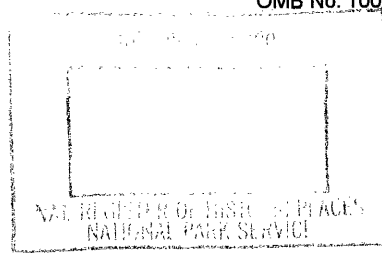


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

869



**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Caleb Baldwin Tavern

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 32 Main Street  not for publication

city or town Newtown  vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06470

**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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan 07/09/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper David Sage Date of Action 8/23/02

Caleb Baldwin Tavern  
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
0	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Postmedieval English  
Federal  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**foundation** STONE  
**walls** WOOD: Shingle  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**roof** ASPHALT  
**other** BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "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.

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, structure
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1763 - c.1820

Significant Dates

c. 1763, 1781

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Known

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

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 Building 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:

Connecticut Historical Commission,  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Caleb Baldwin Tavern  
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approx. 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 641 360 4585 760  
Zone Easting Northing

3  
Zone Easting Northing

2

4  
 See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. date February 1, 2001

street & number P.O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gordon and Lina Williams

street & number 32 Main Street telephone N/A

city or town Newtown state CT zip code 06470

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Caleb Baldwin Tavern**  
**Newtown, Fairfield County, CT**  
**(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782**  
**Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Description:**

The Caleb Baldwin Tavern (Photographs 1 and 2) is a 2 1/2-story wood-shingled house built about 1763. The house has a center-hall plan, resulting in two large brick chimneys emerging near the ends of the gable roof, which has its ridge line set parallel to the street. The main entry, centered on the west elevation, has been remodeled twice, once in the Federal period and again in the Victorian period (Photograph 3). The paneled door is flanked by pilasters supporting an arched molding. The fanlight within is delicately leaded in a sunburst radial pattern, with a cast-lead American eagle at the center point. To either side of the doorway are double-hung sidelights, and the whole is sheltered by a flat-roofed porch on turned posts, with jig-sawn corner brackets and a spindled frieze. The south-side entrance, a frame of simple stepped moldings, probably is similar to what the front entrance had originally. The first floor windows are Victorian or early 20th-century in origin, with old 12-pane and 6-pane sash in place on the second and attic stories.

The house is sited within a densely built village, listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Newtown Borough Historic District, separated from its neighbors only by driveways and small side yards. Tall shade trees and a slate sidewalk, dating from the Village Improvement movement of the late 19th century, are in front of the house. To the rear is a gambrel roofed board-sided barn probably dating from the early 20th century (Photograph 4).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Caleb Baldwin Tavern  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT  
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782  
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Significance:**

The Caleb Baldwin Tavern is significant for its associations with an important event in Connecticut's Colonial-Period military history: the march through the state of French forces, under the command of Count Rochambeau, on their way to the battle of Yorktown. Newtown was occupied for several days by the French at the end of June, 1781, and again on the return march in October, 1782. On the forward march, units that arrived first rested in Newtown until they were joined by other units, so that the army could proceed into New York State, closer to British-held territory, in a more concentrated formation. Newtown was already a fairly built-up village by that point, judging by the French maps. The village's many houses were used to quarter officers, while the troops slept in one of several encampments on the outskirts. This house is believed to have accommodated the army's commissary, Claude Blanchard, who arrived on June 23, five days before the army, to make arrangements for supplying the camps and for a field hospital that was set up in Newtown. Blanchard was joined by de Sançon, his secretary, and several surgeons and apothecaries, the next day. The Caleb Baldwin Tavern serves to recall not only the social intercourse between the French and Americans that occurred at these places of entertainment and lodging, but also the organizational complexity of the march, which required persons skilled in logistics, medicine, and a host of other special areas.

Although the building has been changed from its appearance at the time, enough remains to suggest its 18th-century origin. The double-chimney, center-hall plan was just then supplementing the traditional center-chimney form in Connecticut houses, so such an arrangement can be considered as appropriate for a house built in the 1760s. The small-pane sash, five-bay form, and simple side entrance also reflect traditional vernacular building techniques from the period. The shingled exterior, while not necessarily original or even a replacement for original shingles, represents one of two common methods of finishing the exterior of colonial New England houses, the other being clapboards. These distinguishing characteristics, which help substantiate the house's 18th-century identity, are not visually outweighed by the Federal and Victorian modifications.

Although primarily significant for its associations with the march of Rochambeau, the house also has architectural significance under Criterion C. In addition to its value as a house that embodies the traditional New England building traditions of the 18th century, the house is notable for its Federal Period (c.1790-1820) doorway. In its search for elegance, the Federal or Adam style employed a free interpretation of finely proportioned geometric and Classical forms. This aesthetic is well exemplified in the house's slender pilasters and delicately leaded fanlight.

The attribution of the house as a place of lodging for French officers is based on local historical traditions, written down as early as Ezra Johnson's accounts (1917), and on Claude Blanchard's diary, which records his place of lodging as "near one of the temples (i.e., churches)." At that time, the Congregational Church stood only a short distance away in the middle of the intersection of present-day Church Hill Road and Main Street.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Caleb Baldwin Tavern  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT  
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782  
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography:**

- Ballard, Rose Marie. Architectural and Historical Survey of Newtown. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1996.
- Clouette, Bruce. Newtown Borough Historic District, National Register of Historic Places inventory/registration form, Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford.
- Johnson, Jane E. (ed.). *Newtown's History and Historian Ezra Levan Johnson*. Newtown: privately printed, 1917.
- Rice, Howard C., Jr. and Anne S. K. Brown, eds. *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*. Two volumes. Princeton, N.J.: Jointly published by Princeton University Press and Brown University Press.
- Selig, Robert A. *Rochambeau in Connecticut: Tracing his Journey*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1999.
- Van Rensselaer, Susan. Caleb Baldwin Tavern, State Register of Historic Places inventory form, Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Caleb Baldwin Tavern**  
**Newtown, Fairfield County, CT**  
**(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782**  
**Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 10 Page 1

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property consists of the parcel at 32 Main Street, as recorded in the Newtown Land Records, Volume 424, page 157.

**Boundary Justification:**

The parcel includes the land immediately adjacent to the house.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Caleb Baldwin Tavern  
Newtown, Fairfield County, CT  
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782  
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number Photographs Page 1

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**All Photographs:**

1. Caleb Baldwin Tavern
2. Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. January, 2001
5. Negative filed with PAST, Inc., Storrs, CT

**Captions:**

West elevation, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 1 of 4

West elevation, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 2 of 4

Detail of main entry, camera facing east  
Photograph 3 of 4

Barn at rear of house, camera facing east (house at left is neighbor to north)  
Photograph 4 of 4