

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: 91001923 Date Listed: 01/17/92

Atwater--Linton House New Haven CT  
Property Name County 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

1/17/92  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Criteria**

Criterion A has not been justified and has been deleted as such.

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

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

1993

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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Atwater-Linton House
other names/site number Appledore
Atwater, Jared, House

2. Location

street & number 1804 State Street
city, town Hamden
state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06517

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0

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 of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 11/25/91
State or Federal agency and bureau: Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 1-17-92

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

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LATE VICTORIAN/gothic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

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walls weatherboard

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roof asphalt shingles

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Atwater-Linton House is a small center-chimney Cape-style building constructed about 1785 (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3). It is set back from the west side of State Street on approximately one-half acre, just south of a commercial strip. It is the oldest house in this section of Hamden and formerly occupied a larger farm property of about 30 acres that overlooked the Quinnipiac Meadows and contained an apple orchard (no longer extant) on the slope of East Rock. Neighboring houses on both sides of the street date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Although it was extensively remodeled in the Victorian period, the Atwater-Linton House has generally retained its original form and structural features. The clapboarded original main block (34' x 28) has a ridge-to street orientation with a gable roof that flares at the eaves, a Dutch influence found in other houses of this period in Hamden. Bolection molding runs along the eaves, rake, and single remaining cornice return at the southwest corner. The front overhang extends about two feet beyond the plane of the facade wall and is now supported by twentieth-century wrought-iron open-work posts, replacements for earlier slim wooden columns.<sup>1</sup> The original central chimney stack remains at the ridge, along with the original kitchen chimney, now stuccoed, which extends from the rear slope of the roof.

Late-nineteenth-century changes to the exterior include the addition of a one-story bay window on the north elevation with a flared metal roof and a sawtooth bargeboard, a Victorian detail also applied to the cornice of the main roof and dormers. The two original pedimented dormers on the front elevation are sheathed with imbricated wood shingles. Also in this period a double-leaf glazed and panelled door was installed as a replacement for the front door. Window configurations include six-over-six sash in the gable peaks (probably original), one-over-one double-hung sash at the second floor, and tall narrow double casement windows installed on the facade and part of the south elevation about 1880. The small extension to the rear and an open porch on the south elevation, supported by the same metal posts found on the facade, were mid-twentieth-century alterations.

The original framing and floorplan have been retained, but much of the interior first-floor detailing of the house also dates from the circa 1880 period. The

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hearth of the dining room is supported from below by angled supports projecting from a rubblestone chimney base. The original floor joists in the cellar are debarked logs and carry original two-layer flooring (finish boards over scantlings), except in the room at the rear northwest corner, where it has been replaced.

Fireplace surrounds in both the dining and the living rooms were remodeled in the late nineteenth century. Each has a shallow brick firebox, now faced around the opening with modern brick. The bolection molding framing the opening of the parlor fireplace may be original, but the mantel shelf above, supported by two sawn brackets, was added (Photograph #4). Chair rails have been installed in the first-floor rooms, including the living room, hall, and dining room. In the latter room, the mantel surround has been replaced (Photograph #5). The staircase which rises from the hall behind the chimney stack now has a typical turned balustrade (Photograph #6). Entrance to the hall is from a side door on the south elevation. Arched plastered openings have been installed between rooms at the rear of the house.

On the second floor, the general layout and original plastered walls and ceiling remain. An unusual feature is the location of the bedroom fireplace in the chamber above the parlor. The one fireplace at this level, it butts up against the southwest corner of the room, just inside the doorway. Another feature displayed on this level is the placement of two cased collar beams which run from front to back on either side of the stack. Instead of being incorporated into partition walls, as might be expected, they project from the ceiling and are set about four inches inside the front rooms.

1. The house with columns is shown in a collection of photographs taken for a historic house survey in Hamden, a program of the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.

**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  
ART  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1870 - 1897  
1870 - 1897  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

William James Linton (1812 -1897)

Architect/Builder

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Atwater-Linton House is primarily significant for its association with William James Linton (1812-1897), an internationally known English-born artist, engraver, author, and political reformer, who lived in the house from 1870 until his death. Linton was a prolific author and friend of major literary figures on both sides of the Atlantic; collections of his published works are located in the British Museum and Yale University. The house achieves architectural significance because of the remodeling carried out by Linton in the Victorian period and its late-nineteenth-century integrity.

Historical Significance

The Atwater-Linton House was built by Jared Atwater (1758-1813), a descendant of David Atwater, a settler of New Haven, on land conveyed to him in 1781 by his father, also David. Land on both sides of the highway in this area had belonged to this family since the mid-seventeenth century. This house was owned in the mid-nineteenth century by the Mather family who gave a lifetime lease to William Linton in 1870.

William J. Linton was born in London and educated in Stratford, where he apprenticed to learn the trade of a wood engraver.<sup>1</sup> By 1842, in partnership with John Orrin Smith, another master engraver, he was employed by the Illustrated London News. Linton, a pioneer of the labor movement, also utilized his talents as a writer and engraver on behalf of the Chartists, a group opposed to the monarchy that agitated for universal suffrage without property restrictions in England. As one of the leaders of this group, Linton had the honor of conveying the congratulations of English workers to the provisional government of France after the revolution of 1848. Also a friend of Garibaldi and other Italian nationalists, he first came to the United States in 1866 to raise money for their cause.

By 1867 Linton had sold his English home, "Brantwood," to John Ruskin and come to New York, where he established a wood engraving school at the Cooper Institute.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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:

Miller Memorial Library, Hamden  
Yale University Library, New Haven

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .6

UTM References

A 

1	8
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6	7	7	6	7	0
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4	5	7	7	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Hamden Land Records, Vol. 1120, page 299, located in the Town Clerk's Office of the Hamden Town Hall.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the buildings and the land remaining from the approximately 10 acres that was historically associated with this property during William James Linton's tenure. Most of the property was sold off in the twentieth century for residential development.

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 March, 1991  
street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (203) 347-4072  
city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

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During his three years in the city, he became a member of several major American art organizations: the Century Association (aka Century Club), the National Academy of Design, and sometime later, the Water Color Society.

In 1870 Linton moved to Hamden and leased the Atwater House, which he named "Appledore" for the orchards on the hill behind the house. Abandoning the role of a radical labor reformer, he turned almost exclusively to writing and engraving. More than 130 publications were written and printed by Linton at the Appledore Press, which it is believed he established in an outbuilding on this property (no longer extant).<sup>2</sup> His best known work, The Masters of Wood Engraving, based on two years of research at the British Museum, was illustrated with his own engravings and was printed by Linton himself on his hand press, which is now in the possession of the Hamden Historical Society.<sup>3</sup> One of the four originals of this work is in the British Museum, another at Yale University Library. The latter institution presented Linton with an honorary master's degree for this accomplishment.

During his almost 30-year sojourn in Hamden, Linton maintained an extensive correspondence with many major international literary figures. In addition to Ruskin, who was a lifelong friend, other English poets and authors whom he knew well included Thomas Carlyle, Robert Browning, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and the poet-painter, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. George Sand (pseudonym of Amadine Aurore Lucie Dupin, Baroness Dudevant), the French novelist, allowed Linton to translate her work. Walt Whitman was a close friend in the United States. He also knew John Greenleaf Whittier, Bret Harte, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, whom he first met in London. Linton's library at Appledore contained autographed books which had been presented to him by many of these authors. Linton died in 1897 and was interred in the cemetery located a few blocks north of the house on State Street.

### Architectural Significance

The distinctive Victorian cottage created by William Linton has integrity of form, materials, and feeling. It is demonstrably consistent with his artistic philosophy. Like many late nineteenth-century Romantics, Linton found his inspiration in nature for both his engravings and writing. Linton was attracted to the Hamden house in the late nineteenth century by its then essentially rural setting, which recalled for him the ambiance of the English countryside.<sup>4</sup> In his view the late-eighteenth-century Cape-style Atwater House replicated the form of an English cottage; he set about to enhance the cottage atmosphere by the application of Victorian detail, most notably sawtooth bargeboarding and imbricated shingles. The installation of tall casement windows made a substantial change in the atmosphere of house. Not only did they brighten the interior, but they also allowed

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more direct communication with the outdoors. The only change to the building facade since Linton's time has been the installation of wrought-iron posts, a reversible alteration.

1. For this and the following see William Todd, "William James Linton," Publications of the Hamden Historical Society, No. 1., 1938. Todd's source for his biographical information was the Encyclopedia Britannica (volume, page, and date not cited), which acclaimed Linton as the master engraver of his time. For a more recent biography see Francis Barrymore Smith, Radical Artisan: William James Linton 1812-1897, (Manchester, England: Manchester University Press, 1973).
2. Thirty of these works were donated by Linton to the British Museum. A more complete collection, owned by a friend, William Hopson of New Haven, was donated to Yale University Library.
3. A photograph of Linton at his press is reproduced in Todd, "William James Linton."
4. Ibid., p. 25.

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Hamden, Connecticut: Whitney Press, 1986 (for the Hamden Historical Society).

Blake, William P. History of the Town of Hamden, Connecticut with an Account of the  
Centennial Celebration June 15th 1886. New Haven: Price, Lee & Co., 1888.

Dickerman, J. H. "Hamden." Connecticut Quarterly Vol IV. (January to December,  
1898): 377-390.

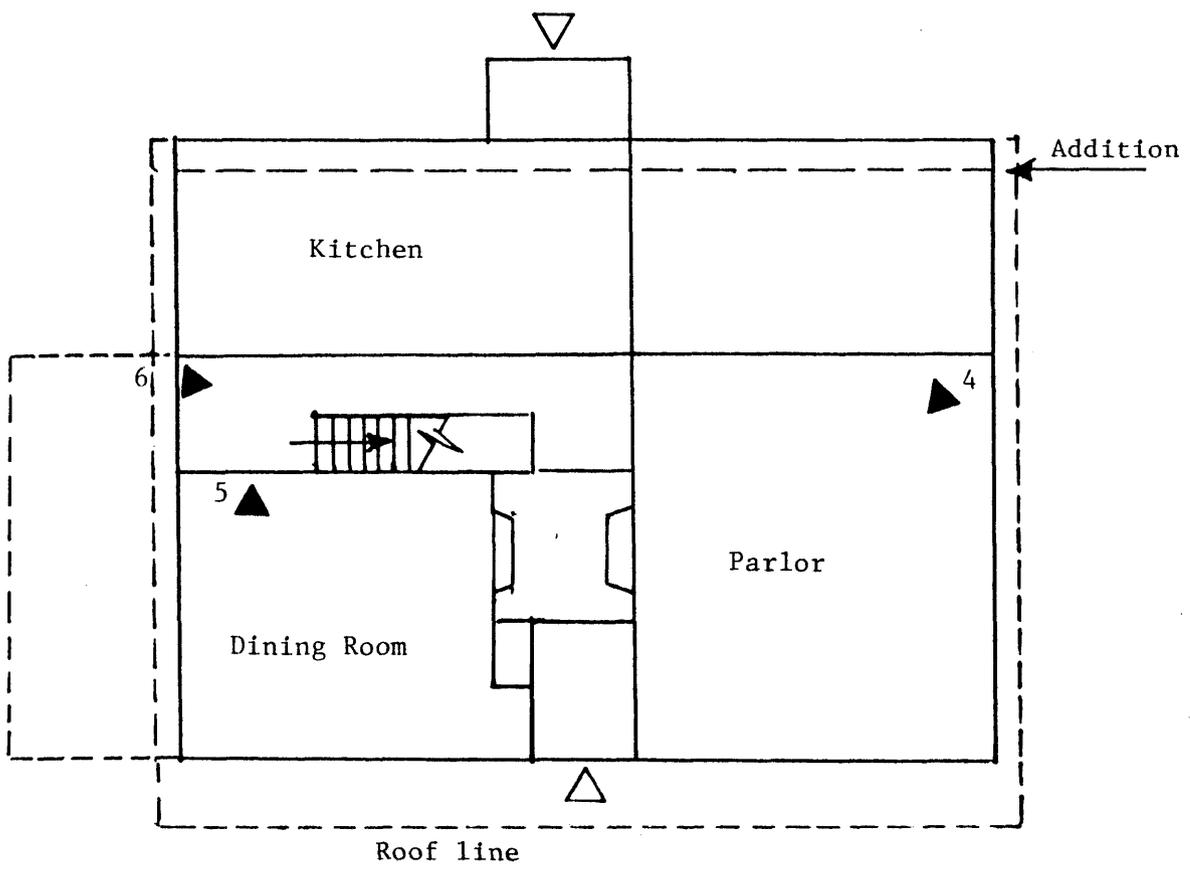
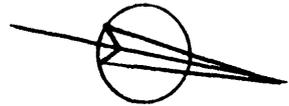
Hamden Historical Society, Jared Atwater House File.

Hartley, Rachel M. The History of Hamden, Connecticut, 1786-1936. Hamden, 1943.

Smith, Francis Barrymore. Radical Artisan: William James Linton, 1812-1897.  
Manchester, England: Manchester University Press, 1973.

Todd, William. "William James Linton." Publications of the Hamden Historical  
Society, No. 1. (1938): 22-27.

3



2

1

Exhibit A

Atwater-Linton House  
Hamden, Connecticut

Schematic diagram first floor  
Photograph views numbered

Cunningham Associates 3/91

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List of Photographs

Property: Atwater-Linton House, Hamden, Connecticut

Photographer: Cunningham Associates Ltd.

Date: 2/91

Negatives on File: Connecticut Historical Commission

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. House and Site<br>Facing: NW           | 2. House and Site<br>Facing: SW    |
| 3. Rear and south elevations<br>Facing: W | 4. Parlor<br>Facing: SE            |
| 5. Dining Room<br>Facing: NE              | 6. Hall and Staircase<br>Facing: N |