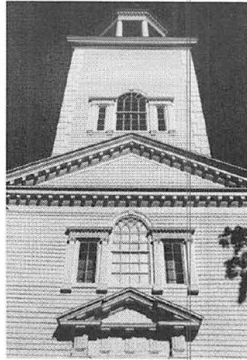


# *HISTORIC DISTRICTS & THE TOWN OF SALISBURY*



*First Congregational Church  
Main Street, Salisbury*

The American historic preservation movement arose during the 1960s as a response to the destruction of historic buildings brought on by "urban renewal," a well-intentioned but insensitive effort to rebuild rundown neighborhoods. Valuable old buildings, which had an important historic and contextual character, were destroyed in the process. This destruction continues despite a growing public awareness of the value of preservation.

The town of Salisbury has been a leader in the historic preservation movement. It was among the first ten towns in Connecticut to form an Historic District Commission. As early as 1962, Salisbury's First Selectman William B. Barnett appointed a committee to survey the buildings in the township and make recommendations as to which properties should be recognized and included in historic districts. The report was completed in 1969 and the first two historic districts were established in 1970. Since then additional districts have been designated.

Salisbury's districts are varied. Some are made up of single buildings. Other districts contain a group of struc-

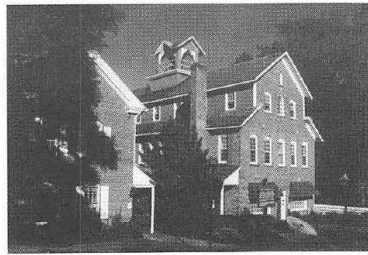


*William B. Barnett on Lake Wononscopomic*

tures in close proximity to each other. An example of a district with several buildings is Salisbury Center, which includes the Congregational Church, Scoville Memorial Library and the structures which housed Salisbury Academy and Bushnell Tavern. Important individual buildings are Ragamont Inn, Moore Leech's House, "Hollywood," and Holley Williams House.

In the Township of Salisbury, the historic districts are intended to preserve the distinct character of the community. Salisbury has several communities dating from different periods of history. "Company towns" were built around industries. In Lakeville the knife factory and its associated workers' housing have been preserved.

The National Historic Registry has designed a process for establishing a District. An Historic District can be created by the local Commission or by an individual for his or her own property. The registration process includes a survey, which is sent to the State Historic Commission together with the reasons for the application. After the state has approved the application, the local Commission holds a public hearing. The hearing



*Holley Manufacturing Co. building, Lakeville*

is intended to assure property owners of their right to comment before the Commission approves the application. Subsequently, an ordinance establishing the new District is written. In a sense the Commission provides a forum for discussion and negotiation.

The main purpose of the local Historic District Commission is the preservation of the historic character within village centers and the architectural integrity of the buildings which are under its jurisdiction. The Commission also works with the Planning and Zoning Board and other Town bodies on projects of mutual interest.



*Barn at Wayside, Salisbury*

Historic District Commission members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the Commission operates under the Connecticut statutes and local ordinances. The five members and three alternates serve five-year terms on a rotating basis. Meetings are held monthly at the Town Hall, where the Commission has an office. Members serve without pay, while the work of the Commission is funded by the Town.