

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WSP.G
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Old Bedford Road - Blossom Street Area
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Westport
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	North Westport
<b>Local No:</b>	WP-C
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Other Institutional; Residential District
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 1:48: PM

FORM A - AREA

Consensus DTE 1990

Area Letter G Form numbers in this Area

WP-E WP-36 - WP-56

~~MHC-6~~

Town Westport

Name of Area (if any) Old Bedford Rd /  
Blossom St.

Present Use residential, agricultural,  
institutional

General Date or Period 19th century

General Condition good

Acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by C. Jullians

Organization SAIC

Date 7/89



see attached map

UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River East  
SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

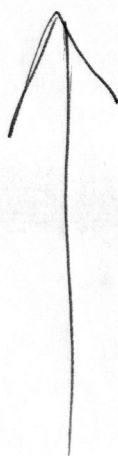
BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES



# Area WP-C

transmission corridor

Blossom Road lined by stone walls & shade trees. Fields & woods back houses on both sides.

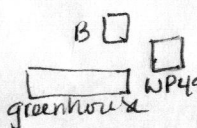
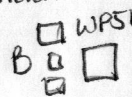


undeveloped

WP55

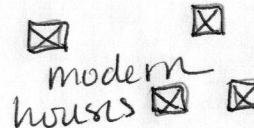


picket fence



field

WP47 barn converted to house



fields

WP56

WP54



WP53

new house going in

new house going in

lighthouse

WP50

balustraded fence

stonewall

WP4B

Ponte Bros. Contractors

ranch house

woods

stone wall

fields

WP46

fields

WP45

WP37

WP39

wood fence

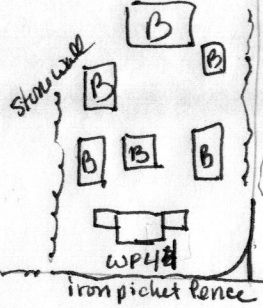
WP40 H. drive

stone wall

WP41

fields

stone wall



iron picket fence

WP42

WP43

WP36

new houses



## **WP-C: Old Bedford Road/Blossom Street Historic District Westport**

### **Description:**

The Old Bedford Road/Blossom Street Historic District is located in the northwest corner of Westport. It is bordered on the south by I-195, on the west by North Wattupa Pond and a power transmission corridor, on the north by a very rural part of Fall River, and on the east by an area of increasing suburban development. Interstate-195, which parallels Old Bedford Road immediately to the south, is the most likely agent of the recent suburban development both within the district and its immediate environs.

The district includes 21 contributing properties interspersed with 19 non-contributing properties. Generally, the contributing properties are mid-late 19th century farmhouses accompanied by stonewall-lined fields and outbuildings. Few remain in agricultural use however, and many have sold portions of their land to accommodate the new development. The non-contributing properties are all recent dwellings except for the complex of industrial structures belonging to Ponte Brothers Contractors. Despite the large proportion of non-contributing properties and the proximity of I-195, the sense of the 19th century landscape remains quite strong. This is due largely to the retention of surrounding fields and outbuildings, stonewalls lining the fields and roadways, and the presence of a large, active farm at the district center (WP-44).

The Nisby site is located directly east of the district, and initial screening indicated possible visibility from the entire area. Brief descriptions of all contributing properties are provided below, beginning at the west end of the district.

WP-36: The Eldridge Wordell House is a 1 and 1/2 story five-bay cottage with a central cross-gable reflecting the Gothic Revival style. Major alterations to this c1850s house include new sash such as the picture window south of the main entry, and addition of a massive side wing. No open land or historic outbuildings are present. The immediate surroundings include modern dwellings and commercial properties, and Route I-195.

WP-37: The Cynthia Wordell House is a 2 and 1/2 story gable-end house that appears to date to c1880. It displays basic Queen Anne style features like decorative second story shingling above first story clapboards, and some multi-pane sash. It is accompanied by a barn/garage and undeveloped land to the rear.

WP-38: This turn-of-the-century, gable-end dwelling has undergone major alterations that make its original character impossible to determine. Alterations include new 1/1 sash and doors, and a massive rear ell. It is accompanied by a large concrete block garage.

WP-39: The Wordell/Gifford House is a 1 and 1/2 story gable-end structure that appears to have been constructed in the 1850s with an 1880s remodeling. Mid-19th century features include 6/6 sash at the first story, heavy lintels over side and rear elevation windows, and its proportions. Later features include the multi over single pane sash at the attic story, and the side verandah. The house is accompanied by a large two-car garage and undeveloped land to the rear.

WP-40: The Joshua Wordell House is locally dated at 1869. It is a 1 and 1/2 story gable-end Greek Revival style dwelling with a two-story side-wing. Architectural features include an entry with sidelights and lintel shelf, and windows with 6/6 sash and projecting caps. In the early 20th century several finely detailed Colonial Revival style additions were made. These include a sunporch with lozenge-shaped sash on the east side of the house, a large carriage house to the rear, and a fieldstone wall with iron gates at the street.

WP-41: The Christian Church of c1855, is a focal point as the major non-residential structure within the district. It is a one-story gable-end clapboard-clad structure whose elevated lot is surrounded by a granite retaining wall. The facade is centered on an elongated window flanked by single-leaf entries; all are headed by heavy bracketed lintels. A small lantern rises above the modillion cornice of this Classical Revival style building.

WP-42: This two-story four-square dwelling that appears to date to c1920 is one of the most recent contributing buildings within the district. It is sheathed with fishtail shingles and is enclosed by a hip roof with exposed rafters. A small garage stands behind.

WP-43: The J. Wordell House is a 1 and 1/2 story five-bay clapboard-clad cottage dating to c1840. Its center entry is framed by sidelights, pilasters and a lintel shelf. As part of a row of former 19th century farmsteads, it is accompanied by a barn to the rear and fields to the east.

WP-44: The Gershon Wordell House, located at the intersection of Old Bedford and Blossom Roads, is the single most important property within the district. It gains this distinction through its central location and its status as an active farm with large main house, numerous outbuildings and extensive fields. The c1850 house is a 2 and 1/2 story five-bay structure framed by two large wings; the east wing dates to the 1880s according to the WHC. This imposing Greek Revival style dwelling is set off from the street by an iron picket fence on granite curbing. Three moderate to large wood-frame barns are located directly behind the house; another smaller wood-frame barn and two recent metal-clad barns are set further back. All testify to the continuous agricultural use of the property. The building cluster is surrounded by fields on both sides and to the rear; the fields across the street may belong to this farm as well. The entire property is exceptionally well maintained.

WP-45: The Lorenzo Sherman House is a two-story clapboard-clad Italianate style dwelling. Its gable-end with first story bay window faces the street. The west elevation is centered on another first story bay window and gable breaking through the roof. Paired brackets trim the bay windows and the roofline. The house is accompanied by a large barn and surrounded by fields.

WP-46: This early 20th century shingled dwelling is a 1 and 1/2 story bungalow with overshot gable roof forming a full front verandah. A large central dormer lights the attic story. There are no outbuildings.

WP-47: This dwelling appears to result from a recent conversion of the former P.T. Sherman barn. It is a large gambrel roof structure that presently contains apartments. Land directly to the south and behind has been developed with modern dwellings.



WP-48: The Cummings House is a simple two-story gable-end dwelling that appears to date to c1900. Major alterations include new sash like the bowed picture window adjacent to the entry, and a large side wing. The house is accompanied by several large, modern outbuildings associated with Ponte Brothers Contracting.

WP-49: The Isaac Bernard House is a large 2 and 1/2 story Queen Anne style dwelling with a corner tower. It is sheathed with a combination of clapboard and shingle. Major alterations to this c1890 house are not apparent, but it is difficult to see behind extensive plantings. The house is accompanied by a large greenhouse and barn, and is surrounded by fields.

WP-50: The Albert Sherman House is a clapboard-clad three-bay gable-end house with a rear wing that terminates in a bowed solarium. The entrance is located on the south side sheltered by a bracketed verandah. This charming Greek Revival/Italianate style house is set off from the street by an elaborate balustraded wooden fence on granite curbing. It is accompanied by a truncated windmill and a barn with cupola. The land around the house is defined by a stonewall with fields beyond.

WP-51: The Wilson and Mary Sherman House is one of several early 19th century 1 and 1/2 story five-bay cottages in the district. This one has an exceptionally well detailed center entry framed by sidelights, Ionic pilasters and a full entablature. A side wing is fronted by a verandah with detail similar to that of WP-50. The house has been altered by vinyl siding and 12/12 replacement sash which have had only a minor effect on its original character. A wooden picket fence supported by granite posts sets the house off from the street, while three barns and extensive fields are located behind.

WP-52: The Blossom Street Cemetery is a small neighborhood plot surrounded by one of the area's fine stonewalls with an elaborate iron gate. It contains approximately 75 stones ranging in date from c1840-1920.

WP-53: The W. A. Young House is a simple 1 and 1/2 story gable-end structure dating to c1880. It is clapboard-clad and its entry is headed by a narrow lintel shelf. The house is accompanied by a barn.

WP-54: The Thomas and Louisa Sherman House is the third of the area's early 19th century 1 and 1/2 story five-bay cottages. The center entry is framed by sidelights as well as simple pilasters and lintel. The house is accompanied by a barn.

WP-55: The Young House is a 1 and 1/2 story gable-end dwelling dating to c1870. It is sheathed with a combination of shingle and clapboard. The entry has a bracketed hood and is flanked by a large bay window. The house is accompanied by a barn.

WP-56: This is a simple Italianate style dwelling accompanied by a barn.

The remaining properties in the district are non-contributing modern structures. See the attached map for locations.



**History:**

The Old Bedford Road/Blossom Street Historic District developed primarily during the 19th century as an agricultural area. Occupying a remote location in the northwest corner of the town, it was far from the fishing village clusters of Head of Westport and Westport Point, or the industrial village of Westport Factory.

The district was dominated by the Sherman, Gifford, and Wordell families. The earliest houses in the district are Cape-type cottages owned by members of these families (WP-43, 51, 54; c1835-40). The Gershon Wordell Farm (WP-44; c1850), with its large Greek Revival style house and extensive collection of successive outbuildings, appears to have been the area's most important farm since the mid-19th century. By that period, the district's population was sufficiently large to warrant establishment of a cemetery (WP-52; c1840), and erection of one of the town's several Christian Churches (WP-41; 1858).

A few of the later houses in the district represent the limited suburban development that began to occur in northern Westport in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These include examples of the Queen Anne style (WP-37, 49), the Craftsman style (WP-42, 46), and one notable Colonial Revival style alteration of an earlier house (WP-40).

This area was largely by-passed by the early-mid 20th century suburban development generated by State Route 6 and the Dartmouth-Westport Street Railway line in areas just to the south. It is only in the past two decades, since construction of I-195 on its immediate southern border, that extensive residential development has begun to occur.

**National Register Criteria Statement:**

The Old Bedford Road/Blossom Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting (partial), materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is important as a large cluster of 19th and early 20th century properties associated with Westport's agricultural history. With its fields, stonewalls, farmhouses and outbuildings, the area remains as a good reflection of that theme and period. The pastoral setting is rapidly being disrupted however, by immediate proximity to I-195, and by the subdivision of its farmland into building lots.

**WP C: OLD BEDFORD ROAD/BLOSSOM STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT: DISTRICT DATA SHEETS  
WESTPORT**

MAP #	MHC*	C/NC	ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	STYLE
a		NC	131 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1980	modern commercial
b		NC	130 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
c		NC	136 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1940	reproduction Cape
36	592	C	145 Old Bedford Rd.	Eldridge Wordell Hse.	c1850	Gothic Revival/alt.
37	591	C	150 Old Bedford Rd.	Cynthia Wordell Hse. barn/garage	c1880	Queen Anne
38		C	155 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1900	vernacular/alt.
d		NC	161 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
e		NC	169 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
39	590	C	162 Old Bedford Rd.	Wordell/Gifford Hse. garage	c1858/1880	Gr. Rev./Q. Anne
40	589	C	174 Old Bedford Rd.	Joshua Wordell Hse. carriage house	1869/1910	Gr. Rev./Col. Rev.
41	588	C	186 Old Bedford Rd.	Christian Church	c1855	Classical Revival
42		C	189 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1920	Foursquare
f		NC	195 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
g		NC	201 Old Bedford Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
43	587	C	209 Old Bedford Rd.	J. Wordell Hse. barn	c1840	full Cape
44	586	C	222 Old Bedford Rd.	Gershon Wordell Hse. 6 barns	c1850	Greek Revival



45	585	C	248 Old Bedford Rd.	Lorenzo Sherman Hse. barn	c1870	Italianate
46		C	15 Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1920	Bungalow
h		NC	Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1980	split level
i		NC	Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1980	split level
j		NC	Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1980	split level
k		NC	Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1980	split level
47		C	68 Blossom Rd.	Sherman Barn	c1910/1980	barn/house
l		NC	89 Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1970	ranch
48	593	C	101 Blossom Rd.	Cummings Hse. construction sheds	c1900	vernacular/alt.
49	594	C	108 Blossom Rd.	Isaac Bernard Hse. greenhouse	c1890	Queen Anne
50	595	C	111 Blossom Rd.	Albert Sherman Hse. barn, windmill	1869	Gr. Rev./Italianate
m		NC	121 Blossom Rd.	n/a	1989	modern dwelling
n		NC	131 Blossom Rd.	n/a	1989	modern dwelling
51	596	C	122 Blossom Rd.	W. & S. Sherman Hse. 3 barns	1835	full Cape
52		C	Blossom Rd.	Blossom Rd. Cemetery	c1840	Burying Ground
53	597	C	145 Blossom Rd.	W. A. Young Hse. barn	c1880	vernacular
o		NC	151 Blossom Rd.	n/a	c1960	ranch
54	598	C	157 Blossom Rd.	T. & L. Sherman Hse. barn	1838	full Cape
55	599	C	162 Blossom Rd.	Young Hse. barn	c1870	Italianate
56						



**SETTING CHECKLIST (South-East Mass.)**

FORM #

WP-2

**Contributing Features:**

1. fields in agricultural use  
yes
2. stonewalls or historic fences  
numerous
3. intact main and out buildings  
yes
4. narrow unimproved road  
yes
5. other

**Non-Contributing Features:**

1. road improvements (paving, widening, signals, state designation)  
old Bridford widened some
2. utility lines (telephone, electric)  
small scale
3. private television antennae and satellite dishes  
yes, unobtrusive
4. new structures (note type, materials, scale)  
some recent houses of similar scale & materials interspersed  
Ponte Bros storage bldgs set well back from Blossom
5. wholesale extensive alterations to historic structures (siding, windows, additions, etc)  
not many - WP 36, 38, 48
6. wholesale, extensive alterations to landscape (paving, clearing, construction, etc)  
no - most remains as agri. fields or wooded
7. other

**Agents of Change Identified by MHC**

9. Major agents: proximity of commercial corridors, subdivisions, abandoned urban cores  
Rte-195 runs S. of Bridford Rd, but impact is audible not visual
10. Secondary agents: proximity of resort related development, precision agriculture, sand/gravel quarrying, over-restoration, powerlines, telecommunications facilities  
power line far W.

**Orientation of Resource:**

**EVALUATION SUMMARY SHEET**Form #: WPC**POTENTIAL VSHRs**

## 1. National Register eligibility:

- 1.1 yes ✓
- 1.2 maybe
- 1.3 rationale

large collection of 19<sup>th</sup> + 20<sup>th</sup> century farms, houses, church, cemetery. Many components appear individually eligible as well.

## 2. Importance of Setting

- 2.1 yes ✓
- 2.2 maybe
- 2.3 rationale

agricultural setting unites diverse district components

## 3. Integrity of Setting:

- 3.1 yes ✓
- 3.2 maybe
- 3.3 rationale

integrity of setting, including buildings, stonewalls, fences + agri. fields, remains but is being eroded by subdivision of land + const. of new houses.

## 4. Summary: Criteria, Period of Significance, Level of Significance

A, C      c. 1800-1930      local      mod VSHR

**NON-VSHRs**

## 1. National Register eligibility:

- 1.1 yes/maybe
- 1.2 no
- 1.3 rationale

## 2. Importance of Setting

- 2.1 yes/maybe
- 2.2 no
- 2.3 rationale

## 3. Integrity of Setting:

- 3.1 yes/maybe
- 3.2 no
- 3.3 rationale





WPC-39 Old Bedford Rd.



WPC-36 Old Bedford Rd.



WPC 45  
Old Bedford Rd.





WPC-44 Old Bedford Rd.



WPC-46 Blossom St.



WPC-41  
Old Bedford Rd.



WPL-54 Blossom St.



WPL 51 Blossom St.



WPL 50 Blossom St.



## FORM A - AREA

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

G

575 - 600

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town WESTPORTName of Area (if any) Blossom - BedfordPresent Use residential

General Date or Period 19th century  
various styles  
private ownership

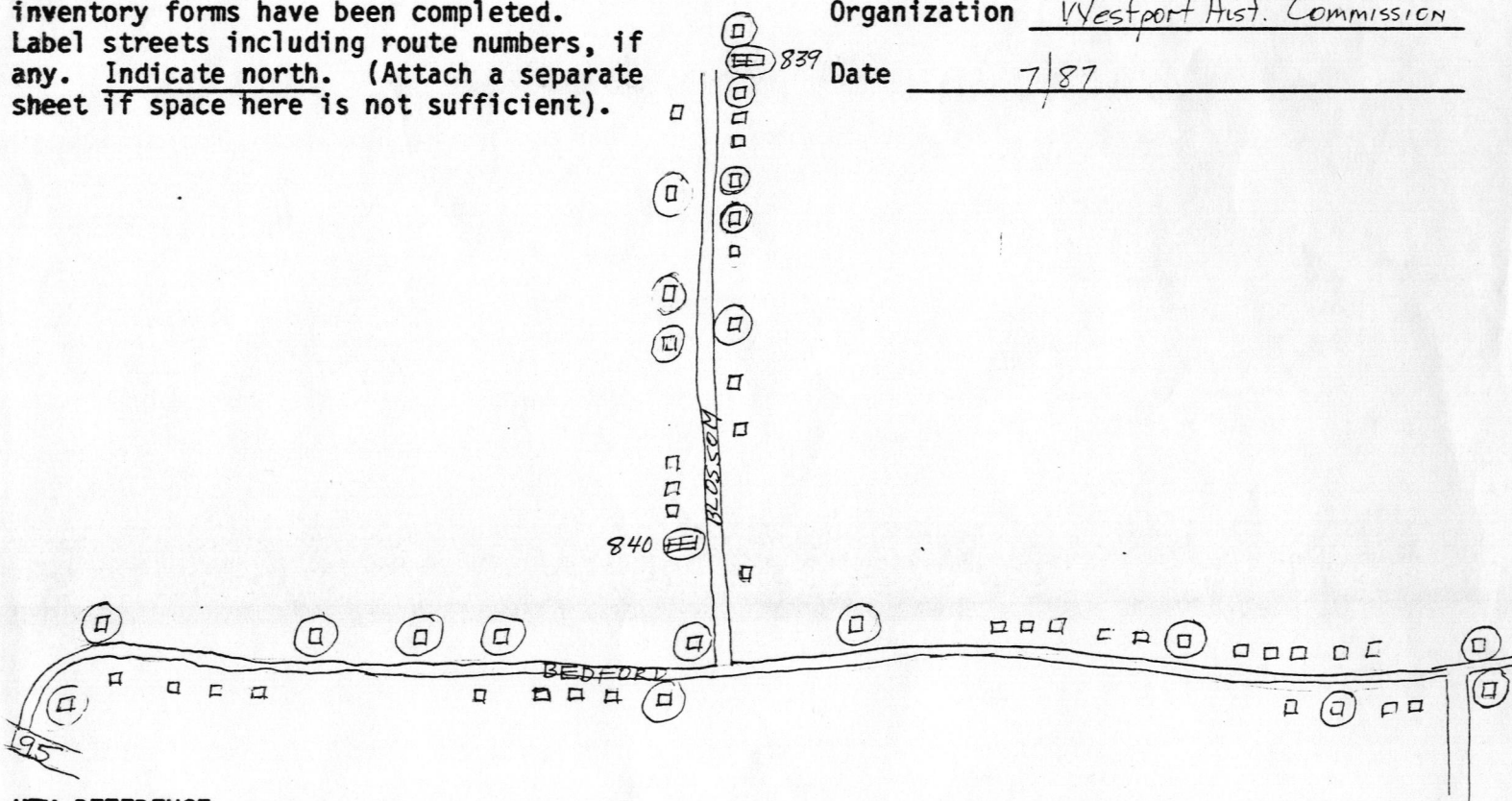
General Condition good

Acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by R. WertzOrganization Westport Hist. CommissionDate 7/87

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white). Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).



UTM REFERENCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE  
SCALE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



WSPG

Community: Westport

**MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received:                      Date Due:                      Date Reviewed: 7.17.90

Type: Individual                      District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Multiple properties                      Inventory Form:

Address:

Requested by:

Action:                      Honor                      ITC                      Grant                      R & C                      Other:

Agency: USAF/GWEN                      Staff in charge of Review: M. Covorugh

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

☐ Eligible  
☐ Eligible, also in district  
☐ Eligible only in district  
☐ Ineligible  
☐ More information needed

**DISTRICTS**

☐ Eligible  
☐ Ineligible  
☐ More information needed

**CRITERIA:**                      A                      B                      C                      D

**LEVEL:**                      Local                      State                      National

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** by MAC & BF

See attached lists with MHC Inv. # & NRElig Opinion

## Appendix D

EXTENDED MHC FORMS FOR VSHRs WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE  
NISBY SITE

MHC#					
WP30	43 Sanford Road	NO	MRAD	Quequechan Valley Mills	
WP31	45 Sanford Road	NO		Historic District	
WP32	John T. Gifford House	Yes	MRAG	Oak Grove Cemetery	
WP33	16 Sanford Road	NO	MRA7	Fall River Water Works	
WP34	Wordell Family Cemetery	Maybe	MRA15	Pocasset Fire House	
WP35	8 Sanford Road	Maybe	MRA18	Davol School	
WPC	Old Bedford Road/Blossom	Yes	MRA30 A-C	Notre Dame Church Estate	
	Street Potential Historic District		MRA48	Cornell Mills	
WP57	A. Davis House	Yes	MRA57	Kerr Thread Mill	
WP58	Sherman/Wordell House	Maybe	MRA63	Pilgrim Mills	
WP59	591 GAR Highway/Route 6	NO	MRA67	Seaconnet Mills	
WP60	593 GAR Highway/Route 6	NO	MRA75	Greany Building	
WP61	6 Gifford Street	NO	MRA76	Chase-Hyde Farm	
WP62	597 - 599 GAR Highway/Route 6	NO	MRA85	Boguslavsky Triple-Deckers	
WP64	605 GAR Highway/Route 6	NO	MRA87	108-112 Quarry Street	
WP65	600 GAR Highway/Route 6	NO	MRA89	Israel Picard House	
WP66	Sherman/Perry House	NO	D1	Hixville School	NO
FRA	Indian Town Road Potential	Maybe	D2	Mrs. Braley House	MAYBE
	Historic District Indian Town				
	Road				