NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Saxonville Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly along Elm, Danforth, Central, Water, & Concord St. ☐ N/A for publication

city or town Framingham ☒ N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 6/30/92

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

State of 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 the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Beth K. Savage 8/20/92

Saxonville Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [X] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [X] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
66	24	buildings
1		sites
1	2	structures
		objects
68	26	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)

INDUSTRIAL: manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC: multiple dwellings, single dwelling
COMMERCE: specialty store
GOVERNMENT: village hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRIAL: manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling
EDUCATIONAL: school house
GOVERNMENT: firehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL
ITALIANATE
SECOND EMPIRE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
WOOD: weatherboard
roof SLATE, ASPHALT
other

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

Portions redacted

DESCRIPTION

Saxonville Historic District is located in the northeast section of Framingham. Lying about 20 miles west of Boston, the town is approximately equidistant from Boston and Worcester. The Historic District is centered within a great curve of the Sudbury River, which, flowing from the southwest to the northeast of the town, drains the surrounding countryside.

Topographically, Saxonville is hilly, with low places along the river. Hills to the east and north historically served to define and limit residential density. The high point of the district is 220 feet above sea level at the site of Edwards Church, the low point is about 120 feet above sea level along the river. From the falls at the 700 foot wide mill pond, created by damming the river in the late 17th century, the river drops about 20 feet, enough to provide power for the town's earliest industries.

Saxonville is a 19th century mill village which developed around the falls in the Sudbury River. The street pattern is organized primarily around 18th and early 19th century routes to neighboring communities. Main streets within the historic district are Concord and Elm Streets running north/south, Central and Danforth Streets running east/west and Water Street joining them from the northwest. Their intersection is the village center, called Liberty Square in the 19th century, known today as McGrath Square. A few commercial enterprises are still located there. Facing this intersection is the principal mill facade. The mill complex extends southeast in a bend in the Sudbury River, just below the falls. The residential area fans out from this center, with mill-built housing closest to the mill, a historical pattern intact today.

The mill village district preserves a mix of 19th century mill-owned and private housing from the Georgian period to the present, as well as significant civic, religious, commercial and industrial building types dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Except for the brick mill complex, an early industrial building now attached to a commercial structure and the institutional fire station and schoolhouse, all other buildings in the district are of wood frame construction.

The district includes a variety of streetscapes: the wide mill pond across the bridge from the densely sited brick mill complex; proud municipal buildings in a nonresidential scale; several groups of workers' housing featuring replicated units; and a variety of free-standing single family dwellings. These range from modest structures on small lots to larger houses on generous lots. Although the district is particularly rich in building types relating to textile manufacturing and workers' housing, commercial types are both less well represented and more altered, being especially sensitive to economic pressures.

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The district contains approximately 56.75 acres of land with a total of 66 contributing and 24 noncontributing buildings. There are also 1 contributing site, 1 contributing structure and 2 noncontributing structures.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The mill complex of the former Roxbury Carpet Mills [#2.0] [Photos #1 & #2] is comprised of an intact group of nine masonry buildings. The older buildings are in brick, the post 1920s buildings are brick and concrete. The buildingswere erected after an 1883 fire destroyed an earlier complex begun in 1823. Building #7 [#2.7], the only building which survived the fire, was reused.

Mill #1 [#2.1] (photo. #1), erected in 1884, is a large, one-story, flat-roofed building of red brick with granite trim. Built by W.L. Flint of western Massachusetts, the 60,000 square foot structure dominates the complex with its symmetrical facade, six raised-roof monitors and the twin corner towers and central bell tower, which mark the complex as a focal point of the village. The towers are unified by their mansard roofs, corbeled cornices and decorative banding, with paneling and tarred bricks used as accents. Diapered slates and iron cresting remain on the corner towers only, while the large central tower, still containing a bell, has round-headed dormers.

Above the brick base, a frame superstructure features a continuous band of tall, paired, 24 light windows with multi-light transoms (many of the transoms are currently filled), and a cornice of vertical flushboard. Heavy brackets support the shallow gabled roof. On the east and south elevations, large round-headed windows punctuate the brick foundation. Appended to and partially obscuring the north elevation is a two-story brick office block with concrete trim designed by Milton Koelb of Anderson and Nichols 1948 [#2.1A].

Building #4 [#A 2.4] is the only other extant building constructed in 1884. Expanded in 1912 and 1920, the utilitarian wood-framed structure, which forms the southern portion of Building #5 [#2.5], is currently covered with a variety of vinyl and asbestos siding.

Building #7 [#2.7], rebuilt ca. 1890, is an 1850 brick mill building, the only building to survive the fire of 1883. The original one-and-a-half story gable roof structure is detectable in the brick contrast line of the end walls. The first floor contains the original wide-plank floors and chamfered wide foot-square posts. Segmental arched windows and doorways, some containing ca. 1890 steel doors, a string course, granite foundations and stone faced sills remain from the 1850 building. It was enlarged ca. 1890 into a two-story structure with shallow gable roof supported on heavy, unadorned brackets.

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Mill #2 [#2.2], was built in 1891 as a two-story flat-roofed mill building of pier construction. Segmental arched windows with stone-faced granite lintels are centered between the wide piers, which are linked by corbelled brick work. The high bell-cast mansard roof of the fourth stair tower of the complex is similar to that of Mill #1. A superstructure of pressed metal was added in 1920.

Other new construction of ca. 1891 includes the small one-story Building #6 [#2.6], possibly built as an office. Its details include segmental arched window heads, granite sills, a dentil cornice and original doors and hoist.

The remaining four buildings of the complex were built between 1910 and 1949. Mill #3 [#2.3] [Photo #2], is a long, three story brick mill building erected in 1910 adjacent to the Sudbury River. It is distinguished by long rows of segmental arched windows and the large but sparsely detailed three-story tower at mid-structure. Building #5 [#2.5], built in 1921 with a 1957 addition, the Power House [#2.8], built in 1925 and Building #9 [#B 2.9], built in 1949 with a 1957 addition, are of reinforced concrete, brick and pressed metal siding.

The Saxonville Mill Dam [#7] [Photo #2], was probably erected in 1865 to replace a series of earlier dams at the same location. Improved in 1886 and again in 1979, the approximately 120 foot long, 20 feet high structure is composed of quarry-faced granite blocks laid semi-coursed between granite block abutments. The back wall of the dam splays slightly outward at the base. The gates and some remaining machinery are located at the east end of the dam. Flood control structures were erected at the falls in 1979 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of a larger effort to control river flooding.

A minimum of alteration and continued use have resulted in the preservation of the mill's architectural integrity.

Another industrial/commercial building in the district is 7 Rear Elm Street [#46.1] ca. 1810-1831. Originally a shoe shop, the brick, Federal style building is distinguished by a dentil cornice, granite sills and a large segmental arched doorway on the north elevation. A star shaped tie rod remains. A large commercial/residential mansard building on Elm Street, built ca. 1880, and now in appropriately remodeled, was later joined to the brick building.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Directly opposite the mill is the district's commercial center, currently known as McGrath Square. The original late 18th and early 19th century

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structures at this location were replaced or remodeled by the mill owner in ca. 1880 in the Second Empire style.

The Mill Store Block, 1-5 Central Street [#1] ca. 1830/1880, [photo #3], occupying a corner site, is currently the focal point of the square. A mansard roof and elaborate surface embellishments obscure an earlier building. Two inset doors are located between wide plate glass shop front windows. Two story octagonal bays break the second and third story facade. Corner piers, a cornice composed of incised brackets and dentil trim and roof cresting articulate the composition. Ornament around the windows includes cornice lintels, eared architrave surrounds and Stick Style gable hoods over the mansard dormers.

ECCLESTASTIC

The First Methodist Church [#50], 15 Elm Street, was erected in 1879-1880. The tall, one story frame structure is L-shaped in form, and is in the High Victorian Gothic style. A now truncated steeple tower is located in the crook of the L. The gable end of the west elevation features a large four part stained glass window, mouse-tooth patterning below a raking cornice and buttresses reaching a string-course located at the spring-line of the arched window.

Edwards Cemetery [#73], was purchased by the Town in 1836, laid out as a burying ground in 1838 and enlarged in 1865 and again ca. 1922. Now approximately 10.6 acres, it extends to the Sudbury River, where it slopes steeply to the bank. The cemetery is divided into sections, with the oldest stones closest to the road, later burials located down the hill near the Sudbury River, and contemporary internments in a new section. There are about 1,500 to 2,000 burials. Slate, granite and marble grave stone markers are typical of the region in design. One stone is dated 1810, most date from 1836 to the present. The stones are in family plots aligned in a loose grid pattern. A dark, rock-faced granite Receiving Tomb [#73.1] erected ca. 1880, close to Edwards Street, is rectangular in plan with a barrel-vaulted roof.

CIVIC BUILDINGS

There are three civic buildings in the district. Athenaeum Hall [#38] [Photo #4], built in 1845 in the Greek Revival style, is located adjacent to the mill complex. The building served as local Town Hall, school, jail and lecture hall. The two story frame structure is distinguished by a temple front composed of four colossal Doric columns supporting an entablature and pediment punctuated by a blind, round arched window. An ell on the south elevation has a later side porch.

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The Saxonville Fire Station [#36] [Photo #5], was built on Watson Place between 1890 and 1901. The flat-roofed, red brick, High Victorian Eclectic structure uses cream brick for the quoins, arched window heads, keystones, cornice and pier capitals. Three pairs of arch headed windows of the second floor surmount the three enlarged engine doors. A crenelated hose drying tower rises behind the station. Capped by a high hip roof on brackets, it is enlivened by corbeled panels and arcaded round headed windows.

Stapleton School [#52] was designed by Walter W. Cook, Director of the Architectural Department of the engineering firm of Lockwood, Green Company. It was built by local contractor, Prindville Co. in 1922 to replace a grammar school on the site. The Neo-Federal style red brick building is two stories high with a flat roof. End pavilions flank a central portion, one articulated with giant pilasters, contains semicircular lunettes with keystones placed over three doors, the other contains a tall, round-headed stair window. Concrete trim elements include pilaster capitals and urns placed on the parapet.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Much of the domestic architecture which grew up around the Saxonville mill has been altered. In some cases alterations occurred to more comfortably accommodate the occupants, in others to reflect changing architectural styles. More recently, houses have been artificially sided in an attempt to reduced maintenance. Thus, district boundaries were drawn to include buildings retaining their location, design, setting, setback and massing. A high proportion of the houses in the district either retain much of their original design or were altered within the period of significance.

Mill Owned Housing:

Workers' housing built by mill owners between 1823 and 1887 comprises over half of the domestic structures in the district. Built on sites closest to the mills, the buildings are grouped on Central, Centennial, Elm, Danforth and Chestnut Streets.

13-15, 19-21 and 25-27 Water Street [#s 33, 34 and 35], [Photo #6], ca. 1823-1830 are perhaps the earliest group of workers housing. The sparsely detailed six bay, center chimney cottages are one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half stories high, with low pitched side-gable roofs. Side chimney types, probably built slightly later but before 1832, at 11-13 Central Street [#4], 14-16 Elm Street [#49] and 18-20 Elm Street [#51] are two-and-a-half stories high and six bays wide. Ells may be original to the structures or added later, as were Italianate style bay windows.

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A group of four nearly identical double houses at 59-61, 63-65, 67-69 and 73 Central Street [#s 9, 11, 13 and 14] [Photograph #7], were built ca. 1837-1845 in the Greek Revival style. Two-and-a-half stories high, the four bay gable end was placed towards the street and entry gained through side porticos. Two interior chimneys, broad cornerboards supporting a simple cornice and pediment, paneled pillars, flush boarding around the entry and six-over-six windows were common elements. Pedimented dormers and/or Italianate style bay windows have been added to several units, some have been vinyl sided and/or lost original porch pillars. In spite of these minor variations and alterations, the group is still a good example of replicated design for workers' housing.

17 Danforth Street [#42], ca. 1851-1871 is a mill-built, single family house in the Gothic Revival style. The three bay, one-and-a-half story house is distinguished by a mansard roof with a central dormer in the plane of the facade and flanking gabled dormers. Narrow bargeboards have simple cut-out designs. A portico over the central door is edged with a scalloped detail.

10-28 Centennial Place [#31] [Photo #8], ca. 1875-1876 is a multi-family tenement with nine entries. The long rectangular plan, two-and-a-half story frame building is topped by a mansard roof supported on paired brackets. Shallow Stick ornamented gabled dormers and stock Italianate door hoods remain, though the building has been sided and window surrounds covered.

Owned in the early 20th century, and perhaps built ca. 1883-1895 by the mill for its Superintendents is 62 Central Street [#10]. The Stick/Queen Anne style, cross-gabled house is distinguished by its stick work truss and fish-scale shingle in the gable-field, bracketed eaves, window surrounds with footed sills and lintels and porch with lathe-turned posts.

Private residential development:

Within the district, Central, Johnson and Elm Streets were primary sites for private residential development. At least two houses appear to pre-date 1823, when the first textile mill in Saxonville was erected. 60 Elm Street [#53] may have been built in the mid to late 18th century. It was probably remodeled with a mansard roof and twin bay windows ca. 1860-1880. Its main block is a typical Georgian form: two-stories high with a south facing, five bay facade. Additional Georgian features are the crude flush-boarding of the facade, protruding window surrounds and high placed second story windows. It has recently been vinyl sided.

87 Elm Street [#61], ca. 1816-1831 is a one-and-a-half story structure, its distinctive form is composed of two attached one-and-a-half story salt-boxes.

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The larger three bay element contains an odd indented porch, the lower two bay element is one pile deep. An Italianate door with round headed glass panels may have been added during remodeling.

A rapid rise in housing began after the establishment of the mill. Stylistically Federal, though built after 1832, 23 Johnson Street [#24] [Photo #9], ca. 1833-1840, is a two-and-a-half story, three bay, side hall plan house. Its Federal door surround is composed of wide pilasters on high plinths supporting a simple entablature with a deep cornice. High placed second floor windows touch the fascia board. Cornerboards support a wide frieze.

77 Elm Street [#58], ca. 1840-1849, is only one pile deep. Two-and-a-half stories high under a side gable roof, the south-facing fire bay, center entrance facade has the high placed windows of the Federal style. An ornate Italianate/Eastlake style door surround, ornate double doors with floral designs in etched glass, and symmetrically placed octagonal bay windows could be original or added at a later date. Another five bay, center entrance house at 27 Johnson Street [#25], ca. 1840-1849, has the same combination of Federal and Italianate stylistic features, here expressed with a bracketed cornice.

112 Central Street [#21], ca. 1835-1845, is the distirct's only domestic example of the local columnar Greek Revival vernacular. Though vinyl sided, it retains much of its original detailing. Set on a terraced plateau typical of the period's siting practice, the two-story, temple front facade is distinguished by a full inset porch. Its portico is composed of four pillars supporting a pediment.

An example of the smaller Greek Revival houses is the one-and-a-half story, end gable dwelling at 34 Johnson Street [#26], ca. 1845-1850. Side hall in plan, it displays shallow pedimented windows, a single long sidelight, wide corner pilasters supporting a frieze on the side elevations, and an octagonal bay.

The commodious, cross-gabled Italianate style house at 109 Elm Street [#67], ca. 1840-1849, has been abandoned and is in poor condition. Now missing its porch, the larger proportions, long six-over-six windows and round-headed attic windows are hallmarks of the windows and round-headed attic windows are hallmarks of the style. A very much smaller one-and-a-half story, side-hall house at 38 Johnson Street [#27], ca. 1845-1850, squeezes three bays in the gable end facing the street. It is ornamented with friezes on the side elevations and elongated brackets at the bay window.

Originally similar are two cottages on Elm Street: 88 Elm [#62] and 110 Elm

(continued)

[#68] were both built before 1850. The gable-front and wing forms and were remodeled. In the former, a Queen Anne porch was added, in the latter, an Edwardian period pent roof supported on very long brackets and an ell with an eyebrow window were added to the basic structure.

A Second Empire style house at 74 Central Street [#15], ca. 1873-1881, is completed by its carriage barn with hayloft and round-headed windows. An interesting pediment-shaped motif ornaments the cornice line of the mansard dormers, entry porch and large squared bay. Although it is vinyl sided, the house retains its historic trim.

A well preserved, two-and-a-half story house at 71 Elm Street [#56], [Photo #10] ca. 1883-1894, combines Stick and Queen Anne style elements. The two bay house is ornamented with fish-scale and sawtooth shingling, turned porch posts and Stick work in the pediment of the wrap around porch.

The former garage of 110 Elm Street was later converted into a dwelling at 114 Elm Street [#69], ca. 1917. Pilasters frame the corners of the concrete structure. Its distinctive hip on hip roof is clad in red slate, pierced by an eyebrow window and widely overhangs the wall on heavy brackets. A picture window alters but does not compromise the integrity of the composition.

The district contains 24 noncontributing buildings, of which 12 were built after the period of significance and 2 are subsidiary buildings. There are also 2 structures which were also built after the period of significance.

The two noncontributing buildings in the mill complex (because they are discrete), do not significantly diminish the integrity of the mill as a whole. Of the 40 residential buildings, which comprise the majority of the buildings in the district, 7 have been insensitively altered and 5 were built after the period of significance. All are compatible in scale, though not all in design or setback. Commercial building in the district has been particularly vulnerable to alteration or demolition. The only contemporary commercial structure in the district departs from the traditional siting pattern, placing parking between the building and the street. Edwards Church, [#Z72] now artificially sided, lost its original crenelated and pinnacle tower ornament, door surround and doors, while Edwards Chapel [#Q48] lost its simple trim when artificially sided.

Archaeological Description:

A high potential exists for recovering prehistoric site remains within the district. Twelve sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile)

(continued)

Locational characteristics of the district including well drained terraces and the location of most of the district with 1000' of the Sudbury River and a major riverine fall line, also indicate a high potential for locating prehistoric sites. Recent research in the area has who demonstrated the Sudbury drainage as a major locus of prehistoric settlement. In spite of extensive historic period development in the district, the above information as well as open space in the northern portion of the district and near wetlands indicates a high potential for significant prehistoric survivals.

There is a high potential for significant historic archaeological remains within the district, particularly remains associated with industrial development in the area. Domestic and industrial survivals in the area may date to 1647 when the earliest European settlement is reported in the Falls area of the Sudbury River. Controlled testing and excavation can help determine the locations of 17th century survivals which may be present at the Falls or along major local transportation corridors including Concord, Elm, Central, Danforth and Water Streets. The first documented potential survivals at the Falls included a dam and grist mill built by John Stone in 1659. A sawmill was built in the same area by 1660 and a fulling mill before 1735. Each of the mills were built on an island which was later incorporated as part of the dam. A mill building of unknown date was reported at this location until 1912. The remains of housing for mill owners/workers may also survive in the area. Most historic period archaeological survivals in the district are likely associated with the area's later development as a 18th century mill village.

The earliest historic remains in the district associated with the area's 19th century industrial mill development are those of the Saxon Factory Co. which manufactured woolen broadcloth. The first mill burned in 1829 Saxonville mills which replaced the 1829 mill also burned in 1883. Structural remains of these mills may survive below the falls set back from Central Street as well as brash areas associated with mill production. Post 1884 mills of the now defunct Roxbury Carpet Company are still extant in the area of the earlier Saxonville Mills. Industrial related trash area likely survive with these mills. Water power related remains which enabled 17th through 20th century mill production in Saxonville also likely survive in the dam area and below the falls. The remains of dams may survive from initial dams in 1659 by John Stone to the 1823 Wheeler dam, and others replaced by the 1865 Saxonville Mill

(continued)

dam all at the same location. The latter dam was improved in 1886 and again in 1979. The remains of head races, tail races and other water power related canals also likely survive from the earliest mills to the present. Water wheel and later turbine remains may also be present. Mill related residential housing may also survive within the district. Extant examples from the 17th and 18th centuries no longer survives through their archaeological remains are likely present near the mill sites along the major transportation corridors noted above. Many examples from the 19th century still survive intact and also probably as archaeological survivals. These buildings and sites range from single family homes to multi-family housing, frequently mill owned and apparently occupied according to one's position in the mills. Boarding houses were also present.

(end)

Saxonville Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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 a 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1823 - 1942

Significant Dates

1823
1884
1938

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Danforth, Samuel; Flint, W.L.;
Lockwood Greene, Inc.; Moulton, Winsor
Summers, Thomas W.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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
- [XX] previously determined eligible by the National Register Fuller, Luther F. House NRDOE 2-19-81 Saxonville Firehouse NRDOE 3-10-81
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [X] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Framingham Planning Department
Framingham Historical Commission

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Saxonville Historic District possesses integrity of design, materials, setting, workmanship, location, association and feeling. The rich and compact grouping of industrial, commercial, residential, religious and civic buildings which comprise the district are significant to local history as a nearly intact example of a 19th century mill village. The mill, located at the Falls of the Sudbury River, was important to the development of Framingham from earliest European settlement in 1647 through the establishment and continued use of the Sudbury Falls area for the woolen industry from 1823 to 1973. The mill contributed to the growth of the New England textile mill industry, primarily through its association with a skilled entrepreneur and inventor, Michael H. Simpson. The district comprises a variety of building types and styles, including residential, industrial and institutional, as well as structures that reflect its 19th century mill village character. The Saxonville Historic District meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant on the local level.

During the Contact Period, Native American people of the Nipmuk tribe located a seasonal village near the falls of the Sudbury River. Their dwellings and corn fields stood between the river and Elm Street, west of the Stapelton School [#52], approximately where the Simpson "cottage" stood. A fort was located on the east side of the river off Danforth Street at the approximate site of Danforth Park. Remains of the clan's graves, with internments and numerous domestic utensils and personal ornaments were found at a site located just west of Stearns Road and north of Hillside Street.[1]

Members of this group sold to John Stone, Framingham's first Anglo Saxon settler, approximately 10 acres around the falls in 1656. Their signatures appear in a still extant deed. Three years later Stone built a dam at the falls and erected a grist mill. A saw mill of 1660 and a fulling mill before 1735, "on an island which was part of the dam",[2] were added by the family. A mill building at this location remained until 1912.

By 1794, when a map was drawn of the Town of Framingham, there was still no direct county road extending all the way to the mills at then called Stone's End, suggesting that they were used for processing local produce. It was not until a textile manufacturing company of significant size was organized at the great falls of the Sudbury River in 1822 that "a new era of Corporate Manufacturing ...dawned"[3] at Saxonville.

Saxon Factory Co. 1822-1837

In 1823 a Boston group joined the three Wheeler brothers of Framingham Centre to buy land on both sides of the river, a few existing dwelling houses and the

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Stone family water privileges. Maj. Benjamin Wheeler, Center hotel owner and merchant, oversaw the construction of a canal, a dam [#7] with a fall of six feet and the first woolen mill of the Saxon Factory Company. With the establishment of this complex, Saxonville's identity as a mill village was launched.

The complex produced a fine wool broadcloth of "Saxony" wool, for which both company and village were named. But the new enterprise had a somewhat shaky business start. In 1825, a textile factory from Lowell joined the company.

In 1829 the first mill burned and the "remaining property, machines, thirteen dwellings and twelve acres were sold to a newly formed corporation in June, 1829".[4] At this time, 246 mill operatives were employed.

New England Worsted Co. 1837-1859

Because of uneven competition with heavily industrialized England, the renamed Saxon Factory Company also failed. After the panic of 1837, it was reorganized and purchased by the New England Worsted Co. of Lowell. The company moved its machinery to Saxonville and began the manufacture of carpet yarns which was to continue for 136 years.

The success of the Saxonville mill was closely identified with Michael H. Simpson. Simpson, one of the principle creditors of the failed mill, became a part owner and General Agent (Manager) of the Saxon Mill and New England Worsted Co. A ship owner, importer and ambitious investor, Simpson found himself owning a million pounds of cheap Argentine burry wool, then technically impossible to clean. He purchased an imperfect wool cleaning machine and improved it so significantly that he obtained a patent for it in 1835. He also invented the first wool combing machine in America, a patent for which he obtained in 1857.[5] These two technological innovations were the basis of the Saxonville Mill's success and were important in the development of American wool manufacture. They also created a demand for Argentinean wool which influenced trade between the U.S. and Argentina.

By 1837, the mills produced 268,640 yards of cloth worth $311,800 and employed 105 males and 141 females. They manufactured wool carpets and blankets and later began the first American production of wool bunting. An American flag of bunting manufactured in Saxonville was presented by the mill to the capitol's Washington Monument in 1848.[6]

The opening of the Boston and Worcester Railroad from Natick to Saxonville in 1846 gave the company quick access to goods and markets. Two sidings ran directly to the mill complex, the depot was located opposite the Anthenaem across Concord Street.

(continued)

Saxonville Mills 1859-1919

In 1853-1854 Simpson founded the Roxbury Carpet Co. in Roxbury Massachusetts, harnessing English style power carpet looms. They were the first in this country to produce tapestry carpet. When the Saxonville mill failed in the panic of 1857, Simpson bought out the owners. Two years later Simpson moved some of the Roxbury carpet production to Saxonville and incorporated both the Saxon Factory Co. and the New England Worsted Co. under the name of the Saxonville Mills. In doing so he became the first to control the entire production of carpet manufacture, from the processing of raw wool to the final carpet product.

During the Civil War the mills prospered: mill operatives worked night shifts to turn out hundreds of thousands of yards of blue Kersey army cloth and millions of yards of blanket material. In 1865 the ancient dam was rebuilt to a fall of 26 feet and the mills employed 393 males and 390 females.[7] Success continued in the post-war period. In 1875, the Saxonville Mill was the largest industry in Framingham, employing 10% of the town's population of 5,000 plus and paying the highest taxes in the community.

But a critical loss occurred in 1883, when the entire mill complex burned to the ground, causing 525 job losses. The owners decided to rebuild immediately. Workers in company housing were forgiven their rents, given seed potatoes and lent an acre of land each for garden plots. Many were employed in cleaning up: even children were paid $1 for every thousand cleaned bricks.

The mill, rebuilt at one half the original capacity, fully reopened in December, 1884, [Photo #1]. Although a taking of water from the Sudbury River by the City of Boston reduced water power to the mill in 1872, when it was rebuilt, water power continued to supplement power produced by coal fired boilers.

M.H. Simpson died two days after the 1884 reopening. His son Frank took over the management of the family company, continuing until his death in 1916. The company was sold out of the family in 1919.

The opening of a street railroad line in 1887 connected Saxonville more closely to other communities in Framingham. The livery was located on the site of the present Pumping Station [#J 37]. The line, electrified in 1897, made travel to distant communities much more possible.

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Roxbury Carpet Co. 1919-1973

The new owners moved the entire Roxbury Carpet Company production to the Saxonville site, completing the consolidation of the carpet and yarn mill and expanding the plant to make room for the new looms and machinery. Between 1919 and its demise in 1973, Roxbury Carpet Co. operated under four ownerships, the longest and most profitable of which was that of Jacob F. Brown and his associates (1927-1966). In 1924 employees struck the mill protesting unhealthy working conditions. The strike ended, but only after a violent confrontation between workers and imported scabs as well as evictions from company-owned housing.

Even after the company sold off its housing, many of the employees continued to live in Saxonville and take part in the community. Village residents, especially Protestants, continued to be buried in Edwards Cemetery. The school, post office and fire station testified to the centrality of the village.

Echoing the earlier Civil War profits and the post-war expansion, during World War II the mill manufactured blankets for the Army and cotton duck for the Navy. Furnished with new capital, the mill added several new buildings and was modernized in 1948.

In 1973, when increased costs limited profits and changes in fashion reduced demand for woven carpets, the Roxbury Carpet Co. closed, ending continuous textile manufacturing on the site for 150 years. Today the mill complex is in use as an industrial park, with one retail establishment selling carpets.

As constructed between 1823-1883, the mill complex consisted of one to four-story brick and frame mill buildings with gabled monitor roofs and exterior stair towers. A cupola containing a Revere bell topped Mill #1 [Photo #1], identifying the mill as the focal point of the village. Though fires destroyed one of the earliest mills in 1829 and another in 1865, the complex seems to have retained an early 19th century look: tall, narrow proportions, Federal cupola, red brick structures with minimal white frame trim, all surrounded by a surprisingly domestic picket fence. The pre-1870 mills were set back from Central Street across a grassy yard used for drying carpets. A canal at the bend in the river fed the breast wheels and, after 1846, the turbines. Rail tracks of the Saxonville Branch ran directly to the Stock House, now Building #7, [2.7], built ca. 1850.

Occupying the focal point of the Saxonville mill district, the buildings of the industrial complex constructed after the fire are architecturally significant for their brick construction, repeated fenestration, simple

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massing and six enclosed stair or bell towers of high style and utilitarian design.

The new Mill #1 [2.1] [Photo #1] was designed by W.L. Flint in 1884 as a large, multi-purpose building. The continuous band of tall windows and six massive monitors gave excellent light to the interior and also served as a decorative function. Construction technologies in the new structure included cast-iron columns, spandrels and lintels, and wrought iron trusses, beams and girders.

This building, like the earlier mills on the site, was an updated version of the prototype established by the 1822 Allendale woolen mill, which incorporated in one structure the basic elements of the textile mill: masonry construction, open well-lit interior and monumental stair towers representing the corporate identity. The tall towers of Mill #'s 1 and 2 [#s 2.1, 2.2], with their bulbous mansard roofs fulfill this last function admirably and are distinctive placemakers. The bell, which called out both work-day and Sabbath hours, was replaced and rung from the central bell tower.

Mill #3 [2.3], [Photo #2], built in 1910, is also characterized by repetitious fenestration and a monumental, though less ornate, tower. It's placement along the Sudbury River gives these features an important role in defining the complex's western edge.

Built in 1921, it seems probable that Building #5 [#2.5] was designed Lockwood Greene and Co., as the company had a controlling interest in the mill between 1919 and 1927. The large firm, known primarily for its engineering, was one of the leading builders of textile mills in the country, and was a pioneer in the industrial transition from steam to electricity and in the use of reinforced concrete in textile mill construction[8]. It was responsible for a large number of mill buildings in New England and the South, as well as banks, churches office buildings and bridges throughout the country.

Walter W. Cook, Manager of Lockwood Greene's Architectural Department from 1919 to 1928 was the supervising architect. He is also responsible for the design of the Stapleton School [#521], of 1992. Cook attended Mechanical Arts High School in Boston and took architectural courses at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Atelier of the Boston Architectural Club. In his years at Lockwood Greene he designed the Harris Forbes Building, 24 Federal Street, Boston; the Worcester Investment Trust Building, Worcester;

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the First Presbyterian Church, the Mary Black Clinic and the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium in Spartanburg, South Carolina and several other significant buildings.

Building #5's concrete pier and brick infill construction is handled in a utilitarian manner. Built as part of the expansion when the Roxbury Carpet Co. moved to the site, it was wedged between two buildings and sympathetically expanded in 1920 and 1950.

Building #8, the Power House [#2.8], built in 1930, occupied the site of another power house, possibly built in 1846, when turbines were first installed. The tall smokestack, blown down in 1938, was replaced, and continues to mark the area as industrial.

From its earliest period until 1938, the Saxonville mill took responsibility for housing its operatives and their families on sites near the mill complex. Several clusters of vernacular workers' houses from different periods remain intact within the district. Others which have lost architectural significance through alteration, are located just outside. These structures exemplify Saxonville's development as a company town.

Until the third quarter 19th century, New England textile mill owners built company housing to attract scarce workers. M.H. Simpson's policy was "to induce his employees to establish permanent homes for themselves: to become factors of the social, educational, and religious life of the place; and thus become bound to him through the double bond of personal interest, and family homesteads."[9] Consequently, company housing was designed to provide each family with its own entry and a lot, however small. Of the mill-built housing erected in the early 1870s, local newspapers are quoted as stating that Simpson "appears to want them to be models of comfort and convenience".[10] It maintained the buildings with exactitude and updated the facilities when required[11].

As the original occupants of the units are not known at present, it is difficult to determine whether housing assignments were made on the basis of occupational status. However, it is likely that managers occupied the few single and more numerous double houses, and that operatives were housed in the multi-family units. In the 20th century, company executives tended to live at a distance from the mill. Mill workers were apparently located in company housing without reference to job status.

Labeled "Boarding House" on the 1832 map, the twelve buildings located in the U formed by Water, Central and Elm Streets were probably designed as two family, rather than single sex housing. Center chimney types like the group

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on Water Street [#33-35], [Photo #6], and later the two chimney types on Central [#1 & 4], Chestnut [#44], and Elm Streets [#49 & 51] were built by the Saxon Factory before 1832. Several of these were updated mid-century with Italianate style bay windows.

The early owners developed two sorts of worker housing. Examples of the first, [Photo #s 6 & 7], were side-by-side double houses, evenly spaced on sizable lots and maintaining a constant street-line. The second type was a long frame row-house. Early examples survive, although severely altered, outside the district. A later instance is 10-28 Centennial Place [#31] [Photo #8], constructed in 1876 by the Saxonville Mill Co. The generously proportioned and trimmed Second Empire style building reflected the prosperity of the mill.

Additional housing was constructed by the New England Worsted Company, after 1837. In the row of four nearly identical double houses at 59-73 Central Street, [#s 9, 11, 13 & 14] [Photo #7], the two family, side-by side model was retained, but the gable-end was turned to the street to achieve the stylish Greek Revival temple-front form. Only the replicating design marks the group as company housing.

Danforth Street was developed with single, double and multi-family row-housing by the Saxonville Mill Company in the flush post-Civil War period. An example in the district is 17 Danforth Street, [#42], a single family house built ca. 1860-1871 in the Gothic Revival style.

The mill owned, and may have built 62 Central Street [#10], (ca. 1883-1887), the home of the Company Superintendent. Class differentiation is marked by the larger lot, unique design and greater amount of decorative detail on this well developed Queen Anne house. It may have been the last housing constructed for a mill employee.

Mill-owned housing remained rental property until October 22, 1938, when 69 parcels were sold at auction at a rate of ten per hour in one long and dramatic day. Buyers were required to produce 10% of the price at time of sale, though the company arranged to have 75% of the mortgage floated through a local bank to ease the transfer of property. "Many ... were able to buy the homes that had been the family homestead for generations"[12], while some were purchased by investors.

The primary 19th century builders in Saxonville were both local men: Winsor Moulton and Samuel Danforth. Moulton, whose house still stands at School Street and Old Connecticut Path, was active in the first half of the century, while Danforth, whose now demolished house stood in the area after the Civil

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War. They were probably responsible for the nicely detailed but modest houses, built for mechanics and local tradesmen like that of harness maker and Liberty Square shop owner F.C. Stearns at 77 Elm Street [#58]. They may even have constructed the larger houses on Elm and Central Streets. It is not known to what extent houses in the district were built on order or for speculation.

Owing to the prosperity of the mills and easy railroad transportation, residential construction rose rapidly between 1832 and 1850, accounting for the high proportion of Greek Revival and Italianate domestic building. In general, domestic architecture in the Saxonville district tends to be constructed in frame, conservative in taste, modest in execution and eclectic in style.

Johnson Street which developed for private housing in the 1840s, is a catalogue of mid-century styles, with Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate examples. 27 Johnson Street [#25], built before 1850, contains elements of all three styles. The 5 bay, end gable house has high-place windows and a bracketed roof-line.

An example of a locally significant Greek Revival house type is 112 Central Street [#21]. At least two other houses in Framingham, all one-and-a-half stories high, have inset porches with four square pillars supporting living space above.

An important house, now demolished, was M.H. Simpson's on Elm Street opposite the Stapleton School. Appearing on the 1832 map as "the Cottage", when it was demolished in the 1940s the elaborately landscaped, Stick style mansion had grown to a huge size. Its mansarded tower roof may have set the pattern for upper-class architecture along Elm and Central Streets. Its extensive gardens and greenhouses were razed and nothing remains on the site of its former grandeur.

After 1890, few houses were built within the mill district as both middle and upper class residents chose to live on the hilltop east of the village center, an area made accessible by the Danforth Street Bridge (1890).

Saxonville's commercial development was closely tied to the prosperity of the mill and the growth of the residential neighborhoods around it. A sense of 19th century self sufficiency is still evident in the few remaining stores on McGrath Square. About 1880, the basically Greek Revival structures. 1-5 Central Street [#1] [Photo #3], was remodeled with mansard roof and ornate trim. 7-9 Central [#3], was built, and on the east side, the Odd Fellows Block, (now demolished) and 3-5 [#45] and 7 Elm Streets [#46] were built, the

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last appended to the brick Federal style shoe shop [#46.1].

Civic structures reinforced Saxonville's sense of its unique identity. By 1836 the increase in school aged children necessitated dividing the school district into two: one school-house on Edwards Street (formerly Prospect), the other on School Street. In 1852 Saxonville was the location of one of the two High Schools in Town. Classes were held in the basement of the Athenaeum until a High School building could be built five years later on site of the Stapleton School [#52], (1923). A mid-19th century grammar school was demolished for a Stapleton School annex in 1966.

The Athenaeum Hall [#38], [Photo #4], (1845) containing school rooms, a jail and meeting rooms was as monumentally columnar as the Town Hall at Framingham Centre. Between 1852 and 1857 it housed one of two Framingham High Schools. It presently serves as offices for local veterans' organizations.

The Fire House [#36], [Photo #5], (ca. 1901), replacing an earlier building on the north side of McGrath Square, was made similarly important with its brick construction and high hose tower, equal in stature to those of the mill. Continuing renovations have allowed the building to adapt to current fire-fighting technologies.

Edwards Cemetery [#73] was purchased by the Town in 1836 to serve the community. Though not associated with the Edwards Church, the cemetery was purchased after a committee of three church members was chosen to "use their influence in procuring a burying ground at this place".[13] Many of the local residents, merchants and mill workers, were buried there. The cemetery continues in its historic role. Saxonville's most prominent resident, Michael Simpson, who had used the village primarily as a summer retreat, elected to be buried with his family at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

With the arrival of the textile mill, Saxonville gained a sufficient population to support a church. The Saxonville Religious Society built the Meetinghouse, now Edwards Church [#Z 72], in 1827 on land owned, until 1916, by the mills. The architect was Thomas W. Summers of Brooklyn, N.Y., the builder was Frances Batcheldor of Boston.

The church and mill retained a close relationship: the church's early records were stored in the mill and burnt in a fire there in 1847. Its first ministers were Unitarian, but in 1833 it became Congregational when 25 members of the Plymouth Church in Framingham Centre were dismissed to form a new Church. Though the congregation has been small for many years, it has continued to be a force in the community, with an active minister and volunteer organizations. Edwards Chapel [#48] was erected in 1871 by the

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Edwards Church on land donated by mill owner Michael Simpson. It was sold to an electronics firm in 1961.

Possibly the earliest Methodist congregation in Massachusetts was gathered in Saxonville in 1788. Its first building, erected near Potter Road, was moved to Church Street in 1844 "for the better accommodation of the people living around the Factories".[14] In 1879-1880 a new Methodist Church [#50] was built on Elm Street, it is currently used as a Boston Taiwanese Church.

Michael H. Simpson expressed his energy and considerable resources in construction projects. At present, little but the mill complex remains. His "Cottage" on Elm Street was the largest and most elaborate dwelling in Saxonville. Simpson, using local help to improve the extensive grounds, constructed greenhouses, cages for exotic animals and a Casino for music and shows, all open to the villagers. Three ponds on his grounds were landscaped with graceful iron bridges. They were filled for the construction of Pinefield Shopping Center ca. 1947. The house site is presently occupied by three modern houses.

Still remaining, though in reduced form, are the extensive scenic carriageways the mill owner laid out and had constructed along the Sudbury River. A section of carriageway is now Simpson Drive, with the town owned 1.7 acre Simpson's construction projects like the building of the drives provided work for unemployed villagers before State and Federal welfare networks were created.

Less visible remainders of Simpson's legacies are the lots for the Edwards and Methodist Episcopal Churches, and Edwards Chapel. He also donated a building with a public reading room, now demolished, on McGrath Square.

The period of significance ends at 1942 to reflect the fact that the mill, which gave the district its origins and prosperity, remained in operation until 1973 and is still used for industrial purposes. Until the Roxbury Carpet Company ceased operation, it played an important role in the life of the village. At present, while not providing the number of jobs it once did, the mill complex is still an important economic and visual factor. Ironically, the only retail establishment currently in the industrial park is a carpet outlet.

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Preservation Activities

Two of the district's major buildings have a Determination of Eligibility status as locally significant, as determined by the National Park Service. 1-5 Central Street [#1] [Photo #3] (E.O. #1159 2/19/81) and The Saxonville Fire Station [#36] (E.O. #11593 3/10/81). 1-5 Central Street, the focus of commercial activity on McGrath Square, was renovated under the HUD Section 312 Program in 1982. Work was monitored by the Framingham Planning Department. Energy related rehabilitation involving windows and doors at the Saxonville Fire Station (also called the Watson Place Station), was funded by the Framingham Community Development Block Grant Program between 1981 and 1983. Findings of "No Adverse Effects" for both projects was made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Although it no longer serves its original purpose, the Atheneum [#38] [Photo #4] continues to be owned and maintained by the town. It is used by community and Veterans groups. When more space was required at the Stapleton School [#52], the Town chose to retain and reuse the 1922 structure and build an addition to the rear.

Archaeological Significance

Since pattern of prehistoric occupation in Framingham are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Sites in this area can help to better understand the more southern extent of the Merrimack River related drainages to the north and their relationships to populations in the Blackstone River drainage to the south and the Charles/Neponset drainage to the east. Since these drainage all meet in the Framingham locale, they may provide a greater understanding of prehistoric socio/political boundaries and the importance of riverine drainage limits to these boundaries.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized the growth and development of a 19th century mill village. Mill, water power and residential related remains can provide the locations and a greater understanding of 17th and 18th century components of the village for which no examples survive. Early to mid 19th century mill and water power remains can also be important since these components have either burned or as in the case of water power remains been incorporated into structures which are still extant. Residential related remains from the 19th century can be particularly important by providing the much needed social context in which the mills operated.

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1794 "Plan of the Town of Framingham, Lawson Buckminster, and John Glenson Jr.

(continued)

1832 "Map of Framingham", Warren Nixon's drawing from actural surveys by Jonas Clayse and Warren Nixon in the years 1830-31.

1850 "Saxonville and Vicinity", E.C. Rice.

1872 Atlas: Walling and Co. Original at the Framingham Historical Society.

1882 "Saxonville" Bird's Eye View.

1895 "Saxonville" (Plate 8).

Foot Notes

[1] Temple, J. H., History of Framingham, Massachusetts, Framingham, 1887, pp. 48-49. The Entwistle property is shown on the Beers Atlas of 1875.

[2] Temple, op. cit. p. 15.

[3] Temple, J.H., History of Framingham, Massachusetts, Framingham, 1887, p. 347

[4] Reid, Gene, Michael H. Simpson and the Saxonville Mills with the Roxbury Carpet Co., Framingham, 1982. p.17

[5] Stone, Orra L, History of Massachusetts Industries, vol. I. Boston, 1930, p. 989.

[6] Stone, ibid.

[7] Petition of Damages, Diversion of the Sudbury River by the City of Boston, Boston, 1876.

[8] Lincoln, Samuel B. Lockwood Greene: The History of an Engineering Business, 1832-1952, Stephen Green Press, Brattleboro, 1969 p. 269.

[9] Temple, op. cit. p. 758.

[10] Reid, Gene, Michael H. Simpson and the Saxonville Mills with the Roxbury Carpet Co., Framingham, 1982.

[11] Daybooks, Journals and Rent Rolls, Roxbury Carpet Collection, Baker Library Archives, Cambridge, MA.

[12] Framingham News, Oct. 24, 1938, p. 4, col. 5.

[13] Johnson, Ralph et al., Historical Sketch of Edwards Congregational Church, Saxonville, Massachusetts, 1977.

[14] Temple, op. ci p. 350.

(end)

Saxonville Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA
County and State

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 56.75 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	302420	4689060
2	19	302400	4688850
3	19	302240	4688790
4	19	302300	4688440

☒ 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 Heli Meltsner, Framingham Planning Department, and Stephen Herring, Framingham Historical Commission, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 1992

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

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References (continued)

5) 19 302270 4688200
6) 19 302190 4688180
7) 19 302220 4688020
8) 19 302110 4687940
9) 19 302010 4688050
10) 19 302080 4688240
11) 19 302060 4688350
12) 19 301990 4688240
13) 19 301900 4688160
14) 19 301850 4688150
15) 19 301800 4688250
16) 19 301910 4688300
17) 19 301880 4688380
18) 19 302100 4688570
19) 19 302080 4688620
20) 19 301920 4688940

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Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of Saxonville Historic District is shown as a red line on the accompanying Town of Framingham Assessors Plan Sheets #s 279, 280, 281, 290, 291, 292, 301, 315, 316, 331, 340.

Boundary Justification: Saxonville Historic District focuses on the former Saxonville mill, adjacent residential areas that maintain architectural integrity, commercial buildings in McGrath Square, and the civic and religious structures and cemetery which developed to serve the village. The Hultman Aqueduct was chosen as part of the northern boundary because it forms a clear physical barrier. The eastern and southern boundaries were drawn to include architecturally intact buildings. Much of the historic mill-owned and mill associated housing on Chestnut, Danforth and Mechanic Streets and Kings and Danforth Courts was excluded because of inappropriate renovation and the removal of historic fabric for the installation of artificial siding. The area south of Fuller Street, now the site of new subsidized housing, was the location of a demolished train station and a railroad yard with turntable.

Edwards Cemetery was included because it served as the burial ground for the historic mill village. Edwards Church, though non-contributing because alterations have compromised its original design, was included because of its historical importance as the first ecclesiastic building in the village.

Consideration was given to including houses on Water Street west of the Pinefield Shopping Center associated with the early development of the village. However, the filling of the ponds for the shopping center, and the large size of the noncontributing gas station and shopping center itself made this inadvisable.

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SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
1	673	1-5 Central Street		ca. 1830/1880s	Second Empire	C	B	315 999 4
2	Area 0	2 Central Street	Roxbury Carpet	1823-1970				279 156 8
2.1			Mill #1	1884/1948	Mansard	C	B	
2.2			Mill #2	1891 & 1929	Mansard	C	B	
2.3			Mill #3	ca. 1910 & 1928	20th c. util.	C	B	
A 2.4			Bldg. #4	1884/1920/1955	util.	NC	B	
2.5			Bldg. #5	1921/1957	20th c. util.	C	B	
2.6			Bldg. #6	ca. 1894	19th c. indust.	C	B	
2.7			Mill #7	1850/1890	19th c. indust.	C	B	
2.8			Power House	ca. 1930	20th c. util.	C	B	
B 2.9			Bldg. #9	1900/1949	20th c. util.	NC	B	
3		7-9 Central St., 1R, 1,2		ca. 1880	Second Empire	C	B	315 998 1R,1,
4		11-13 Central Street		ca.1823	Greek Rev./Ital.	C	B	315 1 12
C 5		Central St./Sudbury River	Flood Control	1979	util.	NC	ST	331 1 57B
D 6		Central St./Sudbury River	Central St. Bridge	ca. 1970	util.	NC	ST	331 1
7	913	Central St./Sudbury River	Roxbury Mill Dam	1865/1886	util.	C	ST	331 1 57 B
8		58 Central St.		ca. 1896-1905	Queen Anne	C	B	280 157 6

SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
9	660	59-61 Central St.		ca. 1837-1845	Greek Rev.	C	B	331 1 52
10		62 Central St.		ca. 1883-1887	Queen Anne	C	B	280 157 5
11	659	63-65 Central St.		ca. 1837-1845	Greek Revival	C	B	331 1 53
--		66 Central St.		ca. 1845-1850 1880	Stick Style	C	B	280 157 4
12.1		carriage barn		ca. 1850	Stick Style	C	B	
13	658	67-69 Central Street		ca. 1837-1845	Greek Revival	C	B	331 1 54
14	657	71-73 Central St.		ca. 1837-1845	Greek Revival	C	B	331 1 55
15	719	74 Central St.		ca. 1873-1881	Second Empire	C	B	280 157 3
15.1		carriage barn		ca. 1873-1881	Ital./Gothic Rev.	C	B	
16		84 Central St.		ca. 1872-1881	Queen Anne	C	B	280 157 2A
E 17		84 R Central St.		1928	util.	NC	B	280 157 2A
F 18		90 Central Street		1947	contemp.	NC	B	280 157 1A
G 19		94 Central Street		ca. 1847	Italianate	NC	B	280 157 1
19.1		garage		ca. 1918	Craftsman	C	B	
20		102 Central St.		ca. 1845-1850	Ital./Queen Anne	C	B	340 3 01 & 1C
21	720	112 Central St.		ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C	B	340 3 12
H 22		15 Johnson St.		1989	contemp.	NC	B	340 3 1A
23		15 Johnson St.		ca. 1845-1850	Greek Rev/Col. Rev.	C	B	340 3 2
23.1		garage		ca. 1845-1890	util.	C	B	

SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
24		23 Johnson St.		ca. 1833-1840	Greek Revival	C	B	340 3 3
25		27 Johnson Street		ca. 1833-1840	Fed./Ital.	C	B	340 3 4
26		34 Johnson Street		ca. 1845-1850	Greek Revival	C	B	280 158 11
27		38 Johnson Street		ca. 1845-1850	Italianate	C	B	280 158 15
27.1		garage		ca. 1920	util.	C	B	
28		44 Johnson Street		ca. 1845-1850	Greek Revival	C	B	280 158 16
29		2-4 Centennial Place		ca. 1873-1880	Italianate	C	B	331 1 51
30		6-8 Centenniel Place		ca. 1840-1850	Greek Revival	C	B	331 1 56
31	661	10-28 Centenniel Place		1875-1876	Mansard/Ital.	C	B	331 1 57
I 32		9 Water Street, Units #1,2,3,4		ca. 1823/1860	contemporary	NC	B	315 997 1,2,3,4
33		13-15 Water Street		ca. 1823	Greek Rev./Ital.	C	B	315 1 10
34		19-21 Water Street		ca. 1823	Greek Rev./Ital.	C	B	315 1 9
35		25-27 Water Street		ca. 1833	Greek Rev./Ital.	C	B	315 1 8
36	716	Watson Place	Fire Station	ca. 1901	Col. Revival	C	B	379 156 9
J 37		Watson Place	Pump Station	1985	contemp.	NC	B	279 156 10A and 10
38	715	1572 Concord Street	Atheneum/ Town Hall	1845	Greek Revival	C	B	279 156 9
K 39		1639 Concord Street		ca. 1845/1925	Neo. Col./Greek Rev.	NC	B	290 17938
T 39.1		garage		ca. 1969	util.	NC	B	

SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
L40		1645 Concord Street		ca. 1971	Contemp. Commerical	NC	B	290 179 36A
M40.1		garage		1969		NC	B	290 179 36
41		41 Danforth Street		ca. 1832-1840	Greek Revival	C	B	290 179 40 and 290 179 40A
42		17 Danforth Street		ca. 1860-1871	Gothic Revival	C	B	290 178 49
N 43		2 Stone's Court		ca. 1870s	Mansard	NC	B	290 179 37
43.1		garage		ca. 1935	util.	C	B	290 179 37
44	670	11-13 Chestnut St.		ca. 1823-1832	Greek Rev.	C	B	290 179 34
O 45		1-3-5 Elm St.		ca. 1877	Second Empire	NC	B	290 179 27
45.1		garage		ca. 1935	util.	C	B	
P 46		7 Elm St.		ca. 1880	Second Empire	NC	B	290 179 35
46.1	672	7 Elm St. B/C		ca. 1823-1831	Federal	C	B	
	671	8 Elm St.		ca. 1823	Georgian	C	B	315 1 15
Q 48		9-11 Elm St.	Edwards Chapel	1871	Gothic Revival	NC	B	290 179 29
U 49		14-16 Elm St.		ca. 1823-1830	Federal/Italianate	NC	B	315 1 16
50	668	15 Elm St.	Sax. Meth. Church	ca. 1879-1880	Gothic Revival	C	B	290 180 31 and 36
51		18-20 Elm St.		ca. 1823-1830	Fed./Ital.	C	B	315 1 16A
52		43 Elm St.	Stapleton School	1922	Neo-Federal	C	B	291 180 1-24-23-22

SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

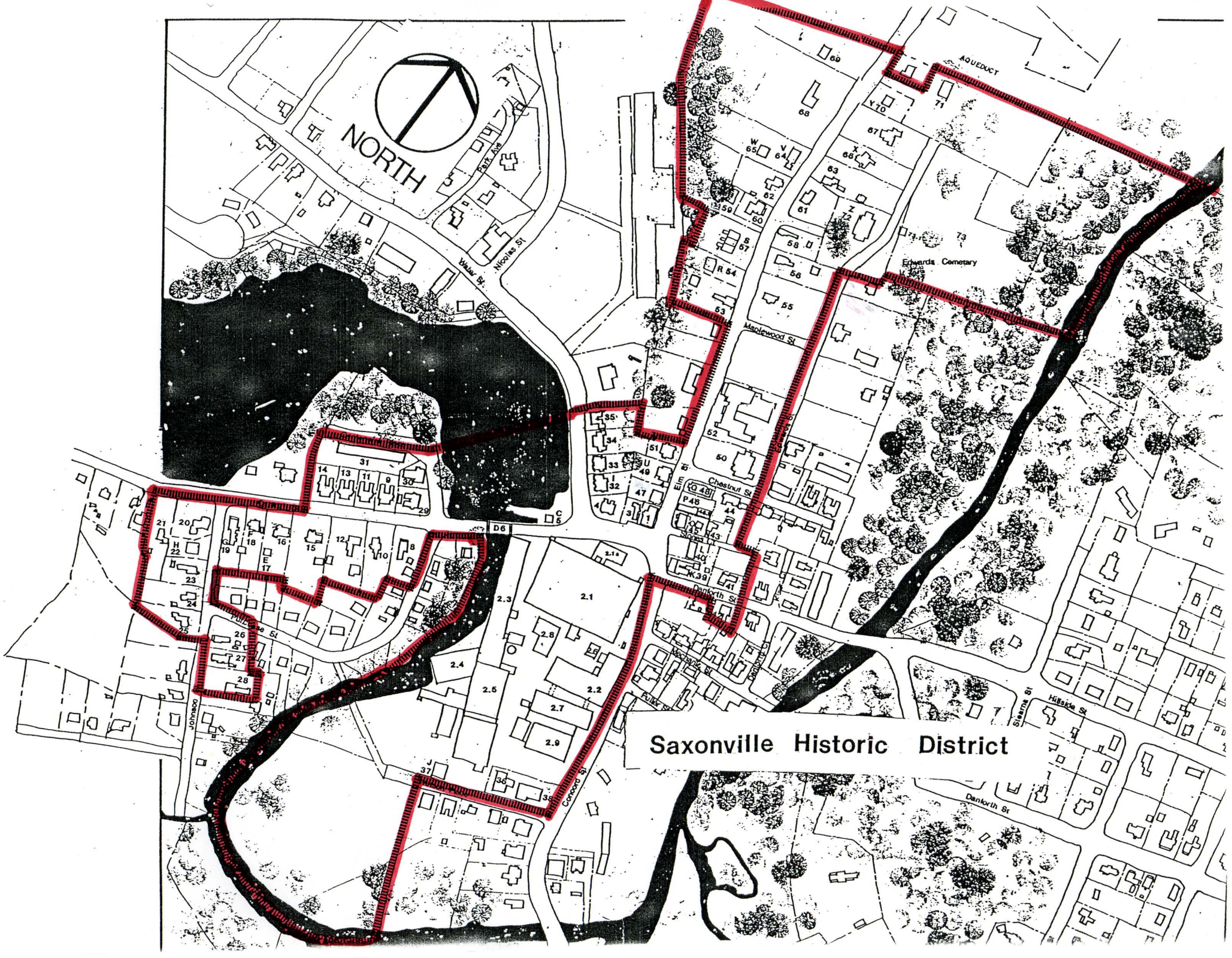
#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
53	667	60 Elm St.		ca. 1805-1823	Georgian	C	B	315 1 17A
53.1		barn		ca. 1840	Italianate	C	B	
R 54		60R Elm		ca. 1936	contemp.	NC	B	315 1 17A
		61 Elm Street		ca. 1896-1907	Colonial Rev.	C	B	291 182 3
56	666	71 Elm St.		ca. 1883-1894	Stick/Queen Anne	C	B	291 182 4
56.1		garage		ca. 1935	util.	C	B	
S 57		74 A,B,C Elm Street		1979	Neo-Colonial	NC	B	315 1 74A
58		77 Elm Street		ca. 1832-1849	Greek Rev./Ital.	C	B	291 182 5
59		78 Elm St.		ca. 1880/1907	Col. Rev./Craftsman	C	B	316 2 18A, 316 2 18
60		82 Elm Street		ca. 1840/1880	Mansard	C	B	316 2 19
61		87 Elm Street		ca. 1805-1823	Georgian/Ital.	C	B	291 182 8
62		88 Elm Street		ca. 1839-1849	Ital./Queen Anne	C	B	316 2 20
63		95 Elm Street		ca. 1870-1881	Queen Anne	C	B	291 182 9
V 64		98 Elm Street		1976	Contemp.	NC	B	316 2 21C
W 65		98 Rear Elm Street		1976	Contemp.	NC	B	316 2 21B
X 66		103 Elm Street		ca. 1873-1894	Italianate Villa	NC	B	291 182 10
67		109 Elm Street		ca. 1845-1850	Italianate	C	B	291 182 11
68		110 Elm Street		ca. 1840-1850	Italianate	C	B	316 2 21A

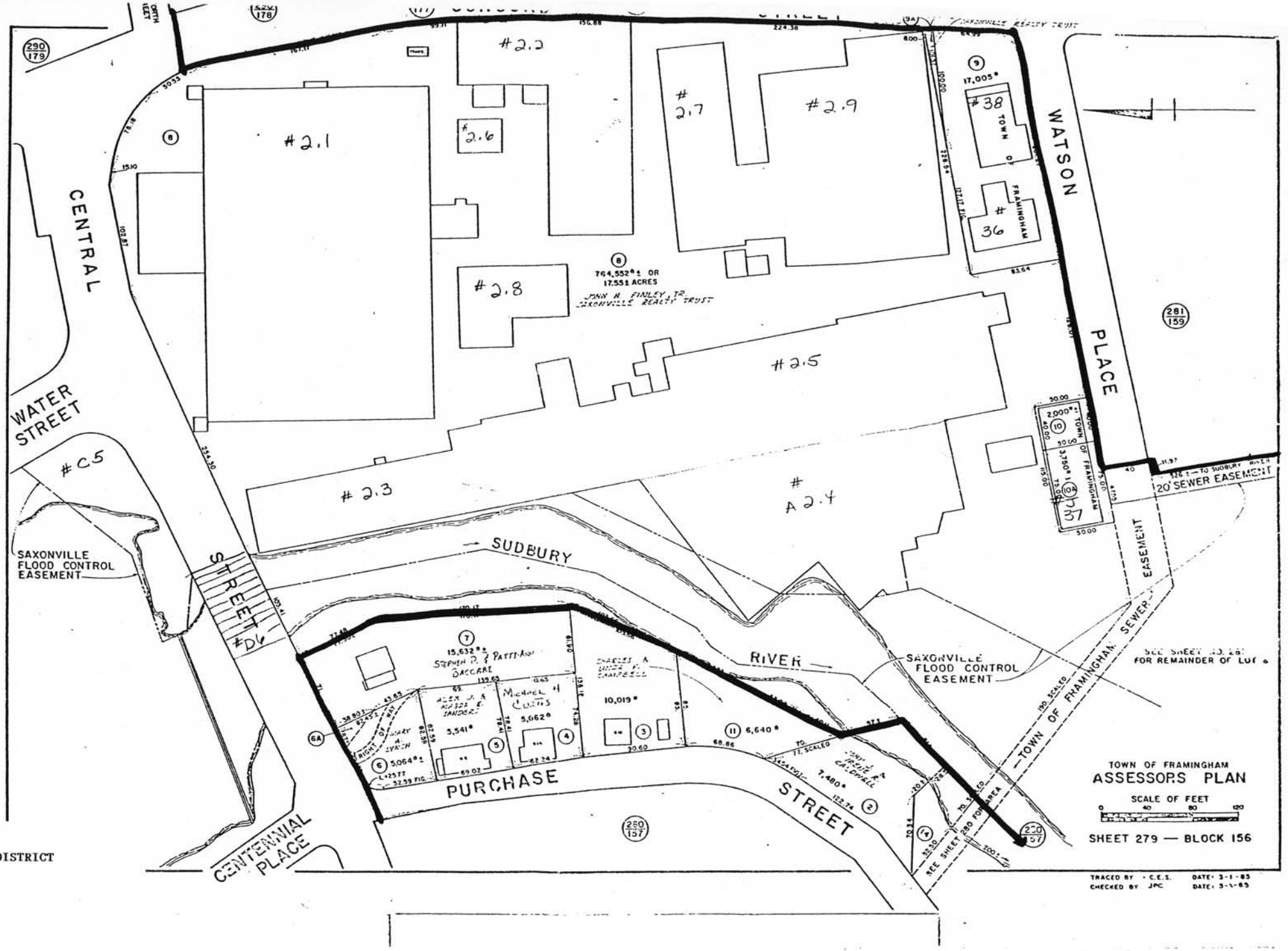
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
DATA SHEET

#	MHC#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style	Status	Resource	Map Block Lot
69		114 Elm Street		ca. 1917	Arts and Crafts	C	B	316 2 21
Y 70		115 Elm Street		1982	Contemp.	NC	B	292 183 0889
71	664	125 Elm Street		ca. 1840	Greek Revival	C	B	292 183 7
7 2	665	Edwards Street	Edward Church	1827	Neo-Colonial	NC	B	291 182 6
73		Edwards Street	Edwards Cemetery	1838/1865, present		C	Si	291 182/292 183/301 208 798
73.1	912		Receiving Tomb	ca. 1880	Granite Style	C	B	

TOTAL RESOURCES:

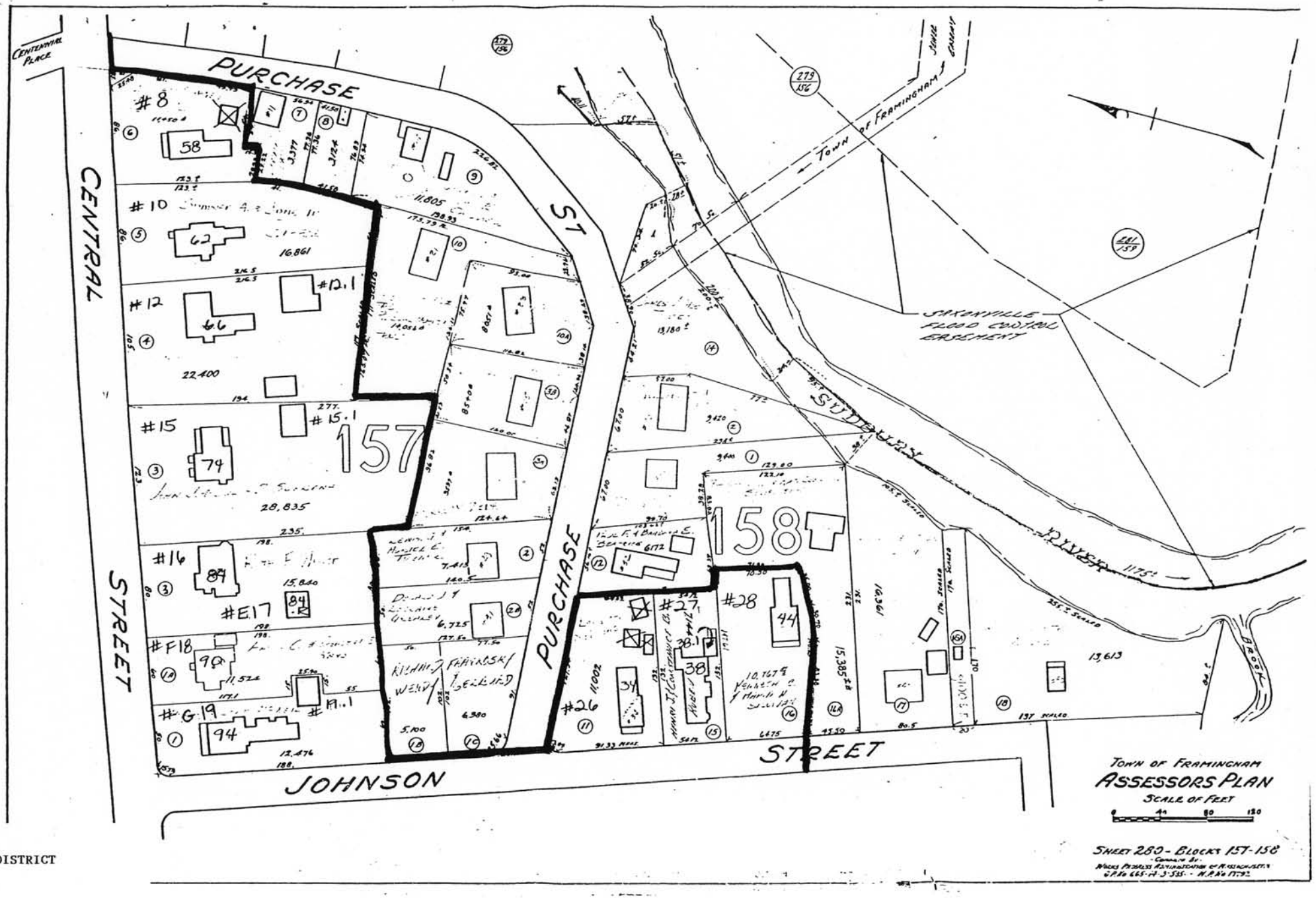
66 Contributing Buildings
1 Contributing Structures
1 Contributing Site
24 Noncontributing Buildings
2 Noncontributing Structures


NORTH
Saxonville Historic District
AQUEDUCT
Edwards Cemetary
Park Ave
Nicolas St
Water St
Maplewood St
Chestnut St
Danforth St
Concord St
Johnson
Hillside St
Stearns St
Pulsifer St
Mellen St
Bancroft
Pulsifer
Edwards St
D6
C5



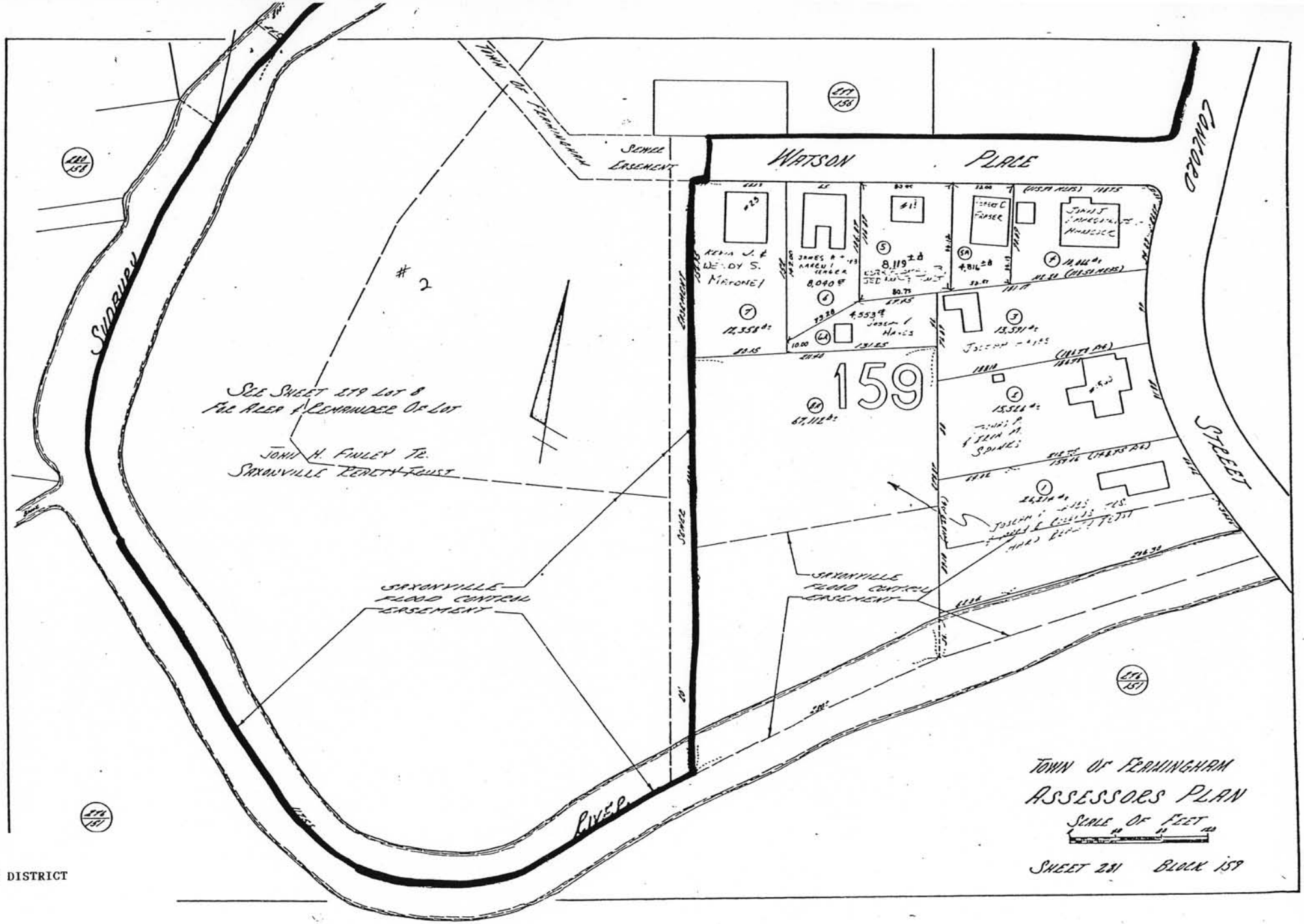
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 1 OF 11



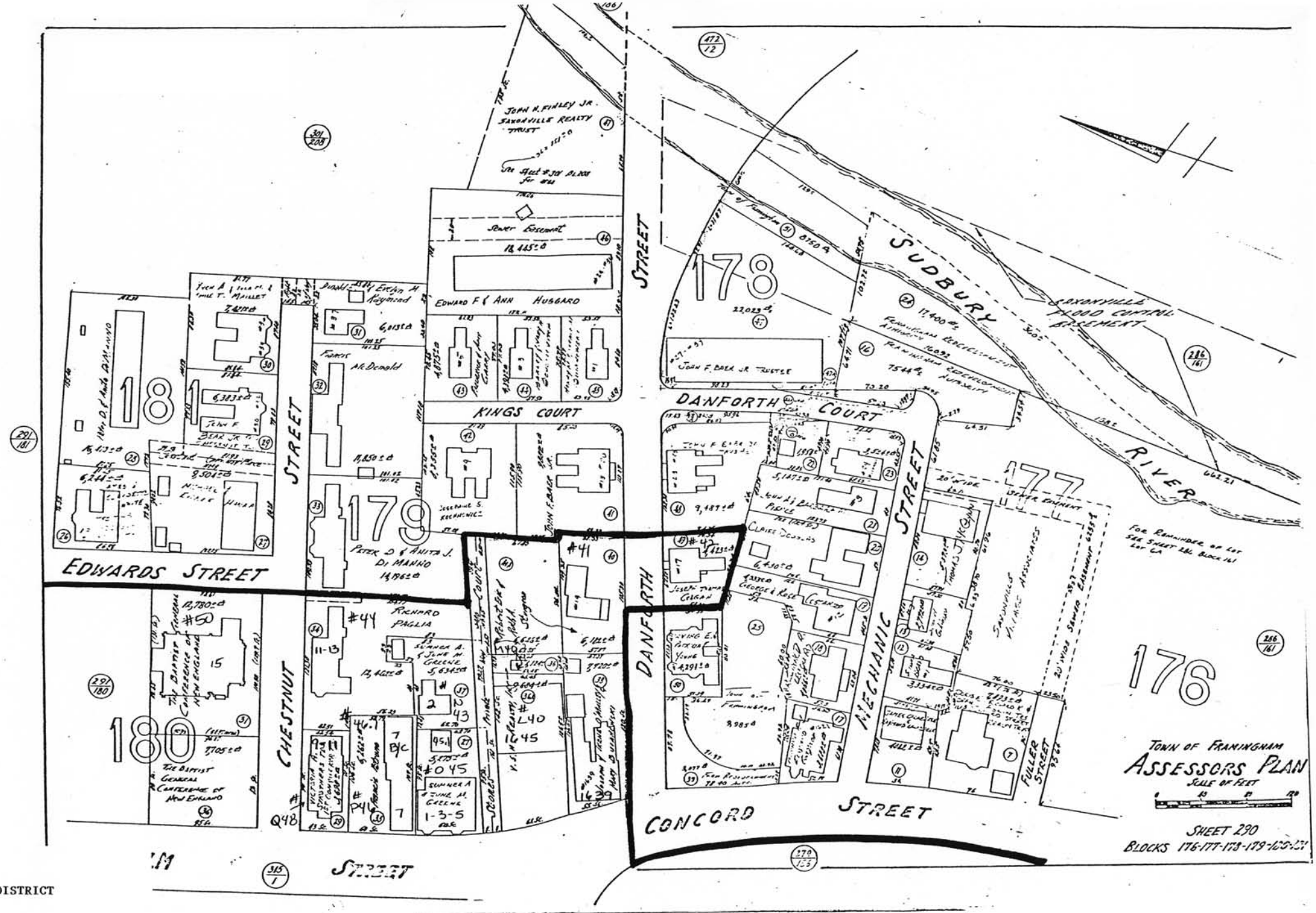
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 2 OF 11



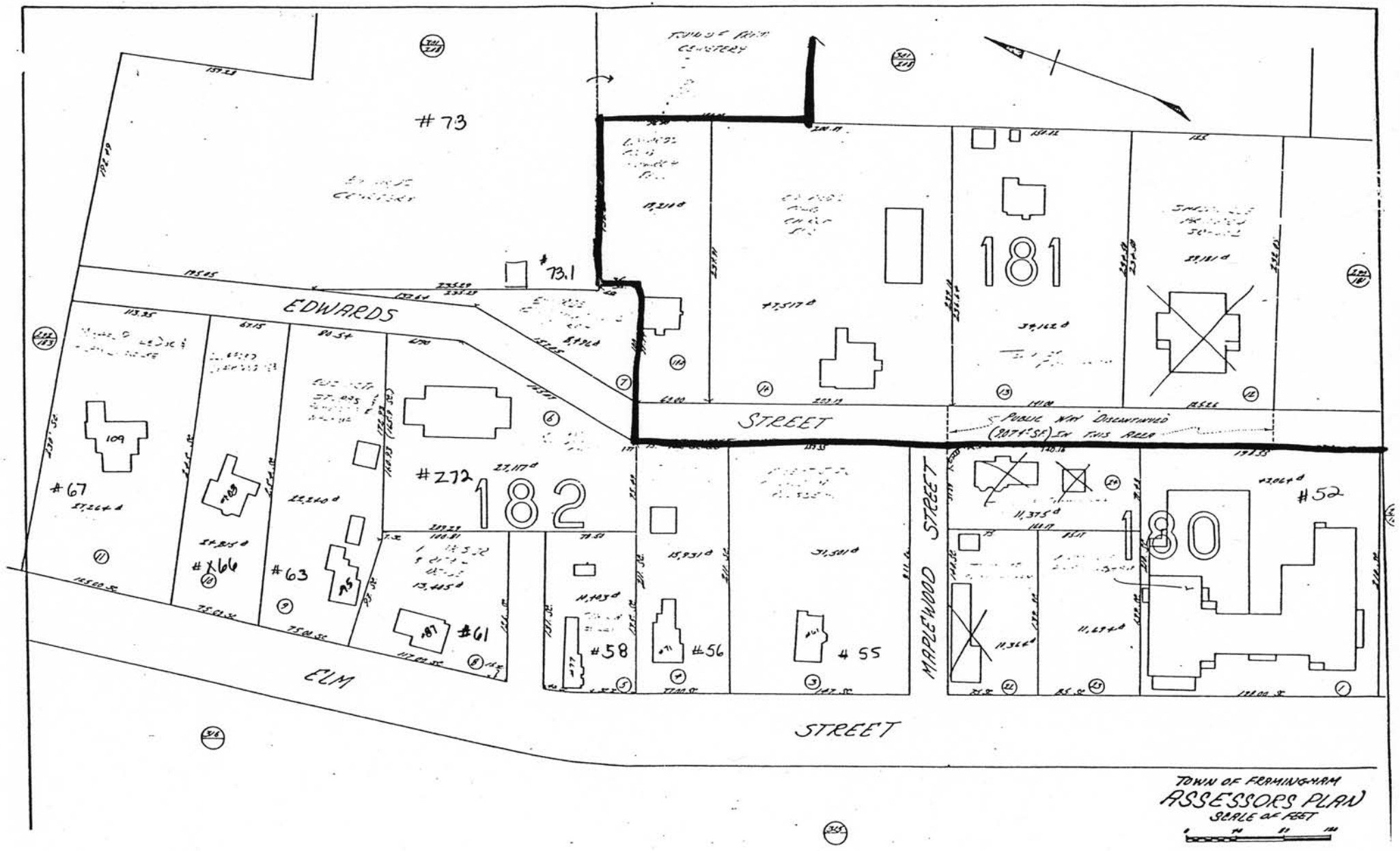
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 3 OF 11



SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

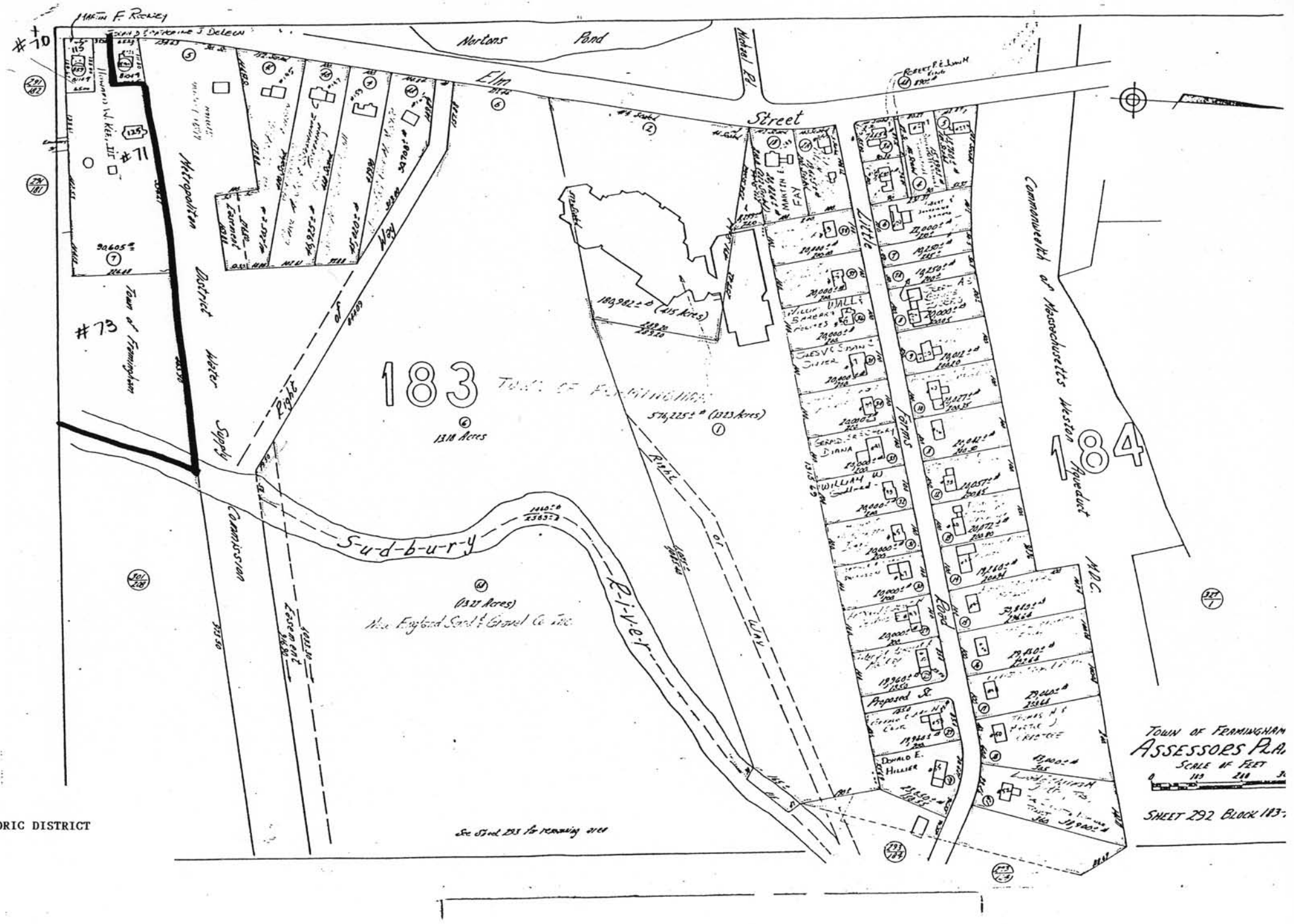
MAP # 4 OF 11



SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

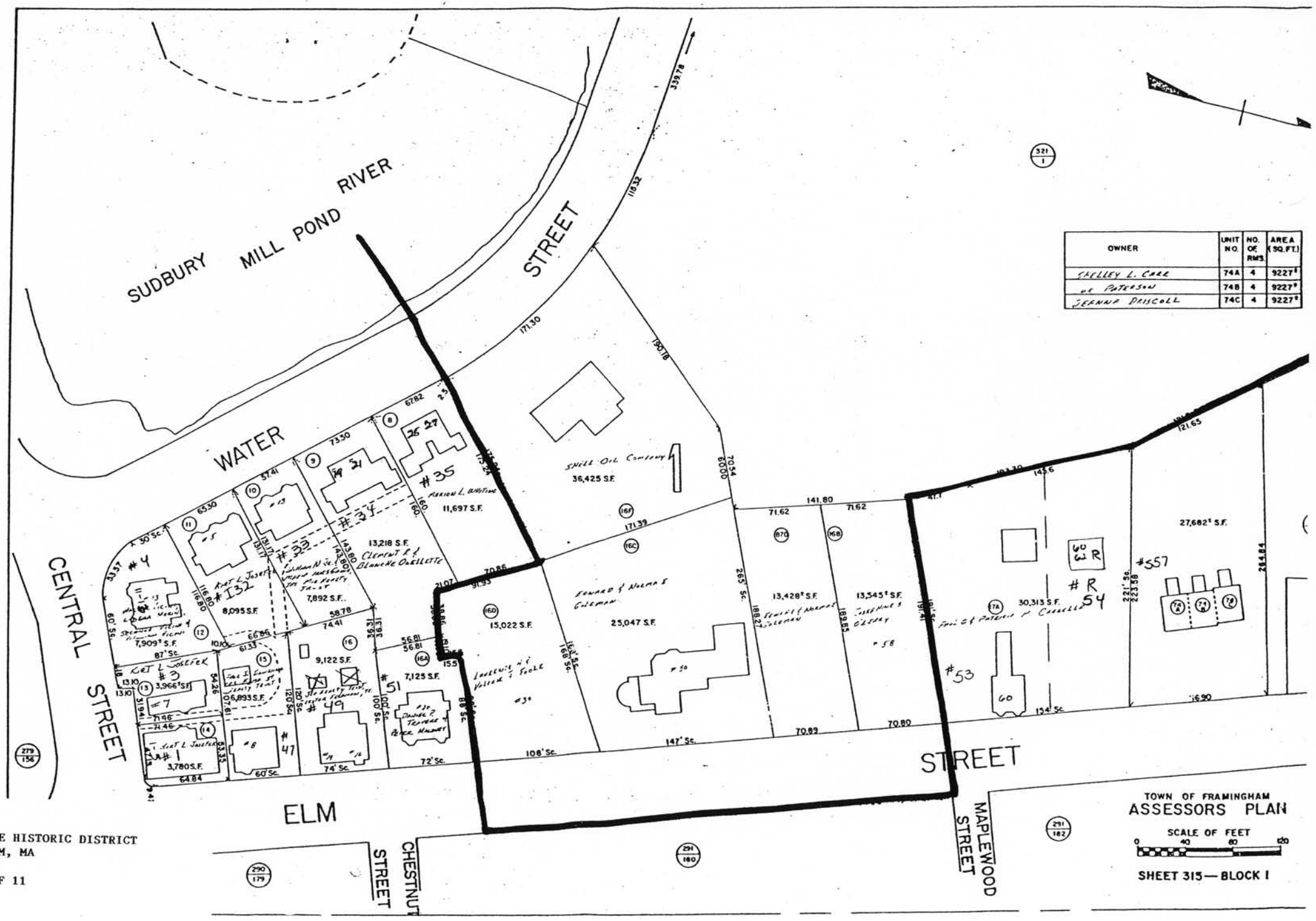
MAP # 5 OF 11

SHEET 291 - BLOCKS 180-181-182



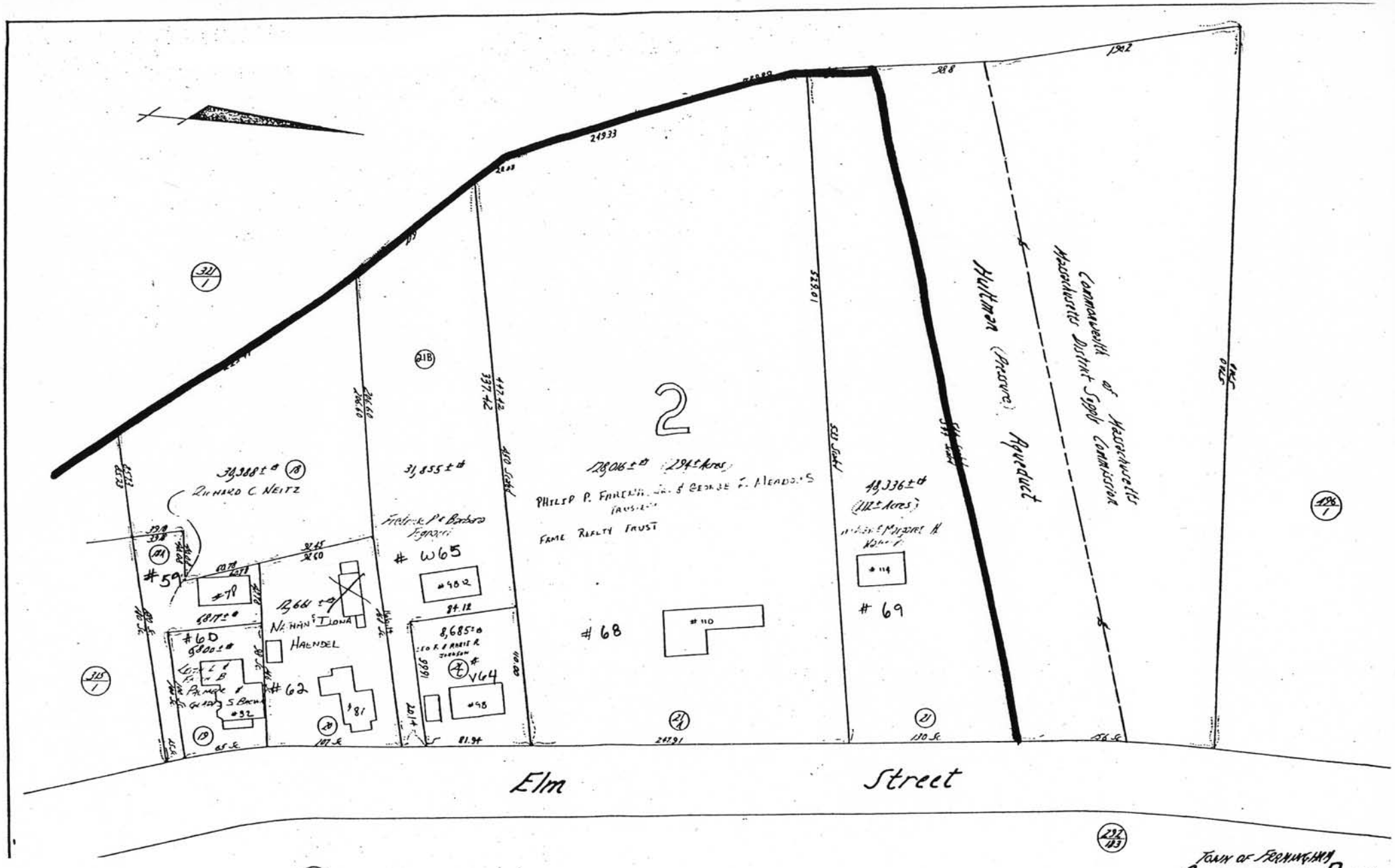
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 6 OF 11



SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 7 OF 11



SAXINVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 8 OF 11

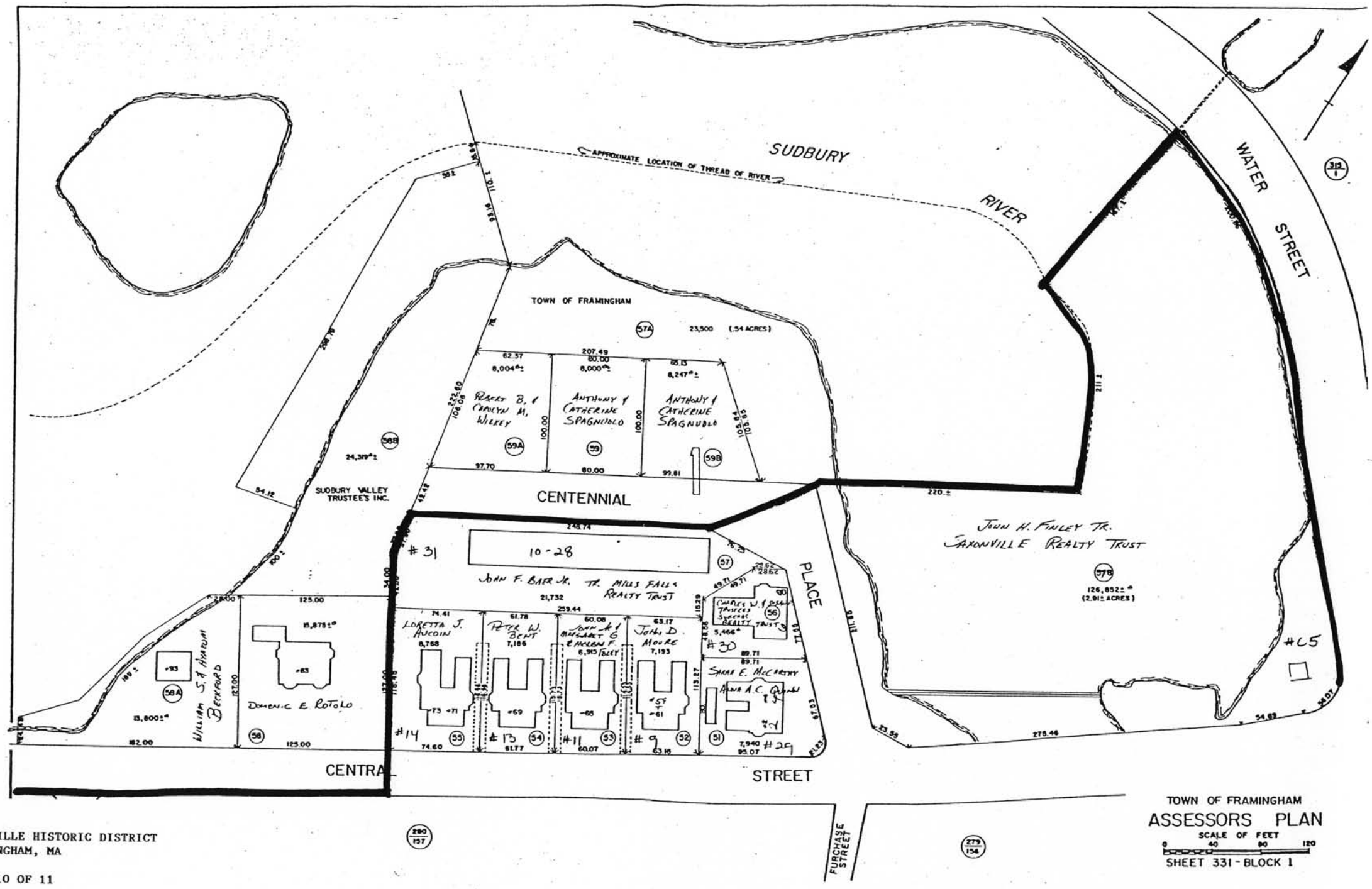
TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN
SCALE OF FEET
0 10 20 100

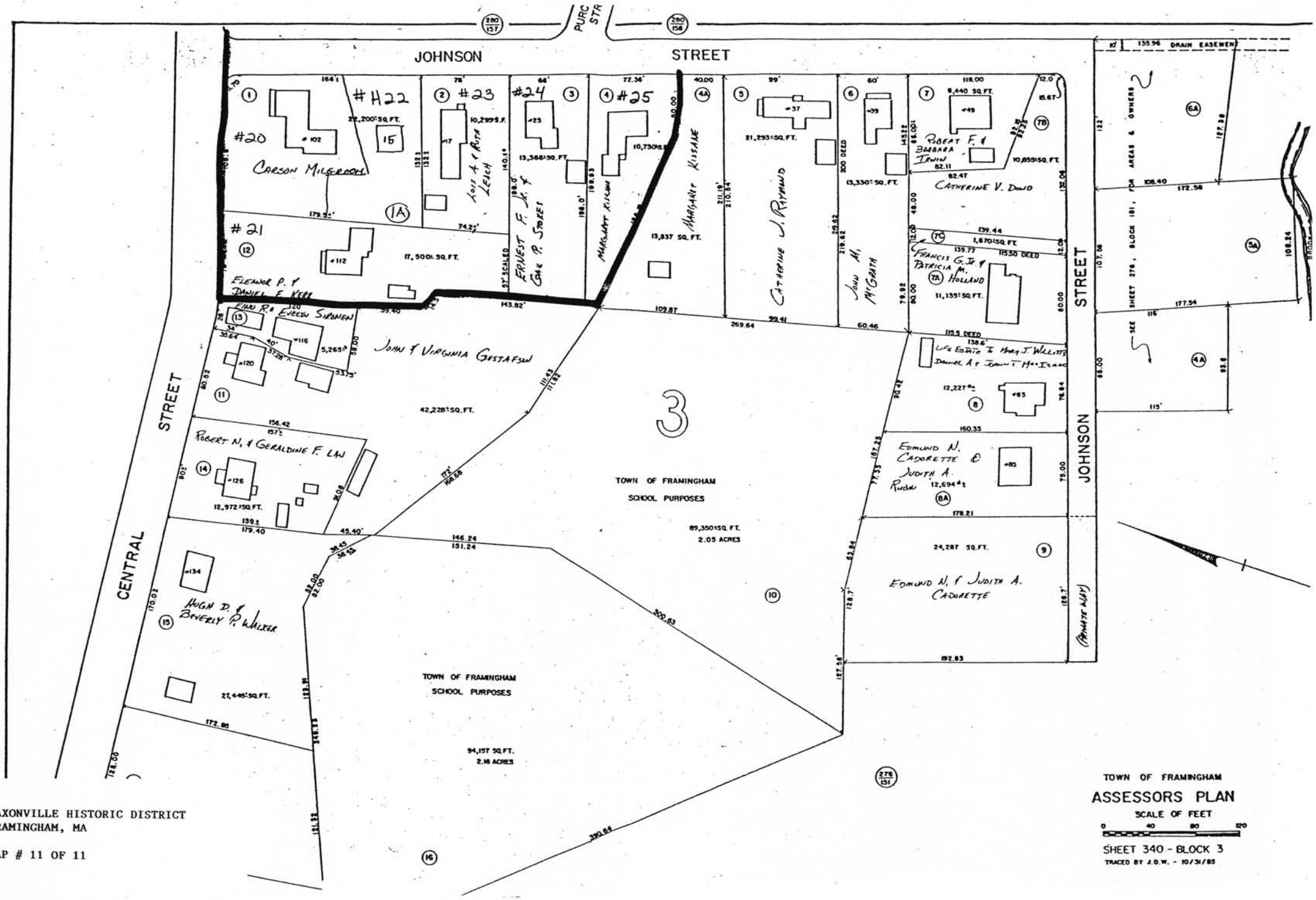
SHEET 316 BLOCK 2



SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 9 OF 11

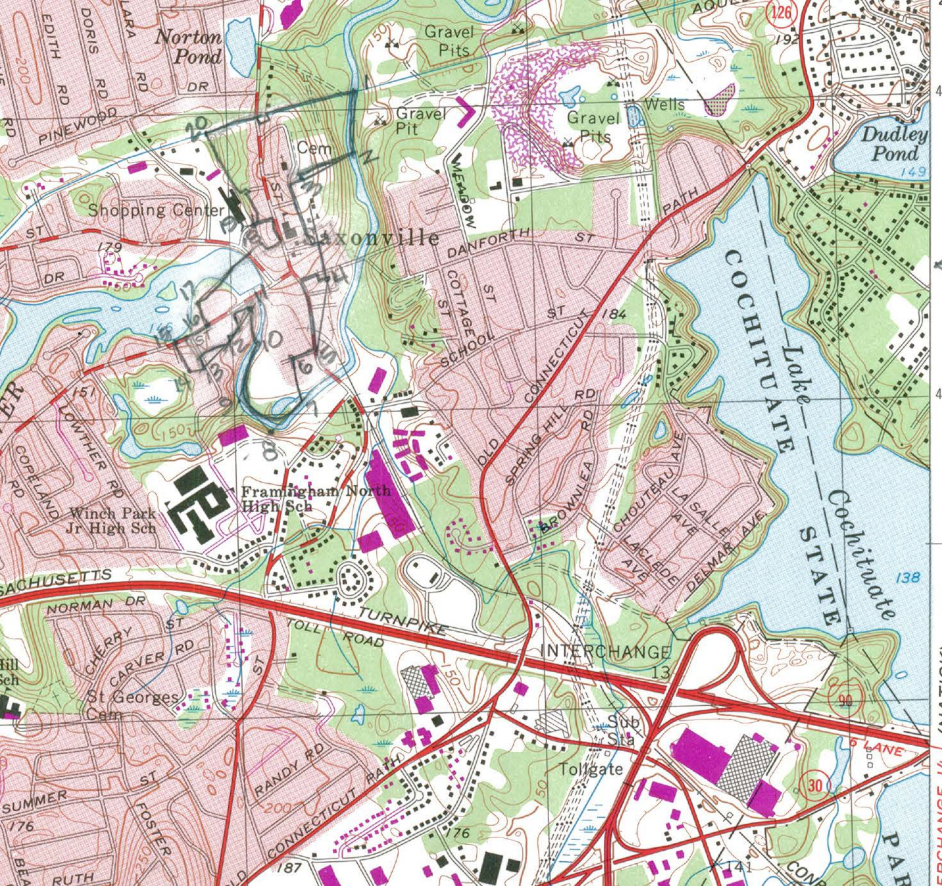

SUDBURY RIVER
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THREAD OF RIVER
WATER STREET
TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
57A
23,500 (.54 ACRES)
RACHEL B. & CAROLYN M. WILKEY
ANTHONY & CATHERINE SPAGNUOLO
ANTHONY & CATHERINE SPAGNUOLO
59A
59
59B
58B
24,379±
SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES INC.
CENTENNIAL
JOHN H. FINLEY JR.
SAXONVILLE REALTY TRUST
57B
126,852± (2.91± ACRES)
#31
10-28
JOHN F. BAER JR. TR. MILLS FALLS REALTY TRUST
21,732
PLACE
#30
CHARLES W. & TRUSTEES SYCAMORE REALTY TRUST
5,466
SARAH E. McCARTHY
ANNA A.C.
7,940
#25
#05
LORETTA J. AUCOIN
6,768
PETER W. BENT
7,186
JOHN A. & MARGARET G. & HELEN F.
6,915
JOHN D. MOORE
7,193
#14
#13
#11
#9
#7
WILLIAM S. & HANNAH BEXFORD
15,800±
DOMENIC E. ROTOLO
15,875±
CENTRAL STREET
PURCHASE STREET
SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA
MAP # 10 OF 11
TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN
SCALE OF FEET
0 40 80 120
SHEET 331 - BLOCK 1
TRACED BY J.O.W. DATE: 11/4/85



SAXONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRAMINGHAM, MA

MAP # 11 OF 11

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
ASSESSORS PLAN
SCALE OF FEET
0 40 80 120
SHEET 340 - BLOCK 3
TRACED BY J.D.W. - 10/31/85



Saxonville
Historic District
Framingham, MA.
Middlesex County

UTM POINTS
1-20



1. Roxbury Carpet / Saxonville Mills: Mills 1 & 3 (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



2. Roxbury Carpet / Saxonville Mills: Mills 1 & 3 (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



3. 1-5 Central Street (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



4. Athenaeum Hall (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



5. Saxonville Fire Station, Watson Place (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



6. Water St. Streetscape (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



7. Central St. Streetscape (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



8. 10-28 Centennial Street (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



9. 23 Johnson Street (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)



10. 71 Elm Street (Photographer: Heli Meltsner, c.1992)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000992 **Date Listed:** 08/20/92

Saxonville Historic District	Middlesex	MA
Property Name	**County**	**State**

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
8r Beth L. Savage	8/20/92

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations

Criteria exeption D does not apply because the significance of the included cemetery is not of a degree to warrant it.

This information was confirmed with Doug Kelleher, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)