

*H*ANDBOOK

for the *V*OTERS

of

NORTH

BRANFORD

*C*onnecticut

This booklet was originally prepared and published by the North Branford League of Women Voters.

As a public service to all residents of North Branford, the handbook has been re-edited, printed and distributed by the Republican Party of North Branford, Connecticut.

**Republican Town Committee
September, 1954**

NORTH BRANFORD

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

North Branford was settled in 1680. It was named a society in the town or parish of Branford in 1768 and incorporated as a town when it left Branford in 1831. Among the first settlers here were Thomas Mulliner and Thomas Whitway, followed by Stents, Roses, Hoadleys, Footes, Maltbys and Bartholemews. They cleared the tangled areas and stopped the Mohegans from encroaching. Captain Rose, of Hop Yard Plain, brought his famous dairy herd, distributing his Sunday milking among the needy.

Early interests were the fulling and barber mills where cloth was shrunk and cleaned and hides tanned. One was operated by John Maltby, who had a good water supply at hand at his place called "Pog", in Northford. An unusual shop of its time was the business place of David Stearns Stevens, where cards were printed for every occasion (Mr. Stevens' father had previously made spoons in this humble shop.) The business grew and later occupied the more spacious rooms of the Maltby Works. The Stevens Card Company became well known. Axe handles, dippers and buttons were also made in this town.

Totoket Mountain ranges through the vales and meadows where Stony Creek and the Branford River run.

North Branford has a population of 2,017 according to the 1950 census.

Today there are numerous small businesses and many farms in the town, but two companies figure largely in the economy of the town. They are the New Haven Trap Rock Company and the Lake Gaillard reservoir which is a part of the New Haven Water Supply Company. Lake Gaillard is an artificial reservoir, completed in 1933. It covers 1,150 acres and has a capacity of 16 billion gallons, being the largest supply in the system.

The New Haven Trap Rock Company is located on Route 80 in North Branford, and is the largest single-face trap rock quarry in the world. The story of trap rock begins 150 to 200 million years ago, in the Dinosaur era. During that period of volcanic eruptions, hard lava poured over the soft sand on which dinosaurs walked. When digging the Water Company tunnel under the North Branford quarry to Lake Gaillard footprints of this historic animal were found, and specimens were placed in the Yale Museum.

Because of its volcanic origin, trap rock is the hardest type of material, most suitable for highway construction with the expanding automobile industry, railroad track ballast dams, viaducts, airfields, sewerage filtration, driveways, buildings, etc., and is both fire and water resistant.

The Trap Rock company was formed in 1914, and plans for the organization were laid out by Clarence Blakeslee. The old Branford steam railroad was taken over for hauling the material to Stony Creek, where it is placed on barges for shipment to Cape Cod, the West, Long Island, New York City, upper York State and other points. "Blue Diamond Mix", an asphaltic concrete, is also well known and popular.

TOWN OFFICIALS

OFFICE TERM HOW ELECTED POWERS and DUTIES

First Selectman	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Acts as Agent of the Town.
Selectmen (2)	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 2 elected	The Board of Selectmen Have charge of road construction and maintenance; adjust and settle all claims against the town; draw orders on the Treasurer for disbursement of town funds; keep account of expenditures; administer relief and welfare; appoint town officials not elected; are responsible for the calling of all town meetings; (a town meeting may be requested by 20 registered voters and must be called by the selectmen within ten days of the presentation of the signed petition); submit annual budget to Board of Finance. Constitute Board of Admission of Electors (with Town Clerk)
Board of Assessors (3)	4 yrs.	2 elected in 1945 and every 4 yrs. thereafter 1 elected in 1947 and every 4 yrs. thereafter	Receive tax list as of Oct. 1st to be filed by taxpayer before Nov. 1st. 10% added for all lists filed after Nov. 1st. Place valuations on all taxable property and compile Grand list by Jan. 1st.
Board of Tax Review (3)	4 yrs.	2 elected in 1945 and every 4 yrs. thereafter 1 elected in 1947 and every 4 yrs. thereafter	Hold hearings for complaints of taxpayers on assessments by the Assessors and may adjust amount of assessments. Must meet on Feb. 1st and such other days as the Board may select.
Town Clerk (1)	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Recorder and custodian of land records, vital statistics, Veterans' discharge certificates, town meetings. Issues marriage licenses, dog, hunting and angling licenses, bee registration; is clerk of the Annual town meeting. Member of the Board of Admission of electors.

OFFICE	TERM	HOW ELECTED	POWERS and DUTIES
Town Treasurer	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Receives all money belonging to the town, pays out money on order of Selectmen and Board of Education. Makes annual report of receipts and disbursements. Acts as Agent of Town Deposit Fund.
Agent of Town Deposit Fund			The Town Deposit Fund dates from 1836 when Connecticut received money from the United States by act of Congress. The money was deposited with the towns by act of the General Assembly, with the requirement that the income shall be expended for the support of schools.
Tax Collector (1)	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Collects all taxes due the town. Reports to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of the State all automobile (personal property) taxes unpaid by Nov. 30th. Can enforce collection by tax, sale or foreclosure or, in case of personal taxes, by arrest. Makes returns to Town Treasurer.
Grand Jurors (6)	2 yrs.	3 nominated from each party vote for 3 6 elected	Investigate complaints of violation of law, and if cause is found, bring complaint before Trial Justice. Duty of Prosecuting Grand Juror to prosecute cases. Acting Grand Juror appointed by the Trial Justice.
Constables (7)	2 yrs.	4 may be nominated from each party vote for 4 7 elected	Have authority to keep order, make arrests and serve legal papers.

POWERS and DUTIES

HOW ELECTED

TERM

OFFICE

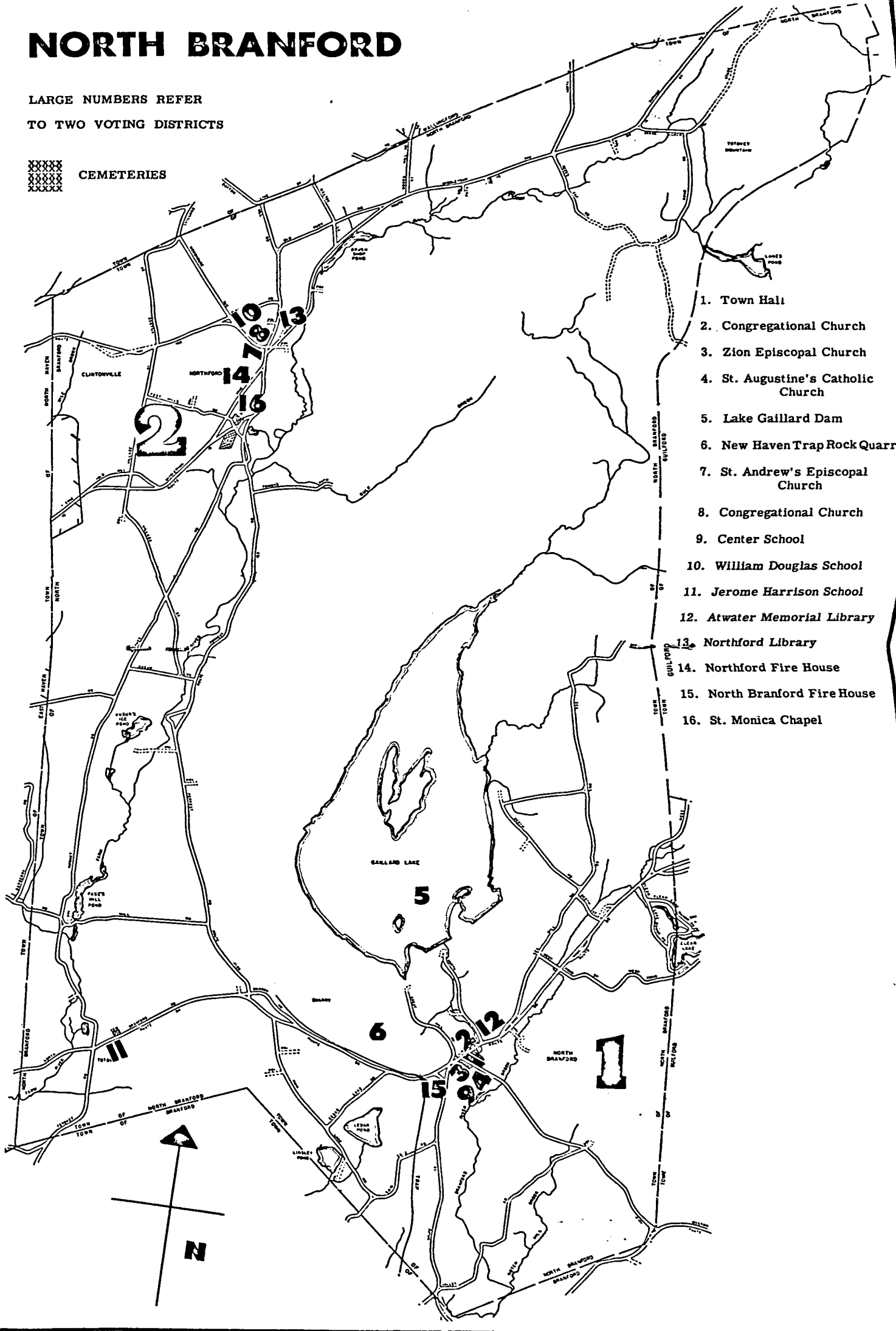
Registrars of Voters (4)	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party in each voting district vote for 1 2 elected in each district (1 from each party)	Prepare all registry lists of legal voters and keep on file individual records showing whether each elector voted at each election. Receive applications for party membership. In session on the last Friday in July to make caucus lists. Present at all meetings of Board of Admission of Electors to take party enrollments. Appoint Moderator and all official workers on election days. Appoint counters.
Board of Education (6)	4 yrs.	2 may be nominated from each party vote for 2 3 elected	Determines details of school operation; hires teachers on recommendation of supervisor; purchases supplies; provides transportation; appoints its own chairman and secretary; administers its own budget. Submits annual budget to Board of Finance, and passes on all matters pertaining to building of new schools. Any request from citizens relating to education must be brought before this Board before the town can take action. Prepares an annual report which is part of the Town Report.
Board of Finance (6)	4 yrs.	2 may be nominated from each party vote for 2 3 elected	Holds a public hearing on appropriations; draws up and presents budget at Annual town meeting. Determines tax rate. Members must be taxpayers of the town and may not hold any other elective town office.
Fire Commissioners (6)	4 yrs.	2 may be nominated from each party vote for 2 3 elected	Prepare the department budget; determine equipment needed; have over-all direction of personnel.
Library Directors (9)	6 yrs.	2 may be nominated from each party vote for 2 3 elected	Maintain and supervise operation of the two libraries; administer the income from trust funds; direct the purchase of books.

OFFICE	TERM	HOW ELECTED	POWERS and DUTIES
Judge of Probate	4 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Has jurisdiction over estates of deceased persons; handles the affairs of incompetents, adoptions and minor persons; the committal of the insane; may waive waiting period before issuance of marriage license.
Justices of the Peace (10)	2 yrs.	5 nominated from each party vote for 5 10 elected	Can act in civil cases and perform marriages. Act as small claims court (less than \$ 100). Acting Trial Justice is appointed by the Board of Selectmen from the group of five who "qualify". He hears all cases prepared by the Grand Juror. In civil cases he can act in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace. An alternate Trial Justice, appointed by the Selectmen, takes the place of the Trial Justice when the latter is unable to act or disqualifies himself. A town may have 1/3 the number of Justices as the number of Jurors to which it is entitled. (30 in North Branford)
Representative in the General Assembly (1)	2 yrs.	1 nominated from each party vote for 1 1 elected	Represents the town in the General Assembly which makes the laws of our state.
<u>OFFICIALS appointed by BOARD of SELECTMEN:</u>			
		Town Counsel Fire Marshal	Fire Chief Fire Warden Tree Warden Dog Warden Health Officer Meat Inspector Civil Defense Director

NORTH BRANFORD

LARGE NUMBERS REFER
TO TWO VOTING DISTRICTS


 CEMETERIES



1. Town Hall
2. Congregational Church
3. Zion Episcopal Church
4. St. Augustine's Catholic Church
5. Lake Gaillard Dam
6. New Haven Trap Rock Quarry
7. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
8. Congregational Church
9. Center School
10. William Douglas School
11. Jerome Harrison School
12. Atwater Memorial Library
13. Northford Library
14. Northford Fire House
15. North Branford Fire House
16. St. Monica Chapel

THE VOTER

WHO MAY VOTE

1. One must be an American citizen, 21 years of age or over.
2. A resident of Connecticut for one year next preceding the time he seeks to be so admitted.
3. A resident of North Branford for six months next preceding the time he seeks to be so admitted.
4. Able to read in English any article of the Constitution or any section of the Statutes of this State.
5. Of good moral character.
6. Must take the oath prescribed by law.

No mentally unfit person may be admitted as an elector.

HOW TO BECOME A VOTER

One must appear before the Board of Admission of Electors consisting of the Selectmen and the Town Clerk for examination and to take the Elector's Oath to be true to the Constitution of the United States and the State of Connecticut. The Board of Registrars are also in attendance, and one may affiliate himself or herself with a political party of his or her choice by registering with the Board.

For members of the armed forces who are unable to appear in person, an exception is made whereby a special form is filled out which is obtainable from the Town Clerk. If at home on a furlough, one can request the Town Clerk, in writing, that the Board of Admission of Electors act on the application at its next session or that it hold a special session at that time.

Naturalization papers must be presented by naturalized citizens when appearing for registration.

WHEN AND WHERE TO BE MADE A VOTER

The Board of Admission of Electors will meet in the Town Hall of North Branford and in the William Douglas School in Northford on alternate dates during the months of August and September and, in even-numbered years, also in October. In addition, on the last week-day prior to any regular election, a special session is held for those persons whose qualifications have matured since the last regular scheduled session of the Board of Admission of Electors.

The dates designated by the Board of Admission of Electors for making voters will be published in the newspapers. The Town Clerk will, on request, furnish information in regard to these dates.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any qualified voter unable to vote in person in any Local, State or National election, due to absence from the State during the entire day of election or because of a physical disability, may obtain the Connecticut Absentee Ballot upon application to the Town Clerk, not more than four months before the date set for an election. This ballot must be filled out, sworn to by a notary public, and returned by mail postpaid to the Town Clerk so that it is received not later than 6 P. M. on the day prior to the day of election. (If the election falls on a Monday, the ballot must be received by 12 noon on election day.)

The Registrars of Voters also hold sessions on the last Friday in July at the Town Hall, North Branford, or William Douglas School, Northford, for enrollment of electors entitled to vote in caucuses and for making changes in the caucus enrollment list.

CALENDAR

The BOARD of SELECTMEN meets every second Thursday.
The BOARD of EDUCATION meets on the third Monday in the month.

- January** Hunting and trapping licenses at Town Clerk's office.
Run January 1 to January 1.
- February** Tax Review Board meetings - open to public and date announced in newspapers.
- March** Fire permits from local Fire Warden - required from March through November.
- April** Dog licenses renewed at Town Clerk's office - April 1 to May 1.
Fishing licenses at Town Clerk's office - opening dates of season announced in newspapers.
First half of property tax due Town Tax Collector by May 1. Taxes under \$20 due in full at this time.
- July** Caucus registration last Friday - for those who are voters but not affiliated with a party.
Second half of property tax due July 15, on or before August 15. If first payment becomes delinquent, entire tax immediately becomes due and subject to full rate of 6% interest from April 1.
- September** Board of Assessors meeting - open to public, date announced in newspapers.
Board of Finance meeting - open to public, date announced in newspapers.
Bee registration at Town Clerk's office before Oct. 1.
Registration of new voters for town elections.
- October** Registration of new voters for National and State elections - dates and places announced in newspapers.
First Monday - Annual Town Meeting to adopt budget.
Biennial town election, odd years.
Declare taxable property to Tax Assessors by Nov. 1.
- November** State and National elections.
- MARRIAGE LICENSES** - open season at Town Clerk's office.
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TOWN SERVICES

Northford Fire Department		8-1651
North Branford Fire Department		8-2521
Ambulance - Flanagan Service	SP	7-4111
Dog Warden - John Cecarelli		8-3231
Fire Warden - Nathan A. Harrison		8-2936
Atwater Memorial Library, North Branford		8-3228
Northford Public Library		8-3393
Police Department -State Barracks (Westbrook) Saybrook		3-3456
or Town Constables		8-2954
Health Officer - Dr. Sterling Taylor, North Haven	CE	9-0916
Public Health Nursing Association or office in William Douglas School		8-1858
Courts - Judge of Probate		
Town Court held every Monday night at		
Atwater Memorial Library, North		
Branford, a Trial Justice presiding.		
Schools - William Douglas School	Northford	8-3258
Center School	North Branford	8-1895
Jerome Harrison School	North Branford	8-3334
Churches - Congregational	Northford	
St. Andrews' Episcopal	Northford	
Congregational	North Branford	
St. Augustine's R. C.	North Branford	
Zion Episcopal	North Branford	
St. Monica Chapel	Northford	

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ADVERTISING:	Lindsay Advertising Agency	North Branford
ANTIQUES:	Hoadley House Potters William J. Maley	Northford North Branford Northford
BULLDOZING & EXCAVATING:	Burrone Bros.	North Branford
CANDY:	Farm River Homestead	Northford
CARPENTER-BUILDERS:	Louis Alberici Fred W. Barker Robert W. Dudley Lawson W. Haley	Northford North Branford North Branford North Branford
CERAMICS:	Grace Stroud	North Branford
CONTRACTORS:	Burrone Bros. Alden S. Hill Northford Acres Dev. Co.	North Branford North Branford Northford
DAIRY:	Paul Koistinen Maple Tree Farm Riverside Dairy	North Branford North Branford Northford
EATING PLACES:	Club 80 Doody's Totoket Inn Hurder's Drive-In Restaurant Judd's Drive-In Holly's Barn Red Wood Drive-In Restland Farms	North Branford North Branford Northford North Branford North Branford North Branford Northford
ELECTRIC:	Northford Electric Shop John V. Barrett	Northford North Branford
FISH:	Hilltop Sea Food Market	North Branford
FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS:	Echo Ridge Turkey Farm Holabird Bros.	Northford North Branford

FURNITURE: (Restored & Refinished)	Lee W. Gibbons	Northford	8-1930
GAS and SERVICE:	Amatrudo's Service Station	North Branford	8-3109
	Carmichael's Service Station	Northford	8-9791
	Charlie's Service Station	North Branford	8-1472
	Hart's Garage	North Branford	8-9351
	Midway Filling Station	North Branford	8-3309
	O'Neill's Service Center	Northford	8-2189
	Rudy's Service Station	North Branford	8-9276
	R. C. Sharp	Northford	8-1945
GRAVEL & FILL:	Burrone Bros.	North Branford	8-2956
GREENHOUSE:	Gus Loeber	North Branford	
	Wilbur Young	Northford	8-2253
GROCERIES and MEATS:	Dwyers Country Store	North Branford	8-9253
	Johnson Brothers	Northford	8-3271
	Richard Scholz	North Branford	8-3351
	Totoket Food Market	North Branford	8-9369
HARDWARE & BUILDERS SUPPLIES:	Bianchi Hardware & Supplies	Northford	8-1828
	Day Lumber Co.	North Branford	8-9414
INSURANCE:	Clifford Heilig	Northford	8-3124
	P. Koistinen	North Branford	8-3281
	Paul L. Porter	Northford	8-3379
LIVESTOCK:	Louis Barnett and Son	Northford	8-2377
	Ed. J. Foraker	North Branford	8-9764
	Gus Loeber	North Branford	
	Totoket Stock Farms, Inc.	North Branford	8-2875
MASON CONTRACTOR:	P. Mattei	North Branford	8-2111
MUSIC INSTRUCTION:	E. J. Jones	North Branford	8-2343
NURSERY:	John J. Bergen	North Branford	
NURSING HOMES:	Meadowbrook Hospital	North Branford	8-1966
OIL:	E. T. Russell & Son	Northford	8-2203

ORCHARDS:	Elbert Augur	Northford	8-2182
	C. & E. Linsley	North Branford	8-2035
	F. H. Snow	North Branford	8-3023
	Young Brothers	Northford	8-2871
PACKAGE STORE:	No. Branford Package Store	North Branford	8-3068
PAPER BOX PLANT:	Myron Paper Box Co.	North Branford	8-2884
PLUMBING and HEATING:	Geo. F. Manley	Northford	8-2801
	Erwin Petry	Northford	8-2889
POULTRY FARM:	Breton's Hillside Poultry	North Branford	8-2160
	Esther Doody	North Branford	8-2851
	Elmer Marsh	North Branford	8-3373
	Valentin Schanz	Northford	8-2138
PRINTING:	Lee W. Gibbons	Northford	8-1930
QUARRY:	New Haven Trap Rock Co.	North Branford	8-2528
REAL ESTATE:	Mildred Borst	North Branford	8-3388
	Clifford Heilig	Northford	8-3124
	E. A. Nichols	Northford	8-3213
	Mrs. H. Pigott	Northford	8-1808
STERLING SILVER:	Jayne Benson	North Branford	8-1414
TRUCKING:	Burrone Bros.	North Branford	8-2956
	Anthony Rappone	North Branford	8-2371
	Secondino Trucking	North Branford	8-1676
TURKEYS:	Augur's Turkey Farm	Northford	8-2144
	Echo Ridge Turkey Farm	Northford	8-1951
	Grassy Hill Turkey Farm	North Branford	8-1954
WATER SUPPLY:	New Haven Water Co.	North Branford	
WELL DRILLER:	Bunnell Well Drilling Co.	North Branford	8-3369