

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: North Falmouth Village Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/98      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/02/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/18/98      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/09/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000121

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/20/98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in the  
National Register

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

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

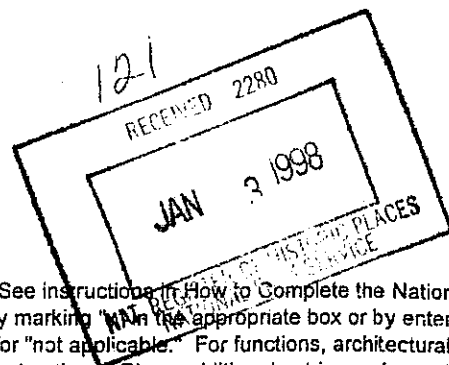
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Rev. 10-90)

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 North Falmouth Village Historic District

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

#### 2. Location

street & number 85-408 Old Main Road, 6 Wild Harbor Road n/a not for Publication

city or town Falmouth N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02541

#### 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.)

Judith B. McDonough  
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

1/20/98  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Edson A. Boall  
Signature of the Keeper

2/20/98  
Date of Action

North Falmouth Village HD  
Name of Property

Barnstable, Massachusetts  
County and State

**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	
43	30	buildings
1	0	sites
20	21	structures
7	0	objects
71	51	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
- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- RELIGION: church & cemetery
- COMMERCE: trade/department store; /business; /restaurant
- GOVERNMENT: fire station

(see continuation sheet)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
- RELIGION: church & cemetery
- COMMERCE: trade/business /restaurant /specialty store
- GOVERNMENT: fire station
- LANDSCAPE: unoccupied lot

(see continuation sheet)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- GREEK REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation stone
- walls wood/weatherboard
- roof asphalt
- other wood brick

**Narrative Description**

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

(See continuation sheet)

North Falmouth Village HD  
Name of Property

3. 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

Exploration/Settlement

Commerce

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance

1762-1947

Significant Dates

1762 - Shubal Nye house built

1832 - church built

1886 - Megansett Hall built 1930 - Rand office built

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government Library, Town Hall
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Falmouth Historical Society

North Falmouth Village HD  
Name of Property

Barnstable County, Massachusetts  
County and State

**.J. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property 95.53 ac.

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

1. 19	365690	4612620	2. 19	365730	4612520
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
3. 19	365340	4611820	4. 19	365380	461110
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

X 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 Nicholas C. Avery and Virginia H. Adams, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1998

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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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), Massachusetts

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## 6. FUNCTION OR USE (CONTINUED)

Historic Functions  
Domestic/hotel

Current Functions  
Social/meeting hall  
Vacant

(end)

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### 7. DESCRIPTION

#### Architectural Classification (Continued)

Greek Revival  
Victorian  
Victorian Eclectic  
Colonial Revival  
Spanish Revival  
Bungalow/Craftsman  
No Style  
Other: Reproduction Cape  
Other: Foursquare  
Other: Ranch  
Other: Reproduction Victorian  
Other: Thru-plate girder truss

#### Materials (Continued)

Foundation: Brick, Concrete  
Walls: Wood/shingle, brick, synthetics/vinyl,  
stucco  
Roof: Wood/shingle, terra cotta  
Other: Stone

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### 7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The North Falmouth Village Historic District is a linear, semi-rural village extending south to north roughly one and one-quarter mile along Old Main Road, and roughly 100 feet along Wild Harbor Road west from its intersection with Old Main Road. The district follows a low line of gentle hills and runs generally parallel to, and between one quarter mile and one mile east of, Buzzards Bay. Buildings in the district date from the mid-eighteenth to the late twentieth century, but were predominantly constructed in the early to mid-nineteenth century during the village's most active period of growth. Residences are most prevalent, along with a few commercial and institutional buildings. A small commercial node at the intersection of Old Main Road and County Road breaks the primarily residential atmosphere of the district. There are 72 contributing resources including 43 buildings, 1 site, 20 structures, and 8 objects, as well as 51 non-contributing resources consisting of 30 buildings and 21 structures. Non-contributing resources are buildings (or sites) constructed in the twentieth century after the end of the period of significance of the village (ca. 1762-1948) or buildings so highly altered that they have lost their integrity.

The North Falmouth Village National Register District approximately corresponds to the North Falmouth Local Historic District, established in 1975. The local district is bounded by Crowell Road (south), the railroad overpass (north), and by a line 100 feet from Old Main Road (east and west). The National Register boundaries encompass fewer properties at the south end, one additional property at the north end, and follow rear lot lines on the east and west. The measure of control provided by the local district and the awareness of property owners have been major factors in the preservation of the village resources and setting.

The National Register district excludes early and historically related properties south and west of its boundaries, due to changes in land use and intervening new construction which have severed the visual connection between these properties and the core of the district. These important local properties – and in particular the **Elnathan Nye House and Cow Pass, 33 Old Main Road, ca. 1740 and 1872 (MHC #307 & 916)** just south of the district (in the local district) and the **Benjamin Nye House, 78 Benjamin Nye Lane, ca. 1699 (MHC #302)** west of the district – deserve further consideration for National Register listing and may be individually eligible.

The southern end of the North Falmouth Village Historic District begins at 85 Old Main Road, the Nathaniel Nye House. It follows Old Main Road northwards to its intersection with Route 28A just beyond the Cape Cod Railroad overpass. A slight jog to include the first property on Wild Harbor Road

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is the only break in the linear progression of the district. Old Main Road conveys a strong sense of place and is tree-lined as it undulates with the landscape past the generously spaced yards with setback buildings, often marked by picket fences or granite fence posts. A narrow asphalt sidewalk follows the road on its west side with a narrow grass strip between it and the road. A gently sloping grass berm edges the east side of the road. The narrow, linear quality of the district and its undulating topography have helped North Falmouth Village retain its historic character by limiting new development. The majority of buildings and sites which define the settlement's nucleus from the late eighteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century survive today: the North Falmouth Congregational Church, the North Falmouth Cemetery, the Megansett Grange, and numerous houses built by founding families, such as the Nyes and Hatchs. The predominantly 1½- and 2½-story, wood-frame, residential buildings and other resources reflect the area's settlement in the late eighteenth century through its development as a summer colony in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, to its ongoing quiet village existence through the middle and late twentieth century.

North Falmouth's settlement and development was closely tied with the seacoast. Located approximately six miles north of Falmouth Center, the village of North Falmouth is located roughly a quarter mile inland and east of Buzzard's Bay. The **Shubal Nye House, 96 Old Main Road, before ca. 1762**, considered to be one of the oldest houses standing in North Falmouth, is located at the southern end of the district. Settlement of the village began at the southern end of the district, and is traced northward in the historic progression of construction, beginning at the southern end with Georgian, Colonial, and Federal-style houses, moving through Greek Revival, Late Victorian, and Foursquare-style houses at the northern end.

The appearance of the village in the middle of the nineteenth century was recorded by Frederick Freeman, who described traveling south from Sandwich and entering the

... quiet village of North Falmouth, lying on or near Buzzards Bay and thus enjoying some conveniences of fishing, and coasting facilities, and stretching along its pleasant residences, continuously but not densely, – its Congregational meeting-house, school-houses, windmills, post office, occasional stores, shops for the mechanic arts, and here and there well-cultivated farms of unpretending size, all bespeaking for the locality the credit of general appearance of frugal thrift and home comfort, – until after a ride of about four miles, the traveler enters the next post office division. (Freeman 1862, Vol. 2:418)

The qualities of a pleasing, unbroken, but not compact arrangement of buildings remains well preserved

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today. Historic photographs of the village also show that little has changed in North Falmouth Village since the beginning of the twentieth century. Old Main Road has been paved; a few commercial buildings have been converted to apartment units; the **town pump** which once stood at the intersection of Old Main and County roads has been relocated to the intersection of Old Main and Wild Harbor Road on its original base with a replica top; and the North Falmouth Village School No. 8, a Greek Revival-style school built before 1832, that stood opposite the Congregational Church, burned in 1935. At the perimeter of the district, a pattern of landscape change typical of New England rural areas has occurred. Formerly open vistas across cleared land have been closed by trees which have matured and pasture land which has reverted to forest.

An **Open Field (Map 2/4)** located to the north of 316 Old Main Road, is a rare large parcel of land left undeveloped, providing a setting which evokes North Falmouth's past appearance and agricultural history. Another important landscape feature of North Falmouth is the **North Falmouth Cemetery, rear of North Falmouth Congregational Church, 153 Old Main Road, 1804 (Map 5A/17A, MHC 812)**. It is a rectangular site, roughly 1\_ acres in area. The earliest of the over 1,000 headstones date from the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the site continues to be used for interments. The names inscribed on the headstones include members of all of the founding families of North Falmouth, including the Nyes, Hamblins, and Hatches. Headstones are carved primarily of slate, marble, and granite. The cemetery is enclosed by a white picket fence supported by granite posts. The entrance, located at the west end, consists of granite posts with an ornate wrought-iron fence and gate.

Other granite fence posts are found in North Falmouth, existing as remnants of former landscape features and property boundary markers. Some, such as those at **93 Old Main Road (Map 5/9)**, a mid-to-late-twentieth century, reproduction Victorian house, enclose the lot on the west and south sides. While the house on the lot is a non-contributing resource, the posts indicate a now lost historic house. Another non-contributing resource marked with granite fence post is located at **148 Old Main Road (Map 5A/13)**, a mid-to-late-twentieth century reproduction Cape-style residence. The current houses sits on the site of the North Falmouth Village School #8, which burned in 1935. The north and south sides of the lot have the original rows of regularly spaced granite fence posts which were not destroyed in the fire.

The sole engineering structure in the district is the **Cape Cod Railroad Co. - Vineyard Sound Railroad Co. Bridge, 1891 (Map 2/4, MHC 929)** that carries the Cape Cod Railroad over Old Main Road at the north end of the district. Like other bridges along the line, it was built to eliminate the original 1872 at-grade crossings. Constructed by the Boston Bridge Works, it is a single-span, thru-plate girder construction bridge with massive, random ashlar, granite abutments, and was evaluated as being in poor condition in 1992. The bridge is the oldest bridge identified in a survey of the Falmouth Branch of the Cape Cod Railroad in 1992 (McGinley Hart & Associates 1992).

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### Architecture

Following are descriptions of significant buildings and structures within the district. The order of presentation is in chronological order of construction, from the earliest Colonial structure to buildings constructed in the middle of this century. Following these descriptions is a brief description of non-contributing resources within the district. Discussion of residential buildings is followed by nonresidential buildings. Photograph numbers and MHC numbers are given where appropriate. Also refer to the District Data Sheet.

#### **Residential Buildings**

The residential architecture of the last two hundred years in North Falmouth Village has persisted virtually unchanged. Single-family, 1½-story and 2½-story, wood-frame dwellings sheathed in clapboard or shingle are the backbone of the district. While none are high style or particularly innovative, together they form an excellently well-preserved collection that documents North Falmouth Village's history. Encompassed in the district are many half, full and three-quarter, 1½-story Capes and 2½-story houses that help define the architecture of the region. Reflecting the major period of construction in the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century, the Federal and Greek Revival styles are the most common. Some of the earlier houses were updated in the nineteenth century when Greek Revival or other style entrance surrounds and trim were added. The windows of many houses are two-over-two double-hung sash, which would have superseded six-over-six windows. According to local tradition, payments to village property owners by the Cape Cod Railroad in the 1870s spurred the replacement of the older sash. Modern infill construction in the district has been mostly restricted to low, wood-frame house designed as reproduction Capes that are visually compatible in scale and materials with the historic buildings.

#### *Georgian – Colonial Buildings*

The **Seth Nye House, 130 Old Main Road, ca. 1738 (?) (Map 5/28, MHC 300)(Photograph #3)** is a 2½-story Georgian-style half-house. It is surmised that the house was originally built in 1738 as a Cape, at the time of Seth Nye's marriage, and later modified with the addition of 1½ stories. Actual occupancy of the house cannot be established until 1773. With this range of dates for possible construction, it cannot be affirmed that the Seth Nye house is older than the **Shubal Nye House, 96 Old Main Road**. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards on its facade and wood shingles on its sides. The house is three-bays wide by three bays deep, with 12/12 original windows. A Greek Revival-style entranceway with fluted pilasters and heavy entablature is located in the south bay of the

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main facade. The house has a series of connected rear ells, which range from two stories to a one-story garage. A shed-roof addition is located on the north side of the main block. A non-contributing garden gazebo sits in the side yard. The property is enclosed by a wood picket fence. The house is a mirror image of 140 Old Main Road across Benjamin Nye Lane.

The **William L. Phinney House (first known owner), 170 Old Main Road, ca. 1755 (Map 5A/9, MHC 295)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, full-Cape style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. It is five bays wide, by three bays deep, with original 12/12 windows. The main entrance is located in the center of the facade, protected by a one-by-one bay, end-gable, enclosed entry vestibule. To the rear of the house is a large, late-twentieth-century addition which consists of a 1½-story rear ell, connecting to a side-gabled, 1½-story wing with a large, projecting screened porch.

The **Shubal Nye House, 96 Old Main Road, before ca. 1762 (SN1) (Map 5/30, MHC 305)** is a 2½-story, side-gable, Colonial house built as a residence for Shubal Nye. The house rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with wood shingles. It is five bays wide, by three bays deep, with a slightly projecting, pedimented entrance in the center of the facade. Windows are replacements with snap-in mullions. A two-story kitchen ell is attached to the rear of the building. A glass and steel greenhouse is connected to the rear ell. The property is enclosed by a wood picket fence.

The **John Nye House/Tavern, 229 Old Main Road, ca. 1775 (Map 5A/11+11A, MHC 289)** is a 2½-story, side-gable, Colonial building with side ells on the north and south ends of the house. The south ell was connected with the residence, while the northern ell was used as a tavern. The building rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is five bays wide and three bays deep, with its original 12/12 windows. The main entrance in the center of the facade, has a wood-panel door with a Federal-style pediment and fanlight surround. A secondary entrance is located in the center of the facade of the tavern ell. It has a wood board door with a full pediment in a projecting enclosed vestibule. A nineteenth-century contributing barn/garage is located to the rear of the house.

### *Federal Buildings*

The **Captain Nathaniel Ellis House, 249 Old Main Road, ca. 1779 (Map 5A/13, MHC 456)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, half-Cape style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is three bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance, located in the north bay of the facade, is a wood-panel door with a fixed transom, Greek Revival surround, and louvered shutters to enclose the entrance. A 1½-story and a 1-story rear ell connect to the main block. A shed roof side porch is attached on the north side of the first ell.

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The **Mark Mayhew Hatch House (first known owner), 209 Old Main Road, 1796 (Map 5A/25, MHC 291)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, full-Cape style house, with a series of rear ells. It is surmised that the house was built in 1796 (date in brick chimney) in the nearby village of Hatchville and moved to North Falmouth around 1823, although this has not been confirmed. It sits on a stone foundation and is clad with wooden clapboards. The house is five bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance, located in the center of the facade, is a simple wood-panel door with a Victorian portico addition to protect it. An attached garage is located in one of the rear ells. A contributing 1½-story, nineteenth-century barn is located to the rear of the house.

The **Solomon Nye House, 160 Old Main Road, ca. 1800 (Map 5A/11, MHC 457)** is a 2½-story, side gable house, originally constructed as a full-Cape style building, and substantially altered in 1996. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. A one-story enclosed porch with a shed roof has been added to the facade, as well as a two-story end-gable bay. The main entrance is located on the main facade in the enclosed porch. The building has grown to four times its original size due to the many alterations and additions it has undergone, and thereby lost its historic integrity. It is considered to be a non-contributing resource. A contributing resource on the property is a 1½-story end-gable barn, located to the rear of the building, now used as a garage.

The **Captain James Nye House, 316 Old Main Road, ca. 1800 (Map 2/10, MHC 281)(Photograph #11)** is a two-story, hip-roof, Federal-style building. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. The house has a center chimney, is five bays wide, by two bays deep, with a series of connected rear ells, the last of which is end-gambrelled with a cupola. The main entrance, located in the center of the facade, is protected by a one-by-one bay, flat roof, Greek Revival-style, enclosed vestibule. There are two contributing, one-story, end-gable storage sheds located to the rear of the house.

The **Shubal Nye House, 114 Old Main Road, ca. 1806 (SN2) (Map 5/29, MHC 465)** is a 2½-story, end-gable, Federal-style house built as a residence for Shubal Nye. The house rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with asbestos. The house is three bays wide, by two bays deep with 6/6 windows. Its main entrance is in the south bay of the facade. The main entrance is protected by a simple, gabled portico supported by square posts. A 1½-story, two bay by one bay, side ell is attached to the south elevation of the main house. The date assigned to the house is 1806. However, the lack of gable returns and verticality coupled with its three-bay facade indicate that the house was remodeled some time during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The **Stephen Nye House, 313 Old Main Road, ca. 1806 (Map 2/4, MHC 470)** is a 2½-story, side-gable Federal/Greek Revival half-house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. The main entrance is located in the north bay of the facade. It consists of a wood-panel door with a Greek

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Revival surround with fluted pilasters and a dentiled entablature. The house is three bays wide, by two bays deep. A one-story, hip roof, one-by-two bay window is located on the south elevation. To the rear of the house is an attached 1½-story end-gable ell, with a one-story, end-gable garage attached to the rear.

The **Nathaniel Nye House, 85 Old Main Road, ca. 1808 (Map 5/10, MHC 306)(Photograph #1)** is a small 1½-story, side-gable, three-quarter Cape house built as a residence for Nathaniel Nye. The house rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with wood shingles. It is four bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance is located off-center in the facade, with paneled pilasters and an entablature. The house has 2/2 double-hung windows on the facade, and 1/1 double-hung windows on the sides. A rear kitchen ell and porch complete the building. A contributing, small clapboarded, end-gable, early-twentieth-century storage shed stands to the rear of the house.

The **Job Hatch House, 158 Old Main Road, ca. 1810 (Map 5A/12, MHC 297)(Photograph #7)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, three-quarter Cape-style house built as a residence for Job Hatch. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The house is four bays wide, by three bays deep, with original 12/12 windows, an enclosed porch and second floor dormer addition to the rear. The main entrance is located off-center on the facade with a simple frame with fixed transom lights. It is believed that the house was built in 1810 in Hatchville, further inland, and moved to North Falmouth in 1835. However, this has not been confirmed. A non-contributing, late-twentieth-century, gambrel-roof storage shed stands to the rear of the house.

The **Jesse Noble House, 182 Old Main Road, ca. 1810 (Map 5A/8, MHC 431)** is a 2-story, hip-roofed, Federal-style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. Flanking brick chimneys rise from the shallowly pitched side roof slopes. The building is five bays wide, by two bays deep. Its main entrance, located in the center of the facade, is protected by a one-by-one bay, hip-roof, enclosed vestibule. To the rear of the house is a one-story, shed roof enclosed porch addition. A non-contributing one-story, end-gable studio, and a non-contributing one-story garage are located to the rear of the house. Granite fence posts are spaced evenly on the east and south sides of the property which are contributing objects.

The **Arvin Nye House, 140 Old Main Road, ca. 1810 (Map 5A/14, MHC 298)** is a 2½-story, side-gable Federal-style half-house. It is surmised that the house may have originally been built as a Cape, and later modified with the addition of 1½ stories. The house rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with wood shingles. The house is three bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance is in the north bay of the facade, framed by a Greek Revival surround with fluted pilasters and heavy entablature. The house is further embellished by a dentiled cornice. A screened, flat roof, one-story porch is located on

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the south elevation, and a 2½-story rear ell completes the house. The house is a mirror image of 130 Old Main Road across Benjamin Nye Lane.

The **Charles Hamblin House, 213 Old Main Road, ca. 1815 (Map 5A/1, MHC 290)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, three-quarter-Cape style building, with a series of connected ells to the rear. The house sits on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. The house is four bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance, located in the north bay of the facade, is of simple wood with a simple surround and pergola. Paired, round-arch, windows are located in the gable ends. A contributing barn, which has been converted to a residence, is located to the rear of the house at the end of the driveway.

The **Francis Nye House, 270 Old Main Road, ca. 1822 (Map 5A/4, MHC 286)(Photograph #9)** is a 2½-story, side-gable, Federal-style building. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is five bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance, located in the center of the facade, consists of a wood-panel door with a pediment and fanlight surround, supported by fluted square columns. Flanking brick chimneys are located at either end of the roof at the ridge line. To the rear of the house is a 2½-story ell, with an attached, one-story, end-gable ell. The property has two contributing resource outbuildings: an early-twentieth-century, 1-story steel-and-glass greenhouse with a 1-story, gabled, brick headhouse, and an early-twentieth-century, 1½-story side-gable garage with living quarters above. The property is enclosed by a wood, picket fence.

### *Greek Revival Buildings*

The **Thomas Childs House, 237 Old Main Road, 1812 (Map 5A/12, MHC 288)** is a 2½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival-style building with a series of hyphens connecting two large, rear end-gable additions to the main house. The construction date suggests that the house was modified in the mid-nineteenth century in the Greek Revival style. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards, and is three bays wide, by three bays deep, with its original 6/6 windows. The main entrance, located in the southern bay of the facade, consists of a wood-panel door with fixed sidelights with a Greek Revival surround. A non-contributing 1-story, shed roof building is located at the far, rear side of the property.

The **Oliver C. Nye House, 193 Old Main Road, ca. 1831 (Map 5A/23, MHC 462)** is a 1½-story end-gable, Greek Revival, full-Cape style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wooden clapboards. The main entrance is on the west gable end of the house, and consists of a wood-panel door with sidelights and a simple Greek Revival surround. Second story dormers have been added. A one-story ell located on the south side of the house was originally a slaughter house on Warren Nye's property at 190 Old Main Road across the street.

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The **Captain Henry F. Tobey House**, 199 Old Main Road, ca. 1831 (Map 5A/24, MHC 718) is a 1½-story, cross-gable, Greek Revival-style building. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. The sidelighted main entrance is protected by a deep porch created by the overhanging gable of the house, supported by columns. A contributing nineteenth-century, 1½-story, end-gable, timber frame barn with a cupola with an attached shed has been converted to a secondary residence.

The **Warren and Joseph Nye Double House**, 190 & 194 Old Main Road, ca. 1832 & 1848 (Map 5A/7, MHC 471)(Photograph #8) is a 2½-story, side-gable, Greek Revival-style house. The south end of the house was built ca. 1832 by Warren Nye, with the northern half added by his son Joseph, probably about 1848, as a home for himself and his wife. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The building has a wide, asymmetrical, six-bay facade with a dentiled cornice. The entrances to the houses are in the outer bays. The southern entrance consists of a wood panel door with a simple Greek Revival surround. The northern entrance is marked by a projecting, end-gable pedimented roof supported by square posts. A 1½-story, side-gable ell is attached to the southern end of the house at the rear. Granite fence posts are evenly spaced on the east and south edges of the property, and are considered contributing objects.

The **Anselm Edwards House**, 175 Old Main Road, ca. 1845 (Map 5A/19, MHC 461) is a 1½-story, side-gable, half-Cape style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is three bays wide, by two bays deep. The main entrance consists of a simple wood-panel door and is located in the north bay of the facade. A one-story, shed roof entry vestibule is located on the south side of the house. A three-bay, second-story dormer addition marks the front of the house. An early-twentieth-century, contributing, end-gable, 1-story, shingled garage is located to the rear of the house.

The **James Hatch House**, 109 Old Main Road, ca. 1850 (Map 5A/11, MHC 304) is a 1½-story, side-gable three-quarter Cape-style house built as a residence for James Hatch. The house rests on a stone foundation, and is clad with wood clapboards. The house is four bays wide, by two bays deep, with an off-center, simple entrance on the facade. The house has a rear kitchen ell with an attached three-bay garage. The house is set well back from the road at the rear of its lot.

### *Late Victorian Revival Buildings*

The **Arthur G. Nye House**, 183 Old Main Road, ca. 1875 (Map 5A/21, MHC 447) is a 1½-story, end-gable, Victorian-style, T-plan house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with vinyl siding. A deep, shed-roof porch supported by posts with scrolled brackets spans the front of the house and wraps the south elevation to the projecting bay of the T. To the rear of the house is a two-story ell, with a

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shallowly pitched, end-gable roof. The house is three bays wide, and four bays deep. The main entrance is located in the south bay of the facade, protected by the porch. A secondary entrance is also reached by the front porch, on the side of the projecting bay. The property has two contributing outbuildings: a one-story, end-gable, two-bay garage, and a one-story, end-gable storage shed. The house sits on a two tiered lawn terrace, and is reached by flights of granite steps. The property is enclosed by a wood picket fence.

The **Captain Charles Childs House, 304 Old Main Road, ca. 1877 (Map 2/9B, MHC 283)** is a 1½-story, cross-gable, Victorian Eclectic-style house. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. A hip roof porch spans the width of the facade and wraps partially around the sides of the house, and is supported by turned posts with pierced brackets and spindle work. The eaves of the house are deep and supported by scrolled brackets on a wide cornice band. The house has one contributing resource, an outbuilding constructed by H.F. Childs in 1900 in the same style as the main house, and one non-contributing garage. A continuous granite footing/retaining wall forms the base for a wood picket fence at the edge of the property, and is considered a contributing object.

The **Hiram E. Small House, 240 Old Main Road, ca. 1879 (Map 5A/10A, MHC 455 [?])** is a 1½-story, cross-gable, Late Victorian-style building. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood clapboards. The facade is dominated by a wrap porch with a hip roof, supported by Doric columns. A hip roof, enclosed porch addition is located to the rear of the house. A contributing, early-twentieth century, hip roof, two-bay garage is located to the rear of the house.

The **William B. Dillingham House, 307 Old Main Road, ca. 1890 (Map 2/3, MHC 725)** is a 1½-story, end-gable, Late Victorian-style house with a side wing. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. Bands of shingles over the entryway and at regular intervals on the facade and other elevations break up the surface of the house with a rippling effect. The main entrance is located in the north bay of the facade in a corner recess. A turned post with scrolled brackets is placed at the corner of the recess. A diamond motif is located over narrow paired windows in the gable end. A contributing, nineteenth-century, side opening barn with cupola is located to the rear of the house.

**408 Old Main Road, late nineteenth century (Map 2/1)** is a small, 1½-story, side-gable, Late Victorian-style building, with an end-gable rear addition. It rests on a fieldstone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is four bays wide, by one bay deep, with the main entrance off-center on the facade. It is protected by a hip-roof porch, supported by slender, turned posts, which spans the width of the facade. A secondary entrance is located in a one-story, end-gable enclosed vestibule on the west side of the house. A contributing side-gable barn stands to the rear of the house. A non-contributing shed is to the rear of the barn.

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The **J.C. Wadleigh House, 232 Old Main Road, ca. 1900 (Map 5A/7, MHC 720)** is a 2½-story, end-gable, Victorian Eclectic-style building on the corner lot at Old Main Road and Bay Road. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles, and is three bays square. An entrance porch located on the northeast corner of the house has a flat roof, supported by Doric columns, and rail and balusters. Set at an angle on the southeast corner of the house on the first floor is a one-by-one bay, end-gable, pedimented bay window with Queen Anne-style windows. A two-by-one square bay with a mansard roof is located on the first floor on the south elevation. The gable ends of the house have full pediments, and end-gable dormers rise from the north and south roof slopes. A contributing, early-twentieth-century, two-bay garage is located to the rear of the house.

### *Foursquare, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Buildings*

The **George E. Teele House, 351 Old Main Road, ca. 1900 (Map 2/9A, MHC 724)** is a 2½-story, hip-roof, Foursquare-style house. It rests on a fieldstone foundation and is clad with aluminum siding. The building has a hip roof with very deep eaves, and a one-story, shed roof porch across the width of the facade. The second story has bay windows under the eaves. A pedimented, end-gable dormer in the roof slope has a Palladian window. A contributing 1½-story, cross-gable barn, clad with wood clapboards and shingles, surmounted by a cupola, stands to the north of the house.

The **Miss H.C. Small House, 244 Old Main Road, ca. 1900 (Map 5A/10,)** is a 1½-story, end-gable, simplified Colonial Revival-style building with moderate roof returns and cornice band. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is three bays wide, by four bays deep. The main entrance, located in the north bay of the facade, is a wood-panel door with a simple wood surround. It is protected by a hip roof porch which runs the width of the facade. It is supported by turned posts and rail and balusters. The gable end is ornamented slightly by a line of shingle trim and has a circular, louvered attic vent. A non-contributing side-gable garage is located to the rear of the house.

The **Wallace A. Burch Store, 267 Old Main Road, ca. 1900 (Map 5A/16, MHC 467)** is a 2½-story, end-gable, Colonial Revival-style building with moderate roof returns, cornice bands, and corner post trim. It rests on a concrete foundation and is clad with wood shingles. Historic photographs show that the building was 1½-stories as built, with the second floor added during the first third of the twentieth century. The building today is three-bays wide, by six-bays deep. The main entrance to the building is located in the center of the facade. A former glass storefront with a recessed door has been replaced with two doors (into separate apartments) placed at angles to the location of the former door. A small porch with a run of exterior stairs on the south side of the second floor provides access to an apartment. Two non-contributing structures, one wood and one metal storage shed, are located to the rear of the building.

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The **William C. Spencer Barn, 294 Old Main Road, ca. 1904 (Map 2/8A, MHC 722)** is a massive 1½-story, Colonial Revival-style barn, under a flared hip roof with two slopes. It rests on a cobblestone foundation and is clad with wood clapboard. It is nine bays wide, by three bays deep. The main entrance is in the center of the facade in a two-story frontispiece. It consists of a wood-panel door with sidelights under a fanlight in a simple surround. The upper portion of the frontispiece has an arched window, flanked by two rectangular windows within a gambrel pediment dormer. The first floor windows are protected by deep eaves. The front roof slope has two hip-roof projecting dormers on either side of the frontispiece, and a louvered, octagonal, cupola with a conical roof sits centered on the ridge. Originally built as an elegant horse barn, the building has been converted into a multi-unit residence.

The **Manuel Brazil House, 289 Old Main Road, ca. 1905 (Map 5A/4, MHC 721)** is a 1½-story, end-gable, Late Victorian-style house. It rests on a fieldstone foundation, and is clad with wood shingles. The house has a 1½-story wing on the south side, with hip roof dormers on the north and south roof slopes of the main block. The main entrance is located on the facade and protected by a hip roof porch which spans the front of the house and returns to the side wing. The porch is supported by replacement posts.

**262 Old Main Road, ca. 1925 (Map 5A/5)** is a 2½-story, hip-roof, Foursquare-style house. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. A hip roof porch spans the width of the facade, protecting the main entrance in the north bay, supported by tapered posts. A contributing garage is located to the rear of the house.

The **Curtis N. Jennings House, 343 Old Main Road, ca. 1937 (Map 2/8, MHC 723)** is a two-story, pyramidal hip-roof, Foursquare-style house. It rests on a cast concrete block foundation and is clad with wood clapboards on the first floor and wood shingles on the second floor. The main entrance is located off center on the facade. It is protected by a porch with a hip roof supported by square columns. A plain string course separates the first floor from the second floor.

**6 Wild Harbor Road, early twentieth century (Map 5A/14)** is a 1½-story, side-gable, Craftsman-style house. It rests on a cobblestone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. It is six-bays wide, by four-bays deep, with its main entrance protected by a full width, gabled overhanging porch on the west facade. The eaves have exposed rafter ends, and windows are 6/1 double-hung operation. A contributing, early-twentieth century garage stands at the end of the driveway.

**145 Old Main Road, early to mid-twentieth century (Map 5A/14A)** is a Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence. It rests on a concrete foundation and is clad with wood shingle. The eaves have exposed rafter ends. A glazed porch and shed dormer span the width of the house. The main entrance is located in the center of the porch.

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149 Old Main Road, early twentieth century (Map 5A/16) is an end-gable, wood shingle-clad, Craftsman-style cottage with a series of connected rear ells. It has exposed rafter ends at the eaves. An enclosed porch spans the width of the facade. The main entrance to the building is in the center bay of the porch. The building has been converted from a residence to a thrift store for the Congregational Church next door. A non-contributing shed stands to the rear of the building.

### Institutional and Civic Buildings

The North Falmouth Congregational Church, 153 Old Main Road, 1832 (Map 5A/17, MHC 446)(Photograph #5) is a 1½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival-style building. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad in wood clapboard. The building is three-bays wide, and three bays deep. The facade of the building is marked by a end-gable pediment and four paneled pilasters. A large steeple surmounted by a bell tower is located on the ridge of the building near the front end. The central entrance in the west elevation is reached by four slate steps, and protected by an end-gable, pedimented roof with heavy dentation and deep returns, supported by paired paneled posts. Windows on the church are 12/12 double hung with lancet tops and blind fans. The building has a series of gable roofed, 1-story, rear ells clad with vinyl siding.

Megansett Hall (Grange 342), 137 Old Main Road, 1886-87 (Map 5A/13, MHC 466)(Photograph #4) is a 1½-story, end-gable, wood-frame, Late Victorian-style building. The building was constructed to be used as a social hall for the residents of North Falmouth. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad in wood shingles. Above the foundation, in the middle of the first floor, at the cornice line, and immediately under the gable end, the square shingles are broken by courses of tab shingles, creating a visually rippling effect. The building is three bays wide, by four bays deep, with the main entrance in the center of the facade. Paired wooden doors with a nine-light fixed transom, protected by a shed roof supported by square posts, are reached by five brick-and-concrete steps. Windows are the original 12/12 double-hung. Paired narrow windows are located over the entrance.

The North Falmouth Fire Station, 212 Old Main Road, 1915 (Map 5A/11, MHC 719) is a one-story, pyramidal roof, Craftsman-style building. The rear portion of the building is extended and has an exaggerated roof slope, with its slope almost touching the ground on the south side. The building sits on a concrete foundation and is clad with wood shingles. A louvered cupola sits atop the roof at its peak. The building is four bays square with 6/6 double-hung windows. The main entrance is a simple wood door on the south elevation of the building, protected by a screened porch. A bay window projects on the north bay of the facade. Originally constructed for Hose Company No. 9, the structure later became the Village Library, and is now used as the Community Center.

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### Commercial Buildings

The **Ferdinand G. Nye Store/P.O., 200 Old Main Road, ca. 1840 (Map 5A/6, MHC 698)** is a 2½-story, end-gable, vernacular building. The house was built by Ferdinand Nye (son of Warren Nye next door at 190 Old Main Road) at the intersection of Old Main Road and Wild Harbor Road to be used as a grocery store. It also was used as the town post office from 1840 to 1930. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. The one-story, flat roof, storefront addition was constructed in the early twentieth century by Joseph Howes, a subsequent owner of the store and village postmaster. The main entrance to the building is through a recessed, wood-panel door in the plate-glass storefront of the front addition. A secondary entrance to apartments on the second floor is reached by a flight of steps on the southern exterior of the main block. A gasoline station is now located in a one-story addition on the north side of the house along Wild Harbor Road.

The **J.H. Rand Corporation Offices, 284-86 Old Main Road, 1927 (Map 5A/3) (Photograph #10)** is a one-story, Spanish Revival-style, commercial building, a style highly unusual in Falmouth and the region. It is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Old Main Road and County Road. The building is sheathed in stucco to the ground, with ornamental terra cotta tiles, and terra cotta tiles on false shed roof sections between piers. The building is three bays wide between piers on the south and east elevations. Businesses have subdivided the spaces between the piers. Original plate-glass windows with transoms remain on the south elevation, but have been replaced with smaller plate-glass windows without transoms on the east elevation. The original main entrance is located at an angle at the corner, recessed in an alcove in the projecting pier.

The **North Falmouth Superette, 279 Old Main Road, early twentieth century (Map 5A/5A)** is a commercial, 1½-story, vernacular building with Colonial Revival details. It rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in wood shingles. A shed roof porch supported by square posts spans the facade. The main entrance to the building is in the center of the facade, consisting of glass and steel doors, flanked by multi-paned, projecting bay windows.

### Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are recorded in the North Falmouth Village Historic District, sites may be present. Three prehistoric sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics for the area also indicate several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to water) which have been found to be favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. The linear orientation of the district parallels the western edge of the Buzzard's Bay Moraine, a well-drained hilly

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locale of limited prehistoric site potential usually restricted to areas around kettle hole ponds. An area of higher site potential is present from the district west to Buzzard's Bay where a coastal plain is present interspersed with well drained level areas often near freshwater and estuarine wetlands. Elements of both of these areas are present in the North Falmouth Village Historic District where several well drained, level to moderately sloping locales are found in close proximity to wetlands. Cedar Lake, Flax Pond and related freshwater wetlands are located within 1000 ft. of the district on its western side. Tidal waters of Megansett Harbor are located within 1000 ft. of the northern portion of the district. Given the above information and the size of the district (95.53 acres) a high potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric sites in the nominated area.

A high potential also exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources in the district. During the 1996 reconnaissance survey conducted for the town of Falmouth (Donta, et al.), the district locale along both sides of Old Main Road was considered to have the highest potential in this area of town to contain residential and commercial sites of the Colonial (1692-1775) through Industrial (1831-1915) periods. Although much of this potential remains to be demonstrated archaeologically, evidence does exist to support its presence in the district. Most potential structural remains in the district are probably related to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century residences and outbuildings along the Old Main Road corridor. While specific sites are currently unknown, the presence of granite property markers support their location in some areas. One such location is at 93 Old Main Road where a mid to late-20<sup>th</sup> century reproduction of a Victorian house sits on a lot marked by granite fence posts. The presence of the granite posts have been interpreted to indicate the prior existence of an earlier, probably 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century house on the property. A similar situation exists at 148 Old Main Road where a mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century Cape style residence is located on a lot where granite fence posts mark the northern and southern lines of the North Falmouth Village School #8 (ca. 1832), which burned in 1935. Structural remains may survive from the school which represents one of the few institutional type structures in the district and the only specific structure known which may exist archaeologically. Outbuildings represent another building type which should survive archaeologically in the district. Structural remains from barns may survive related to many of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century residences still extant in the district. Some early 19<sup>th</sup> century barns including those at 213, 193, and 199 Old Main Road may have also been converted to secondary residences. One barn (ca. 1904) at 294 Old Main Road is unusually large for the district and was converted to a multi-unit residence. That barn was also reportedly the site of a bootleg liquor operation during Prohibition. Archaeological evidence can survive from that operation as well as changes which occurred as barns were altered to residential use. Structural evidence may also survive from at least one commercial operation in the district: a slaughter house was located on Warren Nye's property at 190 Old Main Road. An ell, reportedly from that house, was moved across the street to 193 Old Main Road. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may represent one of the more common and

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important archaeological resources in the district. These resources should survive with structures still extant as well as those in an archaeological context only. Occupational related features can exist with residences, commercial, institutional and religious structures spanning the 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> century periods. Unmarked burials may also be present in the North Falmouth cemetery, in use since 1804.

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### 8. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The North Falmouth Village Historic District is significant as one of the oldest and best preserved outlying eighteenth-century settlement areas in the Town of Falmouth, and as a village which evolved as the historical core to new local summer resort development along the nearby coast in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The district contains numerous residences of founding families, along with later houses and civic and institutional buildings that reflect the historical progression of this semi-rural village center from 1762 to the present. The district derives its architectural significance from its coherent, linear arrangement of a distinctive group of well-preserved and maintained historic buildings, including fine examples of modest and moderately ambitious structures from different time periods and styles. The period of significance is ca. 1762 to 1948. The North Falmouth Village Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, meeting National Register Criteria A and C at the local level.

The first permanent European settlement of Falmouth began about 1660, with many emigrants from the English county of Kent arriving in Plymouth and Sandwich, before traveling southward to Falmouth. Due to its geographical isolation from the rest of Cape Cod, where settlement had concentrated on the northern side along Cape Cod Bay, and due as well to the poor condition of colonial roads, settlement of the area proceeded at a slow pace, with a handful of families constituting the initial settlers in the area (Allen & Sears 1996:8/2). The North Falmouth Village area had previously been occupied by Native Americans, becoming part of the town with the New Purchase of 1704 (Smith 1986:17, 430). Lying just west of the Village district is a Native American burial ground, located on a hillock overlooking the north end of Cedar Lake off Old County Road. At one time this site had over 100 markers indicating burials. It was dedicated in 1917 as Francis A. Nye Memorial Park (Smith 1986:301).

Much of the land within and around North Falmouth Village was first settled by members of the Nye family. This Cape Cod family dynasty began when Benjamin Nye came to America from England with his future wife, Katharine Tupper, in 1635 (Lovell 1984:126). In 1640 Benjamin and Katharine were married and built a house in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Among their sons were Ebenezer and John, who had purchased in 1667 roughly 1,000 acres of land in North Falmouth from a woman named Elizabeth Ellis, who conveyed the land by deed from the colonial government, countersigned by Governor Bradford (Smith 1986:292). Their sons Ebenezer, Benjamin, Sr., Benjamin, Jr., and John subsequently inherited the rights to all the land from West Falmouth Harbor north to Sandwich, and from North Falmouth east to Mashpee (Smith 1986:292). By 1689, John and Ebenezer had been living for a number of years in a house they had built in North Falmouth in an area called Wickertree Field located west of the North Falmouth Village. It is surmised that this house may have been moved from Wickertree Field to its present location at **96 Old Main Road** about 1762, and altered about this time to its present appearance (Dunkle N.D.). It is most likely the oldest standing structure along Old Main Road today.

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The earliest Nye settlement area was west of the North Falmouth Village District in the vicinity of Cedar Lake and Flax Pond and closer to Buzzards Bay. The **Benjamin Nye House, 78 Benjamin Nye Lane, ca. 1699** and the site of the **John Nye Homestead** remain in this area west of the district as important records of this initial occupation period.

At one point, 24 Nye-family houses stood within a one-mile length of Old Main Road; today 14 still stand, although several, most notably the **Benjamin Nye House** and the **Elnathan Nye House and Cow Pass, 33 Old Main Road, ca. 1740 and 1872**, are just outside the district bounds, excluded due to intervening, modern construction (Smith 1986:300). Many members of the Nye family, over nine generations, held prominent positions in the Village. Ebenezer Nye was elected the first post master, Shubael Nye was twice elected Surveyor of Highways, David Nye held the position of Justice of the Peace for a number of years, Francis A. Nye served as State Representative, and subsequently State Senator, between 1869 and 1874 (Dunkle 1976:26). By virtue of the size of their family, it seems that an unusually high number of Nye men fought in the Revolutionary War, including Elnathan, Holland, Thomas, Seth, John, and Samuel (Smith 1986:293).

Other early settlers to the area included members of the Hatch family, who it is believed moved their houses to North Falmouth from the more rural "Hatchville" area further inland in the early nineteenth century (Dunkle 1976:21). These houses include the **Job Hatch House (158 Old Main Road)**, the **William L. Phinney House (170 Old Main Road)**, the **Anselm Edwards House (175 Old Main Road)**, and the **Mark Mayhew Hatch House (209 Old Main Road)**, all members of established Hatchville families. It has not been established exactly when, and why, these houses were moved to North Falmouth. The **Mark Mayhew Hatch** house has the date "1796" in the chimney, indicating its year of construction. However, the house does not appear on 1831 town maps. It may have been moved here from Hatchville by Mark Hatch and his wife Priscilla to be a part of the village when the North Falmouth Congregational Church was built in 1832, a plausible impetus for families to move to a growing community.

Agriculture played a strong part in the early economic development of Falmouth and North Falmouth. Photographs taken during the nineteenth century show wide expanses of cleared fields under cultivation or pasturage in North Falmouth. The Falmouth area's fertile, flat terrain had initially drawn settlers seeking agricultural opportunities in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, giving rise to and creating a fairly strong agricultural base, with goods shipped all over the world. Early attempts to grow wheat, rye, and oats, with which the settlers were familiar, met with limited success, as the coastal climate did not support their growth (MHC 1987:226). While repeated experiments in wheat production were eventually successful, the major crop which sustained the area inhabitants was Indian corn, also used as a supplementary feed for cattle and poultry. Most Cape Cod farms were well under 100 acres in size, with

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only a small portion of this under cultivation. This created a situation in which most farmers on the Cape were not completely self-sufficient. Most had to rely on secondary jobs for support, especially during the winter; the most common being fishing, whaling, and other maritime pursuits (MHC, 1987:228). Others supplemented their farm income by working in skilled crafts such as carpentry or boat building. While much of the produce of these farms was consumed locally, either by the families that produced it or through exchange with neighbors, some products such as grain and livestock were exported.

Entries in the Shubael Nye Account Book show that farmers in North Falmouth were enduring the same hardships as farmers all over Cape Cod. The account book keeps track of business expenses through three generations of Nyes, from 1768 through 1871. Rows of entries show farm products sold by the Nyes, such as wool, pork, salt hay, and corn. Also entered are "imported products," such as turpentine, indigo, sugar, candles, rum, and molasses. To supplement his income, Shubael and subsequent Nyes also took on additional work for others. Records show payments for transporting farm animals to neighboring towns, as well as for "farm jobs," such as breaking flax, chopping and moving wood, pasturing calves, and carting goods (Smith 1986:297). With the rise of offshore fishing and whaling, the need to provision vessels became another impetus for expanding agricultural production. This increase in demand, coupled with a desire for monetary gain, led to loss of soil fertility and arable fields. Attempts at supplemental fertilizing of the land with herring and crabs (MHC 1987:230) was a stopgap measure. The overcutting of woodlands and excessive farming irreparably reduced soil fertility, resulting in lower than average crop yields. The lack of ground cover, combined with the effects of wind and water, resulted in topsoils being eroded away, to one-third or one-half their seventeenth century depths (MHC 1987:230). This trend continued at such a rate that by 1791 a census report showed that only about 2.5% of the land in Falmouth was considered under permanent tillage.

As agricultural pursuits gradually declined, Falmouth saw a steady increase in its maritime industries. Like many Cape Cod towns in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Falmouth was a center of maritime mercantilism. Six miles northwest of Falmouth town center, North Falmouth was an outlying rural area with many ship captains residing there, including Captain Henry F. Tobey, Ward and Samuel Eldred, and many members of the Nye family, including Alvin, Charles, Daniel, George, James, John, John G., Reubin, Thomas, and Warren Nye, all of whom are buried in the **North Falmouth Cemetery**. Beginning in 1789, Massachusetts passed a series of measures designed to encourage maritime commerce, resulting in an expansion of coastal trade throughout the area. By 1796, the Barnstable Custom District reported the highest tonnage in New England outside of Boston and Salem, with Falmouth's 54 vessels outnumbering all other Cape Cod town's ships combined (MHC 1987:243). Again, the Shubael Nye Account Book clearly shows the involvement of the Nyes in the shipping trade. Multiple entries between 1773 and 1848 show the Nye ships *Susanna*, *William*, *Emma & Elizabeth*, *Louisa*, and the *Science* making numerous runs of lumber, pork fat, wool, and molasses throughout

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southeastern Massachusetts (Smith 1986:298). Relaxation was afforded to returning crews and others at the **John Nye House/Tavern, 229 Old Main Road**, the only tavern in the Village at the time. It has been suggested that this building was also used as a stage coach stop, a frequent historic function of taverns and inns along main thoroughfares. Local legend recounts that an iron ring was located in the center of the floor of the tavern, allowing the local sheriff to chain up prisoners being transported while he quenched his thirst (Smith 1986:288). Another product sent out on the coasters was salt. Early maps show North Falmouth, like most towns on Cape Cod, had a number of large saltwater evaporation plants (W.M. Boyce 1845) in which salt water was left to evaporate in large, shallow, protected pans, leaving the salt behind. While most of the salt was shipped abroad, much of it was used locally to cure meats and in local cod and mackerel fisheries (MHC 1987:265).

In addition to ships sailing out of Falmouth, several Nye-family members in North Falmouth captained whaling ships from New Bedford to the North Pacific Ocean in the 1850s and 1860s. Working for Swift & Allen, agents, Capt. Daniel B. Nye sailed the Fanny in the Pacific Ocean from 1852-1855 and may have died in the Arctic in 1871 when the ship Eugenia was lost. Capt. Ebenezer F. Nye, employed by David B. Greene & Co., agents, captained the Mount Vernon in the North Pacific from 1852 to 1855. A second journey in 1855 ended in 1856 when the ship was hit by ice and sank. He then sailed the Helen Snow on a journey from 1857 to 1861. (Falmouth Ship Masters Manuscript, N.D., FHS collections).

Francis Augustus Nye was one of the last Nye family members to maintain a direct physical linkage between North Falmouth Village and Buzzard's Bay. In 1880, in addition to his residence, a family house he had inherited from his father Francis Nye at **270 Old Main Road, ca. 1822**, just south of County Road, he owned property extending from the rear of his house to Buzzard's Bay on the south side of County Road. Included in this land were a second house, a farmhouse, the land extending to Cedar Lake containing the Indian Burying Ground, and a wharf of F.A. Nye & Co. on Megansett Harbor, Buzzards Bay at the west terminus of County Road (Smith 1986:289).

With the growth of the local maritime and associated industries, North Falmouth grew in population as people were drawn to the area to work in these fields. North Falmouth experienced its first large period of growth in this period, with over half of the contributing structures in the Village constructed by 1850. Civic and institutional buildings were constructed for the benefit of the populace. While earlier schools had existed in North Falmouth outside the Village district, including the small **Falmouth School #7, 15 Millstone Street, eighteenth-century (?) (MHC #445)**, which has been moved several times and been used as a shop and a residence, the North Falmouth Village School #8 was erected prior to 1832 across from the Congregational Church for the education of the area children. Grades one through six were taught at the school, with high school taught in Falmouth Center at the Lawrence Academy (NR pending). The school building burned in 1935, and was not rebuilt, as students began to travel to the

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town center for their education (Smith 1986:302). The original granite fence posts which surrounded the school still stand in the yard of **148 Old Main Road**. A second, one-room school house (since demolished) on the west side of Old Main Road, north of Wild Harbor Road appears on 1845 maps of North Falmouth.

The first church built in North Falmouth, the **North Falmouth Congregational Church**, was constructed in 1832 by members of the First and Second Churches of Falmouth who felt the need of religious privileges in North Falmouth (Dunkle N.D.). Among the founders of the Church were 15 members of the Nye family. Church organists were members of the Nye family for the first 100 years of the Church, with Lizzie Wheeler Nye holding the position for 55 years (Smith 1986:299). For a number of years, the North Falmouth Library was located in the balcony and basement of the church. The church was constructed along Old Main Street in front of the existing **North Falmouth Cemetery**, which had been in use since 1804, and officially consecrated in 1827. Of the original 19 members who founded the cemetery, 14 were Nyes (Dunkle N.D.).

A central post office was established in 1848 in Ferdinand Nye's store, **200 Old Main Road**. Distribution of mail had begun in 1812, when Ebenezer Nye, at his own expense, began to distribute mail from the **John Nye House/Tavern at 229 Old Main Road**. Ebenezer was officially established as the postmaster in 1817, a position he held until Ferdinand Nye assumed the role in 1848, creating a permanent post office in his store at **200 Old Main Road**, the only store in the Village at the time (Dunkle N.D.). The next post master was Robert Nye, who took over the store from Ferdinand. He installed mail boxes, which remained in the building until the post office was discontinued at that location and moved in 1930 to the newly constructed **Rand Office Block**, at the intersection of Old Main Road and County Road.

After 1850, several factors combined to bring about the gradual decline of Falmouth's maritime trades. One was increased competition from the railroads, which could more efficiently bring goods to southern and inland locations. Another factor was the Civil War, which first disrupted and then effectively destroyed the Cape's trade with southern markets (MHC 1987:249). As the shipping trade waned, Falmouth began a transformation from a shipping-based economy to one based on leisure. The Falmouth Branch of the Cape Cod Railroad (later Old Colony Railroad) was built in 1872, connecting Bourne with Woods Hole. The first station on the line was constructed in North Falmouth on County Road east of the Village district, which allowed the area to cultivate an economy based on income generated by its development as a thriving summer community (Smith 1986:75). Passenger steamers, and later the automobile, made radical changes in the number of people able to participate in the developing tourism trade, both to serve and to be served.

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At the same time, Falmouth was part of a regional trend in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century, when the Southeastern Massachusetts region experienced a residential construction boom in response to continued population growth, economic reorganization, and transportation improvements. Many modest-sized houses were constructed inexpensively and sold at affordable prices, with modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing and central heating. During this period North Falmouth Village experienced a second period of growth in construction. This linear pattern of growth can also be followed through historic maps of the area, with earlier construction concentrated at the southern end of the district, while later construction was concentrated around the central and northern ends of the district ( Hales 1831; Boyce 1845).

While other areas of town encouraged the construction of large resort hotels, frequently oriented to the railroad customers, many "outsiders" were drawn to the North Falmouth area for its solitude, and began to purchase land near the shore west of the Village on speculation. In 1889 seven "cottages" were built at the west end of Wild Harbor Road (outside of the district), which had been laid out in 1880, constituting North Falmouth's first formal summer colony (Smith 1986:306). The vogue of summer houses was just beginning, and growth continued along the coast, with a summer community constructed just south of Wild Harbor Road in the nearby Silver Beach area of North Falmouth (outside of the district). The University Players Guild summer theater operated at Silver Beach from 1929 to 1932 with Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart among the actors. Thirsty and hungry travelers could find refreshment at the **Megansett Tea Room, 13 Chester Street, 1912 (MHC #668)**, just west of the Village District; the building is altered and converted to a residence.

Construction of civic buildings continued in North Falmouth, with **Megansett Hall, 137 Old Main Road**, constructed in 1886 on land donated by Alvin Nye. The Megansett Hall Association sold shares under the presidency of the Honorable Francis A. Nye and presented weekly programs, such as debates and musical programs. In 1926, the Megansett Grange #342, a farm organization, purchased the Hall. The Grange provided a social outlet for locals as well as summer regulars, hosting auctions, Christmas bazaars, strawberry festivals, rummage sales, "Breakfast in Hollywood" programs, plays, socials, dances, and even mock weddings (Smith 1986:304). The **North Falmouth Fire station, 212 Old Main Road**, was constructed in 1915 for the protection of the Village inhabitants, with Ernest R. Hatch (a descendant of **Job Hatch, 158 Old Main Road**) as the station's permanent firefighter from 1915 until he retired in 1949 (Smith 1986:319). The building remained as the fire station until the current building was constructed in 1951 at the corner of Old Main Road and Wild Harbor Road, at which time it became home to the North Falmouth Library. It currently serves as the headquarters of the North Falmouth Village Association, a civic group which organizes town events.

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Among the largest of the structures built in North Falmouth during this period was the **William C. Spencer Barn, 294 Old Main Road**. William C. Spencer constructed this massive structure in 1904 to hold his stable of Morgan horses. The barn/carriage house stood to the rear of the Samuel Nye house, which he had purchased as a summer home. While the original Nye house was demolished in 1965, the barn remains standing, set back along a circular driveway. It has been surmised that Spencer used to sell bootleg liquor out of his barn during Prohibition, although this cannot be confirmed. Perhaps appropriately, the property was converted in the 1960s into a nightclub known as "the Banjo Room" which became infamous for the noise and intoxication levels it created almost nightly. In 1989 the property was purchased by the Federal Housing Assistance Corporation for use as a Needy Family Shelter to hold nine families, and continues to be used as such today (Dunkle N.D.).

In response to the ever growing summer population, land companies were organized across the Cape and Islands to sell choice seaside real estate. These early land companies were often based off the Cape, thus drawing their primary clientele from the residents of their home-based communities (MHC 1987:311). The Watertown Land Company, formed in 1890 by speculators from the Boston area, developed much of the area in the northern portion of North Falmouth Village, including the areas of Megansett and Cataumet (west and north of the district). One member of that company was George E. Teele, whose foursquare house stands at **351 Old Main Road**. The Watertown Land Company used an innovative system of windmill powered pumps to supply fresh water to all the houses in their development (Smith 1986:306).

By far the largest speculator and developer of the area was James Henry Rand, an inventor, businessman, and philanthropist from North Tonawanda, New York (Smith 1986:320). Rand first came to North Falmouth in 1908 as a summer visitor. Rand properly gauged the increasing demand for seasonal housing, and with the increase in well paved roads by the second decade of the century, affording easier travel by automobile, Rand laid the foundation for his nascent empire. By 1922, Rand and his wife had built a large bungalow on Cedar Pond in the Megansett area, for use primarily as a winter home. He began to purchase large tracts of land in and around North Falmouth Village, some with old houses still in place, to develop as summer housing. In a few years, he owned over 1,500 acres of property in North Falmouth, stretching from roughly one mile east of the railroad station on County Road and west essentially unbroken to Cataumet Harbor (Smith 1986:320). Rand established and owned a conglomerate of businesses, designed to strengthen his financial hold on the area. These included real estate offices, lumber companies, construction companies, finance companies, and even food stores (Smith 1986:320).

The real estate office of the J.H. Rand Corporation, **The Rand Office Block**, built in 1927, stands today relatively unchanged at the northwest corner of **Old Main Road and County Road**. Aside from Rand's

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private house, known as the "Spanish House" (now demolished) his offices are the only example of Spanish Revival-style architecture in the area (Smith 1986:322). The office building also housed the North Falmouth Post Office in the 1930s (Dunkle 1976:7). In the early twentieth century, this intersection evolved into a commercial node in the Village, as it was the intersection with one of the main east-west roads in the area with direct access to the railroad station just to the east. The **North Falmouth Superette (279 Old Main Road)**, a small, early-twentieth-century market, is located on the northeast corner of the intersection.

While the hurricane of 1938 destroyed many homes along the coast, it left houses on Old Main Road relatively untouched. The most notable damage was the toppling of the steeple on the **North Falmouth Congregational Church** (Smith 1986:299). Rebuilding along the coast commenced immediately, and by 1940 tourism dominated the economic life of three-quarters of the towns in the region; Falmouth alone depended on the summer resort business for almost 75% of its normal town income (MHC 1986:314).

North Falmouth Village's architectural development followed that of many coastal communities on Cape Cod. The well preserved houses and civic and commercial buildings in North Falmouth Village illustrate the evolution of architectural styles and forms, and its architectural heritage remains intact, conveying a strong sense of place. Many of the non-contributing resources within the district are reproduction Cape-style houses, constructed after the Village's period of significance. However, the basic similarities of scale, form, and materials of the newer buildings to the older ones greatly reduces their visual impact, and they do not compromise the overall integrity of the qualities for which the village district is notable.

The architectural significance of North Falmouth Village lies mainly in its grouping of fine examples of building types and styles from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Most houses retain excellent integrity and have undergone only minor alterations to their original appearance. North Falmouth Village contains half, three-quarter, and full Cape Cod houses (or Capes). The majority of these houses are clad with wood shingle, the most popular sheathing throughout the eighteenth and into the early nineteenth centuries. These houses were seldom treated with exterior ornament or embellishment, as in the **Nathaniel Nye House (85 Old Main Road)** and the **Job Hatch House (158 Old Main Road)**. Ornament became more common during the Federal period, when entablatures, sidelights, and pilasters were added to entrances. Later examples also tended to be clad in wood clapboard, rather than shingle, especially on the facade, as in the **Captain Henry F. Tobey House (199 Old Main Road)**, and the **Mark Mayhew Hatch House (209 Old Main Road)**. Architecturally less common for the area are examples of 2½-story, center-chimney houses, such as the **Seth Nye house (130 Old Main Road)** and the **Arvin Nye house (140 Old Main Road)**. Paired chimney, Georgian and Federal houses, are

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represented by the Jesse Noble House (182 Old Main Road) and Francis Nye House (270 Old Main Road).

The influence of the Queen Anne style can be seen in the **J.C. Wadleigh house, 232 Old Main Road**. Two other styles which developed in the early part of the twentieth century were the Bungalow and Foursquare. Examples of these styles are the **Congregational Church's Thrift Shop, 149 Old Main Road**, and the **Curtis N. Jennings House, 343 Old Main Road**. Builders also continued to employ the useful and adaptable end-gable form, Georgian plan derivatives, and a few Revival styles, including the Dutch Colonial Revival, **145 Old Main Road**. Preservation activities in the North Falmouth Village Historic District have been invaluable to the preservation of its historic character. The North Falmouth Local Historic District was an early preservation effort, established by town legislation in 1975. The Historic District Commission was created one year later in 1976. Since that time, attention to the maintenance and preservation of the districts building fabric and streetscapes has been ongoing by individual property owners and the town commission. Today the district retains excellent integrity as a well-preserved, semi-rural, primarily residential historic district. The architectural preservation of the Village has been enhanced by restoration projects undertaken by homeowners with a sensitive eye to appropriate techniques and materials.

### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Falmouth and in the Upper Cape in general are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. While archaeological research has been active throughout much of the Cape during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Upper Cape, including Falmouth, has been much neglected during this effort. Limited amateur artifact collections are available for the town, and when present, often lack locational and contextual information reducing their value for understanding the nature of settlement and change within the town. Limited numbers of professional archaeological surveys in the town have also rarely included substantial excavations and have focused on their immediate area with little interpretation of the role of local sites and issues of regional prehistory. The above information indicates the systematic study and interpretation of any surviving sites in the town can be important in better understanding the prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Falmouth and in the Upper Cape locale. Prehistoric sites in the Falmouth locale can contribute information relating to a number of potential research topics, many of which are directly related to the town's location in a coastal area and its glacial history. Cape Cod's human settlement history of approximately 11,000 years combined with sea levels considerably lower than today following deglaciation created an environment in which human populations adapted to changing resources at first characterized by an inland area which increasingly became coastal as sea levels rose until it basically stabilized approximately 5,000 years ago. Prehistoric sites in the Falmouth area can contribute information relating to the ways Native settlement

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and subsistence systems adapted to this change and modified through time. These sites can also contribute information relating to Native tool technologies and the effects of raw material availability. The lack of bedrock lithic source areas on Cape Cod and in Falmouth resulted in Native peoples trading for raw materials or adapting to cobble technologies and exploitation of lithic sources available in local glacial outwash. Prehistoric sites in the North Falmouth Village Historic District locale may contain information indicating the extent to which locally available outwash deposits were used as source areas for local tool manufacture. Evidence may also be present in the area indicating the extent to which locally available lithic sources associated with Buzzard's Bay Moraine deposits were utilized and important to Native peoples.

Historical archaeological resources described above have the potential to document the social, cultural and economic characteristics which typified a Cape Cod community as it evolved from a seacoast community dominated by agriculture and maritime trades in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to a village which became the historical core of a new local summer resort development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help document the locations of residential and commercial structures which should exist but are presently unknown in the district. This information can be especially important with institutional and commercial structures for which a few examples survive. Any evidence from the site of the North Falmouth Village School No. 8 can provide important information relating to 19<sup>th</sup> century public education in the area. Archaeological evidence from the slaughter house site at 190 Old Main Road may provide details indicating the extent to which that operation functioned as a service to farmers in the district locale or may have included a larger area within the town. Any evidence associating the slaughter house activities with maritime trades can also be important. Survey and mapping of the granite fence posts/property markers, reportedly common in the district can be important in reconstructing 19<sup>th</sup> century landscapes in the district. As demonstrated, these objects can also be important in locating earlier structures no longer extant. Detailed analysis of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may provide one of the more important sources of information about the activities and lifeways of the district's inhabitants. Analysis of occupational related features at the John Nye House/Tavern at 229 Old Main Road can provide information relating to highway and maritime travel through the village during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a period during which it was the only tavern in operation. Analysis of occupational related features can also provide important information on the residential population of the village through time detailing the extent to which agriculture was supplemented by various maritime related trades and the overall importance of secondary occupations to the individual and village economy. This information may also detail the nature and extent to which individual and local economies adapted to summer resort developments along the coast in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Archaeological studies in

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the district can also be used to determine the extent to which outbuildings, particularly barns, were modified to construct residences. Unmarked burials at the North Falmouth Cemetery may provide an additional source of information on the local village and maritime community. Paupers, seafarers and unknown persons may have been buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery, possibly around its periphery or other obscure locations. Analysis of these remains can provide important insights into local treatment of the poor, and general 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century health, including the health of seamen.

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(continued)

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Sheet 5  
Sheet 5A

(end)

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Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), Massachusetts

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### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### UTM designations (continued)

- 5. Z 19 E 365120 N 4610710
- 6. Z 19 E 365000 N 4610740
- 7. Z 19 E 365100 N 4611420
- 8. Z 19 E 365740 N 4612500

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The bounds of the North Falmouth Village National Register Historic District are shown on the attached assessor's maps.

The boundary of the North Falmouth Historic District begins at the southern edge of the 85 Old Main Road lot. The district proceeds north following rear lot lines on both the east and west sides of the road, to the end of Old Main Road at its northern juncture with North Falmouth Highway (Route 28A), at the northeastern edge of the property at 408 Old Main Road. The district also extends from Old Main Road westerly on Wild Harbor Road to include lot 6, being the first house on the north side of the street and its respective property to the rear lot line.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the North Falmouth Village Historic District are drawn to encompass the houses of the Village's early settlement, centered linearly along Old Main Road, constituting a significant concentration in the historic center of North Falmouth. Most of the houses within the defined district display architectural integrity and strong association with the lives of the first settlers in the area. a secondary theme follows local patterns of development as a summer resort community during the early twentieth-century.

(continued)

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North Falmouth Village Historic District  
Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), Massachusetts

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The northern boundary is determined by the modern commercial development along the east and west sides of Route 28A. The southern boundary is determined by sections of modern construction, creating a contextual break with the center of the village. The western and eastern boundaries are generally determined by the rear property lines of the buildings along Old Main Street. These boundaries differ slightly from those of the Local Historic District: the National Register District excludes a concentration of non-contributing houses at the southern end of Old Main Road, extends a short distance on Wild Harbor Road to include a single, early twentieth century house, and extends to the north to include the first property beyond the railroad trestle.

(end)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

North Falmouth Village Historic District  
Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), Massachusetts

Section photos Page 1

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### Photographs

North Falmouth Village Historic District  
Falmouth, Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

Photographer: Nicolas C. Avery, PAL Inc.  
Date: February 1997  
Negatives: Massachusetts Historical Commission

1. Nathaniel Nye House, view looking east.
2. View North on Old Main Road just south of Winslow Road.
3. Seth Nye House, view looking northwest.
4. Megansett Hall (Grange #342), view looking east.
5. North Falmouth Congregational Church, view looking east.
6. North Falmouth Congregational Church, view looking east  
(Historic view, 1894, from Smith 1986:299).
7. Job Hatch House, view looking northwest.
8. Warren & Joseph Nye Double House, view looking northwest.
9. Francis Nye House, view looking northwest.
10. J.H. Rand Corp. Offices, view looking north.
11. Capt. James Nye House, view looking northwest.
12. View South on Old Main Road from intersection with County Road  
(Historic Postcard view, no date. Private Collection of William Dunkle).

(end)

**North Falmouth Village National Register District  
District Data Sheet Summary/Key**

**Total Resource Summary:**

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
43	30	buildings
1	0	sites
20	21	structures
7	0	objects
<b>71</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**122** Total Resources identified

**Key to abbreviations:**

C= contributing  
NC=noncontributing  
B=building  
St=structure  
Si=site  
O=object  
V=vacant lot

**Explanation of Resource/Counting Categories**

Granite posts are found in North Falmouth, existing as remnants of former landscape features and property boundary markers.

Outbuildings, including barns and sheds, are difficult to date with accuracy within the scope of this nomination. They are assigned the same date of construction as the associated house unless otherwise noted.

Recent buildings that clearly post-date the period of significance are generically dated as Mid-Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Undeveloped lots, swamps, and open fields are listed on the data sheet but are not included in the resource count. They are recorded as "vacant."

NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
	5A/1	Diner/House	70 County Road	No Style	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
	5A/48	Bank of Boston	78 County Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B
306	5/10	Nathaniel Nye House w/ shed	85 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1808	C/B C/St
	5/9	House w/ shed w/granite posts	93 Old Main Road	Reproduction Victorian	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St C/O
305	5/30	Shubal Nye House	96 Old Main Road	Colonial	before ca. 1762	C/B
	5/8	House	101 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
	5/29A	House	102 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
	5/29	House	108 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
304	5A/11	James Hatch House	109 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1850	C/B
465	5/29	Shubal Nye House	114 Old Main Road	Federal/Late Victorian	ca. 1806, alt. Late 19th c	C/B

NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
	5/28F	House	118 Old Main Road	(not visible)	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
	5A/2	House w/ shed	121 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St
	5/28A	House	122 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
300	5/28	Seth Nye House w/ gazebo	130 Old Main Road	Georgian	ca. 1738	C/B NC/St
466	5A/13	Megansett Hall (Grange 342)	137 Old Main Road	Late Victorian	1886-87	C/B
298	5A/14	Arvin Nye House	140 Old Main Road	Federal	ca. 1810	C/B
	5A/14	House w/ barn	143 Old Main Road	Ranch	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St
	5A/14A	House	145 Old Main Road	Dutch Colonial-Revival	Early-Mid-20th c	C/B
	5A/13	House w/ granite posts	148 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B C/O
	5A/16	Thrift Shop w/ shed	149 Old Main Road	Craftsman	Early-20th c	C/B NC/St
446	5A/17	N. Falmouth Congreg. Church	153 Old Main Road	Greek Revival	1832	C/B

**NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
812	5A/17A	North Falmouth Cemetery w/ iron fence/gate w/ granite posts	Old Main Road (rear of #153)	n/a	1804	C/SI C/O C/O
	5A/12A	House	156 Old Main Road	(not visible)	Late-20th c	NC/B
297	5A/12	Job Hatch House w/ shed	158 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1810	C/B NC/St
	5A/18B	House	159 Old Main Road	No Style	Late-20th c	NC/B
457	5A/11	Solomon Nye House w/ barn/garage	160 Old Main Road	No Style	ca. 1800 (alt. 1990s)	NC/B C/St
	5A/18	House	165 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late-20th c	NC/B
	5A/10	Vacant Lot	Old Main Road (next to 160)	n/a	n/a	V
295	5A/9	William L. Phinney House	170 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1755 (1990s addit.)	C/B
461	5A/19	Anselm Edwards House w/ garage	175 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1845	C/B C/St
	5A/20	House	177 Old Main Road	No Style	Late-20th c	NC/B
431	5A/8	Jesse Noble House w/ studio w/ garage	182 Old Main Road	Federal	ca. 1810	C/B NC/St NC/St

**NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
		w/ granite posts				C/O
447	5A/21	Arthur G. Nye House w/ shed w/ garage	183 Old Main Road	Victorian	ca. 1875	C/B C/St C/St
471	5A/7	Warren & Joseph Nye Double House w/ granite posts	190 & 194 Old Main Road	Greek Revival	ca. 1832 & 1848	C/B C/O
462	5A/23	Oliver C. Nye House	193 Old Main Road	Greek Revival	ca. 1831	C/B
718	5A/24	Capt. Henry F. Tobey House w/ barn/residence	199 Old Main Road	Greek Revival	ca. 1831	C/B C/St
698	5A/6	Ferdinand G. Nye Store/P.O.	200 Old Main Road	No Style	ca. 1840	C/B
	5A/13	North Falmouth Fire Station, Engine No.3	204 Old Main Road	Colonial Revival	1951	NC/B
291	5A/25	Mark Mayhew Hatch House w/ barn	209 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1796	C/B C/St
	5A/12	House w/ garage	210 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late-20th c	NC/B NC/St
719	5A/11	North Falmouth Fire Station, Hose Co. No. 9	212 Old Main Road	Craftsman	1915	C/B

**NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MHC Number	Map/ Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/ Resource
290	5A/1	Charles Hamblin House w/ barn/residence	213 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1815	C/B
	5A/16	Easement	Old Main Road (West side)	n/a	n/a	V
	5A/11A	Vacant Lot	Old Main Road (East side)	n/a	n/a	V
	5A/10	House w/ garage	220 Old Main Road	Reproduction Colonial Revival	Late-20th c	NC/B NC/St
	5A/9	House	224 Old Main Road	Ranch	Late-20th c	NC/B
289	5A/11+ 11A	John Nye House/Tavern w/ barn/garage	229 Old Main Road	Colonial	ca. 1775	C/B C/St
720	5A/7	J.C. Wadleigh House w/ garage	232 Old Main Road	Victorian Eclectic	ca. 1900	C/B C/St
288	5A/12	Thomas Childs House w/ outbuilding	237 Old Main Road	Greek Revival	1812	C/B NC/St
455 (?)	5A/10A	Hiram E. Small House w/ garage	240 Old Main Road	Late Victorian	ca. 1879	C/B C/St
	5A/12A	House	243 Old Main Road	Reproduction Colonial Revival	Late-20th c	NC/B
	5A/10	Miss H.C. Small w/ garage	244 Old Main Road	Colonial Revival	ca. 1900	C/B NC/St

NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
	5A/9	House	248 Old Main Road	No Style	Late 20th c	NC/B
456	5A/13	Capt. Nathaniel Ellis House	249 Old Main Road	Cape	ca. 1779	C/B
	5A/8	Cedar Swamp	Old Main Road	n/a	n/a	V
	5A/14	House w/ shed w/ shed	259 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St NC/St
	5A/5	House w/ garage	262 Old Main Road	Foursquare	ca. 1925	C/B C/St
467	5A/16	Wallace A. Burch Store w/ shed w/ shed	267 Old Main Road	Colonial Revival	ca. 1900	C/B NC/St NC/St
286	5A/4	Francis Nye House w/ greenhouse w/ garage	270 Old Main Road	Federal	ca. 1822	C/B C/St C/St
	5A/5A	N. Falmouth Superette	279 Old Main Road	No Style	Early 20th c	C/B
	5A/5	House	283 Old Main Road	No Style	Mid-Late 20th c	NC/B
	5A/3	J.H. Rand Corp. Offices	284-86 Old Main Road	Spanish Revival	1927	C/B
721	5A/4	Manuel Brazil House	289 Old Main Road	Victorian	ca. 1905	C/B



**NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
	2/8B	Vacant Lot	Old Main Road (West side)	n/a	n/a	V
	2/A	Vacant Lot	Old Main Road (East side)	n/a	n/a	V
722	2/8A	William C. Spencer Barn	294 Old Main Road	Colonial Revival	ca. 1904	C/B
	2/2A	House	301 Old Main Road	(not visible)	Late 20th c	NC/B
283	2/9B	Capt. Charles Childs House w/ granite footing w/ outbuilding w/ garage	304 Old Main Road	Victorian Eclectic	ca. 1877	C/B
					ca. 1900	C/O C/St NC/St
725	2/3	William B. Dillingham House w/ barn	307 Old Main Road	Late Victorian	ca. 1890	C/B C/St
470	2/4	Stephen Nye House	313 Old Main Road	Federal/Greek Revival	ca. 1806	C/B
281	2/10	Capt. James Nye House w/ shed w/ shed	316 Old Main Road	Federal	ca. 1800	C/B C/St C/St
	2/4A	House w/ garage	317 Old Main Road	No Style	Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St
	2/4	Open Field	Old Main Road	n/a	n/a	V
	2/7A	House	333 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B

NORTH FALMOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS  
 DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MHC Number	Map/Lot	Name/Function	Street Number & Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status/Resource
		w/ metal shed				NC/St
	2/7B	House	337 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B
723	2/8	Curtis N. Jennings House	343 Old Main Road	Foursquare	ca. 1937	C/B
724	2/9A	George E. Teele House w/ barn	351 Old Main Road	Foursquare	ca. 1900	C/B C/St
	2/9B	House w/ garage	359 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B NC/St
	2/4A	House	368 Old Main Road	Reproduction Cape	Late 20th c	NC/B
	2/4C	Blueberry Swamp Pond	Old Main Road (West side)	n/a	n/a	V
	2/4B	Vernal Pool	Old Main Road (West side)	n/a	n/a	V
929	2/4	Vineyard Sound R/R Co.	over Old Main Road, North	Thru-Plate Girder	1891	C/St
	2/1	House w/ barn w/ shed	408 Old Main Road	Late Victorian	Late 19th c	C/B C/St NC/St
	5A/11A	Easement	39 Pine Street	n/a	n/a	V
	5A/14	House w/ garage	6 Wild Harbor Road	Craftsman	Early 20th c	C/B C/St
	5A/12	Town Pump	210 Old Main Road	n/a	Early 19th c	C/O