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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 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 Hurd, William, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 327 Hulls Hill Road NA not for publication
city, town Southbury (Southford) NA vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06488

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>4</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>4</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.

[Signature] June 10, 1993
Signature of certifying official Director, Connecticut Historical Commission 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:) _____

[Signature] 7/29/93
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/animal facility/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls weatherboardroof asphalt shingleother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Hurd House is located on the southeast side of Hulls Hill Road in the village of Southford in the Town of Southbury. Predominately Federal in style, it faces southwest from a commanding position on a rise overlooking a bend in the road (Photograph #s 1, 2). Several contributing outbuildings associated with the property complete this rural estate: a large early bank barn to the east of the house and a long shed and chicken coop to the southeast (Photograph #s 3, 4).

Built as an almost-square four-bay Colonial house with a center chimney (no longer extant) in the late eighteenth century, the William Hurd House has been extensively remodeled over time. The main block was enlarged 12 feet and styled in the Federal manner by about 1820, producing the present asymmetrical five-bay facade. A second interior chimney was added at that time. There are two rear additions: one at the south corner, a separate building attached in the later nineteenth century, and a modern flat-roofed addition at the southeast rear after 1971, which may have replaced a former summer kitchen (Photograph #5). An open porch extends across the rear elevation and is supported by neo-Italianate posts (Photograph #6).

Exterior original Federal-style features include the window caps and the Federal surround on the main door. A typical tripartite doorway found in the region, it displays sidelights and double flanking slim pilasters. A similar door was added on the rear in the twentieth century. The double-hung wooden sash have an unusual arrangement with 12-over-12 windows at the second floor and 8-over-12 on the first floor. Although some may be replacements, the presence of old glass and a consistency of muntin profile indicate that most of the sash are original features.

The interior was remodeled extensively and neo-Federal detailing was added following a fire about 1950 which destroyed much of the first floor of the main block. The basic change to the floor plan was the removal of the original center chimney and the installation of a new staircase in its location. A new fireplace was added in the parlor, served by an exterior chimney on the northeast elevation. Its Colonial Revival mantelpiece has the delicate massing and scale found in the Federal period (Photograph #7).

Although the house has been dated to about 1820 because of its Federal style, some interior features clearly show the earlier Colonial period, especially the large flared posts, now cased in the original main block. Evidence of the enlargement of the building

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William Hurd House, Southbury, Connecticut

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to five bays is also obvious. Only the oldest part has a full foundation, and the east rear room displays a large cased overhead beam, the former end girt of the original structure.

The associated outbuildings are well maintained. The main barn, which is exceptionally large (50' x 46'), was built into the slope and has a stone foundation. Three distinct building stages are represented in this structure. The original gable-roofed section, which probably dates to at least the early nineteenth century, has a large sliding door in the west side which opens onto the path of former farm road. Framed with traditional braced bents, it is sheathed with two layers of vertical siding: an underlayment of scantlings covered by vertical square-edge boards, a construction method often used for early house floors. The barn was enlarged another full bent at the rear and there is a shed-roofed addition along the east side, originally used to house carriages or farm wagons. There are animal stalls for both horses and cows below the main floor and the floor of the shed addition. A fairly recent feature is the ventilating stack which runs from the cupola to the animal floor below grade. A long shed with open bays to the southeast of the barn incorporates an icehouse at the far end and a small cooler used for storing meat at the near end. To the rear of this building is a former chicken coop and a modern swimming pool.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1785 - c. 1820

Significant Dates

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 William Hurd House is a significant example of a Federal-style farmhouse which is further distinguished by its exterior integrity, historic setting, and well-preserved outbuildings. It is locally important for its association with the Hurd and Curtiss families, early settlers of Old Woodbury and Southbury.¹

Architectural Significance

The Federal-style house which is the centerpiece of this exceptionally well-maintained country estate has a significant early building history, one that demonstrates an atypical evolution from the Colonial to the Federal style. Despite the changes made following the fire, the house has retained its structural integrity and an almost perfectly preserved exterior. In addition, late-twentieth-century remodeling of the interior has been sympathetic to the earlier prevailing Federal style.

The retention of all the outbuildings when this farmstead became a rural retreat adds further distinction. Carefully preserved and maintained by a series of twentieth-century owners, they make a significant contribution to the period associations of the property and enhance its significance. Of particular importance is the large bank barn, one of the oldest surviving farm buildings in the area and one of the best preserved of its type. Having survived in its entirety, even to the possible original or very early siding, it is an exceptional demonstration of early-nineteenth-century building practice.

Historical Background

Believed to be one of the earliest houses in the area and built before Southbury became a separate town, this house can be attributed to William Hurd (b. circa 1755). Although the early land records are not definitive, it is probable, given the physical evidence, that it was constructed right after the Revolution, since he married Martha Smith in 1782, the last year of the war. Hurd was a sixth-generation descendant of John Hurd, a settler of Old Woodbury. William Hurd's extensive large landholdings in the area

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records.
- Beers, F. W. Atlas of New Haven County: The Town of Southbury. New York: Beers & Co., 1868.
- Cothren, William F. History of Ancient Woodbury from the First Indian Deed in 1659 to 1871. 3 vols. Waterbury: Bronson Brothers, 1854, 1872; Woodbury: Cothren, 1879.
- Curtis, Harlow Dunham. A Genealogy of the Curtis-Curtiss Family of Stratford, Conn. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1953.
- Curtiss, Frederic Haines. A Genealogy of the Curtiss Family. Boston: Rockwell and Churchill Press, 1903.
- Smith, H. & C.T. Map of New Haven County, Connecticut, 1856.
- Southbury: Townwide Architectural Survey (intensive level). Connecticut Historical Commission, 1990-1991 (compiled by Mary McCahon).

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 5.14

UTM References

A

1	8	6	5	2	4	6	0	4	5	9	0	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Southbury Land Records in Book 236, Page 447, being the same property delineated on Southbury Assessor's Map 49/Block 14/Lot 13.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property encomapss all the land and buildings still associated with the William Hurd House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By _____ **Reviewed by** John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 11/30/92

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were probably inherited from his father and grandfather, who both died within two years of his marriage. Benjamin Hurd, Sr., his grandfather, died in 1783 at age 90 and his son, also Benjamin, William's father, died the following year.

Later land records confirm that the house was owned by the Hurds since it passed to Eunice Hurd Bates in the early nineteenth century and was sold out of the family in 1834. In 1844 it was purchased by Jennet Stiles Curtiss (1791-1875), the widow of Charles Ransom Curtiss (1788-1844) and remained in the Curtiss family until 1926. All descendants of Israel Curtiss, a proprietor of Old Woodbury in 1670, these later family owners were Wales Hatch Curtiss (in 1851), Henry Curtiss (in 1854), and Charles N. Curtiss (in 1903). It is probable that the tavern was attached to the south corner during their ownership. Townspeople recall that this building was originally known as the "Blue Goose Inn" and workers from the papermills in Southford took their meals there.

In 1929 the property was purchased by Walter and Dorothy Hoffman for a country retreat. They began the remodeling the interior of the house in the Colonial Revival style, a process which included the reconstruction of the first floor following the fire. Later owners Max and Betty Fader completed the restoration and built the flat-roofed addition at the rear. The present owners acquired the property in 1989.

1. Old Woodbury is the name commonly used to differentiate the larger colonial town (173 square miles) from the smaller present-day Town of Woodbury. Until after the Revolution, Old Woodbury also encompassed the parishes which became the towns of Washington (incorporated 1779), Southbury and Bethlehem (both incorporated 1787), and Roxbury (incorporated 1796).