



4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 11/5/96  
Signature of certifying official Date  
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria.        See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Barbara J. Savage 12/20/96  
       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):

fr Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>religious facility</u>
	<u>COMMERCE</u>		<u>specialty store</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>religious facility</u>
	<u>INDUSTRY</u>		<u>manufacturing facility</u>
	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>		<u>city hall</u>

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Colonial  
Italianate  
Colonial Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE roof ASPHALT  
                  walls WOOD other BRICK  
                                  BRICK

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

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1706-c.1940

Significant Dates: See item 7

Significant Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: See Item 7

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 Glover House, 50 Main St.

   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:

X State historic preservation office Connecticut Historical Commission

   Other state agency 59 South Prospect Street

   Federal agency Hartford, Connecticut 06106

   Local government

   University

   Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: approx. 100 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'.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Hoang Tinh, reviewed by John Herzan,

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: November 9, 1995  
Conn. Hist. Commission

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 860-547-0268

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	Newtown Borough Historic District Newtown, Fairfield County, CT	7-3
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District. However, the nominated district includes the west side of Academy Lane, where there is a c.1870 house similar to others in the district nearby, and it excludes a property on West Street that is set so far back that it is barely visible. Also, the boundary of the nominated district follows property lines on Main Street wherever possible, rather than a set distance that cuts across all lot lines.

In the inventory of properties that follows, the count of contributing buildings (C) includes houses, barns, and other outbuildings that retain their historic appearance; conversely, the count of noncontributing buildings (NC) includes houses and outbuildings that appear to be of relatively recent construction. Historic names and dates were compiled from the local historic district report, the W.P.A. Census of Old Buildings (c.1935), and signs and names placed on houses. Other dates are estimates by the preparers of this form, based primarily on architectural features. Siding indicates either aluminum or vinyl siding as an exterior material, and composition indicates any of a variety of molded shingles made from compounds such as wood-pulp, asbestos, etc.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      7-4  
Newtown, New Haven County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
BUILDINGS						
1 Academy Lane (5 Currituck Road)	2 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
6 Academy Lane	1	c.1950	Ranch	siding	0	1
8 Academy Lane	2 1/2	c.1870	Italianate	shingles	1	1
3 Church Hill Road Photograph 5	2 1/2	c.1865	Italianate	clapboards	1	2
5-7 Church Hill Road NEWTOWN BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY	2	1903	No style	clapboards	1	0
1 Currituck Road (76 Main Street)	2	c.1920	Colonial Revival	shingles	1	1
2 Currituck Road	2	c.1920	Bungalow	clapboards, shingles	1	0
4-6 Currituck Road	2 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
5 Currituck Road -- see 1 Academy Lane						
7-9 Currituck Road	2 1/2	c.1750	Colonial	clapboards, shingles	1	0
8 Currituck Road	2 1/2	1937	Colonial Revival	clapboards	1	0
10 Currituck Road	1 1/2	c.1810	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
1 Glover Avenue (2 Main Street)	2 1/2	c.1859	Italianate	siding	2	0
1 Main Street (land only)						
2 Main Street -- see 1 Glover Avenue						
3-5 Main Street TOWN HALL SOUTH - NEWTOWN POLICE	1	1980	No style	plywood siding	0	1
4 Main Street	1 1/2	c.1780	Colonial	shingles	1	1
6 Main Street Photograph 3	2 1/2	c.1780	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
7 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1800,	Eclectic remodeled c.1870, c.1900	shingles	1	0
8 Main Street	1	1953	Ranch	brick	0	1
9 Main Street	1 1/2	1950	Cape	vinyl siding	0	1
10 Main Street	2 1/2	1921	Colonial Revival	shingles	2	0
11 Main Street	2 1/2	1931, remodeled 1967	Cape	clapboards	0	1



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      7-5  
Newtown, New Haven County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
12 Main Street Palliser & Palliser, architects - Photograph 8	2 1/2	c.1870	Gothic Revival	clapboards	2	0
13 Main Street	2 1/2	1718, remodeled 1921	No style	shingles	2	0
14 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1900	Colonial Revival	shingles	1	0
15 Main Street (land only)						
16 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1900	Colonial Revival	shingles	1	1
17 Main Street SCUDDER-SMITH HOUSE - Photograph 9	2 1/2	1905	Queen Anne Style	shingles	1	0
18 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1870,	Victorian/Colonial Revival, remodeled 1938	clapboards	1	1
19-21 Main Street HAWLEY MANOR INN	2 1/2	c.1850	Victorian	shingles	2	0
20 Main Street Photograph 10	2	c.1900	Shingle style	shingles	2	0
22 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1860	Italianate	clapboards	2	0
23 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1825	Federal	shingles	2	1
24 Main Street	2 1/2	1876	Victorian	clapboards	1	1
25 Main Street CYRENIUS H. BOOTH LIBRARY	2 1/2	1932	Colonial Revival	brick	1	0
26 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1880	Victorian	clapboards, shingles	1	0
27 Main Street	2 1/2	1787	Federal	clapboards	2	0
28 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1790	Federal	clapboards	1	1
29 Main Street	1 1/2	c.1860	No style (barn)	board siding	1	0
30 Main Street TOWN RECORDS BUILDING (SCUDDER BUILDING)	2	1855	Greek Revival	brick	1	0
31 Main Street CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGHOUSE - Photograph 14	2 1/2	c.1808	Federal	clapboards	1	0
32 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1790	Colonial	shingles	1	0
33 Main Street (see also 2 West Street)	2	c.1870	Italianate	clapboards	2	0
34 Main Street Photograph 13	2 1/2	c.1870	Second Empire	clapboards	3	0
35 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1870	Italianate	clapboards	2	0
36 Main Street TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Silas N. Beers, architect - Photograph 13	1 1/2	1870	Gothic Revival	granite	1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Newtown Borough Historic District 7-6  
Newtown, New Haven County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
37-39 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1910	Colonial Revival	brick, clapboards	1	0
38 Main Street GEN. DAVID BALDWIN HOUSE - Photograph 4	2 1/2	c.1790	Georgian	shingles	2	1
40 Main Street Photograph 1	2 1/2	c.1880	Victorian	siding, shingles	1	0
41 Main Street CONGREGATIONAL PARSONAGE - CHURCH SCHOOL (1957)	2 1/2	c.1790	Federal	shingles	2	1
42 Main Street Photograph 1	2 1/2	c.1810	Federal/Italianate remodeled c. 1870	clapboards	3	0
43 Main Street NEWTOWN GENERAL STORE - Photograph 12	2	c.1860	Italianate	clapboards	1	0
44 Main Street MATTHEW CURTISS HOUSE - Photograph 1	2 1/2	c.1750	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
45-47 Main Street EDMOND TOWN HALL - Photograph 16 - NEWTOWN FIRE STATION	2 1/2	1930	Colonial Revival	brick	2	0
46 Main Street Photograph 6	2 1/2	c.1865	Italianate	clapboards	2	0
48 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1790	Colonial	clapboards	1	1
49 Main Street Photograph 11 (barn)	2 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	clapboards, shingles	2	0
50-52 Main Street GLOVER HOUSE - individually listed on the National Register	2 1/2	1868	Second Empire	clapboards	2	1
51 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1770	Colonial Victorianized, mid 1880's	shingles	2	0
53 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1800	Federal	clapboards	1	0
54 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1890	Victorian	clapboards, shingles	1	0
55 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1850	Italianate	shingles	2	0
56 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1800	No style	shingles	1	0
58 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1800	Federal	clapboards	2	1
57-59 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1790	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
60 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1855	Greek Revival	clapboards	1	0
61 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1820	Federal/Gr. Revival	clapboards	2	0
62 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1785	Colonial	shingles	2	0
63 Main Street BEACH MEMORIAL LIBRARY (formerly) - Photograph 15	1 1/2	1900	Bungalow	fieldstone	1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      7-7  
Newtown, New Haven County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
64 Main Street	2 1/2	1867	Italianate	clapboards	3	0
65-67 Main Street	2 1/2	1867	Italianate	clapboards	2	0
68 Main Street	2 1/2	1729	Colonial	clapboards	2	0
69 Main Street	2	1949	"Colonial"	clapboards	0	1
70 Main Street	2	c.1910	Colonial Revival	clapboards, shingles	1	0
71 Main Street	2	1964	"Colonial"	clapboards	0	1
72 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	clapboards	2	0
73-77 Main Street NEWTOWN AMBULANCE - Photograph 17	1	1958	"Colonial"	brick	0	1
74 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1760	Colonial	clapboards	1	1
76 Main Street -- see 1 Currituck Road						
78 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1750	Colonial	clapboards	1	1
79 Main Street	2	1728	No style Remodeled c.1923 from 18th-century school	siding	1	0
80 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1760	Colonial	clapboards	1	1
82 Main Street	1	c.1933	No style	composition	1	0
83 Main Street Photograph 7	1 1/2	1868	No style	composition	1	0
86-88 Main Street	2 1/2	c.1870	No style	clapboards	1	2
18 South Main Street Photograph 2	2 1/2	c.1770	Colonial	shingles	2	0
22 South Main Street	2 1/2	c.1900	No style	clapboards	3	0
2 West Street (rear of 33 Main Street)	1 1/2	c.1800	No style	clapboards	1	0
4 West Street	2 1/2	c.1830	No style	clapboards	2	0
6 West Street	2 1/2	c.1850	No style	clapboards	1	1
8 West Street	2	1901	Bunglaow	clapboards	1	0
10 West Street	1 1/2	c.1849	Italianate	shingles	2	0
11 West Street	1 1/2	1940	Cape	shingles	1	0

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      7-8  
   Newtown, New Haven County, CT

**INVENTORY OF RESOURCES**

ADDRESS	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
<b>OBJECTS</b>					
-        Main Street/Church Hill Road THE FLAGPOLE - Photograph 14	1950	Flagpole	steel	1	0
66 Main Street SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT - Photograph 20	1932	War memorial	granite	1	0
<b>STRUCTURE</b>					
-        Hawley Road ELIZABETH HAWLEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE - Photograph 19	1930	Arched bridge	concrete, granite facing	1	0
<b>SITE</b>					
-        South Main Street, Sugar Street Elm Drive, Hawley Road RAM'S PASTURE - Photograph 18	c.1705	Part of original town common		1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance                  Newtown Borough Historic District                  8-1  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

**Summary**

The Newtown Borough Historic District is significant because it recalls the importance of the area as a political, religious, social, and commercial center for much of the surrounding town (Criterion A). From the time of Newtown's earliest settlement, Main Street has been the setting for town government, churches, and school buildings as well as the homes of many of the town's families. Established as the town common and the location of the meetinghouse of the Congregationalist majority, the area around Newtown center continued as a focal point for the community throughout the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. The present-day physical characteristics of the district--the remnant of town common preserved as the Ram's Pasture, the closely spaced buildings, and the broad, tree-lined Main Street--continue to reflect its origin as the historic town center. Finally, the Newtown Borough Historic District has significance because it illustrates an important early 20th-century historical development, the rise of small-town philanthropy. Particularly through the generous donations of Mary Elizabeth Hawley, a wealthy lifelong resident of the town, Newtown center was able to acquire a number of public amenities that added to the quality of life in the community.

The district has architectural significance because many of the buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of particular periods and styles of American architecture (Criterion C). For example, the district's earliest buildings feature typical New England Colonial elements, such as a symmetrical five-bay facade, small-pane divided sash, and a large central chimney, while the district's Victorian houses include several that are typical of Italianate villa architecture and other styles popular in the period. The district also includes some buildings that are especially notable works of architecture: the richly detailed Georgian house at 38 Main Street (Photograph 4), the Gothic Revival 1870 Trinity Episcopal Church (Photograph 13), the former Beach Memorial Library, a cobblestone expression of Craftsman architecture (Photograph 15), and the elaborate Colonial Revival town hall (Photograph 16).

**Historical Significance**

The development of Newtown was typical of early 18th-century Connecticut towns. The area, first settled by the English in 1708, lay along a broad ridge that proved to be ideal for agricultural activity. It soon evolved into a small farming community, with four-acre house lots set out along Town Street (Main Street) and two intersecting roads

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

Newtown Borough Historic District  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

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known today as Church Hill Road and West Street. Fields and pastures extended down the slope behind the houses. To the south, a large grassy area known today as the Ram Pasture was reserved as town common land, where each farmer was allowed to graze a certain amount of livestock. Newtown was formally incorporated as a town in 1711.

In 1719 the community took the first step toward developing the area bound by the district. A center was created not only for the original settlement but also for families taking up land in the more outlying parts of town. In that year, the community built a small structure at the intersection of Main Street and Church Hill Road to serve as the town's first Congregational meetinghouse. In 1732, the meetinghouse was joined by another house of worship erected by Church of England adherents. Both were subsequently rebuilt in the 19th century on the same sites, testifying to the area's longstanding role as a central place for the town's religious bodies.

From the earliest days of English settlement, the area also served as a center for political activities. As was customary in the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Congregational meetinghouse accommodated town meetings as well as religious services. Around 1845 the town built a brick building (30 Main Street) to house the town clerk's office and provide vault space for records, and town meetings were held on the second floor. Starting in 1874, the building also housed the town's first library; subsequent library buildings in 1900 and 1930 continued the pattern of locating town services along Main Street. A church built by the Universalists but no longer in use was converted to a town meeting hall in 1883 and served until the present Edmond Town Hall was completed in 1930.

By the third quarter of the 18th century, the area around the meetinghouse and church was already a relatively large village center; in 1781, when Comte de Rochambeau's French army camped nearby, there were a few dozen houses ranged along Main Street. Some served as taverns, including the house at 32 Main Street (Photograph 13, right), built about 1765 and hosted by two generations of the Baldwin family. Although the great majority of families made their living by farming (an activity still evidenced today by the district's numerous old barns), some Newtown residents also engaged in trade. Located in the third tier of towns from the coast, Newtown was still only 20 miles from Black Rock Harbor (Bridgeport), a major shipping point on Long Island Sound.

Commercial activity was aided in the early 19th century by the establishment of turnpike roads, three of which converged on Newtown

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Significance                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      8-3  
   Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

center. The earliest was the 1801 Bridgeport and Newtown Turnpike, which ran along Main Street and extended north to New Milford and south nearly to Long Island Sound. In 1803 the east-west Middle Turnpike crossed the earlier road, and in 1820 a southwest turnpike to Norwalk was chartered. In addition to bringing business to Newtown's inns and taverns, the traffic generated by the roads encouraged numerous general stores and shops of artisans; at least a dozen are shown in the area bounded by the district on the 1854 map. It also gave the town's farmers greater access to markets; commercial sheep raising was a major activity for many years.

By 1824 the village was sufficiently populous and densely built that the local citizens decided to form a borough government. Administered by a warden and board of burgesses, boroughs in Connecticut provide particular parts of towns with services that are outside the scope of ordinary town government, such as fire protection, water, and, eventually, street lights and sidewalks. The boundaries of the historic district lie within (and make up the major part of) the Borough of Newtown, an entity that waxed and waned over time but remains in active existence today. According to Barber, the borough included 40 to 50 houses in 1836.

Neither the coming of the railroad nor industrialization in other parts of town seriously threatened the borough's role as the town's principal central place. Although it bypassed the center itself, the Housatonic Railroad (1840) passed less than a mile to the east, where there was a small station stop just off Church Hill Road. Newtown developed a number of small-scale industries in the 19th century, including woolen mills, button and comb factories, and fabric fire-hose manufacturing; except for Sandy Hook, site of the latter and its own stop on the railroad, none of the manufacturing centers grew to a size that came close to rivalling the borough. In part this was because many of the manufacturers were local people who chose to live in the center village rather than in a more remote part of town. Similarly, several men with business interests in Bridgeport and beyond continued to live in Newtown, taking the train to work. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, Newtown's stores, inns, and small shops continued to serve a thriving village. A weekly newspaper, the Newtown Bee, began publication in 1877 and built its present facility on Church Hill Road in 1903.

The center of Newtown also accommodated important public ceremonial functions, notably the town's large Liberty Pole/Flagpole (Photograph 14), first erected in 1876 and rescued from over-zealous highway advocates in the 20th century by tradition-minded citizens. At the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

Newtown Borough Historic District  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

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opposite end of Main Street the town erected its Soldiers and Sailors Monument in 1930 (Photograph 20).

Like many other Connecticut small towns, Newtown in the early 20th century was endowed by wealthy local residents with facilities intended to both memorialize their families and serve the greater needs of the community. In 1900 the descendants of John Beach, Newtown's first Congregational minister, provided funds for a small public library named in honor of their ancestor. The gesture was repeated three decades later when Mary Elizabeth Hawley donated money to pay for an expanded library, named in honor of her grandfather, Dr. Cyrenius H. Booth. Hawley (1858-1930) was Newtown's greatest benefactor. The daughter of a wealthy businessman, she lived the life of a recluse following a brief marriage. Her largesse made possible not only the new library, but also the preservation of the Ram's Pasture, the pond and arched bridge on Hawley Road, new gates to the local cemetery, a large public school (the latter two lie outside the district), the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and the Edmond Town Hall (named for her great-grandfather Judge William Edmond), which provided not only an expansive space for town government but also a theater for movies and other community entertainments.

Today the history of Newtown is recalled by the many historic properties in the town center. A vestige of the town's original common lands remains as the Ram's Pasture, and the flagpole and Soldiers and Sailors Monument testify to the village's role as a place for townwide symbols of community. The successor buildings to the town's early Congregational and Episcopalian houses of worship recall its function as a central place for religious activities, as do the several houses that have served as ministers' residences or parsonages at one time or another. Two stores and an inn remain in operation in 19th-century buildings, survivors of Newtown's commercial heyday. The former town records building, the present and former library buildings, and the Edmond Town Hall all demonstrate the village's longstanding status as a focal point for local government. Houses and barns recall not only the farming families with whom many were associated but also the many other activities that made up village life. The house at 17 Main Street (Photograph 9), for example, was the home of Arthur J. Smith, publisher of the Bee; that at 3 Church Hill Road was for many years occupied by Cornelius B. Taylor, stationmaster for the railroad and a flour, feed, and coal merchant; and the Italianate house at 46 Main Street (Photograph 6) was the dwelling of David Johnson, who ran the Newtown General Store across the street. Finally, the properties in the district reflect the far-reaching philanthropy of Mary E. Hawley, from



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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      8-5  
   Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

the arched bridge at the southern end of the district all the way to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument near the northern boundary.

**Architectural Significance**

The Newton Borough Historic District has architectural significance because among its buildings are many well-preserved examples of particular styles and periods of architecture. From 18th-century vernacular dwellings to the Colonial Revival style prevalent in the early 20th century, the buildings in Newtown's center illustrate the history of American architecture.

The domestic architecture of colonial New England is represented in the district by numerous houses embodying the genre's typical features: clapboarded (or wood-shingled) exteriors, symmetrical five-bay facades, small-pane divided sash, and large central chimneys of stone or brick. The Matthew Curtiss House (44 Main Street, Photograph 1, left), now a historical-society museum, reflects the simple form and plainness in detail that were characteristic of the vernacular dwellings of the period. However, the Georgian-style General Daniel Baldwin house (38 Main Street, Photograph 4) provides an outstanding counterpoint: although retaining the form and fenestration of the commonplace dwelling, it reflects an awareness of formal architecture such as that depicted in James Gibbs's Book of Architecture (1736, but not widely known in America until the last quarter of the 18th century). While its Palladian window, central pediment, fluted corner pilasters, and cornice enrichment are standard Georgian details, the applied balusters below the Palladian window, three-quarter engaged columns, and cut-away pavilion (all of which appear in an 1854 view) are unusual if not unique interpretations of Neo-Classicism.

The Federal style is primarily recalled in the district in the form of delicate cornice enrichment found on houses that have been modified at later times. The distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival Style are epitomized in the mid-19th century renovations to the Congregational Meetinghouse, initially built in 1792. Its wide pilasters and entry lintel recall the architecture of ancient Greek temples and reflect the heavier proportions that set the Greek Revival apart from earlier interpretations of Classical motifs.

Unlike some town centers, Newtown remained reasonably prosperous throughout the 19th century; as a result, the district contains numerous buildings that reflect the elaborate woodwork and eclectic sources of inspiration intrinsic to Victorian architecture. The

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   Newtown, Fairfield County, CT

brackets, bay windows, pedestaled porch columns, and round- and segmental-arched shapes that characterized the Italianate style are found on buildings throughout the district, ranging from small commercial structures to the square-plan hip-roofed houses inspired by the villas of the Italian countryside (Photographs 1, 5, 6, and 12). The distinctive mansard roof of the Second Empire style, best represented in the district by the National Register-listed Beers House, also appears on smaller dwellings (Photograph 13, right). The medievalisms that made up the Gothic Revival are apparent in the hammer-beam bracing, bargeboard, and steeply pitched roofs of the house at 12 Main Street (Photograph 8) and in the buttresses, lancet windows, clerestory, pinnacles and crenelation of Trinity Church (Photograph 13). The church is one of the few buildings in the district for which an architect is known; it was designed by Silas N. Beers (1837-1873), a local surveyor and amateur architect who is said to have designed many of the mid-19th-century houses in Newtown.

Although the architectural styles that appeared at the end of the 19th century are represented by fewer examples, notable buildings in the Queen Anne, Shingle, and Craftsman styles add to the architectural richness of the district. The Scudder-Smith House (Photograph 9) epitomizes the Queen Anne style with its variety of exterior materials, complex plan and roofline, and combination of Classical porch columns with late medieval overhangs. However, as a duplex (it was built to accommodate two related families), it struggles hard to maintain the necessary asymmetry (or at least irregularity of plan) that was part of the style. The house at 20 Main Street (Photograph 10) illustrates a common Shingle-style characteristic: the use of a gambrel roof, sloping directly into the surrounding porches, to unify the house and create a sense of mass that transcends its Colonial Revival detailing. Finally, the former Beach Memorial Library must be counted as among the district's architectural treasures (Photograph 15). While its rounded and jerkinhead roof forms and diamond-pane casement sash are suggestive of Tudor-period English thatch-roofed cottages, its exposed rafter ends and cobblestone masonry represent the search for "natural" materials that characterized the Craftsman style and that found expression in the Bungalow architecture of the 1910s and 1920s.

As Newtown headed into the 20th century, its most impressive architecture was built in the Colonial Revival style, including a number of houses, a now-altered bank building, the Booth Library, a fire station, and the Edmond Town Hall (Photograph 16). The latter, completed in 1930, was inspired by high-style colonial precedents, perhaps including Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Its elaborate cupola, columns, and pediment, along with its red-brick exterior and

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arched windows, had connotations of tradition and patriotism, thereby providing a link between Newtown of the 1930s and the days of William Edmond (1755-1838), Mary Hawley's illustrious ancestor.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary was chosen so as to include the concentration of historic buildings that lies at the center of Newtown. Although there are additional historic buildings on Main Street, South Main Street, and the side streets, extending the district to include them would require taking in several noncontributing buildings for each additional historic building.

**UTM REFERENCES:**

- 1: 18.640590.4586260
- 2: 18.640680.4686370
- 3: 18.640860.4586500
- 4: 18.640590.4586260
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- 23: 18.640590.4586260

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**All photographs:**

1. Newtown Borough Historic District
2. Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
4. November, 1995
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission  
   Hartford, CT

**Photographs 3, 6, and 8:**

3. Photo Credit: Hoang Tinh, New Britain, CT

**Other Photographs:**

3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT

**Captions:**

East side of Main Street, Matthew Curtiss House, 44 Main Street, on left, 42 Main Street in center, and 40 and 38 Main Street on right, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 1 of 20

House and barn, 18 South Main Street, camera facing west  
Photograph 2 of 20

Eighteenth-century house, 6 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 3 of 20

Georgian-style house, 38 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 4 of 20

Italianate-style house, 3 Church Hill Road, camera facing north  
Photograph 5 of 20

Detail of doorway of Italianate-style house, 46 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 6 of 20

Mid-19th-century house, 83 Main Street, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 7 of 20

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Photographs                      Newtown Borough Historic District                      Photos-2  
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Gothic-detailed house, 12 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 8 of 20

Scudder-Smith House, 17 Main Street, camera facing southwest  
Photograph 9 of 20

Shingle-style house, 20 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 10 of 20

Typical outbuildings, barns behind 49 and 51 Main Street, camera facing  
northwest  
Photograph 11 of 20

Newtown General Store, 43 Main Street, camera facing west  
Photograph 12 of 20

Trinity Church, 36 Main Street, camera facing east  
Photograph 13 of 20

Newtown Congregational Meetinghouse, 31 Main Street, camera facing  
southwest  
Photograph 14 of 20

Former Beach Memorial Library, 63 Main Street, camera facing west  
Photograph 15 of 20

Edmond Town Hall, 45-47 Main Street, camera facing west  
Photograph 16 of 20

Newtown Ambulance building (noncontributing), 73-77 Main Street, camera  
facing southwest  
Photograph 17 of 20

Rams Pasture, north end, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 18 of 20

Bridge on Hawley Road, with duck pond dam, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 19 of 20

Soldiers and Sailors Monument, 66 Main Street, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 20 of 20