

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 11 1985

date entered MAY 9 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic N/A

and or common Middlebury Center Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number Sections of Library Road, North Street, South Street and Whittemore Road near the green NA not for publication

city, town Middlebury NA vicinity of

state CT code 09 county New Haven code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>NA</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership - see Item 7, Inventory

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlebury Land Records, Town Hall

street & number 1212 Whittemore Road

city, town Middlebury state CT

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

59 South Prospect Street

city, town Hartford state CT

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date various
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### Overview

The Middlebury Center Historic District is located on a plateau 700 feet above sea level, about 3 1/2 miles southwest of Waterbury in western Connecticut. The focus of Middlebury Center is the 2/3-acre green around which the community's churches, schools, library and town hall have been built since late in the 18th century. The Middlebury Center Historic District embraces these structures together with houses on North Street and Whittemore Road that constitute the residential neighborhood historically associated with the green. Surprisingly, the principal structures that now stand facing the green date from the 20th century. Most important among these are the buildings of Westover School. The district comprises approximately 103 acres and 50 principal structures. Westover School contributes approximately 29 of these structures. All buildings are considered to contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the district except three, which are houses less than 50 years old. Statistical profile of the district follows:

#### By age:

- 1 18th century
- 12 19th century
- 23 20th century

#### By function:

- 29 Residential
- 7 Non-residential

#### By architectural style:

- 1 Georgian
- 5 Greek Revival
- 4 19th-century astylar
- 3 Federal Revival
- 11 Colonial Revival
- 3 Georgian Revival
- 1 Neo-Classical Revival
- 1 American Four Square
- 1 Bungalow
- 6 Cape/Ranch

The foregoing breakdown does not include Westover School. The school has about 20 principal structures.

There is one open piece of land, the green.

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Boundary Justification

The rationale in drawing the district's boundaries is to include the green and non-residential structures surrounding it plus houses on streets radiating from the green that constitute the residential neighborhood historically associated with the green. Many of the houses on North Street, one of the streets leading to the green, date from the 19th century; the northern boundary of the district is drawn to include such houses and exclude those immediately adjoining to the north that are mostly less than 50 years old. Only one house, that is old, is included on South Street; the balance of the houses on this street, running south of the district, are excluded, although they are handsome structures, because on the whole they represent mid-20th-century development. On Whittemore Road the eastern boundary of the district is drawn to exclude a fine new library, open spaces and large homes not conceptually part of the Center. On Whittemore Road west of the green the district is extended on the south side to include two old houses and a wood-working shop. On the north side of Whittemore Road are found open space and a mid-20th-century store, which are excluded.<sup>1</sup>

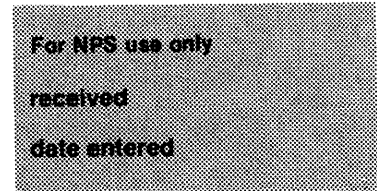
The Buildings

Selection of the site for the initial edifice of the Congregational Church in 1794 established the identity of Middlebury Center. The church faced west at what is now the western end of the green.<sup>2</sup> The roads now known as Whittemore Road (Route 188), North Street, South Street and Library Road converged at this point, making it a convenient location. Because the roads criss-crossed one another, the green as a grassy plot did not exist at that time. The roads were re-routed around its perimeter and the green assumed its present size and shape in 1870. (Photograph 1)

Churches, schools and the town hall were built around the green. When the initial edifice of the Congregational Church was found to be inadequate, in 1840, the replacement structure was built on the north side of the green. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1935, at which time the present replica of the 1840 Greek Revival style building was erected. (Photographs 2 and 3) The long carriage sheds, important to the institution during the 19th century, were not continued.

The Methodists also selected the Greek Revival style in 1832 for their church on the south side of the green. (Photographs 4 and 5) In recent years the 1832 building has been used as the library for Westover School. St. John of the Cross Catholic Church was built in 1907, in a Colonial Revival Renaissance Revival design, diagonally sited to face the corner of South Street and Whittemore Road just southwest of the green. (Photograph 6)

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The first school building on the green was the Union Academy, a plain, 2-story, frame structure built in 1811 in front of the Methodist Church. In 1859 it became the public school and served this purpose until the end of the century, when the Library Road school was built to replace it. The Union Academy building then was moved away to become part of what is now a Westover School residential structure (The Nest, #11 on Westover School sketch map). The nearby, shingled, Georgian Revival 1898 building on Library Road was built as a 2-room public school, later served as a town hall annex and as the town library, and now is occupied by the Middlebury Historical Society. (Photograph 4) Shepardson School was built of brick in the Georgian Revival style in 1931-32 east of the green.

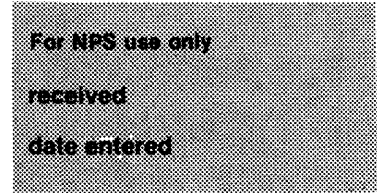
The first town hall building, a 2½-story, frame, Georgian Revival structure with pyramidal roof, built in 1896 and remodelled in 1916, was destroyed in the same 1935 fire that consumed the Congregational Church. Its replacement, on the same site, is a building with such features as two columns in antis and recessed pediment that echo the adjoining Greek Revival church, but the Town Hall is executed in brick instead of wood and has elliptical and round-headed windows and other elaborate details that suggest the Federal style. (Photograph 2)

Over the years other changes occurred. The Greek Revival structure on the north side of the green that had been a tavern was acquired in 1835 by the Congregational Church, which outbid the Methodist Church, as its parsonage, a function it continues to fulfill today. Other houses were built nearby, principally along North Street, leading down to what is now the main road, Route 64, that bypasses Middlebury Center. The Greek Revival and Colonial Revival styles predominate amongst these frame houses adding stylistic sensitivity to their regular spacing and sympathetic massing and scale. (Photographs 7 and 8) Three houses less than 50 years old in this grouping are the district's non-contributing structures. (Photograph 9)

While the Catholic Church was built in 1902-1907 on the southwest corner of Whittemore Road and South Street, great events were taking place across South Street on the southeast corner of the intersection. The store and blacksmith shop located there, which had been integral parts of the Middlebury Center community around the green, were moved away and Westover School was built, in 1906-1909, to the design of Theodate Pope Riddle. Its principal building is a hollow square in ground plan, 270 feet long in the front elevation facing the north toward the green. (Photograph 10) Its style is a restrained, straightforward version of Colonial Revival executed in a cream colored stucco. Notable embellishments are

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the school crest and motto in high relief in the pediment over the central entrance, the large cupola in the roof (Photograph 11) and the Gothic Revival chapel in a section of the building that projects to the left. (Photograph 12) The interior layout of the building generally follows the scheme of a central hall flanked by rooms on either side with a notable exception in the fine 2-story space for functions and receptions called Red Hall. (Photograph 13) The room is furnished today as it was in 1909 with Colonial Revival furniture. The architect's original plans of the building are framed and hanging on the wall.

The interior court of the building is cloistered on three sides, using 3-centered arches. (Photograph 14) This arcade motif was used in 1984 to tie together the main building with a brick student activities center built in 1962. (Photograph 15) The student activities building was painted the same cream color as the main structure and the new arcade, adding to the sense of unity. The 1984 building program included construction of a new 72 x 155-foot library and science center, in contemporary architecture, in back of the new arcade, between the arcade and South Street. (See sketch map.)

There are several structures on the Westover School campus that predate the school, including the Methodist Church and Union Academy buildings already mentioned, Faculty House, a 1900 frame residence, and Hamilton House, an 18th-century Colonial house. Other buildings have been constructed by the school from time to time. Riddle drew plans for Virginia House in 1916 (Photograph 16), while the headmaster's residence (1964) is a mid-20th-century structure.

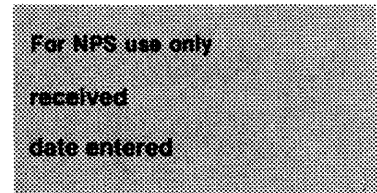
There remains to mention only the two properties at the western edge of the district on the south side of Whittemore Road. The Eli Bronson House, parcel 112, is a large, Colonial Revival, gambrel-roofed, frame residence designed by the local architect/builder, Arthur S. Judd. It is well set back from the road, has extensive grounds, and is altogether a more prepossessing property than other homes in the district, such as those along North Street. (Photograph 17) Next door, on parcel 113, is Judd's shop, a long rectangular frame structure that includes an apartment where he lived before his marriage. (Photograph 18)

Inventory

In the following inventory dates taken from the assessor's records or estimated visually are indicated by A or V. Structures considered to contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the district are indicated by C, those that do not contribute by NC. Mailing address of the owner is the same as the address of the property unless an additional address is given. The number of stories indicates the amount of usable space.

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Library Road, West Side

Library Road, Parcel 80  
Town of Middlebury  
1212 Whittemore Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

C 1898 Middlebury's 175th Anniversary Middlebury Historical Society 1½-story, Georgian Revival, frame, hipped roof, 25 x 71-foot structure on rubble foundations, covered with weathered shingles. The central, projecting, gable-roofed portico has four round wooden columns on stone plinths supporting the gable end that forms a pediment. The cornice and raking cornices have modillion blocks and there is a half-round fanlight in the shingled tympanum. There are two 6-over-6 windows and eyebrow dormers left and right of the portico, and a louvered cupola in the center of the roof. Built as a 2-room schoolhouse. Served as Town Hall Annex and as Library. (Photograph 4) Arthur S. Judd.

North Street, West Side

37 North Street, Parcel 44  
Caisse, Gary A., et al

C 1925 A 1½-story, bungalow, frame, side-gable-roof house on cobblestone foundations with cobblestone porch piers and chimney. Wide gable-roofed front porch. Covered with asbestos shingles. Windows are 6-over-1.

59 North Street, Parcel 62  
Kmetzo, Thomas J. and  
Karen A.

C 1918 A 2½-story, Neo-Classical Revival, frame, hipped-roof house covered with weather boards, on stone foundations. Porch has square, paired posts on high pedestals. Main roof overhang is wide.

North Street, Parcel 61  
Fenn, Robert C.  
Artillery Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

C 1930 A 1½-story, "Cape," frame, side-gable-roof house on cobblestone foundations, covered with clapboards. Front portico has coved ceiling.

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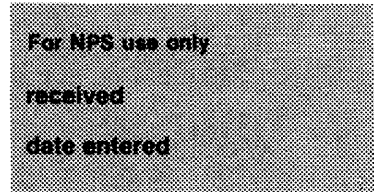
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North Street, West Side, continued

89 North Street, Parcel 60  
Westover School, Inc.  
Whittemore Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

C 1941A 2½-story, "Garrison" Colonial Revival, frame, side-gable-roof house on stone foundations, covered with clapboards. Doorway has fluted pilasters, frieze with triglyphs and pediment. Windows are 8-over-1.

111 North Street, Parcel 59  
Westover School, Inc.  
Whittemore Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

C 1820 A 2-story, Greek Revival, frame front-gable-roof, 2-bay house, covered with shingles stained brown. Front gable eaves return briefly. Front door is flanked by plain pilasters that support a plain entablature. Wing to left has 3-sided bay.

North Street, Parcel 58  
Povermo, Henry and  
Helene J.

NC 1970 A Raised ranch house.

135 North Street, Parcel 57  
Clark, Harriet H.

C 1780 A 2½-story, Greek Revival, frame front-gable-roof, 3-bay house on stone foundations. Central entrance has narrow plain casing and glazed door. Added front porch has turned posts, sawn brackets and railing with spindles. Windows are 2-over-2. 1½-story wing to left. Date is inconsistent with appearance of house.

153 North Street, Parcel 56  
Brown, Robert W. and  
Sara E.

C c. 1920 A 2½-story, Dutch Colonial Revival, frame, side-gambrel-roof house, covered with shingles. Wide shed dormer in front roof slope. Windows are 12-over-1. Palladian windows in attic gable ends have interlacing muntins in central section. (Photograph 7)

165 North Street, Parcel 55  
Hill, Annise C., Estate of  
Norman H. Hill, Exec.  
4 Old Dobbin Lane  
Ivoryton, CT 06442

C 1920 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, side-gable-roof on cobblestone foundations, covered with wooden shingles. 2-story, gable-roofed, front projection. (Photograph 7)

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North Street, West Side, continued

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 173 North Street, Parcel 54<br>Baeder, Edith   | C | 1920 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, front-gambrel-roof house covered with aluminum siding to resemble clapboards. Front porch has paired square posts on stone pedestals.   |
| 201 North Street, Parcel 53<br>Parker, Molly Adams   | C | 1800 A 2½-story, Georgian/Federal, frame, side-gable-roof, 5-bay, central-entrance, twin-chimney house on stone foundations, covered with wooden shingles. Central entrance portico, supported by slender Ionic columns, has gable roof with dentil courses. Windows are 12-over-2 under thin flat caps with mutules. There is a dentil course under the roof line cornice crown molding. |
| 211 North Street, Parcel 52<br>Westover School Inc.<br>Whittemore Road<br>Middlebury, CT 06762 | C | c. 1850 V 1½-story, vernacular, frame front-gable-roof. house on stone foundations, covered with clapboards and wooden shingles. Built from time to time in several small segments. Windows are 12-over-12, and 6-over-6.   |
| 217 North Street, Parcel 51<br>Watts, Norma F.   | C | 1810 A, c. 1870 V 2½-story, vernacular frame, front-gable-roof, U-shaped house on stone foundations, covered with clapboards. Windows are 12-over-12 with blinds. The unusual U shape suggests that at least a portion of the house originally was located elsewhere and was moved to this location.  |

North Street, East Side

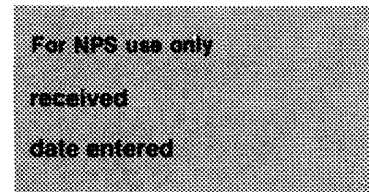
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 40 North Street, Parcel 63<br>Clark, Elizabeth W.<br>Colonial Bank, Trustee | C | 1935 A 1½-story, frame, "Cape," side-gable-roof, 5-bay house, covered with wooden shingles. Central recessed entrance has arched opening. Three peaked dormers in front roof slope. |
|---|---|---|



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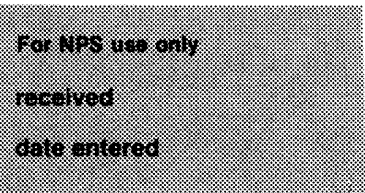
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North Street, East Side, continued

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 50 North Street, Parcel 64<br>Feinberg, Michael A.   | C 1926 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, front-gable-roof house on rubble foundations, covered with wooden shingles. Roof slope continues to first-floor height. Brick chimney on front.  |
| 62 North Street, Parcel 65<br>Corbett, Herbert J. and<br>Norma E.                              | C 1930 A 1½-story, "Cape," frame, side-gable-roof house on rubble foundations, covered with wooden shingles. A gable-roofed section projects to the left. Recessed central entrance porch.   |
| 72 North Street, Parcel 66<br>Dooling, Joan O. and<br>Michael C.                               | C 1924 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, side-gable-roof, 3-bay house on cobblestone foundations, covered with wooden shingles. Central entrance with side lights is protected by gable-roofed porch.   |
| 94 North Street, Parcel 67<br>Westover School, Inc.<br>Whittemore Road<br>Middlebury, CT 06762 | C 1913 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, front-gambrel-roof house on stone foundations. Covered with non-original synthetic siding to resemble clapboards. Second floor overhangs first floor. Small enclosed entrance porch at right. Roof at left flares out over a recessed porch.   |
| 102 North Street, Parcel 68<br>Cook, Sylvia D.   | C 1920s A 2½-story, American Four Square, frame, pyamidal-roofed house covered with non-original synthetic siding to resemble clapboards. The wide, enclosed front porch and the dormer in the front roof slope have hipped roofs.   |
| 116 North Street, parcel 70<br>Oliver, James T. and Kay W.                                     | C 1800 A 2-story, Federal, frame, front-gable-roof house on stone foundations, covered with clapboards. Entrance porch on right has fluted Doric columns and entablature with triglyphs that support a gabled roof. The raking cornices of the gable have mutule blocks. There are a 2-story wing to the left and a 1½-story wing to the rear. |

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North Street, East Side, continued

- 126 North Street, Parcel 71      NC      1980 A      1½-story, gable roofed house.  
Smith, Curtiss B. and  
Sallie H.
  
- 136 North Street, Parcel 72      C      1870 A      2-story, late Greek Revival,  
Smith, Bradford E.      frame, front-gable-roof, ell-shaped  
house on brick and stone foundations,  
covered with clapboards. Windows are  
1-over-1. Porch (added?) has turned  
posts and turned brackets. 2-story  
barn in rear.
  
- 148 North Street, Parcel 73      C      Old A      2-story, vernacular, frame,  
Taylor, Glenn G.      gable-roofed, H-shaped house on stone  
foundations, covered with clapboards.  
Cross piece of H is at right angles  
to the street. Front elevation has  
four 6-over-6 windows at the first floor,  
3-pane horizontal windows at the second  
floor.
  
- 164 North Street, Parcel 74      NC      1949 A      1-story, hipped-roof house  
Henry, John R, II      with wooden-shingle siding. (Photo-  
graph 9)
  
- 178 North Street, Parcel 73      C      Old A      2½-story, vernacular, frame,  
Calmar, Thalia M.      front-gable-roof, 3-bay house on stone  
foundations. Windows are 6-over-6  
except two in the gable which are  
12-over-8. Entrance porch at right  
has gable roof with dentil courses.  
Extensions to rear connect with a barn.
  
- North Street, Parcel 76      C      c. 1825 V      Parsonage, Middlebury Con-  
Middlebury Congregational Church      gregational Church. 2½-story, Greek  
Revival, frame, gable-roofed house on  
granite ashlar foundations, covered  
with clapboards. Windows are 12-over-12.  
1½-story wing to the right has 1-story,  
3-sided bay.

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North Street, East Side, continued

North Street, Parcel 77  
Middlebury Congregational  
Church

C 1935 Cornerstone Middlebury Congregational Church. Elbert J. Richmond, architect. W. J. Megin, Inc., contractor. Greek Revival, frame, front-gable-roof, 40 x58' church on granite ashlar foundations. The front porch is recessed, with two Greek Ionic columns in antis. Each of the flanking piers has two Ionic pilasters. Behind the columns are two 6-paneled doors in surrounds with paneled corner blocks, under 12-over-12 windows with blinds. The columns and pilasters support a plain architrave and frieze and a pediment with deeply recessed tympanum that is smooth and without central aperture.

In the 2-stage steeple, the first stage has rectangular louvers and the second stage progressively recessed panels. A low parapet surrounds a central, turned finial that is topped by a golden wind direction arrow.

As grade falls off to the rear, the 72-foot gable-roofed extension to the rear is entered at the granite basement level. The two upper floors are covered with clapboards and have five 12-over-12 windows with blinds.

On the interior of the church, two aisles lead to the recessed pulpit area. Galleries on the sides and rear are supported by slender, fluted, Doric columns. The millwork is painted a creamy white and the walls and ceilings a soft blue. (Photographs 2 and 3)

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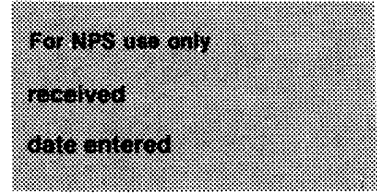
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North Street, East Side, continued

The Green, Parcel 79  
Middlebury Congregational  
Church (leased to Town  
on 99-year lease)

C A rectangular piece of land of 2/3  
acre. The corners on the west are  
square and the east end is rounded.  
Planted with grass and trees.  
(Photograph 1)

South Street, West Side

South Street, Parcel 89  
Westover School, Inc.  
Whittemore Road  
Middlebury, CT 06762

C Early 19C V The Crossways, 1½-story,  
Federal, frame, side-gable-roof  
cottage, covered with non-original  
synthetic siding to resemble clap-  
boards. Front porch has square posts  
and gabled roof. A portion of this  
structure was moved to this site from  
the location of the school, to make  
way for the school.

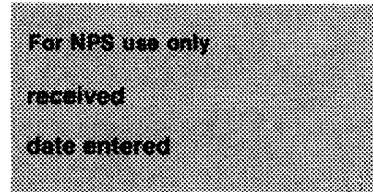
Whittemore Road, North Side

1212 Whittemore Road, Parcel 78 C  
Town of Middlebury

1936 Plaque Town Hall Elbert G.  
Richmond, architect. Allyn Wadhams  
Co., contractor. 2½-story, Federal  
Revival, brick, gable-roofed  
structure with white trim. Wide  
granite steps approach a 5x29-foot  
recessed porch that has two round  
Tuscan columns in antis. The doorway  
is flanked by pilasters that support  
a plain entablature. The doorway  
aperture is round arched with key  
block over half-round fanlight. Left  
and right of the doorway are tall,  
round-headed windows with radial  
glazing. Above, the pediment's  
cornice and raking cornices are sup-  
ported by modillion blocks while its  
tympanum of flush boarding has an  
elliptical window with radial glazing.  
The interior houses public offices  
including the Police Department and  
public meeting rooms. (Photograph 2)

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Whittemore Road, North Side, continued

Whittemore Road, Parcel 29  
Town of Middlebury

C 1931-32 Plaque Shepardson School. Haynes & Mason, architects. Judd & Bronson, contractors. Front section is 1-story, Georgian Revival, brick, central-entrance, hipped-roof, 40x58-foot structure. Roof is covered with slate and has central lantern. The rear section, much larger, 58x113 feet, is two stories and continues the Georgian Revival style. Ceased to function as a school in the 1980s; now used as Town Hall annex.

Whittemore Road, South Side

1365 Whittemore Road, Parcel 113  
Ambrozaitis, Joseph and Vera K.

c. 1900 V 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, gable-roofed, 49x88' shop covered with wooden shingles. 6-over-6 windows are single, paired and triple. Front section is a residence. (Photograph 18) Judd Shop.

1321 Whittemore Road, Parcel 112  
Keggi, Julia Q.

C 1911 A Eli Bronson House. Arthur S. Judd. 3-story, Colonial Revival, frame, side-gambrel roof, 5-bay, central-entrance house on granite ashlar foundations, covered with non-original synthetic siding to resemble clapboards. The 2½-story, central, gable-roofed porch is open at the first floor, is an enclosed bay with tripartite window at the second floor and has a semi-elliptical window with radial glazing above. Twin paneled brick chimneys. The house is well set back from the road and has spacious grounds. Bronson operated a brass foundry in Naugatuck. Large, elaborate brass hinges from his factory adorn the front Dutch door. Unsigned, undated, black-ink-on-paper drawings for the front and west elevations are at the house. (Photograph 17)

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Whittemore Road, South Side, continued

1289 Whittemore Road, Parcel 91 C c. 1900 A LaMonte House 2½-story,  
Westover School, Inc. Colonial Revival, frame, side-gable-  
roof house, covered with non-original  
synthetic siding to resemble clap-  
boards. Entrance in second bay from  
right has portico with coved ceiling.  
2-story recessed porch at left. 2-  
story porch at right. Added, wide  
shed dormer in front roof slope. A  
portion of this structure was a  
separate house, moved to this location.

Whittemore Road, Parcel 90 C 1907 Cornerstone St. John of the  
St. John of the Cross Cross Catholic Church.  
Catholic Church Baroque/Renaissance Revival, rubble  
stone, gable-roofed, rectangular  
edifice. Square twin towers flank  
the white wooden portico. In the  
portico, two tall round columns  
without capitals, in antis, support  
a plain entablature and pediment with  
round-headed, stained glass window in  
its tympanum. The towers have simi-  
lar windows. At the tops of the  
towers are balustrades of thick balu-  
sters and short, square piers and  
open belfries of round-arched arcades.  
The belfries have tent roofs from  
which rise ball and cross finials.

The central double front door is oak  
in natural finish, glazed in a class-  
ical cross pattern, with the same  
pattern used in the transom and  
round-arched tympanum above. Each  
side elevation of the church has five  
round-arched windows of small panes.  
The church enjoys a prominent corner  
location and is canted to face the  
corner.

On the interior, a deeply coved ceil-  
ing is supported by Corinthian col-  
umns. (Photograph 6)

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Whittemore Road, South Side, continued

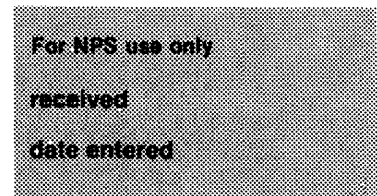
Whittemore Road, Parcels 81, 82 C  
Westover School, Inc.

1909 Westover School Theodate  
Pope Riddle, architect. Richard  
F. Jones, contractor. The principal  
building is a 3½-story, square,  
Colonial Revival, frame, gable-  
roofed structure of 125,000 square  
feet, covered with stucco and built  
around a central courtyard. (Photo-  
graph 10 ) Foundations are brick.  
The roof is covered with slate. The  
school occupies a prominent corner  
location, facing the green. A tall  
hedge runs in front of the building  
and a tall stone wall along the  
side, on South Street. The central  
gable-roofed entrance pavilion has  
an over-hanging, bracketed second  
floor while the gable-end pediment  
above carries the school crest and  
motto in relief. There is a 6-  
sided belfry on the roof. The cen-  
tral pavilion is flanked by eight  
windows, 9-over-9 at the first floor,  
6-over-6 at the second floor, with  
four gabled dormers in the third.  
The dormers have windows made up of  
three 1-over-1 sections; one section  
operates as a casement window. The  
front elevation of the building  
projects at both ends. The west end  
projection formerly served as quar-  
ters for the headmistress. The east  
end and projection is a 40x44-foot  
Gothic Revival chapel. (Photograph  
12 )

The interior floor plan consists of  
central halls with rooms on either  
side. Woodwork is dark. There is a  
gracious central stairway. The  
first floor of the front of the  
building is given over to offices,  
reception and social rooms. The  
largest of these rooms, known as  
Red Hall, is a 2-story, galleried  
space. (Photograph 13)

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Whittemore Road, South Side, continued

Whittemore Road, Parcels 81, 82  
Westover School, Inc., continued

In 1984 the principal building was extended to the southwest, to the designs of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates of New York. The primary addition was a 1½-story, modern Science and Library Center, placed between the southwest corner of the main building and South Street, and in turn connected to the formerly free-standing, brick gymnasium and student activities building by an arcade. The arcade repeats a motif from the main building courtyard. The Library and Science Building is finished in stucco and the 1962 brick gym was painted the same cream color, the over-all effect being a sense of unity. Over-scaled steps in front of the arcade serve as bleachers for the playing field. See Photograph 15 and Sketch Map.

The school grounds include approximately 20 major buildings, including the 1909 boiler house and the 1939 infirmary, which has a hipped roof covered with slate. Other structures of interest, with their numbers from the sketch map, are:

Methodist Church #2  
Hillard House

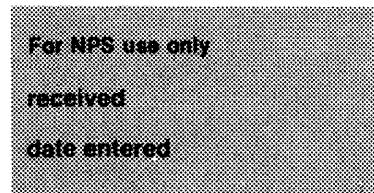
c. 1832 A 2-story, Greek Revival, frame, 3-bay 36x40-foot structure on granite ashlar foundations, covered with clapboards. Approached by stone steps, paneled front doors in the left and right bays are framed by plain pilasters and entablatures. 12-over-12 windows with blinds have flat molded caps at the first floor and lintels flush with the roof line architrave at the second. There is a semi-elliptical louver in the tympanum. Each side elevation has two tiers of the 12-over-12 windows. Grade falls off to the rear and the granite basement is entered at grade. An added stair tower projects on the east side at the rear corner. On the interior a stairway rises inside the two doors for three flights. The 2-story church space remains intact, with galleries. The galleries are supported by



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Whittemore Road, South Side, continued

Whittemore Road, Parcels 81, 82  
Westover School, Inc., continued

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Methodist Church #2, cont.                   | round wooden posts. The fronts of the galleries have simple recessed panels. The pulpit has been replaced with a Colonial Revival fireplace. (Photographs 4 and 5) The building was acquired by the school in 1923, was used as a "tea bureau" for students to 1932, and as the school's library 1935 - 1984.  |
| Faculty House #4                             | 1900 A 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, front-gable-roof, T-shaped, 3-bay house on brick foundations, covered with clapboards. 1-story front porch at right bay has coved ceiling. Windows are 6-over-6, except for a round-arched window in the gable end.  |
| The Nest #11                                 | Late 19C/early 20C 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, gable-roofed, ell-shaped multi-unit residential structure on stone foundations, covered with non-original synthetic siding to resemble clapboards. 2-story enclosed porch on right. The north and west sections formerly were separate structures, moved to this site. According to school traditions, the south section was added by McKim, Mead & White, but it is plain except for a Federal doorway that appears to have been salvaged from elsewhere. |
| Virginia House #14                           | 1916 School records Theodate Pope Riddle, architect. 2-story, Colonial Revival, frame, side-gable-roof, structure covered with stucco. Dormers in front roof slope. Eaves at first-floor height. (Photograph 16)   |
| Hamilton House (off Sketch Map to the south) | 1770 A 2½-story, Colonial, frame, side-gable-roof, central chimney, central entrance, 5-bay, 36x36-foot house, covered with wooden shingles. At first floor windows are 12-over-12, at second, 8-over-8.   |

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1. Parcels 114, 115 and 116 at the west end of Whittemore Road were considered for inclusion in the district. There is a 1-story, frame structure on parcel 114 that once was the office for the Judd shop and yard on parcel 113, in the district. The house Judd occupied from 1914 to his death is on parcel 116. To include these two Judd-related properties it would be necessary to include parcel 115, for geographic continuity.

While the idea of including the Judd office and home basically is attractive, there are problems in implementing the concept. The office on parcel 114 has been severely altered, and may have lost its integrity. (Photograph 19) The house on parcel 115, needed for continuity, is non-contributing; it was stripped to the studs and re-built in recent years. Moreover, the tongue-like access from the street into parcel 115 is a right of way granted by Uniroyal, making the corporation an additional property owner. The Judd residence on parcel 116 is an old, c. 1800 house that Judd insensitively altered in 1914 in the fashion of the times, to his subsequent regret. (Photograph 20) In 1981 it was given aluminum siding. Moreover, there is a second house on parcel 116, facing northwest toward the highway, Route 64. While its foundations are stone, the superstructure appears to be a recently-built, 1½-story cottage. Conceptually and visually this structure has nothing to do with the district. In view of these difficulties, decision was reached that inclusion of the Judd shop on parcel 113 adequately addresses the important contribution to the district made by Arthur S. Judd.

2. The Congregational Church still owns the land, now known as the green, on which its first edifice stood, and leases it to the town.

3. The drawings are lettered "Residence for Eli Bronson," but Henry A. Judd states that in 1913 Eli Bronson was an elderly man and the house really was built for his son, Paul. See letter, Henry A. Judd to author, nd (October 1984).

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) women's history

**Specific dates** See Item 7      **Builder Architect** See Item 7

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Criteria C (Architecture) and A (History)

The buildings of the Middlebury Center Historic District are good examples of 19th- and 20th-century styles in domestic, ecclesiastical, civic and school architecture, existing in their original setting and totally free of intrusions. (Criterion C - Architecture) The buildings as artifacts of the changes that have occurred in the district in the 19th and 20th centuries delineate the community development or lack thereof over the past two centuries. (Criterion A - History)

#### Criterion C - Architecture

The Colonial house on the grounds of Westover School, the oldest in the district, has been little altered on the exterior. It displays its original appearance of 2½-stories with clapboard siding, gable roof covered with wooden shingles, central chimney, central doorway and five bays of windows, 12-over-12 on the first floor and 8-over-8 on the second. It has all the typical features that are found in a house of its era.

The late Georgian and Greek Revival houses along North Street, while not remarkable, also are good examples of their types, showing the simple massing and classical details of the styles. The Greek Revival Methodist Church of 1832, on the other hand, is of above average interest. Its granite ashlar foundations, plain pilasters, paneled doors and semi-elliptical louver are evidence of clear understanding of the style and of good craftsmanship, as is the graceful interior stairway that rises from basement to gallery against the front wall. The continued, unimpaired existence of all these features together with maintenance of the basic integrity of the 2-story interior space make the building a strong contributor to the significance of the district.

The architecture of the Congregational Church, although built in 1935, is to be considered in the context of 1840, the year of construction of the building that it replicates. More sophisticated than the neighboring Methodist Church across the green, the Congregational Church has two Greek Doric columns in antis, a deeply recessed pediment and 2-stage steeple with crowning parapet, as well as an interior with coved ceiling and delicate Doric columns to support the galleries. The church is a fully-developed example, in replica, of the Greek Revival style.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 103 a.

Quadrangle names Waterbury, Woodbury

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting					Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting					Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The district boundary is shown by the dotted line on the map drawn at scale of 1" = 445'. For boundary justification, see Item 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant; edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date October 21, 1984

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state CT

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

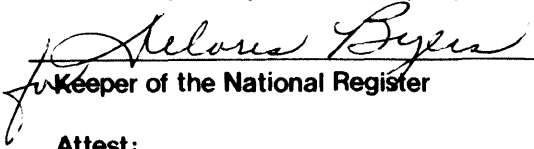
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date 4/4/85

### For NPS use only

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

  
Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-9-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The absence of any non-residential buildings in the district constructed between 1840, when the Congregational Church was built, and 1898 when the Library Road School was built, is striking. St. John of the Cross (1902-1907) was the first building of the 20th century, a product of its times reflecting the Colonial Revival in its pavilion frontispiece and the Renaissance Revival in its two square towers with open belfries, its round-headed windows and the cross pattern glazing of the transom and tympanum over the double front door. It also is a product of its time in the use of rubble masonry as construction material. This rustic treatment was popular soon after the turn of the century over a wide area and, in addition to the church, is found in the district in foundations and front porches of Colonial Revival houses along North Street and of the 1898 school.

The 1906-1909 construction of Westover School was the largest construction project in the history of the district. In step with the times in the sense that it is basically Colonial Revival, the design is forward-looking because of its clean lines and use of relatively little detail. It has classical details such as its central pediment, small paned windows and cupola, but is without the delicacy of the Congregational Church embellishments and without the medieval antecedent of the heavy balustrades and cross pattern glazing of St. John of the Cross. When embellishment is used at Westover School it is accentuated, such as the high relief motif in the tympanum and the arbitrary use of Gothic Revival for the chapel. The gabled roof covered with slate is a prominent feature that effectively pulls together the composition as a whole. The hollow square plan with interior cloisters and wide opening leading to the playing fields beyond works well, providing easy circulation, a sense of community and prepossessing effect.

Additions to the original Westover School buildings from time to time have included Virginia House, designed by the original architect in 1916, the headmaster's contemporary residence (1964) and the rather awkward student activities building (1962). The design work done in connection with the 1984 Library and Science Building introduced a frankly modern building into the complex while at the same time, through use of the long arcade and traditional color, brought a sense of unity to the campus that it had long been lacking.

The two town school buildings fall into the same general stylistic category of Colonial Revival but are quite different from one another and from Westover. While Westover reflects in its design and materials the forward-looking orientation and individuality of its architect, the two town schools are more conventional. The 1898 building on Library Road, with its shingled siding and eyebrow dormers, suggests a little of the Shingle Style in its otherwise correct usage of Georgian-derived features.

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The red-brick-and-white-trim Shepardson School is a perfectly acceptable but routine example of its type from the 1930s.

Considering that the district has existed as an entity for as long as two centuries, the number of architectural styles represented is smaller than might be expected. The romantic revival styles of the second half of the 19th century are not represented, for the reason that little or no building was done during these years. The buildings that do exist are good examples of their types, some better than good. The most sensitive and successful designs are those of St. John of the Cross Church, Westover School and the 1935 reproduction of the 1840 Congregational Church. The district as a whole, however, is different from most as an architectural experience because it exists wholly without intrusions, a perfect record of its own historical development.

ARCHITECTS

Regrettably, it is not possible to include the name of the architect of St. John of the Cross Church here because his identity is unknown.<sup>2</sup> He achieved the felicitous combination of the Renaissance Revival and Baroque styles with the rubble stone building material despite the circumstance that construction was spaced over five years, using volunteer labor and stone donated by parishoners from their fields.

Known architects who worked in the district, arranged in the sequence of their work there, were the following:

Theodate Pope, later Theodate Pope Riddle (1868-1946). One of the nation's first prominent women architects, Riddle assisted McKim, Mead and White in the design of her father's home, Hill-Stead, in Farmington (1901). Her contribution was of sufficient importance to be acknowledged in the firm's bill for the design of the house. It resembles Mount Vernon with gabled dormers in the roof over a long 2-story porch. Other principal works by Pope include the restoration of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace in New York City for which she was awarded the commission in 1919, Avon Old Farms School of the 1920s. based on the architecture of the Cotswolds, and the Chamberlain House, 1910, in Middlebury.<sup>3</sup>

Arthur L. Judd (1879-1952) was a local builder/architect. He served in that dual capacity for the Eli Bronson House (1911) and as a principal in the contracting firm of Judd & Bronson for construction of the Shepardson School (1931). Additional work by Judd in the district includes the Library Road school, remodelling of several houses and construction of shops

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and alterations to buildings at Westover School. On the one hand, Judd was not a registered architect (although he could have been grandfathered at the time the requirement for registration was initiated), so did not sign his drawings. He considered himself to be primarily a builder. On the other hand, he was a designer in his own right and did not use pattern books. In addition to his activities as an architect/builder, he operated a lumber and coal yard at his shop, and he was active in local and state politics. His obituary appeared on page 1 of the Waterbury Republican.<sup>4</sup>

S. Wesley Haynes and Harold E. Mason were partners in a Hartford firm listed in the city directory for 1931, the year of the Sheperdson School, as architects and engineers. Mason had been associated with the Frank Irving Cooper Corporation in the winning design for Weaver High School in Hartford (1921) and was employed for many years in the city's building inspection department.<sup>5</sup>

In view of the excellence of the Congregational Church replica of 1935, it is not surprising to learn that its architect, Elbert G. Richmond, AIA (1886-1965), as a young man worked in the New Haven office of J. Frederick Kelly, Connecticut's first and most famous restoration architect. Richmond's training included a session at the summer school for American architects at Fontainebleau, where he won a first prize. After a period in Miami Beach, he came to Waterbury where he practiced for 40 years. His commissions included rehabilitation of the railroad station and design of the Grace Baptist Church, the Watertown Golf Club and the Watertown and Western Hills Golf Club. The district's Congregational Church and Town Hall clearly reflect his fine training and skills.<sup>6</sup>

Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects are a practicing New York firm who have designed buildings at Princeton University, State University of New York at Purchase and Dartmouth University.

Historical Note

The first settlers arrived in what is now the Town of Middlebury in the early 1700s, displacing Algonquin Indians. Early mills and the earliest surviving houses were built north of the district where streams provided waterpower. By the late 1700s there was sufficient population to justify petition to the General Assembly for establishment of a separate Middlebury ecclesiastical society, and such action was taken by the legislature December 29, 1790. The first church edifice was completed four years later, on the green in the district. Other buildings normally found in a village center followed, including store, tavern, school, blacksmith shop and other churches. The town was incorporated in 1807.

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By nature of its geography, Middlebury was fated never to be anything but a country town. Far more important sources of waterpower than were found in Middlebury were located on the Naugatuck River, eastward at Waterbury. As the industrial importance of water power diminished, the railroad was built up the Naugatuck River valley bringing growth and development to cities on its right-of-way, but not to Middlebury. The active construction and expansion programs that occurred in many of Connecticut's towns during the second half of the 19th century simply did not occur in Middlebury. This fact is brought home by the absence in the district of any examples of the romantic revival architectural styles.

While these conditions were negative in many ways, they were, on the other hand, quite positive in terms of evaluating a potential location for a new boarding school for young women. Consequently, it is not difficult to understand why Mary R. Hillard and Theodate Pope were drawn to the site when they decided to launch a new school. The two women had been friends since Pope had been a student of Hillard's at Miss Porter's School in Farmington. Subsequently, Hillard had been headmistress of an Episcopal girls school in Waterbury. Middlebury, only several miles from Waterbury, was an understandable choice of location for the new enterprise in the light of these circumstances. Costs of construction of the school were largely defrayed by Pope's father, Alfred Pope, and John L. Whittemore.<sup>7</sup> Hillard served as headmistress of Westover School for its first 23 years.

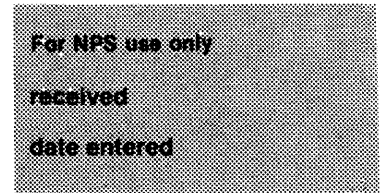
The fact that the history of the district has been free of major events, other than the construction of Westover School, for two hundred years, helps to define its significance. It has pursued a calm course of gentle development without major change of direction in one way or another. Consequently, the residential structures on North Street, the handsome Eli Bronson House, and the town, church and school buildings surrounding the green are an accurate record of the 200-year adjustment of the country village to changing times.

The founding of Westover School was an example of the trend toward education of women by women that gained momentum in the early 20th century. In that era, education was not seen as being in conflict with the "real" world of business, and therefore was open to increasing numbers of women students. Schools and colleges for women only enabled women to establish a separate sphere in education, one where women were in control and women could be employed. Miss Hillard's initiative in founding a school within this reference was in step with the times. She was fortunate in having Theodate Pope, a strong feminist, as an architectural and financial ally. Together they forged a new secondary school for young women that was administered by women for several decades in a movement that saw similar schools established across the country.<sup>8</sup>



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1.

One feature that could not be duplicated was the cost, which in 1840 was \$3,438. The 1937 building cost \$43,500. See The Middlebury Congregational Church (1796-1846).

2.

Letter, Rev. John G. Fanning, pastor, St. John of the Cross Church, to author, September 20, 1984, "I'm sorry I can't unearth the name of the architect."

3.

Judith Paine, Theodate Pope Riddle, Her Life and Work, New York: Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace, 1979.

4.

Letter, Henry A. Judd, Hon. AIA, Chief Historical Architect, National Park Service, ret., (son of Arthur S. Judd) to author nd (October 1984).

5.

Interview, c. 1970, Marjorie Mason Pond, daughter of the architect.

6.

Elbert J. Richmond, obituary, Waterbury American. March 4, 1965, 4.8.

7.

Pope (1842-1913) was an industrialist who made his fortune in steel manufacturing in Cleveland. He was an important early collector of French Impressionist paintings, now on view at the Hill-Stead Museum, his former Farmington home. Whittemore (1837-1910), was a principal force in Naugatuck and Middlebury, with important investments in other cities. In Naugatuck he manufactured malleable iron castings. He was a patron of McKim, Mead & White and of landscape architects. His summer home in Middlebury, "Tranquility Lodge," listed in the National Register of Historic Places September 23, 1982, was designed by McKim, Mead & White.

8.

For a discussion of education of women by women, see Nancy Woloch, Women and the American Experience, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, pp. 276-278.

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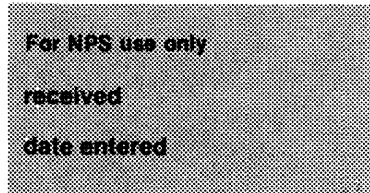
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Middlebury Center Historic District, Middlebury, CT

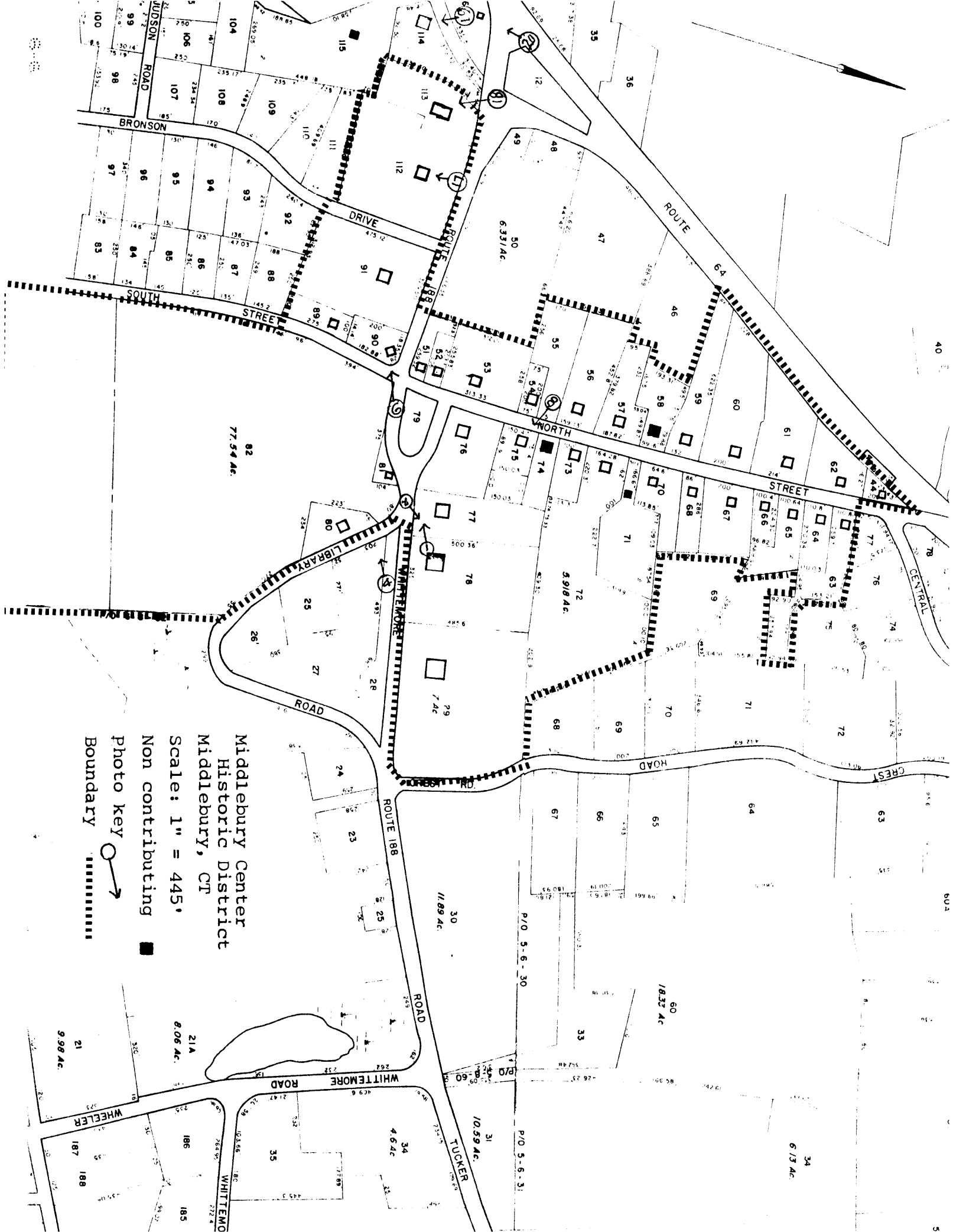
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UTM References

- A 18/656500/4599460
- B 18/656500/4599340
- C 18/656570/4599340
- D 18/656580/4599150
- E 18/656230/4599140
- F 18/656340/4598950
- G 18/656470/4598960
- H 18/656510/4598860
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- K 18/656400/4598240
- L 18/656500/4598180
- M 18/656010/4598490
- N 18/656020/4598610
  
- O 18/656100/4598660
- P 18/656100/4598790
- Q 18/656430/4598780
- R 18/656430/4598910
- S 18/656380/4598900
- T 18/656370/4599080
- U 18/656240/4599090



Middlebury Center  
 Historic District  
 Middlebury, CT

Scale: 1" = 445'

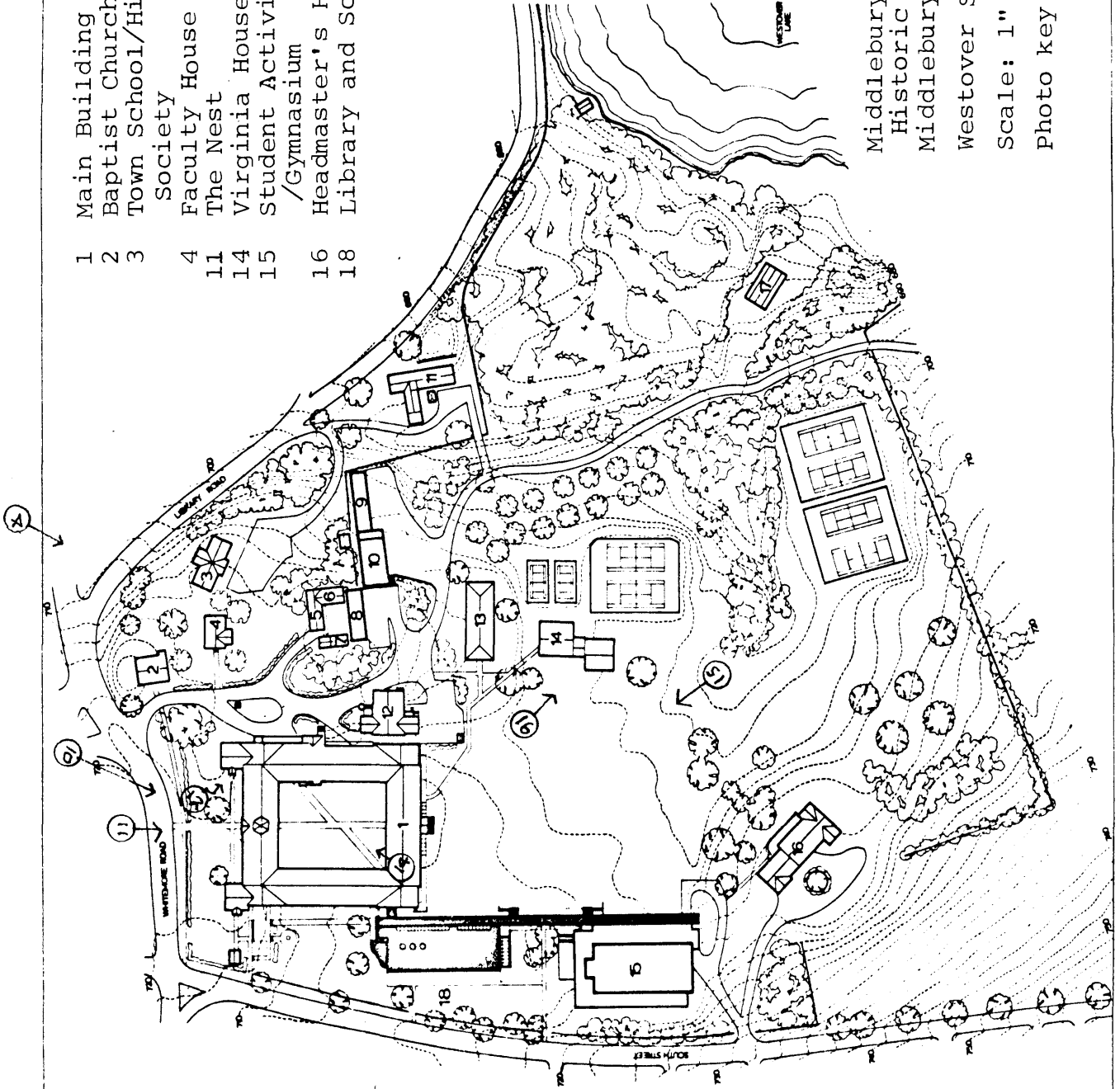
Non contributing

Photo key

Boundary



- 1 Main Building
- 2 Baptist Church/Library
- 3 Town School/Historical Society
- 4 Faculty House
- 11 The Nest
- 14 Virginia House
- 15 Student Activities Building /Gymnasium
- 16 Headmaster's House
- 18 Library and Science Building



Middlebury Center  
 Historic District  
 Middlebury, CT  
 Westover School Grounds

Scale: 1" = 310'

Photo key ↗