

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

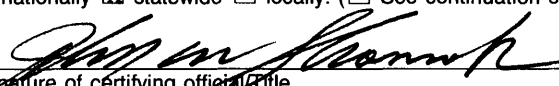
1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number Watertown Center Historic District

2. Location

street & number See Continuation sheet. not for publication
city or town Watertown vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06795

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
 02/27/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

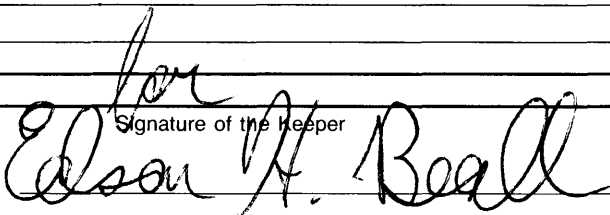
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

 Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 4-12-01

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2. Location

Academy Hill: 28, 38, 47, 52, 57, 67, 69.

DeForest Street: Watertown Public Green, Munson Memorial Park, 10, 22, First Congregational Church, 28, 37, 40, 47-55, 50, 54, 63, 70, 79, 85, 90, 153.

Dickerman Street: 20, 21.

Main Street: 160, 175, 180, 190, 235, 305, 329, 365, 380, 398, 401, 404, Lot 20, 424, 429.

North Street: 17/27, 36, 37, 48, 49, 59, 60, 68, 71, 82, 87, 92-24, 93, 100, 126, 130, 138.

The Green: The Green, 5, 15, 25, 28, 37, Watertown Academy.

Warren Way: 13, 18, 30, 37, 40, 47, 61, 70.

Woodbury Road: 7, 14, 31, 34, 47, 53, 75.

Woodruff Avenue: 147, 148, 153, 156, 165, 166, 175, 178, 182, 186, 191, 212.

Watertown Center Historic District
Name of Property

Litchfield, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
109	16	buildings
3	0	sites
		structures
2	0	objects
114	16	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE/general store/shop

GOVERNMENT/town hall

RELIGION/religious facility/parsonage

LANDSCAPE/green

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

COMMERCE/ store

GOVERNMENT/town hall

RELIGION/religious facility

LANDSCAPE/green/town park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal; MID-19TH CENTURY/
Greek Revival/Gothic Revival/Italian villa;

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate/Queen Anne/
Romanesque; EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

stone/brick

roof asphalt/slate

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1772 - c. 1940

Significant Dates

1772

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

various/see Items 7, 8.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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Watertown Center Historic District, Litchfield County, Connecticut

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The Watertown Center Historic District encompasses the town's civic and residential center. Located on an elevated site near the intersection of Main and DeForest Streets, the district extends from the cemetery at the head of North Street south to the intersection of Woodruff and Wheeler streets. From Main Street on the eastern border, the district runs west to the intersection of DeForest Street and Woodbury Road. Secondary streets include Academy Hill, The Green, and Town Hill Road.

The district contains 130 contributing and non-contributing resources, of which 114 (94 percent) contribute to its architectural and historic significance. Most of the contributing resources are residential, but the district also includes a number of institutional buildings that are clustered around three contributing sites, the Public Green at De Forest Street and Town Hill Road and its associated Munson Memorial Park, and another Green that runs between DeForest Street and Woodbury Road. Three of the non-contributing resources are houses built after 1950, but most of the rest are secondary structures such as garages, which were built after 1940.

Although residential construction began in the district after the Public Green was laid out in 1772 and a Congregational church erected nearby, only a few houses date from the eighteenth century. Most of the 65 houses were built from about 1840 through the early twentieth century. Almost every streetscape incorporates a representative range of nineteenth-century styles, including Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne, with more than half the houses built or remodeled in the Colonial Revival style. A number of associated historic outbuildings such as carriagehouses that remain in the district have been converted to residential use.

A driveway and intersecting walkways cross the lawn of the Public Green, the focus of the district, which rises steeply from Main and DeForest streets (Inventory #12). The present configuration of this public space dates from the 1930s when Route 6 was relocated. A small rectangular section set off from the rest of the Green by Town Hill Road is the site of a gazebo and a 1921 War Memorial at its western corner (Inventory #s 13, 14). The memorial consists of a large boulder with plaques honoring those who served in World War I and the later wars of this century. The Soldier's Monument of 1902, a tall free-standing column surmounted by a globe and an eagle, which commemorates the dead of the Civil War, is located across the street on the edge of the main Green (Inventory #15).

The buildings that define the boundaries of this public space are a stylistically and functionally diverse collection that represents more than a century of construction in both masonry and wood. On the west side, a driveway leads up to the First Congregational Church, a Greek Revival edifice erected in 1839 by master builder Stephen Baldwin, which occupies a commanding position near the crest of the hill (Inventory # 20; Photograph #s 1, 2). The pedimented main block, which has an Ionic portico, is surmounted by a two-stage square tower. Doric columns in antis are displayed at the first level of the tower and the Ionic order is utilized in the same fashion above.

The two buildings south of the church are the Reverend John Trumbull House and the former Watertown Library. The Trumbull House, a Colonial built in 1772 as the home of the first minister of the Congregational

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Church, has been remodeled several times (Inventory #22; Photograph #s 1, 2). A large ballroom was added when the building became a tavern in the 1790s, and the shed dormers and Neo-Classical Revival porches at either end were installed after 1900. The library to the south, which now serves as Our Savior Lutheran Church, is an ashlar granite building designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in 1883 by Robert W. Hill with a steep hipped roof and projecting gabled pavilions on three elevations (Inventory # 24; Photograph #3). Contrasting lighter stone defines the broad entrance archway above the springline, the round-arched windows, cornices and quoining, and a beltcourse under the first-floor windows. An unusual feature is the stone chimney that rises from the right side of the entrance pavilion.

The Watertown Town Hall, a large brick structure erected in 1894, is located directly across Deforest Street (Inventory #21; Photograph #4). The large arched front entrance echoes the style of the library but the pediment and flanking square tower display several Colonial Revival features, such as urns, swags, dentil molding, and consoles.

North of the church is the Amos Gridley Store and the Munson House. The store is a brick Greek Revival building constructed in 1846 (Inventory #19; Photograph #5). The façade is highlighted by a broad pediment, with a rectangular multipaned window and a columned porch in the Ionic order, which together with the main frieze are detailed with dentil courses. Gridley's home, now known as the Munson House, was constructed in the cube-form Italianate style with a low hipped roof, deep bracketed eaves, and a cupola (Inventory #18; Photograph #6). The elaborate Italianate main portico is original; the other porches were added after 1912. Tucked behind these buildings is the Nova Scotia District School, an 1853 Greek Revival schoolhouse moved to this site (Inventory # 17). Both buildings are situated on property donated to the town with the Munson House and now known as Munson Memorial Park (Inventory #16).

Facing the Green from the east is the 1898 United Methodist Church on Main Street (Inventory #42; Photograph #7). A large Queen Anne/Shingle-style building composed of two intersecting gabled sections flanking a bell tower, it was designed by George Kramer. Notable features include large arched stained-glass windows in the broad gables of the southern section. Similarly placed fenestration on the north end is rectangular, with windows grouped in bands of four surmounted by swan's neck pediments. Asbury Cottage, an associated building at the rear, is a former schoolhouse now used as the church office (Inventory #43).

Christ Church, the only other religious institution in the district, and its Rectory are situated facing a smaller Green owned by the church (Inventory #82). Bordered by mature trees and The Green, the name of the road on the east side, this open space also serves as the nucleus of a cluster of several other distinctive residential buildings and the Watertown Academy. Christ Church, a granite structure and the second Episcopal Church on this site, was built in 1924 (Inventory #85; Photograph #8). Designed by Allen and Collens of Boston to resemble an English parish church, it features a square crenelated tower and a steeply pitched gabled nave. A matching parish hall wing was added on the south side in 1960. Next door is the Colonial Revival-style Christ Church Rectory built in 1846 (Inventory #88). Originally an Italian Villa, it was raised to three stories with an

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open two-story porch on the south end. The academy, a Greek Revival-style building located at the corner of The Green and Academy Hill, was built by the church as a private school in 1843 and now serves as its Parish House (Inventory #90; Photograph #9).

Two large houses that face the Green from either side of the street were associated with members of the Alanson family. The 1805 Alanson Warren House on the west side was designed in the Federal style by David Hoadley (Inventory #86; Photograph #10). Substantially remodeled in the nineteenth century with large wings and an Italianate veranda that spanned the entire façade, the house achieved its present Colonial Revival configuration in the mid-1930s. At that time architect Cameron Clark replaced the wings with smaller ones and completely redid the interior of the building in the Federal Revival style. Although the circular porch was added by Clark, much of the rest of the central pedimented pavilion, including the Palladian window, is original fabric. Truman Warren, Alanson's son, built the Italianate across the street in 1851 (Inventory #83; Photograph #11). Attributed to Henry Austin, the ashlar granite cube-form house has a large arched cupola centered in the near-flat roof and displays an elaborate curved veranda supported with pierced posts and a cast-iron balustrade. A similar porch is located at the southeast corner. The corner lot is bordered by a cast-iron fence, which was imported from France. Directly across Deforest Street is the c. 1840 Eli Curtiss House, a hipped-roof building distinguished by corner pilasters and a fine Federal doorway (Inventory # 30).

At the foot of the Green are two more large residences, the Nathaniel Wheeler and Charles Woodruff houses. The Wheeler House, which was built in the villa form in 1852, was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style by Wilfred Griggs (Inventory #104; Photograph #12). Changes made to the house include the two-story porches at each end, the French doors along the east elevation, and the fanlight over the main entry. An associated brick carriagehouse to the west was built in 1863 (Inventory #105; Photograph #12). Among its special features are eave oculus, corbeled cornices, and basket-arched doorways outlined by brick voussoirs. The Woodruff House, an unusual example of the Victorian Gothic Revival, has matching turrets at the corners (Inventory #102; Photograph #13). The crenelated top of these turrets has been removed but other original features remain, such as the Gothic rose design of the frieze under the eaves and the Italianate porch on the east elevation. The two-story colonnaded portico on the west side was added about 1912.

Two corner lots at the intersection of Woodbury Road and DeForest Street were selected as the sites of the Charles Merriman and Charles Warren houses. The main block of the Merriman House, which may have been added to an earlier 1750 house, dates from 1812 (Inventory #112; Photograph #14). Later Federal Revival remodelings produced the Roman Ionic order doorway and two-story colonnaded porch on the south elevation. Warren's Italianate house across the street, one of the few unaltered villas that remain in the district, is distinguished by a wraparound veranda, which displays molded spandrels and brackets (Inventory #31; Photograph #15).

A pleasing mix of styles and forms are found on other streets in the district. North Street is the site of two early nearly identical Greek Revival residences, the Eli Curtiss House and the Congregational Parsonage (Inventory

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#s 57, 60; Photograph #16). Set off from the road by a picket fence, they have fully pedimented three-bay temple form and rectangular gable windows of this style. The only real difference between them is the Greek Revival portico on the Curtiss House. The matching carriagehouse/barn for the latter residence has been converted to residential use (Inventory #64). Among the several vernacular Italianates and Queen Annes that contribute to this nineteenth-century streetscape is the John Bronson House, which is detailed with a bracketed door hood and a decorative side porch (Inventory #70; Photograph #17). North Street is also the site of the 1907 Baldwin School, a large brick building designed with an interesting combination of classical and Victorian detail (Inventory #65; Photograph #18).

The Greek Revival influence is also found on Woodruff Avenue, a street that largely developed in the last half of the nineteenth century. More urban in character, it features houses that are more closely sited on narrower lots. The 1858 Samuel E. Merwin House, one of the first on this street, and its neighbors to the south at 182 and 178 illustrate this trend (Inventory #s 126, 125, 124; Photograph #19). The Greek Revival form persisted in the vernacular Italianate at 178. The later Queen Anne-style Woodruff House was built in 1900 after the Merwin-Woodruff property was subdivided. Two Queen Annes across the street, built about the same time, are quite similar (Inventory #s 114, 117; Photograph #20). The Martha Roberts House at #147 is detailed with oriel windows and a recessed front gable window. Both houses have Colonial Revival porches. Griggs and Hunt of Waterbury may have designed a large Colonial Revival farther up the street at #191, which was built for Frank Noble (Inventory #128; Photograph #21). A classic expression of a more formal Colonial Revival Four-Square, it features a bell-cast roof profile, a Palladian window, and a columned wraparound veranda.

The Colonial Revival is interspersed with several earlier nineteenth-century styles on Academy Hill, which runs from The Green down to Main Street. It is the location of the Merriman Coachman's House, an adjunct to the Carpenter Gothic Merriman House, another example of an outbuilding converted to a residence. Academy Hill is also the site of an early nineteenth-century shop, the only example of this type in the district (Inventory # 3; Photograph #22). Since it was built in 1820, this vernacular building has served as hat shop, shirt factory, doctor's office, and tailor shop. Overlooking the center near the end of the street is the Gordon Hurlburt House of 1929 (Inventory #1). Designed by architect Fred Webster, it displays a fine recessed arched doorway surmounted by a pediment.

The Arthur G. Evans House has the same orientation and hillside location near the east end of Warren Way, a street largely devoted to the Colonial Revival style (Inventory #94; Photograph #23). Attributed to the Cass Gilbert firm, it has an east-facing façade highlighted by an exceptional Georgian Revival doorway with a swan's neck pediment and pulvinated frieze. Anchored on the west end by the Watertown Tennis Club, a low gabled structure with Colonial Revival porches (Inventory # 101; Photograph #24), most of the rest of Warren Way consists of smaller gambrel-roofed Dutch Colonial Revivals built between 1912 and 1920; one set back and above the south side of the road has a Main Street address (Inventory #38). The Charles Smith House is a typical example of this type (Inventory #95; Photograph #25).

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Although there are a few recent commercial buildings on Main Street and some historic homes there have been adapted for commercial use, this busy thoroughfare still illustrates the architectural diversity of Watertown Center. The earliest buildings are Greek Revival in style, as represented by a temple-fronted house and the Grange Hall at the head of the district (Inventory #s 35, 36). The Smith-Nettleton House at the other end, a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate cube-form building, is now the Town Hall Annex (Inventory #53). Sited close to the west side of the street just to the north is the White House, one of the more elaborate Queen Annes in the district (Inventory # 51; Photograph #26). It features shingled gables and quatrefoil cutwork balustrades. The Italianate is represented by the John A. Woodward House, and there are two American Four-Squares (Inventory #s 40, 37, 54).

A complete inventory of the contributing and non-contributing resources in the district is found on the following pages. Listed in alphanumeric order by street address, the assigned inventory numbers are used in the text and on the attached map of the district. Dates of construction or remodeling, as well as names of historic owners, were taken from the recent local district study report.

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INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Inv. #	Address	Historic Name/Style/Type/Date(Architect)	C/NC	Ph. #
ACADEMY HILL				
1.	28	GORDON W. HURLBURT HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1929 (Fred Webster)	C	
2.	28	shed, c. 1900	C	
3.	38	19th-century shop, 1820	C	22
4.	47	MARY A. MERRIMAN HOUSE, Carpenter Gothic, 1871	C	
5.	47	garage, c. 1960	NC	
6.	52	MARY PHELPS JACOB HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1910	C	
7.	57	MERRIMAM COACHMAN'S HOUSE, 1890	C	
8.	57	garage, c. 1950	NC	
9.	67	MERRIAM TENANT HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1914	C	
10.	67	garage, c. 1960	NC	
11.	69	CATHERINE M. CALLENDER HOUSE, Colonial Revival Cape, 1905	C	
DEFOREST STREET				
12.	--	WATERTOWN PUBLIC GREEN	C	
13.	--	gazebo, c. 1980	NC	
14.	--	War Memorial, 1921	C	
15.	--	SOLDIER'S MONUMENT, 1902	C	
16.	--	MUNSON MEMORIAL PARK	C	
17.	--	NOVA SCOTIA DISTRICT SCHOOL, Greek Revival, 1853	C	
18.	10	GRIDLEY-MUNSON HOUSE, Italianate/Colonial Revival, 1849/1912	C	5,6
19.	22	AMOS GRIDLEY STORE, Greek Revival, 1846	C	1,5
20.	--	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, Greek Revival, 1839 (Steven Baldwin)	C	1,2
	28	vacant lot (at rear of church)		
21.	37	WATERTOWN TOWN HALL, Colonial Revival/Richardsonian Romanesque, 1894	C	4
22.	40	REVEREND JOHN TRUMBULL HOUSE, Colonial/Colonial Revival, 1772, c. 1910	C	1,2
23.	47-55	BENJAMIN DEFOREST STORE, 1799; remodeled, enlarged, c. 1900	C	
24.	50	WATERTOWN LIBRARY-OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, Richardsonian Romanesque, 1883 (Robert W. Hill)	C	3
25.	54	DAVID WOODWARD HOUSE, Greek Revival/Colonial Revival, c. 1855	C	
26.	63	YOUNGLOVE CUTLER-DEFOREST HOUSE, Colonial/Federal, 1783 (1793?)	C	
27.	70	residence, former outbuilding associated with #90, c. 1850	C	
28.	79	COLONEL ANER BRADLEY I HOUSE, Colonial/Colonial Revival, 1778/c. 1910	C	
29.	85	BEERS OR WARREN HOUSE, Carpenter Gothic, c. 1860	C	
30.	90	ELI CURTISS HOUSE (2 nd), Federal/Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
31.	153	CHARLES A. WARREN HOUSE, Italianate, c. 1851	C	15

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DICKERMAN STREET

32.	20	MERRITT W. ATWOOD HOUSE, Federal Revival, 1917	C
33.	21	ALFRED & EMMA RYDIN HOUSE, Bungalow, 1917	C
34.	21	shed/barn, c. 1917	C

MAIN STREET

35.	160	Greek Revival, c. 1850	C	
36.	175	GRANGE HALL, Greek Revival, c. 1850	C	
37.	180	Colonial Revival Four-Square, c. 1920 (Hickok Funeral Home)	C	
38.	190	JAMES B. WOOLSON HOUSE, Dutch Colonial Revival, 1920	C	
39.	190	garage, 1920	C	
40.	235	JOHN A. WOODWARD HOUSE, Italianate, 1867	C	
41.	235	garage, c. 1950	NC	
42.	305	UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Queen Anne./Shingle, 1898	C	7
43.	305	ASBURY COTTAGE, vernacular, c. 1800	C	
44.	329	Queen Anne, c. 1890	C	
45.	329	carriagehouse, c. 1890	C	
46.	329	garage, c. 1900/c. 1950	C	
47.	365	First Union Bank, Colonial Revival, c. 1970	NC	
48.	380	modern office complex, 1985	C	
49.	398	garage/apartment, Colonial Revival, c. 1920 (associated with 63 DeForest)	C	
50.	401	Shingle, c. 1900	C	
51.	404	ROBERT & ANNA J. WHITE HOUSE, Queen Anne, 1894	C	26
52.	Lot 20	modern, c. 1950	NC	
53.	424	SMITH-NETTLETON HOUSE (Town Hall Annex), Italianate, c. 1850	C	
54.	429	Colonial Revival Four-Square, c. 1910	C	

NORTH STREET

55.	17/27	vernacular Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
56.	"	garage, c. 1960	NC	
57.	36	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARSONAGE, Greek Revival, c. 1836	C	16
58.	36	carriagehouse, c. 1890	C	
59.	37	Colonial Revival, 1961	NC	
60.	48	ELI CURTISS HOUSE, Greek Revival, 1837	C	16
61.	48	shed/garage, c. 1900	NC	
62.	49	Colonial Revival, c. 1960	NC	
63.	59	WILLIAM E. CURTISS HOUSE, Italianate, c. 1875	C	
64.	60	CURTISS CARRIAGEHOUSE, Greek Revival, 1837	C	
65.	68	BALDWIN SCHOOL, Arts & Crafts, 1907	C	18
66.	71	HENRY BRONSON HOUSE, vernacular Italianate, 1842	C	
67.	71	shed, c. 1960	C	
68.	82	MYRON MCNEIL HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne, c. 1853/c. 1880	C	
69.	82	shed/garage, c. 1900	C	
70.	87	JOHN BRONSON HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne/Italianate, c. 1885	C	17
71.	87	garage, c. 1930	C	
72.	92-94	ELIZABETH M. HOTCHKISS HOUSE, Queen Anne cross-gable, c. 1885	C	

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73.	92-94	garage, c. 1940	C	
74.	93	AUGUSTA HOTCHKISS HOUSE, vernacular, c. 1840	C	
75.	93	garage, c. 1940	C	
76.	100	CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1928	C	
77.	100	shed, c. 1930	C	
78.	126	MARY E. WOODWARD HOUSE, vernacular, 1910	C	
79.	130	CHARLES G. EDWARDS HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
80.	130	garage, 1928	C	
81.	138	CHARLES G. EDWARDS HOUSE (2nd), 19th-century vernacular, c. 1855	C	
THE GREEN				
82.	---	Green	C	
83.	5	TRUMAN A. WARREN HOUSE, Italianate (stone), 1851 (Henry Austin?)	C	11
84.	15	WARREN COACHMAN'S HOUSE, vernacular, 1859	C	
85.	25	CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL, Romanesque, 1924 (Allen & Collens)	C	8
86.	28	ALANSON WARREN, SR., HOUSE, Federal, 1805, wings c. 1935 (David Hoadley; Cameron Clark)	C	10
87.	28	garage, c. 1930		
88.	37	CHRIST CHURCH RECTORY, Colonial Revival, 1846/1912 (Wilfred Griggs ?)	C	
89.	37	garage, c. 1940	C	
90.	--	WATERTOWN ACADEMY, Greek Revival, 1846; moved c. 1850	C	9
WARREN WAY				
91.	13	Ranch (converted garage), 1948	NC	
92.	18	ROBERT & REBECCA J. GILCHRIST HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1926	C	
93.	18	shed, c. 1920	C	
94.	30	ARTHUR G. EVANS HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1917 (Cass Gilbert?)	C	23
95.	37	CHARLES SMITH HOUSE, Dutch Colonial Revival, 1920	C	25
96.	40	LEON SMITH HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1915	C	
97.	40	garage, c. 1930	C	
98.	47	GRACE & RACHEL BARKER HOUSE, Dutch Colonial Revival, 1912	C	
99.	47	garage, c. 1940	C	
100.	61	19th-century vernacular, c. 1870 or 1898	C	
101.	70	WATERTOWN TENNIS CLUB, Colonial Revival, 1913	C	24
WOODBURY ROAD				
102.	7	CHARLES T. WOODRUFF HOUSE, Victorian Gothic, 1859	C	13
103.	7	garage, c. 1960	NC	
104.	14	NATHANIEL B. WHEELER HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1852/1914 (Wilfred Griggs)	C	12
105.	14	WHEELER CARRIAGEHOUSE (brick), Classical Revival, 1863	C	12
106.	31	BUZZEE-JUDD HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1927	C	
107.	34	JENNIE E. BREWSTER HOUSE, Queen Anne, 1895	C	
108.	34	garage, c. 1930	C	
109.	47	FRANCIS S. BURTON HOUSE, Colonial Revival Four-Square, 1905	C	
110.	53	FREDERICK BRONSON HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne, 1885	C	

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111.	53	shed, c. 1890	C	
112.	75	CHARLES MERRIMAN HOUSE, Federal/Colonial Revival, 1750/1812/1912	C	14
113.	75	garage, c. 1940		
WOODRUFF AVENUE				
114.	147	Queen Anne, 1896	C	20
115.	147	garage, c. 1930	C	
116.	148	T.B. WARREN HOUSE, Federal/Greek Revival, c. 1865	C	
117.	153	MARTHA L. ROBERTS HOUSE. Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, 1904	C	20
118.	156	Ranch (brick), 1956	NC	
119.	165	SAMUEL W. MERWIN HOUSE, Italianate cross-gable, 1876	C	
120.	165	garage, c. 1950	NC	
121.	166	JOHN WOODWARD HOUSE, Queen Anne, 1856/c. 1890	C	
122.	175	MARY J. DALEY HOUSE, Italianate, 1864	C	
123.	175	garage. c. 1930	C	
124.	178	vernacular Italianate, c. 1855	C	19
125.	182	WOODRUFF HOUSE, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, 1900	C	19
126.	186	SAMUEL E. MERWIN HOUSE, Greek Revival, 1858	C	19
127.	186	garage, c. 1960	NC	
128.	191	FRANK B. NOBLE HOUSE, Colonial Revival, 1904	C	21
129.	191	garage, c. 1930	C	
130.	212	PORTER-STARR HOUSE, Italianate/Colonial Revival, 1812/1855/c. 1910	C	

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Statement of Significance

The Watertown Center Historic District is an exceptionally cohesive, well-preserved collection of residential and institutional architecture that illustrates the development of the community from settlement through the mid-twentieth century. An extraordinary number of professional architects contributed to the quality of design and the stylistic range of the district from about 1850 to 1920. Many notable examples of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles of the *antebellum* period were built for entrepreneurs associated with the founding of Watertown's major industries. The Queen Anne style was popular in the late 1800s, a progressive civic period also distinguished by the erection of handsome masonry buildings influenced by the Richardsonian Romanesque style. More than half the houses were constructed or remodeled in the Colonial Revival renaissance that followed, a period that produced many significant residential buildings.

Historical Background and Significance

Watertown was once part of the Farmington bounds. Mining rights were deeded for eight miles on either side of the Naugatuck River, but this area remained unsettled for many years. Waterbury on the eastern shore was founded in 1670 but it was not until 1736 that enough people had settled on the west side of the river in the Watertown area to form a separate parish. Parish rights were granted by the General Assembly in 1738 and the First Ecclesiastical Society of Westbury was founded. By the time the first meetinghouse was erected in 1741 on the edge of the old burying ground, there were 300 parishioners, mostly living on isolated farmsteads scattered throughout the community. In 1772 land was set aside for a commons or Public Green in the district (Inventory #12). When a new meetinghouse was erected on the site of the present Town Hall and the Reverend John Trumbull built his house there that same year (Inventory # 22), the stage was set for development of a town center. Political autonomy was achieved in 1780, when Watertown was incorporated, but little new construction took place in the district until the nineteenth century.

Although there were the usual grist-and sawmills, Watertown did not fully exploit the industrial potential of Steele Brook and its other streams until the 1830s. By mid-century the manufacture of silk thread, sewing machines, and buckles were major industries in the village of what is now Oakville to the southeast. The district was transformed as the founders of these industries and other enterprises built new homes in the center. Among the first was Eli Curtiss, a sheep farmer who began to manufacture Panama hats. He already owned a Greek Revival house and carriagehouse on North Street. Soon after his advantageous marriage to Alma De Forest, a member of a wealthy Watertown family, Curtiss erected a new Greek Revival house at the foot of the street on land his wife received from her father in 1839.

The Warren family left an extensive architectural legacy in the district. Alanson Warren, the founder of Wheeler & Wilson, forerunner of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, had a Federal-style house at the head of The Green (Inventory #86). Alanson, Jr., who inherited the house, is probably responsible for its earlier

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Italianate transformation. In 1851 Alanson, Sr.'s two other sons, Truman and Charles, erected fine Italianates nearby (Inventory #s 83, 31), and Truman built a cottage for his coachman in 1859 (Inventory #84). Nathaniel Wheeler, a principal in the company, bought land from Alanson, Sr., at the foot of The Green and built his house the following year (Inventory #104). Charles T. Woodruff, who invested heavily in Watertown's industries, erected his Gothic Revival house across the street in 1859 (Inventory #102).

General Meritt Heminway, who started Heminway & Sons Silk Company, built a fine Gothic Revival Revival house for his daughter Mary Merriman on Academy Hill (Inventory #4). It was the part of a family estate that included houses for the coachman and a tenant (Inventory #s 7, 9), as well as Heminway's own house, a large Colonial Revival at the foot of the hill, which was demolished when a new building was erected there in 1967. Henry Bartlett, a later partner in Heminway & Bartlett, bought the Daley House on Woodruff Road in 1888.

As the center grew, mercantile interests flourished. Younglove Cutler had a store in the district in the late 1700s; his house on DeForest Street was built in 1783 (Inventory #26). Benjamin DeForest, who purchased the old Aner Bradley House, had his first store there, but soon moved the business to Cutler's place. Tailor Charles Merriman had his shop and a general store just up the street from his fine Federal house at 75 Woodbury Road (Inventory #112). Amos Gridley built a new brick store next to the Congregational Church in 1846 (Inventory #19). Although accused of dubious business practices, Gridley also was able to build his fine Italianate house next door before he went bankrupt (Inventory #18). The store, latter used as a town hall and firehouse, still serves as the Fire District office, as well as the home of the Historical Society. Tavernkeeper David Woodward, who lived at 54 DeForest Street, took over Lockwood's Tavern, the former Trumbull House, which was remodeled with a third-floor ballroom in the 1790s (Inventory #s 25, 86).

Institutional redevelopment began in 1838 with construction of the new Congregational Church in the present location (Inventory #20). Christ Church opened a private school in its new Academy built in 1846 (Inventory #90), which served as the town high school later in the century, and built a Rectory in 1848 (Inventory #88). The new church of 1854 was replaced by the present stone edifice in 1924 (Inventory #85). The establishment of the Watertown Public Library was largely due to the philanthropy of the DeForest brothers. John DeForest donated \$5000 for books when the library was located on the second floor of Barton's Store at 31 Woodbury Road (no longer extant). Benjamin DeForest, the merchant, helped fund the construction of a library building in 1883 with a donation of \$15,000 (Inventory # 24). Within a few years, having outgrown Gridley's former store, town officials decided to build the imposing new Town Hall across the street, which had space for town meetings on the second floor (Inventory #21). James Woolson, who remodeled the Gridley-Munson House in 1912, donated funds for construction of the United Methodist Church just below in 1898 (Inventory #42). When Center School burned down, it was replaced by the substantial Baldwin School on North Street in 1907 (Inventory #65). For many years the superintendent of schools lived just up the street (Inventory #68).

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Newcomers began to make their homes in the district after the Civil War. In 1879 John A. Buckingham, a New York stockbroker, bought the Alanson Warren House (Inventory #86). His son, Scoville M., who transformed the house to the Federal Revival that stands today, was a state senator and the State Commissioner of Agriculture. By the turn of the century, industrialists in other communities moved to the center. Among them were Arthur G. Evans, purchasing agent for Chase Brass and Copper Company of Waterbury, and Frank Noble, corporate secretary of that firm (Inventory #s 30, 128). In 1928 Gordon Hurlbutt, president of Plume & Atwood, a brass company in Thomaston, built his house on Academy Hill (Inventory #1). Later in the twentieth century, the Buzzee House on Woodbury Road became the home of Clark S. Judd, the chief executive officer of American Brass of Waterbury (Inventory #106).

Architectural Significance

The Watertown Center Historic District is distinguished by an exceptional array of impressive institutional buildings and stylish houses. Although many years had passed since the Puritans had envisioned their "city on a hill," the district, with its central focus of an elevated Public Green, accompanied by a pristine white church overlooking the town, certainly is the nineteenth-century architectural embodiment of this ideology. Through its exceptional cohesiveness and integration, the district's collective significance transcends the admittedly high level of significance of many of its individual resources. Rarely does an entire district have such a concentration of contributing resources or display such an extraordinarily high level of quality and historic architectural integrity.

Many well-known architects contributed to the district's significance. Among those who have been identified are David Hoadley, arguably the most important Connecticut architect/builder of the Federal period, to Henry Austin of New Haven, considered to be the master of the Italianate Villa style. Cameron Clark and Cass Gilbert, two of the most important architects of the early twentieth century, are both represented. Although technically not an architect, master builder Steven Baldwin of New Hartford deserves to be included with these professionals. Some, like Waterbury architects Wilfred Griggs and Robert Wakeman Hill, practiced in the region; others came from out of state, such as Allen & Collens of Boston, a firm that specialized in ecclesiastical architecture. Further study may add to this list, given the fact that a number of other fine buildings in the district are of similar quality.

Steven Baldwin's design for the First Congregational Church demonstrates his sure eye for proportion and classical orders. This structure is so well preserved that all the original details remain. Baldwin's contract called for a building that matched the size and style of the Plymouth Congregational Church. How exact a match is no longer apparent; some details, such as the classical sarcophagi of the tower parapet found here, may have been removed from that earlier building. Like many builders of the day, Baldwin may have relied on pattern books. And indeed, his design appears to be a composite of some that appeared in Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* of 1833 and his *Builder's Guide* of 1837.

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Other notable Greek Revival buildings in the district include the Nova Scotia District School and Watertown Academy, surely exemplars of a period schoolhouse (Inventory #s 17, 90; Photograph #9). The Amos Gridley Store is a rare example of a commercial building with a colonnaded portico (Inventory #19; Photograph #5). The Greek Revival houses on North Street and Main Street are all fully realized expressions of the temple form as a residential style (Inventory #s 55, 60, 35; Photograph # 16).

The Truman A. Warren House, a superb, perfectly preserved Italianate, has been attributed to Henry Austin (1804-1891; Inventory # 83; Photograph #11). A Connecticut native born in Hamden, Austin was, during his tenure with the office of Town & Davis of New York, supervising architect for the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. Although Austin is associated with development of the Villa style, especially in New Haven, his body of work also includes many distinguished churches and institutional buildings there. No complete list for Austin's work has been compiled, but features of the Warren House can be found in his manuscript for his design book, including the veranda and the arched cupola, which resembles the one used on the J. D. Dana House in New Haven.¹ Austin's villas were widely copied, which also makes definitive attribution difficult, but the massing and detailing of this villa are typical of his work.

The Italianate style was extremely popular in the district. Many of those built in the 1850s were altered in the Colonial Revival period. While none of the relatively unaltered examples achieve the individual distinction of the Truman Warren House, the Gridley-Munson and Charles Warren houses are among the well-preserved, wood-framed versions of this style (Inventory #s 18, 31; Photograph #s 6, 15.) In the case of the former example, the Colonial Revival additions do not obscure that essential stylistic form, which here is more elongated, with a horizontal massing emphasized by the lower height and length of the cupola. In addition, essential features remain, such as the bracketed eaves and portico, and matching bay windows.

Wilfred Griggs apparently had a hand in the remodeling of several Italianates. It is known that he added the porches along with other Colonial Revival details to the Nathaniel Wheeler House (Inventory #104; Photograph #12). Even though the original cube form is still obvious, these porches give this house the appearance of a Southern mansion, which may have been his intention. He may have added the similar end elevation porch to the Woodruff House across the street (Inventory #102; Photograph #13). There the addition does not relate stylistically to the rest of this unusual Gothic Revival building. Given the rarity of the original turreted design, the replacement of crenelated parapets would restore the proportions and massing of the main block. Since Christ Church Rectory included his signature stylistic feature, Griggs was probably responsible for the more drastic remodeling of that dwelling (Inventory #88). There, however, its Italianate origins are only revealed by a historic photograph.

Robert W. Hill's contribution to the district, the Watertown Public Library, is surely one of his best works (Inventory #24; Photograph #3). A *tour de force* in stone that makes the most of the contrasting granite, the

¹ See Austin, "Dwelling House, Stores, Banks, Churches, and Monuments Designed by Henry Austin," MS, 1851.

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library is an exceptionally well-integrated example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in which he excelled. It is noteworthy how compatible the design is for its present use as a religious building.

One cannot miss the similarities between the library and the Watertown Town Hall across the street, the Syrian-arched entrance being the most prominent among them (Inventory #21; Photograph #4). Despite the stylistic tensions between the Romanesque and the Colonial Revival, the design is surprisingly successful. As has been pointed out by others, the Town Hall has the appearance of a committee-designed building. However, it is more likely that its classical motifs and details were part of an architect's effort to make a more modern statement. It is not known if Hill was still in practice when this building was designed, but he is a possible candidate.

Allen & Collens, an architectural firm in Boston from 1903 to 1933, was the designer of such notable monumental buildings as Riverside Church and the Cloisters in New York City. It is not known which of the partners designed Christ Church on The Green (Inventory # 85; Photograph #8), but it may have been Charles Collens (1873-1956). Educated at Yale and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he designed many other masonry buildings, including Collegiate Gothic structures at Williams, Vassar, and Mount Holyoke. Although Christ Church is based on the traditional English parish church, the design of this well-preserved monumental edifice with its crenelated tower also resembles college chapels of the period.

United Methodist Church (Inventory #42; Photograph #7) was one of more than 2,200 churches designed by George Washington Kramer, an influential architect associated with the development of the Akron Plan, which became a standard for Protestant church design by the 1890s. Initially the plan called for the full integration of Sunday schools into the design of church auditoriums, with flanking classrooms set off by moveable partitions. United Methodist is believed to be a late variant of this plan, in which the Sunday school is spatially distinct and often located in its own wing. In Kramer's design here, the wing has similar massing and scale but is distinguished from the main body of the church by different architectural features.

An evaluation of the district's architecture would not be complete without some discussion of the pervasive influence of the Colonial Revival style in all of its manifestations, both original designs and remodelings. The Arthur G. Evans House on Warren Way, an exceptional design attributed to Cass Gilbert (1858-1934), or a member of his firm, represents a particular phase in the evolution of this style (Inventory # 94; Photograph #23). By the time this house was built in 1929, architects were not simply interpreting colonial architecture, but actually duplicating its form, massing, and detail. The Evans House has the double-cube narrow form, central-hall plan, and ornate doorway so characteristic of the eighteenth-century Georgian Colonial. The standardized Colonials and Capes so popular today are derived from these earlier more precise architectural reproductions. It is probable that Gilbert actually created design-level plans, which were completed by an apprentice. Gilbert was nationally known for his numerous buildings in New York City, where he practiced after 1905. Among them were the U. S. Customs House and the Woolworth Building. Work in Connecticut included the New Haven Railroad Station and numerous Colonial Revival restorations.

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By contrast, in the Frank Noble House on Woodruff Avenue, colonial details are applied to a new American type, the Four-Square (Inventory # 128; Photograph #21). This especially pleasing, well-preserved example, which was designed by Griggs & Hunt of Waterbury, is given an added fillip by its bell-cast roof profiles.

The finest examples of the Federal Revival style in the district are both remodelings of earlier buildings. The Charles Merriman House is an exceptionally fine rendering of this style, made even more authentic by the Federal configuration and massing of the original main block (Inventory # 112; Photograph #14). Great care is used to reproduce the attenuated Roman classicism so characteristic of the earlier Federal style, as evidenced by the skillfully proportioned doorway and the columns of the two-story porch.

The Alanson Warren House that stands today is a superb example of the genre (Inventory # 86; Photograph #10). Its revival by Cameron Clark respected the earlier work of David Hoadley, using the proportions and detail of his fine pavilion as the basis for an essentially new structure. The replacement of the mid-nineteenth-century wings by the present smaller additions was essential to the success of his design. The interior, a *tour de force* for Clark, is exquisitely rendered and fully detailed with Federal architectural motifs.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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Jaeger, A. Robert. "The Auditorium and Akron Plans—Reflections of a Half Century of American Protestantism." Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1984.

Klamkin, Marion. *Watertown Then and Now.* 1976.

Town Greens, Statewide Architectural and Historical Survey, 172 Properties. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and Connecticut Historical Commission, 1996, site 114.

Watertown (historic map), 1867.

"Watertown Historic District: Report of the Historic District Study Committee, Watertown, Connecticut, 1996."

10. Geographical Data

UTM References:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 18 656420 4607730 | 2. 18 656700 4607810 |
| 3. 18 656930 4607390 | 4. 18 656780 4606950 |
| 5. 18 656680 4606940 | 6. 18 656650 4607040 |
| 7. 18 656450 4607080 | 8. 18 656570 4607270 |
| 9. 18 656420 4607600 | |

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries of the district are shown on the attached map drawn to scale from Watertown Tax Assessor's maps.

Boundary Justification: The district boundaries were selected to encompass the maximum number of contributing historic resources associated with the development of Watertown Center during its period of significance (1772 to c. 1940). The boundaries were drawn to exclude areas beyond the perimeter where there is a marked change in architectural character and/or scale, which is the case with most of the Taft School campus to the west of the district or the business district south of the district on Main Street. Although there are some historic resources associated with the center farther west, they were excluded because continuity could not be maintained due to the intervening Taft School campus, which is a visual and geographic barrier on both sides of the street. Note: Some contiguous houses on the west side of North Street and other residential properties owned by Taft School are included in the district because they are compatible with its historic architectural character.

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List of Photographs

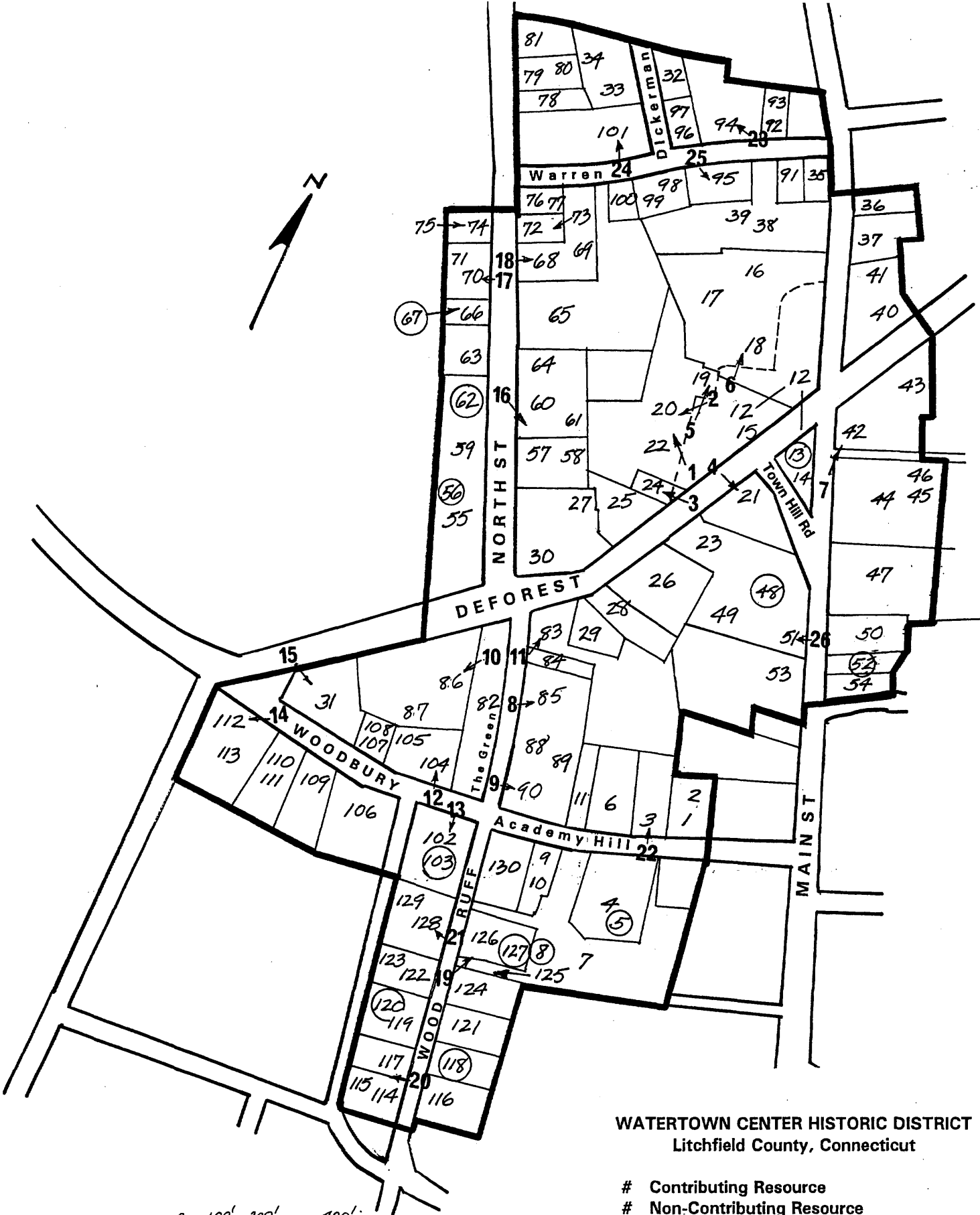
Photographer: Cunningham Preservation Associates (unless noted with *)

Dates: April – May, 1999

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

1. Streetscape: West side of Public Green, facing NE
2. Rev. John Trumbull House & First Congregational Church (L-R), facing SW
3. Watertown Public Library-Our Savior Lutheran Church, facing W
4. Watertown Town Hall, facing E
5. Amos Gridley Store & Gridley-Munson House (L-R), facing N
6. Gridley-Munson House, facing NE
7. United Methodist Church, facing N
8. Christ Church Episcopal, facing NE *
9. Watertown Academy, facing E
10. Alanson Warren House, facing SW
11. Truman A. Warren House, facing N
12. Nathaniel B. Wheeler House, facing NE
13. Charles T. Woodruff House, facing S
14. Charles Merriman House, facing NW
15. Charles A. Warren House, facing NE
16. Eli Curtiss House and Congregational Parsonage (L-R), facing SE
17. John Bronson House, facing W
18. Baldwin School, facing NE
19. Streetscape (L-R): 178, 182, 186 Woodruff Avenue, facing NE
20. 147 & 153 Woodruff Avenue (L-R), facing W
21. Frank B. Noble House, facing W
22. 38 Academy Hill, facing N
23. Arthur G. Evans House, facing W
24. Watertown Tennis Club, facing N *
25. Charles Smith House, facing SE
26. Robert & Anna J. White House, facing W *

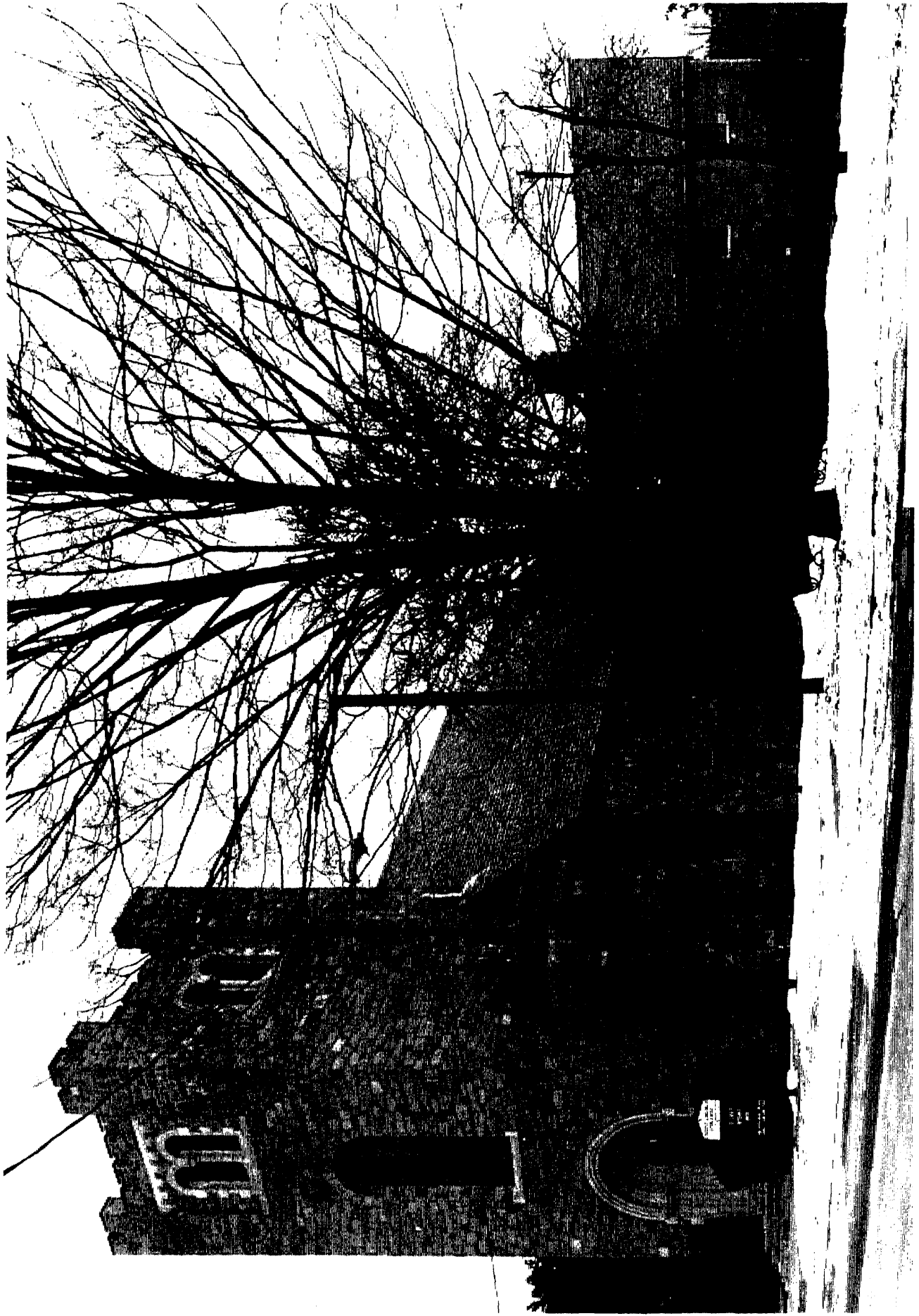
* Photocopy from Report of the Historic District Study Committee, 1996



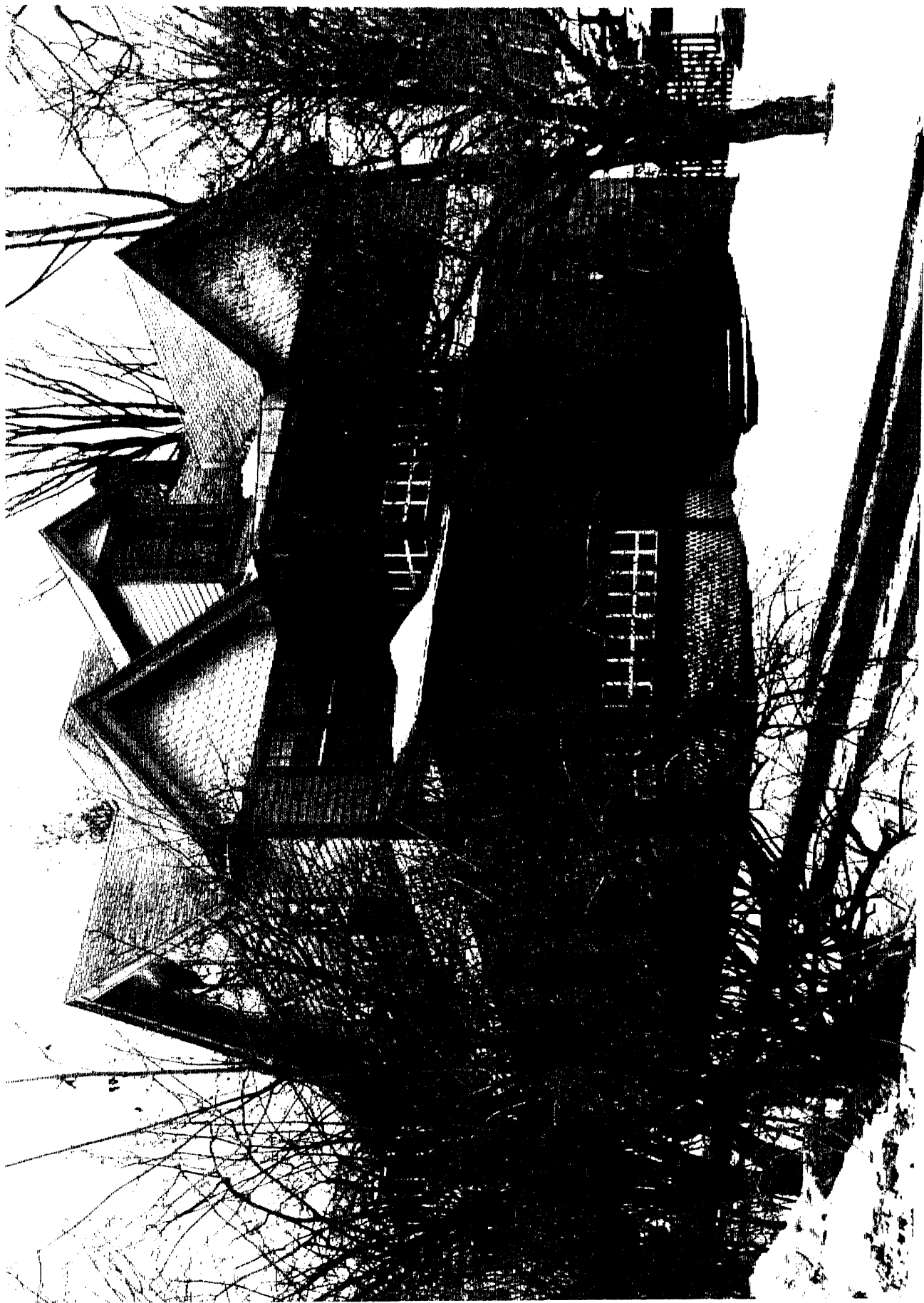
WATERTOWN CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Litchfield County, Connecticut

- # Contributing Resource
- # Non-Contributing Resource
- # with arrow: photograph view

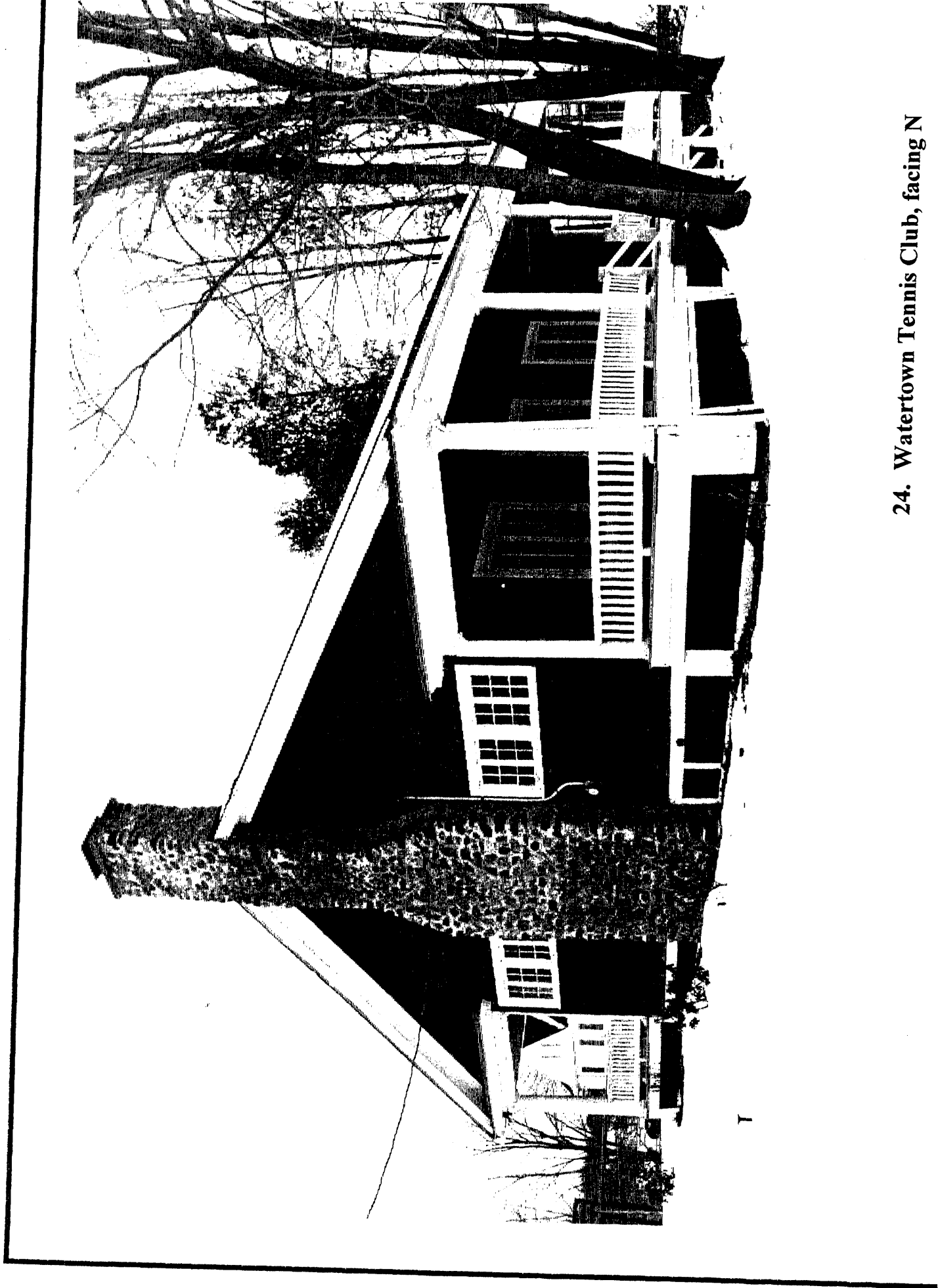
Bold line indicates National Register district boundary
Dashed line indicates bounds of Public Green



8. Christ Church Episcopal, faing NE



26. Robert & Anna J. White House, facing W



24. Watertown Tennis Club, facing N