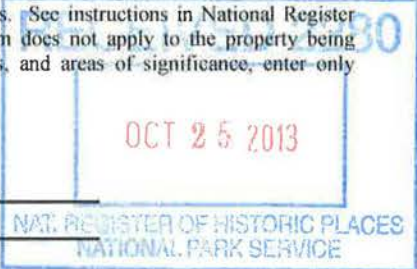


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ivoryton Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Main St., North Main St., Oak St., Blake St., Summit St., Park Rd., and Comstock Ave.

City or town: (Ivoryton) Essex State: CT County: Middlesex

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Stacy Vaid</u>	<u>9-23-13</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Deputy SHPO - DECD/SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Ivoryton Historic District
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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>249</u>	<u>81</u>	buildings
<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>27</u>	<u>44</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>294</u>	<u>127</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (**Comstock-Cheney Hall** (added 1982 - **Building** - #82003769), also known as **Ivoryton Playhouse**, Main and Summit Sts., Ivoryton)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/single dwelling_
 Domestic/hotel_
 Commerce/business_
 Recreation and Culture/theater_
 Industry/ivory processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/single dwelling_
 Domestic/hotel_
 Recreation and Culture/theater_

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/New England Colonial

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

OTHER/Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: stone, brick; Walls: wood cladding

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ivoryton historic district lies in a diverse terrain of hills and valleys: Main Street runs roughly east-west and follows the lowlands waterway (Figure 1). The eastern end of the historic district is narrow and captures resources only on the immediate north and south sides of Main Street; the built environment there contains the earliest buildings, primarily early to mid-nineteenth century, high-style residences with later infill that consists of modest vernacular and Victorian-era housing. The eastern-central portion of the district contains a cluster of mostly late nineteenth century, high-style, larger residences. The core of the district contains a grouping of late nineteenth-century commercial and civic buildings; later twentieth-century buildings are also present. This area also contains the smaller of the two factory complexes and is flanked on the north and south sides by sharply rising hillsides, each with densely developed residential neighborhoods erected between the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries; these range from simple vernacular buildings to Victorian-era, high-style houses. The western end of the historic district contains primarily lowlands on the south side of Main Street, consisting mostly of nineteenth century residential buildings, the second large factory complex, and open space.

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Narrative Description

Physical Description of the Area

Ivoryton is one of three villages within the Town of Essex, a 12-square-mile town located in the southernmost portion of the Connecticut River Valley on the river's west bank, seven miles from the mouth where it empties into the Long Island Sound. The geography of the region, known as the Eastern Coastal Slope, is defined by low hills, hardwood forestation, and sandy coastal beaches with many natural harbors and inlets. The intact underlying bedrock accounts for the relatively uniform landscape and its rich alluvial soils. The climate is relatively mild along the shoreline due to the protection of Long Island, which forms a natural break against severe weather and harsh winds. The fertile soil and coastal topography inform much of the settlement patterns in both the Native American and later Colonial periods. The Falls River runs through Ivoryton, and various dams provide flooding and create ponds throughout the region.¹ Ivoryton's terrain is rugged compared with the other villages; the Falls River cuts ridges on three sides of the village, making grazing or agriculture difficult to sustain, which is likely why Ivoryton was the last of the three to be settled and developed.

Architectural and Developmental Overview

The Ivoryton historic district captures the village as a nineteenth-century company town complete with factory complexes, civic core, upper-management neighborhood, and extensive company-owned housing stock that is most heavily concentrated on the ridges to the north and south of the two factory sites (Figures 1 and 2). The boundaries of the district encapsulates almost the entire length of Main Street from Bushy Hill Road on the west to very near the border of Centerbrook on the east and includes the earliest extant buildings that predate the mid-nineteenth century industrial village development (Figures 3 and 4).

The district is predominantly Victorian in character, though building types range dramatically from very simple vernacular buildings to high-style Italianate and Queen Anne buildings, some with extensive decorative scrollwork. Even some of the most modest buildings were adorned with some degree of decorative spindlework. Many of buildings have undergone additions as well as subtle alterations in the late twentieth century, when suburbanization and the desire for larger spaces and modern conveniences became a necessity, especially given the diminutive size of some of the original houses. These alterations are reflected in numerous accretions that illustrate multiple time periods, but have been sensitively considered, keeping the period character of the streetscapes remarkably intact. Many buildings also reflect emerging stylistic trends that altered their original expressions—the inclusion of comparative historic images in the figures are used to illustrate this often nuanced evolution.

The earliest buildings in the district date to the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and are primarily located at the east end of the district. Period elements common to most of the early buildings are mortared, cut-stone foundations; post-and-beam structural systems; clapboard siding; double-hung sash windows; and gabled roofs. The chimneystacks, typically centrally placed during this period, vary in placement, possibly due to changes over time. A few buildings, roughly classified as New England Colonial, exhibit late Georgian facades (*see Continuation Sheet*).

¹ John Herzan, *Historic Preservation in Connecticut*, Vol. 5, *Eastern Coastal Slope: Historical and Architectural Overview and Management Guide*, Connecticut Historical Commission, 1977, p. 7; Don Malcarne, "A Brief History of Essex," www.essexct.gov/history/word/briefhistory.doc, accessed February 9, 2011.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry
Community Planning and Development
Social History

Period of Significance
ca. 1719-1938

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Samuel M. Comstock
George A. Cheney

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ivoryton Historic District is significant under Criteria A, B, and C at the state and local levels as a well-preserved example of a nineteenth-century company town built by Comstock, Cheney, & Co., an ivory import and manufacturing business established in the 1860s by Ivoryton native Samuel Merritt Comstock and partner George A. Cheney. Its resources illustrate important contributions to the development of the ivory industry in the United States as well as the socioeconomic phenomenon of the “company town” in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the local level, the district represents Connecticut River Valley industry in the late nineteenth century as well as the brief period of increased worker immigration from Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Poland to Connecticut up until the start of World War I, illustrated by segregated worker housing in various locations throughout Ivoryton. The two largest American ivory manufacturers, Comstock, Cheney, & Co. and Pratt, Read & Co., were located just a few miles away from one another along the Connecticut River, and commanded a monopoly on all ivory production in the United States. Between 1860 and 1938, “Ivoryton” (unique among American town names) became a self-sufficient industrial center that employed and housed up to 600 workers, many of them immigrants, at its height. The historic district consists of early Colonial structures representing the agrarian village before its industrial transformation, mid- to late-nineteenth-century ivory processing and manufacturing buildings, high-style Victorian homes for company executives, modest vernacular homes and tenements for factory workers, and public buildings such as churches, a post office, company store, library, and a town meeting hall. Although some of the factory buildings have been demolished, the industry-defining bleach houses are gone, many houses have been remodeled, and the village itself sustained damage in a flood in 1982, Ivoryton’s historic character remains intact as an example of a planned community not unlike more formalized “company towns” in an industry unique to the Connecticut River Valley. The period of significance ranges from the construction of earliest known extant building (Joseph Parker Homestead; ca. 1719) to the divestment of company-owned housing in 1938.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

The initial settlements at the mouth of the Connecticut River were fur trading posts and defensive structures. The first European to travel in the region was the Dutch explorer Adriaen Block, who explored Long Island Sound in a series of voyages beginning in 1612. The Dutch attempted a fort at modern Saybrook Point, and built one in Hartford in the 1633. Shortly thereafter, British colonists from the Plymouth Bay Colony and Massachusetts Bay Colony made their way into the Connecticut Valley and began to create settlements at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford. Saybrook, called “ZeeBrooke” by the Dutch, was named for patent-holders Lord Say and Sele and Lord Brooke and encompassed modern-day Essex. The Saybrook Colony became a part of the greater Connecticut colony in the 1644, and Connecticut itself became an independent colony in 1662 when the British King Charles II granted a charter.² By 1667, there were seven coastal towns in Eastern Connecticut, all settled by the English.³
(See Continuation Sheet)

² Herzan, p. 9; Sara Emerson Rolleston, *Heritage Houses: American Tradition in Connecticut 1660–1690* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1980), p. 12.

³ Herzan, p. 12.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Historic and Architectural Resources Survey of Core Areas of the Villages of Essex Village, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton – Essex Connecticut. Prepared by Epsilon Systems Solutions, May 2011.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ 247.6 _____

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 712921 | Northing: 4580250 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 713560 | Northing: 4580848 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 713672 | Northing: 4580869 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting : 714032 | Northing: 4580879 |

(See Continuation Sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the district are shown on the attached map (**Figure 1**) drawn to scale from Tax Assessors maps from Essex, Connecticut.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were chosen to include the largest number of contiguous contributing historic resources associated with the development of the Village of Ivoryton during its period of significance. The irregularity of the boundaries is the result of the exclusion of non-contributing resources, particularly later residential development, on the periphery.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Phillip Esser and Michelle Treviño
organization: Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.
street & number: 901 N. Heritage Dr., Ste. 206
city or town: Ridgecrest state: CA zip code: 93555
e-mail pesser@epsilonsystems.com
telephone: (760) 446-6400
date: March 21, 2013 (DRAFT)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Main Street context; east end of village – view to northwest.

1 of 46.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Examples include the heavily remodeled Elisha Gladding Homestead at 14 Main Street (Inventory #171), the Daniel Griswold House at 25 Main Street (Inventory #183; Photograph 12), the Joseph Parker Homestead at 45 Main Street (Inventory #198), and the Federal-inspired Samuel Comstock II House at 123 Main Street (Inventory #258).

The only eighteenth-century house located outside of the east part of Main Street is the John Clark Homestead at 149 Main Street (Inventory #278). The modest, one-and-a-half story Clark house may have undergone a later remodeling, with its exterior expression more akin to the nineteenth century with its central, peaked gable.

Also concentrated in a small grouping in the eastern section of the district, the Greek Revival style is represented with both front- and side-gabled versions of the style. These are the first truly high-style (extant) buildings built in Ivoryton and are excellent examples of the period. These include the Edwin Griswold Homestead at 33 Main Street (Inventory #188), the (first) Samuel M. Comstock Homestead at 35 Main Street (Inventory #192; Photograph 13), and a somewhat late iteration of the style in the 1872 Judson Bushnell Homestead at 32 Main Street (Inventory #186). Common characteristics of the buildings include prominent gable ends, six-over-six wood sash windows, clapboard siding, and door surrounds with heavy entablatures.

As the ivory processing industry expanded in Ivoryton, particularly after the Civil War, the factory buildings, civic and commercial buildings, and housing stock that emerged reflected the general stylistic trends in America in the nineteenth century. The district encapsulates those major trends but also mixed the styles to a greater degree than might be expected, partly because of its somewhat remote location and corporate influence, producing a somewhat eclectic mix. Basic trends such as the Gothic Revival were combined with elements of the Stick style in such buildings as the Lorenzo Dow Webber house at 83 Main Street (Inventory #226, Photograph 17, Figure 15), as well as Italianate and Stick-style details on the F. M. Rose Store at 104 Main Street (Inventory #244; Photograph 4, Figures 11 and 13).

Common to almost all of the mid- to late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century buildings in the district is the use of wood framing, likely balloon-framed (with the exception of the early, wood-frame factory buildings that are likely post and beam), and cut stone or brick foundations. Cladding consists mostly of clapboards but wood shingles are found in later buildings, particularly after the turn of the twentieth century. Windows are very often (if not replaced) two-over-two, vertically oriented wood sash, but six-over-six and six-over-one types are common as well. Roofs are almost exclusively gabled, but a few mansards and one jerkin-head type are extant.

The Gothic Revival style is found in a few of the district's buildings, but most seem to be more emblematic of the later Gothic Revival types that presage the Queen Anne style, as opposed to the more rigidly stylistic expression of earlier Gothic forms. The best examples are the 1871 Samuel Cheney House at 119 Main Street (Inventory #255), particularly the dramatic dormer windows, and the nearby Comstock, Cheney, & Co. House #2 at 120 Main Street (Inventory #257). Although the former F. M. Rose Store in the commercial heart of the village exhibits more direct reference to the Gothic Revival (more so before the loss of the cupola) (Figure 13), it still carries elements of the concurrent Italianate style, particularly the bracketed cornices. Vernacular versions can be seen throughout the district, including 35 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #106) and 7 North Main Street (Inventory #296).

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Buildings that best represent the Italianate style in the district include the high-style Comstock, Cheney, & Co. house at 13 Ivory Street (Inventory #163) and the Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Lower Factory at 126 Main Street (Inventory #261; Photograph 5; Figure 5); however, the original bracketed cornice and gable ends have been removed. Other examples include the Simon W. Shailer Home at 82 Main Street (Inventory #224), the Nathaniel Miller Home at 100 Main Street (Inventory #236), and the S. G. Comstock House at 135 Main Street (Inventory #271). Common elements include round-headed windows in the upper gables and returns at the eaves.

The Second Empire style is expressed in its entire period flourish in the George French Homestead at 8 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #83; Photograph 26). The high-style house sits prominently on the rise of grade at the site atop a raised-brick basement and retains most, if not all, of its original architectural features. A second, less dramatic, one-story version with mansard roof is found at 13 Walnut Street (Inventory #389); if the house was built in 1907, as research suggests, it certainly is a late iteration of the style.

The Stick style can only be attributed to one building in the district, the high-style Griffith House at 131 Main Street (Inventory #269), constructed in 1886. Although it no longer has the characteristic division of wall surfaces, the steeply gabled projecting block at the façade with the deep, bracketed gable-ends and decorative verge board is typical of the style. Stick style influences in the district, however, are common even when the buildings may be more representative of another style, particularly the Queen Anne. Good examples include the decorative gables on the Ivoryton Library at 106 Main Street (Inventory #245, Photograph 3; Figure 12), the high-style Charles H. Rose House at 84 Main Street (Inventory #228, Photograph 18), and the otherwise vernacular Queen Anne-style Comstock, Cheney & Co. house at 175 Main Street (Inventory #285, Photograph 24).

Despite the variations and highly eclectic mixture of nineteenth-century styles in the district, the most prominent is the Queen Anne style. This style ranges from decorative elements added to the most basic of vernacular housing to the most elaborate high-style versions. The Congregational Church at 57 Main Street (Inventory #206; Photograph 16; Figure 16) in particular was particularly representative of this style prior to its being clad in vinyl siding (it is possible that the original materials are extant beneath the vinyl clapboard). The original half-timbered elements were associated with the finest examples of the style. Some of the upper-management houses also were executed in the style, the finest being the H. W. Webber Home at 81 Main Street (Inventory #223; Photograph 17; Figure 15), and a few more modest homes also strongly reflect Queen Anne characteristics. Examples include the Geo. A. Cheney House at 36 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #107, Photograph 28), Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #21 and #22 at 62 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #144; Photograph 31), and the Charles Johnson House at 49 Walnut Street (Inventory #421; Photograph 36).

Vernacular buildings are extremely well represented in the district; many of the Comstock, Cheney, & Co. workers' housing were simply executed. As noted earlier, many have stylistic decoration such as porches, but fundamentally tend to be diminutive in scale and austere in expression. Some of the best extant examples include the surprisingly elaborate Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #1 and #2 at 116 and 120 Main Street (Inventory #253 and #257; Photograph 21 [116 Main]), Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #10, #11, and #12 at 171-175 Main Street (Inventory #283-#285; Photograph 24); Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #89 and #90 at 16 Walnut Street (Inventory #392; Photograph 35); and multiple company-built houses on Summit, Blake, and Chestnut Streets (Photographs 43-46).

As the Arts and Crafts movement in the late nineteenth century came and went and the Eclectic Movement picked up speed in the early twentieth century in the United States, Ivoryton seemed to bypass these trends even

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as the village continued to develop up to the early 1920s. As a result, there are virtually no examples of the Colonial Revival movement or other then-popular stylistic trends such as the Tudor Revival, Neo-Classical, or Beaux-Arts. Two exceptions to consider, however, are Shingle Style All Saints Church Congregational Church at 129 Main Street (Inventory #268; Photograph 22; Figure 14) with its Arts and Crafts influence, as well as the Shingle-style influence on the nearby Swedish Mission Church at 139 Main Street (Inventory #272).

Unlike the Italianate character of the Lower Factory and its nineteenth-century vernacular outbuildings, the Upper Factory complex is, in some ways an ad hoc collection of buildings and structures that have evolved over time. There remains two substantial brick buildings from the early twentieth century, a smokestack, and a clock tower at the west end. Three wood-frame factory buildings were demolished in 1959 and account for the now-open space at the street front (Photograph 7; Figures 9 and 10). The east end contains a mid-twentieth century International Style addition (Photograph 8). A tall water tower is placed on the west side of Cheney Street close top Main Street.

Ivoryton Historic District Inventory

There are remarkably few non-contributing primary resources (buildings, structures, objects, and sites) in the district, but many secondary buildings are considered non-contributing because of their contemporary nature. Despite this, most do not detract from the character of the district to any appreciable degree. Many of the non-contributing resources are flag lots on which more recently constructed homes are not readily visible from the primary streetscapes, while a few buildings are obviously modern, but are included for the integrity of the continuity of the district. All undeveloped lots are considered contributing unless they have undergone improvements not consistent with the period of significance (Figure 1).

Most of the buildings in the district are residential. There are a total of 227 primary buildings. Of the primary buildings, 193 are contributing and 34 are non-contributing. There are a total of 103 secondary buildings (barns, garages, studios, etc.) in the district. Of these buildings, 56 are contributing and 47 are non-contributing. The Ivoryton Playhouse at 103 Main Street, which is already individually listed on the National Register, is not included in the final count.

There are 71 structures (sheds, well houses, gazebos, etc.). Of these, 27 are contributing and 44 are non-contributing. There is only one object inventoried for the nomination: the Ivoryton historic plaque was installed after the period of significance, and is considered non-contributing. For the purposes of this inventory, there are 19 sites (parks, open space, and unimproved parcels). Of these, 18 are considered contributing, and one is non-contributing.

The following is the inventory of all the contributing and non-contributing resources within the Ivoryton Historic District. Inventory numbers are assigned to all the resources and can be cross-referenced in the text and photo sheets. Construction dates were primarily culled from the extensive deed research conducted by the late Donald Malcarne, former Essex Town Historian.

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Inv #	Address	Historic Name/Style/Dates	C or N/C	Photo #
Baldwin Lane				
1.	6	Converted Barn/Vernacular/ca. 1880/converted 1960	C	
Blake Street				
2.	2	Comstock-Cheney House/Vernacular with garage addition/ca. 1885	C	
3.	5	Comstock-Cheney House #42/Vernacular with addition/1901	C	
4.	6	Comstock-Cheney House #6-7/Vernacular/1889	C	
5.	6	Garage/ca. 1920	C	
6.	8	Comstock-Cheney House#8/Vernacular with addition/1889	C	
7.	8	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
8.	9	Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular /1901	C	
9.	10	Comstock-Cheney House#53/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
10.	10	Converted Barn/Vernacular/ca.1900	C	
11.	11	Comstock-Cheney House #38/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
12.	11	Shed	N/C	
13.	12	Comstock-Cheney House #54/Vernacular/1902	C	
14.	13	Comstock-Cheney House #39/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
15.	13	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
16.	14	Comstock-Cheney House #55/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
17.	15	Comstock-Cheney House #40/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1900	C	
18.	15	Garage Studio/ca. 1950	N/C	
19.	16	Comstock-Cheney House #56/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
20.	16	Barn/ca. 1900	C	
21.	17	Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
22.	17	Garage/ca. 1920	N/C	
23.	18	Comstock-Cheney House #49/Vernacular with addition/1901	C	
24.	19	Comstock-Cheney House #42/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	46
25.	20	Comstock-Cheney House/Vernacular/ca. 1900	C	
26.	20	Shed	N/C	
27.	21	Comstock-Cheney House #43/Vernacular/1900	C	
28.	21	Shed	N/C	
29.	22	Comstock-Cheney House #48/Bungalow/1901	N/C	
30.	23	Comstock-Cheney House #44/Vernacular/1901	C	
31.	23	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
32.	24	Comstock-Cheney House #57/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
33.	25	Comstock-Cheney House #45/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1901	C	
34.	25	Shed	N/C	

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35. 26	Comstock-Cheney House #58/Vernacular with addition/1902	C
36. 27	Comstock-Cheney House #46/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1901	C
37. 27	Shed	N/C
38. 28	Comstock-Cheney House #59/Vernacular/1902	C
39. 29	Comstock-Cheney House #47/Vernacular with addition/1901	C
40. 30	Comstock-Cheney House #60/Vernacular/1902	C
41. 32	Comstock-Cheney House #61/ 1902	C
42. 32	Shed	N/C

Bracket Lane

43. 1	Comstock-Cheney House #35/Vernacular/1900	C
44. 1	Shed	N/C

Bushy Hill Road

45. 2	Vernacular	C
46. 2	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
47. 9	Vernacular/ca.1880	C
48. 9	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C

Cheney Street

49. 11	C.Samuelson/Vernacular/1882/20 th C. addition	C
50. 11	Garage/Shed ca. 1950	N/C
51. 13	A. Anderson House/Vernacular/1890/1891	C
52. 13	Shed	N/C
53. 13	Shed	N/C
54. 14	Ranch/1983	N/C
55. 15	Comstock-Cheney House #14/Vernacular/1886/1887	C
56. 15	Garage ca. 1940	N/C
57. 17	Ranch/1985	N/C
58.	Cheney Street (Empty Lot (58/40)	C

Chestnut Street

59. 2	Ranch/1901	N/C
60. 6	Comstock-Cheney House #53/1901	C
61. 6	Garage/ca. 1920	C
62. 6	Barn/ca. 1910	C
63. 8	Comstock-Cheney House #52/Vernacular with addition/1901	C
64. 8	Barn/ca. 1900	C

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65. 10	Comstock-Cheney House #53/Vernacular with add's & alter's /1901	C	
66. 10	Garage/Studio/1961	N/C	
67. 12	Comstock-Cheney House #54/Vernacular/1901	C	
68. 12	Shed	N/C	
69. 13	J. Peterson House/Vernacular/1901	C	
70. 13	Shed	N/C	
71. 14	Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
72. 14	Shed/ca. 1900	C	
73. 16	Comstock-Cheney House #75/Vernacular/1906	C	
74. 16	Shed/ca. 1900	C	
75. 18	Comstock-Cheney House #50-51/Vernacular/1901	C	
76. 22	A Lindgren House/Vernacular/1901	C	44

Comstock Avenue

77. 6	Webber/Spencer Tenement/Vernacular/1891	C	25
78. 6	Shed	N/C	
79. 6	Shed	N/C	
80. 7	G. French Store/Cape Cod/1913	N/C	
81. 7	Shed	N/C	
82.	Empty Lot (57/031)	C	
83. 8	Geo. French Homestead/Second Empire/ca.1875-1876	C	26
84. 8	Garage/ca. 1940	N/C	
85. 12	Rose Homestead/Queen Anne/1888/20 th C. addition	C	
86. 12	Garage/Barn 1929	C	
87. 14	Doan House/Vernacular/1892	C	
88. 14	Shed	N/C	
89. 17	Ranch/1970	N/C	
90. 19	Queen Anne with addition/ca. 1880	C	
91. 19	Shed	N/C	
92. 21	J Hopper House/Cape Cod/1887	N/C	
93. 21	Garage/ca. 1965	N/C	
94. 23	E. Bull House/Vernacular/1879	C	
95. 23	Garage/Barn	C	
96. 25	Cape Cod/1963	N/C	
97. 25	Cape Cod/1960	N/C	
98. 27	Cape Cod/1956	N/C	
99. 27	Shed/moved to site/19 th C.	N/C	
100.	28 Geo. Hovey Comstock Homestead/Italianate influence/1873	C	27
101.	28 Barn/ca. 1880	C	

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102.	28	Shed/19 th C.	C	
103.	29	Cape Cod/1951	N/C	
104.	31	Comstock-Cheney House #86/Vernacular/1888	C	28
105.	31	Barn (deteriorating)	C	
106.	35	F.Rose House/Vernacular; Gothic influence/1894	C	
107.	36	Geo. A. Cheney House/Queen Anne/1885	C	29
108.	36	Barn/19 th C.	C	
109.	40	Oswin Redfield Homestead/Queen Anne/1877/alt's	C	
110.	40	Shed	N/C	
111.	41	Comstock-Cheney House #32/Vernacular Cottage/1893	C	
112.	41	Shed/19 th C.	C	
113.	43	Comstock-Cheney House #30/Vernacular/1893	C	
114.	43	Garage/ca. 1940	N/C	
115.	44	Bushnell/Colonial Revival-influence/1904	C	
116.	44	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
117.	45	CCH #27/Stick Style-influence/1887/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	
118.	45	Barn/19 th C.	C	
119.	45	Shed	N/C	
120.	46	Comstock-Cheney House #31/Vernacular/1886-1887	C	
121.	46	Shed	N/C	
122.	47	Cape Cod/1981	N/C	
123.	48	Comstock-Cheney House #28 & 29/Vernacular/1873	C	
124.	49	Colonial Saltbox Reproduction/1981	N/C	
125.	50	Comstock-Cheney #26/Vernacular/1886-1887/20 th C. addition	C	
126.	50	Shed	N/C	
127.	51	CCH #7/Vernacular/1874/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	30
128.	51	Barn/19 th C.	C	
129.	52	CCH #8/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1874	C	
130.	52	Garage/20 th C.	C	
131.	53	Cape Cod/1981	N/C	
132.	54	Comstock-Cheney House #9/Vernacular/ca. 1874	C	
133.	54	Studio/20 th C.	C	
134.	55	J. Walkley House/Vernacular/1885	C	
135.	55	Shed/19 th C.	C	
136.	57	L. Coe House/Vernacular/1885	C	
137.	57	Shed	N/C	
138.	58	Comstock-Cheney House #24/Stick Style/1887	C	
139.	58	Shed/19 th C.	C	
140.	59	Comstock-Cheney House #25/Vernacular/1885	C	
141.	59	Shed/19 th C.	C	

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142.	61	Comstock-Cheney House#23/Queen Anne/1885	C	
143.	61	Shed/19 th C.	C	
144.	62	Comstock-Cheney House #21-22/Stick style-influence/1887	C	31
145.	62	Shed	N/C	
146.	63	Comstock-Cheney House #91/Vernacular/1920	C	
147.	63	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
148.	64	Pratt House/Vernacular/1886/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	
149.	64	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
150.	65	Comstock-Cheney House #92/Vernacular/1920	C	
151.	65	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
152.	67	CCH #62/Vernacular/1905/20 th C. garage addition	N/C	
153.	68	John Waterman House/Vernacular/1888-1889	C	
154.	68	Shed/19 th C.	C	
155.	68	Shed/19 th C.	C	
156.	69	Comstock-Cheney House #63/Vernacular/1905	C	32

Conklin Avenue

157.	5	J Conklin House/Vernacular/1902	C	
158.	5	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
159.	6	Queen Anne with 2005 addition/ca. 1895	C	
160.	6	Converted Shed to Garage/ca. 1900	C	

Ivory Street

161.	7	H.Comstock House/Vrnclr w/Qu.Anne infl./1883-4/20 th C. add.	C	
162.	7	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
163.	13	CCH #33-44/High-style Italianate/1893/alterations	C	
164.		Empty Lot (57/036)	C	

Main Street

165.	10	2 nd Ecclesiastical Parsonage/ Stick-influence/1888	C	10
166.	11	C. Spencer House #1/Vernacular/1883	C	9
167.	12	A.Palmer/Vernacular/1912	C	
168.	12	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
169.	13	C. Spencer House #2/Vernacular/1888	C	9
170.	13	Barn/20 th C.	C	
171.	14	E. Gladding/Georgian influence/1827/20 th C. alterations	C	
172.	14	Shed	N/C	
173.	15	C. Spencer House #3/Vernacular/ca.1888/20 th C. alterations	C	9

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174.	15	Shed	N/C	
175.	16	O.Knowles/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1873	C	
176.	16	Converted Shed to Garage/ca. 1900	C	
177.	19	Chauncey Spencer House#4/Vernacular/1897	C	
178.	20	Gilbert Strong/Vernacular/1859/Late 19 th C. Porch	C	
179.	20	Barn/19 th C.	C	
180.	21	C.Spencer House/Vernacular/1889	C	
181.	22	L,Lynn Home/Queen Anne w/Col. Revival-influence/1873&7	C	
182.	22	Barn/20 th C.	N/C	
183.	25	Daniel Griswold House/1809/20 th C. addition	C	12
184.	28	Dickinson Home/Vernacular/ 1926	C	
185.	28	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
186.	32	Judson Bushnell/Greek Revival/1872/20 th C. additions/alt's	C	
187.	32	Garage/20 th C.	C	
188.	33	Edwin Griswold House/ Greek Revival /1838	C	
189.	33	Studio/20 th C.	N/C	
190.	34	A.Miller Home/Queen Anne/1899	C	
191.	34	Detached Garage/Studio/1988	N/C	
192.	35	1 st Samuel M. Comstock House/Greek Revival/1838	C	13
193.	35	Barn/20 th C.	N/C	
194.	38	Egbert Bull/ Greek Revival/1845/20 th C. additions	C	
195.	38	Garage/20 th C.	C	
196.	39	Ranch/1978	N/C	14
197.	43	Shed Style/1974	N/C	
198.	45	Joseph Parker Homestead/N.E. Colonial/ca.1719	C	
199.	45	Shed/19 th C.	C	
200.	45	Shed/19 th C.	C	
201.	45	Well House	C	
202.	45	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
203.	46	A.W.Comstock/Vernacular/1889-90/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	15
204.	46	Guest House/1984	N/C	
205.	46	Guest House/2008	N/C	
206.	57	Congregational Church/ 1887-8	C	16
207.		Empty Lot (41/017)	C	
208.	64	Buckingham Home/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-infl./1875-6	C	
209.	64	Barn/19 th C.	C	
210.	68	Erastus-Eunice Ferguson/Vernacular/1855/20 th C. addition	C	
211.	68	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
212.	69	Robert H Comstock/High-style Ital.-influence/1868-69/1906	C	
213.	70	F. Chapman/Vernacular/1900/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	

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214.	70	Shed	N/C	
215.	72	Ezra Jones/Vernacular/1875	C	
216.	72	Vernacular/ca.1880	C	
217.	72	Vernacular/ca.1850	C	
218.		Empty Lot (57/026)	C	
219.	73	Cape Cod/1977	N/C	
220.	75	John & Ella Culver/Federal details/1872/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	
221.	75	Barn/ca. 1880	C	
222.	76	Ranch/1982	N/C	
223.	81	H.W.Webber Home/Queen Anne/1896/1897/20 th C. garage add.	C	17
224.	82	Simon W. Shailer Home/Italianate/1872	C	
225.	82	Barn/19 th C.	C	
226.	83	Lorenzo Dow Webber House/Gothic w/Stick-influence/1874	C	17
227.	83	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
228.	84	Charles H. Rose House/Stick with Queen Anne-influence/1868	C	18
229.	84	Barn/19 th C.	C	
230.	84	Shed/19 th C.	C	
231.	88	2 nd Samuel Comstock/Vrnclr.w/ later Clscl Revival-infl./1849	C	
232.	89	John Northrop House/Vrnclr w/later Clscl Revival-infl/1870-1	C	
233.	89	Barn/19 th C.	C	
234.	96	E.Mooar Comstock Garage/Converted Stable/1921	N/C	
235.	98	US Post Office/Neo-Traditional1964	N/C	
236.	100	Nathaniel Miller Home/Italianate/1872	C	
237.	100	Cottage/Gothic Revival-influence/ca.1875	C	
238.		Ivoryton Park (40/010)	C	39
239.		Historic Marker/1989	N/C	
240.		Ivoryton Park Gazebo/ca. 1980	N/C	
241.	103	Ivoryton Playhouse/Classical Revival-influence/1911	C	
242.	103	Comstock, Cheney Hall/Studio Building/Vrnclr/1910-11	C	
243.	103	Cottage/ca. 1980	N/C	
244.	104	F. M. Rose Store/Italianate/1873-4/20 th C. addition/alt's	C	1, 2, 4
245.	106	Ivoryton Library/Queen Anne/1888/Chs. Newton, builder	C	2, 3
246.	107	Curtis P.Jones Store/Comm/Vrnclr/1904/20 th C. addition/alt's	C	
247.	108	Commercial/Vernacular/1904 /20 th C. addition/alt's	N/C	
248.	109	H. Blake/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence/1887-8	C	19
249.	114	Commercial/Vernacular/1950	N/C	
250.	114	Attendants Stand/ca. 1920/moved to site	N/C	
251.	115	Hotel D'Ivory/Vernacular/1865/19 th & 20 th C. additions	C	20
252.	115	Barn/19 th C.	C	
253.	116	CCH House #1/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1872	C	21

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254.	116	Barn/19 th C.	C	
255.	119	Samuel Cheney Home/Gothic Revival-influence /1871	C	
256.	119	Barn/19 th C.	C	
257.	120	CCH #2/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence /1872	C	
258.	123	Samuel Comstock II House/Federal/ca.1808	C	
259.	123	Neo-Traditional Barn/Late 20 th C.	N/C	
260.	125	Ranch/1948	N/C	
261.	126	Ivory Factory/Vernacular with Italianate-influence/1847-8/add.	C	5
262.	126	Brick Bldg/Vernacular/ca. 1860	C	5
263.	126	Barn/19 th C.	C	
264.	126	Ancillary Building/Vernacular/ca. 1880	C	
265.		Empty Lot (57/037A)	C	
266.		Empty Lot (57/037B)	C	
267.		Empty Lot (57/069)	C	
268.	129	Congregational Church/Shingle Style/1905	C	22
269.	131	Griffith House/Stick Style /1886	C	
270.	131	Garage/Early 20 th C.	C	
271.	135	S.G.Comstock Home/Vrnclr w/ Italianate influence/1875	C	
272.	139	Swedish Mission Ch./Shingle Style/1897/ Chs. Newton, builder	C	
273.	141	W.Champlin Store/Vernacular/1897-8	C	141
274.	145	Comstock-Cheney House #102/Ranch/1923	N/C	
275.	145	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
276.	147	Comstock-Cheney House #95/Vernacular/1920	C	
277.	147	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
278.	149	John Clark House/ca. 1790	C	
279.	149	John Clark Home/Cottage/Vernacular/ca.1800/alterations	N/C	
280.	151	CCH #96/Vrnclr/1920/Late 20 th C. add's/alt's	C	
281.	151	Shed	N/C	
282.	158	Factory Complex/ Vrnclr w/ Int'l Modern addition/1880-1953	C	6, 7, 8
283.	171	Comstock-Cheney House #10/Vernacular/1886	C	24
284.	173	Comstock-Cheney House #11/Vernacular/1886	C	24
285.	175	Comstock-Cheney House #12/Vernacular/1886	C	24
286.	184	Ranch/1982	N/C	
287.	186	Comstock Cheney House #13/Vernacular/1889	C	
288.	186	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
289.	186	Shed/19 th C.	C	
290.	190	J. Lungren Home/Vernacular/1899	C	
291.	190	Shed/19 th C.	C	
292.	191	Sally Comstock Home/Vernacular/1830	C	
293.	193	Andrew Doane House/Vernacular/1890	C	

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294. Clark Pond (58/046) C
295. Clark Pond (58/39/01-42) C

North Main Street

296. 7 E Northrup House #1/Vrnclr w/Gothic Revival-influence/1888 C
297. 7 Barn/19th C. C
298. 7 Shed/19th C. C
299. 10 Comstock-Cheney House #80/Bungalow/1853 C
300. 12 D.Griswold House/Vernacular/Two-family/ca. 1850 C
301. 12 Garage/20th C. N/C
302. 13 E.Northrup House #2/Vrnclr/1900 C
303. 13 Shed/19th C. C
304. 13 Shed/19th C. C
305. 16 Comstock Cheney House #79/Vernacular/1910 C 38
306. 16 Shed/19th C. C
307. 16 Shed/19th C. C
308. 19 J.Wilcox House #1/Vrnclr w/ Stick Style-influence/1890 C
309. 19 Barn/19th C. C
310. 20 B. Griswold/Vernacular/1906 C
311. 20 Garage/20th C. N/C
312. 22 E.Miller House #2/Vernacular/1900 C
313. 22 Shed/19th C. C
314. 25 J. Wilcox House #2/Vrnclr/1901 C
315. 25 Barn/20th C. C

Oak Street

316. 2 Ranch/1985 N/C
317. 2 Barn/19th C. C
318. 7 Comstock Cheney House #65/Vernacular/1904 C
319. 7 Barn/19th C. C
320. 9 Comstock Cheney House #56/Vernacular/1902 C
321. 9 Barn/19th C. C
322. 9 Studio/20th C. C

Park Road

323. Empty Lot (63/01) C
324. Comstock Park (62/02) C

Pond Meadow Road

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325.	3	Asa Rose/Zina Clark House/Federal/1878	C
326.	3	Shed	N/C
327.	3	Shed	N/C
328.		Empty lot (61-8)	C

Stonebrook Drive

329.	2	Jonathan Parker Homestead/Federal/ca.1849	C
330.	2	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
331.	2	Shed	N/C

Summit Street

332.	6	Vernacular/ca. 1860/20 th C. alterations	C
333.	8	J.Frederickson Building/Vrnclr/1893/20 th C. alterations	C
334.	9	E.Miller House/Vrnclr w/ Queen Anne-influence/ 1880	C
335.	12	Vernacular Firehouse/1966	N/C 40
336.		Empty Lot (40/12)	C
337.	13	Charles Lynn House/Vernacular/1890	C 41
338.	13	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
339.	13	Shed/19 th C.	C
340.	14	Empty Lot (57/08)	N/C
341.		Vernacular Garage (on Lot 57/07)	C
342.	15	Hervey Blake House/Vernacular/1889	C 41
343.	18	G.Blake &Co/Commercial Group/Barn/1886	C 42
344.	18	Shed/19 th C.	C
345.	22	A. Burdick House/Vernacular/1924	C
346.	22	Shed/19 th C.	C
347.	27	E.Gates House/Vernacular with Stick Style-influence/1889	C
348.	27	Studio/20 th C.	C
349.	27	Empty Lot (57/75)	C
350.		Empty Lot (58/13)	C
351.	29	C Liotard House/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1890	C
352.	31	E.Liotard/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence/1891	C
353.	31	Shed	N/C
354.	33	L.Phelps House/Queen Anne/1901/20 th C. alterations	C
355.	33	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
356.	35	A.Oscar Strandberg/Vernacular/1906	C
357.	35	Shed	N/C
358.	39	CCH #9/Vernacular/1889/ Late 20 th C. add's/alt's	C

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359.	39	Shed	N/C
360.	41	Adolph Wolf House/Vernacular/1892	C
361.	41	Carport	N/C
362.	42	A. Lundgren/Vernacular cottage/1913	C
363.	42	Barn/19 th C.	C
364.	42	Barn/19 th C.	C
365.	44	C. Carlsson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1903	C
366.	44	Barn/19 th C.	C

Terrace Lane

367.	3	Comstock Cheney House #93 Vernacular/1920	C	
368.	3	Shed	N/C	
369.	4	Comstock Cheney House #64/Vernacular/1905	C	
370.	5	Comstock Cheney House #94/1920/Late 20 th C. addition	C	33
371.	6	CCH #65/Vrnclr/1905/Mid 20 th C. Garage addition	C	
372.	7	Ranch/1978	N/C	
373.	8	CCH #66/Vernacular/1905/Late 20 th C. addition	C	
374.	8	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
375.	9	Ranch/1955	N/C	
376.	10	CCH #67/Vernacular/1905/Late 20 th C. addition	C	
377.	10	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
378.		Empty Lot (57/56)	C	
379.	11	Ranch/1950	N/C	

Walnut Street

380.	7	Sarah Conklin/Queen Anne/ 1890/20 th C. additions & alterations	C	
381.	7	Garage/Studio/20 th C.	N/C	
382.	9	D.Field House/ Vernacular/ca. 1890	C	
383.	9	Shed/19 th C.	C	
384.	9	Shed	N/C	
385.	10	Comstock-Cheney House #71/1912	C	34
386.	10	Garage/Early 20 th C.	C	
387.	12	CCH #70/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
388.	12	Shed	N/C	
389.	13	J.Parker Jr. House/Vrnclr w/Mansard Roof/ca. 1907/add's & alt's	C	
390.	13	Barn/19 th C.	C	
391.	13	Shed	N/C	
392.	16	Comstock-Cheney House #89 & 90/Vernacular/1920	C	35
393.	17	Vernacular/ca. 1930/20 th C. alterations	N/C	

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394.	17	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
395.	19	CCH #19/Vernacular/1887/ 20 th C. add's & alt's	N/C	
396.	20	CCH #83/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
397.	20	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
398.	21	Comstock-Cheney House #20/20 th C add and alt/1887	C	
399.	21	Shed	N/C	
400.	22	CCH #82/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
401.	22	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
402.	24	Thomas Pratt House/Vernacular/ca.1815	C	
403.	24	Shed/19 th C.	C	
404.	24	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
405.	25	A.Theiss House/Vernacular/1888/20 th C. addition	C	
406.	25	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
407.	27	Ranch/1964	N/C	
408.	28	Comstock-Cheney House #85/Vernacular/1913	C	
409.	30	J. Clark House/Vernacular/1890/20 th C. alterations	C	
410.	30	Barn/19 th C.	C	
411.	36	A.Palm House/Vernacular/1890	C	
412.	36	Garage/Studio	N/C	
413.	40	C.Johnson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1900	C	
414.	40	Barn/19 th C.	C	
415.	40	Garage/20 th C.	C	
416.	40	Outhouse	C	
417.	44	J.Neilson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1900	C	
418.	44	Shed	N/C	
419.	45	G.Lundgren Home/Vrnclr w/Federal-infl./1874/20 th C. additions	C	
420.	45	Shed	N/C	
421.	49	Ch. Johnson House/Queen Anne w/Stick Style-influence/1888	C	36
422.	49	Shed	N/C	

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Saybrook Colony was surveyed in 1648 and “quartered”; the present-day towns of Essex, Chester, and Deep River were known as the “Potapoug Quarter.” Portions of “West Centre Brooke” (later known as Ivoryton) were surveyed as part of the Oyster River Quarter, but settlement did not occur until the 1720s, and continued to be sparse until the nineteenth century.¹

In contrast to Centerbrook and Essex, the other two villages that make up the present-day Town of Essex, Ivoryton was a sleepy hamlet in the early nineteenth century, likely due to its terrain, which was more rugged than that of the other villages; with only 26 buildings by 1850, its growth in population and transformation into an industrial-era company town would not occur until after the Civil War.²

The first landowners in modern-day Ivoryton were the Bulls, Clarks, Comstocks, and Parkers; the oldest extant house is the Joseph Parker homestead, likely built between 1720 and 1740, and sold to Reuben Bull in the 1770s. The Comstock family owned land in the area as early as the 1770s, and Captain Samuel Comstock II built a house in the early nineteenth century where future Ivoryton developer Samuel Merritt Comstock was born.

Ivoryton (known as West Centerbrook) was added along with Centerbrook to the Village of Essex to create the Town of Essex in 1859, and the village began to be known as Ivoryton in the 1880s.

The Ivory Industry and Comstock, Cheney & Co.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the village of Ivoryton began its evolution into a sustaining industrial center that continued into the twentieth century. Before that, Ivoryton’s primary commercial ventures were agricultural, specifically timber.³ Deacon Phineas Pratt I of Essex, a goldsmith, had invented a machine to cut combs in 1797. He began making combs out of horn, but soon changed to ivory; the importation of African elephant ivory determined the industry’s primary location in the region. The Pratts and the Comstocks were to be friendly competitors in the ivory-cutting industry for the entirety of the nineteenth century until merging operations in the twentieth century. Together, the two companies dominated the ivory trade and the manufacture of ivory products in the United States. Phineas Pratt’s son, Julius, of Meriden, CT, patented an ivory-slitting machine in 1828 and a process for making ivory combs in 1830; he moved his operations to Deep River in 1873 and joined George Read as Pratt, Read & Co. to compete with the other ivory manufacturers in the region.⁴ According to a few accounts, no less than 75 percent of all the ivory shipped to the United States in the late nineteenth century was sent to Connecticut.⁵

Samuel Merritt Comstock started out in the 1830s producing screwdrivers with both his brother and a business partner, Edwin Griswold. Shortly thereafter, the company began producing ivory combs and toothpicks.⁶ The Comstock and Griswold factory was located directly behind the Edwin Griswold homestead (today at 33 Main Street), and Comstock bought land south of the Falls River from Daniel Griswold in 1838, where he built his first

¹ Donald Malcarne, *Deep River and Ivoryton*, (Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2002), p. 7.

² Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 47.

³ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 25.

⁴ Chris Pagliuco, “Ivoryton,” *Hog River Journal* Volume 6, No. 4 (Fall 2008), p. 28.

⁵ Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 89.

⁶ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 7.

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homestead. By 1847, Comstock struck out on his own, establishing the S. M. Comstock Company on the Falls River across the road from his childhood home, and expanding and industrializing the ivory-cutting process to support the manufacture of piano key veneers, billiard balls, combs, and other items. Comstock partnered with George Cheney in 1860 (though various sources also name 1862 as the year of partnership), selling him a quarter of his factory assets and land, and created Comstock, Cheney, & Company, which would continue until the Depression forced a merger of the company with nearby competitors Pratt & Read, located in Deep River.

The “lower factory” or “ivory shop,” the original S. M. Comstock factory, was enlarged and updated after Cheney joined the partnership in 1860; an ivory vault and numerous bleach houses were constructed in the vicinity. A female boarding house was built behind the building by 1919, and was abandoned in the late 1930s when all ivory processing was consolidated at the “upper shop.”

Comstock, Cheney & Co. became further involved in the piano manufacturing process by making keyboards and producing piano “actions,” or the mechanical assemblies used to translate the hitting of a key into the striking of a piano string. As a result, the “Upper Factory” was first constructed in 1872/73, with many additions throughout the following 20 years. This factory, partially powered by the company-built Bushy Hill Dam, consisted mainly of woodworking for the keys and piano actions, and employed more than 600 employees during the height of the factory’s operation at the turn of the nineteenth century.⁷ The Bushy Hill Dam would burst in 1982, flooding much of Ivoryton and damaging many of the Comstock, Cheney & Co. buildings.

The Industrial Revolution made possible increased leisure time and the ability to obtain luxury items; as a result, demand grew for billiard balls and piano keys. In the 1850s alone, the United States doubled its piano production, and by 1910, was the largest manufacturer of pianos in the world. Comstock, Cheney & Co. and Pratt, Read & Co. were producing nearly 400,000 keyboards and actions by this time.⁸ Piano keys were originally made of exotic wood, but by the 1750s European manufacturers were facing the keys with ivory veneers. One 90-pound elephant tusk could provide enough ivory for 45 complete keyboard veneers, but the processing and matching of the ivory was a skilled, laborious task. Enormous bleach houses were erected throughout Ivoryton, and bleaching processes were patented from Connecticut in the 1850s.

Billiard balls were made only from the tusks of female elephants because the nerves running through the centers of these tusks were straighter, and allowed the balls to be shot more “true.” One female tusk would provide enough ivory for five billiard balls.⁹

Millions of pounds of ivory were brought up the Connecticut River from Africa throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, where Comstock and Cheney unwittingly supported a flourishing slave trade to bring ivory from the interior to the ports of Mombasa, Mozambique, and Zanzibar. Comstock and Cheney originally bought their ivory from trader John Bertram, who operated out of Salem, Massachusetts.¹⁰ Coastal

⁷ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 112.

⁸ Richard Conniff, “From Combs to Keyboards: The Development of a Connecticut Valley Industry,” (1990), p. 84; Pagliuoco, p. 28.

⁹ Deep River Historical Society, Inc., *A History of Pratt Read & Co. of Deep River, Connecticut Including the Making of Ivory Piano Keyboards* (Deep River Historical Society, Inc., 1973); Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jennifer Frank, *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery* (New York: Ballantine Books, 2005), p. 203; David H. Shayt, “Elephant Under Glass,” *Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology* 19(1):37–59 (1993).

¹⁰ Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jennifer Frank, *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*

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vessels were necessary to transport the ivory from larger ports in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to the shallower ports of the Connecticut River. Based on estimates that five African slaves either died or were sold into slavery for every tusk shipped out of Africa, the Connecticut ivory industry may have been solely responsible for the death or enslavement of hundreds of thousands of people over the history of the company.¹¹ Between 1891 and 1903, Comstock, Cheney & Co. processed more than a million pounds of ivory; rivals Pratt, Read & Co. processed nearly 1.5 million pounds.¹²

With the advent of European colonization in Africa came the railroad, and rail became the preferred method of transporting ivory to the coast for shipment. By the 1890s, the slave trade in Africa had slowed, lessening the exploitation of human labor in the ivory trade.¹³ Rail came to the Connecticut Valley as well; the Connecticut Valley Railroad was established in 1868 and completed in 1871, traveling between Hartford and Saybrook Point with a stop in Centerbrook. After a few changes in ownership, the New Haven Railroad took possession in 1892, and the line continued to serve both passengers and freight until automobile traffic overtook rail as the primary means of transportation after World War I.¹⁴ After steamboating ended in 1930, the railroad took over transport of ivory to Essex, where it was then moved on the trolley tracks, to Comstock and Cheney's factory.¹⁵

The United States plunged into an economic depression after the stock market crash of 1929, and Essex was not spared. The piano business began to wane, recreational boating naturally decreased, and immigrant factory workers in Ivoryton suffered loss of net worth. Unemployment in Connecticut was greater than the national average in the 1930s, and New Deal organizations such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began to undertake public works projects around the coastal region. A devastating hurricane hit the region in 1938, causing damage to Essex's riverfront as well as much of Connecticut's shoreline, and public works projects naturally evolved from the need to repair and restore the built and natural environment.¹⁶

Realizing that the volume of business at the time was not enough to sustain two separate businesses, the other major ivory production company in the area—Pratt, Read & Co. of Deep River—merged with Comstock, Cheney & Co. in 1936 to create Pratt, Read & Co. Inc. At this time a separate realty company, the Ivoryton Realty Company, was created to sell off all of Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s non-factory real estate (essentially the factory housing).

When World War II began, Pratt, Read & Co. switched from manufacturing piano keyboards and actions and used their woodworking skills to build gliders for the war effort. An aeronautical warehouse was constructed in 1942, employing as many as 4,000 workers throughout the hostilities.¹⁷ With the Great Depression and the increasing popularity and accessibility of the radio, motion pictures, and the automobile, people began to seek

(New York: Ballantine Books, 2005), p. 201.

¹¹ Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 54; Farrow et al., p. 193.

¹² Donald Malcarne, "Comstock, Cheney & Co.," *History of Ivoryton*, 2002, available at <http://www.ivoryton.lioninc.org/ivoryton.htm>, accessed February 12, 2013.

¹³ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 33.

¹⁴ The Valley Railroad Company, "The History of the Valley Railroad Company," available at <http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/history.html>, 2009, accessed February 21, 2011.

¹⁵ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 33.

¹⁶ Herzan, p. 77–78.

¹⁷ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 64.

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entertainment outside of their homes, and the demand for pianos declined significantly. In 1936, Comstock, Cheney & Co. merged with Pratt, Read & Co. of Deep River and reorganized to preserve the industry. They moved operations to Ivoryton, the newer plant, but retained the better-known Pratt, Read name. In addition, the insular “company town” ethos began to disintegrate as second-generation immigrant workers and residents were able to travel to other towns for work, and an interest in unionization resulted in the first labor organization unit in the company by 1941.¹⁸

After World War II, the company streamlined the business and abandoned the use of ivory for key veneers in favor of plastic. Ivory was last brought to Connecticut in 1954, and by 1958 the ivory stocks were depleted. From then on, the “ivories” were made of plastic. The company branched out by opening factories in Central, South Carolina, as well as in Vermont, and began manufacturing golf clubs and furniture, but the devastating flood of 1982 destroyed much of the factory buildings and led to the eventual shuttering of what had been the largest factory complex in Middlesex County.¹⁹

Samuel M. Comstock and George A. Cheney

Samuel Merritt Comstock (1809–1878), Ivoryton’s most influential resident, was born in 1809 as the eighth of nine children in one of the few “West Centre Brooke” settlements in existence at that point. The Captain Samuel Comstock homestead, built shortly before Samuel M. Comstock’s birth in 1808, was likely the second house built on the site.²⁰ His father, Captain Samuel Comstock, was a sea captain active in the West Indies trade, but also owned 50 acres of land in the Oyster River Quarter on the banks of the Falls River. Comstock started his first company in 1837, and situated his factories in his home village near water for adequate power supply. Comstock purchased land in the area to build dams for additional power as well as factory space, and continued to build up his business holdings in what would become known as Ivoryton. In 1838, Comstock married Harriet Hovey, and built his first homestead near the Comstock & Griswold factory. By 1851, Comstock had established his own company, and built a new home near this location. Comstock’s front gate would be a village landmark, used to describe property locations in local deeds for years to come.²¹ Comstock died in 1878, leaving George Cheney to run the ivory business and continue his company town vision.

George A. Cheney, 20 years Comstock’s junior, was born in New Hampshire in 1828 and spent many years in Rhode Island, Zanzibar, and New York working with his father-in-law, Rufus Greene, in the ivory trade. Although he became a partner in Comstock’s ivory firm in 1860, he did not move to Connecticut until 1868, where he settled in Essex Village rather than the company town. He did build a “cottage” on Comstock Avenue in 1885, after Comstock had died and Cheney was running the company (Photograph 29). Cheney died in 1901, and Comstock’s sons Archibald and Robert took control of the company until its merger with Pratt, Read & Co. in 1936.

¹⁸ One of Malcarne’s students at Wesleyan conducted archival research and oral history interviews of former factory workers in his study of unionization at Comstock & Cheney: Tom Furrer, “The Rise and Decline of Welfare Capitalism and the Emergence of a Union In Ivoryton, Connecticut: 1900–1941,” unpublished essay, May 5, 1980, Wesleyan University.

¹⁹ Donald L. Malcarne, “Ivoryton, Connecticut: The Ivory Industry and Voluntary and Involuntary Migration in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *North American Archaeologist* 2001:22(3)283–295.

²⁰ According to Donald Malcarne, it was only the second house of this style built in the area at this time, and one of only a dozen or so houses in Ivoryton in the early 1800s (Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 102).

²¹ Malcarne, “Comstock, Cheney & Co.,” *History of Ivoryton*.

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Evolution of a "Company Town"

After the Civil War and the demise of the shipbuilding industry in Essex, the center of industry and commerce shifted to Ivoryton, which as a company town can be considered one of the earliest planned industrial communities in the area. Comstock was similar to other industrial leaders of the late nineteenth century (which included notable Connecticut arms maker Samuel Colt) in that he wanted to create a community where his workers would live, work, and play with no need to spend time or money outside of the company cocoon. Although Comstock died in 1878, his partner George Cheney continued to realize his vision by constructing a significant amount of housing and creating a commercial district for workers to patronize.

The company town concept was not novel by the 1870s, but rather had been developed and used throughout the more industrial northeastern United States beginning with the well-known Lowell, Massachusetts, textile mill town in the 1820s, which shared with Ivoryton a reliance on water power for its factories and a need to provide housing and social outlets for its workers, who came from more rural areas and later from Eastern Europe to work in the factory. At the height of the Industrial Revolution, there were more than 2,500 "single-enterprise towns" throughout the United States, housing nearly 3 percent of the American population by 1916.²² One of the more common types of company town is the exploitative mining town, where mining companies would often lure workers to substandard mining camps with company stores from which workers would buy goods against future paychecks or by using "scrip." In these scenarios, workers were often charged exorbitant rents and denied the freedom of deciding where to shop or even when to stop working for the company, for often they owed many years of work to pay off debts accrued from unfair rents or goods prices.²³

Ivoryton, however, was an example of a more benevolent, "utopian" company town, where the company sought to provide housing and services to make workers happier and thus more productive. This type of planned community included "modern public buildings, libraries and facilities for leisure, education, and cultural enrichment, and comfortable dwellings for managers and workers."²⁴ Ivoryton's company town ethos also resulted in a number of clubs and sports teams, including the Ivoryton Wheel Club during the bicycle craze of the late nineteenth–early twentieth centuries, a marching band, and a baseball team; a ballpark was established in 1886 along with a competitive company baseball team.²⁵ The Rose Brothers Store, technically a "company store," was built in 1873/74 on Main Street (Photograph 4; Figures 11 and 13), and served as a central location for dry goods, groceries, a post office, and a meeting hall on the second floor. Though Comstock, Cheney & Co. owned the store, it was operated by various managers throughout its existence, most notably Theodore and Franklin M. Rose. Contemporary accounts of Comstock were glowing, saying that he was "large hearted, liberal, and generous," and that he "took an active interest in everything that concerned [the factory workers'] welfare or happiness."²⁶

Comstock's vision included housing for factory management and workers near their places of business. Comstock and later Cheney made a policy of selling land to company managers and sometimes issuing mortgages

²² Hardy Green, *The Company Town: The Industrial Edens and Satanic Mills that Shaped the American Economy* (New York: Basic Books, 2010), pp. 3, 6.

²³ Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of the American Company Town* (New York: Verso, 1999), p. 30.

²⁴ Green, p. 5.

²⁵ Pagliuco, p. 33.

²⁶ *Beer's History of the Town of Essex* (1885) quoted in Pagliuco, p. 32.

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so that they could build houses of their own choosing and design. Their fine homes were constructed prominently on Main Street, just east of the factory buildings (Photographs 17 and 18; Figure 15). The first worker housing consisted of dormitories to house single workers. The Hotel du Ivory opened in 1865 on Main Street and rented rooms to single men (Photograph 20). The building was enlarged in 1901 to add 20 rooms, but initially held up to 60 ivory workers.²⁷ Multifamily tenement housing was constructed to meet growing housing needs and the influx of recent immigrants from Poland, Hungary, and Italy to meet factory labor demands; land speculator Chauncy Spencer built five such buildings in the 1880s along Main Street (Photograph 9), and Comstock, Cheney & Co. also built multifamily dwellings during this period.

Factory houses were usually rented to workers, but beginning in the early twentieth century, some of these were sold to workers as well. The first single-family company houses for workers (rather than managers) were constructed in 1872 on West Main Street, directly across the street from the Hotel du Ivory. Donald Malcarne, former Essex town historian, did extensive research on these properties, and found that “[a]ccording to Essex tax records, the company owned one dwelling house in 1871, eleven in 1881, twenty-nine in 1891, thirty-six in 1901 and sixty-six in 1911. These were small homes for what was fast becoming a workforce dominated by immigrants.”²⁸

The first immigrants to arrive in Ivoryton were Swedes and Germans in the 1870s, who also became some of the first to own factory houses in the village. A Swedish enclave grew along Walnut Street in the late nineteenth century, and the Swedish Mission Church was built in 1897 on land Samuel G. Comstock (Samuel M. Comstock’s son) sold to the church. In the 1890s, the business had grown to such a degree that there was a great need for an expanded labor force; to meet the demand, the company retained an agent in New York City to direct “Ellis Island” immigrants from Poland and Italy to Ivoryton to work in the factories. These workers often rented company housing in ethnically consolidated areas such as Warsaw Street (Polish immigrants) and “Little Italy” in the Pond Meadow section of Ivoryton, and soon bought land, creating increasingly self-sufficient ethnic enclaves separate from the “Connecticut Yankee” management housing areas. This flow of immigrant workers to the Connecticut Valley virtually ended at the end of World War I in 1918, motivated in part by the downturn in the ivory industry after the war.²⁹

After Comstock’s death, George A. Cheney took over operations; the factories, shops, and bleach houses were expanded, and with that more than 135 houses for workers were built by 1924.³⁰ Between 1878 and 1900, a number of houses were built near the Upper Shop along Main and Cheney Streets as well as Comstock Avenue, and a group of six houses were built along what is now Terrace Lane in an area known as “Ivoryton Heights” in the first years of the twentieth century.³¹

The Ivoryton Library Association was founded in 1871, and a library was built in 1888 (Photograph 3; Figure 12). Although the company did not build churches, it encouraged their establishment as an additional amenity for the factory workers, and Comstock’s sister Harriet had the Comstock Chapel (later the Ivoryton Congregational Church) built on her inherited land that same year. The Ivoryton Grammar School (demolished) was built in 1899

²⁷ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex Volume II*, p. 153.

²⁸ Malcarne, “Comstock, Cheney & Co.,” *History of Ivoryton*.

²⁹ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 65; Pagliuco, p. 33; Malcarne, “Voluntary and Involuntary Migration,” pp. 289–290.

³⁰ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 26; Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 69.

³¹ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, pp. 124–125.

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with company and Comstock family contributions.

When Cheney died, Comstock's sons Robert and Archibald ran the business from 1901 until the Great Depression, and continued to develop Ivoryton, providing funds for schools and constructing a meeting hall (Comstock Cheney Hall) that would become the Ivoryton Playhouse in the 1930s.³² Additional housing was built in this period along Blake and Chestnut Streets, and a separate post office was built in 1904. The last company house was built in 1922.

Pratt, Read & Co. diversified their products to meet foreign competition for pianos and actions, and the factory whistle continued to call workers to their benches until 1988, by which time the company had moved all of their operations out of town.

Ivoryton is a more insular example of the company towns that were built throughout Connecticut in the nineteenth century as industry moved from shipbuilding on the coast to manufacturing in the interior. The Thompsonville section of Hartford was home to company housing for the Bigelow Carpet Mills factory beginning in the 1840s, and Hartford's most famous industrialist, Samuel Colt, established "Coltsville" in Hartford by the 1850s.³³ As in Ivoryton, housing was segregated by ethnicity and comprised both single-family homes and multifamily tenement dwellings, but these dwellings were never the primary location for factory workers as they were in Ivoryton, for Hartford was a larger city that had housing options for workers within commuting (walking) distance; moreover, these "towns" were merely sections of the larger city, and did not dominate the urban landscape in the same way that Comstock, Cheney, & Co. controlled (and even named) Ivoryton. Coltsville in particular was built to attract workers to the more undeveloped part of Hartford, and a niche development known as the "Postdam Cottages" were built in a fanciful Gothic style in 1859 to appeal to immigrant workers from Eastern Europe. Bigelow constructed "Scottish Row" as a grouping of houses around a central green or square for the factory's highly skilled English workers. The Cheney Brothers silk factory in Manchester, CT, also provided company housing for their immigrant workers in the latter half of the nineteenth century, buying land near their factories and either leasing or selling houses to workers.³⁴ All of these company towns, like Ivoryton, stopped expanding after World War I, and were severely downsized along with factory production during the Depression.

Deep River, less than five miles north of Ivoryton, was the site of Comstock's only significant competitor in the ivory business, Pratt, Read & Co. However, Deep River did not develop into a company town, and although Pratt, Read & Co. was undeniably the largest employer in the town, the company did not build housing and develop civic amenities for its workers. Thus, Ivoryton is truly singular in its status as an "ivory town."

Architectural Significance

The Ivoryton historic district contains a solid representation of American architectural styles that range from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The significance of the district lies in its evolution as an industrial company town, which still provides great interpretive value about the culture and lifestyle of this community. The organization of the development and the wide range of extant building types and styles continue to tell the

³² Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 26.

³³ Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Mills Historic District National Register Nomination Form, 1994; Coltsville Historic District National Historic Landmark Nomination Form, 2007.

³⁴ Cheney Brothers Historic District National Register Nomination Form, 1977.

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story of a niche industrial community that is representative of America's "company town" ethos before organized unions gathered strength.

Aside from the few extant New England Colonials and high-style Greek Revival houses from an earlier period, the entire village became synonymous (in name and in function) with Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s ivory-processing business. Because of the large number of housing units constructed by and for the factory's entire working staff, the built environment is intrinsically interconnected. After World War II, suburbanization did little to alter the basic layout of the community, though the 1982 flood had a devastating impact. Despite the diversity of building types and styles, there is a distinct Victorian feel to Ivoryton, one that the stylistic trends of the early twentieth century did not displace. The combination of Samuel Comstock's vision of a benevolent company town and Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s direct involvement in the civil as well as physical growth of the community resulted in this comparatively homogenous grouping of buildings. Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s all-encompassing influence in Ivoryton's development accounts for this thread of continuity throughout the built environment.

The only notable Gothic Revival buildings in Essex are found in Ivoryton. Two houses near each other, 119 Main Street (Inventory #255) and 120 Main Street (Inventory #257), are excellent examples of Late Gothic Revival. Although 119 Main is the better example, both houses exhibit typical features such as a gabled central projecting block flanked by oversized gabled dormers. Both have elaborate vergeboards and drop pendants in the deep-set gable ends, but 119 Main has front and side porches with decorative wood detailing in the railings and upper sections. Both have brick foundations and have retained the original two-over-two double-hung sash in the dormers. The former F. M. Rose Store constructed by Comstock, Cheney & Co. at 104 Main Street (Inventory #244; Photograph 4, Figures 11 and 13) has lost significant character-defining features, particularly the steeply gabled façade with pointed arch window, but retains enough integrity to be identified with the period style.

The Italianate style gained popularity in the mid-nineteenth century as the economic picture improved in Essex, particularly in Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Ivoryton has at least two high-style residences from this period. The most notable is the Simon W. Shailer House at 82 Main Street (Inventory #224) for its phenomenal spindlework, though the Nathaniel Miller House at 100 Main Street (Inventory #236) is a purer example of the style. This house features a finely detailed full-width front porch; what is likely a later porte-cochere addition on the west side continues the molding details. The purest example of the Italianate style is found in the Lower Factory building at 126 Main Street (Inventory #261; Photograph 5; Figure 5); however, the removal of the bracketed cornice and gable ends has diminished the stylistic impact of the building.

The former bleach houses were an integral component to ivory processing and located throughout the village (Figure 7). Although almost completely lost to time, their absence in Ivoryton today does not diminish the current integrity of the factory sites. In Deep River, a segment of a former bleach house was saved from benign neglect and rehabilitated to illustrate how the process was set up to lighten individual ivory pieces before further sorting and processing. The comparatively small section is located at the Deep River Historical Society (Figure 8).

Two excellent examples of the Stick-style influence on other stylistic trends include the strong Gothic Revival and Queen Anne details found in the Comstock, Cheney & Co. executive residences on Main Street. The finest example is the high-style Lorenzo Dow Webber Homestead at 83 Main Street (Inventory #226, Photograph 17, Figure 15) with spectacular, deeply inset cross-gables with decorative trusses, narrow fenestration, and drop pendant details. The second example, the Charles H. Rose Homestead at 84 Main Street (Inventory #228, Photograph 18) has exterior cladding that exemplifies the design philosophy of attempting to honestly express the underlying structural elements through the use of what appear to be structural elements, but are, in fact, surface

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decorations.

The Queen Anne style was dominant, particularly in the northeastern states, from about 1880 to 1900. The name was coined by a group of nineteenth-century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw. Based primarily on Elizabethan and Jacobean precedents, the American style is identified by irregular massing with a dominant front-facing gable. Numerous sub-types evolved, the most common being the "spindlework" type with ornate detailing and the later, "free-classic" type, which used classically inspired details.

The rise of the Queen Anne style and the industrial growth of Ivoryton coincide, resulting in a good number of houses exhibiting these stylistic tendencies. The Queen Anne style is best expressed in the 1888 Ivoryton Library at 106 Main Street (Inventory #245, Photograph 3; Figure 12). This highly eclectic design seems to borrow from the contemporaneous Shingle style with its uninterrupted, shingled wall surfaces and from the Richardsonian Romanesque with the large, round-arched windows.

"Folk Victorian" is a term coined for houses constructed between 1870 and 1910 and attempts to define modest, vernacular American housing stock that uses Victorian detailing. Mostly inspired by Queen Anne spindlework and other applied decoration, the style also borrows from Italianate and Gothic sources. Modest, company-built housing was built en masse in this style. The finest example is the modest Harriet S. Comstock house at 7 Ivory Street (Inventory #161). The vertical drop boards in the upper gables illustrate the variation perfectly. The porch on the second floor of the otherwise unadorned 1893 John Frederickson House at 8 Summit Street (Inventory #333) also features Victorian turned posts and decorative brackets.

The factory complex known as the Upper Factory at 158 Main Street (Inventory #282, Photographs 6–8; Figures 9 and 10) has undergone multiple construction phases as well as demolitions and additions during its century-long existence. In evaluating the complex for historic significance, it is clear that its social and cultural significance are the basis for consideration: the loss of the main wood-frame buildings at the street front as well as the mid-twentieth century International Modern addition at the east end have undermined some of the historic integrity of the site. However, the role the factory plays in the story of Ivoryton is pivotal and therefore the factory is considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

The core area of Ivoryton has a few infill properties and alterations that detract from the area's historic integrity. Despite this, the nineteenth-century history of the commercial and social center is very important and extends geographically well beyond the core of the village. This includes not only the commercial core and extant industrial buildings but the numerous residential buildings that were constructed for workers as well as those constructed by executives of Comstock, Cheney & Co. As such, a National Register historic district is proposed under Criteria A, B, and C for the better part of Main Street from Pond Meadow Road east to just past Comstock Avenue, which includes the village core, worker as well as executive housing, and the former ivory factories; Cheney Street, including the former piano key factory; Summit Street and the planned housing development on Chestnut, Oak, and Blake Streets; the southern end of North Main Street; all of Ivory Street and Comstock Avenue including Terrace Lane; Walnut Street to about Melody Lane; and Park Road.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Continued)

UTM Coordinates

5.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714159	Northing: 4580866
6.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714950	Northing: 4580720
7.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715124	Northing: 4580656
8.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715185	Northing: 4580632
9.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715249	Northing: 4580593
10.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715289	Northing: 4580491
11.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714901	Northing: 4580222
12.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714148	Northing: 4579805
13.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713955	Northing: 4579721
14.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713457	Northing: 4579678
15.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713071	Northing: 4579965
16.	Zone: 18	Easting: 712965	Northing: 4580082

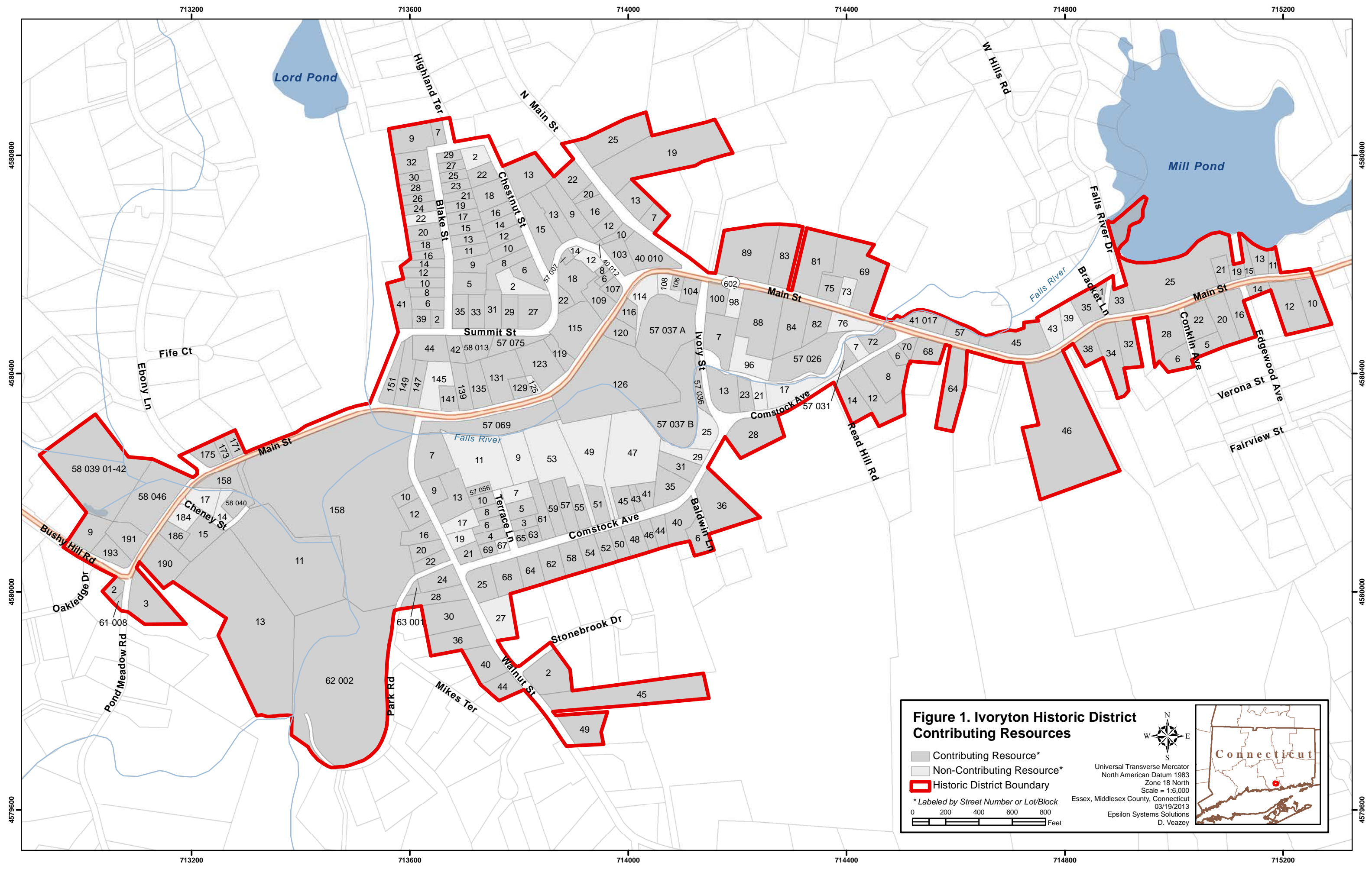


Figure 1. Ivoryton Historic District Contributing Resources

- Contributing Resource*
- Non-Contributing Resource*
- Historic District Boundary

* Labeled by Street Number or Lot/Block

0 200 400 600 800 Feet

Universal Transverse Mercator
North American Datum 1983
Zone 18 North
Scale = 1:6,000
Essex, Middlesex County, Connecticut
03/19/2013
Epsilon Systems Solutions
D. Veazey

Connecticut

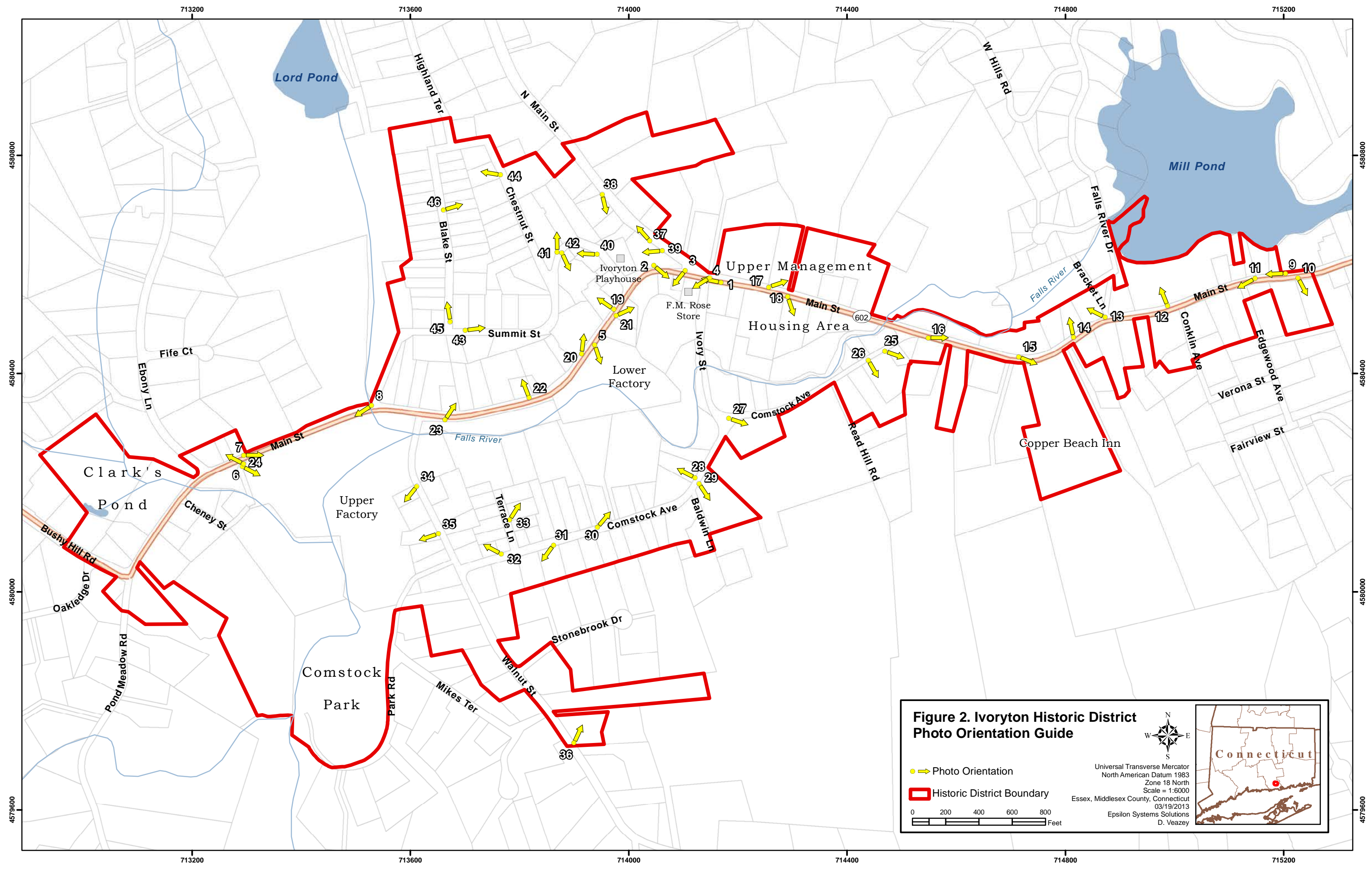
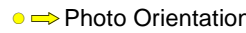
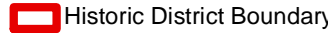


Figure 2. Ivoryton Historic District Photo Orientation Guide

 Photo Orientation
 Historic District Boundary

0 200 400 600 800 Feet
 Universal Transverse Mercator
 North American Datum 1983
 Zone 18 North
 Scale = 1:6000
 Essex, Middlesex County, Connecticut
 03/19/2013
 Epsilon Systems Solutions
 D. Veazey

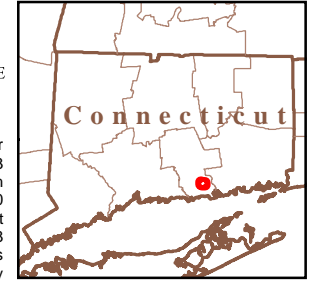




Figure 5. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Ivory Factory, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)

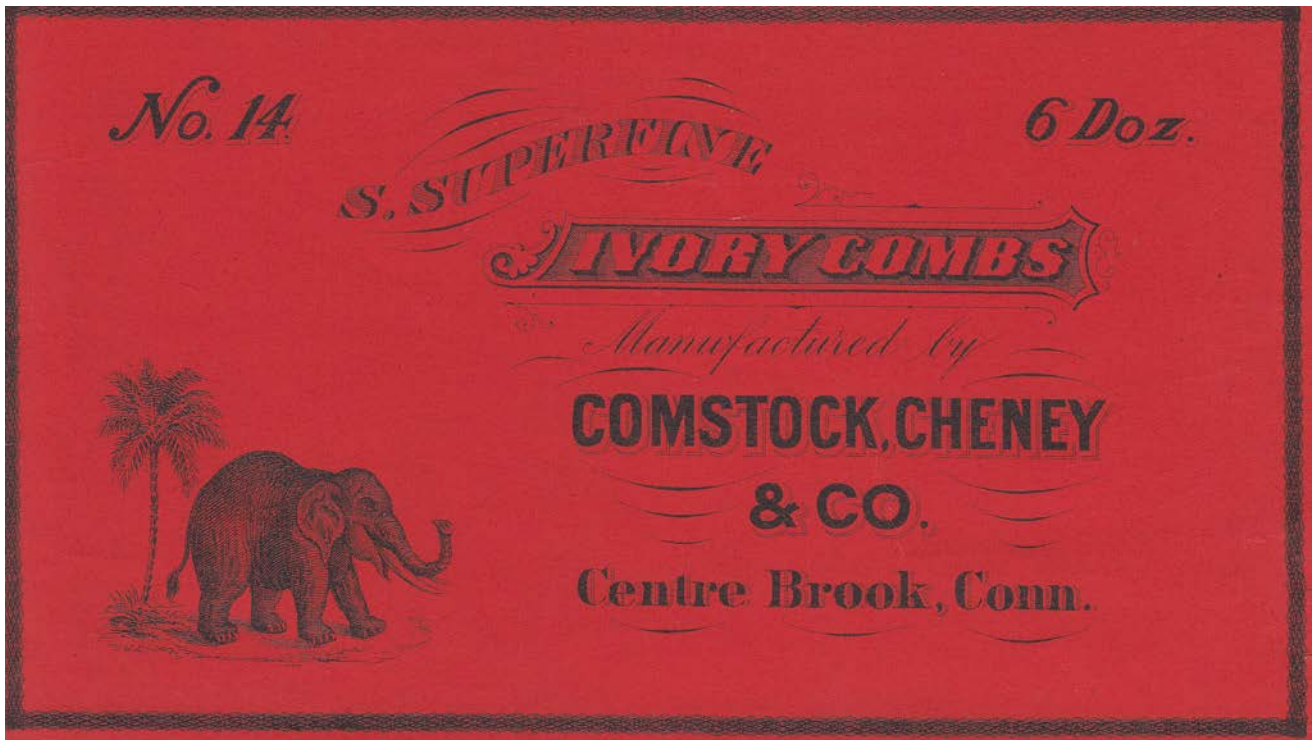


Figure 6. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Ivory Combs Box Label (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 7. Building Dam at Lower Factory, ca. 1915—Note Bleach houses in background (Deep River Historical Society)



Figure 8. 14 Rehabilitated Bleach house at Deep River Historical Society (Phillip S. Esser, January 21, 2013)

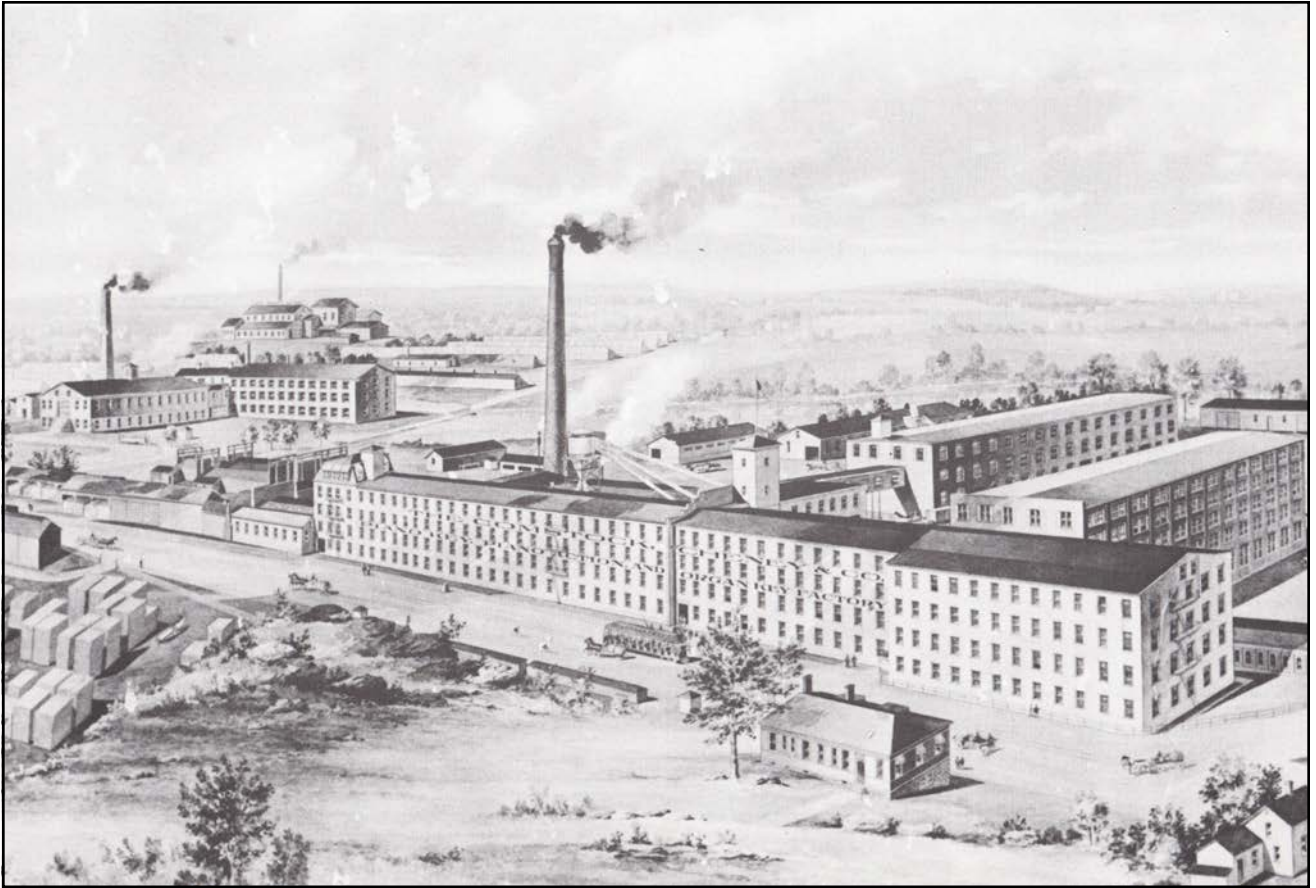


Figure 9. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Keyboard Factory, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)

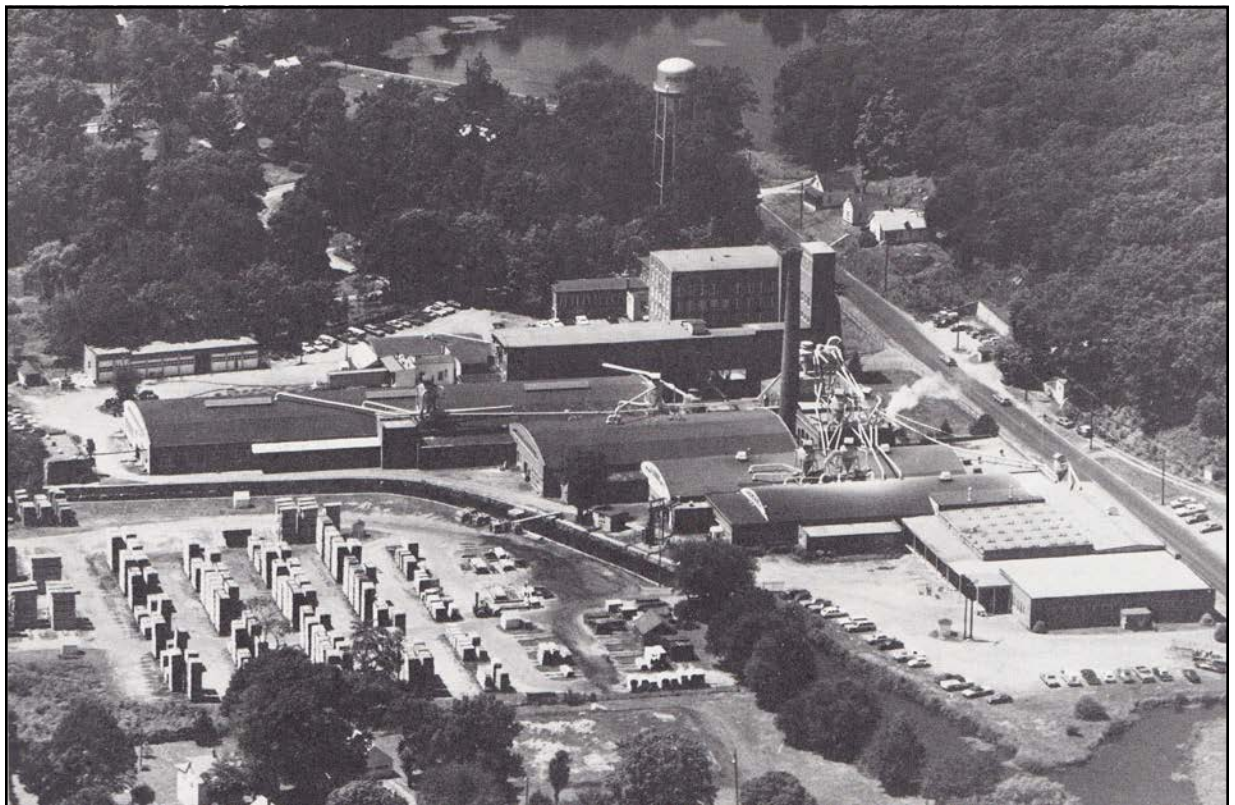


Figure 10. Former Comstock, Cheney and Co. Factory, ca. 1970 (Essex Historical Society)

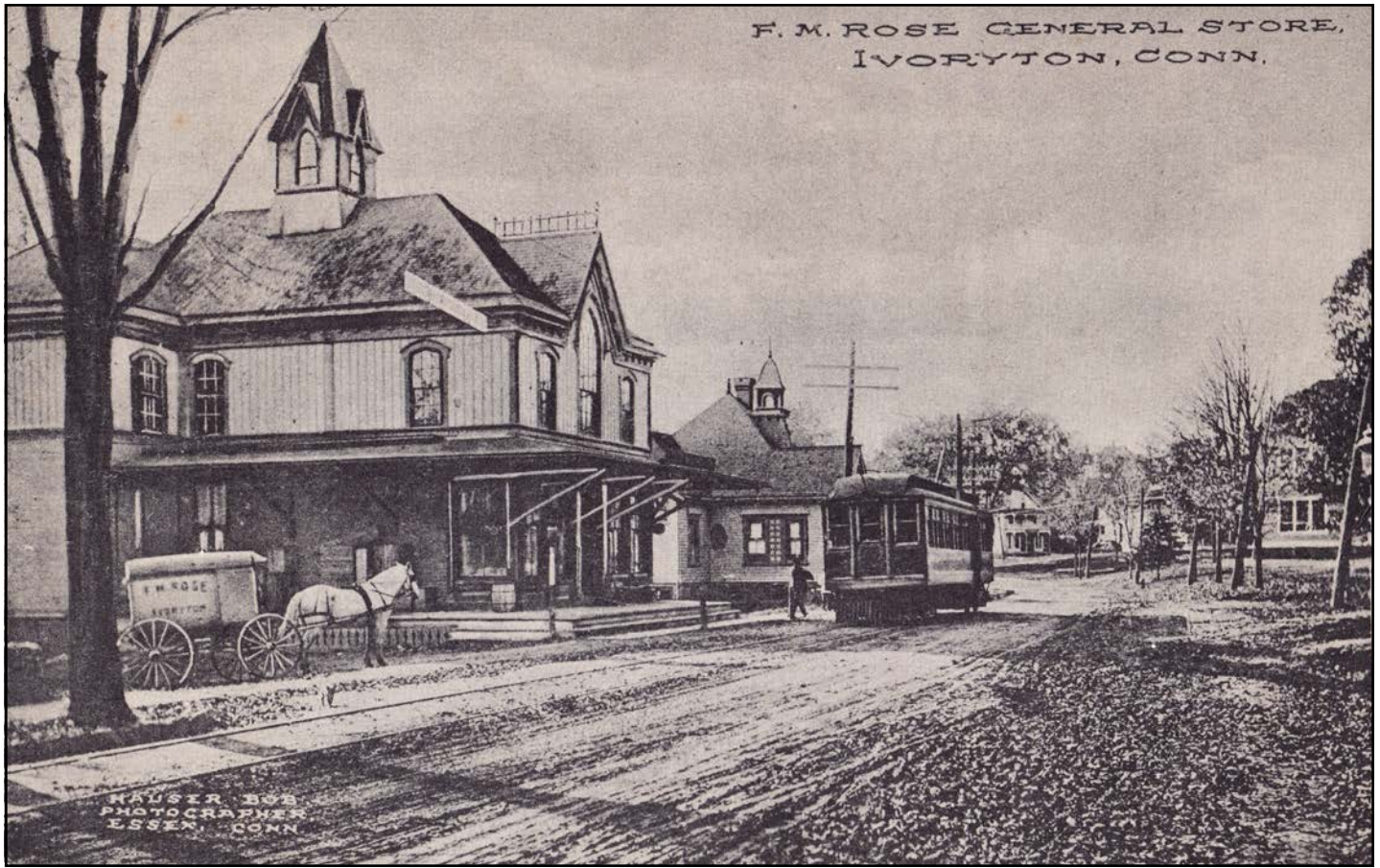


Figure 11. Village Center, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 12. Ivoryton Library, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)



Figure 13. Former F.M. Rose Store, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)



Figure 14. Main Street with view to Summit St. with Bleach House in foreground, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 15. Main Street, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)



Figure 16. Congregational Church, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 17. Chestnut Street, ca. 1905 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 18. 18 Chestnut Street, ca. 1910 (Essex Historical Society)

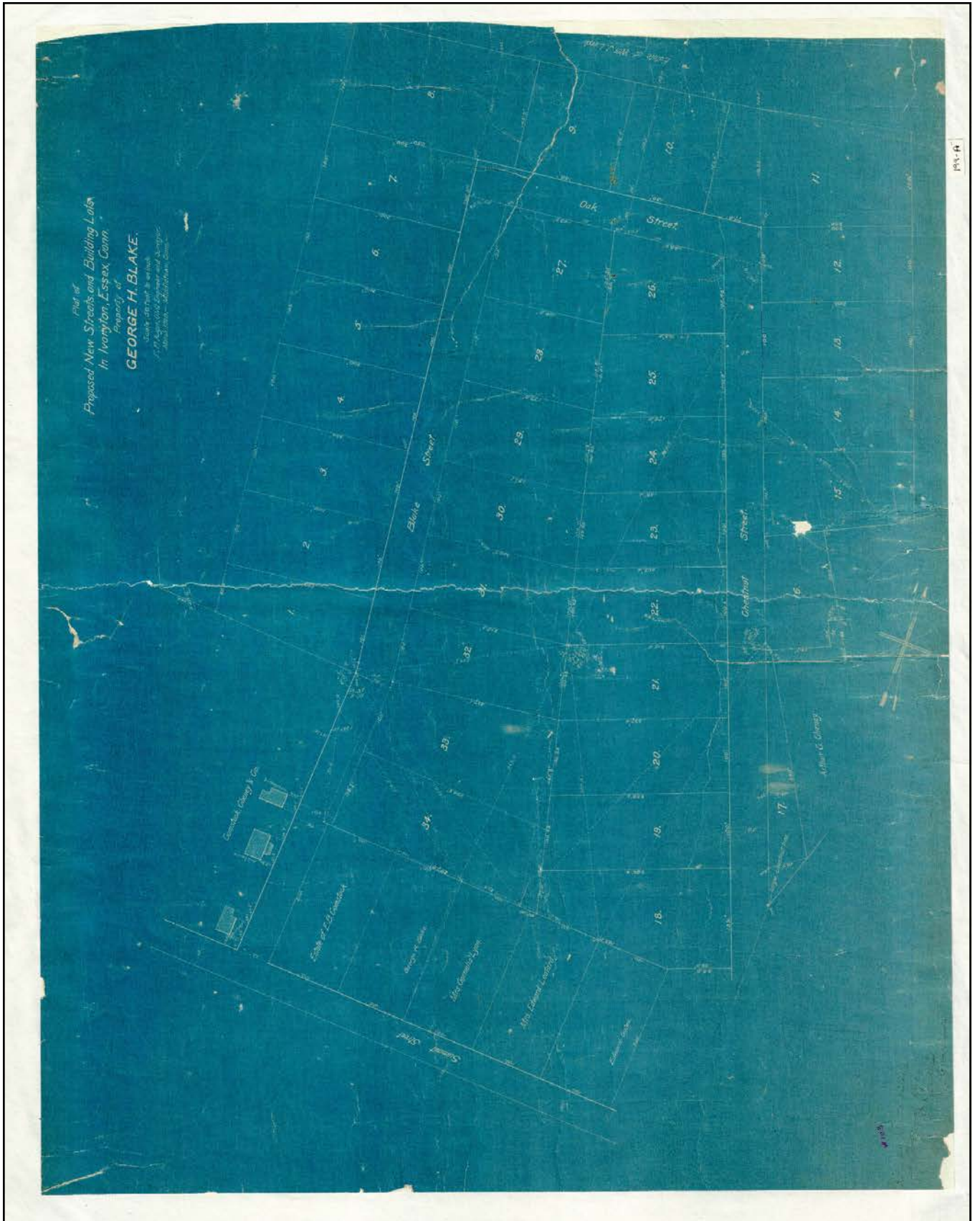


Figure 19. Subdivision Map for Blake, Chestnut, and Oak Streets, March 1900
(Map #199-A, Courtesy Essex Town Clerk)

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PHOTOGRAPHS (Continued)

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Main Street context; center of Ivoryton – view to southeast.

2 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Ivoryton Library – view to southwest.

3 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former F. M. Rose General Store – view to southwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Lower Factory – view to southeast.

5 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southeast.

6 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southwest.

8 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Main Street context; east end of village – view to west.

9 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 10 Main Street – view to southeast.

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Section number 12 Page 4

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Main Street context – view to southwest.

11 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 25 Main Street – view to north.

12 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 35 Main Street – view to northwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 43 Main Street – view to northwest.

14 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 46 Main Street – view to southeast.

15 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 57 Main Street – view to east.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 81 & 83 Main Street – view to northeast.

17 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 84 Main Street – view to south.

18 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 109 Main Street – view to northwest.

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City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 115 Main Street – view to northeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 116 Main Street – view to east.

21 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 129 Main Street – view to northwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

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City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 141 Main Street – view to northeast.

23 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 171 - 175 Main Street – view to northwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 6 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

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Section number 12 Page 9

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 8 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.
26 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 28 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.
27 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 31 Comstock Avenue – view to northwest.
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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

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County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 36 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

29 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 51 Comstock Avenue – view to northeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 62 Comstock Avenue – view to southwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

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Section number 12 Page 11

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 69 Comstock Avenue – view to northwest.

32 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 5 Terrace Lane – view to northeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 10 Walnut Street – view to southeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

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County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

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Name of Property
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Section number 12 Page 12

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 16 - 18 Walnut Street – view to southwest.

35 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 49 Walnut Street – view to northeast.

36 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: North Main Street context – view to northwest.

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Section number 12 Page 13

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 16 North Main Street – view to south.

38 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Town Park – view to southwest.

39 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 12 Summit Street – view to northwest.

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Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 12 Page 14

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 13 & 15 Summit Street – view to north.

41 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 18 Summit Street – view to south.

42 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Summit Street context – view to northeast.

43 of 46.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
.....
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
.....
County and State
.....
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 15

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 22 Chestnut Street – view to southwest.

44 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Blake Street context – view to northwest.

45 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 19 Blake Street – view to east.

46 of 46.



1 of 46



2 of 46



3 of 46



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5 of 46



6 of 46



7 of 46



8 of 46



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10 of 46



11 of 46



12 of 46



13 of 46



14 of 46



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18 of 46



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20 of 46



21 of 46



22 of 46



23 of 46



24 of 46



25 of 46



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27 of 46



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29 of 46



30 of 46



31 of 46



32 of 46



33 of 46



34 of 46



35 of 46



36 of 46



37 of 46



38 of 46



39 of 46



40 of 46



41 of 46



42 of 46



43 of 46



44 of 46



45 of 46



46 of 46















































ES

⊕ CHAUNCY SPENCER ⊕

1897























EMs

DANIEL GRISWOLD

1809







D
NG
Y
E













IVORYTON
LIBRARY

NO PARKING
EXCEPT
FOR
15552P

NO PARKING



Ventilation grille

Window

30

Garage doors







EHs

JUDSON BUSHNELL

1872









55
1890 CORNELL
PAID

55









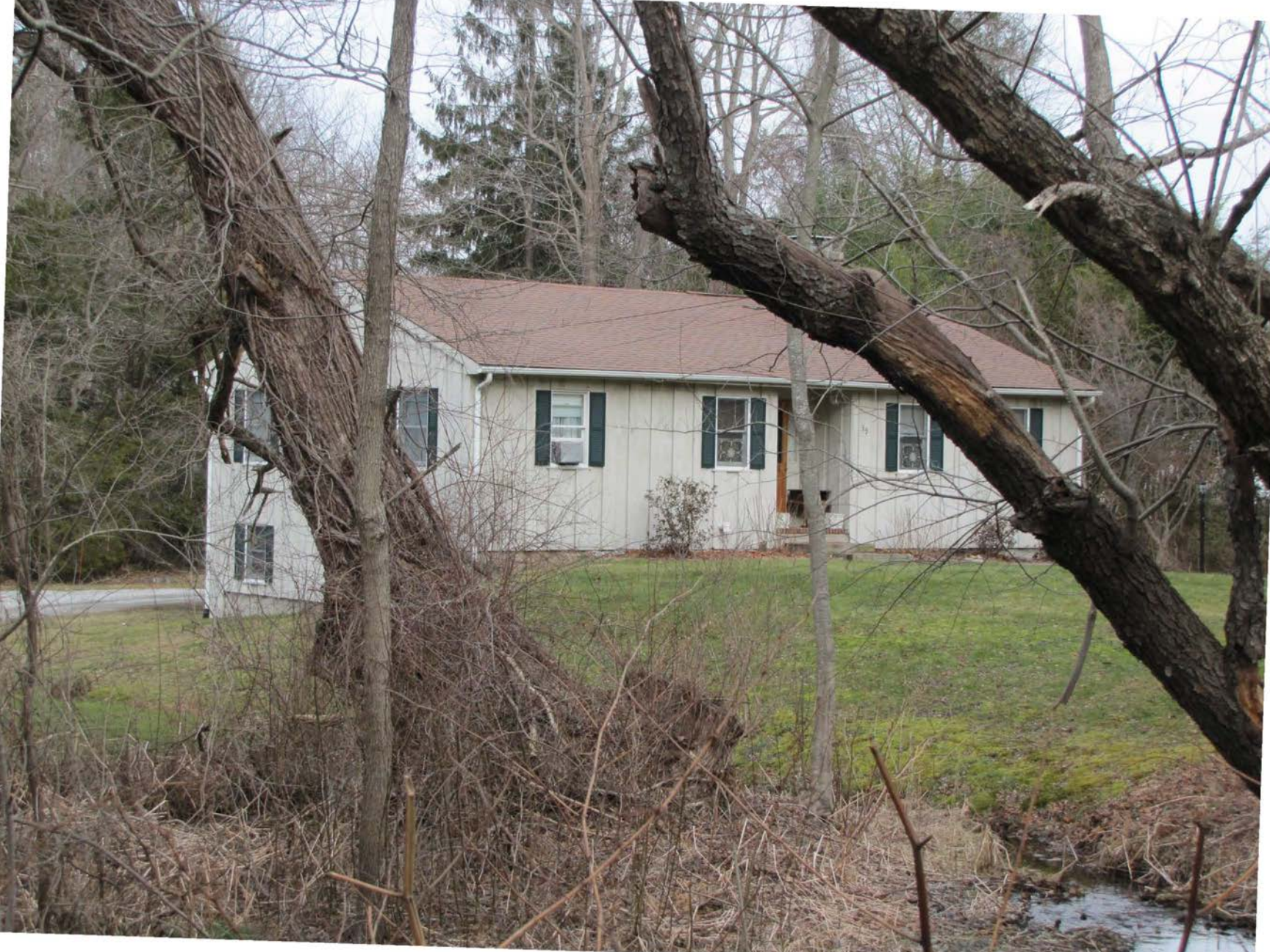


















BEAL FISH BREW & BOTTLING CO.
BOSTON U.S.A.
EST. 1875

PROPERTY OF
BEAL FISH BREW & BOTTLING CO.











22







45























Moeller Instrument
Company Inc.







HILLIAR'S
FOREIGN
MOTORS, INC.











A decorative monogram logo consisting of the letters 'E' and 'S' intertwined in a stylized, calligraphic font.

ERASTUS-EUNICE FERGUSON

1855





ESSEX
MOTOR CLUB
CLASSIC AUTO SALES

























































GATHER

GATHER

NEW
Shrimp
Fried Chicken
Hot Sandwich
Coke or Tea







NEW
...
...
...

1880

W. 1000 FT.
S. 1000 FT.
E. 1000 FT.
N. 1000 FT.



GATHER

GATHER

NEW
New York
Fried
Shrimp
Cakes
Sides



EVERYTON
LIBRARY









































2
8



28







A decorative monogram logo consisting of the letters 'C' and 'H' intertwined in a highly ornate, calligraphic script.

COMSTOCK CHENEY & CO.
HOUSE #44

1902



SIX SUMMIT GALLERY
www.sixsummitgallery.com 603.241.5322























CH

COMSTOCK, CHENEY HOUSE
#31

1886

EHs

• FERDURN H. WEBBER •

1875

EHs

COMSTOCK, CHENEY
HOUSE

9

c. 1874

EW

JOHN WATERMAN

1888

EMs

• COMSTOCK CHENEY HOUSE •

#94

1920

ES

• SAMUEL M. COMSTOCK •

1838





JHS

JAMES H. CONKLIN

1902

EHs

• LORENZO DOW WEBER

18

HS

• LORENZO DOW WEBBER •

1874





IVORYTON

Originally part of the Saybrook colony, the area now known as Ivoryton was annexed with the newly formed Essex in 1859. Thought of as the "wild country," it soon developed into a prosperous manufacturing village.

In the late 1700's Phineas Pratt of Essex opened a workshop for the production of ivory combs. It was located near the site of the present-day factory. Ivory was in good supply due to the many ships coming into Essex harbor as a result of the Triangular Trade Route.

Pratt later moved his company to Deep River, and in 1847, S. M. Comstock and Geo. Cheney established an ivory business in Ivoryton. The company became a major producer of ivory products, including piano keys.

In 1880 the village was officially incorporated as Ivoryton. Although not formally documented, it is a popular belief that the name was selected because ivory combs were brought into town by the first settlers. It is the only village of that name in the



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

IVORYTON

(Continued from other side)

By the late 1800's, Ivoryton had evolved into a classic company town. Immigrants were brought into the village to work in the factory. Many lived in the company owned boarding house (Ivoryton Inn), and shopped at the company store (Ivoryton Store). Later, company houses were built and rented to the employees.

In 1908, Comstock-Cheney built a recreation hall where employees put on shows, enjoyed travelling vaudeville troupes and silent movies. In 1930 it became the Ivoryton Playhouse. Today it is one of the oldest self-supporting summer theaters in the country.

Although plastic keys replaced ivory in 1954 piano production continues in Ivoryton, a village whose history, prosperity, and name are a legacy of the ivory industry.

Erected by the Town of Essex
and the Connecticut Historical Commission
1989



ES

SAMUEL COMSTOCK II

1807



CHS

• COMSTOCK CHENEY HOUSE •

#94

1920



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Ivoryton Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 3/13/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/29/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000895

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER 

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 4/15/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



**State Historic
Preservation Office**



DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development



**TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places**

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

DATE: March 12, 2014

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 12 day of March

2014, for nomination of the Ivoryton Historic District, Essex, Middlesex County, CT, to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form (Revised)
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other CD of TIFF Files (sent separately by consultant)

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ivoryton Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/25/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/20/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000895

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 12/9/13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

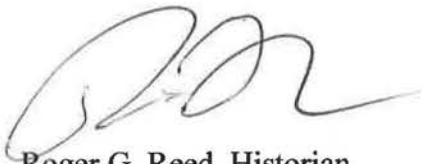
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Ivoryton Historic District
Reference Number: 13000895

Date: December 9, 2013

Reason for Return: The photographs were submitted in a jpeg format rather than the required TIFF format.



Roger G. Reed, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2278
Roger_Reed@nps.gov

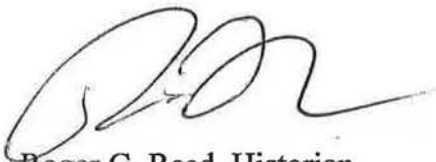
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Ivoryton Historic District
Reference Number: 13000895

Date: December 9, 2013

Reason for Return: The photographs were submitted in a jpeg format rather than the required TIFF format.



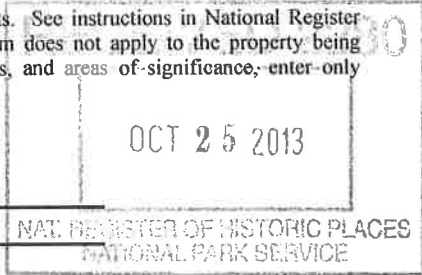
Roger G. Reed, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2278
Roger_Reed@nps.gov

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

895

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ivoryton Historic District
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Main St., North Main St., Oak St., Blake St., Summit St., Park Rd., and Comstock Ave.
City or town: (Ivoryton) Essex State: CT County: Middlesex
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

<u>Stacy Vaid</u>	<u>9-23-13</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Deputy SHPO - DECD/SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Returned

Ivoryton Historic District
 Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
 County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>249</u>	<u>81</u>	buildings
<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>27</u>	<u>44</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>294</u>	<u>127</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (**Comstock-Cheney Hall** (added 1982 - **Building** - #82003769), also known as **Ivoryton Playhouse**, Main and Summit Sts., Ivoryton)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic/single dwelling_
- Domestic/hotel_____
- Commerce/business_
- Recreation and Culture/theater_
- Industry/ivory processing
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic/single dwelling_
- Domestic/hotel_____
- Recreation and Culture/theater_
- _____
- _____
- _____

Returned

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/New England Colonial

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

OTHER/Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: stone, brick; Walls: wood cladding

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ivoryton historic district lies in a diverse terrain of hills and valleys: Main Street runs roughly east-west and follows the lowlands waterway (Figure 1). The eastern end of the historic district is narrow and captures resources only on the immediate north and south sides of Main Street; the built environment there contains the earliest buildings, primarily early to mid-nineteenth century, high-style residences with later infill that consists of modest vernacular and Victorian-era housing. The eastern-central portion of the district contains a cluster of mostly late nineteenth century, high-style, larger residences. The core of the district contains a grouping of late nineteenth-century commercial and civic buildings; later twentieth-century buildings are also present. This area also contains the smaller of the two factory complexes and is flanked on the north and south sides by sharply rising hillsides, each with densely developed residential neighborhoods erected between the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries; these range from simple vernacular buildings to Victorian-era, high-style houses. The western end of the historic district contains primarily lowlands on the south side of Main Street, consisting mostly of nineteenth century residential buildings, the second large factory complex, and open space.

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Narrative Description

Physical Description of the Area

Ivoryton is one of three villages within the Town of Essex, a 12-square-mile town located in the southernmost portion of the Connecticut River Valley on the river's west bank, seven miles from the mouth where it empties into the Long Island Sound. The geography of the region, known as the Eastern Coastal Slope, is defined by low hills, hardwood forestation, and sandy coastal beaches with many natural harbors and inlets. The intact underlying bedrock accounts for the relatively uniform landscape and its rich alluvial soils. The climate is relatively mild along the shoreline due to the protection of Long Island, which forms a natural break against severe weather and harsh winds. The fertile soil and coastal topography inform much of the settlement patterns in both the Native American and later Colonial periods. The Falls River runs through Ivoryton, and various dams provide flooding and create ponds throughout the region.¹ Ivoryton's terrain is rugged compared with the other villages; the Falls River cuts ridges on three sides of the village, making grazing or agriculture difficult to sustain, which is likely why Ivoryton was the last of the three to be settled and developed.

Architectural and Developmental Overview

The Ivoryton historic district captures the village as a nineteenth-century company town complete with factory complexes, civic core, upper-management neighborhood, and extensive company-owned housing stock that is most heavily concentrated on the ridges to the north and south of the two factory sites (Figures 1 and 2). The boundaries of the district encapsulate almost the entire length of Main Street from Bushy Hill Road on the west to very near the border of Centerbrook on the east and includes the earliest extant buildings that predate the mid-nineteenth century industrial village development (Figures 3 and 4).

The district is predominantly Victorian in character, though building types range dramatically from very simple vernacular buildings to high-style Italianate and Queen Anne buildings, some with extensive decorative scrollwork. Even some of the most modest buildings were adorned with some degree of decorative spindlework. Many of buildings have undergone additions as well as subtle alterations in the late twentieth century, when suburbanization and the desire for larger spaces and modern conveniences became a necessity, especially given the diminutive size of some of the original houses. These alterations are reflected in numerous accretions that illustrate multiple time periods, but have been sensitively considered, keeping the period character of the streetscapes remarkably intact. Many buildings also reflect emerging stylistic trends that altered their original expressions—the inclusion of comparative historic images in the figures are used to illustrate this often nuanced evolution.

The earliest buildings in the district date to the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and are primarily located at the east end of the district. Period elements common to most of the early buildings are mortared, cut-stone foundations; post-and-beam structural systems; clapboard siding; double-hung sash windows; and gabled roofs. The chimneystacks, typically centrally placed during this period, vary in placement, possibly due to changes over time. A few buildings, roughly classified as New England Colonial, exhibit late Georgian facades (*see Continuation Sheet*).

¹ John Herzan, *Historic Preservation in Connecticut*, Vol. 5, *Eastern Coastal Slope: Historical and Architectural Overview and Management Guide*, Connecticut Historical Commission, 1977, p. 7; Don Malcarne, "A Brief History of Essex," www.essexct.gov/history/word/briefhistory.doc, accessed February 9, 2011.

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Returned

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry
Community Planning and Development
Social History

Period of Significance
ca. 1719-1938

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Samuel M. Comstock
George A. Cheney

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Returned

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ivoryton Historic District is significant under Criteria A, B, and C at the state and local levels as a well-preserved example of a nineteenth-century company town built by Comstock, Cheney, & Co., an ivory import and manufacturing business established in the 1860s by Ivoryton native Samuel Merritt Comstock and partner George A. Cheney. Its resources illustrate important contributions to the development of the ivory industry in the United States as well as the socioeconomic phenomenon of the "company town" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the local level, the district represents Connecticut River Valley industry in the late nineteenth century as well as the brief period of increased worker immigration from Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Poland to Connecticut up until the start of World War I, illustrated by segregated worker housing in various locations throughout Ivoryton. The two largest American ivory manufacturers, Comstock, Cheney, & Co. and Pratt, Read & Co., were located just a few miles away from one another along the Connecticut River, and commanded a monopoly on all ivory production in the United States. Between 1860 and 1938, "Ivoryton" (unique among American town names) became a self-sufficient industrial center that employed and housed up to 600 workers, many of them immigrants, at its height. The historic district consists of early Colonial structures representing the agrarian village before industrial transformation, mid- to late-nineteenth-century ivory processing and manufacturing buildings, high-style Victorian homes for company executives, modest vernacular homes and tenements for factory workers, and public buildings such as churches, a post office, company store, library, and a town meeting hall. Although some of the factory buildings have been demolished, the industry-defining bleach houses are gone, many houses have been remodeled, and the village itself sustained damage in a flood in 1982, Ivoryton's historic character remains intact as an example of a planned community not unlike more formalized "company towns" in an industry unique to the Connecticut River Valley. The period of significance ranges from the construction of earliest known extant building (Joseph Parker Homestead; ca. 1719) to the divestment of company-owned housing in 1938.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

The initial settlements at the mouth of the Connecticut River were fur trading posts and defensive structures. The first European to travel in the region was the Dutch explorer Adriaen Block, who explored Long Island Sound in a series of voyages beginning in 1612. The Dutch attempted a fort at modern Saybrook Point, and built one in Hartford in the 1633. Shortly thereafter, British colonists from the Plymouth Bay Colony and Massachusetts Bay Colony made their way into the Connecticut Valley and began to create settlements at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford. Saybrook, called "ZeeBrooke" by the Dutch, was named for patent-holders Lord Say and Sele and Lord Brooke and encompassed modern-day Essex. The Saybrook Colony became a part of the greater Connecticut colony in the 1644, and Connecticut itself became an independent colony in 1662 when the British King Charles II granted a charter.² By 1667, there were seven coastal towns in Eastern Connecticut, all settled by the English.³

(See Continuation Sheet)

² Herzan, p. 9; Sara Emerson Rolleston, *Heritage Houses: American Tradition in Connecticut 1660-1690* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1980), p. 12.

³ Herzan, p. 12.

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Historic and Architectural Resources Survey of Core Areas of the Villages of Essex Village, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton – Essex Connecticut. Prepared by Epsilon Systems Solutions, May 2011.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ 247.6 _____

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 712921 | Northing: 4580250 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 713560 | Northing: 4580848 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 713672 | Northing: 4580869 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting : 714032 | Northing: 4580879 |

(See Continuation Sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the district are shown on the attached map (**Figure 1**) drawn to scale from Tax Assessors maps from Essex, Connecticut.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were chosen to include the largest number of contiguous contributing historic resources associated with the development of the Village of Ivoryton during its period of significance. The irregularity of the boundaries is the result of the exclusion of non-contributing resources, particularly later residential development, on the periphery.

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Phillip Esser and Michelle Treviño
organization: Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.
street & number: 901 N. Heritage Dr., Ste. 206
city or town: Ridgecrest state: CA zip code: 93555
e-mail: pesser@epsilonsystems.com
telephone: (760) 446-6400
date: March 21, 2013 (DRAFT)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Main Street context; east end of village – view to northwest.

1 of 46.

Returned

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Examples include the heavily remodeled Elisha Gladding Homestead at 14 Main Street (Inventory #171), the Daniel Griswold House at 25 Main Street (Inventory #183; Photograph 12), the Joseph Parker Homestead at 45 Main Street (Inventory #198), and the Federal-inspired Samuel Comstock II House at 123 Main Street (Inventory #258).

The only eighteenth-century house located outside of the east part of Main Street is the John Clark Homestead at 149 Main Street (Inventory #278). The modest, one-and-a-half story Clark house may have undergone a later remodeling, with its exterior expression more akin to the nineteenth century with its central, peaked gable.

Also concentrated in a small grouping in the eastern section of the district, the Greek Revival style is represented with both front- and side-gabled versions of the style. These are the first truly high-style (extant) buildings built in Ivoryton and are excellent examples of the period. These include the Edwin Griswold Homestead at 33 Main Street (Inventory #188), the (first) Samuel M. Comstock Homestead at 35 Main Street (Inventory #192; Photograph 13), and a somewhat late iteration of the style in the 1872 Judson Bushnell Homestead at 32 Main Street (Inventory #186). Common characteristics of the buildings include prominent gable ends, six-over-six wood sash windows, clapboard siding, and door surrounds with heavy entablatures.

As the ivory processing industry expanded in Ivoryton, particularly after the Civil War, the factory buildings, civic and commercial buildings, and housing stock that emerged reflected the general stylistic trends in America in the nineteenth century. The district encapsulates those major trends but also mixed the styles to a greater degree than might be expected, partly because of its somewhat remote location and corporate influence, producing a somewhat eclectic mix. Basic trends such as the Gothic Revival were combined with elements of the Stick style in such buildings as the Lorenzo Dow Webber house at 83 Main Street (Inventory #226, Photograph 17, Figure 15), as well as Italianate and Stick-style details on the F. M. Rose Store at 104 Main Street (Inventory #244; Photograph 4, Figures 11 and 13).

Common to almost all of the mid- to late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century buildings in the district is the use of wood framing, likely balloon-framed (with the exception of the early, wood-frame factory buildings that are likely post and beam), and cut stone or brick foundations. Cladding consists mostly of clapboards but wood shingles are found in later buildings, particularly after the turn of the twentieth century. Windows are very often (if not replaced) two-over-two, vertically oriented wood sash, but six-over-six and six-over-one types are common as well. Roofs are almost exclusively gabled, but a few mansards and one jerkin-head type are extant.

The Gothic Revival style is found in a few of the district's buildings, but most seem to be more emblematic of the later Gothic Revival types that presage the Queen Anne style, as opposed to the more rigidly stylistic expression of earlier Gothic forms. The best examples are the 1871 Samuel Cheney House at 119 Main Street (Inventory #255), particularly the dramatic dormer windows, and the nearby Comstock, Cheney, & Co. House #2 at 120 Main Street (Inventory #257). Although the former F. M. Rose Store in the commercial heart of the village exhibits more direct reference to the Gothic Revival (more so before the loss of the cupola) (Figure 13), it still carries elements of the concurrent Italianate style, particularly the bracketed cornices. Vernacular versions can be seen throughout the district, including 35 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #106) and 7 North Main Street (Inventory #296).

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Buildings that best represent the Italianate style in the district include the high-style Comstock, Cheney, & Co. house at 13 Ivory Street (Inventory #163) and the Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Lower Factory at 126 Main Street (Inventory #261; Photograph 5; Figure 5); however, the original bracketed cornice and gable ends have been removed. Other examples include the Simon W. Shailer Home at 82 Main Street (Inventory #224), the Nathaniel Miller Home at 100 Main Street (Inventory #236), and the S. G. Comstock House at 135 Main Street (Inventory #271). Common elements include round-headed windows in the upper gables and returns at the eaves.

The Second Empire style is expressed in its entire period flourish in the George French Homestead at 8 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #83; Photograph 26). The high-style house sits prominently on the rise of grade at the site atop a raised-brick basement and retains most, if not all, of its original architectural features. A second, less dramatic, one-story version with mansard roof is found at 13 Walnut Street (Inventory #389); if the house was built in 1907, as research suggests, it certainly is a late iteration of the style.

The Stick style can only be attributed to one building in the district, the high-style Griffith House at 131 Main Street (Inventory #269), constructed in 1886. Although it no longer has the characteristic division of wall surfaces, the steeply gabled projecting block at the façade with the deep, bracketed gable-ends and decorative verge board is typical of the style. Stick style influences in the district, however, are common even when the buildings may be more representative of another style, particularly the Queen Anne. Good examples include the decorative gables on the Ivoryton Library at 106 Main Street (Inventory #245, Photograph 3; Figure 12), the high-style Charles H. Rose House at 84 Main Street (Inventory #228, Photograph 18), and the otherwise vernacular Queen Anne-style Comstock, Cheney & Co. house at 175 Main Street (Inventory #285, Photograph 24).

Despite the variations and highly eclectic mixture of nineteenth-century styles in the district, the most prominent is the Queen Anne style. This style ranges from decorative elements added to the most basic of vernacular housing to the most elaborate high-style versions. The Congregational Church at 57 Main Street (Inventory #206; Photograph 16; Figure 16) in particular was particularly representative of this style prior to its being clad in vinyl siding (it is possible that the original materials are extant beneath the vinyl clapboard). The original half-timbered elements were associated with the finest examples of the style. Some of the upper-management houses also were executed in the style, the finest being the H. W. Webber Home at 81 Main Street (Inventory #223; Photograph 17; Figure 15), and a few more modest homes also strongly reflect Queen Anne characteristics. Examples include the Geo. A. Cheney House at 36 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #107, Photograph 28), Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #21 and #22 at 62 Comstock Avenue (Inventory #144; Photograph 31), and the Charles Johnson House at 49 Walnut Street (Inventory #421; Photograph 36).

Vernacular buildings are extremely well represented in the district; many of the Comstock, Cheney, & Co. workers' housing were simply executed. As noted earlier, many have stylistic decoration such as porches, but fundamentally tend to be diminutive in scale and austere in expression. Some of the best extant examples include the surprisingly elaborate Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #1 and #2 at 116 and 120 Main Street (Inventory #253 and #257; Photograph 21 [116 Main]), Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #10, #11, and #12 at 171-175 Main Street (Inventory #283-#285; Photograph 24); Comstock, Cheney, & Co. Houses #89 and #90 at 16 Walnut Street (Inventory #392; Photograph 35); and multiple company-built houses on Summit, Blake, and Chestnut Streets (Photographs 43-46).

As the Arts and Crafts movement in the late nineteenth century came and went and the Eclectic Movement picked up speed in the early twentieth century in the United States, Ivoryton seemed to bypass these trends even

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as the village continued to develop up to the early 1920s. As a result, there are virtually no examples of the Colonial Revival movement or other then-popular stylistic trends such as the Tudor Revival, Neo-Classical, or Beaux-Arts. Two exceptions to consider, however, are Shingle Style All Saints Church Congregational Church at 129 Main Street (Inventory #268; Photograph 22; Figure 14) with its Arts and Crafts influence, as well as the Shingle-style influence on the nearby Swedish Mission Church at 139 Main Street (Inventory #272).

Unlike the Italianate character of the Lower Factory and its nineteenth-century vernacular outbuildings, the Upper Factory complex is, in some ways an ad hoc collection of buildings and structures that have evolved over time. There remains two substantial brick buildings from the early twentieth century, a smokestack, and a clock tower at the west end. Three wood-frame factory buildings were demolished in 1959 and account for the now-open space at the street front (Photograph 7; Figures 9 and 10). The east end contains a mid-twentieth century International Style addition (Photograph 8). A tall water tower is placed on the west side of Cheney Street close top Main Street.

Ivoryton Historic District Inventory

There are remarkably few non-contributing primary resources (buildings, structures, objects, and sites) in the district, but many secondary buildings are considered non-contributing because of their contemporary nature. Despite this, most do not detract from the character of the district to any appreciable degree. Many of the non-contributing resources are flag lots on which more recently constructed homes are not readily visible from the primary streetscapes, while a few buildings are obviously modern, but are included for the integrity of the continuity of the district. All undeveloped lots are considered contributing unless they have undergone improvements not consistent with the period of significance (Figure 1).

Most of the buildings in the district are residential. There are a total of 227 primary buildings. Of the primary buildings, 193 are contributing and 34 are non-contributing. There are a total of 103 secondary buildings (barns, garages, studios, etc.) in the district. Of these buildings, 56 are contributing and 47 are non-contributing. The Ivoryton Playhouse at 103 Main Street, which is already individually listed on the National Register, is not included in the final count.

There are 71 structures (sheds, well houses, gazebos, etc.). Of these, 27 are contributing and 44 are non-contributing. There is only one object inventoried for the nomination: the Ivoryton historic plaque was installed after the period of significance, and is considered non-contributing. For the purposes of this inventory, there are 19 sites (parks, open space, and unimproved parcels). Of these, 18 are considered contributing, and one is non-contributing.

The following is the inventory of all the contributing and non-contributing resources within the Ivoryton Historic District. Inventory numbers are assigned to all the resources and can be cross-referenced in the text and photo sheets. Construction dates were primarily culled from the extensive deed research conducted by the late Donald Malcarne, former Essex Town Historian.

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Inv #	Address	Historic Name/Style/Dates	C or N/C	Photo #
Baldwin Lane				
1. 6		Converted Barn/Vernacular/ca. 1880/converted 1960	C	
Blake Street				
2. 2		Comstock-Cheney House/Vernacular with garage addition/ca. 1885	C	
3. 5		Comstock-Cheney House #42/Vernacular with addition/1901	C	
4. 6		Comstock-Cheney House #6-7/Vernacular/1889	C	
5. 6		Garage/ca. 1920	C	
6. 8		Comstock-Cheney House#8/Vernacular with addition/1889	C	
7. 8		Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
8. 9		Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular /1901	C	
9. 10		Comstock-Cheney House#53/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
10. 10		Converted Barn/Vernacular/ca.1900	C	
11. 11		Comstock-Cheney House #38/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
12. 11		Shed	N/C	
13. 12		Comstock-Cheney House #54/Vernacular/1902	C	
14. 13		Comstock-Cheney House #39/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
15. 13		Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
16. 14		Comstock-Cheney House #55/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
17. 15		Comstock-Cheney House #40/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1900	C	
18. 15		Garage Studio/ca. 1950	N/C	
19. 16		Comstock-Cheney House #56/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
20. 16		Barn/ca. 1900	C	
21. 17		Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
22. 17		Garage/ca. 1920	N/C	
23. 18		Comstock-Cheney House #49/Vernacular with addition/1901	C	
24. 19		Comstock-Cheney House #42/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	46
25. 20		Comstock-Cheney House/Vernacular/ca. 1900	C	
26. 20		Shed	N/C	
27. 21		Comstock-Cheney House #43/Vernacular/1900	C	
28. 21		Shed	N/C	
29. 22		Comstock-Cheney House #48/Bungalow/1901	N/C	
30. 23		Comstock-Cheney House #44/Vernacular/1901	C	
31. 23		Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
32. 24		Comstock-Cheney House #57/Vernacular with addition/1902	C	
33. 25		Comstock-Cheney House #45/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1901	C	
34. 25		Shed	N/C	

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35. 26	Comstock-Cheney House #58/Vernacular with addition/1902	C
36. 27	Comstock-Cheney House #46/Vernacular with add's & alter's/1901	C
37. 27	Shed	N/C
38. 28	Comstock-Cheney House #59/Vernacular/1902	C
39. 29	Comstock-Cheney House #47/Vernacular with addition/1901	C
40. 30	Comstock-Cheney House #60/Vernacular/1902	C
41. 32	Comstock-Cheney House #61/ 1902	C
42. 32	Shed	N/C

Bracket Lane

43. 1	Comstock-Cheney House #35/Vernacular/1900	C
44. 1	Shed	N/C

Bushy Hill Road

45. 2	Vernacular	C
46. 2	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
47. 9	Vernacular/ca.1880	C
48. 9	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C

Cheney Street

49. 11	C.Samuelson/Vernacular/1882/20 th C. addition	C
50. 11	Garage/Shed ca. 1950	N/C
51. 13	A. Anderson House/Vernacular/1890/1891	C
52. 13	Shed	N/C
53. 13	Shed	N/C
54. 14	Ranch/1983	N/C
55. 15	Comstock-Cheney House #14/Vernacular/1886/1887	C
56. 15	Garage ca. 1940	N/C
57. 17	Ranch/1985	N/C
58.	Cheney Street (Empty Lot (58/40)	C

Chestnut Street

59. 2	Ranch/1901	N/C
60. 6	Comstock-Cheney House #53/1901	C
61. 6	Garage/ca. 1920	C
62. 6	Barn/ca. 1910	C
63. 8	Comstock-Cheney House #52/Vernacular with addition/1901	C
64. 8	Barn/ca. 1900	C

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65. 10	Comstock-Cheney House #53/Vernacular with add's & alter's /1901	C	
66. 10	Garage/Studio/1961	N/C	
67. 12	Comstock-Cheney House #54/Vernacular/1901	C	
68. 12	Shed	N/C	
69. 13	J. Peterson House/Vernacular/1901	C	
70. 13	Shed	N/C	
71. 14	Comstock-Cheney House #41/Vernacular with addition/1900	C	
72. 14	Shed/ca. 1900	C	
73. 16	Comstock-Cheney House #75/Vernacular/1906	C	
74. 16	Shed/ca. 1900	C	
75. 18	Comstock-Cheney House #50-51/Vernacular/1901	C	
76. 22	A Lindgren House/Vernacular/1901	C	44
Comstock Avenue			
77. 6	Webber/Spencer Tenement/Vernacular/1891	C	25
78. 6	Shed	N/C	
79. 6	Shed	N/C	
80. 7	G. French Store/Cape Cod/1913	N/C	
81. 7	Shed	N/C	
82.	Empty Lot (57/031)	C	
83. 8	Geo. French Homestead/Second Empire/ca.1875-1876	C	26
84. 8	Garage/ca. 1940	N/C	
85. 12	Rose Homestead/Queen Anne/1888/20 th C. addition	C	
86. 12	Garage/Barn 1929	C	
87. 14	Doan House/Vernacular/1892	C	
88. 14	Shed	N/C	
89. 17	Ranch/1970	N/C	
90. 19	Queen Anne with addition/ca. 1880	C	
91. 19	Shed	N/C	
92. 21	J Hopper House/Cape Cod/1887	N/C	
93. 21	Garage/ca. 1965	N/C	
94. 23	E. Bull House/Vernacular/1879	C	
95. 23	Garage/Barn	C	
96. 25	Cape Cod/1963	N/C	
97. 25	Cape Cod/1960	N/C	
98. 27	Cape Cod/1956	N/C	
99. 27	Shed/moved to site/19 th C.	N/C	
100.	28 Geo. Hovey Comstock Homestead/Italianate influence/1873	C	27
101.	28 Barn/ca. 1880	C	

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102.	28	Shed/19 th C.	C	
103.	29	Cape Cod/1951	N/C	
104.	31	Comstock-Cheney House #86/Vernacular/1888	C	28
105.	31	Barn (deteriorating)	C	
106.	35	F.Rose House/Vernacular; Gothic influence/1894	C	
107.	36	Geo. A. Cheney House/Queen Anne/1885	C	29
108.	36	Barn/19 th C.	C	
109.	40	Oswin Redfield Homestead/Queen Anne/1877/alt's	C	
110.	40	Shed	N/C	
111.	41	Comstock-Cheney House #32/Vernacular Cottage/1893	C	
112.	41	Shed/19 th C.	C	
113.	43	Comstock-Cheney House #30/Vernacular/1893	C	
114.	43	Garage/ca. 1940	N/C	
115.	44	Bushnell/Colonial Revival influence/1904	C	
116.	44	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
117.	45	CCH #27/Stick Style-influence/1867/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	
118.	45	Barn/19 th C.	C	
119.	45	Shed	N/C	
120.	46	Comstock-Cheney House #31/Vernacular/1886-1887	C	
121.	46	Shed	N/C	
122.	47	Cape Cod/1981	N/C	
123.	48	Comstock-Cheney House #28 & 29/Vernacular/1873	C	
124.	49	Colonial Saltbox Reproduction/1981	N/C	
125.	50	Comstock-Cheney #26/Vernacular/1886-1887/20 th C. addition	C	
126.	50	Shed	N/C	
127.	51	CCH #7/Vernacular/1874/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	30
128.	51	Barn/19 th C.	C	
129.	52	CCH #8/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1874	C	
130.	52	Garage/20 th C.	C	
131.	53	Cape Cod/1981	N/C	
132.	54	Comstock-Cheney House #9/Vernacular/ca. 1874	C	
133.	54	Studio/20 th C.	C	
134.	55	J. Walkley House/Vernacular/1885	C	
135.	55	Shed/19 th C.	C	
136.	57	L. Coe House/Vernacular/1885	C	
137.	57	Shed	N/C	
138.	58	Comstock-Cheney House #24/Stick Style/1887	C	
139.	58	Shed/19 th C.	C	
140.	59	Comstock-Cheney House #25/Vernacular/1885	C	
141.	59	Shed/19 th C.	C	

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142.	61	Comstock-Cheney House#23/Queen Anne/1885	C	
143.	61	Shed/19 th C.	C	
144.	62	Comstock-Cheney House #21-22/Stick style-influence/1887	C	31
145.	62	Shed	N/C	
146.	63	Comstock-Cheney House #91/Vernacular/1920	C	
147.	63	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
148.	64	Pratt House/Vernacular/1886/20 th C. add's & alt's	C	
149.	64	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
150.	65	Comstock-Cheney House #92/Vernacular/1920	C	
151.	65	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
152.	67	CCH #62/Vernacular/1905/20 th C. garage addition	N/C	
153.	68	John Waterman House/Vernacular/1888-1889	C	
154.	68	Shed/19 th C.	C	
155.	68	Shed/19 th C.	C	
156.	69	Comstock-Cheney House #93/Vernacular/1905	C	32

Conklin Avenue

157.	5	J Conklin House/Vernacular/1902	C	
158.	5	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
159.	6	Queen Anne with 2005 addition/ca. 1895	C	
160.	6	Converted Shed to Garage/ca. 1900	C	

Ivory Street

161.	7	H.Comstock House/Vrnclr w/Qu.Anne infl./1883-4/20 th C. add.	C	
162.	7	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
163.	13	CCH #33-44/High-style Italianate/1893/alterations	C	
164.		Empty Lot (57/036)	C	

Main Street

165.	10	2 nd Ecclesiastical Parsonage/ Stick-influence/1888	C	10
166.	11	C. Spencer House #1/Vernacular/1883	C	9
167.	12	A.Palmer/Vernacular/1912	C	
168.	12	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
169.	13	C. Spencer House #2/Vernacular/1888	C	9
170.	13	Barn/20 th C.	C	
171.	14	E. Gladding/Georgian influence/1827/20 th C. alterations	C	
172.	14	Shed	N/C	
173.	15	C. Spencer House #3/Vernacular/ca.1888/20 th C. alterations	C	9

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174.	15	Shed	N/C	
175.	16	O.Knowles/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1873	C	
176.	16	Converted Shed to Garage/ca. 1900	C	
177.	19	Chauncey Spencer House#4/Vernacular/1897	C	
178.	20	Gilbert Strong/Vernacular/1859/Late 19 th C. Porch	C	
179.	20	Barn/19 th C.	C	
180.	21	C.Spencer House/Vernacular/1889	C	
181.	22	L,Lynn Home/Queen Anne w/Col. Revival-influence/1873&7	C	
182.	22	Barn/20 th C.	N/C	
183.	25	Daniel Griswold House/1809/20 th C. addition	C	12
184.	28	Dickinson Home/Vernacular/ 1926	C	
185.	28	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
186.	32	Judson Bushnell/Greek Revival/1872/20 th C. additions/alt's	C	
187.	32	Garage/20 th C.	C	
188.	33	Edwin Griswold House/ Greek Revival /1838	C	
189.	33	Studio/20 th C.	N/C	
190.	34	A.Miller Home/Queen Anne/1899	C	
191.	34	Detached Garage/Studio/1988	N/C	
192.	35	1 st Samuel M. Comstock House/Greek Revival/1838	C	13
193.	35	Barn/20 th C.	N/C	
194.	38	Egbert Bull/ Greek Revival/1845/20 th C. additions	C	
195.	38	Garage/20 th C.	C	
196.	39	Ranch/1978	N/C	14
197.	43	Shed Style/1974	N/C	
198.	45	Joseph Parker Homestead/N.E. Colonial/ca.1719	C	
199.	45	Shed/19 th C.	C	
200.	45	Shed/19 th C.	C	
201.	45	Well House	C	
202.	45	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
203.	46	A.W.Comstock/Vernacular/1889-90/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	15
204.	46	Guest House/1984	N/C	
205.	46	Guest House/2008	N/C	
206.	57	Congregational Church/ 1887-8	C	16
207.		Empty Lot (41/017)	C	
208.	64	Buckingham Home/Vrncldr w/Queen Anne-infl./1875-6	C	
209.	64	Barn/19 th C.	C	
210.	68	Erastus-Eunice Ferguson/Vernacular/1855/20 th C. addition	C	
211.	68	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
212.	69	Robert H Comstock/High-style Ital.-influence/1868-69/1906	C	
213.	70	F. Chapman/Vernacular/1900/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	

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214.	70	Shed	N/C	
215.	72	Ezra Jones/Vernacular/1875	C	
216.	72	Vernacular/ca.1880	C	
217.	72	Vernacular/ca.1850	C	
218.		Empty Lot (57/026)	C	
219.	73	Cape Cod/1977	N/C	
220.	75	John & Ella Culver/Federal details/1872/20 th C. add's/alt's	C	
221.	75	Barn/ca. 1880	C	
222.	76	Ranch/1982	N/C	
223.	81	H.W. Webber Home/Queen Anne/1896/1897/20 th C. garage add.	C	17
224.	82	Simon W. Shailer Home/Italianate/1872	C	
225.	82	Barn/19 th C.	C	
226.	83	Lorenzo Dow Webber House/Gothic w/Stick-influence/1874	C	17
227.	83	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
228.	84	Charles H. Rose House/Stick with Queen Anne-influence/1868	C	18
229.	84	Barn/19 th C.	C	
230.	84	Shed/19 th C.	C	
231.	88	2 nd Samuel Comstock/Vrnclr.w/late Clscl Revival-infl./1849	C	
232.	89	John Northrop House/Vrnclr w/late Clscl Revival-infl/1870-1	C	
233.	89	Barn/19 th C.	C	
234.	96	E.Mooar Comstock Garage/Converted Stable/1921	N/C	
235.	98	US Post Office/Neo-Traditional/1964	N/C	
236.	100	Nathaniel Miller Home/Italianate/1872	C	
237.	100	Cottage/Gothic Revival-influence/ca.1875	C	
238.		Ivoryton Park (40/010)	C	39
239.		Historic Marker/1989	N/C	
240.		Ivoryton Park Gazebo/ca. 1980	N/C	
241.	103	Ivoryton Playhouse/Classical Revival-influence/1911	C	
242.	103	Comstock, Cheney Hall/Studio Building/Vrnclr/1910-11	C	
243.	103	Cottage/ca. 1980	N/C	
244.	104	F. M. Rose Store/Italianate/1873-4/20 th C. addition/alt's	C	1, 2, 4
245.	106	Ivoryton Library/Queen Anne/1888/Chs. Newton, builder	C	2, 3
246.	107	Curtis P.Jones Store/Comm/Vrnclr/1904/20 th C. addition/alt's	C	
247.	108	Commercial/Vernacular/1904 /20 th C. addition/alt's	N/C	
248.	109	H. Blake/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence/1887-8	C	19
249.	114	Commercial/Vernacular/1950	N/C	
250.	114	Attendants Stand/ca. 1920/moved to site	N/C	
251.	115	Hotel D'Ivory/Vernacular/1865/19 th & 20 th C. additions	C	20
252.	115	Barn/19 th C.	C	
253.	116	CCH House #1/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1872	C	21

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254.	116	Barn/19 th C.	C	
255.	119	Samuel Cheney Home/Gothic Revival-influence /1871	C	
256.	119	Barn/19 th C.	C	
257.	120	CCH #2/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence /1872	C	
258.	123	Samuel Comstock II House/Federal/ca.1808	C	
259.	123	Neo-Traditional Barn/Late 20 th C.	N/C	
260.	125	Ranch/1948	N/C	
261.	126	Ivory Factory/Vernacular with Italianate-influence/1847-8/add.	C	5
262.	126	Brick Bldg/Vernacular/ca. 1860	C	5
263.	126	Barn/19 th C.	C	
264.	126	Ancillary Building/Vernacular/ca. 1880	C	
265.		Empty Lot (57/037A)	C	
266.		Empty Lot (57/037B)	C	
267.		Empty Lot (57/069)	C	
268.	129	Congregational Church/Shingle Style/1905	C	22
269.	131	Griffith House/Stick Style /1886	C	
270.	131	Garage/Early 20 th C.	C	
271.	135	S.G.Comstock Home/Vrnclr w/ Italianate influence/1875	C	
272.	139	Swedish Mission Ch./Shingle Style/1897. Chs. Newton, builder	C	
273.	141	W.Champlin Store/Vernacular/1897-8	C	141
274.	145	Comstock-Cheney House #102/Ranch/1923	N/C	
275.	145	Garage/ca. 1950	N/C	
276.	147	Comstock-Cheney House #95/Vernacular/1920	C	
277.	147	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
278.	149	John Clark House/ca. 1790	C	
279.	149	John Clark Home/Cottage/Vernacular/ca.1800/alterations	N/C	
280.	151	CCH #96/Vrnclr/1920/Late 20 th C. add's/alt's	C	
281.	151	Shed	N/C	
282.	158	Factory Complex/ Vrnclr w/ Int'l Modern addition/1880-1953	C	6, 7, 8
283.	171	Comstock-Cheney House #10/Vernacular/1886	C	24
284.	173	Comstock-Cheney House #11/Vernacular/1886	C	24
285.	175	Comstock-Cheney House #12/Vernacular/1886	C	24
286.	184	Ranch/1982	N/C	
287.	186	Comstock Cheney House #13/Vernacular/1889	C	
288.	186	19 th C. Barn converted to Garage	C	
289.	186	Shed/19 th C.	C	
290.	190	J. Lungren Home/Vernacular/1899	C	
291.	190	Shed/19 th C.	C	
292.	191	Sally Comstock Home/Vernacular/1830	C	
293.	193	Andrew Doane House/Vernacular/1890	C	

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294. Clark Pond (58/046) C
295. Clark Pond (58/39/01-42) C

North Main Street

296. 7 E Northrup House #1/Vrncrlr w/Gothic Revival-influence/1888 C
297. 7 Barn/19th C. C
298. 7 Shed/19th C. C
299. 10 Comstock-Cheney House #80/Bungalow/1853 C
300. 12 D.Griswold House/Vernacular/Two-family/ca. 1850 C
301. 12 Garage/20th C. N/C
302. 13 E.Northrup House #2/Vrncrlr/1900 C
303. 13 Shed/19th C. C
304. 13 Shed/19th C. C
305. 16 Comstock Cheney House #79/Vernacular/1910 C 38
306. 16 Shed/19th C. C
307. 16 Shed/19th C. C
308. 19 J.Wilcox House #1/Vrncrlr w/ Stick Style-influence/1890 C
309. 19 Barn/19th C. C
310. 20 B. Griswold/Vernacular/1906 C
311. 20 Garage/20th C. N/C
312. 22 E.Miller House #2/Vernacular/1900 C
313. 22 Shed/19th C. C
314. 25 J. Wilcox House #2/Vrncrlr/1901 C
315. 25 Barn/20th C. C

Oak Street

316. 2 Ranch/1985 N/C
317. 2 Barn/19th C. C
318. 7 Comstock Cheney House #65/Vernacular/1904 C
319. 7 Barn/19th C. C
320. 9 Comstock Cheney House #56/Vernacular/1902 C
321. 9 Barn/19th C. C
322. 9 Studio/20th C. C

Park Road

323. Empty Lot (63/01) C
324. Comstock Park (62/02) C

Pond Meadow Road

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325.	3	Asa Rose/Zina Clark House/Federal/1878	C
326.	3	Shed	N/C
327.	3	Shed	N/C
328.		Empty lot (61-8)	C

Stonebrook Drive

329.	2	Jonathan Parker Homestead/Federal/ca.1849	C
330.	2	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
331.	2	Shed	N/C

Summit Street

332.	6	Vernacular/ca. 1860/20 th alterations	C
333.	8	J.Frederickson Building/Vernaclr/1893/20 th C. alterations	C
334.	9	E.Miller House/Vrnclr w/ Queen Anne-influence/ 1880	C
335.	12	Vernacular Firehouse/1966	N/C 40
336.		Empty Lot (40/12)	C
337.	13	Charles Lynn House/Vernacular/1890	C 41
338.	13	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
339.	13	Shed/19 th C.	C
340.	14	Empty Lot (57/08)	N/C
341.		Vernacular Garage (on Lot 57/07)	C
342.	15	Hervey Blake House/Vernacular/1889	C 41
343.	18	G.Blake &Co/Commercial Group/Barn/1886	C 42
344.	18	Shed/19 th C.	C
345.	22	A. Burdick House/Vernacular/1924	C
346.	22	Shed/19 th C.	C
347.	27	E.Gates House/Vernacular with Stick Style-influence/1889	C
348.	27	Studio/20 th C.	C
349.	27	Empty Lot (57/75)	C
350.		Empty Lot (58/13)	C
351.	29	C Liotard House/Vernacular with Queen Anne-influence/1890	C
352.	31	E.Liotard/Vernacular with Gothic Revival-influence/1891	C
353.	31	Shed	N/C
354.	33	L.Phelps House/Queen Anne/1901/20 th C. alterations	C
355.	33	Garage/20 th C.	N/C
356.	35	A.Oscar Strandberg/Vernacular/1906	C
357.	35	Shed	N/C
358.	39	CCH #9/Vernacular/1889/ Late 20 th C. add's/alt's	C

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359.	39	Shed	N/C
360.	41	Adolph Wolf House/Vernacular/1892	C
361.	41	Carport	N/C
362.	42	A. Lundgren/Vernacular cottage/1913	C
363.	42	Barn/19 th C.	C
364.	42	Barn/19 th C.	C
365.	44	C. Carlsson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1903	C
366.	44	Barn/19 th C.	C

Terrace Lane

367.	3	Comstock Cheney House #93 Vernacular/1920	C	
368.	3	Shed	N/C	
369.	4	Comstock Cheney House #64 Vernacular/1905	C	
370.	5	Comstock Cheney House #94/1920/Late 20 th C. addition	C	33
371.	6	CCH #65/Vrnclr/1905/Mid 20 th C. Garage addition	C	
372.	7	Ranch/1978	N/C	
373.	8	CCH #66/Vernacular/1905/Late 20 th C. addition	C	
374.	8	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
375.	9	Ranch/1955	N/C	
376.	10	CCH #67/Vernacular/1905/Late 20 th C. addition	C	
377.	10	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
378.		Empty Lot (57/56)	C	
379.	11	Ranch/1950	N/C	

Walnut Street

380.	7	Sarah Conklin/Queen Anne/ 1890/20 th C. additions & alterations	C	
381.	7	Garage/Studio/20 th C.	N/C	
382.	9	D.Field House/ Vernacular/ca. 1890	C	
383.	9	Shed/19 th C.	C	
384.	9	Shed	N/C	
385.	10	Comstock-Cheney House #71/1912	C	34
386.	10	Garage/Early 20 th C.	C	
387.	12	CCH #70/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
388.	12	Shed	N/C	
389.	13	J.Parker Jr. House/Vrnclr w/Mansard Roof/ca. 1907/add's & alt's	C	
390.	13	Barn/19 th C.	C	
391.	13	Shed	N/C	
392.	16	Comstock-Cheney House #89 & 90/Vernacular/1920	C	35
393.	17	Vernacular/ca. 1930/20 th C. alterations	N/C	

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394.	17	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
395.	19	CCH #19/Vernacular/1887/ 20 th C. add's & alt's	N/C	
396.	20	CCH #83/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
397.	20	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
398.	21	Comstock-Cheney House #20/20 th C add and alt/1887	C	
399.	21	Shed	N/C	
400.	22	CCH #82/Vernacular/1912/20 th C. addition	C	
401.	22	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
402.	24	Thomas Pratt House/Vernacular/ca.1815	C	
403.	24	Shed/19 th C.	C	
404.	24	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
405.	25	A.Theiss House/Vernacular/1888/20 th C. addition	C	
406.	25	Garage/20 th C.	N/C	
407.	27	Ranch/1964	N/C	
408.	28	Comstock-Cheney House #85/Vernacular/1913	C	
409.	30	J. Clark House/Vernacular/1890/20 th C. alterations	C	
410.	30	Barn/19 th C.	C	
411.	36	A.Palm House/Vernacular/1890	C	
412.	36	Garage/Studio	N/C	
413.	40	C.Johnson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1900	C	
414.	40	Barn/19 th C.	C	
415.	40	Garage/20 th C.	C	
416.	40	Outhouse	C	
417.	44	J.Neilson House/Vrnclr w/Queen Anne-influence/1900	C	
418.	44	Shed	N/C	
419.	45	G.Lundgren Home/Vrnclr w/Federal-infl./1874/20 th C. additions	C	
420.	45	Shed	N/C	
421.	49	Ch. Johnson House/Queen Anne w/Stick Style-influence/1888	C	36
422.	49	Shed	N/C	

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Saybrook Colony was surveyed in 1648 and "quartered"; the present-day towns of Essex, Chester, and Deep River were known as the "Potapoug Quarter." Portions of "West Centre Brooke" (later known as Ivoryton) were surveyed as part of the Oyster River Quarter, but settlement did not occur until the 1720s, and continued to be sparse until the nineteenth century.¹

In contrast to Centerbrook and Essex, the other two villages that make up the present-day Town of Essex, Ivoryton was a sleepy hamlet in the early nineteenth century, likely due to its terrain, which was more rugged than that of the other villages; with only 26 buildings by 1850, its growth in population and transformation into an industrial-era company town would not occur until after the Civil War.²

The first landowners in modern-day Ivoryton were the Bulls, Clarks, Comstocks, and Parkers; the oldest extant house is the Joseph Parker homestead, likely built between 1720 and 1740, and sold to Reuben Bull in the 1770s. The Comstock family owned land in the area as early as the 1770s, and Captain Samuel Comstock II built a house in the early nineteenth century where future Ivoryton developer Samuel Merritt Comstock was born.

Ivoryton (known as West Centerbrook) was added along with Centerbrook to the Village of Essex to create the Town of Essex in 1859, and the village began to be known as Ivoryton in the 1880s.

The Ivory Industry and Comstock, Cheney & Co.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the village of Ivoryton began its evolution into a sustaining industrial center that continued into the twentieth century. Before that, Ivoryton's primary commercial ventures were agricultural, specifically timber.³ Deacon Phineas Pratt I of Essex, a goldsmith, had invented a machine to cut combs in 1797. He began making combs out of horn, but soon changed to ivory; the importation of African elephant ivory determined the industry's primary location in the region. The Pratts and the Comstocks were to be friendly competitors in the ivory-cutting industry for the entirety of the nineteenth century until merging operations in the twentieth century. Together, the two companies dominated the ivory trade and the manufacture of ivory products in the United States. Phineas Pratt's son, Julius, of Meriden, CT, patented an ivory-slitting machine in 1828 and a process for making ivory combs in 1830; he moved his operations to Deep River in 1873 and joined George Read as Pratt, Read & Co. to compete with the other ivory manufacturers in the region.⁴ According to a few accounts, no less than 75 percent of all the ivory shipped to the United States in the late nineteenth century was sent to Connecticut.⁵

Samuel Merritt Comstock started out in the 1830s producing screwdrivers with both his brother and a business partner, Edwin Griswold. Shortly thereafter, the company began producing ivory combs and toothpicks.⁶ The Comstock and Griswold factory was located directly behind the Edwin Griswold homestead (today at 33 Main Street), and Comstock bought land south of the Falls River from Daniel Griswold in 1838, where he built his first

¹ Donald Malcarne, *Deep River and Ivoryton*, (Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2002), p. 7.

² Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 47.

³ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 25.

⁴ Chris Pagliuoco, "Ivoryton," *Hog River Journal* Volume 6, No. 4 (Fall 2008), p. 28.

⁵ Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 89.

⁶ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 7.

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homestead. By 1847, Comstock struck out on his own, establishing the S. M. Comstock Company on the Falls River across the road from his childhood home, and expanding and industrializing the ivory-cutting process to support the manufacture of piano key veneers, billiard balls, combs, and other items. Comstock partnered with George Cheney in 1860 (though various sources also name 1862 as the year of partnership), selling him a quarter of his factory assets and land, and created Comstock, Cheney, & Company, which would continue until the Depression forced a merger of the company with nearby competitors Pratt & Read, located in Deep River.

The "lower factory" or "ivory shop," the original S. M. Comstock factory, was enlarged and updated after Cheney joined the partnership in 1860; an ivory vault and numerous bleach houses were constructed in the vicinity. A female boarding house was built behind the building by 1919, and was abandoned in the late 1930s when all ivory processing was consolidated at the "upper shop."

Comstock, Cheney & Co. became further involved in the piano manufacturing process by making keyboards and producing piano "actions," or the mechanical assemblies used to translate the hitting of a key into the striking of a piano string. As a result, the "Upper Factory" was first constructed in 1872/73, with many additions throughout the following 20 years. This factory, partially powered by the company-built Bushy Hill Dam, consisted mainly of woodworking for the keys and piano actions, and employed more than 600 employees during the height of the factory's operation at the turn of the nineteenth century.⁷ The Bushy Hill Dam would burst in 1982, flooding much of Ivoryton and damaging many of the Comstock, Cheney & Co. buildings.

The Industrial Revolution made possible increased leisure time and the ability to obtain luxury items; as a result, demand grew for billiard balls and piano keys. In the 1850s alone, the United States doubled its piano production, and by 1910, was the largest manufacturer of pianos in the world. Comstock, Cheney & Co. and Pratt, Read & Co. were producing nearly 400,000 keyboards and actions by this time.⁸ Piano keys were originally made of exotic wood, but by the 1750s European manufacturers were facing the keys with ivory veneers. One 90-pound elephant tusk could provide enough ivory for 45 complete keyboard veneers, but the processing and matching of the ivory was a skilled, laborious task. Enormous bleach houses were erected throughout Ivoryton, and bleaching processes were patented from Connecticut in the 1850s.

Billiard balls were made only from the tusks of female elephants because the nerves running through the centers of these tusks were straighter, and allowed the balls to be shot more "true." One female tusk would provide enough ivory for five billiard balls.⁹

Millions of pounds of ivory were brought up the Connecticut River from Africa throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, where Comstock and Cheney unwittingly supported a flourishing slave trade to bring ivory from the interior to the ports of Mombasa, Mozambique, and Zanzibar. Comstock and Cheney originally bought their ivory from trader John Bertram, who operated out of Salem, Massachusetts.¹⁰ Coastal

⁷ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 112.

⁸ Richard Conniff, "From Combs to Keyboards: The Development of a Connecticut Valley Industry," (1990), p. 84; Pagliuco, p. 28.

⁹ Deep River Historical Society, Inc., *A History of Pratt Read & Co. of Deep River, Connecticut Including the Making of Ivory Piano Keyboards* (Deep River Historical Society, Inc., 1973); Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jennifer Frank, *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery* (New York: Ballantine Books, 2005), p. 203; David H. Shayt, "Elephant Under Glass," *Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology* 19(1):37-59 (1993).

¹⁰ Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jennifer Frank, *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*

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vessels were necessary to transport the ivory from larger ports in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to the shallower ports of the Connecticut River. Based on estimates that five African slaves either died or were sold into slavery for every tusk shipped out of Africa, the Connecticut ivory industry may have been solely responsible for the death or enslavement of hundreds of thousands of people over the history of the company.¹¹ Between 1891 and 1903, Comstock, Cheney & Co. processed more than a million pounds of ivory; rivals Pratt, Read & Co. processed nearly 1.5 million pounds.¹²

With the advent of European colonization in Africa came the railroad, and rail became the preferred method of transporting ivory to the coast for shipment. By the 1890s, the slave trade in Africa had slowed, lessening the exploitation of human labor in the ivory trade.¹³ Rail came to the Connecticut Valley as well; the Connecticut Valley Railroad was established in 1868 and completed in 1871, traveling between Hartford and Saybrook Point with a stop in Centerbrook. After a few changes in ownership, the New Haven Railroad took possession in 1892, and the line continued to serve both passengers and freight until automobile traffic overtook rail as the primary means of transportation after World War I.¹⁴ After steamboating ended in 1930, the railroad took over transport of ivory to Essex, where it was then moved on the trolley tracks, to Comstock and Cheney's factory.¹⁵

The United States plunged into an economic depression after the stock market crash of 1929, and Essex was not spared. The piano business began to wane, recreational boating naturally decreased, and immigrant factory workers in Ivoryton suffered loss of net worth. Unemployment in Connecticut was greater than the national average in the 1930s, and New Deal organizations such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began to undertake public works projects around the coastal region. A devastating hurricane hit the region in 1938, causing damage to Essex's riverfront as well as much of Connecticut's shoreline, and public works projects naturally evolved from the need to repair and restore the built and natural environment.¹⁶

Realizing that the volume of business at the time was not enough to sustain two separate businesses, the other major ivory production company in the area—Pratt, Read & Co. of Deep River—merged with Comstock, Cheney & Co. in 1936 to create Pratt, Read & Co. Inc. At this time a separate realty company, the Ivoryton Realty Company, was created to sell off all of Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s non-factory real estate (essentially the factory housing).

When World War II began, Pratt, Read & Co. switched from manufacturing piano keyboards and actions and used their woodworking skills to build gliders for the war effort. An aeronautical warehouse was constructed in 1942, employing as many as 4,000 workers throughout the hostilities.¹⁷ With the Great Depression and the increasing popularity and accessibility of the radio, motion pictures, and the automobile, people began to seek

(New York: Ballantine Books, 2005), p. 201.

¹¹ Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 54; Farrow et al., p. 193.

¹² Donald Malcarne, "Comstock, Cheney & Co.," *History of Ivoryton*, 2002, available at <http://www.ivoryton.lioninc.org/ivoryton.htm>, accessed February 12, 2013.

¹³ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 33.

¹⁴ The Valley Railroad Company, "The History of the Valley Railroad Company," available at <http://www.essexsteamtrain.com/history.html>, 2009, accessed February 21, 2011.

¹⁵ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 33.

¹⁶ Herzan, p. 77–78.

¹⁷ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 64.

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entertainment outside of their homes, and the demand for pianos declined significantly. In 1936, Comstock, Cheney & Co. merged with Pratt, Read & Co. of Deep River and reorganized to preserve the industry. They moved operations to Ivoryton, the newer plant, but retained the better-known Pratt, Read name. In addition, the insular “company town” ethos began to disintegrate as second-generation immigrant workers and residents were able to travel to other towns for work, and an interest in unionization resulted in the first labor organization unit in the company by 1941.¹⁸

After World War II, the company streamlined the business and abandoned the use of ivory for key veneers in favor of plastic. Ivory was last brought to Connecticut in 1954, and by 1958 the ivory stocks were depleted. From then on, the “ivories” were made of plastic. The company branched out by opening factories in Central, South Carolina, as well as in Vermont, and began manufacturing golf clubs and furniture, but the devastating flood of 1982 destroyed much of the factory buildings and led to the eventual shuttering of what had been the largest factory complex in Middlesex County.¹⁹

Samuel M. Comstock and George A. Cheney

Samuel Merritt Comstock (1809–1878), Ivoryton’s most influential resident, was born in 1809 as the eighth of nine children in one of the few “West Centre Brooke” settlements in existence at that point. The Captain Samuel Comstock homestead, built shortly before Samuel M. Comstock’s birth in 1808, was likely the second house built on the site.²⁰ His father, Captain Samuel Comstock, was a sea captain active in the West Indies trade, but also owned 50 acres of land in the Oyster River Quarter on the banks of the Falls River. Comstock started his first company in 1837, and situated his factories in his home village near water for adequate power supply. Comstock purchased land in the area to build dams for additional power as well as factory space, and continued to build up his business holdings in what would become known as Ivoryton. In 1838, Comstock married Harriet Hovey, and built his first homestead near the Comstock & Griswold factory. By 1851, Comstock had established his own company, and built a new home near this location. Comstock’s front gate would be a village landmark, used to describe property locations in local deeds for years to come.²¹ Comstock died in 1878, leaving George Cheney to run the ivory business and continue his company town vision.

George A. Cheney, 20 years Comstock’s junior, was born in New Hampshire in 1828 and spent many years in Rhode Island, Zanzibar, and New York working with his father-in-law, Rufus Greene, in the ivory trade. Although he became a partner in Comstock’s ivory firm in 1860, he did not move to Connecticut until 1868, where he settled in Essex Village rather than the company town. He did build a “cottage” on Comstock Avenue in 1885, after Comstock had died and Cheney was running the company (Photograph 29). Cheney died in 1901, and Comstock’s sons Archibald and Robert took control of the company until its merger with Pratt, Read & Co. in 1936.

¹⁸ One of Malcarne’s students at Wesleyan conducted archival research and oral history interviews of former factory workers in his study of unionization at Comstock & Cheney: Tom Furrer, “The Rise and Decline of Welfare Capitalism and the Emergence of a Union In Ivoryton, Connecticut: 1900–1941,” unpublished essay, May 5, 1980, Wesleyan University.

¹⁹ Donald L. Malcarne, “Ivoryton, Connecticut: The Ivory Industry and Voluntary and Involuntary Migration in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *North American Archaeologist* 2001:22(3)283–295.

²⁰ According to Donald Malcarne, it was only the second house of this style built in the area at this time, and one of only a dozen or so houses in Ivoryton in the early 1800s (Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, p. 102).

²¹ Malcarne, “Comstock, Cheney & Co.,” *History of Ivoryton*.

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Evolution of a "Company Town"

After the Civil War and the demise of the shipbuilding industry in Essex, the center of industry and commerce shifted to Ivoryton, which as a company town can be considered one of the earliest planned industrial communities in the area. Comstock was similar to other industrial leaders of the late nineteenth century (which included notable Connecticut arms maker Samuel Colt) in that he wanted to create a community where his workers would live, work, and play with no need to spend time or money outside of the company cocoon. Although Comstock died in 1878, his partner George Cheney continued to realize his vision by constructing a significant amount of housing and creating a commercial district for workers to patronize.

The company town concept was not novel by the 1870s, but rather had been developed and used throughout the more industrial northeastern United States beginning with the well-known Lowell, Massachusetts, textile mill town in the 1820s, which shared with Ivoryton a reliance on water power for its factories and a need to provide housing and social outlets for its workers, who came from more rural areas and later from Eastern Europe to work in the factory. At the height of the Industrial Revolution, there were more than 2,500 "single-enterprise towns" throughout the United States, housing nearly 3 percent of the American population by 1916.²² One of the more common types of company town is the exploitative mining town, where mining companies would often lure workers to substandard mining camps with company stores from which workers would buy goods against future paychecks or by using "scrip." In these scenarios, workers were often charged exorbitant rents and denied the freedom of deciding where to shop or even when to stop working for the company, for often they owed many years of work to pay off debts accrued from unfair rents or goods prices.²³

Ivoryton, however, was an example of a more benevolent, "utopian" company town, where the company sought to provide housing and services to make workers happier and thus more productive. This type of planned community included "modern public buildings, libraries and facilities for leisure, education, and cultural enrichment, and comfortable dwellings for managers and workers."²⁴ Ivoryton's company town ethos also resulted in a number of clubs and sports teams, including the Ivoryton Wheel Club during the bicycle craze of the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries, a marching band, and a baseball team; a ballpark was established in 1886 along with a competitive company baseball team.²⁵ The Rose Brothers Store, technically a "company store," was built in 1873/74 on Main Street (Photograph 4; Figures 11 and 13), and served as a central location for dry goods, groceries, a post office, and a meeting hall on the second floor. Though Comstock, Cheney & Co. owned the store, it was operated by various managers throughout its existence, most notably Theodore and Franklin M. Rose. Contemporary accounts of Comstock were glowing, saying that he was "large hearted, liberal, and generous," and that he "took an active interest in everything that concerned [the factory workers'] welfare or happiness."²⁶

Comstock's vision included housing for factory management and workers near their places of business. Comstock and later Cheney made a policy of selling land to company managers and sometimes issuing mortgages

²² Hardy Green, *The Company Town: The Industrial Edens and Satanic Mills that Shaped the American Economy* (New York: Basic Books, 2010), pp. 3, 6.

²³ Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of the American Company Town* (New York: Verso, 1999), p. 30.

²⁴ Green, p. 5.

²⁵ Pagliuco, p. 33.

²⁶ *Beer's History of the Town of Essex* (1885) quoted in Pagliuco, p. 32.

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so that they could build houses of their own choosing and design. Their fine homes were constructed prominently on Main Street, just east of the factory buildings (Photographs 17 and 18; Figure 15). The first worker housing consisted of dormitories to house single workers. The Hotel du Ivory opened in 1865 on Main Street and rented rooms to single men (Photograph 20). The building was enlarged in 1901 to add 20 rooms, but initially held up to 60 ivory workers.²⁷ Multifamily tenement housing was constructed to meet growing housing needs and the influx of recent immigrants from Poland, Hungary, and Italy to meet factory labor demands; land speculator Chauncy Spencer built five such buildings in the 1880s along Main Street (Photograph 9), and Comstock, Cheney & Co. also built multifamily dwellings during this period.

Factory houses were usually rented to workers, but beginning in the early twentieth century, some of these were sold to workers as well. The first single-family company houses for workers (rather than managers) were constructed in 1872 on West Main Street, directly across the street from the Hotel du Ivory. Donald Malcarne, former Essex town historian, did extensive research on these properties, and found that “[a]ccording to Essex tax records, the company owned one dwelling house in 1871, eleven in 1881, twenty-nine in 1891, thirty-six in 1901 and sixty-six in 1911. These were small homes for what was fast becoming a workforce dominated by immigrants.”²⁸

The first immigrants to arrive in Ivoryton were Swedes and Germans in the 1870s, who also became some of the first to own factory houses in the village. A Swedish enclave grew along Walnut Street in the late nineteenth century, and the Swedish Mission Church was built in 1897 on land Samuel G. Comstock (Samuel M. Comstock’s son) sold to the church. In the 1890s, the business had grown to such a degree that there was a great need for an expanded labor force; to meet the demand, the company retained an agent in New York City to direct “Ellis Island” immigrants from Poland and Italy to Ivoryton to work in the factories. These workers often rented company housing in ethnically consolidated areas such as Warsaw Street (Polish immigrants) and “Little Italy” in the Pond Meadow section of Ivoryton, and soon bought land, creating increasingly self-sufficient ethnic enclaves separate from the “Connecticut Yankee” management housing areas. This flow of immigrant workers to the Connecticut Valley virtually ended at the end of World War I in 1918, motivated in part by the downturn in the ivory industry after the war.²⁹

After Comstock’s death, George A. Cheney took over operations; the factories, shops, and bleach houses were expanded, and with that more than 135 houses for workers were built by 1924.³⁰ Between 1878 and 1900, a number of houses were built near the Upper Shop along Main and Cheney Streets as well as Comstock Avenue, and a group of six houses were built along what is now Terrace Lane in an area known as “Ivoryton Heights” in the first years of the twentieth century.³¹

The Ivoryton Library Association was founded in 1871, and a library was built in 1888 (Photograph 3; Figure 12). Although the company did not build churches, it encouraged their establishment as an additional amenity for the factory workers, and Comstock’s sister Harriet had the Comstock Chapel (later the Ivoryton Congregational Church) built on her inherited land that same year. The Ivoryton Grammar School (demolished) was built in 1899

²⁷ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex Volume II*, p. 153.

²⁸ Malcarne, “Comstock, Cheney & Co.,” *History of Ivoryton*.

²⁹ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 65; Pagliuco, p. 33; Malcarne, “Voluntary and Involuntary Migration,” pp. 289–290.

³⁰ Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 26; Storms and Malcarne, *Around Essex*, p. 69.

³¹ Malcarne, *Houses of Essex*, pp. 124–125.

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with company and Comstock family contributions.

When Cheney died, Comstock's sons Robert and Archibald ran the business from 1901 until the Great Depression, and continued to develop Ivoryton, providing funds for schools and constructing a meeting hall (Comstock Cheney Hall) that would become the Ivoryton Playhouse in the 1930s.³² Additional housing was built in this period along Blake and Chestnut Streets, and a separate post office was built in 1904. The last company house was built in 1922.

Pratt, Read & Co. diversified their products to meet foreign competition for pianos and actions, and the factory whistle continued to call workers to their benches until 1988, by which time the company had moved all of their operations out of town.

Ivoryton is a more insular example of the company towns that were built throughout Connecticut in the nineteenth century as industry moved from shipbuilding on the coast to manufacturing in the interior. The Thompsonville section of Hartford was home to company housing for the Bigelow Carpet Mills factory beginning in the 1840s, and Hartford's most famous industrialist, Samuel Colt, established "Coltsville" in Hartford by the 1850s.³³ As in Ivoryton, housing was segregated by ethnicity and comprised both single-family homes and multifamily tenement dwellings, but these dwellings were never the primary location for factory workers as they were in Ivoryton, for Hartford was a large city that had housing options for workers within commuting (walking) distance; moreover, these "towns" were merely sections of the larger city, and did not dominate the urban landscape in the same way that Comstock, Cheney, & Co. controlled (and even named) Ivoryton. Coltsville in particular was built to attract workers to the more undeveloped part of Hartford, and a niche development known as the "Postdam Cottages" were built in a fanciful Gothic style in 1859 to appeal to immigrant workers from Eastern Europe. Bigelow constructed "Scottish Row" as a grouping of houses around a central green or square for the factory's highly skilled English workers. The Cheney Brothers silk factory in Manchester, CT, also provided company housing for their immigrant workers in the latter half of the nineteenth century, buying land near their factories and either leasing or selling houses to workers.³⁴ All of these company towns, like Ivoryton, stopped expanding after World War I, and were severely downsized along with factory production during the Depression.

Deep River, less than five miles north of Ivoryton, was the site of Comstock's only significant competitor in the ivory business, Pratt, Read & Co. However, Deep River did not develop into a company town, and although Pratt, Read & Co. was undeniably the largest employer in the town, the company did not build housing and develop civic amenities for its workers. Thus, Ivoryton is truly singular in its status as an "ivory town."

Architectural Significance

The Ivoryton historic district contains a solid representation of American architectural styles that range from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The significance of the district lies in its evolution as an industrial company town, which still provides great interpretive value about the culture and lifestyle of this community. The organization of the development and the wide range of extant building types and styles continue to tell the

³² Malcarne et al., *Deep River and Ivoryton*, p. 26.

³³ Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Mills Historic District National Register Nomination Form, 1994; Coltsville Historic District National Historic Landmark Nomination Form, 2007.

³⁴ Cheney Brothers Historic District National Register Nomination Form, 1977.

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story of a niche industrial community that is representative of America's "company town" ethos before organized unions gathered strength.

Aside from the few extant New England Colonials and high-style Greek Revival houses from an earlier period, the entire village became synonymous (in name and in function) with Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s ivory-processing business. Because of the large number of housing units constructed by and for the factory's entire working staff, the built environment is intrinsically interconnected. After World War II, suburbanization did little to alter the basic layout of the community, though the 1982 flood had a devastating impact. Despite the diversity of building types and styles, there is a distinct Victorian feel to Ivoryton, one that the stylistic trends of the early twentieth century did not displace. The combination of Samuel Comstock's vision of a benevolent company town and Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s direct involvement in the civil as well as physical growth of the community resulted in this comparatively homogenous grouping of buildings. Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s all-encompassing influence in Ivoryton's development accounts for this thread of continuity throughout the built environment.

The only notable Gothic Revival buildings in Essex are found in Ivoryton. Two houses near each other, 119 Main Street (Inventory #255) and 120 Main Street (Inventory #257), are excellent examples of Late Gothic Revival. Although 119 Main is the better example, both houses exhibit typical features such as a gabled central projecting block flanked by oversized gabled dormers. Both have elaborate vergeboards and drop pendants in the deep-set gable ends, but 119 Main has front and side porches with decorative wood detailing in the railings and upper sections. Both have brick foundations and have retained the original two-over-two double-hung sash in the dormers. The former F. M. Rose Store constructed by Comstock, Cheney & Co. at 104 Main Street (Inventory #244; Photograph 4, Figures 11 and 13) has lost significant character-defining features, particularly the steeply gabled façade with pointed arch window, but retains enough integrity to be identified with the period style.

The Italianate style gained popularity in the mid-nineteenth century as the economic picture improved in Essex, particularly in Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Ivoryton has at least two high-style residences from this period. The most notable is the Simon W. Shailer House at 82 Main Street (Inventory #224) for its phenomenal spindlework, though the Nathaniel Miller House at 100 Main Street (Inventory #236) is a purer example of the style. This house features a finely detailed full-width front porch; what is likely a later porte-cochere addition on the west side continues the molding details. The purest example of the Italianate style is found in the Lower Factory building at 126 Main Street (Inventory #261; Photograph 5; Figure 5); however, the removal of the bracketed cornice and gable ends has diminished the stylistic impact of the building.

The former bleach houses were an integral component to ivory processing and located throughout the village (Figure 7). Although almost completely lost to time, their absence in Ivoryton today does not diminish the current integrity of the factory sites. In Deep River, a segment of a former bleach house was saved from benign neglect and rehabilitated to illustrate how the process was set up to lighten individual ivory pieces before further sorting and processing. The comparatively small section is located at the Deep River Historical Society (Figure 8).

Two excellent examples of the Stick-style influence on other stylistic trends include the strong Gothic Revival and Queen Anne details found in the Comstock, Cheney & Co. executive residences on Main Street. The finest example is the high-style Lorenzo Dow Webber Homestead at 83 Main Street (Inventory #226, Photograph 17, Figure 15) with spectacular, deeply inset cross-gables with decorative trusses, narrow fenestration, and drop pendant details. The second example, the Charles H. Rose Homestead at 84 Main Street (Inventory #228, Photograph 18) has exterior cladding that exemplifies the design philosophy of attempting to honestly express the underlying structural elements through the use of what appear to be structural elements, but are, in fact, surface

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decorations.

The Queen Anne style was dominant, particularly in the northeastern states, from about 1880 to 1900. The name was coined by a group of nineteenth-century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw. Based primarily on Elizabethan and Jacobean precedents, the American style is identified by irregular massing with a dominant front-facing gable. Numerous sub-types evolved, the most common being the "spindework" type with ornate detailing and the later, "free-classic" type, which used classically inspired details.

The rise of the Queen Anne style and the industrial growth of Ivoryton coincide, resulting in a good number of houses exhibiting these stylistic tendencies. The Queen Anne style is best expressed in the 1888 Ivoryton Library at 106 Main Street (Inventory #245, Photograph 3; Figure 12). This highly eclectic design seems to borrow from the contemporaneous Shingle style with its uninterrupted, shingled wall surfaces and from the Richardsonian Romanesque with the large, round-arched windows.

"Folk Victorian" is a term coined for houses constructed between 1870 and 1910 and attempts to define modest, vernacular American housing stock that uses Victorian detailing. Mostly inspired by Queen Anne spindework and other applied decoration, the style also borrows from Italianate and Gothic sources. Modest, company-built housing was built en masse in this style. The finest example is the modest Harriet S. Comstock house at 7 Ivory Street (Inventory #161). The vertical drop boards in the upper gables illustrate the variation perfectly. The porch on the second floor of the otherwise unadorned 1893 John Frederickson House at 8 Summit Street (Inventory #333) also features Victorian turned posts and decorative brackets.

The factory complex known as the Upper Factory at 158 Main Street (Inventory #282, Photographs 6-8; Figures 9 and 10) has undergone multiple construction phases as well as demolitions and additions during its century-long existence. In evaluating the complex for historic significance, it is clear that its social and cultural significance are the basis for consideration: the loss of the main wood-frame buildings at the street front as well as the mid-twentieth century International Modern addition at the east end have undermined some of the historic integrity of the site. However, the role the factory plays in the story of Ivoryton is pivotal and therefore the factory is considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

The core area of Ivoryton has a few infill properties and alterations that detract from the area's historic integrity. Despite this, the nineteenth-century history of the commercial and social center is very important and extends geographically well beyond the core of the village. This includes not only the commercial core and extant industrial buildings but the numerous residential buildings that were constructed for workers as well as those constructed by executives of Comstock, Cheney & Co. As such, a National Register historic district is proposed under Criteria A, B, and C for the better part of Main Street from Pond Meadow Road east to just past Comstock Avenue, which includes the village core, worker as well as executive housing, and the former ivory factories; Cheney Street, including the former piano key factory; Summit Street and the planned housing development on Chestnut, Oak, and Blake Streets; the southern end of North Main Street; all of Ivory Street and Comstock Avenue including Terrace Lane; Walnut Street to about Melody Lane; and Park Road.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Continued)

UTM Coordinates

5.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714159	Northing: 4580866
6.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714950	Northing: 4580720
7.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715124	Northing: 4580656
8.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715185	Northing: 4580632
9.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715249	Northing: 4580593
10.	Zone: 18	Easting: 715289	Northing: 4580491
11.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714901	Northing: 4580222
12.	Zone: 18	Easting: 714148	Northing: 4579805
13.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713955	Northing: 4579721
14.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713757	Northing: 4579678
15.	Zone: 18	Easting: 713071	Northing: 4579965
16.	Zone: 18	Easting: 712965	Northing: 4580082

Returned

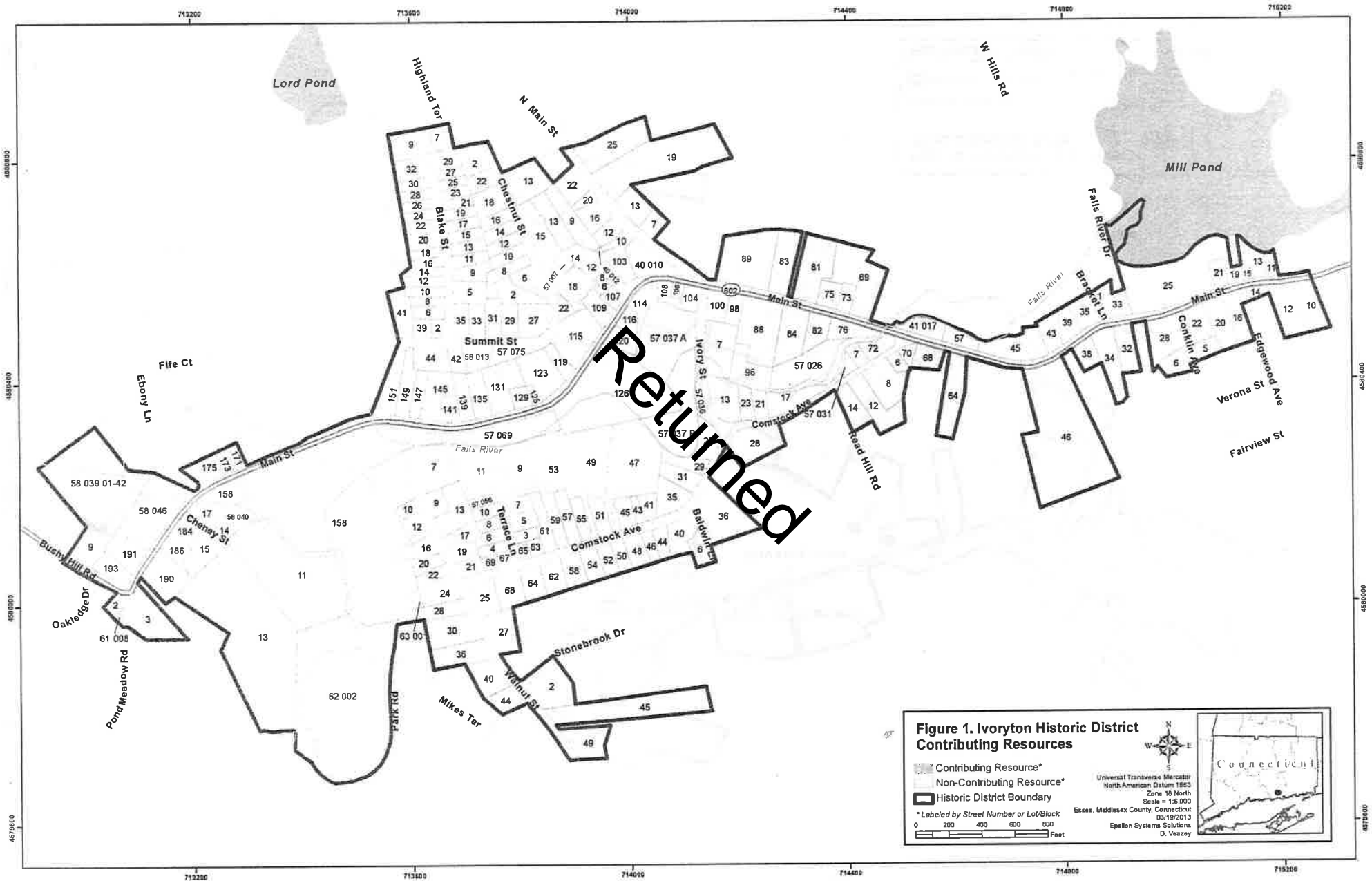


Figure 1. Ivoryton Historic District Contributing Resources

- Contributing Resource*
- Non-Contributing Resource*
- Historic District Boundary

* Labeled by Street Number or Lot/Block

0 200 400 600 800 Feet

Universal Transverse Mercator
North American Datum 1983
Zone 18 North
Scale = 1:25,000
Essex, Middlesex County, Connecticut
03/19/2013
Epsilon Systems Solutions
D. Veszev



Figure 5. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Ivory Factory, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)

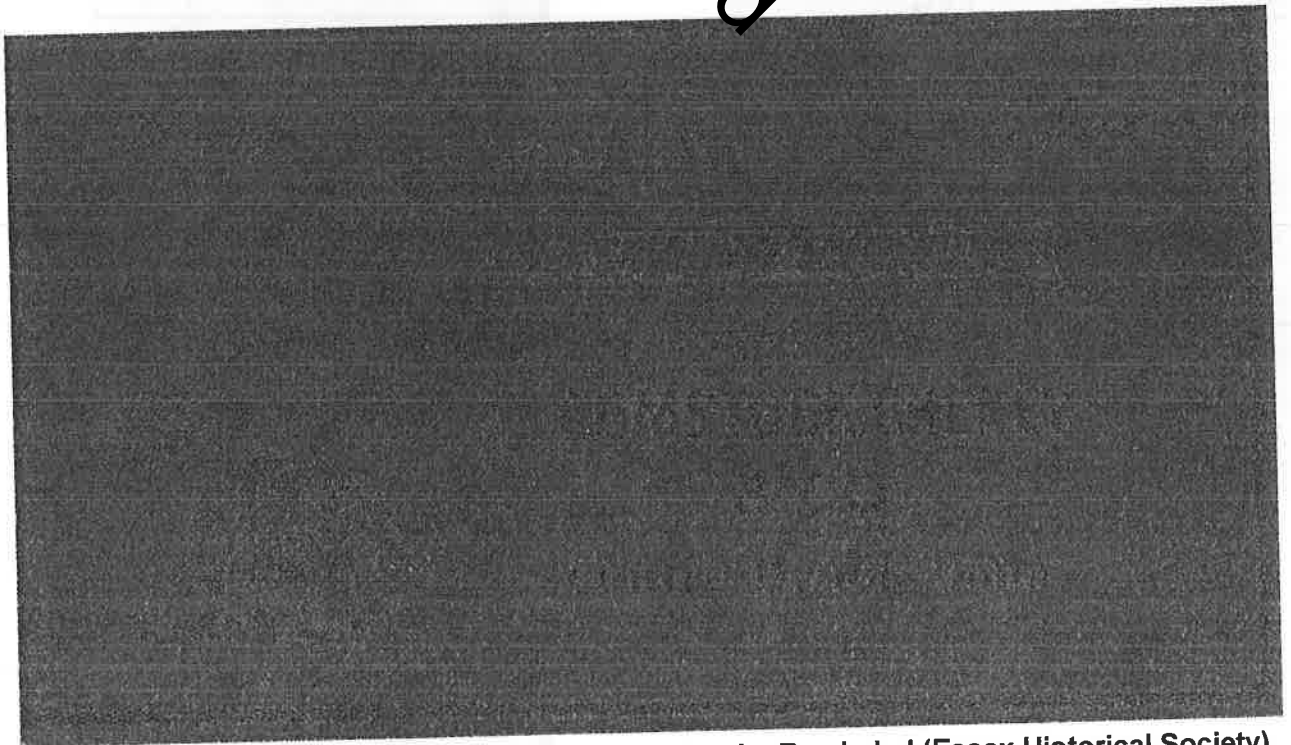


Figure 6. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Ivory Combs Box Label (Essex Historical Society)

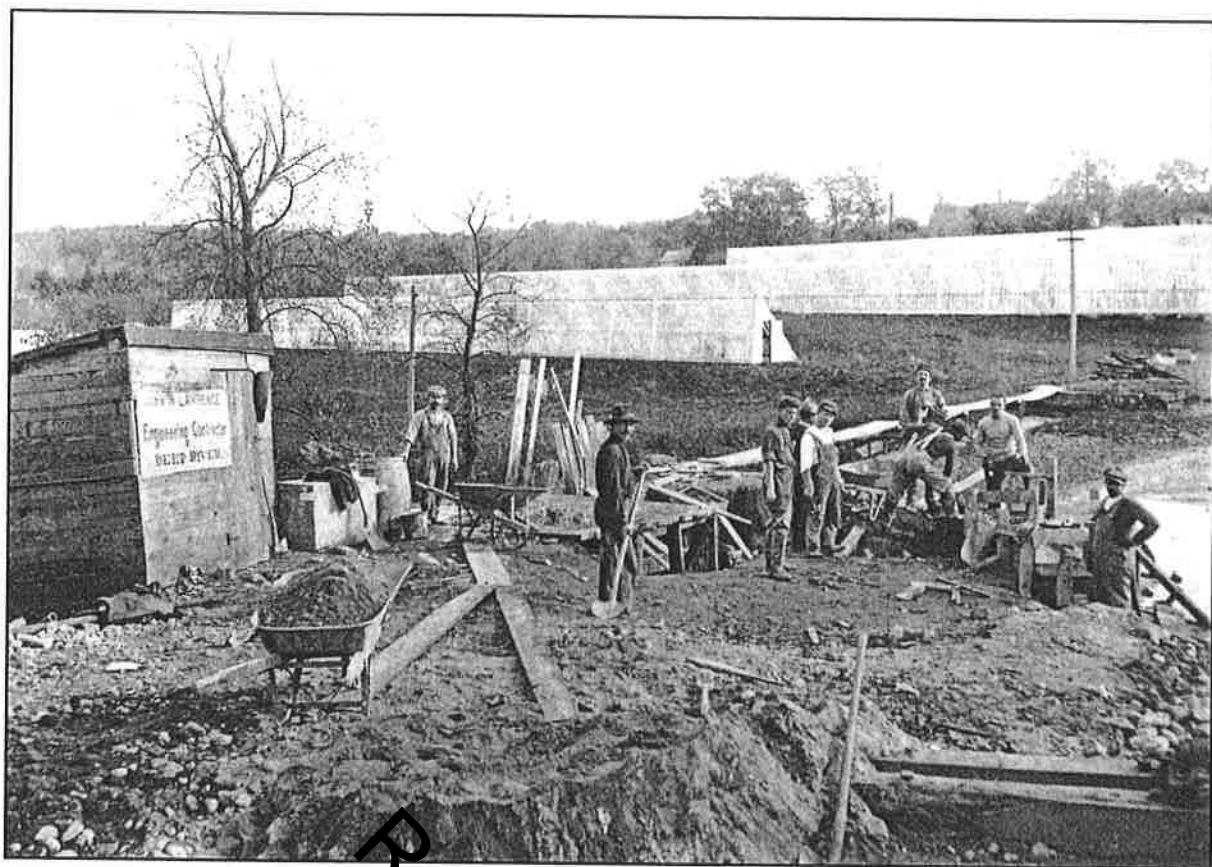


Figure 7. Building Dam at Lower Factory, ca. 1915—Note Bleach houses in background
(Deep River Historical Society)

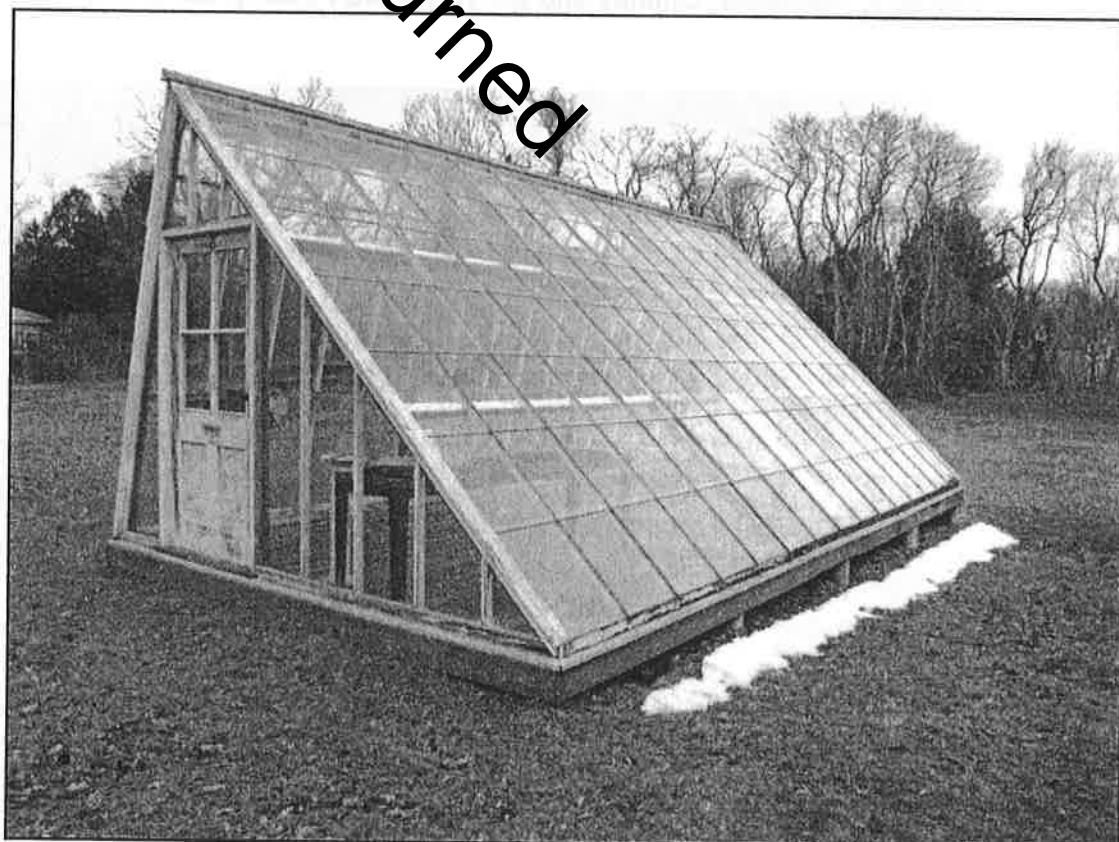


Figure 8. 14 Rehabilitated Bleach house at Deep River Historical Society
(Phillip S. Esser, January 21, 2013)

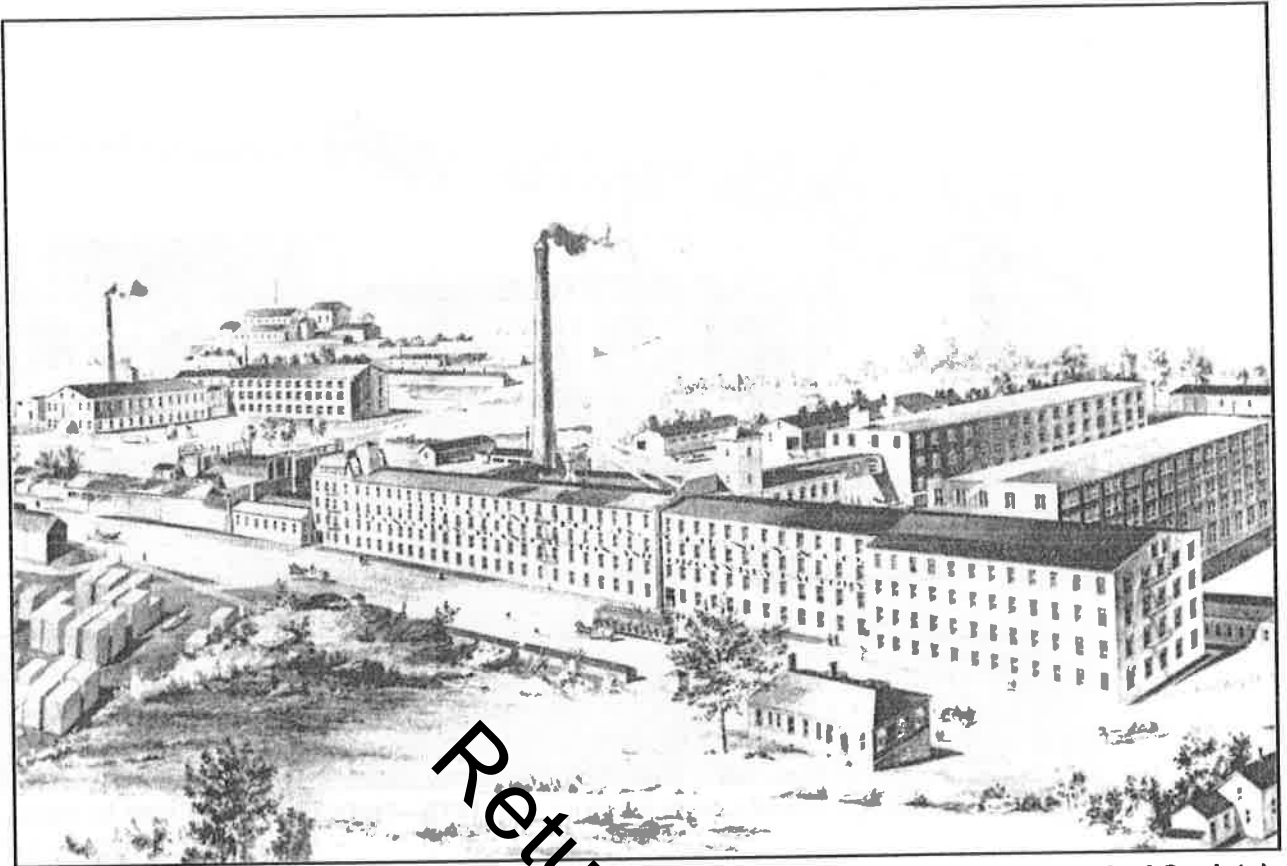


Figure 9. Comstock, Cheney and Co. Keyboard Factory, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)

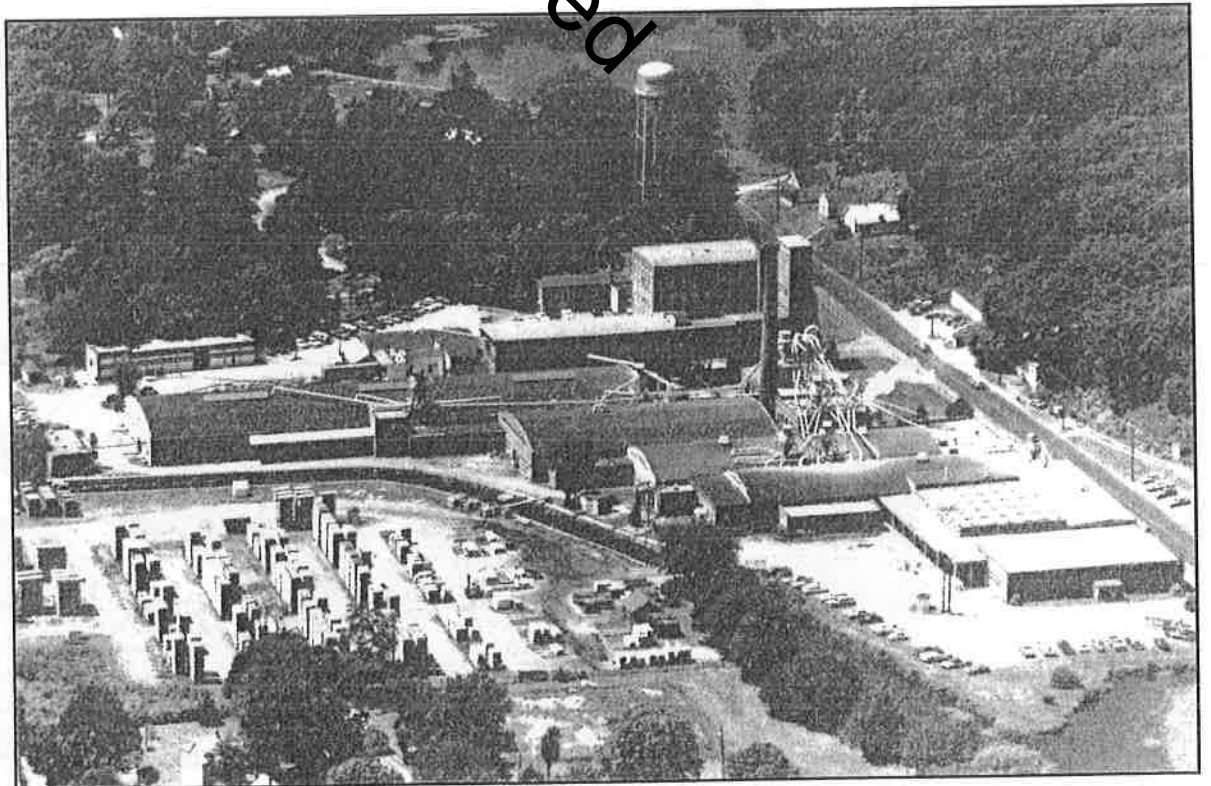


Figure 10. Former Comstock, Cheney and Co. Factory, ca. 1970 (Essex Historical Society)

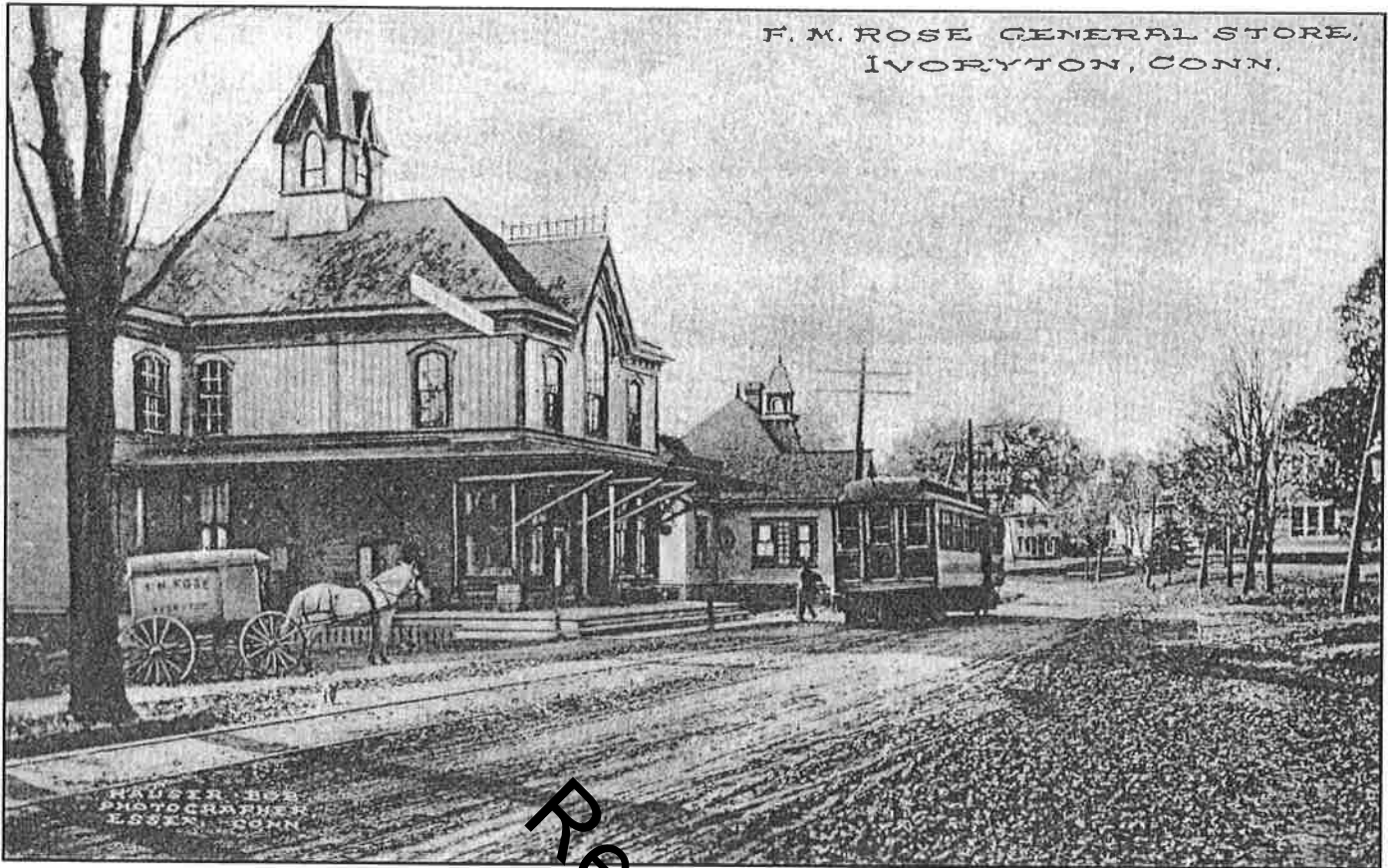


Figure 11. Village Center, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)

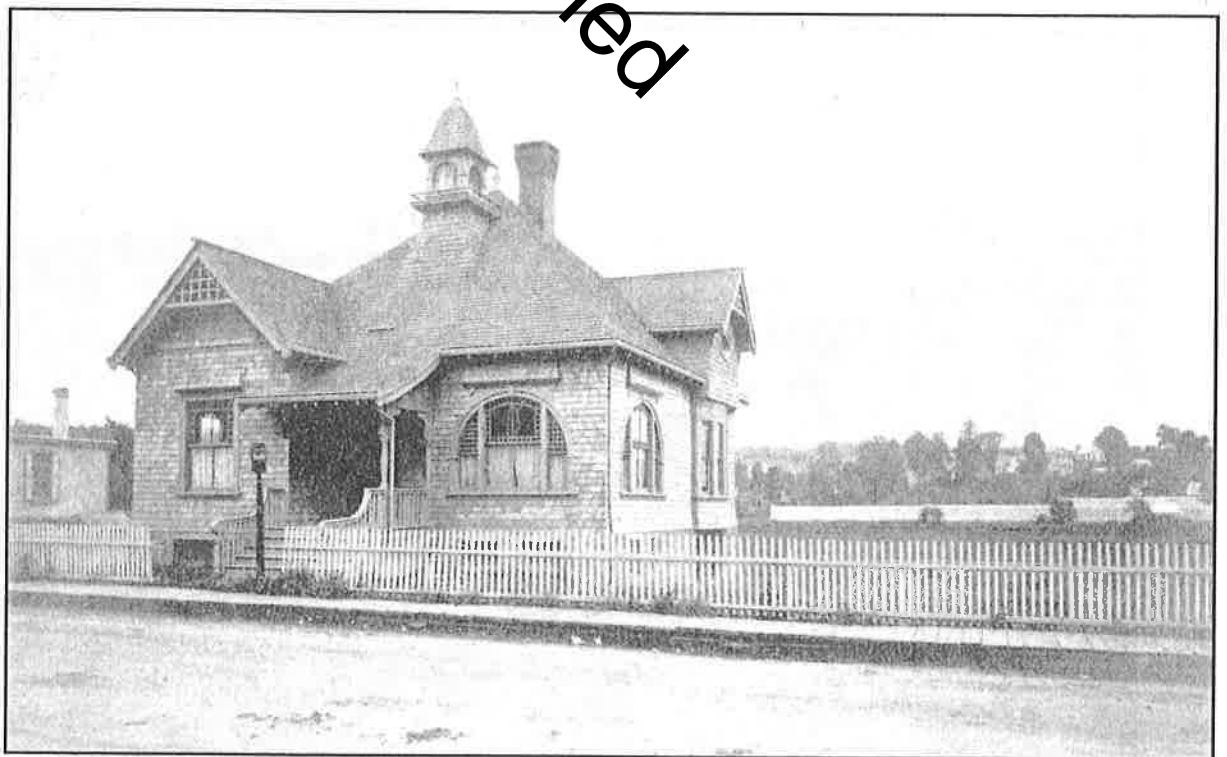


Figure 12. Ivoryton Library, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)

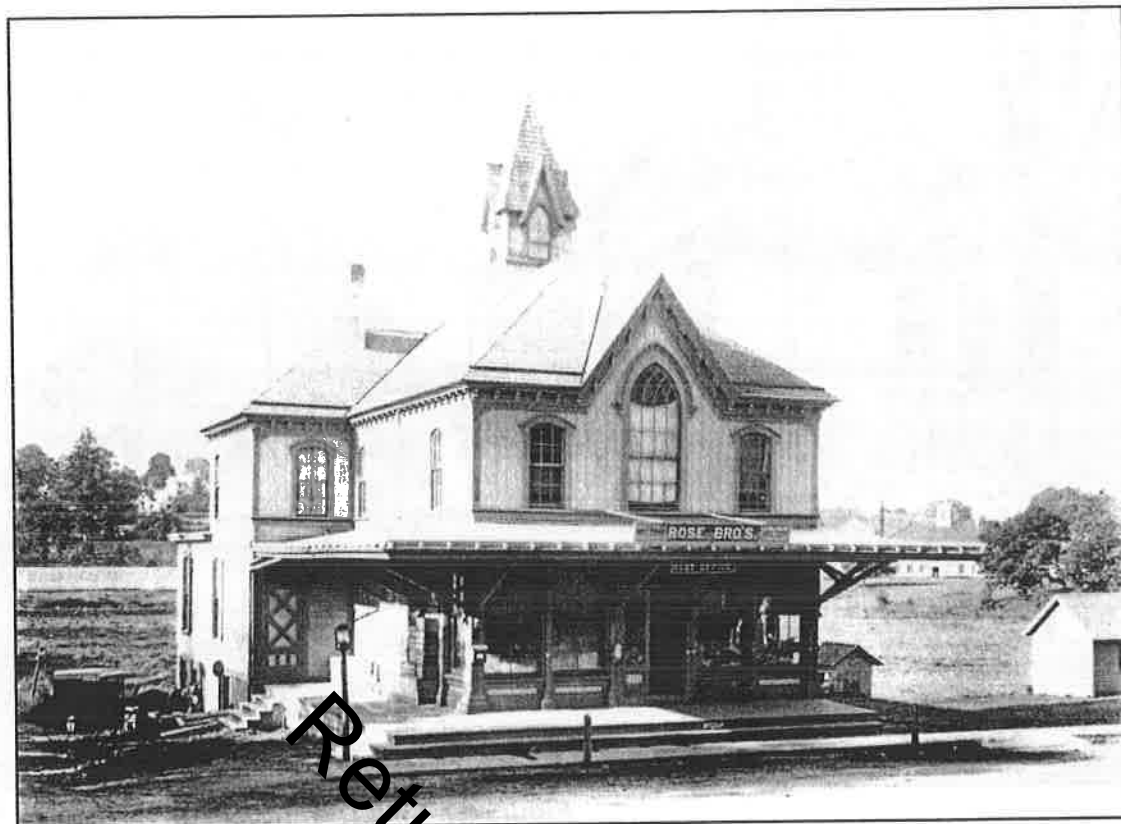


Figure 13. Former F.M. Rose Store, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)

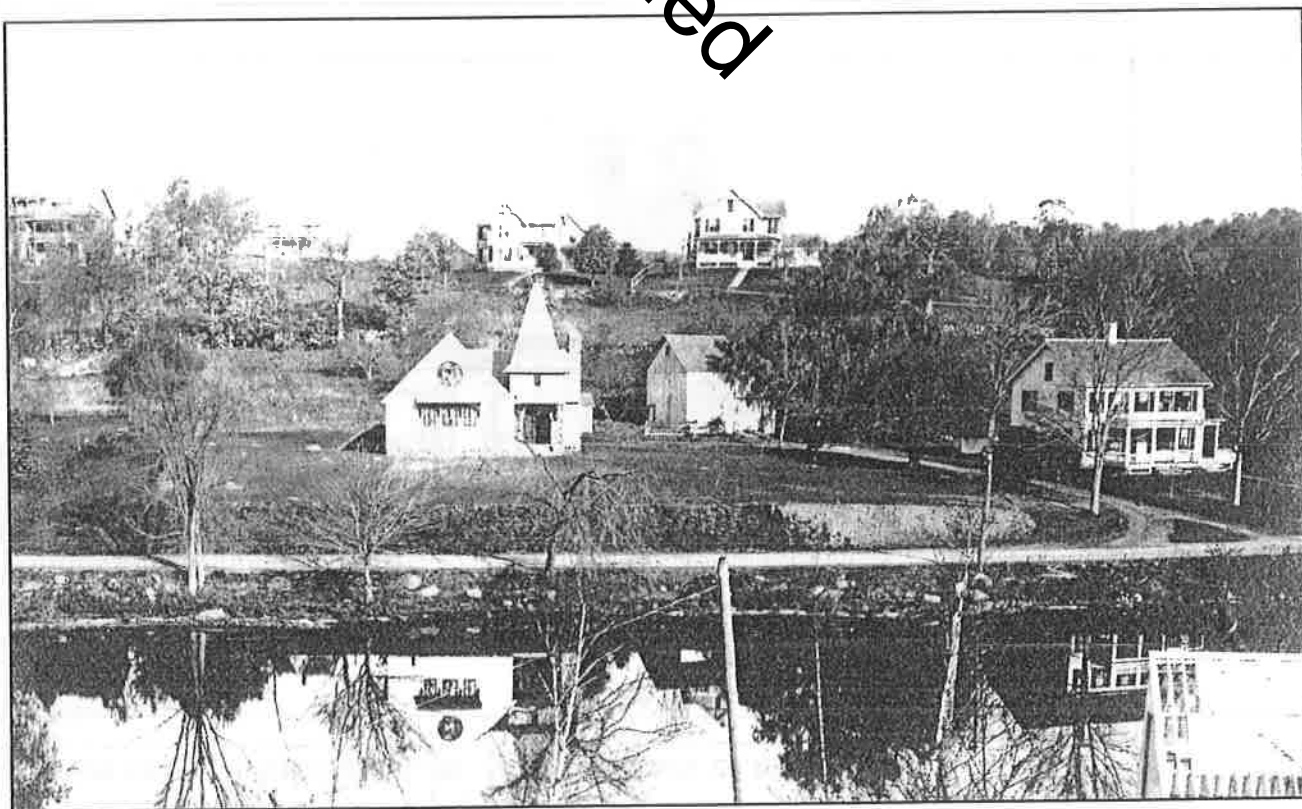


Figure 14. Main Street with view to Summit St. with Bleach House in foreground, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 15. Main Street, ca. 1900 (Ivoryton Library Association)

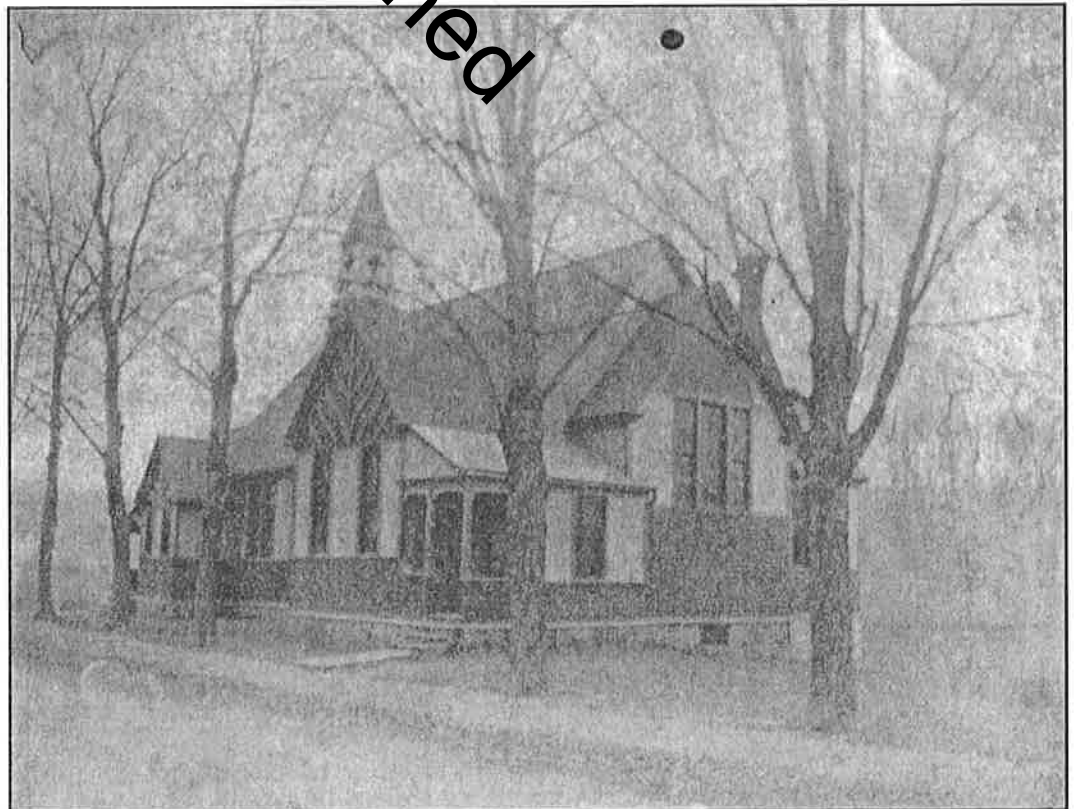


Figure 16. Congregational Church, ca. 1900 (Essex Historical Society)



Figure 17. Chestnut Street, ca. 1905 (Essex Historical Society)

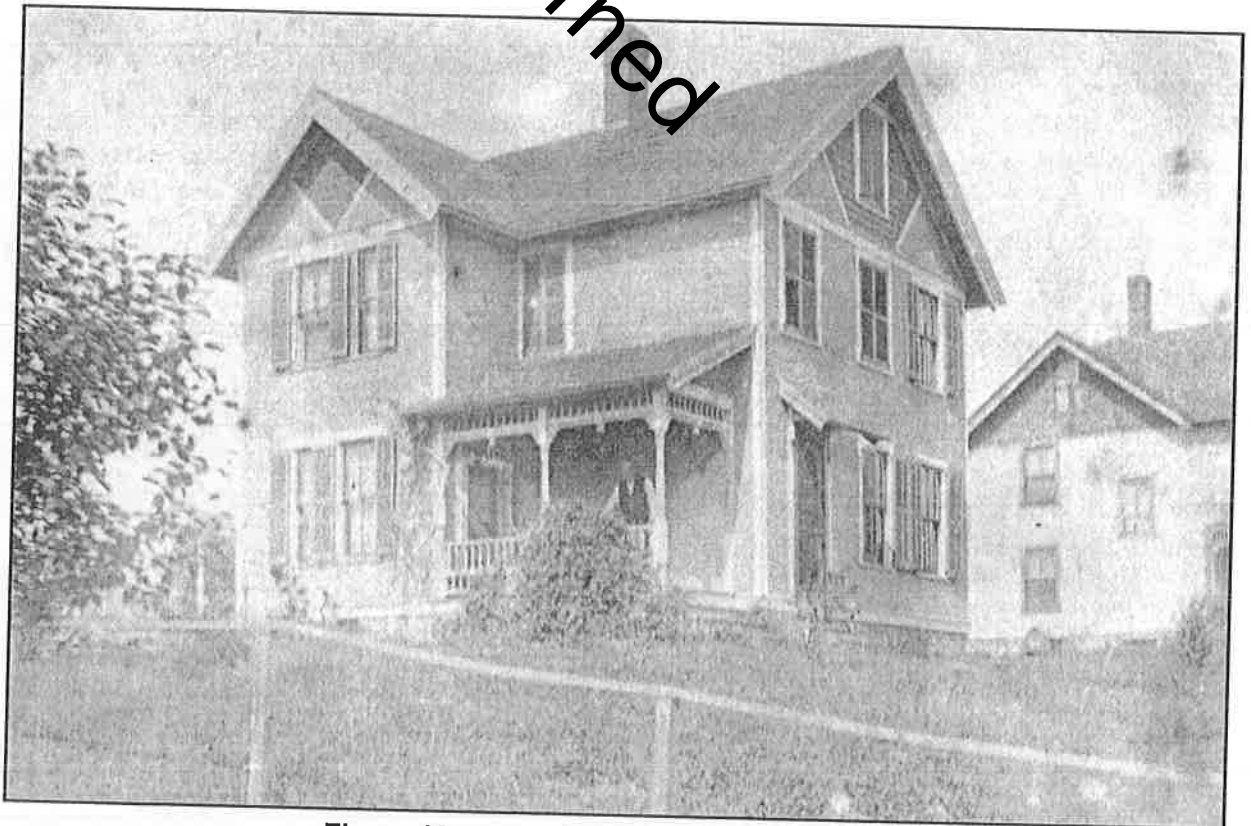


Figure 18. 18 Chestnut Street, ca. 1910 (Essex Historical Society)

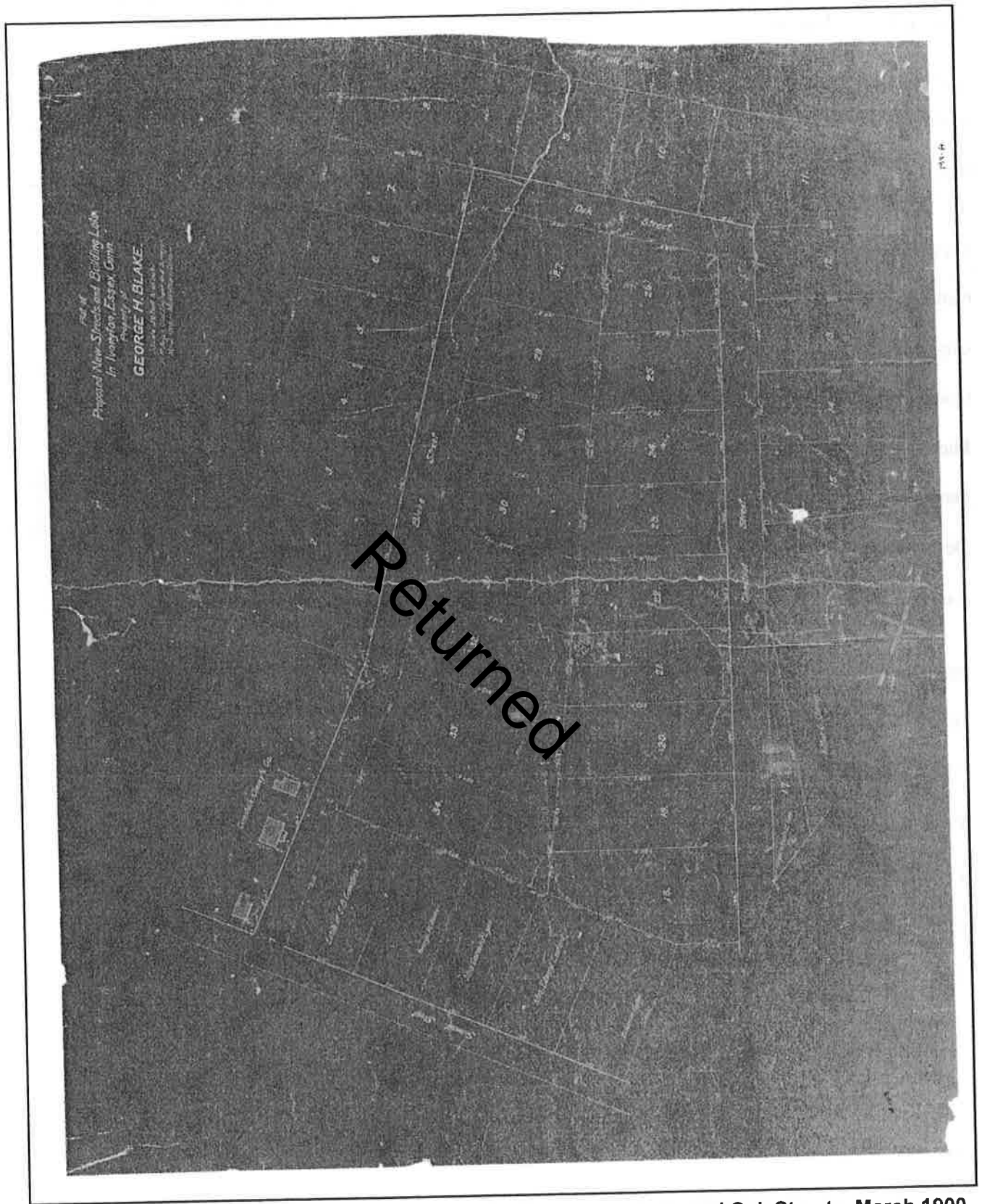


Figure 19. Subdivision Map for Blake, Chestnut, and Oak Streets, March 1900
(Map #199-A, Courtesy Essex Town Clerk)

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PHOTOGRAPHS (Continued)

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Main Street center; center of Ivoryton – view to southeast.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Ivoryton Library – view to southwest.

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Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former F. M. Rose General Store – view to southwest.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 2

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Lower Factory – view to southeast.

5 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southeast.

6 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southeast.

7 of 46.

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 3

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Former Comstock, Cheney & Co. Upper Factory – view to southwest.

8 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Main Street context; east end of village – view to west.

9 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 10 Main Street – view to southeast.

10 of 46.

Returned

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

Ivoryton Historic District

Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 12 Page 4

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: Main Street context – view to southwest.

11 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 25 Main Street – view to north.

12 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 35 Main Street – view to northwest.

13 of 46.

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District

Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 5

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 43 Main Street – view to northwest.

14 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: January 23, 2013

Description of Photograph: 46 Main Street – view to southeast.

15 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 57 Main Street – view to east.

16 of 46.

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 6

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 81 & 83 Main Street – view to northeast.

17 of 46.

Returned

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 84 Main Street – view to south.

18 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 109 Main Street – view to northwest.

19 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 7

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 115 Main Street – view to northeast.

20 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 116 Main Street – view to east.

21 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 129 Main Street – view to northwest.

22 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

Returned

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

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 12 Page 8

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 141 Main Street – view to northeast.

23 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 171 - 175 Main Street – view to northwest.

24 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 6 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

25 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 9

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 8 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

26 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 28 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

27 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 31 Comstock Avenue – view to northwest.

28 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District

Name of Property

Middlesex, Connecticut

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 10

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 36 Comstock Avenue – view to southeast.

29 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 51 Comstock Avenue – view to northeast.

30 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 62 Comstock Avenue – view to southwest.

31 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 11

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 69 Comstock Avenue – view to northwest.

32 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 5 Terrace Lane – view to northeast.

33 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 10 Walnut Street – view to southeast.

34 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District

Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 12

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 16 - 18 Walnut Street – view to southwest.

35 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 49 Walnut Street – view to northeast.

36 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: North Main Street context – view to northwest.

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Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 13

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 16 North Main Street – view to south.

38 of 46.

Returned

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Town Park – view to southwest.

39 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 12 Summit Street – view to northwest.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 12 Page 14

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 13 & 15 Summit Street – view to north.

41 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 18 Summit Street – view to south.

42 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Summit Street context – view to northeast.

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Returned

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ivoryton Historic District
Name of Property
Middlesex, Connecticut
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 12 Page 15

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: 22 Chestnut Street – view to southwest.

44 of 46.

Returned

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

Description of Photograph: Blake Street context – view to northwest.

45 of 46.

Name of Property: Ivoryton Historic District

City or Vicinity: Essex

County: Middlesex

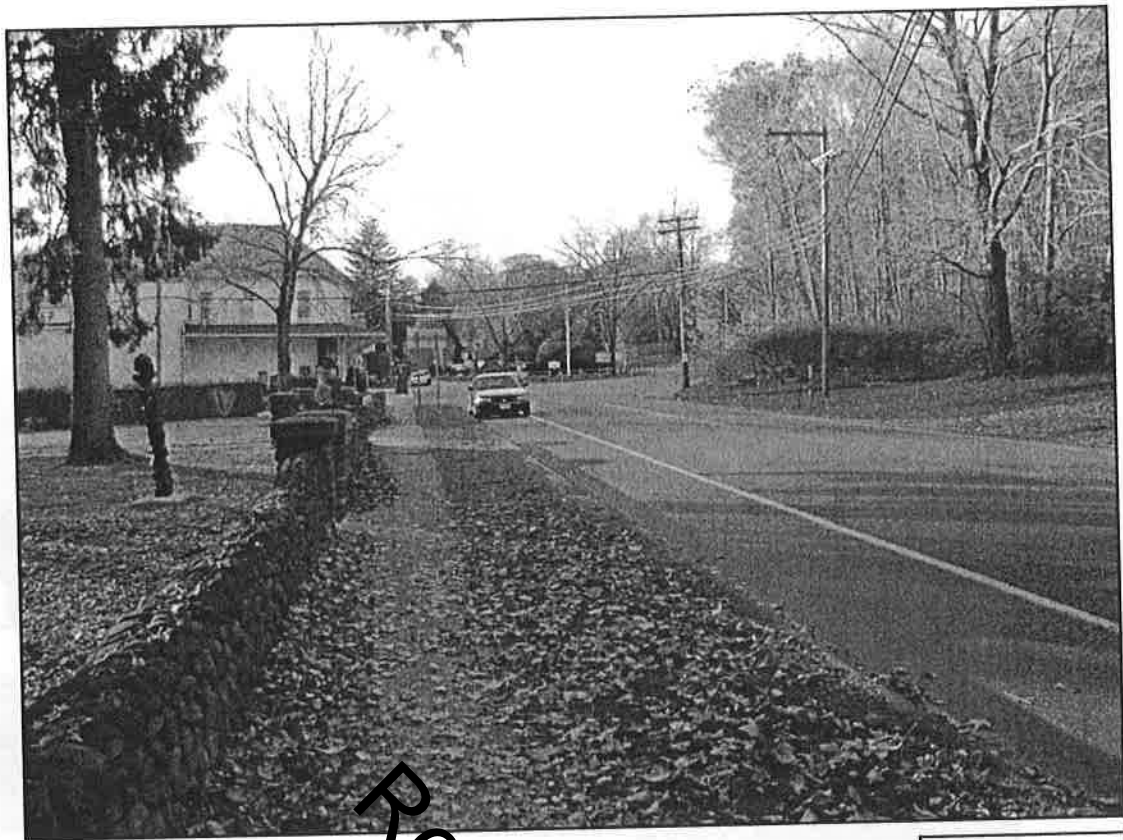
State: Connecticut

Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

Date Photographed: November 14, 2010

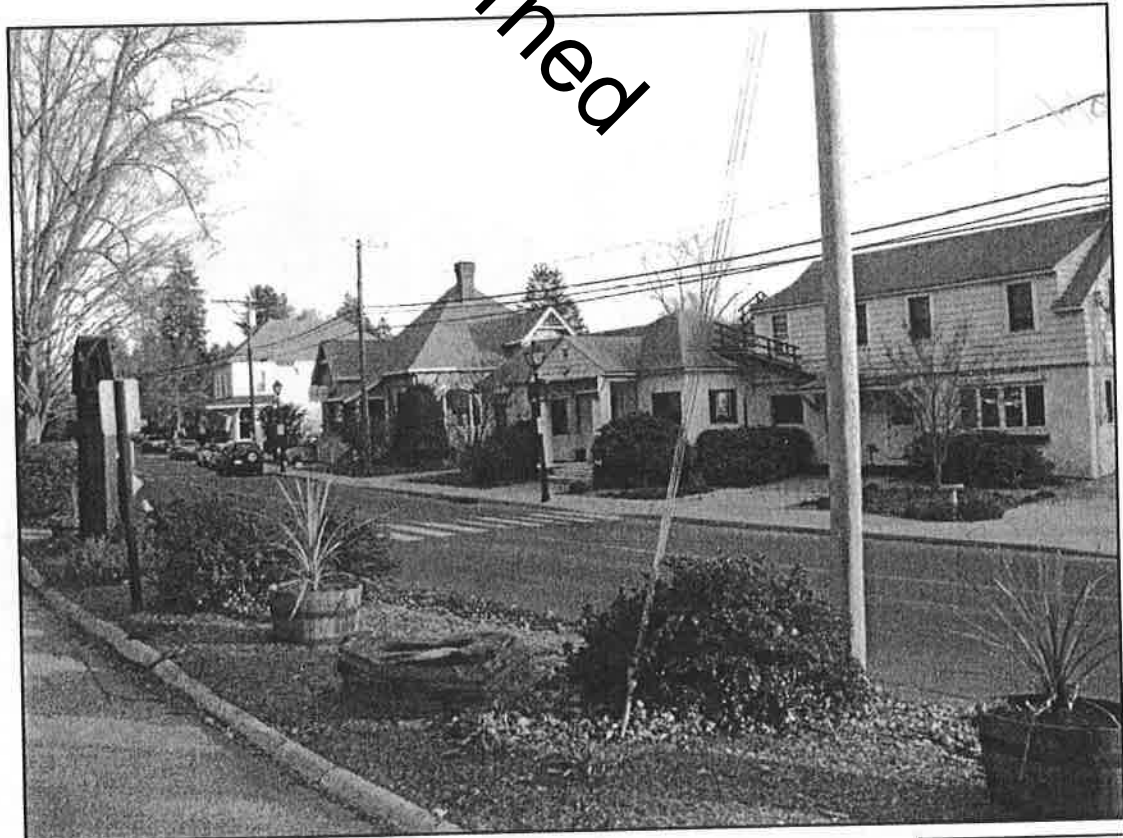
Description of Photograph: 19 Blake Street – view to east.

46 of 46.

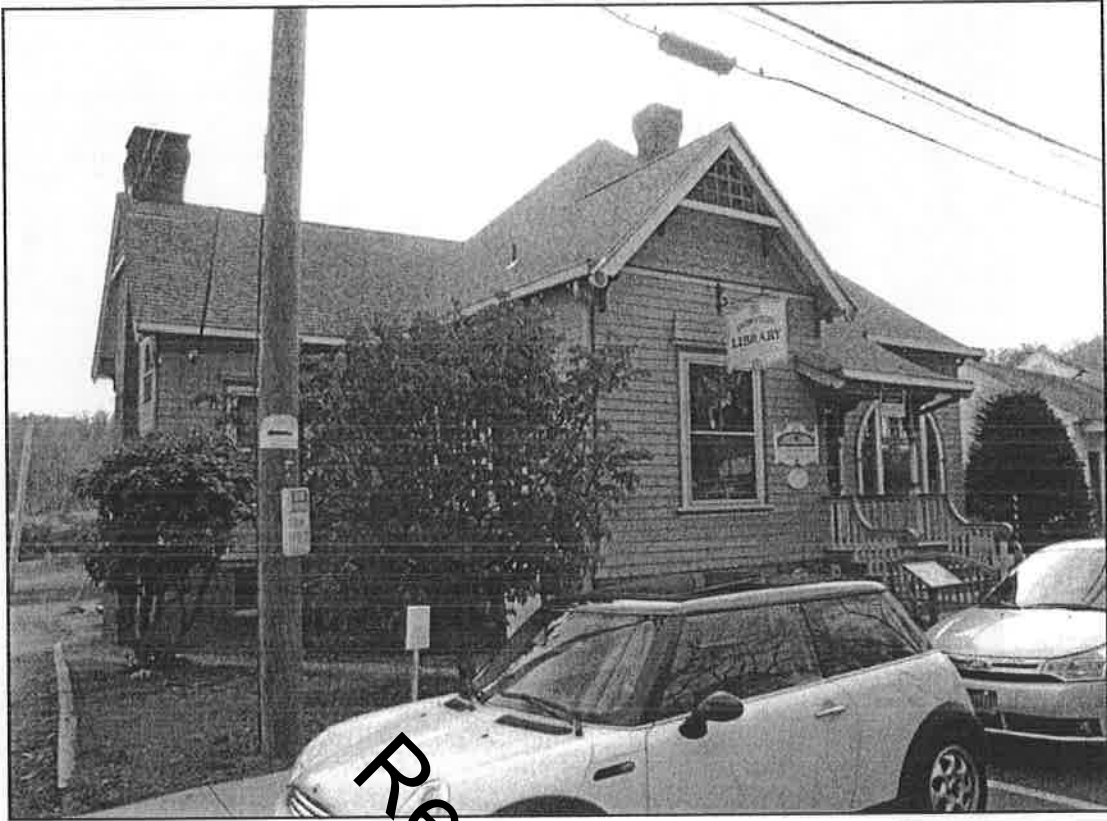


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2 of 46

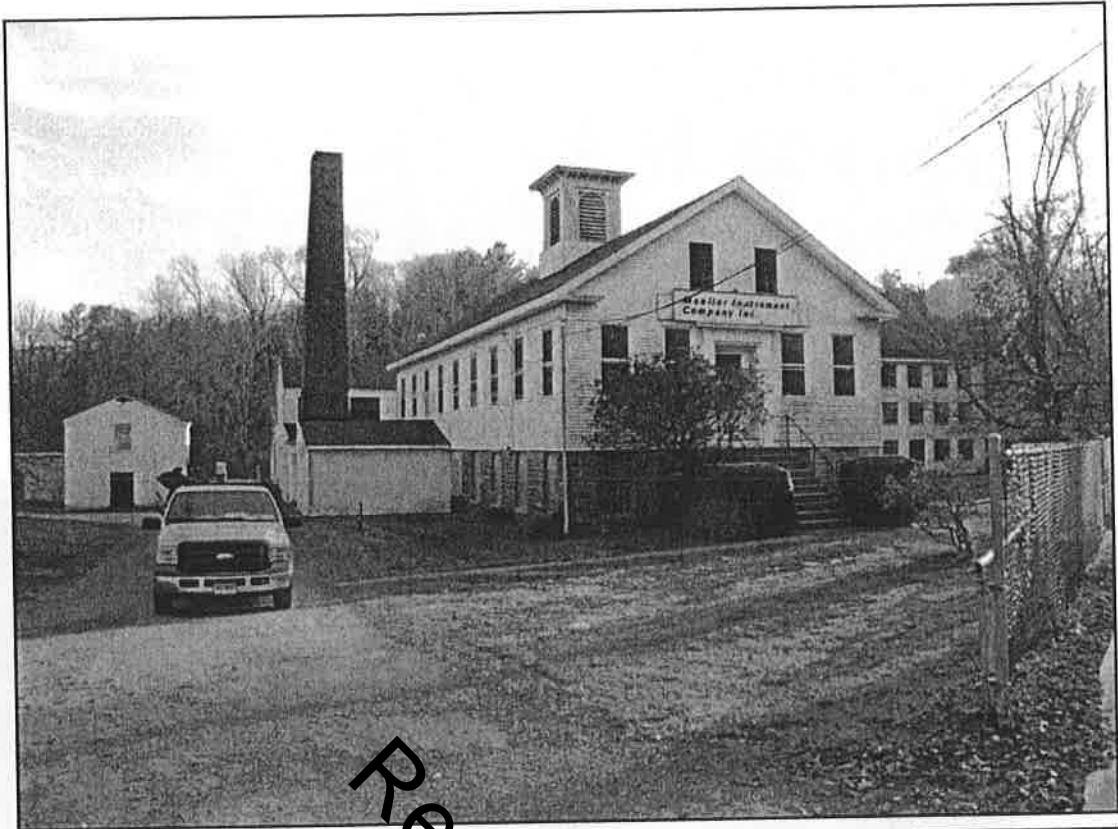


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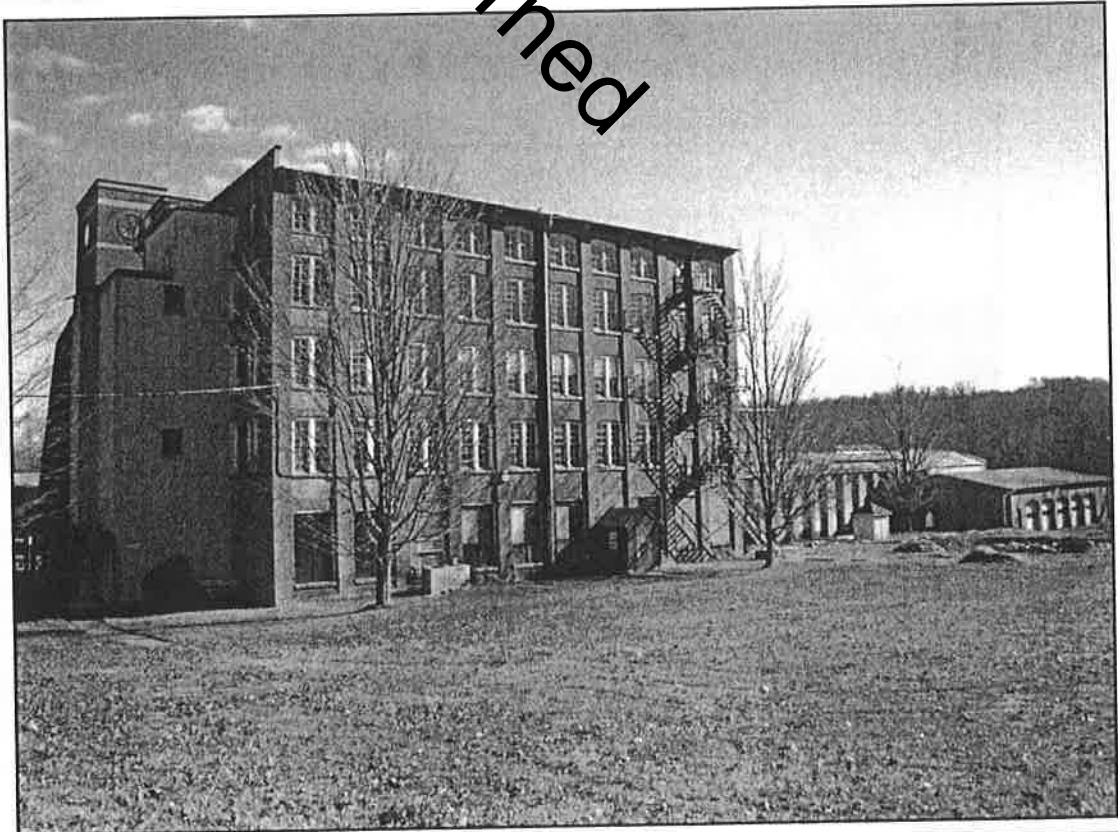


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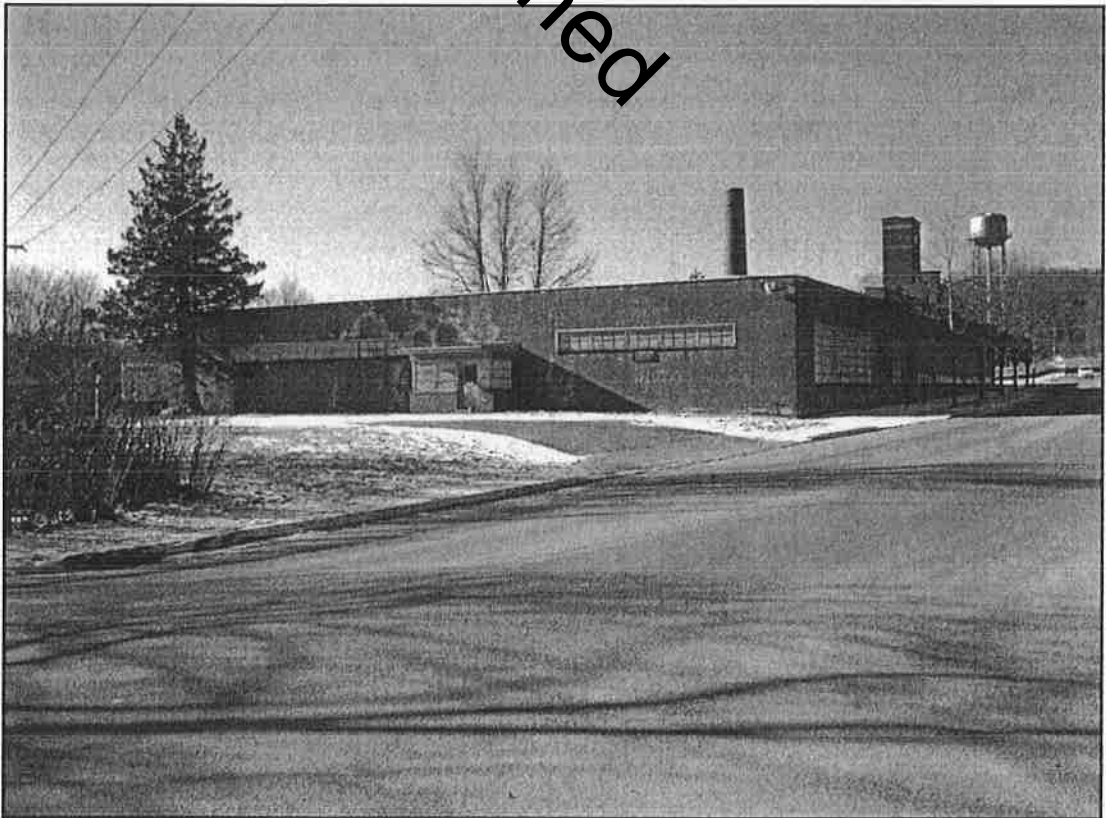
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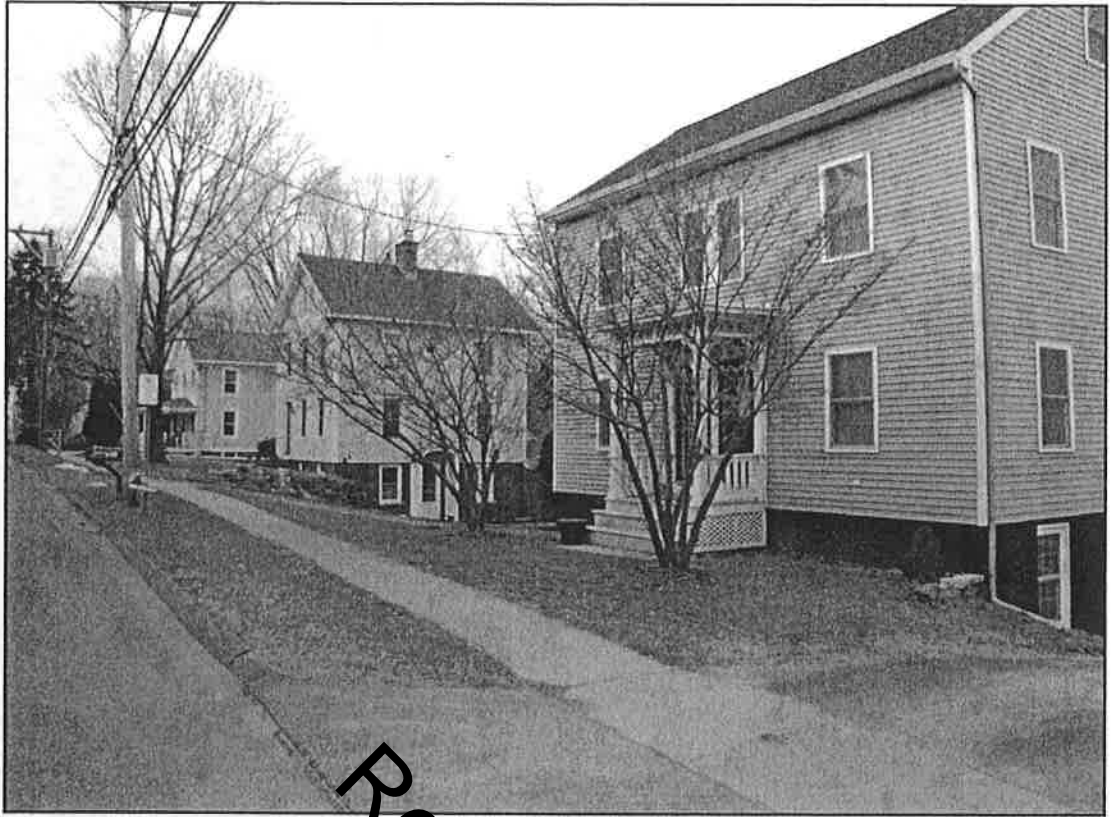
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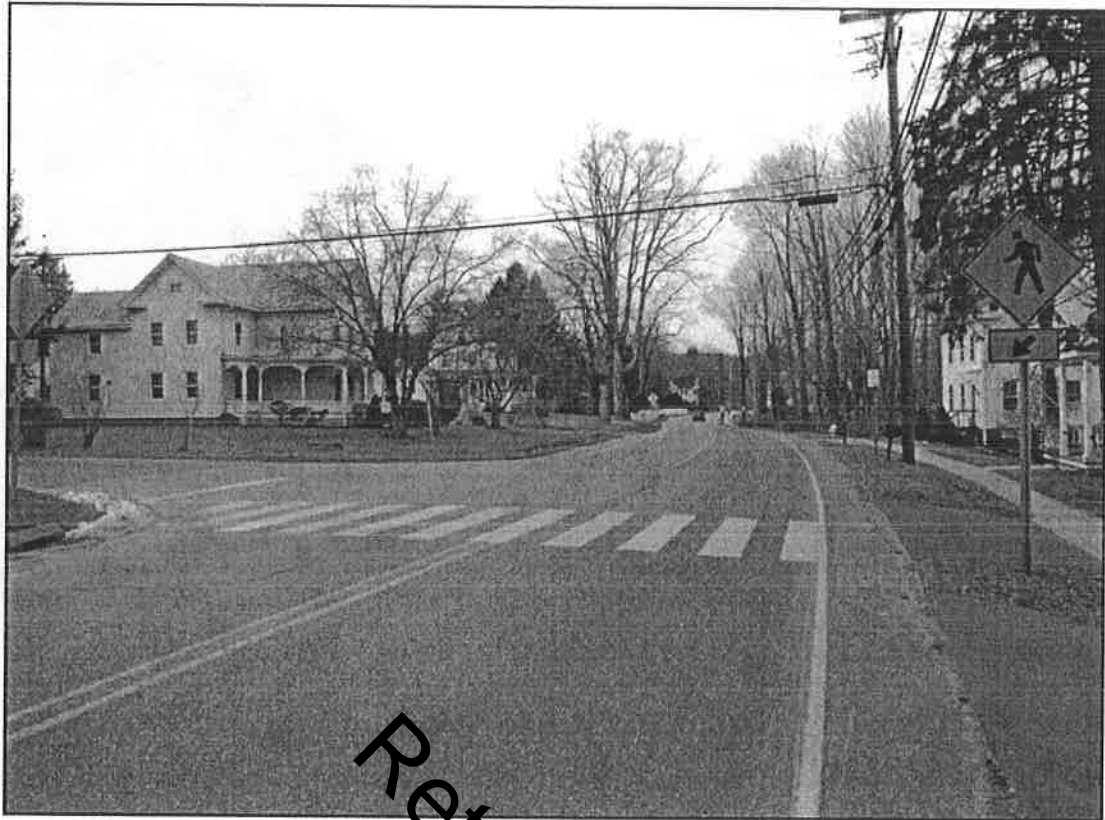
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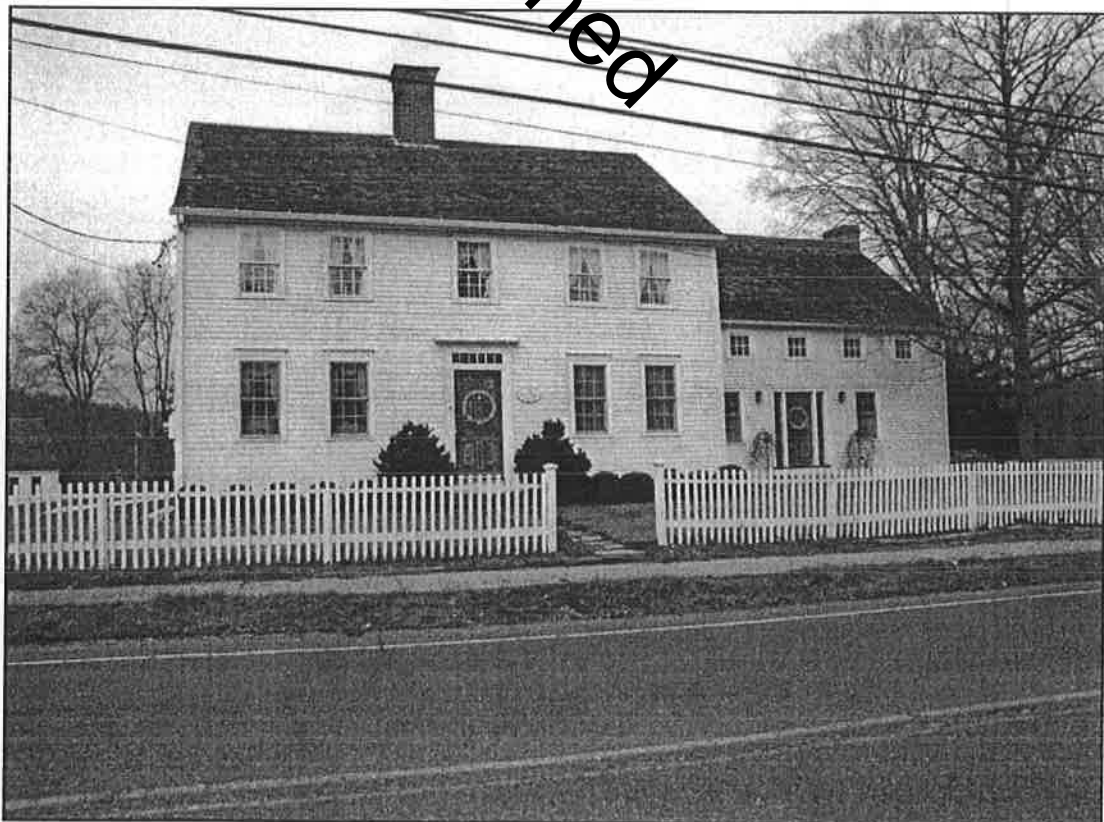
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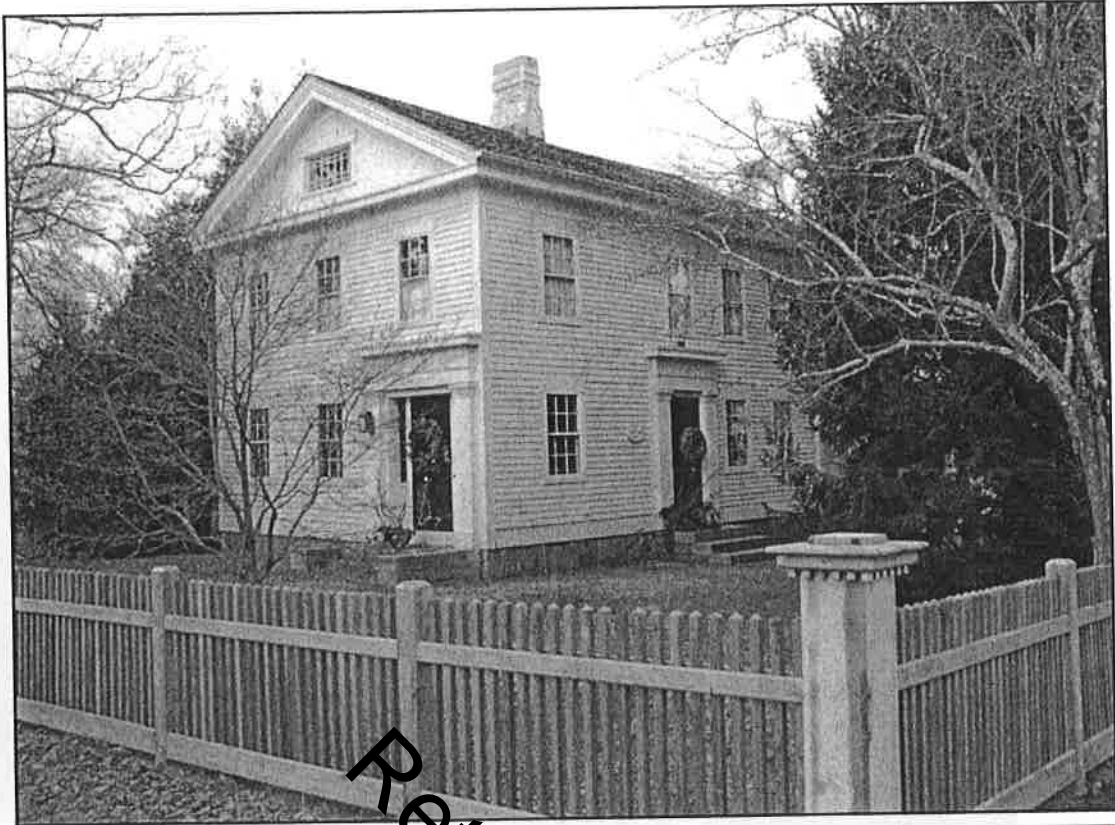
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11 of 46



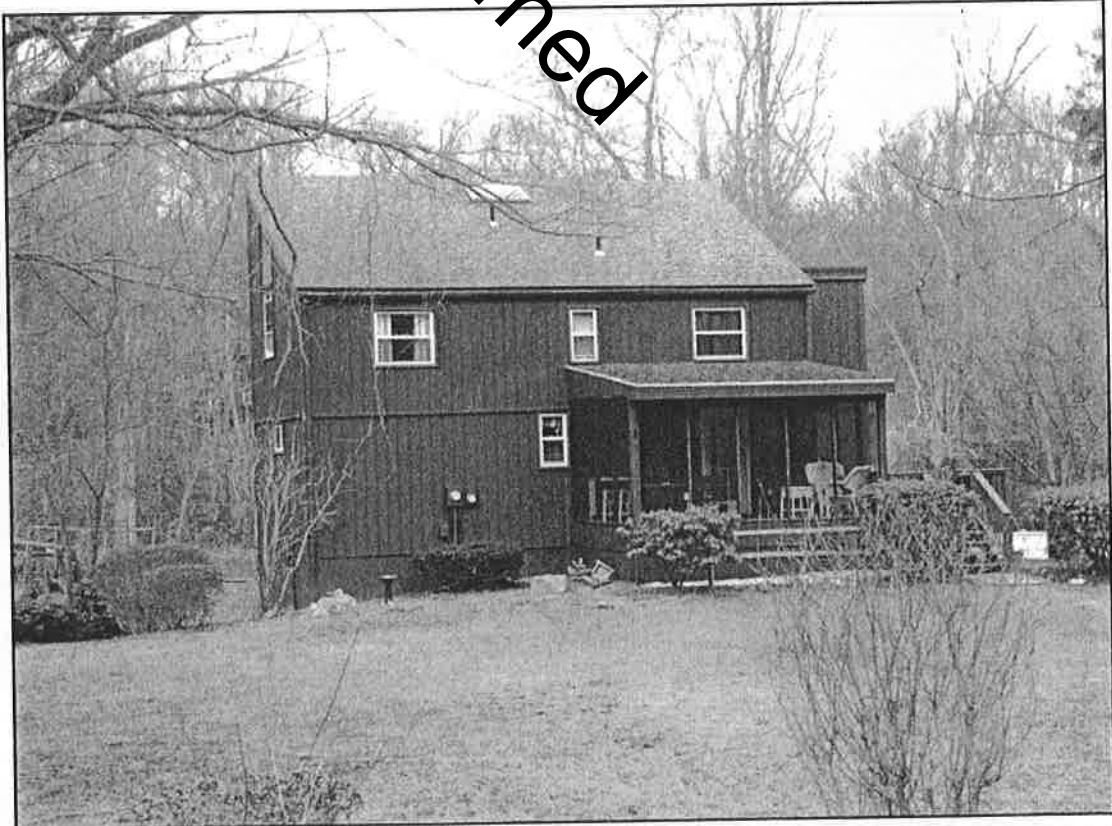
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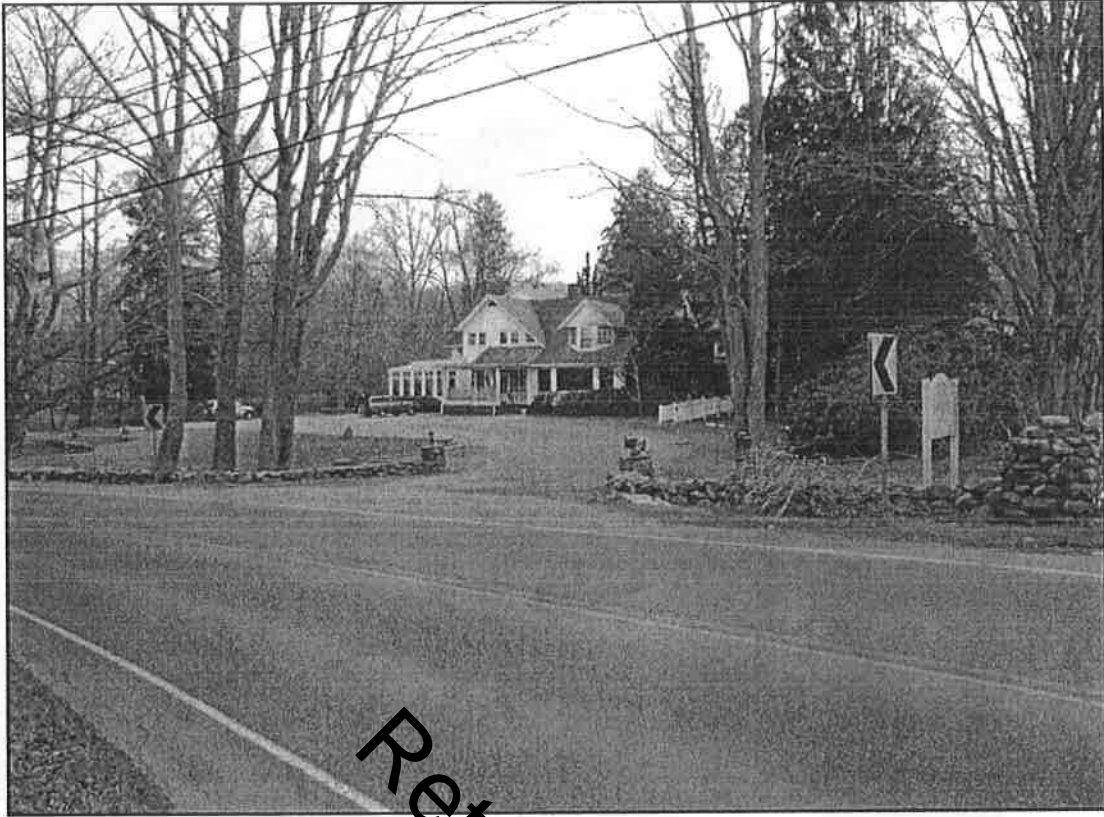
13 of 46

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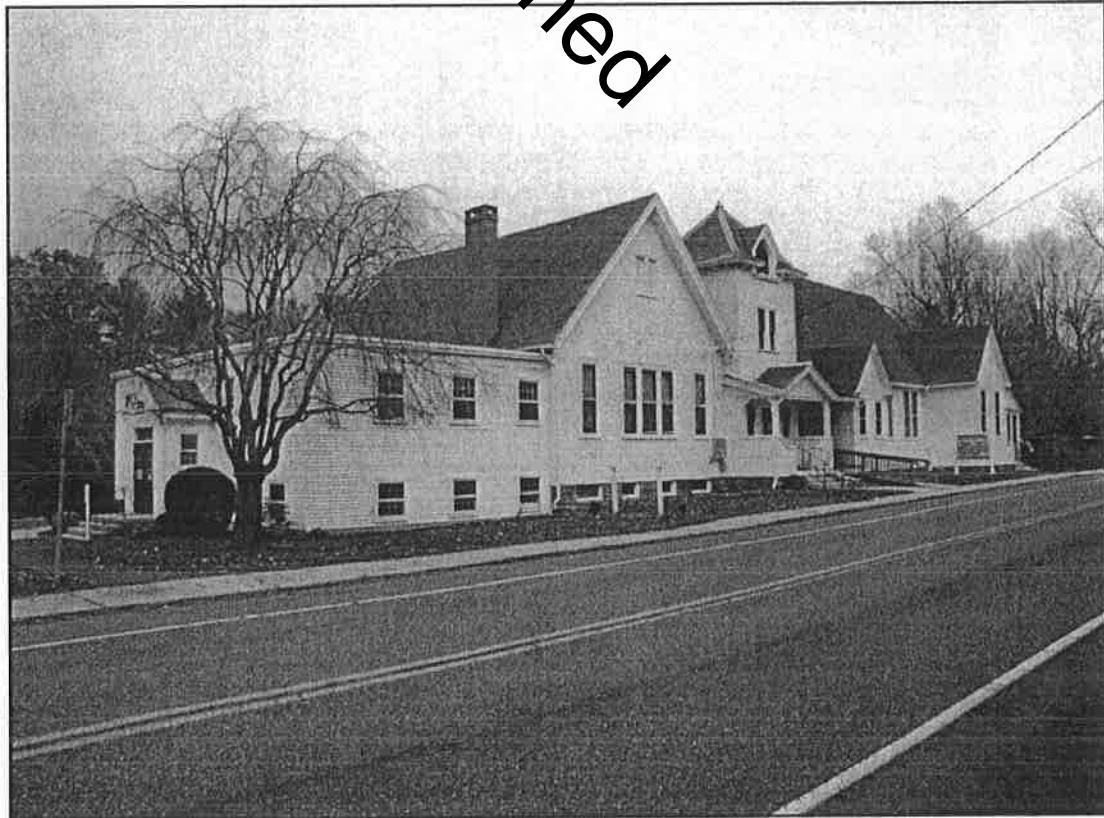
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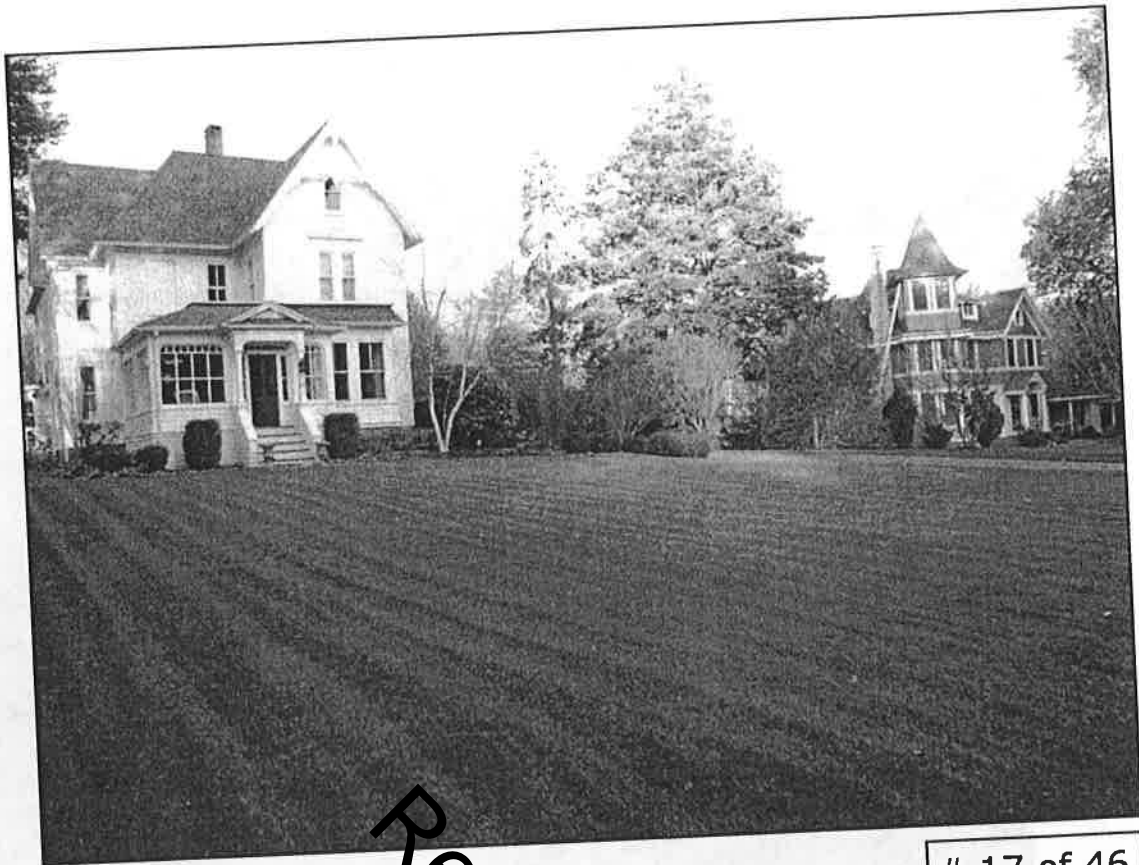
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15 of 46



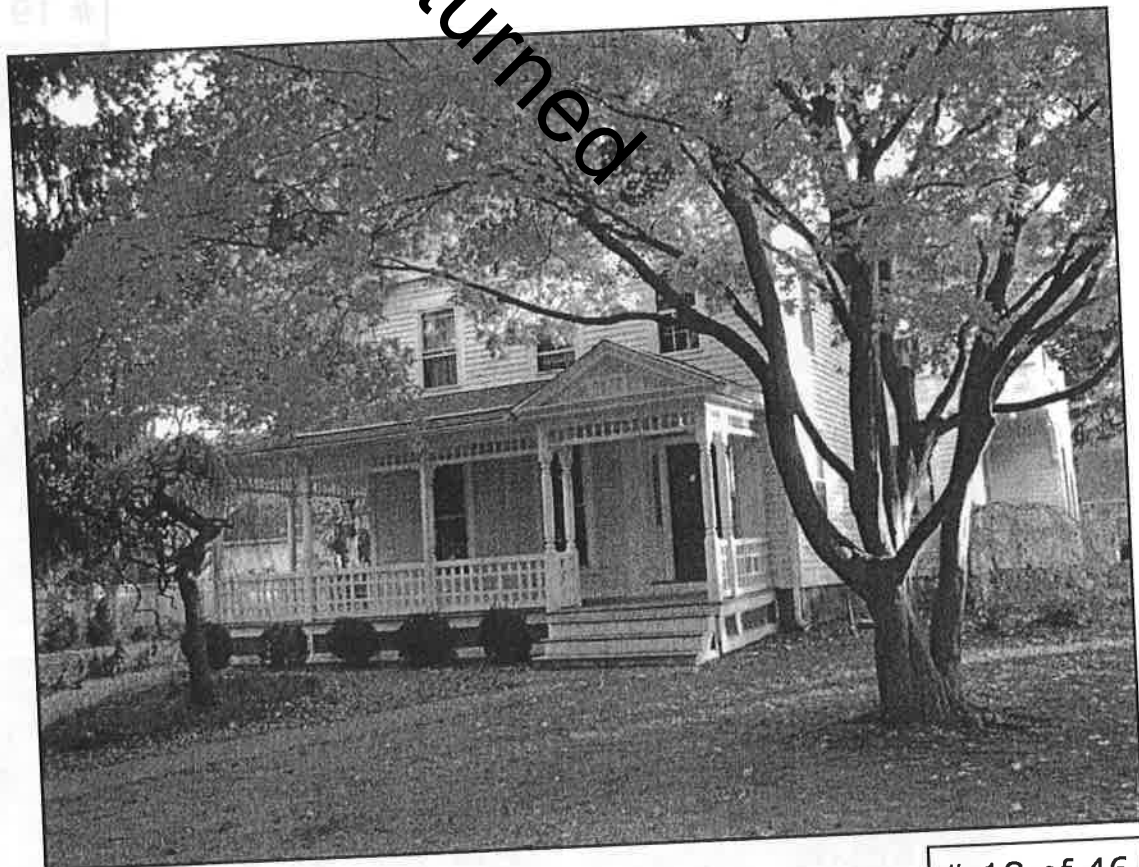
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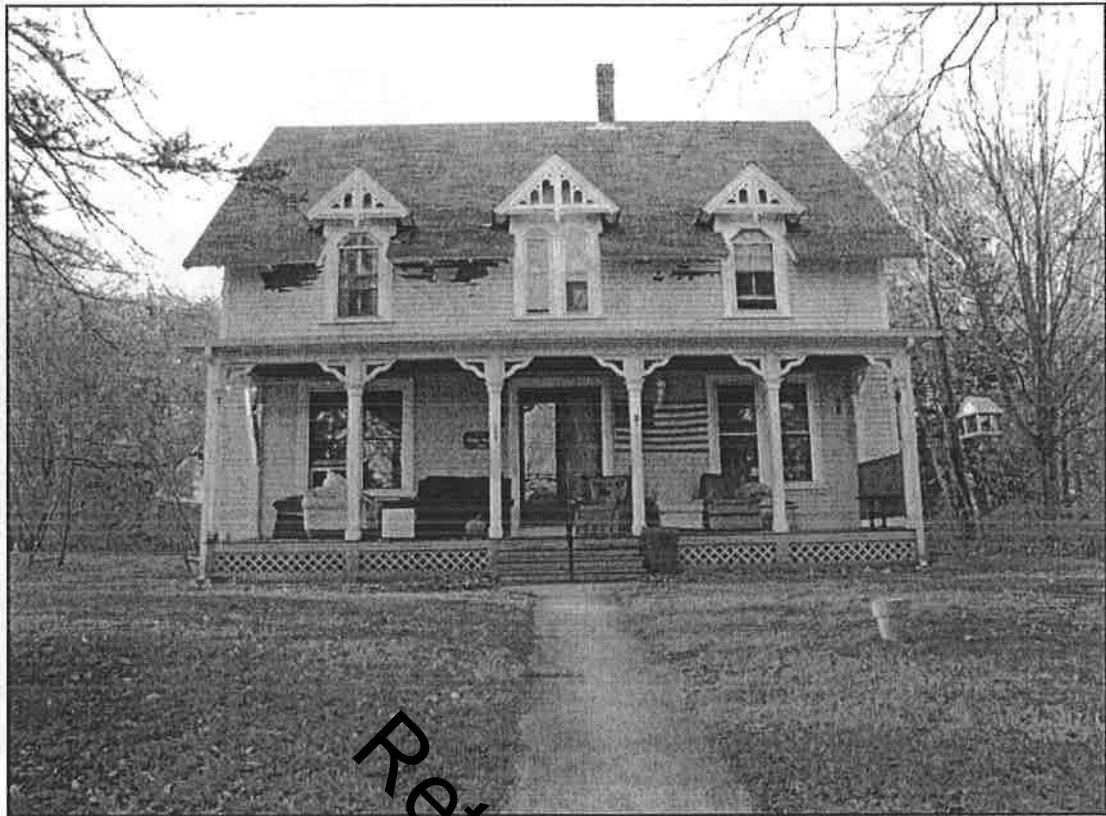
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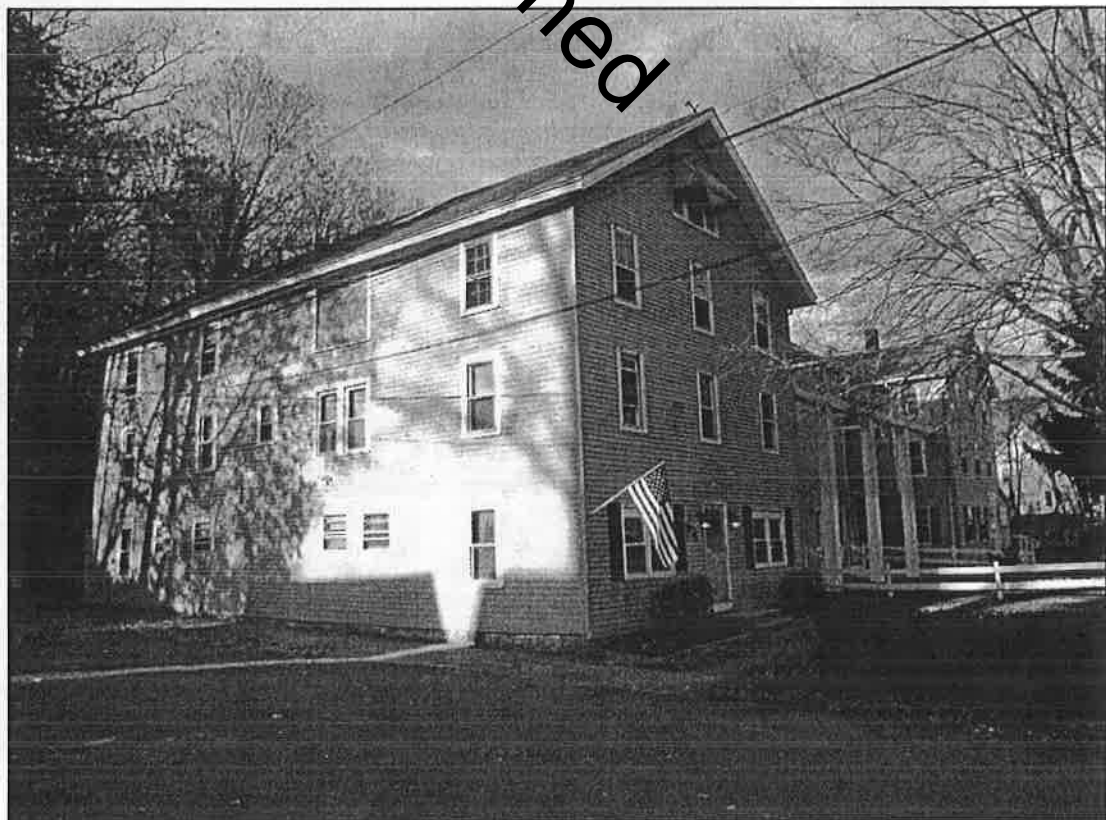
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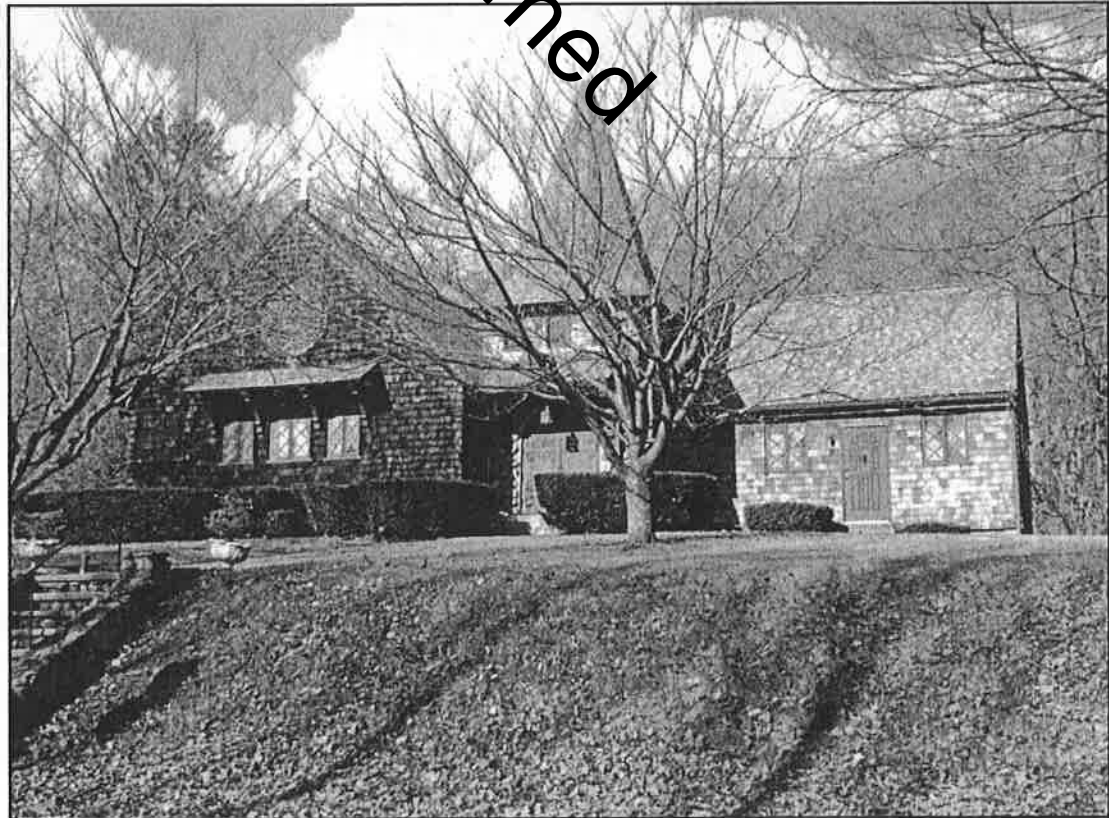
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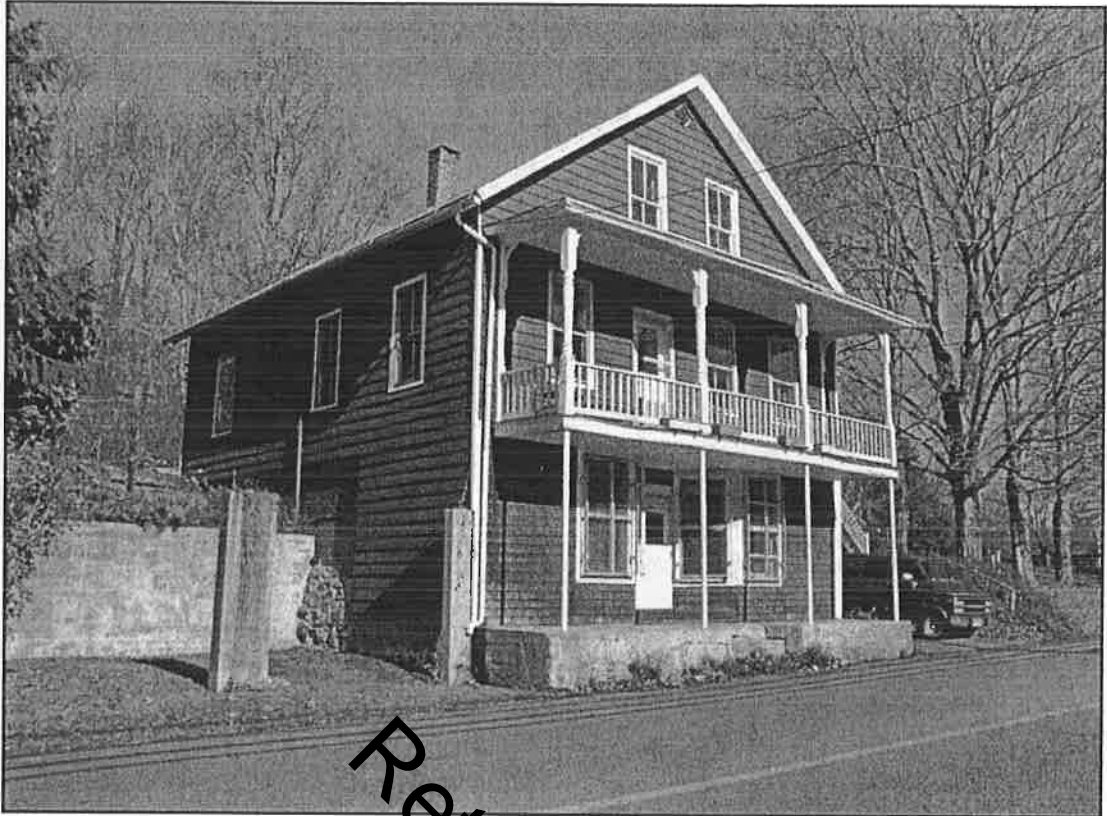
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21 of 46

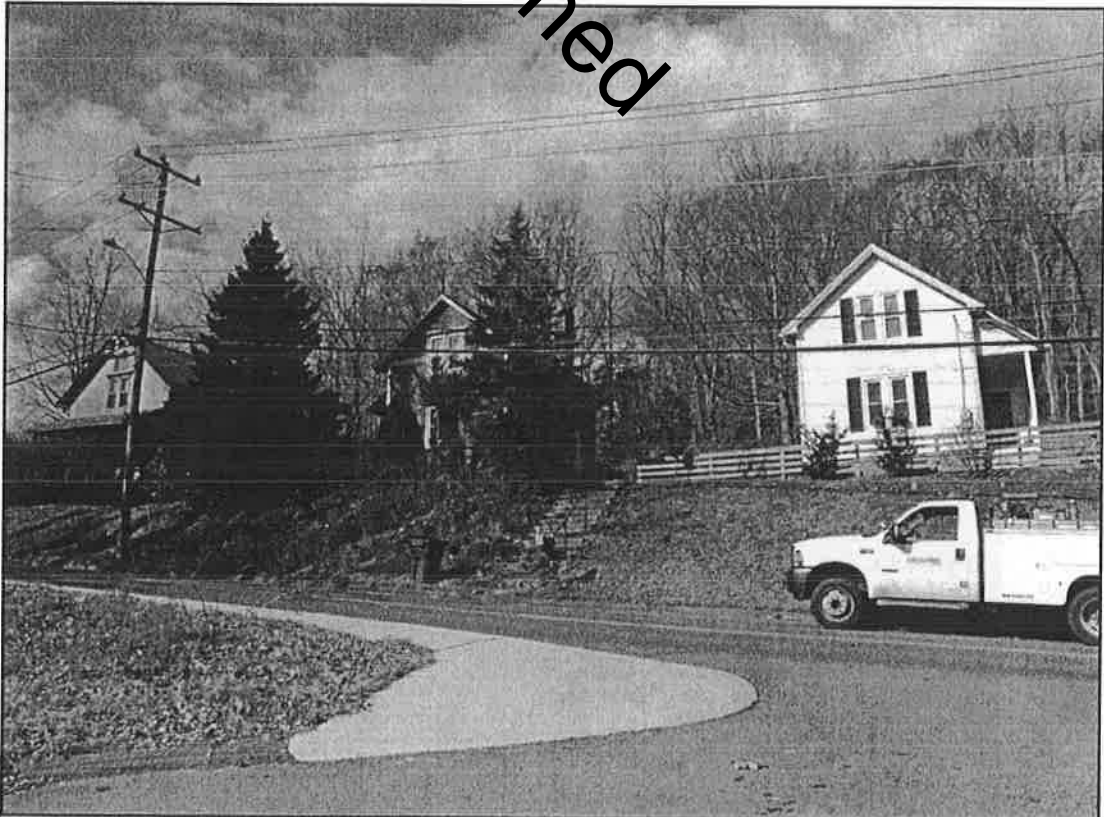
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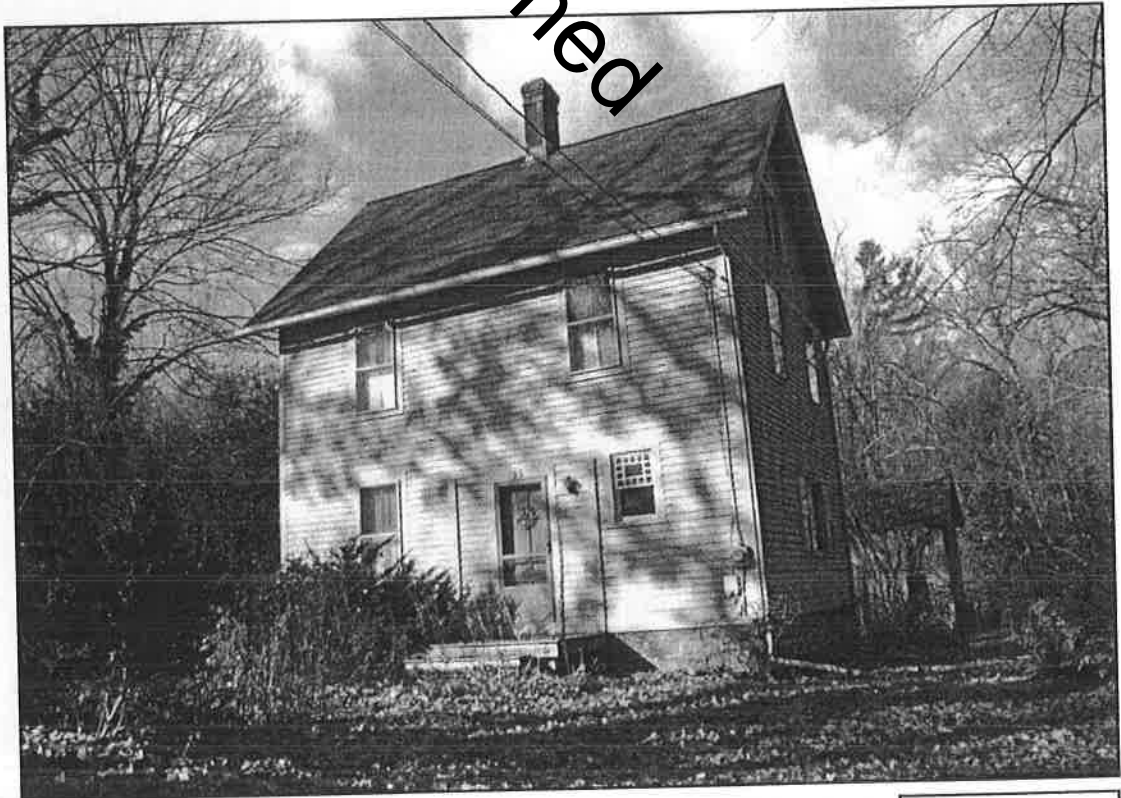


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27 of 46

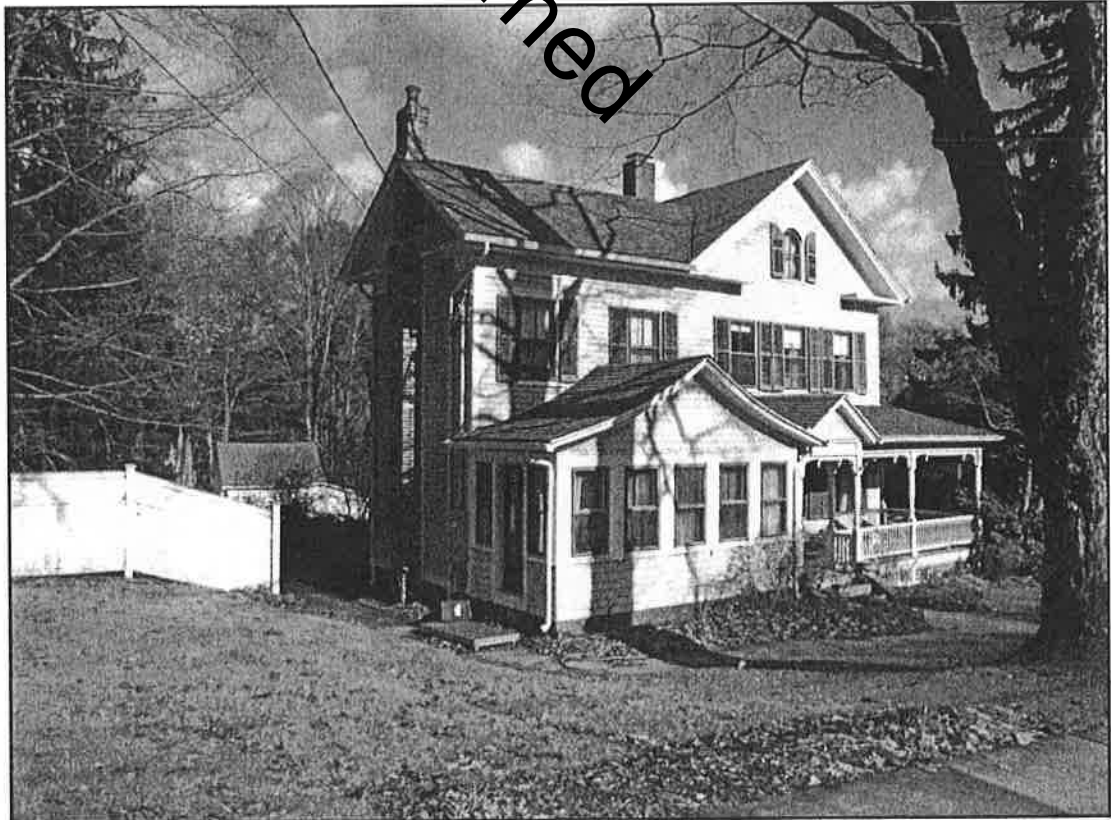
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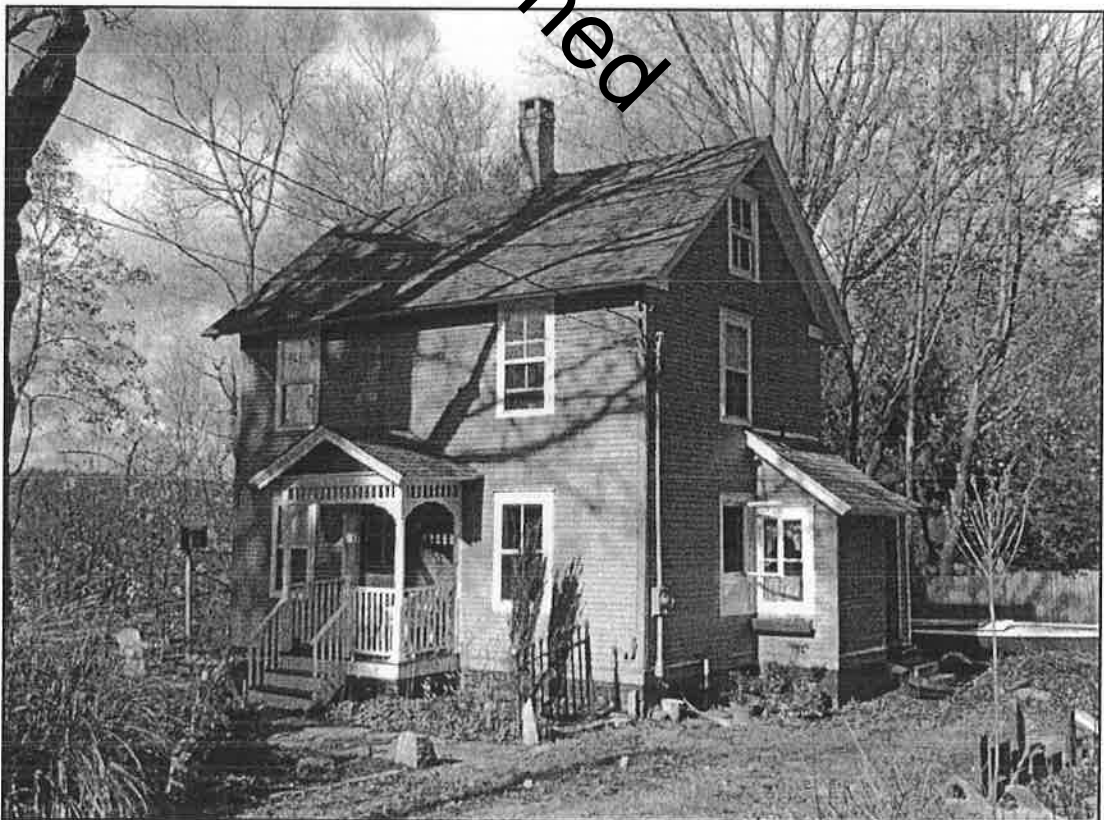
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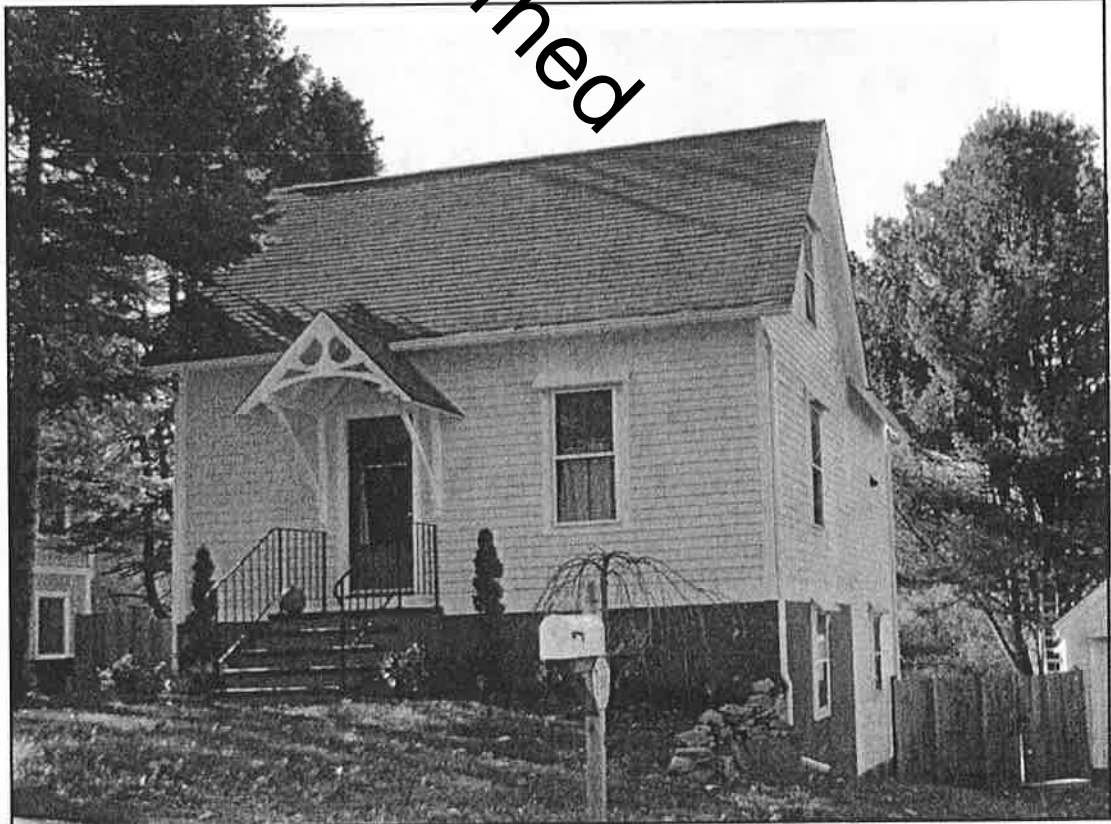
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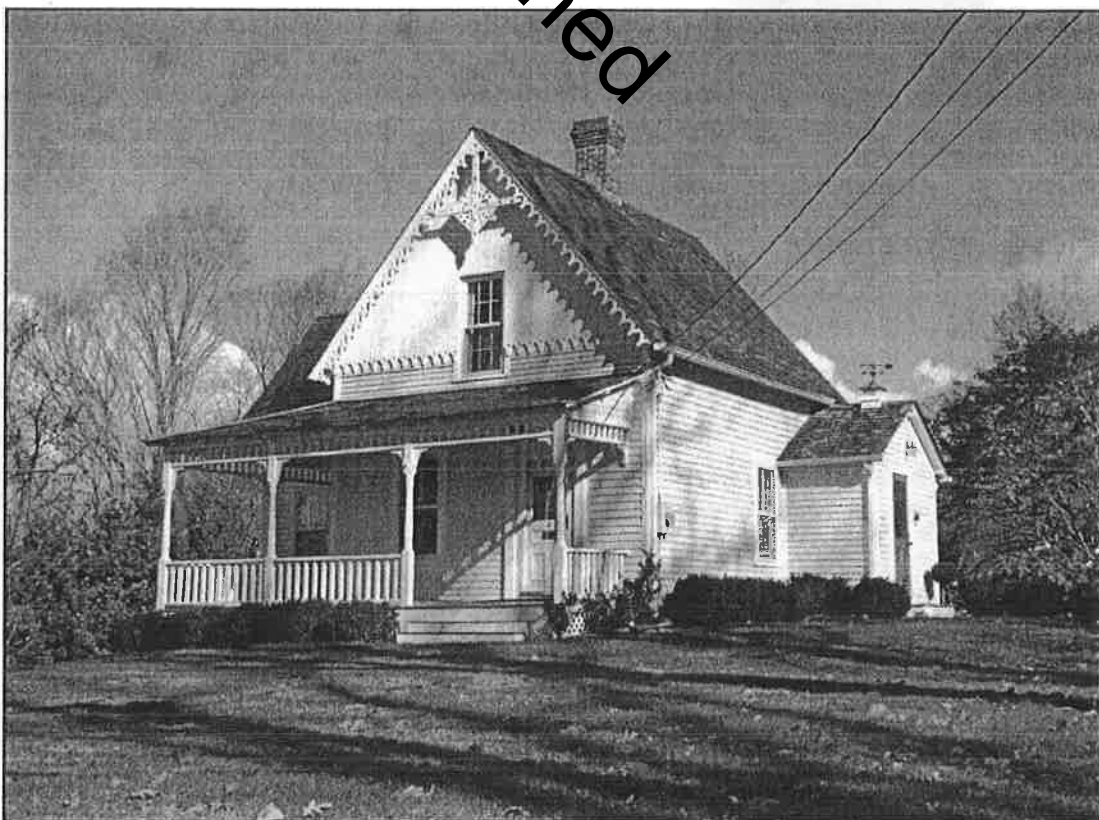


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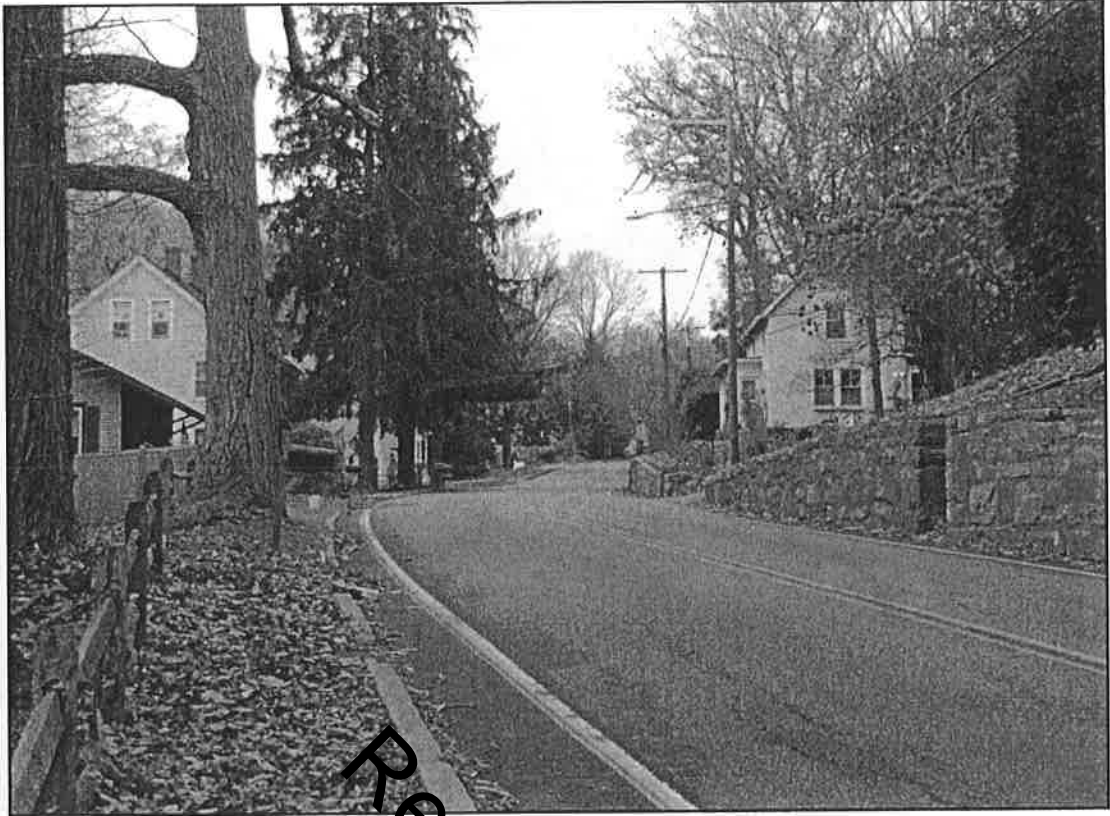
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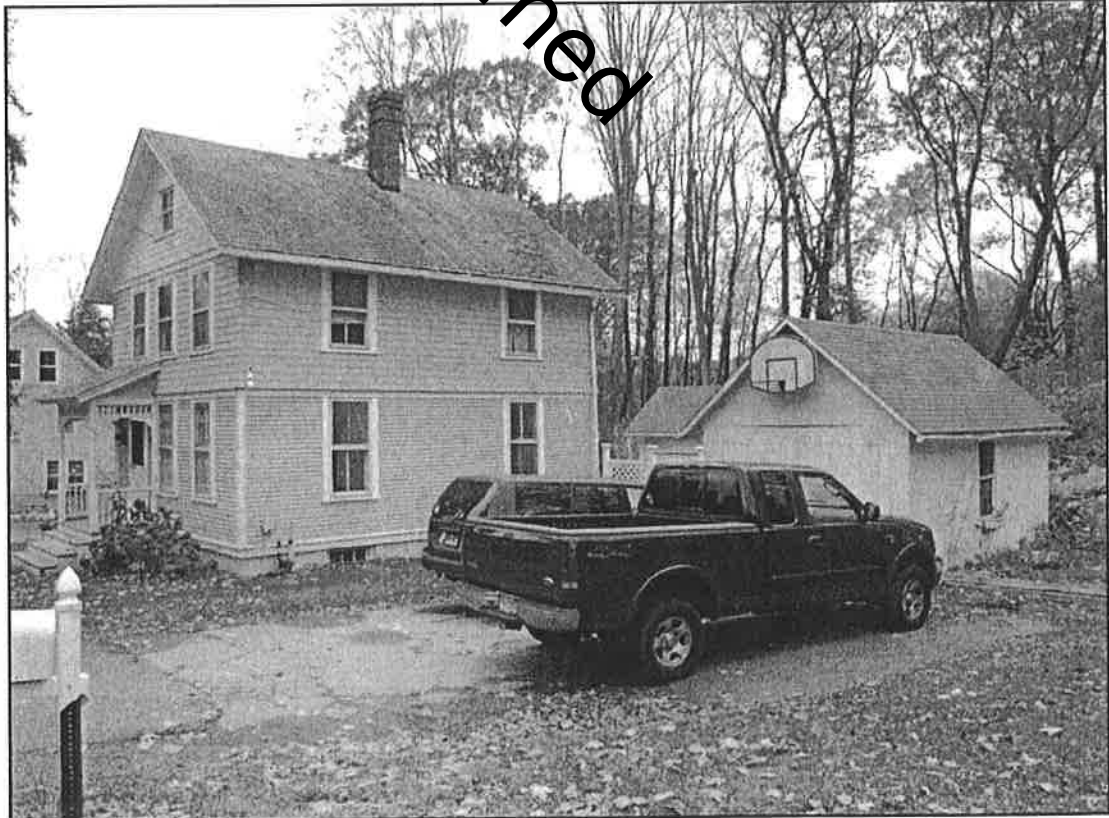
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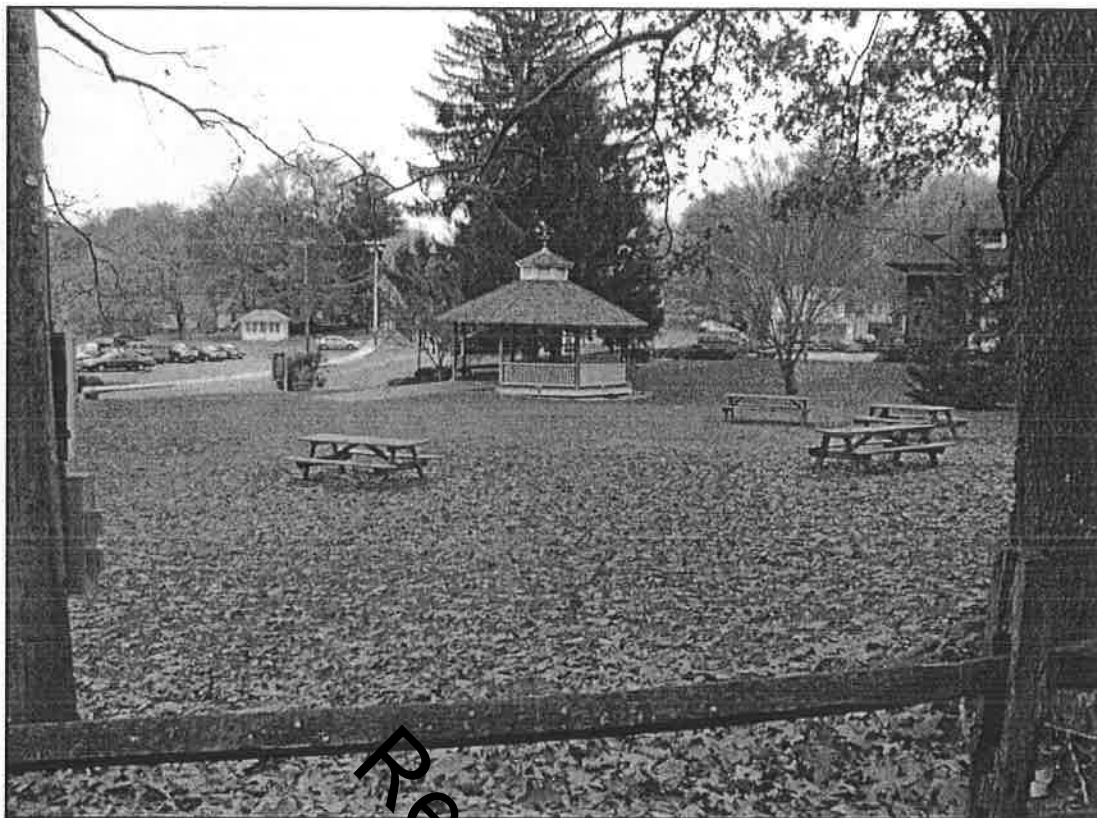
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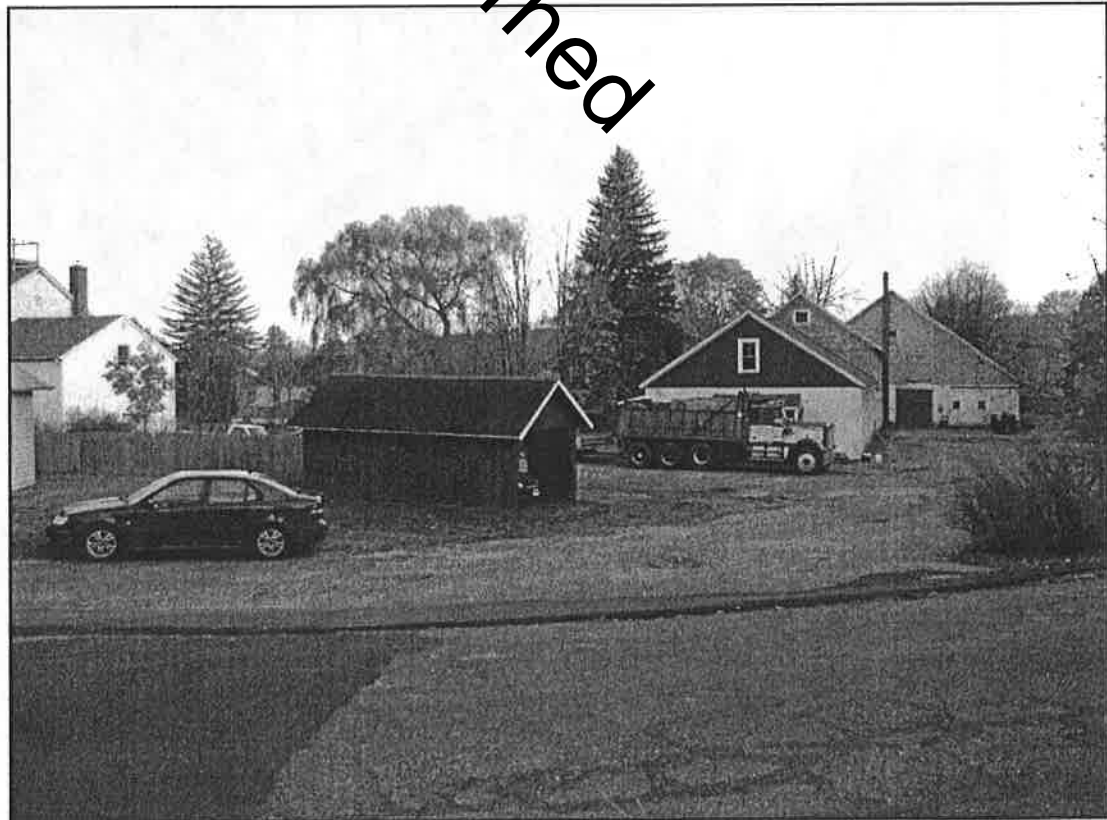
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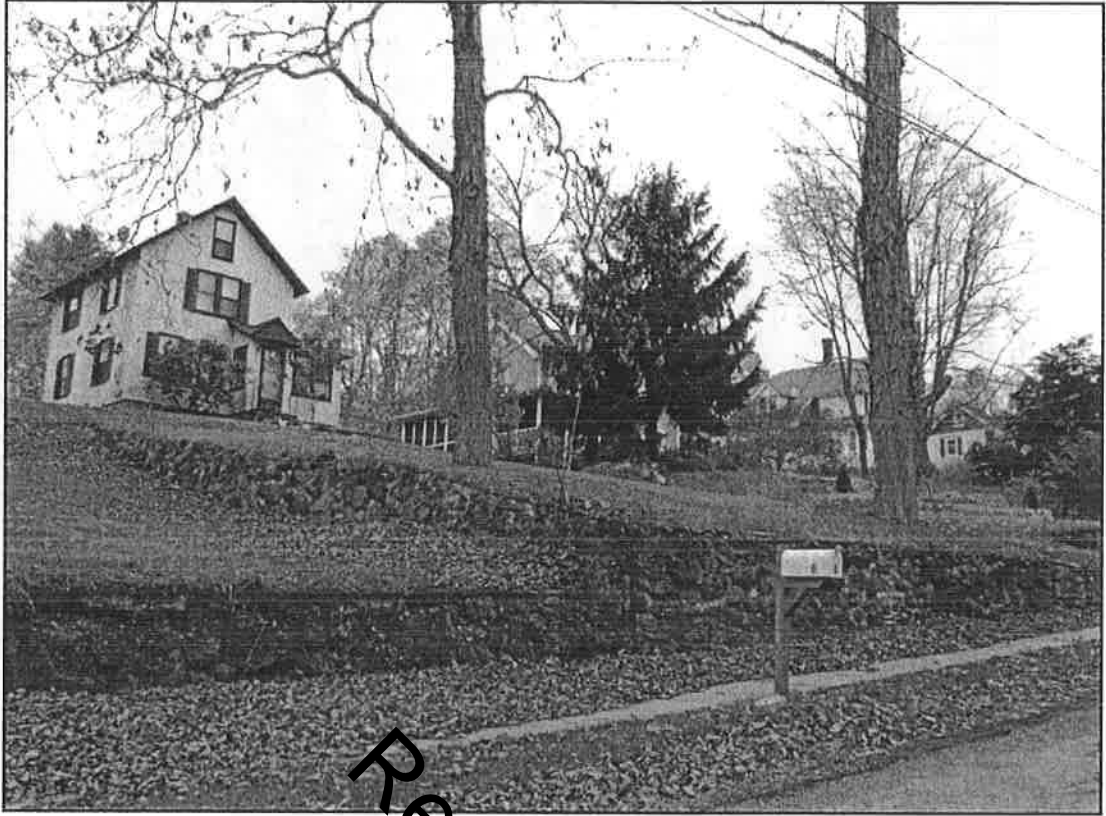
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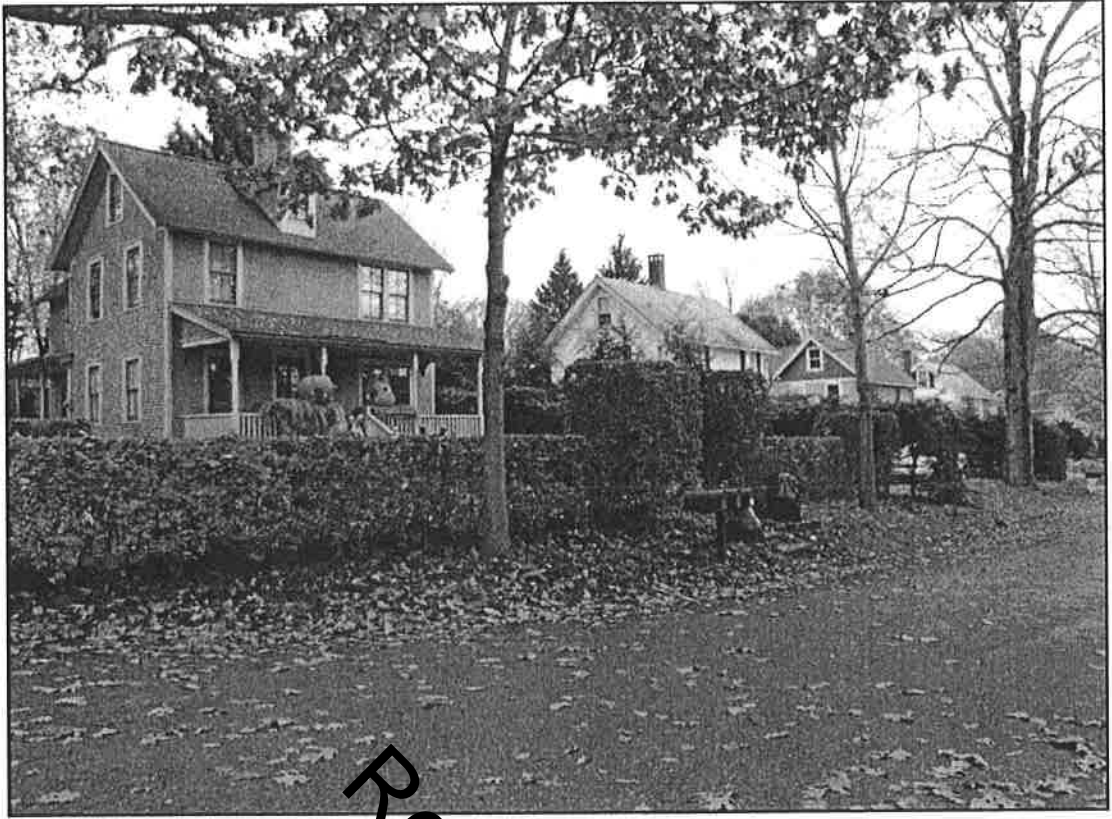
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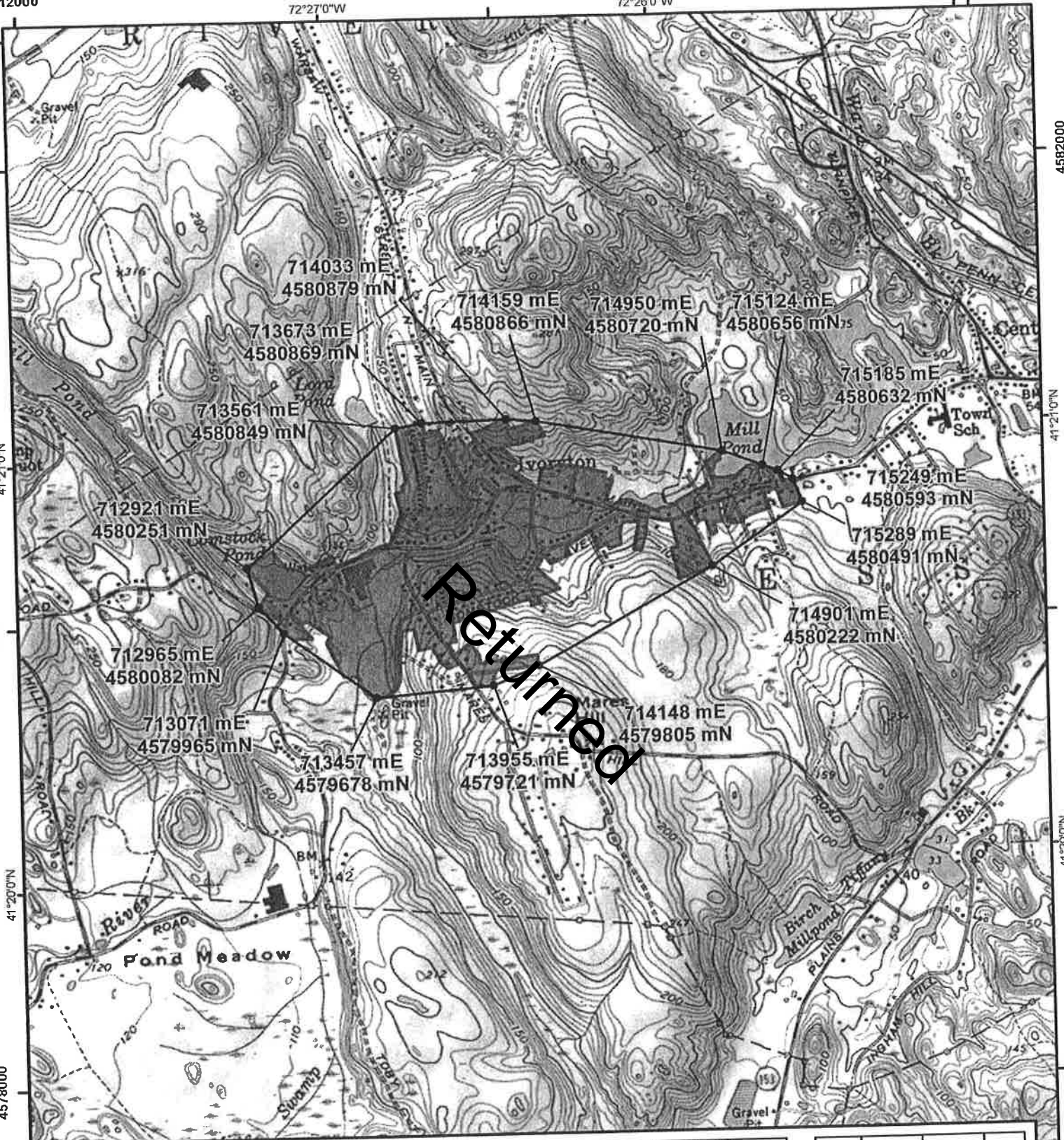
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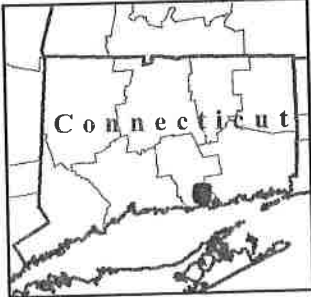
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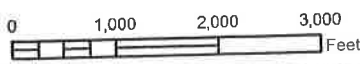


Ivoryton Historic District

- UTM District Boundary
- Historic District Boundary



Universal Transverse Mercator
 North American Datum 1983
 Zone 18 North
 Essex, Middlesex County, Connecticut
 07/24/2013
 Epsilon Systems Solutions
 D. Veazey



Topo Quad Reference

	DEEP RIVER	HAMBURG
	ESSEX 1958	OLD LYME



TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 23 day of September
2013, for nomination of the Ivoryton Historic District
New Haven County,
Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other CD of images

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- N/A The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____

Recommendation: SLR Return Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: CT County Name Middlesex Resource Name Ivoryton FN

Reference No. 13-895 Multiple Name _____

Solution:

Problem: Images on disc are jpeg's.

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change: _____