

**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 Dwight-Derby House
 other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7 Frairy Street not for publication
 city or town Medfield vicinity
 state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02052

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Brona Simon DSHPO December 24, 2001
 Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

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] _____ 1-17-02
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



1465

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	building
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture/museum

Other/meeting space

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Other/First Period

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ stone _____

walls _____ wood shingle _____
 clapboard _____

roof _____ asphalt shingle _____

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Dwight-Derby House
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts
County and State

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

ca. 1651-1951 _____

Significant Dates

ca. 1669 _____

ca. 1740s _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

N/A _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc., Medfield, MA

Dwight-Derby House
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	309390 Easting	4672980 Northing	3. Zone	Easting	Northing
2. Zone	Easting	Northing	4. 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 Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 2001

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 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 Town of Medfield

street & number 459 Main Street telephone (508) 359-8505 (Selectmen's office)

city or town Medfield state Massachusetts zip code 02052

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. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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Continuation SheetDwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts

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7. Narrative Description

Located in Medfield's historic town center, the Dwight-Derby House, 7 Frairy Street (MHC #9, photo #1), occupies a prominent site overlooking Meetinghouse Pond (1724) and the First Parish Meetinghouse (NR 1974). The property encompasses approximately one-half acre in a residential area adjacent to the town's central business district. Relatively flat, the lot slopes slightly to the south, toward Frairy Street. Set back about forty feet from the street, the house extends northwesterly on the lot, with an attached breezeway at the northwest (left rear) corner connecting to a 19th-century barn near the back of the lot. The driveway on the property passes on the west side of the house. Landscaping includes mature deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, as well as a hedge of yews defining the street edge. Granite posts mark the east and west boundary lines of the lot.

The Dwight-Derby House is a wood-frame, 2½-story, side-gabled dwelling with a balanced, though not strictly symmetrical, Georgian-style exterior. The façade is five bays across with the principal entry situated immediately left of center and a large brick center chimney located at the roof ridge. The existing double-pile house, which includes a stairhall in front of the chimney and a two-story side-gabled lateral ell at the house's northeast (right rear) corner, is the product of several remodeling phases following initial construction on the site ca. 1651.

Note: The following description draws heavily from the *Historic Structures Report, Phase I for the Dwight-Derby House* (Major, Turkel, Sorli 1997) and findings from the 1998 and 1999 archaeological examinations of the property (Wheeler et al. 1998 and 1999). See bibliography for complete references. For ease of reference, surviving components of First Period framing are highlighted in the text below.

Circa 1651

Of the original, single-cell house, which was a 2½-story, side-gabled dwelling, only details of the framing survive. The house had a fieldstone foundation and an interior wall chimney, probably built of stone, in the eastern end. The house is believed to have been two bays across, with the entry located in the second bay directly in front of the chimney. The house built at that time would have included a single room on the first floor, a chamber on the second, and a garret above. A one-story, shed-roofed lean-to may have been built on the north side at the same time, or added soon after (*Historic Structures Report*, p.4).

Remnants of the first phase of construction survive today in the framing of the house. Specific features identified to date include the southeast corner post, which survives in the wall to the right of the present front door, sandwiched between corner posts from two later (ca. 1669 and ca. 1740s) periods of construction (see below). Visible in the present attic stairwell, to the rear of the chimney stack, is a roof tie-beam (photo #5), believed to be at the east end of the original house. This tie-beam has empty joist cogs let into its *west* side, sloped ends (approximately 45 degrees), and a peg hole above each end, which would have once secured rafter tenons, now removed. Resting above this tie-beam is the west wall plate for the adjacent (ca. 1669) room. The open joist cogs visible on the west side of the roof tie-beam have at least a four-foot gap in their spacing. According to the *Historic Structures Report*, this suggests it was a chimney bay tie-beam, since the gap in joist spacing corresponds with the chimney penetration through the attic floor (p. 4). The ca. 1651 tie-beam was supported by two-story flared posts: the original house's northeast corner post, which has been removed entirely, and the southeast corner post (see above), which has had most of its flare removed but retains a chamfered edge on its *northwest* corner. Above this originally flared southeast corner post, a fragment of the south wall plate extends

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**Dwight-Derby House
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beyond the east side of the post, and is half-lapped into the south side of a straight post that appears at the corner of the adjacent, and later (ca. 1669) room to the east. According to the *Historic Structures Report*, the wall plates of the ca. 1651 building overhung the end wall by at least eight inches, since the new, higher posts of the ca. 1669 addition to the east were mortised to accept them. The authors of the *Historic Structures Report* postulate that this was done to mechanically join the original house and addition (p. 4).

The original (ca. 1651) house was demolished ca. 1740s (see below), during a building campaign that produced the present Georgian-style façade (photo #1). Aside from the framing features described above, other components of the house's original frame are believed to have been reused in the framing of the ca. 1740s expansion. Reused pieces of framing exist in the attic story framing.

Circa 1669

The historic core of the present Dwight-Derby House, comprising the rooms at the present southeast corner (photo #2), was constructed as an addition to the east end of the original (now demolished) house. Built on a stone foundation, the 2½-story, lateral addition was originally one bay across and about one bay deep. Encompassing a parlor on the first floor (photo #6), a chamber on the second, and a garret above, the addition displays a number of features that distinguish it from earlier and later building campaigns. The southwest corner post of this addition survives in the wall to the right of the present front door, the third in a row of three corner posts from the ca. 1740s (see below), ca. 1651 (see above), and ca. 1669 building campaigns, respectively. The north tie-beam, the eastern end of which currently is exposed in the house's (later) northeast bedroom, overhangs the presumed end wall by 1½ inches, indicating a slightly projecting exterior gable over the southeast corner of the house. Empty rafter mortises visible on the upper side of both the east and west wall plates indicate that the original roof over this addition was a cross-gabled roof (*i.e.*, with roof ridge that ran perpendicular to the ridge of the original house), and not the side-gabled roof that exists currently. Both the parlor and chamber in the addition have floor levels that are lower than those of adjoining rooms. In the parlor, the floor level steps down over an exposed sill, which is present on all four sides of the room.

As viewed from the cellar, the first-floor joists beneath the parlor consist of large logs running east to west, hewn only on the top side where the floorboards are nailed. This is distinct from the remainder of the first floor framing, which consists of large hewn timbers. All joists in the ca. 1669 addition run over the chimney base to the west. The chimney base extends well into the east side of the cellar, which may indicate that at one time there was a much larger hearth in the southeast parlor above. The sub-flooring in this section is reused top-flooring, installed with the worn and painted side down.

Other features of the addition's joinery corroborate a First Period construction date, as described in the *Historic Structures Report* (with emphasis added).

The rafters, although missing, were secured to the plates at approximately 3-ft. on center by pinning to a double-angled joint along the outer edge of the plates. The attic floor joists (first floor joists not visible) have tusk-tenon joints into the summer tie-beam. Similarly, the summer tie-beam has a tusk-tenon joint into the east plate. The exposed summer beams in both stories are embellished with simple chamfers and chamfer stops. The eastern

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corner posts within the second story are uncased and chamfered. They are amply flared to support the undersides of the north and south end tie-beams in the typical first-period fashion. Less typical is that the top of the tie-beams are at the same elevation as the top of the east and west wall plates to which they join. The east wall plate is greater in depth than both the end tie-beams and the west wall plate (the latter three being about the same depth). Finally, the summer tie-beam is deeper than all of the above (p.2).

There is evidence of an early exterior door opening with an exterior chamfered frame near the center of the east elevation (where a window now exists). Peg evidence exists in the east wall plate for studs framing a multiple casement window unit on the second floor. There are headed and cased posts, girts, and sills in the parlor; the chimney girt and southwest corner post in the chamber are treated similarly. The chamfered summer beams in both rooms have lambs tongue stops, but apparently were never cased. Other girts in the chamber room are exposed, uncased, and appear undersized in comparison to other framing members.

Board and batten doors survive on the north wall of the parlor, leading to the keeping room and the northeast back room, respectively. The door to the (later) northeast back room is built of two molded sheathing boards, with an early Suffolk latch and strap hinges clenched through. This door, if turned upside down, exactly fits the door opening in the nearby pantry area below the house's back stairs, which may have been an earlier entrance to the cellar. Another 17th-century board and batten door, with feather-edged boards, finely molded battens, foliated H-hinges, and a later (19th-century) latch, survives in the west door of the chamber, leading to the stairhall. Most remaining interior woodwork in this section of the Dwight-Derby House, as well as wall finishes, windows, and the fireplaces, are consistent with the Georgian-style remodeling (see below) in the second quarter of the 18th century.

Available architectural studies do not explicitly date the keeping room (photo #10) on the north (rear) side of the house, nor have they determined how much of the existing keeping room dates to the late 17th century. A one-story lean-to addition apparently was built at the rear of the house in the second half of the 17th century, as early as the ca. 1651 house (*Historic Structures Report*, p.4), or as late as ca. 1696 (*Findings from the 1998 Site Examination*, Table 3). While the bake oven in the keeping room is conjectured to be of the First Period, the *Historic Structures Report* concluded that the chimney mass in the Dwight-Derby House is not First Period in its existing configuration. Further study of the keeping room could yield additional information about First Period building practices, particularly efforts to update and enlarge First Period houses.

The existing lean-to may date to the ca. 1740s building campaign (see below), perhaps replacing an earlier lean-to addition. Corner posts in the keeping room are cased and beaded, as is the ceiling girt to the east of the firebox. The girt to the west of the firebox is uncased with chamfered edges. These girts do not intersect with posts. Vertical boards cover the east, south, and west walls, and the doors are board and batten. With the exception of sash in the two windows on the north wall, all woodwork in the keeping room is unpainted. The original dimensions of the keeping room and the original layout of rooms in the house's rear pile have not been confirmed.

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Circa 1740s

Most of the construction that resulted in the present Georgian-style main block was undertaken during this building campaign. The original (ca. 1651) house was demolished, leaving only the 2½-story addition (ca. 1669) east of the chimney. This addition now constitutes the oldest core of the Dwight-Derby House. The house was enlarged from the ca. 1669 single-cell unit at the eastern end to the present 2½-story, five-bay, double-pile configuration (photo #1), with new rooms being constructed to the west and north. The roof of the enlarged house, a side-gable roof with returns, was built over the First Period unit, now occupying the southeast corner.

The brick chimney is believed to have been entirely rebuilt during this construction campaign. The large brick fireplace in the keeping room (photo #10), located on the north side of the first floor, has a wood lintel and a brick oven in the back of the firebox. While the fireplace was "restored" in the mid-20th century (see below), its size and configuration apparently were not altered. The chimney is laid up with clay and lime mortar. Fireplaces in each of the front rooms of the house (four total) date to this period, though their fireboxes were later rebuilt to smaller sizes of Rumford proportions with splayed sides and curved backs (photos #6, 8).

Exterior finishes largely date to this period. Siding on the main block consists of wood shingles on the south (façade), west, and north elevations (photos #1, 3-4), and clapboards on the east elevation (photo #2), which faces the approach from the town center. Wood trim includes simple beaded cornerboards and a plain cornice that was later modified to accommodate a wood gutter. The original, pedimented and pilastered, Georgian front door surround was removed in the 19th century (see below), at which time a new surround with sidelights was constructed and the door itself was replaced. On the window directly above the door, a notch in the sill indicates the presence of the former pedimented surround. The house's only remaining Georgian-style exterior entry occupies the first bay of the west elevation (photo #4). There, the four-panel door retains an early wood box lock and strap hinges. The door is topped with heavy molding, a hipped cap, and a five-light transom having one-inch muntins.

Window frames and sash are typical of the Georgian period. On the exterior, the first floor windows have heavy molding and hipped caps. Second floor window moldings are integrated with the cornice. Most of the wood sash are 9/6, and many retain their early one-inch muntins and glass. In the ca. 1669 historic core, front (south) windows in both the parlor and the chamber upstairs have headers that are cut into the girt. When the 17th-century multiple casement window units were replaced with single windows containing double-hung sash, creation of taller window openings in the southeast rooms achieved the symmetrical fenestration characteristic of a Georgian-style façade.

Much of the interior woodwork of the Dwight-Derby House dates to this building campaign, including some of the wood trim in the First Period core of rooms at the southeast corner. All woodwork is painted, except in the keeping room (see below). The front stairhall (photo #7) has raised panels under the closed stringer, a handrail with heavy molded exterior and flat interior, turned balusters, and square newel posts with later ball caps. Among the features seen in the front rooms of the first and second floors are molded chair rails, wainscoting, four-panel doors, and fireplace surrounds of heavy bolelection molding (photos # 6, 8). In the east parlor, notches cut into the chair rail and a shadow on the ceiling indicate the location of a corner cupboard at the southeast corner, which was removed at an unknown date. Fireplace walls in the parlors incorporate chimney cupboards with H- or HL-hinges (photos # 8-9). The treatment of the woodwork in the west

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parlor indicates that the space was the more formal of the two parlors upon completion of the house expansion. The fireplace wall is framed with fluted engaged pilasters and features a chimney cupboard in the center with butterfly shelves, in addition to the heavy bolelection molding and raised panels seen in the east parlor. Wainscoting in the west parlor is raised panels, compared to random-width vertical boards in the east parlor. Windows in the west parlor, west chamber, and northwest chamber have splayed jambs. Wood detailing in the southeast, southwest, and northwest chambers include board and batten doors (both reused 17th-century doors and later, 19th-century doors), four-panel 18th-century doors, and framing members that are cased and beaded. The firebox of the southwest chamber displays bolelection molding at the surround and raised panels above. (photo #8)

Circa 1800-1880

About the turn of the 19th century, a two-story, side-gabled, lateral ell was added to the northeast corner of the house (photo #2), thereby establishing the building footprint as it exists today. The rear wall of the ell continues the wall plane on the north elevation (photo #3). Built on a stone foundation, the ell is sheathed in clapboards on the south and east elevations and wood shingles on the north. Unlike the cellar in most of the earlier parts of the house, the cellar beneath the ell is not excavated. In the north wall, a brick interior-wall chimney is cut off at attic level. Projecting one bay across and one bay deep beyond the mass of the main block, the ell contains one room on the first floor and a bedroom above. Currently much of the woodwork in the first floor room is knotty pine paneling, installed over plaster. The chimney has a decorative cast iron stove pipe and a plastered finish. The bedroom has plaster walls and some beaded horizontal boards for wainscoting.

Recent archaeological investigations of the property indicate that some kind of attached outbuilding (demolished ca. 1820) stood at the southern end of the house's east elevation. The outbuilding was approximately eleven feet wide and eighteen feet long. A doorway on the east wall of the ca. 1669 parlor, later replaced with a window, provided access to the outbuilding. Artifacts found in the house's east yard suggest estimated dates of use for the outbuilding of ca. 1790s to 1820 [Wheeler, *Findings from 1999*, p. 20], after which point the outbuilding apparently was removed.

Additional changes to the house, which are believed to date to the second quarter of the 19th century, involved updates to the façade and some partitioning of the interior. Two gabled dormers were constructed on the facade. Cladding on the side walls of the dormers, like the cladding on most of the lateral ell (see above), is clapboard. The dormer windows, like the windows of the lateral ell, contain 6/6 sash. The house's main entry was remodeled, with the ca. 1740s pilaster and pediment surround being replaced with a Greek Revival-style doorway flanked by four-light sidelights. The six-panel wood door, which was in poor condition, was in turn replaced with a reproduction door during a recent renovation (see below). These improvements impart a Greek Revival-style flavor to the otherwise Georgian-style façade. Interior partitions were installed in the north half of the second story to accommodate occupation of the house by two related families. The finished attic bedroom also dates to this period. The western façade dormer helps light this room, which features a barrel ceiling, plaster walls, and closets beneath the eaves at both the front and back of the house.

Also constructed during this period were the barn at the rear of the property (photo #11), as well as the first shed connector between the northwest corner of the keeping room and the barn, later rebuilt as a breezeway. The *Historic Structures Report* notes the presence of many re-used timbers in the barn [p. 10], which is known to date to the 19th

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century. A barn is mentioned in an 1823 deed to the property, though it is not clear that the barn present in 1823 and the existing barn are the same building. Cartographic evidence suggests the house was connected to the barn by 1876, and the existing barn is believed to have been present at that time. The barn faces west and has an asphalt-shingle, gable roof oriented with the gable end to the street. There is a loft accessible by way of an interior stair at the northeast corner. Siding on the wood-frame barn consists of wood shingles nailed on top of vertical boards. One bay across on the gable end and two bays deep, the barn has a wide sliding door on the west elevation, constructed of vertical boards and retaining its iron sliding mechanism at the top.

Another entry to the barn is situated on the south elevation, leading to the breezeway (photos # 3-4), formerly a shed connector, between the rear of the house and the barn. Two bays wide and approximately five bays down the east and west elevations, the wood-frame breezeway has an asphalt shingle, gable roof with the ridge pole oriented north-south. The breezeway was rebuilt in the 1950s with a concrete floor. Vertical board siding encloses the narrow ends. Windows of various sizes contain fixed wood sash, and entries contain board and batten doors.

1950s-1963

For most of the period from the 1880s through the late 1940s, the Dwight-Derby House was rented out to tenants occupying two or three apartments. Maintenance and minor updating at that time included the installation of new bathroom fixtures in the 1920s. The most significant twentieth-century changes to the Dwight-Derby House occurred when the house was occupied by then-owner Edith Baker (Mrs. Theodore C. Baker) from the early 1950s to 1963. Family oral history and structural evidence indicates that Mrs. Baker implemented extensive repairs to the property, including a new roof, replacement of sills, rebuilding of the barn connector shed as a concrete-floored breezeway, and installation of extensive plantings and garden areas. Mrs. Baker also undertook renovation and selective restoration of the keeping room (photo #10), stripped Prussian Blue paint from the woodwork there, installed the present board and batten door to the adjacent breezeway, and installed the modern kitchen west of the keeping room. This kitchen area includes a modern double-hung window cut into the west elevation of the house. Restoration in the keeping room focused on the firebox, which retains the early bake oven at the rear, splayed sidewalls, and large hearthstones (of unknown origin) set in mortar. Restoration efforts do not appear to have altered the size or configuration of the firebox (*Historic Structures Report*, p. 5).

Recent Study and Rehabilitation Work

In 1996, the Town of Medfield voted to acquire the Dwight-Derby House to preserve the building and insure its place as a defining feature of the town common area. A Phase I-level *Historic Structures Report*, completed in August 1997, evaluated the building's historic fabric, assessed existing conditions, and made recommendations for protecting the building from further deterioration. The following year, the town entered into a preservation restriction agreement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), which added the Dwight-Derby House to the State Register of Historic Places.

The town received a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) matching grant from the MHC to address the most urgent structural stabilization and preservation needs of the building. The goal was to secure the house from further

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deterioration due to weather, rot, and insect damage, while retaining as much of the original fabric as possible. Archaeological site examinations were undertaken in 1998 and 1999 to examine ground areas that would be impacted by foundation repair and the regrading of the land immediately adjacent to the house. Preservation repairs included reconstruction of the chimney from the roofline and capping with bluestone; replacement of rotted roof boards and reshingling; repair or replacement of all damaged exterior wood elements, including wood gutters; replacement of almost all foundation sills and repair or replacement of posts and studs; repair of cellar window wells and repointing of the foundation stonework; and regrading of the land immediately adjacent to the house frame. Exterior painting was completed in 1999.

Also completed in 1999 was a cultural landscape study of the property, funded by a grant award to the town from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. The study characterized the Dwight-Derby landscape as consisting of turf, herbaceous plants, a variety of ornamental, volunteer, and foundation shrubs, and both volunteer and ornamental trees [Landscapes, p. 37]. See **Statement of Significance** for further information.

Archaeological Description

Ancient Native American resources have been documented on the Dwight-Derby House property, and 10 additional sites have been recorded in the general area. Recent archaeological investigations conducted by professional archaeologists on the Dwight-Derby House property (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999; Wheeler 2000) have located ancient Native American artifacts and a feature in intact stratigraphy north of the house. Artifacts included chipping debris and complete Merrimack (approximately 6,000B.P.) projectile point recovered 20cm from the feature. The pit-type feature contained a dark organic soil matrix and extended into the subsoil but lacked artifact associations within the feature. Known sites in this portion of the Charles River drainage, including its tributaries, indicate the potential for a wide range of site types, functions and periods ranging from larger multi-component habitation type sites to smaller, special purpose type sites and flake scatters spanning the Early Archaic through Woodland periods. Environmental characteristics of the property indicate the presence of locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient Native American sites. The Dwight-Derby House is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping terrace bordering Vine Brook, now dammed to form Meetinghouse Pond less than 100 feet away. The property lies within the Charles River drainage. Given the above information, the presence of ancient Native American resources is documented on the property and a high potential exists for the recovery of additional resources. In general, however, the size of the parcel (approximately one-half acre) and impacts related to historic landuse indicate the potential for recovering ancient Native American sites with National Register level significance is low. Intact Native American resources may be present but their integrity has probably been adversely affected by historic period construction, occupation and landscaping. Ancient Native American resources on the property may also represent the periphery of a larger site located on the neighboring property.

Historic archaeological resources have been documented on the property and a high potential exists for locating additional resources. Further historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help locate structural evidence of known and potential barns and outbuildings present on the property over three centuries of agricultural and domestic landuse. Recent archaeological investigations of the property (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999)

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located evidence of an outbuilding (demolished ca. 1820) at the southern end of the house's east elevation. Archaeological evidence from one or more barns dating to the first quarter of the 19th century or earlier may also exist. Construction features, including builder's trenches, related to different periods of rebuilding at the house should also be present. Recent archaeological investigations have documented the presence of later construction trenches impacting earlier builder's trenches in the vicinity of the original house. Archaeological survey and testing can also help locate occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) in areas around the house, barns and outbuildings. These resources may be located on the north side of the house, the back yard, and a traditional location for most of these resources. Concentrations of ceramics and bottle glass from excavation units in the north yard area were reported to indicate the location of a nearby kitchen midden (Wheeler 2000:30). Earlier excavations in the east yard recovered high quantities of redware reported to represent activities related to the processing and storage of foodstuffs. Redware milkpans, in particular, were reported to represent potential dairying activities. Given this information, the east yard locale was hypothesized as being an area where evidence of 18th and early 19th century household tasks might be collected (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999:74). During two phases of professionally conducted archaeological research at the Dwight-Derby House (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999; Wheeler 2000), over 12,000 mostly historic period artifacts were collected from excavation units located on the property. Archaeological evidence of at least one outbuilding, several construction trenches and two postholes were also collected. Some areas around the house were found to be disturbed, however, intact historic period deposits were also recovered. Given the above evidence, historic archaeological resources related to three centuries of landuse on the nominated property has been documented and a high potential exists for the recovery of additional National Register level significant historic resources.

8. Statement of Significance

The Dwight-Derby House and landscape comprise a highly significant, well preserved resource that chronicles three hundred years of history in the town of Medfield. Its association with a founder and prominent early citizen of Medfield, which was only the second town carved from the Dedham Grant (1636), makes the Dwight-Derby House and landscape of value, not only to Medfield but also to surrounding towns. In its present form, the Dwight-Derby House embodies distinctive characteristics of both First Period and Georgian-style architecture. The house retains evidence of remodeling by its owners and occupants during periodic building campaigns from ca. 1651 through the 1950s, including at least one major addition in the 17th century. As a group, additions and modifications to the Dwight-Derby House and landscape reflect the gradual evolution in Medfield's historic development, from a rural town at the western fringes of 17th-century settlement to a 20th-century suburb featuring historic country homes. Given the wealth of First Period elements already documented in the framing of the Dwight-Derby House, the building is expected to yield additional information about First Period construction techniques in Massachusetts. The house maintains its historic integrity to a remarkable degree, due in part to the efforts in the 1950s of owner Edith Baker, who repaired the house and rejuvenated the landscape in a historically sympathetic, Colonial Revival-style manner. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Dwight-Derby House and landscape meet Criteria A, and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local and state levels.

Established as a town during the Plantation period (1620-1675), also known as the First Period of English settlement in eastern Massachusetts, Medfield is one of fourteen towns carved, in whole or in part, from the territory known as the

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Dedham Grant (1636). In addition to Medfield, all or parts of the following communities were once in the Dedham Grant: the present Dedham, Westwood, Norwood, Needham, Wellesley, Natick, Dover, Walpole, Norfolk, Wrentham, Franklin, and Bellingham, as well as the Dorchester, West Roxbury, and Hyde Park neighborhoods of the city of Boston. In 1649, the inhabitants of Dedham petitioned the General Court for a grant of land west of the Charles River, or the area now known as Millis and Medway. Medfield was set off from Dedham in 1650, its territory then encompassing the present towns of Medfield, Millis, and Medway. In 1651, the General Court recognized Medfield as a town.

The first land grants in the Medfield area, once known by the native name Boggestow and later as Dedham Village, date to 1643, and constitute some of the earliest expansion of English settlement west of the settlement cluster at Dedham. Most of the first English settlers in Medfield were from Dedham, Braintree, and Weymouth. They were married sons from large families who sought opportunities to use their skills and so support their own families. Both the town center and the river meadow served as principal foci for First Period settlement in Medfield. Early settlement clusters, dating from the third quarter of the 17th century onward, included the Bridge Street Plain on Bridge Street, the South Plain area near the present Philip and Spring Streets, and the town center area near Vine Brook.

The original core of the Dwight-Derby House at the town center was built ca. 1651 for Timothy Dwight (ca. 1609-1675), one of the thirteen founders of the town of Medfield. Dwight and his brother, John Dwight, arrived in Boston from Dedham, England in 1635, and thereafter settled in the new town of Dedham. In 1638, Timothy Dwight married his first wife, Mary (d. 1668). His brother was one of three men from the original Dedham settlement who were chosen in 1650 to survey the boundaries of the land grant that would become the town of Medfield. By May 1650, Timothy Dwight also served on the committee to lay out Medfield's house lots and roads. The committee approved thirteen house lots, encompassing six-acre or twelve-acre parcels. Timothy Dwight's twelve acres fronted the highway (Main Street) on the north side of Vine Brook, bordered by the present North Street on the east and the land of John Frairy on the west. Dwight's house lot did not actually extend to Vine Brook; land along the brook was reserved for common use, specifically as a source of shade for the public [Wheeler and Marlatt, p.4].

Medfield's 1652 tax valuation ranked Timothy Dwight as third in wealth in the town. He was a founding member of the Puritan church whose first meetinghouse (1653-1656) was erected across Vine Brook, just southeast of his home. He was a member of the town's first board of selectmen, an office he held for eighteen years. In 1652, Dwight became Medfield's first representative to the General Court, and served as chief military officer of the town. He and his wife, Mary, were childless and both approaching the age of forty when they arrived in Medfield. Together they farmed the land until Mary Dwight's death in 1668 [Tritsch and Wile, no page]. Dwight resigned his post as Medfield's military leader the same year, due to diminished eyesight [Tilden, 373].

Timothy Dwight's house lot directly faced the area that would become the town's center of activity. With the laying out of Vine Brook (later Vine Lake) Cemetery (1651) and the construction of the first meetinghouse (1653-1656) and the first town pound (1654), Medfield's institutional core emerged on the present Main Street. The town initiated public education in 1655 with Ralph Wheelock, who attended Cambridge University, serving as schoolmaster. Medfield's location provided early settlers with extensive river meadows, which were well suited for grazing livestock. Hunting and fishing supplemented agriculture as the basis of the economy, and the town's upland streams provided power for gristmills and several sawmills. Available population records for Medfield show 261 inhabitants, with forty-nine voters, by 1663.

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The second phase of construction at the Dwight-Derby House, and the one that comprises much of the house's earliest core today, has been dated to ca. 1669. That year, Timothy Dwight married a second time, to Dorcas Watson (b. 1639), who was thirty years his junior. They had three children: Timothy (b. 1670), who died as a young child; John (b. 1672), who died in infancy; and another John (1675-1751), who later inherited his father's property.

The senior Timothy Dwight was severely wounded when Medfield was attacked during King Philip's War (1675-1676), and he died three weeks later from his injuries. All of the Bridge Street settlement, plus many outlying sections of Medfield, were burned, though most of the center village, including the Dwight house, survived. Dwight's will, dated March 3, 1675/6, passed half his estate to his eldest son, Timothy, including the house and a barn, with the remainder to be divided equally between his wife, Dorcas, and younger son, John. Both Dwight's will and his 1677 probate inventory suggest that the 2½-story addition (now the southeast rooms of the house) existed by that time. His will provided that if his son, Timothy, lived and grew up, that his wife, if she remained a widow, could choose which part of the house she would like to "dwell in" [quoted in Tritsch lecture, p. 4A]. The probate inventory refers to the presence of a "parler [*sic*] chamber," indicating the presence of at least one other chamber from which the parlor chamber is distinguished [Major & Turkel with Sorli, p. 5]. The value of Timothy Dwight's estate exceeded £500; this included an orchard, meadows, woodlands, farm animals, and equipment, in addition to the house, barn, and household items [Wheeler and Marlatt, p. 4].

In the months after her husband's death, Dorcas Dwight took her two young sons, as well as her bed and table linens (a valuable and portable part of a woman's wealth), and fled to the safety of her nephew's house in Dedham. One year later (1677) she married John Adams of Medfield. Adams had been burned out of his father's house on Bridge Street during the war [Tritsch lecture, p. 5]. John and Dorcas (Dwight) Adams apparently resided in the Dwight house on Frairy Street, burying young Timothy Dwight and raising John Dwight during their time there. It is not clear when they died, though John Adams is supposed to have moved to Ipswich sometime after 1707 [Tilden, p. 291].

During the Colonial period (1675-1775), Medfield began its gradual evolution from a frontier community to a moderately prosperous rural town. In 1702, Medfield had 123 land proprietors. In 1713, Medfield's territory west of the Charles River was set off as the town of Medway (and further divided, in 1885, to create the separate town of Millis). Early 18th-century improvements to the road network put Medfield at the crossroads of regional highways to Dedham (later State Route 109) and Taunton (later old State Route 27). Taverns opened in the town's principal transportation corridors. Other new interior roads provided access to meadows along the Charles River and mills throughout the town.

John Dwight (1675-1751), the only surviving child of Timothy Dwight, was associated with the house on Frairy Street for most of the Colonial period. In 1696, Dwight came of age and assumed his inheritance, which by then included the Dwight house and barn due to the death of his older brother. The same year, he married Elizabeth Harding (1678-1758) of Medfield. From 1698 to 1716, John and Elizabeth Dwight had eight children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Like his father, John Dwight was a prominent man in town affairs and Medfield's chief military officer. He served as treasurer, town clerk for six years, and selectman for ten years, and represented Medfield in the General Court in 1741 and 1743 [Tritsch and Wile, no page; Tilden, p. 373].

There is conjecture that a lean-to addition on the north side of the Dwight house was built in the late 17th century to accommodate the growing family of John and Elizabeth Dwight. During the first quarter of the 18th century, the setting

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of the house changed as well, as Vine Brook across Frairy Street was transformed into a mill pond. William Plimpton dammed the brook in 1724 to power his fulling mill, creating what later became known as Meetinghouse (or Baker's) Pond. This action initiated a long-term industrial use of the pond that continued into the late 19th century. Plimpton's fulling mill was one of several saw, grist, and fulling mills in Medfield that served local residents during the Colonial period, constituting the major industrial activity in the town at that time.

Between 1725 and 1733, John and Elizabeth Dwight saw their five adult daughters marry and leave the family homestead on Frairy Street. In November 1740, one month before the marriage of his youngest child and sole surviving son, Seth Dwight (1716-1776), John Dwight sold to Seth "½ my House, being the East end, and also the ½ My Barn and Barn yards and Gardens and also the ½ my Orchard." The transaction also included various parcels of land totaling twenty-three acres in Medfield, plus another forty-seven-acre tract in what is now the neighboring town of Dover, then still part of Dedham. Six months after his marriage to Hannah Fisher (1717-1792) of Dedham (Dover), Seth Dwight purchased from his mother one-half of her own inherited property, encompassing additional acreage in Medfield and Dedham (Dover) [Tritsch lecture, pp. 5-7; Tilden, p. 389]. The ca. 1740s transformation of the Dwight house, from its expanded First Period form (ca. 1651, with ca. 1669 addition) to the present Georgian-style dwelling, is attributed to a joint venture of John Dwight and his son, Seth Dwight.

Like his father before him, Seth Dwight was a farmer, a Medfield selectman, and town treasurer. He and his wife, Hannah, apparently occupied the Frairy Street house with his aging parents. In 1751, his father, John Dwight, died intestate. The estate inventory shows John Dwight owned a dwelling house, corn house, barn, and six acres of upland in Medfield (likely his remaining half of the Dwight house property). He also owned another 468 acres of land in Medfield, Medway (later Millis), and the central Massachusetts town of Sturbridge (previously known as New Medfield) [Tritsch lecture, p. 6; *Outline of House History and Title; Historical Data*]. Seven years later, Elizabeth (Harding) Dwight died, leaving her son, Seth, and his family as the sole occupants of the Dwight house. Three children were born to Seth and Hannah Dwight: Patty (b. 1747), Timothy (1750-ca. 1800), and Hannah (1753-1761). Seth Dwight, who assumed title to the entire house after the deaths of his parents in the 1750s, contracted smallpox in 1776, dying of the disease at the age of fifty.

Early in the Federal period (1775-1830), the population of Medfield had grown to 775. Agriculture and animal husbandry remained the mainstay of the town's economy. The establishment, by the turn of the 19th century, of cottage industries in strawbraid, bonnet manufacture, and brush-making brought greater diversification to the economy and made use of the rye growing in the Charles River meadows. A few farms included orchards, like the Dwight family's property on Frairy Street, and dairy operations. There was small-scale granite quarrying in Rocky Woods at the boundary with Dedham (Dover), and seasonal grazing of sheep and cattle in the northeastern corner of town. Main Street, located south of the Dwight house beyond Meetinghouse Pond, was improved as part of the Boston and Hartford Turnpike, and a causeway was built over the Charles River to Medway (now Millis).

Though Medfield's town center remained a small cluster village during the Federal period, there were new residences constructed, commercial activities expanded, and institutional buildings replaced or remodeled. Diagonally across Meetinghouse Pond from the Dwight house, a new Congregational meetinghouse, now the First Parish Church [NR 1974], was constructed in 1789, replacing a 1706 building. Further east at the town center, the 1772 Baptist

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meetinghouse was enlarged in 1822. The 1793 incorporation of Norfolk County, of which Medfield is a part, led to consideration of establishing Medfield as the shire town. This was opposed by some of the town's "prudent citizens" on the grounds that its young men "would fall into habits of idleness, and spend too much time in gratifying curiosity by attending trials in court" [Tilden, p. 191]. By the end of the Federal period (1830), Medfield's population numbered 817, down from a peak of 892 in 1820.

The Federal period was one of transition for the Dwight-Derby House. After one hundred forty years and four generations of ownership under the Dwight family, the property on Frairy Street would pass out of the family in the 1790s. Hannah Fisher Dwight, widow of Seth Dwight, retained a life tenancy in the house, which was inherited in 1776 by her two adult children, Patty and Timothy. In 1777, Patty Dwight married Jonathan Metcalf of Medfield, who had been appointed administrator of her father's estate. Jonathan and Patty Metcalf moved into the Frairy Street house, which they occupied with Patty's widowed mother, and their four children, Dwight (1778-1857), Patty (b. 1779), Jonathan (b. 1782), and Charles (1783-1819). The senior Jonathan Metcalf (1744-1821) served four years as a Medfield selectman, and was town clerk and treasurer for four years. He was variously described as a merchant or trader by occupation. Metcalf is known to have operated a store at the town center in 1784, and has been described as one of the first storekeepers in Medfield [Tilden, p. 438; Tritsch and Wile, no page].

Jonathan Metcalf's business ventures, and the apparent deterioration of his financial condition, led to the sale of the Dwight Derby House in the 1790s. Timothy Dwight had sold his interest in the Frairy Street property to Metcalf, his brother-in-law, in 1786, and about the same time, he and Metcalf divested themselves of most the Dwight family farmland in and around Medfield. Timothy Dwight was a Harvard University-educated physician and Revolutionary War veteran whose errant behavior and illegitimate children contributed to his characterization as a "dissipated man" in a 19th-century history of Medfield [Tilden, p. 374]. His widowed mother, Hannah Fisher Dwight, also transferred her interest in the property to her son-in-law and daughter. The Metcalfs in turn used the property on Frairy Street as collateral for a loan from Marshall Spring, a physician in Watertown, Massachusetts. After the death of Hannah Dwight in 1792, the Metcalfs moved permanently to Boston, where Jonathan Metcalf was a merchant and Patty Dwight Metcalf worked as a milliner. The Metcalfs apparently had some financial difficulties before leaving Medfield. In 1788, the Frairy Street property was attached for a period of fifteen years, during which time the "rents" from the property were to be paid to Ephraim Wilson, a Dedham (Dover) miller, as damages from a lawsuit [*Outline of House History and Title*; Tritsch lecture].

Marshall Spring subsequently sold the Dwight property in 1796 to Deacon Moses Hill of Medfield, who died the following year. Hill's estate auctioned the property, which then occupied a sixteen-acre house lot. The purchaser was Horatio Townsend (1763-1826) of Medfield, an attorney. Townsend was a son of the Rev. Jonathan Townsend, who was ordained as an associate pastor of the Medfield church in 1745. The Townsend family homestead was located on the east side of North Street, across from the meetinghouse and down the road from the Dwight property. At the time he purchased the Dwight house on Frairy Street, Horatio Townsend served as Clerk of Courts for the newly established Norfolk County and resided in Dedham, the shire town, when court was in session. Townsend rented his living quarters in Dedham and did not purchase a home there. He married Anstis Green (d. 1850) of Boston, and they resided in the Frairy Street house with their children: Mary (1797-1880), Lucretia (1798-1880), Horatio Jr. (b. 1799), Sarah (1801-1869), and another son [*Outline of House History and Title*; Tritsch lecture].

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Construction of the 2½-story lateral ell at the northeast corner of the Dwight house is associated with the occupancy of the Townsend family. Archaeological evidence also suggests that an attached outbuilding was present on the east wall of the Georgian-style house during the same period (1790s-ca. 1820). The function of the outbuilding has not yet been determined; apparently it was removed from the house by about 1820. The only clapboard-clad exterior walls on the house are those viewed from the east – the first elevation seen on the approach from the town center – rather than the façade (south elevation). In this case, the façade has wood shingle cladding, as do the remaining elevations of the house. Further research is needed to determine when the clapboards were installed, and whether there is any connection between the clapboard wall treatment and other remodeling activity on the house's eastern elevation that is associated with the Townsend family.

In 1820, Mary Townsend, the oldest daughter of Horatio and Anstis Townsend, married John B. Derby. Derby, from a prominent Salem family, was educated at Harvard University and practiced law in Dedham at the time of the marriage. The young Derbys resided in the east half of the house on Frairy Street, while Mary's parents and siblings occupied the west half [Tritsch and Wile, no page]. John and Mary Derby had two children, Sarah (1821-1837), and George H. (1823-1861). Shortly after the birth of their second child, John and Mary Derby were divorced, and Derby left Medfield. Period accounts of John Derby chronicle his deterioration and descent into madness [Tritsch lecture, p. 11] up to his death in 1867. In 1823, Horatio Townsend deeded a portion of the house lot, the house, and a barn on Frairy Street to his daughter alone and her heirs. This action ensured that Mary Derby would have both a secure place to live and capital that could not be touched by her husband [Tritsch lecture, p. 11]. Townsend died three years later, in 1826.

During the Early Industrial period (1830-1870), several women and children in the Townsend-Derby connection occupied the Dwight-Derby House, but its principal association was with the owner, Mary Townsend Derby. Initially, Mary Derby and her two young children occupied the house with her mother, Anstis Green Townsend, and one or possibly two of Mary's sisters. Minor remodeling of the house was undertaken at this time, including the installation of gabled dormers, the changes to the ornament of the main entry, construction of interior partitions in the north half of the second floor, and creation of an attic bedroom at the west end of the house.

The years between 1837 and 1854 brought the deaths of Mary Derby's daughter and mother, the marriage of Mary's sister Sarah, and the graduation of Mary's son, George Derby, from West Point. This left two single women, Mary and her younger sister, Lucretia Townsend, living alone at the Dwight-Derby House [Tritsch lecture, p. 14]. After graduating from West Point in 1846, George Derby continued his military service in the Mexican War. By the 1850s, he had become a captain in the U. S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, serving at various western outposts while at the same time launching a successful literary career. Derby gained national literary fame under the pen names John Phoenix and Squibob. He married Mary Ann Coons of St. Louis and had three children. George Derby died of a brain disease in 1861, predeceasing his mother [Tritsch and Wile, no page].

Following the deaths of Mary Townsend Derby and her sister, Lucretia Townsend, in 1880, the Dwight-Derby House passed to Mary Derby's three grandchildren: Daisy Derby Black, Mary Derby, and George B. Derby. From 1880 to about 1940, the Derby heirs rented the house out, with tenants occupying two or three apartments. Margaret Eveleth Black took title to the property in 1936, upon the death of her husband, Roger Derby Black, a great-grandson of Mary Townsend Derby. Margaret Black moved into the Frairy Street house in 1942 and subdivided the property. She sold the

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northern end of the house lot to an abutter in 1943, and in 1945 sold the remaining half-acre, including the house, breezeway, and attached barn, to Louisa H. Hackett, wife of William H. Y. Hackett of Dedham. This sale ended the Townsend-Derby family connection with the property, one that spanned five generations and one hundred forty-eight years.

The Baker family of Belmont, Massachusetts acquired the Dwight-Derby property in 1948. Like the Hacketts, the Bakers purchased the Dwight-Derby House for use as a vacation property [Landscapes, p. 14]. Thomas Baker owned an automobile dealership in Brookline, Massachusetts, just outside Boston. His wife, Edith Baker, who took title to the property upon the death of her husband, moved into the house about 1950, and launched renovation and restoration work on the house and grounds. Under Mrs. Baker's direction, a new roof and sills were installed, the breezeway was rebuilt, the historic kitchen was restored, and a modern kitchen was installed in a small adjacent room. She also hired landscape architect Harriet (Hallie) Long to design and implement new gardens on the property that complemented the house's Colonial character (see also **Evolution of the Landscape** below). In 1963, Mrs. Baker sold the property to Chester and Jane Harris of Topsfield, Massachusetts. Members of the Harris family resided there for thirty-three years.

The Town of Medfield purchased the Dwight-Derby property from Jane Harris in 1996. The Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, leases the property from the town for \$1 per year. The Friends group assumes the expenses of preserving and administering the house, and raised much of the funds for the exterior painting work. Long-range planning for the property calls for its use as a learning site, a meeting site, a museum site, and a special events site by the time Medfield celebrates its 350th anniversary in 2001.

First Period Architecture

As one of Medfield's most intact examples of First Period construction, the Dwight-Derby House is highly significant to the town's architectural and historical development. Architectural historian Abbott Lowell Cummings, in his study of the framed houses of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, noted that the northern sector of the East Anglia region of England sent the largest number of settlers to New England. In the 1630s, two or three builders in Dedham are known to have been from northernmost part of East Anglia, where conservative building traditions lingered [Cummings, pp. 95-117]. Given Medfield's close ties with Dedham in the second quarter of the 17th century, it seems likely that early builders in Medfield employed the same traditional house-framing techniques found in Dedham.

The Dwight-Derby House demonstrates how an original hall house or half-house (*i.e.*, one with a single-room footprint or "single-cell" plan) evolved, by means of a lateral addition ca. 1669, into a hall-parlor house or full house (*i.e.*, one with a two-room footprint). Not all hall-parlor houses of the First Period were expanded hall houses. The Fairbanks House (ca. 1637) in Dedham, described as the earliest surviving frame dwelling in New England [Cummings, p. 24], has at its core a two-room, central chimney plan. It appears likely, however, that the presence of this house form in the Medfield vicinity, and possibly elsewhere in Medfield, would have guided the Dwights in the placement and construction of their ca. 1669 addition.

The Dwight-Derby House contributes to an understanding of First Period architecture by virtue of its surviving 17th-

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century components, most of which are located in the southeast corner rooms of the house and date to ca. 1669 (see **Narrative Description** for details). It has been surmised that when the southeast rooms were added to the east end of the ca. 1651 house, the first floor room in the new addition functioned as the parlor, which at that time typically also served as the master bedroom. The location of the “best” parlor subsequently shifted to the new room constructed west of the stair hall during the remodeling of the house in the ca. 1740s. The placement of the main stairs opposite the front entrance is “absolutely traditional” in First Period houses of the region and “clearly derived from English practice” [Cummings, p. 26]. Exposed sills in the first floor southeast room of the Dwight-Derby House reflect a framing technique in which the ground sill rests directly upon sleepers of the first story floor, without jointing [Cummings, p. 52]. The exposed and decorated frame on the interior of First Period houses includes chamfered beams with stops, described by Cummings as a hallmark of 17th-century work [p. 159]. The Dwight-Derby House displays beams with plain chamfers and lamb’s tongue stops (considered more elaborate than taper stops), both of which also are seen at the Fairbanks house in Dedham [Cummings, p. 158]. In the keeping room or kitchen, the presence of the bake oven within the cooking fireplace, as opposed to being adjacent to the fireplace, suggests First Period construction [see Cummings, p. 121]. The rebuilding of the chimney at the Dwight-Derby House in the 18th century and the “restoration” of the kitchen in the 1950s, however, makes the present location of the bake oven a subject for further study.

One Medfield house that is more widely known than the Dwight-Derby House for its First Period construction is the Peak House, 347 Main Street (MHC #66, NRIND 1975). Originally built ca. 1668, the house was burned during King Philip’s War (1675-1676) and rebuilt in 1680. The Peak house is one of no more than six or seven extant examples in the Massachusetts Bay region of the early 1½-story house form [Cummings, p. 86]. By contrast, the architectural value of the Dwight-Derby House to Medfield, as well as to the wider regions once known as the Dedham Grant (1636) and the Massachusetts Bay Colony, lies in its 2½-story form and its survival as an example of house reconstruction during the First Period. Other houses in Medfield that are presumed to retain components of First Period construction include the ell of the Francis Hamant house, 7 Philip Street (ca. 1652, ca. 1810, MHC #85) and Castle Hill Farm, 260 North Street (1673, second half 18th century, MHC #74). Further investigation of these houses is needed.

Evolution of the Landscape

Gradual changes in the setting of the Dwight-Derby House, both within the boundaries of the house lot as well as in the larger neighborhood, reflect the growth of Medfield’s center from a mid-17th century agricultural settlement to a 20th-century suburb. Each of these changes is evident, to varying degrees, in the property’s landscape today.

The existing property constitutes the core of the twelve-acre house lot selected by Timothy Dwight in 1650. Encompassing approximately one-half acre since 1943, this core occupies the southwest corner of the original house lot, which extended as far east as North Street and as far north as Dale Street. Initially, the southern edge of Dwight’s rectangular lot bordered common, or public, land along Vine Brook [Wheeler and Marlatt, p. 5]. In 1724, William Plimpton dammed Vine Brook to power his fulling mill, which operated south of the Dwight-Derby House. The resulting millpond, known today as Meetinghouse (or Baker’s) Pond, hosted industrial uses until the late 19th century.

Frairy Street as it passes in front of the Dwight-Derby House was not laid out until 1769 [Tilden, p. 156], extending from North Street, one block east of the house, to Dale Street, roughly three blocks northwest of the house. Frairy Street is a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Dwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 9

curving roadway named for John Frairy, whose house lot was immediately west of Dwight's. The western edge of the present Dwight-Derby property preserves a segment of the original 1650 lot line between Dwight's property and Frairy's.

The eastern lot line of the Dwight-Derby property apparently was established in 1823, when Horatio Townsend conveyed title to the house, including a portion of what by that time had grown to a sixteen-acre house lot, to his daughter, Mary Townsend Derby. At this point, the house lot apparently was reduced to one acre. This reduction in the size of the house lot marked the property's permanent transformation from an agricultural tract to a village house lot at the town center [Landscapes, p. 8]. About eighteen granite bollards, possibly 19th-century in origin, mark both the eastern (1823) and western (1650) boundaries of the property today.

At its northern edge, the existing Dwight-Derby House lot line was established in the early 1940s, under the ownership of Margaret Black, the widow of Roger Derby Black. Mrs. Black subdivided the remaining one-acre property, mortgaged the northern portion (Lot A), and retained the house lot (Lot B). She subsequently sold Lot A to an abutter in 1943 and Lot B (the house lot) to Lousia Hackett in 1945. Historically, the northern portion of the lot supported a small orchard. This portion is now partially occupied by a post office, constructed in 1997.

Modification of the Dwight-Derby landscape occurred under the ownership of Edith Baker in the 1950s. Mrs. Baker hired landscape architect Harriet (Hallie) Long to design and implement a planting scheme that created an appropriate setting for a Colonial house by specifically using "old-fashioned" plants [Landscapes, p. 43]. Hallie Long received her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan. Active in her profession from the 1940s through the 1980s, she was self-employed and mostly engaged in residential landscape design. Mrs. Long's commissions reportedly included many other residential properties in Medfield and the surrounding area, among them the Standley residence on Elm Street in Medfield and the Dudley Willis residence in Sherborn. She also designed the public library grounds in Sherborn [Landscapes, p. 19].

Mrs. Long's drawings for the Dwight-Derby landscape have been discarded; information on the property's appearance in the 1950s is gleaned from period photographs [see Landscapes report for more information]. Mrs. Baker was known to have appreciated the Colonial origins, architecture, and interiors of the house, and in the landscape she sought to create an appropriate setting for the house [Landscapes, p. 43]. The landscape plan retained elements of the landscape fabric from earlier eras, such as remnants of stone walls, lilacs, stone steps, and the stone bollards at the eastern and western property lines. A prominent feature of the Dwight-Derby House plan was the privacy hedge of Japanese yews that marks the southern edge of the property and frames the entrance to the front door. Also present on the property by the 1950s was a hawthorn to the right of the front door, and white picket fences extending from the house and barn, respectively, to the western property line. The fences were removed by the late 1970s [Landscapes, p. 24].

The evolution of the historic landscape at the Dwight Derby House essentially ended with Edith Baker's residence there in the 1950s. A circa date of 1950, therefore, marks the end of significant changes to the landscape of the Dwight-Derby House, and the culmination of change to the property as a historic site [Landscapes, p. 43]. Changes to the Dwight-Derby landscape since the 1950s have been caused by volunteer vegetation growth and the decline and loss of landscape features such as fences and foundation plantings [Landscapes, p. 26].

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Dwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 10

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Medfield remain poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. Only twenty Native sites have been recorded in the town and few sites have been systematically studied. Known sites in Medfield continue to be biased towards the riverine zone and information about Native subsistence and settlement patterns remains the product of analogies between areas of the middle and upper Charles River drainage and other adjacent drainages. Ancient Native American sites on the Dwight-Derby House property may contribute important information relating to site variability and function within the riverine zone of the town. This information may document the importance and relationship between sites along the main Charles River drainage and tributary streams including Vine Brook. Surviving native sites in the riverine zone can also be important by documenting the survival of sites in the area that was also the focus of historic period settlement. Systematically collected information from sites in this area can also be important by documenting typological and functional associations in Medfield previously assumed on the basis of analogy with other sites and areas in the region.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document many of the social, cultural and economic characteristics of Medfield's gradual evolution from a 17th century frontier community to a 20th century suburb of historic country homes. Information from construction features, occupational-related features and artifact distributions can help document the architectural history of the Dwight-Derby house through time. Archaeological information may survive that documents architectural details of the original core of the existing house build by Timothy Dwight in ca. 1651. Only the framing survives from the initial period of construction. Archaeological research can help document construction dates and revisions for parts of the house now in question including the keeping room located on the north (rear) side of the house. Archaeological research together with architectural studies can help document First Period building practices and patterns used to update First Period houses. Historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing around existing buildings may locate evidence of barns and outbuildings that help document the spatial and functional organization of the farm through three centuries of occupation. Archaeological research conducted on the property to date (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999; Wheeler 2000) has confirmed the presence of a previously unknown outbuilding in the east yard area. This find demonstrates the ability of archaeological data recovered on the property to contribute important information on the architectural history and landuse of the property. Similar research may also locate evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) and artifact distributions that help document domestic, agricultural and manufacturing or cottage industries that may have occurred on the property. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational related features may also contribute important information relating to the economic, social and architectural history of the property. Information from occupational related features may help document the relationship of agriculture, husbandry and the technologies in use for each industry. The contents from occupational related features may also document potential cottage industries that may have existed at different points in time. Much of the above information may be useful to determine the extent that frontier settlements were self-sufficient and how this concept changed through time as the community became more prosperous. Occupational related features can also contribute valuable information relating to the social history of the property and changes that occurred within and between different families and periods of ownership. Recent archaeological research in the east yard locale located evidence of what may have been an urban dooryard (Wheeler and Marlatt 1999:74). Archaeological research recovered artifacts that documented food processing activities in the east dooryard area suggesting the idea that the east parlor was used as a second kitchen at the house. This information was further suggested to indicate that Hanna Dwight, who was

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Dwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts**

Section number 8/9 **Page** 11/1

living in the house with her adult daughter, Patty, who married and raised a family in the house, were maintaining their role as female heads of their respective households by maintaining separate kitchens. Recent archaeological research conducted at the Dwight-Derby House has demonstrated the existence and integrity of archaeological data on the property to contribute important information relating to the architectural and socioeconomic significance of the property. Potential also exists for several additional research topics to further add to the property's significance. Information recovered through archaeological research supports the significance of the Dwight-Derby House under Criterion A, and C on the National Register of Historic Places.

(end)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Cummings, Abbott Lowell. *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725*. Cambridge, Mass. and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1979.

LANDSCAPES (Landscape Architecture, Planning, Historic Preservation). *Dwight-Derby Cultural Landscape Report, Final Report*. Prepared for the Friends of the Dwight-Derby House and the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts. Charlotte, Vermont and Westport, Connecticut. June 28, 1999.

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Tilden, William S. *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts 1650-1886*. Boston: George H. Ellis, 1887.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Dwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts**

Section number 9/10 **Page** 2/1

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-----, "The House on Frairy Street. Lecture given at a meeting of the Medfield Historical Society. October 1997.

----- and Jaqueline Wile. *Project Planning Reference Book* [Supplement: Human Profiles, Preserving and Using Historic Houses]. Prepared for the Dwight-Derby Research and Planning Task Force. April 1997.

Wheeler, Kathleen (Independent Archaeological Consulting). *Findings from the 1999 Site Examination and Data Recovery, Dwight-Derby House, Medfield. MHC #MPPF.484.RC.21028*. Submitted to the Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc. and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. May 24, 1999.

----- and Ellen Marlatt (Independent Archaeological Consulting). *Findings from the 1998 Site Examination at the Dwight-Derby House, Medfield, Massachusetts. Final Report*. Submitted to the Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. February 8, 1999.

(end)

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying detail of the Town of Medfield assessors' map. The lot encompasses 21,790 square feet and has approximately 169 feet of frontage on Frairy Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that retains its historical associations with the Dwight-Derby House.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Dwight-Derby House
Medfield (Norfolk Co.),
Massachusetts**

Section number

Page

Photographs

Historic Name: Dwight-Derby House
Location: 7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.
Photographer: K. K. Broome
Date: October 1999
Location of Negatives: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P. O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

Photograph #

View

- 1 South elevation facing Frairy Street and Meetinghouse (Baker's) Pond
- 2 East elevation
- 3 North elevation, with breezeway connector to barn
- 4 West elevation, including connecting breezeway (left) and barn beyond
- 5 Detail of framing in attic stairwell, behind chimney stack, looking southwest. Ca. 1651 roof tie-beam (east end of original house) with sloped end, and west wall plate of adjacent (ca. 1669) room resting above
- 6 Southeast parlor (ca. 1669), view NW
- 7 Stairhall, first floor, view NW
- 8 Southwest parlor (ca. 1740s), view NE
- 9 Southwest parlor (ca. 1740s), view NW
- 10 Keeping room/kitchen, view SW
- 11 Barn, view to NE

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dwight--Derby House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 12/03/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/27/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/12/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/18/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001465

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.17.02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Dwight - Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

South elevation facing Frairy Street and
Meetinghouse (Baker's) Pond

Photo: K.K. Broomer
~~Nov~~^{Oct} 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight - Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

① of 10



Preservation Works!
THE DWIGHT-DERBY HOUSE
1651

This property, which is listed on the State Register of Historic Places, has received a matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman.

Grant Recipient: The Town of Medfield & The Friends of The Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
Preservation Consultant: Lawrence A. Sorli, Architect
Contractor: Governor St. Restoration Contractors

Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

East elevation

Photo: K. K. Broome
~~Nov~~^{Oct}, 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

② of 10



Dwight-Derby House
7 Frainy Street, Medfield, Mass.

North elevation, with breezeway connector to barn

Photo: K.K. Broome
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

3 of 10



Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

West elevation, including connecting
breezeway (left) and barn beyond

Photo: K.K. Broome
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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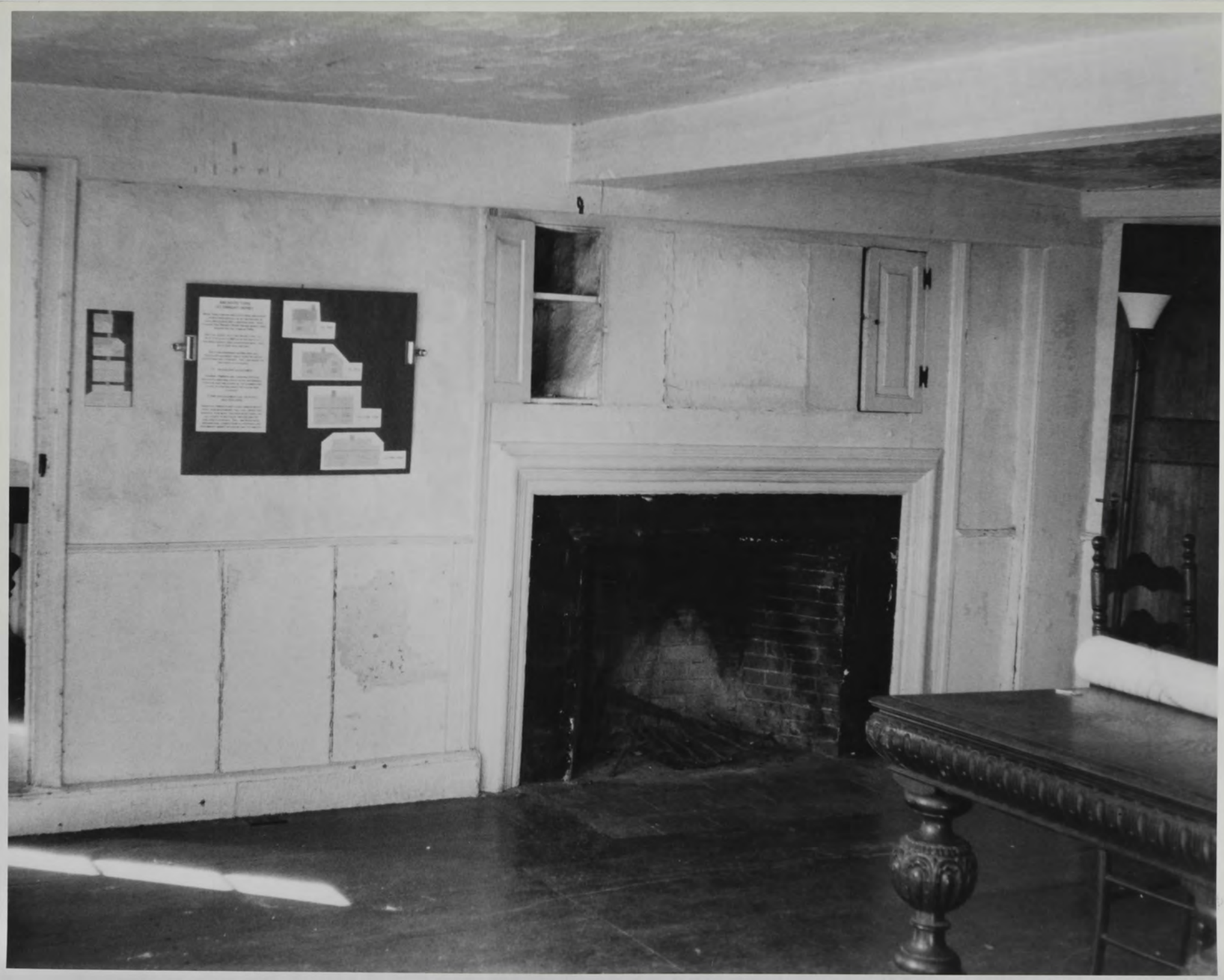
Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Detail of framing in attic stairwell, behind chimney stack,
looking southwest, with ca. 1651 roof tie-beam (east end
of original house) with sloped end, and west wall plate
of adjacent (ca. 1669) room resting above

Photo: K. K. Broomer
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

South^{east}~~west~~ parlor (ca. 1669), view NW

Photo: K.K. Broomer
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Stairhall, first floor, view NW

Photo: K.K. Broome
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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Dwight-Derby House

7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Southwest parlor (ca. 1740s), view ~~N~~E

Photo: K.K. Broomer
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of The Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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Dwight-Derby House

7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Southwest parlor (ca. 1740s), view NW

Photo: K. K. Broomer
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

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Dwight - Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Keeping room/kitchen, view SW

Photo: K.K. Broome
Oct. 1999

Neg: Friends of the Dwight - Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

10 of 10

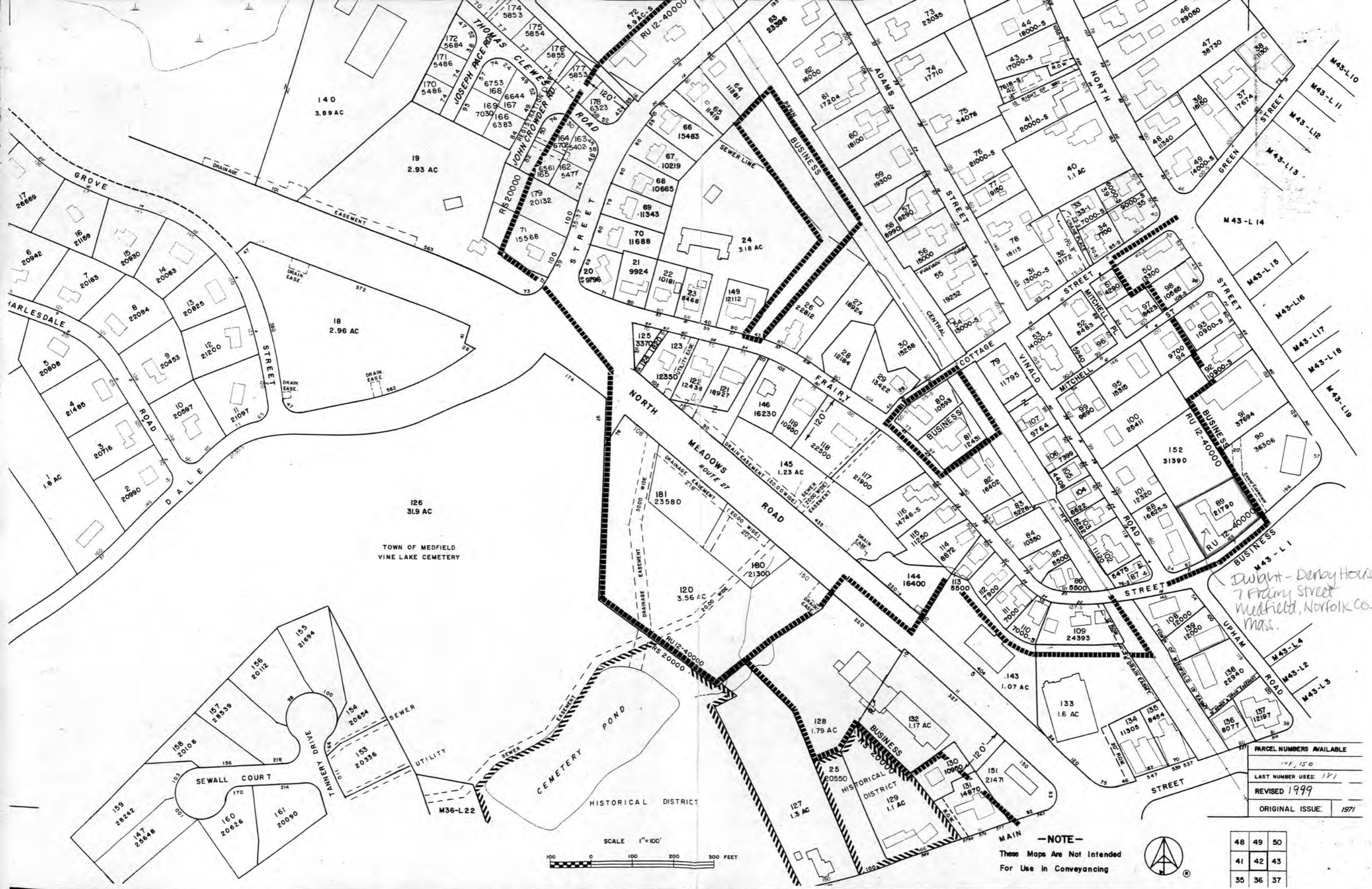


Dwight-Derby House
7 Frairy Street, Medfield, Mass.

Photo: KK Broome
Oct 1999

Negative: Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.
P.O. Box 527
Medfield, MA 02052

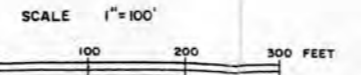
Photo # 11 Barn, view NE



TOWN OF MEDFIELD
VINE LAKE CEMETERY

Dwight - Derby House
7 Frairy Street
Medfield, Norfolk Co.,
Mass.

PARCEL NUMBERS AVAILABLE	
148, 150	
LAST NUMBER USED: 141	
REVISED 1999	
ORIGINAL ISSUE:	1971



NOTE:
These Maps Are Not Intended
For Use in Conveyancing



48	49	50
41	42	43
35	36	37



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

November 8, 2001

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:

Dwight-Derby House, 7 Frairy Street, Medfield (Norfolk), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Medfield were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Burgess Standley, Medfield Historical Commission
Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant
Ann B. Thompson, Chair, Medfield Board of Selectmen
The Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.



TOWN OF MEDFIELD

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02052

June 6, 2000

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Secretary Galvin,

This letter conveys the Medfield Historical Commission's unanimous vote at its meeting on May 23, 2000, in favor of listing the Dwight-Derby House in the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

Burgess Preston Standley

Burgess Preston Standley
Secretary pro tempore

cc: Medfield Board of Selectmen
The Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.



MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
Town Administrator

TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HOUSE, 459 MAIN STREET
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02052-2009

(508) 359-8505

June 8, 2000

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Secretary Galvin,

At a duly called and posted meeting, held on Tuesday, June 6, 2000, the Medfield Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in favor of listing the Dwight-Derby House in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann B. Thompson".

Ann B. Thompson
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

cc: Medfield Historical Commission
The Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc.



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

December 24, 2001

Mr. Kevin Moriarty
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
800 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20002
Facsimile 202-343-1836

Dear Mr. Moriarty:

Enclosed is a signed cover sheet for the National Register nomination for the Dwight-Derby House, Medfield (Norfolk), MA. An unsigned page was sent in error.

A faxed copy of the page was sent to your office earlier today.

Thank you for catching this error.

Philip Bergen
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure