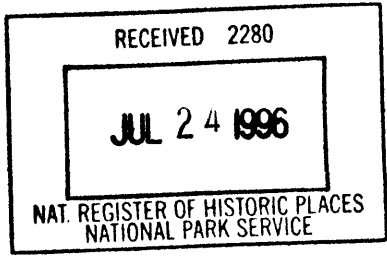


910



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Poquetanuck Village Historic District

other name/site number: Poquetanuck

2. Location

street & number: Both sides of Route 2A, Cider Mill Road and Shingle Point Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Preston vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: New London code: 011 zip code: 06365

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private, Multiple

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>39</u>	<u>9</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>42</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

Name of related multiple property listing:

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

_____ See continuation sheet.

John W. Shannahan

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission 07/22/96

Signature of certifying official

Date

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): _____

Edson H. Beall

8-22-96

National Park Service
Historic Site

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic
Commerce/Trade
Industry

Sub: single dwellings

Current: Domestic

manufacturing facility
Sub: single dwellings

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Colonial
Mid-19th-century
Victorian

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation stone, brick roof asphalt
walls wood other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Commerce
Industry

Period(s) of Significance: 1720-1920

Significant Dates: _____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: NA

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

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District**9. Major Bibliographical References** See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property: approximately 80 acres

UTM References:	Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing			
A	<u>18</u>	<u>746659</u>	<u>4597100</u>	B <u>18</u>	<u>747460</u>	<u>4596800</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>747400</u>	<u>4596725</u>	D <u>18</u>	<u>746625</u>	<u>4596725</u>

 See continuation sheet.Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Richard C. Youngken
 Reviewed By: John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, Connecticut Historical Commission
 Organization: Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc. Date: February 15, 1995
 Street & Number: 14 Pelham Street Telephone: 401-846-9583
 City or Town: Newport State: RI ZIP: 02840

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 5

Description

Poquetanuck Village Historic District is composed of a dense linear cluster of 18th and 19th-century one and two-story residences and buildings along a one half mile stretch of Route 2A known as Main Street ranging east and west in the southern portion of the town of Preston. This area is intersected roughly at its mid-point by two roads, Schoolhouse Road and Cider Mill Road. Additional historic resources are located on Cider Mill Road, and a side street, Shingle Point Road, which runs parallel to Main Street. The district is bounded on the east by a road fork at the intersection of Route 2A and Route 117 and Saint James Church; by Poquetanuck Cove (an inlet from the Thames River) and the Ledyard/Preston town line on the south; and open agricultural lands on the north behind the Main Street buildings. The western boundary of the district is Middle Road. The prominent Captain John Williams House at the Middle Road/Route 2A intersection and Saint James Church at the Route 2A fork to the east are visually important brackets to the range of houses and other buildings fronting on either side of Main Street. Main Street is a narrow road and primarily runs straight through the district after following a downhill curve into the center of the village from the east. The houses and buildings of the district are primarily sited close to the street with minimal setbacks. No sidewalks exist for pedestrian traffic. The small scale of the setting is enhanced by the closeness of the buildings to each other and to the street, evoking a rural village character from the 18th and 19th centuries. The scale is further defined by the predominance of two-story gable and gambrel-roofed 18th-century building forms, many of which have 19th-century porch additions. In the 19th century, infill between these buildings included simplified cottages, many of which were modestly ornamented with brackets and bargeboards. Much of this decorative material has been removed. Exuberant Victorian architecture exists only in the western end of the village reserved to an historic resource, the Aaron Lucas House.

A large percentage of the structures in the village are contributing historic buildings (42/51 or 84%). The few buildings added in the mid-to-late 20th-century are compatible in scale and materials. Change to the district has occurred, however, in the form of vinyl and aluminum siding, and the removal of decorative trim work. For example, the Caleb Chapman House porch has been stripped of most of its highly decorative early Victorian detail. A primary mixed-use commercial/residential building (126 Route 2A) has been altered by a porch infill to create additional retail space. The Gothic Revival Saint James Church lost its steeple in the 1938 hurricane and the dramatic vertical form was replaced with a shorter version before World War II. The 1841 temple-front Greek Revival parish house burned in the 1970s. Several houses in the village have been altered with additions, primarily on rear or non-public facades. Despite these

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 6

changes, the village retains sufficient architectural character in form, scale, and context to convey its significance.

In addition to houses, other surviving village components include a large cemetery, stores, social clubhouses, portions of two stone mill dams and portions of the Lucas Mill.

The large principal village cemetery, located to the north off Main Street via a stonewall-lined lane, is well-kept and retains a rural character which features 18th-century, early 19th-century, and Victorian markers and monuments.

Although a commercial area in the west end of the village during the period of significance, Poquetanuck Cove is now primarily a natural resource of great prominence. There are no wharves, docks, or wharf-related warehouses extant, although foundations are reported to be visible. The stone masonry dam built by early industrial entrepreneurs on Poquetanuck Brook is partially extant as is a later 19th-century stone masonry dam to the south. These dams created impoundments northeast of the Captain John Williams House which fed waterpower to fulling mill, gristmill, bloomery forge, and the Lucas Mill, all of which were located along the banks of the brook below the dam.

The following is an annotated list of buildings in the Poquetanuck Village Historic District:

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Street/address</u>	<u>Name/Style/Date</u>	<u>Owner(s)</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
1	23/95	95 Route 2A	St. James Church/ Gothic Revival/1896	St. James Church	C
2	23/99	99 Route 2A	Hse/cape/ca.1950	Jeffrey W. Majcher	NC
3	23/100	100 Route 2A	Whipple-Gallup Hse/ Colonial/ca.1740	David W. & Sandra Candler	C
4	23/104	104 Route 2A	Hse/Colonial/ Queen Anne/ca.1770/	Paul Hull and Brad Hull 15 Branch Hill Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
5	23/108	108 Route 2A	Hse/Colonial Revival	Michael W. & Janet L. Ezell	NC
6	23/109	109 Route 2A	Capt. William Grant/Mercy Grant Hse/Colonial/ca.1754	Carol J. Collette 111 Route 2A Preston, CT 06365	C
7	23/110	110 Route 2A	Capt. Gurdon Kimball Hse/ Federal/	Delores G. Peck 96 Route 2A	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 7

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Name/Style/Date</u>	<u>Owner(s)</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
			ca.1809	Preston, CT 06365	
8	22/111	111 Route 2A	House/ Federal/ ca.1829	Carol Collette & Donald Gamache	C
9	22/113	113 Route 2A	Lucas Hall/ Vernacular/ca.1875	Phyllis Marcolini	C
10	22/114	114 Route 2A	Erastus Avery Hse/ Greek Revival/ca.1837	Robert J. & Carolyn R. Haffner	C
11	22/115	115 Route 2A	Lucas House/ Vernacular/ca.1856	Timothy M. & Ruth H. Friess	C
12	22/116	116 Route 2A	Raymond-Mansfield House/ Gothic Revival/ca.1870	Christopher Knapp Heidi M. Fox	C
13	22/117	117 Route 2A	Ezra Chapman Hse/ Colonial/ca.1770	David J. & Janet L. Paige	C
14	22/118	118 Route 2A	Hse/Vernacular ca.1900	Norman & Norma Rogers	C
15	22/119	119 Route 2A	Caleb Chapman Hse/ Federal/ca.1760	James A. & Barbara Wood	C
16	22/120	120 Route 2A	Hse/Colonial/ ca.1775	Paul Andruskiewicz 68 Cooktown Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
17	22/122	122 Route 2A	Hse/Queen Anne/ ca.1900	Francis & Genevieve Waldron	C
18	22/124	124 Route 2A	Capt. George Benjamin Hse/ Colonial/ca.1748	Army Corps of Engineers PO Box 1715 Baltimore, MD 21203-1715	C
19	22/125	125 Route 2A	Samuel Capron Hse/Colonial/ca.1744	Gloria T. Berthod	C
20	22/126	126 Route 2A	Store/Vernacular/ ca.1870	Michael & Catherine Clark PO Box 224 Gales Ferry, CT 06335	C
21	22/127	127 Route 2A	Post Office/ Vernacular/ca.1920	Gloria T. Berthod 125 Route 2A Preston, CT 06365	C
22	22/129	129 Route 2A	Hse/ranch/ split level/ ca.1950	Parke C. & Ann M. Spicer 11 Route 117 Preston, CT 06365	NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic DistrictSection number 7

Page 8

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Name/Style/Date</u>	<u>Owner(s)</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
23	22/130	130 Route 2A	Hse/Greek Revival/1855	Hattie E. Wucik & Mark S. Wucik	C
24	22/131	131 Route 2A	John Wight Store/ Colonial/ca.1757	Harry E. & Beatrice Coleman	C
25	22/132	132 Route 2A	Hse/Victorian/ mid-19th century	Roger & Maureen Verville	C
26	22/134	134 Route 2A	Hse/no style/ 1957	Michael P. & Beth Gauvin	NC
27	22/135	135 Route 2A	Aaron Lucas Hse/ Queen Anne/ca.1881	J. Troy & Christine Benham	C
28	22/136	136 Route 2A	Hse/Colonial Revival/1920	Kenneth V. & Linda M. Gatchek	C
29	22/137	137 Route 2A	Samuel Lucas Hse/ Gothic Revival/ ca.1871	Frank & Betty Wadsworth	C
30	22/138	138 Route 2A	Hse/no style/ 1960	William A. Kendall, Barbara S. Jensen, Betty Martin, and Priscilla M. Zemke 27 Spicer Rd. Preston, CT 06365	NC
31	22/140	140 Route 2A	Walter Capron Hse/ Colonial/ca.1740	Charles W. Barber 28 Kendall Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
32	22/143	143 Route 2A	Lucas Mill/Airproof Rubber Co./Early 20th-century/	Mary B & Robert L. Burton	C
33	22/1	1 Middle Rd	House/20th-century	James Rogers	NC
34	22/2	2 Middle Rd	Capt. John Williams Hse/Colonial/1723	Shawn & Suzanne Kelley	C
35	22/2	2 Middle Rd	Mill Dams	Shawn & Suzanne Kelley	C
36	22/3	3 Cider Mill Rd	Samuel Whipple, Jr. Hse/Colonial/ca.1775	Daisey Ellen Livingston	C
37	22/6	6 Cider Mill Rd	Thomas S. Covel Hse/Greek Revival/ 1857	Sheila Harnois 4 Cider Mill Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 9

Map #	Map/Lot	Street	Name/Style/Date	Owner(s)	C/NC
38	22/7	7 Cider Mill Rd	Forge Ruins	David M. & Joyce G. Costner	C
39	22/1	1 Shingle Pt. Rd	Capt. Jabiz Brewster Hse/ Colonial/ca.1800	Alfred & Genevieve Grenier 160 Middle Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
40	22/3	3 Shingle Pt. Rd	Nutmeg Tool Co./ Vernacular/early 20th-century	Nutmeg Tool Products c/o John Scott Silvia 5 Shingle Point Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
41	22/5	5 Shingle Pt. Rd	H.J.Gallup Hse/ Vernacular/ca.1875	John Scott & Lisa Sylvia	C
42	22/9	9 Shingle Pt. Rd	Hse/Colonial/ ca.1725	Gloria T. Berthod 125 Route 2A Preston, CT 06365	C
43	22/13	13 Shingle Pt. Rd	Jesse Bedent Hse/ Vernacular/ Craftsman/ ca.1865/ca.1920	Thomas G. Hunter	C
44	22/15	15 Shingle Pt. Rd	Peter Sauer Hse/ Victorian/ ca.1870	George O.& Nancy J. Kataja	C
45	23/	6 Route 117	Hse/Ranch/ ca.1965	James W. and Gail S. Holland	NC
46	23/8	8 Route 117	Hse/Early 20th-century	Joyce N. & David M. Costner 7 Cider Mill Rd. Preston, CT 06365	C
47	23/11	11 Route 117	Hse/Greek Revival/ ca.1830	Parke & Anne M. Spicer	C
48	23/14	14 Route 117	Schoolhouse/ Craftsman/1910	Robert W. Morrill	C
49	-	Cider Mill Rd	Bridge/stone/ 19th-century	Town of Preston	C
50	22/7	Cider Mill Rd	Hse/20th-century	Joyce N. & David M. Costner	NC
51	22/5	Cider Mill Rd	Hse/20th-century	Douglas G. MacIntyre	NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 10

Photographs List:

Photograph 1 of 13

- 1) Saint James Church (Resource/Map # 1)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking east

Photograph 2 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village (Resource/Map # 3,4,6)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking southwest

Photograph 3 of 13

- 1) Whipple-Gallup House (Resource/Map # 3)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking northeast

Photograph 4 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village Cemetery
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking south

Photograph 5 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking southwest

Photograph 6 of 13

- 1) Captain William Grant House (Resource/Map # 6)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 11

Photograph 7 of 13

- 1) House (Resource/Map # 8)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking south

Photograph 8 of 13

- 1) Raymond-Mansfield House (Resource/Map # 12)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking north

Photograph 9 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village (Resource/Map # 24, 21, 19)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking east

Photograph 10 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village (Resource/Map # 23, 22, 15, 9)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking east

Photograph 11 of 13

- 1) Poquetanuck Village, Cider Mill Rd (Resource/Map # 39, 19, 18, 36)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking north

Photograph 12 of 13

- 1) Aaron Lucas House (Resource/Map # 27)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 7

Page 12

Photograph 13 of 13

- 1) Captain John Williams House (Resource/Map # 34)
- 2) Preston, New London County, Connecticut
- 3) Richard C. Youngken, photographer
- 4) December 1994
- 5) Negative located at Preston Historical Society, Preston, CT
- 6) View looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 8

Page 13

Significance

The Poquetanuck Village Historic District is a well-preserved, cohesive, and densely built concentration of primarily 18th-century and early 19th-century village residences which are representative of the development of a small scale New England coastal trading and manufacturing center and a vernacular interpretation of popular building techniques and architectural styles (Criteria A and C). The historic resources of the district retain considerable integrity and are important for their survival in scale, massing, and overall character with little 20th-century intrusion. As a group of buildings, these resources are distinguished as having the identity of location, feeling, and association of a center of colonial and early 19th-century daily life. Buildings of the district demonstrate the continuation of early building traditions as well as a range of conservative architectural taste for the 200 year period of significance, 1720-1920, during which the village retained an important place in the local and regional economies.

History

Poquetanuck Village was settled in the 17th century when the first land grants were achieved from Uncas of the Mohegan Indian tribe. Poquetanuck Cove was the site of early settlement, with coastal trading, lumber-production, iron-making, and ship-building enterprises being the major source of employment and occupation. A 17th-century corn mill was located here and later an iron forge. Other late 17th-century small-scale commercial enterprises included a sawmill and a gristmill. These operations and a potash house were located at or near Poquetanuck Cove at the outfall of Poquetanuck Brook in the western end of the village in proximity to shipping and trading. Poquetanuck Cove is an inlet from the Thames River with easy access via Brewsters Neck to the southwest. By 1730 the initial settlement at Poquetanuck Cove had grown to the east, and from Shingle Point on the cove northeasterly to Cider Mill Road (formerly Avery Hill Road). Production of lumber and pig iron along Poquetanuck Brook, use of the Cove as a small port facility, location of a catalan forge off Cider Mill Road, shipping and trading of agricultural products from the surrounding countryside, and shipbuilding enterprises increased the village's prosperity during the early and mid-18th century. Cotton and wool spinning and weaving became the chief 19th-century manufacturing concerns.

In addition to commercial and manufacturing activities, the London-based Society of Brays (the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts) had established an Anglican missionary in the vicinity of Poquetanuck in the early 1730s. The avowed mission of the society was establishment of the Church of England in the colonies. Ebenezer Punderson, a converted Congregational minister and merchant-wharf owner,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 8

Page 14

established the present Saint James Parish in 1734. No other religious institution dominated Poquetanuck village life. Originally located to the south of the village, the original church building was moved to Shingle Point in 1785 and in 1841 a Greek Revival church building was erected at the eastern edge of the village, marking its eastern boundary. During Poquetanuck's initial 18th-century prosperity, which is reflected in a wealth of historic resources, Punderson reported that Saint James Parish included 104 male members over 16 years of age, a sizeable population and assumed to include a large percentage of Poquetanuck residents. In 1739 Punderson reported to the society that 400 persons had attended Christmas services.

Poquetanuck's early prosperity was a result of its protected location at the head of Poquetanuck Cove, two miles east of the Thames River and four miles east of Norwich, from which its first settlers migrated. As early as 1715, sailing vessels belonging to Captain John Williams are reported to have been trading in the West Indies, a popular destination for agricultural products from the New England colonies. Williams became one of the wealthiest merchant/traders of the region in the early 18th century. He controlled with land purchases and development various shipping-related facilities at the cove. The 18th-century village included a variety of enterprises: shoemaking, cabinetmaking, clockmaking, silversmithing, blacksmithing, and coopering, in addition to shipbuilding. A gristmill and a rolling mill were located on Poquetanuck Brook, fueled with waterpower from a stone dam forming an impoundment. Lumber production was a local activity. John Williams developed a sawmill on Poquetanuck Brook before shipbuilding became a local activity. During the Revolution, a 36-gun Frigate, possibly the *Alliance*, was built in the Poquetanuck River west of the Cove, at the order of the Continental Congress. In 1786 the *Lady Strange*, a uniquely designed and built snow attributed to local businessman and lawyer Jeremiah Halsey, was built at Poquetanuck.

Poquetanuck's employment base shifted to cotton and wool manufacturing in the early 19th century, following regional trends in industrialization. Stone masonry dams (portions of which are extant) had been built across Poquetanuck Brook early in the 18th century. The impoundments had been used by Walter Capron for waterpower for a bloomery or iron works located at the western end of the village. By the 1830s this site and the area to the south near the cove became the focus of small-scale textile manufacturing. The first such enterprise was known as the Brewster Mill, involved in cotton manufacturing. Later in the 19th century it was known as the Lucas Mill (resource/map # 32), manufacturing woolen fabrics such as flannels and women's dress goods. Utilizing Poquetanuck Cove nearby, manufacturers shipped products via Poquetanuck River and the Thames River to New London and Norwich. During the mid-to late 19th-century period of prosperity, the Lucas Mill had an output of 350,000 yards of finished

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 8

Page 15

woolen goods annually and employed upwards of 50 workers. With expansion of textile manufacturing in Poquetanuck, the Lucas family converted many 18th-century and early 19th-century village residences into millworkers' housing, erected a social hall for workers and the community (Lucas Hall, resource/map #9), and built substantial residences for their own use adjacent to the mill complex. (Aaron Lucas House, resource/map # 27, Samuel Lucas House, resource/map # 29.) A trolley track (Norwich-Westerly line) was laid in the north side of Main Street in 1904, connecting Poquetanuck Village with points east and west.

Architecture

Poquetanuck Village Historic District retains a distinct 18th- and 19th-century residential architectural character and associated setting of a small New England coastal village from this period. A large number of 18th-century houses remain, as does the original linear circulation system through the village. Not conceived as a unified plan, the evolution of the village as a linear district reflects its early commercial nature and religious orientation. Other architectural aspects of historic village life remain, including a large number of 18th-century houses, several of which were used as meeting places, taverns, and retail establishments. Structures were added to the village in the 19th century primarily as infill to accommodate the growing textile manufacturing orientation. These buildings include a millworkers' social hall and several 19th-century cottages in conservative styles.

Of the 18th-century buildings in Poquetanuck, the Captain John Williams House (resource/map # 34) is one of the earliest, having been built in 1723 on land occupied by the area's first settlers in the 17th century on Poquetanuck Cove. Sited on a bluff at the western end of the district, this imposing five-bay center-chimney Colonial-style house is one of the largest dwellings in the district. It contained at one time fine decorative features such as imported Dutch tiles in a fireplace surround and Dominican mahogany panelling. Williams was engaged in the West Indies trade, as early as 1715 owning vessels sailing to Barbados and also operating two warehouses and a wharf at Poquetanuck Cove. He established the early use of Poquetanuck Brook for waterpower with a sawmill, grist mill, and fulling mill, and held five African slaves at his death in 1741.

Another early house is the Samuel Whipple, Jr. House (resource/map # 36), located on Cider Mill Road. This 1-1/2-story, three-bay, Cape with a center chimney retains a jetty between the first and second floors characteristic of medieval building traditions. Facing south and built in 1740, the house is a locally rare survivor of the gambrel-roofed cape. Nearby on Main Street is the flank gable-roofed Brooks House (resource/map #16), an early single-story double house with an end-gable jetty. To the west of this

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 8

Page 16

dwelling stood the gambrel-roofed old post office and store, a similar single-story building which was replaced by a house in the late 19th-century. Other gambrel-roofed houses with end-gable jetties include the Captain William Grant House (resource/map # 6), possibly built in 1754 and altered in 1810 with a center-hall plan, and the John Wight Store (resource/map # 24), built about 1757.

The Walter Capron House (resource/map # 31), located in the western end of the district across Poquetanuck Brook from the Captain John Williams House, is a four-bay two-story Colonial-style dwelling with massive framing, a central chimney, and a gable roof. Walter Capron established the ironworks or bloomery forge at a location nearby prior to 1746 and possibly as early as 1730.

Other substantial and early center-chimney two-story dwellings with gable-roofs include the five-bay Whipple-Gallup House, ca.1740 (resource/map # 3), and the Ezra Chapman House, ca.1770 (resource/map # 13). The Ezra Chapman House and the John Wight Store are dwellings on raised foundations with large basement windows facing Main Street. Another example of the five-bay type on a raised foundation is the Captain George Benjamin House, ca.1750 (resource/map # 18). This imposing house, built for a whaling ship captain, is set back a distance from Main Street and may have been constructed in two phases with chimneys in each of the end gables.

The Federal and Greek Revival styles in the first half of the 19th century are represented in Poquetanuck by a small number of structures. Among these are the altered 18th-century hip-roofed six-bay Caleb Chapman House (resource/map # 15), with its Gothic Revival inspired porch; the Captain Gurdon Kimball House, ca.1809 (resource/map # 7); the Erastus Avery House, ca.1837 (resource/map # 10); and the Noah Lucas House, ca.1850 (resource/map # 23). The latter is an end-gable two-story Greek Revival-style house with pediment. Although compromised with 20th-century additions, the Thomas S. Covell House, 1857 (resource/map # 37) on Cider Mill Road retains high-style Greek Revival ornamentation on a cottage scale with wide corner-board pilasters supporting broad entablatures, cornice returns, and a heavy Greek Revival door entablature for the street-facing end gable door.

Mid-to late 19th-century picturesque Victorian architectural styles are represented by several infill cottages along Main Street, including the L-shaped Gothic Revival Raymond-Mansfield House (resource/map # 12) with its bracketed and chamfered porch supports and steeply pitched roofs. The Lucas houses at the western edge of the village, built for owners of the Lucas Mill, represent the growing appreciation and evolution of late 19th-century Gothic taste. The Samuel Lucas House, 1871 (resource/map # 29), is a cruciform-plan Gothic Revival villa with steeply pitched gable roofs and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 8

Page 17

bay windows. The nearby Aaron Lucas House, ca.1881 (resource/map # 27), is considered the most elaborately styled house in the village. Executed in a transitional late Victorian High Gothic-Queen Anne style reminiscent of the work of architect Henry Hudson Holly and others popular at the time, the house has asymmetrical massing, projecting oriels, and steeply pitched roofs. It represents the apogee of Poquetanuck's late 19th-century industrial economy and most likely the hand of a professional designer.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 9

Page 18

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District

Section number 9

Page 19

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Maps:

Baker: 1854
Whitlock: 1854
Whitlock: 1868

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name Poquetanuck Village Historic District,
Preston, New London County, CT

Section number 10

Page 20

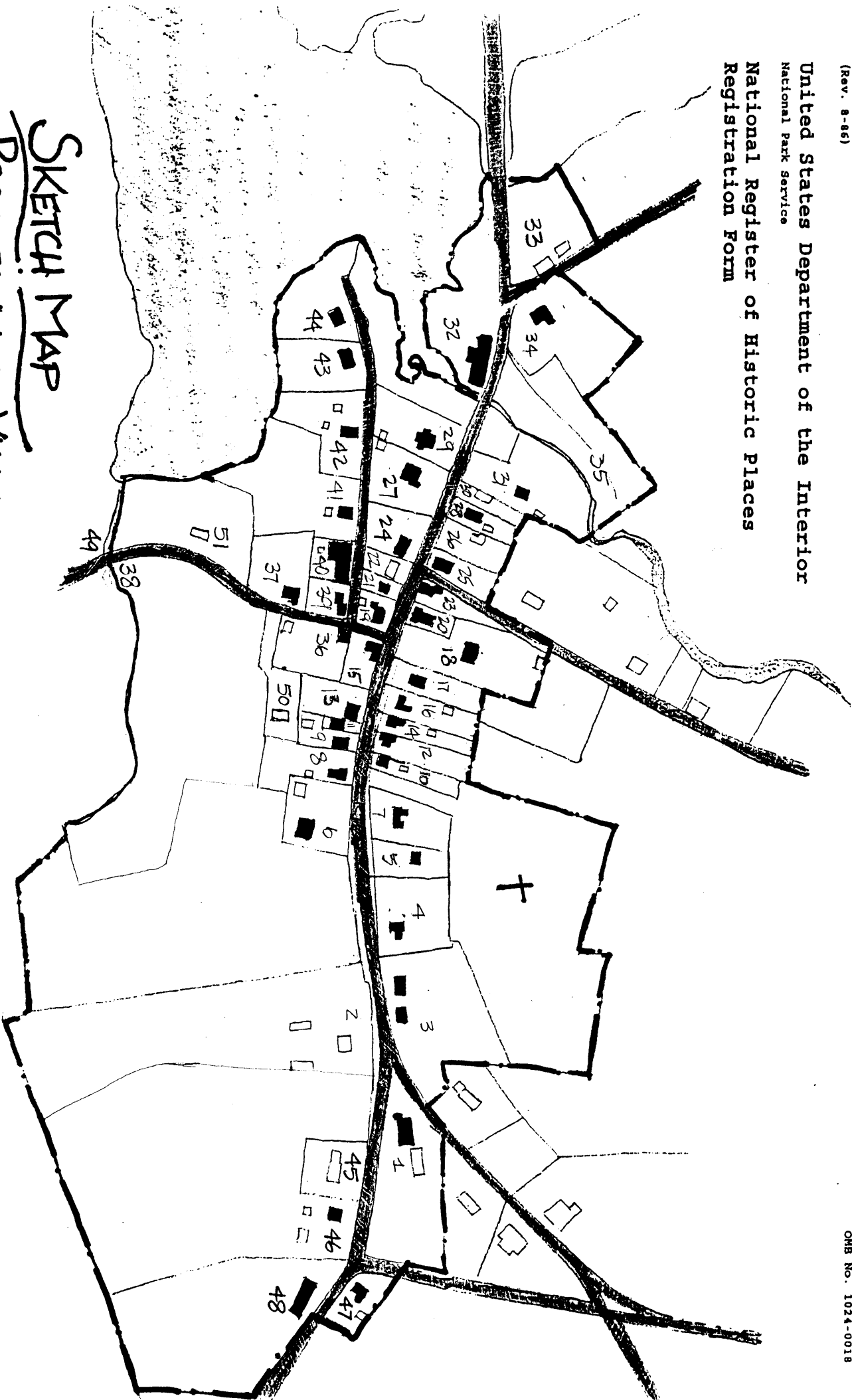
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Poquetanuck Village Historic District is bounded on the east by lots fronting on the intersection of Route 2A and Route 117 and extends westerly on both sides of Route 2A westerly to the intersection of Middle Road and Route 2A and includes all property on each side of the Route 2A between these intersections as well as property on both sides of Shingle Point Road and Cider Mill Road. The western edge of the district is the eastern edge of Poquetanuck Cove. To the north the district extends to the rear property lines of those properties fronting on Route 2A between the eastern and western boundaries. To the south the district extends to a brook flowing into Poquetanuck Cove under Cider Mill Road and it includes the southern or rear property lines of properties fronting on the south side of Route 2A. The district includes the following tax assessor's map/lots:

Map 22/Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 143

Map 23/lots 95, 99, 100, 104, 108, 109, 110

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



SKETCH MAP
POQUETANUCK VILLAGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
PRESTON, CONNECTICUT
FEBRUARY 1995

2 = RESOURCE #

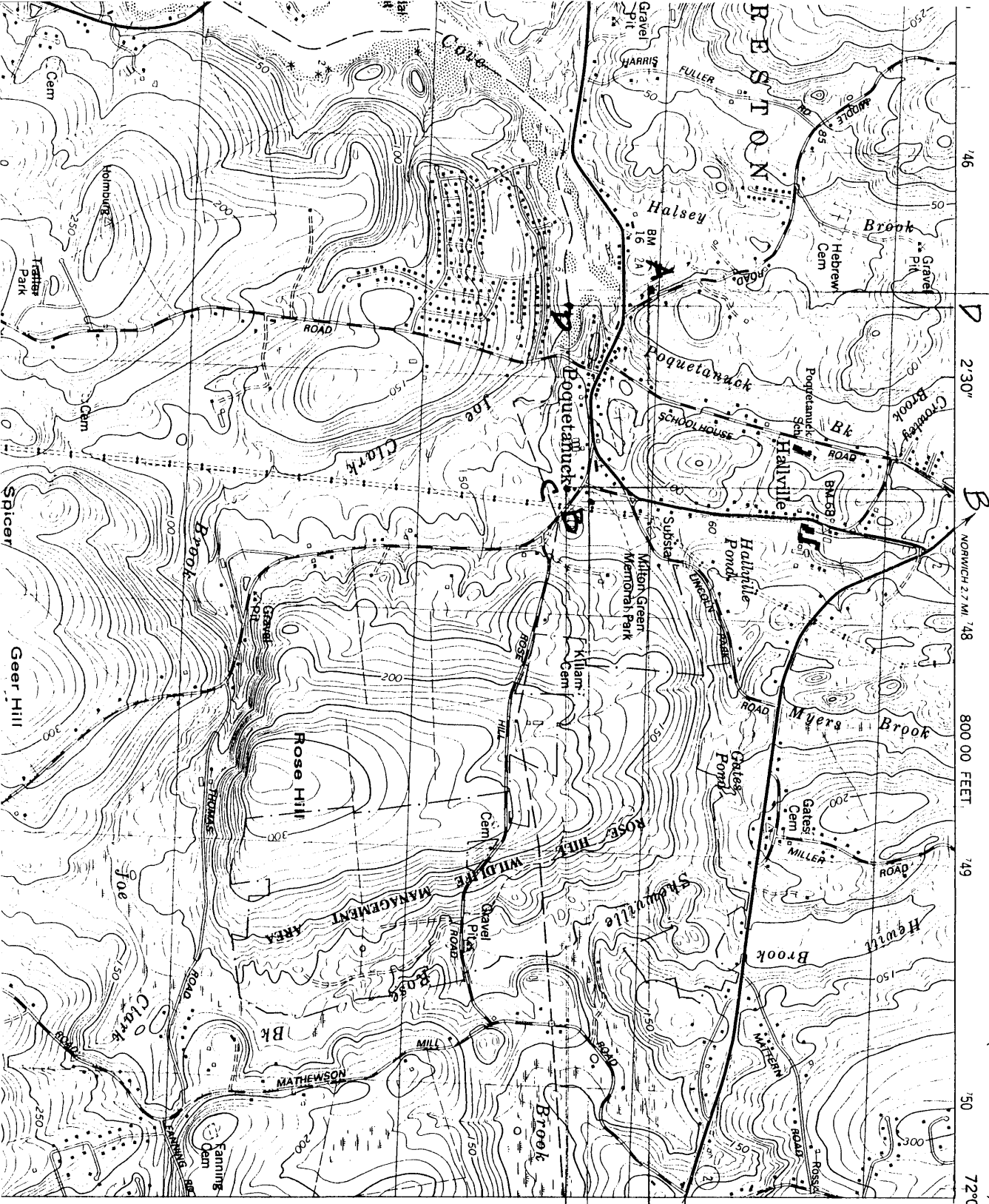
District Boundary



POQUETANNUCK VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 PRESTON, NEW LONDON COUNTY, CT

UNCAVILLE QUADRANGLE
 CONNECTICUT - NEW LONDON CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6827 1/4 SW
 LEWETT CITY



- 240 000 FEET
- A 181746590 / 4597100
 - B 181747460 / 4596800
 - C 181747400 / 4596725
 - D 181746625 / 4596725
- 2 / EXTENSIVE / NORTHERN

SHEWVILLE 0.4 MI
 NORTH STONINGTON 8 MI

72°00' 750
 72°00' 749
 72°00' 748
 72°00' 746

495
 496
 498