

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 16 1987  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A  
and/or common BAL TIC HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet. N/A not for publication  
city, town Sprague xx— vicinity of Baltic  
state Connecticut code 09 county New London code 011

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership.  
street & number  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk  
street & number 1 Main Street--Town Hall  
city, town Baltic state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date 1987 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
city, town Hartford state CT

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Baltic Historic District encompasses virtually the entire extent of Baltic, a village in the town of Sprague. The village stands at the confluence of Beaver Brook and the much larger Shetucket River. It includes substantial industrial structures from one major textile enterprise and one relatively minor one, workers' dwellings associated with both textile mills, commercial buildings erected by the major manufacturer and others erected by individual small businesses, and private and public institutional buildings. There are 233 buildings in the district and six structures; 208 of the buildings and 2 of the structures contribute to the significance of the district, or 88 percent of the total resources. Resources were deemed noncontributing because they are less than 50 years old or because they have been so extensively altered that their original appearance is not apparent. Not included in the total of resources are minor structures such as garages and sheds.

Most of the buildings in Baltic went up between 1857 and 1861, when the Sprague family of Cranston, Rhode Island, established textile production in Baltic and created the village. The Sprague mill on the north bank of the Shetucket River was completed in 1857 and seriously damaged by fire in 1887 (Photograph 1). The mill was extensively renovated in 1900-1901, when the attached weave shed was added; foundations and portions of the lower-floor walls were retained from the original structure. Directly associated with the mill are the storehouse and freight depot to its north, the mill agent's house (Photograph 3) erected by a subsequent owner of the mill, and the remains of the water power system (Photograph 2). The largest number of buildings in Baltic (117) are 2-family workers' dwellings built between 1857 and 1861 (all have the nominal date c.1860 in the building inventory). Built on a standard plan, they are all gable-roofed, 1 and 1/2 stories tall, and have two front entries; front dormers were added to most of the workers' dwellings in 1900-1901 (Photographs 4-7). There are three clusters of these houses: two rows along Wall Street and Fifth Avenue; a grid of blocks along High, Main, and River streets; and along Park Drive. The first group housed supervisory personnel and the other two housed operatives. The standard spacing of houses with standard design impart an appearance of relentless regularity to these streetscapes. The Spragues also erected a company store (Photograph 8) and, in the 1870s, a gristmill (Photograph 9).

At the same time the Spragues were erecting their corporate infrastructure, individuals and small businesses came to Baltic to serve its growing population of operatives. Confined to the areas not owned by the Spragues, they erected closely spaced buildings along High and West Main streets. These streetscapes (Photographs 10-13,15,16) present a diverse collection of 19th- and early 20th-century styles, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival. This tightly packed area held a mix of commercial, residential, and institutional uses, the latter including

(continued)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Criteria A,C

**Specific dates** 1857--mill built      **Builder/Architect** not known

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### Summary

Baltic Historic District is significant in the history of its immediate local area, the history of eastern Connecticut, and the history of the southern New England textile industry (Criterion A). Baltic and the town of Sprague owe their existence to the textile firm that built the majority of buildings in the district. That firm, A. & W. Sprague, was among the largest textile producers in the region when it built Baltic. Its growth and its catastrophic demise in the depression of 1873 exemplify the regional pattern of development in this industry during the 19th century. The Spragues' westward expansion into the Shetucket watershed was part of a significant trend in this pattern, in which Rhode Island interests established and controlled the textile industry of eastern Connecticut. The village's history also provides insight into assimilation and mobility among French-Canadian people in Connecticut. The district has further significance because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of several types and styles of architecture, as well as the characteristics of both a planned industrial community and the unplanned development that accompanied the establishment of industry (Criterion C). The Spragues' mill, modified in 1900-1901, is among the largest three textile mills in Connecticut, and its construction illustrates the most up-to-date industrial architecture of its day (Photograph 1). Outstanding examples of other architectural types include the Sprague Store and Hall, a Greek Revival commercial building (Photograph 8); the eclectic, Victorian Roderick Block (Photograph 11); and the modestly scaled Shingle Style dwelling on West Main Street (Photograph 17). Baltic also retains the distinctive spatial qualities of the 19th-century mill village, with its common components of mill, waterpower and transportation systems, housing, and community facilities, all arranged around the central purpose of industrial production. The non-corporate residential, commercial, and institutional area of Baltic illustrates the development of the small-town center in Connecticut during the 19th century.

### History

The Sprague industrial empire began as a family partnership in the early 19th century: Amasa Sprague, an expert in textile dying and printing, oversaw production, and his brother William looked after the finances and marketing. William was also a banker and a leader in the Whig party. In the 1850s he combined his political and financial power as the president and primary promoter of the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad. The railroad project coincided with the Spragues' decision to expand production of the woven cotton used in their printing works. They looked along the railroad in Connecticut to find a manufacturing site, and in 1856 selected a small settlement on the Shetucket River in Lisbon (near its boundary with Franklin)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 122

Quadrangle name Norwich

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References See continuation sheet.

A 

Zone	Easting						Northing												

B 

Zone	Easting						Northing												

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Matthew Roth, Bruce Clouette, Robert Griffith, National Register Coordinator edited by John Herzan,

organization Historic Resource Consultants

date November 1986

street & number 55 Van Dyke Avenue

telephone 203 547-0268

city or town Hartford

state CT

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date June 11, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

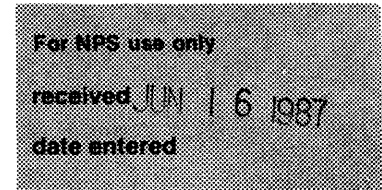
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Description (continued):

the 1911 Town Hall (Photograph 13, center) and the Methodist Church.

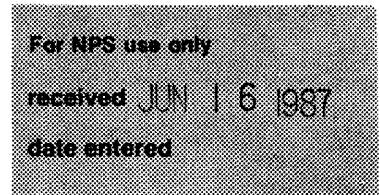
Most of the remaining buildings are related to two other institutions, the Shetucket Worsted Company and the Catholic parish of Sprague. Shetucket Worsted started in 1893, in a building alongside Beaver Brook north of West Main Street. The few workers' dwellings it erected, immediately west of Baltic center along West Main Street, were generally similar to the prevailing mode of operative housing in Baltic. Several more formal dwellings on the north side of West Main Street, including the Queen Anne house in Photograph 15, were occupied by the owners and managers of Shetucket Worsted. The firm built a new mill upstream on Beaver Brook in 1907 (Photograph 14). The buildings associated with Immaculate Conception parish stand along the south side of West Main Street at the western end of the commercial area. Since Baltic's population was a relatively early and relatively high concentration of Catholic people for eastern Connecticut, the village became a regional center for church-related activities, including primary and secondary schools and a convent. The Second Empire-style St. Mary Convent, erected in 1888, is the earliest remaining building in the church-related complex, which also features Immaculate Conception Church (1911; Photograph 18) and Academy of the Holy Family (1914), both Georgian Revival, as well as several more recent structures.

In its streetscapes and the proportion of buildings that survive, the village has a high degree of integrity. The mill complexes, the rows of supervisory dwellings, the grid of operatives' dwellings, the tightly packed Victorian commercial and residential district, and the institutional campus of the church-related buildings continue to reflect the distinctive spatial relationships of their diverse purposes. At the same time, the proximity of these diverse uses indicates the intimate relationship among all people and institutions in this "company town." The buildings offer varying degrees of architectural integrity. The workers' dwellings, which once all had identical exteriors of white-painted clapboards, now feature a diversity of siding materials and colors; on more than half, modern siding materials now obscure the clapboards. Several have had porches or small wings added in recent decades, but most retain their distinctive massing and plan and only two (e.g., Photograph 19) have been altered to the extent that their original character is not apparent. Of the 130 workers' dwellings erected by the Spragues, only 13 have been lost; most of the missing 13 stood between Park Drive and the Shetucket River and were destroyed in the 1955 flood. Many of the commercial buildings have some superficial alteration, although most changes are confined to the ground-level storefronts. Only a handful of buildings have been erected since the end of local textile production. In all, the village of Baltic retains a high degree of architectural and spatial integrity.

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Description (continued):

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The inventory on the following pages lists buildings in order of their appearance on each side of the respective streets. For streets running generally in a north-south direction, the inventory runs north to south down the west side of the street, then north to south down the east side of the street. For streets running generally in an east-west direction, the inventory runs west to east along the north side of the street, then west to east along the south side of the street. Buildings on lots in the interior of blocks (i.e., with no street frontage) are listed at the appropriate places between the adjacent street-facing buildings; this occurs mostly on West Main Street, Map 26, Block 1.

The inventory and building count do not include minor structures such as garages and sheds. They do include two 8-bay garages on Wall Street that were erected c.1910 by the Baltic Mills Company for the use of supervisory staff and their families. These are large buildings that contribute to the significance of the district.

For each building, the inventory lists the map/block/lot number, the style or type, date of construction, number of stories, roof type, wall material, and name, if any. Modern siding materials (aluminum and vinyl siding, asphalt and asbestos shingle) are all indicated by the word "sided."

Map/Block/Lot#	Type	Date	Stories	Roof	Wall Material	Name
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Contributing Buildings

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

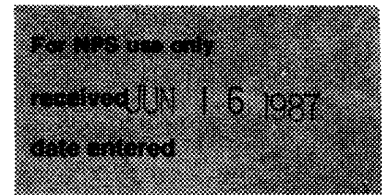
East side:

25/3/11,1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/3/10	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	

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Description (continued):

BUSHNELL HOLLOW ROAD

North side:

26/5/3	utilitarian	c.1890	2	gable	cut granite	storehouse
26/5/2	utilitarian	c.1930	1	gable	clapboard	freight depot

South side:

26/6/1	industrial	1857+	5	flat	granite	Sprague Mill/ Baltic Mill (Photograph 1)
26/6/1	utilitarian	1895	1	monitor	granite	boiler house

ELM STREET

East side:

25/11/7	utilitarian	c.1915	1 1/2	hip	sided	Sayles Co. nursery school
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FIFTH AVENUE

North side:

26/4/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/4/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard/sided	
26/4/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/4/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
26/4/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard/sided	
26/4/6,7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
26/4/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	

FOURTH STREET

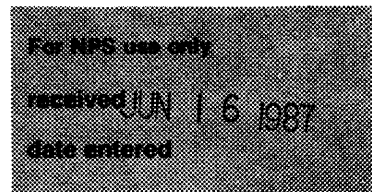
West side:

25/11/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
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Description (continued):

HIGH STREET

North side:

25/2/4	Victorian Eclectic (Photograph 11)	1898	3	flat	brick	Roderick Block
25/2/5	utilitarian	c.1910	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/6	Greek Revival/ Italianate	c.1865	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/7	Victorian utilitarian	c.1880	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/8	utilitarian	c.1860	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/9	utilitarian	c.1860	2 1/2	gable	wood shingle	
(The above 4 buildings are shown in Photograph 12)						
25/2/10	utilitarian	c.1880	2 1/2	gable	clapboard	
25/2/11	utilitarian	c.1880	1 1/2	gable	clapboard and siding	
25/2/12	utilitarian	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
25/2/14	utilitarian	c.1880	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/15	Victorian utilitarian	c.1880	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/3/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/3/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
25/3/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/3/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
25/6/19	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle	
25/6/20	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
25/6/21	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/6/22	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/6/23	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle	
25/6/24	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	

South side:

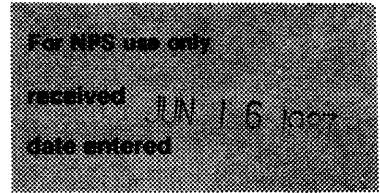
25/1/1	Queen Anne	c.1900	2 1/2	hip	sided	
25/1/2	Italian Villa	c.1885	2 1/2	hip	sided	
25/1/3	Victorian utilitarian	c.1870	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/1/4	Victorian utilitarian	c.1870	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/1/5	Victorian utilitarian	c.1870	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/1/7	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	3	gable	sided	
25/1/8	Colonial Revival	c.1900	3	hip	sided	

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Description (continued):

25/1/10	Italian Villa	c.1890	3	hip	sided
25/1/11	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/12	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/13	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/1/14	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/15	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/1/16	millworkers' house	c.1860	1/1/2	gable	sided
25/1/17	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/18	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/1/19	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/20	millworkers' house	c.1860	1/1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/1/21	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	stucco
25/1/22	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	vertical board
25/1/23	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/1/24	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/25	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/26	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/27	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/1/28	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle

LUCIER HEIGHTS

North side:

24/6/20	millworkers' house	c.1892	1 1/2	gable	sided
24/6/22	millworkers' house	c.1892	1 1/2	gable	sided
24/6/23	millworkers' house	c.1892	1 1/2	gable	sided

MAIN STREET

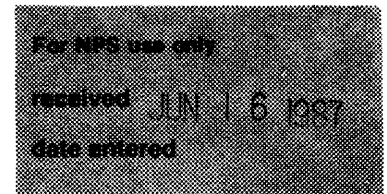
North side:

25/12/1	Second Empire (Photograph 9)	c.1875	2 1/2	mansard	stucco/granite	Sprague gristmill/ Quidnick gristmill Hull & Hawkins gristmill
25/12/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
25/12/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	

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Description (continued):

25/12/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/11/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
(The above 4 houses are in Photographs 6 and 7)					
25/11/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/11/3,4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/11/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/11/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/10/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/9/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/9/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/9/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/9/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/7/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/7/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/7/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/7/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle

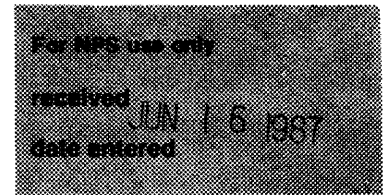
South side:

25/3/9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/3/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/3/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/3/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/4/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/4/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/4/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/4/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/17	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/16	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/6/15	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/14	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/13	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/12	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/11	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/10,9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	stucco/sided

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Baltic Historic District  
Continuation sheet Sprague, CT Item number 7 Page 7

Description (continued):

25/6/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/6/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/6/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided

PARK DRIVE

Park Drive is a U-shaped road off West Main Street; see sketch map. The houses on the north, west and south west sides of the street are labeled "Outside" in the below inventory; the houses that are on the block formed by Park Drive and West Main Street are denoted as "Inside."

Outside:

26/1/10	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
26/1/11	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
26/1/12	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/1/14	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/1/15	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/1/16	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided

Inside:

26/2/9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/2/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/2/6,7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/2/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
26/2/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle/sided
26/2/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle

RIVER STREET

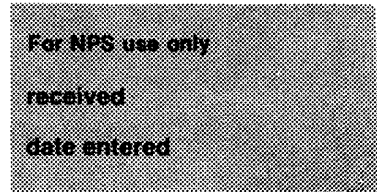
North side:

25/13/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/13/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/13/3	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard

(continued)

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Baltic Historic District

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Item number 7

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Description (continued):

25/13/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/13/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided

(Also on 25/13/5 is a recent Ranch house which appears on the inventory of noncontributing buildings.)

South side:

25/10/9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/7,6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/10/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/9/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/9/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/9/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/9/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard
25/8/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/8/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/7/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided
25/7/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/7/6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle
25/7/5	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	wood shingle

SCOTLAND ROAD

East side:

9/4/4	Georgian Revival (Photograph 3)	c.1900	2 1/2	gable	clapboard/ shingle	mill agent's house
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WALL STREET

South side: (Photograph 4)

26/3/16	utilitarian	c.1910	1	gable	novelty siding	millworkers' garages (8 bays)
26/3/15	utilitarian	c.1910	1	gable	novelty siding	millworkers' garages (8 bays)
26/3/14	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/3/13	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/3/12	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	

(continued)

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Continuation sheet Baltic Historic District Item number 2 Page 1  
Sprague, CT

Location (continued):

- Notes:
1. Street names are very irregular in Baltic. For instance, several streets have been known as Mill Street. The present Mill Street has had several different names, as have the thoroughfares now known as Wall, West Main, and Brookside streets, Park Drive, and Scotland Road. Street numbers are also quite irregular. The successive operators of the cotton mill used different numbering systems to designate the workers' dwellings, and the town has assigned a third set of numbers to many houses. On several streets remnants of all three numbering systems survive; one property owner receives mail addressed to three different streets and numbers. To alleviate the confusion that has arisen, this nomination identifies properties by the map, block and lot numbers assigned by the town assessor.
  2. On the following list, an entry with two lot numbers (e.g., 25/10/7,6) indicates that a single continuous building stands on both lots.
  3. Many lots in Baltic have more than one building on them. The inventory in item 7, Description, lists every building on every lot. In this section, however, each lot appears only once on the list, regardless of how many buildings it includes.

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

East side:

25/3/11,1  
25/3/10

BUSHNELL HOLLOW ROAD

North side:

26/5/3  
26/5/2  
26/5/1

South side:

26/6/1

(continued)

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Continuation sheet Baltic Historic District Item number 2 Page 2  
Sprague, CT

Location (continued):

26/6/1  
26/6/1

ELM STREET

East side:

25/11/7

FIFTH AVENUE

North side:

26/4/1  
26/4/2  
26/4/3  
26/4/4  
26/4/5  
26/4/6,7  
26/4/8  
26/4/9

FOURTH STREET

West side:

25/11/6

East side:

25/6/18

HIGH STREET

North side:

25/2/4  
25/2/5  
25/2/6  
25/2/7

(continued)

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Baltic Historic District

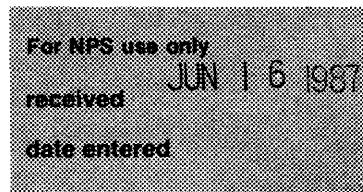
Continuation sheet Sprague, CT

Item number

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3



Location (continued):

- 25/2/8
- 25/2/9
- 25/2/10
- 25/2/11
- 25/2/12
- 25/2/13
- 25/2/14
- 25/2/15
- 25/3/2
- 25/3/3
- 25/3/4
- 25/3/5
- 25/6/19
- 25/6/20
- 25/6/21
- 25/6/22
- 25/6/23
- 25/6/24

South side:

- 25/1/1
- 25/1/2
- 25/1/3
- 25/1/4
- 25/1/5
- 25/1/6
- 25/1/7
- 25/1/8
- 25/1/9
- 25/1/10
- 25/1/11
- 25/1/12
- 25/1/13
- 25/1/14
- 25/1/15
- 25/1/16
- 25/1/17
- 25/1/18
- 25/1/19
- 25/1/20
- 25/1/21
- 25/1/22
- 25/1/23

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Baltic Historic District  
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Location (continued):

- 25/1/24
- 25/1/25
- 25/1/26
- 25/1/27
- 25/1/28

LUCIER HEIGHTS

North side:

- 24/6/20
- 24/6/22
- 24/6/23

MAIN STREET

North side:

- 25/12/1
- 25/12/2
- 25/12/3
- 25/12/4
- 25/11/1
- 25/11/2
- 25/11/3, 4
- 25/11/5
- 25/11/6
- 25/10/1
- 25/10/2
- 25/10/3
- 25/10/4
- 25/9/1
- 25/9/2
- 25/9/3
- 25/9/4
- 25/8/1
- 25/8/2
- 25/8/3
- 25/8/4
- 25/7/1
- 25/7/2
- 25/7/3

(continued)



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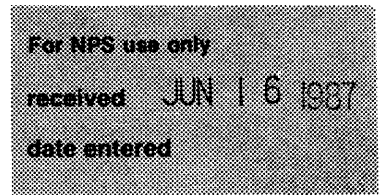
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Baltic Historic District

Continuation sheet Sprague, CT

Item number 2

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Location (continued):

25/7/4

South side:

- 25/3/9
- 25/3/8
- 25/3/7
- 25/3/6
- 25/4/8
- 25/4/7
- 25/4/6
- 25/4/5
- 25/6/17
- 25/6/16
- 25/6/15
- 25/6/14
- 25/6/13
- 25/6/12
- 25/6/11
- 25/6/10, 9
- 25/6/8
- 25/6/7
- 25/6/6
- 25/6/5
- 25/6/4
- 25/6/3
- 25/6/2
- 25/6/1

PARK DRIVE

- 26/1/10
- 26/1/11
- 26/1/12
- 26/1/14
- 26/1/15
- 26/1/16
- 26/2/9
- 26/2/8
- 26/2/6, 7
- 26/2/5
- 26/2/4
- 26/2/3

(continued)

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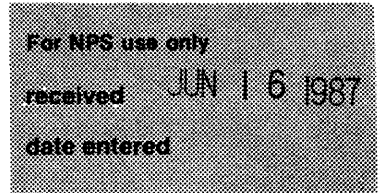
**National Register of Historic Places  
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Baltic Historic District

Continuation sheet Sprague, CT

Item number 2

Page 6



Location (continued):

RIVER STREET

North side:

25/13/1  
25/13/2  
25/13/3  
25/13/4  
25/13/5

South side:

25/10/9  
25/10/8  
25/10/7,6  
25/10/5  
25/9/8  
25/9/7  
25/9/6  
25/9/5  
25/8/8  
25/8/7  
25/8/6  
25/8/5  
25/7/8  
25/7/7  
25/7/6  
25/7/5

SCOTLAND ROAD

East side:

9/4/4

WALL STREET

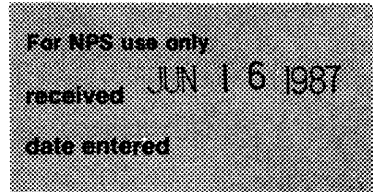
South side:

26/3/16

(continued)

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Baltic Historic District

Continuation sheet Sprague, CT

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Location (continued):

- 26/3/15
- 26/3/14
- 26/3/13
- 26/3/12
- 26/3/11
- 26/3/10
- 26/3/9
- 26/3/8
- 26/3/4
- 26/5/5,6
- 26/3/7
- 26/3/2
- 26/3/1

WEST MAIN STREET

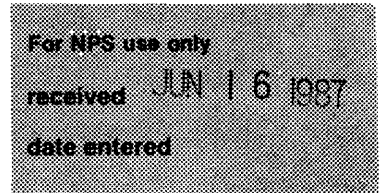
North side:

- 24/6/15
- 24/6/16
- 24/6/17
- 24/6/18
- 24/6/19
- 24/6/24
- 24/6/25
- 24/6/26
- 24/6/27
- 24/6/28
- 24/6/30
- 24/6/31
- 26/6/32
- 26/6/33
- 26/1/1
- 26/1/2
- 26/1/3
- 26/1/4
- 26/1/5
- 26/1/6
- 26/1/7
- 26/1/13
- 26/1/8
- 26/1/9
- 26/2/1

(continued)

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Baltic Historic District  
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Location (continued):

26/2/2

South side:

24/3/5

24/3/4

24/3/3

24/3/2

23/3/1

23/3/2

23/2/3

25/2/3

25/2/2

25/2/1

25/2/16

26/8/3

26/8/2

26/8/1

(continued)

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Representation in Existing Surveys:

Connecticut: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites

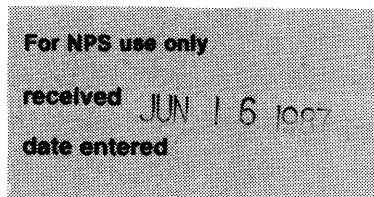
1981, federal/state, records deposited with:

Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

(continued)

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Baltic Historic District

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Description (continued):

26/3/11	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/3/10	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/3/9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
26/3/8	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/3/4	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/5/5,6	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
26/3/7	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	(Photograph 5)

WEST MAIN STREET

North side:

24/6/15	Queen Anne	c.1880	2 1/2	hip	clapboard/shingle	(Photograph 15)
24/6/16	Colonial Revival	c.1910	2 1/2	hip	textured concrete block	
24/6/17	Colonial Revival	c.1910	2 1/2	hip	clapboard/shingle	
24/6/18	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
24/6/19	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
24/6/24	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided	
24/6/25	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	1	gable	clapboard	
24/6/26	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	clapboard	
24/6/27	Second Empire	c.1885	2 1/2	mansard	sided	
24/6/28	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided	
24/6/30	Shingle	c.1910	2 1/2	gable	shingle/clapboard	(Photograph 17)
24/6/31	commercial	c.1925	1	flat	wood shingle	
26/6/32	Georgian Revival	1911	2 1/2	hip	brick	former Town Hall
26/6/33	vernacular	1909	3	flat	textured concrete block	
(The above 3 buildings are shown in Photograph 13)						
26/1/1	Italianate	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	sided	(Photograph 10)
26/1/2	Victorian utilitarian	c.1880	2 1/2	gable	sided	
26/1/3	Italianate	c.1880	2 1/2	gable	sided	
26/1/4	utilitarian	c.1925	1	flat	brick	
26/1/13	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/1/8	Colonial Revival	c.1910	2 1/2	gable	clapboard	
26/1/9	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
26/2/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	

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Continuation sheet Sprague, CT

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Description (continued):

26/2/2	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	
South side:						
24/3/5	Victorian vernacular (Photograph 16)	c.1890	1 1/2	gable	clapboard	
24/3/4	industrial (Photograph 14)	1907	4	flat	brick	Shetucket Worsted Mill
24/3/3	utilitarian	c.1880	2 1/2	gable	sided	
24/3/2	millworkers' house	c.1890	1 1/2	gable	sided	
24/3/1	millworkers' house	c.1890	1 1/2	gable	sided	
23/3/1	Colonial Revival	1930	2 1/2	gable	brick	St. Mary Rectory
23/3/2	Georgian Revival (Photograph 18)	1911	2 1/2	gable	brick	Immaculate Conception Church
23/2/3	Georgian Revival	1914	3 1/2	gable	brick	Academy of the Holy Family
23/2/3	Second Empire	1888	3 1/2	mansard	brick	St. Mary Convent
23/2/3	utilitarian	1929	4	flat	brick	"
25/2/3	Greek Revival/ Italianate	c.1870	2 1/2	gable	sided	
25/2/2	Victorian Gothic	1904	1 1/2	gable	shingle/sided	Methodist Church
26/8/3	Colonial Revival	c.1900	2 1/2	gable	sided	
26/8/2	Greek Revival/ Italianate (Photograph 8)	c.1860	2 1/2	gable	brick	Sprague Store/ Sprague Hall

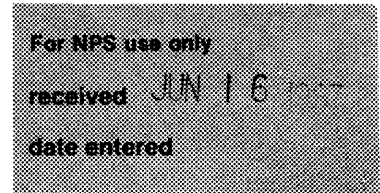
Contributing Structures

26/3/1 masonry bulkhead and sluice gates for Baltic Mill waterpower system; earliest remains built c.1874, additions and alterations in 1895 and 1900-1901 (Photograph 2)

26/6/1 Steel, rivet-connected, Warren pony truss bridge, c.1910; spans the tailrace to the southwest of the Baltic Mill

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Baltic Historic District

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Description (continued):

Noncontributing Buildings

BUSHNELL HOLLOW ROAD

North side:

26/5/1	utilitarian	1982	1	gable	brick	Baltic Fire Department
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FIFTH AVENUE

26/4/9	altered mill house (Photograph 19)	c.1860/ c.1960	1	gable	sided	
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FOURTH STREET

East side:

25/6/18	utilitarian	c.1950	1	gable	sided	
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HIGH STREET

North side:

25/2/13	utilitarian (Photograph 20)	c.1860 c.1960	1	flat	sided	
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South side:

25/1/6	utilitarian	c.1960	1	flat	concrete block	
25/1/9	utilitarian	c.1930	1	gable	sided	major alterations
25/1/11	Victorian utilitarian	c.1890	2 1/2	gable	aluminum sided	"

MAIN STREET

North side:

25/9/1	millworkers' house	c.1860	1 1/2	gable	sided	storefront added
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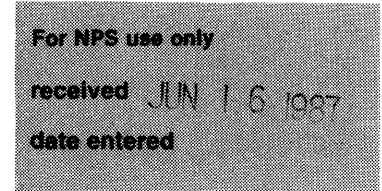
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Continuation sheet Sprague, CT Item number 7 Page 12

Description (continued):

South side:

26/8/1	utilitarian	1964	1	gable	brick	U.S. Post Office Sprague Town Hall
25/2/16	utilitarian (Photograph 21)	1955	2	flat	brick	

RIVER STREET

North side:

25/13/1	utilitarian	c.1940	1	gable	clapboard	converted garage
25/13/5	Ranch	c.1980	2 1/2	gable	sided	

WALL STREET

26/3/2	apartment complex	c.1975	1	gable	sided
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WEST MAIN STREET

North side:

24/6/25	Ranch	c.1960	1	gable	shingle	Donohue woolen mi major alterator
26/1/5	industrial	1892/ c.1910	2	gable	clapboard/brick	
26/1/6	utilitarian	c.1890	2	gable	sided	
26/1/7	utilitarian	c.1880	2	gable	sided	

South side:

24/3/4	Ranch	c.1965	1	gable	sided	St. Joseph School convent annex gymnasium gymnasium infirmary rectory annex telephone co.
23/3/1	utilitarian	1950	2	flat	brick	
23/2/3	utilitarian	c.1945	3 1/2	flat	brick	
23/2/3	utilitarian	c.1950	3	gable	brick	
23/2/3	utilitarian	c.1980	3	gable	brick	
23/2/3	utilitarian	c.1980	2	flat	stucco	
23/2/3	utilitarian	c.1965	1	gable	shingle	
25/2/1	Colonial Revival	1953	1	gable	brick	

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Description (continued):

Noncontributing Structures

West Main Street (Route 207) over the Shetucket River: two-span, steel and concrete bridge, 1941, state bridge #1292.

West Main Street over Beaver Brook (west of Immaculate Conception Church), one-span, reinforced-concrete bridge, 1940, #1549.

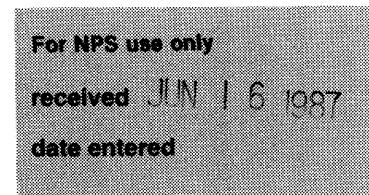
West Main Street over Beaver Brook (just east of Roderick Block), one-span, reinforced-concrete box culvert, c.1940, #1550.

Main Street (Route 97) over Beaver Brook: one-span, steel and concrete bridge, built c.1960, #1291.

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Significance (continued):

known as Lord's Bridge, which would soon become Baltic.

The expansion was carried out by William's son Byron and Amasa's sons Amasa Sprague, Jr. and William Sprague II. They hired Lisbon resident Samuel Ladd to buy the hundreds of acres they would need, as well as the water rights on the Shetucket all the way upstream to Willimantic. The dam, power system, and 5-story granite mill went up first, opening in 1857; over the next four years the 130 workers' dwellings were completed. By 1860, A. and W. Sprague employed 250 men and 400 women in Baltic, making cotton yarn that was shipped via rail to the firm's weaving and print works in Cranston, R.I. The sudden demand for town services in Baltic, such as fire protection and schools, resulted in some tension between the new industrial and older agricultural communities. Accordingly, Samuel Ladd, elected to the General Assembly in 1860, successfully sponsored a bill to set off the new town of Sprague, taking land from Lisbon and Franklin. Their position thus secured, the Spragues completed their village, erecting a single men's boardinghouse (not extant), a company store with a community hall on its upper floor (Photograph 8) and, in the early 1870s, a gristmill (Photograph 9). In 1870, 804 men, 396 women, and 210 children worked in the Baltic mill. The new community held opportunity for others besides the Spragues, and by 1870 the land bordering the western edge of their holdings had been built up with commercial and residential development, lining the streets now known as High and West Main.

The doubling of employment at the Sprague mill during the 1860s coincided with the first mass emigration from Quebec, and perhaps half the residents of the new village were French-Canadians. Yankees and Irish (who built the railroad) were also present in Baltic, but they arrived at the same time as the French-Canadians, who accordingly did not encounter a local small-business sector dominated by the other groups. As a result, from its inception Baltic saw unusually rapid class and economic mobility among its French-Canadian citizens, who moved very quickly into the provision of goods and services to the millworker population, as well as small-scale real-estate speculation. The leading French-Canadian businessman was Raymond Jodoin, whose family came to Baltic in 1865, when he was two months old. At age nine Raymond worked in the mill for three dollars a week, saving enough to open a livery stable when he reached majority. He developed commercial property in the emerging town center, west of the mill village, opening a hotel and a saloon, and renting space to other businesses. He became Baltic's largest individual landowner, and built the most prominent commercial building in town, the Roderick Block, named for his son (Photograph 11). Jodoin was Sprague's first selectman in 1899-1900, 1908-14, and 1916-25, and served several legislative terms.

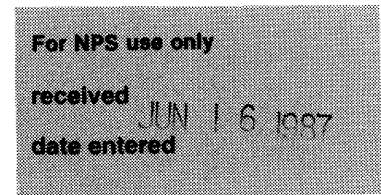
Debt from their massive expansion crippled the Spragues when credit tightened in the depression of 1873. Their mortgage-holders kept the mill open with

(continued)

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Significance (continued):

reduced operations until 1887, when a fire destroyed the mill and Baltic became a virtual ghost town. The workers who remained were a pool of experienced labor that helped to attract Michael Donahoe, when he was looking for a site to start a worsted mill in 1892; his firm, Shetucket Worsted, employed over 100 people. In 1900 Frederick Sayles of Pawtucket, R.I., bought the Sprague mill and associated properties. His Baltic Mills Company rebuilt the mill and the agent's house, and repaired the workers' dwellings. As New England textile production declined the Sayles family sold off assets to keep going. In 1939 the dwellings were auctioned, many going to the occupants. Textile production ended in the 1960s and the mill has seen various minor tenant uses since then.

Architecture and Town Planning

Baltic is among the most fully intact corporate-built mill villages in Connecticut. Besides the mill, with its waterpower and transportation systems, the village includes corporate-constructed housing, as well as commercial and recreational facilities. Several of these buildings are among the most significant of their type in the state, but more important is the survival of virtually an entire community that was laid out to fulfill many functions all geared to the single purpose of profit-making. The district also includes substantial historic fabric from the non-corporate Baltic: the commercial, residential, and institutional buildings that grew up around the mill village. Bordering directly on the mill village, the non-corporate buildings display a diversity of styles and functions, in contrast to the rigid regularity of the mill village.

The Spragues' mill utilized the most advanced factory architecture of the 1850s: long in relation to width for maximum natural lighting on the workfloors and most efficient mechanical power transmission; unjoisted floors of layered planks; stair towers outside the main building envelope to prevent fire from spreading via the stairs; and the integration of power generation with the structure itself by use of wheelpits below the building. The 1887 fire left much of the walls standing while destroying the wooden interior framework and floors, and the contents. As rebuilt by Sayles, the mill embodied many of the same distinctive aspects of industrial architecture as the original mill. The major differences were that it was enlarged, a square stair tower was added to the river side, a near-flat roof was installed (the original was gable), and the 1-story sawtooth-roof weave shed was appended to the northwest corner.

The layout of the workers' village was governed by factors of topography, efficiency and conscious social stratification. The level land on the mill's side of the Shetucket accommodated 18 dwellings (along today's Fifth Avenue and

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Significance (continued):

Wall Street), which were set aside for supervisory personnel. The workers' and supervisors' houses followed the same standard design, but the latter were differentiated by their location: the closer to the mill, the higher the status. The steep knoll northeast of the mill dictated that the majority of the dwellings would be across the river from the mill, along what are now Main, High, and River streets. In the workers' village the spacing of houses was determined by the capacity of the pumps used to supply them with water: each pump could serve four houses (or eight families). The wider spaces between the groups of four became the streets known today as Brookside, Maple, Elm, First, Second, and Third. At the foot of what is today Elm Street, a footbridge over the Shetucket connected the village and the mill. Sprague Store (Photograph 8) was built at the corner of West Main and Main, convenient to both the operatives' housing and the major road through the village. The second floor of the store was known as Sprague Hall, a large room for meetings and entertainment. The company painted all the workers' dwellings white, emphasizing the regularity resulting from their common pattern and spacing.

Immediately west of the corporate village, speculators like Jodoin created an entirely different-looking community. A steep ridge southwest of High and West Main streets limited the area appropriate for building, resulting in densely packed development: buildings with virtually no setback from the street and no side or back yards, a pattern characteristic of 19th-century cities, but rarely seen in a village this small. The buildings themselves offered lively stylistic diversity, in further contrast to the corporate village. The last vestiges of the Greek Revival influenced the commercial and residential stock (Photograph 12). Before long, the appearance of other Victorian styles (Photographs 10, 11 and 15, for example) deepened the contrast between corporate and non-corporate Baltic. The 1887 fire halted growth, which revived at the turn of the century when Sayles reopened the cotton mill. Thus the village includes representative examples of early 20th-century styles, notably the Georgian Revival institutional buildings. Town Hall (Photograph 13), Immaculate Conception Church (Photograph 18), and Academy of the Holy Family all followed this nostalgic and monumental style, with its characteristic use of red brick and Classical details, such as quoins, arched openings, and the church's cupola.

In conclusion, the mills, churches, houses, and stores of Baltic provide a rare opportunity to examine the spatial and stylistic characteristics of the 19th-century mill village, and to compare the different built environments created by corporate and non-corporate development in close juxtaposition.

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Baltic Historic District

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Geographic Data (continued):

UTM Coordinates

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C: 18/742170/4611260	X: 18/743250/4611260
D: 18/742450/4611210	Y: 18/743220/4611190
E: 18/742450/4611140	Z: 18/743280/4611160
F: 18/742610/4611100	A1: 18/743280/4611140
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	Q1: 18/742220/4611160

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The district boundary follows street lines and lot lines as shown on the current assessor's maps of the Town of Sprague.

The boundary was delineated largely by distinct visual breaks. To the north, along Scotland Road, the built-up area of the village ends at the mill agent's house. At the southeast ends of High, Main, and River streets, the built-up area ends with the operatives' dwellings. North of West Main Street and south of High streets in the village center, the blocks facing those streets define the extent of development. At the west end of West Main Street the boundary was drawn to include the concentration of historic buildings and to exclude buildings less than 50 years old.

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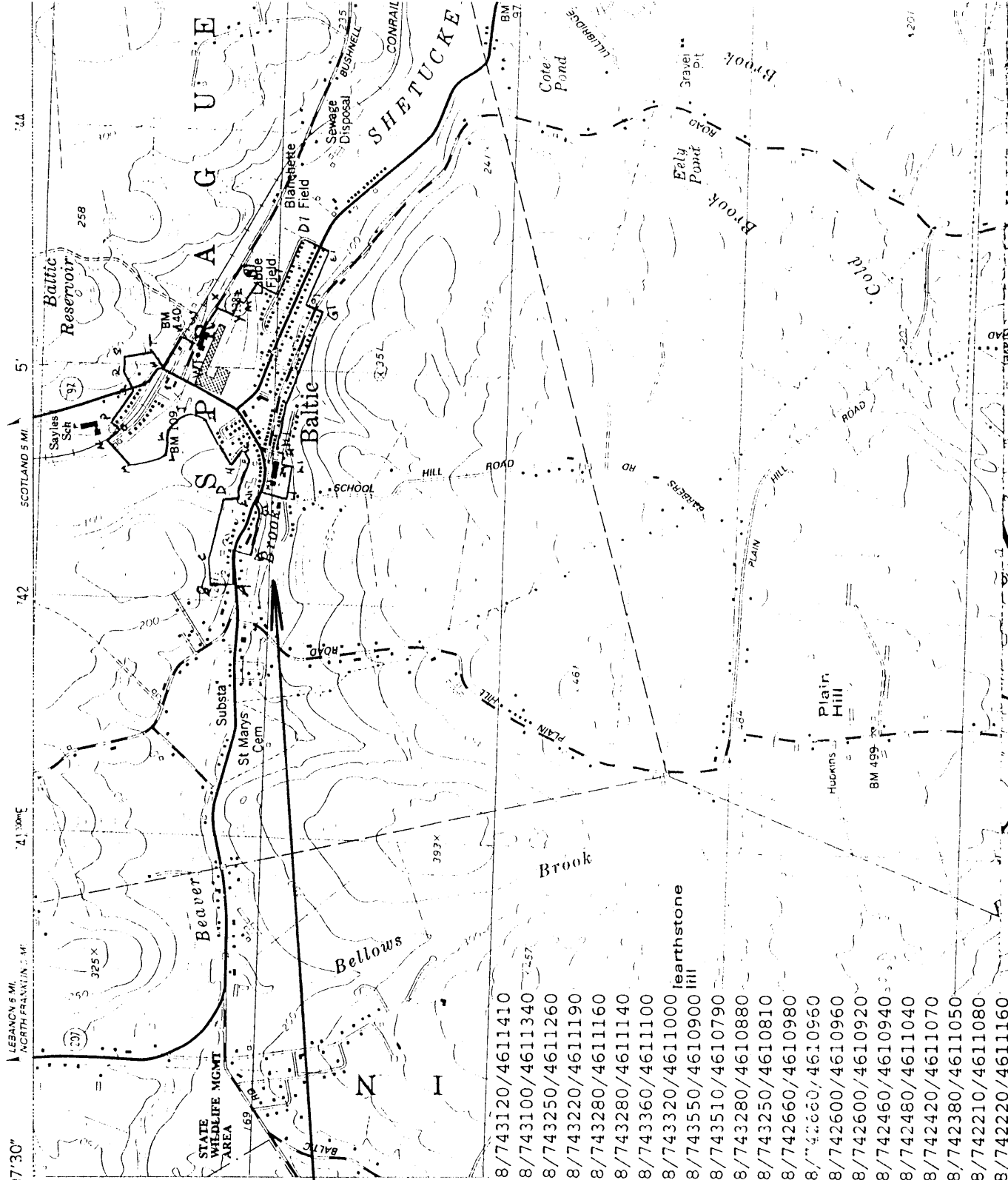
Geographic Data (continued):

The district includes both the mill village proper and the non-corporate development that accompanied it. All the buildings erected by A. and W. Sprague--industrial, residential, and commercial--have obvious relevance to the district's historical themes. The rest of the village was included for two reasons: physically, the two areas directly abut each other, overlapping slightly along High Street; historically, the textile village and the accompanying development were so deeply interdependent as to be inseparable parts of the same cycle of events, the founding and development of Baltic.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

69571 MW  
(WILLIMANTIC)



Baltic Historic District  
Sprague, Connecticut  
Norwich Quadrangle

Scale: 1:24000

UTM References:

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- B: 18/742060/4611250
- C: 18/742170/4611260
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