

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number West Granby Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet not for publication NA
city, town Granby vicinity NA
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06035

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>76</u>	<u>16</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>31</u>	<u>21</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>113</u>	<u>37</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *[Signature]* Date 3/13/92
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.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 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:) _____

[Signature] 5-1-92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellings

Agricultural: agricultural

outbuildings

Industry: manufacturing facility

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellings

Agricultural: agricultural

outbuildings

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: New England Colonial

Early Republic: Federal

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

Fieldstone

Tin roofs

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The West Granby Historic District, located in Granby, Connecticut, is approximately three miles west of the town center. The district includes all of the extant resources associated with the historic village of West Granby, which was laid out and settled beginning in the early 18th century. Most of the properties front on Simsbury Road between its intersection with Firetown Road, at the southern end of the district, and termination at Hartland Road at the north end. Simsbury Road parallels the west branch of Salmon Brook, which played a significant role in the 18th- and 19th-century economic life of the village because of the mills that harnessed its waterpower. The district's physical features are an important part of its identity. Salmon Brook narrows into the rocky Huggins Gorge (photograph 1) just north of the site of West Granby's first grist mill (c.1742). West of the brook is hilly, while to the east the land rolls gradually upward to the east and is divided into open fields and pastures recalling the district's agricultural past (photograph 2). Few acres are now in active cultivation.

The district contains 150 resources, 113 (75%) of which contribute to its historical significance. Together with dwellings and barns dating from c.1760 to 1940, these include fieldstone walls marking the boundaries of original 1734 land grants (figure 1), the foundations of 18th-, 19th- and early-20th-century mills (photographs 3-6), and the West Granby Cemetery (1811, photograph 7) (notes 1 & 2). Non-contributing resources include the West Granby United Methodist Church (1976, photograph 8) and several modern residences.

With few exceptions, all of the principal buildings are residential; the outbuildings consist primarily of barns and garages dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. Examples of architectural styles represented include the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate. Many houses and most outbuildings are plain and functional.

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West Granby Historic District
Granby, Connecticut

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List of Properties within the West Granby Historic District

The historic district includes the following properties located on Broad Hill, Hartland, and Simsbury roads, and Day Street South that are identified by street number and/or block/lot/map number on the Granby Assessor's maps:

Broad Hill Road:

1, 3, 10, 11, 16, 26 (37/26/1) and 55 (37/55/1)

Day Street South:

60-68 (31/60-60/1)

Hartland Road:

38, 42-58 (24/42-58/4), 43-57 (32/43-57/1), 64 (24/64/4) and 70

Simsbury Road:

7, 8, 14 (32/14/1), 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26 (32/26/1), 29, 34, 38, 40, 39 (32/39/1), 42, 43, 44, 46, 50, West Granby Cemetery (31/56/4), 57, 60, 61, 64-82 (31/64-82/4), 65, 68, 73, 74, 76, 78, 87, 88 (31/88/1), 92-112 (31/92-112/1&4), 115, 123-139 (37/123-139/1&2), 128 (31/128/1), 130, 134, 142, 143, 170 and 175

West Granby Road:

280, 281, 285 and 286

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The built resources retain their historic appearances to a considerable degree. Alterations are generally limited to non-original synthetic sidings and replacement windows; some buildings also received later additions. A number have tin roofs, some of which may be original. All of the contributing resources are wood-framed, and most have clapboarded walls and brick or granite foundations. Two stories is the typical building height, although there are a few one-story homes and outbuildings. The buildings are scattered both in clusters and randomly, with relatively few modern intrusions.

The four houses identifiably in the Colonial style share the characteristic five-bay rectangular plan, chimney centered in the roof ridge, clapboard sheathing, and central front entrance. The most stylistically ambitious is the Sadoce Wilcox House (c.1787, photograph 9). Encasing the front door, which is set under a six-light transom, is a molded surround embellished with a pulvinated frieze and slightly projecting denticulated cornice. A matching dentil band decorates the eaves. A simpler design is the James Huggins House (c.1790, photograph 10), 70 Hartland Road, which has an unusually wide front door casing topped by a splayed lintel. The one-story wing, distinguished by its flared roof sheltering a front porch, appears to be original and housed a tavern c.1800.

Significant Greek Revival modernizations occurred at the Colonial-style Nahum Holcomb House of Broad Hill Farm (c.1790, photograph 11). The front entrance, for example, was recessed, surrounded with sidelights and a transom, and set within a stylish surround of pilasters and entablature. The long rear wing was a typical 19th-century addition. Extensive changes and additions have altered the district's single one-story Colonial building, the c.1760 Thaddeus Hayes House at 34 Simsbury Road.

Of the district's three Federal-style buildings, the c.1820 Harlow Wilcox House, 29 Simsbury Road, is singular because of its front doorway (photograph 12), the most elaborate of any in the district. A molded semi-elliptical arch frames the door, sidelights, and fanlight with arched glazing. The arch, in turn, is flanked by pilasters and set under an entablature highlighted by a frieze decorated with triglyphs and a cornice with mutules. On West Granby Road, the c.1790 Joab Griffen House displays the

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characteristic pedimented side gable with radial-glazed semi-elliptical fanlight and attenuated doorway surrounds.

With six examples, the Greek Revival is the best represented style in the district, and the most diverse and sophisticated. Three-bay facades with off-center front entrances and pedimented front gables containing rectangular windows are the rule. At the Pettibone/Cone House at 15 Simsbury Road (photograph 13), elaborate Greek Revival detailing embellishes the c.1820 main block (note 3). The front entrance casing is highlighted with bull's-eye blocks, sidelights and transom with geometric glazing, pilasters channeled in a curvilinear profile, and a full entablature with denticulated architrave. Complementary detailing marks the roofline entablature and front tympanum window. The front door, with eight compound panels, is a feature found at most of the Greek Revival houses.

Distinctive, skillfully executed Greek Revival doorways abound. At 134 Simsbury Road, the c.1830 Anson Holcomb House (photograph 14) displays elongated Greek key corner blocks and a central overpanel with raised diamond molding. The geometric small-pane glazing of the tympanum window is even more intricate than that found in the doorway glazing. The diamond motif appears in the transom and sidelight glazing of the Trumbull Wilcox House at 50 Simsbury Road (c.1850, photograph 15).

Unique among the Greek Revival buildings in the district is the Carlton Holcomb House of c.1845 (photograph 16). Only one-and-one-half-stories in height, its features offer the most fully developed expression of the style and the clearest allusion to the temple form. The detailing is perhaps disproportionately grand for the scale of the house; heavy paneled pilasters turn each corner of the L-plan building, supporting a wide entablature with small rectangular attic windows in the flat frieze. Spanning the side wing is a recessed portico supported by an imposing single fluted Doric column, originally one of two.

The district contains Bungalows at 3 and 11 Broad Hill Road (c.1917 and c.1920, respectively), as well as many vernacular buildings of various ages. The Bungalows have the requisite broad gable roofs and exposed roof rafters; the former is decorated with knee brackets, while the latter has a long

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recessed front porch. 16 Broad Hill Road (c.1842) and the Granby Tennis Club Pavilion (c.1907), also on Broad Hill Road, show the modest pretensions and range in size of the vernacular buildings, with their typical gable roofs and sash windows in various glazing patterns. Their original uses, however, in some cases were distinctive; 175 Simsbury Road (c.1877), now altered, was the District No. 9 Schoolhouse, while 43 Simsbury Road (c.1812, photograph 17) was an early industrial shop.

Wood-framed barns of many sizes, shapes, and ages form an important part of the West Granby landscape. The most architecturally distinguished, at 143 Simsbury Road (photograph 18), has Italianate-style round-arched apertures and cupola from the mid-19th century. Broad Hill Farm, 115 Simsbury Road, with its extensive concentration of outbuildings, presents a cross section in features and farm-related uses from the 19th and 20th centuries (photographs 2 and 19). Among them are long gable-roofed early-20th-century tobacco sheds characteristic of the Connecticut River Valley, and a c.1935 Wisconsin dairy barn (note 4).

The West Granby Cemetery (c.1811, photograph 7) contains grave markers in the varied materials, styles, and proportions of 19th- and 20th-century funereal art, and is the resting place for most of the village's inhabitants since its founding.

Notes

1. The historic district's potential to yield significant archeological information under Criterion D was not within the scope of this nomination. The stone mill foundations have been identified, however, because they are rare surviving remnants of West Granby's industrial heritage. The mill foundations are classified as contributing industrial sites under Criterion A because, based on historical research, they are extant historic archeological resources. Indian artifacts, mostly arrowheads, have long been found by local residents at two places in the district: south of the garage and sheds at Broad Hill Farm, 115 Simsbury Road, and in the field between 65 and 73 Simsbury Road. Perhaps with more information, an archeological research design for all or any of these resources could be developed in the future under Criterion D.

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2. Photograph 4 is a late-19th-century view, looking to the east, of the bridge across Salmon Brook at Broad Hill Road. To either side of the bridge are industrial shops, and straight ahead is the Alpheus Hayes House at 44 Simsbury Road. Photograph 5 is a modern view of the same scene. The Broad Hill Road bridge has been relocated, and the old abandoned road ends now at the riverbank. To the south of the old road are visible the ruined foundations of a shop.
3. Its side wing is thought to be the original component, dating from c.1795.
4. This style of barn was developed in the late-19th century at the agricultural experimentation station of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The design offers ample natural light and ventilation, and efficiently uses animal body heat for warmth during the winter. See Noble, Wood, Brick and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, vol. 2: Barns and Farm Structures(1984), p.45-46.

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Inventory of Historic District Resources

The inventory includes all resources of any consequence on each parcel of real property within the historic district. Contributing ("C") and non-contributing ("NC") resources are indicated in the inventory by the use of C or NC, as appropriate, before the description of each. For those resources without clear street addresses, town assessor's block/lot/map information is listed. Construction dates are derived from the research of Mark Williams of the Salmon Brook Historical Society (SBHS), the Granby Assessor's records (A), or visual analysis (VA). In cases of definite disagreement among these sources, more than one date, with notation indicating its source, is given. Dates of major alterations are listed if known. Photographic references appear at the ends of entries.

Style, Use, Date, and Architect
(if known)

Broad Hill Road

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | C | Granby Tennis Club Pavilion, 1907, vernacular, with modern canopied patio. |
| | C | Restroom building, c.1920 |
| | C | Shed, c.1920 |
| | NC | 3 Tennis Courts, c.1960 |
| | C | Stone walls marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grants |
| | C | C.1770 gristmill, foundations |
| 3 | C | Bungalow/Craftsman house, c.1917, with non-original enclosed porch and attached one-bay garage. |

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- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| 11 | C | Bungalow house, c.1920 (VA), c.1940 (A), with non-original siding, some windows, metal shutters, and rear dormer. |
| | NC | Garage, c.1950 |
| | C | Barn/garage, c.1940 |
| | NC | Shed/coop, c.1965 |
| 16 | C | Lucien Reid House, vernacular, c.1842, with non-original wings, deck, and porch |
| | C | Barn, 19th-century, with non-original wing |
| | C | Fancher shops and Simplex Manufacturing Company, stone foundations, 19th and early-20th centuries (photographs 3 & 6) |
| | C | Hayes Cider distillery and wagon shop, stone foundations, 19th-century (photographs 4 & 5) |

Hartland Road

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 38 | C | Benjamin Hayes House, c.1790, with non-original porches and attached garage; house moved back from realigned Hartland Road, c.1940 |
| | C | Garage, early-20th-century |
| 42-58
(24/42-58/4) | C | Silas Hayes carriage shop, c.1830 |
| | C | Barn, 19th-century |
| | C | Milk house, 19th-century |
| 43-57
(32/43-57/1) | C | Stone cellar hole, 19th-century, south of Salmon Brook |

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64 (24/64/4)	C	Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grants.
70	C	James Huggins House, c.1790, with c.1980 porch (photograph 10)
	C	Barn, 19th-century, converted to residence
	C	Shed, c.1930
	NC	Coop, c.1960
	NC	Coop, c.1960
	NC	In-ground pool, c.1985

Simsbury Road

7	C	Luther Pratt House, c.1820, with non-original exterior chimneys, most windows, side porch, two wings, and rear deck.
8	NC	House, 1959
	NC	Garage, c.1959
15	C	Pettibone/Cone House, Greek Revival, c.1795 wing and c.1820 main block, with non-original front door, exterior chimney, some windows, screened porch, and siding (photograph 13).
	NC	Garage, late-20th-century
	C	Silas Cone scythe factory, stone foundations, 19th-century
20	C	House, 1915 (built as Methodist Church parish house), with large non-original addition, exterior chimney, and deck
	C	Horse shed, c.1940

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21	NC NC	House, c.1915, with solar roof panels, some non-original windows, enclosed porch, and additions. Shed, c.1950
22	C NC NC	House, c.1880, with some non-original windows, non-original metal chimney stack, and deck Shed, c.1970 Above-ground pool, c.1970
24	NC NC	West Granby Fire House, c.1915, substantially altered c.1980 and converted to residence Shed, c.1980
29	C C	Harlow Wilcox House, c.1820, with non-original front door, windows, porches, c.1950 side wing, attached garage, and deck (photograph 12) Shed, c.1920
34	C C C	Thaddeus Hayes House, c.1760, with non-original front door, windows, chimney, and attached modern wing Barn, 19th-century Garage, c.1920
38	C NC	Barn/garage, 19th-century Garage, c.1980
40	C NC C	House, c.1867, with non-original siding, front door, windows, metal shutters, exterior chimney, and enclosed porch Garage, c.1980 Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grant

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42	C	House, c.1850, with non-original siding and exterior
	C	Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grant
43	C	Industrial shop, c.1812, original form extant, converted to residence, with non-original siding, metal shutters, metal exterior chimney (photograph 17)
44	C	Alpheus Hayes House, Federal, c.1795, with non-original siding, window glazing, and front door
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Coop, c.1900
	C	Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grant
46	C	Edward Hayes House, Greek Revival, c.1836, with non-original siding, large side additions (c.1970), and rear deck
	C	Shed, early-20th-century
	C	Shed, early-20th-century
	NC	Garage, c.1970
	NC	Stable, c.1970
	NC	Shed, c.1970
	C	Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile-tier land grants
50	C	Trumbull Wilcox House, Greek Revival, c.1836, with non-original windows (photograph 15)
	C	Barn, 19th-century
31/56/4	C	West Granby Cemetery, c.1811, with grave markers from 19th and 20th centuries (photograph 7)

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57	C	House, c.1850, with non-original porch (partly enclosed) and siding, and some non-original windows.
	NC	Garage, c.1970
	NC	Shed, c.1970
60	C	Barn, c.1839, converted to residence c.1925.
	C	Garage, c.1925
	NC	Above-ground pool, c.1970
61	C	Samuel Spring House, c.1812, with non-original siding, windows, shutters, and deck
	NC	Garage, c.1970
	NC	Above-ground pool, c.1970
	C	Shed, c.1920
	NC	Shed, c.1970
65	C	Sylvester Parmalee House, c.1839
	C	Garage, c.1920
	C	Barn, c.1900
	C	Barn, 19th-century (wagon painting shop)
68	C	Carlton Holcomb House, Greek Revival, c.1845, with later additions and c.1980 deck (photograph 16)
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Shed, c.1920
	C	Shed, c.1920
	NC	Shed, c.1950
	NC	Pony House, 1984
73	NC	In-ground pool, c.1985
	C	House, c.1855, with non-original enclosed front porch, siding, and rear addition
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Barn, early-20th-century

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West Granby Historic District
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- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 74 | C
C | Barn, 19th-century
Milk house, 19th-century |
| 76 | C | House, c.1850, with non-original windows, siding, and attached garage |
| 78 | C
C
C
C | House, c.1850, with non-original siding and enclosed front porch
Garage, c.1925
Shed, c.1920
Shed, c.1920 |
| 87 | NC
C | West Granby United Methodist Church, 1976 (photograph 8)
Barn, 19th-century |
| 88 | C
C
NC
NC | House, c.1875, with non-original siding and most windows
Barn, c.1900
Shed, late-20th-century
Shed, late-20th-century |
| 115
(Broad Hill Farm): | | |
| | C
C
C
C
C
C(8)
C(3) | Nahum Holcomb House, c.1790, with non-original windows, front door, rear enclosed porch, and ell (photograph 11)
Garage, c.1920
Shed, early-20th-century
Coop, early-20th-century
Corn crib, early-20th-century
Eight barns, early- to mid-20th-century (photographs 2 and 19)
Stone walls marking three separate 1734 half-mile-tier land grant |

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123-139 (37/123-139/1&2) (Broad Hill Farm):	C	Barn, with several additions, early-20th-century
	C	Milk house, early-20th-century
130	NC	House, 1952
	NC	Shed, c.1952
134	C	Anson Holcomb House, Greek Revival, c.1830, with some non-original windows, deck, and attached shed (photograph 14)
	C	Barn/garage, early-20th-century
142	C	House, c.1850, with non-original attached garage, some windows, enclosed porch, rear wing, and deck
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Shed, early-20th-century
	C	Coop, 19th-century
	C	Stone wall marking 1734 half-mile- tier land grants
143	C	Sadoce Wilcox House, 1787, with non-original rear porch (photograph 9)
	C	Barn, mid-19th-century
170	NC	House, 1959
	NC	Garage, 1959
175	C	District No.9 Schoolhouse, 1877 (converted to residence, c.1950), with non-original wing, attached garage, and some windows

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West Granby Road

280	C	House, 1927, with non-original skylights and attached garage
	C	Shed, c.1940
281	C	House, c.1836, with non-original siding, windows, and front porch
	C	Barn, 19th-century
285	NC	House, c.1927, extensively altered
	C	Barn, 19th-century
286	C	Joab Griffin House, c.1790, Federal
	C	Barn, 19th-century
	C	Garage, c.1925

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry
Agriculture

Period of Significance

1734-1940

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Historically, the West Granby Historic District was a bustling and vital center of Granby industrial life during the first half of the 19th century, typical of the evolution of many small rural communities throughout New England with access to waterpower. Architecturally, the district forms a locally distinctive concentration of late-18th and 19th-century buildings, in a landscape with strong historic visual integrity. The buildings document the village's long history, with sophisticated examples of Colonial, Federal, and Greek Revival styles being especially well represented. Stone walls survive from the earliest settlement, while small mill shops and barns, some of architectural pretension, document the important role of water-powered commerce and agriculture in community life.

Historical Significance

West Granby was part of the lands acquired by the original English proprietors of Simsbury, Connecticut, in 1670. With the exception of a few small parcels granted in the early- 18th century, the area that is now West Granby was divided up for individual ownership based on two surveys, the first in 1723 and the second in 1734 (figure 2) (note 1). The new owners traded and speculated in the land, only a few of them actually farming. Rocks cleared for farming were gathered and made into stone walls, many of which survive and mark lot lines from original land grants. Roads were laid out but their paths changed; Simsbury Road and West Granby Road assumed their present routes in 1794, not long after Granby was incorporated as a separate town in 1786 (figure 3).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Salmon Brook Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 750

UTM References

A 18 677760 4648220
Zone Easting Northing

C 18 678730 4647230

B 18 678830 4647910
Zone Easting Northing

D 18 679150 4647100

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet entitled "List of Properties Within the West Granby Historic District" and the Sketch Map (Figure 1).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The historic district includes all of those resources associated with the historic development of the community of West Granby from its settlement until 1940. The district is bounded by modern development on the east and on West Granby Road, and by open land and woodland in other directions.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Gregory E. Andrews, consultant, with Mark Williams

organization Salmon Brook Historical Society date 9 March 1992

street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone 203-561-3841

city or town West Hartford, state CT zip code 06107

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West Granby Historic District
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After the Revolution, access to waterpower was a spur to commercial growth throughout New England, and West Granby was no exception. Efforts to harness the west branch of Salmon Brook, which had begun with a c.1742 gristmill years before, mounted. Small mills were built at various spots, the owners typically damming the brook to increase the force of the water flow (figure 3). One of the most ambitious was James Huggins, who arrived in 1784 and built a gristmill, a shop to make wire for wool carding, a trip hammer shop, and a gin distillery. His c.1790 home at 70 Hartland Road served as an inn for travelers on the stage road from Hartford to Albany. Brothers Thaddeus and Alpheus Hayes opened a clothiers shop, with fulling mill, dye works, and dressing shop. Grist and sawmills, and a hatter's shop, were a part of this emerging enterprise. Farmers Nahum Holcomb and Sadoce Wilcox, working the better soil farther south in the district, built substantial new homes at 115 and 143 Simsbury Road (c.1790 and 1787, respectively).

By the early-19th century, West Granby had become a distinct community within Granby and arguably the town's most important commercial center. Almost half of the Granby commercial establishments identified in an 1819 survey were located here, the rest being divided among the villages of Granby Street and North Granby, and scattered other sites (note 2). West Granby had its own church (Methodist) and general store (figure 4).

At the same time, West Granby, like New England generally, was experiencing major problems that brought growth almost to a standstill. Floods, freakish cold weather, harsh competition from European imports, and deteriorating soils were taking their toll. The story of the small mills along the brook was one of occasional success but more typically failure, the same mill site often witnessing a succession of owners. Many people, especially the young, abandoned the area, leaving for jobs in the growing cities and expanding textile industries, or for the promise of fertile lands out West.

Yet from the mid-1820s through the 1840s, the community achieved greater prosperity as a spirit of revival took hold. This new attitude expressed itself in local social reform movements, the construction of an impressive Methodist church (1845) in the

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Greek Revival style, the opening of the West Granby Academy (1842) with an emphasis on a "moral" education, and the emergence of new business ventures. These enterprises included Silas Cone's scythe factory, a rebuilt gristmill, a wagon factory, and a shoe shop (figure 5). A few of these shops survive, including a building that was part of the Hayes clothiers works (photograph 17). Extant foundations along the brook document others, such as the succession of shops operated by members of the Fancher family at one site across from the cemetery (photographs 3 & 6).

Reflecting this confidence and expansion, fine new homes were raised. Blacksmith Trumbull Wilcox was among those who built in the fashionable Greek Revival style (50 Simsbury Road). Even Carlton Holcomb, a modestly successful shoemaker, felt capable of building himself a Greek temple (68 Simsbury Road, c.1845) upon his marriage to the valedictorian of the West Granby Academy. West Granby's commercial importance in town remained firm, according to an 1845 survey (note 3).

Unfortunately, once again the people of West Granby were frustrated in their efforts to improve the community. By the 1850s, competition from steam-powered businesses in the cities was strangling some local shops, depressions in 1837 and in 1857 brought ruin to others, and vigorous young people continued to move away. When the Civil War ended, orders for locally made carriage wheels came to a halt.

From the 1860s onward, West Granby, and the town as a whole, settled into a long period of decline. West Granby never regained its former vitality. The commercial shops along Salmon Brook gradually failed and fell into ruin, and farming resumed its former role as the economic lifeblood of the community. For decades, little new construction occurred. The last major facility built was the Simplex Manufacturing Company, c.1900, an isolated case (note 4). Recreational fishing along Salmon Brook attracted anglers in increasing numbers around the turn of the century, prompting one resident to build a small camp on the gorge. Only a few homes have been built in this century, all modest in scale and style.

Tudor (1886-1978) and Laura Holcomb (?-?), sibling descendants of early settlers, were significant exceptions to this trend who

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achieved prominence and financial success. Combining Tudor's schooling in the emerging late-19th-century scientific methods of farming and Laura's bookkeeping skills, they turned the family's failing Broad Hill Farm into a modern, and model, agricultural enterprise. Tudor Holcomb pioneered among Connecticut farmers in switching from growing broadleaf tobacco to shade-grown, to his considerable profit, and in irrigating and fertilizing his crops. The farm's prize herd of Guernsey cattle achieved recognition as the state's first milking operation run completely on electricity (note 5).

Architectural Significance

The West Granby Historic District displays a strong sense of its history because most of the historic resources, both built and natural, survive. Buildings spanning most of its long period of significance (1734-1940) are present. The streets closely follow their historic routes, and old fieldstone walls and rows of trees still mark property lines. Distinctive topographical features of the district (Salmon Brook, the rolling hills, cultivated fields, and forests) remain unobscured by change or modern development.

Architecturally, the buildings in the district display the range in quality and style that one would expect from an area of its age and significance. Buildings of architectural pretension and more modest vernacular designs may both be found. The Sadoce Wilcox House presents an archetypical late-18th-century plan with a facade of considerable distinction. Despite many alterations, the Harlow Wilcox House of c.1820 has a Federal-style front entrance displaying a level of craftsmanship that is completely unexpected for a rural locale. Yet the most impressive are the Greek Revival houses because of the variety of their skillful glazing and woodworking designs, and their distinctive front doors.

The district's barns, likewise, include a stylish mid-19th-century Italianate example at 149 Simsbury Road, and an extensive array of fine Colonial Revival examples at Broad Hill Farm. More modest buildings, whether residential or farm-related, display typical vernacular features of their times. Plain, gable-roofed

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houses with few decorative details, from throughout the 19th century, are common, as are barns with flushboard sheathing and rubble foundations.

The resources in the district are also significant because they clearly convey its long history and changing fortunes. Fieldstone walls marking the lot lines set out in the 1734 survey bear witness to the early settlement. Greek Revival-style homes of greater distinction and number than those from any other period in the district, and collectively of higher quality than anywhere else in Granby, are reminders of the village's industrial preeminence locally in the first half of the 19th century. Economic decline thereafter is evident from the small number of buildings, all of little pretension, erected during the rest of the century. Agriculture's historic and continuing role as an economic anchor for West Granby is confirmed by the fields, pastures, and many barns and outbuildings. The Broad Hill Farm's impressive complex of farm buildings stands as witness to the Holcombs' success as farmers during the 20th century.

Notes

1. In 1723, land south of Day Street was divided into long narrow lots, each 3-3/4-mile in length, known as the "Long Lots"; land to the north was laid out in 1734 in tiers of lots, each tier, oriented north/south, consisting of half-mile-wide lots.
2. Pease and Niles, A Gazetteer of the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island(1819).
3. Tyler, Statistics of the condition and products of certain branches of industry in Connecticut for the year ending October 1, 1845(1846).
4. The Holcombs turned their financial rewards into many public benefits. West Granby benefitted from their donation of land and money for the construction of a new West Granby United Methodist Church in 1976 and for the Lost Acres Volunteer Fire Department on West Granby Road. Among Tudor Holcomb's contributions to the larger community were land and money for a new Granby Town Hall (1976) and town library (1981), and

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gifts to the University of Hartford and Hartford Hospital. His public service included membership on Granby's first Board of Finance in the 1930s and two terms representing Granby in the state legislature. In 1976, the Holcombs donated 332 acres of Broad Hill Farm, virtually its entire extent, to the University of Connecticut as a center for research in advanced farming methods. The farm has since become the property of the Town of Granby. The Hartford Courant, 6/26/76, 10:4, and 2/12/78, 28:5.

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E: 18/679110/4646870
F: 18/680330/4646400
G: 18/680380/4644040
H: 18/678080/4644860
I: 18/679020/4645460
J: 18/678160/4645550
K: 18/678240/4646100
L: 18/678360/4646450
M: 18/677810/4646150
N: 18/677700/4647450

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of extant resources in the West Granby Historic District were taken either by Gregory E. Andrews in July and August, 1991 (#1, 2, 5, 7-10, 12, 14, and 16), or by Mark Williams in December, 1990 (#3, 4, 6, 11, 13, and 15). Photograph #4 is from the collection of the Salmon Brook Historical Society, Granby, Connecticut. Negatives for all photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description and View</u>
1.	Huggins Gorge, west branch of Salmon Brook, west view
2.	Broad Hill Farm, from Simsbury Road south of Nahum Holcomb House, northwest view
3.	West branch of Salmon Brook, with foundations of mill site occupied by Fancher family enterprises and Simplex Manufacturing Company, opposite 50 Simsbury Road, northwest view
4.	Late-19th-century view of bridge across Salmon Brook at Broad Hill Road, with industrial shops to either side of road on east bank and Alpheus Hayes House, 44 Simsbury Road, beyond. Northeast view.
5.	Present-day view of same scene as photograph 4, with stone mill foundations visible to the right of the bridge abutment.
6.	Foundations of mill site occupied by Fancher family enterprises and Simplex Manufacturing Company, adjacent to and southeast of foundations shown in photograph 3. East view.
7.	West Granby Cemetery, north view.
8.	West Granby United Methodist Church, northwest view.

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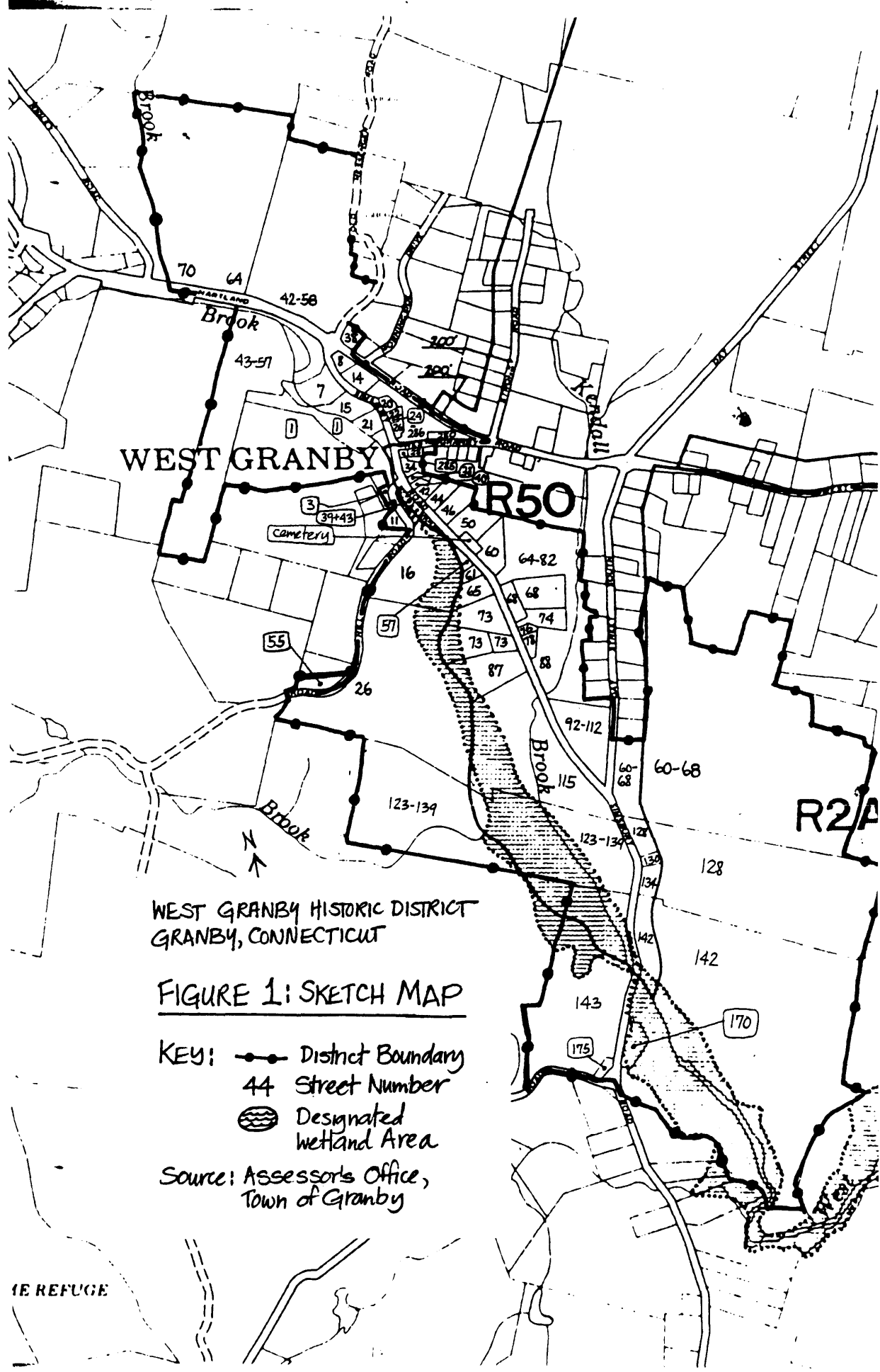
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9. Sadoce Wilcox House, 143 Simsbury Road, west view.
10. James Huggins House, 70 Hartland Road, north view.
11. Nahum Holcomb House, 115 Simsbury Road, southwest view.
12. Harlow Wilcox House, 29 Simsbury Road, west view.
13. Pettibone/Cone House, 15 Simsbury Road, southwest view.
14. Anson Holcomb House, 134 Simsbury Road, east view.
15. Trumbull Wilcox House, 50 Simsbury Road, east view.
16. Carlton Holcomb House, 68 Simsbury Road, east view.
17. 43 Simsbury Road, southwest view.
18. Barn at 143 Simsbury Road, north view.
19. Barns at Broad Hill Farm, 115 Simsbury Road, southwest view.



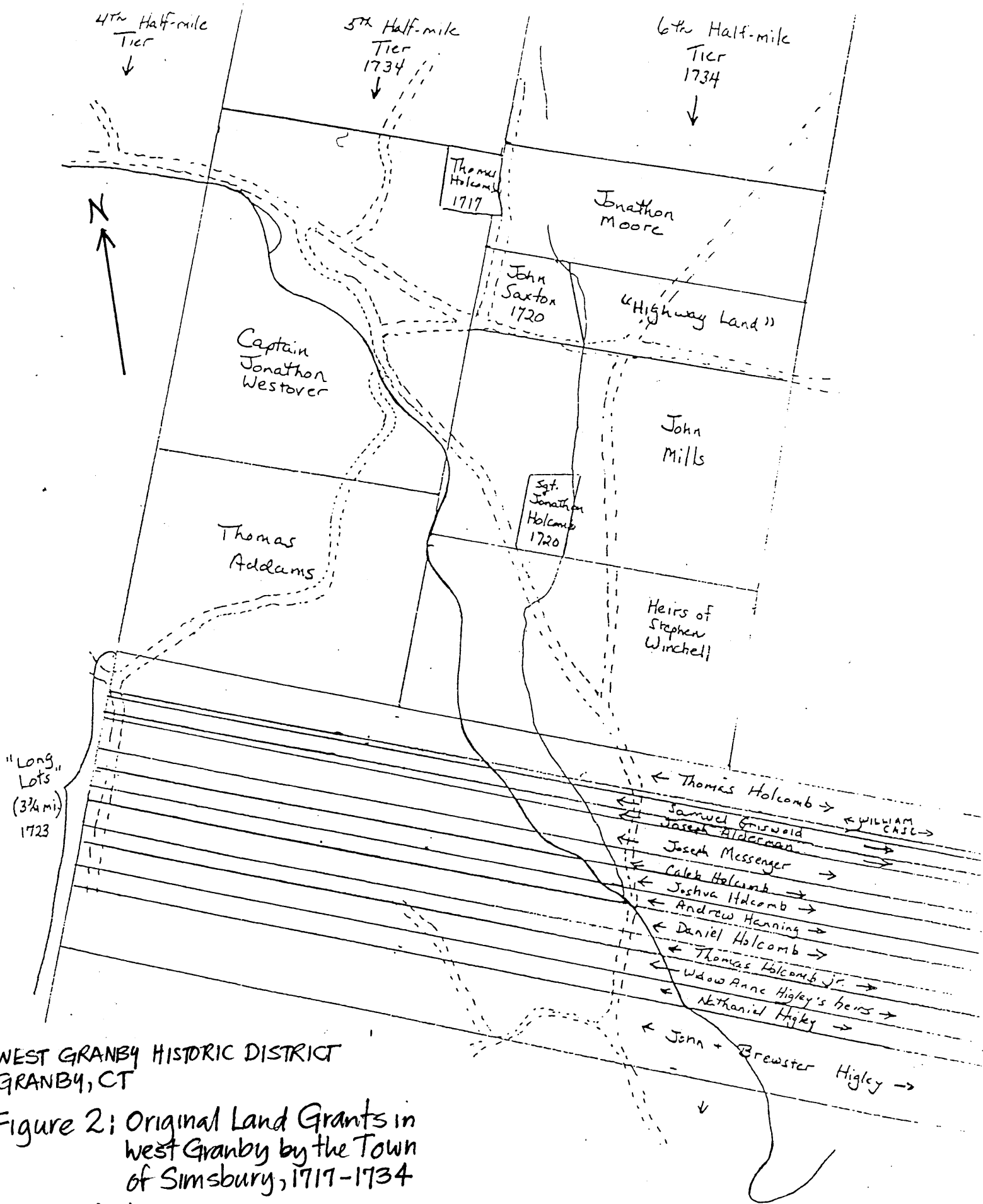
WEST GRANBY HISTORIC DISTRICT
 GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

FIGURE 1: SKETCH MAP

- KEY: ●—● District Boundary
 44 Street Number
 ☞ Designated wetland Area

Source: Assessor's Office,
 Town of Granby

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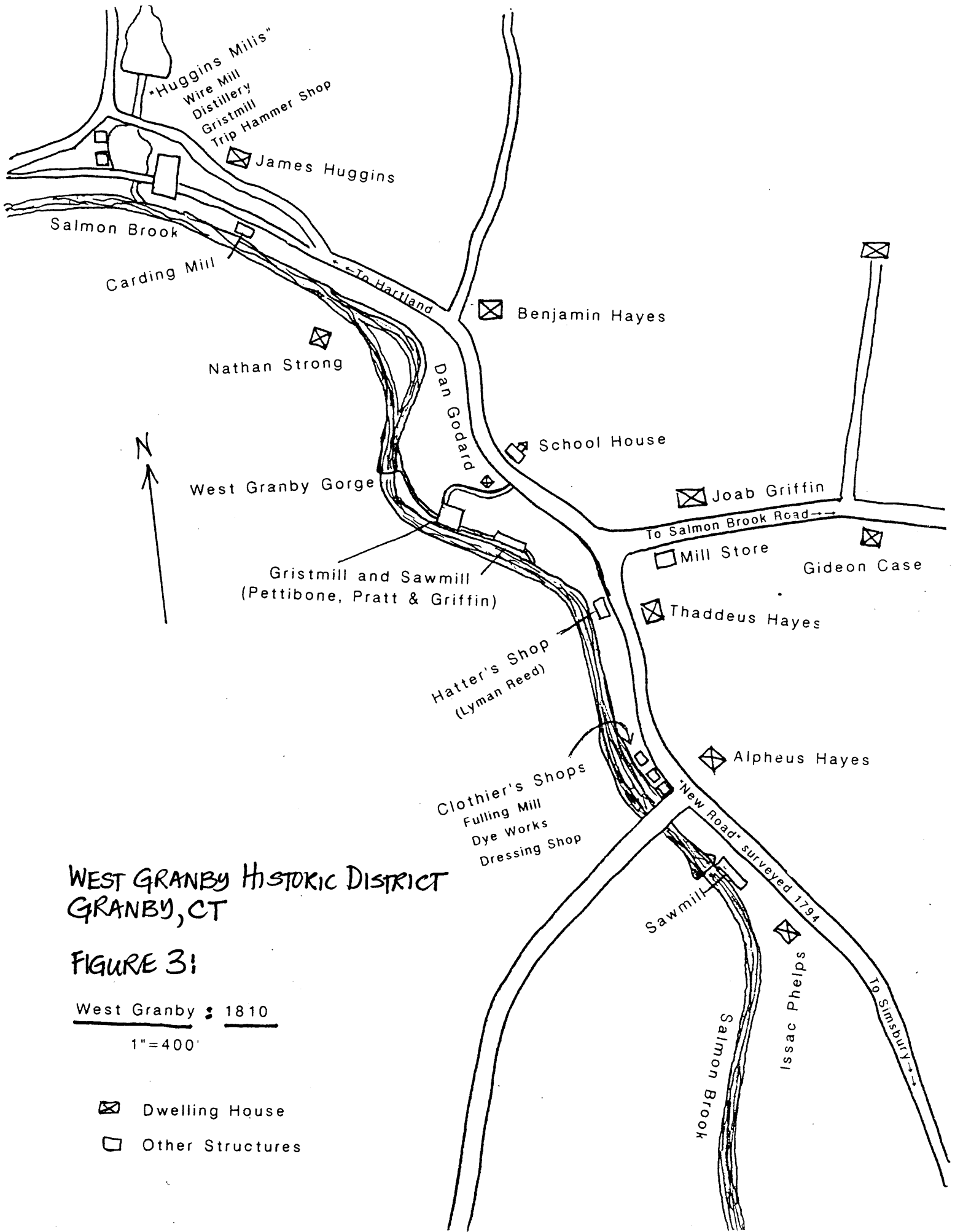


WEST GRANBY HISTORIC DISTRICT
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Figure 2: Original Land Grants in West Granby by the Town of Simsbury, 1717-1734

1" = 1160 feet

Roads in 1991 shown as == ==

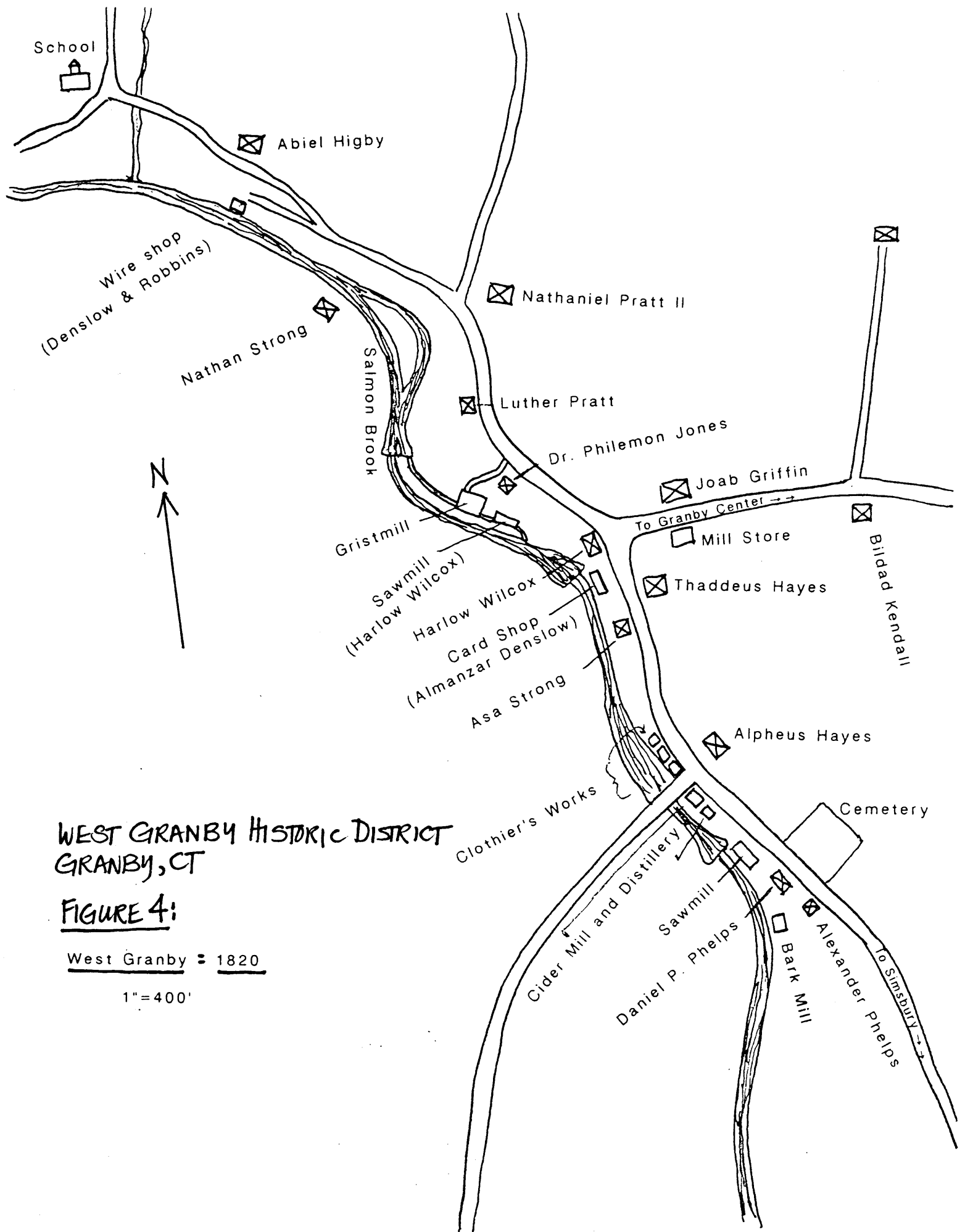


**WEST GRANBY HISTORIC DISTRICT
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FIGURE 3:

West Granby : 1810
1" = 400'

- ☒ Dwelling House
- ☐ Other Structures

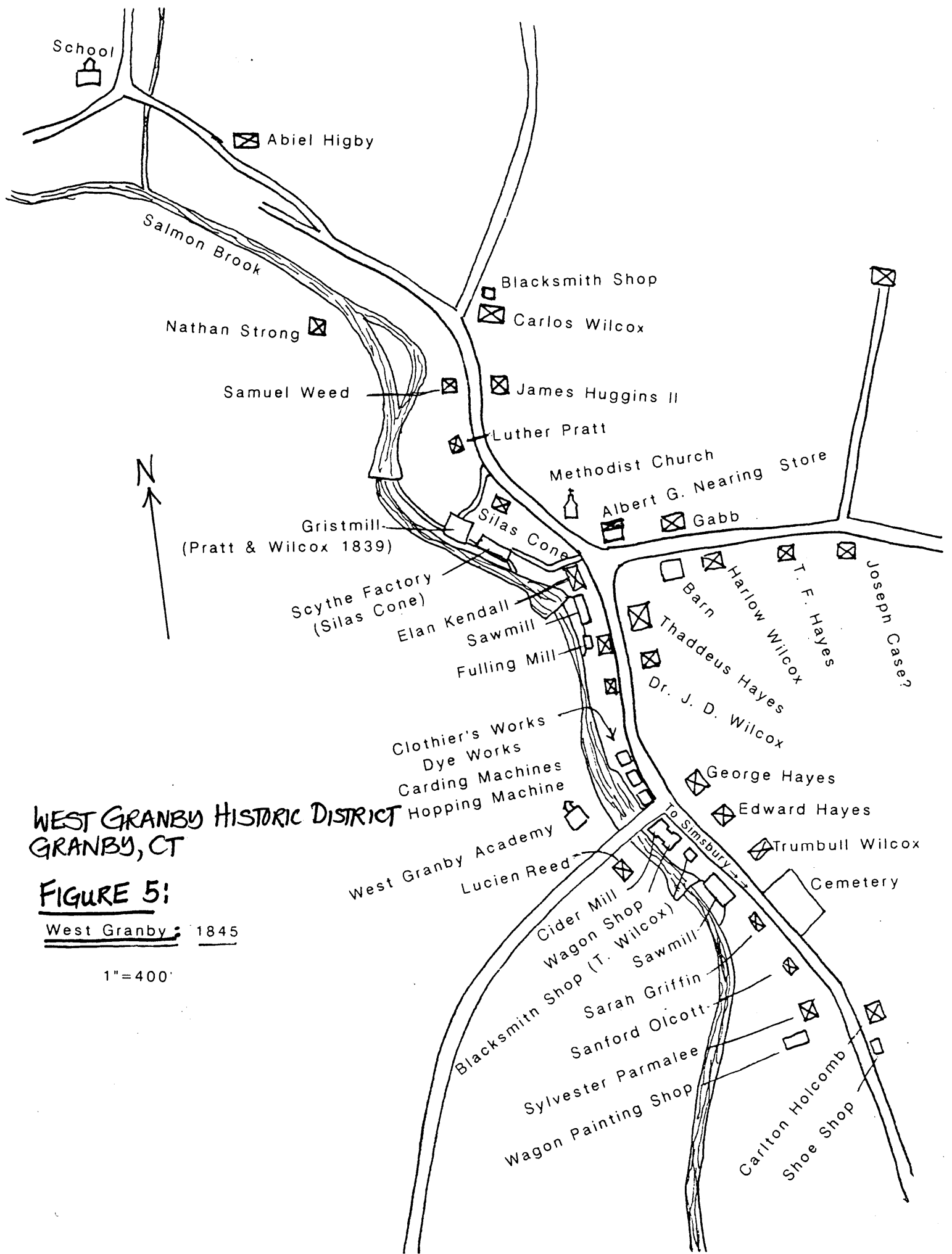


WEST GRANBY HISTORIC DISTRICT
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FIGURE 4:

West Granby = 1820

1" = 400'



**WEST GRANBY HISTORIC DISTRICT
GRANBY, CT**

FIGURE 5:

West Granby, 1845

1" = 400'