

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 3 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Hempstead Historic District

2. Location

street & number see Continuation Sheets

not for publication

city, town New London

N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut

code 09

county New London

code 011

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<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. New London City Clerk

street & number 181 Captain's Walk

city, town New London

state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places See Continuation Sheet
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street

city, town Hartford

state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hempstead Historic District is an architecturally cohesive neighborhood in New London, Connecticut, located north of the harbor and the central business district (See Figure #1). It extends from a clearly defined hollow behind the County Courthouse on Huntington Street, and runs up a steep rocky hill to the south and west. The neighborhood is aligned along three prominent streets, Franklin and Hempstead Streets, and Mountain Avenue, which run roughly parallel to each other in a north-south direction, connected by very short streets. There is one dead-end street, Hope Street, and four courts, formerly driveways, which terminate at a principal house (Photograph #24). Hempstead Street bisects the district and makes a 60-degree turn, veering from a northwestern to a northeastern direction as it rises up the hill. With the exception of Hempstead Street, which reaches in both directions to main thoroughfares, these streets developed primarily from winding haphazard lanes amid rural farmland and meadow.

The district has the moderate density of a primarily residential neighborhood of single and two-family dwellings, 2 and 2 1/2 stories in height. On some streets, such as Mountain Avenue, the small Greek Revival houses are compactly sited. On others, larger lots yield fewer buildings on each block. At various places in the heart of the district there are thickly vegetated areas extending at least 50 feet deep.

The hilly topography of the Hempstead Historic District required the extensive use of terracing and retaining walls during its development. The land between Hempstead Street and Mountain Avenue, and between Hempstead and Cottage Streets shows the greatest use of these devices. Retaining walls run along the entire length of western side of Hempstead Street, and as the slope increases, the houses are built in increasingly precarious positions (Photographs #1, #2). Along Mountain Avenue, most of the houses on the western side of the street are built into the hillside at the crest, with fully exposed basement facades. The same construction techniques are used for the three houses on Cottage Street, and here, the land is terraced with granite retaining walls 10 feet high. Similar granite walls are used for terracing on the west side of Hempstead Street where the land can rise as much as 50 feet over the 225 feet deep lots.

There are 142 structures in the district, of which 3 are non-contributing, and the granite foundation of an early factory. The earliest structure dates from 1678, the most recent contributing structure dates from 1935. Over half the buildings in the district were constructed between the 1840s and 1880s in the Greek Revival or Italianate styles. Other historic places in the district include the former New London County Jail of 1845, a 1903 school, and industrial sites of the mid to late 19th century. Areas of potential archaeological sensitivity include the factories, the jail, a small black community between Hempstead, Franklin and High Streets, and the Hempstead Houses of 1678 and 1759.

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Bishop Court: 4,7
Borodell Place: 10,11,15,16,17
Cottage Street: 17,19,29,33,37
Franklin Street: 6,7,10,11,14,15,17-19,18,23,25,26,31,32,40,41,44,45,51,
56,57,61,63,66,67
Hempstead Court: 14,16,20
Hempstead Street: 11,23,29-31,32 34-38,40,43,44,46,48,50,54,63,65-67,66,68,69,
73,76-78,77,77 1/2,81,83,89,90-92,94A,94-96,95,98,106,110,112-114
High Street: 20,20 1/2
Home Street: 8,8 Rear,9,11,14-16,17,20,24,30,32
Hope Street: 9,13,15,20,22,26,28,31,33
Jay Street: 25,27,33,49,55-57,61,75
Manwaring Street: 5,13
Mercer Street: 4
Mountain Avenue: 2,3,7,10,11,12,15,16,18,19,19 Rear,33,36,38,40,46,47-49,50,
51-53,54,55-57,56,59,60,64,65,70,71,72,73-75,77-79,83
Prest Street: 1
Thompson Court: 6,10,11,13
Truman Street: 106

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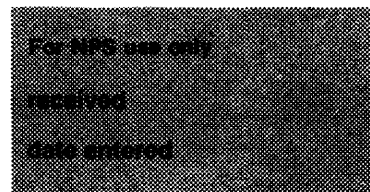
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Hempstead Historic District, New London, Connecticut

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

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Hempstead Historic District
New London, Connecticut

Property Name/Address

Date

National Register of Historic Places:

Joshua Hempstead House October 15, 1970
11 Hempstead Street, New London, Connecticut

Depository: Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Nathaniel Hempstead House December 20, 1970
75 Jay Street, New London, Connecticut

Depository: Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

Determination of Eligibility:

✓ Franklin Street Historic District July 23, 1980
New London, Connecticut

Depository: Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

A Report of the Hempstead Street Historic District:

A report of the New London Historic District Commission
May 1, 1984

Depository: Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 S. Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

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The topography of the Hempstead Historic District defined the area of its settlement in the 17th century and continued to play an important role in its development throughout its history. Located geographically away from the center of town in the outlying farm area, the land on the west side of Hempstead Street was too steep and rocky for agricultural use other than pasturage, while the land to the east and along Hempstead Street could be partially mowed and tilled. Original homelots were not divided up extensively until the 1840s, when enriched by the burgeoning whaling industry, New Londoners began to seek land for dwelling houses in outlying neighborhoods close to the center of town.

In the ensuing 75 years, houses were built in the Gothic Revival, Stick, French Second Empire, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian and Colonial Revival styles in addition to the Greek Revival and Italianate styles which predominate in the district. Each house was generally built in scale similar to its neighbors, so that groups of houses along Franklin (Photographs #3, #4) and Hempstead Streets (Photograph #5) and Mountain Avenue (Photographs #2, #6) relate proportionately in workmanship, materials, size and style to each other. Cohesiveness throughout the district is achieved by the closed in sense of the street scene, as all the houses face one another, down from the hill, or up from the hollow, except where the original Hempstead homelot looks out across Jay Street towards the coves (since filled in) and harbor.

The architecture of the district, although modest in scale, is embellished with decorative elements to create a variegated pattern. The houses achieve an individual quality, such as the transformation of a modest 1852 house into a fanciful French Second Empire house at 18 Franklin Street (Photograph #7). Larger houses were often set back from the street, such as the French Second Empire house at 40 Franklin Street, or at the end of what have become separate courts, such as the Greek Revival house at 33 Mountain Avenue (Photograph #8). The houses as they now stand reflect the evolution of a cohesive urban neighborhood from 17th-century homelots.

Another important component of the district is the presence of industry, from 1846 through the present. The foundation of a five-story 1846 factory is still standing, relatively undisturbed since the building itself came down between 1921 and 1933. Part of the granite wall of this building still stands as the rear wall for the factory at 19 Mountain Avenue (Photograph #9). The 1873 frame factory building at 43 Hempstead Street (Photograph #10) is connected to a later brick building in the rear by a second story bridge, in place since the addition was built in the early 20th century. The brick stacks of these two industrial complexes tower over the buildings. Adjacent to 43 Hempstead Street was an 1845 tannery, removed by 1901, although one small granite building, possibly the stable, remains on the site. Together, these two industrial complexes filled the block between Home and High Streets. The tannery expanded in 1866, with a new granite and frame factory building across the street, at 66 Hempstead Street. This building makes the best of difficult terrain. The two and one-half story frame structure, gable-end to street, is set against the slope of the hill on an exposed granite foundation (Photograph #11).

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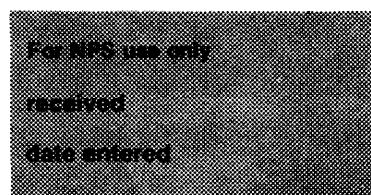
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Evidence of commercial enterprise in the Hempstead Historic District is apparent. The 1925 auto painting shop at 77 1/2 Hempstead Street, a two-story concrete building behind 77 Hempstead Street, fits neatly in the oddly-shaped block between Hempstead, High and Franklin Streets. Several neighborhood markets serviced the area; one in a Greek Revival house at 90 Hempstead, and a larger one-story clapboard store at 83 Mountain Avenue, built in 1935 and subsequently remodeled with a brick facing. By 1930, a Spanish Revival gasoline station was erected at the corner of Jay and Franklin Streets (Photograph #23), and within three years, a Spanish Revival automobile showroom was built on the adjacent property at 49 Jay Street, on the fringe of the district.

Important institutions within the district reflect phases of its development. The brick 1845 Greek Revival New London County Jail at 56 Franklin Street was operational for over a century, and fills most of the block between Franklin, High and Hempstead Streets. An attached French Second Empire jailer's house was built between 1864 and 1868, also in brick (Photograph #12). In 1962, the jail complex was purchased for use as the new Shiloh Baptist Church for a predominately black congregation, and the original church building on High Street was eventually demolished. In 1903, the Saltonstall School was built in the Second Renaissance Revival style. This imposing three-story brick building occupies the block between Truman and Hope Streets along Hempstead Street (Photograph #13).

1

Bream Cove occupied the area between Coit and Reed Streets in the 17th century. The Hempstead homelot never fronted the cove, although the house is oriented towards it. Other dwellings of this early period, the Coit houses in particular, had wharves on the cove. By the mid-19th century, the cove had lost its natural shoreline as building lots were created on Reed Street, and eventually the entire cove was filled in.

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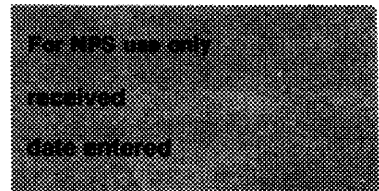
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BUILDING INVENTORY - HEMPSTEAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Street	Contrib/Non	Style, Use, Date & Alterations, Architect/Builder (if known)
<u>Bishop Court</u>		
4	C	Vernacular house with Greek Revival plan, 1891, Victorian porch
7	C	Vernacular house, 1891
<u>Borodell Place</u>		
10	C	Queen Anne house, c.1897
11	C	Queen Anne house, c.1897
15	C	Queen Anne house, c.1897
16	C	Dutch Colonial Revival house, c.1897
17	C	Queen Anne house, c.1897
<u>Cottage Street</u>		
17	C	Greek Revival house, c.1845, moved to site 1901-07, Carpenter Gothic trim
19	C	Greek Revival house, c.1846, rear ell 1901-07
29	C	Greek Revival house, c.1846
33	C	Tenement with Romanesque Revival features, c.1920
37	NC	Cinder block garage
<u>Franklin Street</u>		
6	C	Colonial Revival house, c.1897
7	C	Vernacular house, c.1885
10	C	Greek Revival house, 1843
11	C	Greek Revival house, 1842 (Photograph #3)
15	C	Greek Revival house, 1842 (Photograph #3)
14	C	Eastlake house, 1890
17-19	C	Greek Revival duplex, c.1845, portico removed 1977 (Photograph #3)
18	C	Mid 19th-century house, 1852, with French Second Empire features (Photograph #7)
23	C	Greek Revival house, c.1855
25	C	Folk Victorian house, c.1905 Colonial Revival porch
26	C	Italianate house, 1859 (Photograph #4)
31	C	Italianate house, 1846
32	C	Italianate house, 1859 (Photograph #4)
40	C	French Second Empire house, 1868
44	C	Italianate house, 1859 (Photograph #4)
45	C	Queen Anne carriage house, 1893, relocated to site from Cottage Street, 1982 (Photograph #20)
51	C	Italianate house, c.1880
56	C	French Second Empire jailer's house, c.1868, Greek Revival jail, 1845 (Photograph #12)

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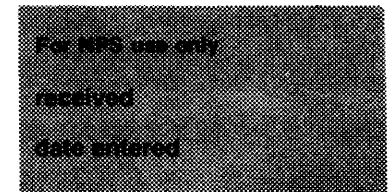
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Franklin Street

57	C	Carpenter Gothic house, 1858
61	C	Italianate house, 1870
63	C	Greek Revival vernacular house, c.1850, moved to site c.1956
66	C	Italianate house, 1866, porch removed
67	C	Italianate house, 1870, aluminum siding

Hempstead Court

14	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular duplex, 1891 (Photograph #24)
16	C	Queen Anne house, c.1895
20	C	French Second Empire house, 1891 (Photograph #24)

Hempstead Street

11	C	Colonial house, 1678, eastern side, 1728 (Photograph #14) Builders: Joshua Hempstead, Nathaniel Hempstead
23	C	Queen Anne house, 1881 (Photograph #26)
29-31	C	Queen Anne duplex, 1890
32	C	Greek Revival house with Queen Anne detail, 1845 (Photograph #19)
34-38	C	Queen Anne tenement, c.1895
40	C	Greek Revival house, 1845
43	C	Frame factory, 1873, laboratory addition & first floor replaced, c.1951, with connecting bridge (1907-12) in rear to brick Romanesque factory, 1907-12, boiler room and office additions c.1948 (Photograph #10)
44	C	Greek Revival house, 1845
46	C	Queen Anne house, c.1895 (Photograph #18)
48	C	Greek Revival house, 1843
50	C	Queen Anne house, 1890,
54	C	Queen Anne house, 1890 (Photograph #1)
63	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular house, c.1885
65-67	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular house, 1899
66	C	Mid 19th-Century factory, c.1868 (Photograph #11)
68	NC	Garages, c.1940
69	C	Mid 19th-Century house with Dutch Colonial features, 1833-42 (Photograph #25)
73	C	Mid 19th-Century Vernacular house, 1842-5
76-78	C	Dutch Colonial Revival house, c.1910
77	C	Mid 19th-Century Vernacular house, 1842-5 (Photograph #5)
77 1/2	C	Repair garage, 1925
81	C	Mid 19th-Century Vernacular house, 1842-5 (Photograph #5)
83	C	Italianate house, 1842-5 (Photograph #5)
89	C	19th-Century Vernacular house with Italianate features, 1876
90-92	C	Greek Revival house, c.1855
94A	C	Neighborhood store, c.1934

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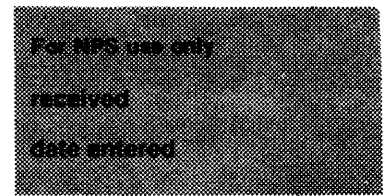
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Hempstead Street

94-96	C	Queen Anne 2-family house, c.1905
95	C	Greek Revival house, c.1850
98	C	Federal house, c.1820
106	C	Queen Anne house, c.1890
110	C	Italian Villa house, c.1870 (Photograph #21)
112-114	C	Queen Anne/Stick Style duplex, c.1890

High Street

20	C	Colonial Revival duplex, c.1905
20 1/2	C	Mid 19th-Century commercial stable, c.1845

Home Street

8	C	Italianate house, c.1875
8 rear	C	Brick stable, c.1891
9	C	Queen Anne house, 1890
11	C	Greek Revival house, 1867, separate side building (NC) c.1970
14-16	C	Italianate house, c.1854
17	C	Italian Villa house, 1871
20	C	Italianate house with Colonial Revival porch,
24	C	Italianate house, c.1872
30	C	Queen Anne house, 1890
32	C	Dutch Colonial Revival house, 1930

Hope Street

9	C	Greek Revival house, 1847
13	C	Greek Revival house, 1848
15	C	Greek Revival house with Victorian porch, moved to site 1901-7
20	C	Greek Revival house, under renovation, 1845, Builder: David Bishop (attributed)
22	C	Greek Revival house, 1844, Builder: David Bishop (attributed)
26	C	Greek Revival house, stucco walls, 1846, Builder: David Bishop (attributed)
28	C	Greek Revival house, 1846
31	C	Greek Revival house, 1852
33	C	Greek Revival house, c.1855, altered

Jay Street

25	C	Italianate house, 1851
27	C	Greek Revival house, 1851
33	C	Spanish Revival Gasoline Station, 1930 (Photograph #23)
49	C	Spanish Revival Repair Garage, c.1933
55-57	C	Queen Anne duplex, c.1890
61	C	Italianate house, c.1872
75	C	Dutch Colonial house, 1759 (Photograph #15)

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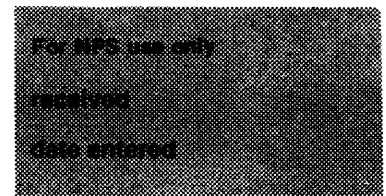
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Manwaring Street

- 5 C Late 19th-Century Vernacular house, c.1895
- 13 C Italianate house, c.1880

Mercer Street

- 4 C Italianate with Colonial Revival Porch, c.1850

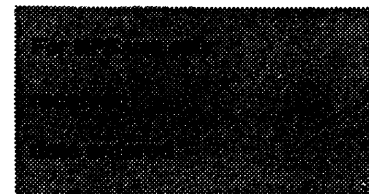
Mountain Avenue

- 2 C Greek Revival house, 1851, additions
- 3 C Greek Revival house, 1846, Builder: David Bishop (Photograph #6)
- 7 C Greek Revival house, 1846, Builder: David Bishop (Photograph #6)
- 10 C Mid 19th-Century Vernacular house, 1851, additions
- 11 C Greek Revival house, 1846 (Photograph #6)
- 12 C Greek Revival, 1845, late 19th century additions
- 15 C Queen Anne/French Second Empire with Stick Style porch, c. 1864
- 16 C Greek Revival house, 1849, Builder: David Bishop (Photograph #16)
- 18 C Greek Revival house, 1851, Builder: David Bishop (Photograph #16)
- 19 C Early 20th-Century factory, reusing 19th C. wall, c. 1906, granite factory foundation, 1846 (Photographs #22, #9)
- 33 C Greek Revival house, 1845-6, Builder: David Bishop (Photograph #8)
- 36 C Queen Anne house, c.1895
- 38 C Late 19th-Century Vernacular house, c.1896
- 40 C Queen Anne house, 1890
- 42 C Late 19th-Century Vernacular house with Greek Revival floor plan, c.1880
- 46 C Mid 19th-Century triple decker, 1860
- 47-49 C Colonial Revival duplex, 1929
- 50 C Greek Revival house with Queen Anne porch, 1846
- 51-53 C Colonial Revival duplex, 1929
- 54 C Greek Revival house, 1847
- 56 C Greek Revival house, 1851
- 55-57 C Colonial Revival 2-family house, 1929
- 59 C Greek Revival house, 1848
- 60 C Greek Revival house, 1847
- 64 C Greek Revival house with Queen Anne porch, 1875 1st story and door (Photograph #2)
- 65 C Queen Anne house, 1901
- 70 C Greek Revival house, 1871 (Photograph #2)

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Mountain Avenue

71	C	Italianate house, 1874 (Photograph #27)
72	C	Greek Revival house, 1869 (Photograph #2)
73-75	C	Colonial Revival 2-family house. c.1905
77-79	C	Early 20th-Century duplex, 1929
83	C	Early 20th-Century Commerical Market, 1935

Prest Street

1	C	Queen Anne house, c.1892
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Thompson Court

6	C	20th-Century Vernacular house, 1915-21 (Photograph #17)
10	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular, 1893 (Photograph #17)
11	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular, 1893
13	C	Late 19th-Century Vernacular, 1893

Truman Street

106	C	Second Renaissance Revival School, 1903 Architect: Donnelly and Hazletine Builder: Carpenter and Williams, Norwich (Photograph #13)
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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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Criteria A,C,D

Specific dates See Inventory, Item #7 **Builder/Architect** See Inventory, Item #7

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hempstead Historic District is an historically complex urban neighborhood which developed in the mid 19th-century from the subdivision of lands owned by the Hempstead and Holt families. Part of the land was developed by local abolitionists to provide housing for free blacks. The black community which developed in the district created a number of institutions for self-help and the support of its members, several of which still survive. The presence of the New London County Jail and of a number of small industries within the district influenced its development as a working-class neighborhood on the edge of New London's downtown district. (Criterion A) The Hempstead Historic District is significant for its architecture, which ranges from the 17th-century Hempstead House to early 20th-century commercial buildings. The district contains a number of mid 19th-century vernacular houses built for blacks. Major 19th-century styles represented in the district include Greek Revival, Italianate, French Second Empire and Queen Anne. Buildings in the Hempstead Historic District vary in size from large two-family houses to small one and one-half story homes. The houses are generally more modest in scale and architectural detail than the wealthier homes of the nearby northwest section of the city. (Criterion C) The Hempstead Historic District may yield significant information concerning 17th-century land-use, 19th-century industrial technology, and a 19th-century free black neighborhood. (Criterion D)

Historical Background

The Hempstead Historic District developed from the original houselots of Robert Hempstead and Nathaniel Holt. Just a few hundred yards from the center of town, it was nevertheless considered a separate neighborhood, located in a hollow off a cove and running back up a steep rocky hill (See figure 2). The district grew from farmland into a neighborhood and light industrial area as New London evolved into an urban center. For a span of three hundred years, buildings were added and few removed, leaving intact a visible record of the growth of a neighborhood in a small eastern seaboard city.

In 1678, Joshua Hempstead built a dwelling house facing Bream Cove (Photograph #14). Located at the foot of Hempstead Street, both the house itself and the neighborhood are documented in the 1711–1758 diary of Joshua Hempstead 2nd, and the account books of John Hempstead, his son. The diary reveals the utilization of the area. Joshua died in 1758, and most of the land remained in the family, although succeeding generations divided it up. The prominence of the family and its holdings are indicated in notations on city maps a full century later, describing the building as the "Hempstead House", rather than merely indicating ownership as was usually done. A grandson, Nathaniel, built an unusual Dutch Colonial house in 1759 on the corner of the lot, facing the intersection of Hempstead, Truman and Jay Streets (Photograph #15).

New London's economy was based largely on coastal trade, and the residents of the Hempstead Historic District profited from their involvement in it. The Hempsteads and Holts produced surplus goods for both the local market and for maritime use. As storeowners, traders, artisans, farmers and officials, they were part of the network of this trade, consigning a wide variety of items, including small quantities of candles, corn, leather, lard, onions, bricks, lumber, cattle, hoops, rice, cheese and dried beans.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 29 approximately

Quadrangle name New London

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet, Figure #1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon P. Churchill/Executive Director, edited by John Herzan,
National Register Coordinator

organization New London Landmarks date Revision

street & number P. O. Box 1134, 309 Captain's Walk telephone 203-442-0003

city or town New London 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 *Sharon P. Churchill*
 title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date June 24, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melrose Byers Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 7-31-86

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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

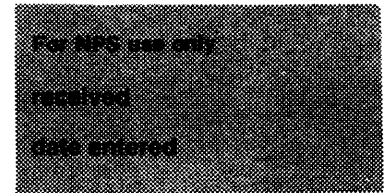
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In the 1840s New London was in the midst of a period of growth, fueled by its success in the whaling industry. Work in the Hempstead Historic District was becoming increasingly market oriented, commercialized and specialized. The domestic environment and neighborhood was also changing. Aided by capital from whaling profits, hundreds of houses were constructed in New London in the decades following 1840. Franklin and Hope Streets and Mountain Avenue were opened by 1843 and Home Street was opened in the 1850s. Prior to the 1840s there were no more than a handful of dwellings in the district; by the end of the 1860s, there were more than 70 houses. The Hempstead neighborhood offered choice land, and the better lots were sold at a premium.

The changing district reflected a growing cosmopolitan atmosphere with a more diverse population and a variety of small-scale manufactures. The development of the block along Hempstead Street between High and Franklin illustrates this. Between 1833 and 1842, Jonathan Coit, a wealthy shipbuilder, erected a house in the Dutch Colonial style, an unusual example of retardataire architecture (Photo #25). Coit sold the northwestern portion of his lot to Savillion Haley, one of New London's first abolitionists, in 1842. By 1845, Haley had erected five small vernacular houses; #73, #77, #81 and #83 Hempstead Street still stand (Photograph #5). Although building lots in the district were selling for as much as \$600, Haley sold all the houses in 1845 for \$700 each to free black families, foregoing a profit for himself, commenting that black people "...should be treated like other folks." The people who occupied these houses were successful freemen, whose trades included those of mariner, rigger, blacksmith, butcher, stone mason and machinist. Other black families soon built homes in the area, expanding the size of the black community. This section of the street was derisively called "Ethiopia" and "New Guinea" by white 19th-century New Londoners.

Mary Hempstead had begun selling family holdings by the early 1840s. In 1845, she sold several parcels on Franklin and High Streets, behind the Haley houses, which became the site of the brick Greek Revival New London County Jail. It is an impressive structure, and became even more so with the addition of an attached brick jailer's house in 1868 in the French Second Empire style (Photograph #12). At the same time, it represents the roughness of life around the docks of a port city. The 1870 census lists 26 men incarcerated in the 16 cells; of these, ten were mariners.

By the 1870s, manufacturing was becoming increasingly important as part of the economic base of the city. The Hempstead Historic District has several reminders of the role this neighborhood played in the industrial development of New London. In 1846, David Bishop built a stone cider vinegar factory on a ledge 20 feet below 19 Mountain Avenue. Bishop had purchased large holdings between Hempstead Street and Mountain Avenue in 1845. Bishop had boulders dug up and ledges drilled and used for construction material for both the factory walls, which eventually reached a height of five stories, and for retaining walls which created terraces. Bishop opened Thompson Court as a drive, which led from Hempstead Street to the factory and his home. The establishment did business for 20 years, when it was foreclosed, and replaced by the Toby and Blackwell Shirt Manufactory which produced a fine quality shirt for the Boston market. In the 1870s, 200 people were employed there, mostly women operating the sewing machines, while other women were employed at home working buttonholes.

In the 1880s, a broom factory occupied the building, and in 1887 it shared space with the Bingham Paper Box Co., which continued operating on this site until 1956. Thomas O. Thompson, president of the firm, sold off buildings lots at 10, 11 and 13 Thompson Court between 1892

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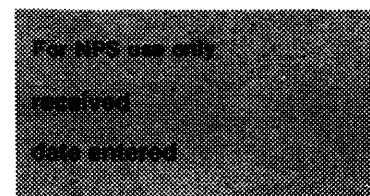
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and 1893, and named the street after himself. By 1893, the company employed a night watchman who lived at 10 Thompson Court (Photograph #17). In 1906, a cast-stone block addition level with Mountain Avenue was added, sharing a common wall with the original building (Photograph #22). The company made different styles of paper boxes, and had a printing department, employing up to 70 people. The original building came down between 1921 and 1933, but the apparently undisturbed foundation still survives (Photograph #9).

In 1845, Mary Hempstead sold land bounded by High and Hempstead Streets to William Warner for a tannery. The William L. Warner and Company tannery operated successfully for thirty years, employing some of the neighborhood residents, and in 1866, expanded across Hempstead Street, purchasing land and building a three and one-half-story factory at 66 Hempstead Street (Photograph #11). The business experienced difficulties in the late 1870's, and the mortgage was foreclosed in 1879. In 1882, a group with venture capital began to manufacture and sell an item called the Patent Cane Umbrella in the former tannery building. The Patent Cane Umbrella, which functioned as both a walking cane and an umbrella, was patented in several European countries, but after a successful first year, the company began to experience difficulties. Before its failure in 1887, however, the company built a seven-tenement house and factory store on the site. Residents in the district were among the company's 20 employees.

Henry Brown built a pickling and canning factory at 43 Hempstead Street in 1873, (Photograph #10). H.A. Brown and Co. got much of its equipment from Bishop's vinegar factory after its foreclosure. The cannery employed as many as 200 workers and sold its products throughout the country and in Europe, but eventually declared bankruptcy in 1885.³ The New London Wash Silk Company purchased the factories at 43 and 66 Hempstead Street, after first renting 66 Hempstead Street in 1894. From a small silk manufacturing company employing seven people, it grew to employ 75 people by 1912, producing \$300,000 in business selling its high quality silk in various parts of the world. The company outgrew its quarters and built a brick factory building behind and perpendicular to 43 Hempstead, connected to it by a second story bridge. This housed the dyeing, drying, and finishing processes. Following a merger with another Connecticut company in 1917, the New London plant was phased out of the operations, and was eventually sold in 1925.

Important black social organizations in New London have been located in the Hempstead Historic District since its beginnings in the 1840s. In between its use by the tannery and the silk company, 66 Hempstead Street served as a dwelling, dance hall and church for the black community. This latter use is illustrative of the cohesion of the blacks in this district. In 1894, this church had become the Shiloh Baptist Church, located in a small building at 23 High Street (no longer extant). By 1915, 66 Hempstead Street was again used as a social hall for the black community, headquarters for the United Society and a black division of the Odd Fellows. The secretary for the Negro Welfare Council lived at 73 Hempstead Street. Today, Shiloh Baptist Church is located in the former jail at 56 Franklin Street, and the Jephtha Lodge, a black Masonic Lodge, is in 66 Hempstead Street.

Small neighborhood commercial enterprises were appearing in the district by the end of the 19th century. A grocery store used the Patent Cane Umbrella factory after its demise, and another grocery store shared 90 Hempstead Street with a shoe repair shop which moved next door into the small one-story building at 94A Hempstead Street by 1934. The Scripilleti family, who ran the shoe repair business, built 83 Mountain Avenue in 1935 and opened Scripilleti Bros., a grocery store, which they managed simultaneously with their shoe repair business.

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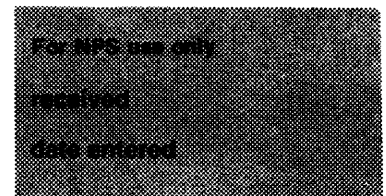
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For a brief time in the 1890s, the Patent Cane Umbrella factory on the corner of High and Hempstead Streets was used for carriage painting. This commercial trade was renewed in 1925, with the opening of a small auto-painting business in the rear of 77 Hempstead Street. The increasing presence of the automobile led to the opening a Spanish Revival gasoline station on the corner of Franklin and Jay Streets in 1930 (Photograph #23), and a Spanish Revival Buick dealership, with two bas-relief tires embedded in the parapet, at 49 Jay Street by 1933.

In 1903, the Saltonstall School was erected on the corner of Truman and Hempstead Streets (Photograph #13), replacing the Coit Street School half a block away. The Saltonstall School was part of a city-wide program begun in 1890, calling for the replacement of the crowded older school buildings with large modern structures, able to accommodate an expanding urban population.

Architectural Assessment

The architecture found in the Hempstead Historic District varies from sophisticated or unusual examples of Colonial and Revival styles to the more modest 19th-century vernacular styles which predominate in the residential neighborhoods around the Central Business District. The buildings in the district are well-proportioned and of good quality design, and the combination of 19th-century styles and the density of development creates a uniformity in the streetscape.

The significance of the two Hempstead Houses extends beyond New London. The 1678 Joshua Hempstead House reflects the traditions and technical skills of early 17th-century England in proportions and plan, but also incorporates features that are more indigenous to the Connecticut coast. Hempstead used quarried stone for the foundation and eelgrass for insulation. Other construction features are unique; the summer beams run athwart, the joists of the first floor are embedded in the foundation masonry and the stairs rise in a straight course (Photograph #14). Both this house and the 1759 Dutch Colonial Nathaniel Hempstead House at 75 Jay Street are extremely well-preserved examples of Colonial architecture. The construction of the latter house as a single unit with no provision for expansion contrasts with contemporary structures, and the use of tooled stone blocks is uncommon in New London. The exterior bake oven protruding from the southwestern wall is unique in the city. Local tradition attributes the construction of the house to Huguenots from Nova Scotia (Photograph #15).

Greek Revival and Italianate styles predominate in the district, most with the straightforward detailing and restrained styling which characterize the mid 19th-century architecture of the Hempstead Historic District and most extant vernacular dwellings of this period in New London. Two distinct levels of sophistication are evident in the Greek Revival houses; those along Franklin Street are more spaciouly sited and finely detailed than the modest dwellings on Mountain Avenue (Photographs #3, #6). Italianate houses along Franklin Street show the influence of the neighboring Greek Revival dwellings (Photograph #4). #32, built in 1846, is the earliest of the group, and has shouldered moldings, transom and sidelights similar to the neighboring Greek Revival houses. #31, built in 1859, has heavy segmentally-arched shouldered molding around its elongated first-story windows and round-arched doors, but with a simpler straight shouldered molding on the interior. The houses of both styles, while less elaborate in detail than those built for wealthier members of the community, exhibit good design quality and workmanship. The similarity in proportions and scale create a complementary streetscape. The grouping of these two contemporaneous styles is among the best in the city, especially in depicting the influence of Greek Revival architecture on the vernacular Italianate dwelling in New London.

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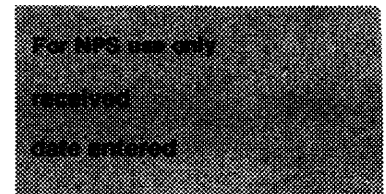
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David Bishop, a member of a distinguished family of New London builders, was the most active builder in the Hempstead Historic District. He built at least six buildings on Mountain Avenue, including a factory; at least one and possibly three other Greek Revival houses on Hope Street are attributed to him based on similarity of style (Photographs #6, #8, #16). These buildings are the only ones in the city known to be specifically identified with Bishop, who was undoubtedly involved in other construction in New London.

The group of five houses between 69 and 83 Hempstead Street is characterized by a conservative, practical approach to style (Photograph #5). 69 Hempstead Street, built between 1833 and 1842 in the Dutch Colonial style, is an unusual example of retardataire architecture (Photograph #25). This architectural conservatism is evident throughout the district, and may be a consequence of the economic and social standing of the residents. Three adjacent houses, 64, 70 and 72 Mountain Avenue, were possibly moved to the site (Photograph #2). The Greek Revival features of these houses, including transom, sidelights and door surrounds, do not correspond with their appearance on the street between 1869 and 1875. Several of the buildings in the Hempstead Historic District represent departures from ordinary design. 71 Mountain Avenue displays the overall plan and details of an Italianate house, but has dentils instead of brackets raking the cornice, and an open-bed pediment (Photograph 27).

Good examples of later 19th-century styles are found throughout the district. The large French Second Empire house at 40 Franklin Street is distinguished by its commanding position, size, and the high quality of its design. The Second Empire style of 18 Franklin Street is the result of remodelling an 1852 house, perhaps in imitation of its more stylish neighbor (Photograph #7). The well-preserved Italian Villa houses at 110 Hempstead Street and 17 Home Street represent two of three extant examples of this style in New London (Photograph #21). 23 Hempstead Street, built in 1881, is an unusually intact example of the Queen Anne style (Photograph #26). The Queen Anne house at 46 Hempstead Street has a square three-story tower with a mansard roof and cresting not found elsewhere in the city (Photograph #18). The nearly identical small-scale Queen Anne houses on Borodell Place built in 1897, and a richly-detailed small-scale Queen Anne house at 30 Home Street built in 1890, are typical of the smaller-scale versions of this style in New London. The grouping on Borodell Place, however, is uncommon, and creates a cohesive streetscape. An elaborate carriage house built in 1893 was moved to Franklin Street from its original location on Cottage Street in 1982 (Photograph #20). Its detailing and fine restoration complements the other 19th-century buildings along the street.

Smaller in scale than the large textile mills typical of many New England cities, the industrial buildings in the district are utilitarian in nature, with few stylistic features. This absence of detail and the utilitarian character of the buildings is typical of small-scale industrial buildings of the period. 66 Hempstead Street features an open-bed pediment and a full exposed basement of battered granite ashlar.

The 1903 Saltonstall School is a very good example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture. This is the only school building from this period of intense building activity substantially unaltered. The Second Renaissance Revival school is distinguished by projecting bays, Corinthian capitals on three-story pilasters, rustication, Romanesque arches and brickwork which creates a diagonal pattern. It was designed by local architects Donnelly and Hazeltine. Saltonstall School is one of the few remaining buildings of this partnership, which broke up in 1906.

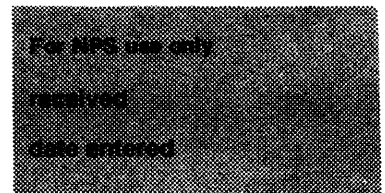
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Archaeological Potential

Several parcels within the Hempstead Historic District may be likely to yield information about both residential and industrial use within the area during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (see Figure #3). The largely undeveloped property surrounding the 1678 Hempstead House could be examined archaeologically in coordination with the study of the substantial archival material available in the diaries of Joshua Hempstead and the account books of his son, John. In addition, the land associated with 69 - 89 Hempstead Street, as well as exploration of the empty lot on the north side of High Street (the original site of Shiloh Baptist Church, demolished within the last decade) have the potential to yield information on the free black residents of the district.

One factory site may have potential industrial archaeological integrity. The foundation of the 1846 cider vinegar factory built by David Bishop exists apparently undisturbed following the destruction of the building in the 1920s. The remains are located behind the former Bingham Paper Box Co. building at 19 Mountain Avenue, and accessible only through the rear lot of 6 Thompson Court.

Endnotes

1

Anna Hempstead Branch (1875-1937) was the last of the Hempstead family to occupy 11 Hempstead Street. She was recognized as a poetess of national significance, with four volumes of poetry published during her lifetime, and one published posthumously in 1944. Wells Eggleston Wadleigh, Cedar Grove Cemetery, 1851-1976 (New London, Connecticut: The New London Cemetery Association, 1976).

2

Wall's Scrapbook, p.121. An anti-slavery meeting in the 1840s includes the family names of Coit, Haley and Prince among the attendees. Christopher Prince was married to a Hempstead, and living in 1 Hempstead Street (75 Jay Street) by 1856. He was involved in the publication of an abolitionist newspaper with Stephen Hempstead, who lived in 98 Hempstead Street, across the street from the black enclave.
The Slave's Cry, Vol.1 No.1., 1844

3

Complaints were aired in the New London Telegram about the sickening odor produced by the cannery during its first year of operation. Tanneries are also notorious for offensive fumes. The commercial establishments must have reduced property values and made the district a less than desirable neighborhood. The decision to locate here could have been influenced by the limited political clout of the black residents already on the street.

Robert Owen Decker, The Whaling City (Chester, Connecticut: The Pequot Press, 1976).

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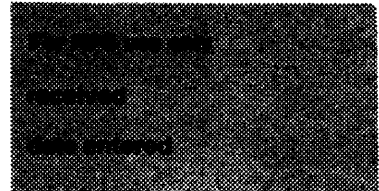
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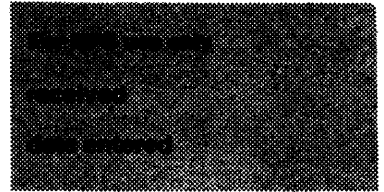
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Sanborn-Perris Map Company. "Sanborn Map of New London, 1891."

_____. "Sanborn Map of New London, 1901."

_____. "Sanborn map of New London, 1907."

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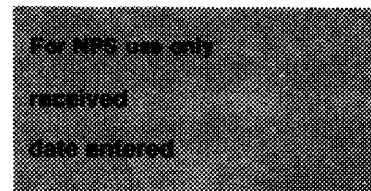
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UTM References, Continued

	Zone	Easting	Northing
I.	19	742200	4581960
J.	19	742240	4582110
K.	19	742290	4582080
L.	19	742310	4582100
M.	19	742410	4582010
N.	19	742480	4582080

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southwest corner of Mercer and Hempstead Streets, the district boundary follows the southern side of Mercer street in a westerly direction until the western boundary of 4 Mercer Street, then travels south along the property lines of 4 Mercer and 112-114 Hempstead Street. The boundary then follows the north and west property lines of the houses on Borodell Place and the western property line of 13 Manwaring Street. The district boundary crosses Manwaring Street and runs along the western side of Mountain Avenue until it meets and follows the northern property line of 72 Mountain Avenue. The boundary then follows the western property lines of the houses on Mountain Avenue, Bishop Court and 1 Prest Street. The boundary then crosses Prest Street, and continues along the rear lines of the Mountain Avenue properties and the southwest line of 33 Hope Street, crosses Hope Street, and continues in a straight line approximately 100 feet. The boundary then makes a 90 degree turn and runs northeast along the rear of the Hope Street properties, turns 90 degrees again along the southeastern line of 106 Truman Street, crosses Truman Street, and continues along the east side of Truman Street to a point opposite the corner of Jay and Hempstead Streets. The boundary then crosses Coit Street to the corner of Coit and Jay Streets, then continues along the east side of Jay Street to a point opposite the northeast corner of 25 Jay Street, crosses Jay Street and follows the north property line of 25 Jay Street, turns 90 degrees to the north along the east line of 11 Franklin Street, turns west to follow the rear lines of the Franklin Street properties until Cottage Street. The boundary turns north along the east side of Cottage Street until a point opposite the northeast corner of 17 Cottage Street, crosses Cottage Street, and continues along the north lie of 17 Cottage Street, and then turns south to follow the rear property lines of the Cottage Street properties until it meets the rear property line of 45 Franklin Street. The boundary then turns west, and follows the rear property lines of Franklin Street, crosses Hempstead Street to the point of origin.

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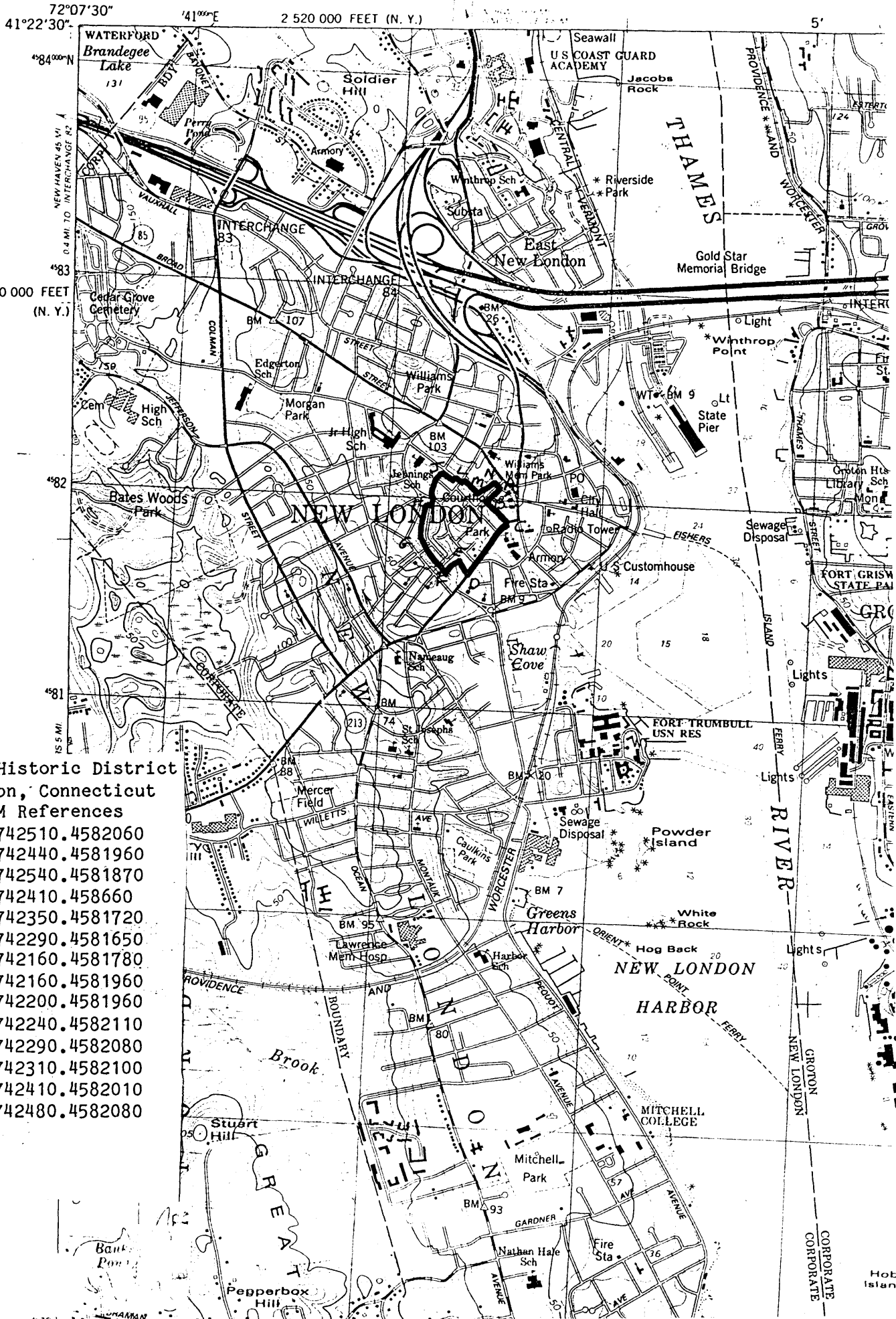
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Boundary Justification

The Hempstead Historic District boundaries follow the natural contour of the land, and which surrounds the district on three sides with higher elevations of land. A stream which once ran through the district emptied into the former Bream Cove on the southeast edge of the district. This geographic configuration has distinguished the area from the colonial period, when it was referred to as the "hollow lot", to the present. Historically, the district boundaries follow the property lines of the Hempstead and Holt family holdings. In the 1840's, as the Hempsteads began selling off parcels of their land, the district developed rapidly as a neighborhood combining modest working class homes, industrial uses and important institutions. This combination of uses, and its social and economic character have made the Hempstead Historic District a distinct neighborhood in New London, recognized by local historian Richard B. Wall in the first decade of the twentieth century. Because of its rapid development in the mid-nineteenth century, the Hempstead Historic District has a cohesive architectural character dominated by homes in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Recent construction along the ridges on the northeastern and northwestern edges of the district, and numerous paved parking lots outside the southeastern boundary further define the district.

1. J.C. Sidney, Civil Engineer, "Plan of the City of New London, New London, County, Connecticut." Philadelphia: Collins & Clark, 1850.
2. Frances M. Caulkins, History of New London, Connecticut. New London, Connecticut: H.D. Utley, 1895
3. Richard B. Wall, "History and Traditions of Holt-Hempstead Tract," The Day (November 11, 16, 20, 23 1908).
4. The 2nd Burial Ground immediately north of the district boundary shown on Figure 2 has been replaced by a park and nine-story apartment building. The bodies were exhumed in 1885 and removed to Cedar Grove Cemetery.
Wells Eggleston Wadleigh, Cedar Grove Cemetery, 1851-1976 (New London, Connecticut: The New London Cemetery Association, 1976).

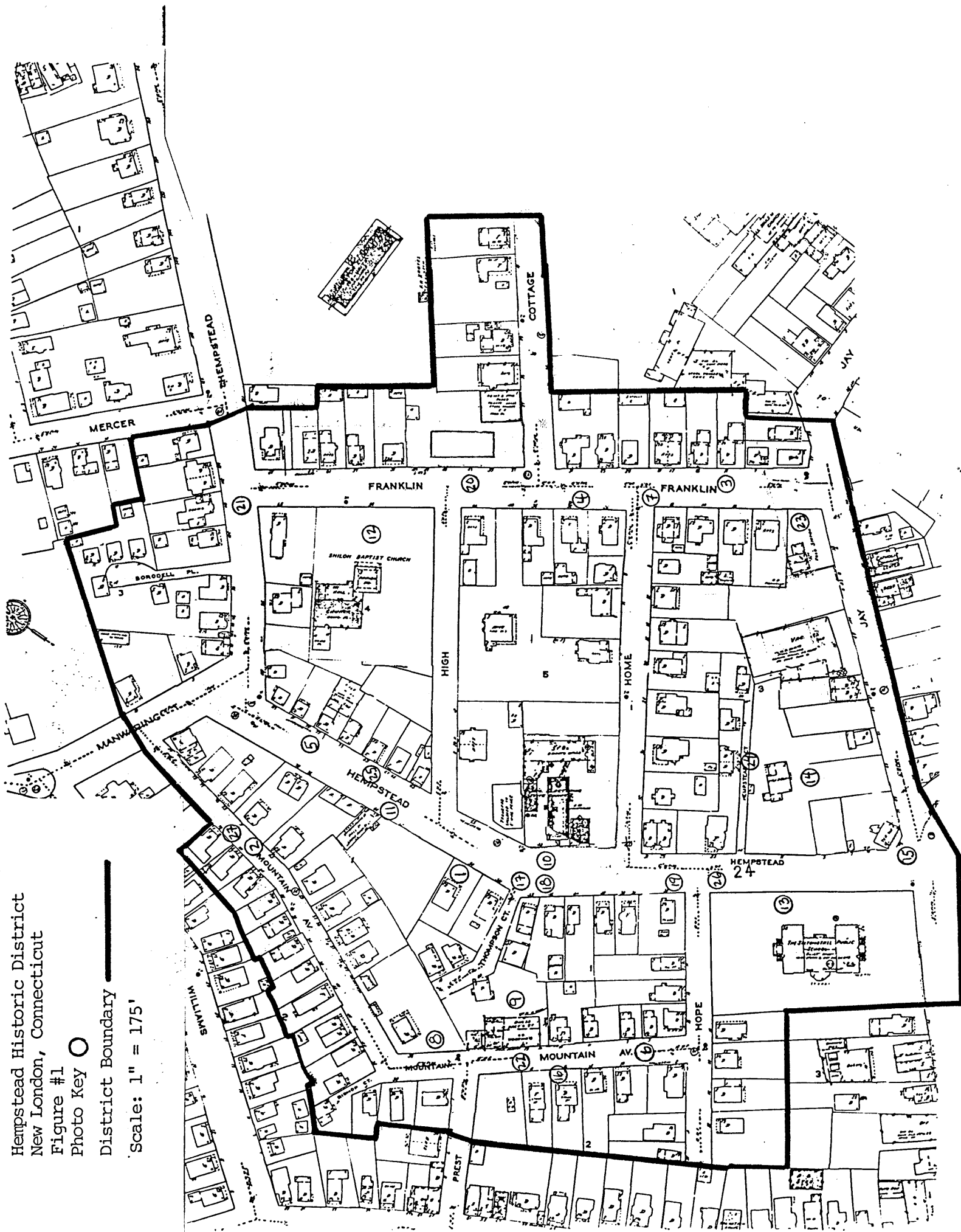
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

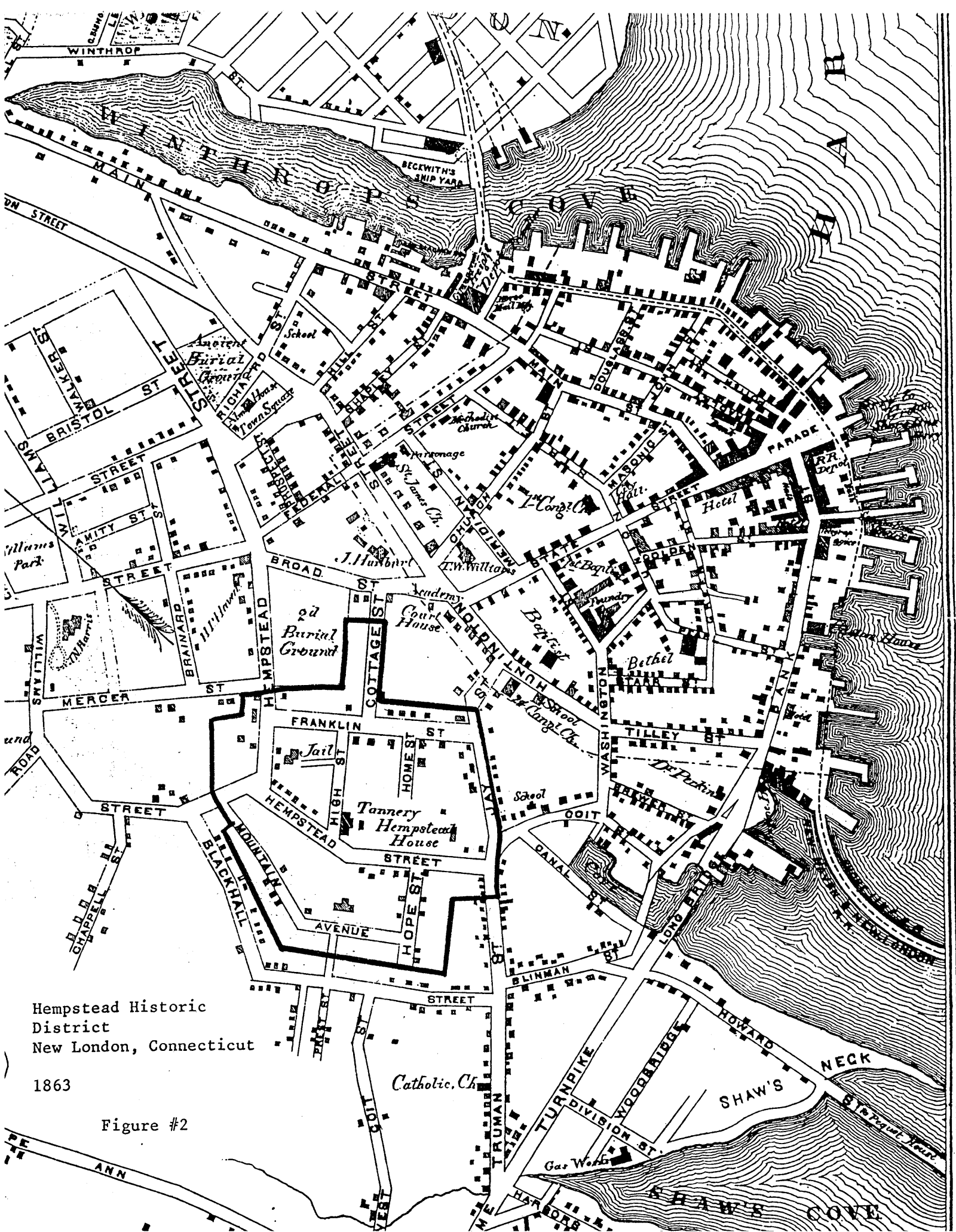


**Hempstead Historic District
New London, Connecticut
UTM References**

- A: 19. 742510.4582060
- B: 19. 742440.4581960
- C: 19. 742540.4581870
- D: 19. 742410.458660
- E: 19. 742350.4581720
- F: 19. 742290.4581650
- G: 19. 742160.4581780
- H: 19. 742160.4581960
- I: 19. 742200.4581960
- J: 19. 742240.4582110
- K: 19. 742290.4582080
- L: 19. 742310.4582100
- M: 19. 742410.4582010
- N: 19. 742480.4582080

Hempstead Historic District
New London, Connecticut
Figure #1
Photo Key ○
District Boundary ———
Scale: 1" = 175'





Hempstead Historic District
 New London, Connecticut

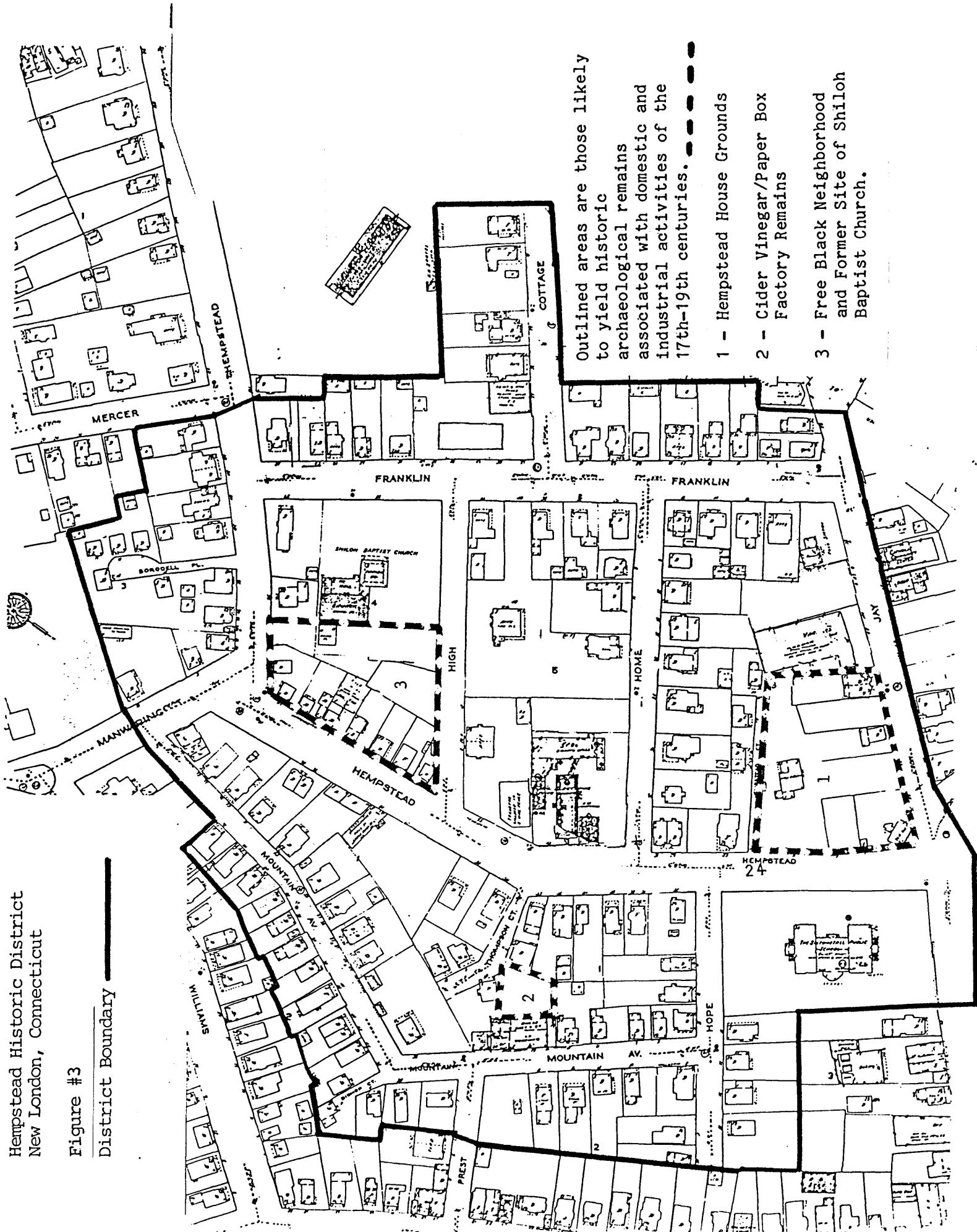
1863

Figure #2

Hempstead Historic District
New London, Connecticut

Figure #3

District Boundary



Outlined areas are those likely to yield historic archaeological remains associated with domestic and industrial activities of the 17th-19th centuries.

- 1 - Hempstead House Grounds
- 2 - Cider Vinegar/Paper Box Factory Remains
- 3 - Free Black Neighborhood and Former Site of Shiloh Baptist Church.