

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Grafton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 7 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Canaan Street Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Broad Street

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Canaan Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Canaan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33      COUNTY: Grafton      CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Open Space</u> <u>Library</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Not Applicable

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Grafton County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
County Courthouse Route 10  
P.C. Box 208 North Waverhill

CITY OR TOWN:  
Woodsville

STATE:  
New Hampshire

CODE:  
03875      33

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal     State     County     Local

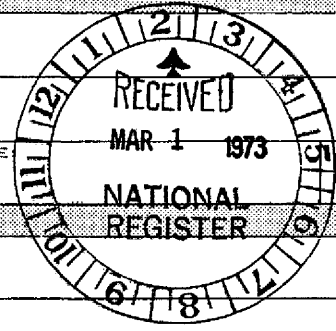
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Grafton

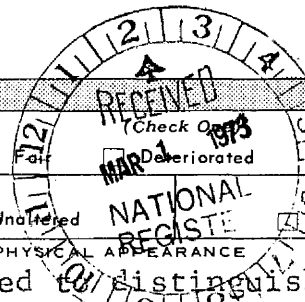
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 7 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7-13-73



7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Canaan Street (so-called to distinguish it from the late 19th century village and present business center of Canaan several miles distant) was granted by Benning Wentworth in 1761. The grant comprised some 23,000 acres in a parcel six miles square, and most of the original grantees came from the eastern Connecticut towns of Norwich and Colchester. Canaan, located in southern Grafton County, is bounded on the north by Dorechester, on the east by Crange, on the south by Grafton, and on the west by Enfield and Hanover.

In common with other wilderness grants, settlement proceeded slowly at first, and the principal thoroughfare, "Broad Street" was not laid out until 1788. The Street (now called Canaan Street) extends for nearly a mile north and south along the west shore of "Hart's Pond" (now Canaan Street Lake) with vistas south to "The Pinnacle" (elev. 1476') and east to Mt. Cardigan (elev. 3156'). The spatial qualities of the Street are unusually fine, and there remain many unbroken vistas extending to the Lake.

Architecturally, the flavor of the Street is predominantly early 19th century, with a sprinkling of earlier and later structures. Apart from the noteworthy survival of open space at various points along the entire Street, the focal points are the three distinguished public buildings: the Town Hall (1796) (6: Property Map Form 2 and Photograph), formerly the meetinghouse, and one of the earliest surviving structures on the Street; the Old North Church (1828)(1), a distinguished Gothic Revival structure; and the Canaan Town Library and Museum (1839)(7), originally Union Academy, an architecturally significant late Federal structure. Interspersed between these landmarks are a remarkably large number of good vernacular residential and commercial buildings, most dating from the first half of the 19th century.

The outlines of the District as it is today took form in the years after 1800, as the Street became a trading and stagecoach center, located as it was on the Grafton Turnpike, which ran from Andover through Canaan to Hanover and Lyme. After the turnpike era ended, Canaan Street was by-passed by the railroad, a fact which doubtless helps to explain its surviving 19th century flavor.

During the second half of the 19th century the Street became noted as a resort community, with many summer hotels and inns catering to the tourist trade. At one point during this era Canaan Street was said to rival Bethlehem (then pre-eminent among White Mountain summer resorts) in its attractiveness to summer visitors. Many of the pre-existing inns and hotels were enlarged during this period, and a number of new ones were constructed.

In the mid-20th century the Street continues to attract summer visitors, many of whom have purchased and restored seasonal homes there. Although there have been many changes over the years, the Street retains its 19th century flavor to a remarkable degree.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

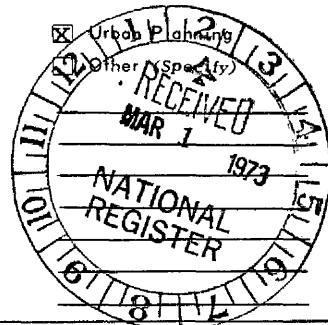
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable, and Known) 1785 - c. 1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Canaan Street, designated a New Hampshire historic district in 1968, has been endowed by nature with an unusually fortunate location, combining distinguished mountain and lake vistas which have, as yet, been little encroached upon by undesirable man-made distractions.

Architecturally the Street retains to a significant degree its 19th century character, with a minimal number of undistinguished or nondescript structures of recent origin intruding. Nonconforming signs or modern commercial structures are virtually non-existent, and the relatively large proportion of undeveloped land is a distinct asset in view of the distinguished natural surroundings.

The Canaan Street Town Hall (1796)(6: Property Map Form: 2 and Photograph) the oldest public building in the district, originally served as a meetinghouse and was sited at the southern end of the Street, opposite the Lake (which was used for baptisms). Extant public buildings which date from the late 18th century are rare in the central and northern parts of New Hampshire, particularly examples of the early type meetinghouse with projecting tower and side entrance.

Diagonally across the Street, the Canaan Town Library and Museum (1839)(7) is an unusually distinguished late Federal structure, with double open porches on the facade. The cupola, which shows some Gothic influence, gives the building much of its quality, as does the fact that it is in a fine state of preservation.

At the north end of the Street, the pure Gothic Revival Old North Church (1828)(1), is a perfectly-proportioned and well-preserved example of a popular New England style. Virtually unaltered over the years, the structure is evidence of the considerable talents of Bailey Welch, its builder, whose Gothic tastes were surely avant-garde for rural New England in the 1820's.

The Main Hall of Canaan College, now a large property holder on the Street, was constructed in 1831 (4). At an early date it became Dole's Tavern and was later known as the Lucerne Inn. A Greek Revival structure with an unusual recessed gable above its open portico, the building helps to document two important phases of Canaan's history: the stagecoach tavern and summer hotel eras.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wallace Nutting, New Hampshire Beautiful, (Norwood, Mass.: Plimpton Press, 1923).  
 Robert Pillsbury, New Hampshire, A History, I, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1927).  
 Eva A. Speare, New Hampshire Meetinghouse.  
 William Allen Wallace, History of Canaan, N.H., (Concord, N.H., 1910).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	43° 40' 28"	72° 03' 07"	°	' "
NE	43° 40' 28"	72° 02' 00"	°	' "
SE	43° 39' 21"	72° 02' 00"	°	' "
SW	43° 30' 21"	72° 03' 07"	°	' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 240 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NW 18/739250/483980  
 SE 18/739270/4837750  
 SW 18/737750/4837700  
 NW 18/737650/4839800

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Goodhue Crocker, Chairman; Mrs. Norman C. Wakely, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Canaan Street Historic District Commission      DATE: February 22, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Canaan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Canaan      STATE: New Hampshire 03741      CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: George Gilman

Title: Commissioner  
Department of Resources and Economic Development

Date: February 20, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/4/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 30 73

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

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Grafton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 7 1973	DATE

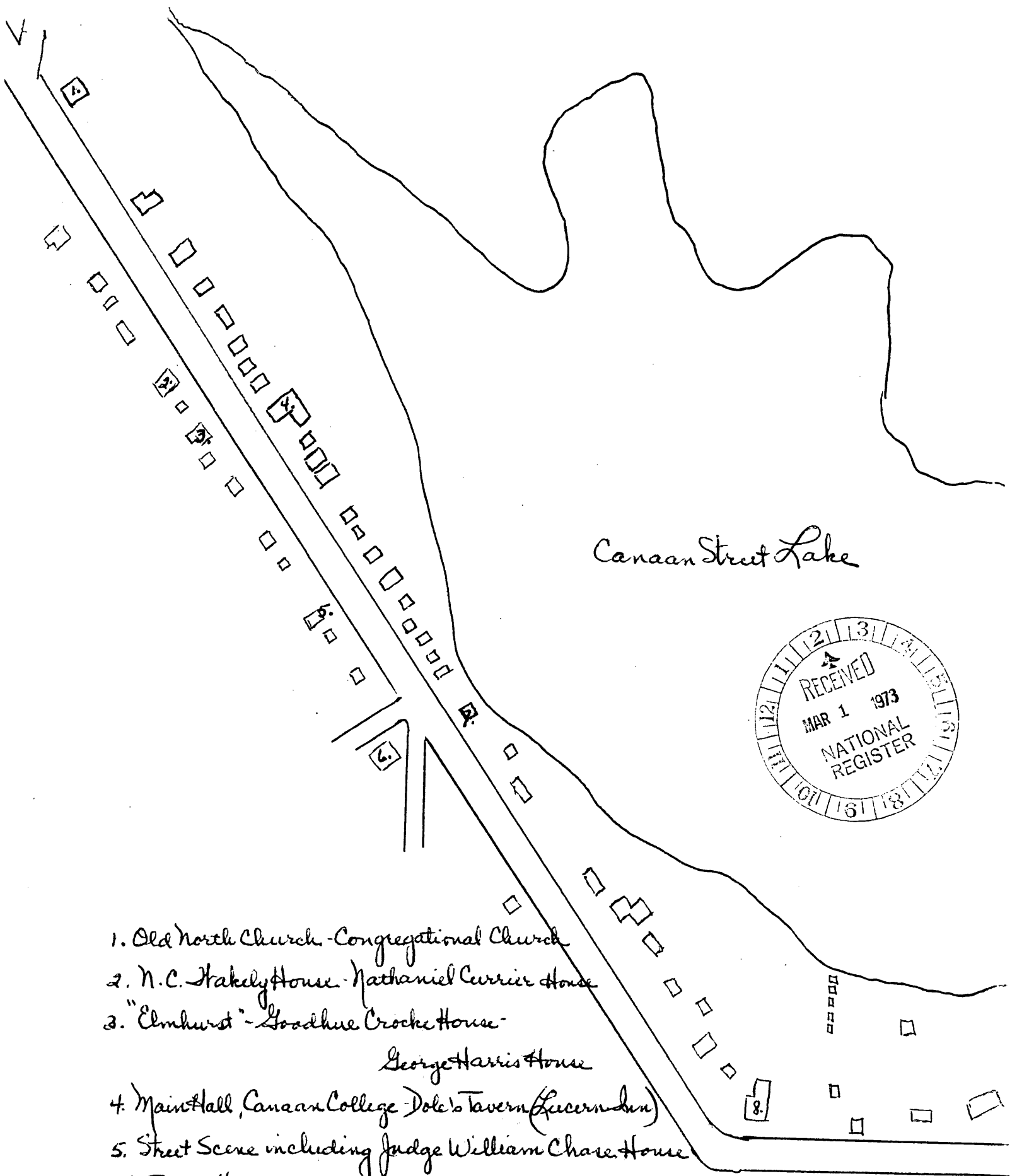
(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

State of Significance

Of the residential structures of the Street, the Arvin Tavern (1795)(8), is a worthy example of the late 18th century center chimney Colonial style, surviving examples of which are far from numerous in the area. From the 19th century, the George Harris House (1831) and the Judge William Chase House (1803) are well-preserved examples of the Federal and early Greek Revival styles. The Nathaniel Currier House (1816) is unusual in its apparently original projecting entry "porch," reminiscent of those to be found on earlier buildings.





Canaan Street Lake



1. Old North Church - Congregational Church
2. N.C. Stakey House - Nathaniel Currier House
3. "Elmhurst" - Goodhue Crocker House -  
George Harris House
4. Main Hall, Canaan College - Dole's Tavern (Lucern Inn)
5. Street Scene including Judge William Chase House
6. Town Hall
7. Canaan Town Library Museum - Canaan Union Academy Building
8. John Robert's House - Arvin Tavern

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM 2**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Grafton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Canaan Street Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Broad Street			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Canaan Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Canaan			
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE 33	COUNTY: Grafton	CODE 009
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: Mrs. Norman C. Wakely			
SCALE: Not Applicable			
DATE: January, 1973			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

