

BT
1474

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase)

2. Location

street & number 50 North Street/16 and 20 South Street not for publication

city or town Plymouth vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06782

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan November 2, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
12-7-00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

20TH-CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/concrete

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut
Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The historic buildings in the boundary increase contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the Plymouth Center Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 22, 1999. A representative example of community development in Connecticut's Western Uplands, the district not only illustrates the complex religious and political dynamics of regional eighteenth-century town formation but also fully demonstrates the evolution of a fairly typical industrial village. Like many towns in the Naugatuck Valley, Plymouth grew rapidly in the early industrial period, which is reflected in the architectural, social, and economic development of the district. The cohesive village center that emerged remained the town's institutional center until the late nineteenth century. As a result, although the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Carpenter Gothic, and Italianate are well represented in the district, along with numerous vernacular interpretations of these styles, there are only a few examples of early twentieth-century architecture.

Historical Background and Significance

Plymouth was one of the many daughter towns that evolved from the original settlement at Mattatuck on the Naugatuck River, now known as Waterbury. Settlement upriver began in the 1730s in the area that encompasses present-day Plymouth, Watertown, and Thomaston. Although Plymouth followed the customary path of eighteenth-century town development, separating from Waterbury in religious and political stages, the process was less structured and often fraught with delay and dissension. The establishment of a stable Congregational church society, or parish, was impeded by a number of factors. The river itself, not bridged until 1747, was a barrier to concerted development, and parish consensus by the "Up-River Inhabitants" was difficult to achieve, particularly during the 1740s, a period of colony-wide religious upheaval.

By 1739, even though the area was still sparsely settled and the population by colony standards was too small to support even one church society, petitions to the General Assembly had resulted in the formation of two parishes: Westbury (now Watertown) and Northbury, an area which included Plymouth and Thomaston. The Reverend Todd, ordained in 1739 as the first minister in Northbury, favored New Light Congregationalism; in the first year of his ministry, Todd's preaching apparently alienated the majority of the members, who left the church to form an Anglican church society in Plymouth Hollow, present-day Thomaston. In 1746 plans were made to build the official Congregational meetinghouse at the southeast corner of the present Green.

With the settlement of the Reverend Andrew Storrs in 1765, the Northbury Parish stabilized and began to flourish. During his 20-year pastorate, Northbury and Westbury were incorporated as the Town of Watertown in 1780 and became part of Litchfield County. In 1795 Plymouth became a separate autonomous town. The bounds of the new community then included Thomaston. In 1798 St. Peter's Episcopal Church was erected on

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 2 Page 1

2. Location with Property Owners

50 North Street: Mark S. & Catherine A. DelGobbo (at same address)

16 South Street: Arnold B. Devine & Magda Gary (at same address)

20 South Street: Lorraine J. Vienneau (at same address)

Note: All mailing addresses are Plymouth, CT 06782

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 1

This boundary increase adds three historic properties (six buildings) to the Plymouth Center Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 22, 1999. Four of the six buildings, three historic houses and one secondary structure, contribute to the architectural and historic character of the existing district and are comparable in style, materials, and level of integrity. The two non-contributing resources are modern outbuildings.

The existing district consists of a historic crossroads village that runs from the major intersection of Main Street (Route 6) and North and South streets west to the town line with Thomaston and east to include Maple Street on the east. This boundary increase extends the district on the north and south to include one residential property on the east side of North Street, and two residential properties on the west side of South Street (see district map and Item #10 for boundary increase justification).

The dates of the three contributing historic houses in the boundary increase fall within the period of significance of the district. The earliest house at 20 South Street was built about 1840 in the Greek Revival style, the predominate style in the existing district (Inventory #5; Photograph #1). Sheathed in clapboard, it has a three-bay side-hall plan with paneled corner pilasters and a pedimented gable. The recessed doorway is framed with a full Greek Revival surround with a high entablature and the paneled door is flanked by narrow sidelights. A long one-story kitchen ell extends from the rear of the main block and displays narrow attic windows under the eaves.

The immediate neighbor of 20 South Street at #16, is a Colonial Revival Bungalow dating from about 1920 (Inventory #3; Photograph #2). The front slope of the roof sweeps out over a porch and is supported by Colonial Revival-style columns. The shed dormer is partially inset into the roof.

The c. 1870 Marshall Leach House at 50 North Street was remodeled after 1890 in the Colonial Revival style (Inventory #1; Photograph #3). It presently features a gambrel roof but the original style and form are not known. The first level and the exterior end chimney are stone masonry. A partial façade porch, supported by three columns, displays an eave pediment aligned with the recessed doorway on the north end. Integral shed dormers extend from the lower slope of the facade roof.

See the inventory below for a full listing of all the contributing and non-contributing buildings in the boundary increase.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut
Section number 7 Page 2

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

<u>Inv. #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name/Style/Type/Date</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Photo</u>
NORTH STREET				
1.	50	MARSHALL LEACH HOUSE, c.1870; Colonial Revival after 1890	C	3
2.	50	modern barn, 1976	NC	
SOUTH STREET				
3.	16	Colonial Revival Bungalow, c. 1920	C	2
4.	16	garage, 1960	NC	
5.	20	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	1
6.	20	garage, c. 1940	C	

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c. 1840 - c. 1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

the opposite corner of the Green, and Episcopalians shared the governance of the town with the Congregationalists for at least the next 100 years.

Unlike many Connecticut towns that lost population in the nineteenth century, Plymouth continued to grow, largely due to industrial development. Although there was a slight dip in 1820, the population nearly quadrupled after 1800, reaching a high of 4140 in 1870. Mills, shops, and factories were established all over town, but it was the manufacture of clocks, toys, and carriages by district residents that supported Plymouth's early industrial economy.

The industrial prosperity of the *ante bellum* period transformed the physical appearance of the district. The crossroads remained the focus of institutional and commercial development. A "modern" Greek Revival church replaced the meetinghouse on the Green in 1838, and across the street the first municipal government building was erected for a town clerk's office about 1855. The demand for goods and services attracted new trades and businesses; the streets of the district were lined with new houses and shops. All levels of society prospered in this economic boom.

Agriculture, the mainstay of the colonial economy, was still carried on in the district. This nineteenth-century agricultural pattern is still represented today on Main, North and South streets, where farmers cultivated the land behind their houses. In addition to those properties already identified in the district, these farmsteads include two in the boundary increase, the Greek Revival farmhouse at 20 South Street (Inventory #5) and the Marshall Leach House at 50 North Street (Inventory #1).

The decline of local industry and agriculture in the early 1900s and the relocation of the town government to the village of Terryville are reflected in the small number of new houses built or remodeled in this period. Among the few lots subdivided for new construction was 16 South Street, the third historic property to be added to the district (Inventory #3).

Architectural Significance

The historic houses in the boundary increase complement and contribute to the architectural significance of the Plymouth Center Historic District, a fine collection of historic buildings and sites that reflect a pattern of development that began in the eighteenth century and continued into the early twentieth century. As the village grew, radiating out from the institutional and commercial center at the crossroads, contiguous house lots were developed, producing the linear residential growth pattern still visible today. Similar in scale, setting, and materials, these additional buildings amplify

three stages in domestic stylistic development of the district: the rapid growth of the *ante bellum* period, characterized largely by the Greek Revival style; the introduction

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

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 3

in the late nineteenth century of the Colonial Revival; and subsequent limited development of the latter in early 1900s.

The building of the Greek Revival Congregational Church on the Green in 1838 launched several decades of residential growth based on this style. Although one third of the houses display some influence of the Greek Revival, in most cases it was confined to the application of a stylish doorway to an otherwise unadorned vernacular house or cottage. The exceptionally well-preserved, temple-fronted farmhouse at 20 South Street, which still displays all the boldly delineated details and features associated with this style, makes a major contribution since only a few Greek Revivals in the district are as fully developed (Inventory #5; Photograph #1). Although #20 is similar to a district example, the Riley Ives House across the street at #5, the remodeling of that building by the addition of Colonial Revival veranda there has obscured its original doorway.

The Marshall Leach House at 50 North Street, while not as elaborate as its late nineteenth-century counterparts, is a good example of the early influence of the Colonial Revival style in the district (Inventory #1; Photograph #3). Even though the architectural evolution of this unusual house, the only example of domestic stone construction in Plymouth Center, is not clear, it obviously was remodeled in this period, as evidenced by the Colonial Revival porch, a feature added to several houses in Plymouth Center. The gambrel roof is a rare form in the district, found on only one other early twentieth-century example (24 North Street). Although the latter house features siding on the lower slope of the gambrel roof and modern windows, it still makes a contribution to the historic streetscape, reinforced by its historical association of the house with the barn across the street at 49 North Street, which once stood on the property.

The Colonial Revival Bungalow at 16 South Street, which expands upon the limited residential development of the early twentieth century, is another unusual contributor to the Plymouth Center District. A few Capes and a Four-Square were constructed in this period, but there is only one other Bungalow, which is located at the western edge of the existing district (787 Main Street). The dormer windows below the plane of the roof are an exceptional feature, sometimes found in pattern-book or mail-order house designs that were popular in this period in more urban centers.

Both the contributing and non-contributing outbuildings associated with these houses are set well back on their lots, a typical streetscape pattern in the existing district. To accommodate the residential growth of the nineteenth century, relatively narrow house lots were carved out from large farms along all the major streets. This pattern of development also affected the layout and plan of houses, as shown by the placement of the kitchen at the rear of the main block at 20 South Street (Inventory #5). More traditionally, kitchens in Greek Revival farmhouses were located in a recessed wing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Plymouth Center Historic District (Boundary Increase), Litchfield County, Connecticut

Section number 9/10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Atwater, Francis. *History of the Town of Plymouth Connecticut, 1895*. Salem, Massachusetts: Higginson Book Company, reprint, n.d.
- Johnson, Lani B. *Images of America: Plymouth Connecticut*. Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia Publishing, 1996.
- Plymouth, Connecticut, 1874 (map).
- Ryan, J. Francis, ed. & comp. *Plymouth, Conn. 1776-1976*. Plymouth, Connecticut, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

North Street: This 3-acre parcel is already included within the area delineated by the UTMS for the existing district.

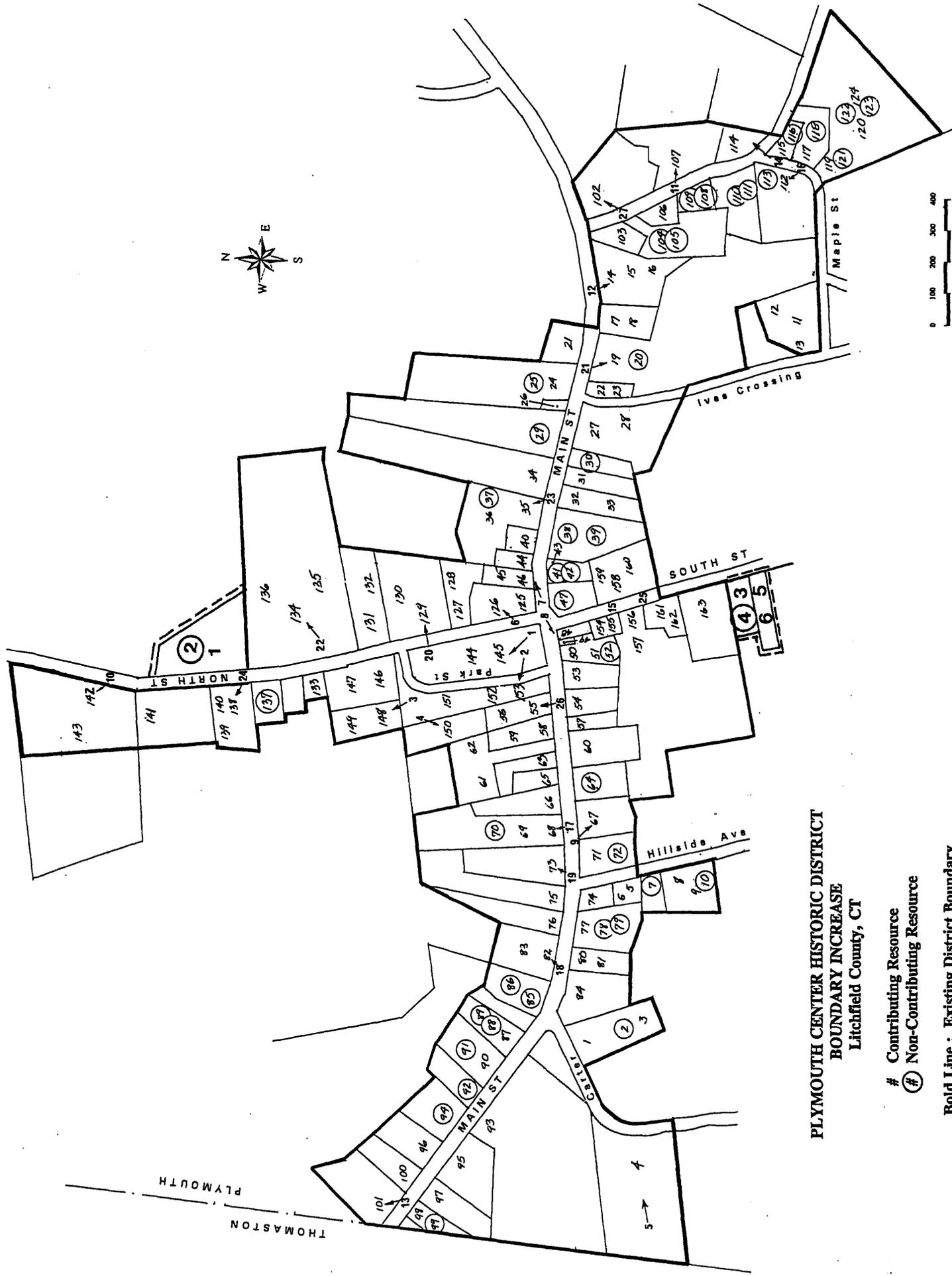
South Street: The combined lots, which encompass slightly more than three acres have the following UTM: 18 662100 4614620.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the expanded district are shown on the attached map drawn to scale from Plymouth Tax Assessor's Maps and computer-generated maps of Plymouth Center supplied by the Town of Plymouth.

Boundary Justification:

The three properties in this boundary increase met the guidelines for continuity and expand upon the historic and architectural themes of the existing district. Beyond these new boundaries to the north and south, the resources are generally non-contributing modern residences.



**PLYMOUTH CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOUNDARY INCREASE**
Litchfield County, CT

- # Contributing Resource
- Ⓢ Non-Contributing Resource

Bold Line : Existing District Boundary
Dashed Line: Expansion Boundaries