

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

08000499

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 4 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Eastern Point

AND/OR COMMON

Eastern Point National Register District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Groton

0260

VICINITY OF

2nd-Christopher Dodd

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

New London

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER Beach**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple private and public; see Property Owners' List

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office, Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Poquonnock Bridge

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Groton

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hartford

Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eastern Point National Register District, located opposite New London in Groton, Connecticut, consists of some 70 late 19th-century and early 20th-century domestic buildings. These range from imposing Shingle Style mansions to quaint vernacular cottages. In the 19th-century, Eastern Point was a popular watering place, reaching its zenith at the turn of the century when many wealthy people built summer houses there. During the 1930s, the area began to decline as a resort community. Today, Eastern Point is primarily a year-round residential community dominated to the north by the Pfizer, Inc. pharmaceuticals factory.

The district runs north and south along the banks of the Thames River, west of Eastern Point Road. It terminates at Shennecossett Beach, a public facility of the City of Groton. The district's primary focus is, and always has been, the waters of New London harbor and Long Island Sound. Consequently, the finest examples of late 19th-and early 20th-century architecture on Eastern Point command sites along the shore. Less grand summer residences are found behind these impressive structures. At the center of the district stands a large vacant lot; this is the site of the district's major landmark, the Griswold Hotel, demolished in 1969.

North of the Griswold site, along Circle Avenue, stands a fine grouping of large houses and a Shingle Style summer chapel, Galilee Chapel, built in 1903. 30 Circle and 42 Circle, the Shingle Style Talcott House, both have simple street facades concealing rich riverfront facades. Along the rear, porches and porticos open to the water. 15 Shore Avenue, said to be the temporary home of Morton F. Plant while his estate was under construction, exhibits a similar treatment of the elevation facing the river. This structure features an elegant bay of five arched windows across the second story of the facade but is carefully detailed to be impressive from any point in its exposed location. The gable in the end wall contains a large Palladian window and a long porch at the rear, which gracefully turns the corner with a round pavilion. Several other houses on the Point stand on similarly exposed sites and exhibit the same attention to detail and design. 213 Shore, owned in 1899 by Dr. F. E. Doughty, is probably the finest Shingle Style house in the district. It is a rambling and irregular mansion with a myriad of turrets, towers, and porches. 205 Shore, owned by J. Hunt Smith in 1899, also in the Shingle Style, contains a large two-story stained glass panel in the stairwell.

Two other important houses, now owned by the City of Groton, stand on Shennecossett Beach. At one point, several other houses stood here as well but only these two remain. One, known as the Tyler House, is a particularly handsome 1904 Shingle Style design of the New London architects, Donnelly and Hazeltine. The other, the Charles Tyler house (now named Stephen Zbierski house, in honor of a Groton civil servant), is an elegant and symmetrical Georgian Revival style house with a gambrel roof and recessed entrance. Pleasantly formal treatment of the first floor balances two large bay windows with a pair of balustraded dependencies. Another Shingle Style house, the Hardenburg house at 27 Tyler Avenue, also opens to the

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Beach Pond Avenue:

30	Waldron T. and Emily M. Higgins	Shingle Style, 1926	C
60	Verne A. and Mary A. Ray	Ranch, c. 1960	NC
70	Rose Tyler Schultz et al 609 W. 40th St., Baltimore, MD	Cottage, c. 1860	C
80	Thaddeus A. and Helen W. Lepak Ox Hill Rd., Norwich, CT	Cape	NC
84	Howard and Mary Ward	Cape	NC
35	Elizabeth V. and Ann W. Goodwin Locust Rd., Harwinton, CT	Colonial Revival, c. 1920	C
47	Edward J. and Eleanor A. Behney	Queen Anne	C

Central Avenue:

20	Edward W. and Elaine M. Abrahams	Shingle Style	C
71	Joseph E. and Patricia A. Moukawsher 70 Tyler Avenue, Groton, CT	Queen Anne, c. 1905	C

Circle Avenue:

17	Patricia Rabitaille	Shingle Style, c. 1895	C
25	Chas. Pfizer and Co., Inc. 235 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017	Georgian Revival, c. 1910	C
31	Pfizer, Inc.	Vacant	
10	James Jr. and Ethel M. Orkney	Colonial Revival, c. 1900	C
30	Frank Adams	Colonial Revival, c. 1895	C
42	John W. and Julie C. Maisch	Shingle Style, c. 1895	C
-	Church of God of Prophecy Sandy Hollow Rd., Mystic	Shingle Style, 1903 (Galilee Chapel)	C

Cottage Place:

12	Stephen V. and Lynn W. Mladineo	Shingle Style, c. 1900	C
18	Robert J. LaFrance	Shingle Style, c. 1910	C

Cushman Street:

24	Richard P. and Mildred I. Carlson	Shingle Style, c. 1895	C
----	-----------------------------------	------------------------	---

Hillside Avenue:

2	C. Richard and Ethel M. Foote	Shingle Style variant	C
8	James J. and Clara B. Coleman	Cottage, c. 1870*	C
16	Pfizer, Inc.	Queen Anne, c. 1895	C
20	John J. and Lucille B. Kelly	Cottage, c. 1870*	C
30	Pfizer, Inc.	Mediterranean c. 1920	C
31	Robert A. and Barbara A. Hoops	Queen Anne, c. 1910	C

* With later alterations, c. 1890, in a Queen Anne variation

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Meech Avenue:

27 Ann L. H. Bailey
41 Pfizer, Inc.
63 Pfizer, Inc.

Georgian Revival C
Colonial Revival variant C
Georgian Revival C

Shore Avenue:

6 Max M. Shapiro
24 John J. and Patricia H. Carrigan
36 Pfizer, Inc.
60 Pfizer, Inc.
138 Warren B. Beffe
164 Kenneth G. and Betty J. Chapman
160 Joyce A. Brennan
178 Robert O. and MaryLou Hauptman
182 Joseph C. and Mary Margaret Esposito
198 Averill G. and Jack Llewellyn
212 Marjorie K. Mandell
Indian Spring Lane, Norwich, CT
218 Paul E. Sieswerda
224 Helen J. Bliss c/o Wm. R. Calfee
1956 Union Commercial Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44155
234 Patricia J. and Stephen F. Heller
240 Elizabeth A. Halloran
190 Fort Lee Rd., Apt. A109B
Teaneck, NJ
248 Jonathan L. Johnson
254 Anthony W. and Andrea P. Skiff
258 Thomas N. and Charlene A. Hill
15 Bernard H. and Myra M. Ames
175 James P. and Janice A. Senkow
197 George I. and Sophia A. Holmes
205 Kevin C. and Sherrie T. Neilson
213 Harvey R. and Margaret H. Rock
340 Colonial Road, Guilford, CT
- Tyler House (City of Groton)
- (City of Groton)

Cape, 1951 NC
Queen Anne, c. 1900 C
c. 1955 NC
Queen Anne C
2nd Empire, 1906 C
Queen Anne, c. 1910 C
2nd Empire, 1906 C
Queen Anne C
Queen Anne C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style C
Cottage, c. 1885 C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style C
Second Empire C
Queen Anne C
Queen Anne C
Queen Anne C
Ranch NC
Cottage, c. 1885 C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style C
Shingle Style, c. 1885 C
Georgian Revival C

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Tyler Avenue:

6	Olga Bartnicki	Shingle Style	C
	49 Lincoln Ave., Norwich, CT		
20	Francis R. and Sheila Jones	Shingle Style	C
26	Morton S. and Lee Zeigler	Shingle Style	C
27	Joanne Tanner	Queen Anne	C
	20 Central Avenue, Groton, CT		
32	Richard K. and Patricia P. Burke	Georgian Revival	C
40	Cornelia P. Collins and Lucille G. Plail	Queen Anne	C
44	Yale D. and Merriam F. Bishop	Queen Anne	C
52	Russell L. and Rose S. Baker	Ranch	NC
55	Dolores O. Chambers	Garrison Cape	NC
60	Robert P. and Mary M. Allingham	Queen Anne	C
67	Frank G. and Lorelei B. Smith	Ranch	NC
70	Joseph E. and Patricia A. Moukawsher	Shingle Style	C
77	Paul J. and Ann M. Crotty	Garrison Cape	NC
39	Marcus C. Jr. and Josephine T. Mason		C
	P.O. Box 488, Rockville, CT		
47	Rosario H. and Louise Orlando		C
85	Walter D. Jr. and Joan M. Strang	Queen Anne	C
116	John L. and Nancy E. Helm	19c vernacular, c. 1870	C
127	Peter Paul and Alida Mariani	Colonial Revival, c. 1910	C
132	Donald A. and Claudette R. Parker	Shingle Style, c. 1900	C
148	Victor H. Zuliani	Queen Anne, c. 1900	C
151	Alfred P. and Cornelia P. Collins	Prairie Style, c. 1905	C
165	Joseph T. and Stella F. Ploszaj	19c vernacular, c. 1870	C
175	Lawrence E. and Antonia Small	19c cottage, c. 1870	C

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water but there the design is understated, unobtrusive and almost organic. A broad hipped roof, broken with eyebrow dormers terminates in a series of ripples which shield paired windows on the second floor, an effect which suggests the thatched roofs of English cottages. A deep porch carries the sweep of the roofline downward.

Next door, at 39 and 47 Tyler Avenue, stand two appealing 19th-century vernacular houses, both built c. 1870. The Bissell house at 39 Tyler is a low clapboarded structure with a wide veranda and squat hexagonal tower. Still another Tyler house at 47 Tyler Avenue retains its 19th-century appearance despite its present aluminum siding. Highly vertical gables pierce the roof and are accented with spidery stickwork.

Several vernacular cottages remain from Eastern Point's early years as a resort. These cottages, c. 1860-1870, are modest one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half story clapboarded or shingled structures with turned wood porches. 70 Beach Pond Road and 44 Tyler Avenue are two examples. The other recurrent style, also modest, is the Shingle Style cottage in which a gambrel roof overhangs the first floor to create a porch. In some cases, the roofline consists of intersecting gambrel gables, as in 240 Shore Avenue. Most of these structures appear on an 1899 map of Eastern Point printed by G. E. Chandler and S. B. Palmer.

There are two other notable houses in the Eastern Point district, 70 and 151 Tyler Avenue. The George Kohn house at 70 Tyler Avenue, an early 20th-century Shingle Style gambrel-roofed house with three front dormers and a rambling plan, is locally attributed to Stanford White. Dramatically flared columns support the gambrel overhang which forms the porch. "Ferncrest", at 151 Tyler, once the home of the Eugene Cushmans of Hartford, is taken from a published design of Frank Lloyd Wright. "A Home in a Prairie Town" appeared in the February 1901 issue of Ladies Home Journal magazine. The Cushman house is substantially this same design, with the Prairie House's characteristic wide overhanging eaves and low horizontal lines. The unusual house at 30 Hillside Avenue, probably the home of C. B. Prettyman, is the only elegant house built after World War I on Eastern Point. Built c. 1925, the stuccoed Mediterranean style house features twisted columns on its side porch and at the recessed entrance, bracketted eaves and a pair of arched windows with ornamental panels. The ceramic tile roof is a breathtaking blue. There are comparatively few structures within the district dating after 1930, though infill housing development back of the district east to Eastern Point Road presents a solid phalanx of 1950s Cape Cod and Ranch style houses. Of the 76 buildings in the district, 10 are designated non-contributing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

Criteria: A, C

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eastern Point National Register District comprises a significant grouping of late 19th and early 20th-century summer residences, including examples of the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Shingle Styles. At the turn of the century, Eastern Point was a fashionable watering place for the middle to upper classes, most of them Connecticut residents, though some residents of other states, including Pennsylvania and Maryland, also summered there. Many of the houses, particularly those located right along the banks of the Thames River, are built on a grand scale, reflecting the increasing importance of leisure as an element of status and also indicating the wealth of the summer crowd. Since the 1940s, the district has declined as a summer resort and is now primarily a year-round residential community. The Pfizer, Inc. pharmaceuticals factory, just north of the district, is a major influence, employing many Eastern Point residents and controlling a number of properties in the district.

In 1781, Eastern Point witnessed the landing of British troops who went on to engage the defenders of Fort Griswold, a mile north of the district. At this point, the area was farmland. Later, in 1837, Albert L. Avery, whose family had long been prominent in Groton's history (and who was himself a representative to the General Assembly in 1865), had the idea of "making a watering-place and summer resort of the pleasant point."¹ He acquired 600 acres of land from his father and his brother, thus becoming the Point's first developer. The original scheme for development is unclear, but Avery apparently worked jointly with an organization of property owners known as the Harbor View Cottage Association to improve the area, laying out streets, providing sewage lines and constructing cottages. By 1871, 38 summer residences had been built.² This initial development seems to have clustered along Central and Island Avenues and included at least one hotel, the Ocean House, owned by a Captain Fisk, who had purchased land from Avery in 1842. Apparently, one other hotel, the Harbor View, existed on Eastern Point during this early period, but research failed to indicate the location or fate of either of these hotels.

At this stage, 1837-c. 1875, Eastern Point was most likely attracting visitors whose interests were primarily with the healthful aspects of a vacation by the sea, with its invigorating breezes. There was at the time an increasing awareness of such environmental influences on health and many summer colonies sprung up in response to this concern. The earliest cottage

1. Hurd, D. Hamilton, HISTORY OF NEW LONDON COUNTY, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis & Co., 1882, p. 475.
2. Ibid., p. 475.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burgess, C. F. HISTORIC GROTON, Moosup, Connecticut, 1909.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, HISTORY OF NEW LONDON COUNTY, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis & Company, 1882

Viets, Carl J., TWO HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, New London, Connecticut, Carl J. Viets, 1896.

Oral History Tapes Deposited at the Groton Public Library, 1976, with: Ann Moses Hewes, Jonathan Johnson, Rose Tyler Schultz, Sarah Jane Trumbull;

Lorelei Smith, Interviewer.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 60

New London Quadrangle

UTM REFERENCES See Continuation Sheet

1:24000 Scale

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Eastern Point National Register District is shown as the black line on the accompanying map entitled "Groton, Connecticut, 1961" and drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sarah J. Zimmerman, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Connecticut Historical Commission

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

59 South Prospect Street

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hartford

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE June 26, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-4-79

DATE 10-1-79

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remaining from this period is the Tyler cottage at 70 Beach Pond Road, c. 1865, a modest story-and-a-half structure with a quaint turned wood porch. A similar structure stands at 44 Tyler Avenue. The Harbor View Cottages no doubt resembled the Tyler cottage, however little remains from this period.

Another early influence at Eastern Point was the Tyler family, referred to above, who made a family resort compound at Shennecossett Beach at the southern end of the district. Originally a Connecticut family from the Preston area, the Tylers had since moved to Baltimore. During or shortly after the Civil War, they returned to Connecticut to make their summer residence at Eastern Point. There were six houses in the Tyler "compound" of which 70 Beach Pond is the earliest. Another shingled structure, c. 1870, was moved in 1904 to accommodate the construction of the Shingle Style house on Shennecossett Beach presently owned by the City of Groton and known as the Tyler house. The earlier house is now located at 116 Tyler Avenue. Another Tyler house, "Uncle George's", also located on Shennecossett Beach, east of the present Tyler house, was demolished c. 1970. The other houses in the Tyler compound were 39 Tyler Avenue, also referred to as the Bissell house (Bissells were manufacturers of a carpet sweeper), an early Queen Anne structure, c. 1875, 47 Tyler Avenue, a gabled structure once shingled and now aluminum sided, and 30 Beach Pond Road, a Shingle Style cottage, c. 1905, until recently owned by the Heublein family of Hartford who purchased it from the Tylers. The last, the Charles Tyler house, stands on Shennecossett Beach with the 1904 Tyler house.

In 1886, the "Announcement of the 1886 Season" detailed the enlargement of the Edgecomb House hotel to 175 rooms and added that it was now called the Fort Griswold House. The Edgecomb, which may have been the old Harbor View Hotel, was renovated in the Second Empire style, then still modish if not au courant. The Fort Griswold House and the Harbor View cottages continued to attract a crowd described as "refined and cultured"³. In addition, there was regular steamboat service to the pier of the hotel. Even earlier, the steamboat "Cecil" had plied between New London and the then Edgecomb House hourly. The "costly and extensive additions and improvements"⁴ made to the Fort Griswold and the regularity of steamboat service to Eastern Point both testify to the popularity of the resort, but extensive research failed to uncover additional information about the people summering there during the last quarter of the 19th-century. This would seem to indicate that the Point's visitors at that stage were ordinary people, neither particularly wealthy nor influential.

3. Ibid., p. 475.

4. Ibid., p. 475.

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Eastern Point's heyday occurred just after the turn of the century. At this point, the most influential force acting on Eastern Point's development was Morton F. Plant, a railroad magnate and yachtsman who lived on a palatial estate nearby at Avery Point. Plant purchased the Fort Griswold House, it is said, to serve as an "annex" for guests he entertained at particularly important yachting events, such as the Yale-Harvard Regatta, (still) held in June on the Thames. Close examination of photos of the Fort Griswold House and the Griswold Hotel (as it was known after Plant bought it) seems to indicate that the Griswold, supposedly "Erected 1906-1907"⁵, is, in fact, the old Second Empire Fort Griswold with major, extensive renovations in the neo-Classical style. The Griswold Hotel certainly occupied the same site as the Fort Griswold House. For years, the Griswold located at the center of the district on Shore Avenue, was the focal point socially for the new crowd which had begun to frequent Eastern Point.

The majority of the grand houses in the district date from this period just at the turn of the century and are built in the Shingle Style held so proper for beach houses. Morton Plant himself supposedly built and lived in the impressive house at 15 Shore Avenue while his own estate was under construction. Another imposing house, now demolished for the Ranch style house at 175 Shore Avenue, was the Fleischmann house, owned by the Fleischmann Yeast Company family. 42 Circle Avenue, a Shingle Style house with Colonial detailing, was owned by the Talcott family, influential Hartford residents. Next to the Talcott house, at the end of Circle Avenue stands the Shingle Style Galilee Chapel built in 1903 by the Eastern Point Chapel Association which had been established in 1895. Clearly, Eastern Point's summer residents felt they needed and deserved their own separate, non-denominational chapel. Other notable summer residents of Eastern Point included the Cushmans of Hartford who owned the Cushman Chuck Company and lived in "Ferncrest", the Frank Lloyd Wright adaptation at 151 Tyler Avenue (Mrs. Mary Cushman Lusk was Morton Plant's adopted daughter). There were also the F.N. Beldings, owners of the Belding-Corticelli Thread Company, who lived at 127 Tyler Avenue, and the Gilbert Heubleins of Hartford, who lived at 30 Beach Pond Road.

The Shennecossett Beach Club on Beach Pond Road, the Shennecossett Golf Club across Eastern Point Road, and the Griswold Hotel were the important enclaves for these wealthy summer residents. Many local Groton residents were put off and awed by the ostentation at Eastern Point where formal dress was de rigueur for evening card parties, chauffeur-driven Packards and Pierce-Arrows were the rule and maids went swimming only in the afternoons,

5. Burgess, C.F., HISTORIC GROTON, Moosup, CT, 1909, p. 21

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presumably while their mistresses rested indoors out of the heat. At one time, a special constable on foot patrolled Eastern Point.

This lavish lifestyle was threatened by events such as World War I and Prohibition, when rum-runners rendezvoused off the pier of the Griswold. It did not falter though until the Depression, which naturally curtailed extravagance. The Hurricane of 1938, which damaged some houses and after which some houses, already closed for the season, were looted, also contributed to the area's decline. Demographically, families which had summered there early in the century were growing up and moving away. In addition the large houses became difficult to staff. Finally, during World War II, with full scale production at the Electric Boatworks up the Thames and after World War II, when Pfizer, Inc. located on what had been the G. H. Watson estate just north of the district, the influx of middle-income producing workers created a housing shortage. Open land along Eastern Point Road behind the large houses, which had served as something of a geographical barrier for the summer enclave, was developed in the 1950s with smaller single family Cape Cod and Ranch style houses. Some of the old Shingle Style houses, empty and deteriorating, were demolished and new houses built on the lots. Subdivision and infill of some lots also occurred, as at the east end of Tyler Avenue, where three new houses stand on what had been open land between 47 Tyler and 85 Eastern Point Road. Today, with family size on the decline, some of the Point's larger houses, once useful to large families, are threatened. The houses, built for summer use, are now occupied year round. Despite these changes, the grouping of houses at Eastern Point is substantially intact, and the scale and appearance of this turn-of-the-century resort is preserved.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Groton, CT

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Volumes 45, 46; Maps; Vault, Town Clerk's Office, Groton Town Hall, Poquonock Road, Groton, CT. Various 19th-and 20th-century maps detailing proposed and actual developments of property at Eastern Point are bound and on file at the Groton Town Hall and are available, on request, in the lower vault.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Eastern Point NR District
Groton, CT

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 4 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

UTM Coordinates: Zone 18

A 744800/4579100

B 744830/4579000

C 744700/4579000

D 744760/4578880

E 744830/4578900

F 744820/4578860

G 744700/4578840

H 744700/4578740

I 744780/4578680

J 744840/4578680

K 744850/4578580

L 744940/4578480

M 744980/4578490

N 745020/4578400

142 ✓ O 745190/4578470

102 ✓ P 745220/4578420

300 Q 745020/4578400 1140

R 745280/4578560

S 745360/4578580

T 745430/4578520

U 745430/4578480

V 745520/4578480

W 745520/4578420 300

X 745420/4578400

Y 745320/4578320

Z 745280/4578420

a 745240/4578380

b 745300/4578290

c 745160/4578290

d 745200/4578150

e 744960/4578180

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h 744760/4578120

84 ✓ i 744740/4578220 340

J 744940/4578420

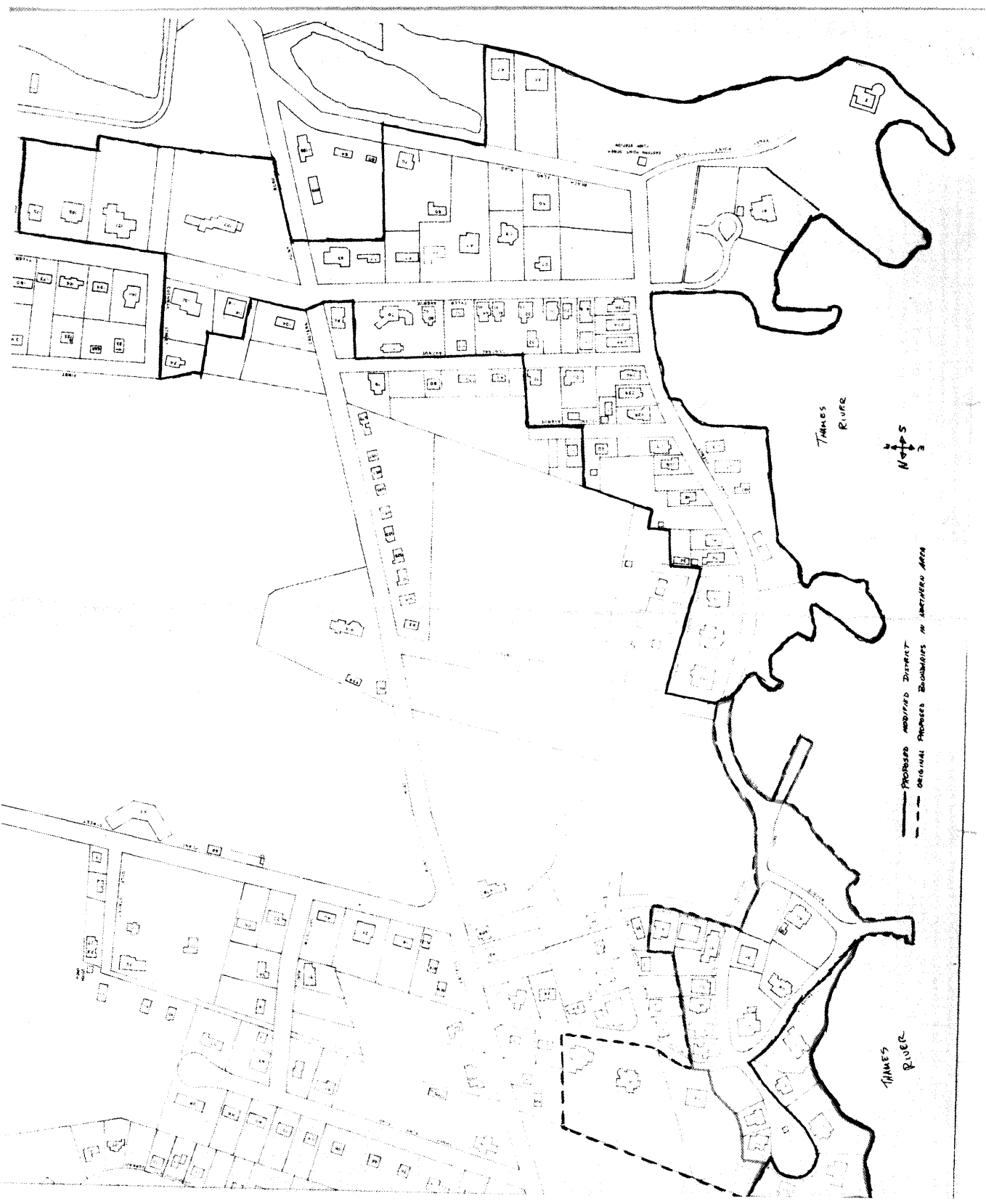
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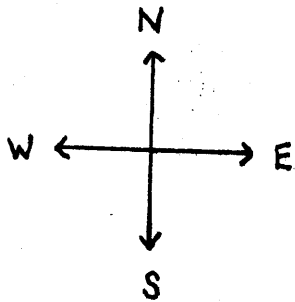
n 744560/4578800

o 744480/4579100



PFIZER PLANT

PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT



← ADDITIONAL
PFIZER →
REAL ESTATE

INT NR DISTRICT
ON CONN

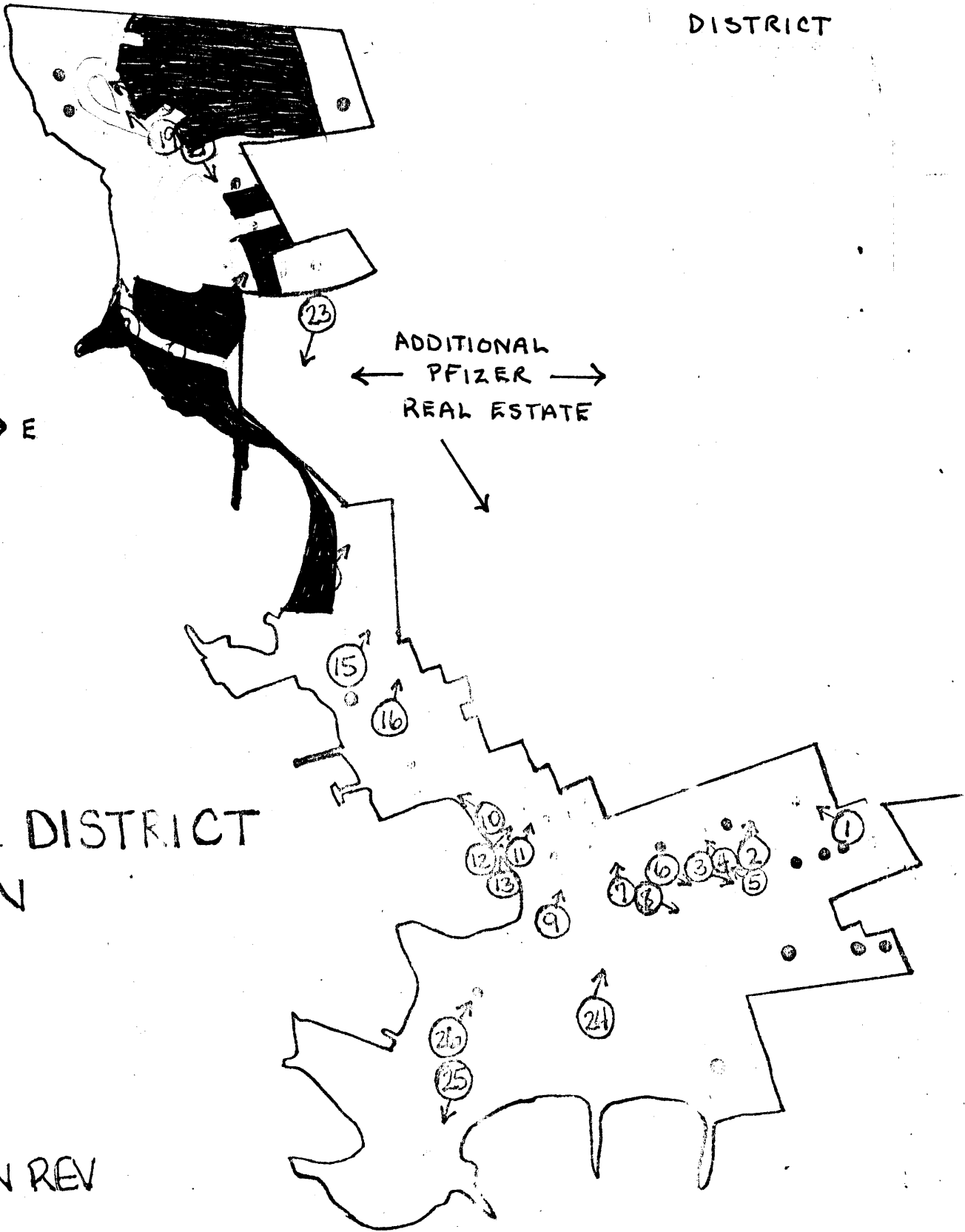
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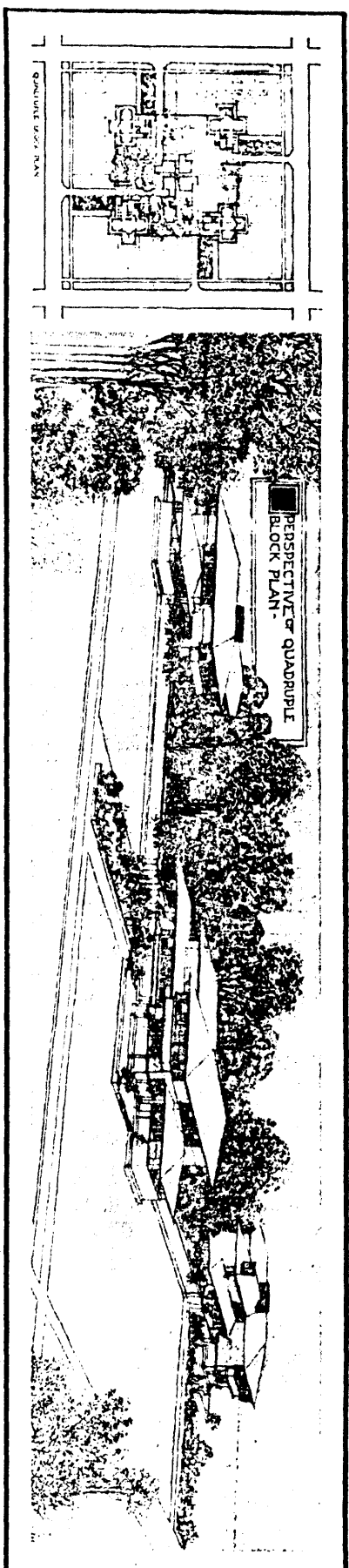
/GEORGIAN REV

4R

PFIZER PROPERTIES MARKED IN RED.



JUL 16 1979



A Home in a Prairie Town *from Ladies Home Journal February 1901*

BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

This is the Fifth Design in the Journal's New Series of Model Suburban Houses Which Can be Built at Moderate Cost

