

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 2 1987
date entered JUL 8 1987

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

1. Name

historic N. A.

and or common Hart's Corner Historic District (a.k.a Hart's Corners)

2. Location

street & number 247 Monce Road; 102, 105, Stafford Road N.A. not for publication

city, town Burlington N.A. vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet.

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office, Burlington Town Hall

street & number 200 Spielman Highway

city, town Burlington state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

See continuation sheet.

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

MAY 26 1987

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hart's Corner Historic District is located at the junction of Monce and Stafford roads in the southeast corner of Burlington, Connecticut. It consists of three rural historic properties dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which together contain seven contributing buildings and two non-contributing resources. (See attached schematic diagram of district and complete inventory below.)

On the west side of Monce and Stafford roads is the oldest farming complex in the district, the Hart Place or Hollow Oak Farm, almost hidden from view by mature trees and shrubbery (Photographs #1, 2). It includes a one-and-one-half story Colonial Cape (ca. 1794) (26'x28') with an extended ell (30' x 66').¹ The main block and the kitchen ell, which rest on a rubble stone foundation, have plank walls sided with clapboard. Most of the original twelve-over-twelve windows have been replaced by one-over-one sash. A Colonial Revival-style porch was added to the south and east sides in 1911. The interior displays plain board trim and casings on the corner posts (Photograph #3). The summer beam, which protrudes slightly from the plastered ceiling in the southeast parlor, was cut for the installation of a staircase in the 1920s, the only structural change to the original floor plan (Photograph #4). The kitchen fireplace has a brick surround and a simple board mantel, with two cupboards above (Photograph #5). Most of the doors opening out of this room are the board-and-batten type with their original thumb latches.

A working farm of 66 acres until about 1960, the Hart Place also includes an attached woodshed and grain room (to the rear of the ell), two barns, a garage, and a chicken house with incubator in the cellar. The horse barn (28' x 40') with an open shed attached on the east side and the cow barn (30' x 40') have cut sandstone foundations (Photographs #6, 7). The massive hewn beams of the barns are pegged together in a typical bent configuration (Photograph #8). Both have vertical siding and cupolas. The sandstone foundation of a former slaughterhouse, (25'x30') is located in the woods about 300 feet to the west of the complex of buildings. A nineteenth century icehouse, which was also part of this farm property, is no longer standing. The buildings of the Hart Place are surrounded by open land. Open meadows, swamp, and second growth timberland are located to the south and west. The timberline extends to within 200 feet of the complex of buildings.

Across the road to the northeast of the sharp intersection of Stafford Road with Monce Road is the Franklin Norton House, a Greek Revival-style farmhouse (ca. 1850). To the south, across Stafford Road, is the 1874 George Washington Hart House, a typical late nineteenth-century farmhouse influenced by the Italianate style. Although the Franklin Norton House has been aluminum-sided, it has retained its original one-and-one-half story ell with a porch on the west side of the gable-to-street main block (Photograph #9). The full pediment contains a segmental-arch fixed sash common in the late Greek Revival period. A modern garage is located to the northeast of the house. The later Sylvester Hart House was built in a cross-gable configuration (Photograph #10). The projecting pavilion on the facade (west elevation), with a bay window at the first story, is flanked by open porches elaborated with brackets and foliated spandrels. The porch on the south end extends into a modern deck.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

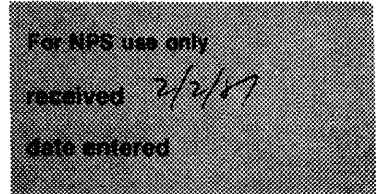
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hart's Corner Historic District
Burlington, Connecticut

Continuation sheet

Item number 4,6

Page 1



Owners of Properties in the Hart's Corner Historic District

Faye L. Hart 247 Monce Road, Burlington, Connecticut 06013

David M. Drew 102 Stafford Road, Burlington, Connecticut 06013

Paul Horowitz 105 Stafford Road, Burlington, Connecticut 06013

Heritage Land Preservation Trust, Torrington, Connecticut (P.O. Box # 596) 06790

Representation in Existing Surveys

Architectural Survey of Burlington, 1978.

Archaeological Survey of Stafford Avenue Reconstruction, Burlington, Connecticut, 1978.

All three properties included in the district were determined eligible by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, January 26, 1979.

Repository for Survey Records: Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

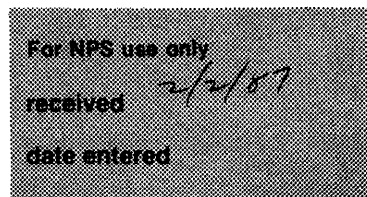
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hart's Corner Historic District
Burlington, Connecticut

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2



Prior to about 1950, these three farmhouses with their associated outbuildings were the only buildings in the area. Although the Hart's Corner Historic District is still predominantly rural, and no other buildings are visible to the north and south, modern residential development has begun to encroach on this area, particularly along Stafford Road to the east. The widening and straightening of Monce and Stafford roads about 1980 drastically changed the appearance of this formerly scenic country road. The setback of the Hart Place was also reduced by approximately 15 feet at that time but the integrity of the complex has not been substantially affected. A large maple tree, more than 200 years old, in front of the house, cited in the property descriptions of the nineteenth century, was preserved. The preservation of the rural character of this district has been fostered by the owner of the Hart Place, who has donated most of her undeveloped land (60+ acres) as the "Ernest and Ruth Hart Nature Reserve" to the Heritage Land Preservation Trust of Torrington in memory of her parents, reserving for herself the six acres surrounding the complex.

Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites

Inventory #	Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photograph #
1.	247 Monce Road	The Hart Place Cape, 1794	C	1,2
2.	247 Monce Road	Hart Horse Barn, 19th century	C	6,7,11
3.	247 Monce Road	Hart Cow Barn, 19th century	C	6,8,12
4.	247 Monce Road	Standing ruins (foundation) of slaughter house, 19th century	NC*	
5.	247 Monce Road	Garage, 1916	C	
6.	247 Monce Road	Chicken house with incubator, Ca. 1930	C	
7.	105 Stafford Road	George Washington Hart House, 19th-century domestic	C	10
8.	102 Stafford Road	Franklin Norton House, Greek Revival, ca. 1850	C	9
9.	102 Stafford Road	Modern garage	NC	

* This resource is classified non-contributing as its archaeological significance has not been evaluated at this time.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				agrarian history

Specific dates 1794 - 1930 Builder/Architect Not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hart's Corner Historic District, a microcosm of Connecticut agrarian history, provides a well-preserved tangible record of the life and fortunes of the Hart family, Burlington farmers for five generations (Criterion A). It contains three farmhouses and assorted outbuildings, including two well-preserved nineteenth-century barns, which illustrate the development of rural historic architecture from 1794 to 1873 (Criterion C).

History

The Hart's Corner Historic District has been associated with one family for almost 180 years. Of the four or five farmhouses located here since the nineteenth-century, three owned or built by members of the Hart family are still standing.² The oldest farm property in the district was built on 170 acres of land amassed by the Reverend Samuel Newell in the second tier of lots of the first division of Farmington (later Bristol, now Burlington). Newell, a Yale graduate (1781), served as a minister to New Cambridge, later Bristol, for a brief period. His extensive home farm elsewhere in Farmington's reserve was left to his surviving son, Samuel; his property in the historic district to his daughters, Mary Newell Hungerford and Anna (Amy) Hooker.³ The daughters sold the undeveloped property to Israel Barnes over a period of five years (1790-1795). One parcel of 56 acres sold to Barnes in 1790 was mortgaged by him with a dwelling house in 1794, establishing that the Colonial Cape-style house was built in that brief period.⁴ David Norton (1779-1847), the great-great-grandfather of the present owner, purchased the property from Barnes in 1807.⁵ Before Norton died, he willed his property to his second wife Dolly Botsford and his children, leaving the home farm to his wife and two sons, having sold his property across the street in 1846 to his eldest son Franklin, also a farmer. Franklin (the great uncle of the present owner of the Hart Farm) was responsible for building the Greek Revival-style house now standing. The Monce Road property was sold to Sylvester Hart (1820-1877) in 1852, several years after he married David Norton's youngest daughter Peninah (1822-1902).⁶ Of the five children born to Sylvester and Peninah, two daughters died in infancy, and two daughters survived to adulthood. Sylvester's only son, George Washington Hart, was his sole heir.

Sylvester was a butcher by trade with his son, George W., under the name of S. C. Hart & Son. When he died in 1877, his inventory included butchering equipment of assorted kinds, barrels of beef and pork, and a "business wagon." The cellar of the ell of the eighteenth-century house has large wrought-iron hooks imbedded in the massive beams where carcasses were hung for curing. The value of the inventory, excluding the buildings apparently, was \$911; accounts receivable exceeded \$7,000 noted by the appraiser as "doubtful or worthless."

George Washington Hart (1849-1901) moved across the road to a new Italianate farmhouse, which was built about 1874, shortly after his marriage to Jennie Webster. Sylvester had

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 70

Quadrangle name Bristol

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See continuation sheet.

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

Zone	Easting			Northing							

D

Zone	Easting			Northing							

E

Zone	Easting			Northing							

F

Zone	Easting			Northing							

G

Zone	Easting			Northing							

H

Zone	Easting			Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the district include all the land now, or formerly owned by the Hart/Norton family. Deed references: Burlington Land Records 66:661-3; 91:45; 11:558 (1846).

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant, National Register Coordinator edited by John Herzan,

organization Cunningham Associates date 6/25/86

street & number 98 Washington Street telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state Connecticut

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 January 20, 1987

For NPS use only

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

for Patrick Adams date 7/8/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Bruce K. Savage date 7/8/87
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hart's Corner Historic District

For NPS use only

received 2/4/87

date entered

Continuation sheet Burlington, Connecticut Item number 8 Page 2

purchased the land, described as "south of the new highway" (Stafford Road), in 1854 from Franklin Norton. George and Jennie had three children including Ernest, the father of the present owner.

By the end of the nineteenth century, George had had several financial reverses, including the foreclosure of his mortgage on his house and 54 acres of land with the cow barn across the road in 1888. Peninah, who had retained ownership of her dower right in the old homestead (where she lived with George and Jennie) and 40 acres on the east side of the road, sold the properties to her daughter-in-law by 1895, who in turn conveyed them to her son Ernest in 1914. Earnest Hart (1878-1970) married Ruth Atwater (1882-1945). In 1917 he bought back the land with the cow barn and the George W. Hart House. The latter was sold in 1923 and he lived out his life as a successful poultry farmer at the original homestead. His daughter inherited the farm.

Architectural Significance

The three well-preserved farmhouses of the Hart's Corner Historic District are rural Connecticut archetypes. Not only do they represent three distinct stylistic periods, but these historic properties are also representative examples of construction methods and types built by the majority of Connecticut farming families in three different eras of the state's history.

The earliest, the 1794 Colonial Cape built by Israel Barnes, is a modest dwelling, typical of rural farmhouses built in central Connecticut from about 1740 to 1840. Noted for its simplicity and ease of construction, the Cape form was utilized by farmers of modest circumstances in outlying areas such as Hart's Corner. With no near neighbors, outlanders like Barnes had to be self-sufficient, quite often relying solely on their own labor. These restrictions often precluded the use of a larger two-story house with massive posts and girts. A minimal house, it required a kitchen ell from the beginning.

The associated barns, which have been well-maintained, almost overshadow the farmhouse, underscoring the importance of these buildings to the family's livelihood. It is readily apparent that great care was lavished in their construction, particularly in the use of cut stone in the foundation rather than the rubble used for the house. It is dry-laid with great precision, as is the foundation of the former slaughterhouse. These buildings are at least 100 years old. However, construction dates cannot be determined with any degree of certainty since this type of bent construction was used in Connecticut for at least 200 years. (Although the rough-quarried foundation stones display evidence of eighteenth-century quarrying methods, this fact cannot be considered definitive since the possibility of reuse always exists.)

The Greek Revival-style farmhouse was almost universally popular around the middle of the nineteenth century in towns as well as rural areas. The urban form was often a simple rectangular block, but here, as in most farmhouses of this style, a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hart's Corner Historic District
Burlington, Connecticut

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

For NPS use only
received 2/2/87
date entered

one-and-one-half story integral kitchen wing with a porch was included, with a double plate for the half story to provide more headroom in the attic. Although the gable pediment windows varied in this style, often by region and over time, the full pediment and the side-hall main entrance were universally used. As found here, the rectangular form of gable window is an indication of the late Greek Revival style.

The taller, narrower configuration of the Sylvester Hart House across the road is characteristic of the late nineteenth-century farmhouse. The one-room deep main block and the one-bay wide pavilion add to this effect. From the simplicity of form, it is probable that post-and-beam, rather than balloon framing, was used, as was quite common in the rural areas through the nineteenth century. Often embellished with an elaborate porch, as this house is, it can be readily identified as belonging to a successful farmer, an impression confirmed by the family history. However, it was only briefly occupied by the Hart family until a reversal in their fortunes forced them to sell off part of their holdings and retreat to their first, much smaller house.

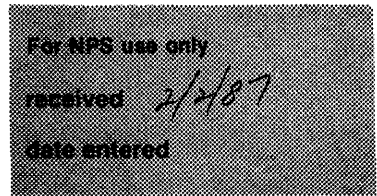
Notes:

1. It has been suggested that the kitchen ell may be an earlier building. The physical evidence tends to refute this possibility. There is a consistency of tool marks and nail type between the ell and the main block, and the rubble foundation appears to be continuous. It should be noted, however, that while there is a ridge beam in place in the ell gable roof, the rafters of the main roof are half-lapped and pegged together. The ridge beam type of construction, normally earlier (prior to 1750), must be considered an anomaly because the rafters of the ell roof were sawn with a water-powered circular saw, not available until the nineteenth century, indicating that the roof is a replacement. The land records show no buildings on the property prior to 1790.
2. Map of Burlington, 1855, 1869. A house owned by Homer J. Norton, the youngest son of David Norton, and brother of Franklin, was demolished about 1940. It was located further south on Stafford Road on the east side.
3. Farmington Probate Records (FPR) 3:110,121.
4. Bristol Land Records (BRLR) 3:55; 5:87.
5. Burlington Land Records (BLR) 1:85.
6. Burlington Probate Records (BPR) 1:525; BLR 11:558.
7. BPR 4:116,119,121.
8. BLR 12:462.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hart's Corner Historic District
Burlington, Connecticut



Continuation sheet Item number 9, 10 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

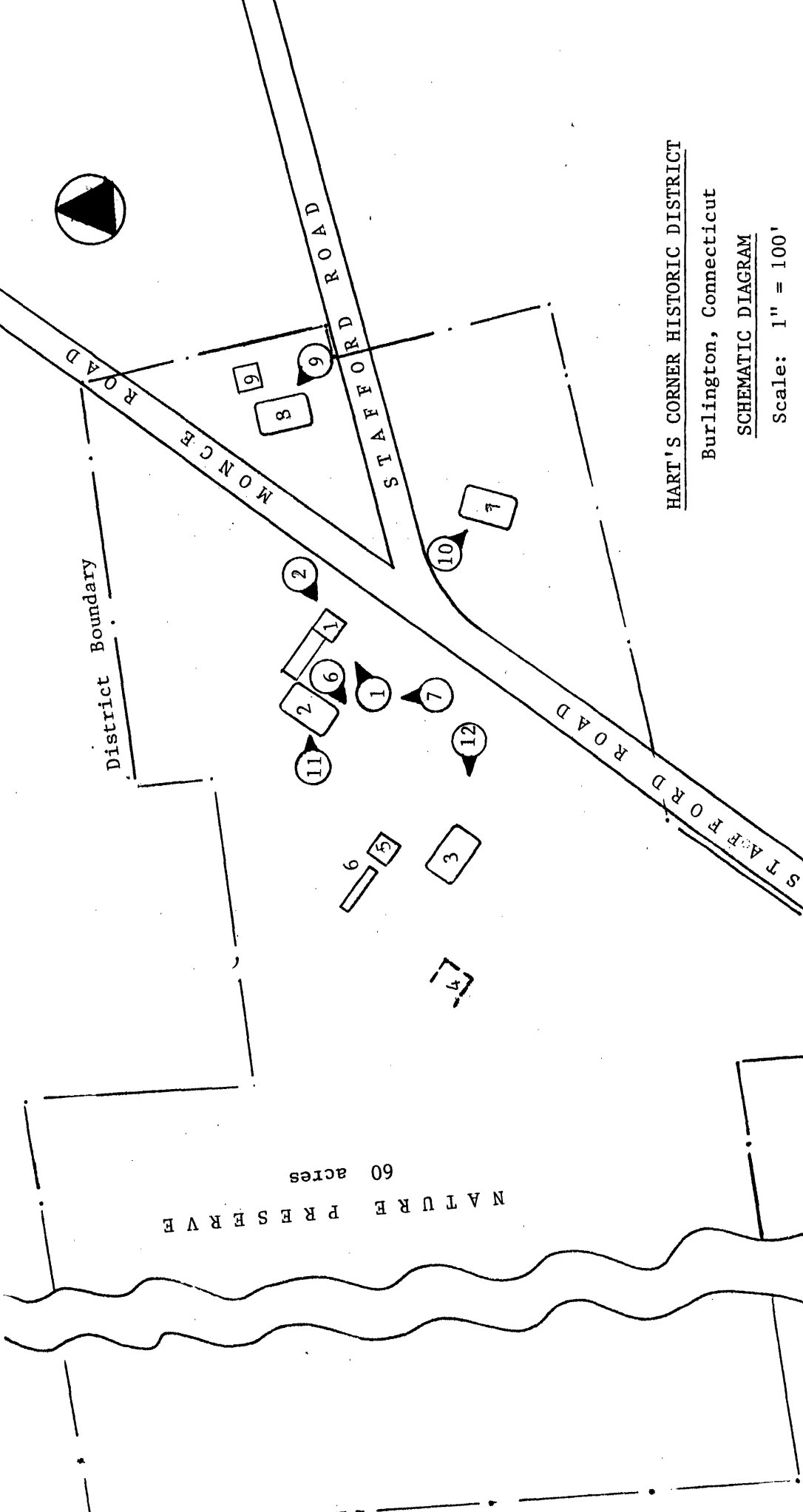
Andrews, Alfred. Genealogical History of Deacon Stephen Hart And His Descendants, 1632 - 1875. Hartford: Case Lockwood & Brainard Company Printers, 1875.

Bristol, Connecticut ("In the Olden Time New Cambridge") Which Includes Forestville. Hartford: City Printing Company, 1907.

Map of Burlington, 1855, 1869.

UTM References

A	18	673120	4621340
B	18	673080	4621610
C	18	673480	4621760
D	18	673500	4621570
E	18	673720	4621590
F	18	673710	4621650
G	18	673960	4621700
H	18	673910	4621630
I	18	673980	4621630
J	18	673990	4621580
K	18	673950	4621570
L	18	673950	4621500
M	18	673820	4621470
N	18	673790	4621380
O	18	673600	4621330
P	18	673580	4621400



HART'S CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Burlington, Connecticut

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM

Scale: 1" = 100'

#1 - #9 Inventoried resources (C & NC)

Exterior photograph views

Compiled by: Cunningham Associates 6/86

2 1000
1/28/87