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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Sherman Historic District

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet

not for publication

city, town Sherman

vicinity

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>54</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u>57</u>	<u>7</u> objects
	<u>7</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]

6/21/91

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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]

7/31/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural building
GOVERNMENT/town hall/post office
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
RELIGION/church EDUCATION/school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
EDUCATION/school
RECREATION AND CULTURE/playhouse
COMMERCE/TRADE/store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/granite
walls WOOD/weatherboard
BRICK
roof asphalt
other _____

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 Greenwood 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

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Location:

Old Greenwood 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)

<u>Inv.#</u>	<u>Street Address (Map/Lot)</u>	<u>Owner(s)</u>	<u>Mailing Address (if different)</u>
1.	3 Old Greenwood Road (75/7)	William & Patricia Braislin	10 Old Greenwood Road Sherman, CT 06784
2.	3 " " "	same as above	same as above
3.	8 " " (75/3)	William E. & Joann Heinz	
4.	8 " " (75/6)	same as above	
5.	8 " " "	same as above	
6.	8 " " "	same as above	
7.	10 " " (75/2)	William & Patricia Braislin	
8.	10 " " "	same as above	
9.	7 Route 39 North (77/6)	Town of Sherman	9 Route 39 North Sherman, CT 06784
10.	7 " " "	same as above	same as above
11.	-- Route 37 Center (77/30)	Sherman Center Cemetery Association	Mallory Town Hall 9 Route 39 North Sherman, CT 06784
12.	1 " (77/31)	Library Association of Sherman	
13.	1 " "	same as above	

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14.	3	Route 37 Center	(77/33)	B & D Associates	P. O. Box 309 Sherman, CT 06784
15.	4	"	(77/4)	Elsie M. Smith	
16.	4	"	"	same as above	
17.	5	"	(77/52)	Donald F. & Ida M. Esser	Cozier Hill Ext. Sherman, CT 06784
18.	5	"	"	same as above	same as above
19.	6	"	(77/3)	Anthony & Sara Phillips	310 E. 44th Street New York, NY 10017
20.	6	"	"	same as above	same as above
21.	6	"	"	same as above	same as above
22.	7	"	(75/53)	Jay & Beth Trott	
23.	7	"	"	same as above	
24.	7	"	"	same as above	
25.	8	"	(77/2)	Town of Sherman	9 Route 39 North Sherman, CT 06748
26.	8	"	"	same as above	same as above
27.	9	"	(77/54)	Edith A. Johnson	
28.	9	"	"	same as above	
29.	10	"	(77/1)	Sherman Historical Society	
30.	10	"	"	same as above	
31.	11	"	(75/55)	Robert R., Doris M. & Joel A. Judd	Route 3; Box 125 Sherman, CT 06784
32.	11	"	"	same as above	same as above
33.	11	"	"	same as above	same as above
34.	11	"	"	same as above	same as above
35.	14	"	(17/20)	Alice Shneckenburger	

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36.	14	Route 37 Center	(17/20)	Alice Shneckenburger	
37.	14	"	"	same as above	
38.	20	"	(75/9)	Philip Schneckenburger	14 Route 37 Center Sherman, CT 06784
39.	22	"	(75/8)	Sheila S. Shepard	Sherman Center Sherman, CT 06784
40.	22	"	"	same as above	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	9 Route 39 North Sherman, CT 06784
46.	4	"	(77/28)	Town of Sherman	same as above
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	Holiday Point Road Sherman, CT 06784
53.	1	"	"	same as above	same as above
54.	--	"	(75/50)	same as above	same as above
55.	--	"	"	same as above	same as above
56.	2	"	(75/51)	Kenneth & Georgia Booth	
57.	2	"	"	same as above	

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58.	--	Sawmill Road	(77/30)	Sherman Center Cemetery Association	Mallory Town Hall 9 Route 39 North Sherman, CT 06784
--.	--	Sawmill Road	(75/29)	(vacant) Town of Sherman	same as above
59.	3	"	(75/30)	Katherine S. Hall; Leo F., Claire M., & Paul K. Risko	
60.	5	"	(75/31)	Andrew Fox	RR2, Box 238 Sherman, CT 06784
61.	7	"	(75/32)	Helen M. Cauxx, Charles W. & Virginia L. Gilbon	1070 Oregon Road Peekskill, NY 10566
62.	7	"	"	same as above	same as above
63.	7	"	"	same as above	same as above
64.	8	"	(75/49)	Alan P. & Steven D. Fraade	40 Burton Road New Haven, CT 06515

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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 outside 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 Greenwood Road (Inventory #s 31, 7; Photograph #s 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

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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 Greenwood 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

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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.

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INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Inv. #	Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photo #
1.	3 Old Greenwood Road	19th-c. barn converted to residence, formerly associated with #7	C	
2.	3 " "	19th c. barn formerly associated with #7	C	
3.	8 " "	HATCH/EDWARDS HOUSE, Cape, c. 1790	C	
4.	8 " "	19th-c. barn associated with #3	C	
5.	8 " "	EDWARDS HAT SHOP, c. 1845, associated with #3	C	13
6.	8 " "	privy associated with #5	C	
7.	10 " "	GEORGE WOODRUFF HOUSE, Greek Revival c. 1840	C	10
8.	10 " "	19th c. shed associated with #7	C	
9.	7 Route 39 North	CENTER SCHOOL, c. 1830/addition 1977	C	3
10.	7 " "	CENTER CHURCH/SHERMAN PLAYHOUSE, 1837	C	3
11.	-- Route 37 Center	CENTER CEMETERY, 18th & 19th c.	C	
12.	1 " "	SHERMAN LIBRARY, 1926/addition 1960	C	2
13.	1 " "	late 19th-c. barn associated with #12	C	
14.	3 " "	W.B. HAWLEY STORE, Greek Revival, c. 1830	C	2
15.	4 " "	JENNINGS HOUSE/LAKE VALLEY GRANGE, Greek Revival, c. 1835	C	8
16.	4 " "	19th-c. barn associated with #15	C	
17.	5 " "	POTTER/HAWLEY HOUSE, Colonial, c. 1740	C	4
18.	5 " "	late-19th c. barn associated with #17	C	

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19.	6	"	"	ISAAC HATCH HOUSE, Federal, c. 1835	C	6
20.	6	Route 37 Center		barn associated with #19	C	
21.	6	"	"	shed associated with #19	C	
22.	7	"	"	PERRY BRIGGS HOUSE, Cape, c. 1790	C	5
23.	7	"	"	19th-c. barn associated with #22	C	
24.	7	"	"	19th-c. shed associated with #22	C	
25.	8	"	"	OLD TOWN HALL, 1886	C	1
26.	8	"	"	World War I Memorial, 1923	C	
27.	9	"	"	Greek Revival, c. 1845	C	
28.	9	"	"	garage, c. 1950, associated with #27	NC	
29.	10	"	"	DAVID NORTHROP HOUSE, Federal, c. 1800 Historical Society	C	1
30.	10	"	"	19th-c. barn associated with #29	C	
31.	11	"	"	CHARLES PEPPER HOUSE, Greek Revival, 1846	C	9
32.	11	"	"	garage associated with #31, c. 1900	C	
33.	11	"	"	19th-c. shed associated with #31	C	
34.	11	"	"	19th-c. shop associated with #31	C	
35.	14	"	"	SHERWOOD HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1860 rear ell, Federal, c. 1800	C	16
36.	14	"	"	19th-c. barn associated with #35	C	
37.	14	"	"	19th-c. shed associated with #35	C	
38.	20	"	"	R. OSBORNE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840; remodelled c. 1880	C	15
39.	22	"	"	EPHRAIM HATCH HOUSE, 19th-c. vernacular c. 1880	C	17
40.	22	"	"	20th-c. shed associated with #39	NC	

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41.	27	Route 37 Center	T. HALL HOUSE, 19th-c. vernacular, c. 1860	C	
42.	27	" "	garage associated with #41, c. 1930	C	
43.	1	Route 37 East	H. WHITE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	12
44.	1	" "	commercial complex, former out- buildings associated with #43	NC	12
45.	2	" "	SHERMAN SCHOOL, Col. Revival 1937/1953/1963/1971/1991	C	18
46.	4	" "	Sherman Post Office, 1969	NC	
47.	6	" "	DR. D. W. NORTHROP HOUSE, Federal, 1826	C	7
48.	6	" "	20th-c. barn associated with #47	C	
49.	6	" "	19th-c. shed associated with #47	C	
50.	6	" "	20th-c. shed associated with #47	C	
51.	6	" "	privy associated with #47	C	
52.	1	Sawmill Road	19th-c. vernacular, c. 1860	C	
53.	1	" "	20th-c. shed associated with #52 converted to office, 1991	NC	
54.	---	" "	barn presently associated with #52	C	
55.	---	" "	19th-c. shed presently associated with #52	C	
56.	2	" "	19th-c. vernacular, c. 1855	C	
57.	2	" "	garage associated with #56, 1956	NC	
58.	---	" "	Leach Hollow cemetery (moved), now adjoining Center Cemetery	C	
59.	3	" "	G. N. WOODRUFF HOUSE, Federal c. 1830	C	11
60.	5	" "	H. RICHMOND HOUSE, 19th c. vernacular c. 1860	C	14

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61.	7	Sawmill Road	S. MONROE HOUSE, Greek Revival, c. 1845	C
62.	7	" "	shed associated with #61	C
63.	7	" "	cabin, 1950, associated with #61	NC
64.	8	" "	JENNINGS FEED & LUMBER MILL, c. 1840 converted to cottage c. 1948	C

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
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c. 1740 - 1937
c. 1740 - c. 1790
c. 1740 - 1937

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

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 Greenwood 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

See continuation sheet

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#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 Greenwood Road and its resources remain as the former route of the old turnpike.

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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 Greenwood and Sawmill brooks.¹ In 1845, at the hat factory building which still stands on Old Greenwood 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

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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.

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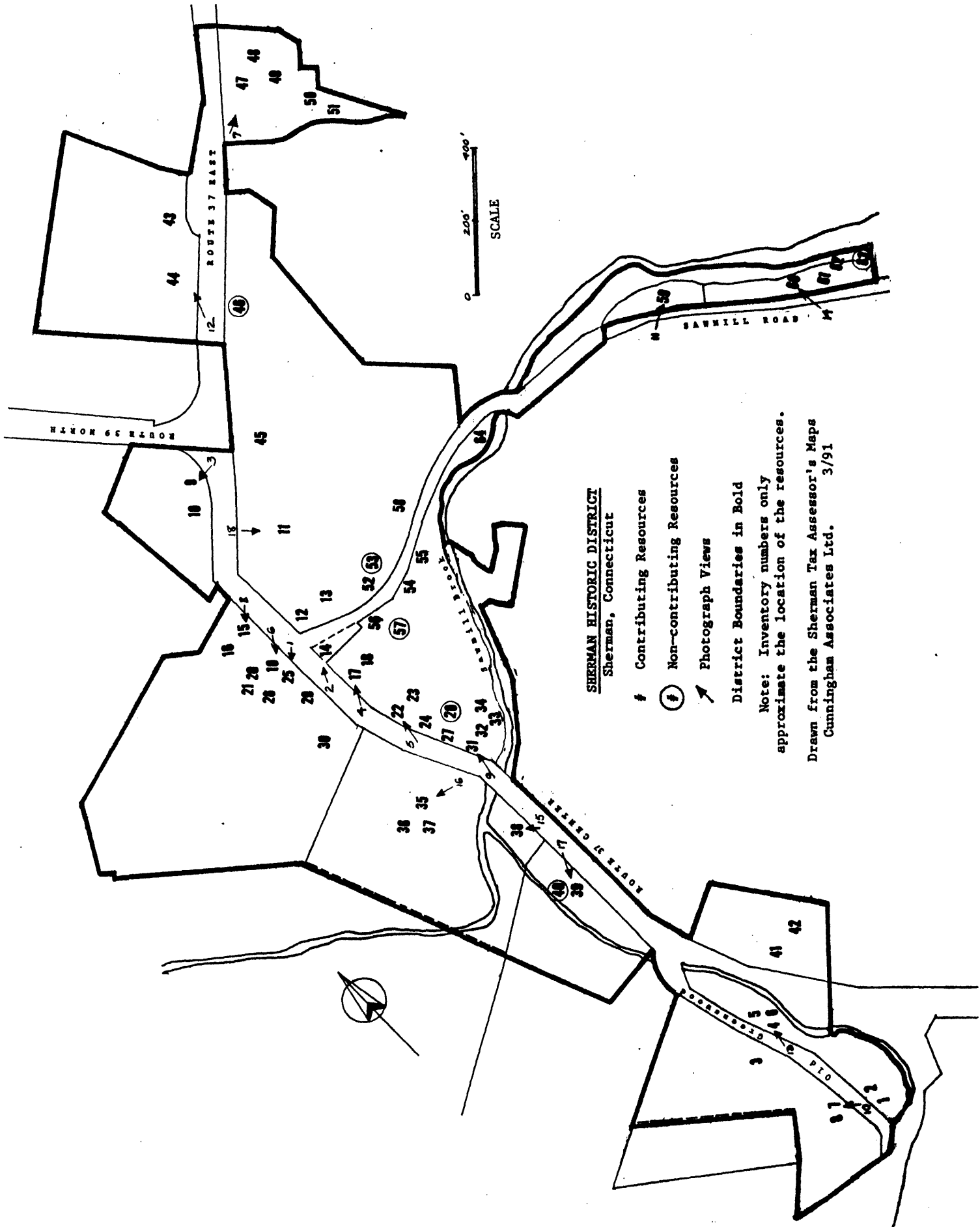
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UTM References:

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



SHERMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Sherman, Connecticut

- # Contributing Resources
- ⊕ Non-contributing Resources
- ↗ Photograph Views

District Boundaries in Bold

Note: Inventory numbers only approximate the location of the resources.

Drawn from the Sherman Tax Assessor's Maps
 Cunningham Associates Ltd. 3/91

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Sherman Historic District

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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 |