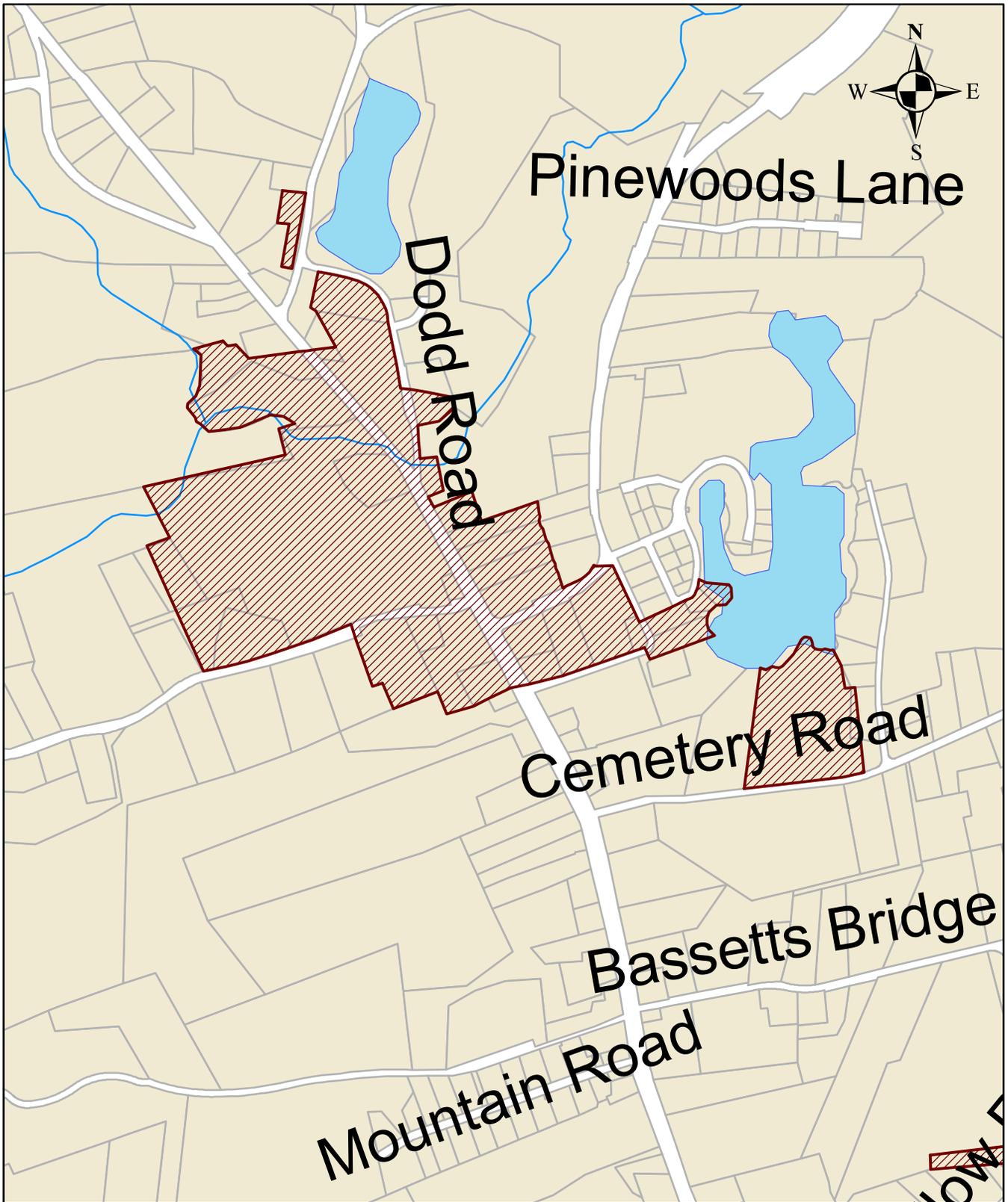


Mansfield Center



1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

Legend

 Nationally Registered Historic District

Mansfield Center: Background and Properties

Mansfield Center, the first settlement in Mansfield was settled shortly before 1692. It was called "Pond Place", a translation of the Indian name, Naubasetuck. A street eight rods wide was laid out, and the land on each side was divided in twenty-one house lots. Each house lot carried with it a right to 1000 acres in the outlying parts of town. As the land was surveyed, the trees were cleared and wood used for building and burning, crops were grown and cattle grazed on the resulting cleared land. Some of the settlers left their lots in the Center and built houses on their outlying parcels of land. Traveling from the Center to the outlying parcels accounts for the fact that both historic and modern maps show Mansfield Center as a hub with roads and trails radiating from it.

In 1702, the settlers in "Pond Place" applied to the General Assembly for the right to incorporate as a separate town. They were granted their petition and in May 1703, the Town of Mansfield was incorporated.

The population of Mansfield grew rapidly. Settlers flocked to this town from other parts of Connecticut and from Massachusetts. Between 1756 and 1782, the town grew by almost 1000 people, bringing the population to 2565. Thriving agriculture supported the growing wealth of the town and made possible the building of the eighteenth century houses in the Center.

When industry developed in Eastern, CT in the nineteenth century, Mansfield Center lacked the forceful streams to provide a steady source of water power. While there were some small industries in the Center, most of the larger mills were built along the Fenton and Mount Hope rivers to the east and the Willimantic River to the west. Small communities such as Atwoodville, Eagleville, and Gurleyville, sprang up around these mills and spared the Center industrial development. Mansfield Center remained a residential and agricultural community. Businessmen employed elsewhere in Mansfield, in Willimantic, or even farther afield maintained many of the fine houses as their residences. Well-to-do people came to Mansfield Center to spend the summer in a relaxed, rural environment. Some of the finest houses in the Center were built during the early to middle of the nineteenth century, especially those of Colonel Edwin Fitch.

Over the years the community has supported at least one store, and sometimes more, but commercial establishments other than these did not threaten the character of the Center.

Name of Structure	Address	Date
Old Uncle Hall Place	614 Storrs Road	c. 1694
Dodd House	41 Dodd Road	c. late 17 th cent.
Williams House	572 Storrs Road	1720
Aspinwall House	27 Centre Street	1740
Armstrong House	552 Storrs Road	1760
Adams House	11 Centre Street	1774
Rouse Place	16 Dodd Road	1780
Rand White House	21 Browns Road	1792
Payne Cottage	30 Centre Street	1794
Old Parsonage	558 Storrs Road	1794-95
Eaton House	287 Storrs Road	1803
Old Lady Barrows House	17 Chaffeeville Road	1814
Morrison house	558 Storrs Road	1820
William Trumbell House	564 Storrs Road	1835
Charles Trumbell House	580 Storrs Road	1835
Fitch Mansion	563 Storrs Road	1836
Fitch House	19 Centre Street	1848
Sullivan House	550 Storrs Road	c. 1790-1865
Church	549 Storrs Road	1866
Sheldon House	619 Storrs Road	c. 1880
Weeks' Store	534 Storrs Road	1886