

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **Aug 23 1982**  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

N/A

AND/OR COMMON

Somers Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*Main and Battle Sts, Bugbee Lane, and Springfield*  
11,27 & 14 Battle Street; 3 Bugbee Lane; 491-687, 496-708  
Main Street; 21-51, 20-54 Springfield Road

CITY, TOWN

Somers

N/A VICINITY OF

6th-

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Tolland

CODE

013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

" "

CITY, TOWN

" " VICINITY OF

STATE

"

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Somers Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

600 Main Street - P.O. Box 203

CITY, TOWN

Somers

STATE

CT

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1982

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The National Register district proposed for the center of Somers, Connecticut, includes a large number of well-preserved houses from the early 19th century, a Gothic Revival cottage, two 19th-century churches, a large inn, an early store, several interesting barns and stables, and a scattering of buildings which, while not as early as most of the houses, nevertheless are of architectural or historical interest. Most of the structures are ranged along Main Street, a major east-west thoroughfare, with small offshoots to the north up Springfield Road and Battle Street. The long, narrow shape of the district goes back to the settlement pattern of the 19th century, when the area was known as "Somers Street." The buildings in the district are generally spaced quite far apart, with extensive plantings in the yards and along the streets. Many are of brick construction.

The overall concentration of historic buildings in the district is moderate: of the 87 structures (not including outbuildings) 55 contribute in some way to the character of the district. However, there are three areas within the district where the percentage of contributing buildings is very high: the northern cluster on Springfield Road, the eastern end of Main Street, and Main Street just west of the town center. Separating the three clusters of historic buildings are a group of modern houses at the southern end of Springfield Road and extensive commercial development on Main Street, including a supermarket, two banks, and two shopping plazas (Figure 13). The large brick Town Hall (1950) also interrupts the streetscape of historic buildings on Main Street, as do the now-vacant lots which reveal the shopping center (adjacent but not included) on South Road. One building listed in the inventory as contributing is #70 (Figure 14), the Kibbe-Fuller School, opened in 1930. Its Neo-Colonial design is typical of many 20th-century public buildings, and although it has little visual or stylistic relation to the older buildings in the district, it may be argued that in itself it is significant as typical of its period.

Despite the large number of noncontributing structures, and the large size and scale of some of them, the district cannot be logically broken up into a number of smaller districts. First, the district has an architectural unity that transcends the three clusters of historic buildings: certain types of buildings, such as the nearly-identical brick dentillated Greek Revival houses (#'s 7, 12, and 31), are found in all three areas. Secondly, the district has a visual unity centered on the steeple of the Congregational church, visible from all the edges of the district. Finally, the center of the district, the place which has the greatest number of noncontributing structures, is also the location of several visually prominent buildings, such as the two churches.

The boundaries of the district were delineated according to property lines, architectural relevance, and visual coherence. The depth of the district from the streets in nearly every case is determined by the rear property lines of the lot. Where properties extend far back from the road, the boundary was simply drawn across the lot from the corners of adjacent lots. However, care was taken to include all related outbuildings by running back a certain distance, as for #47, or following a physical feature, such as the stream behind #'s 36 and 37. On the west end of Main Street, Battle Street and Springfield Road, there were only modern buildings for a considerable distance beyond the boundary. The same was true for the north side of eastern Main Street, where there is an uninterrupted series of modern ranch houses. On the south side, beyond #36, there is one modern house,

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

List of owners from Somers Assessor's Records, May, 1978:

Map/Lot Address	Owner Mailing Address, if different	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Inventory Number
BATTLE STREET			
29/107 14 Battle Street	Jones, Melvin L. <u>et ux.</u>	C	23
29/104 11 Battle Street	Lloyd, Carleton & Sally A.	C	21
30/1 27 Battle Street	Thibeault, Barbara	C	22
BUGBEE LANE			
29/65 3 Bugbee Lane	Klaus, Richard S. & Barbara G.	NC	62
MAIN STREET (Route 190)			
23/1 496 Main Street	Cooper, Linda A.	C	54
5/59 508 Main Street	Kertenis, Jack, Jr.	NC	86
24/22 524 Main Street	Hyde, Helen	C	53
24/21 530 Main Street	Ellis, Leonard N.	C	52
5/58 536 Main Street	Vasalie, Pete M. & Jewel V.	C	51

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

24/20 542 Main Street	LaCroix, Anna B.	NC	85
24/19 546 Main Street	Billings, Herman B. & Sara I.	C	50
24/18 550 Main Street	DeRosa, Muriel	NC	84
24/17 554 Main Street	Rodriguez, Josefina C. P.O. Box 477 39 Turnpike Road Somers, CT 06071	C	49
24/16 558 Main Street	Palmer, Aldrick A. & Marie T.	NC	83
24/15 564 Main Street	Splain, Sylvester <u>et ux.</u>	C	48
24/14 <del>558</del> Main Street	Sherman, James W. & Lucille A.	C	47
24/13 574 Main Street	Town of Somers 600 Main Street Somers, CT 06071	C	46
24/12 576 Main Street	Bugbee, Emilie <u>et al.</u>	NC	82
24/11 580 Main Street	Mobil Oil Corp. East Region Prop. Tax Div. P.O. Box 839 Valley Forge, PA 19482	NC	81
24/49 588 Main Street	Hanos, Milton <u>et al.</u> 11 South Road Somers, CT 06071	C	45
24/48 & 47 590-592 Main Street	Hanos, Milton <u>et al.</u> 11 South Road Somers, CT 06071	NC (Vacant)	

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

24/46	Harris, Katherine M. & Sheila	C	44
596-598 Main Street	K. Conway	NC	80
24/45	Town of Somers	NC	79
600-604 Main Street	600 Main Street Somers, CT 06071	C	43
24/44	Pappas, Gus J. & Margaret R.	NC	78
612 Main Street	One Riverview Street Enfield, CT 06082		
24/43	Leroux, Priscilla G.	NC	77
616 Main Street			
24/42	Leroux, Priscilla G.	C	42
620 Main Street	616 Main Street Somers, CT 06071		
24/41	Schiessl, George <u>et ux.</u>	C	41
626 Main Street			
24/40	Hartley, John J. <u>et ux.</u>	NC	76
632 Main Street			
25/7	Keery, Eleanor T.	NC (land only)	
638 Main Street	640 Main Street Somers, CT 06071		
25/4	Connecticut Water Co.	NC (well)	
Rear 650 Main	P.O. Box 511 Clinton, CT 06413		
25/6	Keery, Eleanor T.	NC	75
640 Main Street			
25/5	Nero, Louis A. & Constance J.		40
646 Main Street	90 Dillenback Road		
25/4	Keery, Eleanor T.	C	39
650 Main Street	640 Main Street Somers, CT 06071		
5/70	Parakilas, James C. <u>et ux.</u>	NC (land only)	
656 Main Street	8 Mitchell Drive Enfield, CT		

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	4	PAGE	4
5/69 666 Main Street	Barbieri, Theodore C. & Alida J.	C		38
25/3 678 Main Street	Maier, Helen R. Sokel Road Apt. 3 Somers, CT 06071	NC (land only)		
25/2 686 Main Street	Huelsman, Howard J. & Karen	NC		74
5/68 704-708 Main Street	McCann, John J. <u>et al.</u> 708 Main Street Somers, CT 06071	C C		37 36
23/19 491 Main Street	Tober, Rae & Jennie Butnam	C		1
23/20 507 Main Street	Lombard, Stanley W. & Kathleen Z.	NC		55
23/21 515 Main Street	Merrill, George H. <u>et ux.</u>	NC		56
23/22 521 Main Street	Moller, Rolf Maersk & Aline Maersk	C		2
24/23 527 Main Street	Bliss, Marguerite B.	NC		57
24/24 531 Main Street	Palomba, Mary C. 40 Bradfield Drive Somers, CT 06071	NC		58
24/25 537 Main Street	Palomba, Mary C. 40 Bradfield Drive Somers, CT 06071	C		3
24/26 541 Main Street	Blythe, William F. & Dorothy D.	NC		59
24/27 547 Main Street	Cormier, Joseph J. & Cecillia A.	C		4

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	
24/28 555 Main Street	Oliver, Leland G. <u>et ux.</u>	NC	60
24/29 557 Main Street	Crescitelli, Lucille A.	NC	61
24/30 559 Main Street	Friedman, Maurine L. Rt. 140 Sadds Mill Ellington, CT	C	5
24/31 567 Main Street	Dow, Glenn C.	C	6
29/61 573 Main Street	Dudzic, Ronald R.	C	7
29/62 577 Main Street	Leroux, Nelson R. & Inez S. Hall Hill Road Somers, CT 06071	C	8
29/63 581 Main Street	Babbitt, John A. & Ann G.	C	9
29/64 585 Main Street	Somers Inn, Inc.	C	10a,b,c
29/97,98,99 589-599 Main Street	Conn. Bank & Trust Co. 599 Main Street Somers, CT 06071	NC	68
29/100 599 Main Street	Somers Congregational Church Somers, CT 06071	C NC	18 69
29/101 603 Main Street	Somers Congregational Church Somers, CT 06071	C	19
29/102 611 Main Street	Bell, Ruth F. 116 Stebbins Road Somers, CT 06071	C	20
29/103 619 Main Street	Town of Somers 600 Main Street Somers, CT 06071	NC	70

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	4	PAGE	6
29/108 625-631 Main Street	Chase and Francis 692 Main Street Somers, CT 06071		NC	71
29/109 635 Main Street	Nikolis, Steve & Susan		C	24
30/5A 637 Main Street	New England Bank & Trust Co.		NC	72
30/5 641 Main Street	Somers Food Center		NC	73
30/6 645 Main Street	Edgar, Albert W.			25
30/7 649 Main Street	Larson, Richard W. & Anne M. 17 Bald Mountain Drive Somers, CT 06071		C	26
30/8 653 Main Street	Kennett, Donald H. & Carol Ann		C	27
25/12 659 Main Street	Hastings, Roger M.		C	28
25/13 663 Main Street	Smith Peter B.		C	29
25/14 667 Main Street	King, Levi & Mary		C	30
25/15 669 Main Street	Marshall, Annabelle G. Claremont, NH		C	31
25/16 673 Main Street	Pease, Warren C. 93 Florida Road Somers, CT 06071		C	32
25/17 677 Main Street	Avery, Milton P. & Virginia P.		C	33
25/18 681 Main Street	Forsythe, Charles W.		C	34

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	4	PAGE	7
25/19 687 Main Street	Connell, Rebecca & Mabelle Gager		C	35
SPRINGFIELD ROAD				
29/96 20 Springfield Road	Keeney, Lafayette		NC	67
29/95 28 Springfield Road	Jarvis, Meredith E. (est.) & A. Philip		NC	66
29/94 34 Springfield Road	Hoza, Arthur J. & Marilyn F.		C	17
29/93 36 Springfield Road	Gula, Joseph J. & Agnes S.		NC	65
29/92 42 Springfield Road	Lovett, Leslie H. (est.) c/o Alan J. & Michelle P. Basch 42 Springfield Road Somers, CT 06071		C	16
29/91 50 Springfield Road	Somers Congregational Church Somers, CT 06071		C	15
29/90 54 Springfield Road	Heath, Marion E.		C	14
29/77 21 Springfield Road	Reardon, Viva M.		NC	63
29/78 25 Springfield Road	Going, Millard W. <u>et ux.</u>		NC	64
29/79 33 Springfield Road	Myracle, John T. <u>et ux.</u>		C	11
29/80 41 Springfield Road	Grondin, Emile W. & Ruth M		C	12
29/81 51 Springfield Road	Trummel, Doris Berggren		C	13

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 8

a large amount of open land, and then a small group of 19th-century houses, including a large and impressive Queen Anne house. However, this group cannot be seen from the present eastern boundary and is therefore neither contiguous nor visually related, nor does the wide expanse between houses conform to the predominant village-like streetscape of the district. The district was not extended down South Road, although two or three plain buildings from the Greek Revival period might have been included. These, however, are barely visible from the center, and are separated from the rest of the buildings by two groups of stores and a commercial building on one side, and a power substation and shopping center on the other.

Although the majority of the historic structures are from the 19th century, there are about a half-dozen 18th-century houses. In their present form, these have less architectural integrity than their 19th-century neighbors. Some, such as #8 (Figure 8), #35, or #52, have had Victorian porches or dormers added. Others, such as #1 (Figure 1) or #48, have had significant changes in fenestration or loss of detail through re-siding. Another older house, the lean-to #44, has considerable original material, but like #48, it has a modern entrance treatment that is only Colonial in inspiration.

In contrast, the Federal-period houses are abundant and well-preserved. Although all are relatively plain and rural in character, three are somewhat more elegantly detailed than the others: #2 (Figure 2) has splayed lintels, a recessed arched entryway, and fan louver; more formal than the plain window and door treatment of the similar brick house # 25. The Pease house, #6 (Figure 6) may incorporate an earlier 18th-century part, but as it now stands, it is solidly of the Federal period, with thin pilasters, an elliptical window, and an elaborate cornice. This house includes a window and door motif found throughout the district in the late Federal and Greek Revival houses: a molded architrave with blocks at the corners, often carved with circular bosses. The final one of the more elaborate Federal houses is #47 (Figure 5), which has the traditional five-bay facade but within the gable end. It too has an elaborate cornice and finely-detailed window caps.

Most of the district's other Federal-period buildings are quite plain, with only the return of the molded cornice, pilastered doorway (Figure 15), and an elliptical window as ornamentation. There are a number of brick examples (Figure 10) and essentially similar frame houses. Some of these buildings were built quite late, such as the 1834 Methodist Church (Figure 13), whose fan louver in the gable is clearly a Federal detail.

For the most part the district's Greek Revival houses continue the form introduced in the Federal period: a 2½-story house with the gable end turned toward the street and an offset entrance. The brick Greek Revival houses mostly have dentillated cornices with the dentils carried up the rake (Figure 6). The frame houses often include corner pilasters, entrance porticos, or simple

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 9

pilastered doorways (Figure 17). The Dr. Woods House, #27 (Figure 17), is an earlier house brought up to date about 1845 with a portico, heavy cornice and trabeated gable window. Other updated buildings include the 1795 Claudius Pease house (#20) and the Somers Inn (1804), the latter a large brick building dominating the major intersection. Its Federal origin is evident in the splayed window lintels, but the later full-width portico in the front gives the building more of a Greek Revival appearance (Figure 10). The Congregational Church (1842) is the most outstanding building in the style: its Ionic portico, large proportions, and two-stage tower make it one of the most impressive buildings in the district (Figure 12). The district also includes several very small 1½-story houses, some with narrow attic windows, whose Greek Revival inspiration can be seen in their simple pilastered entrances. Only a few houses of this period have had their integrity compromised by alterations or insensitive siding (Figure 11).

There are only two Gothic Revival buildings in the district but both are notable: the Warren Kibbe Cottage (#11, Figure 9), and the barn with the Pease house (Figure 6). Other Victorian-period houses, of which there are four, are plain gable-roofed houses, almost without elaboration other than a porch or some peak ornament (Figure 3). The 1896 library (Figure 7) is a small building that can only be called eclectic. One house from 1894, called Shadow Lawn (#35), is a hipped-roof Colonial Revival house with extensive interior panelling and an elaborate stable (Figures 19 and 21).

The final type of house found in the district is a 20th-century type, the Bungalow, of which there are four examples quite intact. These have a distinctive sloping roof, exposed rafter ends, and are 1½ stories high, with a dormer lighting the attic story (Figure 16). Although these buildings offer a contrast to the earlier historic architecture of Somers, they were classified as contributing because they are a well-preserved group typifying a particular historical building style.

To sum up, of the 87 major structures, 55 have historical or architectural significance. There are seven 18th-century houses, 37 from the Federal or Greek Revival periods, seven Victorian houses, and four bungalows. Of the historic houses, perhaps ten have had their character changed through alterations or siding material which have concealed or destroyed details. All the others retain their characteristic form and details, making the district a good collection of well-preserved vernacular architecture, representative of the town's historical development from the 18th century to the present.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 10

### INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:

1. 491 Main, PARSONS HOUSE, 1772, 2½ stories, lean-to form, 3-bay facade , greatly altered: poured foundation, alum. siding, modern windows. Figure 1.
2. 521 Main, NATHANIEL PARSONS HOUSE, 1819, Federal, brick, 2½ stories, 5-bay facade; recessed central entrance with sidelights, fan louver transom, splayed window lintels. Figure 2.
3. 537 Main, c.1890 house with Eastlake detail; 2½ stories, irregular plan, gable roof, jig-sawn peak ornament, large carved corner brackets, two porches, one with jig-sawn balusters, bay windows; asbestos sided. Figure 3.
4. 547 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, panelled pilasters, full cornice return, clapboards, granite foundation, doorway with cornice and pilasters, which show entasis.
5. 559 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 1½ stories, gable end to street, frame with stuccoed exterior, partial cornice return, pilasters beneath stucco, door with simple frame and molded cornice.
6. 567 Main, PEASE HOUSE, 1828, Federal; 2½ stories with ell, clapboarded with flush-boarded gable, gable end to street, full cornice return, mutules, panelled pilasters with thin stiles dividing bays, elliptical gable window, doorway with sidelights, transom; door, all windows have molded frames with corner blocks; 2-story open porch with Tuscan columns across ell. Figure 4.  
Barn, Gothic Revival, 1½ stories, board-and-batten, wave bargeboard, ocular window, pendant in peak. Figure 6.
7. 573 Main, SOLOMON FULLER, JR. HOUSE, c.1840, Greek Revival; brick, 2½ stories, gable end to street, L-shaped plan, brownstone lintels, full return of dentillated cornice (dentils carried up rake), 2-story open porch with four fluted columns across ell, doorway with sidelights, transom. Figure 6.
8. 577 Main, "Elmwood", 1790, remodelled 1884; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, asbestos siding, double doors with entrance porch, 2 stove-sized stacks, middle window, second story, removed. Background, Figure 8.
9. 581 Main, NEHEMIAH BEARDSLEY HOUSE, c.1840, Greek Revival; brick, 2½ stories, gable end to street, corner chimneys, brownstone trim, full cornice return, recessed doorway has panelled jambs, soffit, flat-roofed portico with cresting (Doric columns missing), frame barn at rear. Figure 8.
10. a) 585 Main, c.1850 Grk.Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, full portico on 3 smooth columns, plain pilasters, full cornice return, slight pediment shape to window frames; asbestos siding.  
b) SOMERS INN, 1804, remodelled c. 1860; 2½ stories, brick with wooden portico in front; original Federal design had hipped roof, now more Greek

(continued)

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 11

### SOMERS INN (cont.):

Revival, with the gable roof forming a pediment in front. Full return of the modillioned cornice, flush-boarded tympanum, fluted columns; 5-bay facade within has central entrance with transom; windows have splayed lintels; later 19th-century 2-story porch on east side. Figure 8.

c) Barn at rear, Greek Revival, 2½ stories, plain pilasters, trabeated gable window, asbestos siding.

11. 33 Springfield Road, WARREN KIBBE COTTAGE, c.1860, Gothic Cottage; 1½ stories, irregular plan, steep gable roofs, peaked dormers, simple brackets under widely overhanging roof, board-and-batten siding, narrow paired windows, bay window in front, porch across ell with scroll brackets, thin fluted posts. Large 2-story stable in rear with plain vertical siding. Figure 9.
12. 41 Springfield Road, c. 1840, Greek Revival; brick, 2½ stories, gable end to street, dentillated cornice carried up rakes, brownstone lintels. gable window with corner-block trim, doorway with sidelights, transom, dentillated portico on fluted columns. Shallow columned porch across ell. Two sheds made into garages.
13. 51 Springfield Road, c. 1830, Federal-Greek Revival; brick, 2½ stories, gable end to the road, full cornice return, fan louver in gable, brownstone lintels, doorway with sidelights, transom. Interior has parlor mantel with engaged columns, corner-block window trim (Figure 22). Small barn at rear with cupola having ogee-arched louvers and bracketted cornice. Figure 10.
14. 54 Springfield Road, c.1830, Federal-Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to the street, L-shaped, full cornice return, clapboarded, doorframe with thin grooved pilasters, heavy lintel. 19th-century barn in rear.
15. 50 Springfield Road, CONGREGATIONAL PARSONAGE, c. 1830, Federal-Grk. Rev., brick 2½ stories, gable end to street, brownstone lintels, fan louver in gable, full cornice return, sidelights and transom glazed in narrow panes.
16. 42 Springfield Road, c. 1890, plain; 1½ stories, L-shaped plan, gable roof, clapboards, porch with turned posts, pierced brackets, on two sides.
17. 34 Springfield Road, c. 1910, Bungalow; 1½ stories, gable roof sweeps over front porch, central dormer, clapboarded with wood shingles in gables, on dormer, 5-bay facade with central entrance, porch carried on four round columns.
18. 599 Main, SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1842, Greek Revival, Daniel Colton, architect-builder; 2½ stories, high granite basement, full-width portico with four fluted Ionic columns, 2-stage square tower with pilasters, fluted columns and cresting; clapboarded except flush-boarded tympanum; central entrance with double doors; single tier of large window openings with crosssetted frames on sides; later stained glass. Figure 12.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 12

19. 603 Main, OTIS BRADLEY HOUSE, 1810 (sign), but appears Greek Revival, c. 1835; 1½ stories, 5-bay facade, wide corner boards, clapboards, small windows lighting attic story, central entrance with pilasters, dentillated cornice.
20. 611 Main, CLAUDIUS PEASE HOUSE, 1795 with Greek Revival details; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, two large brick chimneys, full return of cornice across gable ends, trabeated gable window, plain pilsters, sidelighted doorway, long windows in front, porch partway across, wing to east; 19th-century barn with attached cart-shed.
21. 11 Battle St., c.1830 Federal-Greek Revival; 2½ stories, L-shaped plan, gable end to street, partial cornice return, doorway with grooved pilasters, asbestos siding; plain 19th-century barn at rear.
22. 27 Battle St., c.1820 Federal; 2½ stories, gable end to street, full cornice return, gable window with corner-block trim, irregular main facade 4 bays wide, doorway with sidelights, grooved pilasters. Figure 15.
23. 14 Battle St., c. 1840 Greek Revival; 1½ stories, ridge parallel to street, 3-bay facade, short attic windows in front, central entrance with pilasters, modern screen porch in front.
24. 635 Main, 1813, formerly Federal; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, central sidelighted entrance, long first story windows in front, aluminum sided; formerly had pilasters flanking doorway.
25. 645 Main, 1813, JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE, Federal; 2½ stories, brick, brownstone lintels, 5-bay facade with central transomed entrance, end chimneys, two shed dormers added to roof. Small old barn to rear.
26. 649 Main, 1816, Federal; 2½ stories, gable end to street, brick, fanlight in gable; sidelighted entrance on each side with later porches. Old barn to rear.
27. 653 Main, DR. WILLIAM WOODS HOUSE, 1805, remodelled c.1845, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, two chimneys near ends; dentillated cornice returns across gables, molded window frames, dentillated caps on gable windows; recessed entrance has sidelights, fluted frame with corner blocks, portico with dentillated cornice, fluted columns, pediment-shaped roof. Interior has plain fireplaces typical of early 19th century. Figure 17.
28. 659 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, L-shaped plan, gable end to street, clapboards, flush-boarding in gable, plain pilasters, full cornice return, triangular gable window, doorway with fluted pilasters, transom, sidelights, flat-roofed portico on fluted columns. Barn to rear. Figure 17.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 13

29. 663 Main, c.1800 (?), small 1½ story building, 3-bay main (east) facade, twelve-over-twelve sash, splayed wooden cap over central entrance. Figure 18.
30. 667 Main, c.1850, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, irregular plan, gable end to street, full cornice return, entrance (in ell) has plain pilasters; porch across ell supported on Victorian bay window with brackets, saw-tooth applique.
31. 669 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; brick, 2½ stories, gable end to street, brownstone lintels, partial cornice return, dentils carried up rake, doorway has plain frame. Victorian porch on west side, frame ell to east.
32. 673 Main, c. 1830, very plain but with simple corner-block trim around door; 2 stories, gable end to street, clapboarded, open porch with scroll-cut brackets, turned posts.
33. 677 Main, 1809, plain; 1½ stories, gable end to street, doorway with molded frame and simple cornice, open porch with turned posts, pierced brackets.
34. 681 Main, c.1800, plain; 1½ stories, 5-bay facade, central sidelighted entrance, small Victorian porch over entrance, 2 peaked dormers.
35. 687 Main, SHADOW LAWN (Harry Kibbe House), 1894; 2½ stories, hipped roof, Colonial Revival; dentillated cornice, slate roof, wood-shingle siding; asymmetric 4-bay facade with bay window. Interior has sunk panelling, Colonial Revival mantels. Large carriagehouse nearby has peaked dormers, cupola, slate roof; inside, matched-board interior, 3 horse stalls with cast iron hay chutes and mangers. Slate roof well house and privy. Figures 19, 21.
36. 708 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, partial cornice return, clapboarded, doorway with molded frame, simple pediment-shaped cap. Outbuildings include two large barns and an ice house, all with cupolas, two other barns, 3 sheds and a small cottage. Figure 20.
37. 704 Main, c.1930, Bungalow; 1½ stories, roof sweeping over partially enclosed porch, exposed rafter ends, clapboarded with shingles in gables, central dormer.
38. 666 Main, DEAC. CHARLES MORGAN HOUSE, 1810, Federal; 2½ stories, gable end to street, full cornice return, fan louver in gable, alum. sided; doorway has pilasters with entasis, entablature with rope-turn molding below frieze; two barns, one with a transom over the large door.
39. 650 Main, 1927 Bungalow; 1½ stories, roof with shed dormer sweeping over enclosed porch, brackets along rakes, exposed molded rafter ends, cement block underpinning. Figure 16.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 14

40. 646 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, granite foundation, full cornice return, alum. siding; sidelighted entrance has pilasters and lintel, now sided over. Old barn to rear. Figure 16.
41. 626 Main, c.1890, 2½ stories, irregular plan, brick foundation, clapboarded with wood shingles in gables, porch across two sides with turned posts, scroll-sawn brackets.
42. 620 Main, c.1870, 2½ story duplex, plain; brick underpinning, 5-bay facade with double-door entranceway, small chimneys near ends; wide overhang of roof.
43. 604 Main, METHODIST CHURCH, 1834, Federal; 1½ stories, gable end to street, clapboarded with flush-boarded gable, fan in gable; small square tower similar to original; windows on sides are round-headed with fans in heads; moved twice from other locations nearby; now used as library. Figure 13.
44. 596 Main, 1746, 2½ stories, lean-to, large central brick chimney, 5-bay facade, old nine-over-nine sash, molded window caps, dentillated cornice, modern pedimented entrance, beaded clapboards modelled on originals. Figure 11.
45. 588 Main, WOODWARD HOUSE, 1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, L-shaped plan, granite foundation; full cornice return; entrance in ell; cornice and pilasters obscured by aluminum siding. Figure 11.
46. 574 Main, SOMERS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1896; 1½ stories, Eclectic; hipped roof, square tower with open arcaded belfry, copper turret; large bay window in front, smaller ones on sides, some bull's-eye and some stained-glass panes; large portico on smooth columns with dentillated cornice, fanlight in pediment. Wood-shingled exterior. Figure 7.
47. 568 Main Street, 1809, Federal; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade but with the gable end to the street; full cornice return with modillions, triglyphs on frieze, similar entablature on window caps and entrance portico; three-part window with panelled pilasters over central entrance; fanlight in gable with applied swags below; peaked-roof portico supported on fluted columns. Two barns to rear. Figure 5.
48. 564 Main, 1795; 2½ stories, 5-bay facade, considerably altered: small chimney, roof with large overhang, modern windows, upper-story center window removed, modern entrance treatment with pilasters and fan.
49. 554 Main, c.1930, Bungalow; 1½ stories, shed dormer, enclosed porch, small pane windows, clapboarded, exposed rafter ends, brackets along rakes.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 15

50. 546 Main, c.1840, Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, but entrance centered on east facade; full cornice return, trabeated gable window; entranceway has plain pilasters, transom, sidelights; alum. siding.
51. 536 Main, c.1820 (?), very plain; 2½ stories, gable facing street but entrance on east side, full cornice return, irregular east facade with open porch across it. Nearby barn has elaborate Federal doorway salvaged from some house.
52. 530 Main, c.1800, plain; 1½ stories, 5-bay facade with central entrance, asbestos siding, 2 dormers, modern windows, small entrance porch.
53. 524 Main, c.1840 (?), very plain but probably originally Greek Revival; 2½ stories, gable end to street, partial cornice return, alum. siding; no other details.
54. 496 Main, c.1840 (?), appears plain Greek Revival; ridge parallel to road, 1½ stories, 3-bay facade with fascia windows, central doorway with strong cornice; wood-shingled exterior; doorway formerly had plain pilasters.
70. 619 Main, KIBBE-FULLER SCHOOL, 1930, Colonial Revival; brick, 1-story, gable roof hidden by parapet, brick quoins, dentillated cornice, splayed lintels, cupola, entrance pavilion with balcony, window with fan in head above door. Figure 14.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 16

Structures which do not contribute to the historical character of the district:

55. 507 Main, 1957 brick ranch, set far back from road.
56. 515 Main, 1940 "Cape."
57. 527 Main, 1930, plain 2½-story frame house, gable roof, L-shaped plan, cement block foundation.
58. 531 Main, 1920, plain 2½-story gable-roofed house, cement block foundation, wood shingles in gable, plain entrance porch. **Extensive 1958 wing to rear.**
59. 541 Main, 1920, first story concrete, second, frame; plain.
60. 555 Main, 1941 "Cape."
61. 557 Main, 1973 "Cape."
62. 3 Bugbee Lane, 1966 wood shingled "Cape."
63. 21 Springfield Road, 1948 "Cape."
64. 25 Springfield Road, 1948 "Cape."
65. 36 Springfield Road, 1950 ranch.
66. 28 Springfield Road, 1940 "Cape."
67. 20 Springfield Road, 1938 2½ story Colonial Revival, portico.
68. 597 Main, CBT, 1-story grey brick Colonial bank, cupola, 1973.
69. 599 (Rear) Main, Congregational Parish House, 2 story Colonial with portico over entrance, 1958.
71. 625-631 Main, 1954 1-story brick row of stores.
72. 637 Main, NEW ENGLAND BANK & TRUST, 1½-story Colonial brick bank, 1976.
73. 641 Main, SOMERS FOOD CENTER, small cinderblock and brick supermarket, 1958.
74. 686 Main, 1964 2-story Colonial Reproduction, 5-bay facade, sidelighted center entrance with double doors.
75. 640 Main, 1941 "Cape."
76. 632 Main, 1932 2½-story Colonial.
77. 616 Main, 1938 1½-story house with very steeply pitched roof.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 17

- 
78. 612 Main, 1-story brick shopping plaza, extends back from street, Colonial, with cupola, 1964. Figure 13.
  79. 600 Main, TOWN HALL, 1-story brick office building, modern Colonial, 1950.
  80. 598 Main, 1963 small frame shop, set back from street.
  81. 580 Main, 1958 gas station on corner.
  82. 576 Main, 1935 plain 1½-story house, cement block foundation, asb. siding.
  83. 558 Main, 1950 ranch.
  84. 550 Main, 1930 "Cape."
  85. 542 Main, 1950 brick cape.
  86. 508 Main, 1958 ranch.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Settlement patterns
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES N/A

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Somers National Register District is an area of both local historical and architectural significance. The historical development of this part of Somers, which served as the religious, political, and commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area, is reflected in the buildings along Main Street and nearby roads (Criterion A). The buildings also illustrate several chapters in American architectural history (Criterion C). There are several buildings of individual significance, and many others which taken together, form groups of well-preserved examples of particular historical styles, especially vernacular Federal and Greek Revival designs. The number of brick houses is also an unusual feature of the district which adds to its distinctive character.

The 18th-century houses in their present state are not of the same level of architectural significance as the later houses (though in most cases appropriate restorative changes have not been pre-empted). Nevertheless, they add to the district because they show the continuity of settlement there from the middle of the 18th century. They also are of importance in showing how the traditional five-bay form was first adapted in later periods, and then abandoned in favor of the gable-end-to-the-street orientation which predominated in the Federal and Greek Revival periods.

The district's many Federal-period buildings are important because they are in general well-preserved and representative examples of rural architecture of the period. Moreover, the buildings range from rather plain brick and frame houses, with only a pilastered doorframe or a semi-elliptical gable light as elaboration (figure 15 and 18), to the more richly detailed houses such as #'s 6 and 47 (Figures 4 and 5). The swags, mutules, dentils, thin pilasters and fanlights are all elements which typify the Federal-period aesthetic of light, free adaptation of Classical precedents. Also of note are two types of window and door treatment begun in this period and carried over in later years. One is the use of molded boards and corner blocks to form an architrave around the opening. This motif is found in the elaborate Pease house (Figure 4), in the very plain #32 where it is the only clue to the date of the house, and in the interior woodwork of #13. The other distinctive motif is the use of molded pilasters (Figure 15), with grooves of alternating concave and convex sections. Somewhat resembling fluting, this type of pilaster is found in doorways which are Federal in proportion as well as in heavier Greek Revival entrances (Figures 21, 22 and 54). The repetition of these motifs in several houses gives the district an architectural unity that adds to the individual merits of the buildings.

The heavier proportions of the Greek Revival style are well represented in the bold dentillation of the brick houses (Figure 6), the wide entablature of the Woods house (Figure 7), and the portico of the Somers Inn (Figure 8). Other

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Billings, Erastus. "Somers, Connecticut, Its History." Tolland County Press, April 5, 12, & 19, 1877.

Cole, J.R. History of Tolland County, Connecticut. New York: W.W. Preston, 1888.

Davis, Fred C. and Richard W. Somers: The History of a Connecticut Town. Ellington: K & R Press, 1973.

Somers, Connecticut, Thru the Camera's Eye. Somers: Somers Historical Society, 1978.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 100

QUADRANGLE NAME Ellington

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1 : 24 000

UTM REFERENCES see cont. sheet

A 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C 

--	--	--

D 

--	--	--

E 

--	--	--

F 

--	--	--

G 

--	--	--

H 

--	--	--

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 19 as shown on Somers Assessor's Map 25, the district boundary runs southerly along the eastern line of that lot and crosses Main Street in a straight line. It follows the southern edge of Main Street

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Clouette, Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

May 25, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Propsect Street

TELEPHONE

(203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   X  

LOCAL   

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

August 11, 1982

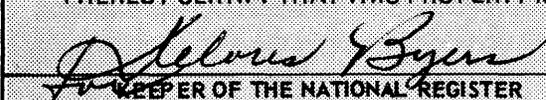
FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the National Register

DATE

9/23/82

  
DELORES BYERS  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 18

representative Greek Revival features found throughout the district include wide panelled corner pilasters (#'s 4, 5, 28, 45), free-standing flat-roofed porticos, one with cresting (Figures 8 and 17), and the use of thick pilasters and heavy entablatures to form window and door frames. A variety of economic levels is represented, from cottage-like 1½-story houses with only a Greek door treatment to 2½-story houses complete with entrance porticos, pilasters, flush-boarded gables and full cornice return.

The Congregational Church (Figure 12) is the largest and one of the most significant of the Greek Revival buildings. For good reason, it is rather typical of churches of the period: the building committee directed the architect, Daniel Colton of nearby Longmeadow, Massachusetts, to copy the columns of the East Hartford meetinghouse and the tower of South Cornwall's. The records of the church reveal that the question of whether to have two tiers of side windows in the traditional manner, or one tier of long windows was undecided even as the walls were being raised. Apparently a middle course was taken, as there is presently one row of long openings fitted with two tiers of windows.

Brick was used very little in Connecticut during the 18th century, but it became quite common in the first part of the 19th century, especially in combination with the brownish-red sandstone used throughout the district for lintels and foundation facing stones. Clay for brickmaking is widely distributed in the Connecticut River Valley, as is the stone, though the best-known brownstone quarries are further south in Portland. There are numerous brick early 19th-century houses on both sides of the River, but in its number and concentration, Somers is outstanding. It is interesting to note that the use of brick as a material did not influence the design of buildings much until the Greek Revival, when bold dentils could be done in brickwork (Figure 6). About a quarter of the Federal and Greek Revival buildings are brick, and this proportion is one of the characteristics that make Somers's streets different from those of other towns.

Among the later buildings, the Warren Kibbe cottage (Figure 9) is significant as an excellent example of early Gothic Revival or Carpenter Gothic.<sup>1</sup> It has the typical features of the style: board-and-batten walls, narrow paired windows, steep gable roof, and an overall verticality. Equally important is the barn of the Pease House (Figure 6), which has delicate bargeboard and a pendant in the peak, two other types of picturesque ornament favored in that style. Shadow Lawn (Figure 19) is also of individual merit. Built in 1894 for the son of the town's richest man (though he never lived in it!), the house's extensive interior woodwork in the Neo-Colonial manner (Figure 21) illustrates the refined domestic setting available even in small towns like Somers. The slate-roofed outbuildings, particularly the stables, further exemplify an upperclass life-style. At the opposite end of the homeownership spectrum are the four Bungalows (Figure 16), significant in that they are little altered and represent the dominant small house design of the early 20th century. In both form and materials (like the

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 19

pressed cement-block underpinning), these four are representative of a distinct building type.

Because of the number and location of noncontributing structures, the district does not present a continuous streetscape of historic buildings. Nevertheless, within each of the three clusters there is a coherent visual environment created by the concentration of old buildings. For example, the group just west of the main intersection includes the landmark Somers Inn, two brick Greek Revival houses in excellent condition, and two of the most finely-detailed Federal buildings (Figure 4 though 8). Taken together, these buildings recreate in part a typical early 19th-century street, one that is at the same time unique to Somers.

Less tangible than their architectural details are the historical associations which make these buildings important cultural resources. The broad economic development which made this area the town center, as well as the daily life of the place, are illuminated by the physical remains of history, of which these buildings are a major part. These houses, churches and other buildings are the structure upon which the fabric of local history is applied. They provide a frame of reference for remembering the persons and events of Somers' past.

The base of Somers' economy was agriculture: first the general farming of the 18th century and then the more specialized fruit-growing, tobacco, and dairy enterprises of the 19th century. The town's agricultural past is well-represented by the extensive group of farm buildings (Figure 20) at the eastern end of the district and the large barns with #38. Even in the center of town there is evidence of at least part-time farming, with several good-sized barns noted in the inventory. Manufacturing was almost non-existent in this part of town, though Charles Morgan, who lived in #38, had a blacksmith shop across the street and Ebenezer Clark manufactured straw bonnets near his house (#25) from about 1824, using as patterns the palm-leaf bonnets of the nearby Enfield Shakers.

In the 19th century the area embraced by the district developed as a commercial center. Its position at the intersection of two major thoroughfares made it a convenient central place. Formerly there were several Greek Revival stores clustered around the intersection, but today only the Somers Inn and the adjacent building (Figure 8) remain as evidence of the place's long history as a center of business. However, the Inn still operates as an inn, and the building next door, formerly a general store and post office, is a craft workshop, so these two buildings continue to fulfill their historic functions.

This area also became the political and religious center of the town. The location of the Congregational meetinghouse there in 1842 (the previous meetinghouse stood further north beyond the district's northern boundary) confirmed the area as the center of town: both the services of the predominant religion and town meetings were held in the church. The 19th century was a time of religious diversity, however, as shown by the small Methodist church, now

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 20

the library, which formerly stood just south of the intersection. Somers Street, as it was called in the 19th century, also had a Presbyterian Church, later sold to the Spiritualists. The location of the public library in 1896 and the consolidated school in 1930 continued the recognition of the area as the town center, a long-term historical development based upon its commercial, religious and political predominance.

The residences in the district are also associated with these activities. Many of the houses were occupied by persons whose business or profession linked them to the town center. Warren Kibbe, who ran the Somers Inn and at one time the adjacent store, built the Gothic Revival cottage on Springfield Road (Figure 9). Other houses in the center were owned or occupied by the merchant L.E. Pease (Figure 4), two doctors (#'s 27 and 47), a sawmill owner (#45), the religious leaders of the Congregational and Spiritualist societies (#'s 12 and 15), and Mary Chapin Pease, who ran a "Select School" in her home (#20) and later became head of Mount Holyoke Seminary, now Mount Holyoke College. The richest man in Somers was Henry Root Kibbe (1825-1909) who returned to town after making a fortune in the notions business in Philadelphia. His mansion is no longer standing, but the large Colonial Revival house he built for his son, now called Shadow Lawn, (Figure 19), indicates something of the wealth and lifestyle of this prominent Somers family. In contrast, the small plain house, #33, was occupied by John Bond, a stage driver. Some elaborate and some modest, these houses help to bring to life the men and women whose everyday actions make up the history and heritage of the town.

---

<sup>1</sup>Alma and Deidre McArdle, Carpenter Gothic (New York, 1978), p. 86.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 21

UTM References:

- A: 18/712260/4651150
- B: 18/712260/4651060
- C: 18/712520/4651030
- D: 18/712480/4650800
- E: 18/712220/4650880
- F: 18/711890/4650870
- G: 18/711820/4650820
- H: 18/711820/4651060
- I: 18/711410/4651000
- J: 18/711360/4651020
- K: 18/711380/4650940
- L: 18/711040/4650880
- M: 18/710800/4650840
- N: 18/710760/4650800
- O: 18/710730/4650870
- P: 18/710730/4650920
- Q: 18/710800/4650940
- R: 18/710790/4651000
- S: 18/710980/4651040
- T: 18/710990/4651090
- U: 18/711070/4651110
- V: 18/711070/4651070
- W: 18/711260/4651100
- X: 18/711340/4651190
- Y: 18/711340/4651300
- Z: 18/711300/4651340
- AA: 18/711270/4651530
- BB: 18/711500/4651540
- CC: 18/711520/4651270
- DD: 18/711610/4651270
- EE: 18/711610/4651330
- FF: 18/711810/4651330
- GG: 18/711840/4651270
- HH: 18/711780/4651210
- II: 18/711900/4651140

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Somers Historic District  
Somers, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 22

### Verbal Boundary Description (continued):

easterly to the northeast corner of Lot 68, Map 5. It runs southerly along the eastern boundary of that lot for 685' and then runs westerly along the (stream) line shown on Map 25 to the southwest corner of Lot 3, Map 25. From there it runs in a straight line to the southeast corner of Lot 6. It follows the line of Lot 6 westerly, northerly, and then westerly again, crossing Kibbie Drive to the southeast corner of Lot 40, Map 24. It runs along the rear or south property lines of Lots 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 and then crosses through Lot 45 to the southeast corner of Lot 46. It continues along the rear property lines of Lots 46, 47, and 49 and then crosses South Road in a straight line. It runs southerly along the western edge of South Road to the southeast corner of Lot 11. It follows the lines of Lots 11 and 13 westerly, and then turns and runs southerly along the line of Lot 14 a distance of 250'. It then runs in a straight line to the corner of Lot 20 which is about 340' back from Main Street. It follows the line of this lot westerly 225', then northwesterly about 125', turning and running westerly in a line with the boundary of Lot 58, Map 5, to the southeast corner of Lot 21, Map 24. It then runs along the rear property lines of Lots 21 and 22, Map 24, and then runs across Lot 59, Map 5, in a straight line from the southwest corner of Lot 22, Map 24, to the southeast corner of Lot 1, Map 23, a point which is 129' back from Main Street. The district boundary then follows the line of Lot 1 southwestly and then northerly, crossing Main Street to the southwest corner of Lot 19, Map 23. It follows the line of Lot 19 northerly and then easterly, and then runs along the western boundary of Lot 20 to a point 390' back from Main Street. From there it runs to the northwest corner of Lot 22. It then follows easterly along the rear lines of Lots 23, 25, 26, 27, and 29, Map 24. It crosses Maple Ridge Road to the northwest corner of Lot 31, Map 24, and continues easterly along the rear lines of Lots 31, Map 24, and 61, 62, and 64, Map 24, to the southwest corner of Lot 65. It then runs northerly along the western boundaries of Lots 65, 77 (having crossed Bugbee Lane), 78, 79, 80 and 81, Map 29, and then runs easterly along the northern line of Lot 81, crosses Springfield Road, and continues easterly along the northern boundary of Lot 90. It then runs southerly along the rear or eastern property lines of Lots 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96. It turns easterly and runs along the northern boundary of Lots 100, 103 and 104. It then runs southerly along the eastern line of Lot 104, then easterly along the northern line of Lot 1, Map 30, to Battle Street. It runs southwestly along the northwest edge of Battle Street, then crosses and continues easterly in a straight line with and along the northern boundary of Lot 107, Map 29. It follows easterly along the northern property lines of Lot 109, Map 29, and Lots 5A and 6, Map 30. It runs across Lots 7 and 8, Map 30, to the northwest corner of Lot 12, Map 25. It then follows easterly along the rear or northern boundaries of Lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 to the first point.