

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name
other names/site number Hurley Road Historic District

2. Location

street & number 6 & 17 Hurley Road
city, town Southbury (Southford)
state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06488

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Director, Connecticut Historical Commission Date June 10, 1993

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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:) Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/outbuildingINDUSTRY/waterworks

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structureLANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/FederalMID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls weatherboardroof asphalt shinglesother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hurley Road Historic District is a small, early-nineteenth-century rural enclave located to the north and south of Hurley Road at its intersection with Strongtown Road (State Route 188). (See Exhibit A for a site plan of the district.) To the immediate east is Eight Mile Brook, which forms the border with the neighboring Town of Oxford. The district includes two houses, one a circa 1820 Federal, the other a Greek Revival-style Cape built about 1835 (Inventory #s 1, 4; Photograph #s 1, 2). Other buildings associated with these properties include two contributing barns and a small non-contributing summerhouse (Inventory #s 2, 5, 3).

A nineteenth-century sawmill, no longer standing, was located on the far side of the stream in Oxford and linked for most of its history with the Greek Revival Cape. It was associated with the still extant stone dam and millpond on Eight Mile Brook. The dam and part of the pond are included in the district (Inventory #s 6, 7; Photograph #3). Constructed of rubblestone and incorporating existing ledge, the dam is approximately 75 feet in width. Other components of the power system, such as a race or water turbine, are no longer extant.

Other changes to the immediate area over time include the construction of Route 188, which rerouted Strongtown Road to the west of the Greek Revival Cape after 1935. There is a clearing bordered by trees which defines the former path of the old road in front of this house along the shore of the millpond (Photograph #4). The house and its associated barn face this earlier roadway.

Situated close to the road but separated by a picket fence, the Federal-style Jason Curtiss House is two stories in height, is oriented gable-to street, and has a side-hall plan (Photograph #1). The entrance has a Federal surround with pilasters. Other exterior details include cornice returns on the facade and projecting window caps over the 12-over-12 windows.

There are two later additions at the rear: a kitchen ell with a wing to the south, the latter reputed to be the former Bucks Hill School moved here and attached to the building (Photograph #5). The land slopes away to the brook at the rear and a modern addition for an enclosed porch is found at the first floor level a full story above grade (Photograph #6).

The interior of the main block is typically Federal in plan with the parlor at the front, flanked by the entrance hall with its staircase. The parlor contains a Federal-style fireplace surround. The original kitchen fireplace on the rear side of the stack has

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hurley Road Historic District, Southbury, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

granite cheeks and hearth with a brick and iron lintel (Photograph #7). The brick beehive oven is on the right. An unusual feature is a very small fireplace in the former burning room on the north side of the stack. The partition between this room and the old kitchen has been removed. There are two fireplaces on the second floor with simple surrounds; both have brick hearths. The center of the attic is a finished room with plastered walls, leaving a crawl space under the eaves. The interior of the former schoolhouse ell has a curved plastered ceiling.

The later Japhet Curtiss House to the north faces the millpond from a slight rise. It is unlikely that this house was an earlier Cape remodeled in the Greek Revival style as has been believed. Its consistency of materials, and the scale and integration of its Greek Revival features into the construction of the house, generally preclude this possibility. It is more probable that it was built in this configuration and style after 1835, possibly as late as 1840.

Its prominent Greek Revival details include the high facade entablature, broad corner pilasters with capitals at all four corners, and the Greek Revival doorway surround with transom in the center of the five-bay facade (Photograph #s 2, 8, 9). There is a three-pane horizontal window in the gable peaks. Changes over time include the circa 1936 rear ell, the dormers in the front and rear slopes of the gabled roof, and a multi-paned bay window on the north end elevation.

The center-chimney plan is typical for a Cape of this period and style in the Woodbury-Southbury area. There is a rear staircase rather than one in front of the stack. The parlor fireplace has a simple Greek Revival surround (Photograph #10). The original kitchen fireplace has granite cheeks and brick beehive oven, all contained within a single surround, and a one piece granite hearth. There are three recessed cupboards above the mantel to the left.

The barns associated with these houses have the typical form and massing of the nineteenth century, with gabled roofs and vertical board siding. The one associated with the Jason Curtiss House has a privy inside the building. Also on that property there is another secondary structure, which was moved next to the brook and serves as a summerhouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hurley Road Historic District, Southbury, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 3Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

<u>Inv. #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name/Style or Type/Date</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>Photo #</u>
1.	6 Hurley Road	Jason Curtiss House, Federal, c. 1820	C	1,5,6
2.	" "	barn, late-nineteenth-century	C	
3.	" "	summerhouse, c. 1900	NC	
4.	17 Hurley Road	Japhet Curtiss House, Greek Revival, c. 1835	C	2,8,9
5.	" "	bank barn, late-nineteenth-century	C	4
6.	-- " "	stone dam, early-nineteenth-century	C	3
7.	-- " "	section of millpond associated with property, early nineteenth-century	C	3

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1820 - 1930

Significant Dates

c. 1820; c. 1835

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hurley Road Historic District is significant as a representative example of a nineteenth-century rural residential enclave, which is distinguished by the level of style of its domestic vernacular architecture and its integrity of setting. Further distinction is derived from its long association with the Curtiss family, descendants of the original proprietors of Woodbury, the parent town of Southbury.

Architectural Significance

Built and developed by members of the same family, the district has exceptional historic ambiance and clearly conveys its early-nineteenth-century associations. Even though the sawmill is gone, the interrelationship of the remaining buildings and sites to the natural and manmade environment recalls the patterns of living associated with rural industry in Southford village. While the barns may not be as early as the houses, they are typically nineteenth-century in their form and construction, serving as reminders that farming and industry operated in tandem in rural villages and continued to do so through most of the industrial period. The millpond and its dam, which today contribute to the scenic beauty of the district, recall the original purpose for its development and make a significant contribution to its historic rural atmosphere.

Although there have been some changes over time, the houses in the district are fine representative examples of the fully developed vernacular architecture of the early 1800s. With its gable-to-street orientation, side-hall plan, and nicely detailed interior, the well-preserved Jason Curtiss House is a prime example of the Federal style as it was interpreted near the end of its period. Its later counterpart, the Greek Revival Japhet Curtiss House, was built in a style often associated with mill ownership. The popularity of this style, in all its manifestations, coincided with the onset of the American Industrial Revolution and was, with few exceptions, favored by early industrial entrepreneurs for their houses. Although more elaborate houses of this style were built, this house is a classic example of how the Greek Revival was often utilized in rural areas, simply as an embellishment of the earlier Cape form. The reliance on precedent is most obvious in its well-preserved interior which essentially has a colonial floor plan.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records.
Beers, F. W. Atlas of New Haven County: The Town of Southbury. New York: Beers & Co., 1868.
Cothren, William F. History of Ancient Woodbury from the First Indian Deed in 1659 to 1871. 3 vols. Waterbury: Bronson Brothers, 1854, 1872; Woodbury: Cothren, 1879.
Smith, H. & C.T. Map of New Haven County, Connecticut, 1856.
Southbury: Townwide Architectural Survey (intensive level). Connecticut Historical Commission, 1990-1991 (compiled by Mary McCahon).

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 11.5

UTM References

A 18 6538000 45933000
Zone Easting Northing

B 18 6538700 45933000
Zone Easting Northing

C 18 6538000 45928300

D 18 6536800 45927900

E 18 653600 4592810

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries include the two properties described in the Southbury Land Records in Book 173, Page 92 and Book 224, Page 60, the same properties depicted on Southbury Tax Assessor's Map 53/Block11/Lots 9 & 11. See district map attached.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The properties described above include all the land and buildings associated with the district during its period of significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By _____ **Reviewed by** John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant
organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 11/4/92
street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347 4072
city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hurley Road Historic District, Southbury, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

Historical Background

The district houses were built by fifth-generation descendants of Israel Curtiss (1644-1704). He was one of the men who covenanted together in 1670 to establish and settle Old Woodbury.¹ The Curtiss family had extensive land holdings in the South Parish, now the Town of Southbury.

17 Hurley Road was first associated with Japhet Curtiss (1779-1864). The eldest son and only 19 at the death of his father, Benjamin Curtiss (1751-1798), he eventually received all of his father's estate, including the shares of his younger brothers after they came of age. Although the deeds are not conclusive, this property appears to be the one deeded in 1807 to Japhet by his brother Cyrus Curtiss (1786-1875). Both brothers were related to the Strong family through sibling exchange marriages. Since Japhet, Sr., had a house elsewhere in town (1581 Bucks Hill Road), it is possible that this house was built for his son, Japhet, Jr. (1820-1854), who might have married about 1840, a date consistent with the style of the house. It is known that a Japhet Curtiss mortgaged the property in 1849. However, in 1855 (one year after the death of Japhet, Jr.), the property was sold to Charles Fabrique by a Japhet Curtiss of New Haven. The property then included a dwelling house, barn, sawmill, and shop, along with the millpond and mill privileges. Fabrique, of French descent, was a nineteenth-century building contractor who employed a large workforce of carpenters and built houses in the Southbury area. He owned the property for only one year and may not have lived in the house but used it for his mill overseer. A series of later owners included George Bostwick, who is identified as the occupant on the 1868 map. Christopher Tappan obtained the property through foreclosure and it remained in the Tappan family until 1929. The present owners bought the property in 1979.

6 Hurley Road was built by Jason Curtiss (1794-after 1851), a cousin of Japhet and the eldest son of Simeon Curtiss and Mary Bradley. Simeon, the son of Benjamin's brother Joseph (who also died in 1798), owned an earlier house across Strongtown Road. He sold Jason a 4-acre parcel in 1819 with a barn but no dwelling was mentioned in the deed. In 1882, the property, which then included 10 acres and was identified in the deed as "long known as the property and residence of Jason Curtiss," was sold by his brother, Reuben Bradley Curtis, to Reuben's grandson, William R. Curtiss. Reuben B. formerly lived at 1770 Bucks Hill Road, where he ran a seminary for boys. The house remained in the Curtiss family until 1930 and was purchased by the present owners in 1988.

1. Old Woodbury is the name commonly used to differentiate the larger colonial town (173 square miles) from the smaller present-day Town of Woodbury. Until the late eighteenth century, Old Woodbury also encompassed the parishes which became the towns of Washington (incorporated 1779), Southbury and Bethlehem (both incorporated 1787), and Roxbury (incorporated 1796).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

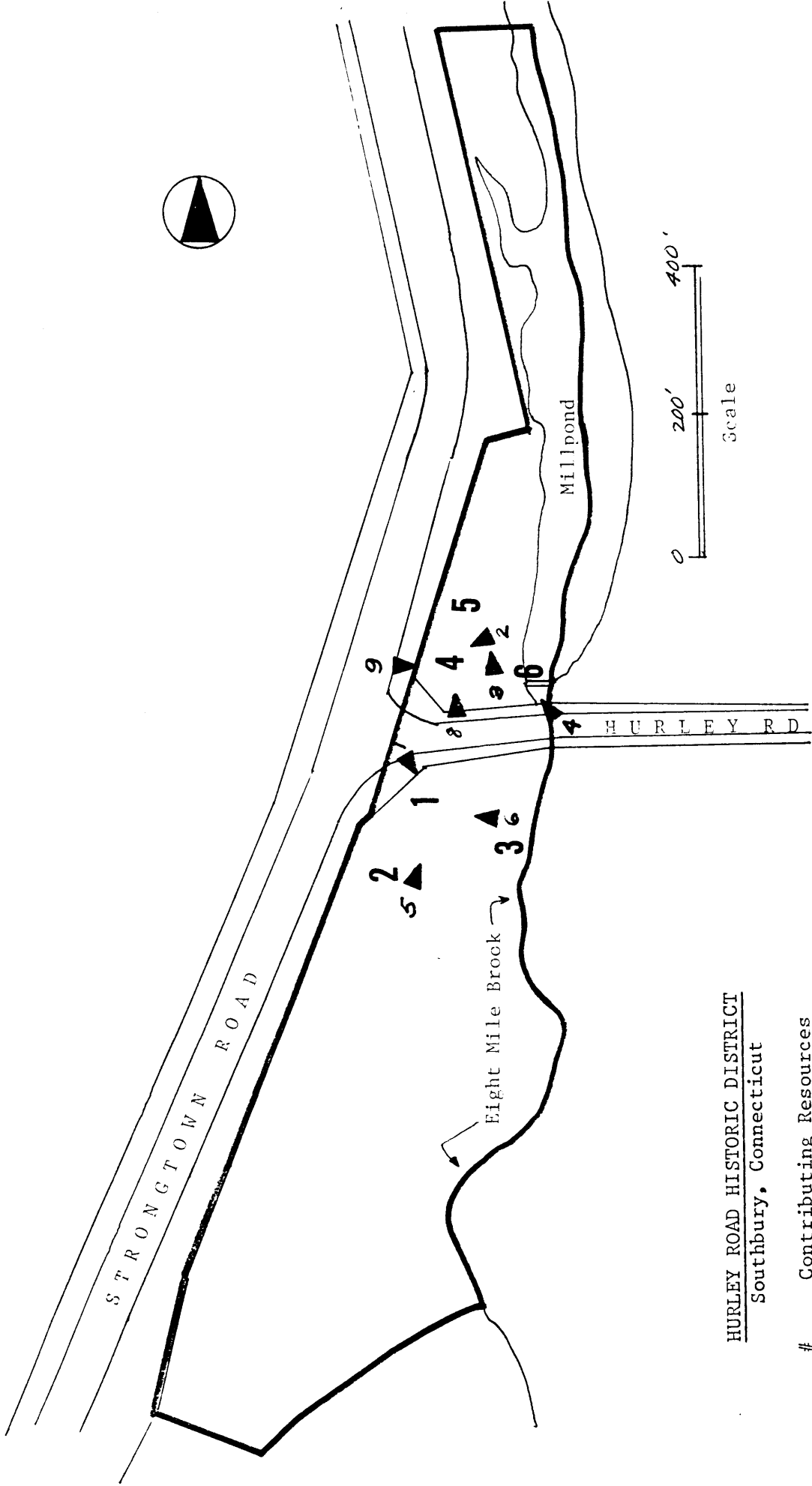
Hurley Road Historic District, Southbury, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Note: All photographs were taken by Cunningham Associates Ltd., 7/92, unless otherwise noted, and the negatives are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission.

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | View: Jason Curtiss House: facade
and east elevation | Facing: SW |
| 2. | View: Japhet Curtiss House:
facade | Facing: W |
| 3. | View: Dam and millpond | Facing: NW (10/92) |
| 4. | View: Barn and old roadway:
(Japhet Curtiss House) | Facing: N (10/92) |
| 5. | View: Jason Curtiss House:
west elevation | Facing: NE |
| 6. | View: Jason Curtiss House:
rear elevation | Facing: N |
| 7. | View: Jason Curtiss House:
interior original kitchen | Facing: N |
| 8. | View: Japhet Curtiss House:
south elevation | Facing: N |
| 9. | View: Japhet Curtiss House:
rear elevation | Facing: E |
| 10. | View: Japhet Curtiss House:
parlor | Facing: NE |



HURLEY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Southbury, Connecticut

Contributing Resources

▲ Photograph Views

Bold line is District Boundary