

JUN 13 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name N/A
other names/site number WORTHINGTON RIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Location

street & number See Inventory of Properties N/A not for publication
city, town Berlin N/A vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06037

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>92</u>	<u>24</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>94</u>	<u>24</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 6/7/89

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 7/13/89
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGION: religious structure

EDUCATION: school

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGION: religious structure

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Post Medieval English

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival, Italian

Villa, Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic, Queen Anne

20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival,

Tudor Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Worthington Ridge Historic District is a linear concentration of mostly 18th- and 19th-century buildings on narrow, tree-lined streets, located along the top of a ridge that rises some 50 feet above an unnamed brook to the east; the principal thoroughfare in the district, Worthington Ridge, takes its name from this landform. The district also extends several hundred feet west of Worthington Ridge along Farmington Avenue, Hudson Street, and Sunset Lane. Most of the major buildings in the district are residential, although Worthington Ridge's historical role as the institutional center of the Town of Berlin is also depicted in such buildings as the 1774 meetinghouse (Photograph 1), the 1831 Worthington Academy (Photograph 2), and the 1884 Brandegee Hall/Berlin Town Hall (Photograph 3). The area's one-time local commercial prominence is represented by several houses that once served as taverns, hotels, or stores (Photograph 4, Fuller Tavern).

There are 118 resources in the district, of which 94 (80 percent) contribute to the district's significance. There are 80 major buildings and 36 barns and garages; sheds are not counted. The remaining resources are the pergola (one structure) and the obelisk (one object) that comprise the Berlin veterans' monument. All the buildings are 2-and-1/2 stories or less and the great majority are of wood-framed construction, although prominent examples of brick construction are also present. The predominant architectural styles in the district are New England Colonial (i.e., the timber-framed, center-chimney house and its variants), Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian, with smaller numbers of other styles including Gothic Revival and Gothic-influenced Victorian, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Bungalow.

The New England Colonial, Greek Revival, and Federal buildings were all built close to the street on generously sized lots (Photograph 5). Later buildings often filled in the ample yards between these older houses (Photographs 6 and 7). The barns in the district were either built or remodeled to their present appearance in the 19th century (Photograph 8), even when they are part of a property centered on an earlier dwelling. Mature deciduous trees mark the curblines throughout the district and are found in many yards.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SETTLEMENT
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c.1720-c.1930

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

Summary

Worthington Ridge Historic District is significant because its buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of several important architectural styles, including New England Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, Late Victorian, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival (Criterion C). The district features an unusually large number of well-preserved New England Colonial, Federal, and Greek Revival buildings, a concentration of state-level significance. The buildings include several outstanding examples of their types, such as the Worthington Meetinghouse (Photograph 1), one of fewer than a dozen colonial meetinghouses that still stand; the David Sage House (Photographs 12 and 13), an 18th-century dwelling notable for the elaborate Georgian detailing of its principal elevation; and the Elishama Brandegee House (Photograph 14), a Greek Revival house with the full panoply of characteristic features including flush-boarding and the complete Ionic order. The district is also significant for its important roles in the history of Berlin (Criterion A): a principal residential area in the agricultural community of the colonial period, and the institutional and commercial center of Berlin through the mid-19th century. As railroad and industrial development in other parts of town caused the commercial function to move elsewhere by the late 19th century, and as the civic-institutional function moved in the 20th, Worthington Ridge evolved into a sedate neighborhood where many of the town's wealthiest and most prominent citizens made their homes.

Historical Context

Anglo-European settlement in the area comprised by the present town of Berlin began in earnest during the last quarter of the 17th century, when a group of families from Farmington moved to the region. (The area was part of the town of Farmington at that time.) They were attracted by the alluvial soil of the small valleys between the area's basalt ridges. The settlers cultivated the low-lying land between the ridges, but they built

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Berlin, CT

Description (continued):

The district is set off from its surroundings by distinct visual breaks to the north and east, where post-World War II highway construction on Route 72 and the Berlin Turnpike (Route 15), as well as highway-related development, have interrupted the earlier-established character of the streetscapes. The southern boundary was delineated to include both sides of Worthington Ridge as far south as buildings from the period of significance predominate. The western slope of the ridge that forms the spine of the district was unbuilt upon until recent decades, providing a clear distinction between the post-World War II subdivisions that are excluded and the older buildings that are included.

The district as a whole can generally claim a high degree of integrity, a circumstance that owes much to the presence of a local historic district with substantially the same boundaries as the district described in this document. The houses erected in the last 50 years fit into, rather than disrupt, the historical character of the district: they have the same scale as the earlier buildings and use similar materials, and they follow the pre-existing placement pattern (Photograph 9). Many of the historic buildings have been altered, but except for one barn that was converted to a residence (153 Sunset Lane), all retain the massing, roofline, and sufficient architectural detail to preserve their historical appearance. Typical alterations include the application of modern siding materials over original clapboards (Photographs 5, left, and 10); and additions to the side or rear (Photograph 4).

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Section number 7 Page 2 Worthington Ridge Historic District
Berlin, CT

Description (continued):

The following tabular summary lists all the properties in the district, with streets ordered alphabetically and properties ordered numerically within streets. Buildings, structures, and objects, and contributing and noncontributing components, are all consolidated within the single list. At the left of the table appears the number of contributing and noncontributing components within each property. Each entry has the following format:

Street address, historic name (if any). Style, date, number of stories, roof type, wall material(s), outbuildings (if any).

INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES

C NC

FARMINGTON AVENUE

2	0	1520 Farmington Avenue. Bungalow, c.1920, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles, garage. (Photograph 21)
1	0	1528 Farmington Avenue, Berlin Grange. No style, c.1910, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles. (Photograph 21)

HUDSON STREET

1	0	166 Hudson Street, James Smith House. Colonial Revival, c.1898, 2 1/2 stories, gambrel roof, vinyl siding.
2	0	181 Hudson Street. (16-1/102/54). Federal/Vernacular, c.1820, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn. (Photograph 7)
1	0	184 Hudson Street. Federal, c.1820, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
2	0	189 Hudson Street. Other: Foursquare, c.1920, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, wood shingles, garage. (Photograph 7)

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Description (continued):

- 1 0 192 Hudson Street. Federal, c.1820, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 2 0 195 Hudson Street. Colonial Revival, c.1930, gambrel roof, wood shingles, garage. (Photograph 7)
- 1 0 198 Hudson Street, Grace L. Raymond House. Bungalow, c.1925, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles.
- 1 1 203 Hudson Street, Jesse Hart House. Federal, c.1800, 2 stories, hip roof, brick, garage. (Photograph 7)
- 0 1 204 Hudson Street. No style, c.1950, gable roof, wood shingles.

SUNSET LANE

- 1 0 110 Sunset Lane. Italian Villa, c.1875, 2 stories, flat roof, vinyl siding.
- 4 1 121 Sunset Lane. New England Colonial, c.1720, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, three 19th-century barns, one modern garage. (Photograph 8, barn)
- 0 1 153 Sunset Lane. No style, c.1975 (remodeling), 2 stories, gable roof, vertical boards; formerly the barn associated with 1062 Worthington Ridge, recently moved and substantially altered.
- 1 0 154 Sunset Lane, Charles M. Jarvis House. Tudor Revival, 1905, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles. (Photograph 16)

WORTHINGTON RIDGE

- 2 0 690 Worthington Ridge. Colonial Revival, 1908, 2 1/2 stories, wood shingles, carriage house. (Photograph 20, left)

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Description (continued):

- 1 1 695 Worthington Ridge, Lewis Edwards House. Federal/Greek Revival, c.1835, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, garage. (Photograph 15)
- 0 2 702 Worthington Ridge. "Colonial," c.1960, 2 stories, gable roof, brick and clapboards, garage. (Photograph 9)
- 0 2 710 Worthington Ridge. No style, 1925, 2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding, garage.
- 1 0 723 Worthington Ridge, Worthington Meetinghouse. New England Colonial with Georgian details, 1774, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards. (Photograph 1)
- 1 0 724 Worthington Ridge, Herbert Goodrich House. Colonial Revival, c. 1905, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, clapboards.
- 1 0 737 Worthington Ridge. Late Victorian, c.1894, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding.
- 0 1 742 Worthington Ridge. No style, 1945, 1 story, hip roof, brick.
- 0 2 743 Worthington Ridge. Cape, 1956, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles.
- 1 1 754 Worthington Ridge. Federal, c.1825, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding, garage.
- 1 0 763 Worthington Ridge. New England Colonial, c.1750, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding.
- 1 0 764 Worthington Ridge, Alfred North House. No style, Italianate entry hood, 1845, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, vinyl siding.
- 1 1 775 Worthington Ridge. New England Colonial, c.1800, 2 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, asphalt siding, garage.

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Description (continued):

- 0 1 780 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Post Office. No style, c.1850, 1 story, gable roof, wood shingles. (Photograph 22)
- 1 0 783 Worthington Ridge, Nathaniel C. Warren House. Italian Villa, c.1860, 2 stories, flat roof, clapboards.
- 2 0 798 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Veterans Memorial. Sandstone pergola (1 structure) curving around a granite obelisk (1 object) inscribed with names of Berlin soldiers, c.1920.
- 2 0 801 Worthington Ridge, First Berlin (or Worthington) Academy. New England Colonial, 1800, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn.
- 1 0 811 Worthington Ridge, Jedediah Norton House. Federal with Green Revival alterations, c.1800, 2 stories, hip roof, clapboards.
- 1 0 812 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Hotel. Federal, 1814, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding.
- 1 0 820 Worthington Ridge. New England Colonial, c.1800, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards; moved to this location c.1880.
- 1 0 825 Worthington Ridge, Daniel Dunbar House. New England Colonial with Colonial Revival entry, 1804, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 0 826 Worthington Ridge, Joseph Booth House. New England Colonial with Federal entry, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 0 834 Worthington Ridge, Second Worthington Academy. Federal, 1831, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, brick. (Photograph 2)
- 2 0 840 Worthington Ridge, Dr. Elishama Brandegeee House. Greek Revival, 1845, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards and flushboard, barn. (Photograph 14)

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Description (continued):

- 2 0 845 Worthington Ridge, George E. Prentice House. Georgian Revival, c.1930, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, brick, garage. (Photograph 17)
- 1 0 850 Worthington Ridge, Worthington Ecclesiastical Society Parsonage. Greek Revival, 1845, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards and flushboard. (Photograph 5, right)
- 2 0 857 Worthington Ridge, Blakeslee Barnes House. Federal with Greek Revival alterations and Colonial Revival additions, c.1820, 2 stories, hip roof, clapboards, barn.
- 2 0 858 Worthington Ridge, Nathaniel Cornwell House. New England Colonial, c.1790, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding, barn. (Photograph 5, left)
- 1 1 873 Worthington Ridge, Lafayette Gladding House. Italian Villa, 1876, 2 stories, flat roof, clapboards, garage. (Photograph 6, left)
- 1 0 877 Worthington Ridge, Edith Bradley Taylor House. Queen Anne, c.1905, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles. (Photograph 6, center)
- 1 0 878 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Congregational Church. Gothic Revival, 1850, 1 and 1/2 stories plus steeple, gable roof, clapboards.
- 2 0 883 Worthington Ridge, Reverend Nathan Fenn House. New England Colonial, c.1780, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn. (Photograph 6, right)
- 1 0 888 Worthington Ridge, Phineas Squires House. New England Colonial with later Greek Revival entry, c.1790, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, vinyl siding.
- 1 0 900 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Community House. No style, c.1925, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles.

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Description (continued):

- 1 1 901 Worthington Ridge. New England Colonial with Colonial Revival entry, c.1780, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, smaller house to rear.
- 0 1 909 Worthington Ridge. Cape, c.1940, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 1 914 Worthington Ridge, Daniel Galpin House. New England Colonial, c.1790, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, garage; house originally stood on the site of the present Berlin Congregational Church (878 Worthington Ridge) and was moved to this location in the late 1840s.
- 1 0 915 Worthington Ridge, Mechanics Hall. Late Victorian, c.1890, 2 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, asphalt shingles.
- 1 1 921 Worthington Ridge, Bryan Atwater House. Late Victorian, 1899, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards and wood shingles, garage.
- 2 0 922 Worthington Ridge. Late Victorian, c.1900, 2 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, asbestos shingles, garage.
- 1 0 930-932 Worthington Ridge. Colonial Revival, 2 stories, gambrel roof, brick and clapboards.
- 2 0 935 Worthington Ridge, Asahel Hart House. New England Colonial with Federal details, c.1785, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn. (Photograph 11)
- 1 0 943 Worthington Ridge, Galpin Store. Greek Revival, 1862, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, brick.
- 1 0 944 Worthington Ridge, Elijah Loveland Tavern. New England Colonial, c.1797, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 1 949 Worthington Ridge, Samuel Porter House. Federal with Greek Revival additions, c.1786, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, brick, garage. (Photograph 18)

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Description (continued):

- 1 0 956 Worthington Ridge, Timothy Boardman House. Federal with Victorian alterations, c.1790, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 1 966 Worthington Ridge, Elishama Brandegee, Jr. House. New England Colonial, c.1778, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, garage.
- 1 0 973 Worthington Ridge, Mary Brandegee House. Late Victorian, c.1895, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards.
- 1 0 983 Worthington Ridge, Brandegee Hall/Berlin Town Hall. Late Victorian Gothic, 1884, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards and board-and-batten. (Photograph 3)
- 0 1 984 Worthington Ridge. "Colonial," 1941, 2 and 1/2 stories, clapboards.
- 2 0 991 Worthington Ridge, Edwin I. Clark House. Colonial Revival, c.1910, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, vinyl siding, barn.
- 2 0 992 Worthington Ridge, Daniel Bradley House. Colonial Revival, 1894, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, wood shingles, garage.
- 2 0 1008 Worthington Ridge, Walter Gwatkin House. Colonial Revival, c.1905, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles, garage.
- 2 1 1015 Worthington Ridge, Leland Gwatkin House. Queen Anne, c.1895, 2 1/2 stories, hip roof, wood shingles, two garages (1 contributing, 1 non-contributing).
- 0 1 1016 Worthington Ridge. Cape, 1961, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, wood shingles.
- 2 2 1022 Worthington Ridge, Edmund Boldero House. New England Colonial, 1801, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn, noncontributing garage and 2-story house at rear.

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Description (continued):

- 1 0 1027 Worthington Ridge, Herbert H. Damon House. Colonial Revival, 2 1/2 stories, gambrel roof, wood shingles.
- 2 0 1035 Worthington Ridge, Charles A. Gillin House. Late Victorian, c.1895, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards and wood shingles, barn. (Photograph 19)
- 0 2 1044 Worthington Ridge. Ranch, 1 story, gable roof, clapboards and fieldstone, garage made over from old barn.
- 2 0 1055 Worthington Ridge, Fuller Tavern. New England Colonial with Federal and Victorian modifications, 1769, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn. (Photograph 4)
- 1 1 1062 Worthington Ridge, David Sage House. New England Colonial with Federal and Colonial Revival modifications, c.1770/c.1802/c.1900, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards. (Photographs 12 and 13)
- 1 0 1075-1077 Worthington Ridge. New England Colonial, c.1780, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof, asbestos siding.
- 1 0 1097 Worthington Ridge. Bungalow, c.1925, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, asbestos siding.
- 0 1 1109 Worthington Ridge. "Colonial," 1940, 2 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, aluminum siding.
- 2 0 1121 Worthington Ridge, Phineas Squires Case House. New England Colonial, c.1770, 2 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboards, barn.
- 0 2 1128 Worthington Ridge. "Colonial," 1956, 1 and 1/2 stories, gable roof, clapboard, garage.
- 1 1 1152 Worthington Ridge. Colonial Revival, c.1920, 2 and 1/2 stories, jerkin-head roof, aluminum siding, garage. (Photograph 10)

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Significance (continued):

their homes on higher ground, removed from the threat of flood. The boggy nature of the lowlands was reflected in the name of the parish that the settlers formed in 1705--Great Swamp Society. Worthington Ridge Historic District encompasses one of the two ridgetops that held concentrations of houses set off in this period; the other cluster, Kensington, was on the next ridge to the west. The creation of the Great Swamp Society attracted additional settlers from the neighboring towns of Wethersfield and Middletown, and in 1733 the community built a new meetinghouse near the present center of Kensington; the parish comprising the two ridgetop clusters also adopted Kensington as its name. Over the next 25 years the parish outgrew the meetinghouse, and disagreement over where to locate a new building touched off a 14-year dispute between the two clusters. After a state-appointed arbitration board settled the argument by establishing two societies in 1772, the residents of the eastern ridge finally built a meetinghouse (Photograph 1), which marked the beginning of the civic and institutional role of Worthington Ridge. (The parish was named at this time, after a Col. Worthington, who had helped mediate the dispute.) The Town of Berlin was established in 1785, taking portions of Farmington, Wethersfield and Middletown; the town meeting rotated among the new town's parishes, convening periodically at Worthington Meetinghouse.

The Hartford and New Haven Turnpike of 1798 followed the street known today as Worthington Ridge, encouraging the growth of stores, taverns, and other commercial businesses. These enterprises, such as Fuller Tavern (Photograph 4), Loveland Tavern, and the Berlin Hotel (all extant), either occupied existing houses or buildings that resembled the New England Colonial or Federal houses characteristic of the area. The turnpike also augmented Berlin's early prominence as a center of tinware production, providing easier access to materials and markets for the established makers, and encouraging others to produce trade goods. In the early 19th century, many houses on Worthington Ridge had a room or a dooryard shop devoted to making products for out-of-state sale: Lewis Edwards' bookbinding (695 Worthington Ridge, Photograph 15), Joseph Booth's hatmaking shop (820 Worthington Ridge), and Blakeslee Barnes' tinware shop (857 Worthington Ridge), among others. The Hartford and New Haven Railroad, completed in 1839, passed through New Britain and Kensington, to the west of Worthington Ridge, and the lack of rail service precluded any further substantial growth in Worthington's commercial and manufacturing activity. Later businesses on the ridge, such as the 1862 Galpin Store and the 1884 Brandegee Hall (Photograph 3), served the immediate local market and had little or no role in extra-regional trade.

The neighborhood's institutional role in Berlin, already established by

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Worthington Ridge Historic District
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Significance (continued):

the meetinghouse, was expanded in 1800 when several leading citizens founded the first Worthington Academy (801 Worthington Ridge). Like the taverns and tinshops, the Academy did not depart from the structure and appearance of residential architecture, and when the second Worthington Academy went up in 1831, the first Academy became a private home. The second Worthington Academy (Photograph 2) not only continued private education on the ridge, but also housed the district court. (The building had a variety of uses after the Academy closed in 1870, until the town bought it to house a branch library.) When the parish erected a new church in 1850, the Town of Berlin bought the 1774 meetinghouse and divided it into two stories, using the second floor as a fulltime town hall and the first as a district school. Town offices moved to Brandege Hall in 1906, and the entire meetinghouse was used as a school until the state declared it unsafe. In 1974, the construction of a new town hall near Kensington ended nearly 200 years of local government on Worthington Ridge.

In the early 20th century, Worthington Ridge's stately dwellings and quiet tree-lined streets (and the decline of commercial bustle) made the area attractive to many of the town's wealthier citizens. Charles M. Jarvis, a principal in the Berlin Iron Bridge Company and a founder (in 1901) of the Berlin Construction Company, two nationally prominent bridge-building firms, built his 1907 Tudor Revival mansion at the corner of Worthington Ridge and Sunset Lane (Photograph 16). George Prentice, who developed the metal zipper and ran a Kensington factory that made millions of these fasteners, built his elaborate Colonial Revival home on the ridge as well (Photograph 17). These men were two of the most prominent of those who contributed to Worthington Ridge's identity as Berlin's address of distinction, a role it continues to serve today.

Architectural Significance

Most of the 18th-century houses in Worthington Ridge Historic District feature some degree of formal architectural elaboration, while few illustrate the plainest rendering of the timber-framed, center-chimney house. The colonial agricultural prosperity of the area, and its commercial and institutional roles in the early national period, engendered a concern for appearance (and provided the ability to pay for it) that is evident in the Georgian entry of the Asahel Hart House (Photograph 11) and especially the detailing of the David Sage House (Photographs 12, 13). The Worthington Meetinghouse also exhibits a remnant of its original Georgian detailing in its west-facing entry (Photograph 1), although this building is most notable for its mere survival.

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Significance (continued):

The Federal style is represented in several variations, including the symmetrical brick houses of Jesse Hart (Photograph 7, extreme right) and Samuel Porter (Photograph 18; with Greek Revival alterations), and the asymmetrical timber-framed Lewis Edwards House (Photograph 15). The latter dwelling features the slender pilasters and fine moldings characteristic of the Federal style, although it also demonstrates the transition to Greek Revival architecture in its gable-front siting and flush-boarded pediment. Fully realized Greek Revival dwellings include 840 (Photograph 14) and 850 (Photograph 15, right) Worthington Ridge. The former, the Dr. Elishama Brandegee House, has the stockily proportioned portico that is typical of the style, along with many features seen only on more elaborate examples, such as the fully flush-boarded facade set off by monumental pilasters, and the full application of the Ionic order.

The district features fewer late-19th-century than early-19th-century houses. The boxy-shape, flat roof, bracketed cornice, and arched openings of the Italian Villa style characterize dwellings at 783 and 873 (Photograph 6, left) Worthington Ridge, as well as 110 Sunset Lane. The Queen Anne is represented by, among others, the Charles A. Gillin House (Photograph 19), with its characteristically complex plan, massing, and roofline; its textural complexity achieved by the combination of clapboards and several types of shingles; and its lavish use of sawn and turned ornament, especially on the porch. The most striking late-19th-century building in the district is Brandegee Hall (Photograph 3), an 1884 Late Victorian Gothic commercial building that was later used as the town hall. Its size (sufficient to hold the roller-skating rink that was one of its original uses) dwarfs the neighboring houses, but the abundant use of Gothic-inspired wooden ornament on the facade mitigates any sense of overwhelming mass and softens the difference in scale between Brandegee Hall and its neighbors. The board-and-batten attic story that ends in a sawtooth valence, the prominent peak-bracing, the pointed-arched attic light, and the balcony with a rail of cutout slats all contribute to the somewhat busy, Gothic character of the building.

The single example of the Tudor Revival, the Jarvis House (Photograph 16), is a tour-de-force of its style, with richly textured surfaces of cobblestone, stucco and half-timber, and dark-stained staggered shingles; a profusion of intersecting gables with dormers on every side; and casement sash. The formal, Georgian-inspired Prentice House (Photograph 17), is the most elaborate example of Colonial Revival in the district, but simpler examples are also found, such as 1152 Worthington Ridge (Photograph 10), with its jerkin-headed roof and Tuscan-columned porch.

While many of these buildings have outstanding architectural significance

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Significance (continued):

as rare survivals or exceptional examples of their type, the district's importance exceeds the sum of its parts. The juxtaposition of buildings of different periods, in different styles, and of different original uses, provides a window into changing taste and evolving building methods, and represents two centuries of diverse and changing lifestyles on Worthington Ridge.

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Geographical Data (continued):

Boundary Justification:

The district is set off from its surroundings by distinct visual breaks to the north and east, where post-World War II highway construction on Route 72 and the Berlin Turnpike (Route 15), as well as highway-related development, have interrupted the earlier-established character of the streetscapes. The southern boundary was delineated to include both sides of Worthington Ridge as far south as buildings from the period of significance predominated. The western slope of the ridge that forms the spine of the district was unbuilt upon until recent decades, providing a clear distinction between the post-World War II subdivisions that are excluded and the older buildings that are included.

UTM Coordinates:

A: 18.687820.4610320
B: 18.687960.4610260
C: 18.687960.4610220
D: 18.687920.4610240
E: 18.687880.4610060
F: 18.687860.4610060
G: 18.687820.4609740
H: 18.687800.4609750
I: 18.687760.4609350
J: 18.687800.4609350
K: 18.687740.4609240
L: 18.687840.4609240
M: 18.687780.4609180
N: 18.687720.4609160
O: 18.687700.4609070
P: 18.687580.4609070
Q: 18.687620.4609680
R: 18.687660.4609670
S: 18.687710.4610000
T: 18.687620.4610080
U: 18.687660.4610100
V: 18.687740.4610010
W: 18.687820.4610240
X: 18.687760.4610260

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Photographs _____ Worthington Ridge Historic District
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All photographs:

1. WORTHINGTON RIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. Berlin, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. October, 1988
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

Worthington Meetinghouse, 723 Worthington Ridge, camera facing
northeast.
Photograph 1 of 22.

Second Worthington Academy, 834 Worthington Ridge, camera facing west.
Photograph 2 of 22.

Brandegge Hall/Berlin Town Hall, 983 Worthington Ridge, camera facing
southeast.
Photograph 3 of 22.

Fuller Tavern, 1055 Worthington Ridge, camera facing northeast.
Photograph 4 of 22.

858 Worthington Ridge (left) and 850 Worthington Ridge (right),
camera facing southwest.
Photograph 5 of 22.

Left to right: 873, 877, and 883 Worthington Ridge; camera facing
southeast.
Photograph 6 of 22.

Left to right: 181, 189, 195, and 203 Hudson Street; camera facing
northeast.
Photograph 7 of 22.

19th-century barn behind 121 Sunset Lane, a c.1720 house, camera
facing northwest.
Photograph 8 of 22.

702 Worthington Ridge, noncontributing, camera facing northwest.
Photograph 9 of 22.

1152 Worthington Ridge (southwest boundary), camera facing northwest.
Photograph 10 of 22.

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Photographs _____ Worthington Ridge Historic District
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935 Worthington Ridge, Asahel Hart House, camera facing east.
Photograph 11 of 22.

1062 Worthington Ridge, David Sage House, camera facing west.
Photograph 12 of 22.

1062 Worthington Ridge, entry of David Sage House, camera facing
west.
Photograph 13 of 22.

840 Worthington Ridge, Dr. Elishama Brandegee House, camera facing
southwest.
Photograph 14 of 22.

695 Worthington Ridge, Lewis Edwards House, camera facing northeast.
Photograph 15 of 22.

154 Sunset Lane, Charles M. Jarvis House, camera facing west.
Photograph 16 of 22.

845 Worthington Ridge, George E. Prentice House, camera facing
northeast.
Photograph 17 of 22.

949 Worthington Ridge, Samuel Porter House, camera facing northeast.
Photograph 18 of 22.

1035 Worthington Ridge, Charles A. Gillin House, camera facing east.
Photograph 19 of 22.

Northwest boundary runs between these two buildings (690 Worthington
Ridge to left), camera facing southwest.
Photograph 20 of 22.

1520 (left) and 1528 (right) Farmington Avenue, camera facing
southeast.
Photograph 21 of 22.

780 Worthington Ridge, Berlin Post Office, noncontributing, camera
facing southwest.
Photograph 22 of 22.