



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

October 8, 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:

Towne Street 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.

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 Towne Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Towne Street, east of Jackson Street n/a not for publication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 10/8/03
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Towne St. 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	
7	1	building
		sites
		structures
1	0	objects
8	1	Total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheets

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.)



Towne St. HD
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Planning and Community 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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Towne Street HD
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.9 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	308450	4649220	3. 19	308350	4649020
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	308480	4649060	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, MHC, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2003

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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N. Attleborough (Bristol), MA

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7. A small node of rural dwellings with their outbuildings, the Towne Street Historic District is in a rolling, partially wooded, setting north and east of the more densely settled village of The Falls in North Attleborough, MA. Tree-lined Towne Street rises from approximately 150 feet above sea level to 175 over the eighth of a mile included within the district. Two of the houses closer to the more densely settled part of the village, 224 and 240 Towne Street, address the road, with façades parallel to the road. The other two houses, farther out at 251 and 260, are oriented toward the south, a traditional posture for rural New England farmhouses that continued to obtain well into the 19th century. Denser development to the south and west is quite different in character from the rural qualities of the Towne Street district, and open space to the north and east buffer it and reinforce its rural quality. Small but distinctive, it remains a little fragment of rural development at the edge of a mill village.

INVENTORY

The inventory includes all buildings and other resources, both contributing and non-contributing, located within the district.

Unless otherwise noted in individual entries, all residential properties are wood-frame construction with brick foundations and asphalt-covered flank-gable roofs, and all garages are 1 story-high wood-frame construction with asphalt covered end-gable roofs.

TOWNE STREET

- 224 **Edwin B. Wilmarth House** (ca. 1880): An asbestos-shingled 2½-story cross-gable-roof house with narrow paired-sash windows, wraparound turned-spindle front porch, and front entrance set within a 3-story projecting tower with high hip roof. A mid-20th century **garage** stands at rear. Edwin B. Wilmarth worked for V.H. Blackington, located nearby at 100 Commonwealth (q.v.); he remained here into the mid-1920s.
- 240 **Miller House** (ca. 1870): A small, simple cottage with extensive later ells trailing off to the southwest. The main section is a compact 1½-story block with stucco foundation, 3-bay façade, and center entrance with hood supported on scroll-saw brackets. Several generations of the same family appear to have lived here: J. Miller in the mid-1870s, Mrs M. Miller in the mid 1890s, Abbie H. and Hannah Miller in the mid 1920s. A late 20th century garage (N/C) is located at the rear of the Miller House.

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- 251 **Thomas Wilmarth House** (ca. 1850, ca. 1882): A vinyl-sided 1½-story Greek Revival house with Modern Gothic additions and alterations. The original house was a 5-bay-façade, center-entrance, center chimney block with granite-block foundation and prominent lintels over the windows. In the late 19th century a 1½-story cross-gable addition with pierced-work bargeboards and inset strut-work porch was constructed at the east end of the main block; at the same time a pedimented hood on console brackets was installed over the original entrance and a similar bargeboard treatment was introduced at the west end of the main block. A handsome red-brick, 2-stall, Colonial Revival **garage** with modillion cornice and flat roof (ca. 1920) is located to the rear of the structure. Thomas Wilmarth lived here by the late 1850s. By the early 1880s it was the home of Sophronia Josephine Wilmarth, widow of William D. Wilmarth (1837-1881), an avid musician and manufacturer of coffin trimmings. She probably remodeled the house after his death and remained here until her own death in 1893. Jewelry manufacturer Walter P. McAlpine and his wife, Mabel E., lived here from the mid-1920s through the early 1950s; he worked first for W.N. Fisher and later for J.F. Sturdy's Sons.
- 260 **Stanley House** (ca. 1835): A Late Federal/Greek Revival farmhouse with extensive Colonial Revival additions. The original section is a 1½-story, 5-bay-façade, center-chimney block with center entrance framed by sidelights and transom lights and a heavy geometric surround. Ells extend to the north and east, and a pretty little sun porch with airy diagonal latticework railing fills the space between ell and main block on the southeast corner. A late 19th century **barn** is located at the rear of the house. A handsome white picket fence sets off the property and reinforces the picturesque quality so celebrated in the early 20th century, when early farmhouses were embellished with Colonial Revival additions. Members of the Stanley family lived here from the mid-19th century into the 1920s.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. Seven 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. Much of the district includes level to moderately sloping, rolling topography comprised of well-drained soils formed in glacial till. The entire district is located within 1,000 feet of several unnamed ponds, and wetlands belonging to

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the Ten Mile River drainage. Some ponds have been formed by impounding segments of the Ten Mile River. 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. 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 (5.9 acres) and the availability of open land in the district, a moderate to high potential exists for the recovery of ancient Native American resources.

Historic research conducted as part of this nomination indicates the existing houses in the district are the only homes that have been constructed in the nominated area. No construction occurred before the first home was built in the 1830s and subsequent development was slow and sparse. Very little has changed in the district since the period of significance. Given the above information, the potential for the recovery of historic archaeological resources in the district is still high. Structural evidence of barns and outbuildings may exist with extant buildings in the district. Archaeological evidence of an earlier barn may be associated with the Stanley House (ca.1830) since the existing barn is dated to the late 19th century. Similar evidence of outbuildings including agricultural related outbuildings and sheds may exist with any 19th and 20th century homes in the district. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also exist, especially at earlier homes including the Stanley House (ca.1830) and at the Thomas Wilmarth House (ca.1850, ca.1882).

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8. The Towne Street Historic District, North Attleborough, Massachusetts meets criteria A and C on the local level for its associations with the development of North Attleborough in the late industrial period and for its well-preserved representatives of mid- to late 19th-century domestic architecture. As an evolved rural area, the Towne Street Historic District achieves significance in the areas of community development and architecture. The spatial organization of the buildings and their relationships to the land and to the circulation system give the district a strong sense of time and place and demonstrate evolving notions of how a residential area should develop. The buildings within the district represent forms and styles typical of mainstream rural domestic 19th-century 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 Whitings 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 3,000 people and supported twenty-four jewelry manufacturers. The Civil War 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

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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 first in 1857 and later on in the 19th century. 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 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. Blackington 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

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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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~~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, 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 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; handsomely landscaped--and probably incorporating historic landscape features--his property recalls

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

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~~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. At its consecration on 2 June 1850, the Rev. 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 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. Blackinton 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.

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³ *Ibid.*, p. 596.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 753.

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TOWNE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT HISTORY

The history of the Towne Street Historic District is simple. Towne Street, at the edge of Attleborough Falls, existed before the buildings here were constructed. No apparent development occurred here until the first house was built in the 1830s, and development was slow and sparse. The existing houses, still at the edge of the Falls Village, appear to be the only ones constructed within the district.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Located at the edge of The Falls village, the Towne Street District illustrates the evolution and transition from village to countryside in the orientation of its buildings. The earliest houses, the Stanley and Thomas Wilmarth Houses, were built when this area, and, indeed, most of The Falls, was out in the country; both houses follow the tradition of south-facing orientation dating to the 17th century and continuing into the 19th century. The later Miller and E.B. Wilmarth Houses, built in the late 19th century as The Falls was growing during its period of greatest growth and prosperity, assume a road-oriented posture typical of villages, towns, and cities. This juxtaposition of rural spatial organization, including the larger lot sizes for the earlier houses, with the growing village, and smaller lot sizes for the later houses, illustrates the evolution of the community and makes a striking visual ensemble.

ARCHITECTURE

Buildings in the district include examples of Greek Revival, vernacular Italianate, Modern Gothic, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival domestic architecture. The earliest buildings, the Stanley House (ca. 1835) at 260 Towne Street and the Thomas Wilmarth House (ca. 1850) at 251 Towne Street are both five-bay-façade center-entrance Greek Revival houses: the Stanley House, with a center chimney and smaller scale, feels more like a late Federal house, but its strongly geometric trabeated entrance with sidelights and transom light is typically Greek; the later Wilmarth house has the breadth of scale more typical of the full-blown Greek Revival. The Miller House (ca. 1870) at 240 Towne Street is a simple vernacular box of a house with only a heavy Italianate bracket hood for ornamentation; restriction of ornamentation to the principal entrance is typical of many rural vernacular structures. The Thomas Wilmarth House was enlarged and remodeled ca. 1882, with a Modern Gothic cross-gable addition on its southeast end including an inset porch framed with chamfered post and pierced-work brackets and an elaborate king post and pierced bargeboard in the

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gable end; a similar gable-end treatment was added to the northwest gable end of the original section of the house. These three earlier houses within the district approach the organization of space subtractively, that is, creating a simple rectangular-plan box and subdividing its interior into the required rooms. The Edwin B. Wilmarth House, in the Queen Anne style, shows variety of massing typical of an additive approach to spatial organization, in which rooms of varying size and configuration are placed around the central circulation space, halls and stairs. The massing of the Edwin B. Wilmarth House is further enlivened by the projecting tower porch which wraps around the façade and one side elevation as well as the projecting tower that rises above the roof. In the early part of the 20th century, Walter and Mabel McAlpine added the handsome red-brick Colonial Revival garage at the rear of the Thomas Wilmarth House; the dignification of what was often approached as a strictly utilitarian structure with stone lintels and modillion cornice suggests a continuing interest in maintaining the visual quality of this residential complex.

RECENT TRENDS

Very little has changed in the district since the period of significance. All buildings retain a high degree of integrity individually and collectively. All are well maintained. No new construction has occurred. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will give recognition to well preserved neighborhood.

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 detailed information on the social, cultural and economic characteristics that typified the district as it

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~~developed from a rural countryside landscape to a village/city periphery. Structural evidence of barns and outbuildings may contribute additional evidence of the spatial organization characteristic of larger houselot size and its internal configuration in earlier rural settlements and the smaller houselots characteristic of the evolving village. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational related features may also contribute important information on the inhabitants of related dwellings including their lifestyles, occupations, and culture.~~

(end)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. New York, 1871.
Daggett, John. *A Sketch of the History of Attleborough, From Its Settlement to the Division*. Boston: Press of Samuel Usher, 1894.
Evert & Richards. *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia, 1895.
House Directories, North Attleborough, MA 1890-1988. Land Evidence Records. Bristol County, MA.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Survey Report, October 1981.
Walling, Henry F. *Map of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. New York, 1858.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On both sides of Towne Street, beginning approximately 160 feet east of Jackson Street and continuing approximately one eighth of a mile to the east, including Tax Assessor's Plat 15, lots 20, 21, 22, 28 and 221. (See also enclosed Assessor's Maps)

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes a group of historically and visually related 19th-century houses and excludes later properties and open space that lie adjacent to the resource nominated.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Towne Street Historic District
N. Attleborough (Bristol), MA**

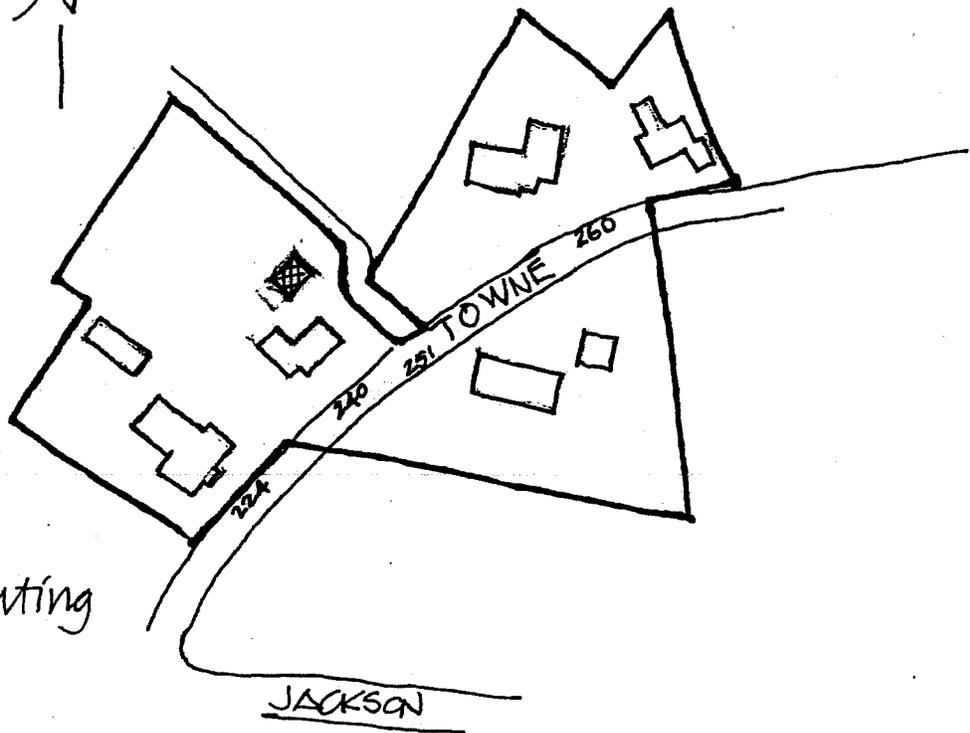
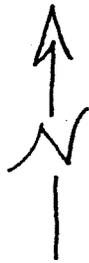
Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Wm. McKenzie Woodward
Date: December 2000

1. Towne Street, view to NE from north of Jackson Street
2. 240 Towne Street, view to W
3. 260 Towne Street, view to W

Towne Street Historic District
North Attleborough, Massachusetts



▣ Non-contributing

Towne Street Historic District

District Data Sheet

Map/Lot	MHC No	Street Address	Name/Function	Date	Style	Status	Resource Type
15/20		224 Towne Street	E. B. Wilmarth House	ca 1880	Queen Anne	C	B
15/20		"	Garage	Mid-20th C		C	B
15/21		240 Towne Street	Miller House	ca 1870	Italianate Vernacular	C	B
15/21		"	Garage	Late 20th C		NC	B
15/28		251 Towne Street	Thomas Wilmarth House	ca 1850, ca 1880	Greek Revl, Mod. Gothic	C	B
15/28		"	Garage	ca 1920	Colonial Revival	C	B
15/22		260 Towne Street	Stanley House	ca 1835	Late Fedl/Greek Revival	C	B
15/22		"	Stanley Barn	Late 19th C	Vernacular	C	B
15/22		"	picket fence	ca 1920	Colonial Revival	C	O

4649 260
2 308 130
4649 060
4649 010

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOG)

195 309 310 17' 30" 6.4 KM. TO MASS. 140 3.9 KM. TO INTERSTATE 495 1660 000 FEET (MASS.) 312 313

