

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name White-Overton-Callander House

Other names/site number Captain Nathaniel White House, General Seth Overton House, Ruth Ryan Callander House

2. Location

street & number 492 Main Street not for publication

city of town Portland vicinity

State Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06480

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Stacy Vario
Signature of certifying official/

3.26.14
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

SHPO/DECD
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper
[Signature]

Date of Action

5/21/14

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- building(s)
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: Georgian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheet(s).

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet(s).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1714-1743

Significant Dates

c. 1714

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Nathaniel White II (1685-1743)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet(s)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheet(s).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

See continuation sheet(s).

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheet(s).

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheet(s).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheet(s).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheet(s).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.51
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

A. 18 697659 4606659
Zone Easting Northing

C. _____
Zone Easting Northing

B. _____
Zone Easting Northing

D. _____
Zone Easting Northing

Additional UTM References on continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See continuation sheet(s).

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

See continuation sheet(s).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucas A. Karmazinas, Consultant

organization FuturePast Preservation

date 9/15/2012

street & number 940 West Boulevard

telephone 860-429-7982

city or town Hartford

state CT

zip code 06105

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

City or Vicinity: Portland

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Lucas A. Karmazinas

Date Photographed: 1/08/1998, 8/14/2012, 5/02/2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: See continuation sheet(s).

1 of 27.

East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1714, altered c. 1915.
Camera facing west.

2 of 27.

Historical photo (c. 1912) of east (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1714.
Camera facing west.

3 of 27.

Interior of cellar, showing foundation detail.
Camera facing north.

4 of 27.

East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing foundation, corner board, and window trim details.
Camera facing west.

5 of 27.

South (side) and east (front) elevations of house from Main Street, showing first- and second-story paired windows.
Camera facing north.

6 of 27.

West (rear) elevation of house from rear of lot, showing two-story bay details.
Camera facing east.

7 of 27.

East (front) and south (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing cornice and rakeboard details.
Camera facing northwest.

8 of 27.

East (front) elevation of house from Main Street, showing entry details.
Camera facing west.

9 of 27.

West (rear) and south (side) elevations of house, showing rear ell, bay, and porch details.
Camera facing northeast.

10 of 27.

North (side) elevation, showing rear ell and side entry porch.
Camera facing west.

11 of 27.

Interior of hall, showing cellar access door details.
Camera facing west.

12 of 27.

Interior of cellar, showing original chimney girt and early-twentieth-century floor joist details.
Camera facing northeast.

13 of 27.

Interior of entry hall, showing stair, newel post, rail, baluster, paneling, and door details.
Camera facing north.

14 of 27.

Interior of second-floor southeast bedchamber, showing wall paneling, and cased summer and girt details.
Camera facing north.

15 of 27.

Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing corner cupboard details.
Camera facing east.

16 of 27.

Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing fireplace surround details.
Camera facing south.

17 of 27.

Interior of hall, first floor of house, showing wall paneling and fireplace details.
Camera facing east.

18 of 27.

Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.

19 of 27.

Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.

20 of 27.

Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing wall and stairwell details.
Camera facing west.

21 of 27.

Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing fireplace details.
Camera facing east.

22 of 27.

Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing wall and ceiling details.
Camera facing east.

23 of 27.

Interior of attic stairwell, showing stair and wall details.
Camera facing east.

24 of 27.

Interior of attic, showing wall, roof, and window details.
Camera facing south.

25 of 27.

Interior of attic, showing south elevation framing details and pitch of original roofline (intersected by window).
Camera facing southwest.

26 of 27.

East (front) and north (side) elevations of Garage from rear of house, showing wall, door, and window details.
Camera facing southwest.

27 of 27.

South (front) and east (side) elevations of the Corn Crib – moved to the site in 2009 – from rear of house, showing rear yard landscape details. The hills visible beyond the tree line are located on the west side of the Connecticut River in Middletown and Cromwell, Connecticut.
Camera facing northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Architectural Description: White-Overton-Callander House

The White-Overton-Callander House, erected between 1711 and 1714¹, sits on the west side of Main Street (Connecticut Route 17A), just under two miles southwest of its intersection with Gospel Lane and the Glastonbury Turnpike (Connecticut Route 17) and a mile-and-a-half north of the central business district in Portland, Connecticut. The residence is located one-half of a mile east of the Connecticut River on uplands overlooking agricultural fields and marshlands extending down to the riverbank. The home is a two-story, central stair, Colonial-style frame house with a side-gabled roof and center chimney (Photograph 1). The house faces east and is situated on a level half-acre lot. Mature trees and shrubs decorate the property. A circa 1930 one-bay frame garage (Photograph 26) with horizontal board siding and front-facing gable roof stands along the southern edge of the lot, while a circa 1970 one-story frame shed with vertical board siding and side-gabled roof can be found near the northwest (rear) corner of the home. These two buildings were erected outside of the period of significance and, as such, are considered non-contributing resources. A 9-foot by 16-foot frame corn crib is located roughly 100 feet northwest of the house and 70 feet north of the garage (Photograph 27). Although built during the early nineteenth century, the corn crib was moved to the property from a Portland farm after it was threatened with demolition in 2009 and, as such, is considered a non-contributing resource as it has been removed from its historic context and setting. As Portland's Main Street corridor was developed very early in the town's history the house is surrounded by residential development dating from the early eighteenth, up through the middle of the twentieth century. While suburban development has steadily reshaped the area to the east over the course of the last 50 years, the area along Main Street retains much of its historic character.

The White-Overton-Callander House consists of a two-story main block – this measuring roughly 36 feet wide by 26 feet deep – with two one-story additions on its west (rear) side. The residence faces Main Street and the four bays of the façade are spaced in a one-one-two arrangement with the entry offset to the south (Photograph 1). Structural evidence on the interior of the house suggests that the façade was originally three bays wide and the entry was centered. A historical photo dating to circa 1912 in the collections of the Portland Public Library shows the earlier saltbox-style roofline and indicates that the northern bay was originally erected as a one-story shed-roof addition extending along the length of the north elevation (Photograph 2). Both the roofline and this north addition were raised circa 1915, likely about the same time that electricity and indoor plumbing were added. The present roof peak terminates roughly two-and-a-half feet above and behind the original roof, which had, approximately, a 10-in-12 pitch.

The house's foundation and chimneystack bases are uncut brownstone laid up with mortar in irregular course (Photograph 3). The exterior walls are sheathed in clapboards fastened with cut nails four inches to the weather, while simple wood corner boards and window surrounds frame the wall cladding (Photograph 4). Fenestration throughout consists of 6/1 double-hung sash. There are paired windows on the first and second stories of the north and south (side) elevations (Photograph 5) and a two-story, three-sided bay on the west (rear) elevation (Photograph 6). A simple cornice with shallow returns extends across the front and rear elevations while the side elevations have plain rake boards (Photograph 7).

The house's entry porch has a half-round brownstone landing, modern iron railing, and a gabled portico with coved ceiling. The later is supported by two Doric columns, these rising into the molded, modillioned cornice. The paneled entry door is flanked by

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engaged Doric columns and rectangular multi-pane sidelights (Photograph 8). Absent in the aforementioned circa 1912 photo, the portico and door surround were likely added during the early twentieth century at the time other alterations were made.

A one-story ell with hipped roof can be found at the northwest corner of the home (Photograph 9). The ell measures 12 feet wide by 18 feet deep. Originally the rear ell contained a summer kitchen, which, as can be seen in historic photos, was added on the north side of the house's west elevation before the roofline and northern ell were raised. An 1810 deed refers to the "room in which the well is" and it is thought that the rear ell was constructed at about that time. It is presumed that the well was originally located behind the house and was enclosed at the time of the rear ell's construction. The well is still visible within the crawl space below the present kitchen, the latter being enlarged during the early twentieth century alterations. A portion of the east end of the ell extends beyond the north elevation of the house where there is a recessed one-story entry porch (Photograph 10).

The rear elevation of the home appears to have been moved four feet to the west at the time that the rooflines and north ell were raised. Evidence of this is still visible in the cellar where an earlier back cellar wall is present. At the time of the alterations, the rear elevation was modified to include a two-story, three-sided bay and a shed roof addition above the kitchen ell (Photograph 9). A two-story rear porch was added around 1935; this consisting of an enclosed porch with rear entry to the house on the first floor, and a sleeping porch on the second floor above. According to the last owner of the home the porch's upper story was removed in favor of the current gable roof in 1970.

Interior

The plan and interior details of the original portions of the main block are typical of saltbox-style homes from the period. The first-floor northeast and southeast chambers – the parlor and hall, respectively – and second-floor northeast and southeast bedchambers flank a central chimney and there is an entry hall and triple-run stair at the front of the house. The original kitchen extends across the rear of the house, in what would have been the first floor of the rear lean-to. Alterations to the original floor plan include enlargement of the north chambers (the parlor and northeast bedchamber), kitchen, and rear ell; and the addition of the rear porch on the first floor, and rear hall and two rear bedchambers on the second.

The first-floor plan of the main block consists of the entry hall and stair, hall, parlor, original kitchen (later living room), and present kitchen. The second floor plan consists of the front hall, rear hall, four chambers, and a bathroom. A set of stairs on the east side of the upstairs rear corridor leads to the unfinished attic. Interior finishes throughout the two main floors of the home include plaster ceilings and walls, wood paneling, matched board flooring, and a mix of mid-to-late-eighteenth and early-twentieth century molding and doors.

The cellar of the White-Overton-Callander House is accessed via a small four-paneled door located in the southwest corner of the southern first-floor chamber (Photograph 11). Only a portion of the cellar under the south chamber has been excavated. The remainder of the house stands above a shallow crawl space in which a variety of rubble and old building material can be found. A concrete floor has been poured in the section of the cellar that has been excavated, in the center of which there is a small pit containing the furnace. The framing members below the first floor remain exposed and it appears that the original girts, and posts remain, while

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the original sills, joists and flooring have been replaced, likely when the house was enlarged during the early twentieth century (Photograph 12).

The details of the entry hall appear to be a mix of original and late eighteenth-century details. These include the steep, triple-run stair, newel posts, turned balusters, rails, and the three-panel door leading to a closet under the stairs (Photograph 13). The wall paneling in the entry likely dates to the middle of the eighteenth century, as does similar paneling found in the hall and the southeast second floor bedchamber (Photograph 14).² Additional evidence of the house's early eighteenth-century origins includes the cased girts, posts, and summers found throughout the first and second floors, some of these as wide as twelve to thirteen inches. In the first-floor north chamber, the parlor, these structural members serve as an indication of one of the most notable alterations to the house. Here the summer intersects a broad beam cutting across the room at what would have been the end of the house before the additional bay was added to the north gable-end of the house. Similar evidence is found in the northeast chamber on the second floor where the former end girt likewise cuts across the center of the room. Although many of the casings were replaced during an early twentieth-century renovation, exceptions include those in the entry hall and surrounding the two chimney girt posts in the parlor.

The first-floor chambers contain a number of surviving mid-eighteenth to early twentieth-century details in addition to the cased structural members. In the parlor these include an eighteenth-century corner cupboard and nineteenth-century brownstone fireplace surround. The former extends from floor to ceiling and consists of two wood paneled doors flanked by pilasters and with curved shelves on the interior (Photograph 15).³ The room's fireplace surround consists of thick brownstone blocks which reduce the size of the fireplace opening and project into the room (Photograph 16). The feature was potentially intended to function like a Franklin stove by taking advantage of the radiant qualities of the stone in order to better transfer heat from the fireplace into the surrounding space. Surviving details of note in the hall include the wood paneling against the chimney wall and brownstone fireplace lintel (Photograph 17). Although the fireplace opening has been bricked up, its original stone construction is visible in the space between the paneling and the chimney.

The southeast bedchamber on the second floor likewise displays a number of well-preserved details. These include the cased posts in all four corners of the room, the 12 1/2 inch cased summer beam, and the wood paneling and three-panel door against the chimney wall (Photograph 18). Like the paneling and three-panel doors found on the first floor of the home, those in the south bedchamber likely date to the middle of eighteenth century. The same is true of the rectangular hearthstone found in front of the room's small fireplace. This consists of a simple brownstone block with one-inch raised edge on its front and sides (Photograph 19).

As noted, a number of alterations impacted the White-Overton-Callander House during the early twentieth-century. Of the original spaces, these most heavily impacted the early kitchen space. The room's rear wall was moved approximately four feet to the west and a bay window was added to this elevation (Photograph 6). In addition, the west wall of the south front room was removed and a triple-run stair leading to the second floor hallway was added along the kitchen's south wall (Photograph 20). The size of the original fireplace opening was also reduced at this time; however the wrought iron fireplace crane was retained (Photograph 21). During the alterations, Colonial Revival-style trim was applied throughout the original kitchen and in many other parts of the house. In the case of the kitchen, trim applied to the fireplace surround includes fluted pilasters – much akin to those found on the

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aforementioned corner cupboard – flattened-arch molding, and a simple board mantel (Photograph 22). The Colonial Revival woodwork includes mopboards, window and door trim, and molding, and is typical of that employed throughout the house at this time. This early twentieth-century detailing complements rather than overwhelms the earlier Colonial woodwork. Similar details can be found throughout the second-story where the northeast bedchamber was enlarged and two more added during the early twentieth-century additions. Interior alterations to the rear kitchen ell have also taken place, this during the 1950s. These included the installation of new appliances, knotty-pine paneling, and modern windows. Carpeting was added in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Ascending the rear stairwell one arrives in a corridor, this laid out when the saltbox roof was raised. The rear hall provides access to all four of the upstairs bedchambers as well as the attic. A four-panel door located on the east side of the hall near the center of the house leads to the latter, which displays many of the original details of the building's construction. These include the steep stair with oak treads and risers affixed with rosehead nails; vertical wide-board oak stairwell walls; unfinished wide-board oak flooring; and the hewn wall studs and end rafters (Photographs 23, 24, and 25). The end rafters are visible on the south gable end where they illustrate the pitch of the original saltbox roof. The front rafter extends to the top corner of the gable-end window, while the rear rafter has been cut to allow for the window's installation. A number of early raised panel doors and multipane sash have been stored in the attic, the latter being of eight- and twelve-pane arrangements thought to be original components of the house.

¹ Nathaniel White does not appear to have been in Portland as early as 1711, when various people signed the founding covenant of the local Congregational Church, however, he was a signatory on the 1714 petition to the General Assembly to establish separate parish privileges for the Town's residents on the east side of the Connecticut River. This suggests that White was present in Portland by 1714 at the latest, and may have even built the house in question several years earlier.

² During a 1998 evaluation of the White-Overton-Callander House, architectural historian John O. Curtis estimated the date of the paneling as being c. 1760.

³ During a 1998 evaluation of the White-Overton-Callander House, architectural historian John O. Curtis estimated the date of the cupboard as being around the middle of the eighteenth century and noted that due to the cupboard's comparatively elaborate detailing it was likely not original to the home, which was relatively plainly decorated. A matching corner cupboard can be found in the nearby Samuel Hall house, 478 Main Street, this documented as part of a WPA survey and shown in a historical photo included as part of the Connecticut State Library's digital collections, accessible at <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/cdm/singleitem/collection/p4005coll7/id/5238/rec/8>

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Significance: White-Overton-Callander House

Summary

The White-Overton-Callander House, located in Portland, Connecticut, is significant because of the notable role the initial owner of the property played in Connecticut and American history (Criterion B). Captain Nathaniel White II (1685-1743), was among the 29 families who established the Third Society of Middletown – comprised of the present towns of Portland and East Hampton, Connecticut – and it was White who built the house in question, this between 1711 and 1714. White remained in the house until his death in 1743, whereupon it then passed down through several branches of the White family up until 1907. Currently occupied by the Portland Historical Society, the White-Overton-Callander House represents a fine example of Colonial architecture which, despite being over 300 years old, retains a notable degree of its early historical character and details (Criterion C).¹

Historical Significance

Captain Nathaniel White I and the Mattabeseck Colony

Captain Nathaniel White I was the son of John White, an English transplant who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts with his family on the ship *Lyon* in 1632. The Whites resided for a short time in Hadley, Massachusetts before they joined Thomas Hooker's settlement at Hartford, Connecticut in 1636. Eventually, Nathaniel White I struck out on his own, being among the first immigrants to settle in the fledgling Mattabeseck colony, later Middletown, in 1650. By 1654, the number of taxable persons in Middletown had risen to 31, Nathaniel White being notable among them.²

Nathaniel White I resided in what was known as the "Upper Houses" of Middletown, this being the area on the western side of the Connecticut River, north of the Little River³, which would later become the town of Cromwell. Throughout early town records White is referenced among the most prominent of Middletown's proprietors and he was both a respected citizen and active in public affairs. In 1674, he was called upon to broker a land dispute between the Saybrook and Killingworth colonies and he also served as the town's representative at the Connecticut General Court and General Assembly in the 1659 and 1695 sessions.⁴

Although initial settlement at Middletown was limited to the west side of the river, landholdings on the eastern side were acquired by residents of the town for agricultural purposes as early as 1653. In that year four individuals are listed as property owners in town records, these being William Cornwall, Robert Webster, John Hall, and Nathaniel White I. By 1658, the number had risen to 24 after "upland uppone the east side of the great River" was equally divided among recent petitioners.⁵ In 1666, members of the town emphasized what they saw as the accepted use of this land by voting that, "for this present yere insuing all improved land for corne and gras on the east side of the great river, shall be free from molestation or cretres belonging to the towne as it has bene heretofore,

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and cattle which shall trespass here shall be poundable.”⁶ Four years later the residents of Middletown went further, voting that the aforementioned lands should lie as a common field. Then, in 1672, they voted to acquire all of the territory extending inland six miles east from the river and bounded on the north by Wethersfield and on the south by Haddam. This they purchased from several Native Americans including one by the name of Naschegon Sepunnemoe. The area was primarily set aside for agricultural use, with the exception of 300 acres, which were allotted as a reservation for local Native Americans.⁷

Initially, those residents of Middletown who owned and cultivated land on the east side of the river traversed the waterway in boats in order to work their fields by day, and return home in the evening. Slowly, however, European settlement took hold in the area that would become the towns of Portland and East Hampton. One of the first colonists to take up residence on the east side of the river was James Stancliff, who is recorded to have constructed a house there around 1686. Stancliff was in turn joined by John Gill and William Cornwell, who built residences nearby circa 1690. In 1693, Captain Nathaniel White I became the first colonist to be granted the right to purchase land located within the aforementioned Native American reservation. This privilege was passed down from Connecticut’s General Court – the Colonial governmental body which had assumed a protectorate role over Native American lands – which granted White, “liberty to buy a small parcel of land at Wamgom about halfe an acre of land or a little more of the Indian squa that is Masecup’s wife.”⁸ While this curiously small parcel would eventually become the site of the house currently identified as 492 Main Street, White did not at this point in time join Stancliff, Gill, and Cornwell in building a residence on the piece of property he had just acquired. His purchase did, however, open the door to the general eligibility of Middletown residents to purchase other reservation lands. This event came in May 1697, whereupon the General Court granted the right to, “any one of the Inhabitants of Middletown to purchase of the Indians there inhabiting claiming propriety of land at Wangunck Meddowe about one acre of grasse land in the said meddowe.”⁹ Roughly a decade later this move would also enable Nathaniel White I’s grandson to build a house in Portland.¹⁰

Captain Nathaniel White II and the Third Ecclesiastical Society of Middletown

A slow influx of settlers joined White, Stancliff, Gill, and Cornwell in purchasing lands east of the river opposite Middletown. By early 1710, a total of 12 families had taken up residence in this fledgling settlement. In March 1710, 20 heads of households from both sides of the river organized for the purpose of establishing the first meetinghouse in the new community. Nathaniel White I died in 1711, after which his property was distributed among various members of his family. One of the heirs was his grandson Captain Nathaniel White II, who acquired the elder White’s lands in Portland and quickly become involved with efforts to establish the new settlement and parish there. The Third Society of Middletown was formed in May 1714, after the General Assembly of Connecticut granted parish privileges to the citizens residing on the east side of the river. Nathaniel White II was a signatory of the 1714 petition and was chosen as one of the “committee of three” selected to find the society’s first minister.¹¹

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As noted, the Third Society of Middletown was comprised of what would later become the towns of Portland and East Hampton. The Third Society formally separated from Middletown in 1767, at which time it assumed the title of Chatham. In 1841, the western section of town broke free from Chatham, thus forming a new township eventually known as Portland.¹² It is believed that Nathaniel White II's decision to build the house at 492 Main Street in what is now Portland coincided with his intensive involvement in the parish petition and the subsequent search for the Third Ecclesiastical Society's first minister. The latter took until October 25, 1721, whereupon the Reverend Daniel Newell was ordained pastor of the church. Already a prominent figure in the nascent settlement, Nathaniel White II was among the signers of church covenant, one of the original members of the church, as well as served on the committee of trust during Newell's tenure, which lasted until his death in 1740.¹³

Captain Nathaniel White II held the residence in question until his death in 1743, whereupon he deeded "my house and barn together with about fifty acres of upland and swamp adjoining" to his son Noadiah White (1720-1811). Noadiah raised his family and maintained a farm on the property until 1786, whereupon he, along with much of the White family in the Middletown region, relocated to Middlefield, New York. There they settled a region of approximately 6,000 acres in the vicinity of Oneida Lake. At the time of the White migration, several members of the family did remain in Chatham, among them Abijah and Samuel White, sons of Noadiah. The brothers assumed the house at 492 Main Street following the departure of their father and they continued to work the farm until they removed to Vermont in 1796. At this point the property passed to General Seth Overton, husband of Mehitabel White Overton, sister to Abijah and Samuel White and granddaughter of Captain Nathaniel White II.¹⁴

General Seth Overton and the U.S.S. Connecticut

During the second half of the eighteenth and throughout the nineteenth century, shipbuilding was one of the principal industries in Portland. The craft was established at a very early point in the town's history, the first vessel built there being a 90-ton schooner constructed by George Lewis in October 1741. The Lewis shipyard was located less than a mile north of the White Homestead, in an area of town known as "Indian Hill." Situated on a bend in the Connecticut River, the section of Indian Hill north of Indian Hill Avenue (formerly Shipyard Lane) was the ideal location for ship construction as it was protected from storms by the river's meandering course, as well as by Gildersleeve Island, situated just to the north. In addition, a deep channel in the river allowed large ships to be assembled and easily launched into service.¹⁵

By the late 1760s, the Indian Hill area was home to approximately five shipyards, these producing a variety of vessels of all sizes. As a result, a small industrial village of supporting shops, supply stores, taverns, and houses rose up on Indian Hill, just to the north of the White Homestead. During the Revolutionary War, this village provided the Continental Navy with several ships of war, among them 700-ton, 36-gun, *Trumbull*, and the 900-ton, 40-gun, *Bourbon*.¹⁶

A number of Portland men likewise served in the conflict, one of them being the aforementioned General Seth Overton who took up residence in the White Homestead in 1796. During the Revolutionary War, Overton served as one of a number of government

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procurement officers who coordinated with Connecticut farmers and industrialists to supply the Continental forces with the food, clothing, and arms they needed in the field. Dubbed "the Provision State", Connecticut was notable for its support of efforts to overthrow English control through invaluable contributions of materiel. Following the war's conclusion, Overton continued to work for the Federal government as a contractor in addition to engaging in deep water shipping, tobacco farming, as well as operating his own shipyard on Indian Hill less than a mile from his house. In 1798, Overton commissioned perhaps the most notable vessel constructed in Portland's shipyards, the 514-ton, 20-gun frigate, *Connecticut*.¹⁷

General Seth Overton commissioned master carpenter Philip Gildersleeve, progenitor of Portland's most prolific and successful shipbuilding family, to build the *Connecticut* in the interest of bolstering the United States Navy and for participation in the country's "Quasi-War" with France.¹⁸ Constructed at a yard located at the western end of Indian Hill Avenue, the vessel was the second American warship to bear the name *Connecticut*, the first, a galley built in Skenesborough, New York in 1776, having seen service in Brigadier-General Benedict Arnold's fleet on Lake Champlain in October 1776. In March 1799, Overton placed an advertisement in the *Connecticut Courant* calling for, "Ten or fifteen CARPENTERS, to be employed on the Ship *Connecticut*, for which generous wages will be given." Launched on June 6, 1799, Overton's *Connecticut* carried a complement of 180 seamen and was commanded by Wethersfield, Connecticut resident, Captain Moses Tryon. The Portland-built frigate entered service against the French privateers on October 15, 1799, after being attached to the command of Richard V. Morris at Guadalupe Station.¹⁹

Captain Tryon and his crew quickly made their presence in the Caribbean felt. Taking advantage of the *Connecticut's* exceptional speed they recaptured the American schooner *Hannah* on November 6, 1799 and then recovered the American brig *Penelope* and destroyed the captured schooner *Polly* over the course of the following month. On December 29, 1799, in perhaps her most notorious engagement, the *Connecticut* ran down and destroyed one of the most successful French pirate ships of the period, the sixteen-gun *Italia Conquese*, which had single-handedly captured or destroyed over 150 vessels during the previous four years. Throughout the first half of 1800, the *Connecticut* continued to patrol Caribbean waters during which time she engaged and destroyed a number of French privateers, including the *Le Pieve* on June 1, the *La Unite* on June 5; and the *Chou Chou* on July 15; and liberated several American merchant ships, including the schooner *Priscilla* on March 20, the *Thomas Chalky* on April 27, and the *Mary and Martha* on June 3.²⁰

The *Connecticut* was ordered back to New London, Connecticut following her capture of the *Chou Chou* whereupon she was to be refitted for action in the East Indies under the command of a Captain Richard Derby. The *Connecticut* never sailed for the Indian Ocean as the Convention of 1800 concluded hostilities with the French before the American vessel's departure. The ship's military career ended in April 1801, whereupon Captain Derby delivered her to New York City where the vessel fetched \$19,300 at public auction.²¹

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General Seth Overton remained in the house at 492 Main Street until 1811, whereupon he constructed a new residence at the present site of 506 Main Street. Overton then sold the southern half of his property including the former Nathaniel White house to his son, Augustin Overton, a farmer. Augustin Overton likewise erected a new house on the property as his two unmarried aunts continued to reside in his father's former residence. Augustin Overton held the entire property until 1840, at which time he deeded the southern half – along with the White Homestead – to his wife, Almira Goodrich Overton.²²

Almira Goodrich Overton lived until 1874, however, she quitclaimed the former Nathaniel White house to her five surviving children in 1853. Various members of the Overton family held the property until 1907, whereupon it passed to a prominent local tobacco grower and dealer, Frederick W. Goodrich. At the time Goodrich also owned the Overton farm at 506 Main Street and, as such, he maintained the Nathaniel White house as a rental property. Goodrich cultivated extensive tobacco fields running from the rear of his house at 506 Main Street west to the Connecticut River and it is likely that he acquired the property at 492 Main Street in order to increase his acreage.²³

The Goodrich family held the White-Overton Homestead at 492 Main Street for just under ten years, at which point in time it then passed through a series of four different owners between 1916 and 1918.²⁴ In 1918, the house was acquired by William and Grace Ryan, residents of New York, New York. William Ryan worked as a banker in New York City and for many years he and his family summered in a cottage located south of Portland in the Middle Haddam village of East Hampton, Connecticut. According to family history, the Middle Haddam cottage lacked modern amenities such as electricity or running water and allegedly reluctance on the part of the Ryan's maid to spend her summers in such conditions prompted the family to trade their cottage with that of a Dr. Walker who was renting the former White-Overton Homestead over the summer of 1917. As electricity and municipal water were available along Main Street in Portland at the time, the house made for a comfortable alternative. The Ryans chose to purchase the residence the following year.²⁵

In 1931, the house passed to Ruth Ryan Callander, the daughter of William and Grace Ryan. Ruth Ryan attended preparatory school at Swarthmore, before graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1924 and completing a Masters degree in art at NYU in 1925. While working on her doctorate degree – a notable level of education for a woman at the time – she met an accountant from the Midwest by the name of John Callander, whom she married in 1929.²⁶ In 1931, the couple took up year-round residence in Ruth's parents' summer house in Portland following John's employment at the Gong Bell Company in East Hampton.²⁷ The Callanders winterized the house before moving in, likely installing central heating and wooden storm windows at this time. The Callanders also built the one-bay garage located southwest of the house. The couple eventually held the house longer than any single generation of its previous residents. John resided there until his death in 1977 and Ruth remained in the house until her death in 1997. Ruth Ryan Callander bequeathed the house to the Portland Historical Society, which has since occupied it as their permanent home and museum documenting Portland's history.²⁸

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Architectural Significance

The White-Overton-Callander House displays many features typical of residential construction from the Colonial period. While the house has experienced a number of alterations over the course of its nearly three-hundred-year history, it retains a notable degree of its early historical character and details. Many of the house's original or very early features remain intact. These include its brownstone foundation and chimney base; post-and-beam framing; wood wall paneling in the hall and southeast bedchamber; central stair wall paneling, newel posts, rails, and turned balusters; several three-panel doors; and attic details such as the oak stair, vertical oak board walls, wide board flooring, and hewn end rafters. Furthermore, changes to the building's exterior have not stripped it of its Colonial character as the rectangular footprint, central hall plan and entry, horizontal board siding, and side-gabled roof make it typical of Portland's other early eighteenth-century houses.

Likely one of the first dozen houses built in Middletown's Third Ecclesiastical Society; the White-Overton-Callander House is one of just five residences in Portland remaining from the early Colonial period. Those surviving from the first quarter of the eighteenth century include the c. 1705 Ebenezer White house at 119 High Street, the c. 1708 Samuel Hall house at 478 Main Street, the c. 1708 Nathaniel Savage or Jonathan Warner house at 613 Main Street, and the c. 1712 Samuel Warner house at 311 Main Street (original portion). While all of these have seen various alterations during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, the original or early profiles of the houses at 311 and 478 Main Street and 119 High Street can still be discerned. These are similar to the White-Overton-Callander House in that they consist of two-story structures with rectangular footprints, central chimneys, three-bay facades with centered entries, and side-gabled roofs. The c. 1708 Samuel Hall house at 478 Main Street is particularly notable as it was well documented during the Work Progress Administration's (WPA) *Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut*, which took place between 1934 and 1937. WPA images of both the exterior and interior of the Samuel Hall House show early details similar to those found at the White-Overton-Callander House, of particular interest being the shared characteristics of each house's entry hall (including balusters, newels, rail, and paneling) and parlor corner cupboard (Historic Images 1-3).²⁹

While the White-Overton-Callander House has experienced several modifications since its construction during the early eighteenth century, these changes have not compromised the historical integrity of the original structure. Many of the alterations, including the application of wood paneling in the first floor hall and one of the second-floor bedchambers, and the addition of a corner cupboard and fireplace surround in the north first floor front room, are indicative of minor improvements that owners might make to their houses as time allowed or as their financial stations improved. As the house was among the first to be erected in Portland during the early-eighteenth century there is little doubt that it was initially a rather modestly finished building and that subsequent residents would want to make aesthetic improvements to the interior. Similarly, expanding families might necessitate the construction of additions such as the north lean-to (later raised to two stories) and rear ell visible in a circa 1912 photo of the house.

Fortunately in the case of the White-Overton-Callander House, much of the character of the original portion of the residence was preserved at the time of its alteration and the building remains an excellent example of residential construction typical in Portland during the Colonial period. Having served for over 280 years as a residence, and the last 15 years the home of the Portland Historical

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Society, the fact that the White-Overton-Callander House has maintained a substantial degree of its historical character is a matter not only of significance but one worthy of recognition.

¹ Ancestry.com. "Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index, 1650-1934." <www.ancestry.com> (Various access dates); Portland Historical Society, Consultants, Connecticut Historical Commission. State Register Nomination for "White-Overton-Callander House, Portland, CT," July 1, 1998.

² Henry Whittemore, *History of Middlesex County, Connecticut, With Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men*, (New York, NY: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884), 66, 69; Ancestry.com. "U.S. Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970." <www.ancestry.com> (Various access dates).

³ The Little River is that currently known as the Mattabesett.

⁴ Whittemore, 73, 74, 242, 422.

⁵ Ibid, 498.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ The Native Americans residing on the east side of the Connecticut River opposite Middletown were members of the Mattabesett tribe known as Wangonks. "Wangonk" is believed to mean "the bend" in the native tongue, presumably a reference to the bend in the river near the Gildersleeve or "Indian Hill" section of Portland located just north of the White property where an important native burial ground was located and ceremonial gatherings were held. It is unclear what the local population numbered at the time the Wangonk reservation was laid out, however, some 20 signatures are found on a 1732 deed for the reservation lands. By 1764, the tribe numbered approximately 30 to 40 individuals, however, all but two women and three children has removed to Hartford or Farmington, Connecticut. Ibid, 494-498.

⁸ Ibid, 495.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Whittemore, 494-495, 498.

¹¹ Ibid, 524.

¹² The remaining portion of Chatham was renamed East Hampton in 1915.

¹³ Ibid, 524-525.

¹⁴ Portland Historical Society, 12.

¹⁵ Whittemore, 514; Clouette, Bruce, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Indian Hill Avenue Historic District, Portland, CT," April 25, 1983, sec. 8, pg. 13.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Whittemore, 504, 514; Clouette, sec. 8, pg. 13.

¹⁸ At the time of the *Connecticut's* construction, the United States was amidst an undeclared, yet nonetheless destructive conflict with France known as the "Quasi-War." Although the French government had been a critical ally of the United States during the Revolutionary War, a series of events, including American refusal to repay debts incurred during the Revolution and a nonaggression and trade treaty with Great Britain, had infuriated the French. As a result, starting in 1796, French naval vessels and privateers began to attack and seize American merchant vessels. As the United States government had sold off the majority of the Continental Navy following the Revolutionary War, American shipping was left largely at the mercy of the French aggressors.

The need to reestablish the United States Navy had been identified by President George Washington and others as early as 1793, however, efforts to do so largely stalled until May 1798, whereupon escalating French aggression finally drove the American Congress to fund the construction of a number of United States naval vessels, as well as to authorize these vessels to engage and capture armed French ships. In June 1798, the recently appointed Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddert came to the conclusion that it was impossible for the outgunned American Navy to protect American merchant marine vessels through escorted convoys or to patrol the entire North American coast. Rather, he advocated striking the French

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at the source of their strength, the Caribbean. As such, an offensive campaign was prioritized and by the end of 1798 a force of twenty new vessels was allocated for operations in the Caribbean theater. Overton's *Connecticut* was built with the purpose of joining this campaign.

¹⁹ Whittemore, 514, 514; Clouette, sec. 8, pg. 13; Albertson, 23-26.

²⁰ Albertson, 25-26.

²¹ Albertson, 27; Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center. *The Reestablishment of the Navy, 1787-1801: Historical Overview and Select Bibliography*. <<http://www.history.navy.mil/biblio/biblio4/biblio4a.htm>> (Various access dates).

²² Portland Historical Society, 12.

²³ Ibid; F.W. Beers & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County*. Hartford, CT: F.W. Beers & Co., 1874.

²⁴ These included Frederick R. Goodrich (1916), Julia D. Harris (1916-1917), Clarice E. Goodnow (1917-1918), and William H. & Grace Ryan (1918-1931).

²⁵ Portland Historical Society, 13.

²⁶ Ruth never completed her doctorate work at N.Y.U. as her parents were opposed to the idea of her traveling to Spain to finish her thesis.

²⁷ See: Jan Cunningham, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Belltown Historic District, East Hampton, CT," October 28, 1985.

²⁸ Portland Historical Society, 13.

²⁹ Work Progress Administration, *Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut, 1934-1937*. (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, State Archives Record Group 33:28, 1934-1937), Portland Historic Building Files 016c, 016f, and 016g. <<http://cslib.cdmhost.com/cdm/landingpage/collection/p4005coll7>> (Accessed March 18, 2014).

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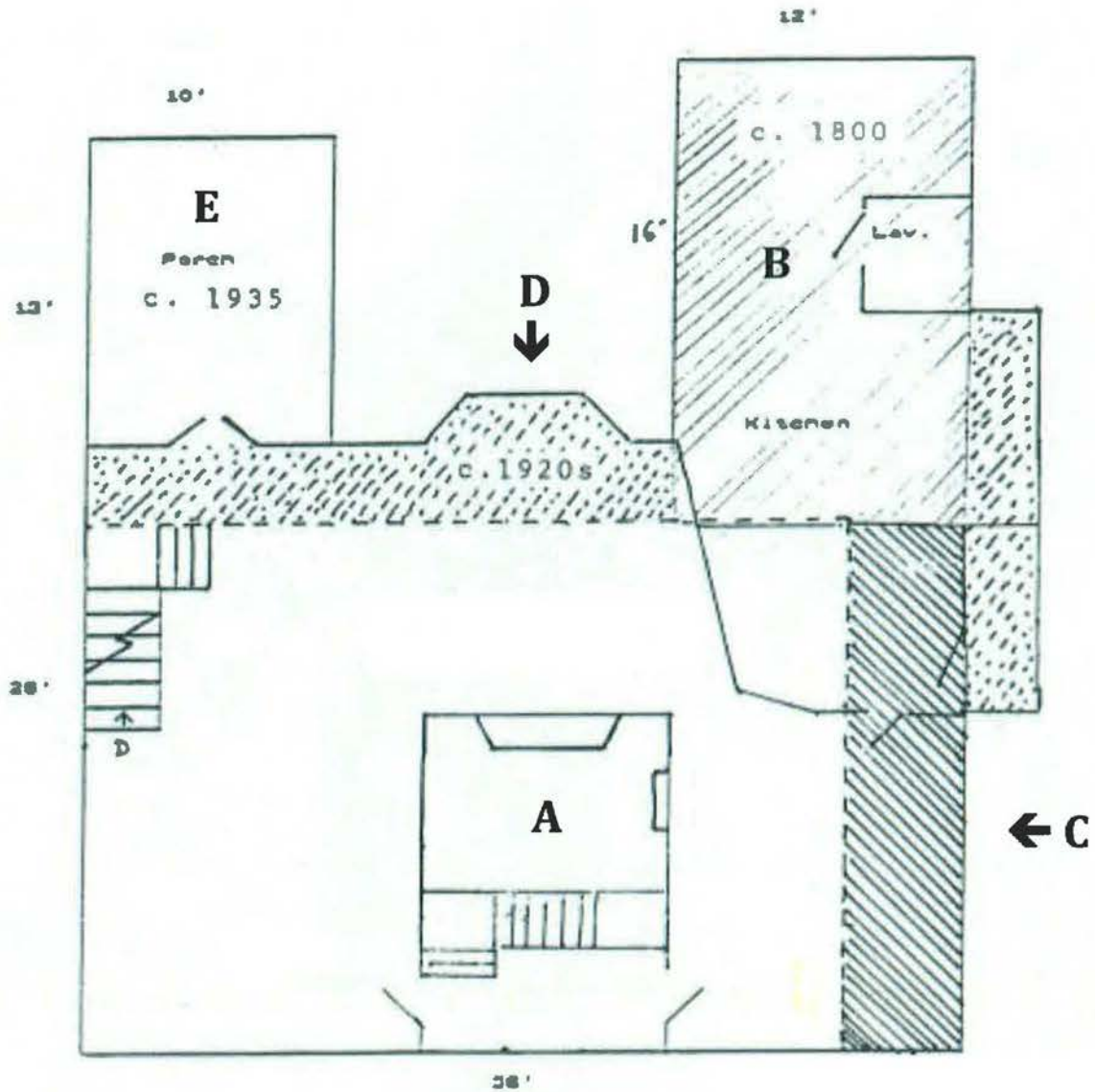
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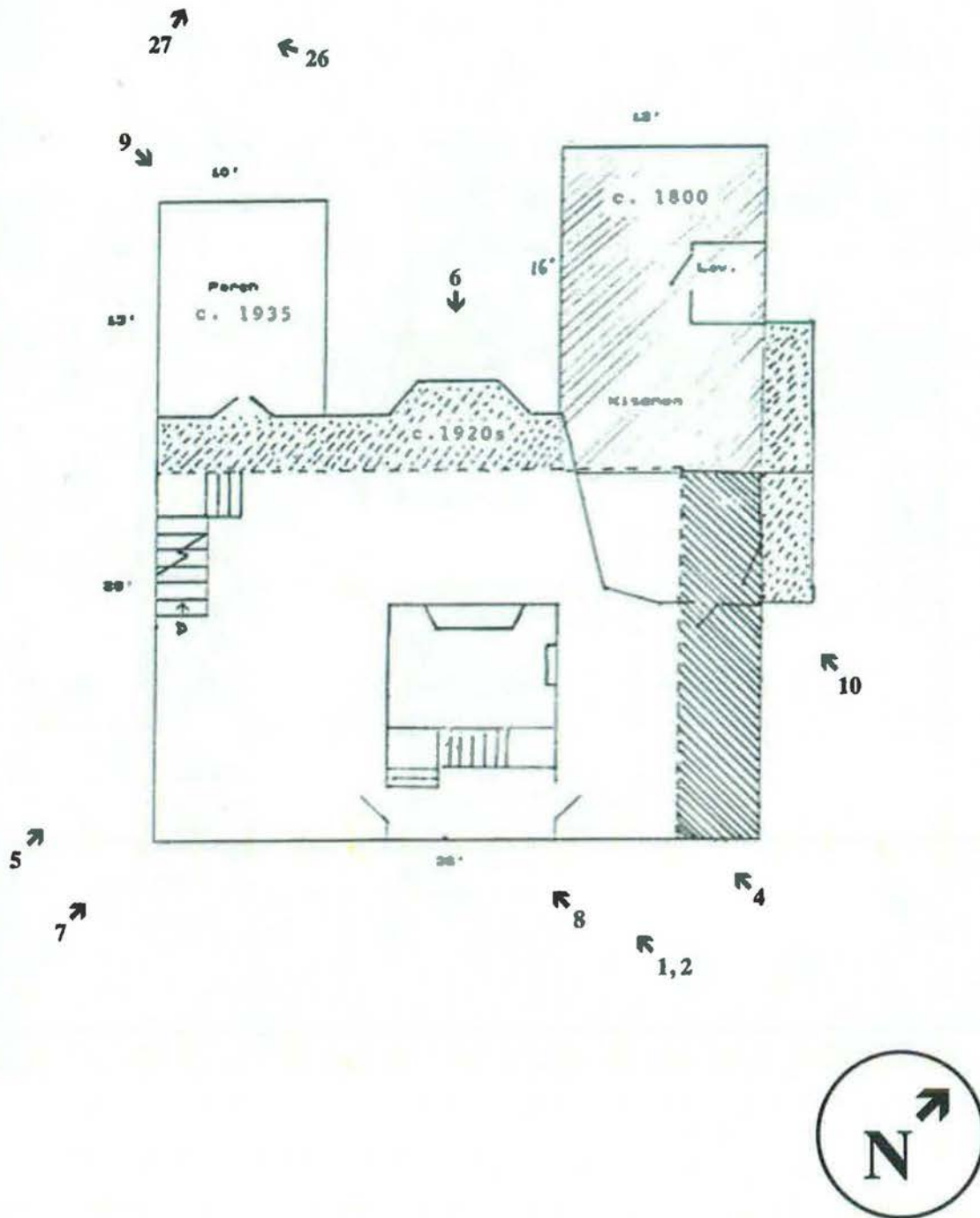
Federal Census Records for 1800-1930.

Floor Plan:

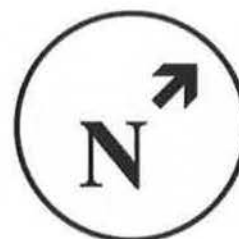
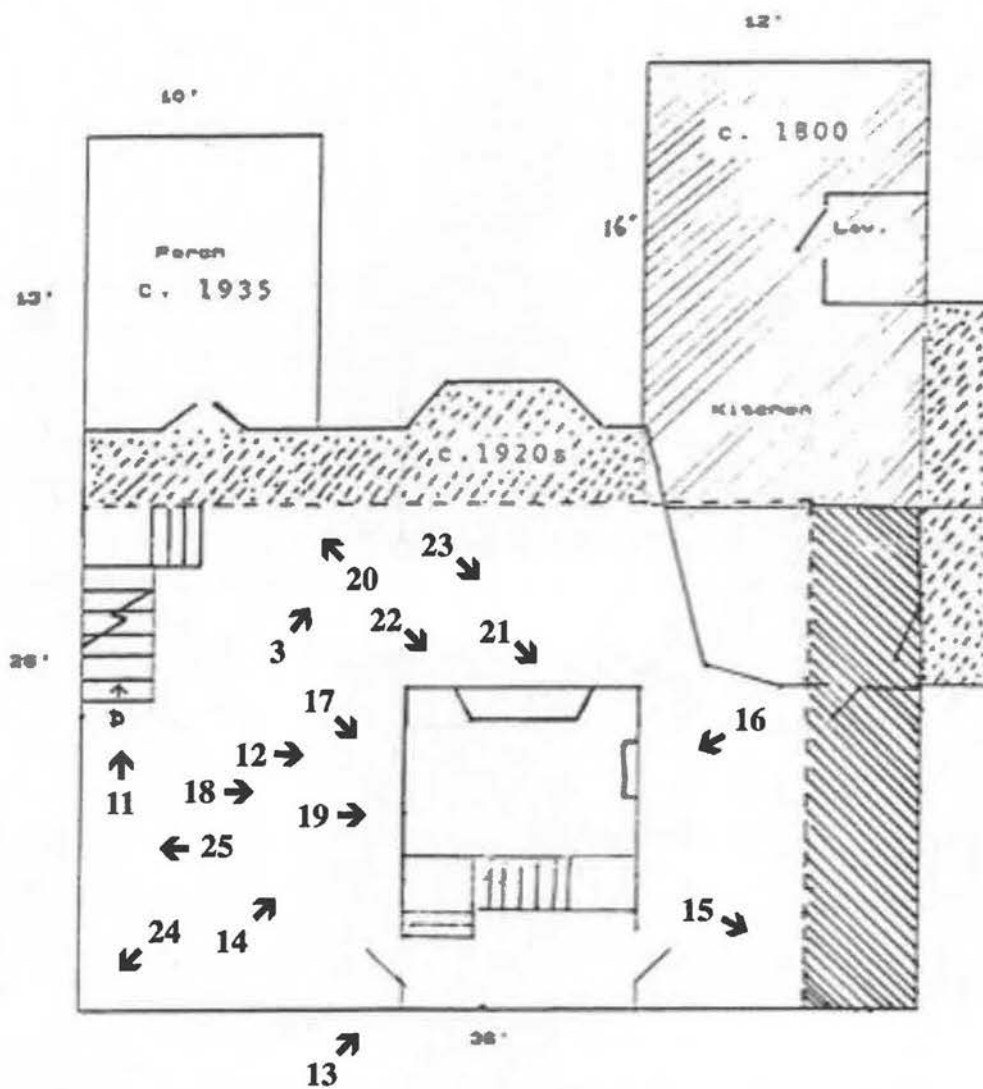


- A. Main Block, c. 1714, possibly enlarged c. 1750.
- B. Northern Rear Ell, c. 1800.
- C. Northern Bay Addition, first story pre-c. 1912, second story c. 1930.
- D. Rear Addition, c. 1930.
- E. Southern Rear Ell/Porch, c. 1935.

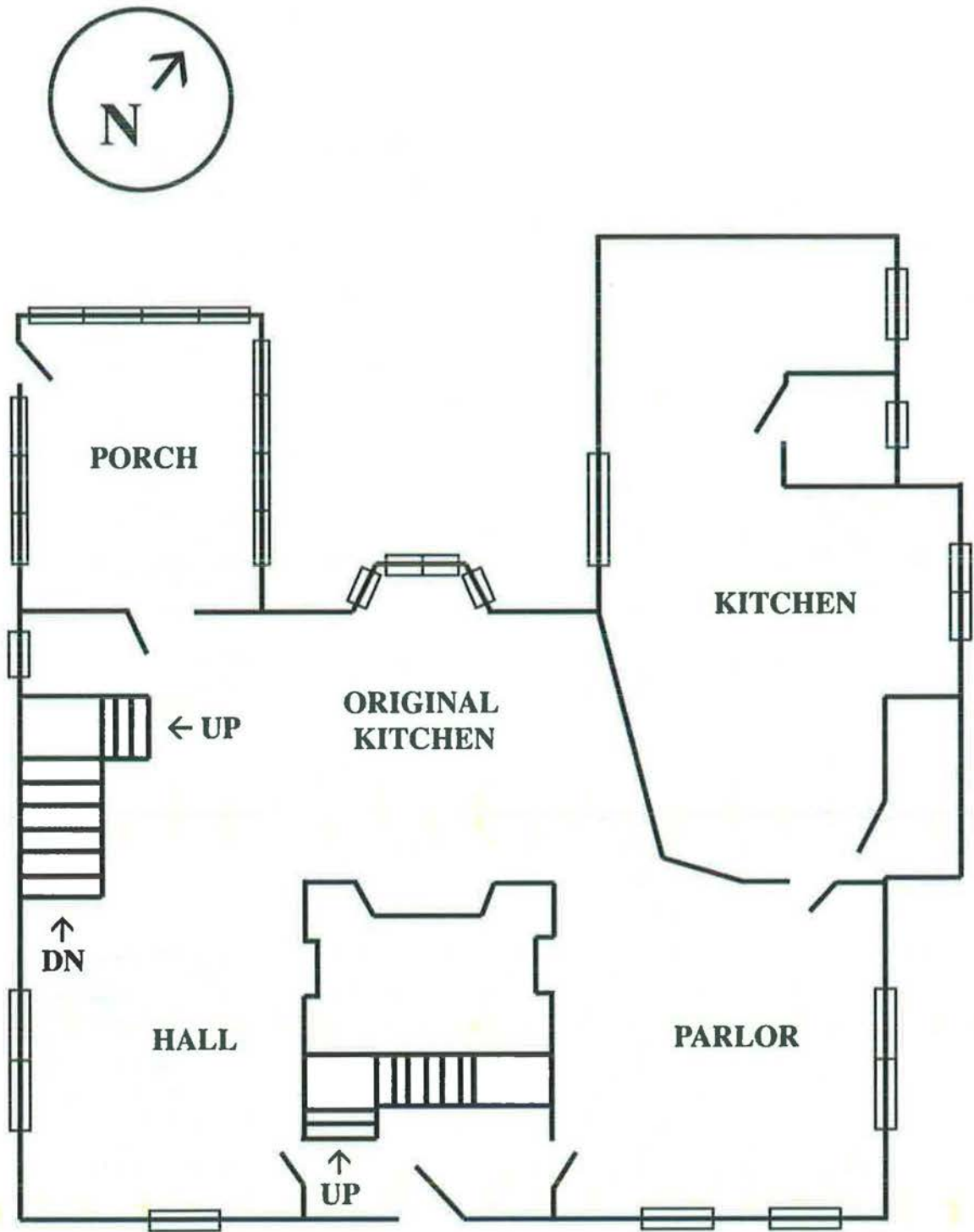
Floor Plan (with exterior photo positions):



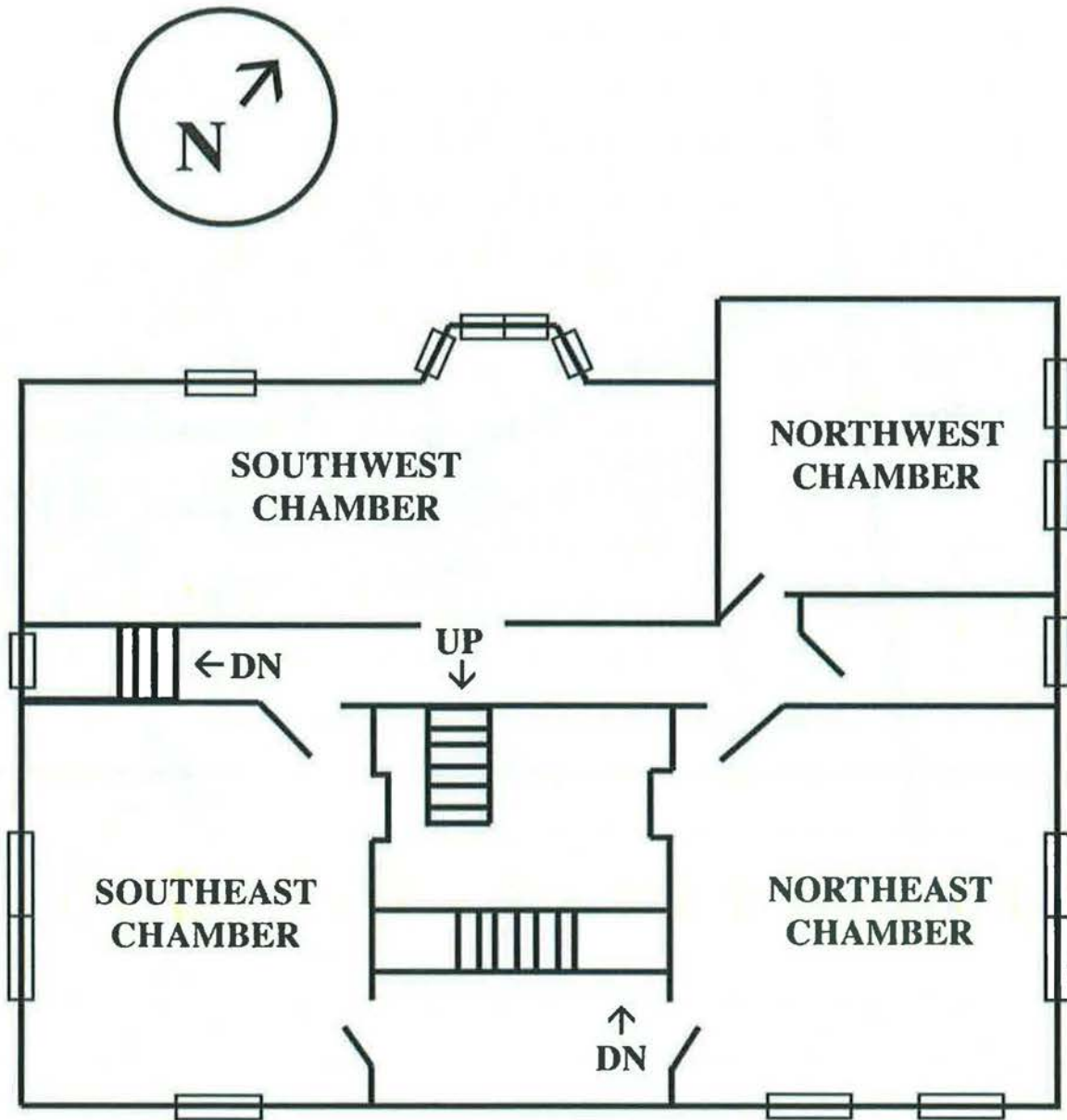
Floor Plan (with interior photo positions):



First Floor Plan:



Second Floor Plan:



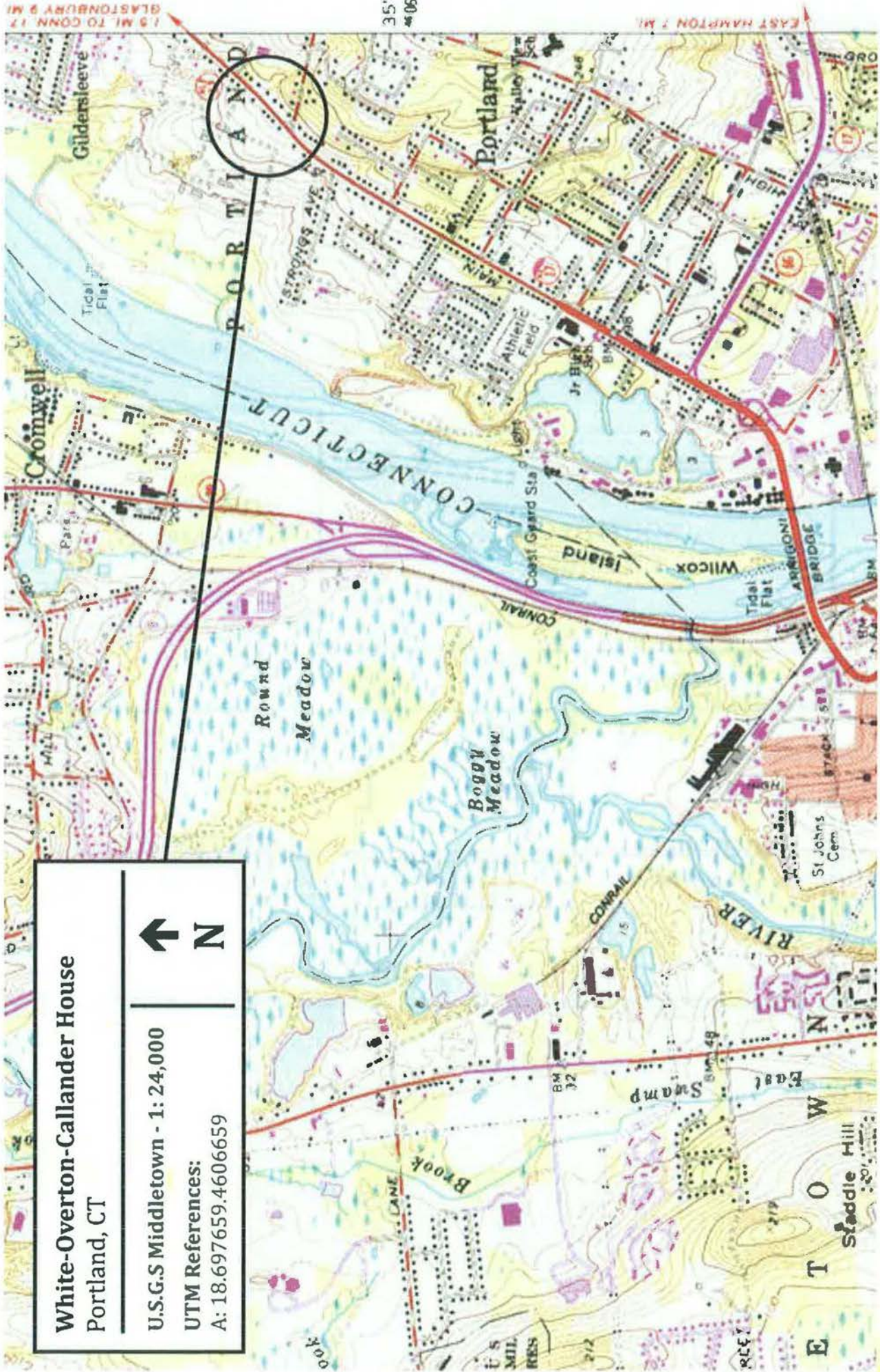
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Portland, CT

U.S.G.S Middletown - 1: 24,000

UTM References:

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Google earth



Site Image:



Site image of house, 492 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut. Note house at center, garage approximately 65 feet due west.



Works Progress Administration (WPA) photograph of the East (front) and south (side) elevations of 478 Main Street from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1708, photograph c. 1934.
Camera facing northwest.
Historic Image 1 of 3.

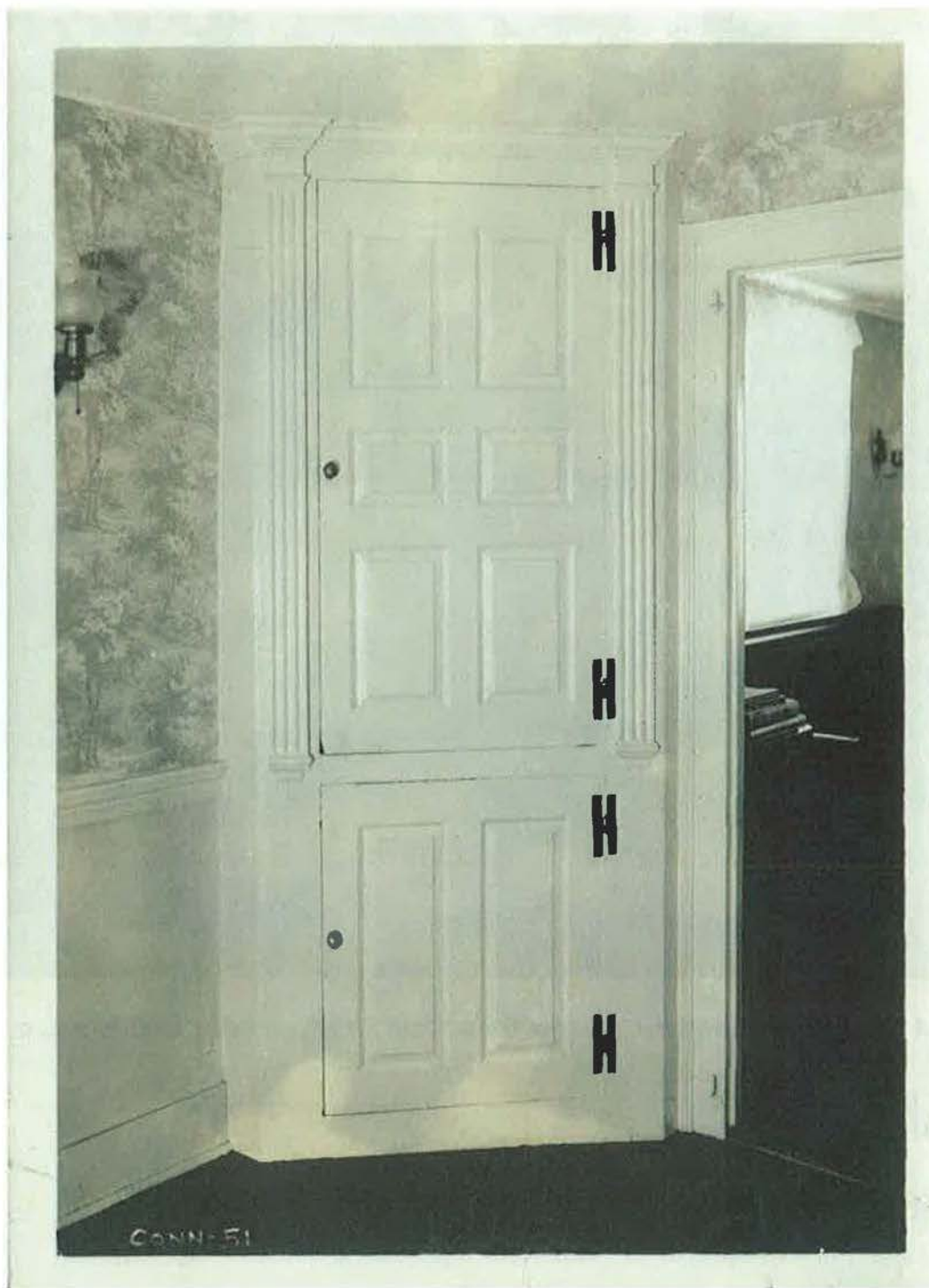


Works Progress Administration (WPA) photograph of the interior of the entry hall of 478 Main Street, showing stair, newel post, rail, baluster, paneling, and door details.

Photograph c. 1934.

Camera facing north.

Historic Image 2 of 3.



Works Progress Administration (WPA) photograph of the interior of parlor of 478 Main Street, first floor of house, showing corner cupboard details.

Photograph c. 1934.

Camera facing east.

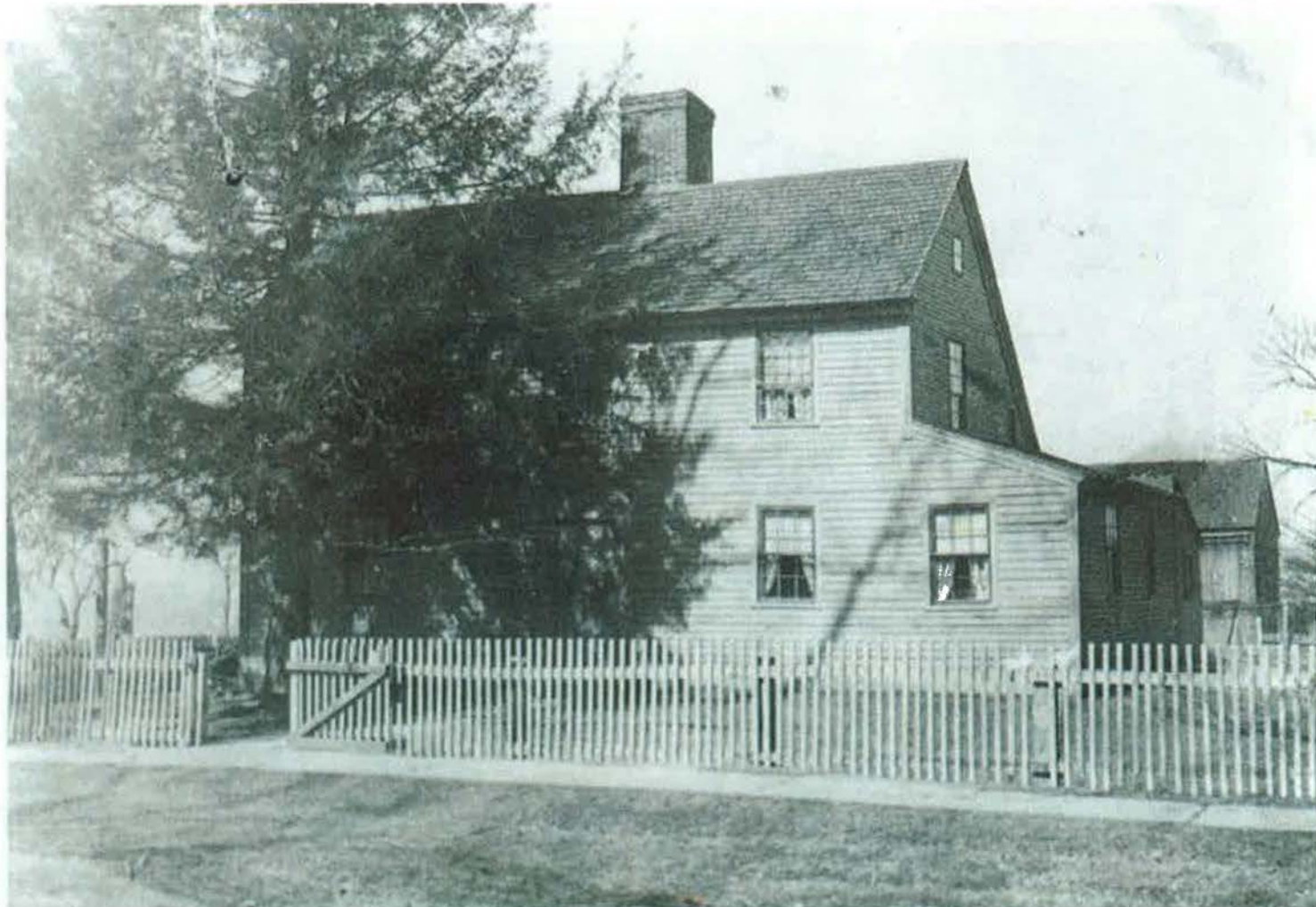
Historic Image 3 of 3.



East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1714, altered c. 1915

Camera facing west.

Photograph 1 of 27.



**Historical photo (c. 1912) of east (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1714.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 2 of 27.**



Interior of cellar, showing foundation detail.
Camera facing north.
Photograph 3 of 27.



**East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing foundation, corner board, and window trim details.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 4 of 27.**



South (side) and east (front) elevations of house from Main Street, showing first- and second-story paired windows.

Camera facing north.

Photograph 5 of 27.



**West (rear) elevation of house from rear of lot, showing two-story bay details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 6 of 27.**



East (front) and south (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing cornice and rakeboard details.

Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 7 of 27.



East (front) elevation of house from Main Street, showing entry details.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 8 of 27.



West (rear) and south (side) elevations of house, showing rear ell, bay, and porch details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 9 of 27.



North (side) elevation, showing rear ell and side entry porch.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 10 of 27.



Interior of hall, showing cellar access door details.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 11 of 27.



**Interior of cellar, showing original chimney girt and early-twentieth-century floor joist details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 12 of 27.**



**Interior of entry hall, showing stair, newel post, rail, baluster, paneling, and door details.
Camera facing north.
Photograph 13 of 27.**



Interior of second-floor southeast bedchamber, showing wall paneling, and cased summer and girt details.

Camera facing north.

Photograph 14 of 27.



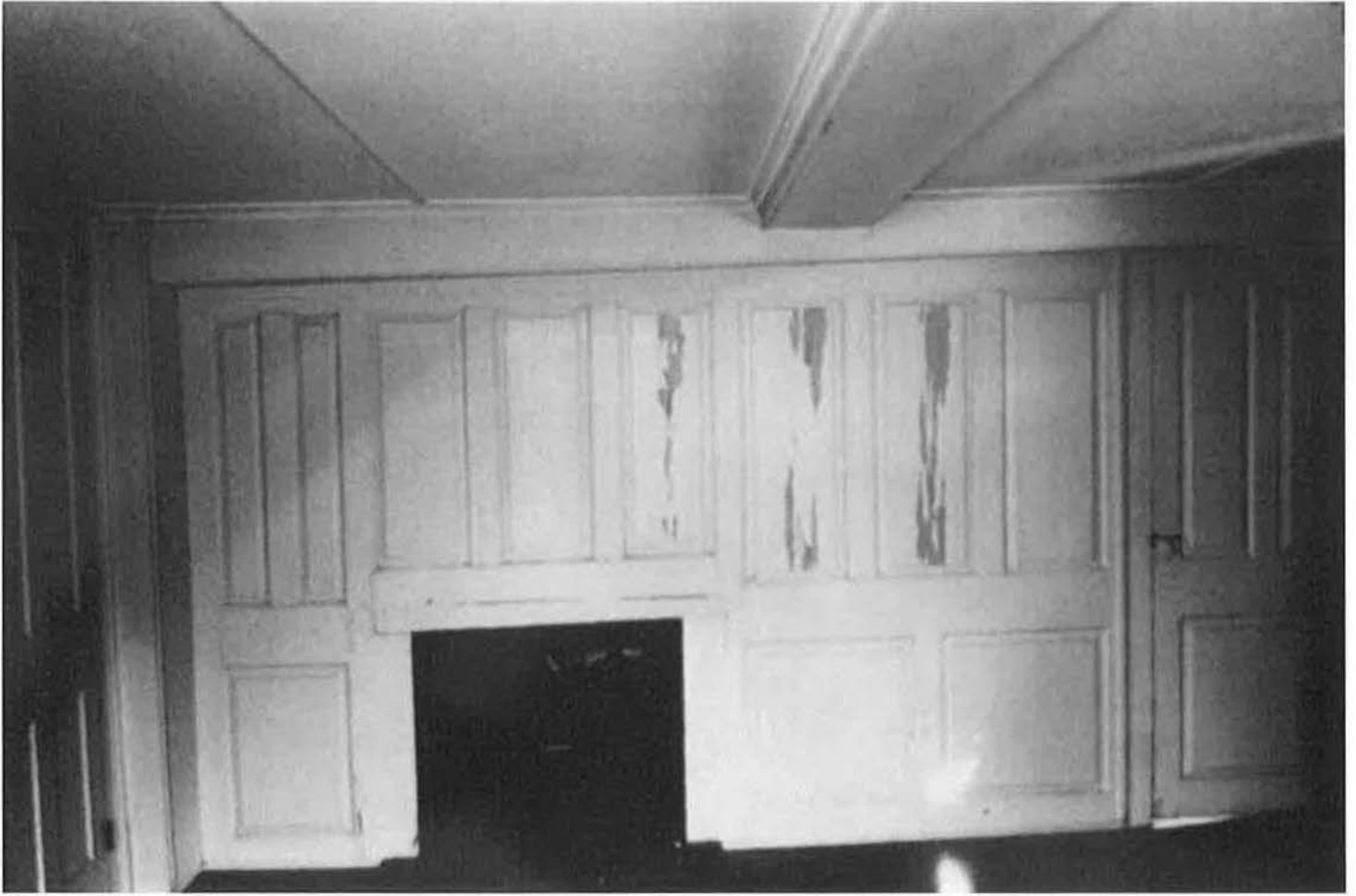
Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing corner cupboard details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 15 of 27.



Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing fireplace surround details.
Camera facing south.
Photograph 16 of 27.



Interior of hall, first floor of house, showing wall paneling and fireplace details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 17 of 27.



Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 18 of 27.



Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 19 of 27.



Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing wall and stairwell details.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 20 of 27.



Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing fireplace details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 21 of 27.



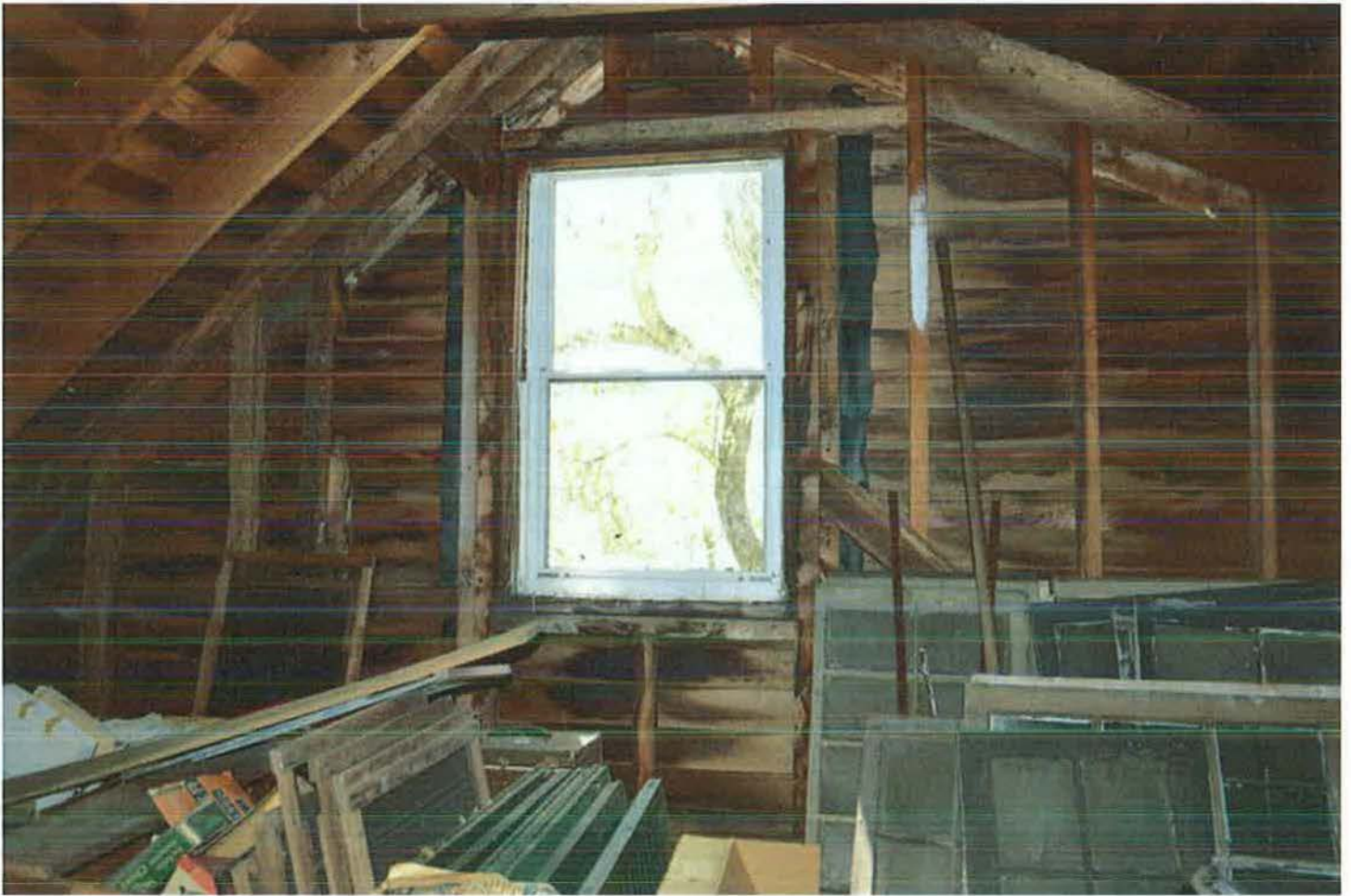
Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing wall and ceiling details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 22 of 27.



Interior of attic stairwell, showing stair and wall details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 23 of 27.



Interior of attic, showing wall, roof, and window details.
Camera facing south.
Photograph 24 of 27.



**Interior of attic, showing south elevation framing details and pitch of original roof-line (intersected by window).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 25 of 27.**



East (front) and north (side) elevations of Garage from rear of house, showing wall, door, and window details.

Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 26 of 27.



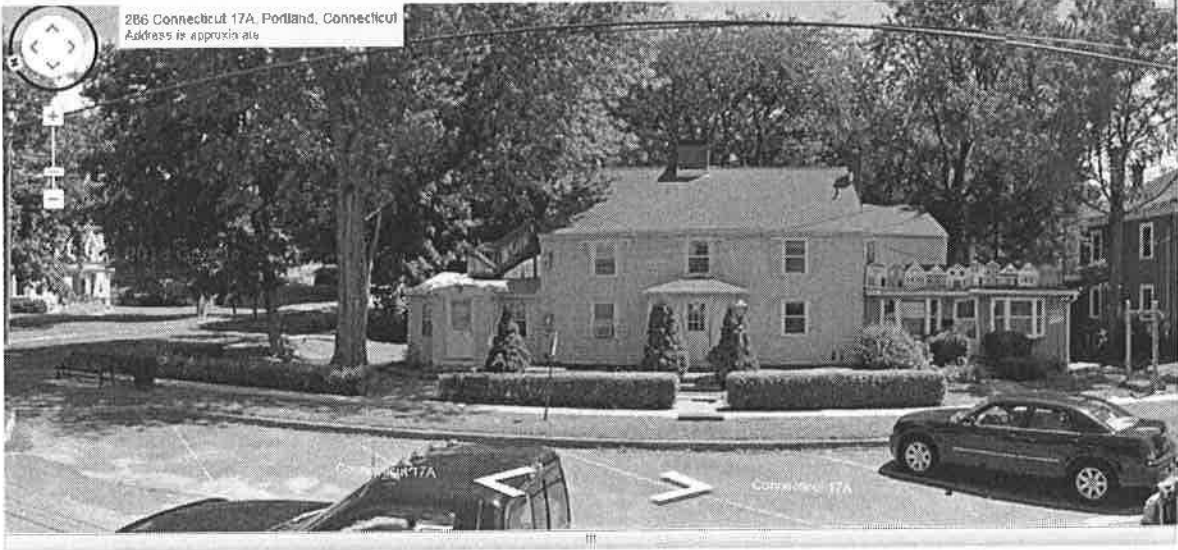
South (front) and east (side) elevations of the Corn Crib – moved to the site in 2009 – from rear of house, showing rear yard landscape details. The hills visible beyond the tree line are located on the west side of the Connecticut River in Middletown and Cromwell, Connecticut. Camera facing northwest. Photograph 27 of 27.



478 Main Street, c.1708

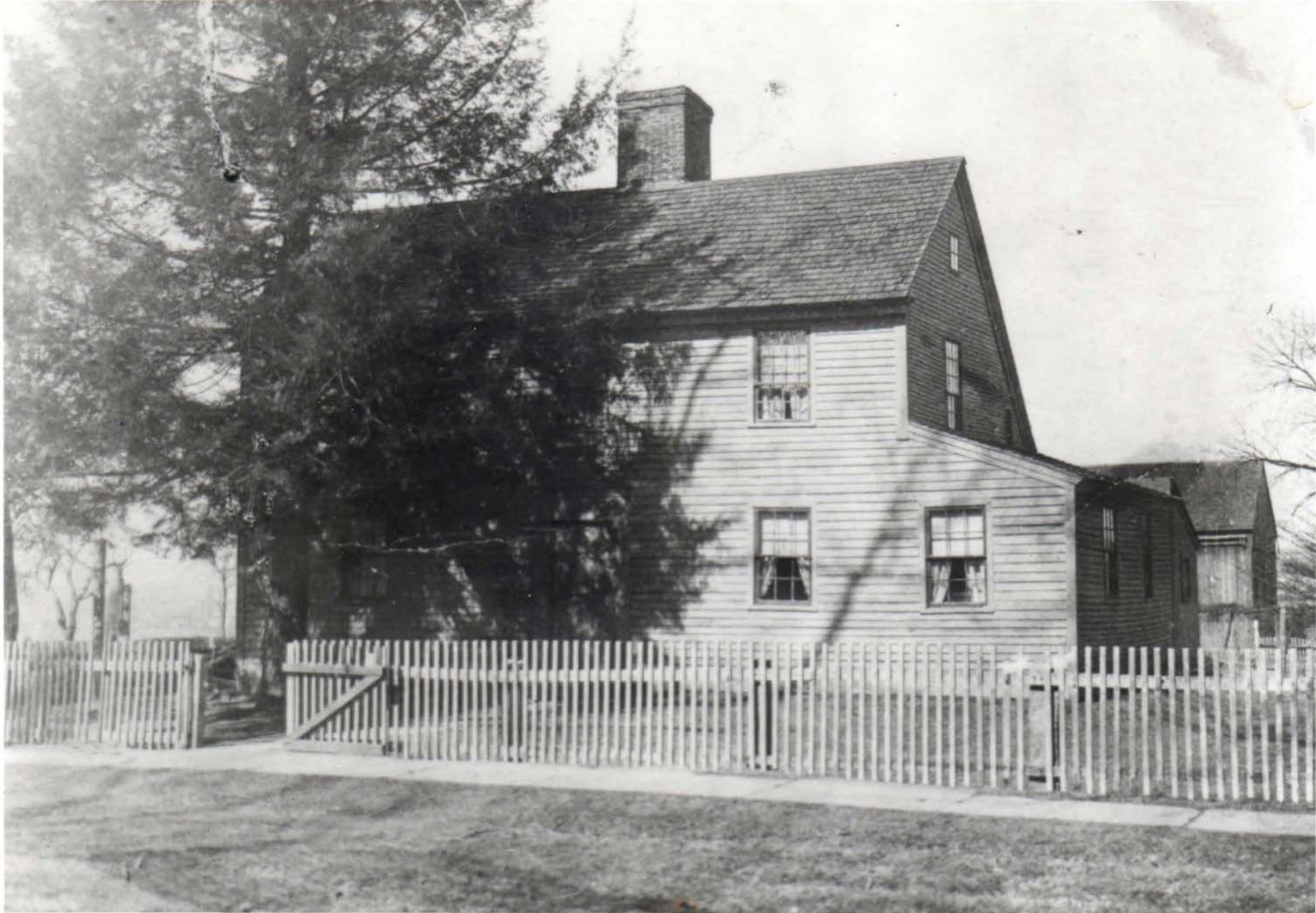


613 Main Street-c.1708



311 Main Street c.1712

















492

















The Ruth Callender House Museum



Informational card with text, possibly a biography or historical account.

Informational card with text, possibly a biography or historical account.



Small text caption below the top photograph.



Small text caption to the right of the photographs.



Small text caption below the right photograph.

DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN THE MUSEUM AND PROVIDE PUBLIC PROGRAMS. "THANK YOU"







1 8 '98





Informational card on the mantel.

Informational card on the mantel.











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY White--Overton--Callander House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 4/04/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/21/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000896

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER J. Paul Loomer DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE 202-354-2003 DATE 5/21/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY White--Overton--Callander House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/25/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/20/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000896

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*This nomination is being returned for substantial
revisions to the nomination.*

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER  DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/11/13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



896

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name White-Overton-Callander House

Other names/site number Captain Nathaniel White House, General Seth Overton House, Ruth Ryan Callander House

2. Location

street & number 492 Main Street not for publication

city of town Portland vicinity

State Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06480

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Stacy Vairo
Signature of certifying official/

9-23-13
Date

Deputy SHPO
Title

SHPO - DECD
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register _____

determined eligible for the National Register _____

determined not eligible for the National Register _____

removed from the National Register _____

other (explain:) _____

Returned

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Exploration/Settlement
- Military
- Politics/Government
- Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1715-1963

Significant Dates

c. 1714, c. 1760, 1796, c. 1915, 1931, 1997

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet(s)

Period of Significance (Justification)

See continuation sheet(s).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

See continuation sheet(s).

Returned

White-Overton-Callander House
Name of Property

Middlesex, CT
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheet(s).

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheet(s).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheet(s).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheet(s).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Returned

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.51
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

A. 18 697659 4606659
Zone Easting Northing

C. _____
Zone Easting Northing

B. _____
Zone Easting Northing

D. _____
Zone Easting Northing

Additional UTM References on continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See continuation sheet(s).

4 of 27.

East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing foundation, corner board, and window trim details.
Camera facing west.

5 of 27.

South (side) and east (front) elevations of house from Main Street, showing first- and second-story paired windows.
Camera facing north.

6 of 27.

West (rear) elevation of house from rear of lot, showing two-story bay details.
Camera facing east.

7 of 27.

East (front) and south (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing cornice and rakeboard details.
Camera facing northwest.

8 of 27.

East (front) elevation of house from Main Street, showing entry details.
Camera facing west.

9 of 27.

West (rear) and south (side) elevations of house, showing rear ell, bay, and porch details.
Camera facing northeast.

10 of 27.

North (side) elevation, showing rear ell and side entry porch.
Camera facing west.

11 of 27.

Interior of hall, showing cellar access door details.
Camera facing west.

12 of 27.

Interior of cellar, showing original chimney girt and early-twentieth-century floor joist details.
Camera facing northeast.

13 of 27.

Interior of entry hall, showing stair, newel post, rail, baluster, paneling, and door details.
Camera facing north.

14 of 27.

Interior of second-floor southeast bedchamber, showing wall paneling, and cased summer and girt details.
Camera facing north.

15 of 27.

Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing corner cupboard details.
Camera facing east.

16 of 27.

Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing fireplace surround details.
Camera facing south.

17 of 27.

Interior of hall, first floor of house, showing wall paneling and fireplace details.
Camera facing east.

18 of 27.

Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.

Returned

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

County and State: Middlesex, CT

Section number: 7

Page: 1

Architectural Description: White-Overton-Callander House

The White-Overton-Callander House, erected between 1711 and 1714¹, sits on the west side of Main Street (Connecticut Route 17A), just under two miles southwest of its intersection with Gospel Lane and the Glastonbury Turnpike (Connecticut Route 17) and a mile-and-a-half north of the central business district in Portland, Connecticut. The residence is located one-half of a mile east of the Connecticut River on uplands overlooking agricultural fields and marshlands extending down to the riverbank. The home is a two-story, central stair, Colonial-style frame house with a side-gabled roof and center chimney (Photograph 1). The house faces east and is situated on a level half-acre lot. Mature trees and shrubs decorate the property. A circa 1930 frame garage (Photograph 26) with front-facing gable roof stands along the southern edge of the lot while a one-story frame shed built circa 1970 can be found near the northwest (rear) corner of the home. A 9-foot by 16-foot frame corn crib is located roughly 100 feet northwest of the house and 70 feet north of the garage (Photograph 27). Built during the early nineteenth century, the corn crib was moved to the property from a Portland farm after it was threatened with demolition in 2009. Portland's Main Street corridor was developed very early in the town's history therefore the house is surrounded by residential development dating from the early eighteenth, up through the middle of the twentieth century. While suburban development has steadily reshaped the area to the east over the course of the last 50 years, the area along Main Street retains much of its historic character.

The White-Overton-Callander House consists of a two-story main block – this measuring roughly 36 feet wide by 26 feet deep – with two one-story additions on its west (rear) side. The residence faces Main Street and the four bays of the façade are spaced in a one-one-two arrangement with the entry offset to the south (Photograph 1). Structural evidence on the interior of the house suggests that the façade was originally three bays wide and the entry was centered. A historical photo dating to circa 1912 in the collections of the Portland Public Library shows the earlier saltbox-style roofline and indicates that the northern bay was originally erected as a one-story shed-roof addition extending along the length of the north elevation (Photograph 2). Both the roofline and this north addition were raised circa 1915, likely about the same time that electricity and indoor plumbing were added. The present roof peak terminates roughly two-and-a-half feet above and behind the original roof, which had, approximately, a 10-in-12 pitch.

The house's foundation and chimneystack bases are uncut brownstone laid up with mortar in irregular course (Photograph 3). The exterior walls are sheathed in clapboards fastened with cut nails four inches to the weather, while simple wood corner boards and window surrounds frame the wall cladding (Photograph 4). Fenestration throughout consists of 6/1 double-hung sash. There are paired windows on the first and second stories of the north and south (side) elevations (Photograph 5) and a two-story, three-sided bay on the west (rear) elevation (Photograph 6). A simple cornice with shallow returns extends across the front and rear elevations while the side elevations have plain rake boards (Photograph 7).

The house's entry porch has a half-round brownstone landing, modern iron railing, and a gabled portico with coved ceiling. The later is supported by two Doric columns, these rising into the molded, modillioned cornice. The paneled entry door is flanked by engaged Doric columns and rectangular multi-pane sidelights (Photograph 8). Absent in the aforementioned circa 1912 photo, the portico and door surround were likely added during the early twentieth century at the time other alterations were made.

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Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

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The details of the entry hall appear to be a mix of original and late eighteenth-century details. These include the steep, triple-run stair, newel posts, turned balusters, rails, and the three-panel door leading to a closet under the stairs (Photograph 13). The wall paneling in the entry likely dates to the middle of the eighteenth century, as does similar paneling found in the hall and the southeast second floor bedchamber (Photograph 14).² Additional evidence of the house's early eighteenth-century origins includes the cased girts, posts, and summers found throughout the first and second floors, some of these as wide as twelve to thirteen inches. In the first-floor north chamber, the parlor, these structural members serve as an indication of one of the most notable alterations to the house. Here the summer intersects a broad beam cutting across the room at what would have been the end of the house before the additional bay was added to the north gable-end of the house. Similar evidence is found in the northeast chamber on the second floor where the former end girt likewise cuts across the center of the room. Although many of the casings were replaced during an early twentieth-century renovation, exceptions include those in the entry hall and surrounding the two chimney girt posts in the parlor.

The first-floor chambers contain a number of surviving mid-eighteenth to early twentieth-century details in addition to the cased structural members. In the parlor these include an eighteenth-century corner cupboard and nineteenth-century brownstone fireplace surround. The former extends from floor to ceiling and consists of two wood paneled doors flanked by pilasters and with curved shelves on the interior (Photograph 15).³ The room's fireplace surround consists of thick brownstone blocks which reduce the size of the fireplace opening and project into the room (Photograph 16). The feature was potentially intended to function like a Franklin stove by taking advantage of the radiant qualities of the stone in order to better transfer heat from the fireplace into the surrounding space. Surviving details of note in the hall include the wood paneling against the chimney wall and brownstone fireplace lintel (Photograph 17). Although the fireplace opening has been bricked up, its original stone construction is visible in the space between the paneling and the chimney.

The southeast bedchamber on the second floor likewise displays a number of well-preserved details. These include the cased posts in all four corners of the room, the 12 1/2 inch cased summer beam, and the wood paneling and three-panel door against the chimney wall (Photograph 18). Like the paneling and three-panel doors found on the first floor of the home, those in the south bedchamber likely date to the middle of eighteenth century. The same is true of the rectangular hearthstone found in front of the room's small fireplace. This consists of a simple brownstone block with one-inch raised edge on its front and sides (Photograph 19).

As noted, a number of alterations impacted the White-Overton-Callander House during the early twentieth-century. Of the original spaces, these most heavily impacted the early kitchen space. The room's rear wall was moved approximately four feet to the west and a bay window was added to this elevation (Photograph 6). In addition, the west wall of the south front room was removed and a triple-run stair leading to the second floor hallway was added along the kitchen's south wall (Photograph 20). The size of the original fireplace opening was also reduced at this time; however the wrought iron fireplace crane was retained (Photograph 21). During the alterations, Colonial Revival-style trim was applied throughout the original kitchen and in many other parts of the house. In the case of the kitchen, trim applied to the fireplace surround includes fluted pilasters – much akin to those found on the aforementioned corner cupboard – flattened-arch molding, and a simple board mantel (Photograph 22). The Colonial Revival woodwork includes mopboards, window and door trim, and molding, and is typical of that employed throughout the house at this time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

County and State: Middlesex, CT

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Significance: White-Overton-Callander House

Summary

The White-Overton-Callander House, located in Portland, Connecticut, is significant because its owners have played a role in Connecticut and American history (Criterion A). The initial landholder, Nathaniel White I, was among the original proprietors of the settlement at Middletown, and he held land on the eastern shores of the Connecticut River in the area today identified as Middletown. Nathaniel White II (1685-1743), was among the 29 families who established the Third and present towns of Portland and East Hampton, Connecticut, and it was Nathaniel White I who owned the property between 1711 and 1714. In 1796, after being passed down through the White family, the property was purchased by Overton (1759-1852), who served as a procurement officer during the Revolutionary War and commissioned the pirate-raiding frigate *USS Connecticut* in 1798. Currently occupied by the Portland Historical Society, the White-Overton-Callander House represents a fine example of Colonial architecture which, although altered over the course of its nearly three hundred year history, retains a notable degree of its early historic character (Criterion C). The Colonial Revival alterations to the residence are typical of early twentieth century architecture, and as they have sympathetically graced the house for nearly 100 years have not detracted from its historic significance.

1798 USS CT
OWNER OF
6 3RD-CLASS
FRIGATES BUILT FOR
in commission by THE
US NAVY 1795-1802

DELETE
"PIRATE-RAIDING"
REPLACE WITH
"3RD-CLASS"
↓

Revised

Historical

Captain

family on
settlement
settle in the
to 31, Nathaniel

CAPT. NATH
WHITE NOT A
REALLY RELATED
TO THE HOUSE
DELETE MUST
OF THIS
SIMPLY
HMM

English transplant who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts with his family in Hadley, Massachusetts before they joined Thomas Hooker's settlement in Middletown, in 1636. White I struck out on his own, being among the first immigrants to settle in Middletown, in 1650. By 1654, the number of taxable persons in Middletown had risen to 31, Nathaniel White I being notable among them.²

Nathaniel White I resided in what was known as the "Upper Houses" of Middletown, this being the area on the western side of the Connecticut River, north of the Little River³, which would later become the town of Cromwell. Throughout early town records White is referenced among the most prominent of Middletown's proprietors and he was both a respected citizen and active in public affairs. In 1674, he was called upon to broker a land dispute between the Saybrook and Killingworth colonies and he also served as the town's representative at the Connecticut General Court and General Assembly in the 1659 and 1695 sessions.⁴

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Nathaniel White I died in 1711, after which his property was distributed among various members of his family. One of the heirs was his grandson Captain Nathaniel White II, who acquired the elder White's lands in Portland and quickly become involved with efforts to establish the new settlement and parish there. The Third Society of Middletown was formed in May 1714, after the General Assembly of Connecticut granted parish privileges to the citizens residing on the east side of the river. Nathaniel White II was a signatory of the 1714 petition and was chosen as one of the "committee of three" selected to find the society's first minister.¹¹

As noted, the Third Society of Middletown was comprised of what would later become the towns of Portland and East Hampton. The Third Society formally separated from Middletown in 1767, at which time it assumed the title of Chatham. In 1841, the western section of town broke free from Chatham, thus forming a new township eventually known as Portland.¹² It is believed that Nathaniel White II's decision to build the house at 492 Main Street in what is now Portland coincided with his intensive involvement in the parish petition and the subsequent search for the Third Ecclesiastical Society's first minister. The latter took until October 25, 1721, whereupon the Reverend Daniel Newell was ordained pastor of the church. Already a prominent figure in the nascent settlement, Nathaniel White II was among the signers of church covenant, one of the original members of the church, as well as served on the committee of trust during Newell's tenure, which lasted until his death in 1740.¹³

Captain Nathaniel White II held the residence in question until his death in 1743, whereupon he deeded "my house and barn together with about fifty acres of upland and swamp adjoining" to his son Noadiah White (1720-1811). Noadiah raised his family and maintained a farm on the property until 1786, whereupon he, along with much of the White family in the Middletown region, relocated to Middlefield, New York. There they settled a region of approximately 6,000 acres in the vicinity of Oneida Lake. At the time of the White migration, several members of the family did remain in Chatham, among them Abijah and Samuel White, sons of Noadiah. The brothers assumed the house at 492 Main Street following the departure of their father and they continued to work the farm until they removed to Vermont in 1796. At this point the property passed to General Seth Overton, husband of Mehitabel White Overton, sister to Abijah and Samuel White and granddaughter of Captain Nathaniel White II.¹⁴

General Seth Overton and the U.S.S. Connecticut

During the second half of the eighteenth and throughout the nineteenth century, shipbuilding was one of the principal industries in Portland. The craft was established at a very early point in the town's history, the first vessel built there being a 90-ton schooner constructed by George Lewis in October 1741. The Lewis shipyard was located less than a mile north of the White Homestead, in an area of town known as "Indian Hill." Situated on a bend in the Connecticut River, the section of Indian Hill north of Indian Hill Avenue (formerly Shipyard Lane) was the ideal location for ship construction as it was protected from storms by the river's meandering course, as well as by Gildersleeve Island, situated just to the north. In addition, a deep channel in the river allowed large ships to be assembled and easily launched into service.¹⁵

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Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

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career ended in April 1801, whereupon Captain Derby delivered her to New York City where the vessel fetched \$19,300 at public auction.²¹

From Augustin Overton to Ruth Ryan Callander

General Seth Overton remained in the house at 492 Main Street until 1811, whereupon he constructed a new residence at the present site of 506 Main Street. Overton then sold the southern half of his property including the former Nathaniel White house to his son, Augustin Overton, a farmer. Augustin Overton likewise erected a new house on the property as his two unmarried aunts continued to reside in his father's former residence. Augustin Overton held the entire property until 1840, at which time he deeded the southern half – along with the White Homestead – to his wife Almira Goodrich Overton.²²

Almira Goodrich Overton lived until 1874, however she quitclaimed the former Nathaniel White house to her five surviving children in 1853. Various members of the Overton family held the property until 1907, whereupon it passed to a prominent local tobacco grower and dealer, Frederick W. Goodrich. At the time Goodrich also owned the Overton farm at 506 Main Street and, as such, he maintained the Nathaniel White house as a rental property. Goodrich cultivated extensive tobacco fields running from the rear of his house at 506 Main Street west to the Connecticut River and it is likely that he acquired the property at 492 Main Street in order to increase his acreage.²³

The Goodrich family held the White-Overton Homestead at 492 Main Street for just under ten years, at which point in time it then passed through a series of four different owners between 1916 and 1918.²⁴ In 1918, the house was acquired by William and Grace Ryan, residents of New York, New York. William Ryan worked as a banker in New York City and for many years he and his family summered in a cottage located south of Portland in the Middle Haddam village of East Hampton, Connecticut. According to family history, the Middle Haddam cottage lacked modern amenities such as electricity or running water and allegedly reluctance on the part of the Ryan's maid to spend her summers in such conditions prompted the family to trade their cottage with that of a Dr. Walker who was renting the former White-Overton Homestead over the summer of 1917. As electricity and municipal water were available along Main Street in Portland at the time, the house made for a comfortable alternative. The Ryans chose to purchase the residence the following year.²⁵

In 1931, the house passed to Ruth Ryan Callander, the daughter of William and Grace Ryan. Ruth Ryan attended preparatory school at Swarthmore, before graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1924 and completing a Masters degree in art at NYU in 1925. While working on her doctorate degree – a notable level of education for a woman at the time – she met an accountant from the Midwest by the name of John Callander, whom she married in 1929.²⁶ In 1931, the couple took up year-round residence in Ruth's parents' summer house in Portland following John's employment at the Gong Bell Company in East Hampton.²⁷ The Callanders winterized the house before moving in, likely installing central heating and wooden storm windows at this time. The couple eventually held the house longer than any single generation of its previous residents. John resided there until his death in 1977 and Ruth remained

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Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

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⁷ The Native Americans residing on the east side of the Connecticut River opposite Middletown were members of the Mattabesett tribe known as Wangonks. "Wangonk" is believed to mean "the bend" in the native tongue, presumably a reference to the bend in the river near the Gildersleeve or "Indian Hill" section of Portland located just north of the White property where an important native burial ground was located and ceremonial gatherings were held. It is unclear what the local population numbered at the time the Wangonk reservation was laid out, however, some 20 signatures are found on a 1732 deed for the reservation lands. By 1764, the tribe numbered approximately 30 to 40 individuals, however, all but two women and three children has removed to Hartford or Farmington, Connecticut. Ibid, 494-498.

⁸ Ibid, 495.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Whittemore, 494-495, 498.

¹¹ Ibid, 524.

¹² The remaining portion of Chatham was renamed East Hampton in 1915.

¹³ Ibid, 524-525.

¹⁴ Portland Historical Society, 12.

¹⁵ Whittemore, 514; Clouette, Bruce, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Indian Hill Avenue Historic District, Portland, CT," April 25, 1983, sec. 8, pg. 13.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Whittemore, 504, 514; Clouette, sec. 8, pg. 13.

¹⁸ At the time of the *Connecticut's* construction, the United States was amidst an undeclared, yet nonetheless destructive conflict with France known as the "Quasi-War." Although the French government had been a critical ally of the United States during the Revolutionary War, a series of events, including American refusal to repay debts incurred during the Revolution and a nonaggression and trade treaty with Great Britain, had infuriated the French. As a result, starting in 1796, French naval vessels and privateers began to attack and seize American merchant vessels. As the United States government had sold off the majority of the Continental Navy following the Revolutionary War, American shipping was left largely at the mercy of the French aggressors.

The need to reestablish the United States Navy had been identified by President George Washington and others as early as 1793, however, efforts to do so largely stalled until May 1798, whereupon escalating French aggression finally drove the American Congress to fund the construction of a number of United States naval vessels, as well as to authorize these vessels to engage and capture armed French ships. In June 1798, the recently appointed Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddert came to the conclusion that it was impossible for the outgunned American Navy to protect American merchant marine vessels through escorted convoys or to patrol the entire North American coast. Rather, he advocated striking the French at the source of their strength, the Caribbean. As such, an offensive campaign was prioritized and by the end of 1798 a force of twenty new vessels was allocated for operations in the Caribbean theater. Overton's *Connecticut* was built with the purpose of joining this campaign.

¹⁹ Whittemore, 514, 514; Clouette, sec. 8, pg. 13; Albertson, 23-26.

²⁰ Albertson, 25-26.

²¹ Albertson, 27; Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center. *The Reestablishment of the Navy, 1787-1801: Historical Overview and Select Bibliography*. <<http://www.history.navy.mil/biblio/biblio4/biblio4a.htm>> (Various access dates).

²² Portland Historical Society, 12.

²³ Ibid; F.W. Beers & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County*. Hartford, CT: F.W. Beers & Co., 1874.

²⁴ These included Frederick R. Goodrich (1916), Julia D. Harris (1916-1917), Clarice E. Goodnow (1917-1918), and William H. & Grace Ryan (1918-1931).

²⁵ Portland Historical Society, 13.

²⁶ Ruth never completed her doctorate work at N.Y.U. as her parents were opposed to the idea of her traveling to Spain to finish her thesis.

²⁷ See: Jan Cunningham, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Belltown Historic District, East Hampton, CT," October 28, 1985.

²⁸ Portland Historical Society, 13.

²⁹ The others include the c. 1705 Ebenezer White house at 115 High Street, the c. 1708 Samuel Hall house at 478 Main Street, the c. 1708 Nathaniel Savage or Jonathan Warner house at 613 Main Street, and the c. 1712 Samuel Warner house at 311 Main Street (original portion).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: White-Overton-Callander House

County and State: Middlesex, CT

Section number: 9

Page: 1

Bibliography:

Texts:

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Clouette, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Indian Hill Avenue Historic District, Portland, CT," April 25, 1983.

Cunningham, Jan, Consultant, Historic Preservation and Museum Division, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. National Register Nomination for "Unni Robins II House, Newington, CT," August 8, 2005.

Curtis, John, "Historic Structure Evaluation of the Ruth Callander House." Portland: Portland Historical Society, 1998.

Portland Historical Society, Consultants, Connecticut Historical Commission. State Register Nomination for "White-Overton-Callander House, Portland, CT," July 1, 1998.

Ransom, David F., Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Roger Butler House, Wethersfield, CT," August 15, 1996.

Williams, Mark, Consultant, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination for "Samuel Hayes II House, Granby, CT," March 13, 1992.

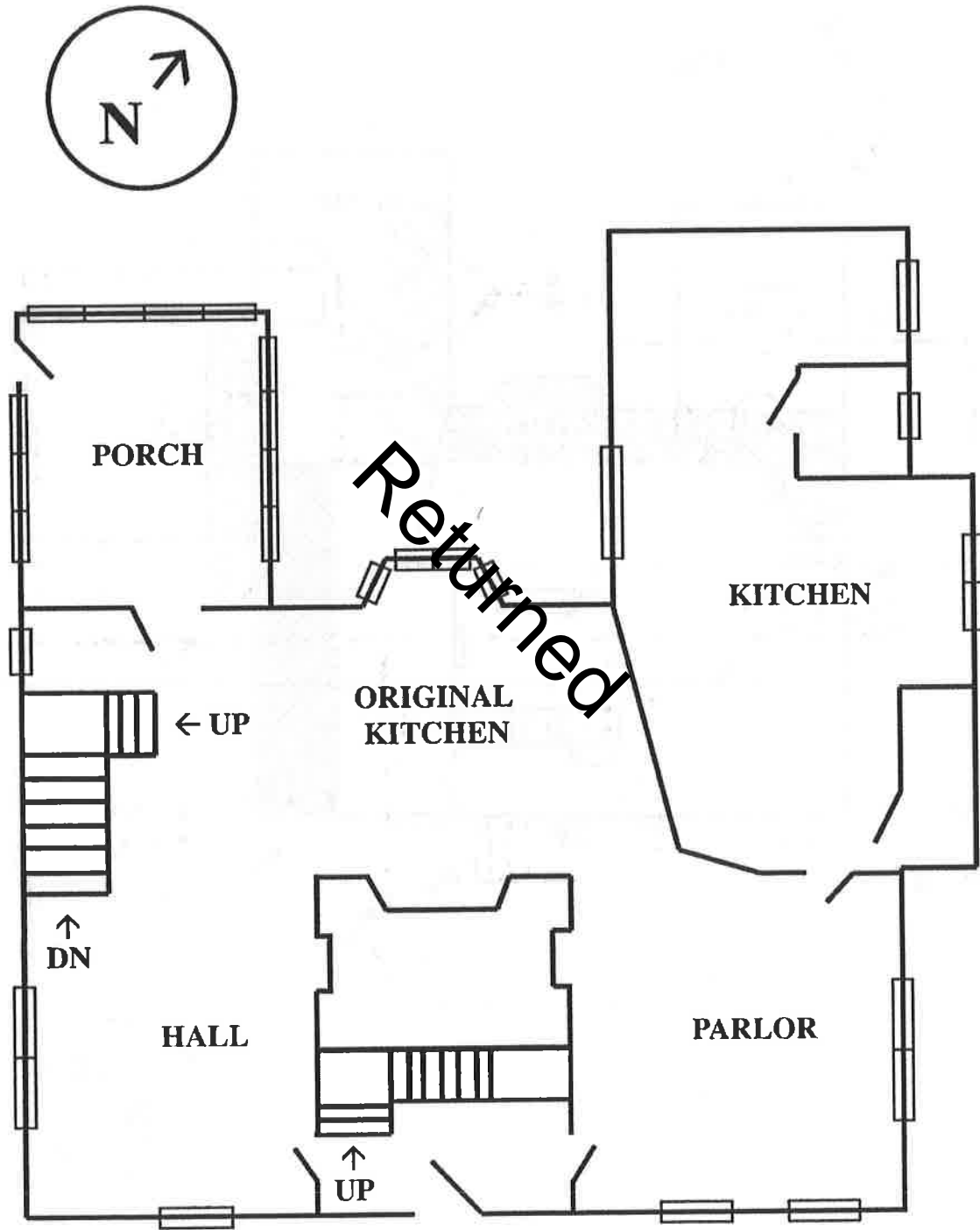
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
White-Overton-Callander House; Portland, Connecticut

Site Image:

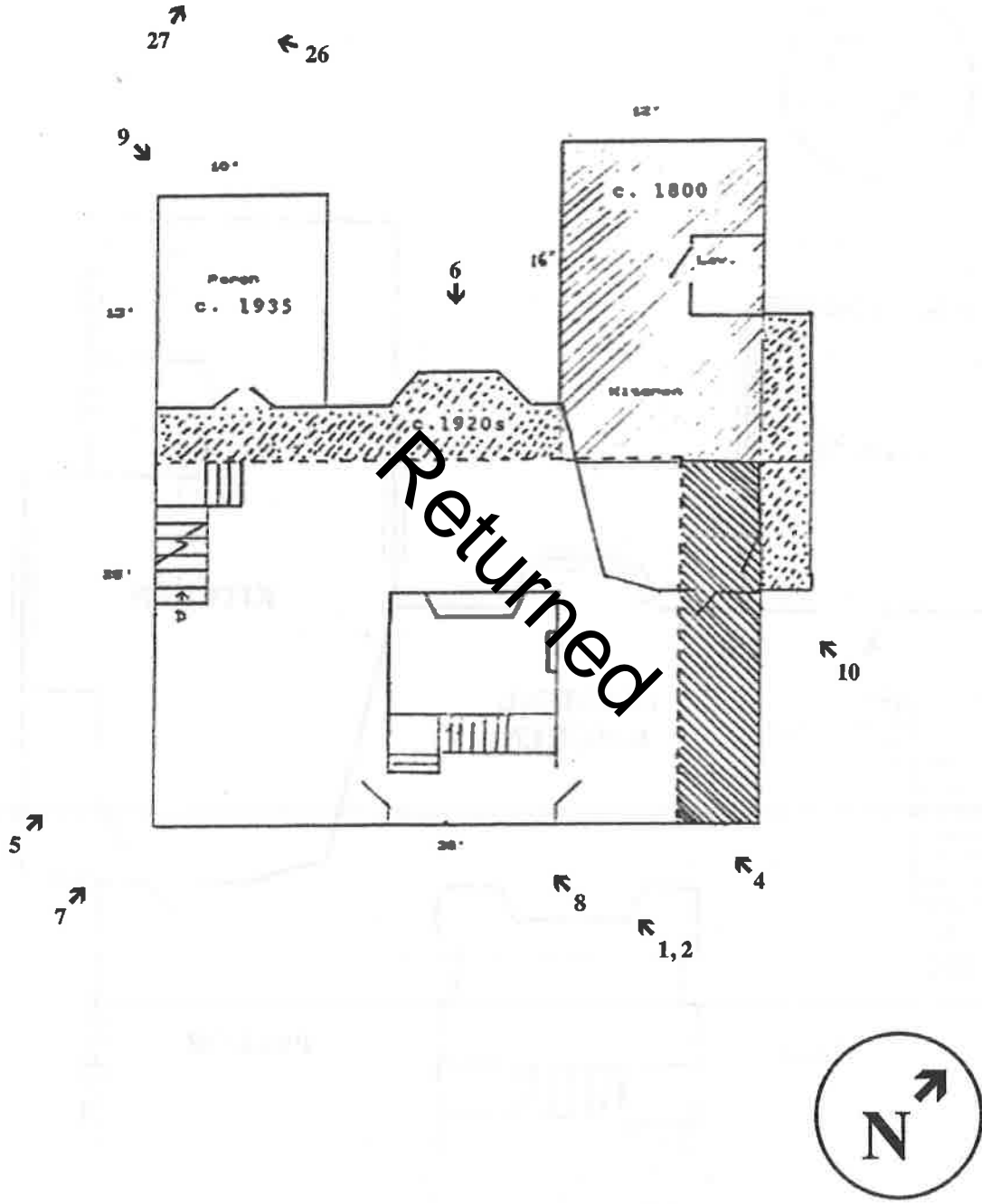


Site image of house, 492 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut. Note house at center, garage approximately 65 feet due west.

First Floor Plan:



Floor Plan (with exterior photo positions):



White-Overton-Callander House
Portland, CT

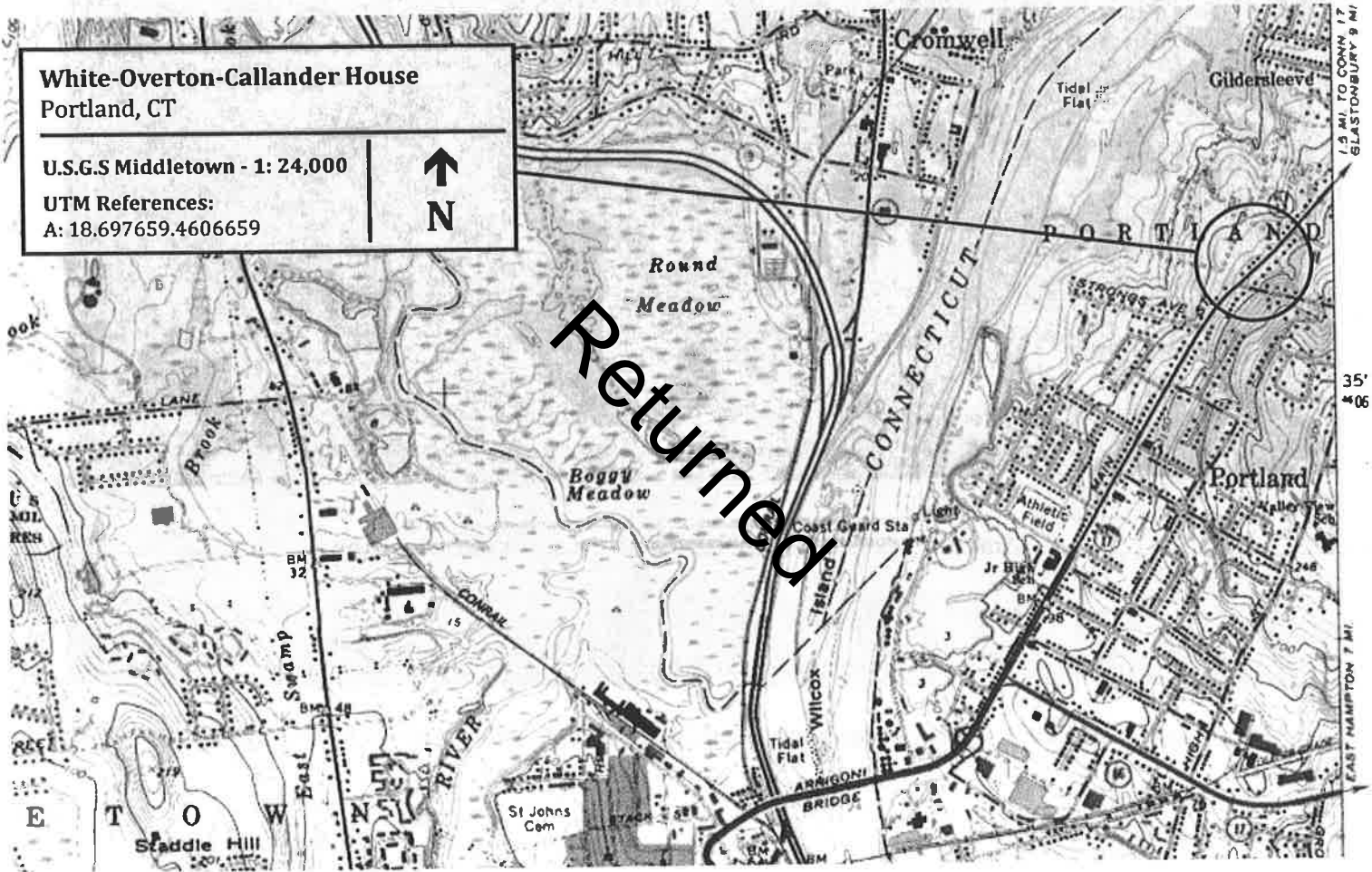
U.S.G.S Middletown - 1: 24,000

UTM References:

A: 18.697659.4606659



Returned



1.9 MI TO CONN 17
BLASTONBURY 9 MI

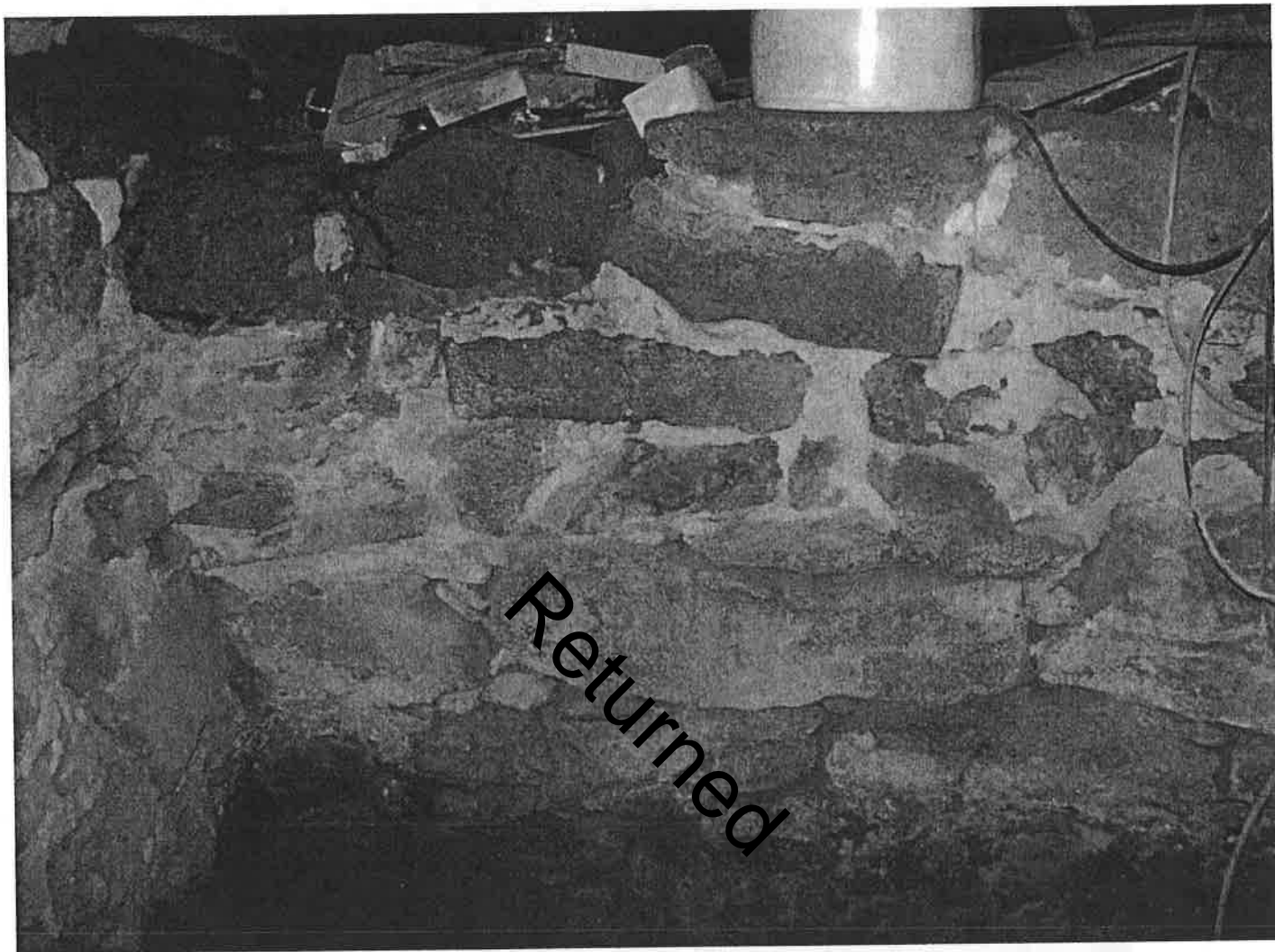
35'
406

EAST HAMPTON 7 MI

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
White-Overton-Callander House; Portland, Connecticut



East (front) and north (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing main block, c. 1714, altered c. 1915
Camera facing west.
Photograph 1 of 27.

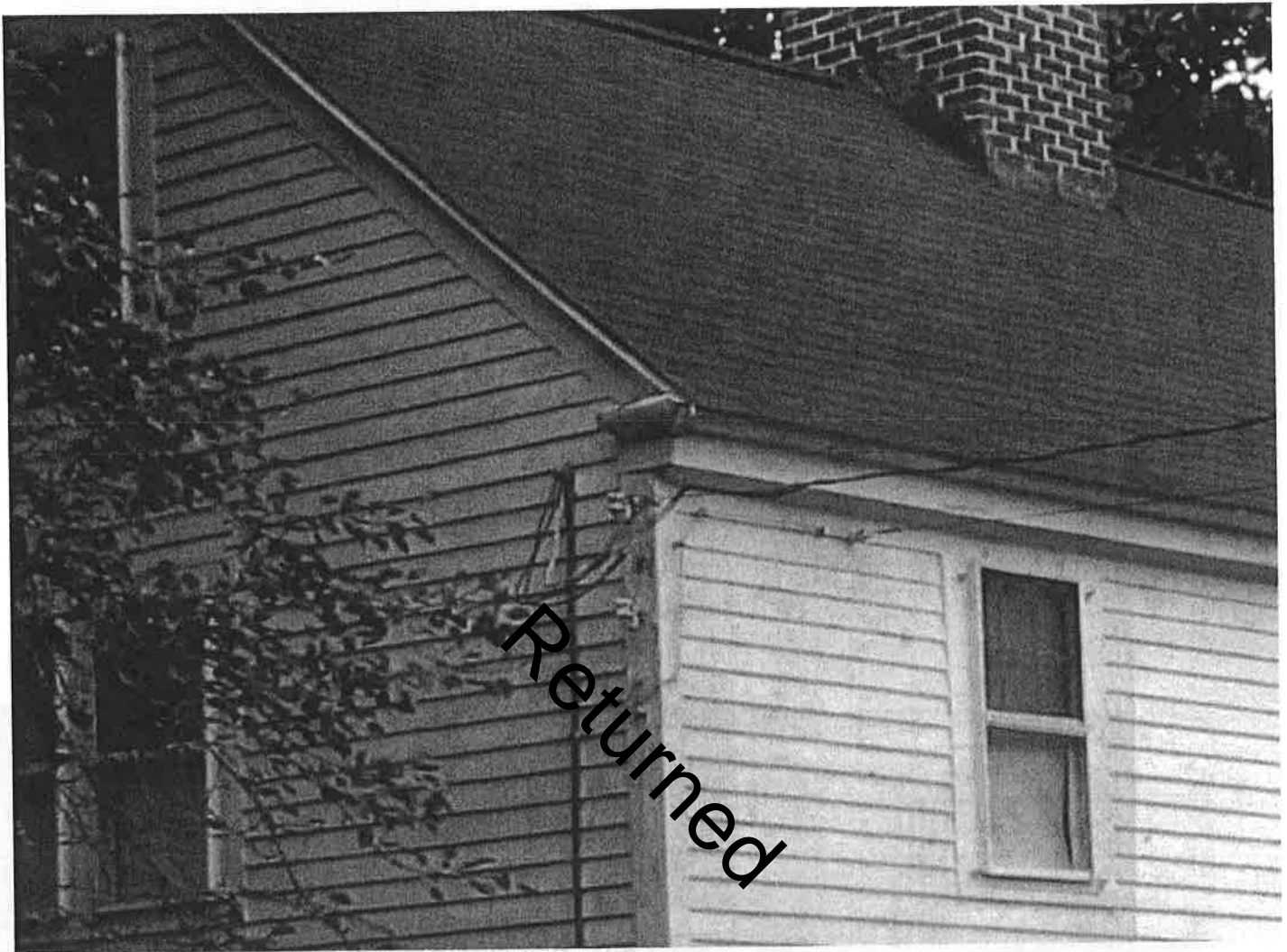


Interior of cellar, showing foundation detail.
Camera facing north.
Photograph 3 of 27.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
White-Overton-Callander House; Portland, Connecticut



South (side) and east (front) elevations of house from Main Street, showing first- and second-story paired windows.
Camera facing north.
Photograph 5 of 27.



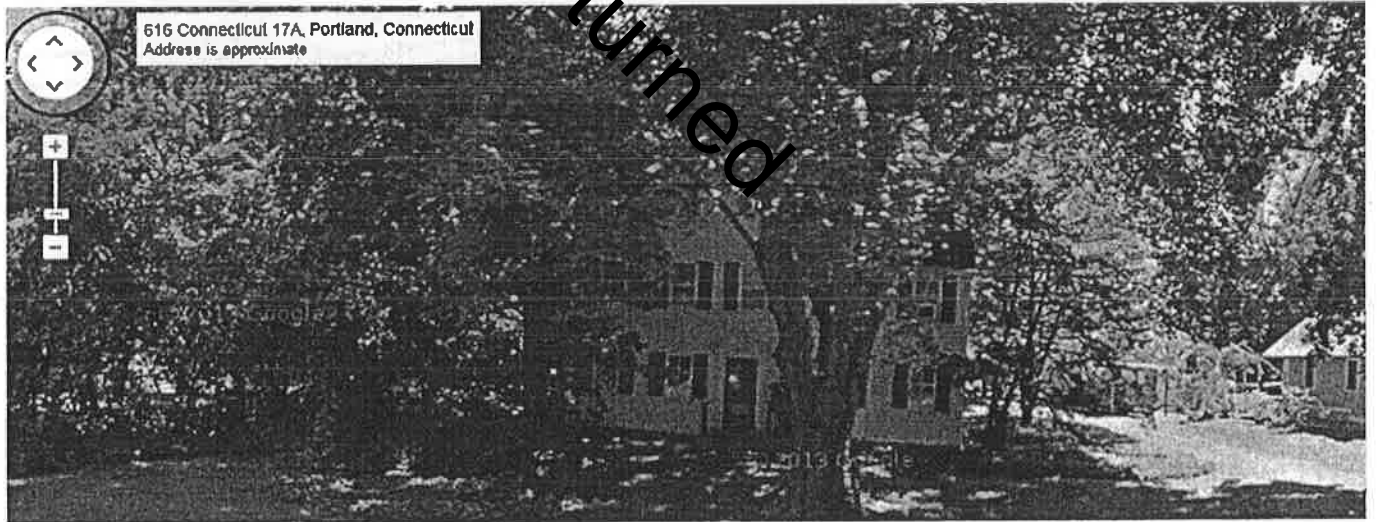
East (front) and south (side) elevations of house from Main Street, showing cornice and rakeboard details.

Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 7 of 27.

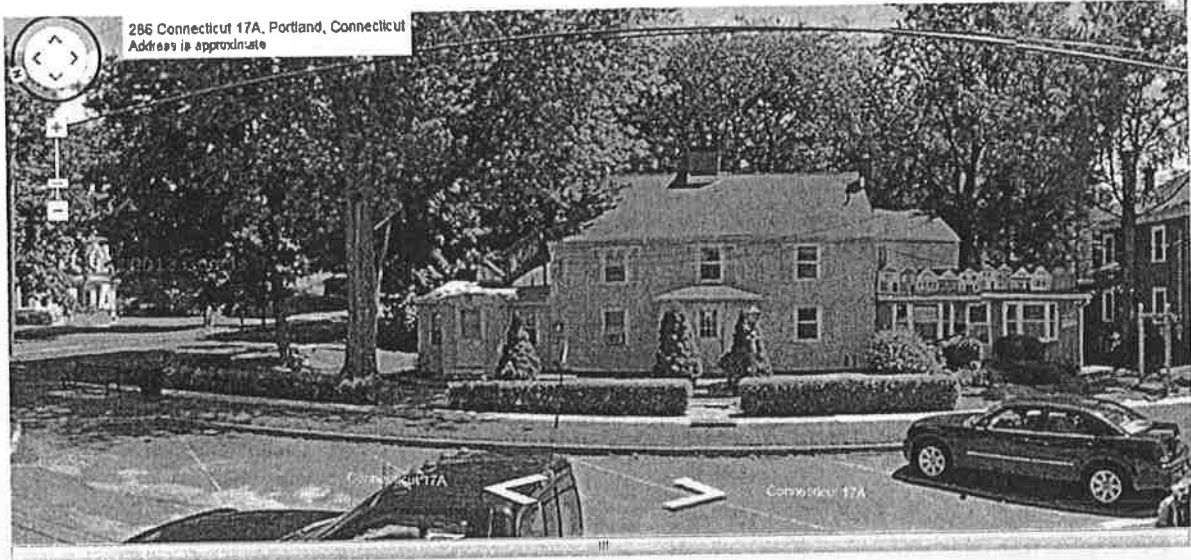


178 Main Street, c.1708



613 Main Street-c.1708

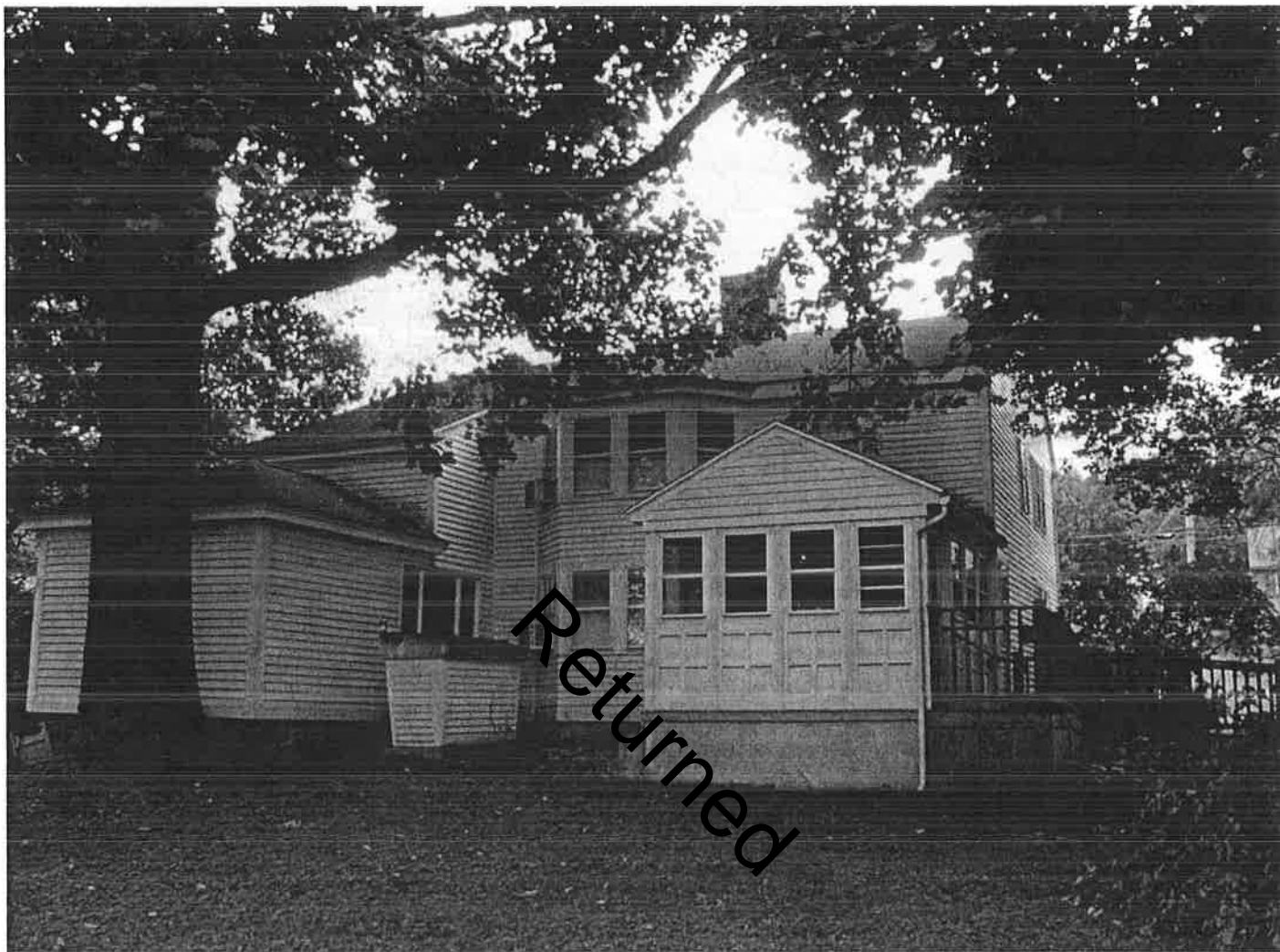
Returned



311 Main Street c.1712

Returned

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
White-Overton-Callander House; Portland, Connecticut



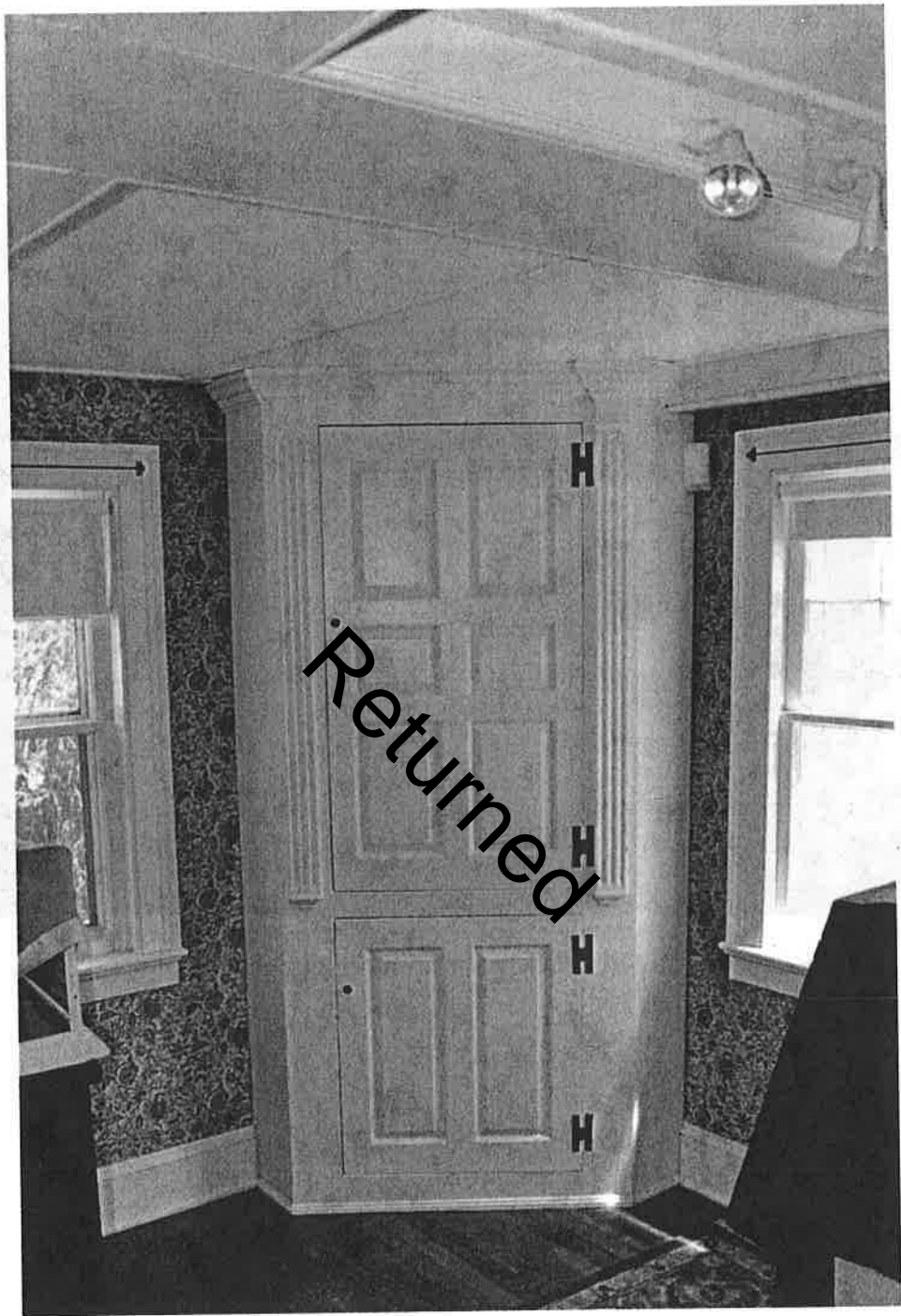
**West (rear) and south (side) elevations of house, showing rear ell, bay, and porch details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 9 of 27.**



Interior of hall, showing cellar access door details.
Camera facing west.
Photograph 11 of 27.



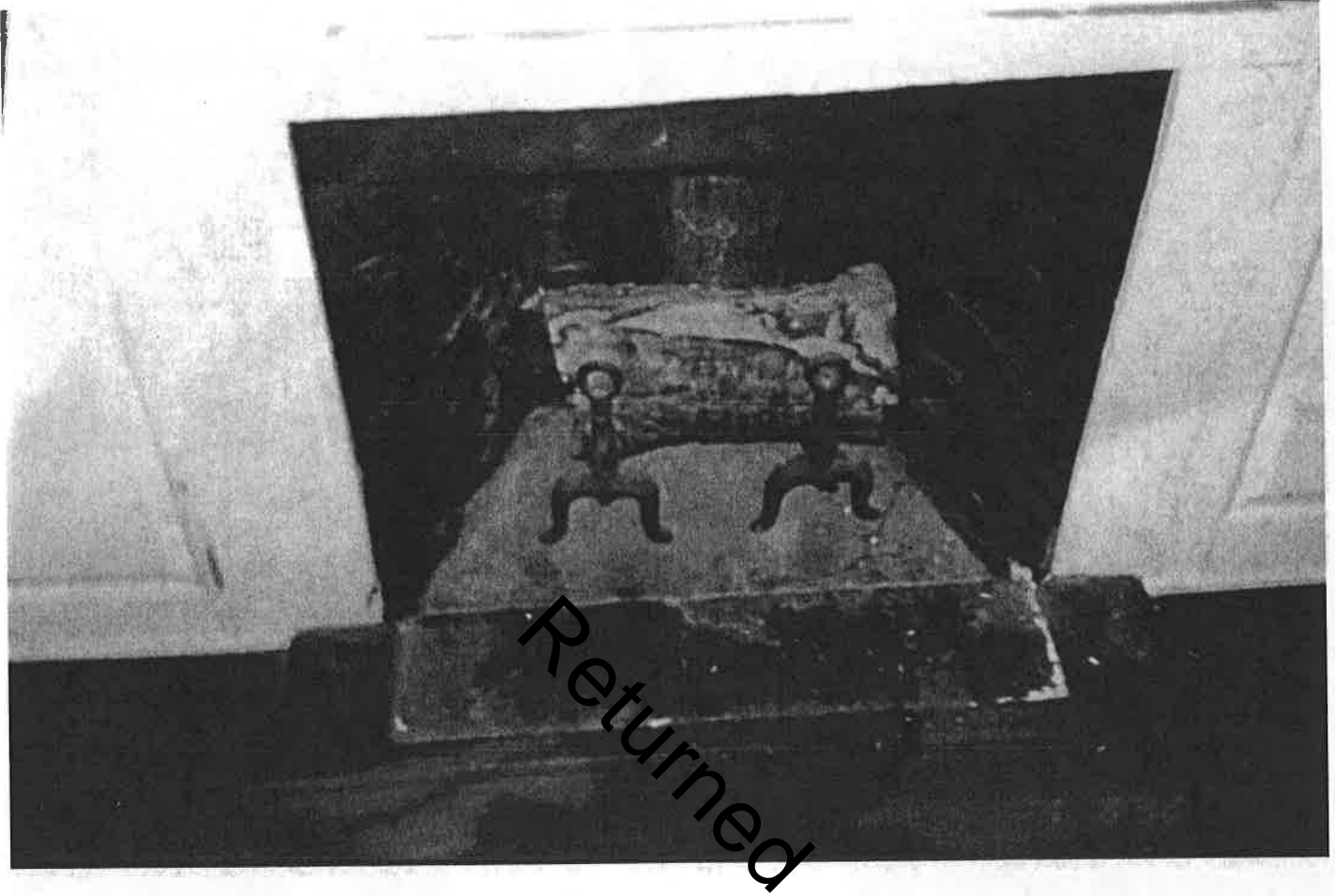
Interior of entry hall, showing stair, newel post, rail, baluster, paneling, and door details.
Camera facing north.
Photograph 13 of 27.



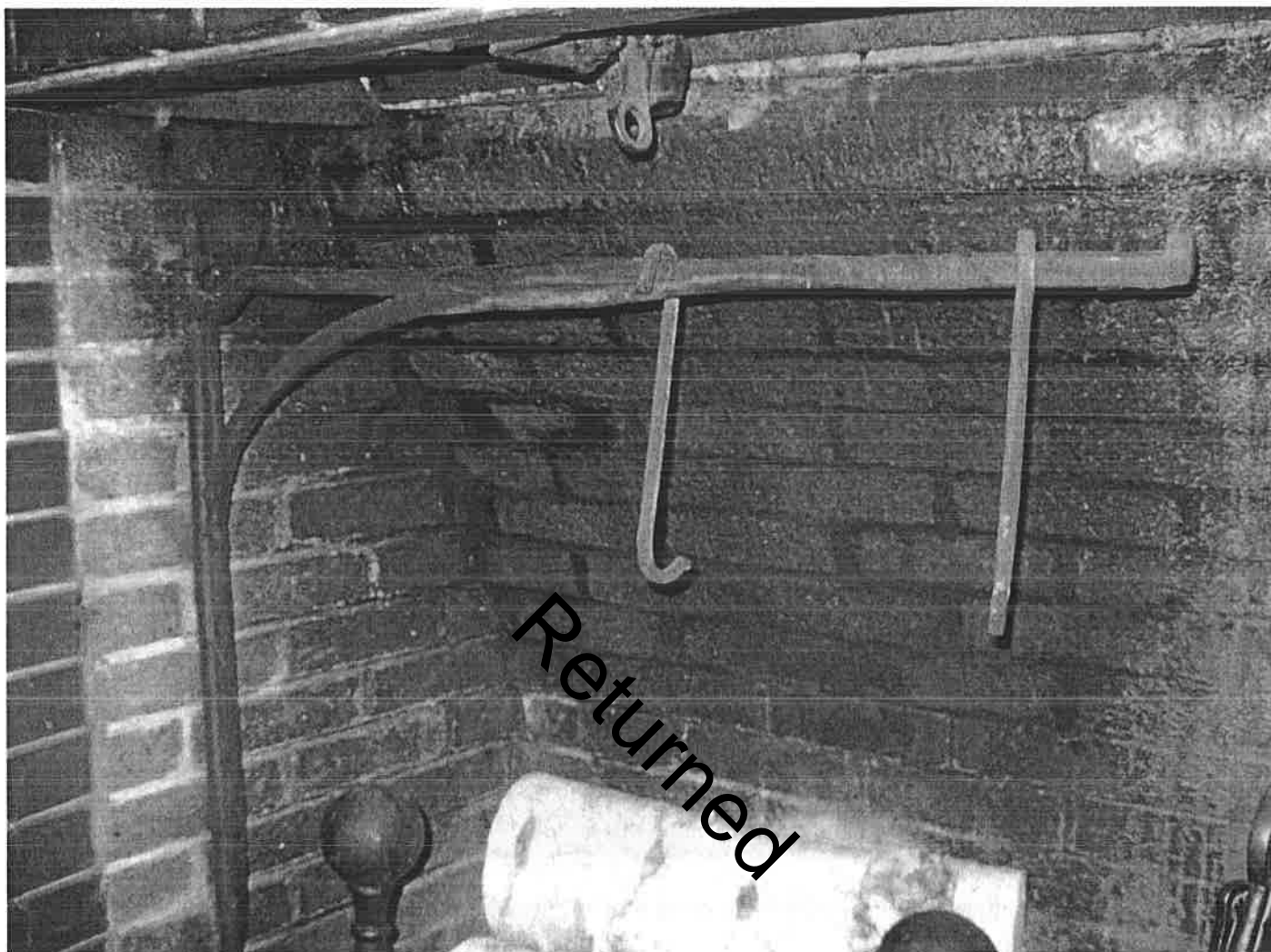
Interior of parlor, first floor of house, showing corner cupboard details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 15 of 27.



Interior of hall, first floor of house, showing wall paneling and fireplace details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 17 of 27.



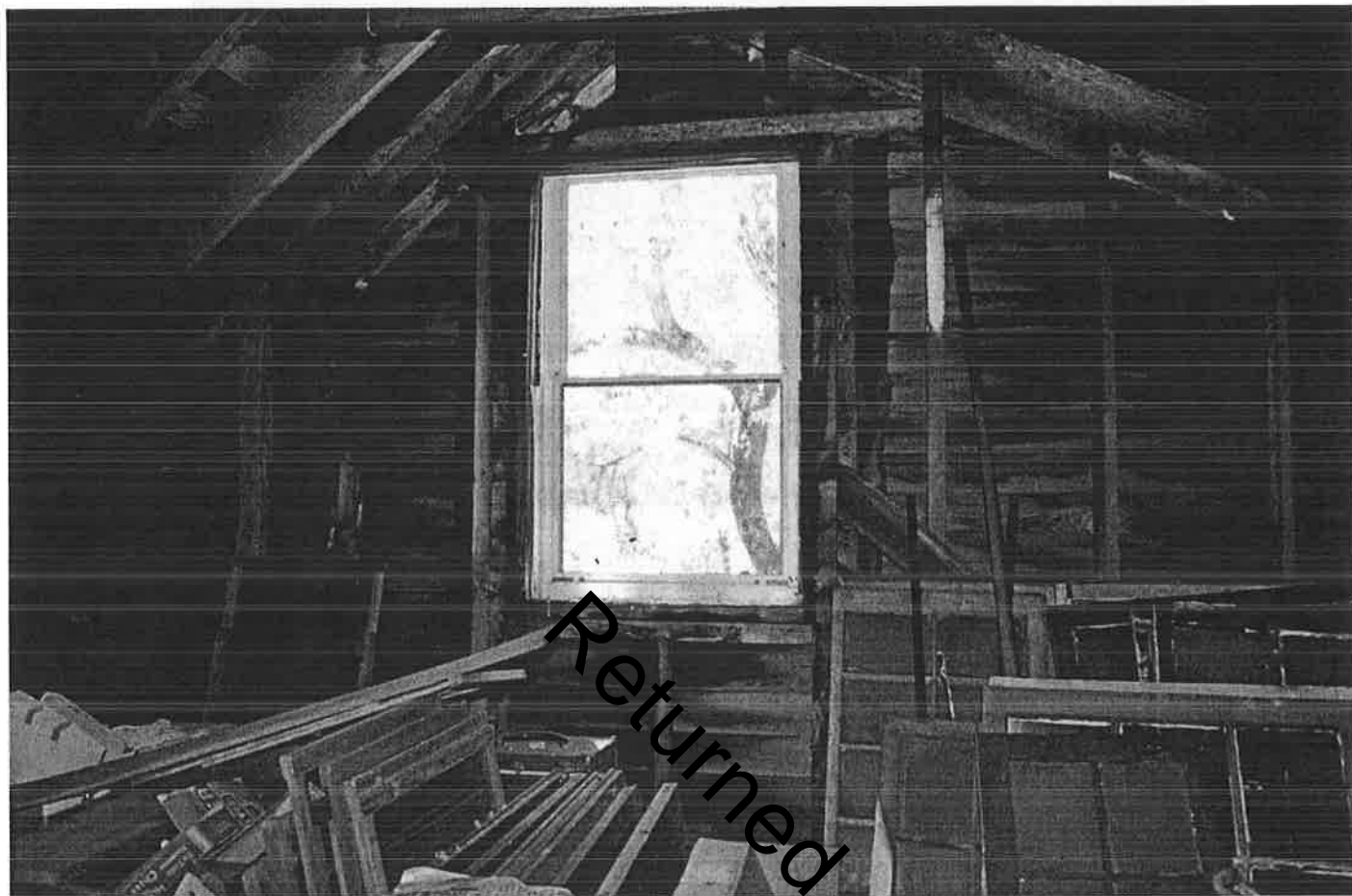
Interior of southeast bedchamber on second floor of house, showing wall, fireplace, and door details.
Camera facing northeast.
Photograph 19 of 27.



**Interior of original kitchen, first floor of house, showing fireplace details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 21 of 27.**



Interior of attic stairwell, showing stair and wall details.
Camera facing east.
Photograph 23 of 27.



**Interior of attic, showing south elevation framing details and pitch of original roof-line (intersected by window).
Camera facing southwest.
Photograph 25 of 27.**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
White-Overton-Callander House; Portland, Connecticut



South (front) and east (side) elevations of the Corn Crib – moved to the site in 2009 – from rear of house, showing rear yard landscape details. The hills visible beyond the tree line are located on the west side of the Connecticut River in Middletown and Cromwell, Connecticut. Camera facing northwest. Photograph 27 of 27.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: White-Overton-Callander House
Reference Number: 13000896

Date: December 9, 2013

Reason for Return:

The photographs were submitted in a jpeg format rather than the required TIFF format.

Section 5.

The nomination lists two contributing buildings and two noncontributing buildings. Apart from the house, the status of the other three buildings is not specified in the nomination. Other buildings should be considered contributing only to the extent they relate to the period(s) and area(s) of significance that are accepted in the nomination.

Section 8.

The period of significance is given as 1714, the presumed date when the house was built, to 1963, reflecting the long occupancy up to the fifty-year cut-off prior to the necessity for making a case of exceptional significance. This period of significance is claimed for both criteria A and C.

Both the Period of Significance and the Areas of Significance given in the nomination as written relate to the various occupants of the house, not specific events. As stated in the National Register guidelines, only areas supported in the narrative statement should be included, and these should be significant events directly related to the property. For reasons cited below, only Criterion C (Architecture) and Criterion B (Exploration/Settlement) appear appropriate for this property.

As noted above, Criterion A appears to be in error. The nomination states that the house "is significant because of the notable role various owners of the property have played in Connecticut and American history (Criterion A)." If the justification is for association with owners of the house, it would be Criterion B, and in those cases the period of significance should be tailored to their occupancy during the period of significance. The information on Captain Nathaniel White I pre-dates the period of significance and can be abbreviated. According to Paul Loether, Nathaniel White I's grandson Nathaniel White II, who inherited the property and built the house, was important as an early settler of the town that became Portland. His significance is justified under Criterion B, and the house he built retains enough integrity to reflect his occupancy 1714-1743.

White is the only individual for which documentation suggests eligibility under Criterion B. Significance is claimed for Captain Seth Overton, a prominent citizen who commissioned the U.S.S. Connecticut while he was living in this house. The U.S.S. Connecticut was only one of six third-class (not "pirate-raiding") frigates built during the quasi-war with France, and the house is not directly related to that ship and its construction. The Indian Hill Avenue Historic District appears to relate more directly to the ship building in this community during the late 18th century.

Under Criterion C (architecture) the justification is claimed based upon the long occupancy of the house as a single-family home, including its history of alterations. Many eighteenth century homes in Connecticut have been altered in a conservative fashion, retaining original features. That aspect of the house does not necessarily justify historical significance. The nomination should focus on those aspects of the architecture that are important in as an example of building practices of a particular time in history. Either the building must represent an important phase of the architectural evolution of the community, (or that it had an impact on the design or construction of later buildings).

In the case of the subject property, it appears to be an important surviving example of early eighteenth century architecture in Portland. However, no comparison has been provided of this house and the other four examples cited in a footnote: 115 High Street (c.1705), 478 Main Street (c.1708), 613 Main Street (c.1708), and 311 Main Street (c.1712). Most, if not all, of these houses survive with later alterations, but there is no comparison establishing why 492 Main Street is significant for its early eighteenth century features. Similarly, some of these other Second Period houses may also have Colonial Revival style alterations. No comparison has been made to establish why the c.1916 alterations to 492 Main Street are important in the context of early twentieth century renovations to Portland houses.



Roger G. Reed, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2278
Roger_Reed@nps.gov



TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 23 day of September
2013, for nomination of the White-Overton-Callander House
Middlesex,
Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other CD of images

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- N/A The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____



State Historic
Preservation Office



DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

MEMORANDUM

TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

DATE: March 28, 2014

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 28 day of March

2012, for nomination of the White-Overton-Callendar House, Portland, CT to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original edited National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____