

1037

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED

OCT 30 1992

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gales Ferry Historic District #1 other names/site number

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet. not for publication city, town Ledyard (Gales Ferry) vicinity state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06335

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/district/site/structure/object, and a resource count table.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Ledyard, Conn listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission. Date: 10/23/92

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:) Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Gales Ferry Historic District #1 is a residential neighborhood which occupies a small promontory on the east bank of the Thames River in the western portion of Ledyard, Connecticut. It consists of two streets: Hurlbutt Road, which runs east and west and terminates at its western end to intersect with Riverside Place at the north end of the district. The latter street runs parallel to the river and descends in a southerly direction to the river bank, a site historically known as the Lower Wharf. The Upper Wharf site is located on the riverbank below the head of this street. The entrance to the district is on Hurlbutt Road just after the bridge which spans the railroad cut there; the latter feature forms part of the eastern boundary of the district.

The district contains 33 contributing and non-contributing buildings, consisting of 19 houses, one a former nineteenth-century store, along with their related outbuildings, and one boathouse. All of the houses contribute to the historic character of the district, including two that have undergone relatively recent remodelings but still retain their basic integrity of form and materials (Inventory #s 9, 22). The non-contributing resources are confined to two modern outbuildings.

Generally small in scale and sited close to the road, the houses are all woodframe construction with granite foundations. To the rear and side of the properties are a number of wood-framed barns, sheds, or former shops, probably all dating from the mid to late nineteenth century.

Most of the historic houses in the district were built in the nineteenth century; only four predate 1800. The earliest is the c. 1750 Benajah Davis House, a gambrel-roofed Colonial which was enlarged to its present size and form in the early nineteenth century (Inventory #23; Photograph #1). The 1796 Daniel Copp House, a large Federal/Colonial with an associated nineteenth-century barn (Inventory #13; Photograph #2), is distinguished by Federal-style porticos at both the central main entrance and the secondary doorway on the west gable end. Across the street is the 1796 Thomas Geer House, a gambrel-roofed Cape considerably enlarged in the late 1800s by Yale University for its rowing crew headquarters (Inventory #15; Photograph #s 3, 4). The last example from this period, the John Allyn, Jr., House, located near the entrance to the district, is a small vernacular cottage built in 1795 (Inventory #4; Photograph #6).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gales Ferry Historic District #1, Ledyard, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

The majority of the later houses were built in the first half of the nineteenth century. They include examples of most of the domestic architecture of this era: Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, and vernacular styles. The 1827 William Browning House at the entrance to the district displays the late use of the Cape form (Inventory #1; Photograph #5). A two-story Federal-style example is located next to the site of the Lower Wharf at the foot of Riverside Place. It was built for Guy Stoddard about 1820 with the same form and orientation of the earlier Daniel Copp House of this style (Inventory #30; Photograph 1).

The Greek Revival style ranges from the c. 1842 Stephen Gray House, a small cottage with a ridge-to-street orientation, to a fully detailed temple-fronted house with a full pediment, the 1846 Captain Austin Lester House (Inventory #s 7, 19; Photograph #s 6, 7, 5). The Gray House has small attic windows under the eaves of the facade and a Greek Revival doorway. The pediment of the Lester House displays a split elliptical fanlight, a locally characteristic feature. A classic example of the vernacular Greek Revival is the small gable-to-street, side-hall plan house built for Rebecca Bailey in 1857 (Inventory #26; Photograph #8). A group of three vernacular buildings on the south side of Hurlbutt Road are similar in form and have the same gable-to-street orientation. Two are houses built about mid-century; the other was built as a store in 1899 (Inventory #8, 9, 6; Photograph #9). There are several smaller cottages of this era which are more simply detailed Victorian Vernacular examples, such as the Sarah Vincent House at the west end of Hurlbutt Road (Inventory #10; Photograph #3). Several nineteenth-century buildings are associated with the latter property, one of which was possibly a tradesman's shop (Inventory #11).

The only house built later in the century is a large Italianate, the 1875 Captain Latham Brown House. Its hip and gable roof displays bracketed eaves and pediments (Inventory #19; Photograph #10). Three vernacular houses built in the early 1900s and a large woodframe boathouse used for storage of rowing shells, built about 1910, complete the district (Inventory #s 2, 18, 31, 17; Photograph #s 11,12).

A complete inventory of the district follows. Resources were designated contributing or noncontributing according to registration requirements established in the accompanying Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section E-II., Maritime Development.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gales Ferry Historic District #1, Ledyard, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 3

CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Inv. #	Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photo #
1.	52 Hurlbutt Road	William Browning House, Cape, 1827	C	5
2.	53 Hurlbutt Road	Lucy B. Hempstead House Victorian Vernacular, c. 1910	C	11
3.	53 Hurlbutt Road	barn, c. 1900		
4.	54 Hurlbutt Road	John Allyn, Jr., House vernacular Cape, 1795	C	6
5.	54 Hurlbutt Road	barn, c. 1880	C	
6.	55 Hurlbutt Road	Samuel Brown Store, 1899	C	11
7.	56 Hurlbutt Road	Stephen Gray House, Greek Revival, c. 1842	C	6
8.	57 Hurlbutt Road	John Bradford House 19th-century vernacular, c. 1850	C	9
9.	59 Hurlbutt Road	William Bracewell House 19th-century vernacular, c. 1850	C	9
10.	63 Hurlbutt Road	Sarah Vincent House Victorian Vernacular, c. 1850	C	3
11.	63 Hurlbutt Road	19th-century shop	C	
12.	63 Hurlbutt Road	barn, c. 1880	C	
13.	64 Hurlbutt Road	Daniel Copp House, Federal, c. 1796	C	2
14.	64 Hurlbutt Road	barn, c. 1880	C	
15.	2 Riverside Place	Thomas Geer House, Cape, c. 1796, large addition, c. 1890	C	3, 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gales Ferry Historic District #1, Ledyard, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 4

16.	2 Riverside Place	Capt. Latham Brown House Italianate, c. 1875	C	10
17.	2 Riverside Place	Yale Boathouse, c. 1910	C	12
18.	3 Riverside Place	Delphine Fish House 20th-century vernacular, c. 1910	C	
19.	5 Riverside Place	Capt. Austin Lester House Greek Revival, 1846	C	7
20.	5 Riverside Place	garage, c. 1930	C	
21.	5 Riverside Place	shed, c. 1900	C	
22.	6 Riverside Place	Abel Bolles House, Cape, 1842	C	
23.	7 Riverside Place	Benajah Davis House Gambrel, c. 1750	C	1
24.	7 Riverside Place	barn/garage, c. 1880	C	
25.	7 Riverside Place	shed, c. 1900	C	
26.	8 Riverside Place	Rebecca Bailey House Late Greek Revival, 1857	C	8
27.	8 Riverside Place	garage, c. 1950	NC	
28.	9 Riverside Place	Colonial Revival, c. 1920	C	
29.	9 Riverside Place	shed, c. 1920	C	
30.	11 Riverside Place	Guy C. Stoddard House Colonial/Federal, c. 1820	C	1
31.	12 Riverside Place	John MacDougal House Victorian Vernacular, 1903	C	
32.	12 Riverside Place	modern garage	NC	
33.	12 Riverside Place	shed, c. 1900	C	

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
MARITIME HISTORY

Period of Significance

1750 - 1930
1750 - 1930

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stephen Gray (Inventory #s 7, 22)
builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Gales Ferry Historic District #1 is architecturally significant as a well-preserved collection of historic buildings, dating from c. 1750 to 1930, which illustrate the development of the village as a small river trading port and its associations with the nineteenth-century whaling and sealing trade from about 1750 to 1880. It derives further significance from its later long and continuous association with the Yale-Harvard Regatta held annually on the Thames River after 1878. The district is distinguished by several exceptional examples of architectural styles, including the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate, which are individually significant and display a high level of craftsmanship. Although the rest of the houses do not approach this level of style, they contribute to the historical integrity of the district as representative examples of vernacular architecture from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. A few are fine examples of the work of local carpenter/joiners and all have consistency of scale, form, and materials.

The historic context for the district is described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form as E-II., Maritime Development. The district contains representative examples of all property types associated with this context and fulfills the defined registration requirements.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Multiple Property Documentation Form that accompanies this nomination (Section I)

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bill Library, Ledyard, CT

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 13

UTM References

A

1	8	7	4	2	7	8	0	4	5	9	0	4	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	7	4	2	9	2	0	4	5	9	0	5	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	7	4	3	0	6	0	4	5	9	0	4	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	7	4	3	0	3	0	4	5	9	0	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 1 8 7 4 2 8 8 0 4 5 9 0 2 3 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are shown on the attached district map drawn to scale from Tax Assessor's Maps located in the Ledyard Town Hall.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include the historic core of Gales Ferry Village. To the west and north is the Thames River; to the south is open space; to the east is a c. 1900 railroad cut that partially defines this border. Farther east are a number of modern houses and non-contributing historic buildings.

See 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 4/28/92

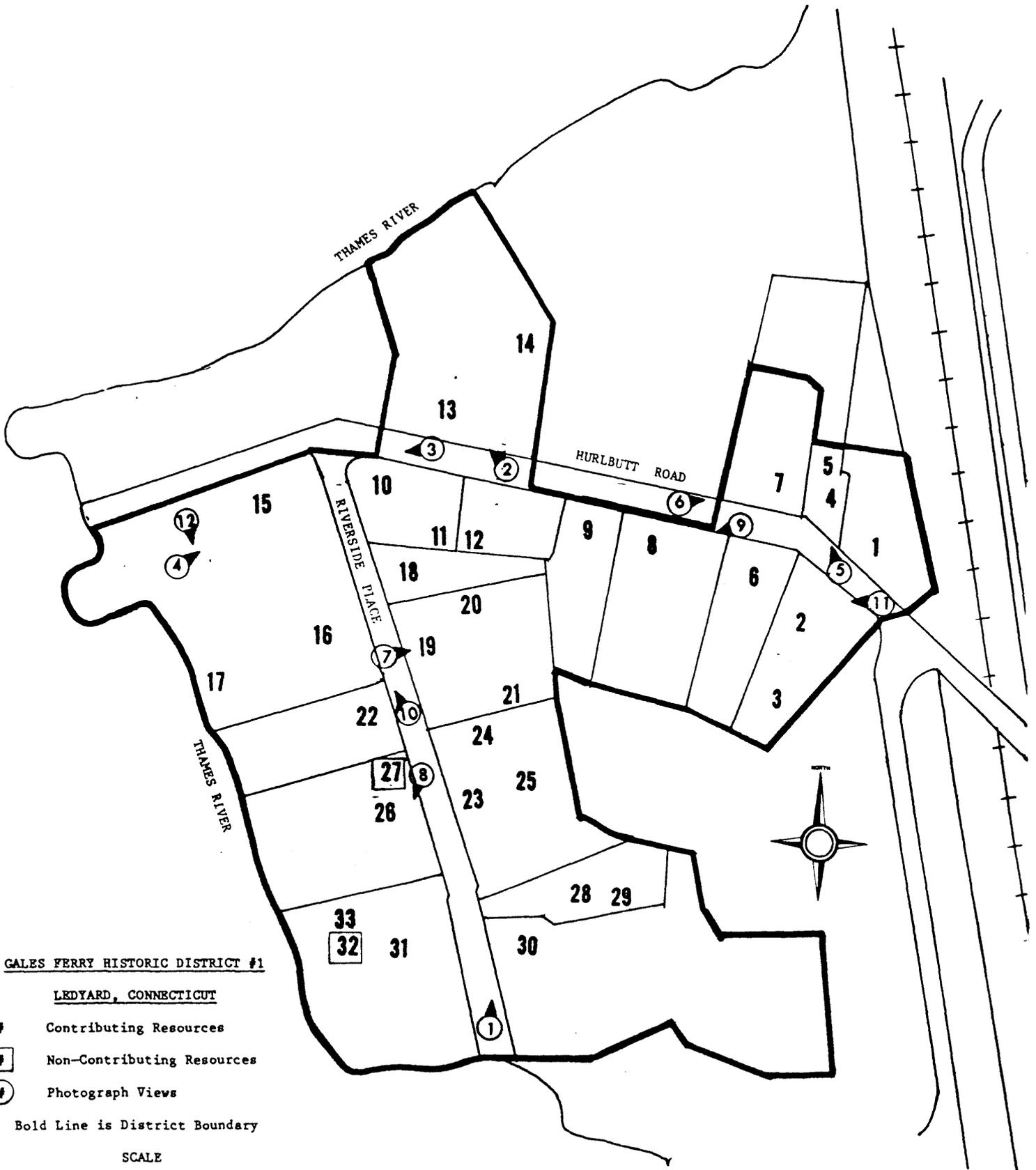
street & number 37 Orange Road

telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown

state CT

zip code _____

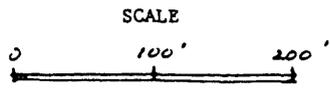


GALES FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT #1

LEDYARD, CONNECTICUT

- # Contributing Resources
- Non-Contributing Resources
- Ⓢ Photograph Views

Bold Line is District Boundary



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gales Ferry Historic District #1, Ledyard, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Property: Gales Ferry Historic District #1

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 3/92

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 1. | Guy Stoddard House/ Benajah Davis House | Facing: N |
| 2. | Daniel Copp House | Facing: NW |
| 3. | Sarah Vincent House/ Thomas Geer House | Facing: W |
| 4. | Thomas Geer House (rear) | Facing: NE |
| 5. | John Allyn, Jr., House/ Stephen Gray House | Facing: N |
| 6. | Stephen Gray House/ William Browning House | Facing: E |
| 7. | Capt. Austin Lester House | Facing: E |
| 8. | Rebecca Bailey House | Facing: SW |
| 9. | John Bradford House/ Wm. Bracewell House | Facing: W |
| 10. | Capt. Latham Brown House | Facing: NW |
| 11. | Hempstead House/ Samuel Brown Store | Facing: W |
| 12. | Yale Boathouse | Facing: S |