

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

310

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 March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Old Canterbury Road

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Canterbury Road; Canterbury Road (Route 14A) from intersection with Old Canterbury Road east to power line not for publication

city or town Plainfield vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Windham code 015 zip code 06374

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.)

John W. Shannahan March 17, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or 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 certifying 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): _____

for Peter A. Swage Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 6/6/03

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	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

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 an "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, structure
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1781 - 1782

Significant Dates

1781, 1782

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 Building Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission,
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

March Route of Rochambeau: Old Canterbury Road

Name of Property

Windham County, CT

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone Easting	Northing	3	Zone Easting	Northing
2			4	■ See continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Harper, Archaeologist, and Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. date December 5, 2002

street & number P.O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Plainfield, Connecticut

street & number Town Hall, 8 Community Avenue telephone 860-564-4075

city or town Plainfield state CT zip code 06374

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 7 Page 1

Description:

Old Canterbury Road in Plainfield represents the former course of Route 14A, known today as Canterbury Road, before being bypassed by a state-highway construction project in the 1930s. It is a narrow, curving paved road, about 20 feet in width, bordered by a verge of shrubs and vines about 14 to 16 feet wide on either side, beyond which are stone walls (Photograph 1). A utility line runs along the north side of the road only for a short distance at the extreme western end. The stone walls are overgrown with ferns and ivies from late Spring to late Fall (Photograph 2) but are clearly visible at other times of the year. The buildings along this part of the nominated segment consist of both houses of modern construction, which are all set back far enough from the road that they are not readily apparent, and 19th-century houses, including a 2 1/2-story clapboarded house at the west end dating from 1816 (48 Old Canterbury Road, Photograph 3) and a similar-sized Greek Revival-detailed house at the east end, where Old Canterbury Road intersects with Exley Road and Route 14A.

The land on the north side of the road is in large part open and is cultivated for hay or corn. Although somewhat obscured by shrubbery and the foliage of the line of deciduous trees along the road in summer, these fields are readily apparent through breaks in the vegetation and are clearly visible once the foliage dies down (Photograph 6). On the north side of the middle portion of Old Canterbury Road there is a stand of large old gnarled sugar maples, which, despite missing many of their larger branches, continue to contribute to the overhead canopy that shades the road (Photographs 5 and 6).

Because of the continuity of agricultural use and the resulting visual qualities, the nominated segment was extended eastward along Route 14A. There the buildings include a mix of mid-20th-century farm structures and older sheds and barns (Photograph 5), and the roadway itself is wider. There are two 12-foot travel lanes, a 10-foot-wide paved shoulder on the north side, and a six-foot shoulder along the south side. The road is flanked by a grassy verge 28 feet wide on either side. As it approaches the east end of the nominated segment, defined as the crossing of the power lines about 1,200 feet from the intersection of Old Canterbury and Canterbury Roads, the paved shoulders disappear and the verges narrow to 16 feet on the north side and eight feet on the south, yielding the usual overall width of about 50 feet. At this end, the remnants of stone walls are in place on both sides of the road, and there are expansive views of plowed fields and pasture both to the north and to the south (Photograph 8).

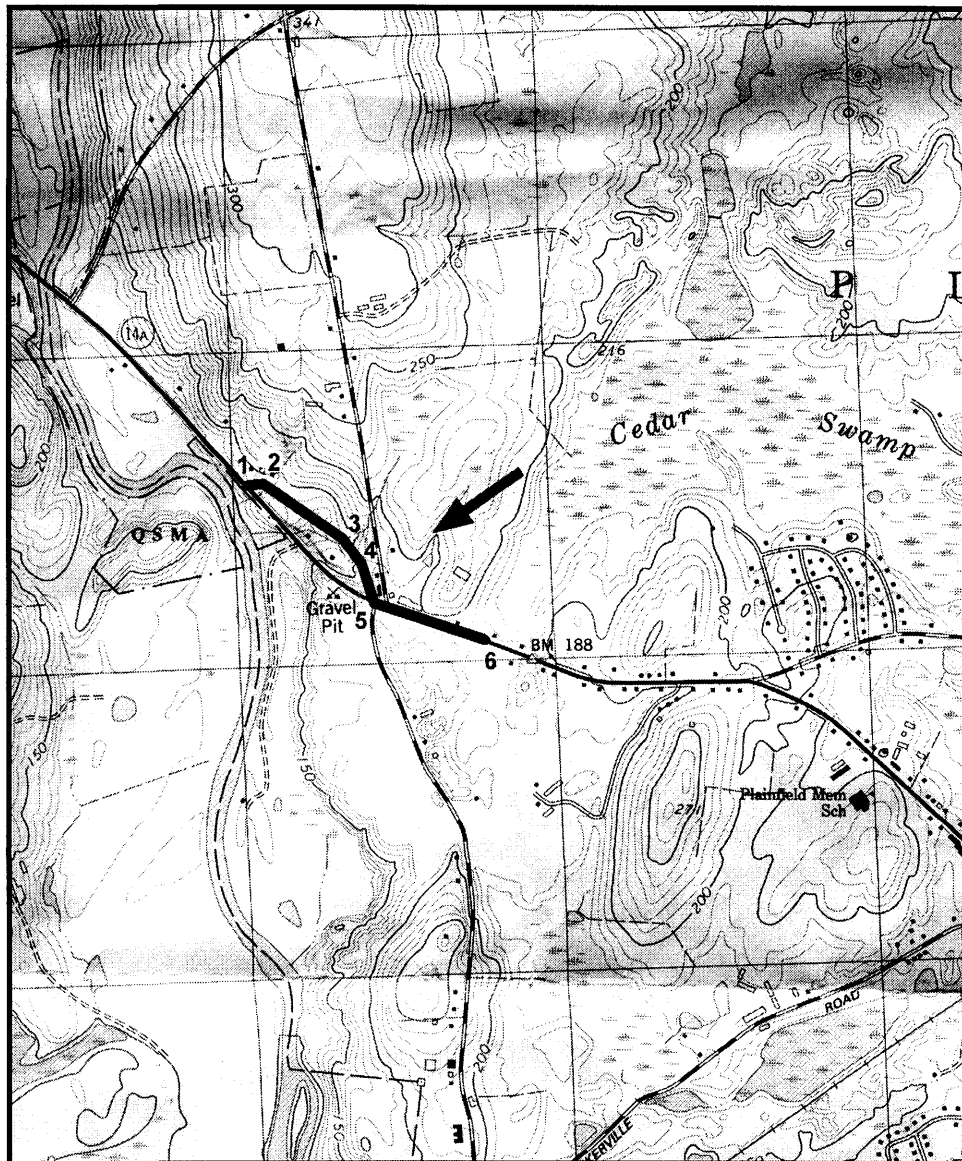
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Continuation Sheet

March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

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Figure 1: March route along Old Canterbury Road, as shown on U.S.G.S. Plainfield Quadrangle, 1:24000



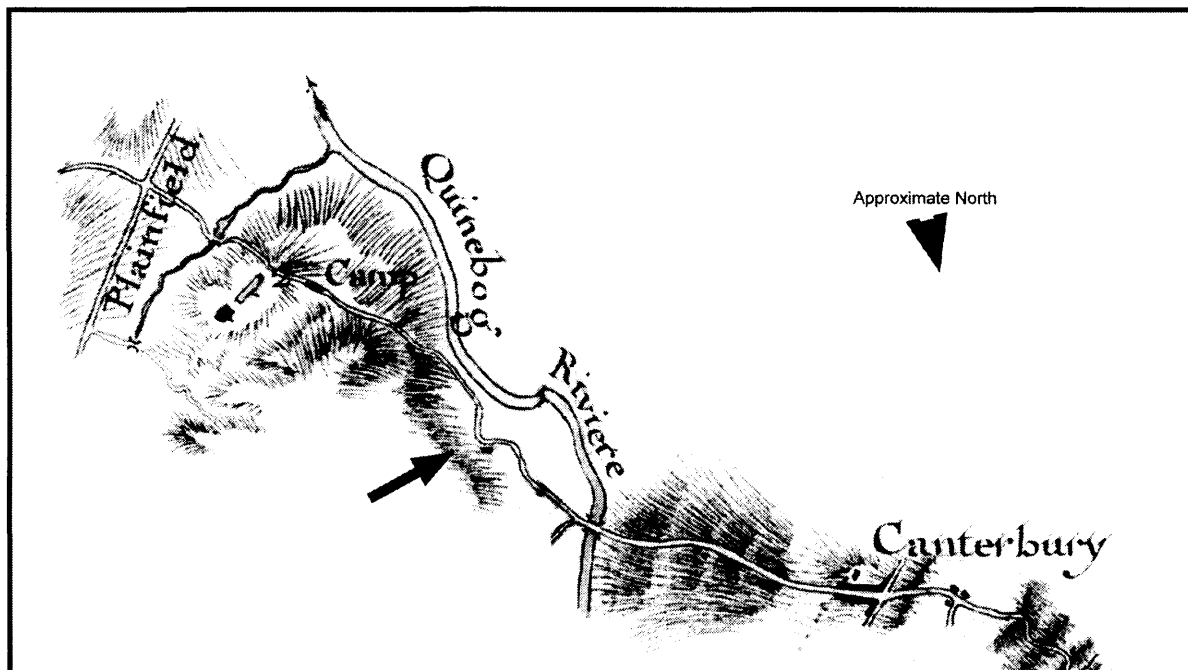
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National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 3

March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Figure 2: Excerpt from the French march route map, as drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier, military engineer for the French army, with the portion represented by Old Canterbury Road indicated by an arrow (*from Rice and Brown 1972*). The house shown is approximately at 48 Old Canterbury Road, though the present structure there dates from 1816.



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Section number 8 Page 1

**March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Significance:

The nominated segment, consisting of Old Canterbury Road and its continuation along Canterbury Road (Route 14A) in Plainfield, is significant because it allows one to imagine the appearance of the Connecticut countryside--the cultivated fields, woods, stone walls, and narrow, windy roads--that the French army encountered as it made its way to and from the Battle of Yorktown, the engagement that decided the outcome of the American Revolution (Criterion A). Marching in divisions from their third camp at Plainfield Center to the fourth camp along the Shetucket River in Windham, the troops under Count Rochambeau's command passed over this segment in the middle of June 1781 and again in November 1782, on the return march from Yorktown.

The Connecticut landscape experienced by the French consisted of both open fields and stretches of woods, since the full extent of land-clearing for agriculture had not yet been reached. In the words of Claude Blanchard, Rochambeau's chief commissary:

The country is a little more cleared, especially in the environs of Plainfield, where, nevertheless, there are only five or six houses. I saw some farms sown with rye and wheat, but especially with maize . . . and with potatoes. I also passed through many woods, mostly of oaks and chestnut trees. . . . [west of the Plainfield camp] the country is very similar to the environs of Plainfield; yet more pasture lands there, which are in valleys. So we ascend and descend continually on these roads (Blanchard 1969: 108-109).

The hilliness noted by Blanchard was but one of the deficiencies of Connecticut's early roads, at least in the opinion of the French officers responsible for moving thousands of troops and hundreds of artillery pieces and supply wagons. In addition to steep hills, the French found the roads narrow, littered with stones, and in some places, too overgrown with vegetation to allow a wagon to pass (the main column had to be preceded by a company of ax-wielding pioneers). The particular part of the route represented by the nominated segment was regarded by the French as better than the section east of Plainfield; nevertheless, the baggage for the Bourbonnais regiment was greatly impeded by the condition of the roads and arrived very late for the Windham encampment.

The authenticity of the nominated section of road is substantiated by the general topography as shown on the French route map (Figure 2), though the lack of a consistent north inherent in the format is particularly apparent for this portion. The bend in the Quinebaug River as it cuts through the steep ridges is an easily identifiable reference point. The presence of old houses along the route also helps to confirm the antiquity of the general alignment, even though they are not quite as old as the period of the French marches.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

**March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Bibliography:

Blanchard, Claude

1969 *The Journal of Claude Blanchard . . . 1780-1783*. William Duane, translator. Thomas Balch, editor. New York: Arno Press. Reprint of 1876 edition.

Harper, M., B. Clouette, and R. Harper

1999 *The Rochambeau Project: Historical and Archaeological Documentation of the French Army's Marches through Connecticut in 1781 and 1782*. Storrs, CT: PAST, Inc. and Keegans Associates. Prepared for the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Historic Resource Consultants, Inc.

1987 *Comprehensive Townwide Completion Survey of Plainfield*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission.

Rice, Howard C., Jr. and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.

1972 *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*. Princeton, N.J. and Providence, R.I.: Jointly published by Princeton University Press and Brown University Press. Two volumes. Includes the maps prepared by the French army and the journals of Berthier, Bévillie, Clermont-Crèvecoeur, and Verger.

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Section number 10 Page 1

March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

UTM References:

1. 19.254040.4619580
2. 19.254100.4619580
3. 19.254340.4619400
4. 19.254400.4619300
5. 19.254440.4619200
6. 19.254750.4619060

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of Old Canterbury Road and the portion of Canterbury Road (Route 14A) from its intersection with Old Canterbury Road eastward approximately 1,300 feet to a point where an electrical power line crosses. The road is construed as including the full width of the public right-of-way.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the portions of Old Canterbury Road and Canterbury Road (Route 14A) that retain the visual qualities that convey the segment's historical significance as a portion of the route traversed by the French Army in 1781-1782. Farther west on Route 14A, beyond the western terminus of Old Canterbury Road, the stone walls are no longer in place, the land is not open, and the road has been substantially widened.

The portion of Route 14A east of the intersection with Old Canterbury Road was included because the roadway, though widened, retains remnants of stone walls on both sides and because this portion is characterized by expansive views of cultivated fields. Farther to the east, the fields are interrupted or replaced by denser modern residential development.

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March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number Owners Page 1

Additional owner:

Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, Connecticut 06141-7546
860-594-3000

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**March Route of Rochambeau's Army:
Old Canterbury Road
Plainfield, Windham County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number Photographs Page 1

All Photographs:

1. March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Old Canterbury Road
2. Plainfield, Windham County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. April, 2001
5. Negative filed with PAST, Inc., Storrs, CT

Captions:

View of Old Canterbury Road at west end, camera facing southeast; utility line ends at this point
Photograph 1 of 8

Typical section of stone wall along south side of Old Canterbury Road, camera facing west at west end of road
Photograph 2 of 8

House at 48 Old Canterbury Road (west end), 1816, camera facing northwest
Photograph 3 of 8

Typical view of fields north side of Old Canterbury Road, approximate midpoint, camera facing southeast
Photograph 4 of 8

View of Old Canterbury Road near east end, showing mature maple trees on north side, camera facing northwest
Photograph 5 of 8

Detail of trunk of maple tree on north side of Old Canterbury Road, camera facing northeast
Photograph 6 of 8

Canterbury Road near its intersection with Old Canterbury Road, showing mid-20th-century barn, camera facing northeast
Photograph 7 of 8

View of stone wall and planted fields on south side of Canterbury Road, east end, camera facing southwest
Photograph 8 of 8