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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

FEB 16 1987  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: COLCHESTER VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

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street & number: Broadway; Hayward, Linwood, and Norwich Avenues;  
Cragin Court; Pierce Lane; Stebbins Road; Main and  
South Main Streets

city/town: Colchester

not for publication: N/A  
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: New London code: 011 zip code: 06415

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>98</u>    | <u>28</u>       | buildings  |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>1</u>        | structures |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>2</u>        | objects    |
| <u>102</u>   | <u>31</u>       | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 4

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria.   See cont. sheet.

[Signature]  February 16, 1994  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  [Signature]   4/4/94   
  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]  Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

|           |                         |      |                                    |
|-----------|-------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| Historic: | <u> DOMESTIC </u>       | Sub: | <u> single, multiple dwelling </u> |
|           | <u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u> |      | <u> professional, business </u>    |
|           | <u> RELIGION </u>       |      | <u> religious structure </u>       |
|           | <u> EDUCATION </u>      |      | <u> school, library </u>           |
| Current:  | <u> DOMESTIC </u>       | Sub: | <u> single, multiple dwelling </u> |
|           | <u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u> |      | <u> professional, business </u>    |
|           | <u> RELIGION </u>       |      | <u> religious structure </u>       |
|           | <u> EDUCATION </u>      |      | <u> library </u>                   |

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Colonial  
Federal  
Greek Revival

Other Description: N/A

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

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN  
ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c.1702-1935

Significant Dates: See item 7

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: See item 7

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

- X previously listed in the National Register BACON ACADEMY, HAYWARD HOUSE,
\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register WHEELER BLOCK
\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CT-144, CT-145, CT-146
\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: approx. 75 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The boundary is shown on the accompanying map, scale 1"=200', compiled from Colchester Assessor Maps 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronin, reviewed by John Herzan,
Conn. Hist. Commission
Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: December 3, 1993
Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268
City or Town: Hartford State: CT Zip: 06106

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

|             |   |     |
|-------------|---|-----|
| Description | Colchester Village Historic District<br>Colchester, New London County, CT | 7-1 |
|-------------|---|-----|

The Colchester Village Historic District consists of 77 major buildings and their associated outbuildings surrounding Colchester Green (Photographs 1 through 3) and extending north along Broadway and south along South Main Street and Linwood and Norwich Avenues in Colchester, Connecticut. The buildings in the densely built-up district date mainly from the early to middle 19th century; however, some buildings date from the 18th century (Photograph 4), late Victorian period (Photograph 8), and early 20th century (Photograph 11). Most of the early 19th-century houses have some Federal-style detail, such as a fanlight in the tympanum or above the doorway, and several have hip roofs and quoins (Photograph 2, background). Greek Revival-style features, such as pilaster-and-lintel doorways and corner pilasters, are also evident on many of the district's buildings (Photographs 5 and 6). Some of the buildings display Victorian-period decorative elements such as carved brackets, partly shingled exteriors, and porches with ornate features (Photograph 4). Stone foundations, wood-frame construction, and clapboarded exteriors predominate. Throughout the district there are 19th-century barns, carriage houses, and other outbuildings from the period of significance (Photograph 7).

In addition to houses, the district includes a number of institutional and commercial buildings. Among them are two Greek Revival-style religious structures, the 1842 Congregational Church of Colchester and the 1836 Colchester Borough Baptist Church (Photographs 12 and 13). Others include the Federal-style Bacon Academy, 1803; the Neoclassical-style Cragin Memorial Library, 1905 (Photograph 11); the Colchester Fire Station, c.1934; an 1880-1903 cluster of stores in "Merchant's Row" (Photograph 10); and the Fairview Hotel and its vernacular rooming house, built c.1930 (Photograph 9).

Fifteen noncontributing buildings are located in the district. The noncontributing buildings include a car dealership, a small take-out restaurant, a bank (Photograph 15), several post-World War II houses (Photograph 16), and some modern stores.

Colchester's Green (Photograph 1) is divided into two sections by the intersection of Route 85. A large spacious rectangular section of land lies between Hayward Avenue and Main Street and a smaller narrow triangular-shaped section lies north between Broadway and Main Street. Planted with tall shade trees, a large portion of the Green was created in 1850 as a result of a gift to the Town of Colchester from Nathaniel Hayward, who donated an extensive section of land west of his house on 35 Hayward Avenue. A baseball field and bleachers occupy the southeast section of the Green, while a modern gazebo is situated near the center.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-3  
Colchester, New London County, CT

**INVENTORY**

| <b>LOCATION</b>                                | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>  | <b>C</b> | <b>NC</b> |
|--|---|----------|-----------|
| Broadway, Hayward Avenue and South Main Street | Colchester Town Green, two triangular lawn areas with tall shade trees around perimeters. Structures and objects on Green (contributing site) include Civil War statue (George E. Bissell, sculptor) and large boulder dedicated to soldiers of World War I (contributing); and World War II and Korean granite monument, marble Vietnam monument, and modern gazebo (noncontributing). Baseball park at south end. (Photographs 1 through 3) | 3        | 3         |
| 12 Broadway                                    | HORACE SMITH HOUSE, c.1840-1868, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, shingled gables. Elaborate pedimented gable window, full cornice return with triglyphs and (later) paired brackets, broad corner pilasters, double door front entry surrounded by heavy pilasters, porch with decorative details.  | 1        | 0         |
| 15-27 Broadway                                 | Shopping complex, c.1980, 1 story, siding. Former site of Deming House, the outstanding Georgian-style interior of which was removed c.1965 to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City and the American Museum in Bath, England.   | 0        | 1         |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

| Description | Colchester Village Historic District<br>Colchester, New London County, CT   | 7-4 |   |
|-------------|---|-----|---|
| 24 Broadway | House, c.1770, Colonial style with c.1900 alterations, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, decorative shingles, 5-bay facade, projecting center gable with entry surrounded by sidelights and short pent roof, porch with decorative details, round-arched gable windows. Large 2-story board-sided barn in rear (Photograph 3, background). | 2   | 0 |
| 35 Broadway | House, c.1890, no style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, simple front entry with sidelights and transom light, 2 tall windows next to front entry. Side addition.   | 1   | 0 |
| 40 Broadway | Nursing home, c.1980, 1 1/2 stories, brick.   | 0   | 1 |
| 43 Broadway | COGGSHELL HOUSE, c.1800-1816, Federal style, 2 stories, clapboards, 5-bay facade, hip roof, twelve-over-twelve sash, molded window surrounds, quoins, portico, cornice with dentils and modillions. Modern barn in rear.  | 1   | 1 |
| 51 Broadway | Commercial building, c.1900, 1 story, vertical board siding.  | 1   | 0 |
| 52 Broadway | DR. E. W. PARSONS HOUSE, 1842, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 4-bay gabled end facade, six-over-six sash, rectangular window in pediment, partial return cornice with wide frieze and architrave, wide pilasters.  | 1   | 0 |



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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-5  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION     | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|--------------|---|---|----|
| 64 Broadway  | House, c.1940, 2 1/2 stories, brick.  | 0 | 1  |
| 71 Broadway  | DR. J. PERRY KLEIN HOUSE, c.1909, Craftsman style, 2 1/2 stories, wood shingles, cobblestone foundation, hip roof, six-over-one and eight-over-one sash, two hipped dormers, porte-cochere.   | 1 | 0  |
| 79 Broadway  | House, c.1937, 2 1/2 stories, siding. Modern garage in rear.  | 0 | 2  |
| 80 Broadway  | BENJAMIN TRUMBULL HOUSE, c.1790, Colonial style, 1 1/2 stories, shingled, 5-bay facade, gambrel roof, two-over-two replacement sash, three dormers. Garage in rear made over from small barn.   | 2 | 0  |
| 87 Broadway  | House, c.1810, Federal style, 2 stories, hip roof, 5-bay facade, siding. Palladian window, Ionic pilasters at corners of house, row of dentils beneath roof line, front paneled entry surrounded by sidelights and elliptical fanlight, Porch with c.1890 decorative details. | 1 | 0  |
| 95 Broadway  | House, c.1850, no style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, six-over-six sash, porch with c.1900 decorative details.  | 1 | 0  |
| 103 Broadway | House, c.1800, Colonial style, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roof, composition siding, six-over-six sash, two dormers with gable roof and similar sash, simple front entry with no decoration.   | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-6  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION        | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|-----------------|--|---|----|
| 104 Broadway    | Restaurant, c.1940, no style,<br>1 story, vertical board siding.   | 0 | 1  |
| 111 Broadway    | House, c.1900, no style, 1 1/2<br>stories, siding, cornice, garage in<br>rear.   | 1 | 1  |
| 116 Broadway    | House, c.1840, no style,<br>2 stories, clapboards, hip roof, 5<br>over seven bay facade, two-over-two<br>sash. Board-sided barn in rear.   | 2 | 0  |
| 119 Broadway    | FAIRVIEW HOTEL, c.1790, Colonial<br>style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards,<br>5-bay facade, gambrel roof with 3<br>dormers, pilastered central entry,<br>cornice with large dentils; 3-story<br>bay window on side of house and 2<br>large gabled roof wings. Modern<br>porch across front. Board-sided<br>barn in rear. (Photograph 9) | 2 | 0  |
| 123 Broadway    | House, c.1930, no style, 2 1/2<br>stories, clapboard and wood<br>shingle, 5-bay gable-end facade;<br>porch with paired columns on<br>shingled rail. Former<br>boardinghouse associated with<br>Fairview Hotel.   | 1 | 0  |
| 31 Cragin Court | House, c.1850, no style, 2 1/2<br>stories, clapboards, remnant of<br>lintel over doorway.  | 1 | 0  |
| 39 Cragin Court | House, c.1850, no style, 2 1/2<br>stories, clapboards, full cornice<br>return, c.1900 porch.   | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Colchester Village Historic District 7-7  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION          | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| 11 Hayward Avenue | RALPH ISHAM HOUSE, 1820, Federal style, 2 stories, hip roof with balustrade, clapboards, 5-bay facade, two-over-two and six-over-six sash, pilastered central entry under Corinthian portico. Cornice with dentils and modillions; quoins. Barn with cupola and carriage house in rear. (Photograph 2, background). | 3 | 0  |
| 23 Hayward Avenue | JOSEPH ISHAM HOUSE, 1765, Colonial style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 5-bay facade. Later two-over-two sash, central dormer, large central cupola, partly enclosed porch.  | 1 | 0  |
| 25 Hayward Avenue | House, 1930, no style, 1 1/2 stories, siding, 2-bay facade, enclosed front porch.   | 1 | 0  |
| 31 Hayward Avenue | House, c.1870, Gothic Revival style, 1 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay facade, two-over-two sash, cross-gable roof, floral-design bargeboards, 2nd-floor window openings detailed with wood architraves with pointed-arch heads and side moldings; gabled roof projection shelters front entrance. Board-sided barn. | 2 | 0  |
| 35 Hayward Avenue | HAYWARD HOUSE, 1775, Colonial style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 5-bay facade, gambrel roof, 3 gabled dormers, simple central entry, porch with c.1900 decorative features. HABS No. CT-145; listed on National Register. (Photograph 4)   | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-8  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION          | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| 43 Hayward Avenue | HAYWARD CARRIAGE HOUSE, c.1860, Italianate style, 2 stories, flush horizontal wood siding, 2 front gabled-roof wings, round-arched windows and large rose window; heavy carved cornice brackets, dentils, modillions. (Photograph 7)  | 1 | 0  |
| 51 Hayward Avenue | Commercial building, c.1980, 2 stories, brick.  | 0 | 1  |
| 53 Hayward Avenue | HAYWARD GRANARY, c.1858-1868, Italianate style, 2 stories, flush vertical wood siding, six-over-six sash, gable roof supported by wood brackets and denticulated cornice, wide corner boards, two entries with elliptical-arched doorways, round attic window. Added side concrete chimney. | 1 | 0  |
| 55 Hayward Avenue | House, c.1840, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-one and one-over-one sash, full cornice return, side entry with paneled pilasters, entrance porch with c.1890 decorative features.  | 1 | 0  |
| 63 Hayward Avenue | House, c.1842, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-one and six-over-six sash, full cornice return, modern entry porch.   | 1 | 0  |
| 67 Hayward Avenue | ROXY LATHROP HOUSE, c.1848, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, entry with sidelights and fluted pilasters, pedimented portico, full cornice return, large fanlight in pediment. Modern garage in rear.                                  | 1 | 1  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-9  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION          | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| 8 Linwood Avenue  | CRAGIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1905, Neo-Classical style, 1 story, gray brick, metal hip roof, projecting portico with heavy pediment supported by pillars, multi-paned transom light around central main entry, round-arched windows to either side; cornice with dentils and modillions. (Photograph 11)  | 1 | 0  |
| 24 Linwood Avenue | BAPTIST PARSONAGE, 1840-1860, Italianate details, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six and two-over-two sash, side entry with pilasters and dentils, tall 1st-floor windows, full cornice return, paired round-arched gable windows, open porch with decorative post brackets. Former barn now used as garage attached to side of house. | 2 | 0  |
| 36 Linwood Avenue | House, c.1860-1880, Victorian style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, two-over-two sash, small ocular window with elaborate frame in gable, porch with vine-pattern post brackets. Modern garage in rear.   | 1 | 1  |
| 52 Linwood Avenue | House, c.1850-1865, no style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, rectangular window in attic gable, main entry sheltered by portico with decorative brackets.  | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-10  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION          | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| 68 Linwood Avenue | METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE, c.1865, Italianate details, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six and two-over-two sash, 2 small two-over-two round-arched windows in gable, entry with sidelights and transom. Large board-sided barn in rear. | 2 | 0  |
| 71 Linwood Avenue | House, c.1850, no style, 2 1/2 stories, two-over-two sash, full cornice return, tall 1st-floor windows, porch with c.1900 decorative features.  | 1 | 0  |
| 12 Main Street    | Commercial building, c.1883-1884, no style, 2 stories, siding, flat roof, facade divided into two 3-bay units, wood cornice with brackets. Part of "Merchants Row."   | 1 | 0  |
| 16 Main Street    | Commercial building, c.1883-1884, no style, 2 stories, clapboards, flat roof, heavy wood cornice. Part of "Merchants Row."  | 1 | 0  |
| 20 Main Street    | WORTHINGTON BLOCK, commercial building, 1890, Italianate, 2 stories, brick walls, round and segmental-arched window hoods, and corbelled cornice; central round-arched doorway with transom, keystone, Corinthian columns. Part of "Merchants Row." (Photograph 10)   | 1 | 0  |
| 36 Main Street    | Commercial building, c.1950, 1 story, brick, flat roof.   | 0 | 1  |
| 44-48 Main Street | Commercial building, c.1898-1903, no style, 2 stories, brick, gable and shed roof, divided into 3 separate storefronts. Corbelled cornice. Part of "Merchants Row."   | 1 | 0  |



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

|             |   |      |
|-------------|---|------|
| Description | Colchester Village Historic District<br>Colchester, New London County, CT | 7-12 |
|-------------|---|------|

| LOCATION             | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|----------------------|--|---|----|
| 64 Norwich Avenue    | Glastonbury Bank and Trust, c.1980, 1 1/2 stories, brick. (Photograph 15)  | 0 | 1  |
| 71 Norwich Avenue    | House, c.1880, no style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboard (wide boards), gable roof, six-over-six sash, porch.   | 1 | 0  |
| 73 Norwich Avenue    | House, c.1880, no style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboard (wide boards), gable roof, six-over-six sash.  | 1 | 0  |
| 76 Norwich Avenue    | House, c.1830, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, eight-over-eight sash, gable extended to form portico on 3 columns, denticulated cornice, fanlight in gable.  | 1 | 0  |
| 29 Pierce Lane       | House, c.1850, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, six-over-six sash, full cornice return, fanlight in gable. Board-sided barn. Modern 1 1/2 story in rear.  | 2 | 1  |
| South Main Street    | Town Burial Ground. Numerous 18th and 19th-century granite and marble markers (Photograph 14)  | 1 | 0  |
| 60 South Main Street | COLCHESTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1841-1842, Greek Revival style, 1 1/2 stories, clapboards, 4 Doric columns supporting simple entablature with plain architrave, dentil course and wide frieze, flush horizontal wood siding on front elevation, twenty-four-over-twelve sash, paneled double door entry surrounded by two large windows; 3-tier steeple. (Photograph 13) | 1 | 0  |



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Description Colchester Village Historic District 7-13  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION              | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|-----------------------|--|---|----|
| 84 South Main Street  | BACON ACADEMY, 1803, Federal style, 3 stories, 9-bay facade, brick, hip roof, two interior brick chimneys, six-over-six sash, molded cornice with dentils, fanlight above main entrance, large cupola built over original bell tower. DAY HALL (1858): Italianate style, 1 story, vertical flush boards, gable roof, paired brackets and scalloped molding along cornice, sixteen-over-sixteen and six-over-six sash. Listed on National Register. | 2 | 0  |
| 100 South Main Street | COLCHESTER FIRE STATION, c.1934, no style, 2 stories, clapboards, brick veneer, central gabled roof, two side additions, two garage-door openings, six-over-one sash windows above openings.   | 1 | 0  |
| 103 South Main Street | Commercial building, c.1985, 1 story, concrete block.  | 0 | 1  |
| 120 South Main Street | Commercial building, c.1980, 1 story; automobile dealership.   | 0 | 1  |
| 139 South Main Street | Commercial building, c. 1985, 2 1/2 stories, brick and siding.   | 0 | 1  |
| 144 South Main Street | JOHN KELLOGG HOUSE, c.1840, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 5-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, full-height Ionic portico supported on six fluted columns, wide entablature, central entry surrounded by sidelights, engaged Ionic columns, and transom. Modern garage in rear. (Photograph 5)  | 1 | 1  |





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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Description Colchester Village Historic District 7-16  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| <b>LOCATION</b>       | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>  | <b>C</b> | <b>NC</b> |
|-----------------------|---|----------|-----------|
| 184 South Main Street | WILLIAM NILES HOUSE, Federal/Greek Revival style, c.1840, 2 1/2 stories, composition shingles, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, entry under pedimented portico, dentils, corner pilasters, heavy molded cornice, semi-elliptical fanlight in gable.   | 1        | 0         |
| 187 South Main Street | RETTA BUELL HOUSE, c.1886, Queen Anne style, 2 1/2 stories; clapboards, diagonal boards, and wood shingles; cross-gable plan; overhanging side gable supported on curved braces with quatrefoil panels; sawtooth detail below window sills; porch with spindled frieze, quarter-circle post brackets, panel and stickwork railing. Carriage house with board-siding in rear. (Photograph 8) | 2        | 0         |
| 195 South Main Street | House, c.1990, 1 1/2 stories, brick and siding.   | 0        | 1         |
| 196 South Main Street | House, c.1860-1870, Stick style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 5-bay facade, elaborate gabled center bay with porches at all three levels, cross-bracing, brackets, spindles, panels, and other decorative woodwork. Two-over-two sash, central double door entry. Board-sided barn attached at rear.  | 1        | 0         |
| 199 South Main Street | House, c.1850, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay gable-end facade, full cornice return, two-over-two sash, pilastered entry with fanlight transom, corner pilasters. Porch, c.1910, with paired columns on solid rail. Barn in rear.  | 1        | 1         |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-17  
Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION              | DESCRIPTION   | C | NC |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|
| 207 South Main Street | House, c.1830-1850, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, composition siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, entry with bracketed hood supported by scroll brackets, rectangular window in gable.   | 2 | 0  |
| 208 South Main Street | BREED'S TAVERN, 1777, Colonial style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 5-bay facade, six-over-six, six-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve sash, central entrance with clapboarded vestibule, paneled door surrounded by sidelights and pilasters. 1 1/2 story modern house in rear. | 1 | 1  |
| 219 South Main Street | House, c.1824, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 4-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, corner pilasters, elliptical window in gable, full return to denticulated cornice; doorway with sidelights and elliptical-arch fanlight.                                | 1 | 0  |
| 228 South Main Street | House, c.1830-1850, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, composition siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, entry with sidelights and transom, rectangular window in tympanum, porch with c.1875 Italianate style decorative features.                           | 1 | 0  |

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 CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-18  
    Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION              | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|-----------------------|--|---|----|
| 232 South Main Street | House, c.1840, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards and siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, tall 1st-floor windows, rectangular window in gable; porch with c.1900 decorative features.       | 1 | 0  |
| 236 South Main Street | WOOSTER LODGE MASONIC TEMPLE, c.1935 no style, 1 1/2 stories, siding, front gabled.  | 1 | 0  |
| 239 South Main Street | House, c.1840, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash; main entry has sidelights, transom, and flat-roofed portico; corner pilasters, semi-elliptical gable louver. | 1 | 0  |
| 240 South Main Street | House, 1934, Foursquare style, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof with central dormer, siding and clapboards, 2-bay facade, one-over-one sash; enclosed front porch.  | 1 | 0  |
| 244 South Main Street | House, c.1850, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-six sash, pilaster-and-lintel entry; rectangular gable window. Board-sided barn made into garage at rear.                  | 2 | 0  |
| 251 South Main Street | House, c.1880-1910, no style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, six-over-one sash, small attic window, front entrance covered by 1-story enclosed porch, original corbelled brick chimney.                | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-19  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

| LOCATION              | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|-----------------------|--|---|----|
| 252 South Main Street | House, c.1870-1900, no style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, front elevation broken by large 2 story gabled projection, 1-bay deep and 3-bays wide, porch on front and side.   | 1 | 0  |
| 260 South Main Street | House, c.1823, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, wood shingles, 3-bay gable-end facade, twelve-over-one and one-over-one sash, entrance under modern gabled porch, full cornice return with semicircular fanlight in gable.                            | 1 | 0  |
| 263 South Main Street | House, c.1880-1900, Victorian style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, cross-gable plan, eaves detailed by carved face rafters with scroll and floral designs. Modern garage in rear.   | 1 | 1  |
| 268 South Main Street | House, c.1840, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, no front entry, four-over-four and six-over-six sash, full cornice return, corner pilasters; windows on first story have heavy incised wood hoods with corbels. | 1 | 0  |
| 272 South Main Street | House, c.1940, 2 1/2 stories, composition siding. Modern 1 story garage in rear. (Photograph 16)   | 0 | 2  |
| 276 South Main Street | House, c.1875, Italianate style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, 3-bay gable-end facade, two-over-two sash, molded window caps; bay window on side; porch with square columns on pedestals, arched post brackets. Barn in rear.                             | 1 | 0  |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Colchester Village Historic District                      7-20  
    Colchester, New London County, CT

| <b>LOCATION</b>       | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>  | <b>C</b> | <b>NC</b> |
|-----------------------|---|----------|-----------|
| 284 South Main Street | House, c.1850, no style, 2 1/2 stories, siding, six-over-six sash. Barn with composition siding and clapboards in rear. | 2        | 0         |
| 24 Stebbins Road      | House, c.1950, 1 1/2 stories, siding. Modern garage in rear.  | 0        | 2         |
| 32 Stebbins Road      | House, c.1950, 1 1/2 stories siding.  | 0        | 1         |



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance                      Colchester Village Historic District                      8-1  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

### Summary

Colchester Village Historic District is significant because it illustrates an important aspect of the physical development of Connecticut towns, the emergence of village centers (Criterion A). Taken together, the historic buildings, sites, and objects in the district document its longstanding and evolving role as the town's political, commercial, educational, and religious center. In the 18th century, Colchester's widely dispersed farm families journeyed to the town center to attend weekly religious services at the Congregational Church and to participate in town meetings. A tavern was also located in the area. In the 19th century, part of the center was developed as a town green, around which clustered the meeting places of social and religious organizations, a growing number of small businesses, and a greater concentration of houses. Public institutions, including a district school and a town hall, were also established in the village center. In addition, the area was the location of Bacon Academy, at first a private academic institution and then Colchester's de facto high school. Despite several episodes of economic downturns, the area continued to evolve as a town center well into the 20th century, as attested to by an elegant public library and several commercial buildings.

The district also has ethnic-heritage significance, since many buildings have direct associations with the early 20th-century influx of Jewish immigrants, a episode of migration that greatly transformed the cultural landscape of Colchester and surrounding towns (Criterion A). Sponsored by the Baron de Hirsch Fund and other humanitarian organizations, residents of New York City were given training in agriculture and then sent to eastern Connecticut, where they became dairy and egg farmers. In addition to giving the town's economy a much-needed boost, the new residents affected Colchester by starting light-industrial and commercial businesses, particularly hotels and boardinghouses that catered to Jewish vacationers from the city.

The district has architectural significance because many of its buildings are well-preserved examples that embody the distinctive characteristics of particular architectural periods and styles (Criterion C). The Federal and Greek Revival styles of the early and middle 19th century are particularly well-represented, with numerous finely detailed cornices, fanlights, porticos, and pilasters typical of those styles. Finally, the Colchester Town Green has landscape-architecture significance (Criterion C) as an illustration of the mid-19th-century movement that created park-like public open spaces to serve as visual and ceremonial centers for New England towns.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance                      Colchester Village Historic District                      8-2  
    Colchester, New London County, CT

Community Development Significance

The area represented by the district served in some ways as Colchester's center even from the earliest years of settlement. Incorporated in 1698, Colchester grew steadily in the 18th century as early settlers and their descendants cleared large tracts of land for farms. Because the first Congregational meetinghouse (no longer extant) and the town burying ground were located there, the area that is now the village center became the focal point of the growing community, a role reinforced by the presence of at least one tavern. In the early 19th century, the center of Colchester benefited from the intersection of several turnpikes, including the Hartford and New London Turnpike (1800), the Hebron and Middle Haddam Turnpike (1802), the Colchester and Norwich Turnpike (1805), and the East Haddam and Colchester Turnpike (1809). The presence of the converging turnpikes and the growing population in the late 18th century and early 19th century facilitated the establishment of a commercial center of stores and small shops, along with increasing numbers of houses clustered nearby.

As Colchester's commerce and population grew, cultural and public institutions also gravitated toward the village center. For example, the Wooster Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, founded in 1782, for 15 years was the only Masonic lodge in Connecticut east of the Connecticut River. In the 18th century, the Masons met in the Hayward House, then in various other locations around the Green, including the Hayward carriagehouse and Wheeler Block, and finally, in the 20th century, in their present headquarters on South Main Street.

The 19th century saw an increase in religious diversity, and as other denominations formed, they held their services near the town center. The Baptists built the Colchester Borough Baptist Church in 1836, and an Episcopal Church (no longer extant) was built on the corner of Norwich and Hayward Avenues in 1867.

The village center also played a notable role in Colchester's educational history. In the early 18th-century children attended classes held in the Congregational meetinghouse. Later a schoolhouse was built at the center, serving as the district school for the central part of Colchester until 1910, when the Wheeler Block was donated to the town for use as a school (it became the town hall in 1936). In 1803 Bacon Academy was established to provide young men with a college preparatory education. Before his death in 1800, Pierpont Bacon, a wealthy Colchester landholder (and slave owner), donated land and other property worth over \$35,000 to the First Society of Colchester for the establishment and management of a school. Since Colchester already provided primary education, it was decided to

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Significance                      Colchester Village Historic District                      8-3  
Colchester, New London County, CT

establish a prestigious secondary school to prepare young men for college and professional careers. In 1803 Bacon Academy began its first academic year with students from throughout the state and enjoyed several years of growth and prestige. In 1890 Bacon Academy was restructured by its trustees to become a privately funded high school for Colchester. In 1939 the Town of Colchester began to contribute tax money to pay the school's expenses.

The bylaws of Bacon Academy had one unusual provision: they stated that part of the funds were to pay for the education of African-American children. In compliance with this directive, a former district school (no longer extant) behind the Congregational Church was put into service as a special school for them. An instructor was paid by the town and many African-American pupils throughout the state attended the school, which is thought to have opened in 1804. During the 1830s the school experienced a considerable decline in enrollment, and it closed in 1840. In 1848 Bacon Academy began to accept African-Americans as regular students integrated into the classrooms.

Until the mid-19th century, Colchester was primarily an agrarian community, with only a few small waterpowered industrial enterprises, such as grist mills, a paper mill, and a tannery. Colchester's population diminished somewhat with the incorporation of Marlborough and Salem as separate towns in 1803 and 1819, respectively, and by the 1830s agricultural output was declining and the town was in a bit of a slump. That all changed in 1847 when Nathaniel Hayward opened up his Rubber Shoe and Boot Factory. The factory was responsible for a rapid growth in Colchester, not only in terms of population, but also culturally and commercially. Hayward was responsible for establishing the town green in the center of the village in 1850, and he organized a fire department in 1854. Colchester's farms had more of a market to produce for, and a number of commercial buildings were erected in the center, including a group at the north end of the Green (called Merchant's Row) and the Wheeler Block at the south end. The Colchester Savings Bank opened in 1874, and a small office in Merchant's Row began publishing a newspaper called The Colchester Advocate. In the 1870s the New York and Boston Air Line Railroad completed its line through Colchester, with a short spur leading into the village center, furthering the village's commercial viability.

In 1890 Hayward's company was sold to the U.S. Rubber Company and the Colchester factory closed. As a result, Colchester experienced severe economic decline and population loss. As unemployment rose, fewer goods and services were needed, causing both farms and merchants to suffer. Soon, however, Colchester experienced another economic lift in the form of

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|              |   |     |
|--------------|---|-----|
| Significance | Colchester Village Historic District<br>Colchester, New London County, CT | 8-4 |
|--------------|---|-----|

the agricultural resettlement of Jewish families from New York. As a result of the influx of immigrants, Colchester began to thrive again, and the village area resumed its role as a commercial center for the town. New stores appeared, and a part of Merchants Row, which was destroyed by fire in the late 19th century, was rebuilt. Some of the village's houses were remodeled as hotels or boardinghouses catering to Jewish vacationers. Colchester Village also made several cultural and civic advances after the turn of the century. In 1905 the Cragin Memorial Library opened, with the basement serving as an athletic center for a local boys club, and in 1910 the Town of Colchester installed electric street lights to illuminate the center.

The Great Depression, however, brought an end to this episode of growth. The demand for vacation resorts disappeared, and industry, agriculture, and businesses of all sorts experienced stagnation or decline. Not until after World War II, when Colchester began to participate in the suburban residential development of the modern era, did growth resume.

Ethnic Heritage Significance

In the early 20th century, Colchester and other nearby towns experienced a large influx of Jewish immigrants. Sponsored by the Baron de Hirsch Fund and the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, residents of New York City's crowded neighborhoods were given a brief training program in agricultural techniques, as well as loans to buy farmland, and then resettled in rural eastern Connecticut, which, along with southern New Jersey, was the program's major resettlement area. Arriving at a time when Yankee families were leaving the land, the Jewish farmers undertook dairy and egg production and thereby made the area's farms economically viable for, in many cases, another two or three generations. Along with farming, some of the new settlers continued their urban occupations and used their farms as workshops for the manufacture of clothing, leading eventually to the establishment of industrial-scale enterprises in Colchester.

Partly because of the agricultural resettlement movement, Colchester became a destination for vacationers seeking a temporary respite from life in the city. Numerous hotels and resorts catering to Jewish tourists were opened, and many residents took in boarders; at the height of the trend, summer visitors numbered some 4,000 people. The Fairview Hotel (Photograph 9) was one such destination in the center of Colchester. Some of the vacationers chose to make Colchester their permanent home, further adding to the town's Jewish community. As a result of the boom in Colchester's population and economy, restaurants and stores again began to flourish, with many of the

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Significance                    Colchester Village Historic District                    8-5  
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rejuvenated businesses oriented to the preferences of the Jewish community and owned and operated by Jewish families. In the years 1910-1925 Jewish settlement was at its height, with the group making up an estimated 50% of the town's population. After that peak, some Jewish families sold their farms to Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian immigrants, many of whom also became successful in the dairy and poultry business.

Architectural Significance

Many of the buildings in the Colchester Village Historic District embody the distinguishing characteristics of particular periods and styles of architecture. The district's oldest houses exhibit the clapboarded exteriors, gable or gambrel roofs, and center-chimney five-bay form that characterized the domestic architecture of colonial-era Connecticut. The Hayward House (Photograph 4), for example, possesses all these defining characteristics of the colonial style.

The Federal style, with its emphasis on small-scale detail, geometric designs such as interlaced arches and the ellipse, and classically inspired decorative motifs, is epitomized by the district's many houses with quoins, fanlight transoms, and elliptical or semi-elliptical gable windows. These houses also illustrate the variety in form and floor plan that came in with the Federal period: hip roofs, gable-end-to-the-road orientation (usually with a full cornice return), and end or corner chimneys, combined with a center or side hall plan. The Isham House, with its elegant balustrade, Corinthian portico, and finally detailed cornice (Photograph 1, background), is but one of several Colchester center houses illustrating the Federal style.

The Greek Revival style is embodied in the district's many structures with Classical columns, wide corner pilasters, rectilinear shapes, and heavily proportioned moldings that characterized the style. For example, the Colchester Congregational Church (1842; Photograph 13) exemplifies the use of Classical Greek precedents with its fluted columns, pediment, denticulated frieze, and pilaster-and-lintel doorway treatment. The range of Classical ornament used by Greek Revival builders is well-illustrated in the district, with not only large houses with free-standing columns and full porticos (Photograph 5), but also the more common houses that relied on less-expensive corner pilasters and a return of the cornice moldings across their gables to create the "Greek-temple" appearance (Photograph 6).

The Italianate style is represented in the several vernacular houses that include the characteristic round-arched window in their gables, as well as

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Significance                      Colchester Village Historic District                      8-6  
   Colchester, New London County, CT

by the carriagehouse at 43 Hayward Avenue and the granary at 53 Hayward Avenue. The latter two are particularly richly detailed specimens of the style, exhibiting such key characteristics as a low pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and elaborate molded surrounds on their circular and round-arched windows (Photograph 7).

Also Italianate in stylistic inspiration are the district's several turn-of-the-century commercial buildings (Photograph 10). However, these have additional architectural significance because they exhibit the distinctive characteristics of the period's commercial architecture, including prominent cornice treatments, repetitious facade elements, and siting of the building directly on the sidewalk and so as to nearly completely fill the lot. Although primarily a city phenomenon, where such buildings often reached four or more stories, Colchester village's more modest two-story blocks show that even small towns could support a few examples of the period's distinctive commercial architecture.

Although there was relatively little building activity in Colchester Center in the Victorian period, the range of well-preserved examples of historical architecture in the district does include a few specimens of such Victorian types as the Second Empire style, with its characteristic Mansard roof, and the Stick style, with its characteristic cross-bracing, brackets, and other elaborate woodwork. The Queen Anne style is epitomized by the house at 187 South Main Street (Photograph 8), which exhibits many defining features of the style, such as irregularity of massing, created by the overhanging side gable; textural variety, produced by the combination of clapboards, shingles, and diagonal boarding; and a dense combination of ornamental woodwork, especially on the porch.

Finally, Colchester's 1905 Cragin Memorial Library represents an outstanding example of the early 20th century's Neo-Classical Revival (Photograph 11). Although a small building, the library achieves that movement's goal of a substantial, even monumental, appearance through the use of large-scale elements such as bold cornice modillions, wide arched windows, and massive columns. The use of specialty brick and the extent of architectural detail, both exterior and interior, further reinforce the sense of serious purpose, as was appropriate for the building's function as the town's public library.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

|              |   |     |
|--------------|---|-----|
| Significance | Colchester Village Historic District<br>Colchester, New London County, CT | 8-7 |
|--------------|---|-----|

Landscape-Architectural Significance

Colchester Green is an example of the small park-like squares created in New England town centers in the 19th century. Although it does not descend from the town's colonial common, as most greens do, it underwent a similar process of enclosure, landscaping, and development. In 1850 Nathaniel Hayward, Colchester's leading industrialist, donated several acres of his land to the town for use as a public park. When combined with the open land owned by Bacon Academy, Hayward's donation created a substantial open space, one which was then outlined by re-routing the highways that intersected in the center to form its perimeter. The Green, planted with lawn and shade trees, then served as a focus for subsequent residential and commercial development. Additionally, it took on ceremonial importance as the location of publicly sponsored events and as the site of the town's monuments to those who served and died in the country's wars.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Colchester Village Historic District  
New London County CONNECTICUT 94000254

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

*Gregory M. Lapsley 12/7/94*

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Colchester Village Historic District  
Colchester, New London County, CT

This continuation sheet presents a technical correction to the Colchester Village Historic District nomination. The drive-in restaurant at 104 Broadway, dated c.1940 in the registration form as submitted, was built in 1932, according to records in the possession of the current owner. Because the district's period of significance extends to 1935, and because the building has not changed substantially in appearance, particularly the front part, it should be considered as a contributing resource.

The following changes are incorporated:

**3. Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>99</u>    | <u>27</u>       | buildings  |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>1</u>        | structures |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>2</u>        | objects    |
| <u>103</u>   | <u>30</u>       | Total      |

**7. Description**

There are fourteen major noncontributing buildings within the district. The noncontributing buildings include a car dealership, a bank (Photograph 15), several post-World War II houses (Photograph 16), and some modern stores.

**Inventory of Resources:**

| LOCATION     | DESCRIPTION  | C | NC |
|--------------|--|---|----|
| 104 Broadway | Restaurant, 1932, no style,<br>1 story, vertical board siding. | 1 | 0  |

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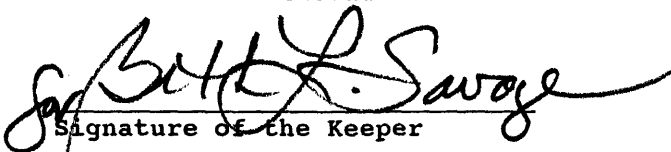
**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 94000254 Date Listed: 04/04/94

Colchester Historic District New London CT  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

4/4/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**3. Classification: Number of Contributing Resources previously listed**

Only 3 contributing properties were previously listed in the National Register.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)