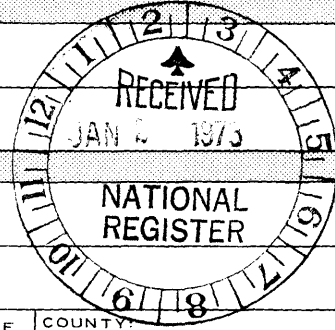


PH0000906

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 17 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Norwichtown Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(see attached map)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Norwich

STATE:  
Connecticut

CODE: 09      COUNTY: New London      CODE: 011

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) 1) home for elderly 2) offices

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
(various owners)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Union Square

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:  
Norwich      Connecticut      09

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
59 South Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:  
Hartford      Connecticut      09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut  
COUNTY: New London  
ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 17 1973  
DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



The Norwichtown Historic District, established by the City of Norwich in 1967, is made up of the original Green area, which has irregular boundaries on the radiating streets. The Green is a triangular area surrounded by closely spaced structures, most of which were built in the 18th century. Two of the outstanding buildings here are Joseph Carpenter's Silversmith's Shop and Dr. Daniel Lathrop's School, standing together on the north side of the Green.

The Silversmith's Shop (National Register 10/6/70), is a small gambrel-roofed building of frame construction, built by Joseph Carpenter in 1772-1774. Its unusual feature is the wooden shutters which meet from top and bottom rather than from side to side. Just to the east is the school, erected through the efforts of Dr. Daniel Lathrop, who left a legacy of five hundred pounds for an endowed free grammar school, in 1782. Built the following year, it is believed to be one of the earliest brick school houses still standing in the State. It is of the same scale as the Silversmith's Shop next door, both being of one and a half stories and having gambrel roofs.

Along East Town Street and Huntington Lane are some of the most handsome houses in the district. The General Jedediah Huntington House was built in 1765 for one of the more illustrious military men of the Revolutionary Period. (National Register 10/6/70). A large Georgian house, it is of twin-chimney, center hallway form with gambrel roof and overhanging gable ends at 3rd floor level. The nine-window facade displays lintels at window heads cut to resemble brick, with a keystone arch. Projecting center bay contains a paneled door, framed by sidelights and reeded pilasters. Above the door is a semi-elliptical fan light in spider web pattern. The outstanding feature inside is the fine mahogany staircase which has balusters of alternating twisted rope patterns. At 16 Huntington Lane stands the Bradford-Huntington House (National Register 10/6/70). One of the most interesting old homes to survive, this is one of the three remaining structures built by a founder. One part of the house dates from before 1691, for Simon Huntington purchased from either Thomas or John Bradford the land and "new dwelling house" in 1691. There were additions made in 1719 when Simon's son Joshua obtained the homestead. There are many early features remaining: the heavy, plain box cornice at eaves line, the wide overhang at gable ends, and the small window above entry. There are two sections; that to the rear is essentially another house, being also 2 1/2 stories. It was probably this part that was built by Joshua's son, General Jabez Huntington, a wealthy West Indian trader who came into possession of the property in 1745. The house has been well-preserved and is especially interesting for its growth pattern showing the changes within one family.

There are many and varied structures in the District. Washington Street, for example, the eastern boundary, has many fine houses built before 1800, one very new house, the East District School, 1789 (National Register 10/26/70), and the Jeffingwell Inn, 1675 (National Register 12/29/70).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

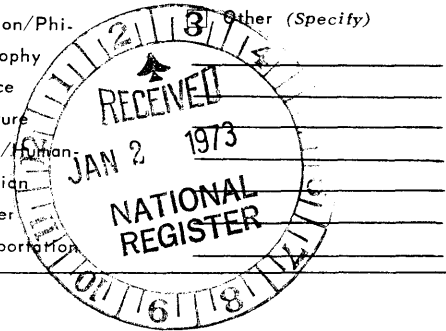
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The first settlement in Norwich was in 1660 and was located in the area known as Norwichtown. Although three hundred years have passed, the pattern and features of that settlement are still apparent in the great number of early structures remaining. Some have been altered, reflecting their varied uses. The Historic District includes that area of first settlement, which is the Green and surrounding streets.

Norwich was founded by a group of about 35 men from Saybrook who petitioned the General Court at Hartford in May, 1659, for permission to make a settlement here. Nine square miles were deeded to them by the Mohegan Indians and his sons Taneco and Attawanhood in June, 1659. In the spring of 1660 the Reverend James Fitch moved from Saybrook to Norwich with the principal part of his congregation.

The "Town Plot" was laid out along the Yantic River. Home lots were several acres and included pasture land. Near the center of the Plot was an open space for public buildings; this area was soon known as Meetinghouse Plain or the Green. Somewhat later, in 1729, the Town Proprietors voted that Meetinghouse Plain "shall be and remain to be... for publick Use for the whole Town forever henceforth without alteration."<sup>1</sup> The church had its place here and has alternately stood on the Green and on the cliff behind (Meetinghouse Rocks). The second and third churches were erected on this high point which also served as a watch tower against Indian raids. Behind the church stood the powder house, a wooden structure which was set on fire and exploded during the Revolution. The fourth church was built at the northwest corner of the Green in 1770, and the fifth, the present building, in the same place when the fourth burned in 1801. Accompanying the church on the Green were the courthouse, shops, residences, and more than one tavern.

By 1836 when John Barber wrote his "Collections", the town was a place of about two hundred houses on pleasant rural streets within a short distance of the Congregational Church. The area outlined by the historic district includes the Green and these streets, still much the same as they were in Barber's day. The district has kept, through much effort and work of its residents, a great deal of its important early atmosphere. The streets around the Green are narrow and not easily accessible to vehicular traffic. Washington Street is a major city street, but its

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Barber, John Warner. Connecticut Historical Collections. New Haven 1836.  
 Caulkins, Frances H. History of Norwich. Published by the author, 1866.  
 Crofut, F.S.M. Guide to the History and Historic Sites of Connecticut.  
 Yale University Press. New Haven. 1937.  
 Gilman, Daniel Coit. "A Historical Discourse." Boston. 1859.  
 O'Keefe, Marian, and Doroshevich, Catherine. Norwich Historic Homes and Families. Pequot Press. Stonington. 1967.  
 Perkins, Mary E. Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich. 1895.  
 Historic District Study Report, 1966-1967.

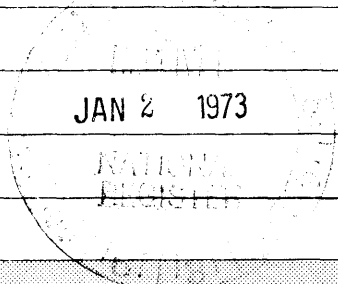
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41° 33' 10"	72° 05' 55"		°	'	"
NE	41° 33' 10"	72° 05' 11"		°	'	"
SE	41° 32' 34"	72° 05' 11"		°	'	"
SW	41° 32' 34"	72° 05' 55"		°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 110 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Susan B. Bixby, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE: December 18, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 59 South Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 21, 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/17/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-25-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Connecticut	
COUNTY	New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JAN 17 1973	

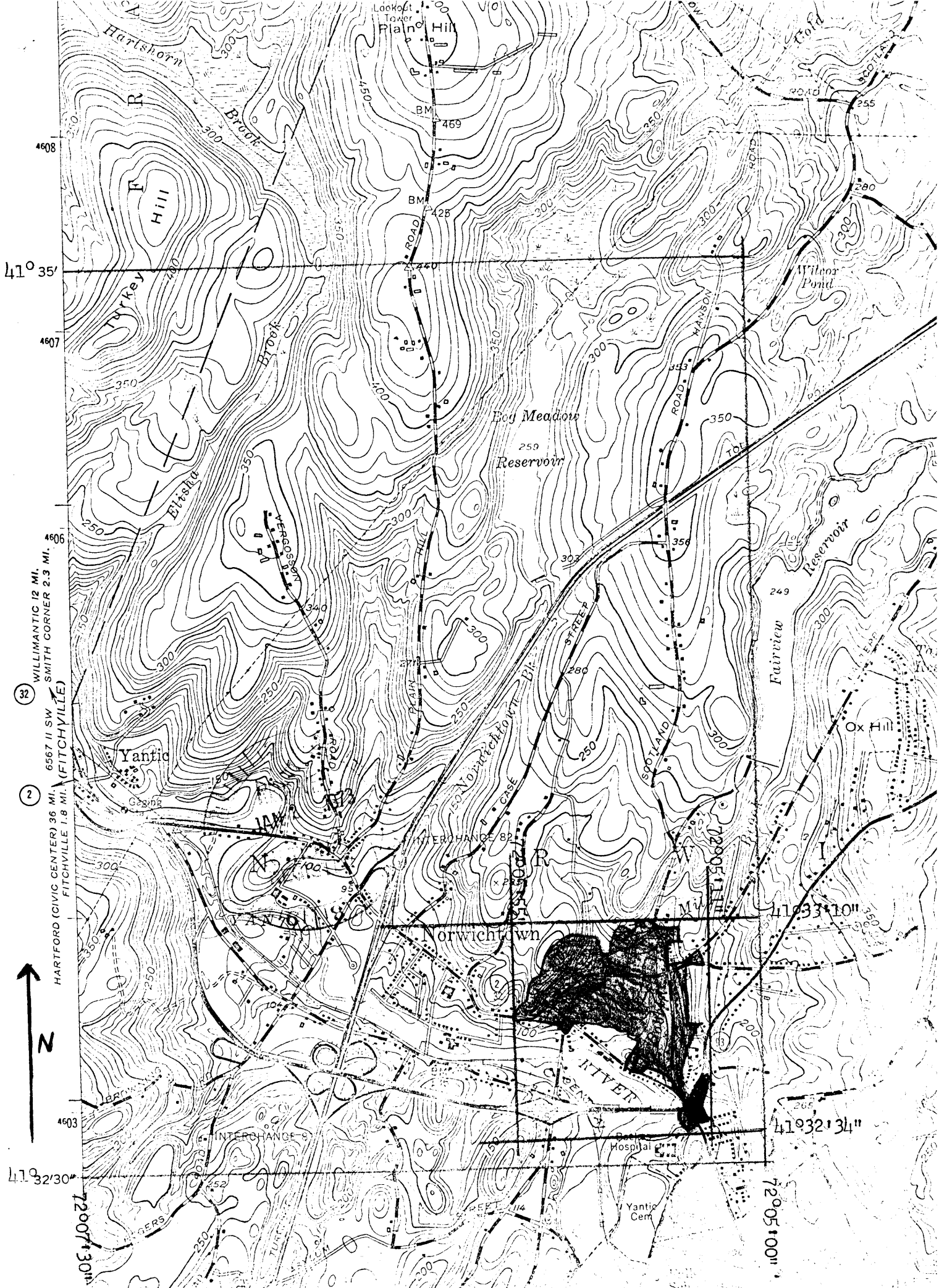
(Number all entries)

#8 Significance

importance ends with a highway entrance just south of the district, so the part through the district has not become congested. Near-by commercial areas are being contained by the district boundaries, though at the present time, the southeastern edge, near the junction of Town Street and New London Turnpike, is being threatened by a hamburger stand of a nationwide chain which is looking for an extension to its parking lot. The Historic District Commission is opposing the proposal to demolish a house in the district and has asked that the district be nominated for inclusion in the National Register for the prestige and status sometimes found in the recognition by not only a State agency but the Federal Government.

Lo'Zeefe and Doroshevich, p. 14.





WILLIMANTIC 12 MI.  
SMITH CORNER 2.3 MI.  
HARTFORD (CIVIC CENTER) 3.6 MI.  
FITCHVILLE 1.8 MI. (FITCHVILLE)

32  
2



41° 32' 30"  
72° 05' 30"

41° 32' 34"  
72° 05' 10"



## Norwichtown Historic District : Key

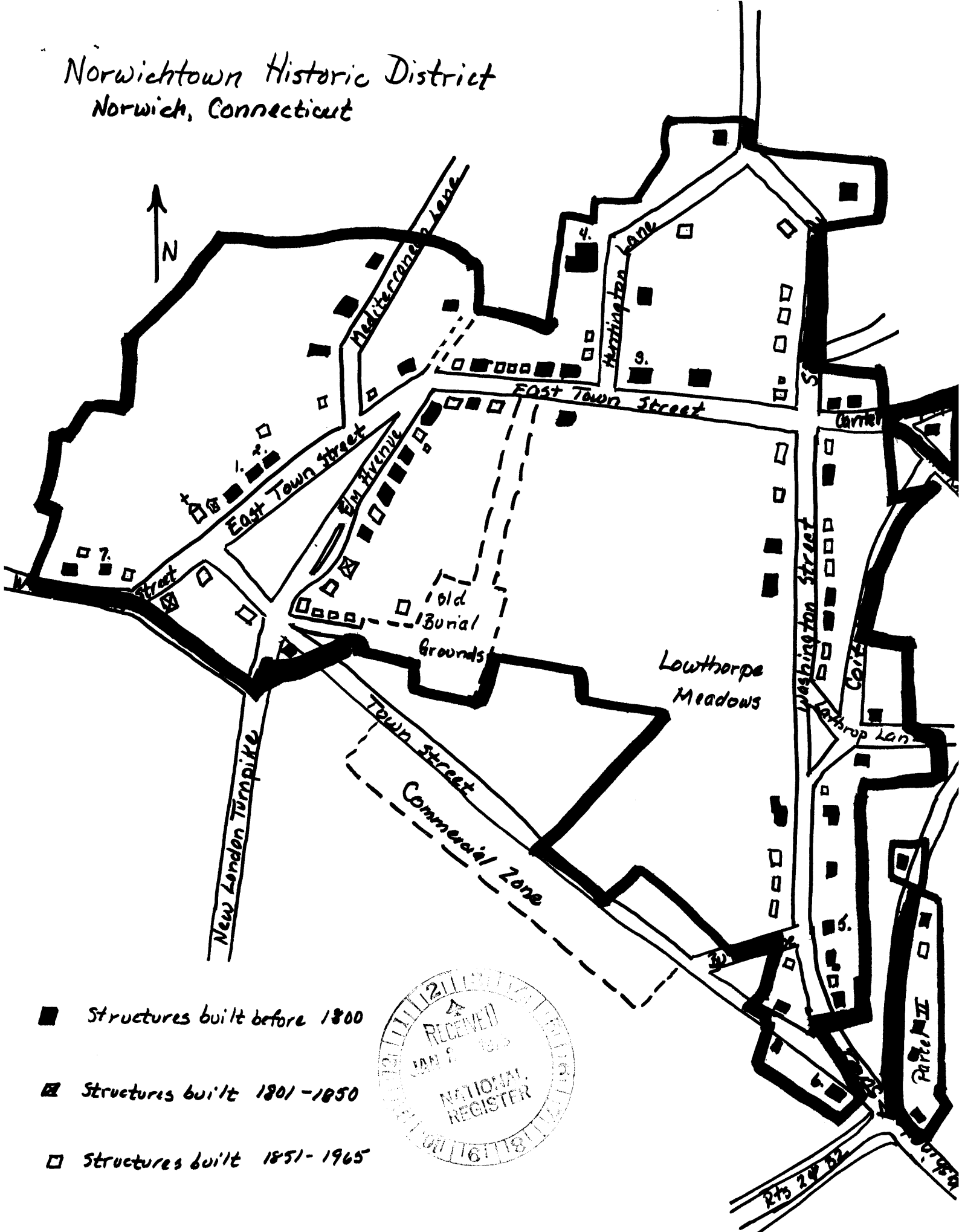
1. Joseph Carpenter's Silversmith Shop
2. Dr. Daniel Lathrop School
3. General Jedediah Huntington House
4. Bradford Huntington House
5. East District School
6. Lettingwell Inn
7. Dr. Philip Turner House

†  
⌄ Congregational Church





# Norwichtown Historic District Norwich, Connecticut



- Structures built before 1800
- ▣ Structures built 1801-1850
- Structures built 1851-1965

