

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001800

Date Listed: 12/13/90

Canaan Village Historic District

Litchfield

CT

Property Name

County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Beth L. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

12/13/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

The intended period of significance for the district is 1836-1942 which relates to the continuum of the community's historic commercial and architectural development as a regional commercial center. The construction date of the diner, 1942, is intended (and is justified) as the termination date for the period.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Canaan Village Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet not for publication N/A
city, town North Canaan vicinity N/A
state CT code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06018

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>195</u>	<u>38</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>197</u>	<u>38</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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 John W. Shannahan Date 10/22/90
John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer

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:) _____

Beth J. Savage 12/13/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single family
Commerce/Trade: specialty store,
financial, institution
Religious

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single family
Commerce/Trade: specialty store,
financial, institution
Religious

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival
Queen Anne
No Style
Other: Picturesque Vernacular
Commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood: weatherboard; shingle
Stucco
roof Synthetics
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Canaan Village Historic District consists of 235 resources in the central portion of the village of Canaan, the population and commercial center of the town of North Canaan. Located in the upper northwest corner of the state immediately south of the Massachusetts state line, the town lies in the Northwest Highlands, the state's most rugged and dramatic region. The village is laid out on the northern edge of the Blackberry River flood plain with gently rising topography to the north and west. The district occupies 93 acres and is bounded approximately by Granite Avenue on the west, West Main Street on the east, Main Street on the south, and Bragg Street on the north. The 28-building central business district is dominated by early-20th-century buildings, and it is surrounded on the west, north, and east by mid- to late-19th- and early-20th-century residential areas of detached frame houses. Fifty-nine of the 119 dwellings in the district were constructed prior to 1900. Forty-eight were built between 1900 and 1935, and only 12 date from after 1935. There are 80 outbuildings or ancillary buildings, 1 structure, 5 ecclesiastical buildings, and 3 railroad-related resources. Only 38 are non-contributing, of which 19 are modern garages or cottages added to the rear portion of lots of contributing buildings. The overall character of the district is that of a well-preserved village whose main spurt of development occurred during the last quarter of the 19th and first third of the 20th centuries. Physically the community appears much as it did on the eve of the Second World War.

The plan of the village, with the commercial area adjacent to the railroad tracks that traverse the town from south to north, was dictated by the 1836 layout of the right-of-way of the Housatonic Railroad. The main through road, Main Street, runs east to west, and its intersection with the tracks forms the focal point of the village center. The original station, housed in the Greek Revival Warner-Canfield Hotel building (non-extant), was located on the east side of the tracks and fronted on what became Main Street. The central business district developed around the station along Main Street and Railroad Street, which deadends at Main (photograph 1). The southern end of Railroad Street is dominated by one- and two-story

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brick and frame commercial buildings, while the northern end was the site of bulk supply and service buildings such as garages (photograph 2). The railroad station and depot were moved to the south side of Main Street in 1872 when a handsome Italianate-style union station was completed. The station, which dominates the eastern entrance into the village, has active trackage to its east and south. A crossing tender's shanty and semaphore are set on Main Street on the north side of the parking lot; these enhance the well-preserved historic setting of the 1872 depot. The architecturally significant streamline diner, fabricated of aluminum and blue enamel panels in 1942, is located on the east side of the parking lot (photograph 3).

With the exception of the area immediately east of the railroad tracks on Main Street that contains the three non-compatible buildings, the 28-building central business district is a cohesive blend of brick and frame commercial blocks built to the street (photograph 1). They vary in height from one to three stories and range in date of construction from the mid-19th century to 1941. Structures from the first three decades of this century predominate. Twenty-one of the 28 buildings were constructed after 1900, and they give the business district its decided early-20th-century character.

The earliest commercial buildings in the village were two-story and gable-ended. The Humphrey Pharmacy (81-83 Main Street) (photograph 1), constructed in 1843, is representative of that building type, and it, like the two other mid-19th-century commercial structures at 10 and 14 Railroad Street (photograph 2), has been extensively reworked on the facade, but their rear elevations reveal the original styling. The picturesque modes that dominated the last third of the 19th century are represented by the Roraback Law Office at 115 Main Street (photograph 4). More generously proportioned than the earlier structures, the one-story frame building has a deep bracketed parapet that reflects the era's love of bold millwork. Other late-19th-century frame commercial blocks shown in historic photographs have been replaced. The Canfield Block (93-97 Main Street) (photograph 4), a large three-story frame building with pressed metal sheathing and a deep projecting pressed-metal cornice, is the most important commercial building in the district owing to its size, remarkably complete state of preservation, and location on Main Street in the center of the business district. Stylistically a transitional structure, it marks the decline of the picturesque mode in favor of the more restrained Colonial Revival. The building combines three storefronts with recessed entrances on the first level with offices and apartments on the upper floors.

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Representative of the brick commercial blocks is the 1903 Fuller Hardware building at 17 Railroad Street (photograph 19). Built to the street with plate glass showcase windows and a recessed entrance on the first level, the building has double-hung windows on the upper level(s) and a corbelled brick cornice. The same type was used later in the century for the 1931 Berenson Block at 85-89 Main Street as well as the well-preserved frame Mahaiwe Jewelry Building at 25 Railroad Street, which also features a projecting cornice. It too is sheathed with pressed metal, a material that is frequently used in Canaan.

The commercial portion of Railroad Street is anchored by the large stuccoed 2-story Colonial Revival Colonial Theater built in 1927 (photograph 19). Monumentally detailed with a giant-order Tuscan-columned portico with a reticulated balustrade enclosing the second-level balcony, the building, which is one of the architecturally most significant and best-preserved in the commercial core, features a movie house on the main level, ballroom on the second, and bowling alley in the basement. Two chamfered storefronts with small-light showcase windows flank the recessed entrance to the theater.

The section of Railroad Street between the commercial blocks and Bragg Street was developed primarily as the bulk product distribution and service garage business district, but few of the original/early establishments survive. Brewer's Garage, an automobile dealership established in 1912 and continuously in operation from its one-story masonry and frame facility at 32 Railroad Street (photograph 2), is the only such business remaining on the east side of the street. The area to the north of the garage is open. More complete is the west side of the street with its mix of residences and garages that served as repair facilities. Of the industries located south of Main Street and west of the Housatonic Railroad line, only the former Canaan Fireproof Garage, converted to C.A. Lindell's sash and blind factory in 1932, survives (photograph 3). The Borden processing facility was housed in frame buildings that burned in the 1970s. The area has been redeveloped for housing, with some warehousing and light manufacturing located to the south outside the district.

Stretching to the west and north of the commercial district are the well-preserved late-19th- and early-20th-century residential streets. Of particular significance is the lower end of West Main Street, the earliest of the fashionable residential areas. It developed as an extension of Main Street, which also featured early residences. Granite Avenue, which runs northerly off of Main Street east of Christ Episcopal Church, is an almost uninterrupted row of ambitious

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late-19th-century dwellings primarily constructed in the picturesque Colonial Revival mode. Equally as well-preserved but more representative of the less ambitious late-19th- and early-20th-century styles are Prospect (photograph 17) and Bragg Streets. Many of the early houses retain their original/early carriage barns, while 20th-century houses are often complemented by corresponding one- and two-car garages. All houses are freestanding and set on well-maintained lots, with the houses on West Main Street enjoying particularly generous lots. West Main, Granite, and Bragg Streets are laid out with sidewalks and parkways lined with mature shade trees which add to the graciousness of the streetscapes.

The earliest residences in the district are Greek Revival since the town was not established until the late 1830s. Seven houses were documented as predating 1865, and they are scattered throughout the district. The two best-preserved examples are located on the fringe of the commercial area. The Lynch House at 31 Granite Avenue (photograph 6) is located immediately east of the railroad tracks and faces Railroad Street. It is a well-preserved example of the two-story Greek Revival house with a pedimented gable end that is common in the state. The Spaulding-Hunt-Roraback House at 117 Main Street represents the 5-bay form of the Grecian mode with its bold entablature and corner pilasters (photograph 18). The house was reworked in the Italianate taste later in the 19th century when a verandah with chamfered posts, bold double-leaf entrance doors, and richly detailed bay windows were added. The house is part of a three-building complex that remained as one parcel until 1980, when the large carriage barn to the southeast of the northerly oriented house and the Italianate law office were set off as separate parcels. Despite the separate ownership of each structure, the complex still reads as one property.

Large Italianate and Queen Anne houses set on generous lots on the lower end of West Main Street contribute greatly to the character of the residential portions of the district. The 1874 Beers atlas map of the village shows that seven dwellings had been constructed on the lower end of West Main Street, and six of those buildings survive. One of the best-preserved of the Queen Anne-style dwellings is the superbly massed and detailed 2 1/2-story Pierce House at 180 West Main Street. The rich milled trim includes the turned-post verandah and filled gable peaks, decorative bargeboards, and handsome bay windows. The Foote House at 160 West Main Street was originally very similar, suggesting that it is the work of the same builder, but its original verandah has been replaced by an early-20th-century Tuscan-columned verandah in the Colonial Revival style. 130 West Main Street with its picturesque massing, varied roof silhouette, and excellent millwork

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verandah also reflects the best of the Queen Anne mode (photograph 8). The Wadham House at 6 Quinn Street, built in 1876, is a sophisticated example of the High Victorian Italianate mode. Detailed with double-tiered octagonal-ended bay windows flanking the central entrance and a handsome chamfered-post side verandah, it is the most distinctive example of the style in the district (photograph 9). A more restrained and representative example of the Italianate style is the L-shaped house with boxed overhanging eaves and circular-headed windows in the gable ends at 141 West Main Street. Both 141 West Main Street and 146 West Main, a ca. 1873 Italianate house, have later Colonial Revival detailing (photograph 10).

The north end of West Main Street as well as Bragg Street are dominated by less grand two-story picturesque vernacular and boxy Colonial Revival houses with full-facade verandahs with turned posts. Representative examples of the house forms that dominated the 1890-1910 period are ca. 1900 houses at 223 West Main Street (photograph 9) and 268 and 276 West Main Street (photograph 5). The Craftsman influence is also reflected in some of the well-proportioned stuccoed ca. 1915 houses. Of particular note is the house at 57 Bragg Street with its geometric cap detail on the inset porch posts (photograph 11). Many of the houses also retain their original carriage barns or early garages. The most ambitious Colonial Revival dwelling in the district is the ca. 1905 Allyn House at 121 Railroad Street (photograph 7). It was moved to its present location from 25 Railroad Street in 1910.

By 1890 Granite Avenue eclipsed West Main Street as the most prestigious residential area. Most of the 19 large well-proportioned frame houses in the picturesque Colonial Revival style are laid out on generous lots on a gently rising ridge. They were designed and built by E.R. Lorrain, North Canaan's most gifted turn-of-the-century contractor. The commodious houses, distinguished by picturesque massing and detailing and bold roof silhouettes, are well-preserved, save for the common use of aluminum siding over the original. They offer a remarkably complete assemblage of buildings that reflect late-19th-century taste (photographs 12, 13). Two buildings, the well-detailed Colonial Revival Cape at 81 Granite Avenue built in 1941 on an undeveloped lot and the 1964 Colonial Revival meeting hall at 30 Granite Avenue, are the only intrusions.

Also located on Granite Avenue is one of the three architecturally distinguished churches located in the district. Built in 1888, the Pilgrim Congregational Church, designed by E. R. Lorrain, is an excellent example of the Shingle Style with its picturesque massing, decorative diamond-pattern window sash, and hip-roofed corner tower

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(photograph 12). Dominating the north side of the east edge of the village center is the well-preserved Gothic Revival chapel erected in random ashlar granite in 1845 for the Episcopal congregation. The gable-ended structure has a smaller corresponding vestibule and diagonal corner buttresses as well as a slate roof (photograph 14). In 1931 a freestanding rubble-coursed Gothic Revival-inspired tower was erected east of the church. The visual importance of the church site to the townscape is emphasized by the location of the town's fieldstone pedestal and bronze statue war memorial located on the southeast portion of the lot which functions as the equivalent of a town green (photograph 14). The Canaan United Methodist Church is prominently located at the west end of Main Street where it divides into Church and West Main Streets. It is a well-preserved example of the richly detailed eclectic churches favored during the last third of the 19th century (photograph 15). Set gable end to the street with a bold entablature that returns on the gable end, the church is dominated by the well-detailed spire that rises from the projecting central pavilion. Continued.

Building Inventory Follows.

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BUILDING INVENTORY

C NC ADDRESS. COMMON NAME. DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

- 0 1 9 Bragg St. Kauttu House. 1949.
2-story frame Colonial Revival dwelling.
- 2 0 10 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1925.
Boxy 2-story hip-roofed 2-bay Colonial Revival house.
Corresponding garage.
- 2 0 17 Bragg St. Segalla House & Barn. Ca. 1910.
Well-preserved 2-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival
dwelling. Gambrel-roofed carriage barn.
- 2 0 18 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1920.
2-story gable-ended dwelling. Open-front garage.
- 1 1 22 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1895.
2-story gable-ended stuccoed vernacular dwelling with
verandah. Garage is modern construction.
- 3 0 25 Bragg St. House, Cottage, & Barn. Ca. 1890.
2-story vernacular dwelling with later Craftsman porch.
Gable-ended cottage and gambrel-roofed barn behind house.
- 2 0 34 Bragg St. House & Barn. Ca. 1890.
2-story L-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling.
Gambrel-roofed carriage barn converted to garage.
- 1 0 38 Bragg St. House. Ca. 1895.
2-story gable-ended vernacular dwelling with historically
enclosed full-facade porch.
- 2 0 39 Bragg St. House & Barn. Ca. 1895.
Well-preserved 2-story gable-ended picturesque vernacular
dwelling. Gambrel-roofed carriage barn.
- 3 0 43 Bragg St. Mather House, Garage, & Barn. Ca. 1900.
2-story L-shaped vernacular dwelling with wrapping verandah.
1900 gambrel-roofed carriage barn. Mid-century hip-roofed
garage.
- 1 0 46 Bragg St. Lamson House. Ca. 1840-50.
Small gable-ended Greek Revival dwelling.

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-
- 3 0 51, 53 Bragg St. House, Cottage, & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story shingled L-shaped vernacular house. 2-story cottage
appears to be ca. 1900 house moved to location. Mid-century
garage.
- 1 0 54 Bragg St. Wyatt House. Ca. 1929.
Distinctive Colonial Revival-influenced Craftsman dwelling.
- 2 0 57 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1928.
Stuccoed 1-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling.
Corresponding hip-roofed garage. Photograph 11.
- 1 1 59 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1928.
1 1/2-story stuccoed hip-roofed dwelling with inset porch.
Garage constructed in 1960. Photograph 11.
- 2 0 60 Bragg St. Jackson House & Garage. Ca. 1925.
Tudor Revival dwelling with mock half-timbered gable end.
Corresponding 2-car garage.
- 2 0 66 Bragg St. Hart House & Garage. Ca. 1927.
2-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling. Corresponding
hip-roofed garage.
- 2 0 70 Bragg St. Perkins House & Garage. Ca. 1930.
Academic Colonial Revival dwelling with coupled windows on
facade. Corresponding garage.
- 1 0 74 Bragg St. Nielson House. Ca. 1931.
Hip-roofed stuccoed Colonial Revival dwelling with full-facade
porch.
- 1 1 76 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1932.
Well-preserved Craftsman bungalow with exterior stone chimney.
Modern garage.
- 0 1 80-84 Bragg St. Duplex. 1985.
2-story frame duplex with garages on front.
- 2 0 86 Bragg St. House & Garage. Ca. 1905.
2-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling with side entrance
porch. Corresponding garage.
- 0 1 1 Church St. Roraback House Carriage Barn. Ca. 1890, 1986.
Large carriage barn converted to office space. Little, if any,
original fabric survives.

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- 1 0 2 Church St. Canaan United Methodist Church. 1873, 1900.
Richly detailed eclectic frame church with superb imbricated-
shingle steeple. Photograph 15.
- 1 0 21 Granite Ave. Lorrain-Roraback House. Ca. 1890.
Large shingled gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house with inset
verandah. Photograph 14.
- 2 0 25 Granite Ave. Methodist Parsonage & Garage. 1882.
2-story L-shaped shingled picturesque vernacular dwelling.
Ca. 1920s garage. Photograph 12.
- 1 0 29 Granite Ave. Pilgrim Congregational Church. 1888.
Superb Shingle Style church with square corner tower.
Photograph 12.
- 2 0 26, 28 Granite Ave. Fuller-Eldridge House & Barn. Ca. 1885.
Picturesquely massed 2 1/2-story L-shaped Queen Anne dwelling.
Corresponding hip-roofed carriage barn converted to dwelling.
- 0 1 30 Granite Ave. Pilgrim House. 1964.
1-story Colonial Revival building located at rear of large
parking lot.
- 1 0 31 Granite Ave. P. Lynch House. Ca. 1840.
2-story chastely detailed Greek Revival dwelling with
pedimented gable ends. Photograph 6.
- 1 0 33 Granite Ave. Congregational Church Parsonage. Ca. 1888.
2-story Colonial Revival dwelling with pedimented gable ends.
Photograph 12.
- 1 0 53 Granite Ave. C.A. Lindell House. Ca. 1885.
2-story L-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling with
octagonal-ended bay on south.
- 1 0 54 Granite Ave. Hardenbergh House. Ca. 1890.
Eclectic picturesquely massed dwelling with square corner
tower with hip roof and jerkin-head roofed front pavilion.
- 1 0 61 Granite Ave. Lawrence House. Ca. 1885.
2 1/2-story Queen Anne house with wrapping verandah. Aluminum
siding.

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- 2 0 62 Granite Ave. Cargill-Boylen House & Barn. Ca. 1889.
2 1/2-story shingled Queen Anne dwelling with bracketed
overhangs and bay windows. Corresponding carriage barn.
- 2 0 65 Granite Ave. Fuller House & Garage. 1888.
2 1/2-story Queen Anne house with imbricated shingles on
upper levels. Inset corner porch enclosed. Ca. 1930s garage.
- 2 0 73 Granite Ave. Collin House & Garage. Ca. 1890.
Hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling with full-facade porch.
Stuccoed garage appears to date to 1920s.
- 2 0 74 Granite Ave. Episcopal Church Rectory & Barn. 1889.
2 1/2-story Queen Anne dwelling. Modern siding.
Corresponding carriage barn.
- 2 0 78 Granite Ave. Canfield-McKay House & Garage. Ca. 1889.
T-shaped 2 1/2-story Queen Anne dwelling with deep central
pavilion. Stuccoed 2-car garage dates to 1930s.
- 1 0 81 Granite Ave. Keener-Wilcox House. 1941.
Well-proportioned 1 1/2-story academic Colonial Revival house.
- 2 0 86 Granite Ave. J. H. Roraback House & Barn. Ca. 1890.
Large picturesque shingled gambrel-roofed house.
Corresponding gambrel-roofed carriage barn.
- 1 0 89 Granite Ave. Parsons House. Ca. 1900.
2-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival duplex.
- 1 0 94 Granite Ave. Holt-Hurley House. Ca. 1900.
2-story shingled Colonial Revival house with newer Colonial
Revival porch.
- 1 0 95 Granite Ave. House. Ca. 1900.
2-story T-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling with porch.
- 2 0 102 Granite Ave. Hall House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival house with porch.
Ca. 1920s gambrel-roofed garage.
- 1 0 103 Granite Ave. House. Ca. 1890.
Handsome Queen Anne dwelling with rounded solarium on south end
of verandah. Photograph 13.

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- 2 0 110 Granite Ave. Freeman House & Barn. Ca. 1890.
2 1/2-story gambrel-roofed shingled Queen Anne house.
Corresponding carriage barn.
- 2 0 111 Granite Ave. House & Barn. Ca. 1895.
2 1/2-story Queen Anne dwelling. Verandah historically
enclosed. Corresponding carriage barn. Photograph 13.
- 1 0 49 Main St. Esso Service Station. Ca. 1925.
Well-preserved stuccoed Tudor Revival service station
converted to professional offices.
- 1 0 53 Main St. Collins Diner. 1942.
Small well-preserved streamline diner manufactured by Jerry
O'Mahoney Company, Elizabeth, New Jersey. Photograph 3.
- 1 0 Main St. War Memorial Monuments. Since ca. 1920.
Low fieldstone walls frame 8'-high fieldstone pedestal
topped by bronze war statue. Photograph 14.
- 2 0 58 Main St. Christ Episcopal Church, Parish House, & Tower.
1845, 1931.
Excellent Gothic Revival ashlar masonry church with gable-ended
massing. Freestanding random ashlar belltower erected in 1931
to east of church. Ca. 1900 stuccoed hip-roofed parish house
to north. Photograph 14.
- 0 1 62-68 Main St. Ducillo Block. 1951. .
2-story flat-roofed brick commercial block with 3 storefronts.
Photograph 1.
- 1 0 75 Main St. Union Depot. 1872.
L-shaped board-and-batten Italianate station and freight
house. Octagonal corner tower. Individually listed in
National Register in 1972. Photograph 3.
- 1 0 Main St. Crossing Tender's Shanty & Semaphore. Ca. 1910.
Small hip-roofed building originally located on west side
of tracks on Main Street until ca. 1973. Photograph 3.
- 1 0 Main St. (rear). Car Barn. Ca. 1919.
Open-ended shed-roofed stuccoed frame building.
- 0 1 76 Main St. Canaan Pharmacy. Ca. 1984.
One-story modern commercial building.

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- 1 0 Main St. (rear). Water Tower. Ca. 1910.
Riveted-construction water tower on I-beam with lattice web legs. Located next to railroad tracks. Photograph 3.
- 1 0 81-83 Main St. Humphrey's Drugstore. Since 1843.
Gable-ended building with early-20th-century false front; oldest documented commercial building in Canaan. Plywood covers historic storefronts. Rusticated pressed-metal sheathing on secondary elevations. Photograph 1.
- 0 1 80 Main St. Masonic Building. Since 1910.
Large 2-story frame commercial structure completely reworked after fires in early 1980s. Photographs 1, 2.
- 1 0 85-89 Main St. Benenson Block. 1931.
2-story flat-roofed commercial block with decorative brickwork on facade. Two original storefronts. Photograph 5.
- 1 0 90 Main St. Phair Building. 1937.
2-story brick commercial block with Art Deco detailing. Stucco added to level of second-floor windows in 1980. Photograph 1.
- 1 0 93-97 Main St. Canfield Block. Ca. 1907.
Impressive well-preserved 3-story commercial building with pressed-metal exterior and cast-iron storefronts. Photograph 4.
- 0 1 94 Main St. Canaan Savings Bank. 1952.
Georgian Revival commercial building classified as non-contributing because of its recent date of construction.
- 1 0 96 Main St. Raynard & Pierce Building. 1933.
Brick 2-story Georgian Revival professional building built to street. Photograph 1.
- 1 0 100 Main St. Canaan National Bank. 1927, 1984.
2-story brick Colonial Revival commercial building with pedimented gable ends. North and rear addition constructed in 1984.
- 1 0 108 Main St. Douglas Library. Ca. 1890.
2-story Queen Anne dwelling converted to town library in 1926. Aluminum siding. Photograph 16.

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- 0 1 109 Main St. Commercial Building. Since 1850s.
2-story gable-ended frame commercial building that appears to
date originally to 1850s. Moved back from street. Remodeled
to present Colonial Revival appearance in 1984.
- 2 0 111 Main St. Dr. Lee House & Barn. Ca. 1845, 1910.
Gable-ended Greek Revival dwelling enlarged ca. 1910 with
Colonial Revival addition to west. Late-19th-century carriage
barn converted to garage. Photograph 4.
- 1 0 112 Main St. Southern New England Telephone Company Building.
1941.
Superb Art Moderne-influenced Colonial Revival 2-story brick
commercial building. Concrete block garage to rear constructed
in 1952. Photograph 16.
- 1 0 115 Main St. Roraback Law Office. Ca. 1875.
Richly detailed Italianate office with oversized bracketed
flat parapet. Recessed west wing. Photograph 18.
- 1 0 116 Main St. Dr. Forbes Adam Office. 1932.
Small 3-bay brick Colonial Revival building with
broken-scroll pediment frontispiece. Photograph 16.
- 1 0 117 Main St. Spaulding-Hunt-Roraback House. Ca. 1845, 1879.
5-bay Greek Revival house reworked in late-19th-century
Italianate taste. Aluminum siding. Photograph 18.
- 1 0 118 Main St. Burdick (Newkirk) Funeral Home. 1933.
2-story brick Colonial Revival dwelling built to street.
Sleeping porch over porte cochere on east side. Photograph 16.
- 2 0 60 Orchard St. N.W. Hardenbergh-Pozzi House. Ca. 1920.
Stately stuccoed Colonial Revival dwelling with
Tuscan-columned porch with pergola ends. Corresponding garage.
- 1 0 22 Prospect St. House. Ca. 1870.
Boxy shallow hip-roofed Italianate house. Aluminum siding.
- 2 0 30 Prospect St. House & Garage. Ca. 1890.
Cape reoriented to south and reworked in Colonial Revival
style.
- 1 0 31 Prospect St. Geller House. Ca. 1941.
Large academic Colonial Revival dwelling with several later
additions.

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Canaan Village Historic District
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- 1 0 38 Prospect St. House. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-ended vernacular dwelling with entrance porch.
Photograph 17.
- 1 1 41 Prospect St. Cowing House & Garage. Ca. 1927.
1-story Craftsman-influenced stuccoed dwelling with offset
porch. Garage constructed in 1966.
- 1 0 44 Prospect St. House. Ca. 1935.
1 1/2-story 3-bay Colonial Revival Cape.
- 1 1 47 Prospect St. Duplex & Garage. Ca. 1908.
Large 2 1/2-story Colonial Revival duplex with full-facade
verandah. Garage constructed in 1966.
- 2 0 52 Prospect St. Pulver House & Garage. Ca. 1925.
2-story picturesque vernacular dwelling with full-facade
porch. Corresponding garage.
- 1 0 54 Prospect St. House. Ca. 1925.
2-story shingled dwelling with pedimented gable ends and gabled
porch.
- 1 1 55 Prospect St. Phair House & Garage. Ca. 1912.
2-story Colonial Revival dwelling with pedimented gable ends
and Tuscan-columned verandah. Aluminum siding. Modern garage.
- 2 0 59 Prospect St. House & Garage. Ca. 1910.
2-story gable-ended stuccoed and shingled Colonial Revival
dwelling with full-facade verandah.
- 1 1 62 Prospect St. House & Garage. Ca. 1925.
2-story gable-ended stuccoed dwelling. Photograph 17.
- 0 1 68 Prospect St. House. Ca. 1953.
1 1/2-story Colonial Revival Cape.
- 1 1 69 Prospect St. House & Barn. Ca. 1966.
Modern 1 1/2-story Cape. Ca. 1900 plank-sided barn.
- 2 0 75 Prospect St. Ducillo House & Garage. Ca. 1910.
2 1/2-story 2-bay Colonial Revival dwelling with pedimented
gable ends and full-facade verandah. Corresponding garage.

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North Canaan, CTSection number 7 Page 14

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- 2 0 76-78 Prospect St. Duplex & Garage. Ca. 1925.
Hip-roofed Craftsman-influenced dwelling. Corresponding garage.
- 1 0 5 Quinn St. House. Ca. 1890.
2-story picturesque vernacular dwelling with truncated hip roof and Tuscan-columned verandah. Aluminum siding.
- 1 0 6 Quinn St. Wadham House. 1876.
Hip-roofed Italianate dwelling with double-tiered octagonal-ended bays on facade and chamfered-post side verandah. Photograph 9.
- 1 0 7-9 Quinn St. Duplex. Ca. 1895.
Gable-ended duplex with recessed side porches.
- 1 1 21 Quinn St. House & Garage. Ca. 1885.
2-story Queen Anne dwelling with verandah. Exterior stuccoed and some windows altered. Modern garage.
- 1 0 7, 9 Railroad St. Commercial Building. Ca. 1905.
3-story frame commercial duplex with apartments on upper levels. Photograph 20.
- 1 0 10 Railroad St. Commercial Building. Since Ca. 1880.
Gable-ended frame building to which early-20th-century projecting showcase windows have been added. Photograph 2.
- 0 1 11 Railroad St. Boscardin Building. Ca. 1950.
1-story textured brick commercial building with corbelled cornice. Modern storefront in original configuration with recessed entrance. Photograph 20.
- 1 0 14 Railroad St. Commercial Building. Since ca. 1850.
2-story frame Greek Revival building with 20th-century stepped parapet and brick false front. Original configuration visible on rear elevation. Photograph 2.
- 1 0 15 Railroad St. Commercial Building. Ca. 1905.
Gable-ended 2-story frame commercial building. Ca. 1960s white brick false front with modern showcase windows added. Photograph 20.
- 1 0 17 Railroad St. Fuller Building. 1904.
Well-preserved brick commercial block with corbelled cornice. Plateglass window storefronts on first level. Photograph 20.

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North Canaan, CTSection number 7 Page 15

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- 1 0 25 Railroad St. Mahaiwe Jewelry Building. Ca. 1912.
Distinctive 2-story frame commercial block with decorative
pressed-metal sheathing and cornice. Photograph 19.
- 1 0 27 Railroad St. Colonial Theater Building. Ca. 1926.
2-story stucco-on-lathe Colonial Revival building with
giant-order portico and reticulated balustrade on second-level
balcony. Photograph 19.
- 0 1 29 Railroad St. Boscardin & Knickerbocker Building. Ca. 1940,
1987.
Reworked 1940s 1-story structure built to street. Second
floor, aluminum siding, and windows added when converted to 18
apartments in 1987. Photograph 19.
- 1 0 32 Railroad St. Brewer's Garage. Since 1912.
Brick veneer and block utilitarian building with
showroom to south and garages to north. Photograph 2.
- 1 0 35 Railroad St. Stone's Garage. 1941.
Brick and stuccoed service station with two service bays.
- 1 1 37 Railroad St. House & Shop. Ca. 1870.
1 1/2-story shingled vernacular dwelling. Small modern frame
shop and metal and plastic greenhouse to rear of house.
- 4 0 41-47 Railroad St. 4-Building Complex. Since ca. 1890.
Residential/commercial complex consisting of two gable-ended
vernacular houses; one set to street and other, of mid-20th
century construction, located at rear of lot. Two frame
gable-roofed garage-like buildings.
- 0 1 61 Railroad St. House. Ca. 1974.
Modern 1-story Ranch house.
- 1 0 63 Railroad St. House. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-ended picturesque vernacular dwelling with gabled
entrance porch with turned posts.
- 1 0 65 Railroad St. House. Ca. 1900.
2-story stuccoed vernacular dwelling with scalloped shingles
in gable end.
- 2 0 71 Railroad St. Duplex & Garage. Ca. 1910.
Gambrel-roofed duplex with wrapping porch with solid
balustrade. Corresponding gambrel-roofed barn.

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North Canaan, CTSection number 7 Page 16

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- 1 0 103 Railroad St. House. Ca. 1890.
Small Queen Anne house with rich milled trim.
 - 2 0 115 Railroad St. House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-ended stuccoed vernacular dwelling with
Colonial Revival porch. 1930s garage.
 - 1 0 121 Railroad St. Allyn House. Ca. 1910.
Large stuccoed hip-roofed picturesque Colonial Revival
dwelling. Giant-order central portico and one-story verandah.
Photograph 7.
 - 2 0 130 W. Main St. House & Barn. Ca. 1894.
Queen Anne house with bold roof silhouette and millwork
verandah. Late-19th-century carriage barn. Photograph 8.
 - 3 1 146 W. Main St. Gillette-Bianchi House, Barn, & 2 Cottages.
Ca. 1870.
Italianate house reworked in picturesque Colonial Revival
mode. 19th-century barn converted to garage. Contributing
cottage is Craftsman, while non-contributing cottage is 1960s
Ranch style. Photograph 10.
 - 1 1 141 W. Main St. Knickerbocker House & Garage. Ca. 1873.
2-story Italianate house with distinctive bay window on south
elevation. Redone in Colonial Revival style this century.
Modern barn-like garage to south.
 - 1 0 W. Main St. Bridge. Ca. 1900.
Early iron lattice pony truss bridge fabricated by Canton
Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio.
 - 2 0 154 W. Main St. New England Lime Company Office & Garage. Ca.
1903.
Handsome gable-ended 2-story Colonial Revival dwelling
(duplex) with Tuscan-columned verandah. Hip-roofed garage.
 - 2 0 160 W. Main St. Foote House & Barn. Ca. 1870.
2 1/2-story Queen Anne dwelling with later Colonial Revival
columned porch. Late-19th-century carriage barn.
 - 2 0 161 W. Main St. Curtiss House & Barn. 1873.
Small 2-story T-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling with
millwork verandah on south side. Late-19th-century barn.

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- 1 0 165 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1890.
2-story Colonial Revival dwelling with pedimented gable end.
- 1 0 173 W. Main St. Reed House. Since ca. 1880.
2-story gable-ended Italianate dwelling reworked this century
in Colonial Revival style.
- 2 0 174 W. Main St. Roraback House & Garage. Ca. 1907.
Well-preserved large hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling
with later textured-stucco finish. Corresponding garage.
- 1 0 180 Main St. D.L. Pierce House. Ca. 1873.
Large impressive L-shaped Queen Anne dwelling with superb
milled trim.
- 2 0 181 W. Main St. House & Barn. Ca. 1885.
Well-preserved L-shaped Queen Anne house with slate roof.
Late-19th-century carriage barn.
- 1 0 191 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1885.
2 1/2-story High Victorian Italianate house. Original
verandah replaced. Aluminum siding.
- 2 0 200 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1926.
2-story gable-ended Colonial Revival dwelling. Corresponding
garage.
- 2 0 203 W. Main St. House & Barn. Ca. 1885.
2-story T-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling.
Late-19th-century carriage barn.
- 2 0 210-212 W. Main St. Duplex & Garage. Ca. 1877.
2-story picturesque vernacular duplex with central pavilion
flanked by porches. Aluminum siding. Early-20th-century
garage.
- 2 0 211 W. Main St. House & Barn. Ca. 1877.
L-shaped 2-story picturesque vernacular dwelling with
verandah. Late-19th-century barn.
- 1 0 219 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1890.
Gable-ended 2-story L-shaped vernacular dwelling.
- 2 0 223 W. Main St. House & Barn. Ca. 1900.
2-story Colonial Revival dwelling with wrapping verandah.
Corresponding barn with shed attached. Photograph 9.

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- 1 0 227 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1900.
Gable-ended vernacular dwelling with Tuscan-columned verandah.
- 1 1 228 W. Main St. House & Cottage. Ca. 1850.
1 1/2-story 2-bay gable-ended Greek Revival dwelling. Cottage
constructed in 1978.
- 1 0 232 W. Main St. Scott-Beebe Cottage. Ca. 1885.
2-story 3-bay hip-roofed house with shed-roofed porch.
- 4 0 242 W. Main St. Scott-Beebe House, Barn, Garage, & Shed. Ca.
1885.
T-shaped Queen Anne dwelling with 2-story porch with lattice
balustrade. Late-19th-century barn stuccoed in 1920s. Fur
storage shed constructed ca. 1910. Garage constructed in 1930.
- 1 1 243 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1850, 1940s.
4-bay gabled Greek Revival dwelling remodeled in Colonial
Revival style in 1940s. Modern 2-car garage.
- 0 1 246 W. Main St. Farrington House. Ca. 1982.
2-story Cape-style house.
- 0 1 253-55 W. Main St. House & Office. 1949.
1-story Ranch house and attached office wing.
- 1 0 254 Main St. House. Ca. 1902.
2-story L-shaped shingled Colonial Revival house with
pedimented gable end and wrapping verandah.
- 0 1 259 W. Main St. Mahon House. Ca. 1944.
1 1/2-story Colonial Revival Cape with attached garage.
- 0 1 260 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1947.
1 1/2-story brick veneer Cape.
- 1 1 268 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story stuccoed gable-ended vernacular dwelling. Modern
garage. Photograph 5.
- 1 0 271 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1895.
Plain gable-ended vernacular dwelling with enclosed porch.
- 1 1 275-77 W. Main St. Duplex & Garage. Ca. 1895.
2-story gable-ended vernacular dwelling with side porch.
Modern garage.

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- 2 0 276 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
Gable-ended vernacular house with full-facade verandah.
Late-19th-century barn with rear ell added. Photograph 5.
- 1 1 279 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1895.
Steep gable-roofed shingled vernacular dwelling with
shed-roofed entrance porch. Modern garage.
- 1 0 287 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1910.
2-story 2-bay hip-roofed shingled Colonial Revival house.
Corresponding garage.
- 1 1 294 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-ended house with asphalt siding and plain porch.
Modern garage.
- 0 1 295 W. Main St. House. 1953.
Cape with connected garage.
- 2 0 301 W. Main St. House & Workshop. Ca. 1895.
L-shaped picturesque vernacular dwelling with octagonal-ended
bay. Aluminum siding. Mid-century workshop.
- 1 1 304 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1900.
2-story gable-ended vernacular dwelling with plain porch.
Aluminum siding. Modern garage.
- 1 0 316 W. Main St. House. Ca. 1896.
2-story vernacular house reworked in Colonial Revival style.
Aluminum siding and windows.
- 1 1 340 W. Main St. House & Garage. Ca. 1895.
2-story gable-ended vernacular dwelling with hip-roofed porch.
Modern garage.
- 1 0 6 Whitford Court. C.A. Lindell Company. Ca. 1920.
2-story brick flat-roofed vernacular industrial building
with corbelled cornice. Converted to housing in 1979-80.
Photograph 3.

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

Transportation

Period of Significance

1836-1940

Significant Dates

1836

1872

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

E.R. Lorrain (builder)

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

SUMMARY

The Canaan Village Historic District in the Town of North Canaan (1), the historic population and commercial center of the extreme northwest corner of Connecticut, is the result of influences triggered by the technology-stimulated commerce that dominated the 19th-century history of the state (criterion A). The nominated district, which is the central portion of the village of Canaan, is significant for its well-preserved assemblage of late-19th- and early-20th-century buildings that articulate the historic development and status that the village assumed as the transportation and commercial center of the region. Established on former farmland only after the right-of-way of the Housatonic Railroad was determined in 1836, Canaan village is the direct result of railroad development beginning in the 1830s. Its rapid growth and sustained prosperity reflected the expansion of railroading as well as the mechanization and growth of the lime and dairy industries in northwest Connecticut. With the completion of the Connecticut Western Railroad, an east-west line that intersected the Housatonic line in Canaan village, in 1872, the two lines stimulated the growth of Canaan village as a regional transfer point for the export of local products, including lime, milk, and other dairy products. Unlike most of the surrounding communities, which did not flourish during the last quarter of the 19th and first quarter of the 20th centuries, Canaan village grew markedly, becoming an architecturally significant example of a small community that survives virtually unchanged from the 1930s. The residential streets reflect the richness of the mid- to late-19th-century and early-20th-century modes. The district also features individually significant buildings, including several churches, Union Station, and one of the finest streamline diners in the state (criterion C).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 93 acres

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Refer to map entitled "North Canaan Connecticut." Scale 1":200'

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary E. McCahon, Architectural Historian, Reviewed by John Herzan, National
organization Falls Village-Canaan Hist. Soc. date March, 1990 Register Coordinat
street & number 17 Quorn Hunt Rd. telephone 203-658-7749
city or town W. Simsbury state CT zip code 06092

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Town of North Canaan, in which the village of Canaan is located, was created from the Town of Canaan in 1858. Initially little more than a settlement of scattered farms located north and west of the population center of the part of the Town of Canaan known as North Canaan, which achieved parish status in 1767, Canaan village did not begin to take on the character of a community until after 1836, when the right-of-way of the Housatonic Railroad was established. The Housatonic Railroad was chartered in 1836 to run from Stamford to Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and thus capitalize on the fact that it could serve as a winter route to Albany when the Hudson River was frozen. It also would serve as a means of transporting iron and lime out of northwest Connecticut (Turner, p. 48).

Willian Adam, a large landowner, persuaded the railroad to route its line across his property, bypassing the then-established settlement on the Blackberry River known as Lower Corners. In return for utilizing his land, which he subdivided into building lots, Adam agreed to construct a station at his expense, and it was adjacent to that station that the village began to develop (Roraback, p. 23). Growth of the village exacerbated the local rivalry between the Town of Canaan (south of North Canaan) and the growing population and business center at Canaan Depot, as Canaan village was then known. In 1858, North Canaan successfully petitioned to become a town with the village of Canaan as its center.

Further stimulation for growth was provided by the rise of the quicklime industry after 1860. Although the local limestone deposits had been an important factor in the development of the iron industry in the region since the mid-1800s (it was used as the flux to remove the impurities from iron ore), it was not until the 1850s that production of lime into quicklime developed into a major industry in the North Canaan area. The first perpetual kiln was established in 1853, with several large-scale operations being established around North Canaan in the 1870s. Canaan village, more than any other community in the area, benefitted from the prosperity generated by the quicklime industry.

As the century progressed, the village of Canaan continued to expand, and by the turn of the century, it was the retail and product distribution hub of the region, a distinction that it enjoyed until after World War II. Prosperity generated by the quicklime industry, farming, and the railroad itself, as well as the business from surrounding towns, prompted growth of the commercial district and

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adjacent residential streets. Many of the center merchants such as hardware store owner and banker George Fuller, jewelry store operator F. R. Collins, and plumbing businessman Hiram Beebe built or purchased the large, comfortable homes on the premier residential streets such as West Main Street and Granite Avenue. Commercial prosperity was thus a significant influence in the physical character of the town. The transportation network brought people to Canaan village, and it was there that they secured goods and services, a trend that continued until the the 1950s.

TRANSPORTATION

Without the designation of the area as a station stop in 1836, it is unlikely that the village of Canaan would exist. The village literally sprang up around the new railroad depot/hotel, constructed at the intersection of Main and Railroad Streets about 1838, making it a good example of transportation shaping the development pattern. The Housatonic Railroad was one of the stronger regional lines in the western part of the state, and it continued to operate as an independent corporation until 1891, when it was leased by the New York & New England Railroad. It became part of the New York New Haven & Hartford system through stock control in 1892 and was operated as its scenic Berkshire division.

Expansion of the transportation system gave the town a second boost in 1872 with the coming of the Connecticut Western Railroad, an east-west line. It ran from Hartford through Simsbury to Winsted, Norfolk, and then Canaan village on its way to Poughkeepsie and the crossing of the Hudson. The two lines crossed south of Main Street in the center of Canaan village, and the Housatonic and the Connecticut Western, later known as the Central New England Railroad, collaborated to construct a union station east and north of the tracks. In addition to providing the village with its most architecturally distinguished example of the Italianate style (the well-preserved station was individually listed in the National Register in 1972), the two rail lines provided an economic "raison d'etre" that surrounding towns did not enjoy.

For most of Connecticut not located in the Northeast Corridor, the demand for rail service declined markedly beginning in the 1920s as the state's highway system developed. Both the Housatonic and the Central New England were under the control of the New York New Haven & Hartford system by 1927, and the track on the Central New England between Bloomfield and Salisbury was abandoned after the 1930s. The Housatonic, however, is still a moderately active line, servicing industries between Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and North Canaan. Its

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existence offers a continuum of historical influence that is not enjoyed by other towns in the area.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Canaan Village Historic District is a well-preserved and architecturally significant example of a small 19th- and early-20th-century community. Rather than being dominated by a host of individually distinguished buildings, the district offers an impressive assemblage of well-preserved commercial and residential structures that reflect the stylistic preferences of their day in their original setting and interrupted by few non-compatible resources. Of particular significance are the late-19th- and early-20th-century residential streets west and north of the business center with large, richly detailed Italianate, Queen Anne, and early Colonial Revival dwellings, often with the original carriage barns remaining behind the houses.

While no more than ten pre-1865 buildings remain in the village, over 45 houses constructed during the last third of the 19th century survive, and it is these dwellings and two churches as well as a small office that give the village its strong and distinctive late-Victorian-era character. Of the seven large dwellings which were depicted on the 1874 Beers atlas map of Canaan village, six survive and rank among the most distinguished 1870s and 1880s houses in the village. Of particular significance are the Foote House at 160 West Main Street and the Pierce House at 180. Both feature the varied milled trim and picturesque massing for which the Queen Anne houses of the period are known. The Queen Anne-style house at 130 West Main Street has the finest millwork verandah in the district.

Most significant of the late-19th-century non-residential buildings is the Canaan United Methodist Church, built in 1873 on the site of the Spaulding bedstead factory (photograph 15). Richly detailed in the late-19th-century tradition, the frame church has a superb central spire with imbricated shingles and round-arched fenestration with bold drip moldings.

Granite Avenue, laid out in 1883 and extended to the north in 1887 (Baldwin, p. 18), eclipsed West Main Street as the premier residential thoroughfare in the village. It is a remarkably complete and well-preserved row of large picturesque Colonial Revival dwellings that were designed and built by Canaan village's leading builder of the day, E.R. Lorrain, who is also thought to have been responsible for some of the homes on West Main Street. His work includes his own

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house at 21 Granite Avenue and the very fine Shingle Style Pilgrim Congregational Church at 29 Granite Avenue. Fred Hall, a resident of Granite Avenue since 1934, states that Lorrain built most of the houses on the street, and stylistic similarities shared by many of the generous well-proportioned homes confirm that statement (Hall, September 23, 1989). Lorrain was alive as late as 1919. His work demonstrates his ability in the picturesque modes and does much to establish the character of the village as one of the most significant late-19th- and early-20th-century residential enclaves in the region.

Architecturally the central business district is distinguished by the completeness of the streetscapes. Two buildings are of particular significance. The three-story Canfield Building, built in 1903 to house the office of the Canfield Lime Company, is a pressed-metal sheathed structure that survives basically unaltered. The Colonial Theater, located at 27-29 Railroad Street, is the village's finest Colonial Revival commercial building, with its giant-order Tuscan-columned portico and original storefronts flanking the entrance to the theater. The building contains a ballroom on the second level and a bowling alley in the basement. It is still used as a movie house. Also of note is the brick Southern New England Telephone Company building erected at the west end of the commercial district in 1941. The building is a successful combination of the Art Moderne with the prevailing Colonial Revival taste.

Two buildings generally considered the most distinguished in the district are located next to one another, yet they are as stylistically different as two structures can be. Dominating the entrance to town from the east is the impressive, extremely well-preserved Union Station, built in 1872. Constructed in the Italianate mode with an octagonal tower oriented toward the juncture of the crossing train lines, the L-shaped station is historically and architecturally the most significant building in the village. It is preserved in its original context next to an active train line.

Located on the east side of the depot parking lot is the Collins Diner, a well-preserved streamline diner manufactured by the Jerry O'Mahoney Company, Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1942. Fabricated with aluminum and blue enamel panels, the diner, which is as complete on the interior as it is on the exterior, is one of the finest examples of the structural type in the state. Still in place is the clock over the entrance vestibule and the operable ventilator panels in the monitor-type top. The brick kitchen wing is a slightly later addition.

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ENDNOTE

1. The Town of North Canaan was created from the Town of Canaan in 1858. Canaan village, a descriptive term used in Connecticut to describe settlements that are located in towns, is located in the Town of North Canaan, not Canaan. Canaan village developed prior to the split of the Town of North Canaan from the Town of Canaan. All references in the nomination to Canaan refer to Canaan village in the town of North Canaan unless specifically stated to the contrary.

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North Canaan, CT

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries are based primarily on the concentration of buildings that contribute to the themes of transportation and architecture and reflect the historical development of the village. The southern boundary is based on the concentration of buildings that contribute to the historic themes. It terminates at the intersection of Church and West Main Streets because of the non-contributing nature of the many commercial buildings scattered among the houses on Church Street as well as the modern post office which serves as a strong visual terminus. While dwellings constructed during the period of significance are located outside the south boundary on the west end, they do not have the cohesiveness, quality, or integrity found in the district. They are also of a type represented by buildings in the district. Buildings on Quinn Street are included because they are visually contiguous to the district. The western end of Quinn Street has modern development that is not visible from the district. Prospect Street, which runs from West Main Street north to Bragg Street, is included because the well-preserved houses contribute to the district themes and are visually contiguous from within the district. Foote Avenue, however, is excluded because the buildings on the narrow road are not visually contiguous due to natural topography. The limit of the district on West Main Street was determined by the visual limit of the historic development of the street as well as the natural topography and vegetation.

The northern boundary is defined by the concentration of residential development that conforms to the themes of the district. The northern part of Railroad Street and Orchard Street are excluded because of modern development. The east side of Railroad Street north of Brewer's Garage is open land on the west side of the railroad tracks, while the east side is the site of fuel and bulk storage facilities. Houses located on Railroad Street contiguous to Bragg Street are included because they are architecturally significant and contribute to the themes. The houses north of 121 Railroad Street, which has a large side yard that serves as a visual break in the streetscape, do not have the quality or integrity of the houses in the district and are thus excluded.

Residential development of less than 50 years of age defines the northern boundary between Railroad Street and Granite Avenue. Granite Avenue and the one house at 60 Orchard Street, which is visually contiguous to Granite Avenue owing to the topography, form the eastern boundary. The street runs along a natural ridge, and the land drops sharply on the eastern side. The property at the northeast corner of Main Street and Granite Avenue is excluded because it is of modern construction. The three non-contributing structures contiguous to the
(continued)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Canaan Village Historic District
North Canaan, CT

northeast corner of Railroad and Main Streets are included in the district because two of the three buildings correspond to the historic themes of the district and contributing properties are located to their immediate north. The Masonic Building at 80 Main Street would have been a contributing resource had it not been so altered when reconstructed this decade after severe fires. The Ducillo Block at 62-68 Main Street is compatible in scale, style, and material but is less than 50 years old. The area south of or behind the commercial buildings on Main Street, with the exception of Lindell's sash and blind factory on Whitford Court, has been redeveloped with modern housing. The area east of the grade intersection of Main Street and the railroad right-of-way on the south side of the street is undeveloped and thus not included.

Item 10 UTM References

Ashley Falls Mass-Conn Quad Scale 1:24,000

All references in zone 18

	Northing	Easting
A	4654610	637700
B	4654640	637780
C	4654190	637900
D	4654420	637920
E	4654380	637840
F	4654150	638350
G	4654140	638460
H	4654160	638500
I	4654220	638620
J	4653840	638440
K	4653740	638360
L	4653760	638180
M	4653770	638200
N	4654110	637780
O	4654500	637680

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Photo Identification Index

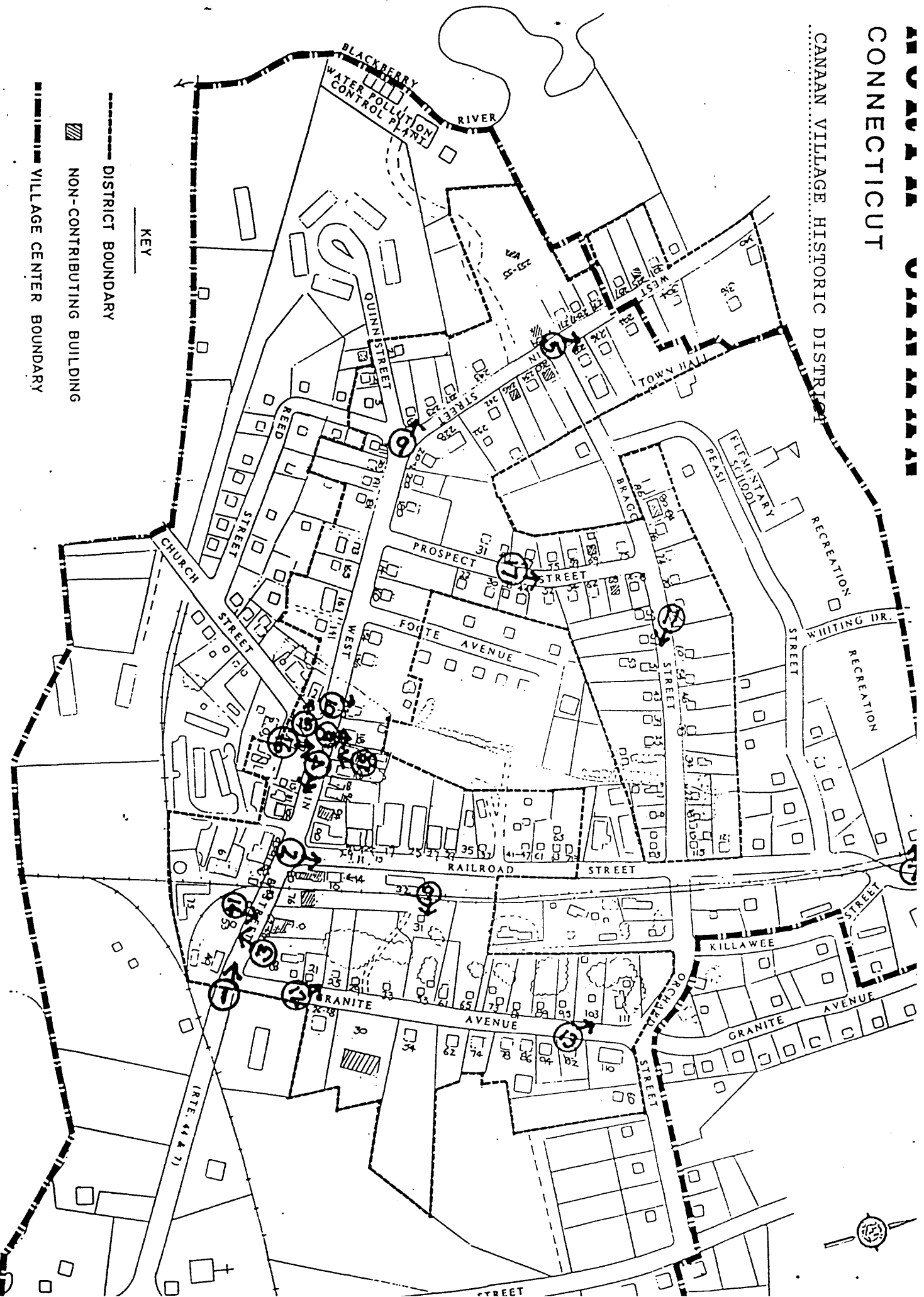
Items 1,2,3,4,5, are identical for all photos.

1. Canaan Village Historic District
 2. North Canaan, CT
 3. Mary E. McCahon
 4. November, 1989
 5. CT Historical Commission
 6. Main Street from east to west showing commercial center of town. 62-96 Main Street prominent on north side of street; 81-83 Main Street (Humphrey Pharmacy) on south side.
 7. Photo 1 of 20
-
6. 80 Main St., 10, 14, 32 Railroad St. looking north.
 7. Photo 2 of 20
-
6. 53-75 Main St. including Union Station and Collins Diner and 6 Whitford Court looking south from north side of Main St.
 7. Photo 3 of 20.
-
6. 93-115 Main St. with 115 Main St. in foreground; Canfield Block (93-97 Main Street) in background. Looking east.
 7. Photo 4 of 20.
-
6. 268, 276 West Main St. from northwest.
 7. Photo 5 of 20.
-
6. 31 Granite Ave. (Lynch House) looking southeast.
 7. Photo 6 of 20.
-
6. 121 Railroad St. (Allyn House) looking northwest.
 7. Photo 7 of 20.
-
6. 130 W. Main St. looking east.
 7. Photo 8 of 20.
-
6. 6 Quinn St. and 223 W. Main Street looking northwest.
 7. Photo 9 of 20.
-
6. 146 W. Main St. (Gillette-Bianchi House) from southwest.
 7. Photo 10 of 20.
-
6. 51, 57 Bragg St. from west.
 7. Photo 11 of 20.

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 CONNECTICUT

CANAAN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



KEY

--- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

--- VILLAGE CENTER BOUNDARY

SCALE 1" = 200'

Photo Index Map

⊕ = Camera Anal

RTE. 170
 VILLAGE