

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Milton Centre Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Canton Avenue between Readsdaie Road & Thacher & Highland Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Milton N/A vicinity
state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02186

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>11</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>15</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Tammage
Signature of certifying officialMarch 7, 1988
DateExecutive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation OfficerIn my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Carneal Shull4-28-88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use Milton Centre Historic District, Milton, Massachusetts

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structureEducation/school, libraryGovernment/town hall, fire stationDomestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structureGovernment/town hall, fire stationDomestic/single dwellingEducation/library**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic- FederalMid-19th c. - Greek RevivalLate VictorianLate 19th and 20th c. Revivals-Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concretewalls wood, brickroof slate, asphaltother bronze, granite**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Milton Centre Historic District is the governmental and geographic center of Milton, an affluent suburban town located between the Neponset River and the Blue Hills just south of Boston. The district is composed predominantly of institutional buildings located along Canton Avenue between Reedsdale Road and Thacher and Highland Streets. The 23-acre area is situated on the crest of Academy Hill, the midpoint between the town's principal elevations at Brush Hill, to the west, and Milton Hill, to the east. At 110 feet, Academy Hill is not remarkable for its height, but its distinctive topography helps to define the district.

Canton Avenue, which bisects the district, is an early regional highway and is lined with stone walls through most of the area. The district includes fourteen buildings, one site, two structures, and three objects, of which, eleven buildings, one site, one structure, and two objects are contributing. The fourteen buildings in the nominated district are for the most part modest in scale and ornament; built of brick or of wood sheathed in white clapboard, they stand one or two stories high with only the church spires rising above the trees. Architecturally they reflect various interpretations of the classical idiom, ranging from the traditional Federal-style churches, to the utilitarian vernacular firehouses with simplified classical trim, to the architect-designed Beaux-Arts library.

Eight of the eleven contributing buildings, the one structure, and the two monuments are grouped informally around the town green on the northwest side of Canton Avenue. Across the street, undeveloped town-owned land provides a setting for the 1811 powder house, relocated here in 1978. Behind the powder house the land drops off steeply to a hollow, through which flows Unquity Brook.

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Immediately outside the district boundaries are residences that are compatible in scale and design with the buildings in the nominated district, but are part of a late-19th and early-20th century infill development. To the northeast of the district on Centre Street lies the campus of Milton Academy. Milton Academy's original building once stood within the district, and it was from this that Academy Hill derived its name. To the southeast is Milton Hospital, separated from the district by the hollow and Unquity Brook.

Although there have been alterations to the district over time, there has been remarkably little change in density or in use. The major intrusion is the centrally located town hall, constructed of tan brick in a modern functional design. The 1973 police station, a simple clapboard building, and the Congregational parsonage, a converted carriage house recently moved to its present site, have relatively little visual impact on the district.

Descriptions of the contributing resources follow in chronological order:

The First Parish Church (Map # 105, MHC # B-5, 553 Canton Avenue) a two-story rectangular building with gable roof and two-stage tower, was constructed in 1787-1788 as the fourth meetinghouse for the town of Milton. It originally stood lengthwise along Canton Avenue, and combined the earlier meetinghouse form with a Wren-inspired tower and steeple. The entrance was in the center of the seven-bay facade, and the interior was organized laterally with galleries around three sides. On the southeast gable end was a tower with belfry and steeple. In 1835, with the conversion of the building to a Unitarian church, the building was turned ninety degrees to its present position and remodeled extensively. The base of the tower was transformed into a pedimented pavilion that became the main entrance. This portion of the building shows the influence of the prevailing Greek Revival style: wide entablature, incised pilasters marking the three-bay facade, and flushboard siding. The interior of the building was re-oriented at this time, with the boxed pews arranged along a longitudinal axis, the galleries removed, and the pulpit relocated opposite the main entrance.

The Congregational Church (Map # 115, MHC # B-56, 495 Canton Avenue) built in 1834, has the basic form of the Federal-style church characteristic of New England. It is composed of a two-story rectangular block four bays long and three bays wide, and is oriented with the gable end facing Canton Avenue and providing the main entrance. Detailing on this facade suggests the traditional projecting pedimented pavilion, although in fact, the tower with belfry and steeple rises directly from the gable roof. The arched tracery in the side windows is derived from the Federal style. However, the front facade displays the influence of the Greek Revival, particularly evident in the

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proportions of the broad pedimented gable and incised pilasters. A vestry was added to the rear of the building in 1912, and in 1949 a two-story Parish House, designed with Colonial details, was added to the side facade at the rear of the Church.

The Hiram Tuell House (Map # 102, MHC # B-57, 488 Canton Avenue) is a two-story hipped-roof residence built in 1877 in the Stick Style. In 1885, the house was remodeled, with Colonial Revival elements added. Evidence of the original decorative stick work can be seen in the picket-fence pattern used as a wide band of trim under the eaves. The semi-circular entrance porch, with fluted columns and dentil molding, is characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, as is the fanlight above the front door. At the rear of the property, visible from the street, is a clapboard barn now used as a garage. (Map # 103).

The Parish House (Map # 106, MHC # B-5, 535 Canton Avenue) was built in 1879 to serve as Parish Parlor and Sunday School for the First Parish Church. The one-story, hipped-roof clapboard building originally stood on the present site of the Children's Church, and was moved to its present location in 1907. In 1961, a one-story connector was built between the Church and the Parish House to house the Minister's office, a reference library, and classrooms. A carriage shed (Map # 108) probably constructed around the same time as the Parish House, was moved from its original site behind the church to its present location on Thacher Street, where it currently provides parking for eight cars.

The Chemical Engine House (Map # 111, MHC # B-58, 509 Canton Avenue) was built in 1881 to house Milton's first chemical fire engine. It is the town's oldest surviving firehouse. The two-story vernacular building is made of brick with granite window sills and lintels, with decorative trim confined to brick dentils at the cornice. The Engine House was constructed by John H. Burt and Company, a prominent local building firm. A one-story wooden storage shed (Map # 112) at the rear of the property dates from before 1896, and may have been built as early as 1881. By 1917, both buildings were being used by the Water Department, the smaller building serving as a wagon shed. Today, the brick building houses the Fire Department's trucks and the wooden shed provides storage for the Fire Department boat.

The Central Fire House (Map # 110, MHC # B-58, 515 Canton Avenue) also built by the John H. Burt Company, was constructed in 1888 to house the newly purchased steam fire engine and has served as Milton's Central Fire Station ever since. Located next to the Chemical Engine House, this vernacular brick structure with granite window sills and lintels complements the earlier building. The two-story engine house has a palladian window in the front

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gable, and simple decorative brickwork at the cornice. A three-story bell tower was added to the northwest corner of the building in 1896 to house the bell previously located in the Town Hall. The belfry section of the tower was later removed, and the bell relocated to the front of the East Milton fire station. A one-story, flat-roofed addition built in 1890 to house a new ladder truck has recently been replaced by a two-bay garage, built of brick in a design sympathetic to the original building. This new construction does not diminish the integrity of the original building.

The Milton Public Library - Central Branch (Map # 101, MHC # B-55, 476 Canton Avenue) was designed by the prominent Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge in the Beaux-Arts classical style and built by the Norcross Brothers in 1902. The front facade of the two-story brick building is dominated by pairs of Ionic columns framing a recessed pedimented entrance. A carved seal of the town of Milton surmounts the flat parapeted roof, and the facade is further ornamented by quoining and cornice treatment. Palladian windows on the side facades bring light into the two reading rooms. The library is set back from the street, with several sets of steps and curved paths leading to a walled stone terrace and the central entrance. Two additions to the rear of the building, an ell for book stacks constructed in 1929 and a children's wing dating from the 1950s, do not visually intrude on the original library. The library is the most imposing of Milton's public buildings, reflecting the importance that the citizens, past and present, attach to this town institution.

The Children's Church (Map # 107, MHC # B-5, 535 Canton Avenue) was a private 19th-century schoolhouse moved from its original location on Adams Street to the First Parish Church property in 1937, where it was remodeled for use by the children of the parish. The "Little Church" consists of a three-bay by one-bay rectangular block with gable roof, the original schoolhouse, with an attached tower rising to a belfry and steeple. A one-story connecting passage links the Children's Church to the Parish House. The Children's Church is situated at right angles to the First Parish Church, and reflects the larger building's form and detailing.

The Powder House (Map # 104, MHC # B-4) was originally built in 1811 on "church lands" at the corner of Canton Avenue and Poorhouse Lane, outside the nominated district. The small brick structure, one story with a hip roof and wooden door, was originally used to store stocks of powder and shot in the event that Milton should have to defend itself against the British in the War of 1812. The diminutive arsenal outlasted its function, and was moved to the Lamb Estate, where it remained until 1978 when it was donated to the town as part of the Bicentennial celebration. It was relocated to town-owned land on

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Canton Avenue across from the First Parish Church, and today is a harmonious component of the district. Although there is no recorded description of its original setting, it can be assumed that it was somewhat removed from other buildings, possibly in an open field or wooded area. The present site provides such a setting, and it is appropriate that the powder house has been reunited with the other early municipal buildings of Milton.

The World War I Monument (Map # 114, MHC # B-19) "In Flanders Field" was dedicated in 1925. The bronze statue, designed by Daniel Chester French, is executed in the classical Greek style. The statue depicts a dying young man holding a torch in his right hand as he leans against stones piled breast high to suggest a last barricade or trench. Carved into the granite pedestal are the names of men of Milton who died in the war, along with the following lines from "In Flanders Field", the John McCrae poem that inspired French:

To you from failing hands we throw
the Torch; be yours to hold it high

At the base of the monument are granite benches set on a granite platform.

The Civil War Memorial (Map # 109, MHC # B-401), dating from 1934, is composed of a bronze eagle with outstretched wings resting on top of an approximately six-feet-high boulder. Set into the front face of the stone is a bronze plaque with the following inscription:

In grateful memory of our Citizens
Who served in the Civil War
1861 - 1865

The eagle was executed by the Thomas F. McGann Company, a leading art foundry at the turn of the 20th century.

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Milton, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 5Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Five sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district, high well drained ground adjacent to Unquity Brook, a tributary stream of the Neponset River drainage, would have made this an attractive area for native settlement and subsistence activities. The Neponset River, within one mile of the district, was a known locus of native activity during both the prehistoric and contact periods. Given the size of the district (23 acres), limited historical development in the vicinity of Unquity Brook south of Canton Avenue and the police headquarters, and the historic presence of Native Americans in the area, a moderate to high potential exists that sites are present.

A high potential also exists for significant historical remains on the property. Controlled testing and excavation may help to resolve whether or not 17th- and 18th-century colonial settlement was present in the district. Structural survivals and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may be present from a 17th-century tannery site reported on Unquity Brook near the juncture of Highland Street and Canton Avenue. Remnants of the third meeting house (1728) may also exist, originally located in front of the present First Parish Church (1788). Late-18th- to 19th-century public building and residential structures extant in the district also offer the potential for locating occupational related features and structural remains of outbuildings which no longer exist.

8. Statement of Significance Milton Centre Historic District, Milton, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1787-1938

Significant Dates

Community Planning and Development

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Milton Centre Historic District in Milton, Massachusetts, is a largely intact assemblage of institutional buildings that has been regarded as the civic center of the town for over 250 years. The area was also Milton's religious center through the end of the 19th century, and the town's two oldest extant churches are located here. Milton Centre is historically significant for its association with the development of the town following the relocation of the third meeting house to Academy Hill in 1728, and the subsequent shift of the town center from Milton Hill. The nominated district contains some of Milton's most significant public architecture in the First Parish Church (1788, remodeled 1835) and the 1902 public library designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. These, along with the other contributing buildings, reflect the evolution of public buildings in Milton and throughout the region. The nominated 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 at the local level.

Originally part of Dorchester, Milton was settled as early as 1633, and by 1662 when it was formally established as a town it had an estimated population of 200-250 people. Early settlement was based at Lower Mills village on the Neponset River and at Milton Hill, where the first and second meetinghouses were established in 1662 and 1671. Sometime prior to 1660, Andrew Pitcher, who had received an early grant of 122 acres, built the first house in what would become Milton Centre. This house was located at the northeast corner of the Canton Avenue - Thacher Street intersection, southwest of the present First Parish Church. Andrew and his son Nathaniel established a tannery on Unquity Brook at the southeast corner of the Canton Avenue - Highland Street intersection. Milton's first pound for stray cattle and horses was built in 1670 near the southwest intersection of Canton Avenue and Reedsdale Road. The pound was relocated in 1711 to a site northeast of the Pitcher House, and was again moved around 1729 to a site further south on Canton Avenue, outside the boundaries of this district.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References Milton Centre Historic District, Milton, Massachusetts

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 23 acres

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see assessors map

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Boonin/MHC with E.M. Jepson/Milton Historical Commission & E.G. Clifford & W.J. Loughton

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1987

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

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In 1715, it was decided at town meeting that a larger meetinghouse was needed, but sharp controversy arose over the choice of location. Although there was strong sentiment for keeping Milton Hill as the site of the meetinghouse, an equally strong faction proposed that it be built on ministerial lands to the southwest. The 400-acre minister's grant, just west of the Pitcher grant, was closer to the geographic center of the town, and contained ample undeveloped land. The debate continued for the next twelve years, until a compromise was reached in 1727. In that year, John Trott, who had acquired the land from the Pitchers, sold approximately 1/4-acre of land at the crest of Academy Hill to the town, and the third meetinghouse was constructed there the following year.

As Milton grew and prospered, various areas of the town began to develop more specialized functions. Industry was concentrated along the Neponset River, commercial activity was centered at Milton Village, and with the relocation of the meetinghouse, the area around Milton Hill became a residential estate district.

Milton Centre remained largely undeveloped through most of the 18th century, although the presence of the meetinghouse provided the focus for the town. Reverend John Taylor, ordained in 1728 as Milton's second minister, built a house in 1738 on land adjacent to the meetinghouse. By 1772, Milton had again outgrown its meetinghouse, and a committee was appointed to plan the erection of a new edifice. The Revolutionary War delayed construction until 1787, and the Fourth Meeting House was dedicated January 1, 1788. This building, now the First Parish Church (Map # 105), is the oldest extant structure in the nominated district. The meetinghouse played a significant role in the community as the center not only of religious life, but of town government as well. The somewhat isolated location of the third and fourth meetinghouses on top of a hill must have enhanced their symbolic importance. It was perhaps this quality that attracted the Trustees of Milton Academy to the area at the beginning of the 19th century. Between 1801 and 1806, the Trustees bought 41 1/2-acres of the former Pitcher land and the Taylor estate. The first school house of Milton Academy, known as the Academy Building, was constructed in 1807 on a site just north of the meetinghouse.

The theological controversy between the Trinitarians and the Unitarians which gripped New England in the early 1800s reached Milton by the 1820s. The first Unitarian Society was formed in 1826, although its members rejoined the parish after a short time. By 1834, when the Congregational Church was disestablished, the Unitarians formed a majority of the parish and claimed the church property. The following year the fourth meetinghouse was extensively remodeled and became the First Parish Church. The conservative minority seceded from the parish and built their own church in 1834 on the east side of the town green. This building still stands as the First Congregational Church

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of Milton (Map # 115). Rev. Samuel Cozzens built his home next to the Congregational Church in 1838. This property was later acquired by George S. Cushing and remained in his family until the 1970s, when the house was taken down and replaced by the present parsonage, a converted carriage house moved from the rear of the lot.

The institutional character of the area was reinforced in 1837 with the construction of Milton's first town hall. Prior to that time, town meetings had been held in the meetinghouse or on the green in front of it, even after the town relinquished all claim to the meetinghouse in 1818. This town hall was replaced in 1878 by a second town hall, which in turn was demolished in 1970 to make way for the present town hall.

The sequence of town hall buildings illustrates a typical pattern of development on Academy Hill, where one building was frequently replaced by another serving the same purpose. In this way, a consistency of character was maintained, although the buildings themselves may have changed. This continuity of use can also be seen in the original Academy Building, leased to the town for use as the first high school in 1867. In 1885, the town purchased the property from the Trustees of Milton Academy, and demolished it to make way for a new public high school building. This large brick building was subsequently converted to Vose Elementary School, and continued in educational use until the building was demolished in 1956. Another building associated with Milton Academy was the former Pitcher House, the 18th-century residence of the original owner of the property. This became the home of the Academy preceptor, and was eventually replaced by the Academy House, which served the same purpose. After Milton Academy suspended operation in 1867 the building was acquired by the First Parish Church and used for a time as a convalescent home. It was moved to a site outside the district between 1905 and 1917.

An addition to the district both in terms of buildings and function was made with the construction of the Chemical Engine House (Map # 111) in 1881 and the Central Fire House (Map # 110) in 1888. These buildings are Milton's oldest surviving firehouses, and were built at a time when the town was beginning to centralize its control over the fire fighting apparatus. In 1878, the Board of Fire Engineers was established to organize and improve fire protection. Prior to that time, private companies, often involved in social as well as fire fighting activities, provided the only fire protection. In 1881, with the purchase of a horse-drawn chemical engine and the construction of a building to house it, the beginnings of a town fire department were firmly established. The Fire Department's equipment was further updated with the purchase of the first steam engine, in 1887, and the construction the following year of the Central Fire House.

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The district's only contributing residence (Map # 102) was built in 1877, by Hiram Tuell, third principal of the High School. Mr. Tuell served as principal from 1879 to 1899. During his residence, the house underwent a major remodeling in 1885. From 1959 to the early 1980s, the house served as parsonage for the Congregational Church. In general, residential development within the nominated district has been limited to a small number of homes built for officials of the institutions: parish house, parsonage, and school residences.

The Milton Public Library (Map # 101) was the last major institution to join the district. The importance of this town institution was recognized by the selection of a prominent architectural firm to design its first permanent home. The library, completed in 1902, is one of only a few Beaux Arts-style buildings in Milton, and is the only building in Milton known to have been designed by the firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, the successor firm to H. H. Richardson. The Norcross Brothers, who built the library, were also associated with Richardson.

Changes to Milton Centre in the 20th century were subtle; additions were readily absorbed and losses offset by replacements. In 1937, an unusual addition was made in the form of the Children's Church (Map # 107), a former school house transformed into a church scaled to children. The Children's Church was founded by Reverend Dorthy Pomeroy, wife of the minister of the First Parish Church and a minister in her own right. Other additions include the two monuments located on either side of the town green. The World War I Memorial, "In Flanders Field" (Map # 114) was designed by one of America's best-known sculptors, Daniel Chester French, and the setting was designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. The Civil War Memorial (Map #109) was executed by the Thomas F. McGann Company, one of the nation's oldest art foundries and considered to be a leader in its field at the turn of the 20th century.

The Powder House, a recent addition to Milton Center, is actually one of the oldest structures in the district. Built in 1811, it is the only municipal building in Milton associated with the War of 1812. Municipal powder houses were built at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries; before 1750, powder was generally stored in meetinghouses, and by 1850, armories were beginning to be built. Although the town never had to make use of the powder and shot stored there, the powder house is testimony to the fear of a British invasion felt by many small Massachusetts towns, and is a rare survivor of a once common building type. It thus fulfills National Register Criteria Consideration B.

Although development of Milton as a suburb of Boston accelerated in the 20th century, Milton Centre has remained distinct from the surrounding neighborhoods both in its architecture and its institutional character.

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Milton Centre Historic District
Milton, Massachusetts

Archaeological Significance

Since the patterns of prehistoric occupation in Milton are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites along Unquity Brook have the potential for adding information pertaining to native subsistence and settlement in the Milton and greater Boston area. Large sites are known to exist along the Neponset River which may have seasonal or temporary foraging and collecting stations along smaller associated drainages like Unquity Brook. Site relationships such as this have been recognized elsewhere in coastal Massachusetts and would contribute greatly to our understanding of native life.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns which characterized life in a prosperous Massachusetts community. Rumored 17th- and 18th-century settlement remains could document an early segment of Milton's history not reported in the literature. Structural and occupational related features of the reported 17th-century tannery site could provide economic information on the local development of this industry, its technology and individuals employed by it. Analysis of remains from public buildings and associated features can give us insights into changing social groups in the town (churches), how the town adapted to public needs and safety (firehouse, barns, carriage sheds), and in general how the town adapted to change through time.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The Milton Record

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Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles. New York: Anchor Books, 1976.

Teele, Albert K. The History of Milton, Massachusetts: 1640-1887. Boston:
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Town Atlases: 1896, 1905 and 1917

Town Reports: 1881-1888

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Boundary Justification:

The bounds of the district were drawn to include the institutional buildings around the town green and the buildings and town-owned land on the southeast side of Canton Ave. The boundaries are the lot lines of the contributing properties and the town-owned parcel. The district bounds exclude the 20th-century residential buildings on Reedsdale Road and Walnut Street adjacent to the institutional core.

Quad: Boston South
Scale 1:25000

UTM References:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	19	328560	4679920
B	19	328700	4679740
C	19	328380	4679620
D	19	328240	4679760
E	19	328240	4679900
F	19	328360	4679950

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
MILTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Milton, Massachusetts

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<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>
101	B-55	Central Library	476 Canton Avenue	1902	Beaux-Arts Classical	C/B
102	B-57	Hiram Tuell House	488 Canton Avenue	1877-1885	Stick	C/B
103		Tuell Barn/Garage	488 Canton Avenue	1877-1885	Vernacular	C/B
104	B-4	Powder House	Canton Avenue	1811	Vernacular	C/St
X			40 Highland Street	1973	Colonial	NC/B
105	B-5	Meeting House/ First Parish Church/ Unitarian Church	535 Canton Avenue	1788	Colonial/ Federal	C/B
106	B-5	Parish House	535 Canton Avenue	1879	Colonial	C/B
107	B-5	Children's Church	535 Canton Avenue	19th c./1937	Colonial	C/B
108	B-5	Carriage Shed	535 Canton Avenue	19th c.	Vernacular	C/B
109	B-401	Civil War Memorial	Canton Avenue	1934	Bronze Eagle on Boulder	C/O
Y			525 Canton Avenue	1970	Contemporary	NC/B
110	B-58	Central Fire House	515 Canton Avenue	1888	Vernacular with Classical detail	C/B
111	B-58	Chemical Engine House	509 Canton Avenue	1881	Vernacular with Classical detail	C/B

DISTRICT DATA SHEET
MILTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Milton, Massachusetts

page 2 of 2

<u>MAP#</u>	<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>STATUS/RESOURCE</u>
112		Fire Shed	509 Canton Avenue	ca. 1896	Utilitarian	C/B
113		Town Green	Canton Avenue	ca. 1878		C/Si
114	B-19	World War I Memorial	Canton Avenue	1925	Classical Greek	C/O
115	B-56	First Congregational Church	495 Canton Avenue	ca. 1834	Federal	C/B
Z			483 Canton Avenue	1985	Colonial	NC/B
		World War II	Canton Avenue			NC/O
		stone wall	Canton Avenue			NC*/St

*the stone wall is considered a noncontributing structure, due to lack of information,
at the present time.

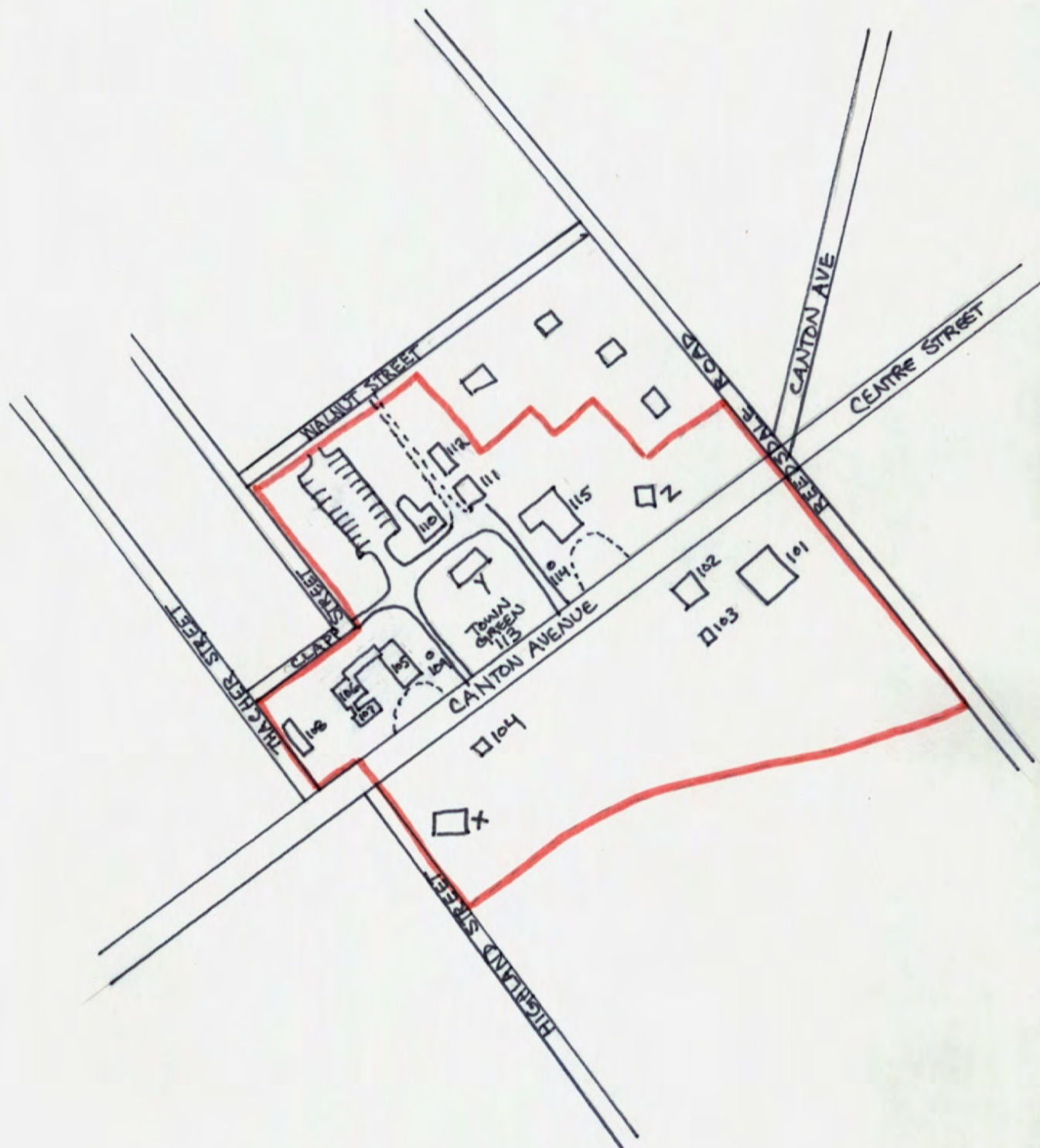
KEY

C.....contributing
NC....noncontributing

B.....building
O.....object
Si.....site
St....structure

DISTRICT TOTALS

Contributing: 11B, 20, 1Si, 1St
Noncontributing: 3B, 1O, 1St



MILTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT
SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE

88000428

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

SLR

Milton Centre Historic District
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. MAR 14 1988
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89
Date Due: 7/14/88 - 4/28/88
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4-28-88
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Relatively intact collection of
Milton's institutional center
buildings illustrative of
architectural and developmental*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 4/28/88
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

*periods of the core center
over 250 years.*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



CENTRAL LIBRARY (Map #101)

476 Canton Avenue

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault

#1 of 8 Photographs

Introductory view of Milton Centre

District, coming from northeast to
intersection of Canton Avenue and
Reedsdale Road.



HIRAM TUELL HOUSE (Map # 102)

488 Canton Avenue

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault

2 of 8 Photographs

Front facade of Tuell House, taken from
Canton Avenue; Across the street from
The First Congregational Church.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH(Map #115)

495 Canton Avenue

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL (Map #114)

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault

3 of 8 Photographs

Taken from Canton Avenue, Church and
Memorial located to northeast of Town
Green.



MEETING HOUSE/FIRST PARISH CHURCH

535 Canton Avenue (#105)

TOWN GREEN (#113)

Canton Avenue

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault

4 of 8 Photographs

Taken from Canton AVENUE, Church is
located to southwest of TOWN GREEN



CENTRAL FIRE HOUSE (Map # 110)-left

515 Canton Avenue

CHEMICAL FIRE HOUSE (Map #111)-right

509 Canton Avenue

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987 Negatives: Town Office.

5 of 8 Photographs

Bldg. Vault

Fire houses are located behind Town

Hall and Town Green.



POWDER HOUSE (Map # 104)
Canton Avenue (Opp. Town Green)
Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault
6 of 8 Photographs

View of Powder House in mini-park

set back from south side of Canton Ave.



MEETING HOUSE/FIRST PARISH CHURCH

535 Canton Avenue (#105)

Milton, MA

Photographer: Nancy Roberts

Date: May 1987

Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault

7 of 8 Photographs

Taken from Town Green, Church is located to south west of Green.



MEETING HOUSE/FIRST PARISH CHURCH(105)
and CHILDREN'S CHURCH (107)
535 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA
Photographer: Nancy Roberts
Date: May 1987
Negatives: Town Office Bldg. Vault
8 of 8 Photographs

Introductory view of Milton Centre
District, coming from the southwest to
intersection of Canton Avenue and
Thacher Street.



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). 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
1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Scale 1:25,000
Contour interval 10 feet
National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929
Depth curves and soundings in feet—datum is mean low water
The relationship between the two datum is variable
Shoreline shown represents the approximate line on mean high water
The mean range of tide is approximately 9.5 feet

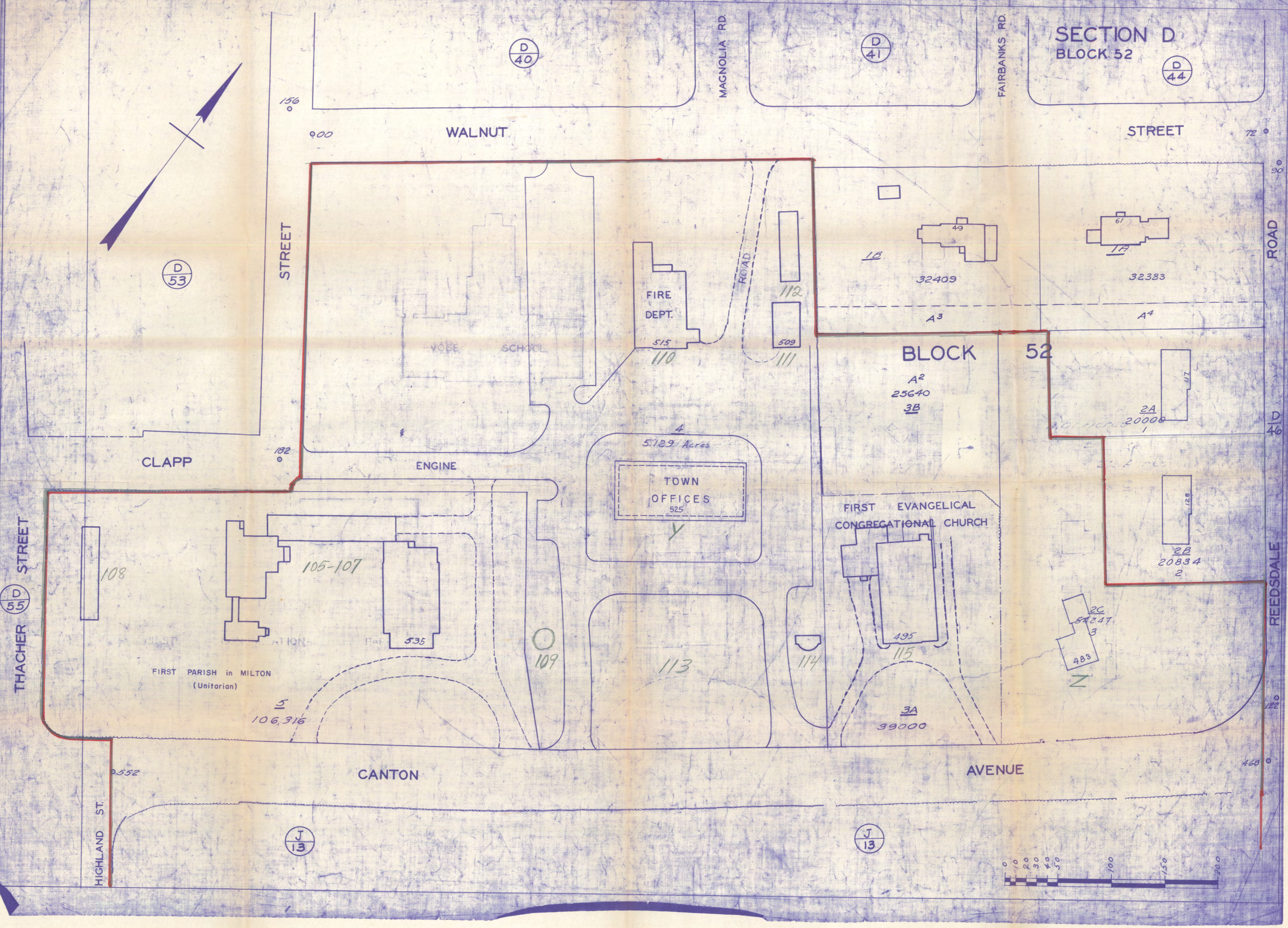
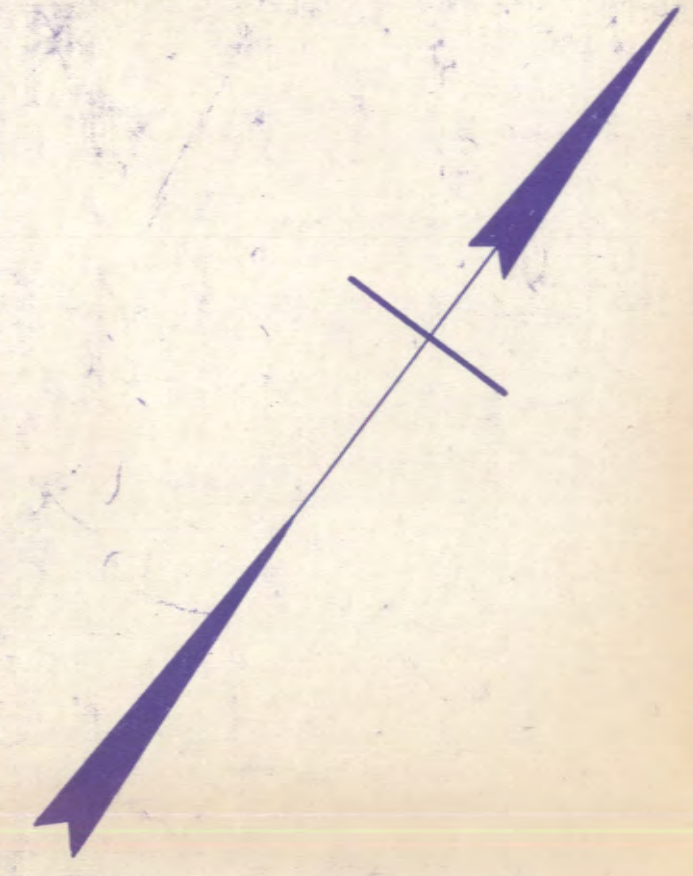
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814

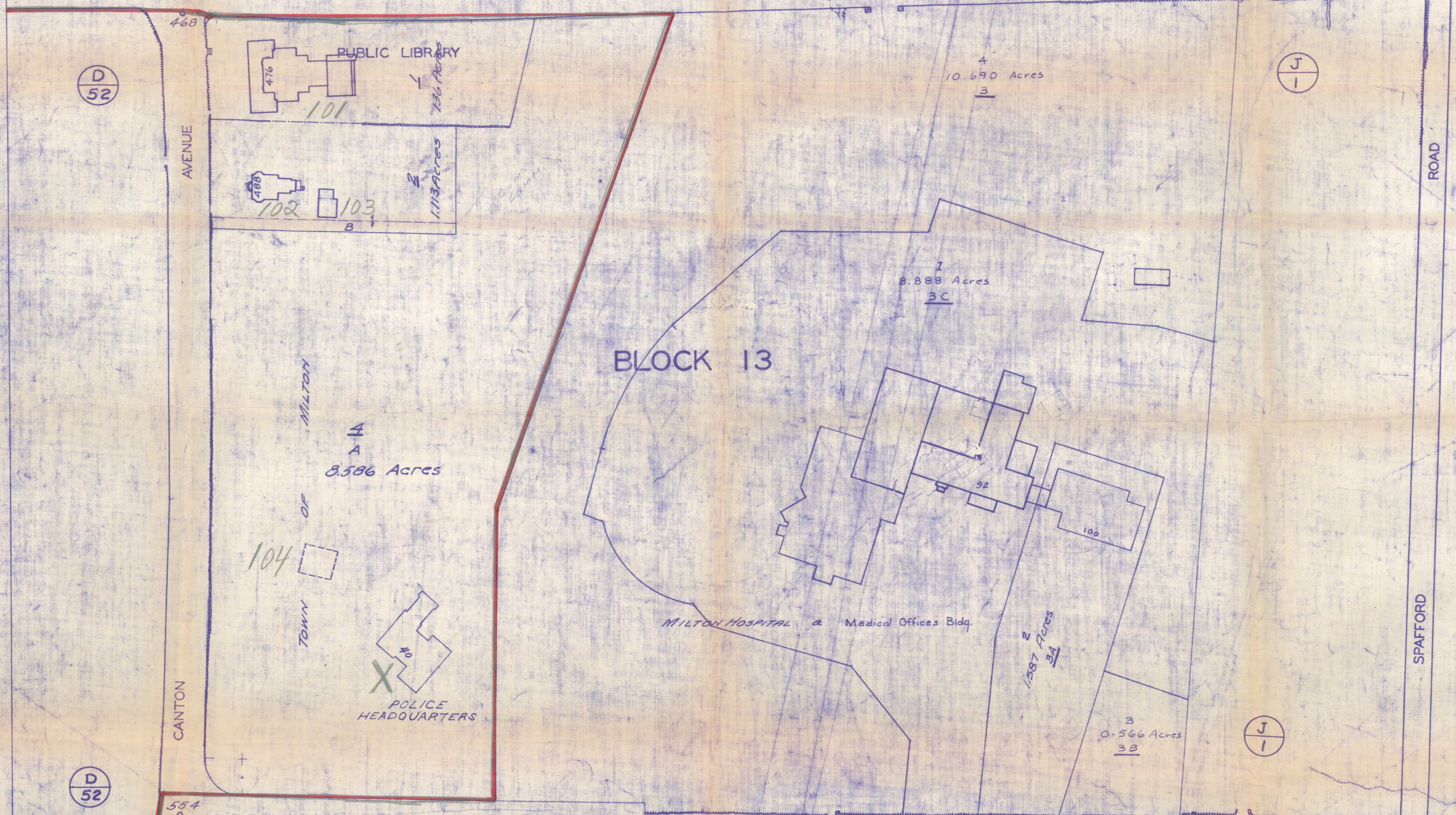
SECTION D
BLOCK 52



SECTION J
BLOCK 13

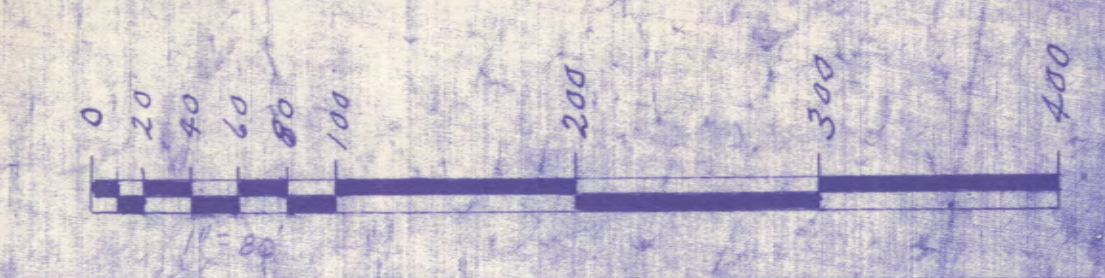
CANTON AVENUE
CENTRE STREET
REEDSDALE
COOLIDGE ROAD
MEREDITH CIRCLE

0122
0230
ROAD



HIGHLAND STREET
0554
02
0106

THACHER STREET
D 52
D 55
K 2
K 2
K 2





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

March 7, 1988

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Districts

Boston, Temple Place Historic District
Milton, Milton Centre Historic District
Sterling, Sterling Center Historic District
Wellesley, Hunnewell Estates Historic District
Weston, Wellington Farm Historic District

Individual properties

Boston, Dorchester Lower Mills Branch Library, 1110 Washington Street
Oxford, Huguenot Fort, Fort Hill Road
Worcester (Worcester MRA), Aurora Hotel, 652-660 Main Street

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have 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. No comments have been received to date. We request the expedited review of the Hunnewell Estates Historic District, Wellesley.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure