NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)	OMB No. 1024-0018 RECEIVED 2280
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	JN 1 9 1996
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1. Name of Property	
historic name:WICKHAM ROAD HISTORIC	DISTRICT
other name/site number: <u>N/A</u>	
2. Location	
street & number: <u>Wickham and Geoffrey Roads</u>	
city/town:East Haddam	not for publication: <u>N/A</u> vicinity: <u>N/A</u>
state: <u>CT</u> county: <u>Middlesex</u> code	e: <u>015</u> zip code: <u>06423</u> 007
3. Classification	
Ownership of Property: <u>private, public-local</u>	
Category of Property: <u>district</u>	
category or property: <u>district</u>	
Number of Resources within Property:	
Contributing Noncontributing	
5 2 buildings 2	
Number of contributing resources previously li Register:0	sted in the National

171

Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>

4. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request</u> for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirement set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meet does not meet the National Register Criteria See cont.	ents ts
Min In Aluman 6/13/96	
Signature of certifying official Date John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation Register criteria See continuation sheet.	onal
Signature of commenting or other official Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
<pre>selection ====================================</pre>	
I, hereby certify that this property is: 	<u>· 25.96</u>
other (explain):	
of 2	ate Action ======
6. Function or Use	
Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling INDUSTRY mill AGRICULTURE agricultural outbuild	ings
Current: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling AGRICULTURE agricultural outbuild	ing

<pre>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>></pre>
======================================
<u>Colonial</u>
Other Description: <u>N/A</u>
Materials: foundation <u>STONE</u> roof <u>WOOD: Shingle</u> walls <u>WOOD</u> other <u>BRICK</u>
Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.
<pre>selection of Significance</pre>
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <u>state</u> .
Applicable National Register Criteria: <u>A,C</u>
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : <u>N/A</u>
Areas of Significance: <u>ARCHITECTURE</u> <u>AGRICULTURE</u> INDUSTRY
Period(s) of Significance: <u>c.1735-c.1800</u>
Significant Dates: <u>See item 7</u>
Significant Person(s):
Cultural Affiliation:
Architect/Builder:

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. \underline{X} See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References	
<u>X</u> See continuation sheet.	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
 preliminary determination of individual list requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the Nation designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Surv recorded by Historic American Engineering Res 	nal Register vey #
Primary Location of Additional Data:	
	necticut Historical Commission South Prospect Street ford, Connecticut 06106
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone E A B	
X_ See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description: <u>X</u> See continua The boundary is shown on the accompanying	
Boundary Justification: <u>X</u> See continuation The boundary includes all historic buildi vicinity, as well as related sites of former b identical with the local Wickham Sawmill Histo	ngs in the general Duildings. It is
11. Form Prepared By	
	adited by Take Manage
Name/Title: <u>Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronir</u> Organization: <u>Historic Resource Consultants</u>	Conn. Hist. Commission
-	
Street & Number: <u>55 Van Dyke Avenue</u>	_
City or Town: <u>Hartford</u>	_ State: <u>CT</u> Zip: <u>_06106</u>

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Wickham Road Historic District	7-1
-	East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT	

The Wickham Road Historic District consists of three standing 18thcentury houses with associated outbuildings, the foundation and chimney remains of another 18th-century house, and the sluiceway and partial foundations of a sawmill located on Beaver Brook (a branch of the Eight Mile River) to the east, on the south side of Geoffrey Road. The district also includes the small pond formerly associated with the sawmill, known today as as Pecks Meadow Pond.

Wickham Road is a narrow curving gravel road lined with stone walls and tall deciduous trees. The houses are spaced far apart and have considerable open land--the remnant of their historical agricultural acreage--surrounding them. The rest of the area, including the intervening land between Beaver Brook and Wickham Road, has grown up into woodlands and is now a game preserve.

The following properties are included in the district:

Daniel Brainerd House, 129 Wickham Road, c.1735, 1 1/2 stories, clapboarded, three-bay facade, central entry with plain-board surround, wood-shingle roof, central brick chimney, eight-over-twelve sash. Small board-sided barn south of house. Counted as two contributing buildings. Photographs 1 and 2.

Daniel Fuller House, 150 Wickham Road, c. 1760, 2 1/2 stories with lean-to roof at rear, clapboarded, five-bay facade, wood-shingle roof, central brick chimney, eight-over-twelve sash; central entry with paneled door, plain molded-board surround, and transom. Modern garage attached to house. Moved to site in 1934. Counted as one contributing building. Photograph 3.

Daniel Olmsted House, 153 Wickham Road, c. 1738, 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, three-bay facade (one added first-floor window), wood-shingle roof, central stone chimney, eight-over-twelve sash; central entry with plain molded-board surround, paneled door, and transom. Added lean-to at rear, c.1932. Modern ell. Small board-sided barn north of house, with modern outbuilding in rear. Counted as two contributing buildings and one noncontributing building. Photograph 4.

Ruins of David Wickham House, 1782, southeast corner of Wickham and Geoffrey Roads. Site includes foundation remains, base to large central stone chimney, stone-covered well, and small c.1910 board-and-batten-sided cabin in deteriorated condition. Counted

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Description Wickham Road Historic District 7-2 East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

as one noncontributing building and one contributing site. Photographs 5 and 6.

Ruins of Wickham Sawmill, 1782, Geoffrey Road east of Beaver Brook. Site includes long depression in earth marking sluiceway or headrace leading from Pecks Meadow Pond dam (modern concrete structure) southward across Geoffrey Road to remains of sawmill, which are marked by foundation walls, some 6-8 feet high. At site there is scatter of stone, brick, and iron along ground. Counted as one contributing site and one noncontributing structure. Photographs 7 and 8.

Although the sawmill site cannot be seen from the cluster of houses, and in fact today appears somewhat remote from the rest of the district, it was historically part of the property associated with the house, now in ruins, at the corner of Wickham and Geoffrey Roads. The sawmill was built in 1782 by David Wickham, who ran it many years. The sawmill remained in operation by his descendents and other subsequent owners until about 1883.

The boundary of the nominated property, including the sawmill site and pond, coincides with the Wickham Sawmill Local Historic District. Because the sawmill is no longer standing, the name of the nominated property was amended to Wickham Road Historic District in order to avoid confusion outside of the local community.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Wickham Road Historic District	
	East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT	

Summary

The Wickham Road Historic District is significant because it recalls the appearance of the Connecticut countryside before the industrial age (Criterion A). Connecticut's historical development began with a long period in which the colony and later the state are characterized by an agriculture-based society. The overwhelming majority of its people were engaged in small-scale generalized farming and lived in simple, scattered homesteads such as those remaining today on Wickham Road.¹ The industrial enterprises in this period, which lasted at least until the middle of the 19th century in most areas, were mostly the saw, grist, and fulling mills and blacksmith shops that were integral parts of the agrarian economy. With its narrow winding route, stone walls, open fields, old colonial houses, and agricultural outbuildings, Wickham Road is an exceptionally cohesive reminder of this point in Connecticut's history. The ruins of the Wickham Sawmill and the sawmill pond contribute to the district's significance because they testify to the sustaining role of early waterpowered industry in the agricultural age.

The houses in the district also have architectural significance (Criterion C) because they embody the distinctive characteristics of 18th-century vernacular domestic architecture (Criterion C). Their clapboarded exteriors, large brick or stone central chimneys, smallpane sash, plain detailing, and orientation with the entrance on the broad side typify the house-building practices of colonial New England.

Historical Significance

English settlement of the part of East Haddam in which the Wickham Road Historic District is situated began in the first years of the 18th century. By 1733 there were sufficient families in the area to set up a second ecclesiastical society, which around 1740 erected a meetinghouse at Millington Green. The work lives of the early settlers

¹Although the Daniel Fuller House, 150 Wickham Road (Photograph 3), was moved into the district in 1834, its original site was only 1 1/2 miles to the east, and it was relocated on the site of an earlier dwelling. Thus, it may be considered as a replacement that does not affect the historical settlement pattern on this part of Wickham Road.

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Significance	Wickham Road H	Historic District	8-2
-	East Haddam, M	Middlesex County, CT	

were almost exclusively devoted to farming, with scattered homesteads forming the core of small farms. For the most part, the farms produced grain, meat, fiber, and dairy products for family or at least local consumption, though there undoubtedly was some surplus for sale, some of which may have been exported in the West Indies trade. Land holdings were small. For example, the farmstead associated with the Daniel Brainerd House (Photograph 1) was originally only 40 acres, and even that of the much larger Daniel Olmsted House (Photograph 3) was only 60 acres. Over time, the descendants of the early settlers added to the agricultural holdings associated with these houses, yet even by the early 19th century each property was under 150 acres. Olmsted and Brainerd were among the earliest settlers in the immediate area embraced by the district.

Small mills such as the sawmill started in 1782 by David Wickham were vital parts of the agriculture-based community. Wood formed the basis for most construction of homes, barns, and other farmstead buildings, as well as furniture. Although some items, notably shingles, clapboards, fence rails, and large framing members could be split or hewn from logs, anything involving boards, such as roof and wall sheathing, floors, and paneling, required a sawmill. The alternative-sawing boards above a pit--was so slow and laborious that it is not surprising that one of the earliest uses of waterpower in New England was to mechanize this arduous task. The Wickham Sawmill site suggests both the small scale of these early enterprises and the substantial effort that went into creating them. The sawmill was operated for many years by Daniel Wickham and continued in operation under other owners until about 1883.

The archeological significance of the Wickham house and sawmill sites has not yet been assessed. By their presence, however, they contribute to the district as obvious artifacts of the period.

Architectural Significance

The three standing houses in the Wickham Road Historic District share several common characteristics of 18th-century vernacular architecture. None has any architectural embellishment or stylish element to suggest an awareness of formal architecture; all make use of the simplest forms

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	Wickham Road Historic District	8-3
	East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT	

and materials. Either through survival or appropriate restoration and replacement in kind, all have the clapboarded exteriors and divided sash appropriate to the type, along with the large brick or stone central chimneys that formed the core of Colonial houses. The ruins of the Wickham House (Photograph 5) show that this small 1782 dwelling had a similar plan. The front entry treatment found on the Olmsted and Fuller houses (Photographs 2 and 3)--a doorframe or surround formed of boards with moldings along the outer edge, with a transom above a paneled door lighting the hallway within--is also a typical Colonial feature, perhaps the most commonly found entry treatment of all.

Although five-bay, center-entry houses have persisted in the greatest numbers, the symmetrical three-bay variant, as seen in the houses at 129 and 153 Wickham Road (Photographs 1 and 3), was also common. Similarly, although a full 2 1/2-story height appears to be more common today, houses with lean-to roofs at the rear, such as the Daniel Fuller House, 150 Wickham Road (Photograph 2), were certainly not uncommon in the 18th century.

Two of the three houses have an interesting feature: a south-facing orientation rather than the house facing the road. This arrangement provided an extra measure of protection from winter north winds and allowed the southern sun to warm the front of the house. South-facing siting of houses appears to have been more common early in the century, though it certainly persisted for a long period in certain parts of the state.

The architectural qualities of the houses along Wickham Road, which so immediately recall their origins in the 18th century, thus reinforce the overall historical significance of the district as a microcosm of the early Connecticut countryside.

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Bibliography	Wickham Road Historic District	9-1
	East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT	

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Parker, Francis H. <u>Contributions to the History of East Haddam</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>. 1925.

Rathbun Free Memorial Library files.

- Wickham Sawmill Historic District Report. Wickham Sawmill Historic District Study Committee, 1988.
- Williams, Alma. <u>History of Millington</u>. East Haddam Historical Society, 1981. Unpublished.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Geographical Data Wickham Road Historic District 10-1 East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT

UTM REFERENCES:

1: 18.718790.4598200 2: 18.719040.4598280 3: 18.719080.4598500 4: 18.719500.4598800 5: 18.719760.4597940 6: 18.718040.4597330 7: 18.719020.4597620 8: 18.718630.4597620 9: 18.718520.4598080 10: 18.718890.4598090

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Photographs	Wickham Road Historic District	Photos-1
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All photographs:

- 1. Wickham Road Historic District
- 2. East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT
- 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
- 4. February, 1995
- 5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission Hartford, CT

Captions:

Daniel Brainerd House, 129 Wickham Road, camera facing northwest Photograph 1 of 8

Barn associated with Daniel Brainerd House, camera facing southeast Photograph 2 of 8

Daniel Fuller House, 150 Wickham Road, camera facing northeast Photograph 3 of 8

Daniel Olmsted House, 153 Wickham Road, camera facing north Photograph 4 of 8

Site of David Wickham House near corner of Wickham and Geoffrey Roads, camera facing southeast Photograph 5 of 8

Small cabin (noncontributing) near site of David Wickham House, camera facing east Photograph 6 of 8

Sluiceway, north side of Geoffrey Road, leading to site of Wickham Sawmill, camera facing north Photograph 7 of 8

Foundation remains, site of Wickham Sawmill, south of Geoffrey Road, camera facing southeast Photograph 8 of 8