

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 10 1989

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

other names/site number Haddam Center Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet

NA not for publication

city, town Haddam

NA vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Middlesex

code 007 zip code 06438

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>121</u>	<u>45</u> buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>125</u>	<u>45</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register 1

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]

January 4, 1988

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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:)

[Signature]

2/9/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility/storage  
COMMERCE/specialty store; SOCIAL/meeting hall  
EDUCATION/school; RELIGION/religious structure;  
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure/  
multiple dwelling  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
RELIGION/religious structure  
FUNERARY/cemetery

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/postmedieval English  
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal  
Mid-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival; NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite  
walls weatherboard  
granite  
roof asphalt  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Haddam Center Historic District is located on the west side of the Connecticut River and encompasses the institutional and residential center of the town. A linear district, it extends for about 2.5 miles in a generally northwest to southeast direction along two major streets: Old Saybrook (State Route 154) and Walkley Hill roads. Also included are part of some smaller roads which branch off both sides of the Walkley Hill section.

The portion of Saybrook Road included in the district was the path of the original colonial highway through Haddam Center. After 1802, this road was incorporated into the new Middlesex Turnpike, along with most of Walkley Hill Road. At the north end of the district, however, the original turnpike followed Clark Road for a short distance. With the installation of State Route 9, now Route 154, Walkley Hill Road was bypassed, but the main street of the village, Saybrook Road, was incorporated as part of the new highway.

The district contains a broad range of historic institutional, residential, and commercial architecture, with the majority of the contributing buildings dating from the period when Haddam prospered as the county seat of Middlesex County founded in 1785 (shared with Middletown). Although roughly 30% of the 79 primary contributing buildings were built in the eighteenth century, only eight buildings in the district remain from the pre-Revolutionary period, including one house which incorporates a seventeenth-century parsonage, the Hobart/Smith House (Inventory # 70; Photograph #1). Of the 62% dating from the nineteenth century, the majority were built in the first four decades in the Federal and Greek Revival styles, with all but a few in place by the Civil War. A few contributing houses date from the twentieth century, less than 6% of the total number. There are very few modern houses in the district; most of the 45 non-contributing buildings (26% of the total number of resources) are modern garages constructed after 1960.

Wood frame houses set on granite foundations predominate in the district, ranging in height from from one to three stories. At least five of the houses were originally built as stores or taverns. Some of the houses have retained their contributing barns and sheds, which at present are used as garages or for storage. Several old barns have been reconstructed on historic properties in recent years; these buildings were originally built elsewhere in Connecticut and are not classified as contributing resources in the district.

Several historic sites in the district include the original town cemetery, dating from 1667 (also the site of the second meeting house); a more recent cemetery in use since 1797; Meeting House Green, the site of the third meeting house built by the Congregationalists in the village; and Field Park (Inventory #s 41, 102, 150, 3). The

See continuation sheet

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Location

Clark Road: #37, 44.

Field Park Drive: #22 and Field Park.

Hayden Hill Road: #14, 23.

Hazen Road: #5, 11.

Island Dock Road: #25, 39, 57.

Meeting House Road: #7, 8.

Orchard Road: #38, 44.

Parmalee Road: #73, 78, 101, 108.

Park Road: #22.

Russell Road: #11, 19.

Saybrook Road: #831, 873, 875, 885, 888, 894, 895, 896, 900, 904, 905, 907, 908, 911, 915, 919, 920, 923, 929, 934, 937, 940, 943, 945, 946, 952, 960, 963, 969, 974, 975, 981, 984, 988, 991, 999, 1005, 1010, 1036-38, 1050, 1058, 1066.

Timms Hill Road: #2.

Walkley Hill Road: #65, 81, 91, 101, 111, 114, 115, 121, 139, 146, 151, 154, 162, 182, 247, 268, 280, 300-302, 312, 318, 327, 330, 336, 337, 341, 349, 360, 361, 373, 375.

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latter site, laid out and planted as a semiformal Victorian park and donated to the town in 1878, is located between Saybrook and Hayden Hill roads and occupies approximately nine acres. Many of its original ornamental trees were destroyed in the hurricane of 1938.

Colonial house forms predominate in Haddam Center. The gambrel, and to a lesser extent the Cape-style variation, persisted through the eighteenth century but the classic five-bay gable-roofed center-chimney house remained the most popular form through the Federal period. Two of the earliest houses of this type from the colonial period are the James Cone House on Clark Road and the Joshua Brooks House on Walkley Hill Road (Inventory #s 1, 129; Photographs # 2, 3). With its later Federal-style doorway, the Brooks House is hardly distinguishable from many of the houses built in this style in the district in the nineteenth century. An earlier house, the circa 1720 James Hazelton, Jr., House, was remodeled in this form in the nineteenth century, its second major alteration, as it was first enlarged to a saltbox (Inventory # 6). The Thomas Church House, built near the site of the meeting house on present-day Russell Road, is an example of a post-Revolutionary Colonial house (Inventory # 34; Photograph #4).

Most of the gambrel-roofed Colonial houses were built in the late eighteenth century. Two of the smaller houses of this type are the James Walkley Farmhouse on Walkley Hill Road and the Smith-Kelsey House on Saybrook Road at the southern end of the district (Inventory #s 132, 84; Photographs # 5, 6). Typically they display pedimented dormers, as do two much larger versions of this form, Brainerd Hall and the Thankful Arnold House, the latter now owned by the Haddam Historical Society (Inventory #s 47, 5; Photographs # 7, 8). Brainerd Hall, originally a public meeting place, approaches the Georgian style in its detailing of the pedimented dormers. Despite its construction date of 1795, it still displays the double overhang and a very simple doorway with a multi-light transom often found on much earlier houses. The roof of the Arnold House has a distinctive bell-cast profile; its ground floor was originally used for a store. Several other gambrels can be found in the district, two of which were moved to their off-street location to the east of Saybrook Road about 1920 (Inventory #s 46, 48). Both of these houses began as commercial buildings, as did another gambrel on Hazen Road, the Chapman Store, which later became the Brooks House (Inventory # 10).

The Federal style is represented in the district by three distinct types. In addition to the five-bay Colonial, often simply updated by a dentil course under the eaves and a pilastered doorway, several were built as three-quarter houses, ie., four-bay versions of the traditional Colonial. The final form, really a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style, had a pedimented gable facing the street.

The earliest of the five-bay Federals was the Chapman House, which was converted to a hotel in the mid-nineteenth century; its doorway was probably remodelled at that time (Inventory #42; Photograph #9). Between 1805 and 1820, three other similar houses were constructed, the Smith/Brainerd House, the Reverend John Marsh Parsonage, and the Simon Hazelton, Jr., House (Inventory #s 53, 21, 162; Photographs # 10, 11, 12). The latter

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two houses have exceptionally fine Federal doorways. A four-bay version, also with a classic Federal entrance, is the George Kelsey House on Saybrook Road (Inventory # 55; Photograph # 13). The John Cook House at the intersection of Walkley Hill and Hayden Hill roads and the Winslow Higgins House on Orchard Road off the east side of Walkley Hill Road are similar examples of this type (Inventory #s 166, 25).

At least six gable-to-street examples in the district were built by about 1830; four of these display finely detailed, nearly identical fanlights in their pediments. Two examples on Walkley Hill Road are the Comfort Cone House, the first house at the north end of the district, and the Captain Noah Dickinson House facing Meeting House Green (Inventory #s 111, 148; Photographs # 14, 15). The similarity of the fanlights on these houses and those of the Ezekial Clark and Charles Arnold houses indicates the work of the same builder (Inventory #s 68, 82). The Simeon Scranton Tollhouse, also built in this period, has retained its gable-to-street orientation and may have originally displayed some Federal-style features (Inventory #124; Photograph #16).

Due to the presence of several historic granite quarries in the town, several distinguished buildings were completely constructed of this material starting in the Federal period. They all display the same random ashlar pattern with granite lintels and sills. The first of these buildings and the only residence to be constructed is the David Ventres House, located at the southern end of the district (Inventory # 99; Photograph #17). It was followed by the former Brainerd Academy, now used as an auxiliary town hall, and the Haddam Gaol (Inventory #s 4, 72; Photographs #18, 19). The academy was originally three stories in height. The roof was lowered in 1929 and the cupola removed. The colonnaded portico was added at this time. The second county courthouse, a granite building which stood at the intersection of Walkley Hill and Saybrook roads, was destroyed by fire in 1929.

There are several later institutional buildings in Haddam Center, all constructed of wood on Saybrook Road. They include the First District School built in 1866 (Inventory # 63; Photograph # 20), and the Haddam Congregational Church, a 1981 replica of the earlier church on this site, a wood-framed temple-fronted building constructed in 1846, which burned to the ground in 1979 (Inventory #52). The County Orphanage, built in 1880 at the southern end of the district, completes the nineteenth-century institutional core of the district (Inventory #107).

Only a few houses in the district utilize some of the styles of the Victorian period. The Greek Revival is the most frequently represented, with 13 examples built up through the 1860s, generally with a gable-to-street orientation. They all resemble the main block of the Congregational Parsonage on Russell Road (Inventory # 36; Photograph 21). It features the typical one-and-one-half-story side ell with the small eave windows of the farmhouses built in this style. The Carpenter Gothic-style Joseph Smith House and the Italianate James Walkley House are the only examples of their respective styles

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in the district (Inventory #s 88, 119; Photographs # 22, 23). The balcony on the former house is a twentieth-century addition.

The remaining architecture in the district dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With few exceptions, the 12 houses built in this period are simple vernacular buildings, often with few stylistic features. An exception from the nineteenth century is 5 Hazen Road (Inventory #8; Photograph #24). It displays tripartite windows in both gables; those on the street side appear to be original and distinctly Queen Anne in their configuration. A more standard example is located at 2 Timms Hill Road (Inventory # 109, 110). A typical farm cottage of the late nineteenth century, it has also retained its associated barn. The present Beaux Arts-style library, built in 1908 of brick trimmed with marble, is the only historic institutional building dating from this period (Inventory #62; Photograph #25).

A complete inventory of the district follows. Resources are listed as contributing if they were constructed or established during the period of architectural or historical significance of the district (8:1) and have retained their architectural integrity. Dates of construction were taken from the Haddam Architectural Survey or the Haddam Tax Assessor's records, or were estimated in the field, or supplied by property owners. Cases in which the assessor's records could not provide dates for secondary structures are indicated by "n.d." for no date, but all of the buildings so designated appear to be to have been constructed after 1932, the end of the period of architectural significance in the district.

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INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Inv. #	Street Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photo. #
1.	37 Clark Road	JAMES CONE HOUSE Colonial, c. 1750; porch, c. 1900	C	2
2.	44 "	Colonial Revival gambrel, c. 1900	C	
3.	-- Field Park Drive	FIELD PARK, 1878	C	
4.	22 "	BRAINERD ACADEMY Greek Revival, 1839; portico, 1929	C	18
5.	14 Hayden Hill Road	THANKFUL ARNOLD HOUSE Gambrel Colonial, c.1795	C	8
6.	23 "	JAMES HAZELTON, JR., HOUSE Colonial, c. 1720, 19th-c. remodellings	C	
7.	23 "	Garage assoc. with #6, 1922/1971	NC	
8.	5 Hazen Road	19th-c. domestic, c.1890	C	24
9.	5 "	19th-c. barn assoc. with #8	C	
10.	11 "	CHAPMAN STORE/BROOKS HOUSE Colonial shop, 1792	C	
11.	11 "	19th-c. barn assoc. with #10	C	
12.	11 "	Outbuilding assoc. w. #10, 1983	NC	
13.	25 Island Dock Road	SMITH/PARMALEE HOUSE Cape, c. 1790, roof raised, c.1870	C	
14.	39 "	19th-c. domestic, c. 1880	C	
15.	39 "	Garage assoc. with #14, 1929	C	
16.	57 "	20th-c. commercial, c. 1920	C	
17.	57 "	Barn, 19th-c., assoc. with #16	C	
18.	57 "	Barn, 19th-c. assoc. with #16	C	

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19.	7	Meeting House Road	19th-c. domestic, c. 1880	C	
20.	7	"	Garage assoc. with #19, n.d.	NC	
21.	8	"	REV. JOHN MARSH PARSONAGE Georgian, 1818	C	11
22.	8	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #21	C	
23.	8	"	Carriage hse. assoc. w. #21, 1880	C	
24.	8	"	Garage assoc. with #21, 1979	NC	
25.	38	Orchard Road	WINSLOW HIGGINS HOUSE Federal, c. 1810	C	
26.	44	"	Modern cape, 1973	NC	
27.	73	Parmalee Road	Modern residence, 1970	NC	
28.	73	"	Garage assoc. with #27, 1970	NC	
29.	78	"	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
30.	101	"	Modern residence, 1971	NC	
31.	108	"	Modern residence, 1969	NC	
32.	22	Park Road	ABISHA SMITH HOUSE Cape, c.1790	C	
33.	22	"	Garage assoc. with #32, c. 1950	NC	
34.	11	Russell Road	THOMAS CHURCH HOUSE Colonial, c. 1790	C	4
35.	11	"	Barn assoc. with #34, 1912	C	
36.	19	"	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARSONAGE Greek Revival, 1845	C	21
37.	19	"	Reconstructed barn, 1984 assoc. with #36	NC	



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38.	831 Saybrook Road	Double barn, early 20th-c., with silos and attached house	C	
39.	875 "	SIMON HAZELTON, SR., HOUSE Georgian, c. 1785, altered, c.1880	C	
40.	873 "	Garage/apartment, 1958	NC	
41.	-- "	HADDAM CEMETERY, est. 1667 Oldest existing marker, 1711	C	
42.	885 "	CHAPMAN HOUSE/ BROOKS HOTEL Federal, 1792, conv, c. 1850	C	9
43.	885 "	19th-c. barn/garage assoc. w. #42	C	
44.	888 "	Colonial Revival, c. 1925	C	
45.	888 "	Garage assoc. with #44, c. 1925	C	
46.	894 "	SHAILER & ARNOLD STORE Gambrel, c. 1790	C	
47.	895 "	BRAINERD HALL, Georgian, c. 1795	C	7
48.	896 "	BILLINGS HOUSE, Gambrel, c. 1790	C	
49.	900 "	19th-c. commercial, c. 1870	C	
50.	904 "	JAMES SMITH CLARK HOUSE Federal. c. 1795	C	
51.	904 "	Garage assoc. with #50, 1929	C	
52.	905 "	HADDAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Greek Revival replica, 1981	NC	
53.	907 "	SMITH/BRAINERD HOUSE Federal, c. 1805	C	10
54.	908 "	JOSEPH ARNOLD HOUSE Colonial, c. 1765	C	
55.	908	Garage assoc. with #54. 1929	C	

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56.	911	Saybrook Road	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
57.	911	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #56	C	
58.	915	"	GEORGE KELSEY, JR., HOUSE Federal, c. 1815	C	13
59.	915	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #58	C	
60.	919	"	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	20
61.	919	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #60	C	
62.	920	"	BRAINERD MEMORIAL LIBRARY Beaux Arts, 1908	C	25
63.	923	"	FIRST DISTRICT SCHOOLHOUSE, 1866	C	20
64.	929	"	WILLIAM SMITH HOUSE, Gambrel, c. 1800, porch. c.1910	C	
65.	929	"	Garage assoc. with #64, n.d.	NC	
66.	934	"	Colonial Revival, c. 1920	C	
67.	934	"	Garage assoc. with #66, 1920	C	
68.	937	"	EZEKIAL CLARK HOUSE Federal, c. 1830	C	
69.	940	"	GIDEON BRAINERD HOUSE Federal, c. 1840, two bays added c. 1880	C	
70.	943	"	HOBART/SMITH HOUSE 1691 parsonage remodelled c. 1800	C	1
71.	943	"	General store, c. 1900, conv. to garage, 1983, assoc. w. #70	C	
72.	945	"	HADDAM GAOL & WORKHOUSE Greek Revival/Mansard, 1845-1855	C	19
73.	945	"	Concrete shed assoc. w. #72, n.d.	NC	

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74.	945	Saybrook Road	19th-c. barn assoc. with #72	C	
75.	945	"	Early 20th-c. shed assoc. w. #72	C	
76.	945	"	Modern institutional, c. 1985	NC	
77.	946	"	WILLIAM & OLIVER SMITH HOUSE Colonial, c. 1770	C	
78.	946	"	Garage assoc. with #77, 1930	C	
79.	952	"	Modern residence, 1972	NC	
80.	960	"	NOAH CLARK TAVERN Late Georgian Colonial, c. 1805	C	
81.	960	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #80	C	
82.	963	"	CHARLES ARNOLD HOUSE Federal/Greek Revival, c. 1830	C	
83.	963	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #82	C	
84.	969	"	SMITH-KELSEY HOUSE Gambrel, c. 1790 (moved across street, c. 1880)	C	6
85.	974	"	SIMON SMITH HOUSE Cape, c. 1745	C	
86.	975	"	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
87.	975	"	19th-c. house conv. to garage/ apartment c. 1945, assoc. w. #86	NC	
88.	981	"	JOSEPH A. SMITH HOUSE Carpenter Gothic, 1870, add., c. 1935	C	22
89.	984	"	Greek Revival cottage, c. 1850	C	
90.	984	"	Garage assoc. with #89, 1945	NC	
91.	988	"	NEHEMIAH BRAINERD HOUSE Colonial, c. 1765	C	
92.	988	(rear)"	Cottage assoc. with #91, 1932	C	

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93.	988 Saybrook Road	Barn assoc. with #91, 1930	C	
94.	991 "	Greek Revival cottage, c. 1850	C	
95.	991 "	Garage assoc. with #94, n.d.	NC	
96.	999 "	Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
97.	999 "	19th-c. barn assoc. with #96	C	
98.	999 "	Barn/garage assoc. with #96	C	
99.	1005 "	DAVID B. VENTRES HOUSE Federal, 1825	C	17
100.	1005 (rear)"	19th-c. cottage, c. 1870	C	
101.	1010 "	Haddam Fire Department #2 Modern institutional, 1945	NC	
102.	---	Cemetery, est. 1797	C	
103.	1036-38 "	Modern commercial nursery, 1956	NC	
104.	1036-38 "	Modern residence, 1955	NC	
105.	1050 "	U.S. Post Office Modern institutional, 1983	NC	
106.	1058 "	19th-c. domestic, c. 1880	C	
107.	1066 "	COUNTY ORPHANAGE, 1887 Colonial Revival remodelling, 1957	C	
108.	1066 "	19th-c. barn assoc. with #107	C	
109.	2 Timms Hill Road	19th-c. cottage, c. 1880	C	
110.	2 "	19th-c. barn assoc. with #109	C	
111.	65 Walkley Hill Road	COMFORT CONE HOUSE Federal/Greek Revival, c. 1830	C	14
112.	65 "	Garage assoc. with #111, 1973	NC	

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113.	81 Walkley Hill Rd.	Modern ranch house, 1957	NC	
114.	91 "	Federal, c. 1830	C	
115.	91 "	Garage assoc. with #114, n.d.	NC	
116.	101 "	Modern residence, c. 1980	NC	
117.	101 "	Garage assoc. with #116, 1983	NC	
118.	111.	CLINTON B. DAVIS HOUSE Greek Revival, 1873	C	
119.	114 "	JAMES C. WALKLEY HOUSE Italianate, c. 1850	C	23
120.	114 "	Garage assoc. with #119, n.d.	NC	
121.	114 "	Outbuilding assoc. w. #119, 1980	NC	
122.	115 "	REV. JAMES NOYES HOUSE Greek Revival, c. 1840	C	
123.	121 "	Colonial, c. 1800	C	
124.	139 "	SIMEON SCRANTON TOLLHOUSE, 1828	C	16
125.	139 "	Garage assoc. with #124, 1965	NC	
126.	139 "	19th-c. barn assoc. w. #124	C	
127.	146 "	Barn, c. 1750. conv.to residence	C	
128.	146 "	Garage assoc. with #127, 1980	NC	
129.	151 "	JOSHUA BROOKS HOUSE Colonial, c. 1770, Federal doorway	C	3
130.	154 "	Modern residence, 1961	NC	
131.	154 "	Garage assoc. with #130, 1961	NC	
132.	162 "	JAMES WALKLEY FARMHOUSE Gambrel, c.1800	C	5

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133.	182 Walkley Hill Road		WALKLEY-BRAINERD HOUSE Federal, c. 1820	C	
134.	247	"	SOLOMON WALKLEY HOUSE Cape, c. 1810	C	
135.	---	"	Pump house assoc. with #136, n.d.	C	
136.	268	"	BRAINERD-DICKENSON HOUSE Colonial, c. 1775	C	
137.	268	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #136	C	
138.	268	"	Double garage assoc. w. #136, n.d.	NC	
139.	268.	"	20th-c. barn assoc. with #136	C	
140.	268	"	Shed assoc. with #136, n.d.	NC	
141.	280	"	Modern residence, c. 1970	NC	
142.	300-302	"	CEPHAS BRAINERD HOUSE Federal, c. 1820	C	
143.	300-302	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #142	C	
144.	300-302	"	19th-c. barn assoc. with #142	C	
145.	300-302	"	Shed assoc. with #142, n.d.	NC	
146.	312	"	HART-RUSSELL HOUSE Greek Revival, c. 1830, Mansard, c. 1880	C	
147.	312	"	Garage assoc. with #146, 1960	NC	
148.	318	"	CAPT. NOAH DICKINSON HOUSE Colonial, c.1785/Greek Revival, 1837	C	15
149.	318	"	19th-c. barn/garage assoc. w.#148	C	
150.	---	"	Meeting House Green, 1878 (Site of third church)	C	
151.	327	"	BENJAMIN KELSEY HOUSE Cape, 1822	C	

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152.	330	Walkley Hill Road	20th-c. domestic, c. 1920	C	
153.	330	"	Garage assoc. with #146	C	
154.	336	"	Modern residence, c. 1970	NC	
155.	337	"	SHERMAN EVEREST HOUSE Federal, 1810 (rear ell 1730)	C	
156.	337	"	Early 19th-c. barn assoc. w. #155	C	
157.	337	"	Garage assoc. with #155, 1930	C	
158.	341	"	MCKEAN-DICKENSON HOUSE Gambrel Cape, 1792-1793	C	
159.	341	"	Early 20th-c. barn assoc. with #158	C	
160.	349	"	MINOR C. HAZEN HOUSE Greek Revival, 1869	C	
161.	349	"	Early 20th c. barn assoc. w. #160	C	
162.	360	"	SIMON HAZELTON, JR. HOUSE Federal, c. 1820	C	12
163.	360	"	19th-c. barn/garage assoc. w. #162	C	
164.	361	"	20th-c. domestic, c. 1930	C	
165.	361	"	Modern outbuilding assoc. with #164, 1940	NC	
166.	373	"	JOHN COOK HOUSE Federal, c. 1810	C	
167.	375	"	SMITH CLARK HOUSE Colonial, 1793	C	
168.	375	"	Garage assoc. with #167, 1968	NC	
169.	375	"	Garage assoc. with #167, 1945	NC	
170.	375	"	Shed assoc. with #167, 1967	NC	

**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  
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1691 - 1932

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Various unknown

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

The Haddam Center Historic District is an exceptionally well-preserved, architecturally significant collection of domestic and institutional architecture of remarkable historic integrity which illustrates both the growth and gradual decline of a Connecticut River town from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. It contains a large concentration of architecturally significant buildings dating from the Federal and Greek Revival periods. Especially notable are the residential buildings of the Federal style and the distinguished institutional buildings constructed of local granite between 1839 and 1855.

Historical Significance

A unique set of social, political, and economic factors contributed to the period of architectural and historical significance of Haddam Center. They include limited agricultural resources which accounted for this area's late formation and gradual growth prior to the Revolution. Improving economic conditions brought about by a profitable granite-quarrying industry, and some limited participation in the maritime and shipping trade contributed to the growth of the late eighteenth century. The building of the Middlesex Turnpike in 1802 provided a further boost to the economy. The greatest single factor which proved to be a stimulus to the architectural and economic development of the center was the establishment of the county seat in Haddam in 1785, a political function which was shared with Middletown, a much larger town to the north. Although this arrangement continued into the 1880s, almost half of the contributing historic architecture was constructed between 1785 and 1840. With the establishment of the railroad and regular steamboat travel on the river, the importance of the turnpike declined, along with Haddam Center's role in the county and the town.

The Haddam Center Historic District encompasses the original Town Plot laid out as the institutional center of the town on the west bank of the Connecticut River in 1662. The center was one of two small areas surveyed for settlement by the Connecticut Colony agents of the 104 square miles of undeveloped land on both sides of the river between Middletown and Saybrook. Land was set aside in the Town Plot for the meeting house, the burying ground, and the minister's homelot as required by the General Court, along with some land reserved for "parsonage land," a customary way for a town to support its



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Cunningham, Janice P., and Elizabeth A. Warner. Portrait of a River Town: The History and Architecture of Haddam, Connecticut. Middletown, Conn.: The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 267

UTM References

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district have been drawn to encompass the maximum number of historic buildings and sites associated with the period of significance of Haddam Center. Beyond the district to the north and west is modern residential construction. To the south is open land. The western boundary is generally Saybrook Road at the north end of the district, Haddam Meadows State Park, and the easement for the Connecticut Valley Railroad.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By** \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 7/19/88

street & number 7231 Town Place telephone (203) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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Haddam Center Historic District, Haddam, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

minister. The first meeting house was not completed until 1673; the first full-time minister did not come to town for almost 30 years. The original 1691 parsonage is incorporated in a house that still stands today (Inventory #70). Although the sites of several meeting houses are commemorated by markers, or in the case of the third building by the Meeting House Green (Inventory #150), the original cemetery is the only other remaining resource from this early period (Inventory #41).

The delays in establishing the traditional institutions can be attributed to the fact that few people were willing to come to a town with such limited opportunities. Unlike the earlier river towns to the north which had abundant farmland in the flood plain of the river, arable land was limited in Haddam, less than 15% of the total. Most of the town was wooded upland rising 600 feet above the river, with granite ledge and bedrock. The first settlements, located in open meadows on the west bank of the river, were purchased by only 28 proprietors, far too few to support a town in the colonial period. Of these, only 19 lots were located in the Town Plot. They ran from the river bank to the highway, with an additional three acres on the other side of the highway for each owner.

None of the original proprietors' houses remain but some of the extant Colonial buildings were constructed by their descendants. They include one at the north end of the district constructed about 1750, the James Cone House, the grandson of proprietor Daniel Cone (Inventory #1). Another proprietor family is represented by the slightly later Joshua Brooks House, built about 1770 (Inventory #129). The Joseph Arnold House in the center of the district is another example of a center-chimney Colonial built by descendants of a settler family (Inventory #54). Descendants of the Smith family built several houses near the south end of the district before the Revolution, including the only Cape-style house surviving from this period, the Simon Smith House, dating from about 1745 (Inventory #85), and a five-bay center-chimney house built by two brothers just prior to the Revolution, the William and Oliver Smith House (Inventory #77). Part of the earlier James Hazelton, Jr., House, one of earliest surviving colonial period buildings, was built on land first owned by the Clarks, a proprietor family (NR:1988; Inventory #6).

Tradesmen and shopkeepers were attracted to the center following the Revolution, establishing new businesses near the first county courthouse and jail in the newly formed half-shire town. Tanners, shipwrights, and blacksmiths, among others, built new houses in the district. Winslow Higgins had a house, as well as a bark mill and a tannery on his property on Orchard Road, the latter only one of the several trades associated with the raising of cattle in Haddam (Inventory #25). George Kelsey, Jr., had a shoemaker's shop on the property where he built his small Federal-style house about 1815 (Inventory #58). A blacksmith shop was built at the same time as the Smith-Kelsey House at its original site across the street from its present location (Inventory #84).

With the new turnpike through the center being the only direct route on the west side of the river from the Connecticut shore to the state capital in Hartford, travellers found accommodations in at least six existing houses and one new tavern, the Noah Clark Tavern built in 1805 (Inventory #80). It was ideally located on the east side of the turnpike

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Haddam Center Historic District, Haddam, Connecticut

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at its intersection to the lane to the Haddam Landing, the town's small riverport. Stores were built by men such as Timothy Chapman, who also owned shares in ships being constructed at the landing. Typically, these were small gambrel-roofed buildings, easily moved to new locations as the occasion warranted. The present circa 1910 location of the Shailer and Arnold Store and the Billings House, originally a store, was at least the third move for these buildings (Inventory #s 46, 48). Imported goods from the New York port were sold in town and Haddam Center was well on its way to rivaling Middletown as the center of commerce for the county until the War of 1812 destroyed the river trade.

Quarrying was an active industry in this period, with some quarries employing more than 100 men in the most prosperous years. Local granite for pavers as well as building material was shipped from the quarry docks in present-day Haddam Meadows State Park. David Ventres, the only quarry owner to build his house of granite, was a prominent Haddamite engaged in this business (Inventory #99), along with the Arnolds and the Brainerds. In addition to their houses, the architectural legacy of these latter two families included the academy and the meeting hall built by the Brainerds, and the Haddam Gaol, the latter constructed by the Arnold brothers from stone from their Shailerville quarry, probably with the labor of county prisoners (Inventory #s 4, 47, 72). The Brainerd Memorial Library and its land was donated to the town by members of both families (Inventory #62).

Although the older county buildings were replaced by substantial stone structures during the mid-nineteenth century, Haddam Center's role in the management of county affairs was on the decline. Middletown was reasserting its political importance in the state as it became an industrial city. Indeed, the district's economic importance in the town itself had waned and its political powerbase had fragmented. The remnants of the shipping and maritime trade continued at other landings in Haddam. Higganum village to the north of the center, with its extensive sources of waterpower, was rapidly becoming the industrial center for the town. Steamboat travel on the river was increasing and fewer travellers came through Haddam by way of the turnpike. At least two riverboat captains lived in the district, Noah Dickinson and George Parmalee (Inventory #s 148, 13). The final blow was the building of the Connecticut Valley Railroad in 1871 along the west bank of the river (just to the east of the district). Ironically, one of the chief promoters of this venture was a Haddam native, James C. Walkley. His fine Italianate house was built in 1850 (Inventory #119).

The cumulative effect of all these factors is readily apparent in the district. Not only were fewer houses built after 1840, most of the stores in the center were moved and converted to residential use. By the Civil War, Haddam Center had reverted to its insular pre-Revolutionary status. The isolation of this country town would not be disturbed again until well after World War II, when its charms were rediscovered. In the ensuing years the center has become a bedroom community. Historic homes have been restored by new owners, with most of the new construction limited to garages for commuters who live in Haddam but work elsewhere in the state.

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Haddam Center Historic District, Haddam, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 4Architectural Significance

The architectural integrity of the Haddam Center Historic District is its most striking characteristic. With few exceptions, the district has retained its essential historical character, which is all the more remarkable given the size and extent of the district. The state of preservation of the historic buildings is especially notable. Although the proportion of non-contributing buildings appears to quite high, most of them are secondary buildings which do not intrude upon the historic streetscape. The few modern houses that have been built in the district have had a limited impact. A number of these are almost hidden from view on their heavily wooded lots, especially those on Parmalee Road.

Along Saybrook Road, the more heavily travelled "main street" of the village, there is a higher concentration of historic buildings and generally a uniform setback, especially on the east side of the street, more typical of a more urban community. The houses are more widely separated on Walkley Hill Road, giving this section of the district a more rural atmosphere. This is especially true along the northern part of the road where there are larger landscaped lots and extensive wooded areas. Closer to the center of the district, beginning at Russell Road and running to the intersection with Saybrook and Hayden Hill roads, the houses are sited closer together, producing a well-integrated continuous streetscape of exceptional merit.

The homogeneous nature of the architecture contributes to the cohesiveness of the district. Although the range of construction dates extends for more than 100 years, the continued reliance on eighteenth-century types and forms produces the appearance of a colonial village. Only upon closer examination does it become apparent that most of the center-chimney houses were built in the 50-year period after the Revolution.

Within the limits of the conservative nature of the architecture of the district, an exceptional variety of Federal-style houses were constructed. Although none approach the degree of style found in some of the other Connecticut River towns, their detailing, especially the fine attenuated doorways, is a suitably understated embellishment for such essentially Colonial houses such as the Reverend John Marsh Parsonage, or the Simon Hazelton, Jr., House (Inventory #s 21, 162; Photographs # 11, 12). As the form of these houses becomes more typical of the nineteenth century, with pedimented gables facing the street, the detailing is not only more elaborate, but a clearer understanding of the totality of the Federal style is expressed, an attempt not made on the earlier Colonial forms. Houses such as the one built by Comfort Cone at the head of the district are examples of the most sophisticated residential architecture in the center, particularly in their exceptionally well-conceived and well-crafted fanlights (Inventory #111; Photograph #14).

The Greek Revival houses, the second largest group of buildings executed in a similar style, predictably display less variety. With only one exception, these buildings are

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Haddam Center Historic District, Haddam, Connecticut

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the familiar gable-to-street buildings with full pediments found in most towns in Connecticut. Generally well-preserved, this group of houses provides a counterpoint to the predominate Colonial genre and a subtle terminus to the period of greatest architectural significance. As they are scattered throughout the district, they also add architectural interest to the streetscape. The Congregational Parsonage is a classic of this type, enhanced by its sloping open site and its location facing Meeting House Green (Inventory #36; Photograph #21).

Several later houses are stylistically unique to the district, the Italianate built by James Walkley and the Carpenter Gothic of Joseph Smith (Inventory #s 119, 88; Photographs # 23, 22). Continuing the earlier conservative trend in the district, they are still relatively modest interpretations of these styles, particularly when compared to other other examples of Victorian architecture elsewhere in Haddam. Of the two, the Walkley House has the better integrity. Although it is enhanced by its broad lawns and ample setback, it is still a simply designed house with its detailing limited to eave pediments, brackets, and an Italianate entry porch.

The distinctive masonry buildings of the district make a special historic and architectural contribution. Although both the Brainerd Academy and the Haddam Goal have been altered over time, they are still impressive buildings. It is unfortunate that the academy's facade is barely visible from Saybrook Road, hiding the twentieth-century portico from public view (Inventory #4; Photograph #18). Its exceptionally well-executed stonework is readily visible, however, from Field Park Drive. The goal presents an interesting, and not altogether successful, juxtaposition of shapes with its mansarded addition to the original Greek Revival-style building (Inventory #72; Photograph #19). Its current function as the Connecticut Justice Academy, a state-owned building, has assured its continued existence. But some of the recent alterations to the principal facade are regrettable, particularly of the fenestration of the first floor of the mansard section and the addition of a new concrete porch at this location. The more recent Beaux Arts-style Brainerd Memorial Library is a more architecturally ornate building, one that is individually significant (Inventory #62; Photograph #25). It is typical of the impressive masonry buildings constructed as libraries around the turn of the century, even in semi-rural communities such as Haddam.

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U T M References

USGS Haddam Quad      Scale: 1:24,000

A 18 705790	4596120	B 18 705920	4596230	C 18 706470	4595560
D 18 706800	4595210	E 18 707020	4595100	F 18 707170	4595320
G 18 707220	4595210	H 18 707160	4595170	I 18 707330	4594960
J 18 707380	4594990	K 18 707440	4594940	L 18 707480	4594980
M 18 708610	4594230	N 18 708560	4594110	O 18 708480	4594140
P 18 708450	4594070	Q 18 708370	4594200	R 18 708220	4594280
S 18 707680	4594440	T 18 707420	4594680	U 18 707310	4594550
V 18 707180	4594640	W 18 707110	4594540	X 18 707040	4594580
Y 18 707160	4594740	Z 18 706640	4595050	AA 18 706670	4595140
BB 18 706510	4595180	CC 18 706490	4595140	DD 18 706420	4595160
EE 18 706420	4595210	FF 18 706150	4595760	GG 18 706060	4595680
HH 18 705820	4596000	II 18 705780	4595940	JJ 18 705740	4595000
KK 18 705680	4595970	LL 18 705660	4596020	MM 18 705710	4596050
NN 18 705640	4596260	OO 18 705610	4596200	PP 18 705560	4596260
QQ 18 705600	4596300				

Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the west side of Walkley Hill Road at the north corner of Lot 54A, Map 13\*, the district boundary runs along the west side of said road to a point directly opposite the northwest property line of Lot 61 (said lot is located on the east side of said road). Here the boundary crosses said road and runs along the northwest property line of said lot for approximately 500 feet before turning and running in a southeasterly direction to the northwest rear corner of Lot 17A.6, Map 25, so as to include all buildings on Lot 61. From this point the boundary continues in a southeasterly direction along the rear property lines of Lot 17A.6, Lot 17B.1., both on Map 25, and continues along the rear property lines of Map 26, Lot 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 6, 26, 26, and 7.1. At this point the boundary continues along Island Dock Road and Lot 25 to a point directly opposite Lot 9, crosses said road and encompasses the southern half of said lot between said road and Saybrook Road, so as to exclude the modern commercial building on its northern half but include the double barn with attached house on said lot (831-831A Island Dock Road), and returns to Island Dock Road, crosses said road and continues along the east side of said road to a point directly opposite the northeastern property line of the Haddam Cemetery, Lot 18, Map 26, on the east side of Saybrook Road. Here the boundary crosses said road to extend around the cemetery lot to Lot 16 and runs in a northeasterly direction along said lot to its rear property line along the right of way of the railroad easement. Here the boundary turns and runs along said easement in a southeasterly direction to the southeast corner of Lot 7, Map 30, so as to include all of the lots and buildings located on the east side of Saybrook Road, but specifically excluding the

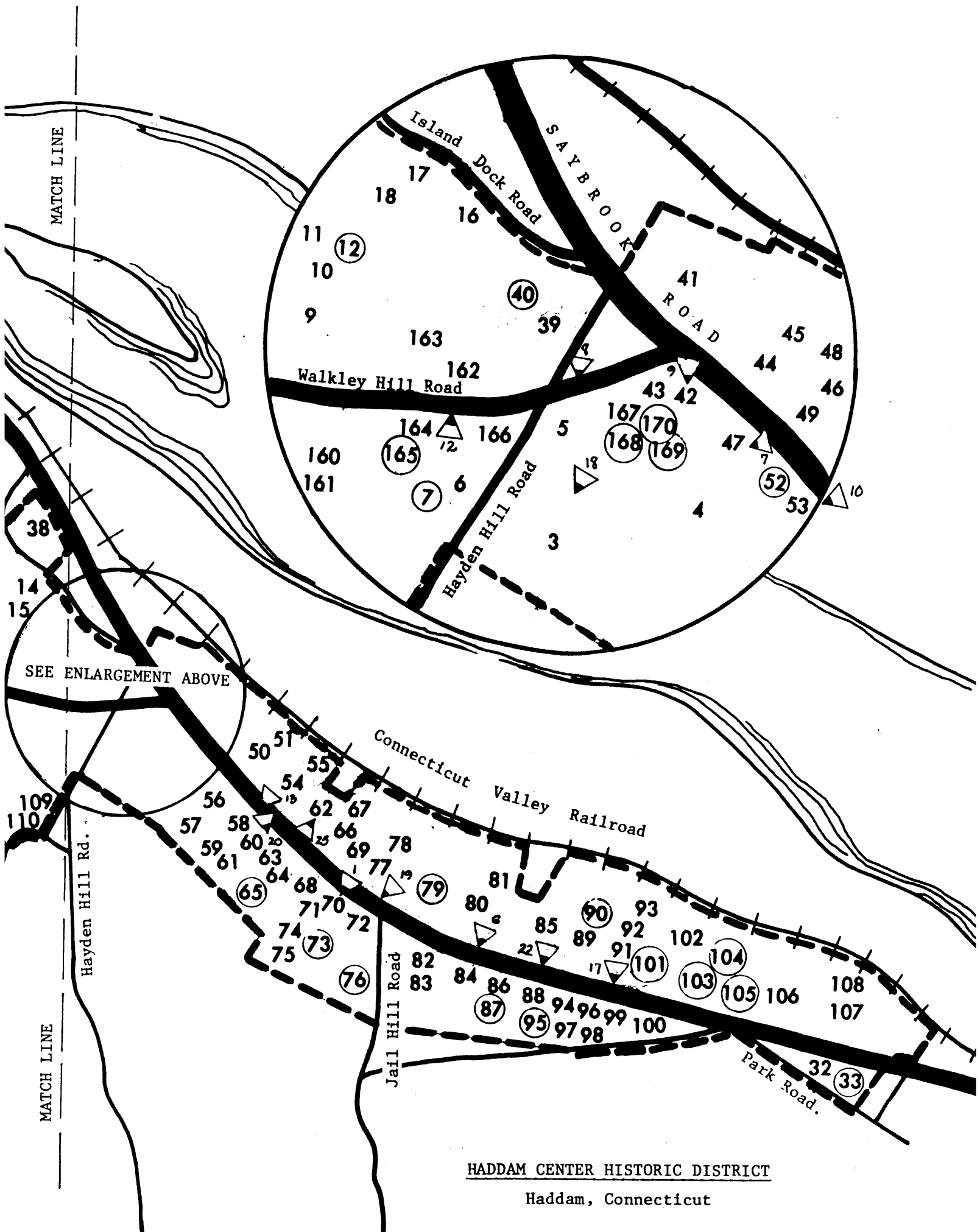
Note: All maps are located in the Tax Assessor's Office at the Haddam Town Hall. Except where otherwise indicated all lots are included in their entirety.

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Haddam Center Historic District, Haddam, Connecticut

Section number 10 Page 2Boundary Description continued

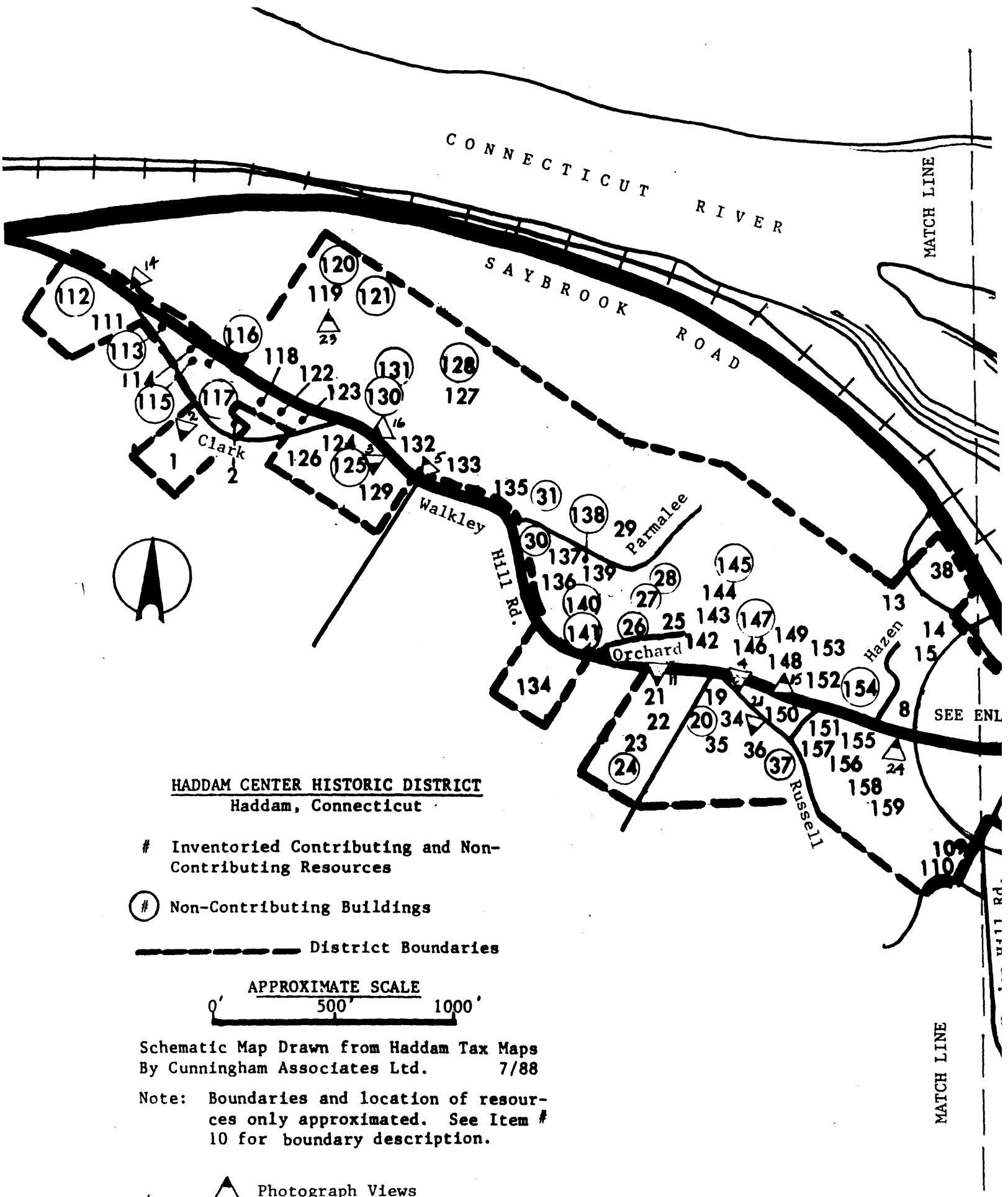
buildings at the rear of the properties of Lot 62 and 69. At the southeast rear corner of Lot 7, Map 31, the boundary returns to Saybrook Road along the southeastern property line of said lot before turning in a northwesterly direction to run up the east side of said road to a point directly opposite the southeast corner of Lot 11.3 on the west side of said road. Here the boundary crosses the road to extend completely around said lot before returning to Saybrook Road along the southwest side of Park Road, continuing up the west side of Saybrook Road to Quarry Hill Road. At this point the boundary runs in a northwesterly direction along all the rear property lines of the following lots: Map 31; Lots 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 51.2, 51, 58, 59, 60, 27, 26, 23, to Field Park (Lot 33). Here the boundary runs around the entire perimeter of said park to Hayden Hill Road, crosses said road, and runs up the west side of said road in a southwesterly direction to include Lot 12, Map 31 (12 Timms Hill Road), before returning along the rear property lines of said lot and Lot 13 to the rear southwest corner of Lot 16. At this point, the boundary turns and runs in a northwesterly direction along the rear property lines of Lots 16, 34, and 31.1 to Russell Road, crosses to the east side of said road and runs along the southeast and rear property lines of Lot 38, Map 26 to continue along the southeast and rear property lines of Lot 40 and Lot 41, before crossing Meeting House Road to continue completely around Lot 44; Map 26 and returns to Walkley Hill Road. Here the boundary crosses said road and runs along its east side to a point opposite the southwestern corner of Lot 45 located on the west side of the road. Here the boundary returns across the road and runs around that portion of said lot that includes the house only before returning to recross said road to return and continue along the east side of said road to the intersection with Old Ponsett Road. Here the boundary recrosses Saybrook Road and runs along the north side of Old Ponsett Road to the south corner of Lot 17, Map 25. At this point the boundary turns to run along the rear property lines of said lot and Lot 15 to the intersection of Clark and Walkley Hill roads, before turning to continue along the rear property lines of the following lots: Map 13; Lots 60, 59, and 58, to Lot 55A. At Lot 55A, the boundary turns to run along the southeastern property line of said lot and around Lot 56 up Clark Road to a point opposite the southern property line of Lot 7, Map 25. At this point the boundary crosses said road to include that portion of said lot that contains the house on the property before returning to the east side of Clark Road to run along the east side of said road to a point opposite the southern property line of Lot 54A. Here the boundary returns across said road and runs entirely around the perimeter of said lot to return to the first point herein described.



HADDAM CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Haddam, Connecticut



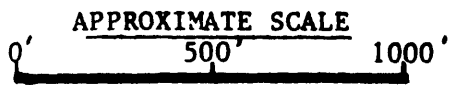


**HADDAM CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
Haddam, Connecticut

# Inventoried Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Ⓝ Non-Contributing Buildings

----- District Boundaries



Schematic Map Drawn from Haddam Tax Maps  
By Cunningham Associates Ltd. 7/88

Note: Boundaries and location of resources only approximated. See Item # 10 for boundary description.

△ Photograph Views

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Haddam Center Historic District

Section number Photos Page 1List of Photographs - Haddam Center Historic District

(All negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.)

#	Name or Address	Photographer	Date	View (facing)
1.	Hobart/Smith House	Hitchcock	5/88	SW
2.	James Cone House	Cunningham	7/88	S
3.	Joshua Brooks House	Cunningham	7/88	SW
4.	Thomas Church House	Cunningham	7/88	W
5.	James Walkley Farmhouse	Cunningham	7/88	N
6.	Smith/Kelsey House	Hitchcock	5/88	W
7.	Brainerd Hall	Cunningham	7/88	NW
8.	Thankful Arnold House	Hitchcock	5/88	SW
9.	Chapman House/Brooks Hotel	Cunningham	7/88	SW
10.	Smith/Brainerd House	Hitchcock	5/88	W
11.	Rev. John Marsh Parsonage	Cunningham	7/88	S
12.	Simon Hazelton, Jr. House	Hitchcock	5/88	NE
13.	George Kelsey, Jr. House	Hitchcock	5/88	SW
14.	Comfort Cone House	Cunningham	7/88	W
15.	Capt. Noah Dickenson House	Cunningham	7/88	NE
16.	Simeon Scranton Tollhouse	Cunningham	7/88	W
17.	David Ventres House	Hitchcock	5/88	SW
18.	Brainerd Academy	Cunningham	7/88	SW
19.	Haddam Gaol/Workhouse	Hitchcock	5/88	NW
20.	First District School & 919 Saybrook Road	Cunningham	7/88	S
21.	Congregational Parsonage	Cunningham	7/88	W
22.	Joseph A. Smith House	Hitchcock	5/88	W
23.	James C. Walkley House	Cunningham	7/88	NE
24.	5 Hazen Road	Hitchcock	5/88	NE
25.	Brainerd Memorial Library	Hitchcock	5/88	NE