

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 an 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 Westport Point Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Generally along Main Road, Valentine Lane and Cape N/A not for publication
Bial Lane

city or town Westport N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02791

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

Date of Action

Helene Byers 6/25/92

Westport Point Historic District
Name of Property

Bristol County, Massachusetts
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	
173	26	buildings
2		sites
5	4	structures
53		objects
233	30	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)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structure;
hotel; multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structure;
multiple dwelling

COMMERCE: specialty store; restaurant; warehouse

COMMERCE: specialty store

GOVERNMENT: custom house; post office

GOVERNMENT: post office

RELIGION: religious structure

RELIGION: religious structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

FUNERARY: cemetery

INDUSTRIAL: manufacturing facility

TRANSPORTATION: water-related

TRANSPORTATION: water-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian; EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal;

foundation Stone

MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival; Gothic Revival;

walls Wood, Stone, Brick

Second Empire; LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY

REVIVALS: Colonial Revival; LATE 19th and

roof Asphalt

EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow, Craftsman

other

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The Westport Point Historic District is a linear area that includes 233 contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites comprising the historic core of this small coastal village in Westport, Massachusetts. It lies at the southern tip of Westport Point, a sloping, tapered peninsula jutting into Westport Harbor. Westport is located in southeast Massachusetts, within Bristol County, and between the cities of Fall River and New Bedford. It shares its west border with Little Compton, Rhode Island. The town's gently undulating terrain, fertile soils, and irregular coastline are characteristic of the coastal plain environment.

The district extends for slightly over one mile from the tip of Westport Point northward along Main Road and includes two narrow lanes, Valentine Lane and Cape Bial Lane, that run perpendicular to the main spine. Other side roads (south to north), Read Drive, Carters Way, Drift Road, and Hotel Hill Road, intersect with Main Road in the district, but no buildings or lots along them are included. For the most part, the district boundaries follow the lot lines of properties fronting on Main Road. At the southern end of the district, the lot lines are coterminous with the coastline itself. Proceeding northward, they define inland land, but extend to the shore in two locations on the west.

The buildings within the district are generally one- and two-stories, of wood-frame construction with gable roofs, and represent vernacular interpretations of architectural styles from the late 18th through early 20th centuries. Most are residences associated with year-round maritime activities, and, after the mid-19th century, summer residents. With few exceptions, they are in excellent condition. The consistent and historically sympathetic maintenance of buildings is in part due to the area's designation as a local historic district about twenty years ago.

The district contains approximately 86 acres of land and includes 199 buildings, 9 structures, 53 objects, and 2 sites, of which 173 buildings, 5 structures, 53 objects, and 2 sites contribute to the district's architectural and historical significance. All the contributing resources were in existence by 1940, the end of the period of significance. Of the 26 noncontributing buildings, 23 were built after the period of significance and only 3 are historic buildings that have lost their integrity due to significant alterations.

Until 1787, when it became a separate town, Westport was part of "Old Dartmouth". The town extends northward from the Atlantic coast about fifteen miles and from east to west about five miles. Topography consists of fertile rolling agricultural fields, woodlands, and extensive wetlands that descend to sand and gravel outwash plains. The granite geological base of the land protrudes in many places, including the marshes, and presents itself

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everywhere in rocky soil. The surface and ground waters drain into two river estuaries that join at Westport Point and empty into the ocean near the conjunction of Rhode Island Sound and Buzzards Bay. The two estuaries comprising the Westport River, the West Branch and East Branch, reach northward into the town for nearly half its length making east-west land travel difficult in the southern part of town, but providing many opportunities for water travel. Horseneck Beach, an eight-mile-long barrier beach, protects the tidal rivers and their mud flats and extensive salt marshes from the Atlantic's surges. The outlet channel curves around Horseneck Point to the south and west of the district.

Westport Point is a small peninsula of land situated at the confluence of the east and west branches of the Westport River. It is the tip of the land mass lying between the river estuaries and is sheltered from the ocean by the barrier beach. The first Europeans found the Point cleared of trees and planted with Indian corn. The Indians called it "Pacquachuck", which means "cleared hill." From its southern tip at sea level, the Point rises gradually to an elevation of 90 feet at its northern end. The views to and from the low-lying southern end are defined by the far shores of the estuaries and the north shore of Horseneck. The tower of the Methodist Church, near the mid-point of the district, is visible from many miles to seaward, and views from the properties at the northern end of the district look over the marshes and the barrier beach to the ocean, the Elizabeth Islands, and Martha's Vineyard.

Main Road has historically been the backbone of Westport Point, as well as the primary north-south travel route linking the north end of town and the Point. Since about 1712, a ferry or bridge usually connected the Point to the barrier beach, and Main Road carried both local and through traffic, including increasingly heavy beach traffic in the 20th century. In the 1960s, the state built a new north-south highway (Route 88) parallel to and east of Main Road to the newly-created Horseneck Beach State Park. As a result, the old bridge at the Point was removed, and the Point became a cul-de-sac. The new steel girder and concrete bridge spans the East Branch of the river just east of the district and is a visual element out of scale with the intimate scale of the district and its environs.

Westport Point is compact and thickly settled along the Main Road spine, contrasting with a strong sense of openness in the surrounding land- and seascape. North of the district, the remains of old farms are interspersed with modern dwellings, but buildings are still spread out in a rural configuration.

With the exception of the open and adjoining "Onion" lots in the southeast part of the district (58/18 and 58/18A), the Point gives the impression of dense village development. Houses are built close together and most are close

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to the street with setbacks of five to ten feet. At the southern end, the area of earliest development, many lots are less than 1/4th acre. Toward the north the lots become wider and deeper, but are still narrow and houses sit close together. Of the six empty lots along Main Road within the district, one is a salt marsh, and one is too small to be built upon.

Two narrow lanes leading from the west side of Main Road are the only side streets with historic houses along them. Valentine Lane, laid out about 1900 near the south end of the district, continues to be private and unpaved. Cape Bial Lane, near the center of the district, was in existence as early as the 17th century. It is now a paved town street, but is only 12 feet wide. Main Road has sidewalks on both sides south of the church and cemetery, but none north of it. There is considerable pedestrian traffic along Main Road, encouraged by the lack of through traffic and by the opportunity for vistas between houses toward marsh and sea. Although there are no parks in the district, people treat the wharves the cemetery and post office as places to congregate.

There is little formal landscaping in the district, although several properties retain large deciduous trees. Most are on the eastern and leeward side of Main Road, the most notable being a stand of purple beech. Many houses have foundation or wall plantings of flowering shrubs and evergreens, as well as small gardens. The back of lots in the southern end of the district are typically open, naturalized lawns sloping down to the water's edge. Hurricanes in 1938 and 1954 felled the tall spruces and pines that once stood along Main Road. The one continuous landscaping device in the district is a grid of fences and stone walls that separate properties and line much of the street, especially south of the Methodist Church.

Most buildings in the district were originally constructed as, and remain, residences. Other buildings have been converted to residential use, including a former two-room school, and a number of small outbuildings are now in residential use on a year-round or seasonal basis. In the past, a few near the wharves contained manufacturing or commercial enterprises, but most of these too have shifted to residential use. In many cases, manufacturing buildings associated with maritime enterprises were removed by owners or destroyed by hurricanes by the mid-20th century. No buildings associated with the village's 18th century whaling industry survive, although the wharves at the end of the Point are home to a considerable commercial fishing fleet, consisting mostly of lobster boats. Other functional building types represented in the district are a few stores, and the sole contributing institutional building, the Methodist Church.

No building in the district, except the Cory Store, exceeds 2 1/2 stories. With one exception, all contributing buildings are of frame construction with gable roofs and shingle or clapboard siding. Most are weathered grey or

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painted white, although a few show blue, yellow, or brown colors. In general, the exterior of buildings is little altered, as most property owners have maintained the historic character of their buildings. The changes that have occurred are generally on the rear of buildings to increase living space or to improve the water view.

The architectural character of the southern end of the district is largely Georgian and Federal, while the northern portion is predominantly Greek Revival. The Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne styles are represented by a handful of buildings, including one substantial, high style Italianate dwelling (Valentine House). In several cases, decorative trim and porches derived from these later styles were added to earlier buildings. Most of the buildings, designed by local carpenter-architects, are vernacular interpretations of high styles. Typically, buildings have modest detailing; doorways are the most elaborate elements.

The district's buildings fit five general categories, dating from five general, but not purely sequential, time periods, that reflect different phases of the village's development. The earliest are Georgian buildings built between 1770 and 1800 when the Point first became a commercial and fishing center, along with the two moved to the Point at approximately this time. In a period of somewhat slower growth, Federal buildings were erected between 1800 and 1835 by merchants and landowners in the first decades following the Revolution. As the house lots at the tip of the Point filled up, the prosperous sea captains and merchants of the village's peak of construction built their Greek Revival buildings in the period of 1835 to 1860 on lots to the north. From 1870 to 1920, in the decades following the Civil War, a variety of Victorian houses were built on intervening lots by resident families. The last group of buildings are those also constructed beginning after the Civil War, summer houses and cottages of diverse styles erected from 1870 to 1940 by summer residents.

Two houses were moved from their original location on the Horseneck Dunes, outside the district, to lots within in the district. In both cases, (John Underwood House, Map 58/59, MHC #A343 and Benjamin Hicks House Map 83/69, MHC #348), the relocations occurred prior to 1825. The buildings have retained their architectural significance and established an enduring association with the development of the Westport Point village.

In the 20th century, a few buildings in the district were removed or destroyed. A 2-story Greek Revival schoolhouse on the Map 58/29 property was moved by oxen to Adamsville, Rhode Island around 1900. A Federal 2 1/2-story house on Map 83/17 was demolished in 1945 to make way for the present house. A Federal cape on Map 58/23 was demolished by neglect around 1915, and was replaced by the present bungalow. This lot was the site of the original Gillford family cemetery, whose remains were reinterred in the Point Cemetery

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in the early 19th century. A Georgian cape on Map 58/13 was demolished during the 1940s. Hurricanes demolished several properties at the tip of the Point, including fishing shacks, sheds, and a Federal house at 2047 Main Road. The house was so weakened by the 1938 hurricane that it was dismantled, and a new 2 1/2-story Federal style reproduction house was constructed in 1940.

Modern intrusions have had little impact on the integrity of the historic district. The size, scale, materials, and design of recent buildings are generally sympathetic with their older neighbors. Most recent buildings are outside the bounds of the district, that is, they are not visible from Main Road. Historic buildings that have been substantially altered on the exterior constitute three of the 26 noncontributing buildings in the district. Most alterations involve enlargements of buildings in ways that are not appropriate to the style of the building.

A description of key and representative buildings in the district follows. Contributing buildings and structures range in date of construction from 1770 to 1940.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGSGeorgian Buildings: 1770 - 1800

The oldest buildings in the district, some fourteen Georgian houses, date from the time the Point was developing as a flourishing maritime community in the last three decades of the 18th century. Before that period, all of the Point was encompassed by the Gifford family farm (south) and Macomber family farm (north). The Gifford family did not sell house lots until 1770, although the town had laid out Main Road south to the docks and had created a town landing there in 1712. The purpose was to provide farmers with access via a ferry to the common grounds on the Horseneck beach for cattle grazing.

The Georgian buildings erected between 1770 and 1800 fall in to two basic and similar types, differing primarily in scale. They are either 1 1/2-story capes or 2 1/2-story houses, with four- or five-bay facades. All are of post and beam construction with either vertical oak sheathing or horizontal sheathing over studding. Their clapboarded or shingled exteriors are either weathered or painted white. They are set on stone foundations, capped with steep gable roofs, and have interior central chimneys and sparse exterior details. There is one example of a gambrel roof house constructed during this period with later rear additions creating a saltbox profile.

Representative of the early capes is a Georgian 3/4 cape, Wilbour House at 2037 Main Road [ca. 1776, Map 83/12, MHC# A254, Photo # 1]. The walls of this 1 1/2-story, four-bay building are vertically planked and shingled and finished with 5" cornerboards. Windows are plank framed and contain

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12-over-12 sash; gable-end windows have splayed heads; windows on the facade are built directly into the boxed cornice. The doorway has splayed pilasters that extend into the cornice and flank a 5-light transom above the door.

The 3/4 Georgian, the Stephen Davis House, at 2041 Main Road [ca. 1770, Map 83/10, MHC# A250, Photo # 1], is representative of the early 2 1/2-story house form. This building is sheathed in weathered shingles on three sides, and on the north side, has clapboards painted white. An ell extends from the rear toward the water. Windows are plank framed with splayed heads and contain a mix of 12-over-12 and 6-over-6 sash. There are simple 5-inch corner boards and simple cornice. The doorway is flanked by pilasters and capped with a tall, trabeated entablature. A large central chimney extends four feet above the roof peak.

Two Georgian capes have been moved to the Point from the Horseneck. One is the John Underwood House, still known locally as the Dune Cottage, at 1878 Main Road [ca. 1825, Map 58/59, MHC # A343]. This three-bay, half cape, recently extended by an ell, is obviously older than 1825, when the lot was sold. Speculative reasons for the moves include the wish of owners to be closer to the community, the danger of hurricane damage on the barrier beach, the difficulty of crossing the channel, the ending of cattle grazing on the beach, and the introduction of cranberry harvesting to the dune areas.

Several variations to these basic forms also existed. One involved the addition of ells. Ells on capes were 1 1/2-stories, were nearly as high as the cape itself and were usually set to one side of the cape's rear so that the gable end of the cape was continuous with the facade of the ell. 1 1/2-story ells were added in the same fashion to the 2 1/2-story houses. Another variation was the addition, usually at a later date, of dormer windows to the front and rear of capes and houses. These took several forms including gabled, continuous shed, and separate shed dormers. Screened or open porches have also been added to the rear of a number of capes and larger houses.

Federal Buildings: 1800-1835

The earliest of the six Federal buildings at the Point is the Isaac Cory house at 2039 Main Road [ca. 1795, Map 83/11, MHC# A252, Photo # 1]. This massively grand and symmetrical, five-bay facade, 2 1/2-story house was erected by a family of leading merchants of the community. Part probably served as a store until a separate store was erected across the street in 1827 [A241]. The Cory house has gable-end chimneys and a centered 2 1/2-story rear ell with a chimney, containing the original kitchen. Its facade is painted clapboards and its sides natural shingles. It has 8-inch wide beaded cornerboards and a large doorway with broad entablature, pilasters, and full-length, five-pane sidelights. Windows contain 6-over-6 double hung wood sash. The interior is notable for two parlors remodeled in the mid-19th century, one with Egyptian Revival style woodwork and another in the Greek Revival style.

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There are several Federal capes in the district, of which a typical example is the Isaac Lawrence Brightman House at 1903 Main Road [ca. 1827, Map 83/62, MHC# A333]. The exterior of this house is shingled and its shape symmetrical. The presence of a space between the tops of the windows' splayed heads and the cornice and the fact that there are end chimneys indicate the stud construction and later date of this building. Its interior has fine woodwork, including window casings and mantels.

A later Federal house, also erected by a leading merchant, is the Capt. Thomas Mayhew House on Main Road [ca. 1827, Map 58/17, MHC# A264, Photo # 2]. Like several other Federal houses in the district, this is a three-bay facade, 2 1/2-story house. It is distinctive, however, for its octagonal bracketed roof cupola (probably a later 19th century addition) and for unusually fine exterior detailing. Its gable overhangs and cornice are trimmed with shallow moldings with prominent modillions. The cornerboards are thin, half-round beaded moldings. The windows, with 6-over-6 sash, have flat splayed heads and thin half-round casings. The doorway has nearly fully articulated columns, a seven-light transom and four-pane sidelights. Like the other half-house Federals, the Mayhew House was built with a 2 1/2-story ell extending to its rear. The pitch of the ell's roof is less than the main house. A 1 1/2-story secondary ell extends to the rear of the primary ell. All the ells have windows of the same unusual type and share the same foundation materials as the main block, indicating they are part of the original construction. Later owners continued the progression of this house to the rear in step-down fashion by adding a greenhouse and double garage.

Greek Revival Buildings: 1835-1860

By far the most popular choice of architectural style in the district is the Greek Revival. The prevalence of this style reflects the wealth whaling captains and merchants brought to the village when the Greek Revival style was the height of fashion, from 1835 to 1860. Two types of Greek Revival buildings dominate. The first type, five in number, is represented by the Capt. James Manchester House at 1940 Main Road [ca. 1840, Map 58/41, MHC# A316, Photo # 3]. It is a frame house of 2 1/2-stories with a three-bay facade, oriented gable end to the street. It has an end-bay entry with sidelights, pilasters and heavy architrave, and a double or single window in the gable end. This type invariably has a rear ell of diminished 2 1/2-stories. The wing or ell continues the line of one side of the main house without a setback, and the ornamental treatment of windows and doors on the ell complement those on the main house. The Manchester house has painted clapboards on all sides, wide pilastered cornerboards, and a very prominent entablature above its doorway and under its eaves. Like many other Greek Revival houses, it was later embellished with a side porch that continues along the rear ell and that bears Carpenter Gothic details.

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The second type of Greek Revival is one of the most common house styles in the district. There are some ten 1 1/2-story Greek Revival cottages, represented by the Samuel Devoll House at 1875 Main Road [ca. 1854, Map 83/67, MHC# A344]. This is a frame house with detailing similar to its 2 1/2-story relative. Many other examples in the district are less pure, having added shed roofs that increase headroom and storage space on the second floor. Many have ells of a form similar to ells on the 2 1/2-story Greek Revivals. One Greek Revival cottage with an unusual ell is the Simeon Macomber House at 1954 Main Road [ca. 1841, Map 58/36, MHC# A310, Photo #3]. This house has a rear ell at right angles to the length of the main house that protrudes to the rear on both sides of the main house. The roof has a cupola and a small shed roof dormer.

An interesting feature of all Greek Revival houses in the district is that the end-bay entry is always on the south side of the front gable facade. This means that the hallway and stairway to the second floor are also on the south side and that these block south light from reaching the front parlor. It has been suggested that this was done to protect carpeting from sunlight.

The district has one fully developed, temple front Greek Revival house, the Capt. Charles Ball House at 1998 Main Road [ca. 1839, Map 58/22, MHC# A280, Photo # 4]. This 1 1/2-story house has a pedimented end gable over a tetrastyle portico with four fluted Doric columns, which have no plinth. The three-bay facade with end-bay entry is recessed under the portico, and a segmental-arch, tripartite window is centered in the gable pediment. The corner boards are molded, and the broad entablature of the pedimented gable which extends around the sides of the house is bisected by a narrow line of dentilling. The design of the front portico is echoed by the shallow side portico on the rear ell.

Several earlier Georgian and Federal houses were modified in the Greek Revival style by the addition of a new entrance or new windows in the mid-19th century. The 1810 Christopher Gifford House at 2002 Main Road [Map 58/21, MHC# A278] has a later sidelited entrance derived directly out of Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter of 1835. The 1820 Job Davis House at 2009 Main Road [Map 83/20, MHC# A267] has half-round window casings and larger 6-over-6 sash, as well as a Benjamin-inspired entrance treatment. By contrast, its companion house, the 1815 Stephen Davis House at 2001 Main Road [Map 83/30, MHC# A279] retains its plank frame windows, some 6-over-6 sash, and a Federal doorway.

The most extensive restyling in the Greek Revival mode in the district occurred at the George Brightman House at 1933 Main Road (Map 83/58, MHC #A327, Photo # 6). This house was originally erected by a prolific local builder in 1782. Sometime in the 1840s it was made over and greatly enlarged as a Greek Revival house, probably by Pardon Davis, a wealthy local merchant. A new Greek

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Revival doorway with sidelights and entablature, after Benjamin, faces the road on the gable end. The original Georgian doorway is now enclosed in a recent colonnaded side porch and faces south. The interior woodwork reflects Georgian, Greek Revival, and Egyptian stylistic influences. The house is the largest Greek Revival residence in the district.

Victorian and Revival Modes: 1870 - 1920

The Greek Revival style, despite its popularity, was not, however, impregnable to later stylish trends. The 1845 Alexander Hicks House at 2029 Main Road [Map 83/15, MHC# A259] is a front-gable Greek Revival with ells and shallow porticos with square molded columns to each side. A number of later changes were made to the house, probably in the 1870s. An Italianate front porch that extends around one side was added. The cornice and front rakes of the original house received large brackets that are repeated on the porch's eaves and all the windows received new bracketed casings.

Another instance of stylish change is readily apparent in two adjacent Greek Revival capes that diverged in style when one, the Capt. Benjamin Gifford House at 1818 Main Road [ca. 1855, Map 58/86, MHC# A225], received a central gable, eave brackets, central porch and other Italianate details. Its neighbor, the Abraham Dyer House, [ca. 1854, Map 58/86, MHC #A363] at 1814 Main Road, retained its simple Greek Revival detailing, including a one-story, central pedimented porch, now enclosed.

In addition to these modifications to existing buildings, a small number of new buildings were constructed in Victorian Revival styles during this period.

One house exhibiting elements of the Carpenter Gothic style was the Sarah Hammond House at 1973 Main Road [ca. 1862, Map 83/34, MHC# A296]. Although much of the detailing has been removed, early photographs show that this essentially five-bay, 2 1/2-story house once had elaborate scroll-cut details.

In 1873, the first and only Gothic Revival house in the district was constructed, the Pardon and Hannah Tripp House. This center-gabled house [ca. 1873, Map 83/66, MHC# A342] has open rakes, a central one-story porch, a side ell with porch and an arched window above a central porch. If it had vergeboards or finials, they have been removed.

The William Wilkinson House [ca. 1895, Map 58/19, MHC# A276] is a small, front gable Stick Style house with an open porch surrounding four sides and two shed roof dormers on each roof slope with colored glass panes. The ridge board is scroll-cut with an undulating curve, the open eaves have scroll brackets, and the facade has inlaid stickwork. The sides are covered partly by decorative shingles and partly by clapboards. The house has been altered by enclosing part of the porch on one side and removing it on the front. Once painted in various dark colors to emphasize the stick work, it is now painted white.

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Bristol CountySummer Homes and Cottages: 1870 - 1940

The discovery of the Point by summer residents was announced soon after 1869 by the erection of the first, and still most impressive, summer residence in the district, the Valentine House [ca. 1870, Map 83/31 & 37, MHC# A284 & A285, Photo #8]. William Valentine, the president of a New York City bank, bought 4 1/2 acres that extended from Main Road west to the water and erected a picturesque Second Empire villa in a park-like setting. At the same time, he built a similarly designed stable-carriage house with a paneled billiard room above. In 1873, he purchased an adjoining 2-plus acres to the south, giving him an impressive estate setting, the equal of any urban residence. The 1 1/2-story house has a bellcast mansard roof and a square, 3-story, projecting entrance tower in the three-bay facade. The fairly simple massing is richly ornamented with sawn trim elements. The first floor of the house has very high ceilings and tall windows set in pairs on the front and individually on the sides. The paired front windows have a flared common canopy heading with scalloped drops and sawn open brackets. A similarly trimmed hip roof porch covers almost the full length of the south side. Paired brackets and dentils ornament the roof cornice, and dormers (two on each side) have dentilated segmental head casings and scrolls on the side casings. The first level of the central front tower contains the double leaf entrance with glazed doors, surmounted by a balustraded balcony on massive openwork brackets. The second level has paired and canopied windows. The third level, under the bracketed mansard roof, has a glazed beveledere, providing a panoramic view of the harbor and Point through triple tall windows on each of the four sides.

The Valentine Carriage House [ca. 1870, Map 37, MHC# A285] has undergone some alterations in recent years in the process of becoming a residence, but it retains all its essential features: the mansard roof, dormer windows with segmental head casings, and first floor windows and doors with bracketed head casings. The property also includes a small, open garden gazebo constructed as part of the original summer estate.

As most of the Point was already developed with houses by the time of the Civil War, the majority of the summer house development on the Point occurred on land outside the district, on open fields off Main Road. Within the district, the summer houses tended to be tucked in between existing houses. Many "summer people" also purchased older homes at the Point as these became available.

Most summer houses in the district were much less imposing and were in fact revivals of earlier architectural styles. Several Revival summer houses of various types were slipped into lots not previously built upon without disturbing the harmony of the already built environment. The Kugler House at 1953 Main Road, [ca. 1928, Map 83/55, MHC# A311], a Georgian Revival house built on open land, has the distinctive paired double-hung windows and open

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front-entry porch of this style. A Federal Revival cape, the Paul House at 2043 Main Road [ca. 1927, Map 83/9, MHC# A248, Photo # 1], composed of interior detailing taken from several early central Massachusetts houses, has 8-over-12 sash matched with entry sidelights. The Fitch House at 24 Cape Bial Lane [ca. 1934, Map 83/72, MHC #A354] is a Dutch Colonial Revival with some fine exterior detailing.

Within the district there were two areas where clusters of new summer houses filled all the land, Valentine Lane and Cape Bial Lane. On Cape Bial Lane, most buildings were simple examples of the Colonial Revival style, except for some vernacular houses made by converting henhouses to residences, such as the Spicer House [ca. 1900, Map 83/71A, MHC# A349]. On Valentine Lane, where small lots were carved out of the Valentine estate, modest vernacular cottages sat side-by-side with more stylish neighbors such as the Gifford House [ca. 1900, Map 83/27, MHC# A273], a Shingle Style cottage.

Elsewhere along Main Road the additions by summer residents favored simple versions of the Craftsman/Bungalow style with side-gabled roofs. Among them is the remaining first floor section of the Hotel House at 1856 Main Road [ca. 1897, Map 58/79, MHC# A316], a former hotel constructed in the Bungalow style, partially destroyed by fire about 1900, and converted to a residence.

COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

The largest remaining Greek Revival commercial building is the Cory Store at the wharves, 2056 Main Road [ca. 1840, Map 58/4, MHC# A241, Photo # 5]. This 3 1/2-story, gabled building was one of several Greek Revival stores that were central to the life of the Point. A few remain, but several were destroyed by hurricanes. The Cory Store housed a general store, the post office, a custom's office, a range of leased stores selling clothes, hats and the like on the second floor, and a sail loft and rigging room on the third floor. This building is gable-end to street with an interior chimney at the front, which creates a two-bay facade. There are pairs of windows on each of the four levels, and the entrance is butted to the south corner. A columned porch with a nearly flat roof and a broad entablature extends on the front and half the length of one side. The columns are unfluted Tuscan with bases. Windows are flat cased with splayed heads, 6-over-6 or 4-over-6. The corner boards and cornices are modest in size. The building is notable for having a 3 1/2-story rear stone wall, uninterrupted by windows. Before becoming a residence in the 1930s, it had cargo doors and pulley brackets on the south side of the second and third floors.

The one contributing institutional building in the district is also one of two examples of the Gothic Revival style. The Westport Point Methodist Church erected a Gothic Revival edifice in 1884 [Map 58/49, MHC# A331, Photo # 7] replacing an earlier building that sat in part of the present cemetery site.

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The building is cruciform in plan with a tall entry tower in one angle that extends beyond the attached gable end. The gables are open and have crossbracing. Each street-facing gable is ornamented by a large lance-arched window and two smaller arched windows with interlacing mullions. The stained glass windows are largely colored glass rather than pictorial. The steep pyramidal hip roofed tower, topped with a weathervane, has a belfry with lancet openings, below which is a lancet window. Diamond shaped panels once located below the belfry have been removed. The entrance, on the south side of the tower, has a broad, steeply pitched door hood supported by brackets. A handicap ramp recently installed is generally compatible with the building. Originally shingled and painted with dark trim paint, the building is now clapboarded and painted entirely white. The tower was originally 15 feet taller, but was damaged in the hurricane of 1938 and was rebuilt.

The Point School [ca. 1904, Map 58/56, MHC# A338], now used as a residence, is a 1 1/2-story eclectic Revival institutional building that mixes Colonial and Greek elements. It has a pedimented front gable block with two flanking wings whose hip roofs are as high as that of the central section. Wide cornerboards, molded cornices with dentilling, massed windows, and a large central chimney give it an impressive weight and mass. The front gable once had a belfry that was lost in a storm, but it retains its two front entrances. It was converted to a residence in 1979 without any exterior changes.

SECONDARY BUILDINGS

A number of barns are located throughout the district, particularly on larger lots. While a few barns no longer contribute due to exterior changes made in converting them for housing, some twelve barns retain their shape and function. Already mentioned is the Valentine stable-carriage house. Another large intact barn is the Cory Barn at 2039 Main Road [ca. 1840, Map 83/11, MHC# A252] with its original doors and cupola.

A large number of frame sheds in side or rear yards accompany residences throughout the district. Garages in the district are generally of wood-frame construction; almost all are fitting but some were constructed after 1940. Their locations are identified by lot number on the district data sheet. Most contribute to the district.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The district boundaries include several types of structures, objects, and sites that were important in the residential, commercial, and social development of the area. There are a considerable number of well and cistern covers scattered throughout this area that has no central water supply. The stone wharf structures at the tip of the Point were originally privately owned and some remain so. The wharf now known as Lee's Wharf [Map 83/1, MHC# 237]

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was constructed around 1800 by the Mayhew family and enlarged in 1830. It seems to have had a wharfhous from the 1830s that served a variety of commercial purposes at various times such as storing grain, lumber, coal and oil. It now serves as a fish market under Lee family ownership. West of Lee's Wharf was Almy's Wharf, which was sold to the Town of Westport in 1931 on condition it be used for commercial fishing. To its west is another wharf now connected by a concrete and steel bridge to the street and also owned by the Town and used for commercial fishing. It had a number of fishing shacks on it until these were demolished by hurricanes. Northwest of these wharves is Cory's Wharf [Map 83/4, MHC# 928] built around 1800 by the Davis family and sold in 1806 to Isaac Cory who expanded it to serve his store across the street. This wharf is still privately owned. Directly north of the first Town Wharf is a stone stantion [MHC# A916], an object used to tie up and winch sailing ships at a time when the water and dockage area extended further north as a mud flat for repairing vessels. This area also has the Town Landing, laid out in 1712, as public access to the water [Map 58/1]. It was from this point that ferries crossed the river, and the later stone and concrete bridge abutment still stands. The cul-de-sac wharf area at the tip of the Point also includes the roadway by the docks and offroad space that currently serves as a parking area for fishermen and tourists.

The district includes a number of wooden and wrought iron fences and cut-stone and fieldstone walls that separate properties along lot lines and set houses off from the street. These are too numerous to mention, but are listed in the district data sheet. The Georgian properties are often separated from each other by solid vertical board fences with molded caps and gates allowing passage between properties. Few have fences along the street. A few of the Federal properties have wrought iron fences or the remnants of them in the form of stone posts. Many of the Greek Revival properties have picket fences, stone walls, or cast-iron fences separating the house from the street. It is difficult to know which picket fences are original. All these fences and walls signify the importance of boundaries in this historic community where buildings are set close together.

The Westport Point Cemetery [ca. 1810, Map 58/45, Photo #7] was originally the property of the town and loosely associated with the Methodist Church. All burial plots have been sold for many decades. It holds the remains of many of the Point's 18th and 19th century families as well as some summer families and thus is important as a repository of local history. It also includes some fine examples of 19th century masonry funeral art.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district, well drained

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level terraces adjacent to Westport Harbor and the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Westport Rivers, a complex main ecosystem indicate favorable locational criteria for Native American subsistence and settlement activities. Given the above information, the size of the district (86 acres), and historic period development in the area, a moderate to high potential exists that sites are present.

There is also a high potential for significant historical archaeological remains within the district. Further documentary research accompanied by controlled archaeological survey and testing may locate structural remains within the district predates it's ca. 1770-1870 period of maritime expansion. Cape Bial Lane near the center of the district was in existence in the 17th century indicating the possibility for survivals along its route during that period. During the early 1700's the point area was part of the Gifford and Macomber Family farms. A landing and ferry (1712) was also present during that period. This information indicates the potential for agricultural/domestic and limited related survivals during the early 1700s, however it was not until 1750-1770 that maritime related settlement escalated. Although most of the structures associated with the district are still extant, portions of residential, civic, religious and commercial structures during the late 18th through 20th centuries may also survive throughout the district area. Residences have historically been the most common types of structures within the district. Archaeological survivals for this category of remains are likely present for the enter period of significance of the district. No documented 18th century domestic sites are currently known through later sites have been identified. A Georgian Cape on Map 58/13 demolished during the 1940s may date to the late 18th century period. A Federal period (1800-1835) house located at 2047 Main Road was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane indicating possible archaeological survivals at that location. Other Federal period house also destroyed including structures originally located at Map 8/17 and 58/23. The Federal period house at Map 50/23 was also the site of the original Gifford family cemetery whose remains were reinferred in the early 19th century. Portions of these graves may still remain within the old cemetery over as a 100% reinferment is unlikely. Structural remains may also survive for a Greek Revival (1835-1860) schoolhouse on Map 50/29 which was moved to Rhode Island in 1900.

Most historic archaeological survivals in the district are likely associated with the district's 18th and 19th century maritime development. These activities focused an whaling, commerce, fishing and shopbuilding. Wharves, constructed during the early 19th century, are a focus for the districts maritime past. Pilings from earlier 18th century docks may also survive within 19th century wharves. Lee's wharf at the top of the point was originally constructed in 1800 then enlarged in 1830. Portions of the earlier which may survive within the present wharf. Fills used for wharf construction

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can also represent important archaeological deposit. Other wharves in the area including Alony's wharf, Cory's wharf and a fourth unnamed wharf. Only Lee's wharf and the unnamed wharf supported structures. Lee's wharf supported a ca. 1830 Wharf House which still remain. Construction features relating to the Wharf House construction may be present within the within the wharf. Fish shacks, which stood on the unnamed wharf west of Alony's wharf, are now destroyed although archaeological features which relate to their construction may also survive.

While wharves may have served as the focal point for vessels involved in whaling, commerce, fishing and shopbuilding, it was the service occupations for these activities that occupied most structures at the Point. Archaeological features and sites including areas where actual hulls of vessels were constructed likely survive along the banks of the Westport River including the Point. The Point, however, was within location where vessels were finished employing tradesman such as blacksmiths, coopers, sail makers, ships carpenters, rope makers and any other trades which were needed for outfitting ships. These activities were distributed among shacks, structures and residences in the Point area many of which do not survive today. Archaeological survivals for the actual structures where these activities took place probably survive, however, more information pertaining to these activities may be obtained from occupational features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with structures still extant as well as those which no longer survive. Occupational related features also provide data pertaining to individuals and social group, as well as trades. Blacksmithing is reported on lot 58/4 in the 18th century. Coopering was also important early on lots 58/13 and 83/9. Sailmaking has been reported in the left over the Cory Store on lot 58/4 and over the Pakner Store which stood on lot 83/6. Shops for ship carpenters are reported on lots 58/3, 58/7, 58/9 and 58/11. Other activities directly related to maritime trades included rum-making, tailoring, salt-making and milling. Rum-making reportedly took place on lots 58/4 and 58/5. A retail store which dispensed grog was located on lot 83/5 and a tavern existed in the Georgian house on lot 83/16 after 1827. Tailoring, another important activity which serviced maritime trades was present in a shop on lot 83/69 and over the Davis Store which stood on lot 83/5 and over the Cory Store on lot 58/4. Saltworks were also present in the district including evaporating ponds at the northern end of the district in the marshes operated by a windmill which stood on the site of the present cemetery. A gristmill served by another windmill stood on lot 83/75. a sawmill, important for finishing off the super structure of vessels stood on lot 83/6. That mill was also powered by a windmill. Archaeological survivals for each of the above activities and the locations where they take place likely remain in the Point or district locale.

(end)

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureCommerceIndustry**Period of Significance**Ca. 1770 - 1940**Significant Dates**1770Ca. 1870**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**N/A**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property approximately 86 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	326700	4599500
Zone	Easting	North	North
2	19	327120	4598320

3	19	327200	4598300
Zone	Easting	North	North
4	19	327140	4597880

☒ 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 Byname/title Richard Wertz, Westport Historical Commission; Virginia Adams, PAL,
NR Edit - Consultant; with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHCorganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 1992street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116**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 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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Westport Point Historic District embodies the history of a coastal village community that was successfully tuned to its environment -- marsh, beach, harbor, and ocean -- first as a source of economic livelihood and in some cases wealth, and then as a scene of summer pleasures and diversions. The well-preserved Point buildings and other elements reflect each phase of this development from the initial 18th century settlement as a maritime village to its growth as a modest summer resort in the late 19th and early 20th century. On a small scale, the harbor setting provided an excellent base for fishing and whaling and for the pursuit of related supporting crafts. The prosperity is reflected in the harmony and variety of the built environment. Later, the natural beauty of the area and the charm of the village captivated summer residents. The dense 18th through early 20th century development has remained largely intact and modern intrusions are few. The Westport Point Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places, as well as Criteria Considerations A, B, and D, at the local level.

In the 17th century and first three quarters of the 18th century, Westport was part of "Old" Dartmouth, a large parcel of land purchased by Plymouth Colony proprietors from the Native American Wampanoag Indians in the 1650s. A few proprietors settled on their lands, but most sold them to settlers from Rhode Island and Cape Cod, most of whom were Quakers, Baptists, or secularists who wished to be free of theocratic control. In 1787, following the Revolution, Westport, Fairhaven, and New Bedford separated out from Dartmouth as independent towns. The bounds between Westport and Dartmouth were mutually agreed upon at the time, although small alterations were made later. The bounds between Westport and the state of Rhode Island went through several changes. None of these boundary alterations effected the Westport Point section.

The Point area was originally settled and laid out as farms by the early 1700s. The Gifford family owned and occupied the south end and the Macomber family, the northern section. The Point's prime waterfront location resulted in the establishment of a town road (Main Road), landing, and ferry in 1712. The sheltered harbor formed by the confluence of the two estuaries of the Westport River attracted seafarers from the mid 1700s. Because the Point itself was privately owned, the earliest wharves and maritime activities were located on the common lands of the Horseneck. By 1770, the pressure for capital expansion into seafaring became great, and the sale of house lots and construction of buildings on the Point had begun.

The harbor was the scene of coastwise trading, technically defined as smuggling, under British rule. Few records have been found describing

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activities on the Point itself, but its location suggests a natural involvement with coastal trading. During the Revolution, small American ships used the harbor as a base for harassing the British fleet in the vicinity. The British were unable to navigate into the tricky harbor entrance and shelled houses at the entrance in frustration at not being able to reach the ships whose masts they could see above the Horseneck dunes.

In 1787, Westport Point was one of three or four villages within Westport, clusters of commercial and residential settlement around an attractive natural resource. By 1790, there were perhaps a dozen houses on the tip of the Point.

Shipbuilding, fishing, whaling, and coastal trading promoted the growth of the Point from 1770 until 1870. Westport had many ties with larger seafaring communities at this time including Nantucket and Newport. It was able, for example, to supply the white oak needed for construction of ships and small boats, and hundreds of ships were built for sale during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is thought that the first ship in the area built especially for whaling was built in the Westport River during the 1750s. Ships were built throughout the river estuaries, closer to the stands of oak, but most were brought down river and "finished off" at the Point, where the shallows around the Point permitted this work. Among the completion tasks were superstructure and interior carpentry, final metal working, manufacture and installation of sails, outfitting, and repairs. A rude dry dock area also existed, where ships could be careened for repairs.

According to local written tradition, few vessels were actually built in totality at the Point, although a thorough history of the industry has not yet been written. Three commonly cited "father vessels", or local prototype innovative designs, were Industry, Almy, and Mexico. They were trading vessels owned by local merchants, which brought needed supplies to the Point and also engaged in some whaling for the Cory family. The schooner Kate Cory, was built by Frank Sisson and Eli Allen for A. H. Cory in 1848. She was later made into a brig and during the Civil War was burned off the coast of Africa by the Confederate ship Alabama. The Mermaid was built in the same yard west of the wharves for Andrew Hicks of Westport. The Almy and Paul was a fishing vessel made at the Point and was later converted to a whaling brig in 1825.

The village soon developed a group of specialists for finishing off activities. The Point had blacksmithing, coopering, rum-making, tailoring, shoemaking, shipcarpentering, sailmaking, ropemaking, saltworking, sawmilling and most other trades and techniques needed to outfit ships and sailors. The maritime activities were concentrated near the wharves. Shipcarpentering took place on Map 83/6 and along the eastern side of the Point on Map 58/3, 58/7, 58/8, and 58/11. A saw mill, driven by a windmill, stood on Map 83/6 and was operated by the Brightman family for many years. It supplied the wood needed for finishing off the upper-decks and interiors of ships. Blacksmithing

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occurred on Map 58/4 from the earliest days of settlement, and the stone east end of the Cory Store (Map 58/4, MHC# A241) was designed for protection from these operations. Joseph Arnold, who built the Georgian house on the adjacent lot (Map 58/5, MHC# A244), was the first blacksmith. In later years, Simeon Macomber and Darius Davis were well-known makers on this site of whaling tackle: harpoons, lances, blubber hooks, and the like. Sailmaking was undertaken in the loft of the Cory Store under the direction of the Noonung family, and on the second floor of the Palmer Store which formerly stood on Map 83/6. While ropes were sold at both the Davis and Cory stores, no rope walks for manufacturing are known to have existed in the village.

Rum-making, an early and essential maritime trade took place in structures, long gone, that stood in the space between Map 58/4 and Map 58/5, known as the "Still House Lot". The first distiller was Benjamin Davis, who lived in the nearby Davis House (Map 58/6, MHC# A245) beginning about 1775. His nephew, Elijah Davis, had a retail store across the street on Map 83/5 from which grog was dispensed. A tavern also existed in the Georgian house on Map 83/16 after 1827. Coopering was done in several locations. A cooper shop stood on the "Still House Lot" until the 1890s. Some casks were also made on Map 58/13 where a Howland-family Georgian house once stood. In later years, the casks were stored on Map 83/9, once the Howland "garden". Some casks full of whale oil were still there in 1927 when the Paull family bought the lot to construct a new house (MHC# 248).

A saltworks in the vicinity of the district was operated by a windmill that stood on the site of the present Cemetery (Map 58/45, MHC# A800). It drew seawater into evaporating ponds in the marshes east of the northern end of the district, now known as Masquesatch Meadow. This operation is depicted in S. Bourne's 1831 map of Westport. A grist mill, also operated by a windmill, stood on Map 83/75.

Tailoring was also undertaken in several places. Benjamin Hicks tailored in the north end of the Point on Map 83/69 from 1775. In the Davis Store that stood on Map 83/5, the second floor was given over to the making of sailors' clothes, known as "slop work". Once the new, enlarged Cory Store was built in 1841 on Map 58/4, it also had a tailoring establishment on the second floor. From 1825 to 1876, Varnum Macomber made shoes in a shop that stood south of his house which stood on Map 58/59. The maps of 1858 and 1871 show the shop as sited on the present school house lot to the south. Other cobbling establishments no doubt existed, but their locations are not known.

Whaling itself became an important local trade, and by the early 19th century capitalists arrived in the village who wished to outfit and manage their own vessels. Coastal and foreign trade likewise become a pursuit and a means of great wealth. Although not directly associated with the Westport Point village, the impact of these pursuits on the town are encapsulated in the

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achievements of the redoubtable Paul Cuffee. Half-black and half-Indian, Cuffee garnered great wealth from shipbuilding and the deployment of ships in domestic and foreign trade and achieved considerable fame in America and England by the time of his death in 1817. His base of operations was on the West Branch of the river. The Point itself, at the entrance to the river estuaries, was a port of entry and came to have its own Customs House located in the Cory Store, so numerous were the Westport River vessels doing trade in foreign waters. The Cory family, the Mayhew family, the Davis family, and the Hicks family each provided two or three generations of merchants and sailors.

The Cory Store, (ca. 1840, Map 58/4, #A241, Photo# 5) was the commercial center of whaling, holding supplies for that endeavor as well as the Customs House, Post Office and retail outlets for residents and sailors. Its scale indicates that the whaling operations were small, but extremely lucrative. The Thomas Mayhew House [ca. 1827, Map 58/17, MHC# A264, Photo # 2] represents the type of luxurious dwelling a merchant, near the top of the social strata in the early 19th century, might enjoy as an expression of his wealth. The census records indicate it never housed more than three or four persons. The earlier and smaller Georgian houses, on the other hand, were often bunkhalls for sailors and dockworkers and housed many people. It was not unusual to find eight, eleven, or even fifteen persons living in them. There were no doubt marked social differentiations within the Point community. By 1850, a number of properties housed "gentlemen and ladies" and domestic servants, while others contained several families of craftsmen, and temporary boarders. Some families even had black servants.

Whaling declined when cheaper illuminating oil was obtainable from petroleum after mid-century. Although fishing and coastal trading continued from the Point, they did not generate the great wealth that whaling had produced. The Point declined economically at the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century, but has continuously retained economic ties with the sea. Fishing, most recently in the form of lobstering, has remained an economic activity for perhaps a dozen small boats. Shellfishing in the harbor in rare years yielded a quick bonanza, such as when a crop of scallops was worth several thousands of dollars, but was not a reliable source of substantial income. During Prohibition rum running brought quick if dangerous monies to a few families. These activities, however, required no consistent industrial or commercial base, and as the trades associated with whaling disappeared, the Customs House closed, and the general stores for world-wide sailing shut up. The docks served coal barges put in to supply residences, and pleasure fishing boats tied up beside the small number of remaining coastal schooners and fishing boats, but the great days of wealth from whaling were finished by the 1880s.

A second major period of development began after the Civil War and accelerated into the present, that spurred by summer visitors and new summer residents.

(continued)

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The growth of summer resorts on the New England coast was ubiquitous during this period, as urban residents sought escape from crowded and hot cities. While the impact of this trend brought fundamental changes to the underlying social structure and economy of Westport Point, as well as modifications to its building fabric and landscape, in general the scale was moderate and unostentatious.

Westport Point was discovered primarily by recreational sailors and by word of mouth. The earliest summer people "discovered" the Point by sailing to it from New York or Boston as part of yacht club squadrons. The harbor appealed to them and drew them back often, bringing friends who also settled here. The Valentine House [ca. 1869, Map 83/31, MHC# A284, Photo# 8] is an exceptionally elaborate summer house, and illustrates the important impact upon the Point and adjacent areas of outside wealth. The relative splendor of the Valentine House, however, was not repeated, suggesting that in the end, sophisticated and urban tastes found other shore communities more favorable. In addition, much of the prime coastal land at the Point was already developed, limiting opportunities for new construction.

Two attempts to actively promote the area met with limited success. About 1897, a hotel [Hotel House, ca. 1897, Map 48/79, MHC# A361] for summer visitors was constructed on Main Road, but declined after about a decade of operation and was mostly destroyed by fire. In the 1910s or 1920s, a Mr. Sheldon, who at that time owned the Valentine House, developed an ambitious plan for a large residential subdivision on the Horseneck and the construction of a connecting railroad through the Point. The project did not reach fruition, but Sheldon may have been responsible for the development of the Valentine Lane subdivision at about this time. In general, however, newcomers built houses in the few remaining open lots, remodeled outbuildings such as henhouses, or purchased older houses as they became available, thus preserving many of the earlier historic qualities of the village.

The individuals and families who comprised the summer community at the Point by the turn of the century consisted largely of people associated with education and the arts. While not an "art community" per se, there was a strong contingent of secondary school teachers and theorists, as well as musicians and teachers of music, mostly from the Boston (Cambridge and Concord) area. While the musicians played together informally, there were no recitals or other public programs. Fine arts and crafts were also represented to a lesser extent. Another group of summer residents originated in the New York and New Jersey area. Some summer residents were from the closest urban centers of Fall River or New Bedford and were attracted particularly by sport fishing. To date, no summer residents of particular note have been identified. However, President F. D. Roosevelt was the most famous summer visitor prior to 1940. He regularly stopped to stay with his friend Howe on Horseneck Beach before going to Campobello, giving Eleanor Roosevelt the opportunity to shop at the Point stores.

(continued)

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As a group the summer people commingled with the older families and provided considerable employment and cashflow. There are innumerable stories of wondering interaction between the old Yankees and the new residents, of going to church and to sea together, of boarding and eating together, of painting, dancing and walking together. Boats were built, houses were constructed, and even some marriages enacted. On the other hand, the natives retained a critical distance and ambivalent regard for the flora and fauna of summer. The important places where summer people and natives interacted were the Methodist Church and the waters of the harbor.

The historical and architectural significance of the Point lies in the aggregate rather than in individual properties. No major architects or craftsmen produced work within the district, which is notable primarily for its vernacular and functional qualities. No doubt the Valentine House was architect designed, but the identity of the designer has not yet been discovered.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Westport are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significance. Site in this area can be important by documenting the effects of sea level rise during the prehistoric period. Native American subsistence and settlement patterns in this area underwent a change through time from an early inland riverine focus to that of a marine related ecosystem during the late Archaic/Woodland period. Any site which survive in this area can help document these changes through time as well as provide more general information on prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the Westport/Dartmouth locale.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized life in a coastal village community as it grew from agricultural beginning to a maritime village in the 18th and 19th centuries then summer resort in the late 19th and 20th centuries archaeological remains of residential, commercial and civic structures as well as associated occupational related features offer the opportunity to study a small village growth as it successfully adopted to a marine environment and changing regional and natural economy. Since much of the structural development in the district has remained intact their study in conjunction with records and surviving archaeological features offers a somewhat imagine opportunity to study social as well as industrial/economic growth in a coastal community for over 200 years.

(end)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hall, Katharine Stanley & Sowle, Mary Hannah, The Village of Westport Point, New Bedford: Anthony, 1914.

Old Dartmouth Historical Society papers, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford.

Westport Historical Commission architectural, genealogical & historical files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM Coordinates:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 5) 19 326940 4598080 | 8) 19 326600 4599420 |
| 6) 19 327020 4598110 | 9) 19 326580 4599460 |
| 7) 19 326540 4599380 | |

Verbal Boundary Description:

See attached Westport assessors' maps #83 and #85.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the district are drawn to encompass the concentration of historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects and their associated land that together comprise the historic core of the Westport Point village.

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
<u>MAIN ROAD</u>							
58/1	A915	Town Landing		1712	C		Si
	A916	Stantion		ca. 1800	C	stone	O
83/1	A237	Lee's Market	2065	ca. 1830	C	Greek Rev.	B
	A915	Lee's Wharf		ca. 1800	C	stone	St
83/2	A915	Wharves	2061	ca. 1800	C	stone	St (2)
		Dockhouse		1925	N/C	shed	B
58/2	A238	House	2062	ca. 1918	C	Bungalow	B
		Dock		ca. 1988	N/C	wood/steel	St
		Shed		ca. 1990	N/C	wood	B
58/3	A239	Menard House	2060	ca. 1918	C	Bungalow	B
83/3	A240	Wharfhouse	2059	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
83/4	A928	Cory's Wharf		ca. 1800	C	stone	St
83/5	A243	Leach's Store	2057	ca. 1939	C	Bungalow	B
		Messier House	2055	ca. 1939	C		B
		Shed & Garage		ca. 1939	C		B
58/4	A241	Cory Store	2056	ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B
83/6	A246	Garages		ca. 1935	C		B
83/7	A242	Nadel House	2051	ca. 1938	C	Vernacular	B
58/5	A244	Underwood House	2050	ca. 1775	C	Georgian	B
58/6	A245	Davis House	2048	ca. 1775	C	Georgian	B
		Barn		ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
83/8	A246	Hebden House Dock	2047	ca. 1940 ca. 1980	C N/C	Federal Rev. wooden	B St
58/7	A247	Earle/Bayley House Shed	2044-46	ca. 1777 ca. 1920	C C	Gambrel vernacular	B B
83/9	248	Paull House	2043	ca. 1927	C	Colonial Rev.	B
58/8	A249	Wing/Gifford House Garage-barn Shed	2042	ca. 1860 ca. 1930 ca. 1780	C C C	Greek Rev. Georgian	B B B
58/9		Salt marsh					
83/10	A250	Davis/Howland House	2041	ca. 1770	C	Georgian	B
83/11	A252	Cory House Barn fence	2039	ca. 1795 ca. 1840 ca. 1890	C C C	Georgian Greek Rev. Victorian	B B O
58/10	A253	Sisson House shed well cover	2038	ca. 1782 ca. 1920 ca. 1890	C C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/11	A251	Manchester House shed well cover	2040	ca. 1781 ca. 1935 ca. 1890	C C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian	B B O
83/12	A254	Wilbour House Shop apt cistern cover	2037	ca. 1776 ca. 1840 ca. 1890	C C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/12	A255	Kirby House	2034	ca. 1774	C	Georgian	B
58/13	A255B	Music shed	2034	ca. 1965	N/C	Cape	B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
83/13	A256	Head House Shed well cover	2033	ca. 1776 ca. 1950 ca. 1890	C N/C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/14	A257	Devol House Barn Sheds	2032	ca. 1780 ca. 1840 ca. 1900	C C C	Georgian Greek Rev. vernacular	B B B
83/14	A258	Watkins House Shop Apt. well cover	2031	ca. 1783 ca. 1960 ca. 1890	C C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian	B B O
83/15	A259	Hicks House Garage Fence	2029	ca. 1845 ca. 1935 ca. 1870	C C C	Greek Rev. vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/15	A260	Gifford House Garage Barn well cover	2028	ca. 1800 ca. 1930 ca. 1890 ca. 1890	C C C C	Georgian vernacular Victorian Victorian	B B B O
58/16	A261	Terry House shed wooden dock stone wall	2023	ca. 1827 ca. 1840 ca. 1970 ca. 1840	C C N/C C	Georgian Greek Rev.	B B St O
83/17	A263	Richards House	2019	ca. 1945	N/C	Colonial Rev.	B
58/17	A264	Mayhew House Cottage Shed wooden dock	2018 2018A	ca. 1827 ca. 1950 ca. 1980 ca. 1980	C N/C N/C N/C	Federal vernacular vernacular	B B B St

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
58/18		"Onion Patch"					
58/18A		"Onion Patch"					
83/19	A266	Allen House	2011	ca. 1895	C		B
		Garage		ca. 1940	C	vernacular	B
83/20	A267	Davis House	2009	ca. 1820	C	Federal	B
		stone posts		ca. 1840	C	Victorian	O
		cut stone walls		ca. 1840	C	Victorian	O
58/19	A276	Wilkinson House	2006	ca. 1895	C	Stick style	B
58/20	A277	Loring House	2004	ca. 1895	C	vernacular	B
		Shed		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		Wooden dock		ca. 1920	C		St
58/21	A278	Gifford House	2002	ca. 1810	C	Georgian	B
		Barn		ca. 1972	N/C	Saltbox	B
83/30	A279	Davis House	2001	ca. 1815	C	Georgian	B
		Iron Fence		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	O
		Outhouse		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	B
58/22	A280	Ball House	1998	ca. 1839	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Cottage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		Stone posts		ca. 1850	C		O
58/23	A281	House	1994	ca. 1920	C	Bungalow	B
58/24	A288	Gifford House	1990	ca. 1834	C	Greek Rev.	B
	A283	Cottage	1992	ca. 1984	N/C	vernacular	B
		Iron Fence		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	O

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
83/31	A284	Valentine House	1991	ca. 1869	C	Second Empire	B
		Gazebo		ca. 1869	C	Second Empire	B
		Garage		ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B
		Cut St. Wall		ca. 1870	C		O
83/32	A285	Carriage House	1991B	ca. 1869	C	Second Empire	B
58/26	A293	Deane Cottage	1980	ca. 1935	C	Cottage	B
		Deane Cottage		ca. 1935	C	Cottage	B
		Deane Cottage		ca. 1935	C	Cottage	B
		Stone Wall			C		O
83/33	A294	Store	1979	ca. 1925	C	vernacular	B
		Brightman House	1977	ca. 1892	C	Col. Rev.	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		Shed		ca. 1970	N/C	vernacular	B
58/27	A295	Church	1976	ca. 1820	C	Cape	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
58/28	A295	Post Office	1974	ca. 1955	N/C	Cape	B
83/24	A296	Hammond House	1973	ca. 1862	C	Carpenter Gothic	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
58/29	A297	Pineau House	1972	ca. 1950	N/C	Cape	B
83/47	A298	Bassett House	1971	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		St. posts & walls		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	O

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
58/31	A299	Tripp barn	1970	ca. 1879	N/C	Barn	B
	A300	Tripp store	1968	ca. 1879	C	vernacular	B
	A302	Corncrib/House	1966	ca. 1920	C	vernacular	B
83/48	A301	Mayhew House	1967	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
		retain wall		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	O
83/49	A307	House	1963	ca. 1953	N/C	vernacular	B
58/33	A305	Scott House	1962	ca. 1918	C	Bungalow	B
83/52	A3081	Wadsworth House	1959	ca. 1929	C	Bungalow	B
		field stone wall		ca. 1870	C		O
58/35	A309	Macomber House	1958	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Stone posts		ca. 1851	C	Victorian	O
		shed		ca. 1970	N/C	vernacular	B
58/36	A310	Macomber House	1954	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Stone posts		ca. 1841	C	Victorian	O
				ca. 1940	C	vernacular	B
83/55	A311	Kugler House	1953	ca. 1928	C	Colonial Rev.	B
		Fd. St. Walls		ca. 1870	C	Victorian	O
58/38	A312	Sowle House	1950	ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Garage Apt	1952	ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B
		Stone posts			C	Victorian	O
58/39	A313	Manchester House	1948	ca. 1935	C	Bungalow	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
83/56	A314	Weeks House	1945	ca. 1914	C	Colonial Rev.	B
		Stone Walls			C		O

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
58/40	A315	Sisson House	1942	ca. 1841	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Barn	1944	ca. 1880	N/C		B
		Wr. Iron Fence		ca. 1860	C	Victorian	O
		Outhouse		ca. 1880	C	Victorian	B
58/41	A316	Manchester House	1940	ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		St. fence posts		ca. 1850	C	Victorian	O
58/42	A317	Bassett House	1936	ca. 1853	C	Greek Rev.	B
		St. fence posts		ca. 1853	C	Victorian	O
83/57A	A318	Nichols House	1935	ca. 1953	N/C	vernacular	B
		Cut Stone Wall		ca. 1870	C	Victorian	O
83/58	A327	Brightman House	1933	ca. 1790/1840	C	Georgian/Greek Rev.	B
		Barn		ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Wooden dock		ca. 1935	C		O
58/44A	A319	Bassett Barn	1934A	ca. 1853	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Cut Stone wall		ca. 1853	C	Victorian	O
58/43	A328	House	1932	ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B
		Dyer House	1930	ca. 1872	C	Colonial Rev.	B
		Barn	1928	ca. 1880	C		B
		Barn		ca. 1880	C		B
58/45	A800	Cemetery		ca. 1830	C		Si
		Cut stone walls		ca. 1830	C		O
83/59	A329	Carter House	1919	ca. 1908	C	vernacular	B
		Garage		ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B
		Cottage		ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	REOURCE
83/61	A330	House Fd. stone wall	1913	ca. 1950 ca. 1870	N/C C	Cape	B O
58/49	A331	Church Parish House	1912	ca. 1884 ca. 1968	C N/C	Carpenter Gothic vernacular	B B
83/62	A333	House Brightman House Carriage shed	1905 1903	ca. 1890 ca. 1829 ca. 1890	C C C	vernacular Federal cape vernacular	B B B
58/50	A332	Howland House Shed	1904	ca. 1845 ca. 1960	C N/C	Greek Rev. vernacular	B B
58/52	A334	Brightman House Garage Fd. stone wall	1900	ca. 1844 ca. 1935 ca. 1890	C C C	Greek Rev. vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/53	A335	Sowle House Garage stone posts	1898	ca. 1845 ca. 1935 ca. 1850	C C C	Greek Rev. vernacular Victorian	B B O
83/63	A336	Lawrence House Garage Tool shed	1893	ca. 1920 ca. 1930 ca. 1990	C C N/C	Colonial Rev. vernacular vernacular	B B B
58/55	A337	Brightman House	1892	ca. 1824	C	Federal cape	B
58/56	A338	School	1886	ca. 1904	C	Neoclassic	B
83/64	A340	Clark House Cottage	1885	ca. 1918 ca. 1930	C C	Colonial Rev. Colonial Rev.	B B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
83/66	A342	Tripp House Cut stone wall well cover	1881	ca. 1812 ca. 1850 ca. 1880	C C C	Federal/Victorian Victorian Victorian	B O O
58/59	A343	Underwood House	1878	ca. 1825	C	Federal cape	B
83/67	A344	Devoll House Store Garage Garage	1875 1877	ca. 1854 ca. 1920 ca. 1920 ca. 1930	C C C C	Greek Rev. vernacular vernacular vernacular	B B B B
58/61	A345	Brightman House Garage Stone wall	1874	ca. 1790 ca. 1935 ca. 1935	C C C	Cape vernacular	B B O
83/68	A346	Hall House Shop Well cover	1871	ca. 1908 ca. 1920 ca. 1870	C C C	Colonial Rev. vernacular Victorian	B B O
58/64	A347	Levalley House Fd. stone wall	1868	ca. 1950 ca. 1870	N/C C	Cape	B O
83/69	A348	Hicks House Fd. stone wall Picket fence	1865	ca. 1775 ca. 1870 ca. 1800	C C C	Cape	B O O
58/79	A316	Hotel House	1856	ca. 1897	C	Bungalow	B
83/75	A362	Paull House	1853	ca. 1939	C	Colonial Rev.	B
83/76	A362A	Manchester House	1847	ca. 1897	C	vernacular	B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
58/80	A362B	Paull House	1846	ca. 1938	C	Colonial Rev.	B
58/81	A219	Cory House	1838	ca. 1824	C	Cape	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
83/77		Vacant Lot					
83/78	A220	Brightman House	1835	ca. 1788-	C	Cape	B
		Barn		1825	C	Federal	B
		Shed		1950	N/C	vernacular	B
58/82	A221	Tripp House	1834	ca. 1870	N/C		B
		Shed		ca. 1930	C	vernacular	B
58/83	A222	Macomber House	1832	ca. 1840	C	Greek Rev.	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		Hitching post		ca. 1840	C	Victorian	O
58/85	A222A	House	1824	ca. 1950	N/C	ranch	B
83/80	A224	Macomber House	1823	ca. 1780	C	Cape	B
		Barn		ca. 1880	C	Victorian	B
		Picket fence		ca. 1880	C	Victorian	O
83/81	A224	Vacant Lot					
58/86	A225	Gifford House	1818	ca. 1855	C	Greek Rev. Cape	B
		Garage		ca. 1935	C	vernacular	B
		Cutstone & picket		ca. 1880	C	Victorian	O
		fence		ca. 1880	C	Victorian	O
		well cover		ca. 1880	C		O

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
58/87	A363	Dyer House Garage Cut stone wall	1814	ca. 1855 ca. 1935	C C C	Greek Rev. Cape vernacular	B B O
83/82	A364	Taber House Barn Garage Outhouse	1813	ca. 1806 ca. 1910 ca. 1935 ca. 1870	C C C C	Federal cape vernacular vernacular vernacular	B B B B
58/88	A365	Thompkins House Barn Castiron fence	1860	ca. 1840 ca. 1890 ca. 1860	C C C	Greek Rev. vernacular Victorian	B B O
<u>VALENTINE LANE</u>							
83/21	A268	Fish House shed cut stone wall	6	ca. 1938 ca. 1938 ca. 1840	C C C	vernacular vernacular Victorian	B B O
83/22	A269	Anthony House Garage	10	ca. 1900 ca. 1940	C C	Bungalow vernacular	B B
83/23	A270	House Garage	14	ca. 1900 ca. 1935	C C	Front Gable Folk/vernacular	B B
83/24	A271	Valentine House Garage	16	ca. 1900 ca. 1935	C C	vernacular vernacular	B B
83/25	A271	Vacant Lot					
83/26	A272	Valentine-Simpson House Garage	24	ca. 1900 1961	C N/C	Colonial Rev. vernacular	B B

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MAP#	MHC#	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STATUS	STYLE	RESOURCE
83/27	A273	Gifford House Garage	21	ca. 1903 ca. 1930	C C	Shingle style vernacular	B
83/28	A274	House Garage	17	ca. 1910 ca. 1935	C C	Gambrel vernacular	B B
83/29	A275	Earle House	11	ca. 1890	C	vernacular	B
<u>CAPE BIAL LANE</u>							
83/70A	A349	Spicer House Field stone wall	6	ca. 1900	C C	vernacular	B O
83/72	A354	Fitch House Garage	24	ca. 1934 ca. 1934	C C	Colonial Rev. Colonial Rev.	B B
83/73	A359	Buffum House Shed	21	ca. 1928 ca. 1928	C C	Colonial Rev. vernacular	B B
83/74	A360	Luther House Shed	15	ca. 1927 ca. 1935	C C	Colonial Rev. vernacular	B B
83/103	A357	Macomber barn Fd. stone wall	43	ca. 1854 ca. 1854	C C	Victorian	B O
83/111	A358	Kelsey House field stone wall	31	ca. 1931 ca. 1860	C C	Colonial Rev.	B O

TOTAL RESOURCES:

173 Contributing Buildings
2 Contributing Sites
5 Contributing Structures
53 Contributing Objects

26 Noncontributing Buildings
4 Noncontributing Structures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Westport Point Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/05/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/21/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000815

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/25/92 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

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

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION SHEET

State Name MA

County Name Bristol

Resource Name Westport Point H.D.

Data Collector's Surname Mackin

Today's Date 4/2/92

Federal Register List 1/1/

Cert. Date 1/1/

Reference No. 92080815

Describe Problem:

Coded only dominant functions: 01/01A/01B/01C

Did not check any criteria exceptions because they don't
reflect the district as a whole.

Did not enter signif. dates given on form.

Entered "unknown" for arch/bldg.

Team Leader _____ Date / /

N R Staff _____ Date / /

Problem Team _____ Date / /



Houses left to right - Westport Point, Ma.

Hebden 2047 Main Rd

Paull 2043 " "

Davis/Howland 2041 " "

Cory 2039 " "

Wilbour 2037 " "

R. Wertz / 2/15/91
Westport Town Hall

#1 of 9



Mayhew House, 2018 Main Road, Westport Point, Ma

R. Wertz / 2/15/91
Westport Town Hall - Hist. Comm. files
#2 of 9



Greek Revival Row - Westport Point, Ma.

left to right

Manchester	1940	Main Rd.
Finson	1942	" "
Sowle	1950	" "
Macomber	1954	" "
Macomber	1958	" "

R. Wurtz 2/15/91

Westport Town Hall - Hist. Comm files

3 of 9



Capt. Chas. Ball House, 1998 Main Road, Westport Pt., Ma.

R. Wertz 6/15/90

Westport Town Hall, Hist. Comm.-files

4 of 9



Cory Store, 2056 Main Road, Westport Point, Ma.

x Weitz 6/15/90
Westport Town Hall, Hist. Comm.-files

#5019



Brightman House, 1933 Main Road, Westport Point, Ma.

R. White 2/15/91

Westport Town Hall, Hist. Comm. files

#6 of 9



Methodist Church, 1912 Main Road, Westport Pt., Ma.

R. Wente 2/15/91
Westport Town Hall, Hist. Comm. files
#7019



Valentine House, 1991 Main Rd. Westport Point, Ma.

R. Wutz 2/15/91

Westport Town Hall, Hist. Comm. files

8 of 9



Westport Point from Rt. 88 bridge

RWentz 2/15/91

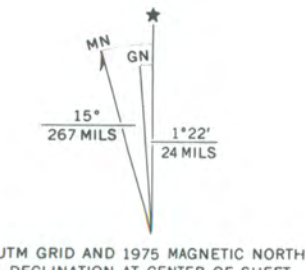
Westport Hist. Comm. - Town Hall

#979



WESTPORT POINT NO
LISTED DISTRICT
POINTS
1-9

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1939-1940. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 237 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Civil boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



SCALE 1:24 000

1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway,
hard surface

Secondary highway,
hard surface

Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface

Unimproved road

Interstate Route

U. S. Route

State Route

WESTPORT, MASS.—R. I.
41071-D1-TF-024

1977
DMA 6767 II SE—SERIES Y814

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

RECEIVED

FEB 21 1991

MASS. HIST. COMM.

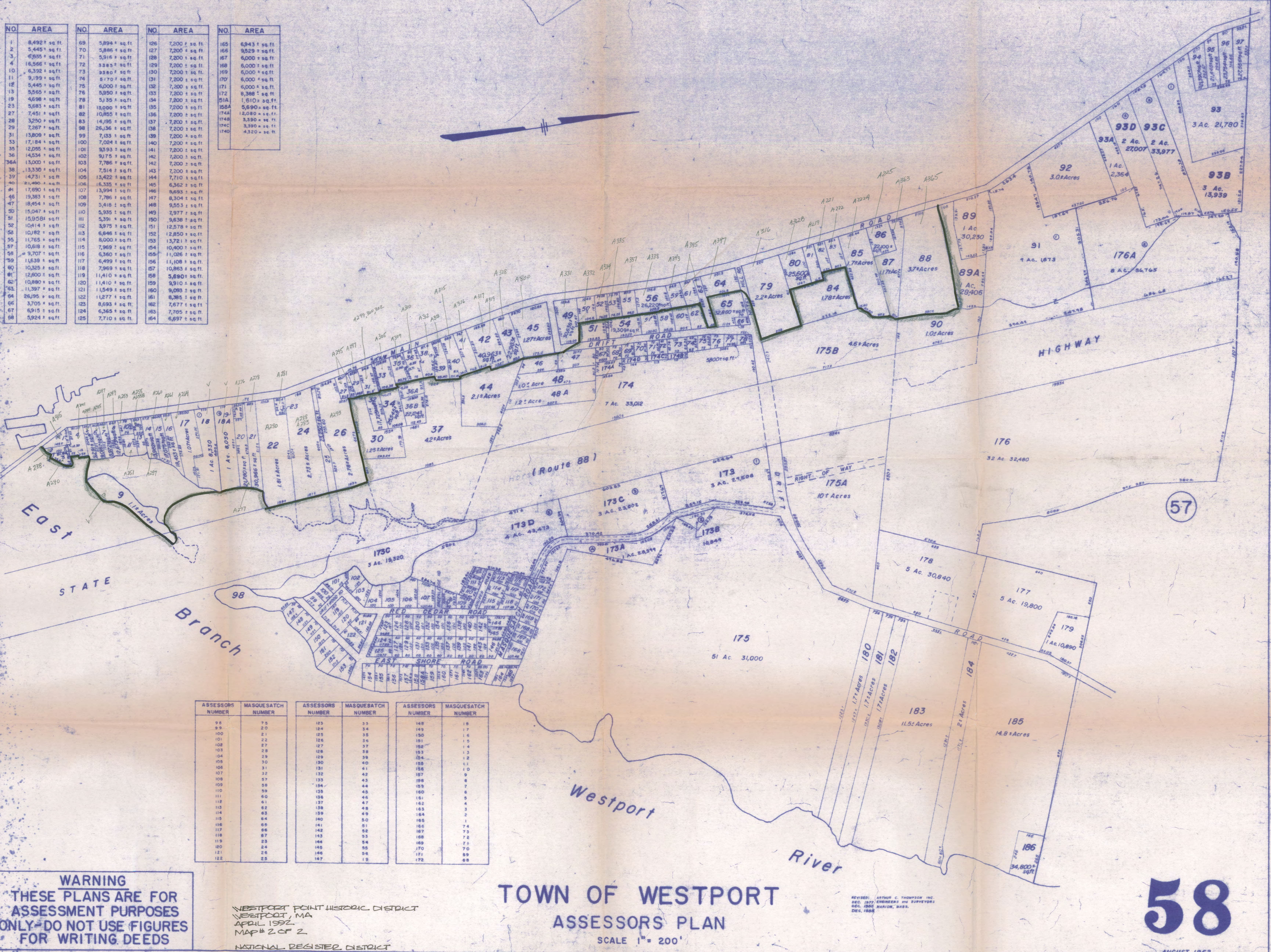
WESTPORT TOWN ASSESSORS MAPS

WESTPORT POINT HIST. DIST.

SHEET # 1 OF 2



NO.	AREA	NO.	AREA	NO.	AREA	NO.	AREA
1	8,492 ± sq. ft.	69	5,894 ± sq. ft.	126	7,200 ± sq. ft.	165	6,943 ± sq. ft.
2	5,445 ± sq. ft.	70	5,886 ± sq. ft.	127	7,200 ± sq. ft.	166	9,529 ± sq. ft.
3	6,535 ± sq. ft.	71	5,916 ± sq. ft.	128	7,200 ± sq. ft.	167	6,000 ± sq. ft.
4	16,566 ± sq. ft.	72	3,385 ± sq. ft.	129	7,200 ± sq. ft.	168	6,000 ± sq. ft.
10	6,332 ± sq. ft.	73	3,380 ± sq. ft.	130	7,200 ± sq. ft.	169	6,000 ± sq. ft.
11	8,199 ± sq. ft.	74	5,170 ± sq. ft.	131	7,800 ± sq. ft.	170	6,000 ± sq. ft.
12	5,445 ± sq. ft.	75	6,000 ± sq. ft.	132	7,200 ± sq. ft.	171	6,000 ± sq. ft.
13	5,565 ± sq. ft.	76	5,850 ± sq. ft.	133	7,200 ± sq. ft.	172	9,388 ± sq. ft.
19	4,698 ± sq. ft.	78	5,335 ± sq. ft.	134	7,200 ± sq. ft.	173A	1,610 ± sq. ft.
23	5,683 ± sq. ft.	81	13,000 ± sq. ft.	135	7,200 ± sq. ft.	173B	5,690 ± sq. ft.
27	7,451 ± sq. ft.	82	10,855 ± sq. ft.	136	7,200 ± sq. ft.	174A	12,080 ± sq. ft.
28	3,250 ± sq. ft.	83	14,195 ± sq. ft.	137	7,200 ± sq. ft.	174B	3,390 ± sq. ft.
29	7,267 ± sq. ft.	88	26,136 ± sq. ft.	138	7,200 ± sq. ft.	174C	4,320 ± sq. ft.
31	13,809 ± sq. ft.	89	7,153 ± sq. ft.	139	7,200 ± sq. ft.		
33	17,184 ± sq. ft.	99	7,024 ± sq. ft.	140	7,200 ± sq. ft.		
35	12,055 ± sq. ft.	100	9,393 ± sq. ft.	141	7,200 ± sq. ft.		
36	14,534 ± sq. ft.	102	9,175 ± sq. ft.	142	7,200 ± sq. ft.		
36A	13,000 ± sq. ft.	103	7,786 ± sq. ft.	143	7,200 ± sq. ft.		
38	13,330 ± sq. ft.	104	7,514 ± sq. ft.	144	7,110 ± sq. ft.		
39	14,731 ± sq. ft.	105	13,422 ± sq. ft.	145	6,362 ± sq. ft.		
40	8,400 ± sq. ft.	106	16,335 ± sq. ft.	146	8,693 ± sq. ft.		
41	17,690 ± sq. ft.	107	13,994 ± sq. ft.	147	8,304 ± sq. ft.		
44	19,383 ± sq. ft.	108	7,796 ± sq. ft.	148	9,553 ± sq. ft.		
47	18,454 ± sq. ft.	109	5,418 ± sq. ft.	149	7,977 ± sq. ft.		
50	15,047 ± sq. ft.	110	5,935 ± sq. ft.	150	9,638 ± sq. ft.		
51	15,958 ± sq. ft.	111	5,391 ± sq. ft.	151	12,578 ± sq. ft.		
52	10,414 ± sq. ft.	112	3,975 ± sq. ft.	152	12,850 ± sq. ft.		
53	10,882 ± sq. ft.	113	6,646 ± sq. ft.	153	13,721 ± sq. ft.		
54	11,765 ± sq. ft.	114	8,000 ± sq. ft.	154	10,400 ± sq. ft.		
57	10,618 ± sq. ft.	115	7,969 ± sq. ft.	155	11,026 ± sq. ft.		
58	9,707 ± sq. ft.	116	6,360 ± sq. ft.	156	11,108 ± sq. ft.		
59	11,638 ± sq. ft.	117	6,499 ± sq. ft.	157	10,863 ± sq. ft.		
60	10,325 ± sq. ft.	118	7,969 ± sq. ft.	158	5,690 ± sq. ft.		
61	12,600 ± sq. ft.	119	11,410 ± sq. ft.	159	9,910 ± sq. ft.		
62	10,880 ± sq. ft.	120	11,410 ± sq. ft.	160	9,093 ± sq. ft.		
63	11,397 ± sq. ft.	121	11,549 ± sq. ft.	161	8,385 ± sq. ft.		
64	28,195 ± sq. ft.	122	11,277 ± sq. ft.	162	7,677 ± sq. ft.		
67	5,915 ± sq. ft.	124	6,365 ± sq. ft.	163	7,705 ± sq. ft.		
68	5,924 ± sq. ft.	125	7,710 ± sq. ft.	164	6,697 ± sq. ft.		

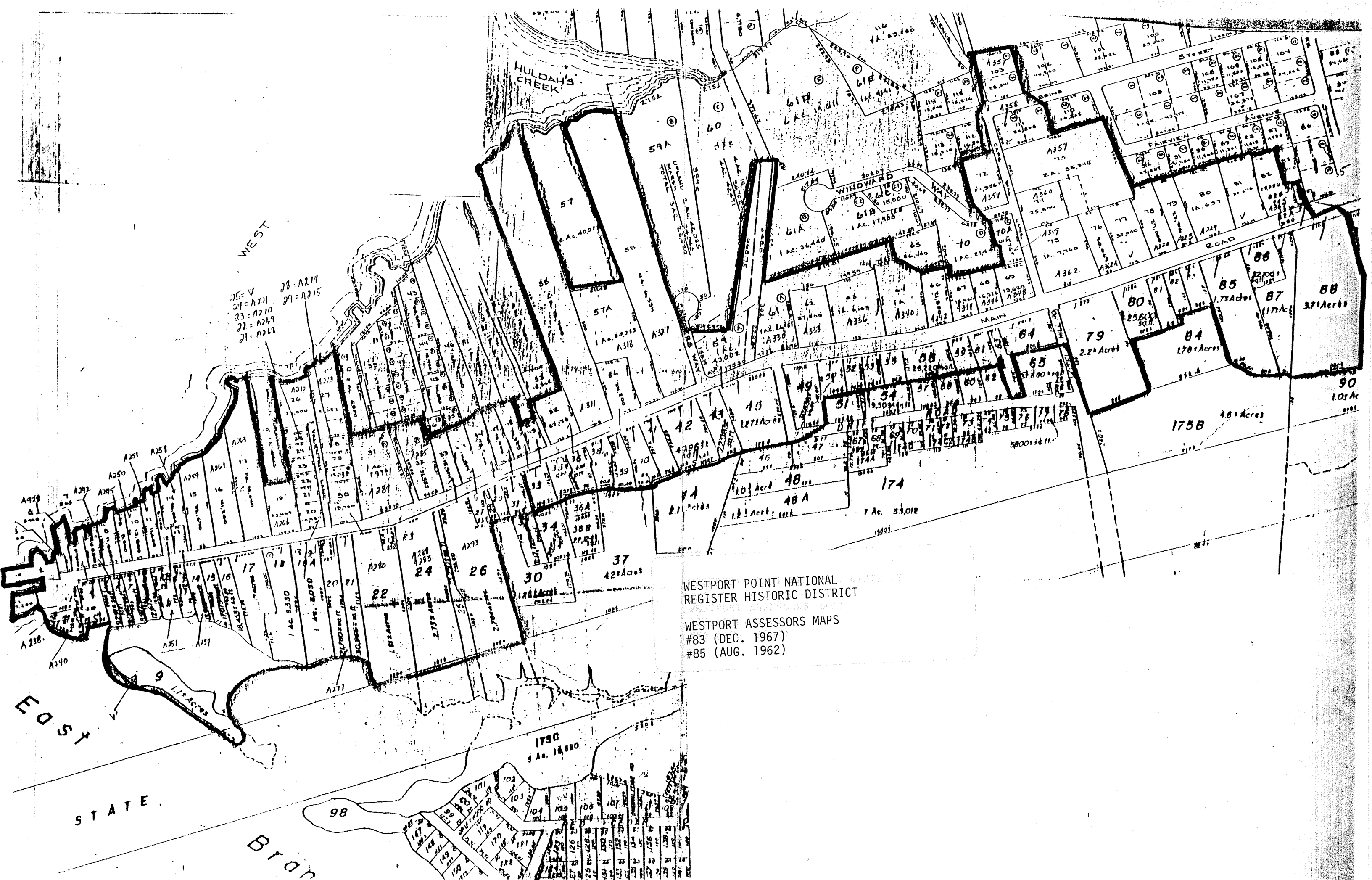


WARNING
 THESE PLANS ARE FOR
 ASSESSMENT PURPOSES
 ONLY-DO NOT USE FIGURES
 FOR WRITING DEEDS

WESTPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT
 WESTPORT, MA
 APRIL 1992
 MAP# 2 OF 2
 NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

TOWN OF WESTPORT ASSESSORS PLAN SCALE 1"= 200'

REVISED: ARTHUR C. THOMPSON INC.
 DEC. 1970 ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS
 DEC. 1980 MARION, MASS.
 DEC. 1985



WESTPORT POINT NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
WESTPORT ASSESSORS MAPS
#83 (DEC. 1967)
#85 (AUG. 1962)



January 31, 1992

Mr. James T. Cole
Director, Office of Real Estate
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Cole:

We are pleased to inform you that the Westport Point Post Office is included in the Westport Point Historic District, Westport, Massachusetts which will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission or nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Listing of this district provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the district. If the district is listed in the National Register, certain Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. If a property is listed in the National Register, the owner may do anything with it that he/she wishes, unless state or federal funds, permits, or licensing are used, or unless some other regional and/or local ordinance or policy is in effect.

In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements, or restrictive covenants for private properties included in the State Register. State Register properties owned by municipalities and nonprofit organizations may compete for state restoration grants.

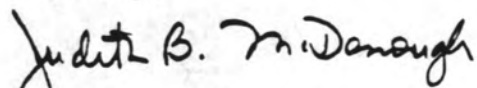
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470
Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, at which the nomination will be considered. The Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 1992 at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, Massachusetts at 1:00 PM. The Commission meeting is a public meeting and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

If you have special needs, and would like to attend the meeting, please contact the Commission, and staff will make any arrangements that are necessary.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Massachusetts Historical Commission meeting, please contact me at this office.

Sincerely,



Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

JBM/h1

cc: Richard Wertz, Chairperson, Westport Historical Commission
Ginny Adams, Public Archaeology Laboratory



TOWN OF WESTPORT
MASSACHUSETTS 02790
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Telephone 1-508-636-8822
Admin. Asst. 636-2115

April 6, 1992

Doug Kelleher
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Re: National Register District Nomination in Westport

Dear Mr. Kelleher:

In response to your recent inquiry into this Board's position on the nomination of the Westport Point area for designation as a National Register District, please be advised that we fully support nomination by your Commission at your April 8, 1992 hearing.

We are pleased at the amount of public outreach undertaken by the Westport Historical Commission especially since we are aware that they have by far exceeded the legally required level throughout the process.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact Sally Adams in our office should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Very truly yours,

Francois A. Napert
Francois A. Napert

Romeo A. Fortin
Romeo A. Fortin

Thomas Perkins
Thomas Perkins

xc: Westport Historic Commission



April 27, 1992

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

Westport Point Historic District, Westport (Bristol County), Massachusetts
02791.

The nomination was 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. One letter of support has been received from the Westport Board of Selectmen.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Richard Wertz, Chairman, Westport Historical Commission
Virginia Adams, Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
Francois A. Napert, Chairman, Westport Board of Selectmen
Sally Adams, Westport Town Administrator