

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 27 1982  
date enteredSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Branford Electric Railway Historic District

and/or common Branford Trolley Museum

## 2. Location

street & number 17 River Street, East Haven to Court Street,  
Short Beach, Branford N/A not for publication

city, town East Haven, Branford N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county New Haven code 009

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Branford Electric Railway Associates

street &amp; number P.O. Box 457

city, town Short Beach N/A vicinity of state CT

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Branford Town Clerk

street &amp; number 1019 Main Street

city, town Branford state CT

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state CT

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Branford Electric Railway is a trolley museum which operates over nearly two miles of an old trolley right-of-way. The line begins at the end of River Street, East Haven, with the rails right in the middle of the pavement. The entrance to the museum is there, with a one-story brick building resembling a small station housing the museum shop and small exhibits; it was built in 1960 by the widow of Frank Sprague as a memorial to her husband, the pioneer inventor responsible for electric traction motors.<sup>1</sup> Crossing Farm River on a wooden trestle, the line runs past seven large pole-frame and corrugated metal buildings, all built since 1947, which house the museum's rolling stock and shops. For the rest of its length the line is bordered by salt marsh on the west, where the river can be seen, and woodland to the east. A country lane, Farm River Road, intersects the track near the car barns. The line is carried over an old narrow-gauge right-of-way which once served a nearby quarry on an I-beam bridge set into old cut-stone abutments. It crosses Stoney Creek on a wooden trestle and terminates just short of Court Street, Branford, in the village of Short Beach.

The line was originally constructed in 1901 to connect Branford center and Short Beach with the East Haven Green, the eastern terminus of the New Haven streetcar system. The physical structure of the line was extensively rebuilt following the 1938 hurricane, and since the trolley museum took over operation of the line in 1947, the two wooden trestles and many poles and ties have been replaced as part of the ongoing maintenance program. Only one track of the original double-tracked line has been retained. One pair of cut-stone bridge abutments and a short section of 70 lb. rail are believed to date from the original construction, whereas most of the rail is 80 lb. weight and dates from the rebuilding of 1938.

The collection of the trolley museum has a heavy concentration in Connecticut Company cars. These have the distinctive bright yellow livery with red lettering and include both streetcars and heavier-built cars used in intervillage service; cars of wooden and steel construction; open cars, convertibles, and closed cars; and even an elaborate parlor car used by the Company's directors. Most have been restored to their original appearance and operating condition, a task involving extensive repair, reconstruction of deteriorated parts, and refinishing of interior and exterior surfaces. A few cars, such as parlor car #500, arrived in nearly perfect condition. Another large group of the museum's holdings includes both streetcars and rapid transit cars from the New York City area. Finally, there is a scattering from other cities, including one very old car from Providence, Rhode Island, and assorted maintenance-of-way equipment.

The nominated property includes both the right of way and the historic rolling stock. Adjacent parcels of woods and salt marsh owned by the museum are not included, but they provide an appropriate physical setting, one largely unchanged since the line's opening. The Sprague building and numerous car barns, while not of historical significance (all having been built since the museum took over the line), are essential to the museum's operation and vital to the preservation of the collection. Therefore, they are considered part of the nominated property, but they are noncontributing structures.

In the roster of equipment which follows, the collection is described in greater detail.

<sup>1</sup>

In addition to inventing the motors, Sprague devised the "wheelbarrow mount," a suspended motor mount which nevertheless kept the gears in close alignment; without this system, trolleys either had rigid trucks or poor gear mesh. He also developed the first successful urban streetcar system in Richmond, Virginia in 1888.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Branford Electric Railway (Branford Trolley Museum)

Continuation sheet Branford, CT

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

OCT 27 1982

## ROSTER OF EQUIPMENT

## PASSENGER STREETCARS

Contributing/  
Noncontributing  
(C/NC)

Numbers*	Former Owners	Builder	Date	Car Type†	
3	Metropolitan St. Ry.	Stephenson	1893	4-wheel closed horsecar	C
9	Montreal & Southern Counties Ry.	Grand Trunk Ry.	1911	dt interurban	C
11 (100)	Toronto Trans. Comm.	Toronto Trans. Comm.	1933	4-wheel open horsecar	NC
34	Lynchburg Ry.; Five-Mile Beach Elec. Ry.	Jackson & Sharp	1899	st 9-bench open	C
61 (1567)	Rhode Island Co.; United Elec. Rys.	J. M. Jones	1893	st deck-roof closed car	C
71	Goteborg Sparvagar	A.S.E.A.	1912	st deck-roof steel	C
116	Cincinnati & L. Erie; Cedar Rapids & Iowa Cy.	Cincinnati	1930	dt lightweight interurban	C
193 (775)	Consolidated; Conn. Co.	Jewett	1904	dt r.r.-roof wood	C
220 (33, 275, 2780, 20)	Third Ave. Ry.; Metropolitan St. Ry.	Laclede	1892	st closed, ex-cable	C
250	Fairmount & Clarksburg; Monon. W. Penn. Pub. Ser.; City Lines of W. Va.	Jewett	1904	dt interurban	C
316 (1, 489)	Union Ry.; Third Ave. Ry.	American	1895	st closed deck-roof wood	C
356	Johnstown Trac. Co.	St. Louis	1926	dt lightweight	C
357	Johnstown Trac. Co.	St. Louis	1926	dt lightweight	C
401 (923)	Consolidated; Conn. Co.	J. M. Jones	1906	dt 15-bench open	C
500	Conn. Ry & Lighting; Conn. Co.	J. G. Brill	1904	dt parlor car	C
614 (302)	Consolidated; Winchester Av.; Conn. Co.	J. G. Brill	1901	dt 15-bench open	C
629 (4239)	Third Ave. Ry.; Wiener Stadtwerke Verkehrsbetriebe (Vienna City Transit System)	Third Ave. Ry.	1939	dt lightweight	NC
650 (884)	Wash. Ry. & Elec.; Capital Transit	J. G. Brill	1912	dt ctr. entr. semi-convert.	C
709	Chicago, North Shore & Milwaukee Ry.	Cincinnati	1924	dt heavy interurban	C
830	Third Ave. Ry.	J. G. Brill	1908	dt deck-roof wood	C
850	New Orleans Pub. Ser.	Perley A. Thomas	1922	dt arch-roof steel	C
865 (512)	Consolidated; Conn. Co.	Wason	1905	dt r.r.-roof wood	C
884	Third Ave. Ry.	J. G. Brill	1909	dt wood convertible	C
948	Georgia Power Co.	Cincinnati	1926	dt deck-roof steel	C
1001	BMT; N.Y. City	St. Louis	1936	single-end PCC	C
1199 (283)	Conn. Co.	Stephenson	1906	dt r.r.-roof wood	C
1330 (554)	Conn. Co.	Osgood Bradley	1910	dt r.r.-roof wood	C
1339 (563)	Conn. Co.	Osgood Bradley	1910	dt r.r.-roof wood	C
1403	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Ottawa	1914	dt arch-roof	C
1414 (448)	Conn. Co.	Osgood Bradley	1911	dt 15-bench open	C
1425 (459)	Conn. Co.	Osgood Bradley	1911	dt 15-bench open	C
1602 (612)	Conn. Co.	Wason	1911	dt deck-roof wood	C

\*former numbers shown in parentheses

† dt = double truck, st = single truck

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Branford Electric Railway (Branford Trolley Museum)

Continuation sheet Branford, CT

Item number 7

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

OCT 27 1982

## PASSENGER STREETCARS (Continued)

Numbers*	Former Owners	Builder	Date	Car Type†	
1706 (W24)	Toronto Ry.; Toronto Trans. Comm.	Toronto Ry.	1913	st single-end convertible	C
1792 (9730)	Nassau Elec. R.R.; BMT; N.Y. City	Laclede	1899	dt deck-roof wood	C
1802	Conn. Co.	Wason	1915	dt arch-roof steel	C
1911	Conn. Co.	J. G. Brill	1919	dt arch-roof suburban	C
1972	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Can. Car & Fdry.	1929	dt single-end steel	C
2001	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Can. Car & Fdry.	1929	dt double-end steel	C
2350	Conn. Co.	Osgood Bradley	1922	st Birney safety car	C
2431	Pub. Serv. of. N. J.	Cincinnati	1913	dt single end	C
2898	Toronto Trans. Comm.	Ottawa	1923	dt single-end Peter Witt	C
3000	Conn. Co.	Wason	1906	dt Birney safety car	C
4573	Bklyn. Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Laconia	1906	dt deck-roof convertible	C
5706	Boston Elevated; Metro. Transit Auth.	J. G. Brill	1924	dt arch-roof steel	C
8111	BMT; N.Y. City	St. Louis	1923	dt arch-roof Peter Witt	C

## RAPID TRANSIT CARS

Numbers*	Former Owners	Builder	Date	Car Type†	
G (41)	N. Y. Elevated RR; Interboro; N.Y. City	Gilbert & Bush	1878	money collection car	C
M-1	N. Y. Elevated RR; Interboro; N.Y. City	Wason	1878	dt flat	C
M-8	N. Y. Elevated RR; Interboro; N.Y. City	Wason	1878	dt flat	C
62	Interboro; N.Y. City	Pressed Steel	1906	switching motor	C
95	Interboro; N.Y. City	Magor	1914	dt covered hopper	C
197 (167, 324)	Bklyn. Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Pullman	1888	elevated psgr trailer	C
659 (476)	Bklyn. Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Jewett	1901	elevated psgr motor	C
824	Manhattan Ry.; Interboro; N.Y. City	Pullman	1881	elevated instruction car	C
999	Bklyn. Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Bklyn. Hts. RR	1905	elevated instruction car	C
1227	Bklyn Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Osgood Bradley	1903	elevated psgr car	C
1349	Bklyn Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Cincinnati	1905	elevated convertible passenger car	C
1362	Bklyn Rapid Transit; BMT; N.Y. City	Jewett	1905	elevated convertible passenger car	C
3344	Interboro; N.Y. City	Wason	1904	private subway car "Mineola"	C
3662	Interboro; N.Y. City	Amer. Car & Fdry.	1907	subway passenger car	C
4280	Chgo. Elevated Ry.; Chgo. Rapid Transit; Chgo. Transit Auth.	Cincinnati	1922	elevated psgr car	C

\*former numbers shown in parentheses

† dt = double truck, st = single truck

C  
29

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Branford Electric Railway (Branford Trolley Museum)

For NPS use only

received OCT 27 1982  
date entered

Continuation sheet Branford, CT

Item number 7

Page 3

## SERVICE CARS

Numbers*	Former Owners	Builder	Date	Car Type†	
Air Car	Singer	?	?	st wood flat car	C
"Amy"	Abendroth Foundry	General Electric	1902	4-wheel locomotive	C
"Brick"	Johnstown Trac. Co.	Johnstown Trac. Co.	1945	st flat	C
Shunter	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Montreal Tramways	1920	4-wheel shunter (switcher)	C
W-3	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Differential Steel (now DIFCO)	1929	dt crane	C
5	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Peckham	1910	dt rotary snow plow	C
12	Long Island RR	Amer. Car & Fdry.	1927	dt caboose	C
12 (904)	Utah-Idaho Central; Cornwall St. Ry.	Baldwin- Westinghouse	1917	dt Class B steeple cab frt. locomotive	C
25	Ottawa Elec. Ry.; Ottawa Transit Comm.	Ottawa	1923	st line maintenance	C
S-36 (89, 607)	Eastern Mass. St. Ry.; Third Ave. Ry.; Toronto Trans. Comm.	Russell	1920	dt snow sweeper	C
59	Yonkers RR; Third Ave. Ry.	McGuire- Cummings	1914	st snow sweeper	C
133	Singer	?	?	dt wood boxcar	C
0245	Conn. Co.	Russell	1916	dt work car	C
302	Union Street Ry.	J. M. Jones	1907	dt mail	C
516	Lehigh & N. Eng. RR	Amer. Car & Fdry.	1914	st caboose	C
1504	Rhode Island Co.; United Elec. Rys.	Rhode Island Co.	1904	dt emergency	C
1575	Rhode Island Co.; United Elec. Rys.	Rhode Island Co.	1912	dt work car	C
3152 (P-8)	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.; Cornwall St. Ry.	Can. Car & Fdry.	1925	dt snow plow	C
3715 (6028)	United Ry. & Elec.; Balto. Transit Co.	United Ry. & Elec.	1913	dt crane	C
5002	Montreal Tramways; Montreal Trans. Comm.	Montreal Tramways	1918	dt locomotive	C
9137 (96)	South Brooklyn Ry.; N.Y. City	Middletown	1903	dt rail carrier	C
9161 (184)	South Brooklyn Ry.; N.Y. City	Baltimore Steel	1904	dt gondola	C
9421 (171)	South Brooklyn Ry.; N.Y. City	Middletown	1903	dt box freight	C
9425 (175)	South Brooklyn Ry.; N.Y. City	Middletown	1903	dt box freight	C
9799 (9, 340, 68)	Nassau Elec. RR; BMT; N.Y. City	Taunton	1898	st wedge plow	C
9800 (10, 341, 69)	Nassau Elec. RR; BMT; N.Y. City	Taunton	1898	st shear plow	C
9832 (7)	Bklyn. City RR; BMT; N.Y. City	J. G. Brill	1915	st snow sweeper	C
GATX 58072	General American	Gen. American	1926	dt tank car	C

\*former numbers shown in parentheses

† dt = double truck, st = single truck

Cover photo credits:

Front: Convertible 4573 in summer operation on our line. by F. Schlegel

Back: Open 1425 by J. Stern; 629 by F. Schlegel

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** N/A

**Builder/Architect** N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Branford Electric Railway brings to life that unique form of transportation, the trolley, which had a large impact on people's lives at the start of this century. Both the physical structure itself and the museum collection are significant, and together constitute an entity which illustrates an important part of early 20th-century history (Criterion A). Moreover, the museum has special meaning for the area, since the bulk of the collection are cars from Connecticut, with another large group representing transit in the greater New York City region.

The line itself is the only remaining long and substantially intact trolley line in the state, and it has been in continual operation since its opening on July 31, 1900. Built by the Branford Electric Railway Company, the line soon became part of the Consolidated Railway, the trolley monopoly set up by the New Haven Railroad. The Consolidated company, later called the Connecticut Company, controlled nearly all the traction lines in the state, and later, most of the bus service as well. In 1947, the company decided to discontinue the New Haven streetcars, the last system still operating, and the Branford line was sold to the two-year-old museum group. Over the course of thirty years, they have extensively repaired the large portion of the line which they operate as a ride for museum patrons. Nevertheless, much of the rail, pole system, ties, and the stone abutments are authentic historical remains. Moreover, the land adjoining the track has changed little: the woods and salt marches are and likely will remain undeveloped, providing an appropriate setting for the line. Although it tied into a streetcar system at one end, the Branford line was like most Connecticut trolley routes: it connected small villages and ran through the countryside.

Some of the cars in the museum's collection were actually used on this line. Car #865, a wooden enclosed car, was built in 1905 specifically for this line. Car #1911, a steel semi-convertible built in 1919, originally ran in Waterbury but was subsequently transferred to Branford, where it ran in the 1930s. The company's parlor car, #500, carried the directors and officers of the company on visits to all their lines, and may be assumed to have seen occasional service over these tracks. Many of the other Connecticut cars which were based in New Haven were probably used occasionally over the Branford line, especially in excursion service to Stony Point. The Branford Museum is unusual among trolley museums in that it has maintained an authentic trolley line in operating condition, using in part rolling stock which historically ran on its track.<sup>2</sup>

The extent of the museum's collection goes beyond the Branford line, however, and includes cars which recall the trolley's pervasive influence throughout all of early 20th-century Connecticut. Streetcars had an important effect on the state's cities: greater personal mobility within the downtown area, access to jobs at a distance from one's home, and easy trips to parks and cemeteries at the city's outskirts. As an example of the popularity of the streetcars, the Willimantic Traction Company is typical: serving a city of about 4,000 people and operating with only one mile of track along Main Street, the system carried in its first year over a half million fares! The museum

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Crapo, Raymond F. The Environment of the Traction Era. Short Beach: Branford Electric Railway Historical Publications, 1978.

Ride Down Memory Lane. East Haven: Branford Electric Railway Association, 1975.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property c. 21

Quadrangle name Branford

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References see continuation sheets

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The extent of the nominated area is defined by the heavy dashed line shown on the enclosed "Map of Property Owned by the Association." It includes the Sprague building, the right-of-way, and car barns. None of the adjacent acreage owned by the museum was included.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Commission

date October 8, 1982

street & number 59 South Prospect Street

telephone (203) 566-3005

city or town Hartford

state CT

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national   X   state      local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

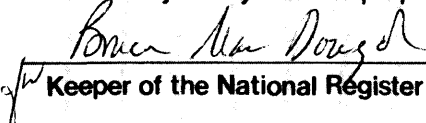


title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date April 5, 1983

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register

date

6/3/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Branford Electric Railway (Branford Trolley Museum)

Continuation sheet Branford, CT

Item number 8

Page 4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

OCT 27 1982

Significance (continued):

preserves from this era many of New Haven's streetcars, including some of the famous open cars which carried football fans to the Yale Bowl; the only surviving car (#1802) which operated all its life in the Hartford system; and cars from Waterbury, Stamford and Torrington (#'s 1333, 1199, & 3000).

Many of Connecticut's trolleys ran far into the countryside, connecting small farming and manufacturing centers to each other, and ultimately, to the urban systems. In contrast to the streetcars, these lines had stations, ran on schedules, and made only limited stops. Villages as small as Central Village (Plainfield), South Coventry, and Somers were connected into this network. Car #2350, for example, ran between the city of Middletown and Highland, a farming village of about a dozen houses and one large resort hotel (there were mineral springs nearby). The brass fittings, hardwood seats, stained glass windows, and bright yellow paint recall what was the high point of public transportation in Connecticut.

Several cars in the collection have individual significance which transcends their simply serving as representative trolleys. Parlor car #500, for example, is in near original condition: its plush seats, servant bells, onboard kitchen, and elaborate neo-Classical woodwork suggest the upper-class lifestyle of public transportation's private owners. Similarly appointed is car #3344, the Mineola, the private car of New York subway entrepreneur August Belmont. Car #61, from Providence, Rhode Island, is notable as one of the earliest trolleys built as an electric car (as opposed to converted horsecars like #3); it has the curved sides, clerestory roof, single-truck design, and decorative elements like red stained glass which typify the first generation of streetcars. At the opposite end of the continuum is #1001, significant as the first PCC (Presidents' Conference Committee) car to be built. The PCC was a streamlined, state-of-the-art trolley; its 1936 design was sponsored by a consortium of traction company presidents who hoped to reverse their declining patronage with a better trolley. Although PCC cars can be seen running in many cities today, car #1001 is notable as the first of that successful design.

2

Connecticut's other trolley museum at Warehouse Point, has an extremely valuable collection of trolleys and electric locomotives, including of the first built by General Electric, the Ponemah "Black Maria" (1895), and it operates over an old trolley right-of-way. However, all their track and structures were built anew when the museum was set up, and they do not have any of the cars built for their line.

The Arden Trolley Museum, Washington, Pennsylvania, was also taken over as an operating line, but it is not as early as Branford's. The Media SEPTA line out of Philadelphia is still operated as public transit; it too is somewhat later than Branford.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Branford Electric Railway (Branford Trolley Museum)

Continuation sheet Branford, CT

Item number

10

Page 5

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

UTM References:

A: 18/678960/4571250  
B: 18/679000/4571210  
C: 18/678980/4571180  
D: 18/679050/4571100  
E: 18/679100/4570920  
F: 18/679300/4570730  
G: 18/679580/4570240  
H: 18/679760/4570320  
I: 18/679860/4570300  
J: 18/679950/4570180  
K: 18/680120/4569650  
L: 18/680080/4569640  
M: 18/679890/4570240  
N: 18/679800/4570280  
O: 18/679600/4570210  
P: 18/679500/4570250  
Q: 18/679250/4570720  
R: 18/679020/4570860  
S: 18/679000/4571160  
T: 18/678950/4571170

MAP OF PROPERTY OWNED  
BY THE ASSOCIATION

0 200 400 800 1200  
Scale 1:4800

Town of  
East Haven

Town of  
Bradford

Marsh

Woods

Alex Land  
Purchase

Woods

Former N. Y. Trap Rock Property

NC: Non contributing Structures

## LEGEND

- A River Street
- B Sprague Building
- C Parking Lot
- D Farm River and  
Town Line
- E Wooden Trestle
- F Farm River Road
- G Property Lines
- H Loop Track
- J Barns
- K Custodian's Home
- L Picnic Grove
- M Boundaries of New  
Land Purchase
- N Wildlife Refuge  
State of Conn. owned
- P Former Quarry
- Q Quarry Bridge and  
Former Narrow Ga.  
Line
- R Riverside Curve
- RH Rose Hill Road

# LEGEND

- D Farm River and Town Line
- G Property Lines
- M Boundaries of New Land Purchase
- N Wildlife Refuge
- P Former Quarry
- Q Quarry Bridge and Former Narrow Ga. Line
- R Riverside Curve
- S Former Rock Crusher
- T Stoney Creek
- U Wooden Trestle
- V Site future Passing Tracks
- W Site future Loop Track
- X Land donated by President Watson
- Y Culvert
- Z End of track 1971
- AA End of track 1972
- BB End of R. O. W.
- CC Alps Road
- DD Clark Avenue
- EE Court Street
- FF Shore Drive
- GG Former Trolley Line to Branford

