

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 10 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Historic*  
Spring Hill National Register District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *928-986, 937-989 Storrs Road, 3rd East Road, 3rd Beebe Lane*  
928-986, 937-989 Storrs Road, -3 East Road,  
3 & 4 Beebe Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mansfield

VICINITY OF

2nd - Christopher J. Dodd

STATE

Connecticut

CODE  
09

COUNTY

Tolland

CODE  
013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership, Public and Private

STREET & NUMBER

see continuation sheet

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mansfield Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

4 South Eagleville Road

CITY, TOWN

Mansfield, Connecticut

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

59 South Prospect St., Hartford, Connecticut 06106

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spring Hill, a state historic district since 1972, is one in a handful of small villages which developed within the town of Mansfield, Connecticut. The town's large square tract of land is traversed by streams and divided by hills and valleys. Most of Mansfield's villages, such as Mansfield Hollow, Gurleyville and Eagleville, grew where early textile manufacturers built riverside mills. Spring Hill, located at the crest of a big domical hill, did not have sources of water power; rather, its development stemmed from its central location within Mansfield, and its location on the Norwich-Springfield Turnpike (now Rte. 195). Along this roadway and surrounded by farms, the village center condensed. During various periods, it contained the townhall, a Baptist Church, a store, a blacksmith shop, and homes. Twenty-four structures are encompassed in the historic district, whose development occurred in three major phases; 1740-1776, 1835-1852, and 1930-1936. Throughout its development, Spring Hill's buildings have shared similarity in scale and materials, which with the close and regular spacing of structures, has sustained the quiet spirit of a small rural settlement.

By the end of the 18th century, Spring Hill had but four houses. Closely set, they would have formed a distinct sense of place. Two buildings were destroyed; one by fire, one by the owner's choice during the 19th century. The two remaining structures are in excellent condition with much original hardware and masonry features intact. These are #957 Storrs Road, now the Altnaveigh inn, one of the districts most visually prominent buildings, c. 1776, having two stories, (with the second projecting slightly beyond the first); and, #974 Storrs Road, directly across from the Altnaveigh, a small 1½ story cottage, c. 1740, with a central chimney.

It was during the 19th century when Spring Hill underwent its greatest period of growth that the eleven structures which most determined the district's present form and character were built. The majority of these are small, low-roofed, Greek revival style houses; which are in good condition today. One of these houses #939 Storrs Road, was the center of village commercial activities. The house was used as a store, and to its south were a cider mill and a blacksmith shop. Another characteristic element of the district, its maple trees, were planted around mid-century by Edmund Howe (who lived in what is now the Chapman house). In 1842, Mansfield built its first town hall, and chose Spring Hill as the site. Before building this barn-like, steep-roofed structure, the North and South Ecclesiastical Societies alternately housed town meetings. After an active 20 year period of growth, further development of Spring Hill stopped until the 20th century... with the exception of the Baptist Church which in 1875 replaced its

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Spring Hill National Register District  
Mansfield, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

List of property owners, Mansfield Assessor's Records, updated to June, 1979:

Street Number	Owner & Address	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Description
BEEBE LANE			
3	Josephine Dolan 3 Beebe Lane Storrs, CT 06268	NC	1955 Ranch.
4	Same as above	NC	1935 1½ story, gambrel roof, dormers.
EAST ROAD			
3	Louisa B. Chapman 3 East Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1835 Shubael Freeman Farm; 1½ story, plain central entrance, small attic windows; old barn.
STORRS ROAD			
928	Charles E. & Joan C. Dyson 928 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1838 Crain House, Gr. Rev; 1½ story, central entrance with molded trim & corner blocks, large shed dormer.
934	Judith C. Mordkoff 934 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1863 Shumway House; 1½ story, pediment-shaped cap over central entrance.
940	Sabra F. Clark 940 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	NC	1966 L-shaped Ranch.
950	State of Connecticut University of Connecticut Storrs, CT 06268	C	c.1870 Bradley Sears Farm, Italianate; 2½ story, L-shaped, veranda, brackets, arched gable window; large old barn.
954	Town of Mansfield 4 South Eagleville Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1) 1935 Neo-colonial Town Hall; stone. 2) 1842 Town Hall, Gr.Rev., 1½ story, plain pilasters, entrance; moved back.
958	Frances B. Gifford <u>et al.</u> 958 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1740 Luther Kingsley House; 1½ story, gable overhang, central chimney, door with transom, grad. clapboards.

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### STORRS ROAD (Continued)

968	State of Connecticut University of Connecticut Storrs, CT 06268	NC	1930 Cape.
974	G. Lowell & Thea Field 974 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1852 Artemus Storrs House, Gr. Rev. attrib. Edwin Fitch; 1½ stories, plain pilasters, entablature across front.
976	Janet Lincoln 976 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	NC	1950 L-shaped Ranch.
980	Roberta K. Smith 980 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1847 Edmund Simons House, 1½ story, 5-bay facade, sidelighted entrance.
986 (inc. lot 18)	State of Connecticut University of Connecticut Storrs, CT 06268	C	1849 Eleazer Freeman House; 1½ stories, dormers with scroll-cut bargeboard; shingled.
937	Harriet E. Babcock 937 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1848 Gr. Rev; 1½ story, gable end to street, open porch across front; one- time store, later Ebenezer Gurley.
939	Richard C. & Pamela L. Roberts 939 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	NC	1934 1½ story gambrel-roof, dormer.
945	First Baptist Church of Mansfield 945 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1877 Baptist Church, Gothic (Early Eng.), flush siding, buttresses, lancet windows, entrance porch on side with small belfry above.
957	Amy Dzvovich 957 Storrs Road Storrs, CT 06268	C	1776 Enoch Freeman House (Altnaveigh); 2½ story, all overhanging, grad. clap- boards; central entrance w. sidelights.
Lot 60	Lillian Cowan 26 Spring Hill Road Storrs, CT 06268	NC	Land only.
975	First Baptist Church of 945 Storrs Road Mansfield Storrs, CT 06268	C	1842 Baptist Parsonage, Gr. Rev.; 1½ story, lean-to at rear, central recessed entrance w. corner block trim.

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1808 church. Plain and white, the new church is sheathed with broad verticle boards, and given simple Gothic embellishments of lancet windows with stained glass and buttress-like projections at the four corners.

There was little building activity in Spring Hill until the 1930's when five houses and a town office building were added. The houses are evenly interspersed with earlier buildings, and are tempered by a complementary rural tone. Small, clapboard covered and boxy, they fill out the district by regularizing the spacing of the buildings facing the street. While the houses make an understated contribution to the district, the town office was built in 1935 with Work Progress Administration funds and ranks with the Baptist Church and the Atnaveigh as the district's prominent visual landmarks. It is set on a high open knoll, to the side and just forward from the town hall. In this only building in Spring Hill which is not wood-framed and wood-sheathed; flat-surfaced fieldstones are pressed into the facade, or stood on end above windows to simulate a flat arch. The hip roof is finished with a cupola, which with the portico's fan light, effects a Georgian-revival style.

Three houses have been built since 1950. Two of these, #976 and #940 Storrs Road, present minor intrusions to the district as they are linear and horizontal in shape. Also, house #940, unlike any other building in the district, is set on a diagonal axis to the road. The district is protected on its east and west sides by open farm lands, and immediately beyond the north and south points of the district, building density drops and structures vary widely in age. These areas are not visable from within the district.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Hill is significant as a settlement which has retained the ambiance of a small, rural village throughout 250 years of growth. Visual qualities more than exemplary historical associations, make the area worth of preservation. Pleasant, tree-shaded, and having homogeneous buildings, the neighborhood is by these visual properties, an asset to the town of Mansfield.

Mansfield is not typical among the remote farm towns of northeastern Connecticut, primarily due to its having the University of Connecticut within its borders. It was founded in 1881 as a land grant agricultural college with land and funds given by town residents Charles and Augustus Storrs. For a short while, Augustus Storrs lived in house #937 Storrs Road. Now a large state university, the school has transformed Mansfield from a rural town to one that is increasingly suburban in nature. The university is less than a mile from Spring Hill, and the effect of its proximity can be seen in the two farms within the district which are now university owned and operated; one as a horticultural station, the other as an animal pathology laboratory. Two of the districts' 20th century houses were built by university faculty.

Traces of local historical themes can be tracked in Spring Hill: the town's silk industry, its local builder, and the growing use of governmental funds during the 20th century. The first silk mill in the U. S. was established in Hanks Hill, Mansfield in the early 1800's. Mulberry trees were grown by many residents, and a few trees surviving the blight of 1837 stand on Spring Hill. At least one house in the district, #975 Storrs Road, can be attributed to Edmund Fitch, a locally active builder during the mid-nineteenth century. In Mansfield, as in many rural areas, roads were not commonly paved until the early 20th Century when state governments acquired domain over privately-operated toll routes. Rte. 195 was paved in 1930. Also in the 1930's, federal funds, in various New Deal programs were applied to local projects. The Civilian Conservation Core planted a large stand of pine trees in the north central area of Mansfield; and WPA funds were used for construction of various buildings at the University of Connecticut in addition to the town office on Spring Hill.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mansfield Historic District Commission Report, 1972.

Mansfield Historical Society, Chronology of Mansfield, Connecticut 1702-1972. Privately printed, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40 (approx)

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	730420	4630100
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	730790	4629550

B	18	730880	4629660
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	18	730720	4629520

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Spring Hill Historic District coincide with those of the existing state historic district. Bordering a .4 mile stretch of Rte. 195, the district's west line follows the back lot line of lots 24 through 13, and by continuing along the north line of lot 13, Rte 195 is intersected. The boundary turns north along Rte 195 until it intersepts and follows the north line of lot 12, turns south along the east line of lot 12, and continues south along the east lines of lots 12-37.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Anstress Paine, Consultant

31 August 1977

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

566-3005

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

STATE

# 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 August 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/10/79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE 10/9/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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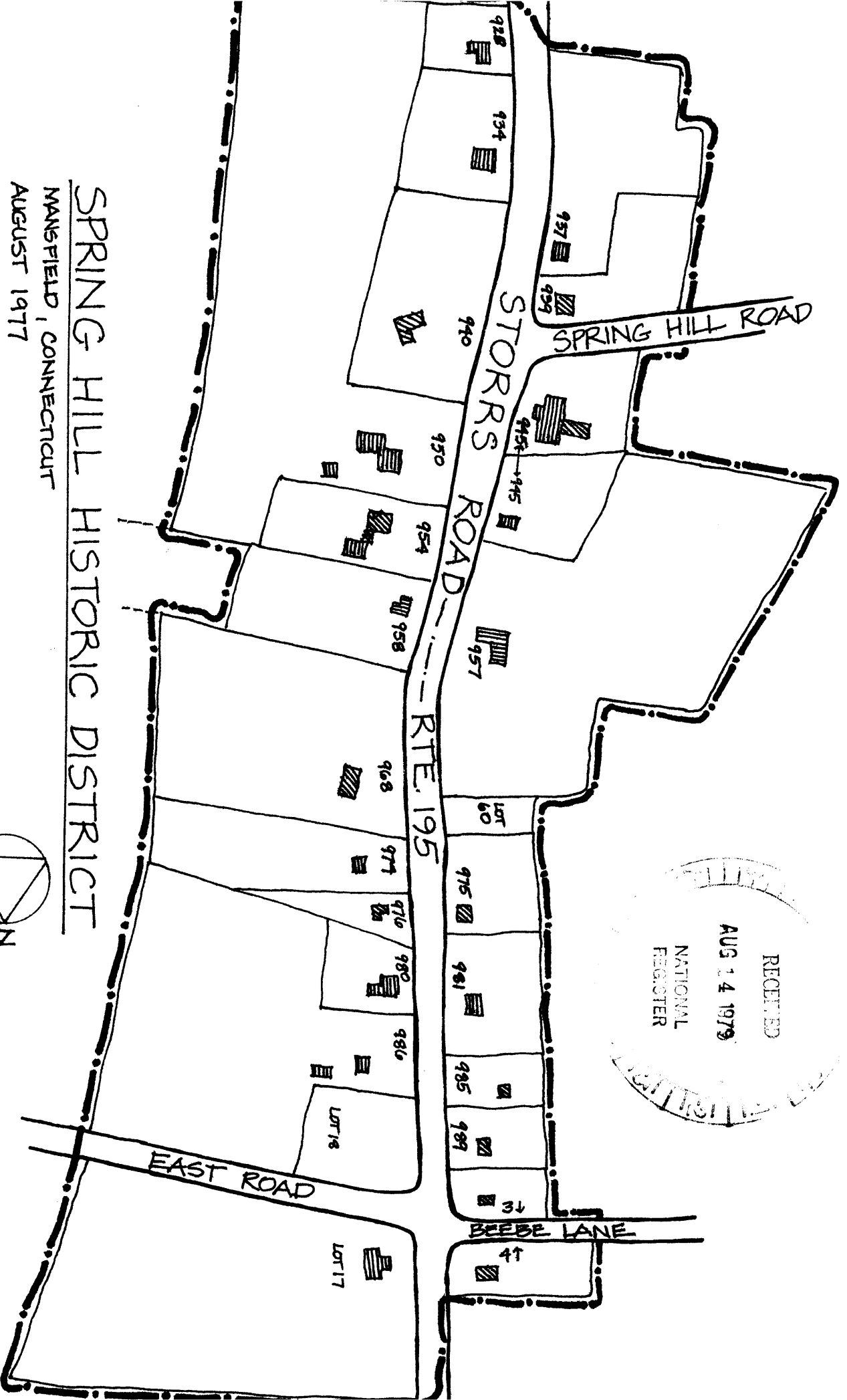
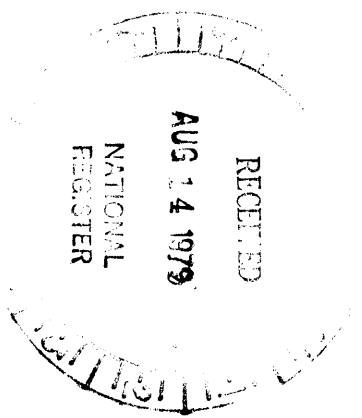
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I: 18/730510/4629550  
J: 18/730440/4629670  
K: 18/730490/4629710  
L: 18/730280/4629890  
M: 18/730290/4629960

Verbal Boundary Description (continued):

At lot 37, the line turns and follows this lot's southern line, crosses Route 195, and meets lot 24, the starting point of this description.



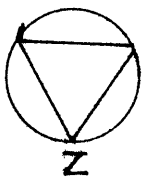


# SPRING HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

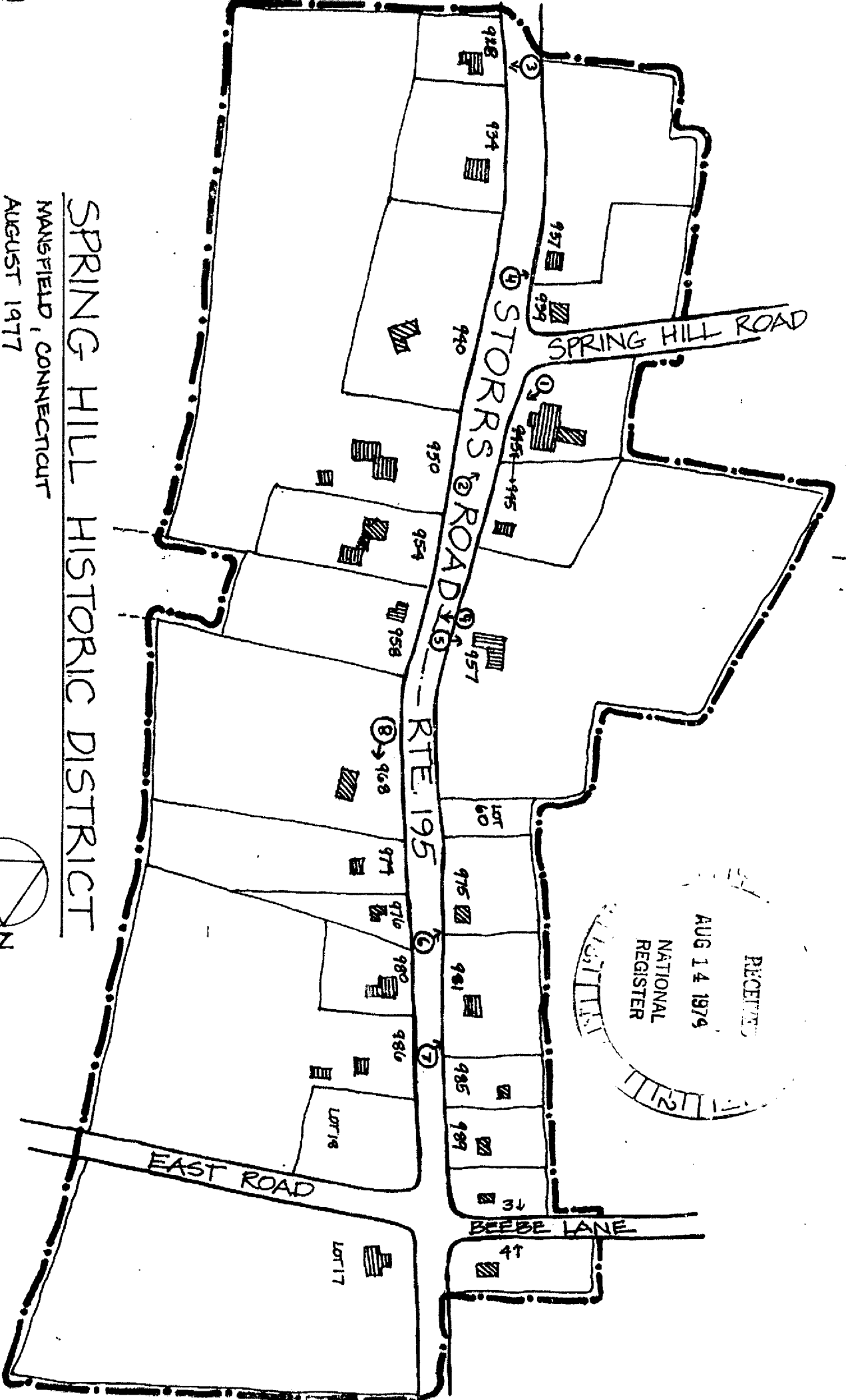
MANFIELD, CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 1977

SCALE, APPROXIMATE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET



- 18TH CENTURY
  - 19TH CENTURY
  - 20TH CENTURY
  - BOUNDARY LINE
- C.A. RAINE








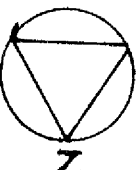
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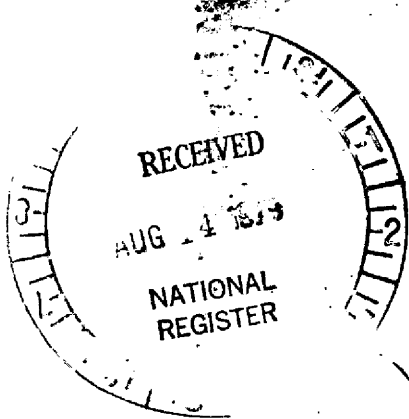
# SPRING HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 1977

SCALE, APPROXIMATE: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

-  18TH CENTURY
-  19TH CENTURY
-  20TH CENTURY
-  BOUNDARY LINE
-  Photo positions
-  CALPINE



CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES  
WITHIN THE PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic Site No.	Name of Structure	Date
6	The Luther Kingsley House	1740
20	The Enoch Freeman House	1776
12	The Shubael Freeman Farm House	1835
1	The Crain House	1838
18	The Baptist Parsonage	1842
5 B	The Town Hall,	1842
10	The Edmund Simons House	1847
24	The Ebenezer Gurley House	1848
11	The Eleazer Freeman House	1849
8	The Artemus G. Storrs House	1852
2	The Shumway House	1863
4	The Bradley Sears Farm House	c. mid-19th cent.
22	First Baptist Church of Mansfield	1875-1877