

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000257

Date Listed: 4/15/93

Sharon Historic District
Property Name

Litchfield
County

CT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

5/4/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Criteria Considerations:
A cemetery that is nominated as part of a district but is not the focal point of the district does not need to meet Criteria Consideration D. The nomination is amended to delete this criteria consideration.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan of the CT SHPO.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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1. Name of Property

historic name: SHARON HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

street & number: Main, Upper Main, North Main, and South Main Streets
(see item 7 for complete list)

city/town: Sharon not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Litchfield code: 005 zip code: 06069

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3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>208</u>	<u>51</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>213</u>	<u>51</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Handwritten Signature] Date: February 17, 1993

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

[Handwritten Signature] 4-15-93

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Table with 2 columns: Historic/Current and Sub. Rows include categories like DOMESTIC, COMMERCE/TRADE, RELIGION, EDUCATION and sub-categories like single dwelling, specialty store, religious structure, school, library.

7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

- Federal
- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>WOOD</u>	other	<u>N/A</u>
	<u>BRICK</u>		

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: state.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : A,D

- Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- RELIGION
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period(s) of Significance: c.1750-c.1930

Significant Dates: See item 7

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: See item 7

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District 7-1
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

Sharon Historic District consists of over 100 houses and other buildings surrounding Sharon Green and extending north along North Main Street and south along South Main Street and Amenia-Union Road. The northern part of the district, around the Green, is densely built up, mostly with houses from the 18th and early 19th centuries. Most of the earlier houses have some Federal-style detail, such as a leaded fanlight over the doorway or a Palladian window, either as original features or as later modifications (Photographs 8, 10, 27, and 28). Most are wood-frame, clapboarded buildings, but there are a number of brick dwellings as well (Photograph 6). Interspersed among the early dwellings are houses from the Victorian period, some quite elaborate (Photographs 13, 26, and 29). West of the Green, along New Street and Hospital Hill Road (Photographs 4 and 12), the predominant character of the houses is Victorian, primarily vernacular examples with some limited stylistic reference such as Gothic board-and-batten detailing or a Second Empire-style mansard roof (Photograph 5).

In addition to houses, the district includes a number of institutional buildings: four brick churches, including the elegant Federal-style Congregational Church, 1824 (Photograph 7), and the 1835 Methodist Church (Photograph 30); the Town Hall, 1875 (Photograph 9); an elaborate Richardsonian Romanesque public library, 1893; and a Colonial Revival-style consolidated school built c.1920 (Photograph 15). Commercial buildings include several stores dating from the first half of the 19th century (Photographs 10 and 30), as well as a number of houses that in former times accommodated such uses as a saddlery and a law office.

The Green is a long park-like strip of lawn and trees between Main Street and Upper Main Street (Photograph 16); it marks the remains of Sharon's colonial common. The Green includes two contributing objects: at the extreme north end is the town's Soldiers Memorial (Photograph 17), a granite Civil War monument (1885); and near the midpoint, opposite West Main Street, a large c.1890 stone urn currently planted with flowers, but perhaps originally intended as a watering trough. The Green itself is one of two contributing sites. The other is Hillside Cemetery (Photograph 3), a burying ground that includes numerous 18th-century stones, many with a distinctive compass-drawn star design, as well as early 19th-century and Victorian-period markers. It is surrounded by a c.1900 stone wall with gateposts, and has a small but finely detailed stone Gothic-style chapel built in 1913.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

7-2

In the 19th century the Green continued to the south, along South Main Street, but the eastern edge of it is now indistinct and appears as part of the front lawn of the adjoining houses. A contributing structure occupies a small remnant of the south part of the Green at the intersection of South Main Street and Cornwall Road: the Richardsonian Romanesque clock tower, designed by Charles Rich of New York City and built in 1886 as a memorial by the Wheelers, one of the town's wealthy families (Photograph 18).

To the south, along South Main Street and continuing along Amenia-Union and Mitchelltown Roads, the houses are much larger, set farther apart, and generally surrounded by lawns and formal plantings, many of which serve to screen the houses from public view. Some of these approximately two dozen contiguous Colonial Revival-style estates began as farmhouses and were greatly enlarged and remodeled in the period 1890-1920, whereas others were built new. These houses are distinguished by ornate Georgian doorways, broken-scroll pediments on dormers, and elaborate porticos (Photographs 2, 11, 20, 21, 23, and 24). Several have outbuildings in a similar Colonial Revival style that now serve as rental properties or have been subdivided as separate parcels (Photograph 22). Many of the former estates retain ornate gateposts (Photograph 19).

The boundary of the district generally follows property lines, cutting across them only to exclude excessive acreage. Extensive stretches of open land provide a visual definition to the district to the west and south, while buildings of modern construction predominate to the east and north. Most of the buildings in the district preserve their original form and much of their original detailing. Overall, alterations mostly consist of changes made during the period of significance, such as the addition of Federal-style details to 18th-century houses in the early 19th century, or Colonial Revival remodeling, which occurred throughout the district in the early 20th century. Although some buildings have shifted from residential to professional office or commercial use, alterations have generally been confined to side or rear portions so that the original residential appearance is maintained.

Few noncontributing buildings interrupt the concentration of historic resources in the district. The 51 noncontributing buildings include nine houses of post-World War II construction, a large brick fire station built in 1950 (36 West Main Street), the c.1960 telephone company building (12 Hospital Hill Road), the c.1980 American Legion

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District 7-3
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

hall (15 New Street), and a small take-out restaurant (front of 31 West Main Street). The remainder of the noncontributing buildings are garages and other outbuildings that appear to have been built outside the district's period of significance.

The nominated property includes all of the Sharon Local Historic District as established in 1975, extending somewhat beyond the local district to include contiguous historic properties on Amenia-Union Road, Hilltop Road, Hospital Hill Road, Low Road, Mitchelldown Road, New Street, West Main Street, and West Woods Road. The properties on Amenia-Union Road and Westwoods Road are included in a recent enlargement of the local historic district.

In the Inventory of Buildings that follows, the count of contributing buildings (C) includes a number of barns, carriage houses, and other outbuildings that retain their historic appearance; conversely, the count of noncontributing buildings (NC) includes garages and other outbuildings that appear to be of relatively recent construction. "Siding" indicates either aluminum or vinyl siding, and "composition siding" includes both asbestos and wood-fiber composites. A dash in the Style column indicates a building for which no identifiable style is apparent; most of these are plain, vernacular structures. Dates and historic names were derived from the Historic District report and walking-tour guide cited in the Bibliography.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District 7-4
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
<u>Amenia Union Road</u>						
19 Amenia Union Rd. GEER COTTAGE - Photograph 1	2	c.1929	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	0
20 Amenia Union Rd.	1	c.1980	-	wood siding	0	1
25 Amenia Union Rd.	2 1/2	c.1960	-	clapboards (altered and enlarged from old barn abd stables)	0	1
26 Amenia Union Rd. ARTHUR DUANE HOUSE - Photograph 2	2 1/2	c.1893	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	2
33-35 Amenia Union Rd.	2 1/2	c.1780/ c.1920	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	2	0
<u>Cemetery Hill Road</u>						
1 Cemetery Hill Rd. GILLETTE'S STORE (HABS No. CT-151)	2 1/2	c.1840	Greek Rev.	flush boards	1	0
3 Cemetery Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1860	-	clapboards	1	0
- Cemetery Hill Rd. HILLSIDE CEMETERY CHAPEL	1	1913	Gothic Rev.	stone	3	1
<u>Cornwall Road</u>						
29 Cornwall Rd. REV. DAVID LORD PERRY HOUSE	2 1/2	1806	-	brick, wrought-iron	2	0

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District 7-5
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
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Great Elm Drive

1 Great Elm Dr. ANSEL STERLING HOUSE/"Great Elm"	2 1/2	c.1809	Federal	clapboards	1	0
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Herrick Road

1-5 Herrick Rd. FRANK SPRAGUE HOUSE - Photograph 24	2 1/2	c.1775/ c.1920	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	3	0
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10-16 Herrick Rd. (WEATHERSTONE FARM VILLAGE AND BARN)	1 1/2	c.1910	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	8	0
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Hilltop Road

31 Hilltop Rd.	1 1/2	c.1910	Tudor Rev.	stucco, brick	2	0
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43 Hilltop Rd.	2 1/2	c.1920	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	0
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59 Hilltop Rd.	2 1/2	c.1920	Sp. Col. Rev.	stucco	3	0
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74 Hilltop Rd.	1	c.1900	-	shingles	0	2
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78 Hilltop Rd.	2 1/2	c.1910	-	shingles	2	0
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79 Hilltop Rd.	2 1/2	c.1920	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	3	0
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80 Hilltop Rd. SHARON CENTER SCHOOL (faces North Main St.) - Photograph 15	2	c.1920	Colonial Rev.	brick	1	1
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87 Hilltop Rd.	2	c.1810	-	shingles	1	1
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Description Sharon Historic District 7-6
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
<u>Hospital Hill Road</u>						
1 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1872	Italianate	shingles	2	0
11 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1900	-	siding	2	0
12 Hospital Hill Rd.	1 1/2	c.1980	-	brick	0	1
17 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1873	Second Emp.	siding	1	0
18 Hospital Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	wood shingles	2	0
25 Hospital Hill Rd. Photograph 4	2 1/2	c.1880	-	siding	1	0
26 Hospital Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1880	-	wood shingles	1	0
32 Hospital Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards	2	0
33 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1900	-	siding	1	0
39 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	0
47 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	1883	-	shingles, board & batten	1	1
48 Hospital Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	siding	1	0
51 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1880	-	siding	1	1
55 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1880	-	shingles	1	0
61 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1880	-	siding	2	0
67 Hospital Hill Rd. Photograph 5	2	c.1880	-	clapboards, board & batten	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-7
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
71 Hospital Hill Rd.	2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	1
<u>King Hill Road</u>						
10 King Hill Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards	1	1
<u>Low Road</u>						
1-3 Low Rd.	2 1/2	c.1840	Greek Rev.	clapboard	1	1
15 Low Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	shingles	1	1
17 Low Rd.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	1	0
<u>Main Street</u>						
1 Main St. ELIAS REED HOUSE	2 1/2	c.1870	Italianate	clapboards	1	0
2 Main St. BERRY/GOULD HOUSE	2 1/2	c.1810	Federal	clapboards	1	0
15 Main St.	2	1965	-	clapboards	0	1
18 Main St. EBENEZER GAY HOUSE (National Register-listed) - Photograph 6	2 1/2	1775	-	brick	2	0
25 Main St. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - Photograph 7	2	1824	Federal	brick	1	0
31 Main St.	2 1/2	1902	Queen Anne	clapboards, shingles	2	0
41 Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	Queen Anne	clapboards, shingles	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-8
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
49 Main St. CAPT. BENJAMIN LINES HOUSE - Photograph 8	2	c.1803	Federal	clapboards	1	0
57 Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	1	0
59 Main St.	1 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	1	0
63 Main St. SHARON TOWN HALL (Isaac Bartram, builder) - Photograph 9	2 1/2	1875	Greek Rev.	brick	1	0
67 Main St.	2 1/2	1888	-	clapboards,	1	0
73 Main St. SEARS HARNESS AND TRUNK SHOP	2 1/2	c.1840	-	clapboards	1	0
81 Main St. RUSSEL BARTLETT HOUSE	2	1783	-	brick, clapboards	1	0
91 Main St.	1 1/2	c.1860	-	siding	1	0
99 Main St. SKINNER/BABCOCK HOUSE	1 1/2	c.1739/ 1783	Federal	clapboards, flush boards	1	0
109 Main St.	2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	0
113 Main St.	2 1/2	c.1900	Queen Anne	clapboards, shingles	2	0
119 Main St. EPISCOPAL ACADEMY	2	c.1830/ c.1880	Stick Style	clapboards	2	0
125 Main St. ABNER BURNHAM HOUSE	2 1/2	1811	Federal	clapboards	1	0
133 Main St.	2 1/2	c.1929	Bungalow	comp. siding	1	0
141 Main St. PRINDLE HOUSE (HABS No. CT-150) - Photograph 10	2 1/2	1810	Federal	clapboards	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-9
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
147 Main St.	2	c.1837	Greek Rev.	siding	1	0

Mitchelltown Road

21-29 Mitchelltown Rd. Photograph 11	2 1/2	c.1910	Colonial Rev.	stone	3	2
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New Street

6 New St.	2	1863	-	wood shingles	1	1
15 New St.	1	c.1980	-	brick, cement blocks	0	1
16 New St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	1	1
22 New St.	2 1/2	c.1890	Queen Anne	clapboards, shingles	1	0
27 New St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	comp. siding	2	0
28 New St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	wood shingles	3	1
35 New St.	1	c.1950	-	clapboards	0	1
36 New St. Photograph 12	1 1/2	c.1880	-	clapboards	2	0
42 New St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards	1	0
44 New St.	2	c.1900	-	comp. siding	1	1
49 New St.	1 1/2	c.1930	-	clapboards	1	0
50 New St. ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC CHURCH	1	1915	Gothic Rev.	brick	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-10
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
52 New St.	2	c.1890	-	siding	2	0
59 New St.	2	c.1890	-	clapboards	3	0
<u>North Main Street</u>						
6 North Main St.	1 1/2	c.1890	-	wood shingles	2	0
12 North Main St. GEORGE KING HOUSE (HABS No. CT-149)	1 1/2	1794	Federal	brick	1	0
22 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	wood shingles	1	0
23-29 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1840	Greek Rev.	clapboards,	2	2
28 North Main St. METHODIST PARSONAGE	2	c.1830	Federal	clapboards	1	0
32 North Main St.	2	c.1930	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	2	0
39 North Main St.	1 1/2	c.1950	-	siding	0	1
40 North Main St. SAMUEL SKIFF HOUSE - Photograph 13	2 1/2	1887	Gothic Rev.	clapboards	1	1
62 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	2	0
70 North Main St.	2	c.1890	-	clapboards	1	0
79 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1820	-	siding	2	0
80 North Main St.	1 1/2	c.1745	-	clapboards	2	0
88-94 North Main St.	1 1/2	1924	Colonial Rev.	wood shingles	2	0
91 North Main St.	2	c.1920	-	wood shingles	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-11
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
93 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	siding	1	0
95 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	siding	1	0
99 North Main St. MASONIC HALL - Photograph 14	2	c.1910	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	0
104 North Main St.	2	c.1900	-	wood shingles	1	0
108 North Main St.	2	c.1900	-	shingles	1	0
110 North Main St.	2	c.1900	-	comp. siding	1	0
114 North Main St.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	0
116 North Main St.	2	c.1920	-	clapboards	1	0
129 North Main St. JAMES PARDEE HOUSE	2 1/2	1782	-	brick	1	0
130 North Main St. KING COTTON-DUCK SHOP/I.O.O.F HALL	2	1812/ c.1915	-	brick, siding, clapboards	1	3
135 North Main St.	1	c.1950	-	clapboards	0	1
<u>South Main Street</u>						
3 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1910	Foursquare, Colonial Rev.	siding	1	0
7 South Main St. EPISCOPAL PARSONAGE	2 1/2	1866	-	clapboards, shingles	1	0
9 South Main St. CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL	1 1/2	1819	Gothic Rev.	brick	1	0

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-12
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
17-19 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1910	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	4	0
27-29 South Main St. CHARLES STERLING HOUSE - Photograph 20	2 1/2	1848/ c.1910	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	2	0
31 South Main St.	1 1/2	c.1950	-	clapboards	0	1
32 South Main St. Photograph 22	1 1/2	c.1900	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	2	0
36 South Main St. EMILY WHEELER HOUSE - Photograph 21	2 1/2	1813/ c.1900	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	0
44-46 South Main St. JOHN PENOYER HOUSE - Photograph 23	2 1/2	1757/ c.1920	Colonial Rev.	brick, clapboards	1	2
47 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1970	-	brick, clapboards	0	1
55 South Main St. Thomas Nash, arch.	2 1/2	1911	Colonial Rev.	stone	2	0
57 South Main St.	1 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	0
58 South Main St. GOV. SMITH HOMESTEAD (National Register-listed)	2 1/2	1757	Georgian	stone	1	0
65 South Main St. ASHER SHEPARD HOUSE	2 1/2	1774/ c.1926	Colonial Rev.	clapboards	1	0
67 South Main St.	1 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	0
69 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	2	0
85 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1980	-	wood siding	0	1
89 South Main St.	2 1/2	c.1970	-	siding	0	1

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-13
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
95 South Main St. CHARLES PLATT HOUSE - Photograph 25	1 1/2	1815	-	wood shingles	1	1
97 South Main St. Photograph 25	1 1/2	c.1920	-	wood shingles	1	0
99 South Main St.	2	c.1860	-	wood shingles	1	1
103 South Main St.	1 1/2	c.1950	-	siding	0	1
<u>Upper Main Street</u>						
10 Upper Main St. HOTCHKISS MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Bruce Price, arch.)	2	1893	Rich. Rom.	stone	1	0
16 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards	2	0
18 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	Victorian	clapboards, shingles	1	0
20 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards	1	0
22 Upper Main St. ISRAEL CAMP HOUSE	2 1/2	c.1809	Federal	clapboards	2	0
28 Upper Main St. Photograph 26	2 1/2	c.1890	Queen Anne	clapboards, shingles	2	0
34 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1814	-	clapboards	2	0
42 Upper Main St. DR. PHINEAS SMITH/SEDGWICK HOUSE - Photograph 27	2 1/2	1780	Federal	clapboards	2	0
62 Upper Main St. JOSHUA BASSETT HOUSE - Photograph 28	2 1/2	c.1791	-	clapboards	3	1

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Description Sharon Historic District 7-14
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
74-78 Upper Main St. BARTRAM INN - Photograph 29	2 1/2	c.1880	Stick Style	clapboards, shingles	1	2
80 Upper Main St.	1 1/2	c.1890	-	wood shingles	1	0
82 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	1	0
84-86 Upper Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	-	clapboards, shingles	2	0
96 Upper Main St. DR. SAMUEL GAGER HOUSE	2	c.1801	-	clapboards	1	0
102 Upper Main St.	1 1/2	c.1920	-	clapboards	2	0
106 Upper Main St. E. B. REED STORE - Photograph 30	2 1/2	c.1855	Greek Rev.	clapboards	1	0
110 Upper Main St.	1 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	2	0
112 Upper Main St. METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Photograph 30	-	1835	Federal	brick	2	0

West Main Street

7 West Main St.	1	c.1930	-	cement blocks, clapboards	2	0
13 West Main St.	2	c.1890	Stick Style	clapboards	1	0
16 West Main St. GORDON & DAKIN STORE	2 1/2	c.1900	-	siding	1	0
19 West Main St.	2 1/2	c.1887	Victorian	clapboards, shingles	1	0
21 West Main St.	1	c.1900	-	wood shingles	1	0
22 West Main St.	2 1/2	c.1890	Victorian	clapboards, shingles	2	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Sharon Historic District 7-15
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	STYLE	MATERIALS	C	NC
25 West Main St.	2	c.1881	-	clapboards	1	0
31 West Main St.	1	c.1960	-	brick	0	2
33 West Main St. CONGREGATIONAL PARSONAGE	2 1/2	c.1866	Italianate	comp. siding	1	0
36 West Main St.	2 1/2	c.1950	-	brick	0	1
<u>West Woods Road</u>						
3 West Woods Rd. APOLLOS SMITH HOUSE	2 1/2	1777	Georgian	brick	1	0
4 West Woods Rd.	1 1/2	1741	-	clapboards	1	1
6 West Woods Rd.	2	c.1850	-	clapboards	1	2
7 West Woods Rd.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	comp. siding	2	0
11 West Woods Rd.	2 1/2	c.1900	-	clapboards	1	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance Sharon Historic District 8-1
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

Summary

The historic resources included in the Sharon Historic District are significant because they recall the historical importance of the area as the focal point of economic, political, social, and religious life in Sharon throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries (Criterion A). The district also has architectural significance. Many of the buildings are well-preserved, representative examples of particular styles of architecture, embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Federal, Greek Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles (Criterion C). The latter style is especially well-represented, with the estates on South Main Street constituting one of the most extensive concentrations of large Colonial Revival-style houses in Connecticut.

Historic Context

Sharon was settled in the spring of 1739 and incorporated in October of that year. With the town common, the burying ground, and the meetinghouse of the Congregational religious society, what is now known as Sharon Green became a focal point for the community. The several roads that converged there made it a market center in the 18th century, and as the population of the village grew, houses were built closer together around the common, creating a village that also included stores, artisans' shops, and the offices of doctors and lawyers. The early 19th-century was an even more prosperous time. Two turnpike roads converged at the village, the Goshen and Sharon Turnpike, chartered in 1803, and the Sharon and Cornwall Turnpike, established in 1809, thereby linking Sharon with both nearby communities and larger centers such as Waterbury. Many of the houses from this period on the Green, as well as earlier 18th-century houses that were remodeled, reflect the period's prosperity in their fanlights and other stylish details drawn from the then-current Federal style of architecture. Among the enterprises in business at one time or another in the center of Sharon were a shoe store, jeweller, hat shop, apothecary, milliner, clockmaker, saddlery, inns, taverns, and general stores. Today, several former store buildings from the early 19th century remain as reminders of the commercial activity that allowed crossroads villages such as Sharon to prosper during the Turnpike Era.

As religious diversity in Sharon increased, other denominations built churches in town, usually selecting the Green area because of its

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance Sharon Historic District
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

8-2

centrality, access to major roads, and established population: Episcopalians in 1819, Methodists in 1835, and in the early 20th century, Roman Catholics. As the town center, the area was also the logical choice for locating public institutions such as the Town Hall, built in 1875, the public library (1893), and the town's consolidated elementary school, built c.1920. Social organizations such as the Odd Fellows and Masonic groups also helped make the area the focus of community life. Along with the immediately surrounding area, the Green remained the town center throughout the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, and it continues in that role even to the present day.

Many of Sharon's leading families, such as the Kings, Gagers, Prindles, and Sedgwicks, chose to live in the village, and the houses clustered on Main, Upper Main, and North Main Streets recall the role of these prominent merchants, clergymen, and political leaders in the history of the town.

Perhaps because of the presence of iron and lime industries, and rail connections nearby, Sharon did not suffer the population decline experienced by other rural Connecticut towns until after 1880. By that time, another episode in the town's history was underway: the movement of wealthy families to Sharon as a weekend, summer, or retirement retreat. With fortunes made elsewhere in industry, finance, and the professions, these families bought some of the houses around the Green and also the farmhouses and open land that lay to the south, along South Main Street. Erecting large houses in the Colonial Revival style (or altering simple farmhouses into Colonial Revival mansions), they created a long row of contiguous estates stretching southward from the Green. A secondary cluster emerged along Hilltop Road, overlooking the Green on the east. At the same time, some houses were converted into country inns, notably the Sharon Inn (no longer extant) and the Bartram Inn, which an early 20th-century advertisement described as "a well conducted country house, noted for its cleanliness; a haven of rest." With its elevated setting, views of bucolic fields and farms, old colonial houses, and quiet pace, Sharon was a perfect retreat from New York. At the same time, trains to the metropolis (along the Harlem line) were only a short carriage ride away, across the state line just to the west.

Among the prominent New Yorkers who lived in Sharon in the early 20th century were diplomat Paul Hyde Bonner; Dr. William Bradley Coley, at the time the nation's leading expert on hernia operations; C. Stanley Mitchell, president of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the United

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance Sharon Historic District 8-3
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

States; editor/architectural critic Montgomery Schuyler; Frank Sprague, pioneering inventor of electrical devices; and Rev. Dr. Charles Comfort Tiffany, Episcopalian Archdeacon of New York.

By 1900 the Green itself had assumed its modern form, a park-like expanse of lawn with tall shade trees. In 1885 the soldiers monument, given by Emily Wheeler, established the Green as a location for important memorials, followed soon thereafter by the clock tower, 1886, erected as a memorial to Emily Wheeler's mother, and the Hotchkiss Library, 1893, in memory of Benjamin B. Hotchkiss, a local industrialist who with his brother Andrew developed the exploding artillery shell. The park-like appearance of the Green was augmented by a simple stone urn, c.1890, at the Green's midpoint opposite West Main Street. Many of these improvements were built and maintained by the village improvement association that was active around the turn of the century. In the middle of the 19th century, the Green had extended far south of Cornwall Road; lying outside of the village proper, however, this part became incorporated into the large estates that face South Main Street.

Architectural Significance

Many of the buildings in the Sharon Historic District embody the distinguishing characteristics of particular styles of architecture. The fanlights, Palladian windows, and porticos found on the several houses built (or substantially remodeled) in the early 19th century exemplify the elegant interpretation of Classical details favored in the Federal style, as do the arched entries and intricate steeple of the Congregational Church. Most of the later 19th-century buildings are plainer and less consciously stylish, but well-preserved examples remain of Stick-style and Queen Anne-style architecture, both of which epitomize the love of intricate variegated decoration that characterized the Victorian aesthetic. Two structures, the Hotchkiss Library and the clock tower, exhibit the rough polychrome masonry that is a defining characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Even many of the more vernacular buildings in the district retain architectural details that illustrate the rich diversity of Victorian millwork, such as pinnacles, decorative wood shingles, and board-and-batten gable decoration.

The Sharon Historic District is particularly exceptional because of its great number and concentration of large and elaborately detailed

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance Sharon Historic District
Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

8-4

Colonial Revival houses. The area of contiguous Colonial Revival estates on South Main Street and Amenia-Union Road may well be unparalleled in Connecticut. The idealization of early America as a time of gracious living is evident in the size and formality of plan found in most of these houses. With their broken-scroll pediments over doorways and dormers, Sharon's Colonial Revival mansions also illustrate another key characteristic of the style, the use of architectural elaboration far beyond what was commonly built in America before 1800. Finally, the houses embody the eclecticism of Early American sources that characterized the movement, at least in its early phase: mid-18th-century doorways and Federal-period fanlights were freely combined with anachronistic abandon. Both south of the Green and around the Green itself, the influence of Colonial Revival architecture and remodeling was felt to an exceptional degree, lending unity to the district while at the same time allowing evidence of its long history as a village center to shine through.

Well-known New York architects are represented in the district. Bruce Price, the socialite architect (and father of Emily Post) who designed Tuxedo Park and the Richard Morris Hunt Memorial in New York City, also designed Sharon's Hotchkiss Memorial Library. Charles A. Rich used a similar style for the clock tower at the south end of the Green; he is best known today for the c.1900 Beaux Arts-style Bryant Park Studios in Manhattan.

Criteria Considerations

The four churches and the cemetery in the district, while not ordinarily eligible for National Register listing, contribute to the district because they help indicate its historical role as a focus for community life. Particularly in the case of the Congregational Church, they also contribute to the district's architectural significance. At least one building in the district (73 Main Street) is known to have been moved from another location on the Green, but it has been at its present site since 1833.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register Ebenezer Gay House, Governor Smith Homestead
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CT-149,150,151,152
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office Connecticut Historical Commission
- Other state agency 59 South Prospect Street
- Federal agency Hartford, Connecticut 06106
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 360

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	___	_____	_____	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The nominated property is shown on the accompanying map, scale 1" = 200', traced from Sharon Assessor maps 12, 24, 26 and 29.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the built-up part of Sharon center around the Green and contiguous areas of historic homes extending southward along South Main Street and Amenia-Union Road. Areas of open land or predominantly modern construction form visual boundaries on all sides.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronin

Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: November 1, 1992

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Bibliography Sharon Historic District 9-1
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MAPS (in chronological order)

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Woodford, E. M. Map of Litchfield County. Philadelphia, 1859.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Geographical Data Sharon Historic District
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

10-1

UTM References:

A: 18.626220.4637760
B: 18.626450.4637660
C: 18.626780.4637920
D: 18.626880.4637900
E: 18.626930.4637570
F: 18.626720.4637520
G: 18.626740.4637430
H: 18.626650.4637430
I: 18.626640.4637140
J: 18.626530.4637100
K: 18.626410.4637100
L: 18.626560.4636920
M: 18.626560.4636820
N: 18.626340.4636820
O: 18.626450.4636750
P: 18.626300.4636760
Q: 18.626570.4636560
R: 18.626620.4636090
S: 18.626560.4635320
T: 18.626330.4635530
U: 18.626260.4635460
V: 18.626540.4635120
W: 18.626520.4635010
X: 18.625800.4635180
Y: 18.625810.4635410
Z: 18.625630.4635440
AA: 18.625660.4635640
BB: 18.625930.4635630
CC: 18.625920.4636110
DD: 18.626000.4636830
EE: 18.626240.4636840
FF: 18.626300.4637210
GG: 18.626200.4637190
HH: 18.626010.4637200
II: 18.625840.4637250
JJ: 18.625890.4637320
KK: 18.626120.4637620
LL: 18.626210.4637610

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Sharon Historic District Photos-1
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

All Photographs:

1. Sharon Historic District
2. Sharon, Litchfield County, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. June, 1992
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
 Hartford, CT

Captions:

Geer Cottage, 19 Amenia-Union Road, camera facing west
Photograph 1 of 30

Duane House, 26 Amenia-Union Road, camera facing southeast
Photograph 2 of 30

Hillside Cemetery, Cemetery Hill Road, camera facing northwest
Photograph 3 of 30

Victorian houses, Hospital Hill Road, camera facing west
Photograph 4 of 30

Detail of Victorian House, 67 Hospital Hill Road, camera facing
southwest
Photograph 5 of 30

Ebenezer Gay House (National Register-listed), 18 Main Street, camera
facing southeast
Photograph 6 of 30

Sharon Congregational Church, 25 Main Street, camera facing southwest
Photograph 7 of 30

Detail of doorway, Capt. Benjamin Lines House, 49 Main Street, camera
facing west
Photograph 8 of 30

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street, camera facing southwest
Photograph 9 of 30

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Sharon Historic District Photos-2
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

Prindle House, 141 Main Street, with c.1837 stores on right, camera facing northwest
Photograph 10 of 30

Estate, 21 Mitchelltown Road, camera facing southwest
Photograph 11 of 30

Houses, 36 and 42 New Street, and St. Bernard Catholic Church, 50 New Street on right, camera facing northwest
Photograph 12 of 30

Gothic-detailed house, 40 North Main Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 13 of 30

Masonic Hall, 99 North Main Street, camera facing southeast
Photograph 14 of 30

Sharon Center School, North Main Street (numbered 80 Hilltop Road), camera facing east
Photograph 15 of 30

Sharon Green, looking north from midpoint, camera facing north
Photograph 16 of 30

Civil War monument, north end of Green, camera facing southwest
Photograph 17 of 30

Wheeler Memorial Clock Tower, intersection of South Main Street and Cornwall Bridge Road, camera facing south
Photograph 18 of 30

Gateposts on South Main Street, Perry House, 29 Cornwall Road, camera facing southeast
Photograph 19 of 30

Sterling House, 29 South Main Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 20 of 30

Wheeler House, 36 South Main Street, camera facing east
Photograph 21 of 30

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Sharon Historic District Photos-3
 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT

Gardener's cottage, 32 South Main Street, behind Wheeler House, camera facing northwest
Photograph 22 of 30

John Penoyer House, 44 South Main Street, camera facing southeast
Photograph 23 of 30

Sprague House, 70 South Main Street (numbered as 1-5 Herrick Road), camera facing east
Photograph 24 of 30

Early 20th-century house, left, and Platt House, right, 97 and 95 South Main Street, camera facing north
Photograph 25 of 30

Victorian house, 28 Upper Main Street, camera facing east
Photograph 26 of 30

Dr. Phineas Smith House, 42 Upper Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 27 of 30

Joshua Bassett House, 62 Upper Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 28 of 30

Bartram Inn, 74-78 Upper Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 29 of 30

Store, 106 Upper Main Street, and Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 30 of 30