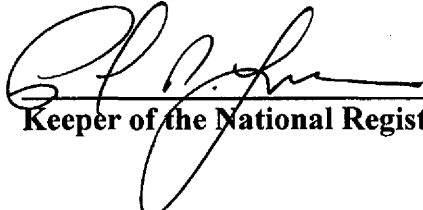


United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, the Kelsey, Ezekiel, House in Hartford County, Connecticut, reference number 77001410, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 09/16/1977, 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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ezekiel Kelsey House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 429 Beckley Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

1st - William R. Cotter

STATE

Connecticut

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Harrison Sanders

STREET & NUMBER
429 Beckley Road

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Berlin Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER
Kensington Road

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

STATE
CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE
CT

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Open fields with wooded borders provide the setting for the Ezekiel Kelsey House. Since the middle of the 18th century this property has been farmland and has had nearly the same dimensions, running back from Beckley Road to the ridge east of the house. Clustered in the middle of this tract are the house and in the rear, a small barn and shed. Around the house are planted a variety of shrubs, and further away are shade trees and a stone wall.

The house itself dates from the middle of the 18th century and is of the "saltbox" form, 2½ stories high, one room deep with a lean-to across the rear. Its modern-shingled roof has a continuous pitch. This was accomplished through the addition of an extra rear plate. There is an overhang of 4 - 6 inches above both the first and second stories on all three sides. The clapboards stop against beaded corner boards and extend almost to the ground, concealing the fieldstone foundation. Underneath are soft bricks filling in the spaces between studs. The central stack, brick above the first story, emerges with most of its depth behind the ridge. The main facade is of the five-window type. Its small windows are widely spaced and located close to the overhangs. The 12/8 sash was copied from remnants. The front doorway has a batten door, no transom and like the windows is surrounded by plain frames. The cornice and overhangs, however, are finished with simple moldings. There is an entrance with a paneled door on the south side, and in the rear, a door and a single window.

The interior has a great deal of original material, especially the north front room. The fireplace wall is completely covered with a simple arrangement of rectangular panels. Surrounding the opening are a series of raised moldings and at the top left there is a small open cupboard. The panelling is continued beneath the chair rail. The summer beam and other structural members are encased; a molded cornice runs the perimeter of the room and continues along the summer. In the north-west corner is a cupboard, with a round-arched opening above and a single door beneath. It has three of the usual curved shelves. Surrounding the whole is a raised molding; breaks in this and the room cornice form a key block ornament at the top of the arch.

The other front room has similar woodwork, including the cased beams and panelling. The brick fireplace is smaller and has a molded mantelshelf, probably later work. The kitchen has a large fireplace above which are three cupboards, the middle one very long. This wall is made up of featheredged vertical boards, whereas the walls of the adjacent south back room have horizontal boards. Upstairs the innermost walls of the chambers are of wide vertical boards. These rooms are very plain, with unfinished beams and posts. Only the north upper room has a fireplace, small and without any elaboration. Whereas the lower rooms have doors with four raised panels, the upper rooms have batten doors.

The original fabric of the house has been complemented by careful restoration. These include replaced summer moldings in the south front room, vertical wainscot like the kitchen's applied to one wall of the south rear room, replacement of some boards in the north upper room's wainscotting, and most of the hardware, old but not from this house. The front stairs have been turned around. Future plans include exposing the old oak floor beneath the modern one in the north front room. These restorations, together with the well-kept plaster and appropriate furnishings, enhance the historical character of the house.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ezekiel Kelsey House is a significant architectural resource because it is an excellent example of the saltbox form. The double overhang, the five-window facade, the small size of the windows, and the sweeping roofline give the house a plain and simple appearance. At the same time, the moldings under the overhangs and the beaded corner boards distinguish this simplicity from crudeness. The stone wall, open fields and informal landscaping contribute to the effect, as does the interior woodwork. The panelling and beam casings are crisply executed, with no pretension, classical allusion or over-elaboration, but careful workmanship all the same. Many of the house's features are in themselves significant historical remains, such as the brick in the walls or the corner cupboard, a cousin to contemporary fluted and shell-carved cupboards. The value of this material is increased by the context provided by this house, however, since it typifies the simple dignity of early Connecticut architecture.

Although the house has a very early appearance, its form and fenestration were quite common in Berlin throughout the 18th century, with examples dating from 1780 as well as 1720.¹ This house, built around 1760, may be seen as a representative of a local building tradition which does not fit with evolutionary theories of the development of houseforms.

The house was built by Ezekiel Kelsey (1713-1795) either for himself or for his son Asahel, to whom he gave the dwelling in 1768. The elder Kelsey was granted this lot in 1753 by a division of Wethersfield common land. In addition to his activities as a farmer, Ezekiel owned a share in a saw mill and also knew the trades of the cooper and the carpenter-joiner.²

¹The W.P.A. census of historic buildings, done in the 1930's, did not list this house but did list four very similar structures nearby. Most had undergone much alteration. Manuscript in State Library, Hartford.

²The house has never been researched before, as far as can be determined, but the information reported herein can be derived with substantial certainty from the legal records cited.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berlin Land Records; before 1785, Wethersfield Records, especially 9:382.
 Berlin Probate Records, estates of Ezekiel (1795) and Asahel (1812) Kelsey.
 Claypool, Edward et al. A Geneology of the Descendents of William Kelsey. 3 vols.
 New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Company, 1928.
 Marshall, Charles W. "Salt Box Colonial, Beckley Quarter, Berlin, Connecticut,"

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Type script, Yale University, 1964.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 15

U

A

C

B See continuation sheet

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference can be made to Berlin Land Records, Vol. 103, p. 529. The lot is geographically bounded by Beckley Road and the ridge to the east.

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 Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Connecticut Historical Commission</u>	<u>August 30, 1976</u>

STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>59 South Prospect Street</u>	<u>(203) 566-3005</u>

CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Hartford</u>	<u>CT</u>

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 SHPO

DATE 1/28/77

FDR 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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

1

Ezekiel Kelsey House, Berlin, CT

UTM Coordinates:

- A. 18/689664/4611059
- B. 18/689738/4610939
- C. 18/689720/4610584
- D. 18/689602/4610558
- E. 18/689540/4611040