

**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 Woodworth House

other names/site number Old Oaken Bucket Homestead

**2. Location**

street & number 47 Old Oaken Bucket Road N/A not for publication

city or town Scituate N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Plymouth code 023 zip code 02066

**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 2/26/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director Date  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet 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

Date of Action

Patrick Anders 4/9/96

Woodworth House  
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
3		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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

VICTORIAN

BUNGALOW: Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

Shingles

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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Scituate (Plymouth County)  
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1**7. DESCRIPTION**

The Woodworth House, commonly known as the Old Oaken Bucket Homestead, is a late Federal style house with elements of later architectural styles. Set close to the road with a gable-end, side elevation toward the road, the house consists of a one and one-half story structure facing east, with a one-story rear ell extending to the west. This is connected to a barn (extending south) by a small room. Adjacent, extending to the south of the barn ell, is a small former house, referred to below as the southern ell. All are of wood-frame construction and sheathed in a mixture of clapboards and wood shingles. Asphalt-shingled gable roofs are found throughout, with the exception of the barn and southern ell, which have wood shingled roofs.

The house stands on the south side of Old Oaken Bucket Road slightly west of its junction with Route 3A and Route 123 (Cornet Stetson Road). The area remains primarily rural, with several one and one-half and two-story residences ranging in date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to the present. The landscape is characterized by a mixture of wooded and open land, with cranberry bogs within 1/4 mile of the Woodworth House. The Woodworth House stands close to the road, on a 15.7 acre parcel situated on the north and south sides of Old Oaken Bucket Road. The land immediately surrounding the house is open, with a horseshoe driveway extending from the road, parallel to the facade. Stone walls exist along the south side of Old Oaken Bucket Road, and behind the rear elevation of the barn and south ell. A wood-frame, one-bay garage (c.1920s) stands slightly southeast of the house. To the south of the house the land is wooded, with a sloping hill rising to a pine grove at the top. The remainder of the land, including the 1.5 acres on the north side of the road, is also wooded. An undated aerial photograph shows areas to the south and east as fields, but this area is now overgrown and wooded. The property is in good condition, with most alterations having occurred during the period of significance and contributing to the property's significance.

The Woodworth House rises from a granite ashlar foundation, and is clad in clapboard at the facade, with wood shingles on all other elevations. Windows contain double-hung, 6/6 sash set in simple molded cases, with several exceptions noted below. Louvered wooden shutters exist at most windows. Basement windows retain wooden window grates, which may be original to the house. An exterior end chimney (probably added ca. 1930) is located at the north elevation, and a second chimney (possibly rebuilt) exists at the roof ridge of the west ell.

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The facade (E) of the main house is five bays wide with a projecting central entrance bay. The entry consists of a pair of twelve-light doors. A shed-roofed porch with characteristic Craftsman style details extends across the facade and north elevation, with a projecting central bay, square supports and balusters, and diamond-patterned latticework. The northern section is enclosed by screens. A central, broad gabled dormer was added in the mid-nineteenth century. It has two pairs of narrow, 1/1 windows, a projecting cornice and cornice returns. The north and south elevations have two windows at the first and second stories. The first story of the north elevation is obscured by the porch. The rear elevation (W) is blank to the south of the rear ell, and to the north, fenestration consists of two windows (N, a small one with Craftsman detailing) at the first story and a shed dormer (added after 1916, probably ca. 1930) with two windows at the second story.

The west ell rises from a granite foundation. On its north elevation is a single window. The rear (W) end has a small first-story window and an attic window containing an early 6/9 sash, while the south elevation has two windows flanking a five-panel door. The western window is a multi-paned window of the twentieth century. The ell connects at its southwest corner to a small room (W) and to the barn (S).

A 1978 report by architectural conservator Morgan Phillips states that "The character of the framing of the first floor (cellar ceiling), roof rafters, and gable end studding, and the use of cut nails in the gable end studding, strongly indicate that the main house is of the early nineteenth century." The identification of several hand-wrought nails, and the existence of a closet door of an earlier style caused Phillips not to rule out the possibility of an earlier portion of the structure. He recommended a closer examination of the wall framing of the main house and rear ell.

Regarding the rear ell, Phillips indicated in his report that a confusing arrangement of cellar walls and a mass of rocks where a large chimney might once have been left him unable to determine the meaning of the rear cellar. "The attic of the ell appears to be no later than the front attic."

Connecting the rear ell and the barn is a small, flat-roofed, one-story structure identified on 1941 Historic American Buildings Survey plans as an ice room. On the north elevation three wooden steps rise to a door, with a window adjacent. A single window exists at the west elevation.

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The barn is a one-story, gable-roofed structure. On its east elevation are a wide wooden barn door (S) and a low wooden door (N). At the rear elevation (W) is a single small window. According to Morgan Phillips' report "The barn connector...is made up, in part, with re-used timbers that may be parts of a much earlier building. These include posts, and some braces fitted into mortises in such ways that they could not have been put there after the building was constructed. The barn does not have any of the framing characteristics of a seventeenth-century building. Rather, some of the re-used pieces, though of softwood, may go back to a really early date."

The southern ell is a small former house, resting on a course of fieldstones. Slightly higher, and with a slightly steeper pitch to its roof, it abuts the barn. On both the east and west elevations is a wooden plank door with strap hinges (N) and a single window, while the south end elevation has single windows at the first story and at the attic. Both the window at the west elevation and the attic window (S) have early 6/9 sash.

The accuracy of the 1941 plans produced for HABS (Appendix A) is unknown, however based on these plans it would appear that several changes have been made to the original plan. Changes include the removal of the two original chimneys, one at the center of the main house, and the other at the center of the ell, removal of a stairway rising from north to south behind the original chimney location, and construction of a stair rising westward from the main entry. The HABS plan shows the central entry flanked by two large rooms with two small bedrooms behind, and a dining room to the west of the central chimney. This has been altered by the removal of the partition between the two north rooms. The kitchen and pantry shown in the HABS plan occupying the rear ell are now a single room, with an ice room connecting it to the barn. The barn consists of a wood shed section (N) and a smaller carriage shed (S). The southern ell has a stairhall at the north end, and a single room to the south.

Interior finishes in the two front rooms of the first story are similar and more ornate than those in the rear rooms, which appear to be of an earlier date. Window and door cases in the front rooms have corner blocks and are deeply molded. Other finishes include molded baseboards, crown molds, and chair rails, and five-panel doors. A panelled mantel in the northeast room was moved from elsewhere in the house. In the rear rooms, baseboards, window and door cases are shallow. The southern ell includes a corner cupboard (southwest corner), windows with deep reveals, shallow window cases, door cases and baseboards, and wooden sheathing separating the hallway from the main room and at the north end wall.

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Immediately north of the rear ell is a rubble stone well with a well sweep, (a mechanism consisting of a long wooden pole set on a wooden post to form a lever to lower the oaken bucket on a chain into the well). Based on historical photographs it appears that sometime between 1916 and 1936 an earlier wooden well was replaced by the present stone well. A historical marker stands at the roadside close to the well, commemorating it as the inspiration for the poem, "The Old Oaken Bucket."

Southeast of the Woodworth House stands a gable-roofed, clapboard-sheathed garage which appears stylistically to date from c.1920-1930. It does not appear to be one of two structures visible at that location in an undated photograph of the house taken in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The Woodworth house has evolved through various periods of alteration and enlargement. Changes to the main house and rear ell include a mid-to-late nineteenth century updating. This brought the addition of the front gable and a porch across the facade. According to historic photographs, the gable originally was ornamented by a trefoil window, and its paired windows had scrolled caps. The porch was ornately trimmed with jigsaw brackets and balustrade, as well as cresting along the edge of the roof. Between 1916 and 1932 the ice room was added connecting the rear ell and the barn. Following the addition of the ice room, probably during the 1920s, another major alteration occurred. The Victorian ornamentation was replaced by the simpler details of the Craftsman style. The porch was replaced by the present, larger porch, and the trefoil window and decorative window caps were removed from the front gable end. The central chimney was removed, and the exterior end chimney added to the north. Also appearing at this time was the shed dormer on the rear (W) elevation.

Archaeological Description

Cultural materials from at least one prehistoric site have been recovered on the Woodworth House property and additional sites are probably present. At least eight sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Controlled excavations for the Bridgewater State College field school in 1984 and for the North River Archaeological Project in 1987 recovered several varieties of prehistoric clipping debris and one subsurface feature on the property designated as site 19-PL-501. Integrity was listed as fair to good over different areas of the site. The physical characteristics of the property include several locational criteria that are favorable for prehistoric site locations. Most of the property is well drained, level to moderately sloped, and within 1,000 feet of a brook, sometimes referred to as First Herring Brook, north of the property. That brook drains eastward from Old Oaken Bucket Pond to the Herring River, which then flows to the North River and the Massachusetts Bay. The property is in close

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Name of Property

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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 # MA-2-41
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

ca. 1800 - ca. 1930

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**Significant Dates**

1823

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

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### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 15.7 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	<del>354940</del>	4670770	3.			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2.			4.			
Zone	Easting	Northing	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 Kim Withers Brengle, NR Editing Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 1996

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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proximity to the estuarine zone. Given the above factors, the size of the parcel (15.7 acres), the availability of open space on the property, and the fact that the presence of prehistoric resources on Woodworth House property, has been documented, a high potential exists that additional resources will be found.

There is also a high potential for recovering historic archaeological remains on the property. Structural remains may survive from earlier structures, on the property, possibly dating the 17th century, that were removed, moved, or otherwise incorporated into the existing structure. Construction features may also survive from earlier structures and/or alterations that occurred to the house in the 19th century. Structural remains from outbuildings may also exist on the parcel. The property was used as a farmstead throughout most of its land-use history. Earlier sheds and barns may be present archaeologically that predate the wooden shed or barn of undetermined age located southeast of the house and the barn attached to the main structure. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) also likely survive on the property. Two structures can be identified on the property in an undated late 19th/early 20th century photograph. One of the structures may be the wooden shed or barn located southeast of the house while the second structure could be a privy. One well has been identified; however, an earlier well could also exist. Sheet refuse patterns may also be present around the house and in agricultural fields.

(end)

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodworth House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, and materials, and has significance as an illustration of the evolution of a house from its Federal style beginning through Victorian and Craftsman style alterations and additions. The house is of local significance and meets Criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While Scituate retains numerous examples of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Cape houses, including those nearby at 22 and 53 Cornet Stetson Road, the Woodworth House is unusual in Scituate for its evolution. In addition, the house has acquired cultural significance in the town of Scituate for its association with writer Samuel Woodworth and his poem, "The Old Oaken Bucket," believed to have been inspired by his experiences at this site. Due to Woodworth's brief residence at this site prior to the construction of the main house and nineteen years prior to writing his best known work, the house does not meet Criterion B. The period of significance is ca. 1800-ca. 1930, based on the approximate period during which construction and significant alterations were made to the property.

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The Town of Scituate, incorporated in 1636, lies in the northeast corner of Plymouth County. Settlement in the seventeenth century was focused in several locations, including the area near Old Oaken Bucket Road and Country Way. Agriculture gave way early to ship building as the predominant industry of the town, partly due to the poor quality of soils in the area. Its forests of white oak and ash for timber and sheathing, pine for masts and spars, and black walnut for trimmings provided excellent resources for ship builders. Fishing also proved to be an important early industry in Scituate with its abundant schools of mackerel. By the early nineteenth century, however, the shipyards and fishing industry were on the decline. Residential and farm development that did occur during the early nineteenth century was in the vicinity of early settlement nodes. As the nineteenth century proceeded, Scituate gained popularity as a summer retreat for wealthy Bostonians. Eventually, train lines and modern roads made daily commuting to Boston possible, providing the impetus for Scituate's twentieth century development as a suburban residential community.

Early historical accounts suggest that the property on which the Woodworth House now stands was owned by 1680 by John Northy, who occupied a house there with his wife Sarah. The early house was occupied and the land farmed by several generations of the Northy family. Betsy Northy, a widow, married Benjamin Woodworth ca. 1798, remaining on the Northy family farm. The property remained in the Woodworth family until 1972.

The Woodworth House illustrates over a century of architectural change, beginning with the early house forming the south ell, and concluding with the Craftsman style alterations completed by c.1930. Structural and stylistic evidence suggests that the southern ell may have been constructed by c.1800, and local tradition, corroborated by the lack of a foundation or chimney, holds that it was moved to this site from an adjacent field by oxen in 1835. The date and origin of the southern ell remain cloudy, with experts holding differing opinions. Local tradition, reinforced by a 1941 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), has held that it is the original John Northy house of 1675.

Conservator Morgan Phillips' report concluded that the south ell probably dated from the early Federal period. He found that it was framed with handmade nails, and some handmade nails were found in the trim, which was generally early Federal, with no evidence of earlier trim. Other evidence supporting a Federal-era date included the use of a softwood for framing, lack of decorative chamfers, and lack of evidence of an earlier casement window in the south gable end.

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In contrast, Jeremy Bangs, formerly Chief Curator of Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts, wrote in support of a seventeenth century date for the south ell. He found the floor plan and roof framing similar to that of the original Coffin house in Newbury, Massachusetts. According to Bangs, "The joint of post, plate, joist (or tie-beam), and rafter, that is visible by the stair in the Northy house, is identical to an analogous joint in the Fairbanks house at Dedham (Massachusetts). All the posts, plates, visible joists and rafters are hewn timbers; even some of the smaller studs of the gable are hewn rather than being sawn. Interior board walls are original. Laths from original daubing are preserved and they are hand-cut. Brick nogging of the period is preserved. There are some original fittings on exterior and interior doors. Two of the windows are very early (perhaps original). Although the chamber has a skim coat of plaster on the walls, and a plaster ceiling, irregularities indicate the presence of a summer beam with its supporting post."

According to a third expert, historic preservation consultant Anne Grady, many of the details attributed by Mr. Bangs to the seventeenth century were commonly used in the eighteenth century also. These include the tie beam-plate-post joint, brick nogging, riven lath, and hewn timbers. She also expressed the opinion that the use of rounded, unhewn members in framing was more characteristic of the eighteenth than the seventeenth century.

The barn adjacent to the southern ell appears to have been constructed of timbers from a very early building, but according to conservator Morgan Phillips does not have any of the framing characteristics of a seventeenth century building. According to Phillips, it is possible that both the southern ell and the barn were standing by 1817. Whether these stood at their present locations prior to construction of the main house, or were moved there later, they are illustrative of the evolution of the property, and the frugal New England approach to reusing anything that still had utilitarian value.

The basic form of the main house and its ell, reported variously to have been constructed in 1823 and 1835, is that of the traditional Cape, found extensively in Scituate and southeastern Massachusetts. Originally built with a central chimney, the house retains its five bay, center entry configuration, and much of its original floor plan. Many details are typically late Federal/Greek Revival, including the flush eaves, simple corner boards, 6/6 sash and other trim and finishes.

Given the degree of uncertainty regarding the origin of the southern ell and the possibility of an earlier section of the main house, further study of the interior framing will be necessary prior to accurately determining the dates of construction.

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The next major change to the Woodworth House occurred in the latter part of the nineteenth century, when the central gable was constructed, along with a porch which was later replaced. The gable remains, with its characteristic pairing of narrow 1/1 sash. The more ornate Victorian trimmings, including ornately scrolled window caps, a trefoil window, and much jigsawed detail on the porch, have all been removed and simplified.

As the abundant ornamentation of the Victorian period fell out of favor during the early decades of the twentieth century, the Woodworth house underwent yet another transformation. Stylistic details and historical photographs suggest that alterations were made during the 1920s. The changes included the removal of the Victorian trim details and porch, the removal of the central chimney at the main house, and construction of a porch wrapping around the facade (E) and north elevations, with the addition of a new exterior chimney (N). The simplified exterior, along with the detailing of the porch, which features diamond-patterned laticework between paired supports, suggests the Craftsman style bungalow popular during the 1920s.

The local cultural significance of the Woodworth House is based on its association with poet Samuel Woodworth. Woodworth was born in Scituate Harbor in 1784, the son of Revolutionary War veteran, Benjamin Woodworth. Following the death of his wife c.1798, Benjamin Woodworth married Betsy Northy, moving his family, including fourteen-year-old Samuel, to the Northy farm. Although Samuel Woodworth resided only briefly on the site of the present house, it is commonly believed that an oaken bucket at the well still extant at the site inspired his best known work. In 1817, while residing in New York, Woodworth wrote "The Old Oaken Bucket," a poem which was set to music and became widely popular. In addition to the well and bucket, the poem describes the nearby Old Stockbridge Mill, and the landscape surrounding the farm in glowing terms:

## The Old Oaken Bucket

How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,  
When fond recollection presents them to view!  
The orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wildwood,  
And every loved spot which my infancy knew!  
The wide-spreading pond, and the mill that stood by it;  
The bridge, and the rock where the cataract fell;  
The cot of my father, the dairy-house nigh it,  
And e'en the rude bucket that hung in the well:  
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,

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The moss-covered bucket which hung in the well.

That moss-covered vessel I hailed as a treasure;  
For often at noon, when returned from the field,  
I found it the source of an exquisite pleasure,  
The purest and sweetest that nature can yield.  
How ardent I seized it, with hands that were glowing,  
And quick to the white-pebbled bottom it fell!  
Then soon, with the emblem of truth overflowing,  
And dripping with coolness, it rose from the well:  
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,  
The moss-covered bucket, arose from the well.

How sweet from the green, mossy brim to receive it,  
As, poised on the curb, it inclined to my lips!  
Not a full, blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,  
The brightest that beauty or revelry sips.  
And now far removed from the loved habitation,  
The tear of regret will intrusively swell,  
As fancy reverts to my father's plantation,  
And sighs for the bucket that hangs in the well:  
The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket,  
The moss-covered bucket that hangs in the well.

In 1935 the song was voted the official song of the Town of Scituate. Postcards, plates, a Currier and Ives lithograph, and similar commemorative memorabilia survive from the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries commemorating the "Old Oaken Bucket Homestead." Since the nineteenth century the site, including house and well, has been a source of community pride, and a marker stands at the roadside commemorating the old oaken bucket.

The property remained in the ownership of the Woodworth family until 1972, when it was bequeathed to the Town of Scituate. It was subsequently acquired by the Scituate Historical Society, which operates a museum in the southern ell commemorating Samuel Woodworth's life and work.

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Scituate (Plymouth County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 6Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Scituate are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area may offer the potential to further document the influence of Native American core areas in the North River area to other Native cores in the Plymouth area to the south and the Boston Harbor/Boston Bay locale to the north. Prehistoric sites in this area could also contribute to a greater understanding of the effects of sea-level rise on Native settlement and subsistence through time. While the Woodworth House property is now at or near the estuarine zone, it was clearly an inland riverine or streamside location throughout much of the prehistoric past. Prehistoric land use within the North River drainage can be identified from the Early Archaic Period, indicating over 6,000 years of potential environmental and cultural changes in the area. Systematic archaeological studies on the Woodworth House property have also indicated several potential research topics for prehistoric resources on the property. The recovery of chipping debris indicates the potential for lithic technological studies while the location of a pit-type feature can indicate possible subsistence-related topics. The recovery of a prehistoric feature also presents favorable evidence for the intact integrity of prehistoric resources on the property.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to document the layout and land-use history of a farmstead that remained in two families throughout most of its history, from ca. 1800 to 1972. Archaeological resources have the potential to accurately determine the date of construction for the original house and the dates of subsequent alterations, thereby resolving a major professional and local debate over this property. Systematic testing and excavation could determine whether the Woodworth House property was the site of the original Northy homestead of 1680 and whether portions of that original house have been incorporated into the existing house. Structural remains, construction features, occupational related features, and sheet refuse dating to the 17th century may exist on the property. The recovery of some or all of these resources would provide a convincing argument for the location of the Northy farmstead on this property and possibly incorporation of the Northy house or portions of it into the existing Woodworth House. This evidence would push back the date of significance for the house to ca. 1680. In the event that archaeological resources from the Northy farmstead were located, structural evidence might allow reconstruction of the layout of a 17th-century farm and provide specific details relating to house construction and operation of the farm. Detailed analysis of occupational related features could also provide insights into the social, cultural, and economic lives of early settlers in the area. Evidence may be present that would contribute to such topics as foodways, available technologies, and overall 17th-century life. Similar evidence as stated above can also contribute to a better understanding of the Woodworth House's documented period of occupation beginning in the

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Woodworth House  
Scituate (Plymouth County)  
Massachusetts**

Section number 8, 9 Page 7, 1

19th century. Structural evidence and construction features could help sort out the complex sequence of construction for the house and alterations beginning ca. 1823. This evidence could be used to trace the layout of the farm through time, possibly identifying functional changes in the farm and its relationship to overall changes in the town of Scituate, which was characterized in its early years by shipbuilding and fishing, then as a summer retreat for wealthy Bostonians in the 19th century, and as a suburban residential community in the 20th century. Detailed study of occupational related features could trace the evolution of the Northy and Woodworth families during these periods and indicate how they may have been affected by overall changes in the town.

(end)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Deane, Samuel. History of Scituate. 1831. James Loring, Boston.  
Irwin, Will. Scituate 1636-1936. 1936. Scituate Tercentenary Committee.  
Vinal, William. The Bard of Greenbush. 1955. Vinehall Publication, Norwell, MA.  
Old Scituate. 1921. Chief Justice Cushing Chapter D.A.R.  
Scituate 1636-1961. 1961. Scituate Chamber of Commerce.  
Scituate Town Records. 1935 Town Meeting Article.  
Collection of historic photographs. Scituate Historical Society.  
Phillips, Morgan. Letter to Kathleen Laidlaw. May 4, 1978.  
Bangs, Jeremy. Letter to Massachusetts Historical Commission. July 11, 1994.  
Grady, Anne. Letter to Massachusetts Historical Commission. August 30, 1994.  
Historic American Buildings Survey. "Old Oaken Bucket House". Survey no. 2-41. 1941.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Woodworth House  
Scituate (Plymouth County)  
Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

---

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the parcel shown on the Plan of Land in Scituate, Massachusetts, Sheet No. 52, Lot 6A, given in trust to the Town of Scituate by the estate of Marie Bailey Murray, November 8, 1974.

#### Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the remaining original Northy and Woodworth farm land currently associated with the house.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page       

Woodworth House  
Scituate (Plymouth County)  
Massachusetts

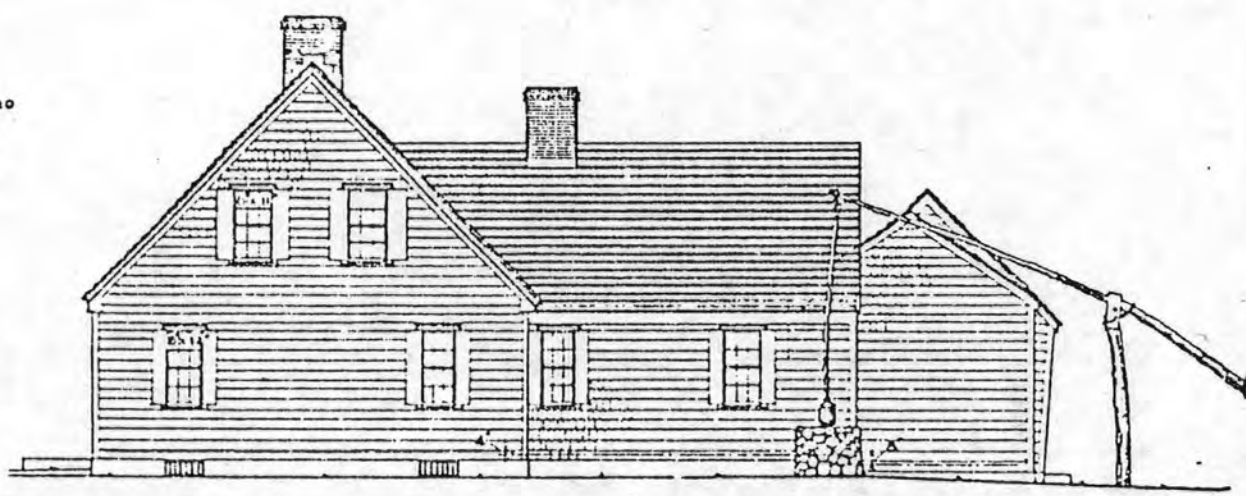
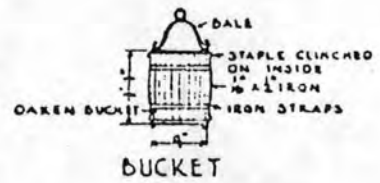
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

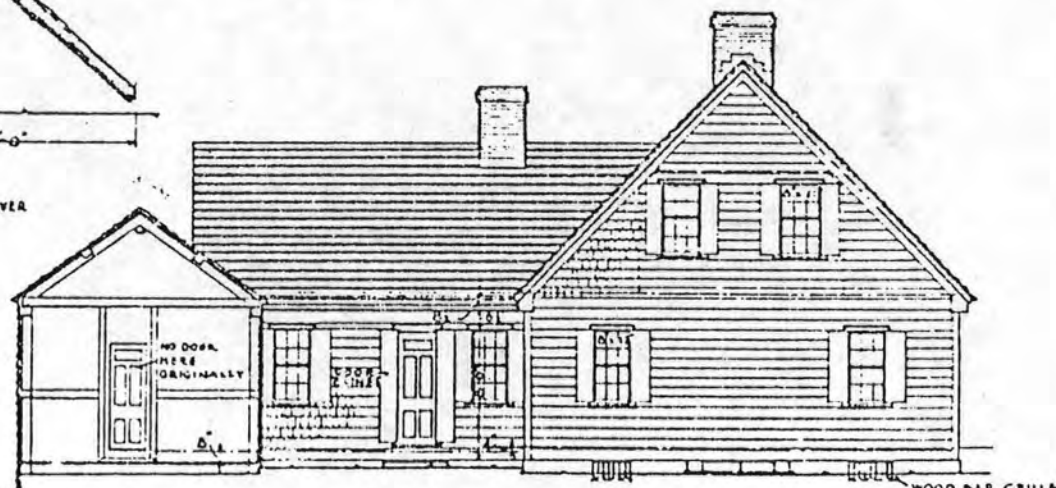
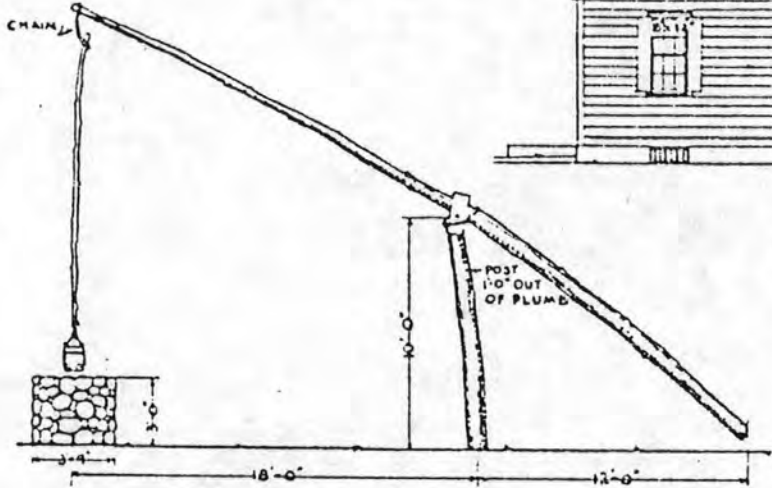
UTM References

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
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B	19	354940	4670620
C	19	354810	4670650
D	19	354910	4670800

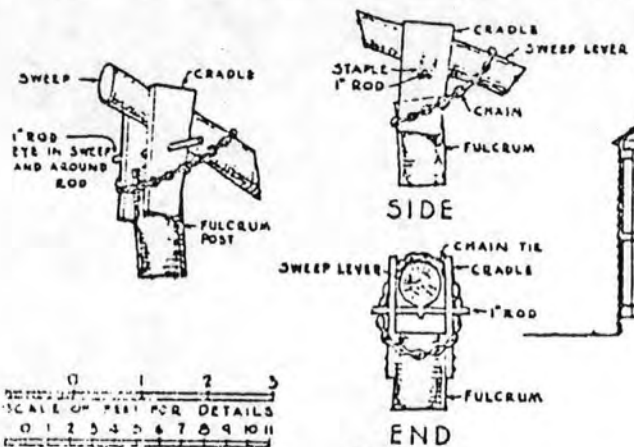
WALLS - SHINGLES  
ROOF - SHINGLES



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

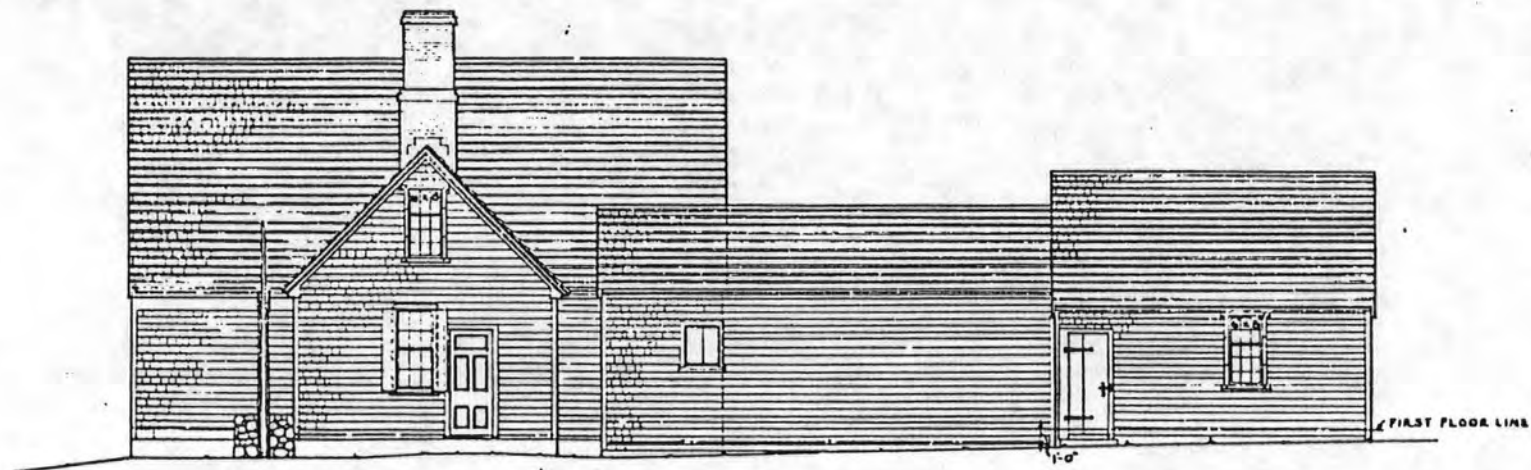


SCALE OF FEET FOR DETAILS  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
SCALE OF FEET FOR WELLSWEEP  
HARRY GULESIAN DEL.

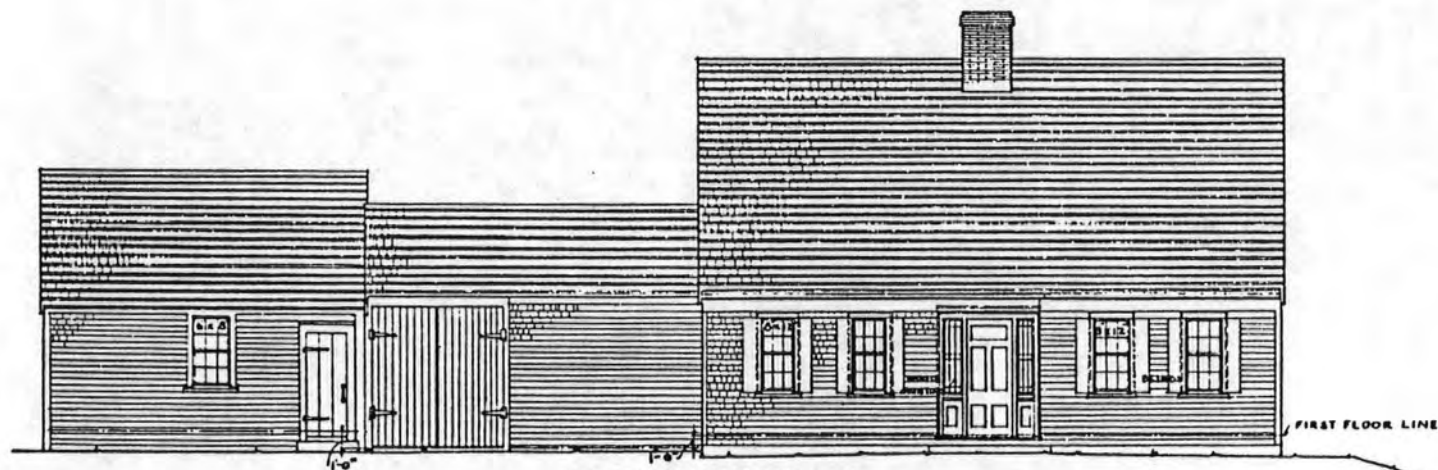
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CENTIMETERS  
0 5 10 15 20  
SCALE OF FEET

MAIN HOUSE BUILT 1835

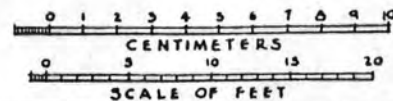
WALLS - SHINGLES  
ROOF - SHINGLES



WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



HARRY GULESIAN DEL.



MAIN HOUSE BUILT 1835

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

"OLD OAKEN BUCKET" HOUSE (GREENBUSH) SCITUATE, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASS.

SURVEY NO.  
2-41

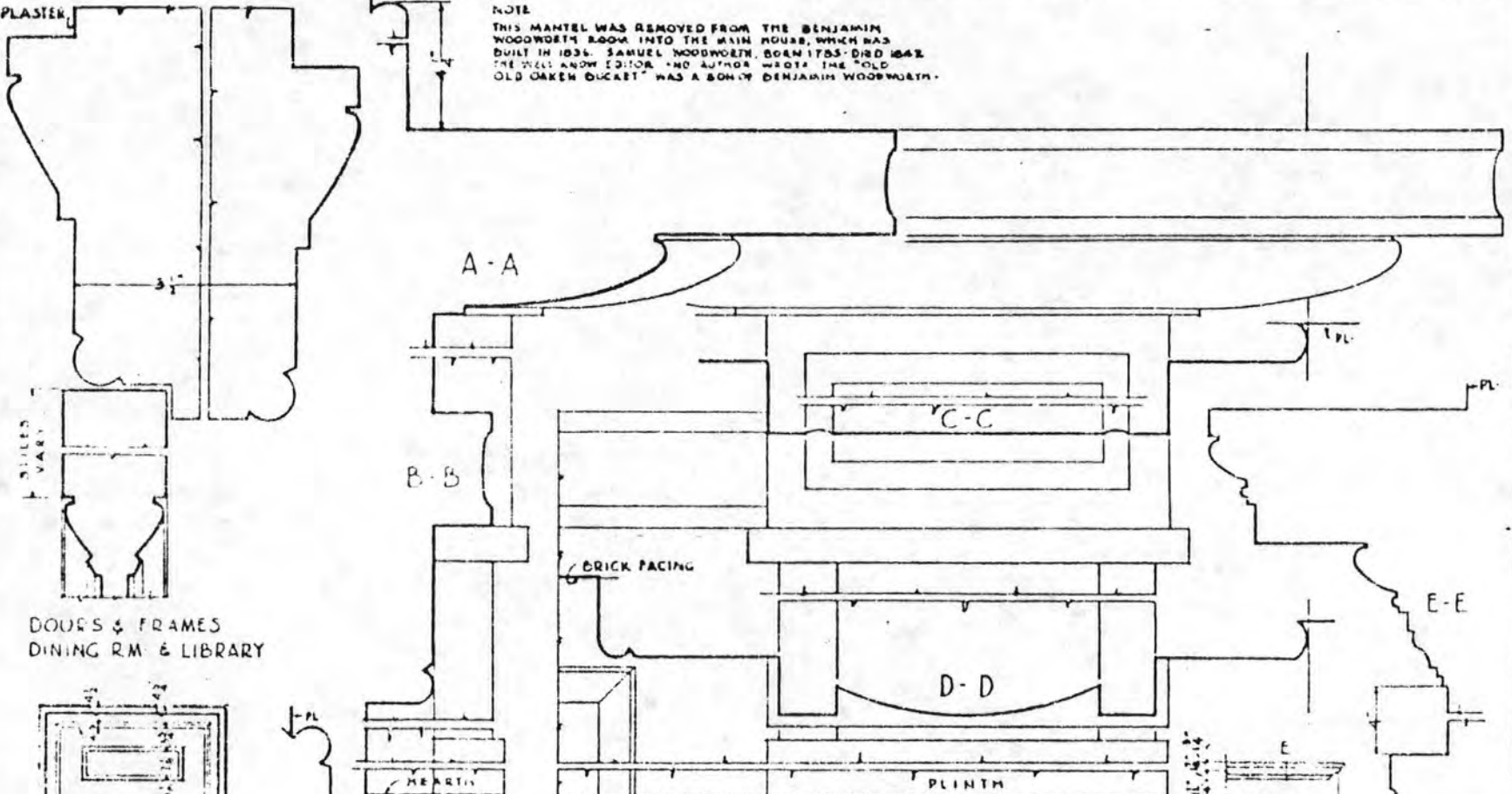
HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 2 OF 6 SHEETS

INDEX NO.  
MASS.  
12-1

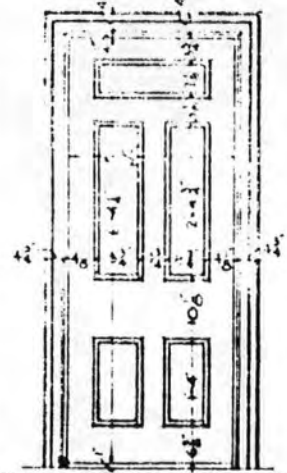


PLASTER

NOTE  
THIS MANTEL WAS REMOVED FROM THE BENJAMIN  
WOODWORTH BOOK INTO THE MAIN HOUSE, WHICH WAS  
BUILT IN 1835. SAMUEL WOODWORTH, BORN 1785 DIED 1842  
THE WELL KNOWN EDITOR AND AUTHOR WROTE THE "OLD  
OAKEN BUCKET" WAS A SON OF BENJAMIN WOODWORTH.



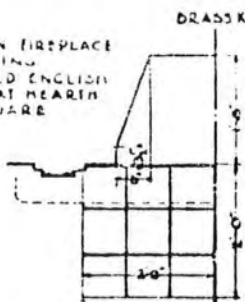
DOORS & FRAMES  
DINING RM & LIBRARY



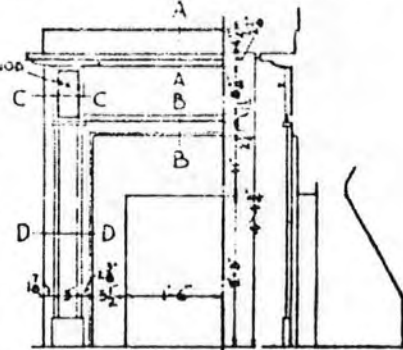
DOORS FIRST FLOOR

2ND  
FLOOR  
BASE

MODERN FIREPLACE  
& FACING  
RED OLD ENGLISH  
TILES AT HEARTH  
6" SQUARE



HALF PLAN

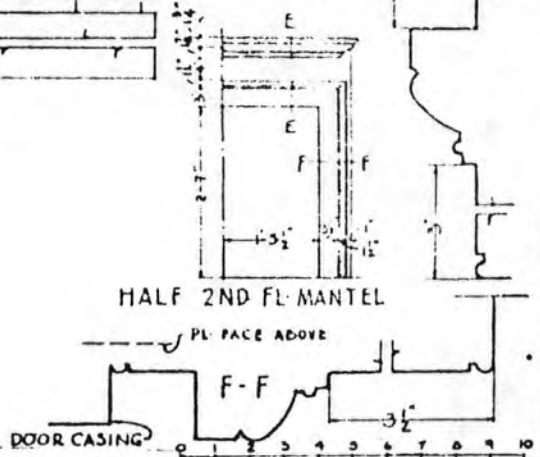


HALF ELEVATION



SECTION

HALF 2ND FL. MANTEL

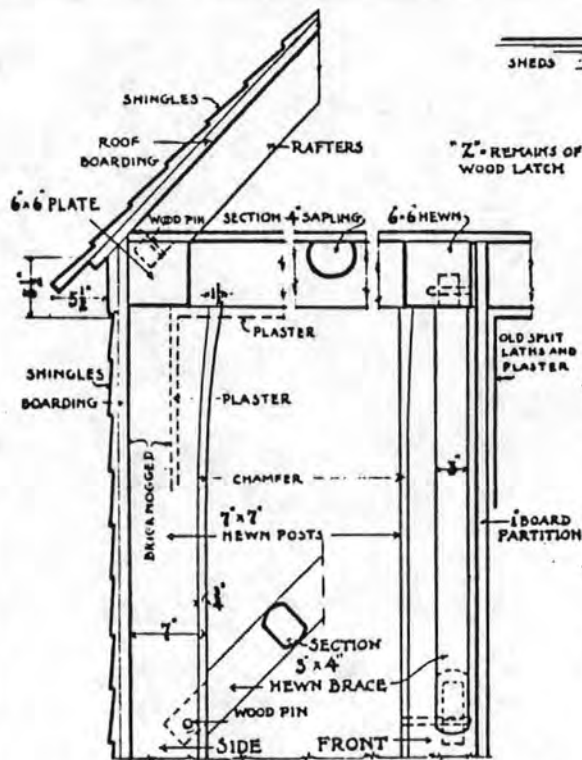


DOOR CASING

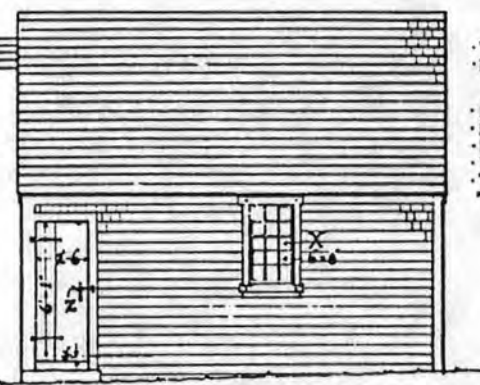
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HARRY GULESIAN DEL

SCALE OF FEET FOR SCALE DETAILS

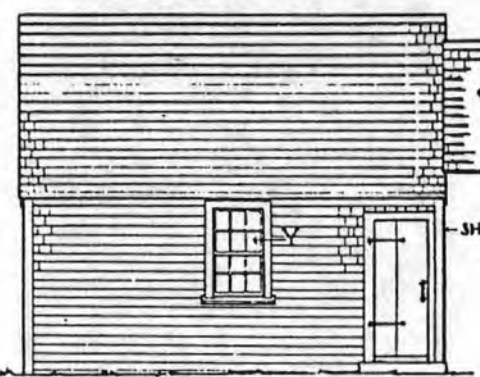
MAIN HOUSE BUILT 1835



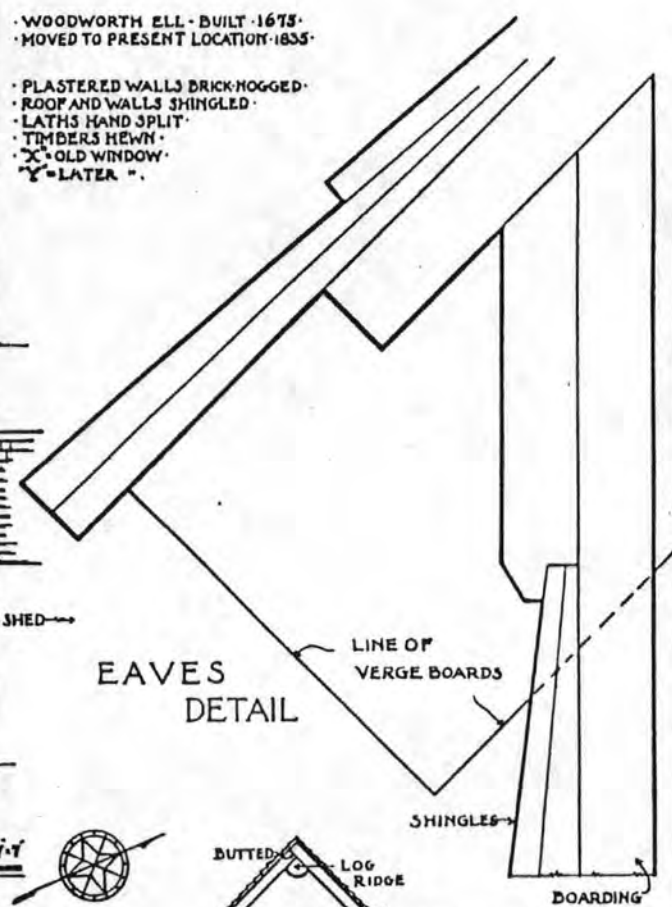
DETAIL SECTION "B-B"  
(SEE PLAN)



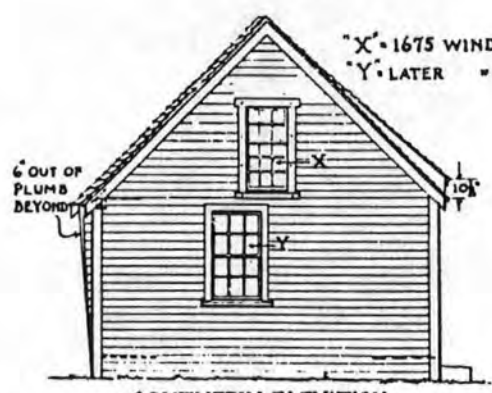
WESTERLY ELEVATION



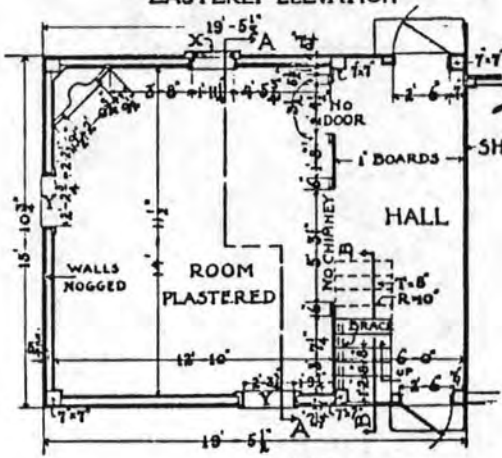
EASTERLY ELEVATION



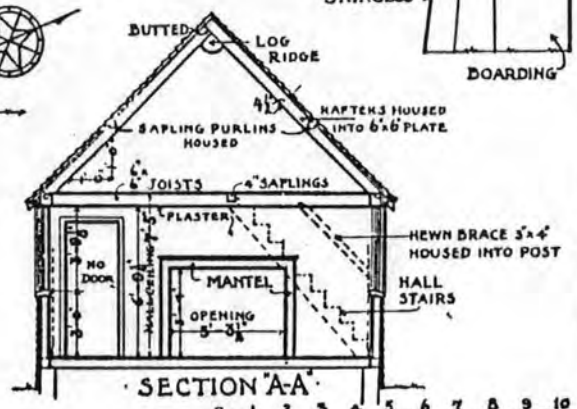
EAVES  
DETAIL



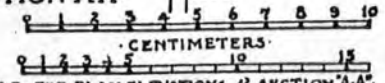
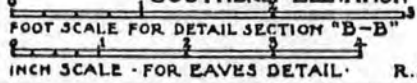
SOUTHERLY ELEVATION



PLAN

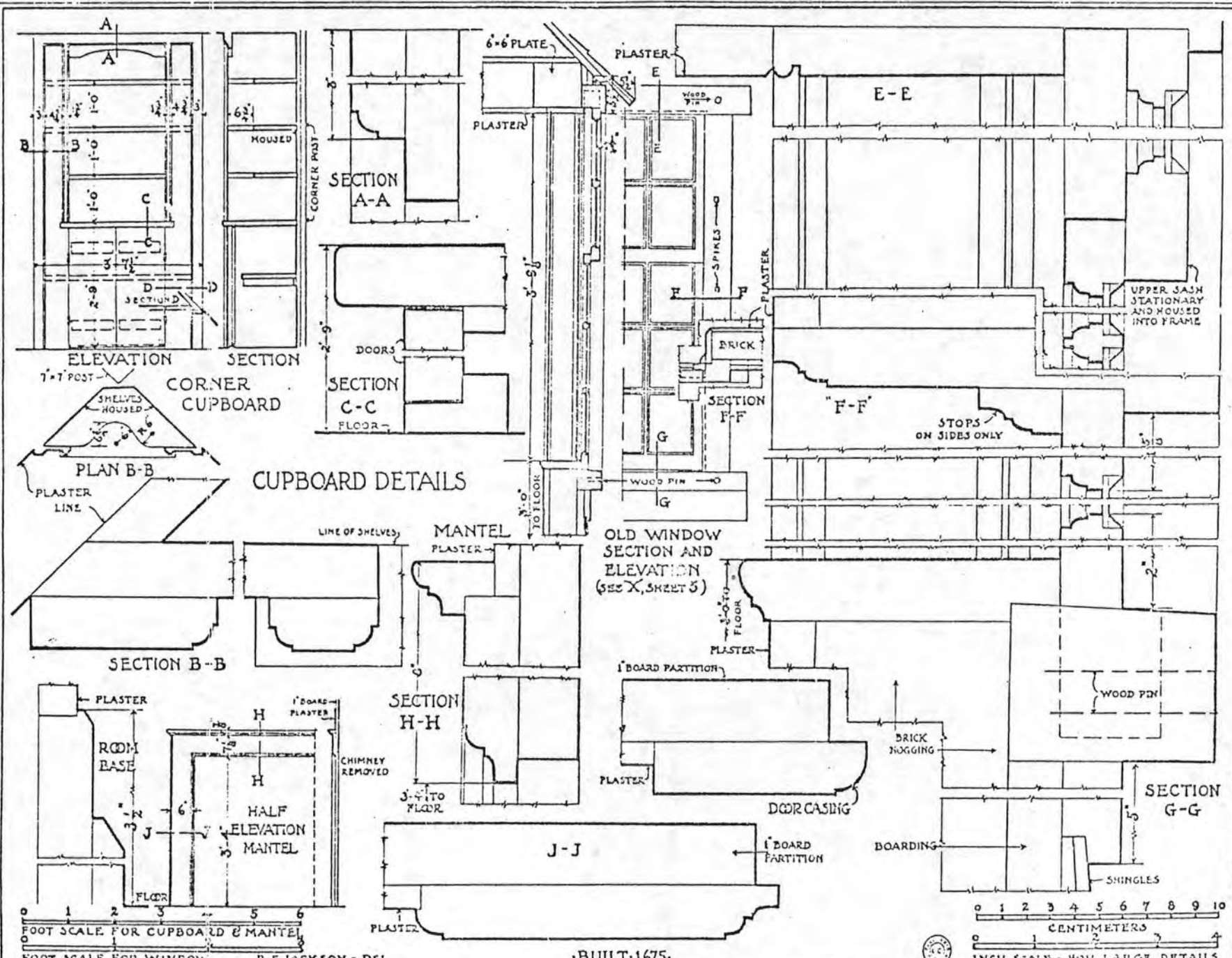


SECTION "A-A"



WOODWORTH ELL - BUILT 1675  
MOVED TO PRESENT LOCATION 1835

PLASTERED WALLS BRICK HOGGED  
ROOF AND WALLS SHINGLED  
LATHS HAND SPLIT  
TIMBERS HEWN  
"X" = OLD WINDOW  
"Y" = LATER "



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

R.F. JACKSON - DEL.

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
 (WOODWORTH ROOM) OLD OAKEN BUCKET HOUSE, SCITUATE, PLYMOUTH CO., MASS.

DATE NO.  
 2-41

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 SHEET 6 OF 6 SHEETS

PAPER NO.  
 MASS. 12-30777

FOOT SCALE FOR CUPBOARD & MANTEL

FOOT SCALE FOR WINDOW

INCH SCALE - FOR LARGE DETAILS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 CENTIMETERS

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 96000317 Date Listed: 4/9/96

Woodworth House            Plymouth    MA  
Property Name:            County:      State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

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

Patricia Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

9/6/96  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nominated area includes 15.7 acres, yet only one UTM point was provided (rather than the required minimum of three). In a letter dated 8/27/96, the MA SHPO provided the required UTM points. The form is officially amended to add this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Woodworth House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 3/01/96      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/12/96  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/28/96      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/15/96  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000317

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT     DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*architecturally significant for its evolution  
(possibly from the 17th century)*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept c

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 4/9/96

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N  
418



Old Oaken Bucket Homestead Southeast Facade

~~Northy~~ Woodworth House

47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd,

Scituate, MA (Plymouth County)

Photo # 1 of 4

E and S elevations

Date: 1977

Photographer: James Tringale

Negative filed at: 67 Greenfield La.

Scituate, MA



Old Oaken Bucket Homestead south elevation

~~Northy~~ Woodworth House

47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.

Scituate, MA

Photo # 2 of 4

View of S elevation

Date: 1977

Photographer: James Tringale

Negative filed at: 67 Greenfield La.

Scituate, MA



Original ell 1.675 facing east Old Oaken Bucket.

~~Northy~~ Woodworth House

47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.

Scituate, MA (Plymouth County)

Photo # 3 of 4

View of E elevation of S ell

Date: 1977

Photographer: James Tringale

Negative filed at: 67 Greenfield La.  
Scituate, MA



Old Oaken Bucket Homestead + Well Well elevation

~~Northy~~ Woodworth House

47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.

Scituate, MA (Plymouth County)

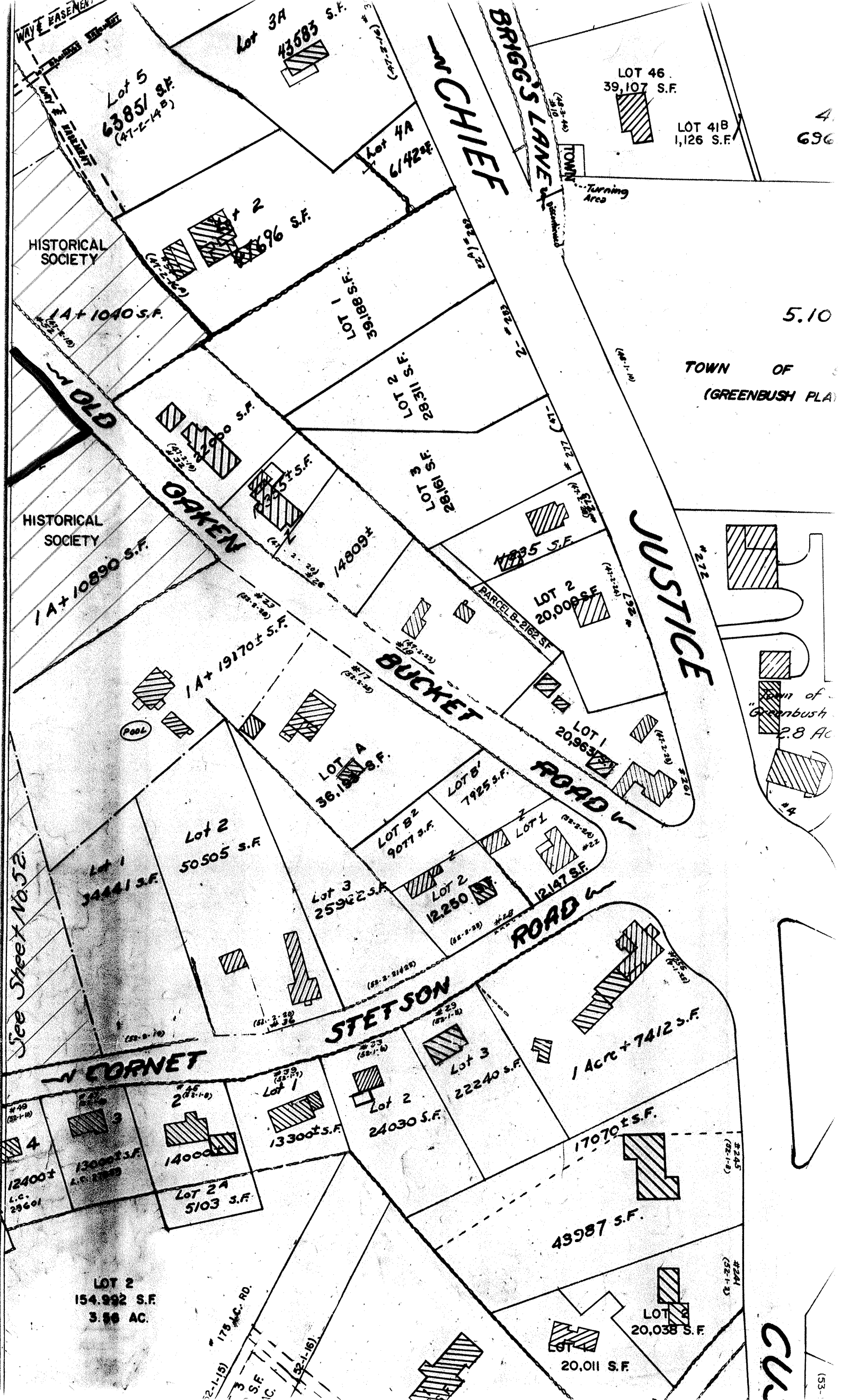
Photo # 4 of 4

View of rear showing N and W elevations of main house and ells

Date: 1977

Photographer: James Tringale

Negative filed at: 67 Greenfield La.  
Scituate, MA



WAY EASEMENT

Lot 5  
63851 S.F.  
(47-2-14B)

Lot 3A  
43583 S.F.

Lot 4A  
61424 S.F.

LOT 46  
39,107 S.F.

LOT 41B  
1,126 S.F.

4  
696

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1A+1040 S.F.

LOT 1  
3818 S.F.

LOT 2  
2811 S.F.

5.10

TOWN OF  
(GREENBUSH PL)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1A+10890 S.F.

LOT 1  
2200 S.F.

LOT 2  
2357 S.F.

LOT 3  
2819 S.F.

JUSTICE

BUCKET ROAD

LOT 2  
20,009 S.F.

LOT 1  
20,963 S.F.

See Sheet No. 52

Lot 1  
34441 S.F.

Lot 2  
50505 S.F.

Lot 3  
25922 S.F.

LOT B2  
9077 S.F.

LOT B1  
7925 S.F.

LOT 1  
12147 S.F.

ROAD

STETSON ROAD

Lot 2  
24030 S.F.

Lot 3  
22240 S.F.

1 Acre + 7412 S.F.

W CORNET

LOT 4  
12400 S.F.

LOT 3  
13000 S.F.

LOT 2  
14000 S.F.

LOT 1  
13300 S.F.

Lot 2A  
5103 S.F.

Lot 2  
24030 S.F.

Lot 3  
22240 S.F.

17070 S.F.

43987 S.F.

LOT 2  
154,992 S.F.  
3.56 AC.

178 AC. RD.

LOT 1  
20,038 S.F.

LOT 1  
20,011 S.F.

CU

(53-

Woodworth House

47 Old Oaken Bucket Rd.

Scituate, MA

Assessor's Maps, Sections of Sheets 52 & 53

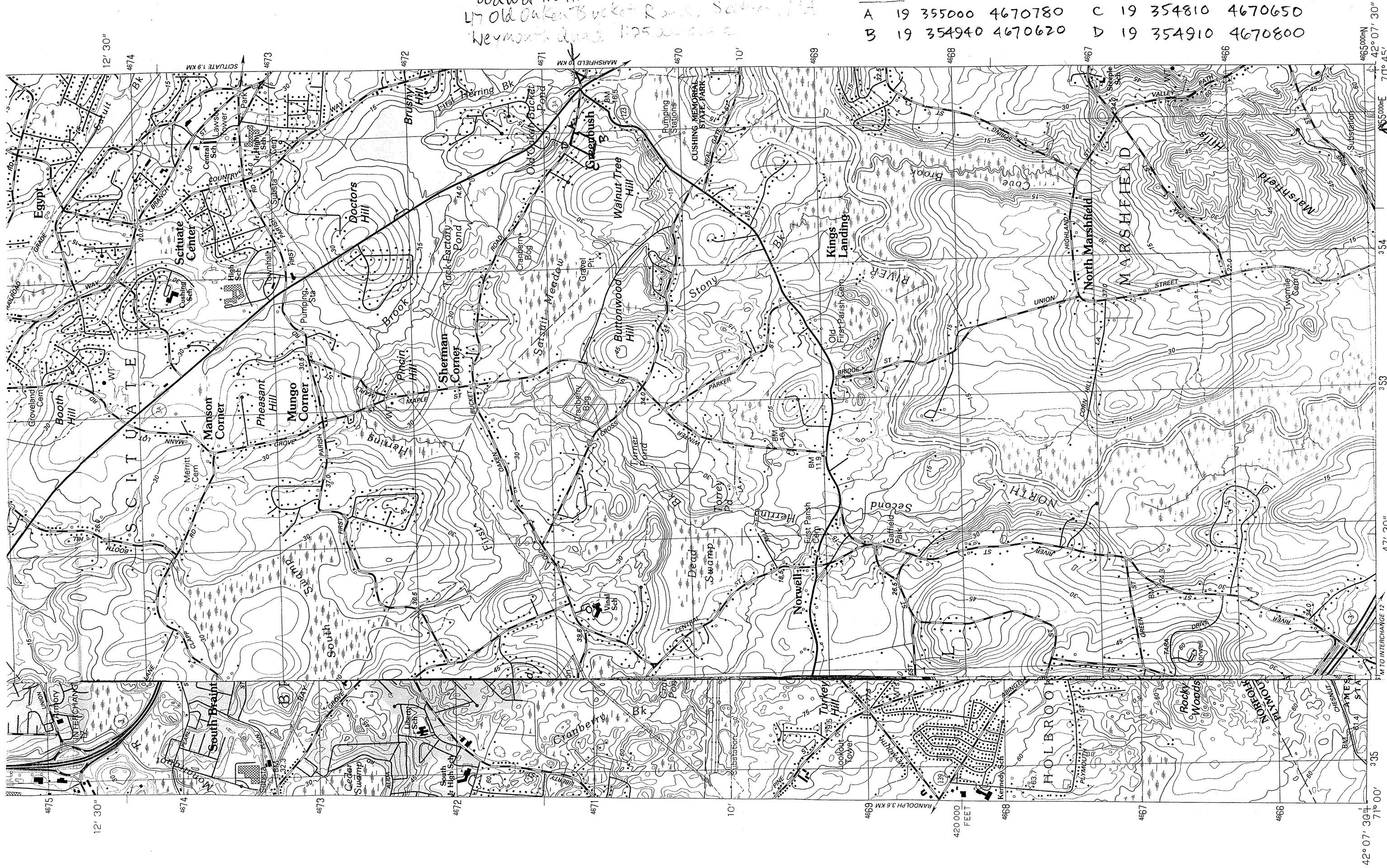
Scale 1" = 120'





Woodworth House  
 47 Old Oaken Bucket Road, Scituate, MA  
 Keymouth Quad 1:25,000 scale

UTMS  
 A 19 355000 4670780 C 19 354810 4670650  
 B 19 354940 4670620 D 19 354910 4670800



WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
 42070-B7-TM-025  
 1984

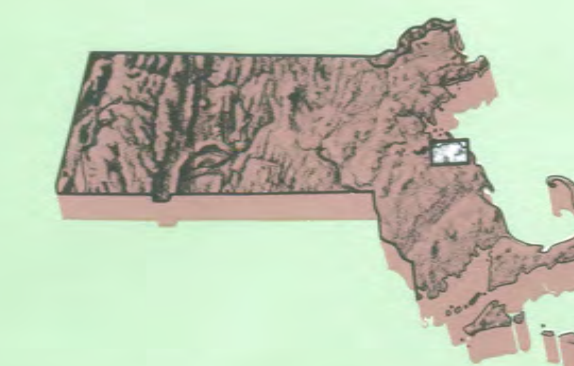
5000 METERS  
 16 000 FEET

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL

5 M TO INTERCHANGE 12  
 JTH (VIA U.S. 44) 23 KM

# Weymouth MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1984

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1972. Map edited 1984. Supersedes Weymouth and Cohasset 1:25 000-scale maps dated 1973 and 1974.  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13269 (1980) and 13270 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes. Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19. Universal Transverse Mercator.  
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone 1927 North American Datum.  
 To place on the projected North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS  
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
 SHORING LINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.7 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

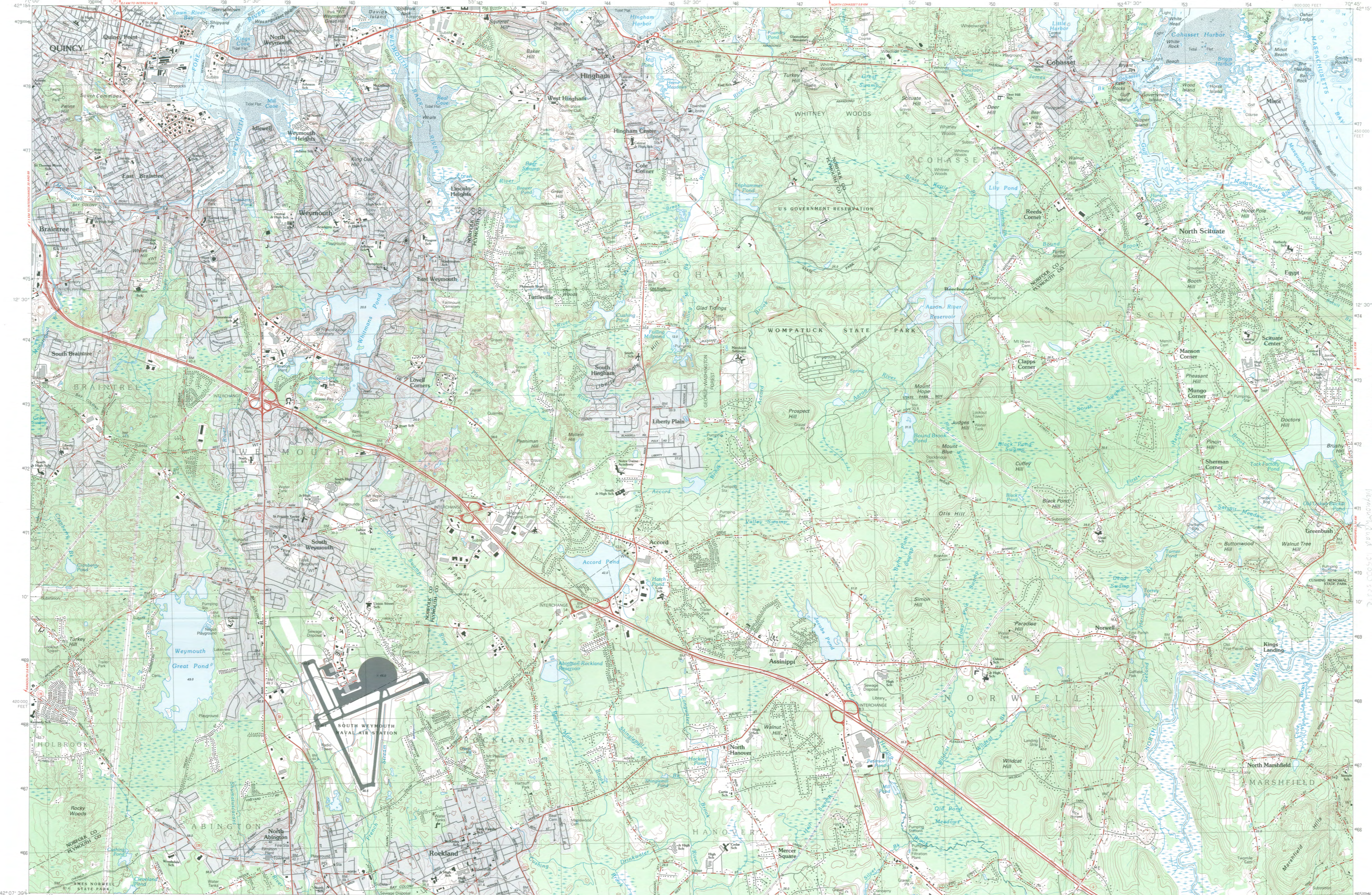
CONVERSION TABLE	DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS
Meters		1 2 3
2		4 5 6
3		7 8 9
4		10 11 12
5		13 14 15
6		16 17 18
7		19 20 21
8		22 23 24
9		25 26 27
10		28 29 30
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048		1 Boston South 2 Hull 3 Norwood 4 Scituate 5 Norwood 6 Brockton 7 Whitman 8 Duxbury

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

### Topographic Map Symbols

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

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



WOODS: 4th House  
 47 Old Green Bunker Road  
 125000 scale  
 1984



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

26 February 1996

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Woodworth House, 47 Old Oaken Bucket Road,  
Scituate (Plymouth County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Kathleen Laidlaw, Chairperson, Scituate Historical Commission  
Donald W. Brown, Chairperson, Scituate Board of Selectmen  
Kathleen Meeker, Director, Scituate Town Library



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

27 August 1996

Mr. Patrick Andrus  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P. O. Box 37127  
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127


RE: Woodworth House, Scituate (Plymouth County), Massachusetts

Dear Mr. <sup>PATRICK</sup>Andrus,

The National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the property referenced above, which was submitted to your office on February 26, 1996, mistakenly provided a single UTM reference. (The property encompasses 15.7 acres.)

The correct UTM references for the property are indicated on the enclosed Continuation Sheet. MHC staff would appreciate your making the appropriate amendment to the Registration Form.

Sincerely,

  
R. Terrence Adams  
Preservation Planner  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Scituate Historical Commission  
Kim Withers Brengle

