

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Ellington Center Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet.

NA not for publication

city, town Ellington

NA vicinity

state CT code CT county Tolland

code 013 zip code 06029

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>103</u>	<u>26</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>6</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> objects
<u>108</u>	<u>35</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan Date 10/11/90
Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the
National Register

Melrose Byers

11/15/90

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

See continuation sheet.

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

See continuation sheet.

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/granite, fieldstone

walls WOOD/weatherboard, shingle

BRICK

roof WOOD/shingle, ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ellington Center Historic District, which encompasses the town green, is rectangular in shape and runs in an east-west direction along Main and Maple streets. (See district map.) The streets are continuously lined with houses built in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, giving the district its pervasive residential character. In addition, two churches, the library, and two stores face the green.

The area now known as Ellington was settled as part of Windsor in 1717, organized as an ecclesiastical society in 1735, and incorporated in 1786. Five houses of the Colonial style, representative of the type built during those early years, remain standing in the district. Probably the oldest¹ is the Reverend John McKinstry House, 1730, at 85 Maple Street. (Photograph 13) It is a one-story five-bay frame structure whose high gambrel roof has no dormers. This house was moved to its present location in 1815 from north of where the library now stands on Main Street. Another distinctive house from the early period is 127-137 Maple Street, 1767, a two-story gable-roofed house with five bays, twin chimneys, and central entrance, the only example of this description from the 18th century.

The Federal style is well represented in the district by seven examples constructed in the first three decades of the 19th century. Two of them, built of brick, are exceptions to the general rule in Ellington of frame construction. They are 69-79 Maple Street, 1805 (Photograph 12), and 80-86 Main Street, 1806. Both have five-bay central-entrance plans with splayed brick lintels and coursed embellishment under the eaves. Others include 70 Main Street, 1812, the home of the Ellington Historical Society, which also has elaborate moldings under the eaves; 99 Main Street, 1813, shingled, with four bays in its gable end toward the street and tall 2-over-2 windows at the first floor; and 98 Main Street, 1815, which displays the archetypical radially glazed window in its tympanum.

By far the largest number of houses in any one architectural style is the 20 in the Greek Revival mode, all built during the second quarter of the 19th century, thereby indicating the district's period of fastest growth. Several variations are represented. The temple form of gable end to street with three bays at first and second floors and tympanum above appears several times, for example at 57 Maple Street, 1842. (Photograph 11.) In this house the doorway surround of flanking pilasters supporting frieze and cornice is repeated

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Street and number

Berr Avenue - 7, 11, 12

Main Street - 70, Ellington Congregational Church, 74, 76-78, 80-84, 82, 86-88, 90, 92-94, 98, McKinstry Cemetery, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 107-109, 108, 110, 111, 113-115, 114, 116-118, 119, 120, 121-123, West Green, East Green

Maple Street - 47-51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58-60, 58-60 (rear), 59-61, 62, right of way to 63(rear), 64, 65, 66, part of driveway to Arbor Commons, 69-79, 72, 74-76, 78, 80, 82, 83, 83 (rear), 84-86, 85, part of driveway to Ellington Cemetery, 87, 88-90, 89, 91-93, part of driveway to Ellington Cemetery, 92, 97-99, 101-105, 107-111, 113-119, 121-123, 125, 127-137, Church of St. Luke, 139, 142, 144-146, 145-147, 148-150, 149, 151, 153, 156

West Crossover - Hall Memorial Library

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 /multiple dwelling
 /secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/store
RELIGION/religious structure
 /church-related residence
FUNERARY/cemetery
EDUCATION/library
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal
 facility/agricultural outbuilding
LANDSCAPE/park

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
 /multiple dwelling
 /secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/store
RELIGION/religious structure
 /church-related residence
FUNERARY/cemetery
EDUCATION/library
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal
 facility/agricultural outbuilding
LANDSCAPE/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
 /Gothic Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
 /Queen Anne
 /Shingle Style
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

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at the tympanum window, a practice followed in half a dozen of Ellington's Greek Revival houses, including 116-118 Main Street and its neighbors, which were built by Nelson Chaffee. The configuration of three-bay facade with central entrance, somewhat unusual, is found twice in the district. At 113-115 Main Street, 1842, under ridge line parallel with the street, the house has a shed-roofed portico with fluted Doric columns (Photograph 9), while 47-51 Maple Street, 1848, is L-shaped, its front elevation being smooth tongue-and-groove boards under gable-end pediment.

The house at 89 Maple Street is a four-bay Greek Revival-style structure, while there are four in the district with five bays. 108 Main Street, 1839, is unusual because its five bays are under a gable-end pediment. (Photograph 8) A further unusual feature is the row of small rectangular windows under the frieze in its facade; small windows of this description more commonly are located in side elevations. A Greek Revival house with significant later addition is 97-99 Maple Street, which has an added wraparound porch with sawn-and-turned components characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

One of the four houses in the district displaying Italianate-style features is 113-119 Maple Street, 1835, which has the roof overhang supported by brackets and three-sided bays for which the style is known, but these are features added to an earlier basic five-bay Colonial-style house. Another version of the Picturesque mode, the Gothic Revival, is represented in the district by two examples, 100 Main Street, 1876, a 1½-story L-shaped house with tall paired windows at the first floor, wall dormers at the second, and steeply pitched gables. A more striking example is directly across the road where 101 Main Street, 1860, displays a full panoply of characteristic Gothic Revival trim features including board-and-batten siding, pierced porch fascia, pointed-arch attic window, and curvilinear bargeboards (Photograph 6), but the mass of the building is plain.

Two Queen Anne houses round out the group of 19th-century styles. At 76-78 Main Street, the plan has the asymmetry of the Queen Anne, and the front and back porches have sawn brackets and picket frieze also associated with the style. Yet, the octagonal porch posts on pedestals and the tall paired windows, round-arched at the second floor, are Italianate. In a further stylistic layer, the wall dormers and gable peaks of the roof are decorated with braces of the Stick style and the flat boards periodically dividing the clapboards are from the same style. The house at 91-93 Maple Street, 1907, with its gables, high roof, asymmetry, and brick foundations, is a purer example of the Queen Anne. (See Photograph 1 for 76-78 Main Street.)

The last of the 19th-century styles represented in Ellington is the Shingle style of 145-147 Maple Street, a 1½-story L-shaped house that was not built until 1908. Later construction in the 20th century was mostly in the Colonial

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Revival mode, a notable example being 139 Maple Street, 1916, where the wide two-story front porch is reminiscent of Mount Vernon. (Photograph 15) The grounds of 139 Maple Street still have a pergola, suggesting the earlier presence of pleasant gardens.

Several houses of a somewhat different character, more modest than others, are located on the south side of Maple Street, east of the green. 92 Maple Street, 1932, is a tiny 1-story frame vernacular house, while next door 88-90 Maple Street, age undetermined but older, is a 2-story double house with full-width shed-roofed front porch supported by round floor-to-ceiling columns. At the second floor, eaves above the paired 6-over-1 windows are cut away in the manner of wall dormers.

Many of the houses in the district have outbuildings, including several substantial barns. There is a tobacco barn at 63 Maple Street, while the barn of 76-78 Main Street is two stories with a cupola. (Photograph 1.) The outbuildings are related to the farming activity which in many cases was carried on behind the houses and in some cases still is.

The three institutional buildings around the green are the two churches and the library. The Ellington Congregational Church, 1915, is a frame Colonial Revival structure in the Federal manner with a tetrastyle Ionic front portico and side elevations each pierced with three Palladian windows. The Church of St. Luke is an L-shaped brick building in a contemporary interpretation of the Colonial Revival. Its door transoms and the heads of its round-arched windows are radially glazed. (Photograph 15.)

Hall Memorial Library is located on the West Crossover, just west of the green. One of the largest buildings in the district, along with the two churches, it is constructed of tan brick and limestone in a strong interpretation of the Neo-Classical Revival. Details tend to be heavy, for example, the long quoins and the thick columns in antis with pronounced entasis. (Photograph 3) The library's interior is fully as elaborate as the exterior, featuring a great brick mantelpiece and fluted Ionic columns of cast iron. (Photograph 4.)

The green is divided by the street pattern into two sections. (See district map.) Both are open spaces with tall shade trees and little shrubbery or other landscaping or development. The west green is the location of the Connecticut Historical Commission historical marker, a granite monument on the site of the first meeting-house (1739), and granite slabs in memory of those from Ellington who served their country in various wars. (Photograph 2) The open space of the east green is interrupted only by a bandstand. (Photograph 14)

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The McKinstry Family Cemetery, on Main Street north of the intersection with West Crossover, displays 18th-century craftsmanship in the stone carving of lettering and funereal symbols such as death heads and foliate borders in the stones. The granite obelisk with polished granite dado and raised wreath reflects the best practice of the mid-19th century. (Photograph 5)

¹Connecticut Historical Commission historical marker, 1972, on Ellington West Green.

Inventory

In the following inventory, the letters C or NC in the first column indicate whether the property is considered to contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the district, or to be non-contributing.

In the second column are given the street address, the map, block, and lot number from the Assessor's records, and the historic name associated with the property.

The third column gives a date of construction taken from the Assessor's records, unless otherwise indicated. In some instances, a visual estimate is used, indicated by the letter V, and in some cases the date is taken from the Ellington Historic District Study Committee Report, indicated by the letter S.

The final column gives a brief description of the property.

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name, Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	7 Berr Avenue 32-35-2 Francis Keeney House	1840	1½-story frame 5-bay Colonial house with synthetic siding.
NC	Garage	1978	1-story frame building.
C	11 Berr Avenue 32-35-2 Austin Chapman House	1830	1½-story frame 3-bay Greek Revival house with recessed entrance surrounded by plain pilasters and frieze.
C	Barn	c.1870	1½-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	Shed	c.1890 V	1-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	12 Berr Avenue 31-34-8 Oscar Ely House	1840	1½-story frame Greek Revival house with rectangular windows in the frieze. Wraparound porch with square columns.
C	Barn	1850	1-story frame building.
C	70 Main Street 37-39-20 Ellington Historical Society Charles Sexton House	1812	2-story frame Federal house with elaborate moldings under the roof line cornice.
C	Barn/Garage	1940 V	20' x 42' frame structure.
C	Main Street 37-39-21 Ellington Congregational Church (Photograph 16)	1915	Frame Colonial Revival church with colossal tetrastyle Ionic portico. Three Palladian windows on each side elevation. Clark & Arms, architects.
NC	74 Main Street 37-39-22A George Hughes House	1942	1½-story frame Cape

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name, Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	76-78 Main Street 37-39-22 Rufus Leonard House	1884	1½-story frame Italianate/ Queen Anne/Stick-style house. T plan. (Photograph 1)
C	Barn	1884	Frame building with loft and cupola.
C	Garage	1910	Frame building for two cars.
C	80-84 Main Street 37-39-23 Timothy Pitkin House	1806	2-story frame Federal house with brick veneer. Splayed brick lintels, dentil course and mutules under eaves cor- nice. (Photograph 2)
C	Stable/barn	1830	Frame building
C	Feed room/coop	1900	Frame building
NC	82 Main Street (rear) 37-39-23	1988	1-story frame house
C	86-88 Main Street 37-39-24 Benjamin Pinney House, atr.	1842 S	2-story frame Greek Revival L-shaped house. Side porch with large paneled posts. (Photograph 2)
C	Barn	before 1869	1-story building with vertical siding and loft.
C	90 Main Street 37-39-25 Timothy Holton House	1793	2-story frame Georgian Colonial house, altered with Federal/Greek Revival features. Fine portico has fluted Doric columns. (Photograph 2)
C	Barn	1900	1-story building with vertical siding, high gable roof, and cupola.
C	Shed	1910	Frame building.
C	92-94 Main Street 37-39-26 Orson Wood House	1841	3-story frame Greek Revival L-shaped house. Added Italianate 3-sided bays.

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C or NC	Address, Name, Historic Name	Date	Description
C	Garage	c.1930 V	1-story frame building.
C	98 Main Street 37-39-27 John Smith House	1815 S 1830	2-story frame Federal/Greek Revival 3-bay house with radially glazed tympanum window.
C	Garage/barn	1850	1-story building with vertical siding.
C	Main Street 32-35-9 McKinstry Cemetery	c.1750 1858 V	64' x 104' private cemetery for the family of Ellington's first Congregational minister. (Photograph 5)
C	99 Main Street 32-35-7 Obediah Ward House	1813	2-story frame Federal/Greek Revival house, shingled. Gable end toward street has four bays, with tall 2-over-2 windows at the first floor
NC	Garage	1952	1-story frame building.
C	100 Main Street 37-39-27A J. Henry McCray House	1876 S	1½-story frame Gothic Revival L-shaped house with tall paired windows. Brick foundations. Synthetic siding.
C	Barn	c.1900 V	2-story frame building.
C	Coop	c.1900 V	1-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	Barn	c.1900 V	1-story frame building with vertical siding.
NC	Garage	1989	1-story frame building.
NC	Greenhouse	1989	1-story glass structure.
C	101 Main Street 32-35-6	1832	1½-story 3-bay Gothic Revival house with board-and-batten siding. Sinuous bargeboards; pierced porch fascia. These features probably are alterations. (Photograph 6)

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C or NC	Address, Name, Historic Name	Date	Description
C	102 Main Street 37-39-28	1819	2-story frame vernacular 4-bay central chimney house with 4-pane transom. Synthetic siding.
NC	Garage	1957	1-story frame building.
C	103 Main Street 32-35-5A Timothy Brown House	1815	2-story frame Colonial house with ridge line at 90 degrees to street. Entrance is in east side elevation, which has five bays plus two more, possibly addition, to north.
C	Barn	c.1890 V	2-story frame building with weathered vertical siding.
C	105 Main Street 32-35-4 Hall Schoolroom	1850	2-story frame T-shaped vernacular house on brick foundations. Originally room from school at 107-109 Main Street, moved c. 1850, with additions.
C	107-109 Main Street 32-35-3 Hall School for Boys C.F.T.Berr House	1840	2- & 3½-story frame Greek Revival building with synthetic siding. Original western 2-bay section was duplicated on east and two are joined by high central section. (Photograph 7)
C	108 Main Street 37-39-29 Nelson Chaffee House	1839	2-story frame Greek Revival 5-bay gable-end-to-street house. Small horizontal windows separate frieze from body of house. (Photograph 8)
NC	Garage	c. 1960 V	1-story frame building.
C	Well house	c. 1839 V	Frame structure.

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C or NC	Address, Name, Historic Name	Date	Description
C	110 Main Street 37-39-30 Henry McCray House	1841	2-story frame Greek Revival 2-bay house with side entrance. Side porch has fine fluted Doric columns. (Photograph 8)
C	111 Main Street 31-35-6 Mixer Shoe Shop	1842 S	2-story frame 3-bay Greek Revival building. (Photograph 9)
C	Garage	c. 1940	
C	113-115 Main Street 31-34-5 Rev. George Mixer House	1842	2-story frame Greek Revival house with ridge line parallel to street. 3-bay facade with central doorway protected by shed-roofed portico with fluted Greek Doric columns. End gables treated as pediments. (Photograph 9)
C	114 Main Street 37-39-31 Thomas Chapman House	1831	2-story frame Federal/Greek Revival house with long ell.
C	116-118 Main Street 37-39-32 Nelson Chaffee House	1834	2-story frame Greek Revival house. In flush-boarding tympanum window surround repeats details of doorway surround. (Photograph 10)
C	Barn	1840	2-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	119 Main Street 31-34-4 Herman Griswold House	1837 S	2-story frame Greek Revival house. Tympanum window has bull's eye corner blocks.
NC	Garage	1979	1-story frame building.

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name, Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	120 Main Street 37-39-33 Nelson Chaffee House	1832	2-story frame Greek Revival 5-bay house with elaborate central entranceway. (Photo- graph 10)
NC	Garage	1955	1-story frame building.
C	121-123 Main Street 31-34-3 Griswold Monument Shop	1837	2-story frame vernacular house with synthetic siding.
C	Barn	c. 1900 V	1-story building with weathered vertical siding.
C	Main Street 32-36-1 West Green		Open space.
NC	Commemorative sign	1972	Brief history of Ellington on aluminum sign (object) erected by Ellington Historical Society and Connecticut Historical Com- mission.
NC	Tablet	1976	Granite marker (object) on site of first meetinghouse (1739- 1806), erected by Ellington Grange
C	Tablet	c. 1920 V	Granite slab (object) with bronze plaques listing names of those who served in Colonial Wars, War with England, War with Mexico, War of Rebellion, War with Spain, War of Revolution, and World War. Largest number (116) served in War of Rebellion.
NC	Main Street 32-37-1 East Green		Open space.
NC	Band stand	c. 1960 V	Frame structure.

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name, Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	47-51 Maple Street 32-33-14/1 Daniel Kimball House	1848	2-story frame L-shaped Greek Revival house. Front elevation of flush boarding has central entrance in three bays. Added Queen Anne cutaway bay and wraparound porch. (Photograph 11)
C	Garage	c. 1920 V	1-story frame building.
NC	Playhouse	c. 1960 V	1-story frame building.
NC	52 Maple Street 32-38-14	1944	Quonset-hut garage
C	Garage	1915	1-story frame Colonial Revival structure with pedimented gable.
C	Shed	1915	1-story frame building.
C	Coop	c. 1930 V	1-story frame building.
C	54 Maple Street 32-38-14 Anthony Gabriel House	1838	2-story frame vernacular 2-bay house. Remodeled 1915.
NC	56 Maple Street 32-38-14 Robert Thompson House	1953	1-story frame Cape house.
NC	Garage	1967	1-story frame building.
NC	Shed	1969	1-story frame building.
C	57 Maple Street 32-33-13A Samuel M. Darby House	1842	2-story frame 3-bay Greek Revival house. (Photograph 11)
C	Garage	c. 1910 V	1-story frame building with vertical siding.

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name, Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	58-60 Maple Street 32-38-15 Aaron Charter House	1820	1-story frame Colonial Revival bungalow house. Long roof now slopes over front porch with lattice-work posts. Brick foundations make date questionable.
C	Barn/shed	c. 1900 V	1-story frame building.
NC	Breeder house	1945	1-story building of cement blocks.
NC	58-60 Maple Street (rear) 32-38-15	1983	1-story metal Butler building, garage.
C	59-61 Maple Street 32-33-13		Vacant parcel, included for continuity of streetscape.
C	62 Maple Street	1834	1-story frame Greek Revival 5-bay house. Transom glazed with parallel muntins.
NC	Garage	1945	1-story frame building.
NC	Right of way to 63 (rear)		
C	64 Maple Street 32-38-16 Harry O. Aborn Hosue	1920	2-story 3-bay vernacular house. Barn was moved from 98 Main Street in 1930.
C	65 Maple Street 32-33-12 Paul Lavitt House	1929	2-story weathered-shingle 3-bay Colonial Revival house. Entrance framed by elaborate surround with over-scaled broken-scroll pediment.
NC	66 Maple Street 32-38-16	1948	2-story frame vernacular house.
NC	Part of driveway to Arbor Commons condominiums		

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C or NC	Address, Name, Historic Name	Date	Description
C	69-79 Maple Street 32-33-11A Dr. Allan Hyde House	1805	2-story brick hipped-roof 5-bay Federal house with splayed brick brick lintels at first floor. No chimney. (Photograph 12)
NC	Barn/garage		Gambrel-roofed barn.
C	72 Maple Street 32-38-17	1819	2-story frame Federal/Greek Revival house with added wrap-around porch
C	Barn	c. 1900 V	1½-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	74-76 Maple Street 32-38-18B	1870	2-story frame vernacular house.
C	Tobacco shed	1900	1½-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	78 Maple Street 32-38-18B	1875	1½-story frame vernacular house with side entry. Side porch has radial sawn and turned bracket.
C	Garage	1900	1-story frame building
C	Shop	1900	1-story frame building.
C	80 Maple Street 32-38-19	1900	2-story frame vernacular 2-bay house.
NC	Tool shed	1987	1-story frame building.
C	82 Maple Street 32-38-20 May Dudley Smith House	1915	2-story frame hipped-roof Colonial Revival house with synthetic siding.
C	Barn	c. 1900 V	1½-story frame building.

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C or NC	Address, Name Historic Name	Date	Description
C	83 Maple Street 32-33-10 Flavel Whiton House	1842	2-story frame 20bay L-shaped Greek Revival house with both front gable and ell gable treated as pediments. (Photograph 13)
C	Barn	1850	1½-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	83 Maple Street (rear) 32-33-10A	1900	1-story frame 24' x 180' barn
NC	Barn/shed	c. 1920 V	20' x 80' frame structure, delapidated.
C	84-86 Maple Street 32-38-18C		Vacant parcel, included for continuity of streetscape.
C	85 Maple Street 32-33-9 Rev. John McKinstry House	1730	1-story frame 5-bay Colonial house with high gambrel roof. No dormers. Oldest house in Ellington Center. Moved from north of the library on Main Street in 1815. (Photograph 13)
C	Garage	1900	1-story frame building.
NC	Part of driveway to Ellington Cemetery		
C	87 Maple Street 32-33-8-1 Lucius Chapman House	1834 c. 1845 S	2-story frame 4-bay vernacular house with synthetic siding. Wing with floor-to-ceiling windows and Italianate entrance porch added. (Photograph 13)
C	Barn	c. 1920 V	1-story CMU building with gambrel roof.
C	88-90 Maple Street 32-38-18C, 18D	1850 c. 1910 V	2-story frame vernacular double house with full-width shed-roofed front porch supported by round floor-to-ceiling columns. At second floor, eaves are cut away above paired 6-over-1 windows.
C	Garage	1930	1-story frame building.

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<u>C or NC</u>	<u>Address, Name Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
C	89 Maple Street 32-33-7 John H. Brockway House Congregational Church Parsonage (to 1973)	1837	2-story frame 4-bay Greek Re- vival house with synthetic siding.
C	Barn	early 20C V	1-story clapboard building.
C	91-93 Maple Street 32-33-6 John Thompson House	1907	2-story frame asymmetrical Queen Anne house with high hipped roof, cross gables, and porch with turned posts. Brick foundations.
C	Barn	1910	1½-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	92 Maple Street 32-38-21	1932	1-story frame small vernacular house with gable end to street.
NC	Part of driveway to Ellington Cemetery		
C	97-99 Maple Street 32-33-5A Charles Sexton House	1827	2-story frame 5-bay Greek Re- vival house with fine added Queen Anne wraparound porch.
C	101-105 Maple Street 32-33-4	1834	2-story frame house. Pediment tympanum window in fine enframement is only re- maining Greek Revival features.
NC	107-111 Maple Street 32-33-3	1890	Low tower with pyramidal roof suggests Queen Anne style, but unsensitive alterations in windows and porches have obscured historic character.
C	113-119 Maple Street 32-33-2 The Conference House	1835 S	2-story frame Colonial house with added bays and brackets. Large second-floor room known as Conference Room was used by Baptist Church when organ- ized in early 1840s.

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C or NC	Address, Name Historic Name	Date	Description
C	121-123 Maple Street 32-33-1 Timothy Pitkin Store	1829 c. 1812 S	2-story frame Greek Revival store with added wraparound Colonial Revival porch. Post Office here 1829-1837. (Photograph 14)
C	Barn	1829	2-story frame building attached to house that continues size and shape of house.
C	125 Maple Street 32-33-35 Sam Yazmer Building	1934	1-story frame Colonial Revival commercial building. (Photograph 14)
C	127-137 Maple Street 32-33-30	1767	2-story frame Colonial 5-bay twin-chimney house with synthetic siding. 1966 addition.
NC	Maple Street 32-33-29 Church of St. Luke	1962 cornerstone	L-shaped orange-brick building in modern interpretation of Colonial Revival. Arthur E. Thomas, of Norwich, architect. (Photograph 15)
C	139 Maple Street 32-33-29 St. Luke's Rectory Miles H. Aborn House	1916	2-story frame Colonial Revival house with 2-story full-width front porch. (Photograph 15)
C	Pergola	1916	Frame ornamental garden object.
C	Garage	1930	1-story frame building.
C	142 Maple Street 32-35-11 Edwin Olmsted House	1825	1½-story frame vernacular house with synthetic siding. 3-sided bay on front; paired narrow windows in gable end. Post Office here, 1854-55.
C	Barn	1850	1-story frame building with vertical siding.
C	Shed	c. 1900 V	1-story frame building, remodeled 1978.

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C or NC	Address, Name Historic Name	Date	Description
C	144-146 Maple Street 21-24-11 Charles B. Sikes House	1936	1½-story Colonial Revival house with brick foundations. Windows have four vertical panes over one.
C	145-147 Maple Street 32-33-28 James Marks House	1908	1½-story frame Shingle-style L-shaped house. Eaves returns infilled.
NC	Garage	1948	1-story frame building.
C	148-150 Maple Street 32-35-13 Phoebe Ransom House	1910 1895 S	2-story frame vernacular double house with synthetic siding. Entrances on sides.
C	149 Maple Street 32-33-27 Mahlon S. Chapman House	1940	2-story frame Colonial Revival house with synthetic siding. First-floor drop finials.
C	Garage	1940	1-story frame building.
NC	151 Maple Street 32-33-26 Dr. Leonard Levine House	1942	2-story frame Colonial Revival house.
NC	151 Maple Street (rear) 32-33-26	1963	1-story frame ranch house.
NC	152 Maple Street (rear) 32-35-15	1950	Quonset-hut house.
C	153 Maple Street 32-33-25 Bertha Morris House	1920	2-story frame vernacular house synthetic siding.
C	Barn	1920	1-story frame building.
C	156 Maple Street 32-35-14 Alfred & Pauline Hoffman House	1938	1-story frame 4-bay shingled Cape with two gabled dormers.

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C or NC	Address, Name Historic Name	Date	Description
C	West Crossover 32-35-10 Hall Memorial Library	1902-03	2-story tan brick limestone Neo-Classical Revival building. Central recessed entranceway has <u>Ionic columns in antis</u> . Fine interior includes cast-iron fluted Ionic columns. Wilson Potter, New York City, architect. Carpenter & Williams, Norwich, contractors. (Photographs 3 and 4)

(There are nine swimming pools in the district. They are considered to be not substantial structures, and, therefore, are not included in the inventory.)

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1730-1940

Significant Dates

1730-1940

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

See item 7.

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

The Ellington Center Historic District is significant architecturally because it consists of buildings in an array of architectural styles from the Colonial to the Colonial Revival in a good state of preservation and in their original relationship to one another. Many of the houses are fine examples of their styles. The district is free of intrusions, still exhibiting its original orientation to the central open space of the green.

The Reverend John McKinstry, first minister of the Ellington Church and a leader in the settlement of the Center, was important to the district during his lifetime and now, two and a half centuries later, artifacts associated with him continue to have a significant role in the appearance of the district. His one-story house, because of its great gambrel roof, is by far the most distinctive of the handful of Colonial houses that survive. Curiously, it was moved in 1815, perhaps reflecting the breach that had developed between the minister and his flock over church discipline.¹ The disagreement led Rev. McKinstry to elect not to be buried with others of his congregation, but to establish the McKinstry Family Cemetery near the original location of his house. The family plot has a fine iron fence, and good examples of the stone cutter's art from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Following the colonial period, houses were built in the Federal style. Two of them are brick, the only masonry houses in the district. Obviously, brick was available, if scarce and expensive, but what forces caused it to be used in Federal-style houses but not before or after, to this day, are unexplained. The proportions of the Federal houses are pleasing, in accord with the established principles of the style, and the decorative features, notably the molding courses under the eaves, show good workmanship and attention to detail. The number of Federal-style houses was far exceeded by the multitude of Greek Revival houses that sprang up in the ensuing decades of the 19th century.

Ellington Center as a farming community reached its greatest building boom during the second quarter of the 19th century with a panoply of variations within the Greek Revival style. Two, three, four, and five bays, temple

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form with gable-end toward the street treated as a tympanum, ridge line parallel with the street, L-shaped plan with side entrance, and front and side porches are on the impressive list of Ellington interpretations of the Greek Revival. Nelson Chaffee built several of the houses which repeat the entrance surround at the tympanum window, making it into a local specialty of merit. The fluted Doric columns of front and side porches are a Greek Revival feature that ornament the district.

During the Picturesque period that followed the Greek Revival, the rate of construction fell off sharply in the district, but at least two significant examples exist. One is the Gothic Revival cottage at 101 Main Street. It appears to be a basic three-bay Greek Revival structure clothed in the details of the Gothic Revival, probably as alterations. The second, 76-78 Main Street, combines several styles into a visually satisfying design which demonstrates success without purity,

Houses in the 20th-century Colonial Revival style are generally less distinguished, with the exception of 65 Maple Street, 1929, whose overscaled doorway broken pediment is carefully executed. On the other hand, the Colonial Revival Congregational church is highly successful and imposing. The architects, Clark & Arms of New York, practiced from 1915 to 1937, thus, this church was done in the first year of their practice. The present structure is the fourth church building; the first, c. 1738, faced south in the west green, the second, 1805, stood in the east green, the third, 1868, on the present site, was destroyed by fire in 1914.

The Neo-Classical Revival library is like nothing else in the district, obviously the product of a designer whose references were found elsewhere than in Ellington. The donor was Francis Hall, a native son who left Ellington to live in Elmira, New York, where he made his fortune. He gave the library in honor of his father, John Hall, founder of the Hall school (Photograph 7) which educated Ellington youth for half a century. His architect was Wilson Potter (1868-1936) of New York, who worked for Richard Morris Hunt and Willian Van Brunt before starting out in practice himself, specializing in the design of schools and libraries. His other work in Connecticut includes the United Bank, New Milford, for which the contractors were Carpenter & Williams of Norwich, the same as for the Hall Library, the Bristol High School, and the Bristol Public Library. All are Neo-Classical Revival-style buildings, the two libraries having several features in common, such as the Ionic columns.

Probably the most important component of the Ellington Center Historic District and the one most difficult to quantify is the overall sense of integrity which the district possesses. The absence of intrusions, the

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relatively good state of maintenance, the fact that while the road surface has been improved the street rights of way have not been widened, the absence of development on the green, and the basic good quality of the architecture combine to form the character-defining features of the historic New England village. Since the green has not been injured, its integrity as a landscape feature of typical importance to the society of a New England village remains unimpaired.

¹ Stiles, Henry R., The Histories and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Conn., including East Windsor, South Windsor, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Ellington, 1635-1891. (Hartford: 1895) v. 1., p. 822, as quoted in Hughes, Arthur R., Connecticut Place Names. (Hartford:1976), p. 156.

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Ellington Center
Historic District

UTM Coordinates

A 18/710340/4642400
B 18/710420/4642360
C 18/710200/4642060
D 18/709870/4642020
E 18/709880/4641940
F 18/709400/4641940
G 18/709890/4641820
H 18/709660/4641830
I 18/709600/4641750
J 18/709220/4641730
K 18/709230/4541800
L 18/709180/4641800
M 18/709200/4641900
N 18/709360/4641900
O 18/709360/4641940
P 18/709300/4641930
Q 18/709300/4642020
R 18/709320/4642030
S 18/709320/4642140
T 18/709420/4642100
U 18/709420/4642180
V 18/709750/4642100

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the buildings centered on the green that articulate the historical relationship of the components of Ellington Center. Commercial development east of the green is excluded; by virtue of this exclusion several individual houses that, were they located elsewhere, would have been included in the district are omitted. The boundary follows property lines, except that extensive rear acreages of several properties are excluded; these properties are 58-60 and 59-61 Maple Street, 76-78, 80-84, 90, 102, 108, 114, and 116-118 Main Street. The Ellington Cemetery is not included because it does not front on the green or a street leading to the green, does not fit the theme of architecture which is the primary theme of the nomination, and, in part, is less than 50 years old.

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Photographs were taken in March 1990 by D.F. Ransom.
Negatives are on file at Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1
76-78 Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 10
116-118, 120 Main Street
View southeast

Photograph 2
80, 86-88, 90 Min Street
View southeast.

Photograph 11
57, 47-49-51 Maple Street
View northeast

Photograph 3
Hall Memorial Library
View southwest

Photograph 12
69-79 Maple Street
View northeast

Photograph 4
Hall Memorial Library
Reading Room
View northeast

Photograph 13
87, 85, 83 Maple Street
View northeast

Photograph 5
McKinstry Family Cemetery
View northeast.

Photograph 14
The Green
View southeast

Photograph 6
101 Main Street
View northwest

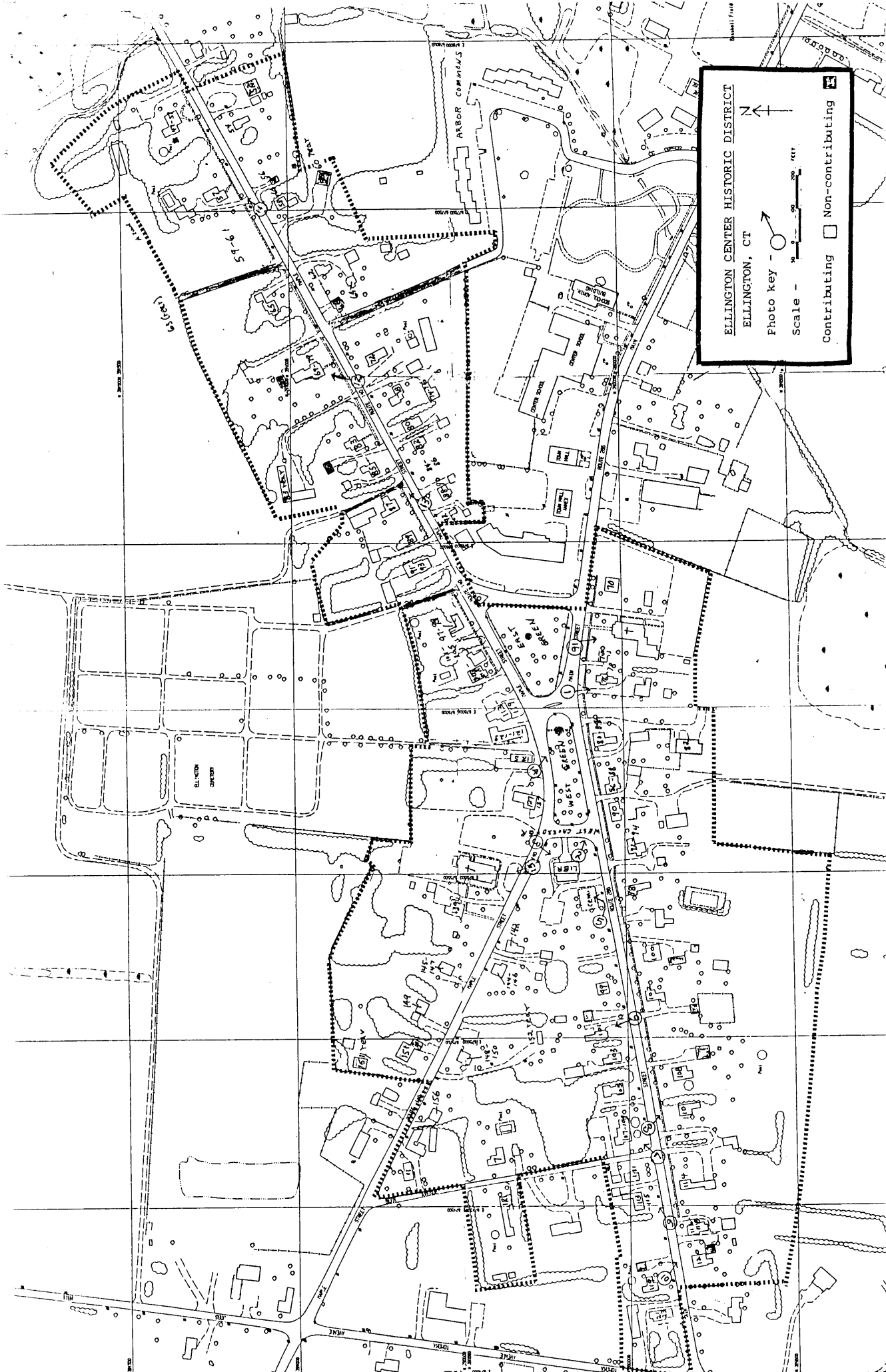
Photograph 15
Rectory and Church of St. Luke
View northwest

Photograph 7
Hall School
View northeast


Photograph 16
Ellington Congregational Church
View southeast


Photograph 8
108, 110 Main Street
View southeast


Photograph 9
113-115, 111 Main Street
View northwest



ELLINGTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
ELLINGTON, CT

Photo key - 

Scale -  feet

Contributing  Non-contributing 