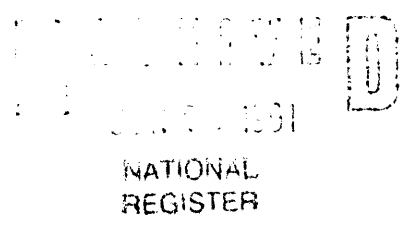


949

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name: CENTRAL VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

street & number: Main St., School St., East Main St., Putnam Road
(see Item 7 for complete street list)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Plainfield vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Windham code: 015 zip code: 06332

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>150</u>	<u>80</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>156</u>	<u>82</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

John C. Stewart 6/20/91
 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. Burt G. Savage 8/9/91
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>specialty store</u>
<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>manufacturing facility</u>
Current: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>specialty store</u>

7. Description

=====
Architectural Classification:

Greek Revival
Italianate
Bungalow/Craftsman

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD other BRICK
BRICK

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
INDUSTRY
COMMERCE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period(s) of Significance: c.1750-c.1930

Significant Dates: See inventory, Item 7

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-4
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
BLACK HILL ROAD							
1	c.1910	2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
4	c.1845	1 1/2	no style	siding	garage	1	1
7	1970	1	Ranch	composition shingles		0	1
10-12	c.1750	2 1/2	Colonial	clapboards		1	0
11-13	c.1980	1	no style	steel siding (truck garage)		0	1
21	c.1920	2	Col. Revival	clapboards, shingles	2 garages, 1 modern	2	1
CAREY AVENUE							
1	c.1800	1 1/2	no style	asphalt siding	garage	1	1
EAST MAIN STREET							
1-17	c.1980	1	no style (shopping plaza)			0	1
2-6	c.1830	2 1/2	Federal	siding		1	0
8	1925	1 1/2	Bungalow	wood shingles		1	0
19	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	siding	garage	1	1
21-23	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	composition shingles		1	0
26	c.1955	1	Ranch	siding	garage	0	2
25-27	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	siding		1	0
29-31	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	siding		1	0
30	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
32	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
33-35	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	siding		1	0
34	c.1850	1 1/2	Gothic Revival	clapboards		1	0
37-41	c.1901	2 1/2	Mill Housing	composition shingles	garage	1	1
43-45	c.1901	2	Mill Housing	composition shingles	garage	1	1
47-49	c.1901	2	Mill Housing	siding		1	0

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-5
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
EAST SHEPARD HILL ROAD							
10-12	c.1800	2 1/2	Federal	siding	barn	2	0
11	c.1920	1 1/2	Bungalow	clapboards/shingles	garage	2	0
23	c.1924	2	Foursquare	siding	contemp. garage	2	0
26	1848	2	no style	clapboards	small barn	2	0
FRY HILL ROAD							
25	c.1907	2	Col. Revival	clapboards/shingles		1	0
29	c.1907	2 1/2	Victorian	clapboards/shingles	barn	2	0
MAIN STREET							
1	c.1950	1	no style	concrete block, brick	(former fire house)	0	1
3-7	c.1920	2	no style	asphalt siding	garage	1	1
4	1856	2 1/2	no style	brick	garage	1	1
8-10	1854	2 1/2	no style	siding	garage	1	1
14	c.1920	2 1/2	Foursquare	clapboards/shingles	garage	2	0
16	c.1880	1	Italianate	clapboards (barn)		1	0
17	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	asphalt siding		1	0
18-20	c.1900	2 1/2	Queen Anne	composition shingles	garage	1	1
19	c.1842	1 1/2	no style	siding		1	0
25	1821	1 1/2	Italianate	clapboards	garage	1	0
26	1901	2 1/2	Queen Anne	clapboards/shingles	barn, garage	2	1
29	1872	1 1/2	Italianate	clapboards (Old Town Hall)		1	0
30	c.1870	2 1/2	Second Empire	clapboards	garage	1	1
32-36	c.1830	2 1/2	Federal	clapboards		1	0
33	1845	1 1/2	Gr.Rev./Ital.	clapboards, flush boards (Cong. Church)		1	0
38	c.1850	1 1/2	Gothic Revival	siding		1	0
40	c.1855	2 1/2	Italian Villa	board siding	carriagehouse	2	0
45	1901	3	no style	brick (Plainfield Woolen Co. Mill)		1	1
48	1837	2 1/2	Greek Revival	clapboards		1	0
54	c.1920	2	no style	wood shingles (altered)		0	1
MORTON LANE							
8	c.1930	2 1/2	no style	wood shingle (bottling wks)	garage	2	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-6
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
NORWICH ROAD							
10	c.1830	1 1/2	Mill Housing	vertical boards	garage	1	1
PALMER AVENUE/COURT							
8	1968	1	Ranch	siding	barn, c.1890	1	1
9	c.1900	1 1/2	no style	siding (altered)	garage	0	2
10	c.1900	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles		1	0
11	c.1895	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
13	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	siding	garage	1	1
14	c.1925	1 1/2	Bungalow	clapboards, shingles	garage	1	1
15	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards	garage	1	1
17	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
19	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
20-22	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	composition shingles	small house in rear	1	1
21	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	siding	garage	1	1
24	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
25	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	composition shingles		1	0
PICKETT ROAD							
4	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	clapboards		1	0
PUTNAM ROAD							
1-3	c.1860	2 1/2	no style	clapboards, siding		1	0
4	c.1845	2 1/2	no style	siding (Central Hotel)		1	0
5	c.1790	2 1/2	Colonial	wood shingles		1	0
9	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
11-13	1860	2 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
15	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	siding	garage	1	1
17	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	composition shingles		1	0
19	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
21	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	composition shingles		1	0
23	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
25	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0
27	c.1900	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards		1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-7
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
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PUTNAM ROAD (CONTINUED)

50-52	c.1880	2 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
55	c.1875	2 1/2	Italianate	clapboards	barn	2	0
61	1866	2	Gothic Revival	clapboards	barn	2	0
67	c.1925	1 1/2	Bungalow	siding	garage	2	0
87	1924	3	Neo-Classical	brick (Plainfield High School)		1	2

RIVER STREET

3	c.1865	2	no style	siding		1	0
5	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles	garage	1	1
7-9	c.1865	2	Victorian	composition shingles	garage	1	1
13	1850	1 1/2	Greek Revival	clapboards		1	0
15	c.1855	1 1/2	no style	siding	garage	1	1
19	c.1890	1 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
21-23	c.1830	1 1/2	no style	brick	small barn	2	0
27	1860	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards	small barn	2	0

SCHOOL STREET

1-5	c.1850	2	Italianate	clapboards		1	0
7-11	1853	1	no style	siding		1	0
15	c.1890	2	Italianate	siding		1	0
16-18	c.1849	2 1/2	Greek Revival	clapboards	garage, barn	2	1
17	c.1870	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	garage	1	1
19	c.1875	2	Italianate	clapboards	barn	2	0
23	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	siding (altered)		0	1
24	c.1890	1 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
29	1964	1	no style	brick (post office)		0	1
30	c.1885	1 1/2	Victorian	wood shingle	carriagehouse	2	0
34	c.1880	1 1/2	no style	wood shingle	carriagehouse	2	0
35	c.1880	2 1/2	Italianate	clapboards	garage	1	1
38	c.1846	2 1/2	Greek Revival	clapboards	barn, small house	2	1
42	c.1844	2 1/2	Greek Revival	siding	2 garages	1	2
42	c.1840	1 1/2	no style	clapboards		1	0
52	c.1875	2 1/2	Second Empire	clapboards	garage, barn	1	1
53	1917	1 1/2	Victorian	clapboards	2 garages	1	2
54-56	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	garage	1	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-8
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
SCHOOL STREET (CONTINUED)							
58	c.1920	1 1/2	Bungalow	clapboards		1	0
60	c.1845	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	garage	1	1
62	c.1890	1 1/2	no style	siding	garage	1	1
66	c.1845	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	garage	1	1
68	c.1845	1 1/2	Greek Revival	composition shingles	garage	1	1
69	c.1840	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	barn, garage	2	1
70	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles		1	0
72	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	siding		1	0
74	1889	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles	garage	1	1
76	c.1845	1 1/2	Greek Revival	siding		1	0
SCHOOL STREET EXTENSION							
2	c.1952	1 1/2	Cape	siding	garage	0	2
6	c.1900	2 1/2	no style	shingles		1	0
12	c.1780	2 1/2	Colonial	composition shingles	garage	2	1
SHEPARD HILL ROAD							
3	1843	1 1/2	Greek Revival	brick (former school)	garage	1	1
7	1848	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	small barn	2	0
8	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	clapboards, comp. shgls.		1	0
13	1848	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	garage, playhouse	1	2
16-18	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	siding	mobile home	1	1
19	c.1960	1	Ranch	composition shingles		0	1
22	c.1890	1 1/2	Victorian	composition shingles		1	0
23	c.1960	1	Ranch	siding		0	1
24	c.1872	1 1/2	Mill House	clapboards	2 garages	1	2
27	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	clapboards	2 garages	1	2
32	c.1973	1 1/2	log cabin	logs	garage	0	2
36	c.1855	1 1/2	no style	clapboards		1	0
40	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	siding		1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-9
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

STREET #	DATE	STORIES	STYLE	EXTERIOR MATERIALS	OUTBUILDINGS	C	NC
TEXAS ROAD							
2	?	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles	(greatly altered)	0	1
7	c.1970	1	Ranch	siding		+	01
4	c.1900	2	Victorian	composition shingles	garage	1	1
8-10	c.1870	1 1/2	no style	composition siding		1	0
12	c.1800	2 1/2	Colonial	siding	garage	1	1
13-15	c.1850	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles		1	0
TORREY LANE							
25	c.1911	2 1/2	Victorian	siding		1	0
WATER STREET							
8	c.1900	1 1/2	no style	composition shingles		1	0
12-20	c.1985	1	no style	steel (storage facility)		0	5
36	c.1860	1 1/2	no style	siding	garage	1	1
42	c.1908	2 1/2	Victorian	clapboards	garage	1	1
46	c.1900	2	no style	clapboards	garage	1	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-1
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Central Village is a distinct settlement located within the Town of Plainfield, Connecticut, along the banks of the Moosup River. Two state roads, Routes 12 and 14, converge at this location, and the Providence and Worcester Railroad bisects the village in a north-south direction. The core of the village, where School Street, Water Street, Main Street, and Putnam Road converge, is a small 19th-century commercial area with four store buildings (Photograph 20) and the Central Hotel, a tavern and hotel built c.1845 alongside the railroad tracks (Photograph 15). Radiating from the center are a series of predominantly residential streets. The houses of Central Village are closely spaced, 1 to 2 1/2 stories high, and most are wood-framed, although there are two brick houses as well. The houses are predominantly 19th-century in origin and fall into two stylistic categories. The first group are elaborate, large houses of particular architectural styles; they are clustered along Main Street, with a secondary grouping on School Street. The second major group of houses in the district are plainly detailed, vernacular dwellings that are mostly located on the streets leading to the outskirts of the village.

There is a broad range of styles among the larger houses in the district, though most styles are represented by only a few examples. In addition to Greek Revival-style dwellings from the 1830s and 1840s (Photograph 21), there are well-preserved Gothic Revival-style "cottages," (Photograph 4), mansard-roofed Second Empire-style houses (Photograph 23), and irregularly massed Queen Anne-style residences (Photograph 9). The most numerous of all the 19th-century styles is the Italianate, which includes the elaborately detailed c.1855 villa at 40 Main Street (Photograph 11); an 1821 dwelling to which were added cornice brackets, round-arched windows, and an entry hood on large scrolls (Photograph 10); and a c.1880 house with similar details and a bay window and open veranda (Photograph 22). The Italianate influence is also evident in the bracketed cornices found on the district's 19th-century commercial buildings (Photograph 20).

Among the plainer houses which make up the majority in the district, architectural ornament is generally limited to porch detail, such as turned posts, jigsaw brackets, spindled friezes, and applied lattices and sawtooth boards (Photographs 16, 19, and 24). There are two distinct subclasses of vernacular dwellings: a row of multi-family houses formerly associated with a textile mill on Moosup Road (Photograph 5), and a cluster of simple 1 1/2-story houses erected as a rental housing venture by a turn-of-the-century entrepreneur (Photographs 14 and 16).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-2
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

The district includes among its contributing buildings four 18th-century houses, of which the Kennedy House on Black Hill Road (but facing School Street Extension; Photograph 1) is in the best state of preservation. In addition, there are two Colonial Revival houses and a number of well-preserved Bungalow and Foursquare houses from the 1920s (Photographs 2 and 6).

The boundaries were drawn so as to include the concentration of old buildings in the center of Central Village, as well as along the radiating streets so far as old houses, and not modern construction, predominated. Property lines were used for the boundary except in cases where large amounts of back acreage made it inappropriate. Within these boundaries, which excluded some commercial development on the east side of Putnam Road and the athletic field on the south side of School Street, the relatively few noncontributing buildings include the interconnected high school additions (counted as one noncontributing building), a small number of houses built within the last 50 years, a truck garage, a shopping plaza (Photograph 3), and a storage complex.

Although vinyl siding and aluminum siding are common on houses in the district, most sided houses retain their characteristic form, fenestration, and some historic material, such as historic sash or entry treatment; an example is the sided house at 2-6 East Main Street (Photograph 13). In a few cases, however, modernization and additions were so extensive that the house was classified as noncontributing.

Most of the district is residential, but the village includes other kinds of buildings as well. Among the institutional structures are the Central Village Congregational Church, built in 1845; the old town hall, built in 1872 (Photograph 10); a former brick schoolhouse, dating from 1843 (Photograph 25); and the 1924 Plainfield High School (Photograph 18).

The district's largest industrial building is the 1901 Plainfield Woolen Company mill, previously listed on the National Register and now rehabilitated into residential condominiums (Photograph 12); the mill complex includes a headrace, waste-gates, and remnant of a small pond. On Morton Lane is a c.1930 former bottling plant, consisting of a 2 1/2 story shingled building and a long garage. At one time there were other factories in Central Village. The former Bragg woolen mill on Water Street burned and what remained after the fire was incorporated into a modern industrial and storage complex. The woodworking factory which operated from 1866 to the 1960s on Torrey Lane is today marked

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Central Village Historic District 7-3
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

only by stone foundations, races, and a half-buried turbine. Although the theme of this nomination is not archeological, the factory site is counted as a contributing resource. Another set of stone remains along the Moosup River may be artifacts of other industrial activity. Two buildings which are now used as houses were formerly a printing shop and a jewelry store.

Many of the houses in the district have small barns or carriagehouses at the rear (Photographs 17 and 19); these have been counted as contributing buildings, as have garages that are contemporary with early 20th-century houses. In a few cases, historic barns remain without an associated house (Photograph 8).

The six structures in the district include four early 20th-century bridges (contributing) and two that lie outside the district's period of significance, which is c.1750 to c.1930.

In the inventory which follows, "siding" refers to either aluminum or vinyl siding, and "composition shingles" refers to textured rigid shingles commonly made from asbestos, wood pulp, and other materials. The dates are taken from the historic resource surveys cited in the Bibliography.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance Central Village Historic District 8-1
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Summary

Central Village Historic District is historically significant because its buildings recall the village's role as a small-scale industrial, commercial, and institutional center (Criterion A). These three threads together form the fabric of Central Village's heritage, which is made full by the continued existence of the village's historic buildings. Central Village's mill-town heritage, for example, is sustained by the large textile mill at the center of town, the tracts of mill housing associated with that mill and other enterprises, and several large, elaborate houses once occupied by millowners. Its former commercial importance is attested to by the cluster of stores and the c.1845 hotel at its center, as well as by the large Victorian houses which were the residences of prominent local businessmen and their families. Finally, the district contains two buildings associated with important townwide institutions, the original Plainfield Town Hall, built in 1872, and Plainfield High School, built in 1924. As its name suggests, Central Village is the most centrally located of the several villages within the Town of Plainfield, and as a result of its location (and the influence of its manufacturers and other prominent residents), it was chosen as the site of these community facilities.

The district also has architectural significance. The houses clustered on Main Street and others scattered throughout the village are among the largest and most elaborate examples of Victorian architecture in Plainfield, embodying the characteristic form and details of several distinct architectural styles (Criterion C). One house in the district, the Fenner-Matthewson mansion at 40 East Main Street (Photograph 11), ranks among the most outstanding and best-preserved examples of the Italian Villa mode in the state. Many of the plainer houses also have architectural interest as well-preserved specimens of vernacular building practices, and even those which have been altered retain some features which help establish the village's historical origins in the 19th century.

Historic Background

The waterpower of the Moosup River was a major factor in the development of Central Village. Prior to the early 19th century, the area was but a nameless locality within the Town of Plainfield, sharing in the agrarian economy which characterized 18th-century eastern Connecticut. The few 18th-century houses in Central Village were originally homes of farming families, although, significantly, at

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance Central Village Historic District 8-2
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

least one family, the Kennedys, were also involved in the small-scale industries, such as grist milling and fulling, that were vital to the agricultural economy. In 1814 a group of landowners formed the Central Manufacturing Company, which built a cotton-spinning mill on the site of the present brick mill on Main Street. In 1827 a major interest in the mill was purchased by Arnold Fenner of Rhode Island, who proceeded to add another factory and worker houses to the complex. In 1845, at which time the first mill was rebuilt in brick, the Central Manufacturing Company was the village's largest employer, lending its name to the settlement, then called "Centreville."

At the western end of the village, the Kennedy mills were also turned to textile manufacturing starting about 1835, with cotton, flannel, wicking, and twine all produced at one time or another. The Kennedy mills also built houses for workers, but rather than the standard tenements associated with the larger mills of the area, they built a series of small single-family houses on their tract at the western end of School Street (Photograph 24; 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 6th from right are all houses formerly associated with the Kennedy mills). This part of the village was known as Kennedy City.

The second factor in the development of Central Village was the completion of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad (now the Providence and Worcester) in 1839. The railroad, which passed midway between the two tiny clusters at the manufacturing sites, established a center for the village and gave it a commercial function to supplement its industrial base. Within a few years of the railroad's completion, the village's central square boasted a hotel and tavern (Photograph 15), a dry goods store, a jewelry store (Photograph 7, right), an apothecary (Photograph 20), a stove shop, and a combined paint store and grocery (Photograph 16, right), all of which remain today.

For the remainder of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Central Village's fortunes followed the ups and downs of the textile industry, but in general prosperity prevailed. A Congregational Church was established in 1845 through the generosity of Arnold Fenner and other leading citizens, and in 1871, when the Town of Plainfield decided to build a town hall rather than continue meeting in the Plainfield Congregational meetinghouse, Central Village was chosen, both because of its location and because of the influence of prominent Central Village residents such as Fenner and lawyer J. J. Penrose. Economic development continued as well. In 1866 a factory was started by George and Henry Torrey to make carriages, wagons, ox yokes, and other products, and new stores and other businesses were

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Statement of Significance Central Village Historic District 8-3
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continually added to Central Village's attractions. Between 1890 and 1903, Plainfield merchant Walter Palmer built a series of 14 single-family houses on Putnam Road and Palmer Court to rent to the village's growing number of working-class families.

In the 20th century, the village was rescued from oblivion when the Plainfield Woolen Company bought the by-then moribund cotton mills and built a large new woolen mill, along with several multifamily mill tenements. A second woolen mill followed in 1907. By this time the village's population included a sizeable number of French-Canadian families, and at least one of their number joined the village's entrepreneurs; Urgele LaFrance started a beverage company in 1900 whose bottling and distribution plant still survives on Morton Lane. When the town built a large modern high school building in 1924, it again chose Central Village as the best location.

With the onset of the Great Depression, Central Village entered a period of decline. One by one the village's mills and factories went out of business, with fires and floods taking a toll on their buildings. The town hall was relocated to the village of Plainfield in 1942. The Torrey Brothers woodworking factory lasted through the 1960s, by which time it was making sticks for the National Hockey League under the ownership of the Greenes, a local African-American family. By the 1970s only the Plainfield Woolen Company mill remained of all the village's historic industries, and it too soon closed, to be rehabilitated into residential units. Although most of the old stores are at least partly occupied by businesses, Central Village has become a largely residential area, with most of its inhabitants working elsewhere.

Today the buildings of Central Village reflect the entire breadth of its historical development, from the 18th-century houses of the area's first families, such as the Kennedy House on Black Hill Road (Photograph 1), to the 19th-century stores and tavern at the center (Photographs 16, 16, and 20), to the large early 20th-century mill and mill housing at the intersection of Main Street and Norwich Road (Photographs 5 and 12). Many of the houses are associated with people who played a prominent part in the villages's history, such as leading lawyer J. J. Penrose (Photograph 17); millowners Arnold Fenner, Allen Harris, and Henry Cutler (Photographs 11, 13, and 23); and merchants E. H. Lillibridge and Frank H. Tillinghast (Photograph 9). Together with the church, old town hall, and high school, these buildings testify to the longstanding existence of Central Village as an important center for the surrounding locale.

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Statement of Significance Central Village Historic District 8-4
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Architectural Significance

The buildings in Central Village embody the distinctive characteristics of several types and periods of architecture. Several of the early 19th-century houses illustrate the transition from Federal-period architecture, with its emphasis on slender proportions and geometric shapes such as the ellipse (Photograph 13, entry), to the bolder, more rectilinear forms of the Greek Revival style (Photograph 21); most of these houses have the characteristic street-facing-gable orientation, suggestive of the temple form, that was popular in the 1830s and 1840s. Other houses are significant as representative examples of the Gothic Revival, characterized by steeply pitched gables, pointed-arched forms, and "medieval" details such as polygonal columns and drip molds over the windows and entries (Photograph 4).

The Fenner-Matthewson mansion (Photograph 11), built c.1855 by millowner Arnold Fenner and later occupied by his daughter and son-in-law, has long been recognized as one of Connecticut's outstanding Victorian houses.¹ The house is a well-preserved example of the Italian Villa style, with the characteristic box-like form, flat roof, veranda, belvedere, arched shapes, and bay windows; the plethora of brackets, quoins, canopies, balustrades, and jigsaw scalloped decoration epitomizes the Victorian taste for abundant architectural detail.

Later well-preserved Victorian houses exemplify the Second Empire style with their mansard roofs and scroll-ornamented dormers (Photographs 9 and 23); the Italianate, embodied in their bracketed cornices, arched windows, bay windows, and verandas (Photographs 17 and 22); and the Queen Anne style, characterized by asymmetric plans and complex rooflines (Photograph 9). Taken together, these individually distinguished examples represent one of the most concentrated groupings of Victorian houses in Plainfield.

Although less numerous, some well-preserved and representative examples of 20th-century styles are also found in the district. Several Bungalows and Foursquare houses embody such distinctive characteristics as roof braces and exposed rafter ends, large dormers and porches, and combined shingle and clapboard siding (Photograph 6),

¹Edmund V. Gillon and Clay Lancaster, Victorian Houses: A Treasury of Lesser-Known Examples (New York, 1973), 46-47.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance Central Village Historic District 8-5
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all of which treatments were intended to reflect the period's goal of a practical house that used natural materials and honestly expressed its structure. Some of these features also appear in the district's two nearly identical gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival houses (Photograph 2). The district's one 20th-century institutional building exhibits the Neo-Classical pilasters and entablatures which were favored in that period for their connotations of monumentality and serious purpose (Photograph 18).

Complementing the more elaborate houses in the district are those which illustrate vernacular building traditions. Although not of any particular historical style, these houses draw upon more formal architecture for some of their details, while also incorporating the varied sawn, turned, and planed millwork available in the second half of the 19th century. The former store at 11-13 Putnam Road (Photograph 16, center) is a well-preserved example: although plain in form, it is embellished by the typically Victorian details--turned and sawn balusters and vine-pattern post brackets--of its two-story porch. Similar details originally adorned all the small houses built by Walter Palmer in his c.1900 development (Photograph 16, left). Central Village had a local source for such material: Willis Rouse, who lived in and probably built the house at 35 School Street (Photograph 22), was a contractor and dealer in sash and architectural millwork. Together with the stores, brick schoolhouse, mill tenements, and former shops, these plainer buildings in the Central Village Historic District enhance its architectural significance by providing a broad range of buildings that reflect the entire historical socioeconomic spectrum.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X 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 Plainfield Woolen Mill
- 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, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: approx. 130 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	___	_____	_____	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.
 The boundary is shown on the accompanying map, scale 1"=200', traced and from Plainfield Assessor Map 14.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.
 The boundary includes the densely settled area at the center of Central Village, continuing along the radiating streets so as to include contiguous historic structures; the boundary stops at the edge of settlement or when modern construction predominates.

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11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
=====

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: January 15, 1991

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

UTM References

Central Village Historic District
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

10-1

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B:	19/258700/4622380	QQ:	19/258080/4623420
C:	19/258660/4622360	RR:	19/258220/4623640
D:	19/258400/4622380	SS:	19/258350/4623530
E:	19/258440/4622250	TT:	19/258220/4623200
F:	19/258370/4622260	UU:	19/258170/4623160
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H:	19/258150/4622450	WW:	19/258160/4622920
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II:	19/257580/4623060		
JJ:	19/257640/4623090		
KK:	19/257740/4623070		
LL:	19/257700/4622900		
MM:	19/257880/4622940		
NN:	19/257000/4623140		
OO:	19/257980/4623310		

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Central Village Historic District Photos-1
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

All photographs:

1. Central Village Historic District
2. Plainfield, Windham County, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. December, 1990
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
 Hartford, CT

Captions:

Kennedy House, 10-12 Black Hill Road, camera facing southwest
Photograph 1 of 25

House at 21 Black Hill Road, camera facing south
Photograph 2 of 25

Shopping plaza (noncontributing), 1-17 East Main Street, camera facing
southeast
Photograph 3 of 25

House at 34 East Main Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 4 of 25

Former mill tenements, 47-49 through 19 East Main Street, camera
facing west
Photograph 5 of 25

House at 11 East Shepard Hill Road, camera facing northwest
Photograph 6 of 25

Brick house at 4 Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 7 of 25

Barn at 16 Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 8 of 25

Houses (l.-r.) at 18-20, 26, and 30 Main Street, camera facing
southeast
Photograph 9 of 25

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Photographs Central Village Historic District Photos-2
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Congregational Church (on left), 33 Main Street, Old Town Hall, 29 Main Street, and house at 25 Main Street, camera facing south
Photograph 10 of 25

Fenner-Matthewson Mansion, 40 Main Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 11 of 25

Plainfield Woolen Mill, 45 Main Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 12 of 25

Houses at 54 Main Street (on left) and 2-6 East Main Street, camera facing north
Photograph 13 of 25

Houses at 17, 19, and 21 Palmer Court, camera facing northeast
Photograph 14 of 25

Central Hotel (historic Collins Hotel), 4 Putnam Road, camera facing east
Photograph 15 of 25

Houses (l.-r.) at 9 and 11-13 Putnam Road, camera facing northwest
Photograph 16 of 25

House at 55 Putnam Road, camera facing west
Photograph 17 of 25

Plainfield High School, 87 Putnam Road, camera facing northwest
Photograph 18 of 25

House at 27 River Street, camera facing south
Photograph 19 of 25

Commercial blocks, 1-5 (left) and 7-11 School Street, camera facing southwest
Photograph 20 of 25

House at 16-18 School Street, camera facing northeast
Photograph 21 of 25

House at 35 School Street, camera facing southwest
Photograph 22 of 25

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Photographs
Central Village Historic District Photos-3
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

House at 52 School Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 23 of 25

Houses at west end of School Street, 66 School Street on right, camera
facing northwest
Photograph 24 of 25

Former Kennedy District School, 3 Shepard Hill Road, camera facing
northwest
Photograph 25 of 25