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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Oak Lawn Village Historic District

AND/OR COMMON Oaklawn Village

## 2 LOCATION

Concentrated on both sides of Wilbur Avenue from Natick  
Road to Oaklawn Avenue, including adjacent side streets  
(Exchange, Searle, and Wheelock)

CITY, TOWN Cranston VICINITY OF Dist. 2 - Rep. Edward Beard  
STATE Rhode Island 44 CODE COUNTY CODE  
Providence 007

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                 | STATUS  | PRESENT USE   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE          | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH  | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                 | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT                |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS         |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT                   |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL                   |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                     |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                       |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Various

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE  
VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cranston City Hall

STREET & NUMBER Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Cranston Rhode Island 02910

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   | DATE <u>April</u> 1977                            |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oak Lawn Village Historic District comprises some thirty-five buildings clustered along Wilbur Avenue, a narrow country road which curves for half a mile through the meadows bordering the Meshanticut Brook in rural western Cranston. The district follows Wilbur Avenue easterly from its intersection with Natick Road to the railroad bridge at Oaklawn Avenue, broadening approximately in the middle at Wheelock Avenue to include buildings on Searle Avenue and Exchange Street. Lying between the broad outwash plain of east Cranston and the rolling hills of western Cranston, the village is at the topographical and historic cross-roads of the community.

District boundaries were defined to incorporate the earliest village settlement as well as the late Victorian structures erected near the railroad. They include those buildings linked visually along the main thoroughfares of the village.

The eastern boundary of the district is clearly marked by the stone railroad bridge (Sketch Map #1) under which one passes to enter the village and which, together with two small memorial parks, (# 2, #4C) separates the historic district from the commercial buildings and traffic on Oaklawn Avenue, a busy north-south thoroughfare which by-passes the district to its east.

From the western boundary, the district presents a clear contrast to the open fields and woodlands along Natick Road, and reveals a cluster of white houses around the white clapboarded Baptist Church with its picturesque belfry (#22).

Unified by material, scale and set-back, the district is essentially residential, containing but three public buildings and one commercial structure. The district is composed of an amalgam of vernacular building types, which can be differentiated generally as 18th century, rural Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and simplified Shingle Style. The majority of houses are modest, one and a half stories high, faced with either clapboards or shingles, and once had picket fences and elm trees lining the road. Despite the loss of the latter elements, the early 20th century character of the village has been retained because of the lack of encroaching subdivisions and because of the winding character of Wilbur Avenue itself, which presents limited vistas of architecturally unified buildings.

On diagonally opposite corners of Wilbur Avenue and Natick Road, the Thomas Brayton House (c. 1767 #29) and, the Jeremiah Wilbur House, (c. 1810 #18) mark the western boundary of the district. Both are white-painted, clapboard, 1½-story gambrel roofed houses with associated large barns.

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The center of the village is defined by two public buildings, the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church (1879, #22) on the north side of Wilbur Avenue, and the Oak Lawn Public Library (#15), housed in a Greek Revival school-house directly opposite. East of the library are two 20th century houses (#13, 14) -- one story structures set back on a hill and well screened by evergreens -- that do not intrude on the character of the district. Further east, Wilbur Avenue drops sharply and curves slightly to the north to cross the small Meshanticut Brook.

The change in elevation and direction of the road are fortuitous because they hide the primary intrusion in the Oak Lawn Village Historic District -- Interstate 295--which divides the village in half. Construction of the highway destroyed the building housing the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the small gambrel-roofed cottage where the first town meeting was held in 1754. Raised above Wilbur Avenue by unembellished concrete piers, the highway itself is seen as two separate, adjoining roads constituting an open-sided tunnel to be passed under. Though it is clearly an intrusion into the historic district, the highway is actually not visible from within much of the village for Wilbur Avenue bends again in front of the Job and Roby Wilbur House (c. 1840, #11) and an attractive barn and gazebo on the property quickly re-assert the rural early twentieth century character of the historic district.

As Wilbur Avenue turns south-east, Wheelock Avenue begins and runs almost due east. On the north side of Wilbur, just at the start of Wheelock, stands the Edward Searle House (c. 1677, #29). Built initially as a one room gable-roofed stone ender, the house was enlarged before 1720 with the addition of a five-bay 2½-story house with a large brick central chimney and gable roof. Today, the house is painted a cranberry color differentiating it from the Late Victorian and early twentieth century buildings in this part of the district.

The Searle House, the Church, and the library building, together with the Jeremiah Wilbur, Thomas Brayton, and Job Wilbur houses, represent the village as it existed before its evolution as a street-car suburb.

Further east on Wheelock Avenue, where it joins Searle Avenue, is the Oaklawn Grange (1914, #30), a simple one-story shingled structure with a gable roof. Except for one much-altered 1½-story flank-gable

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Greek Revival house (#41), the remainder of the district is filled with Late Victorian and early twentieth century buildings. Those displaying the most craftsmanship are 18 Searle Avenue (1888, #35) and numbers 73 Wilbur (1884, #32) and 83 Wilbur (1888, #3). All are 1½-story cross-gable structures with shingles in the gables and elaborately turned porches. They were built by Henry Pratt, a local carpenter whose workshop is included in the district (#34).

Two small burying grounds, one (#27) associated with the Edward Searle house and another (#23) with the Church, are also included in the district. Only one building (#42) significantly intrudes on the character of the historic district. A two-story brick apartment house with flat roof and two-story wrought iron front porch, it looks like a small motel, and occupies an area equivalent to the four lots bordering on the north. Its design, scale, and set-back -- behind a black top parking lot -- set the apartment building off from the rest of the village. Although the apartments are not especially well screened, the angle of Wilbur Avenue again proves fortunate, because it directs the eye past the apartment building to other visual focal points.

Inventory of Oak Lawn Historic District

1. Railroad bridge -- originally constructed in 1852, the old bridge was so small it was known as the "hole in the wall," and replaced in 1950.
2. World War I Memorial Park, placque dedicated 1924, flagpole 1930. "In honor of all those Oak Lawn boys who served in the Great War II" and, in memory of Preston Towne and Charles E. Jenkins, Jr.
3. House (30 Wilbur Ave.): c. 1900, 2½-story, cross gabled roof; sheathed with modern composition. Known as the Pink Store at the turn of the twentieth century.
4. House (11 Warren Ave.): c. 1899, 1½-story cross-gambrel roofed house, clapboarded.
5. Site of the old Oak Lawn Band Stand.

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7. House (62 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1894, 1½-story cross-gambrel roofed house, clapboarded.
8. House (78 Wilbur Avenue): 1870, 1½-story cross-gable house, clapboarded with gable screen, shingled porch, and saw-tooth molding on lintels and bargeboards.
9. House (88 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1900, 2½-story flank gambrel roofed house, large cross-gable accommodating second and third story windows shingled with stone press supporting roof over first story porch.
11. Roby Wilbur House (108 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1840, a simple Greek Revival structure, the building was raised to its present 2½-stories c. 1910. Presently end gable roof; clapboarded. Outbuildings include large carriage house converted for residence and an attractive gazebo.
12. House (Wilbur Avenue): c. 1900, 1½-story, cross-gable roof, shingled. Home of village lamplighter at the turn of the 20th century.
15. Oak Lawn Public Library (230 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1830, 1-story, end gable roof, clapboarded with corner boards and large returns. Cut in half and moved here ca. 1840, the building served as village school until 1895. Rear addition 1966.
16. House (238 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1897, 2½-stories, roof, first story clapboarded, remainder shingled, unusual terra cotta fireplace, diamond window panes, front porch.
17. House (258 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1894, 2½-stories, shingled, gable front roof supported by shingled bracket, front porch.
18. Jeremiah Wilbur House (191 Natick Road): c. 1810, 1½-story, 5-bay clapboarded house, with a gambrel roof. Pedimented center doorway framed by paired columns and side-lights added early 20th century. 19th century addition -- 1½-story gambrel roofed ell -- at the rear of the original house. A one-story gable roofed milk-house, formerly separate, was added to the house in the early 20th century. Originally, a five-room, central chimney

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plan, the interior is largely altered, the central chimney being removed in the 19th century and replaced by two end chimneys.

A large barn stands to the west. Erected on a high stone foundation, the gable roofed barn is two stories high with vertical sheathing. Dating probably from the mid-nineteenth century, the barn replaced an earlier one, whose foundation was incorporated and expanded. A two bay carriage house, built around the turn of the century, links the barn to a two door early 20th century garage further east.

19. Foundations of Joseph Brayton House, dating from the late 18th century, and nearby barn.
20. Thomas Brayton House (271 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1767, 1½-story, clapboarded, with gambrel roof. Originally of five room central chimney plan, a large cross-gable and the simple front porch on which it rests were added in the late 19th century; the chimney was replaced by two small ones. The property includes a long low shed of pegged construction between the house and an early 20th century shingled cross-gabled barn.
22. The Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church (229 Wilbur Avenue): 1879, simple clapboarded structure three bays deep erected on the site of the old Quaker Meeting House (ca. 1729) which was moved behind it and demolished in 1956 to make way for a cinder block addition. Ornamented with carved wooden lancet arches having broad foot crosses above the windows and the entrance door. The arch motif is continued in the belfry, the most elaborate element of the building.
23. Old Quaker Burying Ground associated with the old Meeting House.
24. Parsonage (215 Wilbur Avenue): 1925, 2½-stories, shingled, with hip roof and front porch.
25. House (2 Brookdale Avenue): c. 1890, 1½-story clapboarded house with end gable roof and enclosed porch.
26. House (127 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1875, 2½-story clapboarded with end-gable roof and two round arched windows in gable, with unusual pendants, Late Victorian door hood, and a picture window.

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27. Burial ground associated with Edward Searle house.
28. House (103 Wilbur Avenue): 1864, 1½-stories, clapboarded, with cross-gabled roof with simple center front porch and a bay window.
29. Edward Searle House (109 Wilbur Avenue): 1677, c. 1720, 2½-stories, clapboarded, pedimented portico (c. 1920). Built originally as a "stone-ender", 1½ stories high, the 5-bay, 2½ story addition was constructed, perhaps in two stages, by c. 1720; it has a five room, central chimney plan. Included in the Historic American Building Survey (R.I. 11)
30. The Oak Lawn Grange (Wheelock Avenue): 1914. 1-story, shingled, five bays deep, simple enclosed, pedimented entrance vestibule.
31. House (83 Wilbur Avenue): 1886, 1½-stories, clapboarded, with shingles and a diamond window in cross gable.
32. House (73 Wilbur Avenue): 1884, 1½-stories, clapboarded with shingling, and a diamond window in the cross gables, and a well turned wrap-around porch terminating in an octagon.
34. Henry Pratt Workshop (5 Turner Avenue): c. 1880. 1-story shingled with broad, tapering high tower.
35. House (18 Searle Avenue): 1888, 1½-stories, clapboarded with imbricated pattern shingling and a diamond window in the cross-gables. The balusters of the front porch match those of the fence enclosing the property, which is extraordinary.
37. House (4 Searle Avenue): 1854, 2½-story, sheathed in modern composition with front porch and second story bay window.
38. Office (5 Exchange Street): 1879, 1-story shingled, with a flat roof and "boom-town" front; originally the village post office.
39. House (Exchange Street): c. 1878, 2½-stories, modern composition. A two-story addition, built in two stages adjoins the original Italianate structure with its gable-end roof and two-story bay window.
40. The Oak Lawn Grange Memorial Park, dedicated 1965.

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41. House (4 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1845, 2½ stories, clapboarded, with two-story ell. Originally Greek Revival style.

Non conforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district.

6. House (50 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1900, 1½-story, shingled, with end-gable roof and front porch.
10. House (96 Wilbur Avenue): 1932, 2-story, shingled, 3-bay "Colonial" with columns flanking the entry.
13. House (200 Wilbur Avenue): c. 1915, 1½ stories, shingled "bungaloid" with hip roof.
14. House (208 Wilbur Avenue): 1957, 1-story "ranch" house with field-stone and shingles on the principal facade, clapboarded on remaining sides.
21. House (239 Wilbur Avenue): 1914, 1-story shingled bungaloid structure with a hip roof and front porch.
33. House (20 Searle Avenue): 1914, 1½-story, shingled, with a gable end roof and 3 bays.
36. House (16 Searle Avenue): 1936, 1½-story "ranch house," sheathed in brick and shingles.
42. Apartment Building (55 Wilbur Avenue): 1966, 2-story, brick, flat-roofed, 2-story wrought iron front porch.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Lawn's significance derives from its status as one of the two early village settlements in the city. Centrally located, it was natural that Cranston's first town meeting was held here in 1754; during the eighteenth century Oak Lawn served as the new town's civic center and in the nineteenth as its social center. Today Oak Lawn Village incorporates excellent examples of 17th, 18th, and 19th century architecture.

Oak Lawn's setting along winding Wilbur Avenue, away from the major thoroughfares of Oaklawn Avenue and Natick Road, its location in a small valley, and its old, skilfully built homes give the village a sense of time and place that sets it off from the rest of the rapidly developing city of Cranston. The village is regarded by Cranston residents as their most historic area west of Pawtuxet. The Searle family, attracted by the rich farm-land surrounding the brook, settled here shortly after the area was acquired by the Meshanticut Purchase of 1662. The Searle House is the best preserved of three stone-enders remaining in Cranston, and was documented by H.A.B.S. in 1936. Its clearly visible developmental stages demonstrate the evolution of the Rhode Island farmhouse from the late 17th century to the early 18th century. The Searle family lived there for generations and Oak Lawn was known as Searle's Corners until 1872.

The old Quaker meeting house (c. 1729), on the site of the present Baptist church, played a key role in the religious and educational life of western Cranston for over 100 years; noted Quaker leader Anna Jenkins was reputed to have spoken there, and the presence of the church reinforced the village's position as civic center of western Cranston.

The former Meshanticut School is the oldest remaining school building in Cranston and serves as a reminder of the era of Proprietors' schools that preceded universal public education. For most of the 19th century, it was the only school in the Meshanticut area of Cranston. The building continues its public and educational role, housing the Oak Lawn Public Library.

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After the Quaker Meeting declined in the mid-nineteenth century, the old meeting house was purchased in 1864 by Lodowick Brayton, a local resident, for \$400. He donated it to the Oak Lawn Benevolent Society. It was to support this new Baptist Congregation that Roby Wilbur, whose house still stands at the bend of Wilbur Avenue, organized the first May Breakfast in America in 1868. The practice of holding a huge public breakfast prepared by members of the congregation to support the church became the social event of the year for most of the town. The tradition has continued to the present, and has been adopted elsewhere across America, but it remains a particularly strong Rhode Island institution.

The new congregation grew and erected the present Baptist Church in 1879. The old Quaker Meeting House was moved behind the new building where it was used in the annual May breakfasts until its demolition in 1956.

The character of Searle's Corners slowly began to change after 1854 when the Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill Railroad was built and a station erected at the edge of the village. Throughout the 1870's the station served as the primary depot for receiving materials used in the construction of the state institutions at nearby Howard, a mile east of the historic district.

Both Job Wilbur and Francis Turner, who had acquired the Searle House and farm in 1849, realized the opportunities for suburban development in the village. They both platted their farms in house lots. One plat was called Locust Glen (1874), and Job Wilbur suggested that the area's name be changed to Oak Lawn, both names reflecting the bucolic image real estate developers were attempting to create. (There are, in fact, very few oak trees in the village).

A local newspaper ran the following advertisement in May, 1873:

"The Oak Lawn plat is now ready. Oak Lawn in Cranston is located on the Hartford Rail Road, ten to eighteen minutes ride from the city depot. The ... site is one of the finest ever offered for sale around Providence. It can be reached quickly by steam cars and the communication or quarterly fares for residents are very low, being about the same as horse car fares. .... The need for such a site for suburban residences, easy of access, somewhat similar to Hyde

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Park near Boston, has long been felt by the citizens of Providence, and an opportunity to secure lots in such a place from first hands on easy terms is now offered"....

Numbers 73, 83, 103, and 127 Wilbur Avenue (#32, 31, 28, and 26 on the sketch map), as well as 18 Searle Avenue (#35 on the sketch map), and the buildings on Exchange Street were all built on the Oak Lawn Plat.

By the 1950's the state highway department and the Providence newspapers had contracted Oak Lawn to one word.

The grouping of the former post office (#38) and store (#3) near the site of the old railroad station (#43, now demolished) reflects the suburban character of the village at the turn of the century. Similarly, the houses at 18 Searle (#35) and 73 (#32), 78 (#8), and 83 (#31) Wilbur Avenue reveal the excellent craftsmanship of local carpenters. Numbers 62 and 68 Wilbur Avenue add to the picture and together with #238 and #258 Wilbur Avenue present a microcosm of suburban building trends at the close of the nineteenth century.

The Oak Lawn Grange was organized in 1909 and its building erected in 1914. It served as the social center for the village until the era of the super-highway. One of two granges remaining in Cranston, the Oak Lawn Grange was originally concerned primarily with agriculture, and though only one of the present members is a farmer, the building is still frequently used for social events and remains a striking visual reminder of the city's agrarian origins.

Thus, the Oak Lawn Village Historic District incorporates the historic, civic and social center of 18th and 19th century Cranston at the same time its boundaries, from the barn on the west to the railroad on the east, reflect the evolution of the village from rural center to early suburb.

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Brayton, Gladys W., "Curator's Corner," Cranston Historical Society  
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Oaklawn Baptist Church, May Day -- A souvenir issued by the Ladies  
Union Society of Oak Lawn, R. I. on the Anniversary of their  
25th May Breakfast. Providence, R. I., 1892.

Simister, Florence, Streets of the City, 1964-65 Vol 13, pp 72-3.

Steele, Duane, "That's More Than A Word," Providence Journal-Bulletin,  
undated article.

Stone, Wilfred E., "Peace Breaks Out As Cranston pens A New City  
Hall", Providence Sunday Journal, May 2, 1937.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bayles, Richard, History of Providence County. New York: W. W. Preston and Co., 1891, pp 746-785.

Brayton, Gladys W., "The Cranston Story," Rhode Island Yearbook, 1959, pp. 55-67.

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# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E 19 292880 4624930

|   |      |         |       |          |     |       |
|---|------|---------|-------|----------|-----|-------|
| A | 1,9  | 2,9,3   | 0,7,0 | 4,6      | 2,5 | 0,7,0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |       | NORTHING |     |       |
| c | 1,9  | 2,9,3   | 8,2,0 | 4,6      | 2,4 | 3,8,0 |

|   |      |         |       |          |     |       |
|---|------|---------|-------|----------|-----|-------|
| B | 1,9  | 2,9,3   | 7,8,0 | 4,6      | 2,4 | 5,6,0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |       | NORTHING |     |       |
| D | 1,9  | 2,9,3   | 7,1,0 | 4,6      | 2,4 | 3,0,0 |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Oak Lawn Village Historic District include the railroad bridge at Oaklawn Avenue and follow the rear property lines of all those lots fronting on Exchange Street, Wheelock Avenue, and Wilbur Avenue from the railroad bridge up to and including the intersection of Wilbur Avenue and Natick Road.

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## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Freeman, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

R.I. Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

April 27, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Robert E. Freeman*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 3, 1977

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

|                  |
|------------------|
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| RECEIVED         |
| DATE ENTERED     |

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM








CONTINUATION SHEET 10 ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

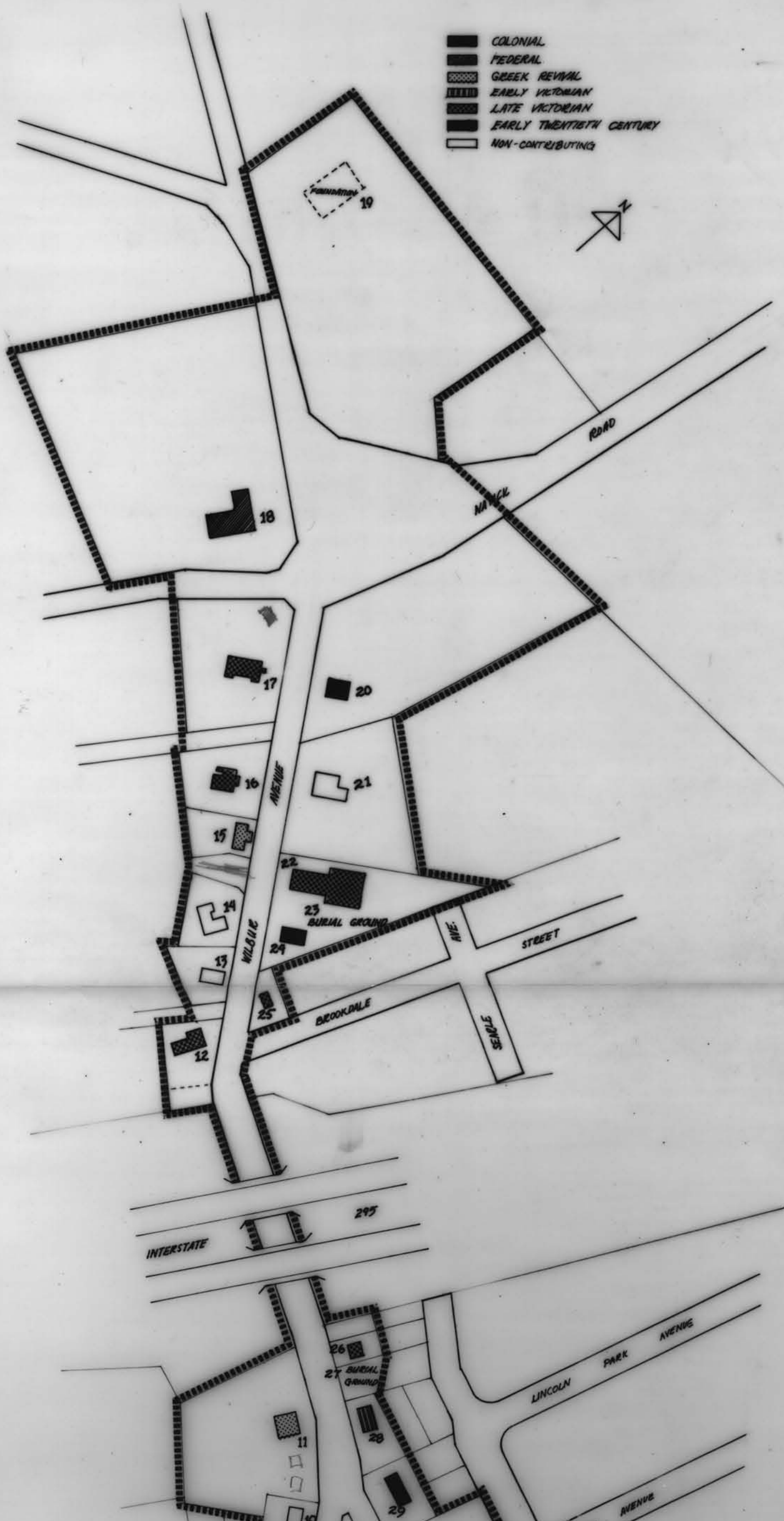
The property lines of those lots on the south side of Searle Avenue form the district's northern boundary, which extends across Searle Avenue to include lot 481. In the case of lot 311, the northern boundary of the district bisects the lot to form a line continuous with the rear property line of lots 313 and 309.

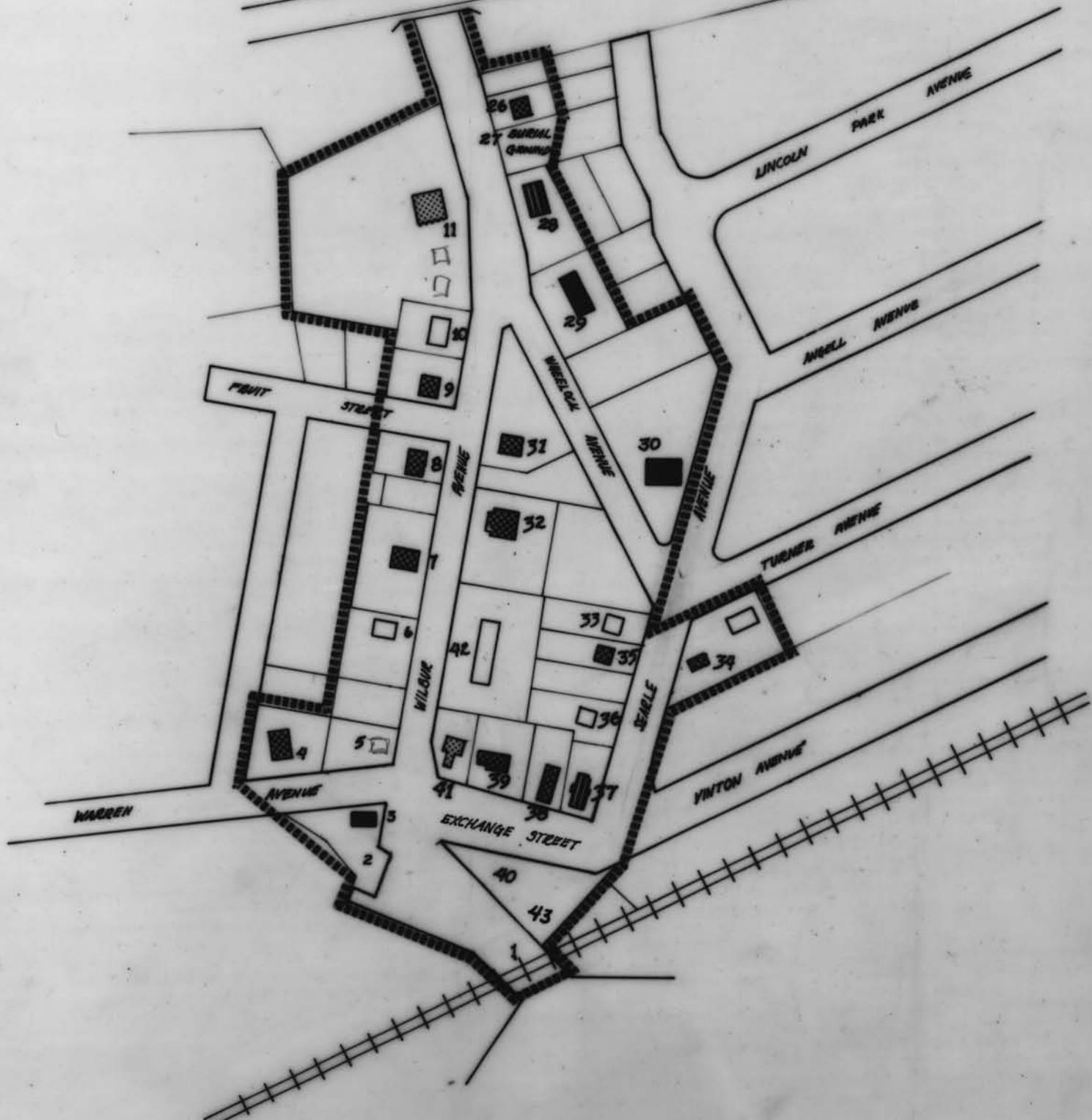
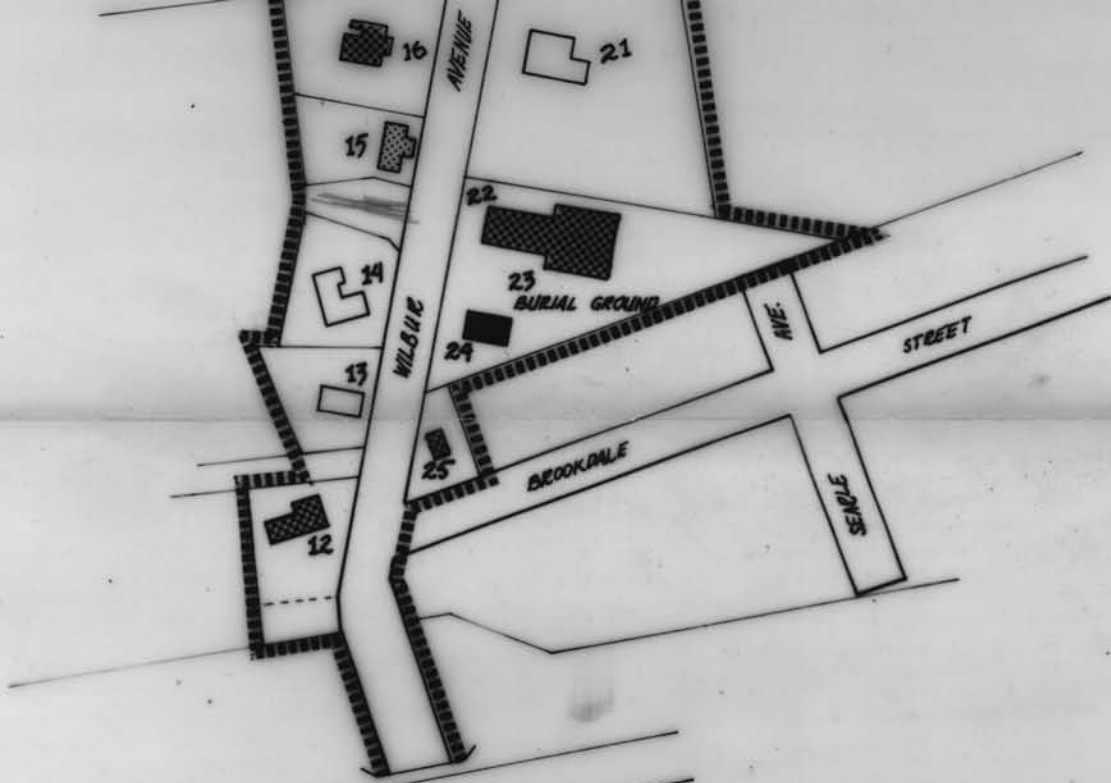
The northern boundary of the historic district continues across Natick Road to include the southern property line of lot 34, and continues to the northwest corner of lot 34. The district boundary forms a line from that corner to a point 500 feet north of the junction of Wilbur Avenue and Conley's Avenue. The western boundary of the district proceeds southerly from that point to cross Wilbur Avenue and follows the property line of lot 17. The district's southern boundary begins at the southwest corner of lot 17 and crosses Natick Road, continuing along the southern property line of every lot bordering Wilbur Avenue, and proceeding southerly at the western property line of lot 821 to incorporate that lot. The district boundary continues across Warren Avenue and along the southern property line of lot 795, following Wilbur Avenue back to the railroad bridge.

OAKLAWN VILLAGE  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

NOT TO SCALE

-  COLONIAL
-  FEDERAL
-  GREEK REVIVAL
-  EARLY VICTORIAN
-  LATE VICTORIAN
-  EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING









BARN OF THOMAS BRAYTON HOUSE,  
OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      February, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the west looking east along Wilbur Avenue,  
with Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church at mid-point



ROBY WILBUR HOUSE, ROUTE 295, 127 WILBUR AVENUE,  
SEARLE FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      February, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
View from intersection of Wilbur and Wheelock Avenues

#2



Numbers 78 and 88 Wilbur Avenue

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman

April, 1977

View from the northeast

47



JEREMIAH WILBUR HOUSE AND BARN

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      April, 1977

View from South

#4





THOMAS BRAYTON HOUSE

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      February, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from south

# 5



OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

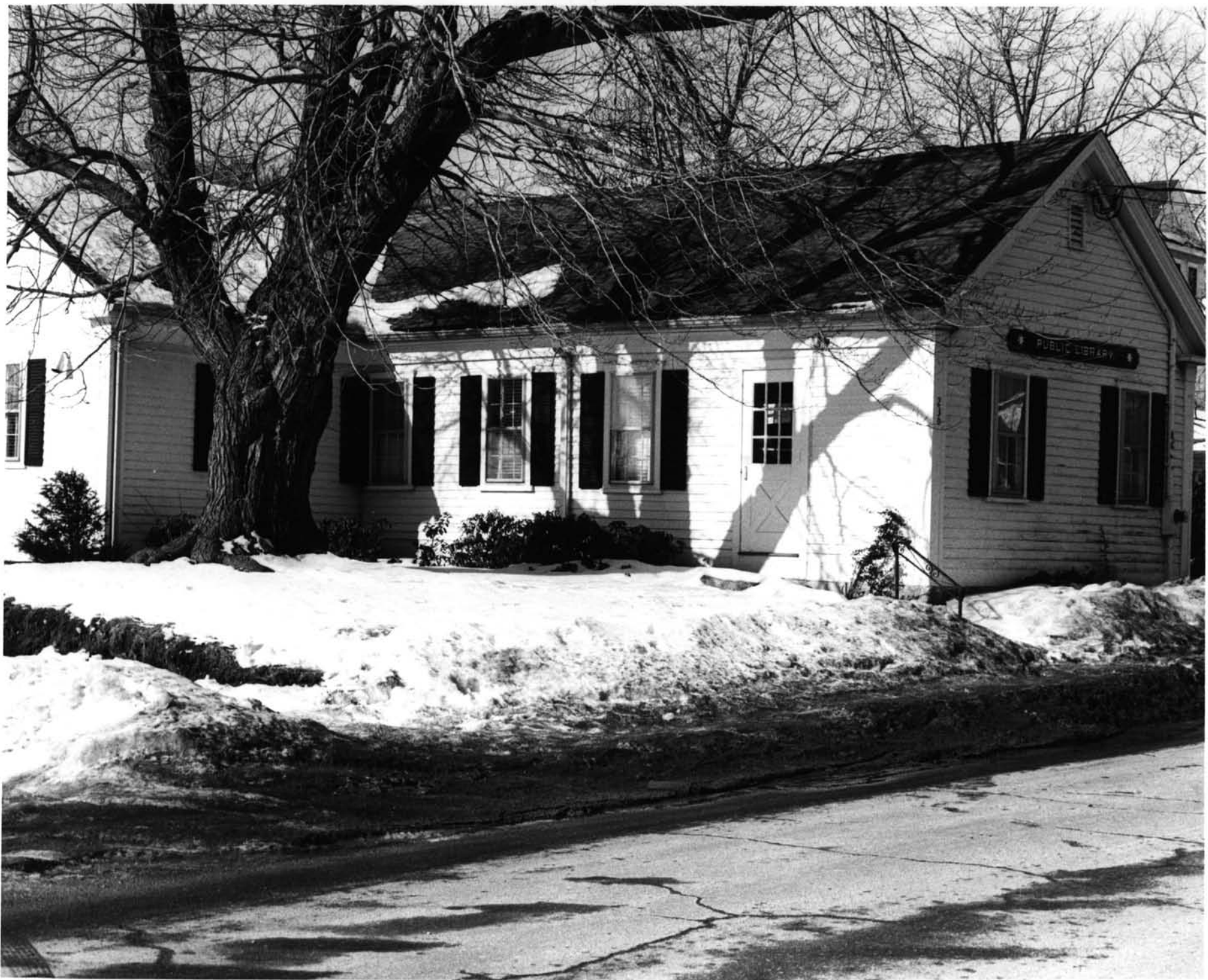
Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the southwest

#6

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EDWARD SEARLE HOUSE

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman

April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from Southeast

#8





EDWARD SEARLE HOUSE

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      February, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the southwest

#9



OAK LAWN GRANGE  
P. H. N. 42

OAK LAWN GRANGE

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      February, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the south

#10



18 SEARLE AVENUE

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman      October, 1976

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the north

#11



HENRY PRATT WORKSHOP

OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Photographer: Robert E. Freeman April, 1977

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the southwest

#12





OAK LAWN VILLAGE SCHOOL, OAK LAWN COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH

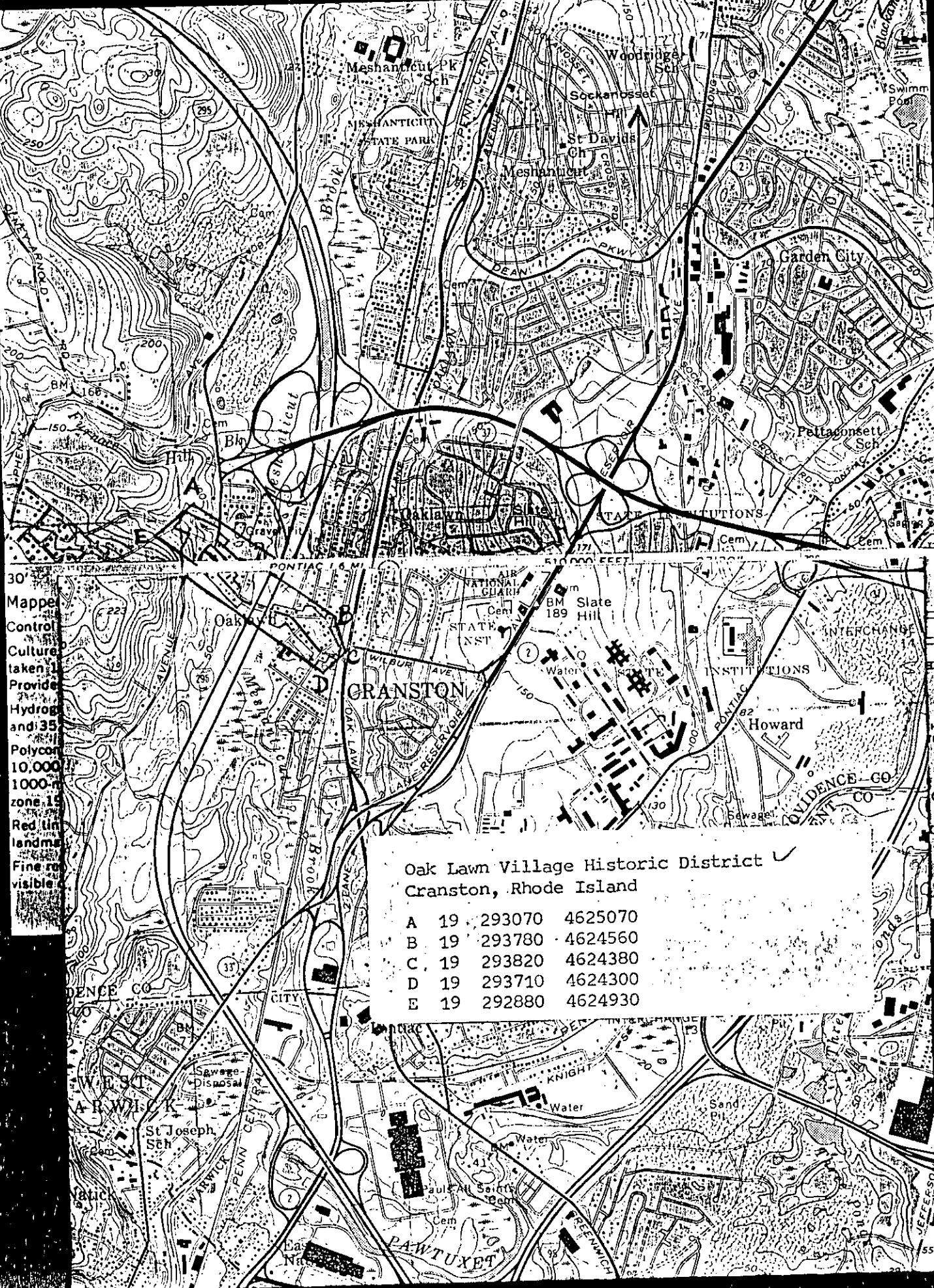
OAK LAWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Old Photo (before 1893) from Gladys Brayton  
Collection

Negative: Rhode Island Historical Preservation  
Commission

View from the south

#13



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and 35  
Polycon  
10,000  
1000-m  
zone 19  
Red tin  
landma  
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visible

Oak Lawn Village Historic District  
Cranston, Rhode Island

|   |    |        |         |
|---|----|--------|---------|
| A | 19 | 293070 | 4625070 |
| B | 19 | 293780 | 4624560 |
| C | 19 | 293820 | 4624380 |
| D | 19 | 293710 | 4624300 |
| E | 19 | 292880 | 4624930 |