concrete channel constructed 1960 (HLR:48)	circa 1902, modified 1961, 1970s		C/St	
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Arnold Street

A		044-535	476 Arnold Street (SE corner Rockdale Street)	House cobblestone garage (matches house foundation)	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
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Burns Street

A		038-038	Burns Street	House att. garage	ca. 1970	Other: Ranch	NC/B	
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Buttonwood Street

	10	49-123	12 Buttonwood Street (NE corner Lake Street)	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements exceptional	C/B C/B	
		49-068	15 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-121	16 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-069	17 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

7

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		49-119	18 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-117	20 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-073 49-072	21 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
		49-115	22 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
		49-076	23 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		49-113	24 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		49-077	25 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B C/B	
		49-111	26 Buttonwood Street	House garage (well preserved)	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square exceptional	C/B C/B	
		49-080	27 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B C/B	
		49-109	28 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		49-081	29 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B	
		49-107	30 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel Cottage	C/B C/B	
		49-084	31 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival; Gambrel Cottage	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

8

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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		49-105	32 Buttonwood Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		49-085	33 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
		49-103	34 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
		49-088	35 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel Cottage	C/B C/B	
		49-101	36 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-089	37 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-100	38 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square exceptional	C/B C/B	
		49-092	39 Buttonwood Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel Cottage	C/B C/B	

Hawthorne Street

A		044-438	337 Hawthorne Street (NE corner Rockdale)	House, Two-family garage (rusticated concrete blk)	ca. 1920s	No Style altered	C/B C/B	
A	11	038-058	350 Hawthorne Street (SW corner Rockdale)	House garage	ca. 1920	Colonial Revival exceptional	C/B C/B	
A		038-055	360 Hawthorne Street	House att. garage	ca. 1950s	Other: Ranch	NC/B	
yes		038-054 038-337	366 Hawthorne Street	Catherine R. Silva House garage	1927 1927	Bungaloid	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

9

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
yes		038-053 038-052	372 Hawthorne Street	Timothy F. McCrohan House att. garage	1947	Other: Cape	C/B	
yes		038-051	374 Hawthorne Street	Manuel and Nettie Avila House garage	1925	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
yes		038-049 038-050	380 Hawthorne Street	Manuel Avila House garage	1925	Other: Four Square Colonial Rev. elements	C/B C/B	
yes		038-047	388 Hawthorne Street	Fisher & Evelyn Abramson House garage	1925	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial exceptional	C/B C/B	
yes		038-046	392 Hawthorne Street	Fisher & Evelyn Abramson House garage	1926	Other: Four Square Colonial Rev. elements	C/B C/B	
yes		038-045	396-98 Hawthorne Street	Catherine McCabe Double Decker Two-family	1923	No Style; jerkin-head front-gable	C/B	
yes		038-044 038-043	400 Hawthorne Street	Arthur L. Brun House att. garage	1948	Other: Cape clipped-gable	C/B	
yes		038-041 038-042	408 Hawthorne Street	John and Harriet Bernier garage	1928 1928	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B C/B	
yes		038-373 038-035 038-034	430 Hawthorne Street	Victor Smith House garage (new doors)	1926 1926	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		038-032 038-033	436 Hawthorne Street	House	ca. 1930s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
yes		038-031	440 Hawthorne Street	Samuel Gottesman House att. garage	1951	Other: Ranch (U-plan)	NC/B	

Hussey Street

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

10

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		49-122	13 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B	
		49-137	16 Hussey Street	House garage (rusticated concrete blk)	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		49-120	17 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-135	20 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-118	21 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-133	24 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
		49-116	25 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B	
		49-131	28 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-114	29 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-129	32 Hussey Street	House garage (rusticated concrete blk)	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B C/B	
		49-112	33 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B	
		49-127	36 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
		49-110	39 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

11

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		49-002	40 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman (altered)	C/B	
		49-108	43 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-032	44 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B	
		49-106	47 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B	
		49-017	48 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
		49-104	51 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Side-hall front-gable	C/B C/B	
		49-011	52 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
	12	49-102	55 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B	
		49-004	58 Hussey Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B C/B	
		49-146	59 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel	C/B	
		49-016	62 Hussey Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		49-001	68 Hussey Street (SE corner Hussey/Kempton)	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	

Ilion Street

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

12

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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		055-123 055-124	54 Ilion Street	House att. garage	ca. 1940s	Other: Cape	C/B	
		055-128	68 Ilion Street	House att. garage	ca. 1940s	Other: Cape	C/B	
		055-130	74 Ilion Street	House	ca. 1950s	Other: Ranch	NC/B	
		055-069	Ilion/Kempton Streets	part of Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		049-012	Ilion Street (W side) Oneida Street (E side)	part of Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Jenny Lind Street

		49-145	2 Jenny Lind Street (NE corner Lake/Jenny Lind)	House	ca. 1900	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-066	4 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival cross-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-3131	5 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-031	7 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1900	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-067	8 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-030	9 Jenny Lind Street	House garage/cottage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B NC/B	
		49-070	10 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1900	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

13

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		49-029	11 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival cross-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-071	12 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-158	13 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-074	14 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1900	Other:Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-075	16 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-026 49-027	17 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other:Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-078	18 Jenny Lind Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other:Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
		49-025	19 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow exceptional	C/B	
		49-079	20 Jenny Lind Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival cross-Gambrel	C/B C/B	
		49-024	21 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-082	22 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-023	23 Jenny Lind Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival side-Gambrel	C/B C/B	
		49-083	24 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square elements Queen Anne	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

14

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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		49-086	26 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Gambrel (front)	C/B	
		49-021	27 Jenny Lind Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
		49-087	28 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-090	30 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-018 49-019	31 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival side-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-091	32 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-013	35 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival side-Gambrel	C/B	
		49-093	36 Jenny Lind Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		49-006 49-159	Jenney Lind Street	multi-bay concrete block garage	ca. 1920	No Style	C/B	

Kempton Street

yes		049-009 049-003	884 Kempton Street	Howard M.E. Church (St. Paul's Methodist Church)	ca. 1911; 1925	Mixed	C/B	
		049-099	920 Kempton Street	House (former; now commercial) Animal Hospital	ca. 1920s	Other: Contemporary (major alterations)	NC/B	
		049-098	930 Kempton Street	House (former; now commercial) garage	ca. 1920s	No Style	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

15

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		049-097	950 Kempton Street	House (former; now commercial)	ca. 1920s	No Style	C/B	
		049-007	960 Kempton Street	Commercial Block (Bosworth Insurance)	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		049-095	966-970 Kempton Street	Commercial Block	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		049-094	976 Kempton Street	Commercial Block (Domino's Pizza)	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		055-075	982-984 Kempton Street	Commercial Block	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		055-074 049-005	994-998 Kempton Street	Commercial Block	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		055-151 055-150	990 Kempton Street	Commercial Block (Auto Parts store)	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		055-134 055-135	1012 Kempton Street	Commercial Block (Dunkin Donuts)	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
	14	055-133	1026 Kempton Street	House (former; now commercial) well-preserved	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Queen Anne elements	C/B	
	14	055-132	1028 Kempton Street	Commercial Block (real estate office)	Mid-late 20th cen	No Style	NC/B	
		055-069	Ilion/Kempton Streets	part of Park	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Lake Street								
		049-147	5 Lake Street (NW corner Lake/Rockdale)	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne; Colonial Revival elements	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

16

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		049-142	9 Lake Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne, Stick, Craftsman elements	C/B	
		049-140	17 Lake Street	House; two-family granite block garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne; Colonial Revival elements	C/B C/B	
		049-139	21 Lake Street (NW corner Lake/Hussey)	House garage, rusticated concrete block	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
		049-125	29 Lake Street (NW corner Lake/Hussey)	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Colonial Rev. elements	C/B	
		049-124	35-37 Lake Street	House stucco garage	ca. 1920s	No Style Colonial Rev. elements	C/B C/B	
		049-063	45-47 Lake Street (NW corner Lake/Buttonwood)	House	ca. 1920s	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B	
		049-064	53 Lake Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival cross-Gambrel	C/B	
		049-065	55 Lake Street	House rusticated concrete block garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B C/B	
	13	049-033	73 Lake Street (NW corner Lake/Jenney Lind)	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival cross-Gambrel	C/B	
		049-034	75 Lake Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival front-Gambrel	C/B	
		049-035	81 Lake Street	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Colonial Rev. elements	C/B	
		049-036	87 Lake Street (NE corner Lake/Oneida)	House garage, rusticated concrete block	ca. 1950 ca. 1900	Other Ranch	NC/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

17

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type
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C
B

		049-039	97 Lake Street	Egbert G. Bullard House	1920	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B
		049-040	(NW corner Lake/Oneida)	garage	1920		C/B

Maple Street

		044-460	380 Maple Street	Frank W. Pease House	1924	Tudor Revival	C/B
			(NE corner Rockdale)	garage			C/B
		044-445	386 Maple Street	House	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival	C/B
			(SE corner Rockdale)	garage		Dutch Colonial	C/B

Oneida Street

		049-012	Oneida (W side), Ilion (E side) Streets	part of Park	n/a	n/a	n/a
		049-155	18 Oneida Street	House	1940s	Other: Cape	C/B
		049-156		garage			C/B
		049-153	26 Oneida Street	House	1950s	Other: Ranch	NC/B
		049-151	32 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1950s	Other: Ranch	NC/B
		049-150	Oneida Street	Vacant (see 19 Jenny Lind)	n/a	n/a	n/a
		049-148	Oneida Street	Vacant	n/a	n/a	n/a
		049-022	50 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1960s	Other: Contemporary	NC/B
		055-141	59 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1940s	Other: Cape	C/B
		055-143		att. garage			

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

18

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
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		055-144	60 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1940s	Other: Cape	C/B	
		055-147	68 Oneida Street	House garage	ca. 1940s	Other: Cape	C/B C/B	
		055-140 055-139	69 Oneida Street	House garage	ca. 1920s	No Style	C/B C/B	
		055-138	73 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1920s	No Style	C/B	
		055-148	74 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1930s	No Style	C/B	
		055-149	76 Oneida Street	House	ca. 1930s	No Style	C/B	
		055-137 055-136	Oneida Street	Parking Lot (Dunkin Donuts, Kempton Street)	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Rockdale Avenue

		039-???	594 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1930s	Colonial Revival	C/B	
		044-530	600 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B	
		044-437	604 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial (beaded clapboards)	C/B C/B	
		044-527	606 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square Colonial Revival	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

19

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
		044-524	646 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial (brick, red slate)	C/B C/B	
yes		044-071	656-658 Rockdale Avenue	Jeremiah & Katherine Sullivan House; two family	1922	Other: Four Square Queen Anne/Colonial Revival elements	C/B	
yes		044-528	668 Rockdale Avenue	Isaac & Marie Dawson House	1925	Colonial Revival	C/B	
yes		044-316	672-674 Rockdale Avenue	House; two family	1923	No Style	C/B	
yes		044-315	676 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	1923	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		044-314	680 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square (altered)	C/B C/B	
yes		044-313	684 Rockdale Avenue	Wallace G. & Florence B. Hathaway House garage, rusticated concrete block	1924	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
yes		044-312	686-688 Rockdale Avenue	James P. & Eulah (Evelyn F.) Cash House	1922	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
yes	15	044-311	690 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	1922	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B C/B	
yes	15	044-310	694 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B C/B	
yes		044-309	698 Rockdale Avenue	Harry & Ellen Allen House garage	1921	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		044-306	702 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

20

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
yes		050-420	708 Rockdale Avenue	House garage, rusticated concrete block	ca. 1920s	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial	C/B C/B	
yes		050-419	712 Rockdale Avenue	Alvert V. & Helen B. Woodacre House	1932	Other: Cape (cobblestone foundation, chimney)	C/B	
yes		050-418	716 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungaloid/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		050-417	720-722 Rockdale Avenue (SE corner Court St.)	McGill-Watson House two family	1927	No Style Front-gable	C/B	
yes		050-503	726 Rockdale Avenue (NE corner Court St.)	House 4-car rustic. conc-block garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		050-215	732 Rockdale Avenue	Napoleon & Marie L Gregorie Hse rusticated concrete-block garage	1915	Colonial Revival	C/B C/B	
		050-004	736 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
		050-370	738 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		050-457	740 Rockdale Avenue	Charles R. and William R. Humphrey House (rental) garage, rusticated concrete block	1925	Other: Four Square Colonial Revival	C/B C/B	
yes		050-459 050-460	752 Rockdale Avenue	Grace M. Coffin House garage	1934	Other: Cape	C/B C/B	
		050-002	756 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
		049-143	761 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920s	No Style	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

21

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
yes		049-138	763-765 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
		050-446	764 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
yes		050-445	768 Rockdale Avenue	New Bedford Gas & Edison Light Co. Building	1956	No Style Colonial Rev. elements	NC/B	
yes		049-136	769-771 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B C/B	
yes		049-134	773 Rockdale Avenue	House	ca. 1920	Queen Anne well preserved	C/B	
yes		050-444	774 Rockdale Avenue	James T. Francis House	1920	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B	
yes		049-132	775 Rockdale Avenue	House 3-car rustic. conc. block garage	1923	Bungalow/Craftsman	C/B C/B	
yes		049-130	777-779 Rockdale Avenue	House, two-family	ca. 1920	No Style	C/B	
yes		050-443	778 Rockdale Avenue	House	1919	Bungalow/Craftsman exceptional	C/B	
yes		049-128	781 Rockdale Avenue	House	1923	Other: Four Square Craftsman elements	C/B	
yes		050-442	780-782 Rockdale Avenue	Doumoulin-Harris House two-family	1922	No Style Queen Anne elements	C/B	
yes		050-502	784 Rockdale Avenue	House garage rusticated concrete block	1916	Other: Four Square banded shiplap siding	C/B C/B	
yes		049-047	785-787 Rockdale Avenue	House, two-family	ca. 1920s	No Style Gable-front	C/B	

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

22

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
yes		050-003	788 Rockdale Avenue	House	1921	Other: Four Square	C/B	
yes		049-045	789 Rockdale Avenue	Percy A. Ruth B. Woodland Hse garage rusticated concrete block	1929	No Style (possible moved, altered 19th century house)	C/B C/B	
yes		050-477 050-537	790 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
yes		050-533	796 Rockdale Avenue	House	1916	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial exceptional	C/B	
West Clinton Street								
		044-463 044-462	472 West Clinton Street (SE corner Rockdale)	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman (stucco) exceptional	C/B	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Buttonwood Park Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 7/13/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/25/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/27/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000915

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: ☒ NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant
park and surrounding residential area*

RECOM./CRITERIA *accept A&C*

REVIEWER *Patricia Andrews* DISCIPLINE *Historian*

TELEPHONE _____ DATE *8/24/00*

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



Buttonwood Park NR District

New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA

Shary Bey 5/99 (photo has negs)

Great Lawn and Comfort Station

looking southeast towards Rockdale

Photo #1



Buttonwood Park NR District
New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA

Shary Berg 5/99 (photog has negs)

Warming Horse with Buttonwood Pond
(looking northeast from Court St)

Photo #3



WALL PIERCE BY
WILLIAM PIERCE
1858 - 1940

Buttonwood Park NR District
New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA
Shary Berg 5199 (photog has negs)
Fieldstone Wall
(Looking east along Kempton St)
Photo #4



Buttonwood Park NR District
New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA
Shary Berg (photog has negs) 5/99
Barnard Monument - looking west
Photo #5



Bottomwood Park NR District

New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA

Shary Berg 5199 (photog has negs)

Court Street with Oak allee

(looking east from near warming house)

Photo #6



Buttonwood Park NR District
New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA
Shary Berg 5199 (photo has negs)
Concourse with Spruce allée
(looking South towards zoo)

Photo #7



Buttonwood Park NR District

New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA

Shary Berg 5/99 (photog has negs)

Buttonwood Pond

(looking north along west edge of pond)

Photo #8















Buttonwood Park NR District
New Bedford (Bristol Co) MA

Candace Jenkins 11/98 (photog has negs)

690-694 Rockdale Avenue (looking South)

Photo # 15

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Buttonwood Park Historic District	Bristol, Massachusetts	00000915

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (#2)

☐ USGS Map

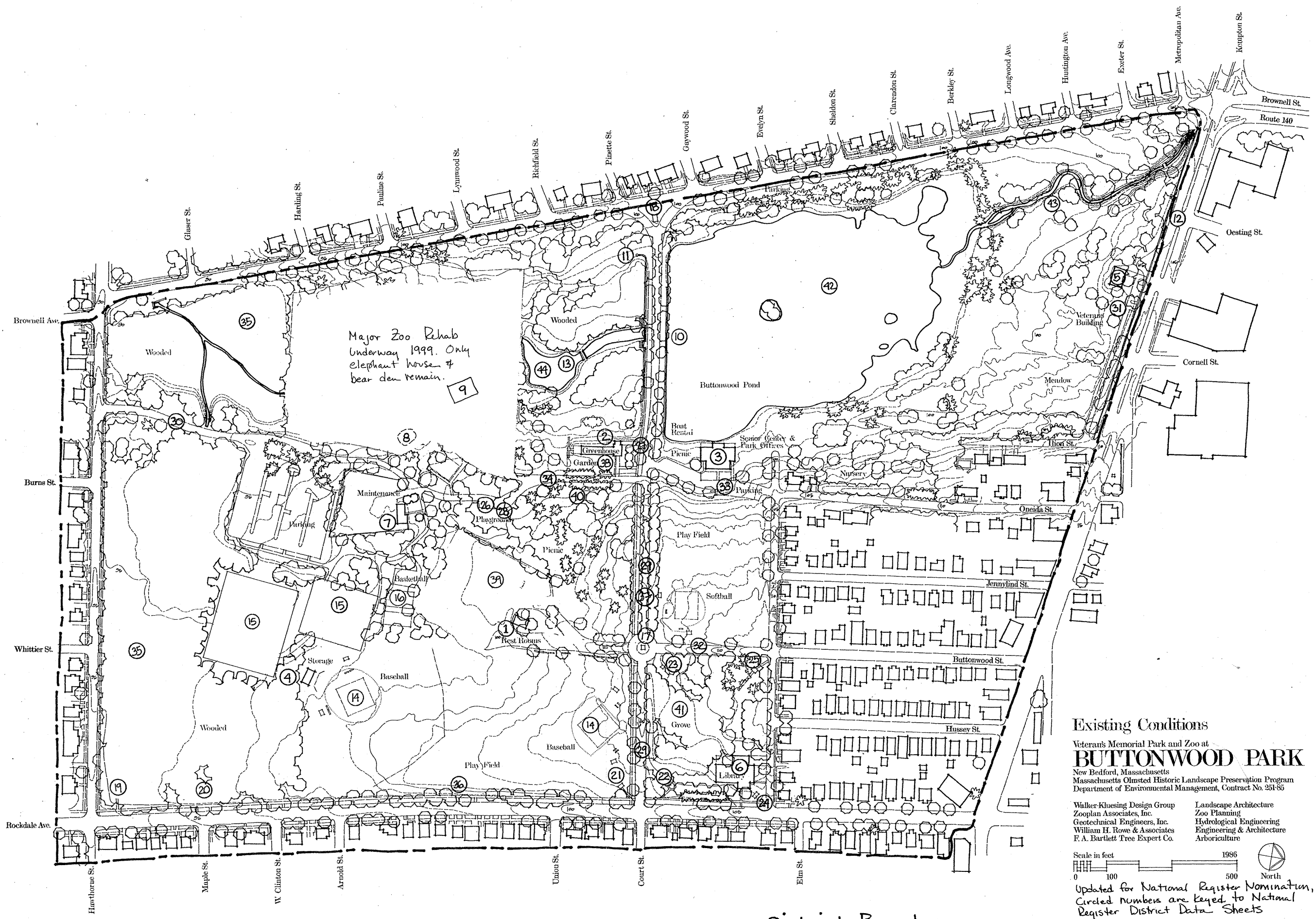
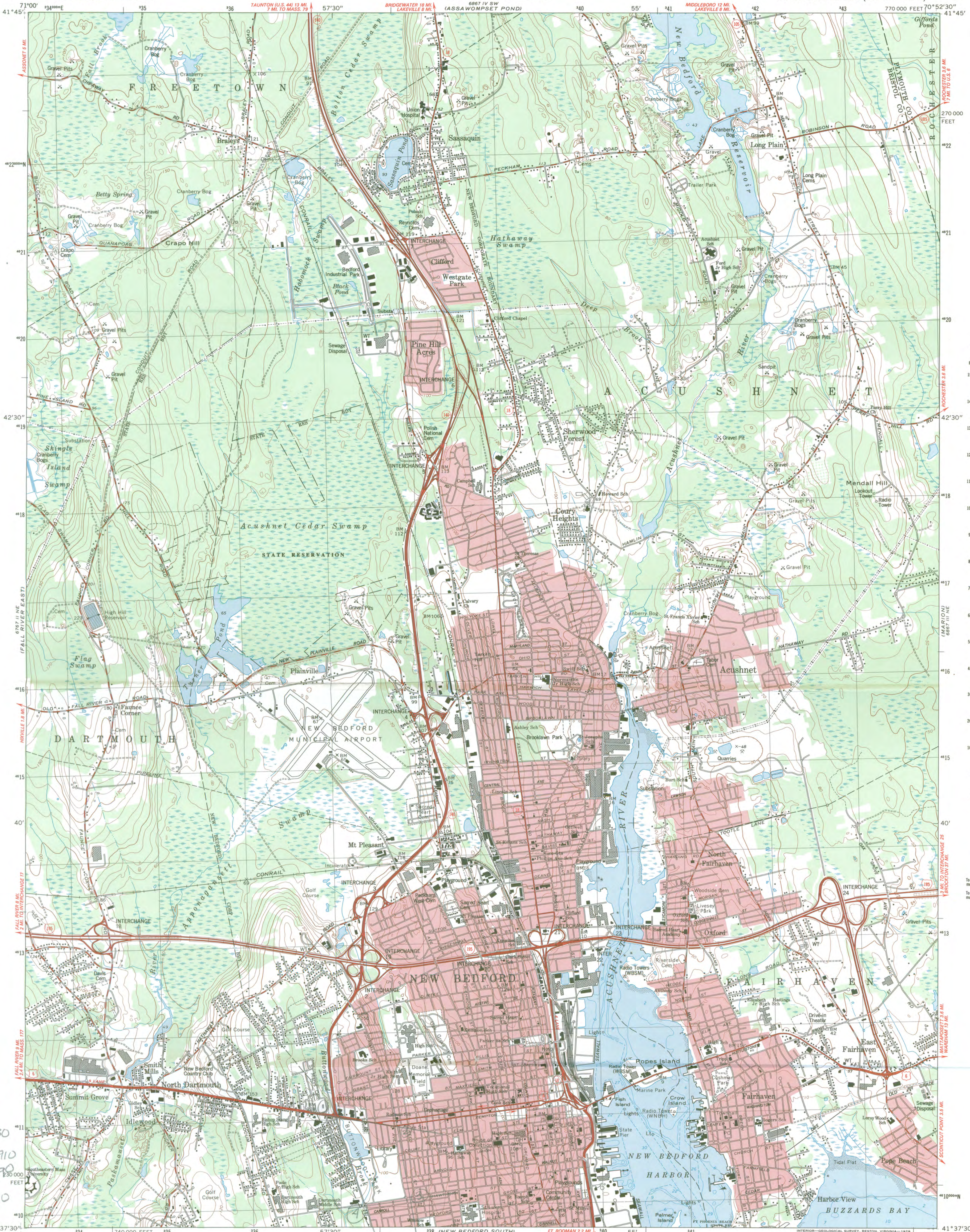
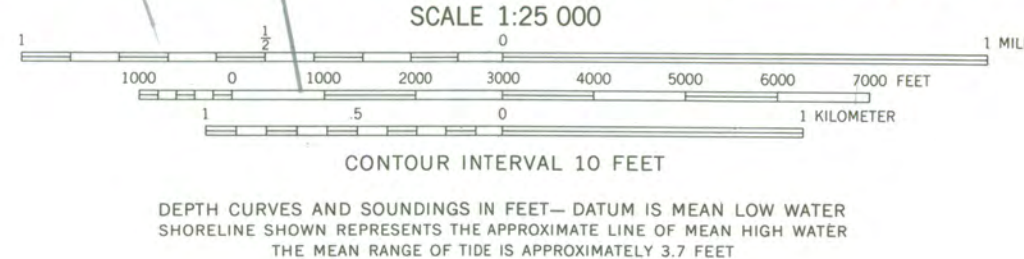
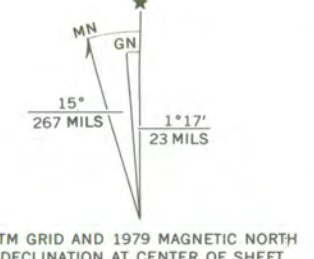


FIGURE 4 - EXISTING CONDITIONS 1999



Battenwood Park
National Register HD
New Bedford, Mass.
① 19. 336970. 461030
② 19. 33630. 4610910
③ 19. 337160. 4610080
④ 19. 337280. 4610040

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Revised 1975 from aerial photographs taken 1974
Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 353 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 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
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
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1979
DMA 6867 III NW—SERIES V814



BUTTONWOOD PARK HD
NEW BEDFORD (BRISTOL) MA

7

Match to Map 44

Match to Map 38

ROTC

TREMONT

AVENUE

STREET

STREET

PLYMOUTH

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

GOULD

PRISCILLA

STREET

STREET

TABER

BUS.

ELIZABETH

STREET

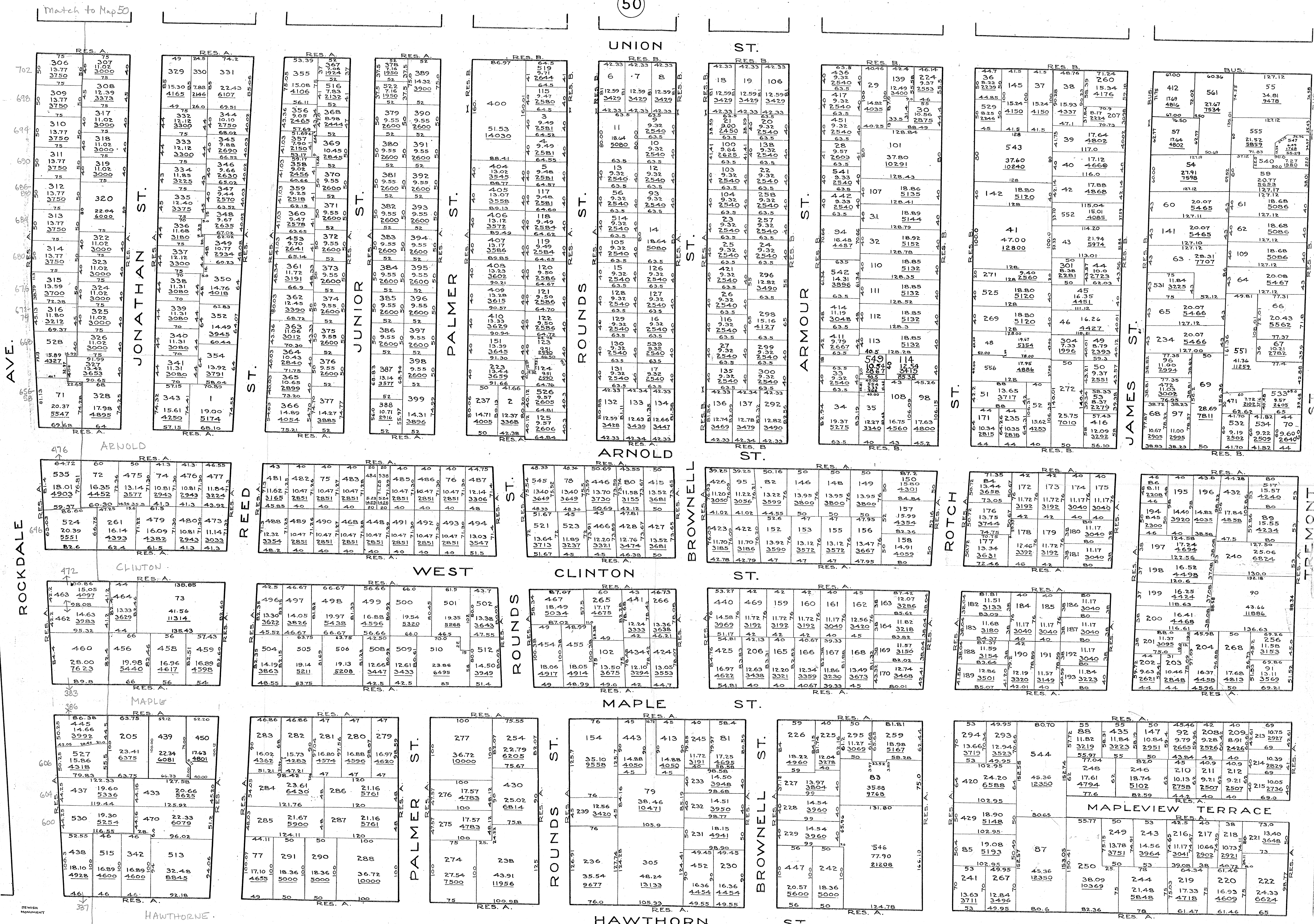
BEDFORD

STREET

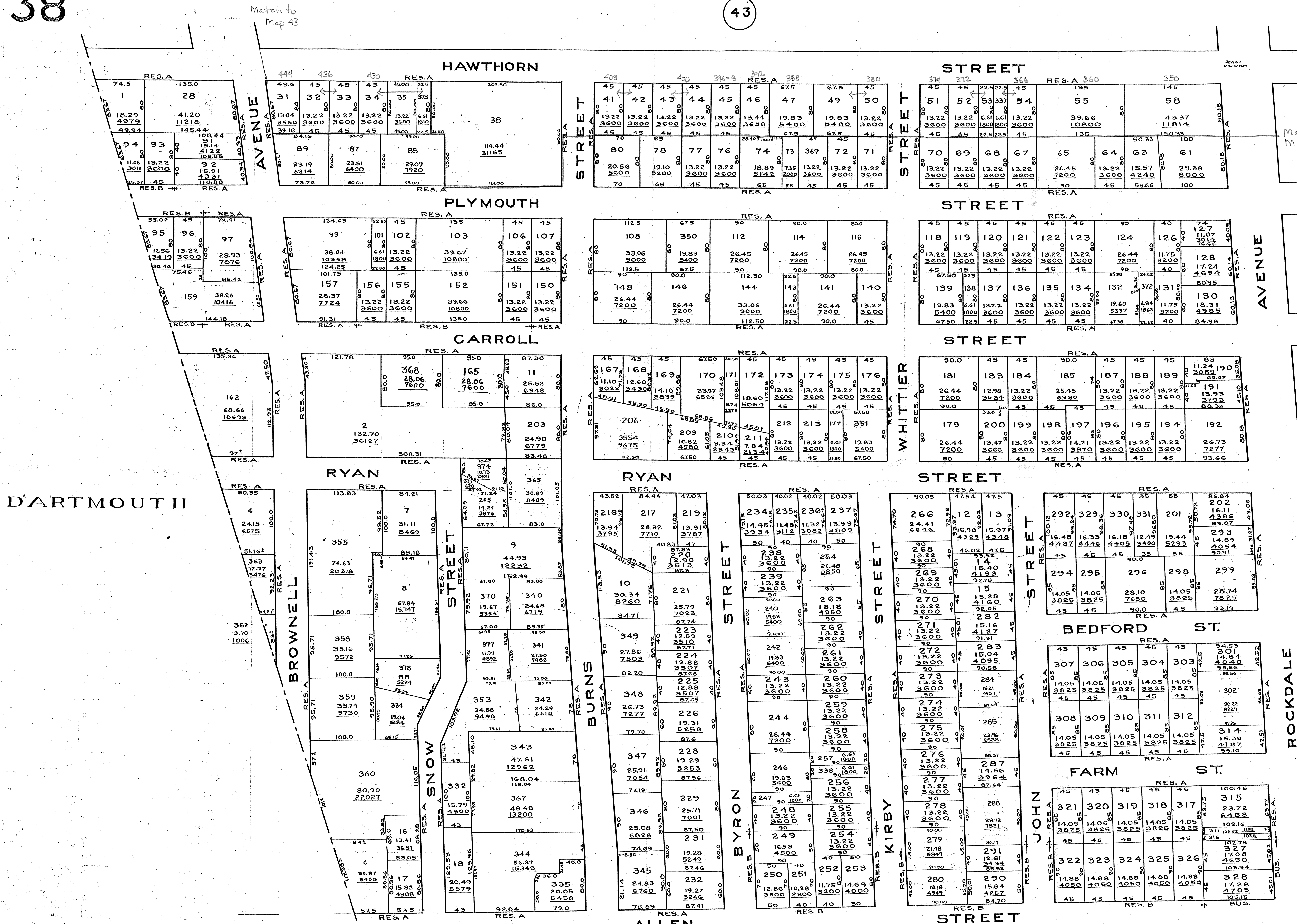
BRIGHAM

WEST

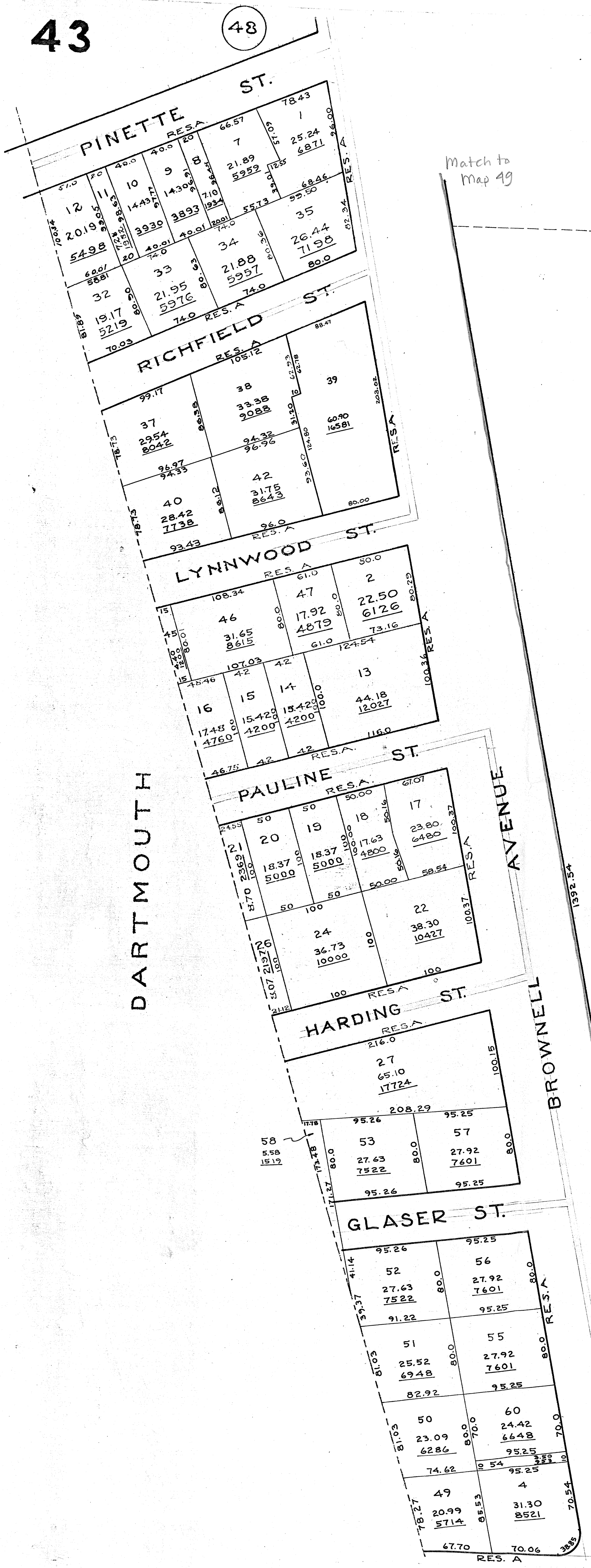
ALLEN



Bottomwood Park
NR District
New Bedford, MA
(Bristol County)
June 1932
Scale 1"=60'
City of New Bedford
Assessors Map #44
2 of 8



Buttonwood Park NB District
New Bedford, MA (Bristol Co)
April 1957
Scale 1"=60'
City of New Bedford Assessors Map #38
4 of 8



Match to Map 49

Match to Map 38

5
48A.124.79
48A.33974

Buttrick Park NR District
New Bedford, MA (Bristol Co)
July 1980
Scale 1"=60'
City of New Bedford
Assessor's Map #43
5 of 8

HAWTHORN STREET

AVENUE

ROCKDALE

UNION

ARNOLD

CLINTON

MAPLE

49

Match to
Map 54

54

55

Match to
Map 55

KEMPTON

STREET

EMORY J. ENGLAND SQ.

St. Paul's
Methodist
Church

Match to
Map 50

AVENUE

50

BROWNELL

AVENUE

ILION STREET

ONEIDA STREET

LAKE

BUTTONWOOD PARK

14

25A - 58.71R.

1105001

BUTTONWOOD PARK

FULLER

MEMORIAL

BUTTONWOOD PARK

BUTTONWOOD PARK

168

3A - 52.25R.

144906

PARKWAY

ROCKDALE

Buttonwood Park
NR District
New Bedford, MA
(Bristol County)
Aug 1965
Scale 1"=60'
City of New Bedford
Assessors Map #49
6 of 8

AUG-1965

49

43

Match to
Map 43

Match to
map #54

Match to
map 49

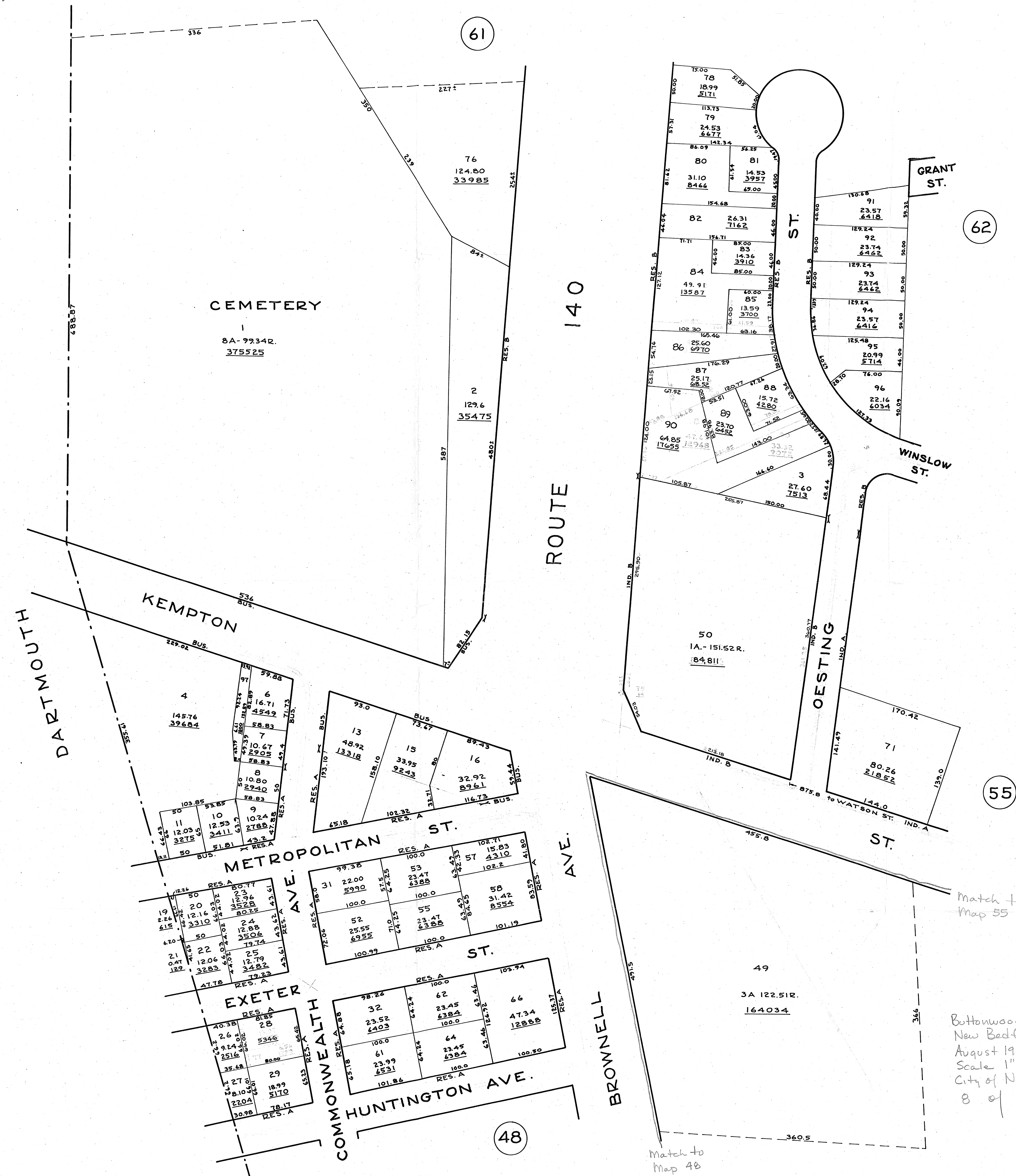
56

49

55

Buttonwood Park NR District
 New Bedford, MA (Bristol Co)
 January, 1927
 Scale 1" = 60'
 City of New Bedford
 Assessors Map #55
 7 of 8

JAN.-192



Bottomwood Park NR District
New Bedford, MA (Bristol Co.)
August 1981
Scale 1" = 60'
City of New Bedford Assessor's Map # 54
8 of 8

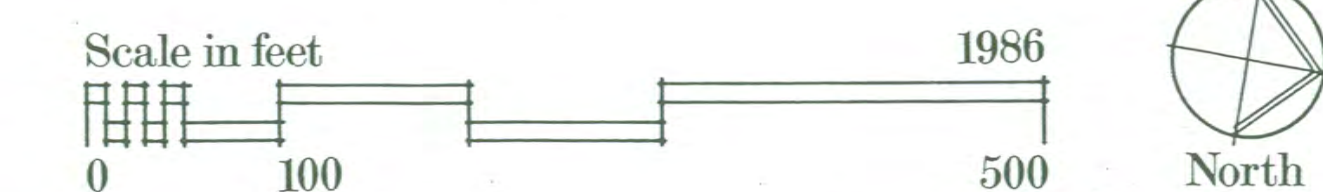


Existing Conditions Veteran's Memorial Park and Zoo at **BUTTONWOOD PARK**

New Bedford, Massachusetts
 Massachusetts Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program
 Department of Environmental Management, Contract No. 251-85

Walker-Kluesing Design Group
 Zooplan Associates, Inc.
 Geotechnical Engineers, Inc.
 William H. Rowe & Associates
 F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co.

Landscape Architecture
 Zoo Planning
 Hydrological Engineering
 Engineering & Architecture
 Arboriculture



Updated for National Register Nomination, 1999
 Circled numbers are keyed to National
 Register District Data Sheets

Red numbers are keyed to N&J photos.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 10, 2000

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Buttonwood Park Historic District, New Bedford (Bristol Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties included in this Certified Local Government community district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. We request **expedited** review of this nomination.

Please note that, as part of the nomination, a separate mailing tube is being sent which contains a set of eight assessor's maps for the District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Tony Souza, Chair, New Bedford Historical Commission
Shary Berg, Candace Jenkins Preservation Consultants
Hon. Fred Kalisz, Mayor, City of New Bedford
David Kennedy, Chair, New Bedford Planning Board
Jean Bennett, Helen Fine, Friends of Buttonwood Park



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

June 19, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Buttonwood Park Historic District, New Bedford, (Bristol County) MA – technical amendment

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please correct the following technical errors in the above-referenced National Register nomination:

1. On page 15 of section 7, page 10 of section 8, and the district datasheet, the historic name of the property at 789 Rockdale Avenue should be changed to the Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodland House (incorrectly listed as the Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodward House)
2. On page 10 of section 8, in the fourth paragraph, the second and final sentence of the narrative should be changed to read: "Percy worked for John Woodland & Son, a grocery store located at 478 Kempton Street."

The above referenced pages are enclosed with the errors highlighted. Correction pages are also enclosed.

The current owner of the property at 789 Rockdale Avenue has brought these errors to our attention and is requesting documentation that they have been corrected. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CC: Cathryn F. Bowers, P.O. Box 4091, New Bedford, MA 02741
Antone G. Souza, Chairperson, New Bedford Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 15

Two Story

The house at **350 Hawthorne Street** (ca. 1920; Colonial Revival; map #38-058) is the most imposing example of a two-story Colonial Revival style house in the district. It is distinguished by its large scale, well-conceived proportions and detail, quality materials, and a large lot at the southwest corner of Rockdale Avenue. This elegant house is built on a rectangular plan and rises 2 and 1/2 stories from a brick foundation to a slate gable roof with a narrow molded cornice and small end returns. Three gable-roof dormers with arched lights are evenly spaced across the front roof slope. One chimney rises along the left exterior end wall and another rises through the right rear roof slope. The exterior walls are sheathed with shiplap. Simply framed windows appear singly and in pairs and contain 8/1 sash. The symmetrical Hawthorne Street facade is centered on the main entrance which consists of a paneled wooden door surmounted by a segmental fanlight. It is fronted by an open porch whose curved roof is supported on slender, paired, Tuscan columns. The white with black shutters paint scheme is typical of the style.

The house is shown off to advantage on a comparatively large and visible corner lot that is maintained in turf with foundation plantings. A small one-bay garage with an unusual Palladian window in the gable stands to the right of the house.

The Isaac and Marie Dawson House at **666 Rockdale Avenue** (1925; map #44-528) is a less elaborate, but still fine, example of a two story Colonial Revival style house. Its broad, symmetrical facade is centered on an entrance headed by a broken, segmental pediment. Three-part windows with 6/1 and 4/1 sash frame the entrance. Second story windows are paired. With a 29' x 39' footprint, the house contained nine rooms plus a sunroom. It cost \$20,000. The house was designed by architect Leo LaBronde and constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company, both local New Bedford firms.

The Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodward House at **789 Rockdale Avenue** (1929; map #49-045) is an unusual two story Colonial Revival style house whose boxy proportions hark back to the mid-19th century. It is enclosed by a slate gable roof with cornice returns and a gabled dormer centered on the front slope. The foundation is brick. Exterior walls are covered with clapboard. Trim consists of wide corner pilasters for this date and an entablature. An exterior chimney rises along the north wall. The center entrance is fronted by a porch with paired Tuscan columns. The house was designed by architect E. G. Bullard and constructed by builder James Sykes, both of New Bedford.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Buttonwood Park National Register District
New Bedford (Bristol County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 10

Fisher and Evelyn Abramson House at 392 Hawthorne Street (1926; map #38-046)

This six room dwelling was one of several constructed by local builder J. O. Manny. Abramson was a lawyer with offices at 7 North Sixth Street, New Bedford.

James P. and Evelyn Cash House at 686 Rockdale Avenue (1922; map #44-312)

This bungalow was designed by architect Fa. A. Rousseau and built by local contractor, Carleton C. Paine. They are probably responsible for all three buildings. James Cash was a policeman and Evelyn was a telephone operator.

Isaac and Marie Dawson House at 666 Rockdale Avenue (1925; map #44-528)

This two-story Colonial Revival style house cost \$20,000. It was designed by architect Leo LaBronde and constructed by the J. W. Bishop Company, both local New Bedford firms. Issac Dawson was a the owner of the Dawson Brewery.

Percy A. and Ruth V. Woodward House at 789 Rockdale Avenue (1929; map #49-045)

This Colonial Revival style house was designed by architect E. G. Bullard and constructed by builder James Sykes, both of New Bedford. Percy worked for John Woodward & Son, a grocery store located at 368 Kempton Street.

796 Rockdale Avenue (1916; map #50-533)

This House was constructed by Edwin D. Lawton who does not appear to have lived there. Lawton also constructed **3 Lake Street**. He worked for a plumbing company known as the E. F. Penney & Company prior to founding the firm of Lawton & Delano.

Grace M. Coffin House at 752 Rockdale Avenue (1934; map #50-459, 460)

This house was constructed at a cost of \$11,000 by New Bedford builder, John F. Tinkham. Grace was the widow of James H. Coffin.

Architects and Builders

All of the architects and builders identified as working in the park and its surrounding neighborhood were local firms based in the New Bedford area. Most of the city's prominent turn-of-the-century architects designed at least one building within the district. They include Browne & Poole, Nat C. Smith, Samuel C. Hunt, Louis Destremps, William Tallman, and Egbert Bullard.

(continued)

Buttonwood Park Historic District
New Bedford, Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet June, 1999

22

MHC #	NR Photo #	Assessor/ NRMap#	Street Address	Historic Name	Date	Architectural Style	Status Type	C B
yes		050-003	788 Rockdale Avenue	House	1921	Other: Four Square	C/B	
yes		049-045	789 Rockdale Avenue	Percy A. Ruth B. Woodward Hse garage rusticated concrete block	1929	No Style (possible moved, altered 19th century house)	C/B C/B	
yes		050-477 050-537	790 Rockdale Avenue	House garage	ca. 1920s	Other: Four Square	C/B C/B	
yes		050-533	796 Rockdale Avenue	House	1916	Colonial Revival Dutch Colonial exceptional	C/B	
West Clinton Street								
		044-463 044-462	472 West Clinton Street (SE corner Rockdale)	House	ca. 1920s	Bungalow/Craftsman (stucco) exceptional	C/B	