



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Monroe Center Historic District in Fairfield County, Connecticut, reference number 77001392, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 08/19/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7440. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

1/26/2009
Date

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Monroe Center Historic District
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER See Continuation Sheet 1
CITY, TOWN Monroe VICINITY OF Fifth
STATE Connecticut CONF. CODE 09 COUNTY Fairfield CODE 001
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership - See Continuation Sheets
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Monroe Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER Fan Hill Road

CITY, TOWN Monroe STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut State Register of Historic Places

DATE 1969 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE 2

2. LOCATION - Monroe Center Historic District, Monroe, Connecticut
Street & Number: 724-846 Monroe Turnpike, 11-110 Church Street,
19-75 Fan Hill Road, 614-630 Moose Hill Road, 285-337 Wheeler
Road, 51 and 69 Shelton Road, and 158-172 Old Tannery Road and
House at NW corner of Old Tannery Road and Wheeler Road; Carcass Road,
Church Street to Monroe Turnpike; Shelton Road, Monroe Turnpike to Old
Tannery Road.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 3

BUILDINGS IN MONROE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Address
2. Name
3. Present Use
4. Architectural Style
5. Date Built
6. Importance to District
7. Comment

CHURCH STREET

1. 11
2. Joseph S. Joice Home
3. Residence
4. Greek Revival
5. c. 1845
6. Moderate
7. -

1. 16
2. -
3. Residence
4. Frame Farmhouse
5. Early 20th c.
6. Minor
7. Altered

1. Corner Monroe Tpke.
2. Beardslay Hall
3. Religious
4. One Story Frame
5. 1807
6. Minor
7. In 1935 the Monroe Center School-house attached at n.; 1950's addition.

1. Monroe
2. Monroe Congregational Church
3. Religious
4. Gothic Revival
5. 1847
6. Moderate
7. -

1. -
2. Rexford House
3. Religious
4. "Modern Colonial"
5. 1968
6. Minor
7. -

1. 38
2. John Peck Home
3. Residence
4. Federal Farmhouse
5. c. 1810
6. Moderate
7. -

1. 82
2. -
3. Residence
4. Ranch
5. Mid 20th
6. Minor
7. -

1. 94
2. -
3. Residence
4. Ranch
5. Mid 20th
6. Minor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 4

- 1. 110
- 2. Henry Lewis Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Federal
- 5. Early 19th
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Altered and additions, 20th

FAN HILL ROAD

- 1. 19
- 2. Masonic Temple
- 3. Ins.
- 4. Georgian Rev.
- 5. 1904
- 6. Moderate
- 7. -

- 1. -
- 2. Town Hall and Library
- 3. Govt'l
- 4. Neo-Colonial Rev.
- 5. 1972
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 21
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. c. 1924
- 6. Minor
- 7. Site of Henry Lewis Home, which
burnt, old barns

- 1. 29
- 2. Samuel Wheeler Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Federal
- 5. 1802
- 6. Moderate
- 7. -

- 1. 32
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Ranch
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 37
- 2. Ezekiel Lewis Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Federal
- 5. 1800
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Early 20th ell and porch

- 1. 44
- 2. Wheeler Judson Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Federal
- 5. 1807
- 6. Moderate
- 7. -

- 1. -
- 2. Transformer of CT Light & Power
- 3. Industrial
- 4. -
- 5. mid 20th
- 6. Intrusion
- 7. -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

2

PAGE

5

- 1. 47
- 2. Levi Judson Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Federal
- 5. c. 1815
- 6. Moderate
- 7. -

- 1. 52
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Ranch
- 5. mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 62
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. 20th c.
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 63
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. 20th c. Saltbox
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 66
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. 1 Story Cottage
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 75
- 2. Rev. Elisha Rexford Barn
- 3. Residence
- 4. Barn
- 5. 1790
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Converted to house in 20th

MOOSE HILL ROAD

- 1. 614
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Neo-Colonial Rev.
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 622
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. -
- 2. Flowerfield
- 3. Commercial
- 4. Functional
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 630
- 2. William A. Clerk Barn
- 3. Residence
- 4. Barn
- 5. 1855
- 6. Minor
- 7. Converted to residence in 1940's

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 6

1. Facing Green
2. St. Peter's Episcopal Church
3. Religious
4. Federal
5. 1802-1807
6. Great
7. Raised 1936, addition 1950's

OLD TANNERY ROAD

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 172 (facing Green) | 1. e. of St. Peter's Church |
| 2. Isaac Moss House and Old Center Gen. Store | 2. Ezra Curtiss Home (Rectory) |
| 3. Residence | 3. Residence |
| 4. Georgian | 4. Federal |
| 5. 1785 | 5. c. 1795 |
| 6. Moderate | 6. Moderate |
| 7. The 2 buildings were combined in 1896 | 7. Greek Revival and late 19th c. additions |

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. 158 | 1. 159 |
| 2. - | 2. Heber Smith Home |
| 3. Residence | 3. Residence |
| 4. Farmhouse | 4. Federal |
| 5. 20th | 5. 1789 |
| 6. Minor | 6. Moderate |
| 7. - | 7. Mid. 19th c. wing, late 19th c. porch |

1. corner Wheeler Rd.
2. Hezekiah Bailey House
3. Muccum
4. Federal
5. c. 1801
6. Moderate
7. -

WHEELER ROAD

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. 285 | 1. 288 |
| 2. - | 2. - |
| 3. Residence | 3. Residence |
| 4. Bungalow | 4. 2-Story Frame |
| 5. 20th | 5. c. 1900 |
| 6. Minor | 6. Minor |
| 7. - | 7. - |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 7

- 1. 296
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Bungalow
- 5. c. 1926
- 6. Minor
- 7. Site of Isaac Botsford Home (1783)

- 1. 299
- 2. Robert Lewis Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. 18th c. Saltbox
- 5. Pre 1775
- 6. Great
- 7.

- 1. -
- 2. East Village Schoolhouse
- 3. Museum
- 4. Federal
- 5. c. 1790
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Moved here in 1970's

- 1. 320
- 2. Ichabod-Enoch Lewis Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. 18th c. Saltbox
- 5. c. 1750
- 6. Great
- 7. -

- 1. 321
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Ranch
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 331
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. Site of Moss-Adams Home. pre 1769

- 1. 337
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Neo-Colonial Rev.
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

SHELTON ROAD

- 1. 51
- 2. -
- 3. Commercial
- 4. Neo-Colonial Rev.
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 69
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Farmhouse
- 5. 19th c.
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 8

MONROE TURNPIKE

- 1. 845
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Farmhouse
- 5. 1830
- 6. Minor
- 7. Altered and Additions, 20th

- 1. 840
- 2. 2nd Nathan N. Wheeler House
- 3. Residence
- 4. 19th c. Farmhouse
- 5. c. 1840
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Altered, 20th

- 1. 835
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Neo-Colonial
- 5. mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. South of 840
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Split-Level Ranch
- 5. Mid 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 816
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Frame Cottage
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 810
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 800
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. Cape Cod
- 5. 20th
- 6. Minor
- 7. -

- 1. 783
- 2. wing of 1st Nathan N. Wheeler Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Farmhouse
- 5. 19th
- 6. Minor
- 7. Moved 1930's

- 1. Behind 777 and 783
- 2. Old Masonic Temple
- 3. Vacant
- 4. Federal
- 5. 1799
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Moved c. 1900

- 1. 777
- 2. 1st Nathan N. Wheeler Home
- 3. Residence
- 4. Late Federal
- 5. 1828
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Late 19th c. Porch

- 1. 772
- 2. -
- 3. Residence
- 4. 20th c. Dutch Colonial Rev.
- 5. 1950's
- 6. Minor
- 7. Site of Capt. Joseph Moss Home

- 1. 758
- 2. John Clarke Home
- 3. Residence & Prof. Office
- 4. Greek Revival
- 5. 1837
- 6. Moderate
- 7. Site of 18th c. store of Moss

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE INITIATED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 9

1. 754
2. Cyrus H. Beardslee Home
3. Residence
4. Brick Federal
5. Early 19th
6. Great
7. -

1. 733
2. -
3. Residence
4. Tudor Rev. Cottage
5. 20th
6. Minor
7. -

1. 724
 2. Beach House
 3. Residence
 4. Late Federal
 5. c. 1830
 6. Moderate
 7. -
-
1. -
 2. St. Jude Parish Center
 3. Religious
 4. Contemporary
 5. Mid 20th
 6. Intrusion

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Monroe Center Historic District is located in the highest section of the Town of Monroe. The topography is rugged and winding roads following natural contours radiate from the central green. The district is centered about the Monroe Center Green, a triangular open space. Structural development is not dense, but rather the district is characterized by scattered buildings on large, informally landscaped grounds. Most buildings are located near roads and the land away from the roads is largely undeveloped.

The district's boundaries coincide with those of a locally legislated historic district except for the addition of the town hall-library and a small parcel of land north of the house at 320 Wheeler Road. This house, a good example of mid-18th century Connecticut vernacular domestic architecture, is the oldest building in the district. The district includes the entire historic village center. Its southern boundary is clearly defined by State Route 110, a 20th century road. Other boundaries are determined by the last 18th or 19th century house which is within the area of today's village. Outside of the district boundary are suburban housing developments erected on land which earlier had been open fields.

Approximately 60 principle buildings and a number of barns, garages, and other outbuildings are located in the district. About one half of these buildings were erected before 1900. Two are two-story houses with central chimneys and rear lean-to which were built between 1750 and 1775 (320 and 299 Wheeler Road). Eight other buildings were erected in or before 1800. One of these is a barn now converted into a residence (75 Fan Hill Road). Fifteen existing buildings date from the period 1800-1850. Only three buildings in the district were erected during the second half of the 19th century.

A typical building in the district is a free-standing frame house. It has either painted white clapboard or unpainted shingle siding. It is a one or two story rectangular building with a gable roof. It is either three or five bays wide and may have a side or rear wing. It is set back from the road about 30 to 50 feet in a spacious informally landscaped yard and shaded by large trees. Often a picket or stone fence defines its property line. Its fenestration is regular and its proportions are typical of late 18th and early 19th century American architecture. Even many of the 20th century houses in the district fit this description of a typical building since most are restrained designs in one of a variety of Colonial Revival styles.

Most buildings in Monroe Center are conservative vernacular design which are distinguished by their fine workmanship and simple dignity. Most have little applied exterior decoration. Several Federal Period houses do have notable exterior detailing such as the bonnet hood over the entrance to 47 Fan Hill Road and the columnar porches of 29 Fan Hill Road and of the distinguished brick house facing the green (754 Monroe Turnpike). While the district does not contain any examples of exuberant late 19th century architecture, several houses do have picturesque porches added during the late 19th century.

The green is bordered on three sides by some of the larger and most architecturally interesting buildings in the district. The three large houses on the east side are fine examples of Greek Revival, Federal Period,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION - Monroe Center Historic District, Monroe, Connecticut

and late 18th century domestic architecture. St. Peter's Church at the south is a fine Federal Period church with notable exterior woodwork and a graceful belfry. Its design is attributed to David Hoadley. The nearby Masonic Lodge erected in 1904 has an impressive columnar portico. The Congregational Church built in 1847 at the north side of the green is a good example of the vernacular early Gothic Revival style with buttressed tower. Unfortunately the brick Neo-Georgian style town hall-library complex built in 1972 on the west side of the green is set too far back from the road and has too horizontal massing to be an effective visual enclosure for this side of the green.

Since there are only two jarring intrusions in the district - the transformer of the Connecticut Light and Power Company and St. Jude Parish Center (a large, boxy 20th century structure) - the ratio of intrusions to buildings in the district is only 1:30. Fortunately, both intrusions are landscaped so that their visual impact from the road is minimal.

Current uses in the district are predominately residential, except for governmental and religious buildings on three sides of the green. The nursery on Moose Hill Road and the real estate office on Shelton Road do not intrude on the overall residential character. The only industrial structure, the electricity transformer, is hidden.

Earlier uses were more varied. For instance, the southwest wing of the house at 172 Old Tannery Road was a general store and post office from the late 18th century to the 1940's. (This wing was originally a freestanding building which was attached to the Isaac Moss House in 1896). A carriage shop and blacksmith business was at 44 Fan Hill Road and a hatter's shop, in 1846, at 11 Church Street. The early taverns and tannery no longer stand. Several homes have houses, schools or academies. Recently the East Village Schoolhouse built about 1790 was moved into the district. This building has been restored and functions as a museum.

There are a few unfortunate 20th century additions and alterations, but in general buildings are restored, little altered, have compatible additions, or are compatible 20th century structures. All structures are occupied and excellently maintained. A number of older buildings were destroyed when the town hall-library complex was erected in 1972. There is considerable preservation interest in the community. Local historic district legislation has been in effect since 1969. Interesting examples of adaptive use include two barns which have been converted into residences.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area which is now the Monroe Center Historic District was the nucleus of Monroe even before the town was established in 1823. Since 1764 when the New Stratford meetinghouse was erected on what is now the northern part of the green, this hamlet has been the governmental and residential center of the surrounding area. Between 1784 and 1823 it was one of the dual centers of the town of Huntington. The green on June 30, 1781, was the site of a locally important Revolutionary War event.

The Monroe Center Historic District is important in urban history since it retains its 18th century New England town plan consisting of a central green and radiating irregularly laid out streets following natural contours. Architecturally the district is significant since it has well-preserved vernacular buildings dating from about 1750 to the present. It has several Federal period buildings of architectural distinction. The two intrusive structures are hidden by landscape features and most 20th century buildings are restrained designs which are compatible with the earlier architecture. The district has the ambiance of an undisturbed, pre-Civil War New England village.

Although the town of Stratford in 1671 purchased from the Paugusset Indians claims to the area which is now the town of Monroe, the first settlers did not come to the region until the first decades of the 18th century. Settlement was gradual; not until May, 1762 did the region have sufficient inhabitants to merit its own ecclesiastical society. "Bushy Ring," the current green, was chosen to be the site of the first meetinghouse and the center of the community. Here was the highest point of land in the parish and a crossroads.

The first meetinghouse, which has been replaced, was erected about 1764. The open land to its south (now the Monroe Center Green) became the local meeting place although then the land was privately owned. It was called "the place of parade" since it was a drilling place for soldiers.

A number of buildings had already been erected in the vicinity before the meetinghouse was built. One of these, the Ichobod-Enoch Lewis House at 320 Wheeler Road, still stands. It is a good example of an 18th century vernacular Connecticut house of the two-story, central chimney type with rear lean-to. The nearby house at 299 Wheeler Road is another similar example of unadorned Georgian domestic architecture. This house was the home of Robert Lewis, a Monroe patriot who served as a Revolutionary War soldier and gave his life for the cause.

The hamlet was the location of a festive Revolutionary War event. On June 30, 1781, six hundred of Rochambeau's troops under the command of

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE - Monroe Center Historic District, Monroe, Connecticut

General Duc de Lauzan camped on the sloping meadow just southeast of the village green. That night a dance was held on the green for local residents and the foreign soldiers.

After the Revolutionary War the village entered a period of considerable growth. In April, 1784 the green was formally established when Captain Joseph Moss and Innkeeper Nehemiah de Forest gave part of their homelots to the parish of New Stratford. New Stratford and the neighboring parish of Ripton were separated from Stratford in 1789. They became the township of Huntington with dual centers. In the 1800's the Monroe and Zoar Bridge Turnpike was laid out. It passed on the east side of the Monroe Center Green and survives as state Route 111.

During the Federal Period a number of fine examples of vernacular architecture were erected in the Monroe Historic District. Several of these buildings are very conservative designs which have closer kinship to local pre-Revolutionary War Georgian architecture than to sophisticated Adam style American architecture. For instance, the Isaac Moss House built in 1785 facing the Green is an unadorned two-story, central chimney frame house which is very similar, except it does not have a lean-to, to the two Lewis Houses on Wheeler Road. The Hecokiah Bailey House, a one-story, central chimney house built about 1801, is another Federal Period house with characteristics of earlier architecture. More typical of fine Adam Style provincial architecture are the Samuel Wheeler House at 29 Fan Hill Road and the Cyrus Beardslee House facing the Green. Both have columnar porches with arched ceiling. The Beardslee House is distinguished by the high quality of its design and by its red brick walls. It is one of the few brick buildings in this district largely composed of frame houses. St. Peter's Episcopal Church erected from 1802-1807 has been attributed by J. Frederick Kelly to David Hoadley, a self-taught Connecticut architect. The rectangular church with integral tower supporting an open octagonal belfry has a Palladian window above its frontispiece main doorway. Although altered, it remains an important example of Federal Period ecclesiastical architecture in Connecticut.

In 1823 the parish of New Stratford became a separate township and was named Monroe in honor of President James Monroe. The village which had grown up around the meetinghouse became Monroe Center.

Local builders were conservative and no Greek Revival temple-form houses or even Greek Revival houses with columnar porches are found in Monroe Center. Instead pre-1850 houses are distinguished by their quality of workmanship, their pleasing proportions, and their dignified simplicity of design.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8, 9 PAGE

8. SIGNIFICANCE - Monroe Center Historic District, Monroe, Connecticut

In 1847 the Green was enlarged to the north when the existing Early Gothic Revival style Congregational church was built on a site north of the earlier meetinghouse. Roads were rearranged so that that went around the green, rather than through it.

Monroe Center was a sleepy, small village during the second half of the 19th century. Only three buildings in the district were erected during these years. The hamlet's only example of exuberant eclectic late 19th century architecture, the Town Hall built in 1897, was demolished for the new town hall-library complex built in 1972. However, a number of houses have wings and porches dating from the late 19th century.

The 20th century brought growth to Monroe Center. It became a residential community for the surrounding area. Fortunately commercial development was focused south of the nucleus of the historic hamlet, which became increasingly residential. Earlier buildings which have houses stores, shops, or animals were converted to residential uses. Many new houses have been erected in the 20th century, but most of these are unobtrusive designs in varying Colonial Revival styles. Several are fine examples of their type. The Masonic Temple with its pedimented portico is an impressive building in the Georgian Revival style.

In 1969 the Monroe Center Historic District was established to preserve the character of the area through architectural controls.

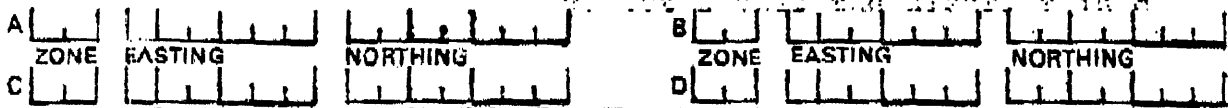
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Report of Monroe Historic District Study Committee," March 31, 1969, typewritten. Copy filed at Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
 Edward Nichols Coffey, A Glimpse of Old Monroe, Derby, CT: Monroe Sesquecentennial Commission, 1974.
 J. Frederick Kelly, Early CT Meetinghouses. New York: Columbia, 1948, vol. 1, pp. 321-324.
 J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of CT, 1924; reprint ed., New York: Dover, 1963, pp. 139, 147-148, plate XXIV.
 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 120 acres
 UTM REFERENCES



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point of intersection of Old Tannery Road and State Route 110, thence running westerly on the north side of Route 110 to the intersection of Route 111, and continue westerly on "Carcass Road" to a point 200 feet in depth from its intersection with Church Street. Thence north along the west boundary of parcels number 64 (110 Church Street) and 65 (94 Church Street). From thence continue northeast from the west side
 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 3

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Robins Brown Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

July, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

(203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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

State Historic Preservation Officer and Director

DATE

4/22/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA-VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION - Monroe Center
Historic District

of Church Street to the point 200 feet from Fan Hill Road.

Thence northwest 200 feet in depth from the west side of Fan Hill Road to a point just east of the intersection of Knorr Road and Fan Hill Road and bound on the west and on the north by parcel no. 52 (75 Fan Hill Road). Thence north across Fan Hill Road to a depth of 200 feet on parcel no. 44 (66 Fan Hill Road). Thence east to and along the north boundary of parcel no. 45 (62 Fan Hill Road).

Thence north along the western border of parcel no. 43, and then along the north borders of parcels nos. 43, 41, 40, and 39 (845 Monroe Turnpike) to the intersection of Wheeler Road and State Route 111. Thence southerly along Wheeler Road to a point 200 feet in depth from State Route 111. Thence southerly 200 feet in depth from the east side of Route 111 to parcel no. 8 (772 Monroe Turnpike). Thence east along the north border of parcel no. 8, thence southerly along the east border of parcel no. 8 to parcel no. 10 (337 Wheeler Road). Thence east along the northern border of parcel no. 10 and across Wheeler Road to 200 feet in depth. Thence southerly to a depth of 200 feet including 320 Wheeler Road to a point 200 feet east of the intersection of Wheeler Road and Old Tannery Road. Thence southeasterly along the west side of Old Tannery Road, including land on the south side of Old Tannery Road to the point of origin.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

Monroe Center Historic District
Monroe, CT

UTM References

A	18/650220	4577730
B	18/650255	4577600
C	18/650160	4577240
D	18/650230	4577240
E	18/650225	4577185
F	18/650310	4577185
G	18/650360	4576940
H	18/650310	4576900
I	18/650540	4576770
J	18/649840	4576480
K	18/649610	4576660
L	18/649665	4576815
M	18/649640	4576840
N	18/649870	4577050
O	18/649790	4577220
P	18/649760	4577200
Q	18/649725	4577270
R	18/649830	4577420
S	18/649895	4577330
T	18/649930	4577350
U	18/649870	4577620
V	18/650065	4577715
W	18/650080	4577675

PROPERTY OWNERS - MONROE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT - MONROE, CT

GRAND LIST - OCTOBER 1, 1976

Caruso, Argentina	840 Monroe Turnpike
Demont, Daniel & Joan	391 Wheeler Road
Dralus, Virginia	385 Wheeler Road
Dralus, Frank	376 Wheeler Road
D'Amico, Robert & Libera	816 Monroe Turnpike
Zeletes, George C. Jr.	810 Monroe Turnpike
Anderson, Norman	Cross Hill Road (Home)
McAuliffe, John E. Jr. & Elizabeth K.	800 Monroe Turnpike
Hagerty, Edward D. & Eileen	772 Monroe Turnpike
Harrison, John	16 Church Street
McKane, Willard W. Jr. & Bertha J.	337 Wheeler Road
Rudd, Peter & Diane	331 Wheeler Road
Freeman, Walter	11 Church Street
Sniffen, Beverly A.	758 Monroe Tpke.
Sniffen, James L. DDS & Beverly A.	758 Monroe Turnpike
St. Jude Roman Catholic Church Corporation	754 Monroe Turnpike
Giannini, Robert	172 Old Tannery Road
McFadden, Bruce	321 Wheeler Road
Schultz, Patricia	158 Old Tannery Road
Monroe Historical Soc., Inc.	150 Old Tannery Road
Hurd, John	299 Wheeler Road
Hurd, John	299 Wheeler Road
Terrell, Alton & Marion	159 Old Tannery Road
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	Old Tannery Road
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	Old Tannery Road

PROPERTY OWNERS - MONROE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT - MONROE, CT

GRAND LIST - OCTOBER 1, 1976

Tramposca, Emil	640 Moose Hill Road
Porter, Carl & Lynda	622 Moose Hill Road
Katson, Robert and Faun A.	614 Moose Hill Road
Schietinger, Joseph J. & Bertha	Moose Hill Road
Bridgeport Hydraulic Co.	835 Main Street, Bpt., CT (Shelton Rd.)
Zeisler, Richard D.	Viking Green, Westport, CT (51 Shelton Rd.)
Birkes, Darrell R.	285 Wheeler Road
Preston, Roger W. & Jane	320 Wheeler Road
Still, Emerson T.	296 Wheeler Road
Wing, Martin	288 Wheeler Road
Loveland, Harold & Jean	69 Shelton Road
Loveland, Harold & Jean	69 Shelton Road
Monroe Fire Company	Route 110 (Shelton Rd. & Monroe Tpke)
Mott, Leslie B.	724 Monroe Turnpike
Castaldo, Victor J. & Barbara	835 Monroe Turnpike
Castaldo	835 Monroe Turnpike
Castaldo	835 Monroe Turnpike
Castaldo	835 Monroe Turnpike
Bonjura, Blanche Corwel, Edward J. & Friedman, Samuel E. Trustees	357 Sylvan Ave., Bpt., CT (Monroe Tpke.)
Amaranto, Biagio	64-66 Fan Hill Road
Schatz, Mary R.	62 Fan Hill Road
Albert, Robert L.	52 Fan Hill Road
Richards, Muriel	44 Fan Hill Road
Connecticut Light & Power	38 Fan Hill Road
Hurd, Lewis B., Shirley M. & Robert S.	777 Monroe Turnpike

PROPERTY OWNERS - MONROE CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT - MONROE, CT
GRAND LIST - OCTOBER 1, 1976

Hurd, Lewis R., Shirley M. & Kenneth J.	783 Monroe Turnpike
Johanson, Emily	32 Fan Hill Road
Monroe Congregational Church	Church Street
Naramore, Robert & Althea C.	75 Fan Hill Road
Duffes, James B.	63 Fan Hill Road
Estate of Mildred A. Merrill	47 Fan Hill Road
Moore, Dion W. & Patricia Z.	37 Fan Hill Road
Konecny, Alexander & Sally	29 Fan Hill Road
Bozogan, Jesse P.	21 Fan Hill Road
Monroe Town Hall	7 Fan Hill Road
Washington Lodge #19	1 Fan Hill Road
Mozyński, Zenon	733 Monroe Turnpike
St. Jude Roman Catholic Church Corporation	707 Monroe Turnpike
Kundrack, Joseph E.	110 Church Street
Wade, Charles	94 Church Street
Brogan, Daniel T.	82 Church Street
Monroe Center Green: Property of St. Peter's Episcopal Church & Monroe Congregational Church Park Assoc.	
Monroe Historical Society c/o Mrs. Hugh Nelson, President	8 Gorges Lane, Monroe, CT 06468

containing about 60 principal buildings

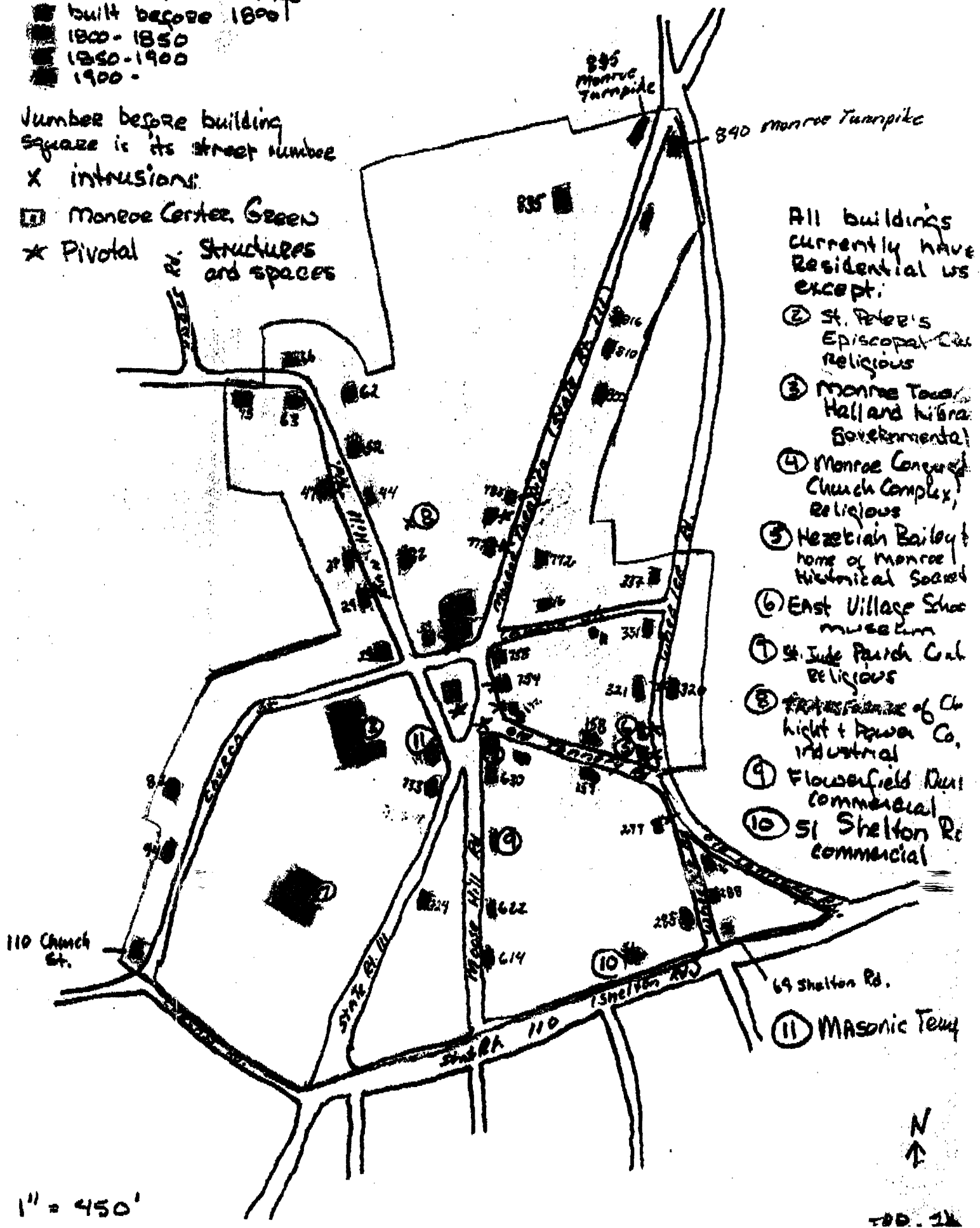
— boundary of district

Periods of buildings

- built before 1800
- 1800-1850
- 1850-1900
- 1900-

Number before building square is its street number X intrusions.

- Monroe Center, Green
- * Pivotal Structures and spaces

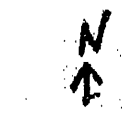


All buildings currently have Residential use except:

- ② St. Peter's Episcopal Church Religious
- ③ Monroe Town Hall and Library Governmental
- ④ Monroe Congreg Church Complex, Religious
- ⑤ Hezekiah Bailey home of Monroe Historical Society
- ⑥ East Village Shoe museum
- ⑦ St. Jude Parish Church Religious
- ⑧ Flowerfield of C. Hight & Power Co. Industrial
- ⑨ Flowerfield Dist commercial
- ⑩ St. Shelton Rd commercial

⑪ Masonic Temple

1" = 450'



District
Monroe, CT

UTM References

A	18/650220	4577730
B	18/650255	4577600
C	18/650160	4577240
D	18/650230	4577240
E	18/650225	4577185
F	18/650310	4577185
G	18/650360	4576940
H	18/650310	4576900
I	18/650540	4576770
J	18/649840	4576480
K	18/649610	4576660
L	18/649665	4576815
M	18/649640	4576840
N	18/649870	4577050
O	18/649790	4577220
P	18/649760	4577200
Q	18/649725	4577270
R	18/649830	4577420
S	18/649895	4577330
T	18/649930	4577350
U	18/649870	4577620
V	18/650065	4577715
W	18/650080	4577675

