



October 3, 2017

Subject: **National Register of Historic Places nomination of Bridge Street Historic District**

To: Property Owners

We are pleased to inform you that the Bridge Street Historic District will be considered by the State Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on **Friday, December 1, 2017**. National Register nomination is an honorary designation that does not result in restrictions on how an owner may use or improve their property. If you are interested in learning more about the National Register program, you are invited to attend a community meeting regarding this nomination on **Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 307/309, Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport**. A similar meeting was held at the Town Hall on June 6, 2016 at the beginning of this project.

The proposed Bridge Street Historic District encompasses the following area: 12-35 Bridge Street; 190 and 192 Compo Road South; 169, 179, and 184-189 Imperial Avenue; 1 Saxon Lane (north portion of lot only), and the Saugatuck River Bridge. The boundaries of the proposed district are included on the attached map.

The members of the State Historic Preservation Review Board (Board) include professional archaeologists, architects, architectural historians, historical architects, historians, and landscape architects. These professionals evaluate the historical significance of buildings, districts and sites in Connecticut. A vote by the Board to approve a property's nomination to the National Register signifies that, in the opinion of the Board, the property meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. In Connecticut, once a nomination is approved by the Board, it is automatically listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

Written comments as to whether the above-named district meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places will be accepted up to the time of the meeting. Oral presentations as to whether the above-named district meets the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places will be heard at the meeting, which will be held at **10:00 a.m. on December 1, 2017, at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Meeting Room E, Plaza Level North**. Persons wishing to make oral presentations are requested to inform the National Register Coordinator. If you wish to attend the meeting, please bring a photo ID and allow approximately 15 minutes to get a visitor's pass.

The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register results in the following for historic properties:

1. Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.
2. Eligibility for Federal and State tax incentives for historic rehabilitation. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal and State tax provisions may apply. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. For further information on Federal certification requirements, please refer to 36 CFR 67. Information on historic rehabilitation tax credit programs is available on www.cultureandtourism.org.
3. Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accord with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.
4. Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available. Contact the State Historic Preservation Office to determine the current status of such grants.

In Connecticut, listing in the National Register of Historic Places results in the following for historic properties:

1. Eligibility to purchase historical markers from the State Historic Preservation Officer.
2. Application of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22a-19a. This statute directs that the provisions of Sections 22a-15 through 22a-19, inclusive, of the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, which permit legal recourse for the unreasonable destruction of the state's resources, shall also be applicable to historic structures and landmarks of the state.

Such structures and landmarks are defined as those properties (1) which are listed or under consideration for listing as individual units on the National Register of Historic Places or (2) which are a part of a district listed or under consideration for listing on the National Register and which have been determined by the State Historic Preservation Board to contribute to the historic significance of such a district. If the plaintiff in a resulting legal action cannot make a prima facie showing that the conduct of the defendant, acting alone or in combination with others, has unreasonably destroyed or is likely unreasonably to destroy the public trust in such historic structures or landmarks, the court shall tax all costs for the action to the plaintiff.

State Historic Preservation Office

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Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register have an opportunity to concur or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing may submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the listing. Please mention the property address. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of what part of the property that party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be listed; however, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the National Register. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. If you choose to object to the listing of your property, the notarized objection must be submitted to Jenny Scofield, National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103 by the day of the scheduled Board meeting on which your property is to be evaluated. Letters of support may be mailed or emailed to Jenny Scofield.

Please contact me (jenny.scofield@ct.gov, 860-500-2343) if you have any questions regarding the proposed nomination of this district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Jenny Scofield
National Register Coordinator

cc: Carol Leahy, CLG Coordinator/HDC Staff Administrator, Town of Westport
Jim Marpe, First Selectman, Town of Westport

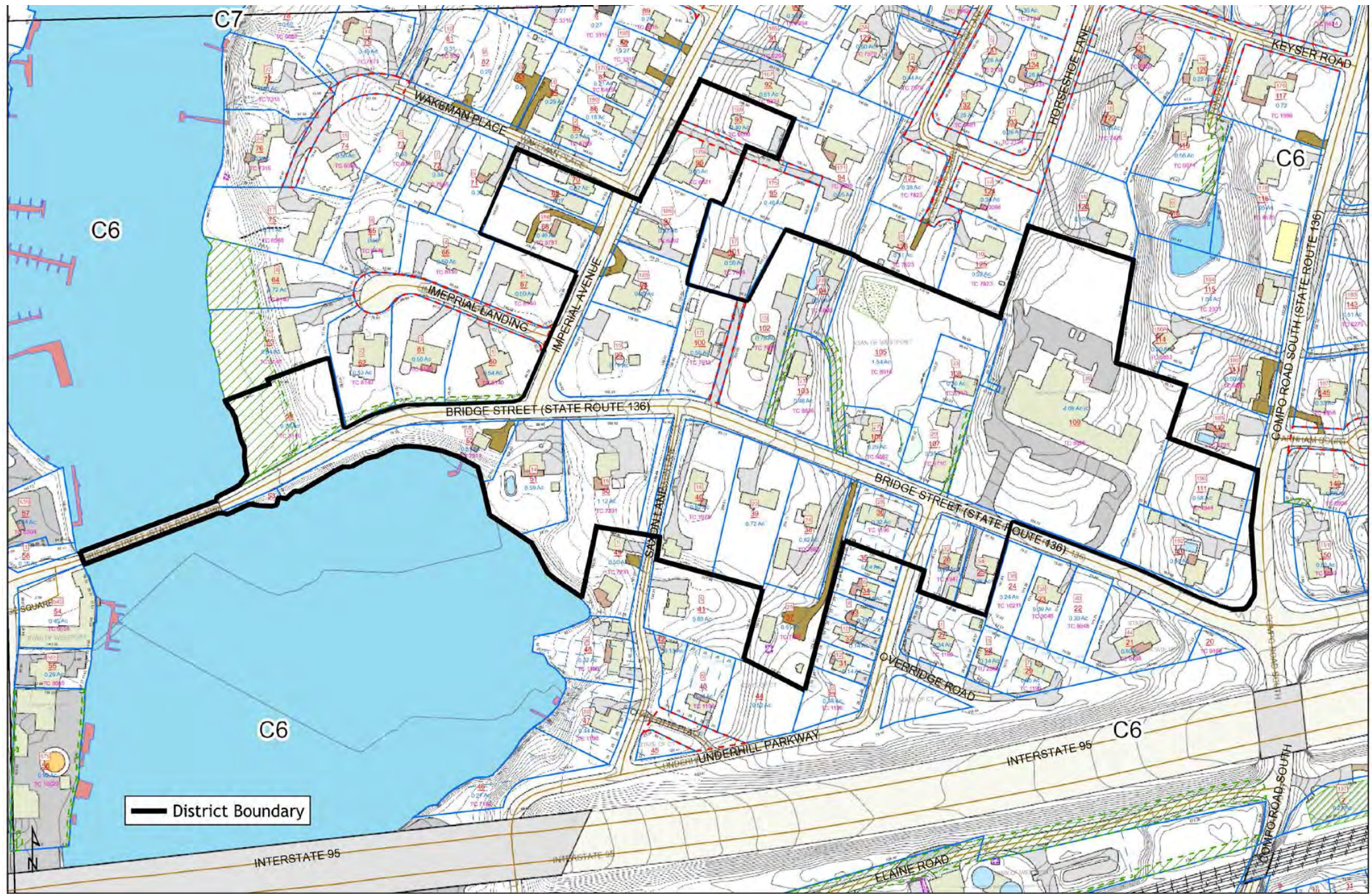
THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

Criteria: The quality of **significance** in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess 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 patterns 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 a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- D. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.



Westport Assessor's Map with Bridge Street Historic District Boundary