

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number From intersection with Mt. Pleasant Road southward not for publication
city or town Newtown vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06482

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan 11/22/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1.8.03

March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____ 1 _____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____ 1 _____	_____ 0 _____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related
NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description:

Reservoir Road in Newtown, Connecticut, connects Mt. Pleasant Road (Route 6) on its north end to Castle Hill Road on the south; the nominated portion extends from the Route 6 intersection southward for approximately 1,800 feet to the 700-foot contour line (Figure 1). For the first few hundred feet the road is paved to serve a few houses, but the rest of the nominated route is blocked off by a gate and appears only as a worn depression between the stone walls that separate the roadway from the adjacent land, which is lightly wooded with small hardwood trees and saplings (Photographs 1 and 2). The distance between stone walls is approximately 25 feet. Running at right angles to the walls along the road are stone walls that formerly marked off fields (Photograph 3). Following alongside the hill that accommodates the Newtown Reservoir (a large steel tank), the road gradually ascends from south to north to the 740-foot contour.

Although now only a trail, the road appears in its present alignment on detailed maps from the 1850s through the 1940s. The topography shown on the French Army's Newtown camp map (Figure 2) generally supports an alignment coincidental with the nominated portion of the road. The southern part, where it intersects with Castle Hill Road, is more problematical. The Castle Hill Road alignment, which was certainly in place from the middle 19th century onward, diverges significantly from the French map of 1781, which shows West Street continuing westerly in a more or less straight line, then jogging north and west before intersecting with what is now Reservoir Road. Consequently, only the portion of Reservoir Road that closely coincides with the French map was included as the nominated property.

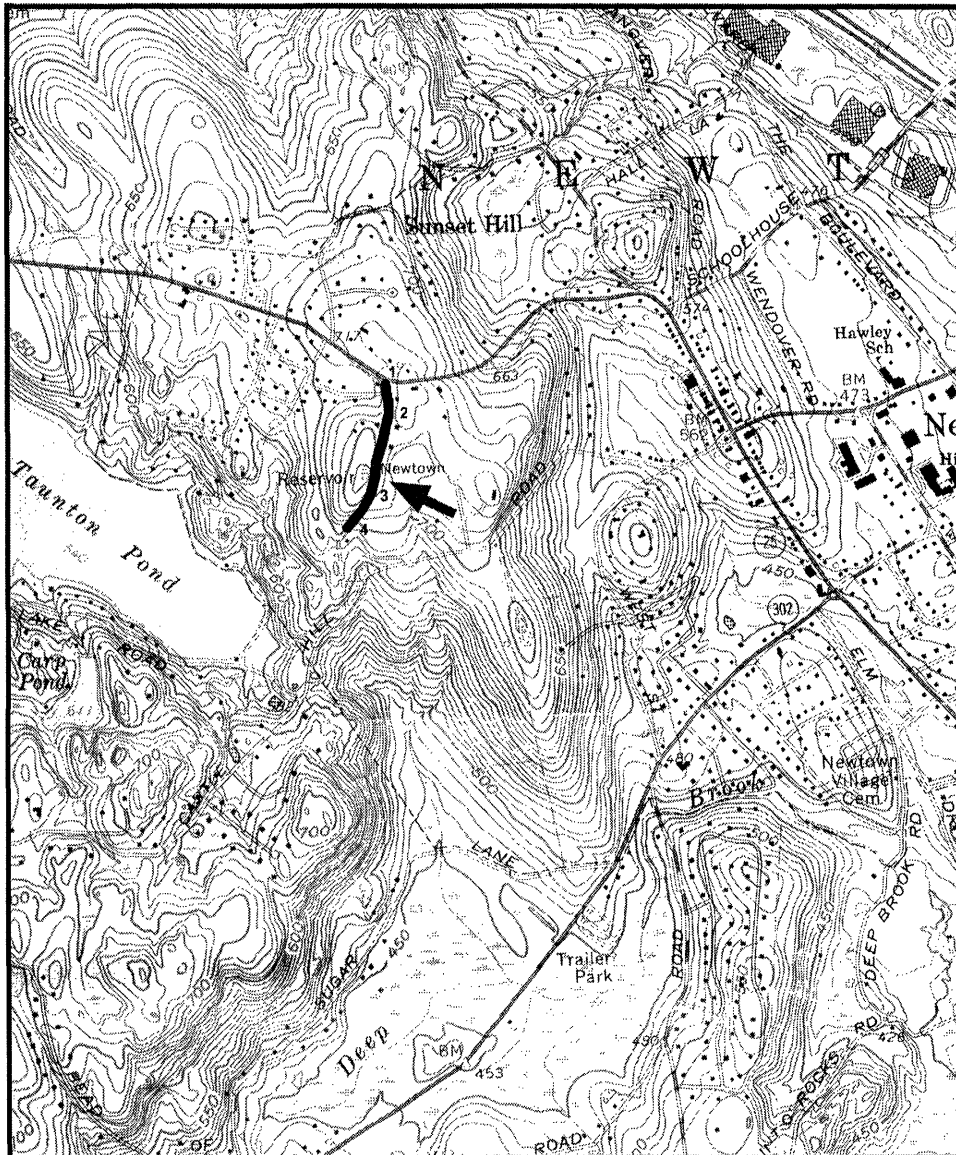
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National Register of Historic Places
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March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
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Multiple Property Listing)

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Figure 1: March route along Reservoir Road, as shown on U.S.G.S. Newtown Quadrangle, 1:24000



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**March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
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Multiple Property Listing)**

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Figure 2: Newtown camps, as drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier, military engineer for the French army, with the portion of the route along Reservoir Road indicated by an arrow (from Rice and Brown 1972).



8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, structure
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1781 - 1782

Significant Dates

1781, 1782

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission,
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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**March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance:

The passage of the French Army under the command of Count Rochambeau through Connecticut was one of the defining moments of the state's Revolutionary War-period history (Criterion A). The spectacle of thousands of marching infantry troops, bands of musicians, wagon trains of supplies, horse- and ox-drawn artillery, and special mounted units made the event memorable for the communities along the march route, especially in light of the critical role played by those same French forces at the battle of Yorktown.

Because of British control of Long Island Sound and New York City, it was necessary to move the French Army overland and at some distance from the Connecticut shore. The state's roads at that time were in poor condition: narrow, muddy, often intolerably steep in terms of moving artillery and wagons, and frequently overgrown with vegetation, requiring the army to be preceded by a company of ax-wielding woodsmen called "pioneers." Although the French often commented favorably on the appearance of the Connecticut countryside, the roads themselves tried their patience. Today few road segments are left that evoke the planning and endurance that made possible this critical military movement.

The segment of the French army's march route represented by the northern portion of Reservoir Road is significant because it retains the undeveloped qualities that allow one to imagine the route as the French passed over it. The road retains its stone walls, even along the built-up part at the north end; its narrow width; and, for most of its length, its unpaved, undeveloped appearance. Although now becoming overgrown with woods, the agricultural fields that formerly abutted the road can be discerned from the field walls that extend out at right angles.

The nominated portion of Reservoir Road can be confidently considered as part of the march route of the French army. It is apparent from the army's itinerary that the French conceived of the village at Newtown center as entered from the east and departed from the west:

Newtown is a fairly compact little town. The camp may be made on either the near or the far side of the town, which is situated on a plateau between two small valleys.

As you leave the town you bear right between two low hills. There are several scattered houses on either side of the road. You go down a stony road, leave a large pond on the left, and then pass through a wood. (Rice and Brown 1972).

The mention of the large pond (Taunton Pond) leaves little doubt that the French proceeded along the upper road between Newtown and Danbury, which generally followed the course of modern-day Route 6. The only way they could have left Newtown and then turned **right** would be if they reached the main road by means of a route that approximates present-day West Street and Reservoir Road. The mention of the two low hills is consistent with modern topography along Reservoir Road. Also, with this route, the advance-guard infantry and artillery units camped along the ridge west of the town center would not have had to back-track to the village to join the column. Because the French considered Newtown as the beginning of their approach to enemy territory, it would appear unlikely that they would have split up the forces or unnecessarily diverged from the written itinerary.

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**March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

Harper, M., B. Clouette, and R. Harper

1999 *The Rochambeau Project: Historical and Archaeological Documentation of the French Army's Marches through Connecticut in 1781 and 1782*. Storrs, CT: PAST, Inc. and Keegans Associates. Prepared for the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Rice, Howard C., Jr. and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.

1972 *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*. Princeton, N.J. and Providence, R.I.: Jointly published by Princeton University Press and Brown University Press. Two volumes. Includes the maps prepared by the French army and the journals of Berthier, Bévillie, Clermont-Crèvecoeur, and Verger.

March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road

Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 640 180 4586 000
Zone Easting Northing

3 18 640 120 4585 600
Zone Easting Northing

2 18 640 200 4585 860

4 18 640 090 4585 520
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Harper, Archaeologist, and Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. date April 30, 2001

street & number P.O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Newtown, Connecticut

street & number Edmond Town Hall - 45 Main Street telephone 203-270-4210

city or town Newtown state CT zip code 06470

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of both active and blocked-off portions of Reservoir Road between Mount Pleasant Road (State Route 6) on the north and the 700-foot contour interval on the south. Shown partly as a trail (dotted lines) on the U.S.G.S. Newtown Quadrangle, the nominated property is construed as the area between and including the stone walls that line the road, or where one or both walls are no longer in place, a width of 25 feet centered on the trail.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes both blocked-off and active portions because both retain the visual qualities that convey its historical significance as a portion of the route traversed by the French Army in 1781-1782. The nominated portion is terminated on the south end at the 700-foot contour because the exact configuration of the intersection with the continuation of West Street (approximated by but not entirely coinciding with Castle Hill Road) cannot be discerned.

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Section number Photographs Page 1

All Photographs:

1. March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Reservoir Road
2. Newtown, Fairfield County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. April, 2001
5. Negative filed with PAST, Inc., Storrs, CT

Captions:

Typical portion, near midpoint, camera facing north
Photograph 1 of 5

Typical portion, near south end, camera facing north
Photograph 2 of 5

View of former field wall leading away from road, west side, near midpoint, camera facing west
Photograph 3 of 5

Paved part at north end, camera facing south
Photograph 4 of 5

Typical stone wall, north end, camera facing southeast
Photograph 5 of 5