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PROPERTY NAME

Wallingford Center Historic District, Wallingford, CT

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United States Department of the Interior, NPS

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Wallingford Center Historic District

RECEIVED

Other Name/Site Number: NA

OCT 20 1993

2. LOCATION

NATIONAL REGISTER

Street & Number: Center Street: 350, 370, 382, 390

North Main Street: 3, 9, 21, 26, 33, 36, 48, 60, 65, 86, 89, 95, 114, 121

South Main Street: 23, 35, 41, 45, 72, 80, 88, 91, 101, 104, 111, 116, 123, 131, 135, 143, 144, 146, 150, 153, 158, 168, 169, 177, 180, 185, 190, 198, 199, 207, 210, 215, 218, 219

Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Wallingford

Vicinity: NA

State: CT

County: New Haven

Code: 009

Zip Code: 06492

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Private: x

Building(s):

Public-local: x

District: x

Public-State: x

Site:

Public-Federal:

Structure:

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

66

7 buildings

 sites

1 structures

 objects

66

8 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

[Signature] 10/14/93
Signature of Certifying Official Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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]
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

[Signature] 12/2/93
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
and	<u>COMMERCE</u>		<u>business, bank</u>
Current:	<u>SOCIAL</u>		<u>meeting hall, civic</u>
	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>		<u>city hall, fire station</u>
	<u>EDUCATION</u>		<u>school</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>religious structure</u>
	<u>DEFENSE</u>		<u>arms storage</u>

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
<u>COLONIAL/Post Medieval English</u>	Foundation: <u>BRICK, STONE/Granite</u>
<u>MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival</u>	Walls: <u>WOOD/Weatherboard, Shingle</u>
<u>LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate,</u>	<u>STUCCO</u>
<u>Queen Anne</u>	Roof: <u>WOOD/shingle,ASBESTOS</u>
<u>LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY</u>	Other Description: _____
<u>REVIVALS/Tudor Revival</u>	

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Wallingford Center Historic District is the part of the town that was originally settled and that developed in the 19th century to be the commercial and institutional hub of the community. (See district map.) The north-south ridge at the eastern edge of the Quinnipiac River valley was attractive land for initial settlement by families from New Haven, c. 1670, and was still the favored location in the 19th century. The top of the ridge became the main street; it is now called South Main Street and North Main Street.

The cross street at the central intersection is Center Street. A block on the north side of Center Street east of North Main Street was adapted to commercial purposes as part of the 19th-century development, and is included in the district. Center Street west of North Main Street, which runs down the hill toward the river and the railroad station (the railroad right of way followed the river), experienced its commercial development in the early 20th century.

Fine 18th- and 19th-century residences were built along Main Street. Six 18th-century and twenty 19th-century houses remain standing on South Main Street in the district. The three 18th-century structures which have been changed the least and are in the best state of preservation were built in 1759 and 1760, all with gambrel roofs. The Samuel Parsons-Caleb Thompson House (1759) at 180 South Main Street, now occupied by the Wallingford Historical Society, is a five-bay central-entrance twin-chimney structure with first-floor overhang at the ends and small attic windows. (Photograph 1) On the interior the stairway on the south wall of the central hall is original and the room layout and finishes clearly reflect the 18th century. It is a relatively early example of its twin-chimney central-hallway type.

The Augustus Hall House, 198 South Main Street (1760), is similar to 180 Main Street but unusual because it is a twin-chimney four-bay design. The front door is in the second bay from the right and there are peaked dormers in the lower slope of the roof, over the three right bays. Like 180 Main Street, this house has a gabled portico supported by two columns. The north chimney is smaller than the south and is positioned behind the ridge line, suggesting that its condition is not original.

A much larger house in width, depth, and height is located at 104 South Main Street, the residence of the Reverend James Dana. It is in the five-bay central-entrance central-chimney mode. A Colonial Revival front porch has been added; its clustered columns support a shallow entablature with modillion course, topped by a balustrade. The porch obscures a Connecticut Valley doorway of the type discussed by Amelia Miller in her Connecticut Valley Doorways. A second example is on the side, still with its character-defining pediment. (Photograph 3)

The Greek Revival period, which prevailed in the 19th-century to roughly 1840, is represented by two good examples in the district. The Benjamin Foote House, 101 South Main Street (1835), displays the three-bay gable-end-to-street design suggestive of the classic Greek temple. (Photograph 4) Its deeply recessed tympanum has a central rectangular window characteristic of the mode. An added Italianate front porch reflects a later period. At 123 Main Street the Henry Beadle House, while similar, is different because it has wood-shingled siding instead of the clapboards commonly associated with the Greek Revival and because it stands on a brownstone foundation. The cornice and raking cornices of its pediment are embellished with modillion courses and the tympanum with a characteristic rectangular window.

The mid-19th-century years contributed two Italianate-style houses of good design to the district, both built at the end of the Civil War. The Franklin and Harriet Johnson House, 153 South Main Street (1866), is a solid stucco cube whose overhanging flat roof is supported by vigorous brackets. (Photograph 5) The fine embellishment of this house includes elaborate wrought-iron fence and porch railing, tapered fluted porch columns on stone pedestals, second-floor window caps, and a three-sided bay on the south elevation. The original cupola or belvedere, an integral detail of an Italianate-style house of this design, is missing.

Samuel M. Cook lived in a different interpretation of the Italianate style at 190 South Main Street (1865). Its three-bay front elevation under gable end to the street demonstrates that it evolved from the Greek Revival style. It is unquestionably Italianate, however, because of its round-arched attic windows, wide roof overhang, and raised strapwork motifs under the peaks of the front porch roof and main roof.

The Queen Anne style did not become prominent in the district until well toward the end of the 19th century. The Almon B. Pixley House, 207 South Main Street (1890), displays a full panoply of Queen Anne features: asymmetrical massing in frame construction, tall paired 1-over-1 windows, arcaded wraparound porch whose skirt is pierced with quatrefoils, fish-scale shingles, and gable-on-hip roof. (Photograph 7)

The house next door, 199 South Main Street, probably was built at about the same time as 207 South Main Street but has undergone a series of alterations that sum up residential architectural development in the district well into the 20th century. (Photograph 7) The original Queen Anne configuration of the front elevation was close to a mirror image of 207 South Main Street. Subsequently, the house acquired, from time to time, stucco covering

of the first floor, wood shingles above, a cinder-block front porch that supports Colonial Revival clustered square paneled columns and a wide porch roof overhang, and a buff brick exterior chimney on the south side elevation.

The house at 91 South Main Street is another example of a 19th-century structure with overwhelming early-20th-century alterations, now dominated by a wide Colonial Revival front porch. Two houses continue the use of stucco in the district, 169 South Main Street (1920) with the broad shed-roofed front dormer of the Bungalow style, and 185 South Main Street (1920) with a late slate hipped roof in the Mediterranean Revival style.

While residential structures were being constructed along South Main Street in the late 19th century, commercial and institutional development was occurring simultaneously in the northern part of the district. A parade ground or small green, dating from the 17th century, survives on the west side of South Main Street south and north of Center Street. (See district map.) It continues today as open space on the block between the Town Hall and the Congregational Church (Photograph 8) and as Simpson Court, a parking area for shoppers, north of Center Street (Photograph 9).

Three masonry church buildings, all built within a year or two of one another, anchor the institutional presence in the district. The First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street, had long occupied the southwest corner of Main and Center streets when in 1868 it erected the present brick Gothic Revival edifice, its third on the site. (Photograph 10) The central entrance is surmounted by a steeply pitched gable that leads up to a rose window. A tall square tower projects toward the street intersection, with buttresses and a squinch spire. It is balanced by a smaller tower and lower spire on the left. Corbeling under the main gable eaves reflects a Romanesque Revival influence.

The First Baptist Church, 114 North Main Street, is a brick statement of the Romanesque Revival style articulated by round-arched windows, but nonetheless has similarities to the Congregational Church in its central wheel window, corbeling under the raking eaves, and dominant tower with broach spire toward the street intersection. Like the Congregational Church, its basement is at grade because land slopes off from the Main Street ridge sharply to the west.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 65 North Main Street (1868), is in the Ecclesiologists' tradition, drawing features from an English parish church in its massive brownstone construction, small apertures, square tower without spire, and high slate gable roof. (Photograph 11)

The block of North Main Street north of the intersection with Center Street became the commercial center in the second half of the 19th century. Commercial buildings in the district were constructed by, and named for, families prominent in the district. One of the first to be constructed, the 1857 William Wallace Block, carries on the name of the family associated with houses at 72 South Main Street and 146 South Main Street. William Wallace was a prominent real estate developer of the era, perhaps a cousin of the Wallace family that started the Wallace Silver Company. The William Wallace Block, 33 North Main Street, is a four-story brick Italianate/Renaissance Revival structure with central projecting bay under low segmental pediment. Its high first floor permitted basement shop windows. It was a large building for 1857, and continues to be the largest commercial building in the district today. (Photograph 12)

Another large commercial block was built by the Simpson family, who, like the Wallaces, were prime movers in Wallingford's silver industry. The Samuel Simpson Block, 2 North Main Street (1887), gave its name to Simpson Court in front of it. Built with four stories that included an opera house, the Simpson Block originally challenged the Wallace Block, but because of removal of its top two floors and other alterations is now a ghost of its former self. (Photograph 9)

The 1899 Wallingford Public Library, 60 North Main Street (1899), is a sophisticated exercise in the Neo-Classical Revival style, executed in buff brick. Use of the classical square in the glazing pattern, rusticated pilasters, and red tile hipped roof set it apart from other buildings in the district.

The castellated Armory of 1920, 121 North Main Street, introduced a military presence in the district (Photograph 13). In the following year the First National Bank moved from its 1882 Renaissance Revival building at 35 South Main Street to a new building at 9 North Main Street, which through its tall arcaded windows competently expresses in limestone and granite commercial Beaux-Arts architecture of the 1920s. (Photograph 14) The Lyman Hall High School, now Town Hall, 45 South Main Street (1916), is a contemporary building in the Beaux-Arts mode. (Photograph 8)

The last historic commercial structure to be erected in the district, and one of the finest, continues use of the Wallace family name; it is the Floyd Wallace Block, 3 North Main Street (1932). It may have been built by Floyd Wallace's father, Frank Wallace, who was the son of Robert Wallace, founder of the Wallace Silver Company. This Wallace building is L-shaped with a rounded corner appropriate for its location at the intersection. Its style is Neo-Classical Revival, in keeping with the times, with few changes or alterations apparent in its exterior. The trapezoidal tile floors of the shop entrances, Carrara marble below the shop windows, copper shop-window frames, Chicago windows at the second floor, and soldier-course brickwork in the parapet are all in place. (Photograph 14)

Inventory

In the following tabulation the initial C or NC indicates whether the resource is considered to be contributing or non-contributing to the historic and architectural significance of the district.

The C or NC is followed by the street address (taken from the Assessor's records) and the date. The source of the date is indicated by the suffix, A for Assessor's records, V for visual approximation, S for the 1990 report of the Wallingford Historic District Study Committee.

NC Formerly 350 Center Street. Town Centre Condominiums #2 1958 cornerstone Formerly Wallingford Town Hall Two-story brick and cinder block commercial building.

- C Formerly 370 Center Street Town Centre Condominiums 1890 V Two-story brick Italianate commercial building. First floor of facade has been altered. Second floor has central paired 1-over-1 windows flanked by large 1-over-1s; all three stopped down in size. At roof line, the paneled wooden cornice with dentil course is supported by sawn brackets. One-story brick addition is to left. (Photograph 15)
- C 382 Center Street 1920 A One-story yellow brick Neo-Classical Revival commercial building divided into two stores, little altered since construction. Facade details are executed in yellow brick, including panels below shop windows, piers at corners and between stores which extend up through roof line, and soldier courses to define heavy inset panels above shop windows. Frame and stucco addition to rear. (Photograph 15)
- C 390 Center Street Harmon Block 1882 S, 1900 A Three-story brick Queen/Anne commercial building. Full-width projecting shop window has been added at first floor. At second floor are tall 1-over-1 windows in 2-1-2 pattern, under brownstone lintels. Windows at third floor are not as tall but are in same pattern. In attic, band of four 1-over-1 windows is below gable which projects from hipped roof between eaves returns. Gable end is embellished with imbricated shingles and bargeboards pieced with trefoils. Principal roof overhang is supported by exposed rafter ends. Brick and terra cotta courses of rosettes and dentils run below overhang. (Photograph 15)
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- C 2 North Main Street 1887 A Samuel Simpson Block Two-story brick commercial building which has lost most style-defining features. Facade is divided by pilasters into five bays. Two-story round-arched opening is between second and third bays, from right. South of this opening, wall below shop windows, which are not original, has been sheathed in polished granite. At second floor, each bay has two eight-pane replacement windows. Cornice is enclosed in synthetic sheathing. Third and fourth stories, which housed town's opera house, were removed in 1969. (Photograph 9)
- C 3 North Main Street 1932 A Floyd Wallace Block Now Moran Block Two-story brick Classical Revival commercial building with limestone trim. Structure is a corner building with two bays on North Main Street and eight on Center Street. Corner is canted at the first floor entrance and rounded at the second. Shop window openings have rounded top corners; shop windows are in copper frames, and Carrara marble is used as facing below shop windows. Floors of trapezoidal shop entries are tile. Second-floor fenestration is Chicago windows, 1-over-1s flanking large single panes. At roof line brick is laid vertically with periodic diamonds. Above is castellated parapet. Building was carefully designed in the fashion of its times and exterior is well preserved. (Photograph 14)

- C Formerly 9 North Main Street Town Centre Condominiums, Unit 2 1921 A First National Bank Tall one-story Beaux-Arts bank building with limestone facade on granite ashlar base. Central door is under pediment broken with cartouche. There are three tall round-arched small-pane windows with keystones. Tops of windows are radially glazed. Cornice over dentil course is surmounted by low attic. (Photograph 14)
- C Formerly 21 North Main Street Town Centre Condominiums, Unit 3 c. 1885 (Souvenir History of Wallingford) Stanley Botsford Block Three-story brick commercial building with granite trim. First floor has been altered. Sills of four tall second-floor 2-over-2 windows form part of string course. Granite bands between lintels form staggered string course at level of tops of windows. Third floor is occupied by four smaller windows. Cornice is composed of tiers of saw-tooth brick and granite string course. Large panels of terra-cotta rosettes embellish corbelled attic. (Photograph 14)
- C 26 North Main Street 1930 in rectangular panel above second-floor windows Wilkinson Block. First floor has been altered. Brick in corner pilasters is laid in straight vertical lines, not staggered. At second floor are four 1-over-1 windows under splayed lintels. (Photograph 9)
- C 33 North Main Street 1857 S William Wallace Block Large four-story brownstone and brick Italianate/Renaissance Revival commercial building. Two store fronts to north of central entrance are still approached by brownstone steps of five risers, which arrangement permits basement spaces to have windows above grade. Stores to south have been altered. Over central entrance are tripartite windows at each floor; at second floor, windows have flat cornices supported by tall brackets; at third floor they are segmental; and at fourth floor, round-arched. On either side of this central vertical composition are six 1-over-1 windows, with transoms at second floor. Roof line features heavy wooden entablature and cornice with central segmental pediment. Former roof balustrade and cupola are missing. (Photographs 12, 14)
- C 36 North Main Street 1908 A Dickerman Block Two-story brick plain commercial building. First floor has been altered. Pilasters divide second-floor 1-over-1 windows into 2-1-2-1-2 pattern. Roof line has been altered. (Photograph 9)
- C 48 North Main Street 1911 S Masonic Temple Three-story Classical Revival commercial and fraternal hall building with yellow brick facade. First floor has been altered but rustication in brickwork flanking central entrance and in corner pilasters remains. Entrance is flanked by Ionic columns which support entablature running full width of building at first-floor height, and breaking out over entrance. Balustrade is above entrance. At second and third floors are two 1-over-1 windows on either side of central wooden two-story glazed panel. Panel supports Masonic T-square symbol. Roof line consists of wooden architrave, brick frieze, and wooden cornice. (Photograph 9)

- C 60 North Main Street 1899 A Formerly Wallingford Public Library Wilson Potter, architect Two-story buff brick Neo-Classical Revival commercial building. In high first floor, four tall windows are divided by rusticated pilasters. Windows are 1-over-1 under divided transoms. Each half transom is a classical square. Altered entrance projects to left. In four second-floor 1-over-1 windows each sash is a classical square. Hipped roof is covered with red tile. In addition to ell, there is 1931 S buff brick rear addition. (Photograph 9)
- C 65 North Main Street 1868 cornerstone Saint Paul's Episcopal Church George Harney, architect Stained-glass windows by Henry Sharp Gothic Revival brownstone gable-roofed structure in tradition of Ecclesiologists' parish church. Four-story entrance tower to left has buttresses and louvered bellcote. Finials rise from each corner of tower's flat roof, that at southwest corner being taller than others. Six peaked dormers with trefoil-shaped windows break each slope of slate roof, over aisles. 1956 brick one-story addition to rear is plain. (Photograph 11)
- NC 86 North Main Street 1965 A Two-story brick commercial building. Paired columns from Moses Y. Beach Mansion, Henry Austin, architect, which formerly stood on site, are re-used in entry porch. Old iron fence at sidewalk. (Photograph 9)
- NC 89 North Main Street 1960 A Southern New England Telephone Company building Two-story brick and concrete structure. Wall running along street is solid masonry.
- C 95 North Main Street 1942 A Wallingford Fire Department, Company 1 Two-story brick Colonial Revival building. Two tall glazed overhead doors occupy first floor. At second floor are three 8-over-8 windows. Lantern with bell-shaped roof and weather vane finial rises from hipped roof.
- C 114 North Main Street 1870 tablet over door First Baptist Church Romanesque Revival brick gable-roofed structure. Two front doors are located in the center and to left, under round arches. Central wheel window is midway between doors and corbeling of raking edges of gable roof. To right, three-story tower rests on stepped brownstone base. Narrow round-arched windows are at first and second floors of tower. Squinch spire rises from tower. Each side elevation has six tall round-arched windows. Main roof of church is patterned slate. 1970 brick rear addition is plain. (Photograph 9)
- C 121 North Main Street 1920 cornerstone Formerly Wallingford Armory Walter P. Crabtree, architect Wallingford Police Department headquarters Two-story brick structure. Front elevation, on high rusticated basement, is defined by shallow rusticated towers flanking entrance and by stronger corner towers. All four towers have slit windows at first and second floors. Entrance is at bottom of tall round-arched central feature, which appears to have been altered. Triangular panels in spandrels of arch are embellished with strapwork. Two round-arched windows are at first floor between towers on either side of entrance, and two triple windows at second floor. Corbelled cornice is surmounted by castellated

attic. Long drill hall to rear has eight pairs of 6-over-6 windows under segmental arches on each side elevation. (Photograph 13)

- C 23 South Main Street 1868 A First Congregational Church (1st Ecclesiastical Society) Rufus G. Russell, architect Complex of three buildings that abut one another to form single resource. 1868 Gothic Revival gable-roofed brick sanctuary has central door framed by shallow gable with wheel window above. Buttresses support square tower to right with tall squinch spire. Much lower tower and spire rise from left front corner. Romanesque Revival-style feature of corbel table runs under eaves of roof's main front gable. -- To left, the church offices occupy 1884 S two-story Queen Anne house on brownstone foundations (former parsonage), covered with vinyl clapboards. -- Behind house, connected to both it and church proper, is 1955 A one-story-over-high-basement plain brick school building with 12-over-12 windows and flat roof. (Photographs 8, 10)
- C 35 South Main Street 1882 S First National Bank Three-story brick Italianate/Renaissance Revival office building. First-floor facade arcade, now partially infilled, wraps around both side elevations. At second floor, four 1-over-1 windows are segmentally arched, while at third floor they are flat arched. First-floor cornice incorporates band of square terra-cotta rosettes, which reappear in panels under third-floor sills. Heavy wooden cornice is supported by elaborate console brackets. (Photograph 8)
- C 41 South Main Street c. 1890 S Roger Austin House, now American Legion, Shaw-Sinon Post 73 Two-story Queen Anne T-shaped four-bay house with wood-shingled siding, on brownstone foundation. Front gable, which projects from hipped roof, is covered with imbricated shingles; its gable peak is filled with brace, and raking eaves have plain bargeboards. (Photograph 8)
- C 45 South Main Street 1916 A Town Hall, formerly Lyman Hall High School and Robert Early Junior High School John T. Simpson, architect Three-story Classical Revival yellow brick structure with limestone trim. Shallow central projecting section of facade features eight colossal Ionic half-columns. Approached by wide steps that lead to three arched double doors. Flanking banks of 6-over-1 windows light classrooms. (Photograph 8)
- C 1900 A Hubert L. Judd Carriage House Two-story red brick Queen Anne carriage house, set well back from Main Street. Round and segmental arches and string courses are outlined in contrasting yellow brick. Gable-on-hip roof.

- C 72 South Main Street 1900 A Frank A. Wallace House Two-story Queen Anne house covered with wood-shingled siding. Tower and bays accent style, which is further articulated by high slate hipped roof. Front porch has been removed.
- C 80 South Main Street 1890 A Two-story Queen Anne house covered with vinyl siding. Tower at right front corner is topped by conical roof. Windows are 1-over-1, with small diamond-shaped panes in some upper sash. Slate roof. Colonial Revival porch.
- C 88 South Main Street 1900 A Albert Judd House Two-story gable-roofed Gothic Revival/Queen Anne frame structure, considerably altered. In substantial rehabilitation now nearing completion, wooden clapboards have been used for sheathing, front porch is fitted with trefoil-pierced flat balusters under steeply pitched roof, shaped rafter ends are visible, and bracketed slate roof has been maintained.
- C 91 South Main Street c. 1865 S, 1910 A Structure now appears as two-story Colonial Revival gable-roofed house with wood-shingled siding, on brick foundations. Full-width front porch is supported by round columns. Four 6-over-1 windows are at second floor. Roof overhang is substantial.
- C c. 1920s V Cinder-block garage with hipped roof.
- C 101 South Main Street 1810 A, c. 1820 S, c. 1835 V Benjamin Foote House Two-story three-bay gable-roofed Greek Revival house. Entrance is at left. Windows are 6-over-6. Added Italianate porch has fluted columns with acanthus-leaf capitals. Recessed 1-1/2-story wing to left. (Photograph 4)
- C c. 1940s V Frame garage.
- NC c. 1970s V In-ground pool.
- C 104 South Main Street 1760 A Rev. James Dana House Two-story five-bay Colonial house with clapboards and high gambrel roof. Windows are 1-over-1. Colonial Revival central front porch incorporates clustered corner columns to support plain entablature under balustrade. (Photograph 3)
- C 1800 A Two-story frame barn, altered and enlarged.
- C 111 South Main Street 1770 A Two-story three-bay gable-roofed house on brownstone foundation, with small central chimney. Central porch has small square columns and plain entablature. First-floor windows are 6-over-6, second floor 8-over-8. (Photograph 4)
- C c. 1920s V Frame garage.
- C 116 South Main Street 1890 A Two-story Queen Anne house with gabled and hipped roofs. Windows, 1-over-1, are floor-to-ceiling in height at first floor.

Round columns and picket railing help to form porch that wraps around to left. One-story addition to right.

- C 1880 A High gabled roof of carriage house is decorated with pierced bargeboards. Cupola is topped by horse weather vane.
- C 123 South Main Street 1801 A, 1814 S, c. 1835 V Henry Beadle House Two-story three-bay Greek Revival house with wood-shingled siding, on brownstone foundation. Entrance at left; 12-over-12 windows; 10-pane rectangular window in recessed tympanum. Cornice and raking cornices embellished with mutules.
- C c. 1940s V Wood-shingled tool shed.
- C 131 (rear) South Main Street c. 1850 S, 1880 A Two-story gable-roofed vernacular house with wood-shingled siding.
- C 135 South Main Street 1901 A Two-story Queen Anne house covered with clapboards. Pyramidal roof is accented by strong cross gables which have shaped bargeboards. Gable ends are decorated with pattern of vertical and diagonal lines more frequently associated with half-timbering. Front porch is supported by turned posts and sawn brackets. House was moved from 135 South Main Street, c. 1900.
- C 143 South Main Street 1886 sign on house Charles N. Jones House Greek-cross-shaped two-story Queen Anne house covered with asbestos shingles, on brownstone foundation. Windows in three bays are 1-over-1. Bargeboards are embellished with raised diamonds.
- C 1886 V Two-story barn with vertical siding.
- C 144 South Main Street 1900 A Charles D. Morris House, now offices of American National Red Cross Two-story Queen Anne house covered with asbestos shingles, on brownstone foundation. Windows are 1-over-1. Wide front porch features brownstone piers. On south side elevation are pair of leaded colored-glass windows with transoms. Jerkinhead roof gables are unusual in district.
- C 146 (rear) South Main Street c. 1890s A Wallace Carriage House, now B.P.O. Elks Club Lodge 1365 Lodge consists of 19th-century carriage house and, on either side, modern abutting buildings. (Photograph 6) Features in 1-1/2-story Queen Anne carriage house include board-and-batten siding, pierced bargeboards, cupola, and weather vane finial. (Photograph 6)
- NC 1965 A, 1974 A Sections of building less than 50 years old.
- NC 150 South Main Street 1983 A One-story frame office building.
- C 153 South Main Street 1866 A Franklin and Harriet Johnson House Two-story stucco Italianate structure. Cast- and wrought-iron fence on brownstone coping along sidewalk has music clef motifs as balusters. Full-width front

porch is supported by tapered fluted columns on stone pedestals which are connected by cast-iron railing. Windows in two-story three-bay house are 6-over-6; second-floor central window is arched, under arched hood. Wide roof overhang is supported by elaborate wooden console brackets with drop finials. Two-story three-sided bay is on south elevation. Former cupola is missing. (Photograph 5)

- C c. 1900 V 1-1/2-story barn with vertical siding.
- C 158 South Main Street 1750 A Joseph and Annie Plum House Substantially altered two-story frame Colonial house covered with clapboards on front elevation only; shingles elsewhere. Five-bay facade has central entrance with new brick steps and 12-over-12 replacement windows. Single small chimney to left; modern wing to right.
- C 168 South Main Street 1890 A Two-story T-shaped gable-roofed Queen Anne house covered with clapboards, on brownstone foundation. Paneled bargeboards define front porch entrance gable and attic gable. Windows are 2-over-2.
- C c. 1900 V 1-1/2 story gable-roofed barn with vertical siding.
- C 169 South Main Street 1920 A One-story stucco Tudor Revival/Bungalow-style house with enclosed gable-roofed central entry and, on north elevation, screened porch under balustrade. Broad shed dormer is in the front roof slope. Roof is covered with wooden shingles. May be result of extensive alterations to older house.
- C 1920 V Garage covered with wooden shingles.
- C 1920 V Outbuilding covered with wooden shingles.
- C 177 South Main Street 1910 A, c. 1885 V, possibly c. 1830s S Two-story Queen Anne house covered with clapboards, on brick foundation. Two-bay section projecting toward street has 6-over-6 windows at first and second floors, while in attic, paired 1-over-1 sash are framed by paneled bargeboards. Entrance porch is to right. Principal feature of south side elevation is two-story three-sided bay under cross gable. Square corners of gable above canted walls of bay (cutaway corners) are supported by sawn consoles.
- C c. 1925 V Pyramidal-roofed frame garage.
- C 180 South Main Street 1759 A Samuel Parsons-Caleb Thompson House, now Wallingford Historical Society Listed in National Register of Historic Places. One-story gambrel-roofed five-bay central-entrance Colonial house, with twin chimneys and clapboard siding. Paneled central double door is protected by gable-roofed porch and flanked by 12-over-12 sash. Three peaked dormers with 6-over-6 windows break front lower roof slope. To right is added recessed one-story wing on brick foundation. (Photograph 1)

- C 185 South Main Street 1920 A Backes House Two-story rectangular Mediterranean Revival stucco house with slate hipped roof. Central front door is protected by hipped canopy and flanked by tripartite windows. Upper sash of windows have small panes, lower sash have single pane. Two-story section at south end of house is mostly glazed at both first and second floors.
- C 190 South Main Street 1865 S Samuel M. Cook House Two-story three-bay Italianate T-shaped frame house with 2-over-2 windows, on brownstone foundation. Paired round-arched windows in attic articulate Italianate style, as do wide roof overhang and prominent eaves returns of gable end. Decorative features include small raised strapwork motifs in front porch roof peak and main roof peak, and gold leaf lettering "190" on front door transom.
- NC c. 1950 V Garage.
- C 198 South Main Street 1760 A Augustus Hall House One-story four-bay gambrel-roofed twin-chimney Colonial house. Front door, in second bay from right, is protected by gable-roofed porch with round columns and dentil courses. Windows are 6-over-6. Walls and lower slope of the roof are covered with wooden shingles. Three gabled dormers are in the three right bays of lower front roof slope. Recessed one-story wing to south appears to be old. (Photograph 2)
- C c. 1940s V Hipped-roof garage.
- C c. 1900 V Barn/shed with vertical siding.
- C c. 1900 V Barn/shed with vertical siding.
- C 199 South Main Street 1919 A, c. 1890s V Two-story eclectic house composed of a wide variety of components. Basic form is T-shaped Queen Anne structure. Stucco first floor, wood shingles above. Cinder-block front porch incorporates granite steps and clustered square paneled columns. Exterior buff brick chimney is on south side elevation. Paneled soffit of wide roof overhang is supported by simple consoles. Addition is at rear. (Photograph 7)
- NC 1988 A Three-car garage with high gabled roof.
- C 207 South Main Street 1890 A Almon B. Pixley House Two-story T-shaped Queen Anne house on brownstone foundation. Section projecting toward street has paired 1-over-1 windows at first and second floors, with entrance to right. Arcaded wraparound porch has quarter-round spoke motifs in spandrels. Skirt is pierced with quatrefoils. Small second-floor arcaded porch is over the entrance. Upper sash of paired attic windows have small-pane borders. Gable end is covered with fish-scale shingles. Roof is gable on hip. House is fine example of Queen Anne style, and appears to have survived substantially intact. (Photograph 7)
- C c. 1890 V 1-1/2-story barn features vertical siding, paneled bargeboards, and cupola.

- C 210 South Main Street 1870 A, c. 1900 S Doolittle House Two-story three-bay Queen Anne T-shaped house covered with vinyl siding. Windows are 1-over-1. Colonial Revival porch wraps around to left.
- C 215 South Main Street 1850 A Two-story Italianate/eclectic/vernacular three-bay house covered with asbestos shingles, on brownstone foundation. Colonial Revival entrance porch has hipped roof. Windows are 6-over-6. Roof of front gable is marked by broad overhang and prominent eaves returns. Rectangular window is in attic.
- C 1900 A Frame gable-roofed garage.
- C 218 South Main Street 1765 A, 1800 S Captain William Todd House Two-story three-bay central-chimney Colonial house with ridge line running parallel with street. Bays are spaced in 1 - 2 pattern. Door is at the left, under the second-floor window that is isolated. Siding and roof are wooden shingles. Windows are 12-over-12. There is a central chimney. Locations of windows, door, and chimney and direction of the ridgepole are unusual.
- NC 1958 A Garage.
- C 219 South Main Street 1890 A Two-story vernacular gable-roofed house with wood-shingled siding, on brownstone foundation. In two-bay front elevation, windows are over-sized replacements. Colonial Revival doorway is to the right, approached by concrete steps. Front gable end forms shallow pediment; its cornice breaks inward at ends of eaves returns. Bay on north elevation has jerkinhead gable.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:___ Statewide: x Locally:___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B___ C x D___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1750 c. 1940</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: W.P. Crabtree, G.P. Harney, W. Potter, R. Russell, J.T.Simpson

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Wallingford Center Historic District is significant historically and architecturally because it contains noteworthy examples of domestic, institutional, and commercial buildings in the variety of architectural styles that prevailed during the time of the development of the center of Wallingford from the 18th to 20th centuries. Among the outstanding buildings are the Dana House, a tall gambrel-roofed Colonial structure, the Cook and Hall houses, exceptionally well-preserved houses in the Picturesque mode, and the two Wallace blocks, which are 19th- and 20th- century commercial buildings with unusually complete stylistic characteristics. St. Paul's Episcopal Church contributes to the district one of Connecticut's few brownstone edifices in the medieval English parish church model of the Ecclesiologists.

Historical Background and Architectural Analysis

The early settlers from New Haven came initially to the ridge above the Quinnipiac River where subsequent generations stayed to develop on the same location the fine homes, commerce, and industry associated with the town's pre-eminent position in the manufacture of silverware. The buildings along the Main Street ridge tell the history of the growth of Wallingford and its adaptation to changing conditions over the centuries.

In the mid-18th century, when the earliest of the district's standing structures was built, Wallingford center was already almost a century old, populated by the descendants and successors to the first families from New Haven. The houses were constructed in the heavy post-and-beam, mortise-and-tenon Colonial tradition. Often the residents, Caleb Thompson for one at 180 South Main Street (Photograph 1), had their shops for making shoes, carriages, coffins, or beaver hats and for tin smithing and other means of livelihood nearby. The district has six houses dating from this period; the most imposing is 104 South Main Street, the home of the Reverend James Dana, who was minister of the Congregational Church during the Revolutionary War.

More worldly stylistic considerations found their way to Wallingford when the Greek Revival style captured the imagination of the nation and swept across the land in the third and fourth decades of the 19th century, finding expression in two district examples still standing.

By mid-19th century technological advances associated with steam power entirely changed the method of construction and architectural styles. Scantling and nails made possible balloon construction, which freed designers from the straight lines and rectangular shapes of houses that had come before, such as the towering Rev. James Dana House, 104 South Main Street (Photograph 3), Parsons-Thompson House, 180 South Main Street (Photograph 1), and Augustus Hall House, 198 South Main Street, which is unusual for its combination of the features of four bays with twin chimneys (Photograph 2).

Asymmetrical plans, turned-and-sawn embellishment, fish-scale shingles, and larger panes of glass were among the new developments toward the end of the 19th century, which were built in the district by the dozen as this Picturesque mode developed. In 1878 it was said that "Upper Main street is the pleasantest street in town, graced on either side by branching elms and peaceful homes." (Kendrick, 30) Two houses of characteristic design with outstanding integrity from this era are the Samuel M. Cook House, 190 South Main Street, whose paired round-arched windows and broad roof overhang well express the Italianate style, and the Almon P. Pixley House, 207 South Main Street, where the stepped massing, arcaded wraparound porch, and fish-scale shingles epitomize the Queen Anne style. (Photograph 7)

Wallingford entrepreneurs, notably the partnership formed by Robert Wallace and Samuel Simpson in 1854, used 19th-century technology to advance the manufacture of Britannia ware, and in 1875 began the production of sterling silver for which Wallingford is famous. The Wallace and Simpson names appeared on the commercial blocks on North Main Street, which reflected in architecture the commercial growth and prosperity of the community.

The William Wallace Block, 33 North Main Street, is an unusually large and pretentious building for its early date, 1857, in Wallingford. (Photographs 12, 14) The facts that it is still the largest building and still in use are noteworthy. The Renaissance Revival influence in its segmentally arched central windows and low pediment, the unusually heavy wooden cornice at its roof line, and the urban feature of high stoops to permit retail use of basement space all make it unique in Wallingford.

By a quirk of history, the newest distinguished historic commercial building in the district is also a Wallace building, the Floyd Wallace Block, built by the Wallace Silver family at 3 North Main Street in 1932. (Photograph 14) Its integrity is remarkable,

counting among its original features the first-floor canted corner shop entrance with rounded wall above, Carrara marble facing and copper frames of the shop windows, tiled shop-entry floors, and parapet in fanciful brick pattern. Recognition of current office-building design on the national scene is represented by the second-floor Chicago windows of large single panes flanked by 1-over-1s.

Probably the architecturally most distinguished of the three masonry churches is Saint Paul's (1868) because it is brownstone, while the others are brick, and because it was designed in the Ecclesiologist tradition by George Harney. The thick stone walls and small proportion of fenestration to wall space place it in the genre of English medieval parish churches represented elsewhere in Connecticut by such examples as Trinity Church, Portland, by Henry Martin Congdon, and Trinity Church in the Tariffville section of Simsbury by Henry C. Dudley. In all three cases, small-town parishes sought the services of big-city architects to furnish plans for medieval designs, which were fashionably and liturgically correct in the eyes of the Episcopal hierarchy.

The identities are known of five architects who designed buildings in the district. One of the most distinguished buildings, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church (Photograph 11), is the work of George Harney (1840-1924), who opened an office in Newburgh, New York, in 1863, where he designed Saint Margaret's Church. The location of his office in Newburgh suggests that he was influenced by the work of Calvert Vaux and Frederick C. Withers, who came to that city to become associated with A. J. Downing. The Ecclesiologist dicta for church architecture apparent in Saint Paul's are consistent with the English background of Vaux and Withers. Harney later practiced successfully in New York City, as did Vaux and Withers.

Rufus G. Russell (1823-1896), architect of the First Congregational Church (Photograph 10), also had a famous mentor, Henry Austin of New Haven. Russell began his career as a draftsman for Austin, before going on to practice by himself in that city. The Calvary Baptist Church and Humphrey Street Congregational Church in New Haven were his work.

The contributions of Harney and Russell to Wallingford were fine masonry Gothic Revival churches in the best fashions of the era. However, when Wilson Potter (1868-1936) of New York designed the Wallingford Public Library in 1899, times had changed. Potter's buff brick library is in the Neo-Classical Revival style favored at the turn of the century. Potter's other work in Connecticut includes the Bristol Public Library and the New Milford United Bank, both of which, while reflecting classical training consistent with the Wallingford Library, are later and tend more to articulate the Colonial Revival.

While, regrettably, little is known of John T. Simpson, his Lyman Hall High School (Photograph 8), named for Wallingford's signer of the Declaration of Independence, is a competent exercise in the Beaux-Arts mode in a good state of preservation, now used for the Town Hall.

The youngest in the group of five architects was Walter P. Crabtree (1873-1962), prolific practitioner from New Britain, Connecticut. Crabtree, in practice for almost half a century, designed buildings of all types. His Wallingford Armory (Photograph 13) is a clean planar interpretation of the traditional medieval fortress in vogue throughout the state for armories. Another large and distinguished building by Crabtree is the Beaux-Arts Masonic Hall in New Britain, now Temple B'Nai Israel.

In the Wallingford Center Historic District the buildings tell the history of the community from colonial times to the mid-20th century. The architectural styles represent preferences and progress in terms of traditional practices, available technology, changes in taste, and civic development. The great period of growth was the second half of the 19th century, as documented by the majority of homes and civic and commercial buildings standing in the district.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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: Specify Repository: _____

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 31 prox.

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4591540</u>	<u>682170</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>4591470</u>	<u>682260</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>4590780</u>	<u>682000</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>4590840</u>	<u>681820</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is drawn along property lines as shown by the jagged line on the district map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to encompass the historic residential, institutional, and commercial center of Wallingford along the ridge overlooking the Quinnipiac River valley. The southern limit is Ward Street; beyond Ward Street the proportion of contributing to non-contributing buildings becomes unacceptable. The northern limit is Church Street, for the same reason. A block of Center Street east of North Main Street is included because it is part of the late-19th-century development centered at the intersection of North Main Street and Center Street.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator
Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission
Date: June 28, 1993
Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street
City/Town: Hartford
State: CT
ZIP: 06106
Telephone: 203 566-3005

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in May 1993. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1

Samuel Parsons -
Caleb Thompson House
180 South Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 2

Augustus Hall House
198 South Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 3

Rev. James Dana House
104 South Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 4

Benjamin Foote House
101 South Main Street
and 111 South Main Street
View southwest

Photograph 5

Franklin and Harriet
Johnson House
153 South Main Street
View northwest

Photograph 6

Wallace Carriage House
146 (rear) South Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 7

Almon P. Pixley House
207 South Main Street
and 199 South Main Street
View west

Photograph 8

West side of South Main Street
from Prince Street to Church Street
View northwest

PROPERTY NAME

Wallingford Center Historic District, Wallingford, CT

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United States Department of the Interior, NPS

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Photograph 9

West side of North Main Street
from West Center Street to
Church Street
View northwest

Photograph 10

First Congregational Church
23 South Main Street
View southwest

Photograph 11

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
65 North Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 12

William Wallace Block
33 North Main Street
View east

Photograph 13

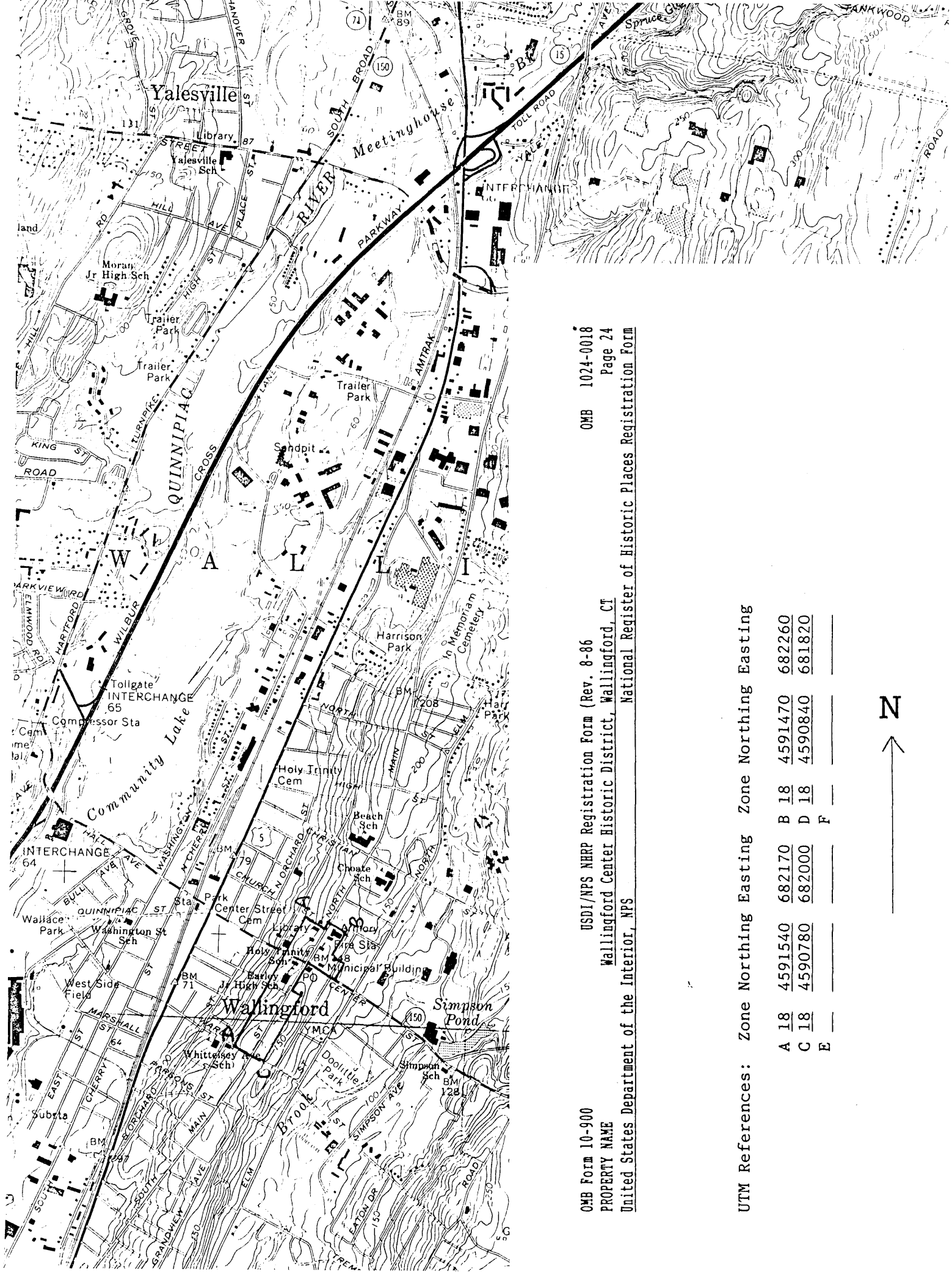
Wallingford Armory
121 North Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 14

3 North Main Street through
33 North Main Street
View northeast

Photograph 15

370 Center Street through
390 Center Street
View north



OMB Form 10-900
 USDI/NPS NHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
 Wallingford Center Historic District, Wallingford, CT
 United States Department of the Interior, NPS

OMB 1024-0018

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UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	18	4591540	682170	B	18	4591470	682260
C	18	4590780	682000	D	18	4590840	681820
E				F			



