

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 11 1986

date entered

SEP 11 1986

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

1. Name

historic West Townshend Village Historic District

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Principally along Main Street (Vt. Route 30 N/A not for publication
and Old Route 30) and Town Roads 7, 23, 47, 49, and 50.

city, town West Townshend N/A vicinity of

state Vermont code 50 county Windham code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership; see continuation sheets.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Town Clerk

street & number N/A

city, town West Townshend state Vermont 05359

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated between abrupt hillsides and the floodplain, the West Townshend Historic District lies in the West River Valley near the confluence of Tannery Brook. The historic district comprises the entire concentrated village plus geographically and historically related perimeter farmsteads. Among the 38 principal buildings structures and sites, 29 contribute to the historic character of the village. The Federal and Greek Revival styles provide the dominant architectural influences. The buildings consist mostly of houses and outbuildings with a church, commercial block, former factory, former school, and two highway bridges (one of a stone-arch structure and the other of steel-truss and concrete) representing the other building types. The buildings share domestic scale, wood-framed construction (except for one brick house), and gable-roofed form: Clapboard sheathing predominates. The structures show varying degrees of alteration, and generally are maintained and in good condition.

The West Townshend Village Historic District corresponds to the entire concentrated aggregation of historic buildings in West Townshend village together with related farmsteads along the perimeter. Located in the central West River Valley at an elevation of about 600 feet, the village occupies a narrow terrace above the northeast side of a horseshoe bend in the river where the floodplain broadens to one-third mile in width. Hills rise abruptly to about 1500 feet in elevation along both sides of the valley. A small tributary of the West River, Tannery Brook, descends from Acton Hill through the southeast part of the village.

About three miles downstream, the valley becomes closely constricted between Rattlesnake Mountain on the east and opposing hills. There during 1959-61 the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a huge flood-control dam that caused the loss of several buildings. Besides the numerous farmsteads along the floodplain, the late 19th century industrial portion of West Townshend village on the "Island" on lower Tannery Brook was obliterated due to its location within reach of the reservoir pool at flood stage. Four houses and their outbuildings were dismantled along with a covered bridge on Depot Road, and the village's depot.

The state highway along the valley (Route 30) was relocated in 1957-58 onto a higher alignment above maximum reservoir level both west and southeast of the village. In the westerly direction, the new highway diverged from the historic route within the village, leaving only a stub of the old road to serve

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 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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1780-c.1930 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The West Townshend Village Historic District constitutes a unique entity of village buildings, related perimeter farmsteads, and a stone arch bridge. The buildings overwhelmingly embody the characteristics of the Federal and Greek Revival styles or vernacular derivatives thereof. The district includes the first frame house in Townshend, built in c.1785 by Samuel Fletcher who became prominent in Revolutionary and later military activities. West Townshend village developed almost fully during the first half of the 19th century. Small-scaled industries driven by the water power of Acton (later Tannery) Brook proved the basis of the village's expansion. The latter 19th century decline of these industries was not offset by the 1880 arrival of a branch-line railroad, itself abandoned in the 1930s. In recent decades, the village has been physically reduced by fires, floods, and a flood-control dam project on the West River. Nevertheless, West Townshend retains an extraordinary measure of its historic character as rural 19th century village.

The original charter for the township of Townshend was obtained in 1753 by Colonel John Hazeltine of Sutton, Massachusetts and associates. Initial settlement, however, was delayed until the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars that threatened English settlers in the territory west of the Connecticut River later to become Vermont. Colonel Hazeltine traveled to Townshend for the first time in 1761, and chose lots along the West River south of the present West Townshend village. Owner of about a quarter of the entire township, Hazeltine moved to Townshend in 1769 and lived here until his death in 1778.

A son-in-law of Colonel Hazeltine, Samuel Fletcher (1745-1814), soon emerged as the most notable resident of the vicinity. Fletcher arrived in West Townshend from Mendon, Massachusetts about 1769, soon after his marriage to Mehitable Hazeltine. A blacksmith by trade, Fletcher spent many years in military service during the Revolutionary War and later. He was promoted ultimately to the rank of Major-General in the Vermont Militia. In 1785, Fletcher built the first frame house in Townshend, part of which survives as a portion of the extant house on his farm (#24) southeast of the village.

The rapid descent to the West River of what was then known as Acton Brook was tapped for water power first by Peter Hazeltine (son of Col. Hazeltine) in 1782, when he built a sawmill upstream of the present stone arch bridge (#12). Other small mills followed in the narrow ravine between that site and the floodplain of West River. The small brook, however, provided an

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 80 acres

Quadrangle name Saxtons River, Vermont

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	1 1 8	6 8 1 6	5 1 0 1 0	4 7	7 1 2	6 1 5 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B	1 8	6 8 7	2 0 0	4 7	7 1	6 0 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C	1 1 8	6 8 1 5	4 1 2 5	4 7	7 1 2	5 1 0 1 0
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D						
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E						
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F						
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G						
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H						
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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
	state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh Henry, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date August 1985

street & number Green Mountain Turnpike

telephone (802)875-3379

city or town Chester

state Vermont 05143

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/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 7, 1986

For NPS use only

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

National Register

date 9/11/86

Keeper of the National Register

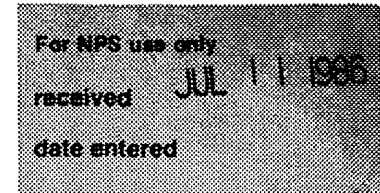
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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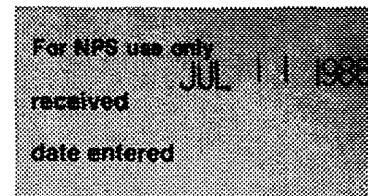
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PROPERTY OWNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1,A,B Donald E. & Elaine Prouty
Box 73
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>14,A (Mrs.) Sadie Turner
Box 6
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>2. Mark E. & Jacqueline A. Linton
Box 35
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>15,A Michael & Alesia L. Fletcher
RR, Box 215D
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>3. William & Patricia Conlin
29 Glen Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850</p> | <p>16. Peter & Roxane R. Carlson
Box 143
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>4,5,A John & Laurette Swingen
B 1881 Silas Dean Highway
Rocky Hill, CT 06067</p> | <p>17,A Jocelyn Brodie
Box 65
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>6,A Edward & Beverly Coughlin
Box 52
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>19. David A. & Dorothy B. Nystrom
RR, Box 215B
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>7,A Phillip VanNess
Box 44
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>20,A,B, Joseph & Kim Boyle
C 3527C Roosevelt Street
Carlsbad, CA 92008</p> |
| <p>8,A,B Burnard W. Parsons
Box 108
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>21. Paul & Freda Barton
Box 27
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>9,A,10 (Mrs.) Dolores Porges
Box 59
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>22,A Joseph T. DeRosa
Box 58
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> |
| <p>11. Louise Nevins
RR, Box 216B
West Townshend, VT 05359</p> | <p>23. Ransom Foreman
450 W. 24th St., #5E
New York, NY 10011</p> |
| <p>12,18 Town of Townshend
Townshend, VT 05353</p> | <p>24,A,B George R., Sr., & Barbara Musbek
C,D,E 369 Oxford Road
Oxford, CT 06483</p> |
| <p>13,A,B Flora & Hazel Webster and
Ruth Minch
c/o Flora Wilder
51 Chestnut Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301</p> | <p>25,A,B West River Farms of Vermont, Inc.
C Box 308
Townshend, VT 05353</p> |

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 26,A Clarence Favreau
c/o Florence Howe
RD, Old Ferry Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301 | 37. Victoria H. Sperry Trust
c/o R. J. Gertz Accountancy Corp.
10351 Santa Monica Blvd., #300
Los Angeles, CA 90067 |
| 27. Richard J. & Deborah A. Carusona
Box 133
West Townshend, VT 05359 | 38. Vermont Agency of Transportation
Susan C. Crampton, Secretary
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602 |
| 28,A Viverito & Thomas
c/o Paul & Margaret Viverito
RR, Box 218
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 29,A,B Harry J. Jennison
C Box 74
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 30,A,B Stephen A. & Cecile C. Holden
Box 186
Moultonboro, NH 03254 | |
| 31. Second Congregational Church
c/o Beverly Coughlin
Box 52
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 32,A,B William E. & Janet M. Perry
P.O. Box 94
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 33,A Eva Hewitt
Box 62
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 34,A,B Douglas & Kathleen Ballantine
C Box 53
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 35,A Robert & Teresa Nehring
West Townshend, VT 05359 | |
| 36,A,B Gardner Family Realty Trust
C,D 130 Mt. Auburn St., #412
Cambridge, MA 02138 | |

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the westernmost houses (#1,2,36, and 37). In the opposite (southeasterly) direction, another highway relocation in 1939 raised Route 30 onto a high bridge (#38) which crossed both Tannery Brook and a previous road that curved downhill along the brook toward the river's floodplain. Three buildings (#22,23, and 26) survive to mark the alignment of the earlier road, known as River Road in the 19th century. Of these houses, the Kimball-Favreau House (#26), was segregated from the village by the visual barrier of the new bridge and the physical interruption of the old road beneath its east abutment.

At the village center, the Windham Hill Road intersects Main Street from the north just a short distance west of the Town Road 7 intersection. Across the stone arch bridge (#12), Town Road 7 divides and one branch (the stub Town Road 47) turns southeastward along a late 18th century route down the valley. The historic district includes buildings and the Round Hill Cemetery (#18) along the road to its present terminus at the Kingsbury-Brodie House (#17). Two farmsteads (#24 and 25) farther south along the old route but now with access on Route 30 constitute the southeast limit of the historic district.

The small number of architectural styles in West Townshend reflects the fact that the village reached the peak of its development by the middle of the 19th century. Most buildings, represent the Federal or Greek Revival styles, or, more commonly, sparsely decorated vernacular derivatives of the same. The Gothic Revival occurs only in the decorative overlay applied to the church (#31). One later 19th century style, the Queen Anne, appears more frequently but is restricted to decorative features, especially porches, added to earlier buildings. The village's only example of the Italianate style stood on the Main Street site of the Jennison House (#29), until destroyed by fire in 1942.

Excepting the somewhat larger church, the buildings share a domestic scale of one-and-one-half or two-and-one-half stories. Their form almost invariably culminates in a gable roof although the orientation involves numerous examples both of eaves-front and of gable-front varieties. A single brick house (#32) differs from the ranks of wood-framed and generally clapboarded buildings. Synthetic sheathing materials have encroached only to a limited extent on wall surfaces. Roofs are covered predominantly with composition shingles or sheet metal of various types.

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The buildings occupy individual lots usually of sufficient size to provide front and side yards. Toward the margins of the village, the lots become larger and the spacing of buildings more irregular. The farmsteads at the west and southeast limits are partly surrounded by open fields. The village lacks a formal central green. Instead, the front grounds of the deeply set-back church serve as substitute in perpendicular orientation to Main Street. The streets are shaded intermittently by a declining number of mature deciduous trees.

Among the limited number of building types in the historic district, those other than residential comprise a small minority. One church (#31), one storefront commercial block (#30), one former school (#16), one former factory (#27), a former grain store (#29), and a former automobile repair garage (#7) represent the buildings of the non-residential type. Two of these (#15 and 29) have been converted to residential use, however, the former factory has been adapted to a restaurant. Agricultural outbuildings (barns and sheds) constitute the largest class apart from residential, and most of them are not being used for their original purposes. Two engineering structures (#12 and 38) of the same type -road bridge- also exist within the historic district.

A large majority of the buildings in West Townshend appear in relatively good physical condition. Alterations have affected the historic character of a portion, although they are not substantial changes. One notable case of recent restoration involved the store (#30); during a general rehabilitation, asphalt shingles were removed from its exterior wall surfaces to expose the original clapboards.

Descriptions follow of the individual buildings and structures within the historic district. The numbers refer to the accompanying sketch map.

1. Cushing-Rice Farm; 1807, c.1838-39

Defining the northwest limit of the historic district, this early 19th century farmstead includes a substantial but relatively plain house, attached shed ell, detached shed, and a medium-sized barn. The two-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded farmhouse of Georgian plan stands with its gable roof (now sheathed with corrugated metal) oriented parallel to the street. A center chimney rises from the ridge. The regular fenestration consists of six-over-nine sash.

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The five-bay main facade is arranged symmetrically around a central entrance distinguished by a Greek Revival style fluted enframingent with corner and header blocks. The slightly recessed paneled door is flanked by four-over-six sidelights whose length (and vertical division) matches that of the standard window sash. The closely spaced pairs of window bays to the left and right of the entrance are centered within each wall panel. The second-story windows abut the fascia below the molded horizontal cornice.

The four-bay east gable elevation includes a central secondary entrance sheltered by a small clapboarded, gabled vestibule. The left window bays are paired like those on the main facade. The raking eaves are more closely cropped and lack the cornice molding of the main facade.

Attached to the east end of the rear elevation, a one-and-one-half story, clapboarded, gable-roofed (with standing-seam metal) ell contains both a two-bay kitchen section and a large shed entrance with double-leaf hinged doors of unequal size. From the ell's rear gable elevation there extends a one-story, partly clapboarded shed wing with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. Two double-leaf vehicle stalls occupy the vertically boarded right half of the east eaves front.

When constructed in 1807 by Samuel Cushing, the house was only one or one and one-half stories in height. John Rice added the second story in 1839, and possibly applied the Greek Revival enframingent to the main entrance at that time. The kitchen/shed ell was added in 1838 by John Rice, and then shifted to their present position in 1876 by Levi J. Boynton.

1A. Barn; c.1830

Standing north of the house, a medium-sized, wood-framed and vertically boarded barn follows the alignment of the shed ell. Its asphalt-papared gable roof carries a small shed dormer on the east slope. A double-leaf wagon entrance (with missing transom) marks the west eaves elevation. On the south gable elevation, an open-sided, shed roofed addition shelters a pass door.

1B. Shed; c.1880

Sited east of the barn, a deteriorating shed consists of three attached one-story, shed-roofed units sheathed with clapboards and flush boards. Due to the building's extensively deteriorated

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condition, including a partially collapsed roof, it does not contribute to the historic district.

2. Samuel Parkhurst House; c.1800

This vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house of Cape Cod type rests on a stone foundation. Oriented parallel to the road, its gable roof retains slate shingles hung in staggered-butt pattern on the north slope and is covered with standing-seam metal on the south slope. The three-bay main eaves facade includes a central entrance protected by a short hood extension of the main roof. The door is flanked, on the left, by replacement coupled eight-over-eight sash and, on the right by a single six-over-six. The originally two-bay east gable elevation with closely cropped raking eaves has been rearranged to accommodate an entrance. The rear eaves elevation also possesses an added entrance that includes double-leaf doors with multiple-pane glazing.

Attached to the main block's west gable elevation is a small one-story, gable-roofed wing. An enclosed, partly clapboarded, two-bay entrance porch conceals its south eaves front.

Projecting perpendicularly northward from the wing's west elevation, a small-scaled, clapboarded and vertically boarded barn carries a corrugated metal-sheathed gable roof. Double-leaf doors enter its south gable front below a left door and a twelve-over-twelve sash (possibly removed from the house) lights the gable.

Probably the oldest house in the historic district not appended to a later main block, this house was built c.1800 by Samuel Parkhurst to replace an earlier log house. Evans Read made repairs to the house soon after he acquired the property in 1839.

3. Ormsby-Wheeler House; c.1843

Displaying vernacular transitional Federal-Greek Revival design, this two-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house carries a slate-shingled gable roof surmounted by interior end chimneys and oriented parallel to the street. The two-bay east and west gable elevations are fully pedimented with large clapboarded tympanums. The house rests on a stone foundation.

The five-bay main (south) eaves facade contains a slightly recessed central entrance whose molded six-panel door is flanked by three-quarters-length divided sidelights. Enframing the

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doorway are smooth pilasters carrying a simplified entablature with a row of dentils along the lower edge. The window bays are differentiated between stories by their sash. The original six-over-nine sash remain in the second-story openings while the first story has been refitted with two-over-two sash, presumably during the later 19th century. The fenestration on the rear (north) elevation has been severely altered, and an exterior cinder-block chimney has been added.

Attached to the main block's east gable elevation, a recessed one-story, partly vertically boarded, altered wing with an asphalt-shingled gable roof has been partly altered. The south eaves front includes a right entrance.

The house apparently was Caleb Garfield's hatter's shop which was converted to a residence in 1843 by William H. Ormsby, and occupied by him only until 1849. Ebenezer C. Wheeler lived here from the 1860s until at least 1880.

4. Sanderson House; 1823, moved 1841

Oriented parallel to the street, this one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house carries two off-center interior chimneys on its asphalt-shingled gable roof. The five-bay main facade is enhanced by a Greek Revival entrance that includes a molded paneled door flanked by half-length sidelights and enframed by a fluted surround with corner and header blocks. The window bays are fitted with replacement two-over-two sash.

The east gable facade has been broadened to four bays (from the original two) beneath an extension of the roof's north slope. An off-center entrance is sheltered by a three-bay porch with paired dimension posts that extends the full width of this facade. A pair of original six-over-nine sash lights the gable.

The opposite gable elevation is two bays in width. A short one-story, board-and-battened, gable-roofed shed ell follows the same plane from the house's rear elevation.

The building was constructed in 1823 by John Fessenden on a site next to his house (#8) for a harness shop. In 1841, Abiel Stoddard moved the building first to the vicinity of his house (#28) and then to its present site. Presumably Stoddard converted it to a house. John Sanderson, Jr. lived here during the third quarter of the 19th century.

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5. Prouty-Burroughs House; 1854, c.1860,1863

Presenting a broad gable front to the street, this vernacular Greek Revival style, one-and-three-quarters story, wood-framed and clapboarded house rests on a stone foundation. Its gable roof is now sheathed with corrugated metal, and carries a central interior chimney. Corner pilasters remain in place only at the rear corners to support the frieze band and returning cornice.

The five-bay main facade is arranged symmetrically around a central entrance whose paneled double-leaf Italianate doors with round-headed lights are sheltered by a flat hood supported by large curvilinear brackets. The flanking window bays contain the six-over-six sash common to the house. The two-bay east eaves elevation has sprouted a rear bay window with one-over-one sash crowned by a projecting cornice.

This house might have had its origin in a building constructed in 1854 by Derick L. Sprague for the storage of melodeons. Walter Prouty converted the building into a house c.1860. In 1873, David A. Burroughs "raised the roof" and built a north addition (possibly the original shed, #5A).

5A. Shed; c.1870

Directly behind (north of) the house stands a large one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded building with a corrugated-metal shed roof. Its six-bay main (south) facade includes a left-end modern gabled garage extension with an overhead door. The original bays to the right contain two pass doors and six-over-six sash. The shed was enlarged into a chicken barn by the addition of the upper half-story.

5B. Barn; c.1850

A small one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded barn with a corrugated-metal gable roof stands west of the house. A left-end vehicle doorway and a pass door enter its three-bay south eaves front.

6. Sprague-Jenison-Van Ness House; 1843

Occupying the west corner of Main Street and the Windham Hill Road, this one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house has been extensively altered. A two-bay shed dormer was been added (c.1925) to the front slope of its gable roof (covered

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with standing-seam metal). The three-bay main eaves front includes a central entrance with replacement door flanked by window bays fitted modern with one-over-one sash. An enclosed shed-roofed entrance porch (added c.1925) with modern windows spans the east gable elevation. The house has been extended to the rear by a two-story, shed-roofed addition, the first story of which was built in 1851. The roof was raised in c.1954 to make a second story.

Attached at the rear of the west gable elevation is a diminutive one-story wing with a corrugated-metal gable roof. Its three-bay south eaves front includes a right entrance and two-over-two fixed windows.

The house was constructed in 1843 for Charles Phelps, and the rear addition was made apparently in 1851. During the middle 1850s, the house was owned by D.L. Sprague, who operated a melodeon shop next to Tannery Brook downstream of the stone arch bridge (#12). It has been in same family for four generations.

6A. Shed; c.1880

A roughly finished, one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and horizontally boarded, gable-roofed shed stands to the rear of the house.

7. Former VanNess' Garage; c.1917

Standing parallel to Main Street at the east corner of the Windham Hill Road, this elongated, one-story, wood-framed building is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and its gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. An open rectangular vehicle entrance occupies the single-bay west gable elevation. The irregularly arranged multiple-bay south eaves elevation includes four-bays of the two-over-two sash common to the building. Sheltered by a bracketed hood, double sliding doors with six-light glazing above molded panels enter the third bay from the left while an open vehicle entrance occupies the sixth bay.

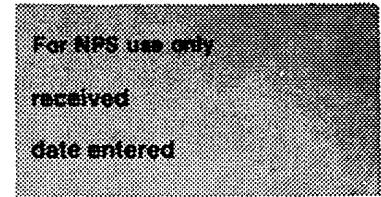
The building was constructed c.1915 and adapted c.1920 to an automobile repair garage operated by Walter VanNess, who lived in adjacent #6.

7A. House Trailer; c.1970

Metal sheathing; flat roof; irregular fenestration (jalousie

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8. Fessenden-Pomroy House; 1819, c.1860

A full-width Queen Anne style porch enhances the gable front of this vernacular Greek Revival style, one-and-three-quarters story, wood-framed and clapboarded house with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. Paneled corner pilasters rise from the stone foundation to carry a simplified horizontal eaves entablature. The window openings are fitted with two-over-two sash.

The main facade presents a symmetrical triangular arrangement five bays in width on the first story, three bays on the second, and one bay at the gable peak. The central entrance with replacement door is flanked by full-length sidelights and enframed by paneled pilasters carrying a simplified entablature. The porch incorporates turn posts with scroll-brackets, a pierced balustrade with ballheaded square newels at the entrance opening, and pierced skirt; recent metal railings have been added to the stone/concrete steps.

The east eaves elevation extends five bays in length. A single-bay gable dormer emerges from the center of the roof's south slope and a rear entrance is in the far right bay.

Attached to the rear gable elevation, a one-story, clapboarded wing with a corrugated-metal gable roof is flush with the main block's east elevation. The wing's east eaves front includes a two-over-two sash to the left of an entrance sheltered by a rebuilt gabled canopy; small fixed windows occur to the right.

The original house on the site was built in 1819 by John Fessenden, a harness-maker whose shop formerly stood west of the house. Nathaniel B. Pomroy probably constructed the present main block in 1860. Pomroy and partner A. A. Barber operated a tannery on the brook upstream of the stone-arch bridge (#12).

8A. Barn; c.1860, c.1940

Standing to the rear (north) of the house is a small one-and-one-half story, wood-framed barn with a corrugated-metal gable roof and vertical board sheathing. The present block consists of the upper half of the original barn. Harry Jenison removed the lower story c.1940. A one-story, one-bay shed-roofed wing is attached to the west eaves elevation. Extending from the opposite elevation is an open-sided, shed-roofed firewood shelter.

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8B. Shed; c.1900

A one-story board-and-battened shed with a corrugated-metal shed roof is sited west of the barn. The south front includes twelve-over-twelve sash probably removed from the house.

9. Charles and James Phelps House; 1812-13, 1828

Occupying a prominent site above the intersection of Route 30 and Town Road 7, the Phelps House exhibits transitional Federal-Greek Revival design of a somewhat more sophisticated nature than the similar Cushing-Rice House (#1). The two-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house stands on a low stone foundation. Oriented parallel to the street, its asphalt-shingled gable roof carries a large interior chimney with corbeled cap at each end of the front slope. The regular fenestration consists of replacement two-over-two sash.

The five-bay main facade displays an arrangement like that of the Cushing-Rice House, its central entrance being flanked by pairs of closely spaced window bays centered within the right and left wall panels. Flanked by molded paneled pilasters, the paneled door is surmounted by a semicircular fanlight that includes a reeded, keystone crown, all set within a rectangular panel. The second-story window openings abut the frieze beneath the projection molded cornice that follows both the horizontal and raking eaves (unlike the counterpart house). Like that on the nearby church (#31), the horizontal frieze bears reeding apparently intended to simulate triglyphs. At each corner of the facade, a turned post remains engaged to the wall, the only remnants of Queen Anne style porch that formerly sheltered the entire first story.

The openings of the east gable elevation have been partly changed. A window bay occupies the left corner of the first story next to a secondary entrance in the position vertically aligned with the left bay of the two-bay second story.

Projecting from the rear elevation, a recessed one-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed ell extends two bays.

Originally only one story in height, the house was built in 1812-13 for Charles Phelps, who had opened his law office five years earlier in the small building (#10) next door. The second story was added to the house in 1828. After Charles Phelps left Vermont in 1845, his son, James H. Phelps, took over the house

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and lived here until his death in 1893. The latter Phelps became a prominent lawyer and judge of the Windham County Court, and was the author of the only published history of Townshend.

9A. Garage; c.1950

One story; wood-framed; clapboarded; gable roof; two vehicle stalls with double-leaf paneled doors on east gable front. Noncontributing due to age.

10. Charles Phelps' Law Office - Porges House; 1807, 1837

Sited close to the Phelps House (#9) and matching its alignment, this vernacular Greek Revival style, one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house with an asphalt-shingled gable roof takes the form of a diminutive Classic Cottage complete with an interior chimney at each ridge end. The house rests on a stone foundation.

The symmetrical five-bay main facade incorporates a central entrance whose slightly recessed six-panel door is flanked by three-quarter-length divided sidelights within a molded enframingent with corner blocks. The two window bays on each side of the entrance are fitted with the six-over-six sash common to the house. A simply molded cornice follows the projecting horizontal eaves.

The gable elevations differ, by having closely cropped raking eaves. The west gable includes an early one-bay addition under an extension of the roof's north slope. An exterior concrete-block chimney marks the addition's west end. A recessed one-story wing is attached to the main block's east elevation. The wing's three-bay south eaves front includes a central entrance. A small one-bay, shed-roofed addition emerges front the east gable elevation.

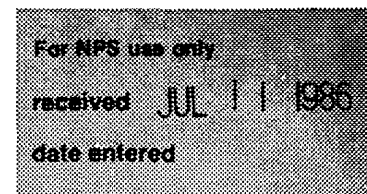
The building was constructed in 1807 by Thomas Sumner for Charles Phelps' law office and a store. In 1837, John H. Kimball adapted the building to a house. "Alterations and repairs" were made on the house in 1844 for James Phelps.

11. Coombs-Lawrence House; c.1838, c.1841

A Queen Anne style porch and bay window dominate stylistically this vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house which rests on a stone foundation. Oriented

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parallel to the street, its asphalt-shingle gable roof carries an off-center gabled dormer on the front slope below a chimney with a corbeled cap at the ridge. The window openings are fitted primarily with two-over-two sash.

The asymmetrical four-bay main facade includes an off-center entrance. Similar in appearance to that of the nearby Fessenden-Pomroy House (#8) and extending the width of the facade, the c.1910 three-bay porch displays turned posts with scrolled brackets, a pierced balustrade, and pierced skirt.

Crowned by a projecting molded cornice, the polygonal bay window emerges from the two-bay southwest gable elevation. Small molded panels mark each face both above and below the window openings (coupled on the broad central face). A pair of standard sash lights the gable.

Attached to the opposite gable elevation, a recessed wing of reduced scale contains both residential and shed sections. The southeast eaves front includes, on the left, a four-bay residential section secondary entrance, and, to the right, a sliding shed door above a board-and-battened exposed basement story.

Originally built c.1838 by John H. Kimball, the building was adapted to a house in 1841 after Charles Phelps acquired it. In 1858, Osmond F. Coombs added the original porch with chamfered posts, trefoil valance, and hip roof. The house is associated also with Nathan Lawrence, who owned it during the last quarter of the 19th century and until c.1925.

12. Stone Arch Bridge; c.1910

The West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge was entered in the National Register on April 18, 1977. The segmental-arched bridge crosses Tannery Brook in a single span 37 feet in length, 16 feet in height, and 14 feet in width, abutted by extended wing walls at the east end. The arch is constructed of roughly pitched granite blocks mortared into mostly regular courses. The spandrels are infilled with uncoursed rubble below a deck course of irregular granite blocks. Concrete sidewalls have been added to protect the paved roadway, replacing the original iron railings.

The bridge was erected c.1910 by James Otis Follett (1843-1911), a local mason and intuitive engineer. Several other small stone arch bridges constructed by Follett survive in the town of

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Townshend, and have also been entered in the National Register on December 12, 1976 as part of the Follett Stone Arch Bridge Historic District.

13. Will Larkin Cottage; c.1945, moved c.1960

One-story; wood-framed; asphalt-shingled; shallow gable roof; small shed-roofed north wing. Built for chicken coop on Harry Jenison property (#29); moved and converted to dwelling. Noncontributing due to age.

13A. Mobile Home; moved c.1960

Rectangular form with rounded corners; metal sheathing; flat roof; irregular fenestration (hinged windows); one-story, wood-framed, plywood-sheathed, shed-roofed wing attached to east elevation. Noncontributing due to age.

13B. Shed; c.1960

One-story; wood-framed; horizontally boarded; shed roof. Noncontributing due to age.

14. S. R. Chase House; c.1852

The historic appearance of this vernacular, modestly scaled, wood-framed house with a concrete foundation has been altered by the application of asbestos shingles over the original clapboards. Corrugated metal sheathes the gable roof. Oriented parallel to the street, the house possesses a five-bay main facade the central entrance is flanked on each side by two window bays fitted with one-over-one sash. A small one-bay, gabled porch with dimension corner posts and asbestos-shingled railings shelters the entrance. The west gable elevation is two bays in length and retains a six-over-six sash in the gable.

Attached to the main block's opposite east gable elevation is a recessed one-story, vertical board covered shed wing with an asphalt-papered gable roof. A pass door enters the shed's south eaves front. A small louvered oculus ventilates its east gable.

The house was built c.1852 by Sardis R. Chase and occupied by him until at least 1869.

14A. Shed; c.1930

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Sited north of the house is a one-story, wood-framed, horizontally boarded, gable-roofed shed. A large rectangular opening marks its south gable front.

15. Parkhurst-Boutelle House; c.1820

Deeply set back from the present road, this diminutive vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and mostly clapboarded house carries a gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. The three-bay main (south) eaves front includes an unsheltered off-center entrance flanked by single window bays of the two-over-two sash common to the main block. Above the window level, the wall is sheathed with horizontal flush boards. The horizontal eave projects beyond the wall plane but the cornice molding has been removed. The cornice remains in place along the more closely cropped raking eaves of the one-bay east and west gable elevations. An exterior concrete-block chimney has been added to the latter elevation.

Attached to the rear elevation and partially offset is a one-story ell with a shallow-pitched, corrugated-metal, gable roof that appears to have been rebuilt. Only the corner eaves elevation is sheathed with vertical boards and has small modern windows.

The position of the house indicates the location of an abandoned and nearly obliterated road (already labeled "old" on McClellan's 1856 map) that curved around the north side of the District #1 School (#16). In 1820, William parkhurst moved a currier and harness shop from the Ransom-Ranney Farm (#25) to this site and converted it to a house. Members of the Boutelle family made alterations and lived her during the 1840s and 1850s.

15A. Shed; c.1930

Standing to the rear of the house is a one-story, wood-framed and vertical board covered, gable-roofed (with corrugated metal) shed in fair condition. An open vehicle stall enters its south gable front.

16. Former District #1 School; 1853, c.1970

The former West Townshend village school stands prominently on the hillside above Town Road 47 although its view over the village (and valley beyond) has been obscured by vegetation. the vernacular one-story, wood-framed and clapboarded building rests

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on a brick foundation. Its gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and carries a modern interior chimney. The main seven-bay eaves facade includes a central entrance flanked by half-length sidelights and sheltered by a one-bay gable porch with turned posts, dimension balustrade, and concrete deck. To the left, a large multi-light fixed window is centered between two bays of the two-over-two sash common to the building.

The two-room school was constructed in 1853 by Nathan Pierce. The main facade was then entered by an unsheltered off-center entrance with simple classical surround and the facade was lighted by five bays of six-over-six sash. Astride the ridge of the wood-shingled roof, a square clapboarded bell cupola with a rectangular louver on each face carried a truncated hipped cap below a pyramidal spire and needle. The original use of the building ceased c.1960, and it was converted to a house about a decade later.

17. Kingsbury-Brodie House; c.1800, moved c.1810 and c.1830

Enlarged from a building moved to the site in c.1810 this vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house carries a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal and oriented parallel to the road. A high interior chimney with tapered cap rises from the ridge. Two shed dormers emerge from the east slope, that on the left being lighted by coupled two-over-two sash and that on the right by triplet sash (added c.1965). The irregular fenestration includes both two-over-two sash and replacement sliding windows.

The asymmetrical six-bay main facade includes entrances in the second and fifth bays from the left end. Both are sheltered by shed-roofed porches with turned posts. The two-bay left porch is partly enclosed by a clapboarded apron while the single-bay right porch has dimension railings. The opposite elevation is partly sheltered by a four-bay, shed-roofed porch with square posts. The two-bay south gable elevation is interrupted by an added exterior fireplace chimney.

Attached to the main block's north gable end is a somewhat larger-scaled, one-and-one-half story, clapboarded carriage barn. The rafter tails of its asphalt-shingled gable roof are exposed along the projecting horizontal eaves while the raking eaves are closely cropped. A modern interior chimney rises from the north end of the east slope. A double-leaf vehicle entrance (replacing the original sliding door) occupies the left corner bay of the

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east eaves front. It is sheltered by an added (1970) gabled canopy supported by turned posts (salvaged from a previous four-bay porch on the main block's east facade). A band of six-light fixed windows extends from the vehicle entrance to a pass door at the opposite end of the barn's front. The north gable elevation displays altered fenestration including two six-over-six sash in the gable.

The main block possesses a partial basement with rubble walls beneath its south end. Exterior entrance to the basement is gained by means of an unusual tunnel leading from the downward-sloping south yard of the house. the tunnel's narrow 20-foot passageway is lined with fieldstone walls and a stone-slab ceiling.

This house apparently derives from a small house built c.1800 on Ezekiel Ransom's original farm (#25) to the southeast. Samuel Kingsbury moved and rebuilt the house c.1810 near the present site. Not long after 1830, Clark Puffer moved the house to the present site, and gave it extensive repairs (probably including an enlargement). Gandy and Jocelyn Brodie have owned the house since 1960.

17A. Shed; c.1900

Sited west of the house is a one-story, wood-framed, horizontally boarded shed whose shed roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal.

18. Round Hill Cemetery;

The West Townshend village cemetery occupies a rounded knoll from which an expansive view opens southward and westward along the West River valley. A fringe of trees surrounds the south and curving west sides of the burial ground, partly obscures the view. A fieldstone wall bounds the east side along the gravel road and continues along the south side. Two clusters of woody hydrangeas crown the crest of the knoll among the varied headstones. The first burial in the cemetery occurred 1815, and approximately 200 graves now exist.

19. Nystrom House; c.1976

One-story; wood-framed; clapboarded; gable roof; casement windows/small sash; exterior fireplace chimney on west eaves elevation. Noncontributing due to age.

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20. Puffer - Thayer House; 1843

This vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house rests on a stone foundation. The main block stands with its gable roof (now covered with standing-seam metal) oriented parallel to the road. A molded returning cornice follows both the horizontal and raking eaves. Lacking an entrance, the main block extends three bays across the eaves front by two bays on the gable elevation. The windows are fitted with one-over-one sash.

A partly enclosed (with multiple two-over-one sash) porch crosses the southeast gable elevation and continues in three open-front bays (with dimension posts) along the southeast slope gabled dormer with small coupled sash. A modern one-bay south extension of the ell is entered by a sliding-glass door.

The house differed in its c.1912 appearance most notably by the lack of the southeast porch. The south ell then contained the main entrance next to a large recessed shed opening. The house was constructed in 1843 by Clark Puffer and Stephen E. Thayer. Due to its extensive alterations, it does not contribute to the historic district.

20A. House; c.1960

Two-stories; wood-framed; clapboarded; asymmetrical gable roof with deep gable overhang on north elevation to shelter exterior stair; irregular fenestration. Noncontributing due to age.

20B. Garage; c.1940

One-story; wood-framed; clapboarded, gable roof; two vehicle stalls on northeast gable front with novelty-sided sliding doors. Noncontributing due to age.

20C. Shed;

Sited south of 20A is a one-story, wood-framed, horizontally boarded shed with a metal-sheathed shed roof.

21. Dunklee - Chapin House; c.1842

Standing within the sharp curve of the road east of the stone arch bridge (#12), this plain one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house carries a gable roof now covered with

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standing-seam maetal. The six-bay eaves facade includes an off-center entrance and windows made up of mostly replacement one-over-one sash. An original six-over-nine sash remains in the gable of the one-bay northwest elevation.

Attached to the main block's southeast end, a slightly reduced wing contains a secondary entrance on its two-bay main eaves front.

The house was rebuilt in 1842 probably by Benjamin Dunklee from a wing of an earlier house on the site. The house is also associated with Earl Chapin, its owner during the third quarter of the present century.

21A. Shed; c.1920

Standing diagonally across the road from the house, this one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed shed is sheathed with asphalt paper. Its three-bay west eaves front includes a central doorway flanked by small fixed windows.

22. Kimball - Taft House; 1834

Oriented parallel to the original alignment of Main Street below the grade of the present Route 30, the one-and-three-quarters story, wood-framed and clapboarded Kimball-Taft House carries a corrugated metal-sheathed gable roof whose rear slope has been extended (c.1980) to give a saltbox effect. A rebuilt off-center chimney rises from the interior of the north slope. The regular fenestration consists of twelve-over-twelve sash.

The five-bay main eaves facade is arranged symmetrically around a central entrance flanked by slender half-length sidelights, and enframed by pairs of reeded pilasters carrying a simplified entablature with stepped-out blocks. Aligned vertically with the first-story bays, twelve-light kneewall windows abut the frieze band below the projecting molded cornice that distinguishes the horizontal eaves. The original west gable elevation with closely cropped raking eaves extends three bays in length.

Attached to the West gable elevation, a recessed one-story, gable-roofed (with standing-seam metal) wing is lighted by two bays of one-over-one sash on its north eaves front. An exterior brick fireplace chimney has been added to the two-bay east gable elevation.

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The house's main block was constructed in 1834 by John Kimball and his son, Orison H. Kimball, in front of a c.1820, one-story, gable-roofed currier shop on the site that later became a kitchen ell. The Kimball family occupied the house until at least 1880. The house is also associated with Josiah Taft, who owned it from the late 19th century until his death in 1909. The kitchen ell was removed probably in 1939 when the highway was relocated closely behind the house to approach the new bridge (#38).

22A. Garage; c.1930

Standing west of the house and perpendicular to the street is a one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed (with asphalt shingles) garage sheathed with brick-patterned asphalt material. Two vehicle stalls with vertically boarded sliding doors enter the north gable front. The two-bay east eaves elevation includes a right pass door sheltered by a gabled canopy.

23. Former Kimball Barn - Foreman House; c.1870, c.1980

Considerably altered and converted c.1980 to a residence, this one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded, gable-roofed (with standing-seam metal) building displays several components, e.g., windows and center chimney, dating from the conversion. The three-bay main (north) gable facade includes a right entrance with one three-quarters-length sidelight on the left side. The first-story coupled window openings on the main facade contain eight-over-eight sash while the single openings elsewhere have twelve-over-twelves. A modern bay window illuminates the three-bay west eaves elevation. The opposite (east) slope of the roof has been extended to accommodate a garage bay with overhead door on the north front; the basement story is exposed on the east elevation.

The building was constructed as a barn probably during the latter 19th century either by John J. Kimball or his son, John R. Kimball. In its historic appearance, the barn lacked the east extension and was lighted only by a few windows. A large wagon door entered the right side of the north gable front. Due to extensive alterations, it does not contribute to the historic district.

24. Fletcher - Ransom Farm; c.1769, c.1811

Samuel Fletcher (1745-1814) settled here c.1769 and built the first frame house in Townshend, probably the second story

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portion of the extant house. After then-General Fletcher and Son-in-law Major Ezekiel Ransom exchanged their adjacent farms (the latter being #25), Ransom raised the one-story block to its present two-story appearance in c.1811 and farmed here until 1831. The outbuildings were constructed at various times during the 19th and early twentieth centuries. The farm was used for dairying during the first half of this century.

The vernacular Federal style, wood-framed and clapboarded main block rises two and one-half stories from a brick foundation to a gable roof now covered with corrugated metal and carrying a central chimney. The somewhat irregular fenestration consists mostly of replacement two-over-two sash.

The asymmetrical four-bay (possibly reduced from five) eaves front is distinguished by a molded cornice with stylized denticulation along the projecting horizontal eaves. The second story is arranged with a central window bay, a pair of sash to the right, and a single bay to the left. The first story is concealed by an added one-story, flat-roofed enclosed porch that extends the entire width of the facade. Deeply overhanging bracketed eaves shelter an off-center entrance flanked by multiple eight-light vertical fixed windows.

The symmetrically arranged four-bay east gable elevation carries more closely cropped eaves. The first-story openings are arranged in pairs. A secondary entrance with gabled canopy occupies the right-end bay. An original eight-over-twelve sash remains in the gable.

The recessed one-story, gable-roofed ell added in the 1920s is attached to the main block's rear eaves elevation. Its east eaves front is concealed by an enclosed porch like that on the main block.

24A. Dairy Barn; c.1850, c.1920

Standing to the rear of the house, the wood-framed barn comprises three blocks plus an attached silo. Two 19th century, vertically boarded blocks linked at their southwest/northeast corners have gable roofs covered with corrugated metal. An early 20th century, one-story, clapboarded, shed-roofed (with standing-seam metal) milking parlor extends along the south eaves elevation of the main block. Six bays of six-pane fixed windows light its south eaves elevation. Joined to the east end of the milking parlor, a vertically boarded, iron-hooped circular silo rises to

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a corrugated-metal gabled cap.

24B. Milkhouse; c.1920

This small one-story, wood-framed and clapboarded, gable-roofed (with standing-seam metal) milkhouse is sited south of the dairy barn. A doorway marks its south gable front.

24C. Garage; c.1930

Situated closely east of the milkhouse is this one-story, wood-framed and clapboarded, gable-roofed (with asphalt-shingles) garage. Two double-leaf vehicle stalls enter its south gable front.

24D. Shed; c.1930

Standing apart to the southeast of the other outbuildings, a one-story, wood-framed shed with an asphalt-shingled gable roof is clapboarded on its west gable front and novelty-sided elsewhere. A left doorway enters its two-bay west front.

24E. Fletcher Gravesite;

Located a short distance north of the farm buildings, this small rectangular burial plot is surrounded by a low wall of fieldstone. One rectangular marble headstone marks the grave of Samuel Fletcher and about five other persons placed there c.1890. An enormous apple tree stands within the plot, dating probably from the late 19th century. Burials in the plot ceased in 1814.

25. Ransom - Ranney Farm; 1852

Little appears to remain (at least in unaltered condition) of the house built here c.1797 by Major Ezekiel Ransom, whose tannery stood nearby. He and his father-in-law, General Samuel Fletcher (see #24) exchanged their adjacent farms about the year 1811, but Fletcher died only three years later. The Ranney family acquired this farm in 1822, and the present Greek Revival style house was constructed in 1852 for Albert A. Ranney. A 19th century series of two substantial barns connected by two sheds is situated across the road southwest of the house.

Oriented parallel to the road, the one-and-three-quarters story, wood-framed and clapboarded house rests on a stone foundation. Its broad gable roof is shingled with slate and carries matched interior chimneys with tapered caps on the upper north and south slopes. Paneled corner pilasters support a simplified

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entablature that follows both the horizontal and raking eaves. The regular fenestration retains six-over-six sash.

The symmetrical main gable facade possesses five bays on the first story, three bays on the second, and one at the gable peak. The central entrance ensemble consists of a six-panel door flanked by full-length divided sidelights and enframed by paneled pilasters carrying an entablature mostly concealed by the roof of the porch that crosses the entire facade. The Queen Anne style, three-bay, hip-roofed porch incorporates turned posts with scrolled brackets and a lattice skirt. The eaves elevations extend two widely spaced bays in length.

Attached to the rear gable elevation is a recessed one-and-one-half story, clapboarded wing with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The three-bay south eaves front includes a central secondary entrance flanked closely by one-over-one sash. An exterior fireplace chimney has been added to the three-bay east gable elevation.

Projecting from the wing's opposite elevation, a one-and-one-half story, clapboarded (former shed) ell has been extensively altered. A continuous shed dormer has been added to the gable roof's east slope. The windows are now fitted with casements, and a sliding-glass door enters the east eaves elevation.

25A. Connected Barns; c.1855

The wood-framed structures stand closely parallel to the south side of the road, their gable roofs covered with corrugated and standing-seam metal and their walls sheathed in vertical board and board-and-batten. The English type portion has a central wagon entrance with double sliding doors on its north eaves front. A similarly scaled east extension of the barn has a similar entrance with replacement sliding doors.

Projecting perpendicularly from the left end of the English barn's south eaves elevation (and flush with its west gable elevation) is a gable-roofed (with corrugated metal) shed. Three open equipment stalls with canted upper corners enter the shed's east eaves elevation. A slightly reduced, shed-roofed south extension contains two additional rectangular stalls on its east front.

The shed extension links to the north gable elevation of a medium-sized, vertically boarded second barn, also of English

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type with a metal sheathed gable roof. A wagon entrance with double sliding doors is centered on the east eaves front. A twelve-pane window lights each gable.

25B. Shed; c.1880

Standing northeast of the house's north ell is a wood-frame shed with a corrugated-metal gable roof and vertical board siding. A double-leaf wagon entrance marks its east gable front.

25C. Shed; c.1880

Wood-framed shed with a corrugated-metal gable roof and vertical board siding stands east of shed #25B across the abandoned north road. A wagon entrance on the south gable front now lacks its double-leaf doors.

26. Kimball - Favreau House; 1842, c.1920

The only house surviving along the old River Road south of the Route 30 bridge possesses a Greek Revival style, one-and-three-quarters story, wood-framed and clapboarded main block oriented with its gable roof perpendicular to the road. The roof's north slope is now covered with standing-seam metal while the south slope is asphalt-shingled. Corner pilasters ascend front the stone foundation to carry a frieze band and molded cornice that follow both the horizontal and raking eaves.

The three-bay main (west) gable facade includes a right sidehall entrance. The recessed eight-panel door (painted polychromatically) is flanked by three-quarters-length divided sidelights, and the doorway is enframed by a smooth surround with corner and header blocks. The window bays are fitted with the one-over-one sash common to the house. A triangular louver occupies the front gable while a full window lights the rear (east) gable. The north eaves elevation extends three bays in length.

Projecting from the main block's south elevation, a recessed one-and-one-half story, clapboarded, ell carries a continuous shed dormer on the front slope. The ell's five-bay front facade also includes a central secondary entrance with two-light paneled door and, in the right-end bay, a double-leaf shed entrance. A Queen Anne style, five-bay porch with turned posts and scroll brackets shelters the entire front of the ell, its left half being screened.

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Added probably c.1920 to the ell's south end, a substantial gable-roofed (with corrugated metal sheathing) carriage barn balances the house's main block in form and orientation. The barn's clapboarded two-bay gable front includes a four-panel (with diagonally boarded lower panels and horizontally boarded uppers) sliding carriage door in the left bay. To the right of the ramp, the basement story becomes fully exposed with a double-leaf wagon entrance. The three-bay (of six-over-six sash) south eaves and rear (east) gable elevations differ by being sheathed with novelty siding.

The house was constructed in 1842 by John H. Kimball. The house is strongly associated with its current owner, Clarence Favreau, who operated a printing shop here in recent decades.

26A. Shed; c.1900

A one-and-one-half story, wood-framed shed with board-and-batten siding and a corrugated-metal gable roof stands southeast of the house. Several multi-pane fixed windows illuminate its south gable elevation above an open basement story.

27. Former Glove Factory/West Townshend Village Cafe; c.1912

Sited in the ravine of Tannery Brook below the Route 30 bridge, this former factory building has been severely altered (c.1980) and converted to a restaurant. The two-and-one-half story, wood-frame building has been sheathed with synthetic siding and its gable roof has been covered with corrugated composition sheets. Astride the ridge, the central square cupola with truncated hipped cap has been entirely enclosed with synthetic siding. Casement windows have been installed in the rearranged fenestration. Various added gabled and shed-roofed wings, projections, and porch/decks encrust the four elevations of the building. The interior has been completely reworked to accommodate the restaurant.

In its historic appearance, the clapboarded building extended ten bays along the main eaves facade by two widely spaced bays across the south gable elevation. The window openings were fitted with two-over-two sash. A five-bay, shed-roofed porch/loading dock (now removed) extended nearly the entire length of the main facade, sheltering the double-leaf main entrance. The porch was terminated by a gabled vestibule at the north end. The distinctive cupola atop the roof was ventilated on each face by two slender round-headed louvers enframed by paneled pilasters

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below the deeply projecting cornice of the truncated hipped cap.

The building was constructed c.1912 by Russell and Frank Blood for a glove factory operated by the West Townshend Manufacturing Company. In 1936, it was adapted to a chicken cannery that operated until the 1950s. The initial conversion to a restaurant occurred in the late 1970s and was followed by more extensive alterations. Due to these recent alterations, it does not contribute to the historic district.

28. Stoddard - Page Barn; 1836

Only the barn remains following the March, 1985 fire that destroyed the Stoddard - Page House, a transitional Federal-Greek Revival style house that balanced the similar James Phelps House (#9) across the street. The barn's north gable elevation was linked to the house's rear eaves elevation by a one-and-one-half story shed ell that also burned. The medium-sized, wood-framed and clapboarded barn carries an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The west eaves front contains a central wagon entrance with double sliding paneled doors. Various fixed windows have been added to the east eaves and south gable elevations, especially on their exposed basement story.

The two-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded, gable-roofed house stood parallel to the street. Its five-bay main eaves facade was arranged symmetrically around a recessed central entrance enframed by sidelights and pilasters carrying an entablature. The fenestration consisted of twelve-over-twelve sash. The east and west gable elevations extended three bays in length, also in regular arrangement.

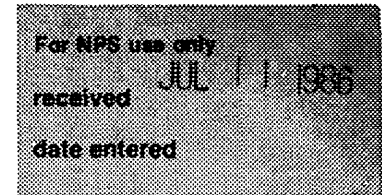
An earlier store on the site was converted in 1836 by Abiel Stoddard into the main block of the house. At the same time, Stoddard built the shed ell and barn. The property is associated also with Levi W. Page, who owned it from the early 1840s until at least 1880.

28A. Former Post Office; c.1830

Standing west of the barn and oriented parallel to it is a small one-story, wood-frame and clapboarded building with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A six-panel door with half length sidelights marks the one-bay north gable front. The east and west eaves elevations are each lighted by one sixteen-pane fixed window toward the front and, on the latter, a twelve-over-twelve

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sash toward the rear. Double louvered doors have been added to the rear of the east elevation.

A modern wing of similar scale and appearance (except for a large recessed opening in its east wall) has been added to the building's rear gable elevation.

This building has served various uses during its existence. Originally a granary related to the adjacent store, the one-room front section was adapted to a doctor's office during the late 1830s. In 1846, Levi Page extended the building by adding a rear room for his harness shop, and operated the shop until at least 1880.

28B. Shed; 1960

One-story; wood-frame; vertical board sheathing; gable roof. Noncontributing due to age.

29. Harry Jennison House; c.1873; moved 1938, 1942

Moved twice and converted from its original use as a grain store, this vernacular, one-and-one-half story, wood-frame and clapboarded house rests on a brick foundation and has been altered by the addition of three-bay continuous shed dormers (with corrugated metal roofs) to both slopes of the original gable roof. Probably at the same time, the three-bay main gable facade was altered by the enclosure of the porch with novelty siding and reduced coupled sash. The original window openings are fitted with two-over-two sash while the porch and dormers have one-over-ones. A small gabled basement bulkhead projects from the left end of the three-bay east eaves elevation.

A one-story rear shed wing differs by being sheathed with composition shingles on the walls and asphalt shingles on the gable roof. An infilled former vehicle stall with a pass door marks the left end of the three-bay east eaves front.

While a grain store, the building differed most conspicuously by the lack of roof dormers and the existence of a porch with paired corner posts across its three-bay gable front. Two-over-two sash flanked the double-leaf central entrance with paneled doors, and a single window occupied the gable. The grain store stood originally next to Tannery Brook downstream of the stone arch bridge (#12). Harry Jennison moved it first in 1938 (after it barely escaped the flood of that year) to the vicinity of the

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Fessenden-Pomroy House (#8), and then in 1942 (after fire destroyed the Kidder-Hadlock House on the site) moved it across the street and converted it to his residence. Due to extensive alterations during 1940s, it does not contribute to the historic district.

29A. H. J. Jennison Cash Grain Store; c.1945

Standing to the rear of the house, this one-story, gable-roofed shed is sheathed entirely with asphalt shingles. The east gable front (plus a flush shed-roofed south wing) includes a double-leaf left entrance sheltered by a one-bay, shed-roofed porch with dimension posts. The paneled doors might have originally hung in the main entrance of the house while it was being used as the grain store on its previous sites. A double-leaf vehicle entrance occupies the right bay. It is noncontributing to the historic district due to age.

29B. Shed; c.1945

South of the first shed (#29A), a smaller one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed shed is also sheathed entirely with asphalt shingles. Double-leaf doors enter its east gable front. It is noncontributing to the historic district due to its age.

29C. Shed; c.1945

Southwest of the second shed (#29B), another one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed (with corrugated metal) shed is sheathed with composition shingles. A single-leaf door enters its east gable front. It is noncontributing to the historic district due to its age.

30. F. D. and E. Sawyer Store/West Townshend Country Store; 1848

Occupying a focal position perpendicular to Main Street at the intersection of Windham Hill Road, this Greek Revival style, two-story, wood-frame and clapboarded, gable-roofed building constitutes the only storefront remaining in West Townshend. Paneled corner pilasters rise from its stone and concrete-block foundation to support the simplified eaves entablature. The expansive corrugated metal roof carries on the west slope a single interior chimney with tapered cap. The irregular fenestration consists predominantly of one-over-one sash (on the second story) together with original six-over-sixes on the first story.

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The three-bay main (north) gable facade is dominated by a Queen Anne style, two-story porch with scroll-bracketed turned posts, a turned balustrade on the second story, and a rebuilt concrete first-story deck. The storefront consists of large paired twelve-light display windows (each enframed by paneled pilasters) and flanking a recessed double-leaf central entrance (glazed with eight lights per door). The second story repeats the arrangement but with standard sash flanking an entrance that is not recessed.

On the west eaves elevation, an exterior stair with an asphalt-shingled roof ascends from the front corner to a second-story, shed-roofed balcony with dimension posts and railing. The four-bay balcony extends the remaining length of the building, serving off-center and rear entrances. The east seven-bay elevation has an off-center two-bay, hip-roofed entrance porch with chamfered posts and turned balustrade added in 1985.

The store was constructed in 1848 for the firm of the brothers Francis D. and Edwin Sawyer. The latter Sawyer remained in the business until 1864, and was followed by a series of relatively short-term owners. Charles H. Grout was probably the longest-term owner, from c.1912 to 1942.

30A. Shed; c.1950

Sited southeast of the store is a small one-story, wood-framed and novelty-sided shed asphalt-papered shed roof. Noncontributing due to age.

30B. Shed; c.1950

A one-story, two-by-two bay, wood-framed and novelty-sided shed with a corrugated-metal gable roof stands to the rear (south) of the store. Noncontributing due to age.

31. Second Congregational Church; 1817, 1839, c.1848

The single church in West Townshend stands recessed from Main Street behind simply landscaped front grounds that also serve informally as a village green. The church was constructed in 1817 and subsequently given an overlay of Gothic Revival elements during alterations in 1839 and c.1848. The two-and-one-half story, wood-frame and clapboarded building rests on a rubble stone foundation and carries an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A prominent square clapboarded tower is engaged on the main gable

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facade. It rises the equivalent of three and one-half stories to a reduced bell chamber crowned by a crenelated parapet.

The five-bay main gable facade presents a symmetrical arrangement of two bays on each side of the projecting one-bay central tower. Approached by a huge semicircular stone-slab step, the principal entrance occupies the tower's first story, its double-leaf doors (each bearing three vertical panels) are enframed by molded pilasters that carry an entablature with a simplified rebuilt cornice. The principal entrance's original entablature presumably matched those of the twin subsidiary entrances in the adjacent bays of the main wall plane, where each single-leaf, six-panel door is flanked by reeded pilasters carrying an entablature with stepped-out blocks. Above the tower entrance, a stained-glass Palladian window possesses a smooth classical surround. The tower's third story is lighted by a rectangular stained window with a pointed-arch louvered head, matching those on the main and side facades.

The pointed-arch louvers were added c.1848 above the molded surrounds of the original clear sash. The boarded polychromatic stained sash were installed c.1885 in the original openings.

A blank (except for the painted date, 1817) sixteen-sided clock panel marks the top of the tower's main stage, just below the frieze band with its reeded triglyphs and metopes that follows the projecting cornice. The raking eaves of the facade share the same decorative treatment. The bell chamber was added in 1839 to replace the original belfry. A large rectangular louver opens each face below the projecting cornice, above which the tower culminates in a crenelated parapet and corner pinnacles (rebuilt c.1960 with dimension lumber in place of the original paneled and molded versions).

The church's eight-bay east and west eaves elevations are lighted by four-over-four clear sash (replacement of the original twelve-over-twelves) on the first story. The second-story, stained-glass windows with pointed-arch louvered heads match those on the main facade. The horizontal frieze band and cornice correspond in appearance to the raking counterparts.

The five-bay rear gable elevation is interrupted by an exterior brick chimney. A small one-story, one-bay, clapboarded, shed-roofed privy is appended to the right side.

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The building was constructed by Major Sprague for "The Village Society in Townshend," and was shared initially by three denominations - the Congregationalists, the Baptists, and the Society for Restorationists. By the early 1840s, only the Congregationalists continued using the building. In 1850, the Second Congregational Church was organized, and that body occupied the building until the late 1960s.

32. Ranney-Stoddard-Atwood House; 1813-14, 1826

The finest expression of the Federal style as well as the only brick house in the historic district was erected in 1826 for Abiel Stoddard. Oriented parallel to the street, the brick I-house was joined perpendicularly to the original small-scaled, wood-framed and clapboarded house on the site built in 1813-14 by Eleazer H. Ranney. A shed wing links the original house to a medium-sized carriage barn whose orientation corresponds to that of the brick block. The sections of this "continuous architecture" descend the slope away from the street within informally landscaped grounds, partly shaded by mature deciduous trees.

The Stoddard house rises two stories from a stone foundation to a gable roof now sheathed with corrugated metal. The three public elevations - west gable, north eaves, and east gable - are constructed of brick laid in six-course American bond while the rear (south) eaves elevation matches the abutting ell in its clapboard sheathing. A large interior chimney rises from each end of the roof's south slope.

The five-bay main eaves facade is arranged symmetrically around a central entrance approached by stone steps and sill. The slightly recessed six-paneled door is flanked by six-over-nine sidelights of three-quarters length and surmounted by a semielliptical-arched blind panel set within a two-tier relieving arch. S-form iron tie-rod anchors decorate the spandrels. Fitted with the replacement two-over-two sash common to the house, the first-story windows occupy semielliptical-arched openings. The second-story window heads abut the molded frieze and cornice that follow both the horizontal and raking eaves.

The two-bay gable elevations share the same treatment on their first and second stories. The continuous horizontal cornice forms a pediment on each gable with a brick tympanum that are marked by the semielliptical surround of a former fanlight

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infilled with brick.

Attached to the main block's rear (south) eaves elevation, the earlier one-and-one-half story, clapboarded Ranney house takes the form of a small recessed ell. Its gable roof has been covered with corrugated metal and carries an off-center chimney. A small wood-shingled gabled dormer emerges from the east slope. The east eaves front has been altered by the enclosure with large fixed windows of a former porch on the right and the installation of a large multi-light window on the left.

Extending from the west gable elevation is a recessed one-story, gable-roofed shed wing with a post-and-beam frame. Its two-bay east eaves front is opened by a large rectangular stall next to a pass door. A short enclosed passageway links the shed to the nearly abutting north eaves elevation of a carriage barn.

The house is associated also with Esek Atwood, who lived here from 1844 to 1869. Atwood dealt in plumbing goods and stoves from 1848 to 1860, using the store to the west of the house built by Eleazer Ranney (demolished c.1960). During the period 1864-69, Atwood operated the general merchandise store (#30) next to the house.

32A. Carriage Barn; c.1860

Constructed by Esek Atwood, the one-and-one-half story, balloon-framed and vertically boarded barn has a gable roof covered with asphalt paper. The two-bay east gable front contains a sliding carriage door on the right and a loft door above.

32B. Garage; c.1930

Standing south of the house, this one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed garage is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two vehicle stalls enter its north gable front, their double-leaf doors have eight-light glazing above molded panels.

33. Hewitt House/West Townshend Post Office; c.1964

One-and-three-quarters stories; three-by-three bays; wood-framed; clapboarded; high gable roof (asphalt shingles); paired two-by-two sash; shed-roofed entry porch on east gable elevation; small south ell. Occupies the site of the demolished store built by Eleazer Ranney in 1814-15 and Benjamin Burroughs House built

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One-and-three-quarters stories; three-by-three bays; wood-framed; clapboarded; high gable roof (asphalt shingles); paired two-by-two sash; shed-roofed entry porch on east gable elevation; small south ell. Occupies the site of the demolished store built by Eleazer Ranney in 1814-15 and Benjamin Burroughs House built by Esek Atwood in 1851. Noncontributing due to age.

33A. Garage;

One-and-one-half stories; wood-framed; clapboarded; gable roof; open vehicle stall on north gable front. Noncontributing due to age.

34. Boynton-Allen House; c.1923

This vernacular one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house rests on a stone foundation. A center chimney remains at the ridge of the asphalt-shingled gable roof which is oriented perpendicular to the street. A concrete-block exterior chimney has been added to the west eaves elevation. The windows are fitted mostly with six-over-six sash. Small paired replacement sash light the gable of the two-bay north gable elevation. The main eaves facade extends four bays in an asymmetrical arrangement with a central entrance. A deeply projecting extension of the east roof slope supported by temporary metal posts shelters a porch with an open deck.

A one-story, two-bay, gable-roofed wing extends from the main block's south gable elevation. An exterior fireplace chimney has been added to the wing's east eaves elevation.

The Boynton-Allen House was built in c.1923 after a fire destroyed an earlier house on the site. The new house mimicked the dimensions of the earlier house and was placed on the same foundation.

34A. Garage; c.1940

One-story; wood-framed; clapboarded; shed roof; three stalls with rigid overhead doors on west front. Noncontributing due to age.

34B. Chicken Barn; c.1948

One-and-one-half stories; wood-framed; clapboarded; shed roof; irregular fenestration; six-bay north front includes sliding door on left end. Adapted to contain shops. Noncontributing due to

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irregular fenestration; six-bay north front includes sliding door on left end. Adapted to contain shops. Noncontributing due to age.

34C. Barn; c.1980

One-and-one-half stories; wood-framed; horizontally boarded; gable roof; four-bay, shed-roofed shelter along north eaves elevation. Noncontributing due to age.

35. Nehring House; c.1962

One-and-one-half stories; two-by-two bays; wood-framed; aluminum siding; gable roof (asphalt shingles); six-over-six sash; two-bay recessed porch with pedestaled chamfered posts on north eaves front; two-bay east wing. Occupies site of Loss-Coombs House built in 1810 and burned some years later. Noncontributing due to age.

35A. Shed; rebuilt c.1962

One-and-one-half stories; wood-framed; board-and-battened; gambrel roof. Noncontributing due to age.

36. Garfield Farm; c.1810, 1879

The now-inactive Garfield Farm lies along the south side of the former highway near the west edge of the village. The Garfield buildings include a Greek Revival style house oriented parallel to the road and four extant outbuildings. The English type barn stands to the southwest along with three detached sheds. The associated agricultural land of the farm descends onto the West River floodplain south of the building (now within the flood-control reservoir limits).

The two-story, five-bay main block of this wood-framed and clapboarded house is flanked by a recessed two-story, two-bay wing on the east and a deeply recessed one-and-one-half story, five-bay wing on the west. Carrying asphalt-shingled gable roofs, the three blocks rest on stone foundations. Their regular fenestration consists mostly of replacement two-over-two sash on the main and east blocks, and six-over-nines on the west block. A modern one-story ell has been added to the rear elevation of the east wing.

The five-bay main eaves facade displays a symmetrical arrangement

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around a central entrance. The six-panel door and its 1985 replacement half-length sidelights are enframed by paneled pilasters carrying a simplified entablature. The original window opening on each end of the second story has been infilled, reducing the number of bays to three. The two-bay east and west gable elevations are pedimented, although their clapboarded tympanums are interrupted by the north roof slopes of the abutting wings.

The west wing is deeply offset southward relative to the main block. The wing's eaves facade extends five bays in length with a central entrance sheltered by a gabled canopy. A high blind kneewall surmounts the first-story openings. The west gable elevation extends two bays rather than the single bay of the corresponding east wing's gable elevation.

The house was framed and enclosed c.1810 by John T. Sumner. Following a brief intervening ownership, Caleb Garfield acquired and finished the house for occupancy in 1812. His son, Oscar R. Garfield, added the west wing in 1879. Oscar's son, Sidney O. Garfield, lived here during the late 19th century.

36A. Barn; c.1850

A medium-sized, wood-framed barn with a corrugated-metal gable roof and vertical board-and-batten sheathing stands west of the house (#36). The central wagon entrance on the north eaves front now lacks its large sliding door.

36B. Shed; c.1850

Standing near the southeast corner of the barn (#36A), this one-and-one-half story, wood-framed shed is sheathed with board-and-batten and retains wood shingles on its gable roof. A pass door enters its north eaves front.

36C. Shed; c.1890

Sited southwest of the barn (#36A), this small one-story, wood-framed and clapboarded shed with an asphalt-shingled gable roof has been adapted to domestic use. A four-panel door and a six-over-six sash occupy the north gable front.

36D. Shed; c.1870

The westernmost outbuilding of the farm complex is a

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deteriorating one-and-one-half story shed. Wood-framed, it has an asphalt-shingled gable roof and horizontal board sheathing. An open vehicle stall marks its north gable front.

37. Congregational Parsonage; 1852

Oriented with its asphalt-shingled gable roof perpendicular to the street, this Greek Revival style, one-and-one-half story, wood-framed and clapboarded house rests on a stone foundation. Simple corner boards with capitals support a broad fascia along the horizontal eaves. The irregular fenestration consists mostly of six-over-one sash.

The three-bay main gable facade includes a left sidehall entrance flanked by three-quarters length sidelights and paneled pilasters. A porch with box posts and a flush-boarded apron crosses the facade in three bays and continues two bays along the east eaves elevation; the rear half of the east porch is enclosed with modern casement windows. On the opposite elevation, a partly clapboarded bay window with paired central sash emerges from the left bay next to coupled sash in the right bay.

Attached to the main block's rear (south) gable elevation is a smaller gable-roofed wing with an enclosed entrance porch on its east eaves front. The wing connects at its southeast corner to a small carriage barn fully offset eastward. The one-and-one half story, clapboarded barn with an asphalt-shingled gable roof possesses two double-leaf vehicle entrances on its north gable front.

The house and carriage barn were built in 1852 for "The Parsonage Society in West Townshend," a group organized specifically for the purpose of providing a parsonage for the recently established (in 1850) Second Congregational Church. John Rice, who lived on the farm (#1) across the road, supervised the construction.

38. Route 30 Bridge (VT. No. 38FL-19); 1939

Three spans; steel and concrete; center span supported by Warren deck truss with verticals, standing on curvilinear rusticated concrete piers; two (east and west) shorter approach spans carried by multiple parallel I-beams; concrete abutments; curved concrete open deck with raised sidewalk along north side of roadway; curved concrete "balustrades" (now deteriorating). Noncontributing due to age.

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inadequate supply of water during the summer. In 1797, Thomas Sumner built a grist mill on the lower brook but soon became frustrated by the lack of water.

Two years later, Sumner moved that mill down to a channel of the West River, thereby starting activity on the "Island" that would remain West Townshend's principal industrial site for the succeeding century. A carding mill was built c.1804 next to the grist mill, followed by a fulling mill in 1811. Peter Whitcomb added a sawmill to the complex in 1815, and a blacksmith's shop appeared in 1825. Most of these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1830.

Meanwhile the agricultural and industrial activities in the vicinity were attracting more residents and services to the nucleus of West Townshend village. Various small stores were kept for short periods. A store built in 1804 continued under numerous owners until rebuilt in 1836 into a residence (burned March, 1985) by Abiel Stoddard. In 1811, the village gained a social amenity when Timothy Burton completed his tavern (dismantled c.1935) next to the present store (#30). This was the only hotel (constructed for that purpose) that would ever exist in West Townshend. Eleazer Ranney built a house (part of #32) in 1813-14 and an adjacent store (demolished c.1960) in 1814-15, operating the latter until 1820.

During this period, the emerging village became the focus of development in the township, and seemed destined to expand into Townshend's principal village. That status was recognized in 1811 when the first post office in the township was established here. Within the decade, however, the rival East village outpaced the growth of the West village, and in 1820 the post office was shifted to what later became known as Townshend village. The loss of the post office at the West village was only temporary as a second office was opened here in 1824.

Several extant houses were constructed during the early years of the 19th century although most were subsequently enlarged or supplanted by larger main blocks. Samuel Parkhurst built a c.1800 a frame house (#2) west of the village center to replace a log house on the site. Although altered, the 1800 house preserves its original form and status in the main block. In 1807, Samuel Cushing built his one-story house next to the Parkhurst's. John Rice raised the house (#1) in 1839 to its present size. In the same neighborhood in 1812 Caleb Garfield completed his house (#36) which was later expanded horizontally

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by a wing at each end. At the village center, Charles Phelps' law office (#10) was built in 1807, and followed in 1812-13 by his one-story house. The latter (#9) was raised in 1828 to its present height. Southeast of the village center, Samuel Fletcher's c.1785 frame house was appended c.1811 to the present main block (#24). The latter was constructed by Ezekiel Ransom after he exchanged farms with Fletcher, his father-in-law.

The practice of enlarging an earlier house culminated in the finest expression of Federal style and the only brick building in West Townshend village. Eleazer Ranney built his one-story, wood-framed and clapboarded house at the village center in 1813-14. Then in 1826, Abiel Stoddard proceeded to erect the brick front block that presents to the street a five-bay eaves facade whose semielliptical-arched, first-story openings are echoed on the pedimented gable elevations. The brick house reflects the success of the adjacent store (built by Eleazer Ranney) that was owned by Stoddard and partner Hyman Burgess from 1822 to 1831.

The village lacked a meetinghouse until 1817. In that year, "The Village Society in Townshend" was organized for the purpose of constructing a meetinghouse at the West Village. The Society purchased a lot from Eleazer Ranney, and engaged Major Sprague to erect the Federal style, 40-by-52 foot building with a prominent central tower on the north gable facade; it cost the substantial sum of \$2,627. The interior was arranged with a gallery surrounding the main floor of the auditorium.

Three denominations originally shared the meetinghouse relative to the size of their memberships. The Baptists received its use on every other Sabbath while the Congregationalists and the Society of Restorationists alternated on the non-Baptist Sabbaths. The Restorationists held regular services only about two years. The Baptists persisted until 1840, the year following Gothic Revival stylistic alterations of the building. In 1839, the original belfry was replaced by the present bell chamber with a crenelated and pinnacled crown, and the window heads were given pointed-arch louvered caps.

The Greek Revival style began to influence the design of West Townshend buildings around 1840. It appeared both in eaves-front transitional form, e.g., the Stoddard-Page House of 1836 (burned in 1985) and then in more fully developed temple-front form, e.g., the Kimball-Favreau House (#26) of 1842 and the house built for Albert Ranney in 1852 on the Ransom-Ranney Farm (#25). The style dominated West Townshend architectural expression through

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the middle third of the 19th century, the period when the village expanded to its historical limits. On the other hand, a high-style interpretation of the Greek Revival never appeared in the village or vicinity thus indicating that the contemporary entrepreneurs and farmers never achieved more than modest success.

A new religious society, "The Village Society in West Townshend," was formed in 1848 to replace the moribund original one. The new society proceeded to hire Ransley Garrington to remodel the interior of the church (probably removing the gallery and subdividing the auditorium into two floors in the process) and make other repairs. Two years later, the Congregationalists reorganized themselves into the Second Congregational Church (the First being in the East village) and assumed sole occupancy of the building. In 1852, "The Parsonage Society in West Townshend" was formed to provide a parsonage (#37) for the parish. John Rice supervised its construction the same year on a site at the extreme west edge of the village.

New secular buildings appeared in the village during the same period. In 1841, Ransley Harrington constructed a combined store and tenement (later known as the Boyden block) at the intersection of Main Street and the Windham Hill road. Seven years later (1848), F.D. and E. Sawyer entered competition directly across the street where they erected the Greek Revival style storefront block (#30) that would outlast all other store buildings in West Townshend. The village acquired a new two-room schoolhouse (#16) in 1853, built by Nathan Pierce to replace an outmoded predecessor on the site.

The map of West Townshend published by C. McClellan in 1856 shows that the village had then achieved the limits of its historic development. (A slight expansion would follow toward the end of the 19th century but 20th century truncation would actually reduce the extent of the village's historic environment.) The buildings defining the limits of the historic district in every direction were already in place. Indeed the Island industrial area was then actively occupied, unlike the present revegetating floodplain devoid of buildings. A few buildings shown on the 1856 map were later replaced while others have disappeared without successors on site. The village then possessed a significantly greater variety of commercial and industrial enterprises than now, including two general merchandise stores, a taver/inn, a tannery, a sawmill, a grist mill, a wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, a saddle and harness shop, and a melodeon shop.

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Small-scaled industrial enterprises continued to appear and disappear along Acton Brook despite the unreliable supply of water. The longest-lived industry was the tannery started in 1804, burned in 1813, and rebuilt and enlarged soon thereafter; it was owned by members of the Howard family until its sale in 1834 to John and Orison H. Kimball. N. B. Pomroy and A. A. Barber later acquired the business but lost their shop to fire in 1868. They rebuilt on the same site a Greek Revival style, three-and-three-quarters story, clapboarded, gable-roofed tannery and continued operation until at least 1880. (The name of the brook was later changed to reflect that activity.)

Other enterprises were sited along the brook downstream of the present stone arch bridge (#12). Derick L. Sprague produced melodeons in a shop there from 1844 to 1857. Daniel Harris then purchased Sprague's shop and used it for making doors, sash, and shingles, rebuilding after the great flood of 1869 and continuing until at least 1880. In 1836, John H. Kimball built a wheelwright and wagon shop that he operated until his death in 1871. His son, John R. Kimball, continued the shop until at least 1880. Across the road, Nathan Lawrence started c.1880 to sell grain in the building that Harry Jennison used for the same purpose after 1923.

Industrial activities continued to expand on the Island despite fire and flood. After the 1830 fire, Rogers Howe constructed a large sawmill and grist mill. Numerous short-term owners succeeded Howe and installed other kinds of machinery until those buildings were destroyed by fire in 1859. The sawmill was quickly rebuilt by Ira Goodell (its owner since 1840) and Joel Derby did the same for the grist mill. Goodell continued to operate the sawmill and a chair stock shop until his death in 1870. The firm of Kidder, Livermore and Co. succeeded Goodell. One of its principals, Francis Kidder, introduced a new architectural style to West Townshend in 1865-66 when his substantial Italianate Revival house (burned in 1942) was constructed on Main Street next to the tavern. In 1872, Harrison Chamberlin, a Townshend contractor responsible for many buildings and bridges, constructed a new queenpost-truss covered bridge to carry Mill (later Depot) Street to the Island.

West Townshend (and the West River valley) remained isolated from Vermont's railroad network for 30 years after the initial lines were placed in operation. Plans and even surveys of a railroad along the valley were made and promoted from the 1840's onward. But capital proved difficult to raise, and the territory lacked

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the larger towns and industries that would generate the necessary traffic and revenue to support a railroad. Finally a plan was devised to build a less costly narrow-gauge railroad from Brattleboro, Vt. to Whitehall N.Y. The towns along the route were requested to contribute funds toward its construction. Only Townshend and four other valley towns eventually did so, and the projected through line became instead a 36-mile branch line that terminated at South Londonderry.

The Town of Townshend purchased 370 shares of Brattleboro and Whitehall Railroad Co. stock at \$100, an amount of \$37,000. Individual residents took 36 additional shares at a cost of \$3,600, increasing the total contribution from Townshend to \$40,600. The Town's shares were taken contingent on the placement of the railroad along the east bank of the West River, thereby contiguous to three villages within the township (including West Townshend).

Construction of the railroad was undertaken in 1878, and by the end of 1879 the grade and bridges of its seven miles in Townshend were complete - except for the track. Funds, however, were exhausted at that stage. The connecting Central Vermont Railroad then agreed to lease the railroad and complete its construction. The rails were laid the following year, reaching West Townshend on October 2. The railroad was formally opened on November 18, 1880, when the first regularly scheduled train made the trip between Brattleboro and South Londonderry.

The West Townshend depot (dismantled in 1959) was built on the Island just north of the sawmill. On December 20, 1880, the daily stage through the village to Brattleboro ran for the last time, and the mail was carried thereafter by train. At the end of the month, the telegraph was installed at the depot, bringing West Townshend into rapid communication with the outside world.

A summary of business at West Townshend Station for the year 1882 reveals how the local residents used the railroad in its second full year of operation. Passenger ticket sales amounted to \$731 of the total receipts of \$2,408. Outbound freight consisted overwhelmingly of wood products from Goodell's sawmill - 800,000 pounds of lumber and 147,000 pounds of shingles among the total of 1,040,527 pounds. Agricultural products accounted for much of the remainder, including 285 tubs of butter, and 8,500 pounds of wool plus "many tons" of butter, eggs, and poultry sent by express. The inbound freight was much more diverse but amounted to only half the weight, 493,099 pounds. The inbound consisted

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chiefly of foodstuffs, coal, iron, and manufactured goods.

Both the inbound and outbound freight included a substantial quantity of an exotic commodity and the product made thereof. During the 1870s, Daniel Howard started importing palm leaf for the local braiding of palm-leaf hats. John H. Fullerton entered the trade in 1879, and soon developed a large business. In 1882, 41,500 pounds of palm leaf were received at West Townshend Station while 33,900 pounds of finished hats were shipped. Both ranked among the largest quantities of specific goods handled at the station. Child's Gazetteer and Business Directory of 1884 records that Fullerton employed in the region around West Townshend between 1,600 and 2,000 persons who braided 15,000 to 20,000 dozen hats per year.

The village, according to Child, then comprised "one church (Congregational), two general stores, a lumber and chair-stock factory, palm hat manufactory, grist-mill, carriage shop, jobbing shop, tin shop, harness shop, etc., and about thirty-five dwellings." The sawmill and chair-stock factory on the Island was owned by A. A. Goodell and Co., and employed eight men to produce about \$6,000 worth of lumber and related items. E. A. Holmes' grist mill on the Island ground about 7,500 pounds of grain annually.

By the middle 1890s, service on the valley's railroad began to deteriorate in direct correlation with the physical condition of its rolling stock and lightly-constructed track. Problems continued to mount in the early 1900s, and court action ensued between the Brattleboro and Whitehall as nominal owner and the Central Vermont as lessee. The settlement gave control of the railroad to the Central Vermont exchange for its conversion to standard gauge and improved service. On July 30, 1905, the track of the newly organized West River Railroad Co. was widened to eliminate the obstacle of transshipment at Brattleboro for valley freight.

With or without transshipment, the railroad appears to have exerted only modest effect on the development of West Townshend. Goodell's sawmill was the principal beneficiary; the railroad passed through the mill yard on the Island, enabling shipment of large quantities of manufactured lumber and ready sale directly to the railroad company itself. John Fullerton needed rail shipment both of the materials and the products in his palm-leaf hat business. And a glove factory (#27, now converted to a restaurant) that was opened c.1912 on Depot Street probably used

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rail service. The village, however, did not expand beyond its 1856 limits. The increases in some enterprises were offset by declines in others, especially the small-scaled industries along Tannery Brook.

Around the turn of the century, the bridges on both roads crossing Tannery Brook in the village were replaced. One bridge (#12) was built c.1910 on the old South Windham Road (now Town Road 7). The other (later destroyed) was built a short distance downstream on the old River Road. Both were erected by James Otis Follett (1843-1911), a local farmer turned mason and intuitive engineer, as single-span stone arches like many others of his creation in Townshend and nearby towns. The 37-foot, segmental-arched (of roughly pitched granite blocks) bridge on Town Road 7 was individually entered in the National Register on April 18, 1977.

The 19th century character of Main Street began to change in 1915 when fire destroyed the two-and-one-half story store and tenement that was known as the Boyden block. A structure distinguished by its monumental eleven-bay, shed-roofed front porch supported by columns. A harbinger of the future appeared in its place. Walter VanNess, whose father used the former Pomroy and Barber tannery for a blacksmith shop, started c.1920 an automobile repair garage (#7) on the site.

The conversion to standard gauge alleviated only temporarily the problems of the West River Railroad. By early 1920s, physical deterioration and diversion of traffic by motor vehicles were causing a steady decline in service. Perennial deficits on the line reached \$46,000 in 1922. Passenger trains were reduced to three times weekly in 1920, and then replaced by mixed trains (both freight and passenger) in 1924. Three years later, the catastrophic flood of November, 1927 virtually destroyed the railroad that followed the banks of the West River for most of its length.

The subsequent reincarnation of the West River Railroad proved anticlimactic. A loan from the State of Vermont enabled its reconstruction during 1930-31. The following year, train service was resumed for a few months but failed to attract appreciable traffic. A new lessee made futile attempts between 1933 and 1935 to revive operation. Finally in 1936 the railroad was formally abandoned, and the northernmost thirty miles of track were removed for scrap. West Townshend's railroad era was thus concluded after fifty-six years of erratic branch-line service.

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Activity on the Island at West Townshend dwindled prior to the abandonment of the railroad. The abrupt interruption of service in 1927 undoubtedly contributed to the decline of the large sawmill. The mill was operated for the last time in 1934 and was damaged by the floods that struck the valley latter 1930s. The depot was remodled into a residence by the Ballantine family.

A September, 1938 hurricane and flood caused significant alterations of West Townshend's historic environment. The former Pomroy and Barber tannery apparently collapsed into the brook. The wreckage cleared the higher adjacent stone arch bridge (#12) but plugged against the lower stone arch bridge on River Road, and the great force of the raging brook then swept away both debris and bridge. The loss of the bridge led to a relocation of the highway onto a straighter alignment above the brook that required the construction of the high three-span, deck-truss bridge (#38). The large scale and height of the bridge dominates the area along the brook, and the relocation of the highway severed the River Road neighborhood from the village.

During the late 1950s, the Army Corps of Engineers undertook a project that caused the elimination of historic buildings (mostly farmsteads) along a five-mile stretch of the West River floodplain. A flood-control dam was constructed in 1959-61 where the valley narrows between Rattlesnake Mountain and an opposite hill to the west. During 1958-59, the buildings within the maximum limits of the reservoir were dismantled or, in a few cases, moved intact. In the immediate vicinity of West Townshend, only the Kimball-Favreau House (#26) was left standing on River Road. The 1939 relocation of Route 30 south of the bridge (#38) was extended southeastward past the Fletcher-Ransom (#24) and Ransom-Ranney (#25) Farms, which had been previously approached by side roads from the River Road. The Island - occupied since 1800 by various small industries - was entirely stripped of the extant buildings. The converted depot (Ballantine House) was first dismantled and then the materials were burned. Four historic houses and related outbuildings were demolished. Finally the covered bridge that carried Depot Street onto the Island was dismantled (and later rebuilt in Rockingham, Vt.). Near the west edge of the village, the new Route 30 veered away from the historic route east of the Samuel Parkhurst House (#2), continuing behind that house and the adjacent Cushing-Rice Farm (#1) with the old road reduced to a dead-end stub.

During recent decades, the house built by Benjamin Loss in 1810 and occupied by Barnas Coombs from 1828 until 1878 was destroyed

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by fire and replaced c.1962 by the Nehring House (#35). Near the village center, the store built by Eleazer Ranney in 1814-15 and the closely adjacent house built by Esek Atwood in 1851 were both demolished and replaced c.1964 by the Hewitt House (#33). Most recently, in early 1985, the last 19th century house east of the former Sawyer store (#30) on the south side of Main Street was gutted by fire. The ruined shell of the Stoddard-Page House was later demolished although outbuildings (#28 and 28A) survive at the site.

The fires, floods, and construction projects since the late 1930s have served to truncate West Townshend village and to reduce its historic building stock. Nevertheless, the few replacement buildings (houses) have been designed so as not to detract from the prevailing historic character of the village. The village remains free of intrusive contemporary roadside development. It retains to a large extent its historic integrity. Many of the 19th century buildings have been altered in varying degrees but generally not to the point of losing their essential character. In the most notable case of restoration, the former Sawyer store (#30) has been rehabilitated and relieved of the asphalt shingles that covered its original clapboard sheathing for several decades. The focal position of the store at the village center gives its restoration special importance.

West Townshend gains its predominant character from the Federal and Greek Revival style buildings and the vernacular derivatives of those styles that account for an overwhelming majority of the extant buildings. These share similar forms, materials, and decoration that convey marked architectural cohesiveness. The limited range of stylistic expression evokes strongly the relatively short period - the first half of the 19th century when the village expanded nearly to its historical limits. Only some applied ornamental features, especially porches with turned and scroll-sawn components, represent the superficial influence exerted by other 19th century styles such as the Gothic Revival and the Queen Anne.

West Townshend lacks the typical village green although the simply landscaped grounds of the church have traditionally served that purpose. Compared with similar villages (and historic districts) in Vermont, it retains a higher proportion of historic buildings and displays fewer actual intrusions than most of its counterparts and belongs among the small number in the state without any modern commercial buildings near the center.

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The boundary of the West Townshend Village Historic District begins at Point A located at the northeast corner of the Fletcher property (#15, Townshend Lot #22.1). Thence the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along the easterly property line of said property to Point B located at the southeast corner of said property and the coincident northernmost of the adjoining Carlson property (#16, Townshend Lot #63). Thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows the northeast property line of said property to Point C located at the intersection of said line with the northwesterly edge of the Town Road 46 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns southwesterly and follows said edge of said right-of-way and a southwesterly extension thereof across the Town Road 47 right-of-way to Point D located at the intersection of said extension with the southwesterly edge of the Town Road 47 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows the said edge passing the adjoining Boyle and Nystrom properties (#20 and 19, Townshend Lots #64 and 64.1), the Round Hill Cemetery (#18, Townshend Lot #70), and the Brodie property (#17, Townshend Lot #71). From the latter property, the boundary continues along the southwesterly, becoming westerly edge of an abandoned right-of-way to Point E located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and twenty-five feet northerly from, the north elevation of a shed (#25C) on the Lanyi property (#25, Townshend Lot #73). Thence the boundary turns easterly and follows said line to Point F located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and twenty-five feet easterly from, the east elevation of said shed. Thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said line to Point G located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and twenty-five feet southerly from, the south elevation of said shed. Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said line and a westerly extension thereof across the abandoned right-of-way to Point H located at its intersection with the westerly edge of said right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns southerly, continues along the westerly edge of said right-of-way (which joins the right-of-way of Town Road 23), and then curves along the northerly edge of the Town Road 23 right-of-way to a Point I located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and fifty feet easterly of, the east gable elevation of the northermost block of the connected barns (#25A) on the Lanyi property. Thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said line to Point J located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and fifty feet southerly from, the south gable elevation of the southernmost block of the connected barns (#25A). Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said line to Point K located at its intersection with the easterly edge of the Route 30

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right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows the easterly edge of said right-of-way, passing the Musbek property (#24, Townshend Lot #72), to Point L located at its intersection with an easterly extension of the northerly edge of the right-of-way of Town Road 51. Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said extension and northerly edge of said right-of-way to a Point M located at its intersection with the easterly edge of the Town Road 50 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the easterly edge of said right-of-way, passing the Favreau property (#26, Townshend Lot #65), to Point N located at its intersection with an easterly extension of the southerly property line of the adjoining Carusona property (#27, Townshend Lot #58). Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said easterly extension crossing Tannery Brook and continuing along said property line and a westerly extension thereof to Point O located at its intersection with the easterly edge of the Town Road 49 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the easterly edge of the Town Road 49 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the easterly edge of said right-of-way to Point P, located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and twenty-five feet southerly from, the south gable elevation of the barn (#28) on the Viverito property (Townshend Lot #57). Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said line, crossing said right-of-way, to Point Q located at its intersection with the southeasterly property line of the adjoining Jenison property (#29, Townshend Lot #56). Thence the boundary turns southwesterly, follows said property line, and continues along the southeasterly property lines of the adjoining Holden (#30, Townshend Lot #55) and Hewitt properties (#33, Townshend Lot #49) to Point R located at the southeast corner of the latter property. Thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows the southerly property lines of the adjoining Hewitt, Ballantine (#34, Townshend Lot #48), and Nehring (#35, Townshend Lot #47) properties to Point S located at the southwest corner of the latter property and the coincident southeast corner of the adjoining Gardner property (#36, Townshend Lot #46). Thence the boundary turns southwesterly and follows the southerly property line of the latter property to Point T located at its southwest corner. Thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows the westerly property line of said property to Point U located at its intersection with the southerly property line of the adjoining Sperry property (#37, Townshend Lot #44). Thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said property line to Point V located at its intersection with a line parallel to, and twenty-five feet westerly from, the west elevation of the house on said property.

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Thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows said line and a northwesterly extension thereof across the Old Route 30 right-of-way to Point W located at its intersection with the northwesterly edge of said right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns southwesterly and follows the northwesterly edge of said right-of-way to Point X located at its intersection with the westerly property line of the Prouty property (#1, Townshend Lot #43). Thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows said property line to Point Y located at its intersection with the southerly edge of the Route 30 right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns easterly and follows the southerly edge of said right-of-way, passing the Linton property (#2, Townshend Lot #45), crossing the Old Route 30 right-of-way, and continuing to Point Z located at its intersection with a southwesterly extension across the Route 30 right-of-way of the westerly property line of the Palmer property (#3, Townshend Lot #33). Thence the boundary turns northeasterly and follows said extension crossing Route 30 and continuing along said property line to Point AA located at the north corner of said property. Thence the boundary turns easterly and follows a line parallel to the northerly edge of the Route 30 right-of-way to Point BB located at its intersection with the westerly property line of the Swingen property (#4 and 5, Townshend Lot #31). Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows said property line to Point CC located at the northwest corner of said property. Thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows the northerly property line of said property to Point DD located at its intersection with the westerly edge of the Windham Hill Road right-of-way. Thence the boundary crosses said right-of-way to Point EE located at the intersection of the easterly edge of said right-of-way and the northerly property line of the VanNess property (#7, Townshend Lot #52). Thence the boundary follows in a easterly direction the northerly property lines of said VanNess property, the adjoining Parsons property (#8, Townshend Lot #53) and an eastern extension of said property line across the adjoining Porges property (#9 and 10, Townshend Lot #27) to Point FF located at the northwest corner of the adjoining Nevins property (#11, Townshend Lot #60). Thence the boundary continues easterly along the northerly property line of said property to Point GG located at its intersection with the westerly property line of the adjoining Webster property (#13, Townshend Lot #24). Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows said property line to Point HH located at the northwest corner of said property. Thence the boundary turns southeasterly, follows the northerly property lines of said property and the adjoining Turner property (#14, Townshend Lot #23) and a southeasterly extension of the

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latter across the Town Road 7 right-of-way to Point II located at the intersection of said extension and the easterly edge of said right-of-way. Thence the boundary turns northerly and follows the easterly edge of said right-of-way to Point JJ located at its intersection with the northerly property line of the Fletcher property (#15, Townshend Lot #22.1). Thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows said property line to Point A, the point of beginning.

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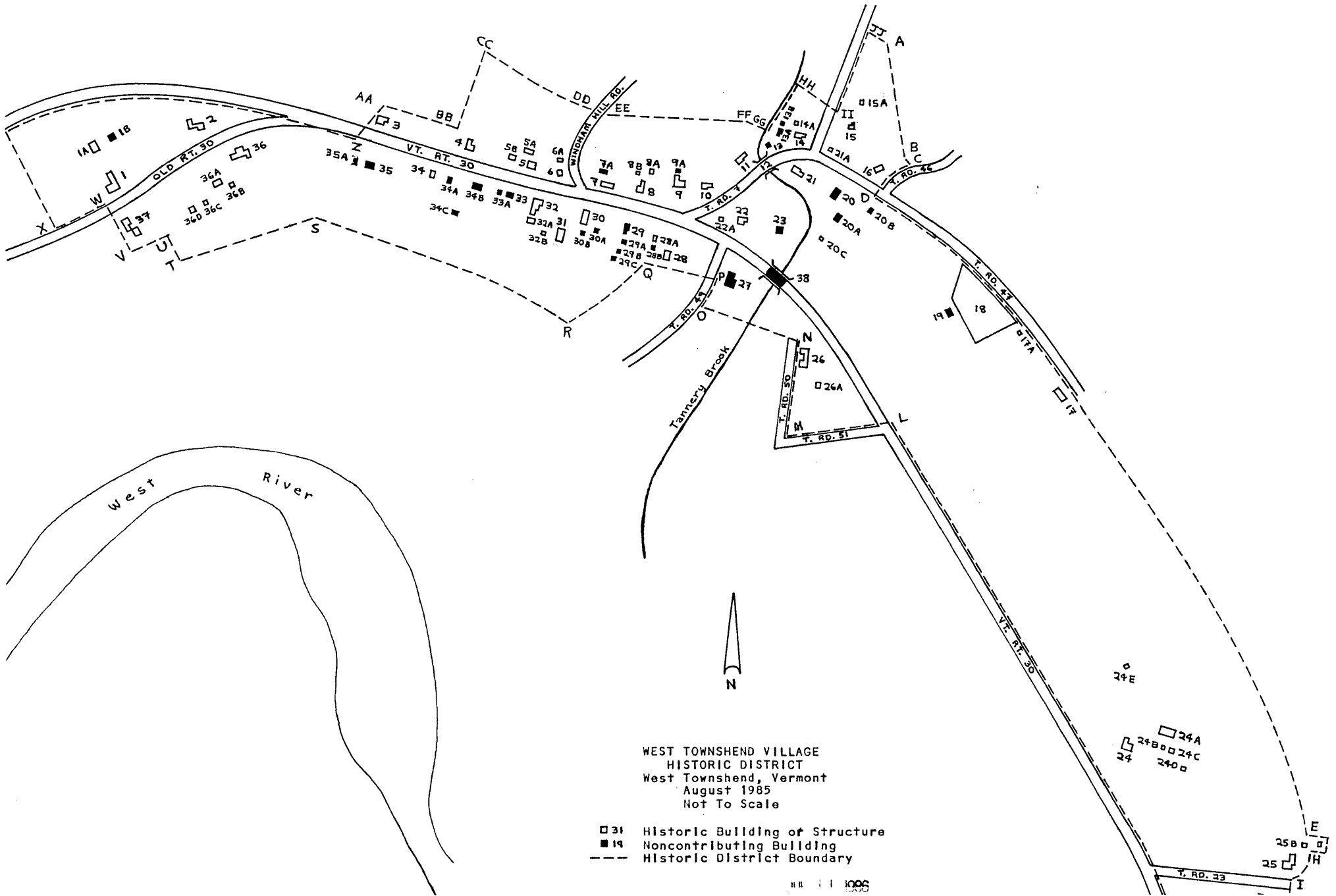
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The boundary of the West Townshend Village Historic District encompasses the concentrated village together with the related Fletcher-Ransom Farm (#24) and the Ransom-Raney Farm (#25) to the southeast. In the vicinity of these two farms, the boundary encloses the area between the present Route 30 and a partly abandoned road (a southward extension of Town Road 47) that parallels it to the east. Agricultural land and scattered recent development surround the perimeter of this part of the historic district.

Closer to the village along Town Roads 47 and 7, reforested hillsides and scattered recent development flank the historic district. The same circumstance occurs along the north side of the village center, where the boundary generally follows the rear lot lines of the buildings. Toward the west edge of the village, the 1957 Route 30 interrupts the traditional backlands of the house and farm (#2 and 1) along the north side of the former Route 30. Partly reforested and partly agricultural lands lie beyond the west end of the historic district.

The southerly margin of the historic district is generally defined by a steep bank leading downward to the floodplain of the West River. The boundary follows the rear lot lines of the buildings along the former and present Route 30 (Main Street), whose lots were truncated in the late 1950s to the maximum limit of the reservoir pool behind the Townshend flood-control dam. One boundary variation applies in the case of the Viverito property (#28, Townshend Lot #57), where the boundary passes near the historic barn and excludes on the lower level of ground to its rear a group of c.1940 chicken coops that were converted in the 1960s to cottages.

Adjacent to the south side of the village center, the former industrial and residential area known as the "Island" was entirely cleared of buildings in the 1950s for the flood-control project, and therefore is excluded from the historic district. Southeast of Tannery Brook, the historic district includes the sole surviving house (#26) of the River Road neighborhood that was also nearly obliterated for the reservoir. A field survey of the building sites and other archeological resources within the area effected by the flood-control project has been undertaken in 1985 for the Army Corps of Engineers.



WEST TOWNSHEND VILLAGE
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 West Townshend, Vermont
 August 1985
 Not To Scale

- 31 Historic Building or Structure
- 19 Noncontributing Building
- - - Historic District Boundary