UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	RECEIVED
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM	DATE ENTE

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Bethlehem	Green Historic Dis	trict			
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3 CLASSIFIC	CATION				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRES	ENT USE
X DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED		X COMMERCIAL	X PARK
STRUCTURE	X_BOTH	WORK IN PRO	GRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENC
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STREET & NUMBER					
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city, town Be thlehem				STATE Connectic	14
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Connecticut Histor	ical Commi	ssion		
CITY, TOWN	TIME COLUMN TILD COL			STATE	
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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

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X FAIR

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RUINS

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X_ORIGINAL SITE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Setting

The Bethlehem, Connecticut, green is a triangular park located in the center of town at the intersection of the principal highways. North Main Street divides at the green, one arm going to the west and one arm to the east of the green in its long north-south direction of 350 feet. (Photograph 1.) The top of the green, 150 feet wide, is along West Road, across the street from the imposing, 3½-story, clapboard house built by the Rev. Joseph Bellamy c. 1760. (See sketch map.)

The Rev. Joseph Bellamy began preaching in Bethlehem in 1738, four years after the area, known as the North Purchase of the Town of Woodbury, was settled. The location of Bellamy's church during the years $1767-1790^2$ at the highway intersection is now marked by a granite obelisk at the north end of the green. The intersection has been the center of the community for the ensuing two centuries. The historic community center surrounding the green, with its town government buildings, churches, and 18th- and 19th-century houses, is the subject of this nomination. The district encompasses approximately 70 acres with 36 principal structures, 7 of which are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district.

Church and State

The first meeting house was the center of both the political and religious activity of the community. When a larger structure was needed in 1790 the location was moved across the street to the southeast to the site of the present church, built in 1836. Its Doric tetrastyle, low, square tower, and chaste interior illustrate in original form the desired church architecture of the era. (Photograph 6.) The parsonage, which is also a white, clapboard structure, is on the same plot of land as the church (map 11-5, lot 5).

The Connecticut constitution of 1818 disestablished the Congregational church and separated the functions of church and state. In Bethlehem this change found expression in the construction in 1839 of a Townhouse for government offices and meetings on the west side of South Main Street, across from the church. Like the church, the Townhouse was built in the Greek Revival style then popular, but without a portico. Its recessed, central entranceway is flanked by pilasters supporting a plain entablature, and its roof gable forms a flush-boarding pediment with central, rectangular window. (Photograph 9.)

The site of the Townhouse, map 10-6, lot 67, was already the site of the District School (1832), and later was used for Memorial Hall (1913) (Photograph 13) and in the last decade and a half for a group of new structures that includes the Town Office Building, Public Library, Fire

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Bethlehem Green Historic District Bethlehem, CT

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All addresses are Bethlehem, CT 05751, unless otherwise noted. There are no street numbers in Bethlehem.

Mailing address of the property owner is the same as the address of the property, unless an additional address is given.

All properties are considered to contribute to the historic character of the district except those designated NC before the description.

Dates are taken from the report of the Bethlehem (local) Historic District Study Committee and by visual approximation.

Property and Owner

The Green

State of Connecticut State Office Building 165 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building South Main Street

Description

A triangular park at the interesction of South Main Street with East Street and West Road. Approximately 150 feet wide at the top (north) and 350 feet long in the north-south direction. At the north end of the Green there is a small granite obelisk with incised lettering reading "Erected July 4, 1890. Here stood the meeting house where Dr. Bellamy ministered 1767-1790." In the middle of the Green there is a tablet on stone listing the 48 men who served in the armed forces during World War II. At the south end of the Green there is a boulder with a bronze tablet that lists the names of 26 men who fought in the Civil War and 24 in World The central, triangular 1/3 of the Green is owned by the Town, and the balance by the State. (Photograph 1.) Note (September 1982): Two additional tablets similar to that for World War II, have been mounted near it, one in honor of those who served in the Korean War (24 names) and one listing 83 names of men and women who served in the Viet-Nam (sic) War. Both are dated May 30, 1982.

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Map 11-6, lot 16 East Street Eugene J. and Judy Caires

c. 1840. 2½-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival, clapboard, gable-roofed, ell-shaped, 36x 48-ft. house on stone foundations with standing seam metal roof. The bays of the facade are not evenly spaced; the central window is closer to the west window than to the east. Double-hung sash are 6-over-6. The front door, in the east bay, has 3-pane side lights. There is a wrap-around front porch, columns, that breaks out in front of the doorway. The window in the facade's attic gable has a raised rectangular decorative element in the center of the top of its surround. window in the east elevation's attic gable has a peaked label and under it the upper two panes of the window together form a point. A 2-story barn has a central, peaked-roof cupola. (Photograph 2.)

Map 11-6, lot 21 North Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building South Main Street

1939. Old Bethlem Historical Society headquarters and museum. (Bethlem was the early spelling, used until some time in the 19th century.) Formerly the Town Office Building. l-story, gable-roofed brick structure on poured concrete foundations. The central gable-roofed portico is supported by fluted columns without capitals, and flanked by paired 6-over-1 windows. This is the site of the Methodist Church, c. 1860-1920. The church bell is displayed in the yard, and some stone from the church foundation is used in a present retaining wall. (Photograph 3.)

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Map 11-5, lot 46
East Street
 Shelton and Joan Smith

c. 1740? Bloss House. This large 25x66ft. house is said to date, at least in part, from c. 1740. A large kitchen fireplace with bake oven tends to support this view. The front section is later, perhaps c. 1825; it is a 2½-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival, clapboard structure. Windows have 2-over-2 double-hung sash. The central window of the facade is closer to the west window than to the east. The doorway, in the east bay, is elaborate with 6-over-6 side lights each flanked by pilasters that support a pediment whose cornice and raking cornices project so as to make the tympanum deeply recessed. Above, in the roof pediment, the tympanum of flush horizontal boarding has a central, simple, 6-pane window. Out buildings include a 2½-story, gable-roofed barn with siding of vertical boards, and sheds.

Map 11-5, lot 1 South Main Street Frank H. and Susan Thomas c. 1750, Backus House. 2½-story, 5-bay, 30x33-ft., clapboard, gable-roofed, central chimney, central doorway, pre-Revolutionary War house on stone foundations. Windows have 6-over-6 double-hung sash in flat surrounds, and the doorway has a simple surround, under a 5-light The end elevations have identical, regular fenestration of two windows at first and at second floor levels, one over the other, and a fifth window in the attic gable end. The land at the rear slopes down to a good sized pond (see map). house was moved to this location at an undetermined date from the southwest corner of the Bellamy property, across the street. (Photograph 4.)

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Map 11-5, lot 2 South Main Street Jack Romanello

Map 11-5, lot 3
South Main Street
Eugene E. Heidenreich and
Elsa L. Hartmann

c. 1755?/c. 1825? This house is said to be composed of two structures, one of them formerly a store on this site, now joined together. Visual analysis tends to confirm the statement. This is a 2½-story, gableroofed, clapboard 5-bay house on stone foundations. The south 3-bay section, with central doorway, is recessed behind a 2-story porch that has square, panelled posts. The north, 2-bay section at first floor level has a double window and door, and has two windows in the second floor. Windows are 6-over-6. The gable ends project, forming pediments. In each tympanum there is a window consisting of three central panes and a border of 12 small lights, the whole with a panelled surround that has three square frets at its top. (Photograph 4.)

c. 1740. Church's Tavern. 2½-story gableroofed, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, clapboard, 35x27-ft. house on stone foundations behind a wood picket fence. The tops of the pickets are shaped like arrows (Photograph 5). The doorway has flanking pilasters supporting a molded cornice that breaks out over the pilasters. There is a 5-light transom. The first floor 12-over-12 windows have elaborately molded caps and projecting sills. second floor windows have 8-over-12 sash except in the central, narrow window where the sash is 6-over-9. The lintels of the second floor windows are part of the eaves cornice under an elaborate crown molding. The small size of the brick chimney above the roof suggests that it is not original. (Photograph 5.)

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Map 11-5, lot 4
South Main Street
Robert and DeLores E. Carr

1902. Center Store. 2½-story, gableroofed, clapboard structure with 1-story, gable-roofed addition to the north. porch across the full width of the front joins the two sections. The porch has turned posts and sawn brackets. There are three large, 2-over-2 store windows, one on either side of the central door of the main section, and one in the wing. The main section has an added porch at second floor level with square posts. The front gable has fish scale shingles and a round-headed window the upper half of which is obscured while the lower half has a large central pane surrounded by a border of small lights. The gable has panelled barge boards. The present structure replaces one on the same foundations that was built c. 1825. It, too, was a store. In the back there is a 12-story, gable-roofed barn with siding of vertical boards.

Map 11-5, lot 5
South Main Street
First Church of
Bethlehem, United
Church of Christ

1836. Greek Revival, Doric tetrastyle, clapboard church. The attenated round columns, made of narrow vertical boards, stand without bases on a stone stylobate approached by three risers. The central, recessed entrance is flanked by plain pilasters that support a plain entablature and molded cornice. The double doors have round-headed glazing over recessed panels. There is a 30-over-30 window on each side of the entrance.

The portico entablature consists of a plain architrave and freize separated by a cyma reversa, and a flat corona. Each of the raking cornices has a flat board, set at an angle to the plane of the facade, as a cymatium. The tympanum is flush vertical boarding with a raised molding in the form of a triangle.

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A square, 2-stage tower rises above the pediment. The first stage has wide vertical boards and panelled, corner pilasters, a cornice, and a parapet with recessed panels. The second stage has louvers, similar pilasters, and a cornice with dentil course. There is a pyramidal spirelet of vertical boards surmounted by a ball finial of wood and an arrow weathervane. The roof is covered with flat metal squares.

Each side elevation of the church has four 30-over+30 windows with blinds. A 1960, 2-story, 36xll0-ft. wing extends to the south from the rear of the church. (Photograph 6.)

On the interior, the sanctuary is about 45x55 feet, almost square. There is a dado of wide, horizontal boards under the windows. The slips are separated by two aisles, with a double row of slips in the middle. There is no gallery. The ceiling, of narrow boarding, is coved on four sides, and ribbed. The wall behind the pulpit has a central recess flanked by pilasters that are embellished by vertical rows of square panels. The front of the pulpit is three-sided with the raised molded panels of each face separated by leaf and grape carving in relief. (Photograph 7.)

Map 11-5, lot 5
South Main Street
First Church of Bethlehem
United Church of Christ

c. 1830. Parsonage. 2½-story, gable-roofed, clapboard house in a variation on the Greek Revival style. The width to height proportion has greater than usual width, and the gable and pediment is covered with clapboards (unusual) although there is a conventional fanlight in the tympanum. The facade has no entrance, but has two pairs of windows

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at both stories, 2-over-1 on the first floor and 12-over-12 at the second. In the south elevation there are two bays and then the entrance, toward the back (east). The door, flanked by side lights is approached by a hipped roof portico with round columns. The house was built as the parsonage.

Map 11-5, lot 6 South Main Street Elizabeth B. Allen

Map 11-5, lot 7
South Main Street
 Emil and Beverly Wilde

Map 11-5, lot 8
South Main Street
Norman and Margaret
Langlord et al

Map 10-6, lot 65A South Main Street Paul Molzon, Evelyn Bosko Late 19C. 2½-story, gable roofed, central chimney, 4-bay, clapboard house. The door is in the second bay from the north, and there is no window in the second story above it. Windows are 6-over-6. At the ends of the house the eaves returns and the attic windows suggest the Greek Revival style.

c. 1830. 2½-story, gable-roofed, 3-bay, Greek Revival, clapboard house. In the center of the tympanum of horizontal, flush boarding, there is a rectangular window with panelled surround. An added, wrap-around front porch has turned posts and sawn brackets.

c. 1875. 2-story, 3-bay, Italianate, clapboard house with pyramidal roof capped by a square monitor. The front porch has slender square columns with molded capitals. There is a 2½-story barn with siding of vertical boards.

Early 19C.? 2½-story, gable-roofed, 5-bay, clapboard Georgian house on stone foundations, with a single chimney in the north end wall. Windows are 1-over-1. The posts of the portico are square, and have molded caps.

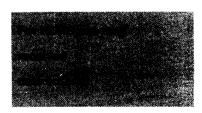
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Bethlehem Green Historic District Continuation sheet wethlehem, CT

Item number





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Man 11-5, lot 9 South Main Street John and Slraca Rudjavice

Map 11-5, lot 10

South Main Street

Joseph Stevens

c/o Solonial Lank & Frust

Co., Trustee

Waterbury, CF 06702

Early 190.1. 2-story, gable roofed, 4-kay, shingled house with 12-over-12 windows. Doorway in second day from north has five transom lights, plain pilasters and frieze under a thin, flat cap. There is a new brick chimney on the exterior of the north end wall.

Marly 190.? Thestory, gable roofed, 5-bay, central entrance, shingled house. The doorway has a row of transom lights with plain surround under a plain frieze. There is a concrete block chimney on the exterior of the north end wall.

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Map 10-6, lot 68 South Main Street Olga A. Reichenbach

Map 10-6, lot 66 South Main Street Pearl H. Fox

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building South Main Street

- c. 1835. 2½-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival, gable-roofed, clapboard, ell-shaped house. The tympanum of the pediment is flush boarding. First floor windows are 12-over-1 and second floor windows are 12-over-12. The ell to the south has a porch with sawn brackets, while the front porch has round posts.
- c. 1890? l_2^1 -story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, clapboard, vernacular house. A wraparound porch has square posts with molded capitals.
- NC 1975. Town Office Building. Norton Minor of Salisbury, Connecticut, architect. 1½-story, high gable-roofed, brick building with recessed central entrance. There are two windows on either side of the entrance. The upper half story projects in the manner of a pre-Revolutionary War jetty, with a dentil course at the bottom of the projection. The gable end of vertical boarding approximates a pediment and has a half-round fanlight and small clock. The ground slopes off to the rear, and the basement entrance is at grade. (Photograph 8.)

NC 1969. Bethlehem Public Library. Henry Moeckel of Naugatuck, Connecticut, architect. 1-story, gable-roofed, T-shaped, 50x85-ft., brick building in the Neo-Colonial Revival style. The cross piece of the T is at the south; its facade has a large multi-paned window. To the north of the cross piece, along the stem of the T, there is a porch with panelled square posts. The entrance, at the south end of the porch, has a two-leaf door in a surround that suggests classical antecedents. The eaves of the porch has a dentil course effect that extends entirely around the building. Wood pilasters

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Map 10-6, lot 67
South Main Street
Town of Bethlehem
Town Hall

Map 10-6, lot 67
South Main Street
Town of Bethlehem
Town Office Building

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building at the corners of the library have the same panelled design as the porch posts. There is a tent-roofed cupola on the roof of the library. The ground slopes off to the rear, and the basement entrance there is at grade. (Photograph 8.)

NC 1968. Fire House. 1-story, gable-roofed, 42x120-ft. building with brick facing. The front section of the building, on the south side, has a gable-roofed portico with square posts. The rear section of the building, on the south side, has four overhead doors. (Photograph 9.)

NC c. 1970. Town garage. l-story, flat-roofed cinder block building. Most of the facade is devoted to four overhead doors, and the balance of facade has brick facing.

NC c. 1970. Town storage building. Gable-roofed, metal warehouse.

1839. Initially the Town House and school. Now American Legion Hall. 2½-story, 35x35-ft. gable-roofed, clapboard, Greek Revival, ell-shaped structure on stone foundations. The facade of the main block faces the street, and the ell is perpendicular to the north. The gable end of the main block is a pediment with flush boarding tympanum and central rectangular window of four vertical panes surrounded by a border of small lights. The second floor has two 4-over-4 windows

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flanking the solid central bay. The first floor has a recessed central entrance with flanking pilasters supporting a plain entabulature with molded cornice. There is a 4-over-4 window to left and to right of the entrance. The south elevation has three 4-over-4 windows at first and second floors. The ell has one 4-over-4 window at both first and second floors on the front, and on its north end has an exterior brick chimney flanked by 4-over-4 windows at first and second floors. (Photograph 9.)

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Christ Episcopal Church of Bethlehem

1828-1832. Consecrated September 23, 1835. Brick, Gothic, 30x44-ft. church on stone foundations. A square tower projects*in the base of the tower, approached by a wide stone step, has a two-leaf door under an arch that is barely pointed (almost segmental). At a level higher than the entrance, to left and right, are single windows, with a paired window in the center. The north and south (side) elevations each have three paired pointed windows under a pointed arch. The brick above these windows is a different color from the surrounding walls. The facade tower above the ridge line of the sanctuary gable roof changes from brick to wood with louvers, panelled corner pilasters, and projecting cornice. There are piers corner of the tower, connected by railings. The roof is covered with flat metal squares. (Photograph 10.)

The interior has a central aisle, dado of narrow vertical boards, and ceiling of narrow boards. At the left of the chancel an exposed organ is in place. The wall at the back of the recessed chancel has a tripartite

^{*}half its width from the facade. The entrance

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stained glass window whose pattern includes the lamb, dove, and sheaves. There is a balcony at the back of the church hung by square posts from the roof. Its balustrade has a blind arcade of Gothic arches. Collar beams with elaborate decorative brackets are visible under the ceiling, which was dropped in 1871; the actual roof framing is not visible. (Photographs 11 and 12.)

New construction, incomplete at this writing (January 1980), connects the rear of the church to Johnson Memorial Hall. The new link is a 1-story structure with gable roof and brick and clapboard exterior. The brick is re-cycled from a demolished 19th-century building that formerly stood outside the district.

Johnson Memorial Hall, 1931, is a 1½-story, 30x36-ft., gable-roofed parish house with first floor exterior of brick, and wood shingle siding above, in the Neo-Colonial Revival style, on cobblestone foundations. The gable-roofed portico has an elaborate semi-elliptical fan window and there is a simpler semi-circular fanlight in the roof gable above. (Photograph 10.)

There is some question as to whether the Episcopal Church owns the land on which it stands, or whether this land is part of map 10-6, lot 67. In any event, the church is surrounded on three sides by town buildings, and it appears that the church and the town have come to an understanding not to make an issue over who owns the land on which the church stands.

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Map 10-6, lot 67
South Main Street
Town of Bethlehem
Town Office Building

1832. District School. 1½-story, gable-roofed, clapboard, 28x30-ft.structure. The recessed, central entranceway has flanking pilasters and a plain freize under a simple cornice. Doors to the interior open through the left and right walls of the entranceway, and there are three 6-over-6 windows in each side elevation. The front gable end has a round window with star-shaped mullions, and a small brick chimney rises from the ridge of the roof at the rear. The building was moved in 1912 to make way for Memorial Hall when Memorial Hall was built next door to the north.

The structure was built in 1832 as a district school. When Bethlehem schools were consolidated, it became the Public Library, and is now used by Christ Church as a Sunday School. (Photograph 13.)

Map 10-6, lot 67 South Main Street Town of Bethlehem Town Office Building

NC 1913. Memorial Hall. Edward R. Crane, builder. Oblong, 38x100-ft., gable-roofed building with shingle siding, in a rustic style (now painted white). The roof is covered with flat metal squares and is flared at the eaves. The roof at the facade gable end, supported by heavy triangular braces, projects over a recessed porch that is constructed of heavy boulders, including its square posts. The boulders are set in a generous amount of mortar with a heavy raised rib. A pent roof over the central steps to the porch repeats the triangular braces. The two-leaf front door is flanked by 12-over-12 windows, and there is a band of four 9-over-1 windows over the porch. (Photograph 13.)

At the November 30, 1911, Town Meeting a proposal to contract this building was voted down.

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The funds to build it, therefore, were raised by public subscription sponsored by the Nonnewaug Social Club, and construction was accomplished without the use of town money.

The north (side) elevation has double doors toward the front, under a 21-light transom (3 rows of 7). Then there are four windows, 16-over-2, and finally a door of double height, to accommodate moving stage scenery in and out. The south elevation has five 16-over-2 windows, and there is a modern 1-story addition on the south.

On the interior the walls of both the basement and principal floor are covered with pressed metal. The embossed pattern is based on the wave molding motif, repeated around rectangular plain sections and, in larger scale, used as a border above the wooden wainscotting. (Photograph 14.) The high ceiling of the auditorium is segmental in shape, covered by embossed squares of metal. Behind stage the gable roof is revealed, high enough for raised stage curtains. (Photograph 15.)1

Map 10-6, lot 34 South Main Street Richard Iller

c. 1790. Bird Tavern. 2½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, central doorway, clapboard house on stone foundations. The roof flares at the front eaves, and in the rear slopes below second-floor level in a modified saltbox effect. The only chimney is a thin, square, brick chimney near the north end of the house. The spacing of the facade fenestration is unusual; the space between the central window and the flanking pairs is greater than the space separating the

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flanking pairs one from another, and equals the space between the extreme windows and the ends of the house. Second-floor windows are 8-over-12 and first-floor windows are 1-over-1. The top of the central door is glazed with two round-headed panes, side by side. A modern gable-roofed portico has wrought-iron posts on a stone porch. A small, gable-roofed, 1-story wing on stone foundation; at the north end has a roof of flat metal squares. The south elevation has one 6-over-6 window in the attic, two 4-over-4 windows in the second story, and four 4-over-4 windows at ground level.

The interior once had a second-floor ball-room with 12-foot, high-arched ceiling.

NC Well behind the house, fronting on West Road, there is a new, frame, commercial building.

Map 10-7A, lot 35 Munger Lane Caroline Fernday The Hay

c. 1790. $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, saltbox house on stone foundations. The metal roof has standing seams parallel to the ridge line. The 6-panel door is flanked by simple pilasters that support a flat, molded cornice over a 5-pane The 12-over-12 windows are paired on either side of the center. On the south elevation there is a 1-story, rectangular, 3-sided bay with two 4-over-4 windows in the wide side, and two narrow 2-over-2 windows on the narrow sides. In these sash the panes are arranged vertically, one over another. A side porch on this elevation has slender, square posts with molded capitals.

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Map 10-7A, lot 34 Munger Lane Alice P. Lynch Box 1

Map 10-7A, lot 33 Munger Lane Jean Walters

Map 10-7A, lot 28
Munger Lane
Martin and Sandra Ariola

Bellamy House North Main Street Caroline Ferriday The Hay Late 19C? Narrow, 2-story, gable-roofed, vernacular house with shingle siding. There are two 12-over-1 windows in the facade on the first floor, and one on the second. A 1-story, shed-roofed addition runs to the south. (Photograph 16.)

c. 1835. 2½-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house, now with siding of asbestos shingles. Windows are 6-over-6 and there is a rectangular 6-pane window in the tympanum with a panelled surround. The doorway in the left bay is flanked by simple pilasters that support a plain entablature with projecting cornice. A l-story, gable-roofed wing to the southwest has a porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. (Photograph 16.) Metal roof.

c. 1820, with extensive additions. 2½-story clapboard house with four unevenly spaced bays. The doorway in the second bay from the north has flanking plain pilasters that support a plain architrave and molded cornice with dentil course. An added 1½-story wing on the north has two peaked dormers, each with a double window. A 2-story addition on the south has large, multi-paned windows at both floors. There is a 2½-story, gable-roofed barn with siding of vertical boards.

c. 1760. 3½-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, central chimney, clapboard house with Palladian pavilion at east end of facade. The pavilion has an Ionic tetrastyle at the first floor, under a Venetian window. A wing, thought to be, in part, older than the principal block, runs to the north, with a second chimney in the common wall between the wing and the main block. Outbuildings include barns, sheds, and an office. The office may date from the 18th century.

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The grounds of 100 acres include formal gardens and woodland. The house, with gardens and out buildings has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Map 11-6, lot 15 North Main Street Peter C. Henry c. 1835. 2½-story, ell-shaped, 3-bay, Greek Revival, clapboard house. The central bay is off center to the north, and the doorway is in the south bay. There is a shallow, hipped-roof portico with round posts supporting a plain entablature with dentil course under its cornice. The door has wide, 4-pane, side lights. Above, in the gable end, an elaborate 4-pane window has double mullions

and a wide panelled surround. A 1-story, enclosed porch with shed roof protects the set-back ell to the south. Windows are 12-over-12.

Map 11-6, lot 19 North Main Street Margery Bennett 18th C. ? 1½-story, 5-bay, central doorway, clapboard house on stone foundations with 2-over-2 windows. There is a small central chimney, and a second small chimney in the south end wall.

Map 11-6, lot 20 NO North Main Street Delmar and Margaret Cote

NC Simple, modern, 12-story cottage. (Photograph 3.)

1. In 1980 Memorial Hall burned. It was rebuilt in the same year, again by popular subscription. The new building, on the old foundations, is a lighter, brick-faced structure with gable roof. The gable end is covered with aluminum clapboard siding, and has a semi-elliptical window with raidal muntins. The gable end projects over a wide front porch that has channeled, aluminum-covered columns rising from a brick parapet. The doorway, of wood has double, paneled doors, flanked by side lights and fluted pilaster boards. Tripartite windows with fake muntins are on either side of the doorway. Similar windows are in the side elevations. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. It is a Neo-Colonial-Revival-style building, companion to the Town Office Building and Public Library. (Photograph 17.)

(Photograph 15.5.)

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House, garage, and storage building. (Photographs 8 and 9;) buildings continue the traditional civic functions around the green. strengthen and reinforce the district as the center of community activity, but are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district primarily because they are less than 50 years old. building, library and fire station are built of red brick with white trim in a modern "colonial" idiom; the garage and warehouse are plain.

Chronologically, in the development of buildings around the Green, Christ Episcopal Church (1828-1832) preceded the Townhouse. Located on the west side of the green, between the Townhouse and the District School, Christ Episcopal Church is a small, brick Gothic structure that remains today essentially the same as when it was built except that in 1870 the ceiling was dropped, the side windows were shortened, and the present chancel was (Photographs 10, 11, 12.) built.

Memorial Hall, located on the same lot, 67, is mid-way in time of construction, 1913, between the Townhouse, Distrcit School and Episcopal Church, on the one hand, and the five new town buildings on the other hand. Now painted white, it was built in a rustic style with porch of large boulders, shingle siding, and roof overhang supported by heavy brackets. (Photographs 10, 13, 14 and 15.) Now burned and replaced. (Photograph 17.)

Houses

In the immediate vicinity of the highway intersection there are six 18thcentury houses. The four-bay Bellamy House is the largest, and with its Palladian pavilion and classic revival trim, the most elaborate. The other five (map 10-6, lot 34; map 10-7A, lot 35; map 11-5, lot 3 (Photograph 5) and lot 1; and map 11-6, lot 19) are five-bay, central entrance structures, all but the last having 25 stories and central chimney.

In addition to the church and town buildings in the Greek Revival style, six houses in the district are good examples of this style, as well - see map 11-6, lot 16 (Photograph 2); map 11-5, lots 46 and 7; map 10-6, lot 68; map 10-7A, lot 33 (Photograph 16); and map 11-6, lot 15. three Greek Revival style houses near the corner of East Street and North Main Street all have uneven spacing of the bays as a common fea-The central bay is off center in one direction or the other and the doorway is in the bay that is separated from the central bay by the greater amount of space. Four of the Greek Revival style houses have a distinctive decorative motif in common, a rectangular pediment window with panelled surround. These four are map 11-6, lot 16; map

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11-5, lot 7; map 10-7A, lot 33; and map 11-6, lot 15.

Three other houses have suggestions of the Greek Revival style, all on South Main Street, map 11-5. The house on lot 2 has end gables that form pediments (photograph 4.) That on lot 5 (the parsonage) has a fanlight in its tympanum, and that on lot 6 has eaves returns that suggest pediments.

The final architectural style present in district houses is the Italianate, map 11-5, lot 8. The store (11-5, 4) has a suggestion of Queen Anne in its fish scale shingles. Other houses in the district are indeterminate or vernacular in style, but all more than 50 years old. The town buildings, modern architecture, not 50 years old, are NC.

Summary

The buildings around the central crossroads, near the green, in Bethlehem retain the size, shape, spacing, and general atmosphere today that they have had over the centuries. Now there are a few more structures than heretofore, several of them quite new, but the ambience remains the same and the functions of church and state continue to be performed in the buildings around the green, as they always have been.

Boundary Justification

The purpose of the boundary is to encompass those buildings that constitute the cluster of structures centered on the green and related to its historic function. The limits of the cluster become apparent by the opening up of spaces between the houses, and the consequent loss of sense of village, on North Main Street, South Main Street, West Road and Munger Lane at the points indicated by the boundary line. On East Street east of the boundary there is a modern "Cape" house, a new commercial building and a new Post Office. On South Main Street the boundary is further north on the west side because lots 36 and 65 are occupied by a shopping plaza. Three properties on North Main Street are omitted because they are not 50 years old and of poor architectural quality.

1.

Bethlehem was split off from Woodbury and incorporated as a separate town in 1787.

2.

This was the second meeting house structure. The first was built in 1744 at a location outside the district.

6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
≚ 1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>×</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
SPECIFIC DAT	ES See Item #4	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT See Item #	4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion

The central crossroads, near the green, in Bethlehem, Connecticut, has long been the site of the community center. Changes have occurred over the years, reflecting especially the early 19th-century popularity of the Greek Revival style of architecture, but the church and town buildings, and 18th- and 19th-century houses in the Bethlehem Green National Register Historic District continue today the function, scale, setting, and ambience that was established two centuries ago. (Criterion C.)

Schools and Taverns

While the early meeting house that served both religious and town government functions has not survived, several five-bay, central-entrance, clapboard houses from the 18th century continue standing. In addition to being residences, four of these houses also were schools or taverns. The most famous school was the country's first theological school, conducted by the Rev. Joseph Bellamy. His students used the full third floor of his large house facing the green as a dormitory. The Ionic tetrastyle pavilion of this house bears a strong resemblance to similar features of the Litchfield meeting house (demolished) and two houses (standing) in Litchfield known to have been designed by William Spratts, the British soldier who settled in nearby Litchfield after the Revolutionary War to practice architecture.

Bellamy's successor as minister was the Rev. Azel Backus, who served during the years from 1791-1812. Rev. Backus conducted a school in his home to prepare young men for college until he himself left to become president of Hamilton College in New York State. The Backus House, now map 11-5, lot 1, was moved to its present site at an undetermined date from its earlier location in front of the Bellamy House, where in the mid-19th century it served as the Methodist parsonage.

Church's Tavern, map 11-5, lot 3, is the most elaborate of the five-bay, central chimney, central doorway, 2½-story houses. The cornice molding of the doorway breaks out over the pilasters, and the first-floor windows have molded caps and projecting sills. This tavern was mentioned in a letter written by Aaron Burr when he was a student at Dr. Bellamy's theological school. Bird's Tavern, across the green at map 10-6, lot 34,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA	cc		
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPT			
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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59 S. Prospect St		2	03 566-3005
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is a larger house and once had a second-floor ballroom with 12-foot-high arched ceiling. According to local tradition, this tavern had a "drive in" arrangement whereby a traveller could be served without dismounting from his horse. The Greek Revival House on North Main Street, map 11-6, lot 15, is also thought locally once to have been a tavern.

Local Economy and Ambience

Over the years farming has been the principal occupation in Bethlehem. There were farm buildings into mid-20th century associated with Bird's Tavern and as late as the 1960s on land purchased by the town for the building program on the west side of South Main Street. The 1812 census showed 2710 sheep, 1100 swine, 284 horses, 1361 horned cattle in Bethlehem. In one year at about that time, Bethelhem marketed 250 barrels of pork, 400 barrels of beef, 7000 pounds of butter, and 30,000 pounds of cheese.

Industry in Bethlehem was limited to mills required to satisfy local needs. The 1812 census recorded the presence of a grist mill, saw mills, fulling mills, flax mill, wagon manufactory, and two tanneries, all for the purpose of providing local services. Thompson's brick yards produced the brick for the Episcopal Church, and Bird's Woolen Mill continued later into the 19th century. The continued absence of industrial development has been instrumental in maintaining the ambience of the district.

Metal Roofs

The number of metal roofs in the district, six, is remarkable. Two houses have standing seam roofs, the Greek Revival on East Street (map 11-6, lot 16), and the 18th-century house on Munger Lane (map 10-7A, lot 35). On the first the seams are perpendicular to the roof ridge, and on the second parallel. The other four metal roofs, made up of flat squares, are found on the Congregational Church, (map 11-5, lot 5), the Episcopal Church, (map 10-6, lot 67), Memorial Hall (map 10-6, lot 67), and on the wing to Bird Tavern (map 10-6, lot 34). The ages of these roofs have not been determined, but presumably the metal roof is a replacement on the pre-Revolutionary War house. They may be original on the two churches, Memorial Hall, and the Greek Revival house. Such

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roofs were installed in Bethlehem in the 20th century. ⁵ The metal interior walls and ceiling of Memorial Hall, together with its metal roof, make it a tour de force of the idiom.

Architect

The identity is known of only one 19th-century architect who did work in the district. He is Robert W. Hill (1828-1909) of Waterbury, Connecticut. Hill was in charge of remodelling the Episcopal Church in 1869-1871. The ceiling was lowered, the windows in the side walls were shortened, and the central aisle was eliminated in favor of two aisles. Hill's work on the ceiling and windows is easily visible today, but the arrangement of two aisles between the pews has been reversed to the original scheme of a central aisle. In nearby Litchfield, Hill designed the Court House and the Fire House.

Summary

The continuity of function of many of the buildings in the district has persisted for two centuries -- homes, churches, government buildings, library, and store have long occupied one position or another around Bethlehem green. The 1874 atlas shows many of the present buildings in place and designates as a hotel the house made from two structures (map 11-5, lot 2). The atlas shows that the store next door, still a store, was also the post office. Even though the functions may have ceased, as with the taverns and schools, the buildings remain.

The panorama of architectural styles that developed over two and one-half centuries is well represented by the 36 buildings of the district. There are pre-Revolutionary War central chimney houses at the top of South Main Street with twin-chimney Georgian structures nearby and the Palladian elegance of the Bellamy House overlooking the green. The Greek Revival style is represented by the Congregational Church, Townhouse, library, and several residences. The Gothic Revival found early expression in Christ Episcopal Church. The Queen Anne and Italianate styles are to be found on the east side of South Main Street.

Turning to the 20th century, a rustic design is seen in Memorial Hall, the 1939 Town Office building is part of the Colonial Revival movement, and the newly-constructed Town Office Building and Lbirary may be characterized as being in the Neo-Colonial Revival style. Only modern,

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contemporary architecture is missing. After accepting a variety of buildings in the architectural styles of the 19th and 20th centuries as they occurred, the town has elected in the 1960s and 1970s with its public buildings to opt for a Neo-Colonial feeling rather than to continue absorbing into its fabric contemporary styles as they developed.

The ambience and functions of the buildings surrounding the central crossroads in Bethlehem, near the green, continue today in the tradition built up over the two centuries since the area first was settled.

- 1.
 Julius Deming House and Sheldon Tavern. They face one another on North Main Street in Litchfield.
- The Bloss House, map 11-5, lot 46, is also said to have been a boarding school at one time. See Bethlehem Historic District Study Committee Report.
- The letter, dated January 17, 1774, is quoted by the Bethlehem Historic District Study Committee Report from James Parton's The Life and Times of Aaron Burr. Burr spent a brief period at the theological school, then went on to Litchfield where he studied in the law school conducted by his brother-in-law, Judge Tapping Reeve.
 - 4.
 Bethlehem, A Primer of Local History.
- A retired carpenter, doing volunteer work on the Episcopal Church's new link, recalled, during a field visit, that his father-in-law, a plumber, used to install the flat metal roofs, soldering the squares together.

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6.

County Atlas of Litchfield, Connecticut. The map in the atlas shows that South Main Street widens considerably as it approaches the intersection with West Road and East Street, but does not show a triangular area in the center. The absence of a central, triangular area in the broad street section suggests that the park-like arrangement known as the green today may post-date 1874, the year the atlas was published. It should be kept in mind that the second meeting house was located here in mid-18th century, indicating that the Y in South Main Street probably goes back to that time. The principal entrance to this structure was on the west.

7.

The post office is now located outside the district on East Street. It processes hundreds of thousands of postmarks each year before Christmas.

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map Legend:

Photo key



Period or style

- A 18th century
- B Georgian
- C Greek Rovival
- D Gothic Movival
- s gueen Anne
- f Italianate
- 3 19th-century vernacular
- H Rustic or Sungaloid
- I Ceorgian Revival
- J Less than 50 years old

Town Luildings

- V Pown Office suilding
- 3 Library
- A Fire house
- Y Jarage
- 4 Jarehouse

