

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number Branford Point Historic District

2. Location

street & number Multiple - see continuation sheet not for publication
city, town Branford vicinity
state Connecticut code _____ county New Haven code 009 zip code 06405

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>158</u>	<u>49</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>161</u>	<u>51</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] August 9, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

[Signature] 9/15/88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic - single & multiple dwellings
Education - school
Recreation & Culture - outdoor recreation
Landscape - park
Agriculture/Subsistence - animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic - single & multiple dwellings
Commerce/Trade - specialty stores
Recreation/Culture - outdoor recreation
Landscape - park
Work in Progress - house construction/repair

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Early Republic
Mid-19th Century
Late Victorian
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals
Late 19th & Early 20th Century American
Movements

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
walls Wood
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Wood
Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Branford Point Historic District is a cohesive collection of relatively well preserved late 18th- through early 20th-century residences located in the Town of Branford, a small Connecticut coastal community situated approximately five miles east of the City of New Haven. Roughly bounded by the Branford River (east), Branford Harbor (south), an Amtrack railway (north), and Harbor Street/Bryan Road (west), the district extends southward from the southwestern corner of the town's historic village core.**

The district is laid out on a north/south axis. Its 54 acres are bisected into relatively equal northern and southern halves by the mouth of an eastward-flowing tributary of the Branford River. The landscape in the northern half of the district and the bulk of the southern half of the district rises gently approximately 20-25' from the Branford River toward the northwest and west, respectively. In its southwestern corner, the southern half of the district also includes a small but prominent 50-foot high hill overlooking the northern end of Branford Harbor.

In terms of physical appearance, the district maintains its historic integrity to a substantial degree. It currently contains only two vacant lots, and only a few significant intrusions have resulted from demolition and/or post-1938 construction. Including substantial outbuildings (e.g., garages, carriage houses, and boathouses), the district embraces a total of 207 buildings. Better than 75% of these buildings (158/207) contribute to the district's significance. Roughly half (26/51) of the buildings which have been designated as non-contributing are relatively small garages built after 1938 which, as a result of their siting and/or massing characteristics, have little or no significant impact on the area's historic visual character. Likewise, the modest massing, siting characteristics, and generally disparate locations of the district's remaining non-contributing buildings minimize their intrusive effects on district streetscapes. Where

**** Note:** Most of Branford's core village area was listed on the National Register in 1986 as part of the Branford Center Historic District.

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LOCATION (Cont.)

The following is a comprehensive list, by street and street number, of individual properties located within the Harbor Street Historic District.

BRYAN ROAD

Odd side - 3 through 49, inclusive.

Even side - 2 through 38, inclusive.

CURVE STREET

Odd side - 19 through 31, inclusive.

Even side - 16 through 28, inclusive.

HARBOR STREET

Odd side - 51 through 341, inclusive.

Even side - Parker Memorial Park; 58 through 342, inclusive.

MAPLE STREET

Odd side - 37 through 165, inclusive.

Even side - 70 through 130, inclusive.

PARKER MEMORIAL DRIVE

Odd side - 1 through 9, inclusive.

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DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

they have occurred, significant non-historic alterations to building exteriors are for the most part limited to modest, sympathetic, or unobtrusive additions; porch modifications; or the superimposition of manmade siding materials over original fabric.

Architectural styles/periods represented by district buildings include a variety of good, substantially intact vernacular interpretations of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts/Bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival. All but a handful of these buildings are one- to three-story wood-frame residential structures with cut-stone, brick, or concrete foundations, and gable or low-hip roofs topped by asphalt-shingle or asphalt-roll roofing (photographs 3-29). For the most part, building setbacks and spacings respectively vary between approximately 10-30' and 30-120' depending on location, and most individual lots appear to retain their pre-World War II perimeters (see attached sketch map for visual reference).

The district's two principal public thoroughfares are Harbor Street, which essentially bisects the area on a north/south axis, and Maple Street, which spans the northern end of the district on an east/west axis. Side streets include Bryan Road and Curve Street, both of which are located in the northern end of the district. The only other district road is Parker Memorial Drive, which wends its way through the area's only public park, a large undulating open space adjacent to the northern end of Branford Harbor (photograph 2). This drive provides seasonal vehicular access to the park's early 20th-century public lavatory building (photograph 1) and four privately owned late 19th/early 20th-century waterfront cottages which border the park's extreme southwestern edge.

The district is visually distinguished from its surroundings by a combination of natural and manmade physical characteristics. Its southern boundary is formed by Branford Harbor. Its eastern boundary is defined partly by the Branford River and partly by groups of predominantly post-1938 residential and commercial construction. The eastern portion of the district's northern boundary abuts a relatively broad, open hollow bisected on an east/west axis by the rail line of an Amtrack right-of-way. The western portion of the northern boundary as well as the western boundary as a whole are visually defined by extensive post World War II-era residential construction which dominates the areas north of properties on the north side of Maple Street and west of properties on the western sides of Harbor Street and Bryan Road.

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DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

An inventory of buildings and sites located within the Branford Point Historic District is provided on the following pages. Inventoried buildings and sites are presented in the following format:

STREET NAME

<u>St. #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Description</u>
14	(C)=contributing (N)=non-contributing	*Date of construction. Historic Name (Common Name). A: architect. B: builder. Brief description of building. Other buildings/structures associated with property. *Categories not listed if attributions unknown.

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BRYAN ROAD

- 2 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 29).
- 3-5 (C) - Ca. 1890. Frame Queen Anne.
- 9 (C) - Ca. 1900. Late 19th/early 20th-century frame house.
- 10 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 29). Garage (C).
- 11 (C) - Ca. 1935. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (N).
- 14 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 29). Garage (C).
- 17 (C) - Ca. 1920. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
- 18 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 29). Garage (C).
- 21 (C) - Ca. 1915. Frame Colonial Revival.
- 22 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 29). Garage (C).
- 25 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house.
- 26 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house.
- 29 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house.
- 30 (C) - Ca. 1930. Frame Colonial Revival.
- 33 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house.
- 34 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
- 36 (C) - Ca. 1930. Early 20th-century frame house. Garage (C).
- 37 (C) - Ca. 1920. Frame Bungalow. Garage (C).
- 38 (C) - Ca. 1930. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
- 41 (C) - Ca. 1920. Frame Bungalow. Garage (C).
- 45 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
- 49 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house. Garage (C).

CURVE STREET

- 16 (C) - Ca. 1870. Late 19th-century frame house.
- 19 (N) - Ca. 1945. Mid 20th-century frame house.
- 23 (C) - Ca. 1895. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 23).
- 26 (C) - Ca. 1915. Frame Bungalow. Outbuilding (N)
- 27 (N) - Ca. 1955. Late 20th-century frame house.
- 28 (N) - Ca. 1870. Extensively altered late 19th-century frame house.
- 31 (N) - Ca. 1945. Mid 20th-century frame house.

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HARBOR STREET

- (C) - Parker Memorial Park. Includes a ca. 1915 Arts and Crafts-style lavatory building (C) near Parker Memorial Drive (photograph 1); a ca. 1965 concrete block bathhouse (N); a tall granite seawall (C) fronting Branford Harbor; and decorative granite wall/piers/main entry gate (C) along Harbor Street side (photograph 2).
- 51 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Bungalow (photograph 2).
- 55 (N) - Ca. 1970. Late 20th-century frame house (photograph 2).
- 58 (C) - 1904. Robert Bradley House. Frame Shingle (photograph 3). Garage (C).
- 61 (N) - 1987. Late 20th-century frame house (under construction).
- 62 (C) - 1927-28. William Crawford House. Frame Bungalow (photograph 3). Garage (C).
- 64 (C) - Ca. 1930. Frame Bungalow.
- 65 (C) - Ca. 1880. George Parker House. Frame Italianate. Garage (C).
- 69 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house.
- 74 (C) - 1878. George Benton House. Frame Italianate (photograph 5). Garage (N).
- 75 (C) - Ca. 1860. Jared Shepard House. Frame Italianate/Greek Revival. Small 20th-century frame house (N) on rear of lot.
- 81 (C) - Ca. 1860. Justus B. Linsley House. Mid 19th-century frame house (photograph 4). Garage (N).
- 86 (C) - 1879. Roland Averill House. Late 19th-century frame house. Garage (N).
- 91 (C) - Ca. 1925. Oscar Wadstrom House. Builder: probably Oscar Wadstrom. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 6). Mid 20th-century frame house (N) and garage (C) on rear of lot.
- 92 (C) - Ca. 1840. John B. Linsley House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 8). Garage (N).
- 98 (C) - Ca. 1840. Baldwin-Shepard House. Frame Greek Revival. Garage (C).
- 99 (C) - Ca. 1790. John Linsley House. Frame Federal (photograph 7). Early barn (C), corn crib (C), garage (C), and chicken coop (C) on rear of lot (photograph 9).
- 108 (C) - Ca. 1885. Edward Shepard House. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 10). Garage (C).
- 109 (C) - Ca. 1855. Obed Linsley House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 11). Garage (N).
- 115 (C) - 1858. Morris Averill House. Frame Greek Revival/Italianate (photograph 11). Carriage House (C).

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HARBOR STREET (Cont.)

- 116 (C) - Ca. 1885. Mary Lanphier House. Frame Queen Anne.
120 (C) - Ca. 1895. Adelaide Judson House. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (N).
123 (C) - Ca. 1855. Daniel Averill House. Frame Greek Revival/Italianate (photograph 12). Mid 20th-century frame house (N) on rear of lot.
125 (N) - Ca. 1945. Frame Colonial Revival.
129 (N) - Ca. 1965. Late 20th-century frame house. Garage (N).
132 (N) - Ca. 1945. Mid 20th-century frame house. Garage (N).
136 (C) - 1835. Horace Lanphier House. Frame Federal/Greek Revival (photograph 13). Garage (N).
139 (C) - 1852. Daniel Beardsley House. Frame Second Empire (photograph 14). Garage (N).
146 (C) - Ca. 1900. Michael Bodner House. Late 19th/early 20th-century frame house. Carriage House (C) on rear of lot.
150 (C) - Ca. 1900. John Renner House. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (C).
156 (C) - Between 1833-1837. Sylvester Pond House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 15).
-- (N) - Vacant lot (western side of street).
157 (N) - Ca. 1970. Late 20th-century frame house.
159 (C) - Ca. 1860. George Averill House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 16).
161 (C) - Ca. 1860. David Averill House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 16).
165 (C) - Ca. 1860. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 16).
167 (C) - Ca. 1860. S.T. Spink House. Frame Greek Revival. Garage (N). Small 1938 frame house (N) on rear of lot.
202 (C) - Ca. 1800. Tide Mill House. Frame Federal with Colonial Revival alterations (photograph 17).
211 (C) - Ca. 1860. Frame Greek Revival/Italianate (photograph 17). Boathouse (C).
213 (C) - Ca. 1925. Carl Brommels House. Frame Colonial Revival.
215 (C) - Ca. 1930. Stuccoed frame Spanish Colonial Revival.
218 (C) - 1900. Martin Sullivan House. Late 19th/early 20th-century frame house.
224 (C) - Ca. 1910. Frederick Prout House. Early 20th-century frame house.
228 (C) - Ca. 1880. Andrew Loveree House. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (C).
230 (C) - 1874. Friend Bobford House. Builder: probably John Cleeton. Late 19th-century frame house. Garage (N).
231 (C) - Ca. 1825. Benjamin Carter House. Frame Federal (photograph 18). Garage (N).

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- 240 (N) - Ca. 1940. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 19). Garage (N).
243 (C) - Ca. 1900. Late 19th/early 20th-century frame house.
247 (C) - Ca. 1875. Jerome Parmalee House. Frame Italianate.
251 (C) - 1871. Edward Jones House. Frame Italianate.
252 (C) - Ca. 1860. Merritt Monroe House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 19). Garage (C).
254 (C) - Ca. 1850. Alvin Monroe House. Frame Greek Revival (photograph 19). Garage (N).
255 (N) - Ca. 1970. Brick Apartment Building.
263 (N) - Ca. 1970. Brick Apartment Building. Garage (N).
258 (C) - Ca. 1850. Josiah Monroe House. Mid 19th-century frame house. Garage (C).
264 (C) - William Morris House. Frame Greek Revival. Garage (N).
268 (C) - Ca. 1890. Josiah Monroe House. Late 19th-century frame house.
272 (C) - Ca. 1890. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (N).
276 (C) - Ca. 1890. John Prince House. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (N).
282 (C) - Ca. 1890. Joseph Matteson House. Late 19th-century frame house. Garage (C).
283 (N) - Ca. 1965. Late 20th-century frame house.
285 (C) - Ca. 1935. Frame Colonial Revival.
286 (C) - 1897. Johnson-Oster House. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (C).
287 (C) - Ca. 1850. L. Foote House. Frame Greek Revival. Garage (C).
295 (N) - Ca. 1970. Late 20th-century frame house.
312 (N) - Ca. 1940. (Sunshine Store). Frame Colonial Revival.
321 (C) - Ca. 1895. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 21).
323 (C) - Ca. 1895. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 21).
341 (C) - Ca. 1880. Frame Italianate/Queen Anne. Garage (C).
342 (C) - Ca. 1915. Harbor Street School (VFW Post 10186). Brick Colonial Revival (photograph 20).

MAPLE STREET

- 37 (C) - Ca. 1900. Frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
45 (C) - Ca. 1890. Late 19th-century frame house (photograph 25). Garage (C).
47 (C) - Ca. 1915. (Treasure House). Early 20th-century frame building (photograph 25).
49 (C) - Ca. 1910. Early 20th-century frame house (photograph 25). Garage (N).
57 (C) - Ca. 1900. Frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival (photograph 25).
59 (C) - Ca. 1928. Early 20th-century frame house (photograph 25). Garage (C).

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MAPLE STREET (Cont.)

- 69 (C) - Ca. 1890. Frame Queen Anne.
- 70 (C) - Ca. 1890. (Dutch Wharf Office Building). Frame Queen Anne (photograph 24).
- 76 (N) - Ca. 1965. (Harbor Package Store). Late 20th-century frame commercial building.
- 77 (C) - Ca. 1920. Frame Colonial Revival.
- 83 (C) - Ca. 1885. Frame Queen Anne. Garage (C).
- 84 (C) - 1886. Frederick J. Jourdan House. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 23).
- 87 (C) - Ca. 1920. Frame Colonial Revival. Garage (C).
- 101 (N) - Ca. 1956. Late 20th-century brick house.
- 113 (C) - Ca. 1915. Frame Bungalow.
- 115 (C) - Ca. 1890. Frame Queen Anne.
- 120 (C) - Ca. 1900. Frame Colonial Revival (photograph 26). Garage (C).
- 121 (C) - Ca. 1870. Late 19th-century frame house.
- 130 (C) - Ca. 1900. Late 19th/early 20th-century frame house. Quonset hut (N) on rear of property.
- (N) - Vacant lot (northern side of street).
- 139 (C) - Ca. 1885. Frame Queen Anne (photograph 27).
- 151 (N) - Ca. 1970. Late 20th-century frame house.
- 161 (C) - Ca. 1925. Frame Colonial Revival/Bungalow (photograph 28).
- 163 (C) - Ca. 1900. Frame Queen Anne/Colonial Revival (photograph 28). Garage (N).
- 165 (C) - Ca. 1930. Frame Tudor Revival. Garage (C).

PARKER MEMORIAL DRIVE

- 1 (C) - Ca. 1930. Early 20th-century frame building.
- 3 (C) - 1897. Lester Cottage. Frame Queen Anne.
- 5 (C) - Ca. 1900. Frame barn; remodelled for use as house ca. 1930.
- 7 (C) - 1900. Sexton Cottage. Frame Colonial Revival.
- 9 (C) - Ca. 1885. Chase Cottage. Frame Stick.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1785 - 1938

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
As noted in Item # 7 - inventory list

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Branford Point Historic District is significant as a distinct and relatively compact concentration of substantially intact houses which effectively document the development of residential architecture in coastal Branford between the Revolutionary and Second World Wars (Criterion C). These houses include some of Branford's best surviving examples of popular historic vernacular architectural styles, such as late Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts/Bungalow, Shingle, and Colonial Revival.

Historical Context

The district occupies the bulk of a large area adjacent to the southwestern corner of Branford Center commonly referred to since the late 19th century as Branford Point. The northern half of the area had previously been known as the Dutch Wharf Quarter, an allusion to the Dutch traders who were said to have established a riverfront post near the present junction of Harbor and Maple Streets prior to the advent of English settlers. The southern half of the area had been known as Mulliners Neck; it was named after Thomas Mulliner, a squatter who was living there when sizable groups of settlers from the established towns of Wethersfield and New Haven first arrived in Branford 1644/45.

Over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries, Branford Point gradually developed into one of the town's principal coastal farming areas. The district retained a strongly rural flavor well into the first quarter of the 19th century. For example, by 1820 the area's dominant physical

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Atlas of New Haven County, Connecticut. New York: F.W. Beers, A.D. Ellis and G.G. Soule, 1868.
- Avery, Clara. The Averell, Averill, Avery Family. (2 vols.) Cleveland, Ohio: Press of Evangelical Publishers, n.d.
- Bird's Eye View of Branford. New York: Hughes and Bailey, 1905.
- Branford Assessor's Records.
- Branford City Directories. Price and Lee, 1900-1928.
- Branford, Connecticut: Architectural and Historical Resources in the Town of Branford, Phase I. Architectural Preservation Trust of Branford, Inc., 1985.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Approximately 54

UTM References

A

1	8	6	8	2	8	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing			

C

1	8	6	8	2	7	0	0	4	5	7	0	6	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	6	8	2	6	8	0	4	5	7	1	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	6	8	2	6	6	0	4	5	7	0	5	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

North - From the junction of the northwest line on Maple Street and the northeastern property line of 37 Maple Street: proceed northwest along the northeastern property line of 37 Maple Street to the northern property line of 19 Curve Street; then west along the northern property lines of the lots fronting the northern side of Curve Street, continuing across Harbor Street to the northern property line of 342 Harbor Street; then west along the northern property line of 342 Harbor Street to See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Branford Point Historic District were delineated on the basis of the following four general criteria:

- a) The thematic unity of the district as a cohesive congregation of substantially intact structures, sites, and buildings representing a broad variety of architectural See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title J. Paul Loether/Principal

organization J.P. Loether Associates date March 4, 1988

street & number 35 Pierpont Street telephone (203) 787-3437

city or town New Haven state CT zip code 06513

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features still consisted of open fields, a few scattered outbuildings, and three scattered houses occupied by the area's principal landowners, Obed Linsley and his sons, Elnathan and John.

Well into the first quarter of the 19th century, the only overland public way between Branford Center and the district was a relatively long and circuitous route which entered the southernmost end of the area from the west/northwest. (Today, this route is roughly outlined by Bradley, Swift, and Linsley Streets, and Stannard Avenue.) Improved access between the district and Branford Center, which was afforded by the opening of Harbor and Maple Streets in 1819, proved a major factor in the district's gradual emergence as a significant summer resort and residential locus during the ensuing years of the 19th century. For example, Elnathan Linsley, who had petitioned the town to open Harbor Street, subsequently initiated the development of the beach area at the southern end of the street for recreational use. By the end of the 19th century, the southwestern corner of this property had emerged as the site of a handful of small summer cottages fronting Branford Harbor. Between the mid 19th and early years of the 20th centuries, the remainder of this sizable harborfront tract was utilized by George T. Parker as the site of his Branford Point House and wharf (no longer extant), and a large picnic/recreation grove. The grove and its adjacent beach, which were readily accessed by regularly scheduled coastal steamer, achieved particular favor as a local day resort during the second half of the 19th century. The survival of this latter area's essential character and function was ensured in 1912, when Parker's heirs donated the property to the Town of Branford for its present use as Parker Memorial Park (photographs 1 and 2).

The erection of the Benjamin Carter House (231 Harbor Street - photograph 18) in the 1820s, presaged the appearance of more than two dozen additional residences -- many of them built for variously related descendants of the Linsleys -- along both sides of the southern two-thirds of Harbor Street during the ensuing six decades. Between 1880 and the early years of the twentieth century, much of the northernmost portion of Harbor Street, as well as portions of Curve and Maple Streets, emerged as a notable residential locus for employees of Branford Center's massive Malleable Iron

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SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

foundry. (The extensive physical plant associated with this former company, which is currently listed on the National Register, still abuts the district's northeastern edge.)

As in much of coastal Branford, the arrival of a trolley line from nearby New Haven through the area around the turn of the century, followed by the advent of the family car shortly thereafter, led to a gradual suburbanization of Branford Point. The district's present street pattern was finalized in the early 20th century, when Bryan Road was laid out through the northwestern portion of the area. With the ensuing development of Bryan Road as a suburban-style residential subdivision, and the construction of a neighborhood school (photograph 20) and a handful of additional "infill" houses on several of the district's few remain lots along Harbor and Maple Streets, the district's historic pre-World War II development was essentially complete.

Architectural Significance

The district forms one of Branford's best-preserved concentrations of late 18th- through early 20th-century residential architecture. Its buildings include several individually distinct as well as numerous modest examples of major architectural styles which emerged in Branford over the course of this era.

The earliest houses in the district are the ca. 1785 John Linsley House at 99 Harbor Street and Obed Linsley's ca. 1800 "Tide Mill House" at 202 Harbor Street. While exhibiting some exterior alterations dating from the mid 19th and early 20th centuries, respectively, these two houses continue to stand as good examples of early Federal-period rural architecture in Branford (photographs 9 and 17). This era is also represented by the ca. 1825 Benjamin Carter House at 231 Harbor Street, a locally rare survival of the 1 and 1/2-story, 5-bay-wide Federal-era house form (photograph 18).

The Greek Revival-style, which achieved widespread popularity throughout most of the nation's northeast during the mid 19th century, is particularly well-represented in the district. The earliest example incorporating major

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBranford Point Historic District
Branford, ConnecticutSection number 8 Page 4**SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)**

elements of this style is the ca. 1835 Horace Lanphier House at 136 Harbor Street, which displays a fully pedimented gable front and a prominent Greek Revival-style front entry shielded by a small Tuscan porch while retaining a Federal-style fanlight in its front gable tympanum (photograph 13). Slightly later and more typical examples of this style include the ca. 1840 Baldwin-Shepard House at 98 Harbor Street, the ca. 1855 Obed Linsley House at 109 Harbor Street (photograph 11), and the ca. 1840 John B. Linsley House at 92 Harbor Street. Featuring a front elevation elaborated by a rectangular gable window with geometric tracery, a main entablature embellished by modillions with guttae, 6-over-6 pane first and second-story windows topped by decorative heads, and a prominent Doric entry porch, this house stands as one of the finest surviving examples of its style, form, and period within the Town of Branford as a whole (photograph 8).

The mid-to-late 1850s proved to be a stylistically transitional era in the district, with the Greek Revival gradually giving way to the Italianate as the preferred architectural style. The district includes several substantially intact houses with exteriors which clearly reflect this stylistic transition. For example, the main block of the ca. 1855 Daniel Averill House at 123 Harbor Street retains the basic massing and exterior detailing of its earlier Greek Revival neighbors, while incorporating a large and flamboyant Italianate-style wraparound porch (photograph 12). A similar, though somewhat less exuberant example of such stylistic mixture is also exhibited on the exterior of the ca. 1860 Jared Shepard House at 70 Harbor Street (photograph 4). A more typical version of the local Italianate style is provided by the 1878 George Benton House at 74 Harbor Street. With its semicircular-arch front gable window, deep eaves terminating in prominent cornice returns, chamfered porch posts rising into molded capitals flanked by scroll sawn spandrels, and bracketed oriel-like first and second-story window bays, this house stands as an excellent example of the style as it had evolved locally by the post Civil War period (photograph 5).

The district also embraces one of the best of Branford's few surviving examples of the 19th-century Second Empire style -- the Daniel Beardsley House at 139 Harbor Street (photograph 14). Constructed as a low-hip roof Italianate in 1852, the house's present mansard roof appears to have been incorporated during the mid 1870s. (Alterations of this type were not uncommon in this portion of the state during the latter decades of the 19th century.)

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Branford Point Historic District
Branford, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 5

SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

Most of the Queen Anne-style houses built in the district during the latter decades of the century were relatively modest structures erected for workers employed by the nearby Malleable Iron foundry (photographs 21 and 27). However, the district's buildings also include two of the finest houses of this style and period still standing in Branford -- the ca. 1885 Edward Shepard House at 108 Harbor Street, and the 1886 Frederick J. Jourdan House and 84 Maple Street. With its almost wholly intact interior and exterior (which currently features a multi-color period paint scheme), the Shepard House stands as a quintessential example of a Queen Anne-style country cottage (photograph 10). The Jourdan House, which also retains virtually all of its original exterior massing and detailing features, is one of the town's premier surviving examples of a large Queen Anne-style frame house (photograph 23).

Most of the residential development which took place in the district following the turn of the 20th-century consisted of infill construction along Harbor and Maple Streets, and the construction of groups of houses along both sides of newly laid out Bryan Road. Particularly notable examples of houses dating from this era include the 1904 Robert Bradley House at 58 Harbor Street, an excellent diminutive example of the locally rare Shingle style, and the frame and stone Bungalow erected for William Crawford at 62 Harbor Street in 1927-28 (photograph 3). The emerging popularity of the Colonial Revival style in Branford during this era is reflected in both the groups of essentially intact and virtually identical, modest gambrel-, gable-, and hip-roofed houses erected along both sides of Bryan Road between the 1910s and early 1930s (photograph 29), as well as by somewhat more disparate houses such as those located at 120 and 161 Maple Street (photographs 26 and 28).

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Branford, Connecticut

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Continuation Sheet**

Branford Point Historic District
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont.)

UTM References (cont.)

Point Zone/Easting/Northing

E.	18/682680/4570480
F.	18/682560/4570240
G.	18/682540/4569770
H.	18/682560/4569720
I.	18/682480/4569710
J.	18/682480/4569870
K.	18/682240/4569850
L.	18/682200/4569900
M.	18/682220/4569990
✓N.	18/682280/4570090
✓O.	18/682450/4570090
✓P.	18/682460/4570300
✓Q.	18/682600/4570560
✓R.	18/682570/4570780
✓S.	18/682480/4570790
✓T.	18/682500/4570950
✓U.	18/682390/4570950
✓V.	18/682260/4571040
✓W.	18/682560/4571040
✓X.	18/682560/4571150
Y.	18/682770/4571170

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Branford Point Historic District
Branford, Connecticut

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont.)

Verbal Boundary Description (cont.)

the western property line of 342 Harbor Street; then south along the western property lines of 342 Harbor Street and 113 Maple Street to the junction of the eastern and northern property lines of 121 Maple Street; then west along the northern property lines of the lots fronting the northern line of Maple Street to the western property line of 165 Maple Street.

West -

From the junction of the northern and western property lines of 165 Maple Street: proceed south along the western property line of 165 Maple Street, continuing southeast across Maple Street to the junction of the southern line of Maple Street and the western property line of 130 Maple Street; then south along the western property line of 130 Maple Street to the southern property line of 130 Maple Street; then east along the southern property lines of 130 and 120 Maple Street to the western property line of 17 Bryan Road; then south along the western property lines of the lots fronting the western side of Bryan Road to the northeastern line of Reynolds Avenue; then southeast along the northeastern line of Reynolds Avenue to the junction of the western line of Bryan Road; then northeast across Bryan Road to the junction of the eastern line of Bryan Road and the southern property line of 38 Bryan Road; the east along the southern property line of 38 Bryan Road to the western property line of 252 Harbor Street; then south along the western property line of 252 Harbor Street to the southern property line of 252 Harbor Street; then east along the southern property line of 252 Harbor Street to the western property line of 240 Harbor Street; then in a generally southerly direction along the westernmost property lines of the lots fronting the western side of Harbor Street, continuing across all intervening streams, marshes and streets, to the northern property line of of Parker Memorial Park, so as to include all properties bordering the western side of Harbor Street; then west and southwest along the northern and northwestern property lines of Parker Memorial Park to the coastline of Branford Harbor.

South -

From the junction of the northwestern property line of Park Memorial and the coastline of Branford Harbor: follow the coastline of Branford Harbor

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Continuation SheetBranford Point Historic District
Branford, ConnecticutSection number 10 Page 4**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (Cont.)**

in an easterly and southerly direction to the southernmost tip of land at Branford Point.

East -

From the southernmost tip of land at Branford Point: proceed northeast and north along the coastline of the Branford River to the junction of the northernmost property line of land at Branford Point owned by the Town of Branford; then west along the northernmost property line of land owned by the Town of Branford to the eastern line of Harbor Street; then north along the eastern line of Harbor Street to the southern property line of 51 Harbor Street; then east along the southern property line of 51 Harbor Street to the eastern property line of 51 Harbor Street; then north along the easternmost property lines of the lots fronting the eastern side of Harbor Street (crossing all intervening side streets, streams, etc.) to the junction of the eastern and northern property lines of 255 Harbor Street; then northwest to the junction of the southern and eastern property lines of 283 Harbor Street so as to include only the two westernmost buildings associated with the properties at 259-63 Harbor Street; then north along the eastern property lines of the lots fronting the eastern side of Harbor Street to the southern property line of 84 Maple Street; then east along the southern property line of 84 Maple Street to the westernmost property line of 76 Maple Street; then south along the westernmost property line of 76 Maple Street to the southernmost property line of 76 Maple Street; then northeast and southeast along the southernmost property line of 76 Maple Street to point due southwest of the northeasternmost building associated with 70 Maple Street; then due east to the northeastern line of the driveway leading from Maple Street into the lot at 70 Maple Street so as to include the northeasternmost building associated with the property at 70 Maple Street; then northwest along the northeastern line of the aforesaid driveway to the southeastern line of Maple Street; then northeast along the southeastern line of Maple Street to a point due south of the junction of the northwestern line of Maple Street and the northeastern property line of 37 Maple Street; then north to the junction of the northwestern line of Maple Street and the northeastern property line of 37 Maple Street and the beginning of the northern boundary as described previously herein.

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Branford Point Historic District
Branford, Connecticut

Section number 10 Page 5

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont.)

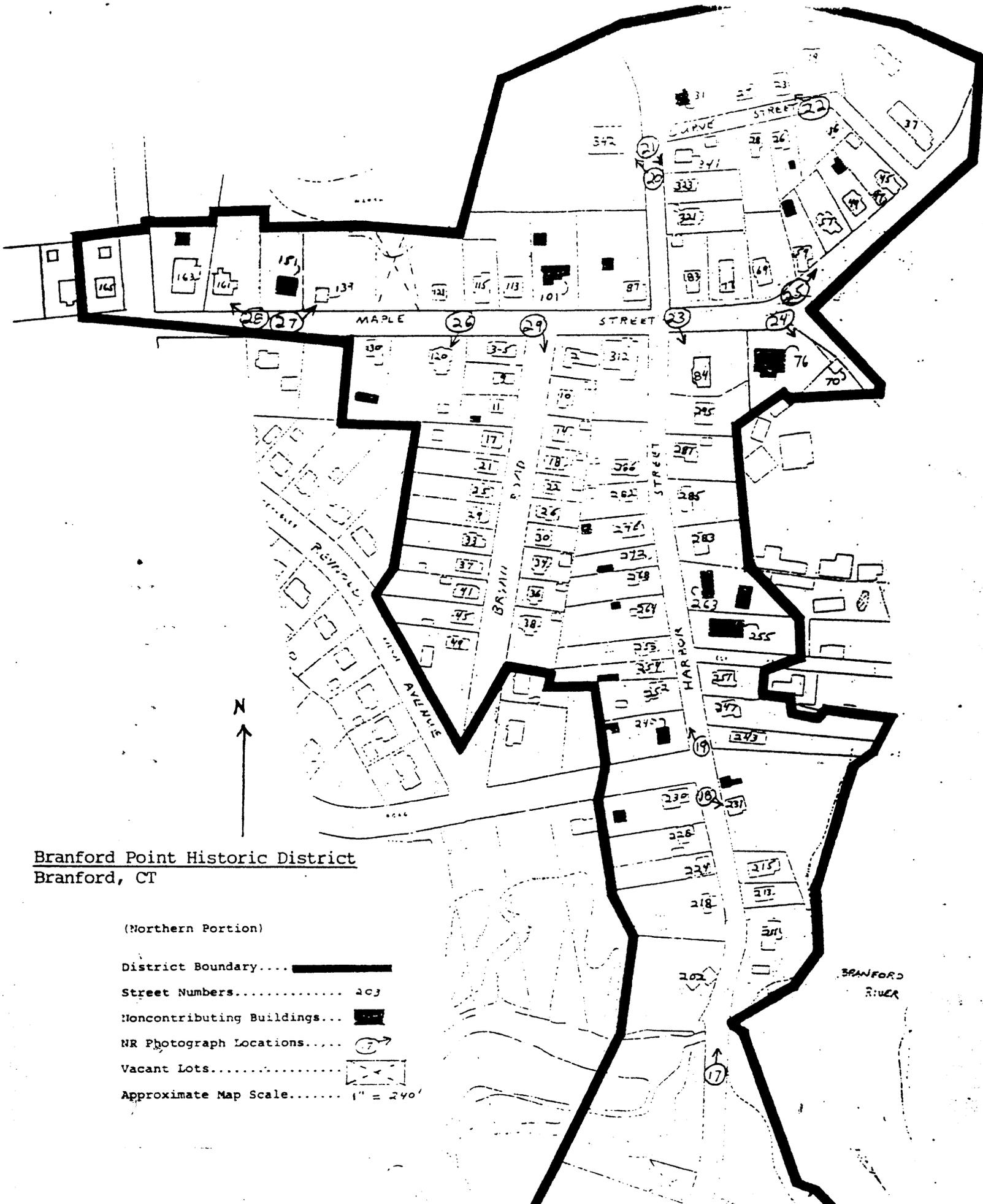
Boundary Justification (cont.)

styles and periods and effectively document the district's development between the late 18th and early 20th centuries.

b) Current physical characteristics of the district which visually distinguish the area from the surrounding portions of the town of Branford.

c) The exclusion of properties which do not contribute to the historical or architectural integrity of the district, wherever such exclusions were reasonable and practical.

d) Conformance with the general National Park Service exclusionary guidelines for buildings, structures, sites, and objects less than 50 years old.



Branford Point Historic District
 Branford, CT

(Northern Portion)

- District Boundary.....
- Street Numbers.....
- Noncontributing Buildings...
- NR Photograph Locations.....
- Vacant Lots.....
- Approximate Map Scale..... 1" = 240'

Branford Point
Historic District
Branford, CT

(Southern Portion)

District Boundary..... 

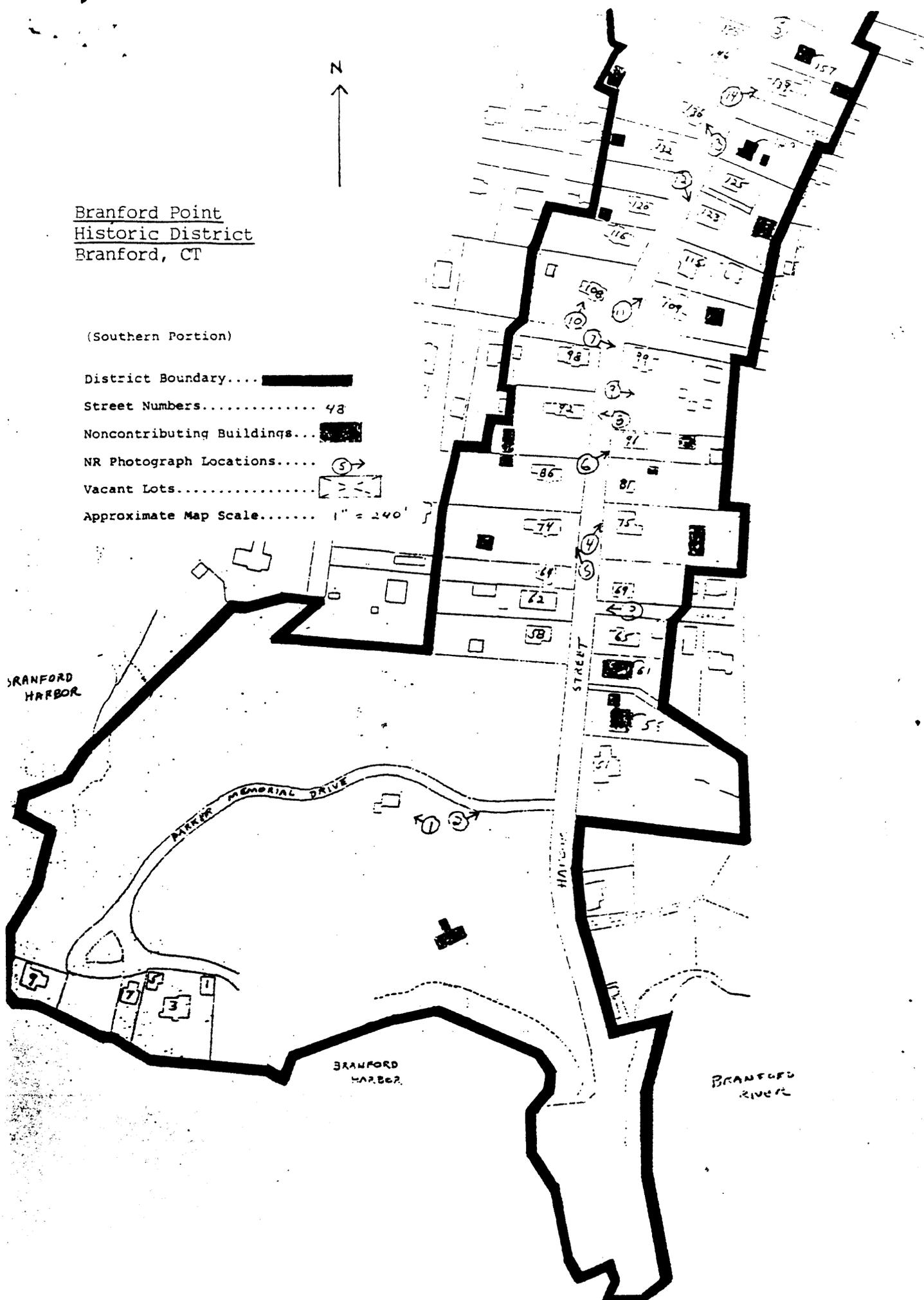
Street Numbers..... 48

Noncontributing Buildings... 

NR Photograph Locations..... 

Vacant Lots..... 

Approximate Map Scale..... 1" = 240'



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PHOTOGRAPHS

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The following is an identification list of black and white photographs included as part of the National Register Inventory/Nomination Form documentation for the Harbor Street Historic District, Branford, CT. Please note that the following information items apply to each photograph included in this list.

- 1) **...Harbor Street Historic District.**
- 2) Branford, CT.
- 3) Photo by J.P. Loether.
- 4) November, 1987.
- 5) Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT.

- - -

- 1) **Parker Memorial Park (lavatory building on Parker Memorial Drive).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 1.**

- 1) **L-R: 55 Harbor Street (noncontributing), 51 Harbor Street, main entrance gate - Parker Memorial Park.**
- 6) View from west/southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 2.**

- 1) **L-R: 58 Harbor Street (Robert Bradley House) and 62 Harbor Street (William Crawford House).**
- 6) View from east.
- 7) **Photograph 3.**

- 1) **L-R: 81 Harbor Street (Justus B. Linsley House) and 75 Harbor Street (Jared Shepard House).**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 4.**

- 1) **L-R: 74 Harbor Street (George Benton House) and 86 Harbor Street (Roland Averill House).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 5.**

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Branford Point Historic District
Branford, Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 2

- 1) **91 Harbor Street (Oscar Wadstrom House).**
- 6) View from west/southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 6.**

- 1) **99 Harbor Street (John Linsley House).**
- 6) View from west.
- 7) **Photograph 7.**

- 1) **92 Harbor Street (John B. Linsley House).**
- 6) View from east.
- 7) **Photograph 8.**

- 1) **99 Harbor Street (outbuildings).**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 9.**

- 1) **108 Harbor Street (Edward Shepard House).**
- 6) View from south/southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 10.**

- 1) **R-L: 109 Harbor Street (Obed Linsley House) and 115 Harbor Street (Morris Averill House).**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 11.**

- 1) **123 Harbor Street (Daniel Averill House).**
- 6) View from northeast.
- 7) **Photograph 12.**

- 1) **L-R: 136 Harbor Street (Horace Lamphier House) and 146 Harbor Street (Michael Bodner House).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 13.**

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Branford, Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 3

- 1) **139 Harbor Street (Daniel Beardsley House).**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 14.**

- 1) **156 Harbor Street (Sylvester Pond House).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 15.**

- 1) **R-L: 159 Harbor Street (George Averill House), 161 Harbor Street (David Averill House), and 165 Harbor Street.**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 16.**

- 1) **L-R: 202 Harbor Street (Tide Mill House) and 211 Harbor Street (boathouse in foreground, main house in background).**
- 6) View from south.
- 7) **Photograph 17.**

- 1) **231 Harbor Street (Benjamin Carter House).**
- 6) View from northwest.
- 7) **Photograph 18.**

- 1) **L-R: 240 Harbor Street (noncontributing), 252 Harbor Street (Merritt Monroe House) and 254 Harbor Street (Alvin Monroe House).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 19.**

- 1) **342 Harbor Street (Harbor Street School).**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 20.**

- 1) **L-R: 323-27 Harbor Street and 321 Harbor Street.**
- 6) View from northeast.
- 7) **Photograph 21.**

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Branford Point Historic District
Branford, Connecticut

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 4

- 1) **23 Curve Street.**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 22.**

- 1) **84 Maple Street (Frederick J. Jourdan House.**
- 6) View from north/northwest.
- 7) **Photograph 23.**

- 1) **70 Maple Street (Dutch Wharf Office).**
- 6) View from northwest.
- 7) **Photograph 24.**

- 1) **L-R: 59 Maple Street, 57 Maple Street, 49 Maple Street, 47 Maple Street, and 45 Maple Street.**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 25.**

- 1) **120 Maple Street.**
- 6) View from northeast
- 7) **Photograph 26.**

- 1) **139 Maple Street.**
- 6) View from southwest.
- 7) **Photograph 27.**

- 1) **R-L: 161 Maple Street and 163 Maple Street.**
- 6) View from southeast.
- 7) **Photograph 28.**

- 1) **L-R: 2, 10, 14, 18, and 22 Bryan Road.**
- 6) View from north.
- 7) **Photograph 29.**