

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Westport Center Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: See "List of Properties" Section 7 Continuation Sheet

City or town: Westport State: CT County: Fairfield

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>118</u>	<u>35</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u>7</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>5</u>	objects
<u>120</u>	<u>47</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic: Single Dwelling
- Domestic: Multiple Dwelling
- Domestic: Secondary Structure
- Commerce/Trade: Business
- Commerce/Trade: Professional
- Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
- Commerce/Trade: Restaurant
- Commerce/Trade: Warehouse
- Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution
- Social: Meeting Hall
- Social: Civic
- Government: City Hall
- Government: Fire Station
- Government: Post Office
- Education: School
- Education: Library
- Religion: Religious Facility
- Religion: Church-Related Residence
- Funerary: Mortuary
- Recreation & Culture: Theater
- Recreation & Culture: Auditorium
- Recreation & Culture: Music Facility
- Recreation & Culture: Monument/Marker
- Industry/Processing/Extraction: Communications Facility
- Health Care: Medical Business/Office

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Landscape: Parking Lot
Landscape: Park
Transportation: Road-Related (Vehicular)
Vacant/Not in Use

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Multiple Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure
Commerce/Trade: Business
Commerce/Trade: Professional
Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Restaurant
Commerce/Trade: Warehouse
Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution
Social: Meeting Hall
Social: Civic
Government: City Hall
Religion: Religious Facility
Religion: Church-Related Residence
Funerary: Mortuary
Industry/Processing/Extraction: Communications Facility
Health Care: Medical Business/Office
Landscape: Parking Lot
Landscape: Park
Transportation: Road-Related (Vehicular)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early Republic: Federal

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Mid-19th Century: Gothic Revival

Late Victorian: Gothic

Late Victorian: Italianate

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Late Victorian: Stick/Eastlake

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Tudor Revival

Late 19th & 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Modern: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Brick, Stone, Concrete

Walls: Wood, Brick, Stucco, Stone

Roof: Slate, Asphalt, Wood, Synthetics

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The Westport Center Historic District lies on the east side of the Saugatuck River within the coastal town of Westport in southwestern Connecticut. It encompasses the commercial heart of the downtown as well as supporting residential and institutional properties. The district is bounded to the north, northeast, and south by residential neighborhoods, to the west by the Saugatuck River, and to the east by a corridor of commercial properties that are more suburban in character than those found in central downtown. The boundaries of the district generally follow King's Highway in the north, Myrtle Avenue and Imperial Avenue in the east, the

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southern boundary of the 44 Imperial Avenue parcel in the south, and the eastern bank of the Saugatuck River in the west (see Figure 1).

The district has a diverse range of building types, which are representative of the development of Westport Center over time, from its beginning as a small port town during the eighteenth century through its growth into a thriving commercial and municipal center. Of the 174 properties within the district, 127 are contributing. These include two religious buildings, 61 houses, 41 commercial buildings, seven municipal or community buildings, four converted carriage houses, eight garages, two barns, and two bridges. Seven contributing buildings (documented within four nominations) were previously listed in the National Register. The 47 non-contributing resources include six parking lots, five objects, 35 buildings, and one vacant parcel.

The district also encompasses a range of architectural styles spanning the period of significance from 1780 through 1960. The contributing properties include examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Foursquare, Tudor Revival and Art Deco styles. In addition, the district includes a number of vernacular residential and modest commercial buildings. The majority of the buildings are frame construction; however, a collection of more monumental municipal, commercial and community structures employ masonry construction.

The primary commercial thoroughfares of Main Street and Post Road East have historically had the densest development; an 1878 Bird's Eye of the area shows buildings one to four stories high with close to 100 percent lot coverage near the intersection of Main Street and Post Road East. This pattern continues today. Most buildings in the block of Post Road East between the Post Road Bridge and Bay Street (Photograph 1), and the block of Main Street between the Post Road and Avery Place (Photograph 2), are attached and set close to the street generally without front yard setbacks. Buildings range from one to three stories high with lot coverage close to 100 percent on most parcels. The average lot size on Main Street in the blocks between Post Road East and Avery Place is .16 acres, while the average lot size on Post Road East between the bridge and Bay Street is higher at .33 acres. In contrast, lot sizes increase and building yards are more expansive along the original residential streets, including Myrtle Avenue, Imperial Avenue, Avery Place and Church Lane (Photograph 3). On Imperial Avenue, for example, the average lot size within the district is .57 acres. Visually, these historically residential properties serve as buffers between the density of the commercial core and abutting neighborhoods. Whether historically commercial or residential, contributing structures are low-scale, not exceeding three stories.

Buildings within the district exemplify the continuously evolving character of this commercial center. Typical modifications have included changes to, and the addition of, storefronts,

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especially on Main Street where commercial development is most dense; side and rear additions, especially on historically residential buildings, such as those on Myrtle Avenue; and the replacement of windows and siding. In addition, infill buildings have been constructed in the second half of the twentieth century, especially on Main Street and Post Road East. Despite the continuously evolving nature of the properties within the district, the majority of the changes have not been detrimental to the buildings' integrity and significance. Few properties have been relocated, and their settings have not been substantially altered; thus, almost all contributing properties retain their integrity of location and setting. Although modifications have been undertaken to the design of properties within the district, contributing properties retain distinctive characteristics of their style, and their original massing is discernable. Thus, these properties maintain their integrity of design and workmanship. Alterations in materials have, in many instances, been relatively minor, including replacements of windows and siding. Finally, contributing properties retain their significance of feeling and association; these buildings are understood as a diverse mix of commercial, residential and municipal properties within the Town's commercial and civic core.

Several contributing resources within the district have been previously listed in the local, state or National Registers. Properties listed in the National Register include: Godillot Place at 60-65 Jesup Road (NR Nomination September 1976); The Old Town Hall at 90 Post Road East (NR Nomination May 1982); the Westport Bank and Trust Company at 87 Post Road East (NR Nomination May 2006); and the Bradley-Coley-Wheeler House at 25 Avery Place (NR Nomination June 1984). In addition, the houses at 4, 6, 9 and 10 Violet Lane comprise a Local Historic District, while the Emily McLaury House is a Local Historic Property. Finally, properties on Avery Place, Church Lane, Elm Street, Main Street and Myrtle Avenue lie within the Myrtle Avenue Historic District, listed in the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Westport Center Historic District lies on the east bank of the Saugatuck River. Primary roadways within the district include Main Street which runs north-south parallel to the river, and Post Road East which runs east-west through the center of the district. Main Street is a narrow, densely developed roadway; as such, views to the north and south are tightly defined and don't include the Saugatuck River to the west. Post Road East is a slightly wider roadway which provides views west across the Post Road Bridge to the buildings on the river's west bank. Myrtle Avenue winds north-south, connecting to Imperial Avenue at Post Road East (U.S. Route 1). Deadman's Brook, a small tributary of the Saugatuck River, traverses a portion of the east

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side of the district; it is crossed by bridges on both Myrtle Avenue and Jesup Road. Expanses of Town-owned greenspace are located at the north and south ends of the district; Veterans' Green lies just south of the intersection of Main Street and Myrtle Avenue across from the Westport Town Hall (the Bedford School Building), while Jesup Green lies between Jesup Road and the Westport Library on the bank of the river. Prominent buildings within the district include the Tudor Revival style Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Building at the corner of Main Street and Post Road East; the Colonial Revival-style Westport Bank and Trust Building at the intersection of Post Road East and Church Lane; the Gothic Revival-style Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity on the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Church Lane; and the Richardsonian Romanesque-style Old Town Hall Building south of the Westport Bank and Trust, across Post Road East.

Buildings

The earliest extant development within the Westport Center Historic District is represented by a collection of Federal-style houses constructed between 1780 and 1835. They are primarily clustered along the upper portion of Main Street, Avery Place, Myrtle Avenue, and Church Lane, all historically residential portions of the district. The building at 183 Main Street was constructed c. 1780 (Photograph 4).¹ Located along the banks of the Saugatuck River, just north of the intersection of Main Street and Parker Harding Plaza, it was moved from a lot directly on Main Street to its current site c. 1930. This building is a two-story, Federal-style residence with later Greek Revival details. It is sheathed in clapboard, has a low-pitch front-gable roof with deep overhangs, and primarily six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Characteristic Federal features include the low-pitch gabled roof, fluted corner pilasters on the east elevation, and segmental arch fanlights with prominent keys on the facade and west.

A second Federal-style former residence on Main Street is the Levi Downes House and Store at 142 Main Street, now known as the Tavern on Main (Photograph 5). Constructed in 1813, the original main block is two stories high, is capped by a side-gable roof pierced by a corbelled brick chimney, and is clad in wood shingles. Windows are twelve-over-twelve, double-hung replacement sash. The original plan has been altered by additions off the north and south elevations, and the original main entry has been moved to the northern addition. However, the building's main block is still discernable.

The M. Horelick House, located at 115 Main Street (Photograph 6), was constructed c. 1835. Two-and-one-half-stories high, the building has a front-gable roof with a wide molded rake and shallow gable returns. The building is sheathed in clapboard and rests on a parged fieldstone foundation. An elliptical fanlight with wide trim and a keystone is located in the gable on the

¹ 183 Main Street is the second building on the 185 Main Street parcel.

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façade. A brick storefront dating to c. 1929 extends across the main façade (east elevation) and wraps around the north elevation, indicative of the increasing demand for commercial space after the turn of the century.

One example of high-style Federal design in the district is the Samuel Avery House, constructed in 1823 (Photograph 7). The building is located close to the road, east of Main Street at 12 Avery Place. It is two-stories high and capped by a low-pitch side-gable roof with paneled rakes. Sheathed in clapboard, the building has a small flat-roofed, enclosed entry porch on its façade (north elevation). The porch has slender Ionic fluted columns, a paneled frieze, a wide entablature, and a wood cornice with a decorative molded frieze. Narrow tracery sidelights flank the paneled door, while similar tracery windows are located on the east and west sides of the porch. A Palladian window sits above the entry porch and is flanked by wood panels divided by fluted pilasters, topped with urns and supporting a molded entablature. Fanlights with prominent keystones are located in the two gable ends. The building was moved roughly 125 feet east from the corner of Avery and Main Street in 1948 to allow for commercial development on the corner.

Additional Federal-style residences are extant on Church Lane and Myrtle Avenue. The John Sherwood Mansion, located at 26 Church Lane, was constructed in 1808 (Photograph 8).² The building is two stories high and has two entrances on the façade (northwest elevation), indicative of the fact that it was once a double house. The southwestern entrance is the more prominent of the two; sidelights and narrow pilasters flank a wood panel door while a transom with decorative tracery, projecting lintel, and window sit above it. A simple paneled door with a slightly projecting lintel is located at the eastern end of the north elevation. A cluster of several Federal-style residences is located to the east of the John Sherwood Mansion on the east side of Myrtle Avenue. The D. Bennett/Richards-Dunne House at 8 Myrtle Avenue has a side-gable roof, a denticulated cornice, and double-hung sidelights on either side of the primary entry (west elevation). The Jesse Scribner House at 40 Myrtle Avenue was constructed in 1830 and represents the transition from Federal to Greek Revival style within the district (Photograph 9). Federal features include twelve-over-twelve sash windows and a window with a segmental pediment in the gable end on the facade (west elevation), while the off-center entry and orientation of the gable end are representative of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles.

An increase in the construction of commercial properties occurred in Westport Center during the 1830s, simultaneously with the town's growth into a major local shipping hub. This period of development is most evident near the intersection of Main Street and Post Road East, with properties such as the Belden Block at 27 Main Street. This building was constructed in 1875 in the Italianate style with commercial space below and apartments above (Photograph 10). One of

² The Sherwood Mansion is located on the 101 Post Road East parcel, however it fronts on Church Lane.

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the taller historic buildings with the district, it is a three-story structure with a flat roof. The façade (east elevation) is ornamented by a wood cornice with paired brackets and a separate modillion course beneath. A contemporary cornice and storefront are located on the first story. Windows on the facade are replacement one-over-one, double-hung sash with bracketed window hoods.

The building at 62 Main Street, to the north of the Belden Block, was constructed c. 1855 and by 1868 it housed the shop of tailor P. Campbell (Photograph 11). It is a two-and-one-half story Italianate-style, wood-frame building with a pedimented front-gable roof. The facade (west elevation) has a wide, pedimented rake. The building's most distinctive Italianate feature is a pair of windows in the gable end that are set within round-arch openings with wide trim flanked by scroll-sawn brackets. Other key design features include a cornice that divides the first and second stories and fluted pilasters that flank a central, glazed storefront. Additional commercial buildings dating from the period between 1830 and 1880 consist of a one-story building at 66 Main Street that functioned as a billiard hall (Photograph 12); and an Italianate-influenced building at 7 Main Street constructed c. 1865. The latter building housed a butcher and grocery store on the first floor, with apartments above.

As commerce grew within Westport Center in the mid-nineteenth century, the demand for residential properties for ship captains and merchants increased. Some new buildings were constructed, while others were renovated and expanded in fashionable styles. The Westport Center Historic District contains a collection of residential properties from this period including examples of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic Revival styles, as well as more modest, vernacular houses. The S. Morehouse/F. Kemper House, located at 36 Church Street, was constructed c. 1800 in the Federal style, but then remodeled in the Greek Revival style later in the century (Photograph 13). It is a two-and-one-half story former residence with a pedimented front-gable roof with wide rake boards and an entablature. The siding is primarily wood shingle, with clapboard within the pediment on the north elevation. A one-and-one-half-story side-gabled addition extends off the west elevation of the main block. The primary entrance is located on the west side of the north elevation. It retains its original door surround with engaged Doric pilasters and a pediment.

Two notable Italianate-style residences are located on adjacent parcels at the north end of Main Street. The Farman Patchin House, constructed in 1852, is one of three buildings on the parcel identified as 190 Main Street (Photograph 14). The main portion of the building is two-stories high, four bays wide, and two bays deep. Important design features include a low-pitch hipped roof with a deep overhang; a full-width porch on the south elevation; and a two-story bay window on the façade (south elevation). The original plan has been altered over the life of the

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building, extending the structure to the north in response to local demands for commercial space along Main Street.

The Coley-Bradley-Wheeler House at 25 Avery Place is located directly east of the Farman Patchin House and is listed on the National Register. This building was originally constructed c. 1795, but was renovated in the Italianate style c. 1860 (Photograph 15). It is two stories high and has a nearly flat, low-pitch hipped roof with a wide overhang. A square cupola is centered on the roof. It has a similar, nearly flat hipped roof, decorative openings on each side, and an intricate scroll-sawn finial. The building is sheathed in clapboard with flush board on the facade (south elevation) and rests on a fieldstone foundation. The window openings are rectangular and contain primarily six-over-six double-hung wood sash, capped by pediments. Additional Italianate style features include the wide roofline entablature pierced by pairs of bull's-eye windows; a full-width porch supported by chamfered posts and capped by a hipped roof; and a large bay window on the building's east elevation. The main entrance is located on the south elevation and is flanked by four pairs of tall, evenly spaced casement windows. A two-story ell on the north side of the building dates to 1860, while additional one-story and two-story additions were constructed to accommodate the needs of the Westport Historical Society in 2010. An octagonal barn dating from the mid-19th century lies on the northeast side of the house.

Several notable houses dating from this period can also be found on Main Street. A two-story wood-frame house located at 139 Main Street dates to c. 1865 (Photograph 16). It has a front-gable roof and a projecting storefront addition built c. 1935. A Craftsman-style band of windows is located on the second story above the storefront. A second, two-and-a-half-story wood-frame house at 201 Main Street dates to 1850. It has a cross-gable roof and six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the second story. Two later additions, one on the east elevation and one on the north, were constructed between 1948 and 1965 to accommodate commercial expansion.

The Powers House located at 42 Myrtle Avenue, is a well-preserved Gothic Revival-style cottage constructed in 1877 (Photograph 17). The two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame building has a side-gable roof that is visually broken by a lower front-facing cross gable on the facade (west elevation). The façade also has a full-width porch with a bracketed cornice and scrolled brackets flanking each of square posts. The main entrance is centered on the façade and consists of a paneled door with an arched, glazed inset capped by a header and cornice. The tall, rectangular window openings are typical of the Italianate style and contain two-over-two double-hung sash. Bay windows with flat roofs supported by brackets are located on the north and south elevations.

With the increase in population came a growing need for worship spaces in Westport. The Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity was constructed in the heart of the district at 75 Church Lane, between 1860 and 1862 (Photograph 18). This two-story Gothic Revival-style masonry

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building has granite block walls and a front-gable roof with a stone chimney and cupola on the ridge. A four-story stone steeple with a spire roof is located at the southwest corner of the building, and granite buttresses project from the east and west elevations. The primary entrance to the church is on the building's south side, reached through a pointed-arched opening. A large wood roundel with a grille of four quatrefoils is located in the gable and windows are generally stained glass set within pointed arched openings. The majority of the historic building materials and design are intact, although an addition was constructed off the north end of the building in 2011. The building at 215 Main Street, constructed in 1840, also served an ecclesiastical function in the mid-nineteenth century, as worship space for members of the Universalist Church (Photograph 19).

As industry grew during the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, the pace of residential growth quickened, both within and surrounding Westport Center. A collection of five distinctive Queen Anne style houses all constructed in the last two decades of the nineteenth century and located on Imperial Avenue illustrate this trend. The Alfred T. Goodsell House at 25 Imperial Avenue is two-and-one-half stories high and is capped by a hipped roof with lower gables on the east, north, and south slopes (Photograph 20). There are deep overhangs, brackets, and vergeboards in the gables. Hipped-roof dormers pierce the main hipped-roof on its north and west slopes. The walls are sheathed in clapboard with decorative scalloped shingles in the gables. A wrap-around porch runs extends across the facade (west elevation) and south elevation. Its roof is supported by round columns with scroll-sawn brackets and spindlework running along the roofline between each post. A one-and-one-half-story garage, with decorative wood shingles and spindlework, is connected to the northeast side of the house by an addition.

A second Queen Anne-style residence, the Franklin Taylor House at 27 Imperial Avenue, is located one lot to the south. It is a two-and-one-half-story former residence with complex massing, characteristic of the Queen Anne style (Photograph 21). The gable roof has a cross gable on the north slope, towers on the north elevation and in the southeast corner, and a gable dormer on the east slope. The gable on the north elevation has drop pendants that extend over a two-story bay window. The building is sheathed in clapboard but has bands of decorative scalloped shingles between the first and second stories, as well as in the gables. The bands of shingles on the tower on the façade (west elevation) and on the bay window on the north elevation splay out slightly over the first story. A hipped-roof porch with turned posts wraps from the façade around to the north elevation and a balcony with a hipped roof and arched openings sits above the porch on the west elevation. The houses at 29 (Photograph 22) and 31 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 23) also display characteristic Queen Anne-style features including complex roof systems, wrap-around porches, and decorative scalloped shingles. The

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residence at 44 Imperial Avenue has been altered through the removal of the porch and additions, however it maintains its hipped roof and decorative chimneys.

The expansion of residential building stock within this period is also reflected in three Queen Anne-style houses that were constructed on Church Lane, another of the district's historically residential roadways. The Kemper-Gunn House, originally located at 35 Church Lane but moved in November 2014 to a parking lot at 35 Elm Street, was constructed c. 1885 (Photograph 24). It is two-and-one-half stories high, four bays wide, and has a compound roof. The walls are covered with clapboard on the first story and decorative shingle on the second. The building's most prominent feature, a three-story tower capped by a domed roof, is located at its southwest corner. Two additional Queen Anne-style houses are located on the south side of Church Lane. Constructed c. 1890, 60 (Photograph 25) and 66 Church Lane (Photograph 26) were originally identical residences, more modest than the large Queen Anne-style properties along Imperial Avenue and the Kemper-Gunn House. Both are two-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-five-bay wood-frame residences. Their hipped roofs each have distinctive clipped front gables and lower gables on the east (60 Church Lane) and west (66 Church Lane) slopes.

The largest and most elaborate of the Queen Anne-style properties in the district is the National Register-listed Jesup/Godillot House, located at 60 Jesup Road (Photograph 27). Constructed in 1804, the building was substantially remodeled in the Queen Anne style in 1882 for Alexis Godillot who owned a French import business in town. The result is a house two-and-one-half stories high, six bays wide, and five bays deep. The roof structure is complex, with a primary hipped roof intersected by cross gables on the façade (north elevation) and west elevation, and several gable, hipped, and shed-roof dormers scattered throughout. The gables have scroll-sawn vergeboards with decorative trusses and brackets, and a wide cornice braced by scroll brackets is located along the eaveline. The first floor of the building is sheathed in clapboard, while the second story dormers and gables are covered in scalloped wood shingles. An expansive one-story porch wraps across the façade, west elevation and a portion of the south elevation. Capped by a hipped roof, the porch has turned posts, a molded cornice, brackets, and railings with turned spindles. There have been minimal alterations to the building since the late-nineteenth century. Two nearby buildings are historically associated with the Jesup/Godillot House. A two-story former servants' quarters dating from 1882 and designed in the Queen Anne style is characterized by a gabled roof, a molded cornice, brackets at the roofline, flat vergeboards, scalloped shingles, and a full-width porch (Photograph 28). The property's Carriage House at 61 Jesup Road is one of the best examples of the Stick style within the district (Photograph 29). The Carriage House is distinguished by a side-gable roof with clipped gables, large decorative corner brackets, scalloped shingles, and wood paneled carriage entrances. The building has been adapted for use as offices.

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In addition to the aforementioned Queen Anne-style residential structures, several simple commercial buildings were also built within the district around the turn of the century. These are located along Main Street and Post Road East and are representative of the continued evolution of Main Street into a primarily commercial street. The building at 58 Main Street, erected c. 1900, is a one-story, three-bay-wide former grocery store (Photograph 30). The exterior details include Flemish bond brick walls, a band of limestone trim framing the full-width storefront, and a gabled parapet with limestone coping. A circular window is located in the gable end, this with four limestone keystones. Additional commercial properties on Main Street dating from the period are likewise one-story structures with simple detailing and include 21 Main Street (Photograph 31), 68 Main Street and 72 Main Street (Photograph 32).

As Westport moved into the early decades of the twentieth century, development within the district became more stylistically diverse, and included examples of the Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Richardsonian Romanesque, Tudor Revival, and Neoclassical styles. The Colonial Revival style is the most prevalent, with notable examples along Imperial Avenue, Violet Lane, and Myrtle Avenue. The large number of residential buildings constructed during this period is a reflection of the area's increasing popularity as a suburban community. This shift was accompanied by an increase in the construction of new buildings designed for municipal, community, and leisure uses, this again reflective of the growth and optimism within the community.

A modest but significant Colonial Revival building is the Emily McLaury House located at 99 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 33). Designed by Westport architect Charles E. Cutler for his wife Emily McLaury, the one-and-one-half-story residence was constructed in 1920. It has a side-gable roof pierced by two shed dormers on its north slope, and clapboard siding. The windows on the first story are ten-light casements, while those on the second story are eight lights. There is a bay window on the first floor of the building's east elevation and a fanlight in the gable above. The primary entrance is sheltered by an open entrance porch comprised of a gable roof supported by paired columns. A full-width porch on the south elevation is engaged under the main roof of the house.

A second Colonial Revival-style residence of note is located to the south of the Emily McLaury House at 55 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 34). The building was constructed c. 1920 and has served as the rectory for the Christ and Holy Trinity Church since 1931. It is two stories high, has a side gable roof, and is clad in wood shingles. The main entrance is centered on the façade (east elevation). It consists of a wood paneled door set within a simple surround with a fanlight and a round-arch bracketed door hood above. Windows are a combination of six-over-six double-hung sash and six or eight-light casements. Additional Colonial Revival-style houses from the period include the two-and-one-half-story former residence at 5 Imperial Avenue built

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in 1917 (Photograph 35) and four residences constructed together as a subdivision in 1928, located at 4, 6, 9 and 10 Violet Lane (Photograph 36).

Several examples of residences built in the Foursquare form popular during the early twentieth century are extant in the district. The house at 118 Myrtle Avenue, built in 1910, is a two-and-one-half-story Foursquare with a widely overhanging hipped roof and prominent hipped dormers (Photograph 37). The building rests on a stone foundation and the wood-frame walls are clad in clapboard. The windows are primarily one-over-one sash and there is a bay window on the second story of the façade (west elevation). A full-width covered porch runs across the west elevation. A second Foursquare residence is located to the south at 59 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 38). Like 118 Myrtle Avenue, 59 Myrtle is two-and-one-half stories high with a hipped roof and dormers. Key features of the building include decorative fixed rectangular windows located within the hipped-roof dormer and immediately east of the main entrance on the building's east elevation; the deep overhang of the roof; and the bay window on the second story of the façade (east elevation).

As the population grew in Westport, so too did the community's desire for municipal infrastructure, a physical manifestation of the town's stature. The Old Town Hall, located at 90 Post Road East, was constructed in 1909 and is now listed on the National Register (Photograph 39). Displaying both Romanesque Revival style and Arts and Crafts features, the building's monumental form was likely intended as a testament to Westport's strength as a community. Two stories high, the building is capped by a hipped roof sheathed in polychromatic slate with a pronounced overhang and exposed rafter tails. The walls and foundation are covered with local cobblestone. Decorative features including a water table, quoins, and sills are made of brownstone. In 1979 when the town hall moved to 110 Myrtle Avenue, the building was adapted for commercial use. Although an elevator was added to the rear of the building, the remainder of the exterior is largely intact.

A second monumental municipal building was constructed on the Post Road in the same time period. Located at 19 Post Road East at the base of the Post Road Bridge, the Morris Jesup Memorial Library was constructed in 1908 in the popular Neoclassical style, typical of municipal buildings of the period (Photograph 40). The two-story brick building is comprised of a main block with side wings off the east and west elevations. The main block has a recessed center bay with two-story Ionic columns, a dominant feature of the design on the building's façade (south elevation). Other features include a limestone beltcourse that runs between the first and second stories; a heavy limestone entablature with modillions supporting a projecting cornice; and one-over-one double hung sash windows set within rectangular openings with splayed limestone lintels, sills, and keystones. A limestone panel placed above the main entry states "Open to All,"

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while a second panel reads “Westport Library.” A 1960s-era addition is located on the west side of the structure. Since 1986, the building has housed retail and office space.

The Bedford Public School Building at 110 Myrtle Avenue was also constructed in Westport Center during this period (Photograph 41). Erected c. 1923 to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community, the Neoclassical-style building is sited on a hill, increasing its visual prominence. It is an expansive two-story building with stuccoed masonry walls and a hipped roof. Two-story ells, each also with hipped roofs, extend from the west ends of the north and south elevations. The focus of the façade (west elevation) is a two-story portico with fluted Corinthian columns supporting a pediment with a dentil course leading to an entrance with a pair of wood panel double-doors flanked by side lights and capped by a transom. The building functioned as a school until 1978, when it was repurposed as the Town Hall.

The Colonial Revival-style Westport Bank and Trust Building at 87 Post Road East represents the community’s most significant commercial property from the period (Photograph 42). It is individually listed on the National Register. Designed by local architect Charles E. Cutler and constructed in 1923, the building is two stories tall with an unusual triangular-shaped plan that was dictated by the site. The lot is sloped, allowing for a full-height basement on the north elevation. It has a flat roof with a limestone entablature with two rows of dentils that run along the south, west and north elevations. The walls are constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. Brick quoining is located at the corners of the east elevation and between the two eastern-most bays on the façade (south elevation) and north elevation. A limestone water table extends around the base of the building. The primary entrance is located west of center on the façade and is flanked by limestone Corinthian columns that support a limestone entablature and cornice. Full-height, 58-light round-arch wood windows with limestone keystones and sills are located on either side of the main entrance. Three identical windows are located on the north elevation. Although the building has been converted from a bank to retail space, changes to the exterior have been minimal.

The Young Men’s Christian Association Building (Westport YMCA) is one of the district’s most distinctive early twentieth-century properties (Photograph 43). Designed by architect William Tubby and constructed in 1923 in the Tudor Revival Style, the building is sited on a prominent lot at the corner of Post Road East and Main Street. It is two-and-one-half stories high and irregular in plan. The cross-gable roof has gables on the east and west ends of the south slope and clipped-gable dormers on the west and south slopes. The gables are adorned by intricately carved vergeboards, and five tall brick decorative chimneys pierce the roof. On the first story, the walls are brick, while on the second story and in the gables they are half-timbered stucco. Bands of leaded, eighteen-light casement sash windows punctuate the façade (south elevation), and west and east elevations. A wing, which originally housed the Town Fire Department, extends

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off the east elevation. Another early twentieth century social facility in the district is the Neoclassical-style Fine Arts Theater at 76 Post Road East (Photograph 44). Characteristic features of the building include decorative cast concrete panels on the façade (north elevation), a pediment with decorative swags, and a cornice between the first and second stories.

In the years between 1930 and 1960, with the popularity of the automobile, Westport became an increasingly suburban community. Despite this fact, commercial, residential, and municipal development continued on available parcels within Westport Center. Residential properties from the period tend to be modest Colonial Revival-style structures, such as the Ernest Beck House at 15 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 45). The Beck House is characterized by a front-facing gable roof with ridgeline chimney; clapboard siding with flat corner boards; and a slightly projecting second story supported by brackets. An additional residential property exhibiting a Colonial Revival form is 87 Myrtle Avenue, with its large shed dormer and simple pedimented entry (Photograph 46). The stone-faced St. John House at 78 Myrtle Avenue, dating to c. 1930, is the sole example of a Tudor Revival-style residence in the district (Photograph 47).

Commercial buildings from the period include both stand-alone structures and infill development, the latter being primarily on Main Street. The one-and-one-half-story, brick Connecticut National Bank Building at 126 Post Road East was constructed in 1957 (Photograph 48). Set back slightly from the road, it has a side-gabled roof capped by a distinctive cupola with a square base with quoins and an octagonal shaft with round arch openings topped by a concave dome with a finial. The façade is divided into three parts. The projecting central bay has a three-part facade divided by Corinthian pilasters supporting a frieze with a denticulated pediment. Within the pediment is a circular tracery window with molded trim and keystones and swag details. In contrast, the Buildings at 161 and 165 Main Street, dating from c. 1950 and c. 1960 respectively, are representative of commercial infill from the period (Photograph 49). Both buildings have flat roofs and facades lacking substantial ornament. The building at 161 Main Street has a simple pedimented parapet, while 165 Main Street displays a brick belt course at the cornice line. With increasing pressures for commercial space, buildings were also adapted with modern storefronts, such as those at 115 Main Street (Photograph 6) and 139 Main Street (Photograph 16).

A notable municipal building from the period is the Colonial Revival-style Police Station constructed at 20 Jesup Road in 1952 (Photograph 50). The two-story brick building is distinguished by a hipped roof, limestone beltcourse and cornice, and a pedimented entry. Another government building, the U.S. Post Office located at 154 Post Road East, is the sole example of the Art Deco style within the district (Photograph 51). The T-shaped brick structure has a flat roof and a central bay that projects slightly off the façade (north elevation). The bay is sheathed in limestone and divided vertically by streamlined fluted pilasters. The primary

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entrance is in the center of the façade and contains a single glazed door flanked by side lights and capped by a transom covered by a geometrically detailed metal grate. The building has been recently converted to use as a restaurant, however its original appearance from the street front has been preserved.

The Brooks Building at 136 Main Street is one of two small shopping centers in the district that is reflective of the importance of the automobile during the mid-twentieth century. The Brooks Building was constructed c. 1960 (Photograph 52). By 1965, the property contained retail space on the first story and offices on the second story for sixteen businesses. This Colonial Revival-style building is two-stories high, ten bays wide and six bays deep. It is brick with a flat roof edged by a brick parapet on the façade (west elevation), north and south elevations. The building has five storefront bays on its façade. Each storefront has at least one plate glass window. A recessed bay at the center of the façade with a fully-glazed wood door flanked by five-light sidelights and a ten-light transom leads to the offices on the second story. The building is set back off of Main Street to accommodate a small parking lot.

Many contributing buildings within the district have evolved over time, primarily adapting to meet the growing demand for commercial space. Properties on Main Street have, as a whole, undergone the most modifications. These changes have occurred to both storefronts on Main and to the rears of the buildings. This is evidenced at 115 Main Street, where the c. 1835 residence was converted to a commercial use sometime after the turn of the century and a brick storefront was installed c. 1929. In addition, the street has been subject to the construction of several late 20th century infill buildings. Nevertheless, the contributing properties on Main Street possess sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey their significance. Where non-contributing buildings do exist, they generally respect the historic building line and massing along the roadway, and thus they don't substantially diminish the integrity of the street as a whole, allowing Main Street to convey the sense of its historic environment.

On the other primary commercial thoroughfare, Post Road East, the early commercial buildings have undergone similar changes over time to accommodate their commercial uses. However, the historically municipal and civic properties on Post Road East, several of which are anchors of the district, have undergone fewer changes. For example, the Old Town Hall at 90 Post Road East and the Westport Bank and Trust Company Building at 87 Post Road East display high degrees of integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. There are no apparent alterations to the design of the Westport Bank and Trust Company Building; an elevator tower was added to the Old Town Hall to accommodate its commercial use, however, it is located on the rear of the building and thus doesn't affect the historic streetscape.

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The contributing buildings on Myrtle and Imperial Avenues, two historically residential streets within the district, have generally undergone fewer changes overall than properties along Main Street and Post Road East, the dominant commercial thoroughfares. Myrtle Avenue provides an impressive collection of intact historic residential properties representing a wide range of styles. Representative properties include the transitional Federal/Greek Revival-style Jesse Scribner House at 40 Myrtle Avenue, and the modest Colonial Revival-style Emily McLaury House located at 99 Myrtle Avenue. On Imperial Avenue, buildings such as the Queen Anne-style Alfred T. Goodsell House at 25 Imperial Avenue; the Queen Anne-style William Osborn House at 31 Imperial Avenue; and the Colonial Revival-style Ernest A. Beck House at 15 Imperial Avenue possess a relatively high degree of integrity. At many properties alterations have been restricted to the replacement of windows and doors, and modest rear additions.

Bridges

In addition to the 119 contributing buildings within the district, there are two bridges which contribute to the significance of the Westport Center Historic District. Both of these cross Deadman's Creek, a small tributary to the Saugatuck River. The first, the Myrtle Avenue Stone Bridge and Culvert, is located at the south end of Myrtle Avenue near its intersection with Post Road East. The bridge, which appears to date to c. 1915, is a single-arch span with fieldstone abutments and wing walls. The second bridge is located at the east end of Jesup Road near its intersection with Imperial Avenue. Dating to c. 1950 when Jesup Road was developed, the bridge is a single-arch span with built-up, split-faced granite and fieldstone abutments and wing walls.

Non-Contributing Properties

Of the 51 non-contributing properties within the Westport Center Historic District, six are parking lots and one is a vacant parcel. Five more non-contributing properties are memorials located on Veterans' Green on Myrtle Avenue. Of these, one, a World War I memorial dates to 1930, however it was moved to its current location from Green's Farms when the Veterans' Green was established in the 1980s. Four other memorials on the same parcel appear to post-date the period of significance. Additional non-contributing properties include buildings that have been substantially altered, such as the Westport VFD Firehouse at 57 Main Street and a commercial property at 35 Main Street (Photograph 53), and buildings that are not yet 50 years old (Photograph 54).

Introductory Note to the Inventory of the Buildings:

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Street numbers in this inventory are based on the Town of Westport's online Assessor's Data (Vision Appraisal). In instances where the street address differs from that provided in the property records, it is noted. Construction dates are based on the Assessor's data, as well as the Historical Resources Inventory undertaken by the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) in 2012, unless an alternative and more accurate date has been supported by additional research and consultation of historic maps that took place as part of this study. The location of each of the properties is shown on Figure 2.

Avery Place, north side:	Contributing	Name, Style, Historic Use, Architect or Builder (if known), Description	Property Number
25		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	25 Avery Place – Coley-Bradley-Wheeler House, Italianate residence, 1795/1860, two-story wood-frame house with a hipped roof.	No. 1
	Y	Barn, mid-19 th century, one-story octagonal fieldstone structure.	No. 2
Avery Place, south side:			
10	N	Parking lot	No. 3
12	Y	Captain Samuel Avery House, Federal-style residence, 1823, two-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 4
Bay Street, west side:			
10	N	Colonial Revival-style commercial building, 1972.	No. 5
20	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, c.1930, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof and a shed dormer.	No. 6

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Bay Street, east side:

11	N	Parking lot (no street number listed in Vision, Parcel ID# D09007000).	No. 7
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Belden Place, south side:

7	Y	Multi-family residence, c. 1920, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 8
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15	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1930, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 9
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Church Lane, north side:

35	N	Vacant parcel	No. 10
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75 Five buildings located on this parcel:

	Y	75 Church Lane - Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity, 1860, Gothic Revival-style church, designed by LeMoulinear, two-story granite building with front-gable roof and four-story stone steeple.	No. 11
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	Y	75 Church Lane - Westport Methodist Episcopal Church, 1907, Richardsonian Romanesque-style church, one-story cobblestone building with conical roof.	No. 12
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	Y	55 Myrtle Avenue - Christ and Holy Trinity Church Rectory, Colonial Revival-style residence, two-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 13
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- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------|
| | Y | 59 Myrtle Avenue - Foursquare residence, c. 1920, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with hipped roof. | No. 14 |
| | Y | 65 Myrtle Avenue - Colonial Revival-style residence with Queen Anne influences, c. 1910, two-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof. | No. 15 |

Church Lane, south side:

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|--------|
| 36 | Y | S. Morehouse/ F. Kemper House, c. 1800/c. 1880, Greek Revival remodel, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with side-gable roof. | No. 16 |
| 44 | Y | Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1920, two-story wood-frame house with cross-hip roof. | No. 17 |
| 60 | Y | Sturges House, c. 1890, Queen Anne style, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with a hipped roof. | No. 18 |
| 66 | | Two buildings on this parcel: | |
| | Y | 68 Church Lane - Queen Anne-style residence, c. 1890, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with a hipped roof. | No. 19 |
| | Y | 66 Church Lane - One-story wood-frame garage, c. 1925. | No. 20 |

Elm Street, north side:

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 35 | Y | Queen Anne-style residence (relocated | No. 21 |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|--------|

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November 2014 from 35 Church Lane), c.
 1885, two-and-one-half-story frame
 residence with compound roof.

N Parking lot. No. 22

Elm Street, south side:

20 N Parking lot (no street number listed in
 Vision, Parcel ID# C10146000). No. 23

36 N John W. Taylor House, 1825, one-story
 wood-frame building substantially altered in
 the 20th century. No. 24

**Imperial Avenue, east
 side:**

5 Y Colonial Revival-style residence, 1917,
 two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house
 with side-gable roof. No. 25

15 Y Ernest A. Beck House, c. 1950, Colonial
 Revival style, two-story wood-frame
 residence with front-gable roof. No. 26

17 Y Clement E. Reynolds House, c. 1920,
 Colonial Revival style, one-and-one-half-
 story wood-frame house with gambrel roof. No. 27

19 Y Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1920,
 one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house
 with gambrel roof. No. 28

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25		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	25 Imperial Avenue - Alfred T. Goodsell House, Queen Anne style, 1884, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with a hipped roof.	No. 29
	Y	Queen Anne-style wood-frame garage, c. 1900.	No. 30
27		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	27 Imperial Avenue - Franklin Taylor House, Queen Anne style, 1892, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with gable roof.	No. 31
	Y	27A Imperial Avenue – Carriage house, c. 1892, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame structure with side-gable roof.	No. 32
29	Y	Queen Anne-style residence, c. 1900, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 33
31	Y	William Osborn House, 1892, Queen Anne style, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with hipped roof.	No. 34
33	Y	Converted barn, c. 1895, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame building with front-gable roof.	No. 35
37	Y	Residence, 1890, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 36

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39	Y	Elizabeth Guyer House, 1885/1925, Colonial Revival style, two-and-one-half- story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 37
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**Imperial Avenue, west
side:**

20		Five buildings located on this parcel:	
	N	One-story brick commercial building (Building 1), 1960.	No. 38
	N	One-story brick commercial building (Building 2), 1960.	No. 39
	N	One-story brick commercial building (Building 3), 1960.	No. 40
	N	One-story brick commercial building (Building 4), 1960.	No. 41
	Y	Residence, c. 1930, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 42
32	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1900, two-story wood-frame house with side- gable roof.	No. 43
34	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, 1890, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with cross-gable roof.	No. 44

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44		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	44 Imperial Avenue - Sidney Watts House (Westport Women's Club), Queen Anne style, 1881, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with hipped roof.	No. 45
	Y	One-story wood-frame garage, c. 1935.	No. 46

Jesup Road, north side:

45	N	One-story brick dormitory, 1989.	No. 47
30	N	Parking lot (Parcel ID# D09008000).	No. 48
61	Y	Godillot Carriage House, Stick style, 1882, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame structure with front-gable roof.	No. 49
65	Y	Godillot Servants' Quarters, Queen Anne style, 1882, two-story wood-frame house with front gable roof.	No. 50

Jesup Road, south side:

	Y	Jesup Road Bridge, c. 1950, single-arch span.	No. 51
50	Y	Police Station, Colonial Revival style, 1952, two-story brick building with hipped roof.	No. 52
60	Y	Jesup/Godillot House, Queen Anne style, 1804/1882, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with hipped roof.	No. 53

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Main Street, west side:

7	Y	Solomon Taylor House/Farraro's/Gray's Drug Store, Italianate style, c. 1865, three-story wood-frame building with hipped roof (originally two buildings, 7 and 17 Main; joined in early 20 th century).	No. 54
21	Y	Bakery, c. 1900, one-story brick building with flat roof.	No. 55
27	Y	Belden Block, Italianate style, 1875, three-story wood-frame commercial building with flat roof.	No. 56
35		Five buildings located on this parcel:	
	N	35 Main Street - Two-story brick commercial building, c. 1925.	No. 57
	N	45 Main Street - One-story brick commercial building, c. 1935.	No. 58
	Y	47 Main Street - Commercial building, c. 1935, one-story structure with flat roof.	No. 59
	Y	49 Main Street - Commercial building, c. 1935, one-story structure with flat roof.	No. 60
	Y	51 Main Street - Commercial building, c. 1935, one-story structure with flat roof.	No. 61
57	N	Westport VFD Firehouse, c. 1860, substantially altered in 1975.	No. 62
61	N	One-story commercial building, c. 1944.	No. 63

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Five buildings located on this parcel:

	N	69A Main Street - One-story commercial building, 1922.	No. 64
	Y	69B Main Street – Commercial building, c. 1950, one-story brick with flat roof.	No. 65
	Y	87 Main Street – Commercial building, c. 1950, one-story brick with flat roof.	No. 66
	Y	91 Main Street – Commercial building, c. 1950, one-story brick with flat roof.	No. 67
	Y	97 Main Street – Commercial building, c. 1950, one-story brick with flat roof.	No. 68
105	Y	One-story commercial building, c. 1900.	No. 69
115		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	115 Main Street - M. Horelick House, Federal style, c. 1835, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with front-gable roof.	No. 70
	Y	Garage, c. 1925, two-story wood-frame with side-gable roof.	No. 71
125	N	Three-story commercial building, designed by Lawrence Michaels, 1977.	No. 72
135	Y	Commercial building, 1930, one-story structure with flat roof.	No. 73
139	Y	Vernacular house, c. 1865, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame building with front-gable roof.	No. 74

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145	Y	Neoclassical style commercial building, 1950, two-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 75
161	Y	Colonial Revival-style commercial building, c. 1950, two-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 76
165	Y	Neoclassical-style commercial building, c. 1960, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 77
177	Y	Ebenezer Coley House/Remarkable Bookshop, 1790, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame Cape.	No. 78
185		Three buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	181 Main Street – Warehouse, c. 1870, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame with cross-gable roof.	No. 79
	Y	183 Main Street – Federal-style residence with Greek Revival details, c. 1780, two-story wood-frame building with front-gable roof.	No. 80
	N	185 Main Street - Two-story commercial building, 1999.	No. 81
191	Y	Federal-style residence, 1780, two-story wood-frame structure with front gable roof.	No. 82
201	Y	Residence, 1850, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with cross-gable roof.	No. 83
205	N	Residence, 1900.	No. 84

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215	Y	Residence/Universalist Church, 1840, three-story wood-frame with front-gable roof.	No. 85
225	N	Brick commercial building, 1973.	No. 86
239	Y	One-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with Colonial Revival-style details, 1854.	No. 87
Main Street, east side:			
22	Y	Commercial building, 1929, two-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 88
26	Y	Commercial building, 1929, two-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 89
38	Y	Commercial building, 1930, two-story wood-frame structure with flat roof.	No. 90
44	N	Commercial building, 1899/1937/1999.	No. 91
58	Y	Commercial building, 1900, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 92
62	Y	Italianate-style commercial building, c. 1855, two-story wood-frame structure with front-gable roof.	No. 93
66	Y	Commercial building, c. 1880, one-story wood-frame structure with flat roof.	No. 94
68	Y	Commercial building, 1900, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 95
72	Y	Commercial building, 1900, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 96

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90	N	Commercial and residential building, designed by Roger Ferris, 1987.	No. 97
136	Y	Colonial Revival-style commercial building, c. 1960, two-story brick structure with flat roof.	No. 98
142		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	142 Main Street - Levi Downes House and Store, Federal style, 1813, two-story wood-frame structure with side-gable roof.	No. 99
	Y	146 Main Street - Colonial Revival-style commercial building c. 1960.	No. 100
184		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	160, 166, and 168 Main Street – Commercial building, 1948, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 101
	Y	184 Main Street – Modern-style commercial building, 1948, one-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 102
190		Three buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	Farman Patchin House, Italianate style, 1852, two-story wood-frame building with shallow-pitch hipped roof.	No. 103
	Y	Garage, 1923, one-story wood-frame building with side-gable roof.	No. 104
	N	Two-story commercial building, 1986.	No. 105
234	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, 1930, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 106

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**Myrtle Avenue, east
 side:**

	Y	Myrtle Avenue Bridge and Stone Channel, c. 1915, single-arch span with fieldstone abutments.	No. 107
8		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	8 Myrtle Avenue - D Bennett-Richards-Dunne House, Federal Style, c. 1810, two-story wood-frame residence with side-gable roof.	No. 108
	N	Wood-frame shed.	No. 109
20		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	20 Myrtle Avenue - Southern New England Telephone Building, Neoclassical style, 1931, one-story brick structure with hipped roof.	No. 110
	N	One-story brick building, 2003.	No. 111
22	N	Parking lot (GIS ID# D10093000).	No. 112
40	Y	Jesse Scribner House, Federal style, 1830, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with front-gable roof.	No. 113

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42		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	42 Myrtle Avenue - Frederick Powers House, Gothic Revival style, 1877, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame with side-gable roof.	No. 114
	Y	One-story wood-frame garage.	No. 115
48		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	48 Myrtle Avenue - Samuel Wood House, Federal style, 1830, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame with side-gable roof.	No. 116
	Y	Wood-frame garage.	No. 117
72	Y	Dr. Banks House, Federal style with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival alterations, 1820/1890/1920, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame structure with gable roof.	No. 118
74	Y	Carriage House, c. 1890, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame building with gable roof.	No. 119
76		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	N	Wood-frame residence, late 20 th century.	No. 120
	N	Wood-frame garage.	No. 121
78	Y	St. John House, Tudor Revival style, c. 1930, one-and-one-half-story stone with cross-gable roof.	No. 122

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90		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	90 Myrtle Avenue - Carriage house, c. 1900, two-story wood-frame structure with front-gable roof	No. 123
	N	Late-20 th century carport.	No. 124
96	Y	Salmon House, Federal style, 1825, two-story, wood-frame residence with front-gable roof.	No. 125
110	Y	Bedford School/Westport Town Hall, Neoclassical style, 1923, two-story masonry structure with hipped roof.	No. 126
118		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	118 Myrtle Avenue – Foursquare-style house, 1910, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence with hipped roof.	No. 127
	Y	One-story, wood-frame garage, c. 1910.	No. 128

Myrtle Avenue, west side:

15		Four buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	Colonial Revival-style commercial building, 1952, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame structure with side-gable roof.	No. 129
	Y	Colonial Revival-style commercial building, 1952, one-and-one-half-story	No. 130

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		wood-frame structure with side-gable roof.	
	Y	Carriage house, c. 1890, two-story wood-frame building with side-gable roof.	No. 131
	N	Wood-frame house, c. 1890.	No. 132
79	Y	Residence, c. 1900, two-story wood-frame building with side-gable roof.	No. 133
81	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1895/c. 1925, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with a cross-gable roof.	No. 134
87	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1920, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 135
99	Y	Emily McLaury House, Colonial Revival style, c. 1920, designed by Charles E. Cutler, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 136
109		Now known as Veterans' Green, this parcel was historically part of the Wheeler Estate at 25 Avery Place. Five features on this parcel:	
	N	World War I Memorial, 1930 (moved from site near Green's Farms).	No. 137
	N	World War II Honor Roll Memorial, 1998.	No. 138
	N		No. 139

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	N	Korean War Memorial, second half of 20 th century.	No. 140
	N	Vietnam War Memorial, second half of 20 th century.	No. 141
		World War II Memorial, second half of 20 th century.	
Post Road East, north side:			
19	Y	Morris Jesup Memorial Library, Neoclassical style, 1908, two-story brick building with flat roof.	No. 142
59	Y	Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Building (Church Lane), Tudor Revival style, 1923, designed by William B. Tubby, two-and-one-half-story brick building with cross-gable roof.	No. 143
87	Y	Westport Bank and Trust Building, Colonial Revival style, 1923, two-story brick building with flat roof.	No. 144
101		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	101 Post Road East - Neoclassical style commercial building, 1930, two-story masonry building with flat roof.	No. 145
	Y	26 Church Lane - John Sherwood Mansion, Federal style, 1808, two-story frame building with side-gable roof.	No. 146
111	N	Two-story masonry commercial building, 1984.	No. 147

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135	Y	Commercial building, c. 1920, one-story wood-frame structure with flat roof.	No. 148
143	N	Two-story wood-frame commercial building, c. 1960.	No. 149
155	Y	Commercial building, c. 1930, two-story masonry structure with flat roof.	No. 150
165	Y	Filling station, Colonial Revival style, c. 1945, one-and-one-half-story brick building with side-gable roof.	No. 151
199	Y	Residence, c. 1850, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with front-gable roof.	No. 152

Post Road East, south side:

2	N	Two-story masonry commercial building, 1973.	No. 153
30	N	Two-story masonry commercial building, 1976.	No. 154
40		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	N	40 Post Road East - Salmon's Dry Goods Store, c. 1835 with substantial 20 th century alterations.	No. 155
	Y	23 Jesup Road - Colonial Revival-style residence, c. 1945, two-story wood-frame building with side-gable roof.	No. 156

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46		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	Osborne-Sachs Grocery Store, c. 1855, two-story wood-frame building with front-gable roof.	No. 157
	N	One-story frame warehouse, 1980.	No. 158
66		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	66 Post Road East - Toquet Opera House, Colonial Revival style with Italianate details, 1892, two-story wood-frame building with gambrel roof.	No. 159
	Y	56 and 68 Post Road East - Colonial Revival-style commercial building, 1922, one-story wood-frame structure with flat roof.	No. 160
76	Y	Fine Arts Theater, Neoclassical style, c. 1920, two-story steel frame structure with stucco exterior and flat roof.	No. 161
90	Y	Old Town Hall, Richardsonian Romanesque style, 1909, two-story masonry structure with hipped roof.	No. 162

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100	N	One-story masonry building, 2012.	No. 163
126	Y	Connecticut National Bank – Bridgeport, Colonial Revival style, 1957, one-story masonry building with side-gable roof.	No. 164
154	Y	U.S. Post Office Building, Art Deco style, 1935, one-story masonry building with flat roof.	No. 165
180	N	Two-story commercial building, 1969.	No. 166
210	Y	Charles Fable Funeral Home, Arts and Crafts style, 1915, three-story wood-frame building with hipped roof.	No. 167
224	Y	Imperial Plaza, Colonial Revival style, 1920, one-story masonry building with flat roof.	No. 168
Violet Lane			
2	N	Two-story house, 1985.	No. 169
4		Two buildings located on this parcel:	
	Y	4 Violet Lane - Colonial Revival-style residence, 1928/1988, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 170
	N	One-story shed.	No. 171
6	Y	Alfred G. Violet House, Dutch Colonial Revival-style, 1928, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame building with gambrel roof.	No. 172

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9	Y	Cottage-style residence, 1928/1993, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame house with side-gable roof.	No. 173
10	Y	Colonial Revival-style residence, 1928, two-story wood-frame house with side- gable roof.	No. 174

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1780-1960

Significant Dates

1780: Construction date of earliest building in district

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cutler, Charles E.

LeMoulinear

Tubby, William B.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Westport Center Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Community Development. It is locally significant under Criterion A as the Town's primary collection of resources that physically exhibits its commercial and civic growth. Over nearly two centuries, Westport Center was transformed from a small agricultural village to a maritime shipping center and then a commercial hub. As a center of commerce in the community, it supported the rapid suburban development of the town outside of this commercial core in the first half of the twentieth century. With commercial and residential growth, Westport Center also became the locus of the Town's municipal, community and social landmarks.

The Westport Center Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as the town's most concentrated, mixed-use collection of historic architecture,

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which includes intact examples of a variety of historic building types and nationally popular aesthetic preferences. It retains a diverse collection of residential, commercial and municipal resources representative of their style and period of construction. Several examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Stick, Art Deco, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles, and the Four-square building form, are extant in addition to common commercial building forms and vernacular forms spanning 180 years, from 1780 to 1960. Buildings within the district illustrate the continuously evolving character of this mixed residential and commercial center, and include examples from all periods of its developmental history.

The beginning of the period of significance (1780) coincides with the construction of the first surviving building within the district associated with the themes of commerce and community development. The end of period of significance (1960) coincides with the end of a period of intense growth within Westport Center, growth which was fueled by surrounding suburbanization.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Areas of Significance: Criterion A
Commerce and Community Development

The location of settlement in Westport along the navigable Saugatuck River led to the town's establishment as a thriving local port, which fostered the growth of its economy, industries and related residential and civic development. The property within the Westport Center Historic District encompasses the land that comprised the town's commercial and civic center.

Early Saugatuck

The settlement of what would later become the Westport Center commenced in the second half of the 18th century. Residences, shops and wharves grew up on the east as well as the west sides of the Saugatuck River just south of Gorham Island.¹ The commercial advantages presented by this section of the Saugatuck were identified very early on. Such were grounded in the fact that here the river was navigable further north than any other watercourse in Fairfield County; the village that arose here, this eventually known as Saugatuck, was well positioned to be a profitable place to do business.²

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Following the American Revolution, residents of Saugatuck began to take advantage of what their unique location had to offer. At the turn of the 19th century, Saugatuck was the largest grain and flax market in Fairfield County at the time.³ While the roads were rough and slow, the Saugatuck River facilitated easy and comparatively quick transportation of these goods to New York City and other ports. Thus, in 1790, Ebenezer Jesup, the great-grandson of one of the Green's Farms settlers, built the first of many wharfs and warehouses on the east side of the Saugatuck River near the current location of the Post Road Bridge.⁴ During the first 25 years of his business, records indicate that he bought over 500,000 bushels of grain per year from farmers in the area and kept three or four ships that moved produce. He ultimately became the most successful grain dealer in the state and the wealthiest resident in the village of Saugatuck.⁵

Ebenezer Jesup was just one of many Saugatuck merchants who engaged in commerce over the waterways. During this period, market boats were established to transport what farmers brought to the wharf to New York City, and then return with payment, having taken a commission. Two such boats were the sloop *Diana* and the *Intrepid*, both owned by L. T. Downes, a merchant and resident of Westport Center.⁶ While many boats traveled to New York, some went to other ports throughout New England, the south, and the West Indies. Looking back at the end of the 19th century, historian D. Hamilton Hurd wrote: "What the amount of exports were at the beginning of the present century can only be conjectured, but from my recollections of the numbers of vessels employed, and the show of loaded teams from the country, not less than one hundred thousand bushels of grain, corn, rye, and oats, and considerable quantities of flax-seed, dressed flax, butter, etc. were annually shipped from here, the rye mostly to Boston, Providence and the other eastern ports."⁷

In addition to farm products, the market boats transported goods manufactured in homes and small factories in Saugatuck for sale in the city. Tanneries in town produced leather for harnesses, hatbands and satchel linings.⁸ Cotton goods were also manufactured, including lamp wicks, twine, and the batting used for quilts and bandages.⁹ Additional goods manufactured for shipping included shoes, carriages, stoves, combs, and axes.¹⁰ By the early 1800s, a thriving port had been established with wharfs and warehouses on the east side of the river supporting this trade. Although commercial development occurred on the west side of the river as well, the two ports were physically separated by the water, as no bridge existed at that time. Travel from one side to the other either required a boat or lengthy travel on rough roads.

In the early 19th century people began to talk of establishing a turnpike company with the objective of connecting the interior country with the navigable waterways.¹¹ Although several routes were considered, Ebenezer Jesup argued that a direct crossing of the Saugatuck River would cut travel time. He offered a small portion of his property on the east side of the river near what is now the intersection of Jesup Road and Post Road East for the right-of-way, providing

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prime access to his wharf and warehouse on the south side of the road, and to his shop on the north side.¹² At this time, Jesup Road was just a footpath. A drawbridge was installed so that the wharves of Ebenezer Coley and others that were located upstream from the bridge side were still accessible. Horace Staples, a Saugatuck merchant wrote that from 1812 to 1815 the Turnpike yielded dividends, "cotton then manufactured in New England was transported through Saugatuck upon this road. I saw almost daily in those three years of our last war with England, from four to eight loads, of from three to five tons of cotton each, drawn by four and sometimes by six horses, all in company."¹³

A number of surviving late-eighteenth to early nineteenth-century properties associated with the establishment of Westport Center as a prominent local port are extant within the district. They include a series of houses constructed by and for important figures in the community, among them Ebenezer Jesup, Samuel Avery, and Ebenezer Coley. The Captain Samuel Avery House, at 12 Avery Place (Photograph 7), was constructed in 1823. Avery was a ship owner and captain of "The Black Warrior," a Clipper ship involved in the China Trade. An important figure in early Saugatuck, he was a founder of the Saugatuck Congregational Church as well as an early newspaper, the *Saugatuck Journal*.¹⁴ The extensive detailing on this Federal-style residence, including a Palladian window, fanlights, tall tracery windows, fluted columns, and a denticulated cornice, are indicative of Samuel Avery's prominent place within the community. Across the street at 25 Avery Place (Photograph 15) is the Coley-Bradley-Wheeler House, which was constructed c. 1795 by Ebenezer Coley for his son Michael. In 1799, the house was sold to Anne Avery and a portion of it was converted to a millinery shop.¹⁵ In the 1860s, the property was enlarged and remodeled in the Italianate style. The Jesup/Godillot House at 60 Jesup Road was constructed in 1804 in the Federal style by Dr. Ebenezer Jesup for his daughter Abigail. In 1879, it was purchased by Alexis Godillot, the owner of a French import business, and it was renovated in the Queen Anne style.

Although many of Westport Center's early residences appear to have been owned by ship captains, others were the property of merchants and professionals that had chosen to settle in the growing port community. A number of these properties served both residential and commercial functions in their early years, as some do today. The building at 142 Main Street (Photograph 5) was constructed in 1813 for local grocer and merchant Levi Downes. It served both as his residence and grocery store, selling products grown in the surrounding communities. In addition to running the store, Downes owned the sloop *Diana*, one of many boats that participated in the coastal trade following the turn of the 19th century. A former wing on the east elevation later housed the Downes School for Girls. Slightly further north and on the opposite side of the street, 177 Main, was constructed c. 1790 by Ebenezer Coley. This simple, one-and-one-half-story Cape served as a ship's store and then later a grocery, selling produce, meat and ice.¹⁶ Another Federal-style residence is located closer to the edge of the river at 183 Main Street (Photograph

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4).¹⁷ Constructed c. 1780, the house was owned by a Saugatuck attorney, the Honorable James C. Loomis, in the first half of the 19th century.¹⁸

The New Westport and the Arrival of the Railroad

As Saugatuck grew and thrived commercially, residents began to consider establishing their own self-governing town comprised of portions of Norwalk, Fairfield, and Weston. On May 28, 1835, the citizens of Saugatuck were successful; the State of Connecticut granted the petition and the new town, which comprised just over 22 square miles, was incorporated as Westport. The first town meeting was held on June 16, 1835 in the Saugatuck Congregational Church on Post Road East, then known as State Street, just east of Westport Center.¹⁹

As it had since the turn of the 19th century, the economy of the newly incorporated town centered upon shipping activity. Leather goods and grains continued to be major exports, however other goods produced in Westport including apples, friction matches, telescopes, and furniture.²⁰ Such goods were sold in the commercial establishments in Westport Center. Around 1860, the onion became a major Westport crop and export. Edward Coley Birge wrote that, at its peak, “two market boats from Southport and one from Westport made weekly trips to New York during the fall and winter seasons each carrying from 1,500 to 2,000 barrels of produce, mostly onions.”²¹

The burgeoning shipping industry supported a small but vibrant downtown on the east side of the Saugatuck River with a wide range of both general and specialty goods stores. Advertisements run in the Saugatuck and Norwalk newspapers illustrate the breadth of products. William Allen, a ship captain who owned a wharf on the river and a general store off of Myrtle Avenue, ran an ad announcing: “Hats! Peanuts by the hogshead or bushel; 40 lbs pins, 1 bbl TAMARINDS; 3 BBL SUGAR; 1200 BUSHELs Curracoa rock salt.”²² Another merchant, John Taylor, who had a shop on Main Street, and who later became the town druggist, advertised “Crape shawls, instruments, cutlery, jewelry, drugs and medicine.”²³ Also on Main Street, Miss Jerusah Brown announced the opening of her millinery in 1824: “Commenced the above business in the house of Mr. L.F. Downs (Main Street), Leghorn, Straw and Silk Hats, ribbons, band boxes, and artificial flowers.”²⁴ While commercial establishments were clustered along the primary thoroughfares on the east side of the river, namely Main and State Streets (Post Road East), the area was not exclusively commercial; ship captains had residences near the wharfs and shopkeepers lived near or in the same structure as their businesses.²⁵ Similar commercial and residential development was located on the west side of the river, on and north of Post Road West. Several of these properties are included within the National Hall National Register Historic District.

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Like other communities in Connecticut, Westport opposed the establishment of a railroad line from New York to New Haven. They felt that a railroad was not necessary because Westport already had a vibrant shipping industry and a strategic location on the turnpike. In addition, the residents of Westport feared that the railroad would bring noise and pollution to the community.²⁶ Moreover, travel by stagecoach along the turnpike to New York City was difficult; the coach would stop in Westport Center around 5:00 PM and wouldn't arrive in New York City until the next morning.²⁷ The town appointed Eliphalet Swift, Esq., who lived on Jesup Road, to oppose the chartering of the railroad. Ultimately, the townspeople were unsuccessful in blocking the charter, selling the right-of-way for \$200. However they did achieve a compromise in that the route ran close to the water so as not to disturb life in the center of town.²⁸ Trains began running from Westport to New York City on December 27, 1848.

Several mid- to late-nineteenth-century buildings in the district are historically associated with local merchants and are a physical expression of the continued nineteenth century growth of this area as the town's primary commercial center. These properties include residential and commercial buildings that are clustered on the two principal commercial routes, Main Street and State Street (now Post Road East). The buildings at 7 and 17 Main Street (Photograph 55) were originally constructed as two separate two-story buildings c. 1865. They were joined in the early twentieth century through the construction of a connected third story. An 1878 bird's-eye map indicates that 17 Main housed W.S. Guyer and Sons, Hardware. By the turn of the century, it had been converted to a butcher shop and general store with apartments above.²⁹ The building at 7 Main Street housed a bakery and general store with apartments above.³⁰ Further north on Main Street, 62 Main was constructed c. 1855 and functioned as a commercial space (Photograph 11). It was purchased by a Westport tailor, P. Campbell, and housed his shop in the mid- to late nineteenth century. A small, two-story Greek Revival-style commercial building erected at 40 Post Road East c. 1835 was noted as a store on an 1855 map. It was subsequently labeled as the D.A. Salmon & Company General Store and Dry Goods on the 1878 bird's-eye map.³¹ Sanborn maps indicate that it continued to function as a dry goods store through the end of the 19th century. Adjacent to Salmon's Dry Goods, another small grocery was constructed c. 1855 at 46 Post Road East (Photograph 56). The 1878 bird's-eye view identifies this building as Bradley and Wheeler Groceries.

In order to serve the spiritual needs of the growing population in and around Westport Center, several churches were constructed in the center in the mid-19th century. In 1860, following a dispute over an organ at Christ Church located on the west side of the river, a new Episcopal church was established on the east side at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Church Street (Photograph 18). The parcel was the site of the former Disbrow Tavern, a stop along the stagecoach route between New Haven and New York.³² Richard Henry Winslow, a prominent Westport resident, headed a committee to construct the new church. Designed by an architect by

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the name of LeMoulinear, the Gothic style building was based on churches Winslow had seen on his European travels.³³ Consecrated on June 30, 1863, the Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity was a center of worship for Episcopalians in the community.

The Saugatuck Methodist Church was constructed at the intersection of Main Street and Myrtle Avenue in 1851 to serve the expanding Methodist population in the center of town. Prior to the construction of the church, preaching was done in parishioners' homes. A Universalist Church was also established in a three-story building at 215 Main Street in 1835 (Photograph 19). While 215 Main Street is still extant, the Saugatuck Methodist Church no longer remains.

Growth of the Railroad and the Seeds of Suburbanization

The Civil War initiated a boom period in Westport. The established shipping, wool, and onion industries flourished during and immediately following the war. Other businesses also prospered, including James Smibert's Tannery, the Nash Mills, Kemper's Leather-Works, Lees Company (manufacturers of mattresses), Embalmers Supply Company, and the Wheeler Button Manufactory.³⁴ These businesses contributed to the shipping trade that operated out of Westport Center. When the onion crop failed due to the cutworm plague near the end of the century, area farmers raised turkeys; planted apples, pears and peaches; and grew vegetables, including potatoes, corn, rye and timothy.³⁵

The financial success of Westport was largely reflected in the ongoing development within its Center. Although the density and extent of development was similar on the two sides of the river at the time Westport was founded, by the end of the Civil War the east side had clearly emerged as the core of the Westport community. Early maps, including an 1867 map by F.W. Beers and an 1878 bird's-eye from O.H. Bailey and Company, show dense commercial development on the east side, especially along Main and State Streets. Larger scale buildings, some three and four stories, were concentrated at the intersection of the two thoroughfares. Moving north on Main Street, the buildings were smaller, while further east on State Street, the buildings were set within larger lots. Residential structures were generally clustered at the edge of the commercial core, along Myrtle Avenue, Church Lane, Elm Street, and the upper portion of Main Street.

The information on historic atlas maps attest to the diversity of commercial establishments within Westport Center at this time. According to the 1878 bird's-eye map, in the first block of State Street (Post Road East), businesses included a tailor, a watchmaker and jeweler, a meat market, a drug and bookstore, a shoe store, a dry goods store, a grocery store, a dentist, and the office of the Judge of Probate and Town Clerk. In addition, the Westport Hotel, a focal point in the community, was located on a prominent parcel at the corner of State and Main Streets (now the site of the Westport YMCA). Between State and Elm Streets on Main Street, the Bailey map

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indicates the presence of additional businesses, including a hardware store, two dry goods stores, two harness makers, a grocery store, two attorneys, a tailor, and the office of the local newspaper, the *Westporter*. A school, the River Side Institute for Ladies, was located on the upper portion of Main Street.³⁶

The commercial establishments in the Center both supported and were supported by a wave of immigrants that came to Westport in the second half of the 19th century. Many Irish toiled in the onion fields, while others worked in the factories or as house servants. In 1887, additional labor was required when construction began on double-tracking the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. This work was labor intensive and provided jobs for many new Italian immigrants. Westport scholar Anthony D'Amico wrote: "As the Italian community emerged, many became prosperous, establishing their own businesses. In 1903, for example, ads appeared frequently by fruit and vegetable merchants, grocers and boot and shoe craftsmen, with a few located on Main Street."³⁷

In the latter half of the 19th century, there was a marked shift in transportation in Westport, largely attributable to the railroad. As the railroad established a firm foundation in the New York to Hartford market, travel along the line increased.³⁸ A horse-drawn trolley car ran from the Westport Hotel in the center of town to bring passengers to the railroad station approximately a mile and a half away. With increased access provided by the railroad, Westport was beginning its transformation to both a suburban and resort community. The development within Westport Center during this time was both driven by and supportive of growth in the town at large.

New commercial and social buildings were erected within the Westport Center Historic District during the late 19th century. Notable among them was one which served both social and municipal needs. The Toquet Opera House, located at 66 Post Road East, was constructed as a concert hall in 1892. It functioned as a site for town assemblies and meetings between 1892 and 1908, when the Town Hall was constructed several doors down at 90 Post Road East.³⁹ An 1896 Sanborn map indicates that at that time the Toquet Opera House housed the Town Clerk's Office and a fancy goods store on the ground floor, and the concert hall on the second story. By 1910, the *Westport Herald* and a drugstore occupied the first floor of the building. In the first decades of the 20th century numerous other buildings would be constructed like the Toquet Opera House, with their versatile floorplans serving both the social and municipal needs of a growing community.

The late 19th century witnessed an expansion of residential building stock within the Westport Center Historic District, in particular along Imperial Avenue and Church Lane, driven in part by an increased demand for housing for merchants and professionals proximate to their businesses. The eight houses on Imperial Avenue dating from the late 19th century are notable for their

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stylistic cohesion, largely Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. The Alfred T. Goodsell House at 25 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 20) is a Queen Anne-style residence constructed in 1884 for a local music teacher. Richard D. Murphy occupied the house together with his wife Marie after the turn of the century according to a 1923 directory. Murphy was the owner of Rundle-Murphy Co. Inc., a downtown Westport hardware store.⁴⁰ The William Osborn House at 31 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 23) was constructed in 1892. Osborn was the proprietor of the Osborne-Sachs Grocery Store (the earlier Bradley Wheeler Grocery) at 46 Post Road East. A third property, the Sidney Watts House at 44 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 3), now the Westport Women's Club, was constructed in 1881. According to the 1880 Census, Watts was a dry goods grocer. By 1900, he's listed as a traveling salesman. He occupied the house through the 1920s.⁴¹

Westport Flourishes

As Westport moved from the 19th into the 20th century, vestiges of the small port town remained. The roads were rough and poorly maintained. Horses were a primary means of travel and there was a hitching post in front of each store. Merchants frequently lived in flats above their businesses, such as bakery owner Edward Lehn, who occupied one of six flats on Main Street near its intersection with the Post Road. Together with his wife, Caroline, he operated a bakery in the adjacent building. Recalling life at the turn of the century in Westport, a resident, Dorothy Warren, stated: "The stores remained open on Saturday evening for people to come in from farms to do their weekly shopping. After a week of work, it was also the night to relax at one of the saloons on Main Street, such as the one in the Westport Hotel, or Manners' Saloon which was farther up Main Street."⁴²

Despite Westport's small town roots, the community was on the verge of major change. This was due in part to booming industries, but also to changes in transportation. While the horse-drawn trolley line had effectively linked the center of town with the railroad station for over 15 years, in 1896 electric-powered trolley service arrived in Westport. There was an intercity trolley that ran along the Post Road, and a second local trolley line that ran from the train station to Hotel Square at the intersection of Main Street and Post Road East. The trolley allowed the citizens of Westport to travel from Westport Center to work in Norwalk, to school at the Staples High School, or to the beaches along the shoreline.⁴³ It also made shopping easier, as residents who lived outside of the Center didn't have to hook up their horse and buggy. By 1907, the trolley had become the primary means of local transportation for the residents of Westport.⁴⁴

In addition to trolley travel, the arrival of the automobile spurred growth and altered development patterns. Prior to the auto, people generally worked near where they lived, either in the city or the country. However, the automobile removed many geographic restrictions, providing people with new options and a sense of freedom.⁴⁵ Whereas train and trolley travel

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required operating on a schedule, an automobile allowed for flexibility and spontaneity, and although the horse and buggy provided some latitude in schedule, travel was severely limited in terms of distance and speed.

Changes in property uses within Westport Center at the turn of the century are indicative of a shift towards new modes of transportation, typical of regional and national trends. The automobile made its debut in Westport in 1899 when J. Nelson Bulkley purchased a Stanley Steamer, an early “self-propelled buggy.”⁴⁶ Others in town followed, and by 1908 41 automobiles were owned by Westport residents. With the arrival of the Model T, the flexibility afforded by the motor car was increasingly available to those residents with more moderate incomes, and by 1920 there were over 1,200 cars in the Town of Westport.⁴⁷ While in 1885 there were three harness shops in Westport Center according to Sanborn maps, by 1896 there was just one. Similarly, while a stable was still present on Church Street in 1910, it was no longer in use in 1923. In contrast, however, a garage was located nearby on Post Road East.

With new modes of transportation and abundant jobs in various industries, Westport’s population continued to increase, due in a large part to waves of immigration. To address the needs of the new arrivals, many of whom initially struggled economically, the Town of Westport purchased a poorhouse on Main Street.⁴⁸ In addition to immigrants, artists and writers continued to flock to the area, drawn by its rural character and small town feel.⁴⁹ Similarly, many New Yorkers were attracted to Westport by its rural character. These individuals commuted to work in New York or other cities in Connecticut, thus representing the town’s first true suburbanites. Writing in 1926, Edward Coley Birge stated that: “The compression in New York’s metropolitan area and the expansive medium of the automobile are including Westport in the dormitory and playground area of the Metropolis.”⁵⁰ The commercial and civic buildings within Westport Center at the time supported the needs of these new residents.

These demographic changes were manifest in the buildings constructed between the turn of the century and World War II in Westport Center. Of the 28 buildings identified on Main Street between Post Road East and Elm Street, 18 were constructed within this period, all of them commercial. Nineteenth-century Main Street was characterized by a series of individual buildings, many of them residential forms, lacking uniformity. In the first decades of the 20th century, Main Street’s building heights and plans became more uniform, and the building lines became consistent rather than having breaks in between structures. While a coal yard was present on the west side of Main Street through 1923, by 1931 commercial property had likely become too valuable for such uses and the coal yard had been redeveloped with a commercial block possessing a series of storefronts. By 1940, three filling stations were located just north of the commercial development near the intersection of Main and Elm Streets, a reflection of the proliferation of the automobile within Westport.

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Much of the residential construction in the Westport Center Historic District during this period consisted of infill development of single-family residences. Generally more modest than the houses constructed at the end of the nineteenth century, they were located on roadways surrounding the main commercial thoroughfares, namely Myrtle and Imperial Avenues and Belden Place. The majority of the properties were designed in the popular Colonial Revival style, although other styles were also employed, including Tudor Revival and Foursquare. Representative examples include the Dutch Colonial Clement E. Reynolds House at 17 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 57), and the Colonial Revival-style residence at 65 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 58). Both these properties appear to have been constructed for middle-class professionals. Sixty-five Myrtle Avenue was home to the Town Clerk, Edward Coley Birge, while 17 Imperial Avenue was constructed by statistician Clement E. Reynolds.

In addition to infill, in 1928 a small subdivision of five houses was constructed off of Myrtle Avenue on Violet Lane (Photograph 36).⁵¹ Alfred G. Violet, a Westport developer, purchased the property from the McNally family who owned the adjacent property at 40 Myrtle Avenue. Violet, who specialized in the construction of houses that looked historic, constructed the five structures on Violet Lane utilizing materials from a blacksmith shop and carriage shed originally located on the property, together with antique windows and doors that he salvaged from old homes. Violet held the houses through the Depression, ultimately selling them in 1936. Several of the properties were rented over the years to members of the arts community. Four of the five original homes, numbers 4, 6, 9 and 10, are still extant.

Several major institutional buildings were constructed in Westport Center during the first decades of the 20th century, a reflection of Westport's growth and evolution from a small port town to a suburban community. The most significant of these was Westport's first dedicated Town Hall (Photograph 39). Prior to 1908, Town Meetings had been held in two rented halls on the Post Road, the Betts Hall and then later Toquet Hall, however, after the turn of the century, Westport leaders became cognizant of the need to protect and store town records. A committee was established in 1908 which recommended the construction of a Town Hall on a prominent lot on the Post Road, just east of its intersection with Main Street; the structure was completed the following year.

A second major institution, the Westport Public Library, was established on the Post Road in the same year (Photograph 40). As early as 1886, a reading room was located on the second floor of the Hurlbutt Building on the Post Road adjacent to the bridge. The library received a charter from the state in 1893 and in the coming years raised money to construct a dedicated building. Local businessman, Morris K. Jesup, donated the land at the corner of the Post Road and Main Street, as well as \$5,000 for the construction. It opened to the public in 1908. William Burr, the

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president of the Board of Trustees, stated at the opening ceremony, that the library “comes from the grand spirit of our ancestors who believed in looking out for the generations to come after them.”⁵² The community had tremendous pride in their library; in 1917 the local newspaper described the library as one of the most beautiful in the country.

A third major institutional building, the Bedford Public School (Photograph 41), was constructed on Myrtle Avenue in 1917. While there were 853 students in the schools at the turn of the century, by 1912 the number had jumped 23 percent to 1,052. To meet the increasing need, the Town voted in 1917 to build a new school. Edward T. Bedford, an entrepreneur and president of the Corn Products Refining Company, made a substantial contribution to the funding of the construction, and thus the building was named in his honor.⁵³ Designed in the Neoclassical style, the school building was converted to the Town Hall in 1973, replacing the Old Town Hall on Post Road East.

In addition to institutional buildings, new commercial structures were also built during this period. One of the most significant was the Westport Bank and Trust Building, this erected at the corner of Church Lane and the Post Road in 1923-1924 (Photograph 42). This Colonial Revival-style building formed the core of the downtown business district at the time.

Across the street, another important community-centered building was constructed during the same period. In 1919, Edward T. Bedford bought the Westport Hotel and announced his intention to construct a building for the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) in its place (Photograph 43). Throughout its long history, the Tudor-style building has served as a focal point within the community, housing numerous community organizations including the Women’s Town Improvement Association (now the Westport Women’s Club), the Red Cross, and the Art Association, in addition to the YMCA.⁵⁴ A fire station was constructed adjacent to the YMCA Building c. 1925.

Westport in the Modern Era

As Westport moved into the 1950s, it still had the feeling of a small town despite its full-time population of 11,667. A resident observed that: “Local business owners were very much connected to the town. You drove to Main Street, which then had plenty of parallel parking spaces. You went into the local A&P, for example, and got everything off the shelf and then went to the cash register and storeowner called you by your first name.”⁵⁵ Westport Center was the locus of the community. The town, however, was on the verge of a fundamental change, the seeds of which had been planted in the early 20th century.

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Due largely to the automobile, Westport began to experience explosive suburban growth in the post-war period. Between 1948 and 1960, the population of the town as a whole increased by nearly 50 percent, from 11,300 to 20,995.⁵⁶ Commuters flocked to Westport, attracted by the artistic community, the small-town charm of Westport Center's shops and restaurants, and the informal and private lifestyle. As a result, new businesses emerged in Westport Center in the late 1940s and early 1950s, including Oscar's Deli, Max's Art Supplies, and Swezey Jewelers.⁵⁷

The majority of the buildings within the Westport Center Historic District dating from the period between World War II and the early 1960s are located along Main Street, thus reflecting the developmental pressures the Center felt at the time. Constructed between 1948 and 1960, they are simple one- and two-story commercial infill buildings. Representative examples are 87, 91 and 97 Main Street (Photograph 59). There are also c. 1950 Colonial Revival style residences, including one at 15 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 45). A particular building of note is 136 Main Street (Photograph 52). It was constructed c. 1960 by Babert V. Brooks, a real estate developer and the founder of the Westport News. The structure is an example of a small suburban shopping center, one of two within Westport Center.

As the 1950s drew to a close, the community began to struggle to balance economic development and a desire to maintain Westport's long-standing village character. This struggle persists today, however, thus far local residents have successfully managed to balance commercial growth within Westport Center with their appreciation for the town's historic resources.

Area of Significance: Criterion C Architecture

Westport Center is architecturally significant as a small but vibrant center of commercial and social activity, a characteristic form typical across New England during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The district includes a notable collection of architecturally diverse, yet simultaneously cohesive, commercial, residential, municipal/institutional, religious, and community structures dating from 1780 through 1960. Buildings within the district include representative examples of forms spanning the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, including the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Stick, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Foursquare, Tudor Revival, Art Deco and Modern styles. While maintaining integrity, contributing buildings convey the evolving character of the district, in particular the growing commercial pressures exemplified by the conversion of buildings from residential, municipal, and community uses to retail, office, or mixed-use spaces.

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The earliest existing development within the Westport Center Historic District is represented by an assemblage of Federal-style residential structures. They are primarily clustered along the upper portion of Main Street, Avery Place, Myrtle Avenue, and Church Lane, all historically residential portions of the district. The most elaborate, and a representative example of high-style Federal design, is the Samuel Avery House, at 12 Avery Place, constructed in 1823 (Photograph 7). Key decorative details of the building include slender Ionic fluted columns, a paneled frieze, a wide entablature, a denticulated cornice; and narrow tracery sidelights on a small entry porch. Another important Federal-style property within the district is the John Sherwood Mansion on Church Lane, constructed in 1808 (Photograph 8).⁵⁸ With its two façade entries, it is an atypical example of a Federal-style double house. The M. Horelick House, constructed c. 1835 and located at 115 Main Street, is a more modest Federal form (Photograph 6). With its storefront addition dating to 1929, the property is one of many examples in which historically residential properties within the district were adapted for commercial or mixed-use during the first half of the twentieth century.

The period between 1835 and 1880 in Westport Center was characterized by an increase in the construction of commercial properties, many displaying Italianate forms. Sixty-two Main Street, an Italianate style commercial building constructed c. 1855, exemplifies this trend (Photograph 11). Characteristic Italianate details include a front-gable roof with a wide rake and cornice across the façade, and a pair of round-arched windows with wide trim flanked by scroll brackets located in the gable end. A second Italianate-style commercial property from the period is the Belden Block, located at 27 Main Street (Photograph 10). Constructed in 1875, the three-story Italianate-style building has a characteristically flat roof and denticulated cornice supported by brackets.

More than a half dozen residential properties also remain from the mid-19th century, displaying a range of Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Italianate and vernacular forms. The Powers House at 42 Myrtle Avenue was constructed in 1877 in the Gothic Revival style (Photograph 17). Characteristic features include a side-gable roof broken by a lower front gable; a full-length porch with a bracketed cornice and scrolled brackets flanking each of the posts; and two bay windows capped by flat roofs supported by brackets. The Coley-Bradley-Wheeler House at 25 Avery Place was originally constructed in 1795 in the Federal style, but was renovated in the highly detailed, and then fashionable, Italianate style c. 1860. Key design details include a low-pitch hipped roof with a wide overhang; a square cupola with intricate scroll-sawn finials; a wide roofline entablature pierced by pairs of bulls-eye windows; and a large bay window. The Gothic Revival-style Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity was also constructed during this period (Photograph 18). Modeled upon European ecclesiastical structures, the church has a front-gable roof, a four-story stone steeple, and granite buttresses.

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Later in the 19th century, the Queen Anne style became a dominant residential form in Westport Center, with a collection of distinctive Queen Anne-style houses located along Imperial Avenue. These residences were constructed in the last two decades of the 19th century. Twenty-five (Photograph 20), 27 (Photograph 21), 29 (Photograph 22), and 31 (Photograph 23) Imperial Avenue display characteristic Queen Anne attributes including hipped roofs with deep overhangs, wrap-around porches, scroll-sawn brackets, scalloped shingles, and bay windows. The largest and most elaborate Queen Anne-style property within the district is the Jesup/Godillot House at 60 Jesup Road (Photograph 27). Constructed in 1804, the house was substantially remodeled in the Queen Anne style in 1882. Characteristic features include a hipped roof with cross gables and several gable, hipped, and shed-roof dormers; scroll-sawn vergeboard with decorative truss and brackets; a wide cornice braced by scroll brackets; and decorative scalloped shingles in the dormers and gables.

After the turn-of-the-century, the preferred residential style in Westport Center shifted to the Colonial Revival, with representative examples including the Emily McLaury House at 99 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 33) and the Christ and Holy Trinity Church Rectory at 55 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 34). Both properties exhibit side-gable roofs and shed dormers. Fifty-five Myrtle Avenue also displays a tracery fanlight and round-arch bracketed door hood, while the Emily McLaury House has a pedimented entry supported by a pair of slender columns.

A series of important civic and community buildings were constructed in Westport Center after the turn of the century in a wide range of architectural styles. One notable building is the Old Town Hall constructed in the heart of the district at 90 Post Road East (Photograph 39). Dating to 1909, the Old Town Hall is a late example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It is constructed of local cobblestone with ashlar brownstone accents, including a watertable, quoins, and sills. The façade is distinguished by a projecting entrance pavilion with a gabled parapet, while the roof is sheathed in polychromatic slate and has a pronounced overhang and exposed rafter tails. Across from the Old Town Hall, and sited on a prominent parcel at the intersection of Post Road East and Main Street (59 Post Road East), the Tudor Revival-style YMCA building is one of the most notable and well-preserved buildings within the district (Photograph 43). Irregular in plan, the building has five tall decorative chimneys, a half-timbered second story, bands of leaded casement windows, and intricately carved vergeboards, characteristic features of the Tudor Revival style. Just one block to the west, the Morris Jesup Memorial Library, another important municipal building, was constructed in 1908 in the Neoclassical style (Photograph 40). The building is red brick with limestone accents. Key design features include two-story Ionic columns on the façade (south elevation); a beltcourse between the first and second stories; a heavy entablature and denticulated cornice; a pedimented entry; and splayed lintels over the windows.

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In the years between 1930 and 1960, with the community's population increasing, commercial, municipal and residential development continued on available parcels within Westport Center. One stylistically notable building from the period is the U.S. Post Office building at 154 Post Road East (Photograph 51). The sole example of the Art Deco style within the district, the restrained design is distinguished by streamlined fluted pilasters and a transom covered by a geometrically detailed metal grate. Another building from this period, the Brooks Building at 136 Main Street (Photograph 52), is important as one of two examples of small shopping centers built within the district in response to auto-centric consumer preferences. Constructed c. 1960 in the Colonial Revival style, the two-story building has red brick walls with intermittent Flemish bond courses, a simple cornice, and a flat roof edged by a brick parapet with concrete coping. The first floor supports retail space, while offices are located above. Five storefronts span the first-floor façade, each with at least one plate glass window divided by wood panels and pilasters. In contrast, the buildings at 161 and 165 Main Street are representative examples of commercial infill structures from the period (Photograph 49). Dating from the mid-century, these commercial vernacular buildings have flat roofs and parapets. In addition to new commercial construction, buildings designed for residential purposes were transformed into commercial properties through the addition of storefronts, as is evidenced by 115 Main Street (Photograph 6).

Residential buildings from the mid-century are largely modest Colonial Revival-style structures, such as the Ernest Beck House at 15 Imperial Avenue (Photograph 45). The Beck House is characterized by a front-facing gable roof with ridgeline chimney; clapboard siding with flat corner boards; and a slightly projecting second story supported by brackets. Another example of a Colonial Revival-style residence from the mid-century is 87 Myrtle Avenue, with its side gabled roof, broad shed dormer, and entry flanked by fluted pilasters and capped by a pediment (Photograph 46).

¹ Edward Coley Birge, *Westport, Connecticut, The Making of a Yankee Township* (New York: The Writers Publishing Company, 1926): 56.

² D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of Fairfield County* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1881): 818.

³ Wood Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence* (Westport, CT: Westport Historical Society, 2000): 66.

⁴ Birge, *Westport, Connecticut, The Making of a Yankee Township*, 9.

⁵ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 74.

⁶ Joanna Foster, *Book III: Stories From Westport's Past* (Westport, CT: Joanna Foster, 1988): 1; Mrs. William Gray Staples, *Scrapbook, Westport, Connecticut, 1899-1909*: 72.

⁷ Hurd, *History of Fairfield County*, 818.

⁸ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 68.

⁹ Foster, *Book III: Stories From Westport's Past*, 15.

¹⁰ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 75.

¹¹ Birge, *Westport, Connecticut, The Making of a Yankee Township*, 47.

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- ¹² Joanna Foster, *Stories From Westport's Past* (Westport, CT: Joanna Foster, 1985):6; note that the warehouse and store buildings are no longer extant.
- ¹³ Foster, *Stories From Westport's Past*, 6.
- ¹⁴ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 131.
- ¹⁵ Virginia H. Adams, Jenny Fields Scofield, Quinn R. Stewart, and Blake McDonald, *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*, 2012.
- ¹⁶ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ¹⁷ This building is located on the 185 Main Street parcel.
- ¹⁸ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ¹⁹ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 88.
- ²⁰ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 95.
- ²¹ Birge, *Westport, Connecticut, The Making of a Yankee Township*, 86.
- ²² Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 94-95.
- ²³ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 94.
- ²⁴ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 95.
- ²⁵ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 94.
- ²⁶ Foster, *Stories From Westport's Past*, 1, 9.
- ²⁷ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 104.
- ²⁸ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 105.
- ²⁹ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ³⁰ Both 7 and 17 Main Street are now known as 7 Main Street.
- ³¹ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ³² Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 99.
- ³³ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 100.
- ³⁴ Hurd, *History of Fairfield County*, 827; Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 124.
- ³⁵ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 121.
- ³⁶ The school is visible on the 1878 Bird's Eye by Bailey.
- ³⁷ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 138-139.
- ³⁸ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 133.
- ³⁹ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 115.
- ⁴⁰ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ⁴¹ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ⁴² Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 151, 153.
- ⁴³ Foster, *Book III: Stories From Westport's Past*, 15.
- ⁴⁴ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 159.
- ⁴⁵ Josh Brancheau, Abi Wharton, and Firuz Kamalov, *History of the Automobile and Impact on Society*.
- ⁴⁶ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 159.
- ⁴⁷ Joanna Foster, *More Stories From Westport's Past* (Westport, CT: Joanna Foster, 1986):7; Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 174-175.
- ⁴⁸ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 153.
- ⁴⁹ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 185.
- ⁵⁰ Birge, *Westport, Connecticut, The Making of a Yankee Township*, 88.
- ⁵¹ Four of the five houses on Violet Lane, numbers 4, 6, 9 and 10, comprise a local historic district.
- ⁵² Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 157.
- ⁵³ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 156.
- ⁵⁴ Adams et al., *Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory and Planning Recommendations*.
- ⁵⁵ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 234.
- ⁵⁶ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 261.
- ⁵⁷ Klein, *Westport Connecticut, The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, 253.
- ⁵⁸ Although the building is on the 101 Post Road East parcel, it fronts on Church Lane.

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County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Westport Public Library; Westport Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 68.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41°8'43.22" N | Longitude: 73°21'31.77" W |
| 2. Latitude: 41°8'40.50" N | Longitude: 73°21'29.66" W |
| 3. Latitude: 41°8'34.74" N | Longitude: 73°21'24.27" W |
| 4. Latitude: 41°8'29.75" N | Longitude: 73°21'28.14 W |

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- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Latitude: 41°8'22.00" N | Longitude: 73°21'25.62 W |
| 6. Latitude: 41°8'16.43" N | Longitude: 73°21'27.28 W |
| 7. Latitude: 41°8'15.84" N | Longitude: 73°21'32.21 W |
| 8. Latitude: 41°8'21.08" N | Longitude: 73°21'37.63 W |
| 9. Latitude: 41°8'26.91" N | Longitude: 73°21'44.21 W |
| 10. Latitude: 41°8'38.00" N | Longitude: 73°21'44.82 W |
| 11. Latitude: 41°8'42.68" N | Longitude: 73°21'46.16 W |
| 12. Latitude: 41°8'45.38" N | Longitude: 73°21'41.88 W |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Westport Center Historic District lies on the east side of the Saugatuck River within the coastal Town of Westport in southwestern Connecticut. The district is bounded to the north, northeast, and south by residential neighborhoods, to the west by the river, and to the east by a corridor of commercial properties that are more suburban in character than those found in central downtown. The district's western boundary encompasses all of the resources along Main Street between Myrtle Avenue and King's Highway North, as well as those on Belden Place between Main Street and the river, and those lining Post Road East from Main Street west to the river. The boundary then turns east, with the southern terminus including all of the historic resources

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on Jesup Road between Post Road East and Imperial Avenue, with the exception of the non-historic library and performing arts pavilion at 20 Jesup Road. The final boundary, that to the east, is comprised of all of the resources on Myrtle Avenue between Main Street and Post Road East, all of those on Violet Lane, and those lining Imperial Avenue between its intersection with Post Road East and 44 Imperial Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary lines of the district were selected to distinguish the community's civic and commercial core, including supporting residential properties, from those neighborhoods that are more solidly residential in character to the north of King's Highway, to the northeast along Evergreen Avenue, and to the south of Westport Center on Imperial Avenue, as well as from the more suburban commercial development that exists east of Imperial Avenue on Post Road East. Along the district's western edge, the Saugatuck River forms a natural boundary. Although both sides of the river housed wharfs, commercial properties and residences in the early 19th century, development on the west bank of the river south of Post Road West had a more industrial character through the 19th and early 20th centuries, with several large-scale industrial uses immediately south of the Post Road Bridge. While several properties within this area fall within the period of significance for the Westport Center Historic District, the blocks as a whole are not intact and the properties have undergone extensive changes. Several properties on and north of Post Road West are included within the National Hall Historic District. On the northern edge of the district, north of King's Highway and Myrtle Avenue, the neighborhood becomes more solidly residential. Similarly, on the eastern boundary, east of Myrtle Avenue, the neighborhood becomes solidly residential, while east of Imperial and Myrtle Avenues on Post Road East, commercial development has a more suburban character. The southern boundary is defined by the southern edge of a collection of turn-of-the-century Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style residences, many of which housed local merchants. The recently constructed library complex and performing arts center were drawn out of the district because they are outside the period of significance and at the periphery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stephanie Dyer-Carroll
organization: Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
street & number: 416 Asylum Street
city or town: Hartford_ state: CT_ zip code: 06103
e-mail: sdyer-carroll@fhiplan.com
telephone: 860.256.4922
date: December 15, 2014

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Westport Center Historic District

City or Vicinity: Westport

County: Fairfield

State: CT

Photographer: Stephanie Dyer-Carroll

Date Photographed: July 8, 2014 and November 30, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Viewpoints are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

1 of 59.

Looking north on Main Street with elevations (left to right) of 7, 21, 27 and 35 Main Street in the foreground

Camera facing north

2 of 59.

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Looking east on Post Road East with (right to left) 40, 46 and 66 Post Road East in the foreground

Camera facing southeast

3 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of 44 Imperial Avenue

Camera facing west

4 of 59.

183 Main Street (on 185 Main Street parcel), façade (east elevation)

Camera facing southwest

5 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of Levi Downes House/Store at 142 Main Street

Camera facing east

6 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) and south elevation of the M. Horelick House at 115 Main Street

Camera facing northwest

7 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) and west elevation of Captain Samuel Avery House at 12 Avery Place

Camera facing southwest

8 of 59.

Façade (northwest elevation) and northeast elevation of John Sherwood Mansion at 101 Post Road East (26 Church Lane)

9 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of Jesse Scribner House at 40 Myrtle Avenue

Camera facing east

10 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of Belden Block at 27 Main Street

Camera facing west

11 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 62 Main Street

Camera facing northeast

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12 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 66 Main Street
Camera facing northeast

13 of 59.

Façade (northwest elevation) and northeast elevation of S. Morehouse/F. Kemper House at 36 Church Lane
Camera facing south

14 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and east elevation of Farman Patchin House at 190 Main Street
Camera facing northwest

15 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and west elevation of Coley-Bradley-Wheeler House at 25 Avery Place
Camera facing northeast

16 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of 139 Main Street
Camera facing west

17 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of the Powers House at 42 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing east

18 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and east elevation of Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity at 75 Church Lane
Camera facing northwest

19 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) and south elevation of 215 Main Street
Camera facing northwest

20 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) and north elevation of the Alfred T. Goodsell House at 25 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing east

21 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 27 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing east

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22 of 59.

South elevation of 29 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing northeast

23 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) and north elevation of William Osborn House at 31 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing southeast

24 of 59.

Façade (southeast elevation) of Kemper-Gunn House (formerly at 35 Church Lane, now on 35 Elm Street parcel)
Camera facing northwest

25 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) and west elevation of 60 Church Lane
Camera facing south

26 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of 66 Church Lane
Camera facing south

27 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) and east elevation of the Jesup/Godillot House at 60 Jesup Road
Camera facing southwest

28 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) of the Godillot Servants' Quarters at 65 Jesup Road
Camera facing north

29 of 59.

South and east elevations of the Godillot Carriage House at 61 Jesup Road
Camera facing northwest

30 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 58 Main Street
Camera facing northeast

31 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of 21 Main Street
Camera looking northwest

32 of 59.

Façades (west elevations) of 68 (right) and 72 (left) Main Street
Camera facing northeast

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33 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) and east elevation of the Emily McLaury House at 99 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing west

34 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of Christ and Holy Trinity Rectory at 55 Myrtle Avenue (on 75
Church Lane parcel)
Camera facing west

35 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 5 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing east

36 of 59.

Looking right to left, façade (northwest elevation) of 4 Violet Lane, façade (northwest
elevation) and southwest elevation of 6 Violet Lane, and façade (southwest elevation) of 10
Violet Lane
Camera facing northeast

37 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of 118 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing northeast

38 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) and south elevation of 59 Myrtle Avenue (on 75 Church Lane parcel)
Camera facing west

39 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of Old Westport Town Hall at 90 Post Road East
Camera facing south

40 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and east elevation of Morris Jesup Memorial Library at 19 Post Road
East
Camera facing northwest

41 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) and north elevation of Bedford Public School Building (Westport
Town Hall) at 110 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing southeast

42 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and west elevation of the Westport Bank & Trust Company Building
at 87 Post Road East
Camera facing north

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43 of 59.

Façade (south elevation) and west elevation of the Westport YMCA at 59 Post Road East
Camera facing northeast

44 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of Fine Arts Theater at 76 Post Road East
Camera facing south

45 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) and north elevation of Ernest A. Beck House at 15 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing southeast

46 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of 87 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing south

47 of 59.

East elevation of St. John House at 78 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing northeast

48 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of Connecticut National Bank – Bridgeport at 126 Post Road East
Camera facing south

49 of 59.

Facades (east elevations) of 161 and 165 Main Street
Camera facing west

50 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) and south elevation of Westport Police Station at 50 Jesup Road (on
20 Jesup Road parcel)
Camera facing south

51 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of U.S. Post Office Building at 154 Post Road East
Camera facing south

52 of 59.

Façade (west elevation) of the Brooks Building at 136 Main Street
Camera facing east

53 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of 35 Main Street, representative non-contributing building
Camera facing west

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54 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of 2 Post Road East, representative non-contributing building
Camera facing south

55 of 59.

Façade (east elevation) of 17 Main Street
Camera facing west

56 of 59.

Façade (north elevation) of Osborne-Sachs Grocery Store at 46 Post Road East
Camera facing south

57 of 59.

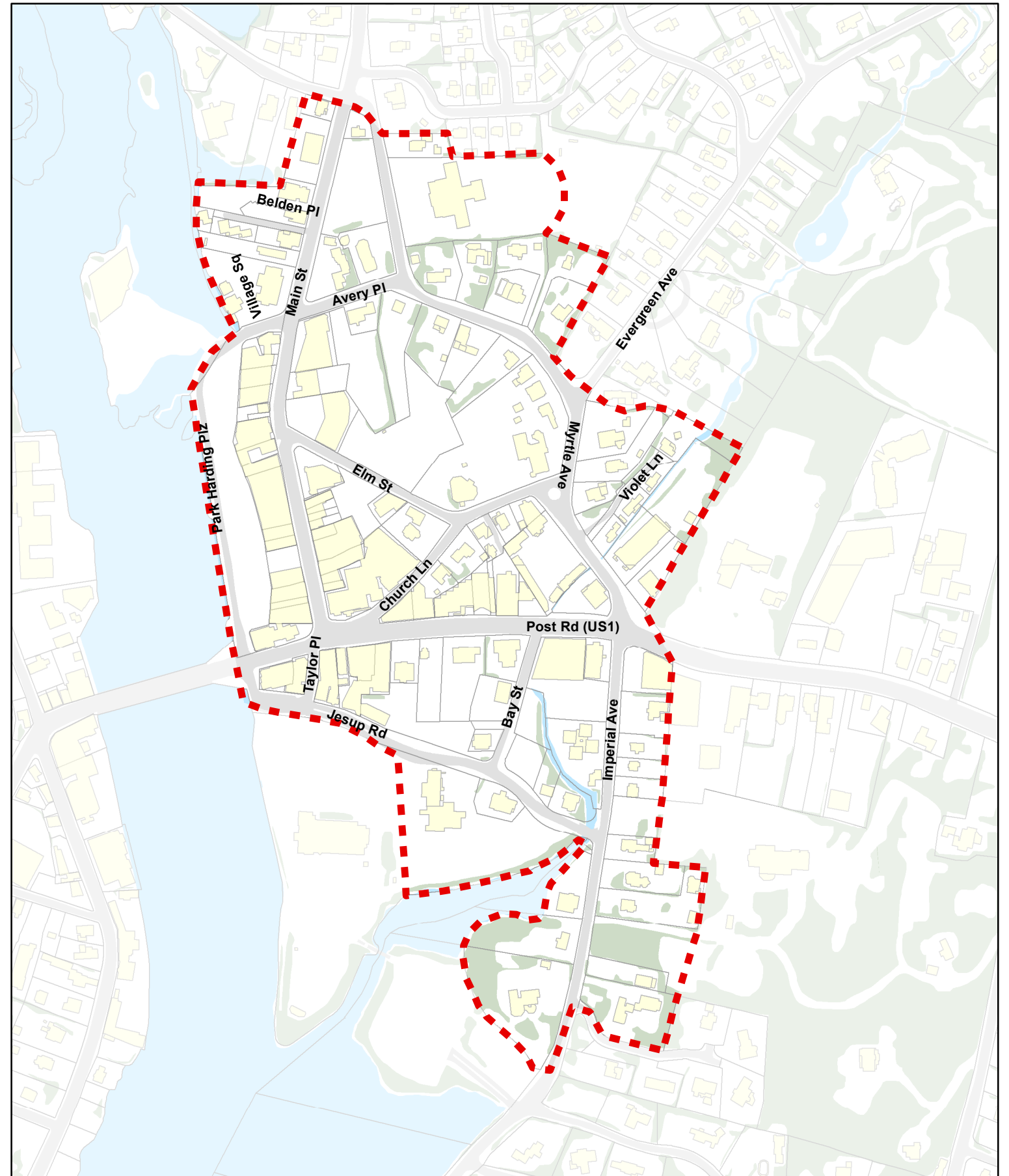
Photograph 55: Façade (west elevation) of Clement E. Reynolds House at 17 Imperial Avenue
Camera facing east

58 of 59.

Façade (northeast elevation) of 65 Myrtle Avenue
Camera facing southwest

59 of 59.

Facades (east elevations) of (left to right) 69, 87 and 91 Main Street
Camera facing northwest



**Westport Center
Historic District**

**Overview Map
Figure 1**



Westport Center Historic District Boundary






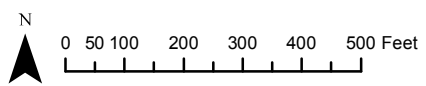
0 50 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

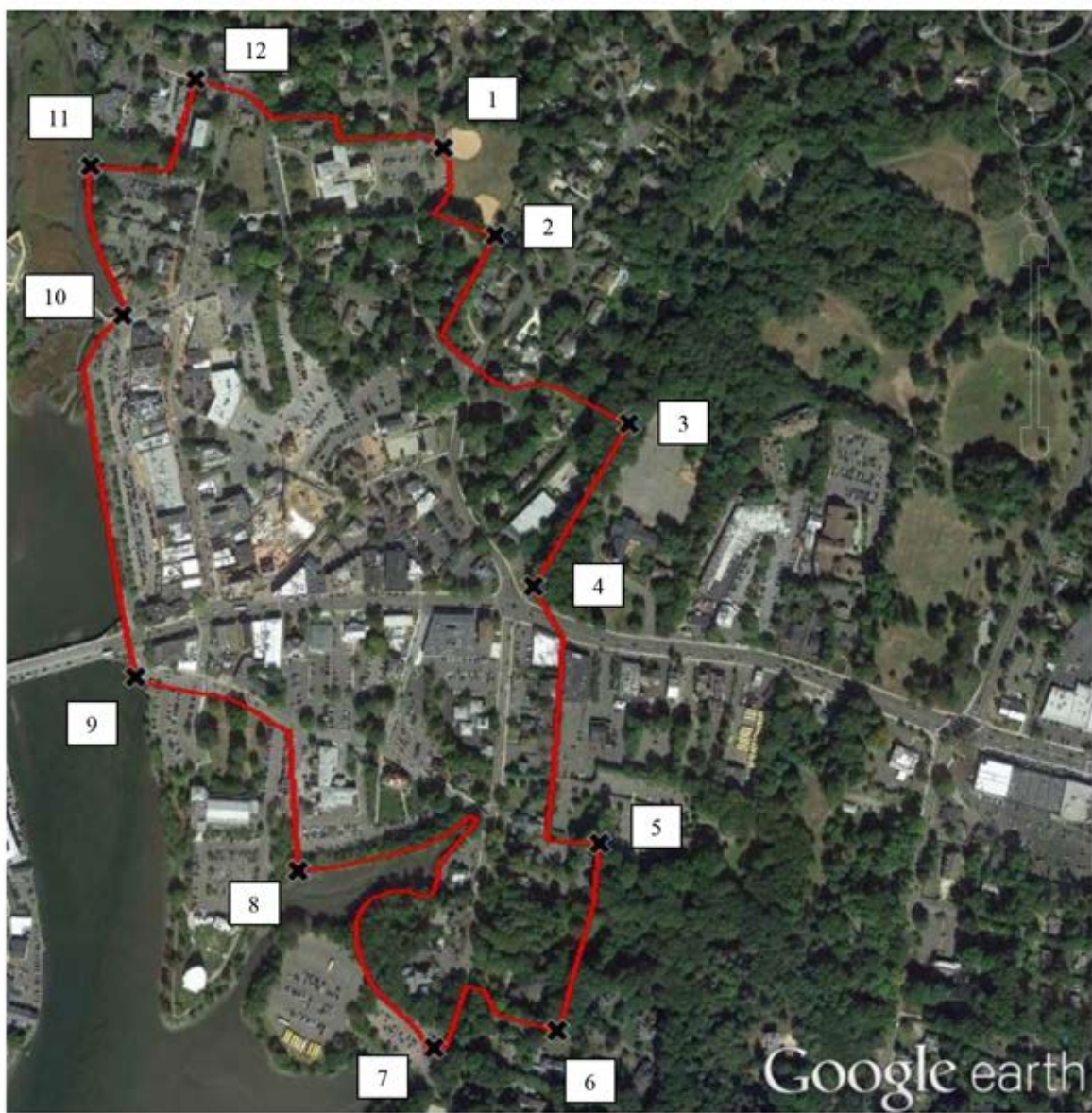




**Westport Center
Historic District**
Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources
Figure 2

 Westport Center Historic District Boundary
 Contributing Resource
 Non-Contributing Resource





Westport Center Historic District

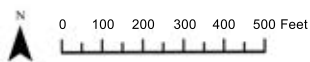
Latitude and Longitude
Coordinates

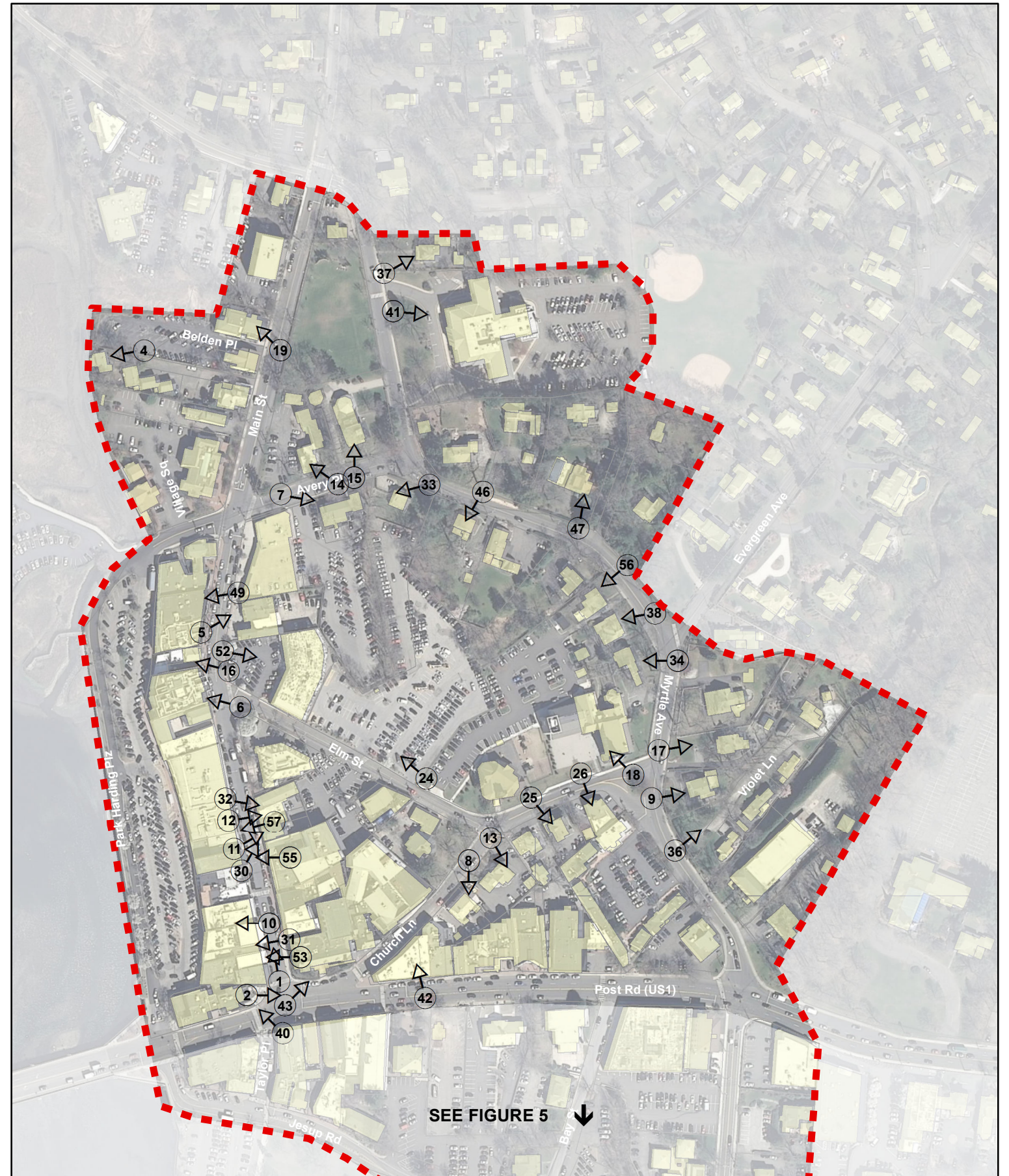
Figure 3

Legend

— Westport Center
Historic District Boundary

X Point of Coordinate





SEE FIGURE 5 ↓

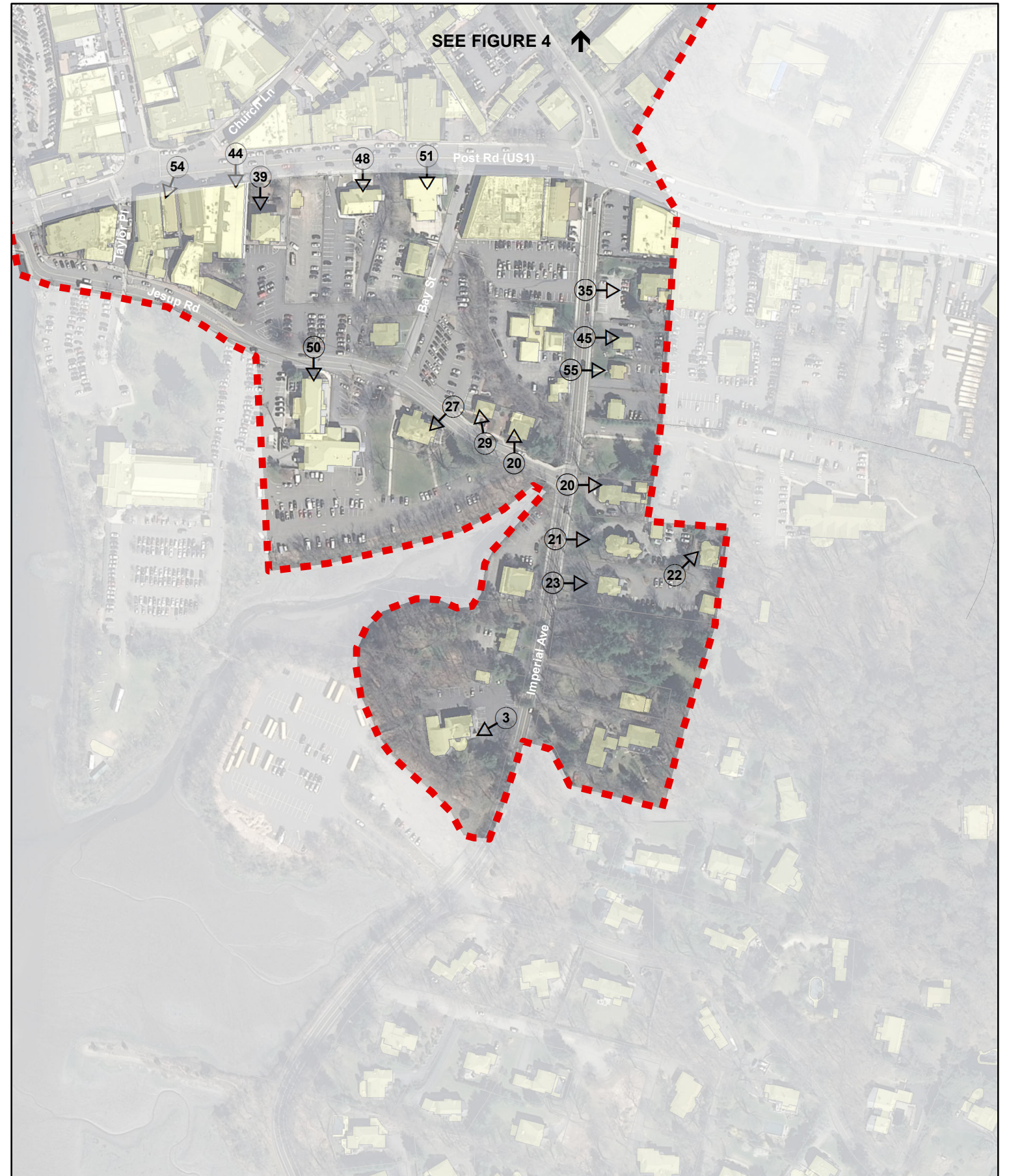
**Westport Center
Historic District**
**Photo Viewpoints
Figure 4**

- Westport Center Historic District Boundary
- Viewpoint Location

N

0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet





SEE FIGURE 4 ↑

**Westport Center
Historic District**
Photo Viewpoints
Figure 5



Westport Center Historic District Boundary



Viewpoint Location



0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet

