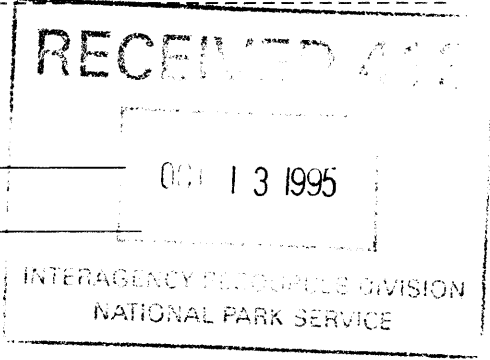


PROPERTY NAME Sunny Ridge Historic District, Washington, CT

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1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Sunny Ridge Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: NA

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 2, 20 Nettleton Hollow Road; 145 Old Litchfield Road; 6 Romford Road; 10-32 Sunny Ridge Road Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Washington

Vicinity: Washington Depot

State: CT County: Litchfield

Code: 005 Zip Code: 06794

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: x

Public-local:

Public-State:

Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s):

District: x

Site:

Structure:

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

17

1

18

Noncontributing

2 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

2 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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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.

Signature of Certifying Official: John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission; Date: 10/12/95

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

Entered in the National Register

I, hereby certify that this property is

Edson H. Beall 11/22/95

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>dwelling, inns</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		<u>fields, outbuildings</u>
Current:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>dwelling</u>
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		<u>fields, outbuildings</u>
	<u>LANDSCAPE</u>		<u>unoccupied land</u>

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
<u>COLONIAL/Postmedieval English</u>	Foundation: <u>STONE, CONCRETE</u>
<u>MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival</u>	Walls: <u>WOOD/clapboards</u>
<u>20TH CENTURY/Colonial Revival</u>	Roof: <u>ASPHALT</u>
	Other Description: _____

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Sunny Ridge Historic District in the Washington Depot area of the Town of Washington, Connecticut, consists of 10 properties grouped around the triangle formed by the intersections of Old Litchfield Road, Romford Road, Nettleton Hollow Road, and Sunny Ridge Road. In the 18th century the road intersections fostered the presence of two taverns which remain as the two oldest houses in the district (Sites 7 and 8, Photographs 1 and 2). Historically, Nettleton Hollow Road ran north-south from Woodbury as a link in the Cornwall-New Haven Turnpike through an area of early settlement just south of the district called Nettleton Hollow, and connected to the north with the New York to Albany road.

The Rising Sun Inn (Site 7) was built in 1748 by John Loggin/Logan as a 1 1/2-story five-bay lean-to house. In the first half of the 19th century Matthew Logan altered the house to its present configuration by increasing the width of the front elevation three bays to the left (north), raising the roof to two full stories thereby providing for a ballroom, and building an ell. Presumably, the present 12-over-8 sash and window and doorway cornices date from that time. When patronage of the inn declined toward the end of the 19th century, the road in front was moved away, creating the present spacious lawn. Indication of the original path of the road may be observed in Site 6. While the age of the accompanying barn is undocumented, it surely is old and with its weathered vertical

siding and large size is a prominent presence in the district. Historic photographs show additional barns that formerly stood behind the house.

The Rising Sun Inn was the larger of the two hostelries. A more modest post house was conducted in the five-bay clapboard central-entrance central-chimney house with 12-over-12 sash at Site 8. The chestnut framing with mortise-and-tenon joints of its barn is old, while the vertical red siding is new. The house is separated from Nettleton Hollow Road by a dry stone wall. Similar walls line both sides of Sunny Ridge Road, forming an important visual component of the district.

The two similar, almost identical, five-bay Greek Revival-style houses were built at the same time by the same builders (Sites 4 and 5, Photographs 3 and 4). Each has a recessed front entrance flanked by plain pilasters which support a plain architrave, frieze, and cornice. Similar two-story pilasters embellish the corners of the houses under plain friezes. The windows are 12-over-12, presumably replacements. Window surrounds are plain, with wider lintel boards at the Site 4 house.

The low-pitched gable roofs of the Greek Revival houses form pediments with recessed tympanums at the gable ends. Each pediment features a central rectangular window. The central chimney of the Site 4 house appears to be in its traditional size and location. In the Site 5 house a small chimney is off-center to the south and an exterior chimney has been added on the north side elevation. Both houses have extensive additions to the rear, that at Site 5 being 22' x 35' in plan and a full two stories high. Site 5 also is the location of a large weathered barn.

A Colonial Revival frame house of ca.1930 occupies Site 1, with its gable end toward the street (Photograph 5). It is considered Contributing because it is more than 50 years old. The Site 2 house is older (Photograph 6) but has been altered to the extent that its original appearance is uncertain. It is therefore classified as Non-Contributing, as is the 1977 Cape next door at Site 3 (Photograph 7).

The two vacant parcels, Site 5A (Photograph 8) and Site 7A, are woodlands with stone wall and stream. Site 7A is protected by a conservation easement. As vacant land, they are Non-Contributing by definition.

The Sunny Ridge Historic District proposed by this registration form is based on and similar to a 1975 local historic district of the same name. The local district includes the west side of Nettleton Hollow Road, uses an arbitrary rear line parallel to the street for sites 1-5 and 7, and omits site 9.

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Inventory

(Inventory includes barns and sheds visible from the street and/or mentioned on Assessor's field cards. There may be others. Dates for houses are taken from the Report of the Historic District Study Commission, Washington, Connecticut and/or Assessor's field cards; they usually are in agreement. Dates for historic outbuildings are arbitrarily set at ca.1900. Parcels of vacant land, except Site 9 which is a historic site, are not rated and are ignored in the inventory count on page 1.)

C/ NC	Address	Year	Map No.	Description
--	2 Nettleton Hollow Road		7A	Vacant land. Protected by conservation easement. 4 acres.
C	20 Nettleton Hollow Rd.	ca.1790	8	2-story frame gable-roofed 24' x 32' house with 5 bays of 12-over-12 sash and central chimney. 5.2 acres. (Photograph 2)
C		ca.1790	8	1 1/2 gable-roofed barn with vertical siding.
C	145 Old Litchfield Road		9	Vacant land showing clearing through trees, bordered by stone walls, of former roadbed. 6.4 acres.
C	6 Romford Road	1748	7	2-story frame gable-roofed 28' x 52' house with 8 bays of 12-over-8 sash and two central chimneys. 91.3 acres. (Photograph 1)
C		ca.1900	7	2-story frame gable-roofed 24' x 30' barn with vertical siding.
C	10 Sunny Ridge Road	ca.1930	1	2-story frame gable-roofed Colonial Revival house with gable end toward street. 10 acres. (Photograph 5)
C		ca.1930	1	Frame shed.
C		ca.1930	1	Frame shed.
C		ca.1930	1	Frame shed.
NC	18 Sunny Ridge Road	ca.1890	2	1 3/4-story frame gable-roofed 21' x 22' house with 2-story frame 20' x 28' ell

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connected by 8' wraparound porch.
Altered. 6.2 acres. (Photograph 6)

C		ca.1890	2	1+-story 18' x 21' barn, on angle, with monitor on roof.
NC		ca.1960	2	Frame garage.
NC	22 Sunny Ridge Road	1977	3	1-story frame gable-roofed 27' x 44' Cape. 3.3 acres. (Photograph 7)
C	28 Sunny Ridge Road	1848	4	Russell Bloss House. 2-story frame gable-roofed 30' x 28' Greek Revival house with 5 bays, central entrance, and central chimney. Long ell. 38.3 acres. (Photograph 3)
C		ca.1920	4	Frame shed.
C		ca.1920	4	Frame shed.
C		ca.1920	4	Maple sugar house.
--	31 Sunny Ridge Road		5A	Vacant land. 3.6 acres. (Photograph 8)
C	32 Sunny Ridge Road	1848	5	2-story frame gable-roofed 38' x 32' Greek Revival house with 5 bays, central entrance, and two chimneys. 22' x 35' 2-story ell. 7.4 acres. (Photograph 4)
C		ca.1900	5	1 3/4-story frame gable-roofed barn with weathered vertical siding.
C		ca.1920	5	shed.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:___ Statewide: x Locally:___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A x B___ C x D___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Table with 3 columns: Areas of Significance, Period(s) of Significance, Significant Dates. Row 1: ARCHITECTURE, 1748, ca.1930, 1748, 1848

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Lewis and Daniel Canfield

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Overview

The Sunny Ridge Historic District is significant historically and architecturally because of its place as the crossroads of a colonial community and because of the good examples of Colonial- and Greek Revival-style houses standing within its boundaries. A house built in the 20th century respects these antecedents.

History

The Sunny Ridge Historic District is significant historically because of the central role it played in the life of Nettleton Hollow. Nettleton Hollow was an area of early settlement in the town of Washington, bordering the major north-south thoroughfare called Nettleton Hollow Road. At the northern end of Nettleton Hollow, in the district, several

roads intersected, forming a logical location for an inn. The district's two inns were the center of activity for visitors and local residents as well, who gathered there for social purposes. The activity as a center continued until well into the 19th century, when the advent of the railroad in the 1870s caused diminution in the use and importance of the highway for travelers. This change is reflected in the road pattern which was adjusted as usage declined.

The prominence of the Logan family in the district's history is to be recognized. The first Logan, John, built the Rising Sun Inn; one of the several Matthew Logans enlarged its size; and the family continued to own and occupy the premises for 2 1/2 centuries, relinquishing ownership only at the end of the 20th century. Another Logan, Sheldon, built the Greek Revival house at Site 5.

Several of the properties in the district run to considerable acreage, which presumably was farmed, as indicated by the presence of the several large barns.

Architecture

The Sunny Ridge Historic District is significant architecturally because of the age and quality of its two Colonial structures and the good state of preservation of its Greek Revival-style examples. The Rising Sun Inn (Site 7) is the oldest house in the district, and may be the oldest house in the town (A. Gilchrist). It is unusual because of its combination of a standard five-bay front elevation with three bays added to the north. The addition both enhanced the operation of the property as an inn and, according to Logan family tradition, provided needed space for a growing family. The position of the building at the northern end of the Nettleton Hollow was a commanding one, reinforced by the fact that it was the largest structure in the Hollow, with a tall barn and imposing grounds.

The second Colonial house at Site 8, while not unusual in its design, is a good example of its type, complete in a variety of details, including the six-pane transom over the front door and historic accompanying barn.

The two Greek Revival-style houses are unusual because they are a pair, in this remote location, built within a year or so of each other by Lewis and Daniel Canfield. Cost of construction for 28 Sunny Ridge Road at Site 4 was \$1,250, exclusive of materials which were furnished by the owner, Russell Bloss. The owner also boarded the building crew during the period of construction. An earlier house was demolished to make room for the present building (a date of 1769 in its basement), for which drawings exist in the possession of the present owner.

Cost of the similar house at Site 5 is not recorded. The pair's five-bay facades with recessed central entrances are worthy of an urban location, and somewhat sophisticated for the rural ambience of this outlying area of Washington, Connecticut. Both houses are well-preserved and reflect a good state of current maintenance.

The Colonial Revival-style house, ca.1930, at Site 2, a five-bay central-entrance central-chimney design, is an appropriate addition to the district, carrying forward in 20th-century terms the area's historic architecture.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richard G. Dutton, owner of 28 Sunny Ridge Road, conversation, September 19, 1995.

Alison Gilchrist, Architectural Historian and Consultant to Washington Historic District Commission, conversation, March 22, 1995.

Report of the Historic District Study Commission, Washington, Connecticut, 1975.

Washington Land Records, volume 121, page 1006, conservation easement to Steep Rock Association of Washington, a charitable non-profit corporation (land trust).

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: _____

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAAcreage of Property: 175

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4313660</u>	<u>643240</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>4613000</u>	<u>643280</u>
C	<u>18</u>	<u>4613170</u>	<u>643700</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>4612920</u>	<u>644060</u>
E	<u>18</u>	<u>4612700</u>	<u>644080</u>	F	<u>18</u>	<u>4612520</u>	<u>643400</u>
G	<u>18</u>	<u>4613620</u>	<u>642640</u>				

Verbal Boundary Description:

The district boundary is shown by the dotted line on the map drawn a scale of 1 inch = 400 feet. The district boundary is made up of the peripheral property lines of the properties included in the district.

Boundary Justification:

The district boundary is drawn to include properties that make up the cluster of settlement based on the triangle of the rural intersection Sunny Ridge, Nettleton Hollow, and Old Litchfield Roads.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Architectural Historian

Date: May 1995

Street/#: 33 Sunrise Hill Drive

City/Town: West Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06107

Telephone: 203 521-3387

List of Photographs

Photographs were taken in January 1995 by D.F. Ransom. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1

6 Romford Road

Site 7

View North

Photograph 2

20 Nettleton Hollow Road

Site 8

View northeast

Photograph 3

28 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 4

View southeast

Photograph 4

32 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 5

View northeast

Photograph 5

10 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 1

View northeast

Photograph 6

18 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 2

View northeast

Photograph 7

22 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 3

View east

Photograph 8

31 Sunny Ridge Road

Site 5A

View west