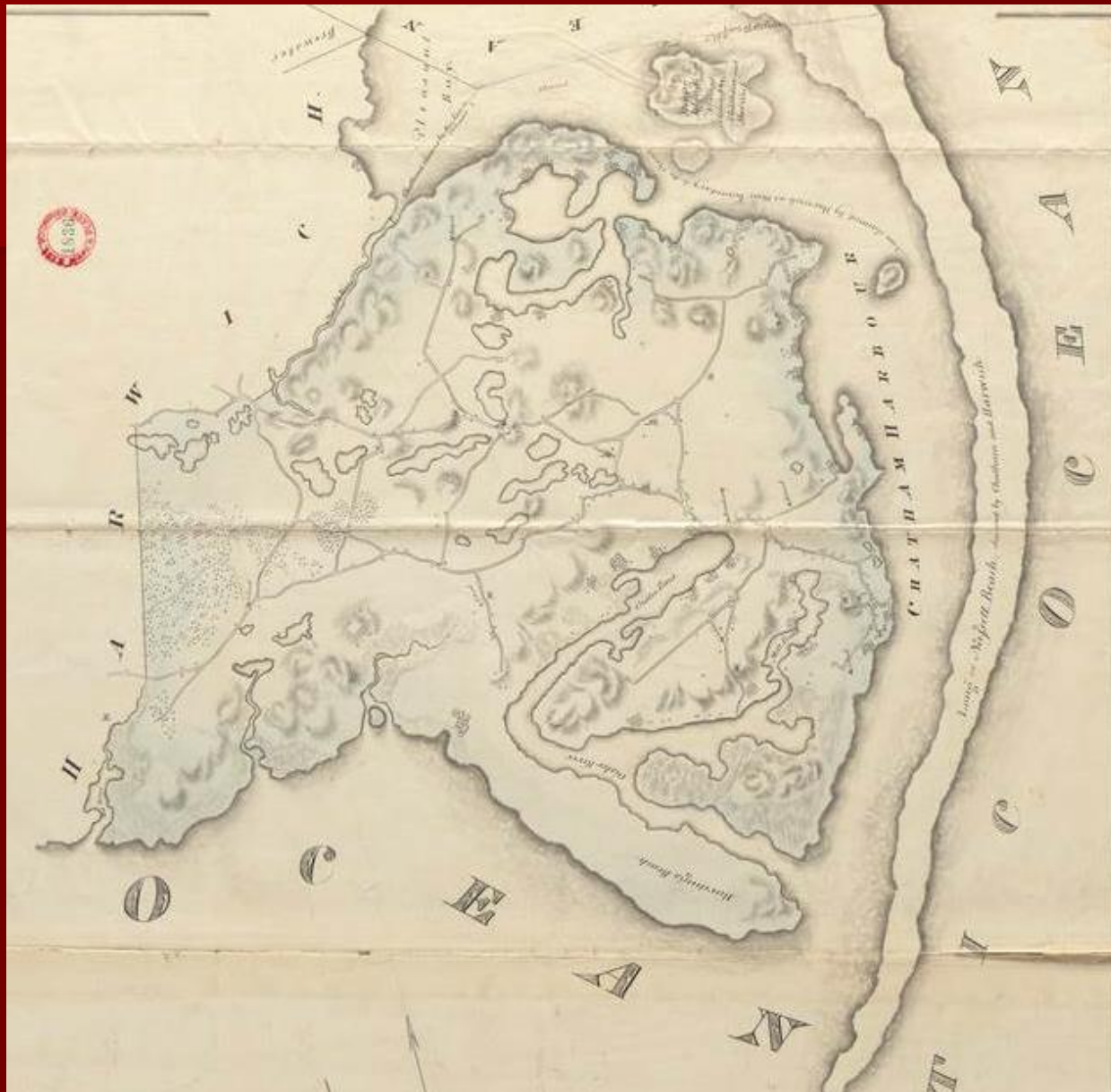


The History and Architecture of South Chatham

Chatham's newest National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District



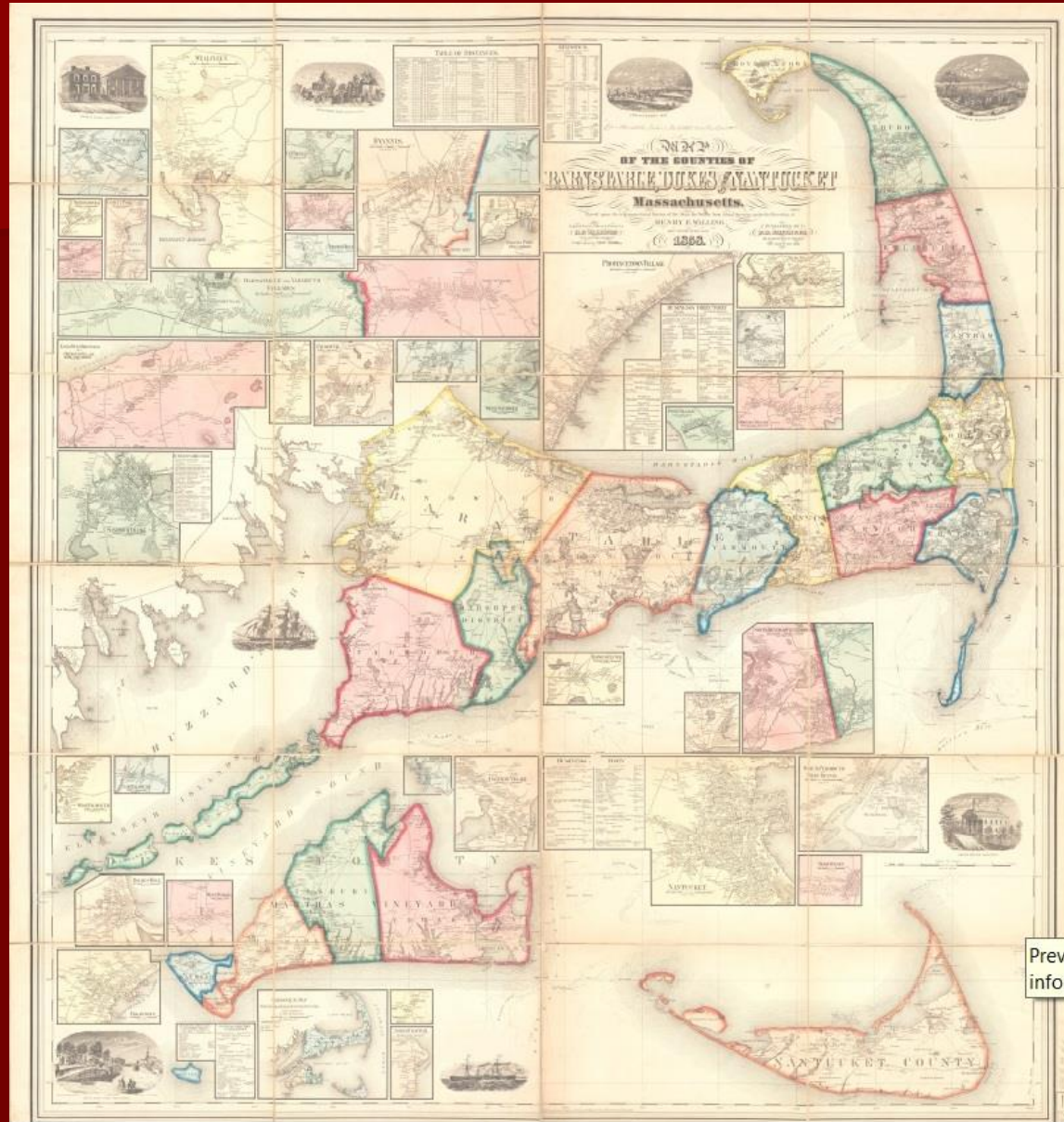
1831 Hales Map of Chatham

South Chatham Village - National Register District



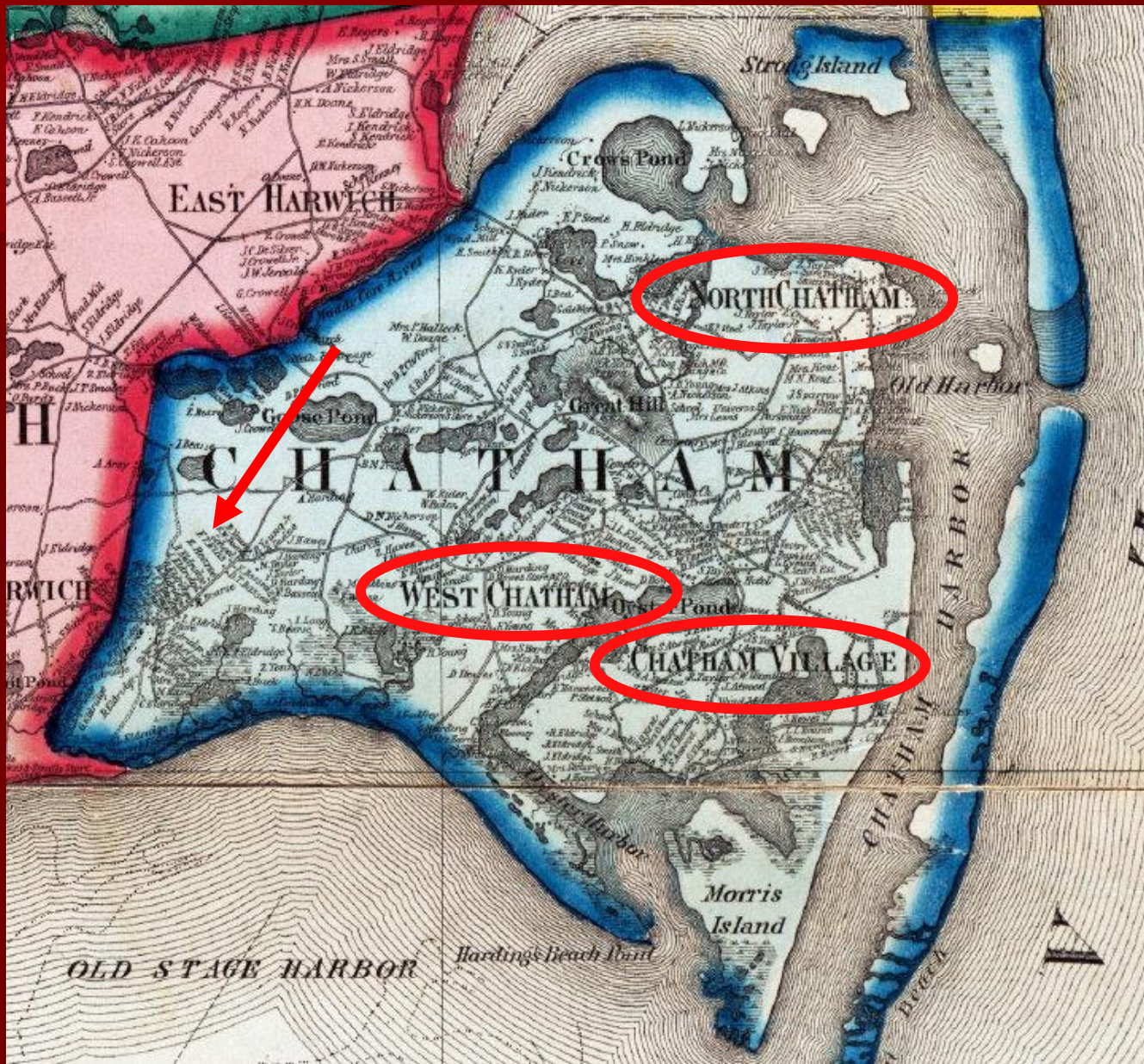
1831 Hales Map of Chatham

South Chatham Village - National Register District



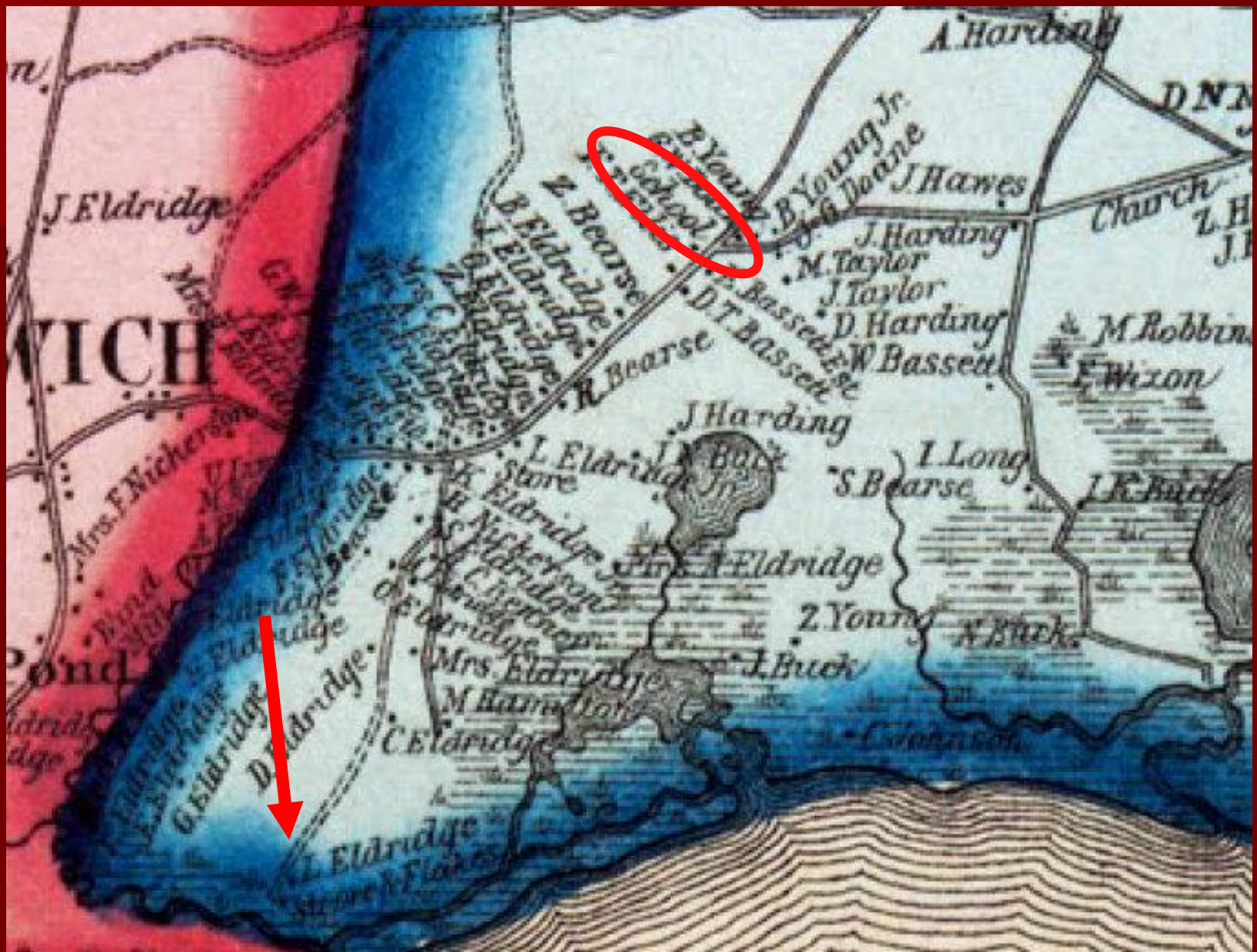
1858 Map of Cape Cod

South Chatham Village - National Register District

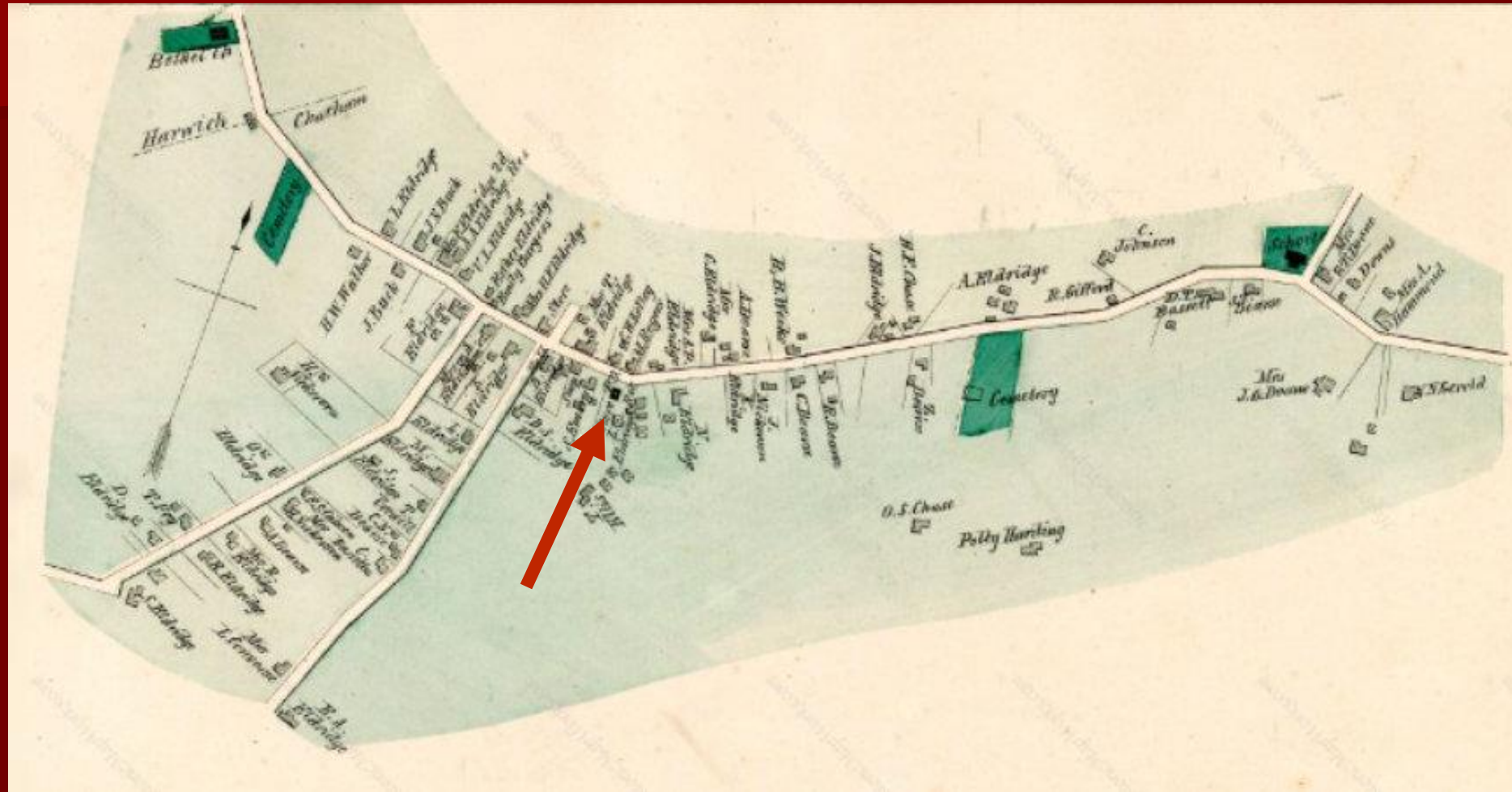


1858 Map of Cape Cod

South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District




1880 Barnstable County Atlas, South Chatham

South Chatham Village - National Register District

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



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

UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____
SCALE _____

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: Inventory form
Town file(s)/comp(s)
Matrix
NR district _____

Community: Chatham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: Apr 21, 2017 Date Reviewed: 5/31/17; 7/19/17

Type: ☐ Individual ☒ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: South Chatham HD Inventory Form: CHA.O

Address: Main Street (Rte 28) from Harwich border to Cockle Cove Road

Requested by: Eric Dray, with LHC

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ JTC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES **DISTRICTS**

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

CRITERIA: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Phil Bergen/Betsy Friedberg

An early settlement in Chatham, South Chatham follows Route 28 from the Harwich border towards Chatham Center approximately one mile. It was originally recommended as eligible in 1991 by consultant Candy Jenkins, and was reevaluated based upon 2017 updating by Eric Dray.

Primarily a residential area, the district includes Bethel Cemetery at the Harwich town line and the former South Chatham School (1860). District contains approximately 100 buildings, about 3:1 contributing/noncontributing with an emphasis on traditional Cape Cod cottages and Greek Revival-style front gable houses, as well as some examples of Italianate and Queen Anne styles. South Chatham dates to the 1700s and was originally a maritime and farming community. The district extends east from the abovementioned cemetery and Pleasant Street, east as far as Cockle Cove Road. South of Main Street, the district also includes properties on Pleasant Street, Forest Beach Road, and Cockle Cove Road.

A site visit with LHC chair, consultant, and town planning dept. on July 19, 2017 confirmed the eligibility of the proposed area as a well-preserved linear district, largely residential, with some contributing commercial properties, two cemeteries, and the former South Chatham School.

essor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

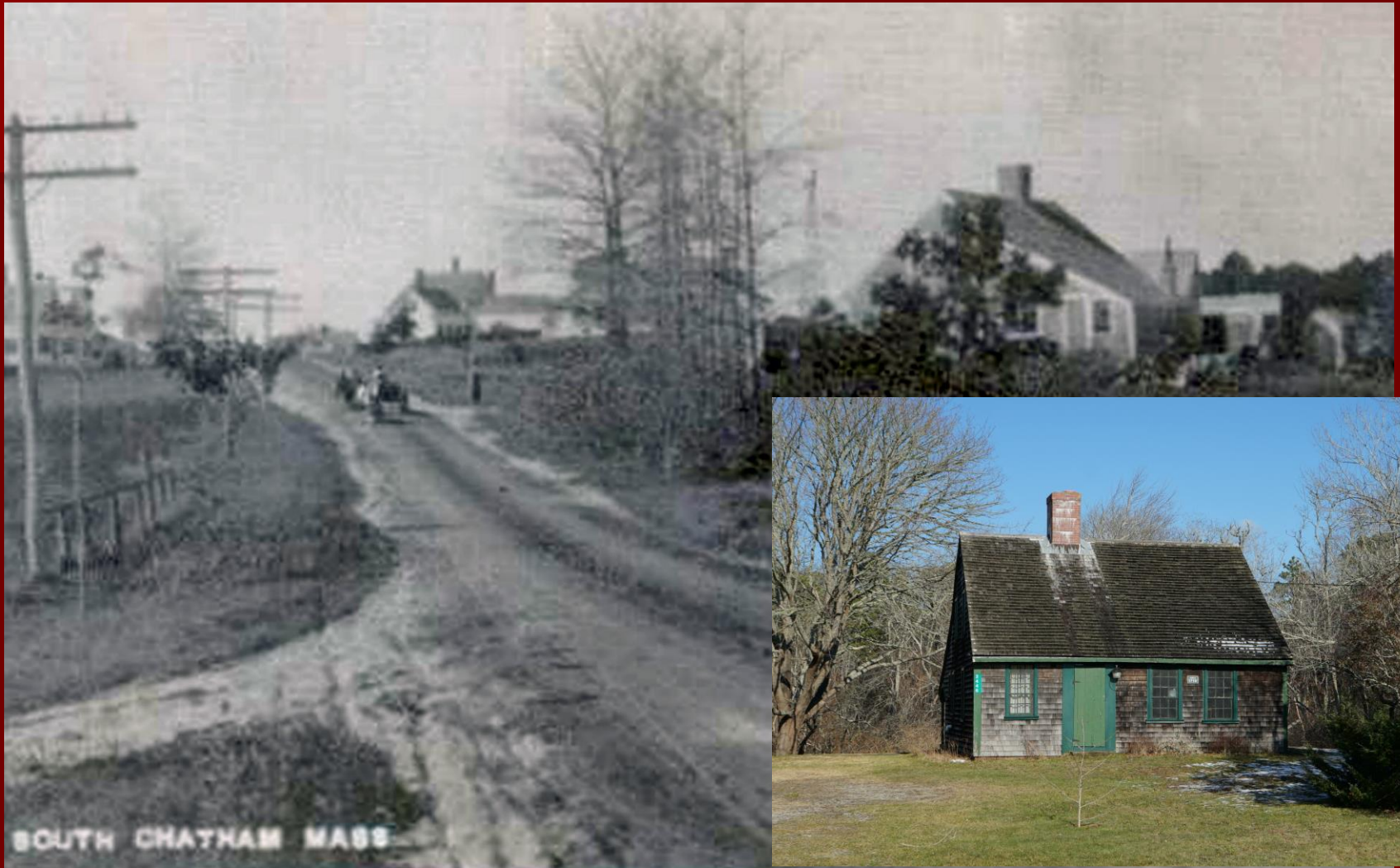
Chatham	CHA.O	CHA.477-514, 801, 1115- 1177, 1418, 1432, 1656- 1688
---------	-------	--

City: Chatham
ce (neighborhood or village): South Chatham
ne of Area: South Chatham
ent Use: Residential, commercial, institutional
struction Dates or Period: ca. 1735-1964
erall Condition: Good

or Intrusions and Alterations:
e
eager: 73 acres
orded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant
ganization: Chatham Historical Commission
e (month/year): April 2017

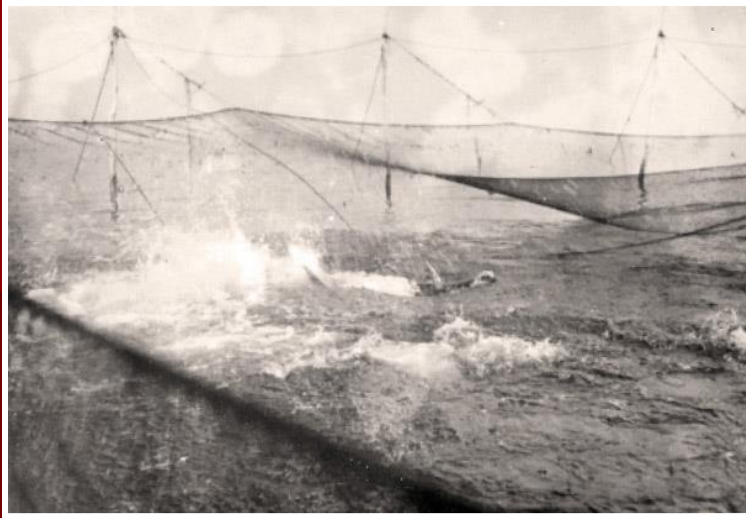


South Chatham Village - National Register District



Looking west: (r-l) 2446, 2484, 2504 Main Street (undated view).

South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District



Forest Beach Road, looking south - (l-r) 25, 47, 78, 46, 32 (undated view).

South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham RR Station, Main Street/
Rt. 137, looking west (undated view).



Ca. 1924 Nellie Sherman House - 2512 Main St,
Ca. 1850 Joshua Eldridge House - 2504 Main St



Bethel Church and Main Street (undated view).

South Chatham Village - National Register District



Ca. 1850 Levi Eldridge, Jr. House,
2597 Main Street

Ca. 1850 Eldridge-Harding House,
2661 Main Street



South Chatham Village - National Register District

Criterion C - Architecture



Ca. 1740 Three-quarter Cape
2446 Main Street



Three 19th c. Half Capes – (r-l) 2654, 2666, 2674 Main Street.

South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District



1854 Bang-Eldridge House
2621 Main St – Italianate style



1872 Mercelia Eldridge Kelley House
2610 Main St – Italianate style



Mid-19th c., Samuel Eldridge House
32 Forest Beach Rd – Gothic Revival style



Ca. 1895 Capt. Barzillai Eldridge House
2629 Main St – Queen Anne style

South Chatham Village - National Register District



Ca. 1921 William Smith House
54 Forest Beach Rd – Craftsman Bungalow

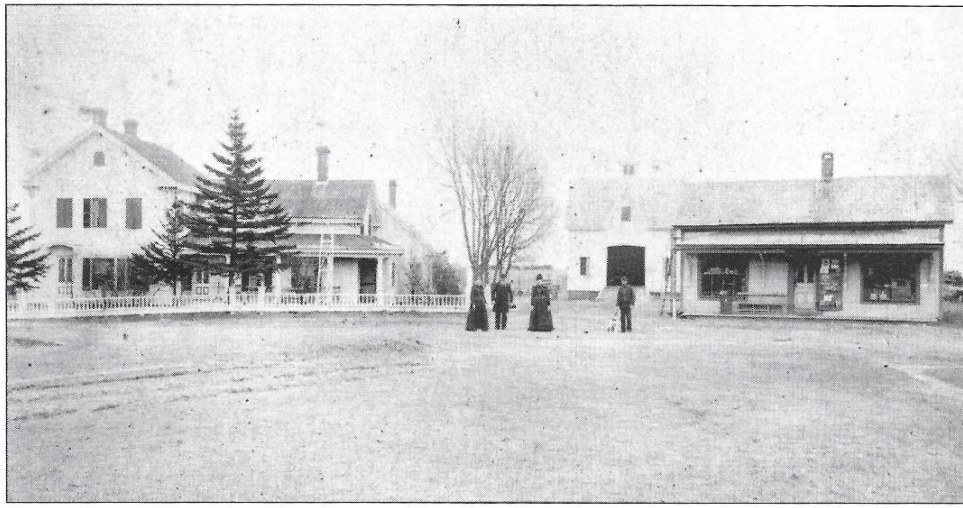


Ca. 1922 James Young House
40 Pleasant St - Bungalow



1964 Henry Grattan Gill, Sr. House, 24 Deep Water Lane – Mid-century Modern

South Chatham Village - National Register District



1839 Eldridge General Store, 2607 Main St – Victorian Eclectic



Ca. 1850 Freeman Eldridge Barn (converted)
14 Pleasant St – English barn, no style



Ca. 1840 Levi W. Eldridge Barn (converted)
2724 Main St – Gothic Revival-style English barn

South Chatham Village - National Register District



1905 South Chatham School
2334 Main Street - Queen Anne style



1905 South Chatham Bethel Church, 1934 S. Chatham Library
2555-2567 Main St – Gothic/Colonial Revival styles



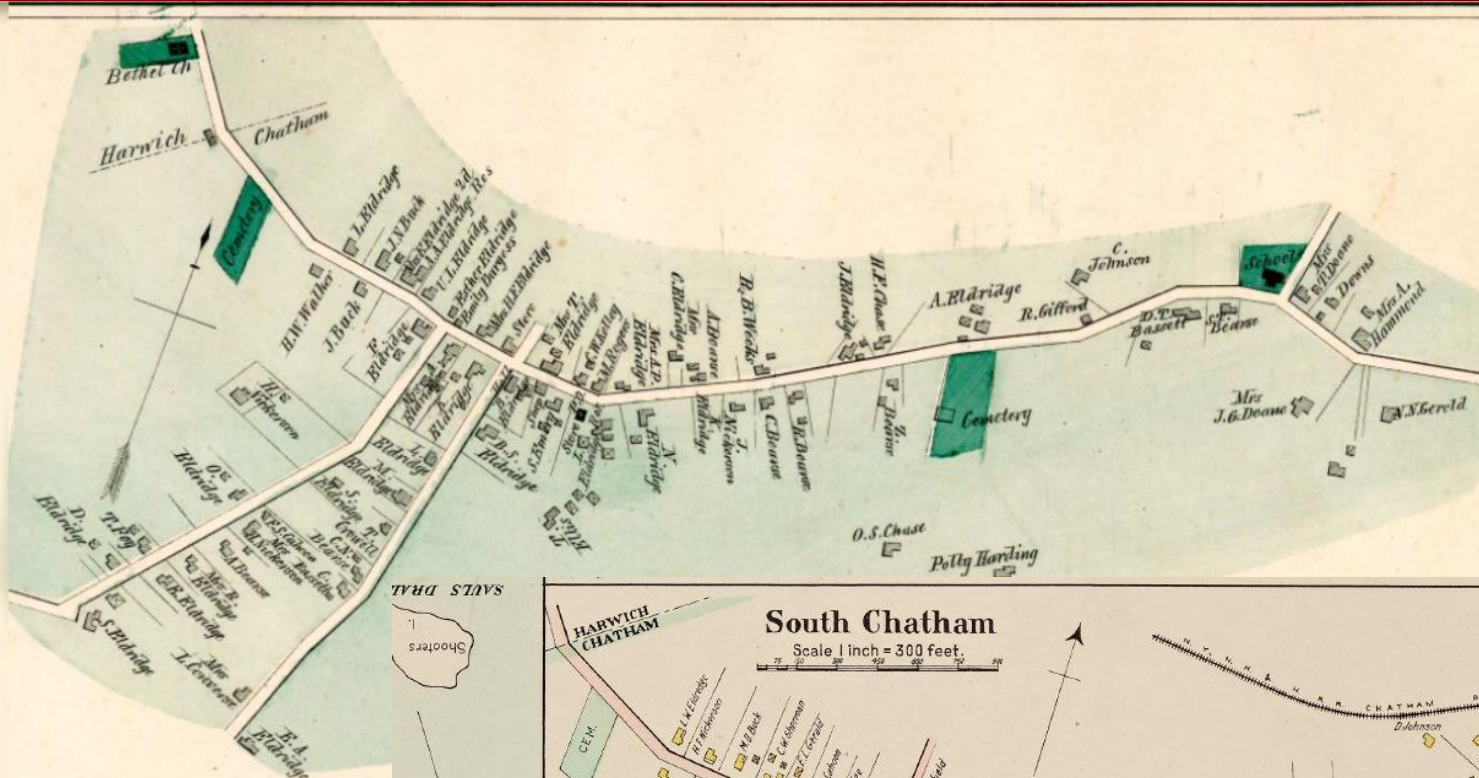
Ca. 1934 Chatham Fire Station 2
2470 Main Street – Colonial Revival style



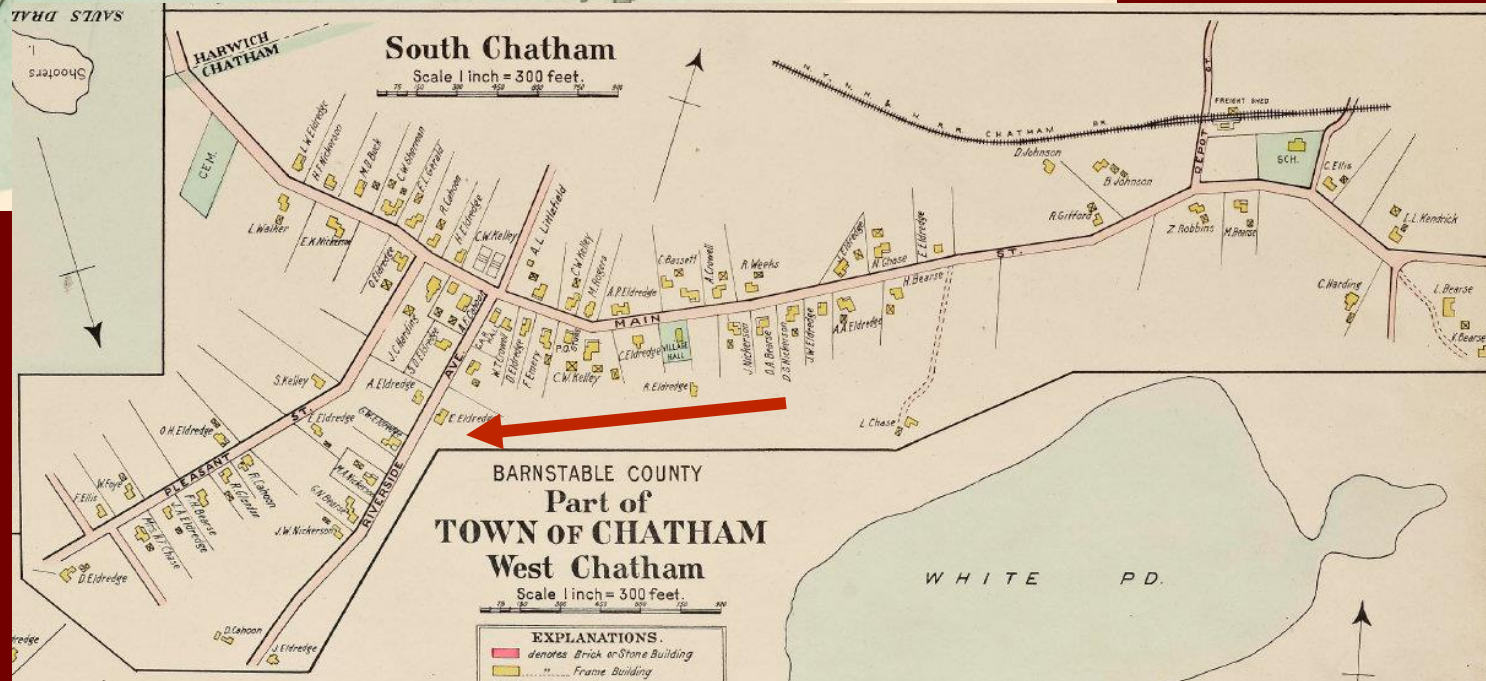
Bethel Cemetery (d. 1834)

South Chatham Village - National Register District

1880



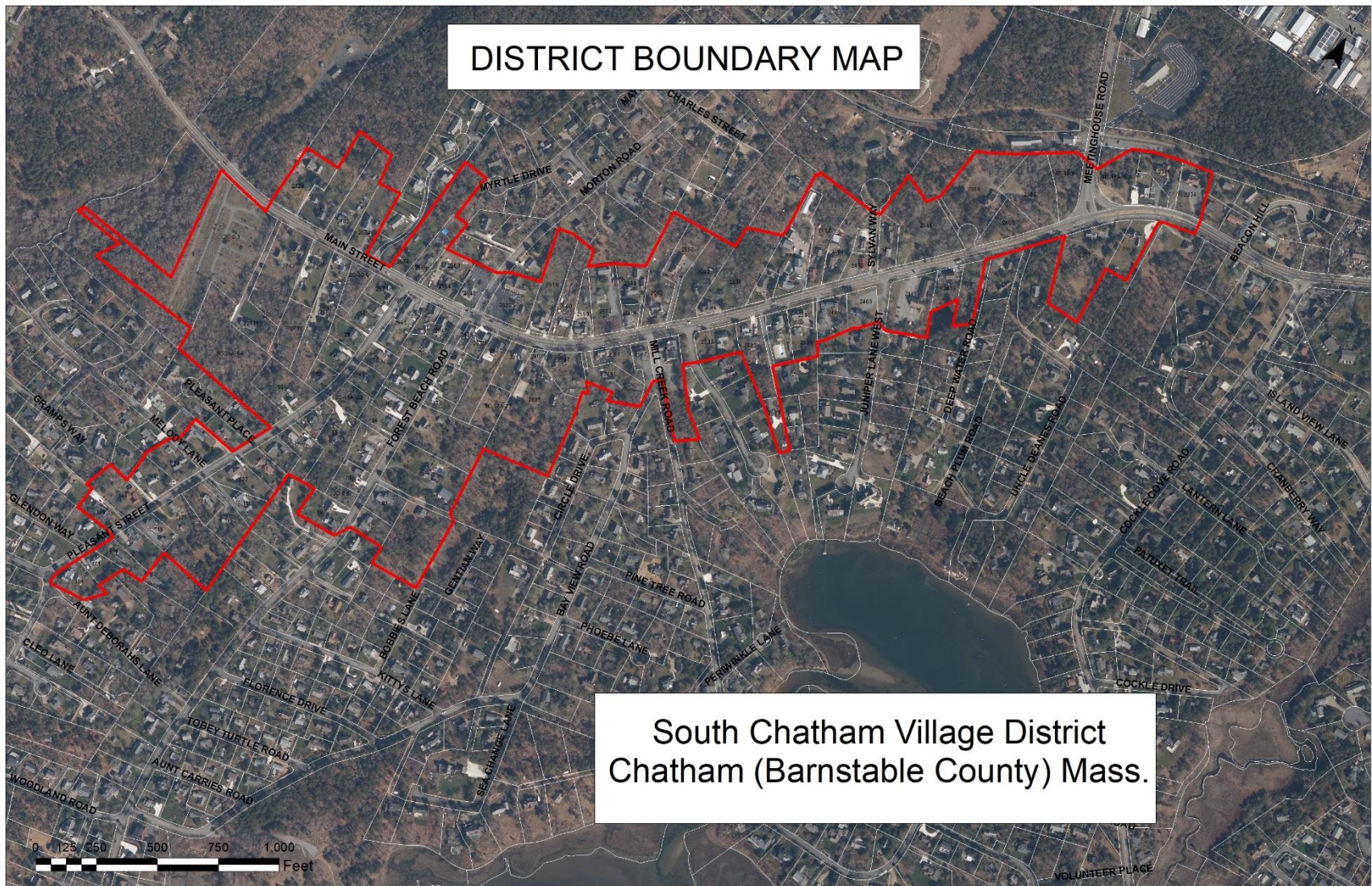
1910



South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018

South Chatham Village Historic District
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

South Chatham Village - National Register District

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South Chatham Village Historic District
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Maritime History
Entertainment/Recreation
Architecture

Period of Significance

1735 - 1971

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

South Chatham Village - National Register District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018

South Chatham Village Historic District
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>117</u>	<u>31</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>121</u>	<u>31</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (2610 Main Street)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling, hotel
RELIGION/ religious facility
COMMERCE/ store
EDUCATION/ school
SOCIAL/ meeting hall
FUNERARY/ cemetery
AGRICULTURE/ outbuildings
FUNERARY/ cemetery
EDUCATION/ school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ village, hotel
RELIGION/ religious facility
COMMERCE/ store, restaurant
SOCIAL/ meeting hall
FUNERARY/ cemetery
AGRICULTURE/ outbuildings

Pre-1800:	5
1800s:	55
1900-1945:	26
1945-1971:	19

South Chatham Village - National Register District

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National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
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South Chatham Village Historic District
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

South Chatham Village Historic District (the District") meets National Register Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Maritime History and Entertainment/Recreation. Maritime activity in Chatham grew steadily from the mid-18th to the late-19th century. The majority of South Chatham's working men were connected to the sea, and many of the contributing resources within the District were built by and/or are associated with South Chatham families who worked in the maritime industry. The decline of maritime activity, and the arrival of the railroad in 1887, including a station in South Chatham, ushered in a new resort economy for Chatham. Within the District, the transition from a maritime to a resort economy was manifested with the construction of modest bungalows and cottages, and the adaptive reuse of a few dwellings along Main Street for restaurants or inns. The District also meets National Register Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture. The District is characterized by a tightly knit mix of primarily residential buildings, along with a few commercial and institutional buildings, dating from 1735 to the mid-20th century. Notable contributing resources include the oldest purpose-built commercial building in Chatham, an unusually high proportion of the half Capes in Chatham, an elegant Greek Revival-style house with a door surround unique in Chatham, the only example in Chatham of a full Cape designed in the Italianate style, the only Colonial Revival-style institutional buildings in Chatham, and the only architect-designed, Mid-Century Modern dwelling in Chatham. The period of significance is from 1735, the date of the oldest documented house in the District, to 1971.

South Chatham Village Historic District retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A - Maritime History

South Chatham Village Historic District meets National Register Criterion A at the local level in the area of Maritime History. Maritime activity in Chatham grew steadily from the mid-18th to the late-19th century. The majority of South Chatham's working men were connected to the sea. Village leader Levi Eldridge, Sr. was the first to commercially exploit the fish weirs in Nantucket Sound, and many of the contributing resources within the South Chatham Village District were built by and/or are associated with extended families who worked in the maritime industry.

South Chatham Village - National Register District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018

South Chatham Village Historic District
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State



Figure 8. Undated view of Levi Eldridge, Jr. property; (l-r) 2597 Main Street, 2605 Main Street (barn, converted to house ca. 1925), 2607 Main Street (Courtesy: Chatham Historical Society).



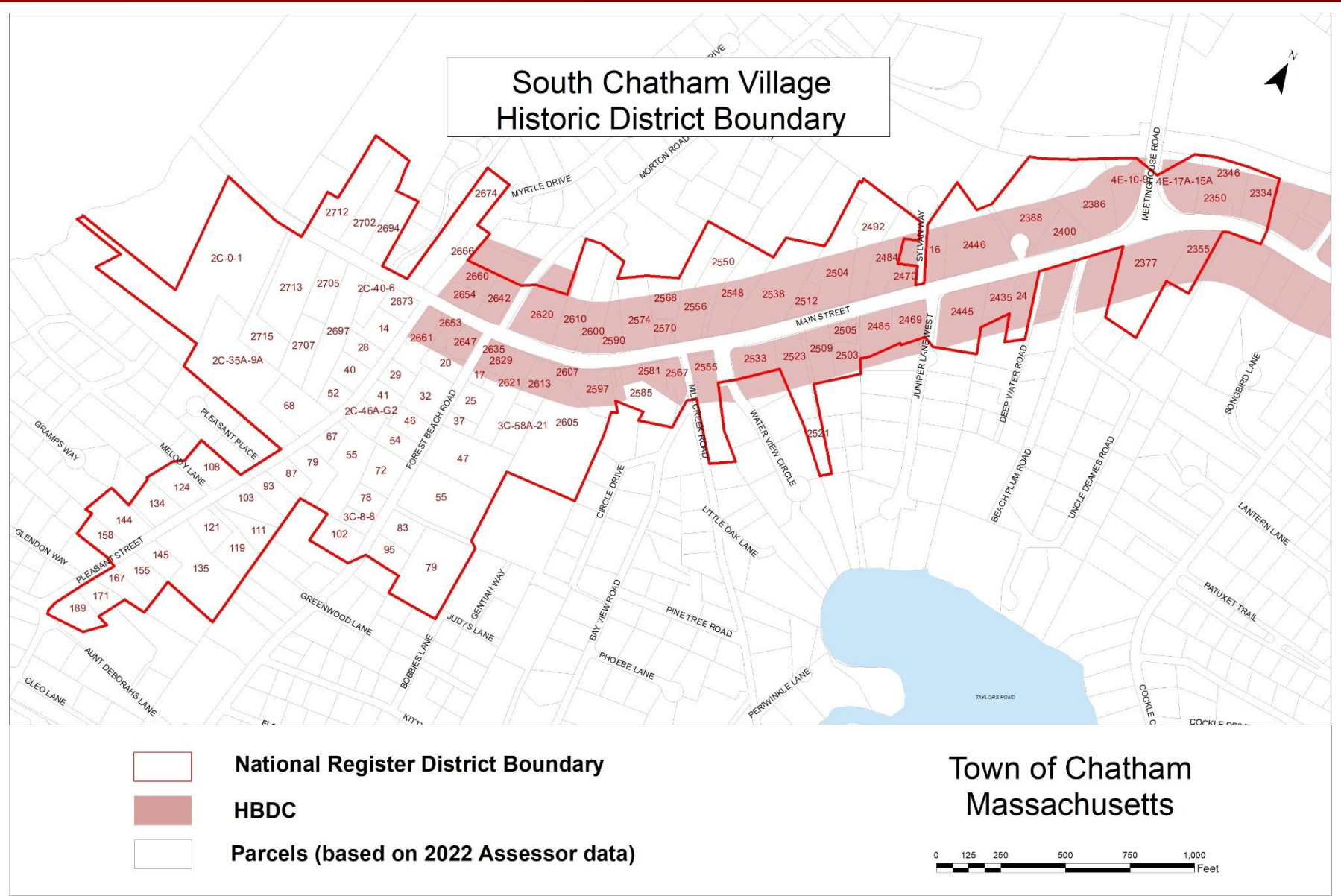
Figure 9. Undated view of Cahoon & Eldridge Dry Goods & Groceries, 2653 Main Street, looking south (Courtesy: Chatham Historical Society).

South Chatham Village - National Register District

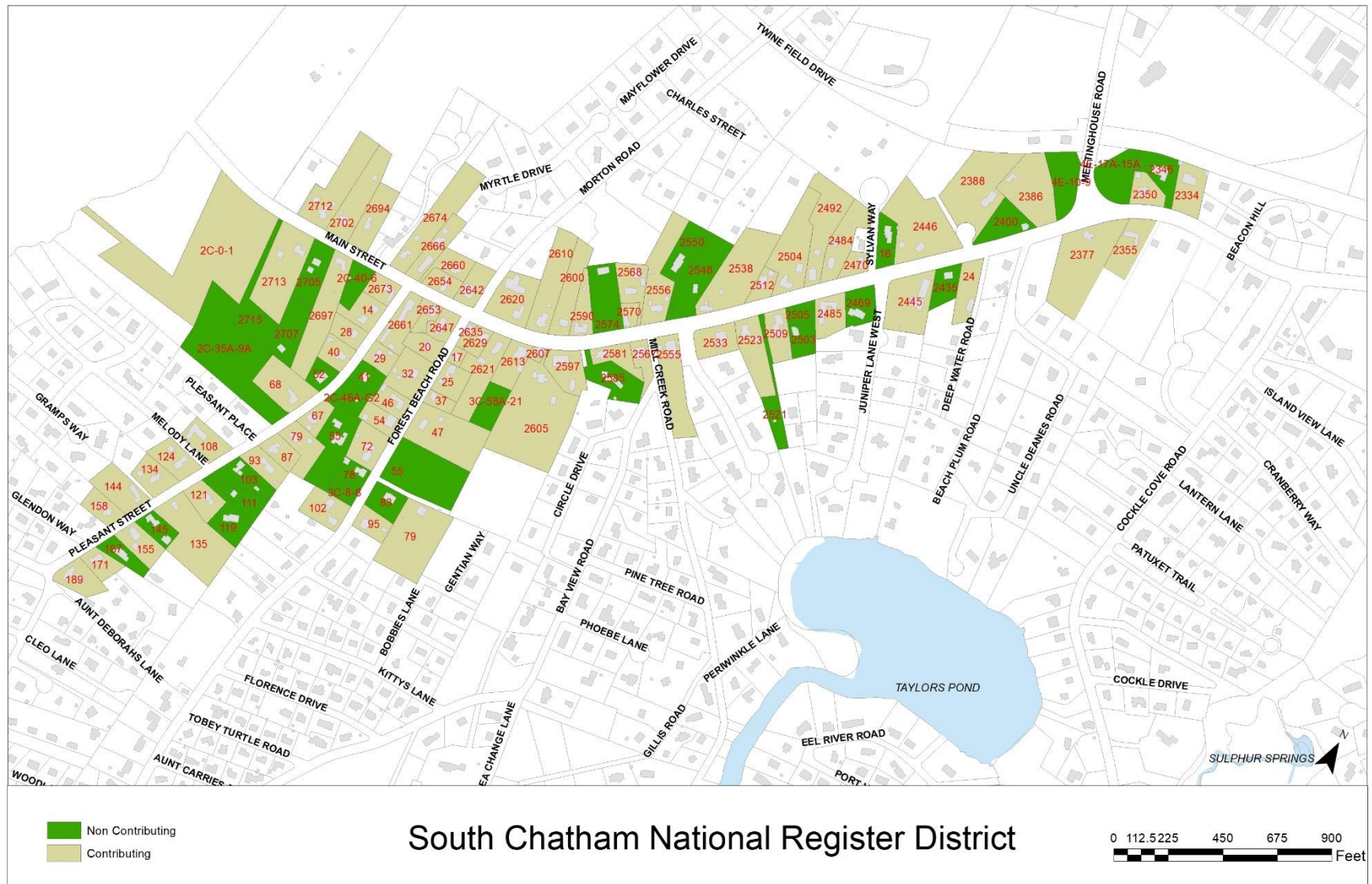
South Chatham Village Historic District, Chatham (Barnstable County), MA DISTRICT DATA SHEET

St #	Street Name	Ass. #	MHC #	Date	Historic Name	Style/ Form	Resource	Status	Photo #
2607	MAIN ST	3C-57A-26B	CHA.493	1839	Eldridge General Store	Victorian Eclectic	Building	C	23
2610	MAIN ST	3D-44-15	CHA.1315	1872	Mercelia Eldridge Kelley House	Italianate (NRI 2005)	Building	C	14
2613	MAIN ST	3C-58-51	CHA.494	1880	Stephen Emery House	Greek Revival/ Victorian Eclectic	Building	C	
				Late-19th c.	Barn	English barn	Building	C	
2620	MAIN ST	3D-42-9A	CHA.496	1735	Capt. Kimball Eldridge House	Colonial	Building	C	9
				1971	Commercial (store)	No style	Building	C	
2621	MAIN ST	3C-59-50	CHA.497	1854	Bangs Eldridge House	Italianate	Building	C	32
				Early-mid 20th c.	Garage	No style	Building	C	
2629	MAIN ST	3C-60-48	CHA.1142	ca. 1895	Capt. Barzillai Eldridge House	Queen Anne	Building	C	15
2635	MAIN ST	3C-61-47	CHA.1144	ca. 1860	Excelsior Hall	Greek Revival	Building	C	19
2642	MAIN ST	3D-4-11	CHA.1145	[1938-1959]	Restaurant	Colonial Revival	Building	C	
2647	MAIN ST	3C-15-3	CHA.498	ca. 1850	Kimball Eldridge House	Greek Revival	Building	C	12
2653	MAIN ST	3C-16-2	CHA.1146	ca. 1895	Cahoon & Eldridge store	Victorian Eclectic	Building	C	24
2654	MAIN ST	3D-3-11A	CHA.499	1800	Levi Eldridge House	Half Cape	Building	C	4, 5
2660	MAIN ST	3D-3A-11B	CHA.1334	ca. 1900	Esther Eldridge House	Ranch	Building	C	
				ca. 1980	Garage		Building	NC	
2661	MAIN ST	3C-17-1	CHA.1147	1850	Eldridge-Harding House	Italianate	Building	C	24, 30
				1950	Motel building	No style	Building	C	

South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village - National Register District



South Chatham Village Historic District

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[Article](#) [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#) [Tools](#) 

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates:  41°40′44″N 70°1′36″W﻿ / ﻿

The **South Chatham Village Historic District** is a [historic district](#) encompassing much of the linear village of [South Chatham](#) in [Chatham, Massachusetts](#). Extending eastward from the Harwich town line along Main Street, the district developed in the 18th and 19th centuries as a maritime and farming village. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2022.^[1]

Description and history [\[edit\]](#)

The South Chatham Village is a largely linear area extending along Main Street ([Massachusetts Route 28](#)) between the Harwich line to the west, and Cockle Cove Road to the east. The area contains an architecturally diverse collection of residential, civic, and commercial buildings dating from the 18th to 20th centuries. Unusual in the village are a higher than normal collection of two-story frame residences, in a region otherwise dominated by single-story and 1-1/2 story residential buildings. The historic district also extends for short distances along Pleasant Street and Forest Beech Road.^[2]

Main Street was laid out in the 17th century, as the primary road between Chatham and Harwich villages, and remained rural in character until the 19th century. By the mid-19th century the village began to take shape, and its first post office opened in 1862. A small number of Cape Code-style houses survive from the 18th century in the village, which also includes a representation of Greek Revival architecture from its first period of significant growth. Later buildings of architectural significance include the Queen Anne style South Chatham School (built 1903), which marks the eastern end of the district.^[2]

See also [\[edit\]](#)

- [National Register of Historic Places listings in Barnstable County, Massachusetts](#)

References [\[edit\]](#)

- ↑ ^a ^b "Weekly listing"  National Park Service.

South Chatham Village Historic District

U.S. National Register of Historic Places

U.S. Historic district



South Chatham Community Church



- ☒ Show map of Cape Cod
- ☐ Show map of Massachusetts
- ☐ Show map of the United States
- ☐ Show all

Location

Western portion of Main St., and northern portions

