RAYNHAM RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

TAUNTON RIVER LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Taunton River Wild & Scenic Study Committee

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

PROJECT TEAM

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Jessica Rowcroft, Preservation Planner
Division of Planning and Engineering

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
Bill Napolitano, Principal Environmental Planner
Nancy Durfee, Environmental Planner

Project Consultants
Shary Page Berg
Gretchen G. Schuler
Virginia Adams, PAL

Local Project Coordinator
Patricia Riley

Local Heritage Landscape Participants
Louis Bousquet
Brad Fitts
Diane H. McGuire
Don McKinnon
Dorothy Newton
Lou Pacheco
Patricia Riley
Kathleen Roberts
Robert W. Williams, III

November 2005

INTRODUCTION

Heritage landscapes are places that are created by human interaction with the natural environment. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of the community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character; yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature, or the Taunton River corridor.

To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities along the Taunton River. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a Pilot Project including 15 communities in three southeast Massachusetts watersheds in 2002. This project is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land*. Experience from the pilot project provided guidance for a similar program in 24 Essex County municipalities. Now the program is extended to six communities along the Taunton River: Berkley, Fall River, Freetown, Raynham, Somerset and Taunton.

Each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-SRPEDD consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and town officials offer community input by identifying potential heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, usually accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is the Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; identifies the resources and documentation that provide background information; provides a short description of the priority heritage landscapes visited; discusses planning issues identified by the community; and concludes with a brief discussion of survey and planning recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

RAYNHAM HISTORY

Native Americans (also referred to as Native People) were likely to have settled, particularly in the summers, along the Taunton River with possible trails along Thrasher, King Phillip (spelled King Philip in other nearby towns), North Main and Elm Streets. The first European settlement was ca. 1656 to establish an iron works in what was Taunton East Precinct. Raynham separated from Taunton in 1731 when the first meetinghouse was constructed at South Main and West Streets.

The Iron Works, established by the Leonard family in the 1650s, dominated Raynham's industrial activity for over two centuries. Just before the American Revolution a nail works and an iron rolling mill were established at the iron works site. Late 18th century industries included tanneries, slaughterhouses and grist and fulling mills, in addition to the iron works and furnaces. Shipbuilding was an early industry with the frames of schooners constructed on the Taunton River in Raynham from where they were floated down river to Berkley or Fall River for completion. Iron forges continued as centers of industrial activity with anchors produced at Dean Forge and hollowware at the Raynham Furnace. The major nail works later became the Old Colony Iron Works. There was some shoe manufacturing in the mid 19th century and of course agriculture, but iron related industries dominated the economy until the late 19th century. The major iron works closed in 1873 and agriculture for the first time was the primary means of earning a living. In the 20th century, farmers produced vegetables and fruit for nearby markets. In addition to the iron works there were shingle mills, soap manufacturing, straw hat manufacturing, saw mills, leather shop, and carriage manufacturing in the 19th century.

The first transportation routes followed the mentioned Native American trails of Main, Elm, Thrasher and King Phillip Streets and East, West and South Streets linking Bridgewater, Middleborough and Raynham. The Taunton-South Boston Turnpike was laid out through Raynham in 1806. The Boston to New Bedford Railroad was constructed in the 1840s with a stop in Raynham, which was an important advancement for the iron factories. A trolley line ran along Main Street in the early 20th century. Once the automobile dominated the means of transportation, Route 138 became a state route by 1930. In the mid century Route 24 and 44 were major north-south and east-west thoroughfares. In 1982 Rt. I-495 was opened with an interchange in Raynham.

The population at the time of incorporation in 1731 was only about 30 families and grew to 940 in 1776. The early 21st century population has risen to 11,000 as Raynham has become a suburban bedroom community.

RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION

This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program. The Taunton and Forge Rivers flow through Raynham and there is a fair amount of swamp land. These as well as the churches, schools and many historic houses are all part of its rich history worthy of preservation.

Inventory of Historic Assets

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available online at http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc.

According to the MHC, Raynham's inventory documents only 12 resources that date between ca. 1700 and 1940. These 12 inventory forms – 8 buildings and 4 bridges – were recorded in the late 1990s with the exception of one property documented in 1967.

State and National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. All National Register properties are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Raynham has no properties listed in the National Register (NR). There is one determination of eligibility (DOE) for an archaeological site called Rozenas Site I/II. This determination was made in 1978.

Planning Documents

The *Town of Raynham Master Plan 2000 A Framework for Tomorrow* contains information on the typical topics such as land use, housing, open space, natural and recreational resources and historic and cultural resources. The implementation plan comprises many useful action items listed as immediate action, incremental changes and long range changes. Recommendations to preserve historic and cultural resources include:

- Develop a survey;
- Coordinate open space and historic preservation strategies with other town boards and commissions;
- Promote local industrial history;
- Develop historic and cultural resource information for public schools and town board;
- Work with regional historical groups.
- Develop mechanisms to delay demolition and protect scenic roads, views, natural features and archaeological sites.

The plan explains the benefit of formalizing the Historical Commission role in reviewing the impacts of land use proposals on the local historic resources by amending the subdivision regulations to require that historic resources be shown on site plans and that the Commission be notified of hearings. In other sections of the Master Plan there are additional recommendations that are relevant to historic resources such as modification of the cluster bylaw, open space acquisition, and adoption of a phased growth bylaw.

The 2002 *Town of Raynham Open Space Plan* was developed using Executive Order 418 funds. The main goals and objectives consistent with the preservation of heritage landscapes include:

- Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Taunton River and its watershed.
- Establish a rural greenbelt of scenic and conservation interest.
- Improve access to recreational and scenic areas.

The OSP provides a Five-Year Action Plan which accounts for tasks that can be done to carry out these goals. Many of the tasks are related to developing public outreach programs to inform the public and passing zoning changes that will address the goals and objectives above.

The 2004 *Taunton River Stewardship Plan* is an important regional document prepared by the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee to substantiate the need for designation of the Taunton River as a National Wild & Scenic River, and to form partnerships among the watershed communities to work towards the important goal of preserving and restoring the Taunton River corridor. Specific information about cultural resources, natural and scenic qualities and environmental issues in Raynham is included. Raynham was the first town to sign onto the Wild and Scenic River legislation.

Planning Bylaws and Other Tools

Raynham has an open space preservation bylaw which provides opportunity to construct single family housing and preserve open space by allowing lower dimensional minimums including lot area, upland area, frontage, and front, side and rear setbacks.

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

The Raynham Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by about eight residents, some representing town boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on July 12, 2005. During the meeting residents identified a lengthy list of Raynham's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of and the issues relating to the preservation of each heritage landscape on the list. Based on the information gathered, community members

identified a group of high priority heritage landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved.

The following text describes the priority heritage landscapes that are the focus of the reconnaissance work in Raynham. In all instances intensive survey work will be needed to fully document the physical characteristics and the historical development of the landscape. These heritage landscapes, which are listed in alphabetical order, represent a range of scale from a single property to a river corridor.

Borden Colony and Farm

This nearly 250 acre parcel of town-owned land fronts on both sides of King Phillip Street. The property is a recreation center with soccer and baseball fields, and tennis courts on the west side and some farm buildings and agricultural fields on the east side. The agricultural fields now are planted with corn, squash and other market vegetables. Both the recreational and the agricultural fields are bounded by forests. Several old farm buildings remain on the property including one farm hand's house, a small dairy barn, a machine shop, two late 20th century metal silos and a building with an attached corral. A new Senior Center has been built on the property fronting on the west side of King Phillip Street. Archaeological evidence of a village site dating from 3000 years ago is at the Borden Colony near the intersection of Thrasher, King Phillip and Gardner Streets.

This property had been part of a larger property owned by the Leonard family. Later owners had important local names such as Hathaway and Briggs. When owned by the State it was known as the Borden State Hospital during World War I. Shell shocked patients were sent here and the name "Borden Colony" awas adopted. The working farm provided produce for residents at the Taunton State Hospital. When the state sold the property to the Town of Raynham it stipulated that part of the property had to continue to be a working farm. There is an APR on the property and the fields are leased to a local farmer.

In 1981 the State turned over to Raynham three parcels of land including the buildings on approximately 248 acres of land. The land was divided up into recreational use only and that land under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction which can only be farmed while the rest can only be used for recreation.

Herring Run at South St.

A herring run was located on the Taunton River near the South Street crossing of the river into East Taunton. There were herring runs with fish ladders located on both sides of the Taunton just below the location of the former dam. This dam was just above the present day South Street Bridge. The herring runs and dam were attractions in this area until they were washed away by a flood in the 1940s. It is likely that the bridge too was damaged during the same flood as the present

South Street Bridge was constructed in 1945. Today this part of the river is overgrown and not accessible from either Raynham or East Taunton. In fact it is only marginally visible from the bridge and from behind the River Bend Condominiums which are in a building which was a former Taunton cotton mill.

Several herring and shad holes were located along the Raynham side of the river and the Town leased the right to take herring from these areas. Some local names for these holes were Toad Hole, Shad Hole, and the Cove. A fish house owned by G. W. Williams had been along the side of the river in this approximate location. Most of it was destroyed in the 1940 flood.

King's Ironworks at River Bend

Remnants of the stone work on the northern banks of the Taunton River can be viewed from behind the River Bend Condominiums (East Taunton). There is no public access in the immediate area on the Raynham side. The stone walls are remnants of the canal that bordered the northern bank of the river during the time that there was a dam in the approximate location of the South Street Bridge. This stone work is distinctive but little seen due to the overgrown vegetation on the bank of the river and due to no access points. The exact location of the ironworks was not seen and it is not known whether there are remnants in the area.

The industrial history of this area began in 1813 when King's Ironworks was established by Steven King on his farmland, which was east of the present South Street crossing. King built a dam which was removed after 1824 by Horatio Leonard, Samuel Crocker and Charles Richmond who had purchased the rights to the dam. They reconstructed a new dam in about the location of the present bridge and also opened a forge for making scrap charcoal iron and pig iron. Eventually this was owned by the Old Colony Iron Works which switched to coal, but used this site to produce nails and shovels until 1881 when the factory burned. Later Nemasket Mills built a textile mill to produce cotton products. This mill building, on the East Taunton side, was converted to the River Bend Condominiums. Canals were built on both sides of the river where the Taunton Tow Path Company operated barges from 1836 to 1854.

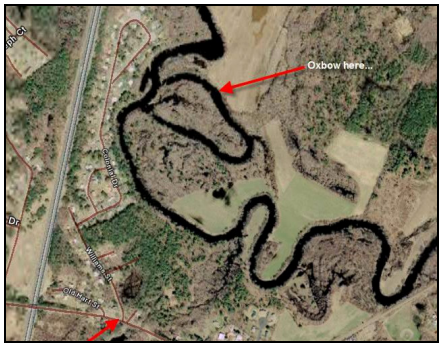
The Milk Bottle

This well known roadside commercial architecture was constructed in ca. 1930 for the Frates Dairy at about the same time as similar milk bottles in Taunton and in New Bedford. Oral tradition states that it was built in the same manner as old wood sailing vessels. It was an ice-cream stand and today still has a counter window and a small restaurant that also serves ice-cream. The Milk Bottle is 50 feet tall and has a diameter of 20 feet. It is constructed of vertical wood boards. A small single-story restaurant is attached to the milk bottle at one side and the rear. A small terrace with outdoor furniture is framed by mature trees – deciduous and coniferous – which block much of the view of the Milk Bottle from the road, with the exception of the top which rises well above the trees, telephone poles and wires.

The Milk Bottle that had been located in Taunton was purchased by Hood and moved to the Children's Museum in Boston. The one in New Bedford, which has been an ice cream stand, recently closed. All were designed by Les Labrose for the Frates Dairy on the New Bedford-Dartmouth town line. Each was painted white with a cream color close to the brim.

Oxbow in Taunton River

Raynham boasts the only natural oxbow in the Taunton River. The Oxbow area is one the premier landscapes along the Taunton River and a critical landscape in Raynham. It is one of the larger areas of low freshwater tidal marsh in the Taunton River watershed. A 10 acre, U-shaped piece of land sometimes referred to as an island is surrounded by the river which forms the oxbow. The Oxbow is home to a wide range of wildlife and plant material. Adjacent lands are wetlands and agricultural land.



Rozenas Farm

Fields on the south side of Elm Street extend to Rt. 495. They no longer are cultivated, but used for horse events. Several rings for dressage and stadium are marked out in the fields. Evidence of a cross-country course is found along the forested edges of the fields. Other nearby areas, that once were part of farmland owned by the Rozenas family are now residential subdivisions. There is evidence of a Native American village dating from 9000 years ago including artifacts recovered at this site during a study that was completed by Public Archaeology Laboratories (PAL) for Rt. 495 construction. The earliest artifact recovered here is known as a Bifurcated point which could date to some 9,000 years ago. Also during the PAL survey there was an area in which pottery was found and parts to a Flintlock Musket and round ball. It is likely that the area was being used by the Native Americans well into the Contact Period (1500-1620).

Toll House

The Toll House, reported to have been built in 1793, is located on Broadway, also known as Rt. 138. It is in its original location on what was known as the Toll Road leading from Boston to New Bedford. In 1806 the Taunton-South Boston Turnpike was laid out over the old Toll Road. The small single-story side

gabled building has an off-center chimney, vinyl siding and windows and rests on a parged foundation. It is close to the road. It is surrounded by commercial property – an old golf course on the north side known as Par 3 Golf and a strip mall just beyond the golf course. Much of this surrounding property now is owned by Walmart, which plans to construct a large store at this location. Previously there were gravel pits behind the golf course.

The Toll House is privately owned and listed in town records as a two-bedroom house of 527 square feet. According to The History of Raynham by M. Patrice White, the toll house was used to collect a fee from those herding cattle from the Brighton stockyards to areas of southeastern Massachusetts.

PLANNING

Preservation Strategies

Raynham has many vital heritage landscapes worthy of recognition and preservation. Its river, brooks and vast watershed area make much of the area vulnerable to change. Through the Heritage Landscape Inventory program, Raynham is looking beyond the traditional historic resources to the landscapes, villages and other natural and cultural assets that define the overall fabric of the community. Like most southeastern Massachusetts communities, Raynham is under intense pressure for development. Special places within the community such as the resources on the rivers (the Oxbow), mill sites and stonewalls along roads, which may be taken for granted, now are more vulnerable than ever to change.

Planning Issues

At the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting attendees expressed concerns about the changing character of the community, which is directly related to the rich heritage landscapes that were discussed. Each of the critical planning issues affects at least one of the priority landscapes. These issues are arranged in alphabetical order.

Archaeological Sites

Raynham is one of the communities in the Taunton River Watershed at the core of Native American settlement from the Early Archaic Period (9000 BCE) to the beginning of the Contact Period (1500 CE). For this reason it is believed to have rich pre-historic archaeological sites along the Taunton River and southwest of Lake Nippenicket. The area of the Rozenas fields is known to have significant artifacts which should be carefully studied and recovered. In addition Raynham had a rich industrial history, particularly iron works along the rivers and brooks, so it is presumed that there are many industrial archaeological sites. These fragile resources are threatened by development particularly because their locations generally are unknown until development reveals archaeological evidence.

Maintenance of Cemeteries

Raynham has about 22 private and public cemeteries of varying sizes. While some are well maintained others are nearly forgotten. Maintenance of cemeteries is costly and funding is one part of a municipal budget that often is reduced; however deferred maintenance leads to more expensive repairs in the long run. In addition to lack of funds is the issue of lack of awareness, particularly about small family burial grounds that are tucked away from main thoroughfares, such as those on Johnson's Pond islands. Another significant issue in Raynham is that of encroachment on cemeteries by new housing development particularly close to and possibly on the smaller, lesser known burial grounds. At the Britton Street Cemetery which is extremely close to new construction, several stones are on the ground and some have been broken or removed by someone.

Stonewalls

Low fieldstone walls line some roads and form backdrops for agricultural fields, as seen on Leonard Street. Most of the walls are made of rounded fieldstones that are randomly piled only one or two stones high. Many have been removed for new construction or road widening. Others have been rebuilt using a more uniform design and additional height than those made by 19th century farmers.

PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation planning is a three-step process involving identification, evaluation and protection. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are the Massachusetts Historical Commission's *Survey Manual* and *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances;* the Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Reading the Land;* and the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee's *Taunton River Stewardship Plan.* Each publication provides necessary information for the identification, evaluation and preservation of the rich cultural heritage of a community. Priority recommendations are listed below. More technical land use recommendations are included in the Appendix.

Raynham will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations presented here. One approach that might help Raynham begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

Priority Recommendations

Some of the priority recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. These recommendations are listed in an order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) identify, (2) evaluate and (3) protect.

Inventory of Heritage Landscapes and other Historic Assets.

The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources. It is important to know what the features of each type of heritage landscape are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for the preservation of these settings. Raynham has the opportunity to plan its survey methodology and apply new procedures that are more comprehensive and link properties in a more coherent way than in the past. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology, plan and record Raynham's heritage landscapes:

- Prepare a survey plan to consist of survey objectives; an assessment of previous research and literature review; a description of significant themes and periods of development; communitywide threats; a list of recommended areas and properties to be inventoried; an annotated bibliography, specifying the location of sources; and a base map, indicating recommended areas and properties for survey.

- Survey the list of resources beginning with those that are potentially threatened –particularly the Toll House, the Milk Bottle, archaeological sites, cemeteries, farms, industrial mill remnants and river landscapes.

- Make sure to document secondary features on all properties, such as outbuildings and stone walls.

National Register Program

The survey work will require National Register evaluation. This will provide information about the eligibility of properties that can be listed in the National Register. Thus to develop Raynham's National Register program:

- Prepare a National Register listing plan, taking into consideration a property's integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition in order to advance preservation strategies should be given priority.

Milk Bottle and Toll House

Due to the vulnerability of these two icons in Raynham, it is important to document and consider National Register listing if they are eligible. After these two steps preserve by:

- Negotiate protection including restoration of these two resources in any major commercial or industrial development along Rt. 138.

Town Character

Nearly all preservation strategies address neighborhood or village character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. There are two traditional preservation tools: demolition delay and local historic district designation (MGL Chapter 40C). A demolition delay bylaw provides a time period in which the town can consider alternatives to demolition. Local historic district designation recognizes special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. This local initiative must be adopted by a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting and administered by a district commission, appointed by the Selectmen. Local historic districting is the strongest form of protection for the preservation of historic resources.

- Adopt a demolition delay bylaw to give the Raynham Historical Commission authority to invoke a delay of demolition of up to one year for historically and architecturally significant properties. Publication of demolition requests reminds residents of historic resources and reinforces the value of local historic resources; therefore include a publication requirement in a bylaw.

- Determine whether historic neighborhoods such as Raynham Center, Prattville and others would be appropriate local historic districts. Areas with a high level of historical significance and integrity should be considered as potential local historic districts.

- Adopt a local historic district bylaw and designate historically significant areas as local historic districts to preserve individual properties as well as neighborhood character. In a local historic district, any proposed changes to exterior architectural features visible from a public right-of-way are reviewed by the locally appointed historic district commission.

Water Resources –River, Reservoir and Estuary

The goals are to control pollution and provide access to these fine resources. The coalition that has been established to advocate for the designation of the Taunton River as a National Wild & Scenic River already knows the important strategies

for preservation of this rich resource. Continue to work towards solutions in the following ways.

- Define ownership of each segment of the waterfront including beaches, wetlands, and marshes.
- Define public ways and parking areas for access to the river and any landings that may remain on the river.
- Form public-private partnerships with neighborhood groups and Boy Scouts (or similar community groups) to develop stewardship programs for access points.
- Develop a public landings brochure to remind abutters and town residents of the public access to these landings, particularly any landings on town-owned land.
- Adopt and enforce strict conservation and zoning bylaws that regulate pollution. These may be strategies such as wastewater treatment and stormwater run off that is more restrictive than is minimally acceptable under Title V.

Other Preservation Strategies

The following preservation strategies are recommendations for specific types of resources that may be helpful once Raynham's preservation program is developed and documentation and evaluation of the resources has occurred. Some require Planning Board and Conservation Commission input.

Agricultural Landscapes

Although Raynham has little agricultural land remaining, preservation of agricultural landscapes may be of interest for those few remaining parcels. Preservation of the farming activities is important; otherwise, it simply is the

preservation of land as open space. It is important to know what the features of an agricultural landscape are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for preservation of these settings. Some preservation tools are available that can assist communities in preserving the actual farming activities. Consider the following options.

- Form an agricultural commission to address farm preservation.
- Adopt a right-to-farm bylaw which allows farmers to carry on farming activities that may be considered a nuisance to neighbors.
- Review the town's cluster bylaw for refinement of buffers, particularly between development and farmland.
- Raise funds to purchase development rights on farms or to assist farmers in the restoration of historic farm buildings for which the farmer would be required to donate a preservation restriction.
- Continue public-private partnerships to preserve farmland through purchase of farms or purchase of conservation restrictions on farms.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries

Raynham has about 22 small burial grounds, many of which were family owned and are off the main roads. No documentation has been done. Concerns are long term stone maintenance issues and general burial ground care that needs improvement as well as lack of awareness and encroachment. The DCR publication *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries* provides guidance on developing preservation plans for burial grounds including identification and evaluation of the resources as well as preservation strategies. Using this guide Raynham should:

- Prepare survey forms for all burial grounds and cemeteries that have been in use for more than 50 years.
- Develop a preservation and management plan for each cemetery taking into consideration repair of stone markers, stone walls and stone fencing related to cemeteries, repair of iron work, removal of invasive growth, and on-going maintenance of plant material.

Scenic Roads and Gateways

Scenic roads are an integral part of the historic fabric of the community. They are highly valued by Raynham residents and visitors alike. Yet roads must also accommodate modern transportation needs and decisions regarding roadways are often made with travel requirements as the only consideration. Under the Scenic Roads Act (MGL Chapter 40-15C) Raynham can adopt a scenic roads bylaw that addresses the removal of trees and stone walls that are within the right-of-way. In addition to roadway issues, much of what we value about scenic roads – the

stone walls, views across open fields – is not within the public right-of-way. Furthermore, numbered routes which are the gateways to Raynham cannot be designated scenic roads under this bylaw. The preservation and protection of scenic roads therefore requires more than one approach.

- Complete an inventory with descriptions and photo documentation of each of the roads in Raynham including the character defining features that should be retained.

- Review and amend zoning measures that minimize the impact of commercial and residential development along gateway roads by considering setbacks, screening and height requirements.

- Adopt a scenic roads bylaw and add design criteria to consider when reviewing removal of trees and stone walls and other criteria such as a provision allowing only one driveway cut per property on scenic roads. Designate rural and village roads that are scenic such as Leonard Street and King Phillip Street and others that have stone walls and mature trees. Coordinate procedures between Highway Department and Planning Board.

- Develop policies and implementation standards for road maintenance and reconstruction, including bridge reconstructions, which address the scenic and historic characteristics while also addressing safety. This is an important public process in which the town may have to accept responsibility for certain costs to implement certain standards that are not acceptable to projects funded by Mass. Highway Department. Such standards should have a section addressing the way in which the local Highway Department maintains roads, for example requiring a public hearing if any additional pavement is to be added to a town road during reconstruction or repair. Policies can be adopted by local boards having jurisdiction over roads, or can be adopted at Town Meeting through a bylaw. In developing policies consider factors such as road width, clearing of shoulders, walking paths, posted speeds. A delicate balance is required.

- Consider a scenic overlay district to preserve certain vistas on properties along the roadways.

Herring Run and King's Ironworks at South Street

- Partner with Conservation Commission and Boy Scouts to selectively cut back vegetation on early canal stonewalls.

- Develop brochure telling history of this area – use historic photographs to make it come alive.

The Oxbow in the Taunton River

This is a highly sensitive heritage landscape that is also unique. Every effort should be made to acquire the land within the Oxbow which has no access and is of little value to anyone but those interested in protecting the natural environment. The cost of any attempt to access the land within the Oxbow would far exceed the value of the land. This landscape must be maintained in its natural state.

Funding of Preservation Projects

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. Both the MHC and the DCR have had funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues including:

- Survey and Planning Grants administered by the MHC support survey, National Register and preservation planning work.
- The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) administered by the MHC funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
- The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP) administered by DCR funds planning, rehabilitation, education and stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for these programs varies from year to year. When planning Raynham's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding currently is available.

Towns that have adopted the Community Preservation Act find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects. Raynham came close to adopting the CPA in 2005; however the ballot question failed by a small margin. Thus Raynham knows how difficult it is to adopt in lean economic times. As the town knows, the CPA establishes a mechanism by which towns can develop a fund dedicated to historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Funds are collected through a .5% to 3% surcharge on each annual real estate tax bill. The Commonwealth has established a dedicated fund which is used to match the municipality's collections under the CPA.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act, by a majority vote on a ballot question, fosters partnerships among historic preservationists, conservationists and affordable housing advocates. The number and types of projects that are being carried out in other municipalities with the use of CPA money can be an incentive to Raynham's possible reconsideration. There may be potential projects that could be accomplished with the use of CPA funds which the town may want to feature in a revived interest in CPA.

CONCLUSION

The Raynham Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Raynham and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. However, it is only the first step in the planning process. Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used in publicity efforts to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations will require a concerted effort of and partnerships with municipal boards and agencies, local non-profits, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to town land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Raynham in preserving important features of the community's character. The tasks that are recommended will require cooperation and coordination among boards and commissions, particularly Raynham's Historical Commission, the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee. It also is advisable to present this information to the Board of Selectmen. Finally distribution of the Report to the Raynham Historical Society and other preservation minded organizations will enhance Raynham's heritage landscapes.

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list is a summary of all landscapes discussed at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Raynham on July 12 and the follow-up fieldwork on July 15, 2005. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** Landscapes are grouped by type. The chart has two columns – the name of the resource and the location are in the first and notes about the resource are in the second.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction
LHD = Local Historic District
PR = Preservation Restriction
CR = Conservation Restriction
NR = National Register
* = Priority Landscape

Agriculture	
Breezee Farm Leonard St.	APR. Raise Herefords. Large sign that says Leonard Beef. Large Quonset barn with hay fields surrounding. Some cattle. Cape-style farm house opposite the barn. Some stone walls.
Bullock Farm Pine Street	Pig farm. East of Rt. 24.
Diamond Acres Church St.	Stable.
Carney Farm Pine St.	Horse farm.
Cordon Bleu Pleasant St.	Marion Phelps, a retired schoolteacher, runs horse barn here.
Finch Farm Leonard St.	House, barn and some farm structures. Beautiful property.
Lonesome Dove Locust St.	Bastionson. Horse farm.
Nunes Farm Leonard St.	APR. 65 acres
Pig Farm White St.	Behind Nottingham Drive.
Rozenas Farm* Elm Street	North Raynham. Archaeological site of critical importance on farmland that now is used for horse events.
Borden Colony Farm* King Phillip St.	APR, town-owned, farm that is part of the Borden Colony property and formerly part of the State Hospital property after WW I. When transferred by the State to the town in 1981 the quit claim deed stipulates that part can be used for recreational purposes only and part had to remain in agricultural use. The farm presently is leased to the Reed family who farms for the town to uphold the APR. See Open Space-Recreation for full description. Also see Ethnographic-Archaeological

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries	
Britton Cemetery Britton St.	Between 138 & Center Street. Encroachment of new development of houses.
Center Street Cemetery Center St.	North side of Center Street in North Raynham. Near Fairbanks Road. Slight knoll with stone wall surrounding it, needs to be cleaned but in overall good condition.
Elm Street Cemetery Elm & Bridge Sts.	North Raynham. Cemetery is on both sides of Elm Street. Each part is surrounded by a low stone wall; randomly laid rounded field stones on the north side of Elm Street and flat more structured wall on the south side. Slate gravestones of late 18th and 19th century, mid 19th century marble and 19th and 20th century granite. One family lot defined by granite post and iron rail. Significant biological growth on older stones. An asphalt road recently improved runs along the southern edge of the part of the cemetery on the south side of Elm. Also on this side is a mounded tomb of the Gilmore family who are buried on both sides of the road.
Pleasant Street Cemeteries Pleasant St.	Town-owned. Also known as Raynham Cemetery. Off Locust Street are two cemeteries; one is next to the Taunton River and the other in the field behind new houses away from river. Both need major work.
Robinson Cemetery Church and Dean Sts.	
Shaw's Cemtery South Street West	Behind Shaw's Supermarket.
South Street Cemeteries South St. East	One is next to the school; the other next to Rt. 24.
Ethnographic - Archaeological	
Borden Colony* King Phillip St.	See Agricultural and Open Space-Recreation for background. Evidence of Native American village sites dating from 1000 BCE to 1500 CE in this area.
Fowling Pond Off King Phillip St.	King Philip's campsite and summer area. Ponds in the Native American fowling area were man-made. Fowling Pond was located just south of Snake Brook and is reported to have drained in the 18th century.
King Phillip Street and Mill Street	A wooded section near VFW on northeast side of King Phillip Street. Both sides of Mill Street at King Phillip Street and past the VFW.
Lake Nip	Off Rt. 495 and Elm Street in Raynham. Only a small part of the Lake is in Raynham.
Rozenas Farm*	See Agricultural. This site is particularly important for its potential as an archaeological site for Native American history.

Water Works	North Raynham near the Nip and extends northerly to Elm Street East.
Industrial	
Barrel Factory Rt. 138	19th century factory that was located near the Milk Bottle on Broadway.
Leonard Iron Works South Main St.	Marked by the Anchor on east side of So. Main Street. The 17th century Leonard Ironworks was on the Forge River and the land was along South Main Street and King Phillip Street. A canal from the Forge River cut across South Main St. Today it is marked by an anchor donated by the US Navy set in a semi-circular shaped greensward on the east side of South Main Street. Also there is a bronze plaque mounted on a stone situated near the road, which states "Site of First Successful Iron Works in the Old Colony 1656-1876. Built by James Leonard. Originally owned by 23 of Taunton's First Settlers. Operated 1777 to 1876 by Hon. Josiah Dean and his descendants as sole owners. Erected 1950 by Bertha Dean, Adelaide Lord Livingstone, Daughter and Granddaughter of the last owner Theodore Dean."
Johnson Shoe	Was a nail factory as well.
King Iron Works * South Street	Behind the River Bend Condominiums at 96 Old Colony Road in Taunton can see across river to Raynham to view the stone work evidence of former canal. King Ironworks was the first use of mill privilege here with dam. Other iron works and later cotton was manufactured in the area. Next to the Taunton River where the 1945 Raynham bridge crosses the river.
Shipbuilding Area East Raynham	Some evidence remains along banks of Taunton River between Rt. 24 and Rt. 44. Shipyards here built the hulls and sent down the river for masts to be stepped in Berkley and Dighton.
Institutional	
Churches Various locations	Baptist Church (1832), North Raynham Congregational Church (1875), First Congregational Stone Church (4th on site-1914).
Gilmore Hall Rt. 138 & Carver Street.	Town-owned building named after the Gilmore family of North Raynham. The building was a school and now is used for some town offices including Planning and Building Departments.
Schools Various locations	North School (1927), South School (1931), Center School (aka Sullivan) (1919). Some schools converted to residence such as Broadway and Pratt.
Miscellaneous	
Milk Bottle * Broadway (Rt. 138)	Roadside commercial architecture. Similar to the milk bottle that was located in Taunton and moved to Children's Museum in Boston. Construction is similar to that of ship building.
Natural Features	
Dam Lot Brook	Flows through Jones Pond to Taunton River.

Dead Swamp North Raynham	Located in North Raynham, Dead Swamp is bound by Rt. 495 on the north, Center St. on the south, North Main on the east and Oak and Rt. 138 on the west. This swamp and the Pine Swamp west of Raynham Center have large stands of upland cedar trees.
Forge River	Also known as Two Mile River. Two branches of the Forge River join below Johnson Pond near Raynham Center and flow to the Taunton River. The east branch connects Gushee, Hewitt, Tracy, and Johnson Ponds and the west branch connects Kings Pond and Wilbur Pond. Forge River can be viewed from So. Main St.
Furnace Brook River St.	Furnace Brook is located in southeastern Taunton River off Church Street south of the Taunton River. River Street crosses Furnace Brook just east of Church Street.
Gushee Pond Off Darrington Dr.	Within Titicut Swamp, connected to Hewitt Pond by the east branch of the Forge River which connects Gushee to Hewitt to Johnson Pond before joining with the west branch and flowing to the Taunton River.
Herring Run * Taunton River	Off South Street at the railroad tracks. At dividing line between East Taunton and Raynham known as River Bend. There was a dam at this site and a bypass for barges – towpath also seen on Taunton side. A steel mill on the opposite side in Taunton. Area known as Squawbetty. A piece of land has just come back to the town. (Another herring run is located at the bridge on Church St.)
Hewitt's Pond North Main St.	In Hewitt's Pond Conservation Area on Rt. 104. Public access via parking and trails from North Main Street. Connected to the east branch of the Forge River. Stearn Saw Mill was located here.
Hockomock Swamp	Most in Bridgewater. The swamp is a 16,800 acre natural and scenic swamp that was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by EOEA in 1990. About 2,600 acres are in Raynham – part of the ACEC designation. The Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Area in Raynham is only 103 acres.
Johnson Pond North Main St. & Johnson St.	At center of town with parkland around pond. Recreational fishing.
Jones Pond Jackson Driver & Temi Road	Near Orchard Street and Dam Lot Brook
The Nip Off Elm St. East	Lake Nippenicket, most of which is in Bridgewater, is in North Raynham off Rt. 495. Town wells are under Lake Nippenicket.
Pine Swamp	243 acres located west of Raynham Center . Most of this wetland area is town owned. Railroad goes through the swamp which also has an upland cedar forest. It was a large pond during 1600s and King Philip, according to historical records, had a summer camp here within sight of the Leonard house and Iron works. This was at the junction of Thrasher, King Phillip and Gardner Streets - the wooded section on both sides of Thrasher and King Phillip and the Field across from old town dump.)
Taunton River	The 40 mile stretch of the Taunton River extends from Bridgewater to Mount Hope Bay. It is a tidal river which is salt water for the first 12 miles where the river and its estuary are wide. The eight-mile stretch of the river in Raynham is fresh water and narrower than the salt water part. The Taunton forms the southern boundary of Raynham with Taunton on the opposite side. Several areas along the Taunton River are high priority for open space acquisition, particularly off South St. and the Oxbow.

Taunton River Oxbow Near South St.	Only natural oxbow on the Taunton River. U-shaped piece of land sometimes referred to as an island of 10 acres. It is adjacent to wetlands and agricultural land. One of the premier landscapes along Taunton River.
Titicut Swamp	20 acres of town-owned land abutting Water District property.
Wilbur Pond	Connected to King Pond by Pine Swamp Brook.
Open Space - Recreation	
Borden Colony * Thrasher & King Phillip Sts.	Town-owned property now called Borden Colony Recreation Area. Former State Hospital land of 248 acres comprising a farm on which there is an APR, athletic fields, and several buildings dedicated to recreational use. This land was a farm run by the Taunton State Hospital until after World War I. The produce was sent to the nearby State Hospital in Taunton. Known as the Borden State Hospital it also took in World War I shell shock patients. The property was turned over to the town in 1981with the stipulation that the Farm had to continue in agricultural use, thus the APR. Fields on the north side of King Phillip Street are locally referred to as Reed Farm, named for the farmer who cultivates them. They are planted with corn, squash and other vegetables. Athletic fields including Mary-Lou Arruda Memorial Soccer Field and Larry Burke Memorial Field. Some farm buildings remain, one with a paddock attached, another resembling an old dairy barn, and another a farm manager's house. A new Senior Center has been constructed on the site. Parking lots are gravel. See Agricultural and Ethnographic categories.
Edgewood Club 266 Pleasant St.	A private club that consists of 9.84 acres. Recreational activities include hiking, swimming and tennis.
Forge River Conservation Area South Main St.	River, forest trail, historical site. Dora Pine Trail.
Hewitt's Pond Conservation Area North Main St.	Pond, trail, dam, birdwatching.
Raynham State Forest Locust St.	Upland trails. Although this forest is owned by the Commonwealth the 16 acres are managed by the Raynham Conservation Commission according to the town's Open Space Plan.
Wood Family Trust Warren St. West	
Residential (Neighborhoods, Village)	
Prattville	Located in north west section of town west of Rt. 138 in the King Phillip and Britton Streets area. Had a 19th century neighborhood school.

Raynham Center	No real center – in area of Pleasant St., Orchard St. South Main and North Main Streets.
Squawbetty	Area reported to have been the site of the first deaths in the King Philip's War. Iron manufacturing area. Mostly in East Taunton. Named after an Indian squaw named Betty who was deeded land here.
Tracey Corner North Main & Center Sts.	Area located at intersection of Mill, Center and North Main Streets. Named after the Traceys who lived in what is now St. Ann's Parsonage. Tracey School was the house on the corner of Mill and Center Street opposite the Parsonage. Location name is little used today.
Historic Houses	Andrews (late 1700s), on White St., Cushman House (early 19th c.) on So. Main at King St., Nathan Dean (1724) on South St., Gushee House (1779) at 808 Pleasant St., Hannant House (1773 – now Historical Society) at 16 Pleasant St., Hathaway House (early 1700s) on So. Main St., Hathaway (1830) on Pleasant St., Hewitt House (ca. 1730) on No. Main St., Otis King House (1850s) on So. Main St., Samuel Jones (1810) on Pleasant St., Timothy Jones (1700 – former shoe factory, Underground RR, moonshine productions) at 355 Pleasant St., Sanford House (ca. 1761) on So. Main St., Joseph Shaw Barn (late 17th c.) on Locust St. and the Samuel Shaw (ca. 1700) at 1087 Locust St.
Transportation (Bridges, Landing, Roads)	
Paths to Taunton River Various locations	One near Breezee Farm. One off Forest St. Path through Pine Grove where six houses are going to cut off access to river at this traditional location, one known as Ships Way and the towpath.
Stone Walls * Various locations	Particularly along South Main and Pleasant Sts.
Toll House* Broadway (Rt. 138)	Built in 1793 along the path that became the toll road from Boston to New Bedford in 1806. Near Market Basket and next to abandoned Par 3 Golf, which is owned by Walmart.
Tow Paths	Where mules pulled barges along river. Off Pine Street along side of the river. Not visible due to overgrown pushes.
Trolley Foundation Rt. 138	Near Central Oil.