

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site Canoe Brook Historic District

2. Location

street & number .See Item #2. not for publication N/A
city or town Branford vicinity N/A
state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06405

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan February 25, 2002
Signature of certifying official Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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Canoe Brook Historic District, Branford, New Haven County, CT

Section 2 Page 1

Location:

Bradley Street: 6, 12, 20, 23, 27, 36, 37, 41, 42, 48, 51, 58, 68, 72, 75, 77, 80 (Lot 5/2), 82, 83, 85, 91, 93.

Cherry Hill Road: 6, 10, Lot 13/4, 11 15, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27.

Home Place: 58, 60, 61-63, 62, 65, 67-69.

Lincoln Avenue: 2.

Main Street: 46, 50, Lot 13/18, Lot 13/17 (partial), 96, 110, 124, 138-146, 139-163, Lot 13/11, 148-162, 178, 181, 190, 197-213, 202, 215-231, 241, 259, 275, 303, 341, 350, 360-378, 361, 380, 401, 448-456, 460-470, 472-528, 546.

North Harbor Street: 12, 21.

Canoe Brook Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Elson H. Ball

Date of Action

4/11/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>94</u>	<u>13</u> buildings
—	— sites
—	— structures
—	— objects
<u>94</u>	<u>13</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single/multiple dwelling/secondary structure.
EDUCATION/school
COMMERCE/store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single/multiple dwelling/secondary structure
EDUCATION/school
COMMERCE/store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

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

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/brick
walls weatherboard
aluminum siding
roof asphalt shingle
other brick/vinyl siding

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Canoe Brook Historic District, Branford, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Canoe Brook Historic District is located in southwest Branford. It generally lies between North Main Street (US Route 1) on the north and the railroad tracks on the south, and abuts the Branford Center Historic District on the east. The Branford Connector to Interstate 95 is located to the west. The principal streets within the district are Main and Bradley, which run generally east-west, and portions of several side streets: Home Place, North Harbor Street, and Cherry Hill Road, which runs through to North Main (see district map).

Primarily residential in character, the district contains 107 resources, of which 94 (88 percent) contribute to its historic significance. Principal contributing buildings include 51 historic houses, and eight institutional or commercial structures: two schools, a firehouse, two stores, and a funeral home. There are a few historic barns and sheds in the district, but most of the contributing outbuildings are detached period garages. Modern infill in the district consists of 13 non-contributing houses, apartment buildings, or residential garages.

The district encompasses more than 200 years of residential development (1724-1940). Wood-frame single-family dwellings predominate, with either stone or brick foundations. The distribution by century is as follows: nine percent in the 1700s; 51 percent in the 1800s; and 37 percent in the early 1900s. The colonial core of the district is represented by five houses, all built before the Revolution. While no new construction took place until 1800, the colonial influence persisted well into the nineteenth century. Most of the houses built between 1800 and 1850 utilize this form and display the influence of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles in their porches and detailing. Several period porches were added to earlier Colonials in this period. The Greek Revival style was popular at mid-century, and later houses up through at least 1900 are generally vernacular buildings that utilize similar gable-to-street plans. The Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles appeared near the end of the century, in combination on a few larger formal houses. While there is a small group of Tudor Revivals built in the district in the 1930s, the Colonial Revival was favored for most of the rest of the early twentieth-century houses.

The Nathaniel Harrison House, headquarters of the Branford Historical Society, is the oldest extant building in the district (Inventory #67; Photograph #1). Erected in 1724 on Main Street on the west side of the district, this five-bay Colonial displays façade and gable overhangs. An added rear ell gives the house its distinctive saltbox form. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Harrison House was owned and restored by architect J. Frederick Kelly in the 1930s. The c.1750 Edmund Morris House across the street also has a five-bay façade, but its original main block is only one room deep (Inventory #70; Photograph #2). The porch and the two-story ell are later additions, possibly added when the house was moved back on the lot about 1929. The Timothy Bradley House was erected in 1727 at the head of Bradley Street (Inventory #2; Photograph #3). Another five-bay, center-chimney Colonial, it displays a later Federal-period doorway. The John Rose House down the street, built by 1750 with a steeper roof, was altered in the Federal period (Inventory #13). The slightly later Timothy Morris House, which once stood on Main Street, was relocated around the corner on Home Place (Inventory #59; Photograph #4). Another two-story Colonial, it originally had a center chimney, which was removed when the house was moved in 1960.

The persistence of the Colonial form in the district is illustrated by at least four nineteenth-century houses. The Shepard-Tyler House on Main Street and the Daniel Morris House on Bradley Street were built in the first decade (Inventory #s 83, 14; Photograph #s 5, 6). Both are Federal in plan, although the placement of the twin interior chimneys in the Morris dwelling is more typical of the Georgian style. They have nearly identical porticos, obviously added in the Greek Revival period. While both houses rest on stone foundations, the higher foundation of the Morris House, which has a brick façade, dates from the late 1800s when it was moved from Main Street to this location. Two center-chimney Colonials were built about 1820. The one erected by Timothy Bradley, Jr., at the west end of Bradley Street has an Italianate portico (Inventory #30). The other example, the Wyllys Russell House on Main Street, has a four-pane transom over the door and a hipped-roof Greek Revival portico (Inventory #72; Photograph #7). As indicated by the width of the overhang, the roof has been replaced.

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The Parmalee House on Bradley Street, which was built in the Federal period, anticipates the traditional gable-to-street orientation of the Greek Revival and other later nineteenth-century buildings in the district (Inventory #10; Photograph #8). A c. 1804 cottage with two-over-three-bay façade and a Federal doorway, it may have been moved from Main Street about 1900. Shown in the same photograph is the J. Atwood Linsley House, the neighbor to the east, which was built after the Civil War (Inventory #8).

Houses designed in the Greek Revival style appeared in the district after 1840. Two neighboring examples were owned by the Linsley family on the west end of Main Street (Inventory #s 63, 65; Photograph #9). The 1841 James L. Linsley House, though somewhat altered and sheathed with artificial siding, still has the characteristic defining pediment, while the one built by Samuel D. Linsley in 1853 is a simple vernacular cottage that mimics the form and orientation of this style. Later two-story vernacular examples, such as the c. 1860 William B. Smith House on Bradley Street, tend to have a narrower, three-bay form (Inventory #15; Photograph #10).

Two Greek Revivals on the east side of the district have full pediments as well as the shallower pitched roofs commonly associated with this style. The two-over-three-bay Austin Babcock House, which has retained the typical multipaned rectangular pediment window, is found at 360 Main Street (Inventory #93; Photograph #11). The other example, located across the way at the intersection with Bradley Street, was built as a house, but has served as a store since at least 1870 (Inventory #98; Photograph #12). Another style variant is the transitional cube-form Greek Revival Joseph N. Linsley House, which approaches the Italianate in its porch and bay window (Inventory #69; Photograph #13).

Other vernacular houses were influenced by the Italianate style. One on Main Street, which also served as a store, displays the characteristic double, round-arched gable windows as its only style feature (Inventory #89; Photograph #14). The turn-of-the-century firehouse shown in this photograph demonstrates how early institutional buildings of this type continued to rely on residential forms (Inventory #90). An Italianate-style veranda and a pair of full-height, round-arched gable windows embellish a house built on Cherry Hill Road about 1870 (Inventory #35; Photograph #15). The small barn next to the road, which now serves as a garage, is probably from the same period (Inventory #36).

John T. Sliney built a Colonial Revival-style house in 1902 at the corner of Main and North Harbor streets (Inventory #84; Photograph #16). An imposing structure, it displays a full-width columned porch and pedimented dormers. Other façade features include a projecting two-story bay on the right. The unusual divided window on the second floor was probably installed when the house became a duplex. To the rear are several barns, which were part of the Sliney livery and construction business (Inventory #85). A bit farther down North Harbor Street is another Sliney property, a cross-gabled Queen Anne, which is elaborated with paneled bargeboards and imbricated shingles in the gables and above the shed-roofed porch (Inventory #105; Photograph #17). Porch details include turned posts, scroll brackets, and a spooned spindle course.

The Queen Anne style persisted into the early 1900s. It is displayed in the design of the 1908 Thomas O'Brien House, which has bracketed cutaway corners and an elaborately detailed porch (Inventory #81; Photograph #18). The Queen Anne is combined with classical elements on the Joseph Laich House of 1914 (Inventory #91; Photograph #19). They include Ionic-order veranda columns and modillions under the flared pediment over the façade bay, as well as a large fanlight.

The Canoe Brook School, erected in 1898 on Cherry Hill Road, is a fully developed example of the Neo-Classical Revival style (Inventory #37; Photograph #20). Designed in an H-plan by Brown & VonBeren, it originally had two-story wings joined by a one-story hyphen. After a fire in 1939 that destroyed the second floor, the building was rebuilt at its present height. Features retained include the classical portico, with its round arch and modillioned pediment framed by narrow Ionic pilasters, and bands of full-height windows with transoms on the side elevations of the wings.

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Most of the rest of the historic residential development in the district took place on the side streets. The earliest house on Home Place was a double-decker built by Alexander Sabloski in 1926, which displays Colonial Revival porches (Inventory #52; Photograph #21). The immediate neighborhood consists of gambrel-roofed Capes and Bungalows (Inventory #s 54, 56, 48, 50). Tudor Revival-style houses were erected on Cherry Hill Road in the 1930s. The Richard Brewer House, the most elaborate example, features a tall hipped roof and half-timbering (Inventory #38; Photograph #22).

A complete inventory of all the resources in the district follows. Historic names for principal buildings and dates of construction are taken from Branford Historical Society files and other sources listed in the bibliography. Most dates for outbuildings were estimated from field observation.

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Inv. #	Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photo #
BRADLEY STREET				
1.	6	D'ONOFRIO BUILDING (Hustler Athletic Club), brick apartment building, c. 1911	C	
2.	12	TIMOTHY BRADLEY HOUSE, Colonial, 1727	C	3
3.	20	BRADLEY GARAGE, commercial, 1919	C	
4.	23	ANTONIO D'ONOFRIO HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1905	C	
5.	27	BRADLEY-D'ONOFRIO HOUSE, vernacular, 1880	C	
6.		shed, c. 1880	C	
7.	36	QUARTER SCHOOL- SETH BRADLEY HOUSE c. 1845 (moved to site c. 1860 from North Harbor Street)	C	
8.	37	J. ATWOOD LINSLEY, vernacular, c. 1880	C	8
9.		garage, c. 1970	NC	
10.	41	SAMUEL PARMALEE HOUSE, Federal, c. 1804 (possibly moved from 259 Main Street, c. 1900)	C	8
11.	42	BETSEY BUSH GRANT HOUSE, Italianate, 1842; possibly remodeled c.1860	C	
12.		garage, 1974	NC	
13.	48	JOHN ROSE HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, 1747	C	
14.	51	DANIEL MORRIS HOUSE, Federal, c. 1805	C	6
15.	58	WILLIAM D. SMITH HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1860	C	10
16.		garage, c. 1940	C	

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17.		shed, c. 1900	C	
18.	68	Dutch Colonial Revival, c. 1950	NC	
19.		garage, c. 1940	NC	
20.	72	CHAUNCEY MOULTHROP HOUSE, vernacular cottage, c. 1811	C	
21.		garage, c. 1930	C	
22.	75	modern apartment building, c. 1980	NC	
23.	77	modern apartment building, c. 1980	NC	
	80 (5/2)	vacant lot		
24.	82	ELIZUR MONROE HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1910 garage, c. 1910	C	
25.	83	CHARLES CROUCH HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1875	C	
26.		garage, c. 1940	C	
27.	85	Cape, 1954	NC	
28.	91	vernacular, c. 1880	C	
29.		garage, c. 1940		
30.	93	TIMOTHY BRADLEY, JR., HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1820 (Italianate portico, c. 1860)	C	
31.		shed/garage, c. 1890	C	
32.		barn, c. 1890	C	

CHERRY HILL ROAD

33.	6	LAWRENCE S. SLINEY HOUSE, Colonial Revival Bungalow, c. 1930	C	
34.		garage, c. 1930	C	
35.	10	JOHN B. SLINEY HOUSE, vernacular Italianate, c. 1870	C	15
36.		barn/garage c. 1900	C	
	13/4	vacant lot		
37.	11	CANOE BROOK SCHOOL (Senior Center) Neo-Classical Revival, 1898 (Brown & VonBeren, architects)	C	20
38.	15	RICHARD K. BREWER HOUSE, Tudor Revival (brick/stone), 1937	C	22

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39.	17	Cape, c. 1983	NC
40.	19	WESTON B. & JULIA SHEPARD HOUSE, Tudor Revival (brick/stone), 1936	C
41.	23	JOSEPH RAYMOND HOUSE, Tudor Revival, brick, 1937	C
42.		garage, c. 1940	C
43.	26	JOHN H. & MAE McCABE HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1928	C
44.		garage, c. 1930	C
45.		shed, c. 1930	C
46.	27	JOSEPH F. IFKOVIC HOUSE, Tudor Revival, brick, 1935	C
47.		garage, 1935	

HOME PLACE

48.	58	ANDREW P. & ELIZABETH LASKO HOUSE, Bungalow, 1927	C
49.		garage, c. 1930	C
50.	60	JOHN & BERNICE JAKACKKI HOUSE, Bungalow, c. 1930	C
51.		garage, c. 1930	C
52.	61-63	ALEXANDER SABLOSKI HOUSE, Colonial Revival double-decker, 1926	C
53.		garage, c. 1930	C
54.	62	OTELLA & VIOLA BONCI HOUSE, Colonial Revival (gambrel) Cape, c. 1935	C
55.		garage, c. 1935	
56.	65	BERNARD & PAULINE STRUZINSKY HOUSE, Colonial Revival (gambrel) Cape, 1930	C
57.		garage, c. 1930	C
58.		shed, c. 1930	C
59.	67-69 (197-213 Main)	TIMOTHY MORRIS-BRADLEY CHIDSEY HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1762 (moved from corner, 1960)	C
			4

LINCOLN AVENUE

60.	2	vernacular duplex, c. 1900	C
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MAIN STREET

61.	46	ARCHELAUS BARKER HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1800	C	
62.	50	modern commercial, c. 1970	NC	
	13/18	vacant lot		
	13/17	partial lot (no buildings)		
63.	96	JAMES L. LINSLEY HOUSE, vernacular Greek Revival, 1841	C	9
64.		garage, c. 1930	C	
65.	110	SAMUEL D. LINSLEY HOUSE, vernacular Greek Revival, 1853	C	9
66.		barn/garage, c. 1900	C	
67.	124	NATHANIEL HARRISON HOUSE, Colonial saltbox, 1724	C	1
68.		barn, c. 1870	C	
69.	138-146	JOSEPH N. LINSLEY HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1850	C	13
70.	139-163	EDMUND MORRIS HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1750	C	2
71.		garage, c. 1940	C	
	13/11	vacant lot		
72.	148-162	WYLLYS RUSSELL HOUSE, Colonial (Greek Revival portico), c. 1820	C	7
73.		barn, c. 1870	C	
74.	178	19th-century vernacular, c. 1880	C	
75.	181	gas station, c. 1940/ modernized c. 1970	NC	
76.		store, c. 1970	NC	
77.	190	JARED & MARTHA SHEPARD HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1820	C	
78.		garage, c. 1940	C	
79.	202	vernacular, c. 1870	C	
80.	197-213	commercial landscape nursery, c. 1960	NC	

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81.	215-231	THOMAS O'BRIEN HOUSE, Queen Anne, c. 1908	C	18
82.		garage, c. 1920	C	
83.	241	SHEPARD-TYLER HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, 1808	C	5
84.	259	JOHN T. SLINEY HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1902	C	16
85.	259	wellhouse (on brick base)	C	
86.		SLINEY LIVERY STABLE, c. 1890	C	
87.		barn, c. 1890	C	
88.	275	SLINEY'S GARAGE/CHEVROLET DEALERSHIP, 1928	C	
89.	303	ROWLAND HOUSE/BRADLEY-FOOT MEAT MARKET, vernacular Italianate, c. 1850	C	14
90.	341	M. P. RICE HOSE COMPANY #2, c. 1900	C	14
91.	350	JOSEPH LAICH HOUSE, Colonial Revival/Queen Anne, 1914	C	19
92.		carriagehouse, c. 1914	C	
93.	360-378	AUSTIN BABCOCK HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1850	C	11
94.		garage, c. 1920	C	
95.	361	JOHN T. RESJAN HOUSE, vernacular, 1906	C	
96.		garage, c. 1920	C	
97.	380	THOMPSON GAS STATION, Colonial Revival (brick), c. 1930	C	
98.	401	LANE-STOJKOVIC-TISKO STORE, Greek Revival, c. 1850, converted to store, c. 1870	C	12
99.		garage, c. 1945		
100.	448-456	LONERGAN-O'BRIEN HOUSE, Queen Anne duplex, c. 1900	C	
101.		garage, c. 1930	C	
102.	460-470	LUDWIG HELLER HOUSE & STORE, vernacular, 1898	C	
103.	472-528	W. S. CLANCY FUNERAL HOME, Colonial Revival, 1900; rebuilt 1932 (Harrison Baldwin, architect)	C	

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104.	546	JAMES CLANCY HOUSE, vernacular cottage, c. 1865	C	
		NORTH HARBOR STREET		
105.	12	JOHN T. SLINEY COTTAGE, Queen Anne cottage, 1895	C	17
106.		garage, c. 1910	C	
107.	21	Cape, 1988 (reproduction of Thomas Harrison II House destroyed by fire)	NC	

Canoe Brook Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1724-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Branford Historical Society

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Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

Settled in the early 1700s as a Yankee enclave of farmers and mariners, the Canoe Brook Historic District was transformed during the Industrial Revolution into an ethnically diverse urban neighborhood, complete with its own institutions and commerce. More than two centuries of development are clearly reflected in the stylistic and formative evolution of the district's architecture, which collectively embodies a community biography of enduring historic significance, distinguished by the special contributions made by many residents to the life of their neighborhood and to the Town of Branford.

Historical Background and Significance

The early history of Branford was tied to the fortunes of New Haven, which was settled in 1638 by Theophilus Eaton and the Reverend John Davenport. When the New Haven Colony was organized in 1643, it included the towns of Stamford, Milford, Guilford, and Southhold, Long Island. In 1644, upon the invitation of New Haven, a group of 40 families from Wethersfield led by William Swaine arrived to found the new town of Branford, which became part of the New Haven Colony that same year. Land for Branford, which was purchased from the Mattabeseck tribe, encompassed a large tract that ran from New Haven on the west and Guilford on east, and extended ten miles north from the coast to include present-day North Branford. The original settlement, however, today's Branford Center, was concentrated near the coast just north of the Branford River estuary, a natural harbor. In 1645, when Southhold switched its allegiance to the Connecticut Colony, a group of dissenters there led by the Reverend Abraham Pierson came to Branford. Believing that only church members should have a vote in civil elections, they had a fundamental disagreement with Connecticut's more liberal suffrage policies. Although both colonies were theocracies, with an established Congregational Church, Connecticut's voters (then, of course, only adult males) were qualified by property ownership. This issue resurfaced in 1666, when under the colonial charter granted by King Charles II, New Haven and Connecticut merged into a single colony. At that time a disgruntled Pierson left Connecticut, taking his followers to New Jersey, where they founded Newark. Despite this loss, Branford continued to grow and flourish. Blessed with fertile farmland and the best harbor between New Haven and New London, the town achieved a well-established coasting trade by the end of the seventeenth century. In fact, by then, Branford Center had become so crowded, the second and third generation began to take up land that had been divided among the Branford proprietors to the north and west.

The Settlement Period (1724 – c. 1850)

The present district encompasses part of the third division, which extended all the way west to Stony Brook, the present-day Farm River, which forms the border with East Haven. It took its name from Canoe Brook, a smaller creek that once flowed through the area, now largely covered by North Main Street and other construction. Because of its geographic location, the district attracted settlers from both Branford Center and East Haven. Communication and trade had been possible ever since 1640, when a stone bridge was erected over Stony Brook on the road to Tokoket, as Branford was first known. This country road became part of the Kings Highway, the major overland colonial route along the coast. Later still it was called the Post Road, which passed through the district along present-day Main Street, where most of the first home lots were located. When Bradley Street was laid out by the town in 1691, soon followed by Blatchley's Cartway (Cherry Hill Road), the essential historical framework of the district was complete.

In 1681/2 a parcel on the west side of the district was set to Daniel Swaine, son of a Branford proprietor who was born in England. A respected member of the community, Daniel was a townsman (selectman) and a representative to the General Court, as the General Assembly was then known. His house (no longer extant) was located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Cherry Hill Road. After Daniel's death, that property was sold to Thomas and Nathaniel Harrison. While Thomas remained in Branford Center, he provided a home lot for Thomas II at the corner of North Harbor and Bradley Street (Inventory #107). Nathaniel lived in the Swaine House and deeded the western part of his home lot in 1724 to his son, Nathaniel, whose house still stands as the headquarters of the Branford Historical Society (Inventory #67). Nathaniel II, a member of the Branford Congregational Church, served as town clerk, captain of the train band, justice of the peace, and deputy to the General Assembly (1736-1748).

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The leadership roles of these early settlers in the district underscores the fact that even though Canoe Brook was a closely knit cohesive neighborhood with a distinct identity throughout the historic period, it remained an integral part of the greater civil and religious community. There was no attempt to break away from Branford by becoming a new parish or a new town, as was the case with the settlers of North Branford. Internal bonds were forged, however, by a high rate of endogamous marriage, which not only absorbed newcomers from East Haven, but created a community based on kinship and mutual obligation, one that fully participated in Branford's agrarian-maritime economy.

The lives of several district families were intertwined in the later history of the Swaine-Harrison property. Nathaniel's house was passed down to Nathaniel III and inherited by his granddaughter, Martha, in 1770. Martha, who had married Nicodemus Baldwin, lived there until her husband's death in 1799. In 1800 she sold the property to Joseph Linsley of Branford, and moved to the former Swaine House on the corner. Linsley's three sons built their houses next door to their father: James L. and Samuel D. to the west and Joseph N. on the east (Inventory #s 63, 65, 69). The Linsley brothers were founders and deacons of the First Baptist Church, which was located in the center in 1840. Their sister, Charlotte, married William Baldwin, Martha's son, one of three Baldwin marriages in the neighborhood. Laura Baldwin married Wyllys Russell; Martha Baldwin was the wife of Jared Shepard; both couples built houses on this block (Inventory #s 72, 77). Elihu Shepard, a blacksmith, built a house up the street with his father-in-law, Benjamin Tyler, also a member of an East Haven family (Inventory #83). Jay Edward Russell, Wyllys' nephew, who later owned the Russell House, had a coal and lumber business in town. After serving as town clerk and judge in Branford, he left for California, retiring there in 1878. His considerable estate included part-ownership of the Oakland Water Company and 800 acres in Placer and Eldorado counties, as well as real estate in Branford and Killingworth.

Main Street families were also related to the settlers of Bradley Street. Daniel Swaine's daughter had married Joseph Browne, a shoemaker, who was one of the first owners of the Timothy Bradley House (Inventory #2). Two of Browne's sons had an interest in Dutch House Wharf at Branford harbor in the early 1700s. Bradley, who came here from East Haven, bought that house in 1778 and it remained in the family for 200 years. His daughter, the wife of Joseph Linsley, Sr., lived in the Harrison House (Inventory #67). His two sons, Timothy, Jr., and Seth, both farmers like their father, stayed on Bradley Street. Young Timothy's new house was erected at the other end of the street about 1820 (Inventory #30). When the first Canoe Brook School was erected west of the district, Seth moved the abandoned Quarter District School on Harbor Street around the corner and converted it to his residence (Inventory #7).

A number of district residents were mariners or engaged in the maritime trade in some capacity, especially after the Revolution. Although smaller ports like Branford declined when the shipping trade later consolidated in major port cities, merchants and ship owners prospered until the War of 1812. The local coastal trade rebounded after the war and by the 1790s, war between France and England had opened up the West Indies to neutral American shipping. Fortunes could be made in this period, but it was a risky business, as some in the district soon learned. Archelaus Barker, who lived at the west end of Main Street (Inventory #61), had served on the *Oliver Cromwell*, Connecticut's first warship, during the Revolution. He was second mate of the sloop *Lyon* when it was captured by the British in 1792. His neighbor, Nicodemus Baldwin, owned the vessel. A neighbor across the way, Edmund Morris, also served on the *Oliver Cromwell*. A descendant of Thomas Morris, a founder of New Haven, Edmund built his Colonial about 1750 (Inventory #70). His son, Timothy, built the Colonial just up the street that now faces on Home Place (Inventory #59). Timothy's son, Edmund, later had a cooper shop on the premises, where barrels were made to store and ship farm products. His brother Daniel, who went to sea, built his fine Federal-style house about 1805 (Inventory #14). Wyllys Russell had a fishing business at the harbor (Inventory #72). In the Shepard family, Jared II was an oysterman; his brother Baldwin was a sailing captain in the West Indies trade. Charlotte and William Baldwin's sons were also sailors (#14). Samuel Parmalee, a mariner who built his Federal cottage in 1804, drowned in Long Island Sound a few years later (Inventory #10). Betsey Bush Grant, a sea captain's widow, lived on Bradley Street by 1842 (Inventory #11). Her sons were carpenter/joiners and may have built this house.

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An Era of Change (1850 – 1940)

The Industrial Revolution and foreign immigration were the major instruments of social and economic change in the district. The transition to an industrial economy was well underway in Branford before the Civil War. Several manufacturers established factories there because of its ready access to both rail and sea transportation. The Branford Lock Works, the first major industry, can be traced back to a foundry established in 1818 east of the downtown. Reorganized in 1852 by a New York lock maker, the company grew rapidly and had 500 employees by the end of the century, when it merged with Yale & Towne of New Haven. Another major company, Malleable Iron Fittings, was located much closer to the district just south of the railroad tracks. It began production of iron, brass, and wrought-iron goods in 1855, and by 1915, with 1700 workers, became the town's largest employer and a nationally known producer of steam fittings.

Branford's experience during the Industrial Revolution, although smaller in scale, mirrored what was happening in New Haven and other large industrial cities in Connecticut. As newcomers of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds arrived in large numbers, rapid population growth created a need for more housing, new schools, and a restructuring of government. In the district, educational needs were met by the new Canoe Brook School of 1898 (Inventory #37), but few new houses were built. There was little company-built housing anywhere in Branford, and in fact, many existing homes in the district were converted to two-family use in this period. While many district residents were employed by the major firms, as well as several smaller companies, others were independent storekeepers, tradesmen, or contractors. Among this latter group were immigrants from Ireland, as well as some later arrivals from European countries.

The Irish began to arrive in Branford in the 1840s and by 1854 had already established their own church, St. Mary's on Montowese Street in the center. Although many urban Irish were upwardly mobile, the meteoric rise of the Sliney family was exceptional. The patriarch of the family, David B. Sliney, bought property in the district in 1853 and by the early 1900s, the family had extensive holdings on Main, Bradley, and North Harbor streets. The principal Sliney residence, the Colonial Revival house that now stands at the corner of Main and North Harbor streets, was built in 1902 by David's son, John T. Sliney (Inventory #84). His father's old house probably was moved to Bradley Street (Inventory #10). Recognized as a leader in the community, John T. Sliney was a trustee of St. Mary's Church, fire commissioner, member of the board of education for five terms, and represented Branford in the state assembly in 1902. He also ran a very successful livery and construction business in the buildings behind his house (Inventory #s 86, 87). For a time he was in partnership with Michael P. Rice, another Irish-American contractor. Rice, the son of Edward Rice who came here to work at the lock works, was Branford's first non-Yankee selectman, elected in 1889 at age 21, and was the founder of the Branford Fire Department. The 1900 firehouse that stands in the district bears his name (Inventory #90). John B. Sliney, John T.'s eldest son, lived on Cherry Hill Road (Inventory #35). Known as "Mr. Branford," he held public office for 57 years. After 40 years on the school board, he was elected first selectman in 1963 and served until his death in 1981. His brother, Lawrence, an I. R. S. agent, built his house next door about 1930 (Inventory #33). Two other brothers, Edward T. and Leo D. Sliney, ran the family's garage and car dealership on Main Street (Inventory #88). Thomas O'Brien was another prominent Irish-American who lived in the district. First employed at the Branford Lock Works, by 1913 he was the foreman for John T. Sliney. O'Brien's first house on Main Street was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in the Queen Anne style about 1908 (Inventory #81). The Clancys built a house in the district about 1865 (Inventory #104); their son, W. S. Clancy, had a funeral home next door (Inventory #103). Somewhat surprisingly, only two Irishmen were identified as railroad workers, the traditional occupation for many in this group, and they lived in the same duplex right up the street (Inventory #100).

By 1900 a new group of immigrants, which included Italians, Germans, Austrians, and Eastern Europeans, made their homes in the district. A number ran stores and often lived in their buildings. Among them was Ludwig Heller, who had a shoe store and confectionary at 460-470 Main Street (Inventory #102). Others took over existing establishments. For example, Henry Bradley's meat market at 303 Main Street, which had an apartment on the second floor, changed hands several times (Inventory #89). From

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1900 to about 1920, it was run by Herbert Foote, who specialized in fresh and salt beef. In 1925 it was sold to Eugene and Margaret Bohn. The Bohns rented out the apartment above their store and lived elsewhere in town. Joseph Laich, who owned a saloon and bottling works with his son, Michael, built a large Queen Anne-style house across the street in 1914 (Inventory #90). Austin Babcock, who lived next door, was one of the last men in the district who made a living at farming (Inventory #93). Babcock, a commercial fruit grower, raised strawberries on his property at Branford Point.

The longest surviving commercial establishment in the district was located at the head of Bradley and Main streets (Inventory #98). Charles Lane was a saloonkeeper there in the late 1800s. The Stojkovics, an Austrian couple, were the owners by 1896, and ran a general store. Their daughter, Frances, married John Resjan, also born in Austria. He worked as a moulder at Malleable Iron Fittings and built the house next door on Main Street (Inventory #95). The Resjan's daughter, Mary, married Chester Tisko, who owned the store from 1924 until 1981. Mary Resjan Tisko, a graduate of New Haven Normal School, was a teacher and principal in Branford's public schools for 53 years, and she also founded the Branford Parent Teacher Association. In recognition of her contributions to education, she became principal emeritus in 1980 and in 1983, a local elementary school was renamed in her honor.

When the first Branford directory was published in 1897, it listed at least 25 district residents who were skilled employees at Malleable Iron Fittings (MIF); the majority lived on Bradley Street. They included William B. Smith and Elizur Monroe, who had earlier worked at Branford Lock Works; they both built their new houses there (Inventory #s 15, 24). John Collins and John Buckley, two others employed at MIF, bought existing homes (Inventory #s 11, 13). Several sons worked there as well, including Cecil Monroe and Edward Crouch (Inventory #25). Since MIF actively recruited in New York, often hiring people "right off the boat," by the early 1900s many employees were first- and second-generation European immigrants. That was the case with most of 11 MIF workers on Bradley Street by 1928. Two were women: Michele D'Onofrio, who lived in the house built by her father, Antonio (Inventory #4); and her neighbor, Irene Groleaux, who rented the house next door, owned by Michele's family since the turn of the century (Inventory #5). It was one of several houses either built as duplexes or converted to two-family use in this period. Antonio D'Onofrio, who was a mason, built a brick apartment house at the head of the street about 1911 (Inventory #1). The Hustler Athletic Club, probably an ethnic social group, rented the second floor there.

The district was substantially completed between 1925 and 1940. More workers were building their own homes after World War I and residential construction continued even during the height of the Depression. Among this last group of homeowners were the Jakackis, who built a Bungalow on Home Place (Inventory #50). John Jakacki was a moulder at MIF; his wife, Bernice, was employed at the Oakley Shirt Company. Alexander Sabalowski, who worked at Atlantic Wire Company, built his duplex across the street (Inventory #52). His neighbors were Otella Bonci, who worked for the state highway department (Inventory #54), and Bernard Struzinsky, a driver at Branford Coal and Lumber Company (Inventory #56). The remaining undeveloped land on Cherry Hill Road, which was owned by MIF, was subdivided and sold off in the late 1930s. Among those who built houses there were Richard Brewer, a druggist with a store downtown (Inventory #38), and Weston Shepard, who ran a plumbing business (Inventory #40).

As this history of Canoe Brook has shown, the district was very much a part of the Connecticut experience from the early colonial period through to the modern era. Like many other farming communities on the outskirts of cities and town centers, over time the Canoe Brook district evolved as an urban residential neighborhood, a process played out all over the state during the Industrial Revolution. It was in these more urban environments that the majority of immigrants were assimilated. As they did in Canoe Brook, the new arrivals found jobs in factories or established their own businesses, and many founded their own churches. However, unlike the geographic mobility that characterized the urban neighborhoods of large industrial cities, such as New Haven, which were home to successive immigrant groups, Canoe Brook was relatively stable and more ethnically diverse. Over a period of almost 80 years, a series of newcomers from at least six different countries made their homes in the district. To a remarkable degree, their children and grandchildren remained in the neighborhood, and some became the new civic and educational leaders of Branford, thus perpetuating a tradition of community service begun by grandsons of English settlers.

Canoe Brook Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 52

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By:

Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC date 9/1/01

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (860) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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10. Geographical Data

UTMS:	1.	18 682000 4571650	2.	18 682210 4571910
	3.	18 682370 4571900	4.	18 682380 4571790
	5.	18 682710 4571680	6.	18 682620 4571520
	7.	18 682310 4571310	8.	18 682810 4571320

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries are shown on the attached district map drawn to scale from Branford Tax Assessor’s Maps D-7 and D-8.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are drawn to encompass the maximum number of contributing resources associated with the development of Canoe Brook Historic District during its period of significance (1724-1940), and to exclude more recent highway, commercial, and residential construction on the periphery.

(8-86)

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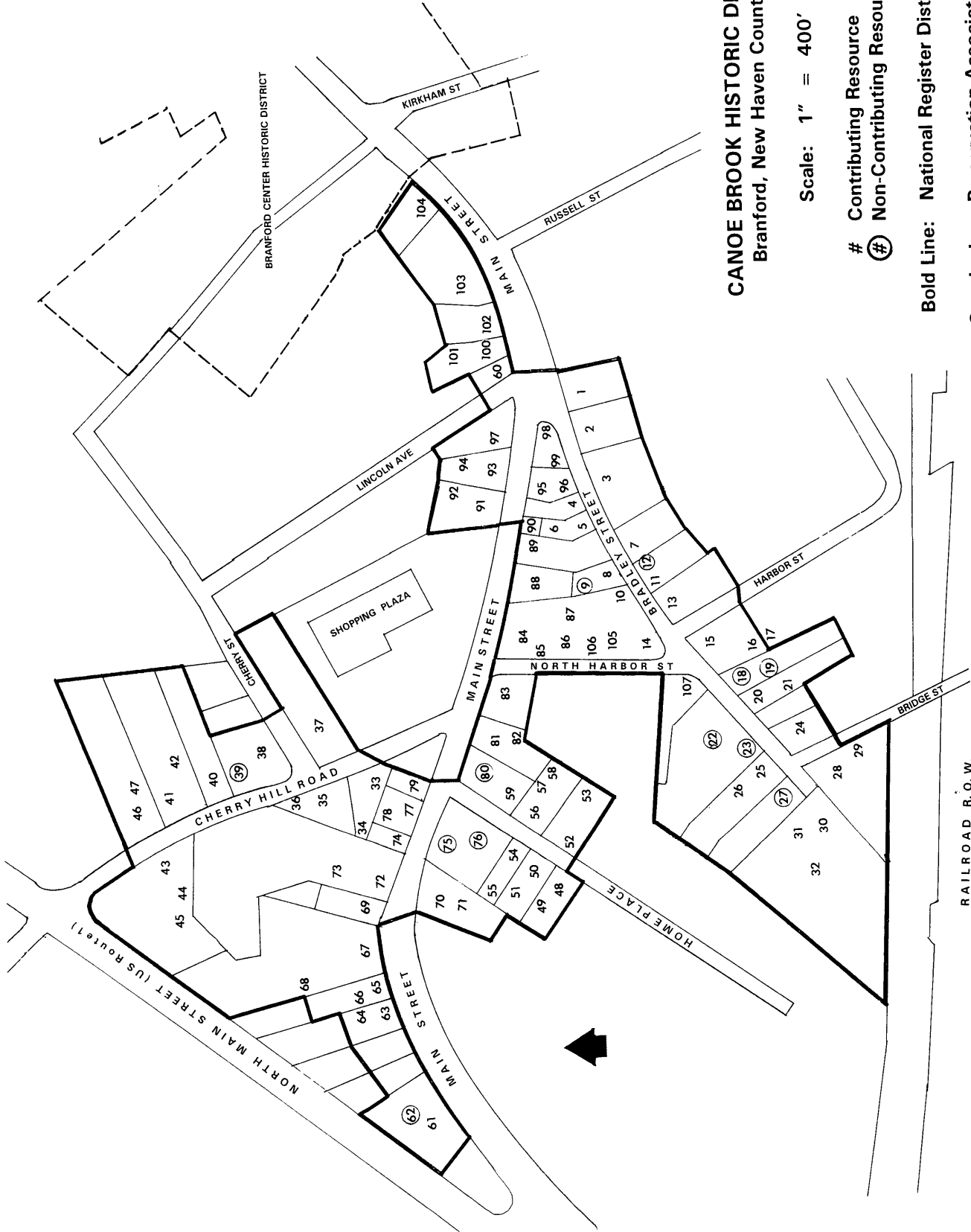
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List of Photographs

Photographer: Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC

Date: 6-7/01 Negatives on File: Connecticut Historical Commission

1. Nathaniel Harrison House, camera facing NW
2. Edmund Morris House, camera facing SW
3. Timothy Bradley House, camera facing S
4. Timothy Morris House, camera facing E
5. Shepard-Tyler House, camera facing SW
6. Daniel Morris House, camera facing NE
7. Wyllys Russell House, camera facing NE
8. Parmalee & Linsley Houses (l-r), camera facing NE
9. James L. Linsley & Samuel D. Linsley Houses (l-r), camera facing NE
10. William D. Smith House, camera facing SW
11. Austin Babcock House, camera facing N
12. 401 Main Street, camera facing W
13. Joseph N. Linsley House, camera facing NW
14. 303 & 341 Main Street (r-l), camera facing E
15. John B. Sliney House, camera facing NW
16. John T. Sliney House, camera facing S
17. John T. Sliney Cottage, camera facing E
18. Thomas O'Brien House, camera facing S
19. Joseph Laich House, camera facing N
20. Canoe Brook School, camera facing E
21. Alexander Sabloski House, camera facing SE
22. Richard K. Brewer House, camera facing NE



CANOE BROOK HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Branford, New Haven County, CT

Scale: 1" = 400'

- # Contributing Resource
- # Non-Contributing Resource

Bold Line: National Register District Boundary

Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC 8/01

RAILROAD R.O.W.