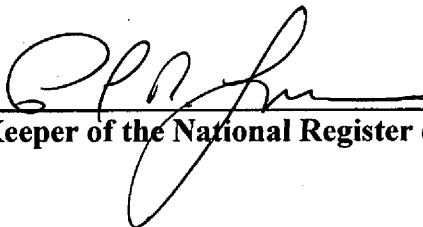


United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Grant, Ebenezer, House in Hartford County, Connecticut, reference number 77001408, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 09/19/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7440. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

1/26/2009
Date

FILE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Grant, Ebenezer, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1653 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
East Windsor Hill, South Windsor VICINITY OF First District

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Connecticut 009 Hartford 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 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dr. and Mrs. Constantine Zariphes

STREET & NUMBER
1653 Main Street

CITY, TOWN STATE
East Windsor Hill VICINITY OF Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
South Windsor Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE
South Windsor Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Connecticut Statewide Inventory

DATE August 2, 1968
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN STATE
Hartford Connecticut

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1913</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ebenezer Grant House, a striking example of mid 18th century Connecticut River Valley regional architecture, is situated on informally landscaped grounds on the west side of Main Street in the East Windsor Hill hamlet in the town of South Windsor. Along Main Street are scattered 18th and early 19th century houses on spacious lots. A high hedge isolates the Grant House from the road. This hedge was been planted since 1913. Prior to that date a picket fence separated the lawn from the road. Originally the house was very close to the road, but in 1913 it was moved about twenty-five feet west of its original location. The unusual barrel vault arches in the foundations of the chimneys noted by Isham and Brown¹ and by Frederick Kelly² were destroyed when the house was moved.

Originally the house had numerous outbuildings including barns, carriage house, milk houses, and attached woodshed. None of these buildings remain, although archeological evidence of them is present. The existing outbuildings are of 20th century origin. They include a 1920's stuccoed, two-car garage with hipped roof located just west of the house; a wooden chicken house, c. 1900, located further to the southwest; and a doghouse, c. 1972, located south of the house.

The main houses consists of a five-bay, two-story rectangular block erected in 1757- 58 with two-story ell attached to the south half of the rear (west) side. The rear wing is believed to be a 1757- 58 reworking of a house erected in 1695. Above the brownstone foundation the frame house is covered with narrow cedar clapboards, which are probably those purchased in 1757- 58. Originally the gable roofs of the main block and of the ell were covered with cedar shingles. The current roofing is slate. The main block of the house has two interior chimneys while the rear ell has one interior chimney located near its west wall. The north slope of the roof of the ell is broken by a single dormer, probably added in the 20th century. The house is painted mustard color and has white trim. Most windows have double-hung sash with 12/12 lights.

The main (east) facade's most striking feature is its doorway, an outstanding example of Connecticut River Valley regional woodwork. Its paneled double doors are flanked by fluted pilasters on high pedestals. The pedestals are enlivened by carving suggesting a diminutive doorway composition with broken scroll pediment and bold quoining. The necking of the pilasters of the actual doorway have intricate carvings suggesting ferns, while the frieze has horizontal banding created by numerous moldings which extend across the end blocks and the central keystone motif. The cornice has denticulated carving and supports a bold broken scroll pediment with carved rosettes. Both moldings and composition have a strong Jacobean feeling & are full of powerfully plastic vernacular vigor. A clear plexiglas panel is currently located in front of the double doors.

Another exterior elaboration is the triangular pediments over the first story windows of the main facade. These pediments have a slight break offset in the rake mouldings just above their intersection with the horizontal members.

See Continuation Sheet

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 7 PAGE 1

Grant, Ebenezer, House, East Windsor Hill, South Windsor, CT.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys page 1

Works Projects Administration, Connecticut Survey
1937 Federal
Depository: Connecticut State Library
Hartford, Connecticut

Colonial Dames Reports on Historic Houses in Connecticut
1913 State
Depository: Connecticut State Library
Hartford, Connecticut.

7. Description

The north and south ends of the main block each have two bays and a single window lighting the attic. The fenestration of the west side of the main block and of the rear ell is not regular.

The two doorways on the south side are noteworthy and also have Jacobean features. Although both have pilasters on pedestals and triangular pediments, their decorative carving varies. The door of the side doorway of the main block is partially glazed and is a recent installation.

To a considerable degree the exterior retains its 1758 appearance. Major alterations include the removal of the north part of the ell, the addition of a screen porch, removal of the woodshed-barn attached to the end of the ell.

While the interior of the house has undergone more extensive modification, it retains important 18th century features. The house has a central hall plan and its stairhall is its most elaborate room. Arches are found in both the first and second floor halls. The open string stair with two flights is very ornate. There are three balusters on each tread. The balusters are of two spiral designs and the main newel is also spiral. The post at the top of the flight projects below and is terminated by an acorn shaped drop. There is paneling to the dado.

The summer beam in the south front room runs north-south, while that in the north front room runs east-west. Summer beams are also found in second story rooms. Summers are paneled.

Most fireplace walls on both the first and second floors are paneled with simple rectangular panels. Several have pilasters flanking the fireplaces. The fireplaces have been rebuilt.

Extensive interior alterations were made in 1913-14 and again in the 1960's. Alterations included removal of rear stairs, removal of some paneling, moving paneling from one room to another, new flooring,

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES rear ell: 1695
1757- 58

BUILDER/ARCHITECT builder: Ebenezer Grant

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ebenezer Grant House erected in 1757- 58 for a prominent local merchant and civic leader is among the most elaborate 18th century houses still standing in Connecticut. Its ornate Jacobean style doorway with broken scroll pediment is an extremely fine example of the idiosyncratic woodwork characteristic of mid-18th century Connecticut River Valley regional architecture. The south side entrance of the two-story frame house are also distinguished. The chief feature of the interior, as is typical in elaborate Georgian houses, is the central stairhall with arches and open string stair with spiral newel post, spiral balusters, and acorn drop. There are numerous other enrichments including paneled fireplace walls and paneled summer beams. The rear ell is believed to be a reworking of an 1695 house. Although the entire house was moved about twenty-five feet in 1913, it still stands on its original lot. In the 20th century alterations have been made and several significant original features destroyed, but fortunately much of the 18th century fabric has been preserved. The house's significance is enhanced by its complete primary documentation in the Ebenezer Grant papers still in possession of the Grant family.

In 1635 Mathew Grant settled in Windsor where he was a town clerk, town selectman, and surveyor. In February 1674 he gave his oldest son, Samuel, land on the east side of the river, now the East Windsor Hill section of the town of South Windsor. Samuel built a house on the site of the existing Grant House in 1695. It is believed that his son, Ebenezer, incorporated this house into the rear ell of the existing Georgian house he erected in 1757- 58.

Ebenezer Grant was a ship owner and the largest merchant in East Windsor Hill. He was clerk of the Congregational Church, town surveyor, a selectman, a constable, a grand juror, and a deputy sheriff. In addition he served in King George's War, the French and Indian War, and for the patriotic side in the Revolutionary War. Grant operated a tavern between 1737 and c. 1751.

During the Revolutionary War prisoners of war were held in East Windsor Hill. Richard Prescott, a British general, and William Franklin, the Torv governor of New Jersey, were lodged in the Grant House.

On July 29, 1783, Ebenezer Grant gave part of his house to his son Roswell. Roswell inherited the rest after Ebenezer's death in 1797. Roswell served as a captain and a paymaster during the Revolutionary War and as a captain in the East Windsor Company of Volunteers in the War of 1812. He was a poor businessman, but an active civic leader.

See Continuation Sheet

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

& 9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2

Grant, Ebenezer, House, East Windsor Hill, South Windsor, CT.

7. Description. Continued from Continuation Sheet 1

and rearranging the floor plan by adding and removing walls. The most complete modification was in the rear ell. In the 1960's the entire second floor of the ell was stripped to the framing and additional false framing installed in attempt to create a two-story, barn-like interior space. Fortunately Frances H. Judd's report on the house³ describes changes made in the twentieth century; paneling, shutters, and other parts of the fabric have been found in the basement and attic; and the current owner is very concerned about preserving and restoring the house.

Footnotes:

1. Norman Isham and Albert F. Brown, Early Connecticut Houses, 1900; reprint ed., New York: Dover, 1965, pp. 87-92.
2. Frederick Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, 1924; reprint ed., New York: Dover, 1963, p. 71.
3. Frances H. Judd, "Ebenezer Grant Mansion," 1973, typewritten, copy in possession of Constantine Zariphes, M.D., passim.

8. Statement of Significance

Roswell was a representative to the General Assembly and a U.S. Collector for Connecticut's Fifth District.

After Roswell's death in 1834 the house passed to his youngest son, Frederick William Grant, a successful tobacco farmer. Frederick died in 1886 but the house remained in the Grant family until 1911 when it was offered for sale. Although an attempt was made to keep it in the Grant family, the house was sold in 1913 to Lorentz.

The new owner destroyed the outbuildings and moved the house twenty-five feet destroying interesting structural features in the basement. The north end of the rear ell was removed and interior alterations made. A recent owner planned to remove the staircase and interior woodwork. Fortunately he sold the house in 1972 to the current owners, but not before he had extensively altered the second floor of the rear ell.

9. Major Bibliographical References.

Interview with Constantine Zariphes, M.D., June 9, 1976, notes in file of T. Robins Brown.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Norman Isham and Albert F. Brown, Early Ct. Houses, 1900; reprint ed., New York: Dover, 1965, pp. 87-92.
 Frances H. Judd, "Ebenezer Grant Mansion, East Windsor Hill, Ct.," 1973, typewritten, copy in possession of Constantine Zariphes, M.D.
 J. Frederick Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Ct., 1924, reprint ed., New York: Dover, 1963, pp. 71, 112, 180, frontispiece, plates XXIX, and XLVI. See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.7 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------|----------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 8 | 6, 9, 8, 15, 20 | 4, 6, 13, 5, 8, 4, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Robins Brown Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect St.

TELEPHONE

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

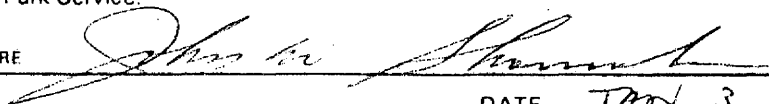
NATIONAL

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

S.H.P.O.

DATE

JUN 3, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER