

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001086

Date Listed: 08/10/89

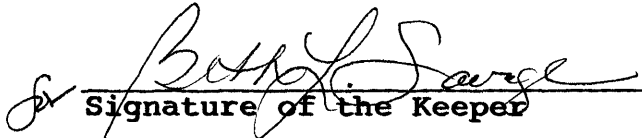
Ferris, Samuel, House
Property Name

Fairfield
County

CT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

03/21/90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria considerations

Criteria exception B is applicable because this architecturally significant residence was moved in the 1920s, outside the defined period of significance.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHP, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1086

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 12 1989
NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ferris, Samuel, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number -- East Putnam Street (corner of Cary Street) not for publication
city, town Greenwich vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06430

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

John W. Shannahan July 7, 1989
Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

Michael Beyer 8/10/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

New England Colonial

other: Cape

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood shingles

roof asphalt shingles

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Samuel Ferris House is a small Cape-style building (24'6" x 35') located at the corner of Cary Avenue and East Putman Street (also known as the Boston Post Road) (Photograph #1). It was originally the farmhouse for a farm of approximately 30 acres on the east bank of the Mianus River at the head of Cos Cob harbor. This area of Greenwich, formerly known as the Landing, is now called Riverside. Today, the house on its one acre lot is partially bordered on the level ground to the north and east by a circa 1950 housing development built for veterans after World War II.

In the 1920s the Ferris House was moved about 80 feet to the north of its original location alongside the Post Road and placed on a new fieldstone foundation. Its south-facing orientation overlooking the harbor was maintained. At that time the first floor deck was replaced and the stone chimney stack was rebuilt in brick and reduced in size.

The clapboarded and planked walls of this three-bay, one-and-one-half story house are now covered with wood shakes. With the exception of two modern multipaned windows at the first floor of the east end, the rest of the double-hung sash, probably nineteenth-century replacements, have the appropriate configuration for the size and period of the house, generally 6-over-6. The typical fenestration pattern of the Cape style in rural Connecticut is displayed on the west elevation: two small four-light windows on either side of the gable flanking a center double-hung sash (Photograph #2). Because of the addition of a small leanto at the northeast corner, the east elevation has the appearance of a saltbox (Photograph #3). There are also two small windows here, one in rear of the gable, the other in the wall of the leanto. This elevation has an off-center door as well.

A title search carried out for the Greenwich Historical Society confirms that there was a house in this location by about 1760. The present one-and-one-half story Cape-style configuration, however, is the result of a later remodelling. The original building was a two-room end-chimney house; the west bay was added about 1800. (See Exhibit A for the first-floor plan showing the evolution of the building.) Despite the changes which took place when the building was moved in the twentieth century, there is still sufficient evidence to support this premise. The east end is noticeably older, with marked differences from the west end in its construction. In addition to lower ceilings on the first floor, both end girts and the chimney girt, which are exposed in the kitchen, are roughly hewn (Photograph #4). In the attic of the east end the sloped ceilings were sheathed with wide boards in the twentieth century, but the nailing line indicates that the rafters are about 46" apart, the same spacing found in the middle section where gypsum board has been placed between the rafters. Horizontal, apparently original,

See continuation sheet

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Samuel Ferris House, Greenwich, Connecticut

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boards cover the lower portion of the east wall between the double plates, which here are spaced about 2 1/2' apart. The higher ceiling of the parlor in the west end is accommodated by the elevation of the chimney girt (about 6"), resulting in a step up in the attic floor the full width of the building just beyond the head of the double-run stairs, a feature which was probably relocated in front of the stack when the house was enlarged. An earlier set of stairs, or ladder, could have been located in the rear of the house in the northeast corner. The roof is fully visible in a storage area above the west end. The rafters there are only 36" apart and are connected by collar beams. The wide roof boards appear to be original; the rafters are pegged and half-lapped together.

The interior finishes also demonstrate two stages of construction. The parlor fireplace, added to the stack when the house was enlarged, has a simple molded surround and feather-edge panelling along the entire east wall, both typical of about 1800 (Photograph #5).¹ The hall is less formal, with vertical boarding on the fireplace wall, a material used on both sides of the partition walls between the hall, the kitchen, and the so-called "borning room" in the northwest corner. The overmantel is missing in the hall, but a small cupboard to the right of the fireplace remains. A corner cupboard in this same room appears original (about 1760) except for the glazed upper doors, which are clearly a later addition (Photograph #6). The ceiling joists in the hall and the kitchen are relatively large and display beaded edges (Photograph #7). The longitudinal carrying beam for the joists, commonly called the summer beam, is incorporated in the common wall dividing the hall and parlor from the kitchen and borning room.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1760 - 1800

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Samuel Ferris House is significant as a modest but typical Colonial house form, a rare survival of its type on the Post Road in Greenwich. It has local historic interest for its long continuous association with the Ferris family, early settlers of this section of Old Greenwich.

Historial Background

This house was built about 1760 by Samuel Ferris (1733-1798), soon after his marriage to Susannah Peck (1734-1798). He was the second of that name in Greenwich, the second son of Samuel and Ann Lockwood Ferris. Upon the death of Samuel the 2nd and his wife in the same year, the house and much of the surrounding land, known as the Plantation Lot, were quit-claimed to Jonathan Ferris (1769-1845/6), the second son, by his brothers and sisters. It was probably Jonathan who enlarged the house about 1800 when he married Elizabeth Waring (1778-1864). Jonathan and Elizabeth's second son Samuel Darney Ferris (1816-1901), who also married a Lockwood (Frances Louisa), inherited the house. He lived here at the Landing for the rest of his life, prospering as a farmer and shipping his products from the nearby harbor. His youngest child, Hattie Ferris Olmstead, was deeded part of the property before her father's death. A surviving sister quit claimed any rights to the rest of the property in 1919; the only other heir, an unmarried brother, had died in 1903. In 1947 the property was sold to the Town of Greenwich by Mabel Louise Olmstead, Hattie's daughter, ending almost two centuries of ownership by the Ferris family. It was at this time that the veterans' housing was constructed on the about 30 acres of contiguous farmland, leaving the house untouched on its one-acre lot. In 1957 it was sold to private owners.

Architectural Significance

The Samuel Ferris House, the only surviving building associated with this family, is one of the few eighteenth-century buildings remaining on the Boston Post Road in Greenwich. Although some development took place along this thoroughfare in the nineteenth century, most of the Post Road between Stamford and the New York border was developed in the twentieth century. Large farm acreages were subdivided; most of the historic

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clarke, Elizabeth W. ed. Before and After 1776. Greenwich: Young Offset Co., Inc., 1976. Greenwich, Connecticut. Town of Greenwich Historical Society, Inc. Archives.
Greenwich Land Records.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Town of Greenwich Historical Society, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

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UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Greenwich Land Records Vol. 1655, page 129 and Vol. 583, page 225, located in the Town Clerk's Office of the Greenwich City Hall.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the land and the building associated with Samuel Ferris that still remains from the original 30+ acre parcel.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant, Reviewed by John Herzan, National
 organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 12/1/88 Register Coordinator
 street & number 7231 Town Place telephone (203) 347 4072
 city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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farmhouses were demolished. It is not known how many houses like the Ferris House were lost, but it is the only surviving Cape-style house in this area today.

Its evolution from a two-room house to its present form about 1800 adds to its significance. Although many of them were enlarged later in their history, similar two-room houses were built in Connecticut as early as 1700. For example, there are obvious similarities between the original configuration of the Ferris House and the Norton House in Guilford, as documented by J. Frederick Kelly.² (See Exhibit A.) In both buildings the porch in front of the fireplace is large enough to accommodate a staircase, even though a rear stairs was the only access to the second floor in the the Norton House and possibly in the Ferris House, as well. A comparison of these two houses also suggests that part of the borning room of the Ferris House may have been incorporated into the 1760 portion of the building, a possibility consistent with the spacing of the roof framing over the center section. The only real difference between the original portion of the Ferris House and the Norton House is the location of the summer beam in the loadbearing wall, rather than the more customary position in the middle of the hall ceiling.

End Notes:

1. This room would customarily be called the "hall," rather than the parlor. However, here the building evolved from the principal room, the hall, to the right of the main entrance.

2. J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. (New York: Dover Publications, 1963), p. 7.

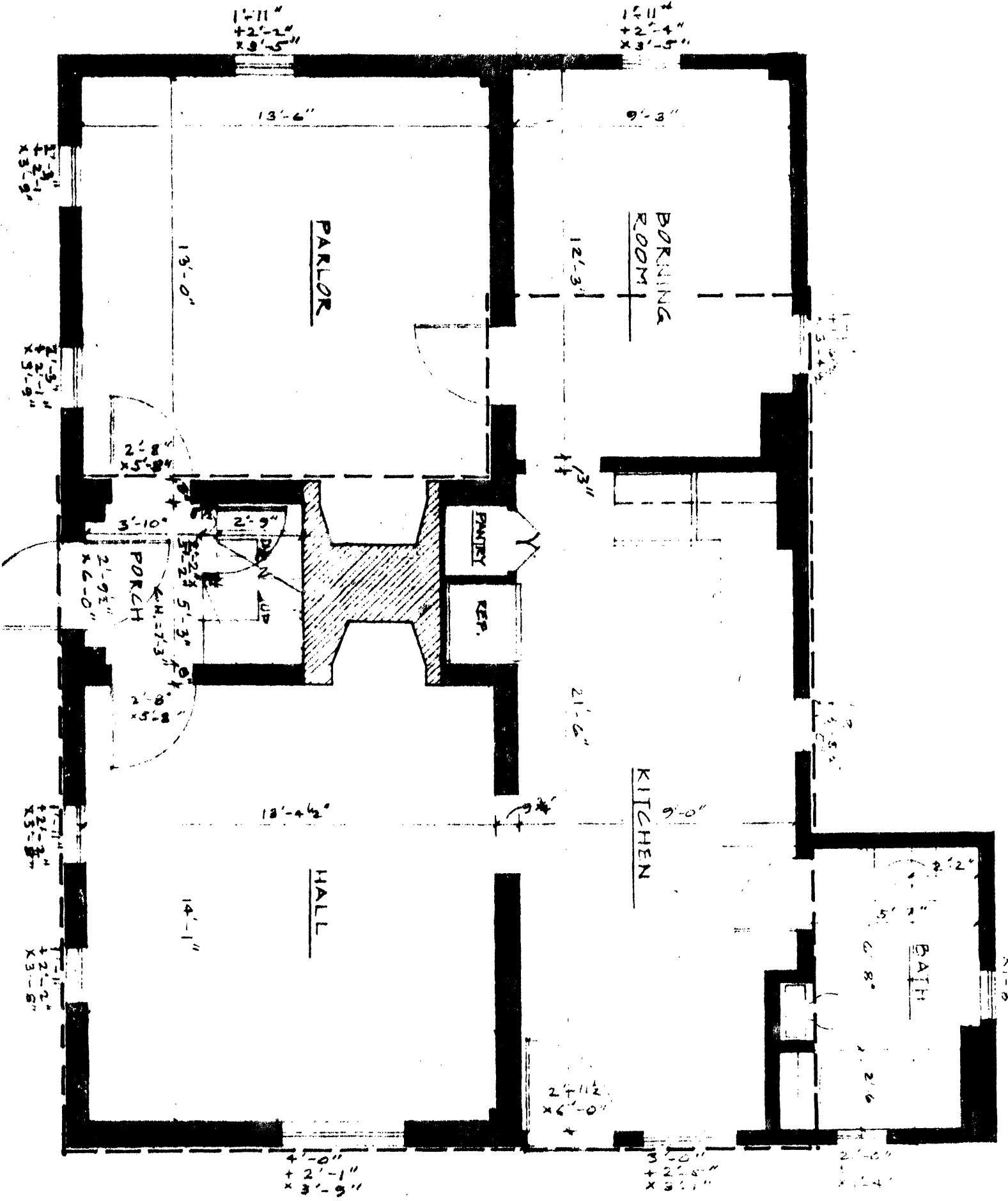


EXHIBIT A: First Floor Plan - Samuel Ferris House, Greenwich, Connecticut
 Note: Dashed line indicates the perimeter of the 1760 section.

The Norton house in the town of Guilford (circa 1690), though essentially a house of one-room plan, indicates, by reason of its lean-to room at the rear, a slightly later development. (Figure 2.) Here, as in the Lee house originally, a tremendous stone chimney, exposed on the exterior, forms the entire west wall of the first story; and although the stairs are not in front of the chimney, there is a space for them there. This house faces south, as did the Lee house originally.

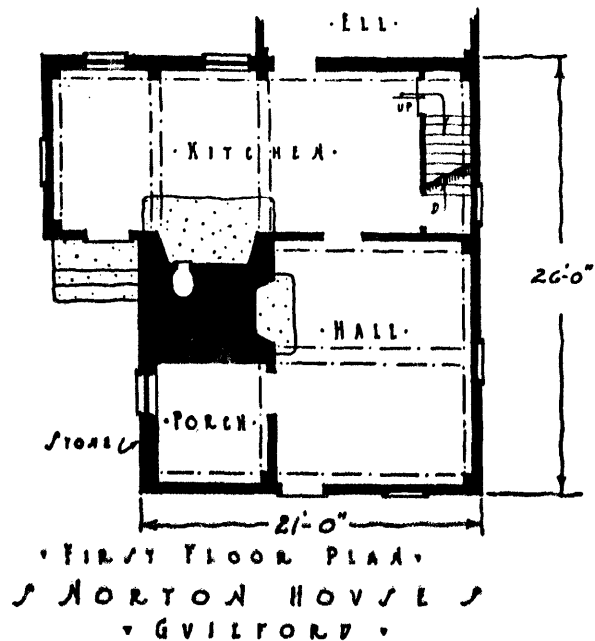


FIGURE 2.

EXHIBIT B: Norton House, Guilford, Connecticut. Reproduced from J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture. (New York: Dover Publications, 1963), p. 7.