

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY FOR THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Project Historian
Lucas Karmazinas
FuturePast Preservation

In Collaboration with
Heritage Consultants, LLC

Project Director
Mary Dunne
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Sponsors
State of Connecticut
Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office
Kristina Newman-Scott
Director of Culture and State Historic Preservation Officer

Town of Suffield
Edward G. McAnaney
First Selectman

**Suffield Historic District
Commission**
Doug Mayne
Chairman

Funding Provided by:



Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, 2016

The activity that is the subject of this Project has been financed in full by the State Historic Preservation Office with funds from the Community Investment Act program of the State of Connecticut.

However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Office, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Office.



Acknowledgements

The range of information and type of research required to complete a Historic Resources Inventory inherently necessitates the contributions of many people, without whose insight and expertise successful completion would not be possible. As such, this historic and architectural survey of the Suffield, Connecticut benefitted from the amenable and generous assistance of a number of individuals. A notable debt of gratitude is owed to the members of the Town of Suffield's Historic District Commission; David Bahlman, Doug Mayne, Lester Smith, Doug Mayne, John Schwemmer and Anne Borg; Patrick McMahon, Director of Suffield's Economic Development Commission and the primary contact for the project; and to Mary Dunne, State Historic Preservation Office project director. Volunteers at the Suffield Historical Society also provided invaluable aid in the research process by facilitating the review of collections of the Kent Memorial Library, which was undergoing renovation in 2015.

The researcher has endeavored to generate an overview document and forms that are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. This does not, however, preclude the value or need for additional data or corrections. Anyone with further information or insight is encouraged to contact the Suffield Historical Society at 232 South Main Street, Suffield, CT 06078.

Resource inventories similar to this report are based primarily on the format applied in the *Historic Preservation in Connecticut* series, compiled by the Connecticut Historical Commission (since replaced by the State Historic Preservation Office). The template for this study was provided by the State Historic Preservation Office and drawn from the *Historical and Architectural Resource Survey of Simsbury, Connecticut*, prepared in April 2010 by Lucas Karmazinas of *FuturePast Preservation*.

Lucas Karmazinas
on behalf of
FuturePast Preservation
Hartford, Connecticut
and
Heritage Consultants, LLC
Newington, Connecticut

Winter 2016

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

I. Introduction.....	1
II. Methodology.....	3
III. The Historic Resource Inventory Form.....	5
IV. Historical and Architectural Overview.....	9
V. Bibliography.....	42
VI. Resources Related to Minorities and Women.....	44
VII. Recommendations.....	47
VIII. Index to Inventoried Resources.....	50

*Map showing location of surveyed area follows page 1.

I. Introduction

In the summer of 2014, the Suffield Historic District Commission applied for, and received, a grant from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office for the preparation of a Historic Resources Inventory. This report contains the results of the study, prepared between June 2014 and February 2016. The expectation was that this survey would enrich the town's historical record and supplement the body of information previously compiled by the historical society as part of the organization's original survey completed in 1979, as well as other individuals interested in the town's history. The original survey of the town included a majority of buildings located within the town's historic districts and did not endeavor to include any historical context for the resources. This project evaluated approximately 200 buildings and sites which will contribute toward the Suffield Historic District Commission's final goal of documenting all of the historically significant resources in town.

This report follows the format found in the National Park Service publication, *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning: National Register Bulletin #24*, and as identified by Connecticut's Statewide Historic Resources Inventory Update. It includes a historic and architectural overview illustrating the development of the survey area and commenting on its importance relative to the larger narrative of the town's history – in this case specific to the surveyed area. It includes an individual inventory form for each resource surveyed identifying its historical and architectural significance. Additional sections highlight those resources potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as those noteworthy for their connection to the history of women and minorities.

A primary objective of this survey was to identify and document the historic significance and integrity of the included structures. This was done in an effort to acknowledge the historic value of the resources in the survey area as well as to supplement the town's historic record. Extensively documented and adequately preserved historic resources are often limited to those related to notable figures, or are those that are the oldest or most architecturally detailed. Historic Resource Inventory studies, however, allow for a broad analysis of the resources in a survey area and help to draw out those that may have been overlooked or undervalued. In the simplest of terms, the Historic Resource Inventory serves as an "honor roll" of a town's historic buildings, structures, and sites, thus allowing for the recognition of a diverse body of resources.

Historic Resource Inventories play an important role in various governmental planning processes and allow both the State Historic Preservation Office and town planning departments to identify state and federal projects that might impact historic resources. Well-preserved built environments contribute to an area's quality of life and municipalities benefit directly from efforts to maintain the unique makeup and aesthetic diversity of their historic neighborhoods. Historic Resource Inventories help to reduce the demolition of significant buildings, increase local infrastructure investment, and facilitate economic development by informing local governments and populations of the quality and character of their built environment, and by aiding in its protection and preservation. Historic structures gain their significance from the role they have played in the community and from the value the community places on them as a result. It is hoped that this Historic Resource Inventory will serve to increase appreciation of Suffield's historic resources and to in turn encourage their preservation.

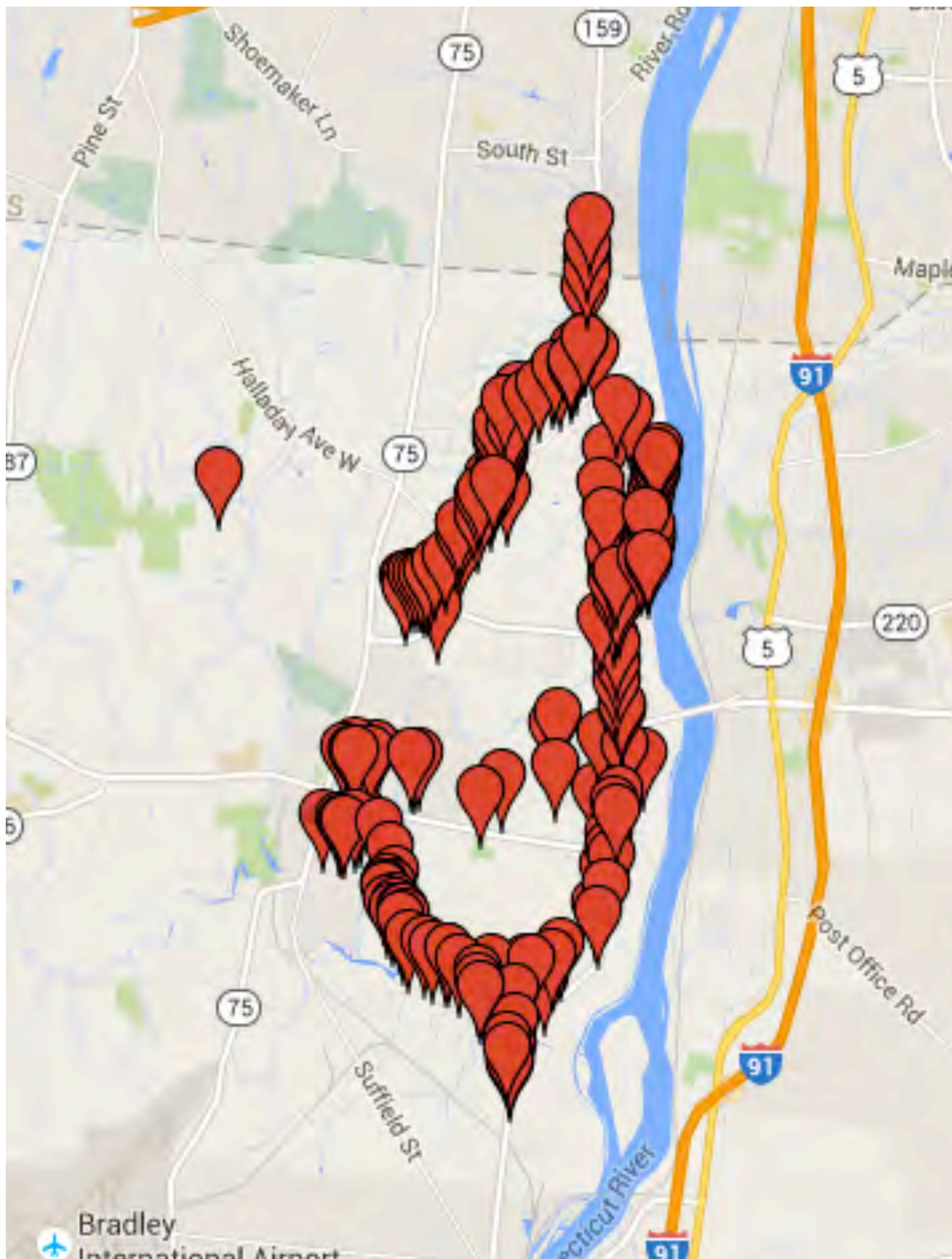


Figure 1. Map of Suffield study area and location of resources included in the inventory.

II. Methodology

The Survey

This survey of historic and architectural resources in the Town of Suffield, Connecticut was conducted by Heritage Resource Consultants, LLC, based in Newington, Connecticut. The principal architectural historian for the project was Lucas A. Karmazinas of Hartford, Connecticut. Fieldwork, photo documentation, research, and writing were carried out between November of 2014 and February 2016. Copies of the final report and survey forms are deposited at the Suffield Historical Society, Kent Memorial Library, and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. Copies of the report and survey forms will also be deposited by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, and the Special Collections Department of the Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

The majority of information needed to complete this Historic Resource Inventory was gathered through a “windshield” survey. This involved documenting each historic resource from the exterior and supplementing it with other public data, such as town tax assessor’s and land records. Neither the form, nor the survey in general, dictates what homeowners can do with their property, nor does the included information violate the privacy of those whose property is included. For those homeowners who might be concerned about the implications of the survey, a review of the Historic Resource Inventory form demonstrates the public nature of the information included. Data collected includes: verification of street number and name; use; accessibility (public vs. private); style of construction; approximate date of construction (to be compared with assessor’s information); construction materials and details; condition of the resource; character of the surrounding environment; description of the resource; and exterior photographs. Given the vast numbers of above-ground resources in town, this survey included only a few of the most significant previously identified archaeological sites in town. More extensive archaeological analysis would have been beyond the scope of this study and would have necessitated specialized procedures, extensive fieldwork, and a greater allocation of resources.

The Survey Area

The survey area selected for this study is located in the eastern part of Suffield. This is defined as being located in the area along portions of Kent Avenue, Boston Neck Road, Mapleton Avenue, River Boulevard and East Street (Route 159). The neighborhoods within the survey area represent a substantially intact collection of mainly residential, commercial, and agricultural structures, constructed primarily between the mid-eighteenth and mid-twentieth centuries (See Figure 1). The target area was delineated by the researchers due to the historical significance, density, and integrity of the resources found there, as well as for its proximity to, and relationship with, the existing Suffield National Register Historic District, which is centered on Main Street (a street index can be found in Section VIII). The survey area also includes the areas that were included within the earliest land grants of the town. Given the incredibly high number of resources that qualify for inclusion, the survey area had to be limited to the above-mentioned neighborhoods for this phase of the project. It has been determined that subsequent surveys will need to be undertaken in the future in order to highlight not only the important history and resources of West Suffield, but to capture those properties in the eastern part of town that were not included in this initial report. Several threatened properties were also included in this survey – some of which fall outside of the general areas of focus – due to the high risk of their potential loss through demolition or neglect.

The survey area for this Historic Resources Inventory of Suffield, Connecticut is a collection of extant period architecture set in a rural environment. The identified resources illustrate the width and breadth of Suffield’s developmental history, beginning with the construction of rural New England Farmhouses and Cape Cod-style cottages during the middle of the eighteenth century. As the town transitioned into an agricultural center largely dependent on the production of tobacco during the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the Federal and Georgian styles came into favor. Around the same time, several manufacturing operations were also established in the area. The development of the Thompsonville Mills in Enfield throughout the mid-to-late nineteenth century eventually justified construction of a bridge spanning the Connecticut River (since demolished), this connecting Suffield with Enfield, which in turn resulted in the development of the “Bridge” neighborhood located near the intersection of Thompsonville Road, East Street, River Boulevard, and Burbank Avenue. The resources chosen for this survey include well-preserved examples directly reflecting the

forementioned developmental patterns and illustrate the wide variety of residential architectural styles present in Suffield. The majority of the town's institutional, administrative, and commercial structures have been previously recorded as part of the Suffield Historic District Nomination as they are clustered along the Main Street (Route 75) corridor.

Criteria for Selection

The Historic and Architectural Resources Inventory for the Town of Suffield, Connecticut was conducted in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation* (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1983). The methodological framework was drawn from the National Park Service publication, *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning; National Register Bulletin #24* Derry, Jandle, Shull, and Thorman, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1977; Parker, revised 1985).

The criteria employed for the evaluation of properties were based on those of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. Properties recognized by the National Register include districts, structures, buildings, objects, and sites that are significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archaeology, and culture, and which contribute to the understanding of the states and the nation as a whole. The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of resources and/or their eligibility for nomination are determined by the following:

The quality of significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, or;
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a distinctive and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or;
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.¹

The above criteria formed the basis for evaluating the buildings in this survey, however these parameters were also broadened to identify resources associated with individuals or events significant to Suffield's history, or those structures that displayed vernacular styles or methods of construction typical of the period in which they were built. Not all of the resources identified by this inventory have been judged to be eligible for individual inclusion on the National Register, however, several individual structures and small clusters are representative of Suffield's developmental and social history, and, as such, should be considered worthy of National Register recognition either individually or as historic districts. Those resources determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will be discussed in the *Recommendations* section (Section VII).

Historic Resource Inventories are often prepared by focusing on the oldest resources in a survey area. These are evaluated relative to the period in which they originated, and are unified within the requisite overview study according to the chronology of the area's development. The decision to conduct this survey geographically, rather than according to the construction date of the included buildings, developed early in the planning stages and was influenced by several factors. First, was the hope that additional Historic Resource Inventories would eventually result in all of the town's eligible historic resources being documented. As such, conducting these surveys geographically, rather than chronologically, facilitated a more comprehensive and straightforward approach to identifying Suffield's historic buildings, structures, and cultural resources, and laid the path for future study based upon a similar method. In addition, this practice also serves to

¹ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation; National Register Bulletin #15*, By the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, finalized by Patrick W. Andrus, edited by Rebecca H. Shrimpton, (National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990; revised 1991, 1995, 1997).

uncover the developmental patterns that shaped an area in question, thus helping the organizations involved more effectively identify those areas worthy of further historical study or documentation.

The resources found within the eastern area of Suffield emerged as an ideal study group due to their historical significance and architectural integrity, as well as for the density of their construction and location along major arterial routes that began as some of the town's earliest roads. These characteristics bore a rich developmental history, which in turn supported a portion of the survey area's potential eligibility for nomination to the National Register. Approximately 200 resources were selected for this study, these ranging in the period, style, and method of their construction. Although some possess alterations ranging from the application of synthetic siding and modern windows and doors, to the addition, or removal, of porches, all retain the majority of their historic character, features, and form. Those of limited significance resultant of extensive changes were not included as part of this survey.

III. The Historic Resource Inventory Form

A Historic Resource Inventory form was prepared for each historic resource surveyed. These were completed following a standard electronic document (.pdf format) created by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, the state agency responsible for historic preservation. Each form is divided into three main sections. These provide background, architectural, and historical information on the resource, and include; their street number and name, owner(s), type of use, style of construction, approximate date of construction, construction materials and details, physical condition of the resource, character of the surrounding environment, description of the resource, architect/builder (if known), exterior photographs, and historical narrative.

Much of the information in this inventory was gathered from town Assessor's records between November 2014 and February 2016. Architectural descriptions were drafted from exterior photographs taken during this same period and the historical narratives were based on archival research. The majority of the fields on the Historic Resource Inventory form should be self-explanatory, however the following is an elucidation of several of the more nebulous categories.

Historic Name

In many cases the historic name of a resource serves as an indicator of its historical significance. When referring to public or commercial buildings, churches, social halls, etc., a historic name is based upon a structure's earliest known use and is typically straightforward. In the case of residential buildings things become a bit more complicated. Homes that sheltered the same family for a number of generations typically carry the surname of this family as their historic name, however, those homes that frequently changed hands or were rental properties are difficult to classify in this manner.

Interior Accessibility

This was a survey of exterior features and all of the resources studied were private buildings. As such, access to the interior of these structures was not requested of the owners, nor was it necessary.

Style

A building's style was characterized according to its earliest stylistic influences and regardless of later alterations or additions. Descriptions were based upon accepted terminology laid out in *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Alfred A Knopf: New York, 1984) and *American Houses; A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* by Gerald Foster (Houghton Mifflin: Boston, 2004). The most commonly applied architectural styles are described below. Many of the resources surveyed did not fall into a specific category as they lack the necessary attributes. These were simply classified as "vernacular." Such a term indicates construction typical of the period, yet lacking in many of the details and flourishes that would link it to a particular architectural style.

Cape Cod Cottage (1690-1800, locally to ca. 1825) – This New England style was tremendously popular during the colonial and early national periods and generally resembles a condensed version of the New England Farmhouse. Designed to withstand the harsh and unpredictable weather of the Atlantic Seaboard, these homes were compact, strong, and easier to build and move than their larger counterparts. Typically one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side-gabled roof and centered entry and chimney, variations range from balanced five-bay facades to “half-” and “three-quarter house” examples. Sheathing materials included horizontal board siding or clapboards, this largely determined by geography and climate, and early homes generally lacked decorative detailing. Later examples increasingly incorporated Federal or Greek Revival influences as determined by local trends.

New England Farmhouse (1690-1790, locally to ca. 1860) – Development of the two-story New England Farmhouse followed the evolution of Postmedieval building patterns in the American colonies starting around 1700. Increasing prosperity and populations led to a greater demand for larger and more refined homes than the English cottages and Saltboxes that preceded them, the latter aspiration resulting in the prevalence of the Renaissance influences which largely categorized the style. Such homes were typically one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories in height, with rectangular footprints, symmetrical facades, centered entryways and chimneys, side-gabled roofs, and at times Federal or Georgian decorative details, particularly in the door surrounds. They were sheathed with narrow horizontal board siding and fenestration consisted of 12-over-12, nine-over-nine, or six-over-nine sash. Vernacular examples persisted in generally rural areas long after the style had been supplanted by others, including, most notably, Federal and Greek Revival forms. More elaborate examples of New England Farmhouses from this period are frequently referred to as being of the Georgian style, as is often the case in this survey.

Federal (1780-1820, locally to ca. 1860) – The Federal style shared most of the essential form of the New England Farmhouse and Georgian homes, however buildings from the Federal period relied much more heavily on elaborate Roman classical detailing and ornamentation. This was principally concentrated around the entry and window openings, and included detailed porticos and door surrounds, leaded semicircular or elliptical fanlights, entry-flanking sidelights, Palladian windows, keystone lintels, and classical columns and pilasters. Fenestration typically consisted of six-over-six double-hung sash, although other arrangements can be found, particularly in vernacular interpretations of the style.

Greek Revival (1825-1880) – Homes patterned in the Greek Revival style were most pervasive between 1825 and 1860, and as the name suggests, drew from the architecture of ancient Greece. Houses of this style have shallow pitched or hipped roofs, often with detailed cornices and wide trim bands. Fenestration consists of double-hung sash, tripartite, and at times, frieze band windows. Entry or full-width porches are common, typically supported by classical columns. Sidelights, transoms, pilasters, and heavy lintels often decorate doorways. Not limited to domestic applications, examples of the Greek Revival can be found in religious, commercial, and public buildings.

Gothic Revival (1840-1880) – The Gothic Revival style is based on the architecture of medieval England. Resurgent forms gained popularity in that country during the eighteenth century before appearing in the United States in the 1830s. The style’s definitive characteristics include steeply-pitched roofs with steep cross gables, wall surfaces and windows extending into the gables, Gothic-inspired (typically arched) windows, and one-story porches. Decorative elements include intricate bargeboards in the gables, and detailed hoods over the windows and doors.

Italianate (1840-1885) – The Italianate, like the Gothic Revival, began in England before making its way into American architecture in the first half of the nineteenth century. The style was influenced by Italian country homes and Renaissance-era villas, yet developed into an entirely indigenous form once established in the United States. Italianate homes are typically two or three stories in height and have low-pitched (usually hipped or gable) roofs with widely overhanging eaves and detailed brackets. Tall and narrow windows are common and often have arched or curved window tops. Windows and doors are frequently crowned with decorative hoods.

Second Empire (1855-1885) – Aesthetically similar in many ways to Italianates, the French-inspired style known as “Second Empire” was popular in the United States in the decades just before and after the Civil War. Unlike its Romantic predecessor, the Second Empire was a thoroughly modern imitative form based upon architectural designs popular in France during the reign of Napoleon III (1852-1870). Typified by its use of dual-pitched, or “mansard”, roofs and elaborate decorative elements such as eave brackets and window hoods, this model was extensively applied to residential and public construction.

Vernacular Victorian (1860-1910) – The buildings classified as Vernacular Victorian are those which demonstrate an amalgam of the architectural styles popular during the Victorian period (roughly 1860-1910). These included Stick (1860-c.1890), Queen Anne (1880-1910), Shingle (1880-1900), and Folk Victorian (c. 1870-1910) designs. While vernacular manifestations lack the intricate details of the high-style buildings they reference, shared features include rectangular plans, and front-facing pitched roofs, and one-story porches. Windows are typically double-hung sash and doors are wood paneled.

Stick (1860-1890) – This decorative style is commonly referred to as a transitional form linking the Gothic Revival and Queen Anne Styles. Whimsical details including decorative trusswork, elaborate wall cladding and half-timbering, exposed rafter tails, and diagonal or curved braces suggest origins in Gothic forms, while the style's massing is more clearly related to the Queen Anne. While proponents stressed the structural honesty of the style, visual details were largely decorative, rather than functional. As such, the style was easily applied to vernacular homes and fully developed high style examples are rare.

Queen Anne (1880-1910) – The Queen Anne style was the dominant residential form during the closing decades of the nineteenth century. The Queen Anne was popularized by a school of English architects, led by Richard Norman Shaw, and drew from English medieval models. Identifying features include steeply-pitched roofs of irregular shape and gable height, often with dominant, front-facing gables. Details include elaborate shingle or masonry patterns, cutaway bay windows, multi-story towers, and single- or multi-story porches. Other decorative elements include porch and gable ornamentation.

Colonial Revival (1880-1955) – This style gained popularity towards the end of the nineteenth century before becoming the most ubiquitous architectural form of the first half of the twentieth century. Many manifestations of this style emerged, most sharing influences derived from early American, or Colonial architecture, such as Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial buildings. Houses of this type commonly have rectangular plans, and hipped, pitched, or gambrel roofs. Decorative features mimic classical models and include elaborate porticos or porches. Double-hung sash and multipane, symmetrically-placed, windows are common, as are sidelight-flanked entries. The Foursquare is a variation on this type. It has a square plan and hipped roof often with a full-width porch at the front.

Craftsman/Bungaloid (1910-1930) – The Craftsman, or “Arts and Crafts,” style has origins in English architecture, however the form came into its own through the work of architects Charles and Henry Green, who practiced in California during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Characteristically one-and-a-half-stories in height, the bungalows popularized by the Greene's typically had rubble or cobblestone foundations and chimneys, low-pitched roofs extending over full-width one-story porches, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and bracketed eave lines. A variety of dormer arrangements are common, as are heavy columns or piers supporting the porch. While high-style examples are relatively rare, the form was popularized through a variety of publications and was widely available in pre-cut kits including lumber and detailing. As such, most homes of this style are perhaps best classified as “Bungaloid,” rather than as fully developed Craftsman-style forms.

Date of Construction/Dimensions

Dates of original construction are based on the Town of Suffield's Assessor's records, architectural and historical evidence, and archival research. House plaques were also taken into consideration for this survey and were used as a basis for research. In cases where the date listed by the Assessor's office or house plaque seemed questionable, and a specific date could not be found through historical research, a circa (ca.) precedes the year indicated. This evaluation is an educated guess based upon the structure's architectural detail, construction methods, and information gleaned from archival sources, including maps and atlases. The Suffield Assessor's records were also used to confirm and/or determine the dimensions of buildings and to support the survey of materials used in construction.

Condition

Condition assessments were based on a visual investigation of the exterior of inventoried structures. It was not possible to give a detailed assessment of the structural condition of the resources, as extensive and interior assessments could not be conducted. Buildings listed as being in “good” condition lack any glaring structural problems. Those listed as “fair” had problems, including badly peeling paint, cracked siding and windows, or damaged roofs, which if left unattended, could result in serious damage. “Deteriorated” indicates severe exterior problems and neglect.

Other Notable Features of Building or Site

While many of the preceding fields list the basic details of a resource’s construction, specifically the style, original date, materials, structural system, roof type, and size, this category allows the surveyor to elaborate on a structure’s other architectural qualities. In the case of this survey it typically included a building’s orientation relative to the street, its floor plan (i.e square, rectangular, or irregular), height, roof structure and materials, window types, wall cladding, and porch details. As the state does not expect inventories of this nature to address the interiors of private buildings, no such descriptions were compiled or included. This field also allowed the surveyor to comment on any substantial alterations made to a resource.

Historical or Architectural Importance

Assessing the historical significance of each resource required detailed archival research. The methods applied varied, depending upon the information available for each structure, but did not include a complete chain of title research for each resource. Census records, maps, and atlases typically revealed the information necessary to confirm the dates given in the Assessor’s records, or as was the case with many structures, provide a different, yet more accurate, date of construction. This research also served to build a socio-historical narrative for each structure. These highlight the relationship between the building and its users, and demonstrate each resource’s relevance to the development of the community. Deed research was outside the scope of this evaluation, but the information provided may serve as a starting point for further research.

This field also contains information indicating how a particular resource exemplifies architectural qualities characteristic of a certain style or period, if pertinent. Architectural significance is assessed by evaluating a structure’s historical integrity. This is determined by judging whether it retains the bulk of its original material, if contributes to the historic character of the area, or if it is representative of an architect’s work, an architectural trend, or a building period. Although many homes have been modified in some way, unless drastic alterations have been made, a building is likely to retain much of its historic character.

IV. Historical and Architectural Overview

General Layout and Architecture

The houses of Suffield's first proprietors were laid out along a series of ridges that ran in a north-south direction, leading from the high ridge at the west side of the settlement to the Connecticut River on the east. The earliest settled and most significant area of development occurred along High Street, which has since become Main Street. The second most concentrated areas of settlement were along the ridge running closest to the Connecticut River (Feather Street, now East Street) and a path connecting the two ridges (Crooked Lane, now Mapleton Avenue).

Given the high concentration of historic houses along these roadways, the survey area for this project was mainly limited to Kent Avenue, Boston Neck Road, Mapleton Avenue, River Boulevard, and East Street. A few ancillary properties of significance were included, as were some endangered properties that fell outside of this study area. The commercial and municipal center of town is still largely concentrated along Main Street, which has been studied extensively as part of the National Register nomination completed in 1978 and therefore excluded from this study. Tobacco sheds and historic landscapes are also intact throughout this study area, as are a number of mill ruins important to the history of the town. Given the wealth of historic resources in Suffield, when determining the survey area for this project it became necessary to exclude large areas of importance in West Suffield, as well some ancillary streets in East Suffield. It is hoped that subsequent surveys will be undertaken to capture the remaining historic sites and structures.

The town's historic resources reflect the largely agrarian, yet prosperous past of Suffield's residents and, subsequently, numerous variations of the New England Farmhouse-style residence dominate the landscape. The most prosperous farmers and merchants of the nineteenth century built Federal and Greek Revival style houses, often in an effort to demonstrate their status and to reflect their standing in society. Since there was very little large-scale industry in town and no industrial center, only a few examples of worker housing exist in the area. The remnants of small-scale manufacturing, most notably cigar and paper making, can be found along Stony Brook. The bridge connecting Suffield with the manufacturing center of Thompsonville in Enfield had an impact on the development of the area in the vicinity of Thompsonville Road and River Boulevard in northeast Suffield. The result was a small, densely-settled section of town filled with a wide variety of housing styles inhabited by a population of first- and second-generation immigrants. The resources chosen for this inventory include well-preserved examples directly reflecting these developmental patterns, as well as those few buildings related to commercial and institutional activities found within the survey area. The architectural resources present in Suffield are generally fewer than three stories in height, of wood or brick construction, and tend to share similar setbacks depending on the street they are located. The result represents the town's strong agricultural history and the early prosperity enjoyed by many of its merchants and farmers.

The Lay of the Land

The Town of Suffield lies at the northern reaches of Connecticut's Central Valley, a region that encompasses the central lowland of Connecticut and extends from the Massachusetts border on the north to Long Island Sound on the South. The region is approximately 55 miles long and 25 miles wide and is characterized by gently rolling terrain, most of which lies less than 300 feet above sea level.¹ The Metacomet Ridge, a massive traprock (basalt) formation reaches over 900 feet in height and divides the Farmington River Valley from the alluvial plains lining the Connecticut River.² In Suffield, the Metacomet Ridge forms a range dominated by West Suffield Mountain, which rises to approximately 710 feet at its peak. The Central Valley consists of approximately one-fourth of the state's total area and includes 41 towns in Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven counties. Beside the Metacomet Ridge, the most prominent land feature in Suffield is the Connecticut River, which is 440 miles long overall. The river flows south from the Canadian border and forms the eastern boundary of the town.

The topography of Suffield is typical of that found throughout the Central Valley. A series of low ridges run from north to south between the Connecticut River on the east and Suffield Mountain on the west. Several streams, including Rattlesnake Brook, Muddy Brook, and Rocky Gutter Brook are found between these ridges and empty into Stony Brook, which in turn flows into the Connecticut River. The Congamond Lakes, these bordering the northwest corner of the town, form Suffield's second largest water feature after the River. The land throughout Suffield was long cleared of native forest long ago, however, when the first English settlers arrived native chestnut, pine, and oak covered the landscape leaving very little meadow along the River.³ Settlers enjoyed plentiful fresh water from the Great Swamp at the foot of West Suffield Mountain and from several natural springs found throughout the town.

Pynchon and the Colonial Period, 1647 -1781

Foreign Shores and Native Americans

At the time of English settlement, there were twelve Native American groups living in southern New England, all of which belonging to the Algonquin group. These tribes shared common ancestors who arrived in the region sometime after 1000 AD.⁴ There were seven River Tribes located in the northern half of the Central Valley.⁵ The Pequots and the Mohegans (not part of the seven River tribes) were also influential in the region.⁶ All of these groups were hunter-gatherers who moved throughout the year to make best use of seasonal resources.⁷

The first English settlers came to America to flee religious persecution under the reign of Charles I.⁸ They were initially welcomed by the smaller River Tribes in the Central Valley as they were seen as a potential protective force against the Pequots. Soon enough, however, cultural clashes over land use and ownership made it clear that this was not to be the case for long.

In 1630, William Pynchon arrived in America from England and became instrumental in the foundation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.⁹ He soon recognized the potential for trading opportunities in the Connecticut River Valley and amassed land in that area, eventually founding the settlement of Springfield in 1652.¹⁰ This territory, which included the areas that would become Enfield, Suffield, and Somers in Connecticut, was technically part of the Massachusetts Colony, but operated mainly under Pynchon's control as a semi-independent colony for almost 100 years before finally joining the Connecticut Colony.¹¹ Pynchon controlled the fur trade in the area and his scouts, including his son John, were familiar with the trails and lands lining the river between Springfield and Windsor.¹²

Despite his fortune and social standing, William's progressive religious views would prove his undoing in America. He wrote a book that proved so unpopular among his Puritan brethren that it was burned on the Boston Common. He returned to England in 1652 and left the operation of the Springfield settlement in the hands of his son's.¹³ John Pynchon assumed all of his father's affairs. He served as magistrate of the Hampshire County and owned numerous mills and ironworks. Having become familiar with the area between Springfield and Windsor, John Pynchon had brokered the purchase of the land that would become Suffield for his father in two separate transactions in 1647.¹⁴ The first northerly portion was purchased as part of "Waranoco," or Westfield. It extended roughly from the Springfield line to the top of the West Suffield Mountain. The southern portion was purchased from "Misnonaques," aka "Margery," and included land around the Enfield Rapids known as "Lacowsick," described as land "along the great River, a great way below Stony brook, toward Windsor." This tract included portions of East Granby, Granby, and Windsor.¹⁵ The boundaries of the town were described as extending six miles along the banks of the River from the southern boundary of Springfield, and westerly from the Connecticut River for six miles. Pynchon was paid 30 pounds for all of this land in 1669 and he also received a payment of 10 pounds from the early grantees for his services.¹⁶

On January 14, 1669, John Pynchon applied to the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for permission to establish a new settlement.¹⁷ On October 12th of that same year, Pynchon and a small group of early proprietors were granted permission by the Selectmen of Springfield to settle Stony Brook Plantation.¹⁸ The name was chosen to describe the main watercourse leading to the Great River. The name Suffield was most likely a permutation of "Southfield" or "Suthfield," which appeared on many of the earliest documents and maps.

Pynchon worked alongside five men to form "Pynchon's Committee," a group that oversaw land grants to proprietors and managed all of the practical affairs of the burgeoning settlement. The committee members included Thomas Cooper, Benjamin Cooley, Elizir Holyoke, George Colton, and Roland Thomas.¹⁹ They were prominent men and all possessed a good deal of experience in the New World. Elizur Holyoke served as Town Recorder for Springfield and assistant in the General Court at Springfield, Thomas Cooper served as Selectman in Springfield for seventeen years, Benjamin Cooley served as Selectman in Springfield for eighteen years beginning in 1646, and George Colton was Quartermaster in the Hampshire troop when John Pynchon was Captain. Each of the men received land grants in Suffield, but none ever inhabited the new settlement.²⁰

In the winter of 1670, six months after permission was granted to start the town, Pynchon and his group met at Stony Brook to devise guidelines for settlement.²¹ Between 1670 and 1674, 38 land grants were made to settlers, most of

which consisted of 40 acres apiece. A grant of 60 acres was given to anyone willing to build a saw or corn mill provided that “such persons who undertake ye same-provided such mill will be conveniently placed for use.”²² In 1672, Pynchon himself built a gristmill and sawmill at mouth of Stony Brook where it empties into Connecticut River.²³

The biggest threat to the safety of the earliest settlers became their devolving relationships with local Native American groups. Following the devastating Pequot War in 1637, European settlement expanded throughout the Connecticut River Valley over the next thirty years.²⁴ The Native Americans were pushed out of their hunting and fishing lands and their populations were decimated by disease. In a last attempt to halt the complete loss of their lands and culture, several small tribes under the leadership of Metacomet (Philip) of the Wampanoags, a southeastern Massachusetts tribe, went to war in 1675.²⁵ Over the course of what would become known as King Philip’s War, fifty-two of the ninety Puritan-established towns in New England would be destroyed, this including Suffield, whose residents fled to Springfield.²⁶

Despite casualties elsewhere, no residents of Suffield were lost during the conflict, however, the events brought all settlement to a halt. John Pynchon, by this time a Major, wrote to his son Joseph in England regarding the loss of his mills on Stony Brook. “All my mills...are burnt down, those at home [Springfield], in this town, and also those I had in other places...were burnt... So that God hath laid me low.”²⁷ Following the conclusion of the conflict, the settlement at Suffield slowly rebuilt. By the spring of 1677 most of those people who held land grants had settled upon them and Major Pynchon eventually built a second gristmill along Stony Brooke in 1678 (this near the falls at Boston Neck Road).²⁸

The Long Lots and Creation of a Town

The first permanent settlers of Suffield were Samuel, Joseph, and Nathaniel Harmon, three brothers who were employed as fur traders by John Pynchon. They had sought a petition to secure a settlement at Stony Brook prior to 1670, but no action was taken. Samuel died in 1677 and his lands passed to his brothers.²⁹ The Harmons were soon followed by Zerubbabell Fyler and Robert Old.³⁰ The first marriage in town took place between Joseph Harmon and Hannah Filly of Windsor on January 22, 1673.³¹ The first child born in Suffield arrived on February 4 the following year, this being Mindwell Old, who was born to Robert and Susannah Old.³²

As the land throughout town was divided, lots were arranged along the north-south ridges in town, with the westernmost ridge including what is now Remington and Hill Streets becoming home to the first settlers. The next eastern ridge was along High Street, which ran from Old Factory Road on the south to Crooked Lane (now Mapleton Avenue) on the north. The second division with a double tier of lots arranged along Feather Street, now East Street, and encompassing the area that is now River Boulevard.³³ An early settler noted that a common was established along High Street, “where we intend and order the meeting house shall be set.”³⁴ A second, smaller common was also established along the river bordering Feather Street. These early lots were not orderly in size, shape, or location. Each early proprietor were able to choose several parcels of land in different parts of town, “as interest or fancy dictated.”³⁵

Two of the earliest roads in the area were laid out as public highways by the Hampshire County government six years prior to the settlement of the town. The first was the road connecting the Windsor settlement to Springfield. It led along what is now South Street near Stony Brook and connected to what is now Remington Street and Hill Street as it continued on to Westfield. The second road branched from South Street at the junction of Stony Brook and followed Main Street to Mapleton Avenue as it headed on to Springfield; eventually ending in Boston.³⁶ These early trails lead to neighboring towns and connected mill sites to house lots. They later became highways and still remain as several of Suffield's principle thoroughfares.

These roads eventually connected the larger cities of New York and Hartford to Springfield and Boston. As they ran directly through Suffield, a number of taverns were built upon them to provide rest and refreshment for travelers. Taverns played a crucial part in colonial society; they operated as inns and served the expected meals and libations to travelers, while also serving as important community centers and mail stations. As a result, tavern keepers held important social roles.³⁷ Establishments owned by Seth Austin and Gad Lane were both well-known resting spots during this period, as was a house on Feather Street at the corner of the road leading to the Enfield Bridge. It was owned by Napoleon Adams and reportedly operated as a tavern for many years.³⁸

As available land grew scarce in the eastern part of town, the western half grew more densely populated. At the eastern border of the Great Swamp at the foot of the mountain was the Hampton Path. This lead from Pequonnoc to Westfield through West Suffield Center and was known as the colorfully-named "Road across Rattlesnake Plain" (now Ratley Road). The Mountain was a "sequestered Common" until 1742 when it was divided into 114 lots of four to six acres each.³⁹ The area beyond the mountain remained wilderness until 1759 when it was also partitioned.

The first official meeting of Suffield's proprietors was held on March 9, 1682. Of the town's total population of around 300, there were 34 voting members present including Major Pynchon, who likely served as moderator. They chose "five selectmen, a town clerk, two highway surveyors, a land measurer, and a sealer of leather," each to serve a year-long term. A treasurer was not selected as all transactions were paid in grain and provisions rather than money, known as "town pay."⁴⁰ Once unified under this new government, the townspeople went to work overseeing allotments, building schools, providing for ministers, laying out highways, and providing for the poor.⁴¹ The town technically remained under the control of the Massachusetts Bay Colony until 1747, when "Suffield, Enfield, Woodstock and Sommers" petitioned the Connecticut General Assembly for admission to the "liberties and privileges of that colony."⁴² After nearly 100 years, Suffield became a part of Connecticut in May of 1749. For the next twenty years, Massachusetts continued to assess Suffield along with Enfield and Somers, but the government never actually collected any taxes.⁴³

Early Agriculture, Industry, and Trade

Like most areas of the Central Valley, the earliest settlers were largely subsistence farmers who cleared fields using simple tools and the combined practices of felling, burning, and girdling the trees. The first proprietors raised crops

of rye, corn, wheat, buckwheat, and barley; vegetables such as beans, peas, leeks and cabbages; root vegetables including onions, radishes, potatoes, carrots, and turnips; and orchard fruits such as apples. In Suffield, rye, wheat and barley were raised on a large scale for both local consumption and sale at an early date. Tobacco was another important specialty crop and was used as legal tender by 1727. During the period shortly before and during the Revolution the Connecticut River Valley was known as “America’s Bread Basket” due to the vast fields of grains that grew in the rich alluvial soils.⁴⁴ In addition, dairy cattle and sheep were kept for milk, meat, leather and wool.⁴⁵

The early settlers also benefitted from the abundant fish provided by the Connecticut River and its many streams, which were bountifully stocked with salmon, shad, bass, alewives, pike, and carp. Permission to erect a fish dam on the Connecticut River was granted by Pynchon’s Committee to a group of Feather Street residents in 1730. Jacob Hathaway, Samuel Copley, Richard Woolworth, William Halladay, Nathaniel Hall, Samuel Roe, and Samuel Hathaway built the dam from which large amounts of salmon were gathered and barreled for town consumption and for sale in other communities.⁴⁶

In addition to agriculture, the residents of the Suffield maintained small-scale industrial activities. The first industries to be established were the same as those found in most New England settlements during the period. Pynchon’s second group of mills – a water-powered saw and gristmill – took advantage of local rivers and streams to provide the colonists with the lumber and flour necessary to meet the basic needs of food and shelter. Eli Granger built an oil mill along Stony Brooke in the vicinity of Route 75 where he processed flax seed along with John Rising, who oversaw the daily operations.⁴⁷ A tannery was started by John Eastman on East Street at Rawlins Brook in 1690.⁴⁸ Obadiah Miller established a tar kiln near the intersection of East Street and Mapleton Avenue that produced pitch for boats. In 1701, Major Pynchon, in partnership with John Eliot, started an ironworks or “bloomery” along Stony Brook at Boston Neck Road⁴⁹. Eliot died in 1719 and his son John, Jr. took over the operation, which produced iron bars that were made into latches, buckles and other household items. The plant made use of “bog ore,” a crude form of iron “pancakes” found in swamps. In Suffield, the area between Sheldon and South Grand Streets yielded a great deal of the material and was so named “Pancake Swamp.”⁵⁰ Cotton and fulling mills were also needed in order to provide clothing for the early proprietors. One such mill was established by Samuel Copley along the banks of Stony Brook at Factory Lane in 1710.⁵¹

Trade along the Connecticut River was also an integral part of life for Suffield residents and since a bridge had not yet been constructed ferry service ran across the waterway at an early date. In October of 1678, Sergeant John Pengilly and four members of the Allen family – all from Ipswich, Massachusetts – were allotted land grants along the River in the area that is now crossed by River Boulevard. The Allens soon relocated to Deerfield, Massachusetts, and Pengilly subsequently purchased their landholdings. Starting in 1691, he operated a ferry across the river to Enfield near the site of the former Thompsonville Bridge.⁵² He charged two pence per man and four pence per horse for each crossing. Joseph Trumbull, a resident of Feather Street and ancestor to Connecticut’s notable Trumbull family, also operated a ferry in the area.⁵³

These operations provided many residents with the ability to trade goods with one another and some amassed varying degrees of wealth from the practice. High Street soon became the center of building activities and as the town

developed many impressive houses were built along its length. One such man who lived just off of the High Street on what is now Marburn Avenue was Thaddeus Leavitt. Leavitt was Suffield's leading trader during the late eighteenth century and his advertisements illustrate the great breadth of merchandise available to Suffield's earliest residents. A mere sampling of his stock included, "Blue Bowls...cubbard (sic) locks, shoe buckles...cartridges of paper...stirrups and hair fringe."⁵⁴ In addition to this enterprise, Leavitt controlled several ships that traded goods such as horses, oxen, lumber, sugar, and salt with the West Indies.⁵⁵

Religion and Society

The Congregational Church was central to the lives of Suffield's early residents, as it was throughout Connecticut during the Colonial period. Settlements centered around the meetinghouse, which functioned as the spiritual and governmental center of each town. The grip of the church in this period was such that no town could attain its own charter without having an established church. To do so, land was set aside for a meetinghouse and terms were negotiated to provide payment, shelter, and other support for the minister. Rules of mandatory attendance were also established and each member of society was expected to attend services on the Sabbath. Failure to do so was punishable by a variety of disciplinary practices. Ecclesiastical societies generally coincided with town boundaries. New parishes were formed when the population became too widespread or, perhaps just as frequently, when ideologies within the congregation clashed.⁵⁶

By 1680, the first meetinghouse in Suffield stood at the center of the High Street common.⁵⁷ A second meetinghouse was constructed in 1702 on the site of the present First Christ Church on High Street. Seating within the meetinghouse was a hotly-debated and significant aspect of social standing as assignments directly reflected one's estate and office. Sabbath day services were arduous and lasted from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm. Attendance was mandatory and absence was punishable by law.⁵⁸

In Suffield, a house lot was set aside for a minister as early as 1672. In 1679, the Committee voted "to build a dwelling-house for the encouragement of Mr. John Younglove to become their minister."⁵⁹ Younglove was given a grant of 60 acres and paid 60 pounds a year for his services.⁶⁰ In addition, each man over 16 was required to spend a full day gathering firewood for his use.⁶¹ Younglove quickly grew unpopular with the townspeople and by 1690 he was brought before the General Court, which officially noted the "unsettled conditions and breaking of Suffield." The matter was settled in an unexpected manner as he died shortly after the hearing.⁶² After receiving a series of temporary ministers, Benjamin Ruggles became the second established minister of Suffield in 1695.⁶³ Five years later it was decided that a new meetinghouse should be constructed. This was established "on the top of the hill against the Burying Place, where it is now layed out."⁶⁴

Changes in Suffield society came swiftly during the early eighteenth century, with one of the most notable events being the death of John Pynchon at the age of 82 on January 17, 1703.⁶⁵ So passed a sage leader, however, Pynchon had laid a strong foundation for the town's success. The town functioned well – selectmen oversaw a variety of issues and a

Town Clerk kept all records.⁶⁶ The village continued to develop along High Street while advances were also made in West Suffield. In 1710, a road was opened past Ireland Plain (now the West Suffield Cemetery) and extended beyond the mountain (this became known as Mountain Road).⁶⁷

Although the Congregational Church remained dominant in Connecticut during the early eighteenth century, a period of relative religious freedom was enjoyed from 1708 until about 1740, under an agreement known as the Act of Toleration. Until the Connecticut General Court began to reverse its stance during the late 1730s, the colony was a haven for religious dissenters, including Quakers, Anglicans, and Baptists. It was into this climate that Ebenezer Devotion came to be the third Pastor of the Congregational Church on June 28, 1710.⁶⁸ Known as a man who enjoyed the creature comforts in life, he served the congregation for over 30 years.⁶⁹ During Devotion's tenure agitation began for the creation of a second western ecclesiastical society. There was dissatisfaction over seating in the meetinghouse and the distance traveled by those in the westernmost parts of Suffield was seen as punitive. In 1740, the Court at Boston ruled that a second society could be formed and a church was organized there on November 10, 1743. The meetinghouse was built the following year and its first minister, John Graham, served for fifty years.⁷⁰

Ebenezer Gay began his ministry of the First Congregational Church in 1741. It was under Gay that the Standing Order would be openly challenged by a "New Light" in the form of Joseph Hastings. After openly opposing Gay, Hastings was punished for his actions and eventually withdrew entirely from the church. He formed a group known as the Separates and was ordained as their Pastor in 1750.⁷¹ This group became the First Baptist Church of Suffield in 1769.⁷²

In 1684, the town was brought before the General Court of Hampshire County to answer why it had failed to create a school.⁷³ It seems that in the early years of Suffield's development children were generally taught at home and there was little rush to comply with the court's direction. It wasn't until 1696 that a schoolmaster was chosen. It was "with great reluctancy and aversion in my spirit" that Anthony Austin accepted the position.⁷⁴

Suffield's first schoolhouse was built on the common near the meetinghouse around 1704. This was replaced by a second schoolhouse built in 1733 – mostly likely in the same area – by Josiah Sheldon. Around 1810, it was moved to its current location on Mapleton Avenue, where it served for many years as the Center District Schoolhouse. The first school in West Suffield was erected in 1750. In 1764, three additional schools were constructed within three respective districts, first, second and third, to serve the growing population.⁷⁵

Slaves were common in the households of Suffield's ministers and landowners. Major Pynchon's account book of October 1671 indicates that he purchased a man by the name of John Crow in Hadley for six pounds.⁷⁶ Records of Suffield's slaves were kept starting in 1725 and the monetary values these people were assigned was recorded in account books belonging to their owners. For example, a male between the ages of 16 and 60 years was listed at 18 pounds.⁷⁷ In 1726 the town voted that 20 pounds to be given to Minister Devotion towards the purchase of slaves. In 1756 Suffield had within its population 24 slaves. By 1782 the number had reached 53.⁷⁸ Although slaves were allowed to marry and attend church, this is little proof that they enjoyed any real freedom or sense of society in Suffield.

Other slave owners of record included Jared Huxley, Ensign Samuel Kent, Joshua Leavitt, Lieutenant Jonathan Sheldon, Seth Austin, Benjamin Scot, Joseph Pease, Apollos Hitchcock, Simon Kendall, General Phineus Lyman, and

Captin Isaac Pinnery. The Manumission Act of 1784 allowed owners of slaves to free them from service provided they were between the ages of 25 to 45, in sound health, and were willing to accept the circumstance. “Stephen Pero” was among those discharged in 1787 from the estate of Jacob Hatheway by his executor Elijah Kent. Stephen was admitted to the West Suffield church along with his wife on September 7, 1800.⁷⁹

The American Revolution

Like many other Connecticut towns, the dissolution of political relations between the British and Colonial governments during the 1760s sparked anger and rebellion amongst Suffield’s population. Forced to help shoulder the mountain of debt that the British government had incurred during its wars with France, the Stamp Act of 1765 generated substantial hostile reactions among Suffield’s residents. Injustices grew in the form of increased taxes and punitive trade laws continued to mount. In Suffield, a town meeting was held on July 4, 1774 in which a committee was chosen to draw up “Determinations and Resolves” to be accepted by the inhabitants.⁸⁰ The document was a strong political statement directed towards what many felt was the unjust and tyrannical rule of the crown and it showed that the residents of Suffield were unafraid of openly challenging England. In a sense, it was the town’s own Declaration of Independence.

The morning after the Lexington Alarm was sounded on April 19, 1775 Captain Elihu Kent headed a company of fifty-nine men to enter the battle. On April 21, Captain Daniel Austin followed with an additional fifty-two men in his company. On June 30, 1775 General George Washington came through Suffield with a small company of officers on a recruitment and inspection tour.⁸¹ The visit bolstered morale amongst the residents, who were making their own sacrifices on the home front. Suffield contributed significantly to the war effort, as did all of the Connecticut River towns, by supplying foodstuffs, munitions, clothing, and tobacco to soldiers, thus earning Connecticut the title of the Provision State during the conflict.

Post-Medieval Architecture

The earliest houses erected as shelter during the mid- to late seventeenth century were likely small, crude, and hastily constructed structures typical of those found throughout the New England colonies during the period. Perhaps unsurprisingly, none have survived. Despite this fact, the technology and techniques of construction applied in this area throughout the eighteenth century were largely the same as those used decades earlier. This included houses comprised of hand-hewn and pit-sawn post-and-beam timber frames laid on quarried or fieldstone foundations, with prominent central chimneys, clapboard siding, wood shingle roofs, and small multi-pane windows. All four of the building types most common to the period before the Revolutionary War – the Saltbox, Cape Cod Cottage, New England Farmhouse, and the Georgian – are found in Suffield. Of particular note is the fact that brick was commonly used to build foundations even at

an early date. This is largely due to the fact that fieldstones were less plentiful in the alluvial plains lining the Connecticut River.

Examples of Saltbox-style homes are few, while those that could be characterized as New England Farmhouses or Georgian-style homes were common even at an early date. Such homes were typically one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories in height, with rectangular footprints, symmetrical facades, centered entryways and chimneys, side-gabled roofs, and at times Federal or Georgian decorative details, particularly in the door surrounds. They were sheathed with narrow horizontal board siding and had fenestration consisting of 12-over-12, nine-over-nine, or six-over-nine double-hung sash. Vernacular examples persisted in rural areas long after the style had been supplanted by others, including, most notably, the Federal and Greek Revival forms.

Typically, one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side-gabled roof and centered entry and chimney, the Cape Cod Cottage was popular throughout New England due to its ease of construction and functionality. Being smaller in scale than the Garrison and Saltbox Colonials that preceded them, Capes could be more easily constructed by fewer builders and their simple plans were highly versatile. Both characteristics meant that those who did not need or could not afford a fully-formed Cape could build a half of three-quarter manifestation and add on to it later. Another version, the “raised Cape,” was achieved by simply raising the corner posts of the building, typically from eight to ten or 12 feet. This increased the amount of space in the attic, thus making it more accommodating for use as a sleeping area and allowing for a proper boxed staircase to be added in order to provide access to the upper story.⁸²

Two homes built in Suffield in the second half of the eighteenth century are notably well-preserved examples of the Cape Cod Cottage. The oldest in the study area is the Samuel Palmer House (193 East Street South) built ca. 1715. It has a five-bay façade with a flared eave and a paneled door topped by a multi-light transom that is in turn topped by a tall entablature. The Joseph Hastings House (ca. 1778, 779 Russell Avenue) is another remarkably intact, yet presently neglected, example of a Colonial-era Cape Cod Cottage. There have been no additions to the footprint of the house and it has not been raised. The openings all appear to be original as well. Unfortunately, its present condition may threaten the structure. Although altered by the addition of siding, the Cape Cod Cottage built by Posthumous Sikes at 863 Mapleton Avenue is another early example (built ca. 1741). It has a five-bay façade with a central entry and massive central brick chimney. A final example is a Cape with a saltbox-style roof built by Pelatiah H. Burbank at 921 Thompsonville Road circa 1792.

The Anthony Austin House at 395 East Street South is an excellent example of an early Saltbox-style house with a gambrel roof. Previous surveys date it anywhere from between 1691 (WPA Survey) to 1780 or 90 (HABS Survey). A second notable gambrel-roofed house in the study area can be found at 19 East Street South, known as the Benoni King House. Although it has been slightly altered, this house is an excellent and well-preserved example of a Cape Cod Cottage-style farmhouse with a gambrel roofline instead of the more commonly-used gable.

The Charles Hathaway House at 995 East Street South is an excellent and exceptionally well-preserved example of the typical New England Farmhouse. Built ca. 1752, it has a typical five-bay façade with a central entrance and

chimney. Although decorative details are limited, the entry has a modest surround comprised of wood pilasters and a simple entablature.

The Early Industrial Period, 1781-1865

Town Development

In the years following the Revolution, the Central Valley went through a period of depression and unrest.⁸³ Crops had been depleted in order to provide supplies for the Continental Army, and there was a pervasive need to rebuild and reorganize under the newly-established Colonial government. Conditions improved greatly toward the end of the eighteenth century once the government became stabilized on the State and local levels.⁸⁴ The last decades of the eighteenth century were ones of growth and stability in the town.⁸⁵ Suffield's self-sufficient farmers continued to clear fields for planting and labored to increase both their yields and exportable surpluses. Businesses flourished and soon merchants replaced ministers as the most powerful men in the town. The Reverend Ebenezer Gay openly complained of a growing "immorality" as materialism replaced spiritualism as the prevailing ideology of that day.⁸⁶

Administratively, the town functioned much as it does today. Boards and commissions were established to oversee all town activities and maintain the common good and votes were held to ensure a fair representation of the populace. In 1792, when a smallpox epidemic impacted residents, pest houses were established to quarantine the sick and inoculations were offered to residents to fend off the disease.⁸⁷ Although the town provided support in many ways, it lacked a designated poor house for much of this period. Instead the poor were sheltered at the house of Owen Phelps in neighboring East Granby. A town vote was held in 1815 to establish a house within town boundaries, but nothing came of it until 1852.⁸⁸ That year, after decades of discussion on the subject, Sands N. Babcock accepted the position to take "all persons that became town charges and exonerated the town for all expenses for \$1000 per year for three years, provided the poor be kept in town under supervision of the Selectmen."⁸⁹

The town's boundaries were completely and finally settled in 1804 when Southwick, Massachusetts and Suffield came to a compromise that resulted in the northwest portion of Suffield being restored to the town and lands west of Suffield going to Southwick. The result was the small tick in Connecticut's otherwise straight northern border.⁹⁰ During the same period, West Suffield increased both in population and influence. By 1813, a group of West District residents formally requested that some town meetings be held in that part of town. Heated discussions followed, but in the end the West District residents were rejected and the *staus quo* prevailed with all town meetings held on High Street.⁹¹

The population of Suffield numbered 2,467 in 1790.⁹² Since the founding of the town, home lots of the earliest landholders had been divided to provide parcels for their children and heirs. Many residents felt "overcrowded" by the growing population and chose to make a fresh start in the newly-opened Northwest Territory. These lands, also known as the Western Reserve, included vast areas of Ohio and New York. Suffield merchant Oliver Phelps was one of the largest

landowners and one of the chief proprietors of the Connecticut Land Company, the entity that purchased the Western Reserve lands from the State of Connecticut in 1796.⁹³ In 1788, he purchased and lavishly remodeled the Abraham Burbank House on High Street. Today it is known as the Phelps-Hathaway House and it stands as a great monument to Oliver Phelps and his success.⁹⁴

Oliver Phelps wasn't the only Suffield resident to gain prominence on a national level. Gideon Granger, Jr. was a Yale-educated lawyer who was part of a large and prosperous Suffield family. His father, Gideon, Sr., represented the town in the colonial assembly for eight years.⁹⁵ Gideon, Jr. founded a law school in Suffield and became active in politics. He was elected to represent Suffield in the Connecticut Legislature and was a strong supporter of Thomas Jefferson. He held his position in the legislature until 1801 when he left for Washington, D. C. to serve as Post Master General under Presidents Jefferson and Madison. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Connecticut State Common School Fund, which financed the state's public school system.⁹⁶ His son Francis went on to hold the post of Postmaster General under President Benjamin Harrison.⁹⁷

Dr. Sylvester Graham was the son of Rev. John Graham, Jr. He was a practicing vegetarian who believed diet had a direct impact on physical and emotional well-being – an idea that was uncommon at the time. He moved to Boston in 1837 and in 1840 published *The Graham Magazine*, in which he advocated for the use of coarsely ground flour. The result were the graham crackers that now bear his name.⁹⁸

An example of a local architect who left an early mark on the town was Henry Alexander Sykes. Sykes studied under Ithiel Towne and was responsible for the design of the First Congregational Church in 1835 and the Second Baptist Church in 1840. He was also responsible for the design of the Mills-Stebbins House in Springfield, which is famous for its central circular staircase.⁹⁹

Suffield narrowly escaped becoming a resort town at the end of the eighteenth century. Located between Remington Street and Prospect Street, the "Pool" was owned by Uriah Austin and those who took the cure did so under the supervision of Dr. Alexander King. On June 24, 1795, an advertisement in the Connecticut Courant stated that "a mineral spring has lately been discovered in Suffield...the drinking of said water is almost a certain cure for Gravel." Gravel was described as an inflammation that "hampers free circulation of the urine."¹⁰⁰

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, brothers Ebenezer and Fidelio King purchased the Pool and built a large hotel on site. People came from Boston, Providence, and New York City to take the waters, but the Kings were overextended in the Western Reserve. Captain Timothy Phelps leased the Pool from the Kings in 1812 and the sulfur-infused waters continued to draw those seeking a cure for what ailed them. Captain Phelps operated it on a grand scale until the death of Ebenezer King in 1824. The property was then inherited by his daughter Arabella and her husband Gamaliel Granger who attempted to continue the operation, however, visitation of the Pool came to an end with the death of Gamaliel in 1826. His brother Rueben moved in with Arabella and together they opened a private school on the site.¹⁰¹

One significant event marked the coming of a new era and symbolized the passing of Pynchon's Committee, this being the final meeting of the Suffield's proprietors, which was held on June 5, 1826. This body, made up of members of

the town's earliest families, had functioned at the center of the community's existence for over a century. They were, however, no longer relevant in a society that was growing more complex with each passing decade.¹⁰²

Agricultural and Transportation Development

It was during the early nineteenth century that tobacco cultivation and cigar making rose to become the most important aspect of Suffield's still solidly agrarian economy. The cigar industry allegedly began when Simeon Viets of West Suffield met an itinerant Cuban tobacco worker who taught him how to make "Spanish" type cigars in 1810. Viets began the first cigar factory in the United States in a shop located on the west side of Ratley Road near its intersection with Spruce Street.¹⁰³ The native variety of tobacco grown by Suffield residents was known as "shoestring leaf." It was, as the name connotes, long and thin and subsequently not ideal for cigar-making. In the 1830s, it was replaced by broadleaf plants that produced leaves perfectly suited for the burgeoning industry. In 1830, a shipment of tobacco bound for Germany was packed in bails that were larger than usual. It "sweated" en route, resulting in a silkier and more pliable leaf that was ideal for rolling cigars. This accidental discovery changed the way tobacco was processed and brought a significant fortune for Suffield's growers.¹⁰⁴

Connecticut Valley broadleaf tobacco was used to make fine cigars that were shipped from Suffield to ports all over the world with New York City being the principal market.¹⁰⁵ During the 1850s and 1860s the booming tobacco industry made many Suffield residents incredibly wealthy. It is estimated that over 16 million cigars were made in town in 1860. By 1869, there were 316 working farms in Suffield, of which 292 produced tobacco.¹⁰⁶ Cigar rolling shops were found throughout the town and ranged in size from small two- to three-person shops to large enterprises employing 15-20 people. Women were often employed to roll the cigars because it was thought that their delicate hands produced a finer cigar.

A paper mill, called the Franklin Mill, was established on Stony Brook near the Connecticut River in 1801. It was owned by Harvey Bissell and Henry Pease and produced three types of paper: writing paper, musket and rifle cartridge paper, and a heavy paper used to pack and ship tobacco.¹⁰⁷ The mill consisted of a three-story wood-frame building with a drying loft. It was destroyed by fire in 1866 and despite being subsequently rebuilt in brick, burned again in 1886. It was rebuilt a third time and operated as the Colt Dexter Company until a fire in 1914 finally ended production.¹⁰⁸

The Eagle Paper Mill was built on Stony Brook one mile west of the Franklin Mill in 1816. The original owners were Simeon and Asa Butler. Prior to 1820, all paper used by the Federal Government came from England. The Eagle Mill was the first to supply paper for use by the United States government.¹⁰⁹ The 1870 Federal Census indicates that most of the workers were housed nearby in a boarding house that contained three men and six women. William B. Latham, the superintendent of the mill, lived in an adjacent house. It was destroyed by fire in 1877.¹¹⁰

Transportation in the region remained largely focused around the river throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In 1798, the Connecticut General Assembly granted John Reynolds the right to build a bridge across the river. It was completed by 1810, however, being built of green timber it fell into the river by 1826. A second bridge was subsequently erected on the same site by William Dixon of Enfield.¹¹¹

A steam ferry was operated on the river by James Saunders by 1858. He ran it for a three years before selling the business to Duane Kendall. It was in turn sold to Mr. S. A. Griswold, who refurbished the boat and renamed her the “Cora.” This ferry operated until the newly formed bridge company purchased the rights in 1891. After the bridge was completed in 1892, Mr. Griswold continued to run the Cora for pleasure cruises.¹¹² Passenger steamers also stopped at Suffield en route between Hartford and Springfield for two dollars a trip.¹¹³

In 1825, work began on the Farmington Canal, which ran along the western boundary of Suffield and connected New Haven, Connecticut and Northampton, Massachusetts.¹¹⁴ Four years later, the Windsor Locks or Enfield Canal was completed in order to bypass the Enfield Rapids. Despite great hopes, neither had a significant impact on Suffield’s economy. Transportation via roadways, on the other hand, slowly improved during the early nineteenth century. Nearly all of Suffield’s main roads were in place by the 1830s and conditions were at least marginally enhanced within the period, this owing largely to the fact that a road scraper was purchased by the town and put in use by 1833.¹¹⁵

Beginning in the 1840s, railroads had the single greatest impact on the development of Connecticut’s cities and towns – transforming small manufacturing centers into industrial cities within the matter of a few decades. When a new line was proposed by the New Haven Railroad in order to connect Hartford to Springfield via Suffield, residents strongly opposed the plan. At a special meeting held on October 2, 1843, residents voted unanimously to reject the proposition.¹¹⁶ Instead, it crossed the river at Windsor Locks and continued through Thompsonville to Springfield. Residents feared trains would pose “a [danger] to the lives of our citizens...and infringement of our public rights.”¹¹⁷

The Connecticut General Assembly froze new bank charters between 1834 and 1847 due to the unstable economic climate leading up to and resulting from the Panic of 1837, however, the substantial wealth of many residents meant that the need to form a banking institution in Suffield was steadily increasing. On June 28, 1864, a meeting of stockholders was held and eleven directors of the First National Bank of Suffield were chosen. The bank began operation under President Daniel Norton in H. N. Prout’s store. In just nineteen days the stock capital stock was doubled from an initial investment of \$100,000.¹¹⁸

Religion and Society

Ebenezer Gay, Jr. assumed the ministerial duties of the First Congregational Church after his father’s death in 1796.¹¹⁹ Like his father before him, he bemoaned the general breakdown of Christian principles within his flock. His rhetoric no doubt reflected the slipping influence of the Congregational Church within Suffield. The period between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars was marked by a progressively liberal political climate, which led an increasing number of

individuals to call for greater religious freedom. The approval of the Connecticut Constitution in 1818 brought an end to the strong union between State government and the Congregational Church and made several guarantees of religious freedom. Suffield's own Reverend Asabel Morse contributed to Article Seven on the Constitution document entitled, "On Religion."¹²⁰

As a result of this newfound freedom, more and more individuals desired to create places of worship where they could freely express their beliefs. In 1805, a small group of Baptists in East Suffield established the Second Baptist Church, which for the first three years met at the district schools on Boston Neck Road and Feather and South Streets. The congregation secured a building lot at the corner of Bridge and High Streets, but members of the Standing Order made construction difficult.¹²¹ In 1808, a modest meetinghouse was built, which was derisively referred to by some as the "old Barn."¹²² Following the passing of the Constitution in 1818, the congregation grew steadily and a new building was constructed on the same site in 1840. The first Pastor was Caleb Green, who was in turn succeeded by Bennett Hastings in 1815, and Calvin Philleo in 1825.¹²³

Baptists were not the only denomination to organize during this period. Suffield's Episcopal and Methodist citizens also sought their own congregations and meeting places in the decades just before the Civil War. A Methodist church was built in December 1839, and this was followed by the establishment of the Cavalry Episcopal Church in 1865.

One-room schoolhouses continued to be built throughout town during the nineteenth century in order to meet the demand of a growing population. In 1797, a third schoolhouse was built on the Common for the Center District, and in 1802 one was built for the East District on the west side of Boston Neck Road. In 1860, both the Town Hall and the Center District School were destroyed by the same fire. The following year, a combined structure replaced them. This housed a new Town Hall on the first story, and rooms for the Center District School on the upper floor.¹²⁴

In 1821, an institution that would have a major impact on the town was organized. The Connecticut Baptist Education Society was established to educate young men for the ministry. In 1833, the school moved from the Center District School to buildings constructed on the property belonging to Sergeant Samuel Kent. It opened in 1833 with Rueben Granger as Associate Principal.¹²⁵ A Ladies Department was added in 1843, and later that same year it became known as the Connecticut Literary Institution. Between 1843 and 1870, the school grew rapidly adding several buildings to its campus and reaching a student population of between two and three hundred students.

According to local tradition, an informal town library was established in the Gay Mansion at some point during the 1790s. The first subscription library was started in West Suffield in 1812 with 43 members, each paying two dollars for the privilege of "filling up those leisure hours with useful studies, which otherwise may be devoted to vanity and idleness."¹²⁶

Idleness may indeed have been an issue for some as there were servants in nearly every wealthy household. In farming families, hired farmhands were employed to work in the fields and a "hired girl" helped with the household chores. Census records indicate that the majority of these laborers and servants during this period were of English descent, with Irish immigrants becoming the dominant group by the 1850s.

The issue of slavery was obviously a central debate in the years leading up to the Civil War. By 1800, there were only four people listed as slaves in the town of Suffield.¹²⁷ This is largely due to the fact that manumission was a common practice in Connecticut following the Revolutionary War. In 1812, the Reverend Ebenezer Gay and William Gay applied for permission to discharge three slaves from their service by the names of Ginny, Dinah, and Titus.¹²⁸ All three were the children of Rose, who was purchased by Gay at the slave auction at Middletown. Rose was born in Africa, and stated often that she was a princess in her country. Following their manumission, the three remained in Suffield and became paid servants in other families.

A small free black population existed in Suffield during this time, however, it is clear that their standing in society was tenuous at best. Titus served as sexton under Reverend Ebenezer Gay and William Gay and while alive he appeared to enjoy a sense of prominence among the parishioners. After his death the reality of his position came harshly into the light. After years of digging graves and tending to the cemetery, Titus' body was relegated to an unmarked grave in the corner of the burial ground.¹²⁹ The notes of Hezekiah Sheldon perhaps sum up the issue best as he wrote that, "A remote pew in the meeting house and a remote corner in the churchyard were the common heritage of the negro. Scores of them were buried at the north west corner of the ancient ground with only rank weeds and briars to protect the mounds above them."¹³⁰ This portion of the cemetery was covered over in 1850 and new graves (for whites) were placed upon the unmarked ones of the African-Americans below. About this situation Sheldon further noted that, "no stoned urn or animated bust indicated that ever an African slave had rested his head upon the lap of earth in the first church yard of Suffield."¹³¹

The Reverend Calvin Philleo, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, was deeply concerned with the plight of the African American community. Philleo married Prudence Crandall (Connecticut's State Heroine) in 1834. Crandall is famous for founding a private school in Canterbury, Connecticut that admitted a free black woman by the name of Sarah Harris in 1833. After her white students boycotted, she began exclusively admitting and teaching African-American girls. There was a terrible public backlash against Crandall and her students and the school was subsequently attacked and disbanded. After her marriage to Philleo, the couple moved to Massachusetts. Her stepson, Calvin Wheeler Philleo, became great advocate of antislavery movement.¹³²

Civil War

At the start of the American Civil War the population of Suffield was 3,260 and a total of roughly 350 men between the ages of 18 and 45 were eligible for enlistment.¹³³ After Fort Sumter was attacked on April 13, 1861, Company C of the Fourth Connecticut Regiment was organized under the command of Captain Roland C. Burbank.¹³⁴ The company left Suffield on May 15, 1861, amidst much fanfare and speeches, and headed for Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The Company name was changed to the First Regiment Heavy Artillery in 1862 and by that time it consisted of 48 Suffield men, two of whom did not return from the conflict. The second Suffield company to serve the

Union was Company D, 16th Regiment Connecticut Infantry, this organized in July and August of 1862. Sixty-four men from Suffield served in this regiment, which went on to fight in numerous clashes including the Battle of Antietam. Eleven were killed in the battle or afterwards fell ill and never returned.¹³⁵

Ninety-five men were later recruited to serve in the 22nd Connecticut Regiment, and thirty-seven of Suffield's African-Americans served in the 29th Connecticut Regiment after they were allowed to be recruited in 1863. Still others served in the Seventh Connecticut Regiment.¹³⁶ A public draft was put into effect almost immediately at the start of the war, but public outcry forced it to be suspended within a month. Instead voluntary enlistments were encouraged by offering to pay a sum to each enlisted man.¹³⁷ Under the conscription act of 1863, it became possible to pay for an exemption. It was even more common for men to pay for a proxy and in this way many men bought their way out of the war.¹³⁸

Neo-Classical and Romantic Architecture

There was a great deal of residential building in Suffield during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with that located within the survey area mostly taking place along Mapleton Avenue, River Boulevard, and East Street (Feather Street). The Federal and Greek Revival-style houses built in Suffield often made liberal use of classical details, this serving to reflect the wealth and stature of the owner, in addition to their worldly knowledge of the latest building styles.

The aforementioned styles, most common in the last decades of the eighteenth and first three-quarters of the nineteenth century, were driven by influences popularized in England during the middle of the eighteenth century through the work of brothers Robert and James Adam. After traveling throughout the Mediterranean, Robert, the elder of the two, introduced a variety of classical details into his work, the result being a renewed interest in the monuments of ancient Greece and Rome.

In the United States, the popularity of the Adam style corresponded with the conclusion of the Revolutionary War and, as such, is often referred to as the Federal style, after that political period. The Federal style shares much of the essential form of the New England Farmhouse and Georgian homes that preceded it, however, buildings from the Federal period relied much more heavily on further refined and elaborate Roman classical detailing and ornamentation. This was largely concentrated around the entry, which was located on the long or eave-side elevation of the house, rather than the gable-end. This elevation typically faced the street and its entryway details might include elaborate porticos and door surrounds, sidelights flanking the entry, and leaded semicircular or elliptical fanlights above the doorway. Detailed entablatures with denticulated or modillioned cornices were also common. High-style examples were generally limited to churches, commercial buildings, or the homes of prominent and wealthy citizens, while more simple residences and farmhouses tended to be characterized by the application of a limited number of the aforementioned elements to otherwise vernacular buildings.¹³⁹

Regardless of its rural character, Suffield was architecturally sophisticated during the period in which the Federal style flourished. It may be surprising to note that there are a fair number of high-style Federal buildings found outside of the central historic district. Even though it was refined, it was also conservative, and therefore this style persisted much later than was common in urban centers. While its use had faded in most areas by the 1820s, it was still being applied in Suffield as late as the 1860s. One of the earliest and best examples of a Federal style house within the survey area can be found at 992 Mapleton Avenue (built ca. 1798).

Emerging around 1825, the popularity of the Greek Revival style overlapped with that of the Federal. By 1840, however, the Greek Revival had supplanted its aesthetic cousin and was well established as the dominant high-style American architectural form. The Greek Revival drew its influence from the temples and monuments of ancient Greece and while initially only found in the design of public buildings, the style soon became the favored form for use in residential construction through by Asher Benjamin (*The Country Builder's Assistant* (1797) and *The American Builder's Companion* (1816) and Minard Lafever (*The Young Builder's General Instruction* (1829), the *Modern Builder's Guide* (1833), *The Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835) and *The Architectural Instructor* (1850)). Typical Greek Revival details include shallow pitched roofs, usually with the gable-end oriented towards the street, raking cornices, wide trim or frieze bands, prominent corner boards or pilasters, and entry or full-width porches supported by classical columns. Sidelights, transoms, pilasters, and heavy lintels are also commonly found around the entryways.¹⁴⁰

A version of a Greek Revival-style house executed in brick for Alvah Allen ca. 1850 is found at 288 East Street North. It has a five-bay façade with pedimented gable-ends and a wide frieze band below the cornice. An excellent example of a Federal-style residence bearing likely later Greek Revival modifications house was built at 992 Mapleton Avenue by Apollos Fuller in 1792. The pediment is filled with flush boards and an elliptical fanlight and is finely trimmed with molding. The house facing Boston Neck Road at 11 Redstone Road (alternately 839 Boston Neck Road, built ca. 1828) is an excellent example the Greek Revival-style bearing paneled pilasters and a classical surround on the off-center entry.

Another example of the influence of Romantic trends in architecture includes the Gothic Revival style, which followed in the wake of Greek Revival forms by the 1840s. Largely popularized through mass-produced architectural pattern books, perhaps most notably Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences*, the Gothic Revival was loosely based on the architecture of medieval England and resurgent forms gained popularity in that country during the eighteenth century before first appearing in the United States in the 1830s. The style's definitive characteristics include steeply-pitched roofs with steep cross gables, wall surfaces and windows extending from the first or second stories into the gables, Gothic-inspired (typically pointed arch) windows, and detailed porches. Decorative elements include intricate bargeboards in the gables and ornamental hoods over the windows and doors. Few Gothic Revival homes can be found in the survey area. The example at 1452 Mapleton Street has already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this taking place in 1982. The only other example of note can be found at 741 Mapleton Avenue (built ca. 1840). It is a more modest version of the style, yet still exhibits the same steeply-pitched gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves, flared eaves, and Gothic arches on the first-story windows.

A further Romantic style, the Italianate, likewise began in England before making its way into the American built environment during the first half of the nineteenth century. This style was influenced by Italian country homes and Renaissance-era villas, yet developed into an entirely indigenous form once established in the United States. Italianate homes are typically two or three stories in height and have low-pitched (usually hipped or gable) roofs with widely overhanging eaves and detailed brackets. Tall, narrow windows are common and often have arched or round-headed window tops. Windows and doors are frequently crowned with decorative hoods. The best example of the style in the survey area is found at 768 Mapleton Avenue (built ca. 1860). This house displays wide overhangs of the roof with elaborate scrolled brackets and porches and porticos with trimmed, arched openings and chamfered posts. Another fine example is the house at 952 East Street South, which was erected ca. 1857.

The Late Industrial Period, 1865-1929

Tobacco, Agriculture and the end of Small-Scale Manufacturing

As Suffield's residents moved to support the Union both at home and on the battlefield, agriculture remained the basis for the local economy, with tobacco still firmly rooted at its center. During this period, when manufacturing centers emerged throughout other areas of the Central Valley, nearly all industrial activities ceased in Suffield. Across the river in Enfield, the village of Thompsonville became known as "Carpet City" due to the large number of woolen and carpet mills located there. The Thompsonville Bridge connected the northeastern part of Suffield with this urban center and as a result a robust and vibrant neighborhood developed in the vicinity. In the "Bridge" neighborhood, this roughly centered around what are now Thompsonville Road, River Boulevard, and Burbank Avenue, Greek, Polish, Italian, and Irish families who both worked in the mills and on Suffield's farms purchased land and erected houses here. Some opened stores or small businesses while others came to Suffield and revitalized old Yankee farms. The result was a densely settled group of streets centered around the bridge.

Throughout Suffield, local farms still supplied the vast majority of locally consumed meat and vegetables, and some artisans, blacksmiths, and small shops remained, however, Suffield was no longer self-sufficient. As a result, it became less insular and more dependent on the outside world.

Cigar manufacturing did decline slightly during the period, as the focus shifted to tobacco production rather than creation of the final product. Many local syndicates were formed to raise tobacco and sell the cured product to be processed in another market. The Austins, Hastings, Halladays, Sheldons and Bissells, Fullers, Spencers and Loomises all dealt tobacco in this way to larger markets in New York.¹⁴¹

The cultivation of tobacco was – and largely remains – a delicate, difficult, and time-consuming process. Seedbeds were planted in early spring and covered with grass or cloth and tented when the stems reached two to three inches in height.¹⁴² They are then pulled, placed in flats and transplanted to growing tables. From there they went to the

planter; a mule-drawn machine carrying two men who dropped plants into holes created by a rotating wheel at the center of the planter. If the seedlings survived to maturity, which was never a certainty, the process of harvesting was the most difficult part of the venture. Plants were cut in the field and speared onto a metal sleeve and then threaded onto a large wooden lathe. The lathes were transferred by tobacco wagon from the fields to the curing sheds where the rows of lathes were hung to allow for the circulation of air between them. The air was controlled by manipulation of long vertical slats making up the side- and end-walls of the sheds. Once cured, the leaves were taken down, packed, and shipped.¹⁴³

In 1899, experiments were conducted involving the growing of tobacco under cloth screens. William S. Pinney was the pioneer of this technique in Suffield and he also purportedly worked with Willis Carrier to air-condition his tobacco warehouse. In 1901, six acres of shade-grown tobacco grew at Pinney plantation. This soon increased to 100 acres grown under cloth, according to a United States Department of Agriculture survey. Shade-grown tobacco was expensive to produce and involved a much higher level of preparation. Nine-foot-tall poles had to be set in the ground and joined by a heavy wire that was usually 33 feet across. A heavy cloth screen was hoisted on top of the heavy wire grid and sewn to the wire using thick string. Women often did this portion of the work and it was grueling.¹⁴⁴ Understandably, this process was physically and financially challenging for a small-scale farmer and made it difficult for the to small scale grower to compete. As a result, many eventually leased their land to larger syndicates. The syndicates financed the owner and grower in exchange for the crops. When the leases ran out, the growers often sold their land to the syndicates.¹⁴⁵ Such syndicates were held by the Fullers, Austins, Hastings, Pinneys, Fords and Sheldons, as well as by Hatheway and Steane. By 1905, the large packing houses in Suffield had a strong influence on the local economy – employing over 600 workers¹⁴⁶.

Seeing what profits were possible, larger companies began moving into Suffield. Firms including American Sumatra, General Cigar, Imperial tobacco, Hartmann Brothers, Cullman Bros, Hathaway, and Steane H. Duys all moved in to take advantage of the quality of Suffield broad leaf after the turn of the century.

Many Polish farmers initially came to Suffield as hired laborers. The first to arrive in 1888 was allegedly Michael Zukowski, who came to work in the fields of Calvin Spencer.¹⁴⁷ Additional immigrants followed over the course of the next decade and by 1905 special schools were set up to teach English to the newly-arrived residents. The classes, which were part of a volunteer program, were held at night so that students could still work during the day.¹⁴⁸ Many immigrant families soon owned their own land and engaged in growing tobacco, raising dairy herds, and cultivating truck crops such as potatoes, corn, melons, and small fruits. By 1920, Polish immigrants alone comprised of 25 percent of Suffield's population.¹⁴⁹ There was also a smaller, but equally successful group of African-American farmers in town, including Edward Dunston, Oscar Chamberlain, Joseph Johnson, Jeremiah Hayes, Walter Wren, George Gayles, Reuben Harris, James Edmonds, Water Morgan, and William Craig. Most operated small tobacco farms supplemented by the sale of other agricultural products.¹⁵⁰

Businesses related to agriculture also flourished in Suffield during this period and the Spencer Brothers Company is a prime example. Samuel Reid Spencer was born in Suffield in 1871 and after attending the Connecticut Literary Institute and then graduating from Yale in 1893, he formed a company that supplied coal, lumber, grain, and various other

supplies to local farmers. He was incredibly successful and went on to be elected the town's Treasurer, a position he held from 1900-1935.¹⁵¹

Banking services also expanded during the nineteenth century. Suffield Savings Bank, the second such institution in town, was chartered on June 19, 1869 and Martin Sheldon served as the first president.¹⁵² The Sheldon family had made a great fortune in the tobacco business, particularly by selling cigars in the New York market. The family invested heavily in the First National Bank of Suffield and the Suffield Savings Bank, as well as in Hartford firms such as the Travelers Insurance Company and Hartford Fire Insurance Company.¹⁵³ Generations of the family served as directors and presidents of many of these organizations.

Educational and Social Developments

As was typical throughout most of the state, up until the mid-1860s Suffield's children were educated at home or in a small number of local district schools. In the 1870s and 1880s, the district schools became the primary basis for education. The town remained under the district model until it switched to the "town system" in 1898.¹⁵⁴ Under the new arrangement there were eight grades and a school committee of volunteers was established to oversee the system. That same year, a state law was passed that required towns to establish high schools or pay tuition for children seeking to attend private high schools. In 1897, Suffield voted to pay 30 dollars per student annually for them to attend the Connecticut Literary Institution. During the twentieth century, it came to be known as The Suffield School and served as the high school for locals from 1897 to 1939 when a central high school building was built. Starting in 1920, all students above the fifth grade were transported from outlying districts to the First Center District and Second Center District school buildings, which served as middle schools. Slowly, the one-room district schools were replaced by more centralized elementary schools.¹⁵⁵

In the 1890s, Apollos Fuller dug an artesian well on the west side of Crooked Lane that soon provided public water to a portion of town. The area supplied by Fuller's Village Water Company coincided with the boundaries of the Center School District and became Suffield Village in May 1893. The responsibilities of the Village included to "extinguish fires, to sprinkle streets, to light streets, to pan and care for shade and ornamental trees, maintain sides-walks, cross-walks, drains and sewers and to appoint and employ watchmen or police officers."¹⁵⁶ The Village operated in this manner until 1958.

Transportation improvements continued to be made in Suffield during this time and the town finally became connected to the outside world by rail during the 1860s. The Windsor Locks and Suffield Railroad Company was incorporated in 1868. This firm merged with the New Haven Railroad three years later and the route became known as the Suffield Branch Road. A train known as the "Huckleberry" made two trips a day, with one direction of each route being in reverse because there was no turntable located at either end of the line. The train traveled in a straightforward direction from Windsor Locks to Suffield and there connected with the Springfield-Hartford train. This service-allowed for a

number of Suffield's residents to become commuters. Trains left at 8:00am and returned at 5:30pm. Three stations were located throughout the town: one at the foot of South Street, west of Bridge Street, a second on Mountain Road, and a third at Mather Street where it crosses Route 159¹⁵⁷

In 1902, trolley service was established connected Suffield to Springfield and Hartford. The main line followed Crooked Lane from the Massachusetts line and then traveled along High Street South, Kent Avenue, and Boston Neck Road to East Street South. Summer trolley excursions were a popular pastime on Saturdays and Sundays, however, increased use of personal automobiles brought an end to the service during the 1920s.¹⁵⁸

Efforts were also made to provide additional amenities to the town residents. An Emergency Aid Association of Suffield was formed at the suggestion of the late Dr. Philo W. Street in 1904. It provided sick room appliances and assistance for those "who because of helplessness or poverty may be in need of them."¹⁵⁹ Ms. Ellen A. Qualley served as the first nurse and a Ford Runabout was purchased for her use in 1916.¹⁶⁰ The Town Poor Farm also operated as a dairy and grew vegetables and fruits for those in need.¹⁶¹

Many other advances were being made during this period of rapid change. In 1900, a hook and ladder company was formed and in 1917 a six-cylinder Knox combination chair and hose car was purchased for the department.¹⁶² In 1925, fire hydrants were installed in the Central District, while telephone service by operator was introduced in 1927. Despite the progress, grocers still took orders door-to-door in morning and delivered their goods after lunch.¹⁶³

In a watershed move, the Town Planning and Zoning Commission was formed on June 12, 1929 in an effort to cope with increasing population stresses and to aid in maintaining the scenic character of the town. It was the first of its kind to be formed in the State.¹⁶⁴

With shifting demographics and an increase in the overall population, religious institutions also experienced significant changes during this period. While the Episcopal Church was demolished in 1923 due to lacking attendance, new places of worship were organized that reflected the evolving character of the populace. West Suffield had been home to a large Irish population since the 1840s, and on June 18, 1882 the first Roman Catholic service was held in Suffield at the home of John Gilligan. Sacred Heart Church was built on Mountain Road to serve the congregation in 1885.¹⁶⁵ The Polish community formed St. Joseph's Polish Church Society, with twenty-five original members in 1905. Members gathered money to purchase the church property, which was a converted barn on High Street and the first service was held there on Easter Sunday of 1916.¹⁶⁶

The African-American population in Suffield organized the Third Baptist Church in 1903. It began as a mission church under the guidance of Reverend David Drew of Springfield, Massachusetts. Meetings were originally held in the Town Hall, however, two years later a church lot was purchased on the north side of Kent Avenue and the current structure was dedicated on March 31, 1906.¹⁶⁷ Pastor Drew served the congregation until 1918. In 1919, the Reverend Samuel Ellison of Fairfield became head of the church.¹⁶⁸ The 1920 Federal Census shows that a group of eleven African-American families made their homes along Kent Avenue, including the Reverend Samuel Elliston, who was a native of North Carolina. Elliston resided with his wife Clara, who was listed as a music teacher, while most of his congregation

worked in the tobacco industry as laborers, sizers, warehouse watchmen, or farm managers, or held jobs as teamsters, domestic help and chauffeurs. Many of the residents of Kent Avenue were from Virginia or the Carolinas.¹⁶⁹

Following the conclusion of the Civil War, financial stability and increased mobility resulted in shifting patterns regarding how Suffield's citizens spent their free time. Many individuals pursued sports and other leisure time activities, while others joined fraternal or social clubs. Several tennis courts and golf courses were built across town and the Community Holding Company was formed to build a golf course and clubhouse.¹⁷⁰ The Lyceum of Farmers was organized in 1879 in an effort to spread information regarding the latest agricultural advancements. Organization of the Grange followed in 1885 and by 1920 its membership numbered 200.¹⁷¹

In 1877, Martin Sheldon, president of Suffield Agricultural Society built a half-mile racetrack on Mountain Road in West Suffield. It included a track, stands, and several exhibition buildings. Sheldon organized a Harvest Week celebration, with a program filled with races, celebrations, and an agricultural fair. The event proved so popular with local residents that a spring and summer session were also added. Sadly, changing tastes and World War I brought an end to the festivities and the Agricultural Society ceased activities in 1917. The site is now home to the Suffield Middle School.¹⁷²

In June of 1884, a movement began in town to create a public library, this headed by Professor J.F. Kelley, faculty at the Connecticut Literary institute. The Suffield Library Association was formed and in its first year the library accrued 600 volumes. A meeting of the directors was held on June 5, 1885, whereupon it was decided that patrons would be charged one dollar for a card entitling the holder to library privileges. The first library was housed on the first floor of a building located at the corner of Day Avenue and Main Street.

The Kent Memorial Library was founded in 1893 after the State Legislature passed an act providing state aid for the purchase of books. A special town meeting was held on March 14, 1894 in order to organize a free library. Twelve directors were chosen and volumes were purchased from the existing Suffield Library. In 1897, Dr. Sidney Kent, a native of Suffield, donated the funds needed to build the library on the property of one of his ancestors, Samuel Kent, who was among the town's original proprietors (this is presently the site of the Old South building of the Connecticut Literary Institute). The library building was dedicated on November 1, 1899, and by September 1901 the library had 10,759 volumes.¹⁷³

Womens' clubs such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mapleton Literary Club, and the Ladies Wide Awake Society were formed to provide intellectual and social stimulation for the female members of the populace. The Mapleton Literary Club was formed on October 20, 1905 by nine women who lived on that street. Their chief focus was the study of American history, literature, and travel. There were 37 members by 1920 and the club remained active through the 1990s.¹⁷⁴ Frequently conservative, many of these clubs were reluctant to become politically active in the Suffrage movement, however, many members no doubt celebrated when the right to vote was finally granted in 1920.¹⁷⁵

One woman who left a notable lasting mark on Suffield's historic resources was Delphinia Clark. Clark was born in Branford, Connecticut in 1892. After graduating from Vassar College, she entered the Yale School of Architecture and became the institution's first female graduate in 1913.¹⁷⁶ Clark studied under Richard H. Dana and J. Frederick Kelly, and became fascinated by Colonial architecture. She eventually went on to assist Kelly on his landmark book *Old Houses of*

Connecticut. After moving to Suffield in 1932, Clark and her husband Henry M. Clark purchased and restored the Alexander King house on North Street. They then purchased and restored the Remington-Lewis House on Hastings Hill.¹⁷⁷ She went on to serve as a benefactor of the Hatheway House, Kent Library and personally authenticated the sites of Pynchon's first mills. This was all in addition to her early studies in radio telegraphy at Herald's Engineering School in California. It was there that she became the first woman in the country to qualify for her commercial radio operations license.¹⁷⁸

In 1920, the Town of Suffield celebrated its 250th Anniversary. A three-day program was planned for October 12, 13, and 14, this featuring speeches, celebrations, and plays. Beyond the work of Ms. Clark, there was a general interest in the town's historic architecture. Shortly before the 250th Anniversary, during a Quarter Millennial of the town in 1920, Mr. Samuel R. Spencer and members of the Historical Committee placed about one hundred plaques showing the builder and date of construction for the town's historic houses.¹⁷⁹

The First World War

While times were generally peaceful for Suffield residents during the first two decades of the twentieth century, armed conflict in Europe forced the town to again prepare for war in 1914. A chapter of the Red Cross was established and large sums of money were raised by the issuance of war bonds, with \$1,139,250 being collected in total. Victory gardens were planted and ladies rolled bandages by the hundreds to send to soldiers at the front. A total of 170 men from Suffield went off to fight in the conflict and four were lost: Joseph E DeZolt, Jr., Lewis S. Graham, William T Lally, and Thomas Quinn.¹⁸⁰ Despite the terrible losses inflicted on the battlefield, the lack of a constant flow of information such as that available during the Second World War and subsequent conflicts, the Great War remained a somewhat remote affair to the people of Suffield.

Victorian and Early Twentieth-Century Architecture

The stately New England Farmhouses, Federal, and Greek Revival-style houses built in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries often remained in the hands of a successive line of a single family, and they were reused or rehabilitated in order to accommodate generation after generation of inhabitants. Even when sold off by a family, they were often preserved and simply expanded or slightly altered in order to meet the needs or taste of new inhabitants. A few examples of Victorian architecture, however, do exist in the study area. Those buildings erected in Suffield during the last decades of the nineteenth century represent Victorian forms popular at the time, including the Second Empire, Stick, and Queen Anne styles, however the majority of homes are vernacular interpretations, rather than high-style examples.

There are no true examples of the Second Empire style found within the study area. The closest example is found at 1082 East Street South. This brick building is topped by a hipped/mansard roof with unusual dormers surmounted by pyramidal roofs supported by columns. At the apex of the roof there is a cupola topped by the same shaped roof. The building was originally erected in 1818, yet was altered in its present form at a later date. Unfortunately, the building stands vacant and in poor condition.

Another popular Victorian form represented in the survey area is the Stick style. This decorative form is commonly referred to as a transitional design linking the Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles. Defined by the application of whimsical and intricate detailing, typical features include decorative trusswork, elaborate wall cladding and half-timbering, exposed rafter tails, and diagonal or curved bracing. These characteristics suggest origins in Gothic forms, while the style's massing is often more clearly relatable to the Queen Anne. The house at 844 River Boulevard (built ca. 1880) is the best example of this style within the survey area. It has an L-shaped plan with several gable forms and pitches and elaborate bargeboards and trimwork.

Despite the presence of the aforementioned examples, the majority of Victorian buildings in the survey area are vernacular interpretations of popular forms, including the Stick, Queen Anne, and Folk Victorian styles. While these vernacular manifestations lack the intricate details of the high-style buildings they reference, some of their shared features include front-facing pitched roofs, large porches, decorative porch supports and scrollwork, and two-over-two double-hung sash. One of the finest examples in the survey area is at 615 Mather Street (built ca. 1899). It has a hipped roof with a gabled projection filled with fishscale shingles and a wrap-around porch.

The popularity of the aforementioned Romantic styles faded by the last decade of the nineteenth century as they were slowly supplanted by what came to be known as the Eclectic Movement. The latter was inspired by a renewed interest in historical influences and resulted in styles including the Classical Revival, Italian Renaissance, French Chateausque, and Beaux-Arts, and the Colonial and Tudor Revivals. The most favored was the Colonial Revival, which gained initial popularity during the 1880s and eventually became the ubiquitous architectural form of the first half of the twentieth century. Many manifestations of the style emerged, most sharing influences derived from early American Colonial architecture, such as Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial buildings. Houses of this type commonly have rectangular plans, and hipped, pitched, or gambrel roofs. Decorative features mimic classical models and often include elaborate porticos or porches. Double-hung sash and multipane, symmetrically-placed windows are common, as are sidelight-flanked entries.¹⁸¹

Regardless of the national popularity of the Colonial Revival style, only a few high-style examples can be found in the survey area. An excellent manifestation is found at 803 River Boulevard (built ca. 1900). It features a Palladian window in the upper gable-end and a large wrap-around porch with a rounded form. A good example of the Foursquare subtype of the Colonial Revival can be found at 927 East Street North. Built ca. 1900, this house is typical of the style due to the presence of its hipped roof with central dormer, symmetrically placed door and window openings, and a prominent front porch with Tuscan columns.

The last style to emerge in Suffield during this period was the Craftsman or Bungalow. This architectural form was popularized in the United States through the work of Californian architects Charles and Henry Green, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Characteristically one-and-a-half-stories in height, bungalows typically had rubble or cobblestone foundations and chimneys, low-pitched roofs extending over full-width one-story porches, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and bracketed eave lines. A variety of dormer arrangements are common, as are heavy columns or piers supporting the porch. A small number of Craftsman- type houses dating from the 1910s through the 1930s were found throughout the survey area. An early example includes 810 East Street South (built ca. 1915), which features an integral front porch set below a flared eave and supported by wide, shingled piers. The Craftsman-style house at 495 Mapleton Avenue (built ca. 1935) is a later example and displays an interesting cross-bracing system in the clipped gable end and stone piers supporting the front porch.

The Modern Era, 1929-Present

The Great Depression and Second World War

During the mid-to-late twentieth century Suffield remained a primarily rural area, however, the community experienced increasingly shifting demographics. While the names of the original proprietors could still be found throughout town, new families from Greece, Italy, Ireland, and Eastern Europe increasingly called Suffield home. Many continued to settle in and around the Bridge Street neighborhood. In 1930, Leon Buczyniski was elected third selectman in town, thus becoming the first representative of the Polish community in the town's government.¹⁸²

Population growth was modest during the interwar years, with the total of 4,070 residents in 1920 increasing to just 4,475 by 1940.¹⁸³ Tobacco remained firmly at the center of Suffield's economy, however, the syndicates increasingly pushed the smaller farmers out. The worldwide tobacco raising process also became more homogenized and the importance of high-quality of leaf tobacco was largely reduced as processes were developed to shred, liquefy, and then roll the product into durable processed sheets. The market for shade grown tobacco subsequently diminished and cultivated acreage in town reduced. Agriculture persisted as dairy and beef cattle became more popular, however, farming in general experience an overall decline.¹⁸⁴

One notable example of a persistent and thriving farm is that maintained by the Bielonko family in East Suffield. Benjamin Bielonko came from Poland in the 1900s and he established a farm where he grew broadleaf tobacco and raised a dairy herd. He acquired adjacent lands and his children and grandchildren continued to expand the business through the 1950s, when they added a vegetable business and farm stands. The family continues to operate the farm on East Street North.¹⁸⁵

Following the stock market crash of 1929 the residents of Suffield seemed to feel the impact to a lesser degree than many others throughout Connecticut and the nation. While thousands suffered through the Depression, the prevailing

memory of Suffield at the time was that town residents took care of one another so that none suffered too greatly. There were hardships, of course, however one indication of the relative calm felt throughout the town is illustrated by the fact that Suffield undertook only one project with assistance from the Public Works Administration funds, this being the improvement of Hill Street to the Massachusetts state line.¹⁸⁶ The first Suffield Public High School was constructed in 1938, and when several additions in the following decades failed to contain the students, a second building was constructed in 1965.¹⁸⁷

In the 1930s, the residents of Suffield enjoyed many of the comforts made possible by the modern age. Radios and electric refrigerators were common, however, on the other hand, natural ice was still cut from local ponds.¹⁸⁸ There was also a growing abundance of leisure time. A summer theater was introduced in Suffield in 1936 and this was well attended until the outbreak of World War II. Known as the “Band Box Theater,” it operated out of a barn on the Lewis Farm on Hastings Hill. Remarkably, the New York Times voted it one of the top five venues in the East. Actress Tallulah Bankhead came for a brief stay of three days, during which time she did little acting and made it a generally unpleasant time for all involved.¹⁸⁹

While the Depression years seemed to be taken in stride by the population of Suffield, the Hurricane of 1938 had a devastating effect on the entire town. Striking on September 21, 1938, the great storm ravaged Connecticut and tore the spire of the Congregational from its roof and smashed it back down on top of the building. The interior was ruined and the church organ was destroyed.¹⁹⁰ No lives were lost, however, throughout town tobacco fields were destroyed resulting in millions of dollars in lost crops that year. Additionally, many of the town’s magnificent old trees were devastated by the high winds.¹⁹¹

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, America once again found itself at war. A pilot training base was constructed in Windsor Locks at the southern edge of town and it was subsequently named Bradley Airfield in honor of the first young man who lost his life there.¹⁹² Like most other cities in Connecticut, blackouts and air raids were common and newspapers and newsreels brought the war closer to the fore than ever before.¹⁹³ War rallies were held and money was raised by the sale of war bonds. Actress Joan Fontaine – who had rented a house on High Street and grew very fond of Suffield – led a hugely successful war bond rally on February 8, 1944.¹⁹⁴ This time the war was felt acutely by the population of Suffield. A total of 600 young men were sent to war, this amounting to one-third of the population under 25 years of age, a huge sacrifice for a farming community of just 4,500. Twenty-three of those who served the country never returned.

The Post-War Period and Suburbanization

Following the war, Suffield’s character began to change at a rapid pace. As automobiles became commonplace and new interstate highway systems were completed, Suffield became a suburb of both Hartford and Springfield. In 1958, Interstate-91 became the major north-south highway in the area and this was connected to Suffield via a system of

improved state routes. The population jumped from 4,895 in 1950 to 6,779 in 1960, and increase of 38.5 percent. Over the following decade it rose another 27.4% to reach 8,634. These numbers meant that new housing developments were inevitable. The first, Countryside Acres, was located on the west side of East Street North, just south of its intersection with Canal Road. It was followed in quick succession by Randall Drive and Longview Drive, which brought a more suburban character to the previously rural town.¹⁹⁵

The period following World War II brought numerous changes to local institutions. Churches were revitalized by the surge in the population following the war. The Episcopal Church was reestablished and many others saw a definite uptick in attendance, which allowed for additions and improvements to current facilities. In 1950 the Town Farm was sold and nine years later, after many years of disagreements and discussions, land was leased in the western part of town to create a Town Dump was created.¹⁹⁶

In an effort to preserve and protect the character of the town's vast assemblage of early-recognized historic resources, the Historic District Commission was established in 1961. As with its Planning and Zoning laws, Suffield was an early adopter of such a concept. Houses along High Street, Mapleton Avenue, and Zion Hill were included in the historic district.¹⁹⁷ The Redevelopment Agency was founded that same year and this organization brought about some major changes to the center of town in the name of progress during the mid-1960s. The old Town Hall building and several other historic structures in the business district were deemed irreparable fire hazards and were removed to make room for a new town center.¹⁹⁸

The bridge spanning the Connecticut River and connecting Suffield with Thompsonville was closed to motor traffic in 1967. Local residents, led by Theodore Papafil who owned a store in "the Old Bridge" or "Bridge" neighborhood vehemently opposed the closure. After a long battle with the State, the bridge was closed to all traffic late in 1967 and removed in 1971. Once bustling with stores and the multi-family residences of people working across the river in Thompsonville, the Bridge neighborhood grew much quieter.

In 1970, the Connecticut Aeronautics Commission proposed an expansion of Bradley Field into Suffield. The plan proposed to take around 1200 acres of land in the southern half of town and destroy many historic homes. Thankfully the testimony of expert witnesses and passionate locals prevented the airport expansion. In the 1990s, construction of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution on East Street South began in the southeast corner of town and this project likewise proved to be extremely controversial. Suffield was given little choice in the matter and it has subsequently been in place for several decades.

Post-Depression Era and Post-World War II Architecture

Suffield's Post -Depression and Post-World War II era housing stock represents a number of the styles generally popular throughout the eastern United States during the second half of the twentieth century. These include Colonial Revival, Ranch, and Minimal Traditional forms, as well as vernacular interpretations of earlier styles. These houses are

interspersed with historic homes along the town's main arteries and are more densely built in post-war developments which were built on large farm lots sold as agriculture began to decline in the 1950s and 1960s. The most popular patterns used for those homes are a Colonial Revival version of the Cape Cod Cottage and Ranch-type houses. Other notable twentieth century types include Tudor Revival-style houses, of which two brick examples are present in the survey area. The first is at 567 Boston Neck Road (built 1938) and the second is at 1103 Mapleton Avenue (built 1941). Both make use of intersecting gables, massive chimneys and small Tudor-style details such as smaller accent windows and heavy wooden doors.

¹ Janice Cunningham, *Historic Preservation in Connecticut, Volume III Central Valley*. Connecticut Historic Commission, Hartford, 1995, 3.

² Cunningham, 8.

³ Cunningham, 8

⁴ Cunningham, 12

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Cunningham, 13

⁸ Cunningham, 17

⁹ Robert Haydon Alcorn, *The Biography of a Town: Suffield, Connecticut, 1670-1970*. Three Hundredth A Quarter Millennial Committee of the Town of Suffield, Suffield, 1970, 3.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Cunningham 18

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Alcorn, 3

¹⁴ Hezekiah Sheldon. *Documentary History of Suffield: in the colony and province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1660-1749*. Springfield, MA: Clark W. Bryan Company, 1879. Sheldon indicates that no deed of a purchase any Indian leaders have been found to record the transaction.

¹⁵ Sheldon, 2.

¹⁶ Sheldon, 2.

¹⁷ Alcorn, 5.

¹⁸ Alcorn 6.

¹⁹ Chase, Ed. "Committee Man John Pynchon" January 2009 Newsletter Stony Brook Currents Vol IV, No 1.

²⁰ Alcorn, 6

²¹ Alcorn, 8

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Cunningham, 15

²⁵ Cunningham, 16

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Town of Suffield. *A Quarter Millennial: Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Celebration of the Settlement of Suffield, Connecticut, October 12, 13 and 14, 1920, With Sketches from its Past and Some Record of its Last Half Century and its Present*, Suffield, CT: Town of Suffield, 1921., 14.

²⁸ Alcorn, 13.

²⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 109.

³⁰ Alcorn, 9.

³¹ Sheldon, 16

³² Sheldon, 17

-
- ³³ Maps of these eastern two divisions of Long Lots can be found in Hezekiah Sheldon's *History of Suffield* pgs. v and vi.
- ³⁴ Alcorn, 10
- ³⁵ Sheldon, 25
- ³⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 179.
- ³⁷ A Quarter Millennial, 179.
- ³⁸ A Quarter Millennial, 180.
- ³⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 9.
- ⁴⁰ Sheldon, 79.
- ⁴¹ A Quarter Millennial, 79.
- ⁴² Sheldon, 9.
- ⁴³ Sheldon, 11.
- ⁴⁴ Cunningham,
- ⁴⁵ Alcorn, 44.
- ⁴⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 127.
- ⁴⁷ Alcorn, 103.
- ⁴⁸ Alcorn, 21.
- ⁴⁹ Alcorn, 27.
- ⁵⁰ Alcorn, 41.
- ⁵¹ Alcorn, 41.
- ⁵² Ed Chase, "John Pengilly Original Suffield Proprietor" *Stony Brook Currents* September 2014 XI, No 4
- ⁵³ A Quarter Millennial, 125.
- ⁵⁴ Alcorn, 92.
- ⁵⁵ Alcorn, 94.
- ⁵⁶ Cunningham, 22.
- ⁵⁷ Alcorn, 21.
- ⁵⁸ Alcorn, 22.
- ⁵⁹ Sheldon, 15
- ⁶⁰ Alcorn, 15
- ⁶¹ Alcorn, 16
- ⁶² Alcorn, 18
- ⁶³ Alcorn, 27
- ⁶⁴ Alcorn, 29
- ⁶⁵ Alcorn, 30
- ⁶⁶ Alcorn, 34
- ⁶⁷ Alcorn, 36
- ⁶⁸ Alcorn, 33
- ⁶⁹ Alcorn, 34
- ⁷⁰ A Quarter Millennial, 141
- ⁷¹ Alcorn, 52
- ⁷² Alcorn, 52
- ⁷³ Alcorn, 17
- ⁷⁴ A Quarter Millennial, 121.
- ⁷⁵ A Quarter Millennial, 151.
- ⁷⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 129.
- ⁷⁷ A Quarter Millennial, 130.
- ⁷⁸ A Quarter Millennial, 129.
- ⁷⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 130.

-
- ⁸⁰ Alcorn, 76.
- ⁸¹ Alcorn, 79.
- ⁸² Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*, (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2004), 22.
- ⁸³ Alcorn, 9.
- ⁸⁴ Alcorn, 98.
- ⁸⁵ Alcorn, 80.
- ⁸⁶ Alcorn, 52.
- ⁸⁷ Alcorn, 101.
- ⁸⁸ Alcorn, 146.
- ⁸⁹ Ibid.
- ⁹⁰ Alcorn, 118.
- ⁹¹ Alcorn, 114.
- ⁹² Federal Census, 1790.
- ⁹³ Alcorn, 82.
- ⁹⁴ Ibid.
- ⁹⁵ Alcorn, 104.
- ⁹⁶ Alcorn, 106.
- ⁹⁷ Alcorn, 136.
- ⁹⁸ Alcorn, 134.
- ⁹⁹ Alcorn, 139.
- ¹⁰⁰ Alcorn, 121.
- ¹⁰¹ Alcorn, 125.
- ¹⁰² Alcorn, 132.
- ¹⁰³ A Quarter Millennial, 186.
- ¹⁰⁴ Alcorn, 119.
- ¹⁰⁵ Alcorn, 118.
- ¹⁰⁶ Alcorn, 141.
- ¹⁰⁷ Alcorn, 113.
- ¹⁰⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁹ Alcorn, 119.
- ¹¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹¹ A Quarter Millennial, 128.
- ¹¹² A Quarter Millennial, 126.
- ¹¹³ Alcorn, 132.
- ¹¹⁴ Alcorn, 131.
- ¹¹⁵ Alcorn, 145.
- ¹¹⁶ Alcorn, 136.
- ¹¹⁷ Alcorn, 136.
- ¹¹⁸ A Quarter Millennial, 192.
- ¹¹⁹ Alcorn, 103.
- ¹²⁰ Alcorn, 116.
- ¹²¹ Alcorn, 128.
- ¹²² A Quarter Millennial, 143.
- ¹²³ A Quarter Millennial, 144.
- ¹²⁴ A Quarter Millennial, 150.
- ¹²⁵ Alcorn, 125.
- ¹²⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 157.

-
- ¹²⁷ Alcorn, 146.
- ¹²⁸ A Quarter Millennial, 130.
- ¹²⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 131.
- ¹³⁰ A Quarter Millennial, 131.
- ¹³¹ A Quarter Millennial, 131.
- ¹³² Alcorn, 147.
- ¹³³ A Quarter Millennial, 189.
- ¹³⁴ Alcorn, 148.
- ¹³⁵ A Quarter Millennial, 189.
- ¹³⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 190.
- ¹³⁷ Alcorn, 151.
- ¹³⁸ Alcorn, 152.
- ¹³⁹ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 158.
- ¹⁴⁰ McAlester, 183-184.
- ¹⁴¹ Alcorn, 142.
- ¹⁴² Alcorn, 186.
- ¹⁴³ Alcorn, 187.
- ¹⁴⁴ Alcorn, 253.
- ¹⁴⁵ Alcorn, 254.
- ¹⁴⁶ Alcorn, 218.
- ¹⁴⁷ Alcorn, 196.
- ¹⁴⁸ Alcorn, 198.
- ¹⁴⁹ Alcorn, 256.
- ¹⁵⁰ Alcorn, 255.
- ¹⁵¹ Ibid.
- ¹⁵² Alcorn, 157.
- ¹⁵³ Alcorn, 162.
- ¹⁵⁴ A Quarter Millennial, 152.
- ¹⁵⁵ A Quarter Millennial, 153.
- ¹⁵⁶ Alcorn, 206.
- ¹⁵⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁵⁸ Alcorn, 207.
- ¹⁵⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 195.
- ¹⁶⁰ A Quarter Millennial, 195.
- ¹⁶¹ Alcorn 245.
- ¹⁶² A Quarter Millennial, 193.
- ¹⁶³ Alcorn, 252.
- ¹⁶⁴ Alcorn, 256.
- ¹⁶⁵ Alcorn, 171.
- ¹⁶⁶ Alcorn, 215.
- ¹⁶⁷ Alcorn, 215.
- ¹⁶⁸ "New Pastor Will Move to Suffield" Hartford Courant (1887-1922) August 17, 1919 p 9x.
- ¹⁶⁹ Federal Census, 1920
- ¹⁷⁰ Alcorn 258.
- ¹⁷¹ A Quarter Millennial, 202.
- ¹⁷² Alcorn, 177.
- ¹⁷³ A Quarter Millennial, 158 and 159.

¹⁷⁴ A Quarter Millennial, 203

¹⁷⁵ Alcorn, 228

¹⁷⁶ Alcorn, 260.

¹⁷⁷ Alcorn, 262.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ A Quarter Millennial 165.

¹⁸⁰ Alcorn 243.

¹⁸¹ McAlester, 324-325.

¹⁸² Alcorn, 256.

¹⁸³ U. S. Census.

¹⁸⁴ Alcorn, 254.

¹⁸⁵ Tavino, 54.

¹⁸⁶ Alcorn, 259.

¹⁸⁷ Alcorn, 259.

¹⁸⁸ Alcorn, 257.

¹⁸⁹ Alcorn, 264.

¹⁹⁰ Alcorn, 267.

¹⁹¹ Alcorn, 268.

¹⁹² Alcorn, 271.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

¹⁹⁴ Alcorn, 272.

¹⁹⁵ Alcorn, 280.

¹⁹⁶ Alcorn, 278.

¹⁹⁷ Alcorn, 293.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

V. Bibliography

Texts:

- Alcorn, Robert Hayden. *Biography of a Town: Suffield 1670-1970*. Suffield, CT: 300th Anniversary Committee, 1970.
- Cunningham, Janice. *Historic Preservation in Connecticut, Volume III Central Valley*. Connecticut Historic Commission, Hartford, 1995
- Foster, Gerald. *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
- Kelly, J. Frederick. *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, New York, NY: Dover Publications, 1924.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.
- O’Gorman, James F. *Connecticut Valley Vernacular: The Vanishing Landscape and Architecture of the New England Tobacco Fields*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002.
- Sheldon, Hezekiah. *Documentary History of Suffield: in the Colony and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1660-1749*. Springfield, MA: Clark W Bryan Company.
- Pierson, William H. Jr. *Technology and the Picturesque, the Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Tavino, Laurie. *Suffield’s Old Bridge Neighborhood*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.
- Town of Suffield. *A Quarter Millennial: Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Celebration of the Settlement of Suffield, Connecticut, October 12, 13 and 14, 1920, With Sketches from its Past and Some Record of its Last Half Century and its Present*, Suffield, CT: Town of Suffield, 1921.

Newspapers:

“New Pastor Will Move to Suffield” *Hartford Courant*, August 17, 1919, p 9x.

Federal and State Documents

- Tercentenary Commission of the State of Connecticut, Committee on Historical Publications, *The History of Tobacco Production in Connecticut*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1936.
- U. S Bureau of the Census. Suffield, Connecticut: 1790, 1830, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.

National Register Nominations:

- Clouette, Bruce. Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for “Bridge No. 455,” March 31, 2001.
- Olausen, Stephen and Jeffrey Emidy. Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for “Hilltop Farm Historic District,” June 2004.
- Ransom, David F. Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for “Gothic Cottage,” May 28,

1979.

Ransom, David F. Connecticut Historical Commission, National Register Nomination for “Suffield Center Historic District,” August 11, 1979.

Maps, Atlases, and Views

Baker & Tilden. *Atlas of Hartford City and County*. Hartford, CT: Baker & Tilden, 1869.

Dolph & Stewart. *Atlas of Hartford County, Connecticut, with Parts of New Haven, Middlesex, Litchfield & Tolland Counties*. New York, NY: Dolph & Stewart, 1931.

U.S. Geological Survey. Broad Brook, *CT*. [topographic]. 1:62,500. USGS. 1984.

U.S. Geological Survey. Springfield South, *CT and MA*. [topographic]. 1:62,500. USGS. 1958.

U.S. Geological Survey. West Springfield, *CT and MA*. [topographic]. 1:62,500. USGS. 1970.

U.S. Geological Survey. *Windsor Locks, CT*. [topographic]. 1:24,000. USGS. 1984.

Warren, Moses. *Connecticut, From Actual Survey*. Hartford, CT: Hudson & Goodwin, 1812.

Woodford, E.M. *Smith's Map of Hartford County, Connecticut*. Philadelphia: H. & C.T. Smith, 1855.

Internet Resources:

Ancestry.com. “Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index, 1650-1934.”
<www.ancestry.com> (Various access dates).

Ancestry.com. “U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970.”
<www.ancestry.com> (Various access dates).

Apollo Lodge #58. *History of the Apollo Lodge*, <<http://www.compositelodge28.org/index.php/our-lodge-history/80-apollo-lodge-59.html>> (Accessed on January 10, 2016).

Monographs:

Chase, Ed. Stony Brook Currents. Suffield Historical Society Newsletter. March 2006-February 2016
<<http://www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org/newsletter.htm>> (Various access dates)

VI. Resources Related to Women and Minorities

A complete and detailed history of Suffield could not be completed without mention of the important role that women and minorities played in the development and daily activities of the town. Women and minorities played an important role in the history and development of Suffield and households could run without the hard work of women, while others relied on the additional forced labor of enslaved people. The tobacco industry was particularly notable for its reliance on female laborers. Women were frequently employed in cigar-rolling factories as it was thought that their delicate hands produced a finer cigar, and such alleged dexterity also led to their propensity among the teams that harvested and prepared tobacco for drying, and packed the final product for shipment to distant markets. As the process of growing tobacco under shade tents became common during the early twentieth century women were frequently responsible for sewing the heavy cloth screens onto their wood and wire frames.

As for women of note in town, perhaps none was more prominent than Delphinia Clark. Clark was born in Branford, Connecticut in 1892. After graduating from Vassar College, she entered the Yale School of Architecture and became the institution's first female graduate in 1913.¹ Clark studied under Richard H. Dana and J. Frederick Kelly, and became fascinated by Colonial architecture. She eventually went on to assist Kelly on his landmark book *Old Houses of Connecticut*. After moving to Suffield in 1932, Clark and her husband Henry M. Clark purchased and restored the Alexander King house on North Street. They then purchased and restored the Remington-Lewis House on Hastings Hill.² She went on to serve as a benefactor of the Hatheway House, Kent Library and personally authenticated the sites of Pynchon's first mills. This was all in addition to her early studies in radio telegraphy at Herald's Engineering School in California. It was there that she became the first woman in the country to qualify for her commercial radio operations license.³

Slaves were present in Suffield at an early date and were a highly visible part of the local community as they were commonly held by the households of Suffield's ministers and landowners. An entry recorded in the account book of Major John Pynchon – a notable early political and military leader in town – in October 1671 indicated that he purchased a man by the name of John Crow in Hadley for six pounds.⁴ Records of Suffield's slaves were kept starting in 1725 and the monetary values these people were assigned were recorded in account books belonging to their owners. For example, a male between the ages of 16 and 60 years was listed at 18 pounds.⁵ In 1726 the town voted that 20 pounds to be given to Minister Devotion towards the purchase of slaves. In 1756 Suffield had within its population 24 slaves. By 1782 the number had reached 53.⁶ Although slaves were allowed to marry and attend church, this is little proof that they enjoyed any real freedom or sense of society in Suffield.

Other slave owners of record included Jared Huxley, Ensign Samuel Kent, Joshua Leavitt, Lieutenant Jonathan Sheldon, Seth Austin, Benjamin Scot, Joseph Pease, Apollos Hitchcock, Simon Kendall, General Phineus Lyman, and Captain Isaac Pinnery. The Manumission Act of 1784 allowed owners of slaves to free them from service provided they were between the ages of 25 to 45, in sound health, and were willing to accept the circumstance. "Stephen Pero" was among those discharged in 1787 from the estate of Jacob Hatheway by his executor Elijah Kent. Stephen was admitted to the West Suffield church along with his wife on September 7, 1800.⁷

The issue of slavery was obviously a central debate in the years leading up to the Civil War. By 1800, there were only four people listed as slaves in Suffield⁸. This is largely due to the fact that manumission was a common practice in Connecticut following the Revolutionary War. In 1812, the Reverend Ebenezer Gay and William Gay applied for permission to discharge three slaves from their service by the names of Ginny, Dinah and Titus⁹. All three were the children of Rose, who was purchased by Gay at the slave auction at Middletown. Rose was born in Africa, and stated often that she was a princess in her country. Following their manumission, the three remained in Suffield and became paid servants in other families.

A small free black population existed in Suffield during this time, however, it is clear that their standing in society was tenuous at best. Titus served as sexton under Reverend Ebenezer Gay and William Gay and while alive he appeared to enjoy a sense of prominence among the parishioners. After his death the reality of his position came harshly into the light. After years of digging graves and tending to the cemetery, Titus' body was relegated to an unmarked grave in the corner of the burial ground.¹⁰ The notes of Hezekiah Sheldon perhaps sum up the issue best as he wrote that, "A remote pew in the meeting house and a remote corner in the churchyard were the common heritage of the negro. Scores of them were buried at the north west corner of the ancient ground with only rank weeds and briars to protect the mounds above them."¹¹ This portion of the cemetery was covered over in 1850 and new graves (for whites) were placed upon the unmarked ones of the African-Americans below. About this situation Sheldon further noted that, "no stoned urn or animated bust indicated that ever an African slave had rested his head upon the lap of earth in the first church yard of Suffield."¹²

The African-American population in Suffield organized the Third Baptist Church in 1903. It began as a mission church under the guidance of Reverend David Drew of Springfield, Massachusetts. Meetings were originally held in the Town Hall, however, two years later a church lot was purchased on the north side of Kent Avenue and the current structure was dedicated on March 31, 1906.¹³ Pastor Drew served the congregation until 1918. In 1919, the Reverend Samuel Ellison of Fairfield became head of the church.¹⁴ The 1920 Federal Census shows that a group of eleven African-American families made their homes along Kent Avenue, including the Reverend Samuel Elliston, who was a native of North Carolina. Elliston resided with his wife Clara, who was listed as a music teacher, while most of his congregation worked in the tobacco industry as laborers, sizers, warehouse watchmen, or farm managers, or held jobs as teamsters, domestic help and chauffeurs. Many of the residents of Kent Avenue were from Virginia or the Carolinas.¹⁵

Although beyond the purview of this project, additional research should be conducted on the important role that Eastern European immigrants played in the development of the town, and in particular its tobacco industry, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Polish and Lithuanian immigrants arrived in the area en masse between 1890 and 1925 and while many of these transplants initially found work as migrant laborers or toiled in Enfield's carpet mills, over the course of the following decades many acquired their own farms as the old Yankee families increasingly abandoned life behind the plow. As a result, Suffield retained its largely agricultural character well into the second half of the twentieth century and descendants of several of these families continue to maintain this lifestyle. More detailed research on this subject might help connect these new arrivals to surviving architectural resources including farmsteads, boarding houses, and seasonal housing related to the town's development and the regionally important practice of tobacco

cultivation.

¹ Robert Haydon Alcorn, *The Biography of a Town: Suffield, Connecticut, 1670-1970*. Three Hundredth Anniversary Committee of the Town of Suffield, Suffield, 1970, 260.

² Alcorn, 262.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Town of Suffield. *A Quarter Millennial: Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Celebration of the Settlement of Suffield, Connecticut, October 12, 13 and 14, 1920, With Sketches from its Past and Some Record of its Last Half Century and its Present*, Suffield, CT: Town of Suffield, 1921., 129.

⁵ A Quarter Millennial, 130.

⁶ A Quarter Millennial, 129.

⁷ A Quarter Millennial, 130.

⁸ Alcorn, 146.

⁹ A Quarter Millennial, 130.

¹⁰ A Quarter Millennial, 131.

¹¹ A Quarter Millennial, 131.

¹² A Quarter Millennial, 131.

¹³ Alcorn, 215.

¹⁴ "New Pastor Will Move to Suffield" Hartford Courant (1887-1922) August 17, 1919 p 9x.

¹⁵ Federal Census, 1920

VII. Recommendations

Recommendations for the National Register of Historic Places

A major purpose of a Historic Resource Inventory study is to identify those resources which satisfy the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. As the people of South Windsor have long been committed to the preservation of their history, and the resources related to it, many areas of town have structures, buildings, sites, or districts already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This section identifies those resources, and consists of recommendations as to which properties are likely future candidates, either listed individually, or as historic districts.

These recommendations are an informed opinion only and should not be construed as excluding any site from consideration for National Register of Historic Places designation. The sites listed below possess qualities that appear to make them eligible for listing on the National Register, however a separate and specific study must be made to determine confirm this. This process, and final evaluation, is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103.

Existing National Register Properties in Suffield, Connecticut:

Individual National Register of Historic Places Listings

Bridge No. 455 (1929), listed in 2004, included a since-replaced resource spanning Stony Brook along Route 159. The current bridge was not designed to replicate the original structure.

John Fuller House (1824), listed in 1985, includes the resource at 463 Halliday Avenue.

Farmington Canal (1825-1829), listed in 1985, includes the resource extending from Suffield, Connecticut, to New Haven, Connecticut.

Gothic Cottage (1846), listed in 1982, includes the resource at 1425 Mapleton Avenue.

Hatheway-Phelps-Burbank House (1762, 1795), listed in 1975, includes the resource at 55 South Main Street.

Alexander King House (1764), listed in 1976, includes the resource at 232 South Main Street.

King's Field House (ca. 1723), listed in 1982, includes the resource at 827 North Street.

Lewis-Zukowski House (1764), listed in 1990, includes the resource at 1095 South Grand Street.

National Register Historic Districts

Babb's Beach Historic District, listed in 2006, includes contributing resources at 435 Babbs Road.

Hastings Hill Historic District, listed in 1979, includes contributing resources at 967, 987, 1038, 1061, 1089, 1119, 1162, 1171, 1203, 1217, 1237, 1249, and 1262 Hill Street; 1242 Spruce Street; and 1085 and 1152 Russell Street.

Hilltop Farm Historic District, listed in 2004, includes contributing resources at 1550-1760 Mapleton Avenue.

Suffield Historic District, listed in 1978, includes contributing resources at 13, 18, and 30 Bridge Street; 14, 20, 21, 28, 29, 35, and 40 Day Avenue; 309, 320, and 336 Mapleton Avenue; 27, 28, 39, and 40 Marbern Drive; 41 and 53 Mountain Road; 35, 63, 81, 99, and 119 North High Street; 603, 617, and 627 North Street; 24, 82, 100,

120-126, 142, 158, 180, 186, 192, 201, 207, 217, 218, 219, 222, 227, 236, 241, 252, 257, 258, 266, 269, 272, 281, 288 (rear), 298, 309, 310, 318, 321, 331, 332, 341, 347, 356, 357, 365, 370, 371, 379, 380, 388, 394, 399, 412, 418, 419, 428, 435, 436, 453, 460, 480, 493, 497, 500, 511, 517, 522, 523, 532, 539 (rear), 540, 541, 550, 551, 557, 569, 572, 575, 585, 590, and 595 North Main Street; 24 and 25 Russell Avenue; 10, 34, 52, 55, 60, 78, 87, 88, 98, 114, 130, 140, 145, 155, 161, 166, 169, 173-179, 183-185, 186-196, 187-189 (rear), 191-193 (rear), 195-197, 198, 202, 208, 214, 217, 221, 222, 225, 234, 249, 264, 289, 294, 338, 343, 360, 361, 373, 384, 391, 402, 411, 422, 423, 432, 433, 450, 451, 463, 467, and 472 South Main Street; 15 and 21 South Street; 477 and 494 Suffield Street.

Recommended National Register Districts

Most of the study area was historically farmland. As a result, houses are widely spaced and a considerable amount of infill construction has taken place in former tobacco fields. Despite this fact, there are several contiguous group of houses in the study area which would be eligible to be listed as a historic district. The first consists of a group of buildings including numerous houses, a church and rectory, and a small manufacturing building found along Kent Avenue. These resources are historically associated with a small African-American community that formed in this area shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. Potentially contributing resources include:

Kent Avenue Historic District:

1. 41 Kent Avenue
2. 70 Kent Avenue
3. 94 Kent Avenue
4. 104 Kent Avenue
5. 121 Kent Avenue
6. 122 Kent Avenue
7. 129 Kent Avenue
8. 139 Kent Avenue
9. 178 Kent Avenue
10. 196a Kent Avenue
11. 196b Kent Avenue
12. 204 Kent Avenue
13. 214 Kent Avenue

The second potential historic district is found along Boston Neck Road near the point where Stony Brook crosses the road. This area does contain some infill construction, however, it is important as a representation of one of the towns few industrial centers. From the construction of John Pynchon's second gristmill to the cigar factories and paper and plaster mills of the nineteenth century, this area contained a wide variety of residential properties dating from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. Potentially contributing resources include:

Boston Neck Road Historic District:

1. 392 Boston Neck Road
2. 447 Boston Neck Road
3. 456 Boston Neck Road
4. 463 Boston Neck Road
5. 500 Boston Neck Road
6. 517 Boston Neck Road
7. 518 Boston Neck Road
8. 537 Boston Neck Road
9. 552 Boston Neck Road
10. 567 Boston Neck Road
11. 576 Boston Neck Road
12. 615 Mather Street

13. 667 Boston Neck Road
14. 703 Boston Neck Road
15. 713 Boston Neck Road
16. 748 Boston Neck Road
17. 839 Boston Neck Road
18. 866 Boston Neck Road
19. 887 Boston Neck Road
20. 905 Boston Neck Road

The “Old Bridge” Neighborhood initially formed around the first ferry crossings to Enfield, but developed further after the construction of the Suffield-Thompsonville Bridge in the mid-nineteenth century. By the turn of the twentieth century, thousands of immigrant families moved to Enfield to work in the newly found carpet and woolen mills. Many of these families moved across the river to the neighborhood bounded by Burbank Avenue, River Boulevard, Thompsonville Road and East Street North. Due to the building density in this area, representative housing types were chosen for the survey to depict the more common styles. The NR district could, therefore be more comprehensive than the list of surveyed properties shown below. The addresses of surveyed included:

Bridge Neighborhood Historic District:

1. 820 Burbank Avenue
2. 832 Burbank Avenue
3. 856 Burbank Avenue
4. 880 Burbank Avenue
5. 893 Burbank Avenue
6. 56 Cowan Street
7. 62 Cowan Street
8. 55 Douglas Street
9. 61 Douglas Street
10. 703 East Street North
11. 761 East Street North
12. 769 East Street North
13. 797 East Street North
14. 822 East Street North
15. 803 River Boulevard
16. 806 River Boulevard
17. 810 River Boulevard
18. 814 River Boulevard
19. 819 River Boulevard
20. 824 River Boulevard
21. 829 River Boulevard
22. 834 River Boulevard
23. 844 River Boulevard
24. 850 River Boulevard
25. 810 Thompsonville Road
26. 920 Thompsonville Road
27. 921 Thompsonville Road
28. 941 Thompsonville Road
29. 946 Thompsonville Road
30. 950 Thompsonville Road
31. 955 Thompsonville Road

In addition to these more traditional contiguous historic districts, Multiple Property Submissions should be considered for surviving tobacco shed and for farms associated with tobacco cultivation.

Properties That May Be Individually Eligible for the National Register

The following properties in the study area may be eligible for individual nomination to the National Register. It must be noted, however, that the interior conditions of resources proposed for nomination to the National Register on an individual basis are taken into consideration. No such evaluation was conducted as part of this survey and the properties identified below were included solely on the basis of their exterior integrity and/or historical significance. Interior analysis would be necessary to confirm these determinations.

1. 611 East Street North, ca. 1805. Thomas King House.
2. 19 East Street North, ca. 1800. Benoni King House.
3. 193 East Street South, ca. 1715. Samuel Palmer House.
4. 916 East Street South, ca. 1745. John Ellery House.
5. 995 East Street South, ca. 1752. Charles Hathaway House.
6. 1082 East Street South, ca. 1817, ca. 1870. Benjamin Wood House.
7. 90 Bridge Street, 1924. Bridge Street School.
8. 150 Bridge Street, ca. 1750. William L. Loomis House/ Masonic Temple, Composite Lodge 28.
9. 831 Mapleton Avenue, ca. 1809. Thaddeus Sikes House.
10. 876 Mapleton Avenue, ca. 1799. Apollos Fuller House.
11. 1305 Mapleton Avenue, 1883. Central Hall.
12. 779 Russell Avenue, ca. 1732. Joseph Hastings House.

VIII. Street Index

<u>Inventory No.</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Architectural Style</u>
1	256 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1831	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
2	336 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1831	Greek Revival
3	392 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1762	New England Farmhouse
4	447 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1830	Vernacular Federal/Greek Revival
5	456 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1850	Vernacular Greek Revival
6	463 Boston Neck Road	1926	Craftsman Bungalow
7	473 Boston Neck Road	1925	Craftsman Bungalow
8	500 Boston Neck Road	1924	Vernacular Colonial Revival
9	517 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1840	Greek Revival
10	518 Boston Neck Road	1911	Vernacular Queen Anne
11	537 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1828	Federal
12	552 Boston Neck Road	1829	Federal
13	560 Boston Neck Road	1829	Vernacular Federal
14	567 Boston Neck Road	1938	Tudor Revival
15	576 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1800	Federal

16	613 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1900	Colonial Revival
17	667 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1821	Cape Cod Cottage
18	703 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1875	Italianate
19	748 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1837	Folk Victorian
	839 Boston Neck Road		
20	(alternately 11 Redstone Road)	ca. 1828	Greek Revival
21	866 Boston Neck Road	1927	Foursquare
22	887 Boston Neck Road	ca. 1722/ca. 1800	New England Farmhouse
23	905 Boston Neck Road	1802	Federal
24	808 Branch Road	ca. 1850	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
25	900 Branch Road	ca. 1829	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
26	933 Branch Road	ca. 1762	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
27	51 Bridge Street	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
28	65 Bridge Street	ca. 1860	Vernacular Italianate
29	90 Bridge Street	1924	Colonial Revival
30	95 Bridge Street	ca. 1920	Queen Anne
31	101 Bridge Street	ca. 1909	Queen Anne
32	105 Bridge Street	ca. 1820	Federal
33	111 Bridge Street	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
34	119 Bridge Street	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
35	121 Bridge Street	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
36	124 Bridge Street	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
37	150 Bridge Street	ca. 1750	Georgian
38	168 Bridge Street	ca. 1785	Georgian
39	288 Bridge Street	ca. 1830	Vernacular Greek Revival
40	291 Bridge Street	ca. 1920	Craftsman Bungalow
41	300 Bridge Street	ca. 1830	Greek Revival
42	312 Bridge Street	ca. 1878	Vernacular Italianate
	535 Bridge Street (approximate		
43	address)	1872	Rural Landscaped Cemetery
44	636 Bridge Street	ca. 1860	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
45	936 Bridge Street	ca. 1845	Cape Cod Cottage
46	820 Burbank Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Colonial Revival
47	832 Burbank Avenue	ca. 1925	Vernacular Colonial Revival
48	880 Burbank Avenue	ca. 1910	Vernacular
49	893 Burbank Avenue	ca. 1925	Colonial Revival

50	56 Cowan Street	ca. 1885	Vernacular Dutch Colonial Revival
51	62 Cowan Street	ca. 1901	Vernacular Colonial Revival
52	70 Cowan Street	ca. 1917	Vernacular Colonial Revival
53	55 Douglas Street	ca. 1920	Vernacular Queen Anne
54	61 Douglas Street	ca. 1920	Vernacular Queen Anne
55	8 East Street North	ca. 1813	New England Farmhouse
56	190 East Street North	ca. 1900s	Vernacular Tobacco Sheds and Barns
57	278 East Street North	ca. 1899	Queen Anne
58	288 East Street North	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
59	377 East Street North	ca. 1860	Italianate
60	443 East Street North	ca. 1799	New England Farmhouse
61	477 East Street North	ca. 1840	Greek Revival
62	585 East Street North	ca. 1918	Craftsman Bungalow
63	611 East Street North	ca. 1805	Cape Cod Cottage
64	624 East Street North	ca. 1850	Cape Cod Cottage
65	634 East Street North	ca. 1789	Cape Cod Cottage
66	703 East Street North	ca. 1808	Federal/Italianate
67	761 East Street North	ca. 1850	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
68	769 East Street North	ca. 1850	Cape Cod Cottage
69	773 East Street North	ca. 1850	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
70	797 East Street North	ca. 1850	Vernacular Greek Revival
71	822 East Street North	ca. 1860	Vernacular Gothic Revival
72	856 East Street North	1937	Vernacular Colonial Revival
73	927 East Street North	ca. 1900	Foursquare
74	937 East Street North	ca. 1912	Foursquare
75	1143 East Street North	ca. 1870	Vernacular Queen Anne
76	1484 East Street North	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
77	19 East Street South	ca. 1800	Cape Cod Cottage
78	44 East Street South	ca. 1895	Queen Anne
79	137 East Street South	ca. 1854	Vernacular Italianate
80	193 East Street South	ca. 1715	Cape Cod Cottage
81	216 East Street South	ca. 1794	Cape Cod Cottage
82	247 East Street South	ca. 1860	Vernacular Greek Revival
83	322 East Street South	ca. 1860	Greek Revival
84	395 East Street South	ca. 1691	Cape Cod Cottage
85	414 East Street South	ca. 1801	New England Farmhouse

86	578 East Street South	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
87	620 East Street South	ca. 1860	Greek Revival
88	687 East Street South	ca. 1900	Vernacular Greek Revival
89	773 East Street South	1928	Foursquare
90	810 East Street South	ca. 1915	Craftsman Bungalow
91	897 East Street South	ca. 1860	Vernacular Greek Revival
92	916 East Street South	ca. 1745	New England Farmhouse
93	952 East Street South	ca. 1857	Italianate
94	995 East Street South	ca. 1752	Georgian
95	1006 East Street South	ca. 1840	Vernacular Federal
96	1039 East Street South	ca. 1860	New England Farmhouse
97	1052 East Street South	ca. 1805	Georgian
98	1064 East Street South	ca. 1860	Vernacular Greek Revival
99	1082 East Street South	ca. 1817/ca. 1870	Second Empire
100	41 Kent Avenue	ca. 1778	Federal
101	70 Kent Avenue	ca. 1939	Vernacular Colonial Revival
102	94 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Victorian
103	104 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Victorian
104	121 Kent Avenue	ca. 1909	Vernacular Victorian
105	122 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Victorian
106	129 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Commercial
107	139 Kent Avenue	ca. 1924	Foursquare
108	178 Kent Avenue	ca. 1911	Vernacular Craftsman
109	196a Kent Avenue	1906	Vernacular Gothic Revival
110	196b Kent Avenue	ca. 1909	Vernacular Victorian
111	204 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Victorian
112	214 Kent Avenue	ca. 1920	Vernacular Colonial Revival
113	411 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1921	Craftsman Bungalow
114	427 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1871	Greek Revival/Italianate
115	430 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1890	Queen Anne
116	449 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
117	450 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Vernacular Greek Revival
118	483 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1800	Georgian
119	495 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1935	Craftsman Bungalow
120	498 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1910	Queen Anne
121	510 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1876	Cape Cod Cottage

122	511 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1820	Federal
123	541 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1814	Greek Revival
124	595 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Italianate
125	648 Mapleton Avenue	1733	Cape Cod Cottage
126	669 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1914	Colonial Revival
127	699 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1894	Vernacular Greek Revival
128	741 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1840	Gothic Revival
129	768 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Italianate
130	831 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1809	Federal/Greek Revival
131	863 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1743	Cape Cod Cottage
132	876 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1799	Federal
133	898 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1799	Cape Cod Cottage
134	912 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Cape Cod Cottage
135	929 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Greek Revival
136	968 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1840	Greek Revival
137	992 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1798	Federal
138	1014 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1890	Vernacular Queen Anne
139	1036 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1752	Georgian
140	1053 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1722	Federal
141	1060 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1859	Vernacular Greek Revival
142	1073 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1814-1821	Cape Cod Cottage
143	1103 Mapleton Avenue	1941	Tudor Revival
144	1136 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1806	Georgian
145	1189 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1840	Greek Revival
146	1214 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1840	Greek Revival
147	1227 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1900	Colonial Revival/Queen Anne
148	1240 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1860	Greek Revival
149	1305 Mapleton Avenue	1883	Stick
150	1379 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1916	Vernacular Gothic Revival
151	1390 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1905	Queen Anne
152	1405 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1785	Federal
153	1430 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1880	Colonial Revival
154	1448 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1900	Foursquare
155	1456 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1900	Colonial Revival
156	1477 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1848	Gothic Revival/Queen Anne
157	1519 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1784	Cape Cod Cottage

158	1761 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1900	Vernacular Queen Anne
159	1781 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1814	Federal
160	1855 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1850	Greek Revival/Queen Anne
161	1951 Mapleton Avenue	ca. 1848	Vernacular Gothic Revival
162	615 Mather Street	ca. 1899	Queen Anne
163	1040 Paper Street	ca. 1829	Saltbox Cape Cod Cottage
164	1066 Paper Street	ca. 1790	Federal
	11 Redstone Road (alternately		
20	839 Boston Neck Road)	ca. 1828	Greek Revival
165	River Boulevard	1761	Colonial Monument
166	803 River Boulevard	ca. 1900	Colonial Revival
167	806 River Boulevard	ca. 1831	Federal
168	810 River Boulevard	ca. 1839	Federal
169	814 River Boulevard	ca. 1939	Vernacular Queen Anne
170	819 River Boulevard	ca. 1890	Colonial Revival
171	824 River Boulevard	ca. 1791-1796	Cape Cod Cottage
172	834 River Boulevard	ca. 1850	Vernacular Greek Revival
173	844 River Boulevard	ca. 1880	Queen Anne/Stick
174	850 River Boulevard	ca. 1930	Cape Cod Cottage
175	888 River Boulevard	ca. 1910	Vernacular Greek Revival
176	931 River Boulevard	ca. 1830	Vernacular Greek Revival
177	941 River Boulevard	ca. 1900	Vernacular Queen Anne
178	953 River Boulevard	ca. 1820/1990	Federal
179	1007 River Boulevard	ca. 1860	Vernacular Greek Revival
180	1033 River Boulevard	ca. 1900	Craftsman Bungalow
181	1060 River Boulevard	ca. 1821	Vernacular Greek Revival
182	1071 River Boulevard	ca. 1860	Vernacular Colonial Revival
183	1097 River Boulevard	ca. 1900	Vernacular Folk Victorian
184	1109 River Boulevard	ca. 1905	Vernacular Greek Revival
185	1127 River Boulevard	ca. 1900	Vernacular Greek Revival
186	1130 River Boulevard	ca. 1892	Queen Anne
187	1293 River Boulevard	ca. 1794	Cape Cod Cottage
188	1338 River Boulevard	ca. 1860	Greek Revival
189	779 Russell Avenue	ca. 1732	Cape Cod Cottage
190	810 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1910	Craftsman Bungalow
191	920 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1900	Vernacular Queen Anne

192	921 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1792	Cape Cod Cottage
193	941 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1830	Greek Revival
194	946 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1921	Foursquare
195	950 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1900	Queen Anne
196	955 Thompsonville Road	ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
197	764 Thrall Avenue	ca. 1914	Vernacular Victorian
198	779 Thrall Avenue	ca. 1817	Federal
199	864 Thrall Avenue	ca. 1910	Vernacular Victorian
200	911 Thrall Avenue	ca. 1900	Vernacular Victorian
201	938 Thrall Avenue	ca. 1789	Saltbox Cape Cod Cottage
202	18 Woodworth Street	ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
203	26 Woodworth Street	ca. 1930	Vernacular Victorian