

PROPERTY NAME

Canton Center Historic District, Canton, CT

951

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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JUN 30 1997

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Canton Center Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: NA

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 4, 18, 22, 35, 54, 59, Barbourtown Road; 144, 149, 150, 155, 167, 172, 180, 183, 184, 185, 190, 193, 199, 203, 209, 210, 214, 221, 225, 239, 241, 250, 251, 254, 259, 263, 267, 270, 271, 282, 285 Cherry Brook Road; 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 69 East Mountain Road; 6, 10, 15 Humphrey Road; 121, 124, 129, 133, 135, 137 West Road; 4 West Mountain Road Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Canton Center

Vicinity: Canton

State: CT County: Hartford Code: 003

Zip Code: 06020

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: x  
Public-local: x  
Public-State:      
Public-Federal:    

Category of Property

Building(s):      
District: x  
Site:      
Structure:      
Object:    

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

84  
     
     
84

Noncontributing

44 buildings  
    sites  
    structures  
    objects  
44 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

*John W. Shannahan* 06/24/97  
Signature of Certifying Official Date  
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 *Betty L. Savage*
- Determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
- National Register
- Determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
- National Register
- Removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper 10/7/97  
Date of Action

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>dwelling</u>
	<u>TRADE</u>		<u>store</u>
	<u>EDUCATION</u>		<u>school</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>church</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>dwelling</u>
	<u>TRADE</u>		<u>store</u>
	<u>EDUCATION</u>		<u>school</u>
	<u>RELIGION</u>		<u>church</u>

**7. DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
<u>COLONIAL/Postmedieval</u>	Foundation: <u>STONE/CONCRETE</u>
<u>MID 19C/Greek Revival</u>	Walls: <u>BRICK/WOOD/weatherboard,</u>
<u>LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate,</u>	<u>shingle</u>
<u>Queen Anne</u>	Roof: <u>WOOD/shingle/ASPHALT/METAL/Tin</u>
<u>20C/Colonial Revival</u>	Other Description: _____
	_____
	_____

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

Canton Center Historic District consists of approximately 500 acres in the geographic center of the Town of Canton, Connecticut, running north-south along 1 1/2 miles of Cherry Brook Road/STATE ROUTE 179, which runs parallel with Cherry Brook, and adjacent streets (see district map). This registration form is based on the locally established Canton Center Historic District, but peripheral parcels with non-contributing buildings and peripheral vacant parcels which are part of the local historic district are not included here.

Buildings constructed during the town's period of growth and prosperity, the 19th century, constitute the major architectural resources of the district. In particular, 10 buildings are good examples, well-preserved, of the Greek Revival style. Buildings required for typical town-center activities--church, store, school, and blacksmith shop--and cemetery all are in place from the 19th century.

The district was settled for the purpose of raising crops, and the agricultural appearance persists. The buildings, although close to the road, are well separated from one another. Acreage of parcels today still is often in double digits. Twelve sites in the district are open land, two owned by the Canton Land Preservation Trust, Inc. The open spaces are character-defining to the district.

Similarly, farm outbuildings are present in large numbers. Barns with weathered wood siding, sheds, dairy barns, and an occasional silo are seldom out of sight. Their contribution is as important to the district's makeup as the open spaces. (Photograph 15)

Canton Center buildings dating from the mid-18th-century years of early settlement no longer are standing. Several buildings survive from the late 18th century but most of them have been altered, or in one case (4 West Mountain Road) enveloped in later construction, making it difficult to visualize original configuration. An exception is 124 West Road, a well-preserved two-story central-entrance house dating from 1787 which features 12-over-12 windows, five bays, and central chimney.

Early 19th-century houses continued the Colonial mode but soon showed the influence of the oncoming Greek Revival style, perhaps in alterations. For example, 225 Cherry Brook Road, 1814, exhibits the standard 18th-century design of five bays with central entrance, central chimney, and door near the front on the side elevation. At the same time, the gable end is treated as a pediment with central rectangular window in the manner associated with the Greek Revival style (Photograph 10). The house at 59 Barbourtown Road, 1825, is similar, with 12-over-8 sash and a two-tiered rectangular window in the pediment (Photograph 16).

The Greek Revival took over in force at about this time, giving the district eight houses and two schools which are good examples of the style. In the simpler interpretations the three-bay gable end of the house, such as 167 Cherry Brook Road, faces the road based on the orientation of a Greek temple. As early as 1830, however, more sophisticated designs were built, as seen in the stone house at 22 Barbourtown Road, where the entrance on the long side is protected by a Doric portico. Twin Doric columns without bases support a broad entablature of architrave, frieze, and cornice. The added wide front porch on the gable end facing the road has the turned posts of a later era (Photograph 14).

Later frame houses provide examples of other variations in the style. At 193 Cherry Brook Road pilasters flank the front door and define the corners of the main block, and a wide frieze encircles the house. The recessed tetrastyle porch of the wing and the distinctive glazing pattern of the two tympanum windows are unique in the district (Photograph 8). Fluted Ionic columns *in antis* are a feature of 4 West Mountain Road, where the main block has a low pyramidal roof and a full entablature of architrave and frieze divided by a dentil course running the entire length of the 58-foot ell. Wall dormers in the wing of 121 West Road are its distinguishing attribute, although judging from the manner in which the wing's roof is framed into the main block, the entire wing may be a later addition (Photograph 18).

The two Greek Revival-style schools, 185 Cherry Brook Road, 1848, and 135 West Road, 1849, are similar small one-story buildings with recessed entrances, well-preserved. (Photographs 6, 17).

The Congregational Church, 1814, is a typical Federal design, except for its tower which displays no recognition of the style's usual Wren-Gibbs precedent of tapered steeple rising from the ridge of the roof. The church underwent an atypical experience in 1873 when extensive Gothic Revival alterations were carried out. The two tiers of rectangular windows on the sides were replaced with a single tier of pointed-arch openings, while the interior was entirely redone with dropped wooden-truss ceiling complete with acorn-shaped pendants, removal of galleries and high pulpit, and closing off of the choir loft (Figure 1). The changes were reversed in 1967.

Mid-century utility buildings, the general store and blacksmith shop (Photograph 3), were constructed in vernacular fashion as part of the community center's cluster that includes church, school, and cemetery, while the high-style revivals of later in the century are little represented in the district. There is one Italianate house with characteristic chamfered posts, brackets, roof overhang, and monitor at 144 Cherry Road (Photograph 1) and two Queen Anne houses, a modest example at 210 Cherry Road, 1876 (Photograph 9), and a flamboyant interpretation using varied sheathing materials, asymmetrical roof line, and octagonal tower at 270 Cherry Brook Road, 1888 (Photograph 11).

There was relatively little new construction in the district in the 20th century to 1947. A major exception is the Cherry Brook Primary School, 1941, a one-story building of red brick with white trim in the Colonial Revival style (Photograph 13).

## Inventory

Dates are taken from assessor's field cards, which generally agree with dates given in the Report of the Historic District Study Committee (HDSC). Occasional dates, designated with suffix V, are by visual approximation.

Letters A, B, C, etc., are assigned to vacant parcels which do not have street numbers. These parcels are lettered on the map and in the following tabulation. Vacant parcels are not designated Contributing or Non-contributing and are not counted in the listing of resources on page 1.

C	4 Barbourtown Road	1941	Cherry Brook Primary School. 1-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival brick school. 57,510 square feet in long rectangle with cross-gabled pedimented projections. Banks of small-pane windows with sash and casings painted white. 3 additions to north sensitive to original but more contemporary: 1950; 1960 by Malmfeldt Associates; 1994 by C.J. Lawler Associates. 14 acres. (Photograph 13)
	A Barbourtown Road		Vacant land. 0.11 acre.
NC	18 Barbourtown Road	1982	Jehovah's Witness Assembly Hall. 1-story 46' x 60' church covered with clapboards. Traditional massing painted in earth tones. 2 acres.
NC		1960	Barn with wood-shingled roof.
C	22 Barbourtown Road	1830	"Stone House." 2-story Greek Revival 30' x 46' stone house with gable roof. 1-story 30' x 14' stone ell. Mortar is white. Front entrance on long south elevation is protected by portico with fluted Doric columns and full entablature. (Photograph 14). Full-width front porch on east gable end facing road

has turned posts. Windows are 6-over-6. Extensive range of farm outbuildings in good order (Photograph 15). Is working dairy farm. 163 acres.

C		1900	1-story 20' x 36' house with gable roof, covered in clapboards.
			3 sheds.
C		1900	Barn, with attached barn and milk shed.
C		1900	Silo.
C		1900	Open shed.
NC		1972	Tie stall barn.
C		1900	Milk shed.
NC		1986	Equipment shed.
	B	Barbourtown Road	Vacant land owned by Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. 18 acres.
NC	35	Barbourtown Road	1956 Perry Technical Corporation. 1-story 152' x 50' cinder block building covered in brick. Precision machine shop. Constructed so as to be not visible from road.
NC	54	Barbourtown Road	1963 1-story 52' x 42' house with gable roof and vertical wood walls. 1-story 24' x 26' wing. 3 acres.
C	59	Barbourtown Road	1825 2-story Colonial/Greek Revival 35' x 25' house with gable roof and clapboard walls. Stone foundation. 5 bays, central doorway, central chimney, door near front on south side elevation, and 2-over-8 windows are in the Colonial mode. Door under fascia flanked by 6-over-4 sidelights and pedimented gable-ends with rectangular attic windows reflect Greek Revival influence. 2-story 20' x 26' ell has 2-over-2 windows. 10 acres. (Photograph 16)
C		1900	Garage.
NC		1950	Horse barn.
NC		1950	Barn.
NC		1950	Shed.
NC		1986	Open shed.
C	144	Cherry Brook Road	1840A/1860V Titus Case House. 2-story 28' x 26' Italianate house with brick foundation and low hipped roof. Covered with clapboards. In 3-bay front elevation central door is flanked by tall 6-over-6 windows. Other windows are normal-sized 6-over-6. Wide porch which wraps around three sides of house has turned posts and brackets under eaves. Main roof has wide overhang but no brackets. Square roof monitor was added after Civil War. (Photograph 1)

NC		1990	Barn.
NC	149 Cherry Brook Road	1953	1-story house with clapboard-covered walls and gable roof. 32 acres.
C	150 Cherry Brook Road	1896	Canton Creamery. 1-story vernacular 52' x 46' building with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and high gable roof. Windows are 2-over-2. 1-story frame 18' x 18' ell; 1-story frame 26' x 16' wing. Produced 400 pounds of butter daily. (Photograph 2)
NC		1960	Garage.
C	155 Cherry Brook Road	1840	1 1/2-story vernacular 25' x 12' house with stone foundation, wood-shingled walls, and gable roof. 2-bay gable end to street with 6-over-6 windows at first floor, 1-over-1s at second. Lower 1 1/2-story frame 15' x 19' wing to south.
C		1840	Shed.
NC		1950	Barn built of rough-finished cinder block.
C	167 Cherry Brook Road	1840V	2-story 19' x 37' Greek Revival house with stone foundation, clapboard-covered walls, and gable roof. 3-bay front elevation has plain doorway in south bay and two 6-over-6 windows at first floor. 3 second-floor windows are 12-over-12. Attic window in center of pediment is arched. 1-story frame 26' x 16' wing. 14 acres.
	D Cherry Brook Road		Vacant land owned by Canton Land Conservation Trust. 2 acres.
C	172 Cherry Brook Road	1830	Norman Case House, now First Congregational Church Parsonage. 2-story 36' x 27' 5-bay central-entrance Colonial building, possibly earlier than 1830, with gable roof, stone foundation, and aluminum siding. Central two-thirds of front elevation is protected by Colonial Revival porch with paired columns rising from shingled parapet under pedimented cross gable. Modillion course supports porch eaves. Windows are 2-over-2. Chimney off center to north.
NC		1960	Garage.
C	180 Cherry Brook Road	1830	Canton Center General Store. 2-story vernacular 48' x 60' building with walls covered with clapboards, wood shingles, and novelty siding. Pent roof over long

small-pane shop windows. Several alterations and additions. Store in operation here since 1875.

- C 1841 Canton Center Post Office. Vernacular 46' x 36' clapboard building. Central 1 3/4-story section is flanked by shed-roofed 1-story wings. Former blacksmith shop. (Photograph 3)
- E Cherry Brook Road Vacant parcel, forested. 29 acres.
- C 183 Cherry Brook Road 1890 1-story frame 37' x 17' house with stone foundation, vertical wood walls, and gable roof. 1-story 24' x 44' ell and 1-story 30' x 24' wing. Approached by long drive; not visible from street. 5 acres.
- C 184 Cherry Brook Road 1814 First Congregational Church of Canton Center. 1-story frame Federal/Greek Revival 48' x 66' church covered with clapboards. 4 colossal pilasters divide front elevation into 3 bays. At first floor, 3 round-arched doorways. At second floor, central Palladian window flanked by 20-over-20s. Pediment with modillion course. Palladian window in tower first stage. All the foregoing in Federal style, but 2-stage tower is square with flat cornices in Greek Revival style. North side elevation has 2 tiers of 20-over-20 windows. Church interior altered to Gothic Revival style in 1873, restored 1967, Richard Swope, architect. (Photographs 4, 5) 1958 Parish House wing on south is 2-story frame 140' x 47' building with meeting rooms and offices, architects, Moore & Salisbury. Clapboard siding. Addition to original 4 bays, 1986, Louis J. Colavecchio, architect.
- C 185 Cherry Brook Road 1848 South Center School/Cherry Brook Branch of Canton Public Library. 1-story frame Greek Revival 20' x 40' building with clapboard walls and gable roof. Front elevation is horizontal flush boarding. Fluted Doric columns stand *in antis* at recessed entrance leading to two doors. Wide pilasters at corners of building. Side elevation windows are 1-over-1. Plain architrave and frieze encircle building. Tympanum is flush boarding. Enlarged to present size in 1880. Used as school until 1942. (Photograph 6)
- C 2 frame 5' x 5' outhouses. (Photograph 7)
- C 190 Cherry Brook Road 1870 2-story frame 19' x 40' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. 2-story 24' x 15' and 20' x 15' wings. Gable end toward street has two bays of 6-over-6 windows at second floor and



rectangular attic window. Central brick chimney.  
Long stockade fence at lot line obscures first floor.

- |    |                       |       |   |
|----|-----------------------|-------|---|
| NC |                       | 1960  | Shed.   |
| C  | F Cherry Brook Road   | 1826  | Canton Center Cemetery. Date established by Canton Land Records, vol. 1, pp. 456-458. Enlarged 1863. Most monuments are marble and sandstone of 19th century and granite of 20th century. Many marble and sandstone monuments are covered with black crusts and biological growth. 1950 survey documented 554 family groups buried there, 123 of them Case families.  |
|    | 193 Cherry Brook Road | 1843  | Alonzo Barber House. 2-story frame 21' x 28' Greek Revival house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. In 3-bay gable end to street, door in south bay has wide frieze and small cornice cap. Windows are 6-over-6 except for rectangular window in pediment. Corner piasters. Central chimney. Porch in wing to south is supported by fluted Doric columns; two horizontal windows in frieze above. South gable end treated as a pediment; its rectangular window is glazed in idiosyncratic pattern formed by angled muntins. Tall 1 1/2-story 30' x 22' ell.<br>(Photograph 8) |
| C  | 199 Cherry Brook Road | 1812  | Simeon Mills House. 2-story Colonial/altered frame 5-bay central-entrance central-chimney 32' x 15' house with clapboard-covered walls and gable roof. Large 6-over-6 windows. Sited on bank high above road. 1 1/2-story frame 26' x 32' and 1-story frame 12' x 26' additions. 30 acres.  |
| NC |                       | 1948  | Garage.   |
| C  |                       | 1850  | Tall barn.  |
| NC |                       | 1960  | Shed.   |
| C  |                       | 1930s | 1-story frame 20' x 32' house with concrete block foundation, wood shingled walls, and gable roof. Converted from chicken house. 1-story frame 16' x 30' front addition.  |
| C  | 203 Cherry Brook Road | 1863  | 2-story frame Greek Revival 20' x 27' clapboard-covered house with stone foundation and gable roof. In 3-bay gable end toward street door is at south. Windows are 6-over-6. Corner pilasters support frieze and cornice under pediment whose rectangular window is glazed in plaid pattern. Wing set back to south has pilaster at south corner. Colonial Revival wraparound porch has tall round columns, no railing. Central and rear chimneys. 24' x 14' wing and 12' x 12' ell.  |

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C		1940	2 sheds.
NC		1960	Barn.
C		1940	Garage.
C	209 Cherry Brook Road	1946	1-story frame 32' x 24' Cape with clapboard walls, gable roof.
C		1946	Garage.
C	210 Cherry Brook Road	1876	Former First Congregational Church Parsonage; built for purpose. 2-story frame Queen Anne L-shaped 36' x 31' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. In gable end to street, paired 2-over-2 windows occupy first and second floors under attic window of two vertical panes in pointed-arch surround. Truss in gable roof peak. Hipped-roof of porch in angle of L is supported by simple brackets. 2-story 16' x 13' and 1-story 16' x 8' ells. (Photograph 10)
NC		1960	Garage.
NC	214 Cherry Brook Road	1991	2-story frame Queen Anne Revival 40' x 30' house with clapboard walls. Long brownstone ashlar wall at lot line laid up without mortar.
	G Cherry Brook Road		Vacant parcel. 3 acres.
C	221 Cherry Brook Road	1844	2-story frame Greek Revival 25' x 32' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. In 3-bay front elevation, doorway is protected by porch with stone steps and floor and fluted Greek Doric columns. Door is surrounded by side lights over panels and transom lights. Windows are 6-over-6. Dentil course separates architrave and frieze in entablature that encircles house. Rectangular window in flush tympanum of pediment. Several large 1- and 1 1/2-story ells.
C		19C	Barn. (Most outbuildings from tobacco and dairy farm history of site are gone.)
	H Cherry Brook and Barbourtown Road		Vacant parcel. 2 acres.
	I Cherry Brook Road		Vacant parcel. 13 acres.
C	225 Cherry Brook Road	1814	Gardner Mills House. 2-story frame Colonial/Greek Revival 36' x 26' building with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Central entrance is

in 5-bay front (west) elevation under central chimney. Door flanked by paneled pilasters has modest cornice. South side elevation's gable end is treated as pediment with rectangular window in flush tympanum. 57 acres. (Photograph 10)

C	1811	Barn.
C	1811	Pole barn.
C	1811	Barn.
C	1811	Shed.
C	239 Cherry Brook Road	1940 1-story frame 32' x 25' wood-shingled house with two dormers.
C	241 Cherry Brook Road	1946 1-story frame 36' x 26' 5-bay Cape with high gable roof.
	J Cherry Brook Road	Vacant parcel.
	K Cherry Brook Road	Vacant land.
C	250 Cherry Brook Road	1900 1-story frame 32' x 24' house with wood-shingled walls and gable roof. Screened from view by plantings, but possibly in Rustic/Arts & Crafts mode. 34' x 18' and 13' x 12' wings.
C	251 Cherry Brook Road	1942 1-story frame 32' x 24' Cape with aluminum-covered walls and high gable roof.
NC	254 Cherry Brook Road	1980 1-story frame 32' x 26' house with clapboard walls and gable roof. 4 acres.
C	259 Cherry Brook Road	1789 Jesse Barber House. 2-story Colonial frame 31' x 24' house with clapboard walls and gable roof. Door in 3-bay front (west) elevation is under transom lights and simple cornice. Windows are 6-over-6. 2 ells.
C	1789	Barn.
NC	263 Cherry Brook Road	1975 1-story frame 44' x 28' house with vertical wood walls and gable roof. 15 acres.
NC	1976	Garage.
NC	267 Cherry Brook Road	1950 1-story frame 32' x 24' house with stone foundation and gable roof.
NC	1960	Shed.
C	270 Cherry Brook Road	1888 Benjamin S. Case House. 2-story frame 46' x 48' Queen Anne house with stone foundation, clapboards at first

and second floors, wood shingles at second and third floors, and gable roof. Asymmetrical gable to north is balanced by 3-story octagonal tower to south. First-floor windows are 1-over-1, some paired. Second-floor windows are 16-over-1. 2-story frame 18' x 20' wing. (Photograph 11)

- C 1940 1-story frame 25' x 75' long rectangular contemporary house with wood-shingled walls and gable roof.
- C 271 Cherry Brook Road 1780 Elam Case House. 2 1/2-story frame Colonial 36' x 27' building with stone foundation, aluminum siding, and gable roof. 5-bays, central entrance, central chimney. Windows are 12-over-12. 2-tier transom light over door, in plain surround. 1-story 14' x 26' addition. 22 acres.
- C 1800 Outbuilding.
- C 1840 Attached barn.
- NC 1976 Garage.
- L Cherry Brook Road Vacant parcel. 64 acres.
- NC 282 Cherry Brook Road 1960 1-story frame 42' x 46' house with aluminum-covered walls and gable roof. 21 acres.
- C 1880 Large barn with vertical wood siding and pair of sliding doors.
- NC 1955 Barn.
- NC 1960 Barn.
- C 285 Cherry Brook Road 1800 James Humphrey House. 2-story frame Colonial 38' x 28' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Five bays, central entrance with stone steps, central chimney, 6-over-6 windows in 2-1-2 rhythm. Wide doorway surround encompasses 1-over-1 side lights over panels. Frieze and cornice encircles house; dentil course under eaves. Recessed porch in 1 1/2-story 28' x 19' wing to south. 8 acres.
- C 1800 Barn and other outbuildings.
- C 2 East Mountain Road 1785 Caleb Case House. 1 1/2-story frame 22' x 27' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. 6-over-6 windows. Two 1-story ells. Extensively altered; original configuration uncertain.
- C 4 East Mountain Road 1800 Pliny Case Blacksmith Shop. 1-story frame 26' x 52' building with aluminum-covered walls and hipped standing-seam metal roof. 1-over-1 windows. Extensively altered; original configuration uncertain.

1-story 15' x 21' wing.

C		19C	Barn.
C	8 East Mountain Road	1865	2-story frame 24' x 21' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Door off-center to west flanked by irregularly spaced paired 2-over-2 windows. Porch supported by square posts with no bases wraps from door to east. Small central chimney. 2-story ell and 1-story wing. Altered; original configuration uncertain.
C		19C	1 1/2-story barn with weathered-wood vertical siding.
C	9 East Mountain Road	1850	1 1/2-story vernacular 40' x 18' house with stone foundation and clapboard walls on knoll above road. Built as 4-room worker's cottage; addition in 1890. Exterior stone chimney on gable end toward street added in 1945. First-floor windows are single and paired 6-over-6s, plus 3-sided bay. Four second-floor windows are horizontal rectangles glazed in plaid pattern in Greek Revival manner.
NC		1958	Garage.
C		1850	Shed.
NC	10 East Mountain Road	1965	2-story frame 38' x 23' house with clapboard walls, gable roof, and 30' x 15' wing. 7 acres.
C	14 East Mountain Road	1850	1 1/2-story frame vernacular 36' x 20' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Front (south) elevation has central door in 2-1-1-1 5-bay rhythm. Gable end of cross gable over front door covered by imbricated shingles. Small square 6-pane windows at far left and right. In west side elevation first floor is occupied by two 12-over-8 windows, second floor by two 6-over-6s. Added 1-story 23' x 14' wing.
C	15 East Mountain Road	1933	2-story frame contemporary 46' x 32' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Street (north) elevation has three 8-over-8 windows. Entrance is at southeast corner junction with high-gable-roofed ell.
C		1940	Garage.
C		1940	Shed.
C		1940	Shed.

- C 69 East Mountain Road 1772/1972 Rev. Nathaniel Sherman House. 2-story 5-bay frame Colonial 38' x 30' building with concrete foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Dis-assembled in Hamden, Connecticut, and re-assembled here in 1972. 1-story 22' x 18' ell. Set well back from road behind wooded area, scarcely visible from road. 13 acres.
- NC 1976 Garage.
- C 6 Humphrey Road 1862 1 1/2-story vernacular/Greek Revival 29' x 16' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roofs. Site above Cherry Brook nearby to west is defined by stone retaining wall similar to stone walls that contain stream. Main block is shallow, only 16' deep, under steeply pitched roof which has narrow segmentally curved bargeboards at eaves. 2 rectangular 3-pane windows under eaves of long wing. Other windows are 6-over-6. Several ells and wings. 2-story 3-sided bay on south.
- C 1862 Garage.
- NC 1984 2-story sugar house with vertical siding.
- NC 1978 Shed.
- C 10 Humphrey Road 1803 Orange Case House. 1 1/2-story square (24' x 22') frame house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. In front (west) elevation at first floor, central door is flanked by 1-over-1 windows with two more 1-over-1s at second floor. South side elevation has similar fenestration. 1-story 25' x 36' ell. 3 acres.
- C 1920 Garage.
- NC 1986 Barn.
- NC 1960 Shed.
- C 15 Humphrey Road 1810V Calvin Case, Jr., House. 2-story 34' x 18' altered Colonial building with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Large 26' x 27' hipped-roof front porch. Irregularly placed windows are 1-over-1. 4 acres. Mill site sign at northwest corner of parcel (Photograph 12).
- 1940 Garage.
- C Meadow Road Vacant land owned by Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. 4 acres.
- C 121 West Road 1867 Giles Sisson House. 2-story Greek Revival 23' x 28' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. In 3-bay gable end (east) elevation

toward street, door with small-pane side and transom lights is to south. Windows are 6-over-6 except for louvered rectangular attic window. Two wall dormers break through eaves of 1 1/2-story wing set back on south. Two 1-story ells. (Photograph 18)

C		1867	Barn.
C		1900	Shed.
C	124 West Road	1797	Loin Humphrey House. 2-story Colonial 47' x 23' building with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. 5-bay front (west) elevation with central door, 12-over-12 windows; central chimney. 28' x 38' ell at northeast corner. 18 acres.
NC		1960	Garage 30' x 23'.
C		1880	Barn.
C		1880	Coop.
NC	129 West Road	1982	1-story 32' x 28' house with concrete foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. 4 acres.
C	133 West Road	1947	1 1/2-story 30' x 28' Cape with brick and stone foundation, wood-shingled walls, and gable roof. Paired 6-over-6 windows at first floor. Dormers.
C	135 West Road	1849	Center District School. 1-story 26' x 38' Greek Revival building with concrete, brick, and stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof. Central recessed entry. Served as schoolhouse 1849-1942. (Compare 185 Cherry Brook Road.) 2-story 20' x 24' ells. (Photograph 17)
C		1920	Garage.
NC		1960	Shed.
C	137 West Road	1830	Joseph Bouchard House. 1-story frame 28' x 24' house with stone foundation, clapboard walls, and gable roof, moved from across street in 1963. Many alterations. 1-story 38' x 18' ell approximately doubles the size of house.
C	4 West Mountain Road	1775 HDSC; 1840V	Ephraim Mills House. Large fully articulated Greek Revival 2-story building with brick and stone foundation, clapboard walls, and wood-shingled roofs. Main block is 32' x 26', wing set back to north 20' x 24', and 1-story ell 17' x 58', all original. Main block has pyramidal roof, wing and ell have gable roofs. 3-bay front (east) elevation (without gable end or pediment) faces Cherry Brook, with small pond from brook in front yard. Recessed front door in

north bay is protected by fluted Ionic columns *in antis*. Windows are 6-over-6. Wide architrave and frieze divided by dentil course encircle entire building, including 58' ell. Corners defined by pilasters. Rectangular window in gable end of wing's north side elevation. 6 acres.

NC		1975	Pole shed.
C		1880	1 1/2-story barn.
NC		1960	Barn.
C	7 West Mountain Road	1900	1- and 2-story 17' x 24' vernacular house with cobblestone foundation, wood-shingled walls, and gable roof. Narrow 2-story section is behind front 1-story section. Moved from 4 West Mountain Road, where it was ice house. 80 acres.
C		1920	Shed.
NC		1976	Shed.
NC		1973	2-story 22' x 52' house with concrete foundation, vertical wood walls, and gable roof.



PROPERTY NAME

**Canton Center Historic District, Canton, CT**

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:\_\_\_ Statewide: x Locally:\_\_\_

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B\_\_\_ C x D\_\_\_

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

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance		Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1785</u>	<u>1941</u>	_____
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: See Inventory

**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

**Summary**

Canton Center Historic District exhibits good examples of well-preserved buildings constructed in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne architectural styles which were erected to support the agricultural district's farming activities during the 18th and 19th centuries. The many open spaces, which to a significant degree are still used for farming, define the historic agrarian environment characteristic of the rural setting. Nine of the properties in the district are larger than 20 acres, the largest 163. The district also fulfilled multiple additional functions as the seat of town government and the center for social, religious, and mercantile activities essential to a 19th-century agrarian society. The total resource of farmland, associated buildings, and town-center cluster constitutes a good example of a well-preserved rural agricultural district in its entirety, unusual in Connecticut's Central Valley Historic Context Region.

## History

The formal history of Canton Center Historic District began in May 1750 when the Connecticut General Assembly established the First Ecclesiastical Society of West Simsbury, as it was initially named. After the Town of Canton was incorporated in 1806, the center for town government was in the district for over a century, until the village of Collinsville on the town's southern border became the seat of government in 1920.

Early settlers came to farm the land, raising rye, Indian corn, cattle, sheep, swine, and apples. Existing Colonial-style houses were built starting toward the end of the 18th century when the farming community had become well established and prosperous. Cherry Brook also offered waterpower potential which was soon developed. There were several dam sites, three of which survive but not in anything like original condition. Over the years, waterpowered enterprises included eight distilleries to process alcoholic cider, three tanneries, three grain mills, four sawmills, two fulling mills, one powder mill, and one tin factory. In general, the mills serviced and supported the agrarian economy. The only easily recognizable mill site in the district today is shown in Photograph 18, and its present dam was built early in the 20th century.

Another waterpower site just south of the Creamery (150 Cherry Brook Road) had a 50-foot water wheel to power a three-story woodworking factory. Chief among its products were coffins, kegs, wooden knife handles, bed frames, table legs, and shingles. A third mill behind the general store processed wool.

Toward the end of the 19th century, the dairy industry grew in importance in line with the general 19th-century trend in Connecticut away from subsistence farming to market-oriented activity. Canton farmers organized a Creamery Association which in 1879 began converting milk from local farms into butter for shipment to market, making it "the oldest farmers' cooperative in...the state" ("Preliminary Report of the Canton Center Historic District Study Committee," p. 12). The cooperative built a new building in 1893 at a cost of \$1,730, which is still standing (Photograph 2). An ice-cutting operation reached output of 2,000 tons per year, ca.1930. One large dairy farm continues in operation (Photograph 15).

The rate of change in the 20th century has been slow. Farmhouses still stand and the cluster of buildings in the district center appears about as it did in the 19th century. Open spaces abound. A noteworthy indication of stability in the community is the fact that the house built in 1876 as the First Congregational Church Parsonage continues in that function. Agricultural activities have declined, with the notable exception of the dairy farm at 22 Barbourtown Road, which still is active as may be seen by its two working barns, silo, two milk sheds, equipment shed, and three miscellaneous outbuildings. While many of the fields are left fallow or planted to hay, nevertheless they continue to provide the rural ambience characteristic of the district for 200 years.

## Architecture

The eight late 18th/early 19th-century farmhouses in the district are well-preserved examples of the Colonial style. They followed the customary design of two stories, five bays, central entrance, and central chimney. They contribute to the significance of the district not only through the integrity of the buildings but also because their sites and

surrounding land are little changed. The historic houses, well-spaced from one another, are accompanied by ranges of outbuildings varying in size and number. In many cases at least some of the historic outbuildings no longer are standing, but the district still retains a preponderance of historic houses, barns, and open land with an agricultural appearance.

The Colonial-style houses of five bays, central chimney, and central entrance authoritatively establish a record of good practice in 18th-century design and construction for Canton Center. Good examples of the style and well-maintained, they contribute significantly to the architectural history of the district.

While the church was built in 1814 in the Federal style, which was in vogue throughout the Northeast at the time, there are no houses in the district in the Federal style. Explanation for the absence of the mode in domestic building is not known. The church well represents the style. Its semi-circular fanlights, slender pilasters, Palladian windows, and overall attenuated proportions demonstrate that the builder was conversant with fashionable practice, probably through pattern books.

The Greek Revival style was interpreted in the district with great expertise in 12 domestic buildings. The commodious stone house at 22 Barbourtown Road is an early example (1830) of solid massing with strong well-designed features, such as the wooden portico with paired Doric columns, testimony to the wealth and sophistication of its builder and owner. The granite schist, laid up with white mortar, was quarried on the premises. Three original barns no longer are standing. Equally good design is demonstrated in the massing and detailing of the frame house at 4 West Mountain Road, where the columns are *in antis* and the denticulated architrave and frieze not only extend around the roof lines of the main block and wing but also run the full length of the 58-foot ell. The screen of four fluted Doric columns supporting the recessed porch of 193 Cherry Brook Road is equally distinguished. The two small Greek Revival schools are archetypical of their type, embellished with corner pilasters and with fluted Doric columns *in antis* at the recessed entranceway. The fact that there are two is unusual.

With a decline after the mid-19th century in the economic importance of agriculture and waterpower came a corresponding decline of building activity in the district. Consequently, 19th-century revival styles are not well-represented. The one Italianate house, 144 Cherry Brook Road, and the two Queen Anne Houses, 210 Cherry Brook Road and 270 Cherry Brook Road are good examples, but few in number.

The historic Colonial and Greek Revival houses, built as components of farmsteads, give a strong sense of the late-18th and 19th century agrarian domestic architecture. The Federal church and vernacular store and blacksmith shops remind that religious, social, and mercantile needs of the community also were supported by buildings still standing which functioned as part of the activity associated with the seat of town government.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Canton Assessor's Field Cards.

*Canton Sesquicentennial 1806-1956: A Short Illustrated History of Canton.*  
Canton: Canton Sesquicentennial Committee with Phoebe Humphrey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, nd (1956).

Carlton, Lawrence S., M.D., Congregational Church Historian. Conversation, January 21, 1997.

"Preliminary Report of the Canton Center Historic District Study Committee." 1974.

Sweeton, Mrs. A.W., Jr., comp. *A History of The [sic] Congregational Church and Parish of Canton Center, Connecticut.* Canton Center: First Congregational Church of Canton Center, 1950.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY NAME

Canton Center Historic District, Canton, CT

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreeage of Property: 500

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4636240</u>	<u>674620</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>4635860</u>	<u>674480</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>4636040</u>	<u>673538</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>4635230</u>	<u>673360</u>
E	<u>18</u>	<u>4635980</u>	<u>673020</u>	F	<u>18</u>	<u>4535040</u>	<u>673400</u>
G	<u>18</u>	<u>4634820</u>	<u>673330</u>	H	<u>18</u>	<u>4635160</u>	<u>672770</u>
I	<u>18</u>	<u>4635000</u>	<u>672640</u>	J	<u>18</u>	<u>4635040</u>	<u>672530</u>
K	<u>18</u>	<u>4635300</u>	<u>672620</u>	L	<u>18</u>	<u>4635620</u>	<u>672960</u>
M	<u>18</u>	<u>4635640</u>	<u>672850</u>	N	<u>18</u>	<u>4635750</u>	<u>672870</u>
O	<u>18</u>	<u>4635740</u>	<u>672940</u>	P	<u>18</u>	<u>4635920</u>	<u>673000</u>
Q	<u>18</u>	<u>4635960</u>	<u>672900</u>	R	<u>18</u>	<u>4636160</u>	<u>672940</u>
S	<u>18</u>	<u>4636200</u>	<u>671320</u>	T	<u>18</u>	<u>4636700</u>	<u>671360</u>
U	<u>18</u>	<u>4636640</u>	<u>672910</u>	V	<u>18</u>	<u>4636980</u>	<u>673060</u>
W	<u>18</u>	<u>4636840</u>	<u>673220</u>	X	<u>18</u>	<u>4637110</u>	<u>673360</u>
Y	<u>18</u>	<u>4637090</u>	<u>673460</u>	Z	<u>18</u>	<u>4636840</u>	<u>673410</u>
AA	<u>18</u>	<u>4636880</u>	<u>673540</u>	BB	<u>18</u>	<u>4636750</u>	<u>673460</u>
CC	<u>18</u>	<u>4636590</u>	<u>673800</u>	DD	<u>18</u>	<u>4636700</u>	<u>673860</u>
EE	<u>18</u>	<u>4636660</u>	<u>674080</u>	FF	<u>18</u>	<u>4636470</u>	<u>674020</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The district boundary is shown by the dashed line on the district map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses properties in the center of the Town of Canton fronting on Cherry Brook Road and associated streets surrounding Canton Center. The boundary includes contributing buildings and the land that accompanies and is between them which constitute the central area in the rural town. The periphery of the district is extended outward to the point where farther extension would have included multiple non-contributing buildings.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator  
 Org.: Architectural Historian  
 Date: January 1997  
 Street/#: 33 Sunrise Hill Drive  
 City/Town: West Hartford  
 State: CT  
 ZIP: 06107  
 Telephone: 860 521-3387

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### List of Photographs

Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in January 1997. Photographs are keyed on the district map. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1

144 Cherry Brook Road  
View northwest

Photograph 2

150 Cherry Brook Road  
Canton Creamery  
View northwest

Photograph 3

180 Cherry Brook Road  
Post Office and Store  
View northwest

Photograph 4

184 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church  
View northwest

Photograph 5

184 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church, interior  
View northwest

Photograph 6

185 Cherry Brook Road  
South Center School  
View northeast

Photograph 7

185 Cherry Brook Road  
South Center School outhouses  
View northeast

Photograph 8

193 Cherry Brook Road  
View northeast

Photograph 9

210 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church Parsonage  
View northwest

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Photograph 10

225 Cherry Brook Road  
View northeast

## Photograph 11

270 Cherry Brook Road  
View west

## Photograph 12

15 Humphrey Road Sign  
View west

## Photograph 13

4 Barbourtown Road  
Cherry Brook Primary School  
View west

## Photograph 14

22 Barbourtown Road  
View north

## Photograph 15

22 Barbourtown Road, farm buildings  
View west

## Photograph 16

59 Barbourtown Road  
View southeast

## Photograph 17

135 West Road  
Center District School  
View northwest

## Photograph 18

121 West Road  
View west



Photo by L. S. Mills

*Present Interior of the Meeting House*

Figure 1

Sweeton, Mrs. A.W., Jr., comp. *A History of The [sic] Congregational Church and Parish of Canton Center, Connecticut*. Canton Center: First Congregational Church of Canton Center, 1950, p.34. Compare Photograph 5.





Photograph 1  
144 Cherry Brook Road  
View northwest



Photograph 2  
150 Cherry Brook Road  
Canton Creamery  
View northwest



Photograph 3  
180 Cherry Brook Road  
Post Office and Store  
View northwest



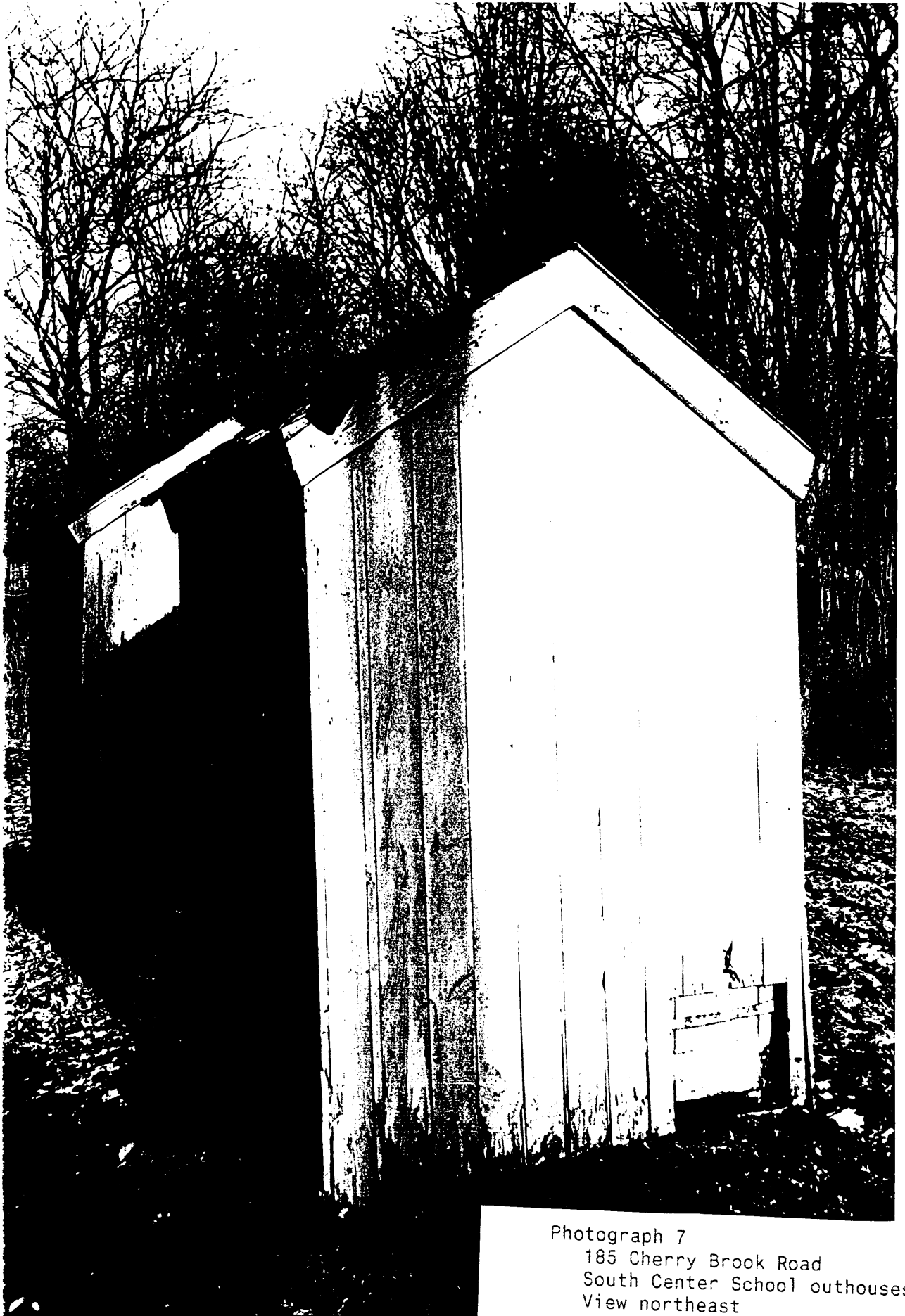
Photograph 4  
184 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church  
View northwest



Photograph 5  
184 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church, interior  
View northwest



Photograph 6  
185 Cherry Brook Road  
South Center School  
View northeast



Photograph 7  
185 Cherry Brook Road  
South Center School outhouses  
View northeast



Photograph 8  
193 Cherry Brook Road  
View northeast



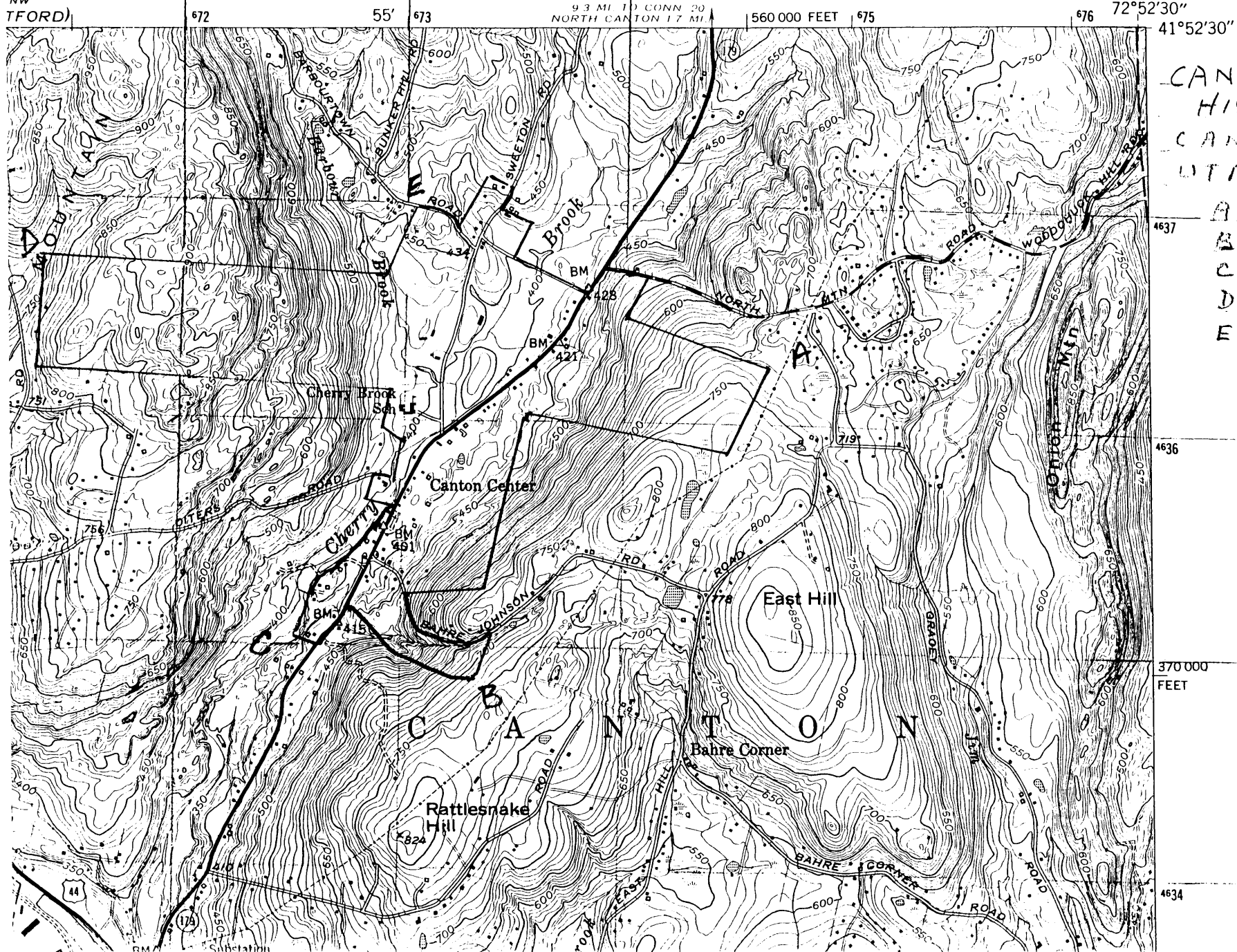


Photograph 9  
210 Cherry Brook Road  
Congregational Church Parsonage  
View northwest

CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
(HARTFORD)

COLLINSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
CONNECTICUT  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6467 IV NE  
(TARIFFVILLE)



CANTON CENTER  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CANTON, CT  
UTM REFS -

- A 18/4636240/674
- B 18/4634820/673
- C 18/4635040/672
- D 18/4635100/671
- E 18/4636980/6730