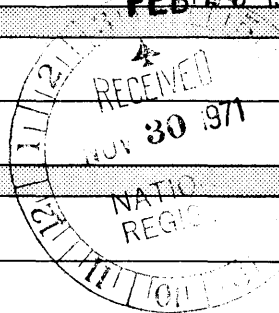


PH0010855

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Tolland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mansfield Center Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Mansfield

STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09	COUNTY: Tolland	CODE: 013
-----------------------	-------------	--------------------	--------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Current list of property owners not available

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Mansfield Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Mansfield Connecticut 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
51 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Hartford Connecticut 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 23 1972

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

As only one section of the town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Center Historic District realizes a still existent pre-industrial rural village. There are many areas of the town: Gurleyville, Tagleville, Mansfield City, Mansfield Depot, Mansfield Hollow, Mount Hope, Spring Hill, and Mansfield Center are the most familiar. The largest and best known is Storrs, where the state university sprawls over 2650 acres and has an enrollment of more than 20,000 students.

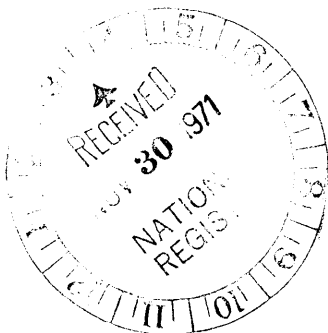
The first settlement in Mansfield, in about 1692, was at Mansfield Center, in a quiet valley south of the university. A highway eight rods wide was laid out and the land on either side was divided into twenty-one house lots. With each house lot came the right to 1000 acres in outlying parts of town. Gradually the woods were cut for building and on the clear land crops were grown and cattle pastured. As the outlying land was used, highways were built, resulting in a road pattern resembling spokes from a hub.

The district today remains essentially the same village it was in the 18th and 19th centuries. There is a general store, a library, the town hall, the Congregational Church, and an elementary school in the vicinity. The well-kept houses of Colonial, Federal, and Greek Revival styles are obviously cared for by conscientious owners. Of large proportions with some detail and ornamentation, the homes give evidence of the wealth derived from local agriculture and commercial activity in neighboring towns.

As industry became the major force in the development of towns in the mid-19th century, mills and manufacturing sprang up on the rivers surrounding Mansfield Center, in Millimantic and Stafford Springs. Some of the Center's finest homes were built in this time by Colonel Edwin Pitch for the men who had been successful at business. Since late in that century there has been at least one store, but other commercial establishments have not threatened the character of the Center until recent years when the population of the town of Mansfield has exceeded 12,000.

The architectural characteristics of the area provide a sense of identity for the contemporary district with village life of the 18th and 19th centuries. There is a great sense of unity among the residents. Many are professors at the university; all are people who take great pride in their homes and their community. There is much interest in the preservation of the Center as an unspoiled rural village.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

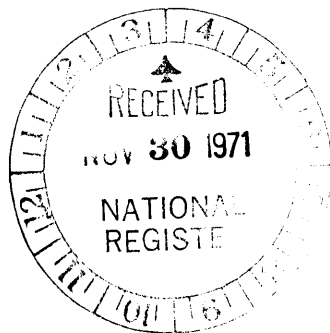
STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY Tolland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

1

2. Location

The Mansfield Center Historic District includes the properties on each side of Route 195 from the intersection with Chaffeeville Road on the northwest to the intersection with Center Road on the south. The east boundary follows the rear property line of the properties fronting on Route 195, just north of Warrenville Road, Center Street, and the southwest shore of Echo Lake. The west boundary follows the rear property lines of the properties fronting on Route 195.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <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 way in which Mansfield has developed during the past two and a half centuries accounts for the historical and aesthetic quality still evident in the village of Mansfield Center. The Historic District extends over the area of original settlement and includes twenty-six homes as well as the library, general store, town hall, and Congregational Church.

One of the most impressive parts of the District is north of the church. Here is located the oldest house in town (c. 1710), a very large Greek Revival residence, five 18th century houses, several early 19th century and Greek Revival structures, and the library.

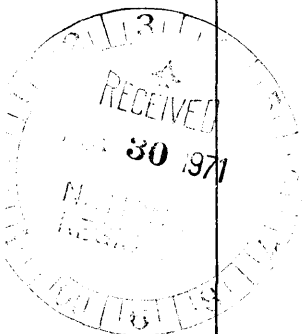
The Williams House (1710). Probably the oldest in Mansfield, this house was the home of Reverend Eleazer Williams, who served as the first minister of the church there for thirty-two years (1710-1742). He was the son of the Reverend John Williams of Deerfield, Mass. Eleazer, studying at Harvard, was the only member of his family who was not at home on the night of the French and Indian massacre, February 20, 1704. His father and five children were taken to Canada as prisoners. Two other children and a servant were killed on the doorstep of the family's home and Mrs. Williams was killed in Greenfield, Mass., two days later. The youngest child, Eunice, married an Indian after years of captivity.

After Reverend Eleazer Williams' death, his daughter Mary married the Reverend Richard Salter, who came as the second pastor in 1743 and served the church until his death in 1787.

Between 1750 and 1775 the house was changed to a two-chimney, center-hall house, typical of the Boston area. The superb paneling of this period has survived in the north parlor and north chamber.

The late Mr. D. Keith considered this to be one of the most architecturally interesting houses in Connecticut. His comments are: "Few houses show the alterations of a family of means generation after generation more clearly than does this which served as the parsonage for about 75 years in the days when the clergy were not only the most learned, but the most affluent members of the community."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Report of the Historic District Study Committee for the Proposed Historic District in Mansfield Center, Connecticut, (April, 1968).

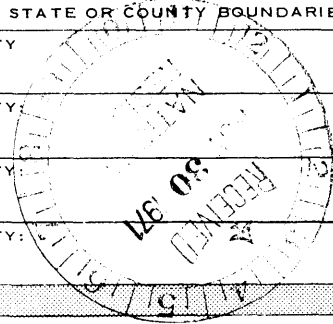
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	46'	29"	72°	12'	23"						
NE	41°	46'	29"	72°	11'	27"						
SE	41°	45'	45"	72°	11'	27"						
SW	41°	45'	45"	72°	12'	23"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **200**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: **Connecticut Historical Commission** DATE: **January 3, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt 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: *Susan Babbitt*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

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

Robert A. Rasmussen
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **FEB 23 1972**

ATTEST:

John Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date: February 15, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Connecticut	
COUNTY	Tolland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

#8 (1)

2

Construction of the house was started by Samuel Fuller, the Town Surveyor, on Home Lot No. 7, which was purchased in December, 1709. In June, 1710, the Town purchased the partly finished house and lot for £32 and authorized an additional £60 for its completion as a home for the first minister. The original construction of this period may be observed in the south chamber where the chamfered summer beam is exposed. The original clapboards with heavy bead nailed directly to the studs are still on the front.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, March, 1971.

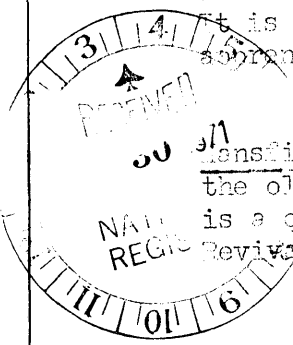
The Fitch Mansion (1836). This is the largest and most impressive house in the Historic District. It was built in 1836 by Mansfield's most famous master builder, Colonel Edwin Fitch. Situated on the west side of Storrs Road, immediately north of the library, the house is surrounded by a tract of some sixty acres.

This house was a strong-willed man's response to his prospective father-in-law's demand that he provide a house before he could marry his daughter. In 1835, Fitch, only twenty-three years old, bought 1 1/2 acres on which to build the most elaborate house in the Center. Massive Ionic columns support a pedimented portico across the front of the house while the door is framed with intricate moulding. In so small a village people naturally talked about a poor young man building such a pretentious house; it was dubbed "Fitch's Folly". Some years later Fitch built and moved to a more modest though still imposing house on Centre Street.

Since the main structure was built it has been enlarged, attractive outbuildings have been added, and the estate has been well-landscaped. "Fitch's Folly" has become the Center's Bride. It is presently owned by Mrs. Kenneth Kinney.

The First Church of Christ (Congregational) was established in 1710. It was the first church in Mansfield and perhaps in Tolland County. In 1753 a second, larger church was built. The present building was built in 1866 after a fire had destroyed the previous structure. It is said to have been built by Ralph Chamwell, one of Fitch's apprentices.

Mansfield Center Library (1923). The Library stands on the site of the old school house, just across Brown's Road from the Church. It is a one-story brick and stone building in the style of the Georgian Revival which sits on a rise above and faces out on Storrs Road (Pt. 135).



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Connecticut	
COUNTY	
Tolland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

#8 (2)

3

The Town Pound (1801). On April 13, 1801 the town meeting voted to have two stone pounds, one in each Society. Both were built, and this one, for the South Society, survives on the estate of Mrs. Kenneth Wimmer. It is of rectangular stone construction.

Originally the village was laid out in twenty-one lots along Town Street, (present Route 195), for about a mile. North and south ends of the street were marked by unpretentious blockhouses.

The Old Uncle Hall Place. Built perhaps as early as 1694, this house was placed on a slight rise at the north end of the village and was apparently fortified by its first owner, Joseph Hall. The historic, colonial qualities are more apparent inside than out for it was faced with native stone in this century. A small attractive cottage, also of stone, stands immediately in front of the main house. A wood frame barn is the only other structure. All of the buildings are well back from Storrs Road (Route 195) and hidden from view by abundant trees and shrubbery.

The Dodd House. Another of the oldest houses in the Center is that owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Dodd. It is named for a Civil War Veteran, Enoch Dodd, Alfred's father. Its precise age is a matter of some speculation because of the evidence of seventeenth century foundations. It may well be that the building was once Joseph Hall's fortified north outpost of the village. The cottage and its large red barn are set on tidy grounds on quiet Dodd Road.

On Centre Street, which curves to the east from Storrs Road, are some very attractive 13th and 12th century houses.

Week's Store. Located at the corner of Centre Street and Storrs Road is one of the central buildings in Mansfield Center--the country store. Built by Charles W. Weeks in 1836, it has retained its 19th century qualities which include its interesting facade and the continued practice of posting notices and advertisements on a bulletin board on the front porch. One of the few remaining country stores in Connecticut, it is now known as "Barrows and Burnham" and is owned by Mrs. Willard Robb.

The Fitch House. This Greek Revival house was built in 1848 by Colonel Edwin Fitch. An older, small structure was the base upon which Fitch built the handsome front section. It was Fitch's home and center of operations for his trade after he lost his first home, the Fitch Mansion, to the village money lender, Falcon Storrs.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Connecticut	
COUNTY	
Tolland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

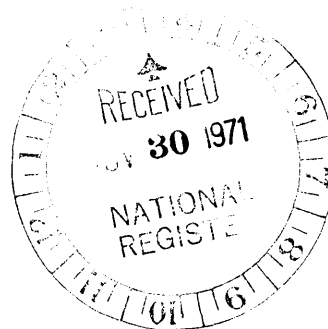
4

#8 (3)

Large and commodious without being pretentious, the house is set in spacious and well-manicured grounds.

The Aspinwall House. At the point where Centre Street turns abruptly north there is situated one of Mansfield's oldest houses. It was built in 1740 by Prince Aspinwall. Described in 1880 as "a quaint one-story, very high gabled-roof structure", it has been remodeled often yet retains its grey-shingled colonial appearance with much of the original material left intact.

The Payne Cottage. The first two rooms of this house were built in 1794 as a saddler's shop for the Aspinwall house. Since then the house has undergone a steady growth down to 1866 so that it now has ten rooms and extends well back from the bend in Centre Street toward the Town Pond (Echo Lake). Sometime in the 1840's it is said that the front rooms were raised to second-story level and new rooms built underneath. The old front door was then sealed up. This accounts for the peculiar arrangement of the second-story windows. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hamill, encountered a full cistern 8 feet deep under the floor when they remodeled the back part--a relic of the days when a cooper owned the house. There are no outbuildings which stand near the property although a barn was once associated with it.



Mansfield Historic District I
(Mansfield Center)

Dates of Structures

#18	Weeks' Store	1886
#19	The Adams House	1774
#20	The Fitch House	1848
#21	The Aspinwall House	1740
#22	The Payne Cottage	1794
#27	Church	1866
#29	The Rand White House	1792
#33	The Sullivan House	c.1790-1865
#34	The Armstrong House	1760
#35	The Morrison House	1820
#36	The Old Parsonage	1794-95
#37	The William Trumbull House	1835
#38	The Fitch Mansion	1836
#39	The Williams House	1720
#40	The Charles Trumbull House	1835
#42	The Eaton House	1803
#47	The Rouse Place	1780
#48	Old Uncle Hall Place (2 dwellings)	c.1694
#51	Dodd House	c.late 17th cent.
#53	The Old Lady Barrows House	1814
#57	The Sheldon House	c.1880
Lot 1	Mansfield Center Library	1926
Lot 4	The Pritzkau House	c.1938
Lot 6	The Parsonage	1953
Lot 7	The Gallup House	c.1950
Lot 50	The Bigelows' Duck House	1935
Lot 127	Pine Patch	1952
Lot 138	The Hastings House	1953



RECEIVED
NOV 30 1971
NATIONAL
REGISTER

RECEIVED
NOV 30 1971
NATIONAL
REGISTER

Turnip Meadow

Mansfield Hts.





12°30' 12°33' 12°36'
 WILLIMANTIC 2.9 MI. (WILLIMANTIC) 6567 II NW 735 10' 736
 SOUTH WINDHAM 5.4 MI.
 SCALE 1:24 000
 1 MILE
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 Mansfield Center
 Historic District
 Spring Hill
 Quadrangle
 CONNECTICUT