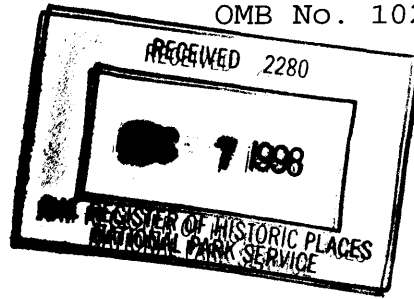


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1578

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: WOODSTOCK HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Route 169, Plaine Hill Road, Hill Cemetery Road,
Academy Road, Child Hill Road, and Old Hall Road

city/town: Woodstock not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Windham code: 015 zip code: 06281

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>65</u>	<u>15</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>67</u>	<u>15</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of certifying official: John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission; Date: 11/30/98

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official; Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Edson F. Beall 1.6.99

Signature of Keeper; Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Table with 2 columns: Historic/Current and Sub. Rows include categories like DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE, RELIGION, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT and sub-types like single dwelling, agricultural outbuilding, religious facility, school, town hall.

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

Architectural Classification:

- Colonial
- Federal
- Greek Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>WOOD</u>	other	<u>BRICK</u>
	<u>BRICK</u>		

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

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

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1686-c.1930

Significant Dates: See item 7

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: See Item 7

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

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

X previously listed in the National Register
Woodstock Academy Classroom Building, 47 Hill Cemetery Road
Matthew Bowen Homestead, 94 Plaine Hill Road
Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169

- previously determined eligible by the National Register

X designated a National Historic Landmark Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169

- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # HABS-376

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office Connecticut Historical Commission
- Other state agency 59 South Prospect Street
- Federal agency Hartford, Connecticut 06106
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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

Acreage of Property: approx. 100 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A _____ B _____
C _____ D _____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _____ See continuation sheet.

The boundary is shown on the accompanying map, scale 1"=200'.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Hoang Tinh, reviewed by John Herzan,
Conn. Hist. Commission

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: September 8, 1997

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

City or Town: Hartford State: CT Zip: 06106

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Woodstock Hill Historic District
Woodstock, Windham County, CT

7-6

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C/NC
550 Route 169 DEACON ROBERT DORRANCE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPH 12	2	c.1821 moved c.1860	Federal/ Greek Revival	clapboards	C
Barn					C
556 Route 169 ROSELAND COTTAGE - PHOTOGRAPH 13 Joseph Collins Wells, architect Edwin Eaton and Samuel Underwood, builders	2	1846	Gothic Revival	board and batten	C
Barn					C
Ice House					C
Garden Pavilion					C
Bowling alley					NC
582 Route 169 SQUIRE JOHN McCLELLAN HOUSE	2	1831	Federal	clapboards	C
Barn					C
Barn					C
598 Route 169	1 1/2	c.1937	Bungalow	shingles	C
599 Route 169 AMOS PAINE HOUSE - PHOTOGRAPH 18	2	1800	Federal	clapboards, brick	C
Barn					C
602 Route 169 WOODSTOCK HILL POST OFFICE - PHOTOGRAPH 20	1	1962	No style	brick	NC
606 Route 169	2	c.1927	No style	clapboards	C
Modern garage					NC
611 Route 169	1 1/2	1967	Ranch	shingles	NC
612 Route 169 WAYLAND MARCY GARAGE	1	1925	Craftsman	cinderblock	C
615 Route 169 PHOTOGRAPH 19	1	C.1869	No style	siding	C
621 Route 169	1	1953	No style	siding	NC

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description

Woodstock Hill Historic District
Woodstock, Windham County, CT

7-7

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C/NC
622 Route 169	1	1936	Bungalow	siding, shingles	C
	Barn				C
	Modern garage				NC
628 Route 169 SEXENET GRANGE NO. 40 - PHOTOGRAPH 17	1	1935	No style	fieldstone	C
31 Hill Cemetery Road GEORGE W. PARTRIDGE HOUSE - PHOTOGRAPH 14	2	1810	Federal	clapboards	C
	Barn				C
39/41 Hill Cemetery Road ELY RANSOME HALL LIBRARY	2	1928, 1990	Colonial Revival	brick	C
47 Hill Cemetery Road WOODSTOCK ACADEMY BUILDING - PHOTOGRAPH 15 Alexander S. Cutler, architect	3	1873	Italianate	clapboard	C
	HOWARD WEBSTER BRACKEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY - PHOTOGRAPH 21	1924	Tudor Revival	stone, stucco	C
19 Roxbury Road NELLIE MAE'S HOUSE	1 1/2	c.1850	No style	shingles	C
	Modern garage				NC
45/47 Academy Road ASA BISHOP TAVERN	2	1782-1829	Colonial	clapboards, brick	C
61 Academy Road BERRIAN HOUSE	2 1/2	c.1860	Italianate	clapboards	C
	Barn				C
24 Child Hill Road SWEDISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	2 1/2	1892	Victorian (Evangelical Covenant Church)	clapboards	C
30 Child Hill Road JOHN FLYNN HOUSE	1	1777	Colonial	clapboards	C
31 Child Hill Road DEACON LYON HOUSE	1	c.1850	No style	clapboards	C
	Barn				C

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

Woodstock Hill Historic District
Woodstock, Windham County, CT

8-3

continually plagued by financial constraints and a declining enrollment until 1843, when Henry C. Bowen, a wealthy native and summer resident of Woodstock, donated funds to reinvigorate the school. His contributions to the academy continued until his death. In 1872, the academy's Board of Trustees voted to build a new structure and commissioned Norwich architect Alexander S. Cutler to design the building. The original school was removed to its present site at 486 Route 169 and the following year, the new 3-story Italianate-style academy building was dedicated (Photograph 15). The school prospered and expanded well into the early 20th century; though still private, it now serves as Woodstock's public high school. Another educational building is the house at 31 Hill Cemetery Road (Photograph 14), which once served as a school for girls in the second half of the 19th century

From the earliest days of English settlement, the Bowen family has held a place of distinction in the Town of Woodstock. The Bowen name was established in Woodstock by Henry Bowen, one of the original "Goers" from Roxbury, Massachusetts, who founded the town. The family continued to be leading figures in political and social matters throughout the following years, residing in the district's most notable houses, such as the National Register-listed Matthew Bowen estate at 94 Plaine Hill Road and the Colonial Revival-style Arthur Sherburne Hardy House at 493 Route 169 (Photographs 1 and 3). Perhaps the most prominent member of the Bowen family was Henry Chandler Bowen (1813-1896), who was born and raised in Woodstock and later proved to be the town's greatest philanthropist. As a young man, he left his hometown to pursue a mercantile career in New York City and soon after founded and published *The Independent*, a Congregationalist and abolitionist newspaper. While remaining a resident of Brooklyn, New York, he returned to Woodstock in 1846 to build a summer home and named it Roseland Cottage (Photograph 13). His return to Woodstock proved to be greatly beneficial to the town; he generously donated money to support expansion of Woodstock Academy and landscaping of the Woodstock Common. His greatest town project was creating the Roseland Park, a place for large community gatherings and activities, located east of Woodstock Hill. It was dedicated on July 4, 1876, in celebration of the nation's Centennial; Bowen set up a trust to manage the property for the benefit of Woodstock residents. Bowen continued to spend his summers at Roseland Cottage and charitably gave to the town until his death in 1896.

Other examples of philanthropy include the generosity of Minnie Palmer Dean, who constructed Palmer Memorial Hall (Photograph 7) in honor of her father and grandfather in 1916. It was presented to the town in

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

Woodstock Hill Historic District
Woodstock, Windham County, CT

8-4

1925 at the time of her death. The building was the site of town offices and meetings until 1990, when a new town hall building was completed south of the district. In 1924, the family of Howard Webster Bracken ensured the continuance of his memory by donating funds for a library, named in his honor. It was intended to serve both as a public library and as a library for Woodstock Academy.

While neighboring towns prospered from growing industrial enterprises during the late 19th century, Woodstock's economy proved much less robust. Without the waterpower required to sustain large industries such as those in nearby Danielson and Putnam, and bypassed by the area's railroads, Woodstock was not able to export goods to outside markets nor bring in travelers. Except for a half-dozen small and relatively short-lived textile and twine mills, the town failed to develop either industrially or commercially. Instead, the Woodstock Hill area continued to rely on agriculture, including orchard and dairy production, well into the 20th century. The Senexet Grange No. 40, 628 Route 169, was constructed in 1930 by the Woodstock Creamery Association to provide a place for social functions for the town's farmers (Photograph 17).

Woodstock's predominantly English heritage was added to in the late 19th century by an influx of Swedish immigrants, the earliest of whom were brought to the United States by the Bowen family to work as farm laborers. Eventually, many of the Swedish families paid off their obligations to the Bowens and were able to purchase their own farms in the area. In the 1870s, the immigrant communities of Woodstock and nearby towns began holding Swedish-language church services in private homes. By 1890, the congregation had become too large for these arrangements, and the town offered it an old shop at the north end of the Woodstock common land for religious services. By the following year, enough money was donated and borrowed to build a church for the Swedish congregation, added to over the years and now known as the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Architectural Significance

Woodstock Hill Historic District has architectural significance because its buildings include many well-preserved examples of particular architectural styles and periods, from the vernacular architecture of rural colonial New England, simple in form and plainly detailed, to the highly embellished Colonial Revival style of the early 20th-century.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

Woodstock Hill Historic District
Woodstock, Windham County, CT

8-5

The district's Colonial-style dwellings exhibit the typical features of 18th-century New England domestic architecture: clapboarded exteriors, symmetrical five-bay facades with center entries, and small-pane divided sash. A greater number of buildings display the defining characteristics of the Federal style, such as slender corner pilasters, fanlights, and denticulated cornices. Among these, the First Congregational Church is an outstanding example; its Palladian window, narrow cornices embellished with dentils, and semi-circular fanlights above the entranceways and on the front gable epitomize the delicately scaled interpretation of Classical and Renaissance motifs that was at the heart of the style (Photograph 10). The meetinghouse was the work of John Truesdell, one of a family of architect-builders responsible for numerous elegant houses and public buildings in Woodstock, Killingly, and Rockville, Connecticut. The Federal style is also embodied in the narrow lines of dentils on the cornice and pedimented front entry of the John Napping House, 512 Route 169 (built in 1806 and enlarged c.1820; Photograph 5). These buildings illustrate the use of Classical details that was the core of the style. The greater formality of architecture in this period is reflected in the turn towards center-hall, hipped-roof house forms, abundantly evident in the dwellings of Woodstock Hill.

The heavier proportions that characterized the classical elements of the Greek Revival style are clearly evident in the district in the John Bartholomew House at 540 Route 169 (Photograph 9) and the Caleb Fenner House, 519 Route 169 (Photograph 6), which exhibit deep cornices, pilaster-and-lintel entries, and wide corner pilasters.

The district includes several notable examples from the Victorian period. Henry C. Bowen's Roseland Cottage is a nationally known example of the Gothic Revival style. Designed by the English-born architect Joseph Collins Wells, it features Gothic Revival details such as steeply pitched gables with elaborate vergeboards, pinnacles, stained glass, pointed-arch windows with diagonal sash, and intricate porch trim. The Italianate style is illustrated by the 1873 Woodstock Academy building's hipped roof, bell tower, and wide overhanging eaves supported by large brackets (Photograph 15).

The district also has some notable examples of early 20th-century revival styles. The elaborate Georgian precedents favored by the Colonial Revival movement are evident in the Arthur Sherburne Hardy House's Palladian window, small oval lights, colonnaded porch and entry, and balustrades along its hipped roof (Photograph 2). Medievalisms such as a stone and stucco exterior and buttresses revive Tudor architecture in the Bracken Library, while the Palmer Memorial

