

PH0010774

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.09.0034	DATE 10/15/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Little Plain Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION East and west sides of Broadway and Union Streets to rear property lines from Otis St on the NW to 161 Broadway and 71 Union Streets on S; S side of Otis Street to the NE boundary of the sixth property on that street; and including all residences around Little Plain Park and Huntington Place.

STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Norwich

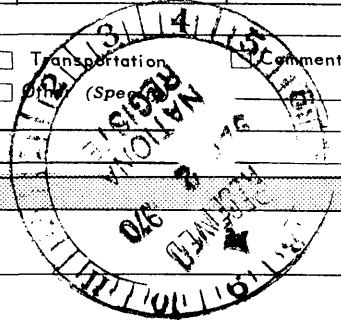
STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06360 COUNTY: New London CODE: 011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
see separate list

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Norwich STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Norwich STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1) Historic American Buildings Survey
(2) Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: (1) 1960-61 (2) 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: (1) Library of Congress
(2) Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
(2) 75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: (1) Washington, D.C. STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06
(2) Hartford

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: Hartford
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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

The late 18th and 19th century homes of the Little Plain area reflect a shift in fashionable residential building locations from the Bean Hill section and the area around the old Norwichtown Green, both of which abound in fine buildings of the Colonial Era, to the area round lower Broadway and Union Street closer to the center of the growing port city of Norwich. The rich variety of post-Revolutionary housing types of this area are living reminders of the prosperity brought to Norwich, first from trade and later from the many manufactories of the region. Aside from the fine general architectural appearance and value of the Little Plain area, there are several individually outstanding examples of Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian houses.

The strength and rich plasticity of the Deacon Jabez Huntington House (181 Broadway) built by Thomas Coit in the full-blown late Georgian style provides interesting contrast with its two more austere and delicate Federal neighbors. This pair, the Hezekiah Perkins House (185 Broadway) and the similar DeWitt-Sigourney House (189 Broadway) are exceptionally fine examples of an unusual house type built in the Federalist manner.

The area contains five handsome Greek Revival houses. Three were built during the height of the style and provide different, though equally fine, solutions to the problem of converting the Greek temple into single-family wood-frame houses. Two of these which stand next to each other at 171 and 167 Broadway were stately mansions in their time though they now suffer from different degrees of neglect. The other two, similar to each other and built at a later date, display the typical abstract geometricity of the Classical style with the surprisingly happy influence of high Victorian values.

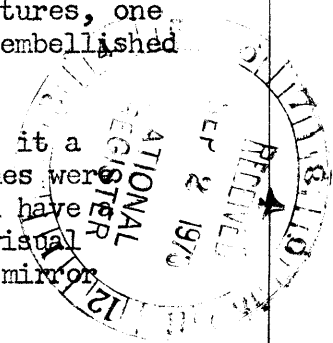
There is also a variety of fine Victorian houses in the area. On the western side of Little Plain Park are two houses of the vaguely Italianate type made popular by New Haven architect Henry Austin. Across the park on the eastern side is a towered villa with more direct Italian Origins.

On lower Broadway is a pair of brick mansard-roofed structures, one with a Victorian version of "classical" trim, the other, embellished with pointed arches of the Gothic revival.

The seemingly rapid development of Huntington place makes it a particularly interesting street. The majority of the homes were built around 1875, and though each is different, they all have similar stylistic quality. At the end of the street, a visual climax is provided by two towered Victorian houses which mirror each other.

One other unique late Victorian house (93 Union Street) is composed of an imaginative massing of forms including a thick octagonal tower.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
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(Number all entries)

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Description -- The Little Plain Historic District

The steep gables, the shapes and placement of the fenestration, and the contrasts of textures give it the appearance of haphazard organic growth usually associated with the High Victorian.

The area also includes a few late 19th and early 20th century shingle-style houses which are not outstanding or unique but which are generally fine examples of the type.

The City of Norwich is fortunate that there has been relatively little building replacement, especially in the residential areas. Rather, the areas of new residential construction have tended to shift with the times.

Outstanding Houses of the Little Plain District

DeWitt-Sigourney House

189 Broadway

Built in the last quarter of the 18th century, this was the home of Captain Jacob DeWitt, a prominent Norwich merchant. General Lafayette called on the DeWitts here during his last visit to Norwich. In 1812 Lydia Huntley (Mrs. L.H. Sigourney, "The Sweet Singer of Hartford") and Nancy Maria Hyde conducted a school here for young girls. The dwelling is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Hezekiah Perkins House

185 Broadway

Built around 1740. Altered 1775-1800. Mr. Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington in 1811 gave the city the land now known as "Little Plain Park." This building is also listed on the H.A.B.S.

Woodhull House

167 Broadway

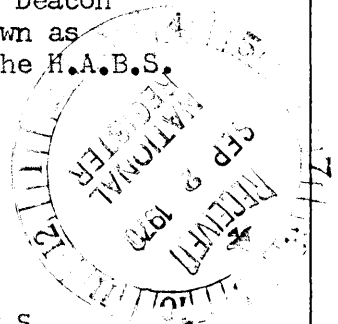
and

Johnson House

171 Broadway

Both these Greek Revival Mansions are listed with H.A.B.S.

"These stately mansions, as well as the others in this area, reflect that period (the early 1800's) of Norwich life when commerce and textile industries flourished. The prosperous merchants and ship owners built their homes in this newly developed section of town on Washington and Broadway." American Thermos Magazine July, 1959



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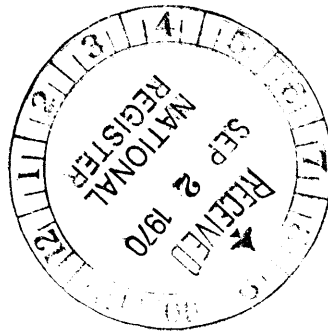
(Number all entries)

- 3 -

Description — Outstanding Houses of the Little Plain Historic District

'Italianate' Houses
126 Union Street
130 Union Street

Both of these homes date from the 1840's and are built in the Italianate style popularized by Henry Austin noted Connecticut architect of the mid 1800's.



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) 1775 - 1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

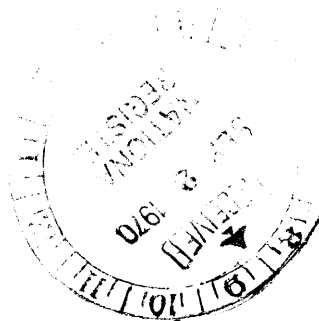
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Social history:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>documents the</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>wealth of Norwich</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>merchants.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The rich variety of post-revolutionary housing types in the Little Plains Area are living reminders of the prosperity brought to Norwich first from trade and later from manufacturing in the area. The Historic District is unusual because within a small area of about thirty acres are documented most of the architectural styles which prosperous Americans preferred for their domestic buildings between 1775 and 1875. It is an area of distinguished homes, unified and harmonious despite its variety thanks to the open space provided by the triangular Little Plain Park and the narrow green about which the residences of Huntington Place cluster. Although several distinguished houses may be singled out, it is the totality which makes the impression and this is a result of the combination of Victorian, Greek Revival, and Federal style buildings which compose the district.

Thus the Little Plain area is important historically and aesthetically because it documents 19th century taste in domestic architecture, because it is an interesting and pleasing aesthetic whole which is focused on a small park, and because it serves as a reminder of the social and economic history of the town recalling the prosperity of a growing merchant class in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Proposed Little Plain Historic District, Norwich, Connecticut," published by the Historic District Commission, November, 1969.

Historic American Buildings Survey: CONN-249, CONN-257, CONN 258, and CONN 262

M.K. O'Keefe and C.S. Doroshevich, Norwich Historic Homes and Families Stonington, Conn.: The Pequot Press, 1967.

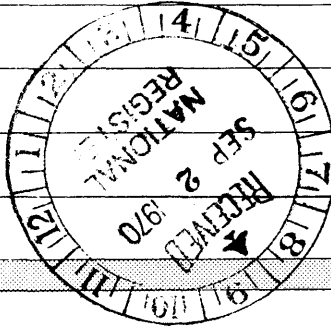
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	31'	53"	72°	04'	46"			
NE	41°	31'	53"	72°	04'	29"			
SE	41°	31'	41"	72°	04'	29"			
SW	41°	31'	41"	72°	04'	46"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: August 25, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: August 25, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

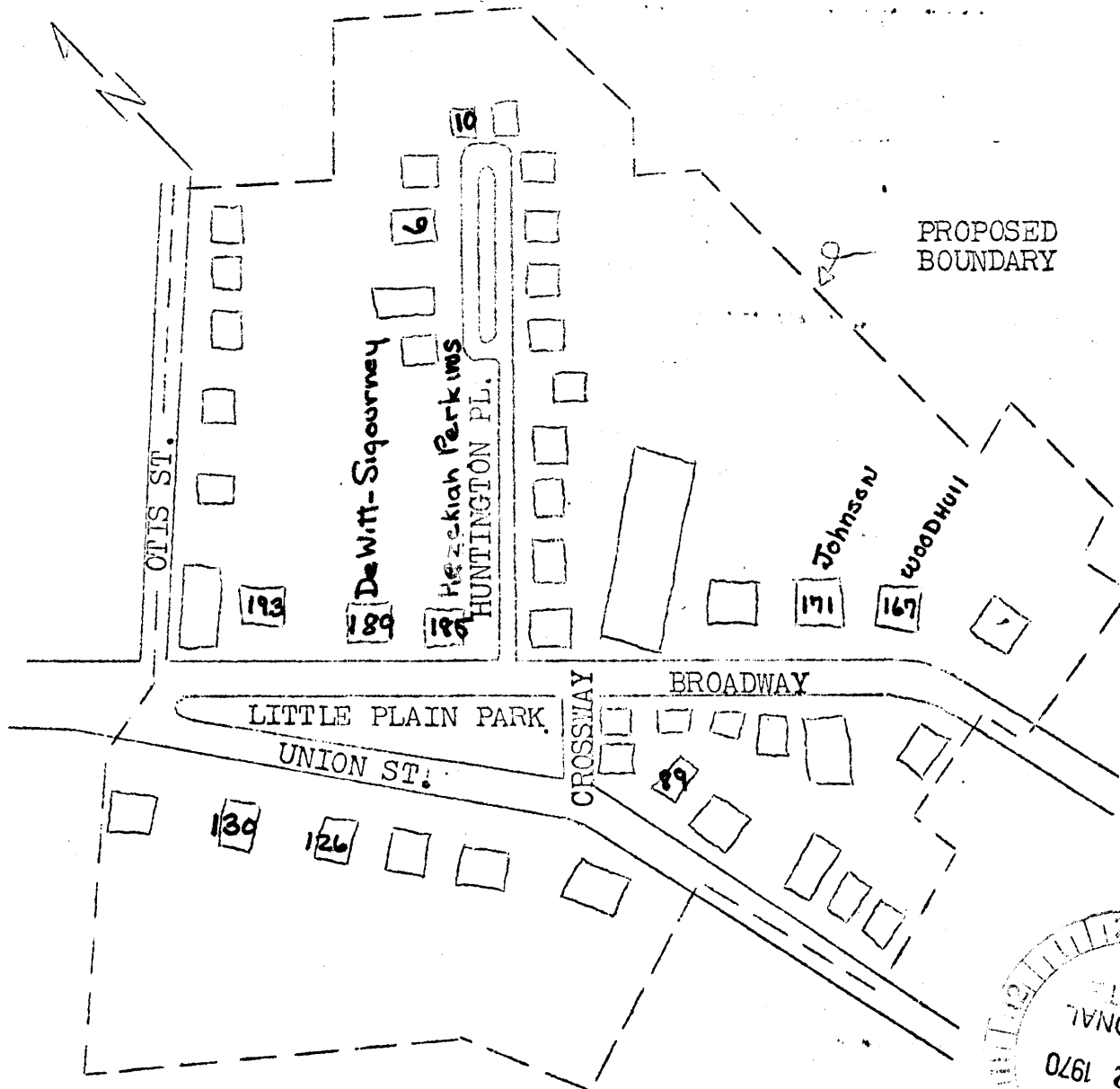
Date: _____

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: ~~SEP 25 1970~~ SEP 25 1970

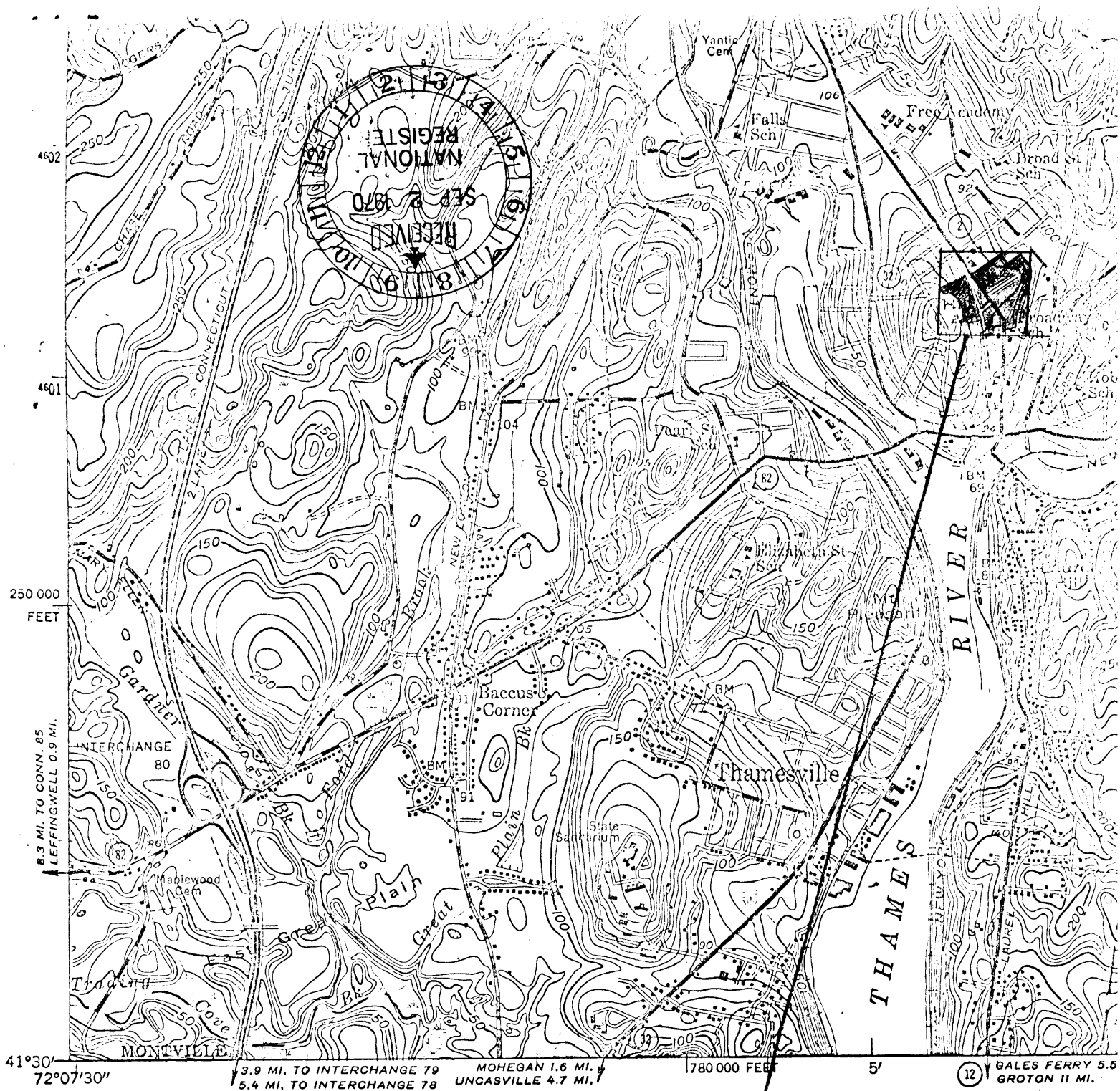
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

LITTLE PLAIN HISTORIC DISTRICT
NORWICH, CONNECTICUT



Scale: 1 inch equals 200 feet

OCT. 1969



Little Plain Historic District



	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41° 31' 33"	72° 04' 46"
NE	41° 31' 53"	72° 04' 29"
SE	41° 31' 41"	72° 04' 29"
SW	41° 31' 41"	72° 04' 46"