

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94001444 Date Listed: 12/21/94

Hadlyme Ferry 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.

John Robert Savage
Signature of the Keeper

12/21/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

3. Classification
& 7. Description: Number of Resources within Property

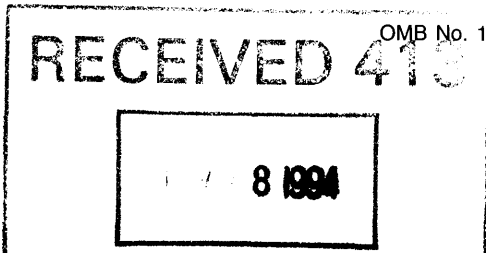
The ferry launch site is historically significant as a contributing site, although the structure currently in place is non-contributing. Thus, the resource count is: 6 c. bldgs., 4 nc. bldgs.; 1 c. site; 1 nc. structure= 7 c. and 5 nc. resources total.

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

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name

other names/site number Hadlyme Ferry Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet. Not for publication

city or town Lyme (Hadlyme) Vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 006439

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Title: Director, Connecticut Historical Commission Date: 11/02/94 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments. Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 12/21/94

Hadlyme Ferry Historic District
Name of Property

New London, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
		structures
		objects
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
TRANSPORTATION/water-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
TRANSPORTATION/water-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls weatherboard
roof asphalt shingle
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 1

The Hadlyme Ferry Historic District is a small district on the east bank of the Connecticut River in the village of Hadlyme (see attached map). Located in the northwest corner of the Town of Lyme, it is the nucleus of a larger local historic district of the same name which extends farther east uphill towards the inland village center. Ferry Road (State Route 148), the main road of the district, curves down through the district from the east and terminates at the ferry slip at the river, following the natural slope of a small valley between hills to the north and south. Its intersection with Geer Hill Road, which enters the district from the northeast, is the eastern border. The Connecticut River forms the western border of the district. To the north of the district is Gillette Castle State Park and the Middlesex County line. The state park includes land in both Lyme and East Haddam and its property borders the district.

The district consists of a cluster of six contributing buildings, five houses built between c. 1760 and c. 1820, a c. 1780 ferry house, and an operating ferry slip owned by the State of Connecticut. Although the site dates back to at least 1769, the present structures here are post 1940 and therefore are non-contributing. They include two modern wooden tollhouses, flanking a metal grid ramp to the ferry. Four outbuildings associated with the houses, which include wood-frame and masonry garages and sheds, are also considered non-contributing because they were built in the early twentieth century after the district's period of significance.

The lots rise steeply at the rear, so there was limited level land for building and the houses are generally set quite close to the roadway. Most of the properties are bordered along the road with low rock walls and wooden fences. Since the rock (granite and shale) was and is available from nearby weathered ledge outcroppings, which characteristically fracture in thin layers, many of these walls have a locally distinctive horizontal pattern, quite unlike the more typical field stone walls found elsewhere.

Although the earliest houses date to the last half of the eighteenth century, most display the architectural detailing associated with the Federal period. The Samuel Brooks House, built about 1760, is the earliest extant building at the landing (Inventory #3; Photograph #1). Colonial in form and plan with a center chimney, it is embellished with a fine Federal doorway surround. Narrow plain board pilasters flank the door, which is surmounted by a four-light transom and a full entablature with a projecting cornice. The boldness of the roof cornices and their slight returns suggest that the roof was replaced, possibly when the doorway was remodeled.

Two houses were built in the Federal period by the same family. The oldest, the Isaac Spencer House, which is located on a lot bordering the river, retains the rectangular five-bay colonial plan and form but displays end chimneys at the ridge. Its pedimented doorway is classically Federal in style with a fanlight over the door (Inventory #9; Photograph #s 2, 3). The William Spencer House built by his son in 1805 to the same plan, is more elaborately detailed (Inventory #5; Photograph #4). Its features, which are

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

characteristic of the late Georgian style, include wood quoining, modillions, and an pediment which breaks the facade roof line at the center. The pediment surmounts a detailed middle bay, defined by two-story pilasters with a prominent cornice above the door. In the center of what was a Palladian window at the second floor, a plain door has been substituted for the window. The operable double-hung side windows on either side there have six-over-eight sash, the same type which flank the door below. The balconette, which rests on the projecting cornice over the door, appears to be a modern feature. The first-floor facade windows have prominent flat pediments with pulvinated friezes and contain 12-over-12 sash. Other features of this house include clabboarding with very narrow exposure to the weather.

Because of its orientation and general appearance, the gable-to-street house at 159 Ferry Road may have been built as a store by William Spencer about the same time as his house (Inventory #8; Photograph #3). It too has a Federal doorway with a fanlight. The Ferry House associated with the Isaac Spencer House was built about 1780 and served as a toll house for the ferry master (Inventory #10; Photograph #6). A second-story balcony added to the west side facing the river along with skylights in the roof are the only basic exterior changes to this simple structure. The ferry slip is immediately adjacent to this building (Inventory #11; Photograph #4).

The Comstock House, the last to be built in the district, is a late Federal farmhouse that anticipates the gable-to-street orientation and some of the features associated with the later Greek Revival, especially its flushboarded facade pediment with a fanlight in the tympanum (Inventory #1; Photograph #5). The narrow frieze board that extends around the house below the pediment and eaves is also a transitional feature. The Federal doorway surround is simply detailed and capped by a projecting flat cornice.

A complete inventory list of all the resources in the district follows:

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 3Inventory of Contributing and Non-contributing Resources

<u>#</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name/Style/Date</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Ph. #</u>
1.	150 Ferry Road	COMSTOCK HOUSE, Federal, c. 1820	C	5
2.	150 Ferry Road	garage, c. 1940	NC	
3.	151 Ferry Road	SAMUEL BROOKS HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, c. 1760	C	1
4.	151 Ferry Road	garage, c. 1900	NC	
5.	158 Ferry Road	WILLIAM SPENCER HOUSE, Late Georgian/Federal, c. 1805	C	4
6.	158 Ferry Road	garage (across road), c. 1940	NC	
7.	158 Ferry Road	shed, c. 1900	NC	
8.	159 Ferry Road	Federal, c. 1800	C	3
9.	162-1 Ferry Road	ISAAC SPENCER HOUSE, Federal, c. 1790	C	2, 3
10.	162-2 Ferry Road	FERRY HOUSE, C. 1780	C	2
11.	--- Ferry Road	ferry slip site, 1769 (present slip structures are c. 1950 construction.)	NC	6

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

c. 1760 - c. 1820

c. 1700 - c. 1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Hadlyme Ferry Historic District
Name of Property

New London, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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4	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 4/15/94

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 1

The Hadlyme Ferry Historic District contains an architecturally significant collection of well-preserved Colonial and Federal-style houses that reflect the prosperity of this river landing settlement between 1790 and 1820. The site of one of only two colonial ferries still in operation on the Connecticut River, the district is historically significant as a representative example of the type of settlement that developed around these important transportation links across this major waterway. Although a ferry had been in operation there since the late seventeenth century, the district was settled primarily after it was officially established by the Connecticut Colony in 1769 and prospered as both a ferry landing and a small maritime port.

Architectural Significance

The flowering of the Federal style in the Connecticut River Valley in the early national period is fully expressed and preserved in the Hadlyme Ferry Historic District. Each stage of its development is represented here. Soon after it first appeared in the larger riverport towns, the Federal style was found at every landing on the river; merchants with means quickly adopted the features of this style to update their older colonial houses. In Hadlyme, the style first found expression in the doorway of the Samuel Brooks House, which was originally built before the Revolution (Inventory #3; Photograph #1). There were more sophisticated vernacular interpretations, such as the Isaac Spencer House, that maintained the colonial form but adopted the style's center-hall plan (Inventory #9; Photograph #2). More elaborate homes were commonly influenced by the Georgian style at the height of the river trade, as found in the William Spencer House (Inventory #5; Photograph #4), an especially fine example of the Georgian/Federal style. Near the end of the Federal period a complete change in form and style occurred. Houses like the Comstock House were built with a new orientation with their gable ends to the road (Inventory #1; Photograph #5). With its closed pediment, this house is a fully developed example of the late manifestation of the style.

The variety of the finely crafted and stylish doorways in the district is exceptional for such a small community. Adapted by local carpenter builders, they range from the simple high entablature with narrow pilasters to the pedimented version with fanlights. As is typical for vernacular architecture, several retain earlier features. The traditional multi-light transom, a holdover from the colonial period, persisted here until 1820 (Inventory #s 1, 5).

The integrity of the district is remarkable. Except for the modern ferryboat which pulls up to the landing several times a day, the historical setting is undisturbed. The topography and historical development of the district since its period of significance have combined to perpetuate this integrity. There has been little room or reason for new construction since the early nineteenth century. The only modern intrusions are the secondary structures, which are generally in such unobtrusive locations that they do not detract from the principal buildings. Modern day custodians have carefully preserved their houses and little remodeling has taken place.

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2Historical Background and Significance

The origins of Hadlyme go back to the settlement of East Saybrook, which was settled by people from Saybrook and officially named Lyme in 1666. The early settlements were in the southern part of town. The northern section encompassed part of the Joshua Tract, an area granted to members of the Mohegan tribe in the seventeenth century, but there was some scattered European settlement by the early 1700s. Lyme remained undivided until 1857, when Old Lyme, on the coast, and Lyme, to the north, were incorporated as separate towns. Lyme began to divide into four separate parishes starting in 1719. Hadlyme, the last to be formed, was composed of people from Lyme's northwest quarter and East Haddam; the latter had become a separate town in 1734. The process began in 1723 when the settlers of both towns petitioned the General Assembly for permission to join together in a separate parish to be known as the Hadlyme Society, but parish privileges were not granted until 1742. Their meetinghouse was actually built in East Haddam.

Until a bridge was built at Saybrook in the twentieth century, ferries remained the only means of transportation across the lower Connecticut River. There were three operating from Lyme in the colonial period. The first official town ferry authorized by the Connecticut Colony was at the Saybrook crossing in 1706, soon followed by another one upriver, granted to a Mr. Brockway. In 1769 Jonathan Warner was granted the ferry rights at Hadlyme by the colony. There is some indirect evidence, however, that a ferry was operating here as early as 1696, which was run by Andrew Warner, one of his ancestors and an early settler of East Saybrook. When Andrew Warner and Samuel Church had the town's permission to set up a sawmill that year, it was located near the road to Warner's ferry.

The community at Hadlyme Ferry was typical of other settlements that developed at ferry landings along the east side of the lower Connecticut River. Each of these landings was the commercial center for a small and generally dispersed inland population. The landing at Hadlyme not only provided access to Chester and other towns on the west side of the river; it also was the center for river trade for a self-sufficient farming community. The evident level of prosperity at the landing is surprising given the limited agricultural potential of the area. The Connecticut cut through a rocky gorge here and wooded hills rise on either side of the river. Even though there was some level farming acreage in some larger inland valleys, most of the soil was poor and thin with bedrock close to the surface, quite unlike the easily cultivated Connecticut River Valley farther north. As a result, the people of the Hadlyme quarter were generally subsistence farmers with only a small agricultural surplus for trade. They had to exploit other resources to supplement their income or obtain imported goods. Cattle were raised for export and to supply a local tanning and leather goods industry. Until the local timber stands were depleted, sawmills produced barrel staves and hoop poles for export. Lumber was also needed at the local shipyard, which was located south of the district and run by one of the Comstocks. Quarrying was also carried out a limited basis.

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Continuation Sheet**

Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Hadlyme, New London County, CT

Section number 9/10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Hadlyme Ferry Historic District." The Report of The Hadlyme Ferry Historic District Study Committee of The Town of Lyme, June 1987.

Harding, James E. *Lyme Yesterdays: How Our Forefathers Made a Living on the Connecticut Shore*. Stonington, Connecticut: The Pequot Press, Inc., 1967

Hartford Courant, April 19, 1991.

Little, David J. *Revolutionary Lyme: A Portrait 1765-1783*. Town of Old Lyme, 1976.

Stark, Bruce P. *Lyme, Connecticut: From Founding to Independence*. Lyme Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

UTMS continued:

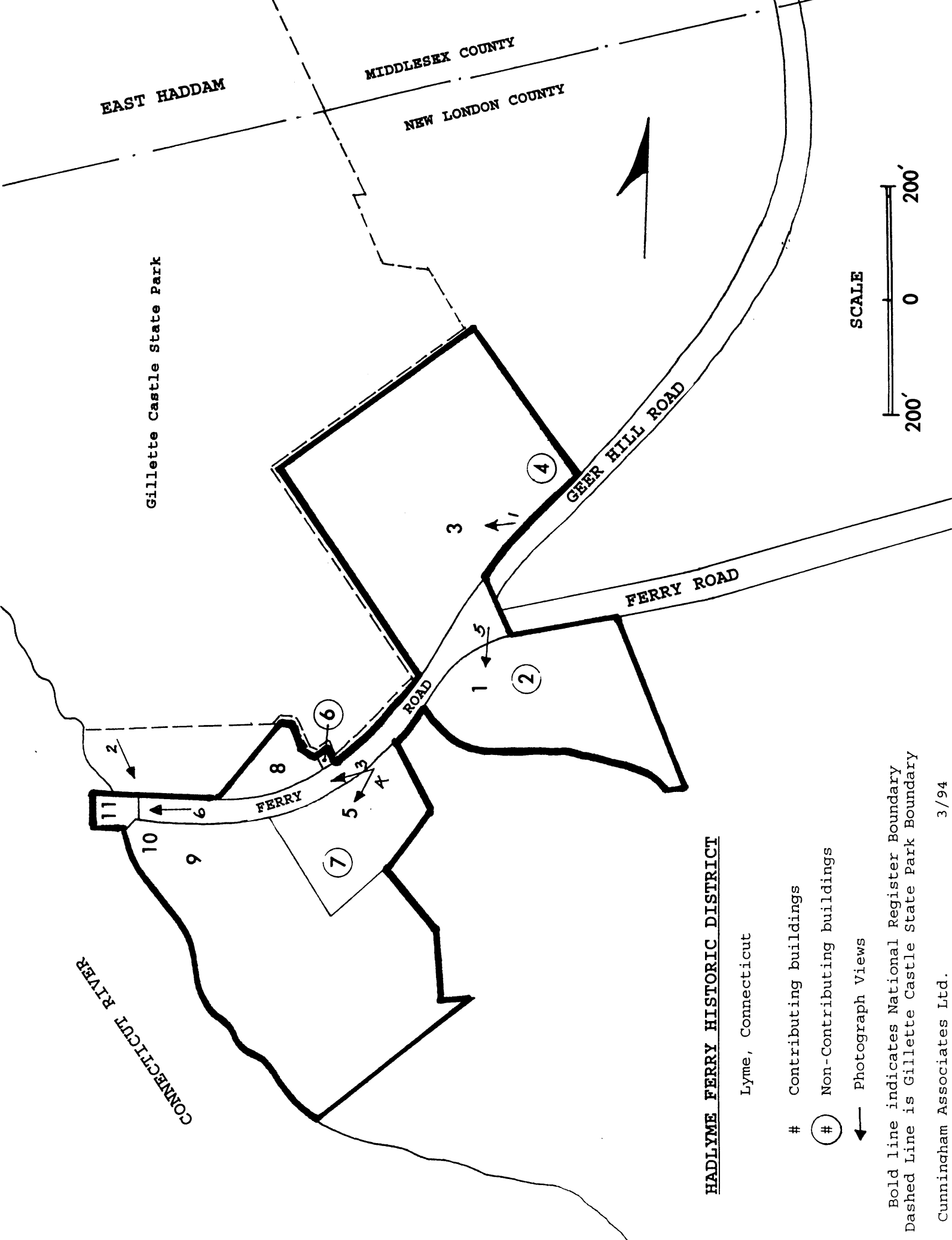
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6.	18	715180	4588590
7.	18	715060	4588470
8.	18	715210	4588480
9.	18	715220	4588400

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated district are delineated on the attached district map drawn to scale from Tax Assessor's Map 3 of the Town of Lyme, Connecticut.

Boundary Justification:

The district boundaries were selected to encompass the maximum number of contributing contiguous resources associated with the Hadlyme Ferry Historic District during its period of significance. Because visual continuity would be lost through the intrusion of open land and/or non-contributing resources, the boundaries could not be extended farther to the east to include several other historic resources now part of the existing local historic district.



EAST HADDAM

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

NEW LONDON COUNTY

Gillette Castle State Park

GEER HILL ROAD

FERRY ROAD

SCALE



HADLYME FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Lyme, Connecticut

- # Contributing buildings
- Ⓝ Non-Contributing buildings
- ← Photograph Views

Bold line indicates National Register Boundary
 Dashed Line is Gillette Castle State Park Boundary

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 2/94

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

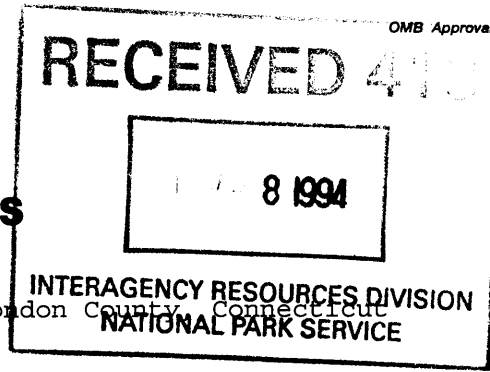
1. View: Samuel Brooks House
Facing: NW
2. View: Isaac Spencer House (L); Ferry House (R)
Facing: S
3. View: Streetscape: 159 Ferry Road (R); Isaac Spencer House (rear)
Facing: W
4. View: William Spencer House
Facing: SW
5. View: Comstock House
Facing: SW
6. View: Ferry Slip
Facing: W

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Hadlyme Ferry Historic District, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut

Section number 2 Page 1



Location

Ferry Road: 150, 151, 158, 159, 162-1, 162-2, and ferry slip.