HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
TOWN OF SUFFIELD CONNECTICUT
2016
Lucas A. Karmazinas
The Process/Approach
Why an HRI?

- The primary objective of the survey is to identify, document, and generate awareness of historic structures.

- HRIs help to reduce tear-downs, increase local infrastructure investment, and facilitate economic development.

- Highlights those resources potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

537 Boston Neck Road – ca. 1828  
995 East Street South – ca. 1752  
779 Russell Avenue – ca. 1732
Components

• There are two main components to the HRI: an overview document, and the inventory forms.

• An HRI form was prepared for each historic resource surveyed. These were completed following a standard state document.

• Each form is divided into three main sections; these provide background, architectural, and historical information on the resource.

• The information in this inventory was gathered from town Assessor’s records, exterior photographs, and archival research.
The Form

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vano, National Register and State Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Building Name (Common) ________________________________
Building Name (Historic) ________________________________
Street Address or Location ________________________________
Town/City ___________________________ Village __________ County ____________
Owner(s) ___________________________ Property Status: Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION
Present Use: ________________________________
Historic Use: ________________________________
Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road Yes No
Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain ________________________________
Style of building ___________________________ Date of Construction __________
Material(s) (Indicate size or location when appropriate):
□ Clayboard □ Asphalt Siding □ Brick □ Wood Shingle □ Asphalt Siding
□ Fieldstone □ Board & Batten □ Stucco □ Cobblestone □ Aluminum Siding
□ Concrete (Type ___________________________ □ Cast Stone (Type ___________________________ □ Other ___________________________
Structural System
□ Wood Frame □ Post & Beam □ Ballon □ Load bearing masonry □ Structural iron or steel
□ Other ___________________________
Roof Type:
□ Gable □ Flat □ Mansard □ Monitor □ Flatroof
□ Gambrel □ Shingled □ Hip □ Round □ Other ___________________________
(Material) □ Wood Shingle □ Roll Asphalt □ Tin □ Slate □ Asphalt Shingle
□ Built up □ Tile □ Other ___________________________
Number of Stories ___________________________
Approximate Dimensions ___________________________
Structural Condition: □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Deteriorated
Exterior Condition: □ Excellent □ Good □ Fair □ Deteriorated
Location Integrity: □ On original site □ Moved □ Where? ___________________________
Alterations? □ Yes □ No □ If yes, explain ___________________________

FOR OFFICE USE
Town # _______ Site # _______ UTM ___________________________
District: □ S □ N □ IF N. Lat. Specify: □ Actual □ Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)
Related outbuildings or landscape features:
□ Barn □ Shed □ Garage □ Carriage House □ Shop □ Garden
□ Other landscape features or buildings: ____________________________

Surrounding Environment:
□ Open land □ Woodland □ Residential □ Commercial □ Industrial □ Rural
□ High building density □ Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

• Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior)

Builder ___________________________

Historical or Architectural importance:

Sources:

Photographer ___________________________ Date ____________________________
View ___________________________ Negative on File ____________________________
Name ___________________________ Date ____________________________
Organization ___________________________
Address ____________________________

Subsequent field evaluations:

Threats to the building or site:
□ None known □ Highways □ Vandalism □ Developers □ Renewal □ Private
□ Deterioration □ Zoning □ Other ___________________________ □ Explanation ____________________________
Research Methodology

• The criteria employed for the evaluation of properties were based on those of the National Register of Historic Places.

• The HRI form is completed with information gathered through a “windshield” and walking survey, supplemented with public data, such as town tax assessor’s records.

• Assessing the historical significance of each resource through detailed archival research.

• This research also served to build a historical narrative of the development of the survey area.

• Architectural significance is assessed by evaluating a structure’s historical integrity (exterior only).
The Survey Area

- This survey was conducted geographically and includes buildings built before circa 1940.

- The survey area focuses on the eastern half of town and roughly abuts the Suffield Historic District.

- The buildings within the survey area illustrate patterns of residential and economic development similar to other sections of Suffield, with the exception of the Bridge neighborhood.
The Survey Area
Smith’s Map of Hartford County

Suffield in 1855
Smith and Google Detail Maps

East Street N & S and Thompsonville Road - 1855 vs. 2016
Suffield in 1869
Baker and Tilden Map Detail

East District
East Society

J.O. Laughtin

T.O. Laughtin

Thrall

Geo. Archer

E. Pitcher

Wm. Beebe

H. Woodworth

H. Woodworth (canal Co.)

A Kendall Est.

A Kendall Est. School

N. Remington

H. Pease

Mrs. O. Kendall

Mrs. M.R. Kendall

C. H. Douglass

Saw Mill

J. Woodward

J. Woodward

E. Thompson

E. Thompson

W. Peace

ABurbank

ABurbank

A. Burbank

Mrs. E. Stone

Mrs. J. Stone

Mrs. J. Stone

Agriswold

Mrs. Allen

Mrs. Allen

Agriswold

Agriswold

Webster

Webster

Thompson

Thompson

Ville

Ville

East Street North - 1869
Dolph & Stewart’s Atlas of Hartford County

Suffield in 1931
Connecticut Aerial Surveys

Suffield in 1934 vs. 1965
Connecticut Aerial Surveys

Suffield in 2016
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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1930 Federal Census

Various East Street N Residents - #'s 585, 477, 433,
Findings
The Buildings
New England Farmhouse (1650-1850)

- Typically two stories.
- Side gabled roof.
- Center chimney.
- Centered front door with some decorative moldings.
- Windows aligned in symmetrical rows.

916 East Street South – ca. 1745

8 East Street North – ca. 1813
Cape Cod (1700-1850)

• One to one-and-a-half stories in height.
• Side-gabled roof.
• Typically centered front door with decorative moldings.
• Centered chimney.
• Windows typically aligned in symmetrical rows.
Georgian (1700-1800)

- Side-gabled roof.
- Center chimney.
- Centered front door with more elaborate moldings than N.E. Farmhouse.
- Windows arranged symmetrically.
- Occasional double doors (Connecticut River Valley Variation).

1136 Mapleton Avenue – ca. 1806
995 East Street South – ca. 1752
Federal (1780-1840)

- Side-gabled roof.
- Twin chimneys.
- Windows arranged symmetrically.
- Semi-circular fanlight over front door.
- Elaborate door surrounds.
- Cornice emphasized with dentil or other moldings.

537 Boston Neck Road – ca. 1828
1066 Paper Street– ca. 1790
Greek Revival (1825-1860)

- Typically front-gabled, low pitched roof.
- Frieze band at cornice.
- Corner pilasters.
- Elaborated door surround.
- Porch supported by heavy columns.
Italianate (1840-1885)

- Inspired by rambling, informal Italian farmhouses.
- Two or three stories in height, some with cupolas or towers.
- Low pitched or flat roof.
- Wide overhanging eaves and cornices with brackets.
- Arched or double-arched windows, often with elaborate crowns.
Queen Anne (1880-1910)

• English revival style inspired by late Medieval forms.
• Steeply pitched hipped or gable roof.
• Dominant front facing gable.
• Corner towers or turrets.
• Patterned shingles.
• Partial or full-width porch.

111 Bridge Street – ca. 1900

1390 Mapleton Avenue – ca. 1905
Vernacular (1860-1930)

- Influenced by high-style forms.
- Less elaborate.
- Little ornamentation.

312 Bridge Street – ca. 1878

1064 East Street South – ca. 1860
Colonial Revival (1880-1955)

- Influenced by Georgian, Dutch Colonial and other early American forms.
- Side-gabled or gambrel roofs.
- Accentuated front door and dormers.
- Symmetrical door and window placement.

955 Thompsonville Road – 1909

803 River Boulevard – ca. 1900
American Foursquare (1890-1940)

- Variation of the Colonial Revival style, related to Wright’s Prairie style.
- Square, boxy footprint and massing.
- Hipped roof.
- Dormers.
- Prominent front porch.
- Occasionally wood trim or other Craftsman-style decorative details.

946 Thompsonville Road – ca. 1921

927 East Street North – ca. 1900
Craftsman/Bungalow (1905-1940)

- Side-gabled roof, often extending over a front porch.
- Wide eave overhangs.
- Exposed rafter tails.
- Prominent dormers.
- Porches supported by columns or piers.

495 Mapleton Avenue – ca. 1935

810 Thompsonville Road – ca. 1920
Tobacco Shed (1900-1960)

190 East Street North – Early 20th c.  
137 East Street South – Early 20th c.

- Long, low windowless plan.
- Pitched front-facing gable roofs.
- Doors at each end of building.
- Comprised of a series of “bents,” each approximately 15 feet deep.
- Various venting systems for drying tobacco leaf, most commonly vertical top- or side-hinged boards running along eave sides.
Recommendations

• 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.

• The study area identified by this Historic Resources Inventory contains a diverse collection of period architecture.

• Several individual buildings or groups of buildings (districts) may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
  • Ex: Charles Hathaway House (995 East Street South, ca. 1752).
  • Ex: Bridge Neighborhood Historic District.

• Begin the process of listing these properties on the National Register.

• Protect significant areas with Village Districts and/or Local Historic Districts.

• Encourage other preservation protection options and awareness.
Benefits of Listing on the National Register of
Historic Places

• Formal recognition of a property’s historical and architectural significance based on national standards.

• Contributes to the unique character of the town.

• Promotes pride in the community and generates opportunities for heritage tourism.

• Impact of State or Federally-funded projects on historic buildings must be considered.

• Studies show stable or increased property values in Local Historic Districts and National Historic Districts.

• Eligible for historic preservation incentives and tax credits.
Many Thanks