

# HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY FOR THE TOWN OF OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT



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The research team has endeavored to generate an updated narrative history document and individual property forms that are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. This does not, however, preclude the value or need for additional data or corrections. Anyone with further information, including historic photos, corrections, or associated material related to any one of the subject properties, is encouraged to contact the town offices at 53 Lyme Street, (860) 434-1605.

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

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\*Map showing location of surveyed area follows page 1, but a larger more complete map showing all surveyed parcels was included as part of this report.

## I. Introduction

In the May of 2018, the Town of Old Lyme received a grant from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office for the preparation of an update to the existing Historic Resources Inventory completed in 1980. The original survey included properties found in the existing Old Lyme Historic District and included minimal information regarding architectural style or history. This survey will include the creation of approximately 200 new forms for properties located within a one-mile buffer north and south of Interstate 95. In some cases, the survey area was extended slightly beyond the buffer to capture contiguous or nearby properties. This report contains the results of the study, prepared between September 2018 and January 2019. The expectation was that this survey would enrich the town's historical record and supplement the body of information previously compiled by the original survey completed for Lyme Street and the accompanying Local and National Register nominations. The original survey focused on the Lyme Street corridor and neglected to provide a thorough history of the town. Given the vast number of historic buildings found in Old Lyme, this project struggled to winnow the number of significant houses down to just 200 and it is recommended that additional surveys continue to document some of the town's lesser known resources.

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

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

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



Figure 1. Map of Old Lyme and location of resources included in the inventory.

## **II. Methodology**

### **The Survey**

This survey of historic and architectural resources in the Town of Old Lyme, Connecticut was conducted by Stacey Vairo and Lucas Karmazinas in partnership with Heritage Consultants, LLC, based in Newington, Connecticut. The principal architectural historians for the project were Vairo of Woodbury, Connecticut and Karmazinas of Hartford, Connecticut. Fieldwork, photo documentation, research, and writing were carried out between October 2018 and November 2018. Copies of the final report and survey forms are deposited at the Old Lyme Historical Society, Old Lyme Library, and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, 450 Columbus Boulevard (Suite 5), Hartford, Connecticut, 06103. Copies of the report and survey forms will also be deposited at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, and the Special Collections Department of the Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Most of the information needed to complete this Historic Resource Inventory was gathered through a “windshield” survey. This involved documenting each historic resource from the exterior and supplementing it with other public data, such as town tax assessor’s records. Additional information was gathered from the files and maps located in the Genealogy and History Room of the Phoebe Noyes Memorial Library and the Old Lyme Historical Society as well as from census records and historic directories. Neither the form, nor the survey in general, dictates what homeowners can do with their property nor does the included information violate the privacy of those whose property is included. For those homeowners who might be concerned about the implications of the survey, a review of the Historic Resource Inventory form demonstrates the public nature of the information included. Data collected includes: verification of street number and name; use; accessibility (public vs. private); style of construction; approximate date of construction (to be compared with assessor’s information); construction materials and details; condition of the resource; character of the surrounding environment; description of the resource; and exterior photographs.

### **The Surveyed Properties**

This survey focused on an area of town roughly defined by a one-mile swath reaching north and south of the Interstate 95 corridor. The resources are geographically spread throughout this area and extend slightly outside of this boundary in some cases to capture significant buildings. Given the incredibly high number of resources that qualify for inclusion, the surveyed properties were chosen based on architectural style and to some extent their level of integrity. The best representations of the most commonly found architectural styles were included, while lesser examples, or those with significant alterations, such as complete and recent remodels of the exterior, were excluded. Resources with more minor cosmetic changes, such as replacement siding and windows were retained as examples in most cases since the original form and shape of the buildings remained intact. It is anticipated that subsequent surveys will need to be undertaken in the future to capture remaining structures throughout town that still merit recognition but were not able to be included in this survey.

The Old Lyme Historic Resources Inventory survey area is a collection of extant period architecture set in a semi-rural environment. The identified resources illustrate the width and breadth of Old Lyme’s developmental history, beginning with the construction of Colonial and Georgian dwellings, New England Farmhouses and Cape Cod-style cottages built by prosperous sea captains during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The town transitioned into a self-sufficient agricultural center based largely around small mills and farms dotting the landscape during the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Federal and Greek Revival styles came into favor. The arrival of the rail line during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brought improved communications and transportation of goods and passengers resulting in seasonal developments along the shoreline and Rogers Lake. As roads improved and automobiles began to replace public transportation, Old Lyme became more suburban but early planning of a commercial district along Halls Avenue ensured that Lyme Street remained fundamentally intact. The Colonial

Revival style flourished during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century along with some Tudor and Craftsman Revival examples. These building styles evoked the character of the many surrounding historic properties, while also allowing for the introduction of modern conveniences. The resources chosen for this survey include an array of examples directly reflecting these developmental patterns and they illustrate the wide variety of architectural styles applied to residential architecture. It should be noted that the majority of the town's institutional, administrative and commercial structures have been recorded as part of the first survey completed in 1980 and subsequently as part of the National Register and Local Historic districts.

## Criteria for Selection

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

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

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

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

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

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



Historic Resource Inventories are often prepared by focusing on the oldest resources in a survey area. These are evaluated relative to the period in which they originated and are unified within the requisite overview study according to the chronology of the area's development. In this survey an effort was made to capture resources nearest to the major transportation corridors, since they have been most threatened by recent development proposals. The resources are therefore contained mainly within a one-mile wide buffer located north and south of Interstate 95. Given the large number of properties found in this area the period of study was ended at 1920 in order to capture the oldest properties in this defined area. A small number of exceptional or potentially threatened resources were included that fell outside of these parameters, but this was limited to less than five resources. There was a great deal of early development along the early established roadways and waterways in Old Lyme due to a bustling maritime trade. There was little industry to sustain development throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and Old Lyme reverted to a quiet seaside farming community. The development of the Art Colony and summer colonies along the shoreline around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century changed the character and population density of the town (particularly during the summer months). Approximately 200 new resources were selected for this study, these ranging in the period, style, and method of their construction. Although some possess alterations, most notably additions to the original block of the house, all retain the majority of their historic character, features, and form. Those that lost all significance due to extensive changes were removed from the survey list.

### **III. The Historic Resource Inventory Form**

A Historic Resource Inventory form was prepared for each historic resource surveyed. These were completed following a standard electronic document (.pdf format) created by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, the state agency responsible for historic preservation. Each form is divided into three main sections. These provide background, architectural, and historical information on the resource, and include; their street number and name, owner(s), type of use, style of construction, approximate date of construction, construction materials and details, physical condition of the resource, character of the surrounding environment, description of the resource, architect/builder (if known), exterior photographs, and historical narrative. A continuation sheet containing the bulk of the narrative text for each property and a photograph was also drafted in Word (.doc) format so that it can be easily updated by the Town as needed. These Word documents have also been converted to .pdf docs for easy uploading on a web site or transfer to building owners if requested.

Much of the information in this inventory was gathered from town Assessor's records between September 2018 and December 2018. Architectural descriptions were drafted from exterior photographs taken during this same period and the historical narratives were based on archival research. The majority of the fields on the Historic Resource Inventory form should be self-explanatory, however the following is an elucidation of several of the more nebulous categories.

#### **Historic Name**

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

#### *A Note on Exterior Visibility*

In some cases, landscaping and fencing are used to screen homes from the street. In other cases, such as along Neck Road, homes are sited to face waterways instead of streets. In such cases where photographs were not possible a letter was sent to requesting permission to photograph the house from the driveway. When permission

was not granted, a combination of Bing, Google Maps and Old Lyme Town Assessor images were used to create the description.

## Interior Accessibility

This was a survey of exterior features and all of the resources studied were private buildings. As such, access to the interior of these structures was not requested of the owners, nor was it necessary. In some instances, owners reached out to the consultant team to offer a tour of a building's interior or provided interior photographs of significant architectural features. Those cases are included in this study but are not the norm.

## Style

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

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

*Georgian (1700-1800)* - Georgian architecture originated in England under the influence of architects Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones. It is defined by its symmetrical composition of openings and formal use of classical details. In America, the style represented an adherence to English building traditions which expressing a modernity associated with colonial growth and prosperity. Georgian houses are typically five bays wide with a side-gabled roof and symmetrical arrangement of windows placed around a central door. The door is commonly embellished with a pedimented or crowned surround with flanking pilasters. Windows are typically multi-paned and sliding sash. Variations on the style feature hipped roofs.

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

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

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

*Gothic Revival (1840-1880)* – The Gothic Revival style is based on the architecture of medieval England. Resurgent forms gained popularity in that country during the eighteenth century before appearing in the United States in the 1830s. The style's definitive characteristics include steeply-pitched roofs with steep cross gables, wall surfaces and windows extending into the gables, Gothic-inspired (typically arched) windows, and one-story porches. Decorative elements include intricate bargeboards in the gables, and detailed hoods over the windows and doors. This style was not very popular in Old Lyme given the decline in population and general lack of construction that took place during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

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

*Colonial Revival (1880-1955)* – This style gained popularity towards the end of the nineteenth century before becoming the most ubiquitous architectural form of the first half of the twentieth century. Many manifestations of this style emerged, most sharing influences derived from early American, or Colonial architecture, such as Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial buildings. Houses of this type commonly have rectangular plans, and hipped, pitched, or gambrel roofs. Decorative features mimic classical models and include elaborate porticos or porches. Double-hung sash and multipane, symmetrically-placed, windows are common, as are sidelight-flanked entries. The Foursquare is a variation on this type. In Old Lyme the style tends to be expressed in larger Georgian buildings that have eclectic details. There are many fine examples of Colonial Revival styles, most notably those designed by local architects such as Frazier Peters and Nelson Breed.

*Tudor Revival (1890-1940)* – This style is loosely based on early English building traditions dating more precisely from the late Medieval Period. Most examples have high-pitched gabled roofs and elaborate chimneys. Defining characteristics include stucco, brick or stone cladding, half-timbering, and round-arched doorways with heavy board-and-batten doors. Windows tend to be smaller casements or double-hung sash and are often grouped in strings of three or more. The style first became popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was used for large-scale architect-designed buildings. Later Tudor examples tended to be more modest with symmetrical facades embellished with Tudor elements. They faded in popularity in the 1930s and had a slight resurgence in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

*Craftsman/Bungalow (1910-1930)* – The Craftsman, or “Arts and Crafts,” style has origins in English architecture, however the form came into its own through the work of architects Charles and Henry Green, who practiced in

California during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Characteristically one-and-a-half-stories in height, the bungalows popularized by the Greene's typically had rubble or cobblestone foundations and chimneys, low-pitched roofs extending over full-width one-story porches, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and bracketed eave lines. A variety of dormer arrangements are common, as are heavy columns or piers supporting the porch. While high-style examples are relatively rare, the form was popularized through a variety of publications and was widely available in pre-cut kits including lumber and detailing. As such, most homes of this style are perhaps best classified as "Bungaloid," rather than as fully developed Craftsman-style forms.

*Spanish Eclectic (1915-1940)* – Prior to 1920, these buildings were considered adaptations of the Mission style. The Spanish Eclectic style was popularized by the Panama-California Exposition, which took place in San Diego, California in 1913. Organizer Bertram Grosvenor Godhue was a proponent and student of Spanish Colonial architecture and hoped to spread awareness of the style's origins beyond the Mission style. The style was most popular in the southwestern United States and in Florida, where the style is pervasive. It is characterized by Moorish, Gothic and Mission decorative elements including cross-gabled roofs covered in clay tiles, arched doorways emphasized by often elaborate surrounds and focal windows that range from tripartite, arched assemblies including balconets to squared casements. The style was most popular during the 1920s and was fell out of favor by 1940.

*Please see the attached Glossary of Architectural Terms for further information*

### **Date of Construction/Dimensions**

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

### **Condition**

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

### **Other Notable Features of Building or Site**

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

## **Historical or Architectural Importance**

Assessing the historical significance of each resource required detailed archival research. The methods applied to varied, depending upon the information available for each structure, but did not include a complete chain of title research for each resource. Field review, census records, maps, and atlases typically revealed the information necessary to confirm the dates given in the Assessor's records. More often these resources provide a different, yet more accurate, date of construction. This research also served to build a socio-historical narrative for each structure. These highlight the relationship between the building and its users and demonstrate each resource's relevance to the development of the community. Deed research was outside the scope of this evaluation, but the information provided may serve as a starting point for further research. In some cases, additional research may be suggested to provide a more complete historical narrative when the traditional methods of research yielded scant results.

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

## **Glossary of Architectural Terms**

### **Asymmetry**

Asymmetry has to do with balance. Imagine folding a building's front in half, look to see whether one side matches the other in size, shape and number of windows, doors and decoration. If it does not, say if there are more windows on one side or the other, or one is further away than the other, the front would be unbalanced, or "asymmetrical." (see symmetrical).

### **Bay**

Buildings can be divided into bays, usually three, five, and sometimes seven. These are vertical sections, usually a window over a window, but sometimes, as in the central bay, a window over a door. Each bay is the same width and height as the next.

### **Board and Batten Door**

This type of very sturdy door is made with two layers of wood. First is a set of wooden boards lined up side by side horizontally. The next layer is the same type of set, but lined up vertically. This second layer covers up the exposed seams of the first.

### **Brackets**

Applied ornamental elements often used at a cornice or to flank windows and doors.

### **Casement Window**

Windows hinged on one side, most often opening out, are called "casement."

### **Central Chimney**

In the hall and parlor plan used in the northern colonies, the chimney was placed in the center of the building with fireplaces in each room. Each fireplace had its own flue. The flues met inside the chimney stack and sent the smoke out the top.

### **Chamfer**

A 45-degree bevel cut at an outside corner of a building element, often seen in wood, stone or brick.

### **Clapboards**

These are long, thin boards (often pine) attached onto the framing of a house. Just like a bird's feathers they overlap, creating a barrier that protects the house from the elements like rain, snow, cold and wind.

### **Classical orders of ancient Greece and Rome**

The architects of ancient Greece and Rome had a series of designs which they called "orders." In ancient Greece the orders were Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. The Romans added two more, Tuscan and Composite.

### **Clerestory Windows**

Small windows such as these were popular in the Gothic Cathedrals and Renaissance palaces of Europe. They are designed to let light into small spaces.

### **Column**

A column is a relatively long, slender, cylindrical structure, usually used to support something.

### **Cornice**

The cornice is the top set of moldings just below a roof.

### **Dentil**

The word "dentil" means "teeth." Dentils are rectangular pieces of closely spaced wood, used as decoration. They were featured in classical architecture.

### **Double hung window**

A window with top and bottom sashes that slide past each other vertically. The projecting overhang at the lower edge of a roof.

### **Ell**

An Ell (also spelled el) projects backward from the main block of a house and lies at a right angle to it. It is usually added at a later date, but not always.

### **Entablature**

In ancient Greek buildings the entablature rests above the columns. It has three parts, architrave, frieze, and cornice, all of which can be decorated. Entablatures are also part of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles in America.

### **Façade**

The exterior face of a building, often used to refer to the wall in which the primary building entry is located.

### **Fanlight**

Fanlights were very popular in Federal and later styles. They are semicircular windows over the top of a door. They look like an open fan, with glass insets. Their biggest function was to let more light into the central hall.

### **Flue**

Like a pipe or tunnel, a flue carries smoke up to the top of the chimney so it can escape.

### **Framing**

In the 1600s and 1700s houses were timber framed. The frame of a house is like a skeleton created of boards. The earliest frames were put together with wooden pegs. Later, as nails became less expensive, they were used to secure the wood.

**Gambrel Roof**

A side gabled roof where each face (front and back) has two slopes, the lower one steeper than the upper.

**Garret**

This is another word for attic, the uppermost floor of a house. It is usually unfinished and used for storage.

**Hall**

During the early 1700s, most rooms were multi-purpose. The Hall served as kitchen, dining room, work room and, at times, bedroom.

**Hall and Parlor Plan**

This common floor plan, a traditional English folk form, is two rooms wide and one room deep. In the northern colonies the floor plan included a prominent center chimney; the southern colonies' often featured a side chimney.

**Hipped Roof**

A roof with the sides and the ends inclined.

**Ionic**

Ionic is one of the three styles of classical Greek architecture. Ionic capitals (the top of the column or pilaster) has a large volute (scroll).

**Modillions**

Modillions are brackets, often decorative, which are placed just under the roof line.

**Molding**

Often placed around windows and doors and under roofs, molding are pieces of wood added to create decoration. Using wood planes, carpenters take flat pieces of wood and make them curved.

**Oriel**

A bay window cantilevered out from a façade that starts above the ground level

**Overhang**

On some New England Colonial homes the second floor is larger than the first. It literally extends out front by as much as a foot or two. This was very popular in English cities where homes were crowded together and streets were narrow. The overhang created a bit more living space above street level.

**Palladian Window**

Named after Andrea Palladio who made them popular in the 16th century, these windows are very common in the Federal Style. They are large windows, divided into three parts by pilasters or columns. The center section is usually wider than the others and is often arched.

**Panel**

A panel is a distinct, usually rectangular section of a surface. 18th century doors were often paneled.

**Parlor**

During the early 1700s, most rooms served several functions. The parlor usually served as the "master" or best bedroom as well as an area to meet with visitors.

**Parapet**

The portion of wall that projects above the adjacent roof.

**Pediment**

The triangular gable end of a classical building, or the same form used elsewhere in the building.

### **Pier**

A square or rectangular masonry or wood pier which supports a building and carries the weight of it down to the ground.

### **Pilaster**

A pilaster is a shallow pier or rectangular column, flattened and attached to a wall. Pilasters tend to follow the classical orders of Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Tuscan and Composite.

### **Pitched Roof**

Imagine that a roof is a large triangle with at least two sides of the same length. If you make the top point lower, the roof has a low pitch. If the top point is higher then the pitch is steeper.

### **Porch**

In homes with Hall and Parlor plans the front door opens into a very small space called a porch. There is no real room for people to sit and wait. Those entering the house were immediately faced with three choices; go up the stairs, into the parlor on the right, or to the hall on the left. Their choice depended on their status and relationship to the family.

### **Post and beam construction**

A simple building framing system that uses a series of vertical posts and horizontal beams.

### **Ridge Pole**

A ridge pole is used to stabilize a roof frame. It is a long beam at the top of the roof that runs along the entire length. It works to distribute the weight and make the roof stronger

### **Sash**

The part of a window frame that holds the glazing, usually moveable or fixed.

### **Shed roof**

A roof with a single slope and rafters spanning from one wall to the other.

### **Side-Gabled**

The gable of a house is where a pitched roof makes a triangle. A side gabled house is one where the front door is on the flat side.

**Sidelights:** Narrow windows flanking an entry door.

### **Steeply Pitched**

Imagine that the roof is an isosceles triangle. Now, raise the top point of the triangle without changing the length of the bottom line. The higher that top point gets, the more steeply pitched the triangle is. The same is true for a roof.

### **Swag**

A swag is a length of fabric or a rope of flowers taken up at both ends to form an upward arch. Federal architecture often includes carved swags.

### **Symmetry**

Symmetry is created when an item (a house, a sculpture, a bowl) can be divided into parts that are equal in shape and size. Symmetry is the opposite of asymmetry. With symmetry each side of a building is equal and balanced. Looking at the floor plan, one can see that the hall and parlor are of equal size with the chimney occupying the exact center.



**Transom**

A transom is a horizontal bar of wood that runs along the top of the door. A "light" is a pane of glass used to make up a window. The transom light is a window placed above the door.

**Verge board**

Decorative boarding (also called bargeboard) along a projecting roof eave. It is often carved or scrolled, and is highly ornamental.

**Window Caps**

These are decorative wooden moldings placed just above the window frame. Often they mimic the decoration found under the cornice or over the door.

**Window hood**

A projecting shelf-like decorative element over a window.

*Amended from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Deerfield Website  
<http://www.memorialhall.mass.edu/activities/architecture/glossary.html>*

## **IV. Historical and Architectural Overview**

### **Plan of the Town and Early Architecture**

The history of Old Lyme begins in 1635 with the founding of the Saybrook Colony, which included all the land encompassing the present towns of East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme and the southern portion of the town of Salem. The first European settlement in the region took place near Saybrook Point, west of the Connecticut River. As the population grew and the “outlands” on the east side of the river were settled, the house lots of what would become Old Lyme’s first colonists were laid out to take advantage of the best planting soil and access to water sources. In many early Connecticut towns lands were parsed into a series of “long lots” arranged around a central green. This was not the case in Old Lyme. Instead of parcels set into orderly rows, development grew around a series of crossroads formed by early paths. The early proprietors connected their lands via a series of rudimentary roadways, some of which followed trails initially established by the Native population.

The area known as “Black Hall,” located in the southeastern portion of town, was where first proprietor, Matthew Griswold, made his home. The original “center” of town formed north of the Griswold settlement on the east side of the Lieutenant River. The first meeting house was positioned high on “Meeting House Hill” (currently Johnnycake Hill Road) in order to provide a vantage point and place of refuge from potentially hostile invaders. Families formed small settlements as lands were divided among children and subsequent relatives with Silltown and Laysville being two early examples in addition to the Griswold settlement at Black Hall.

As land was further divided and larger holdings broken up into smaller building lots, early settlers began to expand into the forested areas in the eastern and northern sections of town. The Connecticut, Lieutenant and Duck Rivers were all bridged or navigated via ferries, which linked to the ever-growing network of roadways. “The Street,” as Lyme Street was called, formed the eventual central spine of Old Lyme and the meetinghouse was moved here in 1817.

After Old Lyme was partitioned from the town of Lyme and made an independent municipality in 1855, development continued at a slower pace than in the previous century. The town’s population remained static until the beach communities were developed around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The shores of Rogers Lake in the northeastern part of town were settled with a lakeside community shortly thereafter. After construction of the State and Interstate Highway systems during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, suburban development finally began to impact Old Lyme and the population increased at a rapid pace. With this increase came subdivisions, loss of open space and, much like the rest of Connecticut’s shoreline, threats to the town’s historic resources and landscapes.

The Blue Star Highway (Interstate 95) roughly bisected Lyme Street when it was built in 1948 and, while it has proven to be an undeniably useful transportation corridor, its construction had a major impact on the historic character of surrounding areas. Similarly, developmental pressures and the need for increased capacity continue to surround large rail and roadway transportation routes such as the Shoreline East rail corridor and CT Rt. 1. In consideration of these pressures and associated threats to cultural resources, this survey seeks to capture all the resources built within a one-mile buffer north and south of Interstate 95 built prior to 1920. The properties and resources located along Lyme Street are well studied and documented, and as a result, have been excluded from this study. Given the vast number of historic resources in the town, it is recommended that subsequent surveys be undertaken to capture properties located outside of the geographic boundary stipulated as part of this phase one study, as well as those built throughout town after 1920.

The historic resources found throughout the town of Old Lyme reflect a shift from a bustling seaside community of the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries filled with the elegant houses of successful merchants, sea captains and wealthy farmers to more modest dwellings built for residents of what became a more agrarian town in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Compared to many other Connecticut towns, Old Lyme appeared relatively unchanged through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This period includes the founding of the Lyme Art Colony, a group of artists largely credited with starting American Impressionism. These artists extensively documented Old Lyme's scenic landscapes and many of the town's most prominent buildings and structures, including the home of Miss Florence Griswold around which the colony was centered. Development along the shoreline and around Rogers Lake took place during the early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, but houses built during this period were often set on small lots and tended to be of a more modest scale and style.

As there was no large-scale industry in town there are few sites relating to early industry, industrial buildings or worker housing. What little evidence of an industrial past that does exist is largely found in the northern half of town in the vicinity of Mill Brook, a tributary of the Lieutenant River. The resources included in this survey include well-preserved examples of residential buildings ranging in style and period of construction from New England Colonial and Georgian to Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts. The architectural resources found throughout Old Lyme are generally fewer than three stories in height, and of wood or stone construction, and tend to share similar setbacks depending on the street they are located. The resulting stock of buildings and sites included in this survey illustrates Old Lyme's rich maritime and agricultural history, and charts its subsequent development as an artists' colony, summer retreat, and finally as a suburban community.

## **The Lay of the Land**

The Town of Old Lyme is located on Connecticut's southeastern coast and within the Eastern Coastal Geographical Historic Context. This area includes 18 towns ranging from Branford on the west to Stonington on the

east. Twelve of the 18 towns in this area border Long Island Sound and four border the Connecticut River. Old Lyme is one of only two towns in the region that border both (the other being Old Saybrook).<sup>i</sup> Old Lyme includes 27.1 square miles of land and comprises 14 miles of shoreline along Long Island Sound. It is bounded on the north by Lyme, the east by East Lyme, the south by Long Island Sound and the west by the Connecticut River.

The topography of Old Lyme is typical of other towns found within the Eastern Coastal Slope. It consists of a series of low rolling hills that border a coastline comprised of salt marshes, inlets, rocky outcroppings and sandy beaches. The level landscape of the area, which was originally forested with a variety of hardwood species, is the result of being sheltered from the open ocean by Long Island. The island largely protects this area of the shoreline from the harsh forces of ocean-driven erosion and as a result the loose sediments covering the bedrock remain, to a greater degree, intact. In some areas of Old Lyme the bedrock is exposed in an irregular progression of promontories separating coves. Three ridges run in a north-south direction defining the boundaries of the Lieutenant, Black Hall and Four Mile Rivers drainage basins.<sup>ii</sup> Smaller streams include the Duck River, Mile Creek, and Armstrong and Swan Brooks. Rogers Lake is the principal inland body of water, this located on the border of Old Lyme and Lyme and measuring on its surface approximately 300 acres.

Lyme Dome is a geological formation that was originally part of the prehistoric microcontinent of Gander. This bedrock outcropping was formed 600 million years ago and includes a type of granite known as gneiss which was formed after being subjected to tremendous heat and pressure. Gneiss is recognizable by its bands of grey and white material, and these are easily visible in the rock outcroppings found at Saltworks Point.<sup>iii</sup> Long Island Sound was part of a large glacier's terminal moraine. This melting ice cap was followed by a rising sea level which ultimately resulted in what is known as a "drowned coastline". This sequence of events created the major waterways of the area, including both Long island Sound and of the aforementioned local rivers, all of which, in turn, provided ideal habitats for the proliferation of American shad, Atlantic salmon and striped bass. The land was cleared of any native forest long ago, but when the first English settlers arrived it was blanketed with native chestnut, pine and oak. These forests were cleared for building material or burned to create agricultural fields.

The presence of Long Island Sound also produces a sheltered coast with calm beaches protected from the direct hit of storms coming off the Atlantic Ocean. This tranquil environment made it a popular tourist destination by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and, as a result, the eventual location of several beachfront communities.<sup>iv</sup>

### ***Foreign Shores and Native Americans 1635 - 1781***

Indigenous peoples populated the Eastern Coastal Slope as early as 8200 B.C., drawn to the area's shoreline and rivers and in search of the migratory animal herds that once wandered the forests. A pattern of semi-sedentary village life was believed to have replaced nomadic patterns at some point after 1000 A.D. By the time of European settlement in 1614, there were six major tribes populating the area, with the Nehantic tribe concentrated in Lyme

and nearby Waterford.<sup>v</sup> The Nehantics were part of the Algonquin group and shared a common language with the neighboring tribes such as the Hammonasset in Saybrook and Clinton, and the Quinnipiac in Branford.<sup>vi</sup> Many early settlements were concentrated along the Lieutenant and Connecticut Rivers. Several of these sites were documented and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.<sup>1</sup> Although exact locations are withheld for fear of looting, they are congregated around the confluence of the Duck and Connecticut Rivers as well as along the banks of the Lieutenant River. This documentation was completed by Dr. Harold Juli and Dr. John Pfeiffer beginning in the 1970s.<sup>vii</sup> The oldest continuous settlements found as part of this work were over 3,000 years old. They included significant burial sites and settlements of the hunter-gatherers of the Archaic Period.<sup>viii</sup>

The territory of the Nehantics extended from Connecticut River on the west to the Pawcatuck River on the east. Adrien Block was the first European to encounter the Nehantics as he explored the Connecticut River in 1614. They were known as a “peaceful” tribe and had been dominated by the Pequots since the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Nehantics paid tribute to the Pequots in the form of wampum in return for a kind of peace and protection. They lived in huts near the shore in summer and moved inland to wigwams in the winter.<sup>ix</sup> This seasonal migration pattern continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The native population were adept at growing beans, corn, squash and tobacco, which were all harvested by women. Villages were relocated around rotated crops in order to allow older plots to recover their fertility.<sup>x</sup> During the spring and summer, the Nehantics fished along the shoreline using hooks and nets woven from hemp and spears. In this way they collected vast quantities of shell and finfish which they then smoked for later use. They also foraged for coastal berries, mushrooms and various nuts and seeds. In the fall, settlements were moved inland under the shelter of conifers. Here they hunted bear, deer, various fowl and rabbits. They also trapped beaver, foxes, wolves and wildcats for their fur.<sup>xi</sup>

At the time of English settlement, there were twelve Native American groups living in southern New England, all belonging to the Algonquin language group. In 1637 skirmishes with the Pequots reached Fort Saybrook where nine colonists were killed.<sup>xii</sup> These smaller clashes culminated in the Pequot War, waged by the colonists under the command of Captain John Mason. The final battle of the war resulted in the English burning a Pequot fort and leading to the death of its 400 occupants.<sup>xiii</sup> After this defeat of the Pequots, the Mohegans gained control of the area now identified as New London County.<sup>xiv</sup> Chief Uncas of the Mohegan tribe reportedly held a council following the Pequot War with six other tribal chiefs in Old Lyme. The aim was to make peace with the English by “burying the hatchet,” Some local sources attribute the name of Hatchett’s Point to this meeting.<sup>xv</sup>

Despite a general level of concern over the earliest settlers’ interaction with the Nehantic tribe, no conflicts were recorded.<sup>xvi</sup> In Old Lyme, remains of Nehantic farms were found in the area near Tantummaheag Road, which derived its name from Tantom Maheage; a Nehantic man noted for his kindness to English settlers. After his crops

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<sup>1</sup> On July 31, 1987 four historic sites important to pre-European contact in Old Lyme were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They were: Bennett Rockshelter, Lieutenant River Site No. 2, Lieutenant River Site III, and Lieutenant River Site IV. All three sites have restricted addresses.

were damaged by the English, he brought a lawsuit before the Colonial Court at Hartford for damages and won on September 7, 1648.<sup>xvii</sup> His case was an unusual victory for the Native population.

Throughout the 1670s, the early colonists continued to interact with the local Native Americans, this mostly in the form of negotiating planting rights. When lands were sold by Native Americans, many did so with an understanding that the English could provide protection from neighboring tribes. They also believed that the land would remain shared, but this was tragically not the case. Following King Philip's War in 1675 and 1676, relations between the colonial and Native American populations were limited. The Nehantic were forced into small camps due to English encroachment on their land. Many men and women moved to a 300-acre reservation at Black Point (in present-day Niantic) designated by the English in 1672.<sup>xviii</sup> One of the earliest Native Americans to convert to Christianity was Wequash Cooke, a sachem of the Nehantics who had joined with the English to fight the Pequots at Mystic. The resulting massacre deeply impacted Wequash. Following the battle, he converted to Christianity and became a missionary among his people. His conversion is largely believed to be one of the first among Native people. His death took place 1642 in Saybrook at the home of Colonel George Fenwick.<sup>xix</sup> A century later, many other Nehantics converted to Christianity under a descendent of Mohegan Chief Uncas by the name of Samson Occum. He had become an influential minister after converting during the Great Awakening. Several Nehantics left with Occum in 1786 to form a Christian community at Brotherton, Oneida County, New York in 1786.<sup>xx</sup> As in the rest of Connecticut, by the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Native American population had been decimated by illness and were pushed out of their traditional hunting and fishing grounds. By 1774, only 117 Nehantics were counted in Lyme, which at the time included the present towns of Lyme and Old Lyme, several of whom identified as members of the Congregational Church.<sup>xxi</sup>

### ***Saybrook Colony and Lyme Plantation***

Prior to 1645, when Lyme was granted charter to become its own Parish, the history of English settlement in the area is shared among what was known as Saybrook. Between 1635 and 1667 the Eastern Coastal Slope was divided into seven towns by the General Court of the Connecticut Colony.<sup>xxii</sup> Lyme, which included both the present towns of Lyme and Old Lyme, was the largest of these towns, while the remaining six consisted of New London, Saybrook, Stonington, Guilford and Branford. All the towns in this area followed a similar pattern of development. Lands were distributed for private and common and use, the former was distributed based upon how much one contributed to the initial acquisition from the Native Americans, as well as on one's social standing in the community.<sup>xxiii</sup> The common lands were often centrally located as was the meeting house and home of the minister who literally and figurately formed the center of each community. As towns grew, lands were subsequently divided for younger sons of the proprietors and for new arrivals to the area. These holdings often extended far from the central village and new parishes or "societies" were formed as needed.

The Dutch first “purchased” land from the Pequots at Saybrook Point, where they erected a small fort. Once the English arrived in the area the Dutch did not resist their claims to the land at Saybrook. In 1635 Saybrook Colony was established by patent of the Earl of Warwick, Robert Rick, and founded by English “parliamentarians,” members of the landed gentry as a shipping and trading port at the mouth of the Connecticut River.<sup>xxiv</sup> It was not a religious refuge, but a place for “men of qualitie” to make their fortunes while Oliver Cromwell wrested control of the throne from Charles I during English Civil War.<sup>xxv</sup>

John Winthrop, Jr., son of the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, arrived in 1636 to oversee the settlement at Saybrook. He enlisted Lieutenant Lion Gardiner to build a fort at Saybrook the following year. The earliest houses and structures in Saybrook were clustered around Saybrook Point. On November 24, 1635, workmen built a fort near the mouth of the Connecticut River on the eastern side of the river known as the “outlands” (present Old Lyme). Some residences were also reportedly built on the east side of the river during this time, however, there were no full-time residents.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Colonel George Fenwick (abt.1603-1657) was put in charge of the Saybrook Colony and soon sold the fort there to the Connecticut Colony in 1644. That same year, he returned to England and served as a Commissioner in the trial of King Charles. The king was tried and convicted of treason and was subsequently beheaded in 1649.<sup>xxvii</sup> As conditions in England improved and Charles II was defeated, many of the “men of qualitie” for whom the settlement was initially established returned to England.<sup>xxviii</sup>

In 1645 “East Saybrook” became a town within the colony but retained its representatives to the General Assembly – an unusual arrangement at the time.<sup>xxix</sup> Upon his return to England, Fenwick had bequeathed the lands east of the Connecticut River to Old Lyme’s first settler Matthew Griswold (1714-1799).<sup>xxx</sup> Griswold built his home near the mouth of the Black Hall and Connecticut Rivers on a point overlooking Long Island Sound.<sup>xxxi</sup> He established his home in the area that would eventually come to be known as “Black Hall” and was soon joined by members of the Ely, Lay, Lee, Lord, and Marvin families.<sup>xxxii</sup>

The name Black Hall has several potential origins according to local lore. The most likely scenario is that the name was an English interpretation of Dutch explorer Adrien Block’s last name, much like Block Island.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Another suggestion is that the area was named after the presence of a slave cabin located on the Griswold estate. Native Americans purportedly would not attack black servants and one of Griswold’s slaves was allegedly left to protect planting fields while he was away at the fort in Saybrook.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

At a town meeting held in 1648, Matthew Griswold acted as a surveyor and began dividing land in the area. As noted, the area that would become Old Lyme was considered “outlands” at the time. Land division was dictated by “pound rights” which meant that land was divided among proprietors based on the value in pounds assigned to each proprietor at the time of the original division. A value of around 100 pounds was placed on a 30 to 40-acre parcel of land. The land could then be transferred and divided based on an amount in pounds.<sup>xxxv</sup> Some proprietors settled on their lands east of the river, while others planted the land and maintained their residences in Saybrook.

The first ferry across the Connecticut River was established in 1662 in order to facilitate this crossing. Unsurprisingly, the vessel docked at the western terminus of what became known as Ferry Road.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

By 1665, settlers on the east side of the Connecticut River petitioned for independence from Saybrook.<sup>xxxvii</sup> The Articles of Agreement were signed by representatives of East Saybrook (Lyme) and Saybrook on February 13, 1665. The separation was known as “the Loving Parting” and stated that residents of Lyme were free to govern themselves if they could produce a minister and maintain a sizable enough population to subsist and self-govern.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

The General Court of Connecticut recognized the town in 1667 and the name of Lyme was chosen after Lyme Regis in England where many of the settlers originated. The boundaries of the original plantation extended 12 miles north from Long Island Sound and sprawled west-to-east from the Connecticut River to the Niantic River, for a total area of over 80 square miles. This area encompasses the present towns of Lyme, East Lyme, Old Lyme and the southern portion of Salem.<sup>xxxix</sup> Early legislative duties were limited to the same group of men in the period between 1670 and 1679, this being Renold Marvin, Matthew Griswold, William Waller, Joseph Peck, Thomas Lee, Richard Smith, Captain Joseph Sill, Thomas Bradford, William Ely and Isaac Brownson – all of whom represented the traditional English elites.<sup>xl</sup>

The early proprietors got to work building a town, starting with their shelters. Plentiful hardwoods provided abundant building materials. Chestnut, hickory and black, red and white oak were principally used to build houses and fences; Atlantic white cedar was used for shingles and clapboards and white oak was used to build ships and to manufacture barrel staves, a major export good. After dwellings were built the town leaders worked to attract millwrights to process grain and flour, and to saw lumber.<sup>xli</sup>

Around 1713, unrest grew among the population over land allotments and qualifications of Lyme inhabitants. A new committee of five men consisting of Thomas Lee, Abraham Brounson, John Lee, John Coult and William Minor, were appointed to address these issues. On January 11, 1714, a hearing was held in New London in the presence of the Governor and a vote was taken to supersede the original town vote of 1698 which established “Qualifications of Proprietors.”<sup>xlii</sup> This new set of guidelines included resolutions that established three “classifications of individuals” who could be admitted to the town and vote for town officers. The first two of these three categories included those men who were previously established as inhabitants by either patent or the General Court and any of their sons aged 21 or over who still lived in Lyme. These two groups could then vote on the election of town officers and admission of new inhabitants who petitioned to become residents.

Starting around 1719, Lyme’s easternmost occupants began to express a desire to be set off as a separate society from the remainder of the town.<sup>xliii</sup> As the population had grown during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, settlements began to spread out from the original concentrations in the southwest into the north and eastern parts of Lyme. Travel to the central meetinghouse became difficult for those outliers, particularly during the winter months. This same pattern of development was happening throughout the Connecticut Colony and in 1727 the General



Assembly voted that towns would be allowed to divide into ecclesiastical societies.<sup>xliv</sup> In Lyme, the original settlement became the First Society (subsequently Old Lyme). The east quarter became the Second Society (later East Lyme). The Third Society was the northernmost of the quarters and maintained the name of Lyme.<sup>xlv</sup> Old Lyme was the first to be settled and as a result had the largest number of inhabitants and greatest amount of influence on political and economic decisions related to town government.

Other small areas developed away from the town “center”. The area of Silltown was developed north of Mill Creek in late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Joseph Sill, Jr. arrived in 1665 and built his home in the area. His descendants continued to inhabit the area and by 1799 Captain Thomas Sill (1769-1852) built a Colonial mansion on the west side of Sill Lane that still stands.

Between 1713 and 1717 several roadways were constructed throughout town connecting important industrial and farming areas with waterways in order to allow for easier transportation of goods. In 1705, approval was granted to Renold Marvin and John Lee to improve the road running from the Black Hall River to the farms built along the shoreline. In 1713, John and Thomas Lee constructed a trunk highway between Mile Creek and the Nehantic River.<sup>xlvi</sup> This led to the lands of Ensign George Way and William Robin. On February 4, 1717, two more important highways were laid out: “the country road or main highway” between Renold Marvin’s land and the New London boundary and a second road passing over “Flat Rock Hill.”<sup>xlvii</sup> These and other new roadways connected mills and farmlands and opened up vast tracks of lands to new settlement.

The first general survey of roads took place on February 6, 1720 after it was authorized at a town meeting. Surveyors included Thomas Lee, Richard Lord and Samuel Marvin.<sup>xlviii</sup> In 1729 the Ecclesiastical Society appointed a committee to lay out a highway from ye town (Lyme Street) to the Lieutenant River (this later became Ferry Road). Lyme Street was known as the “main street.” A town green was formed at the south end of Lyme Street by the intersection of Ferry Road and Shore Road (formerly known as Country Road).

Prior to 1730 Ferry Road was a path known as Pierpont Lane that lead from the Connecticut River to interior lands owned by a family of that name. In 1730 the town voted to purchase the requisite land and open a highway from the Connecticut River to the Lieutenant River where Samuel Mather operated a ferry beginning in 1724.<sup>xlix</sup> After the Great Bridge was built over the Lieutenant River in 1732, the old Pierpont path was widened into a continuation of the Ferry Road “highway.”<sup>i</sup> Another early highway was constructed from the Great Bridge through Mather’s Neck, a stretch of land situated between the Connecticut and Lieutenant River. Known today as Neck Road, the route eventually became a portion of Connecticut Route 156.<sup>li</sup>

The Lower Post Road was the main artery through Connecticut connecting Boston and New York during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its original path ran along the shoreline through Old Lyme and followed Meeting House Hill to Johnnycake Hill Road to Mile Creek Road and continued into East Lyme along Route 156.<sup>lii</sup> Mile markers were placed along the Lower Post Road at an unknown date. The place for each of these markers was assigned by Benjamin Franklin himself. Ezra Stiles noted in his journal that Franklin had measured the road by “a Machine

fixed to the Axis of Chain Wheel in 1755 measured 14  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from New London Ferry to Saybrook.”<sup>liii</sup> One such marker remains in place on Johnnycake Hill Road, and another can be found on the section of Ferry Road west of Neck Road.

In the 1750s a portion of what is now Shore Road was called Black Hall Path. It ran from Griswold lands to the Three Mile River and connected Post Road to Cross Lane.<sup>liv</sup> In 1759, a highway was constructed over Grassy Hill toward New London and another was built across the Eight Mile River Bridge to Reed’s Landing.<sup>lv</sup>

Given the large number of watercourses running to the sound in the earliest settlement areas, bridges, ferries and landings were almost as important as roads. It was crucial that all crossings were built and operated so as not to impede the critical waterborne traffic. John Whittlesey and William Dudley received the first charter to operate a ferry across the Connecticut River between Saybrook and Lyme in 1662. The landing was located at the end of what is now known as Ferry Road.<sup>lvi</sup> The Whittlesey family operated this ferry until 1839. In 1724 Brockway’s ferry began running further to the north between Essex and Old Lyme.<sup>lvii</sup>

Other ship landings were built throughout town to facilitate the movement of salt hay and small boats along the area’s many waterways. The first town landing was established in 1666 on the east bank of the Lieutenant River at Marvin’s Point.<sup>lviii</sup> Deming’s landing, the second to be built by the town, was constructed around 1683 south of the present location of the Lyme Academy of Arts.<sup>lix</sup> Other landings were found on the Duck River at Tantummaheag and at Mather’s Neck opposite Calves Island.<sup>lx</sup>

A bridge was built over the Black Hall River as early as 1667, while two others important to the development and spread of settlement in Lyme were constructed around the same time.<sup>lxi</sup> These included a cart bridge from Mariner’s Point to the meadow beyond and another across Beaver Brook.<sup>lxii</sup> Construction of a bridge over the Lieutenant River at Mather’s Neck was approved by town vote on November 12, 1722. This allowed for development of land between the Lieutenant and Connecticut Rivers owned by Timothy Mather, nephew of Cotton Mather.<sup>lxiii</sup> Movement along the area’s waterways remained paramount.

The “Great Bridge” was built across the Lieutenant River in 1732 at the end of Ferry Lane in order to connect this road with the path that ran down to the Connecticut River.<sup>lxiv</sup> By 1752 the bridge was in disrepair and required consistent upkeep. In 1794 it was made into a “toll drawbridge” in order to accommodate larger ships both navigating and constructed along the Lieutenant River.

### ***Early Agriculture, Industry, and Trade***

All Old Lyme’s earliest settlers, regardless of rank or occupation, were involved in some form of agriculture. Farmsteads were by necessity self-sufficient and produced their own meat, corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, vegetables, peas, beans, leeks, and cabbages. The sound and rivers provided fish and shellfish, which were smoked

and oyster shells which provided a source of lime to make plaster and mortar. Salt hay was harvested and several saltworks were established along the shoreline to provide that important staple used for curing meats and fish.

Many Native American planting customs were adopted by the colonists, who also employed traditional methods carried over from their native England.<sup>lxv</sup> Onions, potatoes, and turnips were grown and stored over long periods. Flax was grown to use as cloth. Cattle, swine and sheep were kept providing meat, leather, dairy and wool. Livestock were grazed on common pastures penned by stone walls. To protect livestock bounties were paid for heads of foxes, wildcats, and wolves.<sup>lxvi</sup> As the amount of tillable acreage declined in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, crops became more specialized and farmers focused on those that least depleted the soil. At the same time, trade increased with the West Indies and other markets. Timber products, livestock and cured and barreled meats became important exports during this period.<sup>lxvii</sup>

Saw and grist mills were established to draw on the power of local streams and rivers. Cornmeal and flour were ground for domestic use while saw mills cut lumber for export. Most millers were engaged in other enterprises and almost all were also farmers. Several mills were located on the east branch of the Lieutenant River, also known as the Mill Brook.<sup>lxviii</sup> This was the site of the first grist mill built by original settlers Walter Waller and Ronald Marvin in 1672. Waller died in 1674 and Marvin in 1676, but the town-maintained operation of the mill. It was sold to John Wade in 1694 who ran it until his death in 1728.<sup>lxix</sup> It remained in operation by the Wade family until 1872 and the structure stood until the 1940s.

Mills were so important to the operation of the settlement that town offered contracts which included a home lot and planting grounds to millers and other tradesmen in order to get them to settle in the area. Such was the case with Thomas Terry of Block Island who entered into a contract with the town in 1672 to build a sawmill on the Upper part of Mill Brook.<sup>lxx</sup> In 1684 Goodman Hall and John Wade were both given town contracts to grind corn at the headwaters of the Lieutenant River.<sup>lxxi</sup> On December 15, 1701, the town authorized Edward De Wolfe to build and operate a second grist mill on Mill Brook near the sawmill. It was located near the current location of the Oliver Lay House on the north side of Sill Lane. A dam is still located at the site and may date from as early as 1702.<sup>lxxii</sup> Joshua Hempstead made regular mentions of getting “planks” and other supplies cut at the Champion sawmill located along “4 Mile River.” A fulling mill was located on the lower section of Mill Brook and was operated by Edmond Dorr sometime after 1722. Dorr, a cloth dresser by trade, came to Lyme that year and purchased 60 acres on Mill Brook from Samuel Peck. He operated the fulling mill until his death in 1776.<sup>lxxiii</sup> Similar arrangements were made for blacksmiths, weavers and tailors, thus ensuring that the town was well equipped with a population that would allow it to be self-sufficient.

A town meeting held in 1726 authorized Captain Samuel Southworth of Rhode Island to set up an ironworks on the north side of Mill Brook just north of Oliver Lay House. Southworth also purchased the nearby saw and grist mills from Edwin De Wolfe.<sup>lxxiv</sup> Southworth established a partnership with George Hull from Taunton, Massachusetts which allowed the ironworks to begin operation in 1736. Southworth and Hull used bog iron taken

from the local area to create iron ore. The ore was then heated in a forge and shaped into oblong blooms which were then beaten with a trip hammer to remove all impurities. The hammer was said to be so loud that it could be heard on Long Island during the right conditions.<sup>lxxv</sup> Southworth sold the iron works to George, Isaac and Thomas Hull on August 17, 1741. It was continued by Isaac's son Abel until 1796. By the mid-1700s, Hull was producing most of the iron for vessels built in the surrounding area. He also produced weapons and cannonballs for the American army during the Revolutionary War.<sup>lxxvi</sup> This all ended abruptly when the iron works burned in 1797.<sup>lxxvii</sup>

Colonel Watrous Beckwith (1762-1822) was an example of a businessman who made his fortune by diversifying his interests in several operations. This was a common practice among colonial mill owners. Beginning in 1784, Beckwith held rights to several grist and fulling mills as well as a portion of interest in the ironworks on Sill Lane. His house, a testament to his wealth, still stands on north bank of Mill Brook and the east side of Sill Lane.<sup>lxxviii</sup>

Shipbuilding began in Connecticut's eastern coastal towns shortly after settlement.<sup>lxxix</sup> Major shipbuilding centers were found in Essex (with strong backing from Old Lyme investors), Stonington, New London and Groton.<sup>lxxx</sup> The maritime trades brought substantial wealth to Lyme's entrepreneurial set of early proprietors. The earliest shipbuilding in Old Lyme took place on the Lieutenant River at Deming's Landing, but by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century it had moved to the area near the Great Bridge. The largest shipyard in Lyme was established by master shipbuilders Edward and Samuel Hill near the Great Bridge on the Lieutenant River prior to the Revolutionary War. It reached its peak of production after the war producing several large coastal-sized sailing ships including the *Peggy* which he built for Samuel and Sylvester Mather in 1784.<sup>lxxxi</sup> The largest of these were hauled over land and launched on the Connecticut River, since the Lieutenant River's depth limited the size of the vessels built there.<sup>lxxxii</sup> One of the first built for the West Indies trade was the 65-ton schooner known as the *Friendship* in 1792. Samuel Hill's residence is still standing at the junction of Route 156 and Ferry Road.<sup>lxxxiii</sup>

One of the earliest ship's captains to settle in Old Lyme was Greenfield Larrabee (1620-1660). He was also one of the original proprietors of the Lyme quarter. In the spring of 1650 Larrabee captained the *Tryall* with a cargo of wooden staves to the West Indies. This practice of exporting staves and other timber products continued throughout the Colonial era. Various agricultural products such as apples, beef, pork, onions, peas, soap, leather and lumber were also shipped to the Caribbean, West Indies and England.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

Between 1708 and 1709 Joseph Peck and John Clark were among several merchants exporting vast quantities of wooden barrel staves to the West Indies.<sup>lxxxv</sup> Logs were floated down the Connecticut River from New Hampshire and Vermont, and up the Lieutenant River to a spot known as "Log Landing" where they were taken over land to the sawmills in Laysville and processed into staves.<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

John Ely was another early merchant to enter into the West Indian trade by exchanging horses, hay, and Indian corn for rum and sugar. Slaves were commonly sent back to the colonies on vessels known as "horse

jockeys.” They carried as many as 70 head of horses or cattle along with hogs, and other agricultural goods along with their human cargo. Each typically made two or three dangerous voyages a year to the West Indies.<sup>lxxxvii</sup>

In 1739, the town granted Captain Elisha Sheldon, Lieutenant Renold Marvin, Barnabus Tutnell, John Sill and John Tudor “liberty to build a wharf forty feet wide on the outside of the Lieutenant River below the toll bridge.”<sup>lxxxviii</sup> This became the earliest center of commerce in Old Lyme. Several warehouses on the riverbank in this area were also owned by merchant William Monroe.<sup>lxxxix</sup>

John McCurdy (c.1725-1785) was a Scotch-Irish immigrant who settled in Lyme in 1756. He became a successful merchant who owned several sailing ships and cargo vessels. McCurdy made his fortune trading goods in foreign ports – mainly the West Indies, Holland and Ireland.<sup>xc</sup> He would purchase Dutch horses and sail them to the West Indies where they were used to power the mills that processed sugar cane. Then he would purchase the finished product and sail it back to the colonies. He operated a store out of Peck’s Tavern and raised horses to be shipped to the West Indies. McCurdy’s wharves and warehouses lined the Lieutenant River north of Ferry Road.<sup>xc</sup> By the time of his death in 1786 he was one of the wealthiest men in Connecticut and left an estate valued at over \$30,000.<sup>xcii</sup>

During the Revolutionary War, trade suffered, but privateering allowed some merchants to maintain their businesses. Privateers were authorized by the colonial government to attack, capture and profit from the spoils of British ships, but their vessels were privately owned and operated. The Mather family were among those who continued to profit through privateering. Samuel, Jr. and Sylvester Mather paid captain Samuel Briggs to command the armed privateer *Mary Ann* during the Revolution and operated another privateer known as the *Saucy Queen*.<sup>xciii</sup>

By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, Captain Richard Mather entered into partnership with Captain Elisha Sheldon. Together they built a wharf near the toll bridge. Richard McCurdy joined with them and together the three became a major force in maritime trade. After a brief pause during the revolutionary war, trade resumed at an even faster pace.

### ***Religion and Society***

A condition of the Loving Parting required Lyme to hire a preacher. Reverend Moses Noyes (1643-1729), a Harvard graduate, accepted the position in 1666. He served Lyme’s growing population for 63 years.<sup>xciv</sup> Despite meeting the condition of obtaining a preacher, residents took nearly 30 years to organize a formal ecclesiastical society. This resulted in a kind of secular mindset among the residents of early Lyme; unusual in an era dominated by strict Puritanism.<sup>xcv</sup> Even so, Sabbath attendance was required by law. Parishioners were called to service by a drumbeat and seating among the church pews was arranged by social rank.<sup>xcvi</sup>

The first meeting house was most likely built sometime between 1666 and 1668. It was described as a small log house erected on Meeting House Hill (now Johnnycake Hill Road). This was the original Post Road where

the “old Indian trail crossed the hill.”<sup>xcvii</sup> Between 1665 and 1678 the number of Lyme parishioners doubled to 60 necessitating a larger place of worship. This second structure was built in 1689, northeast of the original. Stone markers on Johnnycake Hill Road now commemorate both sites. On March 27, 1693 an Ecclesiastical Society at Lyme was finally organized with Revered Moses Noyes as pastor.

Noyes navigated his parishioners through a turbulent time in the early church. In 1708, church leaders met in Saybrook to establish a compromise between the clergy and church members known as the Saybrook Platform. The clergy sought more centralized power and a return to strict Puritanism while the church members desired more freedom.<sup>xcviii</sup> The result was a tightening of the rules within the established church and a breaking away of groups who no longer wanted to follow the strictly puritanical doctrine. The schism between the groups, known as the New and Old Lights, led to a period of religious tolerance as those who disagreed with strict Congregationalism left the church. Anglican churches appeared in Connecticut between 1723 and 1733.<sup>xcix</sup> Baptists and Roman Catholics came into the colony from Nova Scotia.<sup>c</sup> Inclusion of Native American and African American people also took place during this time. Ben Uncas was one such local Native American man who joined the church at Lyme along with 13 of his followers.<sup>ci</sup>

Membership continued to grow in the Society and a third meeting house was built by 1734 (the stone marker at the site says the structure was built in 1729). The Society voted to build a 60-foot by 40-foot meeting house and a third location on Meeting House Hill was chosen northwest of the second meeting house.<sup>cii</sup> This third building stood for 76 years before being struck by lightning and burning in 1815.<sup>ciii</sup>

Reverend Noyes was followed by Jonathan Parsons (1705-1776), who began serving in 1735. Reverend Parsons would not only bring his parish through another turbulent time within the church, but he would also be an active participant in the conflict. From around 1730 to 1745 the Great Awakening was taking place in New England. The religious revival was started in England by Reverend Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) and was taken up by the Reverend George Whitfield (1714-1770) in America. Whitfield was an evangelical preacher who traveled from Newport to Boston and across Connecticut preaching a doctrine of religious fundamentalism. Reaction to his strict doctrine further deepened the schism between the New Lights and more traditional Old Lights. The New Lights were more conservative and fundamental in their religious beliefs, but much more liberal politically. Parsons openly rejected the Saybrook Platform, but enthusiastically embraced the ideas of the Great Awakening. He became a follower of Whitfield and eventually a close friend.

George Whitfield visited Lyme on August 12, 1745.<sup>civ</sup> He preached in the open air without a church. His ecstatic preaching style attracted the New Lights and further pitted them against the staid Old Lights. Whitfield believed that salvation was available to all, including slaves and Native Americans (even though he also believed slavery was biblically ordained). New Lights in Lyme were among its most important leaders – Jonathan Parsons married Phoebe Griswold Matthew Griswold IV’s sister. Parsons’ standing in the community could not stave off the power of the Old Lights. His close relationship to Whitfield and adherence to his teachings proved to be too much

for the residents of Lyme and Parsons was dismissed in 1745. He was followed by Reverend Stephen Johnson (1724-1786) who served the town for the next forty years. Johnson was an ardent patriot and outspoken critic of the Crown. He was very active in the Revolution and beloved by his parish.

Burial grounds were established immediately after the settlers arrived in Lyme, but gravestones did not appear until sometime in the 1680s. These early stones were simple in design but recognized the life of the individual. The earliest cemetery, Old Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery, was started near the first and second Meeting Houses. Named for the small river which flows through it, the Duck River Cemetery was established in the mid-to-late 17<sup>th</sup> century and includes some of the oldest gravestones in Old Lyme. Prominent citizens buried here include Reverend Moses Noyes, Governor Matthew Griswold, Reverend Stephen Johnson, Renold Marvin, Joseph Sill, and John McCurdy.

The earliest known gravestone in Old Lyme that remains legible is that of Renold Marvin, which is found in the Duck River Cemetery. It was carved around 1676 by master stonemason James Stanclift. Stanclift came to the area around 1684 and lived by the Great Pond (his lands were later sold to the Rogers family and the area later became known as Rogers Lake). His stones are notable for their curved shape and flourish over the letter "A". The Stanclifts included five generations of influential carvers in the lower Connecticut River Valley.<sup>cv</sup>

Education was an early part of colonial life, but its quality varied greatly and remained unregulated until well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Boys tended to receive instruction in writing and reading while girls received education in more practical matters of domestic care.<sup>cvi</sup> In 1680, the Ecclesiastical Society established a contract with William Measure who taught older boys at his house. Two school dames were also hired to provide schooling to younger children and girls.<sup>cvi</sup> The General School Law was passed by the Connecticut Court in 1700 and the town voted to keep schools in four parts of town. A committee was elected to oversee the development of the schools, which operated for three months of every year.<sup>cvi</sup> Education primarily took place in the home prior to 1712 when the General Assembly voted to place the development of schools under the care of the Ecclesiastical Societies. The General Assembly supplied supplemental aid and authorized each community to charge taxes to provide money for educational expenses.<sup>cix</sup>

After Lyme was divided into the three ecclesiastical societies in 1727, the population continued to increase within each area, thus requiring a decentralized school system. Four schools were built: one on Lyme Street one near the settlement of Laysville, one at Black Hall, and one at Three Mile River. Winter schools were established for older boys and summer schools for young boys and girls who would not be required to work in the trades or agriculture.<sup>cx</sup> By 1766 there were eight district schools in the First Ecclesiastical Society of Lyme, five of which were held in purpose-built structures instead of in private homes.<sup>cx</sup> Each served its own distinct and fairly isolated community in town. That number was reduced to five schools by 1771.<sup>cxii</sup> The schools were funded by a combination of taxes, money from the school fund established by sale of the Western Reserve lands and payment from parents of students.<sup>cxiii</sup>

Other common parts of society that we now see as commonplace were established during this period. Monthly mail service began in 1722 along the Post Road through Connecticut, New York and Boston.<sup>cxiv</sup> In 1737 a “Four Town Library” was established to provide access to a shared circulating library. It included towns of Killingworth, Lyme, Guilford and Saybrook and operated into the 1790s.<sup>cxv</sup>

The Connecticut Code of 1650 required that every town contain at least one tavern run by an official tavernkeeper. The keeper was required to provide food, lodging and a stable that could accommodate at least two horses. The Peck Tavern was built in 1675 by Joseph Peck and had a ball room on the second floor.<sup>cxvi</sup> The Parsons Tavern on Lyme Street became an important meeting spot for the Sons of Liberty.

In 1756, there were 94 Native Americans living in Lyme.<sup>cxvii</sup> Enslavement of the Native American population began after the Pequot War. Captives often escaped easily and evaded recapture due to their familiarity with the surrounding landscape. In 1650, the Connecticut Codes were passed to allow the exchange or trade of Native American slaves for African slaves. Slavery was common in Lyme and enslaved people were found in the households of the most well-known families. The names of Mather, Sill, McCurdy, Noyes are all listed among slave owners during this period. Historian Martha Lamb (1829–1893) stated, “In the palmy days before the Revolution, all the consequential families in Lyme owned negro slaves.”<sup>cxviii</sup> Slaves worked on many of the area’s farms performing tasks in the fields and in the households. They also worked for merchants loading and unloading merchandise to and from warehouses located along the town’s rivers. Slavery was considered morally acceptable to religious leaders of the time and was justified as financially necessary by society leaders.

In 1702, the Connecticut General Assembly discouraged manumission by making former owners indefinitely responsible for the care of their freed slaves. The 1756 census lists a fairly high number of black residents in Lyme. At the time there were 2,762 whites and 100 Negroes in town.<sup>cxix</sup> Local sea captains profited prior to 1774, after which time the General Assembly prohibited importation of slaves. There were 5,101 Africans listed in the census of Connecticut in that year and Lyme residents held 124 slaves.<sup>cxx</sup> Dr. John Pfeiffer has studied an inscription on the gravestone of early proprietor William Ely (1698-1758). It states that “he was the first amongst us to free his slaves” but Dr. Pfeiffer has found that upon Ely’s death his two slaves Cesar and Warwick were, in fact, not freed but became property of his wife Mary.<sup>cxxi</sup>

Manumissions and emancipations became more common during the Revolutionary War. This may have been due to the fact that some men fighting for freedom from a tyrannical government could no longer justify owning another human being. Perhaps it no longer made economic sense to keep slaves as agricultural markets shifted away from New England and the cost became prohibitive.<sup>cxxii</sup> In 1774, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the Connecticut Colony. Following the Revolutionary War in 1784, Connecticut began to pass laws granting emancipation to all slaves born after 1784 when they reached the age of 25. Still many slaves remained in Old Lyme households well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Many of Old Lyme's black and Native American residents served in the French and Indian War (1755-1762). Conflicts in Europe came to a head in the new world when Britain's North American colonies and France's Bourbon colony (which included areas from Quebec to the Mississippi River) battled over lands in western Pennsylvania<sup>cxxiii</sup>. Connecticut troops fought mainly in New York with local men serving in the Ninth Company in 1759 and later the Eighth Company under Captain Zebulon Butler of Lyme in 1761.<sup>cxxiv</sup>

### ***The American Revolution***

Like many other Connecticut towns, the breakdown of political relations between the British and Colonial governments during the 1760s sparked anger and rebellion amongst much of Old Lyme's population. Forced to help shoulder the mountain of debt which the British government had incurred during the French and Indian War, tensions were further enflamed after passage of the Stamp Act in 1765. The purpose of the Stamp Act was to raise a reserve for the British treasury by forcing the colonists to purchase and affix stamps to all paper documents. Reverend Stephen Johnson of Lyme objected to the Stamp Act by writing six influential articles condemning the British policy. Successful Old Lyme merchant John McCurdy helped Johnson publish his writings in the *New London Gazette*.<sup>cxxv</sup> Stamp Master Jared Ingersoll was tried, indicted and hung in effigy in several towns including Lyme.<sup>cxxvi</sup> Ingersoll was intercepted on his journey between his home in New Haven and Hartford by 500 men known as the "Sons of Liberty" and forced his resignation. The Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, but enmity between the colonists and the King grew stronger.

Lyme held a precursor to the Boston Tea Party on March 17, 1774 when peddler William Lawson attempted to sell tea after passage of the Tea Act. The local "Sons of Liberty" cornered him and burned his tea on the town green. Later that year Lyme adopted a manifesto which supported members of the Boston Tea Party and condemned punitive legal action against the men. Meanwhile the Connecticut General Assembly passed acts that encouraged military training and defense and doubled the quantity of ammunition for town use. Committees were formed in towns to encourage non-exportation of all British goods and urged towns to observe local conduct presumably for signs of loyalty to the Crown.<sup>cxxvii</sup> When the Lexington Alarm was sounded on April 20, 1775 men were rallied and quotas of grain, meat and other important staples were set for each town.<sup>cxxviii</sup>

In April of 1775 the town voted to send funds to Boston to help support the revolutionary cause.<sup>cxxix</sup> In August of that year a large company was raised to join other Connecticut troops to defend Boston at Cambridge on May 27, 1775. As tensions grew and an actual war seemed inevitable, every town in the Connecticut Colony was required to establish and train a militia. On December 22, 1777, the town voted to accept the Articles of Confederation.

Among the many men from Lyme who fought for the cause of liberty was Colonel Samuel Selden (1723-1776). Selden was a Continental soldier who led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Connecticut Militia, which included residents of New

London and Lyme. Once the war began in 1776, the 4<sup>th</sup> Connecticut State Regiment was placed under his command. His forces served under Brigadier General James Wadsworth's brigade after arriving to defend New York.<sup>cxxx</sup> During the Battle of Kips' Bay the 4<sup>th</sup> was attacked by General Howe's forces on September 15, 1776. The British were victorious and took Colonel Selden hostage in the "Sugar House" (near Broadway in Manhattan). Selden became ill and died in captivity on October 11, 1776.<sup>cxxxi</sup>

Ezra Lee (1749-1821) served as a Sergeant in Colonel Parson's 10<sup>th</sup> Continental Regiment in 1776. He quickly rose to the rank of Army Paymaster by 1781. David Bushnell (1740-1826), of Saybrook designed a submarine and torpedo vessel known as the *Turtle* in 1775.<sup>cxxxii</sup> Lee originally trained his brother, also named Ezra, to operate the *Turtle* in the Connecticut River near Old Lyme.<sup>cxxxiii</sup> Bushnell devised a plan to torpedo the British fleet in the Boston and New York harbors. After gaining approval from Washington to carry out his plan, Ezra Lee volunteered to complete the mission on September 6, 1776. Although Lee failed to sink any ships, he did manage to cause a panic and successfully scuttled the British fleet in New York.<sup>cxxxiv</sup>

Major General Tryon and his forces landed in America in 1777 and quickly set up a blockade of Long Island Sound that hampered the local maritime economy. Old Lyme's merchants and seamen turned to privateering to continue their business. By 1778, the blockade moved to the south and the need for privateering declined.<sup>cxxxv</sup> Tryon did not leave without incurring damage to the eastern coastline. British forces returned in 1781 and under the command of the traitor Brigadier General Benedict Arnold and Colonel Edmund Eyre some 1,700 British soldiers burned New London. The British then crossed the Thames River to take Fort Griswold, which was held by Lieutenant Colonel William Ledyard and a militia of approximately 170 men. Among them was Ledyard's body servant, a former slave named Jordan Freeman. Freeman was originally from Old Lyme. He and Ledyard were among the men who were killed after the British took control of the fort during the Battle of Groton Heights on September 6, 1781. Freeman was by all accounts a free man at the time of his death and a brave soldier who reportedly killed Major Montgomery during the massacre.<sup>cxxxvi</sup>

Old Lyme's citizens also contributed to the war effort through the production of clothing, blankets, iron, ships and perhaps most importantly salt, which was used to cure and preserve meats and fish. President of the Board of War John Adams ordered saltworks to be built along the Connecticut coast. Several were started in Old Lyme by the Brockway, Door, Ely, Griswold, Lovell and Tabor families. One operated at Saltworks Point between what are now the Old Lyme Shores and Edge Lea communities. Between 1777 and 1778 Lyme's saltworks produced over 700 bushels of salt and held a state monopoly.<sup>cxxxvii</sup> Lyme residents also helped transport goods. Old Lyme's inlets and coves hid privateers bringing scarce and expensive supplies via Long Island Sound to the Post Road. The town armed a patrol band during the Revolution under Captain Benjamin Conkling.<sup>cxxxviii</sup> Merchant and patriot John McCurdy also funded privateers and supplied provisions for the Continental Army and both General George Washington and General Marquis de Lafayette stayed at the McCurdy House during the war.<sup>cxxxix</sup> Lafayette passed through Old Lyme in 1778 and quartered his troops in front of the Parsons Tavern on the town green.

The War came to an end in September of 1783, when the Peace of Paris was signed acknowledging the United States of America as an independent nation.

### ***Post-Medieval and Georgian Architecture***

The earliest homes of Lyme's proprietors were likely crude residences built employing rural building traditions such as post-and-beam framing. The technology and techniques of construction applied in this area throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries were largely the same as those used decades earlier in England. This included hand-hewn and pit-sawn post-and-beam timber frames laid on quarried or fieldstone foundations. Most residences had prominent central chimneys to provide heat to as many rooms as possible, clapboard siding, wood shingle roofs and small, multi-pane windows.

The earliest houses built during the mid-to-late 17<sup>th</sup> century were likely small, crude, and hastily constructed structures and unsurprisingly none have survived. Typically built on a stone foundation, timber-framed, and one or two stories in height. Clapboards or shingles were used to sheath exterior walls. Most roofs were gabled but there are some early examples of the gambrel style. Most had massive chimneys constructed of stone or brick. Rear ells or lean-tos increased floor space primarily for cooking. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century service space was contained under the house's main roof resulting in the "saltbox" form.

By the early 1700s the New England Farmhouse, often simply referred to as the "colonial" style was typified by a three or five-bay façade with a central entrance and a side gable or gambrel roof. These houses often had small, multiple-paned windows, most commonly arranged in a 12/12 pattern. A one-and-one-half story variation on the type could be found on Cape Cod or along Long Island Sound by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The floorplan typically consisted of two rooms on either side of a central chimney with interior walls accented by molding but rarely painted prior to 1700. Local examples can be found at 25 Johnnycake Hill Road (ca. 1815), and at 24 Library Lane. (ca. 1850), A variant known as Dutch Colonial, drew its inspiration from houses built by Dutch settlers found in New York City and along New York's Hudson River Valley. This style spread to Connecticut's shoreline and river towns in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and included a gambrel roof or a roof with flared eaves. Examples include 20 Ferry Road (ca. 1775), 43 Johnnycake Hill Road (ca. 1680), 23 Sill Lane (ca. 1780), and 68 Sill Lane (ca. 1786).

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

accommodating for use as a sleeping area and allowed for a proper boxed staircase to be added in order to provide access to the upper story.<sup>cxl</sup> Examples can be found at 3 Tantummaheag Road. (ca. 1760), 24 Whippoorwill Road (ca. 1700), and at 24-1 Neck Road. (ca. 1860).

Examples of Saltbox-style homes in Old Lyme are few, but one of Connecticut's oldest and best-known saltbox style house is found on Route 156 in East Lyme. The Thomas Lee House was built between 1660 and 1664 and remains in a remarkably well-preserved state. It is one of the best examples of its type in the region. A more local example can be found at 117 Neck Road (ca. 1710) and at 69 Boston Post Road (ca. 1800). These homes were typically one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories in height, with rectangular footprints, symmetrical facades, centered entryways and chimneys, side-gabled roofs, and at times later Georgian or Federal decorative details, particularly in the door surrounds. They were sheathed with narrow horizontal board siding and fenestration consisted of 12-over-12, nine-over-nine, or six-over-nine sash. Vernacular examples persisted in rural areas long after the style had been supplanted by others, including, most notably, Federal and Greek Revival forms.

As the maritime trades flourished, ship captains, merchants and ship builders grew wealthy and eager to display their successes in larger and more elaborate homes. Many of the houses built by these successful men were a more elaborate variation on the New England Farmhouse style known as Georgian. They are distinguished by a high degree of craftsmanship and elegant architectural details. Gable roofs were sometimes replaced by hip and gambrel variants and chimneys were later pushed out of the center of the building to accommodate a central hallway plan. The main entrance was the focus of a Georgian house. Many contained paneled front doors flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a row of transom lights. Later entrances became even more elaborate. Decorative elements included dentils, modillions or shallow two-story pedimented pavilions. Some of the best examples of these early high styles can be found in the existing National Register Historic District along Lyme Street. Others are found at 26 Sill Lane (ca. 1785), 35 Sill Lane (ca. 1750-55), and 40 Sill Lane (1799).

### **The Early Industrial Period, 1781-1865**

Old Lyme's merchants, shipbuilders and captains continued to prosper after the Revolutionary War as trade routes were reopened and expanded. Old Lyme's population was 4,357 in 1800, but by 1830 that number would fall to just 4,084, with only 567 dwellings and 500 recorded "freemen."<sup>cxli</sup> The decline in population was due in part to the curtailing of maritime trade during the Jefferson Embargo and the War of 1812. George and Nathaniel Griswold both moved to New York City during this time to expand their shipping business out of that much larger port. The development of the canal system in the United States facilitated the movement of goods throughout the country without relying on sea traffic and further contributed to a decline. Finally, the success of the Homestead Act of 1862, which encouraged western migration and the expansion of railroads after the Civil War dispersed a generation of Old Lyme's men and women around the country. The youth of Old Lyme sought opportunities in

upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut's Western Reserve in Ohio, where land was more plentiful and less expensive.

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century was era of social and political reform. It was during this period that the new republic began a course of improvement through the temperance movement, abolition of slavery and a focus on improving the quality of public education.<sup>cxlii</sup> The Constitutional Convention took place in 1787 and established state's rights. In 1818 the Connecticut Constitution disestablished the central power of the Congregational Church and put all Christian denominations on equal footing. Throughout New England, private academies were founded to improve secondary education and agricultural societies were created to help improve farming techniques and introduce new technology to members.

Several new towns were formed in the region during this period including Essex in 1852, Old Saybrook in 1854 and Old Lyme in 1855.<sup>cxliii</sup> Towns throughout Connecticut transformed from quiet communities of self-sufficient farmers led by the Congregational Church to a more diverse society led by a two-party political system. Transportation improvements brought increased access to industrial goods and imported agricultural products. This changed the way that people lived, and markets became more specialized as Old Lyme became less isolated from the rest of the world.

### ***Agricultural and Transportation Development***

Following the close of the Revolutionary War, Lyme enjoyed a period of prosperity brought about by shipbuilding and a revitalized export market. Exports nearly doubled between 1790 and 1807 from American ports.<sup>cxliv</sup> Oxen, horses and swine - which could all be grazed on open fields - were popular exports to the West Indies. Fish also remained plentiful. Shad, menhaden and whitefish were caught and used for food, export and for fertilizer. Hay from salt meadows was cut and harvested to provide bedding for animals.<sup>cxlv</sup>

Shipbuilding began in earnest after the Revolution and in total 300 ships were believed to have been constructed in Old Lyme yards. There were two yards in Old Lyme. Master shipbuilders Edward and Samuel Hill had a yard located on the Lieutenant River off of Ferry Street.<sup>cxlvi</sup> On the high bank on the west side of Sill Lane and the south side of the brook stands the former poor house that was built ca. 1785 as worker housing. It was built by Samuel Hill as a boarding house for workers in the nearby shipyard.<sup>cxlvii</sup> Around 1800 the Reuben Champion shipyard on the Connecticut River was established near Ferry Landing. It operated into the 1830s building ships for owners from Nantucket to New Orleans.

In Lyme, Brockway's shipyard on the Connecticut River had excellent deep-water facilities.<sup>cxlviii</sup> It was active between 1795 and 1826 and employed several master ship carpenters. The relatively shallow depth of the Lieutenant River, however, limited the size of ships built there. The largest was a 290-ton schooner, the *Meteor*, built in 1813 as a privateer. The shipbuilding trade was on the decline in Old Lyme by the 1830s.

Even though the ships were built elsewhere, many ship captains continued to call Old Lyme home during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these local captains again engaged in privateering – an activity that was generally encouraged by leaders during the War of 1812.<sup>cxlix</sup> Later in the period, as transatlantic passenger travel become more popular, Captain Robert Griswold (1806-1882) made his career commanding packet ships during the 1840s and 1850s on the Black X Line carrying passengers and cargo between New York and London.<sup>cl</sup>

In 1784 brothers Samuel, Jr. and Sylvester Mather were two of the leading merchants in town. They commissioned the first ship built in Lyme after the Revolution – the *Peggy*.<sup>cli</sup> Captain Richard Mather and Captain Elisha Sheldon entered into a partnership beginning in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>clii</sup> Together they went on to become a major force in Old Lyme's maritime trade. Captain Thomas G. Waite was another important merchant and he was granted land to build wharfs on Lieutenant River.<sup>cliii</sup> The cluster of wharfs and warehouses developed around the Great Bridge on the Lieutenant River grew during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>cliv</sup>

During the War of 1812, the men of Old Lyme were pressed into service when the British Navy sailed up the Connecticut River in April of 1814 and burned a group of ships at Pettipaug (Essex). They also captured two privateers and attempted to sail them back down the River. Lyme quickly mustered men and a breastworks were constructed along the Connecticut River north of Ferry Landing and south of Baldwin Bridge. It was built to provide a launching place for cannons meant to destroy the British ships as they retreated out to sea. Although there is no record to indicate that cannons were successfully fired from Old Lyme, the breastworks remained a landmark for many years. It was still shown on the 1868 Beers map of New London County.<sup>clv</sup>

Together, the Embargo Act of 1807, the Non-Intercourse Act of 1809 and War of 1812 hampered foreign trade and local merchants focused instead on the coastal trade and domestic markets.<sup>clvi</sup> Maritime trade was difficult to reestablish after the War of 1812 and local ports never quite regained the level of commercial success achieved after the Revolutionary War. In many of the surrounding towns, whaling dominated maritime pursuits. Sperm oil, whale oil and whale bone all became important commodities for fleets leaving out of New London, Stonington, and Mystic and a number of Old Lyme's mariners participated in the industry.

Old Lyme's residents increasingly turned from the sea to the land during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Suitable farmland was in increasingly high demand after the war. Produce was less expensive to import than to grow locally after opening of the Erie Canal in 1821 and the development of railroad networks in 1825.<sup>clvii</sup> Despite this, Old Lyme maintained many farms throughout the period, most of which were self-sufficient.

In 1819, there were two fulling mills, one paper mill, two hat factories, eight grain mills eleven sawmills, one carding machine and two tanneries in Old Lyme.<sup>clviii</sup> A paper mill on the upper Mill Brook was located near the bloomery operated by Watrous Beckwith. Samuel Lee and Colonel Samuel Grant received approval from the town to operate a paper mill on the upper Mill Brook near the bloomery of Watrous Beckwith on July 6, 1798.<sup>clix</sup> This mill operated until 1845.

The South Lyme Nail Manufacturing Company was incorporated on December 10, 1855 and began operation soon thereafter in a building located on the east side of Sill Lane south of Mill Brook.<sup>clx</sup> Jacob Gardiner owned the patent rights to a device known as the “Noyes forging machine” which produced nails and other forged items. Gardiner specialized in the production of oxen and horseshoe nails. The factory building no longer stands.<sup>clxi</sup>

Several quarries were in town, one on the east side of Pilgrim’s Landing on Neck Road (for many years this area bore the name of Quarry Hill). From there the stone was brought to Quarry Dock and exported. This stone was used to build the Center School and the Memorial Bridge in town.<sup>clxii</sup> At the south end of Meeting House Hill was the McCurdy quarry, which was operating in 1880 and produced a notable red porphyritic granite. This was used for decorative stonework but was not sold commercially. The quarry was relatively small, measuring only 50 by 30 feet and only five to ten feet in depth. It was used to build the Channing Memorial Church in Newport in 1881.<sup>clxiii</sup>

In 1865 the *Connecticut State Gazette* listed 39 businesses in Old Lyme: four merchants, three grocers, four carpenters, four builders, four shoemakers, two painters, two millers, a harness maker and a blacksmith.<sup>clxiv</sup>

Development began to spread into other areas of town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Laysville was begun by the Lay family near the southwestern shore of Rogers Lake. By 1854 a map of the area showed an almshouse and two residences on the south shore of Rogers Lake and two on the eastern shore. Along the shoreline development remained sparse. In 1815 there were only three houses on Shore Road in the vicinity of what would later become Sound View. It wasn’t until later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that significant development would spread to this area.<sup>clxv</sup>

Transportation improvements had a major influence on all aspects of life in the Eastern Coastal Slope. Turnpikes linked towns to one another and created trade routes that accelerated movement of goods, people and communications. Towns and cities connected to rail lines flourished and developed rapidly, while others remained isolated and rural. Communication improvements such as newspapers and telegraph service united communities and brought the news of the larger world to small towns like Old Lyme.

Beginning in the 1840s, railroads had the single greatest impact on the development of Connecticut’s cities, transforming small manufacturing centers into industrial cities within the matter of a few decades. In Old Lyme rail lines brought summer residents to the shores of Long Island Sound and Rogers Lake. Railroads also transformed the ways local farmers and merchants transported goods. In Old Lyme this meant less dependence on waterways for travel and it was during this period that the warehouses and wharfs near the Great Bridge fell into disuse. In 1832 a charter was granted by Connecticut General Assembly to the newly formed New York and Stonington Railroad. By 1837 the line was in operation and passengers from New York could take a steamer to Stonington and from there continue their journey by rail to Boston. In 1839 the Boston, Norwich and New London Railroad began operation.<sup>clxvi</sup>

Plans for the New Haven Railroad began in 1844 and service began in 1848.<sup>clxvii</sup> That was the same year that the New Haven and New London Railroad was chartered. Construction began in 1850 and in 1852 the line had reached Old Lyme. In 1856 the General Assembly approved the merger of the two coastal railways and this was

completed by 1857. In 1864 the business was reorganized as the Shore Line Railroad. By 1864 the Shore Line Railroad had stations in Branford, Old Lyme, Waterford and New London.<sup>clxviii</sup> The rail lines along the shore were difficult to construct. While the topography was flat, it was necessary to cross many wetlands, rivers and streams. Irish, German, and African-American laborers came to southeastern Connecticut to work on the railroad. Many stayed and found employment in the numerous railroad repair shops and early hostelrys built to accommodate travelers.<sup>clxix</sup>

Transportation via roadways was also slowly improving thanks to the development of turnpike companies. A statewide turnpike system was established by the Connecticut General Assembly to improve transportation of goods and people between ports and cities. In exchange for tolls charged the company maintained the road. The turnpike era in New England began in 1792 with the construction of the Mohegan Road leading from Norwich to New London. Gatekeepers collected tolls on the New London and Lyme Turnpike beginning in 1807 (now Routes 1 and 156, Shore, Neck and Halls Roads).<sup>clxx</sup> This road served as a critical east-west segment of the route between Norwich and New Haven. A ferry over the Connecticut River continued service to Saybrook.<sup>clxxi</sup> From there the journey could continue via public roads to New Haven.<sup>clxxii</sup> By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the costs to maintain the turnpikes was too high and many folded. As this happened, the roads reverted to town control.<sup>clxxiii</sup> The resulting expansion in transportation networks led to the growth of agriculture and tourism in region.

In 1824, the Connecticut River Steamboat Company launched steamers off Calves Island and Ely's Wharf.<sup>clxxiv</sup> This soon became the fastest way to travel between New York and Boston. The company continued to operate until 1834.<sup>clxxv</sup> In addition, five ferries crossed the Connecticut River in 1840 at Saybrook, Champion, Warner, Brockway and Ely landings.<sup>clxxvi</sup> Matthew Bacon built a boarding house known as Bacon House in 1835 near the ferry landing which was also the end of the stage coach line. This later became known as the Ferry Tavern. Bacon had established a partnership with Cornelius Vanderbilt who operated the steam boats along the Connecticut River to provide lodging for those traveling on Vanderbilt's lines.<sup>clxxvii</sup>

## ***Religion and Society***

The period between the Revolutionary and Civil wars brought a progressively liberal political climate which led to a call for greater religious freedom. Although society became increasingly tolerant of some religions and people, others remained marginalized. The Congregational Church remained unsettled during this period as the New Lights and Old Lights continued to battle for control. In 1818, the creation of the State Constitution resulted in a true separation of church and state.<sup>clxxviii</sup> At the same time, the earliest waves of European immigration brought greater ethnic diversity and religious choice and Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians began to establish places of worship in town. As noted, the third incarnation of the meeting house on Meeting House Hill was destroyed by fire in 1815. A new house, designed by architect Samuel Belcher in the Federal style of



Christopher Wren, was built near the south end of Main Street (Lyme Street). The cornerstone for this church, was laid in 1816 and it was completed the following year.<sup>clxxxix</sup> A whipping post stood at one corner of the church yard and a set of stocks could be found across the street.<sup>clxxx</sup>

The Grassy Hill Church was built in 1812 and succeeded a Separatist church built 60 years earlier during the Great Awakening.<sup>clxxxi</sup> Methodist preaching began in Old Lyme in the 1780s, but it remained confined to private homes. The Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1843 in the Mill Creek District Schoolhouse and remained in operation until the 1950s. It is now a private home. In 1843 a Baptist Church was formed on Lyme Street. By 1847 there were 70 members.<sup>clxxxii</sup> In 1883, Episcopal Church services were held at the Black Hall School after teacher Charles G. Bartlett noted that a number of his students practiced that faith. The Episcopal Guild House was built in 1892 in Black Hall and was moved from Mile Creek to Shore Road in 1899.<sup>clxxxiii</sup>

## Schools

In 1784 there were eight permanent district divisions in Lyme, each with one school committee man to provide oversight and collect funds.<sup>clxxxiv</sup> Many schoolhouses were small, poorly equipped and had no effective oversight. In 1795, passage of the School Law provided for a secular and less centralized system of public education in the state.<sup>clxxxv</sup> That same year proceeds from the sale of the Western Reserve lands were sent to the Connecticut School Fund to build local schools throughout the state.<sup>clxxxvi</sup> In 1798, another statewide law took control of the school committees away from the Ecclesiastical Society and transferred it to a local School Society.

Connecticut's schools began to suffer after they were divested from the Congregational Church. Attendance remained poor throughout Connecticut's schools, but it was particularly bad in rural areas such as Old Lyme. Hartford-born educator, lawyer and state legislator Henry Barnard led a school reform movement beginning in 1838 with the passage of an act that provided supervision of local schools. That same year he established the Board of Commissioners of Common Schools. In May of that same year, the Free School Law was passed requiring that all public schools be made free to students and funded by taxpayers. Private schools and academies were established as the quality of public schools throughout the state declined. The Old Lyme Academy was started in 1855. Reverend Lathrop Rockwell operated a boy's school providing secondary education. Academies were also available in neighboring towns.

From 1838 to 1856 there were phenomenal changes to public schools in Connecticut.<sup>clxxxvii</sup> Educational reform established a lengthened school year, graded schools and high schools. It also encouraged secondary education for teachers to ensure they were prepared to teach their pupils.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Old Lyme lagged in keeping pace with these reforms. In 1846 there were still eight school districts in Lyme's First Society with 273 winter students, 204 summer students and 60 private students. To handle this large number of pupils there were only eight teachers and seven summer female teachers.

Pupils ranged in age from four years to 16 years and all were commonly schooled in one room.<sup>clxxxviii</sup> In 1867 only 53 percent of the children in Lyme attended school.<sup>clxxxix</sup> There were still eight school districts shown on an 1868 map of the town, with Districts One (including Lyme Street) and Eight (Black Hall) being the most populated.

Many efforts were made to establish social groups for women during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Female Reading Society was formed in 1816 and focused on devotional reading.<sup>cxc</sup> The temperance movement was one of the more popular national reform movements of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Public intoxication was pervasive in the United States, particularly after the Congregational Church lost its strict control over the population. Whiskey, rum and brandy were all popular, as was applejack - a hard cider made from the area's plentiful apple trees. Rum was widely sold in general stores and was given to soldiers as part of their daily ration. In Old Lyme it was plentiful as a result of the active trade with the West Indies. The Connecticut Temperance Society was formed in 1829 and local chapters were organized all over the state. One of Old Lyme's staunchest supporters was Augustus A. Griswold (1789-1836). Griswold famously spoke from a rocky outcropping known as Mount Temperance in Black Hall. A cairn was erected at the top of Mount Temperance to commemorate Griswold's contribution to the cause. By 1840, the movement was making an impact and many women engaged in the cause. Private stills became illegal and a total statewide prohibition law was passed in 1854.

The issue of slavery was obviously a central debate in the years leading up to the Civil War. In 1784 a gradual emancipation act freed all children born to enslaved women after March 1, 1784. The Connecticut Legislature formally restricted slavery in 1788 and halted it entirely by 1790. That same year, the census indicated that there were 2764 slaves in Connecticut – a total of one percent of the population. By 1800 there were still 1000 enslaved people in Connecticut. That same year Lyme had an overall population of 4380. Among its residents were 108 recently freed "blacks" and 23 slaves still maintained by local owners, including Robert Douglas (1), David Ely (1), Roger Griswold (1), Elisha Lay (1), Lee lay (1), Enoch Lord Jr. (1), John Lord (2), Joseph Lord (1), Reynold Lord (1), William Mack (1), Samuel Mather Jr. (2), Joseph Noyes (2), William Noyes (3), William Noyes 2nd (1), Marshfield Parsons (3), and Jasper Peck (1).<sup>cxc</sup>

The 1810 census shows 4261 people in Lyme and 108 free "blacks". However, the number of slaves dropped to nine. Slave owners were Elizabeth Caulkins (1), Marsh Ely (1), Enoch Lord Jr (1), Eunice Noyes (3), John Noyes (2), and William Noyes (1).<sup>cxcii</sup> The last slave documented in Lyme was a man named Pomp. Previous records indicate that he had run away several times and had been sold between several prominent families. According to a *Connecticut Gazette* article dated December 25, 1816, Pomp had run away from Joseph Noyes of Lyme. He was listed as being 40 years of age and blind in one eye.<sup>cxciii</sup> No further record is known to exist of him. In 1820 there were still 97 slaves counted among Connecticut's 8,000 African-American residents.<sup>cxciv</sup> By 1840, that number dropped to 17, with the last individuals finally granted freedom in 1848.

Connecticut's abolitionist movement began around the time of the Revolution and was led by members of the Quaker, Baptist and Methodist churches. Many members of the more established Congregational and

Episcopalian churches were conservative and reluctant to change. Some even had economic ties to southern cotton trade. The Amistad incident in 1839 and subsequent trial galvanized abolitionist support. The state's Underground Railroad was formed, and steamers brought escaped slaves to shoreline stations in Old Lyme and New London.<sup>cxcv</sup> From here they traveled north to Worcester or Rhode Island. The Samuel Peck House at 32 Lyme Street is listed on Connecticut's Freedom Trail and as a potential site of a stop on the Underground Railroad. A small room near the chimney on the third floor may have served as a hiding place.<sup>cxcvi</sup>

The Underground Railroad became a much riskier endeavor following passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 which made it a federal offense to assist an escaping slave. Sympathy for enslaved people was bolstered by the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852. Two years later Connecticut passed the Act for Defense of Liberty which made it a crime to seize a free person with the intent to enslave them.

Even after slavery was abolished in Connecticut, freed blacks and other minority members of the population lived an isolated existence on the margins of society. In 1871, the State of Connecticut declared the Nehantic Tribe extinct. This came as a surprise to two sisters, Betsey Nonesuch and Mercy Ann Nonesuch Matthews, who both lived in Old Lyme for periods during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>cxcvii</sup>

## Civil War

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, when confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. A public draft was put into effect almost immediately at the start of the war, but public outcry forced it to be suspended within a month. Instead voluntary enlistments were encouraged by offering a sum to each enlisted man. Under the Conscription Act of 1863, it became possible to pay for a draft exemption. It was even more common for men to pay a proxy and in this way many affluent merchants and farmers bought their way out of the war. In Old Lyme, many of the oldest and most established names served the Union cause, including members of the Lee, Lay, Beckwith and Smith families. Captain John Griswold, a member of Old Lyme's founding family, gave his life for the Union Army at Antietam.<sup>cxcviii</sup>

Along with troops, throughout the war Old Lyme supplied the United States Navy with ships and woolens for uniforms and blankets. Demand for warships in the area also increased and yards in nearby towns supplied cruisers, gunboats and transports. The war brought a temporary end to the southern trade beginning in 1862. This took a toll on the local economy as many merchants and fishermen became unemployed.

In May of 1863, the War Department issued General Order 143, which permitted blacks to enlist in the Union Army. African-Americans served in the 31st<sup>th</sup>, 29th, and 13th colored regiments beginning in 1863. The men who served in these regiments suffered from higher mortality rates than their white peers as they were often assigned more dangerous missions.<sup>cxcix</sup>

In total, 500,000 Americans met their death in the country's deadliest conflict. Following the Civil War memorials commemorating soldiers appeared in many towns. The Grand Army of Republic (G. A. R.) was established to provide support and recognition for veterans.<sup>cc</sup> The names of over seventy local men who fought in the war are commemorated on a bronze plaque in Memorial Town Hall (1919).

## **Neoclassical and Romantic Architecture**

During the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century British architects and brothers Robert and James Adam traveled throughout the Mediterranean. Robert, the elder of the brothers, introduced a variety of classical details into his work, the result being a renewed interest in the monuments of ancient Greece and Rome. Classical details were used to embellish the early colonial houses built by Old Lyme's wealthy and worldly ship's captains, merchants and traders. The houses reflected the wealth and stature of their owners and displayed their worldliness and knowledge of the latest building styles. These styles, most common in the 1780s through the 1870s, were driven by influences popularized in England. An example can be found in the Early Classical Revival-style house at 15 Tantummaheag Rd. (ca. 1829).

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

Old Lyme's location near the sea brought with it a level of sophistication. Old Lyme's peak of prosperity in the maritime trades coincided with the period in which the Federal style flourished. Though sophisticated, the style was also conservative and therefore, persisted much later in Old Lyme than was common in urban centers. The best local examples of the Federal style are the William Noyes House (1817), now the Florence Griswold Museum and the John Sill House (1818). Both were built by architect Samuel Belcher (1779-1849), who was also responsible for the predecessor to the present Congregational Church on Lyme Street, which burned in a fire in 1907. Other residential examples include 30 Johnnycake Hill Road (ca. 1706), and 1 Academy Lane (ca. 1785).

Emerging around 1825, the popularity of the Greek Revival style overlapped with that of the Federal. By 1840, however, the Greek Revival had supplanted its aesthetic cousin and established itself as the dominant American architectural form. The Greek Revival drew its influence from the temples and monuments of ancient Greece. The Greek Revival-style was a popular choice for public buildings such as churches and schools. While initially only found in the design of public buildings, the style soon became the favored form for use in residential construction as inspired by works by Asher Benjamin (*The Country Builder's Assistant* (1797) and *The American Builder's Companion* (1816)), and Minard Lafever (*The Young Builder's General Instruction* (1829), the *Modern Builder's Guide* (1833), *The Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835) and *The Architectural Instructor* (1850)). Typical Greek Revival details include shallow pitched or hipped roofs, usually with the gable end oriented towards the street, raking cornices, wide trim or frieze bands, and entry or full-width porches supported by classical columns. Sidelights, transoms, pilasters, and heavy lintels are commonly found around the entryways.<sup>ccii</sup> The best examples of the Greek Revival style in Eastern Coastal Slope are found in Old Lyme, Stonington and New London. One of the best in Old Lyme is the Daniel Chadwick House (1835). Others include 11 Ferry Rd. (ca. 1846) and 118 Sill Ln. (ca. 1840).

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Picturesque Movement came to the fore with its myriad of exotic revivals, but these styles were not very popular in Old Lyme. From 1860 to 1920 Old Lyme's economy and population both remained stagnant. Most families lived in older homesteads rather than constructing new homes in more fashionable styles and many children of the older families moved away. Therefore, there are few notable examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Old Lyme. The style is typified by steeply-pitched roofs, multiple gables, decorative vergeboards board-and-batten siding. Most buildings display an extensive array of window and door treatments. Architects Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing created several design books detailing plans for their designs. Among the most well-known was Davis' *Cottage Residences* (1842). Downing was personally responsible for the design of the Dr. John Bartlett House in Old Lyme (1844). Downing was responsible for preparing the actual specifications and architectural drawings for this building and it remains as an excellent example of the style.<sup>cciii</sup> Other examples in the survey area include 11 Academy Lane (ca. 1875) and 303 Ferry Road (1848), the latter reportedly inspired directly by a Davis design.

A further Romantic style, the Italianate, likewise began in England before making its way into the American built environment during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This style was influenced by Italian country homes and Renaissance-era villas yet developed into an entirely indigenous form once established in the United States. Italianate homes are typically two or three stories in height and have low-pitched (usually hipped or gable) roofs with widely overhanging eaves and detailed brackets. Tall, narrow windows are common and often have arched or round-headed window tops. Windows and doors are frequently crowned with decorative hoods. Prominent towers are also common among the style, yet are rare locally. One Italianate house found in the Old Lyme Historic District

on Lyme Street is the John Noyes House (1858), while others include 49 Sill Lane (ca. 1865) and 209 Whippoorwill Road (ca. 1890).

## **The Late Industrial Period, 1865-1929**

### **End of the Maritime Era and Development of a Summer Community**

As Old Lyme's shipbuilding and maritime trades began to fade away, they were replaced by a renewed reliance on agriculture and the growing tourism market. Following the Civil War, Old Lyme gathered a reputation as a place frozen in time – even if that was a part of its charm. Throughout much of this period, Old Lyme remained a deeply traditional place that was slow to change. It was located far enough away from the industrial centers that it remained demographically and economically static, although the railroads eventually brought about some change to the community. During the 1870s rail access improved and the Shoreline Railroad from New York to Boston stopped – albeit briefly – at Lyme Depot.<sup>cciv</sup> Writer and historian, Martha J. Lamb (1829-1893) visited Old Lyme in 1874 and wrote about it in *Harper's Magazine*. Her portrayal of the town generated interest in the place as a tourist destination.<sup>ccv</sup> Lamb stayed at the Pierrepont House, a hotel built on Ferry Road in order to capitalize on the growing interest in shoreline beach communities. She traveled throughout the town extolling the beauty of its historic architecture and untouched natural beauty in her article. In 1928, another New York Times reporter noted that “At every step the visitor is reminded that in this dreamy and delicious little place nothing changes.”<sup>ccvi</sup>

### **Town Development and Local Businesses**

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the population of Old Lyme declined from 1,304 in 1860, to 1,180 in 1900. By 1920 the full-time population of the town had fallen to 946. Despite this decrease in the year-round population, there was an increase in the seasonal population due to the proliferation of the town's beach colonies.<sup>ccvii</sup> From 1920 to 1930 the population grew to 1308 residents.<sup>ccviii</sup> Throughout the period farming and tourism gradually replaced industry and the maritime trades.<sup>ccix</sup> Improvements to roads, bridges and railroad routes brought connectivity and change.

Perhaps the one person who brought the most change to Old Lyme in this period was New York businessman Charles Ludington (1825-1910). Ludington made a lasting impact on the town when he arrived following his marriage to Josephine Noyes. As a generous and engaged citizen, and a member of the venerated Noyes family, he quickly became one of the town's leading philanthropists. Ludington made his fortune as a successful businessman in New York during the Civil War. In 1888, he helped persuade residents to fund a steam-powered ferry to service the Connecticut River landing. He contributed to funding for the new consolidated

schoolhouse on Lyme Street and the Band Room on Ferry Road - a space that served as a lending library, gallery and concert hall.<sup>ccx</sup> A decade later, he commissioned the Phoebe Griffin Lord Noyes Memorial Library; a public lending institution built in honor of his mother-in-law.<sup>ccxi</sup> Ludington purchased and renovated the Pierrepont House and reopened it as Old Lyme Inn in 1901 in order to boost local tourism.<sup>ccxii</sup> Finally, when a modern steel-arch span replaced the wooden cart bridge over the Lieutenant River in 1905, Ludington paid one-third of the structure's cost.

While the center of town was certainly changing during this period, it was along the shoreline and Rogers Lake that the most densely-built development began to take place. Meanwhile, railroads, roadways and crossings were all improved, further connecting Old Lyme with the outside world.

An 1868 map of Old Lyme shows that Lyme Station served as the village's connection to the rail line, while South Lyme Station served the eastern end of the line and Black Hall simply had a flag stop. By 1893 there were full stations at Lyme, South Lyme and Black Hall. In 1870, a railroad bridge was built across the Connecticut River replacing the previous method of transport by ferry. In 1887 another bridge was built across the Thames River in New London to allow for continuous rail service between New York, Providence and Boston.<sup>ccxiii</sup> By 1872, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad acquired the entire shoreline route, and the company began upgrading the line in 1896. Double-tracking of the line east of New Haven took place after 1905. This included elevation and realignment of tracks and the construction of a movable steel railroad bridge across the Connecticut River. The Old Saybrook-Old Lyme Bridge was constructed in 1907 by the Scherzer Rolling lift Company and still serves the Amtrak line in 2018.<sup>ccxiv</sup> As development continued along the shore, a Soundview whistle stop was established in 1902. By 1909 it became a full station.<sup>ccxv</sup>

Roads remained challenging for Old Lyme residents throughout the early part of this period. The State Highway Department was formed in 1895 to improve conditions statewide.<sup>ccxvi</sup> Prior to 1920 most roadways were constructed of dirt and as a result were often muddy. In 1909, there was only one automobile in town but by the 1920s horses and oxen were being replaced by machinery and wagons replaced by cars. Trucks were used to haul goods and services to construction projects and tractors were used to plow the fields. As cars became a more common mode of transport, the Connecticut Highway Department began to upgrade major highways. In 1911 the Connecticut River Highway Bridge, was opened across the Connecticut River between Saybrook and Old Lyme. Bow Bridge was replaced in 1928 by a steel arch bridge across Lieutenant River.

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the State of Connecticut implemented a state system of trunk line highways between population centers (Route 1 was the example in Old Lyme). State Aid Roads connected trunk Lines, with Route 156 being an example of this. After 1923, the Highway Department assumed full responsibility for all State Aid Roads.<sup>ccxvii</sup> In 1925, the state Highway Department constructed Shore Road (Route 333) to accommodate the new developments along the shoreline. In the 1930s, Route 1 underwent a major improvement program along its entire route. Gas stations and garages sprang up to serve drivers along the major routes.<sup>ccxviii</sup> The Lyme Auto

Service, located across from the Florence Griswold house was built in 1923. Ferdinand Winzen, who operated the garage, also chauffeured high school-age students to various schools in the area.<sup>ccxi</sup> Sylvester G. Brown ran a garage at the intersection of the Boston Post Road and Sill Lane from 1922 to 1941. He serviced and repaired cars in addition to selling Chryslers and Plymouths.<sup>ccxx</sup>

Trolleys began operating in Connecticut after 1895. They came to Old Lyme later than the surrounding urban areas. Interurban electric cars ran between many Connecticut cities by 1900.<sup>ccxxi</sup> The Shoreline Electric Railway operated an interurban line from New Haven to Old Saybrook but had to stop at the Connecticut River crossing. After the highway bridge was built across the river in 1911 it was possible for the line to be extended. In 1912, a town meeting was held to approve the extension of the New London and East Lyme Street Railway Company through Old Lyme. The trolley was approved despite protests from residents and artists who felt it would spoil the bucolic nature of the town. Service began on August 23, 1913.<sup>ccxxii</sup> At the Lieutenant River the cars were too heavy to cross the bridge and passengers had to get out and walk across until the bridge was strengthened. The trolley tracks ran along Hall's Road to Route 156 and continued to Ferry Road before turning onto Lyme Street and followed the Post Road to Flanders. The Shore Line Electric Railway leased the East Lyme Street Railway Co. Line in 1913 and operated the trolley through Old Lyme. It was possible to travel from New London to New Haven in about two hours for a cost of 70 cents.<sup>ccxxiii</sup> Cars and buses became more popular after 1915 and following a strike in 1919, the trolleys never resumed service.

Paddleboats also brought passengers to Old Lyme from New Haven and Hartford via the Connecticut River. Steamships continued on the Connecticut River into the 1930s and regularly docked at the landing at Ferry Road. In 1911, automobile bridges were built over the Connecticut River, while the Blue Star Memorial Bridge opened in 1941.

Old Lyme never became a major industrial or fishing port. Its ports were not deep enough and its rivers too small to maintain the large-scale operations found in New London or Norwich. Shipbuilding waned during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century after railroads took the place of shipping routes in the lower Connecticut River Valley.

Agriculture became the main source of income for many residents as shipbuilding and its related merchant class began to dwindle. Several farming families left during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to find better land elsewhere or to find work in cities. As a result, the population declined through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>ccxxiv</sup>

Several farms remained in operation along the shoreline. Along Mile Creek, Frederick Chapman purchased Swan Farm in 1884. He produced salt hay and raised sheep and cattle there for several years. He soon began selling the land for development; a move that would permanently transform Old Lyme's shoreline.<sup>ccxxv</sup> E. Lea Marsh raised cattle on a 100-acre farm across Mile Creek well into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>ccxxvi</sup> Sheffield Farm continued to operate into the 1920s in the area that is now Old Lyme Shores, Edge Lea and Hatchett's Point. The Griswold family



operated a large nursery along Old Shore Road where they grew carnations in coal-fired greenhouses. These were shipped daily to New York City.<sup>ccxxvii</sup>

Municipal improvements came to the town during this period in the form of improved services and more formalized meeting places. The original Old Lyme Town Hall was built in 1877 and stood just north of the current building on Lyme Street. It hosted town meetings dances, movies, and basketball games. The current structure, initially a local Masonic Lodge, was moved from its original location by Herman Hubbard, who purchased it for \$500. The building was modified by architect Harry Griswold into a Colonial Revival-style building and renamed the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall. Bronze plaques bearing the names of the town's soldiers lined the stairway of the main lobby. It was dedicated in honor of Old Lyme's fallen soldiers on Armistice Day in 1921.<sup>ccxxviii</sup>

A new post office opened on Lyme Street under the direction of Postmaster Clarence Clark in 1922. At the time, it was considered one of the most modern in the state. It contained rows of what are now quaint letterboxes with brass combination locks.<sup>ccxxix</sup> Another new building along Main Street was designed in 1921 by Charles A. Platt as a formal exhibition space for the Lyme Art Association. The new building served as a venue to meetings and exhibits for the Association.<sup>ccxxx</sup>

Old Lyme acquired illuminated street lights beginning around 1913.<sup>ccxxxi</sup> The first portion of town to be illuminated was the road leading from the Rail Depot to the Post Office.<sup>ccxxxii</sup> Utility poles were installed the same year. The Lyme Electric Power Co. was established in 1913 to provide electricity to homes along the shore. By 1920 electricity was used in most of Old Lyme's houses for illumination, but block ice was still commonly used for refrigeration.<sup>ccxxxiii</sup> Telephones came to Old Lyme by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1920 and 1930 the number of telephone lines doubled in Old Lyme to 636, but telephones remained scarce in the shoreline areas like Sound View. Prior to 1920 outhouses were more common than indoor plumbing and windmills provided power for many of the town's wells.<sup>ccxxxiv</sup> Prior to 1920 fires were handled by a volunteer "bucket" brigade or residents waited for a truck to come from a neighboring town. The Old Lyme Fire Brigade was organized in 1923 as a volunteer mutual aid organization. The first Chief was Ellis K. Davis who served from 1923 to 1926.<sup>ccxxxv</sup>

## Business

In 1865, the *Connecticut State Gazette* listed 39 businesses in Old Lyme. These ranged from a furniture maker to various tradesmen. In the 1920s, Nathaniel Hall operated a farmhouse chocolate operation known as Hall-Mark chocolates. They produced one ton of chocolate a week using milk from local dairy farms.<sup>ccxxxvi</sup> Ice cream parlors and tea rooms also were built to accommodate motorists along the shoreline routes. Stores catering to tourists sprang up, such as C.P.O. Furniture company on Mill Lane owned by Stanley Davis. There Davis created reproductions of antique furniture in addition to selling actual antiques.

Most Old Lyme residents traveled to Essex to take care of their banking and to buy shoes or clothing, however, several smaller stores served the everyday needs of the residents.<sup>ccxxxvii</sup> The Bugbee General Store became the Noble & Griswold General Store in 1922 and operated through 1930 when the Griswold family opened an IGA in that spot.<sup>ccxxxviii</sup> In 1897 Champion's "corner store" at the junction of Ferry and Lyme streets served as a pharmacy and general goods mart.<sup>ccxxxix</sup> Several incarnations of stores were operated out of the Champion building on Lyme Street; the first run by W. F. Clark for 40 years until 1927 when it was taken over by W. Spencer Hartly. Clark's Store served as the post office and general store from 1888 to 1922.<sup>ccxl</sup> Anna Louise James was the first African-American woman in Connecticut to become a licensed pharmacist. She owned a drug store started by her brother Fritz in Old Saybrook in 1917. Fritz started a second pharmacy in Old Lyme where Anna also filled prescriptions. In 1932 the James Pharmacy moved to a space near the Woodward IGA grocery store. The brother and sister team operated the store there until 1957.<sup>ccxli</sup>

Several small-scale industrial operations remained in operation through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Mill Lane was a thriving industrial and commercial center until around 1910.<sup>ccxlii</sup> John Bradbury a weaver from Chester, Connecticut leased the Lower Mill in 1870 located on Mill Brook.<sup>ccxliii</sup> He purchased the mill building in 1875 and ran a wool scouring operation there. Mill Lane also contained Smith's store, which was also known as Babcock's. This burned in 1912. A Blacksmith's Shop was also located here around the same time.<sup>ccxliv</sup> The Lower Mill was operated until the 1900s by Clayton Smith until he sold this property along with the stone mill located upstream to the Art Lace and Braid Company. This business manufactured shoelaces, cordage and decorative laces and continued operation in the mill until 1928.<sup>ccxlv</sup> That same year, the mill was sold to L. Stanley Davis who took over the mill to manufacture his furniture. Previously, in 1881, the Lyme Silver Plating Company leased the stone mill. They operated here for around five years and specialized in plated ware and thin Britannia.

In the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a soap factory was located in a house across from the Samuel Hill House on Ferry Road, which was a former printing shop of the *Sound Breeze*, Old Lyme's first newspaper. From 1910 to 1915 the building served as plumbing business operated by Allen T. Spears.<sup>ccxlv</sup>

## **Development of Areas Along the Shoreline and Rogers Lake**

During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, improved labor laws made the concept of leisure time accessible to the working classes. People from all walks of life sought refuge during the summer months along Old Lyme's shores and along Rogers Lake.<sup>ccxlvii</sup> Hotels, summer cottages, and colonies proliferated along Connecticut's shoreline during this period. Beaches, casinos, campgrounds, bathing and yacht clubs all sprang up among residential seaside communities. In 1871, the Connecticut Valley Railroad opened a line between Hartford and Old Saybrook. This connected to the Shoreline Railway and linked major cities located both inland and along the coast to Old Lyme. Visitors came from Hartford, Springfield, and New York to enjoy the beaches and bucolic

views of the town. Four rail stations served the town: South Lyme, near Point O'Woods; Black Hall at Bailey Road and Mile Creek Road; Lyme Station at McCurdy Road crossing and Sound View at Cross Lane overpass (known as Armstrong's crossing).<sup>ccxlviii</sup>

Several entrepreneurs recognized the economic potential of tourism in Old Lyme. Among them was Frederick Chapman, who in 1884 purchased 300 acres of the former Swan Farm along Old Lyme's coast. The town was being discovered for its pastoral setting and Chapman recognized an opportunity for development as a summer colony.<sup>ccxlix</sup>

Another shoreline developer was Henry Hilliard, of Portland, Connecticut. Hilliard visited Old Lyme in 1888 after which he purchased 44 acres from Frederick Chapman for 2200 dollars. It was from this initial purchase that he developed the area known as Sound View beginning in 1892.<sup>ccl</sup> Hilliard sold parcels for 25 dollars each with the stipulation that a cottage had to be built on each lot sold. Hilliard was a proud socialist. He deeded Swan Beach in Soundview to the public for their perpetual use. The Socialist movement was popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as socialists promoted progressive reforms of child labor laws, workplace safety regulation and oversaw the creation of social security.<sup>ccli</sup>

Despite this fact, Old Lyme was a Republican town in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Hilliard's ideology likely caused a conflict with Old Lyme's natives – as did the residents of his growing summer community. Hilliard, much like Chapman before him, retained a large tract of land at Swam Farm where he raised sheep and chickens, blueberries and apples. He was a successful banker and real estate developer, but his socialist bent was on display when he listed himself on census records as a farmer.<sup>cclii</sup> In 1895 Frederick W. Chapman sold the western portion of his land to Charles Garvin of Hartford. Garvin began to develop Hawk's Nest Beach as a private family beach. Garvin added bungalows every year. These brightly painted cottages, known as "Rainbow Row," dotted the area.<sup>ccliii</sup>

The cottage at 35 Swan Avenue is owned by descendants of the Sinnott and Breen families. It remains unchanged from its original construction and given its significance as the only example of an intact summer cottage from the period, is included in this portion of the survey.

Sound View became a prominent vacation destination. In 1902 there was still no electricity and no phones, however, it soon became known for its active nightlife, this centered around Hartford Avenue. The pavilion was enclosed became a dance hall. By 1910 it was a thriving resort. Houses were built along Portland, Hartford, and Swan Avenues and Old Colony Road. Rail service to Sound View station and beach attracted vacationers in record numbers. Minstrel shows and vaudeville troops came to Sound View weekly to entertain the crowds. Victory Dance Hall, also known as O'Connors by 1920, was the center of the action along the shore. Most popular entertainers of the day played there. Sound View was a dry section of town until Prohibition, although it lay in proximity to "Rum Row", an area past the race at end of Long Island, three miles offshore and therefore beyond U.S. jurisdiction. Sound View had many hidden coves from and to which illicit liquor was offloaded.<sup>ccliv</sup> As a result, Soundview's dancehalls were known as some of the least dry establishments along the shore.<sup>cclv</sup>

While many came to Soundview to indulge, others were coming to enjoy family weekends. Many of the new immigrants were Catholic and they needed a place to worship on Sundays. The existing Christ the King Church was remodeled and replaced by Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1906 to serve the summer residents. A chapel was built in 1911 on land owned by P. J. Breen, owner of the Soundview Land Company. This Church served the area's Catholic community for many years until it was sold in 2005 to the Shoreline Christian Church.<sup>cclvi</sup> By 1915 Sound View was growing rapidly. It quickly became overcrowded and suffered from poor sanitation. Several beach improvement and beautification committees were formed to combat the issues and by 1920 it became a borough with the power to oversee many of its own affairs.<sup>cclvii</sup>

Champion Point was the easternmost beach developed by the John Jay Smith Company, one of the largest developers on the shore. The Smith Company went on to develop Point O' Woods in 1917 followed by Old Lyme Shores and White Sands Beach to the west.<sup>cclviii</sup> These other beach communities were smaller in scale and less diverse in their population than Soundview. Many of the developments by the Smith Company refused to sell to people of Italian, Jewish or Polish descent.

Development began around Rogers Lake in 1920. Vacant lots were sold by door-to-door salesmen for around \$600 apiece. The area grew quickly, and the development pattern was one of a densely settled lakeside community – restaurants and service stations were built to accommodate travelers and seasonal residents. The Laysville community had developed along the south shore of Rogers Lake beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the family remained in the area throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>cclix</sup> Squire Oliver Lay was a notable portrait painter who lived in the area in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>cclx</sup> The Rogers Lake dam was refurbished in the 1920s by poured concrete over the original dam structure.<sup>cclxi</sup>

## **Educational and Social Developments**

As was typical, up until the mid-1860s children were educated at home or in a small number of informal local district schools. In the 1870s and 1880s district schools became the primary basis for education. In 1898, a state law was passed that required towns to either establish high schools or pay tuition for children to attend private high schools.

The Old Lyme School Committee was started in 1864 and included D. R. Brainard, James Griswold and T. S. Swan who were appointed on 8<sup>th</sup> of November of that year.<sup>cclxii</sup> The Board of Education was created in Old Lyme in 1865. At the time Old Lyme had the lowest level of school attendance in New London County.<sup>cclxiii</sup> In 1867 only 53 percent of children attended school.<sup>cclxiv</sup> In 1872, a school of higher grades was established at Colonel McCurdy's residence near the Duck River which served as the high school.<sup>cclxv</sup>

The State of Connecticut began a series of efforts aimed at improving education statewide. After 1854, the state property tax was used to pay for the construction of new schools and to improve the conditions of both the

buildings and curriculum. One result of these reforms was the gradual reduction in the use of one-room school houses. Instead of students of various ages being taught together in one small space, they were divided by grade level – a process that was both more efficient and provided a better education for students. Despite these improvements, the number of children matriculating in Old Lyme fell between 1888 and 1891 from 261 to 230 and reached a low of 209 by 1894.<sup>cclxvi</sup>

In 1885 Old Lyme's first consolidated school building was constructed on Lyme Street thanks to the generous funding of Charles Ludington. The Center School on Lyme Street took the place of the Neck, Sill Lane and Laysville schools.<sup>cclxvii</sup> In 1900 there were only 156 children matriculating in Old Lyme and attendance among those students remained poor. An attendance officer was hired to combat truancy. In 1908 four rooms were added to the Center School to accommodate the South Lyme, Mile Creek, Black Hall and Between the Rivers schools, which were consolidated into the Center building that same year.<sup>cclxviii</sup>

Secondary education remained challenging as Old Lyme's students had to travel to Pratt High School in Essex, New London High School, or the Morgan School in Clinton to attend high school.<sup>cclxix</sup> Around the same period, a trade school, first established in 1910, became free to all boys. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century continued, advances in home economics, health and physical education programs all benefitted the local children.<sup>cclxx</sup> In 1928, two Chevrolet buses were purchased by the town to provide student with transportation.<sup>cclxxi</sup>

Following the Civil War, financial stability, stricter labor laws and increased mobility resulted in shifting patterns regarding how Connecticut's citizens spent their free time. As modern conveniences and reduced working hours became the norm, recreation became a part of the American way of life. Recreational activities and civic organizations developed in town to improve the quality of life for residents in every way.

The national Grange was organized in 1867 to encourage local farming practices and to provide a forum to share the latest innovations. County fairs were organized to display agricultural produce, new breeds of livestock and farming machinery. The Connecticut State Grange was established in 1875 and Lyme held its first grange meeting in 1896 at a Masonic Hall in the Hamburg section of Lyme. The Lyme Grange sponsored the first Hamburg Fair in 1897. This event would become an annual highlight for many. The Old Lyme Grange held its first meeting in 1905 and became both the main agricultural and social organ of the town.<sup>cclxxii</sup> Although established at a relatively late date, Grange #162 became one of the most active organizations in Old Lyme. It met above the J. F. Bugbee General Store on Lyme Street before leasing the former Gun Club Clubhouse on Maple Avenue in 1910. In 1929 it moved to a former residence on Lyme Street.<sup>cclxxiii</sup>

Women were included as an important part of the Grange community, but women's-only groups also flourished during this time period. The Ladies Library Association Committee, the Ladies Benevolent Society and the Red Cross Committee were all ways for women to connect with their community and get involved in town affairs. Katherine Ludington (1869-1963) was president of the Suffragette Association. Helen Clark was assistant to Ludington and the first woman to be elected to office in Old Lyme (from 1917-1920 she served on the Board of

Education).<sup>cclxxiv</sup> Ludington went on to champion the women's suffrage movement on a state and national level and help establish the League of Women Voters in 1921 – a cause to which she was devoted for most of her life.

A book club was formed in Old Lyme in 1866 and shortly thereafter merged with the Old Lyme Free Library. When the Lyme Musical Association was formed it built a band room on Ferry Road which housed the library's collection. The Ladies Library Association was organized in 1895 by Ms. Elizabeth Griswold of Black Hall.<sup>cclxxv</sup> This organization was instrumental in managing the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Memorial Library after it was constructed in 1898.

In 1916 the Old Lyme Country Club was started to provide recreational facilities for members. Baseball was a popular sport and amateur baseball leagues were formed throughout town including five shoreline teams. Camp Rainsfield was established at Black Hall as a "fresh air" camp for early children in New York boys between the ages of 11 and 18.<sup>cclxxvi</sup>

## **The Lyme Art Colony**

The one group that made the biggest impact on the town was the Lyme Art Colony, founded around the turn of the century in a boarding house run by an aging daughter of a once-wealthy sea captain. It was in this unlikely place that American Impressionism was begun. Captain Robert Griswold was one of the most prominent men in town when he purchased his Georgian-style mansion shortly after his marriage to Helen Powers in 1841. Griswold attained great fortune captaining packet ships during the 1850s. He grew weary of the treacherous transatlantic voyages by the time he reached 49 and retired. Poor investments in the 1860s resulted in a decline of the family's fortunes. To help ease the burden, Mrs. Griswold and her three daughters, all of whom received the highest level of education, opened the Griswold Home School for Girls out of their home.<sup>cclxxvii</sup> Captain Griswold died in 1882 and the school closed a decade later. By the 1890s, after the death of Helen Griswold and sister Louise, Ms. Florence Griswold was operating the house as a boarding establishment.

In 1894 Joseph Boston was the first to recognize the potential of the local landscape when he conducted Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences summer painting classes in Old Lyme. Clark Voorhees, a New York art student, came to Lyme the following year and toured the town by bicycle. He returned the following summer to paint and became the first full-time painter to lodge with Florence Griswold in her boarding house on Lyme Street.

Ms. Griswold's fortunes changed when painter Henry Ward Ranger (1858-1916) visited the town soon after Voorhees. Ranger was one of America's most prominent landscape painters and had just returned from a trip to the French Barbizon school, located south of Paris. He stayed at the boarding house in the summer of 1899 and was captivated by his surroundings.<sup>cclxxviii</sup> It was during this period that *plein air* painting was becoming most popular. Artists put an emphasis on depicting nature directly from life by painting in natural settings.<sup>cclxxix</sup>

Ranger declared “it looks like Barbizon...it is only waiting to be painted.”<sup>cclxxx</sup> Ward and other early artists were part of the Tonalist movement, rooted in the Barbizon tradition. Tonalism was based on a realistic interpretation of the natural landscape as it has been impacted by man. The works of French painters Corot and Rousseau served as examples. Old Lyme served as a perfect subject – stone walls lined the country-side, former wharfs lined the riverbanks and the well-designed homes of former sea captains lined Lyme Street. The first exhibit of the Tonalists’ works was held in the Phoebe Griffin Lloyd Noyes Library in 1902 and brought further attention to the Colony.

One of the most famous artists associated with the colony was Childe Hassam, who arrived at Florence Griswold’s house in 1903. He declared it “just the place for high thinking and low living.”<sup>cclxxxi</sup> It was here in Old Lyme under Hassam that America’s impressionist movement was fostered. William Chawick, Edward Rook, Edmund Gaecen, Everett Warner, Gregory Smith and Lawton Parker all worked in the Impressionist style and it soon overtook Tonalism among the members. Despite their differences in style, the artists formed a tight-knit community centered around the “Holy House” of Miss Florence.<sup>cclxxxii</sup>

Artists focused on the landscape of the interior, such as gardens, streetscapes natural features and agricultural scenes rather than subjects along the shoreline. Gardens were an important part of life in Old Lyme and Miss Florence kept large, rambling gardens on her property which proved popular with the artists. Mountain laurel was a theme of Edward Rook’s as was Bradbury’s Mill Dam.<sup>cclxxxiii</sup> Local landmarks such as waterfalls, bridges and churches were also common subjects. The graceful Bow Bridge over the Lieutenant River was particularly popular. Hassam’s series of paintings of the Congregational Church on Lyme street are perhaps the most famous works of the Colony. Ranger, Childe Hassam, Edward Rook, William Chadwick and William Robinson all produced works of local structures and buildings.<sup>cclxxxiv</sup> Florence Griswold’s boarding house was also a popular subject for the painters. Willard Metcalf’s *May Night* (1906) depicts the columned facade of the house and won a gold medal at the Corcoran Gallery of Art’s second biennial in 1907.<sup>cclxxxv</sup>

Although women took part in classes and even in exhibitions, they were not well represented in the colony. Female artists mainly studied under Frank Vincent DuMond as pupils of the Lyme Summer School of Art. Matilda Browne was one of the only notable female artist to emerge from Old Lyme. She specialized in the painting of cattle and farms scenes. Woodrow Wilson visited Miss Griswold’s house in the summer of 1910 and later in 1915. Like so many others, Wilson grew enamored of Old Lyme when his wife, artist Ellen Axon Wilson chose to paint amongst the members of the Old Lyme Colony. Later his daughters studied painting with Du Mond in 1905, 1909 and 1910.<sup>cclxxxvi</sup>

Florence Griswold was a traditional woman in many ways – she was against women’s right to vote - but she was well-educated and worldly enough to tolerate and even enjoy the artists’ bohemian ways. She was by all accounts maternal, empathetic and constantly encouraging toward her “boys”. Locals at first tolerated the artists, but as the colony became established it drew more visitors and homeowners to the area boosting the local

economy and local land values. There is no doubt that the colony had a profound impact on the character and nature of the town. Sixteen artists either purchased or built homes in Old Lyme during their residencies. Several artists congregated along Sill Lane: William Howe Foote (#8), Frank Bicknell (#15), Gregory Smith (#16), Walter Magee (#35). Thomas Watson made his home along the Lieutenant River at 23 Ferry Road, while others settled along “the Street” Matilda Browne (54 Lyme Street), George Burr (75 Lyme Street) and Charles and Mary Ebert (76 Lyme Street). Others congregated along Grassy Hill Road near Rogers Lake. Many went on to become part-time and even full-time residents contributing greatly to the community.

By 1914 the Lyme Art Association was formed to foster, show and promote the artists’ works. The colony drew students from all over the country. The colony reached its peak around 1910 when American Impressionism was at its zenith. As tastes changed in art, Impressionism fell out of favor and the colony’s popularity declined. The area, however, remained a center for art and the landscape of the town was forever celebrated and changed by the artists who painted it. Many Miss Griswold sold two acres to the Lyme Art Association and they built their gallery there in 1921. Funding for the gallery came from a combination of painting sales and private donations. Ms. Florence welcomed artists and managed the gallery until her death in 1937.<sup>cclxxxvii</sup>

## **The First World War**

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. The Conscription Act was put into place on May 18 of that year and in total seventy-five Old Lyme men served in the war, three of which lost their lives – Thomas Appleby, William W. Bugbee and Ronald Morgan.<sup>cclxxxviii</sup> Despite these losses, without the constant flow of information provided during subsequent conflicts, the war remained somewhat remote to the people of Old Lyme. Artists from the Lyme Art Colony served in the war in a number of ways. Some such as Louis Orr fought directly in battles. Others, such as Everett Warner and Charles Bittinger, helped the US Navy develop new camouflage schemes to help protect ships from enemy fire. Edmund Graecen garnered support for the allied cause by painting French landmarks that had been destroyed by the fighting. Childe Hassam created his “Flag Series,” which depicted allied banners displayed throughout New York City. George Hand Wright created posters and billboards during the war to encourage enlistment. He also created images of the French battlefields for the Pictorial Division. For his efforts he was acknowledged by the Secretary of the Navy.<sup>cclxxxix</sup> The War came to an end on November 11, 1918, and Old Lyme formed American Legion Post # 41 the following year.

## **Victorian and Early Twentieth-Century Architecture**

Old Lyme’s population remained stagnant during the period in which Victorian architecture flourished. As a result, there are few Victorian buildings in Old Lyme, but those that remain are significant. These are not true



Victorian buildings, but rather feature characteristic porch ornament, patterned shingles and ornamental gable treatments. The Queen Anne style emerged around 1880 and became fashionable in large homes. Character-defining features of the style include asymmetrical massing, the use of a variety of building materials and classical or medieval details. Hip or intersecting roof lines with decorative porches, towers, oriels, and bay windows with variety of dormers are all common. Less elaborate versions of the style are found in nearly every town and city center along the shoreline.<sup>ccxc</sup> Examples can be found at 3 Beckwith Ln. (ca. 1900) and 1 Duck River Ln. (ca. 1885). The town's summer population lived in small cottages based on this style.<sup>ccxci</sup> The cottage at 35 Swan Avenue is an unusually well-preserved example of this type.

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

The Centennial Exhibition in 1876 of the American Revolution brought a renewed interest in America's earlier architectural styles. The New York firm of McKim, Mead and White championed a Georgian aesthetic and return to classicism throughout the 1880s and 1890s. They displayed their work at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago and acquired a great number of admirers and copiers. These influences and an overall appreciation for the colonial past brought about the Colonial Revival style. This became the predominant building style after 1915. It was documented in the *White Pine* series of monographs published around this time. They appealed to sense of patriotism and included variations on the style as it appeared in all aspects of domestic architecture.<sup>ccxciii</sup> The Charles H. Ludington House (1893) on Lyme Street is an excellent example of a large-scale hip-roofed Colonial Revival-style house. A more modest example of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style house can be found at 5 Griswold Avenue. (ca. 1900).

Following the World War II, the style became more academic in nature and the copies of Colonial elements became more faithful to their original examples. In some cases, it is difficult to distinguish between the original and later copies.

The last style to emerge in Old Lyme during this period was the Craftsman or Bungalow. This architectural form was popularized in the United States through the work of Californian architects Charles and Henry Green, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Characteristically one-and-a-half-stories in height, bungalows typically

had rubble or cobblestone foundations and chimneys, low-pitched roofs extending over full-width one-story porches, widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and bracketed eave lines. A variety of dormer arrangements are common, as are heavy columns or piers supporting the porch. A small number of Craftsman-type houses dating from the 1910s through the 1930s were built in Old Lyme. Some notable examples include 15 Lieutenant River Lane (ca. 1920) and 17 Lieutenant River Lane (1920).

## **The Modern Era, 1929 - Present**

Following the stock market crash of 1929, the pace of building slowed in Old Lyme. It wasn't until after the end of the World War II that residential development increased again at a rapid pace. In 1930, there were 1,313 residents and by 1950 that number rose to 2,141.<sup>ccxciv</sup>

Prior to World War II, the town retained its sleepy atmosphere and remained agrarian in character until around 1960 when the major roadways of I-95 and Route 9 opened the area to commuters and development. An entry in the 1938 *American Guide Series*, which served as a manual for motoring enthusiasts, described Old Lyme as "an elm-shaded village steeped in seafaring tradition."<sup>ccxcv</sup> It went on to detail a landscape characterized by sea captains' houses, shady streets and expansive marshlands. It noted that there was no obvious industry in the town, but many artists were attracted to the landscape. The population was described as "elderly people of modest incomes...although numbers of summer residents bring life and gaiety to the community."<sup>ccxcvi</sup>

Seasonal residents grew the population during the summer months, but this development was contained along the shoreline and, later, around Rogers Lake. By 1970 there were 4,964 residents and the current year-round population hovers around 7,400. These new residents mean that new schools, roads and infrastructure were required to meet their needs. Like so many other shoreline towns, Old Lyme has been faced with the dilemma of balancing this growth with retaining the historic charm of its downtown area and preserving its open space.

## **Schools and Town Development**

By the end of the 1930s, the residents of Old Lyme began to enjoy the comforts of a modern age. Radios and electric refrigerators became common and there was a growing abundance of leisure time. The town accepted a Federal loan to construct a new Center School on Lyme Street, which was dedicated in 1935.

Local merchants and tradesmen supplied many of life's modern necessities. The DeWolfe and Rowland store stocked all manner of goods including household and agricultural items. It closed in 1948, however, the building later housed Smith's Hardware Store.<sup>ccxcvii</sup> As noted, Sylvester G. Brown operated a garage from 1922 to 1941 on Boston Post Road south of Sill Lane, while John Randall operated a livery service in town and replaced his carriages with automobiles in the 1920s. His daughter Myrtle took over the operation after her father's death in

1926.<sup>ccxcviii</sup> Old Lyme Hand Weavers was incorporated in 1945 and occupied the stone mill in Laysville. The company made and sold fabric. The mill was sold to Jonathan Donne on November 9, 1945. Donne produced fine woolens until he was forced out of business in 1948. In 1958 Richard Fiend remodeled the stone mill into a residence. The house and dam are both now privately owned.<sup>ccxcix</sup>

When Florence Griswold could no longer afford the upkeep of her home it was put up for sale. The Florence Griswold Association was founded by residents and friends of Ms. Griswold in order to pay her expenses and purchase the property. It was instead purchased in 1936 by Robert McCurdy Marsh, a New York appellate court judge. Marsh allowed Griswold to retain life use of the property, but she died the following year. The Florence Griswold Association purchased the house in 1941 and the museum was opened to the public in 1947. The house was made a National Historic Landmark in 1993 and continues to provide visitors with an amazing perspective on the artists and artworks of the Old Lyme Colony.

In the 1920s new immigrant groups came to Old Lyme and formed small colonies along the shore. Soundview was a thriving and diverse community.<sup>ccc</sup> Old Lyme Shores, which was developed by the Smith Company, held deed restrictions stating that properties could not be sold or rented to any “colored people, Hebrew, Greek, Italians or Poles”.<sup>ccci</sup> Mr. Hilliard’s development at Soundview welcomed many more ethnicities, but even he refused to sell or rent to “a negro.”<sup>cccii</sup> Despite this, many of the local establishments featured black entertainers and the deed restrictions were less strictly enforced by 1950. It wasn’t until after passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, however, that such restrictions were abolished.<sup>ccciii</sup> Meanwhile Italians, Irish, Germans, Polish and Lithuanians purchased lots in Hilliard’s development in great numbers – forever changing the demographics of this small coastal town. Soundview reached its peak population at end of 1930s. In 1938, Camp Rainsford was moved closer to New York City and the Old Lyme site was abandoned. Locals purchased the site and created the Old Lyme Beach Club in 1939. It remains in operation today.<sup>ccciv</sup> The Sound View Post Office served the community until 1942.<sup>cccv</sup> O’Connor’s and Doyle’s pavilions are still the center of life at the shore.

By the 1940s, Hartford Avenue in Soundview became known as “Hell’s Hall” due to the dozen or more bars found on the commercial strip and the constant brawling that took place on the street. To reduce fighting, Navy and Coast Guard personnel were banned from visiting Sound View. By the second half of the 20th century most of the shops and commercial activity had disappeared from Hartford Avenue.

Transportation via automobile continued to improve during this period, bringing Old Lyme into the modern era by connecting it other city centers. The Blue Star Road was built in 1948 and 1949 with modern vehicular bridges across the Connecticut and Lieutenant Rivers built in order to divert increasing traffic from Route 1. The road bisected Lyme Street resulting in the demolition of a historic brick house belonging to Sterling Davis, one of the largest antique sellers in the region.<sup>cccvi</sup> This “Super 2” Highway became part of Interstate 95 in 1958. Locally, the Shore Road was improved by the state as Route 333 through Black Hall.<sup>cccvii</sup> Bow Bridge was replaced in 1941 by a three-span steel-girder bridge.<sup>cccviii</sup>

During this period, Lyme Street became more developed. The Lyme Art Gallery was built, the Bee and Thistle Inn was enlarged and moved back from street.<sup>cccix</sup> In order to protect the character of Lyme Street, a shopping plaza was built in 1958 along Cross Road (the name was changed to Hall's Avenue in 1977). The Post Office was moved there in 1970. While this brought a change to the everyday routines of some Lyme residents, many championed the move as a way of saving historic Lyme Street from commercial development.<sup>cccx</sup> A few of the smaller shops remained in operation. Alice Rogers operated a store from 1939 to 1973 that sold gifts, books, linens, toys and stationary.<sup>cccxi</sup>

## **The Great Depression and Second World War**

Following the stock market crash of 1929, Old Lyme's residents sought relief from Federal agencies. That same year, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) program identified those municipalities in greatest need of assistance. In 1931, the Connecticut General Assembly extended help to communities through a comprehensive Town Aid Program to fund road construction and maintenance projects. In March of 1934, the town of Old Lyme voted to appropriate \$100,000 of FERA funding to construct a modern Center School complete with 12 classrooms and a study hall/library. Architect Ernest Sibley designed the Colonial Revival-style building along with local consulting architect Thomas Ball.<sup>cccxi</sup> The building was dedicated in 1935.

While the Depression years seemed to be taken in stride by Old Lyme's residents, the Hurricane of 1938 had a overwhelming effect on the town. The hurricane struck on September 21, 1938. It devastated the elms lining Main Street, leaving only a few survivors. The tidal surge caused massive flooding in Soundview and Hawk's Nest Beach lost all but a few cottages. At White Sands only one house stood after the storm.<sup>cccxi</sup>

On December 7, 1941, America was once again brought into a global conflict. Like most other cities in Connecticut blackouts and air raids were common during the war. Thanks to the advent of newsreels and improved newspaper reporting, the war was felt acutely by the population of Old Lyme. Rallies were held and money was raised by purchasing war bonds. Selective service began in November of 1940 and included all men between the ages of 21 and 36. In February of 1942, it was expanded to include men up to 45 years in age.

At home, residents used ration books to record their allowance of such items as tires, gas and sugar. Civil Defense training. During World War II, Walter Cookesly manufactured shipping crates for guns for the U.S. Government out of the lower mill on Mill Brook.<sup>cccxi</sup> He also used the mill to build various types of small boats. Cookesly sold the property to NOTAE, Inc. in 1951. That company manufactured lamps and lampshades for several years. John and Heather Kneeland purchased the property in May 8, 1965 and converted one portion of the mill building into a residence and the other end into a small manufacturing operation producing burglar alarms.<sup>cccxi</sup> In 1976 the town accepted ownership of the Lower Mill dam and it remains under town control. It was restored by the town in 1985 and serves an important function as a silt basin to protect oyster beds at the Sound.<sup>cccxi</sup>

## The Post-War Period and Suburbanization

Following the surrender of Japan on August 14, 1945, Old Lyme began to transform at a rapid pace from a quiet rural enclave to a suburban town. As automobiles became commonplace and new highway systems were built to accommodate commuters and recreational drivers, parts of Old Lyme became suburbs serving workers in New London and Groton. Once the Connecticut Turnpike was opened in 1958 the towns along the shoreline began to increase in population.

A population boom followed the soldiers' return from the war. The population doubled between 1960 and 1990, rising from 3,068 to 6,535. By 2000, the number of Old Lyme residents reached 7,406.<sup>cccxvii</sup> This coupled with the ever-growing popularity of the automobile led to the suburbanization of once-rural coastal communities. Property prices rose steeply during this period as coastal building lots became increasingly scarce.<sup>cccxviii</sup> Agriculture was no longer profitable as farmland grew increasingly scarce. This open space became vulnerable to residential development pressure. The G.I. Bill of 1944 secured low-interest mortgages for veterans. Housing developments like the Chadwick subdivision began to spring up off Mile Creek Road in the mid-1960s. Commercial strips developed along many coastal highways in the region, but in Old Lyme commercial development was moved away from Lyme Street to the Halls Road area. Many of these new developments feature structures built in the Colonial Revival, Tudor, Ranch and Split-level styles.

The Old Lyme Historic District was created in 1971 to protect the towns' largest concentration of historic resources. The district is overseen by the Historic District Commission and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 14, 1971.

In 1976, the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts was founded by Elisabeth Gordon Chandler to teach figurative sculpture, figure drawing, illustration and painting. The school currently offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the disciplines of painting, sculpture, illustration and drawing through the University of New Haven, however, these programs will be discontinued as of May 2019.

Old Lyme was home to several notable figures during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most well-known among Old Lyme's natives was Ella Grasso (1919-1981). Grasso was Connecticut's 83<sup>rd</sup> Governor who served between 1975 and 1980. She was the first woman in the United States to become Governor.<sup>cccxix</sup> Her father, Giacomo Tambussi, purchased a cottage on Swan Avenue in the 1930s and they became residents. Prior to her career in politics Grasso ran the New Colony movie theater in Soundview with her husband Thomas Grasso for three summers.<sup>cccxx</sup> She became a member of the Connecticut State House of Representatives in 1952 and Secretary of the State of Connecticut in 1958. She ran for Governor and won in 1974 and helped Connecticut residents through the blizzard of 1978. She won another term as Governor following this event, but she was forced to resign from office in 1980 after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died the following year.

Author, artist and environmentalist Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996) wrote *A Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in 1934, which made bird watching accessible to people throughout the world. His book contained illustrations of each bird hand-drawn by the author and went on to inspire over fifty other similar field guides using his name. Peterson moved to Old Lyme in 1954. From his home along the Connecticut River, he noticed the impact of the chemical DDT on the local osprey population. This concern resulted in his eventual testimony before Congress and helped to usher in a local conservation movement.<sup>cccxxi</sup>

In the 1960s, urban renewal programs wiped out large areas of downtown areas in Connecticut's cities and towns. An urban renewal scheme threatened Sound View, but locals voted against it.<sup>cccxxii</sup> Nevertheless, the area was in a state of decline. In the 1970s and 1980s Hartford Avenue became a center of "adult" entertainment. It contained several biker bars featuring rock concerts and other shows that ran late into the evenings and drew large and rowdy crowds. Hotel Branmore was an infamous revue club that was purchased by the town and torn down in 1995. Many of the bars closed in the 1990s, but some remain famous for their nightlife. There are also several seasonal restaurants and ice cream shops, most notably the Carousel Ice Cream Shop, which features a historic carousel next to the popular ice cream parlor. The community today remains a mix of residential and commercial properties and still has a few bars famous for their nightlife.<sup>cccxxiii</sup>

## **Post-Depression Era and Post-World War II Architecture**

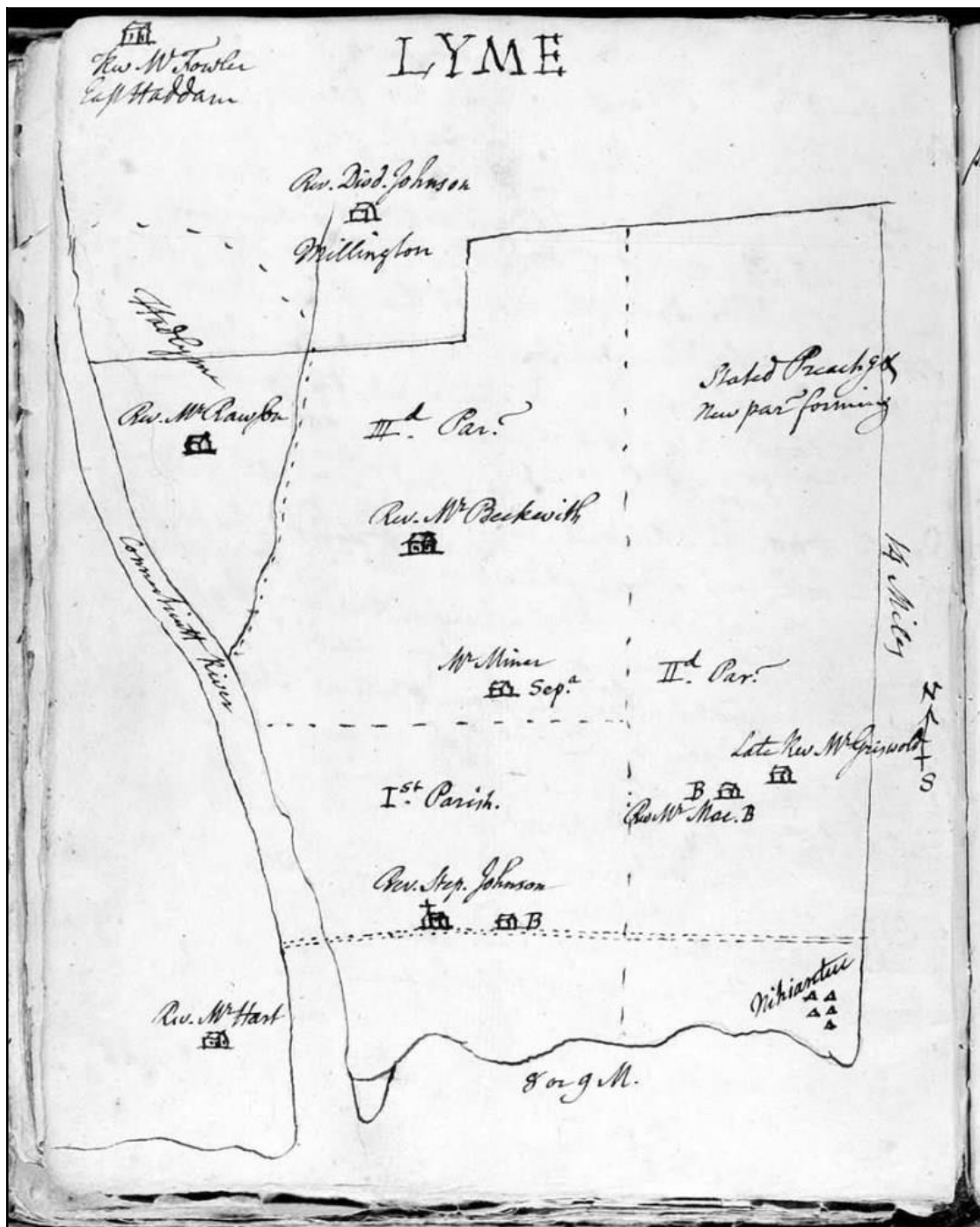
Old Lyme's Post-Depression and Post-World War II era housing stock represents a number of the styles generally popular throughout the eastern United States during the second half of the twentieth century. These include Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional forms (most notably Capes) and vernacular interpretations of earlier styles. These houses are interspersed with historic homes and converted former agricultural buildings along the town's main arteries or are more densely-located in post-war developments. The developments were built on large farm lots that were divided to create subdivisions during the 1940s through the 1960s.

By far the most popular style of this period in the town is Colonial Revival. This style persisted well into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and guided many restorations and renovations of earlier houses in town. Again, both academic versions of the style which adhere strictly to true New England Colonial, Cape and Farmhouse styles and later more interpretive versions of this style are found throughout the town. Early Colonial Revival examples often featured exaggerated forms that took inspiration from colonial features. The most common were Georgian and Federal examples and included elements such as symmetrical facades lined with multi-pane sash windows, colonial door surrounds and cornice dentils. Other influences included Post-Medieval English and Dutch Colonial examples, which featured gambrel roofs examples or garrisoned second-story overhangs. Between 1915 and 1935, more academic styles appeared, supported by the publication of books and periodicals on colonial architecture (the *White Pine* series of monographs was one such example). The economic depression of the 1930s followed by

materials shortages during World War II led to a simplification of the style which featured stylized door surrounds, cornices, and symmetrically placed openings. This survey only included properties built before 1920, so very few, if any of these styles have been captured by this phase of the survey.

## IMAGES





Map showing the three parishes or "quarters" of Lyme. Drawn by Ezra Stiles, 1768. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Taken from "Evolution of a Place Name" Florence Griswold Museum Website <https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/learn/our-history/the-lymes-evolution-of-a-place-name/> (Accessed December 3, 2018).



Painting by Ellen Noyes Chadwick showing the activity of boats arriving and leaving from Ferry Point.  
*View of Ferry Point* ca. 1860 Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kriebel, Florence Griswold Museum<sup>3</sup>

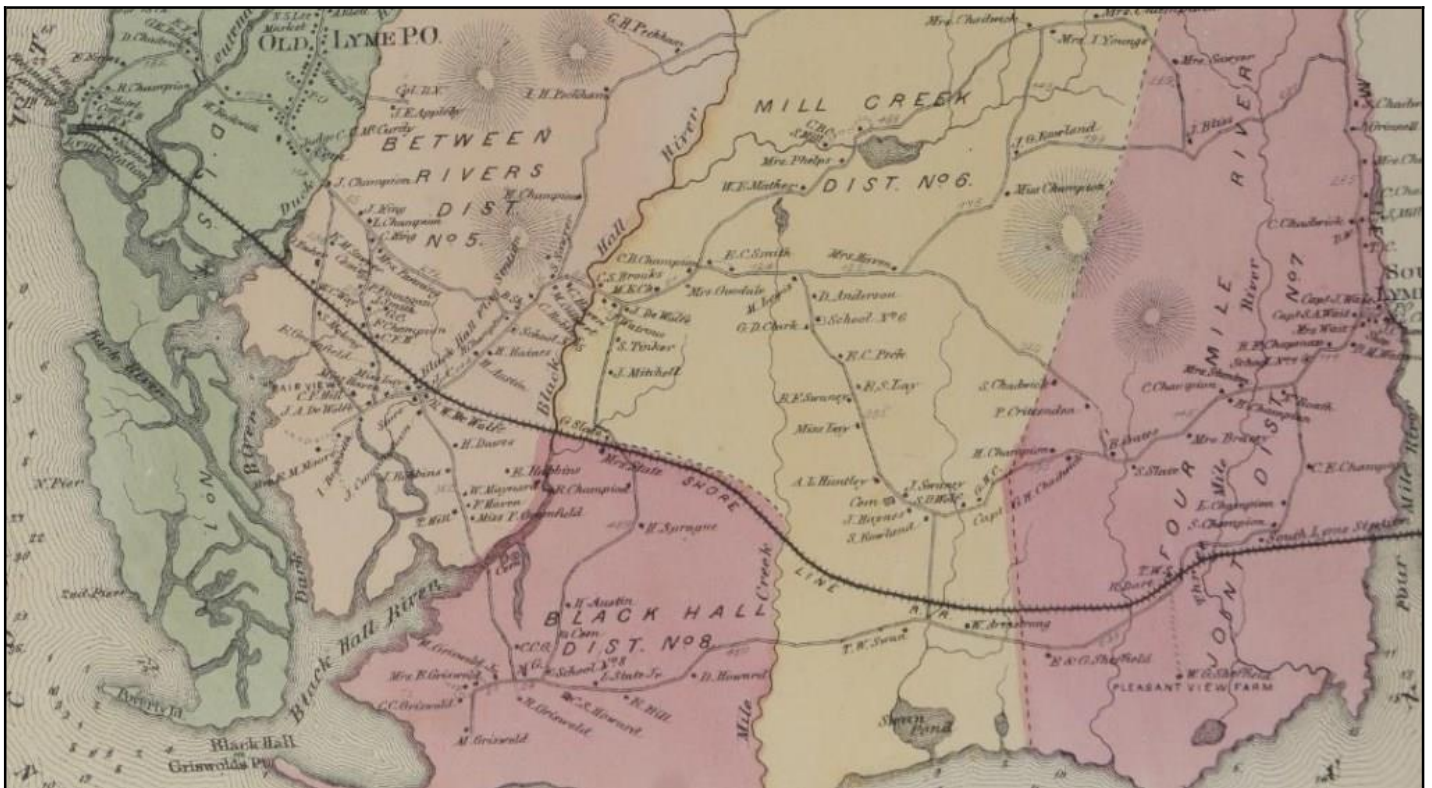
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<sup>3</sup> Wakeman, Carolyn. Exhibition Notes: Lyme Artists and the Changing Landscape at Ferry point. Jan 29m 2016,  
<https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/exhibition-note-lyme-artists-and-the-changing-landscape-at-ferry-point/> Accessed December 5, 2018.



Detail of the 1854 Map of New London County showing the study area. Henry Francis Walling and William E. Baker, [S.I. 1854]. Accessed from [http://www.historicmapworks.com/Buy/Prints/US/1597524/?gclid=CjwKCAiA7vTiBRAqEiwA4NT062ogWEuWKgv9RVX0Us68srOHT6W74IF0iE4ILGSGTE-mrU0emnLSNBoCwIsQAvD\\_BwE](http://www.historicmapworks.com/Buy/Prints/US/1597524/?gclid=CjwKCAiA7vTiBRAqEiwA4NT062ogWEuWKgv9RVX0Us68srOHT6W74IF0iE4ILGSGTE-mrU0emnLSNBoCwIsQAvD_BwE)

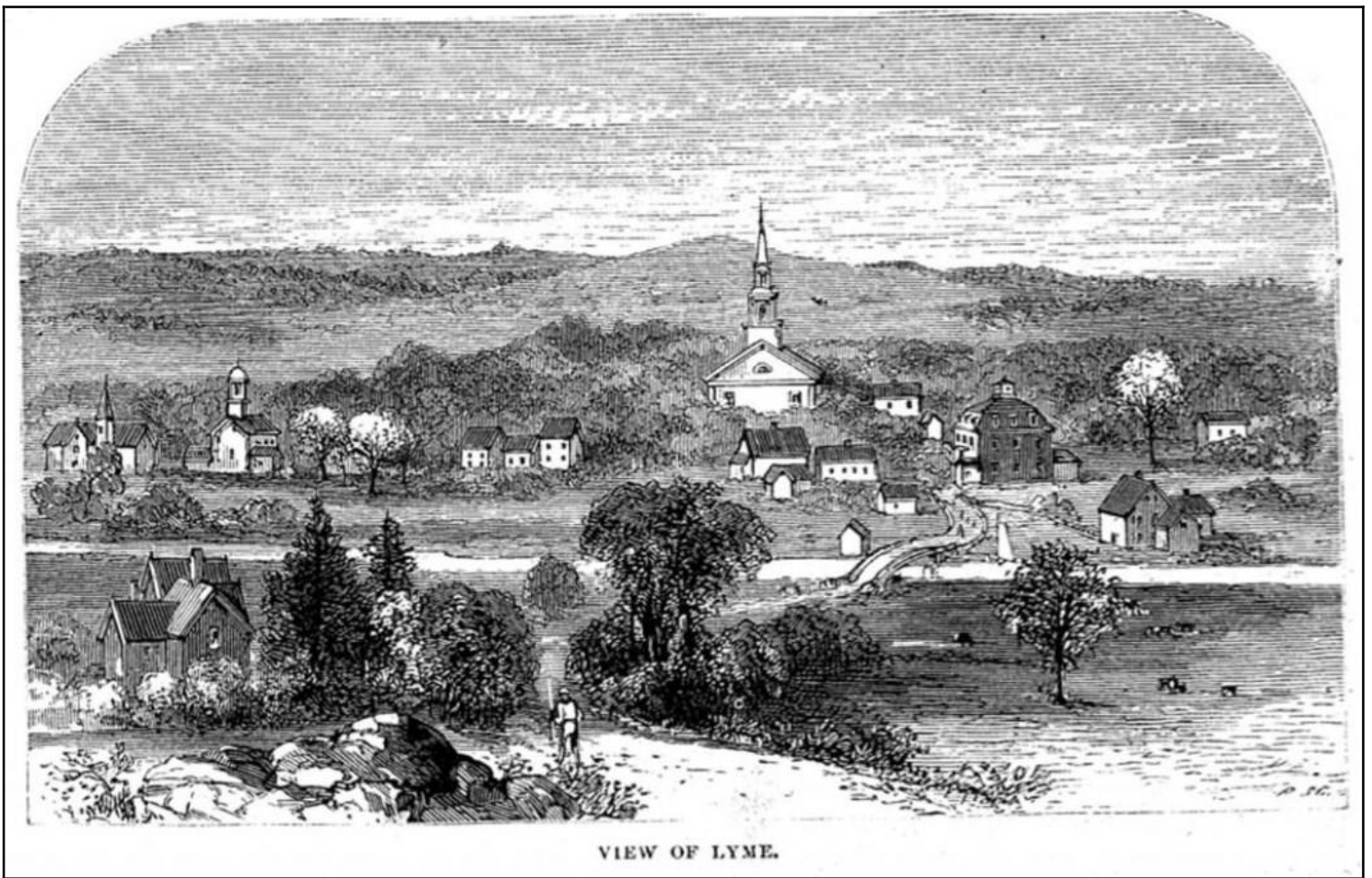




Detail of the Atlas of New London County showing the study area in 1868. New York: Beers, Ellis & Soule.

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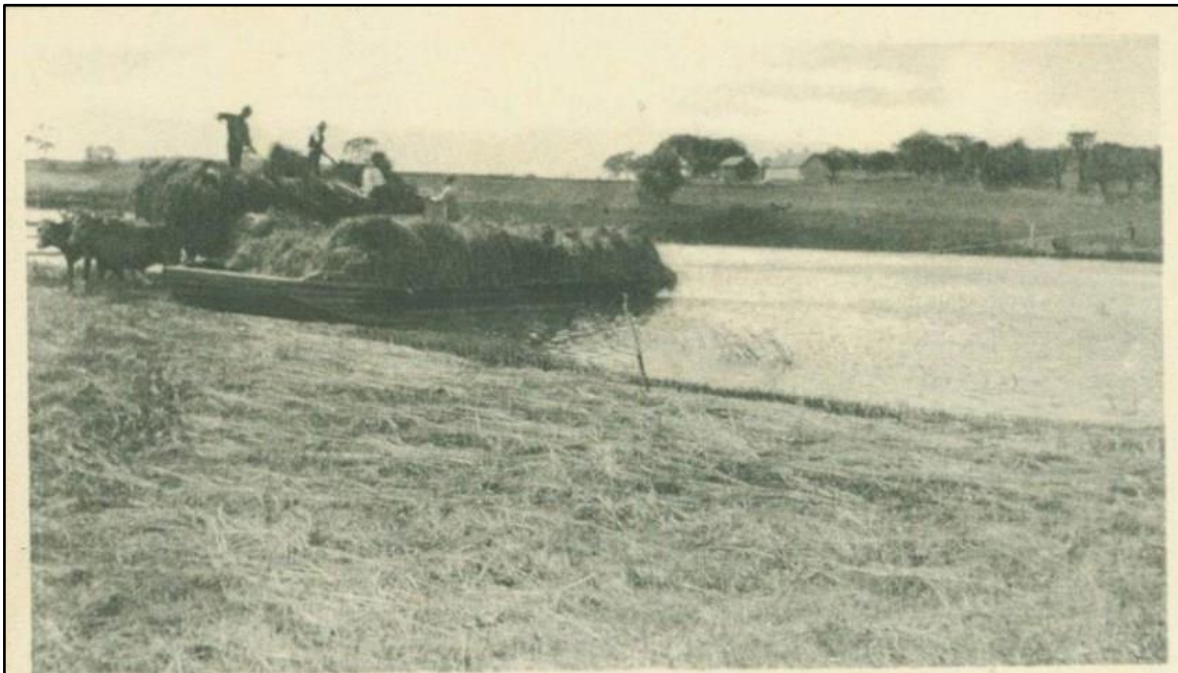
[http://www.historicmapworks.com/Buy/Prints/US/4539/?gclid=CjwKCAiA7vTiBRAqEiwA4NTO64j08w8JxD9NXQka8GuPreEv21AqM2L34xNKHnHvTwS6ed94NPNnOBoCuigQAvD\\_BwE](http://www.historicmapworks.com/Buy/Prints/US/4539/?gclid=CjwKCAiA7vTiBRAqEiwA4NTO64j08w8JxD9NXQka8GuPreEv21AqM2L34xNKHnHvTwS6ed94NPNnOBoCuigQAvD_BwE)



View of Lyme showing the Lieutenant River Bridge and Pierrepont House. Sketch attributed to Charles Parsons Harper's New Monthly Magazine, 1876. LHSA



Train crossing after crossing Connecticut River, showing Lyme depot, ca. 1880. Courtesy Carolyn Wakeman.



Salt Haying Time at Lyme, Conn.

Post card showing salt haying, one of the most enduring agrisultural enterprises in Old Lyme.<sup>4</sup>



*May Night* Willard Metcalf, 1906. Old Lyme's artists painted local landmarks such as the façade of the Florence Griswold boarding house.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Exhibition Note Viewing the River". Lyme Historical Society Archives Florence Griswold Museum  
<https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/exhibition-note-viewing-the-river/>





*House on Sill Lane*, Harry L. Hoffman (1871-1964), oil on canvas. Located in Old Lyme Town Hall.

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<sup>5</sup> Image courtesy of the National Gallery of Art <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.195805.html>





Upper Mill Pond Dam, William Howe Foote (1874-1965), oil on canvas. Located in the Old Lyme Town Hall.



*Bertie Davis Homestead*, Winfield Scott Clime (1881-1958), oil on canvas. Located in the Old Lyme Town Hall.





An engraving of a map of Old Lyme by local artist Platt Hubbard. Archives of the Old Lyme Historical Society.



Post card of Florence Griswold showing her in the dining room of her boarding house, ca. 1915. The panels behind her were decorated by the visiting artists <sup>6</sup>

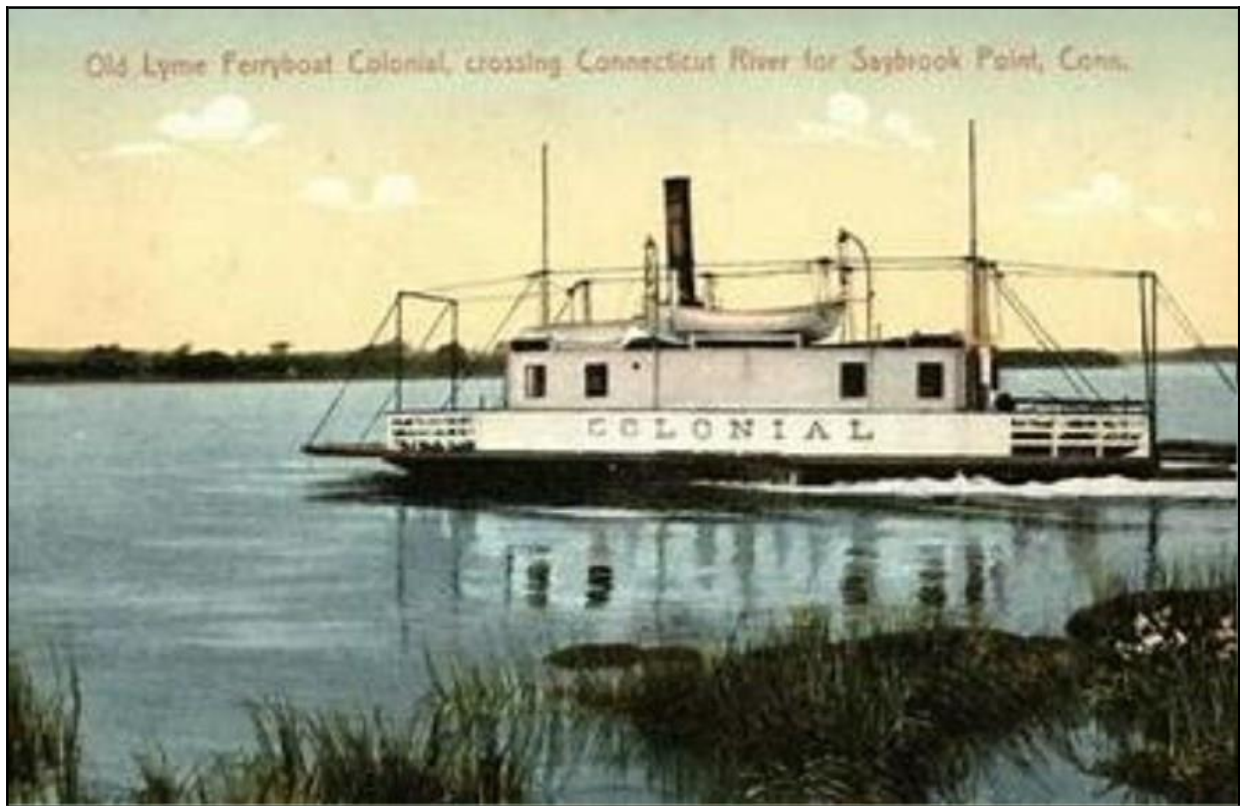


Image of *Plein Air* Painting in Old Lyme, ca. 1905.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Photograph courtesy of Florence Griswold Museum Website. <https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/learn/our-history/boardinghouse/> <sup>7</sup>  
 Photograph courtesy of Florence Griswold Museum Website. <https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/learn/our-history/boardinghouse/>





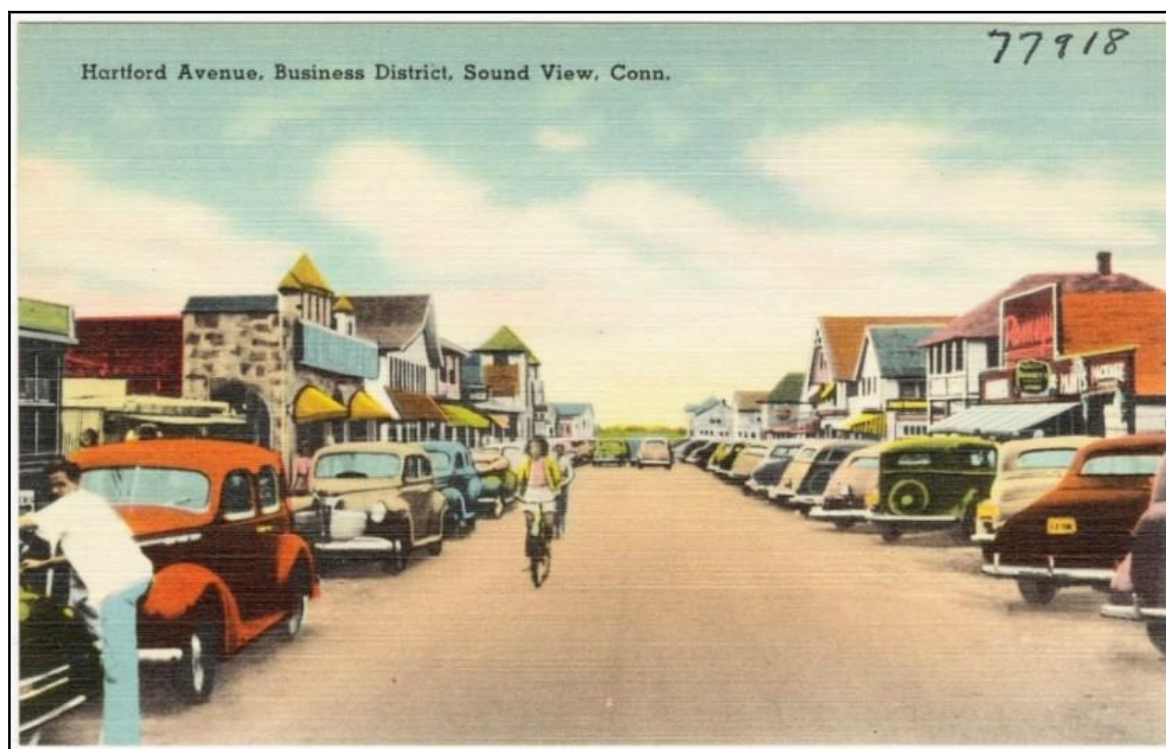
The ferry crossing between Old Lyme and Old Saybrook continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Old Lyme Ferryboat “Colonial,” ca. 1910. W. D. Neidlinger, Publisher.



Postcard showing the gardens of Boxwood Manor, the former home of Richard Sill Griswold on Lyme Street.



Postcard showing vacationers at Old Lyme Shores (ca. 1930-1945).<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Digital Commonwealth Massachusetts Collections Online Boston Public Library, Tichnor Borthers Postcard Colelction  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:6t053h17b>



Postcard showing view along Hartford Avenue in Sound View neighborhood.<sup>9</sup>



Florence Griswold House, Lyme, ca. 1949. University of Connecticut Libraries, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, Archives & Special Collections.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> John Herzan, *Historic Preservation in Connecticut: Volume V; Eastern Coastal Slope Historical and Architectural Overview and Management Guide*, Hartford, Connecticut: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1997, 7.

<sup>ii</sup> Town of Old Lyme, *Plan of Conservation and Development*, 4.

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<sup>9</sup> Digital Commonwealth Boston Public Library, Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection:  
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:ff365846m>

<sup>10</sup> "Florence Griswold's Home: A Story of Perseverance and Community" Connecticut History.org  
<https://connecticuthistory.org/florence-griswolds-home-a-story-of-perseverance-and-community/>

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- iii Jim Lampos and Michaelle Pearson *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, Old Lyme, Old Lyme Historical Society, 2010, 9.
- iv Herzan, 7.
- v Herzan, 8.
- vi Ibid.
- vii Susan Ely and Elizabeth Plimpton. *The Lieutenant River*, Old Lyme, Connecticut: Old Lyme Historical Society, 1991, 5.
- viii Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 12.
- ix Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 13.
- x Herzan, 9.
- xi Ibid.
- xii Ibid.
- xiii Ibid.
- xiv Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 13.
- xv Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.
- xvi *Landmarks of Old Lyme, Connecticut: Historic Buildings, and Monuments with a short Records of the Town Since 1635 AD*. Old Lyme, CT: Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 1968, 3.
- xvii Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 28.
- xviii Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.
- xix John William De Forest, Felix Octavius Carr Darley *History of the Indians of Connecticut from the earliest known period to 1850*. Hartford, CT: W. J. Hamersley, 1851, 181.
- xx Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.
- xxi Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 3.
- xxii Herzan, 12.
- xxiii Ibid.
- xxiv Jim Lampos and Michaelle Pearson *Revolution in the Lymes: From the New Lights to the Sons of Liberty* Charleston, SC: History Press 2016, 17.
- xxv Jim Lampos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2015. 10.
- xxvi Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 1.
- xxvii Jim Lampos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. 10.
- xxviii Herzan, 9.
- xxix Lampos, Jim and Michaelle Pearson *Revolution in the Lymes: From the New Lights to the Sons of Liberty*, 20.
- xxx Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 2.
- xxxi Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 16
- xxxii Lampos, Jim and Michaelle Pearson *Revolution in the Lymes: From the New Lights to the Sons of Liberty*, 24
- xxxiii Ely, 5.
- xxxiv Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 17.
- xxxv Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 2
- xxxvi Lampos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 18.
- xxxvii Lampos, Jim and Michaelle Pearson *Revolution in the Lymes: From the New Lights to the Sons of Liberty*, 28.
- xxxviii Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 3.
- xxxix Ibid.
- xl Hall, 44.
- xli Herzan, 13.
- xlii Hall, 66.
- xliii Hall, 67.
- xliv Hall, 71.
- xlv Hall, 72.

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- xlvi Lamos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 18.
- xlvi Hall, 64.
- xlvi Ibid.
- xlvi Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 24.
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## Miscellaneous Resources

Historic Resource Inventory. Old Lyme, Connecticut. April 2019

Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme Room – Clippings and files on old houses.

## VI. Resources Related to Women and Minorities

A complete and detailed history of Old Lyme could not be completed without mention of the important role that women and minorities played in the development and daily activities of the town.

### Minority History in Old Lyme

Slavery was considered to be an essential element in the successful establishment of the Saybrook Colony and many of Old Lyme's earliest and most prominent families owned slaves. The first mention is the term Black Hall which may or may not refer to the presence of a slave cabin on the land of the first settler, Matthew Griswold. In 1756, there were 94 Native Americans living in Lyme.<sup>i</sup> Enslavement of the Native American population began after the Pequot War. However, native people were adept at escaping and evading their captors. In 1650, the Connecticut Codes were passed to allow the exchange or trade of Native American slaves for African slaves. Slavery was common in Lyme and enslaved people were found in the households of the most well-known families. The names of Mather, Sill, McCurdy, Noyes are all listed among slave owners during this period. Historian Martha Lamb (1829–1893) stated, "In the palmy days before the Revolution, all the consequential families in Lyme owned negro slaves."<sup>ii</sup> Slaves worked on many of the area's farms performing tasks in the fields and in the households. They also worked in the warehouses and wharfs along the riverbanks loading and unloading goods. Slavery was considered morally acceptable to religious leaders of the time and was justified as financially necessary by leaders.

In 1702, the Connecticut General Assembly discouraged manumission by making former owners indefinitely responsible for the care of their freed slaves. The 1756 census lists a high number of black residents in Lyme. At the time there were 2,762 whites and 100 blacks living in town.<sup>iii</sup>

By 1774, there were 5,101 blacks listed in the census of Connecticut and Lyme residents kept 124 slaves.<sup>iv</sup> Dr. John Pfeiffer has studied an inscription on the gravestone of early proprietor William Ely (1698-1758). It states that "he was the first amongst us to free his slaves" but Dr. Pfeiffer has found that upon Ely's death his two slaves Cesar and Warwick were, in fact, not freed but became property of his wife Mary.<sup>v</sup> Manumissions and emancipations became more common during the Revolutionary War. This may have been because the call to freedom struck a chord with some slave owners. More likely, it no longer made economic sense to keep slaves as agricultural markets shifted away from New England and the cost became prohibitive.<sup>vi</sup> In 1774, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the Connecticut Colony. Following the Revolutionary War in 1784, Connecticut began to pass laws granting emancipation to all slaves born after 1784 when they reached the age of 25. Still many slaves remained in Old Lyme households well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Many of Old Lyme's black and Native American residents served in the French and Indian War (1755-1762). Conflicts in Europe came to a head in the new world when Britain's North American colonies and France's Bourbon colony (which included areas from Quebec to the Mississippi River) battled over lands in western

Historic Resource Inventory. Old Lyme, Connecticut. April 2019

Pennsylvania<sup>vii</sup>. Connecticut troops fought mainly in New York with local men serving in the Ninth Company in 1759 and later the Eighth Company under Captain Zebulon Butler of Lyme in 1761.<sup>viii</sup>

In 1784 a gradual emancipation act freed all children born to enslaved women after March 1, 1784, while the Connecticut Legislature formally prohibited slavery throughout the state in 1788.<sup>ix</sup> In 1790, the Federal Census indicated that there were 2,764 enslaved persons in Connecticut – a total of one percent of the population. Some of the most well-documented slave-holders in Old Lyme’s history include the Noyes, McCurdy, Sill and Mather families. By 1800 there were still 1000 enslaved people in Connecticut. That same year Lyme had an overall population of 4380. Among its residents were 108 recently freed “blacks” and 23 slaves still maintained by local owners, including Robert Douglas (1), David Ely (1), Roger Griswold (1), Elisha Lay (1), Lee lay (1), Enoch Lord Jr. (1), John Lord (2), Joseph Lord (1), Reynold Lord (1), William Mack (1), Samuel Mather Jr. (2), Joseph Noyes (2), William Noyes (3), William Noyes 2nd (1), Marshfield Parsons (3), and Jasper Peck (1).<sup>x</sup>

The 1810 census shows 4261 people in Lyme and 108 free “blacks”. However, the number of slaves dropped to nine. Slave owners were Elizabeth Caulkins (1), Marsh Ely (1), Enoch Lord Jr (1), Eunice Noyes (3), John Noyes (2), and William Noyes (1).<sup>xi</sup> The last slave documented in Lyme was a man named Pomp. Previous records indicate that he had run away several times and had been sold between several prominent families. According to a *Connecticut Gazette* article dated December 25, 1816, Pomp had run away from Joseph Noyes of Lyme. He was listed as being 40 years of age and blind in one eye.<sup>xii</sup> No further record is known to exist of him. In 1820 there were still 97 slaves counted among Connecticut’s 8,000 African residents.<sup>xiii</sup> By 1840, that number dropped to 17, with the last individuals finally granted freedom in 1848.

Connecticut’s abolitionist movement began around the time of the Revolution and was led by members of the Quaker, Baptist and Methodist churches. Many members of the more established Congregational and Episcopalian churches were conservative and reluctant to change. Some even had economic ties to southern cotton trade. The Amistad incident in 1839 and subsequent trial galvanized abolitionist support. The state’s Underground Railroad was formed and steamers brought escaped slaves to shoreline stations in Old Lyme and New London.<sup>xiv</sup> From here they traveled north to Worcester or Rhode Island. The Samuel Peck House at 32 Lyme Street is listed on Connecticut’s Freedom Trail and as a potential site of a stop on the Underground Railroad. A small room near the chimney on the third floor may have served as a hiding place.<sup>xv</sup>

The Underground Railroad became a much riskier endeavor following passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 which made it a federal offense to assist an escaping slave. Sympathy for enslaved people was bolstered by the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852. Two years later Connecticut passed the Act for Defense of Liberty which made it a crime to seize a free person with the intent to enslave them. Even after slavery was abolished in Connecticut, freed blacks and other minority members of the population lived an isolated existence on the margins of society. After slavery was abolished in Connecticut, freed blacks still lived an isolated existence along the margins of society. The church had voted in 1814 to reserve church pews for whites only. Black



members were forced to sit in triangular-shaped pews in the upper gallery. These remained in place until the interior was renovated in 1886.<sup>xvi</sup>

Anna Louise James was the first African-American woman in Connecticut to become a licensed pharmacist. She owned a drug store started by her brother Fritz in Old Saybrook in 1917. Fritz started a second pharmacy in Old Lyme where Anna also filled prescriptions. In 1932 the James Pharmacy moved to a space near the Woodward IGA grocery store. The brother and sister team operated the store there until 1957.<sup>xvii</sup>

Native American history in Old Lyme is no less fraught. Throughout the 1670s, the early colonists continued to interact with the local Native Americans, mostly to negotiate planting rights. When lands were sold by most Native Americans, they did so with an understanding that the English could provide protection from neighboring tribes. They also believed that the land would remain shared, but this was tragically not the case. Following King Philip's War in 1675-1676, relations between the colonial and Native American populations were limited. The Nehantic were forced into small camps due to English encroachment on their land. Many men and women moved to a 300-acre reservation at Black Point (in present-day Niantic) designated by the English in 1672.<sup>xviii</sup>

One of the earliest Native Americans to convert to Christianity was Wequash Cooke, a sachem of the Nehantics who had joined with the English to fight the Pequots at Mystic. The resulting massacre deeply impacted Wequash. Following the battle, he converted to Christianity and became a missionary among his people. His conversion is largely believed to be one of the first among Native people. His death took place 1642 in Saybrook at the home of Colonel George Fenwick.<sup>xix</sup> A century later, many other Nehantics converted to Christianity under a descendent of Mohegan Chief Uncas by the name of Samson Occum. He had become an influential minister after converting during the Great Awakening. Several Nehantics left with Occum in 1786 to form a Christian community at Brotherton, New York in Oneida County, in 1786.<sup>xx</sup> As in the rest of Connecticut, by start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Native American population had been decimated by illness and were pushed out of their traditional hunting and fishing grounds.

By 1774 only 117 Nehantics were counted in Lyme, which at the time included the present towns of Lyme and Old Lyme, several of whom identified as members of the Congregational Church. <sup>xxi</sup> In 1871, the State of Connecticut declared the Nehantic Tribe extinct. This came as a surprise to two sisters, Betsey Nonesuch and Mercy Ann Nonesuch Matthews, who both lived in Old Lyme for periods during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>xxii</sup>

### Women's History in Old Lyme

Old Lyme has long been home to several notable women who made substantive changes to the history of the town. Women were pioneers in politics, business, education and the arts.<sup>xxiii</sup> Some of Old Lyme's earliest records show that women were afforded a rare opportunity at the time to own property. Matthew Griswold, considered to be the first settler of Old Lyme, "Had a liberal and enlarged view, very much in advance of his age."

His wife, Ursula, owned a large estate known as Meadowlands. This was rare, as women were by no means equal but enjoyed rare economic empowerment in Old Lyme. There was also a spirit of religious freedom that carried forward over many decades. Women writers, actresses and artists have long called this place home and many of their individual histories are mentioned in the house forms in this survey.

Ursula Wolcott Griswold (1724-1788), was daughter of Governor Oliver Wolcott, and married her cousin Matthew Griswold of Old Lyme on November 10, 1743. Matthew became Governor of Connecticut and was a patriot in the American Revolution. His position also made him a target for British troops during the Revolution. A tale is commonly told about Ursula saving her husband from certain capture. British troops arrived at their home with the intent of seizing Matthew, but Ursula hid him in a barrel while she entertained the British troops in their home. After telling them that her husband was on the way to Hartford for a meeting, she offered to let them inspect her house. They soon left and Matthew was saved, thanks to the calm demeanor of his wife.<sup>xxiv</sup>

Phoebe Griswold Parsons (1716-1770) was a sister to Governor Griswold and was known for her irreverence and beauty. She was one of the Griswold sisters known as the “Black Hall Boys”. Women celebrated for their beauty of charm. Phoebe married Reverent Jonathan Parsons on December 17, 1731. She often played tricks on her husband, who was an acolyte of Jonathan Edwards a leader of the “New Lights” – a religious movement which brought about the Great Awakening in the 1740s.<sup>xxv</sup> Her wit and charm were prized, but along with her husband she raised sons Samuel Holden Parsons and Marshfield Parsons who would both go on to feature heavily in the course of the Revolution. Samuel became an officer in the Revolutionary army and Marshfield go on to feature heavily in the made their home into the Parsons Tavern – a place where the Sons of Liberty gathered.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Phoebe Griffin Lord Noyes (1797-1875) was an artist and educator. Born in the Noyes House on Lyme Street, she was sent to live with her Uncle in New York City after the death of her father in 1812. There she received a fine education before returning to Old Lyme to help her mother run a school out of their home. She married a merchant by the name of Daniel Noyes in 1827 and settled in Lyme. There she continued her mission of education out of the Parsons Tavern. Her family built the town’s library in her honor in 1897 and it stands as a memorial to a woman ahead of her time.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Florence Griswold (1850-1937) was one of Old Lyme’s most notable residents and the woman most responsible for changing the nature of the town. She was also someone who surprisingly fought against women’s’ right to vote. Her father Robert Griswold was a captain of packet ships and often made treacherous transatlantic journeys. He and wife Helen were impacted by his travels and filled their home with treasures from all over the world. Their children received the finest educations, but their fortunes faltered after Robert retired at age 49. After a series of bad investments, the family’s fortune was gone and by 1878, Helen Griswold and her daughters opened a school for girls in their house to help pay for upkeep. Robert died in 1881 and left his wife and daughters in near poverty. By 1899, Florence was the only one left to run a boarding establishment out of the house. It was that same year that artist Henry Ward Ranger arrived. The following year, he returned with friends to form an Art Colony at Old Lyme. Miss Florence served as the constant center of the colony of artists providing not just lodging but

comfort and encouragement. She opened a gallery in her front hallway from which she encouraged visitors to buy artists works. Through the colony she became an important member of society in Old Lyme. She easily tolerated the bohemian behavior of her borders, but was also deeply traditional – an example was her opposition to the women’s suffrage movement.

Katherine Ludington (1869-1953) was a granddaughter of Phoebe Griffin Noyes. She was educated at Miss Porter’s School and was trained as a portrait painter in New York. “Kitty” was daughter of philanthropist Charles Ludington and Josephine Lord Noyes. Katherine was a leader of the Old Lyme Suffrage League and and was became president of the Connecticut Women’s Suffrage League in 1918. She fought hard for ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in Connecticut, but Connecticut failed to ratify in time for women to participate in the election of 1920, Bolstered by her loss, Katherine formed the League of Women Voters to ensure that women voted based on an educated evaluation of the issues at hand. The League of Women Voters became her main cause for the next two decades, but Katherine advocated for the development of the United Nations and remained an advocate for peace and women’s rights until her death in 1953.

Perhaps the best locally known woman to emerge from Old Lyme was Ella Grasso (1919-1981), the country’s first woman to be elected governor in her own right. Grasso was born Ella Rosa Olivia Tambussi to two Italian immigrants. She spent her early childhood in Windsor Locks and attended the Chaffee School there where she received an excellent education. She went on to attend Mount Holyoke College and received a master’s degree in 1942. The same year she married Thomas Grasso and over the summers they owned and operated the New Colony Movie Theater in Old Lyme’s Soundview neighborhood. She was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1952 and 1954 and later as Secretary of the State of Connecticut. In 1970 she won a position in Congress, but returned to Connecticut in 1974 to run for Governor. She was victorious and won the title again in 1978.

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<sup>i</sup> Herzan, 19.

<sup>ii</sup> Carolyn Wakeman *Exhibition Notes: Documents: Lyme Family Slaves, Part 2—Jenny’s Legacy*, Florence Griswold Museum. August 15, 2014. (Accessed September 12, 2018). <http://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/documents-lyme-family-slaves-part-2-jennys-legacy/>

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iv</sup> Herzan, 19.

<sup>v</sup> Dr. John Pfeiffer “Slavery in Southeastern Connecticut: A View from Old Lyme” Old Lyme Historical Society Website. [https://www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org/docs/slavery\\_in\\_lyme.pdf](https://www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org/docs/slavery_in_lyme.pdf) (Accessed September 12, 2018).

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid.

<sup>vii</sup> Drury, David. *Connecticut in the French and Indian War*. Connecticut History.org. <https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-in-the-french-and-indian-war/> (Accessed December 30, 2018).

<sup>viii</sup> *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War 1755-1762 Volume 10.*, Hartford, CT: Connecticut Historical Society, 1903, 69.

<sup>ix</sup> Rossano, 40.

<sup>x</sup> Dr. John Pfeiffer “Slavery in Southeastern Connecticut: A View from Old Lyme” Old Lyme Historical Society Website [https://www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org/docs/slavery\\_in\\_lyme.pdf](https://www.oldlymehistoricalsociety.org/docs/slavery_in_lyme.pdf) (Accessed October 13, 2018).

<sup>xi</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xiii</sup> Herzan, 37.

<sup>xiv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xv</sup> “Steven Peck House” Connecticut Freedom Trail.. <http://www.ctfreedomtrail.org/trail/freedom/sites#!/steven-peck-house> (Accessed September 16, 2018).

<sup>xvi</sup> Carolyn Wakeman. “Glimpse: The case of Henry Freeman” Florence Griswold Museum Website, June 7, 2018 <https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/glimpses-the-case-of-henry-freeman/> (Accessed September 20, 2018).

<sup>xvii</sup> Wakeman, *Charm of the Place*, 64.

<sup>xviii</sup> Lampson and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.

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- <sup>xix</sup> John William De Forest, Felix Octavius Carr Darley *History of the Indians of Connecticut from the earliest known period to 1850*. Hartford, CT: W. J. Hamersley, 1851, 181.
- <sup>xx</sup> Lamos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Ladies Library Association of Old Lyme, 3.
- <sup>xxii</sup> Lamos and Pearson, *Rum Runners, Governors, Beachcombers & Socialists Views of the Beaches of Old Lyme*, 14.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Jim Lamos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2015. 9.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Jim Lamos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. 13.
- <sup>xxv</sup> Jim Lamos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. 14.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Jim Lamos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. 15.
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Jim Lamos and Michaelle Pearson. *Remarkable Women of Old Lyme*. 14.

## VII. Recommendations

### Recommendations for the National Register of Historic Places

A major purpose of a Historic Resource Inventory study is to identify those resources which satisfy the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The citizens of Old Lyme have long recognized their history and the resources related to it, and as a result many structures, buildings, sites, or districts in the town are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This section identifies those resources and consists of recommendations as to which properties are likely future candidates, either listed individually, or as historic districts.

These recommendations are an informed opinion only and should not be construed as excluding any site from consideration for National Register of Historic Places designation. The sites listed below possess qualities that appear to make them eligible for listing on the National Register, however a separate and specific study must be made to determine confirm this. This process, and final evaluation, is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103.

### Existing National Register Properties in Old Lyme

- **Bennett Rockshelter** - Address Restricted. Listed July 31, 1987 (NPS#87001223)
- **Captain Enoch Lord House** - 17 Tantummaheag Road. Listed May 16, 2007 (NPS#07000418)
- **Florence Griswold House and Museum** - 96 Lyme Street. Listed April 19, 1993 (NPS#93001604)
- **Lieutenant River III Site** - Address Restricted. Listed July 31, 1987 (NPS#87001227)
- **Lieutenant River V Site** - Address Restricted. Listed July 31, 1987 (NPS#87001228)
- **Lieutenant River No. 2** - Address Restricted. Listed July 31, 1987 (NPS#87001226)
- **Natcon Site** - Address Restricted. Listed July 31, 1987 (NPS#87001230)
- **Old Lyme Historic District** - Lyme Street from Shore Road to Sill Lane, Old Boston Post Road from Sill Lane to Rose Lane. Listed October 14, 1971. (NPS#71000916)
- **Peck Tavern** - 1 Sill Lane. Listed April 12, 2982 (NPS#82004380)
- **Springbank** - 69 Neck Road. Listed August 17, 2001 (NPS#01000880)

### Local Historic Districts in Old Lyme

Old Lyme Local Historic District. Established 1970.

## Recommended National Register Districts

Most of the study area was historically farmland with areas of concentrated development located around several crossroads and along the major thoroughfares. As a result, houses tend to be widely-spaced and a considerable amount of new construction has taken place on the infill parcels. Several potential historic districts were identified for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places for their contribution to broad patterns of the Town's history (Criterion A) and for the architectural significance of the included resources (Criterion C).

Two potential National Register district areas relate to the former industrial past of Old Lyme – those near the Lower Mill Pond and those found near the former stone mill. Resources near the Lower Mill Pond include:

1. 1 Mill Lane
2. 3 Mill Lane
3. 4 Mill Lane
4. 1 Mill Pond Lane
5. 31 Sill Lane
6. 33 Sill Lane
7. 35 Sill Lane
8. 39 Sill Lane

The following resources are found further upstream and include the stone mill and surrounding resources at:

1. 98 Sill Lane
2. 106 Sill Lane
3. 108 Sill Lane
4. 112 Sill Lane
5. 118 Sill Lane

Sill Lane has a number of contiguous properties dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While some modern building has taken place, there is relatively little infill when compared with many of the surrounding areas. The following resources include a cohesive residential area representing Old Lyme's agrarian past and later transition to an artist's colony and summer retreat.

1. 15 Sill Lane
2. 16 Sill Lane
3. 23 Sill Lane
4. 24 Sill Lane
5. 26 Sill Lane
6. 31 Sill Lane
7. 33 Sill Lane
8. 35 Sill Lane
9. 40 Sill Lane
10. 49 Sill Lane
11. 54 Sill Lane
12. 55 Sill Lane
13. 68 Sill Lane
14. 74 Sill Lane
15. 75 Sill Lane
16. 87 Sill Lane

17. 98 Sill Lane
18. 106 Sill Lane
19. 108 Sill Lane
20. 112 Sill Lane
21. 118 Sill Lane

### **Properties That May Be Individually Eligible for the National Register**

The following properties in the study area may be potentially eligible for individual nomination to the National Register given their high level of physical integrity and compelling historic significance:

1. 69 Boston Post Road
2. 303 Ferry Road
3. 2 Four Mile River Road
4. 43 Johnnycake Hill Road
5. 308 Mile Creek Road
6. 117 Neck Road
7. 35 Sill Lane
8. 40 Sill Lane
9. 68 Sill Lane
10. 112 Sill Lane
11. 12 Tantummaheag Road
12. 15 Tantummaheag Road
13. 35 Swan Avenue

Finally, it is suggested that the Town investigate the possibility of creating a thematic nomination surrounding the best-preserved houses related to the artists of the Lyme Art Colony. This should be completed once the entire town has been surveyed, to be sure to include all of the known houses located outside of the current study area. Those houses identified in this survey include the following:

1. 5 Academy Lane
2. 5 Bailey Road
3. 23 Ferry Road
4. 20 Johnnycake Hill Road
5. 30 Neck Road
6. 40 Neck Road
7. 59 Neck Road
8. 15 Sill Lane
9. 16 Sill Lane
10. 35 Sill Lane
11. 40 Sill Lane
12. 87-1 Sill Lane

### **VIII. Street Index**

<b>Resource ID #</b>	<b>Street Number</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Date of Construction</b>	<b>Architectural Style</b>
1.	1	Academy La.	Ca. 1785	Federal
2.	5	Academy La.	Ca. 1859	Vernacular

3.	11	Academy La.	Ca. 1875	Italianate/Gothic Revival
4.	13	Academy La.	Ca. 1880	Gothic Revival
5.	2	Bailey Rd.	Ca. 1860	Vernacular/Italianate
6.	5	Bailey Rd.	Ca. 1825/60	Greek Revival
7.	3	Ball La.	Ca. 1790	Vernacular
8.	4	Ball La.	Ca. 1820	Vernacular
9.	3	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Queen Anne
10.	7	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Queen Anne
11.	8	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1875	Vernacular/Italianate
12.	9	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1875	Vernacular/Queen Anne
13.	10	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular/Gothic Revival
14.	12	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1800	Vernacular New England Colonial
15.	13	Beckwith La.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular Victorian
16.	26	Boston Post Rd.	Ca. 1905	Vernacular
17.	28	Boston Post Rd.	Ca. 1780	Cape Cod Cottage
18.	69	Boston Post Rd.	Ca. 1782	Saltbox
19.	11	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1820	Cape Cod Cottage
20.	20	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
21.	32	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
22.	45	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1800	Raised Cape Cod Cottage
23.	47-1	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1920	Vernacular Queen Anne
24.	55	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular/Greek Revival
25.	60	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1860	Cape Cod Cottage
26.	89	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1850	Cape Cod Cottage
27.	95	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1835	Greek Revival
28.	103	Buttonball Rd.	Ca. 1800	Dutch Colonial
29.	1	Duck River La.	Ca. 1885	Vernacular Colonial Revival
30.	2	Duck River La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular Colonial Revival
31.	6	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular/Colonial Revival
32.	8-1	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1877	Converted/Colonial Revival
33.	10	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1830	Vernacular Federal
34.	11	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1846	Italianate/Greek Revival
35.	12	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1890	Vernacular Queen Anne
36.	18	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1890	Colonial Revival
37.	20	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1775	Dutch Colonial
38.	21	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1795	Vernacular/Colonial Revival
39.	23	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Vernacular
40.	302	Ferry Rd.	1886	Queen Anne
41.	303	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1848	Gothic Revival
42.	312	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular Queen Anne
43.	315	Ferry Rd.	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Stone Marker
44.	317	Ferry Rd.	Ca. 1820	Federal/Colonial Revival
45.	6	Flat Rock Hill Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Gothic Revival
46.	9	Flat Rock Hill Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Gothic Revival
47.	22	Flat Rock Hill Rd.	Ca. 1890	Vernacular
48.	53	Flat Rock Hill Rd.	Ca. 1690	Cape Cod Cottage
49.	79	Flat Rock Hill Rd.	Ca. 1666	Cape Cod Cottage
50.	2	Four Mile River Rd.	Ca. 1755	Dutch Colonial
51.	11	Four Mile River Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular Craftsman
52.	30	Four Mile River Rd.	Ca. 1920	Vernacular
53.	32	Four Mile River Rd.	Ca. 1830	Greek Revival



54.	46	Four Mile River Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Cape Cod Cottage
55.	5	Griswold Ave.	Ca. 1900	Dutch Colonial Revival
56.	7	Griswold Ave.	Ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
57.	5	Halls Rd.	Ca. 1936	Colonial Revival
58.	7	Huntley Rd.	Ca. 1805	Federal
59.	2	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1810	Cape Cod Cottage
60.	4	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1887	Colonial Revival
61.	4	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1760	Stone Mile Marker
62.	8	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1820	Vernacular
63.	12	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
64.	20	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1780/Ca. 1900	Colonial/Colonial Revival
65.	25	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1815	Georgian
66.	30	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1706	Federal
67.	31	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular
68.	43	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1680	Dutch Colonial
69.	45	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1930	Vernacular
70.	49a	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1825	Greek Revival
71.	49b	Johnnycake Hill Rd.	Ca. 1892	Vernacular
72.	1	Library La.	Ca. 1880	Colonial Revival
73.	7	Library La.	Ca. 1790	Vernacular New England Colonial
74.	9	Library La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular
75.	11	Library La.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular
76.	13	Library La.	Ca. 1900	Colonial Revival
77.	14	Library La.	Ca. 1860	Vernacular
78.	20	Library La.	Ca. 1910	Cape Cod
79.	24	Library La.	Ca. 1850	New England Farmhouse
80.	26	Library La.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular/Craftsman
81.	27	Library La.	Ca. 1855	Vernacular
82.	14	Lieutenant River La.	Ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
83.	15	Lieutenant River La.	Ca. 1920	Bungalow
84.	17	Lieutenant River La.	Ca. 1920	Bungalow
85.	21	Lieutenant River La.	Ca. 1870	Vernacular
86.	84	Lyme St.	1948	Rustic Bridge
87.	1	Maple La.	Ca. 1878	Vernacular
88.	2	Maple La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular
89.	3	Maple La.	Ca. 1882	Vernacular
90.	11	McCulloch Farm Rd.	Ca. 1750	Vernacular New England Farmhouse
91.	5	McCurdy Rd.	Ca. 1700	Colonial
92.	8	McCurdy Rd.	Ca. 1845	Vernacular
93.	13-1	McCurdy Rd.	19 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	Colonial Revival
94.	23	McCurdy Rd.	Ca. 1870	Gothic Revival
95.	24	McCurdy Rd.	Ca. 1840	Vernacular
96.	46	McCurdy Rd.	Ca. 1825	Italianate
97.	7	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1910	Bungalow
98.	30	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular
99.	41	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1865	Vernacular
100.	42	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1920	Craftsman
101.	47	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1880	Italianate
102.	67	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular

103.	70	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
104.	73	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular
105.	76	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1870	Gothic Revival
106.	81	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1840	Greek Revival
107.	94	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1883	New England Farmhouse
108.	100	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1901	Vernacular Cottage
109.	105	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular
110.	126	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1850	Vernacular/Greek Revival/Italianate
111.	132	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1920	Vernacular
112.	135	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1858	Greek Revival
113.	166	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1804	Dutch Colonial
114.	173	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1848	Vernacular
115.	174	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1775	Dutch Colonial
116.	191	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional
117.	202	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1794	Dutch Colonial
118.	206	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1914	Cape Cod Cottage
119.	209	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1790	Cape Cod Cottage
120.	228	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1800	Vernacular Colonial
121.	239	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1890	Vernacular
122.	243	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1790	Dutch Colonial
123.	244	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1790	Federal
124.	254	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1760	Cape Cod Cottage
125.	271	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
126.	273	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1900	Craftsman
127.	280	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1910	Vernacular
128.	281	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1920	Vernacular
129.	285	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1860	Vernacular
130.	287	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
131.	308	Mile Creek Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular/Gothic
132.	1	Mill La.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
133.	3	Mill La.	Ca. 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Vernacular
134.	4	Mill La.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
135.	1	Mill Pond La.	Ca. 1800	Vernacular Colonial
136.	1	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1912	Tudor Revival
137.	3	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
138.	6	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1850	Saltbox
139.	15	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1835	Greek Revival
140.	16	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1880	Colonial Revival
141.	24-1	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1860	Cape Cod Cottage
142.	26	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1912	Cape Cod Cottage
143.	29	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1800	Gothic Revival
144.	30	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
145.	36	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1835	Cape Cod Cottage
146.	40	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1785	Dutch Colonial
147.	41	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1907	Dutch Colonial Revival
148.	59	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1753	Dutch Colonial
149.	77	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1760	Vernacular
150.	79	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1900	Dutch Colonial Revival
151.	81	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1790	Cape Cod Cottage
152.	112	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1810	Georgian

153.	117	Neck Rd.	Ca. 1710	Saltbox
154.	2	Old Bridge Rd.	Ca. 1890	Vernacular
155.	3	Old Bridge Rd.	Ca. 1913	Tudor Revival
156.	1	Pilgrim Landing Rd.	Ca. 1794	Dutch Colonial
157.	13	River Bank La.	Ca. 1880	Colonial Revival
158.	2	Rowland Rd.	Ca. 1824	Greek Revival
159.	438	Shore Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
160.	440	Shore Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
161.	448	Shore Rd.	Ca. 1800	New England Farmhouse
162.	451	Shore Rd.	Ca. 1865	Cape Cod Cottage
163.	453	Shore Rd.	Ca. 1895	Folk Victorian
164.	459	Shore Rd.	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> c.	New England Farmhouse
165.	5	Short Hills Rd.	Ca. 1670	Cape Cod Cottage
166.	8-1	Sill La.	Ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
167.	15	Sill La.	Ca. 1802	Georgian
168.	16	Sill La.	1916	Vernacular
169.	23	Sill La.	Ca. 1780	Dutch Colonial
170.	24	Sill La.	Ca. 1920	Colonial Revival
171.	26	Sill La.	Ca. 1785	Georgian
172.	31	Sill La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular
173.	33	Sill La.	Ca. 1840	New England Farmhouse
174.	35	Sill La.	Ca. 1750-55	Georgian
175.	40	Sill La.	1799	Georgian
176.	49	Sill La.	Ca. 1865	Italianate
177.	54	Sill La.	Ca. 1880	Cape Cod Cottage
178.	55	Sill La.	Ca. 1830	Greek Revival
179.	68	Sill La.	Ca. 1786	Dutch Colonial
180.	74	Sill La.	Ca. 1786	Georgian
181.	75	Sill La.	Ca. 1830	New England Farmhouse
182.	87-1	Sill La.	1909	Arts and Crafts
183.	98	Sill La.	Ca. 1800	Georgian
184.	106	Sill La.	Ca. 1818	Georgian
185.	108	Sill La.	Ca. 1840	Vernacular Mill
186.	112	Sill La.	Ca. 1707	New England Farmhouse
187.	118	Sill La.	Ca. 1840	Greek Revival
188.	125	Sill La.	Ca. 1739-1746	New England Farmhouse
189.	126	Sill La.	Ca. 1880	Vernacular
190.	35	Swan Ave.	Ca. 1897	Stick Style
191.	3	Tantummaheag Rd.	Ca. 1760	Cape Cod Cottage
192.	10	Tantummaheag Rd.	Ca. 1915	Dutch Colonial
193.	12	Tantummaheag Rd.	Ca. 1790	Georgian
194.	15	Tantummaheag Rd.	Ca. 1829	Early Classical Revival
195.	15-1	Tantummaheag Rd.	Ca. 1913	Bungalow
196.	24	Whippoorwill Rd.	Ca. 1700	Cape Cod Cottage
197.	209	Whippoorwill Rd.	Ca. 1865	Italianate
198.	232	Whippoorwill Rd.	Ca. 1900	Vernacular
199.	240	Whippoorwill Rd.	Ca. 1904	Vernacular
200.	249	Whippoorwill Rd.	Ca. 1880	Cape Cod Cottage

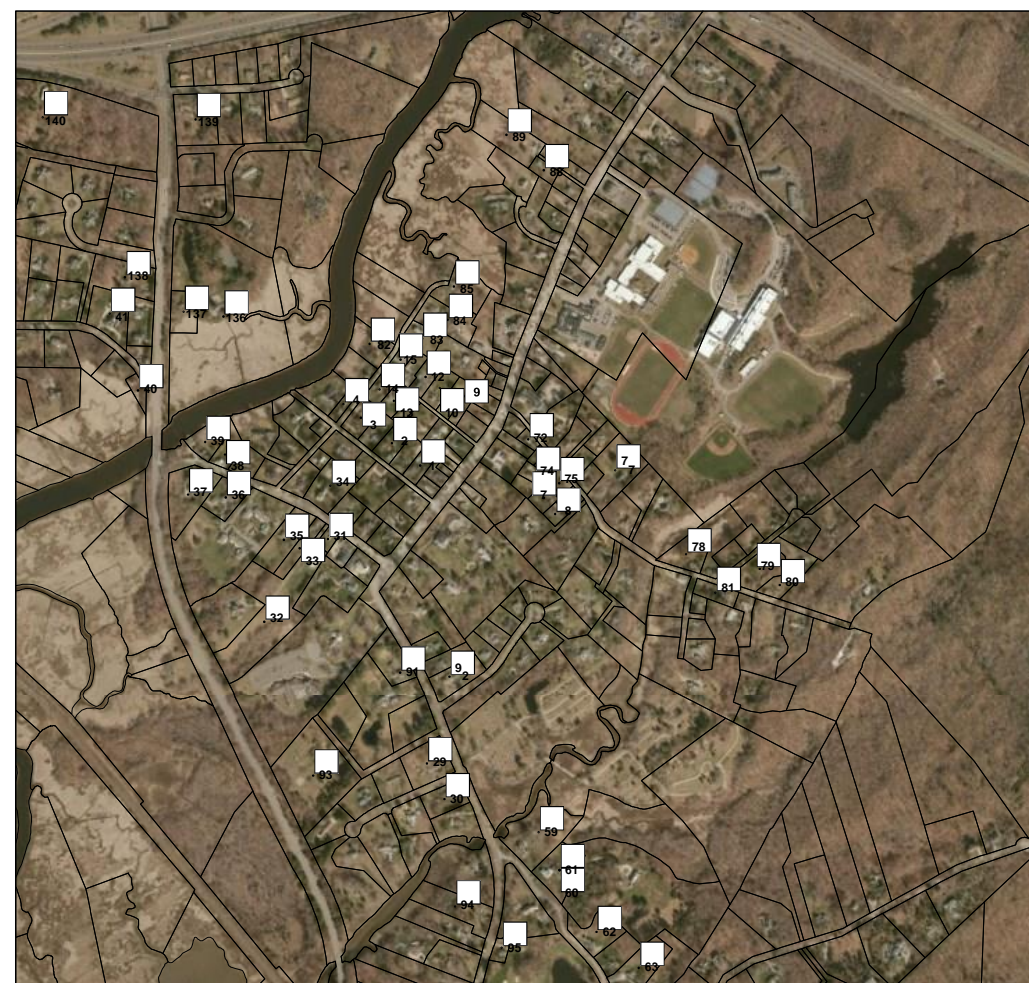


Num *	Address	PID *	Num *	Address	PID *
1	1 ACADEMY LA	2590 2 5	166	6 SHOREHILLS RD	1389
2	ACADEMY LA	2588 3 11	167	15 SILL LA	1620
3	ACADEMY LA	2586 4 13	168	16 SILL LA	1472
4	ACADEMY LA	2740 5 2	169	23 SILL LA	1429
5	BAILEY RD	2037 6 5	170	26 SILL LA	1481
6	BAILEY RD	2046 7 3 BALL	171	26 SILL LA	1481
7	LA	2613 8 4 BALL	172	35 SILL LA	1629
8	2612 9 3 BECKWITH LA	2755	173	35 SILL LA	1629
9	10 7 BECKWITH LA	2752	174	35 SILL LA	1519
10	11 8 BECKWITH LA	2736	175	66 SILL LA	1498
11	12 9 BECKWITH LA	2751	176	74 SILL LA	1841
12	13 10 BECKWITH LA	2737	177	74 SILL LA	1841
13	14 12 BECKWITH LA	2738	178	55 SILL LA	1499
14	15 13 BECKWITH LA	2749	179	66 SILL LA	1498
15	16 26 BOSTON POST RD	1539	180	74 SILL LA	1841
16	17 28 BOSTON POST RD	1570	181	75 SILL LA	1854
17	18 69 BOSTON POST RD	51	182	87-1 SILL LA	2944
18	19 11 BUTTONBALL RD	2009	183	86 SILL LA	2912
19	20 20 BUTTONBALL RD	2016	184	106 SILL LA	2860
20	21 32 BUTTONBALL RD	181	185	108 SILL LA	2916
21	22 45 BUTTONBALL RD	180	186	112 SILL LA	2917
22	23 47-1 BUTTONBALL RD	179	187	118 SILL LA	2919
23	24 55 BUTTONBALL RD	172	188	125 SILL LA	2939
24	25 60 BUTTONBALL RD	479	189	126 SILL LA	2924
25	26 89 BUTTONBALL RD	478	190	35 SWAN AVE	4408
26	27 95 BUTTONBALL RD	477	191	3 TANTUMMAHEAG RD	1753
27	28 103 BUTTONBALL RD	2545	192	10 TANTUMMAHEAG RD	1436
28	29 1 DUCK RIVER LA	2536	193	12 TANTUMMAHEAG RD	1438
29	30 2 DUCK RIVER LA	2652	194	15 TANTUMMAHEAG RD	1441
30	31 6 FERRY RD	2653	195	15-1 TANTUMMAHEAG RD	1707
31	32 8 FERRY RD	2655	196	24 WHIPPOORWILL RD	1554
32	33 10 FERRY RD	2596	197	209 WHIPPOORWILL RD	794
33	34 11 FERRY RD	2656	198	232 WHIPPOORWILL RD	787
34	35 12 FERRY RD	2673	199	240 WHIPPOORWILL RD	790
35	36 18 FERRY RD	2674	200	249 WHIPPOORWILL RD	768
36	37 20 FERRY RD	2578			
37	38 21 FERRY RD	2577			
38	39 23 FERRY RD	708			
39	40 302 FERRY RD	742			
40	41 303 FERRY RD	722			
41	42 312 FERRY RD	731			
42	43 315 FERRY RD	730			
43	44 317 FERRY RD	393			
44	45 6 FLAT ROCK RD	431			
45	46 9 FLAT ROCK RD	396			
46	47 22 FLAT ROCK RD	876			
47	48 53 FLAT ROCK RD	1340			
48	49 79 FLAT ROCK RD	643			
49	50 2 FOUR MILE RIVER RD	1034			
50	51 11 FOUR MILE RIVER RD	998			
51	52 30 FOUR MILE RIVER RD	999			
52	53 32 FOUR MILE RIVER RD	1009			
53	54 46 FOUR MILE RIVER RD	1534			
54	55 5 GRISWOLD AVE	1533			
55	56 7 GRISWOLD AVE	1103			
56	58 7 HUNTLEY RD	2548			
57	59 2 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2549			
58	60 4 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2549			
59	61 4a JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2551			
60	62 8 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2553			
61	63 12 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2571			
62	64 20 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2325			
63	65 25 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2327			
64	66 30 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2324			
65	67 31 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2323			
66	68 43 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2322			
67	69 45 JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2029			
68	70 49a JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2029			
69	71 49b JOHNNYCAKE HILL RD	2802			
70	72 1 LIBRARY LA	2616			
71	73 7 LIBRARY LA	2615			
72	74 9 LIBRARY LA	2614			
73	75 11 LIBRARY LA	2611			
74	76 13 LIBRARY LA	2675			
75	77 14 LIBRARY LA	2679			
76	78 20 LIBRARY LA	2684			
77	79 24 LIBRARY LA	2685			
78	80 26 LIBRARY LA	2690			
79	81 27 LIBRARY LA	2742			
80	82 14 LIEUTENANT RIVER LA	2748			
81	83 15 LIEUTENANT RIVER LA	2747			
82	84 17 LIEUTENANT RIVER LA	2744			
83	85 20 LIEUTENANT RIVER LA	2781			
84	86 2 MAPLE LA	2782			
85	89 3 MAPLE LA	1316			
86	90 11 MCCULLOUGH FARM RD	100866			
87	91 5 MCCURDY RD	2638			
88	92 8 MCCURDY RD	2546			
89	93 13 MCCURDY RD	2533			
90	94 23 MCCURDY RD	2576			
91	95 24 MCCURDY RD	2314			
92	96 46 MCCURDY RD	2049			
93	97 7 MILE CREEK RD	312			
94	98 30 MILE CREEK RD	360			
95	99 41 MILE CREEK RD	317			
96	100 42 MILE CREEK RD	355			
97	101 47 MILE CREEK RD	347			
98	102 67 MILE CREEK RD	332			
99	103 70 MILE CREEK RD	2783			
100	104 73 MILE CREEK RD	346			
101	105 76 MILE CREEK RD	334			
102	106 81 MILE CREEK RD	345			
103	107 94 MILE CREEK RD	372			
104	108 100 MILE CREEK RD	375			
105	109 105 MILE CREEK RD	475			
106	110 126 MILE CREEK RD	388			
107	111 132 MILE CREEK RD	390			
108	112 135 MILE CREEK RD	469			
109	113 166 MILE CREEK RD	444			
110	114 173 MILE CREEK RD	459			
111	115 174 MILE CREEK RD	448			
112	116 181 MILE CREEK RD	238			
113	117 202 MILE CREEK RD	241			
114	118 206 MILE CREEK RD	2128			
115	119 209 MILE CREEK RD	2200			
116	120 228 MILE CREEK RD	2139			
117	121 239 MILE CREEK RD	2418			
118	122 243 MILE CREEK RD	2417			
119	123 244 MILE CREEK RD	2338			
120	124 254 MILE CREEK RD	2424			
121	125 271 MILE CREEK RD	2454			
122	126 273 MILE CREEK RD	2453			
123	127 280 MILE CREEK RD	2445			
124	128 281 MILE CREEK RD	2451			
125	129 285 MILE CREEK RD	2450			
126	130 287 MILE CREEK RD	2449			
127	131 308 MILE CREEK RD	634			
128	132 1 MILL LA	1522			
129	133 3 MILL LA	1521			
130	134 4 MILL LA	1520			
131	135 1 MILL POND LA	1517			
132	136 1 NECK RD	2732			
133	137 3 NECK RD	2733			
134	138 6 NECK RD	746			
135	139 15 NECK RD	2724			
136	140 16 NECK RD	755			
137	141 24-1 NECK RD	1046			
138	142 26 NECK RD	1047			
139	143 29 NECK RD	104			
140	144 30 NECK RD	1049			
141	145 36 NECK RD	1052			
142	146 40 NECK RD	1054			
143	147 41 NECK RD	1102			
144	148 59 NECK RD	1097			
145	149 77 NECK RD	1461			
146	150 79 NECK RD	1451			
147	151 81 NECK RD	1450			
148	152 112 NECK RD	1754			
149	153 117 NECK RD	1793			
150	154 2 OLD BRIDGE RD	1039			
151	155 3 OLD BRIDGE RD	1043			
152	156 1 PILGRIM LANDING RD	1057			
153	157 13 RIVER BANK LA	1464			
154	158 2 ROWLAND RD	382			
155	159 438 SHORE RD	638			
156	160 440 SHORE RD	639			
157	161 448 SHORE RD	641			
158	162 451 SHORE RD	650			
159	163 453 SHORE RD	649			
160	164 459 SHORE RD	647			

## Historic and Architectural Survey of Old Lyme

Stacey Vairo and Lucas Karmazinas,  
Architectural Historians

Heritage Consultants LLC



Notes on background data:

Parcel data by Town of Old Lyme, 09/2018  
Hydrography data by Connecticut DEP  
Street data by ESRI, 2013

