

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: 91000350 Date Listed: 04/11/91

Plainfield Street Historic District Tolland 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.

John Beth L. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

4-11-91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

3. Classification: Number of Resources within Property

The correct number of noncontributing buildings is 23.

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Exceptions

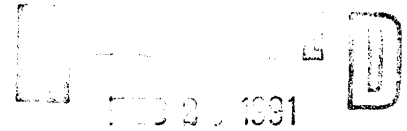
Criteria exception A applies because of the documented religious significance of the property.

This information was discussed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPD, by telephone.

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**

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: PLAINFIELD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Norwich Road, Academy Hill Road, Gallup Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Plainfield

vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Windham code: 015 zip code: 06374

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>32</u>	<u>22</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 W. Shannahan
Signature of certifying official
John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer

2/20/91
Date

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):

Betty L. Savage 4-11-91

Betty L. Savage Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>		<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
	<u>SOCIAL</u>		<u>meeting hall</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>religious structure</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>religious structure</u>
	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>		<u>business</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

- COLONIAL
- Federal
- Greek Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE roof ASPHALT
 walls WOOD other 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: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period(s) of Significance: c.1789-1929

Significant Dates: See inventory, Item 7

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ithiel Town (Congregational Church)

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

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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.

X previously listed in the National Register Plainfield Congregational
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register Church
_ designated a National Historic Landmark

X recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CT-169, CT-172

_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford,
_ Other state agency CT 06106

_ Federal agency

_ Local government

_ University

_ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: approx. 30 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 reduced from Plainfield Assessor Map 1P.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the historic village settlement along Norwich Road, excluding historically unrelated c.1900 buildings and modern development. The boundary follows rear property lines except where it crosses properties in order to exclude excessive back acreage.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: October 1, 1990

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

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-1
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Plainfield Street Historic District consists of 30 major buildings, along with 24 associated outbuildings, ranged along Norwich Road (Connecticut Route 12) in Plainfield, Connecticut. The area is primarily a residential one, with some commercial development at the north end, at the intersection with Academy Hill Road. Buildings in the district are mostly late 18th century and early 19th century in origin, with a secondary concentration from the Victorian period. The houses are set close to the road and are fairly close together. Tall mature shade trees surround most of the houses and line Norwich Road. Many properties retain stone walls along their edges, and there are a number of small barns (Photographs 8, 11) which date from the late 19th century or earlier. In addition to dwellings, the district includes Plainfield's 1816 stone Congregational meetinghouse, previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Photograph 6, background). In the middle 19th century, this part of Norwich Road was called Plainfield Street, which is used as the historic name of the district.

Most of the houses in the district have clapboarded exteriors, stone foundations, and one or two brick chimneys. The 18th-century houses, such as the two small gambrel-roofed dwellings from the 1790s on Norwich Road (Photographs 12, 14) and a larger 2 1/2 story, 5-bay, house (Photograph 1) on Academy Hill Road, are plainly detailed houses. The early 19th-century houses are characterized by greater architectural elaboration and include such details as fanlights, quarter-circle gable windows, Palladian windows, projecting pedimented pavilions, and various types of entry treatments. In form, they range from traditional 5-bay houses, on which pilasters or other stylistic details are merely appended, to full porticos on freestanding columns (Photographs 5, 9, 15, 18, 20). The Victorian houses show a similar range, from modest Italianate or Second Empire detailing to an full embodiment of the Second Empire style (Photographs 3, 7, 13).

Of the 30 major buildings in the district, 7 were judged to be noncontributing, a laundromat building and six residences from the 1950s and 1960s (Photographs 4, 17). The most recent of the historic buildings is a 1929 Colonial Revival house (Photograph 20, background). Although architecturally distinct from the majority of houses in the district, it is related to the historical development of the area as a residential area for well-to-do farmers, merchants, and retirees. Therefore, the period of significance for the district extends to 1929.

Most of the historic buildings in the district retain substantial integrity. Nearly all have their basic form and fenestration intact and retain appropriate exterior siding materials and small-pane or

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-2
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Victorian sash. In a few cases modern siding materials have been applied, but even then, the basic form of the house, and in most cases, important architectural details, are still evident.

The boundaries of the district (see sketch map) were chosen so as to include the historic village of Plainfield ranged along the ridge followed by Norwich Road. Nearby properties on Gallup Street and Academy Hill Road were also included because of their proximity and because historically these side streets were part of the settlement. The district is bounded along several edges by c.1900 residential development, in many cases multi-family dwellings. Historically, these were related to housing speculation and residential expansion which moved up the ridge from the mill village and railroad junction settlement to the south and southwest. Because of their separate historical identity, and their much plainer architectural qualities, these houses were not included in this district. At the north end of the district, adjacent areas of modern commercial and residential development were excluded. In addition, the boundary runs around a monument business and a gas station south of the intersection of Norwich Road and Academy Hill Road so as to exclude them.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-3
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

Address	Description	Contributing/Noncontributing	
		C	NC
8 Academy Hill Rd.	House, 1955, 1 story, aluminum siding Photograph 4.	0	1
20 Academy Hill Rd.	JOSEPH EATON HOUSE, c.1789, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade, brick chimneys, small-pane sash, sidelights. Stone wall with granite gate-posts. Photograph 1.	1	0
1-3 Gallup Street	JOHN DOUGLAS HOUSE, c.1800, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding, 5-bay facade, end chimneys, elaborately leaded entry sidelights, fanlight. Gothic Revival detail on porch across front. Stone fence posts. Modern steel repair building to rear. Photograph 2.	1	1
495 Norwich Road	NATHANIEL OLIN HOUSE, c.1855, Italianate details, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, gable end to road, paired arched attic- story windows, molded window caps, 2-story bracketed bay window on south side; later enclosed porch across front. Photograph 3.	1	0
500 Norwich Road	Laundromat, c.1950, 1 story, clapboarded Photograph 4.	0	1
501-503 Norwich Rd.	JOHN GORDON HOUSE, c.1835, Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade, small-pane sash, sidelighted entry, open porch on fluted Doric columns. Photograph 5.	1	0

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-4
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Address	Description	C	NC
507-511 Norwich Rd.	UNION HALL (Route 12 Professional Building), c.1880, Italianate, vinyl siding, modern windows, porch; bracketed cornice, ocular gable windows. Photograph 6.	1	0
513-515 Norwich Rd.	EDWARD HALL HOUSE, c.1875, Second Empire style, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, polychrome slate roof, elaborate window caps, bracketed and modillioned cornice, entry hood on scroll brackets, bay windows, belvedere. Modern garage, wood-shingled 19th-century barn, to rear. Photographs 7, 8.	2	1
519 Norwich Road	PLAINFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1816, Federal style, stone walls, Doric columns, mutulary cornice, multi-stage steeple; Ithiel Town, architect. Individually listed on National Register of Historic Places. Photograph 7.	1	0
522 Norwich Road	LOIS & GEORGE BRADFORD HOUSE, 1830, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum sided, 5-bay facade, central entry with sidelights and pilasters, small-pane sash, quarter-round attic windows, 2 brick chimneys; c.1940 porch across front. Two noncontributing shop or storage buildings at rear.	1	2
525 Norwich Road	EDWARD CLARK HOUSE, c.1810, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade with pedimented pavilion; small-pane sash, entry with sidelights, pilasters, cornice, paneled door; brick center chimney. Photograph 9.	1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-5
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Address	Description	C	NC
528 Norwich Road	House, date unknown but extensively remodeled into present appearance in 1969; 2 stories, aluminum siding. Garage.	0	2
531 Norwich Road	House, 1956, 1 story, clapboarded, garage.	0	2
532 Norwich Road	EDWIN TUCKER HOUSE, c.1790, remodeled c.1840 in Greek Revival style, 2 1/2 stories, composition shingle siding, 5-bay facade, center entry with sidelights and fluted corner-block architrave, corner pilasters, full cornice return, small-pane upper sash, c.1940 "Colonial" portico. Old barn to rear. Photograph 10.	2	1
535 Norwich Road	DR. JOSIAH FULLER HOUSE, c.1795, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade, end chimneys, Victorian sash, modern "Colonial" entry porch. Clapboarded barn, c.1880, 2 other farm outbuildings, to rear. Stone wall in front. Photograph 11 (barn).	4	0
538 Norwich Road	HANNAH & MARY HUTCHINS HOUSE, c.1875, Second Empire style, 1 1/2 stories, composition shingle siding, bracketed cornice, flaring eaves to Mansard roof; gable-roofed dormers with brackets, carved jambs, and incised fleurs-de-lis above the windows; two-over-two sash, brick chimneys. Later (c.1900) open porch on Tuscan columns. Small 19th-century barn to rear. Modern garage. Photograph 10.	2	1
539 Norwich Road	Mobile home, c.1970.	0	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Plainfield Street Historic District 7-6
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Address	Description	C	NC
542 Norwich Road	SAMUEL P. ROBINSON HOUSE, c.1890, gable end to road, 2 stories, vinyl siding, two-over-two sash, open porch (c.1910) on Tuscan columns on three sides, replacement for original Victorian porch. Two small old clapboarded barns to rear.	3	0
543 Norwich Road	House, 1964, 1 story.	0	1
547 Norwich Road	ALPHEUS HATCH HOUSE, c.1790, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roof, aluminum siding, 4-bay facade, small-pane sash, brick central chimney. Stone fence posts. Photograph 12.	1	0
550 Norwich Road	LEMUEL CLEVELAND HOUSE, 1871, Second Empire style, 2 1/2 stories, matched-board facade, clapboarded side walls; 3-bay facade with central pavilion; paired round-arched windows within round-arched openings; entry, flanked by engaged columns, has arched transom, dentils, and flat-roofed hood on large scroll brackets; second-story center window is recessed, with triptych of three arched windows; bracketed cornice; concave Mansard roof, arched dormers with footscrolls. Garage. Present use: residence, bed-and-breakfast. Photograph 13.	1	1
551 Norwich Road	GEORGE MIDDLETOWN HOUSE, c.1798, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roof with peak-roof dormers, wood shingled, 5-bay facade, transomed entry, small-pane sash, brick center chimney. Ell with attached garage. Photograph 14.	1	0

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description	Plainfield Street Historic District Plainfield, Windham County, CT	7-7			
Address	Description	C	NC		
557 Norwich Road	EBENEZER EATON HOUSE, 1812, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, gable end to road, Palladian window, paneled corner pilasters, small-pane sash, central brick chimney. Modern "Colonial" entrance porch. Small outbuilding made over from greenhouse. Photograph 15.	1	1		
558 Norwich Road	House and medical office, 1952, 1 story, brick. Garage.	0	2		
561 Norwich Road	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARSONAGE, 1867, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, gable end to road, large hip roof square-plan tower appended to northeast corner, 1899, porch across front with turned posts, jigsaw brackets. Modern garage. Photograph 16.	1	1		
565 Norwich Road	House, 1 1/2 stories, 1951, wood shingles. Garage. Photograph 17.	0	2		
569 Norwich Road	House, 1 1/2 stories, 1951, aluminum siding. Photograph 17.	0	1		
573 Norwich Road	EBENEZER EATON, JR. HOUSE, c.1820, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 5-bay facade with center pedimented pavilion, paneled pilasters on pavilion, recessed entry. Victorian sash, chimneys, and double doors. Photograph 18.	1	0		
577 Norwich Road	WALTER KINGSLEY HOUSE, 1892, Queen Anne style, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding, porch along three sides on turned posts; arched panels in railing and between posts have trefoil cut-outs. Old barn, converted to garage. Photograph 19.	2	0		

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description	Plainfield Street Historic District Plainfield, Windham County, CT	7-8
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Address	Description	C	NC
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579 Norwich Road	REV. ORRIN FOWLER HOUSE, 1821, Federal style, 2 1/2 stories, gable end to road, gable extended to form portico on four sixteen-sided Doric columns, mutules on cornice, semi-elliptical attic-story window, paneled and corner-block surround on entry, small-pane sash. Garage. Photograph 20.	1	1
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587 Norwich Road	EVA PIKE HOUSE, 1929 Colonial Revival style, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, slate gambrel roof; 5-bay facade, central sidelighted entry, portico on Tuscan columns, six-over one sash, quarter-round gable windows flanking exterior chimney, south side. Period garage. Photograph 20.	2	0
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Summary

Plainfield Street Historic District is significant because the area played an important role in the historical development of the town (Criterion A) and because the buildings are well-preserved representatives of several periods and types of architecture (Criterion C). Because of the Congregational church, the area was once the center of religious and political life for the whole town and, particularly in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it was home to numerous storekeepers, tavern owners, and landholders who chose to live near the crossing of two important colonial roads. The district's architectural significance derives from its buildings' being typical examples of 18th-century vernacular architecture, the Federal and Greek Revival styles of the early 19th century, and the Victorian architecture of the late 19th century.

Historical Development of Plainfield

Since the early 18th century, the settlement on the ridge along Norwich Road has been the center of several important community institutions as well as a commercial and social center for the entire town. The presence of the Congregational meetinghouse (the 1816 stone building is the second at this location) meant that for most Plainfield families, this area was the focus of religious activities. Although there were Quaker, Separatist, and later, Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic churches in town, for the 18th century and much of the 19th century, the Congregational church on Norwich Road was the predominant religious organization in Plainfield. The buildings in the Plainfield Street district recall this role. In addition to the impressive stone meetinghouse, one of the most elaborate houses in the district (Photograph 20) was built in 1821 by Orrin Fowler, pastor of the church from 1820 to 1831, and another (Photograph 16) was built in 1867 as a parsonage, to which was added a study and church library in 1899.

The area also served important governmental functions. Town meetings were held in the Congregational meetinghouse, even after disestablishment in 1818, until a Town House was built in 1872 in Central Village, a settlement to the north which had grown up around several textile mills. Plainfield was also for many years the site of the area's probate court, which was held in the residences of longtime judges Joseph Eaton (20 Academy Hill Road, Photograph 1), Waldo Tillinghast (525 Norwich Road, Photograph 9), and Joseph Hutchins (a

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

later owner of 583 Norwich Road, Photograph 20).

In 1770 local citizens, seeking a way for students to prepare for college beyond the curriculum offered by local district schools, established the Plainfield Academy. The Academy flourished for many years, attracting at one point more than 100 pupils from outside the town. In 1825 a large Gothic Revival-style stone building was added to the Academy's original brick structure. Although today little remains to mark the site of the school's classroom buildings, the role of the Academy in making Plainfield Street an important place is recalled by a small gambrel-roofed house in the district (Photograph 12) built c.1790 by Alpheus Hatch, one of the Academy's principal instructors.

In the colonial period Norwich Road (present-day Route 12) was one of the major inland routes through Connecticut. Academy Hill Road and its continuation, Cemetery Road, were part of the Hartford to Providence route. As a consequence, the area now embraced by the district was a crossroads and became the site of numerous stores and taverns. The most famous of these was Eaton's Tavern, a large inn which stood at the intersection of Gallup Street and Norwich Road, and at which both Lafayette and Washington are said to have been entertained. Although the stores and taverns themselves have disappeared, the district includes many houses associated with early entrepreneurs, such as pocketbook maker George Middletown (Photograph 14); general-store owners Major John Douglas, who carried textbooks to sell to Academy students, and Edwin Tucker (Photograph 10); doctors/apothecaries Daniel Gordon and Josiah Fuller (535 Norwich Road); and tavern owners Ebenezer Eaton and Ebenezer Eaton, Jr. (Photographs 15, 18).

Plainfield prospered into the early 19th century, partly as a result of the two roads being upgraded by turnpike companies. In addition to the village's storekeepers, large landholders benefited in this period from greater access to markets and from wool and stock raising. In fact, there was not a firm line between merchants and farmers: many of the village's merchants were also wealthy landowners, and prosperous farmers such as Edward P. Hall had interests in commercial enterprises and land development plans.

Around 1830 the village's pre-eminence began to wane. By this date, Moosup and Central Village were well-established as textile-mill centers, built-up with so many houses, schools, churches, and stores that they began to surpass the older settlement on Norwich Road. In 1839 the Norwich and Worcester Railroad was opened, with the Plainfield

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance Plainfield Street Historic District 8-3
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

station located about a half-mile west of the ridge. In 1854 a second railroad, running between Providence and Hartford, was completed, crossing the earlier line near the Plainfield station and leading to a new focus for commercial and residential development around what became known as Plainfield Junction. This part of town grew even more after 1905, when the huge steam-powered Lawton Mills were built alongside the railroad tracks. Except for the Eaton Tavern and some stores in the Union Hall building (Photograph 6), built c.1880 primarily as a meeting place for social organizations such as the Plainfield Band, the area on Norwich Road became entirely residential.

Because of its location on the ridge, and the large houses of prosperous citizens built in the early part of the 19th century, the Norwich Road settlement continued to be the neighborhood of choice for many of the town's more well-to-do families. In the second half of the 19th century, the area, which had come to be called "Plainfield Street" in contrast to the junction, was distinguished by its large, well-kept houses and the tall old trees which lined the roadway and spread a canopy of foliage overhead. To the earlier houses were added new ones in Victorian styles. Some were built by old Plainfield Street families, such as that built by Edward Hall in 1877 (Photograph 7) or the house of Judge Hutchins's sisters (Photograph 10). Others were the homes of people whose business interests were elsewhere, such as that of Walter Kingsley (Photograph 19), who ran the largest drygoods store in Plainfield Junction. Still others were homes of wealthy people who retired to the pleasant surroundings of Plainfield Street, such as Lemuel Cleveland, heir to an Ohio real-estate fortune, whose house is one of the district's showpieces (Photograph 13), or Eva Pike, widow of the owner of the U.S. Dye Company in Sterling, Connecticut (Photograph 20, background).

Today those qualities which attracted people to Plainfield Street are still apparent. Though many of the trees shown in early picture postcards are gone, other trees and old stone walls are in place to suggest something of the street's former quiet, shady ambience. And the area's many well-preserved old houses and the stone meetinghouse recall its history as Plainfield's premier crossroads village.

Architectural Significance

The houses in the Plainfield Street Historic District embody the distinctive characteristics of several different types of historic architecture. Taken as a whole, the district represents the greatest

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance Plainfield Street Historic District 8-4
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

concentration of 18th and early 19th-century buildings in the town, as well as having two of the town's most elaborately detailed Victorian buildings.

The district's earliest houses (Photographs 1, 12, 14) illustrate many of the key attributes which define the rural domestic architecture of 18th-century Connecticut, including orientation with the ridgeline parallel to the road, small-pane sash, large brick chimneys, and limited architectural ornament. These few houses exhibit quite a range within the type, including gable and gambrel-roofed examples, 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 story houses, and both the five-bay symmetrical facades which today have come to connote the 18th-century New England house and the asymmetrical, smaller examples which are now known to have been more typical of the period.

The fine-scale, freely interpreted Classical detailing which became popular in the early 1800s and which today is recognized as the Federal style is epitomized by several buildings in the district. These range from the very formal, such as the Congregational Church and the Orrin Fowler House (Photograph 20), both of which have the elegant cornice mutules and free-standing portico columns typical of the style, to more vernacular examples which append Federal-style details, such as corner pilasters, fanlights, and quarter-circle gable windows, to the traditional five-bay form. Particularly noteworthy are two well-preserved examples of the pedimented-pavilion form (Photographs 9, 19), a variant which was especially prevalent in eastern Connecticut in the period. Much of the detailing introduced as part of this style, such as corner pilasters, sidelights, and entry surrounds composed of molded frames and corner blocks, also characterized buildings in the Greek Revival period, but with heavier proportions. The district has buildings which exemplify these Greek Revival details, such as 501-503 Norwich Road (Photograph 5) and the updated 18th-century house at 532 Norwich Road (Photograph 10).

The Victorian period introduced an architecture which was eclectic and characterized by the extensive use of machine-made architectural woodwork. These attributes are evident in the district's buildings from that period. Even the fairly simple Victorian buildings (Photographs 3, 6, 10) have the reference to Italian or French historical models which was typical of the period, along with such characteristic details as bracketed cornices, specialty windows, and turned, jigsawed, and incised ornament. The district also has two of the town's most elaborate Victorian houses. The 1877 Edward P. Hall

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Statement of Significance Plainfield Street Historic District 8-5
 Plainfield, Windham County, CT

House (Photograph 7), called a "tasty little residence" by one writer of the period,¹ has intricate architectural woodwork everywhere from the cornice of its belvedere to the paneled bases of its bay windows. The 1871 Lemuel Cleveland House (Photograph 13) is equally rich in ornament, but because it is larger, its appearance is more grand than the Hall house. The grandeur is augmented by the use of flush boards, in imitation of masonry, and by the use of projecting and receding elements on the facade, thereby adding complexity of form to a house already exceptionally detailed. The Cleveland house ranks among the state's foremost examples of the Second Empire style.

NOTES

1. Richard M. Bayles, History of Windham County (New York, 1889), 1079.

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UTM References

Plainfield Street Historic District
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

10-1

- A: 19/257550/4618820
- B: 19/257530/4618770
- C: 19/257420/4618800
- D: 19/257390/4618680
- E: 19/257460/4618680
- F: 19/257480/4618600
- G: 19/257480/4618510
- H: 19/257440/4619340
- I: 19/257380/4619320
- J: 19/257380/4619240
- K: 19/257360/4619160
- L: 19/257300/4619160
- M: 19/257240/4619240
- N: 19/257240/4618540
- O: 19/257300/4618540
- P: 19/257300/4618660
- Q: 19/257360/4618820
- R: 19/257320/4618840
- S: 19/257340/4618900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photograph captions Plainfield Street Historic District Photos-2
Plainfield, Windham County, CT

Edwin Tucker House, 532 Norwich Road, on left, Hannah & Mary Hutchins
House, 538 Norwich Road, on right, camera facing northeast
Photograph 10 of 20

Barn to rear of 535 Norwich Road, camera facing west
Photograph 11 of 20

Alpheus Hatch House, 547 Norwich Road, camera facing west
Photograph 12 of 20

Lemuel Cleveland House, 550 Norwich Road, camera facing east
Photograph 13 of 20

George Middletown House, 551 Norwich Road, camera facing northwest
Photograph 14 of 20

Ebenezer Eaton House, 557 Norwich Road, camera facing west
Photograph 15 of 20

Congregational Church Parsonage, 561 Norwich Road, camera facing west
Photograph 16 of 20

Noncontributing houses, 569 and 565 Norwich Road, camera facing
northwest
Photograph 17 of 20

Ebenezer Eaton, Jr. House, 573 Norwich Road, camera facing southwest
Photograph 18 of 20

Walter Kingsley House, 577 Norwich Road, camera facing southwest
Photograph 19 of 20

Rev. Orrin Fowler House, 579 Norwich Road, on right, Eva Pike House,
587 Norwich Road, in background, camera facing southwest
Photograph 20 of 20

- 688 Noncontributing Building
- 533 Contributing Building
- ▲ Photo Position
- - - District Boundary

Source: Plainfield Assessor Map 1P
 Scale: 1" = 200'

PLAINFIELD STREET
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Plainfield, Windham County, Connecticut

