

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 23 1985

date entered AUG 23 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Elmore Houses

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 78 and 87 Long Hill Road NA not for publication

city, town South Windsor NA vicinity of

state CT code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Hall

street & number 1540 Sullivan Avenue

city, town So. Windsor state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town 59 S. Prospect St., Hartford state CT

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elmore Houses are two frame dwellings located across the street from one another on Long Hill Road in the southwestern corner of the Town of South Windsor. 78 Long Hill Road, on the east side of the street, the older of the two, was constructed in the Colonial architectural style, and 87 Long Hill Road on the west in the Greek Revival style. Both were farm-houses for several generations after being built by members of the Elmore family, and while farm acreage no longer goes with the houses the road retains its rural ambience, although with some intrusions, including a nearby power line and two 20th-century "ranch" houses.

78 Long Hill Road

The known history of 78 Long Hill Road begins with the year 1816 when Sarah Elmore Burnham, known as Aunt Sally, moved in. According to tradition, the house already was standing at that time, having been built at an unknown earlier date by an unknown member of the Elmore family. Aunt Sally's son, Timothy, altered and enlarged the house in the 1840s. According to information passed down from one generation to another in the family, the house prior to Timothy's alterations was a 1½-story gambrel-roofed structure. He made it into the present 2½-story, gable-roofed house, and added the rear wing.¹

The house has five bays with central entrance, central chimney and stone foundations, which are Colonial features. (Photograph 1) The doorway, however, with transom and side lights, flanking plain pilasters and a full, plain entablature with molded cornice, is the Greek Revival work of Timothy in the 1840s. The house is covered with asbestos siding, over clapboards. The walls under the eaves project slightly on all four elevations. This projection is caused by the Greek Revival frieze, under the asbestos siding, that was a feature of the 1840s construction program. The gable ends, on the side elevations were treated as pediments, as shown in a snapshot,² c. 1900, with rectangular windows in the Greek Revival mode. Such window aperture still exists on the north elevation.³ Present 12-over-12 sash are replacements within recent decades of 2-over-2 glazing.

On the south elevation, the gable-end window has been altered to a vertical rectangle, and a bay has been added at the first floor. (Photograph 2) In contrast to the brownstone foundations of the main block, the bay's foundations are brick. (Photograph 3) The c. 1900 snapshot shows the house without these alterations, and with corner boards still visible.

The wing to the rear is 1½ story with gable roof. Additional sheds extend to the rear beyond the wing. (See floor plan.)

The interior arrangement of the house is the typical Colonial scheme of front rooms on either side of the central chimney with kitchen behind the chimney. What is unusual in this house is the absence of a front stairway between the front door and the chimney. No evidence has been found that

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Continuation sheet Property Owners

Item number 4

Page 1

-
- 78 Long Hill Road - Morton A. & Jean F. Klein
78 Long Hill Road, South Windsor, CT 06074
- 87 Long Hill Road - Oscar & Dianne Rindon
87 Long Hill Road, South Windsor, CT 06074

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there ever was a front stairway. A possible explanation lies in the history of the house. If, initially, it was indeed a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed structure, perhaps at the time it was built the upper floor was considered to be a loft not in need of a proper front stairway.

In the north front room the brick fireplace formerly had a slate hearth that is now brick but its original mantel shelf is in place. Fireplaces in the house were opened up in 1973.⁴ Prior to that time the house had been heated by stoves vented through the fireplaces. The tile surrounding the fireplace opening were added in 1973. The shelves to the right are original but the arched opening at the top is a 1972 feature. (Photograph 4)

In the south front room, where the fireplace surround is not original, the chief feature is the extended space provided by the early 20th-century bay with its three windows. (Photograph 5)

The kitchen fireplace of brick, similar in workmanship to those of the two front rooms, is shallower than the usual Colonial fireplace and raises the possibility that the entire central masonry construction of fireplaces and chimney may be an 1840s replacement of the original. The kitchen fireplace has a brownstone lintel and its bake oven at the right has a brownstone sill. The bolection molding and shelf are 1972 additions. (Photograph 6) Partition forming the standard early room in the southeast corner has been removed. A corresponding room in the northeast corner remains, behind the stairway to the second floor that rises east to west.

On the second floor at the top of the stair is a hallway running north-south. There is a principal bedroom opening off this hall on either side of the chimney, with smaller rooms to the rear. There are no fireplaces on this floor.

In the attic the chimney and roof framing are visible. The chimney is modest in size. It shows signs of having been repaired from time to time. The chief members of the roof framing system are heavy purlins running the full dimension of the width of the house, with diagonal bracing, as frequently found in Greek Revival houses. The timbers have extra mortises and peg holes; apparently they were re-cycled at the time they were put in place in the 1840s.

The ell of the house was built by Timothy as a second kitchen, with a second kitchen fireplace and bake oven.⁵ The fireplace and oven are no longer in place, but the chimney continues to rise from the ridge line of the ell's gable roof. (Photograph 2) The width of the ell was extended eight feet to the south in 1973.

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In the basement, the foundation walls are seen to be constructed of large stone blocks, in the Colonial manner. There is, however, no stone chimney base. The chimney and fireplace hearths of the main house are supported by three brick piers. (Photograph 7) The support structure for the ell fireplace is a pair of similar piers. (Photograph 8) Presumably, two piers were deemed adequate for the ell, instead of three as used for the main house, because they supported one fireplace instead of three. The similarity of construction of the two sets of piers seems to establish quite strongly that the central masonry in the main block dates from the 1840s.

Storage sheds, used for farm purposes, extend 36 feet to the rear of the ell. Other farm buildings include chicken coop, stable, tobacco shed and garage. The tobacco shed was blown over by the hurricane of 1938 and thereafter was only partially rebuilt, on concrete footings. A former large barn burned. The old well, in front of the kitchen door, is still in place and operable. (Photograph 8A)

87 Long Hill Road

The 2½-story, gable-roofed house at 87 Long Hill Road is a well-proportioned, straightforward example of Greek Revival domestic architecture from the 1840s. The original fabric appears to be intact. As built, the house consisted of a main block with a fine portico and a rear wing, on brownstone ashlar foundations. The original clapboards now are covered with asbestos shingles and three additions, a porch on the south, a new kitchen across the rear and a garage on the north, wrap around the rear wing. (Photographs 9 - 11)

Harvey Elmore demolished an earlier structure on this site when he built the present house in 1843 in the then fashionable Greek Revival style. The 26 x 32-foot main block has a 3-bay front elevation, paneled corner boards and front gable treated as a pediment. The pleasing front portico has brownstone steps and floor, fluted Doric columns, without bases in the Greek manner, full plain entablature of architrave, frieze and molded cornice. (Photograph 12) The doorway has side lights over side panels and transom lights. First- and second-story windows are 6-over-6 and there is a rectangular window in the pediment above. The north side elevation has two 6-over-6 windows at each floor and the south elevation three.

The 17x20-foot wing at the right rear is lower than the main block, with the ridge line of its gable roof running in the same east-west direction. On its side elevations it has two tiers of three 6-over-6 windows, smaller and closer together than in the main block. Brick chimneys rise from the center of the south elevation of the main block and from the rear of the

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ridge line of the wing. The additions around the rear of the wing appear to date from mid-20th century, and are in need of maintenance, as are the brownstone foundations of the original house.

The front entrance leads to a stair hall. The stairway with simple turned spindles rises to the left. (Photograph 13) The focus of the front room on the right is the fireplace mantel on the rear wall. It is a wooden mantel of plain, but well proportioned Greek Revival design. There is also an anthemion medallion on the ceiling. (Photograph 14) A similar fireplace opens from the same central chimney in a small room immediately to the rear. The chimney for these fireplaces has been truncated; it no longer emerges from the roof. Another fireplace with similar mantel is located on the south wall of the room behind the front hall. (Photograph 15) To the rear, the kitchen in the rear ell has a fireplace with swinging crane and slate hearth on its west wall. It has a bee hive bake oven to the upper right. The oven has a cast-iron door with raised pattern of sunbursts. The architrave of the mantel is notched to accept the fit of the door. (Photograph 16)

On the second floor, a hall leads north across the house from the top of the front stairs, then turns west toward the rear. At the juncture with the ell the floor level drops by several risers. The second floor rooms are without fireplaces, and have plain trim in contrast to the band moldings found on the first floor. (Photograph 15). The roof framing is clearly visible in the attic, consisting of heavy, long purlins, diagonal bracing and rafters, similar to that in 78 Long Hill Road. (Photograph 17)

In the basement, brick piers are in place, similar to those in 78 Long Hill Road, to support the central chimney.

1. Information on Elmore family history has kindly been provided by Jean F. Klein, owner-occupant of 78 Long Hill Road. Mrs. Klein has systematically interviewed members of the Elmore family, including Suzy Briggs, age 99, granddaughter of Aunt Sally, and was instrumental in arranging publication of Mary Janette Elmore's autobiographical notes as Long Hill, South Windsor, Connecticut by the South Windsor Historical Society. Mrs. Klein's efforts through research of probate and land records to establish a date for the construction of 78 Long Hill Road have been unsuccessful.

2. In the possession of Mrs. Klein.

3. A bushy tree prevented taking a picture of the north elevation.

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4. Running water was introduced to the house at the same time. The privy used to that year continues to stand; it is the final structure to the right in photograph 2.

5. The new kitchen ell was needed because Timothy and his bride shared the house with his mother, who used the original kitchen. These domestic arrangements did not work out well. Timothy and his family soon moved out, to a new house that he built on land adjoining to the north.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
78 Long Hill Road - before 1819, altered 1840s		Unknown				

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
86 Long Hill Road - 1843	Dennis Burnham

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria C (Architecture) and A (History)

The Elmore Houses are valuable examples of the influence of the Greek Revival style of architecture in rural residences of the 1840s, as seen in one house that underwent major alterations and another that was newly built in the then fashionable mode. (Criterion C) The long association of the Elmore family from the earliest days of settlement to mid-20th century with the farmland surrounding the houses, on which they grew tobacco, makes a significant contribution to the understanding of rural social history in Connecticut. The reminiscences of Mary Janette Elmore authenticate and document this contribution. (Criterion A)

Criterion C - Architecture

The alteration and enlargement of 78 Long Hill Road reflect an awareness of fashionable architectural practice as it prevailed in the 1840s. The Colonial gambrel roof was abandoned in favor of the pitched roof with gable ends treated as pediments, an important change that firmly established the then new Greek Revival style. Use of rectangular gable windows and the perimeter frieze below the eaves was consistent with the change, as was the use of flanking pilasters, side lights and transom lights at the front entrance. The earlier character of the house was transformed, on the exterior, to conform with the then popular mode of Greek Revival design. The structure is an example of a house that was changed to keep up with changing tastes in architectural styles.

On the interior, the original plan of the first floor was not changed. The Colonial scheme of constructing rooms around a massive central chimney made a change of floor plan a major undertaking and, in any event, not being visible to passers-by, may have been considered of less importance from the point of view of appearance.¹ The motivation for changing the exterior stylistic appearance but not changing the first floor plan is understandable, but what prompted the replacement of the central chimney is not so clear. Its height could have been increased as required for the new ridge line with a lot less effort than was needed to replace the original.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Elmore, Mary Janette, Long Hill, South Windsor, Connecticut, South Windsor: South Windsor Historical Society, 1976

Klein, Jean F., interview December 10, 1984

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 87 Long Hill Road 1; 78 Long Hill Road - 1
 Quadrangle name Manchester Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

78 Long Hill Road			87 Long Hill Road				
A	1 8	6 9 9 8 0 0	4 6 3 0 4 5 0	B	1 8	6 9 9 7 5 0	4 6 3 0 4 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated properties are lots 18 and 25 on South Windsor Town Map 46, attached. These lots are the remaining land that goes with the houses, from former larger farms.

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

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	David F. Ransom, Consultant	Edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator	
organization	Connecticut Historical Commission	date	January 7, 1985
street & number	59 South Prospect Street	telephone	(203) 566-3005
city or town	Hartford	state	CT

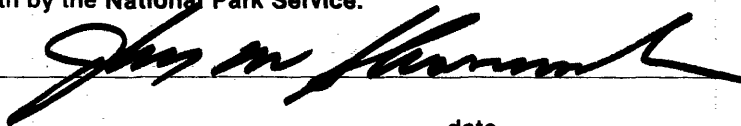
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date July 2, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8/23/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The influence of a later era of architectural fashion is also present in the house in the 3-sided bay that was added to the south elevation early in the 20th century. Its brick foundations and general design are common to a great many such bays that were constructed during the Victorian era, although this one was not built until the very end of that era. Other windows in the house are known to have been 2-over-2 for most of the 20th century, until replaced by the present glazing. The 2-over-2 pattern is a 19th-century characteristic while the present smaller panes give the house a Colonial style ambience that is out of character with its dominant Greek Revival mode.

In contrast to 78 Long Hill Road, the house at 87 Long Hill Road is a clear statement of the Greek Revival style of the 1840s. Its 3-bay gable end toward the street, Ionic portico and lower kitchen ell are all standard practice. They are well executed with good proportions and well-crafted details, especially in the portico. The high quality was the work of Dennis Burnham, a professional Hartford builder and a cousin of the owner.² Houses of the same description were being built in Hartford at the time.³ 87 Long Hill Road is a good example of the Greek Revival style of the 1840s.

87 Long Hill Road was built in 1843. Whether the alterations to 78 Long Hill Road occurred before or after that year is unknown, but it seems likely that the city design prompted the stylistically similar changes to the older house. It is also worthy of comment that in the kitchen of the house constructed by the city builder is found a beehive oven of the same design used in 17th and 18th century farm houses, albeit with a modern, cast-iron door.

The Elmore Family - Criterion A⁴

Edward Elmore (d. 1676) was a founder of Hartford with Thomas Hooker in 1636. He subsequently moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, and then to Windsor, Connecticut. The Windsor Land Records show that a "three mile lot" was deeded to him in 1660. Such lots were 90 rods wide along the bank of the Connecticut River and extended three miles to the east, containing 550 acres. Edward Elmore's descendants, who inherited the land, put up the houses one mile to the east of the river along the three-quarter mile, north-south ridge that is Long Hill Road. Elmore houses there probably numbered as many as half a dozen at one time.

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Harvey Elmore built the house at 87 Long Hill Road, replacing an earlier structure, in 1843. The chief cultural legacy left by the Elmore family, other than the record of their early and continued presence on the land, is the work of his daughter, Mary Janette Elmore, a member of the seventh generation. Mary Janette Elmore (1831-1922) grew up in the Greek Revival house, never married, and was living there at the time of her death in her 91st year. Thereafter, in the attic, was found the manuscript of her reminiscences written when she was 80, and dedicated to her brother, Samuel Edward Elmore, president of the Connecticut River Banking Company. The reminiscences were published under the title Long Hill, South Windsor Connecticut in 1976.

The reminiscences are a straightforward, detailed account of family domesticity and neighborhood events in the 19th century. The spirit of the book is indicated by the chapter headings which include "The Kitchen," "The Table & Table-Manners," "Camp Meeting," "Travel and Correspondence," "Our Great Grandfather," "Crazy People," etc. The reminiscences provide an exceptionally authentic and valuable account of 19th-century rural Connecticut mores.

The descendants of Edward Elmore cultivated the land and processed, on the farm, the products they grew. The houses, barns, pastures and orchards complemented one another in the daily regimen. Early crops included corn, wheat, barley, oats and flax. The plowing was done with oxen and the mowing with scythes. The large barns were used for such purposes as thrashing the grain and separating the flax fibers from stalks. Animal slaughtering was a part of the routine. Products from the fields were further processed in the houses in baking, spinning, cheese making and the like. The routine of heavy work was broken by community and social activities that included church going and husking bees. As the 19th century progressed, the importance of broad leaf tobacco as a cash crop increased and the grain barns were made into tobacco sheds. In 1973, the nine acres that remained of the farm at 87 Long Hill Road were still planted to tobacco.

After the death of Mary Janette Elmore the Greek Revival house was sold out of the family, for the first time. The house across the street remained in the Elmore family until acquired in 1973 by the present owner/occupants. The land belonged to the Elmore family for more than 300 years. The Elmores made a substantial contribution to society by settling, farming and caring for the land and participating in the community for three centuries. The reminiscences of Mary Janette Elmore provide an exceptionally informative account of Elmore family affairs and, in the broader sense, of 19th-century, rural, Connecticut social history in general.

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¹. Such interior alterations were undertaken in some cases. For example, at the Henry Hooker House, 111 High Street, in the Kensington section of Berlin, CT, the entire central chimney and its base were removed, and a central hall plan adopted for the first floor.

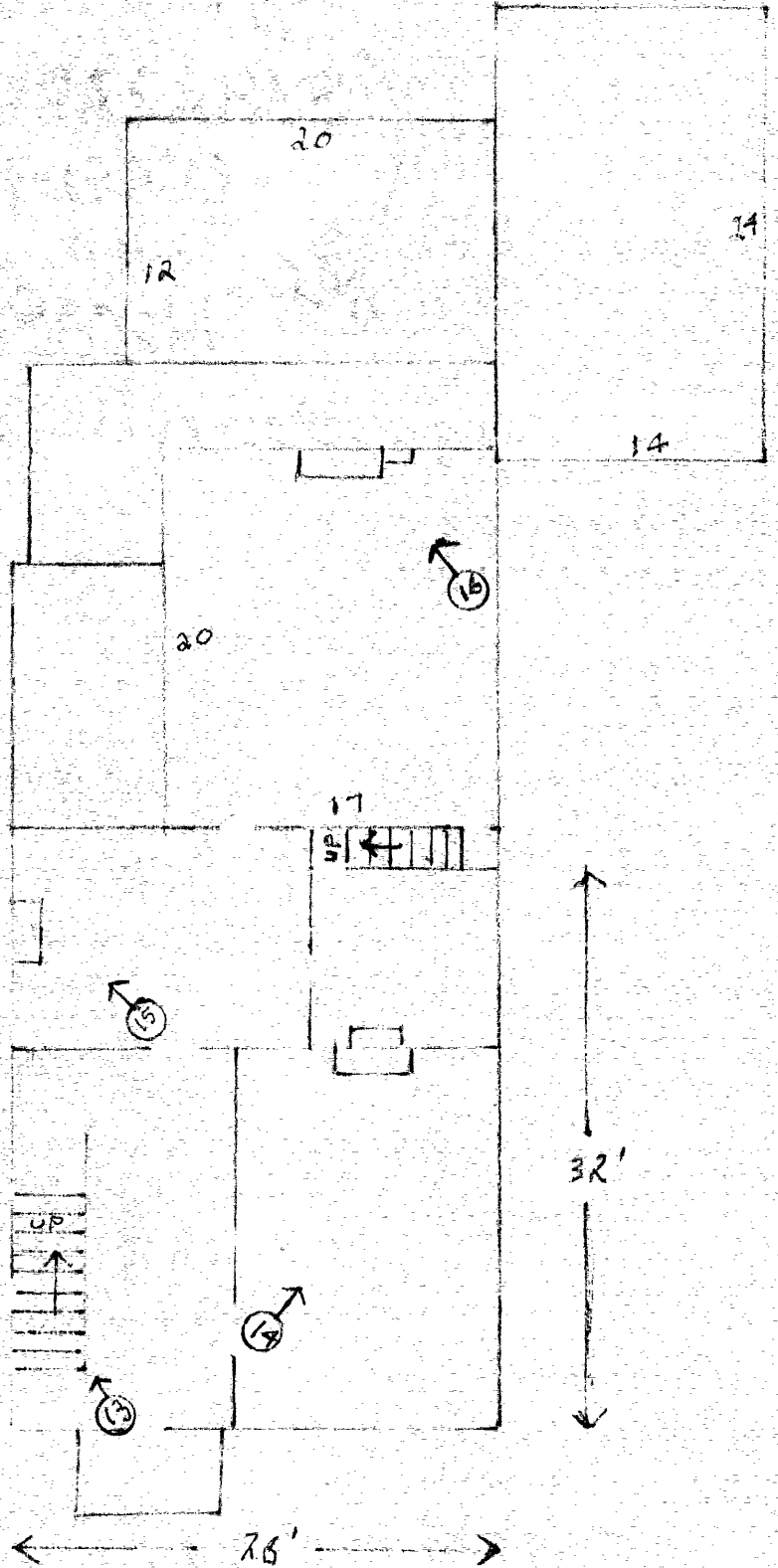
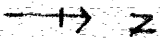
². Mary Janette Elmore, Long Hill, South Windsor, Connecticut, South Windsor: South Windsor Historical Society, 1976, p. 83.

³. For example, see the row still standing at 15-37 Grand Street.

⁴. This account of Elmore family history is taken from Mrs. Klein's introduction to Long Hill, South Windsor, Connecticut.

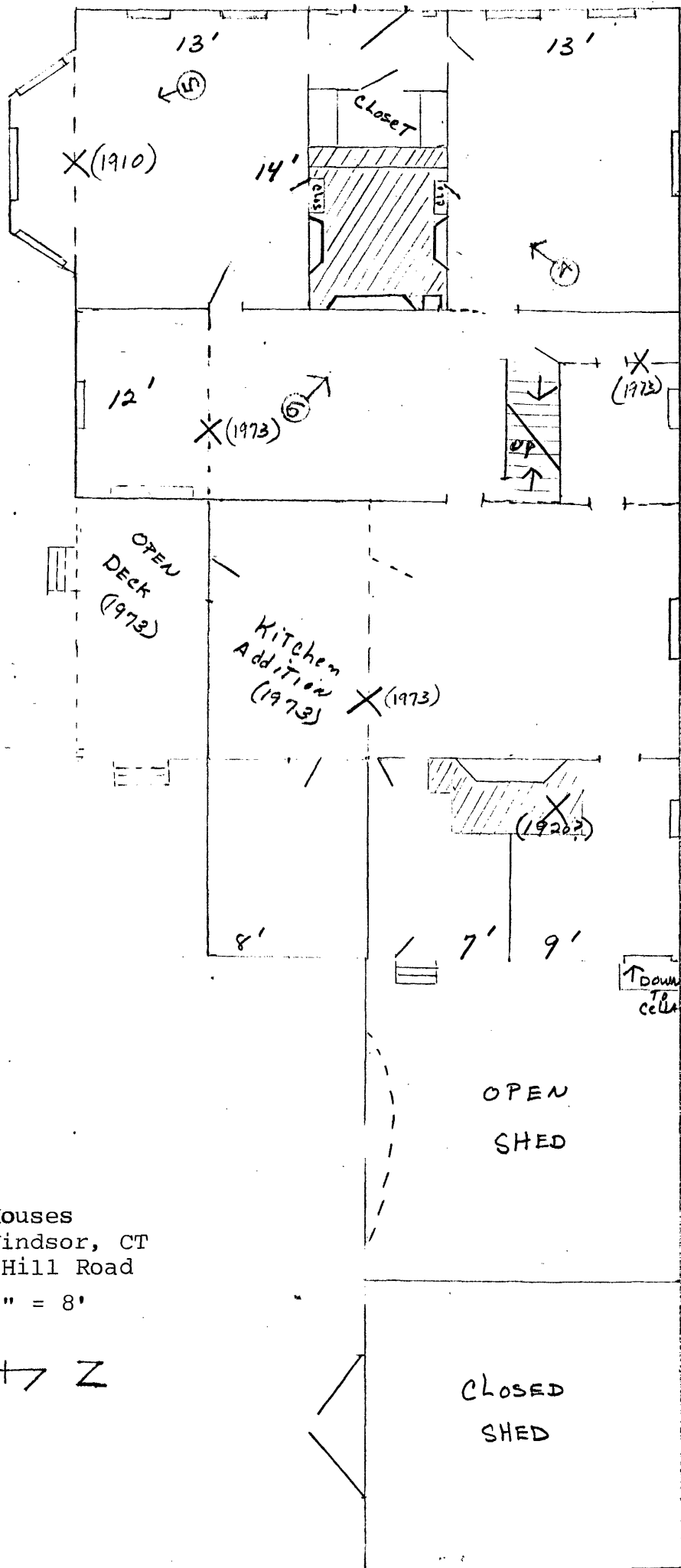


Elmore Houses
South Windsor, CT
87 Long Hill Road
Scale" 1" = 10'
First Floor



Drawn by
M.A. KLEIN

BAV
Window
(1910)
?



26'

13'

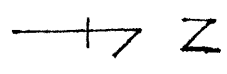
8'

18'

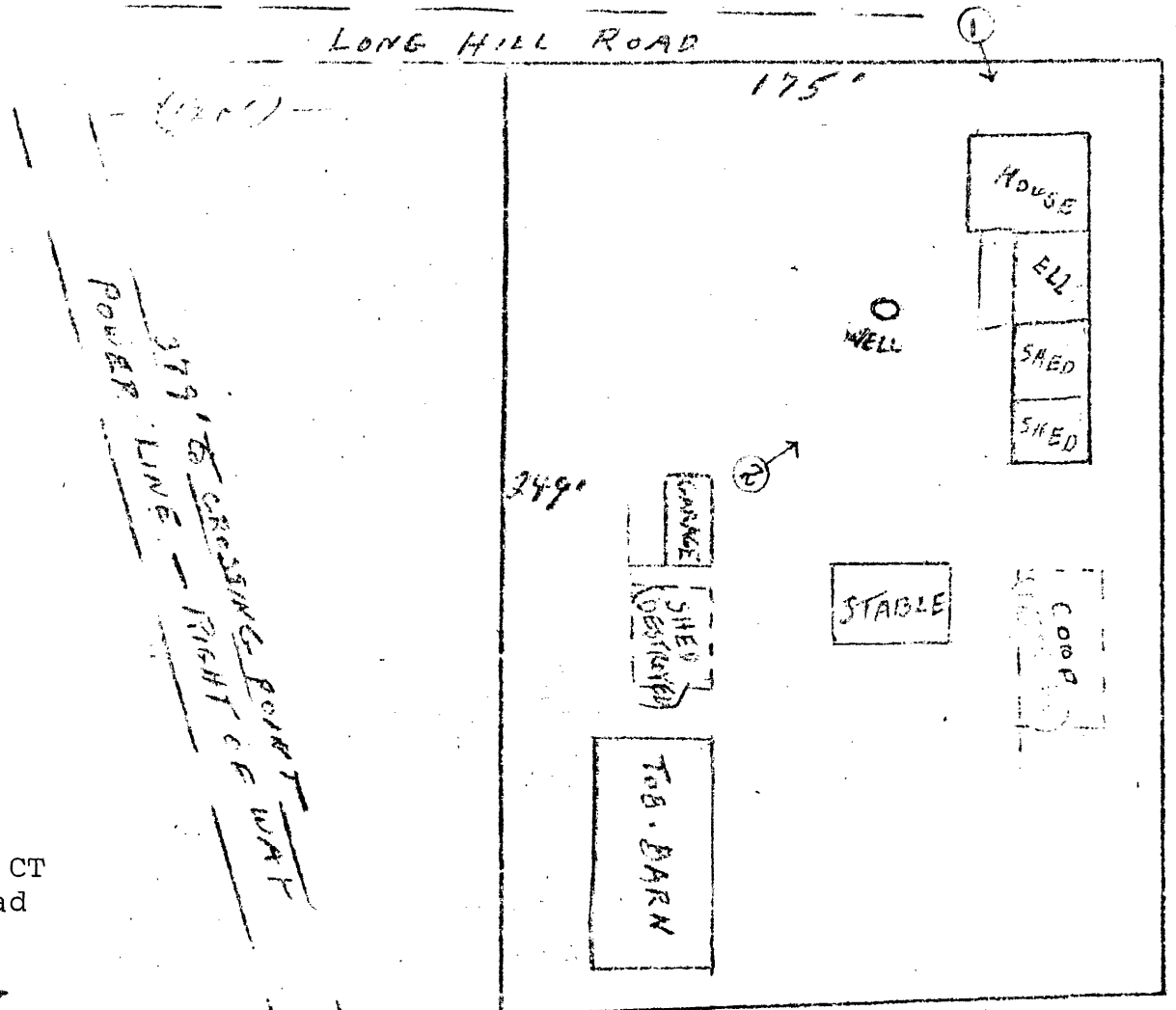
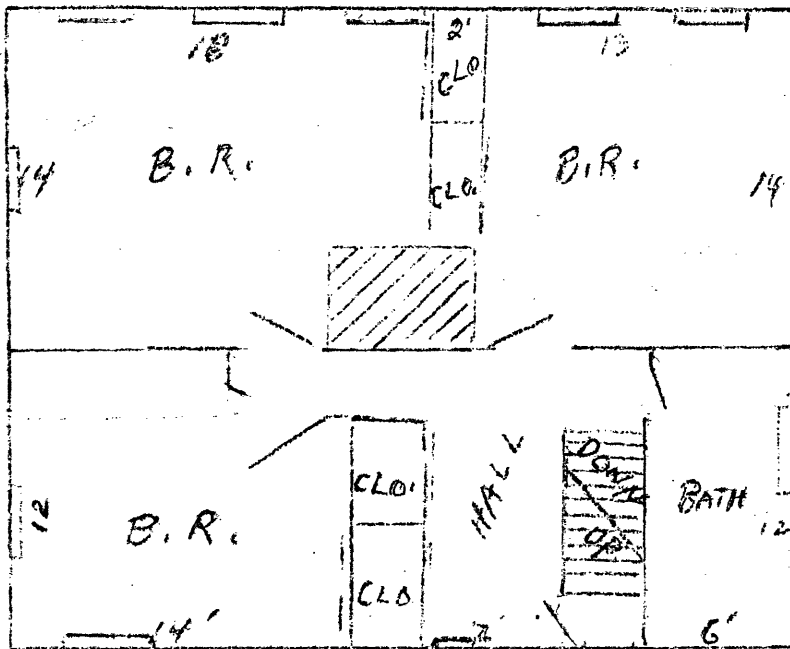
18'

ell
added
1840's

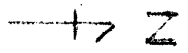
Elmore Houses
South Windsor, CT
78 Long Hill Road
Scale: 1" = 8'



SECOND FLOOR

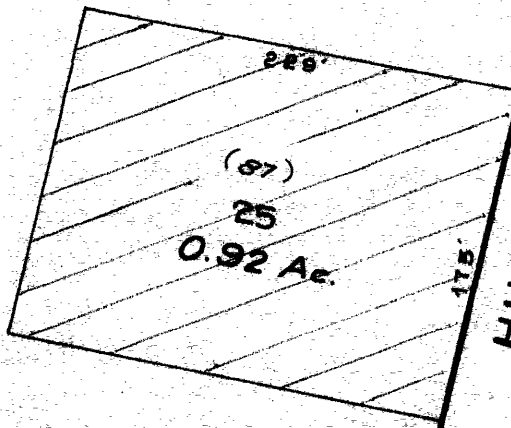


Elmore Houses
 South Windsor, CT
 78 Long Hill Road



SITE PLAN

8
80.7 Ac.



HILL ROAD

LONG

16
5.925 Ac.

VACANT LOT
17
.76 Ac.

OPEN FIELD

(78)
18
1.02 Ac.

POWER LINE

19
9.55 Ac.

7
14.7 Ac.

Elmore Houses
South Windsor, CT

Portion of Town Map 46

Scale: 1" = 100'

