

PH0677604

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 20 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUN 14 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Falls Village District  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Beebe Hill Rd., Brewster Rd., Miner St., Main St., Prospect St., Railroad St., Sand Rd., Water St. CT 196  
CITY, TOWN Canaan VICINITY OF 6th - Toby Moffett  
STATE Connecticut CODE Litchfield COUNTY CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME See continuation sheet  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE  
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Canaan Land Records, Town Hall  
STREET & NUMBER Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Falls Village STATE CT 06031

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Works Progress Administration, Federal Writers Project, Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut (U.H. Miner Farm)  
DATE 1930s  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut State Library  
CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Falls Village, a community in hilly, northwestern Connecticut, is located on the east side of the Housatonic River, about a mile below its Great Falls. The village is the activity center for the Town of Canaan, but as there is no political entity known as Falls Village, its boundaries are not precise. Moreover, the names tend to be confusing because there is a separate Town of North Canaan in which is located the village of Canaan. The Falls Village National Register District, the subject of this nomination, consists of the half dozen square blocks that were built up in the middle of the 19th century as a result of Falls Village being selected as a station stop when the Housatonic Railroad was put through in the late 1830's/early 1840's.

The decision to build the railroad on the east side of the river and to establish the station stop at Falls Village was motivated in part by the anticipation of the development of substantial water power from the nearby falls. Although a power canal was dug from the falls to the village, the power development failed to materialize during the 19th century. A never-used section of the canal, symbolic of the aborted plan that added impetus to construction of the village center, is included in the district.

In the approximately 70 acres that make up the district there are 79 sites and buildings. Twelve are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district. Most buildings constructed in the 19th century remain standing, except for those destroyed from time to time by fire. They were built in styles associated with the period, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and 19th-century vernacular. There is one older building, an 18th-century farmhouse, and several newer structures built in the 20th century in Bungalow, Georgian Revival, and contemporary styles. The public and semi-public buildings will be discussed first, in geographic sequence, followed by the houses.

Main Street in Falls Village runs northeast to southwest and dead-ends into Railroad Street, which parallels the railroad in the north-south direction. The intersection of Main and Railroad Streets is the center of the village. Within half a block of it are the depot, village inn, Town Hall, two banks, and the Methodist Church building. Built in 1841, the depot (No. 1 on the map) is a 2½-story frame building in the Greek Revival style running parallel to the tracks and street, between them. Its gable roof extends beyond the gable ends to form the raking cornices of the end pediments. The exterior walls of the station, including the pediments, are vertical tongue-in-groove, flush boards. The slope of the roof continues beyond the second-story eaves on the west side toward the tracks to provide protection from the weather for waiting passengers and baggage. This roof extension is supported

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET Prop. Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

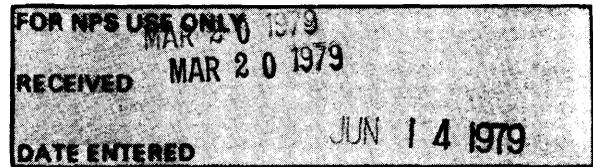
All addresses are Falls Village, CT 06031, unless otherwise noted.

There are no street numbers or map/block/lot numbers in Falls Village.

Structures that do not contribute to the historic character of the district are designated NC in the left margin.

Map Number	Street and name of owner (Mailing address is the same unless additional address is given.)	Date of construction and description
✓1.	Railroad St. Ernest & Chester Moore	1840s. Depot. 2½-story, Greek Revival frame building with vertical board siding.
✓2.	Railroad St. Falls Village Inn, Inc.	c. 1850. Square, 3-story, frame, Italianate inn. Has roof overhang, bay window on side, and wide front porch.
✓3.	Main St. Town of Canaan	1901. Town Hall. Square, clapboarded, 3-story structure. Offices and store on first floor; hall on second. Fanciful third floor of low towers, round pediments, shed dormers, and gable with tripartite window.
✓4.	Main St. Russell J. & Joanne C. Shaw	1901. Former Savings Bank. 1½-story, 24x36', gable-roofed, brick building with classic revival detail.
✓5.	Main St. Robert & Dorothy C. Emerson Sharon, CT 06069	1901. Methodist Church building. Shingled, Romanesque Revival, square tower with round-headed windows.
✓6.	Main St. Dana S. & Susan D. Shores	c. 1875. 2-story frame house with gable roof on brick foundations. Simple 23x31' rectangle in plan. Gable has panelled barge boards, and shingles laid jagged line pattern.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET	Prop. Owners	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
7.	Main St. Main Street Associates	1862.	2
8.	Main St. Mary K. & Kathleen D. Gegan	1840s.	2
9.	Main St. Mark Culiendo Lakeville, CT	c. 1850.	2
10.	Main St. Clifford & Phyllis Walker Box 103	c. 1840.	2
11.	Main St. Richard P. & Katherine M. Smith	c. 1840.	2
12.	Main St. Edward & Sarah Castagna	c. 1860.	2
13.	Main St. D.M. Hunt Library Association	1891.	2
14.	Main St. Warren Allen Ferguson & Walter T. Schmidt	c. 1840.	2
15.	Main St. Hamilton S. Gregg, II	1871.	2

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners    ITEM NUMBER 4    PAGE 3

- |        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| 16.    | Main St.<br>John Nicholas &<br>Patricia H. Collins | c. 1840. Greek Revival frame house with 2-story, pedimented main block. 1-story ell to west has columned front porch.   |
| 17.    | Main St.<br>Karen A. & David<br>S. Shaffer         | c. 1910. 2½-story, square house. Hipped roof has dormer in each slope. Wide front veranda has round columns, is bowed in the center, and has a dentil course under the eaves. |
| 18.    | Main St.<br>Gerald P. Dartford                     | c. 1840. 2-story, Greek Revival, frame house with ridge parallel to road. Five bays with entrance in center bay. Oblong windows under eaves. Clapboard siding.                |
| 19.    | Main St.<br>Main Street Associates                 | c. 1840, possibly earlier. Brewster Hall. 2½-story, frame, clapboard Greek Revival structure. Doric tetrastyle portico.   |
| NC 20. | Main St.<br>Falls Village Improve-<br>ment Corp.   | c. 1950. Food market. 1-story, cinder block building with vertical plywood facing on front facade.  |
| 21.    | Main St.<br>Cornwall Auto Body                     | c. 1900. Frame, 2-family, 19C, 1½-story, vernacular house. Much altered and added onto. Some scalloped shingles visible in the back.  |
| 22.    | Main St.<br>National Iron Bank                     | 1869. 1½-story, Italianate, brick bank. Pyramidal roof with overhang. Tall windows in recessed panels. 1976, frame ell to the east.   |
| 23.    | Main St.<br>Town of Canaan                         | Small park on the corner. Known as the Village Green.   |
| NC 24. | Railroad St.<br>Town of Canaan                     | 1958. Fire House. 1½-story, rectangular, frame building on a high basement, with gable end toward street.   |
| 25.    | Railroad St.<br>Gene A. & Rose Ann<br>Stahovec     | Mid-19C (?) cottage. 1/1 windows. Added porch has sawn post brackets. Ell has been added to the south.  |
| 26.    | Main St., rear<br>Mary A. Marston                  | c. 1860. A barn remodelled into a house. Shingled.  |

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 4

- |        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| 27.    | Railroad St.<br>Mable N. Hurlbutt                             | c. 1950. Rectangular, frame house. Porch at southwest corner has segmental front. There is a 19C barn with vertical siding, on high stone foundations.              |
| 28.    | Railroad St.<br>Nollie M. & Clarice<br>P. Rodgers             | 1925. 20C, vernacular, gable-roofed, frame house on poured concrete foundations.  |
| 29.    | Railroad St.<br>Robert L. & Mary S.<br>Leichter               | c. 1880. Large, 2½-story, frame, Italianate house with tower and heavy trim.  |
| 30.    | Railroad St.<br>Beverly J. & William<br>H. Boults             | Vacant land.  |
| 31.    | Railroad St.<br>Martin L. & Nancy A.<br>Merriman              | c. 1940. 20C, vernacular, frame house with gable roof and clapboard siding. Site is steeply sloped down from the road.  |
| 32.    | Railroad St.<br>James Nason                                   | c. 1850. Gable-roofed, frame house. Projecting eaves have flush soffits. Gable end has round-headed window. The house has bays, 2/2 windows, and brick foundations. |
| NC 33. | Railroad St.<br>Ralph & Elmer G.<br>Morck<br>Canaan, CT 06018 | c. 1950. One story, 46x48', cinder block warehouse.   |
| NC 34. | Railroad St.<br>Peter Gasperini                               | c. 1950. 1-story warehouse and store with brick veneer.   |
| NC 35. | Joseph Jacobs   | 1947. 1-story, brick garage with plate glass walls at the northeast corner.   |
| NC 36. | Prospect St.<br>Joseph W. Jacobs                              | 1958. Trailer, with metal siding in horizontal ribs, permanently mounted on concrete footings. Streamlined styling.   |
| 37.    | Prospect St.<br>Samuel J. & Laura D.<br>Graham                | c. 1895. 2½-story, Queen Anne, frame house. Round tower with conical roof. Second story flared over first. Gables, bays, porches.                                   |

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Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

- |        | Prop. Owners  | ITEM NUMBER   | PAGE |
|--------|---|---|------|
| 38.    | Prospect St.<br>Harold W. & Helen<br>Fenton             | c. 1890. Square, 3-story, Second Empire, frame house. Mansard roof has shallow dormers.   |      |
| 39.    | Prospect St., rear<br>Mildred G. & Thomas J.<br>Monahan | 26x36' barn remodelled in 1966 to a 4-room apartment over 2-car garage.   |      |
| 40.    | Prospect St.<br>Mildred G. & Thomas J.<br>Monahan       | c. 1875. 2½-story, frame, High Victorian Italianate house with 2-story, central front porch.  |      |
| 41.    | Prospect St.<br>Dennis H. & Jeryl A.<br>Jasmine         | c. 1850. Simple, Greek Revival, frame house with little decorative trim. Small addition on southwest corner.  |      |
| 42.    | Prospect St.<br>Ruth B. Beebe                           | c. 1870. 2-story, frame house. Gable projects slightly. Eaves return briefly. First floor has three bays, second floor two.   |      |
| 43.    | Prospect St.<br>Robert C. & Carole<br>Proper            | c. 1890. 1½-story house of irregular plan showing evidence of many alterations. A section of bargeboard in an entwined pattern remains.   |      |
| 44.    | Prospect St.<br>Joseph & Nancy Jacobs                   | c. 1900. 2½-story, 19C vernacular, frame house with gable roof and asbestos shingle siding. Ell shaped.   |      |
| NC 45. | Prospect St.<br>Leslie E. & Beatrice<br>B. Jacobs       | 1957. 1½-story, ranch type house with metal siding.   |      |
| 46.    | Prospect St.<br>Winifred P. Ray                         | c. 1890. 2-story, frame, Queen Anne house. Scalloped shingles in the attic gable, sunburst in the porch gable. Porch has turned posts and balusters, and a spindle valance under its eaves. |      |
| 47.    | Prospect St.<br>James Henry & Aurielia<br>Blodgett      | c. 1950. Long, oblong house with a high gable roof. Broad, exterior stone chimney at north end; 3-sided projecting bay at center. Breezeway connects to 2-car garage at south.              |      |

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 6

- |        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| 48.    | Prospect St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                                | c. 1890. 2½-story, frame, Queen Anne house. Third floor, covered with scalloped shingles, projects over second floor, covered with shingles laid in jagged pattern that projects over first floor, covered with clapboards. |
| 49.    | Prospect St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                                | c. 1870. 2½-story, Queen Anne house with irregular silhouette, projecting gables, porches, and bays.  |
| 50.    | Prospect St.<br>Lillian Merriman  | c. 1880. 19C-vernacular, 2½-story, frame house. Barn has two pedimented entrance porches, and semi-elliptical window in the gable.  |
| 51.    | Prospect St.<br>E.F. Peterson, Jr.<br>90-90 S. Main St.<br>Plymouth, MI 48170 | c. 1890. 2½-story, 19C-vernacular house. The front gable is covered with shingles laid in a jagged line, and has a decorative exposed truss in its peak.  |
| 52.    | Prospect St.<br>Edwin & Margaret M.<br>Bailey                                 | c. 1860. 1½-story, frame, Greek Revival house, 21x30', with rear addition. Entrance is in the center of three bays. Second floor has two 6/6 windows.   |
| 53.    | Prospect St.<br>Falls Village Congrega-<br>tional Church, Inc.                | c. 1880. 2-story, frame, Italianate house. wide front porch with square columns, molded capitals, and curved post braces. Metal siding.   |
| 54.    | Prospect St.<br>Pauline Miller &<br>James DeBerry                             | c. 1910. 1½-story, 24x33', rectangular, 20C-vernacular house. Gable roof, composition siding.   |
| NC 55. | Miner St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                                   | 1966. Small ranch house.  |
| 56.    | Miner St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                                   | 1964. Post Office. 1½-story, Georgian Revival, brick building with white trim.  |
| 57.    | Miner St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                                   | ? Gambrel-roof barn converted in 1960 to two apartments.  |

*ref. to*

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 7

- |        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| NC 58. | Miner St.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                      | ? Former chicken coop rehabilitated into housing.   |
| 59.    | Miner St.<br>Dorothy Lockwood                                    | 1964. 1½-story, 20C-vernacular, rectangular mobile home, permanently sited. Gable roof, clapboard siding, double windows. |
| 60.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Town of Canaan                                 | 19C. District Schoolhouse.  |
| NC 61. | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                 | 1951. Long brick and wood ranch style house with picture window and breezeway to 2-car garage.                            |
| NC 62. | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                 | c. 1950. 2-story, clapboard, 20C-vernacular, commercial building and shop.  |
| NC 63. | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Ralph & Sara C.<br>Kirkpatrick                 | 1965. Ranch house with clapboard siding and two picture windows.  |
| 64.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>St. Patrick's Roman<br>Catholic Church         | 1915. Frame church with central tower and entrance.   |
| 65.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Falls Village Congre-<br>gational Church, Inc. | 1859. Greek Revival, 1-story, frame church with added Queen Anne tower.   |
| 66.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>Malcolm D. & Mary B.<br>Canfield               | 1935. 2½-story, Georgian Revival, Gambrel-roofed house with 3-bay facade, recessed, central entrance, and shingle siding. |
| 67.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>John Willard Carrigan,<br>est.                 | c. 1735. Central chimney, 5-bay, 2½-story colonial.   |
| 68.    | Beebe Hill Rd.<br>George Opley                                   | 1908. Bungaloid.  |

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CONTINUATION SHEET	Prop. Owners	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
69.	Beebe Hill Rd. Marion L. Stock	c. 1930 or earlier. 24x32', 1½-story, clapboard house with hipped roof. Roof slope covers wide front porch. There is a hipped dormer in the roof slope.	4 8
70.	Brewster Rd. Arthur D. & Mary S. Stein	c. 1850. 1½-story, Greek Revival house. Broad freize under the eaves. Plain pilasters with molded caps at the corners. Barn has vertical siding.	
71.	Brewster Rd. Irving W. Lovett, Jr.	? 1½-story, 18x22', frame house. Gable roof returns briefly at eaves. Horizontal, 3-pane windows under the eaves. No decorative trim. May be a mid-19C house.	
72.	Brewster Rd. Ann A. Adams	1955. 1½-story, Cape Cod cottage with gable roof, central chimney, and composition siding.	
73.	Brewster R. David A. & Ebba C. Arvidson	c. 1850. 2-story, Greek Revival, frame house with three bays on the first floor and two on the second. Entrance is from a covered porch in an ell to the right.	
74.	Brewster Rd. Rachel T. Dixon	c. 1840. 2-story, frame, Greek Revival house with columned portico.	
75.	Sand Road Barbara Buccino	c. 1840. Large, 2½-story, Greek Revival house with many connected outbuildings, and detached barns. Flush-boarding front pediment has semi-elliptical window glazed in a globe pattern.	
76.	Sand Rd. Elmer A. & Helen E. Morck	? Small, clapboard house sited at bottom of a ravine. Gable roof has two chimneys set in from end walls.	
77.	Water St. Hartford Electric Light Co. 69 Water St. Torrington, CT 06790	Open land bordered on the east by the 1849 retaining wall.	

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Prop. Owners    ITEM NUMBER 4    PAGE 9

---

78.    ✓ Railroad Right of                      Late 1830s.  
         Way  
         Conrail/NYNHHRR  
         Meadow St.  
         New Haven, CT

NC 79.    ✓ Railroad St.                              20C factory consisting of 1-story cinder  
         Berkshire Construction              block buildings and shingled sheds.  
         Co.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description      ITEM NUMBER      7      PAGE      1

by simple diagonal braces. The railroad, in its later years the New York, New Haven and Hartford, continued operations until 1971. For a century and a quarter the depot was the point of entry to Falls Village.

Across Railroad Street from the station and a few feet to the north, toward Main Street, is the village inn, built soon after the railroad arrived and operated as an inn ever since. (2) It is a square, Italianate, frame structure having low hipped roof with overhang. Comparison with a 19th-century picture shows that its broad, one-story porch extends around to the north side today as it always has. On the south side a prominent, three-sided bay window at second-floor level adds interest to the building. The ground floor has continued as a restaurant and bar under a series of innkeepers from the beginning, but the 22 rooms on the upper floors no longer receive guests. The exterior clapboard siding of the inn is metal. Metal siding has been used on several buildings in the district.

To the north of the inn is a small park, on the southeast corner of Railroad and Main streets, called the Village Green (23) although it does not have the usual New England village green configuration of a central open space surrounded by streets. The first building east of the green, on the south side of Main Street is the Town Hall, followed by the Savings Bank and Methodist Church buildings. These three structures were re-built after a fire in 1900. The Town Hall (3) is a square, three-story, clapboarded building with most of the architectural interest in the third floor. The two front corners of the third floor are low, square, shingled towers with low, pyramidal roofs that have round-headed pediments on the front, and three small windows on the sides. In the center, between the flat towers, is a hipped dormer, and there is a similar dormer on each side of the building. A peaked gable, placed toward the back on the west side, is over a tripartite window of Palladian derivation. The first floor front facade is made up of store windows behind which on the right are the town offices, and on the left the Historical Society, successors to a dry goods store. The second floor has a hall used for meetings of the local grange, the Patrons of Husbandry.

The walls of the Savings Bank building next door (4), being brick masonry, survived the fire of 1900 and thus date back to their 1871 origin. The bank is a small, rectangular, 1½-story building with peaked roof. The cornice and raking cornices of the front gable project, form-

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 1-A

---

ing a pediment in which there is a small Palladian window. Two elliptical windows are positioned in the frieze under the cornice, to the left and right of the entrance. The entrance is approached through a one-story portico. The corona of the portico had modillions that are a smaller version of those under the corona of the main block. The Savings Bank moved out of this building in 1959 to a nearby, new location on a main highway, outside the district. The old building is now used as an adjunct to the National Iron Bank whose main office is across the street.

The third structure re-built after the 1900 fire is the Methodist Church building (5). It replaced an earlier 1856 church on the same site. The chief features of the present edifice are its all-over dark shingles and its square tower. The walls, entirely covered with unpainted shingles weathered to a dark brown, are pierced by stained glass windows from Tiffany Studios. The square tower, at the right front corner, is about the same height as the tall gable roof. There are round-headed windows in the tower, and at its top there is a parapet faced with wood corbeling. The coursed, ashlar, granite foundations of the church, like the similar foundations and the brick walls of the bank, survived the fire. The church building is now used as a warehouse.

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Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The National Iron Bank is another 1½-story brick building (22), built in 1864 with hipped roof that projects over the walls in the Italianate manner. The front of the roof is broken by a low pediment with oculus window. The front facade has four bays, three of them being tall windows recessed under panels and the fourth, to the extreme right, being the entrance. There are four brick pilasters with Ionic capitals, two at the corners and two supporting a central pediment; a frame wing was added to the east. <sup>in 1976</sup> A dentil course at the top of the pilasters' entablature in the main block is carried around the addition, and the panels of the older section are repeated over the windows in the new wing. The whole building is given cohesion by a uniform coat of white paint, and a small wood lantern has been installed at the ridge of the hip roof to enhance the pseudo-colonial effect.

Half a block further along on the same side of Main Street is a Doric tetrastyle wood building with rectangular window in its pediment (19). The sides are covered with clapboards and the front with flush boarding. Underneath the clapboards on both side walls there is ¼ inch thickness of plaster on hand riven lathe. Under the lathe is horizontal plank sheathing. In the attic the framing for a low hip roof is in place, suggesting the possibility that the peaked roof and Greek Revival portico may have been added during the modernization of an older building. Foundations are stone, except for the back <sup>WHERE</sup> brick is used, and except for what appears to be some brick infill on the south side. Throughout the 19th century the ground floor was a store, or perhaps several shops. An 1853 picture shows the front wall, first floor, almost entirely glazed in small panes. The Canaan land records show that the building, known as Brewster Hall and used as a store, was in existence at least as early as 1852 (CLR 16/428), and local tradition dates the building to the 1830's. The upstairs was a meeting hall. The building was owned and occupied by the Weataug Tribe No. 47 Improved Order of Redmen from 1929 for about 20 years. Thereafter it was converted to apartments.

Another structure of similar configuration (9), also a store, is across the street further to the east. Under the front pediment there is a two-story porch, rather than a two-story columned portico, now partly enclosed. Having served as a hardware store and lumber yard for many decades, this property is now occupied by a canoe dealership.

The David M. Hunt Memorial Library of 1891 (13) is located further up Main Street on the southeast corner of Beebe Hill Road at the northeast corner of the district. This red brick, Queen Anne library is the

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

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

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

most elegant building in town. It is three stories in height, surmounted by a tower. It is asymmetrical in massing and whimsical and eclectic in detail. Quarry finished brownstone ashlar foundations and pecked brownstone lintels and sills enhance the sense of solid mass. The front facade is dominated by a projecting two-story section, enclosing the entrance hall and stair well for the library, that has gable roof with blind sunburst in its pediment. Below the pediment is a blind round arch centered on a half-round window of colored glass. Below the half-round window, at mid-point in the facade, there is a band of four rectangular windows, and under them there is a broad rectangle of decorative terra cotta tiles. These several elements are proportioned and designed to form together a single decorative embellishment for the facade of this projecting section of the building. The main block to the right is capped by a two-stage gable of unusual design. The lower half of the gable, shingled in wood, has four windows in a band, with the two end windows quarter-round in plan to conform to the slope of the roof. The top half of the gable, shingled in slate, projects over the lower section and then is canted back. To the left, behind the projecting front portion of the building, the square tower starts with a stage having a row of three rectangular windows surmounted by a steeply pitched hipped roof with an eyebrow dormer. Above it there is a columned, open stage with balustrade, and finally a high hipped roof with cresting on its ridge.

The first-floor interior has now been opened up to a single space, and fitted out as a modern library. But the second floor has not been changed. The walls and ceiling are sheathed in narrow beaded boards, arranged in the ceiling in the form of large diamonds around the lighting fixtures. In one corner, canted, is a fireplace with glazed, brown tiles around the opening. There is an oak mantel, turned, sawn, carved and panelled.

The Congregational Church (65) is across Beebe Hill Road from the library. Built in 1859 as a small, simple Greek Revival structure with central doorway, it was later altered by adding an Italianate tower at the right corner. Its ground floor serves now as the entrance, while above there is a shingled stage, then an open stage with balustrade for the belfry, with double round-headed openings, and at the apex a shingled, high pyramidal roof.

St. Patrick's Church (64) is on the same side of Beebe Hill Road, further south on the northwest corner of Miner Street. It is similar in mass and plan to the Congregational Church with a square tower in the

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 4

same position, but with central entrance porch. This church was constructed all at one time in 1915, replacing an earlier structure at another location close to the railroad that was destroyed by a fire started by a spark from a passing locomotive. Some of the stained glass windows from the earlier church are incorporated in this building. The pointed arch windows and flared pyramidal roof of the tower together with the exposed truss in the peak of the gable of the main block qualify the church as country Gothic.

The Post Office (56) is diagonally across Miner Street from St. Patrick's, relocated from its former quarters in the Town Hall. It was constructed in 1964 in the Georgian Revival mode of red brick with white shutters.

The final structure in the group of public buildings is the one-room schoolhouse (60) at the southeast corner of the district on the northwest corner of Beebe Hill Road and the eastward extension of Railroad Street. This simple frame building with vertical boarding, last used June 4, 1918, replaces the original schoolhouse destroyed by fire, that was built on the same site in 1843. There are two doors on the front facade, each under a three-pane transom, two twelve-over-twelve windows on each of the other three sides, and a brick chimney. The school has been restored. The interior is fitted out with stove, desks, blackboards, oil lamps, and other furnishings from the era when it functioned as District School No.1.

Prior to the coming of the railroad, the area that comprises the district was part of the Beebe Farm. The Beebe farmhouse (67) is on Beebe Hill Road, at the end of Miner Street. Built according to local tradition c. 1735, it is a five-bay, central-chimney, clapboard, typical colonial structure with lean-to on stone foundations. Its narrow windows are indicative of its age; they are six-over-four on the first floor and four-over-four on the second. The entrance with flat molded cap and side-lights is perhaps a later alteration. The house is framed with heavy corner posts, slightly splayed, and with wide summer beams upstairs and down. The stairs rise in front of the chimney in three runs, from left to right. This is the only house in the district that has been identified as pre-dating the railroad.

The architectural style generally in vogue in the 1840's when the railroad was put through was the Greek Revival. There are several Greek Revival houses in the district presumed to have been constructed soon after the arrival of the railroad. On Main Street the Brewster who owned Brewster Hall had his Greek Revival house next door (18). It has a five-

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

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

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

bay, central doorway facade with flat molded caps over the windows and door. The windows upstairs are horizontal three-pane opening directly under the eaves.

Further up Main Street, on the same side, there is a house (16) whose main block has gable end toward the street forming a pediment over three bays. Here again the second-story windows are shallow horizontal rectangles, in the frieze under the pediment's cornice of this house. There is a one-story ell to the left with long side porch. Across the street there are a pair of pedimented Greek Revival houses, one large (11), and one small (10), next door to one another on an elevated site behind a low stone wall and stone hitching post. One is 1½ stories high, the other 2½ stories. Both have three-bay facades and both have rectangular windows in their pediments. The smaller structure is thought once to have served as a doctor's office.

Two other Greek Revival houses, associated with the Brewster family, are at the corner of Brewster and Sand Roads. The one on the northeast corner (74) has a two-story tetrastyle, Doric portico with a semi-elliptical, leaded window in the pediment. There is no ceiling in the portico at cornice level, allowing the light from the window to flood over the upper portion of the facade behind the columns. The first-floor windows have eared architraves. There are panels under these windows. The other Brewster house (75), across Sand Road, is set well back from the road in the midst of acreage that extends to the west to the railroad and canal. The principal block of the house has a pedimented gable, but no columns or portico, while an ell to the right has a columned porch. The house has a number of outbuildings extending in a long ell to the rear.

Several houses were built later in the 19th century in the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles, and a mixture thereof. There is a florid Italianate mansion (29), executed in wood, on the east side of Railroad Street, near the turn to the east. It is large and has heavy detail. The tower is square with a low roof that overhangs the sides, as does the roof of the main block. The soffit of the overhang is flush. The windows have shutters and are tall; those on the first story run from floor to ceiling with a large two-over-two sash. The front porch has paired, square columns with molded capitals. Its broad steps have heavy wooden balustrades and posts. The foundations are brick.

A straightforward Second Empire house (38) is located on the west side of Prospect Street between Miner and Railroad Streets. It appears

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

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

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 6

to be unchanged from the day it was built with shallow dormers in its mansard roof, and with segmental arches in its square front porch that match those of the windows in a three-sided bay on the north.

There are two similar High Victorian Italianate houses in Falls Village, one (16) on the north side of Main Street between Prospect Street and Beebe Hill Road, and the other (40) on Prospect Street at the end of Miner Street. Both have a gable roof with twin, molded brick chimneys and paired, round-headed windows in the gables. Both have paired windows to left and right of the central bay. Both have a roof structure over the first-floor, paired windows to the right and left that extends to the center and front to join with the roof of the entrance porch. Both have central pedimented gables. On the Main Street house the gable interrupts the eaves and is flush with the main facade, while on the Prospect Street house, it projects forward to form the roof of a second story to the entrance porch.

The Queen Anne house on the southeast corner of Miner and Prospect Streets (49) is typical of several in the district. In silhouette, it is a series of projecting gables, porches and bays. In detail, it includes scalloped shingles, brackets, sawn-and-turned porch elements, and two-over-two windows.

There are a number of 19th-century barns in the district, some quite plain and some embellished in the spirit of the houses they accompany. One unique example is behind the house (50) on the northeast corner of Prospect and Miner Streets. It has a small central gable with semi-elliptical window and two entrances, each with a small, gabled portico.

Twentieth-century houses in Falls Village tend to be less ambitious and less imaginative, although an exception should perhaps be made for the small structure (68) on the east side of Beebe Hill Road at the end of Miner Street. It is true Bungalowoid. The front roof slope continues down to cover the wide front porch and there is a peaked gable in the midst of the roof expanse. The gabled roof and the main roof have overhangs supported by simple brackets. Clustered columns support the roof at the corners of the porch. Other 20th-century houses include Georgian Revival examples, ranch types, a Cape Cod cottage, a parked trailer, and a permanently positioned mobile home. The trailer (36) is considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district, but the mobile home (54) has simple, clean lines and in no way is offensive.

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

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

Other buildings considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district are a garage (35) and one-story cinder block warehouses (33, 34) on the west side of Railroad Street north of the depot. They were built in the mid-1940's, replacing earlier structures destroyed by fire. There also is a factory on Railroad Street (79) without architectural or historic merit.

The district bulges slightly to the west at the northwest corner (77) to include the remnants of an 1851 canal that was designed to bring water from above the Great Falls to Falls Village as part of an ambitious scheme for power development. The plan never came to fruition even though the ditch was completed. As it approached Falls Village the canal was held in place by a long retaining wall 20 feet high and 10 feet wide at the base that is still in place. In the center of the top of the retaining wall there is a good sized piece of stone in which is chiseled the legend:

Water P<sup>r</sup> C.<sup>o</sup>  
1851  
E.L. Goldsmith  
Supt

While Falls Village does have some buildings constructed in the 20th century, and the streets are black topped, and other technological developments have made themselves felt, essentially Falls Village is today the 19th-century community brought into being by the railroad. The development of the community was keyed to its function as a station stop on the Housatonic Railroad. This fact is as abundantly clear in the appearance and structure of the community today as it was a century ago.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION *		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			*Effect on Community	

SPECIFIC DATES 1830s to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Falls Village is a community created in mid-19th century as a station stop on the Housatonic Railroad. The depot, the inn, the banks, the street lay out, and the houses today maintain their 19th-century integrity, giving a faithful picture of the community's organization a century and a quarter ago. The buildings include some excellent, unaltered examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles of architecture.

National Register criterion (C) applies to the district. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, and culture is present in the district; it possesses integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a period; and it represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Seldom does a single influence so clearly control the entire history of a community as is the case with Falls Village. The railroad made the village. If the railroad had elected to position its station stop a few miles north or south of the location chosen, there would have been no community of Falls Village. The selection of Falls Village as the station stop surely was the most important event that ever happened in the history of the community. The railroad chose this spot in anticipation of the growth of a thriving city based on the exploitation of water power for industrial purposes, but this development, the second most important event in the history of Falls Village, never happened. Consequently, the community never grew in size and activity beyond the scale needed as a trading center at a railroad stop.

Prior to the coming of the railroad, northwestern Connecticut, including the Town of Canaan, had been actively engaged in mining iron ore and producing manufactured articles of iron for perhaps 150 years. None of this activity, however, took place within the bounds of the district, which was farm land owned by Deacon Charles Beebe. A cluster of buildings did exist just northwest of the district at the eastern end of the first bridge across the Housatonic River (1744), connecting the towns of Canaan and Salisbury. A tavern, store, grist mill, small foundry, and several houses were located on this site, but all have disappeared, and the land on which they stood was not involved in the

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

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

mid-19th century development of Falls Village.

Deacon Charles Beebe's farm encompassed the district, and he sold off building lots as the village grew. Some land buying occurred in the early 1830's in anticipation of the railroad's decision to choose the route it did, rather than alternates to the east and west that were under consideration. Jabez Brewster bought land in the early 1830's. He established the store on Main Street known as Brewster Hall, perhaps modernizing an older structure on the site to the present Greek Revival building. His own house is next door. It is another Greek Revival structure but without columned portico. Two more Greek Revival houses associated with other members of the Brewster family are located at the corner of Brewster and Sand Roads. In all, the Brewster family left their mark in Falls Village in the form of four Greek Revival buildings.

The railroad selected the route along the east side of the Housatonic River in recognition of the potential for power development offered by the drop of 130 feet in the river just north of Falls Village. The expectation was that this potential would be developed, substantial industry would be drawn to the location by the availability of power, and Falls Village would become a thriving city. Substantial effort was indeed made to carry out the plan. A \$200,000 corporation, the Water Power Co., was organized about 1845. The canal, nearly a mile in length, was built from above the falls to Falls Village. Then problems occurred. On the day in 1851 when the system was first filled with water the canal proved not to be water tight, and the water leaked out. Various efforts were made over the years to remedy the situation, but it was not until 1914 that the Connecticut Power Co., (organized by J. Henry Roraback) having lined 1,400 feet of the canal with concrete, made regular commercial use of the facility to bring water to their hydroelectric generating station newly built between Water Street and the river, adjoining the northwest corner of the district. The reason why the power potential remained dormant throughout the 19th century, after most of the work had been done, is obscure. Whatever the reason, the concentration of industry never developed. Power from the 1914 hydroelectric plant is carried to surrounding communities.

As a trading center, Falls Village drew on the activity associated with mining and processing northwestern Connecticut's iron ore. Forges and iron works were located nearby at Amesville across the river and a mile or so upstream, at Lime Rock across the river and down stream, and

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

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RECEIVED MAR 20 1979
JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Significance      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

at Huntsville about two miles east on the Hollenbeck River, a tributary of the Housatonic River. Other, smaller forges were in the vicinity. Much of this activity pre-dated the railroad, but as the station stop Falls Village became the locale for stores, banks, and churches to serve the wider community. At one time the village had three general stores and seven saloons. One store in the 1850's employed 30 clerks and was open 24 hours a day, patronized in the off hours by workers from the railroad and the iron forges. The Ames Iron Works in 1850 had 800 employees. The company won fame during the Civil War for its production of cannon, but at the end of the war when demand for this product ceased the company went bankrupt. The iron industry generally declined at this time, and thus after its two or three decades of growth Falls Village was mature. It has changed little in the subsequent hundred year except for destruction caused by fires. The census figures for the Town of Canaan reflect the decline of activity in the region. The 1870 population was 1,257; the 1940 population was 555.

None of the general stores, located near the corner of Main and Railroad Streets, has survived, but the banks, houses, and churches have. A bank was one of the first needs of the new community. The need was met by the formation of the Iron Bank in 1847. It first was located in a house across from the depot and then moved to its own new Italianate building on Main Street in 1869. The Savings Bank followed in 1854, sharing quarters initially with the Iron Bank. Daniel Brewster was president from 1857 to 1894 and oversaw the move to its own building on Main Street, on land purchased from the Water Power Co., in 1871. The building was constructed at a cost of \$8,100 to plans and specifications submitted by McArthur and Bertram, who appear to have been architects/builders as they also were in charge of construction.

The Falls Village Congregational Church was an offshoot in 1858 of the older South Canaan Church, and met initially in Brewster Hall. Its 1859 building was called a chapel, and was built as a temporary structure, on land donated by Deacon Charles Beebe, pending the expected boom in manufacturing and trade. As this boom never came, it is still in use. The move to establish the Falls Village Congregational Church was led by Uriel H. Miner (1819-1896). Active in various local enterprises, Miner bought the Beebe Farm in 1871 and succeeded Beebe as Deacon of the Church. He was engaged with Hunts in the iron business in Huntsville, was agent for the Housatonic Railroad (Charles Hunt was president of the railroad for 15 years), was an officer of the Savings

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Significance      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE      3

Bank for decades, and gave the land on which the David M. Hunt Library and School was built.

David M. Hunt (1816-1864), a bachelor, left his estate of \$111,780.79 to his sisters. An inventory of the estate at the Hunt Library shows that the largest single asset was \$30,000 in securities of the Hunt and Lyman Iron Works, at Huntsville. His sisters, Wealthy, Ann, and Catherine, lived in Bridgeport. In 1891 they built and endowed the library and school, and it continues to be privately owned. They engaged as architects the Bridgeport firm of Lambert and Bunnell who designed the sophisticated Queen Anne building, far more metropolitan than any other structure in town. Lambert and Bunnell practiced in Bridgeport from the 1860's, working largely in the Queen Anne style throughout their career. They designed the Fairfield County jail, a commercial building at 1001 Main Street, Bridgeport, and an 1866 church in Bridgeport, as well as depots for the New Haven Railroad at Riverside (in Greenwich), Port Chester, Greens Farms (in Westport), and Westport. The asymmetrical mass and intricate detail of their 1891 library in Falls Village were unique in the rural community but were often seen a generation earlier in urban architecture. Hunt School catalogues from the early 1890's report a student body of 60 to 75 children who were said to observe the rule that "Perfect courtesy, prompt obedience and refinement of manner and language are required of all," while their parents paid the tuition fee of \$10 per quarter of ten weeks. While the school has been discontinued, the library remains active. Patrons may enjoy a cup of tea in the afternoon, served in the library's fine china cups, and conversation.

Another building for which the architect's name is known is the Methodist Church, rebuilt after the fire of October 26, 1900. He was Alexander Selkirk, Jr. Selkirk was in step with the times in that the Shingle Style was at the peak of its popularity at the turn of the century and he gave Falls Village an element of that style in the dark shingles of the Methodist Church. Its square tower with corbelling and round headed windows, however, derive their design from the Romanesque Revival.

The houses in town were constructed by anonymous architects/builders, some with great attention to detail. The Second Empire house on Prospect Street built in 1882 for Isaac Hornbeck, a local merchant, is a fine example of its type. The High Victorian Italianate

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 14 1979

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 4

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home of E. W. Spurr on Main Street is notable for its detail. The interior ceiling, carved consoles, and crestings are unexpected in a country house. Perhaps the owner had sources outside the town through his hardware business that he conducted across the street in the Greek Revival building now given over to canoes. The intricate detail of the Italianate house on Railroad Street and the Queen Anne examples on Prospect Street add quality and variety to the district's group of impressive 19th-century homes.

After experiencing hard times through much of the 20th century, the district is now enjoying some improvement in appearances, supported by residents who appreciate the quiet and charm of the village. While the bustling vitality of the workers from the iron forges and the railroad is missing, the physical community of the railroad station stop, built to exploit the region's resources of iron and water power, remains intact. It is an undisturbed example of architecture from the second half of the 19th century.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

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

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RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Geogrph. Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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J 18/635660/4645490  
K 18/635590/4645490  
L 18/635430/4645900  
M 18/635340/4645900  
N 18/635170/4646090  
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P 18/635340/4646040  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Geograph. Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

The Town of Canaan does not have aerial tax maps or maps of any kind that show property lines. Consequently, it is not possible to furnish a map showing an accurate district boundary line. A verbal boundary description follows.

Starting on Main St. at the northeast corner of the Hunt Library property, the boundary runs south along the rear line of properties fronting on Beebe Hill Rd. to the southeast corner of the Canfield property, then west along the south line of the Canfield property to Beebe Hill Rd., then north along Beebe Hill Rd. to Railroad St., then west along the east-west section of Railroad St. to the corner where it turns north, then along the south line of the Merriman property, then north along the rear lines of properties fronting on Railroad St. and Sand Rd. to Water St., then northwest along Water St. to a point opposite (southwest of) the north end of the unused section of the 1851 canal, then northeast on a line bordering land actively used by HELCO in connection with its hydroelectric power generating plant to the end of the unused section of the 1851 canal, then across the canal to the railroad right of way, then southeast along the railroad right of way to the southwest corner of the Buccino property, then north and east along the lines of the Buccino property to Sand Road, then south on Sand Road to the northeast corner of the Dixon property, then east along the rear line of the properties fronting on Brewster Road to the northeast corner of the Arvidson property, then south on the east line of the Arvidson property to Brewster Road, then west on Brewster Rd. to Beebe Hill Rd., then south on Beebe Hill Rd. to Main St., then east on Main St. to point of beginning.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	JUN 12 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT

Boundary

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Justification ITEM NUMBER PAGE

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The boundary line of the district is drawn to encompass the built-up area related to the establishment here of a station stop on the Housatonic Railroad in the mid-19th century. The western boundary line is the western edge of the railroad right of way (the tracks are included in the district). The concentration of village buildings does not extend west of the tracks. There is a bulge in the district at the northwest corner along Water Street for the purpose of including in the district the never-used portion of the canal, and its retaining wall, built in mid-19th century as part of a contemplated power development that influenced the railroad to select Falls Village as a station stop. The northern border of the district is essentially the rear property lines of properties associated with two important Greek Revival houses built by members of the Brewster family who were prominent in the development of the station-stop village. The east boundary is the rear property lines of properties fronting on Beebe Hill Road and the south boundary is the east-west portion of Railroad Street, chosen because they are the limits in these directions of the concentration of building activity during the mid-19th century development of the village.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Falls Village District  
Falls Village, CT                      Corrections

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Item 7 (opening page), last paragraph, third line, add "activity".

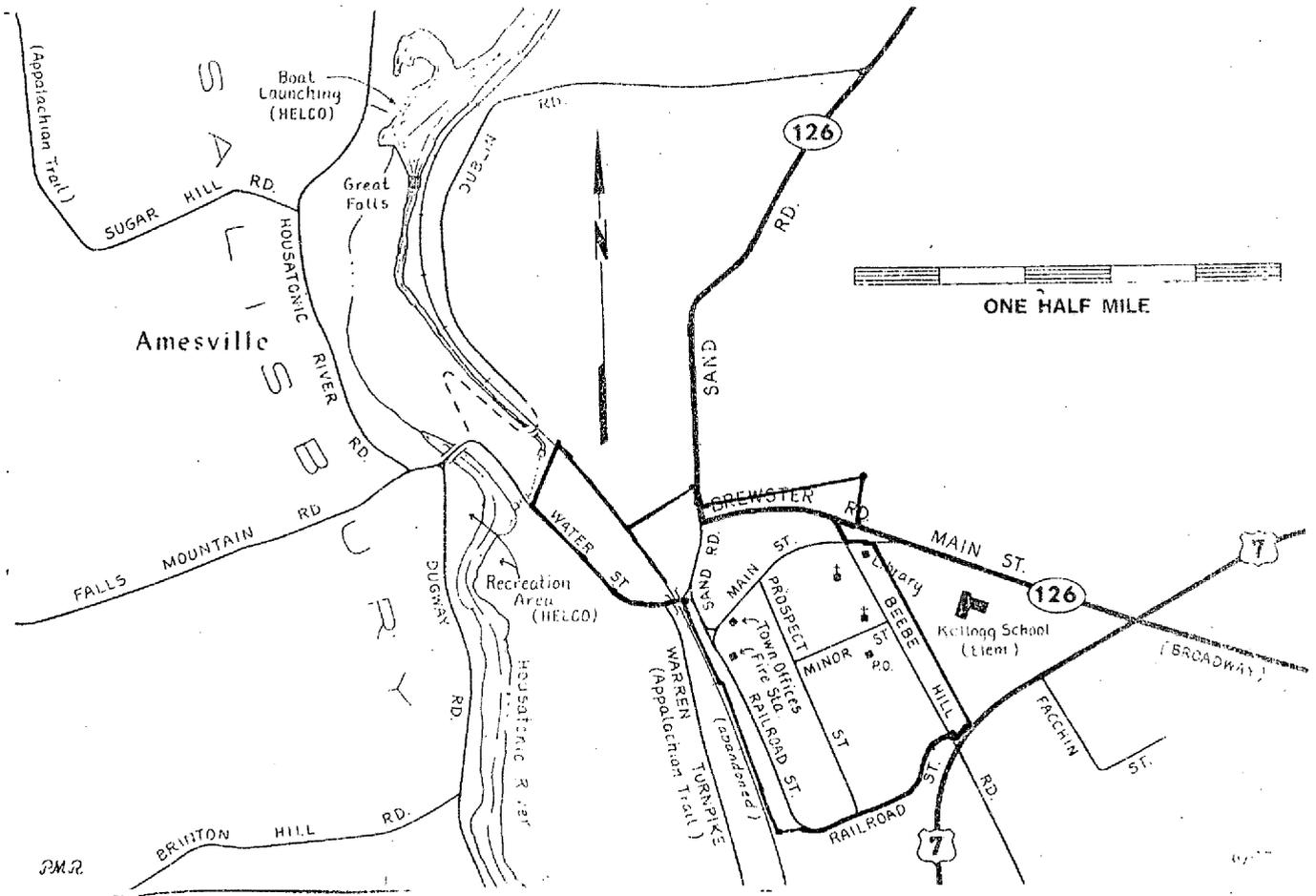
Page 7-1, next to last line of second paragraph, strike word "metal", twice.  
Replace with "aluminum".

Page 7-2, second paragraph, fifth line, strike the final "e" from lath.

Page 7-6, last line, correct "54" to read "59".

Page 8-3, second paragraph, sixth line, after the word "school" insert the  
word "building".

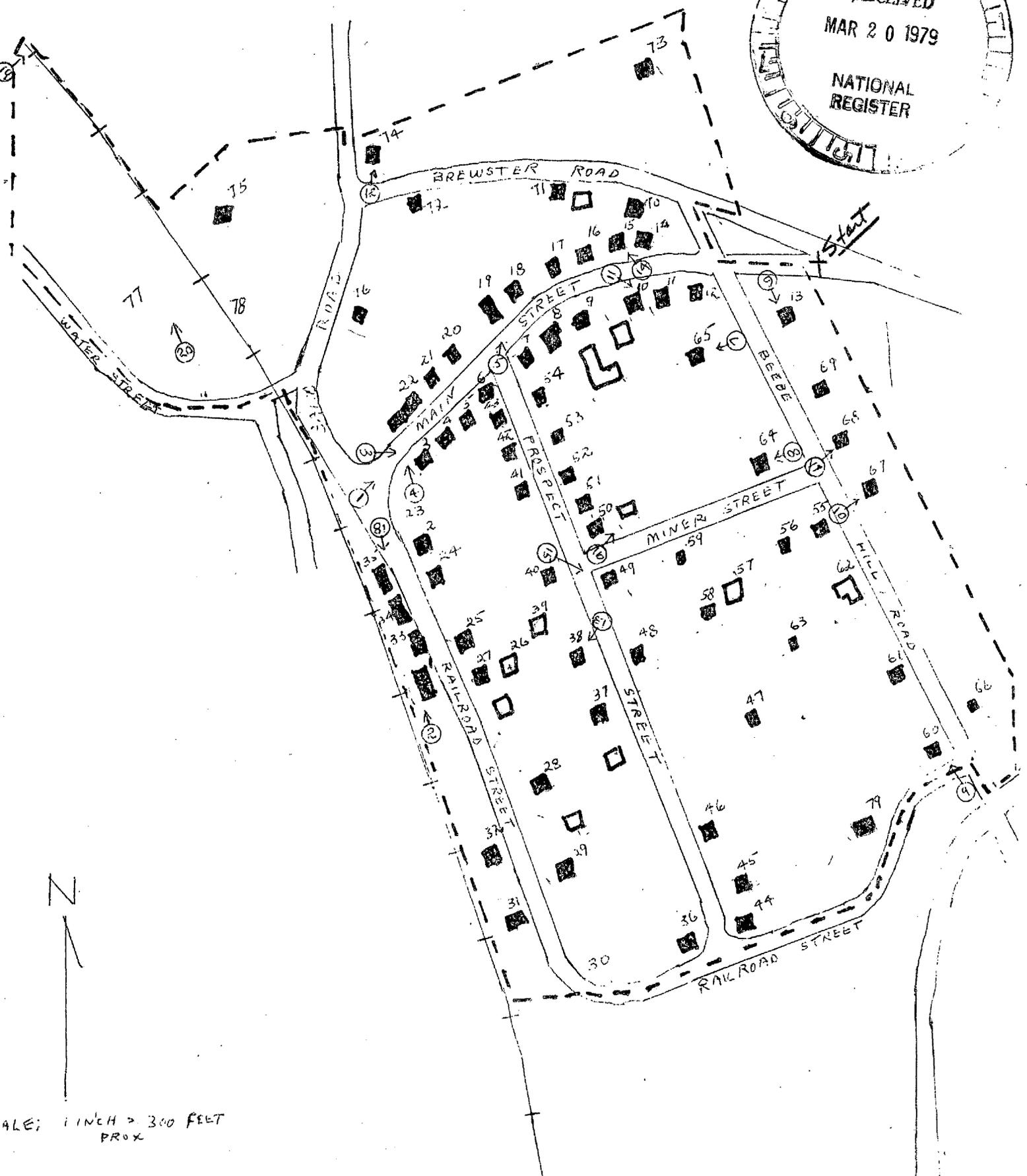
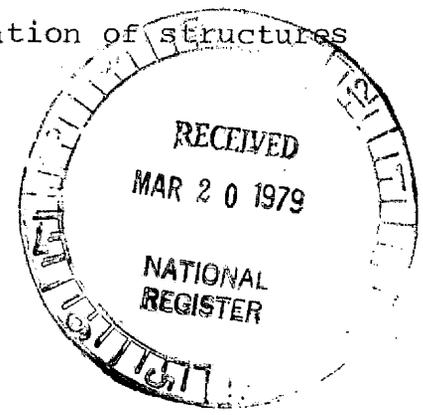
Falls Village District  
Falls Village, Connecticut



Falls Village District, Falls Village, Connecticut

As Falls Village has no maps showing property lines, the contour of the district boundary is approximate.

For date and style of each structure and identification of structures non-contributing, see list of property owners.



SCALE: 1 INCH = 300 FEET PROX