

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name N/A
other names/site number East Granby Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet NA not for publication
city, town East Granby vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06026

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>131</u>	<u>56</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>132</u>	<u>56</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date July 20, 1988
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. [Signature] Entered in the National Register 5/25/88
 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:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/animal facility/fields/tobacco shed/outbuilding

RELIGION/church EDUCATION/school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single, multiple dwelling/secondary

AGRICULTURE/animal facility/fields/outbuilding

RELIGION/church EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/ New England Colonial, Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/ Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic

20th CENTURY REVIVALS/ Georgian Revival, Colonial

20th CENTURY MOVEMENTS/ Bungalowoid

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard, brick, stone

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The East Granby Historic District encompasses a large rural residential/agricultural area (approximately two square miles) which extends from the Suffield town line on the north to about one mile below the East Granby town center. It is located on a broad open plain of rolling farmland on the east side of the Talcott Range, a ridgeline that divides the town almost in half. The district contains a large number of historic farmsteads, along with individual houses, strung out along three principal north-south streets: North Main, South Main, and East streets. At the town center, Route 20, known as Rainbow Road, and School Street run from east to west.

Since the economy has been based on agriculture since settlement, approximately two-thirds of the land in the district is occupied by historic farms. Many are still working farmsteads, which consist of a farmhouse with a cluster of associated detached and attached outbuildings set near the road, surrounded by open farmland. Some of the individual barns and sheds are large free-standing buildings; other barns are large composite structures built over a period of years. Together these agricultural buildings account for about half of the contributing buildings in the district. Some of the barns are attached to the rear of the house by one or more ells in a linear fashion. Some of these ells are apparently older than the main house. This type of arrangement of attached farm buildings is more common in northern New England where the winters are more severe.

The historic rural appearance of the district still predominates despite some modern intrusion. Its rural character is especially evident north of Route 20 where open fields run behind the houses on North Main Street and between North Main and East streets. The latter street is the location of four undisturbed eighteenth-century farms. While the majority of the historic properties along North Main Street have retained their outbuildings and open land, some modern development has taken place there. Several clusters of houses have been built on small lots subdivided from extensive farm acreage. Open fields still continue behind the houses on the east side; those on the west side now abut two small residential developments, one accessed from Route 20, the other from North Main Street. The farm properties along South Main Street below the town center have been somewhat reduced in size, a process that apparently began in the nineteenth century. The lots there are generally smaller; some compatible modern residential infill has taken place along the road. A good portion of the open land behind the house lots in the southern part of district has been developed. A trap rock quarry, a new school, and a recreational club now make use of this land, but all of them are set well back from the road.

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Location

Church Street: #4

East Street: #s 23, 33, 46, 56. Map 12: Lots 41C, 42B, 43, 44, 45, 47, 50, 52, 53, 54.

Nicholson Road: Map 12: Lot 54.

North Main Street: #s 1, 4, 5, 16, 18, 17-19, 22, 27-29, 28, 33, 39, 46, 50, 52, 54, 58, 60, 60 rear, 61, 62, 67, 69, 71, 79, 81, 88, 95, 96, 98, 116, 120, 123, 126, 129, 138, 139, 140, 143-145, 147, 149, 153, 166, 171, 173, 179, 185, 195, 200, 212, 229. Map 12: Lots 27, 26, 23, 22, 21, 19A, 19, 17A, 14A; Map 9: Lots 22, 36-2, 36-1, 32B, 19, 20A, 24, 24A, 25, 26B, 26A, 28; Map 6: Lots 1, 20, 18, 17, 16, 13, 14, 15.

Rainbow Road (Route 20): #s 11, 51-53, 59, 61, 62, 82. Map 12: Lots 14, 23, 42B, 41C, 25A, 32.

School Street: #s 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21-23, 24, 27, 28,. Map 12: Lots 30, 39, 60, 61.

South Main Street: #s 7-9, 11, 11 (rear), 17, 19, 26, 30, 34, 35, 36, 42, 56, 57, 58, 62, 68, 74, 82, 88, 91, 94, 99, 100, 103, 104, 119, 121, 122, 129. Map 12: Lots 62A, 60; Map 17: Lots 2, 3, 4; Map 16: Lots 18, 31, 33, 28, 34, 35, 38. Map 11: Lot 11.

Note: Lots that are bounded by more than one street are listed on both streets. Some lots listed above are only partially included in the district. See the boundary description (Item 10). Lot and Map numbers are taken from the East Granby Tax Assessor's Maps and are used for open land, or where street address numbers are not readily available.

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The town center is the location of two historic institutional buildings, a church and a school, the latter now used as the library, and the first town cemetery dating from 1722. It is in this area that most of the modern development has taken place. Some of this development has been excluded from the district but it has had an impact on the historic appearance of the village. (See district map for boundaries.) Several modern commercial buildings border the cemetery, such as a gas station and a restaurant. An industrial office building of considerable size occupies the southwest corner of Route 20 and South Main Street, the former location of the Samuel Clark Mansion House, which was demolished about 1920. A small shopping center on Route 20, just to the east of the center, almost totally isolates two colonial farms on the south side of the highway from the rest of the district. Other changes at the center include the widening of Route 20 and Church Road which resulted in the destruction of several historic buildings, including the former Congregational Church parsonage built in 1846. Following a fire in 1968, the Town Hall and firehouse were rebuilt on Center Street on the west side of the town center. They now occupy two Neo-Colonial Revival-style buildings. A modern bank now occupies their former site on School street.

Most of the contributing buildings, the houses as well as the agricultural buildings, are of woodframe construction, set on stone foundations of granite or locally obtained brownstone. There are only five masonry buildings: a stone church in the center of the district, and four brick buildings, a school, two houses, and a hipped-roof carriage house (Inventory # 118, 140, 95, 129, 167). The historic houses in the district are one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half stories in height. They range in date from about the middle of the eighteenth century to 1936. Roughly one-third were built in the eighteenth century (37%), with an almost equal number in the nineteenth century (42%).

The eighteenth-century houses are generally large five-bay, center-chimney colonials often with overhangs and gabled roofs. Two examples of this form are the Isaak Gillett House at 33 East Street and the Ezekiel Phelps, Jr., House at 39 North Main Street (Inventory #7, 42; Photographs #1, 2). Several display exceptional original Connecticut Valley doorways, such as the hand-carved surround of the Richard Gay House at 123 North Main Street, or the Georgian surround with its pulvinated frieze on the Luke Thrall House at 46 East Street (Inventory #79, 9; Photographs #3, 4). Some of the later Georgian-style houses are more detailed. Two prime examples are the Edmund J. Thompson House and the William Rockwell House, both distinguished by a finely-detailed Palladian window over the entrance (Inventory #173, 141; Photographs # 5, 6). The former house also has a colonnaded portico on the south with a pediment dating from the Greek Revival period.

Three of the houses dating from the colonial period were built with an unusual

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interior feature.¹ On the second floor, a swinging partition between chambers could be raised and hung from the ceiling to make a ballroom. These include the James Moor Tavern, the Gay House (Inventory # 95, 79), and the Samuel Clark House that was demolished in the town center.

Other colonial forms, such as the gambrel or saltbox, are uncommon in the district. Only two houses still have the saltbox form with the leanto at the rear, the Deacon Samuel Owen House and the John Holcomb, Jr., House (Inventory #125, 34; Photograph #7). Some may have originally been built in this configuration such as the Ebenezer Mills House (Inventory #175; Photograph #8). The gambrel roof also was rarely used, although some of the original ells have this form. Again, there are only two examples: the small Oliver Moor House at 20 School Street and the James Moor Tavern, a brick house built by the same family at 171 North Main Street and used as a tavern (Inventory #136, 95; Photograph #9). The latter building has several unusual features for this period. The roof pitches are flattened and extended to accommodate the the unusual width of the building and the single end chimney is located at the rear. Also the use of the end elevation as the principal facade is more common in eighteenth-century commercial buildings.

Houses from the nineteenth century are well represented in the district. A number were built in the Greek Revival style and some were remodelled in this mode. Three of the four almost identical temple-fronted buildings at the head of South Main Street remain (Inventory #142, 143, 146). Two of these were originally built as stores; today all three are in commercial use. Simple farmhouses utilizing the temple form can be found along both ends of Main Street. A typical example is the farmstead on North Main Street known as the Charles T. Hillyer House (Inventory #30; Photograph #10). A slightly more elaborate version is located at the intersection of East Street and Rainbow Road, the Isaac Owen II House (Inventory #120; Photograph #11). An earlier house (1730) is incorporated into the building. A late example built of brick at 11 School Street in 1860, the Thomas H. Lee House, owes more to the Gothic style with its scroll-sawn bracketed porch (Inventory #129; Photograph #12). Its roof with exposed rafter ends in the gables is probably a replacement.

The most architecturally distinguished Greek Revival-style building in the district is the East Granby Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) designed by the noted Connecticut Valley master builder, Isaac Damon of North Hampton, Massachusetts. A solid masonry building of ashlar granite, it has a square belfrey tower which has been recently resided (Inventory #118; Photograph #13).

Very few of the Victorian era styles are found in the district. Most of the farmhouses built after 1850 are simple vernacular buildings, displaying little adornment. The Gothic Revival-style James H. Alderman House, near the north end of

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North Main Street, is one of the few exceptions (Inventory # 101; Photograph #14). Some of the houses display stylistic features which are the result of remodellings in this period, such as the turret and veranda added to the circa 1750 Joseph Phelps, Jr., House about 1900 (Inventory #59) and the addition of Italianate-style porches to the late Federal-style Phelps-Forward House, both on North Main Street (Inventory # 53; Photograph #15). The latter house is located on a corner with its large detached composite barn visible from the public roadways (Photograph #16). A few farm cottages, which may have been used to house farm workers in the nineteenth century, remain in the district (Inventory #s 19, 21; Photograph # 17).

Three of the thirteen contributing houses built or remodelled after 1900 are bungalows. One at 91 South Main Street is part of a complex with several large barns, an unusual juxtaposition of forms (Inventory #169; Photograph #18). This house was originally built with a center chimney about 1820 and completely remodelled as a bungalow about 1915.

Colonial Revival-style houses of several types were built in the 1930s. They range from a reproduction Cape on North Main Street (1936) to a brick Georgian Revival at the corner of East Street and Nicholson Road (Inventory #77, 18). The latter property is a formal interpretation with a Georgian-style doorway and quarter round lights on the gables. Today this house is somewhat overshadowed by its immediate neighbor, a brick office building on the north. Although the new building has a residential appearance, it is much larger in scale than the house.

A complete listing of the buildings in the district follows. The criteria for the inclusion of a building in the inventory list, either contributing or non-contributing, are as follows: Individual houses, detached barns, and larger sheds, especially tobacco sheds, are counted as separate buildings. Barns or sheds attached to houses are not counted separately. Small outbuildings, especially those which do not have a full foundation, are not included in the building count. Dates of probable construction and names of historic owners are taken from several sources, including the "Architectural and Historical Survey of East Granby," the "Report of the Historic District Study Committee," and the more recent community history, East Granby: the evolution of a Connecticut town. Occasionally, dates from these sources have been modified after a visual inspection of the exterior of the building by the consultant. Farm outbuildings are listed as contributing if they appear to be at least 50 years old and have retained sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the district.

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INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

#	Address	Name/ Style/ Date*	C/NC	Photograph
1.	4 Church Street	Colonial Revival, c.1935	C	
2.	- East Street	Tobacco shed	C	
3.	- "	Cow barn	C	
4.	- "	Corn crib	C	
5.	23 "	ELIJAH OWEN II HOUSE Colonial, 1770-1790	C	
6.	23 "	Shed assoc. with #5	C	
7.	33 "	ISAAK GILLETT HOUSE Colonial, c. 1760	C	1
8.	33 "	Barn assoc. with #7	C	
9.	46 "	LUKE THRALL HOUSE Colonial, c.1750	C	4
10.	46 "	Barn assoc. with #9	C	
11.	46 "	Garage assoc. with #9	NC	
12.	56 "	JOHN THRALL HOUSE Colonial, c.1750	C	
13.	56 "	Barn assoc. with #12	NC	
14.	56 "	Tobacco shed assoc. with #12	C	
15.	56 "	Garage/ shed assoc. with #12	C	
16.	56 "	Small barn assoc. with #12	C	
17.	- "	Horse barn, c.1980	NC	
18.	- Nicholson Road at Rainbow Road	Georgian Revival, 1930	C	

* Unless otherwise stated inventoried resources are dwellings.

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19.	5	Nicholson Road	19th-c. cottage, c. 1880	C	
20.	-	"	Tobacco shed	C	
21.	-	"	19th-c. vernacular, c.1880	C	
22.	1	North Main Street	DEACON ASAHIEL HOLCOMB HOUSE Federal, 1778-1790	C	17
23.	4	"	Late 19th-c. vernacular, c.1890	C	
24.	4	"	Barn assoc. with #23	C	
25.	5	"	Greek Revival, 1860	C	
26.	5	"	Barn assoc. with #25	C	
27.	5	"	Barn assoc. with #25	C	
28.	16	"	Ranch, 1957	NC	
29.	18	"	Raised Ranch, 1975	NC	
30.	17-19	"	CHARLES T. HILLYER HOUSE Greek Revival, 1840	C	10
31.	17-19	"	Barn assoc. with #30	C	
32.	17-19	"	Garage assoc. with #30	C	
33.	22	"	Ranch, 1977	NC	
34.	27-29	"	JOHN HOLCOMB, JR., HOUSE Colonial, 1750	C	7
35.	27-29	"	Garage assoc. with #34	C	
36.	27-29	"	Shed assoc. with #34	C	
37.	27-29	"	Shed assoc. with #34	C	
38.	28	"	Modern residence, 1986	NC	
39.	33	"	Greek Revival, 1850	C	
40.	33	"	Barn assoc. with #39	C	
41.	33	"	Barn assoc. with #39	C	
42.	39	"	EZEKIEL PHELPS, JR., HOUSE	C	2

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43.	39	North Main Street	Barn assoc. with #42	C	
44.	39	"	Barn assoc. with #42	C	
45.	46	"	AUSTIN P. STOWELL HOUSE 19th-c. Vernacular, 1881	C	
46.	50	"	Modern residence, 1956	NC	
47.	50	"	Garage assoc. with #46	NC	
48.	52	"	Cape, 1965	NC	
49.	54	"	Raised Ranch, 1966	NC	
50.	58	"	Ranch, 1965	NC	
51.	60	"	Ranch, 1965	NC	
52.	60 rear	"	Ranch, 1965	NC	
53.	61	"	PHELPS-FORWARD HOUSE Federal/ Italianate, 1814-1870	C	15
54.	61	"	Barn assoc. with #53	C	16
55.	61	"	Shed assoc. with #53	NC	
56.	62	"	Ranch, 1965	NC	
57.	67	"	Cape, 1955	NC	
58.	69	"	Cape, 1960	NC	
59.	71	"	JOSEPH PHELPS, JR., HOUSE Colonial/ Queen Anne, c.1750-1900	C	
60.	71	"	Barn assoc. with #59	C	
61.	71	"	Shed assoc. with #59	C	
62.	71	"	Shed assoc. with #59	C	
63.	71	"	Modern barn (across street)	NC	
64.	79	"	Bungalow, 1915	C	
65.	81	"	BIDWELL-BATES HOUSE Greek Revival, 1827	C	

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66.	81	North Main Street	Barn assoc. with #65	C	
67.	81	"	Tile silo assoc. with #65	C	
68.	81	"	Tobacco shed assoc. with #65	C	
69.	83	"	Raised Ranch, 1950 (demolished)*	NC	
70.	88	"	ANSON BATES HOUSE Greek Revival, 1860	C	
71.	88	"	Garage assoc. with #70	NC	
72.	95	"	Modern residence, 1950	NC	
73.	96	"	Ranch, 1987	NC	
74.	98	"	19th-c. vernacular, 1860	C	
75.	116	"	LEMUEL BATES HOUSE Colonial, 1790,1900	C	
76.	116	"	Barn assoc. with #75	C	
77.	120	"	Cape, 1936	C	
78.	120	"	Barn assoc. with #77	C	
79.	123	"	RICHARD GAY HOUSE Colonial, 1779	C	3
80.	123	"	Shed assoc. with #79	C	
81.	123	"	Shed assoc. with #79	C	
82.	126	"	Ranch, 1984	NC	
83.	129	"	Early 20th-c. vernacular, c.1910	C	
84.	129	"	Barn assoc. with #83	C	
85.	129	"	Shed assoc. with #83	NC	
86.	138	"	Modern residence, 1976	NC	
87.	139	"	Modern residence, 1970	NC	
88.	139	"	Shed assoc. with #87	NC	

*Not included in building count for non-contributing buildings in Item #3.

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89.	140	North Main Street	Italianate, c. 1870, moved 1987	C	
90.	143-145	"	JOSEPH CORNISH HOUSE Colonial, c.1765	C	
91.	147	"	Modern residence, 1985	NC	
92.	149	"	Modern residence, 1975	NC	
93.	153	"	Log cabin, 1973-1975	NC	
94.	166	"	19th-c. vernacular, c.1880	C	
95.	171	"	JAMES MOOR TAVERN Gambrel, 1770	C	9
96.	171	"	Barn assoc. with #95	C	
97.	171	"	Barn assoc. with #95	C	
98.	171	"	Garage assoc. with #95	NC	
99.	173	"	MOOR HOUSE Greek Revival, 1833	C	
100.	179	"	20th-c. vernacular, 1910	C	
101.	185	"	JAMES H. ALDERMAN HOUSE Gothic Revival, c. 1870	C	14
102.	185	"	Tobacco shed assoc. with #101	C	
103.	185	"	Tobacco shed assoc. with #101	C	
104.	185	"	Tobacco shed assoc. with #101	C	
105.	185	"	Barn assoc. with #101	C	
106.	185	"	Garage assoc. with #101	NC	
107.	195	"	Barn formerly assoc. with #89	C	
108.	200	"	Modern residence, 1987	NC	
109.	212	"	EBER PHELPS HOUSE Colonial, c.1790	C	
110.	212	"	Barn assoc. with #109	C	

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111.	212 North Main Street	Garage assoc. with #109	NC	
112.	212 "	Barn assoc. with #109	C	
113.	229 "	19th-c. vernacular, 1840	C	
114.	229 "	Barn assoc. with #113	C	
115.	229 "	Barn assoc. with #113	C	
116.	229 "	Tobacco shed assoc. with #113	C	
117.	- Rainbow Road (Route 20)	20th-c. commercial	NC	
118.	- "	EAST GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Greek Revival, 1830	C	13
119.	11 "	Modern residence, 1986	NC	
120.	51-53 "	ISAAC OWEN II HOUSE Colonial/Greek Revival, c. 1730,1840	C	11
121.	59 "	Brick office building, c.1985	NC	
122.	62 "	NATHANIEL MATHER, JR., HOUSE Colonial/ Greek Revival, 1785,1840	C	
123.	62 "	Barn assoc. with #122	C	
124.	62 "	Barn assoc. with #122	C	
125.	82 "	DEACON SAMUEL OWEN HOUSE Colonial Saltbox, c.1750	C	
126.	- School Street	Center Cemetery, est. 1722	C	
127.	8 "	Winsted Savings Bank, c. 1973	NC	
128.	9 "	Altered outbuilding, c.1860	NC	
129.	11 "	THOMAS H. LEE HOUSE Greek Revival,c. 1860	C	12
130.	12 "	20th-c. vernacular, 1932	C	
131.	14 "	Commercial garage	NC	
132.	15 "	20th-c. commercial, 1985	NC	

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133.	16 School Street	19th-c. vernacular, c.1840	C	
134.	17 "	Colonial Revival, c.1935	C	
135.	19 "	Commercial garage	NC	
136.	20 "	OLIVER MOOR HOUSE Gambrel, c. 1800	C	
137.	21-23 "	DIBBLE HOUSE Greek Revival, c.1850	C	
138.	24 "	Bungalow, 1916	C	
139.	24 "	Garage assoc. with #138	NC	
140.	27 "	CENTER SCHOOL/ PUBLIC LIBRARY Colonial Revival, 1921	C	
141.	28 "	WILLIAM ROCKWELL HOUSE Georgian, c. 1790	C	6
142.	7-9 South Main Street	JOHN VIETS STORE Greek Revival, 1837	C	
143.	11 "	DR CHESTER HAMLIN HOUSE Greek Revival, c.1840	C	
144.	11 (rear) "	DAVID A. VIETS GARAGE, c. 1915	C	
145.	17 "	Modern brick commercial, 1986	NC	
146.	19 "	REUBEN BARKER STORE Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
147.	26 "	Town Garage, 1924	C	
148.	30 "	Cottage, c. 1900	C	
149.	34 "	RENSELAER PINNEY HOUSE Colonial Revival, c.1890	C	
150.	34 "	Garage assoc. with #149	C	
151.	35 "	Modern commercial, 1986	NC	
152.	36 "	Greek Revival, c. 1850	C	

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153.	42	South Main Street	MORGAN T. BACON HOUSE Queen Anne, 1906	C	
154.	42	"	Barn/carriage house assoc. with #153	C	
155.	56	"	Modern residence, 1969	NC	
156.	56	"	Shed assoc. with #155	NC	
157.	56	"	Shed assoc. with #155	NC	
158.	57	"	Modern residence, c. 1940	NC	
159.	57	"	Barn assoc. with #158	C	
160.	58		Colonial, 1780	C	
161.	58	"	Garage assoc. with #160	NC	
162.	62	"	Cape, 1953	NC	
163.	68	"	Ranch, 1955	NC	
164.	74	"	EDMUND J. THOMPSON HOUSE Colonial/ Greek Revival, 1790-1840	C	
165.	82	"	HANNAH & GEORGE THOMPSON HOUSE Greek Revival, 1840	C	
166.	88	"	Colonial Revival, c. 1900	C	
167.	88	"	Brick carriage house assoc. with #166	C	
168.	88	"	Barn/ garage assoc. with #166	C	
169.	91	"	Colonial, c. 1820 converted to bungalow, c.1915	C	18
170.	91	"	Barn assoc. with #169	C	18
171.	91	"	Barn assoc. with #169	C	18
172.	94	"	Modern residence, 1971	NC	

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173.	99 South Main Street	EDMUND THOMPSON, JR., HOUSE Georgian/ Greek Revival, c. 1800,1840	C	5
174.	99 "	Barn assoc. with #173	C	
175.	100 "	REV. EBENEZER MILLS HOUSE Colonial/ Federal, c. 1740,1800	C	8
176.	100 "	Barn assoc. with #175	C	
177.	103 "	Colonial, c. 1780	C	
178.	103 "	Barn assoc. with #177	C	
179.	104 "	Neo-Greek Revival, 1964	NC	
180.	119 "	CHARLES A. TUDOR HOUSE 19th-c. vernacular, 1843	C	
181.	119 "	Barn assoc. with #180	C	
182.	121 "	Modern residence, 1956	NC	
183.	122 "	19th-c. vernacular, c. 1860	C	
184.	129 "	GEORGE B. HOLCOMB HOUSE Greek Revival, c.1840	C	3
185.	129 "	Tobacco shed assoc. with #184	C	
186.	129 "	Tobacco shed assoc. with #184	C	
187.	129 "	Tobacco shed assoc. with #184	C	
188.	129 "	Shed assoc. with #184	C	
189.	129 "	Shed assoc. with #184	C	

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1730 - 1936
1715 - 1938
1715 - 1938

Significant Dates

N/A
N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Various, see Item 8

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

The East Granby Historic District is a historically significant farming community which illustrates the broad patterns of agrarian history and rural town formation in Connecticut in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Criterion A). An architecturally significant group of historic rural properties, the district is distinguished by a superb collection of well-preserved farmsteads dating from the Colonial and Federal periods (Criterion C).

Historical Significance

The East Granby Historic District encompasses most of the Turkey Hills Ecclesiastical Society, as the community was known for over 100 years.² Its historical development follows a now familiar pattern common to second and third generation villages in Connecticut. Due its small size, limited natural resources, and geographic isolation, it never really achieved full autonomy but remained part of a larger geographic and political entity throughout most of its history.

East Granby evolved from the division of three towns. It was part of Simsbury until the Town of Granby was formed in 1786. Despite the efforts of the Turkey Hills citizens to become a part of Windsor, the district remained a section of Granby until 1858. In that year East Granby was established and the district became the political and institutional center for the new town. The town (and some of the district) boundaries that exist today were the result of the settlement of several border disputes. A portion of the Windsor Half Mile was annexed in 1858. This area, which encompasses the East Street section of the district, was historically associated with the Turkey Hills Society since settlement. The earlier resolution of a border dispute with Suffield on the north had resulted in the addition of one lot at the north end of North Main Street.

The district was the last arable land to be laid out in the Farmington River Valley. It was first surveyed by the Simsbury proprietors in 1688, but it was not until 1715 that any settlement took place. The first settlers, some descendants of the settlers of Windsor and the parent town of Simsbury, built small, often crude houses;

9. Major Bibliographical References

Report of the Historic District Study Committee: East Granby, Connecticut. n.d.
Springman, Mary Jane, and Betty Guinan. East Granby: the evolution of a Connecticut town.
New Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing, 1983.
Survey of Architectural and Historical Resources, East Granby, Connecticut.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other State Register of Historic Places
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1320

UTM References

A
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include the maximum number of historic buildings and farmsteads with their historic open land associated with the period of significance of the district, and to exclude as much modern intrusion as possible without interfering with the continuity and cohesion of the district.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By _____ Edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham/ David Ransom, National Register Consultants

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 3/15/88

street & number 98 Washington Street telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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some were little more than a cellar house. In a few cases, their first houses were log cabins.³ Lots of 60 to 100 acres were laid out in strips running perpendicular to the present day North and South Main streets. Although there has been some subdivision, the general configuration of these properties has been maintained. Some of the houses built in the district from this period were incorporated in later buildings or became the rear ell of the mansion houses built in the later eighteenth century (Inventory #22, 59, 79, 99, 120, 125, 175).

From the very beginning the mountain ridge that divides East Granby contributed to the isolation of the people of Turkey Hills. By 1729, the settlers in the district were petitioning the General Court to have their own church society rather than travel nine miles over the mountain to Simsbury for church services. This petition was not granted until 1736. In that year, construction began on the first meeting house, but the building was not ready for services and town meetings until 1744. The delay was not unusual for an outliver town such as Turkey Hills, but the usual problems of limited resources were compounded by claims to the church site by the neighboring property owner.⁴ The Reverend Ebenezer Mills, the first minister, built the first parsonage, now part of the house at 100 South Main Street (Inventory #175).

Turkey Hills was a largely self-sufficient community of subsistence farmers with a barter economy from settlement through the early nineteenth century. Most goods and services were supplied by local men. Housewrights in the district, such as Isaak Gillett and Joseph Phelps and his sons, probably built their own homes and those of their neighbors. It is known the Gillet House was partially finished by Isaak at his death and completed by his sons (Inventory #7). Reuben Barker, a joiner who had his shop across the street from 23 East Street (he was the second owner), supplied the woodwork and windows for Ezekiel Phelps, Jr., at 39 North Main Street (Inventory #42). Oliver Moor, a jack of several trades, owned a shop near his small gambrel on School Street. He employed three men to make glass, locks, and furniture (Inventory #136).

While all of these men were farmers as well as craftsmen, some had other trades as well. Joseph Cornish, who built his house at 143 North Main Street (Inventory #90), made potash; Joseph Phelps was also a shoemaker. The latter was a wealthy man who owned several slaves; they were inherited by his family, with each slave being allowed to choose his new master among the surviving Phelps children.

Other household needs were met by district men. John Holcomb, Jr., was a tailor (Inventory # 34), as was Nathaniel Mather (Inventory #122). Ezekiel Phelps, one of several blacksmiths, is said to have made the hardware for the unusual cupboard in the base of his chimney (Inventory # 42). William Rockwell and Samuel Forward were

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tanners; Rockwell had tanning vats in the stream behind his elegant Georgian-style house on School Street (Inventory #s 141, 53). Part of the house at 81 North Main Street was used for a coopering and chairmaking business (Inventory # 65). Charles Tudor and George Thompson were carriage makers (Inventory #s 180, 165); the latter's sons followed him in the business and built several houses on South Main Street, including the remarkable Georgian/Greek Revival with the Doric portico at #99 (Inventory #173).

With the general prosperity of the early nineteenth century, there was an increased demand for imported goods in Turkey Hills. Several stores were opened in the district: a general store in the ell of the house at 1 North Main Street (Inventory #22), and several new buildings constructed for this purpose. John Viets, whose descendants still live in the district, was a horse dealer, with a store at 7-9 South Main Street (Inventory #142).

Horse breeding has a long history in the district. Near the site of a modern horse farm on East Street (Inventory #17), John Thrall raised horses for export in the early eighteenth century (Inventory #12). His house was bought by Matthew Griswold, a brick maker, who appears to have had few customers in the district. Griswold, along with several other men of the district, served as overseers at the Newgate Prison, East Granby's famous historic landmark.

The general exodus from Connecticut towns which took place after the Revolution began in the district by the mid-eighteenth century.⁵ East Granby had a limited amount of arable land, most of which is located in the district. Family farms were not large enough to divide among all the heirs and there was little room for expansion. Although the sons who stayed in the community and inherited were clearly prosperous as evidenced by the large "mansion houses" built from the eighteenth century through 1820, natural increase in the next thirty years did not compensate for outmigration. The population dropped from an estimated high of 1500 in 1820 to 1200 by 1850.⁶ In the last half of the nineteenth-century, East Granby suffered even greater population losses. By the Civil War the population was only 851 and dropped to a low of 661 by 1890.

The industrial development which took place in most Connecticut towns passed East Granby by, but a new cash crop rescued the economy. Tobacco, introduced in 1850, became a major crop by 1870, with 117 families participating. This labor-intensive crop required not only the work of all family members, but imported labor as well. In addition to Blacks from the south, district farmers drew upon an unusual labor source. For at least 30 years, state paupers were auctioned off to district farmers and housed in sheds behind two houses on North Main Street (Inventory #25, 34) Some of them were hired out as field hands and also may have worked at rolling cigars, the related cottage industry.⁷ More barns were built in the district than houses;

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some of the large tobacco storage sheds built in this period are still standing today. Anson Bates, a local attorney and tobacco dealer, built his new house on Main Street, one of the few constructed in the district in the late nineteenth century (Inventory #70).

Improved methods of transportation opened the district to the outside world after the Civil War. A regular stagecoach left East Granby for Windsor and Hartford from 21-23 School Street (Inventory #137). By 1902, the trains of the Central New England Railroad ran through the center, providing farmers with a better and more direct access to markets. District high school students took the train to Simsbury High School until 1918. Although the tracks and the station house in the center have been removed, the station master's house at 4 North Main Street is still standing (Inventory #23). The automobile era was ushered in when David Viets opened a commercial garage in the district behind 11 South Main Street about 1915 (Inventory #144).

Tobacco remained a major cash crop in the district in the twentieth century. It was successfully combined with dairy farming because cow manure could be utilized to fertilize the tobacco fields. The tobacco-dairy farmers of the district remained independents and did not participate in the growing of the new shade leaf tobacco, leaving this specialized crop to the large syndicates in neighboring towns such as Windsor.⁸ For the first time, however, tobacco was purchased in the field rather than after storage, subjecting the local tobacco growers to the fluctuations of the marketplace. The lean years were balanced out by the relatively steady income provided by supplying Hartford dealers with wholesale milk from their dairy herds. Eventually, however, because of economic pressure, district farmers became part of a dairymen's cooperative, the Connecticut Milk Producers Association. Today only seven farms are still operating in East Granby, with six of the seven in the district, all to the north of the center. Tobacco is no longer a cash crop, but dairy and beef cattle are still raised.

Architectural Significance

Few rural areas in Connecticut have remained as unchanged as the East Granby Historic District. Fewer still contain such large numbers of eighteen- and nineteenth-century historic farms which have retained their historic fields and meadows. The historic pattern of these fields is imprinted on the land. Old property boundaries are still defined by stone walls or tree lines and scrub growth. They follow the original plot lines of the land division of Turkey Hills over rolling pastures, interrupted only by the low lying swales, where brooks run through the marshes.

The district's exceptional collection of historic farmhouses is almost perfectly

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preserved. With few exceptions, the eighteenth-century houses still display their simple exterior features, the clapboard siding, wooden sash, overhangs, and center stone chimneys. Most of these buildings have the typical straightforward, unembellished rectilinear form popular in Connecticut until well after the Revolution. While a few of the houses may have been restored to their original appearance, very few built in this period display the later architectural features commonly added in the nineteenth century. Most of the farmhouses built after 1800 are equally austere, simple functional buildings where the only concession to architectural fashion may be a different orientation to the road.

East Street is an remarkably undisturbed eighteenth-century enclave, providing a glimpse at how the entire district must have appeared at that time. The only intrusion in this area has been the later nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century barns. Given the fact that the form and method of construction of agricultural buildings has changed very little in Connecticut since 1800, these barns reinforce, rather than diminish, the historic rural ambience of this area. A more typical developmental pattern is found elsewhere in the district where equally fine examples from the colonial period are interspersed with later nineteenth- and twentieth-century houses.

Several houses from the 1800s are individually significant. They include the Luke Thrall and Richard Gay houses, both of which display exceptional doorways. The surround of the Thrall House, probably added after the Revolution, is quite formal. With its pulvinated frieze and protruding cornice, it has a Georgian appearance (Inventory #9). The doorway of the Gay House is probably original, a simply executed, but fine example of the craftsmanship of the period (Inventory #79). The plinths do not have the elaborate carving found in other Connecticut Valley doorways, but the proportions and form are similar to this genre. Unique to the district is the brick tavern built by the Moor family (Inventory #95). The gambrel form constructed of brick is not unusual and is found in neighboring towns to the east, such as Windsor and East Windsor, but both the end chimney placement and the orientation of this house to the road are rare in Connecticut. The Moor Tavern is also noted for its fine, well-preserved, but uncommon brickwork. The soldier courses over the windows are quite tall and the end facade displays several string courses that protrude from the wall surface. These latter features do not extend the full width of the building and are apparently purely decorative in nature.

Two late Georgian houses are particularly notable for their degree of style. The relatively elaborate facades of the Rockwell and Thompson houses, with their Palladian windows and modillion courses, were a common sight in entrepot towns in the Post-Revolutionary period, but unusual in an isolated rural community (Inventory #141, 173). In fact, the Thompson House with its colonnaded end portico has several

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counterparts in Litchfield, where attempts were made to duplicate Mount Vernon, albeit on a smaller scale, creating an enduring architectural genre for that town.⁹ While the residential construction of the next century produced a fine group of buildings which illustrate the history of East Granby, none ever approached the individual significance of these Georgian examples.

Roughly one third of the nineteenth-century houses are the typical temple form farmhouses of the Greek Revival style, with side or rear ells, built until the Civil War. Well-preserved and maintained, these houses make an important contribution to the district. It is the Greek Revival-style East Granby Congregational Church, however, that makes an architectural statement (Inventory #118). Eliminating the colonnaded portico commonly used in religious and institutional buildings in this period, the designer/builder settled for a minimalist approach to this style with a simple pediment and brick pilasters. The lack of a spire is also unusual, but can be attributed to Damon's preference for the square belfrey tower. The recent residing of this tower, however, has obscured its original design and materials.

Most of the contributing buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are barns of various types, including the large tobacco storage sheds, commonly called barns. Once more numerous throughout the district and throughout the central Connecticut Valley, these vacant unused buildings are gradually falling into decay, but remain as important artifacts of the tobacco agriculture practiced in the district for almost a century. Better preserved because they remain in use are the animal barns which were built in great numbers and make a significant contribution to the historic rural character of the district.

Notes:

1. Report of the Historic District Study Committee: East Granby, Connecticut." n.d., pp. 17, 18.
2. The following history is drawn from several sources. In addition to the "Report of the Historic District Study Committee" cited above, see Mary Jane Springman and Betty Fennell Guinan, East Granby: the evolution of a Connecticut town, Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing, 1983, an exemplary community history based on extensive primary source research.
3. The "cellar house," or log house, as a temporary first dwelling has been an persistent, but undocumented, tradition in Connecticut local history. It now has been confirmed by East Granby probate records. "Report of the Historic District Study Committee," p. 4.

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4. Samuel Clark erected a fence around the church construction site and refused to sell the land. The church society did not get clear title until 1773, when Clark's son deeded it over after his father's death.
5. For a similar social phenomenon, see Philip C. Greven, Four Generations: Population, Land and Family in Colonial Andover, Massachusetts, (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1970), or Robert A. Gross, The Minutemen and their World, (Hill and Wang, American Century Series, 1976).
6. The estimate is based on half of the total population of the Town of Granby which reached a high of 3012 in 1820. In 1860, the first year that census figures are available for both Granby and East Granby, the population of East Granby was roughly half of the original town. For this and the following population figures, see the Federal Census of the United States, 1790, 1820, 1860, 1890.
7. The custom of bidding on paupers and their living quarters is well documented in Springman and Guinan, East Granby, p. 195. For example, census records indicated that 37 paupers of both sexes, ranging in age from two to 100, lived at 5 North Main Street in 1860. Clearly the aged, the insane, and the very young among them would not be able to work, but contemporary diaries confirm that the owners of these houses, Erastus and Charles Holcomb, supplied fieldhands to local farmers over an extended period. See the Elmore Clark diaries MS, 1843, 1856, 1867. The earlier diary is located at the East Granby Library, the other two at the Suffield Library.
8. Some of the large syndicated cooperative farms that raised Sumatra leaf in shaded fields did overlap East Granby borders, but none were located in the district. These cooperatives were established to help defray the added expense of raising this type of tobacco. See Springman and Guinan, East Granby, p. 230 ff.
9. See Janice Cunningham, Litchfield National Landmark Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1985.

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U T M References

USGS Windsor Locks Quad Scale: 1:24,000

A 18 688380 4649600	B 18 689350 4649340	C 18 689320 4648380
D 18 689700 4648270	E 18 689290 4646560	F 18 690230 4646480
G 18 689600 4645180	H 18 689360 4645250	I 18 689200 4645090
J 18 689380 4644950	K 18 689320 4644880	L 18 689130 4645180
M 18 689180 4645230	N 18 688610 4645670	O 18 688570 4645530
√P 18 688820 4645450	√Q 18 688800 4645250	√R 18 688460 4645350
√S 18 688200 4644280	√T 18 688000 4643980	√U 18 687850 4644060
√V 18 687900 4644170	√W 18 687820 4644220	√X 18 687960 4644910
√Y 18 688150 4645410	√Z 18 688360 4645400	√AA 18 688430 4645620
√BB 18 688400 4645640	CC 18 688460 4645740	DD 18 688290 4645790
EE 18 688420 4646310	FF 18 688620 4646400	GG 18 688630 4646630
HH 18 688400 4646840	II 18 688410 4646080	JJ 18 688220 4647110

Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the the northwest corner of the intersection of Route 20 and North Main Street, the boundary runs to the west along the street line to a point at the southwest corner of Lot 13, Map 12 (all maps designated are the East Granby Tax Assessor's Maps on file at the Town Hall) and turns in a northerly direction to run along the rear property lines of said lot, Lot 14A, and Lot 16, before turning to the east to run along the north property line of Lot 16 to a point where it intersects with the rear property line of Lot 17A. Here the boundary turns again in a northerly direction to run along the rear property line of said lot to North Main Street, crosses said street and runs along the east street line in a northerly direction to a point opposite the south property line of Lot 17, Map 9, crosses the street to run around the property lines of said lot to the rear property line of Lot 18, before turning again to the north and running along the rear property line of Lot 18, crosses Lot 19, and continues along the rear property line of Lot 20 to cross Lot 20A to the southern property line of Lot 21. Here the boundary turns in a westerly direction and runs along said property line to a point approximately 3000 feet from the street line before turning once again in a northerly direction to cross Lots 21, 23, 24A and 25, all on Map 9, to continue in the same general direction along the rear property lines of Lots 1, 9, 10, all on Map 6, to cross Lot 12 and continue along the partial rear line of Lot 13, then crosses said lot and Lot 13 to a point at the southwest corner of Lot 1, Map 3. Here the boundary runs in a northerly direction along the rear property line of said lot to the Suffield line, before turning in an easterly direction to run along said town line to the west street line of North Main Street, before turning in a southerly direction and running down said street line to a point opposite the northern property line of Lot 15, Map 6. Here the boundary crosses the street and runs along the northern and rear property lines of said lot, and continues in a southerly direction along the rear property lines of Lots 16 and 17. At the southeast corner of Lot 17, the boundary turns again to the east to run along the south property line of Lot 22A to the Suffield town line. At

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this point, the boundary runs in a southerly direction along said town line to the point where the town line changes direction, and turns to run along said line in an easterly direction to East Street. At the northwest corner of this intersection, the boundary turns and runs in a southerly direction to a point opposite the north property line of Lot 47, Map 12, crosses East Street to run along said property line to DeGrayes Brook. At said brook the boundary returns to run in a southerly direction along the west bank of the brook to Russell Road. Here the boundary turns and runs along the north street line of said road to a point opposite the rear (east) property line of Lot 50 to the north property line of Lot 52, turns to the east to run along said property line to DeGrayes Brook. Here the boundary turns again in a southerly direction to run along the west bank of said brook to Nicholson Road, before turning and running along the north street line of said road to a point opposite the east property line of Lot 18, Map 17. Here the boundary crosses the road and runs around said lot to Rainbow Road, crosses said road and runs around Lot 13 and returns to run along the south street line of said road to Lot 55A, before extending around said lot to return to the road and recross the street to the north side. Here the boundary runs along the north side of said street in an westerly direction to a point opposite the west street line of Church Road, crosses Route 20 and runs in a southerly direction along the west side of Church Road to a point opposite Lot 35, Map 12. Here the boundary crosses Church Road and runs along the northern property line of said lot, crosses Lot 37, and continues along the rear property lines on Lots 38, and 40, turns and runs south to School Street along the east side of Lot 40. Here the boundary crosses said street to Lot 57 and runs around said lot to the southeast corner of Lot 60, before running along said line to a point opposite the northeast corner of Lot 4, Map 17. At this point the boundary turns and runs in a southerly direction across Lot 2, and continues along the rear property line of Lot 4, crosses Lot 33, Map 16, continues along the rear line of Lot 34, crosses Lots 35, 36, and 38, before continuing along the rear property line of Lot 39 to Lot 23, Map 21. Here the boundary runs around said lot to South Main Street and crosses said street at a point opposite the southern property line of Lot 17 to run along the south and rear property lines of said lot to the south line of Lot 18. Here the boundary turns again in a northerly direction to cross said lot and run along the north property line of said lot to the rear property line of Lot 21a. Here the boundary continues in a northerly direction along the rear property line of Lots 21A, and 21, crosses to Lot 22, and continues along the rear line of said lot, and around the side and rear property line of Lot 26, crosses the Connecticut Light and Power Company easement and continues along the rear property line of Lot 29. Here the boundary crosses Quarry Road and runs along the north street line of said road to the rear property line of Lot 31 and runs in a northerly direction along the rear line of said lot, crosses Lot 11, Map 11 to continue along the rear property lines of Lots 1 and 2, Map 12, before returning to South Main Street along the north property line of Lot 2. Here the boundary crosses said street and runs up the east street line to the intersection of the north property line of Lot 62A with said street line. Here the boundary runs in a easterly direction along said line to the

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Boundary description continued

the west property line of Lot 64. Here the boundary turns in a northerly direction to run along said property line, crosses School street, and runs up the west side of the Center Cemetery (Lot 30) to the south property line of Lot 27. Here the boundary turns in an westerly direction to run along the south property line of said lot to the east side of South Main Street. Here the boundary then turns and runs in a northerly direction up the east side of said street and crosses Route 20 to return the first point.