

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002959

Date Listed: 1/5/89

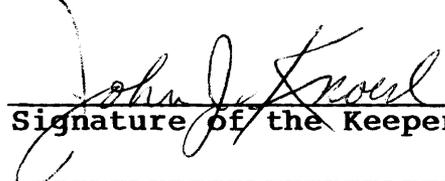
Talcottville Historic District
Property Name

Tolland
County

Connecticut
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

1/5/89

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 8: Significance Statement.

The district is not eligible under Criterion D because its research potential has not been discussed.

Item 7: Description

The dedication date for the Mt. Hope Cemetery of 1967 was a typographical error; the date should read 1867.

Verified by phone with:

John Herzan
Connecticut Historical Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

2959

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NOV 21 1988

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 TALCOTTVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 13 to 44 ELM HILL ROAD: 11 to 132 MAIN STREET not for publication N/A city, town VERNON vicinity N/A state CONNECTICUT code 09 county TOLLAND code 013 zip code 06066

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [X] public-local, [X] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [] building(s), [X] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (33 buildings, 4 sites, 2 structures, 41 objects), Noncontributing (17 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 17 objects). Total: 41 buildings, 17 sites, 2 structures, 41 objects. 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 [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 continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature], Director, Connecticut Historical Commission, State or Federal agency and bureau. Date: November 16, 1988.

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: [X] 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:). Signature of the Keeper: [Signature], Date of Action: 1-5-89.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY: water works
DOMESTIC: single dwellings
DOMESTIC: multiple dwellings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single dwellings
DOMESTIC: multiple dwellings
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
RELIGION: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Italianate
Other: lenticular truss bridge

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; stone; granite
walls Wood; weather board; brick;
stucco
roof Asphalt; stone; slate
other Metal; iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Talcottville Historic District is located in the southwest corner of Vernon, Connecticut, and it consists of about 92 acres of land. The village of Talcottville is set on a plateau slightly above the western plain at the confluence of the Tankerhoosen and Hockanum Rivers. The Tankerhoosen River bisects the northern portion of the district, flowing westerly from Dobson Road and the Talcottville Gorge through the mill pond to the property of Cuno, Inc., and Hartford Turnpike. The land rises steadily from the village main street to the railroad right-of-way on the eastern edge of the district.

The village street pattern is a simple T, consisting of two streets, with Main Street running from south-to-north, terminating in a cul-de-sac on the north shore of the Tankerhoosen Pond, and Elm Hill Road running from west-to-east uphill to, and across, the railroad right-of-way.

The district, including the village, the mill pond and the iron bridge, the Talcottville Gorge, dam and headrace, and the Mount Hope Cemetery, is representative of both nineteenth-century architecture and industrial community development. The district is remarkable for its integrity of design, setting, feeling, and association, which convey the image of a small manufacturing village.

The district contains 38 contributing primary resources, six of which are sites or structures other than buildings, and three contributing secondary resources. Further, the district contains 17 non-contributing resources consisting of 2 primary and 15 secondary buildings. The non-contributing primary resources (2 of 40) equal 5% of all primary resources within the district. (The 17 non-contributing primary and secondary resources equal 29.3% of all resources within the district.) The primary resources within the district attain a moderately high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Alterations are minimal; intrusions are few.

The district developed primarily between 1802 and 1913 with two periods of intense development. The first, between 1835 and 1840, followed purchase of the mill site and its environs by Nathaniel O. Kellogg; the second, between 1854 and 1870, followed purchase of the mill village by the Talcott brothers, Charles D. and Horace W. Talcott.

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Elm Hill Road

13, 19, 25, 26, 26, 31, 36-38, 44

Hartford Turnpike

64

Main Street

11, 17, 19, 36, 47, 48, 56, 66, 67, 72, 74, 76, 79, 82, 85, 86, 90,
96, 97, 100, 106, 107-109, 110, 116, 120, 126, 132

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Historic Functions (con.)

Social: meeting hall
Education: school
Religion: religious structure
Funerary: cemetery
Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions (con.)

Education: school
Funerary: cemetery
Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

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The earliest extant building, the John Warburton House, c.1802, at 19 Main Street (Photograph 1); is a vernacular Federal-style house, constructed of brick with a center-chimney plan and a symmetrical facade. It is located on the north shore of Tankerhoosen Pond between the iron bridge and the dam.

Several buildings remain from the decade of development under Nathaniel Kellogg. These are located on Main Street, south of its intersection with Elm Hill Road. They include numbers 76, 82, and 86 Main Street and are exemplified by the Greek Revival house, c.1840, at 79 Main Street (Photograph 6). These 1½-story houses are marked by prominent entry porticos with Doric pilasters, a projecting cornice, and sidelights. All have a second-story window at the street-facing gable which is flanked by Doric pilasters and crowned by a projecting cornice.

The Nathaniel O. Kellogg House, c.1840, at 85 Main Street, is set prominently on a large lot on the west side of the street. It is a 2½-story Greek Revival house with pedimented gables, a three-part entablature, and Doric pilasters. It features a Queen Anne veranda and a south-facing angled window bay, which date from the late nineteenth century. It has a 1-story detached frame garage, constructed in 1971, which is located on the south side of the house, toward the rear of the lot, to minimize its intrusion on the streetscape.

Scattered houses, constructed by area farmers, also represent the Greek Revival period. 17 Main Street, c.1840 (Photograph 2), is a Greek Revival double house which features a shallow-pitched roof with cornice returns; frieze windows, and Doric entry trim. It has an entry porch, facing southeast, which appears to date from the late nineteenth century. South of the cluster of Kellogg houses, on the east side of Main Street, are three Greek Revival houses constructed by or for Elliot Palmer and his family. Two of these houses, numbers 90 and 100 Main Street, c.1835, are 1½-story L-shaped houses with the entry at the ell. They feature shallow-pitched roofs with cornice returns and smooth friezes (Photograph 7). The Elliot Palmer House, c.1835, at 110 Main Street is a 2½-story house featuring a shallow-pitched roof with pediments at both gables and a three-part entablature at the eaves.

Following the Talcott brothers' purchase of the mill village in 1856, several buildings were added to the village housing stock. Chief among these are the Talcott brothers' homes set on the east side of Main Street overlooking the mill and the Tankerhoosen Pond. The Charles D. Talcott House, at 36 Main Street, and the Horace W. Talcott House, at 48 Main Street (Photograph 5), were constructed in 1865 in the Italianate style. While the Charles D. Talcott House was altered substantially in 1920 to conform to the Spanish Eclectic style, the Horace W. Talcott

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House retains its original character and most of its original detail including the roof top belvedere, the projecting, bracketed cornice and frieze windows, and the broad, wrap-around veranda with three-part entablature and Doric posts. Out buildings at these houses include two multi-car brick garages constructed in 1936 which are located behind the primary buildings, again to minimize their intrusion on the streetscape.

The largest building constructed during this period is the Talcott Brothers Mill, 1870, at 47 Main Street (Photograph 4). The central portion of the building was built following a fire in 1869 which destroyed Kellogg's earlier mill building. It is a 2½-story wood frame and brick masonry building with a shallow-pitched roof with cornice returns, and a central stair-and-bell tower with an open belfry. Both the original headrace and tailrace have been filled. Numerous additions, reflecting the growth of the Talcott Brothers Company and the evolution of woolen manufacturing processes, complete the mill complex, as follows: (a) a 2-story wood frame and brick masonry addition at the south end of the mill, c.1880; (b) a 3-story wood frame and brick masonry addition at the west side of the mill, c.1880; (c) a 2-story wood frame and brick masonry addition with monitor roof at the north end of the mill, c.1900; and (d) a tall 1-story steel frame and brick masonry addition with monitor roof at the north end of (c) above, c.1920.

Following the sale of the Talcott mill and the village in 1940, the mill complex was enlarged further by several twentieth-century additions, the last of which was completed in 1963. These are primarily block-like 1-story concrete masonry additions which are located along the east and west sides of the original building and/or its earliest additions. A 1-story concrete masonry outbuilding, located to the south of the main building, a small concrete bridge across the Tankerhoosen River, and the concrete dam at the outlet of Tankerhoosen Pond complete the mill complex.

The district attained its present character with dwellings and public buildings constructed between 1880 and 1920. Included among the notable structures and buildings of this period is the Romanesque Revival-style school building built in 1880 at 97 Main Street (Photograph 8). The original building retains its steeply pitched gable roof with a bracketed cornice, its round-arched classroom windows and entry door, and its tall 2½-story bell tower. Its entry is protected by a bracketed Stick-style hood with a king post and collar tie above the door. Two 1-story additions, constructed in 1969 and 1973, are located at the northwest corner of the original building set back but not remote from the original facade.

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A small-span wrought-iron lenticular truss bridge, c.1891, carries Main Street across the Tankerhoosen River at its northern end (Photograph 3). The bridge was designed and erected by the Berlin Iron Bridge Co., Berlin, Connecticut, and it retains its decorative iron railings and orb-like castings at the end posts.

Two early twentieth-century buildings complete Talcottville's representative collection of building resources. The John G. Talcott House, 1905, at 26 Elm Hill Road is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. It features a hip roof with attic dormers and a Palladian window centered on the symmetrical facade. Its 1-story wrap-around veranda retains a three-part entablature and round Doric posts. The Talcottville Congregational Church, 1913, at 56 Main Street, at its intersection with Elm Hill Road, is a Gothic-style church building, constructed to replace an earlier church which burned in 1912. It retains its original slate roof and it features a 3-story central tower with a crenelated parapet.

Finally, the district includes the Talcottville Gorge, located in the northeast corner of the district, between Dobson Road and the Tankerhoosen Pond. As the site of Peter Dobson's first cotton mill and its successors, the Talcottville Gorge has the potential to yield information pertaining to the early development of the textile industry in Connecticut. No structures are visible, but a stone dam and headrace are extant.

The Talcottville Historic District appears today much as it did in the first half of the twentieth century when the Talcott Brothers Company was producing fine woolens. With the relocation of the state highway, Hartford Turnpike, from Main Street in the 1930's, the preservation of the village was begun. The village was further isolated by the post-war construction of the Wilbur Cross Highway and by the 1980-1983 reconstruction of the highway (I-84). Few buildings have been radically altered from their original appearance, and even fewer have been added or demolished. Twentieth-century intrusions are limited primarily to detached garages and other outbuildings, most of which are constructed of materials, such as wood siding, which blend well with the prevailing character of the district.

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Key to Abbreviations

C = contributing resource

N = non-contributing resources are those built after 1940 and unrelated to the industrial period of development in Talcottville or older buildings lacking architectural and historical significance.

Organization of Building List

- Streets are arranged alphabetically.
- The following information is given for each entry:
 - contribution to district
 - date of construction
 - physical characteristics, style, and function
 - architect or builder, if known
 - historic association

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Elm Hill Road

- N #13 1950. 1 1/2-story, frame, Colonial Revival style, 1-family house.
#19 Vacant lot.
- C #25 c.1875. 1 1/2-story, frame, Gothic Revival style, 1-family house.
Emerson W. Moore House.
- N 1963. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #26 1905. 2 1/2-story, frame, Colonial Revival style, 1-family house.
John G. Talcott House.
- C #26 (rear) 1910. 1 1/2-story, frame, Colonial Revival style, 1-family house.
- Between #26 and 36-38. (Parcel 2A) Vacant lot.
- C #31 c.1875. 2 1/2-story, frame, vernacular, 3-family house. Talcott Brothers Company workers' housing.
- C #36-38 c.1880. 2 1/2-story, frame, vernacular, 2-family house. Talcott Brothers Company workers' housing.
- C #44 c.1880. 2 1/2-story, frame, Italianate style, 1-family house.
- N c.1940. 1-story, frame, garage.
- Between #44 and Railroad Right-Of-Way. Vacant lot.

Hartford Turnpike

- C #64 c.1840. 2 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 2-family house.

Main Street

- C #11 c.1860. 2 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 2-family house.
Asa Fuller House.
- N c.1940. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- Opposite #11. 1 acre vacant lot, north of Tankerhoosen Pond.

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Vernon, Ct.National Register of Historic Places
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- C Opposite #11. 33 acres undeveloped land. Tankerhoosen Gorge; stone dam, headrace, and archeological site of Peter Dobson's mill.
- C #17 c.1840. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 2-family house.
- C #19 c.1802. 2 1/2-story, brick, Federal style, 1-family house. John Warburton House.
- N c.1940. 1-story, frame garage.
- C Between cul-de-sac and #36. Tankerhoosen Pond; a 6.7 acre mill pond.
- C Between #17 and #47. c.1891. Lenticular truss wrought-iron bridge. Built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company.
- C #36 1865. 2 1/2-story, frame, Italianate style with c.1920 Spanish Eclectic alterations, 1-family house. Charles D. Talcott House.
- C 1936. 1-story, brick, three-car garage.
- C #47 1870. 2 1/2-story, frame and masonry, vernacular, industrial complex. Additions: c.1880, c.1900, c.1920, c.1945, c.1965. Talcott Brothers Woolen Mill.
- N 1945 and 1967. 1-story concrete masonry storage building.
- C #48 1865. 2 1/2-story, frame, Italianate style, 1-family house. Horace W. Talcott House.
- C 1936. 2-story, brick, four-car garage.
- C #56 1913. 1 1/2-story, brick masonry, Ecclesiastical Gothic style, church building. Russell F. Barker, architect. Talcottville Congregational Church.
- #66 Vacant lot.
- C #67 c.1870. 2 1/2-story, frame, Gothic Revival style, 5-unit apartment house. Talcott Brothers' store and community center.
- C #72 1882. 2 1/2-story, frame, Italianate style, 1-family house. Morris Hathaway Talcott House.
- N 1950. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #74 c.1840. 2 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 4-family house. Built by Nathaniel O. Kellogg.

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Main Street (Continued)

- C #76 c.1840. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Nathaniel O. Kellogg.
- C #79. c.1840. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 2-family house.
Built by Nathaniel O. Kellogg.
- C #82 c.1840. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Nathaniel O. Kellogg.
- N 1963. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #85 c.1840. 2 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Nathaniel O. Kellogg House.
- N 1971. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #86 c.1840. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Nathaniel O. Kellogg.
- N 1967. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #90 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Elliott Palmer. 1835.
- C #96 c.1860. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Talcott Brothers Company.
- N 1954. 1-story, frame, one-car garage.
- C #97 1880. 1 1/2-story, brick masonry, Romanesque Revival style,
school building. Built by Talcott Brothers Co. 1969 and 1973,
1-story brick additions.
- C #100 c.1835. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Elliott Palmer.
- C c.1930. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C Between #100 and #106. 4.7 acre Mount Hope Cemetery. Dedicated
June 30, 1967. Land provided by Talcott Brothers Company.
- N c.1950. 1-story, frame, storage building.

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Main Street (Continued)

- C #106 c.1860. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Talcott Brothers Company.
- N 1959. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #107-109 c.1880. 2 1/2-story, frame, vernacular, 2-family house.
Talcott Brothers workers' housing.
- N 1953. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #110 c.1835. 2 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family
house. Elliott Palmer House.
- N c.1950. 1-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #116 c.1860. 1 1/2-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
Built by Talcott Brothers Company.
- C #120 c.1860. 1-story, frame, Greek Revival style, 1-family house.
"Old" Talcottville School, moved from original site across road.
- N 1965. 1 1/2-story, frame, two-car garage.
- C #126 c.1880. 2 1/2-story, frame, vernacular, 2-family house.
Talcott Brothers Co. workers' housing.
- N #132 c.1870. 1 1/2-story, frame, vernacular, 1-family house.
Substantial loss of architectural integrity due to alterations.

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)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
(C) <u>Architecture</u>	<u>1802-1940</u>	<u>N/A</u>
(D) <u>Archeology:historic-non-aboriginal</u>	<u></u>	<u>N/A</u>
(A) <u>Industry</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
(A) <u>Social History</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
(A) <u>Community Planning & Development (company town)</u>	Cultural Affiliation <u>N/A</u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
(B) <u>John Warburton</u>	<u>N/A</u>	
(B) <u>Peter Dobson</u>	<u></u>	

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

Talcottville is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a nineteenth century factory village. The district encompasses the site of an early cotton-spinning factory and is associated with John Warburton and Peter Dobson, pioneers of the cotton manufacturing industry in Connecticut. The early development of the manufacturing village is reflected in the Greek Revival style of the majority of the residential buildings. The maturation of industrial development and the social organization of the village through the second half of the nineteenth century may be traced through the buildings added by the Talcott brothers, who bought the village in 1854. The village contains a representative collection of residential and public buildings, as well as an exemplary mill building. Among these are significant examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles as well as excellent vernacular examples of Greek Revival and late-nineteenth century workers' housing. Because the Talcott family continued to hold the entire village--land, mill, houses, and public facilities--for nearly a century, Talcottville has survived as a rare example of a nineteenth-century New England planned industrial community.

The manufacturing village, first introduced by David Humphreys at Humphreysville in Derby, Connecticut in 1808, was a uniquely American response to the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. Paternalistic in concept, these first planned communities, often named for their founders, were intended to avoid the exploitation and degradation of workers prevalent in so many English factory towns. Taking Humphreysville as a model, the American manufacturers often assumed a nearly parental responsibility for their workers, providing housing, churches, schools, libraries and company stores. Sometimes they also undertook the task of supervising their workers' moral character and behavior as well. Forsaking the English suffix "ford" or "burg," these villages frequently added the French suffix "ville," reflecting the post-Revolutionary enthusiasm for all things French, to their name. The social and industrial organization of the manufacturing village and the philosophy behind it are particularly well-expressed in Talcottville, the village which developed around the site of one of the earliest cotton-spinning mills in Connecticut. See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bagnall, William R. "Sketches of Manufacturing Establishments in New York City, and of Textile Establishments in the United States." Edited by Victor S. Clark. 4 Vols. 1908. Vol. II, Microfiche Edition, Museum of American Textile History, 1977.

The Textile Industries of the United States. First Ed. 1893. New York: Augustus M. Kelley, 1971.

Brookes, George W. Cascades and Courage: History of the Town of Vernon and the City of Rockville, Connecticut. T. F. Rady & Co., 1955.

Cogswell, William T. History of Rockville from 1823 to 1871. Rockville Journal, 1872.

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

Acreage of property Approximately 92 acres.

UTM References

A 1,8 710,869,0 4,6133,04,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1,8 710,793,0 4,632,46,0

B 1,8 710,864,0 4,613,29,7,0
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1,8 710,785,0 4,613,25,2,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Talcottville Historic District are determined by both natural and manmade features. The district is bounded on the east by Dobson Road, by the abandoned right-of-way of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and by the property of Welles Country Village, a housing complex for senior citizens; on the south by Welles Country Village, on the west by both the commercial properties along

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all of the property west of the railroad right-of-way and east of Hartford Turnpike (Ct. 30 and 83), which was acquired and held by the Talcott Brothers Company between its inception in 1854 and its dissolution in 1940.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title S. ARDIS ABBOTT, HISTORIAN-CONSULTANT; ROBERT B. HURD, ARCHITECT

organization VERNON HISTORIAL SOCIETY date 1988

street & number 31 DAVIS AVENUE telephone (203) 872-8122

city or town ROCKVILLE state CT. zip code 06066

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Mechanized cotton spinning was introduced in Connecticut in 1795 by John Warburton, an English immigrant, who had been employed by the influential Pitkin family of East Hartford in 1794 to make cider screws. Shortly after beginning to work for the Pitkins, Warburton persuaded them to allow him to install cotton-spinning machinery in a snuff mill they owned on a fall of the Hockanum River in North Manchester (then a part of the town of East Hartford). Warburton was a mechanic of considerable ability and had been employed in the construction, and possibly the operation, of cotton-spinning machinery in England. He was familiar with the Arkwright system, used so successfully by Samuel Slater, and about 1795 had in operation a water-powered cotton-spinning mill. In 1802, Warburton left the Pitkins, and in partnership with Daniel Fuller of Bolton, bought land on the Tankerhoosen River in Vernon (then known as North Bolton). There Warburton built a dam, mill, and two dwelling houses and put into operation the first successful cotton-spinning factory in Connecticut. This was the nucleus of what was to become the manufacturing village of Talcottville. One vernacular brick house remains from this early development.

In 1809, Warburton was joined by another English immigrant, Peter Dobson. Dobson worked for Warburton for a time and then bought land and built another mill east of the Warburton and further upstream on the Tankerhoosen River. The product of Dobson's mill was stocking yarn, which was sold to Suffield peddlers and put out to farmers' wives to be woven into coarse cloth. In 1811, Peter Dobson, along with a Vernon farmer, Delano Abbott, initiated the first manufacture of satinet in Connecticut. This was an inexpensive woolen cloth which had a cotton warp and a woolen weft, and was a significant development in the fledgling woolen industry just getting underway in Connecticut.

The site of Peter Dobson's first cotton mill, the Ravine Mill, and a later mill built by Dobson to manufacture woolen goods, known as the Vernon Woolen Company, was the subject of an archaeological survey done in 1979-80 in connection with a state highway project. The Vernon Woolen Company had burned to the ground on October 12, 1909, and the mill was never rebuilt. None of the mill buildings were left standing and the site had been left undisturbed except for the removal of large pieces of machinery by the Talcott Brothers Company who purchased the property in 1926. During the archaeological survey, all of the buildings in the complex were identified and the site gridded. During the course of the survey, a considerable number of small machinery parts, such as, pieces of heddles and reeds, weights, gears, and frames, were recovered from all gridded squares. Many of these artifacts were found to be in an excellent state of preservation. The site is significant for its association with Peter Dobson, an important pioneer of textile manufacturing in Connecticut, for the archaeological integrity of cultural artifacts uncovered in the survey, and for the association of the site with the early development of textile manufacturing in Connecticut.

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The Warburton mill changed hands several times in the early nineteenth century. In 1835, it came under the sole proprietorship of Nathaniel O. Kellogg, and it was Kellogg who developed the first manufacturing village there known as Kelloggville. Kellogg operated the mill for twenty years, adding several more dwellings and a new three-story mill building. Six of the houses built by Kellogg are extant.

When Nathaniel Kellogg died in 1854, the management of the factory was entrusted by his executors to the brothers Horace Wells Talcott and Charles Denison Talcott, who had been working in the mill for several years. In 1856, the Talcotts bought the property, renamed it Talcottville, and brought to completion the manufacturing village so typical of the early nineteenth-century textile industry in Connecticut. The remainder of the buildings in the district were built by the Talcott brothers and their descendants or were adjacent farms acquired by them as they expanded their holdings between 1856 and 1918.

Between 1854 and 1869, the Talcott brothers added four more Greek Revival houses to the village and built their own identical Italianate mansions on the hill opposite the mill. These houses are extant, but one Talcott house was substantially altered in 1920 to conform to the prevailing fashion for the Spanish Eclectic style. Between 1870 and 1880, the Talcotts built five more vernacular two-family dwellings to house the mill workers. In this same period, the Talcotts built more elaborate Italianate and Gothic Revival homes for nephews Emerson W. Moore and Morris Hathaway Talcott, who were associated with the business. A Colonial Revival house was built in 1905 for John G. Talcott, who was a descendant of Horace Wells Talcott and was associated with the management of the mills. Six adjacent Greek Revival farmhouses ultimately were incorporated into the village. Some were converted to mill housing, but the Talcotts also continued to cultivate the farmland and supply their workers with produce and dairy products.

The Talcotts continued to operate in the original mill buildings until they were destroyed by fire in 1869. Like many other woolen mills of this period, they produced satinets. Following the fire and the rebuilding of the mill, production was converted to "union cassimeres,"¹ and finally, in 1907, to fine woolens. The present complex dates from the rebuilding in 1870. The main 2½-story brick and frame vernacular mill building was built in 1870 and has been added to over the years. Major additions consist of a c.1880 2-story frame and brick addition at the south end, a c.1880 3-story frame and brick addition at the west side, a c.1900 2-story frame and brick addition with monitor roof at the north end, and a c.1920 steel and brick addition with monitor roof at the north end. Other additions added in the later twentieth century are within the complex and between these additions. The additions reflect

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the growth and change in woolen textile manufacturing over the period 1854 to 1940, when the mill was owned and operated by Talcott Brothers.

Industrial development is also reflected in the mill pond and dam that are extant adjacent to the mill complex, and the wrought-iron lenticular bridge that spans the river at this point. The bridge was built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company in the early 1890's. The town of Vernon is studying the feasibility of retaining and preserving this historic structure, which presently serves only three houses and is not strong enough to sustain the weight of modern emergency vehicles.

Like the many other manufacturing villages that dotted the Connecticut countryside in this period, Talcottville was modeled on David Humphrey's ideal of the planned industrial community. The Talcott brothers provided their workers with not only housing, but also a church, school, library, social hall, and store. A Talcott-owned farm provided dairy products and produce as well. It was the stated purpose of the owners to operate an orderly and well-regulated industrial village. A contemporary historian provided the following description of the village in 1888:

Talcottville is admirably located, beautiful in appearance and cleanly almost beyond comparison. The similarity of design, color of ornament, and general appearance of its residences, is sufficient evidence that the aggregate are under the control of one corporation. Mill, store and dwellings are of Puritanical whiteness, and the window-blinds are of the regulation and time-honored green. Not a fence of any description mars the beauty of the well-kept lawns.²

The social organization of the village is reflected in its extant public buildings. The original church built by the Talcotts burned and was replaced in 1913 by the present church. The parsonage built in 1880 by the Talcotts is extant, but has been moved from its original location to Elm Hill Road and is now privately owned. The original schoolhouse was moved and converted to residential use, and a new Romanesque Revival schoolhouse, built in 1880 and considered a "model," replaced it. About 1870, the Talcotts added a building which served as the social center for the village. The first floor housed the store and post office and the second floor served as a social hall. This Gothic Revival-style building has been converted to apartments. In 1867, the Talcotts gave land for Mount Hope Cemetery, which was dedicated June 30, 1867. At the left of the entrance to the cemetery stands a memorial to Civil War veterans-- a brownstone shaft with four names inscribed on it.

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Few of the 203 manufacturing villages that developed in nineteenth-century Connecticut survived into the twentieth century,³ but Talcottville remained intact until 1940, when the mill was sold and converted to other manufacturing processes and the land divided and sold to individuals. New owners have made some changes, but the district retains much of its architectural integrity. Most houses now have garages, but they are detached, and placed well back on deep lots where they do not intrude on the streetscape. Some buildings have been adapted to different uses, but without much exterior alteration. Setbacks have been maintained. The mill is still used for manufacturing purposes, though not for textiles. Overall, the village of Talcottville saw no major changes after 1913, and appears much as it did at the height of its development in the late nineteenth century.

Talcottville retains a remarkably intact collection of buildings which represent the spectrum of nineteenth-century architectural styles and construction methods.

The Nathaniel O. Kellogg House, c.1840, is an excellent example of the full two-story Greek Revival House, characterized by Doric corner pilasters, a three-part entablature, and pedimented gables. The Kellogg legacy includes several fine examples of vernacular Greek Revival workers' housing exemplified by the house at 79 Main Street, c.1840 (Photograph 6).

The Horace W. Talcott House, 1865, is a well-preserved example of the Italianate style, characterized by broad verandas, bracketed cornices, and a roof-top belvedere (Photograph 5). The Charles D. Talcott House, constructed in 1865 and altered extensively in 1920, survives as an example of the Spanish Eclectic style of the early twentieth century overlaid on a mid-nineteenth century Italianate structure and plan.

The Talcott Brothers Woolen Mill, constructed in 1870, is a well-maintained example of a mid-nineteenth century frame and masonry mill building. Its well-preserved central tower is linked to the Italianate mansions of its owners by bracketed cornices, round arches at the belfry, and other decorative features. The mill structure is linked both to the Greek Revival workers' houses via shallow-pitched roof and cornice returns and to the Rockville mills of the period by its timber frame and masonry construction (Photograph 4). Its numerous additions document the growth of manufacturing in Talcottville, as well as changing construction technology between 1880 and 1920.

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The Talcottville School, 1880 (Photograph 8), is a good vernacular example of the Romanesque Revival style, characterized by round-arched windows, articulated masonry, and a tall central bell tower. The John G. Talcott House, 1905, is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style, characterized by a broad veranda, a symmetrical facade, and a steep hip roof. The Talcottville Congregational Church, 1913, designed by Russell F. Barker, is a good example of the late Gothic Revival style, typical of turn-of-the-century ecclesiastical and institutional buildings. Several fine two-story double houses, c.1880, represent vernacular workers' housing at the end of the nineteenth century and complete the Talcott brothers' legacy.

NOTES

¹Cassimere was a fine woolen cloth with a twill weave. The use of the term "union" here suggests that the cloth was made from a mixture of cotton and wool, either in the fiber or the yarn.

²J. Cole, History of Tolland County, Connecticut Including Its Early Settlement and Progress to the Present Time (New York: W. W. Preston & Co., 1888),p. 790.

³Ellsworth Strong Grant, Yankee Dreamers and Doers (Chester, Conn.: Pequot Press, 1974),p. 58-63.

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UTM References

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
E	18/707780	4632420
F	18/707790	4632400
G	18/707670	4632240
H	18/707620	4632270
I	18/707660	4632330
J	18/707580	4632370
K	18/707540	4632290
L	18/707390	4632200
M	18/707350	4632260
N	18/707490	4632370
O	18/707460	4632390
P	18/707510	4632500
Q	18/707470	4632530
R	18/707680	4632740
S	18/707700	4632920
T	18/708040	4632930
U	18/708110	4633070
V	18/708410	4633170
W	18/708560	4633060
X	18/708610	4633110

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Hartford Turnpike (Ct. 30 & 83) and the Tankerhoosen River where it bisects the property of Cuno, Inc., a manufacturing facility, located in the former Talcott Brothers' Mill; and on the north by I-84.
(Figure 1)

Beginning at the eastern-most point (A 18/708690/4633040) in the west line of Dobson Road, about 250 feet south of the Tankerhoosen River, the boundary moves southwest about 180 feet to the abandoned railroad right-of-way. Turning west along the north line of the railroad right-of-way, the boundary follows its gentle arc to the west and south to its intersection with Elm Hill Road.

Turning northwest, the boundary follows the north line of Elm Hill Road to a point opposite the northeast corner of the property at 31 Elm Hill Road. Crossing Elm Hill Road, the boundary follows the east line of the property at 31 Elm Hill Road to the north line of Mt. Hope Cemetery. The boundary turns east, then south, then west, then north, following the property line of Mt. Hope Cemetery, to the south line of its right-of-way from Main Street. Turning northwest, the boundary follows the south line of the right-of-way to the northeast corner of the property at 106 Main Street.

Turning southwest, the boundary follows the east line of properties on Main Street to the southeast corner of the property at 64 Hartford Turnpike. Turning northwest, the boundary follows the south line of the property at 64 Hartford Turnpike to its southwest corner at Hartford Turnpike and Main Street.

Turning northeast, the boundary follows the east line of Main Street to a point opposite the southeast corner of the property at 107-109 Main Street. Crossing Main Street, the boundary follows the south line of the property at 107-109 Main Street to its southwest corner. Turning north, the boundary follows the west lines of properties at 107-109 and 97 Main Street to the northwest corner of the property at 97 Main Street.

Turning west, the boundary follows a portion of the south line of the Cuno, Inc. property at 47 Main Street to its intersection with the east line of Hartford Turnpike and the Tankerhoosen River. Turning northeast, the boundary follows the west bank of the Tankerhoosen River to the southwest corner of the property at 19 Main Street.

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Turning north, the boundary follows the west lines of the properties at 19, 17, and 11 Main Street to the northwest corner of the property at 11 Main Street. Turning east, the boundary follows the south line of the highway (I-84) to its intersection with Dobson Road at a point about 100 feet north of the Tankerhoosen River. Turning south, the boundary follows the west line of Dobson Road to the point of origin.

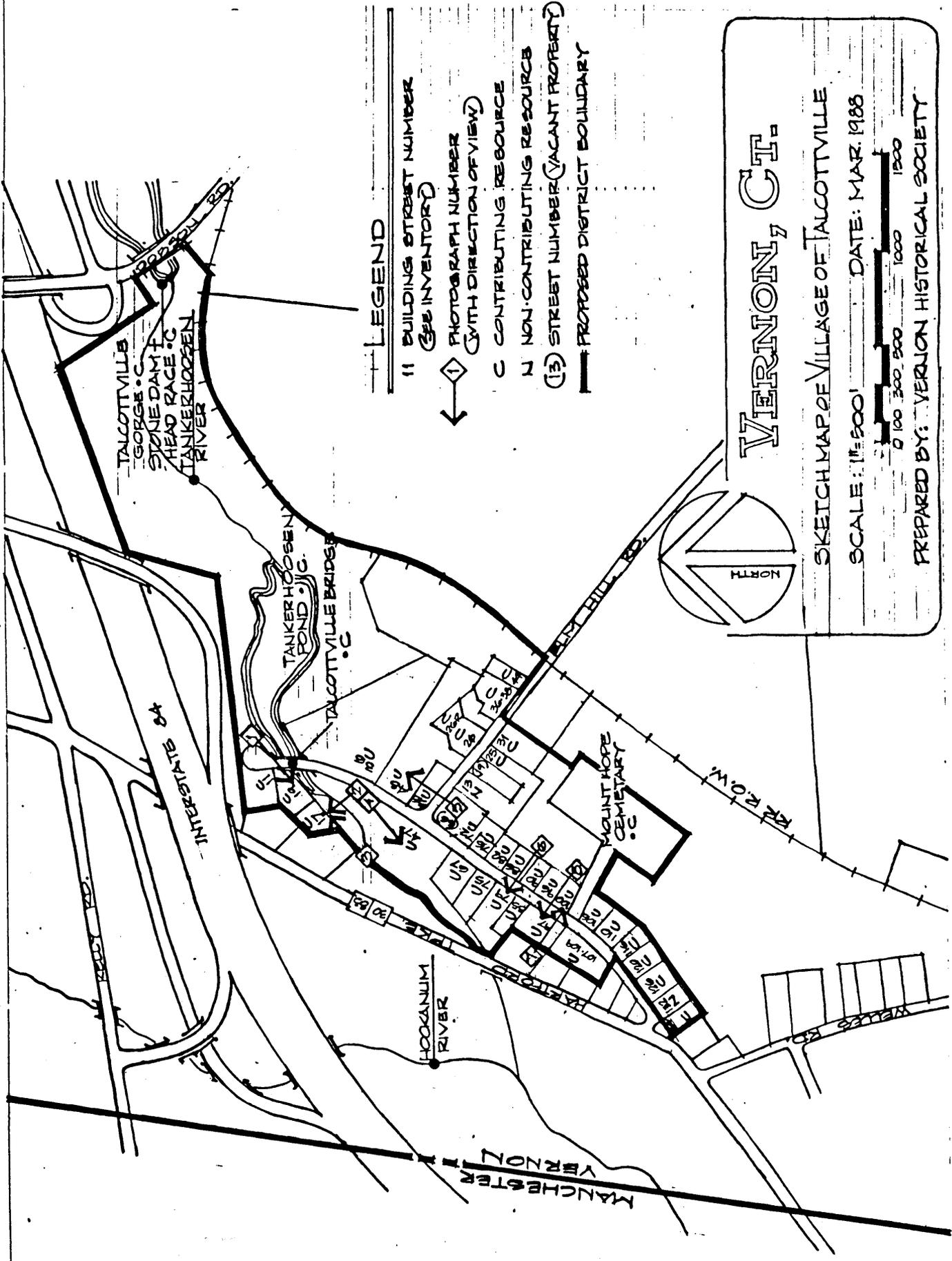
VERNON, CT.

SKETCH MAP OF VILLAGE OF TALCOTTVILLE

SCALE: 1" = 500' DATE: MAR. 1988



PREPARED BY: VERNON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LEGEND

- || BUILDING STREET NUMBER
(SEE INVENTORY)
- ◊ PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER
(WITH DIRECTION OF VIEW)
- C CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- N NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- (13) STREET NUMBER (VACANT PROPERTY)
- PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY

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Photographs:

Talcottville Historic District, Vernon, Connecticut.

Photographer: Joseph G. Saternis, 17 Mountain Street, Rockville, Ct.
Negatives retained by photographer.

The above information applies to all photographs listed below:

- No. 1. John Warburton House, 19 Main Street, Looking southwest.
- No. 2. 17 Main Street. Looking northwest.
- No. 3. Lenticular Bridge. Main Street. Looking east.
- No. 4. Talcott Brothers' Mill, 47 Main Street. Looking west.
- No. 5. Horace W. Talcott House, 48 Main Street. Looking northeast.
- No. 6. 79 Main Street. Looking northwest.
- No. 7. 100 Main Street. Looking southeast.
- No. 8. Talcottville School, 97 Main Street. Looking northwest.