### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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 tem 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					
other names/site number	Post Hil	l Historic Di	strict		
2. Location			<del></del>		
street & number	AT THE PART OF THE PARTY OF THE	inuation shee	t		not for publication MA
city, town	New Lond				vicinity NA
state Connecticut	code CT	county New	London	code 011	zip code 06320
3. Classification					
Ownership of Property	Cate	gory of Property		Number of Reso	urces within Property
x private		building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing
x public-local		district		212	8 buildings
public-State		site		2	sites
public-Federal		structure			1 structures
p down , out on		object		2	3 objects
		,		216	12 Total
Name of related multiple prop	nerty listing:				buting resources previously
MA	Jorty Hatting.				onal Register 1
				notog in the reati	
4. State/Federal Agency	Certification				
In my opinion, the proper Signature of conficial Connecticut Histo	John W rical Commi	Shannahan, Dire	hos		continuation sheet.  June 29,1993  Date
State or Federal agency and	bureau				
In my opinion, the propert	y meets	does not meet the Na	tional Registe	r criteria. 🔲 See	continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or c	other official				Date
State or Federal agency and	bureau				
5. National Park Service	Certification			lened in the	
I, hereby, certify that this pro	perty is:			sutonal Reg	
entered in the National Rose continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the	egister.	Lelon	upy	ie.	8/5/9
Register. See continuat determined not eligible fo	ion sheet.				
National Register.	-				
removed from the National other, (explain:)	_				
		- Fisio	nature of the K	(eeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: single dwellings	Domestic: single dwellings
Funerary: cemetery	Funerary: cemetery
Landscape: city park	Landscape: city park
Domestic: multiple dwellings	Domestic: multiple dwellings
	Health care: sanitarium
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian: Italianate	foundation Brick, granite, cobblestone
Late Victorian: Second Empire	walls Wood: clapboard, shingle
Late Victorian: Queen Anne	
Late Victorian: Shingle Style	roofAsphalt
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals	other <u>Concrete</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located approximately one-quarter mile west of New London's historic commercial and civic center along the Thames River, the Post Hill Historic District is the site of the city's first European settlement, c.1645. By the mid-18th century, the city center had shifted to the riverfront; the Antientest Burial Place cemetery (c.1650)(photograph 1), oldest in New London and in the county, is the sole 17th-century resource surviving in the historic district. The centerpiece of the district both visually and historically is Williams Park (1858)(photograph 2), whose establishment helped spur the area's growth and appeal. district buildings were erected between 1845 and 1920 during the area's development as a prime residential neighborhood (photograph 3). On the edges of the Post Hill Historic District are many resources already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Jonathan Harris House (1859-60) and Williams Memorial Institute (1891) on Broad Street, and Bulkeley School (1871) on Hempstead Street; nearby are the Williams Memorial Park and Prospect Street historic districts. The district also includes one property, the Nathan A. Woodworth House (1890) at 28 Channing Street, already listed in the National Register.

The district occupies the first high ground west of downtown New London, with fine views overlooking the harbor. On the upward slope is the Antientest Burial Place (note 1), marked with the outcroppings of granite ledge that are a significant visual feature throughout the district. Post Hill's rolling terrain rises to a high point on Addison Street, which is among the highest elevations in the city, with views to Long Island Sound, a fact which contributed to its residential appeal. Many dwelling have hilly yards, and retaining walls of quarry-dressed granite are widespread (photograph 8). The terrain drops sharply to the north, partly as a result of excavation for Interstate 95 just beyond; to the west and south the slope downward is gradual.

Post Hill Historic District contains 228 resources, of which 216 (95%) contribute to its significance. The Antientest Burial Place, by far the oldest resource, contains markers dating from first settlement until approx 1793, when the city's Second Burial

Stone: granite, slate, sandstone

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Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut

#### List of Properties within the Post Hill Historic District

The historic district includes the following properties that are identified by street number and/or by map/block/lot number on the Assessor's maps of the City of New London:

Addison Street: 11-32, inclusive;

Amity Street: 12-22, inclusive;

Berkeley Avenue: 11-24, inclusive:

Brainard Street: 70, 74, and 76;

Broad Street: 150-165 and 171-204 inclusive, 170 (36/215/9)(on this parcel, only including the c.1875 Dr. Washington Wentworth Sheffield House), and Williams Park (map 36, block 214);

Center Street: 11-19, inclusive;

Channing Street: 20-55, inclusive;

<u>Cleveland Street</u>: 18-36, inclusive, and parcels identified as Assessor's maps 39/233/12 and 40/232/6;

Fremont Street: 56;

Granite Street: 5-81, inclusive, and parcel identified as Assessor's map 39/235/16;

Hempstead Street: 236-250, inclusive, 255, and the Antientest Burial Place cemetery (36/236/2);

Nathan Hale Street: 8-36, inclusive, and 42 (39/251/1);

Post Hill Place: 34 (39/250/1);

Summit Avenue: 7 (39/251/10) and 14-54, inclusive;

Vauxhall Street: 7-72, inclusive, and 73-111 (odd numbers only);

West Street: 11-48, inclusive; and

Williams Street: 183-265, inclusive.

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Ground was established. District streets were opened for residential development over a 45-year period beginning c.1845, and the other built resources were virtually all built as single-family residences between 1845 and 1925.

The architectural styles represented include the Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. Despite this variety, within individual blocks most buildings are similar in size, proportion, and street setback, creating visual unity. Scattered throughout the district are several houses of more imposing dimensions and grounds. While most dwellings are generous in size and stylistic elaboration, there are also examples of smaller, more vernacular building forms, both in residences and outbuildings.

Williams Park, a rectangle bordered by Broad, Williams, Granite, and Channing streets, is amply shaded by mature deciduous shade trees, as are most district streets. The park has received an assortment of improvements over time, the most ambitious and extant being the statue of Nathan Hale (dedicated 1935), a copy of Frederick MacMonnies' work in City Hall Park, New York City. Near the park borders on Williams and Broad streets are modern memorials to veterans of armed conflicts.

District resources retain their historic appearances in varying degrees. The cemetery markers have suffered from depredations of age, pollution, and vandalism, those of softer stones such as sandstone experiencing the most damage. The built resources have fared much better. Synthetic siding is the most prevalent exterior alteration; some have received rear additions and metal fire escapes, especially those converted to office use, which has occurred mostly around Williams Park. All of the buildings are wood-framed, with clapboard or wood-shingle siding the most prevalent, often used in combination. Foundation walls are more varied, with brick, granite, and cobblestone in evidence. A building height of two stories is the rule, although Queen Annestyle three-story towers are also common. The district has suffered few modern intrusions, the most obvious being the modern Dunkin Donuts shop and Friendly restaurant buildings on Broad Street just west of Williams Park.

Following customary practices of the time, the approximately 350 markers in the Antientest Burial Place are loosely arranged in a

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series of irregular, often discontinuous rows, generally oriented north-south. The stones face west toward Hempstead Street, withmany joined by small footstones. Few markers are found in the cemetery's eastern third section, which suggests the presence of unmarked graves. Gravestone materials are granite, slate, and brown sandstone.

Most grave markers are upright tablets of varying height, with rectangular, segmental, or curvilinear tops, and they exhibit a broad range of decorative embellishments surrounding the legends. The most common detailing consists of skulls or winged soul effigies in the lunettes and viny foliation in the border panels, popular features throughout the 18th century.

Among the 235 stones attributed to known individual carvers,. the earliest are those of John Hartshorne (1635-c.1737), 32 in number. His marker for Christopher Christophers (1687) (photograph 4) displays the characteristics for which he is known: a relatively small stone, three-lobed top, central lunette with distinctive face of minimal articulation having a blank, staring expression and framed by layered banding, and rosettes at the corner lobes. Sixty-two markers are those of the famous Stevens group of carvers in Newport. The Phebe Shackmaple monument (1776)(photograph 5), signed by John Stevens, Jr., near the bottom, displays his well-known life-like figure, upswept wings, and border foliation. Among the cemetery's more florid designs, perhaps none is more unique than the Samuel Gray marker (1713)(photograph 6), attribution unknown, with its armorial design.

Also found here are large rectangular stones either set flush into the ground or supported horizontally on columns, which are often fluted or paneled. Perhaps the most important of these table monuments is the one for Gurdon Saltonstall, colonial governor of Connecticut (1708-24)(photograph 18). Near the Hempstead Street border is the vaulted tomb of Jonathan Brooks; according to local tradition, Benedict Arnold, a New London native, sat mounted on his horse astride this grave observing his British troops engage local volunteers at Fort Griswold in Groton on September 6, 1781. Victims of that engagement are buried here, including Adam Shapley (Photograph 7).

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The oldest buildings in the district are in the Greek Revival style, with most dating from the 1840s. The most simply detailed are a row of three on Amity Street that display straightforward gable-front plans, clapboard sheathing, six-over-six windows, andmodest embellishment. The John O. Arnold House (1847, photograph 8) at 5 Granite Street is of impressive size and classical detailing; the Victorian porches are an alteration shared with several other Greek Revivals. The William Albertson House (1845, photograph 9), relocated to Vauxhall Street in 1973 from Hempstead Street, is the most elaborate, in part a result of alterations. The flushboard-sided house received a cast-iron Grecian porch c.1860, at which time the Italianate-influenced bay windows and central belvedere may also have been added.

Italianate houses in the district are mostly three-bay gablefront plans, often with cross-gabled side wings and wide front porches. Their ornamentation typically consists of curvilinear brackets (often paired) supporting roof and porch overhangs, chamfered porch posts, and round-arched windows with flat or segmental projecting windows heads (photographs 3 and 10). Window bays of one or two stories, first popularized by this style, are numerous. A few Italianate designs stand out: the Captain Samuel Green House (c.1860, photograph 11), 53 Granite Street, despite large modern additions at the rear, has especially bold detailing, a flat roof with central belvedere, and unusual paired octagonal windows in the wide roofline frieze. At the front steps are sets of cast-iron handrails, perhaps the remnants of a fence once encircling the property. Across the street is the large c.1860 Italian Villa, much simpler in its detailing, built for Henry R. Bond.

The Second Empire style is well represented, and most of the examples display flared mansard roofs and heavy over-scaled classically inspired detailing (photograph 3). The building plans generally conform to those of the Italianate style; the most singular in plan and elaboration is the William Barns House (c.1875, photograph 12) at 17 Granite Street. A somewhat incongruous feature is the Italianate belvedere, and the Colonial Revival front entrance appears to be an alteration.

Buildings in the Queen Anne style are the most numerous, and their range of stylistic articulation is the greatest. Rows of middle-class housing along West and Vauxhall streets illustrate the asymmetrical plans with cross-gabled rooflines, intricate

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detailing, and varied sheathing materials associated with the style. Grander designs, both in size and ornamentation, are common. Towers of assorted heights, projection, and roofline may be found; as shown in photograph 13, 24 Channing Street (c.1890) displays a three-story, almost structurally discrete polygonalroofed tower, while the two-story engaged tower at 28 Channing Street (c.1890) is surmounted by an apsidal roof. The secondstory porch at 24, centered over the entrance with hip-roofed dormer directly above, is another tower form found, with variation, in several houses. At 28, the breadth of distinctive detailing includes decorative wood-shingle sheathing, curvilinear brackets supporting cutaway corners, and the front third-floor window set beneath a jerkin-head gable. One of the most visually complex Queen Anne examples is the Queen Anne Inn, 265 Williams Street (photograph 14), with its florid, classically inspired frieze and gable peak plaster ornamentation.

Examples of the Colonial Revival and related classical revival styles are relatively few in number, since most construction in the district occurred before 1900. Their range in articulation, however, is equal to that of the Queen Anne. The Flora Daboll House (1929), 250 Hempstead Street, typifies the modest designs in its three-bay plan and central front door sheltered by a gabled porch. A far grander effort, the Arthur Keefe House at 190 Broad Street (c.1900), displays bowfront Palladian windows flanking the elaborately detailed front entrance porch, a Palladian window centered above at the second story, and pilasters in each of the three Greek classical orders embellishing the fenestration and building corners. ambitious single-family design is the brick Elias Bragaw House (1908)(now the Williams Street Apartments) at 183 Williams Street, a Second Renaissance Revival confection noteworthy for its brick Ionic pilasters, Corinthian porch columns, and heavy window corbeling.

Of the three apartment buildings in the district, the two on Granite Street deserve mention. The Melville (c.1915)(photograph 15), a Neo-Classical Revival design, displays an almost monumental concentration of classical detailing in its facade, balanced by wood-shingle sheathing. The Highland Apartments (c.1920)(photograph 16), in contrast, is a much larger building softened by delicate classical detailing, including a brick and concrete diaper frieze and garlanded roofline medallion over the entrance.

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Examples of other styles, though few, are also present. The Frederick Newcomb House and carriage house (1896-97, G.W. Dietrich, New York architect)(photograph 17), the largest dwelling in the district, exemplify the Shingle style. The features include quarry-dressed pink granite and wood-shingled walls, arcaded stone porches, assorted window shapes and sizes, and the highly complex roof with dormers on all sides. A less ambitious design, although possessing all the attributes of the style, is the Percy C. Eggleston House (1910) at 61 Vauxhall Street. 232 Williams Street (c.1875)(photograph 10), one of two Gothic Revival designs, is distinguished by the foliated pierced bargeboard and pierced porch frieze and railing.

Many dwellings from the turn of the century combine features of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Vauxhall Street has a number of these; #85, for example, displays a Queen Anne-style irregular plan classical detailing drawn from the Colonial Revival. With few exceptions, the outbuildings in the district (mostly two-car garages) appear to have been built after the dwellings on the same parcels and are vernacular Colonial Revival.

#### Notes

1. "Antientest Burial Place" is the name popularly attached to the cemetery. Its historical origin is not entirely clear, although Antient Buriall Place was the title of Edward Prentis' well-known 1899 inventory of the cemetery's burial markers, published by The Day Publishing Company of New London.

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#### Inventory of Historic District Resources

The inventory includes all resources on each parcel of real property within the historic district. Contributing ("C") and non-contributing ("NC") resources are indicated in the inventory by the use of C or NC, as appropriate, before the description of each. For those resources without definite street addresses, City of New London Assessor's map/block/lot information is listed. Construction dates are derived from the Historical and Architectural Resources Survey of New London (S)(1979, 1984-85) or visual analysis (V). Unless otherwise indicated, dates listed are from visual analysis; in case of clear disagreement among the sources, more than one date, with notation indicating its source, is given. Dates of major alterations are listed if known.

### Style, Use, Date, and Architect (if known)

#### Addison Street

11	С	Shingle style/Queen Anne house, c.1885, altered with non-original siding (in part) and rear porches
	С	Garage, c.1915
12	С	Queen Anne house, c.1883 (source: owner), with non-original siding, porch components, and deck
	C	Garage, c.1915
15-17	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original siding and window canopies
20	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1925
	С	Garage, c.1925
21	C	Colonial Revival house, c.1910 Garage, c.1910

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22	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original siding and rear porches	
	С	Garage, c.1915	
29	C C	Shingle Style/Queen Anne house, c.1900 Garage, c.1915	
31	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original siding	
32	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1915, with non-original siding	
	С	Garage, c.1915	
Amity Street	<u>t</u>		
12	С	Garage, c.1925	
13	С	Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non- original siding, porch, and some windows	
	С	Garage, c.1910	
15	С	Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non- original porch	
	С	Garage, c.1925	
16	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding, porch, and windows	
17	С	Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non- original siding and porch	
18-20	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding, porch, and doors	
21	NC	Vernacular house, 19th century, with non-original side wings, siding, doors, and windows	
22	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding (in part), doors, and windows	

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Berkeley Avenue			
11	NC	Modern house, c.1985	
15	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1910, with non-original siding and metal shutters	
16	С	Raymond P. Smith House, Queen Anne, 1893(S)	
21	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895	
22	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original siding and rear porch	
24	С	Shingle style/Colonial Revival house, c.1900	
Brainard Stree	<u>et</u>		
70	С	Greek Revival house, c.1860, with non-original front door and some windows	
74	c c	American Four Square house, c.1920 Garage, c.1920	
76	С	Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non- original siding and metal front door canopy	
Broad Street			
Map 36, Block 214	С	Williams Park, 1858 (photograph 2)	

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	С	Nathan Hale statue, 1935 (Frederick MacMonnies, sculptor; H. Rouard,
	C NC	"fondeur")(photograph 2) Lewis L. Baker memorial boulder, 1938 World War II, Korea, and memorial, c.1950, with flagpole
	NC	Granite boulder memorial (1944 dedication) honoring Captain Moses Rogers of New London, skipper of Savannah, the first steam-propelled ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean
	NC	War veterans memorial and flagpole, 1961
150	С	James P. Johnston House, c.1887, with non-original fire escape and non- original large, 1-story retail addition
154	c	Lena Professional Building, Colonial Revival, 1927, 1936 (S), with non- original front door and asphalt siding
	С	Garage, c.1927
160	c c	Dr. Hugh Lena House, Colonial Revival, 1940 (S)
	C	Garage, 1940
164	С	Charles D. Boss, Jr., House, Queen Anne, c.1885, with non-original siding, rear addition, and rear porch
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
165	NC	Modern retail building, c.1980 (Dunkin Donuts)
170	С	Dr. Washington Wentworth Sheffield House, Second Empire/Italianate, c.1875, with non-original siding, front porch, and some windows
171	NC	Modern restaurant, c.1960 (Friendly)
181	С	Luella A. Noyes House, Queen Anne/Shingle Style, 1896(S), with non- original fire escape

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189	С	Italianate house, c.1875, with non- original fire escape and addition over front porch
190	С	Arthur Keefe House, Colonial Revival, c.1900
193	С	Vernacular house, c.1890, with non- original siding, front porch and doors, windows, rear addition, and fire escape
198	С	Vernacular house, c.1875, with non- original siding, front door and porch, windows, and shutters
199	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original front door and rear fire escape
	С	Barn/garage, 19th century, altered
202	С	James A. Hill House, Queen Anne, c.1890, with non-original siding
203	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original doors, front porch, and fire escape
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
204	С	Thomas Durivan House, Colonial Revival, c.1910, with non-original satellite dish on roof
<u>Center Stre</u>	<u>et</u>	
11	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1875
15	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1875, with non-original siding, shutters, and rear porch

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17-19	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original porch components and some doors
	С	Garage, c.1900
<u>Channing St</u>	reet	
20	c c	Colonial Revival house, c.1925 Garage, c.1925
24	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890 (photograph 13)
28	С	Nathan A. Woodworth House, Queen Anne, c.1890 (National Register)(photograph 13)
32-34	С	Captain William Bush House, Greek Revival/Italianate, 1854(S)
40	С	Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non- original c.1900 porch, siding, windows, and front door
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
45	С	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding, windows, and fire escape
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
49	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding
55	С	Gothic Revival house, c.1875, with non- original siding, enclosed porch, one- story addition, and fire escape

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Cleveland	<u>Street</u>	
18	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1880, with non-original siding
22	С	Queen Anne house, c.1880, with non- original siding
25	С	Queen Anne house, c.1885, with non- original addition over porte cochere
	С	Carriage house, c.1885
28	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1880, with non-original siding
35	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1880, with non-original siding
36	С	Second Empire house, c.1875, with non- original siding
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
Eromont St	root	
<u>Fremont St</u>	Teec	
56	С	Queen Anne house, c.1885, with non- original door and fire escape
<u> Granite St</u>	reet	
5	С	John O. Arnold House, Greek Revival, 1847(S), with non-original 19th-century porch and windows (photograph 8)
11	С	Judge Arthur B. Calkins House, Queen Anne, 1903(S)

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16-18	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding and enclosed side porch	
	С	Garage, late 19th-century	
17	С	William H. Barns House, Second Empire, c.1875, with non-original front entrance enclosed side porch, and solarium (photograph 12)	
30	c c	Avery R. Hewitt House, Italianate, 1845(S), c.1860(V), with non-original siding and one door Garage, early 20th-century	
33	С	"The Melville," Neo-Classical Revival apartment building, c.1915 (photograph 15)	
37	С	John H. Champion House, Greek Revival, 1854(S), with non-original front porch and siding	
38	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1915, with non-original enclosed front porch	
42	NC	Modern house, c.1985	
43	С	"Highland Apartments," Colonial Revival, 1920(S), with non-original windows and fire escape (photograph 16)	
	c c	Garage, early 20th-century Garage, early 20th-century	
44	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1920, with non-original siding and shutters	
47	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890	
48	С	James L. Edgecomb House, Second Empire, 1847(S)(may be remodeled Greek Revival), with non-original siding, windows, rear roof deck	

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53	С	Captain Samuel Green House, Italianate, c.1865, with non-original side and rear additions, and entrance ramp for the disabled (photograph 11)
65	С	Italianate house, c.1865, with some non-
	C	original siding (photograph 3) Garage, early 20th-century
71	С	Second Empire house, c,1875, with non- original siding, front door, and some windows (photograph 3)
75	С	Leander Lewis House, Queen Anne, 1882 (S), with non-original fire escape (photograph 3)
	С	Carriage house, c.1885, altered
81	С	Second Empire house, c.1875, with non- original front doors and some windows (photograph 3)
	C	Garage, early 20th-century
<u>Hempstead S</u>	<u>Street</u>	
Map 36, block 236, Lot 2	С	Antientest Burial Place cemetery, c.1650 (photographs 1, 4-7)
236	С	Jefferson Avery House, Second Empire, 1847(S), c.1875(V), with non-original porch components, some windows, and fire escape
	C	Barn/garage, 19th-century, altered
240	С	Vernacular house, c.1875, with non- original enclosed front porch
244	C	Second Empire house, c.1875, with non- original siding and some windows

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250	С	Flora H.S. Daboll House, Colonial Revival, 1929(S)
255	С	James L. Edgecomb House, Italianate, 1870(S), with non-original side entrance ramp for the disabled and rear wing
<u>Nathan Hal</u> e	<u>e Street</u>	
8	С	Colonial Revival house, 1892(S)(George Cole, architect)
16	c c	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding and some windows Garage, early 20th-century
22	c c	Queen Anne house, c.1890 Garage, early 20th-century
28	c c	Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding and rear porch Garage, early 20th-century
36	С	Gilbert Apartments (formerly single- family house), Queen Anne, c.1890, with non-original siding, additions,
	C C	some windows, and fire escape Garage, early 20th-century Garage, early 20th-century
Post Hill	<u>Place</u>	
34	С	Shingle style/Colonial Revival house, c.1900

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Summit Avenue		
7	С	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house, c.1890, with non-original siding, some windows, and fire escape
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
14-16	С	Vernacular house, c.1900, with non- original siding and porch components
	C	Garage, early 20th-century
20	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding and porch components
	C	Barn/garage, late 19th-century
24	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding, porch components, and some windows
	NC	Modern above-ground pool
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
32	С	Charles B. Daboll House, Queen Anne, 1889(S)
36	С	Queen Anne house, c.1885, with non- original siding and shutters
	C	Vernacular house, c.1885, with non-
	С	original windows and doors Garage, early 20th-century
39	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1895, with non-original siding and enclosed front porch
	NC	Garage, mid-20th-century
41	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1925, with non-original siding, windows, shutters, and doors
	С	Garage. c.1925
42	С	Queen Anne house, c.1885, with non- original siding and some windows

Section number	Page	Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut
46	С	Queen Anne house, c.1885, with non- original siding, windows, shutters, and doors
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
54	C	Italianate/Gothic Revival house, c.1875, with non-original siding and some doors
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
<u>Vauxhall </u>	<u>Street</u>	
7	С	Smith-Bent Children's Center (Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.), Colonial Revival, 1933
	NC	Cottage, late 20th-century
	NC	Gazebo, late 20th-century
28	С	William Albertson House, Greek Revival, 1845(S), with non-original veranda and bay windows (1861)(S); moved 1973 from Hempstead Street (photograph 9)
31	С	Beechwood Manor (Frederick Newcomb House), Shingle Style, 1896-97(S)(G.W. Dietrich, architect), with non- original enclosed front porch and fire escapes (photograph 17)
	С	Carriage House, 1896, altered
42	C	Thomas Fitch House, 1846(S), Greek Revival, with 19th and early-20th century alterations, including some non-original siding and windows, third story, enclosed porch, and front entrance
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
48	С	Benjamin A. Armstong House, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, 1905(S)(James S. Duffy, architect)
	C	Garage, c.1905

Section number	Page	Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut
51	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with some non- original windows
52	С	Queen Anne/Shingle style house, c.1900, with non-original dormer windows
54	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with some non-original windows
60	С	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding and enclosed front porch
61	С	Percy C. Eggleston House, Shingle style, 1910(S)
	С	Garage, c.1910
64	С	Queen Anne House, c.1900
72	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding, porch components, rear deck, windows, and fire escape
	С	Garage, early 20th-century, altered
73	С	William Tubbs House, Gothic Revival, c.1875, with non-original siding
	C	Garage, early 20th-century
77	С	William Bentley House, Queen Anne, c.1882(S), with non-original siding and front porch components
	c	Garage, early 20th-century
81	С	Smith House, Queen Anne, 1897(S), with non-original siding
	C	Shed, early 20th-century
85	С	Frank B. McGuire House, 1910(S), Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, with non-original
	С	siding and fire escape Garage, early 20th-century

Section number	Page	Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut
89	С	Lippitt House, Queen Anne, c.1885(S), with non-original siding and enclosed front porch
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
95	c	Comstock House, Queen Anne, 1902(S), with non-original porch components
97-99	С	Queen Anne house, 1902(S), with non- original porch components and some windows
105	С	Queen Anne house, 1897(S), with non- original siding, front door, rear porch, and stockade fence
109	c c	Smith House, Queen Anne, c.1890 Garage, early 20th-century
111	С	Italianate/Queen Anne house, c.1880, with non-original siding, front porch components, and side addition
	С	Barn/garage, late 19th-century
West Street	<u>t</u>	
11	c	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding and some windows
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
15	С	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house, c.1900
	С	Garage, c.1900
16	c c	American Four Square house, c.1900 Garage, c.1900
19	C	Queen Anne house, c.1890

Section number	Page	Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut
23	С	Edwin G. Janes House, Queen Anne, 1898(S), with non-original siding and doors
27	С	Queen Anne House, c.1895(S), with non- original porch components
29	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895(S), with non- original siding, porch railing, and some windows
35	С	Mary A. Parker House, Queen Anne, 1891(S), with non-original siding and some windows
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
39	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original siding and some windows
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
40	С	Italianate building, c.1860 (barn converted to dwelling), with non-original siding, some windows, and addition
43	С	"Marquis" apartments, Colonial Revival, c.1915
47	С	Queen Anne house, c.1895, with non- original deck
48	С	Vernacular house, c.1875, with non- original siding, windows, and porch
	С	components Garage, early 20th-century
Williams St	reet	
183	С	Elias Bragaw House, Second Renaissance Revival, 1908(S)(James P. Duffy,

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7	Page	Post Hill Historic District New London, Connecticut
		architect)(now the Williams Street Apartments), with non-original front door and some windows
187	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding, front door, some windows, and side addition
195-201	С	Greek Revival house, c.1845, with non- original porch, doors, and addition
205	С	Henry Bond House, Italian Villa, c.1860, with non-original siding, fire escape, and some windows
	С	Garage, early 20th-century
224	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with some non- original siding (photograph 10)
228	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding (photograph 10)
232	С	Gothic Revival house, c.1875, with non- original siding and fire escape (photograph 10)
238	С	Italianate house, c.1860, with non- original siding and front entrance
239	С	Peleg Williams House, Second Empire, 1872(S), with non-original fire escape
240	С	Vernacular house, c.1870, with non- original siding, shutters, and door
	С	canopy Garage, early 20th-century
245	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1940, with non-original siding and addition
247	С	Charlotte M. Holloway House, Colonial

Revival, 1893(S)

Section number	_ Page	Post Hill Historic District  New London, Connecticut
251	С	Victorian Vernacular house, c.1880, with non-original siding, windows, and doors
255	С	Queen Anne house, c.1890, with non- original siding and fire escape
259	С	Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding, shutters, and doors
	C	Garage, early 20th-century
261	С	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house, c.1900, with non-original siding front door, and windows
265	С	Susan Hawkins & Ella Hawkins Brown House, Queen Anne, 1903(S) (photograph 14)
	C	Garage, c.1903

8. Statement of Significance			
Certifying official has considered the signific	ance of this property in ationally x state		
Applicable National Register Criteria XA	XB XC D		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	B XC XD	□E □F □G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture  Art  Settlement		Period of Significance 1650-1941	Significant Dates
		Cultural Affiliation	
Significant Person Gurdon Saltonstall		Architect/Builder NA	

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

Historically, the Post Hill Historic District is a cohesive group of buildings, structures, and sites that document the development of one of the oldest parts of New London from the city's first European settlement until the mid-20th century (Criterion A). Located here is the Antientest Burial Place cemetery, the oldest in New London County and the site of grave markers for many of the colony's early leaders, among them the table monument for Gurdon Saltonstall, sixth colonial governor of Connecticut (Criterion B). The cemetery also contains excellent examples of 18th-century New England gravestone art by recognized masters of The area is significant architecturally because it is a concentration of resources, of both local and statewide distinction, that has retained a high degree of integrity (Criterion C). District buildings, which are primarily residential, include distinguished examples of the most popular mid-19th to early-20th century architectural styles in New England, among them the Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival styles.

Cemeteries typically are ineligible for listing in the National Register. Criteria Consideration D, however, applies in the case of New London's Antientest Burial Place. The site is an integral part of this historic district, its stones have high artistic merit, and the cemetery is one of the earliest city institutions. The monument to Governor Gurdon Saltonstall, furthermore, is the only known object directly associated with the life of this noteworthy figure in Connecticut history. (Criteria Consideration C)

#### <u>Historical Background</u>

Occupying high ground overlooking the Thames River, Post Hill was

X See continuation sheet

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Presidente de componènte en Alla (AIRO).	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Bulman, lagation of additional data.
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark	Federal agency
recorded by Historic American Buildings	Local government University
Survey #	☑ Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	New London Public Library
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property approximately 58	
UTM References	
$A \perp \downarrow $	B
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
c	
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
See continuation sheet entitled "List	of Properties within the
Post Hill Historic District" and the S	
	•
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	ll one of buildings
The historic district is a geographica	Try conesive area or buildings,
structures, and sites that are associa of New London from its settlement unti	ted with the historic development.
by modern development on the north and	
uses or lesser quality on the west and	South. To the southeast are other
National Register properties (see item	1 8) [ ] 300 COMMINGATION SHOOT
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Gregory E. Andrews (reviewed by	y John F. Herzan*)
organization Connecticut Historical Commiss	sion date 5 March 1993
street & number 1643 Boulevard	902 561 3841
city or town West Hartford	stateConnecticut zip code 06107
*National Register Coordinator, Connectus.SGP0:1988-0-223-918	cticut Historical Commission

9. Major Bibliographical References

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		New London, Connecticut

the natural place for the first English settlers, led by John Winthrop, Jr., to chose for the center of their new community in 1645. In laying out the town, land was set aside for a meetinghouse and, adjacent to the north, a burying ground. One of the first grantees of land was Richard Post, after whom the area became known as Post Hill. Williams Street was laid out as the route to the town mill (1650) in Winthrop Cove, and Vauxhall Street was known as the Colchester Road.

The first burial in the Antientest Burial Place, as the cemetery is now known, probably occurred by 1652. Many of the early graves are unmarked. The present cemetery boundaries were clearly defined in a 1653 town ordinance, and the oldest markers date from at least 1662.

Maritime commerce rapidly became the driving economic force in New London, and the city's important civic institutions were drawn to the commercial center along the riverfront. By the mid-18th century, New London's present downtown was firmly established as the hub of community life. New London became a prosperous colonial seaport; its commercial importance and strategic value figured in the 1781 British raid, led by turncoat Benedict Arnold. The colonial and British forces fought at Fort Griswold in Groton on September 6, 1781; according to tradition, Arnold observed the engagement astride his horse from the Antientest Burial Place. Following the battle, the British burned New London.

After its early prominence declined, Post Hill remained open farmland until the mid-19th century. By that time, New London's prosperity as a whaling port, second only in importance throughout the world to New Bedford, was stimulating growth and outward expansion. One of the first to foresee the investment opportunity in real estate development was Thomas Fitch (1812-1892), an entrepreneur who parlayed his grocery business profits into whaling, railroad, and real estate ventures. purchases beginning in 1845, he assembled a large tract in Post Hill, laid out streets at the eastern end of the historic district, and began selling lots for residential construction. Fitch built himself a generously scaled Greek Revival residence (1846) on Vauxhall Street. The neighborhood's new residents had varied backgrounds and wealth. Martin Coats, a meat grocer, occupied one of three modest Greek Revivals on Amity

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Street, while William Albertson, proprietor of a successful cotton gin manufactory, built a spacious Greek Revival home (photograph 9) in a choice spot overlooking the city near the Antientest Burial Place.

Despite slow growth in the 1840s and 1850s, Post Hill's cachet as a residential address grew, a result of many factors. William Williams donated Williams Park to the city in 1858 following the untimely death of his son, a prosperous city merchant. Over time, the city made improvements to the park, including a large central fountain (1871) and bandstand (note 1), that made it a popular destination for recreation and concerts. In the 1860s, a corner of the park was used by the Pequot Base Ball Club, the city's first, and military drilling was held there during the Civil War. Illustrious citizens lived in the vicinity, a sure quarantee of the neighborhood's prestige; Jonathan Harris, former city mayor, for example, built an Italian Villa across Broad Street from the park in 1861. The area was When the New London also convenient to important institutions. Congregational Church suffered a split in the 1860s, a faction built the imposing Second Congregational Church (1870) at the head of Broad Street, only two blocks from Williams Park. The city's newest public high school was erected next to the church in 1871.

During the next 40 years, Post Hill gradually came to acquire much of its present-day appearance as an enclave of homes for the civic and business leaders of the city. Development ebbed and flowed depending on the city's economy. New residents included Henry Barns, president of the National Bank of Commerce (17 Granite Street, photograph 12), and whaling captain Samuel Green (53 Granite Street, photograph 11), both occupying homes of suitable size and architectural pretension. Dr. Washington Sheffied, inventor of "creme dentifrice," a forerunner of modern toothpaste, moved into one of the early Second Empire-style homes. Thomas Fitch played a central role until his bankruptcy in 1879, when the Savings Bank of New London sold his farm and property west and north of the park to other investors. In 1892, the Post Hill Improvement Company was organized and the blocks west of the park witnessed a final burst of construction. Capping the district's prestige was the distinguished Shingle-style mansion (1896-97)(photograph 17) of Frederick Newcomb, the prosperous dry goods merchant.

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During the first quarter of the 20th century, Post Hill experienced maturation and some expected changes. The remaining vacant parcels were built upon and the expansive grounds of a few of the grander homes became so valuable for development that the homes were demolished and the properties more intensively used (note 2). A few apartment buildings, of stylistic pretension themselves, were erected (photographs 15 and 16). Perhaps the most interesting occurrence was the construction by Dr. Hugh Lena of a private 20-bed hospital on Broad Street, one of the few of its kind in the state. Dr. Lena performed surgical procedures on a regular basis, expanded the hospital to 28 beds in 1936, and built a fine Colonial Revival home next door in 1941.

From mid-century onward, Post Hill has experienced the vicissitudes typical of many urban residential neighborhoods. Some homes have been converted into professional offices and institutional uses (note 3), in fewer cases to apartments. Residences on Broad Street just west of Williams Park were demolished and replaced by modern one-story restaurants, damaging the historic visual integrity along that street. Post Hill, nevertheless, is still primarily a cohesive neighborhood of single-family homes, one that enjoys continued appeal as a fine residential address.

#### Architectural significance

The contributing resources in the historic district have retained, to a considerable extent, their historic and architectural integrity. Despite vandalism and expected deterioration, the grave markers in the Antientest Burial Place remain largely intact. The houses possess most of their original style-defining features, and Williams Park's role as the focal point of the district is secure. The district's physical integrity and diverse collection of resources make it a significant link to New London's past.

The Antientest Burial Place (photographs 1, 4-7) is one of Connecticut's most noteworthy expressions of the art of gravestone carving during the 17th and 18th centuries. It contains grave markers of diverse size, materials, and stylistic elaborations, including granite, brownstone, and slate tablets

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	8	4	Post Hill Historic District
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with winged soul effigies, early tablets and slabs of modest artistry set flush in the ground, and large table monuments resting on classically molded pedestals. No other cemetery in New London so clearly articulates this period.

18th-century New England grave markers are valued as notable expressions of American folk art; those in the Antientest Burial Place are recognized as among the state's most impressive examples of the time, illustrating contemporary stylistic trends and the works of many skilled stonecutters. The cemetery has been described as "one of most important...of all the great burying grounds of eastern Connecticut" (note 4).

The high significance of the cemetery lies in the artistic merit and unusual diversity of the stonecutters represented. of New London's leading colonial role as a seaport and maritime connections, many stones were carved in other port cities and brought here by vessel, adding interest to those done locally. The stones include granite ones from inland Connecticut carved by John Hartshorne (photograph 4), slates from Newport by members of the Stevens family (photograph 5), and sandstones from Connecticut River Valley cutters. Most are recognized as masters of the genre for their high technical skill and creativity. Hartshorne (1650-c.1737) "established a carving tradition that persisted until the close of the eighteenth century,...[influencing] all of the later granite carvers of eastern Connecticut" (note 5). Hartshorne is recognized as the founder of the Eastern Connecticut Ornamental style of carving, done in granite. Some of his stones without doubt were lettered by Joshua Hempstead of New London (note 6). The Stevens group from Newport, working in slate, "strongly influenced many of the local craftsmen...because of [their] relative sophistication" (note 7).

The buildings themselves are typical, and in some cases notable, examples of several architectural styles, displaying a range in size and articulation appropriate to the affluence and aspirations of their owners. The William Albertson House (photograph 9), Captain Samuel Green House (photograph 11), and Susan Hawkins and Ella Brown Hawkins House (photograph 14) are among New London's finest examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles, respectively; the Frederick Newcomb House (photograph 17) has received scholarly attention

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Section number8	5	Post Hill Hi	istoric District
		Page	New London,

for its accomplished interpretation of the Shingle Style (note 8). The prominence of their owners, leaders in business and civic life (note 9), is clearly announced. The district is particularly rich in Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne designs (photographs 3, 11-14), displaying the characteristic features of those styles in both sophisticated buildings and in the more modest, though amply sized, housing suitable for prosperous middle-class professionals and tradespeople. Also present are houses and outbuildings whose simplicity in plan and design illustrates the period's vernacular building traditions.

The resources in the district are also significant because they document the evolution of part of New London over the course of three centuries. The Antientest Burial Place contains the oldest extant physical artifacts related to early settlement and life in New London. Most of the city's leading 17th- and 18th-century residents are buried here, among them Gurdon Saltonstall, who served for twenty years as the pastor of the New London church before becoming colonial governor; Thomas Short, the Connecticut colony's first printer; Richard Stone, the first captain of the regular militia in Connecticut; and Sarah Kemble Knight (1666-1727), a noted colonial diarist (note 10).

The development of the Post Hill district expresses the vagaries of New London's commercial life from the mid-19th century until the early 20th. Settlement began in response to the city's booming whaling commerce; it continued at an uneven pace over more than half a century as the city suffered from the decline of this economic engine, prospered later from manufacturing, and was influenced by national events, such as the Panic of 1873, which helped bankrupt developer Thomas Fitch. The creation of Williams Park, furthermore, is an important local expression of the mid-19th century parks movement in America, with the park playing an integral role in the social life of New London for generations, besides its stimulus of the development of the Post Hill neighborhood.

#### <u>Notes</u>

1. Neither the fountain nor the bandstand is extant. No information has been found, furthermore, to establish whether the park was professionally designed.

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- 2. The estate of Elias Morgan on Broad Street was subdivided, while the James Hislop property, at the corner of Vauxhall and Williams streets, was acquired by the Smith Home, which in 1933 built the large Colonial Revival facility that now houses the Smith-Bent Home of the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.
- 3. In 1953, the Newcomb House on Vauxhall Street (photograph 17) was converted into Beechwood Manor, a convalescent hospital.
- 4. Slater, The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them (1987), p.221.
- 5. Slater, <u>Ibid</u>, p.6.
- 6. Slater, op.cit.
- 7. Slater, <u>Ibid</u>., p.107.
- 8. See the photograph of the Newcomb House at page 292 of McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York, 1984).
- 9. Thomas Fitch, for example, in 1862 sold his Vauxhall Street mansion to Hiram Willey, mayor of New London (1862-65). Willey, in turn, sold the property to Thomas Waller, a later mayor (1873-79) and governor of Connecticut (1883-84).
- 10. Knight is best known for her diary recounting a 1704 trip from Boston to New York, in which she vividly described colonial life and people. The journal was published in 1825 as The Journals of Madam Knight and Rev. Mr. Buckingham.

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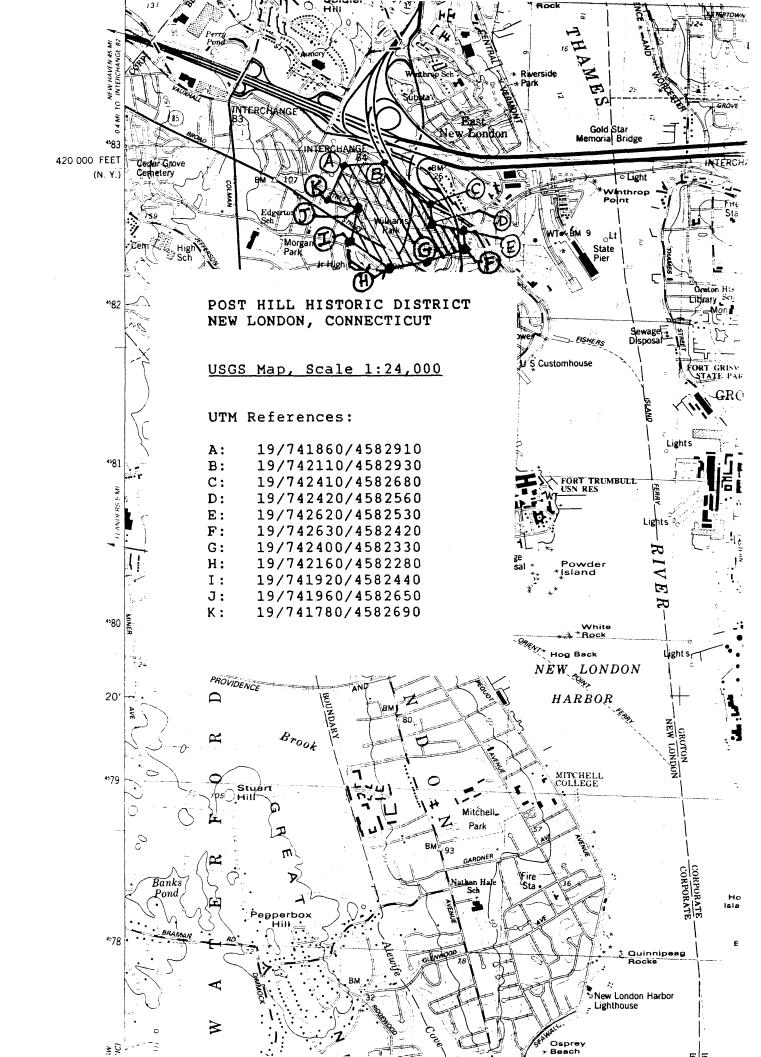
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POST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

USGS Map, Scale 1:24,000

#### UTM References:

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#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs in the Post Hill Historic District were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in February, 1993. Negatives for all photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

#### Number, Description & View

- 1. The Antientest Burial Place, from Hempstead Street, east view
- 2. Williams Park, in front of the Nathan Hale Statue, east view
- 3. 81-65 Granite Street, north view
- 4. Monument to Christopher Christophers (1687), John Hartshorne, carver
- 5. Monument to Phebe Shackmaple (1776), John Stevens, Jr., carver
- 6. Monument to Samuel Gray (1713), carver unknown
- 7. Monument to Capt. Adam Shapley (1782), carver unknown
- 8. John O. Arnold House (1847), 5 Granite Street, northwest view
- 9. William Albertson House (1845), 28 Vauxhall Street, northwest view
- 10. 224-232 Williams Street, west view
- 11. Captain Samuel Green House, 53 Granite Street, east view
- 12. William Barns House (c.1875), 17 Granite Street, east view
- 13. 24 and 28 Channing Street, northwest view
- 14. Susan Hawkins and Ella Hawkins Brown House (1903), 265 Williams Street, east view

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#### PHOTOGRAPHS (continued)

- 15. The Melville apartment building (c.1915), 33 Granite Street, northeast view
- 16. The Highland Apartments (c.1920), 43 Granite Street, northeast view
- 17. The Beechwood Manor (Frederick Newcomb House)(1896-97), 31 Vauxhall Street, northeast view
- 18. Monument to Gurdon Saltonstall (1724), carver unknown

