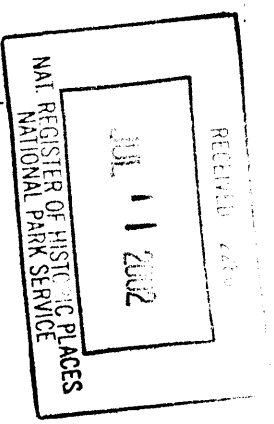
865



1. Name of Property

historic name NA

other names/site number Gales Ferry Historic District #2

2. Location

street & number 1, 2 Allyn Lane; 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31, 32, 32R, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 43 Hurlbutt Road; 6, 8 Ledyard Lane; 6 Library Lane; 2, 5 Maple Corners Road; 15, 20 Military Highway not for publication NA

city or town Ledyard vicinity NA

state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06335

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date 07/09/02

John W. Shannahan, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X 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): _____

_____ 8/22/2002
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
- ___x private
- ___x public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
- ___ building(s)
- ___x district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
___44	___14	buildings
___2	_____	sites
_ ____	_____	structures
___2	____	objects
___48	___14	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ___NA

Name of related multiple property listing: ___Historic Resources of Ledyard, Connecticut___

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling, multiple swelling
SOCIAL	firehouse, clubhouse
EDUCATION	school, library
RELIGION	religious facility, church-related residence
FUNERARY	cemetery
RECREATION & CULTURE	monument
LANDSCAPE	park

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling, multiple swelling
SOCIAL	clubhouse
EDUCATION	school, library
FUNERARY	cemetery, mortuary
RECREATION & CULTURE	monument
LANDSCAPE	park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
20TH-CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE/Granite
roof WOOD/Shingle
walls WOOD/Weatherboard, Shingle; ASPHALT; ASBESTOS
other

7. Description

The village of Gales Ferry lies in the southwestern corner of the Town of Ledyard in southeastern Connecticut . The spine of the village is Hurlbutt Road, which runs west from the principal north-south highway, Connecticut Route 12, three-quarters of a mile to the Thames River. The community was bisected in 1900 when a railroad cut (Photograph 15) was constructed about one-fifth of a mile in from the Thames River. The western portion of the village, between the railroad and the river, is addressed in the documentation for Gales Ferry Historic District #1; the eastern portion, between the railroad and the highway, is the subject of this registration form. (See District Map.)

Gales Ferry Historic District #2 consists of 19th-century houses associated with the ferry, wharves, and seafaring commerce of the Thames River; 20th-century houses built, in part, as summer residences during the village's development after the arrival of the railroad; and civic buildings constructed to serve the community needs of the village. In the district there are thirty-one 19th-century structures, twenty 20th-century buildings more than 50 years old, seven civic/community buildings, a cemetery, and a small park. Most buildings are frame. The general sequence of uses, proceeding west from Route 12, is schoolhouse, church, parsonage, cemetery, parklet, Community Center, Library, 20th-century houses on the south and 19th-century houses on the north, to an early-20th-century rustic library and mid-20th-century cobblestone former firehouse overlooking the railroad cut.

Description of the resources is set forth in the inventory which follows.

Inventory

Dates of construction are taken from Town of Ledyard Assessor's field cards, Historical and Architectural Resource Survey inventory forms, *Historic Ledyard Volume I*, and/or *Historic Ledyard Volume IV*. The letters C or NC indicate whether the resource is considered to be contributing or non-contributing to the architectural and/or historical significance of the district.

C 1 Allyn Lane Fire Company No. 2 1948 1-story masonry gable-roofed Rustic 36' x 80' fieldstone/cobblestone/concrete/ cinder block building. Large front rectangular section is entered through added wooden gable-roofed central entry porch with coved ceiling.. End walls are wood-shingled. Windows are 1-over-1. Building was constructed in 1948 after disastrous fire destroyed its predecessor firehouse/community club structure. Alterations/additions 1960, 1975. It became residential in 1986. With ell, house is large, 4629 square feet. (Photograph 14)

C 2 Allyn Lane Williams-Allyn House 1803 1-story frame 5-bay gable-roofed Colonial house on brick foundation with central chimney and aluminum siding. 38' x 28' with sequential ells 16' x 36' and 24' x 24' Most windows are 12-over-12. Small square windows close to eaves in gable ends. Double-leaf door in central entrance is under 6-pane transom and is flanked by fluted pilasters. Second entrance on east elevation is sheltered by gabled portico on paneled posts. Ell, c. 1855, leads to further later addition. (Photograph 13)

C 19th century Tall rectangular gable-roofed barn topped by pyramidal-roofed monitor, with vertical siding.

NC c. 1980 Frame gable-roofed 2-car garage covered with clapboards.

C 6 Hurlbutt Road Gales Ferry School 1868 Building only; land is part of church parcel; see next item. Vacant 1-story frame 22½' x 30½' gable-roofed one-room schoolhouse covered with clapboards under wood-shingled roof on granite foundation. Twin entrances have 2-pane transoms and flat molded cornices. Pointed-arched 2-over-2 window in gable peak; three 6-over-6 windows on each side. Flag pole finial at front roof peak, brick chimney at rear. Interior features include coved ceiling and curved blackboard behind teacher's desk on dais across rear wall. Exceptionally well-preserved. (Photograph 1) (cont.)

First schoolhouse building on site, c.1750, served to 1804 when Second District of Groton constructed replacement, which was used until present (third) building put up 1868. It served until two-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1927 at 18 Hurlbutt Road, now Community Center.[1]

C 6 Hurlbutt Road Gales Ferry Methodist Church 1857 Land and building. Tall gable-roofed frame vernacular 32' x 78' church structure on high brick foundation with gable end to street. Aluminum siding. Two sections, front and rear, each of three bays. Front elevation has indication of central entrance formerly approached by divided stairway and flanked by tall windows. Short square tower formerly on roof above. Front section is 1857 building; rear section added in 1954. Entrance now mid-west side. Now funeral home. (Figure 1, Photograph 1)

C 8 Hurlbutt Road Former Methodist Church parsonage 1928 2-story gable-roofed 4-bay 42' x 56' Colonial Revival house covered with vinyl siding. 6-over-6 windows. Wide partially open and partially enclosed front porch wraps around east side.

C 13 Hurlbutt Road Gales Ferry Memorial Parklet 1920 .07-acre triangular park dedicated to all war veterans. Wooden honor roll erected 1942. Present replacement monument, 1956, is flanked by arbor vitae and stands in front of flagpole. Monument consists of cylindrical granite stone 14" in diameter by 7' 3" in height[2] standing on grindstone from gristmill with iron eagle finial at top, which originally was gilded. Incised lettering in caps at mid-height on front of cylinder reads:

DEDICATED
TO THE MEN
AND WOMEN
WHO SERVED THEIR
COUNTRY IN ALL
WARS

In front of monument, rectangular granite stone, 9' 8" x 35", flush in ground, is incised in caps:

GALES FERRY MEMORIAL PARKLET
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO

followed by two columns of names, 7 in one column, 9 in other, occupying left half of the stone. Right half of inscription space is blank. (Photograph 5)

C 14 Hurlbutt Road Gales Ferry Cemetery Early 19th century; Cemetery Association incorporated 1887. Size increased from time to time to present 2.31 acres Nearly flat 19th- and 20th-centuries cemetery with monuments of marble and granite in various sizes and shapes. Little brownstone; *i.e.*, 18th century scarcely represented. Space gives an open view because there are not iron fences around family plots, although there are curbs at grade level. Cemetery is surrounded by low stone wall which incorporates shelter at southeast corner. Segmental-headed and flat stones, slant stones, sarcophagus shapes, and obelisks are all represented. There is one zinc (white bronze) monument, which has no source identification, and one marble tablestone, from 1812. (Photographs 2, 3) Criteria Consideration D: The cemetery exhibits open landscaping, is source of local history, and is integral to the district.

C 15 Hurlbutt Road 1930 1-story frame Bungalow with gable toward street, covered with clapboards. Gable-roofed front porch supported by round posts on solid balustrades. 1-over-1 windows.

C c. 1930 Frame gable-roofed 1-car garage. Hinged doors are glazed with 8 small panes over 4 vertical panels.

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[1]The present Gales Ferry School is a modern building located across Hurlbutt Road from the 1868 structure, outside the district but shown on the District Map.

[2]The stone cylinder is a piece of c. 1840 farm equipment. It was pulled behind oxen to roll over newly seeded fields. -- Another Gales Ferry war monument, the George T. Meech Civil War Plaque, is located a fraction of a mile south of the district at 78 Military Road. See Ransom, p. 269.

C 17 Hurlbutt Road 1937 1-story frame 32' x 41' building with four apartments under high gable roof which makes 2½ floors of living space. General appearance is that of over-sized bungalow. Wide front and rear porches; wide shed-roofed dormer in front roof slope. First-floor vinyl siding resembles clapboards; second floor covered with asbestos shingles.

NC c. 1970 Frame hip-roofed multi-car garage.

C 18 Hurlbutt Road 1927 Gales Ferry Community Center 1-story frame and cinder block vernacular building with long gabled-roof ridge line parallel with street. Vinyl siding. 30' x 60' with 12' x 37' west rear ell. Hipped-roof central entry flanked by paired 6-over-6s. Built as 2-room schoolhouse to replace historic 1-room schoolhouse at 6 Hurlbutt Road. (Photograph 6)

NC 18 Hurlbutt Road Gales Ferry Free Public Library 1974 30' x 76' 2-story frame gable-roofed Colonial Revival building. Gable end toward street. 8-over-8 windows. 1992 1-story gable-roofed addition on front altered and obscured striking 2-story window wall. Shares parcel with Community Center, to which it was built as addition. (Photograph 6)

C 19 Hurlbutt Road 1930 1-story frame gable-roofed small Colonial Revival house covered with vinyl siding. Wide central front porch roof supported by square posts on solid balustrade. 3-sided bay at second floor over front porch.

NC c. 1970 Frame gambrel-roofed shed.

C 20 Hurlbutt Road Henry Comstock House 1848 with major additions/alterations. 1-story frame post-and-beam vernacular gabled-roof house covered with asbestos shingles on granite foundation. 1-over-1 windows. Wide front porch of main block faces street under central projecting, perhaps original, gable. Complex U-shaped ground plan (see District Map) 45' x 19' plus ell and 16' x 26' long semi-detached east wing that has screened porch on east side.

NC 21 Hurlbutt Road 1988 1½-story frame high-gabled-roof 27' x 47' Colonial Revival house with vinyl siding.

C 22 Hurlbutt Road Orlando Bolles House 1847 2-story frame post-and-beam gable-roofed Greek Revival house on granite foundation with aluminum siding. 22' x 35' with 14' x 30' rear ell/wing. 3-bay gabled front elevation has recessed doorway at one side with plain surround, 3-pane sidelights, 4-pane transom, and high entablature. Pedimented front gable has two quarter-round fanlights. Corner posts are exposed wood. Windows mostly 6-over-6 with some 1-over-1s. Former long porch on west side had Stick-style post brackets similar to those at 26 Hurlbutt Road.

C 23 Hurlbutt Road Adelbert Alexander House 1899 2-story frame gable-roofed vernacular (save for porch posts) 21½' x 29' house with 24' x 15' ell, covered with aluminum siding. 2-over-2 windows. Front elevation has two windows over two windows and door, which is to west. Queen Anne-style turned posts with sawn brackets embellish front wraparound porch. (Photograph 8)

C c. 1930 Frame gable-roofed 2-car garage covered with wood shingles. Hinged doors have 8 lights over 4 panels.

C Frame gable-roofed shed covered with clapboards.

C 24 Hurlbutt Road Stephen Perkins House 1845 1½-story post-and-beam Greek Revival gable-roofed 23' x 30' house covered with clapboards, on granite foundation, with ells. Two windows over two windows and 5-panel door flanked by pilasters in front elevation. Eaves return briefly in lieu of full pediment. Frieze boards on side elevations. 6-over-6 windows. (Photograph 7)

C c. 1930 Frame gable-roofed shed with sliding doors, covered with clapboards.

C 26 Hurlbutt Road George A. Bailey House 1844 2-story post-and-beam 3-bay Federal/Greek Revival gable-roofed 23' x 40' house on granite foundation, covered with clapboards. Recessed doorway under semi-elliptical fanlight with metal (perhaps wrought iron) radial muntins is flanked by plain pilasters. Semi-elliptical fanlight in pediment. Rear addition. Diagonal Stick-style brackets at tops of slender square posts distinguish wide early-20th-century wraparound porch on front and east side. 2-story bay on west added at same time. (Photograph 7)

C c. 1940 Frame gable-roofed 1-car garage covered with clapboards.

C 28 Hurlbutt Road 1945 1-story frame gable-roofed Colonial Revival 30' x 24' cottage covered with wood shingles. Three bays of 6-over-6 windows.

C 31 Hurlbutt Road Simeon A. Bailey House 1880 1¾-story frame gable-roofed vernacular structure sheathed in clapboards on granite foundation. 21½' x 25' with 20' x 14' kitchen wing at rear left and 19' x 24' ell. Front door has Italianate hood on console brackets.

C c. 1930 Frame gable-roofed 1-car garage covered with novelty siding.

C 32 Hurlbutt Road Stephen Hempstead House 1826 1-story Colonial post-and-beam gable-roofed house on fieldstone foundation covered with wood shingles. 30½' x 24½'. Sited close to road. Extensively altered. Street front originally was in conventional 5-bay arrangement but now has central rectangular full 2-story projecting central bay. Entrance now on east side elevation. Shed-roofed dormer in rear roof slope. Side and rear porches added. Original second-floor overhangs (jetties) remain in both end elevations. Windows are 2-over-2; most window openings are larger than original size; exceptions are l-over-l window in each gable end, still original dimensions. (Photograph 9)

C c. 1910 Frame gable-roofed garage covered with clapboards. Deteriorated.

C 32R Hurlbutt Road Located on south side of roadway running north from Hurlbutt Road. Roadway is part of 30 Hurlbutt Road parcel, to which 28R and 32R Hurlbutt Road have right-of-way access. This roadway is sometimes known as Hurlbutt Circle or Hurlbutt Court. 32R Hurlbutt Road, 1949, is 1-story frame gable-roofed 28' x 22' Colonial Revival cottage with aluminum siding. Asymmetric gable-roofed entry. 6-over-1 windows. Two gable-roofed dormers project from front roof slope. Attached garage.

NC c. 1970 Frame gable-roofed shed with vertical siding.

C 33 Hurlbutt Road First Gales Ferry Library 1921 1-story gable-roofed Rustic building sheathed in wood shingles, size 28' x 20' with added 33' x 12' ell. Foundation, front porch, and chimney are cobblestone, set behind fieldstone retaining wall at road's edge. Low-pitched porch gable roof is supported by round posts set on cobblestone piers. Constructed with volunteer labor, building served as Gales Ferry Free Public Library for 53 years, until present library at 18 Hurlbutt Street was constructed in 1974. (Photograph 10)

C 34 Hurlbutt Road Charles H. Comstock House 1898/1909? 1-story Queen Anne gambrel-roof-to-street frame cottage covered by imbricated shingles. Enclosed front porch. Cross-gabled dormer in west roof slope. (Photograph 11)

NC c. 1980 Cinder-block gable-roofed 1-car garage.

C 36 Hurlbutt Road John J. Lawless House 1912 2-story frame hipped-roof 25' x 38' American Four Square house with added intersecting 20' x 30' section offset to east at rear. Large windows of small panes. Aluminum siding.

C c. 1940 frame gable-roofed 1-car garage covered with novelty siding.

C 37 Hurlbutt Road Twin Oaks 1908 1-story frame vernacular gable-roofed square 27' x 27' house covered with wood shingles. Two shed-roofed dormers. In asymmetric front elevation, 6-over-1 windows flank east entrance while triple 6-over-1s occupy western half of facade.

NC 39 Hurlbutt Road 1940 2-story frame 31' x 32' house sheathed in wood shingles. Wraparound rear wing/ell. House is without character-defining architectural features.

C 43 Hurlbutt Road 1900, moved to present location 1927 1½-story vernacular frame house dominated by heavy gable-and-shed roof. First-floor windows are 1-over-1s, second-floor tall single panes. Criteria Consideration B: Although removed from original location, nearby, the house is of size and material imilar to others in streetscape and has been part of district for more than 80 years.

NC c. 1970 Small frame gable-roofed white shed.

C 6 Ledyard Lane 1950 1-story frame gable-roofed wood-shingled cottage with central projecting gable-roofed porch.

C 8 Ledyard Lane Reverend Allen Shaw Bush House 1916 1-story frame 29' x 44' gable-roofed Bungalow with gable end to street. Hipped-roof porch to north, large 3-sided bay on south. Aluminum siding. Part of the Noyes B. Allyn development. (Photograph 12)

NC Outbuilding a/k/a 9 Library Lane c. 1940s Frame and concrete 1-story gable-roofed structure built as shop, later converted to two side-by-side living units with central double entry. Each unit has 20-pane picture window in front elevation under shed-roofed dormer with paired 1-over-1s.

NC c. 1950 Frame gable-roofed 1-car garage

C 6 Library Lane Jacob Schnell House 1917 1½-story prefab frame hipped-roof Bungalow covered with clapboards. 30' x 28' main block behind 24' x 6' front porch, which has clustered square columns on shingled piers. 9-over-1 windows. Sears, Roebuck & Company's "The Elsmore."

C c. 1940 Frame gable-roofed 2-car garage covered with novelty siding.

C 2 Maple Corners Road Alfred Rogers House 1899 Frame 1¾-story gable-roofed vernacular house covered with aluminum siding. 20' x 18' with 21' x 16' ell. In wide front porch, which wraps around to east, turned posts are joined at top by frieze of square spindles. 2-over-3 bay front elevation. Gable end features window glazed with large pane surrounded by peripheral small square panes. (Photograph 8)

C c. 1940 Frame gable-roofed shed with vertical siding, two doors with panels, one 6-over-6 window, and interior beadboard wainscot.

C 5 Maple Corners Road Lucy Perkins Hurlbutt House 1896/1899 1¾-story vernacular frame house with asymmetrical gable roof over 3-bay front elevation facing street. 2-over-2 windows. Entrances through south side of small enclosed hipped-roof front porch and by north side porch.

NC 2000 Tall frame gable-roofed barn with weathered vertical siding.

C c. 1940 Frame gable-roofed 2-car garage covered with novelty siding.

C 15 Military Highway 1928 1-story prefab frame gable-roofed Colonial Revival 36' x 30' cottage covered with aluminum siding. Ends of roof ridge are truncated. Central gable-roofed porch has columns and coved ceiling, flanked by paired 6-over-1 windows. Sears, Roebuck & Company's "The Rodessa." (Photograph 4)

C c. 1928 Frame gable-roofed L-shaped outbuilding consisting of 1-car garage and shed. Front gable truncated.

C 20 Military Highway 1948 1-story frame Colonial Revival house sheathed in clapboards. Central gable-roofed section with shed-roofed dormer is flanked by enclosed porch on south and stepped-back gable-roofed section on north. North side yard is part of Hurlbutt Road streetscape.

C c. 1848 Frame gable-roofed 1-car garage with hinged doors.

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- x B removed from its original location.
- ___ C a birthplace or a grave.
- x D a cemetery.
- ___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ___ F a commemorative property.
- ___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 19th and early 20th centuries

Significant Dates 1803, 1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder NA

8. Significance

Summary

Gales Ferry Historic District #2 is significant historically and architecturally because it records the social and architectural development of a portion of a Thames River village dependent for its origin on an 18th-century ferry and associated river traffic. During the 19th-century it grew as a residential area for families associated with the sea, and in the 20th-century became a community that adapted its historical streetscape to the contemporary social needs of a secluded village. The presence of buildings reflecting in their historic relationship to one another this social development enhances understanding of a character-defining era of Ledyard history. The 19th-century houses were built in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and vernacular styles of the era (not the revival high styles of late century), while 20th-century construction was less ambitious in its modest adoption of the Colonial Revival mode, including prefabricated cottages supplied by Sears, Roebuck & Company. These buildings provide good examples of architectural practice followed in a small remote southeastern Connecticut village.

History

In early history, when most of Gales Ferry village was the Hurlbutt Farm, the spine of the district, later Hurlbutt Road, was a farm track leading to the river. The utility of the location on the river was recognized by the establishment of a ferry to Montville on the west side in 1740. Roger Gale gave his name to the operation by his four years of proprietorship, starting in 1759.[3] Wharves, cooper shops, a store, and other accoutrements of river traffic and related modest homes made a concentration of activity at the water's edge which is addressed in Gales Ferry Historic District #1. The residentially attractive streetscape to the east, Gales Ferry Historic District #2, attracted home owners with seafaring background, often in retirement.

The oldest house the district, at 2 Allyn Lane, 1803, reflects the pattern of development. Allyn Williams (1769-1813) first lived near the Upper Wharf next to the ferry landing on the river, but after his marriage built this house in the tradition of the Colonial style. In 1820 the property came into the possession of the Allyn family in the person Christopher Allyn, and passed to his descendants for several generations The precedent of sequence of family owners at 2 Allyn Lane was followed by the Hempstead family in 1826 at 32 Hurlbutt Road, which incorporates two circumstances typical of the district: Albert Hempstead, who built the house for his father Stephen, was lost at sea at age 31. The property was not sold out of the family until 1963.

As mid-19th century approached, a cluster of four houses was built on the north side of Hurlbutt Road: 26 Hurlbutt Road in 1844, 22 and 24 Hurlbutt Road in 1847, and 20 Hurlbutt Road in 1848. All reflect the Federal/Greek Revival norm which was fading from popularity in urban centers at the time, but, nevertheless, in a manner not surprising considering the insularity of the village was still popular in the district. 26 Hurlbutt Road was built by George Bailey (1815-1897), master of whaling ships sailing out of the nearby ports of Groton and New London. Another whaling ship master, Orlando Bolles, built 22 Hurlbutt Road just prior to leaving on a two-year voyage in the ship *Exile*. The house was owned by members of his family into the 1920s. Stephen Perkins, whaling master, bought land from Ralph Hurlbutt in 1844 to build 24 Hurlbutt Road. 20 Hurlbutt Road completed the row in 1848. Its second owner was Henry Comstock who died, shortly after the purchase, on Ascension Island in the South Pacific while commanding the *Louisa Beaton*.

From the 1840s, a hiatus in new residential construction prevailed along Hurlbutt Road until toward the end of the century. Simeon Bailey (1808-1897), scion of an old Gales Ferry family, followed the earlier pattern by moving from near the river to a vernacular house which he built in 1880 at 31 Hurlbutt Road on one of several parcels he owned on the south side of the road. At the end of the century, in 1899, three houses were built on land purchased from Bailey's estate at the neighboring corner of Hurlbutt Road and Maple Corners Road. Adelbert V. Alexander built and lived in 23 Hurlbutt Road and constructed its near mirror image across the street at 2 Maple Corners Road. Lucy Perkins Hurlbutt built the adjoining structure, 5 Maple Corners Road, in a similar

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[3]The ferry continued in operation until c.1865.

vernacular vocabulary. The relative plainness of the end-of-the-century architecture may reflect the absence of a measure of prosperity earlier associated with the whaling industry.

Buildings which fulfilled community social needs, present in the district from the beginning, grew in number and importance in the 19th and 20th centuries. A one-room Gales Ferry School stood at 6 Hurlbutt Road from c. 1750. The Gales Ferry Methodist Church held services in 1815 in a structure moved to the site of the 1857 inventoried building. The church was a hub of community life, so active that in 1953 the size of the building was doubled, and it continued to grow, prompting removal in 1965 to larger quarters outside the district. Another center of social activity was a clubhouse at 1 Allyn Lane operated in conjunction with the volunteer Gales Ferry Fire Company #2 in a building replaced in 1942 only to burn in 1948. The organization, no longer with fire protection duties, has continued in existence as the Gales Ferry Fire District carrying on its civic responsibility by building the present Gales Ferry Free Public Library as an addition to the Community Center. The local governing organizations for the cemetery and parklet made parallel contributions to the village. An important common thread running through all of these half dozen groups is the fact that all are independent volunteer organizations, not operated by the Town of Ledyard with properties not owned by the Town of Ledyard.[4] The district's stellar history of civic involvement and support is clearly demonstrated by the buildings associated with the volunteer groups.

Residential construction during the 20th century has reflected the modest independent separate character of the district. Summer residents began to play a part in the community. One of the early summer homes was the 1909 gambrel-roofed cottage at 34 Hurlbutt Road. Some new infill homes on Hurlbutt Road, such as numbers 15 and 17 Hurlbutt Road, were built more for utility than architectural distinction, but continued to fit in with the scale, materials, and spacing that distinguish the district. About 1910 Noyes B. Allyn of Allyn Lane divided his property into building lots, a rare real estate development in the district. Houses along Allyn Lane, Ledyard Lane, and Library Lane resulted. Some indication that village residents stayed in touch with modern developments is given by the presence of two Sears, Roebuck & Company prefabricated homes at 6 Library Lane and 15 Military Highway.

Architecture

Houses and civic buildings in Gales Ferry Historic District #2 are representative examples of architecture characteristic of the several eras in which they were built. 2 Allyn Lane is a good illustration of a one-story Colonial home, complete with character-defining small gable-end windows near the eaves. The group of four 1840s homes mid-district on the north side of Hurlbutt Road well records the country practice in Federal/Greek Revival architecture, while the end-of-the-century trio across the street demonstrate popular vernacular design of their time. The more modest 20th-century cottages reflect the influence of summertime residents and are of particular interest because they include two of the then-popular Sears, Roebuck & Company prefabricated products.

The quality of civic architecture was especially strong in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The 1868 school is wonderfully well-preserved with unaltered features such as the front entrances, windows, and interior fittings. The Methodist Church, though much altered, retains its original profile, size, and shape. The Rustic first library and Rustic firehouse are strong contributors to the district's architectural significance.

In the realm of landscape architecture, the Gales Ferry Memorial Parklet is an effective exercise in vernacular expression of patriotic veneration for local contribution to the nation's wars. The Gales Ferry Cemetery is a fine example of a small village burying ground that grew without planning to become a cohesive collection of markers and monuments closely related to the district's social history. The overall size and spacing of the buildings are basic to the streetscape's successful portrayal of the development of the village.

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[4] A present-day exception is Town support for the Gales Ferry Library.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bell, Janice Wightman, and Godina, Sheila Anyan. *Historic Ledyard Volume IV., Gales Ferry Revisited.* Ledyard: Ledyard Historical Society, 2000.

Bell, Janice Wightman, and Smith, Carolyn E., eds. *Historic Ledyard Volume I., Gales Ferry Village.* Ledyard: Ledyard Historic District Commission, 1976.

Cunningham, Jan. Gales Ferry Historic District #1, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992.

_____ Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of Ledyard, Connecticut, Statewide Historic Resource Inventory. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1990.

_____ Historic and Architectural Resources in Ledyard, Connecticut, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992

Godino, Sheila Anyan. *Ledyard, Connecticut, Historic Cemetery Inscription, 1711-1996*, 2000.

Ledyard Land Records, Volume 160, Page 690, November 20, 1886, relating to sale of 1 Allyn Lane by Gales Ferry Fire Company, Inc.

Ransom, David F. "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials." *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* 58(1993)1-4, vol. 1.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repositories: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25

UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	643690	4590200	B	18	643690	3590110
C	18	643190	4590120	D	18	643190	4590400

Verbal Boundary Description

The district's boundary is shown by the heavy dashed line on the District Map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the land relevant to the theme of the district, which is the properties associated with the portion of the historic farm track, now Hurlbutt Road, leading to the river from Route 12 westward until reaching the railroad cut. The 1910 Allyn real estate development is recognized by inclusion of those parcels almost immediately abutting the road. 35 Hurlbutt Road, 1967, is omitted rather than designated Non-Contributing because it is set well back at the top of a steep driveway, visually not part of the streetscape. Similarly, 28R Hurlbutt Road and 30 Hurlbutt Road are omitted because they are not part of the streetscape and because 28R is less than 50 years old, while 30R is without character-defining architectural features.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Architectural Historian date January 2002

street & number 83 Avery Heights telephone 860 953-8626

city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Photographs

Photographs were taken on December 20, 2001, by David F. Ransom. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1
Gales Ferry Methodist Church
Gales Ferry School
View northwest

Photograph 2
Gales Ferry Cemetery
Shelter
View southwest

Photograph 3
Gales Ferry Cemetery
View southeast

Photograph 4
15 Military Road
View east

Photograph 5
Gales Ferry Memorial
Parklet
View southwest

Photograph 6
Gales Ferry Free Public Library
Gales Ferry Community Center
View northwest

Photograph 7
26 and 24 Hurlbutt Road
View north

Photograph 8
23 Hurlbutt Road
2 Maple Corners Road
View southeast

Photograph 9
32 Hurlbutt Road and
to the east
View northeast

Photograph 10
First Library
View southwest

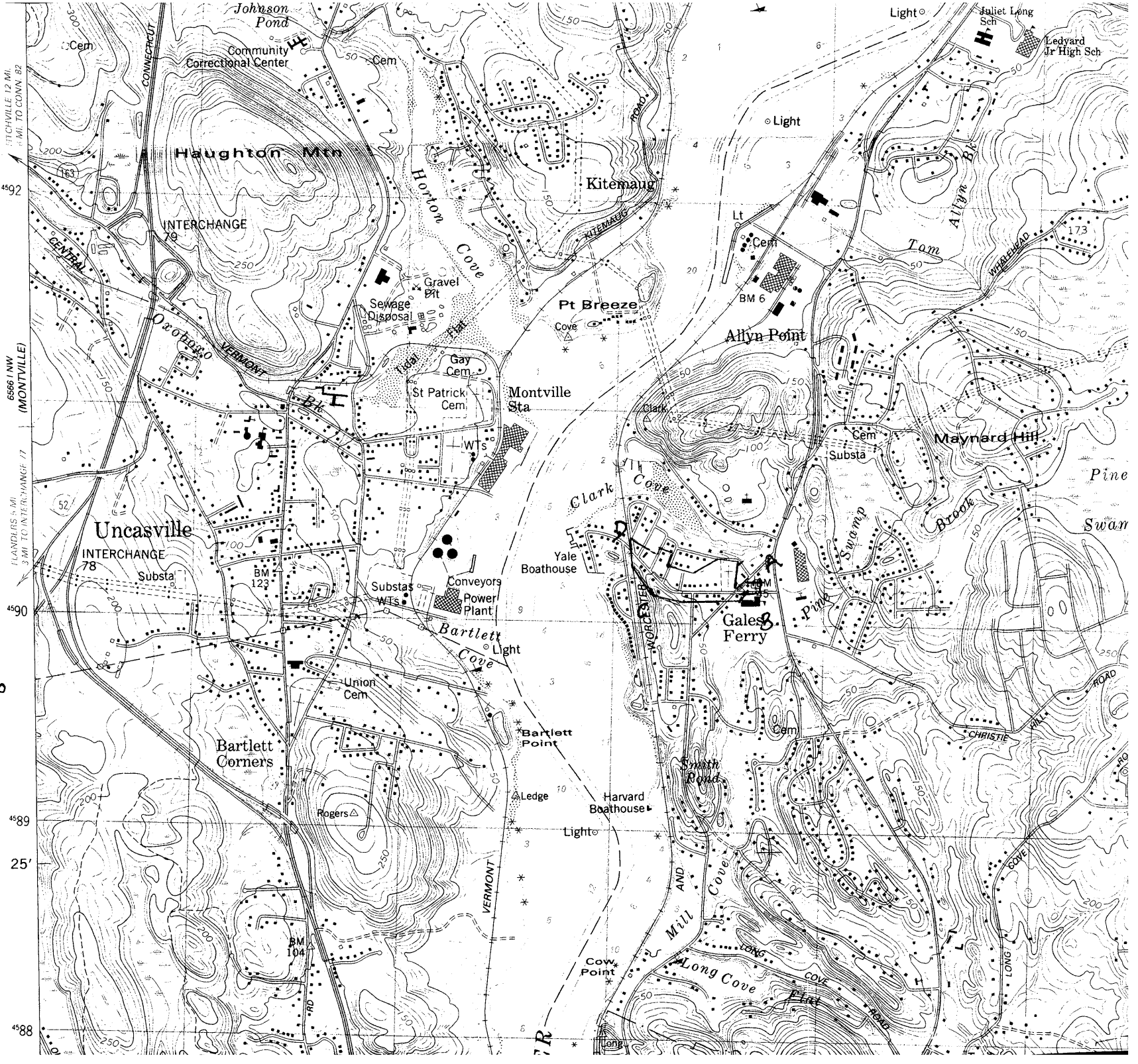
Photograph 11
34 Hurlbutt Road
View northeast

Photograph 12
8 Ledyard Lane
View northeast

Photograph 13
2 Allyn Lane
View northwest

Photograph 14
Former Firehouse
View northwest

Photograph 15
Railroad cut
View north from Hurlbutt
Road bridge



SALES FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT #2
LEDYARD, CT
UTM REFS
A 18/643600/4590200
B 18/643600/4590110
C 18/643170/4590120
D 18/643090/4590400

Gales Ferry Historic District #2, Ledyard, CT

Figure 1

Historic photograph
Methodist Church, School

Souce: Bell & Smith, page 6

Gales Ferry Historic District #2, Ledyard, CT

District Map (portions of town maps 75, 90, 91)

District boundary ⟺ Photo key

100 0 100 200 300 400 FEET

E 782,500

GALES FERRY

GALES FERRY CEMETERY
2.31 ACRES

TENNIS COURT
11.22 ACRES

GALES FERRY SCHOOL

PARKING AREA

POST OFFICE

FIRE CO. NO. 2

FLAG POLE

1.61 ACRES

2.10 ACRES

1.15 ACRES

440 ACRES

WINTHROP RD

HURLBUTT RD

MILITARY HIGHWAY

LEDYARD LANE

LIBRARY LANE

ALLYN TRAIL

CORNERS

PENN