

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 11 1982

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sharon Valley Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Sharon Valley Historic District

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Intersection of Sharon Valley Road  
and Sharon Station Road.

NA -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Sharon

VICINITY OF

6th -

STATE

Connecticut

CODE  
09

COUNTY

Litchfield

CODE

001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheets)

STREET & NUMBER

"

"

"

"

CITY, TOWN

"

VICINITY OF

"

STATE

"

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sharon Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street - P.O. Box 224

CITY, TOWN

Sharon

STATE

CT

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New England: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and  
Industrial Sites - Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

DC

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED?		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sharon Valley is a small group of modest buildings, most from the mid-19th century, centered on the intersection of Sharon Station, Sharon Valley, and King Hill Roads. Two small streams, the Webatuck and Indian Lake Creeks, run nearly parallel through the valley, and most of the settlement lies between the two. The land there is flat, but rises sharply as one travels west on Sharon Station Road toward the New York border. In the 19th century, Sharon Valley was the site of several industrial enterprises, and remains of two of these, a lime kiln and the ruins of an iron furnace, are included in the district. Most of the houses in Sharon Valley are quite plain, with only a hint of a stylistic reference, but there are also three finely-detailed houses from the Federal period. Other buildings in the district include five workers' houses built by the iron companies, a former store and company office at the major intersection, the former town poor farm, and several old barns.

The boundaries of the district largely coincide with the historical bounds of the settlement known as Sharon Valley: the area between the two brooks or rivers, from just north of the intersection to the point where Indian Lake Creek crosses Sharon Valley Road. Because Indian Lake Creek has wandered considerably over time, the eastern edge was taken as the rear property lines shown on Sharon Assessor's Map 25. The northern boundary was extended to include the headrace and dam associated with the iron furnace, since these ruins together form a logical unit. To the northwest, the lime kiln and adjacent land were included, but the rest of the large open tract owned by the town was not, as there seemed to be no reason to include the ball fields, highway garage and sandpit, nor was there any meaningful way to divide up the large parcel other than singling out the kiln for inclusion. On the south end of Sharon Valley Road, there were no more 19th-century houses, and on King Hill Road east, Sharon Station Road west, and Sharon Valley Road north, there were simply no more structures.

The historical integrity of the area is somewhat compromised by the group of four modern houses (Photo 15, background) in the middle of the district, but the overall proportion of 19th-century buildings is high: better than two-thirds of the structures contribute to the district in one way or another. Most of these have their characteristic form, details, and materials intact, even where modern siding has been applied (Photo 13). In general, Sharon Valley has not changed much. The iron furnace and the kiln are in ruins, and many small industries, as well as the malleable iron works, have vanished with even fewer traces. But the old houses, barns, store and other buildings are still in place and together with the industrial remains, they preserve a distinct sense of locale for Sharon Valley.

#### Industrial Remains

The most visible of the industrial remains in Sharon Valley is the lime kiln (Photo 1), which stands at the base of the hill going west on Sharon Station Road. The kiln is about 18' square at the base, and the sides taper slightly inward, rising to a height of about 20'. The walls are a rubble of coarsely-cut limestone blocks banded at two levels by oak timbers. There are round-arched openings at the base on the east and west sides, and a rectangular one on the south side. The interior reveals a honeycomb of firebrick within each arched opening. The kiln is somewhat deteriorated at the top and in the interior, but is

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Sharon Valley Historic District  
Sharon, CT

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- |                           |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25                        | Prindle, Alfred R. & Florence<br>Sharon, CT                       | NC: Modest 1-story house, either modern or greatly modified.<br>C: Small old barn to rear.                                                             |
| 26                        | Von Richthofen, Ernest<br>Sharon, CT                              | NC: Small, plain 1-story house, appears modern.                                                                                                        |
| 27                        | Tuncy, Davison H.<br>Sharon, CT                                   | C: B-R house, c.1880; 2-story, gable end to road, L-shaped plan, entrance in ell; plain corner brackets, carved rafter ends. Wood shingled exterior.   |
| 28                        | Hurn, Nina<br>Sharon, CT                                          | C: B-R house, similar to above, asb. siding. Fig. 8, background.                                                                                       |
| 29                        | Ellis, Floyd W. & Karen A.<br>Sharon, CT                          | C: B-R house, similar to above. Fig. 8, background.                                                                                                    |
| 30                        | White, Betty Ann<br>Sharon, CT                                    | C: SVI house, c.1865; 1½ stories, ridge parallel to road; 2 narrow attic windows, modern enclosed porch in front; asb. siding, lean-to at rear.        |
| 31                        | Middlebrook, Ruth E.<br>Sharon, CT                                | C: SVI house, similar to above, but more intact: 2-bay facade, entrance in east gable end, small central stack. Wood shingles over clapboards. Fig. 9. |
| 32                        | Eggleston, Gaylord R.<br>Lakeville, CT                            | C: Land with ruins of iron furnace, wheel pit, canal. Figs. 2 & 3.                                                                                     |
| 33                        | Hosier, George E. Sr.<br>Sharon, CT                               | NC: 1950 1½ story house, Fig. 7.                                                                                                                       |
| MAP 16<br>Lot 7           | Shore, Sidney X. & Gabrielle<br>29 Wren Drive<br>Roslyn, NY 11576 | C: Land with remains of dam, canal to iron furnace.                                                                                                    |
| MAP 16<br>Lot 5<br>(part) | Town of Sharon<br>P.O. Box 224<br>Sharon, CT                      | C: One-acre lot surrounding old lime kiln. Fig. 1.                                                                                                     |

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SHARON VALLEY ROAD

- |    |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Lee, Herbert & Elizabeth<br>Sharon, CT                                       | NC: 1963 ranch-style house.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3  | Belsky, Bernard L. & Miriam<br>373 Shelbourne Terrace<br>Ridgewood, NJ 07450 | C: Plain 2½ stories, c.1870, gable end to street with wings on each side, asb. siding, bay window on north side, pediment-shaped window caps. Fig. 21.                                                                   |
| 4  | Kalbefleish, Herman D.<br>925 President Street<br>Brooklyn, NY 11515         | NC: Bungalow, c.1930, 1½ stories, central shed dormer, exposed rafters; shingled.<br>C: Old barn to rear.                                                                                                                |
| 5  | O'Dell, Edward W. <u>et ux.</u><br>Sharon, CT                                | NC: 1910 1½ story house, porch across front                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 6  | Ryan, Theodore S.<br>Sharon, CT                                              | NC: 1935 2-story house with steeply-pitched gable roof.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7  | Pitcher, Daniel C. & Mildred M.<br>Sharon, CT                                | C: Plain Greek Rev., c.1860, 2½ stories, gable end to street, partial cornice return, entablature along eaves. Fig.20                                                                                                    |
| 8  | Cahill, Maureen<br>Sharon, CT                                                | C: Plain, c.1860, 2½ stories, gable end to street, partial cornice return, pediment above sidelighted door.                                                                                                              |
| 9  | Perrins, Steven B. & Leslie C.<br>R D #1<br>Limerick, Maine 04048            | C: Plain, c.1870, 2½ stories, gable end to street, partial cornice return, 1-story ells, wide clapboards.                                                                                                                |
| 10 | Nelson, Edwin D. & Lucille C.<br>Sharon, CT                                  | C: Plain, c.1870, 2 stories, shallow-pitched roof, L-shaped plan, gable end to street; small barn to rear.                                                                                                               |
| 11 | Belsky, Bernard L. & Miriam<br>373 Shelbourne Terrace<br>Ridgewood, NJ       | C: Outstanding Federal house, c.1825; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, alum. siding; fluted Ionic pilasters, Palladian window, entrance portico, elaborate window caps, cornice with mutules, old 12-over-12 sash. Figs. 13,14. |
| 12 | Outran, Robert & Amelia<br>Sharon, CT                                        | C: Greek Rev., c.1840, 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, panelled pilasters, eared window surrounds, entablature across front, partial cornice return; Fig. 16.                                                                  |
| 13 | Middlebrook, Ruth E.<br>Sharon, CT                                           | C: Plain, c.1870, 2 stories, shallow-pitched roof, gable end to street, partial cornice return, asb. siding.                                                                                                             |

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- 14 Berberoglu, Tayfun & Susanne C: Plain, c.1860(?), 1½ stories, 5-bay facade with 3 small attic windows, vinyl siding.  
57A Park Lane Road Apt. 14  
New Milford, CT
- 15 Smith, Byron J. & Patricia C. C: Plain 2½ stories, gable end to street, alum. siding, molded window caps, partial cornice return, open porch on 3 sides with flat stilted arches.  
Sharon, CT
- 16 Johnson, Robert W. Sr. & Patricia A. C: Federal, c.1825, 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, asb. siding, simple entrance portico & Palladian window; moved to this lot c. 1900.  
Sharon, CT
- 17 Selino, Peter Jr. & Rita C: Plain, 1910, 2 stories, intersecting steep gable roofs, cut-away 2nd-story corners, clapboarded.  
Sharon, CT
- 18 Middlebrook, Alanson Jr. & Juanita C: HOTCHKISS STORE, c.1850, plain, 2½ stories, gable end to road, large windows, open porch across front.  
Sharon, CT Fig.12.
- 34 Kain, Lois M. C: SVI OFFICE (Valley Tavern); outstanding Gothic Revival, c.1860; 2½ stories, steep gable roof, molded window caps, stringcourse of applied ornament, quartefoil & foliated peak ornaments, open porch with cusped bargeboard.  
Amenia, NY 12501 Fig. 4.
- 35 Chaffee, Joan C: Federal, c.1825, 2½ stories, ridge parallel to street, 4-bay facade, modillioned cornice, vaulted portico on Victorian posts. Fig. 4.  
176 West 82nd Street  
New York, NY
- 36,37 Straub, Elizabeth McMaster C: ABEL WOODS HOUSE, Federal, c.1825 (local tradition gives date as c.1750), 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, later slate roof, old 12-over-12 sash, semi-elliptical gable light, wooden quoins, Palladian window, window caps with elliptical ornament, modillions, portico with smooth columns, benches, elaborate entablature of Greek key, cable moldings. Outstanding interior includes central-hall archway with Ionic fluted columns, Greek key, egg-and-dart, and bead moldings; fluted window trim with corner blocks carved in sunflower designs; Adam-inspired mantels; alcoves having keyblocks carved as faces. Figs. 5, 22.  
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- |    |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 38 | Cunniff, John<br>27 Palisade Avenue<br>Riverdale, NY       | C: OLD POOR FARM, c.1885, 2½ stories, gable roof, clapboarded, 2 entrances near ends of long side. Fig. 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 39 | Town of Sharon<br>P.O. Box 224<br>Sharon, CT               | NC: 1940 cinderblock and frame town garage. Fig. 6, background.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 51 | Milton, Paul D. & Kathryn L.<br>Sharon, CT                 | NC: 2-story house completely remodeled from older building, probably a barn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 52 | Cathcart, Lionel T. & Patricia<br>Sharon, CT               | C: Federal, c.1821, 2½ stories, gable end to street, asb. siding, semi-elliptical gable window, 12-over-9 sash, picture window on first story, pilaster-and-lintel door frame. Fig. 10.                                                                                                                           |
| 53 | Mathews, John B. & Mary Anne<br>Sharon, CT                 | C: HOTCHKISS HOUSE, c.1823, Federal; 2½ stories, ridge parallel to street, 3-bay facade with offset entrance, semi-elliptical gable light, full cornice return, fine molded window caps, doorway with sidelights, elliptical transom fluted pilasters, and cornice; open porch, c.1850, on 3 sides. Figs. 10, 11. |
| 54 | Middlebrook, Ruth E.<br>Sharon, CT                         | NC: Colonial-inspired, 1933, 2 stories, alum. siding, sunporch in front.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 55 | Marshall, Margaret J. & Mack Matthew<br>Salisbury, CT      | C: Plain, c.1860, 1½ stories, ridge parallel to street, 3 bays wide, small attic windows in front, projecting window caps, enclosed entrance porch.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 56 | Snyder, Charles A. & Claudia L.<br>Sharon, CT              | NC: 1965 split-level house, asb. siding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 57 | Mohawk Harvestore Corporation<br>Sharon, CT                | NC: 1938 1½ story house.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 58 | Haas, Roger J. & Amelia D.<br>Sharon, CT                   | NC: Modern garrison-style house. Fig. 15, background.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 59 | Jamin, Morris & Hannah<br>Sharon Valley Road<br>Sharon, CT | NC: 1963 ranch-style house. Fig. 15, background.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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- 60 Vargas, Amando  
Sharon, CT C: Gothic, c.1880, 2½ stories, 5-bay facade with central entrance, steep gable roof with peaked dormer, pointed windows in dormer, open porch with cusped brackets. Barn with cupola to rear. Fig. 15.
- 61 Cunniff, John T.  
27 Palisade Avenue  
Riverdale, NY 10463 C: Italian villa, c.1860, 2½ stories, gable end to street with 2 wings, arched gable window with star glazing, bay windows, orig. door, open porch on unusual square columns. Fig. 17. Barn to rear.
- 62 Fitzpatrick, Gary & Bonnie Lea  
84 Central Avenue  
Torrington, CT 06790 C: Plain Greek Rev., c.1850, 1½ stories, ridge parallel to road, 4-bay facade with small attic windows, partial cornice return, simple pilaster-and-lintel doorframe, asb. siding. Fig.18.
- 63 Golden, Marion  
Sharon, CT C: Plain, 2-stories, c. 1880, gable end to road, open porch across 1-story ell has scroll-cut brackets. Fig. 19.
- 64 Beers, William B. & O.  
Box 57  
New Milford, CT C: Plain, c.1890 (?), 2 stories, gable end to road, 1-story wings, bell-shaped bargeboard.
- 65 St. Bernard's Cemetery  
Sharon, CT NC: Land only.
- 66 Gorkolsky, Samuel & Estelle  
Sharon, CT NC: C.1920 1½ stories, ridge parallel to (?) road, 2 small attic windows, exposed rafter ends, open porch on turned posts, 6-over-6 sash. May be older: tax records, rafters indicate 1920's, but houses of this form found back to 1860.
- 67 Connecticut, State of  
Department of Transportation  
24 Wolcott Hill Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109 NC: State sand area.

BRIDGES included are owned by Town of Sharon, P.O. Box 224, Sharon, CT. They include Sharon Station Road over Webatuch Creek, and King Hill Road and Sharon Valley Road over Indian Lake Creek.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Existing Surveys:

Note: HAER inventory mistakes the lime kiln for the furnace, though the survey card notes that the structure may be a kiln.

State Register of Historic Places

19 - State

Connecticut Historical Commission  
Hartford, CT

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relatively well-preserved. It probably dates from about 1880.

Across Webatuck Creek (formerly known as the Ten Mile River) are the ruins of the Sharon Valley iron furnace complex. The site has been developed since 1825, when Lyman Bradley built the first blast furnace there. The remains of the present furnace date from 1863, when the operation was converted to a hot blast. The furnace has almost completely disappeared: only some limestone rubble, iron tie-rods, and firebrick arches remain above ground to mark its location (Photo 2). Other remains visible at the site include some limestone foundations or retaining walls; the foundation of the blowing house, a wheelpit with an arch over the tailrace (Photo 3); a pipe about 4" in diameter, possibly for circulating cooling water; and mounds of slag. The race leads upstream, between earthen embankments, about 1500' to the remains of the dam, rubble with iron tie-rods. After Bradley, the furnace was operated by Horace Landon until about 1873, then by the Sharon Valley Iron Company. Although the latter sold out in 1898 to Barnum, Richardson & Company, it seems that Barnum, Richardson had an interest in the furnace at least twenty years earlier.

The other large enterprise in Sharon Valley was located where Indian Lake Creek (also known as Mudge Pond Brook) crosses Sharon Valley Road. This was the site of the Jewett Manufacturing Company and later the Malleable Iron Works. Virtually nothing can be seen there now except some cinders and some discarded work such as scissors found in the stream. The land was graded and filled to make the present house lot. There were many smaller manufacturing sites, including a carriage shop, cider mill, forges, and a stove shop, but evidence of these is now well-concealed.

There are three bridges in the district, of which the most distinctive is the three-panel pony lenticular truss across Webatuck Creek (Photo 7). The design was practically exclusive to the Berlin Iron Bridge Company of East Berlin, Connecticut, and this example probably dates from the 1880's. After the 1955 flood, the road was widened and a deck supported by I-beam stringers was installed, so the trusses now serve only as guard rails. The other two bridges are I-beam-supported decks with guardrails of lattice strapping. Rosettes on one of these suggest that these may also be Berlin Bridge products, probably from the early 20th-century, when the company was known as Berlin Construction Company.

### Houses and Other Buildings

Most of the buildings in the district are plain with little ornamental detail, but there are a number of exceptions. Dominating the major intersection of Sharon Station and Sharon Valley Roads is the Gothic Revival Valley Tavern, #34, at one time the office building of the Sharon Valley Iron Company (Photo 4).

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Nearby are two finely-detailed Federal-*style* houses, the Hotchkiss House (#53, Photos 10 and 11) and the Abel Woods House (#36, Photo 5). The latter has one of the most elaborate Federal-*style* interiors in the state (Photo 22).<sup>1</sup> Another elaborate house of the early 19th century, some distance south on Sharon Valley Road, is #11 (Photos 13 and 14). Related to these are three plainer buildings of the period, #'s 17, 35, and 52, less well-detailed, but each with some characteristic feature such as a Palladian window, semi-elliptical light, or modillions along the cornice (Photos 4 and 10). Of the houses built later in the century, the only one with a large amount of stylistic detail is the Greek Revival #12 (Photo 16).

Northwest on Sharon Station Road are five houses associated with the iron industry. The first two, #'s 30 and 31, are very similar and were owned by and probably built by the Sharon Valley Iron Company (SVI). They are small 1½-story houses with two small attic windows on the facade or long side, side entrances, and low lean-tos across the rear (Photo 9). The next three houses, #'s 27, 28, and 29, are larger, L-shaped, and are nearly identical to houses built by SVI's successor, Barnum, Richardson & Company, in Canaan, Connecticut. In addition to their distinctive form (Photo 8), characteristics include the corner brackets and carved rafter ends. They were probably built in the 1880's. Other buildings put up by manufacturers include the rather plain store building (#18, Photo 12), originally the store of Hotchkiss & Sons, and the similar house at the eastern edge, #41, also built by Asahel Hotchkiss. Another simple building is the former town poor farm, #38, with its distinctive double endentrances (Photo 6).

The remainder of the buildings are houses from the second half of the 19th century, and most are 2 or 2½ stories in height, L-shaped in plan, and limited in ornament. Nearly every one, however, has some touch of Greek, Italianate, Gothic, or Eastlake detail in the porch, windows, cornice or doorways (Photos 15, 17, 19, 20, and 21). Small central brick chimneys are the norm, and most houses are built on limestone foundations. Most are clapboarded and have some original six-over-six sash. There are three smaller 1½-story houses built with their ridgelines parallel to the road, with small windows lighting the attic story. These, too, have limited elaboration, such as #62, with its simple Greek Revival doorway (Photo 18).

<sup>1</sup>This judgement about the house's interior architectural excellence is based upon the author's personal experience of seven years.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES N/A

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Sharon Valley National Register District is a distinctive group of industrial remains, houses, and other buildings. Several buildings are of architectural significance as representatives of particular styles of architecture, and one of the Federal houses has an interior that is among the finest in the state (Criterion C). Regardless of their architectural merit, however, almost all of the buildings are rich in historical associations, and taken together embody the industrial heritage of the village. The settlement at Sharon Valley grew up around various water-powered enterprises, and the ruins of the lime kiln and the furnace and the houses of Valley residents all recall the historical development of the area as a small manufacturing center (Criterion A). Moreover, some of the remains may be of interest to industrial archeologists. Above ground, there are the lime kiln, furnace ruins, and the small wrought-iron bridge, and while erosion and flooding have undoubtedly taken a toll, subsurface material related to the iron and lime industries has probably survived. These remains may be useful in answering questions about the development of these technologies (Criterion D).

History

In the 18th century, Sharon was almost exclusively reliant upon an agricultural economy. By mid-century, however, the water power of Sharon Valley was being used to power small grist and saw mills and forges, enterprises directly related to the needs of the farming community. Agriculture continued to be important throughout the 19th century, though general farming was supplemented by a growing specialization in sheepraising, particularly by Chauncey W. Morehouse, a Valley resident who had 274 acres and 100 sheep. At the same time, blacksmith shops and a cider mill continued in the Valley, along with other small-scale enterprises, including a woodworking shop, carriage works, and a tinware and stove maker.

The 19th century saw the development of industry on a larger scale. While never as large or influential as eastern Connecticut textile mills or the metal-working companies in the central part of the state, the industries which developed in Sharon Valley did have a large impact on the settlement there and on the town as a whole. Sharon Valley was an ideal site for an iron furnace, as it had water power, a source of ore at nearby Indian Lake, plenty of limestone in the surrounding hills, acres of hardwood for charcoal, and even good sand for the pig beds. The furnace was built in 1825, used a cold blast, and according to the 1850 Federal Census employed 12 hands, making it the largest employer in the Valley. When the Sharon Valley Iron Company formally sold out in 1898, they owned six houses, a barn, and the office at the corner, in addition to the iron furnace

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 110

QUADRANGLE NAME Sharon QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES see continuation sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 37, as shown on Sharon Assessor's Map 25, the district boundary runs southward along the eastern lines of Lots 37 and 41 (cont.)

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE July 28, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford STATE CT

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

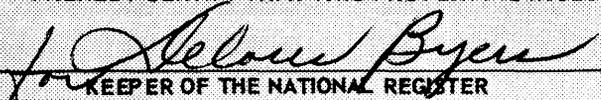
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission DATE August 6, 1982

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

 KEPTER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the National Register DATE 9/9/82

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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itself. They also owned or leased ore beds, sand deposits, timber land, and limestone quarries nearby. It is likely that they also ran the lime kiln as a sideline to their main business. It was owned by sheepraiser Morehouse, who also owned some of the limestone quarries leased to the Company.

The second large industry was the hardware and malleable iron works.<sup>1</sup> Although initially smaller than the blast furnace operation, this industry came to have a greater effect on the Valley. The first to move beyond the small one- or two-man forge was Asahel Hotchkiss, who came to Sharon Valley in 1829 and set about making hardware and "snaps" at a location on Mudge Pond Brook (Indian Lake Creek) directly behind his house, #53. Hotchkiss formed partnerships with other local entrepreneurs, including Alpheus Eggleston and Ebenezer Garnsey, and the 1850 Census lists 9 hands employed and an annual production of \$25,000 worth of hardware, primarily agricultural implements. Hotchkiss and his sons expanded their business in the following decade, building a large factory at the southern edge of the settlement where Indian Lake Creek crosses Sharon Valley Road. Hotchkiss & Sons and the closely-related Jewett Manufacturing Company together employed 87 hands in 1860 and made a variety of hardware, including traps, tools, bridles, shaft couplings, and hasps. Andrew Hotchkiss, one of the sons of Asahel, invented the exploding artillery shell. Although the Hotchkiss works produced munitions during the Civil War, the Hotchkiss Company was shortly thereafter moved to Bridgeport, where it prospered making armaments. The Hotchkiss family were benefactors to Sharon, and there is a monument to Andrew Hotchkiss on the town's green and a library named after him. Despite their removal, the Jewett Company and their successors, the Noyes Malleable Iron Works and the Sharon Valley Malleable and Gray Iron Company, continued to be major enterprises in the Valley, the latter employing up to 48 people in 1879. Many single women and children were employed in the hardware factory, and after 1850, considerable numbers of immigrants as well. Of these, the greater number were Irish. In addition to working as farm hands, servants and laborers, many Irish men were employed as skilled workers such as moulders and machinists. Sharon Valley's economy had little, if any, growth in the last quarter of the 19th century, and the lime kiln and furnace both shut down about 1900.

### Significance for Industrial Archeology

Among iron furnace remains, the Sharon Valley furnace ranks with the most deteriorated, with its stack completely tumbled down to the level of the interior arches. Some stone may have been removed from the site, but there is relatively little excavation visible in the immediate vicinity. A good amount of fill of all sorts has been added, and a road has been cut in north of the furnace and along the headrace, probably upsetting any artifacts in that area. Nevertheless, the area around the stack, the wheelpit, and the dam may be reckoned as offering potential to the industrial archeologist: the four-inch pipe which protrudes from

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the slag heap suggests that other artifacts lie below the surface. Documentary material for the site includes an 1874 site plan showing the furnace, race and charcoal sheds; censuses from 1850 and 1870 (before and after the conversion to hot blast) giving information on the number of employees, the tonnage of ore consumed, other raw materials, wages, and the value of the product; and legal records of deeds and leases, which mention "barracks" near the furnace and which locate sources of limestone, clay, sand and ore. Questions which might be explored include the origin and evolution of furnace technology, the relation of this furnace to the others in the region, such as the Roxbury furnace which was built by a man from Sharon, and the effect of the association with Barnum, Richardson, the largest iron producer and the last survivor in the state. The relation of the furnace operation with the lime kiln, if any, could also best be explored archeologically, since little documentation of this point was found.

The lime kiln is another significant site, especially since little work has been done on this important Connecticut industry. The stack is well-preserved and could provide information about the process of making lime. The traditional way of producing lime was to dump limestone (dolomite -  $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot \text{MgCO}_3$ ) and charcoal into a kiln in layers and burn the mixture, driving off carbon dioxide and producing oxides of calcium and magnesium. This process was later improved by heating the limestone with an external source of heat, thus avoiding charcoal ash in the lime. In the 20th century, gas and electric rotary kilns were introduced, allowing a continual process, rather than periodic charging of the kiln. Preliminary inspection suggests that the Sharon Valley kiln's two arched openings were for building fires to heat the stack, while the rectangular opening, now blocked off, was where the lime was drawn off. If so, the kiln represents a transition from the traditional to the modern technology. Documentary evidence points to a construction date of about 1880.<sup>2</sup> Archeological investigation of the stack and surrounding soil could determine the process more definitively. Comparison with the few other surviving kilns in the region could place the Sharon Valley kiln more properly in context.

The Berlin Bridge over Webatuck Creek is significant for those interested in the history of engineering. It is a representative example of the small 19th-century truss: wrought-iron members, pinned construction, and a distinctive truss design. The lenticular truss was used in hundreds of bridges built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company. Most were pony trusses though few were as small (only three panels) as this one. The road has been widened, and the trusses now serve only as guard rails, but the bridge deserves recognition as one of a shrinking number of wrought-iron spans, once a common part of the Connecticut landscape.

Additional industrial sites exist in Sharon Valley, but they have left far fewer traces. The site of the malleable iron works has been filled, graded and built over, and practically nothing can be seen of the smaller mills and

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shops along the streams. Both streams have wandered considerably over time, and the effect of flooding and meandering may have ruined some sites and preserved others. The locations of some shops are shown on 19th-century maps, and others are mentioned in the legal records. Residents have found some iron artifacts near #'s 2 (the site of the malleable works) and 16 (near the site of a carriage works).

### Historical Importance

The houses and other buildings are rich in historical associations. The economic development of Sharon Valley is memorialized in the buildings and other remains of the various industries. Iron smelting was an important industry throughout the entire region, employing many people directly and creating business for many others, such as the many charcoal-makers and teamsters in towns like Sharon. Although the furnace is now barely visible, the several units of worker housing illustrate the impact of the furnace on the small settlement of Sharon Valley. The three Barnum, Richardson houses are identical to others found at East Canaan: they represent a type of company housing unique to this region. Indeed, iron furnace housing is the only extensive company housing found in the area. The continued existence of the Sharon Valley Iron Company's office, now the Valley Tavern, adds another element not found at other furnace sites.

The lime kiln is a reminder of another industry which made good use of the numerous outcroppings of limestone in the surrounding hills. Although less is known about its operation, its prominent position next to the road accents the importance of the industry in the region's economy. Today, commercial limestone quarrying takes place only in Canaan, but in the 19th century, limestone was quarried and burned for agricultural lime throughout the northwest part of the state.

Far less is visible to mark the importance of the malleable iron industry. The former store of Hotchkiss & Sons, now vacant, stands as the sole reminder of the role of this industry in the Valley's economy.

The houses themselves tell something of the entrepreneurs, craftsmen, and ordinary workers who built or resided in them. The finest house in the district, #36 (Photos 5 and 22) was the home of Lyman Bradley, who built the first iron furnace in 1825, and later the home of Chauncey Morehouse, farmer, large landholder, and owner of the lime kiln. Asahel A. Hotchkiss lived in the smaller but nicely-detailed Federal house south of the intersection, #53 (Photos 10 and 11), and one of his partners, Ebenezer Garnsey, owned #11 (Photos 13 and 14). Another Hotchkiss partner, Alpheus Eggleston, lived in the small house, #62 (Photo 18); Eggleston made wood and metal mousetraps, a product later continued by the Jewett Manufacturing Company. Fitch Landon, part owner of the Landon

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Iron Company, which operated the furnace from 1847 to 1873, lived first in the plain house, #41, which Hotchkiss built about 1842, and later in the more fancy #15. Residences of less prominent craftsmen include that of David Beebe, cabinetmaker, #52 (Photo 10) and #14, the residence of the blacksmith H. Middlebrow. An 1874 map of the Valley shows a growing ethnic diversity with several small houses near the cemetery owned by Irish families. Of these, only the one owned by J.J. Doyle, #3 (Photo 21), has survived. The numerous barns in the district recall the rural setting of this manufacturing village and the full- or part-time farming engaged in by its residents. Both the elegant houses owned by the Valley's major manufacturers and the much plainer houses lived in by the workers help to create a distinct milieu, one which, taken together with the barns, company store and office, and the industrial remains, reflects the Valley's heritage as a manufacturing center in an essentially rural region.

### Architectural Significance

Among the architecturally significant buildings in Sharon Valley are three fine Federal houses which must be reckoned among the better examples in the state of the country use of Federal detail. The Abel Woods House, #36 (Photos 5 and 22) which local tradition dates as early as 1750, was more likely built in the 1820s, when the land came into the hands of Lyman Bradley, the iron-maker.<sup>3</sup> The small quoins, delicate window caps, and intricate portico moldings are all fine illustrations of the principles of variety, lightness, and free adaptation of Classical precedents which characterized the period. It is the richly detailed interior, however, that places the house in the first rank: the central hall archway with its columns and varied bands of decoration, the elaborate mantels, and the alcove arches with keyblocks carved as faces are easily the equal of other fine Connecticut Federal-style houses.

Despite its aluminum siding and modernized interior, #11 (Photos 13 and 14) is also notable: it too has finely-scaled Classical detail - mutules, pearl moldings and arches with keyblocks. Moreover, it has several features not commonly found on country Federal houses: the fluted Ionic corner pilasters, the Palladian window set within an arched opening, and the gable lights glazed like the globe with lines of latitude and longitude. The Hotchkiss House, #53 (Photos 10 and 11), is somewhat plainer than the preceding two houses, but the doorway with its pilasters, elaborate fanlight, and molded cornice is a good example of its kind. Although the other houses of this period, #'s 16, 35, and 52, are more altered than the foregoing and were probably plainer to begin with, each makes a small contribution by preserving a Palladian window, cornice, or fanlight to indicate its origin, thereby adding architectural continuity to the district.

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The Valley Tavern, formerly the office of the Sharon Valley Iron Company, is also of individual architectural merit (#34, Photo 4). It is highly representative of Carpenter Gothic architecture, with its general verticality and its quatrefoil peak ornament showing medieval inspiration. The cusped bargeboard-like trim along the porch is typical of the jig-sawn woodwork which is the hallmark of the style. Widely favored for churches and small houses, this form of Gothic Revival was rarely used commercially, though for such a small office building it seems quite appropriate.

The architectural significance of the rest of the district's buildings is less apparent than that of these individually distinguished structures. Nevertheless, the district's many plain buildings do represent a distinct type of building common in the 19th century. Especially in rural or small-town areas, most houses were not the exuberant, eclectic, overwrought buildings which come to mind when Victorian architecture is mentioned. Instead, they were more likely to be plain buildings like those in Sharon Valley, with only a slight indication of historical or stylistic source. Some of these details are themselves quite interesting, such as the hollow porch columns on #61 (Photo 17), the pointed windows on the Gothic #60 (Photo 15), or the intricate porch brackets on #64 (Photo 19). Yet the overall impression made by these houses is one of simplicity and straight-forward construction. The forms are traditional. The gable-end-to-street orientation and the L-shaped plan, common in the Greek Revival period, continued as the mode through the 1870s. More surprising are those such as #34 and #60 which have the older five-bay facade, 2½-story form dressed up with bay windows, fancy wood shingles, or Gothic detail.

As one would expect, the buildings put up by the companies are rather prosaic, and it is hardly surprising to find the late 19th-century town poor farm a plain and utilitarian structure as well. But to see these in context, one must realize that the houses put up by the ordinary people of the period were likely to be as small and unadorned as the institutional or company housing. Sharon Valley is hardly alone in having these modest houses: they are found throughout the state alongside more elaborate or stylish buildings. But Sharon Valley is unusual in that the many plain houses are preserved in an historical context, one created by the industrial remains, the store and office, the houses of entrepreneurs like Hotchkiss and Bradley, and the many historical associations connected with the buildings.

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<sup>1</sup>It is doubtful that the malleable iron works used the output of the iron furnace, as the Indian Lake ore made iron that was difficult to work, being better suited for casting.

<sup>2</sup>Land records seem to suggest a date about 1880, though the industry itself was much older: an 1814 deed mentions a kiln on the other side of the road, near the furnace site. The lime kiln was probably a good way for the iron company

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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to profit from any excess limestone. Although the agricultural lime thus produced could be used in iron making, it probably was not. Raw crushed limestone worked just as well; it was turned to lime as part of the reaction inside the iron furnace.

3

That Bradley built the house is suggested by an 1822 deed (Sharon Land Records, Vol. 15, p. 493), which omits mention of a dwellinghouse, although "buildings thereon" are included. Subsequent deeds do mention a house, and call the property the "Bradley Farm" as late as 1858. Architecturally, the house belongs to the Federal period (1800-1830); at the very least, extensive remodelling of an earlier structure must be assumed.

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## Verbal Boundary Description (Continued):

to King Hill Road. It crosses the road and then runs westerly along the southern edge (including the bridge), then turns southward and follows the rear or eastern property lines of Lots 51, 53, 57, 60, 63, and 67, turning westerly and following the line of Lot 67 to Sharon Valley Road. It runs southward along the eastern edge of the road (including the bridge), then crosses to the southeast corner of Lot 2 in a line with the southern boundary of that lot. It follows the property line of Lot 2 westerly, southerly, westerly again, and then northerly, continuing in a straight line to Webatuch Creek. The district boundary follows the western bank of the creek northeasterly to the southeast corner of Lot 21. It follows the line of Lot 21 westerly and then northeasterly to Sharon Station Road. It follows the southwest edge of that road, running northwesterly toward the old lime kiln. A square 200' on a side, with the lime kiln centered on the side along the road, is included; the boundary follows this perimeter around the kiln, then crosses Sharon Station Road and continues northerly along the eastern edge until intersecting the property line of Lot 7, Map 16. It follows the property line of this lot eastward about 70' to a corner, then runs east by northeast about 530' to another vertex of the same lot. From this point it runs eastward 100' along the northern boundary of Lot 7, Map 16. Then it runs southerly in a straight line about 1200' to a point on the northern boundary of Lot 8, Map 16, 100' from the northwest corner of that lot. It then follows the property line of Lot 8 westerly, southerly, and easterly to Sharon Valley Road. It crosses the road and runs northerly along the eastern edge to the northwest corner of Lot 37, Map 25, and then runs easterly along the northern line of that lot to the first point.