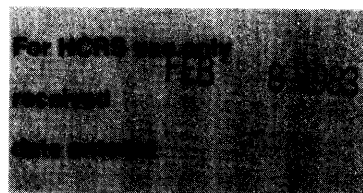


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hamburg Bridge Historic District

and/or common Reed's Landing

2. Location

street & number Joshatown Road, and Old Hamburg Road, (in part) N/A not for publication

city, town Lyme N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut code 09 county New London code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: bridge

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheets

street & number "

city, town " N/A vicinity of _____ state see continuation sheet

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lyme Land Records, Town Hall

street & number Route #156, R.D. #2

city, town Lyme state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date " see continuation sheet
 federal state county local

depository for survey records See continuation sheet

city, town " state See continuation sheet

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Overview

The Hamburg Bridge Historic District is a group of approximately 18 parcels of land, on which there are ten houses, located on the east and west sides of the Eight Mile River at the Hamburg Bridge in the Town of Lyme, Connecticut. The Eight Mile River is so named because it flows into the Connecticut River from the northeast, eight miles above Long Island Sound. The Bridge at Hamburg is the first bridge across the Eight Mile River, about two miles above the point where it joins the Connecticut River.

Joshuatown Road on the west side of the river (Photographs 15 and 16) and Old Hamburg Road on the east side (Photographs 17 and 18) come together at the bridge. (Photograph 9.) Most of the houses face the river from across one road or the other. On both sides of the river the land in front of the houses between the river and the roads once was given over to wharfs. The stone bulkheads of the wharfs are still in place. (Photograph 11.)

The district consists of the wharfs and the houses immediately adjoining them, the bridge, and that section of the river below the bridge that is lined by the wharfs. (See sketch map.) All properties are considered to contribute to the historic character of the district.

The Community

The village within the Town of Lyme known as Hamburg has its center, with church and store, about two-thirds of a mile below the bridge. (See USGS map.) During the 19th century a channel was dredged in the Eight Mile River to the center where commercial shipping was continued well into the 20th century.

The site for the bridge was chosen, in 1759,¹ because it was the first point where the Eight Mile River became narrow enough to make a bridge practical. It was also the highest point on the river to which navigation was possible. The width and depth of the water explain the presence of the bridge and the wharfs, the junction of the roads, and the existence of the Hamburg Bridge community.

The water at the bridge is only three to four feet deep, suitable only for small boats or scows. Consequently, after a channel was dredged to the docks at the center in 1824² use of the wharfs at the bridge declined. The community has experienced virtually no development since that time. The main road, Route 156, formerly known as the Salem Turnpike, bypasses the bridge to the east. The houses and wharfs near the bridge have not been disturbed by development or intrusions and continue to maintain their historic relationship to one another and to the river and the bridge.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet

Property Owners

Item number

4

Page

1

All properties contribute to the historic character of the district.

The mailing address of the property owner is the same as the address of the property, unless otherwise noted. All addresses are Lyme, CT 06371 unless otherwise noted.

Lot numbers are taken from Lyme tax map number 19. There are no street numbers.

Dates are taken from tradition, from assessor's cards, by visual examination and stylistic approximation, from study of the land records and/or by a combination thereof.

Lot 9, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2 Vacant lot. .07 acre.
Leon L. Czikowsky

Lot 10, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2 Vacant lot. 40'x140'.
Elizabeth Randall-Mills

Lot 11, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2 Possibly c. 1780, with significant
Elizabeth Randall-Mills alterations. 2½-story, 3-bay, gable-
roofed, 30'x26', frame house on
stone foundations with 1-story wings
to left and right. Ridge line is
parallel with the road. Shingled
and clapboard siding. Small brick
chimney. Central entrance porch with
square posts has enclosed bay above
it.

The flanking wings
are faced with false facades that have
cornices with dentil courses. Windows
are 2-over-2. The central doorway has
a molded enframement. Because the
ground slopes up sharply from the road,
the house is entered from grade at
three levels. 2 acres. (Photographs
1 and 2.)

Lot 12, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2 c. 1879 (LLR 42/122). 2½-story, 5-bay,
Two parcels owned individually frame, gable-roofed, 28'x22' house on
by Britton J. Chance, Jr., and granite ashlar foundations. Wood
Dianne Lynn Chance shingles on the roof. A central
wall dormer dominates the
facade. The wide roof overhang has a
soffit of flush boarding. Windows are
2-over-2 or simply two vertical panes,
some round headed. The central door-
way is flanked by shallow, plain

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet

Property Owners

Item number

4

Page

2

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

- pilasters that support a frieze with ogee curve under a projecting, molded, cornice cap. There are two sheds or cottages, one covered with weathered shingles, the other by clapboards. A 2-story barn, set into the hill, has a stone first story with vertical, weathered-board siding above. There is a well in the south yard. A number of stone retaining walls are occasioned by the fact that the ground slopes up sharply from the road. 1.5 acre. (Photograph 3.)
- Lot 13, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Britton J. Chance, Jr. Vacant lot. 10'x300'. Stone bulkhead along river's edge.
- Lot 14, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Wells C. Bates, Jr. Vacant lot. 50'x240'. Stone bulkhead along river's edge.
- Lot 15, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Wells C. Bates, Jr. c. 1800? 2½-story, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, frame house on stone foundations. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. Windows are 6-over-6 except for round headed tripartite windows in the attic gables. The 6-panel door with side lights is set between pilasters under frieze and cornice. There is an odd, projecting horizontal timber across the facade at a level between the top of the first-floor windows and the entrance cornice. A 1½-story wing has been added to the back. Outbuildings include a well house in the front yard, a studio to the south with a high multipane window in its north wall, and a garage/shed with flush vertical boarding to the north. (Photograph 4.)
- Lot 16, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Mildred B. Bruestle Vacant lot. .5 acre. Stone bulkhead along river's edge.
- Lot 17, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Mildred B. Bruestle 1803. 2½-story, gambrel-roofed, central chimney, central doorway, Georgian, frame house, 38'x28', on stone foundations. At the first floor there are two 12-over-12 windows on either side of the central entrance, while at the second floor there are three 6-over-6

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

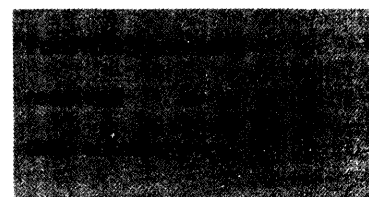
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Property Owners

Item number 4

Page 3



windows in peaked dormers in the lower slope of the gambrel. Decorative detail includes fluted pilasters on either side of the door, which has a 4-pane transom, window surrounds that are molded on three sides, with crosette upper corners, a dentil course under the eaves and along the cornices and raking cornices of the dormers, quoins at the corners of the house, and a front porch whose gable is treated as a pediment with dentils. (Photograph 5.)

A stone wall across the front of the property supports a wooden, picket fence. The fence has square posts with molded tops and urn finials. A garage to the south, on stone foundations, has flush vertical siding.

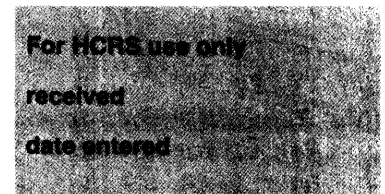
On the interior, the chimney is divided to the height of the first-floor ceiling. The space between the two sections is a coved passage. (Photograph 6.) At the east end of the passage (just inside the front door) it has an elliptical arch with key block on molded impost. This arrangement is repeated at the west end of the passage as part of a more elaborate doorway surround of flanking pilasters and entablature. 5.5 acres. (Photograph 7.)

Lot 18, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Michael K. & Nancy C. Brown

1821. 2½-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, 24'x22', frame house on stone foundations with clapboard siding. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the chimney is off center to the right. The doorway, in the left bay, has shallow plain pilasters that support a plain architrave and frieze and thin projecting cornice cap. The south attic gable has a fan window, but the north attic gable has a window with small, square panes. Other windows are 6-over-6. There is a large, 2½-story barn with vertical flush boarding. Its gable roof is covered with wood shingles. 1.3 acres. (Photograph 8.)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Property Owners Item number 4 Page 4

- Bridge
Town of Lyme
Town Hall
Route 156, R.D. #2 1936. A concrete bridge with three arches. The roadway and parapets are slightly arched. (Photograph 9.)
- Eight Mile River
State of Connecticut¹
Department of Environmental
Protection
State Office Building
Hartford, CT 06103 The river varies in width from approximately 30 to 100 feet. At high tide the depth is three feet or so, and at low tide there is little depth at all. The bottom is rock and gravel.
- Lot 19, Joshuatown Road, R.D. #2
Julian G. Ely Estate
Route 156, R.D. #2 Vacant lot. 1 acre.
- Lot 96, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Town of Lyme
Town Hall
Route 156, R.D. #2 Vacant lot. Stone bulkheads along river's edge. 25'x125'.
- Lot 23, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Ann E. Haskell c. 1803, c. 1867. Gambrel-roofed, frame, 5-bay house on brick foundations with 2-story front porch. The porch has curved brackets wherever they can be used, in the Eastlake manner. On top of the porch there is a central gable-roofed structure with board-and-batten siding, a round-headed window in each face, and Stick Style struts in the gable end. The central structure is flanked by peaked dormers. There is a central hall, with stairs ascending on the left wall. A stone garage adjoins the house to the north. 0.5 acre. (Photograph 10.) The wharf area across the street is part of the same parcel. (Photograph 11.)
- Lot 24, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Edward T. & Ann L. Moran Original house c. 1803 but with significant alterations. 2½-story, 5-bay, gable roofed, central chimney, central entrance, house on stone and concrete block foundations. Some of the siding is aluminum. There is a large picture window on either side of the entrance. A 1-story wing with arcaded, recessed porch has been added to the south, leading to a shed and garage. Wharf area across the

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet

Property Owners

Item number

4

Page

5

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

street is part of the parcel. (Photograph 12.)

Lot 25, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Sidney S. Slater
1028 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06107

Mid-20th century. 1½-story, gable-roofed, barn-like structure, with stained shingle siding, a "Colonial" door, and plastic bubbles in the roof. (Photograph 13.)

Lot 26, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Alexander McGhie
Philipse Brook Road
Garrison, NY 10524

Possible turn of the 19th-century. 2½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, central chimney, central entrance, frame house on stone foundations. The roof flares out over a 2-story porch. The posts of the porch and the spindles of the porch railing are turned. A 2-story ell has been added to the south. The barn has vertical flush boarding. 0.5 acre. (Photograph 14.)

Lot 27, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Hubert Horan

Early 20th-century. 1-story, ell-shaped, gable-roofed cottage with shingle siding on concrete block foundations. (Photograph 13.)

Lot 28, Old Hamburg Road, R.D. #2
Alexander McGhie
Philipse Brook Road
Garrison, NY 10524

Vacant lot. 200 feet on the river. 0.5 acre.

1 Title to land under tide water and navigable rivers is held by the State. See Water and Water Rights, A Treatise on the Law of Water and Allied Problems, v. 1, p. 195.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Surveys Item number 6 Page 1

State Register of Historic Places
1982
Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford

X State

Connecticut

Historical and Architectural Survey of the Town of Lyme
1980
Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford

X Local

Connecticut

(This survey was conducted by the Connecticut River Estuary
Regional Planning Agency. It includes the houses on lots 15,
17, 23, 24.)

Historic American Buildings Survey, Connecticut 35 (House 17)
n.d.
Library of Congress
Washington

X Federal

District of Columbia

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 1

The size of the lots in the Hamburg Bridge District has always been small, and the houses have always been close together. This was never a farm community. The largest parcel in the district, Lot 17, reached its present size through increases by purchase in the 20th century. The activity associated with the wharfs was the focus of community life.

The Houses

The wharfs that once were busy with boats and with cargo such as lumber are now quiet, but the houses that went along with them are still in place and have been continuously occupied. Three of the houses, those on lots 15, 24 and 26 have the five-bay, central-chimney, central-doorway arrangement of 18th-century architecture, but their dates of construction have not been established by other than visual estimate. All have experienced changes and additions. The integrity of No. 24 has been damaged by the introduction of picture windows, and No. 26 has acquired a late-19th-century, two-story porch. These Old Hamburg Road houses probably do not pre-date the year the road was laid out, c. 1800.

None of the houses is a pure example of any architectural style. No. 11 is thought by the owner to be of 18th-century origin, but whatever early features it may have had are now camouflaged behind its Colonial Revival false wings and its vernacular two-story front projection, which themselves are of considerable interest. Built into the side of the hill, this house has its front door at what normally would be the basement level but in this house is the first floor. There is no cellar. There are three floors of living space and an attic. This accommodation of architecture to the terrain is paralleled in two houses on the other side of the river.

No. 12, c. 1879, being one of the newer houses, has been altered less than others but its two gable end elevations have different fenestration, suggesting that it has seen at least some alteration.

The house of greatest architectural interest is No. 17. (Photograph 5.) Its gambrel roof, quoins, entablature and dormers with dentil courses, and doorway surround are in the Georgian mode, and it is handsomely sited behind a stone wall with picket fence. But its detailing is not completely consistent. For example, there are no quoins on the rear corners of the house, although the raking cornice of the rear lower slope of the gambrel returns with dentil course paralleling the arrangement at the front corners where there are quoins. And the sides of the dormers on the front are covered by clapboards while on the rear they are covered by fish-scale shingles.

The interior of this house has three exceptional features, the coved passage through the split chimney on the first floor (Photograph 6), the doorway surround at the back of this passage (Photograph 7), and a large coved-

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

ceiling room on the second floor.

The sharp upward slope of the land on both sides of the river is an important feature of the district. It has been coped with by construction of a number of stone retaining walls (Photograph 3) that have been in place, according to the land records, since at least as far back as the first decade of the 19th century and perhaps earlier.

On the east side of the river, along Old Hamburg Road, it is surprising to find two houses, No. 23 and No. 26, with two-story front porches. The porch at No. 26 appears to be a late-19th-century addition, and No 23 was extensively altered, c. 1867, when there was a change of ownership. The new owner increased the size of the house by 50% by constructing an addition on the north. He added the intricate exterior trim and on the interior built a central hall with a stairway whose railing climbs continuously around a narrow stair well from the first to third floors. Like house No. 11, house No. 23 has its entrance at grade but this floor is used for living rooms and there is no cellar. The wall at the back of the ground floor is a retaining wall against the hill.

The house at Lot No. 24 is the third house utilizing the terrain in effect to achieve an added floor, forgoing a basement. A door at the rear of its second floor opens onto an attractive area where the well is located, while a short bridge from higher up the bank leads to the bedroom floor. Again, it is a 3½-story house with entrance from grade at three levels.

This house has a typical arrangement for a Colonial style house of two fireplaces, one on either side of the central chimney, at the ground floor, and a typical, although somewhat small and cramped, stairway with winders in front of the chimney leading to the second floor. On the second floor there are two more fireplaces on either side of the chimney and a large kitchen fireplace (with former bake oven now removed) at the back. This layout with kitchen fireplace on the second floor suggests that the second floor was intended as the principal living floor at the time the house was built, with the ground floor perhaps serving as a shop in connection with the wharfs. A further item of interest in house No. 24 is an area of several square feet on the wall of the attic stairway where wallpaper is pasted onto the vertical boards. The pattern is a small stylized grouping of squares and abstract motifs in black, grey and red.

The cohesiveness of the group of houses in the Hamburg Bridge District is a function of their relationship to the wharfs. While the wharfs have long ago ceased to have utility, they have survived and with the houses that went along with them form a district that is faithful to its early-19th-century heritage.

1. Hall, p. 84. For a likeness of the 1759 bridge see Photograph 19.
2. Interview with Thomas O. Stevens, maritime historian, January 30, 1981.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates See Inventory, Item #4 **Builder/Architect** See Inventory, Item #4

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the early 19th century, the houses and wharfs of the Hamburg Bridge Historic District were at the head of navigation on the Eight Mile River, where goods were transferred from water to land. As the community has survived without significant change, it gives an excellent picture of what this transfer point between water and land transportation was like. (Criterion A.) The houses in the district, built in the 18th and 19th centuries, are good examples of the Colonial, Georgian, Greek Revival, Eastlake and vernacular styles and survive in their original relationship to one another and to the river. (Criterion C.) So far as is known, no archeological examinations have been made in the area, but the wharfs may possess historic archeological significance for investigation of maritime-related information. (Criterion D.)

History

The known history of the Hamburg Bridge District dates from approximately the year 1800. Prior to that date about the only confirmed fact is that the first bridge was built in 1759. A local newspaper article published in 1978 excited considerable local interest by referring to the area as Reed's Landing and stating that significant shipbuilding had been carried out on the wharfs there in the 18th century.¹ While no factual basis thus far has been found for the statements in the article, the name Reed's Landing has crept into local usage, and the article did serve the useful purpose of stirring an interest in the history of their community on the part of the residents.

Efforts to research the history of the district prior to 1800 proved to be unproductive. Search through the land records, unfortunately, reaches a dead end at about the year 1800 for all the properties (see Sequence of Ownership section of the nomination), while the census and tax records prior to 1800 do not convey any information about properties. Early maps do not show any detail for the district.

While the 18th-century history has not been determined, it is clear from repeated references to the wharfs in the land records that they existed early in the 19th century. The exact date for their construction cannot be determined. On the one hand, there is a disturbing lack of reference to existing wharfs in 1811 and 1813 deeds,² disturbing because

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 21 prox.

Quadrangle name Hamburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See continuation sheet.

A

Zone	Easting				

B

Zone	Easting				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Hamburg Bridge Historic District is shown by the dotted line on the accompanying map drawn at a scale of one inch to ~~425~~ ²⁴⁰ feet. For boundary justification see continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Architectural Historian date March 26, 1981

street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive telephone 203 521-2518

city or town West Hartford state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date February 4, 1983

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/10/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

the presence of wharfs usually is recognized in the language. On the other hand, an 1803 deed mentions a store at the western end of the bridge,³ and the presence of a store implies the presence of a wharf. Moreover, the use of the term "landing" in the 18th century implies some improvement of the land, such as a wharf. None of this analysis throws any light on the question of whether ships were built at Reed's Landing.

A fine painting of Reed's Landing as it appeared in the 19th century hangs in the Lyme Town Hall.⁴ (Photograph 19.) Conjecture arises as to whether the scene depicted is a faithful representation of what the artist saw at the time he did the painting, or whether it is his impression of how the scene may have appeared some years earlier. Several elements in the painting conform to expectations. The store at the western end of the bridge is color red, as noted in the land records of 1829.⁵ The picket fence with its post is in place in front of the house No. 17, although the quoins and dentils are missing from the house. The commodity on the wharf is lumber, and the boat in which the lumber is transported is a scow. On the other hand, the painting shows a sail boat, on the right, in the river above the bridge, an unlikely place because of the shallow water.⁶

The painting is useful for showing the store at the end of Old Hamburg Road, on lot 19.⁷ The structure to the right of the gambrel-roofed house on the west probably is the workshop referred to in the deeds. This structure also once served as a private school.⁸ Most important, at the far left the painting shows a vessel in stocks, in the course of being built. Three proposals have been put forward on how such a vessel might have been taken downstream. First, it might have been of centerboard design and, being small, with the centerboard up might have drawn less than three feet. Second, it could have been floated downstream on pontoons. Third, it could have been held for the next semi-annual extra high tide. In any event, the presence in the painting of the vessel in stocks keeps alive the possibility that shipbuilding was indeed carried on at Reed's Landing.

The Houses and People

The houses at Hamburg Bridge are of great interest and value because of the integrity of their setting, grouped around the water in their original relationship to one another. A clear sense of the early-19th-century community is portrayed by the district. Individually, with the exception of the Georgian house (No. 17), the houses are not of museum quality, but rather contribute to the historic character of the district through their role as typical, late 18C and 19C structures that have been enlarged and adapted to changing tastes over the decades.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

The house at Lot No. 17 is the most significant architecturally. J. Frederick Kelly, the leading authority on Connecticut houses of that era, cites only one other example in the state of chimney vaulting of this type,⁹ and that one has been demolished. Kelly dates this house, built by Captain William Johnson, from 1790. When Captain Johnson died in 1818 he left his widow, Mitty, with four minor children, suggesting that his family, marriage and perhaps his house dated from the first decade of the 19th century. Moreover, his name does not appear in the Lyme Land Records indexes of the 18th century. While he may have purchased the house, it seems more likely that the land he bought in 1803 is the site of the house and he built it soon thereafter, rather than in 1790. Johnson was a Mason. The second-floor room with the coved ceiling was a Masonic Hall.¹⁰

The Widow Mitty Johnson sold the house soon after the Captain's untimely death, but in 1848 returned to Hamburg Bridge and purchased the house at No. 18, later the home of the Bigelow family. The large barn on this property was the scene of Saturday night dances.¹¹

It is to be noted that Captain Johnson was in partnership with Ebenezer Hayden of Essex. Another non-local man was March E. Anderson of Flushing, Queens, who owned the wharf at No. 14 from 1823 to 1836. These relationships indicate that Hamburg Bridge, via the coastal trade, was in touch with the outside world.

The 5-bay, central-chimney, central-doorway houses at No. 15 and No. 24 look older than the Johnson House, and probably are, and by their presence add weight to the possibility that the wharfs are older, but documentary evidence is lacking.

The land records are helpful with respect to the house at No. 18 by referring, in 1821, to a "dwelling house partly built thereon," thereby establishing the date of the house. This date is consistent with the transitional Federal/Greek Revival style of the house.

The old families of Lyme, Ely, Daniels, Lord, Brockway and Bill, all owned property in the district. Harry B. Sisson (b. 1834) was one of Lyme's prominent residents in the latter part of the 19th century. He was a merchant, the town's treasurer for 21 years, and he held other positions of trust. He paid only \$300 for the house and lot at No. 23 when he purchased the property in 1867. Perhaps the house he bought is portrayed in the painting, at the far right, already with its gambrel roof and 2-story porch, but smaller than the present structure and without the Eastlake trim that he added.

Because the Eight Mile River is a small river and because the water at Hamburg Bridge is so shallow, the Hamburg Bridge community was of minor importance compared with other coastal and river maritime centers in Connecticut. For example, Hartford, at the head of navigation on the Connecticut River was of a far different order of importance as a transfer point between land and water shipping. Similarly, nearby Essex enjoyed a larger scale as

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

both a coastal shipping port and a river port, and had several busy shipyards. The Hamburg Bridge wharfs, shops and homes made economic sense for the brief period from about 1800 to 1824 when the channel was dredged to the Hamburg center docks.

Summary

The Hamburg Bridge District was a point of transfer between land and water shipping in the early 19th century in Lyme. Houses, shops and wharfs were built in support of the commercial activity. While the economic function of the community was short lived, its history still can be clearly read in the houses and wharfs that continue in place, free of intrusions. The density and setting of the houses, all oriented toward the water, reflect with integrity a containment within a brief time frame established by considerations of trade and transportation.

The architecture of the houses was in the standard styles of the era, modified by the requirements imposed by the terrain to face the water and to cope with the rising elevation on either side of the river. The district as it exists today makes a valuable contribution to the architectural and commercial history of Lyme.

1. Moran. The Sterling shipyards mentioned in the Moran article probably were located on the Lieutenant River, another tributary of the Connecticut River further south in what is now the town of Old Lyme. An entry dated December 16, 1706 in the Lyme Land Records (LLR 2/269) establishes that William Sterling (spelled Starling in the land records) was a shipbuilder in Lyme at that time. In the LLR 2/269 entry he recorded a protest against his client, William Wentsworth of Boston, for holding up the work of constructing a vessel.

The existence of one John Reed in Lyme is established by Burr (pp. 137, 157) and he did own land "at the place commonly known by the name of Eight Mile River near unto ? the landing place" in 1708 (LLR 2/363), but the exact location is not clear.

The newspaper article apparently was based on Harding's two books and Harding may have known of the above references, although he gives no sources. The Lyme Library librarian and the Lyme Town Clerk believe that Harding mixed imagination with his history.

2. LLR 25/308, 24/505. In the cases of all properties, at about the year 1800 the last grantor fails to appear in the grantee index, or the last grantor is listed in the grantee index with so many entries that it is impractical to check that all, or the last grantor was a group, suggesting acquisition by probate, and the group is not listed in the grantee index.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme CT

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

3. LLR 22/213.

4. The painting is signed George F. Bottume but is not dated. As Bottume had a studio in nearby Norwich, Connecticut in the 1850s, it may date from that decade. Bottume was primarily a portraitist but produced some landscapes. The remark about him that "He paints rapidly, having nearly completed some of his best pictures in a single day..." is not reassuring with respect to the question of the accuracy of his Hamburg Bridge scene. See French, p. 136.

5. LLR 31/495. According to local tradition, this structure was moved to Route 156 and is now part of the house on lot No. 34.

6. Because of its gravel and rock bottom, local residents along the river consider it to be unlikely that the water ever was deeper. One older resident cites the fact that the depth has not changed during his lifetime which spans the 20th century.

7. According to local tradition, the 2½-story section of the store was moved to Route 156 at the end of Joshuatown Road where it is now the rear section of a house.

8. Trowbridge, p. 411.

9. Kelly, p. 72. The other example was the Tuttle House in West Hartford.

10. Trowbridge, p. 411.

11. Conversation March 12, 1981 with Les Cone, lifelong resident of Lyme who received the information from his grandmother, a Bigelow.

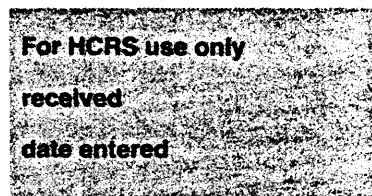
**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number to Item #8



Page 1

References are to volume and page of the Lyme Land Records

Lots 10 and 11

59/231, March 26, 1958. Certificate of decedent's ownership of real estate, Horace A. W. Randall-Mills. No transfer.

55/219, November 14, 1947. Marian F. Moore to H. A. W. and Elizabeth Randall-Mills, including piece across highway with "stone dock thereon."

53/533, April 13, 1946. J. Eric Williams to Marian F. Moore.

51/497, April 24, 1943. Aubrey Langley to J. Eric and Cornelia D. Williams.

51/410, July 29, 1941. Sarah C. L. Crowley to Noel Aubrey Langley.

Lot 10: 49/370, 371 and 46/167. Property of Georgiana Brown. See next entry.

Lot 11: 50/417, May 20, 1929. William J. Crowley to Sarah C. L. Crowley, 1.5 acres. The same as conveyed to Julia A. Newlin, mother of Georgiana Brown, and by Julia A. Nevin devised to Georgiana Brown by will.

43/7, April 30, 1878. Reuben Lord, Sarah E. Griffin, Josiah M. Lord for \$3000 to Mrs. Julia A. Newlin. House and lot west of highway.

(Lord, Griffin and Lord do not appear as a group in the Grantee index. It may be that they were siblings and acquired the land by inheritance. The Lord family owned property in this neighborhood. See below. Reuben Lord entries occupy a page in the Grantee index.)

Lots 12 and 13

First Section

68/198, July 5, 1978. Francis H. Roberts to Britton Chance, Jr. Three pieces. 1st piece, the house and land around it. 2nd piece, the lot across the highway, on the river. 3rd piece, barn adjacent to 1st piece with right of way (ROW) across second section.

59/182, October 31, 1957. Certificate of transfer, Sadie Roberts, deceased (2/57) to F. H. Roberts.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix



Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number to Item #8 Page 2

54/147, February 6, 1954. Sadie Roberts to F. H. Roberts. Land with barn adjoining homestead of Cyrus Roberts, deceased. Which land or which barn or bungalow this may be is uncertain.

55/504, Oct. 10, 1953. Sadie Roberts to F. H. Roberts, three pieces but not quite the same three pieces as 68/198. 1st piece includes buildings, ROW, and river frontage. 2nd piece, half interest in a barn, "so-called bungalow", on westerly portion of second section. 3rd piece, barn (bungalow) on westerly portion of J.R. Roberts' land.

57/233, August 26, 1953. William C. Peck, committee, Cyrus R. Roberts estate to Sadie Roberts for \$3317.42. Same three pieces as 55/904.

45/222, February 24, 1910. Alice M. Daniels, Alice L. Tower, Agatha Banning, Daniel S. Daniels to Cyrus R. Roberts. 2 acres with dwelling house, barn and other buildings. ROW is now across land of Walter A. Lord.

45/46, November 15, 1905. Distribution certificate, estate of Daniel Daniels. Alice M. Daniels, widow, life use of one-third of the homestead, i.e., 2 acres with dwelling house. Alice Tower, Agatha Banning, Daniel S. Daniels, equal shares, subject to right of dower.

42/122, March 17, 1879. Samuel Daniels, Jr., to Daniel Daniels. 80 rods from the bridge. Two acres, with one zig-zag border, and "right to cart through my lot". No mention of buildings.

Second Section

68/199, July 6, 1978. John R. Roberts to Dianne Lynn Chance. Zig-zag border. Land with barn.

52/491, December 15, 1934 (recorded March 15, 1940). Certificate of devise, estate of Walter A. Lord to John R. Roberts.

47/74, October 8, 1919. Distribution certificate, estate of Sarah E. Lord, to Walter A. Lord, (life use) and (share and share alike) Cyrus R. Roberts and Eliza A. Bunnell. Two pieces, one whose north border is lot 17, but is only .75 acre with dwelling house. 2nd piece is between highway and river. But there also is reference to "barn adjacent". It is possible that Walter A. Lord simply left a small piece to John R. Roberts (52/491). In any event, 47/74 appears to relate to lots 14 and 15.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme CT.

Appendix to

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number Item #8 Page 3

Lots 14 and 15

- 68/279, Sept. 8, 1978. Sidney S. Jacot to Wells C. Bates, Jr. Two pieces. 1st piece, west of highway with dwelling house, garage, studio and out buildings. 2nd piece, between highway and river.
- 60/162, April 27, 1961. Michael and Sarah Ruth Burlingham to J. F. and S. S. Jacot. Two pieces, as 68/279.
- 59/161, August 19, 1957. John S. Davidson to M. and S. R. Burlingham. Two pieces.
- 53/540, April 23, 1946. Administrator's deed, Bankers Trust Co., Essex, for estate of B. N. Cadmus for \$12,500 to J. S. Davidson.
- 53/449, November 24, 1945. Bond for deed, Bernaldine N. Cadmus to J. S. Davidson. 1st piece, 3 3/4 acres (surprisingly large). 2nd piece, 25 square rods.
- 50/428, November 3, 1932. Pansy Reynolds Donovan to B. N. Cadmus. Two pieces.
- 48/122, January 29, 1921. Jared S. Daniels to P. R. Donovan. "A portion of my home farm," 3 acres. (Apparently, Cadmus added to her holdings by buying land to the rear.)
- 48/63, November 21, 1919. Heirs of Sarah E. Lord, Cyrus R. Roberts, Walter A. Lord, and Eliza A. Bunnell to P. R. Donovan. Two pieces. 1st piece, bounded easterly by the highway that leads to Joshuatown by the Long Bridge that crosses the Eight Mile River (the only reference to use this name for the bridge. 3/4 acre with buildings. 2nd piece, 25 square rods between the highway and the river.
- 47/74, July 6, 1918. See Lots 12 and 13, Second Section.
- 44/16, September 25, 1901. Albert and Anjanette Ely to Sarah E. Lord. 3/4 acre and piece opposite, and barn standing by Jared Daniels' land with ROW.
- 42/49, November 29, 1873. Arthur C. Ely for \$225 to Anjanette E. Ely, 1/4 interest in place formerly owned and occupied by Ansell R. Ely, deceased. Both sides of the highway, 1 acre, reserving such rights as the public have to the highway passing in front of the dwelling house.
- 36/285, March 3, 1845. Adin Tooker to Ansel R. Ely for \$300. 1/2 acre with dwelling house and separate reference to barn, and 1/4 acre on opposite side of highway.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District Lyme CT Appendix
Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number to Item #8 Page 4

The trail of the house lot then becomes obscure. The lot between the highway and the river is traced as follows:

- 36/60, June 24, 1839. Henry Jones for \$20 to Adin Tooker. One bound is the corner of a wharf, and the piece is with an old wharf thereon, indicating the presence of two wharfs, one already "old."
- 33/389, April 4, 1836. March E. Anderson to Henry Jones for \$20. 10 rods and a wharf thereon.
- 31/145, November 11, 1823. Ezra Brockway for \$30 to March E. Anderson "of Flushing in County of Queens State of New York Long Island." 10 rods and wharf.
- 31/4, April 8, 1822. Thomas Anderson for \$100 to Ezra Brockway. 2 pieces or tracts of land, New Hamburg. 1st piece, begin southwest corner of Allen W. Griffin's store.
- 31/5, December 1, 1820. Ezra S. Anderson to Thomas Anderson. Two pieces.
- 25/308, March 4, 1813. David Brockway for \$150 to Ezra Anderson. Begin southwest buttment of bridge called Hamburg Bridge, thence south on highway on west side of Eight Mile River so as to include all the land between said highway and the river until it comes to Elijah Ely's land, being the same piece of land I purchased from Thomas Anderson. No mention of wharfs!
- 24/505, September 25, 1811. Thomas Anderson for \$150 to David Brockway. Description corresponds with 25/308.
- Thomas Anderson does not appear in the grantee index prior to September 25, 1811.

Lots 16 and 17

- 62/509, July 15, 1968. Bertram G. Bruestle estate, distribution to Mildred B. Bruestle. Two pieces. 1st piece, west of highway, 3 acres, house and other improvements, subject to fence maintenance agreement. 2nd piece, between highway and river, 1 acre.
- 52/568, October 18, 1940. Certificate of devise, estate of George M. Bruestle to Bertram G. Bruestle, son. Same two pieces.
- 48/54, October 17, 1919. Jared S. Daniels to George M. Bruestle. "Beginning at hog backed rock..., thence southwest...to a post in the fence...." 1/3 acre. (Bruestle added to the size of his lot.)
- 44/118, September 15, 1905. Jared S. Daniels to George M. and Emma T. Bruestle. Odd-shaped piece. (Buestle added to the size of his lot.)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet

Sequence of Ownership

Item number

Appendix
to Item #8

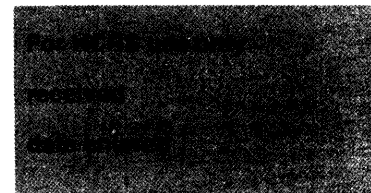
Page

5

- 44/116, August 21, 1905. Hiram A. Brockway to George M. and Emma T. Bruestle. (Basic purchase by Bruestle.) Two pieces. 1st piece, west of highway, 1 acre with dwelling house, barn and other buildings. 2nd piece, between highway and river, "begin at point on highway in line with north bound of 1st piece" (not now the case), 1 acre, "being the same as conveyed to grantor by his father, Edward C. G. Brockway."
- 42/300, May 28, 1890. E. C. G. Brockway for \$800 to Hiram A. Brockway. Two pieces. 1st piece, lot 16 and a portion of lot 17. 2nd piece, an undivided 1/3 part of Brockway Island near the mouth of the Eight Mile River, together with fishing privileges thereto belonging.
- 40/382, February 2, 1865. Phoebe Brockway (widow of Jedidiah) and Frederick S. G. Brockway (son of Jedidiah) for \$250 to E. C. G. Brockway (son of Jedidiah). Two pieces, lot 16 and part of 17. Formerly the property of Jedidiah Brockway, deceased.
- 38/3, February 26, 1845. Abigail Williams, Polly Williams and Mabel Williams for \$25 to Jedidiah Brockway. 1/5 acre between highway and river "not meaning to convey any title that heirs of William H. Johnson, deceased, may have to a landing on the north part of it." A portion of lot 16. (The Williams women do not appear in the Grantee index, implying that they acquired the property by inheritance.)
- 36/634, November 22, 1836. Henry Jones to Jedidiah Brockway for \$1400, three pieces. 1st piece, lot 16 and part of 17, 1 acre with dwelling house, store, workshop and other buildings. (Location of store and workshop, i.e., which side of road, not spelled out.)
- 29/461, June 21, 1830. Samuel P. Brown to Henry Jones. The General Assembly of Connecticut at session holden in New Haven the first Wednesday of May 1830 by resolution authorized and empowered me, Samuel P. Brown, of Lyme to sell the interest of Salome Brown (his wife) of Lyme in tract of land in the North Society at a place called New Hamburgh, being the same conveyed by John Mason to Ely A. Elliott, owned one-quarter by Samuel P. Brown, three-quarters by Salome Brown. 1 acre with dwelling house, store, workshop and other buildings thereon.
- 31/518, July 28, 1829. Ely A. Elliott for \$1000 to Samuel P. and Salome Brown. 1 acre with house, store, workshop, and other buildings.
- 31/486, April 1, 1829. John Mason for \$1000 to Ely A. Elliott, dwelling house, store, workshop, barn, wharf, &c.
- 30/622, November 31, 1824. Hesikiah Goddard of New London for \$1200 to John Mason. Three pieces. 1st piece, 1 acre with dwelling house, store, workshop, barn, wharf &c. (other pieces elsewhere.) The same which I had of John C. Ely by mortgage deed and foreclosure.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT Appendix
Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number to Item #8

Page 6

28/617, September 29, 1820. John C. Ely for \$120 to Hesikiah Goddard.
Three pieces.

26/387, August 15, 1820. Joesph Noyes for \$2000 to John C. Ely.

26/323, July 12, 1819. John C. M. Brockway for \$2000 to Joseph Noyes.
Four pieces, including two barns and one wharf. Being the same as
conveyed to me by Ebenezer Brockway, guardian for the heirs of
William H. Johnson per deed of January 15, 1819 and January 20,
1819 and widow's right of dower therein conveyed to me by Widow
Mitty Johnson.

26/304, March 8, 1819. Mitty Johnson for \$10 to Ebenezer Brockway,
guardian to Ebenezer H. Johnson, William H. Johnson, Jr., Victor M.
Johnson and Annis J. Johnson. (Establishes that William H. Johnson at
his death left four minor children.)

29/12, January 15, 1819. Ebenezer Brockway, guardian, for \$1600 to
J. C. M. Brockway. Three pieces. 2nd piece, near New Hamburg
bridge with dwelling house and barn. 3rd piece, adjoining west side
of Eight Mile River with wharf.

22/313, May 27, 1803. Thomas Anderson, for \$10 to William H. Johnson
of Lyme and Ebenezer Hayden of Saybrook. Land near the Eight Mile
River bridge, with reference to a store.

22/86, March 27, 1802. Jedidiah Lewis for \$25 to William H. Johnson.
One-third acre, with reference to stone wall by highway.

(Conclusion: By 1802/03 both a stone wall by the highway and a store were
in place. The presence of a store implies existence of wharf facilities.
There is no grantee index entry for William H. Johnson prior to 1800.)

Lot 18

65/432, July 29, 1974. Margaret T. Brown to Michael K. and Nancy C.
Brown. Two pieces. 1st piece, 1 acre with buildings. 2nd piece,
adjoining Eight Mile River with wharf rights. (Apparently above the
bridge.)

62/434, March 11, 1968. R. Dart and Barbara McManus to Kenneth and
M. T. Brown. Two pieces, as 65/432.

54/243, July ?, 1960. R. D. McManus to R. D. & B. F. McManus.

60/35, May 12, 1960. R. J. McManus to R. D. McManus, re estate of
James J. McManus.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix

Continuation sheet

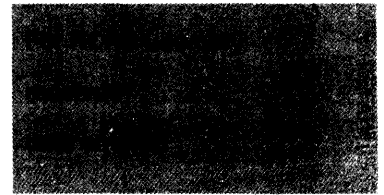
Sequence of Ownership

Item number

to Item #8

Page

7



- 49/437, January 12, 1934. Distribution certificate, estate of Angenette Bigelow (formerly Anjanette Ely?) to James McManus. Same two pieces.
- 42/475, March 17, 1902. Heirs of Augusta M. Bigelow to Anginette Bigelow. 1 acre with dwelling house and barn. No mention of 2nd piece. No mention of river or wharf. Bounded east by highway.
- 41/536, February 7, 1902. Estate of David E. Bigelow to Augusta M. and Eratus Bigelow, 1/2 equity of redemption in homestead, for \$288.60.
- 42/84, September 13, 1876. Heirs of Asa Bigelow to David E. Bigelow. 3/4 acre with dwelling house and other buildings. No wharf.
- 39/313, April 19, 1858. Thomas & Ann E. Strickland et al to Asa Bigelow. 3/4 acre with dwelling house. "Called the Johnson Place."
- 36/438, dated March 7, 1848. George R. Griffin et al for \$500 to Mitty Johnson. Bounded east by small creek to corner of A. P. Ely's wharf. Conveyed the land on which a small store formerly stood, 1 acre with dwelling house.
- 32/445, dated January 17, 1829. Allen W. Griffin for \$600 to Annis P. Griffin of East Haddam. Irregular bounds refer to creek and to wharf belonging to William & C. M. Hayden, my store, and store belonging to said Haydens.
- 31/495, April 4, 1829. William H. and Victor M. Johnson (sons of the first William H. Johnson) for \$200 to Allen W. Griffin. 30/40 rods bounded east by Eight Mile River. Also a small red store which formerly stood on said land but now stands on west side of road on Griffin's own land. No mention of wharf. (This puts Griffin on both sides of the highway. For more on A. W. Griffin, see Lot 19.)
- Returning to west of the highway:
- 32/98, April 25, 1826. James H. Mather to A. W. Griffin, per 32/445.
- 32/15, July 12, 1825. James H. Matthews to Allen W. Griffin, per Fosdick to Mather.
- 29/212, May 7, 1821. Clement Fosdick for \$700 to James H. Mather. Three pieces. 1st piece, west side of highway near Hamburg bridge with dwelling house partly built thereon. 1 ac. 2nd piece, 40 rods adjoining Eight Mile River and brook, bounded easterly by a wharf.
- 28/259, May 14, 1817. Thomas Anderson for \$60 to Clement Fosdick. Two pieces at New Hamburg.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme CT

Appendix
to Item #8

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number Page 8

28/544, May 14, 1817. David Brockway for \$60 to Thomas Anderson. Two pieces. 1st piece, bounded by Ebenezer Hayden, Eight Mile River, and creek. 2nd piece, 6 rods, also east of the highway.

Thomas Anderson again is a dead end. See lots 14 and 15.

Lot 19

51/574, November 8, 1944. Elizabeth C. Dickerson to Julian G. Ely. Begin at a point in Old Hamburg Road at the head of a gully. Thence north along bottom line of said gully to Eight Mile River. Thence southwest and south along the river to the road at a point near the bridge. One acre, commonly known as The Hemlocks.

51/300, May 13, 1939. Elizabeth C. Ely to Elizabeth C. Dickerman. "Being land purchased from the estate of my sister, Fannie G. Ely."

52/310 June 7, 1938. Estate of Fannie G. Ely to Elizabeth C. Ely.

46/97, April 20, 1919. H. Louise Griffin to Fannie G. Ely. "The interest being the same as descended to my deceased grandfather, Allen Griffin, as heir of his father, Allen W. Griffin."

46/3, November 11, 1912. Reuben L. & Edward Griffin to Louise Griffin. "Being part of the land which belonged to our grandfather, Allen W. Griffin."

(Allen W. Griffin was the grantee in several deeds in the 1820's, but none of them seems to be this parcel on the east side of the bridge. One possibility is that Lot 19 was part of a much larger parcel, and therefore is difficult to identify. The surprising fact that emerges is that A. W. Griffin owned two stores, one at each end of the bridge. (See Lot 18.)

Lot 23 70/918. Trustees est. of C.S. White to Ann E. Haskell, per 70/73.

70/73, March 31, 1980. Barry B. White to trustees of estate of Carlyle S. White et al. Two pieces. 1st piece, southern section of portion east of highway and portion between highway and river. 2nd piece, northern portion of section east of highway.

68/94, May 17, 1978. Elizabeth R. White to Barry M. White. Per 70/73.

65/221, December 20, 1973. Executors of the will of Frances W. Hayden to B. B. & E. R. White. Same description.

57/66, April 29, 1952. Thomas E. Kiddoo of Chicago to Frances W. Hayden of New Canaan. Same description.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix
to Item #8

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number

Page 9

56/112, May 13, 1947. Elsa A. Williams to T. E. Kiddoo. The first piece of 70/73, described as .4 acre with buildings, dock and improvements, except rights town may have in Old Hamburg Road.

55/242, June 7, 1948. Julian G. Ely for \$50 to Thomas E. Kiddoo. 2nd piece of 70/73. (Julian G. Ely was the owner of lot 22. He sold a small portion of it to his neighbor.)

Continuing with the 1st piece:

51/582, February 1, 1945. Eva J. Peck of New York City to E. A. Williams. Two pieces. 1st piece, east of the highway. 2nd piece, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre west of the highway with dock thereon.

51/454, April 20, 1942. Josephine J. LaPlace, widow of Edward S. LaPlace, to E. J. Peck. Two pieces, as 51/582.

48/175, September 19, 1922. Eleanor F. Sisson to E. S. & J. J. LaPlace. Three pieces. 1st piece, H. B. Sisson Homestead, 1 acre west of highway. 2nd piece, Barn lot opposite with barn, carriage house and wharf. 3rd piece, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre across river, north of bridge. (This piece is not referred to again. Seems to have dropped out of the land records.)

47/148, February 18, 1922. Distribution certificate, Henry B. Sisson to E. F. Sisson. Six pieces, including the three pieces of 48/175.

40/489, July ?, 1867. Albert C. G. Rathbun for \$300 to H. B. Sisson. Two pieces. 1st piece, east of highway with dwelling house and other buildings. 2nd piece, opposite, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre with wharf and barn (no carriage house).

40/488, June 11, 1867. Griswold A. Crocker for \$400 to A. C. G. Rathbun. Description as 40/489.

40/395, October 23, 1865. John F. Harrison for \$300 to Griswold A. Crocker. Description as 40/489.

36/82, January 30, 1834. John L. Watrous of Colchester for \$300 to John F. Harrison. Wharf fronting on Eight Mile River at New Hamburg opposite J. F. Harrison's dwelling which formerly belonged to Samuel B. Mather, deceased, and which descended from said Mather to me by will.

Further pursuit of the house lot was frustrated by the fact that Mather entries in the Grantee index take up several pages.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix
to Item #8

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number Page 10

28/506, May 1, 1820. Nathan Stark for \$40 to John F. Harrison. Land and wharf on east side of Eight Mile River in front of J. L. Harrison's house. Begin at southeast corner "at a notch cut in the top log of the wharf." Dimensions 31x68' (one of the rare instances of dimensions being stated in a straightforward fashion).

25/93, April 13, 1812. Amos Hungerford for \$600 to John Harrison. Land with dwelling house. Description is for an irregular piece on east side of river with reference to notch in front log by Nathan Stark's part of the wharf. Highway crosses the piece. (It is difficult to fit in this description with others.)

25/103, November 1, 1809. Amos Hungerford for \$40 to Samuel B. Mather. Land and wharf, east side of Eight Mile River in front of my house at New Hamburg. Dimensions 33x68' as 28/506. Reference to the notch.

Amos Hungerford does not appear in the Grantee index prior to 1809.

Lot 24

65/506, October 23, 1974. H. R., Jr., & C. B. Roffman to E. T. & A. L. Moran. Two pieces, 1st piece, 1 acre with dwelling house east of highway. 2nd piece, 5 square rods between highway and river.

60/460, October 5, 1962. Alan & E. H. Martyr to H. R. and J. Roffman. Description as 65/506.

58/63, September 5, 1958. E. P. & S. C. Abbott to A. & E. H. Martyr. Description same.

57/312, April 20, 1954. Adelaide K. Campbell to E. P. & S. C. Abbott. Same.

57/184, May 18, 1953. Certificate of devise, Elizabeth B. Ketchum to sister, Adelaide K. Campbell. Description same.

55/45, January 23, 1946. H. Ross Perkins to E. B. Ketchum & A. K. Campbell. Description same.

51/577, December 9, 1944. Christine B. Buckman to H. Ross Perkins. Same.

50/427, September 26, 1931. Elizabeth N. Beebe to C. B. Buckman. 1st piece now runs east to Route 156. 2nd piece, as 65/506.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix
to Item #8

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number Page 1 11

47/144, December 23, 1921. Certificate of devise, estate of James E. Beebe to E. N. Beebe. Now one piece, 2 acres, from river to Route 156.

40/534, November 13, 1869. M. E., E. S., D. D., W. L. & H. N. Brockway for \$445 to James E. Beebe. Description as 50/427. (No mention of wharf.)

This group of Brockways is not listed as such in the Grantee index. Presumably, they acquired the property by inheritance.

Lot 25

67/448, September 3, 1977. Thomas M. Hine to Sydney Slater.

67/211, March 14, 1977. Hugh Jamieson to Thomas M. Hine.

64/234, June 12, 1972. Robert M. Weber to Hugh Jamieson.

63/349, July 6, 1970. Executors of Dorothy R. Gurley to R. M. Weber.

57/241, September 16, 1953. Richard H. & Ruth M. Bell to Dorothy R. Gurley.

57/210, July 3, 1953. Conservator of estate of Agnes A. Beebe, land and buildings, to R. H. & R. M. Bell, for \$1500.

56/410, September 1, 1949. Certificate of devise. Estate of Elizabeth N. Beebe to Agnes A. Beebe. Jessie Beebe Read and Christine B. Buckman, who had life use, both now deceased.

48/454, February 9, 1928. Elizabeth N. Beebe to Jessie Beebe Read. Life use of the studio.

(For the balance of the Beebe land, see Lot 24.)

Lot 27 (and 26 and 28)

70/168, May 12, 1980. Ellen M. Bentsen (formerly Ellen M. Horan) to Hubert J. Horan. Same property as conveyed 61/120, Lot 27.

61/120, August 11, 1964. C. J. & D. O. Mills to Margaret Bartlett.

57/363, September 4, 1954. Margaret Spence to C. J. & D. O. Mills.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Appendix
to Item #8

Continuation sheet Sequence of Ownership Item number Page 12

57/114, August 29, 1952. Louis Mildrum to Margaret Spence. Description is for a much larger property than just Lot 27, perhaps including Lots 26, 27 and 28 and more.

51/552, August 28, 1954. James Daniels to Louis P. Mildrum. Two pieces. 1st piece, $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres with dwelling house, south of Lot 24 from Old Hamburg Road to Route 156. 2nd piece, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres with barn, between Old Hamburg Road and river south of Lot 24. (This may be the barn that has been enlarged into the house on Lot 29.) "No portion of same shall be used for commercial purposes."

44/29, September 27, 1901. Lucie A. Chapell to James Daniels. Three pieces, including the two as 51/552.

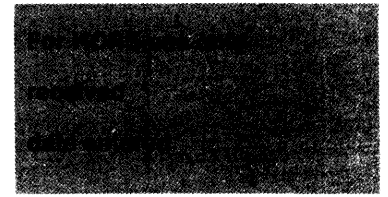
41/504, June 6, 1900. Estate of Ira Chapell to Lucy A. Chapell. Three pieces.

40/417, April 6, 1858. Soderick Bill, Bennajah Bill, John W. Bill, James A. Bill, Ebenezer E. Brockway and Judah Lord for \$700 to Ira Chapel (sic). Two pieces. (No mention of wharf in these deeds.)

(The 40/417 group of names does not appear in the Grantee index. There are several pages of Soderick Bill entries.)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 1

Joan Chandler Burr, comp. & ed., Lyme Records, 1667-1730, Stonington: Pequot Press, 1968.

H. W. French, Art and Artists in Connecticut, New York: Kennedy Graphics, 1970 (reprint of 1879 first edition).

James E. Harding, Lyme As It Was and Is, Lyme Bicentennial Commission, 1975.

James E. Harding, Lyme Yesterday, Stonington: Pequot Press, 1967.

May Hall James, The Educational History of Old Lyme, Connecticut, 1635-1935, New Haven: Yale University of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, 1939.

J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New York: Dover Publications, 1963 (reprint of 1924 first edition).

James Moran, The Gazette (Old Lyme), October 26, 1978, 2:1.

Bertha Chadwick Trowbridge, ed., Old Houses of Connecticut, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923.

Water and Water Rights, A Treatise on the Law of Water and Allied Problems, Indianapolis, Allen Smith Co., 1973.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

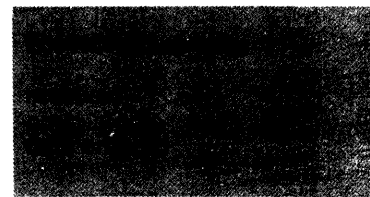
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 1



UTM References:

A 18/721620/4585760
B 18/721630/4585740
C 18/721520/4585730
D 18/721480/4585680
E 18/721510/4585650
F 18/721490/4585590
G 18/721460/4585600
H 18/721460/4585530
I 18/721360/4585530
J 18/721250/4585430
K 18/721160/4585480
L 18/721270/4585600
M 18/721240/4585620
N 18/721300/4585760
O 18/721280/4585790
P 18/721440/4585790
Q 18/721440/4585760
R 18/721420/4585760
S 18/721420/4585730
T 18/721470/4585730
U 18/721490/4585750

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hamburg Bridge District, Lyme, CT

Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Boundary Justification

The location of the old wharfs has been established in part by visual examination of the stone bulkheads and in part by study of the Lyme Land Records (see Sequence of Ownership section of the nomination). On the west side of the river, wharfs were located on lots 9, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18. Most of the wharfs are now under common ownership with the houses across the road, or, in the case of lots 18, 23, and 24 on the same parcel.

The topography of the area helps to determine the district boundary. The land slopes sharply upward to the west starting at Joshuatown Road. The road itself is fairly flat from the bridge to lots 9 and 10, where it starts to climb. At the southern end of lot 8, the road is 20/30 feet above the river. The house on lot 8 has been built, in recent years, vertically from the road down the bank to the river's edge. The houses on lots 6 and 7, while old, are at the top of the hill and are farm houses, quite separate and distinct from the Hamburg Bridge community. Accordingly, lots 6, 7 and 8 are not included in the district.

On the east side of the river, wharfs were located on lots 25, 24, 23 and 96, and possibly 27 and 28. The house on lot 26 is an old house that visually and physically belongs in the group with the houses on lots 24 and 23. Lot 28, vacant, is under common ownership with lot 26, and is a flat piece of land at the river's edge. The house on lot 29, while originally an old barn, is now mostly a modern structure featuring an expanse of glass wall toward the river. In terms of age and architecture, it is not related to the theme of the district. Consequently, the boundary line is drawn between lots 29 and 28.

Lot 19 is included in the district, although it is now vacant, because during the 19th century it was the site of a store that was part of the community. The house on lot 20 is far back from the river, and is not part of the grouping.

The houses on lot 22, 22A, 30 and 32 face Route 156 and thus are not and never have been part of the district.

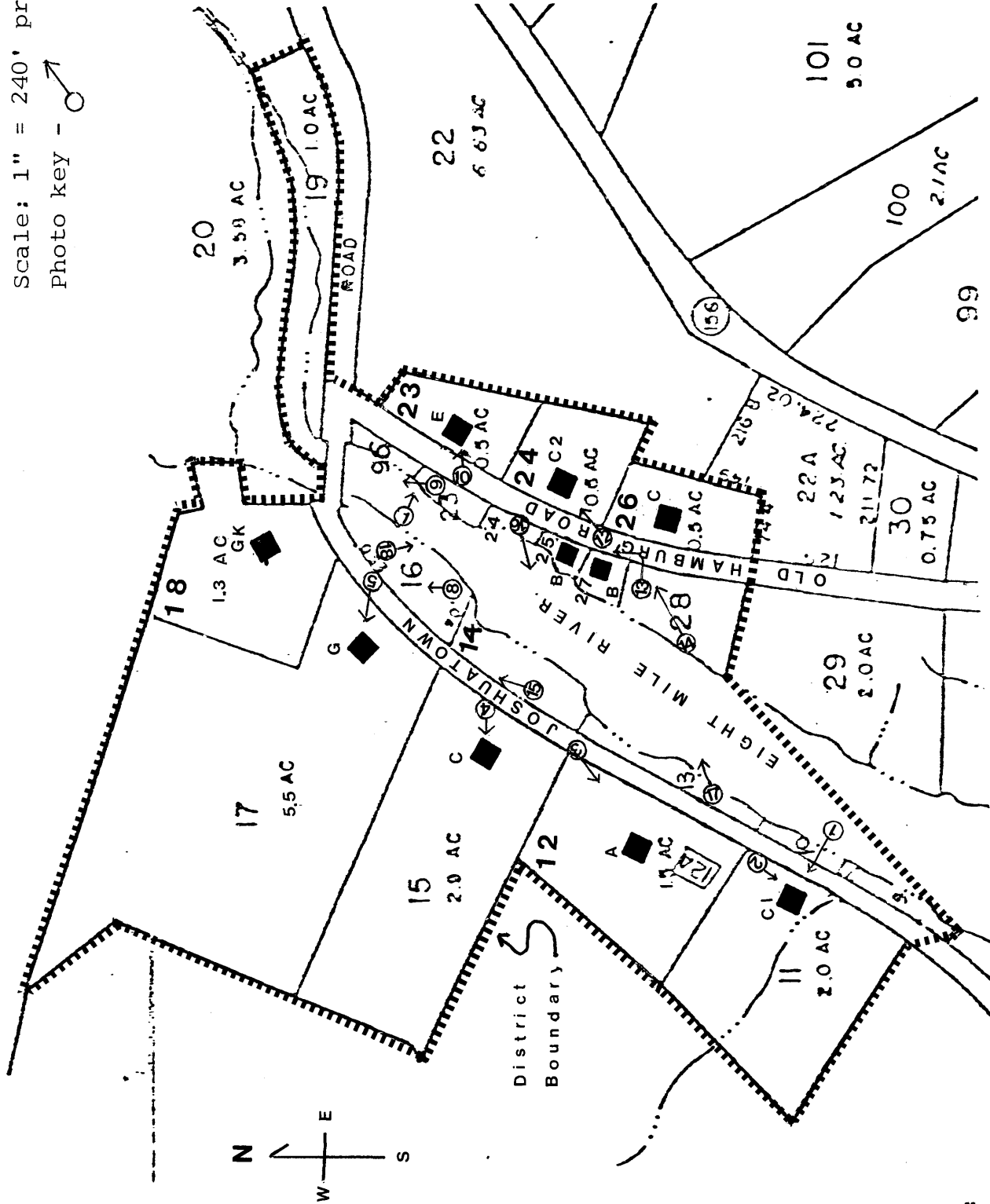
The houses on lots 25 and 27 are 20th-century summer homes, architecturally not related to the theme of the district. The land they are on, however, is integral to the district, and the properties are considered to contribute to the historic character of the district because of the importance of the land and despite the nature of the buildings.

All properties within the district are considered to contribute to the historic character of the district including those parcels with buildings, parcels that are vacant, the bridge, and the portion of the river within the boundary.

Hamburg Bridge National
Register Historic District
Lyme, New London Cy., CT

Scale: 1" = 240' prox.

Photo key - ↗



Style key:

- A 19C vernacular
- B 20C vernacular
- C Colonial
- C1 Colonial w/Neo-Classical Revival changes
- C2 Colonial w/Queen Anne changes
- E Eastlake
- G Georgian
- GK Greek Revival