

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name
other names/site number Torrington Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet
city, town Torrington
state Connecticut code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06790

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Director, Connecticut Historical Commission. Date: 6/28/91.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date. State or Federal agency and bureau.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] determined eligible for the National Register.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Melissa Sykes
Date of Action: 7/31/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellings

Agricultural: agricultural

outbuildings

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellings

Agricultural: agricultural

outbuildings

Commerce/trade: restaurant

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: New England Colonial

Early Republic: Federal

~~Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival~~

20th-Century Revival: Colonial
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Wood: weatherboard

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

Fieldstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Tarringford Street Historic District lies in the eastern part of the City of Torrington, near the boundary with the Town of New Hartford. The district includes all of the right-of-way of Tarringford Street, which is State Route 183, from its intersection with Route 202 (East Main Street) northward to the northerly property boundary of 4040 Tarringford Street. The right-of-way varies in width between approximately 70 and 132 feet. (note 1) Laid out as part of the original subdivision of town land in 1732, the street itself is a major contributing resource of the district. Buildings and structures along Tarringford Street that contribute to the significance of the district are also included. The boundary extends westward onto Hayden Hill Road to encompass a c.1770 dwelling and related outbuildings that are visually linked to Tarringford Street.

The natural features of the district are a key part of its visual impact. The Tarringford Street right-of-way appears to retain much of its historic appearance. The roadway runs nearly straight northeast/southwest, paralleling the Torrington/New Hartford boundary. Traveling southwest, it undulates over varied terrain marked by several steep grades, reaching a long plateau that descends gradually to Route 202 (photographs #1 & 2). In many places, the edges of the right-of-way and property lines are defined by fieldstone walls and/or rows of mature trees (photographs #3 & 4). Along its course are active farms with cultivated fields and pastures that recall the predominant historic use of the land in the district (photograph #5).

The district contains 139 historic resources, including buildings and structures, one object (a marker commemorating the location of the first Tarringford meeting house), and two sites (see inventory of resources, beginning on continuation sheet 7-4). 119 (86%) of these resources contribute to the district's significance. Spread randomly along the street, some in clusters, they range widely in age from c.1760 to 1941. With the exception of the Hilltop Inn (Nathaniel Smith House, c.1820, ell c.1840; photograph #6), all of the

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Torrington Street Historic District
Torrington, Connecticut

List of Properties within the Torrington Street Historic District

The historic district includes the entire right-of-way of Torrington Street (State Route 183) from its intersection with East Main Street (Route 202) northward to the northerly property boundary of 4040 Torrington Street. The district also includes all or substantial portions of the following properties located on Hayden Hill Road, Torrington Street, or West Hill Road, which properties are identified by street number and/or map/block/lot number on the Torrington Assessor's maps:

Hayden Hill Road

680 (244/6/50)

Torrington Street

1057 (247/1/2); 1071 (247/1/3); 1083 (247/1/5); 1097 (247/1/6); 1110 (247/2/15); 1140 (247/2/13); 1141 (247/1/7); 1151 (247/1/8); 1164 (247/2/12); 247/2/11; 1280 (247/2/9); 1307 (246/2/66); 1318 (246/3/1); 1347 (246/2/64); 1367 (246/2/62); 246/2/59; 1396-1398 (246/3/2); 1440 (246/3/4 & 246/3/5); 246/3/3; 246/4/7; 1447 (246/2/58); 1495 (246/2/57); 1517 (246/2/98); 1557 (246/5/22); 246/4/4; 1600 (246/4/6); 1621 (246/5/24); 1622 (246/4/5); 1653 (246/7/33); Torrington Cemetery (246/4/3); 246/4/1; 1674 (246/4/13); 1683 (246/7/34); 1707 (246/7/35); 1712 (246/4/2); 1744 (246/4/11); 2184 (245/4/3); 2215 (245/2/11); 2238 (245/4/2); 2265 (245/2/12); 2291 (245/2/9); 250/1/2; 2519 (244/6/4); 2597 (244/6/5); 2656 (251/1/5); 2997 (252/2/8); 3174 (252/3/5); 3254 (252/3/1); 3294 (252/4/9); 3303 (252/2/3); 3340 (252/4/8); 3417 (252/1/6); 3511 (253/2/4); 3588 (253/3/1); 3651 (253/2/2); 3652 (253/3/4); 3828 (253/3/9); 3888 (253/3/11); 3925 (253/1/1); 3982 (253/3/13); and, 4040 (254/3/11 & 254/3/12).

West Hill Road

20 (253/3/14)

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principal buildings are residential; the outbuildings consist primarily of barns and garages. Examples of architectural styles represented include the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival. Some resources display features of more than one architectural style, while others, including the Reverend Samuel Mills House (1557 Torrington Street, c.1825)(photograph #7) and the plain and functional outbuildings, are vernacular. Non-contributing resources are mostly outbuildings of less than 50 years of age.

The built resources of the district retain their historic appearances to a considerable degree. Alterations are generally limited to non-original synthetic sidings and replacement windows; some houses received later ell and wings. All of the contributing resources are wood-framed, and the prevalent exterior wall cladding is clapboards. Wood shingles and brick are present to a lesser degree. Brick and granite are the common foundation materials. Two stories is the typical building height, although there are several one-story homes and outbuildings. Contributing to the visual cohesion of the district is the fairly uniform setback from the street of the dwellings.

The ten 18th-century Colonial houses in the district display typical features of the period. The Gaylord House at 1280 Torrington Street, built c.1770, has a five-bay facade with central entrance, 12-over-12 sash windows, and a large central brick chimney (photograph #8). Its double overhang and secondary door at the front corner of the south elevation are also common features. Considered to be the oldest house in the district, the Kelsey House at 2519 Torrington Street (c.1760) has an atypical three-bay facade. Several buildings of the period were remodeled with Greek Revival entrances, a good example of which is 3417 Torrington Street (c.1785) (photograph #9), the best-preserved of the district's few one-story Colonial homes. The c.1769 Battell House at #1477 (photograph #10) received a mid-19th-century entrance porch that is embellished with pierced quatrefoils and molded brackets.

All of the district's five Federal-style houses have low-pitched roofs, multiple interior chimneys, and broad gable-end elevations. Yet they display considerable variety. The two most elaborate are the Nathaniel Smith House (c.1821, ell c.1840, photograph #6) and the

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Hayden Homestead (c.1800, attached to a smaller c.1760 house; photograph #11), both with brick exteriors. They share characteristic embellishments of the style in their entrances with semi-elliptical fanlights (in the Smith House, obscured from view by the porch enclosure) and large elliptical windows with radial glazing in their side gables. Each, however, displays distinctive features. A long ell with a two-story Greek Revival portico was added to the Smith House. The facade of the Hayden Homestead has a pedimented gable, a feature shared with several Federal buildings in the district. Brick pilasters separate the four bays. Exemplifying the delicacy and attenuated proportions of the Federal style is the front entrance at 1318 Torrington Street (c.1790, photograph #12), with its fanlight, denticulated broken pediment, and fluted pilasters. Built at a time of stylistic transition, the house has a fenestration pattern typical of the 18th century.

The Colonial Revival style is also well represented in the district. 1440 Torrington Street (c.1900, photograph #13), one of the district's largest buildings, is an American Four Square design that has been made grand by the ample proportions of its features, especially the wraparound porch and porte cochere with paired Doric columns resting on fieldstone piers. Expressing the Neo-Classical mode in its two-story Doric portico and second-floor sheltered balcony is 1307 Torrington Street of c.1915. Many of the other buildings in the style, modest in size and embellishment, show the clear inspiration of 18th-century construction. 1071 Torrington Street (1941) is one of these, displaying a three-bay facade with central entrance and minimal ornamentation.

The district contains a few examples of other architectural styles, as well as many vernacular buildings of different periods. The Major Isaac and Ruth Tuttle House (dated 1803 by the local historic resources survey, but c.1790 by visual analysis for this nomination; photograph #14) is a late Colonial design that was made stylistically up-to-date with an elegant Palladian window in the Federal mode. One of two similar Greek Revival houses, 1164 Torrington Street (c.1850, photograph #15) illustrates the gable-front variation of the style and has a characteristic entrance surround with pilasters and classical entablature. The Bungalow style is represented by 1367 Torrington Street, a c.1915 one-story house that has the requisite

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broad roofs supported by knee brackets. Most outbuildings, including 19th-century barns and 20th-century garages, are wood-framed and plain; one of the few exceptions is the barn at 2656 Torrington Street (photograph #16), which is topped by a louvered cupola with a flared pyramidal roof.

The Torrington Cemetery (photograph #17) contains grave markers in the varied materials, styles, and proportions of 18th through 20th-century funereal art.

Notes.

1. See preliminary base maps #143-15, 143-16, and 143-17 for State Route 183, Torrington Street, on file at the Thomaston, CT office of the state Department of Transportation.

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Inventory of Historic District Resources

The inventory includes all resources of any consequence on each parcel of real property within the historic district, together with an entry for Torrington Street itself. Contributing ("C") and non-contributing ("NC") resources are indicated in the inventory by the use of C or NC, as appropriate, before the description of each. For those resources without clear street addresses, city assessor's map/block/lot information is listed. Construction dates are derived from the 1985 Historic Resources Survey(HRS) of Torrington Street, the city assessor's records(A), or from visual analysis (VA). In cases of clear disagreement among these sources, more than one date, with notation indicating its source, is given. Dates of major alterations are listed if known. Photograph references appear at the ends of entries.

Style, Use, Date, and Architect(if known)

Hayden Hill Road

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| 680 | C | Central-chimney Colonial house, c.1770, with non-original window glazing, chimney, and addition. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Shed, c.1900. |
| | NC | Pool, c.1962. |

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Torrington Street

| | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| Right-of-way | C | Torrington Street, laid out in 1732. |
| 1057 | C | Hilltop Inn (Nathaniel Smith House), Federal style, 1821, with non-original ell (c.1840 and later alterations) and entrance enclosure. (photograph #6) |
| 1071 | C | House, Colonial Revival-inspired, 1941. |
| | NC | Non-original siding. Shed, 1976. |
| 1083 | C | House, Colonial Revival-inspired, 1935. |
| 1097 | C | Federal-style house, c.1850, with non-original porch and shutters, and some non-original window glazing. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| 1110 | C | Colonial Revival House, 1925, with non-original side addition. |
| | C | Garage, c.1940. |
| 1140 | C | House, c.1925, with some non-original window glazing and addition. |
| | NC | Shed, 1969. |
| 1141 | C | American Four Square house, 1931, with non-original handicapped entrance ramp. |
| | C | Garage, c.1931. |
| 1151 | C | House, Colonial Revival-inspired, 1940. |

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- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|
| 1164 | C | Greek Revival house, c.1850, with non-original siding, window glazing, side entrance, and rear wing. (photograph #15) |
| Map 247, block 2, lot 11 | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| 1280 | C | Gaylord House, central-chimney Colonial, c.1770, with non-original window glazing, early-19th-century attached ell, and early-20th-century attached garage. (photograph #8) |
| 1307 | C | Colonial Revival house, c.1915, with non-original siding. |
| | C | Garage, early 20th century. |
| | C | Granite marker incised with "Site of first Torrington Meeting House, built 1768." (Date of marker is unknown) |
| 1318 | C | Federal-style house, c.1790, with ells (perhaps non-original) and non-original front door. (photograph #12) |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Shed, 19th century. |
| 1347 | C | David Soper Homestead, central-chimney Colonial, c.1767, with non-original window glazing and 19th-century ells. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1960. |
| 1367 | C | Bungalow, c.1915 |
| 1396-1398 | C | House, c.1930, with non-original deck. |
| | C | House, c.1930. |
| | C | Shed, c.1925. |
| | C | Shed, c.1925. |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1440 | C | Colonial Revival house, c.1900. (photograph #13) |
| | C | House, 1930. |
| | C | Garage, 1930. |
| | NC | Shed, 1960. |
| 1477 | C | Battell House, central-chimney Colonial, c.1769, with entrance porch, side bay, and ell all added in the 19th century, and non-original window glazing. (photograph #10) |
| 1495 | C | American Four Square house, c.1915, with non-original siding, window glazing, and modern front and rear wings. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Shed, c.1900. |
| 1517 | C | House, c.1833, altered with non-original siding, window glazing, shutters, ell, and attached garage. |
| 1557 | C | Rev. Samuel Mills House, c.1825, with non-original siding, window glazing, shutters, ell, and attached garage. (photograph #7) |
| Map 246, block 4, lot 4 | C | Barn, c.1940. |
| | C | Barn, c.1940. |
| | NC | Barn, 1985. |
| 1600 | C | House, c.1945. |
| 1621 | C | House, c.1940. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1982. |
| 1622 | NC | United Congregational Church, c.1975. |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1653 | C | House, 1938. |
| Map 246, block 4, lot 3 | C | Torrington Cemetery (markers, 18th-century-) (photograph #17). |
| | C | Shed, c.1920. |
| Map 246, block 4, lot 1 | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| 1674 | C | Greek Revival house, c.1840, with non-original siding, chimney, some window glazing, and altered wing. |
| 1683 | C | Bissell House, central-chimney Colonial, c.1780, with alterations that include some window glazing, central chimney, side additions, and attached c.1900 garage. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| 1707 | C | Colonial Revival house, c.1925, with non-original glazing and enclosed porch. |
| | C | Garage, c.1910. |
| | C | Shed, c.1910. |
| | C | Shed, c.1910. |
| | C | Shed, c.1910. |
| | C | Shed, c.1930. |
| 1712 | C | House, c.1928, with non-original siding and altered wing. |
| | NC | House, c.1980. |
| | NC | Pool, c.1980. |
| 1744 | C | House, c.1939. |

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| | | |
|----------------------------|----|---|
| 2184 | C | House, c.1910. |
| | C | Shed, c.1920. |
| 2215 | C | House, c.1940. |
| Map 245, block 4, lot 2 | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| 2238 | C | House, c.1930. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| 2265 | NC | House, 1957. |
| 2291 | C | Bissell House, central-chimney Colonial, c.1780, with non-original front door and Greek Revival entrance surround, window glazing, central chimney, and c.1900 ell. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| | C | Shed, c.1900. |
| 2519 | C | Kelsey House, central-chimney Colonial, c.1760, with alterations that include the window glazing, entrance door and surround, siding, and attached garage. |
| | NC | Pool, c.1970. |
| 2597 | C | Colonial Revival house, c.1925. |
| | C | Garage, c.1925. |
| 2656 | C | Hayden Homestead, Federal-style main block, c.1800, attached to c.1760 older wing, with non-original window glazing and porches. (photograph #11) |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. (photograph #16) |
| | C | Shed, 19th century. |

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| | | |
|------|----|---|
| 2997 | C | Central-chimney Colonial house, c.1775, with non-original siding, window glazing, and dormer. |
| 3174 | C | House, c.1940, with non-original shutters and some window glazing. |
| | C | Garage, c.1940. |
| | C | Shed, c.1940. |
| 3254 | C | House, c.1900, with non-original front door and some window glazing. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900 |
| | C | Garage, c.1940. |
| 3294 | C | Mather House, Colonial, c.1800, with non-original siding, chimney, and entrance porch. |
| | C | Garage, c.1940. |
| 3303 | C | Roberts House, Federal, c.1800, with non-original ell and some windows, and enclosed entrance porches. |
| | C | Barn, c.1930. |
| 3340 | C | Central-chimney Colonial house, c.1785, with non-original attached garage. |
| | C | Barn, c.1900. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1970. |
| | NC | Pool, c.1970. |
| 3417 | C | Central-chimney Colonial house, c.1785, with non-original Greek Revival detailing and side wing, and chimney (photograph #9). |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |

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| | | |
|------|----|---|
| 3511 | NC | House, c.1955. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1950. |
| 3588 | C | Bungalow/Colonial Revival house, c.1935, with some non-original window glazing. |
| | C | Barn, c.1930. |
| | C | Garden house, c.1930. |
| | NC | Garage, 1976. |
| 3651 | C | Federal-style house, c.1820, with non- original front door, shutters, and wing. |
| | C | Greenhouse, c.1940. |
| | C | Greenhouse, c.1940. |
| | NC | Garage, c.1950. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1965. |
| 3652 | C | House, c.1910. |
| | C | Barn, c.1910. |
| 3828 | C | Federal-style house, c.1820, altered with non-original siding, windows, porches, and ell. |
| 3888 | C | House, c.1930, with non-original wing. |
| | C | Garage, c.1930. |
| 3925 | C | General Uriel Tuttle House, Federal, c.1802 with Greek Revival entrance, non-original exterior chimney, and altered wing. |
| | C | Barn, 19th century, extensively altered. |
| 3982 | C | House, c.1920, with some non-original window glazing. |
| | C | Garage, c.1920. |
| | NC | Shed, c.1960. |

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| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 4040 | C | Major Isaiah and Ruth Tuttle House, Colonial/Federal, c.1803(HRS), c.1790(VA), with some non-original window glazing and doors. (photograph #14) |
| | C | Garage, 1938, |
| | C | Water tower, early 20th century. |

West Hill Road

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 20 | C | House, c.1900, with non-original siding. |
| | C | Garage, c.1940. |

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1732-1941

Significant Dates

1732

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

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

The Torrington Street Historic District is significant architecturally because it includes one of Torrington's oldest roads and a notable concentration of buildings from the 18th through the mid-20th centuries. Examples of the Colonial, Federal, and Colonial Revival styles are well represented. Known historically as the community of Torrington, the district's resources form a cohesive composition that retains most of its historic built and natural features. Of particular interest are those 18th- and early 19th-century resources that document the area as one of early settlement in Torrington.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Torrington Street and the surrounding land holdings were created in the first division of property authorized by Connecticut's colonial legislature in 1732 for the new town of Torrington. Typical for the time, the town was laid out in a grid, with tiers of lots oriented north/south between evenly spaced roads (note 1). From the start, the Torrington Street area became a focus for settlement because of the fertile soil and farming potential. By 1760, 22 families with a total of 166 people had settled here. The area also soon achieved its own identity because topography made travel difficult to the town center. Recognizing that fact, Torrington sought permission for years for its own church, which the colonial legislature approved in 1763 by the creation of the Torrington Ecclesiastical Society (note 2). A meetinghouse was erected in 1768 on the west side of the street near West Pearl Road (note 3).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Torrington Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 650

UTM References

A
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet entitled "List of Properties Within the Torrington Street Historic District" and the Sketch Map (Fig. 1)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
 name/title Gregory E. Andrews, Consultant
 organization Torrington Historic Preservation Trust date 27 June 1991
 street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone (203) 561-3841
 city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

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As the community expanded throughout the 18th century, commercial activity developed along Torrington Street, buttressing the neighborhood's sense of identity. The agricultural economy supported a number of small businesses that included general stores, a blacksmithy, and a tannery. Shubael Griswold's tavern (c.1757), one of several along the street, was one of the earliest in Torrington. William Battell opened a store near his home (#1477) around 1785 as a market for farmers' produce and a variety of wares. The growing population and commerce supported a Torrington post office.

Torrington's growth continued well into the 19th century. A new Congregational church in the modern Greek Revival style was built in 1838-39 to replace the old, a modest structure (note 4). Rev. Epaphras Goodman opened an academy in 1822 near the church that during its 15-year life was known widely for its high quality. A few manufactories began operation. The Haydens of 2656 Torrington Street opened a brickyard as early as the 1790s that supplied building materials for a regional market. Several residents brought recognition to the community. Rev. Samuel Mills, Jr. (1783-1818), son of the noted longtime Torrington pastor, was active in missionary work, both at home and abroad, and helped found the American Board of Foreign Missions (1810), National Bible Society, and the United Foreign Missionary Society (1816). During the 1830s, Torrington was a hotbed of anti-slavery sentiment; Dr. Erasmus Hudson was general secretary of the Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society.

The coming of the railroad to nearby Wolcottville in 1849, however, marked a watershed. Trade gravitated to Wolcottville, which became the trading center for farmers' produce, mercantile trade, and industry. Wolcottville became the recognized town center, a fact confirmed by its change of name to Torrington in 1881.

After 1850, commercial activity largely ceased along Torrington Street. Membership in the Torrington church peaked in 1835, and population in the community fell after reaching 530 in 1849. When Nathaniel Smith died in 1854, his son moved the family store at the corner of present-day Route 202 to Wolcottville, a not uncommon event. By default, farming became the almost exclusive economic activity of the Torrington Street community.

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Little further development occurred until the early 20th century. By that time, the growing Torrington population made Torrington Street attractive for residential construction. A few prominent townspeople, such as Walter St. Onge of the Torrington Company, built homes here. Several farms were also subdivided in the 1930s and early 1940s for housing.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Torrington Street Historic District displays a strong sense of time and place because most of its historic resources, both built and natural, remain intact. Few of the buildings that date from its long period of significance appear to have been demolished (note 5). The present-day path of Torrington Street closely follows its historic route, with no significant changes. Old fieldstone walls in many places still mark the boundary of the original right-of-way, and rows of old trees line the street (photograph #3). A number of fields remain in their traditional agricultural use (photograph #5). The distinctive topographical features of the area, furthermore, have not been obscured by change or modern development. Steep grades, marshes, cultivated fields, and forests survive along almost the entire length of the street.

Torrington Street itself is significant historically in other respects. It is one of the oldest thoroughfares in Torrington, and its path illustrates 18th-century land grant patterns in Connecticut. The hilly, almost straight north/south course clearly expresses the fact that towns were often laid out in rigid grids without regard for topographical considerations or natural features, such as swampy land and steep grades.

Architecturally, the district displays the diversity in style, range in age and quality, and primarily residential character that marked its long period of significance and historical development. The architectural styles run the gamut chronologically from the Colonial to the Colonial Revival. The c.1770 Gaylord House (photograph #8), 1318 Torrington Street of c.1790 (photograph #12), and 1440 Torrington Street (c.1900, photograph #13) are fine examples of the Colonial, Federal, and Colonial Revival styles, which predominate.

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Other buildings, such as the Major Isaiah and Ruth Tuttle House of c.1790 (photograph #14), are well-executed designs combining features of two styles (here, the Colonial and Federal).

Many vernacular buildings, including modest homes and outbuildings from the 19th century, are present and contribute to the district's significance. Alterations to houses incorporating features of later styles are found, not surprisingly, throughout the district, such as the mid-19th-century entrance porch at the Battell House (c.1769, photograph #10). These changes often have not compromised the integrity of the district; in fact, as in the case of the Battell House, they have acquired value in their own right.

The buildings also express the history of the area. The large number from the 18th and early-19th centuries confirms that the area was one of early settlement. Local brickmaking was a significant 19th-century activity, supplying materials for several Torrington Street homes (e.g., #2656, photograph #11). The relatively few buildings from the second half of the 19th century, and their less sophisticated designs, demonstrate the district's economic decline relative to the center of town. Agriculture's historic and continuing role as an economic anchor for Torrington is confirmed by the cultivated fields and the many barns and related outbuildings. In the 20th century, the area's attractiveness for residential development is evidenced by the homes from that period.

Notes

1. Areas were laid out in long rectangular lots, with their axes oriented latitudinally, each tier separated by a public right of way running almost straight north/south.
2. The name "Torrington" was a combination of Torrington and New Hartford, since the new ecclesiastical society included 4 and 1/2 tiers of lots in Torrington and the western tier of lots in New Hartford.
3. A granite stone with inscription marks the site.
4. The church, which stood on the site of the United Congregational Church at 1622 Torrington Street, burned on April 25, 1975.
5. See the 1852 Clark Map of Litchfield County and the 1874 Beers' Atlas of Litchfield County.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Torrington Street Historic District are drawn to encompass those historic resources that are most closely identified with the district's theme of importance: the development of the community of Torrington.

Central to the district is the right-of-way for Torrington Street between East Main Street (U.S. Route 202) and the northerly property boundary of 4040 Torrington Street. Torrington Street south of East Main Street and north of #4040 was excluded because 20th-century residential development has greatly altered its historic character. Buildings, structures, sites, and objects on Torrington Street, Hayden Hill Road, and West Hill Road, that contribute to the district's theme are included. Likewise, farmland in active use, or that retains its historic appearance associated with agricultural endeavors, is included because of its connection to the district's historic agrarian economy. Vacant forested land is excluded because its historic use, either for cultivation or wood lots, is not clearly documented. Properties along this section of Torrington Street generally are excluded, except as discussed below, if they do not contribute to the district's theme of importance (usually because they were built after 1941).

The district boundaries are drawn in most instances to encompass entire parcels containing contributing resources. Some parcels, however, are very large; several extend up to 2800 feet back from Torrington Street. The district incorporates less than entire lots in such cases where natural features, e.g., changes in topography or edges of forest, visually create appropriate district lines as viewed from Torrington Street.

Non-contributing properties in the district consist in large part of post-1941 houses built on Torrington Street lots that are surrounded on three sides by contributing parcels.

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UTM References

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| A | 18/659020/4631410 | AA | 18/660660/4637430 |
| B | 18/659110/4631790 | BB | 18/660610/4637070 |
| C | 18/659260/4631750 | CC | 18/660490/4637090 |
| D | 18/659370/4632250 | DD | 18/660440/4636780 |
| E | 18/659000/4632330 | EE | 18/660540/4636770 |
| F | 18/659050/4632640 | FF | 18/660500/4634430 |
| G | 18/659390/4632570 | GG | 18/660340/4636450 |
| H | 18/659420/4632810 | HH | 18/659800/4633210 |
| I | 18/659140/4632860 | II | 18/660060/4633170 |
| J | 18/659230/4633280 | JJ | 18/659820/4631940 |
| K | 18/659540/4633230 | KK | 18/659680/4631960 |
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| M | 18/659450/4634050 | | |
| N | 18/659750/4635410 | | |
| O | 18/659920/4635390 | | |
| P | 18/659970/4635690 | | |
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| R | 18/659880/4636240 | | |
| S | 18/660030/4636220 | | |
| T | 18/660140/4636850 | | |
| U | 18/659940/4636890 | | |
| V | 18/660090/4637720 | | |
| W | 18/660250/4637670 | | |
| X | 18/660360/4638360 | | |
| Y | 18/660720/4638300 | | |
| Z | 18/660560/4637450 | | |

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PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs of resources in the Torrington Street Historic District were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in October and November, 1990. Negatives for all photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT.

Number Description & View

1. Torrington Street, near intersection with West Hill Road, south view
2. Torrington Street, near #1071, north view
3. Torrington Street, near #3340, east view
4. Torrington Street, near #1744, south view
5. Torrington Street, at intersection with East Pearl Road, northeast view
6. Hilltop Inn (Nathaniel Smith House), 1057 Torrington Street, northwest view
7. Rev. Samuel Mills House, 1557 Torrington Street, northwest view
8. Gaylord House, 1280 Torrington Street, east view
9. 3417 Torrington Street, west view
10. Battell House, 1477 Torrington Street, northwest view
11. Hayden Homestead, 2656 Torrington Street, southeast view
12. 1318 Torrington Street, east view
13. 1440 Torrington Street, east view
14. Major Isaiah and Ruth Tuttle House, 4040 Torrington Street, southeast view

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- 15. 1164 Torrington Street, southeast view
- 16. Barn at 2656 Torrington Street, southeast view
- 17. Torrington Cemetery, southeast view