

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

965



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Head of the River Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 2-28 Main Street, Acushnet; 2-28 Mill Road, 2-13 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford not for publication

city or town Acushnet, New Bedford N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02743/02745

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

*Brona Simon*

*October 7, 2009*

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

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

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

*Edson H. Beall*

Date of Action

*12.02.09*

Head of the River HD  
Name of Property

Bristol, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

37 building sites  
1 structures objects  
38 Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single, multiple dwelling

Commerce: specialty store

Government: post office

Transportation: road-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single, multiple dwelling

Commerce: specialty store

Transportation: road-related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

(see continuation sheet)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick, concrete

walls wood weatherboard and shingle

brick

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Acushnet/New Bedford (Bristol), MA

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### Architectural Classification (continued)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS, Colonial Revival  
LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT, Bungalow,  
Commercial style

A linear, largely residential, area comprising properties in both New Bedford and Acushnet, approximately a quarter of a mile in length along a winding road that crosses the Acushnet River just north of its widening into New Bedford Harbor, the Head of the River district includes 26 historic houses and stores on both sides of the river. The land rises from just above sea level at the water's edge to more than twenty feet east of the river. The land near the road is largely cleared, and the lots are moderately planted with trees and landscaping. At the rear of the buildings on both sides of the road, the land becomes more heavily wooded.

The area's buildings date to two periods: the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> through the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. All of the first group are of wood-frame construction, but three of the latter are masonry. Most of the buildings are 1½ - 2½ stories high with masonry foundations. Only four of the properties have outbuildings, with two of them attached to the principal building on the property. Buildings east of the bridge are generally set back from the road and maintain a general setback that gives the area a strong sense of unity and continuity. Only immediately west of the bridge on the road's north side are buildings set on their street lot lines, a posture that gives this node a more intimate village-like setting.

The following is a brief description of all buildings, sites, structures, and objects within the district boundaries. Numbers preceding each description are street numbers.

### MAIN STREET (Acushnet)

Bridge (pre-1850, 1959) (MHC #902): A double-span stone arch bridge widened in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century with the addition of parallel steel beams and a concrete deck. Despite these alterations the original double arches remain clearly visible.

- 2 Commercial Garage (MHC #75)(ca 1920): A one-story brick (façade) and stuccoed masonry commercial building with a stone and concrete foundation, regularly spaced windows on the west (riverfront) elevation, and a stepped parapet on the façade in front of a low end-gable roof. Built as a garage with a capacity to house 30 cars, it also had a planing mill and lumber storage at its rear by the mid 1920s. Automobile-related buildings and structures became common in most neighborhoods in the second and third

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decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This structure remains in automobile-related use. This was the Gem Garage in the 1930s. By the 1940s, it housed Landry's Garage & Service Station, owned by Lucien Landry, who lived nearby at 17 Main Street (*q.v.*).

- 3 Wing-Spooner House (MHC #76)(ca 1795): A 2½-story, asymmetrical five-bay, center-entrance house with stone foundation, vinyl-sided façade, wood shingles at sides and rear, and small brick center chimney. Built on Lot A of the Mill Lot by John Wing, Jr., the house was for many years the home of the Honorable Nathaniel Sprague Spooner (1790-1860), a graduate of Brown University who had an extensive legal practice (see 26 Main), represented the area in the State House of Representatives in 1828, and served as New Bedford police judge for many years. A small grist mill stood on the property's river edge until 1903. After his death, his spinster daughter lived here and left her property to the Congregational church at nearby Lund's Corner, where the family long worshipped.
- 11 Reed House (MHC #77)(ca 1920): A 2½-story, brick-clad house with cast-stone foundation on the main block, brick foundation on the two-story front porch, set within the mass of the high-hip roof and now completely enclosed and sided with vinyl. Built as a two-family house, this shows the increasing residential development density in this part of Acushnet in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Henry Reed, a brick layer, lived here with his wife, Alice.
- 12 House (MHC #78)(ca 1955): A 1½-story Cape Cod cottage with stucco and concrete-block foundation, center entrance within a one-story, end-gable-roof porch flanked by late 20<sup>th</sup> century bow windows; the façade is shingled, and the sides and rear are clapboard. Similar in scale and type to older houses in the area, this house illustrates continuing suburbanization in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 13 Virginia and Arthur Dupre House (MHC #79)(ca 1934-35): A fine and unaltered brick-clad 1½-story bungalow with uncoursed fieldstone foundation, center entrance within one-story hip-roof porch flanked by paired 8/1 sash windows on the west and a semi-octagonal bay window on the east; the jerkinhead end-gable roof has exposed jack rafters. Dupre was a bricklayer, and the couple continued to live here after his retirement into the 1960s.
- 15 House (MHC #80)(ca. 1920): An ample 1½-story bungalow with an unusual tile-clad foundation, symmetrical façade with center entrance flanked by tripartite windows and below a bank of five windows in the attic story, and slate jerkinhead end-gable roof with jerkinhead dormers on the east and west elevations. In the 1930s, this was the home of laborer Alexander Dupre and his wife, Mary; they may have been related to the family of the same name who built the house next door at number 13 (*q.v.*).

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- 16 NC House (MHC #81)(ca. 1975): A two-story multiple-family house with concrete-slab foundation, center entrance flanked by hopper windows set within a full-width, two-story porch carried on extremely thin piers; a large ell is at the rear.
- 17 Captain John Hawes House (MHC #82)(ca 1817): A two-story, hip-roof, single-pile, vinyl-sided, Federal house with dressed-granite foundation, five-bay façade with center entrance set within a one-story, three-bay, glazed front porch, and a large ell at rear. After a career at sea, mostly in coastal trade, Captain John Hawes (1768-1824) returned to his hometown and turned to shipbuilding and salt works; he later served as a representative to the State Legislature and as Collector for the port of New Bedford, when it was one of the country's most active ports. Lemuel Russell (1791-1863) bought the property in 1835, and his son, George T. (1811-1899), a real-estate broker, and grandchildren lived here into the 1930s. From the 1940s into the 1960s, this was the home of Josephine and Lucien Landry; he was the proprietor of Landry's Garage & Service Station at 2 Main (q.v.).
- 19 Captain Benjamin Dillingham House (MHC #83)(ca 1785, ca 1841?): A 2½-story, paired interior-chimney, shingled house with stone foundation, slightly asymmetrical façade (the west half is slightly wider than the east), center entrance with trabeated Greek Revival frame and delicate tracery fanlight, splayed lintels on the façade's first story, and second story façade windows that but the cornice, which is mitered out around them, and a large ell to the rear. A one-stall garage (MHC #84) is at the rear. Dillingham was a Revolutionary War veteran who served as Surveyor of Lumber for the Town of New Bedford in the 1780s; a proprietor of the Social School, he was an original member of the Acushnet Methodist Church. Edward W. Collins acquired the house in 1841, and his descendants lived here into the 1960s.
- 20 Pratt-Clark House (MHC #85)(ca 1810): A 2½-story, brick center-chimney, shingled house set gable end to the street with a dressed granite-block foundation, the principal entrance in an asymmetrical, five-bay façade on the east elevation with the center entrance within a small, hip-roof vestibule, a large ell to the rear in the same plane as the façade, and a wide entablature. Amos Pratt probably built the house. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, it was the home of Cyrus E. Clark (1796-after 1865), a grocer and land surveyor who served his community variously as postmaster, member of the Board of Selectmen (both of New Bedford and Acushnet, after its setting off in 1860), and justice of the peace for more than fifty years. The house remained in the Clark family at least to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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- 21 West-Kenyon House (MHC #86)(ca 1790, ca 1873): A 2½-story, cross-gable-roof, five-bay, Federal/Italianate house with uncoursed ashlar foundation, center entrance with double-leaf fully-glazed principal entrance within paired-chamfered-pier entrance porch supporting a central projecting bay window on the second story with 3 narrow 1/1 sash, and centered cross gable with a round-head window with hood mould; a one-story ell is at the rear. The house that Bartholomew West built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century became the home of stable owner Charles Kenyon in the early 1870s, and the Kenyons are likely responsible for the then-stylish Italianate additions to the façade.
- 22 House (MHC # 87)(ca. 1850?, ca. 1915): A 1½-story, five-bay, end-gable-roof Greek Revival house with rock-face-concrete-block foundation, trabeated center entrance flanked by full-height sidelights, full-width Queen Anne front porch, now fully glazed, and extensive ells to the rear. Local legend dates this house to 1817, but the existence of a high foundation made with materials unavailable before the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century suggest that this house was moved here. It was on this site by 1924. In the 1930s it was home to Superintendent of Schools Charles Holmes and his wife, Elizabeth. Paul Hubert, an employee at the nearby Acushnet Process Company, lived here from the 1940s into the 1960s with his wife, Antoinette.
- 24 House (MHC # 88)(ca. 1920): A 2½-story, Dutch Colonial house with a foundation of coursed-ashlar-concrete block. Two bays with a side-hall entrance set within a one-story porch, a hip roof porch on the west elevation now completely enclosed, and a high, two-story, end-gambrel roof. The house was built on the site of the first Acushnet Town Hall.
- 26 Judge Nathaniel Sprague Spooner's Office (MHC #89)(ca. 1823): A modest two-story, hip-roof, T-plan, shingled building with granite-block foundation. Spooner lived down the street at 3 Main Street (*q.v.*); in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was home to Miss Gifford.
- 27 Samuel B. Hamblin House (MHC #90)(ca. 1849): A 2½-story, end-gable-roof, three-bay, side-hall plan, vernacular, Greek Revival house with stone foundation, lower two-story ell perpendicular to the main block extending east from its northeast corner, and an ell on the north than connects the house with its 19<sup>th</sup>-century barn at rear. Hamblin was a businessman who bought White's Factory in 1863. Like several of his neighbors, he was civic-minded and participated in town affairs: he was a member of the Long Plain School Building Committee in 1875. Documentation assembled by the Acushnet Historical Commission suggests that Seth Bumpus built a house here in 1802; if so, the house was replaced or thoroughly remodeled into this fine and typical Greek Revival building.

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- 28 House (MHC #91)(ca. 1900): A 1½-story, T-plan, cross-gambrel-roof Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house with stone foundation, one-story, turned-post-and-scroll saw bracket entrance porch flanked by semi octagonal bay window, a hip-roof dormer on the north elevation, and a shed-roof dormer on the south elevation. For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this has been the home of the pastor of the nearby Acushnet Methodist Church (see Form B for 67 Main Street).

**MILL ROAD (Even-numbered properties, on the east side of the street, are in Acushnet; odd-numbered properties, on the west side of the street, are in New Bedford.)**

- 2 Wilbur House (MHC #92)(ca. 1820 *et seq.*): a 2½-story, four-bay house with granite-block foundation, trabeated Greek Revival entrance, splayed lintels over the windows on front and side elevations, semicircular window in south gable end with hoist below, and an off-center brick chimney diagonal to the ridge line; an ell parallel to the main block and in the same plane as the rear wall extends north from its northeast corner. J. Wilbur lived here in 1855. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, this was the home of Roland and Theresa Pelletier; another family of the same name lived next door at number 10 (*q.v.*).
- 9 Thomas Terry House (MHC #677)(ca 1830): A 2½-story, three-bay, side-hall plan house with stuccoed-stone foundation, trabeated entrance with Greek-key pilasters, center chimney, and a large, 2½-story, two-stage ell that extends west from the main house to the barn. Terry was a blacksmith whose shop was south of the bridge over the Acushnet River.
- 10 Jireh Swift House (MHC #93)(ca. 1785): A 1½-story, center-chimney, asymmetrical four-bay house with ell parallel to main block and in the same plane as the rear wall extending south from its southeast corner. Swift was a general-merchandise businessman. In the 1930s, this was the home of painter Henry Pelletier and his wife, Beatrice, who continued to live here as his widow into the 1960s. Another family of the same name lived next door at number 2 (*q.v.*).
- 13 Mrs Dorr House (MHC #676)(ca. 1840): A 2½-story, asymmetrical four-bay, side-hall-plan house with granite-block foundation, trabeated entrance, and ell at the rear. Mrs. Dorr lived here in 1855.

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**TARKILN HILL ROAD (Acushnet and New Bedford. Properties numbered 7 and 7½ are in Acushnet, higher numbered properties are in New Bedford.)**

- 7 Store (MHC #94)(early 20<sup>th</sup> century): A one-story, flat-roof commercial block with concrete-block foundation abutting the Acushnet River, shingled side walls, late 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick storefront, and small parapet above the façade. This has been the River's End Café since the 1940s.
- 7½ Lewis S. Pope Store (MHC #95)(ca. 1830): A one-story, end-gable roof, shingled building with corner posts, narrow entablature on deep side walls, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century storefront. Storekeeper Pope was a member of the Board of Health in 1860. At the turn of the last century, this was the home of the Acushnet Meat Market.
- 14 Humphrey Hathaway House (MHC #2030)(ca. 1795): A shingled 2½-story, five-bay, paired-interior chimney (only the west stack remains), Federal house with stone foundation, center entrance framed by fluted pilasters supporting a cushion frieze and dentil cornice, and second story windows that abut the eaves cornice mitered out around them. This became the country house of Hathaway, who had an oil works at the corner of School and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets in New Bedford and a town house at Elm and Purchase Streets. He was also the co-owner with his brother-in-law Jireh Swift IV of the ship "Swift." It was later home to Alice Hathaway and Elisha Haskell, whose granddaughter was the first wife of President Theodore Roosevelt.
- 17 Jonathan Swift Store, later Post Office (MHC #544) (ca. 1800): A modest two-story, hip-roof, shingled building with stuccoed stone foundation, and diagonally placed entrance at the southeast corner. Jonathan Swift's (see 29 Tarkiln Hill Road) store became Swift & Nye by the second decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Obed Nye continued to keep shop here into the middle of the century. By 1895, this was the location of the Acushnet Village Post Office, RFD Number 1, a use that continued into the 1940s. The survival of small, early commercial buildings is rare.
- 23 Snow House (MHC #2261)(ca. 1810): A diminutive two-story, three-bay, side-hall plan house with stone foundation, low hip roof, and two-stage 1½- and one-story ell at rear. N. Snow lived here in 1855; by 1871, it was occupied by Mrs. B. Snow.
- 29 Jonathan Swift House (MHC #343)(ca. 1795): A vinyl-sided 2½-story, five-bay, center-entrance, paired interior chimney (only the east stack remains), Federal house with stuccoed stone foundation and large ell at the rear. Swift was a merchant with a store nearby at 17 Tarkiln Hill Road (*q.v.*).

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## Archaeological Description

While no pre-Contact period sites are located in the district, sites may be present. Fourteen sites are located in the general area (within one mile); most located on terraces along the eastern shoreline of the Acushnet River south of the district. One site, the Swift Site (19-BR-212) is located immediately south of the district on Acushnet River terraces, separated from the district by a wetland. The site includes several small, short-term campsites for processing flora and fauna such as fish and shellfish, fowl, and reedy or tuberous plants, supported by the Acushnet River estuary. Similar sites may exist in the district on terraces bordering the Acushnet River and its related wetlands.

Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of pre-contact Native sites. The district includes several well drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, knolls, and other landforms in close proximity to wetlands. Land surfaces generally rise from sea level at the water's edge to twenty feet about 100 feet east of the river. Most soils in the district are classified as muck or urban land. Muck soils are confined to wetlands, while areas covered with structures including industrial areas, shopping centers, parking lots, and roads characterize urban land. Most of the district is located within 1,000 feet of the Acushnet River and related wetlands. The town of Acushnet lies within the Massachusetts coastal drainage.

Given the above information, a moderate to high potential exists for locating pre Contact-period Native American resources in the district. While much of the district is developed with 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century residential housing, or contains poorly drained soils, undeveloped, well drained, level to moderately sloping terraces border the district along the Acushnet River and its related wetlands. The latter areas are highly sensitive for pre-contact sites, while potential sites in areas classified as urban land have likely been destroyed by residential development.

A moderate to high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district, although much of that potential remains to be physically demonstrated. Acushnet was first settled after English colonists purchased the town, then part of Dartmouth, from the Wampanoag Sachem Massasoit in 1652. Acushnet was sparsely settled in its early years, and virtually all of its colonial settlement was wiped out during King Philip's War (1675-1676). Structural evidence of residences, barns, outbuildings, and evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with farmsteads may survive from this early period of settlement; however, no examples of these potential sites have been identified.

Archaeological evidence of farmsteads, commercial, and institutional buildings from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to late 18<sup>th</sup> century period may also survive in the district; however, examples from this period are also lacking. The district was sparsely settled throughout most of its history, with increased settlement

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occurring in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century residential and commercial buildings survive in the district; however, documented historic archaeological sites are rare in the district. Only one potential example of a residential site is known in the district, located in the vicinity of the extant Samuel B. Hamblin House (ca. 1849) at 27 Main Street. Seth Bumpus reportedly built a house at this address in 1802; if so, the thoroughly remodeled Hamblin House replaced it. Other potential archaeological sites in the district include a small gristmill located until 1903 at the river edge of the Wing-Spooner House (ca. 1795) at 3 Main Street, the Terry blacksmith shop originally located south of the bridge over the Acushnet River, the site of the No. 4 School at 24 Main Street, and the site of the first Acushnet Town Hall, also at 24 Main Street.

Archaeological evidence of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features may survive with both archaeological sites and extant buildings, including the district's well-preserved collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic and commercial buildings.

According to local tradition, undocumented military and industrial activity also occurred in the district during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the Revolutionary War, military encounters between the British and Colonists took place on the east bank of the Acushnet River in the Head of the River area. Recent discoveries in this area include the potential remains of several 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century British and Colonial vessels destroyed in the river. It is unknown whether these engagements represented an exclusively naval action or whether land based fortifications and engagements were also involved. If the military encounters were naval engagements then vessel remains in the river would lie outside the district. In the event land-based engagements and/or fortifications were involved, then the district may contain evidence of those fortifications and engagements. Undocumented late 18<sup>th</sup> century industrial activity on the east bank of the Acushnet River in the Head of the River area is unknown at this time.

(end)

Head of the River HD

Name of Property

Bristol, MA

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1750-1959

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Head of the River Historic District, located on both the New Bedford and the Acushnet sides of the Acushnet River, meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level for its associations with the development of New Bedford and Acushnet and for its well-preserved representatives of late 18<sup>th</sup>-, 19<sup>th</sup>-, and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century domestic and commercial architecture. It achieves significance in the history of community development and architecture. The arrangement of these buildings, along the east-west thoroughfares of Main Street (Acushnet), Tarkiln Hill Road (Acushnet and New Bedford), and the short stretch of Mill Road (Acushnet and New Bedford) illustrates the development of a concentrated node within an otherwise sparsely settled rural community. Its collection of vernacular houses embodies the typical characteristics of domestic and modest commercial architecture from the period of significance.

### HISTORY

#### TOWN OF ACUSHNET HISTORY

Located approximately 50 miles south of Boston in Bristol County, the area known today as Acushnet saw human occupation and development in Prehistoric, Contact, European Settlement, and Colonial periods. It was part of the town of Dartmouth, purchased by 36 English colonists from Wampanoag Sachem Massasoit in 1652. Acushnet was sparsely settled in its early years, and virtually all of its colonial settlement was destroyed during King Philip's War (1675-1676). After that war, settlement nodes occurred in three areas, known today as Head of the River, Parting Ways, and Long Plain. The First Precinct Church, eventually a Congregational church (ca. 1696-1708), and the Friends Meeting House (ca. 1729) at Parting Ways soon had adjacent burying grounds associated with them, as did the Friends Meeting House (ca. 1759) (NR) at the north end of Long Plain. Among these houses of worship, only the Friends Meeting House at Long Plain survives. Acushnet remained part of the town of New Bedford from the time of that community's establishment in 1787 until Fairhaven hived off in 1812. Acushnet became an independent township in 1860.

According to local tradition, on the east bank of the Acushnet River in the Head of the River area, military encounters occurred during the Revolution and unspecified late 18<sup>th</sup>-century industrial activity developed. Development of residential and institutional buildings continued in both Head of the River and Long Plain during this period. While several churches were erected in both areas, none of them survive. A number of houses, however, were built in both areas, and significant numbers of them survive in a concentration at the west end of Main Street in Head of the River, scattered through the Long Plain area, in a compact cluster at the east end of Robinson

(continued)

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Road near the Acushnet-Rochester Town Line, and scattered through other parts of town. The double-arch stone bridge crossing the Acushnet River at Main Street likely dates to the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Despite its mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century deck, the bridge retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the district's significance. Reportedly the site of a Revolutionary War battle in 1779, the bridge appears on the Acushnet town seal.

With the growing importance of shipping in nearby New Bedford and Fairhaven, whose access to the water was much greater, Acushnet became more of a residential and farming community. Its proximity to those communities and its lack of urban development, however, seem to have made it an appealing place to live for mariners shipping out of those communities. A number of them made their homes here, either while still actively involved with shipping or after their retirement from the sea. Limited residential development continued throughout the community, and slightly more concentrated at Head of the River and Long Plain.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century saw very little development, and Acushnet's population remained virtually unchanged until the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Probably the town's most significant civic events occurred at the beginning and end of the period: the construction of two consolidated schools, Parting Ways (1874) and Long Plain (1875), which began to replace the one-room district schools, and the construction of a new Town Hall (1914). Residential activity was exceptionally limited: only a few isolated new houses and the remodeling of older ones, especially in Head of the River and Long Plain.

Acushnet emerged as a bedroom community for nearby New Bedford in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Parting Ways area emerged as the town's new civic center: the library acquired its first building dedicated to its own use in 1930, the Town Hall was enlarged in 1938, and the area saw significant residential development along Main and South Main streets, and the side streets south of Main and east and west of South Main Street. The town also saw growth due to the location on the east bank of the Acushnet River of the Acushnet Process Company, which manufactured precision rubber products and, beginning in the mid 1920s, Titleist golf balls.

### HEAD OF THE RIVER HISTORY

From the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> through the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Head of the River developed as the village center for the outlying areas of what became the Town of Acushnet in 1860. After the Revolution and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, incipient industrialization encouraged the development of shops, smithies, and houses spreading both east and west from the bridge at Head of the River.<sup>1</sup> Following incorporation in 1860, the town took over the former

(continued)

<sup>1</sup> See inventory in Section 7, specifically, 3 Main Street and 9 Mill Road.

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Number 4 School, located on the site of today's 24 Main Street, for use as the Town Hall and Library; its presence here reinforced the preeminence of Head of the River as village center. Between the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the second and third decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, the Head of the River area saw little development, in contrast to other parts of town, where individual houses and new public schools were built. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Acushnet's population began to grow again, after decades of stagnancy, and the continuing industrialization in nearby New Bedford began to spill over into Acushnet, particularly noticeable at the Head of the River, which borders New Bedford.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Head of the River Historic District achieves significance under Criterion A in the area of Community Development because of its ability to document physically the patterns of growth associated with the town of Acushnet. Building patterns in the district illustrate two distinct developmental phenomena: early village settlement at the intersection of a transportation route with a river, especially near a natural fall, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburban development in an automobile-accessible suburban/rural setting near an urban area.

After the Revolution, Head of the River became one of three nodes of development in today's Acushnet. The Acushnet River is spanned by a stone arch bridge built prior to 1850 and revamped in 1959. The houses built here in that period include the Benjamin Dillingham House (ca. 1785), 19 Main Street; the West-Kenyon House (ca. 1790), 21 Main Street; the Humphrey Hathaway House (ca. 1795), 14 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford; the Jonathan Swift House (ca. 1795), 29 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford; the Wing-Spooner House (ca. 1795), 3 Main Street; the Pratt-Clark House (ca. 1810), 20 Main Street; and the Captain John Hawes House (ca. 1817), 17 Main Street. The latest houses in this first growth period are the Thomas Terry House (ca. 1830) at 9 Mill Street and the Samuel B. Hamblin House (ca. 1849). Both the Jonathan Swift Store (ca. 1800), 17 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford, and the Lewis S. Pope Store (ca. 1830) are unassuming but rare early commercial buildings, and their presence here typifies the juxtaposing of commercial and residential buildings in small villages of the period.

The early residents represent a cross-section of professions, income, and education typical of development patterns in southern New England villages in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. They included a judge who lived at 3 Main Street and kept an office at 26 Main Street, a sea captain at 17 Main Street, a Revolutionary War veteran who served as Surveyor of Lumber for the Town of New Bedford at 19 Main Street, a factory owner at 27 Main Street, a blacksmith at 9 Mill Street, and a vendor of general merchandise at 10 Mill Street.

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Development began anew in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it was somewhat different in character from that of a century earlier because of density, quality of activity, and influence of modes of transportation. Single-family houses continued to be built (13, 15, and 24 Main Street), but the division of older houses, such as the Wing-Spooner House (four units by 1948), into multiple family dwellings, and the construction of new two-family houses, such as the Reed House at 11 Main Street, suggests a greater density than previously. In addition to new construction, replacement of buildings on parcels of land had developed since colonial settlement also took place. An area known as "The Triangle," a three-cornered four-acre parcel on the south side of Main Street immediately east of the river, was redeveloped in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Activity here included new construction as well as moving an older building to a new site, at 22 Main Street (ca. 1920). Increasing use of the automobile both made this area more easily accessible to employment in adjacent New Bedford and precipitated the construction of buildings to house and service them, a phenomenon that gave rise to individual garages as well as larger commercial buildings, such as that at the river's edge, standing by 1924. By the 1930s, all of the buildings included in this area were built except for two, a ranch house (ca. 1955) at 12 Main Street and a multiple family house built in the 1970s at 16 Main Street. The program of the latter suggests the continuation of a trend first physically documented by the two-family house in the 1920s.

### ARCHITECTURE

With representative examples of both residential and commercial buildings that span its period of significance, the Head of the River Historic District achieves significance under Criterion C for its architecture. Buildings in those two architectural forms demonstrate significance both for their original architectural quality and for the alterations that have occurred during the period of significance.

The earliest houses, from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, are typical of that period: 1½ but mostly 2½ -story houses with gable roofs flank to the façade with large center chimney or paired interior chimneys at the roof's crest. The Swift House (ca. 1785), 10 Mill Road, shows the one-and-a-half-story form. The Wing-Spooner House (ca. 1795); 3 Main Street; the Swift House (ca. 1795); 29 Tarkiln Hill Road; and the Pratt-Clark House (ca. 1810), 20 Main Street, are the larger center-chimney version. The Dillingham House (ca. 1785), 19 Main Street, and the Hathaway House (ca. 1795), 14 Tarkiln Road, show the larger paired-interior version. The most unusual form in the district is the Wilbur House (ca. 1820 et seq.), 2 Mill Road, whose massive chimney is off center and placed diagonally to the ridge line; it is worth further investigation, especially to determine its plan.

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The most compelling Federal-era house in the district is the Hawes House (ca. 1817), 17 Main Street. It exemplifies the delicate proportions that came into style during the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, here represented by the trim proportions of the single-pile main block and the low-pitched hip roof.

The few Greek Revival houses in the district are typical for much of southern New England: 2½-story houses set gable end to the street with three-bay facades and side-hall plan. These include the Terry House (ca. 1830), 9 Mill Road, and the Hamblin House (ca. 1849), 27 Main Street.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, little development occurred. The only remaining evidence of architectural activity during this period is the remodeling of the West-Kenyon House (ca. 1790, ca. 1873), 21 Main Street; the double-leaf entrance, the paired-chamfered pier entrance porch, the second-story bay window, and the central cross gable with hood-mould-capped round-head window are late Italianate features, by then somewhat retardataire but typical of attempts at stylishness in remote locations.

Houses built in the district in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century illustrate greater stylistic currency. While the greater New Bedford area was not then the locus of architectural innovation, assimilation of architectural trends were much more timely than the remodeling of the West-Kenyon house a quarter of a century earlier. The ca. 1900 house at 28 Main Street, for example, is typical of the picturesquely massed and detailed Queen Anne houses that remained fashionable in the region from around 1880 to 1910. Bungalows and Dutch Colonial houses were the *lingua franca* of middle-class architecture in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and each style is well, if not abundantly, represented in the district. The ca. 1920 bungalow at 15 Main Street is especially ambitious in its use of materials: an unusual tile-clad foundation and slate jerkinhead roof with jerkinhead dormers. Slightly later, the Dupre House (ca. 1934-1935) is a hearty brick bungalow with exposed jackrafters under its jerkinhead roof, a reminder of the Arts & Crafts origin of the form. The Dutch Colonial house (ca. 1920) at 24 Main Street is typical of the more modest examples of the style, with a molded concrete-block foundation (a more thrifty way to suggest the more expensive coursed stone ashlar), an enclosed porch off the living room, and the characteristic two-story gambrel roof (like most of this type, the gambrel effect is achieved by extending wide eaves from upper slope of the gambrel and from the second-story wall surface at each end of what is really a gable-roof building).

While the houses of the district are fine and typical for their time and place, the commercial buildings represent a more unusual survival of a type. Jonathan Swift's Store (ca. 1800), 17 Tarkiln Hill Road, is a rare early commercial building. It has seen changes in its exterior cladding and probably in its fenestration pattern, but its presence gives a strong

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architectural sense to the mixed-use pattern of early villages. Equally rare is the Lewis Pope Store (ca. 1830), 7½ Tarkiln Hill Road; like that at the Swift Store (and most historic commercial buildings), its storefront has evolved over time to accommodate changing uses. Judge Spooner's office, now converted to residential use, is nonetheless worth notice as an early and rare private office building, worthy of further study to determine its original interior configuration.

The garage (ca. 1920) at 2 Main Street, on the other hand, is significant for its typicality, as a representative of the thousands of buildings constructed in the second and third decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for the sale, storage, and servicing of automobiles, whose cultural impact became significant at the same time.

### PRESERVATION ISSUES

There are both positive and negative preservation issues for the Head of the River Historic District, with existing conditions generally positive overall. The area has been generally perceived by the town as an area of historic properties. A number of historic markers have been affixed to buildings within the area, a situation that indicates historic research by the community and proclaims to the public the fact of the buildings' historic quality. The neglected Humphrey Hathaway House, 14 Tarkiln Road, has recently enjoyed appropriate exterior repair and repainting. On the negative side, unsympathetic alterations have been applied to several buildings, most significantly artificial siding and replacement windows. New construction mildly threatens the integrity of the district, especially in the district's New Bedford section, where late 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial development extends west from the western edge of this district. A moderate-size apartment complex is just north of the district at its northeast corner; while its access is from a road within the district, its impact is minimized by its setback to the north from Main Street. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will reinforce and likely enhance the overall positive attitude toward both the perception and treatment of the area as an important historic legacy.

### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of pre Contact period settlement in the Acushnet area are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Recent archaeological surveys conducted for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site and Commonwealth Electric Company right-of-way on the east bank of the Acushnet River immediately south of the district have located several pre-contact Native sites; however, most sites lack diagnostic artifacts and have unknown cultural affiliation. Any pre-contact sites in the district locale may contribute important information relating to patterns of pre-contact settlement and subsistence in the town of Acushnet, the Acushnet River drainage, and in the New Bedford Harbor locale. These patterns may also document the role of

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interior sites of the Acushnet River drainage with larger Native sites located downstream in the Acushnet River/New Bedford Harbor estuary and in Buzzards Bay. Pre-Contact period Native sites in the district may also contribute important information related to the effects of sea level rise on site distribution and frequency through time. Interior locales, including the district, may contain information that helps explain the absence of sites along the lower portion of the Acushnet River and New Bedford Harbor locale through their submergence by rising sea levels. Interior sites in the district locale may represent segments of settlement models that no longer exist in lower portions of the drainage, especially with earlier sites. Submerged pre-contact sites have been identified immediately south of the district in the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site project area. Any surviving sites in the district locale may be especially important because early European settlement and industrial activity in the New Bedford/Fairhaven/Acushnet locale probably impacted most pre-Contact period sites in the area. Other sites have been obscured or destroyed by extensive filling along the waterfront and rising sea levels.

While most potential and known historic archaeological resources described above remain to be identified and documented, several statements can be made relating to their potential significance. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may contribute important information relating to the district's early settlement during the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Historic and archaeological research may locate the sites of early farmsteads, the layout of their barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells), and periods of occupation. Building patterns of early farmsteads may resemble or be modeled after similar patterns in the colonists' homes of origin. Detailed analysis of structural evidence of residences, barns, and outbuildings may contribute important information relating to the growth of agriculture in the district, the architectural characteristics of early buildings, and construction techniques used. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important information relating to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the district's inhabitants.

In addition to farmsteads and residential buildings, historical and archaeological research may also contribute important information relating to potential commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings no longer extant in the district. Most of these buildings also remain to be identified and/or documented. Structural evidence and related archaeological features associated with the gristmill located at the river's edge of the Spooner House property at 3 Main Street may contribute important information relating to grist mill technology and the mill's relationship to farms in the district locale and more developed areas to the south in New Bedford and Fairhaven. Similar evidence may contribute important information related to the hydraulic system for the mill. Presumably the mill was powered by water because of its location at the water's edge. Structural evidence, and the contents of occupational-related features associated with the Terry blacksmith shop, may contain information related to blacksmith technology, the architectural characteristics of the blacksmith shop, and the relationship of the shop to farms, commercial, and

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industrial operations in the district locale or in more developed areas to the south in New Bedford and Fairhaven. Structural evidence associated with the sites of the No. 4 School and first Acushnet Town Hall may contribute important information related to the architectural characteristics of Acushnet's early institutional buildings. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features associated with these buildings may contribute information on the activities that occurred in these structures.

Documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing in the district locale, may locate evidence of undocumented late 18<sup>th</sup> century military activity reported in the vicinity of the district. Historical and archaeological research may locate structural evidence of fortifications and other military activity reported in the Head of the River area. Historical and archaeological research may demonstrate the presence of a land-based component for the destruction of British and Colonial naval vessels reported in this area during the Revolutionary War and potentially demonstrated by the discovery of charred vessel components near the district during work for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site. Historical and archaeological information may exist that can contribute detailed information for these presently undocumented military activities.

Historical and archaeological information may also exist for undocumented industrial activities along the east bank of the Acushnet River in the Head of the River area. Structural evidence of mills may survive in this area, as well as evidence of their power systems. In this area, dams or other forms of water diversion and power-related canals may characterize the latter resources. Structural evidence of outbuildings and industrial trash areas may also exist.

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Head of the River HD  
Acushnet/New Bedford (Bristol), MA

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(end)

Head of the River HD  
Name of Property

Bristol, MA  
County, State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 16.5 acres

**UTM References See continuation sheet.**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	340300 Easting	4616340 Northing	3. 19 Zone	340380 Easting	4616140 Northing
2. 19 Zone	340380 Easting	4616310 Northing	4. 19 Zone	340260 Easting	4616200 Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Wm. McKenzie Woodward, architectural historian, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2009

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

**Additional Documentation**

**Submit the following items with the completed form:**

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

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

**Property Owner**

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

name multiple

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The Head of the River Historic District's boundaries include the properties defined as Plat/Lot 25/1, 24/54, 24/55, 25/3, 24/56, 24/56A, 25/4, 25/57, 24/58B, 25/5, 24/59, 25/6, 25/7, 25/8, 24/61, 25/9, 24/52, 24/51, 24/53, and 24/53A in the Town of Acushnet; and Plat/Lot 119/234, 119/144, 119/227, 119/57, 119/56, and 119/55 in the City of New Bedford.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary of the district is drawn to include the late 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century concentration of buildings that define this village; it excludes open space to the north, east, and south as well as late 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial development to the west.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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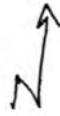
## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Wm. McKenzie Woodward

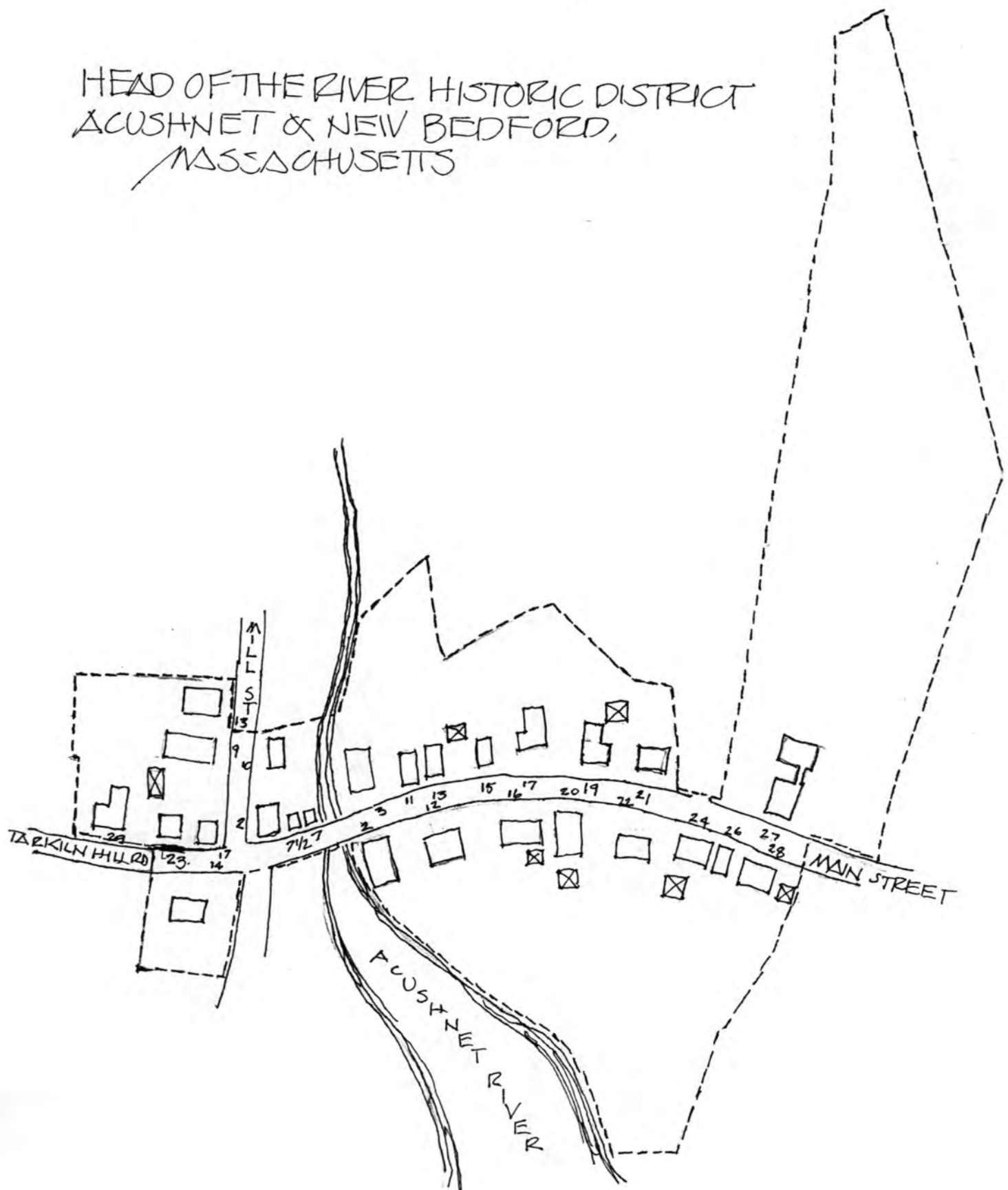
Date: June 2004

Negative Location: Acushnet Historical Commission

1. 29 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford. View to NE
2. 17 Tarkiln Hill Road, 9 Mill Road, New Bedford. View to N
3. 2 Mill Road, 23 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford. View to S
4. 17, 7½ Tarkiln Hill Road, 2 Mill Road, New Bedford. View to NW
5. 7 ½, 7 Tarkiln Road, New Bedford. View to NE
6. 3, 11 Main Street, Acushnet. View to NE
7. 13, 15, 17 Main Street, Acushnet. View to NW
8. 17, 19, 21 Main Street, Acushnet. View to SE
9. 28 Main Street, Acushnet. View to W
10. 24, 26 Main Street, Acushnet. View to N
11. 22 Main Street, Acushnet. View to NE
12. 20 Main Street, Acushnet. View to SW
13. 27 Main Street, Acushnet. View to E



HEAD OF THE RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ACUSHNET & NEW BEDFORD,  
MASSACHUSETTS



**Head of the River HD Acushnet and New Bedford, MA  
District Data Sheet**

City/Town	Map/Lot	MHC No	Street Address	Name/Function	Date	Style	Type	Status
Acushnet			Main Street at Acushnet River	Acushnet River Bridge	pre-1850, 1959	No style	S	C
Acushnet	25/1	ACU.75	2 Main Street	Garage	ca 1920	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	24/54	ACU.76	3 Main Street	Wing-Spooner House	ca 1795	Federal	B	C
Acushnet	24/55	ACU.77	11 Main Street	Reed House	ca 1920	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	25/3	ACU.78	12 Main Street	House	ca 1954	Ranch	B	C
Acushnet	25/3	ACU.96	12 Main Street, rear	Shed	late 20th century	No style	B	NC
Acushnet	24/56	ACU.79	13 Main Street	Dupre House	ca 1934-35	Bungalow	B	C
Acushnet	24/56	ACU.106	13 Main Street, rear	Garage	early 20th century	No style	B	C
Acushnet	24/56A	ACU.80	15 Main Street	House	ca 1920	Bungalow	B	C
Acushnet	25/4	ACU.81	16 Main Street	House	ca 1975	No Style	B	NC
Acushnet	25/4	ACU.97	16 Main Street	Stone Wall	19th century	No Style	S	C
Acushnet	25/4	ACU.98	16 Main Street, rear	Shed	early 20th century	No style	B	C
Acushnet	25/57	ACU.82	17 Main Street	Capt. John Hawes House	ca 1817	Federal	B	C
Acushnet	24/58B	ACU.83	19 Main Street	Capt. Benjamin Dillingham House	ca 1785, ca 1841?	Federal, Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	24/58B	ACU.99	19 Main Street	Stone Wall	19th century	No style	S	C
Acushnet	24/58B	ACU.84	19 rear Main Street	Garage	early 20th century	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	25/5	ACU.85	20 Main Street	Pratt-Clark House	ca 1810	Federal, Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	25/5	ACU.100	20 Main Street, rear	Shed	early 20th century	No style	B	C
Acushnet	24/59	ACU.86	21 Main Street	West-Kenyou House	ca 1790, ca 1873	Federal, Italianate	B	C
Acushnet	25/6	ACU.87	22 Main Street	House	ca 1850?, ca 1915	Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	25/6	ACU.101	22 Main Street	Stone Wall	early 20th century	No style	S	C
Acushnet	25/7	ACU.88	24 Main Street	House	ca 1920	Dutch Colonial	B	C
Acushnet	25/7	ACU.102	24 Main Street	Stone Wall	early 20th century	No style	S	C
Acushnet	25/7	ACU.103	24 Main Street, rear	Garage	early 20th century	No style	B	C
Acushnet	25/8	ACU.89	26 Main Street	Judge Spooner's Office	ca 1823	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	24/61	ACU.90	27 Main Street	Samuel B. Hamblin House	ca 1849	Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	25/9	ACU.91	28 Main Street	House	ca 1900	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival	B	C
Acushnet	25/9	ACU.104	28 Main Street	Shed	late 20th century	No style	B	NC
Acushnet	24/52	ACU.92	2 Mill Road	Wilbur House	ca 1820 et seq	Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	24/52	ACU.105	2 Mill Road	Milestone	18th century	No style	S	C
New Bedford	119/234	NBE.677	9 Mill Road	Thomas Terry House	ca 1830	Greek Revival	B	C
Acushnet	24/51	ACU.93	10 Mill Road	Jireh Swift House	ca 1785	No Style	B	C
New Bedford	119/144	NBE.676	13 Mill Road	Mrs Dorr House	ca 1840	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	24/53A	ACU.94	7 Tarkiln Hill Road	Store (River's End Café)	early 20th century	No Style	B	C
Acushnet	24/53	ACU.95	7 1/2 Tarkiln Hill Road	Lewis Pope Store	ca 1830	Greek Revival	B	C
New Bedford	119/227	NBE.2030	14 Tarkiln Hill Road	Humphrey Hathaway House	ca 1795	Federal	B	C
New Bedford	119/57	NBE.544	17 Tarkiln Hill Road	Jonathan Swift Store	ca 1800	No Style	B	C
New Bedford	119/56	NBE.2261	23 Tarkiln Hill Road	Snow House	ca 1810	No Style	B	C
New Bedford	119/56		23 Tarkiln Hill Road	Garage	early 20th century	No style	B	C
New Bedford	119/55	NBE.543	29 Tarkiln Hill Road	Jonathan Swift House	ca 1795	Federal	B	C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Head of the River Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 10/23/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/10/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/25/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/06/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000965

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 12-2-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



PHOTO #1

29 TARKILN HILL RD (NB)  
JONATHAN SWIFT HOUSE

MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL DOOL, fig  
ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD  
HEAD of THE RIVER HD  
WOODWARD photo



MA\_ (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0002. tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD OF THE RIVER LTD

WOODWARD PHOTO

PHOTO # 2

17 TARKILM HILL RD (N.B.) JONATHAN SWIFT <sup>STORE</sup> ~~HOUSE~~

9 MILL RD (N.B.) THOMAS TERRY HOUSE

facing N



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0003.tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD

HEAD of THE RIVER 14D

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 3

2 MILL <sup>RD</sup> ST (N.B.) 23 TARKILN HILL RD (N.B.)

WILBUR HOUSE facing NE SNOW HOUSE



MA-(BRISTOL COUNTY)-HOTR0004.tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of the RIVER HD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 4

2 MILL <sup>RD.</sup> ST. 17, 7 1/2 TARKILN HILL RD (NB)  
WILBUR HOUSE, LEWIS POPE STORE  
facing E



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL0005.tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of the RIVER IHD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 5

7 1/2, 7 TARKILN HILL RD (N.B.) facing NE  
LEWIS POPE STORE, RIVER END CAFE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0006.tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of THE RIVER HD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 6

3, 11 MAIN ST (A.) facing NE  
WING - SPOONER HOUSE, REED HOUSE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0007. tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD OF THE RIVER HD

WOODWARD photo #7

13-15-17 MAIN ST (A) looking NW

DUPRE

~~WING SPOONER~~ HOUSE - HOUSE - CAPT JOHN HAWES  
HOUSE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0008..tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of the RIVER IHD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 8

17-19-21 MAIN ST (A) photo looking NW

CAPT JOHN HAWES HOUSE - CAPT BENJ. DILLINGHAM HOUSE

- WEST-KENYON HOUSE



MA-(BRISTOL COUNTY)-HOTR 0009.tif  
ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of THE RIVER HD  
WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 9

28 MAIN ST (A) looking SE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL 0010.tif

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of THE RIVER HD

WOODWARD photo #10

24-21 MAIN ST (A) looking SE

HOUSE - JUDGE SPOONER'S OFFICE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTEL ~~0010~~ 0011. tij

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of the RIVER IHD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO #11

22 MAIN ST (A.) looking SE



MA - (BRISTOL COUNTY) - HOTT 0012. f/8

ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of the RIVER HD

WOODWARD photo

PHOTO #12

20 MAIN ST (A) LOOKING W  
PRATT-CLARK HOUSE

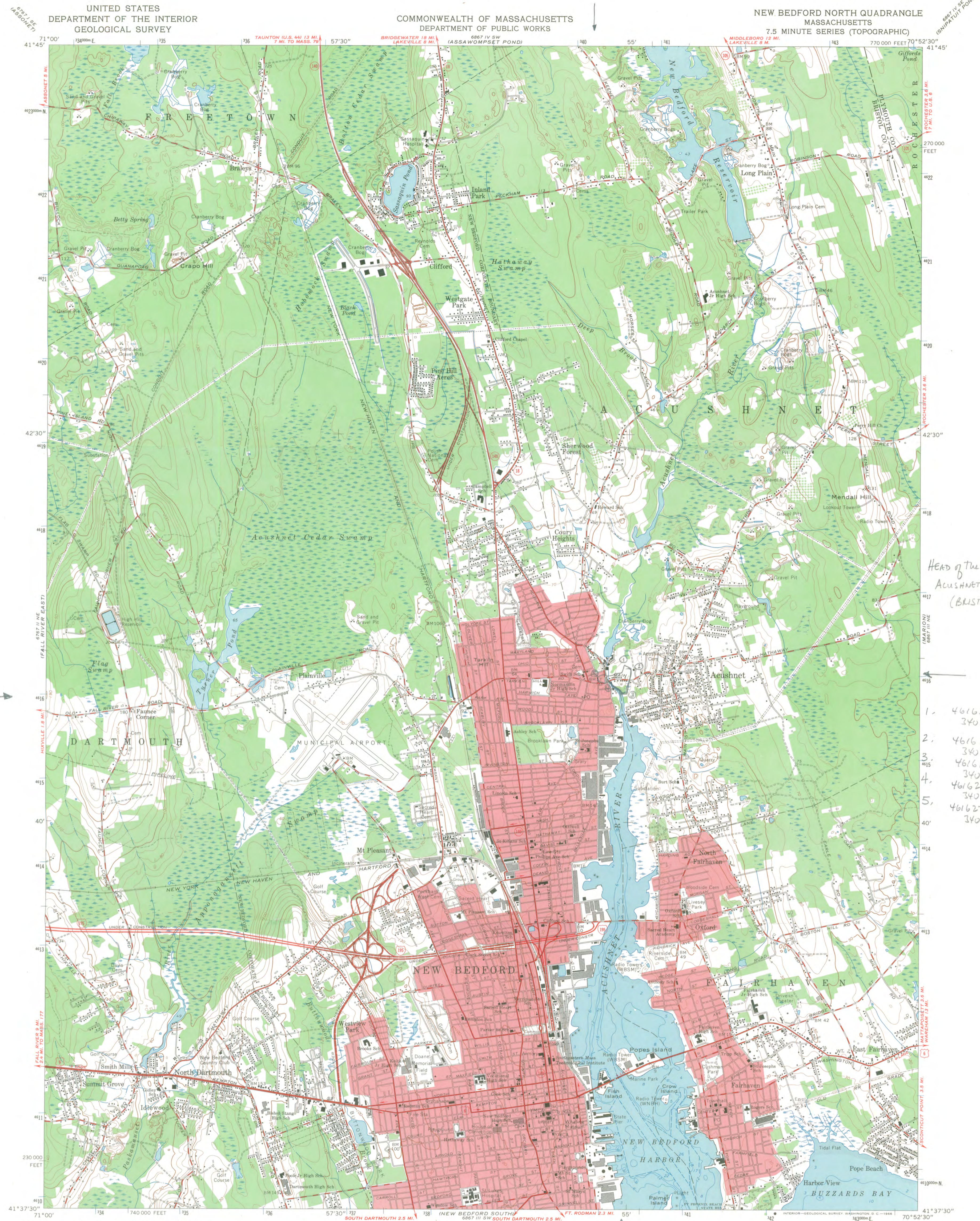


MA-(BRISTOLCOUNTY)-HOTR 0013. tif  
ACUSHNET / NEW BEDFORD, MA

HEAD of THE RIVER HD  
WOODWARD photo

PHOTO # 13

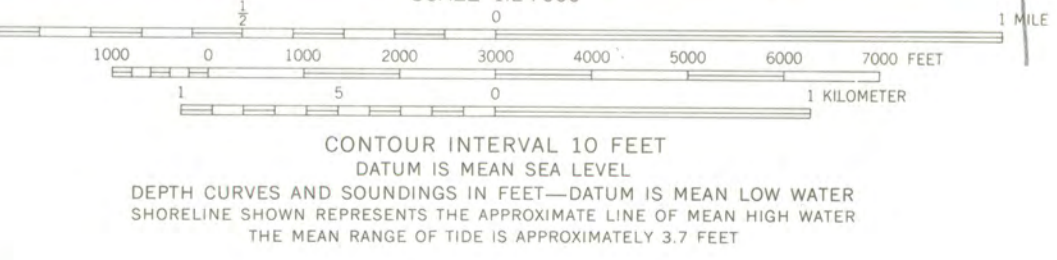
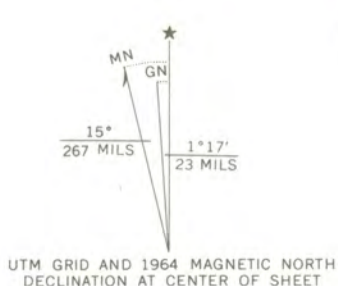
27 MAIN ST (A.) looking E  
SAM'L B. HAMBLIN HOUSE



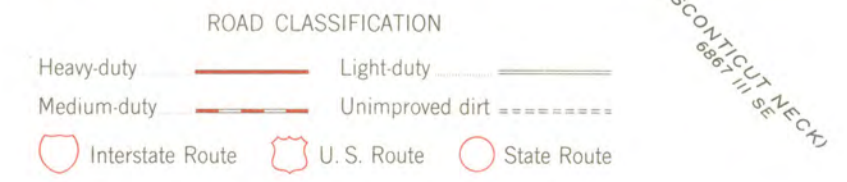
HEAD of the RIVER HD  
ACUSHNET/NEW BEDFORD  
(BRISTOL) MA

- 1. 4616340  
340300
- 2. 4616310  
340280
- 3. 4616140  
340380
- 4. 4616200  
340260
- 5. 4616270  
340240

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 252 (1964)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,  
shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information furnished by  
Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
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 3.7 FEET

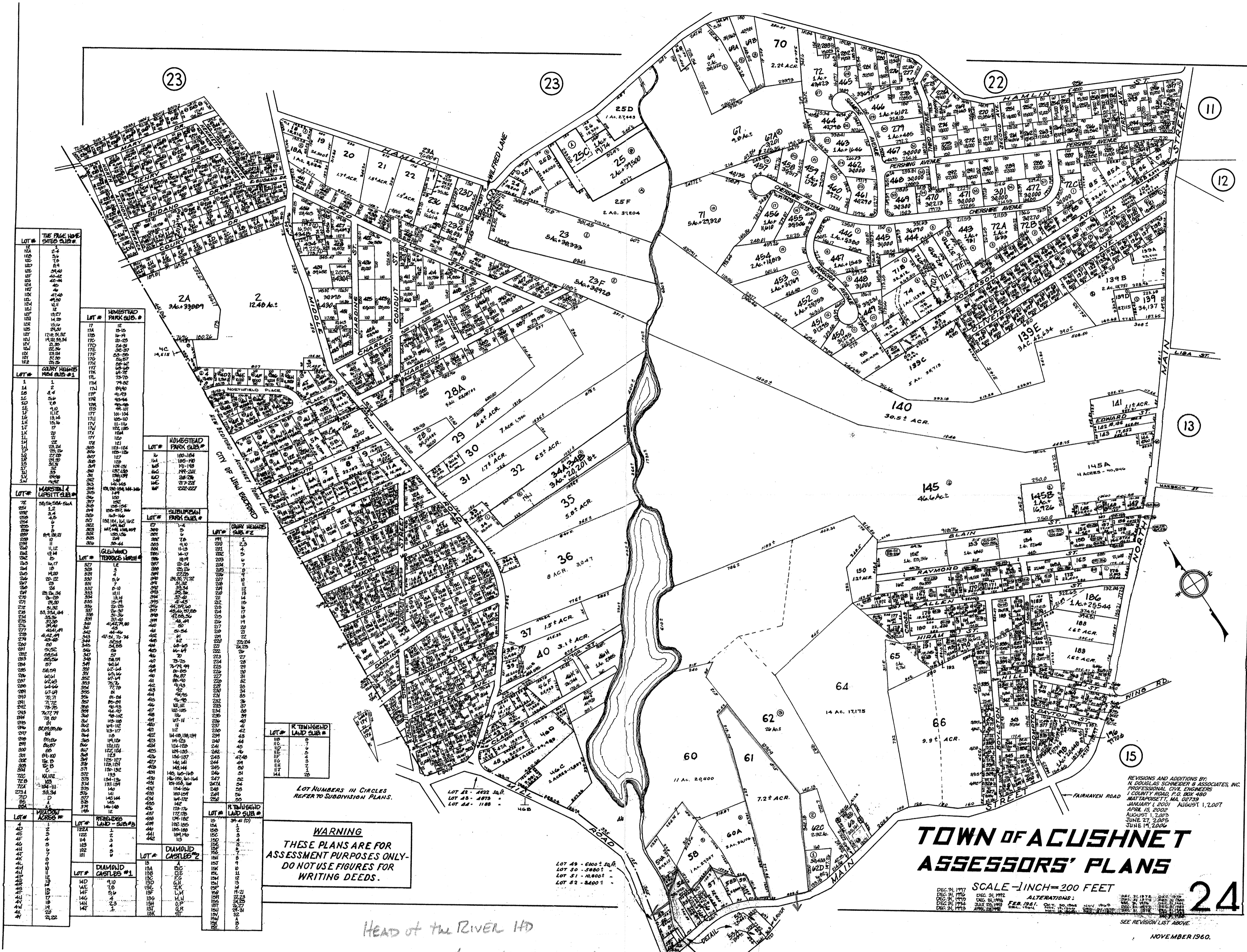


NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.  
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1964

AMS 6867 III NW—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



LOT #	THE PRIZE HOME SUBD. #1	LOT #	THE PRIZE HOME SUBD. #2	LOT #	THE PRIZE HOME SUBD. #3	LOT #	THE PRIZE HOME SUBD. #4
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
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6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
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100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS BY:  
 N. DOUGLAS SCHNEIDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 PROFESSIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERS  
 COUNTY ROAD, P.O. BOX 400  
 MATTAPOSETT, MA 02126  
 JANUARY 1, 2001  
 APRIL 15, 2002  
 AUGUST 1, 2005  
 JUNE 27, 2005  
 JUNE 17, 2006

**TOWN OF ACUSHNET  
 ASSESSORS' PLANS**

SCALE - 1 INCH = 200 FEET

**24**

SEE REVISION LIST ABOVE.

NOVEMBER 1960.

HEAD OF THE RIVER HD  
 ACUSHNET / NOW BEDFORD MA  
 (BRISTOL)

map 1 of 3

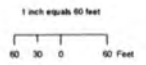
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397	428	4.88
398	429	4.88
399	430	4.88
400	431	4.88
401	432	4.88
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415	446	4.88
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418	449	4.88
419	450	4.88
420	451	4.88
421	452	4.88
422	453	4.88
423	454	4.88
424	455	4.88
425	456	4.88
426	457	4.88
427	458	4.88
428	459	4.88
429	460	4.88
430	461	4.88
431	462	4.88
432	463	4.88
433	464	4.88
434	465	4.88
435	466	4.88
436	467	4.88
437	468	4.88
4		

HEAD of the River 14D  
 NEW BEDFORD/ACUSHNET  
 (BRISTOL), MA

Map 3 of 3



- Legend**
- Easement
  - Planned Subdivision
  - ▭ Combined Parcels
  - ▭ Master Parcel Linking to Assessing DB
  - ▭ Associated Parcels
  - ▭ Water Bodies
  - ▭ Town Boundary
  - Text Engineering Lot Number
  - Text Lot Area



City of New Bedford  
 Massachusetts

Map: 119

Fiscal Year 2009  
 This parcel map should be used for planning  
 and assessment purposes only.



Map Produced By:  
 City of New Bedford  
 Department of  
 Management Information Systems  
 January 2009



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 7, 2009

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Head of the River HD, Acushnet and New Bedford (Bristol), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of New Bedford were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Wm. McKenzie Woodward, consultant  
David Wojner, Chair, Acushnet Board of Selectmen  
Mayor Scott Lang, City of New Bedford  
Anne Louro, New Bedford CLG Coordinator  
Pauline Teixeira, Acushnet Historical Commission  
Derek Santos, New Bedford Historical Commission  
Marc Cenerizio, Chair, Acushnet Planning Board  
George N. Smith, New Bedford Planning Board