

PH0012685

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.09.0002	DATE 3/11/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Greenfield Hill Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION The area comprising the village green and adjacent properties on

STREET AND NUMBER: Meeting House Lane, Hillside Rd. and Old Academy Rd., and extending southerly on both sides of Bronson Rd. and Hillside Rd. to a point beyond the Old Cemetery on the former and to a point beyond Verna Hill Rd. on the latter.

CITY OR TOWN: *Greenfield Hill* Fairfield

STATE: Connecticut

CODE 09	COUNTY: Fairfield	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Names of all the individual property owners not available

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Connecticut

CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairfield

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

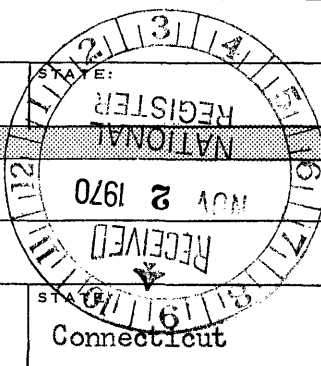
STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Connecticut

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Greenfield Hill is a rural community of charm and beauty set apart from the centers of industry, commerce, and politics. In the past it has been an agricultural community and a cultural center. There are 38 principal houses and structures within the Historic District and 20 separate subsidiary structures such as garages, sheds, and barns, and one old windmill. Analysis of the known or estimated ages of the principal structures reveals 13 buildings built prior to 1800 with the majority of these being pre-revolutionary, 6 structures built between 1800 and 1850, 9 structures built between 1850 and 1900 and ten between 1900 and 1966.

Notable Houses and Sites in the Greenfield Hill Historic District

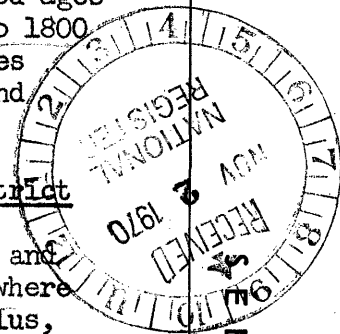
Timothy Dwight Park; located between Hillside Road, Old Academy and Bronson Roads, is the site of Timothy Dwight's famous Academy where young women and men were admitted to study Latin, Greek, Calculus, Surveying and Navigation.

Old Cemetery on Bronson Road: originally an Indian burial ground, this cemetery contains the graves of soldiers of the French and Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. The tradition of planting dogwoods along the road was begun by Revolutionary War hero, Dr. Isaac Bronson.

105 Meeting House Lane: now owned by Hubert Mandeville, this house was built about 1750 by Zalmon Bradley. Originally a salt-box, it was remodeled many years ago to its present handsome appearance, with a four-sided hip roof, four chimneys and exquisite doorway. In addition to its great architectural interest, it is important through the brief association with it of Abraham Baldwin, a key figure in the drafting of the Constitution, and of Joel Barlow, poet of the Revolution, one of the "Hartford Wits", and envoy and minister of the United States to Morocco and other countries.

Greenfield Hill Congregational Church: The present church building was built in 1855 in the same style as its predecessors. For almost 250 years this church has been the center about which the life of Greenfield Hill has revolved. The location of the church itself on the village green and its simple, typical New England village style typify the part it has played in the cultural and religious life of the community.

Old Salt Box at 1081 Hillside: now owned by John L. Peters, was built in 1751 by Gershom Hubbell, saddler and leather dresser. He carried on his trade in one room of the house when Timothy Dwight came to Greenfield Hill in 1783, it was in this room that he started his famous Academy.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

X Colonial

X

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

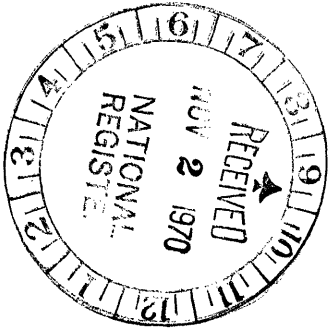
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greenfield Hill is significant because it has been the intellectual and cultural center of the Town of Fairfield. It became famous as the location of the Academy founded by Timothy Dwight and conducted by him for 12 years immediately preceding his appointment as President of Yale. Abraham Baldwin, who lived in one of the houses within the Historic District, moved to Georgia in 1784 and there he not only became a delegate to the convention that drafted the Constitution of the United States, but also a key figure in the compromises that permitted its adoption by the various States. He founded the University of Georgia and became its first president. Scholars of note came from all over the United States and from abroad to Greenfield Hill: Joel Barlow, the poet, and Talleyrand were frequent visitors. Another who have played an important role in the political life of the nation was Gideon Tomlinson who served as U.S. Congressman and Senator and was governor of the State from 1827-1837.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Final Report: Establishment of Historic Districts in Greenfield Hill and Southport. Published by the Fairfield Historic District Commission, 1966.

F.S. M. Crofut, Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937.

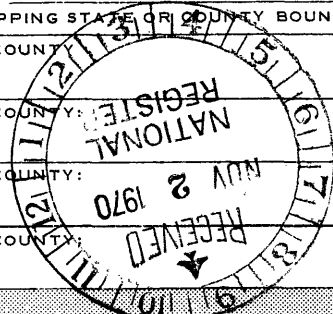
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	10'	44"	73°	17'	50"			
NE	41°	10'	44"	73°	17'	05"			
SE	41°	10'	06"	73°	17'	05"			
SW	41°	10'	06"	73°	17'	50"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 175

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: September 19, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
State Liaison Officer and Chairman
Title: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: September 19, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 11 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAR 3 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Connecticut	
COUNTY	
Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
713.09.0002	3/11/91

(Number all entries)

Greenfield Hill Historic

-2 - District: Description

3244 Bronson Road: W.T. Sampson Smith is the present owner of this house which was built before 1735. When Fairfield was a Port of Entry this property was the site of the Customs House where all shipments were cleared. At a later date, the Greenfield Hill Post office occupied what is now the library.

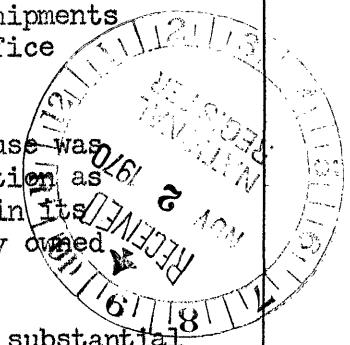
3171 Bronson Road: This gambrel-roofed, central chimney house was built by Reverend Seth Pomeroy about the time of his ordination as pastor of the Greenfield Hill Church in 1757. At one time in its history it served as an insurance office and it is presently owned by James P. Gillies.

2829 Bronson Road: While the original structure of which a substantial part remains is old, the interest arises from the fact that between 1901 and 1915 it served as the main building of the Greenfield Hill Country Club. The objectives of the club were: "to afford opportunity for the study of agriculture, music and literature, and to promote good fellowship and social improvement." There was a quarter-mile racetrack, cattle sheds, a vegetable building and a building for the display of agricultural implements. Four-day fairs were held in September of each year; in 1906, 52 yoke of oxen were shown, and there were prizes for sheep, cattle, poultry, field crops, bread, cakes and pies. A large room was added for dancing and another large room for dinners. Such activity exemplifies what may be overlooked, namely that Greenfield Hill grew out of an essentially agricultural background.

55 Meeting House Lane: This distinctly individual and attractive house eludes classification into any architectural period. Its long, steep pitched roof comes down to the level of the first story in front which permits a recessed veranda. With its four chimneys, dormer windows, its fan windows and quarter lunettes in the house ends, it is beautifully and delicately balanced. Traditionally it was designed by the young bride of Varick Dey, pastor of the church, who came to Greenfield Hill at the time the house was built (1823).

3015 Bronson Road: This huge windmill standing on property of Eugene Gallert was built in the third quarter of the 19th century, when it was necessary for the Bronson Family to find a source of water independent of rainfall. The well was the first deepdrilled well in the area. No longer in use, the windmill blades have been removed.

Although many structures have been altered over the years Greenfield Hill has been fortunate in being able to command the services of expert architects who have worked with appreciation for the values and styles of the past. In these changes and restorations they have succeeded in capturing or retaining these values. Nor have



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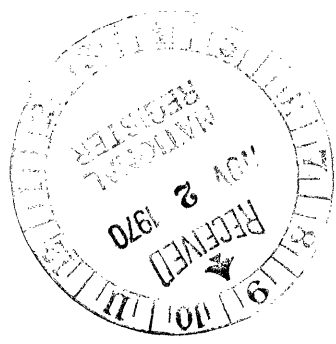
(Continuation Sheet)

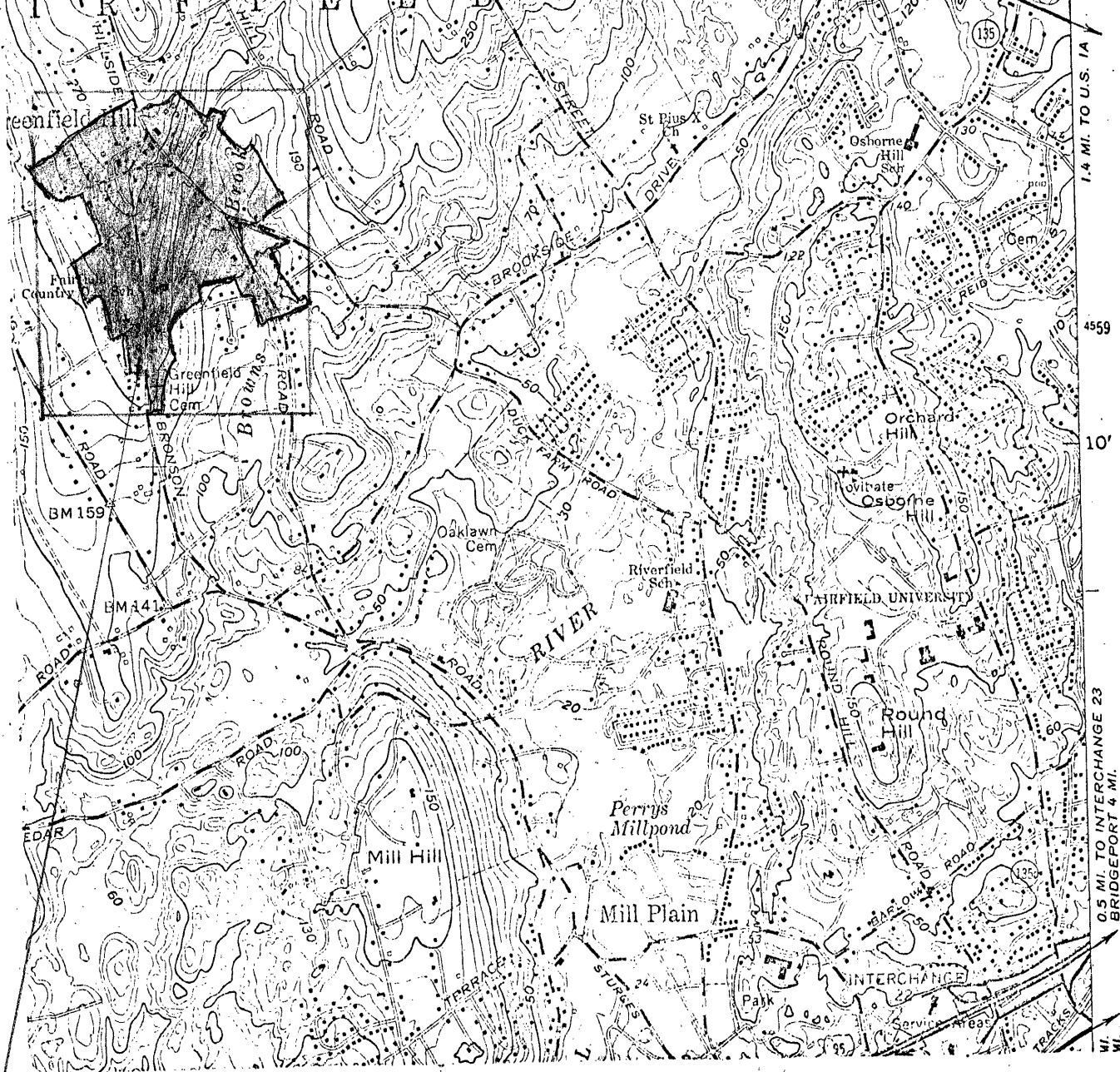
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(Number all entries)

Greenfield Hill Historic District: Description 3

the modern houses marred the general character and tone of the area, though several of them are very different from the traditional colonial or federal types that predominate.





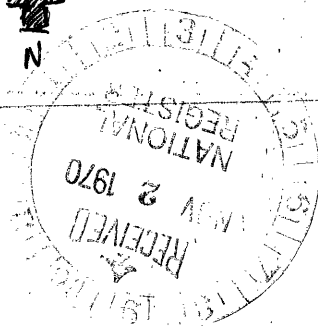
Greenfield Hill Historic District

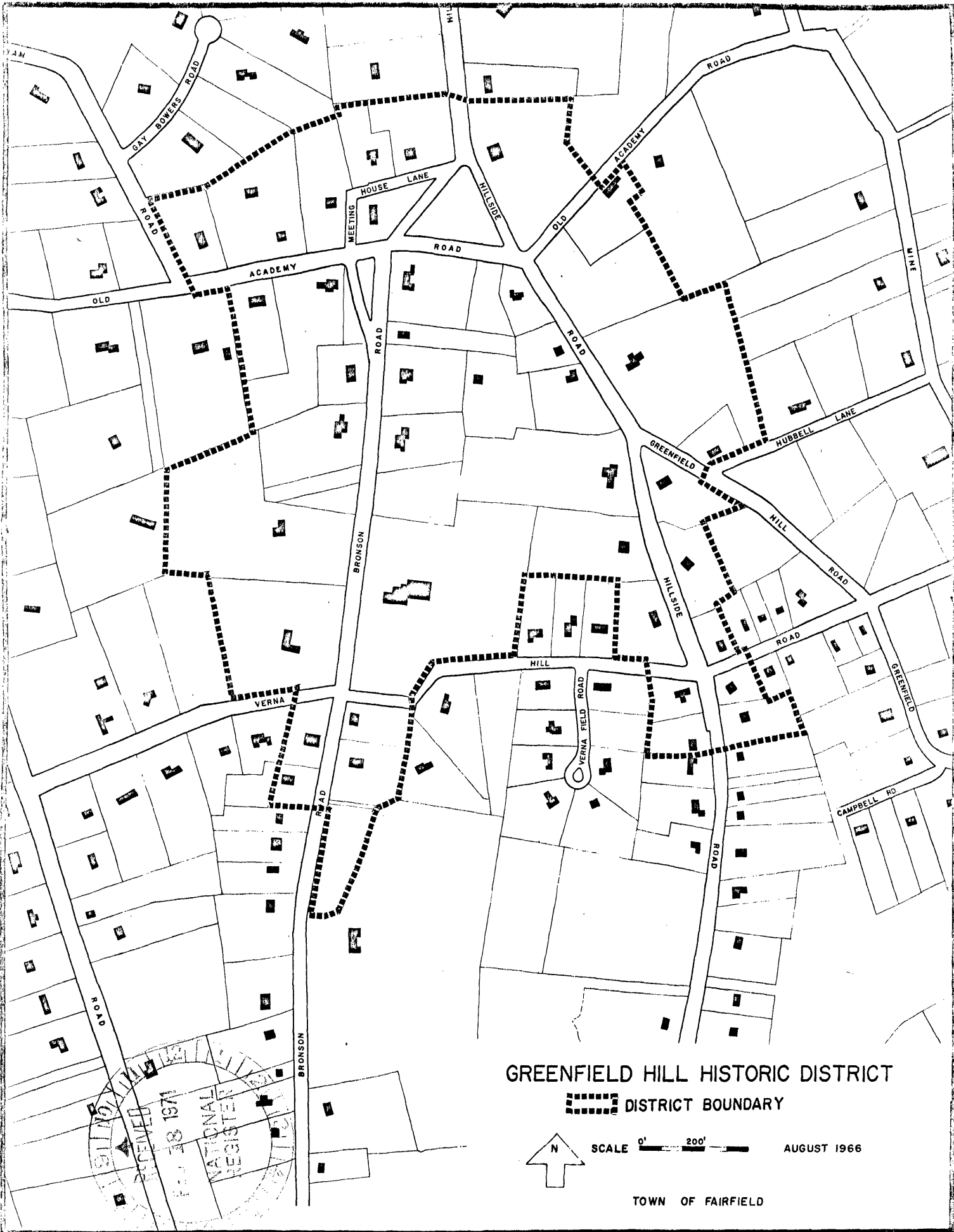
Latitude

Longitude

NW 41° 10' 44"
 SW 41° 10' 06"
 SE 41° 10' 06"
 NE 41° 10' 44"

NW 73° 17' 50"
 SW 73° 17' 50"
 SE 73° 17' 50"
 NE 73° 17' 50"





GREENFIELD HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

----- DISTRICT BOUNDARY



SCALE 0' 200'

AUGUST 1966

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

RECEIVED
FEB 18 1971
NATIONAL
REGISTER