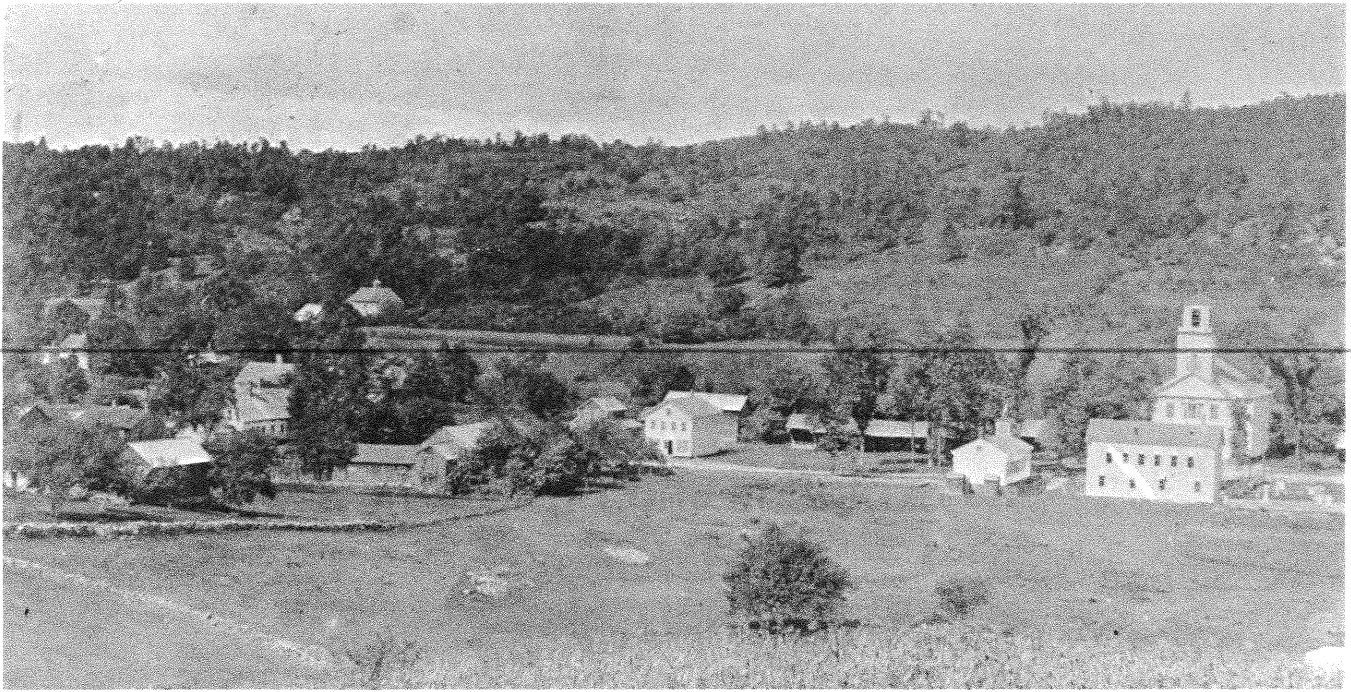


THE CANTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Its Evolution and Preservation



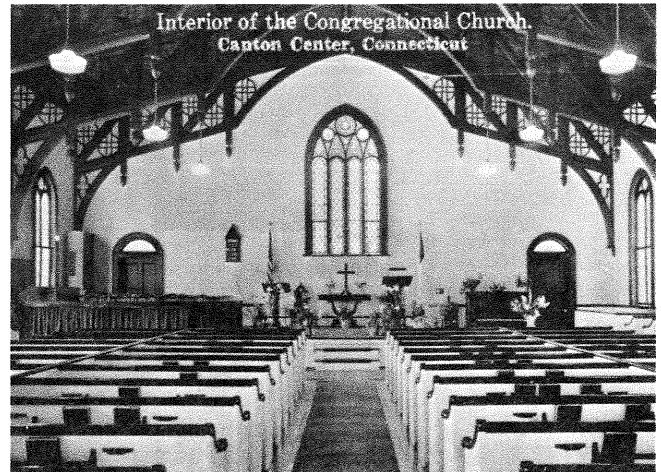
Canton Center Historic District Commission
September 1985



Panorama of Center from East Hill



Canton Center Closeups



PREAMBLE

The Canton Center Historic District Study Committee was conceived in early 1973 as the residents became aware that Canton Center needed protection for its historic buildings and their rural setting.

A committee was appointed by the Selectmen of the Town of Canton on May 3, 1973, under the provisions of sections 7-147a to 7-147m of the General Statutes of Connecticut. The committee elected officers and held public meetings, investigating the proposed district.

The boundaries were the first order of study. The committee felt that the boundaries should use The First Congregational Church Canton Center as its geographical center.

From this beginning, then through public meetings and discussions with the residents, the boundaries first contracted, then expanded, and eventually achieved the original (1974) definition presented in this report.

The presence of one or more of several criteria established by section 7-147a and section 7-147b of the then General Statutes was found to be necessary to establish an Historic District. It appeared to the Study Committee that the area qualified under many criteria. Certainly "areas or groups of typical or related buildings in their original setting preserving enough of their historical surroundings to maintain the atmosphere of an earlier time" aptly described the Canton Center Historic District. There are many areas where one cannot see a structure built in the 20th Century. The report established the worthiness of the Canton Center Historic District, as it demonstrated a general benefit to the public to be gained through protecting and preserving the structures, features, and surroundings of the area.

The original committee acknowledged the work of Helen Humphrey Sweeton in the Canton Center portion of the booklet "CANTON SESQUICENTENNIAL 1806-1956", and that of the homeowners, many of whom did their own research and wrote reports on their own properties. Within the Canton Center Historic District there were 56 principal houses and structures. An analysis of the estimated or

known ages of those buildings showed that 40, or 71%, were 100 years old, or more.

A report entitled "Preliminary Report of the Canton Center Historical District Study Committee" was submitted as required by state statute to the Canton Planning and Zoning Commissions and the Connecticut Historical Commission for their recommendations. Thereafter, procedures were followed as outlined in Section 7-147 d-g of the statute Revision of 1958 (see that 1974 Preliminary Report . . .).

The "Preliminary Report . . ." was submitted in May 1974 by the original Canton Center Historic District Study Committee: Charlotte Craig; Stuart Gillespie; Samuel Humphrey, Chairman; Dean Porterfield; Hector Prud'homme; Margaret Perry, Alternate; David Johnson, Alternate; Richard A. West, Alternate.

The 1974 report ended by recommending that an Historic District be established in Canton Center. The report was sent to all District residents.

After a favorable mail poll, and after due warnings and notices, a special town meeting was held at the Town Hall on May 19, 1975. Mr. Samuel Humphrey presented the resolution which established, ordained and defined the historic district; and he moved its adoption. It was adopted.

The Town Clerk has recorded this ordinance in the land records, and noted it in the grantor index under the names of the then owners of properties in the historic district.

Subsequently, members and alternates have been appointed to the Canton Center Historic District Commission by the selectmen.

Annual Reports of the Town of Canton list these commission members, and report the Commission activities. A complete report of meetings, hearings, and "certificates of appropriateness" issued is kept on file in the Town Clerk's office; and copies are filed with the Building Inspector.

Recently, in 1984, pictures were taken of all the houses in the historic district. Also, an en-

larged aerial map (photo of 1980) showing the area of the historic district has been acquired. These photos are kept in the Cherry Brook Library for use at Commission meetings, and for reference.

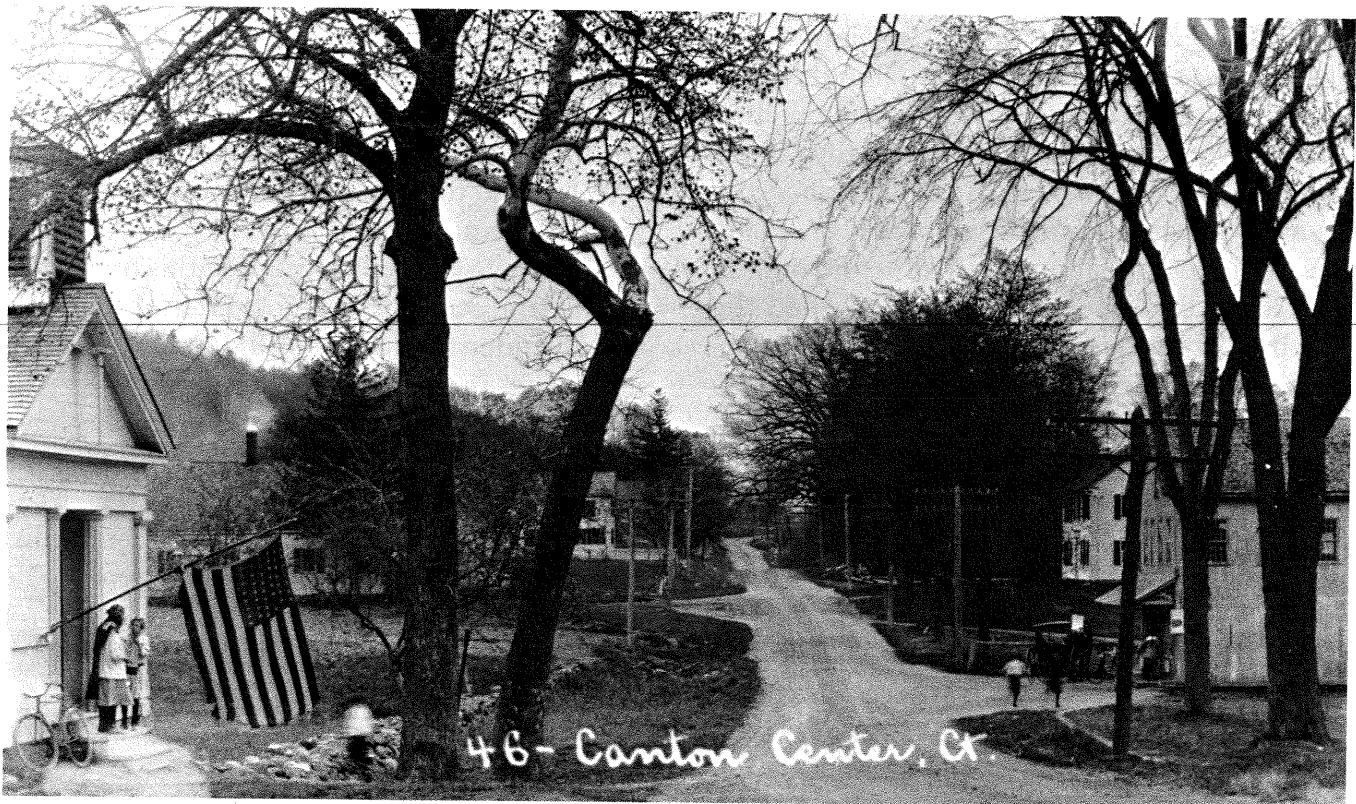
Early in 1985, at the chairman's suggestion, the Commission began to prepare this booklet "The Canton Center Historic District—Its Evolution and Preservation" as a sort of 10th anniversary record for property owners, and oth-

ers. Owners were invited to up-date the description of their properties.

The subcommittee of the Commission, charged with directing this booklet's preparation, consists of Janice Galusza, Hilda Lamb, Timothy LeGeyt, and Arthur Sweeton III, subcommittee chairman.

We are pleased to present this booklet about the District as it has evolved to date; we hope you will find it interesting and informative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Canton Center Historic
District Commission—1985
Janice Galusza
Suzanne Laviana, Secretary
Timothy B. LeGeyt, Chairman
Bryant Merriam
Margaret H. Perry
Hilda Lamb
Arthur W. Sweeton III, Vice Chairman



View of Center from South Center schoolhouse toward store

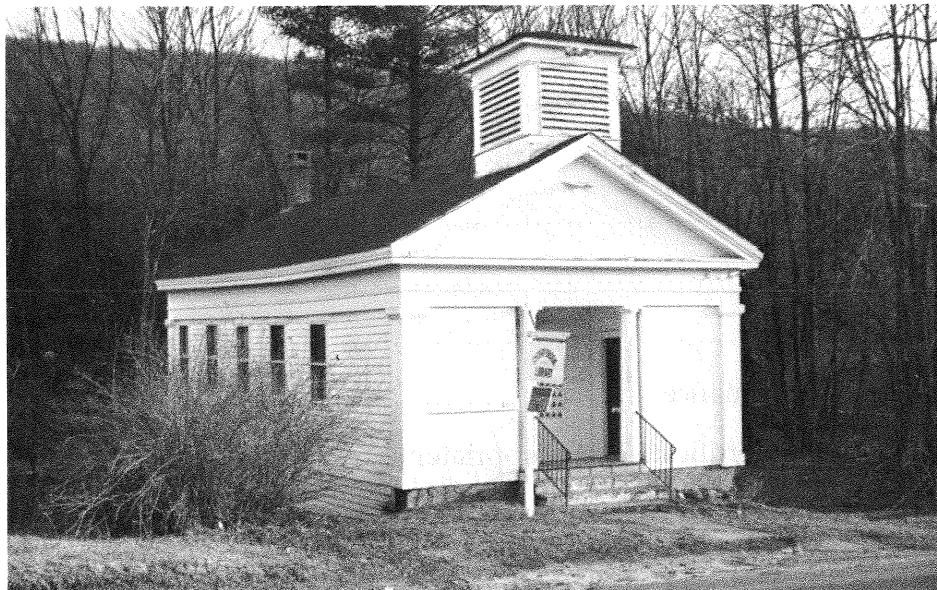
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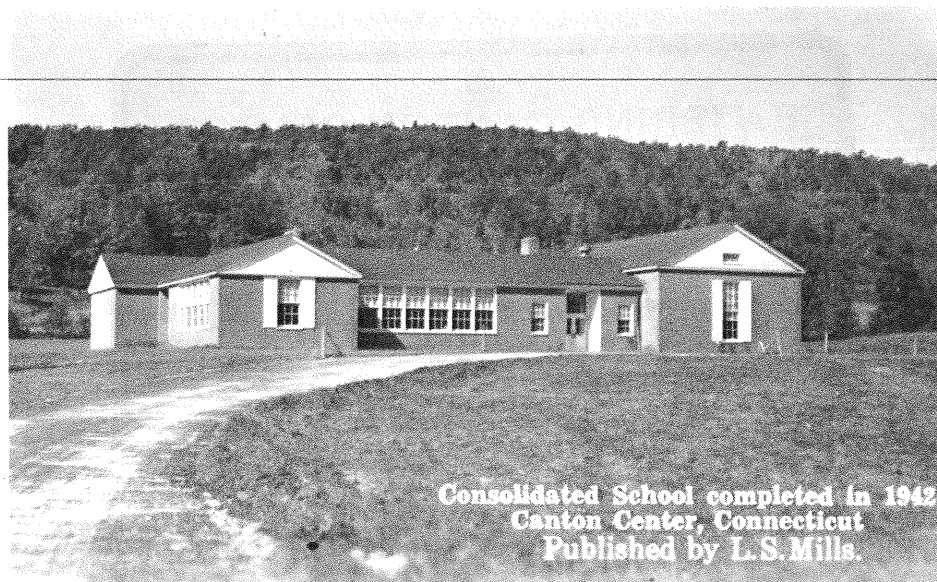




Center District School



South Center District School



Consolidated School completed in 1942
Canton Center, Connecticut
Published by L.S. Mills.

Cherry Brook School

HISTORY OF CANTON CENTER

The area of the historic district in Canton Center is considered the birthplace of the present town of Canton. In 1738 Mercy Holcomb Barber, widow of Samuel Barber, removed from Simsbury with her four sons, Samuel, Thomas, Jonathan and John, and settled in what was then the wilderness of West Simsbury. They established themselves in the Cherry Brook Valley, clearing the best land for farming where the valley widens north of the Canton Center Church. This area is still cultivated farmland.

The Barbers had been preceded into another part of the present town of Canton by Richard Case II, who settled the year before on East Hill on the Lewis Case farm, later the Olsen farm, just east of the Canton Center Historic District.

These pioneers were evidently not daunted by the fate of two brothers who set out from Simsbury in November 1736 to look for settlement land beyond the West Ledge but were caught in a blizzard and froze to death.

The four Barber brothers built houses or cabins which have long since vanished. Samuel Barber, who was often called "Doctor" because of his knowledge of herb medicines, built on the present Perry farm (22 Barbourtown Road), to the west of the present stone house and on the west side of Barber Brook. Several families of his descendants still live in the Canton Center Historic District.

Jonathan built near the Dennis Mahoney house (259 Cherry Brook Road), a few rods south of the present house. He lost his life at age 28 in the siege of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia.

Sergeant Thomas Barber built near the house now occupied by Roger Likewise (121 West Road), the original house being west of the present one. The fourth son, John Barber, built where Mildred Richardson's house now stands (84 Barbourtown Road), just west of the historic district. This is the only one of the four original sites not included in the district, the old place having given way to 12 modern dwellings.

A few Indians lived here when the first settlers came. Two of them have been recorded in

history and folklore. Waquaheag was nicknamed "Cherry", reputedly because of his fondness for cherry brandy, and Cherry Brook (at one time called Cherry's Brook) is named for him. It had first been known as West River. The other Indian was Crumpus, who lived by an overhanging rock known as Crampus' Oven, about one-third of a mile north of North Mountain Road and east of Cherry Brook Road.

In 1680 a deed had been secured from earlier Indians by the town of Simsbury for 10 square miles of West Simsbury, now Canton. This was four years after the end of King Philip's War that had been so costly to the colonists in men and money, but which did put an end to Indian tribal life in southern New England. The first settlement in Simsbury had been destroyed by the Indians in 1676 when Simsbury was a frontier settlement. The West Simsbury district was not settled for another 58 years. This was a period of dissent within the Colony and of disagreement with the Royal government (Hartford's Charter Oak incident occurred in 1687).

Twelve years after the Barbers moved down into the Cherry Brook valley the area was recognized as a distinct parish by the General Assembly when it decreed that on the second Thursday of May 1750 the territory lying "West of the easternmost ledge of the west mountain" be incorporated as the First Ecclesiastical Society of West Simsbury. This Ecclesiastical Society was to function for 200 years until May 1950. At that time suitable celebration exercises were held in Canton Center, after which the Society voted to combine with the Canton Center Congregational Church under a single incorporation. The details were worked out and the Ecclesiastical Society went out of existence as a separate entity in May 1953.

Prior to the incorporation of the town of Canton in 1806, many of the present town functions were handled by the Ecclesiastical Society, including the taxing of the inhabitants. It is interesting to note that the Society brooked no nonsense about separation of church and state either, for in 1763 it laid on a

tax of "one penny per acre for three years running" in order to build the meeting house, as the church was called. It is true that it was used for all meetings.

The early inhabitants wished to avoid a fight over locating the center of what was to become Canton, so one of the first acts of the new society was to have the County surveyor come in 1750 and "survey and measure this society and find the center". The meeting house was built at that center. This is the location of the present church and, of course, the basis of the name Canton Center. It is in the area around this central point that the historic district is located.

This area served as the center for town government for over a century. The town records were kept by the town clerk, William H. Hallock, in a house that stood at the intersection of Barbourtown Road and Cherry Brook Road (now 221 Cherry Brook Road). This house burned in 1838, destroying the town records. Luckily records prior to 1806 were recorded in Simsbury and have survived.

Voting took place in Canton Center and people from the south part of the district (now Collinsville) had to travel there to vote until 1866. In that year South Canton was recognized as a separate village, renamed Collinsville, and its citizens were permitted to vote there, although until 1920 voting took place in both Canton Center and Collinsville. Since 1920 Collinsville has been the exclusive seat of town government. The Ecclesiastical Society, in 1750, also appropriated money for schools in the North and South sections of the parish, including the grand sum of 4 pounds for a "woman scole for the instruction of children".

When the School Society of West Simsbury was formed in 1759, three schools were built in different sections of the parish: North Canton, Canton Center and Canton Village.

The first school in Canton Center, called the Old Red School, was built in 1759 across the road from the Potter house, a little farther south at the site of the present Bouchard house (54 Barbourtown Road). This schoolhouse was used until 1847 when a larger building became necessary. The Old Red Schoolhouse was sold and moved to Collinsville, where it was used

as a saloon. Plans were all made for a new school, but trouble developed between the parishioners of the Center District regarding the site for the new building. So heated did the argument become that the district was divided, forming the Center and South Center Districts.

The South Center District bought a piece of land across from the First Congregational Church and south of the Conference House, opening school in the new building in the fall of 1848. The Center District group did not decide on a site or build until a year later (1849) when a piece of land on the northwest corner of the Meadow Road/West Road intersection was obtained. These schoolhouses were used continuously for almost 100 years. They were discontinued in 1942 when the Cherry Brook School was opened. The Center District Schoolhouse became a home (135 West Road) and the South Center Schoolhouse became the property of the First Congregational Church (Cherry Brook Library).

Also around 1750, North and South burying grounds were established at North Canton and near the Albany Turnpike (later called Dyer Cemetery). The cemetery which lies in the Center was established in 1826 and extended in 1863 and 1878. Reuben Barber is the first recorded burial in the Center Cemetery.

In 1806 the First Ecclesiastical Society of West Simsbury was incorporated by the General Assembly as the Town of Canton. The First Ecclesiastical Society of Canton, as it was now renamed, kept the management of church matters, and the town officials took charge of roads, taxes, schools and so forth. The name, Canton, was suggested by Ephraim Mills, after the cantons of Switzerland. The population in 1806 was 1300 people.

Up until this time the settlers had been living on a near subsistence level. It is presumed the earliest houses were primarily cabins, for none survive. Although the early settlers started under primitive conditions the community appears to have flourished and developed at an accelerating pace. While little remains of the earliest structures, other than their sites, new and larger houses and barns were being built. Within fifty years of first settlement and by the

turn of the century a number of water-powered mills had sprung up. Fine colonial-style homes of that period remain today.

The publication "Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island" of 1819 records that Canton was known for raising rye, Indian corn, cattle, sheep, swine, and for its apple orchards, and was advancing in production of goods and services "required by the useful arts and the convenience of life".

"A great quantity of cider is annually made" says the Gazetteer, and adds, "the principal part of it is manufactured into spirituous liquor called cider brandy". Among other establishments and institutions in Canton in 1815 there were eight distilleries (Simsbury then had only two), three tanneries, three grain mills, four saw mills, two fulling mills, one powder mill and one tin factory.

For the next hundred years things changed little in Canton Center. Though the families were large, the area could only support so many, and large numbers pioneered northward and westward. This was particularly true of the Barbers.

By the 100th anniversary of the town of Canton in 1906 the population had barely doubled. It was said in Town Meeting in 1973 that "the only change in Canton Center has been the paving of the road and the electric power poles". To this an amendment must be added noting the end of the water powered mills and the decline of dairy farming. One of the two remaining dairy farms in Canton, that of Scott Perry, is, however, within the historic district.

The historic district extends from roughly ½ mile south of the church to 1 mile north. It encompasses the old houses clustered about the church at the center, the Canton Creamery, which was the oldest farmers' cooperative in the State, the two old one room schools, and the farmland of the original Barber farms. Another farm in the district, the former home of Harold Humphrey, now the home of his daughter, Ruth Humphrey (225 Cherry Brook Road) is still occupied by direct descendants of its original settler, Col. Amasa Mills, and to this date has never been sold outside the family.

That farm once contained the home of

Ephraim Mills, built in 1775 at the corner of Cherry Brook and the present West Mountain Road (4 West Mountain Road). Ephraim Mills named the town; and at his home the meetings were held to plan the building of the church and many other affairs.

The historic district contains the home of Simeon Mills (199 Cherry Brook Road), which was the first post office. The sites of 3 water powered mills and shops can be seen. The general store has been in continuous operation for over a century. The old blacksmith shop still stands; it is now being used as the Canton Center Post Office.

This brief history of Canton Center, a glimpse of an earlier, calmer period of time, helped to "spark" its preservation through establishment of an historic district.

EARLY INDUSTRY IN CANTON CENTER

WATER MILLS

At least three separate water powered mills have operated at various times within the Canton Center Historic District. Two of these were engaged in the manufacture of wood products and wool processing, while one was a grist mill. The earliest was a grist mill built by Sergeant Daniel Case between 1740 and 1750 on Cherry Brook near Gilman Dubay's house at 15 Humphrey Road. This site has a history of almost 200 years of industrial use, including the grist mill, a sawmill, a woodworking shop, and a wagon repair shop. Lewis Cowles, father of Frank Cowles, who was postmaster and storekeeper at Canton for many years, ran the grist mill and repaired wagons in the late 1800's. Around the turn of the century (1900-1904) Frederick G. Humphrey replaced the old log and plank dam at the grist mill site with one built of stone and cement. The latter one stood until the great flood of 1955 when 12 inches of rain fell in 24 hours and flood water cut away the east bank and drained the pond. Fred Humphrey had also built a saw mill and installed a turbine type water wheel for more efficient power. The sawmill operated until his

death in 1934, whereupon it was sold to Sterling Bristol and the machinery moved to his farm on the Albany Turnpike to be operated by gasoline engine.

Fred Humphrey also began a business of cutting ice and selling it in Collinsville. This began as a small operation with a small ice house on the west bank of Cherry Brook. Before the flooding of Nepaug by the reservoir around 1920, a large barn was moved from there and rebuilt as an ice house just across the Humphrey Road bridge, north of the road, on the west bank. Mr. Humphrey's nephew, Harold Humphrey, later took over the ice business, greatly enlarging the ice house to triple its size. By 1930 he was cutting and storing 2,000 tons of ice which he delivered during the summer in Collinsville and Avon. He cut ice here until 1938.

Another mill was built near the same site, just south of the Creamery, in 1830, by Titus Case (now 144 Cherry Brook Road). This was a three story woodworking factory powered by a fifty foot water wheel. Although located on the high bank of Cherry Brook, this mill relied upon water from Creamery Brook which originates on East Mountain. Three dams were used to store water for the mill. One, just north of the Creamery, is still visible. Two others were located further east of Cherry Brook Road about a quarter of a mile up East Mountain. The size and weight of the huge water wheel, built of wood and iron, made it necessary to keep it moving constantly to prevent warping and drying of the upper sections. It is reported that the wheel was so delicately balanced that a stream of water the size of a man's thumb would keep it wet and slowly turning when power was not required.

The stone walls which supported the wheel and the stone raceway are reported to be intact under a cover of earth and stone fill which was placed to eliminate the hazard of the deep trench and high wall. Lisle Crowley, present owner, remembers the sale and removal of the iron parts of the great wheel for salvage during his boyhood.

Coffins (apparently a Canton Center specialty), kegs, wooden knife handles, bed frames, table legs and shingles were at one

time made here. The last known product of the mill was a tobacco product called "Dew-drop", which was prepared by Rollin Humphrey of Collinsville. Lisle Crowley recalls enjoying, with his school mates, the tasting of the molasses used in its manufacture.

A third mill, which was in operation before 1814, was located behind the present General Store. This mill was used for production of wooden articles and, later, for the processing of wool. More details of its history are included in the section on the General Store property. This mill was supplied by water from a dam built of large stones, the remains of which still stand behind the church. It went out in the flood of 1870. Thereafter, water was diverted by a small plank dam behind the first house north of the church (190 Cherry Brook Road) to a canal which carried the water to the mill. Vestiges of that canal can still be seen.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

Three blacksmith shops are included in Canton Center's history. One, now renovated for other uses, houses the Canton Center Post Office. The second shop, on East Mountain Road, has been converted to a three family house now owned by Barton Douglas (4 East Mountain Road). It was operated by Clarence Vining until the mid 1930's. The third shop stood on the south east corner of East Mountain Road and Cherry Brook Road, and was operated by Mr. Philip Perkins. The building is now gone, although a low area marks its foundation. The land was given to the Canton Land Conservation Trust by Mrs. Charlotte Craig in 1973.

CREAMERY

In the late 19th century manufacturing in Canton Center declined (due in part to damage resulting from the 1870 flood), and the dairy industry began to grow. In 1878 a group of farmers organized the Mountain Spring Creamery Association and built a creamery on the west side of West Road on property now owned by Heather Neal (129 West Road). In 1879 the creamery began its business of converting milk from local farms into butter for shipment to market. The site of the creamery

was important as the cold spring water was necessary for cooling of the cream and butter. This spring water is still in use today, having been piped to the house and barns at 124 West Road by Arthur and Helen Sweeton, Jr. in the 1920s; it still supplies the Timothy Foster house with 50 degree water.

In a relatively short time this successful creamery became a victim of its own water pollution. As was the practice in those days, the large quantities of skim milk and buttermilk were simply dumped into the brook to be carried away as waste. Unfortunately, this small sluggish brook was not capable of handling increased amounts of waste as business grew. Eventually, a "buttermilk swamp" was developed below the creamery, creating a smelly and unsanitary condition. Consequently, in 1893, the new site for the creamery, now 150 Cherry Brook Road, was purchased for \$25.00 and a new building was constructed at a cost of \$1,730.00. Business continued to prosper at the new location, so that in 1895 total receipts were \$57,000.00, with butter selling at \$.17 a pound.

In 1914 the creamery was reorganized under Connecticut law as a farmers' cooperative known as the Canton Creamery Association. As such, it became the oldest farmers' cooper-

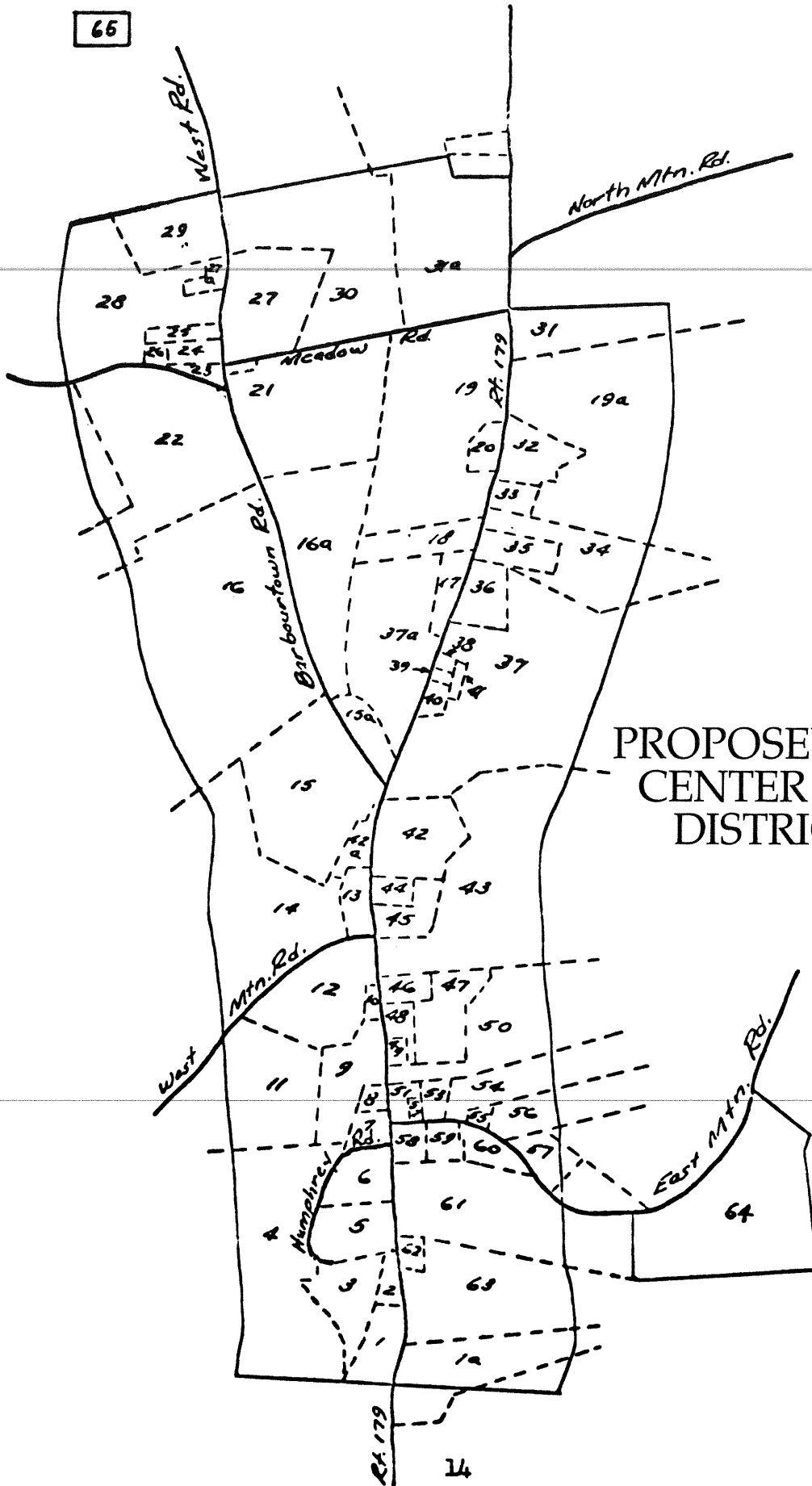
ative in the state. In the 1930's fifty-four farmers were bringing their milk to it (see 1931 map), even though butter was no longer being manufactured, as it was more profitable to sell the fluid milk to the retail dairies in Hartford and New Haven. The creamery continued to handle milk until 1947. It is still in operation today, selling feed, grain, tools, garden supplies and cheese, although the Canton Creamery Association, Inc. dissolved itself in 1982 and sold its property to Steven Lingenheld who now leases it to Canton Creamery, Inc.

PRESENT INDUSTRY

The tradition of manufacturing in Canton Center is now maintained by the T.M. Perry Company located in the meadow between Barbourtown Road and Cherry Brook (35 Barbourtown Road). This modern factory, which does not rely on the brook for power, specializes in precision gears and aircraft parts. Mr. Thomas M. Perry carefully built the building out of sight of the road, and many people pass by without guessing of its existence. Not even a roadside sign betrays it. Beavers have built dams and lodges in Cherry Brook and have lived nearby for a good many years.



Picture of Center showing horseshed, blacksmiths shops (from Church belfry)



PROPOSED CANTON
CENTER HISTORIC
DISTRICT (1974)

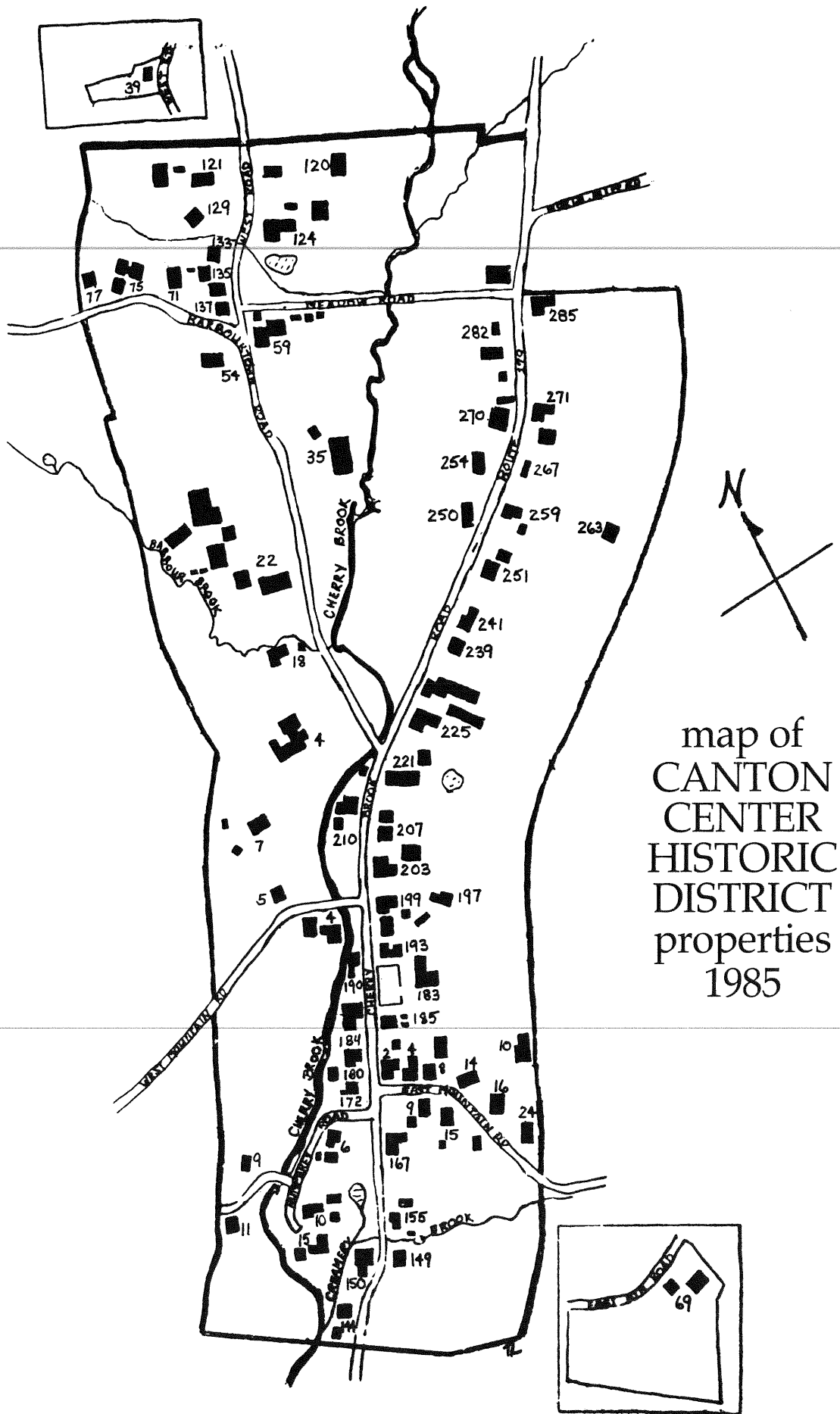
DESCRIPTION OF CANTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The Canton Center Historic District is an area of approximately 500 acres, including 70 individual properties, in the Cherry Brook Valley of Canton Center, Connecticut. The District consists of a primary area bordering Cherry Brook Road (Route 179), Barbourtown Road,

Meadow Road, West Road, and includes parts of West Mountain Road, Humphrey Road, and East Mountain Road as well as two separate annexes on East Mountain Road and West Road. For the official description of the boundaries of the District, see page 45.

KEY TO CANTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES (1974)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1,1a. Crowley | 34. Open land |
| 2. Creamery | 35. Mahoney |
| 3. Bristol | 36. Seger |
| 4. Case | 37,37a. Humphrey |
| 5. Seger | 38. Open land |
| 6. Sweeton | 39. Snow |
| 7. Case | 40. Mazzo |
| 8. General Store | 41. Open land |
| 9. First Congregational Church | 42,42a. Gillespie |
| 10. Kilbourn | 43. Beckwith |
| 11. Open land | 44. Johnson |
| 12. Galusza | 45. Johnson |
| 13. First Congregational Church (Parsonage) | 46. Richards |
| 14. Prud'homme | 47. McTeague |
| 15,15a. Town of Canton (Cherry Brook School) | 48. Cemetery Association |
| 16,16a. Perry | 49. First Congregational Church
(Cherry Brook Library) |
| 17. Groft | 50. Open land |
| 18. Open land | 51. Korner |
| 19,19a. Edgerton | 52. Francis |
| 20. Ward | 53. West |
| 21. Potter | 54. Whalen |
| 22. Bouchard | 55. Everets |
| 23. Smith | 56. Baer |
| 24. LeGeyt | 57. Pearson |
| 25. Freeland | 58. Canton Land Trust, Inc. |
| 26. LeGeyt | 59. Craig |
| 27,27a. Davis | 60. Sturgeon |
| 28. Open land | 61. Goodhue |
| 29. Pratt | 62. Crowley |
| 30. Open land | 63. Wagner |
| 31,31a. Richardson | 64. Wright (Annex) |
| 32. Slaymaker | 65. Lindsay (Annex) |
| 33. Buchman | |



KEY TO CANTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES (1985)

CHERRY BROOK ROAD

- 144 Crowley
- 149 Wagner
- 150 Lingenheld (Canton Creamery, Inc.)
- 155 Richardson
- 167 Goodhue
- 172 Case
- 180 Werner (General Store)
- 183 Bowman
- 184 First Congregational Church
- 185 First Congregational Church (Cherry Brook Library)
- 190 Delventhal
Canton Center Cemetery Association
- 193 Twombly
- 199 Guilmette
- 203 Valentine
- 207 Johnson
- 210 First Congregational Church (Parsonage)
- 221 Desmond
- 225 Humphrey
- 239 Mazzo
- 241 Snow
- 250 Groft
- 251 Seger
- 254 Spirito
- 259 Mahoney
- 263 Danielson
- 267 Snow
- 270 Barrett, Jr.
- 271 Slaymaker
- 282 Edgerton
- 285 Merriam & Richardson

BARBOURTOWN ROAD

- 4 Town of Canton (Cherry Brook School)
- 18 Kingdom Hall (Jehovah's Witnesses
Canton Congregation)

- 22 Perry
- 35 Perry (T. M. Perry Co.)
- 54 Bouchard
- 59 Potter
- 71 LeGeyt
- 75 Stratton
- 77 Richardson, Jr.

WEST ROAD

- 39 Lindsay
- 120 Green
- 121 Likewise
- 124 Foster
- 129 Neal
- 133 Freeland
- 135 LeGeyt
- 137 Smith

WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD

- 4 Sulavik & Bagg
- 5 Prud'homme
- 7 Prud'homme

EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD

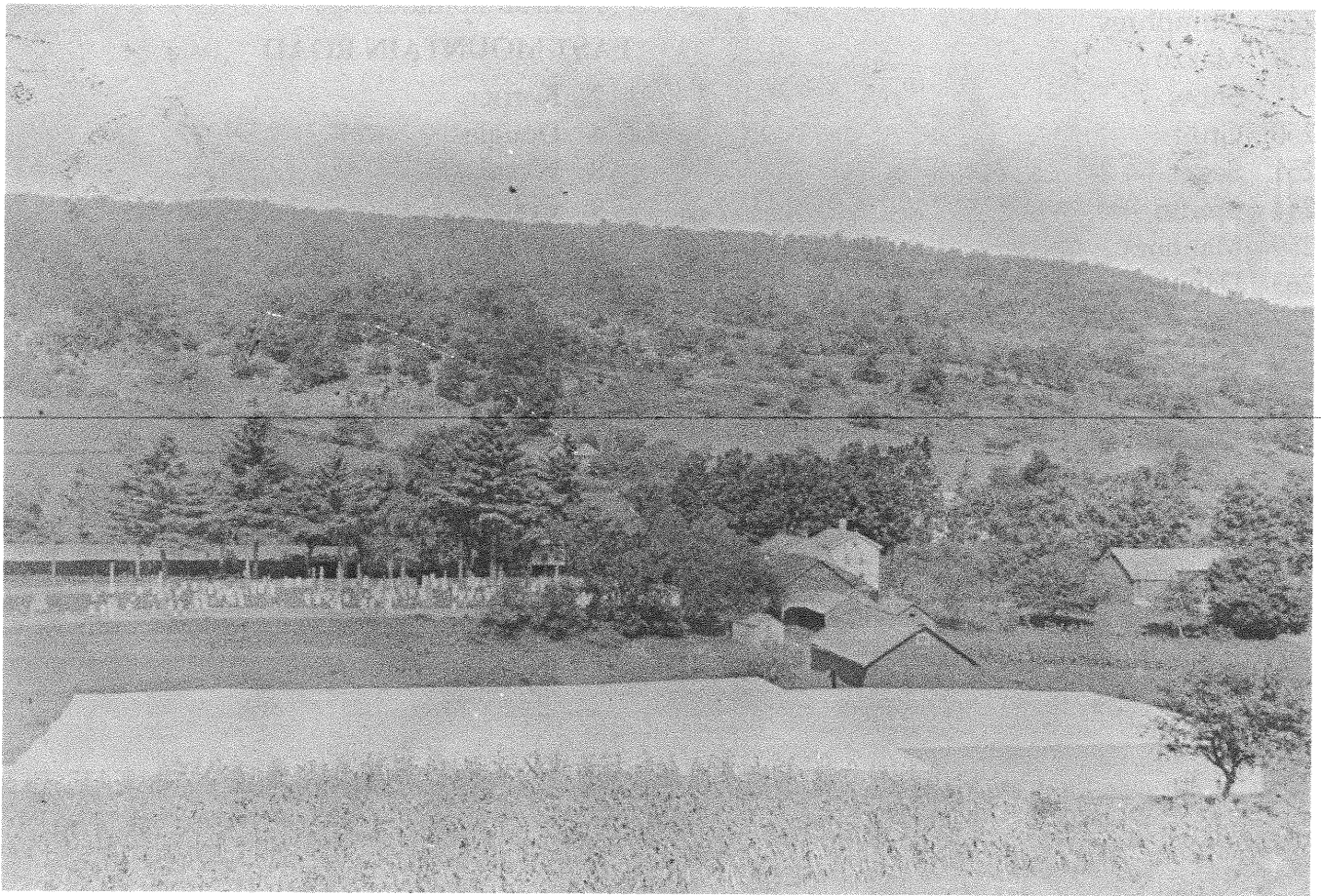
- 2 Korner
- 4 Douglas
- 8 West
- 9 Craig
- 10 Whalen
- 14 West
- 15 Lamb
- 16 Einstein
- 24 Jainchill
- 69 Wright

HUMPHREY ROAD

- 6 Sweeton III
- 9 Case
- 10 Bristol
- 11 Case
- 15 Dubay



Cherry Brook Road from Goodhue's north



Horsesheds, cemetery, tent tobacco from East Hill

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES

144 Cherry Brook Road CROWLEY (Lisle W.)

The Lisle Crowley house, located just south of the Canton Creamery, was built in 1840 by Titus Case, and is on the site of the Sergeant Daniel Case II home, built around 1747. The Crowley house has some Georgian features and is a large square frame building. The cupola, unique to the Canton Center area, was added after the Civil War.

West of the house are remains of an old mill which was run by a water wheel some fifty feet in diameter (described in the Early Industry of Canton Center section of this report).

Jeremiah Crowley was a buttermaker and first manager of the Canton Creamery next door.

Former owners and/or residents at this site included: Mrs. Ella Crowley & Jeremiah Crowley - Sherman Brown - Dwight Porter - Calvin Case, Sr. - Capt. Titus Case - Serg. Daniel Case II.

149 Cherry Brook Road WAGNER (Elizabeth Bristol and son, George)

This Cape Cod house was built for Mrs. Elizabeth Wagner in 1953 to replace a large colonial house which had stood on this same site since 1822, having been built by Amos Kursden for Luther Barber. Mr. Barber sold that house to Hosea Case, an ancestor of Mrs. Wagner's. The old house burned in 1953.

The present house is located on Cherry Brook Road directly opposite the Canton Creamery.

North of the Wagner home and just across Creamery Brook are foundation stones of a building in which powder kegs were made, later being converted into a dwelling.

Also, near this site were three dams which stored the flow of Creamery Brook for operating the 50-foot water wheel at 144 Cherry Brook Road, the Lisle Crowley property.

Former owners and/or residents at this old home site included: Gerald Wagner - Russell Bristol - Amy & Fred Wellman - Roscoe & Louise Bristol - Burton & Elizabeth "Lizzie" Coe Bristol - Hosea Case - Luther Barber.

150 Cherry Brook Road STEVEN LINGENHELD (Canton Creamery, Inc.)



The present Canton Creamery was constructed over a three-year period, 1893 to 1896. It opened for business in 1896, moving its creamery business down from West Road. It is of wood frame construction built on heavy concrete foundations to support the butter making machinery. The total cost of the original structure was \$1730, with \$500 going into the foundations and \$500 into the framing and roof. The balance was for interior furnishings and equipment. Included in the original building was a massive coal fired boiler to provide power and hot water for butter making, which amounted to 400 pounds a day at the peak of the creamery operation. Carroll Crowley, the third generation of general managers of the Creamery, remembered helping to make 300-400 pounds a day when only a boy of 14. Some of the finest water in the District comes from the Creamery's dug well located alongside the road. It is 27 feet deep, constructed of carefully laid up field stone, and topped with a fine hand operated pump.

In 1982, the old co-operative, The Canton Creamery Association, Incorporated, voted to dissolve, and sold the property to Steven Lingenheld. Under his ownership, the "Creamery" continues to supply the community with farm and garden needs.

Former managers of the "Creamery" included: Steven Lingenheld - Carroll Crowley - Roscoe C. Bristol - Jeremiah "Jerry" Crowley.

155 Cherry Brook Road **RICHARDSON (Don & Elizabeth)**

The Richardson house is said to have been built in 1858 by Hosea Case. It is located on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre on the east side of Cherry Brook Road, bounded south and east by the Wagner property and north by Goodhue land. It was owned or occupied by a number of families, among them, Dennis Murphy, a Civil War veteran.

It is an eight-room wooden building and has had a number of additions. In the early 1940's Carrol Crowley built an apple storage building east of the house.

In the early 1980's, Don Richardson completely renovated this house and saved it from severe deterioration.

Former owners and/or residents included: Carroll & Dorothy Bidwell Crowley - George Dewey - Mrs. Kimberly - Adam Brucker - Herbert Sturgeon - Howard Bristol - Willis Case - Dennis Murphy - Mrs. Sarah Olds - . . . Beman - William Case - Herbert Ingalls - Hosea Case.

167 Cherry Brook Road **GOODHUE (Emily & Irene)**



The home of Emily and Irene Goodhue is on the east side of Cherry Brook Road abutting Canton Land Trust property to the north. The Goodhue property consists of approximately fifteen acres, mostly woodland, running to the east.

No date has ever been established for the house, but it is not colonial style as it has the ell running to the south. A large woodshed runs to the east from the main part. The house has a large center chimney, the cellar part being built of stones. There are two fireplaces on the first floor, one of which has a Dutch oven. The third fireplace is in an upstairs bedroom. There are wide floorboards and panelling in some rooms. An interesting feature of the house is the plaster arched ceiling of the porch.

The house was deeded to the Ecclesiastical Society at one time, but they sold it within a few years.

Former owners and/or residents included: William Goodhue - John Allen - William Sperry - Mrs. Azubah Shepherd & Mr. & Mrs. Horace Gridley - Rev. David B. Hubbard - Sidney Case - Rev. Francis H. Case - Titus Case.

172 Cherry Brook Road **CASE (Byron)**

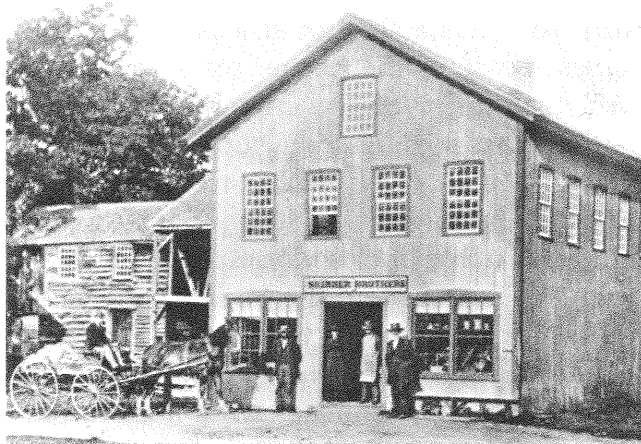
The Byron Case house was built in 1830 by Norman Case, who ran a wagon and coffin shop in back of the present store. The house has been altered many times and now includes a large ell and a porch running across the front of the house. The house is completely surrounded by open lawn which runs directly west to the edge of Cherry Brook. A flat area north of the house describes where a clay tennis court existed previously.

One Sunday years ago, the people of the church heard a loud pounding, which was unusual. Later they learned that Norman Case was making a coffin for his young married daughter, who had died suddenly.

This house served as a tavern at one point; there having been a serving port through one of the interior walls. Walter Case remodeled this house by removing the center fireplace and reorienting the stairway to run from the front to the back of the house.

Former owners and/or residents included: Raymond & Florence Bristol Case - Gordon Case - Beatrice Case - Walter S. Case - George W. Lamphier, Sr. - Austin Skinner - George Case - Norman Case.

180 Cherry Brook Road
MAURICE WERNER
(Canton Center General Store)



In 1875 Austin and Myron Skinner opened a general store and post office in Canton Center in a building which had formerly been used as a carpenter shop. The Canton Center General Store is still in operation in the same building, while the post office has been moved to an old blacksmith shop at the rear of the property.

The oldest building on this site is the blacksmith shop which, with other buildings, including an up-and-down sawmill, and shingle mill situated directly behind the present store location, was in operation prior to 1814 when the property was owned by Medad Merrill. Some time after this, a carding and fulling mill was added to make full use of the water power provided by the stone dam in Cherry Brook about 200 feet upstream. Remains of this dam and the canal which carried water to the mills can still be seen behind the church. The old mill building, later converted to a barn, was torn down in 1948.

The building which now houses the General Store was built about 1830 by Norman Case for use as a woodworking shop in the manufacture of sleighs, wagons, coffins, and other wooden products. The building was originally situated on the bank of the brook north of the mill. In those days a lane ran from Cherry Brook Road westward toward the brook, then south through the present church parking lot to the carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and mill, then back to the main road. The south end of the present lane between the post office and the store probably follows the old lane.

In 1870 a severe flood destroyed the stone dam as well as a log dam behind the present Delventhal house (190 Cherry Brook Road), effectively wiping out the manufacturing complex. In 1874 Giles Sisson converted the upper floor of the carpenter shop (then still located on the brook bank) into a hall for social functions and community affairs. This hall was in use as late as 1897. In 1875 brothers Austin and Myron Skinner opened the General Store; and in about 1886, when in the possession of George S. Lamphier Sr., the store was moved east from the edge of the brook to the edge of Cherry Brook Road where it has since stood. It is presently owned and operated by Maurice Werner.

Former owners and/or operators included: Maurice Werner (1964 to present) - Maurice Werner & Cecil Cables (1964) - Russell J. Richardson (1963 to 1964) - Thomas Leahy & Edward J. Bokorny (1947 to 1963) - John C. Braislin (1945 to 1947) - Gordon & Byron Case (1941 to 1945) - Walter S. Case (1896 to 1941) - Walter S. Case & John Mays (1893 to 1896) - George W. Lamphier Sr. (1882 to 1893) - William Richardson (1880 to 1882) - Austin Skinner (1875 to 1881) - Austin E. & Myron G. Skinner (1875 to) - Giles Sisson (1874 to 1880).

Note: Credits for part of this source material go to Louise Dubiel (who has helped Maurice operate this store) in her article in the *Lure Of The Litchfield Hills*, Spring—Summer 1971, page 24.

In 1968, Maurice Werner renovated and converted the old blacksmith shop for lease as the Canton Center Post Office. Postmasters serving Canton Center (established as Canton Centre on August 23, 1841, name changed to Canton Center [date not given]): Simeon Mills, August 23, 1841 - Jeremiah S. Hallock, October 24, 1844 - Simeon Mills, January 5, 1849 - Warren C. Humphrey, February 21, 1867 - Austin H. Skinner, April 6, 1867 - William H. Richardson, November 30, 1881 - Ralph E. Alford, November 21, 1882 - George A. Curtiss, October 25, 1883 - George W. Lamphier, November 19, 1885 - Walter S. Case, August 2, 1898 - Gordon C. Case, February 1, 1940 - Rita B. Kozlak, December 7, 1961 - Ralph G. Gidlund, April 2, 1965 - Anne S. Seger, October 17, 1973.

183 Cherry Brook Road
BOWMAN (Mary & Gordon)

Hidden behind the Canton Center Cemetery, the library, and the Twombly home east of Cherry Brook Road, lies a five-and-one-half acre area of rolling lawn and meadow, bordered by swamp and woodland owned by Gordon and Mary Bowman since 1977. It has been called "Bony Knoll" for its extraordinary concentration of rocks, and "Bonnie Knoll" for its more engaging aspects.

The board-and-batten house was originally a large barn, located approximately 250 yards behind the house and general store built by Alonzo Barber in 1843—now the Twombly's home at 193 Cherry Brook Road. It is assumed that the barn was built during the same era.

Alonzo Barber bought the property next to the cemetery in the early 1840s from Simeon Mills, Canton Center's first postmaster. Barber, who took over the post office and general store from Mills, died in 1853, leaving a widow who married Merlin Merrill later that year. When she died in April, 1862, the property was deeded to Warren C. Humphrey for \$950.

Humphrey died in February, 1896. His widow, Henrietta, sold the property to William West in the early 1900s. In 1910 West sold it to Thomas C. Dunn, who deeded it to Elizabeth Robens. She sold it to M. Louise Melzer (date not given).

Herman Melzer, husband of Louise, was a cellist who performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York for 26 years under Toscanini and Gatti-Casazza. The Melzers partially converted the barn to a chicken house, but it was not a happy business for the musician. He died of a heart attack while cleaning the chicken house.

In the 1960s Mrs. Melzer sold the property, which included the house on Cherry Brook Road, the chicken house barn, and an additional 29 acres of woodland on the adjoining hill, to Howard Houghton. Houghton in turn sold the main house and the immediate surrounding property to Hugh Cunningham, retaining the bulk of the acreage and the barn-chicken house. In 1968 Mr. and Mrs. Houghton converted the barn to an all-electric home.

Typically, barns are converted by tearing down most of the structure and using the component parts to rebuild. In this case, the house is constructed entirely around the old barn, so it has a shell of at least three thicknesses. Most of the beams were left undisturbed, although a few were relocated for decorative use. It is entirely supported by the original load-carrying beams.

The Houghtons raised the floor in the living-dining room a foot or so to avoid a step-down from the kitchen, and the Bowmans lowered the ceiling in the area to hide pipes. The result is a cozy dining room for short people—not quite six feet seven inches from floor to ceiling.

In September, 1970, Houghton sold the barn-house, a new garage-barn, and five-and-one-half acres to William Barker. Transferred to Ohio, Barker sold the house and property to Bertrand L. McTeague. He and his wife, Lisa, and two children lived there until about 1976, when they sold to Robert Gemme of Avon.

Previous owners and the Bowmans modified the barn-house for reasons of aesthetic, restoration, convenience and added space. The Bowmans added a combination entrance hall and laundry that connected the house to the garage. They also had a woodshed built, removed a few windows and doors for the sake of wall space, opened up the staircase, remodeled the kitchen and one of the baths, screened and roofed the deck off the west wall of the kitchen, added a slate patio and had stone walls built around the patio and entrance garden.

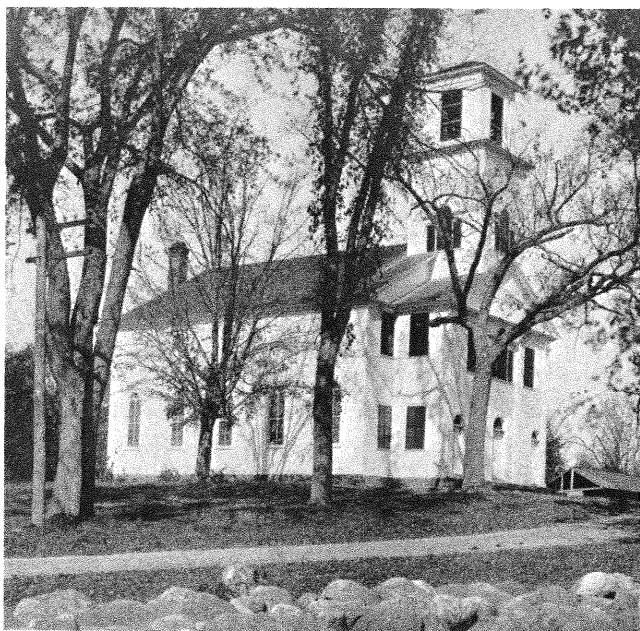
In 1984 the Bowmans bought the remaining 29 acres of the Houghton land, probably part of the original Barber purchase. It is steep woodland on the western slope of East Mountain, contiguous to the open land on which the old barn sits.

Ever since Howard and Joanna Houghton lovingly turned the barn into a comfortable, four-bedroom home with fieldstone fireplace, its succeeding owners have cherished and treated with respect the barn's original sturdy construction, fine proportions, and quiet sunny acres.

Former owners and/or residents included:

Robert Gemme - Bertrand McTeague - William Barker - Howard Houghton - M. Louise Melzer - Elizabeth Robens - Thomas C. Dunn - William West - Warren Humphrey - Merlin Merrill - Alonzo Barber.

**184 Cherry Brook Road
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
CANTON CENTER**



The Church was established as the West Simsbury Ecclesiastical Society in May 1750, and retained this name until the incorporation of the town and society as Canton in 1806.

Due to the difficulties and hardships of travel to and from the Simsbury meetinghouse during the winter season, the western inhabitants of Simsbury First Society met together in the fall of 1746 and voted to hire a minister for "winter preaching." Lacking a meeting house of their own, they agreed that religious services should be conducted in the homes of various members. The old records, under date of September 24, 1746, tell the story as follows:

"Att a meeting Holden at the dwelling house of Richard Case of the inhabitants of the first Society in Simsbury Living west of the first ledge of the west mountain Lawfully warned"

Voted to hire an orthodox gospel minister for the space of three months.

"Voted to hold the meeting on the Sabath Days three Sabaths att the house of Joseph

Willcox jur. and five Sabaths att the house of Joseph Mills."

It was voted at a society meeting held on October 25, 1762, "that it was Neccessary to proceed to build a meeting house for public worship." On the record we read "present at said meeting 38: all in the affirmative Seventeen voters not present." At the same meeting the members voted "Voted and Chouse Oliver Humphry and Left. Abraham Case a Committee to make application to the County Court for a Committee to affix the place where Said meeting house Shall be set." The first meeting house was completed in 1763.

By 1813 the first structure, though but fifty years old, had become dilapidated; furthermore, the increase in population had made it too small for the needs of the society. Consequently, we read, under date of October 25, 1813, that a society meeting was warned "to be holden at this place on the 2nd Monday of Nov next at one oclock P.M. to take into consideration the dacayd situation of the meeting house to see whether the parish will not agree to new cover and paint the meeting house, or make additions to s^d house new cover and paint, or build a new house." At that meeting, a committee was appointed to estimate the cost of a new house of worship and to circulate subscription papers for the purpose of building. Later that month a second meeting was held, at which it was voted that the subscription for building a new meeting house should not be binding unless there should be \$3,300 subscribed and that the committee appointed to make an estimation of cost "strike out the clause for a four cent tax and circulate the subscriptions anew."

In October 1814, Gardiner Mills was appointed to direct in leveling the ground around the new meetinghouse. The first tree felled for lumber to raise the meetinghouse killed Orange Case, a member of the church. The following month a meeting was held, at which it was voted "that the Society accept of the stairs that go into the galleries of the new meeting house"; also, "that the Society give Mr. Cadwell & Clark fifty dollars for extra work about the new meeting house provided the above named Cadwell & Clark make some repairs to

the acceptance of the committee and if not to keep back ten dollars to give s^d repairs to be made." At this meeting a committee was chosen "to procure a cushion and trimming for the pulpit," and another appointed to "circulate subscriptions to raise money for the meeting house." In December it was voted that the society's committee "procure a brush to brush the seats." The new meeting house, at length completed, was dedicated on January 5, 1815.

The edifice underwent extensive repairs and alterations in 1874. New, Gothic stained glass windows were put in the audience room in place of the old ones, the galleries removed, and false trusses of Gothic design applied against the ceiling of the room, which was sheathed. The bell, procured in 1824 but afterwards cracked, was recast, and hot-air furnaces were installed. So great were those changes, for which the society had pledged the sum of \$1,800, that it was seen fit to rededicate the meetinghouse in November 19, 1874.

In 1958, with the old Parish house on the east side of Cherry Brook Road in need of repairs and pressures for "inside" toilets increasing, it was voted to build an all new addition to the Meeting house across the road. A two story wood frame colonial parish house was constructed on the West South West corner of the Meeting House with a connecting door where the choir platform and pipe organ stood from 1874. The old Parish House (aka Conference House) was taken down in 1961.

The new Parish House provided eleven church school rooms on the first floor with a minister's office, a large parish hall with stage, a fully equipped kitchen plus toilet facilities on the second floor. For more than 25 years these facilities have been used for church school, chicken pie suppers, strawberry festivals, and many fellowship activities; however, enlarging church membership has recently resulted in plans for an addition to the parish house.

By early 1967 serious rotting around the 1874 Gothic window frames and falling plaster in the church sanctuary necessitated major repairs or replacement. It was decided to restore the windows as they originally were and rebuild the galleries. Along with this work the choir loft was reopened and a new high pulpit

constructed so that the preacher could more easily look his congregation, upstairs and down, right in the eye. Much study and research was done before the reconstruction commenced, July 7, 1967, so that the present structure very closely resembles the original and is considered one of the fine examples of rural Early American church architecture.

Pastors of the First Congregational Church Canton Center have been: Rev. Evans F. Sealand (1959-); Rev. Russell E. Angell (1949-1959); Rev. Alvin J. Beachy (1946-1948); Thomas E. Purdy (1945-1946); Eugene A. Rose (1943-1945); Rev. Frank L. Sechrist (1938-1943); Rev. Walter Warner (1935-1938); Rev. Russell E. Rees (1930-1935); Rev. Warner Muir (1927-1930); Rev. Herman W. Reynolds (1925-1927); Rev. Eugene L. Richards (1919-1925); Rev. Charles Haley Stevens (1908-1917); Rev. James Wilbur Moulton (1902-1908); Rev. Christopher Robert Hamlin (1899-1902); Rev. Charles Haley Stevens (1894-1898); Rev. Arthur L. Golder (1891-1893); Rev. David B. Lord (1889-1891); Rev. Frederick Alvord (1885-1889); Rev. David B. Hubbard (1874-1885); Rev. Austin Gardner, Acting Pastor (1869-1873); Rev. Charles N. Lyman (1862-1868); Rev. Warren C. Fiske (1858-1861); Rev. Jairus Burt (1826-1857); Rev. Jeremiah Hallock (1785-1826); Rev. Seth Sage (1774-1778); Rev. Gideon Mills (1761-1771); Rev. Evander Morison (1750-1751). Prior to the organization of the church about 1750, preachers meeting in private houses were: Rev. Timothy Pitkin and Rev. Adonijah Bidwell.

185 Cherry Brook Road FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER (Cherry Brook Library)

The Cherry Brook Branch of the Canton Public Library was built in 1848 as the South Center School. It is located on the east side of Cherry Brook Road across from the Canton Center Congregational Church.

The building is now 20 feet wide and 30 feet long, having been enlarged in 1880. The front of the building has two entrance doors, the right being for girls and the left for boys. Used as a school from 1848 to 1942, it has since served organizational groups, church classes and currently houses the Public Library Branch.

Two outhouses, originally used with the school building, remain at the rear of the schoolhouse itself.

The Canton Center Historic District Commission usually meets here; a 1980 air map of the historic district, and pictures of its houses, are filed here for reference.

190 Cherry Brook Road DELVENTHAL (Katherine)

The Katherine Delventhal house was built around the turn of the 19th century. It is the first house north of the Canton Center Congregational Church, on the west side of Cherry Brook Road.

In 1870, Warren Humphrey, Postmaster, took this house over, remodeling it as the third post office and general store in the town, remaining as such until 1875.

At one time an old log dam was located on Cherry Brook behind the house, forming a pond which went up as far as the West Mountain Road bridge. This was washed out in the flood of 1870 and was never rebuilt.

The second floor of the main portion of the house has a unique vaulted ceiling.

Helen Coombs and her mother, Mrs. John (Eva Wright) Allen, sold ice cream here. Also, Howard Allen had a barber shop and a dance hall in this building.

Former owners and/or residents included: Peter & Georgette Veeder Kilbourn - Nicholas Bakker - Nathaniel & Harriet Mayes - Helen Newell Coombs - George & Elizabeth Wagner - Henry & Muriel LeGeyt - Bob & Mary Ellen Blackman - Howard Allen - Henry Seger - Mrs. Latimer and daughter Sarah Case - F. A. Bidwell - Warren Humphrey.

East side, Cherry Brook Road CANTON CENTER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (% Lewis Richard "Dick" Case and Carolyn Richardson Merriam)

A reference to the Canton Center Cemetery is found in a deed dated 1826, recorded in the Canton Land Records, Vol. 1, pages 456, 457, 458. This deed conferred to thirty-four named individuals all such right and title as the grantors, Simeon Mills and Zerah Hinman, Jr., had

to a certain piece of property laid out as a burial ground and divided into forty burial lots and a common.

In 1863 the burying ground was enlarged (Canton Land Records, Vol. 8, page 300) by an addition on the east side of the common consisting of ten lots which were sixteen and one-half feet deep and otherwise conforming to the original section (twenty-five and one-half links North and South by twenty-seven and one-fourth links East and West), the east and west alleys 7 links and the north and south alleys 6 links in breadth respectively. (A link equals 7.92 inches.)

In 1878 (Canton Land Records, Vol. 11, page 496, 497) Warren Humphrey deeded still more lots (south of the then cemetery), individually to J. Howard Foote and others.

In a survey made in 1950 the names of 554 families were found on markers and monuments. Among the families were 123 Cases, 62 Barbers, 32 Browns, 30 Humphreys, 26 Mills, and Hamlins, Footes, Bristols, and Bidwells. (This survey was done by Byron & Gordon Case who made a complete map of the cemetery and separate drawings of each plot.)

193 Cherry Brook Road TWOMBLY (Angus & Deborah)

The Twombly home is located on the east side of Cherry Brook Road north of the Canton Center Cemetery. The left wing of the house was built in 1843 in the Federal and Greek Revival style, with additions made thereafter. It has a stone cellar and clapboard siding.

The house was erected by Alonzo Barber (1816-1853) on land purchased from Simeon Mills (1787-1867) who had been appointed as Canton Center's first Postmaster on August 23, 1841. Alonzo Barber was survived by his wife Hepzibah, and upon her death on April 11, 1862, the property was deeded to Warren C. Humphrey (1811-1896) for \$950.00. Hon. Warren C. Humphrey was a prominent resident of the town of Canton and a member of the Canton Church choir for 60 years, where he played the violin. He continued the general store which Alonzo Barber had operated as Canton Center's first store in the rear of the

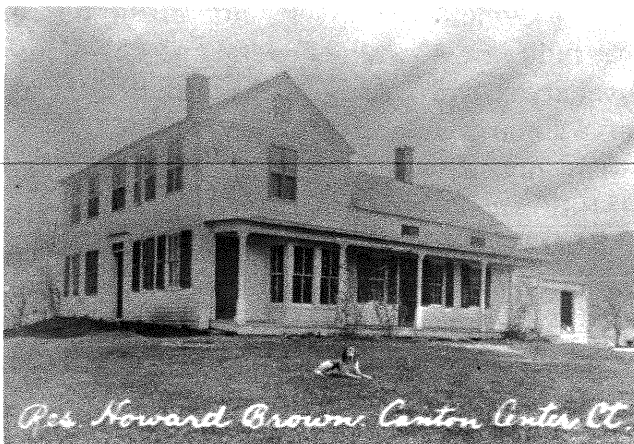
building. Warren Humphrey succeeded Simeon Mills as Postmaster upon the latter's death, and for a time the property was the location of the Canton Center Post Office, as well as its only store.

In 1870 Warren Humphrey moved his store and the Post Office across the street (to 190 Cherry Brook Road), and the house was solely a private residence until his death on February 5, 1896. His widow, Henrietta R. Humphrey, sold the premises to William N. West, and in turn he sold it to Thomas C. Dunn in 1910. In 1911 Mr. Dunn deeded the property to Elizabeth Robens, who lived there until 1935 when it was sold to Mrs. Louise Melzer. Hugh Cunningham purchased the property in 1966 and renovated it substantially.

Mrs. Melzer's husband, Herman Melzer, was a noted cellist and owned a Guarnerius. He played in the Metropolitan Opera in New York for 26 years under Toscanini and Gatti-Casazza.

Former owners and/or residents included: George & Frances Phelps - Pierre & Patricia Richards - Hugh Cunningham - Mr. & Mrs. Herman Melzer - Mrs. Elizabeth Robens - Thomas Dunn - William West - Frederick A. Bidwell - Thomas S. Bidwell - Warren Humphrey - Merlin Merrill - Alonzo Barber.

199 Cherry Brook Road **GUILMETTE (Paul & Chris)**



This 1812 farmhouse was built by the first postmaster of Canton Center, Simeon Mills. Mr. Mills was appointed in 1841 and the house served as the initial post office until 1867. The northwest room showcases the original built-in drawer which was used to handle the in-

coming mail. Mr. Mills' cupboard, once used for sorting mail, is presently in the Canton Historical Museum.

The house has been fully restored, accenting the original cherry and oak wide-board flooring. A large barn stands south of the house featuring a unique "haywagon" door. The property also contains two ponds, pasture, cornfield and two out-buildings. A small chicken house, renovated as a cottage in the 1930s by Howard Brown, and substantially added-to in the early 1960s by Carl Dewey, stands on the east side of the property. (197 Cherry Brook Road).

Former owners and/or residents included: William Beckwith - Miss Smith - Howard Brown - Lory Bliss - Mrs. Polly Case - Horatio Rust - John Burdick - Simeon Mills.

203 Cherry Brook Road **VALENTINE (Anne)**

The home of Anne Valentine stands on rolling meadow land and was built around 1863 in the Greek Revival style. A large front porch was added in 1910.

The house is located on the east side of Cherry Brook Road slightly north of the entrance of West Mountain Road.

A barn also stands on the property; it was formerly a chicken house.

Former owners and/or residents included: Howard & Betty Johnson - Paul & Maida Johnson - Ethel Kenyon - Ford - Martin Seger - John Pike - George Lamphier, Jr. - Origen Lamphier - Mrs. Miles Case - A. Garrety.

207 Cherry Brook Road **JOHNSON (Eric)**

The home of Eric Johnson was built by his father, Howard Johnson, in 1946. It is located on one acre of land that was purchased from Howard's father, Paul H. Johnson, Sr. The house is located across from the parsonage and reflects traditional Cape Cod styling.

Eric Johnson built a garage on this property in 1981.

Former owners and/or residents include: Howard & Betty Johnson.

210 Cherry Brook Road
SEALAND (Rev. Evans F. & Evelyn)

The church parsonage was built in 1876 and is the third house to stand on this site. Deacon Joseph Mills settled here in 1743 with his fifteen-year-old wife. They had fourteen children, one of whom was Deacon Andrew Mills who lived there next. Later it was the home of Rev. Jeremiah Hallock. Between 1787 and 1813 another house was built on the same site, and was then bought by Rev. Jairus Burt in 1826.

The Ecclesiastical Society inherited the Burt place as a parsonage in 1874 from Mrs. Linda Hosford. The old house was torn down and the present one built in the Victorian architecture of 1876. Many modern improvements have been made inside and the horse barn has gone, but the house has much the same appearance as when it was built. Since 1743 eighteen ministers have lived on this site, plus the Mills family and occasional renters. The present minister, Evans F. Sealand, and his wife Evelyn, have lived here since 1959.

Former owners and/or residents at this site included: Reverends Russell E. Angell - Alvin J. Beachy - Eugene A. Rose - Frank L. Sechrist - Walter Warner - Russell E. Reed - Warner Muir - Herman W. Reynolds - Eugene L. Richards - James W. Moulton - Christopher R. Hamlin - Arthur L. Golder - David B. Lord - Frederick Alvord - David B. Hubbard - The Ecclesiastical Society - Mrs. Linda Hosford - Jairus Burt - Jeremiah Hallock - Dea. Andrew Mills - Dea. Joseph Mills.

221 Cherry Brook Road
DESMOND (James & Judith)



The Desmond home, located on the east side of Cherry Brook Road opposite Barbourtown Road, was rebuilt in 1844 by William Homan Hallock. The original house had burned in 1838. It is a large Greek Revival style wooden frame house with two free-standing pillars by the front door. One horse and hay-barn remains of the many out-buildings which existed at the turn of the 19th century when the farm produced considerable milk and tobacco.

When the original house burned in 1838 it was occupied by William Hallock, then town clerk, and many town records from the 1806 period were lost. This was the time, 1806, when Canton separated from Simsbury and became incorporated.

Former owners and/or residents at this site included: Bruce & Mary Stuart - Stuart & Helen Gillespie - Frank Beaudin - Harold Edgerton - Ethelbert "Bert" Gillette - Mortimer Bristol and Gustave Ingraben - George Daggett - William G. Hallock - William H. Hallock.

225 Cherry Brook Road
HUMPHREY (Ruth, etal)



This house was built in 1815 by Gardner Mills on the site of an earlier house which had been built by Colonel Amasa Mills, his father. Ruth Humphrey (and her brothers and sister, Harold, Samuel, Frederick and Lucy Humphrey Wong) are direct descendants of Colonel Mills, and this farm has never been owned by anyone but descendants of Colonel Mills.

The house is of the two story colonial style which was popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The style was common in Canton and is representative of the era.

There is a massive stone chimney foundation in the center, which also supports the house beams. The upper chimney is of brick. The wooden beams project directly into the chimney, where their ends are charred. Even so, the customary method of cleaning the chimney used to be to stuff straw up the flues and deliberately set the chimney afire.

On the ground floor there are fireplaces on three sides of the center chimney. In the east room, which is now the living room, there is also a dutch oven where the cooking was originally done.

There is one fireplace upstairs. The front hall is narrow with a narrow two landing staircase. Other houses in the district with this floor plan include the old part of Carolyn Merriam's, the Foster's, the Potter's and the Slaymaker's.

The kitchen is in a back ell which also contains store rooms, pantries, and a woodshed in the familiar pattern. Except for the kitchen, the house has original floorboards throughout.

In the early 1800s, C. G. Griswold's family salve was manufactured in the back part of this house. This business was later sold by Alfred Humphrey to the Sisson Drug Company of Hartford, which manufactured it until about 1970.

This farm contains about 70 acres of land. The cow barn is believed to date from 1811. That date is carved on a beam in the west bay. There is a horse barn, a creamery, an ice house, a silo, and a tobacco barn on the place. There is also a small out-building built to house a gasoline engine, grinding wheel, and bone grinder. The foundation of the sap house still exists.

The water for this house comes from a fine natural spring 1200 feet to the east. Water flows by gravity to the house and barns, independent of interruptions in the electric power. This spring has supplied the house for over a century without fail.

Mr. Harold Humphrey recalled that when he was a boy there was a ford across Cherry Brook in front of his home where Barbourtown Road branches off from Cherry Brook Road.

It is also interesting to note that the Humphreys planted a "Centennial Elm" on the north bank of Cherry Brook in 1876, with a glass Mason jar containing mementos as a sort of time capsule. This jar, broken by the tree roots, was dug up after the tree died in 1976.

Previous owners and/or residents included: Harold W. Humphrey - William G. Humphrey - Alfred F. Humphrey - Gardner Mills, Jr. - Gardner Mills, Sr. - Colonel Amasa Mills.

239 Cherry Brook Road MAZZO (Thomas & Sharon)

This is a Cape Cod house of traditional style. It is one of the few houses built during World War II. The house was built by Clarence Snow on about one-half acre of land purchased from the farm of Harold Humphrey. It is situated on a gravel knoll at the edge of the old town road bed and a stone wall fence. Mr. Snow undertook to build this house by hand in 1942 at the age of 67 years, after his retirement from active dairy farming which he discontinued during the great depression when milk sold at the farm for two cents per quart.

The foundation is solidly built of field stone. It is 40 inches thick at the bottom and 18 inches thick at the top. Mr. Snow laid the stones by hand and mixed the cement mortar with a hoe in a wooden trough. The house has a brick fireplace.

Mr. and Mrs. Snow not only completed the house but then enjoyed it for nearly 30 years. Indeed, Mr. Snow continued to drive to church when well into his 90's.

In 1970 the house was purchased from the Snow family by Mr. Thomas Mazzo, its present owner.

241 Cherry Brook Road SNOW (C. Dudley & Lena)

This house is of traditional Cape Cod styling. It was built by the present occupant, C. Dudley Snow and his wife Lena, in 1946 upon Mr. Snow's return from military service during World War II. This one-half acre of land was formerly part of the Harold Humphrey farm, as was the land on which his father, Clarence Snow, built his house. The Snows

began construction in April of 1946 and finished in time to move in for the winter, doing all the work themselves. The house has a brick fireplace and also a fine driven well which is only 50 feet deep. Upon his retirement, Dudley Snow added the garage that is now connected to his house.

**250 Cherry Brook Road
GROFT (Nancy & George)**

The south half of this one story grey shingled ranch was built in 1961 by Doris Fox of Simsbury. The land was purchased from the farm of Harold W. Humphrey. The following year Mrs. Fox married Samuel J. Loring and they added the north wing of the home.

The present owners, Mr. & Mrs. George Groft, purchased the home in 1972.

The home is located on the west side of Cherry Brook Road, about one-quarter of a mile north of Barbourtown Road. There are approximately 1.4 acres of land. The land has a small brook and a pond on the north side of the house.

Former owners and/or residents included: Alexander Brown - Jan & Clare Reinbergen - Samuel Loring - Doris Fox.

**251 Cherry Brook Road
SEGER (Henry & Mary)**

This Cape Cod-style house was built in 1940 by Henry Seger. The cellar was dug out by a hand scoop which was pulled by an old tractor. The foundation wall is of hand-laid field stone and is eighteen inches thick. The land was purchased from Harold Humphrey.

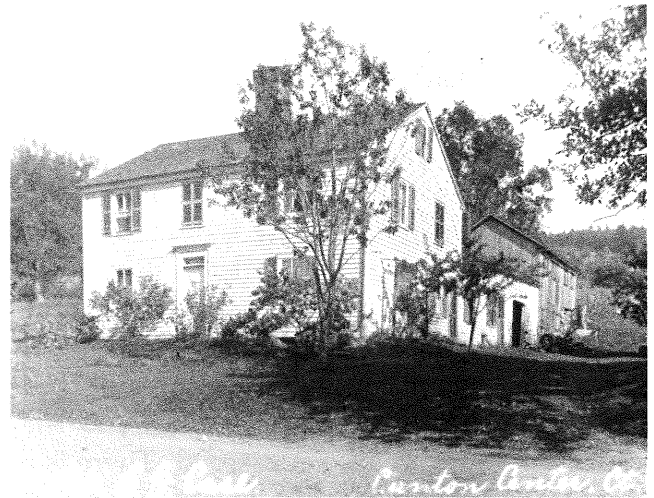
While digging, Mr. Seger struck stones which appeared to be laid as in a foundation. William G. Humphrey, who previously owned the land, had suspected that an old well lay there and believed it possible that another house existed on this flat knoll at some time in the past.

**254 Cherry Brook Road
SPIRITO (Thomas & Joann)**

This house was built by Thomas Spirito in 1979. It is a New England cape style with a front porch supported by four posts. There is natural woodwork throughout the house.

The land on which the house was built had been part of the property across the road and was purchased from Joe Frenette who bought the land from the Mahoneys. The Spiritos removed many stones from the area of their present driveway. These stones were part of the foundation of an old icehouse.

**259 Cherry Brook Road
MAHONEY (Dennis & Wanda)**



The first house on this land was south of the present house and was built in 1738 by Jonathan Barber. He was one of four Barber brothers who were the first settlers in the historic district area. Jonathan lost his life in the siege of Louisburg in 1745. His son, Bildad, inherited the place, but moved away in 1804. The farm was then divided: Gardner Mills buying land to the south and Serg. Daniel Case to the north. The middle section became the property of Jesse Barber.

This two story frame Colonial, known as the Jesse Barber House, was built about 1800 or probably before; an inscribed 1789 chestnut beam in the attic indicates this, as well as wrought iron door hardware, the styling of which greatly precedes the year 1800.

Jesse Barber, cobbler, had a shop north of his house and also a tannery with two large vats. He shod the shoes of the children who walked by on their way to school each day.

For many years the water for the house came from a spring on the hill to the east carried by split, grooved logs. This was replaced by a lead pipe which required someone to keep it unclogged and unfrozen in the winter. At one

time this job fell to the Norman's eldest son, Delbert, and in the bitter cold, snowy mornings a trip to the well, one quarter of a mile up the hill, was far from a pleasant task; especially before going to school. In 1953 the Mahoneys replaced this system with an artesian well.

Ambrose Norman kept riding horses in the barns which were later torn down. Rollins, a feed and grain merchant from Granby, acquired the property from Norman to satisfy an unpaid feed bill. Rollins sold the house and property to Katherine Hyde, who sold the house and two acres to the Mahoneys in 1952. The house was then in very poor condition. The rear ell was torn down and rebuilt new to its two-story height. A new foundation was poured and the main house leveled up with new sills. The central chimney with its three surrounding fireplaces was preserved. One of these fireplaces has a Dutch, beehive domed oven. The original fireplace mantles and the front stairway were also preserved. There is a "fireplace" or smoke-oven in the basement under the living room hearth.

Former Owners and/or residents at or near this site have been: Katherine Hyde - Rollins - Ambrose Norman - Everett Jones - Eugene Case - Herbert Case - Joseph Rood - Sidney Case - Corydon Barber - Jesse Barber - Bildad Barber - Jonathan Barber.

263 Cherry Brook Road DANIELSON (Eric W. & Esther L.)

This house, built by the Danielsons in 1975, is a contemporary, energy efficient house. It lies a few hundred feet behind the Mahoneys, from whom the property was purchased in 1971.

Set into the south slope of a small knoll, just one story is exposed to the north. On the south side, two stories, mostly glass, face the sun. The sun and two wood stoves provide all of the heat for the house. Two solar panels supply most of the domestic hot water. The design is a type of post-and-beam construction, with lots of open space: the kitchen, dining room and living room are one room; a large stairwell permits easy flow of air and people between upstairs and down.

The Danielsons note: "Although some design features and the building materials used in our house clearly mark it as 'late 20th Century', we feel it has much in common with older Historic District houses. Its compactness, energy-efficient siting and construction, its reliance on wood and solar energy, and the central wood stove on which our winter cooking is done, would be familiar to 18th century residents of Canton Center."

267 Cherry Brook Road SNOW (David & Shirley)

This six-room house, which began with only one room, is located on property which was once part of the Ben Case farm. It was built as a summer home by Lancel Foote and his wife, Ruby Case Foote, daughter of Ben Case.

In 1951 it was renovated and enlarged by the Melroses. It was again renovated by Pat and Doreen Grace in the late 1970's.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Pat & Doreen Grace - Arnold Buchman - George & Nancy Melrose - Lancel & Ruby Case Foote.

270 Cherry Brook Road BARRETT (James F., Jr.)



This huge, eighteen-room house was built of the finest materials available by Benjamin S. Case around 1888. Frederick G. Humphrey, who lived across the road, worked on it as a carpenter, and a man also named Case, from Simsbury, was the general contractor.

Probably the largest house in the District, the main hallway is of paneled oak, leading to the upstairs living quarters. There are many stories of large parties being held on the 4th of July, by Ben Case, with a brass band and candle lighted jack-o-lanterns decorating the open porch.

Ben Case: Collinsville banker; incorporator of the Canton Creamery; farmer (Maplewood Farm now owned by Howard Edgerton); also owned the first local telephone company as a franchise of the Hudson, N.Y., parent company. The chestnut paneled study, just to the right of the front entry, was his switchboard room, which accounts for the dozens of holes bored into the wood to accommodate the wires required for switchboards. This was long before the present Southern New England Telephone Co.

The Case family lived in the entire twelve-room house for many years until Ben's death, whereupon his daughter Ruby and her family used it as a summer residence through World War II. In 1945, Ben's daughter, Ruby Case Foote, decided to remodel the structure into three rental apartments, which required drilling a new well, replacing the slate roof with asphalt shingles and repainting the exterior. It is of interest to note: the original house had four chimneys of which two were blown down by the hurricane of 1938. These original four serviced its six fireplaces which still exist.

Dennis J. Mahoney purchased the "Maplewood Apartment House" from Ruby Case Foote in 1946. He constructed an apartment for his family on the third floor and later knocked out the back half of the northwest roof to form an open porch. The Mahoneys eventually moved downstairs and added two more rental units making a total of six apartments. The two outbuilding units were added by the new owner, William Baer, in 1956.

There were many newly wedded couples that started out in these rental apartments, and grew to love the valley. Among them were: Don & June Prue and William & Joann Grace.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Skip Ansart - Mary Ward - William Baer - Dennis Mahoney - Ruby Case Foote - Mrs. Venla & son, Roy Turner - Benjamin Case.

271 Cherry Brook Road **SLAYMAKER (William & Ann)**

This house was built by Sergeant Daniel Case for his son, Elam, about 1790. The house has Crusader doors, many original old floors, a gun cupboard, and numerous fireplaces. The upstairs fireplace has 'Elam' carved in the stone base. The living room walls are of pine sheathing; covered for years with wallpaper, and now restored to their original appearance.

A previous owner, William Elliot, restored the house. He built a stone pool south of the house to replace an ice pond which was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. The pool is fed by a brook coming down from the hill through a pine grove set out by Benjamin S. Case who was born here.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Jonathon O'Brien - William F. Elliot - Henry Jepsen - Lancel & Ruby Case Foote - Clarence Snow - Frederick G. Humphrey - Mrs. Marion Case - Franklin Case - Elam Case.

282 Cherry Brook Road **EDGERTON (Howard)**

This ranch-style house with a stone fireplace and chimney was built in 1969 by Howard Edgerton. It replaced a much older house which burned in 1968.

The old house was built about 1882 for the Creamery Manager. It stood a little north east of the old Creamery building on West Road (opposite the Foster house; 124 West Rd.). Edward B. Edgerton, Howard's father, moved the house across the meadows to the Cherry Brook Road site in 1889.

The present Edgerton house is about 30 feet west of where the old house stood.

In 1953 the main barn was struck by lightning and burned down. Near the barn, and also burned, was the roof of an old, square silo. Believed to be one of the first silos in the area, the sides are of cement extending 10 to 15 feet under ground and about five feet above the ground. In 1880 the grain for the silo was chopped by a machine which was powered by a caged horse running on a treadmill. Still standing (1985) are: an ice house; a shed barn

used as a garage and to store machinery; and a third small barn where hay is stored.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Clarence Snow - Edward B. Edgerton.

285 Cherry Brook Road

MERRIAM (Carolyn), RICHARDSON (Bruce)



The main part of this Colonial house was built by James Humphrey between 1790 and 1800. He hauled large red stones from Simsbury for his foundation. It has a central chimney with three surrounding fireplaces as well as a fireplace upstairs. Two ells have been added to the main part; one to the rear and one on the south side. Each addition has a chimney. The house has a total of eighteen rooms with six rooms in the south section which has accommodated a second family in the past. A porch was added to the north side of the house in the 1920's.

The water for the house had been supplied by three hand-dug wells on the hill to the east. These wells were disturbed when Cherry Brook Road was widened. An artesian well was dug about ten years ago.

A barn, garage and workshop are also on the property which today (1985) consists of about 90 acres.

Over the years, teachers at the Center District School which was located across the meadow road at 135 West Road boarded here.

This house is substantially the same plan as four other Colonials in the district, having the same basic main floor plan as the Potter, Foster, Slaymaker and Humphrey houses nearby.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: North Part: Samuel D. Richardson - Samuel

Richardson - James Humphrey, Sr. South Part: Samuel A Richardson - Agnes Sweeton & Leslie T. King - Clarence Snow- Edward Edgerton - James Gladwin - George Richardson.

4 Barbourtown Road

Town of Canton (Cherry Brook School)

On June 11, 1940, a town meeting voted to build a new centralized school in Canton Center and agreed that the site, construction and equipment of the building were, together, not to exceed forty thousand dollars. Twelve acres of land on Barbourtown Road were purchased from Dr. Arthur Unsworth for the site of the new school. The building was completed in January 1942, and on February 16th the first school assembly was held. Mrs. Leslie King became seventh and eighth grade teacher and principal.

In 1951 one addition was made, and in 1961 another wing was added.

Today (1985), the school has about 200 children attending kindergarten classes, a transition class and first grade classes. There are twelve classrooms, a library, an all-purpose room, a kitchen and offices.

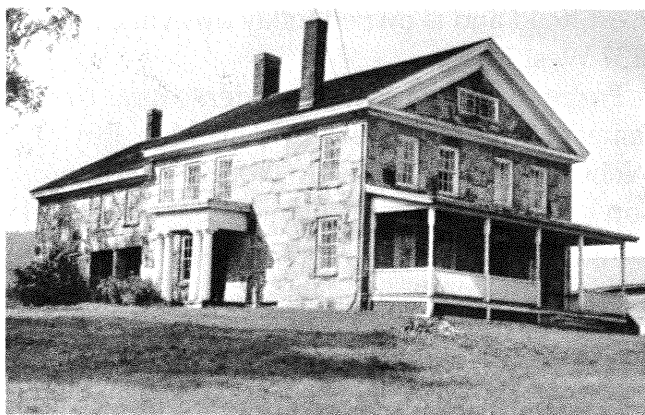
18 Barbourtown Road

KINGDOM HALL

(Jehovah's Witnesses Canton Congregation)

The Canton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses built their Kingdom Hall on the land of Robert Perry in 1981-82. With the exception of the foundation and the driven well, the building was built by volunteers from the newly formed congregation as well as many volunteers from other Connecticut Kingdom Halls. The stone facing on the outside east wall and on the inside north wall of the foyer were taken from the floor of the Nepaug Reservoir with permission of the MDC. There is a Benjamin Thompson (Count Rumford) style fireplace in the foyer. A combination wood-oil hot water furnace heats the building. It seats about 200 people on the main floor with classrooms in the basement.

22 Barbourtown Road
PERRY (Margaret H.)



The granite schist in the "Stone House", built by Volney and Linus Barber in the 1830's, was quarried back of the old barn which was on the farm at the time George W. Lamphier bought it from Norton Case in 1866. The house and farm remained in the Lamphier family until George W. Lamphier Jr. sold it to Margaret H. and Thomas M. Perry in 1944. The stone walls are about two feet thick and the basement runs the full length and width of the house.

The chimney serving the fireplaces in the living room and present dining room (former kitchen) was originally angled in the attic to place it at the ridge of the roof. Following a chimney fire it was straightened to its present location. Due to frost heaves, the north wall of the house required extensive repair. The stones were removed and reset from below ground level to below the second floor windows. At that time the large living room window was added and a new enlarged chimney was put in to accommodate a fireplace and an oil burner. The mantels in the two front rooms are the ones originally built for wood stoves. Stove flues are still usable in three of the upstairs bedrooms, the southeast front room and the "smoke house" in the cellar. Inside walls were removed to enlarge the living room which now runs the width of the house. Mr. Perry made the tools needed to duplicate the original woodwork around the new window and the enlarged door between the dining and living room. The south wall of the house originally had an indented porch. This porch was en-

closed with two large windows separated by the one foot square granite support post. The original wooden wall, windows and door were removed, giving an extra five feet to the length of the small dining room.

In 1949 a three-car garage and shop were built west of the house. The lower ground level on which it was placed allowed a tunnel to be built from the basement door of the house to the ground floor of the shop where the T.M. Perry Co. started. In 1956 the company moved to its present location.

Three of the original barns are now gone. In 1972 Scott Perry, with the help of his brothers, Robert and Lansford, built a tie stall dairy barn. In 1981 he built an equipment shed southwest of his barn using oak and pine from trees cut on the farm.

This farm was first settled by Samuel Barber; his cabin standing farther west than the Perry house, near Barber Brook. Samuel was one of four brothers coming with their widowed mother from Simsbury in 1738. Brother Thomas settled on the Giles Sisson place (now 121 West Road), Jonathon just south of Dennis Mahoney's home (259 Cherry Brook Road), and John where the late Russell Richardson lived (at 84 Barbourtown Road). Dr. Samuel, who got his title from his skill in using roots and herbs, was a noted hunter. His wife's (Tryphene Humphrey) monument is the oldest in town bearing the date 1752 (south burying ground, now known as Dyer Cemetery). She was the mother of seven sons. Samuel's second wife had four sons and three daughters. Giles, a son, inherited the farm, and then it passed to his sons, Volney and Linus.

Former Owners and/or residents on this farm have been: Thomas M. & Margaret H. Perry - George W. Lamphier Jr. and Sr. - Norton Case II - Volney Barber - Giles Barber - Samuel Barber.

35 Barbourtown Road
PERRY, Margaret, H. (T.M. Perry Co.)

This one story brick building was built in 1956 by Thomas M. Perry. It was carefully built out of sight of the road, and many people pass by without guessing of its existence. Not

even a road sign betrays it.

The T.M. Perry Co. produces gears and splined parts for aerospace industry. Their gears were used on the Apollo mission to the moon.

54 Barbourtown Road BOUCHARD (Eunice)

This is a large split level, contemporary home built for the Bouchards, Eunice and Joseph, in 1963. The land is across the road from their former home at 59 Barbourtown Road. The house is paneled throughout and contains two large fireplaces. Mortimer Bristol, a local carpenter for many years, worked on the construction of this house.

The house occupies the site of the first schoolhouse in Canton Center, which endured from 1759 to 1847, called the Old Red School.

59 Barbourtown Road POTTER (Judith)



This 19th century Connecticut central chimney house was built in 1800 on one of the old Barber places. Samuel's son, Elijah Barber, built the house. It was raised higher by his son Daniel who added the ell to the east. In his early life, D. Hiram Barber was one of the "Yankee Peddlers" who went South winters with their wares.

The house was restored and modernized in 1926 by Roy C. Webster, who maintained its old attractiveness and replaced its distinctive shutters.

About 1831, raising silkworms for raw silk was an industry being developed in Connecticut. A silkworm house or "cocoonery" was

built on the property and later replaced by a barn. Joseph Bouchard converted this barn to a home which was eventually moved across West Road and is owned today by Lynne Smith (137 West Road).

Former Owners and/or residents have been: James & Judith Potter - Mr. & Mrs. Roy C. Webster - Samuel Glover - Robert H. Thompson - Anna B. Case - William Peloubet - Daniel Hiram Barber - Daniel Barber - Elijah Barber.

71 Barbourtown Road LEGEYT (Henry & Muriel)

This is a 28' 8" x 50' 8" ranch house built by Henry LeGeyt and his father-in-law, Mortimer Bristol, in 1957. The floor joists are 2" x 12" on one foot centers set in hangers (drilled in). Three 14" x 14" carrying beams came from an old mill in Winsted destroyed by the 1955 flood.

75 Barbourtown Road STRATTON (Richard & Jessie)

In May of 1980 Richard and Jessie Stratton began construction of a center chimney Cape Cod-style house on what was known as Bundle Hill, now 75 Barbourtown Road. The Strattons designed the house and did much of the construction work. While the style of the house is copied from an early 19th century Cape, the house reflects the fact that it was built in an energy conscious era. Incorporating features of the so-called "super-insulated houses" the house has double walled construction which results in nine inches of insulation in the walls; in addition, there is a continuous vapor barrier to cut air infiltration and R 49 insulation in the ceilings. As a result the house is primarily heated by a wood stove in the kitchen. The kitchen cabinets and built-ins in the living room and elsewhere were constructed by Richard Stratton.

In 1982 a three-bay carriage shed was built next to the house. In 1983 a salt box ell addition to the main house was begun in order to accommodate a growing family. The carriage shed was built by Tim LeGeyt and Richard Stratton and the addition was built by Richard Stratton.

Oliver Freeland, whose father, Otto Free-

land, owned this property, remembers a "men's club" which was built on this spot in the 1920's. Men gathered to play billiards and chat. The building finally fell into such disrepair that it had to be taken down.

77 Barbourtown Road

RICHARDSON (Russell, Jr. & Patricia)

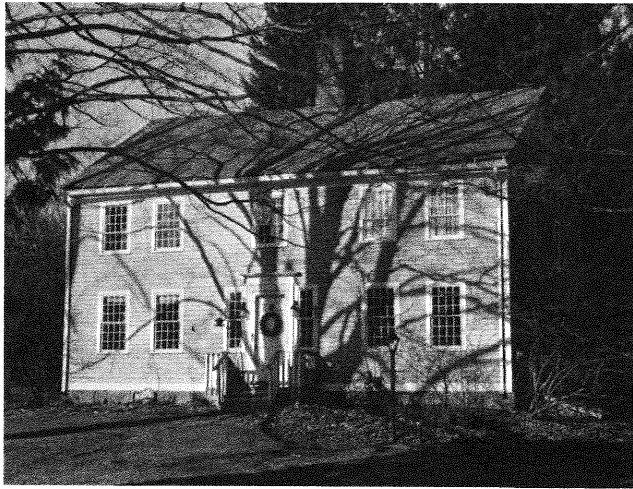
This house is a basic Cape Cod style built in 1959. The site, which had been a summer pasture, consists of approximately four and one half acres and was purchased from Orrin Mills.

Old-time methods were used to build the house. No electrical device was used until it was time for cabinets, trim and oak floors. "All we needed was a hammer, hand-saw and a level. We didn't even need a set of blueprints."*

*R. Richardson, Jr.

39 West Road

LINDSAY (Faith)



This house is included as an ANNEX to the Historic District due to the perfection of its Colonial design and to the family which built it. In 1776, Captain John Brown completed this house to replace his log cabin which had stood to the west of the present house. The house has a large central chimney with three fireplaces, one having the beehive Dutch oven. Some of the downstairs windows are 12 over 12; others are 9 over 6. A room at the rear of the house has "tie beams" connecting the first floor to the third. One of the front rooms has a register allowing hot air up to the bedroom.

The ell, which burned at one time and was replaced, has the original chimney with two

fireplaces. This chimney also has a beehive oven which was in the original summer kitchen. The windows are new copies of the old and are 9 over 6.

Captain Brown, commissioned by Governor Trumbull, left Canton Center soon after building this house, going to New York State with his company of Minute Men, where he died in the autumn of 1776. A gravestone was erected in memory of Captain Brown and stood in the lot across from the house until his grandson, the famous John Brown of Harper's Ferry, moved it to North Elba, New York, in the Adirondack Mountains. After his execution in 1859, John Brown was buried in North Elba, and his grave is marked by this same stone. A marble monument also stands in the Canton Center Cemetery in memory of Captain John Brown.

Captain Brown's youngest son, Abiel, continued to occupy the house until his death in 1856. He wrote the "Genealogical Sketches of the Early Settlers of West Simsbury", published in 1856. Another of Captain Brown's sons, Owen, moved to Torrington where his son, John, was born. In 1859, John led the already noted raid on Harper's Ferry.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Bruce & Faith Lindsay - Stanley R. Eddy - Margaret Daniels - Walter Wilder - Lora Wilder - Elizur Brown - Abiel Brown - Hannah Owen Brown - Capt. John Brown.

120 West Road

GREEN (Raymond & Barbara)

The home of Raymond and Barbara Green was built by them in 1974 on land originally part of the 1797 Loin Humphrey farm next door. Traces of the storage barn and carriage shed remain on the property. The gable-roofed house was designed to conform to others in the historic district with 12 over 12 windows, a center chimney and a roof pitch that replicates the steepness of those of authentic Colonial homes. The lights flanking the front door are half windows, following the style in many Farmington River Valley early homes. The dimensions of the fireplace and its surrounding panelled wall in the living room are additional Colonial features. The side and back of the living room and dining room take the best of the

new by having wide expansive windows which allow views down and across Cherry Brook Valley.

121 West Road LIKEWISE (Roger & Diane)

This property was originally settled by Sergeant Thomas Barber, who with his brothers Samuel, Jonathan and John and his widowed mother Mercy Barber, moved here around 1738. The present house was built by Giles Sisson in 1867, after he had torn down the house owned by Deacon Hosea Case which had stood on the same spot. The house is a classic Greek Revival farmhouse with two stories, center chimney, ell, attached sheds and a large barn. The barn still contains the shaft of a windmill that was occasionally used to generate electricity for the milling of ax handles which were sold to the Collins Company. The wood came from a stand of hickory trees on the property. Later on, tobacco and dairy farming were conducted here.¹ In addition to operating the farm, Giles Sisson ran a cider mill below the bank south of the house and also a sawmill² at the twin bridges about 1/3 mile north of the house. Traces of the dam on Cherry Brook and the canal leading to the sawmill can still be seen. Bert Lamphier, grandson of Giles Sisson, wrote about swimming in the mill pond in the summer and skating in winter, returning to the house to enjoy popcorn, apples and sweet cider by the fire.³

Mr. Sisson was known for his generosity in giving sweet cider to the nearby Center District school children. He was also criticized for profiting from the sale of cider brandy, to which he replied, "Cider brandy money is just as good as any other money."⁴

About 1920, Otto Freeland moved his family from Hartford to West Road and spent the next 25 years farming this land. The two trucks carrying his furniture got stuck on the unpaved Meadow Road, costing Otto an additional \$75.00 for the move. Mr. Freeland, with his neighbor Arthur Sweeton, Jr. was instrumental in getting electricity run along West Road.

Former owners and/or residents were: Rodney and Hala Pratt - Carl Dewey - Dr. A.C.

Unsworth - Otto Freeland - Earl Young - George Snow - Arthur Sisson - Giles & Caroline Sisson - Loin Humphrey⁵ - Deacon Hosea Case - Sergeant Thomas Barber.

Footnotes:

1. Oliver Freeland, son of Otto Freeland.
2. Note on 1869 map.
3. *The Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, Vol. XIII, No. 4, "Memories of Canton Center and Winsted, Ct." Bert Lamphier, p. 13.
4. *The Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, June 1950.
5. Info on the fact that Loin Humphrey once occupied this property from *Barbour's Reminiscences*, Sylvester Barbour, Hartford Press, 1908, p. 103.

124 West Road FOSTER (Timothy & Lynn)



This house was built by Loin Humphrey in 1797. Colonial in type, it has a large stone chimney with three fireplaces and a front hall surrounding it. The narrow front hall necessitated a wide door in the southwest room, sometimes called a funeral door. The roof extending over the eighty-foot ell covers on the east a part that was a small house, perhaps built before the main part. There was an old well southeast of this part.

Traces of stencilled walls have been found in many of the rooms, old-timers saying that the man who did the stencilling around this community boarded here. Ornamenting the plastered walls with stencilling was introduced about 1830. The southwest bedroom had an original design, with several different motifs in red and green. The three fireplaces have cupboards over them, sometimes called maple

sugar cupboards and by some the "parson's cupboard". There is an arched brick oven with a charred wooden door beside one fireplace. It is said that to get the dome or arched effect, a mound of wet sand was used and the brick laid over it. Through the years the house has had many changes: the six by eight panes are gone; inside doors added; partitions removed; the narrow front veranda removed, the garage completely rebuilt, and the ell part much changed.

The large barn on this property was built in the 1870's by August Freytag. His initials are scored in one of the beams in the loft. The barn is the same design as one owned by the Freytag family on Case Street at Ridge Road. Harry Humphrey told that the lumber for the barn was cut and milled on the Sisson farm (121 West Road).

The hay loft in this barn was originally constructed with a two-story over and under entrance. The second story ramp and floor of the hay loft were dismantled by A.C. Unsworth, whose tenant, Carl Dewey constructed a large shed section attached to the eastern side of the barn. The roof of this shed collapsed under the snows of "Blizzard Larry" in Feb. 1978.

Former owners and/or residents were: Bruce & Heather Davis - Hewat Davis - Dr. A.C. Unsworth - Arthur W. Sweeton Jr. - Howard Bristol - August Freytag - Amos Spencer - Warren Humphrey - Loin Humphrey.

129 West Road **NEAL (Heather)**

In the spring of 1982 Heather Neal had built for herself a baby Cape house (offspring of Dick and Jessie Stratton's house at 75 Barbourtown Road) opposite her former home at 124 West Road.

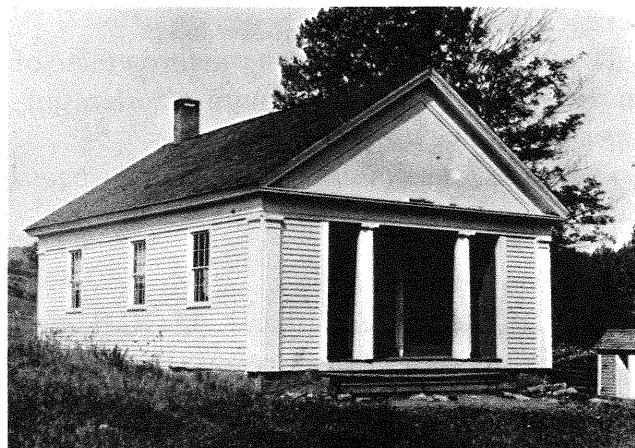
The house overlooks the foundations and spring of the original Canton Creamery (disposition of this former building unknown) and another foundation, that of the Creamery Manager's house. (The Creamery Manager's house was moved in 1888 across the Meadow Road swamp on rollers to a site at 282 Cherry Brook Road, by Edward Edgerton, father of Howard Edgerton, who each occupied it in turn until it burned in 1968.)

133 West Road **FREELAND (Oliver & Sophie)**

This medium sized Cape Cod-style house was built in the 1940's by Oliver Freeland. It is on an acre of land which was carved out of his father's farm at 121 West Road.

The foundation wall is of fieldstone taken from nearby and was hand-laid by Mr. Freeland to a thickness of 18 inches.

135 West Road **LEGEYT (Timothy B. & Carolyn W.)**



This Greek revival style dwelling was the Center District School from 1849 to 1942. Mortimer Bristol bought the property in 1942 when Cherry Brook School was opened. Mr. Bristol, a great-great-great-grandson of Samuel Barber, remodelled the building into a five-room house and in 1949 built the existing three-bay garage. He was a master carpenter and was involved in many of the restorations in the area. Mr. Bristol's grandson, Timothy LeGeyt, has owned the property since 1978 when he and his wife, Carolyn, completely renovated the interior of the building.

The exterior of the building is substantially the way it was as a school house. All but one of the original windows are still in place. At one time there were two free-standing Greek columns on the front porch. At least a dozen initials of former students are carved on the remaining columns and porch boards.

In the attic there are two false-peak post-and-truss assemblies still in place that supported the clear-span school room ceiling.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Muriel B. LeGeyt - Mortimer R. Bristol - Center District School.

137 West Road SMITH (Lynne M.)

This house, which was moved west across West Road in 1963, has an interesting background. Joseph Bouchard built this home with lumber from the barn which replaced a "cocoonery" built in 1831. "Cocooneries" were built in the 1830's to house silkworms and mulberry trees were set out to feed them. Some raw silk was obtained, but before the industry had grown very much, a disease struck the mulberry trees in about 1844, causing the experiment to fail in Connecticut.

This house now stands on the former site of an outdoor bowling green with wooden gutters set in a pine grove.

Former Owners and/or residents have been: Norris - Soule - McNamee - Bouchard.

4 West Mountain Road SULAVIK (Stephen & Barbara), BAGG (James)



This ten-room Greek Revival home was started in 1775 by Ephraim Mills, Sr. (the son of Deacon Joseph Mills, one of the first settlers), then 24 years old, and finished several years later.

The oldest part of the house has a hip roof and one chimney with two fireplaces. The section on the north side of the house was probably built in the early 1800's. It, too, had a hip roof which was changed in later years when a second floor was added. This later addition has a chimney with three fireplaces. One fireplace served the winter kitchen (now a dining room), one served the summer kitchen (now the kitchen) along with a Dutch oven and the third is in a small room on the north side of the

house. In the basement, under the area of this chimney, is a "smoke house". The ell to the rear of the house grew to its present length in three stages. It served as a barn at one time; later as a garage; and was converted to a large living room by the Prud'hommes about 1965 when a chimney was added.

Between this living room and the driveway is a mulberry tree with a hollow trunk, thought to date back to 1830 when there was an infant silk business in Connecticut.

In his later years, Ephraim Mills became an early planner of the Congregational Church. His son, Simeon, became the first postmaster of Canton Center. In early times, parishioners would warm themselves in the house on Sundays between church services. Many early plans for the new church were made here. Ephraim Mills is buried in the Dyer Cemetery among the Revolutionary War soldiers.

Former Owners and/or residents included: Michael & Janice Galusza - Hector & Anne Carolyn Prud'homme - Albert E. Carey - Origen R. & Jennie Barnes Lamphier, et al - Henry H. & Anna H. Wikel - Samuel A. Shepard - Lewis Case - George W. Lamphier - Stiles Case - D. H. Barber - Stiles E. Mills - Freeman Case - Addison O. Mills - Ephraim Mills, Sr.

5 West Mountain Road PRUD'HOMME (Hector)

This small grey and brown shingled house has an unusual history of its own; although it is (in 1985) part of the larger 7 West Mountain Road property. Originally it was an icehouse standing against the south wall of the big red barn across the road on the 4 West Mountain Road property. A previous owner reconstructed the interior to make it livable. In the 1940's Hector Prud'homme had the little house moved to its present site (the house-mover charged \$200!) with the idea of its serving as a home for a farm hand, but it never got to be used for just that purpose. Instead, a succession of mostly young Canton Center families have enjoyed living in it.

Residents have included: Barbara Le Francois - Ralph Erickson - Walter & Janet LeGeyt - Timothy & Carolyn LeGeyt - Elmer & Jessie Blackman - Carolyn Richardson Merriam - Paul

& Elsie May Dlubac - Samuel & Mary Humphrey - Paul Johnson - Willard & Wini Bristol.

7 West Mountain Road PRUD'HOMME (Hector)

This home, designed by Richard Prud'homme, a son of the present owners, was built in 1973 on land more extensively farmed a couple of generations ago. The house was sited with the intention of continuing to raise crops and of staying close to nature. On this land, still being cultivated, are a cornfield, a hay meadow, pasture and woods. For a time in early days a ford was the means of crossing Cherry Brook, at about the latitude of the present house. Close to West Mountain Road there stood a small tobacco barn, of which a few foundation stones are all that remain.

The interior arrangement of the house is distinctive. A narrow balcony on the second floor invites looking down on the living room space of the ground floor. There is much glass and light, and eight doors for getting to and from the outdoors, but convenience and simplicity have not been sacrificed. The exterior, being functional and only functional, misses the classic influence in historic rural homes in this part of New England. Both the new and the old have, however, met the requirements put upon them by country living or farming, which basic requirements have not changed all that much.

When Cherry Brook carried away the wooden bridge at the foot of West Mountain Road, in the big flood of August 1955, the way out for marooned residents was to the north over the present cornfield to the school property and Barbourtown Road.

2 East Mountain Road KORNER (Edwin G.)



The Edwin G. Korner house was purchased from the estate of Herbert and Jennie Brown Sturgeon in 1964. Built in about 1785 by Caleb Case, it has had many changes since its original Colonial construction, including dormer windows, a porch, and a new kitchen on the north side.

The barn to the north of the house was built by Herbert Sturgeon in 1929 with boards from the horse shed which stood just south of the Congregational Church. In 1944, Herbert Sturgeon used this outbuilding as a workshop called "Twixt the Hills", making wooden toys and Christmas ornaments. Later, he refinished antiques and made reproductions of furniture.

Former Owners and/or residents include: Herbert E. Sturgeon - Rev. James W. Moulton - Walter S. Case - Pliny Case - Pliny Case - Pliny Case - Caleb Case.

4 East Mountain Road DOUGLAS (Barton & Jean)

This home, once the old Blacksmith Shop, was built about 1800. It served as a blacksmith shop for several generations of Pliny Cases.

In 1900, Clarence Vining, a grandson of Ruggles Case, built rooms over the shop for his home and, as the years have gone by, this has housed several families, having been separated into two apartments.

Clarence worked at his farrier's trade from 1900 until 1940 when he died, and no one continued blacksmithing after that time.

Former Owners and/or residents included: Robert Francis - Elmer Blackman - Grace Cole - Clarence Vining - Pliny Case(s) (blacksmith shop).

8 East Mountain Road WEST (Richard A. & Virginia)

The home of the Richard A. West family is the third house on East Mountain Road going east from Cherry Brook Road. It is believed to have been built at the time of the Civil War. The large barn to the north of the house was probably built earlier. This barn, built with local chestnut beams, has a cow stall area below the ground level. Several stone foundations to the north of the house indicate other outbuild-

ings, one having been a tobacco barn. Albert Bidwell grew a prize vegetable garden for a number of years while he and his wife, Lena Bidwell, lived here.

The Richard Whalen family restored the house exposing some of the chestnut beams, and lived in it after the death of the Bidwells.

Albert Bidwell's daughter was Dorothy Crowley who was married to Carroll Crowley who ran the Creamery for years.

About 10 years ago the night of the chicken pie supper, a green car drove slowly by, parked and a tall, thin man got out and looked around at the house. Dick West talked to him, and he told Dick that his name was Case, and he lived in the house as a boy, about 1915. He showed Dick where a door used to be and told him that he and his brother had brought a goat through that door, walked it upstairs, and locked it in the bathroom. His mother didn't find it very funny, but he didn't say what the punishment was.

Former residents include: Richard & Charline Whalen - Albert Bidwell - Webster Case - Wilson Case - George F. Pratt - Amos Hosford.

9 East Mountain Road CRAIG (Charlotte)

Charlotte Goodwin Craig's house was built prior to 1855 and owned then by T. J. Allen and Widow F. Case. This four-room mill worker's home was heated by two main stoves. In 1890, an addition to the south part made this a six room dwelling and in 1945 a stone fireplace was added on the north side. Along the way, a bay window (probably 1890) and a front porch were added; the porch since removed. In 1958, the small cowbarn and two-horse stall (located directly south of the house) were torn down and a garage built some 30 feet west of the old barn. Also in 1958, an addition to the first floor (a dining area and kitchen) was built on the east side of the house; eliminating the driveway which once went around the house.

The blacksmith shop, located at the northwest corner of the lot had been operated by George Smith and Philip Perkins, both having lived in this house. In 1974, the field in front

(west) of the house was given to the Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. to be preserved as recreational or floral land.

People recorded as living here: T. J. Allen & Widow P. Case (presumably brother & sister), George Smith, Charles Smith, Philip Perkins, Edward & Alice (Perkins) Hosford, Willis Dewars (Hosford's nephew) & Charlotte Goodwin Craig of Hartford who bought the property in 1947 and still lives there. In 1958, Francelia N. Crittenden (Mrs. Butler P.) moved from 14 East Mountain Road into this house, sharing it with Charlotte G. Craig.

10 East Mountain Road WHALEN (Richard & Charline)

Richard and Charline Whalen purchased eight acres of land from the Albert Bidwell estate in 1966. They lived in the Bidwell house until they built their new house in 1969. This is located on the north side of East Mountain Road at the end of a long driveway which enters between 8 and 14 East Mountain Road.

The Whalen house stands on a hill in pasture land, surrounded by poplars, pines, cedars, and laurel. It is a Garrison Colonial with attached garage.

14 East Mountain Road WEST (James & Elizabeth Endicott)

The James and Elizabeth Endicott West house is located on the northerly side of East Mountain Road, the fourth house on the left going east, and at the first curve in the road. Presumably, this was a small farmhouse built before 1855 and was added onto in 1890 (builder, Herbert Sturgeon). An old hand pump still stands adjacent to the front door and the well beneath remains as the source of water for the house.

This was known as a "starter house", with a large number of young couples starting out here over the years and moving on when their families became more substantial. We can count 23 different families who lived here.

Former residents include: Mrs. Audrey Hartman - Stanley & Joan Taylor - Mike &

Paula Duffy - John & Pamela Everets - Lane & H. P. Baldwin Terry, Jr. - Barry & Jane Coburn - Mrs. Butler P. (Francelia) Crittenden - Carl Fransson - Gordon Hunt - Mrs. Jessie James - Mrs. Rupert Edgett - Winthrop Dunbar - Harold Humphrey, Jr. - Russell Richardson - Arleigh Richardson - Shirley Allen - Harold Humphrey, Sr. - Grace Cole - Harvey Seger - Henry P. Lane - Dwight Case - E. Spring.

15 East Mountain Road LAMB (Peter & Hilda)

The home of Peter and Hilda Lamb was built in 1933 by Lloyd and Rena Sturgeon with lumber obtained from an old tobacco barn formerly standing on what is now property of Hector Prud'homme (#7 West Mountain Road); those tobacco barn timbers were used to frame the first section of the house. Dormer windows were added in 1941, and a kitchen, family room, and fireplace in 1958. A horsebarn, dog run, and woodshed stand to the south of the house. In 1982, Peter Lamb converted the woodshed into a maple sugar house.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon owned ponies for a number of years, using them for pony rides for children in a riding ring on Route 44 west of Cherry Brook.

Former Owners and/or residents include: Alan & Kathleen Toubman - Alan & Anne Duncan - Lloyd & Rena Sturgeon.

16 East Mountain Road EINSTEIN (George)

The George Einstein house, purchased in 1974 from William Baer, stands on the north side of East Mountain Road. Built in rocky surroundings, it includes 5.39 acres of mostly steep hillside land, with a fine laurel growth on the eastern side.

The house, a compact two-bedroom Cape Cod type with a fireplace on the north side, was built in 1939 by Winthrop Dunbar. This property also has a small horsebarn built for a pony belonging to Mr. Dunbar's grandson.

The Elliot family purchased the house in 1958, and after Mr. Elliott's death in 1959 his

widow, Frances, lived there until her death in 1973.

Owners and/or residents include: John & Maureen Snyder - George Einstein - William Baer - William & Francis Elliott - Winthrop Dunbar.

24 East Mountain Road JAINCHILL (Bruce & Marie)

Katherine A. Pearson built this contemporary American house in 1970. It is located as the sixth house on East Mountain Road going east. There are 1.6 acres of hilly forest land surrounding it, with a fine stand of laurel.

Owners and/or residents include: Bruce & Marie Jainchill - Jean Linnon - Katherine A. Pearson.

69 East Mountain Road WRIGHT (Robinson & Nancy)

The Robinson D. Wright home is an ANNEX to the Canton Center Historic District, located at the top of East Mountain Road on the south side across Creamery Brook. It stands in a pasture surrounded by woodland including some 17 acres.

This house is included in the District due to its complete authenticity as a true Colonial, built in 1772. Mr. and Mrs. Wright found this house in Hamden, Connecticut, and moved it with numbered boards and rebuilt it exactly to the model, in its new location, in 1972.

The house completed in 1772 by the Reverend Nathaniel Sherman (brother of Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence), is an historical showpiece. Fireplaces stand in the parlor, dining room, kitchen, and three upstairs bedrooms. There are 23 windows with 12 over 12 panes of blown glass, mostly all original. Circa 1700 brass candle fixtures hang in the dining room, and the overall atmosphere and details must be much as they were at the time of the Revolutionary War.

Aside from noting his illustrious brother, Reverend Sherman was the first minister of the Mt. Carmel Congregational Church.

6 Humphrey Road **SWEETON (Eunice & Arthur III)**



Arthur W. Sweeton III's house is the first one at 6 Humphrey Road, on the bend by Cherry Brook. It was built by Edwin Pierce, probably in 1863, on a lot purchased from Norman Case. Arthur's mother, Helen Humphrey Sweeton, his grandfather, Frederick G. Humphrey, and great-grandfather, Alfred Humphrey, also owned it. The house is carpenter gothic in style as it has dormer windows, scalloped trim around the gables, and a bay window extending up two stories. There are no fireplaces, but there are stove pipe holes in almost every room. The grounds were originally planted with ornamental trees of which lilacs, a fringe bush, and a large tulip tree still remain. A row of mountain ash and a wooden fence along the road are gone. From old letters, we find this place was once called Seven Oaks, and also, Rock Oaks. There is a fairly large horse and carriage barn.

Owners and/or residents have been: Arthur & Helen Humphrey Sweeton Jr. - Mrs. Frederick G. (Emma) Humphrey - Francis H. Tingley - Russell Richardson - Albert Bidwell - Herbert Sturgeon - Albert Seger - Homer de Lavanway - George W. Lamphier, Sr. - Alfred F. Humphrey - Sherman Brown - Mrs. Selden White - Rev. Charles N. Lyman - Edwin & Martha White Pierce.

9 Humphrey Road #2 **CASE (Lewis R. & Barbara) owner.** **CASE (Richard L. & Bonnie) residents**

This ranch style house was built in 1984 on land of Lewis R. & Barbara Case by their son

Richard and his wife, Bonnie. It is on a large lot on the west side of Cherry Brook on the northerly part of the farm of Frederick G. Humphrey, their ancestor, on Humphrey Road #2 (the west branch).

It is interesting to note that members of all the families living on Humphrey Road #1 & #2 in 1985 are descendants of Frederick Griswold Humphrey.

10 Humphrey Road #1 **BRISTOL (Steven & Karen)**

The house is a wooden frame Colonial built around 1803. Orange Case, the builder and original owner, was killed in 1814 by a falling tree, the first tree cut for the present Congregational Church in Canton Center. Steven Bristol has completely restored the outside of this old home; inside, the kitchen and dining room have been combined, with a cathedral ceiling in the kitchen.

Former owners and/or residents include: Stella Seger - Henry & Louise Seger - Martin Seger - Mrs. Jane Rood - Frederick G. Humphrey - Maria Strickland - Maria M. Case - Orange Case.

11 Humphrey Road #2 **CASE (Mrs. Lewis "Jane")**

The present house was built by Frederick G. Humphrey in 1893. It replaced one built by Captain Zacheus Case in 1747 and, therefore, is one of the oldest homesites in town. This house has the unusual feature of having the town road come almost to the door. An early resident had the foresight to have the road accepted as a town road. Prominent among the early residents was Ephraim Mills Jr., an active member of the community. He married Sarah Jones, the widow of Orange Case.

Ephraim Mills Jr. helped Abiel Brown in collecting facts for his "Genealogical Sketches of West Simsbury, now Canton, Conn." His daughter, Caroline (Mrs. Rollin Humphrey), began her education by walking when four years old to the school then located on the hill where Eunice Bouchard resides (54 Barbourtown Road). When she was a child, Sunday began at sundown Saturday, and she could

not begin to read a book on Sunday night until she could count ten stars.

The present house is typical Victorian. When it was completed, so successful a housewarming was held that the floor's new finish was ruined from the dancing. The farm was a very busy place during Mr. Humphrey's life. He used the pond on Cherry Brook to run a water powered sawmill, and also to harvest ice. A large ice house stood beside the pond northwest of the bridge; its foundation stones and posts are still there. Half way up the hill to the house stands a storage barn. This barn had a room for tobacco stripping. After the leaves were stripped and bundled they were stored downstairs where it was damp enough for them. A cellar dug into the bank served as a natural storage for apples from the large orchard up the hill to the west. The tobacco barn, where the crop was dried, stands today south of the house. North of the house stood the very large dairy barn and cider press.

Mrs. Case has kept the meadows mowed and cleared and maintains a trout pond behind the house.

Former owners and/or residents at this site included: Lewis Case, Jr. - Frederick Griswold Humphrey - Wilbur White - Selden White - Ephraim Mills, Jr. - Jacob and Joseph Foote - Stephen Harris - Zacheus Case.

15 Humphrey Road #1 DUBAY (Virginia & Gilman)

The Dubay house, adjacent to Cherry Brook,

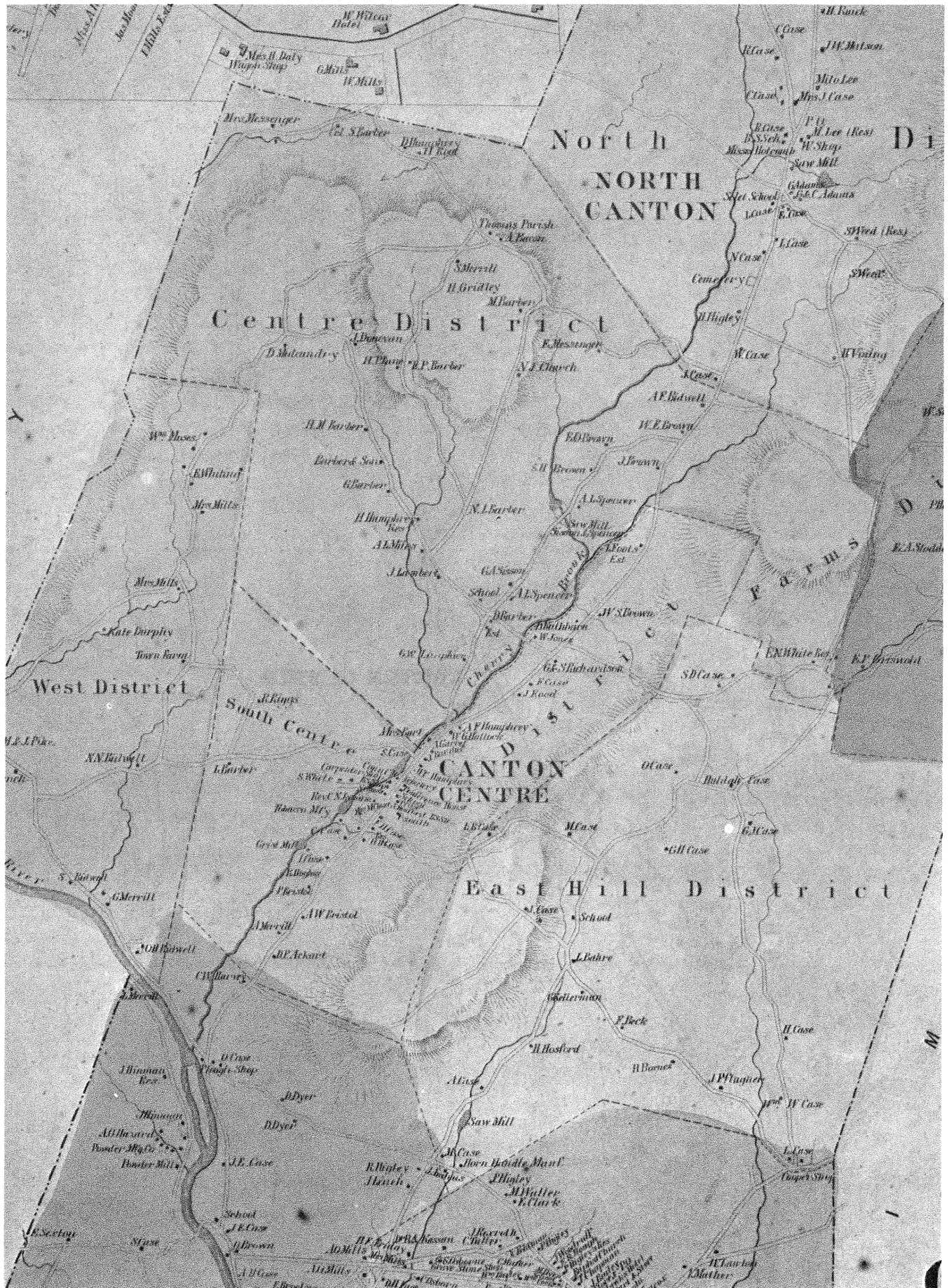
was originally smaller, a story and a half. It was the home of Calvin Case Jr., probably built in the 1870s, to be near the first gristmill in Canton Center. The house has had many changes, having been raised to two stories by Mr. Roscoe Bristol, and it has now been arranged for two families. When Lewis Cowles bought the place, he built a carriage shop over the gristmill, with a large ramp in front. Here he repaired, built, and painted wagons and carriages. Tires were reset in the blacksmith shop south of the mill. Mr. Cowles often presented Canton Center girls with a rolling pin and potato masher when they got married. After Mr. Humphrey bought the place, he tore down the mill building, and put in a sawmill which he operated for several years. He also rebuilt the log dam, using a reinforced concrete cap. The east end of this dam was washed away during the 1955 flood.

A sign at the driveway erected by The Canton Historical Society in 1976 reads: "Earliest Mill. A gristmill was built on Cherry's Brook by Sgt. Daniel Case between 1740 and 1750. The site, used industrially for almost two centuries, has been the home of a sawmill, woodworking shop, and a wagon repair shop. A sawmill operated here as late as 1933, while an ice-cutting business existed until 1938."

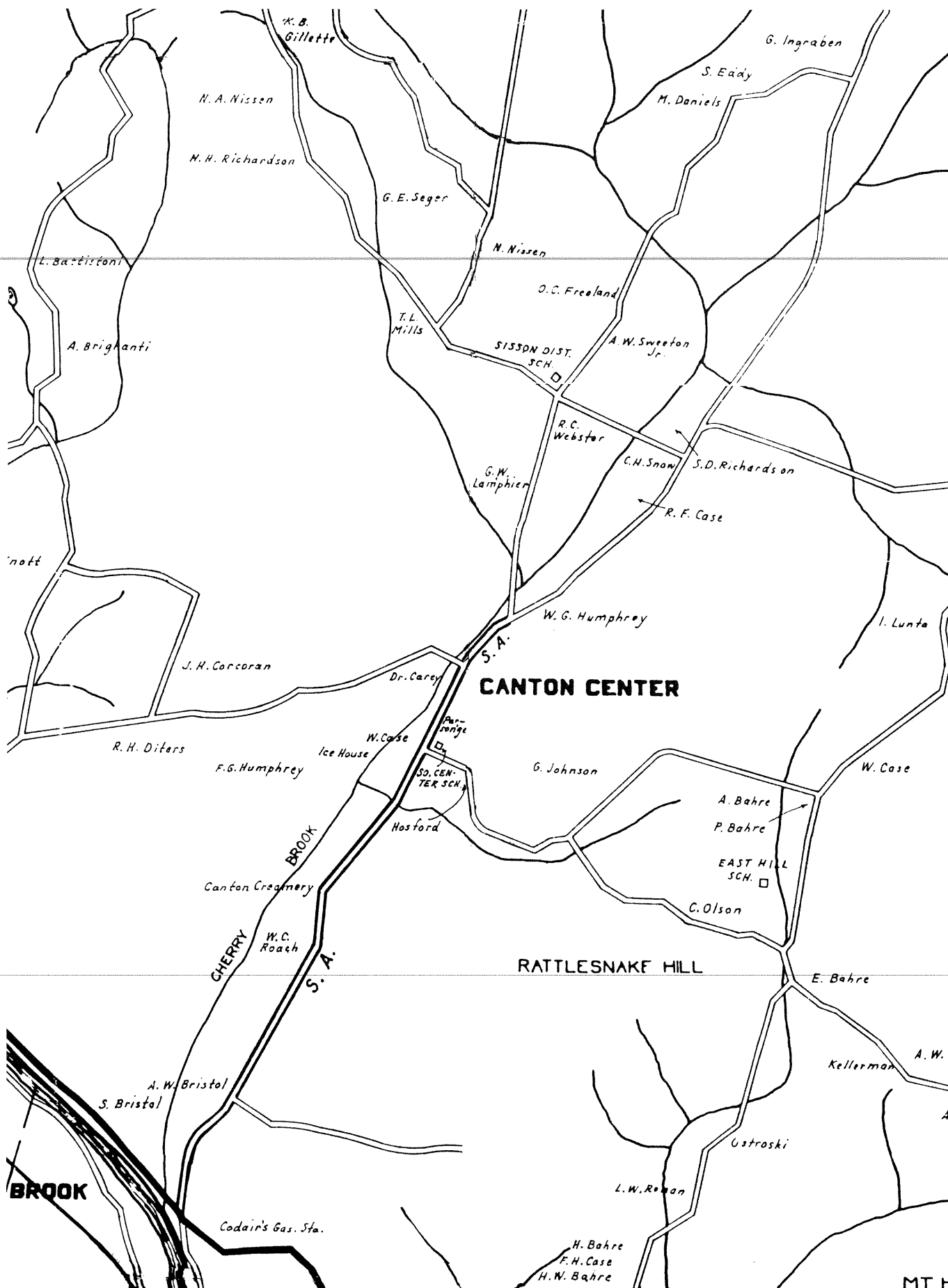
Former owners and/or residents of this house included: Louise Humphrey Bristol and Roscoe C. Bristol - Hayden Buttles - Lewis & Bessie Humphrey Case - Frederick G. Humphrey - Lewis Cowles - Calvin Case Jr.



"Mill Buildings, Humphrey Road No. 1"



From Atlas of Hartford City & County, Baker & Tilden, 1869.



From Atlas of Hartford County, CT, Dolph & Stewart, 1931.

CANTON HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCE

(copied from Town Clerk's records)

RETURN OF NOTICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on May 12, 1975 I left a duplicate of the foregoing warning and notice of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton with Barbara Barlow, Town Clerk.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I caused a copy of said warning and notice to be published in the Farmington Valley Herald, a newspaper having a circulation in said Town, on May 8, 1975.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that on May 9, 1975 I set upon all of the sign-posts within the limits of said Town, and at all other places designated by the Town, a written copy of said warning and notice signed by the Selectmen.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that all of the above acts were done by me at least five days before the holding of said meeting on May 19, 1975.

Raynald E. Bergeron
First Selectman
Received May 13, 1975
Barbara Barlow
Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 19, 1975

A special town meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote in the Town of Canton, Connecticut was held at the Town Hall on May 19, 1975 at eight o'clock.

Mr. Arthur E. Fournier, Jr. acted as Moderator and Colette Johnson as clerk.

The clerk read the call of the meeting and the return of notice which is recorded immediately preceding these minutes.

Item #1 on the call of the meeting, regarding the joining of a Health District, was withdrawn without discussion.

Mr. Samuel Humphrey presented the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Whereas the Town of Canton desires to preserve and protect historic values, and Whereas the community of Canton Center is associated with the earliest settlement in the Town and retains buildings and places of historic character conforming with standards of the Connecticut Historical Commission and the laws of the

State of Connecticut for the establishment of a historic district, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1 This ordinance is enacted pursuant to Sections 7-147(a) to 7-147(1) inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, herein sometimes referred to as the Act.

Sec. 2 The purpose of this ordinance is to preserve and protect buildings and places of historic interest, their architecture and settings in Canton Center, recognizing them as landmarks in the history of the Town.

Sec. 3 For this purpose there is hereby established the Canton Center Historic District, whose boundaries are fixed and defined as follows: The southern boundary of the District on the westerly side of Route 179 is defined by the southerly boundary of the Lyle Crowley property, and, on the east side of Route 179 by a linear extension of that line. The District extends northerly from this boundary along both sides of Route 179 to Meadow Road, then westerly along both sides of West Road and Barbourtown Road to Route 179. The northern boundary of the District on the east side of Route 179 is a line extending perpendicular to Route 179 on the north side of the Samuel Richardson house. On the west side of West Road the northerly boundary is defined by the northerly boundary of the Rodney Pratt property. The District includes all property within 1000 feet of the centerline of the specified sections of the above roads, except as noted below. Annex #1 to the Canton Center Historic District is the Captain John Brown house and grounds now owned by Faith Lindsay on West Road. Annex #2 is the Nathaniel Sherman house and property now owned by Robinson Wright on East Mountain Road. The following properties which otherwise protrude into the district from rear boundary lines are excluded:

Mildred B. Richardson; Merle and Lawton Miner; Donald and Alta Prentice; Ralph and Carolyn Mattson; Laurette Soucy; Darl and Hilda Hood.

Sec. 4 An Historic District Commission is hereby established which shall have such powers and limitations and perform such

functions as shall be prescribed under the General Statutes of Connecticut and as provided in this Ordinance. Said Commission shall consist of five (5) regular members and at least three (3) alternate members, all of whom shall be electors of the Town holding no salaried Town office and all shall serve without compensation. The members shall be appointed within 90 days of this date, by the Board of Selectmen. At least two (2) regular members and one alternate member shall be residents within the Canton Center Historic District.

Sec. 5 The terms of the original members of the Commission shall be such that the term of at least one regular member and one alternate member shall expire each year. Their successors shall be appointed for terms respectively of five years for regular members and three years for alternate members, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the duration of the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of any member's appointed term, he or she may not be reappointed until one year after said expiration. This reappointment restriction applies only to full five year terms of regular members.

Sec. 6 Within thirty (30) days after appointment of the original members of the Commission, and annually thereafter, the regular members shall meet and elect officers as specified in the Act. Alternate members shall not participate in the vote for election of officers of the Commission.

Sec. 7 Said Commission and other Town Commissions and offices whose areas of concern may overlap or affect each other shall maintain liaison for information and coordination in matters with which the Commission

may be dealing. The Commission shall make reports at least annually.

Sec. 8 The Commission shall make known the guidelines which it proposes to follow in passing upon appropriateness. Such guidelines shall not be such as to bind the Historic District to any uniform or necessarily traditional style throughout the District, but shall look both to the protection of the old and to the interest and distinctiveness of this community.

Sec. 9 For the purpose of encouraging the interest and drawing on the knowledge of residents of the Historic District and apart from the provision in the Act for formal appeals and required public hearings, the Commission shall call meetings with residents of the District when any substantial proportion of the property owners in the District desires such meeting to discuss matters of policy.

Sec. 10 This Ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 1975. A motion was made by Ernest A. Inglis, Jr. that the following amendment be made:

Sec. 5—Add "There shall be interim appointments to run from appointment by the Board of Selectmen until January 1, 1976. The members so appointed shall be eligible to serve on a regular appointment immediately upon termination of the interim appointment."

Sec. 6—Correct "and annually thereafter" to read "and annually commencing January 1, 1976," The above amendment was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.


The Ordinance was then seconded and passed, as amended, unanimously by voice vote.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

When a person owning property in the Canton Center Historic District desires to alter an aspect of the exterior architectural features of a structure on that property, he/she can obtain an application form for a certificate of appropriateness through the Commission chairman. When the application is filled out and returned to the Commission, a legal notice will be published twice in a local paper describing when and where a public hearing will be held to receive the application and allow for public inquiry and comment. Plans, elevations, draw-

ings and other methods of describing the proposed alterations can be displayed at the public hearing.

Following the public hearing, the Commission will consider the application and make a determination as to the appropriateness of the proposed alterations. The applicant will then be notified by mail of the decision. If the application is approved, a Certificate of Appropriateness for the approved alterations will be issued with a copy of the approved application.



Town of Canton
Canton Center Historic District Commission
Application for A Certificate of Appropriateness

Applicant's Name _____
 Address _____
 Property Owners Name _____
 Address _____
 Location of Property _____

Application no. _____
Dates
 a.) application rec'd _____
 b.) public hearing _____
 c.) certificate _____
 granted _____
 denied _____

Description of Proposed Work

I. Check appropriate boxes (perhaps more than one)

<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair <input type="checkbox"/> Dwelling <input type="checkbox"/> Accessory Bldg. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Bldg.
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II. Written description of proposed work and/or how the exterior architectural features will be changed.

III. List of exhibits included (photographs, drawings, site plan, elevations, sketches of style of material, etc.)

Date _____

Signature of Applicant _____


Commission Action

☐ Application approved as submitted
☐ Application tabled - date _____
☐ Application approved with stipulations: _____

_____ Application denied

Date _____

Signature _____



Town of Canton
Canton Center Historic District Commission
Certificate of Appropriateness

This Certificate of Appropriateness is hereby issued for work described in the Application for A Certificate of Appropriateness, No. _____, dated _____ (a copy of which is attached) involving property owned by _____ and located at _____.

This approved Certificate is now in force, and governs only the specified changes, as applied for and as approved. This Certificate will remain in force until the ownership of the property referred to changes. At that time, if the specified changes have not been completed, this Certificate will become void.

Application submitted at public hearing _____ date _____

Application approved as follows: _____ date _____

Certificate issued _____ date _____

Signature _____

HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

PART I

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Sec. 7-147a. Historic districts authorized. Definitions. (a) As used in this part: "Altered" means changed, modified, rebuilt, removed, demolished, restored, razed, moved or reconstructed; "erected" means constructed, built, installed or enlarged; "exterior architectural features" means such portion of the exterior of a structure or building as is open to view from a public street, way or place; "building" means a combination of materials forming a shelter for persons, animals or property; "structure" means any combination of materials, other than a building, which is affixed to the land, and shall include, but not be limited to, signs, fences and walls; "municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough.

(b) Any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body and in conformance with the standards and criteria formulated by the Connecticut historical commission, establish within its confines an historic district or districts to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places associated with the history or indicative of a period or style of architecture of the municipality, of the state or of the nation.

(c) The legislative body of any municipality may make appropriations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 1; February, 1965, P.A. 221, S. 2; P.A. 80-314, S. 1.)

History: 1965 act added provision requiring district to conform to standards and criteria of historical commission; P.A. 80-314 added Subsec. (a) containing definitions and divided earlier provisions into Subsecs. (b) and (c). Cited. 133 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147b. Procedure for establishment of historic district. Prior to the establishment of an historic district or districts, the following steps shall be taken:

(a) The legislative body shall appoint or authorize the chief elected official of the municipality to appoint an historic district study committee for the purpose of making an investigation of a proposed historic district or districts. The legislative body of a municipality which proposes to establish more than one district may establish more than one committee if the proposed districts are not contiguous to each other nor to any existing historic district. Each committee established under the provisions of this section shall consist of five regular and three alternate members who shall be electors of the municipality holding no salaried municipal office. Such alternate members shall, when seated as provided in this section, have all powers and duties of a member of the committee. If a regular member of such committee is absent or has a conflict of interest, the chairman of the committee shall designate an alternate to so act, choosing alternates in rotation so that they shall act as nearly equal a number of times as possible. If any alternate is not available in accordance with such rotation, such fact shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

(b) The historic district study committee shall investigate and submit a report which shall include the following: (1) An analysis of the historic significance and architectural merit of the buildings, structures, places or surroundings to be included in the proposed historic district or districts and the significance of the district as a whole; (2) a general description of the area to be included within the district or districts, including the total number of buildings in each such district or districts listed according to their known or estimated ages; (3) a map showing the exact boundaries of the area to be included within the district or districts; (4) a proposed ordinance or proposed ordinances designed to create and provide for the operation of an historic district or districts in accordance with the provisions of this part; (5) such other matters as the committee may deem necessary or advisable.

(c) The historic district study committee shall transmit copies of its report to the Connecticut historical commission, the planning commission and zoning commission, or the combined planning and zoning commission, of the municipality, if any, and, in the absence of such a planning commission, zoning commission or combined planning and zoning commission, to the chief elected official of the municipality for their comments and recommendations. In addition to such other comments and recommendations as it may make, the Connecticut historical commission may recommend either approval, disapproval, modification, alteration or rejection of the proposed ordinance or ordinances and of the boundaries of each proposed district. Each such commission, board or individual shall deliver such comments and recommendations to the committee within sixty-five days of the date of transmission of such report. Failure to deliver such comments and recommendations shall be taken as approval of the report of the committee.

(d) The historic district study committee shall hold a public hearing on the establishment of a proposed historic district or districts not less than sixty-five nor more than one hundred thirty days after the transmission of the report to each party as provided in subsection (c) of this section, except that, if all such parties have delivered their comments and recommendations to the committee, such hearing may be held less than sixty-five days after the transmittal of the report. The comments and recommendations received pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be read in full at the public hearing.

(e) Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given as follows: (1) Written notice of the time, place and purpose of such hearing, postage prepaid, shall be mailed to the owners of record of all real property to be included in the proposed historic district or districts, as they appear on the last-completed grand list, at the addresses shown thereon, at least fifteen days before the time set for such hearing, together with a copy of the report of the historic district study committee or a fair and accurate synopsis of such report. A complete copy of the report, a copy of all recommendations made under subsection (c) of this section, a map showing the boundaries of the area to be included in the proposed district and a copy of the proposed ordinance shall be available at no charge from the town clerk during business hours or shall be mailed, upon request, to any owner of record of real property in the proposed historic district or districts with the notice of the hearing; and (2) by publication of such notice in the form of a legal advertisement appearing in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days nor less than ten days and the last not less than two days before such hearing.

(f) The historic district study committee shall submit its report with any changes made following the public hearing, along with any comments or recommendations received pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and such other materials as the committee may deem necessary or advisable to the legislative body of the municipality within sixty-five days after the public hearing.

(g) The legislative body shall, not later than sixty-five days from receipt of such report, authorize the clerk of the municipality, or his designee, to mail ballots to each owner of record of real property to be included in the proposed district or districts on the question of creation of an historic district or districts, as provided for in sections 7-147a to 7-147k, inclusive. Only an owner who is eighteen years of age or older and who is liable, or whose predecessors in title were liable, to the municipality for taxes on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list of the municipality on real property within the proposed district, or who would be or would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (7), (8), (10), (11), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (29) or (49) of section 12-81, may vote, provided such owner is the record owner of the property, thirty days before the ballots must be returned. Any tenant in common of any freehold interest in any land shall have a vote equal to the fraction of his ownership in said interest. Joint tenants of any freehold interest in any land shall vote as if each joint tenant owned an equal, fractional share of such land. A corporation shall have its vote cast by the chief executive officer of such corporation or his designee. No owner shall have more than one vote.

(h) The legislative body shall provide for the form of the ballot to be mailed to each owner, which shall be a secret ballot and shall set the date by which such ballots shall be received by the clerk of the municipality. The legislative body shall authorize such ballots to be mailed by first class mail to each owner eligible to vote in such balloting at least fifteen days in advance of the day on which ballots must be returned. Notice of balloting shall be published in the form of a legal advertisement appearing in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days nor less than ten days and the last not less than two days before the day on which the ballots must be returned. Such ballot shall be returned to the municipal clerk, inserted in an inner envelope which shall have endorsed on the face thereof a form containing a statement as follows: "I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false statement that I am an owner of record of real property to be included in the proposed historic district and that I am, or my predecessors in title were, liable to the municipality for taxes on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last grand list of the municipality of real property within the district, or who would be or would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (7), (8), (10), (11), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (29), or (49) of section 12-81." Such statement shall be signed and dated. Any person who intentionally falsely signs such ballot shall be guilty of false statement as defined in section 53a-157. The inner envelope, in which the ballot has been inserted by the owner, shall be returned to the municipal clerk in an outer envelope endorsed on the outside with the words: "Official ballot." Such outer envelope shall also contain, in the upper left corner of the face thereof, blank spaces for the name and return address of the sender. In the lower left corner of such outer envelope, enclosed in a printed box, there shall be spaces upon which the municipal clerk, before issuance of a ballot and envelopes, shall inscribe the name, street and number of the elector's voting residence and the date by which the ballot must be returned, and before issuance the

municipal clerk shall similarly inscribe such envelope with his name and address for the return thereof. All outer envelopes shall be serially numbered. The ballots shall be returned to the municipal clerk by the close of business on the day specified, and such clerk shall compare each ballot to the list of property owners to whom such ballots were mailed to insure that each such ballot has been properly signed and returned.

(i) If seventy-five per cent of all property owners voting cast votes in the affirmative, the legislative body of the municipality shall by majority vote take one of the following steps: (1) Accept the report of the committee and enact an ordinance or ordinance to create and provide for the operation of an historic district or districts in accordance with the provisions of this part; (2) reject the report of the committee, stating its reasons for such rejection; (3) return the report to the historic district study committee with such amendments and revisions thereto as it may deem advisable, for consideration by the committee. The committee shall submit an amended report to the legislative body within sixty-five days of such return. The committee need not hold a public hearing other than the one provided for in subsection (d) of this section, notwithstanding any changes in its report following such hearing, unless the legislative body has recommended a change in the boundaries of the proposed district or districts. The legislative body of the municipality need not authorize ballots of the owners within a proposed district or districts to be cast, other than the balloting provided for in subsection (g) of this section, notwithstanding any changes in the proposed ordinance following such balloting, unless the boundaries of the proposed district in which the owners' property is situated are changed.

(j) Any ordinance, or amendment thereof, enacted pursuant to this part, which creates or alters district boundaries, shall contain a legal description of the area to be included within the historic district. The legislative body, when it passes such an ordinance, or amendment thereof, shall transmit to the municipal clerk a copy of the ordinance or amendment thereof. Such ordinance, or amendment thereof, shall be recorded in the land records of the municipality in which such real property is located and indexed by the municipal clerk in the grantor index under the names of the owners of record of such property.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 2; 1963, P.A. 600, S. 1; P.A. 75-52; P.A. 77-338, S. 1; P.A. 80-314, S. 2.)

History: 1963 act amended Subsec. (c) to extend time for recommendations after receipt of report from sixty to ninety days and to authorize Connecticut historical commission to recommend re boundaries of proposed districts, amended Subsec. (d) to extend time within which hearing is to be held, amended Subsec. (e) to provide for sending a copy or synopsis of the study committee's report, together with a copy of the recommendations under Subsec. (c), a map and a copy of the proposed ordinance to property owners, amended Subsec. (f) to provide for inclusion of list of all buildings in report of committee and amended Subsec. (g) to provide for balloting by property owners; P.A. 75-52 added Subsec. (i) re ordinance contents; P.A. 77-338 deleted requirement in Subsec. (d) that hearing be held not less than one hundred twenty days after report; P.A. 80-314 amended Subsec. (a) to allow more than one committee and to include provisions for alternate members, amended Subsec. (b) to include in requirements for report consideration of architectural merit, description of area to be included, map of exact boundaries, proposed ordinance etc., amended Subsec. (c) to include combined planning and zoning commissions and to replace previous provision requiring that recommendations be read at hearing with provision for turning over recommendations to committee, amended Subsec. (d) to require that hearing be held not less than sixty-five days after report sent to commissions unless conditions specified in exception are met, amended Subsec. (e) to require fifteen rather than twenty days notice and to allow towns to have available on request rather than to automatically send out complete report and other data, amended Subsec. (f) to change deadline from sixty to sixty-five days and deleted specific accounting of report contents, amended Subsec. (g) to set deadline for mailing ballots and to replace general provisions for voting and action on result with detailed provisions for voting, deleted former Subsec. (h) re proposed amendments to ordinance replacing it with further voting detail, added Subsec. (i) re actions taken following vote and relettered former Subsec. (i) as Subsec. (j) and added requirement that copy of ordinance be sent to municipal clerk.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.
Subsec. (b):

Cited. 189 C. 727, 730.

Subsec. (c):

Cited. 189 C. 727, 730.

Subsec. (d):

Cited. 189 C. 727, 731, 734, 735.

Subsec. (e):

Cited. 189 C. 727, 731.

Subsec. (g):

Cited. 189 C. 727, 731, 732.

Sec. 7-147c. Historic district commission. (a) Once an historic district has been established, the historic district study committee shall cease to exist and thereafter an historic district commission shall perform all the functions of the committee relative to the new district and to administering the provisions of this part.

(b) The historic district commission may from time to time, by following the procedure for creation of an historic district provided for in section 7-147b, suggest that an historic district be enlarged or that additional districts be created. Where additional property is to be included within an existing district, the owners of such additional property shall vote pursuant to subsection (g) of section 7-147b.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-147b, the legislative body of the municipality may enact amendments to the ordinance or ordinances of an historic district established pursuant to this part if such amendments do not involve changing district boundaries or the creation of new districts. No amendment shall be enacted until the substance of such amendment has first been submitted to the historic district commission having jurisdiction over the district affected for its comments and recommendations and either its comments and recommendations have been received or sixty-five days have elapsed without receipt of such comments and recommendations. The historic district commission may suggest amendments to the legislative body.

(d) The historic district commission established under the provisions of this part shall consist of five regular and three alternate members, who shall be electors of the municipality in which the district is situated holding no salaried municipal office. The ordinance may provide that one or more of the members or alternates of the historic district commission shall reside in an historic district. Such alternate members shall, when seated as provided in this section, have all powers and duties of a member of the commission. If a regular member of said commission is absent or has a conflict of interest, the chairman of the commission shall designate an alternate to so act, choosing alternates in rotation so that they shall act as nearly equal a number of times as possible. If any alternate is not available in accordance with such rotation, such fact shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The method of appointment shall be fixed by ordinance. The appointments to membership in the commission shall be so arranged that the term of at least one member shall expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed in like manner for terms of five years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term and in the same manner as the original appointment. The commission shall elect annually a chairman, a vice-chairman and a clerk from its own number. Each member and alternate shall continue in office until his successor is duly appointed. All members and alternates shall serve without compensation. Any member or alternate may be appointed for another term or terms.

(e) The historic district commission shall adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this part. The commission may adopt regulations not inconsistent

with the provisions of this part to provide guidance to property owners as to factors to be considered in preparing an application for a certificate of appropriateness.

(f) The historic district commission shall keep a permanent record of its resolutions, transactions and determinations and of the vote of each member participating therein.

(g) A copy of any ordinance creating an historic district adopted under authority of this part, amendments to any such ordinance, maps of any districts created under this part, annual reports and other publications of the historic district commission and the roster of membership of such commission shall be transmitted to the Connecticut historical commission. The historic district commission shall also file with the Connecticut historical commission at least once every year a brief summary of its actions during that year, including a statement of the number and nature of certificates of appropriateness issued, any changes in the membership of the commission and any other information deemed appropriate by the historic district commission.

(h) The historic district commission may accept grants and gifts, employ clerical and technical assistance or consultants and incur other expenses appropriate to the carrying on of its work, subject to appropriation by the municipality or receipt of such grants or gifts and may expend the same for such purposes.

(i) A municipality which has more than one historic district may establish more than one historic district commission if the districts are not contiguous.

(j) Any historic district commission established under this section may, unless prohibited by charter, ordinance or special act: (1) Make periodic reports to the legislative body; (2) provide information to property owners and others involving the preservation of the district; (3) suggest pertinent legislation; (4) initiate planning and zoning proposals; (5) cooperate with other regulatory agencies and civic organizations and groups interested in historic preservation; (6) comment on all applications for zoning variances and special exceptions where they affect historic districts; (7) render advice on sidewalk construction and repair, tree planting, street improvements and the erection or alteration of public buildings not otherwise under its control where they affect historic districts; (8) furnish information and assistance in connection with any capital improvement program involving historic districts; (9) consult with groups of experts.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 3; P.A. 77-338, S. 2; P.A. 80-314, S. 3.)

History: P.A. 77-338 added Subsec. (b) re procedure for inclusion of individual's property in district after its establishment; P.A. 80-314 deleted previous Subsec. (b), inserted new material concerning enlarging districts or creating new ones and ordinance amendments as Subsecs. (b) and (c), placed provisions for commission membership, appointments, etc. in Subsec. (d) rather than Subsec. (a) as previously, amending provisions for alternate members and adding provision concerning vacancies and reappointments, placed provision for adopting rules in Subsec. (e) rather than Subsec. (a) and added provision concerning regulations providing guidance for property owners in preparing applications, added Subsecs. (f) and (g) re permanent records and information required to be sent to the state historical commission, amended provision re acceptance of grants and gifts and employment of personnel, formerly in Subsec. (a), and designated it as Subsec. (h) and added Subsecs. (i) and (j) re multiple commissions and further powers.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147d. Certificate of appropriateness: Parking areas. (a) No building or structure shall be erected or altered within an historic district until after an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to exterior architectural features has been submitted to the historic district commission and approved by said commission.

(b) No building permit for erection of a building or structure or for alteration of an exterior architectural feature within an historic district and no demolition permit for demolition or removal of a building or structure within an historic district shall be issued by a municipality or any department, agency or official thereof until a certificate of appropriateness has been issued. A certificate of appropriateness shall be required whether or not a building permit is required.

(c) The historic district commission may request such plans, elevations, specifications, material and other information, including in the case of demolition or removal, a statement of the proposed condition and appearance of property after such demolition or removal, as may be reasonably deemed necessary by the commission to enable it to make a determination on the application. The style, material, size and location of outdoor advertising signs and bill posters within an historic district shall also be under the control of such commission. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to extend to the color of paint used on the exterior of any building or structure.

(d) No area within an historic district shall be used for industrial, commercial, business, home industry or occupational parking, whether or not such area is zoned for such use, until after an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to parking has been submitted to the commission and approved by said commission. The provisions of this section shall apply to the enlargement or alteration of any such parking area in existence on October 1, 1973.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 4; 1963, P.A. 600, S. 2; P.A. 73-473, S. 1; P.A. 80-314, S. 4.)

History: 1963 act redefined "exterior architectural features," deleted stone walls, fences, signs, light fixtures, steps and paving from purview of certificate and excluded exterior paint color from provisions of section; P.A. 73-473 added Subsec. (b) re parking areas; P.A. 80-314 deleted "restored, moved or demolished" and removed definition of "exterior architectural features" from Subsec. (a), added Subsec. (b) re certificates of appropriateness, added Subsec. (c) including provisions re signs and exterior paint color, previously in Subsec. (a), and stating what information is necessary for commission's decision on application and relettered former Subsec. (b) as Subsec. (d).

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 733, 738.

Sec. 7-147e. Application for certificate. Hearing. Approval. (a) The historic district commission shall hold a public hearing upon each application for a certificate of appropriateness unless the commission determines that such application involves items not subject to approval by the commission. The commission shall fix a reasonable time and place for such hearing. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given by publication in the form of a legal advertisement appearing in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the municipality at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days nor less than ten days and the last not less than two days before such hearing.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, a majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the concurring vote of a majority of the members of the commission shall be necessary to issue a certificate of appropriateness. Within not more than sixty-five days after the filing of an application as required by section 7-147d, the commission shall pass upon such application and shall give written notice of its decision to the applicant. When a certificate of appropriateness is denied, the commission shall place upon its records and in the notice to the applicant the reasons for its determination. In the notice to the applicant the commission may make recommendations relative to design, arrangement, texture, material and similar features. The commission may issue a certificate of appropriateness with stipulations. Evidence of approval, as referred to in section 7-147d, shall be by certificate of appropriateness

issued by the commission. Failure of the commission to act within said sixty-five days shall constitute approval and no other evidence of approval shall be needed.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 5; 7; 1969, P.A. 37; P.A. 73-473, S. 2; P.A. 80-314, S. 5.)

History: 1969 act changed deadline for commission action in Subsec. (a) from sixty to one hundred twenty days; P.A. 73-473 specified parking as well as exterior architectural features as concern of certificate of appropriateness; P.A. 80-314 deleted reference specifying parking or exterior architectural features, changed number of times notice to appear in newspaper from seven to two and add specific time requirements, deleted requirement that commission record applications and activities to sixty-five days, added and placed in new Subsec. (b) procedure for action on application, changing deadline for action to sixty-five days, adding provisions re quorum, voting and denial of application or issuance with stipulations.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147f. Considerations in determining appropriateness. Solar energy systems. (a) If the commission determines that the proposed erection, alteration or parking will be appropriate, it shall issue a certificate of appropriateness. In passing on appropriateness as to exterior architectural features, buildings or structures, the commission shall consider, in addition to other pertinent factors, the type and style of exterior windows, doors, light fixtures, signs, aboveground utility structures, mechanical appurtenances and the type and texture of building materials. In passing upon appropriateness as to exterior architectural features the commission shall also consider, in addition to any other pertinent factors, the historical and architectural value and significance, architectural style, scale, general design, arrangement, texture and material of the architectural features involved and the relationship thereof to the exterior architectural style and pertinent features of other buildings and structures in the immediate neighborhood. No application for a certificate of appropriateness for an exterior architectural feature, such as a solar energy system, designed for the utilization of renewable resources shall be denied unless the commission finds that the feature cannot be installed without substantially impairing the historic character and appearance of the district. A certificate of appropriateness for such a feature may include stipulations requiring design modifications and limitations on the location of the feature which do not significantly impair its effectiveness. In passing upon appropriateness as to parking, the commission shall take into consideration the size of such parking area, the visibility of cars parked therein, the closeness of such area to adjacent buildings and other similar factors.

(b) In its deliberations, the historic district commission shall act only for the purpose of controlling the erection or alteration of buildings, structures or parking which are incongruous with the historic or architectural aspects of the district. The commission shall not consider interior arrangement or use. However, the commission may recommend adaptive reuse of any buildings or structures within the district compatible with the historic architectural aspects of the district.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 8; P.A. 73-473, S. 3; P.A. 80-314, S. 6; P.A. 81-326.)

History: P.A. 73-473 added specific provisions concerning certificates of appropriateness for parking; P.A. 80-314 added Subsec. (b) re exclusion of consideration of interior space except to recommend adaptive reuse and expanded considerations for certificate concerning exterior features with specific references to doors, windows, signs, etc.; P.A. 81-326 added provisions concerning issuance of certificate of appropriateness for exterior architectural feature designed for utilization of renewable resources.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147g. Variations, permissible when. Where, by reason of topographical conditions, district borderline situations or because of other unusual circumstances solely with respect to a certain parcel of land and not affecting generally the district in which it

is situated, the strict application of any provision of this part would result in exceptional practical difficulty or undue hardship upon the owner of any specific property, the commission in passing upon applications shall have power to vary or modify strict adherence to said sections or to interpret the meaning of said sections so as to relieve such difficulty or hardship; provided such variance, modification or interpretation shall remain in harmony with the general purpose and intent of said sections so that the general character of the district shall be conserved and substantial justice done. In granting variations, the commission may impose such reasonable and additional stipulations and conditions as will, in its judgment, better fulfill the purposes of said sections. In addition to the filing required by subsection (b) of section 7-147e, the commission shall, for each variation granted, place upon its records and in the notice to the applicant the reasons for its determinations.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 9; P.A. 80-314, S. 7.)

History: P.A. 80-314 required that record of granted variance and commission's reasons for granting it be kept. Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147h. Action by commission to prevent illegal acts. (a) If any provision of this part or any action taken or ruling made by the historic district commission pursuant to the provisions of said sections or of any regulation or ordinance adopted under said sections has been violated, the commission may, in addition to other remedies, institute an action in the superior court for the judicial district wherein such violation exists, which court shall have jurisdiction to restrain such violation and to issue orders directing that the violation be corrected or removed. Such order may direct the removal of any building, structure or exterior architectural feature erected in violation of said sections or any bylaw or ordinance adopted under said sections or the substantial restoration of any building, structure, or exterior architectural feature altered or demolished in violation of said sections or any regulation or ordinance adopted under said sections. Regulations and orders of the commission issued pursuant to said sections, or to any regulation or ordinance adopted under said sections, shall be enforced by the zoning enforcement official or building inspector or by such other person as may be designated by ordinance, who may be authorized to inspect and examine any building, structure, place or premises and to require in writing the remedying of any condition found to exist therein or thereon in violation of any provision of the regulations or orders made under the authority of said sections or of any regulation or ordinance adopted under said sections.

(b) The owner or agent of any building, structure or place where a violation of any provision of this part or of any regulation or ordinance adopted under said sections has been committed or exists, or the lessee or tenant of an entire building, entire structure or place where such violation has been committed or exists, or the owner, agent, lessee or tenant of any part of the building, structure or place in which such violation has been committed or exists, or the agent, architect, builder, contractor, or any other person who commits, takes part or assists in any such violation or who maintains any building, structure or place in which any such violation exists, shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each day that such violation continues; but, if the offense is wilful, the person convicted thereof shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred fifty dollars for each day that such violation continues. The superior court for the judicial district wherein such violation continues or exists shall have jurisdiction of all such offenses, subject to appeal as in other cases. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. All costs, fees and expenses in connection with actions under this section may, in the discretion of the

court, be assessed as damages against the violator, which, together with reasonable attorney's fees, may be awarded to the historic district commission which brought such action. Any funds collected as fines pursuant to this section shall be used by the commission to restore the affected buildings, structures, or places to their condition prior to the violation wherever possible and any excess shall be paid to the municipality in which the district is situated.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 10; P.A. 73-473, S. 4; P.A. 74-183, S. 166, 291; P.A. 76-436, S. 145, 681; P.A. 78-280, S. 1, 127; P.A. 80-314, S. 8.)

History: P.A. 73-473 included reference to parking; P.A. 74-183 substituted court of common pleas for circuit court and included reference to "county or judicial district"; P.A. 76-436 substituted superior court for court of common pleas, effective July 1, 1978; P.A. 78-280 deleted reference to "county"; P.A. 80-314 divided section into Subsecs. (a) and (b), replaced former provisions for proceedings to prevent unlawful acts with provisions for proceedings in superior court and added provisions concerning court costs, attorneys' fees and fines.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147i. Appeals. Any person or persons severally or jointly aggrieved by any decision of the historic district commission or of any officer thereof may, within fifteen days from the date when such decision was rendered, take an appeal to the superior court for the judicial district in which such municipality is located, which appeal shall be made returnable to such court in the same manner as that prescribed for other civil actions brought to such court. Notice of such appeal shall be given by leaving a true and attested copy thereof in the hands of or at the usual place of abode of the chairman or clerk of the commission within twelve days before the return day to which such appeal has been taken. Procedure upon such appeal shall be the same as that defined in section 8-8.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 11; P.A. 76-436, S. 282, 681; P.A. 78-280, S. 1, 127; P.A. 80-314, S. 9.)

History: P.A. 76-436 substituted superior court for court of common pleas and added reference to judicial district, effective July 1, 1978; P.A. 78-280 deleted reference to county; P.A. 80-314 divided section into Subsecs., clarified procedure for obtaining remedy by specifying that commission may institute action in superior court and detailing types of orders court may make and added provisions re assessment of court costs, fees, etc. and re commission's use of fines.

See Sec. 51-197b.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147j. Exempted acts. Delay of demolition. (a) Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior architectural feature in the historic district which does not involve a change in the appearance or design thereof; nor to prevent the erection or alteration of any such feature which the building inspector or a similar agent certifies is required by the public safety because of a condition which is unsafe or dangerous due to deterioration; nor to prevent the erection or alteration of any such feature under a permit issued by a building inspector or similar agent prior to the effective date of establishment of such district.

(b) If a building in an historic district is to be demolished, no demolition shall occur for ninety days from issuance of a demolition permit if during such time the historic district commission or the Connecticut historical commission is attempting to find a purchaser who will retain or remove such building or who will present some other reasonable alternative to demolition. During such ninety-day period the municipality may abate all real property taxes. At the conclusion of such ninety-day period, the demolition permit shall become effective and the demolition may occur. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mandate that the owner of such property sell such property or building.

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 6; 1963, P.A. 600, S. 3; P.A. 80-314, S. 10.)

History: 1963 act deleted restriction on maintenance or repairs involving a change of material or outward appearance; P.A. 80-314 deleted references to construction, reconstruction and demolition and inserted references to "erection" and added Subsec. (b) re demolition procedure.

Cited. 153 C. 160. Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729.

Sec. 7-147k. Prior districts unaffected. Validation of prior creations and actions. Nonprofit institutions of higher education excluded. (a) The provisions of this part shall in no way impair the validity of any historic district previously established under any special act or the general statutes. Any and all historic districts created under the general statutes, prior to October 1, 1980, otherwise valid except that such districts, district study committees, municipalities or officers or employees thereof, failed to comply with the requirements of any general or special law, and any and all actions of such districts or historic district commission, are validated.

(b) **The provisions of this part shall not apply to any property owned by a nonprofit institution of higher education, for so long as a nonprofit institution of higher education owns such property.**

(1961, P.A. 430, S. 12; P.A. 80-314, S. 11.)

History: P.A. 80-314 expanded validation to cover districts created before October 1, 1980, and added Subsec. (b) excepting property of nonprofit higher education institutions from provisions of Secs. 7-147a to 7-147k.

Cited. 171 C. 199. Cited. 189 C. 727, 729, 734, 735.

Subsec. (b):

Validation of the Farmington Historic District by this statute rendered moot the basis for complaint. 189 C. 727, 738, 739.

Secs. 7-147l and 7-147m. Method of balloting; eligibility to vote; balloting on prior districts. Sections 7-147l and 7-147m are repealed.

(1963, P.A. 600, S. 4, 5; 1971, P.A. 333; 1972, P.A. 127, S. 8; P.A. 75-158; P.A. 78-285; P.A. 80-314, S. 12.)

Secs. 7-147n and 7-147o. Reserved for future use.

COMMISSION GUIDELINES

(CURRENTLY USED—1985—AS ADOPTED, FROM TIME TO TIME, UNDER SEC. 7-147C [E])

1. Four members will be a quorum to conduct commission business; in all cases three yes votes will be required to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (see minutes June 17, 1976).
2. New Construction:
 - A house or garage which is attached, or a barn roof, shall have a pitch of no less than eight inches to the foot.
 - Sheds, unattached garages and other buildings may have a pitch which is less than the house.
 - Siding which will be allowed:
 - Wood clapboards shall be five inches to the weather with six inches to the weather on shingles.
 - Siding of shingle, aluminum or vinyl which duplicates clapboards or shingles shall be the same to the weather. Brick or dressed stone will be allowed, but not shake shingles.
 - Aluminum storm windows and doors must be appropriate to the house.
 - No attached carports.
 - Roof shingles may be wood, slate, or asphalt.
 - Windows—There will be a restriction to the front of the house, facing the street; no sliding glass doors.
3. Commission has jurisdiction over all types of fencing except farm fencing.
4. Commission has jurisdiction over the location and surfacing of parking lots capable of holding more than five vehicles and all new driveways. Commission will not require an application for the paving of existing driveways.
5. Commission considers that trees, shrubs, etc., are not permanent screens to restrict a view of a property.
6. Any Certificate of Appropriateness (once approved) will remain effective until the property owners who applied for the permit cease to own the property.
7. Solar panels (see State Statutes, Sec. 7-147f revision of 1985).
8. Exempted Work: The Commission Chairman is authorized to approve historic district landowners and/or building inspector's requests for repairs identical to existing or original appearance without a Certificate of Appropriateness, providing the repairs conform with Commission guidelines. (See State Statutes Sec. 7-147j Revision 1985).

The Chairman is hereby required to make prompt notice of such approval to the building inspector, and to the Commission at the next meeting for the record in the Commission's minutes. Copies of all Commission's minutes shall be given to the building inspector.

Included in repairs are aluminum or vinyl clapboards provided the same exposure to the weather, same corner boards and same exterior trim is used as presently exists. Also considered repair is reshingling with wood or asphalt shingles, where the wood may be replaced by asphalt and vice versa. (See minutes July 15, 1976.)
9. Emergency Demolition. The Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman, upon inspection, can waive any requirements for Certificate of Appropriateness involving demolition where the structure has undergone irreparable deterioration and/or represents a safety hazard. They will then report to the building inspector and to the Commission. (As in 8—Exempted Work.)

