NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)	OMB No. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	RECEIVED 2280
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	JAN 2 4 7907
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Con box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property bein For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only car Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). It complete all items.	mplete each item by marking "*" in the appropriate ing documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." ategories and subcategories from the instructions.
1. Name of Property	
historic name	
other names/site number <u>Rocky Hill Center Historic District (use for publication)</u>	<u> </u>
2. Location	
street & number <u>Roughly bounded by Old Main, Pratt & Washington Streets, Gla</u>	stonbury Avenue, and Riverview Road
not for publication <u>N/A</u> city or town <u>Rocky Hill</u> vicinity	<u>N/A</u>
state <u>Connecticut</u> code <u>CT</u> county <u>Hartford</u> code <u>201</u>	03
zip code <u>06067</u>	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amend request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering pr and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In m meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	operties in the National Register of Historic Places y opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets <u>does not</u>

Signature of certifying official Date J. Paul Loether, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Commission on Culture & Tourism, Historic Preservation and Museum Division State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Location (for legal notification purposes):

Belden Lane: 1, 2, 4.

Church Street: 11, 33, 35, 52, 54.

Esther Road: 10.

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Glastonbury Avenue: 5, 8, 9, 10, 11. 12, 14, 15, 22-8-34 (ROW only), 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 22-8-15 (ROW only), 30, 22-7-15, 32, 34, 35, 36, 22-7-1, 40, 41, 51, 54.

Laura Lane: 100, 200.

Old Main Street : 74, 2-4-23B, 92, 97, 112, 113, 119, 122, 129, 132, 135, 141, 149, 150, 155, 163, 164, 171, 172, 179, 182, 187, 192, 204, 207, 214, 217, 227, 230, 237, 244, 245, 253, 262, 263, 283, 293, 2-4-8A.02 (ROW only), 300, 301, 311, 325, 335, 342, 347, 350, 358, 368, 382 (ROW only). 388, 394, 401, 406, 411, 420, 430, 442, 9-3-23.01 (ROW only), 447, 460. 472, 478 (ROW only), 488, 491, 497, 503, 509, 9-3-42 (ROW only), 510, 515, 521, 527, 530, 533, 539, 542, 549, 559, 560, 561, 568, 576, 577, 582, 588, 594, 597, 602, 610, 618 (ROW only), 623, 626, 9-3-42 (ROW only), 636, 637, 649, 650, 655, 663, 666, 670 (ROW only), 673, 678, 680 (ROW only) 682, 699, 734, 739, 748, 750, 761, 784, 785, 790, 796-798, 800, 805, 810, 818, 826.

Pratt Street: 53, 54, 55, 56, 57.

Riverview Road: 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 13R, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47.

Silas Deane Highway: 2340.

Washington Street: 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 21+, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 38.

<u>Rocky Hill Center Historic District</u> Name of Property

Hartford, CT County and State

4. National Park Service Certificat	// .		
I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the Nati See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Reg other, (explain):	onal Register	re of the Keeper D	Date of Action $3 \cdot 9 \cdot \delta 7$
5. Classification		والمربوع والمربوب والمربوع والمربوع والمربو	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) count.)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		ces within Property viously listed resources in the
X private X public-local public-State public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object	Contributing <u>228</u> <u></u> <u></u> <u></u> <u>228</u>	Noncontributing <u>52</u> buildings
Name of related multiple property (Enter "N/A" if property is not part o N/A	-	Number of contrib listed in the Nation 4	outing resources previously nal Register
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/single dwelling/seconda GOVERNMENT/town hall/fire static EDUCATION/school RELIGION/religious facility		GOVERNMENT/n	om instructions) <u>dwelling/secondary structure .</u> nunicipal building/clubhouse . CULTURE/museum
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>COLONIAL/Postmedieval English/G</u> EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal MID-19 TH CENTURY/Greek Reviva		Materials (Enter categories fro foundation <u>stone</u> walls weatherboard	<u> </u>

Narrative Description

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Rocky Hill Center Historic District, Hartford County, CT Section 7 Page 1

Rocky Hill Center Historic District, which encompasses the institutional and residential center of town, is situated just east of the Silas Dean Highway (State Route 99), and extends for more than mile to the northwest along Old Main Street, almost to the border with the Town of Wethersfield (see district map). Historic and modern buildings that comprise the institutional center occupy the triangle formed by Old Main and Church streets, and include the Congregational Church, a readily visible Rocky Hill landmark near the highway at the southern entrance to the district. Glastonbury Avenue (Route 160), Washington Street, and Riverview Road fan out from the center towards the river, and connect with several smaller streets. The district ends just before the boundary of the Rocky Hill Ferry Landing, a historic maritime community included in a recently listed National Register district that also extends across the river into the Town of Glastonbury.

Although much of the center occupies relatively level high ground, 50 or more feet above the Connecticut River, the district is partially bordered by a wooded rocky ridgeline on the northeast. Now a public recreation area (Quarry Park), it includes a historic trap rock quarry to the south and the former rail line of the 1871 Connecticut Valley Railroad along its eastern base. As Old Main Street cuts across the lower western face of this ridge, some historic residential properties on the northeast side sit high above the street, while those across the road slope away to the west.

The district contains 284 resources, of which 232 (80 percent) contribute to its historic character. Historic houses, by far the largest category of contributing resources (75 percent), include a range of architectural styles and types dating from c. 1700 to 1956. Among them are colonial dwellings, some dating back to the town's early settlement period, nineteenth-century farmhouses, along with numerous twentieth-century suburban homes. Many of these properties contain associated period outbuildings, such as barns and sheds or garages. Contributing institutional development dating from the early decades of both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries consists of churches, schools, and other civic buildings, renovated or restored both during and after the period of significance. Non-contributing resources include later institutional buildings, as well as a few deteriorated historic houses, and a limited amount of modern (post 1956) residential infill.

Various domestic colonial types and forms are represented in the district. Usually organized around a center chimney plan, they include two-story Colonials with gabled roofs, and one-story gambrel-roofed cottages, or Capes. The oldest two-story Colonial, the Captain David Riley House, has a three-bay façade, with an eight-pane transom over the double-leaf front door. Built about 1710, this recently restored house faces southeast at the beginning of Riverview Road (Inventory #225; Photograph 1). The later 1754 Robbins-Arnold House on Old Main Street also has a double door (now covered) with a flared wood lintel (Inventory #158; Photograph 2).

Other Colonials, such as the 1745 Captain Stephen Riley House, which sits high above northeast side of Old Main Street, often display doorways or other features from later stylistic periods (Inventory #193; Photograph 3). The earliest fivebay Colonial in the district, it has triple-hung sash at the first floor with projecting cornices, probably added at the same time as the Federal doorway surround. A delicate Federal portico with a coved ceiling was added to the c. 1760 James Warner House on the west side of Old Main Street (Inventory #136; Photograph 4). The Captain Roger Riley House, a 1771 Colonial that occupies a prominent corner lot across from the civic center, features a pedimented portico that may be an original feature (Inventory #201; Photograph 5).

The quite similar form and fenestration of the c. 1760 Bulkeley-Goodrich House and the much later c. 1790 Elijah Roberts House illustrates the persistence of the plain "Connecticut style" in the district (Inventory #s 137, 126; Photographs 6, 7). Located almost directly across from each other partway up Old Main Street, both these houses were embellished with nearly identical Greek Revival-style door surrounds in the 1840s. A bolder, slightly recessed, trabeated Greek doorway was added to the Dickenson-Judson House on Riverview Road, the only colonial "half house" with a

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Rocky Hill Center Historic District, Hartford County, CT Section 7 Page 2

side-hall plan in the district (Inventory #243; Photograph 8). Just across the road, the colonial form of the 1787 Federalstyle Lewis Whitmore House is embellished with stylish doorways and denticulated cornices (Inventory #238; Photograph 9). The fanlight above the front door is surmounted by an open pediment.

One of the district's distinguishing features is the prevalence of the gambrel-roof form, most notably demonstrated by the 1767 Georgian-style Esquire John Robbins House (Inventory #101; Photograph 10).¹ The only brick house in the district, it features a Palladian window with brick voussoirs and a flared wooden lintel over the door, scribed to resemble brick, and a projecting belt course just above brownstone window lintels. Once known as the Duke of Cumberland Inn, the attic level with its broad gambrel roof and pedimented dormers was reserved for travelers.

Perhaps the oldest use of the gambrel roof in Rocky Hill was on the Goffe House at the north end of Old Main Street (Inventory #56; Photograph 11). Almost square in plan with a relatively steep lower slope to the roof and an ell at the northeast corner, this one-and-one-half story house was standing by c. 1700.² Later and similar cottages, often called Capes, a type introduced into Connecticut in the 1740s, may display small fixed windows in the eaves and/or façade dormers. Several gambrel Capes were erected between c. 1745 and c. 1770 on Pratt Street or on nearby Belden Lane (Inventory #s 220, 222, 1; Photographs 12, 13). Two other examples of this form at the first bend in Riverview Road, which were built by the Riley family between 1771 and c.1790, display pedimented dormers and a similar pitch to the slopes of the roof (Inventory #s 227, 230; Photograph 14). There is little to distinguish these cottages from the much later c. 1830 Henry Webb House, except for a different fenestration pattern on the end elevations (Inventory #12; Photograph 15).

Except for the Greek Revival doorways added to some older houses (as discussed above) the influence of this style in the district was quite limited. The transitional Frederick Morton House is one of the few examples with the gable-to-street orientation associated with this style (Inventory #134; Photograph 16). Although now sheathed with artificial siding, this house retains the doorway surround, with the sidelights and the high entablature of Greek Revival, as well as the pediment fanlight of the Federal style. The North District School, which was converted to a residence in the 1920s, was rebuilt in this style in 1845 (Inventory #112; Photograph 17).

The Italianate style, as interpreted in Rocky Hill, utilized a cubic villa form and a near-flat hipped roof. Unlike later more elaborate Victorian Italianates, however, the overhanging eaves are not supported by carved brackets. One of the more detailed of these vernacular Italianates overlooks Old Main Street and displays a Tuscan facade porch and narrow attic windows in the frieze (Inventory # 182; Photograph 18). The William Neff House across the street has similar attic windows and a low hipped roof, but its five-bay facade suggests that this example may have been an earlier Colonial (Inventory #162; Photograph 19). A more unusual Italianate conversion is found in the Thomas Warner House, also on Old Main Street (Inventory #86; Photograph 20). Much of the original Colonial façade is hidden by the 1873 projecting three-bay gabled pavilion, which displays a characteristic round-arched, Italianate window. The vast majority of later nineteenth-century houses, however, are simple vernacular types with a gable-to-street orientation, many with cross-gable wings and front porches. Typical examples are found on Glastonbury Avenue and Washington Street (Inventory #s 34, 37, 40, 273; Photographs 21, 22).

¹ Elmer Keith, architectural historian and supervisor of the state-wide WPA survey in the 1930s, dates the house at c. 1790 because of the Palladian window, but an extensive use of paneling and other interior detailing tends to confirm the 1767 date, as does the age of Esquire Robbins, who would have been 74 in 1790. "National Register Inventory Form," 9/20/88.

 $^{^{2}}$. Some sources date this house at 1655, presumably the date when Goffe settled here. Although it is possible that an earlier house on this site was rebuilt or remodeled, the existing structure does not appear to be that old.

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The Colonial Revival style, which appeared in the district by 1900, utilized several forms and was influenced by other styles. It was first combined with Queen Anne massing, as exemplified by the Belden House at the west entrance to the district, which has a wraparound veranda supported by columns with brackets under the eaves (Inventory #262; Photograph 23). The classical influence on this style is expressed in the projecting pedimented pavilion at 636 Old Main Street (Inventory #186; Photograph 24), while the gambrel-roofed form of this style, often called Dutch Colonial, is represented by a 1927 example at 420 Old Main Street (Inventory #131; Photograph 25). The latter house, which has a broad façade dormer and side pent roofs, features a large Colonial Revival portico with a cove ceiling. A reproduction Connecticut Valley doorway with a broken scroll pediment is the highlight of another Colonial Revival set well back from the east side of Riverview Road (Inventory #246; Photograph 26). The common practice of updating an older house with Colonial Revival porch was taken to a new heights in the colonnaded portico added to the c. 1770 Jacob Robbins House in the 1920s (Inventory #96; Photograph 27).

The Bungalow, a contemporary suburban form, is also present in the district. Two neighboring houses on Old Main Street exhibit the common features of this style: a front porch sheltered under the extended front slope of the roof and either shed or gabled façade dormers (Inventory #s 195, 192; Photograph 28). The first story of the one at #663 is constructed of concrete block molded to resemble rusticated stone, a material first used in the 1920s.

The Colonial Revival Cape style was favored in the residential boom that began near the end of the Great Depression. Although some Capes display slightly different doorways, the common elements of the continuous row of these houses that line the west side of Old Main Street include attached one-car garages with breezeways (Inventory #s 59, 61, 63, 65, 68, 69, 71, 70, 75, 68, 69, 71; Photograph 29). Another group of Capes from this period down the street on the east side have small detached garages. Similar postwar counterparts, such as those built on Washington Street around 1950, often incorporate two-car garages (Inventory #262, 264; Photograph 30). Although there were a few examples of the Ranch style in the immediate postwar development period, most houses of this type in the district were constructed after 1960.

Most of the contributing institutional buildings in the district have been remodeled over time. The 1808 Rocky Hill Congregational Church, an individually significant building, was listed on the National Register in 1982 (Inventory #213; Photograph 31). Fully detailed in the Federal style, with a pedimented projecting pavilion and a Palladian window, it was modeled after a similar church in Middletown designed by Lavius Fillmore. Originally constructed with a spire, it now displays a two-stage bell tower, which dates from the 1830s. The complementary parish house addition of 1948 at the rear of the church was designed by Henry S. Kelly (the brother of restoration architect J. Frederick Kelly). In 1958 a parish hall was added to Gothic Revival-style, United Methodist Church of 1895, which is located at the opposite (north) corner of the institutional triangle between Church and Old Main Streets (Inventory #184; Photograph 32). While displaying the steeply pitched roofs and offset belfry tower so characteristic of this style, here bold triangular window shapes were substituted for the more typical Gothic pointed arches. Although they appear to be an alteration associated with the residing of the building, these design elements are depicted in a c. 1944 photograph and may be original.

Remodeling of other historic institutional buildings in the district include the rebuilding of the 1803 Academy Hall after a fire in 1839 (Inventory #209; Photograph 33) and its restoration in 1973 to house the Rocky Hill Historical Society Museum. The first town hall, a Neo-Colonial Revival structure erected in 1954 at Church and Old Main streets, has a c. 1970 rear addition (Inventory #207; Photograph 34).

Later buildings in the town center, which are considered non-contributing only because of their more recent construction dates, include the present 1967 Cora Belden Library, a brick and cast stone building on Church Street and the 1962 brick fire-department building for Rocky Hill Company No.1 (Inventory #s 7, 204). The latter structure replaced an earlier

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wood-framed firehouse, which stills stands on Church Street (Inventory #8). The most recent building, the present Town Hall erected in 2000, replaced (or incorporated) Center School, a wood-framed structure built in 1916 and enlarged in 1941 (Inventory #207).

A complete inventory list of all the contributing and non-contributing resources, organized in alphanumeric order by street address and map/block/lot numbers follows. Inventory numbers are used to identify resources in the text and on the district map. Rights-of-way (ROW) or vacant lots are identified on the list but not included in the inventory count. Also not included are small buildings that may be relocated, such as pre-fabricated garden sheds without permanent foundations.

Sources consulted for the historic names and construction dates include the Rocky Hill Historical Society archives and files, historic maps, federal censuses, and earlier surveys by the WPA and Colonial Dames. When the original owner is not known, the name of a later owner may be used. Properties identified by more than one name usually acknowledge the historic importance of a second or later owner. Wherever possible, building dates from the above sources were verified by field observation or by tax assessor's records. Dates preceded by "c." for circa, are estimates of the probable year of construction, plus or minus ten years.

<u>Rocky E</u>	<u> Iill Center Historic</u>	District, Hartford County, CT Se	ction 7	Page 5
Inv. #	Inve Address (map-block-lot)	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	BELDEN LANE			
1. 2.	1 (22-8-14)	THOMAS WILLIAMS HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, c. 1740 garage, c. 1950	C C	13
3.	2 (22-5-1.02)	modern house, 2002	NC	
4.	4 (22-5-1.03)	modern house, 2002	NC	
	CHURCH STREET			
5. 6.	11 (22-1-5)	Cape, c. 1940 garage, c. 1940	C C	
7.	33 (22-1-8)	CORA BELDEN LIBRARY, Colonial Revival, 1967; addition 1979	NC	
8.	35 (22-1-8)	COMPANY NO. 1 FIRE HOUSE, c. 1920	С	
9.	52 (21-6-16)	Gothic Revival, c. 1880	С	
10. 11.	54 (21-6-15)	OBED PULSIFER HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1850 garage, c. 1930	C C	
	60	(see 2340 Silas Deane Highway)		
	ESTHER ROAD			
12. 13.	10 (22-02-15)	Four-Square, c. 1925 garage, c. 1925	C C	
	GLASTONBURY A	VENUE		
	4	(see 826 Old Main Street)		
14.	5 (22-8-2)	commercial, c. 1870	С	
15.	8 (22-7-24)	vernacular Italianate, c. 1870	С	
16.	9 (22-8-3)	commercial, 1952	С	

<u>Rocky</u>		ric District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 6
Inv. #	In Address	ventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Reso Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	ources C/NC	Photo #
	(map-block-lot)			
	GLASTONBURY	YAVENUE		
17.	10	vernacular, c. 1870	С	
18.	(22-7-23)	garage, c. 1940	С	
19.	11	Federal Revival, c. 1938	С	
20.	(22-8-4)	garage, c. 1940	С	
21.	12 (22-7-22)	vernacular cross-gable, c. 1870	C	
22.	14	HENRY WEBB HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, c. 1830	С	15
23.	(22-7-21)	garage, c. 1940	C	
24.	15 (22-8-5)	ROCKY HILL GRANGE, Colonial Revival, c. 1925	С	
		ROW TO 22-8-34		
25.	16 (22-7-020)	Ranch, 1953	C	
26.	19	Four-Square, c. 1914	С	
27.	(22-8-7)	garage, c. 1920	C	
28.	20	BENJAMIN WRIGHT HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1830	С	
29.	(22-7-19)	barn, c. 1890	C	
30.	21	Cape, c. 1940	С	
31.	(22-8-8)	garage, c. 1940	С	
32.	23	Ranch, c. 1950	С	
33.	(22-8-9)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
34.	24 (22-7-18)	OILVER B. TUCKER HOUSE, vernacular, 1850	С	21
35.	25	vernacular cross-gable, 1900	С	
36.	(22-8-10)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
37.	28 (22-7-17)	vernacular, 1922	С	21
38.	29	Colonial Revival, 1892	С	
39.	(22-8-11)	garage, c. 1910	C	

ROW to 22-8-15

Rocky		ic District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 7
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	ventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resour Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	rces C/NC	Photo #
	GLASTONBURY	AVENUE		
40.	30 (22-7-16)	vernacular, c. 1910	С	21
	(2237-10)	Vacant (22-7-15) behind #30		
41.	32 (22-7-14)	Ranch, 1956	С	
42.	34	Ranch, 1956	С	
43.	(22-7-13)	garage, 1956	С	
44.	35	Four-Square, c. 1920	С	
45.	(22-8-12)	garage, c. 1920	С	
46.		shed, c. 1920	С	
47.	36 (22-7-12)	Cape, 1953	С	
	(22-7-12)	Vacant (22-7-11)		
48.	40 (22-7-10.01)	modern house, 1996	NC	
49.	41	WILLIAM BRADLEY HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, c. 1770	С	
50.	(22-5-1.01)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
51.	51	GRISWOLD HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1800	С	
52.	(22-5-2)	shed, c. 1920	С	
53.	54	Victorian vernacular, 1903	С	
	(22-6-22)			
	LAURA LANE			
54.	100 (22-7-32)	modern apartment complex, 1969	NC	
55.	200 (22-7-32)	modern apartment complex, 1969	NC	
	OLD MAIN STRE	CET		
56.	74	GOFFE HOUSE, Cape, by 1700	С	11
57.	(2-4-23)	shed, 1990	NC	
		Vacant (2-4-23B)		

Vacant (2-4-23B)

Rocky l	Hill Center Histor	tic District, Hartford County, CT	ection 7	Page 8
Inv. #	In Address (map-block-lot)	ventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STR	EET		
58.	92 (2-4-22)	Cape, 1939	С	
59.	97 (2-3-2)	Cape, 1938	С	
	``	Vacant (2-3-3)		
60.	112 (2-4-21.02)	Ranch, 1971	NC	
61. 62.	113 (2-3-4)	Colonial Revival Cape, 1938 garage, c. 1960	C NC	
63.	119 (2-3-5)	Cape, c. 1940	С	
64.	122 (2-4-21.01)	Ranch, 1971	NC	
65.	129 (2-3-6)	Colonial Revival Cape, c. 1940	С	
66. 67.	132 (2-4-21)	MILO A. SALLS HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1850 barn, c. 1900	C C	
68.	135 (2-3-7)	Cape, c. 1940	C	29
69. 70.	141 (2-3-8)	Cape, c. 1940 shed, c. 1950	С	29
71.	149 (2-3-9)	Colonial Revival Cape, c. 1940	С	29
72. 73.	150 (2-4-20)	Federal Revival, c. 1930 garage, c. 1930	C C	
74.	155 (2-3-10)	Cape, c. 1940; (altered, c. 1960)	С	
75.	163 (2-3-11)	Colonial Revival Cape, c. 1940	С	
76. 77.	164 (2-4-19)	Colonial Revival, 1937 garage, c. 1940	C C	

<u>Rocky I</u>	<u>Hill Center Histori</u>	c District, Hartford County, CT Se	ction 7	Page 9
		entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources		
Inv. #	Address (map-block-lot)	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	ET		
78.	171 (2-3-12)	Colonial Revival, c. 1940	С	
79.	172 (2-4-18)	vernacular Tudor Revival, 1937	С	
80.	179 (2-3-13)	Colonial Revival, c. 1940	С	
81.	182 (2-4-17)	Ranch, 1949	С	
82.	187 (2-3-14)	Cape, 1941	С	
83. 84.	192 (2-4-16)	Colonial Revival, 1927 garage, c. 1930	C C	
85.	204 (2-4-15)	Neo-Colonial Revival, 1963	NC	
86.	207	THOMAS WARNER HOUSE, Colonial/Italianate 1792/1873	С	20
87.	(2-2-30)	garage, c. 1960	NC	20
88.	214	McCARTY HOUSE, Cape, c. 1760	С	
89.	(2-4-14)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
90.	(partial)	barn/shed, c. 1890	C	
91.	217 (2-2-31)	Ranch, c. 1960	NC	
92.	227 (2-2-32)	Cape, 1936	С	
93.	230	Cape, 1939	С	
94.	(2-4-12)	garage, c. 1940	C	
95.	237 (2-2-34)	Cape, 1936	С	
96.	244	JACOB ROBBINS HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1770; portico, c. 1920	С	27
97.	(2-4-8)	garage, c. 1920	C C	
98.		shed, c. 1920	С	
99.	245 (2-2-35)	Cape, c. 1940	С	

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Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	rentory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	ET		
100.	253 (2-2-36)	Cape, 1951	С	
101.	262 (2-4-11)	ESQUIRE JOHN ROBBINS HOUSE (Duke of Cumberland Inn) Georgian, 1767 (NR 9/20/88)	С	10
102.	(2-+-11)	barn, c. 1890	С	
103.	263 (2-2-36.01)	Federal Revival Cape, 1949	С	
104.	283 (9-2-3)	Federal Revival Cape, 1939	C	
105.	293 (9-2-4)	Cape, 1936	С	
	()-2-4)	abandoned roadway (vacant lot)		
		Vacant lot		
		ROW, private drive (Matteson Avenue) to 2-4-8A.02		
106.	300	vernacular, c. 1930	С	
107.	(9-3-5)	garage, c. 1950	С	
108.	301	Cape, 1936	С	
109.	(9-2-5 & 6)	garage, c. 1950	С	
110.	311 (9-2-7)	Colonial Revival, 1930	С	
		ROW to #319 (9-2-8)		
111.	325 (9-2-9)	Four-Square, c. 1915	С	17
112.	335	Victorian cross-gable, c. 1905	C C	17
113.	(9-2-10)	garage, c. 1950	C	
114.	342 (9-3-13)	Bungalow, 1918	С	
115. 116.	347 (9-2-11)	NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL, 1845; converted to residence c. 1910 garage, c. 1940	C C	17
117. 118.	350 (9-3-14)	Bungalow (altered), 1918 garage, 1918	NC C	

<u>Rocky I</u>			ection 7	Page 11
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	ET		
119. 120.	358 (9-3-15)	STANDISH-CHANDLER HOUSE, Colonial Revival, c. 1880/c. 1920 garage, c. 1930) C C	
121. 122.	368 (9-3-16)	RYER HOUSE, Cape, c. 1780 (deteriorated) garage, c. 1920 (deteriorated)	NC NC	
	382	ROW (9-3-18)		
123. 124.	388 (9-3-17)	BENJAMIN WEBB HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1750 shed, c. 1955	C NC	
125.	394 (9-3-19)	Ranch, 1962	NC	
126.	401 (9-2-15)	ELIJAH ROBBINS HOUSE Colonial/Greek Revival, c. 1790/c. 1840	С	7
127. 128.	406 (9-3-20)	WALTER WARNER HOUSE, Italianate, c. 1850 garage, c. 1930	C C	
129. 130.	411 (9-2-16)	Colonial Revival, 1917 garage, c. 1920	C C	
131. 132.	420 (9-3-21)	Colonial Revival, 1927 garage, 1927	C C	25
133.	430 (9-3-22)	vernacular, c. 1935	С	
134. 135.	442 (9-3-23)	FREDERICK MORTON HOUSE, Federal/Greek Revival, c. 1830 shed, c. 1900	C C	16
		ROW (9-3-23.01)		
136.	447 (9-2-15)	JAMES WARNER HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, c. 1760/ c.1800	С	4
137.	460 (9-3-24)	CAPTAIN CHARLES BULKELEY-GOODRICH HOUSE Colonial/Greek Revival (doorway), c. 1760/c. 1840	C	6
138.	(partial)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
139.	472 (9-3-25)	Colonial Revival Cape, 1947	С	
	478	ROW to #478 (9-3-25A)	С	

<u>Rocky</u>	Hill Center Historia	c District, Hartford County, CT S	ection 7	Page 12
	Inv	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources		
Inv. #	Address	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	(map-block-lot)			
	OLD MAIN STRE	ET		
140.	488	Colonial Revival, 1943	С	
141.	(9.3.26; 9-3-42.1)	shed, c. 1930	С	
142.	491	Cape, 1940	С	
143.	(9-4-10)	shed, c. 1930	С	
144.	497 (9-4-11)	Colonial Revival Cape, 1941	С	
145.	503 (9-4-12)	Cape, 1940	C	
146.	509	Cape, 1941	С	
140.	(9-4-13)	garage, c. 1990	NC	
		ROW 9-3-42 vacant		
148.	510 (9-3-26.02)	Ranch, 1968	NC	
149.	515 (9-4-14)	Cape, 1939	С	
150.	521	Cape, c. 1940	С	
151.	(9-4-15)	garage, c. 1980	NC	
152.	527 (9-4-16)	Cape, 1938	С	
153.	530	CHARLES BULKELEY (II) HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1790	C	
155.	(9-3-27)	garage, c. 1940	C C	
155.	533	Cape, 1938	С	
156.	(9-4-17)	garage, c. 1960	NC	
157.	539 (9-4-18)	Cape, 1940	С	
158.	542	JASON ROBBINS-TALCOTT ARNOLD HOUSE, Colonial, 1754	С	2
158. 159.	(9-3-28)	garage, c. 1970	NC	L
160.	549	Raised ranch, 1972	NC NC	
161.	(9-4-19.03)	shed, c. 1990	NC	
162.	559 (9-4-19.02)	WILLIAM NEFF HOUSE, Italianate, c. 1850	C	19

<u>Rocky l</u>		ic District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 13
	Inv	ventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resour	rces	
Inv. #	Address (map-block-lot)	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	CET		
163.	560	Cape, 1947	С	
164.	(9-3-29)	shed, c. 1990	NC	
165.	561 (9-4-19.01)	Raised Ranch, 1961	NC	
166.	568 (9-3-30)	Ranch, c. 1960	NC	
167.	576	Cape, 1941	С	
168.	(9-3-31)	garage, c. 1970	NC	
169.	577	J.E. BULKELEY HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1860	С	
170.	(9-4-20)	garage, c. 1980	NC	
171.	582 (9-3-32)	Cape, 1938	С	
172.	585	vernacular, c. 1920	С	
173.	(9-4-21)	garage, c. 1930	С	
174.		garage, c. 1920	С	
175.	588	Cape, c. 1935	С	
176.	(9-3-33)	garage, c. 1935	С	
177.	594	Cape, c. 1940	С	
178.	9-3-34)	garage, c. 1940	С	
179.	597	SAMUEL DIMOCK HOUSE, Cape, c. 1800	С	
180.	(9-4-22)	garage, c. 1940	NC	
181.	602 (9-3-36)	vernacular, c. 1930	С	
182.	612	Italianate, c. 1870	С	18
183.	(9-3-37)	garage, c. 1940	C C	
	618	ROW to 9-3-37A		
184.	623 (21-12-1)	UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Gothic Revival, 1895; addition, 1958	С	32
185.	626 (9-3-38)	Ranch, 1955	С	
	()-5-50)	ROW 9-3-42		

Rocky	Hill Center Histori	ic District, Hartford County, CTSe	ection 7	Page 14
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	ventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	CET		
186. 187.	636 (9-3-39)	Colonial Revival, 1904 (or 1908) garage, c. 1930	C C	24
	637	vacant (22-1-1)		
188.	649 (22-1-2)	Cape, 1963	NC	
189. 190.	650 (9-3-40)	RILEY-BEAUMONT HOUSE, Cape, c. 1750; remodeled c.1920 garage, c. 1970	C NC	
191.	655 (22-1-3)	Cape, 1947	С	
192.	663 (22-1-6)	Bungalow, c. 1920	С	28
193. 194.	666 (22-2-1)	CAPTAIN STEPHEN RILEY HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, 1745 barn/garage, c. 1900	C C	3
195.	673 (22-1-8)	Bungalow, c. 1920	С	28
196. 197.	678 (22-2-2)	Gothic Revival, c. 1870 barn/garage, c. 1870	C C	
		ROW to 22-2-2C (#670) & 22-2-2B (#680)		
198. 199.	682 (22-2-2A)	modern house, 1986 garage, 1986	NC NC	
200.	699 (22-1-8)	ROCKY HILL TOWN HALL (1 st), 1954; additions, 2000, 2005 (now Rocky Hill Police Station)	С	34
201. 202. 203.	734 (22-7-1)	CAPTAIN ROGER RILEY HOUSE, Colonial, 1771 barn, c. 1890 garage, c. 1960	C C NC	5
204.	739 (22-1-8)	Rocky Hill Fire Department, Co. 1, 1962	NC	
205.	748 (22-7-32A)	Colonial Revival Cape, 1949	С	
206.	750 (22-7-32A)	Worthington Building, commercial, 1973	NC	

<u>Rocky</u>			Section 7	Page 15
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resource Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	c/NC	Photo #
	OLD MAIN STRE	ET		
207.	761 (22-1-8)	Rocky Hill Town Hall, 2000 (site of 1916 Center School)	NC	
208.	784 (22-7-31)	modern house, 1997	NC	
209.	785 (22-1-8)	ACADEMY HALL, 1803 (rebuilt after fire, 1839) (NR 10/7/77)	С	33
210.	790 (22-7-30)	vernacular, c. 1850; remodeled c. 1990	С	
211.	796-798 (22-7-29)	commercial, c. 1900 (storefronts altered)	С	
212.	800 (22-7-28)	condominium, 1983	NC	
213.	805 (22-9-1)	ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Federal, 1808; parish house addition, 1948 (Henry S. Kelly, architect; NR 5/7/82)	С	31
214.	810 (22-7-27)	vernacular/commercial, c. 1870; remodeled 2000	NC	
215.	818 (22-7-26)	commercial, 1956	С	
216. 217. 218.	826 (22-7-25)	THOMAS DANFORTH HOUSE, Colonial, 1783 barn, c. 1880 garage/warehouse, c. 1950 (aka 4 Glastonbury Avenue)	C C C	
	PRATT STREET			
219.	53 (24-3-12)	HINSDALE-HIGGINS HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, c. 1770	С	
220.	54 (22-5-6)	WILLIAMS-DICKENSON HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, c. 1745	С	12
221.	55 (24-3-13)	WHITMORE HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1795	С	
222.	56 (22-5-7.01)	JAGGER-DEMING HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, 1768	С	12

<u>Rocky I</u>	<u>Hill Center Histori</u>	c District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 16
	Inv	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resourc		
Inv. #	Address (map-block-lot)	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	PRATT STREET			
223.	57 (24-3-14)	DANIEL WILLIAMS HOUSE, Cape, c. 1730	С	
	RIVERVIEW RO A	AD		
224.	2 (22-6-2)	Ranch, 1959	NC	
225.	3 (22-2-3)	CAPTAIN DAVID RILEY HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1710 barn, c. 1840 (razed 2005)	С	1
226.	5 (22-2-6)	Craftsman cottage, 1926	C	
227.	7	RILEY HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, 1771	С	14
228.	(22-2-4)	garage, c. 1920	С	
229.		barn/shed, c. 1900	С	
230.	9	RILEY-ROBINSON HOUSE, Gambrel Cape, c. 1790	С	14
231.	(22-2-5)	barn, c. 1900	C	
232.	11 (22-2-7)	vernacular Italianate, c. 1870	С	
233.	13	HENRY ROBINSON HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1795	С	14
234.	(22-2-8)	barn, c. 1880	С	
235.	13R (22-2-8)	vernacular, c. 1850	С	
236.	17 (22-2-9)	MRS. L. M. LOVEJOY HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1865	С	
237.	19 (22-2-10)	Ranch, 1953	С	
238.	20	LEWIS WHITMORE HOUSE, Colonial/Federal 1787	С	9
239.	(22-6-3)	barn, c. 1880	С	
240.		OLD POST OFFICE (moved to site)	C	
241.		well house, c. 1850	С	
242.	22 (22-6-4)	Ranch, 1951	С	

<u>Rocky I</u>	<u>Hill Center Histori</u>	c District, Hartford County, CTS	ection 7	Page 17
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	entory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #
	RIVERVIEW RO A	D		
243. 244.	23 (22-2-11)	DICKINSON-JUDSON HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840; wing, c. 1 garage, c. 1930	730 C C	8
245.	24 (22-6-5)	Ranch, 1950	С	
246.	25 (22-2-12)	Colonial Revival, 1923	С	26
247.	28 (22-6-6)	Ranch, 1953	С	
248.	29 (22-2-13)	Federal Revival, 1922	С	
249.	32 (22-6-7)	Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, 1916	С	
250.	33 (22-2-14)	Four-Square, 1924	С	
251.	34 (22-6-8)	Queen Anne, 1906	С	
252. 253.	35 (22-2-18)	Colonial Revival, 1922 garage, c. 1930	C C	
254. 255.	39 (22-2-19)	Four-Square, 1922 garage, 1922	C C	
256.	40 (22-6-9)	Eastlake, c. 1910	C	
257.	41	Cape, c. 1950	С	
258. 259.	42 (22-6-10)	REV. L. BURTON ROCKWOOD, Italianate, 1853 barn, c. 1880	C C	
260.	47	Cape, c. 1950	С	
	SILAS DEANE HI	GHWAY		
261.	2340 (21-6-13)	BELDEN HOUSE, Colonial Revival, c. 1900	С	23

<u>Rocky l</u>		c District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 18
Inv. #	Inv Address (map-block-lot)	rentory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resource Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	ces C/NC	Photo #
	WASHINGTON S	TREET		
262.	2 (22-6-1)	Cape, c. 1950	С	30
263.	5 (22-7-2)	modern house, 1966	NC	
264.	6 (22-6-31)	Cape, c. 1950	С	30
265.	8 (22-6-30)	Ranch, 1965	NC	
266.	10 (22-6-29)	Cape, 1957	NC	
267.	11 (22-7-3)	Cape, c. 1950	С	
268. 269.	12 (22-6-28)	MERRIMAN HOUSE, Federal, 1808 garage, c. 1930	C C	
270.	14 (22-6-27)	WILCOX HOUSE, Cape, c. 1800	С	
271.	15 (22-7-4)	Cape, c. 1950	C	
272.	17 (22-7-5)	vernacular, c. 1860 (possibly former blacksmith shop)	С	
273 274.	18 (22-6-26)	vernacular, c. 1880 garage, c. 1990	C NC	22
275.	21 (22-7-6)	vernacular, c. 1900; altered, c. 1980	NC	
276.	21+ (22-7-7)	Cape, c. 1935	С	
277.	22 (22-6-25)	Cape, c. 1950	С	
278.	23 (22-7-8)	modern house, 2004	NC	

Rocky I	Hill Center Historic	District, Hartford County, CT	Section 7	Page 19					
	Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources								
Inv. #	Address (map-block-lot)	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(s)	C/NC	Photo #					
	WASHINGTON ST	REET							
279.	24	HIRAM BALDWIN HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1860	С						
280.	(22-6-24)	barn/shed, c. 1930	С						
281.	25	Colonial Revival, 1939	С						
282.	(22-7-9)	garage, c. 1940	C						
283.	29 (22-7-10 & 10E)	vernacular, c. 1860	С						
284.	38 (22-6-23)	HIRAM F. HICKOK HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1850	С						

Rocky Hill Center Historic District

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing)	
$\mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}$ Property is associated with events that have made	ARCHITECTURE
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	SOCIAL HISTORY
our history.	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	Period of Significance
of a type, period, or method of construction or	<u>c. 1700 - 1956</u>
represents the work of a master, or possesses	
high artistic values, or represents a significant and	
distinguishable entity whose components lack	
individual distinction.	Significant Dates
	N/A
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield	
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Person
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Property is:	N/A
A owned by a religious institution or used for	
religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A
B removed from its original location.	
C a birthplace or grave.	Architect/Builder
0	N/A
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F a commemorative property.	
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past	t 50 years.
	-
Narrative Statement of Significance	

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

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Previous documentation on file (NPS): **Primary Location of Additional Data:** preliminary determination of individual listing X State Historic Preservation Office

- (36 CFR 67) has been requested. X 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 #___

Hartford, CT

County and State

_____ Other State agency

____ Local government

Cora Belden Library, Rocky Hill

Name of repository: Rocky Hill Historical Society;

_____ Federal agency

University

X Other

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Statement of Significance

Rocky Hill Center Historic District embodies the historical development of a river town in the Central Connecticut Valley from c. 1700 to 1956. Participation in an international maritime economy, as well as direct access to overland transportation networks, carried a colonial parish of Wethersfield to political independence as the new town of Rocky Hill in 1843, and ultimately transformed a basically agrarian community into a residential suburb, a process that is reflected in the evolving historic architectural character of the center. Highlighted by well-preserved, representative examples of the Colonial style, the district also includes a group of civic, cultural, and religious resources. Although some of these buildings have been remodeled or replaced in the wake of rapid suburban growth, collectively this complex still functions as the historic institutional center of Rocky Hill.

Historical Background and Significance

Rocky Hill was part of Wethersfield for nearly two hundred years. One of the first three River Towns in Connecticut, Wethersfield was settled by families from Watertown, Massachusetts, and England between 1634 and 1636. A shipyard and ferry were established at the river landing in the "lower community," as Rocky Hill was once known, by town fathers in the 1650s. But it was not until the Great Flood of 1700 changed the course of the Connecticut River upstream, that Rocky Hill Landing became Wethersfield's principal port. By 1722 the lower community was large enough to support a separate Congregational church society, and the new parish took the name of Stepney in 1723. The first meetinghouse, erected in the middle of Old Main Street in 1727, was not completed until the 1760s. By then, however, a booming merchant trade with access to international maritime ports had transformed a struggling subsistence economy into a prosperous market town of nearly 900 people.

Stepney Parish

Most of the farmers, mariners, and tradesmen who built homes in the district were descendants of Wethersfield proprietors. Although deference was paid to the clergy, social status here and in most colonial settlements, was largely derived from land wealth. At the top of the social scale were the landed gentry who played prominent roles in the religious and civic affairs of the community, and often employed marriage and inheritance practices that conserved family assets for the benefit of future generations. This hierarchy of status conferred by land ownership is exemplified by the Robbins family, direct descendants of Gentleman John Robbins. The eldest of five brothers who came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony from England, Robbins removed to Wethersfield about 1638 and invested heavily in the proprietorship. He married the sister of Thomas Welles, a colonial governor, and became a member of the General Court and town selectman. The large brick Georgian in the district was built by his grandson, Esquire John Robbins, one of the wealthiest men in the colony, and keeper of the Duke of Cumberland Inn (Inventory #101; Photograph 10).

A gentlemen farmer and slave owner, Squire Robbins grew wheat and corn, and grazed livestock in the river meadows, which were held in common by all proprietors. Although subsequent generations consolidated the family's wealth with cousin marriages, Esquire John and his children maximized their holdings through strategic marital alliances with other prominent Rocky Hill families, such as the Russells, Warners, Bulkeleys, and Rileys. Upon his death in 1798, his 11 children by three marriages and numerous grandchildren shared in a large estate. It is said that the widow's third received by his last wife, Polly Russell, daughter of Daniel Russell, Stepney's Congregational minister, was compensation for her father's land that she brought to the marriage. The Robbins house passed down to his youngest son Frederick, whose style of living and social position more than equaled that of his father. Following his father's example, Frederick represented the town in the General Assembly and served in the Revolution, both as a soldier and as a privateer. Other surviving family houses in the district were built by Jason Robbins (John's brother), Jacob Robbins, and

Rocky Hill Center Historic District, Hartford County, CT

Elias Robbins (Inventory #s 158, 96; Photograph 2, 27). Esquire John's sister married her cousin, Nathaniel Robbins, a deacon of the Stepney church. The house of their grandson, Elijah Robbins, also still stands on Old Main Street (Inventory #126; Photograph 7).

The Warners of Rocky Hill, related to the Robbins family by marriage, were descendants of Deacon William of Wethersfield. His grandson, Daniel, married Sarah Robbins, Esquire John's daughter, who owned considerable property in her own right, which she received from her father during his lifetime or by inheritance. Although their home in Rocky Hill has not survived, Sarah owned other real estate, which she distributed among all her sons and daughters in her will of 1807. Eunice, the wife of Samuel Dimock (Inventory #179), received a tract in the Great Meadow, as did Daniel Warner (2nd). One of the few Rocky Hill mariners in this family, Daniel lived with his wife Abigail in a house built on the site of present 577 Old Main Street (Inventory #169). Although Daniel was said to be an indifferent farmer after he retired from the sea, in the next generational cohort, Thomas and James Warner were among the more successful farmers of the *ante bellum* period (Inventory #s 86, 136; Photographs 20, 4).

Rocky Hill's economy was dominated by the export trade from about 1750 to 1820. According to Stiles' *History of Ancient Wethersfield*, 40 percent of the men in Rocky Hill between 16 and 60 were engaged in some type of maritime activity at the turn of the century. Although Stiles included peripheral participants, such as the farm boys who raised a few chickens for export, or aspiring young mariners enrolled at Academy Hall for training in navigation and mathematics (Inventory #209; Photograph 33), the principals who truly prospered from trade were the ship builders, sailing masters and merchants, as well as local and regional farmers Farm produce and livestock were shipped from Rocky Hill Landing to East Coast ports and the West Indies. Some goods came by ferry from across the river, but by 1802 much of the produce of Hartford, Wethersfield, and as far away as Farmington, was carried to the port by wagon along the new Middlesex Turnpike, which ran through the district along Church and Old Main streets. The wealth generated by the maritime trade is reflected in the new Congregational meetinghouse of 1808 (Inventory #213; Photograph 31). Built on Robbins' land at a public cost of \$9000, an extraordinary sum for a town of this size, this high-style Federal building now known as the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, was the equal of many built in large urban centers.

Many of the district's master mariners were descendants of James Riley who came to Wethersfield in 1645. Captain David Riley, the first of the family in Rocky Hill, built his house about 1710 just off Old Main Street on Riverview Road (Inventory #225; Photograph 1). So many of his seafaring sons and grandsons built houses nearby, this intersection was once known as Riley's Corner (Inventory #s 227, 230, 201; Photographs 14, 5). Among them is the two-story Colonial at 734 Old Main Street, thought to be the home of Roger Riley, master of the sloop *Polly* in 1798. Captain Stephen Riley (1729-1813) built his Colonial farther up the street and a Cape for one of his sons nearby (Inventory #s 193, 189; Photograph 3). In addition to an association with merchant shipping interests in Hartford (Riley & Brown), the Rileys, often in partnership with neighbors, such as the Mortons and Warners, invested in shipbuilding for many years. Beginning as early a 1732 with the sloop *Stepney*, built at the yard at the Rocky Hill Landing, in 1813 they owned shares in the brig *Commerce*, which was launched from a Wethersfield yard and wrecked off the coast of Africa on its maiden voyage. Active as privateer captains during the Revolution, several Rileys engaged in the trans-Atlantic Triangle trade and the lucrative but hazardous West Indies trade after the war.³

Two generations of captains were named Charles Bulkeley. Charles (2^{nd}) , who died of smallpox in the West Indies in 1799, had married Eunice Robbins in 1785 and built his house on Old Main Street (Inventory #153). His widow stayed on in the house until her death in 1835 and it passed down to her unmarried daughter Augusta. Charles Senior's

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³ In addition to disease which claimed many lives, American vessels who supplied the British forces in the Caribbean during the Napoleonic Wars risked capture by French privateers.

(Revised 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Rocky Hill Center Historic District, Hartford County, CT

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Colonial just up the street was erected about 1760 (Inventory #137; Photograph 6). Tradition holds that Captain Elizur Goodrich, who also succumbed to smallpox in the West Indies about 1740, once lived in the Thomas Williams House on Belden Lane (Inventory #1; Photograph 13). One of his descendants may have been Jasper Goodrich, a retired sea captain in 1860, possibly the last surviving mariner in the center.⁴

Although Rocky Hill Landing apparently survived the restriction of trade during Jefferson's Embargo and the War of 1812, with the dredging of the sandbars upriver by 1820, it lost its navigational advantage. Not only did Wethersfield reassert its dominance as the principal shipping port, steam power had begun to replace sail on the river Side-wheelers that plied the Connecticut as far north as Hartford soon made scheduled stops at Steamboat Wharf in Rocky Hill, where Henry Webb was a coal dealer (Inventory #22; Photograph 15). By 1850 only a few district residents had any direct maritime connections: Enos Holmes, who lived in the former Captain Stephen Riley House (Inventory #193; Photograph 3) and Talcott Arnold who bought the Jason Robbins House in 1831 (Inventory #158; Photograph 2). Both men listed their occupation in the federal census that year as ships caulker, possibly at still active yards in Glastonbury or Wethersfield.

Rocky Hill

By 1850 the new town of Rocky Hill was a relatively stable, self-sufficient agrarian community. With its human and natural resources in economic equilibrium, there was enough productive land to support a population of 1042. In fact, the number of new houses built in the district at mid-century suggests that the town had adjusted to the loss of the maritime trade and was fairly prosperous. Like many Connecticut towns, her surplus population had been siphoned off to the frontier or to the cities for more than 50 years. Some of her young men who had sailed to southern ports as factors or peddlers never returned home. Among them was son of Thomas Danforth, a Middletown pewterer who set up his shop and built a house in the center in 1787 (Inventory #216). Trained in the craft by his father, he sold his wares in southern cities and eventually settled there. Whereas many towns in Connecticut never fully recovered from this mass exodus and rural populations continued to decline, a process exacerbated by declining marriage and birth rates, in Rocky Hill the population remained fairly stable, hovering around 1000 for the rest of the century.

Even though subsistence farmers were still to be found in the district (especially on Washington Street and Glastonbury Avenue), federal census data indicates that at least a dozen farmers apparently had enough land to raise a surplus for market. Surprisingly few farm households included live-in hired hands, which became a common practice in the later 1800s, and even some of the wealthier district farmers still depended upon their sons for farm labor. Others may have employed African American farm laborers, who were listed in the census as living with their families in tenant houses off Old Main Street (probably on Parsonage Lane). Livestock was no longer raised for export, but there was a regional inland market, especially for potatoes, apples, and onions, which by 1871 could be shipped by rail. Like many towns on this side of the river, Rocky Hill, which had actively promoted the coming of the railroad ever since 1850, issued a bond to fund its share of the construction costs of the Connecticut Valley Line. A passenger station was completed in 1875 and a freight house by the end of the century.

Larger nineteenth-century farms in the district were still owned by descendants of Wethersfield proprietors, but others had changed hands, and a few were bought by newcomers to town. The brick Georgian built by Esquire Robbins which passed down to Walter Robbins, together with the land and outbuildings, was valued at \$7000 in the 1870 census.

⁴ The order of the census list that year places him in the Glastonbury Avenue neighborhood, but the house has not been identified.

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Relatives still engaged in agriculture included Roswell Robbins, who inherited the 1790 house and farm of his grandfather Elijah Robbins, real estate worth \$4000 in 1850 (Inventory #126; Photograph 7). Like so many others in the family, Roswell had married his cousin, Eliza Robbins. His father William, a state senator, may have added the Greek Revival doorway. Elias Robbins, who inherited his grandfather's house, never married (Inventory #96; Photograph 27). The property, which had decreased in value by 1860, was still part of his estate eight years after his death (according to the 1869 map).

Thomas Warner, the farmer who converted his Colonial to an Italianate-style house, may have been the last of his line to farm there (Inventory #86; Photograph 20). In 1860, when his farm was worth \$6000, Thomas lived there with his wife and Abijah Griswold, a farmhand who also owned some of land. By 1870, however, the property was rented to Michael Connery, an Irish immigrant. Bartholomew McCarty, another Irish tenant farmer, lived across the street (Inventory #88). James Warner had taken over the old Deming place, which was valued at \$10,000 in the 1860 census (Inventory #136; Photograph 4). Gershom Bulkeley, the namesake of the early Wethersfield minister, and his son-in-law, Lucius Beaumont, lived in a former Riley House on Old Main Street, and claimed farm property worth \$15,000 in 1860 (Inventory #189).

The Goffe farm at the north end of Old Main Street changed hands several times after the heirs died or left town in the early 1700s (Inventory #56; Photograph 11). John Havens, shown as the owner on the 1869 map and worth \$5000 in the 1870 census, also may have removed to the frontier, as his wife died in Missouri in 1887. Benjamin Smith, who bought the Reverend L. Burton Lockwood House on Riverview Road, continued to harvest apples from the orchard set out by the minister and valued his property at \$5000 in 1870 (Inventory #258).

Among the other newcomers to town who made their homes in the district were New York-born Milo Salls, whose farm and new Greek Revival house were valued at \$6000 (Inventory #66), and merchant William Neff, who lived in an Italianate on Old Main Street (Inventory #162; Photograph 19) and ran a wagon shop at the Landing. A.G. Parker, a merchant from New York, bought the Williams House on Belden Lane (Inventory #1; Photograph 13), and tailor Obed Pulsifer from New Hampshire built his Greek Revival on Church Street about 1850 (Inventory #10). Undoubtedly some of these houses were erected by local builders, a group that included joiner Hiram Hickok, who may have built his own house on Washington Street (Inventory #284), cabinetmaker Walter Warner and his son, Horace, a carpenter (Inventory #127), and Samuel Packard, who came here from Massachusetts. In 1870 Packard lived in one of the Riley Capes on Riverview Road; the other one was occupied by cabinetmaker Ira Hubbell (Inventory #s 227, 230; Photograph 14). By then the earlier Riley Colonial nearby was owned by Rufus Griswold, a physician (Inventory #225; Photograph 1).

Several trades practiced in the district were agrarian based. At the bottom of the economic ladder were shoemakers like Linus Deming, who lived in a gambrel-roofed Cape on Pratt Street (Inventory #222; Photograph 12) and Frank Lovejoy, who came here from New York to live with the Goodrich family in the former Charles Bulkeley House (Inventory #137; Photograph 6). Broom making was a cottage industry in the center, with an annual output of 5000; several outbuildings were devoted to the business at the Robbins-Arnold House (Inventory #158; Photograph 2).

Stagecoach service on the Middlesex Turnpike generated other commercial activity. Travelers had a choice of Shipman's Hotel or the Hotel De Ryer (both no longer extant); stage proprietor William H. Webb lived near the west end of Glastonbury Avenue (house not identified). Several grocers either lived or had stores on the turnpike, including George Morton, who apparently had a store in his house (no longer extant), and Samuel Dimock (2nd), who lived his wife Rebekah Bulkeley (Gershom's daughter) in a Cape built by his father down the street (Inventory #179). Regular postal service began in 1802 with the opening of the turnpike; mail was still delivered by stage coach in 1850, when Henry

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Whitmore was appointed postmaster. He lived in the Federal house built by his father on Riverview Road (Inventory #238; Photograph 9) and a new post office was erected at the Old Main and Glastonbury (outside the district on the present Silas Deane Highway). Although that building has not survived, apparently an earlier post office was moved to the Whitmore property (Inventory #240).

Blacksmiths had served the needs of this agrarian society ever since settlement. Their shops could be found along the turnpike and other major roads in the district through much of the nineteenth century. In addition to shoeing horses and oxen, they forged tools, hardware, and household implements, and repaired farm equipment and by the later 1800s, some put their skills to work in industry. Blacksmith Edwin Risley had a shop on Washington Street for at least 20 years (possibly Inventory #272: now a residence). George Morton's shop was located near the turnpike across from his house and store. Oliver Tucker, who lived on Glastonbury Avenue (Inventory #34; Photograph 21) and also listed his occupation as carriagesmith, may have owned the nearby blacksmith shop at the intersection with Washington Street. Still in business at the turn of the century, this shop was run by Earnest Kilby, who, in addition to shoeing horses, specialized in forging stone cutter tools, evidently for the newly opened trap rock quarry on the ridge outside the district. Blacksmiths James and Walter Wilcox, along with their brother Homer, a finisher, were employed at Welles and Wilcox, their father's edge tool factory in "Dividend," an early industrial area south of the center, and lived in the family home on Washington Street (Inventory #270).

Suburbanization

What came to be known as "street-car suburbs" ringed Connecticut's major urban centers in the early twentieth century. Many of the urban dwellers who flocked to neighboring small towns to escape the congestion of the deteriorating industrial cities still commuted to the city for work, shopping, and recreation. In Rocky Hill, although suburbanization was a gradual process, it gained momentum in the 1930s. Linked by new highways and modern transportation with the capitol city, Rocky Hill officially acknowledged its suburban identity by becoming a member of the Greater Hartford Metropolitan Region in 1943.

Early suburban development in the district really began after 1910 when a trolley line passed through the center, linking Rocky Hill with Hartford and other nearby communities. By the 1920s, as mass-produced cars became affordable and main roads were improved by the state, the influence of the automobile on suburban growth is evident. In fact, the center experienced its first building boom after the Silas Deane Highway was laid out in 1930. At least 36 houses were constructed in the next decade. Some were built on individual lots carved out of older residential properties, but the majority of these suburban houses were located in the new subdivisions that swallowed up much of the remaining farmland bordering Old Main Street, a process that continued up though the historic period.

Apparently some of the first new district residents commuted to work in the city: George Chandler, a book publisher who bought the former Standish House on Old Main Street (Inventory #119); and Lee Sherwood, an insurance agent, who rented the Henry Robinson House on Riverview Road (Inventory #233). Among those who did business in the district were Louis Button, the owner of an insurance and real estate company who lived in a former Riley House (Inventory #201; Photograph 5), and grocer Elwood Belden, who built his new Colonial Revival at the south end of Church Street around 1900 (Inventory #261; Photograph 23).

Farming remained important in the town as a whole, as evidenced by the founding of the Rocky Hill Grange in 1901 (relocated in a new hall on Glastonbury Avenue about 1925; Inventory #24), but there were few active farms in the

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district. In fact, many of the older farmhouses had changed hands by 1920, including the Esquire Robbins House, which left the family in 1914. The few properties still owned by original families up through the historic period included the James Warner House (Inventory #136; Photograph 4). Having passed down to William Warner, who continued to farm the land, it was inherited by his son, Carl Warner, and was part of his estate in 1968. William G. Robbins, who left the farm to become a schoolteacher, returned to his ancestral home after his father Roswell died and became a successful dairy farmer (Elijah Robbins House; Inventory #126; Photograph 7). William's 60-acre farm, inherited by his son Frank H. Robbins in 1914, was eventually sold off for residential development, but the farmhouse remains in the hands of a seventh-generation descendant of the original builder.

That these latter-day descendants of Esquire John Robbins were selected to lead the town's transition into the modern era was a remarkable demonstration of the enduring resonance of traditional colonial habits of deference. Like many of his forebears, William G. Robbins was a deacon of the Congregational Church and active in town government, serving as town clerk and treasurer, and as a state representative. Frank H. Robbins, who succeeded his father as deacon and treasurer of the church and town clerk (with the office in his home), also served as chairman of the school board.

Rocky Hill's civic leaders faced unprecedented challenges as public and private institutions struggled to keep pace with population growth, which increased five-fold, reaching 5108 by mid-century. Academy Hall, which had served as a public school since 1913, was no longer adequate and the new four-room Center School was built in 1916 (on the site of the present town hall; Inventory #200). Two more rooms were added to the school in 1941. The private library erected in 1899 next to the Belden House (Inventory #261) was taken over by the town in 1926, and by 1928 rooms were added to the building for the first dedicated town offices for the selectmen and a police station.

Although many suburban towns decentralized public and private services after World War II, Rocky Hill modernized the historic religious and civic institutions in the center. Instead of moving their congregations to the outskirts, as did many churches in this period, both district churches elected to enlarge their facilities (Inventory #s 184, 213). Local government offices were housed in the first town hall built in 1954 (Inventory #200; Photograph 34). Modern brick buildings for other purposes followed in the 1960s, beginning with the replacement of the two-bay, wood-framed firehouse of the 1920s by a modern brick structure and the construction of the new Cora Belden Library. As the population tripled by the end of the century, town fathers reaffirmed their commitment to the historic center by building a brand new town hall for the new millennium.

Architectural Significance

Rocky Hill Center Historic District encompasses a notable collection of historic domestic and institutional buildings, a significant and cohesive architectural entity that collectively represents the 250 years of development. Hemmed in by the eponymous "rocky hill" and the river, the initial dispersed linear pattern of settlement common to outlying parishes quickly gave way to a more conventional clustering around a centralized institutional locus. A close reading of this historic townscape reveals an unbroken architectural continuum, initially delineated by the spatial distribution of a substantial and significant colonial presence and overlaid by the conservative sensibilities of a nineteenth-century town and its eventual transition to a suburban center.

Most of the domestic architecture in the district is stylistically conservative and often vernacular in character. Even though there are architecturally distinctive buildings in every period of development, overall, only modest stylistic embellishment of simple forms marked the passage of time. Even though Academy Hall was built of brick, it replicates the colonial form produced by post-and-beam framing and even suggests the trim board of an overhang in its belt course

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(Inventory #209; Photograph 33). Postmedieval framing systems persisted up through the antebellum period, easily accommodating the vernacular villa form introduced at mid-century. Although balloon framing of the vernacular farmhouses of the later nineteenth century allowing some freedom in massing, except for their open porches, there is little evidence of the decorative architectural millwork mass-produced in this period. Completing the cycle is the reassertion of style in the Colonial Revival period which, while paying homage to the simpler colonial forms, was distinctly more urban and modern in character.

The remarkable Esquire Robbins House of 1767 represents the height of eighteenth-century style in the district (Inventory #101; Photograph 10). Utilizing the massing, materials, and Palladianesque embellishment favored by urban merchants in this period, this sophisticated Georgian mansion was almost an anachronism in this semi-rural setting. Unlike his contemporaries who traditionally chose to hide their wealth behind starkly simple facades, the Robbins House was an overt display of wealth and status. Indeed, the contrast with the simplicity of neighboring Colonials heightens the significance of this building.

As a group, these more conventional two-story Colonials make a major architectural contribution to the district. An exceptional number have survived and most are well preserved. As was typical of the Connecticut Plain style, there was little variation in scale or form for more than a century, primarily due to the persistence of post-and-beam framing systems. Even the singular example of the domestic Federal style in the district, the Lewis Whitmore House, relies primarily on the architectural elaboration of this older colonial form (Inventory #238; Photograph 9). Even though plain window and door casings were the norm for these houses, flared lintels provided a modest enhancement for the double-leaf doors of the Robbins-Arnold House of 1754 (Inventory #158; Photograph 2).

The newer doorways of the early 1800s often combined up-to-date fashion with colonial elements, most notably demonstrated by the Captain Stephen Riley House, in which the original transom composed of tombstone lights forms part of the frieze of a Federal surround (Inventory #193; Photograph 3). In a similar fashion, the transom is retained under the portico that embellishes the Captain Roger Riley House (Inventory #201; Photograph 5). In some of the later Greek Revival doorways, such as the one added to the Elijah Robbins House, the typical multi-paned rectangular overlight is omitted and only sidelights illuminate the front hall (Inventory #126; Photograph 7).

The gambrel-roofed cottages in Rocky Hill Center comprise another significant, generally well-preserved group. The similarities between the gambrel-roof framing systems and the methods employed in hull construction has led some to suggest that ship carpenters were responsible for the prevalence of this form in the Connecticut River Valley. Since the builders remain anonymous, further study is required, but there is no question that this distinctive Connecticut colonial type, which is found in number of ports up and down the river, was constructed in the district for more than a hundred years, again with little variation in form or scale.

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Rocky Hill Center Historic District Name of Property					Hartford, CT County and State
10. Geographic	al Data				
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name/title	Jan Cunningham, National Register C	onsultant			
organization	Cunningham Preservation Associates	, LLC	-	date	<u>6/06</u>
street & number	37 Orange Road		- <u></u>	_telephone	(860) 347 4072
city or town	<u>Middletown</u> state <u>CT</u>	zip c	ode <u>0645</u>	5 <u>7</u>	
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References:

1.	18 695790	4617080	2.	18	696670	4615550
3.	18 697000	4615160	4.	18	697170	4614950
5.	18 697160	4614940	6.	18	696450	4615130
7.	18 696520	4615140	8.	18	696520	4615560
9.	18 695670	4616920	10.	18	695700	4617040

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries of the nominated district are shown on the attached map drawn to scale from Rocky Hill Tax Assessor's Aerial Survey Maps #s 2, 9, 21, 22.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries of the district encompass the maximum number of contributing historic resources associated with the development of Rocky Hill Center during the period of significance. The district includes the historic institutional center between Old Main Street and Church Lane and all the historic residential properties that front on Old Main Street, where rear property lines generally form district boundaries, thereby excluding a later, more modern residential subdivision to the southwest and Quarry Park on the northeast. Also excluded from the district are several groups of non-contributing residential infill (1970s and later) along this street. The boundaries also encompass the generally contiguous contributing properties along the rest of the principal streets, running east along the rear property lines on the south side of Glastonbury Avenue to include Inventory #1 on Belden Lane before crossing the street to encompass several historic houses on Pratt Street. There the district partially abuts the existing Glastonbury-Rocky Hill Ferry Historic District, but excludes some intervening non-contributing residential properties before continuing along rear property lines on the northeast side of Riverview Road and back to Old Main Street. Although the district excludes strip mall development along Silas Deane Highway, it includes one historic house there with a present highway address, originally numbered as part of Church Lane.

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List of Photographs

Photographer: Cunningham Preservation Associates, LLC Negatives on File: State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Dates: 8/05/2005

- 1. CAPTAIN DAVID RILEY HOUSE, 3 Riverview Road, camera facing NW
- 2. ROBBINS-ARNOLD HOUSE, 542 Old Main Street, camera facing E
- 3. CAPTAIN STEPHEN RILEY HOUSE, 666 Old Main Street, camera facing N
- 4. JAMES WARNER HOUSE, 447 Old Main Street, camera facing W
- 5. CAPTAIN ROGER RILEY HOUSE, 734 Old Main Street, camera facing SE
- 6. CAPTAIN BULKELEY-GOODRICH HOUSE, 460 Old Main Street, camera facing N
- 7. ELIJAH ROBBINS HOUSE, 401 Old Main Street, camera facing SW
- 8. DICKENSON-JUDSON HOUSE, 23 Riverview Road, camera facing N
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- 12. WILLIAMS-DICKENSON & JAGGER-DEMING HOUSES, 54, 56 Pratt Street, camera facing NE
- 13. GOODRICH-WILLIAMS HOUSE, 1 Belden Lane, camera facing SW
- 14. RILEY & ROBINSON HOUSES, 7, 9, 13 Riverview Road. camera facing NW
- 15. HENRY WEBB HOUSE, 14 Glastonbury Avenue, camera facing NW
- 16. FREDERICK MORTON HOUSE, 442 Old Main Street, camera facing N
- 17. NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL, 347 Old Main Street, camera facing NW
- 18. 610 Old Main Street, camera facing E
- 19. WILLIAM NEFF HOUSE, 559 Old Main Street, camera facing SW
- 20. THOMAS WARNER HOUSE, 207 Old Main Street, camera facing SW
- 21. Streetscape: 24, 28, 30 Glastonbury Avenue, camera facing NW
- 22. 18 Washington Street, camera facing SW
- 23. BELDEN HOUSE, 2340 Silas Deane Highway, camera facing SW
- 24. 636 Old Main Street, camera facing NE
- 25. 420 Old Main Street, camera facing E
- 26. 25 Riverview Road, camera facing NE
- 27. JACOB ROBBINS HOUSE, 244 Old Main Street, camera facing E
- 28. 673 & 663 Old Main Street, camera facing S
- 29. Streetscape: 149, 141, 135 Old Main Street, camera facing SW
- **30.** 2 & 6 Washington Street, camera facing SE
- 31. ROCKY HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 805 Old Main Street, camera facing N
- 32. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 623 Old Main Street, camera facing SW
- 33. ACADEMY HALL, 785 Old Main Street, camera facing N
- 34. ROCKY HILL TOWN HALL (1ST), 699 Old Main Street, camera facing NW



Rocky Hill Center Historic District Hartford County, CT

USGS Quad: Hartford South

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