October 27, 2015

James Redeker, Commissioner
State of Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Commissioner Redeker,

We, the undersigned, wish to have designated, as a State Scenic Highway, an approximately 1.2 mile portion of State Route 136 in Westport. Pursuant to CGS Sec.13b-31c-3 enclosed please find the necessary submission materials:

A. A statement of the highway segments or areas to be included.
B. A description of natural and cultural resources and features of scenic interest.
C. A description of existing land use.
D. Photographs of outstanding and representative scenery.
E. A list of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or State Register of Historic Places.

A. Highway segments or areas to be included: the proposed State Scenic Highway begins at the intersection of Route 1 and Compo Road South (RT 136) and proceeds in a southerly direction to the intersection of Compo Road South and Bridge Street whereupon it turns right on the latter (also RT 136) and briefly travels west until it meets the village of Saugatuck. The proposed State Scenic Highway terminates on Bridge Street at the West abutment of the Saugatuck Bridge for a total distance of approximately 1.2 miles.

B. Description of natural and cultural features of scenic interest: As discussed above, the proposed State Scenic Highway begins at the intersection of the Route 1 and Compo Road South. This is also the site of the first armed conflict between 1,850 British regulars under Major General William Tryon and a handful of brave local militiamen. The heavily armed invading force, which landed at Compo Beach in present day Westport on April 26, 1777, was tasked with seizing and destroying food and munitions located in Danbury.

The proposed State Scenic Highway segment retraces a portion of the actual route that Tryon's forces took in the above referenced action, includes a number of notable 18th and 19th century historic buildings and affords important views of the Saugatuck River shoreline.

C. Existing land use: Compo Road South and Bridge Street are principally residential in character.

D. Photographs of outstanding and representative scenery: (see attached contextual images)

E. Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places / State Register of Historic Places:

1. 124 Compo Road South, the Gault Barn Complex: this remarkable collection of attached agricultural structures date from 1890 to 1913 and are easily among the most iconic historic resources in the Town of Westport. The barns were added to the State Register of Historic Places in 2013 by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (CT Trust) as part of that organization's Historic Barns of Connecticut Survey. Officials at CT Trust were so impressed with this resource that they pronounced it to be among the "top ten historically significant barns in the state." Locally, the Gault Barn Complex, together with its setting, is important to our understanding of the history and development of Westport as an agricultural community.

2. The Saugatuck River Bridge, c. 1884: a rare, surviving example of an early wrought iron pin-connected truss construction swing bridge. Now the oldest hand operated movable bridge in the State of Connecticut, this structure was fabricated by the Union Bridge Company of Buffalo, New York. After

it was determined to be of national significance, this bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. This high profile, historic resource holds deep local significance for Westport as it relates to its development as a powerful center of maritime trade during the 19th century. In addition to serving as a gateway to the newly revitalized village of Saugatuck, the bridge, with its wooden pedestrian walkway affords striking views of the Saugatuck River and related marshland.

Should you or the Scenic Roads Advisory Committee need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at johnsuggs@gmail.com or 203.273.2774.

Respectfully yours,

John F. Suggs

Helen Garten

Wendy Crowther

Morley C. Boyd

Enclosures

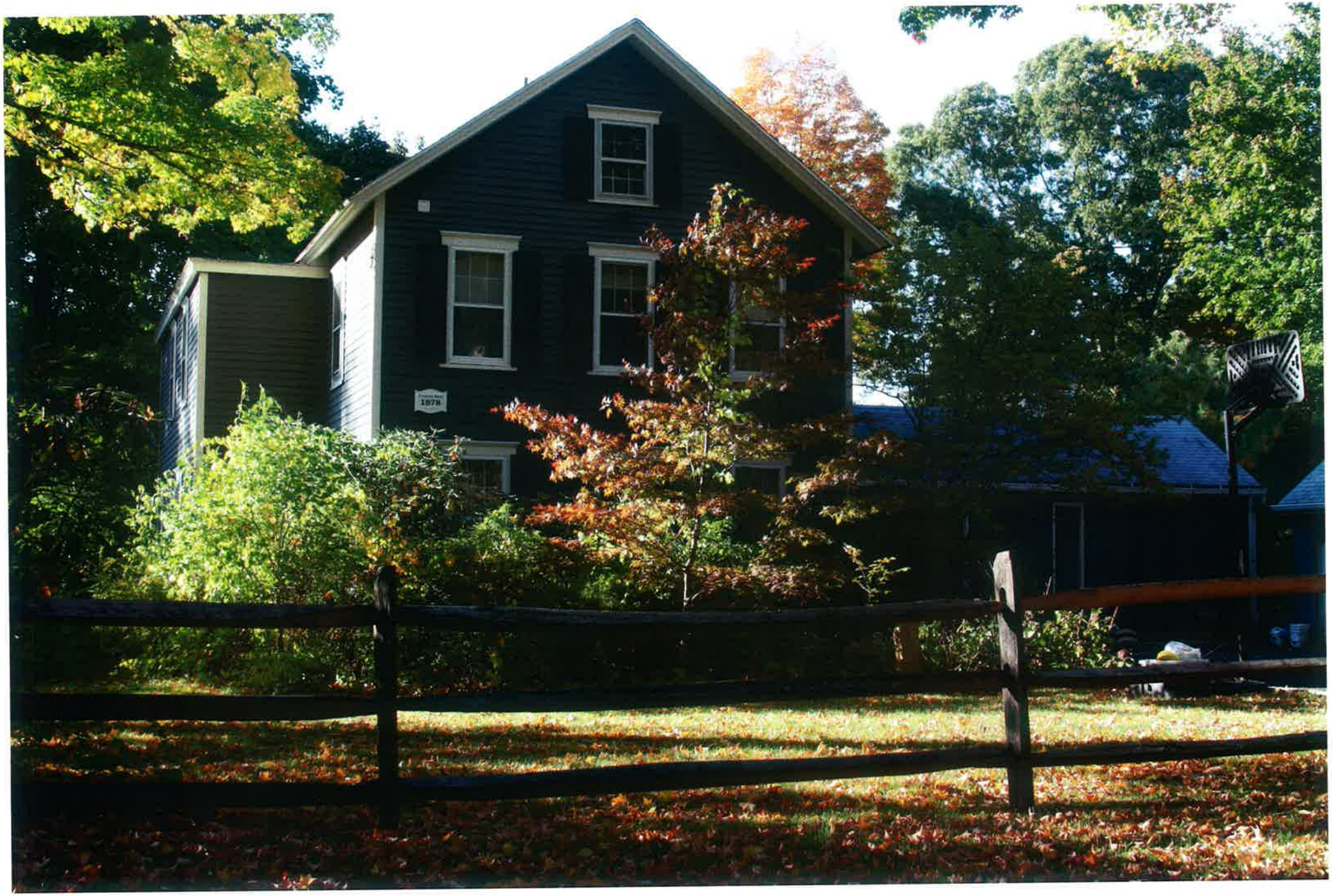
HERE OCCURRED THE FIRST
ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE
CONTINENTALS AND THE
BRITISH TROOPS WHEN THEY
INVADED CONNECTICUT
APRIL - 25 - 1777
ERECTED JUNE 27-1914 BY THE
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET
One Mile South At
COMPO BEACH
2000 British Troops
Landed April 25, 1777
For Raid on Danbury

OZIAS BENNETT
c.1786

JENNINGS TRAIL
BENNETT HOUSE
BUILT BY JOHN BENNETT C. 1758.
AS THE HOUSE OF A LOYALIST
IT WAS SPARED APRIL 25-28, 1777
WHEN TRYON'S TROOPS PASSED
OVER THIS ROAD ON THE WAY TO
RAID DANBURY.
WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WESTPORT-YOUNG WOMENS LEAGUE

JOSEPH BENNETT
HOUSE
c.1760



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