



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

October 28, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Cottage-Freeman HD, North Attleborough (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 properties included in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of objection has been received.

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
John C. Rhyno, Board of Selectmen
Donald Johnson, Planning Board
Robert Ashton, North Attleborough Historical Commission
Doris Neal, North Attleborough Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Cottage-Freeman HD
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Cottage St; Freeman St, from Commonwealth Ave. to Ten Mile River and Park Lane. n/a not for publication
city or town North Attleborough n/a vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02763

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.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 10/27/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the
National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Cottage-Freeman 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	
39		building
		sites
		structures
		objects
39		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 dwellings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single, multiple dwellings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Italianate

MID 19th CENTURY: Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

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



Cottage-Freeman 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 or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

ca. 1835-1953

Significant Dates

N/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/a

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Cottage-Freeman HD
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	308540	4648740	3. 19	308440	4648510
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	308660	4648340	4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William McKenzie Woodward, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2003

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 671-727-8470

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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Cottage-Freeman HD
N. Attleborough (Bristol), MA

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7. The Cottage-Freeman Historic District in North Attleborough, MA is a densely built residential area adjacent to the industrialized Ten Mile River. Its topography is flat, approximately 150 feet above sea level, and trees, mostly volunteers, line the streets and back lot lines. While lots vary in size from less than 6,000 to more than 75,000 square feet, the district's houses share similar setbacks and interstices that contribute to a strong historic and visual continuity. While houses as early as the mid-1820s and as late as ca. 1910 stand within the district, most of the houses date to the last two decades of the 1890s. All are wood-frame construction, and most are 1½ stories high with end-gable roofs; five have flank-gable roofs, and four have mansard roofs. There are four 19th-century barns within the district (a fifth is now attached to the rear of 7-9 Cottage Street) and only four early 20th-century garages for automobiles. There are no intrusions.

INVENTORY

The inventory includes all buildings and other resources located within the district.

Unless otherwise noted in individual entries, all residential properties are wood-frame construction with brick foundations and asphalt-covered end-gable roofs.

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

- 185-187 Freeman & Co. House (ca. 1870): A vinyl-sided mansard-roof double house with 6-bay façade; each half has a center entrance below a hood on heavy scroll-saw brackets. This originally housed workers at the nearby Freeman jewelry factory.
- 195 Freeman & Co. House (ca. 1870): A wood-shingled cottage with parged foundation, 20th-century wraparound porch, and dainty flared-lower-slope mansard roof with diminutive dormers. There is a 1-stall early 20th-century garage at rear. This house originally housed workers at the nearby Freeman jewelry factory.

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COTTAGE STREET

- 7-9 Cheever House (ca. 1890): A wood-shingled 2½-story, cross-gable-roof, 2-family house with 2-story full-width front porch with turned posts and scroll-sawn brackets; a 1½-story barn at the rear is now attached to the house on its southwest corner, and a 1-story mid-20th-century addition is on the southeast corner. In the 1890s, Mrs Cheever and Edmund L. Cheever, a jeweler lived here; he and his wife, Harriet, still lived here in the mid-1920s along with Edna Cheever, nurse, Charles Dyer, and Cora Currier.
- 8-10 Double House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided mirror-image, 3-bay-façade, flank-gable-roof, 2-story double house with paired center entrances below a hood supported by scroll-sawn console brackets and flanked by 1-story rectangular-plan bay windows. At the end of the 19th century this was owned by B.S. Freeman, probably for housing jewelry workers.
- 14 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 1½-story house with 2-bay façade, side-hall-plan entrance below a delicate pierced-work end-gable hood on scroll-sawn brackets, and 3-bay, rectangular-plan bay window. Compare with 18 and 22 Cottage Street (*q.v.*). In 1895, H.B. Davenport owned all three.
- 15 Greenleaf House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 1½-story house with 2-bay façade, side-hall-plan double-leaf-door entrance below a heavy hood carried on robust scroll-sawn brackets, 3-bay, rectangular-plan bay window, and early 20th-century porch on the northwest corner, now enclosed. Hollis T. Greenleaf, an overseer, lived here from the mid-1890s at least through the mid-1920s, by then with his wife, Winifred A.
- 18 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 1½-story house with 2-bay façade, side-hall-plan entrance below a delicate pierced-work end-gable hood on scroll-sawn brackets, 3-bay, rectangular-plan bay window, fish scale-shingled panel at the top of the end gable, and scalloped bargeboards. At the end of the 19th century, it was owned by H.B. Davenport. Compare with 14 and 22 Cottage Street (*q.v.*). In 1895, H.B. Davenport owned all three.
- 22 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 1½-story house with 2-bay façade, side-hall-plan entrance below a delicate pierced-work end-gable hood on scroll-sawn brackets, 3-

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bay, rectangular-plan bay window, fish scale-shingled panel at the top of the end gable, and scalloped bargeboards. At the end of the 19th century, it was owned by H.B. Davenport. Compare with 14 and 18 Cottage Street (*q.v.*). In 1895, H.B. Davenport owned all three.

- 23 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 1½-story house with parged foundation and 3-bay façade set within an glazed full-width front porch. A turn-of-the century barn stands at rear. H. Champlin, a carpenter, lived here in the 1890s. By the mid-1920s Philip H. Bumpus, an engineer, lived here with his wife, Cora M; by the early 1950s they continued to live here with their grown son Ralph R., a jeweler.

- 26 House (ca. 1880): An asbestos-sided 3-bay-façade gable-end-&-wing house with parged foundation, entrance hood on brackets, and enclosed porch within the angle of the main block and ell. A fine barn stands at rear; in the mid 1880s it was occupied by E.H. Tappan & Son, carriage and livery service. By 1895 it was owned by H.B. Davenport

- 31 House (ca. 1880): A wood-shingle 1½-story, 3-bay-façade house with 1-story entrance porch and sunroom the depth of the house's east elevation, both dating from the mid-20th century. A mid-20th-century 2-stall garage is at the rear of the property. J. Bartie, a jeweler, lived here in the 1890s. Walter F. Grover, a motorman, was here in the mid-1920s. By the early 1950s it was the home of Lillian and Frank Miller, president of a trucking company, who shared it with their son Frank, Jr.

FREEMAN STREET

- 13-15 Double House (ca. 1890): A wood-shingle 1½-story, 5-bay-façade, center-entrance house with a cross-gable roof and mirror-image ells with glaze full-width porches set back from the plane of the façade of the main block on both sides. An early 20th-century 2-stall garage is at rear. H.B. Davenport owned the house in the mid-1890s. From the mid-1920s through the early 1950s the two units were occupied by Jenks H. Inman and his wife, Letty, and Edward Melanson and his wife, Annie M.; both men were listed as "foreman" in the local directories.

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Cottage-Freeman HD
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- 21 House (ca. 1890): A handsome and nicely intact 1½-story, 3-bay-façade house with parged foundation, full-width front porch with turned posts and scroll-sawn brackets, and spindlework sunburst bargeboard at the peak of the façade's end gable. From the mid-1920s into the 1950s, this was the home of Ernest I. Rogers, jeweler, and his wife, Eva.
- 24 Hall House (ca. 1880): A handsome and well preserved 1½-story gable-end-&-wing house with a 3-bay façade, side-hall-plan entrance below a hood supported by scroll-sawn brackets, a full-width front porch across the front of the service ell, and shed dormers on the north side of the main block and front of the service ell. A handsome and similarly well-preserved barn contemporary with the house stands at rear. Jeweler W. H. Hall and his wife, Lillian M., lived here in the mid-1890s; she, widowed, still lived here in the mid-1920s.
- 29-31 Double House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided mansard-roof house with parged foundation, 6-bay façade with entrances at the center within a 1-story mid-20th-century porch, and gable-roof dormers. In 1895 Mrs. E.A. Codding owned the property as an investment. Mr Codding was a principal in the manufacturing jewelry firm Codding Bros. & Heilborn; none of the Codding family lived here.
- 37 House (ca. 1900): A vinyl-sided house with 3-bay façade and partial width front porch.
- 37 rear A 1-stall early 20th-century garage.
- 41 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 2½-story, 5-bay-façade, flank-gable-roof, center-entrance house with a lower 2-story service wing, with a 1-story full-width glazed porch, set back from and parallel to the plane of the façade. H.B. Davenport owned the property in the mid-1890s. By the mid-1920s it was home to jeweler Thomas Cassidy and Anna and Raymond Rogers. In the early 1950s it was occupied by stenographer Edith G. Baker and cost accountant Kenneth L. Page and his wife, Clara.

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- 49 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided, 5-bay-façade Mansard Cottage with scroll-sawn-bracket hood over the center entrance, pedimented dormers, and service ell on the southeast corner. In 1895, this was owned by Mrs F. Doll. By the mid-1920s it was the home of Flora and William Lincoln; he was a janitor. George Jenkins, a plater, lived here in the 1950s.
- 49 rear Barn (late 19th century)
- 58 House (ca. 1890): A modest 1½-story asbestos-sided house with side-hall-plan entrance below a hood supported by scroll-saw brackets and a single tripartite picture window that replaces two original windows. In the mid-1890s this was the home of jeweler Levi F. Leonard. Jeweler Ralph E. Mousley and his wife, Florence, lived here in the mid-1920s. By the early 1950s it was the home of foreman Thomas J. McMorrow and his wife, Dorothy.
- 61 Donaldson House (ca. 1890): A 2-story, 3-bay-façade house with parged foundation and large 1-story addition on the south side. James E. Donaldson, a jeweler, and his wife, Harriet T., lived here from the mid-1920s into the 1950s; they shared this 2-family house with other tenants, Howard, an engineer, and Ruth Fisher in the 1920s and James, a jewelry worker, and Claire Lenox in the 1950s.
- 62 House (ca. 1880): A vinyl-sided 2½-story, 5-bay-façade, flank-gable-roof, center-entrance house with small 20th-century front porch, 2-story rectangular-plan bay window on the south side, and paired interior chimneys. Jeweler L. S. Leonard owned this house in the mid-1890s. The majority of the 20th-century occupants of this 2-family house were jewelry workers.
- 68 Henry E. and Abigail Arnold House (ca. 1880): A 1½-story, flank-gable-roof Gothic Revival house with a symmetrical façade: the center entrance is flanked by semi-octagonal-plan bay windows, and a 1-story porch stretches between the bay windows on the first story, and prominent steep-slope cross gables with round-head windows, which flank a large addition above the entrance, are in the attic story. Mrs Abigail Arnold and Henry E. Arnold, jeweler, lived here in the mid-1890s; by the mid-1920s it was still home to Henry E. Arnold, jeweler. By the early 1950s, tool-maker Joseph W. Quinn and his wife, Louise, lived here.

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- 72 Gould-Haun House (ca. 1890): A vinyl-sided 2½-story, side-hall-plan, 2-family house with tripartite picture windows on the façade's 1st and 2nd story. Jeweler Albert E. Gould owned the house in the mid-1890s. From the 1920s through the 1950s Frederick P. and Gertrude Haun lived here; he was a jeweler.
- 76 Albert E. and Annie Gould House (ca. 1880): An asbestos-sided, 2½-story, 3-bay-façade, 2-family house with double-leaf entrance below a hood supported by scroll-sawn brackets. Albert E. Gould, a jeweler, and his wife, Annie, lived here from the mid-1890s until the 1920s; she continued to live here following his death in 1923.
- 77 Eugene and M. Emily Burgess House (ca. 1890): A wood-shingle 1½-story, 3-bay-façade house with full-width turned-post front porch and double-leaf entrance. Jeweler Eugene R. and his wife, M. Emily, lived here from the mid-1890s through the mid-1920s
- 80 House (ca 1890): A wood-shingle 1½-story house with a 2-bay façade, entrance and picture window (probably a replacement for two original windows), and a large 1-story shed-roof addition on the southeast corner. An early 20th-century concrete-block 2-stall garage is at the rear of the house.

PARK LANE

- 1 House (ca. 1910): An asbestos-sided 1½-story, cross-gable-roof house with rock-face-concrete-block foundation and full-width glazed front porch. Charles L. and Hattie W. Cabot lived here in the 1920s; he was a jeweler.
- 1 rear Garage (early 20th century): A 1-stall hip-roof garage.
- 4 House (ca. 1835): A late Federal 1½-story, 5-bay-façade, flank-gable-roof, center-chimney house with granite-block foundation, center entrance with sidelights set within a 1-story pedimented Colonial Revival front porch, and a large shed dormer across the façade. In the late 19th century, this was the property of B.S. Freeman & Co., located across the way at 35 Robinson Street.¹ Cf 5 Park Lane.

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¹ The Freeman Factory is included in the Commonwealth Avenue Historic District.

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**Cottage-Freeman HD
N. Attleborough (Bristol), MA**

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- 5 House (ca. 1835): A late Federal 1½-story, 5-bay-façade, flank-gable-roof, center-chimney house with granite-block foundation, center entrance with sidelights, and 1-story addition on the southeast corner. In the late 19th century, this was the property of B.S. Freeman & Co., located across the way at 35 Robinson Street. Cf 4 Park Lane.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Nine sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the district represent several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native American sites. The district includes a level to moderately sloping plain containing well-drained soils formed in glacial till. The entire district is located within 1,000 feet of the Ten Mile River and Ten Mile River Pond. The Ten Mile River actually forms most of the southern boundary of the district. The confluence of the Ten Mile and Bungay Rivers lies approximately one mile southeast of the district. The Ten Mile River forms part of the Narragansett Bay drainage, eventually reaching the estuarine zone to the south in Seekonk, Massachusetts. Downstream from the district, the Ten Mile River drainage is a documented locus of Native American settlement along the Ten Mile, Bungay, and Seven Mile Rivers. At least 34 sites are known in the short distance between Attleborough Falls and Attleborough Center within one to two miles southeast of the district. Given the above information, the size of the district (11 acres), and the limited availability of open land in the district, a moderate potential exists for the recovery of ancient Native American resources.

A moderate to high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. Some English settlement occurred in the North Attleborough and Attleborough Falls locale in the late 17th century; however, none has been identified in the district. Settlement remained primarily agricultural, with related milling until the middle of the 19th century. Settlement in the Cottage-Freeman Historic District was sparse before 1870. Most buildings were built between 1870 and 1890 with three exceptions, two buildings built earlier and one later. Earlier residences include buildings at 4 and 5 Park Lane, both built ca. 1825 in response to industrial activity that began on the nearby Ten Mile River soon after 1800. Since little or no demolition has occurred, no building sites are known in the district. Most potential archaeological resources in the district are probably limited to structural evidence of barns and outbuildings and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells).

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8. The Cottage-Freeman Historic District, North Attleborough, Massachusetts, meets criteria A and C on the local level for its associations with community development in North Attleborough in the late industrial period and for its intact representatives of late 19th-century vernacular domestic architecture. A compactly developed residential district made up of houses of similar-scale, -age, and -type, the Cottage-Freeman Historic District achieves significance in the areas of community planning and development and architecture. Because of its ability physically to document the type and arrangement of housing occupied by workers in The Falls's jewelry-manufacturing industry, it explains how the community developed at the time of some of its greatest prosperity. Architecturally, it offers the range of typical vernacular late 19th-century modest domestic architecture.

HISTORY

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH HISTORY

Located 30 miles south of Boston in Bristol County, North Attleborough was part of the 1666 Rehoboth North Purchase. North Attleborough was part of the Town of Attleborough from its incorporation in 1694 until North Attleborough's incorporation as a separate township in 1887.

The tract granted in 1666 to the inhabitants of Rehoboth by the Plymouth Colony included parts of present-day Attleborough, Mansfield, and Norton, Massachusetts, and Cumberland, Rhode Island. The earliest English settlement in present-day North Attleborough was by John Woodcock on today's East Washington Street before 1670. When the Town of Attleborough was incorporated in 1694, its population counted 180. Ample water supply from Whittings Pond to the west and Ten Mile River to the east encouraged settlement of the area; saw and grist mills were among the area's earliest commercial and industrial activities. Early English settlement in the area that became North Attleborough focused at the villages of Old Town, North Village, and Attleborough Falls and remained primarily agricultural with subsistence milling until the middle of the 19th century. As early as the Federal Period, however, North Village and Attleborough Falls became increasingly industrialized along power privileges of the Ten Mile River.

By the mid-19th century, today's North Attleborough began to bloom as a jewelry- and precious-metals-manufacturing center. By 1855, the northern portion of Attleborough had a population of nearly 3000 and supported twenty-four jewelry manufacturers. The Civil War

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magnified the area's precious-metals-manufacturing role with extensive commissions from the United States government for uniform buttons, braid, badges, and emblems. Old Town remained the community center until the development of the Town Center along North and South Washington Streets, beginning in the mid-19th century and accelerating after the advent of the railroad west from the main Boston-Providence line to South Washington Street in 1870. North Attleborough was incorporated in 1887 after separation from Attleborough itself. Until the mid-20th century, North Attleborough remained an internationally known center for jewelry manufacturing.

ATTLEBOROUGH FALLS HISTORY

Attleborough Falls is the site of some of the Town of North Attleborough's most significant industrial development. It retains important industrial, domestic, and institutional buildings as well as a fine mid-19th-century rural cemetery.

Development at The Falls by non-Native Americans began no later than the beginning of the 18th century. By 1703 John Daggett was operating a corn mill at The Falls, and a sawmill was probably located here as well. Neither the early mills nor any buildings or structures remain of the sparse 18th-century development that occurred around The Falls.

The present industrialization of the area dates to 1809, when Artemis Stanley sold the property located today at 426 Mount Hope Avenue to a group of investors (including himself) who built a factory on the water privilege. The mill burned in 1811 and was immediately rebuilt on the site; that wood-frame building remained on the site at least until the end of the 19th century. In 1831, the 125-acre reservoir, known today as Falls Pond, was created west of the falls, and a stone mill, sixty-eight by thirty-eight feet, was erected. The stone mill was expanded 1857 and later. The original stone mill for the Falls Manufacturing Company housed cotton production until after Civil War, when H. N. Daggett converted it to braid manufacturing.

The Falls was the site of the first company in the United States formed for the manufacture of metal buttons. In 1812 Colonel Obed and Otis Robinson began manufacturing buttons in a building on the Ten Mile River at Robinson Street. This building is probably not extant.¹ The

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¹ Robinson's factory or a portion thereof may be incorporated in the Freeman-Sturdy Factory at 35 Robinson Street, but a physical examination of that complex is needed to determine its evolution.

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wooden mill complex at 35 Robinson Street housed the B. S. Freeman & Co. jewelry manufactory from 1847 until 1913, although exclusive use of the complex for jewelry continued into the 1960s.

In 1857, V. H. Blackinton purchased an old wooden schoolhouse on Commonwealth Avenue and began manufacturing jet jewelry. The complex was rebuilt--again in wood--following a fire in 1869. It expanded though the 19th century and continued production at 100 Commonwealth Avenue until late in the 20th century.

Paper-box manufacturing, an important ancillary to the jewelry industry so important regionally, began in North Attleborough in 1851. In 1891 J. F. and C. O. Mason began producing jewelry boxes in a small gable-roof building at the west end of their complex at 521 Mount Hope Avenue. The company expanded into a spreading two-story wood-frame building completed ca 1910. Production of paper boxes continues today in the same location, but much of the complex was covered in the mid-1990s with vertical-seam aluminum siding, and most of the fenestration has been replaced.

An impressive variety of domestic architecture complements the industrial complexes in The Falls. These houses and their outbuildings, in fact, are related to the industrial development here. The larger, more stylish houses were occupied by the mill owners and investors or their families; the smaller and often similar ones, by those who worked in the mills. For example jewelry manufacturer B. S. Freeman, whose plant stands at 35 Robinson Street, lived up the hill at 390 Mount Hope Avenue in an imposing house dominated by a four-story mansard-roof entrance tower and wraparound front porch. S. D. Mason, a relative of the box manufacturers, lived in a fine Modern Gothic house at 204 Commonwealth Avenue. V. H. Blackinton lived at 172 Commonwealth Avenue, just a short walk from his factory at number 100. In the late 19th century, H. B. Davenport built a row of small almost-identical houses on the north side of (appropriately named) Cottage Street; these were likely occupied by workers at nearby B. S. Freeman & Co.

The extant buildings and their relationships one to another have the capacity physically to illustrate the social history of the area. After H. N. Daggett purchased the old Falls Factory in 1861, the

...property had become somewhat run down; the tenements and their surroundings were so shabby and untidy, and some of the residents were so lawless that the community had come to have a rather disreputable name. As soon as he took

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possession, Mr. Daggett established order and had it maintained, and the "roughs" who had become a real terror, under his decided and vigorous treatment "either left town, or subsided into peaceful citizens." He has greatly improved the whole property, erected new buildings, and made for himself there a charming home.²

Daggett's large house on ample grounds at the intersection of Elm Street and Mount Hope Avenue has disappeared, but the mill itself and the tenements along the east side of Mount Hope Avenue between Elm Street and Commonwealth Avenue remain. John F. Sturdy, a gold-plate-jewelry manufacturer, occupied a rambling concave-mansard-roof dwelling at 110 Towne Street (within the proposed Attleborough Falls HD); handsomely landscaped--and probably incorporating historic landscape features--his property recalls his interest "...in the improvement and beautifying of this pleasant little village ... by making an attractive home, for himself which he surrounded by well-kept grounds."³ Sturdy's house is immediately around the corner and across the Ten Mile River from Central Congregational Church, which benefited from his generous gifts, and he "...was one of the unusually efficient building committee when its edifice was erected."

By the late 1840s, need was perceived for a new cemetery in Attleborough. Like many industrializing communities, the citizens of Attleborough wanted an isolated, carefully landscaped, rural cemetery, a type of burial ground just coming into fashion. Set behind an Egyptian Revival brownstone gate, Mount Hope Cemetery follows the picturesque precepts already realized in Cambridge's Mount Auburn Cemetery (1831) and Providence's Swan Point Cemetery (1847), both of which were surely known to the incorporators of Mount Hope. (Not within the boundaries of the present nomination, Mt. Hope Cemetery is potentially eligible for individual designation in the National Register.) At its consecration on 2 June 1850, the Rev'd J. M. B. Bailey extolled the virtues of the rural cemetery as a transcendent place when he noted that the cemetery was:

...so far removed from the stir and bustle of active life... [and its landscape]
...diversified with brook and pond and rushing stream, with plain and hillock, with

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² John Daggett, *A Sketch of the History of Attleborough From Its Settlement to the Division* (Boston, 1894), p. 524.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 596.

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gentle declivity and retiring vale, with sunshine and shade, with the natural forest and the cultivated grove. Let everything connected with, and belonging to, this most interesting place, its trees, its monuments, its grass, its foliage, its evergreens, point the visitor to the resurrection and the life to come.⁴

The Falls retains intact historic resources that achieve significance in the areas of industry, architecture, social history, and landscape architecture. The Falls Factory complex, Freeman-Sturdy Factory, and V. H. Blackington are telling artifacts about textile and jewelry manufacturing. The clusters of houses along Freeman and Towne Streets and Commonwealth and Mount Hope Avenues and several individual isolated houses--such as the Stanley brothers' houses at 66 Stanley and 327 Town Streets--are fine, representative examples of late 19th-century domestic architecture. The juxtapositions of industrial, residential, and institutional buildings tell of important community social interrelationships. Mount Hope Cemetery and the grounds of the John F. Sturdy House are good examples of historic landscape.

COTTAGE-FREEMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT HISTORY

The area included in the Cottage-Freeman Historic District was little developed before 1870. The right-of-way for today's Commonwealth Avenue existed in the 18th century, and Freeman Street was open to traffic by the early 19th century. Cottage Street was likely created just before or at the time that intense residential development occurred, in the 1880s. Two houses, 4 and 5 Park Lane, appear to date to the 1830s and may relate to the industrial activity on the nearby Ten Mile River that began soon after 1800. Most houses, however, were built over a short period of time, as discussed below in the context of community development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Built almost entirely between 1870 and 1890 (with only three exceptions, two earlier and one later), the houses in the district document the growth of a significant population of workers at the nearby jewelry factories in The Falls in the last quarter of the 19th century, when jewelry production peaked in the area. Every house within the district has a documented connection with the local jewelry industry: built or owned by a jewelry company or a jewelry manufacturer, built and owned by a jewelry worker, or occupied by a jewelry worker. Only the two early houses on Park Lane

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⁴ *Ibid*, p. 753.

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predate the area's jewelry-manufacturing escalation and may not owe their origins to individuals associated with it; they were, however, owned in the late 19th century by jewelry manufacturer B.S. Freeman Co. Most (twenty-five, 86%) of the houses in the district were owned privately by individuals, not by a company. Such a pattern was typical in urban or urbanizing areas, where the real-estate market was sufficiently active to accommodate housing for workers without corporate involvement. Earlier directories do not document the specific workplace of the jewelers who lived here, but many probably worked at the Evans, Freeman, or Blackington plants located nearby on Robinson and Commonwealth Avenues.⁵

ARCHITECTURE

The houses in the Cottage-Freeman Historic District offer a fine opportunity to observe the similarities and the variables within the area of late 19th century vernacular domestic architecture. Their plans, their overall form, and their use of ornament are especially telling.

Despite a range of typical late 19th century visual distinctions among the houses here, they are divided into two basic plan types: the center-entrance, center-hall plan with symmetrical façade and the off-center-entrance, side-hall plan with asymmetrical façade. Ten of the houses (approximately 35%) in the district follow the symmetrical center-entrance plan, and they include all of the larger houses in the district. The earliest houses in the district, at 4 and 5 Park Lane, follow the center-entrance format used predominantly in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Other examples include the houses at 8-10 Cottage Street (ca. 1880), 13-15 Freeman Street (ca. 1890), 41 Freeman Street (ca. 1880), 49 Freeman Street (ca. 1880), 62 Freeman Street (ca. 1880), 68 Freeman Street (ca. 1880), and double houses at 29-31 Freeman Street (ca. 1880) and 185-187 Commonwealth Avenue (ca. 1875). The nineteen other houses (approximately 65%) follow the asymmetrical-façade side-hall plan. This simple organizational format is found more frequently in smaller houses for people of lower and moderate income, probably because it devotes more space to living areas than to circulation. In smaller houses the maximum amount of useable space is far more important than in larger houses.

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⁵ The Evans factory has been demolished. The Freeman plant at 35 Robinson and the Blackington plant at 140 Commonwealth are included within the Commonwealth Avenue Historic District, submitted for nomination concurrent with this nomination.

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The variety of forms found in the district, while slightly larger, nonetheless shows a prevalence of one type. The majority of the houses (twenty-two, or 76%) in the district are basic boxes: rectangular in plan without an ell, oriented both long and short side to the street, usually with a simple gable roof. Three houses (14, 18, and 22 Cottage Street) were originally identical end-gable-roof basic box houses, probably built by the same individual in the early 1880s. Of the basic-box houses, four (14%) have mansard roofs, and three (10%) have some form of cross-gable roofs. Some of these basic-box houses have undergone additions in later years, such as the 20th-century porches on the houses at 15 and 31 Cottage Street and 37 Freeman Street or the later ell at 61 and 80 Freeman Street. Five houses (17%) are basic-box form with original ells, either to the side or to the rear. Only two houses, 26 Cottage Street and 24 Freeman Street, are the end-gable-and-wing form found in many middle-income neighborhoods developed in the second half of the 19th century.

Typical of late 19th-century modest vernacular domestic architecture, ornamentation on houses in the district is limited in use and variety and generally restricted to the façade or the front entrance. Most common ornamentation is the use of a bracketed hood over the principal entrance, found on sixteen (55%) of the houses; several others probably had hooded entrances originally and are now bereft of them. Turned-spindle porches are on only four houses, although the configuration of several other houses suggests that they, too, may have had them originally. Seven (24%) of the houses have projecting rectangular-plan one-story bay windows; five of these are almost-identical houses on Cottage Street.

Accretive alterations have affected a number of properties within the district, but they do not obscure the fundamental significance individually or collectively of the properties nominated. Artificial siding has obscured the original treatment of many wall surfaces on houses within the district, but many likely retain original clapboard and shingle under the siding. Application of artificial siding, however, has not obscured the basic forms of the houses or removed their most character-defining features, such as porches or hoods over principal entrances. Some porches have been enclosed, but they remain legible as porches. None of the resources within the district boundary are considered noncontributing.

RECENT TRENDS

Since the early 1950s, the end of the period of significance, the district has experienced change through inappropriate maintenance. The above-noted application of artificial siding is

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perhaps the most significant. It represents, however, an attempt, however misguided, at maintaining largely owner-occupied single-family houses. The district has not, however, seen demolition or construction of inappropriate new buildings. Both suggest that listing in the National Register and educational efforts about proper maintenance activities directed toward homeowners could only reinforce the visual and historical significance of the district.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in North Attleborough are poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. While numerous ancient sites have been recorded downstream of the district along the Ten Mile River drainage, many sites lack interpretative information beyond locations. Many other sites have also been destroyed by industrial, urban, and suburban development. Potential sites in the district may enable the opportunity to systematically study site distributions in the Ten Mile River drainage and their cultural and functional variability through time. Ancient Native sites in the district may contain information that defines the role of sites in this area with more densely settled locales between Attleborough Falls and Attleborough Center or other core areas to the south towards Narragansett Bay.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important social, cultural, and economic information related to the district's residents during its early 19th century settlement and late 19th century growth as worker's housing associated with the growing jewelry industry. Structural evidence from barns and outbuildings combined with detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may contribute important information on the type of agrarian activities that characterized early settlement and its relationship to mills that developed on the Ten Mile River to serve local farms. While some types of occupational-related features are not as common with late 19th century housing, detailed analysis of trash areas and structural evidence of barns and outbuildings may contain important information relating to the lives of jewelry workers in the late 19th/early 20th century period. Archaeological resources in the district may contain information that characterizes ethnic divisions within a significant population of late 19th century workers that worked at nearby jewelry factories in Attleborough Falls. Archaeological evidence may exist that documents important aspects in the family structure of workers as well as their cultural lives.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see enclosed Assessor's maps.

The Cottage-Freeman HD includes properties on Cottage Street, Freeman Street from Commonwealth Avenue to the Ten Mile River, and Park Lane. For each street included in the district, the exterior boundaries of the district are as follows:

Cottage Street: back lot lines on both sides of the street.

Freeman Street: back lot lines of the properties on the west side of the street from Commonwealth Avenue on the north to Ten Mile River on the south; back lot lines of properties at 24, 58, 62, 68, 72, 76 and 80 Freeman Street on the east side of the street.

Park Lane: exterior lot lines of the properties at 1, 4, and 5 Park Lane.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Cottage-Freeman district boundaries are drawn to include the small-scale workers' housing that sheltered mill employees and their families in nearby mills. The boundary excludes adjacent 20th-century open space and development.

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**COTTAGE-FREEMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH (BRISTOL), MA**

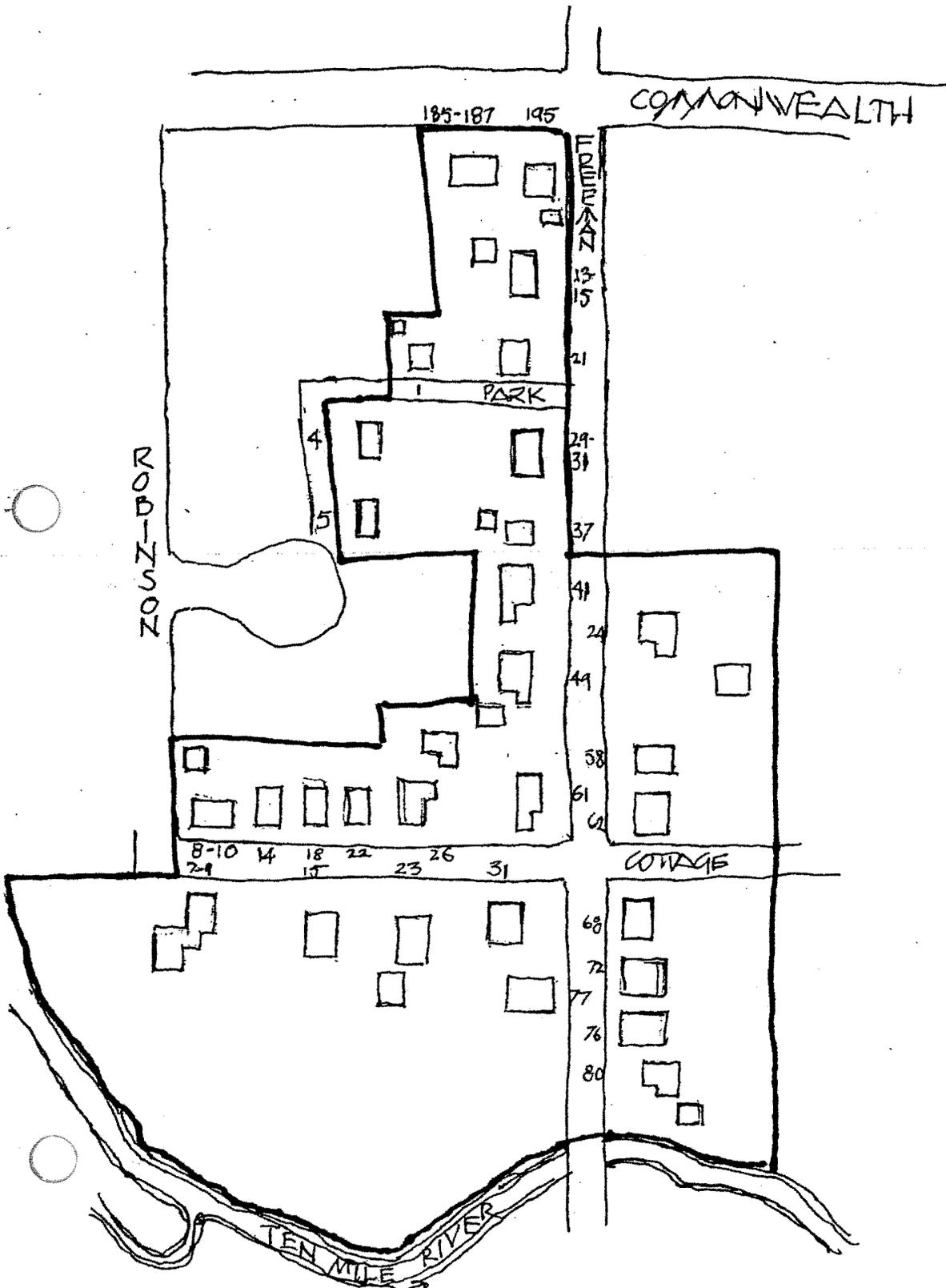
MAP/LOT	STREET ADDRESS	NAME/FUNCTION	DATE	STYLE	JEWELRY ASSOCIATION
16/109	185-187 Commonwealth Ave.	House	ca. 1870	Mansard cottage	Company owned
16/2	195 Commonwealth Ave.	Freeman House garage	ca. 1870 ca. 1940	Mansard cottage	Company owned
16/18	7-9 Cottage Street	Cheever house and barn	ca. 1890	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/125	8-10 Cottage Street	Double house	ca. 1880	Ital. Vernacular	Company owned
16/13	14 Cottage Street	House	ca. 1880	Gothic Vernac.	Davenport owned
16/17	15 Cottage Street	Greenleaf house	ca. 1880	Ital. Vernacular	? Overseer owned
16/12	18 Cottage Street	House	ca. 1880	Gothic Vernac.	Davenport owned
16/11	22 Cottage Street	House	ca. 1880	Queen Anne	Davenport owned
16/16	23 Cottage Street	House barn	ca. 1880 ca. 1900	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/10	26 Cottage Street	House barn	ca. 1880 ca. 1880	Gable end & wing	Davenport owned
16/14	31 Cottage Street	House garage	ca. 1880 ca. 1920	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/3	13-15 Freeman Street	House garage	ca. 1880 ca. 1920	Vernacular	? Foreman occupied
16/4	21 Freeman Street	House	ca. 1890	Queen Anne	Jeweler occupied
18/83	24 Freeman Street	Hall House barn	ca. 1880 ca. 1880	Gable end & wing	Jeweler occupied
16/5	29-31 Freeman Street	Double house	ca. 1880	Mansard cottage	Mfg jeweler occupied
16/111	37 Freeman Street	House garage	ca. 1890 ca. 1920	Vernacular	
16/6	41 Freeman Street	House	ca. 1880	Vernacular	Davenport owned
16/7	49 Freeman Street	House barn	ca. 1880 ca. 1880	Mansard cottage	Jeweler occupied
18/115	58 Freeman Street	House	ca. 1890	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/8	61 Freeman Street	Donaldson House	ca. 1890	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied

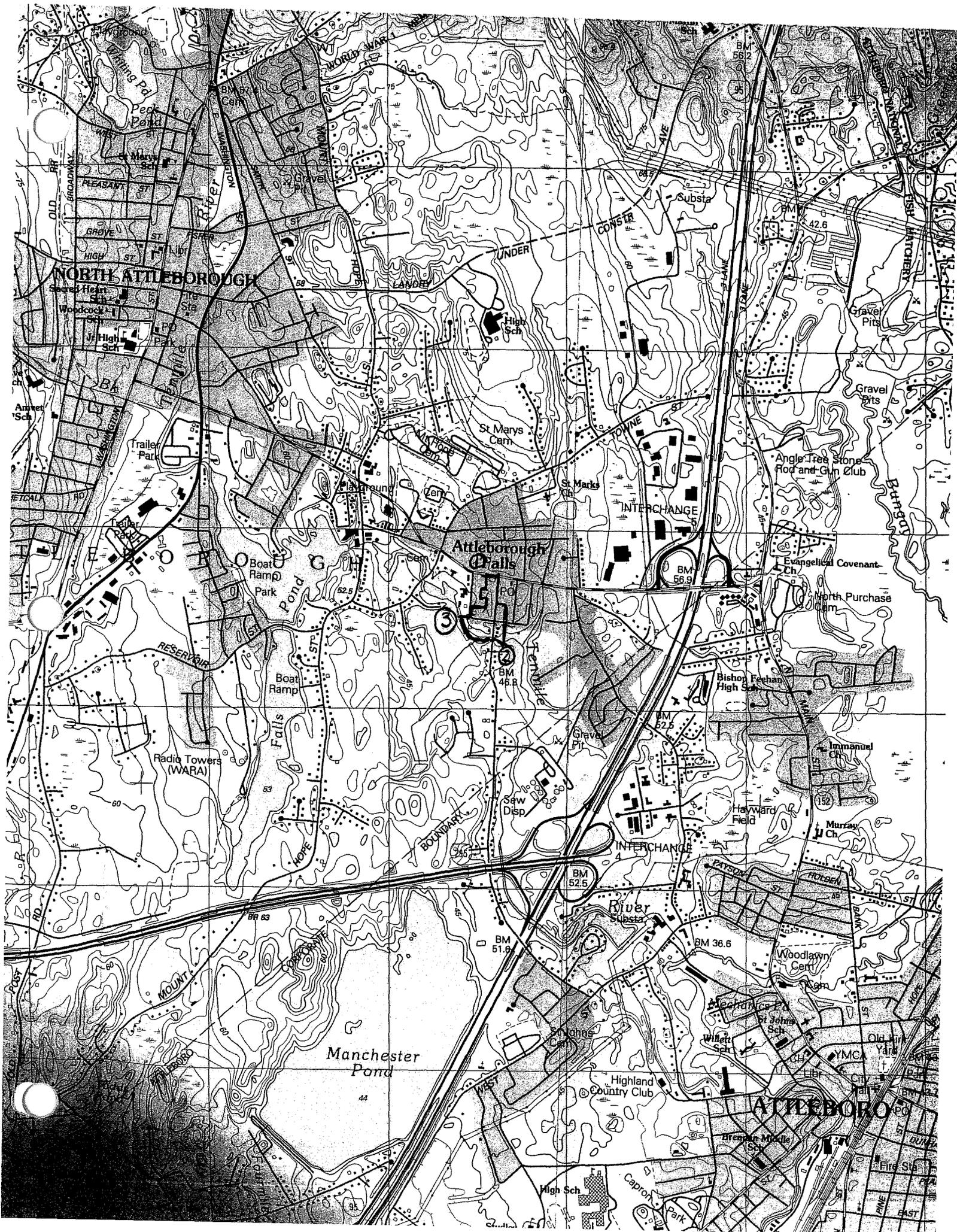
**COTTAGE-FREEMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH (BRISTOL), MA**

MAP/LOT	STREET ADDRESS	NAME/FUNCTION	DATE	STYLE	JEWELRY ASSOCIATION
18/84	62 Freeman Street	House	ca. 1880	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
18/85	68 Freeman Street	Arnold House	ca. 1880	Gothic Vernac.	Jeweler occupied
17/42	72 Freeman Street	Haun House	ca. 1890	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
17/22	76 Freeman Street	Gould House	ca. 1880	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/15	77 Freeman Street	Burgess House	ca. 1890	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
17/40	80 Freeman Street	House garage	ca. 1890 early 20 th C.	Vernacular	
16/411	1 Park Lane	House garage	ca. 1910 early 20 th C.	Vernacular	Jeweler occupied
16/119	4 Park Lane	House	ca. 1825	Federal	Company owned
16/122	5 Park Lane	House	ca. 1825	Federal	Company owned

All properties are contributing buildings.

Cottage-Freeman Historic District
North Attleborough, Massachusetts





NORTH ATTEBOROUGH

Attleborough Falls

ATTEBORO

Manchester Pond

MOUNT

RESERVOIR

Boat Ramp

Trailer Park

Woodcock Sch

High St

PLEASANT ST

Radio Towers (WARA)

Boat Ramp

Playground

St Marys Cam

High Sch

UNDER

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE

Substa

BM 52.5

BM 51.6

BM 52.5

BM 46.8

BM 56.9

BM 42.6

BM 56.2

BM 56.2

BM 56.2

BM 56.2

BM 36.6

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**Commonwealth Avenue HD
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Wm. McKenzie Woodward
Date: September 2000
Negatives at North Attleborough Historical Commission

1. Commonwealth Avenue, view to NE from Robinson Street
2. Robinson House, 161 Commonwealth Avenue
3. Sturdy House, 234 Commonwealth Avenue

