

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 16 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and or common STAFFORD HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Location

street & number Portions of Leonard Road, Murphy Road,
Old Monson Road, Orcuttville Road and Patten Road N/A not for publication

city, town Stafford X vicinity of Stafford Hollow

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stafford Town Clerk

street & number Main Street

city, town Stafford Springs state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1987 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street

city, town Hartford state CT

AUG 31 1987

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Stafford Hollow, also known as Furnace Hollow or simply Stafford, is a small village of houses, stores, churches, and a mill clustered around a small pond. Despite the name, the topography of the district is fairly level; only on Leonard Road is there a distinct rise in elevation as one moves away from the center of the village. Stafford Hollow has one major intersection where Orcuttville Road, Route 19, Leonard Road, and Patten Road all come together. At this intersection are the village store (Photograph 1), the 1845 old town hall (Photograph 1), the post office, three social halls (Photograph 23), and a small park with a single bench and flagpole. North of the intersection is Riverside Mill, an 1881 four-story brick factory (Photograph 2); an ashlar dam under the bridge forms the mill pond by impounding Furnace Brook, which flows in a westerly direction through the district. On the north side of the pond and brook are two other streets running off Leonard Road, Upper Road and Old Monson Road.

The houses in the district are mostly from the 19th century and are predominantly vernacular designs, with only a hint of stylistic reference in the cornice detail or entry surrounds (Photographs 14 through 17). Many of the later ones have typical Victorian elements in their porches, peak ornament, brackets, or shingled gables (Photographs 18 through 20). There are a number of larger, more elaborate residences which stand out from their neighbors, with finely detailed examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Italian Villa, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles (Photographs 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13). The houses are spaced quite close together, though as one moves away from the village center the lots become larger. In addition to the houses, 25 associated old barns or carriagehouses (Photographs 16, 17, 22, and 26) were inventoried.

In addition to the old town hall, the district includes several important institutional structures: the 1845 Universalist Church (Photograph 4), the 1833 Baptist Church (Photograph 24), Memorial Hall (Photograph 27), and the eclectic Victorian Pinney School, now used for administrative offices (Photograph 25).

Of 125 buildings substantial in size and scale, 103 or 82% were judged to contribute to the significance of the district, including the churches, halls, school, store, mill, and nearly all the houses and barns. Small outbuildings and garages and the ruins of two barns were not separately inventoried. Noncontributing buildings include four modern town garage structures (Photograph 30), several houses and a store of relatively recent construction (Photograph 29), large cinderblock garages (Photograph 22, right), and a few substantially altered old buildings (Photograph 28). Although quite plain, most of the district's buildings retain sufficient original form and materials to make evident their historical origins.

(continued)

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Continuation sheet

Stafford, CT

Item number 4

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Location (continued):

The following streets are included in the district. Street numbering is absent or irregular in Stafford Hollow; property notations refer to parcel numbers (Map #: Lot #) as recorded in the Stafford Assessor's records.

LEONARD ROAD

East side: from Parcel 40:26 to Parcel 40:1

West side: from Parcel 39:59 to Parcel 39:26

MURPHY ROAD

East side: Parcel 39:44

OLD MONSON ROAD

South side: from Parcel 39:47 to Parcel 37:30

North side: from Parcel 39:36 to Parcel 39:17

ORCUTTVILLE ROAD

North side: from Parcel 39:57 to Parcel 39:53

South side: from Parcel 39:60 to Parcel 39:67

PATTEN ROAD

East side: from Parcel 40:59 to Parcel 38:40

West side: from Parcel 40:60 to Parcel 38:39

PINNEY SCHOOL ROAD

South side: Parcel 40:16 to Parcel 40:17

ROUTE 19

West side: from Parcel 39:86 to Parcel 40:15

East side: from Parcel 40:60 to Parcel 40:44

UPPER ROAD

North side: from Parcel 40:4 to Parcel 27:9

South side: from Parcel 40:22 to Parcel 40:11

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Stafford, CT Item number 10

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Geographical Data (continued):

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the district is shown on the accompanying map, based upon maps 27, 37, 38, 39, and 40 in the Town of Stafford Assessor office and scaled at 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary was drawn so as to include resources related to the main theme of the district, the 19th-century development of Stafford Hollow as a manufacturing village and as a center for the town's religious, educational, and political institutions. Contiguous old houses in the center of the village were all included, even if somewhat altered and plainly detailed. Houses of 20th-century construction lay beyond the district boundary on Leonard, Old Monson, Murphy, Orcuttville, and Patten roads, and Route 19 south, providing a logical stopping point for the boundary.

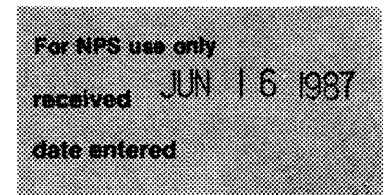
The highest number of noncontributing structures lies at the eastern end of the district on Route 19; the district was extended past these in order to include the 1895 Pinney School, a pivotal structure in the history of the town and a work by well-known Hartford architect (and former Stafford resident) William D. Johnson. In doing so, the boundary logically includes a Greek Revival period dwelling across the street.

The boundary throughout follows the rear property lines of houses fronting on the various roads. However, in cases where the house lot includes substantial back acreage, the boundary cuts across the lot, usually running in a line with the rear lot lines of more limited neighboring house lots or else to a corner of a smaller neighboring lot.

There are only two areas of open land within the district: the eastern end of Furnace Brook runs through some marshy meadow which historically has been undeveloped and in any case lies between dense settlement on the bordering roads. This tract also includes the site of the former Valley cotton mill. The other open land is the park at Furnace Hollow Square, a wooded area visually imbedded within the dense 19th-century development at the center of the village.

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Representation in Other Surveys (continued):

Historic and Architectural Resources of Stafford Hollow

1984 - State/Local

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Riverside Woolen Mill was inventoried in:

Connecticut: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites
Historic American Engineering Record

1981 - Federal/State

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Memorial Hall was inventoried in:

Connecticut Historic Theater Survey

1982 - State

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Archeological resources:

Cultural Resource Reconnaissance of Sanitary Sewer Projects in Stafford
Roger W. Moeller, Investigator

1977 - State

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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Description (continued):

The district includes one historical industrial site, the remains of a former textile mill; stone walls mark the location of what appear to have been foundations and races.

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

In the following listing, the numbers at the left refer to Map and Parcel numbers as recorded in the records of the Stafford Assessor. Except for Route 19, listed south to north, the order of the resources is from the center of the village outward. "Sided" refers to aluminum or vinyl siding.

LEONARD ROAD

- 39-59 Wolcott Masonic Temple, Victorian Vernacular, c.1890, 2 stories, hip roof, clapboarded. Second story added 1918. Built as Beebe & Cady general store; Masonic hall since 1918.
- 39-47 Riverside Woolen Mill, Industrial, 1881, 4 stories, brick. Attached dyehouse. Photograph 2.
- 39-37 House, vernacular, c.1845, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Built as a store by the owners of the nearby textile mill. Contributing barn.
- 40-24 House, vernacular, c.1840, asbestos siding. Contributing barn.
- 39-35 House, Greek Revival (Victorianized), c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Owned in 1850s by machinist/entrepreneur Lincoln Bardwell.
- 40-23 House, vernacular c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Owned in 1860s by Harrison F. Cook, carriagemaker
- 40-22 Barn, Italianate, c.1885, vertical board siding, diamond-pane and ocular windows, cupola with louvers and bracketed cornice. Associated with millowner E.C. Pinney. Photograph 22. Noncontributing garage on lot.
- 39-34 House, Queen Anne, c.1880, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Home of woolen-mill owner Edwin Harvey Pinney. Photograph 6.

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Description (continued):

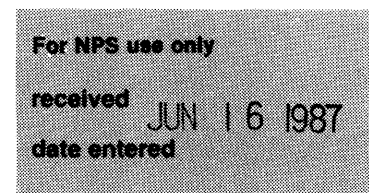
LEONARD ROAD (continued)

- 39-33 House, Greek Revival, c.1860. 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Victorianized c.1890 with porch, bracketed cornice, round windows. Home of millowner Edwin C. Pinney.
- 39-32 House, vernacular, c.1833, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Baptist parsonage.
- 39-32 Baptist Church, Federal/Greek Revival, 1833, 1 1/2 stories, sided. Originally had balustrade at top of tower. Photograph 24.
- 39-31 House, vernacular, c.1840, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Home of farmer Alvin Ellithorpe and later, in 1860s, machinist J.M. Lawrence. Photograph 15.
- 39-30 House, Greek Revival c.1845, 2 1/2 stories asbestos siding. Victorian porch. Home of farmer Garner Cady in 1850s. Contributing barn.
- 40-3 House, Colonial Revival, c.1910, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, clapboarded. Built as Universalist parsonage. Photograph 21.
- 39-29 House, vernacular, c.1870, 2 stories, clapboarded. Contributing barn.
- 39-28 House, vernacular/Greek Revival, 1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded.
- 40-2 House, Greek Revival, 1845, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding, later enclosed porch. In 1850s home of Amos Harvey, Jr., foundry and textile mill entrepreneur. Photograph 16. Contributing barn.
- 39-27 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, Victorian porch. In 1850s, home of mill-worker Samuel Guthrie. Contributing barn.
- 40-1 House, Greek Revival, c.1843, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Built for farmer Willard Cummings.
- 39-26 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, wood shingled siding. Occupied c.1860 by molder Seth B. Washburn.

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Description (continued):

MURPHY ROAD

39-44 House, vernacular, c.1720, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade, large central brick chimney. Photograph 10.

OLD MONSON ROAD

39-47 See Riverside Woolen Mill, Leonard Road.

39-36 House, vernacular, c.1840, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Built as tenement for textile mill. Photograph 5. Contributing barn.

39-25 House, Italian Villa, c.1850, 2 stories, clapboarded, bracketed cornice, bay window, portico. Formerly had cupola. Home of millowner Jaspar Hyde Bolton. Photograph 4.

39-24 House, Greek Revival, 1844, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Built for physician William Clark. Photograph 4.

39-23 Universalist Church, Greek Revival, 1845, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Cast-iron railing. Photograph 4.

39-22 House, Greek Revival, 1845, 1 1/2 stories, sided, dormers, added porch. Built by molder Phineas Cady.

39-21 House, vernacular, c.1880, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Contributing barn.

39-19 Contributing barn on lot with noncontributing substantially altered old house.

39-42 House, vernacular, c.1800, 2 1/2 stories, asphalt siding. Owned in early 19th-century by farmer/millowner/Lieutenant-Governor E.E. Hyde. Contributing barn.

37-30 House, vernacular, c.1840 or earlier, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Owned in 1850s by blacksmith Joseph Corpe. Contributing barn.

39-17 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, Victorian porch. Contributing barn. In 1850s home of mechanic William Adams.

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Description (continued):

ORCUTTVILLE ROAD

- 39-60 See Route 19.
- 39-62 See Route 19.
- 39-63 House, Federal, c.1810, 2 1/2 stories, 5-bay facade, clapboarded. Home of farmer and grist/sawmill owner Richard Webber. Photographs 13 and 23.
- 39-64 Memorial Hall, Vernacular, 1867, remodeled c.1890, 1 story, clapboarded. Was Spiritualist hall, then theater. Photograph 27.
- 39-65 House, vernacular, c.1845, 1 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Originally owned by textile mill owners.
- 39-57 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Originally owned by textile mill.
- 38-56 House, Gothic Revival, c.1875, 1 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Probably originally owned by mill. Photograph 18.
- 39-66 House, vernacular, c.1845, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Owned in 1850s by stage proprietor Francis Johnson. Photograph 14.
- 39-55 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Typical millworker house. Photograph 18, left. Contributing small barn.
- 39-67 House, vernacular, c.1845, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Photograph 14. Owned in 1850s by machinist Augustus Alden.
- 39-53 House, vernacular, c.1845, 2 stories, sided. Built as a tenement by the textile mill.

PATTEN ROAD

- 40-56 House, vernacular, c.1770, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roof, central chimney, clapboarded. Home of gristmill owner Seth Blodgett. Contributing barn.
- 40-61 House, vernacular, c.1890, 2 stories, typical Victorian porch. Contributing barn.

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Description (continued):

PATTEN ROAD (continued):

- 40-55 House, vernacular, c.1880, 2 1/2 stories, duplex, clapboarded.
- 40-62 House, vernacular, c.1800, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded and brick-faced. Contributing barn.
- 40-41 House, Federal, c.1830, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Formerly home of farmer/entrepreneur Benjamin Salisbury. Photograph 11.
- 40-63 House, Federal, 1829, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Home of textile-machine builder Eli Horton. Photograph 12. Noncontributing large outbuilding, novelty sided.
- 38-39 House, Greek Revival/Italianate, 1865, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding. Home of carpenter William Colburn. Contributing barn.
- 38-40 House, Federal, c.1820, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded.

- ROUTE 19
- 39-86 House, vernacular, c.1899, 2 stories, clapboarded, typical Victorian porch detail. Former home of painter Albrt Simmonds.
- 39-87 House, Second Empire, c.1880, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Both this house and neighbor were built by saloonkeeper Abner Needham. Photograph 19.
- 29-88 House, Second Empire, c.1880, 1 1/2 stories, asbestos siding.
- 39-89 House, vernacular, c.1880, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Contributing barn. Photograph 17.
- 39-90 House, Greek Revival. c.1860, 1 1/2 stories, asbestos siding.
- 39-60 Post Office and Grange, Vernacular, c.1865, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Formerly a dry-goods store. Photograph 23.
- 39-62 VFW Hall, vernacular, c.1875, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded and asbestos sided. Tavern in the 19th century. Photograph 23.
- 40-27 Mill Pond Store, Greek Revival, c.1845, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Cast-iron railing on portico. Photograph 1.

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Description (continued):

ROUTE 19 (continued):

- 40-58 Stafford Town Hall, 1845, granite, 1 1/2 stories. Photograph 1.
- 40-54 House, Queen Anne, 1906, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded and shingled. Large carriagehouse. Formerly home of millowner William Park. Photograph 8.
- 40-60 House, Italian Renaissance Revival, c.1910, 2 1/2 stories, stucco. Matching stucco garage. Formerly home of millowner William Park. Photograph 7.
- 40-30 House, Greek Revival, c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding, c.1900 porch.
- 40-32 House, Gothic, c.1890, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Once owned by Riverside Mill.
- 40-52 House, Greek Revival, c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Contributing barn.
- 40-33 House, vernacular, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded.
- 40-34 House, Gothic, c.1890, 2 1/2 stories, asphalt siding. Once owned by Riverside Mill.
- 40-35 House, vernacular, c.1860, 1 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Contributing attached barn.
- 40-36 House, vernacular, c.1885, 2 stories, asbestos siding. Photograph 20. Once owned by Riverside Mill.
- 40-44 Pinney School, Queen Anne, c.1895, 2 stories, clapboarded and shingled. William Johnson, architect. Photograph 25.
- 40-15 House, Greek Revival, c.1845, 1 1/2 stories, wood shingle.

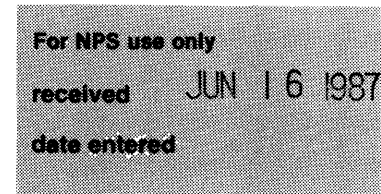
UPPER ROAD

- 40-4 House, vernacular, c. 1830, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Built as district school, second story added 1896. Contributing Mansard-roofed barn. Photograph 26.

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Description (continued):

UPPER ROAD (continued):

- 40-21 House, vernacular, c.1870, 2 stories, clapboarded and shingled. Built by laborer Timothy Collins.
- 40-5 House, c.1870, 2 1/2 stories, wood shingled, modern porch. Probably built as a mill-owned tenement.
- 40-20 House, Greek Revival, c.1840, 2 1/2 stories, stuccoed. Once owned by Moses B. Harvey, textile and machine-shop entrepreneur.
- 40-6 House, Colonial Revival, c.1922, 1 1/2 stories, aluminum siding.
- 40-7 House, Greek Revival, c.1860, 1 1/2 stories, aluminum siding. Built for farmer Minor Fairman.
- 40-19 House, vernacular, c.1880, 2 stories, clapboarded and shingled. Once owned by Riverside Mill.
- 40-18 House, Mediterranean/vernacular, c.1908, hip roof, 2 1/2 stories, asbestos siding.
- 40-8 House, vernacular, c.1880, 2 stories, clapboarded, typical Victorian porch.
- 40-9 House, Greek Revival, c.1855, 2 1/2 stories, sided. Built for machinist and textile-mill owner Charles Holt.
- 27-11 House, vernacular, c.1830, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded. Owned in 1830s by machinist Parley Howe. Contributing barn.
- 27-9 House, vernacular, c.1790, 1 1/2 stories, wood shingled. Contributing c.1930 gambrel-roofed barn and silo.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

LEONARD ROAD

Riverside Mill Dam, c.1880, stone ashlar dam under bridge over Furnace Brook, concrete headgate structure, north side, iron penstock, south side (Photograph 3).

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Description (continued):

CONTRIBUTING SITE

PINNEY SCHOOL ROAD

- 40-16 Valley Cotton Mill site, built c.1840, off Pinney School Road, north side of Furnace Brook. Extensive stone walls, including arch, probably for tail race. Destroyed c.1900 (Photograph 9).

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

LEONARD ROAD

- 39-26 Garage, c.1930, 1-story, concrete.
- 39-22 Equipment storage building, 2-bay, c.1950. Photograph 22. Contributing barn on site.

OLD MONSON ROAD

- 39-46 Two steel-sided industrial buildings, c.1970, steel-sided.
- 39-20 House, c.1920?, 1 1/2 stories.
- 39-19 House, c.1880, 2 stories, barn-board sided, new windows.

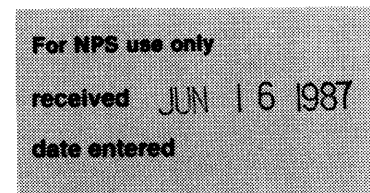
PATTEN ROAD

- 40-57 House, c.1870, 2 stories, asbestos sided, replaced porch. Photograph 28.
- 40-57.1 House, c.1870, 2 stories, wood shingled, replaced porch and windows. Photograph 28.

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Description (continued):

ROUTE 19

- 39-91,92 Town garage, complex of four frame, steel-sided, and cinderblock buildings. Photograph 30.
- 39-61 House, c.1920?, 1 1/2 stories.
- 40-31 House, c.1940?, 2 stories, sided.
- 40-37 House, Cape-type, c.1950. Photograph 20.
- 40-38 House, Tudor Revival, c.1930, 1 1/2 stories. Photograph 20.
- 40-39 House, Foursquare, c.1925, 2 stories, stucco.
- 40-47 House, Ranch-type, c.1960.
- 40-46 Store, c.1960, 2 stories, 1960. Photograph 29.
- 40-45 Large garage, c.1960, 1 story, cinderblock.

UPPER ROAD

- 27-11.1 House, Cape-type, c.1980.

NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

Leonard Road Bridge over Furnace Brook, c.1950 steel-beam bridge
(Photograph 3). Conn. D.O.T. Bridge Inventory Number 4778.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 167

Quadrangle name Stafford Springs

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References See Continuation Sheet

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Matthew Roth and Robert Griffith, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Resource Consultants date 27 October 1986

street & number 55 Van Dyke Avenue telephone (203) 547-0268

city or town Hartford state CT

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date June 11, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 10/15/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 10/15/87

Chief of Registration

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
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		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Criteria A,C

Specific dates See inventory, Item 7 **Builder/Architect** See inventory, Item 7

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

Stafford Hollow Historic District is significant because it contains within a few acres five of the town's most historic buildings: two early 19th-century churches, the old town hall, Memorial Hall, and Pinney School. These buildings reflect Stafford Hollow's former status as a religious and civic center for the entire town of Stafford, and they illustrate the historical development of major institutions within the town (Criterion A). The meetinghouses, for example, are among the town's oldest and accommodated two of Stafford's major sects. The town hall, built in 1845, replaced a system of rotating town meetings among the various parts of town with a permanent facility for holding meetings and storing public records. Memorial Hall, converted in the late 19th century from a Spiritualist church with funds from one of the town's leading millowner families, provided a place for vaudeville, lectures, and other traveling entertainments. Pinney School, built in 1895, was the town's first graded school and illustrates the evolution of education away from the district or one-room schoolhouse system. The district's other buildings also have historical significance, but of a more local character. Stafford Hollow is one of several manufacturing-based villages within the town of Stafford, but it is one which has changed relatively little since the 19th century. The mill pond, mill, dam, and stores remain today the focus of the village, around which the former homes of millowners, machinists, and other workers stand as evidence of the role of textile mills and machine-shops in the village's origin and development. Stafford Hollow Historic District also has architectural significance: many of the buildings are notable examples of particular architectural styles (Criterion C). The district includes several buildings which embody the distinctive characteristics of Federal, Greek Revival, Italian Villa, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival architecture.

Historical Development

At the time of its incorporation as a town in 1719, Stafford, like most areas in Connecticut, was a sparsely populated area of farming families. What industry existed was closely tied to the agricultural economy: grist, saw, and fulling mills located on fast-moving streams such as Furnace Brook. In 1779, however, John Phelps started what would become an industry of lasting importance in Stafford Hollow, the manufacture of iron and iron products. Phelps built a blast furnace which utilized ore from nearby beds of "bog iron." Phelps produced iron for Revolutionary cannon and cannonballs. In 1796 he was joined by Nathaniel Hyde, who set up another blast furnace, foundry, and forge. Products included cast kettles and stoves and forged items such as agricultural implements. Although the ore for the blast furnaces gave out in the 1830s, the production of metal

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Significance (continued):

products continued, with foundries and trip-hammer shops near the site of the present mill dam and also on the small brook which flows near the northwest corner of the district.

The development of textile manufacturing in the 19th-century affected Stafford in two ways. First, the expertise of local residents with metal-products manufacture enabled some of them to capitalize on the market for textile machinery. Eli Horton in the 1830s supplied spinning mules and other machines to mills as far away as East Killingly, on the Rhode Island border; Moses B. Harvey invented and manufactured a flock cutter and other cloth-dressing machines; and Elijah Fairman patented a satinet loom. The blacksmiths and molders of Stafford Hollow were joined by machinists and "mechanics" who made the shafting, gears, and machines needed for industrial production. One significant result of Stafford's machine-shop activity was the invention by Elijah Fairman's son Simon of the universal scroll chuck, a lathe fixture which would become part of every machine shop.

The second aspect of textile manufacture was more direct: in the 1830s the waterpower of Furnace Brook was harnessed to power a satinet and wool-cloth factory built by foundryman Jasper Hyde and machine-builder Eli Horton. This factory was later controlled by Ephraim Hyde, one-time lieutenant-governor of Connecticut, and after its rebuilding in 1881 as Riverside Mill, by the Pinney and then Park families. A second mill, the Valley Mill cotton factory on Pinney School Road, was organized by Amos and Moses B. Harvey, Jr.

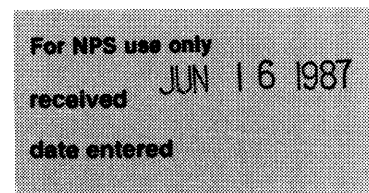
The industrial activity of Stafford Hollow led to modest commercial expansion, and many of the manufacturers had interests in the several stores clustered in the center of Stafford. These stores also benefited from travelers on the Norwich and Monson turnpike, a road which followed present-day Patton and Old Monson roads. At one time, a large Greek-Revival style hotel stood across from Mill Pond store on the site of the present park. Built by Jasper Hyde, the inn is the Hollow's only major loss which represents a departure from its 19th-century appearance.

These pages in Stafford Hollow's history are illustrated by the district's many old buildings. The mill and several old stores directly reflect the village's economic growth and, as noted in the inventory (Item 7), houses of moulders, machinists, and textile and machine-shop entrepreneurs abound, as do the homes of farmers, for agriculture remained viable even while manufacturing expanded. The relative wealth of factory owners like Eli Horton, Jasper Hyde Bolton, and William Park is made obvious, especially in the context of the relatively plain architecture which characterizes most of the Hollow (Photographs 12, 4, 7, and 8). Many other houses were either built by or owned by the mills.

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Significance (continued):

The hollow's industrial and commercial vitality and its central location within the town made it the natural choice for important town-wide institutions. Prior to 1845, town meetings rotated among Stafford's several sections, leading to acrimony when one locality could pack a meeting to the detriment of other sections. The construction of the "town house" in Stafford Hollow solved the problem. The 1840s were a period in which many towns built their first town buildings; Stafford's old town hall is one of few which remain.¹ The Hollow was also the place of choice for religious institutions: although the Congregational majority continued to worship on Stafford Street, the site of the town's 18th-century common, the Baptists and Universalists built their meetinghouses in Stafford Hollow. Both were products of the religious heterogeneity which developed in most Connecticut towns in the early 19th century². Memorial Hall brought vaudeville and other nationally known entertainments to town in the late 19th century (Joseph Jefferson's troupe was on hand for the grand opening), and when in 1895 the town decided to replace its district schools (one of which survives in altered form in the district) with a consolidated school, it chose the Hollow, even though by this time the population center had decidedly shifted to Stafford Springs to the south.

Textile production continued but did not expand in the 20th century. The power available from the stream was limited, and the owners had interests in many other mills, not only in other parts of Stafford but in the case of the Parks, throughout eastern Connecticut. Industrial, commercial, and residential expansion also suffered as the large village of Stafford Springs grew. The routing of the railroad through Stafford Springs, a superior waterpower, and long-standing commercial development (its role as a mineral-spring resort dated to the 18th century) also contributed to the ascendance of the larger village.

Architectural Significance

Many of the district's buildings, especially institutional buildings and homes built by manufacturers, have architectural significance as examples which embody the distinctive characteristics of particular types or styles of architecture. The earliest houses, such as the house on Murphy Road (Photograph 10), illustrate the clapboarded exterior, central-chimney plan, and symmetrical five-bay facade which characterized the vernacular architecture of Connecticut in the 18th century. Early 19th-century houses (Photographs 11, 12, and 13) exhibit in their pilasters, fanlights, cornice detailing, and window surrounds the Federal or Adam aesthetic of finely proportioned ornament based upon Classical motifs and geometric shapes.

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Significance (continued):

The Greek Revival is evident in the gable-end-to-street orientation and molded cornices of even the very modest mid-19th-century houses, and others in the district have typical Greek Revival entrances. The bolder proportions of the Greek Revival are also expressed in the pilasters of the Baptist church (which retains the central-pavilion facade typical of Federal-style meetinghouses) and in the full Doric portico of the Universalist church.

Mill Pond Store (Photograph 1) is of particular architectural significance because of the rarity of surviving commercial buildings from its period. It demonstrates the divergence of commercial and residential architecture in the middle of the 19th century: it resembles a house, but it is both larger and more stylistically elaborate than the average Stafford Hollow Greek Revival house, none of which has a portico. The use of ornamental cast-iron is another feature it shares only with the Universalist church; not usually found in rural buildings of the period, its use in Stafford may perhaps be explained by the presence of foundries in the village.

The village has outstanding buildings from the Victorian period as well. The Jasper Hyde Bolton house on Old Monson Road (Photograph 4) is an early and well-preserved specimen of the Italian Villa fashion. It includes such key features as a flat roof, boxy form; overhanging cornice with brackets; and bay window. Like many early villas, the house also includes some elements from the Greek Revival, evident in the entrance portico. The mansions of other millowners are similar in their elaborate detail and embodiment of the architectural fashions of their day. Both the E.H. Pinney house (Photograph 6) and the earlier William Park house (Photograph 8) exhibit the irregular massing and eclectic detailing characteristic of the Queen Anne style, though the original siding of the former is obscured by the present exterior. Victorian eclecticism is also evident in Pinney School (Photograph 25), combining dentils, arches, a tower, and rusticated brickwork into an impressive monument comparable (though smaller and using clapboards and shingles) to the architect's commercial and institutional buildings in downtown Hartford. Well-preserved, large examples of 20th-century revival styles are represented by the second Park house (Photograph 7) and the Universalist parsonage (Photograph 21).

NOTES:

1. A comprehensive listing of comparable structures is not available, but only the Killingly, Pomfret, and Mansfield townhouses are known to the authors.
2. Although these meetinghouses date from 1833 and 1845, respectively, both Baptists and Universalists were established in Stafford by 1815.

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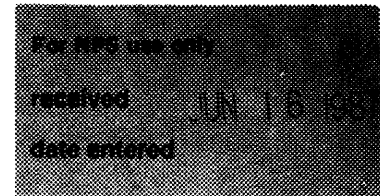
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Geographical Data (continued):

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