

First Report of  
HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE  
of  
OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

February 20, 1970

Please address communications to:

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REPORT OF  
THE OLD SAYBROOK HISTORICAL DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

February 20, 1970

Introduction

By a resolution of the Town of Old Saybrook, in town meeting assembled on August 29, 1968, an Historic District Study Committee of five members was elected in conformance with the enabling legislation, Connecticut General Statutes, Title 7, Chapter 97, Sections 7-147a to 7-147k inclusive, as amended.

Under Section 7-147b, the Study Committee is required to investigate and report on the historic significance of the buildings, structures, features, places or surroundings to be included in a proposed historic district, or districts, and to designate the area to be included therein.

The Study Committee is required to transmit its report to the Connecticut Historical Commission and to the Board of Selectmen; Planning Commission; Zoning Commission; and Conservation Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook; and, thereafter, to include any recommendations of these bodies in a final report to the Board of Selectmen of Old Saybrook, as more fully set forth in the enabling legislation, as amended and as described in the next paragraphs.

Within 120 to 150 days after transmission of this report, the Study Committee must hold a public hearing on the establishment of an historic district, as required under Section 7-147b(d) and (e) of the statutes.

Within 60 days after the public hearing, the Study Committee must submit a final report to the Board of Selectmen which shall contain:-

- (1) A complete description of the area to be included within the proposed historic district, including the total number of buildings therein listed according to their known or estimated ages;
- (2) A map showing the exact boundaries of the area;
- (3) A proposed ordinance designed to implement the provisions of Sections 7-147a to 7-147k inclusive;
- (4) A copy of the report and recommendations of the Historical Commission or any Town Commission; and
- (5) Any other matters as the Study Committee may deem necessary and advisable.

It should be noted that Section 7-147c provides that, once an historic district has been established in a municipality, the Historic District Study Committee shall cease to exist, and thereafter, an Historic District Commission of five members, whose terms of office and method of appointment are fixed by ordinance, shall perform all the functions of the Historic District Study Committee relative to establishing new districts and otherwise administering the provisions of Sections 7-147a to 7-147k inclusive.

Brief History of Old Saybrook

Although the history of Old Saybrook hardly needs retelling here, nevertheless a brief account of its beginnings seems appropriate. Saybrook, the earliest permanent, white settlement in southern Connecticut, was founded

In 1635 by a group of English noblemen, headed by Lord Saye and Sele, and Lord Brooke, for whom it was named. They founded the colony as a possible refuge from political enemies in England. They located it strategically on a small peninsula jutting into the Connecticut River near its mouth, under a "patent", or charter, from the Earl of Warwick. The patent embraced the whole of the lower Connecticut River Valley.

John Winthrop the Younger was commissioned in July 1635 as first governor of the new colony, and Captain Lion Gardiner its military commander. As it turned out, the only one of the patentees who came to Saybrook was George Fenwick, who took over as governor in 1639. Meanwhile the little colony had quite a struggle. In November 1635, Winthrop heard that the Dutch, who were established in New Amsterdam (now New York City), were likewise planning a colony at the mouth of the Connecticut River. Dutch traders had settled here temporarily a few years before. Winthrop immediately sent twenty men from Massachusetts in a 20-ton bark to hold the river against the Dutch. It was just in time. Soon after Winthrop's men arrived, the Dutch appeared, but were turned away by a cannon shot across the bow of their sloop, and the English kept possession.

Lion Gardiner, the capable military engineer who was sent from England to fortify the place, arrived with his wife and a handful of men in March 1636. With the help of Winthrop's twenty men he built a fort and other buildings at the mouth of the river. This was Connecticut's first fort. The fort is no longer standing, but a park on its original site is being planned. In August of 1636 the Pequot Indians, who lived near where New London now is, attacked the colony and continued their attacks for several years. They were finally subdued by a brave band of colonists under the command of Captain John Mason and Captain John Underhill. Fenwick returned to England for good late in 1645, and died there in 1657.

The settlers made their living in the early days by fishing, both in the river and along the coast (Long Island Sound), and by farming. Later their occupation extended to shipbuilding and carrying on extensive trade with the West Indies and with Europe. It was in the Richard Sill house at Ayer's Point in Old Saybrook that David Bushnell was living, after graduating from Yale in 1775, when he launched the first submarine, the "American Turtle", which he had designed and built. It was only 6 feet by 7-1/2 feet in size, with room for only one man, who propelled it by hand, - but it worked.

As more and more settlers arrived, the colony expanded up-river and on either side; and as years went by, some of the outlying parts separated from Saybrook and became independent towns, - Lyme, Killingworth, Essex, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, and Westbrook.

#### Procedure

The Historic District Study Committee proceeded as follows:

- (1) Obtained copies of the Statutes and prepared a brief and an outline of the requirements.
- (2) Wrote to all 15 Historical District Commissions in Connecticut and requested copies of their historical district study report, ordinance, commission rules and regulations and any other helpful data. Received information from about one half which contained very useful and informative material.
- (3) Obtained a list of historically valuable houses with dates built from the Old Saybrook Historical Society which is the latest list of houses that have been researched and are now marked with a sign giving name and date built.

- (4) Obtained property maps and owner information from the Town offices of the Clerk and Assessor.
- (5) Purchased through Assessor's office several aerial photographs of areas under consideration as possible historic districts.
- (6) Obtained Town Zoning Regulations and Zoning Area Map.
- (7) Applied to Town for appropriation for expenses and was granted \$1,000.
- (8) Conferred with First Selectman, Town Clerk, Town Assessor and others from time to time, particularly the President of the Historical Society.
- (9) Prepared a Zoning Map showing location of all of the historically valuable houses marked by the Historical Society.
- (10) Prepared a Property Map of the North Cove Road area and showed boundaries of proposed Historic District #1 and showed location of houses therein.
- (11) Prepared Aerial Photo map to show boundaries of proposed District #1.
- (12) Prepared list of names, addresses and lot numbers in proposed Historic District #1.
- (13) Conferred with legal counsel and drafted Ordinance.
- (14) Conferred with some of the property owners of historic houses in North Cove area.
- (15) Obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Luke, Jr. a set of black and white photographs of the historically valuable houses in the North Cove area.
- (16) Obtained data prepared by Mr. Roswell B. Whidden and by Mrs. Luke on the historical background of the old houses and families.
- (17) Prepared a document explaining the reasons for establishing an Historical District and the benefits to be derived therefrom.
- (18) Held meetings from time to time informally for the purpose of planning, preparing data and reporting on progress with assignments, interviews, etc.

#### General Comments on Why an Historic District is Desirable in Old Saybrook

One of the early conclusions arrived at by the Study Committee was that (1) not only should the Committee study the history of the people and houses of Old Saybrook to see if the selection of an historic district was desirable and feasible from the standpoint of preserving historically valuable houses and areas, but that (2) the Committee had the additional task of convincing the Old Saybrook people concerned, as well as the Town Officials, that the creation of an historic district was in itself a desirable objective and worthy of favorable action, and not just another zoning restriction or the imposition of a "special group" project causing irritation to owners, instead of creating pride in a cooperative action to preserve the historical heritage of the Town to the benefit of all. --

It should be realized that every owner in a proposed historic district has the right to vote for or against making the area he or she is in an historic district, and that, following a hearing at which all owners have an opportunity to ask questions and state their position, the affirmative vote of at least 75% of all owners in a proposed district voting thereon, by ballot taken by the Board of Selectmen, must be obtained as required by statute for favorable action. This is not all however which is necessary to create an historic district as the Town must adopt the Ordinance and all must be with the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the work of the Study Committee will have been wasted if its recommendations, or improvements thereon, are not supported favorably by owners because they have not had the opportunity to be adequately posted on the development of historic preservation and on its purposes, merits and benefits. Accordingly, the Study Committee wishes to include in this report a few words on this subject, as follows:

First, the preservation of historic districts and buildings today is widely accepted as a legitimate function of government. Not only is it justified on the basis that community appearance is important to public welfare, but also because such areas add to our culture, education and enjoyment by keeping history alive and visual. Connecticut statutes give the legislative body of any municipality the authority to make appropriations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of statute sections 7-147a to 7-147k inclusive.

Second, architectural control is the device in the enabling act which is used to control construction of new buildings and alterations to old ones that would detract from the cultural and economic values of an historic area. The key to all historic preservation in Connecticut is the judicious and reasonable use of the policing powers of a town, under the enabling act and the town ordinance, to prevent construction of new buildings or alterations to the exterior features of existing buildings which, without any control, would not contribute to the public welfare or private values of an historical district.

Third, although the town, after the creation of an Historic District Commission, exercises control through this Commission by requiring approved certificates of appropriateness before construction or external changes can be started, nevertheless, one of the main objectives is to operate in a manner which will encourage and stimulate preservation of existing historical values with due regard for the rights of the individual owners in any historical district. The owner and the community are protected by the provisions of the statutes which require a public hearing on each application for a certificate of appropriateness; requires prompt action by the Commission; allows some deviation from strict interpretation of regulations in exceptional or hardship cases; and gives any aggrieved person the right of appeal to the court of common pleas. The statutes also leave to the owner the decision as to what color paint he wishes to use on the exterior of a building; and places control of outdoor advertising signs and posters under the Historic District Commission.

Fourth, the benefits of the creation of an historic district under the Connecticut statutes may be briefly described as follows:

- (a) It will give assurance to residents, property owners and those contemplating purchases of property that nothing can be built or altered which will lessen the attractiveness of the historic district.
- (b) It will be a strong stabilizer and enhancer of real estate values.
- (c) It will create civic pride in the history of the community.
- (d) It will encourage residents to maintain and improve their property in the district.
- (e) It will be possible for owners to obtain financial help to offset maintenance costs of historically valuable houses or property through a rebating of real property taxes

Under Public Act No. 711, State of Connecticut, any municipality may by ordinance provide for the abatement in whole or in part of real property taxes on structures of historical or architectural merit. Reimbursement for the amount of tax abatement is made by the State to the municipality.

It is proposed and recommended by the Historic District Study Committee that the Historic District Commission of Old Saybrook be delegated by ordinance to be the authority to determine what structures shall qualify for tax abatement and in what amount. Accordingly, the proposed ordinance attached hereto provides for making this function come under the jurisdiction of the Commission as covered in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.2.1.

Fifth, an historic district might be described as an area in which historic events, historic buildings, buildings of architectural value, or places of

historical association are to be found. All important as an entity are its location, landscaping and appeal to the eye. No particular architectural period is required to qualify as to style, and it might be said that an historical district may have a variety of parts which constitute a special quality warranting protection and preservation as a part of the built-in, permanent and irreplaceable values of a town.

### Criteria

In view of the preceding generalities, the Study Committee prepared and adopted the following more specific criteria to be used as a basis for selecting historically valuable houses and an Historic District in Old Saybrook:

- (1) To qualify houses, buildings or other structures for selection as worthy of preservation -
  - a. Construction date to be not later than about 1850 and preferably in the 1700s or earlier.
  - b. Architectural features should be good and authentic for the period in which built.
  - c. Appearance as a whole should be pleasing and the maintenance good.
  - d. Should possess a reasonable amount of historical background of interest and significance.
  - e. Should, as an entity with its surroundings, be worthy of preservation.
- (2) To qualify as an Historic District -
  - a. Houses should be in pleasant and harmonious surroundings.
  - b. Reasonably clear of detracting commercial and industrial operations.
  - c. Historic houses or buildings should be in sufficient number to dominate the area as an historic district.
  - d. District should be in an area zoned as "Residential".
  - e. District should be in an area which can be marked off to include a minimum of small relatively modern houses or incongruous structures.
  - f. District should have easy access roads in good condition and capable of traffic control for minimum disturbance to residents from visitors.

### Selection of an Historical District

The Study Committee has reviewed all of the data and information which was obtained or made available to it, and is particularly grateful to the Old Saybrook Historical Society for the use of its documents which its research committee has compiled from many records and which has formed the historical background data supporting the designating and marking of about 71 historically valuable houses in Old Saybrook. The Study Committee is of the opinion that these 71 houses, having been authenticated by the Historical Society after researching a larger number, should be considered as of historical value but that not all of them would qualify for inclusion in an historical district under the criteria established.

In order to show the location of these 71 houses, they were spotted as black dots on the Town Zoning Area Map and this Map is attached hereto as Map No. 1. It was found that the number of houses located in the various zones were:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>No. Houses</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>No. Houses</u>
Residence AA	7	Business Local	18
" AA Modified	17	" Central	3
" A	25	Industry	0
" B	0	Marine Comm.	0
Total	49	Flood Plain	1

After studying the distribution of these 71 houses, the Study Committee was of the opinion that, for the first Historical District in Old Saybrook, the criteria established as mentioned previously herein should be used, although other criteria might be set up under different circumstances. As we are involved here with the conditions of Old Saybrook only, it was felt that the criteria selected met the intent of the statutes and the Committee's ideas as to what an Historical District should be like. It is, of course, possible to take an isolated case of an historically valuable church or building in the middle of a business or industrial zone and create its own district out of its own property, but the Study Committee decided that such an isolated case or the present creation of more than one historical district could best be handled after the first district was established and the Historical District Commission came into being, particularly when it is apparent that one area in Old Saybrook meets the criteria very nicely for the first district.

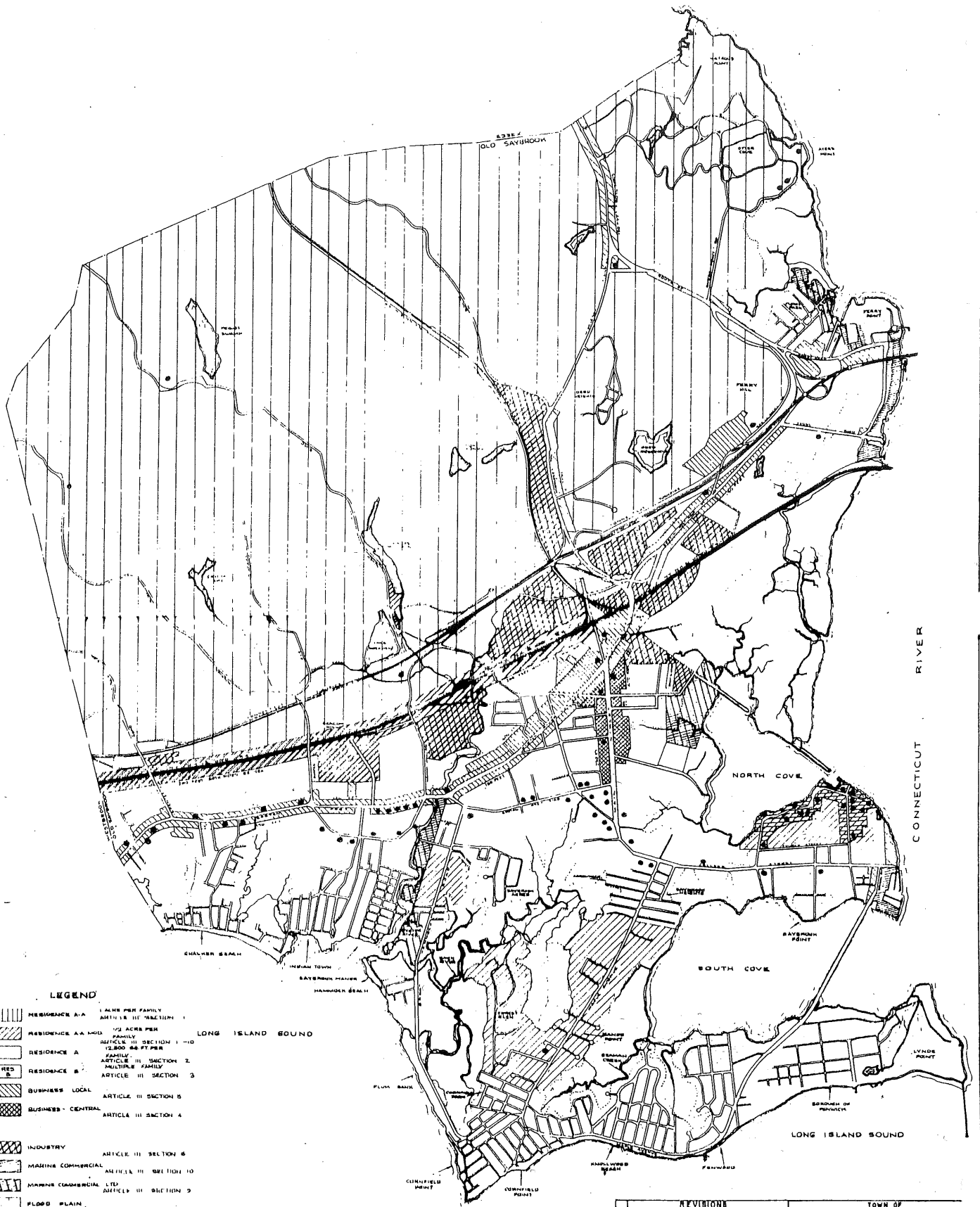
The Study Committee visited the areas of the 71 houses for the purpose of endeavoring to visualize groupings on the site for possible historic district areas. First, all houses in a business zone were eliminated because the surroundings were incongruous and much of the historic value had been destroyed by the inroads of commercial and business activities. Also, the 7 houses in zone Residence AA north of the railroad track are too isolated and scattered to consider at this time. The six houses on the Old Boston Post Road west of Oyster River were excluded as a possible area at this time because of scattered locations and predominance of contemporary houses.

The Study Committee decided that there were two possible areas which should be seriously considered for an historic district, i.e.,

- (1) NORTH COVE ROAD area, where there are 16 well maintained houses of historic value in a residential zone AA modified.
- (2) SOUTH MAIN ST. and PENNYWISE LANE TRIANGLE to MAPLE AVE. where there are 13 houses in residential zone A, all of historical value.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Study Committee that the best area to start with as an Historic District would be the North Cove Road area which now has 16 houses of historical value, in types and in surroundings which meet the criteria established by the Study Committee. The South Main St. area is worthy of preservation but it is felt that it would be better judgment in starting this historic district project to confine attention to the most likely and least complicated area, namely North Cove Road area, and leave the creating of Historical District #2 at the South Main St. area for the consideration and recommendation of the Historic District Commission after Historic District #1 and the Commission are established.

ACCORDINGLY, THIS STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE NORTH COVE AREA, AS DEFINED HEREIN, TO BE THE HISTORIC DISTRICT NUMBER ONE OF THE TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT AND THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE STATUTES OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.



# LEGEND

- RESIDENCE A/A-1 1 ACRE PER FAMILY ARTICLE III SECTION 1
- RESIDENCE A/A-2 1/2 ACRE PER FAMILY ARTICLE III SECTION 1 - 10
- RESIDENCE A 12,000 SQ. FT. PER FAMILY ARTICLE III SECTION 2
- RESIDENCE B 12,000 SQ. FT. PER MULTIPLE FAMILY ARTICLE III SECTION 3
- BUSINESS LOCAL ARTICLE III SECTION 5
- BUSINESS - CENTRAL ARTICLE III SECTION 4
- INDUSTRY ARTICLE III SECTION 6
- MARINE COMMERCIAL ARTICLE III SECTION 10
- MARINE COMMERCIAL LTP ARTICLE III SECTION 9
- FLOOD PLAIN OPEN AREA ARTICLE III SECTION 8
- HISTORIC DIST. #1

● APPROX. LOCATION OF HOUSES OF HISTORIC VALUE MARKED BY O.S. HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONN.	
ZONING AREAS MAP	
NO. 1	DESCRIPTION: RESIDENCE A/A-1
2	DATE: JAN 21 1977
3	APPROVED FOR THE TOWN: [Signature]
4	DATE: JAN 21 1977
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

SCALE: 1" = 400'

DRAWN BY: [Signature] DATE: 12/20/76

NOTE: ALL ACREAGE REFERENCED TO IN ZONING ORDINANCES AND SUBORDINATING REGULATIONS TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONN.



## North Cove Road and Cromwell Place

The proposed Historic District #1, encompassing North Cove Road and the north end of Cromwell Place, lies in the heart of some of Old Saybrook's most interesting history. Until fairly recently, North Cove Road was known as Water Street and Cromwell Place as Fenwick Street. Historic District #1 is only half a mile from the following points of historical interest:

The site of Saybrook Fort, with the nearby bronze statue of Lion Gardiner and the granite marker to George Fenwick, is on the north side of College Street near the head of Cromwell Place.

Cypress Cemetery, the "Old Burying Ground", is on the south side of College Street nearly opposite the head of Cromwell Place. It was laid out by Lion Gardiner in 1636. Here the first settlers were buried; and here the tomb of Lady Fenwick, who died in 1645, was moved in 1870.

Next to Cypress Cemetery, on College Street, is the first site of Yale College. The site is marked by a boulder standing in the middle of a large, hedge-bordered lot, and by a granite marker. The college was founded in Saybrook in 1701 as the Collegiate School, and moved to New Haven in 1716.

On Church Street, a block to the north, stood the parsonage of the Rev. Thomas Buckingham, a leading clergyman from 1665 until his death in 1709, known for his good influence in the community. He took an active part in the founding of the Collegiate School, whose first commencement was held in his house on September 10, 1702, and in drawing up the famous "Saybrook Platform" in 1708, an ecclesiastical agreement, approved by the Assembly, aimed at unifying church government in Connecticut. Many of the meetings were held in his house.

On the south side of College Street near the river was one of Old Saybrook's several shipbuilding yards. Here the last vessel built at Old Saybrook was launched, the "Mary E. Kellinger", a three-masted schooner.

North Cove Road itself was the center of Saybrook's fishing and shipping industries in the 1700's and 1800's. Shad, salmon, bass, and other fish abounded in the Connecticut. These were caught with seines which were hauled in by capstans mounted on piers built of logs and stone near the edge of the channel. These piers were given names, some of which still appear on charts of the river, such as Gibraltar, Dickerson's, Sodom, Griswold's. Shad was salted and kept for winter consumption, or shipped in trading vessels.

North Cove Road teemed with shipping activity, especially near its juncture with Cromwell Place. Many wharves jutted into the river and the cove. At the mouth of the cove, where it joined the river, was a large anchoring ground. At that time, before the railroad that ran along the shore to Fenwick was built in 1870, there was easy access to the river. Most of the vessels were engaged in trading with the southern states, the West Indies, the Cape Verde Islands, and sometimes with Europe and Africa. The outgoing cargoes were staves for barrels and hogsheads, lumber products, leather, candles, beef, pork, flour, agricultural products, and sometimes horses and cattle. The return cargoes were usually sugar, molasses, rum, various other goods, and occasionally African slaves. For example, the manifest of the schooner "Nancy" of Saybrook, Willoughby Lynde, Master, shows that she brought back a cargo of salt from Turk's Island, on February 20, 1802. The smaller vessels were sloop rigged; the large ones two-masted schooners or full-rigged brigs or brigantines.

Nearly all of the old houses on North Cove Road were built by, or later owned by, sea captains or ship owners. John, Asa, and Bushnell Kirtland were ship-builders.

#### Attached Maps and Other Information

In addition to Zoning Map, #1, already mentioned, there is attached hereto a property map, Map #2, entitled "Proposed Historic District #1, Town of Old Saybrook, Conn.", which shows all properties within the proposed area (historically valuable houses are shown in solid black) and also the boundary lines of the district.

Also attached is a description of the boundaries of District #1.

A list of all the property owners, within or partially within, the District #1 is included with names, addresses, lot and block numbers as obtained from the Town Clerk and Assessor offices.

As required by the statutes section 7-147b(f), the Study Committee has prepared and is attaching hereto:

- (1) The total number of historically valuable houses with their known or estimated year built and a brief on their architectural value.
- (2) Photographs of each historically valuable house with a short description of its historical background.
- (3) A proposed Ordinance designed to implement the provisions of sections 7-147a to 7-147k inclusive of the Statutes.

The Study Committee has endeavored to include in this report all of the pertinent information available and required under section 7-147b(f) and has included other related matters because of its value in informing people prior to the public hearing. The copies of the reports and recommendations of the Connecticut Historical Commission and of the various Town Commissions and Board of Selectmen will be incorporated when received prior to the public hearing and will be sent to recipients of this report and other interested parties at the time of mailing public notices of the public hearing as required by the Statutes.

Respectfully submitted,

OLD SAYBROOK HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

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Don W. Stone

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Robert A. Wendler

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Allene S. Horn

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Roswell B. Whidden

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Arthur B. Homer  
Chairman

Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut

PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF HISTORICAL DISTRICT #1

The proposed Historical District #1 will be the entire area bounded by the Connecticut River to the Northeast; by North Cove to the North and Northwest; and by a Southern line commencing at North Cove and running in an easterly direction about 519 feet along the south side line of Lot 9 Block 31 to the eastern side of North Cove Road; thence southerly along North Cove Road to the northern side of Church Street; thence 200 feet easterly along the south side of Lot 15 Block 23; thence 194 feet northerly along the east boundary line of Lot 15 Block 23 to the south boundary line of Lot 16 Block 31; thence northeasterly to a point on the east boundary of Lot 16 Block 31 which is 300 feet from the south side of North Cove Road; thence across Lot 15 Block 31 to a point on the east boundary of the same lot which is 300 feet from the south side of North Cove Road; thence in an easterly direction on a line which is 300 feet south of and parallel to the south side of North Cove Road to the east line of Lot 65 Block 32; thence in a northerly direction along said line and the east line of Lot 64 Block 32 to the southern line of Lot 63 Block 32; thence to the east line of Lot 63 Block 32 and then northerly along said line to the south line of Lot 62 Block 32; thence easterly along said line to the northeast corner of Lot 43 Block 32; thence in a north-northeasterly direction a distance of about 400 feet on a line 200 feet south of and parallel to North Cove Road; thence in an easterly direction on a line 200 feet from and parallel to the south side of North Cove Road to a point 200 feet from Cromwell Place; thence southerly on a line parallel to and 200 feet from the west side of Cromwell Place to the north side of Cromwell Court at Lot 53 Block 32; thence easterly along Cromwell Court and across Cromwell Place to the southwest corner of Lot 21 Block 32; thence following the southern and easterly boundaries of Lots 21, 20, 14, and 13 of Block 32 to the Connecticut River.

LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS  
PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT #1

Name	Address	Block	Lot
1 MacLachlan, Robert H.	55 North Cove Road	31	11
2 Drew, Mrs. Walter	71-85 " " "	31	13
		31	15
3 Thomson, Ralph L.	90 " " "	32	1
		32	68
4 Swift, Jonathan G.	100 " " "	32	2
		32	65
5 Kolstad, Richard S.	110 " " "	32	64
6 Eldredge, Dr.	122 " " "	32	61
7 Buron, Prof. Gaston	151 " " "	32	5
8 Cox, Miss Margaret; Beard, Mrs. Morris	174 " " "	32	17
9 Ingersoll, John A., Jr.	175 " " "	32	8
10 Hildreth, Edward W.	191 " " "	32	10
11 Whitman, Mrs. Roger	192 " " "	32	14
12 Easton, Anthony	200 " " "	32	13
13 Roos, Philip J.	48 Cromwell Place	32	21
14 Stone, Don W.	64 " "	32	18
15 Tietjen, Richard D.	69 " "	32	56
16 Kiefer, Harold B.	7 Church Street	23	15
(All above have houses of historic value)			
17 Fourcher, Priscilla	49 North Cove Road	31	10
18 Thomas, William G.	60 " " "	31	16
		31	12
19 Town of Old Saybrook		32	3
		32	9
20 Opp, Mrs. Paul R.	86 " " "	31	14
		32	67
21 Waugh, Mrs. Dan F.	96 " " "	32	66
22 Spencer, Mary H.	114 " " "	32	63
23 Cahill, Wallace C.	118 " " "	32	62
24 Sears, Cushman A.	130 " " "	32	60
25 Cox, Col. Walton W.	141 " " "	32	4
26 Haynes, Charles	148 " " "	32	6
		32	59
27 Hedges, Raymond S. Jr.	152 " " "	32	7
		32	58
28 Chamberlain, L. Baxter	156 " " "	32	57
29 Marsh, Robert M.	5 Cromwell Court North	32	48
30 Anderson, Albert J. Jr.	6 " " "	32	49
31 Hillcrest Home Builders	4 " " "	32	55
32 Waldinger, Dr. E.	45 Cromwell Place	32	54
33 Robb, Edward T.	50 " "	32	20
34 O'Brien, Wm. E. & Edward J.	60 " "	32	19
35 Lawrence, Roger C.	2 Cromwell Court	32	53
36 Dodge, J. Courtney	184 North Cove Road	32	12
		32	15
37 Whidden, Roswell B.	201 " " "	32	11

HISTORICALLY VALUABLE HOUSES IN PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT #1  
TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

House		Owner	
Year Built	Name	Name	Address
1700	Robert Bull	MacLachlan, Robert H.	55 North Cove Road
1850	Capt. Dolbeare	Drew, Mrs. Walter	71-85 " " "
1734	John Ingraham	Thomson, Ralph L.	90 " " "
1805	Asa Kirtland	Swift, Jonathan G.	100 " " "
1810	Bushnell Kirtland	Kolstad, Richard S.	110 " " "
1810	Capt. John Ingraham	Eldredge, Dr.	122 " " "
1750	William Tully	Buron, Prof. Gaston	151 " " "
1645 1799	Capt. Samuel Doty Capt. Willoughby Lynde	Cox, Miss Margaret & Beard, Mrs. Morris	174 " " "
1704	Black Horse Tavern	Ingersoll, John A., Jr.	175 " " "
1830	Capt. George Dickinson	Hildreth, Edward W.	191 " " "
1800	Gee	Whitman, Mrs. Roger	192 " " "
1813	George Pratt	Easton, Anthony	200 " " "
1842	Capt. Charles Williams	Roos, Philip J.	48 Cromwell Place
1813	Samuel Hart, Jr.	Stone, Don W.	64 " "
1807	Giles Blague	Tietjen, Richard D.	69 " "
1700	Edgar Dickinson	Kiefer, Harold B.	7 Church Street



55 North Cove Road

ROBERT BULL HOUSE - c.1700

Robert Bull probably built the house at 55 North Cove Road around 1700.

Robert married Phebe Jose about December 15, 1649. They had four children, - Mary, John, Phebe, and Robert. Daughter Phebe married Samuel Chalker in 1676. (Ref: Saybrook Vital Records.)

Robert, the senior, bought several "home lots" and land in the northwest corner of North Cove Road in 1662, 1671, and 1680, totalling seven acres. (Ref: Gates, pp. 139 and 140; Land Records, Vol. 1, pp. 29, 30, 116; Abstract of Title of land of Jennie Phelps made for Mrs. Talcott by Gilman C. Gates, August 12, 1933, copy in Old Saybrook Historical Society Archives.)

A boundary of the "home lot" he bought in 1671 from Reynold Marvin, lying west of North Cove Road, is described as running "North toward the rock at the North Cove". (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 1, p. 30; Abstract, p. 2.) There is a large rock just off-shore at the northwest corner of the Robert Bull house.

Elsewhere the Records speak of a lane, which ran along the eastern boundary of Robert Bull's land, as being "commonly known by the name of Bull's Lane". (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 2, p. 364; Abstract, pp. 3, 5, 7, 8, 13.)

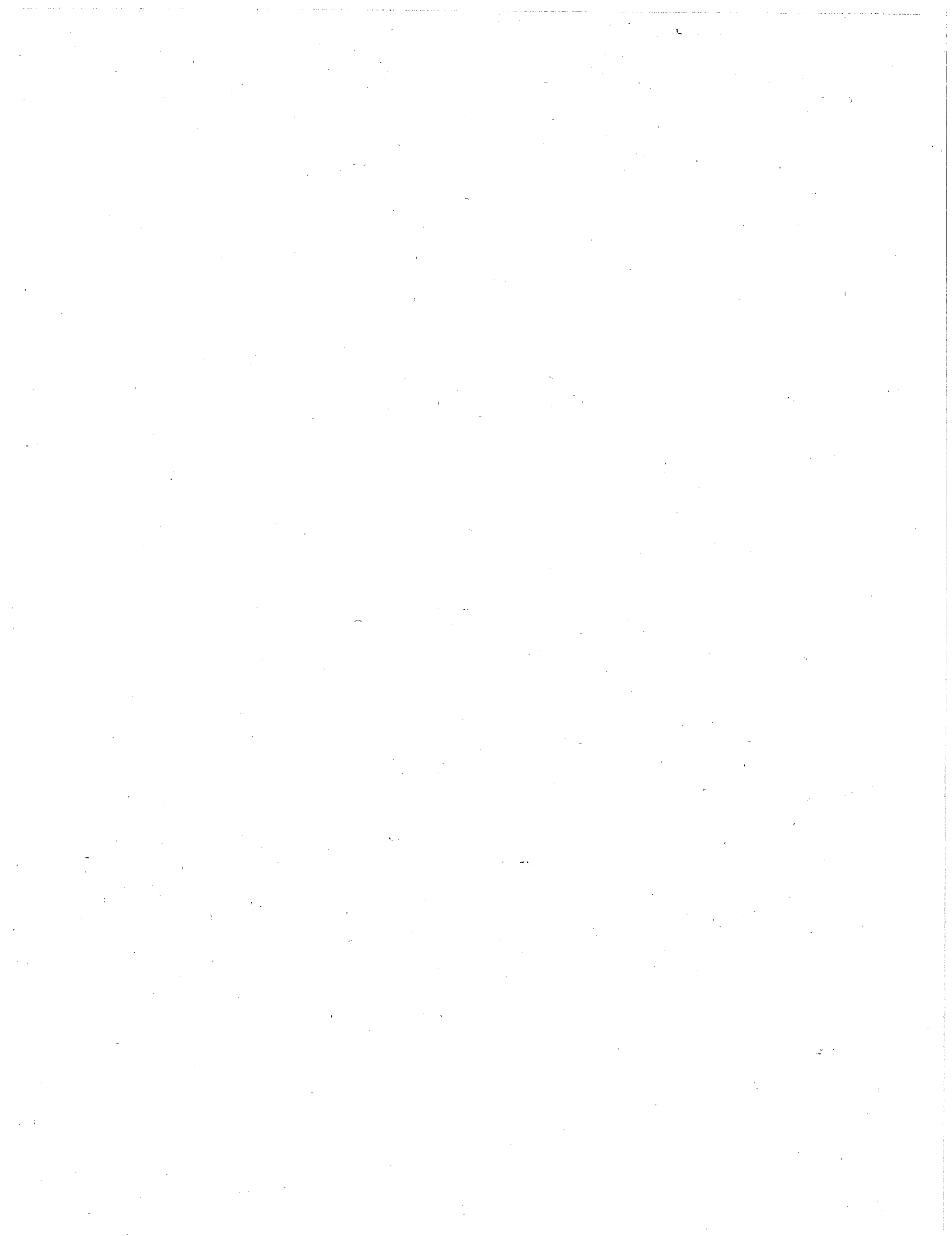
Some later owners of the Robert Bull house are shown below.

David L. Phelps bought it from Richard Pratt in 1851. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 34, p. 453; Abstract, p. 1.) David and his wife Della lived here many years. "He was a fisherman by trade, and at his death it was found that he had left a sizable estate, which he had gleaned from the humble eel and clams in the Cove". (Ref: Mary Rankin Spencer, p. 1.) The Phelps name is shown at this corner on the 1853, 1859, and 1874 maps.

Miss Jennie Phelps inherited it from her father, David, in 1903. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 9, p. 604; Abstract, p. 1.)

Katherine Agnew Talcott (Mrs. Allen) bought it September 25, 1933. (Ref: Land Records, Book 35, p. 319.) She was "an artist's wife who recognized its possibilities" and "proceeded at once to make the house and grounds into a charming picture to meet you at the turn of the road". (Ref: Mary Rankin Spencer, p. 2.) Mrs. Talcott founded the Old Saybrook Garden Club in 1952.

Mrs. Talcott's granddaughter, Priscilla Stearns Talcott, inherited the property, and in 1958 sold the vacant land lying on the south and east sides of North Cove Road to William Grady Thomas and his wife Helen. (Ref: Land Records, Book 80, p. 563.) Later, in 1961, as Mrs. Fourcher, Priscilla sold the house and the land lying on the north side of North Cove Road to Robert H. MacLachlan and his wife Suzanne. (Ref: Land Records, Book 93, p. 377.) But Priscilla retained the vacant land lying on the west side of North Cove Road.





75 North Cove Road

CAPT. JOHN S. DOLBEARE HOUSE - c. 1855

The original of the beautiful house at 75 North Cove Road, the residence of Mrs. Walter Drew, was probably built about 1855 by Capt. John S. Dolbeare.

On May 3, 1855, Dolbeare bought from Richard Pratt a 1-1/2 acre lot in that location, bounded on its north side by North Cove Road. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 1, p. 29.) On October 30, 1857, Dolbeare also bought a five acre piece of land adjoining on the south and stretching to Church Street. (Ref: Land Records, Book 3, p. 84.)

In his Abstract of Title on the Robert Bull house in 1933, Gilman Gates wrote that the above-mentioned two pieces of land "constitute the Dolbeare property, now owned by Walter Drew".

This is corroborated by Capt. Thomas L. Reed, who says that Capt. Dolbeare built the original house, and that he might well have done so when he bought the land in 1855. Capt. Reed, now 86, was a tugboat captain, and lived in the neighborhood all his life. Despite his years he is active and keen.

The 1-1/2 acre lot that Dolbeare bought from Richard Pratt in 1855 included a "dwelling house", but Capt. Reed says that it was only a small cottage, standing near where the Thomsons' barn now is, and was subsequently torn down.

The 1853 map shows "R. Pratt" on the property; the 1859 map shows "J. S. Dolbeare" and the 1874 map shows "Capt. Dolbeare".

Capt. John S. Dolbeare was born in 1819, and died in 1888 at the age of 69. His wife, Maria, was born in 1835, and died in 1879 at the age of 44. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions, Cypress Cemetery.)

The Dolbeares had several sons and daughters. The oldest, George F., was born in 1859 and died in 1926. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions; Cypress Cemetery.) He was a bachelor, and lived in the Dolbeare house all his life. One of the Dolbeare daughters, known as "Pet", married John Jobson and lived with him in the Dolbeare house for a while. This information comes from Capt. Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Drew bought the property in 1931. At the suggestion of the famous artist and architect, Granville Smith, they remodeled the old house to Colonial Georgian style, and made other extensive improvements. (Ref: 1960 Tour of Homes.)

Mary Rankin Spencer wrote of it:

"In my time the house belonged to Captain John Dolbeare. He was a fisherman and seined the shad in the Spring. There was a small building in which he kept his fishing tackle. This building was on the shore with his boats but has long since disappeared and a broad expanse of lawn with sea wall has taken its place. Captain Dolbeare's house has also changed, and one has the feeling that it belongs farther south than Connecticut. You sense this, I think, because of its change in architecture as the house now has white pillars that go beyond the second story. Perhaps this change in the type of architecture is due to the fact that the owner, Mr. Walter Drew's wife, came from Virginia. The present owners have so much changed and improved its exterior and interior that you would not

recognize it for the same place. Now a large and attractive lawn frames the home."

As one comes upon it, at the right after rounding the bend, it is indeed impressive.

#### ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The Dolbeare house is a long two story house situated with the ridge parallel to the road. The ridge is interrupted by a third gable projection in the middle, forming a T shape in plan. The entrance is on the right side which is partially a two story portico with large square columns supporting a heavy scale pediment. This pediment design is used on the other two gable ends and incorporated a fan shaped window giving light to the attic space.

The house was renovated and/or remodeled in 1931 with the addition of several rooms to the rear and a screened porch off the living room to the East.

The window arrangement generally consists of four in the East gable and twelve facing the road. Most are double hung type with six over six lights.

The front entrance is under the two story colonnade and has the same lines as the roof pediment but with rather small columns supporting it flush against the wall.

Wood clapboards is the exterior siding material with no large corner pilasters.

The chimneys are located on the east end and in the middle.

This house, with its two story portico and size, is an example of the stateliness and dignity that was popular with building in this period.

90 North Cove Road

JOHN INGRAHAM HOUSE - c. 1734

This house, beautifully located on the Cove side of North Cove Road, is thought to have been built about 1734, and in all probability by John Ingraham.

Gates says in this "Saybrook at the Mouth of the Connecticut," page 162, that John Ingraham "purchased land in Saybrook in 1721," and that he "appears to have built a house on the northwest corner of Saybrook Point."

As to the antiquity of the house, Robert I. Carter, prominent Essex architect, says this about it in a letter dated October 5, 1968, to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Thomson, the present owners:

"Having worked extensively with your charming old house I have become familiar with the architectural and structural details.

"Much of the original exterior and interior trim remains and in particular the original main front stair from first to second floor. This original trim and stair detail is definitely early eighteenth century and very much like other Old Saybrook work of the same period."

Ralph Stephenson, a recent owner, gave the date of the house as "about 1734" in a brochure offering it for sale in 1960.

The indenture partitioning John Ingraham's property among his seven children after his death in 1750 describes the location of the "home lot" on which his dwelling house stood, and it corresponds with the location of the present house. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 8, p. 266.)

This John Ingraham was born in 1680 and would have been 54 when he built the house. His wife, Sarah, was two years younger. Both are buried in Cypress Cemetery. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.)

Some later owners of the house and land were the following:

John Phelps

John Kirtland

Anna Maria Livingston, 1859. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 1, p. 186.)

Merrick W. Chapin, 1863. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 1, p. 338.)

Don Alonzo Goodman, 1884. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 7, p. 480)

Peter A. Wickstrom and his wife, Annie Charlotte Wickstrom, 1898.

(Ref: Land Records, Vol. 11, p. 47.)

Paul R. Opp and his wife Anna, of Irvington-on-the-Hudson, 1928.

(Ref: Land Records, Vol. 28, p. 473.)

The property at this time, and earlier, consisted of two pieces, shown as follows in an Abstract of Title prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Opp by Judge Charles S. Gates in 1928: the first piece comprised one half acre on the north side (the water side) of North Cove Road and included the house; the second piece comprised five acres on the south side of North Cove Road and included the barn.

The Opps built a sea wall and a boat house. They used the house only week-ends until 1937, then summers until 1942, then year-round. After Mr. Opp died in 1944, Mrs. Opp lived in the house alone until 1950. (Ref: Mrs. Opp, oral.)

In 1950, Mrs. Opp sold the house and barn and some, but not all, of the land

to Miss Marie Rollins. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 57, p. 244.)

In 1954, Miss Marie Rollins sold what she had bought from Mrs. Opp to Ralph Stephenson and his wife Mai. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 67, p. 214.)

Since 1960 the house has been the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Thomson.

MAPS:

The 1853 Woodford map shows the house and barn under the name of J. Kirtland.

The 1859 Walling map shows the house and barn under the name of A.R. Livingston.

The 1874 Beers' Atlas of Middlesex County, pp. 138-9, shows the house and barn under the name of M. W. Chapin.

(A later John Ingraham, born in 1777, built the house at 122 North Cove Road. On Woodford's 1853 map he is shown as "Capt. J. Ingraham".)

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This house has been renovated and/or remodeled during recent times, but much of the early 18th century Colonial trim remains on the exterior and interior.

The ridge line of the pitched roof is parallel to the road with the chimney in a central position. This street facade consists of nine windows, all spaced apart from each other with a bay window in the center of the first floor where the front entrance must have been originally. The entrance is now in an ell to left side of the house. The windows are double hung with twelve over twelve lights.

The cornice and rake detail is of a simple moulding with a slight projection at the eave line. Wood clapboards cover the exterior of the house.

100 North Cove Road

ASA KIRTLAND HOUSE - c.1805

Asa Kirtland built the charming house and barn at 100 North Cove Road about 1805. George E. Kirtland, a prominent real estate broker of Old Saybrook, now retired, believes the house was built about that time.

In that year, 1805, Asa, born in Old Saybrook in 1778, was 27 years old and his wife 21. He married Polly Tully about 1807. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 277.)

It was Asa and his brother John who sold to their younger brother Bushnell Kirtland the land on which Bushnell built his house next door about 1810. (Ref: Land Records, Book 15, p. 281) Asa and his wife Polly had nine children and Bushnell and his wife Hannah had seven. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 277.) It is interesting to imagine the good times these cousins must have had living next door to each other.

Asa sold his house and barn in 1832 to his younger brother Ezra, for twelve hundred dollars. The lot is clearly described in the deed. (Ref: Land Records, Book 26, p. 111.) Ezra and his wife Harriet (Tully) had seven children. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 277.) The 1853 map shows "E. Kirtland" on the house; and the 1859 map "E. Kirtland Heirs." Ezra's wife Harriet died in 1850 at the age of 55; and Ezra on January 11, 1858, at the age of 68. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions, Cypress Cemetery.)

Asa died September 22, 1861, at the age of 83; and his wife Polly, October 10, 1867, likewise at the age of 83. Both are buried in the Upper Cemetery, sometimes called the Junction Cemetery. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.)

Asa and Ezra were descended from Nathanael Kirtland of Sherrington in Buckinghamshire, England, who came over to Lynn, Massachusetts, in the "Hopewell" of London, in April 1635, at the age of 19. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 260.)

Among later owners of the house were Mr. and Mrs. Lynde Hart. After the Harts died, the house was rented in the summer for a year or two and then sold to a family by the name of Ketchum who came from the South. (Ref: Mary Rankin Spencer.)

Now, the house is the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan G. Swift of West Hartford.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The front of this house is a seven window facade with the front entrance to the right of center. The gable ends have a six window and an eight window arrangement with two windows within the high gable area. They are double hung with six over six lights and are framed with a wide plain flat trim.

The ridge of the pitched roof is parallel to the road with a central chimney to the right of center at the ridge point.

The house has various additions to the rear of the main house and is covered with wood clapboards with a narrow cornerboard.

The cornice has a heavy dentil design which returns at the ends into a simple rake which does not project beyond the gable wall.

The front entrance is built into the wall of the house and projects only slightly beyond. Flat plain columns on each side of the door support a simple moulded architrave and plain wide frieze with the cornice above very flat but having a dentil course below it.

110 North Cove Road

BUSHNELL KIRTLAND HOUSE - c. 1810

Bushnell Kirtland built the beautiful house at 110 North Cove Road about 1810.

The year is quite well authenticated in the deed recording the sale of the land to him by his brothers John and Asa on March 5, 1812, in which it refers to the land as being "the same land on which said Bushnell has lately erected a dwelling house." (Ref: Land Records, Book 15, p. 281.)

Bushnell Kirtland was a younger brother of Asa Kirtland who about five years earlier built the house next door at No. 100 North Cove Road

Bushnell and Asa were descended from Nathanael Kirtland of Sherrington in Buckinghamshire, England, who came over to Lynn, Massachusetts, in the "Hopewell" of London, in April 1635 at the age of 19. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 260.)

Bushnell Kirtland was born in Saybrook October 9, 1781. His mother's maiden name was Bushnell. He married Hannah Lay in 1809, by whom he had seven children. (Ref: Pratt Gen., p. 277.) His monument in Cypress Cemetery, a 20-foot granite obelisk, is inscribed as follows:

"Bushnell Kirtland, died May 2, 1865, aged 84 years;  
"Hannah Lay, wife of Bushnell Kirtland, died April 10, 1873,  
aged 81 years."

He is the only Bushnell Kirtland recorded in any Old Saybrook cemetery.

He was 29 years old in 1810; and his wife 18 years old.

Both the 1853 and the 1859 maps show "B. Kirtland" on the house.

Some later owners of the house were Erastus and Charles Kirtland, sons of Bushnell; Galen Dowd; Lansing Chapman; and Jonathan G. Swift.

The house is well described in the 1953 Tour of Homes booklet (p. 9) and by Mary Rankin Spencer (p. 3). Both mention the beautiful Palladian window.

Now, the house is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Kolstad.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The singular most striking feature of this Early Federal house is the centrally located Palladian entrance in its original form. It is flanked by eight windows that are set closely together in pairs. These windows are double hung of twelve over twelve lights and are capped by a simple moulded cornice projection. The gable ends are a five window arrangement with one window in the gable area.

The roof is pitched with the ridge parallel to the road and the chimney in a central location. The cornice is designed with a dentil course and returns at each end into a moulded rake flush with the house wall.

The house is covered in wood clapboard with natural size cornerboards and has additional sections built to the side and rear of the main house.

The front entrance is of a very elaborate Palladian motif, popular in the

early nineteenth century. The doorway is flanked by large square columns projected out slightly from the wall. Over the door is a semi-elliptical fan light. Above this supported by the flanking columns is a frieze section of plain design, capped by a cornice with a dentil course moulding. Directly over the cornice is a Palladian window with a nine over nine light window in the center and a two over two light on each side. These windows are capped by a cornice similar to the doorway cornice with the dentil design and with a fan light window over the center. Almost directly above this is the building cornice.



122 North Cove Road

CAPT. JOHN INGRAHAM - c.1810

The imposingly located house at 122 North Cove Road was probably built by Captain John Ingraham about 1810.

Capt. John was 33 in 1810. He died in 1852, at the age of 75, outliving his wife, Ann (Dickinson) Ingraham, by 15 years. He left the house to his daughter Miss Amelia Hotchkiss Ingraham, who was 34 in 1852. (Ref: Headstone Inscription, Cypress Cemetery; Erastus Clarke, p. 15.)

The 1853 map shows "Capt. J. Ingraham" on the house; and the 1859 and 1874 maps show "Miss A. H. Ingraham".

Mary Rankin Spencer, a neighbor, wrote in 1962, when she was 86, about the house:

"My earliest recollection of its inhabitants were two maiden ladies, Miss Amelia Ingraham and her cousin Miss Della. Both were along in years. ... When Miss Amelia and Miss Della passed on, the property went to Miss Amelia's niece Anne, Mrs. Frederick Hotchkiss, and she and her husband and daughter Annie came to live in the old house."

If M.R.S.'s "earliest recollection" went back to when she was eight years old, it was 1884. At that time Miss Amelia was 66. She died the next year. (Ref: Headstone Inscription, Cypress Cemetery.)

Some other owners of the house were the following:

Capt. Frank Harding, in the 1920's. Capt. Harding was in the Merchant Marine in World War I. (Ref: Erastus Clarke; 1960 Tour of Homes.)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Childress, in the 1950's. Mr. Childress is an artist.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett A. Cooper, in the 1960's.

In 1969 the house was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Donald A. Eldredge.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This Colonial house, with a wide front hall plan, was completely renovated and restored in 1941.

It is a pitched roof house with the ridge parallel to the road and end chimneys. To the road, there is a nine window facade with all windows, except over the center entrance, set closely together. The gable ends are of a six window design. All windows are double hung with six over six lights and with a moulded cornice projection over.

The cornice is a simple design, which might not be the original, that returns at the ends into the rake, without a noticable projection. The siding material is wood clapboards with narrow cornerboards.

The front entrance is a porch type with a flat roof consisting of a plain

frieze board with a simple cornice member. This is supported by very thin double spaced square columns, almost post size. The columns are repeated at the house wall outside the sidelights on each side of the door. This porch is not common for the period and may not be the original.

The house has additional sections to the side and to the rear.

WILLIAM TULLY HOUSE - 1750

William Tully built this beautiful old house, overlooking the North Cove, in 1750. (Ref: W.P.A., No. 28; Colonial Dames.)

William Tully, born in 1709, married first Anne Beaumont in 1745/6. He married second Elisabeth Lay, of Lyme, in 1750. He died in 1775. (Ref: Colonial Dames; Saybrook Vital Records, pp. 24 and 25; Headstone Inscriptions.)

William was a grandson of John Tully. John was born in England in 1638, and at the age of nine came to Saybrook with his widowed mother and his sister, both named Sarah, in 1646/7. John married Mary Beaumont in 1671. (Ref: Colonial Dames.) He gave up farming and supported his family by teaching arithmetic, navigation, and astronomy. Besides this he published annually an almanac for the people of New England from 1681 to 1702. These almanacs are now scarce, and said to be very valuable. (Ref: Gates, pp. 157 and 158; Holman, Saybrook Stories, p. 36.)

William and Elisabeth Lay had a son, William, born in 1759, and known later as Col. William, about whom there is an interesting story of an incident in the Revolutionary War. On the night of August 8, 1779, a boatload of contraband which some Tories from up the river were endeavoring to run out of the river to trade with the British was captured and stored in the Tully cellar. Young William, who was then 20, was dispatched to guard them. That night a boat with eight Tories from Middletown landed near the house and demanded the goods, which Tully refused to give up. They forced the door and rushed in, whereupon Tully fired his musket. The ball passed through the body of the first man and lodged in the body of the man behind him, who fell dead. Tully charged them, wounding one with his bayonet, and escaped through the window to alarm the garrison at the Fort. That episode caused the Saybrook residents to refer to the conflict as "Tully's War". Traditions say that in 1801 when Tully was a member of the Legislature he roomed at the Black Horse Tavern just east of the Tully house with the man he wounded with his bayonet and that they were friends ever after. (Ref: Colonial Dames.)

Col. William Tully married Eunice Tully, daughter of Elias. They had a son, William, who became a famous doctor. Henry Bronson, M.D., of New Haven, wrote of him in his biography as "doubtless the most learned and thoroughly scientific physician of New England". (Ref: Colonial Dames.)

The house was at one time used by a Hartford benevolent society as a summer vacation home for working girls, and was called "Heartsease". It is sometimes still referred to by that name. (Ref: Erastus Clarke; Grace Pratt.)

Some of its many owners and occupants were: William Tully; Col. William Tully; Dr. William Tully; John Ingraham; George Dickinson; Harriet I. Whittlesey; William C. Whittlesey (Ref: Map, 1853); Edward Ingraham; Amelia P. Ingraham; Ellen Jane Grumley; Mary E. Leonard; Horace S. Leonard; Edward C. Leonard; Charles A. Denison; Alice E. Denison; Dr. Willis G. Neally; Leonora A. Neally; (Ref: Colonial Dames); and more recently Lucy (Bradshaw) Gustafson.

Now (since 12-19-68), the house is owned by Elizabeth Palmer Buron (Mrs. G. E.) who lives there with her husband, Professor Buron.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The Tully house is basically Colonial in design but reflects some elements of the early Georgian period. It is situated with the ridge side parallel to the road. The roof is a steep pitch of about 45°. The facade has four bays of windows, seven in all, with the front entrance to the right of center. The windows are double hung of six over nine lights.

The front entrance has side lights on each side of the door with plain pilasters flanking the lights. Above the door is a moulded transom bar, the ends of which are mitered into and form the top members of the pilaster cap. Above the bar is an area of glass with heart shaped decoration. The frieze, which is plain, is of a pulvinated form topped by a row of small dentils and capped by a cornice of classical moulding. This doorway is of a form common during the period the house was built, but the presence of the decorated glass instead of a five or six light design, and the side lights at the door were not commonly in use until a later period.

The cornice is of plain mouldings projected slightly at the eave, and returns into the rake of a similar design. The house has a central chimney and is sided with wood clapboards

174 North Cove Road,  
S.E. Cor. Cromwell Place

CAPT. WILLOUGHBY LYNDE HOUSE - c. 1799

ELL: CAPT. SAMUEL DOTY - c. 1645

This interesting house, owned by the Edmund VanDyke Cox Estate, is the residence of Miss Margaret Potter Cox and Laura (Cox) Beard (Mrs. Morris L.).

Capt. Willoughby Lynde built this house about 1799 on the half acre of land he bought from Amos White for forty-two pounds ten shillings in 1799. The land purchase is recorded on page 249 of Volume 12 of the Saybrook Land Records. The record makes no mention of there being a dwelling house on this plot of land at the time Capt. Willoughby Lynde bought it.

Willoughby was a descendant of Enoch Lynde of London, England, and his wife Elizabeth (Digby) Lynde, whose son Simon came to Boston in 1650. Simon became a very prosperous merchant and a large land owner. In 1674 he moved to Saybrook where he bought land in Fenwick. (Ref: Lynde Gen.; Holman, Western Neck.)

Willoughby's grandfather, also named Willoughby, born 3/1/1711, and a graduate of Yale in 1732, married Margaret Corey of Long Island in 1735. He inherited wealth from his father, including land in Fenwick, and left his only son, Samuel, an estate of five thousand six hundred pounds. (Ref: Colonial Dames).

Willoughby's father, Samuel, born 10-14-1736, and a graduate of Yale in 1754, married Phoebe Waterhouse of Saybrook. They lived on Lynde Point, where had been the home of this branch of the family for three generations. But he squandered his fortune, left Saybrook, and retired to a small house in Chester, Connecticut. He died in 1792 in poverty. He had nine children, five of whom were sons.

Willoughby, the second son of Samuel, born 7-29-1761, married Mary Blague of Saybrook. He followed the sea from his youth, and was a captain for many years. He died in 1817 on his passage home. Mary, his wife, born in 1774 and died in 1842, was a descendant of Joseph Blague who came to Saybrook in 1642. She lived as a girl in the old Blague "saltbox" on the southwest corner of North Cove Road and Cromwell Place, right across the street from where Willoughby built his house in 1799, when Mary was twenty-five.

Some later owners of the house were Samuel Lynde (Willoughby's brother), 1815; Samuel Dickinson, Dec. 25, 1824; Charles Dickinson, a son of Samuel, by inheritance probably in 1867; James Rankin, 1868; Helen Scott Rankin, 1872; John Rankin, 1901; Mary Helen Spencer, 1919; Helen A. Nelson, 1921; Edmund VanDyke Cox, Oct. 19, 1936. (Ref: Saybrook Land Records.

There is a curious story about this house. It is said that after Capt. George Dickinson (the brother of Samuel Dickinson who bought the house from Samuel Lynde in December 1824) built the brick house across the road in 1830, Samuel "raised the house and built a new first floor underneath, making it a three story house, from the upper floor of which he could look over the roof of the brick house and see the North Cove" (as told by Miss Cox in the 1953 and 1954 Grace Church Tour of Homes Booklet).

### THE ELL --- CAPT. SAMUEL DOTY - 1645

The ell attached to the north end of the Capt. Willoughby Lynde house has an interest all its own.

Capt. Doty is believed to have used this little building in the early 1700's as a bakeshop for ships bread. (Ref: N.E. Mag., p. 88; W.P.A.) It then stood as a separate building somewhere nearby, and was moved and attached to the Willoughby Lynde house in the early 1800's. It was evidently built earlier than Capt. Doty's time. The late J. Frederick Kelly, author of "Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut", asked permission in 1938 to examine it, and after doing so very thoroughly, said that in his opinion it was undoubtedly the oldest building in Old Saybrook and that he judged the date to be about 1645 (as told by Miss Cox in the 1953 and 1954 Grace Church Tour of Homes booklet).

What adds to its interest is Capt. Samuel Doty himself.

Capt. Doty was a grandson of Edward Doty of the "Mayflower". About 1703, as a young man of 23, he moved from Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he was born, to Saybrook. Here he married Anne, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Buckingham, bought land and a house, built ships, engaged in trade with the West Indies, and became a prosperous and highly respected merchant. (Ref: Pilgrim Families; Gates p. 161) His land at Saybrook Point comprised 3-1/4 acres, bordering 444 feet on Cromwell Place and 490 feet on North Cove Road, extending from the corner of Cromwell Place to and including where the George Pratt house stands, and also some land on the river side of North Cove Road where he had a warehouse and wharf. (Ref: Saybrook Land Records pp 216 and 288, Vol. 2). His dwelling house on Cromwell Place stood near where the Samuel Hart Jr. house now is. It was torn down many years ago, probably about 1813. He and his wife Anne are buried in Cypress Cemetery. His portrait hangs in Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont.

### ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Much has been written of the early history of this house, namely that the ell on the West side was used as a bake shop and dates back to 1645 and that the original main section of the house was raised to the second floor level and a new first floor built under it. While the writer has not researched this at all, it is possible that the second floor overhang might in some way have given a basis for the latter theory of a raised building because the overhang is but a few inches. However, the narrow overhang of the "hewn" type was very common in the late eighteenth century when this house was built.

The street side has a facade of nine windows, each separated with the front entrance on center. The open gable end has an eight window arrangement. The windows are double hung of six over six lights on the first floor and twelve over twelve in the dormers.

The front entrance design is of a type common during the early part of the 18th century with its very simple architrave, frieze and cornice set quite flush against the wall and supported by square fluted pilasters and a four light glass transom over the door.

The roof is a gambrel type with a central chimney and the ridge parallel to the street. Wood clapboards cover the house exterior.

The house, in general, with its gambrel roof and overhang is very reminiscent of the late 17th century or very early 18th century buildings.

175 North Cove Road

BLACK HORSE TAVERN - c. 1704

"The land on which this house stands was given by Joseph Blague to his daughter Elizabeth when she married Captain John Burrows in 1704. So it was probably built between 1704 and 1707. .... It may have been built as an Inn; at any rate by the early 1700's it had become known as 'The Black Horse Tavern' which it remained for many years." (Ref: Tour of Homes, 1954, p. 27; Katharine Abbott, pp. 31 and 32.)

Various other dates have been assigned to the house, ranging from 1665 to 1759. (Ref: Map, 1709; Colonial Dames; W.P.A., No. 2)

John Burrows was a sea captain. (Ref: Colonial Dames.) His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1722, at the age of 35, and is buried in Cypress Cemetery. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.) Joseph Blague, Elizabeth's father, came to Saybrook from Boston in 1642, and built a house (torn down in 1874) on the southwest corner of North Cove Road and Cromwell Place, right across the road from the land he gave to his daughter Elizabeth. (Ref: Gates, p. 161.)

The house was used as a Customs House at one time when Saybrook was a Port of Entry. (Ref: Tour of Homes, 1954, p. 27.)

Henry Potter, a later owner of the house, built a dock at its back and a store at its northeast corner, which, with his son, he ran from 1866 to 1890. (Ref: Photograph; Map, 1874.) In 1890 the Potters sold the business to Robert D. Burns and Frank S. Young, former employees, who continued to run the store as Burns & Young until they moved the business to downtown Main Street in 1910. (Ref: Mrs. Dorothy (Young) Duncan, oral; Photograph.) The dock and store have since been removed.

A North Cove neighbor wrote this nostalgic remembrance of Potter's store a few years before she died, in 1967, at the age of 91:

"Mr. Potter had also a coal business with a large dock and coal bins on it, and schooners laden with coal tied up at his dock. Of an evening the men on the Point would congregate at the store to talk politics and mull over the topics of the day. .... The following story will give you the idea. One of the deacons from Oyster River came into the store and said: 'Mr. Potter, have you any more of those nice cod fish?' 'Yes, yes,' said Mr. Potter, 'the barrel is in the northwest corner of the cellar and the glass is on the barrel.'" (Ref: Mary Rankin Spencer.)

Until recently the front of the house was shaded by three beautiful elms, one of which was said by a well-known tree surgeon to have been well over three hundred years old. (Ref: Tour of Homes, 1954, p. 34.)

The back of the house commands a panoramic view of the Connecticut River and the North Cove. On the far side of the entrance to the cove there can be seen at extreme low tide the keel and broken-off ribs of the passenger steamer "Granite State", which caught fire as she was docking at East Haddam one morning in 1883 with a load of passengers from New York, and was beached in an unsuccessful attempt to tow her into the North Cove. (Ref: Newspaper article, 1933.)

Some other owners of the house were Daniel Kirtland (Ref: Map, 1853); Hazel Cox (Mrs. Edmund Van Dyke); Thomas Robins; Miss Susan A. Cox.

Now, the house is the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ingersoll, Jr., of West Hartford.

#### ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The street facade has a nine window arrangement, with the windows separated, and the front entrance in the center. Each is a double hung type with eight over twelve lights. There are several additions to the main house on the left side. Originally it is believed that an ell on the N.E. corner served as a store but was demolished.

The front entrance porch is of Georgian type of the late 18th century and was possibly added to the house after the original construction. It is an open pediment design with a semi-elliptical fan light above the door and a projecting porch of doric columns supporting a cornice with a dentil course moulding. The columns are capped with a short architrave but without a frieze section.

The house has a pitched roof with the ridge in line with the street and a central chimney. Wood clapboards were used for the exterior siding.

The cornice and rake are of simple straight mouldings with the cornice returning into the rake at the ends. The projection at the eave is slight as was typical of this period.



191 North Cove Road

CAPT. GEORGE DICKINSON HOUSE - c.1830  
(The Brick House)

The well-known architectural historian, the late Elmer D. Kelth, gives "George Dickinson" as the original owner of this house, and "c.1830" as the year it was built.

This information is in the report Mr. Kelth made on this house in the "Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut" for the Works Progress Administration in the 1930's, a copy of which is in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. (Ref: W.P.A., No. 11.)

Capt. George Dickinson, a grandson of Richard, was born in Saybrook in 1770, never married, and died in 1857 at the age of 87. (Ref: Headstone list.) He was for many years a shipmaster, and at times resided in foreign ports as agent. (Ref: Gates, p. 162.)

Capt. George designed and located his house strategically for his shipping business. Situated near the water's edge on the north side of North Cove Road, opposite the junction of Cromwell Place, it had easy access to the wharves. At one time its west end was used as a ship chandlery, with an entrance on North Cove Road and a cellar entrance on the lane leading to the water. It is said that they used to roll hogsheads of rum and of molasses along the lane to the cellar entrance. (Ref: Manuscript memo by Miss Margaret Potter Cox, 1957.) The house had to be narrow because of the narrowness of the land on that side of the road, and consequently high. The story that George Dickinson built this house out of spite to cut off his brother's view from across the street seems questionable. (Ref: Shoreliner mag.)

Gates says in his "Saybrook", page 162: "A number of wharves were built on the north side of Saybrook Point and into the North Cove. This cove at its mouth where it joins the Connecticut River on the east was the 'anchoring ground', in which fifty vessels could 'lay' at once." In those days, before the railroad to Fenwick was built in 1870, there was easy access to the river. (Ref: Chart, 1853; Maps: 1853, 1859; 1874.)

Some other owners or occupants of the house were Francis A. Nelson, Chester Bowles, and David Scott.

Now, it is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Hildreth.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This house is the only one, in this group under study, constructed of brick, and one of the very few, for its age, in Old Saybrook.

It is a very formal house of the early Greek Revival period with the ridge side parallel to the street, which is not common for this period.

The brick masonry is laid up in a flemish bond with very wide brick corner pilasters topped by a wooden capital of simple mouldings. Above this is a very heavy scale wood frieze board running completely around the house. The gable ends are designed in a pediment form with the infill area of wood.

This pediment projects out from the wall and is built of the same heavy simple mouldings. There is a flat semi-elliptical fan window in each gable end.

The kitchen is contained in a one story ell, on the right side gable end, which has the same scale cornice as the main house. Twin chimneys rise from each gable end wall.

The window arrangement on the long street side is divided by twin brick pilasters in the middle, thus forming an even spacing between all pilasters around the house. The right of center is the front entrance and five windows in line with one above the entrance, and to the left a secondary entrance with six windows where no two windows line up above each other. The open gable end has three windows, one above. All windows are double hung with mostly six over six lights and masonry between with a keystone stone lintel over.

The front entrance is built within the masonry wall and consists of a doorway and side lights flanked by fluted round columns supporting a transom board with a full width glass transom of ornamental design over.

192 North Cove Road

GEE HOUSE - c. 1800

The Gee house is thought to have been built by a man from Lyme; and probably about 1800 because of the long wooden pegs and the wrought iron nails used in its construction. (Ref: Elton D. Rhodes, well-known local builder, oral.)

It is known as the Gee house because John S. Gee, and his wife Mary, and their daughter Nellie, lived there for many years.

John S. Gee was born in 1833 and died in 1924, at the age of 91. He was a veteran of the Civil War, a member of Company C, 26th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.)

Nellie, born in 1857, married as her first husband Charles Reed who was born in 1841 and died in 1915. He was also a Civil War Veteran, a member of Company A, First Regiment of the Connecticut Heavy Artillery. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.) Nellie's second husband was William Hale.

Charles Reed was an uncle of Capt. Thomas L. Reed, a well-known tugboat captain in this area for many years, now retired, but active and spry at 86. Much of this information comes from his recollections.

The Gee house is located on a lane leading from the east end of North Cove Road. At one time this lane ran on the east side of the George Pratt house (200 North Cove Road). From the house there is an unobstructed view of the Connecticut River near its mouth and Long Island Sound beyond. In the near distance is the site of Fort Saybrook, built in 1635. In the foreground is a spring-fed inlet, known for the past 100 years as Gee's Pond. (Ref: Fort Park, Tinsley; Chart, 1853; map, 1874.)

Now, the house is the residence of Mrs. Roger Whitman.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This house is located on a private road off the very end of North Cove Road and commands a wide view of the mouth of the river. The original house was a small one story structure with attic and a kitchen ell on the entrance side. The roof is pitched at about a 45° slope and the windows were located with no apparent order or pattern, giving the house, in general, an absence of formality common to this period.

The residence was extensively renovated and reconstructed in 1955 by the present owner. Before this, it is possible that the house was close to its original form although in a very run-down condition.

Most of the double mullion windows were replaced with bow windows and a large dormer was added on the river side across the length of the house to make the high attic space usable. The original double hung windows were of two over two lights and other than bow windows were replaced by six over six light windows.



200 North Cove Road

GEORGE PRATT HOUSE - 1813

The house at No. 200 North Cove Road was built in 1813 by George Pratt. (Ref: Margin notation in Pratt Genealogy by Almira, wife of John D. Ingraham; Amelia Clarke's workpapers; Katharine Abbott, p. 31; W.P.A. No. 23.) It was erected on the foundations of an older house that burned in 1812, probably from gunfire by British warships in the Connecticut River.

George Pratt was born in Saybrook December 21, 1777, the eldest son of Humphrey Pratt and his second wife Mary Dorrance. Humphrey was the builder, in 1785, of the famous Humphrey Pratt Tavern at 287 Main Street, where Lafayette stayed in 1824. George Pratt's sister Mercy married Samuel Hart, Jr., and lived in the house at 64 Cromwell Place. (Ref: Pratt Gen.)

George married Sally Murdock, by whom he had six children. He was for many years justice of the peace, and represented his town repeatedly in the House of Representatives, and his district in the senate of the State of Connecticut. He was a man of strict integrity, remarkable for his industry and correct business habits, and accumulated a handsome fortune. (Ref: Pratt Gen.) He died December 19, 1843, at the age of 66, and was buried in Cypress Cemetery with his wife Sally who died in 1824. (Ref: Headstone list.)

George was a descendant of Lieut. William Pratt, supposed to have come with the Rev. Thomas Hooker to Newtown (now Cambridge), Massachusetts, in 1633, and thence to Hartford, Connecticut. (Ref: Pratt Gen.)

Some later owners or occupants of the George Pratt house were the following:

Col. French.

Capt. John Dickinson Ingraham, born 1804, died 1875, and his wife Almira Whittlesey (Mather) Ingraham, born 1813, died 1908. (Ref: Headstone list) Both are buried in Cypress Cemetery, their graves marked by a twenty-foot granite obelisk. This Capt. John D. Ingraham was 27 years younger than the Capt. John Ingraham who built the house at 122 North Cove Road about 1810, and may have been a nephew. (Ref: Maps: 1853; 1859.)

Mather Ingraham Rankin became the owner about 1917. (Mrs. Shepard, his daughter; Erastus Clarke list; W.P.A. No. 23.)

Mrs. Elizabeth (Rankin) Shepard, a daughter of Mather Ingraham Rankin.

The house is located on high land at the east end of North Cove Road, and has a commanding view of the Connecticut River and of its mouth a mile to the south. It overlooks the site of Saybrook Fort, the first fort in Connecticut, built in 1635.

At one time there was a wharf at the east end of North Cove Road called Hart's Wharf (Ref: Map, 1793), known in a later period as the Steamboat Wharf. (Ref: Map, 1859.)

The Pratt family were land owners in this vicinity for many years. (Ref: Maps: 1709; 1859.)

The interior of the house has been remodeled extensively by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Easton.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This residence, at the end of North Cove Road, has been renovated and remodeled in recent years. Its exterior design, now or originally, has very little ornamentation for the Early Federal period in which it was constructed.

The gable end is parallel to the road and has a six window arrangement with two windows in the gable area. The windows are double hung of twelve over twelve lights.

The roof is pitched with two large chimneys at about the quarter points along the ridge line. The cornice at the eaves has a small projection with a heavy dentil design and returns into the rake at each end. The rake is narrow and of simple mouldings without any projection.

There is a one story pitched roof addition on the right side with a smaller ell attached. The front entrance is in the larger addition consisting of a simple flat roofed porch with small square columns supporting it.

The house is covered with wood shingles at the present time.

48 Cromwell Place

CAPT. CHARLES WILLIAMS HOUSE - c. 1842

Capt. Charles Williams, grandfather of the present well-known and well-beloved Capt. "Charlie" F. (for Fletcher) Williams, built the house at 48 Cromwell Place about 1842.

Capt Charles, who built the house, followed the sea, as did many of his family over several generations. His first sea-going venture, as a boy, was thwarted when his mother, hearing about it, rowed across the Connecticut River, hired a horse and buggy, drove to New London, and with the buggy whip forced him off the whaler on which he was about to ship out. He learned carpentry instead, which stood him in good stead when he built his house, on which he did much of the work. But eventually he acquired a vessel of his own and engaged in a profitable coastal trade with the West Indies. About the time he built his house he married Anne C. Dudley, of Saybrook's Dudley family, who lived in the big house on Boston Post Road just east of where Sparaco's filling station now is.

The father of the Capt. Charles who built the house, Capt. Hamlin Williams, likewise owned a schooner and traded with the West Indies. Hamlin's brother, another Charles, was lost at sea.

The grandfather of the Capt Charles who built the house, also named Charles, came from Essex, Connecticut. He married Temperance, a daughter of Capt. Samuel Lord. Temperance was the widow of Hamlin Blague. She and Hamlin were the parents of Giles Blague who lived in the old Joseph Blague house.

The first son of the builder of the house, likewise named Charles, a bachelor, was a river pilot. In his later years, then a distinguished-looking man with white mustache, he owned a party boat in which he used to take out groups of the girls who were vacationing at "Heartsease" (the William Tully house) for swimming and picnics.

The second son of the builder of the house, named Dudley Stewart but called Stewart, married Abbie Oakes of Boston, and they were the parents of the present Capt. "Charlie" Williams.

Capt. "Charlie", now retired and living with his wife Lucy at 116 College Street, followed the sea for fifty years. He began at the age of 17 as quartermaster on the passenger steamer "Hartford", plying between Hartford Connecticut, and New York City. Soon he was promoted to pilot, and served also as mate on river tugboats, and later as river pilot on oil tankers. He is a friendly man, and a familiar figure in Old Saybrook.

The house is now the residence of Mrs. and Mrs. Philip J. Roos.

Sources of Information: Headstone Inscriptions, Cypress Cemetery; Mary Rankin Spencer; Susan Nichols, in "Old Saybrook Pictorial", 1-4-67; Maps, 1859 and 1874; Capt. Charles F. Williams, oral, 1968 and 1969.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This house was built at the end of the Greek Revival period and, as was common during this phase, is situated with the gable end facing the street. The gable consists of a heavy scale pediment design constructed with large

simple mouldings and a window in the center. It is visually supported by large corner pilasters built of wide vertical boards. The remaining siding is horizontal wood clapboards.

The front window arrangement is of five windows, separated, with the front entrance on the right side. The windows, which are six over six light double hung, are capped with a simple flat faced pediment trim shape.

The entrance porch is an attempt to repeat the gable pediment design and as such uses similar plain mouldings. The door is flanked by side lights and the pediment roof is carried by two fluted round columns under the frieze. The pitch of the roof is fairly flat as is typical of this late period.

Numerous additions have been erected to the rear of the main house over the years and a porch to the right side which was originally a six window arrangement.

This residence is another good example of Greek Revival design in this group with its modified Greek Temple front.



SAMUEL HART, JR., HOUSE - c.1813

This comfortable house was probably built about 1813 by Samuel Hart, Jr.

Samuel Hart, Jr., was born in Saybrook in 1778. He was a descendant of Deacon Stephen Hart, who was born about 1605 in Braintree, Essex County, England, and was a grandson of the Rev. William Hart of Saybrook. In 1813 he married Mercy Pratt, daughter of Humphrey Pratt. (Ref: Hart Gen.; Miss Elizabeth Hart Bailey, great-granddaughter of Samuel Hart, Jr., oral.)

The house was built on, or close to, the site of the house that Capt. Samuel Doty bought from Thomas Dibble, with one and a half acres of land, in 1707/8, (Ref: Land Records, p. 216, Vol. 2), and where he lived and died. Capt. Doty lived there with his wife Anne, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Buckingham. Capt. Doty's house was later torn down, possible about 1813, within the memory of the late Horace Stillman, a great-great-grandson of Doty. (Ref: Doty Gen., p. 35.) Perhaps some of the old wood that is evident in the construction of the Samuel Hart, Jr., house came from the Capt. Samuel Doty house.

For more information about Capt. Samuel Doty see the Doty Ell of the Capt. Willoughby Lynde house.

Some later owners of the Samuel Hart, Jr., house were Henry Hart, Samuel's son; Samuel B. Dickinson (Ref: Maps 1853, 1859, 1874); John Grumley; the Rev. Robert W. Trenbath; and the Rev. Robert's son, Gerald.

Now, it is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Stone.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The Hart house is situated with the gable end facing the road. It is the earliest house, in age, in this group under study to have a full pediment design at the gable decorated with a dentil course. The mouldings used in the pediment are quite heavy in scale typical of the Early Federal period. A rectangular window appears in this gable, with a pediment design capital to light the attic space.

The front entrance is in the gable end to the left of center with five windows, one over the entrance. The windows are double hung of six over six lights.

The cornice has the same dentil design and scale of the pediment in about a 12 inch projection. The roof is pitched fairly flat with a centrally located chimney.

The front entrance is a repeat of the gable pediment but of open design without the closed bottom architrave. It has a slight projection from the wall. The doorway has a six light transom over and flanking columns of square design. A keystone motif appears in the center of the pediment.

The house is covered with wood clapboards and has slender cornerboards. There are several ells and additions to the main portion of the house and a porch on the right side.



GILES BLAGUE HOUSE - 1807

Giles Blague built this house in 1807, according to Mary Alice (Blague) Budington (Mrs. Richard), his great-great-granddaughter, who lived there with her mother and her father (also named Giles Blague). (Ref: Letter, 10-16-1968, from Mary Alice to Roswell B. Whidden.)

Giles, and Mary Alice, are descendants of Joseph Blague, who came to Saybrook from Boston in 1642. (Ref: Gates, pp. 161 and 169.) In 1680 Joseph built a large house, - a beautiful saltbox, - on Cromwell Place at the corner of North Cove Road, next door to where the present Giles Blague house was built to the south of it. The title to the land on which both houses stood, only once removed from the Indian, remained in the Blague family until 1963 when Mary Alice sold the present house to the Tietjens. The old house was torn down in 1874. (Ref: Edward Blague.)

The old house had an ell, but from an old sketch of the house it appears to have been a very small ell. As to the ell of the present house, Mary Alice writes:

"As far as we know, the ell containing the big fireplace and the Dutch oven is part of the original house (1807). There is no other room that looks as if it could have been a kitchen in 1807. I know that the present kitchen was my great-grandparents' bedroom, and they were married in 1815 and reared 10 kids there."

Joseph Blague is remembered for Blague's Wharf which he built in 1703 at the foot of Cromwell Place. Ref: Gates, p. 161; N.E. Mag., March 1903; Maps: 1709; 1853; 1859; 1874.)

Giles Blague, who built this house, was born in 1750, died in 1826, and is buried in Cypress Cemetery with many of his ancestors and descendants. (Ref: Headstone Inscriptions.)

Now, this house is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Tietjen.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

This house is the earliest, of the houses considered in this study, to have the gable end as the main face to the road. This was common during the Greek Revival period from 1816 on, but this house has very little embellishment as such, other than the front entrance and cornice.

The gable face is a five window facade with the entrance off center to the right side. The windows are double hung with twelve over twelve lights.

The front entrance is of the porch type with a fan window over the door under the open pediment roof. The supporting columns are plain round Ionic with a Scamozzi capital. Above is a frieze course with an architrave of dentil ornament and pitched roof open pediment.

The house has a pitched roof with a central chimney. Exterior wall covering is wood clapboard.

The cornice and rake has a moulding of dentil design with a heavy projection common during this period of building.



7 Church Street

EDGAR DICKINSON HOUSE - c.1700

The lovely gambrel-roofed house at 7 Church Street, on the northeast corner of North Cove Road, has been known as the Edgar Dickinson house ever since Edgar Dickinson bought it from the estate of his nephew Norman P. Dickinson in 1869. (Ref: Land Records, Book 2, p. 314.) Edgar lived in the house for 43 years, from the time he bought it until he died in 1912 at the age of 74. (Ref: Headstone Inscription, Cypress Cemetery.)

Edgar was familiar to many as proprietor of a general store, known as Dickinson's Store, which was located on the southeast corner of College Street and Bridge Street, where the Terra Mar Hotel now stands. Adjacent to his house was his barn where he kept his horse and buggy in which he made his deliveries. (Ref: Capt. Thomas L. Reed, retired tugboat captain, now 86, who has lived in the neighborhood all his life; oral.)

The house is evidently very old. Erastus Clarke terms it so in his list. Exactly when it was built is uncertain. The land on which it stands is part of a six acre piece sold by Samuel Chalker to Nathaniel Matson in 1713. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 2, p. 277.) These six acres are described, and are designated as "Tract No. 2", on page 5 of an Abstract of Title of the land of Jennie Phelps (Robert Bull house) that Gilman Gates, historian, made in 1933. (Copy, Old Saybrook Historical Society Archives.) After some intermediate sales, about five and a half of these six acres were sold to Richard Dickinson in 1728 and 1729. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 3, p. 556, and Vol 4, p. 140; and Abstract.) In his "Saybrook . . .", Gates says: "Richard Dickinson bought land at the Point in 1728."

The 1728 and 1729 Land Records make no mention of there being a house on the land at the time Richard Dickinson bought it. But the 1709 map, made in 1916 by Edwin Oviatt for his "Beginnings of Yale", and the map made in 1793 by Ezra Stiles, show a house on this corner with no name on it. The 1853 and 1859 maps show "S. Dickinson" on the house; and the 1874 map shows "E. Dickinson".

Richard Dickinson, who bought the land in 1728, was Edgar's great grandfather, born in 1695, died in 1749. (Ref: Headstone Inscription, Cypress Cemetery.) The "S. Dickinson" shown on the 1853 and 1859 maps, was Edgar's father, Samuel.

Samuel also owned the Capt. Willoughby Lynde house, at the corner of North Cove Road and Cromwell Place, which he bought in 1824 soon after he married his second wife, Lucy (Edgar's mother); and probably lived there until he died, in 1861. Samuel's son Charles, Edgar's brother, sold the Capt. Willoughby Lynde house in 1868. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 21, p. 230; and Vol. 1, p. 588.)

Edgar's wife was Mary Fannie Kellinger. She died in 1908, at the age of 70, four years before her husband. (Ref: Headstone Inscription, Cypress Cemetery.)

Mary Rankin Spencer writes of the house:

"By whom it was built I do not know. But it was a most pleasant place to visit. Mrs. Kellinger and her son were Mrs. Dickinson's mother and brother, Mort Kellinger, and were often with the Dickinsons, and always there was a bright smile and a witty story to greet you."

Among the later owners of the house was Col William Leo Smith, a New York

architect. Col. Smith bought the house in 1938 from the estate of Caroline D. Otis, a descendant of Richard Dickinson through Samuel, and lived in it until his death twenty years later. (Ref: Land Records, Vol. 39, p. 574, and Vol. 79, p. 593.) Col. Smith did much to restore the old house. He took off a large dormer window in front, which had been added. He removed the vertical board sheathing with which the house had been covered, and exposed the original clapboards underneath; and he did away with the front porch. (Ref: Mr. Firman Spencer, who lived across the street at the time; oral.)

Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Kiefer bought the house from Col. Smith's estate in 1958, and have made it their residence.

### ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

(See following picture and historic description  
of Robert Bull House)

These houses, two of the eight or nine in Old Saybrook built up to 1700, are very similar; both of early Colonial with a strong English tradition.

The two houses have a gambrel roof with a central chimney with the ridge line parallel to the street. Wood clapboards are used with the same exposure to the weather on each house.

The cornice and rake are of very simple mouldings with a slight projection at the eave and the rake tight against the end of the house.

Each have rather small double hung windows, reminiscent of casement size; the Dickinson house with six over nine lights and the Bull house with nine over nine lights.

The front entrances are very similar in an early form with plain mouldings surrounding the door and the five light transom over.

Both houses have various ell additions and garages; the ells having probably been built after the original construction.

The Dickinson and Bull houses are very typical examples of late 17th century and early 18th century colonial homes and as such are a valuable asset to the town.

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS the Town of Old Saybrook, by Resolution adopted by vote of its Town Meeting of August 29, 1968, established an Historic District Study Committee for the purpose of making an investigation of proposed historic districts pursuant to the provisions of Sections 7-147 a to 7-147 l, inclusive, Connecticut General Statutes Revision of 1958 as amended; and

WHEREAS said Committee has prepared a report proposing an historic district, transmitted copies of said report to the Connecticut Historical Commission, the Old Saybrook Planning Commission, and the Old Saybrook Zoning Commission for their consideration and recommendations, held a public hearing on the establishment of an historic district, and submitted a final report to the Town Meeting of Old Saybrook, all as by said statutes made and provided; now therefore it is

RESOLVED that the following ordinance be and the same hereby is adopted:

Section 1. Intent

The Intent of this ordinance is to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the Town of Old Saybrook through the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of historic interest by the maintenance of such as landmarks in the history of architecture, of the Town, of the State or of the Nation, and through the development of appropriate settings for such buildings, places and districts.

Section 2. Establishment of Historic Districts

There is hereby established an historic district in the Town, to be known as Historic District #1, the boundaries of which are described in the report of the Old Saybrook Historic District Study Committee dated February 20, 1970, and are fixed and defined on a map entitled "Proposed Historic District #1 Town of Old Saybrook, Conn. North Cove Road Saybrook Point Drawn From Town Property Maps And Aerial Photographs Scale - 1" = 100ft. Jan. 15, 1970", a copy of which map is attached to said report, and which map is hereby made a part of this ordinance.

Section 3. Definitions

As used in this ordinance, "Historic District" means Historic District #1 and any other historic district hereafter established pursuant to the provisions of Title 7, Chapter 97, Section 7-147 a to 7-147 l inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes Revision of 1958 as amended. "Commission" means the Old Saybrook Historic District Commission.

Section 4. Historic District Commission

There is hereby established an Old Saybrook Historic District Commission to consist of five (5) members and three (3) alternate members who shall be electors of the Town holding no salaried municipal office therein, who shall serve without compensation, and who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen in the following manner:

Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of this ordinance said Board shall appoint one member and one alternate member to serve until January 1, 1972, one member and one alternate member to serve until January 1, 1973, one member and one alternate member to serve until January 1, 1974, one member to serve until January 1, 1975, and one member to serve until January 1, 1976. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of five (5)

years, provided however than any vacancy created other than by the expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired portion only of the term. Preferably, at least one member of the Commission shall be an architect. The Board of Selectmen may remove any member or alternate member for cause.

#### Section 5. Procedure

5.1 The Commission shall, within thirty (30) days after the appointment of its first members and alternate members, meet and elect from its members a chairman, vice-chairman and clerk, who shall thereafter be elected annually, in January of each year, commencing with January, 1972. In case of inability of a member to act, because of absence, illness or self-interest, his place shall be taken by an alternate member designated by the chairman.

5.2 The Commission shall adopt, and may from time to time modify, rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this ordinance and may, subject to appropriation, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants and may accept money gifts and expend the same for such purposes.

5.3 The Commission may, from time to time, following the procedure set out in Section 7-147 b(b) to (f) inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes, suggest proposed amendments to this ordinance, including the designation of additional historic districts, or suggest additional ordinances to be adopted in the same manner.

#### Section 6. Powers and Duties

The Commission shall be vested with the powers and shall perform the functions conferred upon it by this ordinance under the authority of the Connecticut General Statutes Revision of 1958 as amended, and in particular Chapter 97 of Title 7 thereof and of 1969 Public Act No. 711, all as herein-after more particularly set forth.

6.1 No building or structure shall be erected, altered, restored, moved or demolished within an historic district until after an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to exterior architectural features has been submitted to the Commission and approved by it. For the purposes of this ordinance "exterior architectural features" shall include such portion of the exterior of a structure as is open to view from a public street, way or place. The style, material, size and location of outdoor advertising signs and bill posters within an historic district shall also be under the control of the Commission. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to extend to the color of paint used on the exterior of any building or structure.

6.1.1 The Commission shall hold a public hearing upon each application for a certificate of appropriateness. Notice of the time and place of said hearing shall be given by publication in the form of a legal advertisement appearing in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town at least seven (7) days before such hearing. Within not more than one hundred twenty (120) days after the filing of an application as required by sub-section 6.1 of this ordinance (which time may be extended with the consent, in writing, of the applicant) the Commission shall pass decision upon such application and shall give written notice of its decision to the applicant. Evidence of approval, as referred to in sub-section 6.1 of this ordinance, shall be by certificate of appropriateness issued by the Commission. In the event that the Commission disapproves an application, it shall state its reasons therefor in the written notice of its decision. Failure of the Commission to act within said one hundred twenty (120) days (or any extension thereof) shall constitute approval and no other evidence of approval shall be needed. The Commission shall keep a record of all applications



for certificates of appropriateness and of all its doings under this ordinance.

6.1.2 If the Commission determines that the proposed erection, construction, restoration, alteration or razing will be appropriate, it shall issue a certificate of appropriateness. In passing upon appropriateness the Commission shall consider, in addition to any other pertinent factors, the historical and architectural value and significance, architectural style, general design, arrangement, texture and material of the architectural features involved and the relationship thereof to the exterior architectural style and pertinent features of other structures in the immediate neighborhood. A certificate of appropriateness may be refused for any building or structure, the erection, reconstruction, restoration, alteration or razing of which, in the opinion of the Commission, would be detrimental to the interest of the historic district. In its deliberations under this ordinance, the Commission shall not consider arrangement or use of the interior of any building or structure and shall act only to prevent that erection, reconstruction, alteration or razing of buildings and other structures in an historic district which is obviously incongruous with the historic aspects of the district. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior feature in an historic district which does not involve a change of design thereof; nor to prevent the construction, reconstruction, alteration or demolition of any such feature which the zoning enforcement officer or a similar agent shall certify to the Commission is required by the public safety because of an unsafe or dangerous condition; nor to prevent the construction, reconstruction, alteration or demolition of any such feature under a permit issued by a building inspector or similar agent prior to the effective date of establishment of such district.

6.1.3 Where, by reason of topographical conditions, district borderline situations, immediately adjoining existing developments or because of other unusual circumstances, the strict application of any provision of this ordinance would result in exceptional practical difficulty or undue hardship upon the owner of any specific property, the Commission in passing upon applications shall have power to vary or modify strict adherence to this ordinance, or to interpret the meaning of this ordinance so as to relieve such difficulty or hardship; provided such variance, modification or interpretation shall remain in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this ordinance so that the general character of the district shall be conserved and substantial justice done. In granting variations, the Commission may impose such reasonable and additional stipulations and conditions as will, in its judgment, better fulfill the purposes of this ordinance.

6.1.4 If any action or ruling taken by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance or of any rule of procedure adopted hereunder has been violated, the Commission may, in addition to other remedies, institute an action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, razing, maintenance or use or to restrain, correct or abate such violation or to prevent the occupancy of such building, structure or land, to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business or use in or about such premises. Regulations and orders of the Commission issued pursuant to this ordinance or to any rule of procedure adopted hereunder, shall be enforced by the zoning enforcement officer, who may be authorized by the Commission to inspect and examine any building, structure, place or premises and to require in writing the remedying of any condition found to exist therein or thereon in violation of any provision of the regulations or orders made under the authority of this ordinance or of any rule of procedure adopted hereunder. The owner or agent of any building or premises where a violation of any provision of this ordinance or of any by-law adopted hereunder has been committed or exists, or the agent, architect, building

contractor, or any other person who commits, takes part or assists in any such violation or who maintains any building or premises in which any such violation exists, shall be fined not less than ten (\$10) dollars nor more than one hundred (\$100) dollars for each day that such violation continues, but, if the offense is wilful, the person convicted thereof shall be fined not less than one hundred (\$100) dollars nor more than two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars for each day that such violation continues. The Circuit Court for the Ninth Circuit shall have jurisdiction of all such offenses, subject to appeal as in other cases. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

6.1.5 Any person or persons severally or jointly aggrieved by any decision of the Commission or of any officer thereof taken pursuant to the provisions of sub-section 6.1 hereof may, within fifteen (15) days from the date when such decision was rendered, take an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Middlesex County, which appeal shall be made returnable to such court in the same manner as that prescribed for civil actions brought to such court. Notice of such appeal shall be given by leaving a true and attested copy thereof in the hands of or at the usual place of abode of the chairman or clerk of the Commission within twelve (12) days before the return day to which such appeal shall have been taken. Procedure upon such appeal shall be the same as that defined in Section 8-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

6.2 The Commission shall determine those structures in the Town, either within or without an historic district, which it shall classify as historically or architecturally meritorious, and shall compile and maintain a list identifying those structures which it has so classified. If, upon application by an owner of real property which is so classified, the Commission shall determine to its satisfaction that the current level of taxation is a material factor which threatens the continuing existence of the structure, necessitating either its demolition or remodeling in a manner which destroys the historical or architectural value, it shall so certify in writing to the Board of Selectmen which shall, pursuant to the provisions of 1969 Public Act 711, direct the abatement of all or part of the real property tax in the manner provided by law.

6.2.1 The Commission shall furnish a copy of the list of structures classified according to sub-section 6.2 hereof to the zoning enforcement officer who shall thereafter advise the Commission of any permit granted by him for the demolition or modification of any structure on said list. If the Commission finds that such demolition or modification has been carried out in such a way as to destroy the architectural or historic value of the structure, it shall so certify in writing to the Board of Selectmen.

SOURCES - Brief History of Old Saybrook:

- (1) "The Beginnings of Yale," by Edwin Oviatt, 1916.
- (2) "Connecticut," by Albert E. Van Dusen, 1961.
- (3) "Connecticut's First Fort," by Newton C. Brainard,  
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- (4) "In the Land of the Patentees," by Saybrook Tercentenary  
Com., 1935
- (5) "Old Lyme," by Thomas A. Stevens, 1959
- (6) Old Saybrook Historical Society Archives
- (7) "Old Saybrook Vignette," by Fred VanName, 1969
- (8) " Saybrook at the Mouth of the Connecticut," by Gilman  
C. Gates, 1935.
- (9) "Saybrook Saga," by Frank Tinsley, 1965
- (10) Maps: 1793, by Ezra Stiles; 1709, by Edwin Oviatt,  
drawn in 1916; 1853, Chart, by U.S. Coast Survey Office;  
1853, by Woodford; 1859, by Walling;  
1874, Beers' Atlas.

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Colonial Dames

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W.P.A.

Reference Abbreviations

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Erastus Clarke

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Grace Pratt

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1709 Map

1793, by Ezra Stiles. (Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University.)

1793 Map

1853, E. M. Woodford, wall map. (O.S. Historical Society Archives.)

1853 Map

1853, Chart, Mouth of Connecticut River, by U.S. Coast Survey Office. (Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University; and J. Courtney Dodge Library.)

1853 Chart

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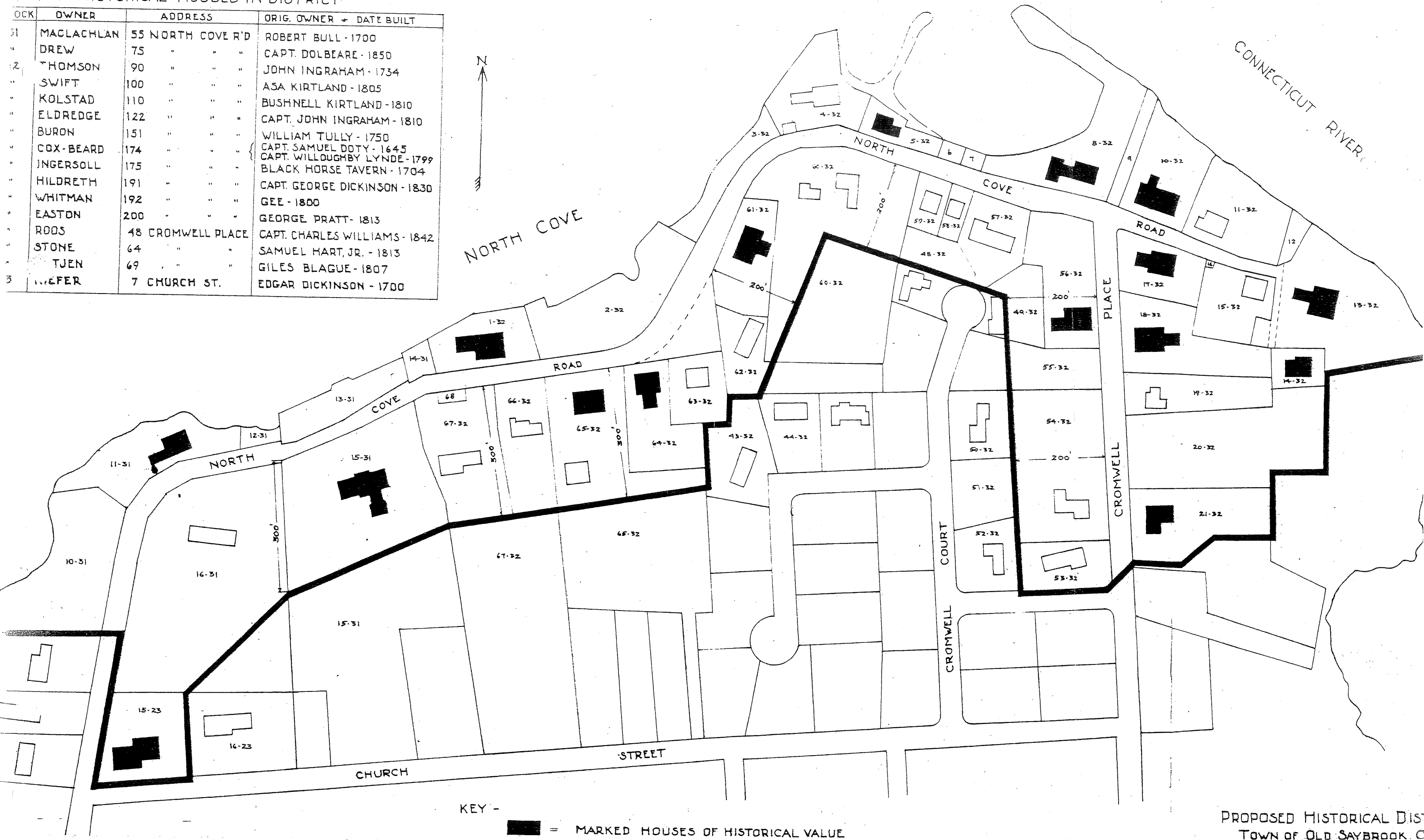
1859 Map

1874, Atlas of Middlesex County, Conn., by F. W. Beers & Co., New York (Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University.)

1874 Map

# HISTORICAL HOUSES IN DISTRICT

BOOK	OWNER	ADDRESS	ORIG. OWNER + DATE BUILT
1	MACLACHLAN	55 NORTH COVE R'D	ROBERT BULL - 1700
"	DREW	75 " " "	CAPT. DOLBEARE - 1850
2	THOMSON	90 " " "	JOHN INGRAHAM - 1734
"	SWIFT	100 " " "	ASA KIRTLAND - 1805
"	KOLSTAD	110 " " "	BUSHNELL KIRTLAND - 1810
"	ELDREDGE	122 " " "	CAPT. JOHN INGRAHAM - 1810
"	BURON	151 " " "	WILLIAM TULLY - 1750
"	COX-BEARD	174 " " "	CAPT. SAMUEL DOTY - 1645
"	INGERSOLL	175 " " "	CAPT. WILLOUGHBY LYNDE - 1799
"	HILDRETH	191 " " "	BLACK HORSE TAVERN - 1704
"	WHITMAN	192 " " "	CAPT. GEORGE DICKINSON - 1830
"	EASTON	200 " " "	GEE - 1800
"	ROOS	48 CROMWELL PLACE	GEORGE PRATT - 1813
"	STONE	64 " " "	CAPT. CHARLES WILLIAMS - 1842
"	TJEN	69 " " "	SAMUEL HART, JR. - 1813
3	WIEFER	7 CHURCH ST.	GILES BLAQUE - 1807
			EDGAR DICKINSON - 1700



KEY -

■ = MARKED HOUSES OF HISTORICAL VALUE

PROPOSED HISTORICAL DISTRICT  
TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK, CT