

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668320

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RECEIVED

DATA SHEET
MAY 5 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 1 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chaplin National Register District

AND/OR COMMON

Chaplin Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Chaplin Street

CITY, TOWN

Chaplin

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second - Christopher J. Dodd

STATE

Connecticut

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Windham

CODE

15

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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.

Chaplin Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 198

CITY, TOWN

Chaplin

STATE

CT 06235

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Chaplin Historic District is composed of 43 properties along both sides of four-fifths of a mile of Chaplin Street in the town of Chaplin in northeastern Connecticut. Most of the village was built soon after 1815 and the buildings, the street, and the general ambience remain largely unchanged after 150 years. Chaplin Street runs in a curve. When the state highway, route 198, was put in, it was constructed in a straight line bypassing most of the district and thereby helping to ensure its continuity.

In the center of the district are a church and a tavern. Houses, town hall, library, post office, store, school, and cemetery are disposed along the street in both directions from the center. The chief architectural interest lies in the houses which are a uniform blend of late Georgian and early Greek Revival styles. The group includes three brick houses, eight frame houses with five bays, central doorway, and Federal trim, and eight frame houses with gable ends toward the street forming Greek pediments. All of the frame houses and one of the brick houses are painted white, as is the church.

The church and tavern are located at the corner in the center of the village. The church, W 8 on the map and on the list of property owners, built in 1812-1815, has a commanding site on a knoll overlooking the rest of the street. It is a plain building on high stone basement free of architectural detail and embellishment in the simple tradition of New England meeting houses, but with the entrance at the end facing the street rather than on the side. It is dominated by a square tower with pinnacles at its corners that has a short pyramidal spire rising from its center.

Across the street the elaborate detail of the Gurley Tavern, E 6 on the map and list of property owners, makes a strong contrast. Here the focus of interest is the center bay of the five bay facade which consists of a recessed entranceway on the ground floor and a Palladian window of impressive size and proportions above. Over the front door is a sun ray fanlight while the head of the center of the Palladian window has spider web muntins. The six inch frieze which runs under the eaves cornice is exceptional. Starting at the ends, over corner pilasters, are pairs of incised spirals. Then the main sections of the frieze, coming toward the center of the house, are bands of incised diamonds alternating with squares. Finally, over the Palladian window is interlaced strapwork in relief. On either side of the entranceway and its overwindow are colossal pilasters which are echoed on a smaller scale at the side entrance which also has a fanlight similar to that over the front door. Windows at the second floor are twelve-over-twelve under small flat cornices which have narrow bands repeating the pattern of alternating diamonds and squares from the main frieze.

The other five bay frame houses on the street enjoy similar detail on a less elaborate scale. The two on either side of the church, W 7 (now the Rafferty House) and W 9 (the Griggs House), are essentially similar structures and are representative of the group. In each of these two the front doorway again is the focus of

(continued)

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MAY 11 1978

Chaplin District

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interest. Four pilasters frame the door and its double hung side lights. The fanlight above has panes in a spider web pattern. Such delicate embellishment of fanlights is characteristic of doorways throughout the district. Above the fanlight is a plain frieze under a flat cornice with modillions. The modillions are repeated in larger scale along the main cornice and, at gable ends, along the cornice return and raking cornice. At the corners of the house are large pilasters on plinths with sections of architrave and frieze well below the cornice in lieu of capitals. A one story wing with attic extends to the rear. The house of this pair north of the church, W 9 (the Griggs House), in its gable end has a semi-oval window in a molded frame with a keystone and muntins in a globe pattern. Other windows are twelve-over-twelve and have shutters.

One of the three brick houses, W 13 (the Witter House), which has a monitor roof, already is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Another, E 1 (the Goodell House), is dominated by a central bay which has a large Palladian window over its doorway with fanlight and side lights. Molded pilasters separate the elements of both the window and the doorway. The large semi-oval fanlight again is leaded in a spider web design. A similar fanlight appears over a side door on the south. This doorway is recessed under a round brick arch.

The third brick house, W 3 (now the Chrysler House), like the others is thought to have been constructed of bricks made from clay obtained from a pit in the southern part of town. This house has been considerably altered but some of the original architectural detail is in place. The cornice has mutules with augur holes to represent guttae and the ground floor windows have deep raked reveals. A wide front porch was added in the 1920's; it cuts off half of the fanlight opening over the front door and the fanlight opening is filled in with bricks.

The eight houses in the Greek Revival mode are typified by W 19 (now the Church House). The spider web fanlights used in these houses as well as in the five bay houses already discussed are unifying elements in the streetscape. The use of the same elements of architectural detail visually ties together the houses from two different styles. Corner pilasters serve the same purpose.

The typical Greek Revival house in the village has its gable end toward the street with the gable at third floor level projecting over the second story. The front facade consists of three bays with the door, at right or left, surrounded by the community's distinctive fanlight and side lights. A companion oval window at attic level has muntins in a globe pattern. Several of these houses have dressed

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Chaplin District

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granite foundations.

Several of the Greek Revival houses have front porticos with Doric columns. At E 7 (now the Smith House) a row of dentils runs across the porch frieze, and above it is a parapet with raised central and corner blocks and banded edges. To one side is an addition running parallel to the road consisting of one story plus dormered attic. At first floor level is a porch with turned posts and other sawed and turned woodwork indicating turn-of-the-century construction.

Additional structures in the district worthy of mention are the Old Town Hall, store, and library. The Town Hall is a one story structure with a gable end which forms a pediment facing the street. The walls are constructed of flush vertical boards which make a smooth plane. In the pediment a similar smooth surface is formed by horizontal boards. The Town Hall is W 1 on the map and list of property owners.

The Old Store, E 8, is built with its projecting gable end toward the street, resembling some of the houses, and may initially have served as a home or as a combined store and residence. Over the front door is a typical spider web fanlight in a molded frame with a keystone and a companion semi-circular window above lights the attic. Twelve-over-eight sash remain in the side windows.

The Ross Library, W 11, is an example of late (1911) Romanesque architecture with a typical rounded arch entranceway and tower constructed in a combination of brick and stone. It provides a foil to the other buildings dating from almost one hundred years earlier.

Several fine, large barns, essential to households in the mid-nineteenth century, remain in place and in good condition along the street.

The boundaries of the district are contiguous with those of an already existing local historic district established in accordance with Chapter 7-147 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A list of property owners as shown by the records of the assessor on 8 July 1977 follows. There are no street numbers on Chaplin Street, so all addresses are simply Chaplin Street, Chaplin, CT 06235.

The numbers assigned in the following tabulation refer to the map included with this National Register nomination. The properties are numbered in sequence from the south to the north on each side of Chaplin Street. Historic names are given in parentheses where known. Year dates are approximate dates of construction.

All buildings are critical to the character of the historic district with the exception of the school and the Post Office which are noted (N.C.).

(Continued)

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Chaplin District *CT*
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East side:

- ✓ E 1. Hallas H. and Teresa D. Ridgeway (Goodell House) 1828.
- E 2. E.O. Horner (Eaton House) 1835.
- E 3. Robert B. and Adelaide P. Northrup (Perkins House) 1835.
- E 4. Yvonne R. Goven and Gregory S. Campbell, 1845.
- E 5. Marvin and Dianne Cox, 1850 (garage).
- E 6. Ruth E. Bowen (Gurley Tavern) 1822.
- E 7. Steven W. and Catherine W. Smith, 1835.
- E 8. Christopher and Roberta Bickford (Old Store) 1830.
- E 9. William H. and Wayne T. Harbough, 1835.
- E 10. Charlotte B. Shead, 1840.
- E 11. Donald G. Shead, Sr. (driveway to rear lot).
- E 12. Chaplin Congregational Church (parsonage) 1840.
- E 13. Mary E. and R. Jack Schultz, 1812.
- E 14. Orin Witter (empty lot).
- E 15. Ethel Murphy, 1915.
- E 16. William E. Philbrick (empty lot).
- E 17. Norman and Emma Steinhardt, 1855.
- E 18. Town of Chaplin (cemetery).
- (N.C.) E 19. Town of Chaplin (modern school).
- (N.C.) E 20. Peter Lucas (Post Office) 1900.

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West Side:

- W 1. Town of Chaplin (Old Town Hall) 1840.
- W 2. Max Putzel, 1840.
- W 3. Sidney V. Chrysler, 1830.
- W 4. Roger A. Adams, 1840.
- W 5. Nelson and Patricia L. Bakken, 1860 and 1920.
- W 6. Marvin and Dianne Cox (Eaton's Store) 1850.
- W 7. Alice Rafferty, 1830.
- W 8. Chaplin Congregational Church (church) 1814.
- W 9. J.D. & Laura C. Hannon (Griggs House) 1831.
- W 10. Ada I. Lanphear, 1865 and 1920.
- W 11. Town of Chaplin (Ross Library) 1911.
- W 12. Ann and Steven Chuk, 1840.
- W 13. Ann Rafferty (Witter House) 1821.
- W 14. Lindley A. Phillips, 1828 and 1865.
- W 15. Donald L. and Verna E. McCullough, 1832 and 1855.
- W 16. Raymond J. and Geraldine H. Helmer, 1840.
- W 17. Anna H. Beebe, 1924.
- W 18. William E. and Johanne Philbrick (Hope House) 1820.
- W 19. Warren and Marguerite Church, 1840.
- W 20. Mary Hubbard (Holt House) 1830.
- W 21. Natalie L. Reilly, 1840.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1815-1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chaplin Historic District is an entire village built between 1815 and 1840, standing today in complete integrity, free of intrusions. The church, tavern, Town Hall, store and nineteen houses in late Federal and early Greek Revival styles provide a unique example of the architecture and ambience of a New England village entirely constructed in a compressed period of time a century and a half ago, and unaltered since that time.

Connecticut has many villages which are older than Chaplin and many towns founded earlier than Chaplin in which can be traced continuing architectural and community developments from a century or more before through a century or more after the fabric demonstrated by Chaplin. Chaplin is unique because it was created on a site where before there had been no settlement, was created complete in a brief span of time, and subsequently has experienced no development or changes. Chaplin provides a unique record of the architecture and community planning of the 1820's and 1830's.

The impetus for establishment of the Town of Chaplin derived from the hardship entailed in regular Sunday travel to a distant church. To alleviate this problem a wealthy local citizen, Deacon Benjamin Chaplin, who died in 1795, provided in his will for a portion of the money needed to erect a new church, providing it was built within one-half mile of his house (which burned in 1928). Thus was the locale designated.

The procedure for organizing a new church was complex indeed in those times because the Congregational Church was not established in Connecticut until 1818. Church and civic government operated in tandem. Benjamin Chaplin's will by providing funds for a new church led to consideration of a new town as well. While it was possible to raise the additional funds needed for cost of construction and build the church in 1812-1815, it was not until after the Congregational Church became disestablished in 1818 that the new town was formed in 1822 by Hampton, Mansfield, and Windham each giving up some land area.

The initial considerations for site selection for most towns in Connecticut had to do with features of the natural environment, often along rivers. River mouths for harbours, river falls for power sources, or fertile lands created by river flooding often were determining factors in site selections. None of these usual considerations prevailed in site selection for Chaplin. Consequently, later industrial growth or mercantile development did not occur. In Chaplin

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40

UTM REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

A 1,8 | 7,3,88,50 | 46,3,1,44,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 | 7,38,8,20 | 46,3,1,2,70
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 7,3,85,6,0 | 46,3,1,1,1,0

D 1,8 | 7,3,8,4,40 | 46,3,1,0,7,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

6 August 1977

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT 06106

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 State Historic Preservation Officer and
 Director, Conn. Historical Commission

DATE 5/1/78

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William Lebovici

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/14/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/10/78

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Chaplin District

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there has been no mill, no court house, no trading center to bring growth and development. The reason for Chaplin is the church and there has been no occasion for anything in Chaplin to change since the church was built.

In the twentieth century a great boon to the preservation of Chaplin came in the form of a decision by state highway engineers to lay out state highway 198 in a straight line rather than to have it follow the meandering curve of Chaplin Street. Thus, the highway bypasses almost all of Chaplin District, permitting the street to remain free of heavy traffic and commercial exploitation.

Because of this happy circumstance the entire original town remains in place. The church was the activity center and the reason for the town's existence, but the tavern across the street was needed, too, and from time to time over the years served as stage coach stop, school, and post office. The Town Hall, store, and cemetery, all present in original condition, help to fill out essential features of the town as it originally existed and still exists.

Architecturally, the three brick houses constructed from local clay and the sixteen late Federal and early Greek Revival frame houses give a good cross section of domestic building practices in rural New England at the time. The fanlights, side lights, and oval attic windows which are similar in all these houses are a chief decorative feature, and tend to tie together all the houses. The classic inspired trim in the form of pilasters and moldings around the doorways of both the Federal and Greek houses is a further unifying element. The quality and detail of these architectural features creates considerable elegance, more so than might be expected from the work of country craftsmen, and testifies to the considerable talents of the anonymous joiners and builders responsible for the construction of the buildings which line the street.

Such architectural cohesiveness is matched by the complete array of town functions furnished by the various structures. Chaplin provides a complete community both in terms of forms and functions and is a unique historical resource.

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Chaplin District Geographical
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ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

UTM References:

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E. 18	738720	4630450	F. 18	738790	4630370
G. 18	738750	4630210	H. 18	738680	4630240
I. 18	738700	4630390	J. 18	738625	4630390
K. 18	738410	4631140			

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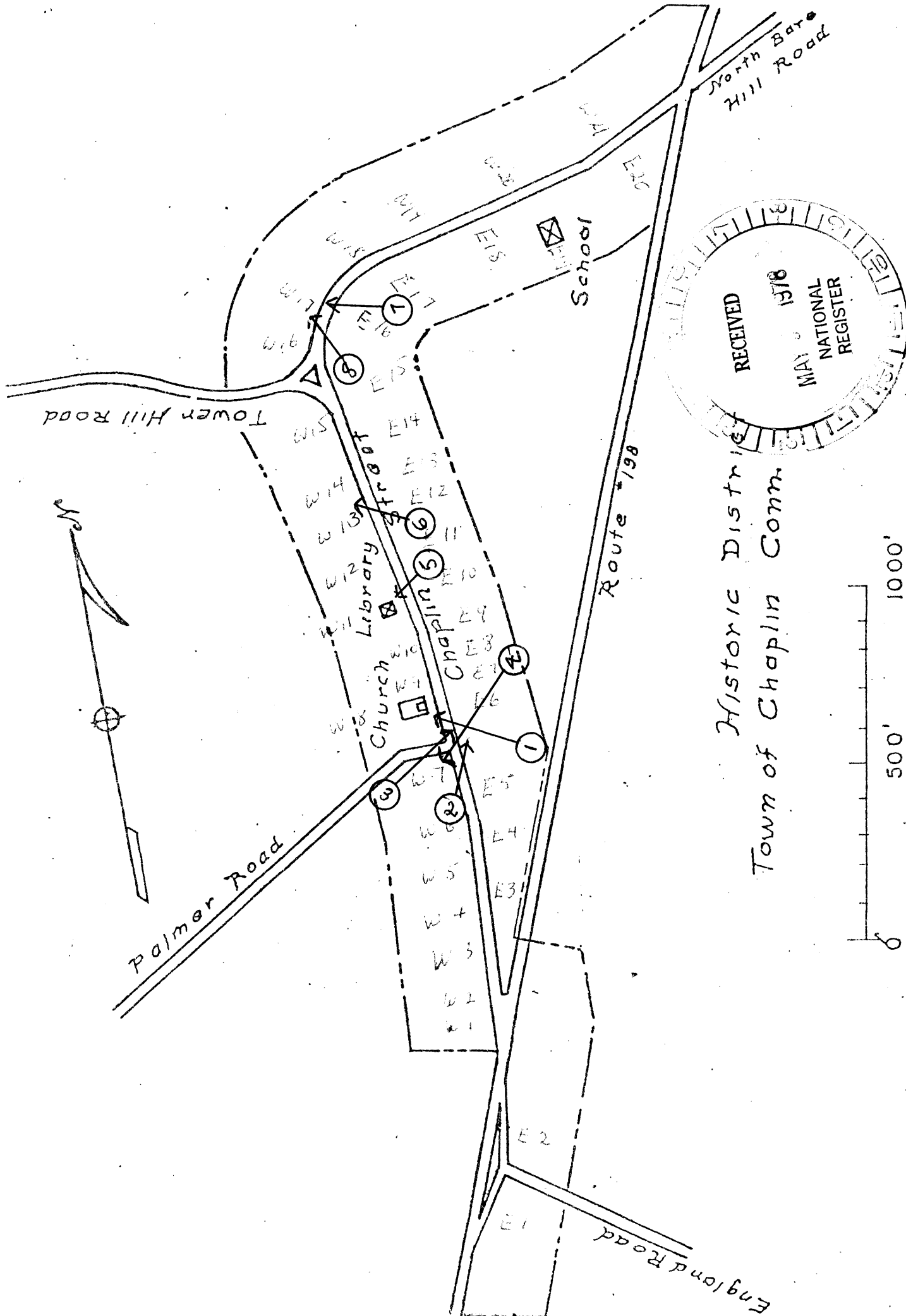
Chaplin District

CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The district is bounded on the east by a line beginning at the south boundary of the land of Hallas H. and Teresa D. Ridgeway 250 feet east of the center of the right of way of Chaplin Street. Thence the line will run northerly parallel to, and 250 feet east of, said center line to the north boundary of the land of Natchaug Grange No. 68; thence westerly along the north boundary of said Grange and the extension of this boundary to the west right of way line of Connecticut route 198; thence northerly along the west right of way line of route 198 to a point 250 feet east of the center line of the right of way for Chaplin Street; thence northerly and northeasterly along a line 250 feet east of and parallel to said center line, or the rear boundary of the property adjoining Chaplin Street, whichever is the lesser, to a point where the line again intersects the west right of way line of route 198.

The district is bounded on the west by a line beginning at the south boundary of the Old Town Hall property and the land of Max Putzel 250 feet west of the center line of the right of way of Chaplin Street. Thence the line runs northerly parallel to, and 250 feet west of, said center line, or the rear boundary of property adjoining Chaplin Street, whichever is the lesser, to Tower Hill Road, thence crossing said road 250 feet west of the junction of Chaplin Street and Tower Hill Road. The line continues northerly and northeasterly parallel to and 250 feet west of the center line of the right of way of Chaplin Street, or the rear boundary of property adjoining Chaplin Street, whichever is the lesser, to the westerly right of way of route 198.



Historic District
Town of Chaplin Conn.