1. **Name of Property**
   - historic name:__________
   - other names/site number: Sherman Historic District

2. **Location**
   - street & number: see continuation sheet
   - city, town: Sherman
   - state: Connecticut
code CT
   - county: Fairfield
code 001
   - zip code: 06784

3. **Classification**
   - Ownership of Property:
     - ☒ private
     - ☐ public-local
     - ☐ public-State
     - ☐ public-Federal
   - Category of Property:
     - ☒ buildings
     - ☒ district
     - ☒ site
     - ☒ structure
     - ☒ object
   - Number of Resources within Property:
     - Contributing: 54
     - Noncontributing: 7
     - buildings: 7
     - sites: 2
     - structures: 1
     - objects: 57

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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 of certifying official:
   Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
   Date: 6/21/91

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:)

Entered in the National Register: 7/3/91

Signature of the Keeper: ___________________________
Date of Action: ___________________________
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
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<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural building</td>
<td>EDUCATION/school</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT/town hall/post office</td>
<td>RECREATION AND CULTURE/playhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility</td>
<td>COMMERCE/TRADE/store</td>
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<td>RELIGION/church</td>
<td>EDUCATION/school</td>
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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**

| foundation STONE/granite |
| walls WOOD/weatherboard |
| roof BRICK |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sherman Historic District encompasses the center of the Town of Sherman, a community in northern Fairfield County on Connecticut's western border. Situated at the junction of State Routes 37 and 39, the district includes the historic district established by state enabling legislation and contains 64 contributing and non-contributing resources. The majority of the 57 (89%) contributing resources are houses and their associated outbuildings, including a nineteenth-century hat shop. Several schools, a town hall, a library, a store, and a former church complete the district.

Because of the linear settlement pattern, most of the resources are located along the route of a former turnpike, Route 37, the main street of the town, and Old Greenswood Road, now a deadend street, at the southern end. Several streams run through the district, including Sawmill Brook, which feeds Lake Candlewood, a man made reservoir to the southeast of the district. Waterpowered industry was located along this brook in the nineteenth century. Some of the district's major buildings face each other across the highway near the intersection of Sawmill Road which enters from the southeast near the head of the district (Photograph #s 1, 2). They range in age from about 1800 to 1926 and are representative of several stages of the town's architectural and institutional development. From the Federal and Greek Revival periods of the early nineteenth century are the circa 1800 David Northrop House and the Hawley Store. Also located there are the 1886 Town Hall and the 1926 Sherman Library, the latter built on the site of the eighteenth-century Fuller Tavern and one the last historic buildings to be constructed in the district. The only major change in the district has been the lowering of the roadbed of the highway as it runs uphill past the cemetery and an elevated knoll overlooking the town, the site of Center Church and Center School (Photograph #3). This site has always been the location of the town's meetinghouses and today a modern town hall is located there outside the district.

Just south of the Hawley Store are two of the oldest remaining houses in the district, the Perry Briggs House and the Potter/Hawley House. The Potter/Hawley House is classic five-bay Colonial probably dating from the mid-eighteenth century (Inventory #17; Photograph #4). The builder is unknown but William Potter, an early nineteenth-century owner, is probably responsible for the Federal doorway with sidelights. The northwest corner of the Briggs House was one of the earliest stores in town (Inventory #22; Photograph #5). The house was enlarged to its present...
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut

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Location:
Old Greenswood Road: 3, 8, 10.
Route 39 North: 7.
Route 37 Center: Map 77/Lot 30, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 20, 22, 27.
Route 37 East: 1, 2, 4, 6.
Sawmill Road: 1, Map 75/50, 2, Map 77/Lot 30, Map 75/29, 3, 5, 7, 8.

Property Owners' List (as of 1/15/91)

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<tr>
<th>Inv.#</th>
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<th>Owner(s)</th>
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<td>William &amp; Patricia Braislin</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>8 &quot;</td>
<td>(75/3) William E. &amp; Joann Heinz</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>(75/6) same as above</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>7 Route 39 North (77/6)</td>
<td>Town of Sherman</td>
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<td>Sherman Center Cemetery Association</td>
<td>Mallory Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9 Route 39 North</td>
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<td>1 &quot;</td>
<td>(77/31) Library Association of Sherman</td>
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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut

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<td>Route 37 Center (77/33)</td>
<td>B &amp; D Associates, P. O. Box 309, Sherman, CT 06784</td>
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<td>15. 4</td>
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<td>Elsie M. Smith, same as above</td>
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<td>Donald F. &amp; Ida M. Esser, Cozier Hill Ext., Sherman, CT 06784</td>
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<td>19. 6</td>
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<td>Anthony &amp; Sara Phillips, 310 E. 44th Street, New York, NY 10017</td>
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<td>22. 7</td>
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<td>Jay &amp; Beth Trott, same as above</td>
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<td>23. 7</td>
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<td>27. 9</td>
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<td>Edith A. Johnson, same as above</td>
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<td>Robert R., Doris M. &amp; Joel A. Judd, Route 3; Box 125, Sherman, CT 06784</td>
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<td>33. 11</td>
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<td>34. 11</td>
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<td>35. 14</td>
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National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut  
Section number 2  Page 3  

36. 14 Route 37 Center (17/20)  Alice Shneckenburger  
37. 14 " " same as above  
38. 20 " (75/9) Philip Schneckenburger  
39. 22 " (75/8) Sheila S. Shepard  
40. 22 " " same as above  
41. 27 " (75/58-1) Raymond E. Giddings  
42. 27 " " same as above  
43. 1 Route 37 East (77/20) Richard & Joan Goettler  
44. 1 " " same as above  
45. 2 " (77/29) Town of Sherman  
46. 4 " (77/28) Town of Sherman  
47. 6 " (77/26) Lynne J. Phillips  
48. 6 " " same as above  
49. 6 " " same as above  
50. 6 " " same as above  
51. 6 " " same as above  
52. 1 Sawmill Road (77/32) Ed & Edith Altvater  
53. 1 " " same as above  
54. -- " (75/50) same as above  
55. -- " " same as above  
56. 2 " (75/51) Kenneth & Georgia Booth  
57. 2 " " same as above
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National Park Service  

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Continuation Sheet  

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Section number 2 Page 4  

<table>
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<th>Address</th>
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| 58.    | Sawmill Road (77/30)| Sherman Center Cemetery Association | Mallory Town Hall  
9 Route 39 North  
Sherman, CT 06784 |
| 59.    | Sawmill Road (75/29)| (vacant) Town of Sherman | same as above |
| 60.    | " (75/30)          | Katherine S. Hall; Leo F., Claire M., & Paul K. Risko | same as above |
| 61.    | " (75/31)          | Andrew Fox | RR2, Box 238  
Sherman, CT 06784 |
| 62.    | " (75/32)          | Helen M. Cauxx, Charles W. & Virginia L. Gilbon | 1070 Oregon Road  
Peekskill, NY 10566 |
| 63.    | "                  | same as above | same as above |
| 64.    | " (75/49)          | Alan P. & Steven D. Fraade | 40 Burton Road  
New Haven, CT 06515 |
Cape-style form about 1790 and displays a wide frieze pierced by small narrow windows, a feature in common use in the district until about 1850.

Several other houses in the district influenced by the Federal style include the circa 1835 Isaac Hatch House across the street (Inventory #19; Photograph #6). It is possible that this house was first constructed as a one-story cottage with its Federal doorway flanked by reeded pilasters in place before the second story was added. There is an elaborate cornice along the eaves and the rake, with tryglyphs, mutules, and diamond-patterned curved molding. Another Federal-style house with the same ridge-to-street configuration is the David Northrop House on the other side of the Old Town Hall to the south (Inventory #29; Photograph #1). The center chimney is indicative of its probable late-eighteenth-century date. It has retained the side porch on the south elevation but the facade porch was recently removed to reveal the wide Federal-style entranceway with an oversize leaded transom and sidelights. A more conventional Federal-style house, built by the same family on the side of a hill on Route 37 East as it ascends out of town, is the Dr. Northrop House (Inventory #47; Photograph #7). Style features include the pedimented coved portico and the fanlight in the pediment and over the door. The side ell has been extended to the west.

The Greek Revival style was expressed in the district with differing forms and levels of style. Typically the Center Church utilized the temple form, albeit a very simplified gable-roofed version (Inventory #10; Photograph #3). The building is now the Sherman Playhouse; the steeple has been removed and there is a large gable-roofed rear extension for the stage. The style reached an exceptional level in the Jennings House, which is distinguished by its massive pediment, with an outsize triangular window, extending over a two-story open porch (Inventory #15; Photograph #8). A similar pediment was used in the Hawley Store diagonally across the street and is found in at least one other house in town outside the district (Inventory #14; Photograph #2). The pediment and the full second story of the store extend over the facade porch. The tall second-story windows break the line of the frieze and may be late-nineteenth-century replacements.

A number of similar one-story Capes were built in the Greek Revival style throughout the district. They include the 1846 Charles Pepper House on Route 37 Center and the earlier George Woodruff House on Old Greenswood Road (Inventory #31, 7; Photograph #9, 10). The Pepper House has an unusual recessed doorway, while the Woodruff House displays a more typical pilastered entrance with a high entablature. Both houses have bold cornice returns and small attic windows in the frieze, as does the contemporary house to the immediate north of the Pepper House. A similar form is found in another Woodruff House along Sawmill Brook and the White House on Route 37.
East (Inventory #s 59, 43; Photograph #s 11, 12). The latter is part of a small non-contributing commercial complex which consists of several renovated outbuildings formerly associated with the house. Despite its circa 1830 construction date, the Woodruff House has a Federal doorway.

Early waterpowered industry contemporary with the residential development in the period is represented in the district by two surviving buildings. One dating from 1845, the Edwards' Hat Shop on Old Greenswood Road is relatively unchanged (Inventory #4; Photograph #13). It is associated with the Hatch/Edwards House across the street built in the late eighteenth century (Inventory #3). The other historic industrial building is the Jennings Feed and Lumber Mill on Sawmill Brook which has been converted to a residence but has retained much of its original form and its high rubble foundation along the brook (Inventory #64).

By mid-century the town's architecture began to reflect the influence of the Victorian period. Houses were remodeled and open facade porches with machine-turned posts were added to earlier buildings. The few new houses built in the district were taller and narrower, often constructed with intersecting gables and displaying machine-made detail. The Osborne House is an example of the remodeling of a Greek Revival cottage in this period (Inventory #38; Photograph #15). The earlier style features, the frieze, attic windows, and Greek revival-style doorway, are almost obscured by the addition to the rear and the elaborate wraparound porch with its distinctive bracketed corner drops. More extensive remodeling of the Sherwood House in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has hidden an earlier house, now a rear wing (Inventory #35; Photograph #16). Although the new main block addition was renovated with Colonial Revival-style detailing, its height and narrow plan indicate that this section was built much earlier, probably about 1860. A facade porch from that period has been removed. One of the few houses to retain a Victorian porch in the district is the Ephraim Hatch House (Inventory #39; Photograph #17). Here the porch posts reflect an Italianate influence, but the house itself with its twin end chimneys and possible Federal doorway may predate the porch. One of the simpler Victorian houses built at this time in the district was the Richmond House on Sawmill Road (Inventory #60; Photograph #14). With imbricated shingles in the gable peak of the facade as its only detailing, this narrow house with its extended wing sits between the road and the brook.

Although there was no historic residential development in the district in the twentieth century, the period is represented by two institutional Colonial Revival-style buildings, the Sherman School and the Sherman Library, the only historic brick buildings in the center (Inventory #s 45, 12; Photograph #s 18, 2). Only the very front section of the school is the original 1937 building. Numerous and extensive additions have taken place since that time. The gambrel-roofed
library was built in 1926 with Palladian windows in the end elevations. A large addition was added in 1960 to the rear. A nineteenth-century barn behind the library was originally associated with the Fuller Tavern which occupied the library site until 1912.

A complete list of contributing and non-contributing resources follows: Dates of construction and house names were taken from local histories, the map of 1867, and *The Sentinel Houses*. The latter was an invaluable source for much of the architectural history and dates of historic remodelings. In some cases, dates of construction had to be estimated in the field. Non-contributing resources are simply those which have been built in the last 50 years.
**INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

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<td>privy associated with #5</td>
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<td>GEORGE WOODRUFF HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840</td>
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ISAAC HATCH HOUSE, Federal, c. 1835  C  6
barn associated with #19  C
shed associated with #19  C
PERRY BRIGGS HOUSE, Cape, c. 1790  C  5
19th-c. barn associated with #22  C
19th-c. shed associated with #22  C
OLD TOWN HALL, 1886  C  1
World War I Memorial, 1923  C
Greek Revival, c. 1845  C
garage, c. 1950, associated with #27  NC
DAVID NORTHRUP HOUSE, Federal, c. 1800  C  1
Historical Society
19th-c. barn associated with #29  C
CHARLES PEPPER HOUSE, Greek Revival, 1846  C  9
garage associated with #31, c. 1900  C
19th-c. shed associated with #31  C
19th-c. shop associated with #31  C
SHERWOOD HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1860  C  16
ter ell, Federal, c. 1800
19th-c. barn associated with #35  C
19th-c. shed associated with #35  C
R. OSBORNE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840; remodelled c. 1880  C  15
EPHRAIM HATCH HOUSE, 19th-c. vernacular c. 1880  C  17
20th-c. shed associated with #39  NC
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National Park Service  

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Continuation Sheet  
Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut  

Section number 7  

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<td>27 Route 37 Center</td>
<td>T. HALL HOUSE, 19th-c. vernacular, c. 1860</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>1 Route 37 East</td>
<td>H. WHITE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Sherman Post Office, 1969</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>DR. D. W. NORTHROP HOUSE, Federal, 1826</td>
<td>C 7</td>
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<td>48.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>20th-c. barn associated with #47</td>
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<td>49.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>19th-c. shed associated with #47</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>20th-c. shed associated with #47</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>privy associated with #47</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>1 Sawmill Road</td>
<td>19th-c. vernacular, c. 1860</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20th-c. shed associated with #52 converted to office, 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>barn presently associated with #52</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>19th-c. shed presently associated with #52</td>
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<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19th-c. vernacular, c. 1855</td>
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<td>57.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>garage associated with #56, 1956</td>
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<td>58.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Leach Hollow cemetery (moved), now adjoining Center Cemetery</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>G. N. WOODRUFF HOUSE, Federal c. 1830</td>
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<td>H. RICHMOND HOUSE, 19th c. vernacular c. 1860</td>
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<td>61. 7</td>
<td>Sawmill Road</td>
<td>S. MONROE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1845</td>
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<tr>
<td>62. 7</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>shed associated with #61</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>63. 7</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>cabin, 1950, associated with #61</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64. 8</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>JENNINGS FEED &amp; LUMBER MILL, c. 1840 converted to cottage c. 1948</td>
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The Sherman Historic District is significant as a representative village center that demonstrates the patterns of settlement and socio-economic development common to daughter towns in Fairfield County. An exceptionally cohesive and well-preserved district, it contains domestic and institutional architecture in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, vernacular Victorian, and Colonial Revival styles which illustrate the growth of the community between about 1740 and 1937.

Historical Significance

When the population dispersed inland during the second stage of settlement in Connecticut, new villages were founded. Although some in Fairfield County remained crossroads villages, others became fully developed centers of incorporated towns. A few of these new town centers were clustered around a green, replicating the pattern of the parent town; the majority evolved linearly, like Sherman, but had an institutional focus. Generally these centers were established near a water course, which provided power for grist- and sawmills, and later in the nineteenth century, agrarian-based industry.

New Fairfield was established with permission of the General Assembly meeting in New Haven in 1707, but it was not until 1729 that purchase of the land from the local Native Americans was formalized in a deed. Incorporated in 1740, the township, 14 miles long and about six miles wide, was located north of Danbury and bounded by New York State on the west and New Milford on the east. Settlement began sometime before 1750 in the northern half, the area which later became Sherman, but was then known as the Upper Seven. Two historic resources that remain in the district from the settlement period of the eighteenth century, when Sherman was still part of New Fairfield, are the Potter-Hawley House on Route 37 Center and the Hatch-Edwards House on Old Greenswood Road (Inventory #s 17, 3). Part of another house may have been the town's first store (Inventory #22).

The Upper Seven, with a population of 150, was set off from New Fairfield as a separate town in 1802, first called New Dilloway, and later Sherman for its most distinguished citizen, Roger Sherman, who had a shoemaker's shop in the town outside
9. Major Bibliographical References


MAP


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 85

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</table>

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Sherman Public Library

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundaries are delineated on the attached district map drawn from Tax Assessor's maps located at the Sherman Town Hall.

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries were drawn to encompass the town center of Sherman during the period of significance of the district (c. 1740-1937). It includes all the historic resources associated with the development of the village center. The district is set off by modern development to the northwest and south, Candlewood Lake to the southeast, and woodland on its other boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

Jan Cunningham
Cunningham Associates Ltd.
37 Orange Road
Middletown, CT
(203) 347-4072
06457

Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
March 7, 1991
Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut

Section number 8  Page 3

#22) to make plow handles for Southern markets. Further downstream were agrarian-based industries associated with the production of leather. The tannery owned by Relivo Fuller may include some of the outbuildings now associated with 1 Sawmill Road (Inventory #52). Water was piped to his barkmill across the road on the site of 2 Sawmill Road (Inventory #52). Other waterpowered mills nearby were the Jennings Mill (Inventory #64), which has been converted to a residence, and George Woodruff's grist and cider mill (no longer extant). George (1st) lived across the street (#59); his grandson, Dr. John N. Woodruff, who took over the mill, was a state senator, judge of probate, and town clerk. He later bought the Northrop property on Route 37 East (Inventory #47).

Residential development in the district in this period reflected the general prosperity and population growth of the town in the early nineteenth century. Townwide, Sherman's population, estimated at about 150 in 1800, had grown to 948 by mid-century. Most of the resources in the district were built in this period, many serving town functions. Before the Town Hall was constructed in 1886 (Inventory #25), local trials were held, probably for misdemeanors, in rooms at the David Northrop House, (Inventory #29). The Hawley Store was a polling place and the site of the post office in the late nineteenth century. Earlier, the post office was located in the Charles Pepper House (Inventory #31) and in the twentieth century, in an addition of the Northrop House.

The creation of Lake Candlewood in 1928 had a major impact on Sherman in the twentieth century. The largest man-made lake in the state, it was 14 miles long and flooded over 8 square miles, including the village of Leach Hollow in Sherman and one-third of the best farmland in town. The graves from the Leach Hollow Cemetery were moved to a site in the district (Inventory #58). The lake was created to provide electric power, but with 60 miles of lakefront, it became a seasonal resort, reversing the population decline in Sherman, which had reached a low of 350 by 1921. So many cottages were built near the lake starting in the 1930s that Sherman instituted one of the first zoning laws in the state in 1937. By 1954 the year-round population had not only doubled, but rose to 1200 during the summer season. Today, Sherman continues to attract seasonal residents from out-of-state, including several from New York City who have renovated houses in the district.

Architectural Significance

Many factors contribute to the cohesiveness and integrity of the Sherman Historic District. Few historic buildings have been lost over time and there is little modern intrusion to detract from the historic setting. Physical changes have had minimal impact. The focal point of the district remains on the knoll. Although the original buildings there were replaced by the present nineteenth-century church and school, the elevated site has retained its original colonial function. Despite the diversion of the highway at the lower end of the district, Old Greenswood Road and its resources remain as the former route of the old turnpike.
the district, according to local tradition. Sherman is known as the only man who assisted in the drafting and signed all four of the documents that established the United States: the Articles of Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Federal Constitution.

The first meetinghouse in the Upper Seven, or the New Fairfield North Society, was built on the knoll in the district which is the present day site of the Center Church (Inventory #11). A second building, built in 1789, which served the community until 1836, was replaced by a third building north of the town center. The present Center Church, also known as the Union Church, was built the following year partially in protest of the earlier relocation. Services were held there by several Protestant denominations.

The first of several educational institutions in the district is the 1853 District School located next to the church on the hill above town (Inventory #9). At one time 100 pupils were in attendance. In 1915 it was chosen as a model rural school and used to train teachers from the Danbury Normal School. Among its distinguished alumni was Philo P. Stewart, co-founder of Oberlin College in Ohio. A private school, known as the Sherman Academy, which first met in a store on the site of the present Town Hall (outside the district), moved to the second floor of the Greek Revival-style Hawley Store located at the intersection of Route 37 and Sawmill Road (Inventory #14). Charles Andrews, a governor of Connecticut (1879-1881), once taught at this academy. The Sherman Library, built on donated land in 1926 on the site of the former Fuller Tavern (Inventory #12), and the present consolidated school, built in 1937 for the elementary grades (Inventory #45), were twentieth-century institutional additions to the district. Pupils from Center School attended high school in New Milford, as they had since 1923.

Unlike many inland towns, Sherman had access to distant markets for its agricultural and industrial products in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Sherman–Redding Turnpike (Route 37) was built about 1803. A turnpike which ran from Pawling to Poughkeepsie on the Hudson River in New York was extended in 1820 by Sherman residents to New Milford. Sherman particularly benefitted from its proximity to New Milford. By 1840 a train ran from there to Bridgeport giving Sherman's farmers access to coastal towns and New York City. By 1845 dairy farming and the raising of sheep, swine, and beef cattle were major farming occupations. Sheep were raised for wool, but cattle and sheep were often driven to New York for sale. Corn, wheat, potatoes, and hay were also sold or traded.

A number of early industries were located in the district along Greenswood and Sawmill brooks. In 1845, at the hat factory building which still stands on Old Greenswood Road, Boss Edwards manufactured 600 hats valued at $1500 (Inventory #5). Charles Pepper manufactured carriages and coffins at the rear of his property (Inventory #31) and ran a steam sawmill behind the Perry Briggs House (Inventory
A rich variety of vernacular institutional and residential buildings line Sherman's roads, establishing the district's historic character and tracing its development. The Federal style is the first stylistic influence in the district. Even the earliest building, the Potter/Hawley House, which dates from the mid-eighteenth century, displays a fine Federal doorway (Inventory #17). Of later buildings of this style, two of the best examples were built by the Northrop family, where again the detailing is concentrated at the main entrance. The doorway of the David Northrop House on Route 37 Center with its exceptionally large and distinctive transom and sidelights anticipates the Greek Revival style (Inventory #29). The finely detailed portico of the Dr. Northrop House on Route 37 East is a more conventional interpretation, which may be the only example of an original entrance porch in the district (Inventory #47).

Two exceptional buildings with different functions are individually significant and distinctive examples of the Greek Revival, the predominant style in the district. Both the Jennings House and the Hawley Store are distinguished by their unusual and similar pediment windows, perhaps designed by the same local builder, yet unknown (Inventory #s 15, 14). Of particular significance is the group of contributing vernacular Greek Revival-style houses. Found throughout the district, they have a similar Cape form and most display the small attic windows which are characteristic of this type of modest dwelling. In addition to their similarities of scale and materials, the extensive repetition of a similar form and style contributes to the district's cohesiveness and underscores the importance of the early nineteenth century in the town's development.

Although the Old Town Hall and the few houses that were constructed in the last half of the nineteenth century display neither the detailing nor complex massing that was typical of this period in urban areas, as a group they provide historic architectural continuity to the district. A rare historic resource that functioned in this period is the Edwards' Hat Shop (Inventory #5). It is significant because of its integrity of setting and largely unaltered condition.

The brick institutional buildings of the early twentieth century which complete the district and reflect the renewed prosperity of Sherman in this period quite typically utilize the Colonial Revival style. The Sherman Library is significant as a gambrel-roofed type, a form more common to domestic buildings of this style, but obviously used here to maintain the scale of the streetscape (Inventory #12).

1. Although it was considered to be beyond the scope of this nomination, the evaluation of the archaeological potential of these properties may prove to be a legitimate future area of investigation.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Sherman Historic District, Sherman, Connecticut

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References:

A 18 624980 4603250
B 18 625020 4603780
C 18 625220 4603980
D 18 625600 4604060
E 18 625660 4604390
F 18 625130 4604560
G 18 625130 4604250
H 18 625060 4604180
List of Photographs

Property: Sherman Historic District,
Fairfield County, Sherman, Connecticut
Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.
Date: 1/91
Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

1. David Northrop House
   Old Town Hall
   Facing: SW

2. Sherman Library
   W. B. Hawley Store
   Facing: NE

3. Center Church & Center School
   Facing: NW

4. Potter/Hawley House
   Facing: NE

5. Perry Briggs House
   Facing: NE

6. Isaac Hatch House
   Facing: SW

7. Dr. D. W. Northrop House
   Facing: E

8. Jennings House/Lake Valley Grange
   Facing: SW

9. Charles Pepper House
   Facing: NE

10. George Woodruff House
    Facing: NW

11. G. N. Woodruff House
    Facing: SE

12. H. White House & former outbuildings
    Facing: NE

13. Edwards Hat Shop
    Facing: NE

14. H. Richmond House
    Facing: SE

15. R. Osborne House
    Facing: NW

16. Sherwood House
    Facing: NW

17. Ephraim Hatch House
    Facing: SW

18. Sherman School
    Facing: SE