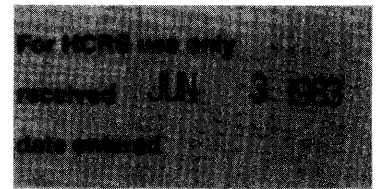


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Simon Tiffany House

and/or common Ebenezer Tiffany House

2. Location

street & number Darling Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut code 09 county New London code 011

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence <input type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
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4. Owner of Property

name Wesley M. and Mary E. Sherer

street & number RFD # 3, Darling Road

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salem Town Clerk, Town Office Building

street & number Route 85, RFD # 3

city, town Salem state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Simon Tiffany house is a two-story frame dwelling constructed in a vernacular version of the late colonial style of architecture. On Darling Road (formerly the Salem-Hamburg Turnpike) in Salem, Connecticut, the Tiffany house is in a rural area. The house and its two associated out-buildings are isolated visually from the other residences scattered along Darling Road. Facing the road to the northwest, the house is built on ground which rises to the northeast (Photograph 1). Stone walls on the slope both above and below the house create a terraced effect. The Tiffany house rests on a fieldstone foundation and is rectangular in plan. A small ell or "summer kitchen" at the rear of the house has a more recent addition attached (Photograph 2). The gambrel roof of the house is pierced by three dormers at both the front and rear. A central chimney is built of brick above the roofline.

The front of the Tiffany house has a centrally placed nine-panelled door. Four windows, two on either side of the door, create a symmetrical appearance, although the windows are not evenly spaced. Nine-over-9 double-hung sash is used in these windows (Photograph 1). A heavy crown molding beneath the eaves extends across the front of the house, terminating before meeting the corners. This molding projects over the windows and the entrance to form lintels (Photograph 3). The cornice above this also features a heavy crown molding. The three dormers in the roof have 12-over-12 double-hung sash.

The northeast side of the house has two windows on both the first and second floors. Twelve-over-12 double-hung sash is used in these window openings. Pintles for shutters are present around all window openings in the house. A small attic window, once containing 3-over-3 double-hung sash, has a louver in the opening (Photograph 4). A four-panelled door near the back corner of this side has a wooden shelf or hood projecting above it. The rake boards beneath the eaves on both sides of the house have molded edges.

The southeast side of the house is similar to the northeast (Photograph 1). A stone-lined entrance to a batten cellar door is cut into the slope here. The first floor has three irregularly spaced windows. These and the two second floor windows have 12-over-12 double-hung sash. The attic window has a louver in the opening which replaces the earlier 3-over-3 double-hung sash.

The rear of the Tiffany house has windows with 12-over-12 double-hung sash on either side of the ell or summer kitchen (Photograph 2). The three dormers in the roof have 6-over-6 double-hung sash in contrast to the 12-over-12 sash used in the front dormers. These may represent the original sash used in the dormers. The one-story ell has an attached brick chimney on the southwest side. In 1967, the ell was substantially remodelled and an addition slightly larger in width and height attached to it. A photograph taken in 1940 reveals the original extent of the ell (Photograph 5). The outside entrance to the ell was removed in the 1967 remodelling and new doors placed in the addition. Nine-pane casement windows on the side of the ell were retained. The addition contains windows on each side with 8-over-8 double-hung sash. Four large plate glass windows with false mullions are grouped together at the end of the addition.

The interior plan of the Tiffany house is characteristic of most 18th- and early 19th-century center chimney homes. (See accompanying sketch plan). On

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the first floor, a passage or hall entered by the front door leads to the stairs and to the sitting room and parlor on either side. The rear of the main part of the house is occupied by a large kitchen. This was probably once divided into two separate rooms. A stairway leading from the kitchen to the second floor has been altered, presumably when the back was made into a single room. The one-story ell or summer kitchen has been expanded by the 1967 addition to form a modern kitchen and dining room.

The second floor has two bedrooms in the front of the house divided by the chimney and the upper passage. The southwest bedroom extends to the rear of the house where closets and a bathroom were added about 1967. The north-east front bedroom is divided by the rear stairway and hall from a smaller bedroom and bathroom in the rear.

Woodwork throughout the house has been stripped to a natural finish, probably during the occupancy of the Sheffield family, from 1924 to 1932. All interior doors are four-panelled. Hand-forged H-and-L hinges are used for all interior doors.

The stairway in the first floor passage has an octagonal handrail with a bottom groove to receive the square upright posts. (Photograph 6). Curved decorative pieces terminating in round steps are placed under the treads. (Photograph 7). Below the risers, a molded wooden strip parallels the handrail and is set into the plaster. A closet door has been added under the stairs. Unlike the woodwork throughout the remainder of the house, woodwork in the passage is painted.

The parlor has a chair rail set in the plaster walls. Corner posts are cased with beaded molding (Photograph 8). The parlor fireplace features a Federal style mantel-piece. (Photograph 9). An unusual feature is the presence of four-panelled inside shutters, which run on grooves set into the chair rail and the end gird or front wall plate. (Photograph 10). One glass pane in the parlor windows has the inscription "Richard Tiffany" scratched into it.

The sitting room is similar to the parlor in its decoration. The mantelpiece is simpler in design, and a panelled dado is present beneath the chair rail. Next to the fireplace is a cupboard door which once led to the space under the rise of the stairs. This has been blocked off to accommodate the new closet opening from the passage or hall.

The kitchen, extending across the entire length of the house, has a large stone fireplace with a built-in brick oven (Photograph 11). Below the oven, which has a cast-iron door, is a wooden cupboard with shelves. The cupboard door is fastened with leather hinges. The chimney and end girds protrude from the plaster ceilings and walls and are enclosed by beaded casings. A chair rail and dado runs around the room. The stairway to the second floor shows evidence of alteration. It is possible that a new stairway was built during the Sheffield occupancy, utilizing material from the dismantling of a partition wall in the kitchen. This must remain speculation, however.

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The second floor is far simpler in decoration than the first. The northeast and southwest bedrooms have fireplaces with simple wooden molding forming mantelpieces. Purlin posts in beaded casings are located at each corner of the house. These, with the mantelpieces, form the decorative elements of the second floor.

The large central chimney dominates both the basement and attic. The mortarless fieldstone foundation of the chimney in the basement contains an ashpit used for storage of wood ash. In the attic, which is extremely small owing to the pitch of the roof, a smoke chamber is attached to the chimney. This chamber retains its wooden door and a wooden crosspiece with wrought iron hooks attached.

The garage is a one-story outbuilding with four bays, three for automobiles and a smaller bay set back from the rest, which functions as a workshop (Photograph 12). The bays are semi-elliptical with wood keystones. Each of the double doors has large iron hinges. The floor of the garage is paved with flagstones. The other outbuilding, a former barn, has been extensively altered (Photograph 13). Originally on a fieldstone foundation, the barn was sided with wooden shingles. The present casement windows were probably added in the 1930s. These have been retained by the present owner, who has added a new concrete foundation and new flush siding.

Two fieldstone foundations near the present outbuildings probably represent earlier outbuildings no longer extant. One has been used for gardening purposes, part of the foundations serving as a garden wall. The other foundation seems relatively undisturbed. At the rear of the property is a pond excavated by the present owners in 1979. Near the house is a well of fieldstone with an accompanying well sweep (Photographs 2 and 5). This well was at first capped only with a large stone with a hole in the center. Ralph Bellamy, owner of the property from 1933 to 1939, apparently built the new portion of the structure above this capstone. Flat stones for seats were incorporated into the design. A fieldstone fireplace to the northeast of the house is also said to have been constructed for Bellamy. An interesting feature is a root cellar built into the stonework terrace near this fireplace. Penetrating about ten feet into the hillside, this root cellar is undoubtedly contemporary with the Tiffany house itself. The entrance is roughly two feet by three feet. The root cellar itself is lined with stone and extends about 10 to 12 feet into the hillside.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c1793–1803, 1920s **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) (Criterion C and Criterion A)

(Criterion C). The Simon Tiffany house is an excellent vernacular example of late colonial architecture. Although simple in design, the Tiffany house has many features typical of the late 1700s: exterior crown molding, staircase molding, mantelpieces, chair rails and dado, and inside shutters all reflect the Federal period. Both design and workmanship are of a high quality as revealed by these details. Also significant is the restoration of the house in the early 20th-century, providing insight into early 20th-century restoration philosophy. (Criterion A). The Tiffany family, early settlers of the northeast corner of the town of Lyme, later Salem, were closely associated with the development of the area. Ebenezer Tiffany, father of Simon, purchased the farm from the confiscated estate of William Brown, a Tory, in 1786. His descendants continued to farm the land during the 19th-century. The Tiffany house represents a typical farmhouse of the period, still preserved in a rural context.

Like many late colonial buildings, the Tiffany house is symmetrical in appearance, with paired windows on either side of the front door. This symmetrical aspect is also maintained by the three domers of the roof (Photograph 1). The windows are, however, slightly uneven in spacing. The nine-panelled front door, characteristic of the late 18th-century, may be a replacement. Of particular interest is the crown molding above the windows. This projects over the window openings and door to form lintels, an attractive, though subtle, design feature (Photograph 3).

The interior of the Tiffany house contains several noteworthy features. The staircase molding is simple but effective, the curved wooden molding terminating in rounded stops. (Photograph 7). A simplified version of the more complex staircase moldings found in wealthy homes of the period, this is a very attractive design feature. Fireplace mantelpieces are also good examples of the Federal style, although less elaborate than might be found in wealthier urban houses (Photograph 9). The inside shutters are an unusual feature. The more common form of inside shutter is the folding variety. Sliding shutters, as found in the Tiffany house, are rarer, and are usually formed of two pieces rather than one large shutter (Photograph 10). The use of chair rails and dados helps unify the interior woodwork, forming a continuous band around each first floor room. In the kitchen, the cased posts and girds contrast with white plaster walls and ceilings to create a striking effect (Photograph 11).

In 1924, the Tiffany house and farm was acquired by Edith Chappell Sheffield, who restored the house. A photograph taken during the Sheffield occupancy reveals the house in a partial stage of restoration. (Photograph 14). The window sash are painted white, while the clapboard appears to have been stripped prior to repainting. The present white paint was probably applied at this time. One effect of the white paint is to mask unevenly spaced window openings, giving a more uniform appearance to the house. The inside woodwork was stripped during this period, a fairly common treatment in early restoration work.

The inside shutters, which had been consigned to the attic, were replaced by the Sheffields. These had undoubtedly been removed when outside shutters made them redundant. As the 1940 photograph shows, the outside shutters were of an early 20th-century type (Photograph 5).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lyme Land Records, Vol. 19, page 233; Vol. 22, pages 232, 306; Vol. 25 page 192, Vol. 28 page 24.
Perkins, Mary E. Chronicles of a Connecticut Farm, 1769-1905. Boston: The Merrymount Press, 1905.
Salem Land Records, Volume 2, page 596; Vol. 5, page 366.
Salem Probate Records, Volume 1, pages 336-7. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4

Quadrangle name Hamburg

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

A complete boundary description may be found in the Salem Land Records, Volume 19, page 349, in the office of the Town Clerk, Salem, Connecticut. The boundary includes the present four acres, which are cleared and landscaped.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nominations Consultant, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization N/A date December 3, 1982

street & number 32 Starr Street telephone (203) 443-4751

city or town New London 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date May 17, 1983

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/30/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Original doors and hardware as well as the interior woodwork and detailing were retained by the Sheffields. It is likely that the present ell windows were added at this time. The quality of the work done was of a very high standard, respecting the integrity of the house. The restoration coincides with awakening interest in careful restoration by such architects as J. Frederick Kelly. The quality of work done to the house indicates the hand of a trained professional. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest who was responsible for the work. 1.

The major alteration to the house was the creation of a single large room at the rear of the house. This room, combining the kitchen and a smaller room, is nonetheless of interest. Visually, the alternation of dark posts and girds with the light plaster walls and ceiling is aesthetically pleasing. The removal of the partitions dividing the rear of the house in three allows more light to enter, heightening the effect. (Photograph 11). The creation of this room was doubtless of benefit to the Sheffields, a wealthy family who presumably did much entertaining.

The Tiffany family was long associated with the northeast section of the town of Lyme, incorporated as Salem in 1819. In the early 18th-century, Colonel Samuel Brown acquired thousands of acres of land in this area. As early as 1724, Ephraim Tiffany signed an agreement with Brown to improve of portion of this property as a tenant. By mid-century, Ebenezer Tiffany is found in residence on the land. During the American Revolution, Colonel Brown's son, William Brown, fled the state. His holdings were confiscated by the state in 1779. In 1786, Ebenezer Tiffany purchased over 500 acres of land, with the house and outbuildings already occupied by him, from the State of Connecticut. 2.

Ebenezer Tiffany, now the owner of the farm he had formerly leased, soon began to apportion land to his sons. In 1791, he granted 77 acres to his son Ebenezer Tiffany, Jr., who had already constructed a house on the acreage. Ebenezer's will, made out in 1793, divided the remainder of the land between his four sons, giving each an approximately equal share in the estate. Although the will was not proved until 1799, there is a strong possibility that the other sons, like Ebenezer Tiffany, Jr., built on their portions before actually coming into possession. Simon Tiffany received about 100 acres at the southwest end of the farm, corresponding to the present location of the house. 3.

In 1803, Simon Tiffany sold his property to his brothers Seth and Abner prior to removing to Vermont. After several transactions, the land and buildings were acquired by Ebenezer Tiffany, Jr. in 1813. Although the property records are vague, it would appear that Simon built a house on the land between 1793 and 1803, a supposition confirmed by the physical evidence of the house itself. The farm remained in the hands of the Tiffany family until 1895, Richard Tiffany received the house and lot from his father Ebenezer Tiffany, Jr. in 1817. The remainder of the farm was deeded to Richard in 1843, **four** years before his father's death. Charles Tiffany, Richard's son, inherited the farm on the death of his father in 1864. After Charles' decease in 1895, the farm was sold by his widow and children to a local farmer. 4.

The Tiffanys engaged in general farming, raising a variety of livestock and cereals. In 1850, the annual products of the farm were listed as 30 bushels of rye, 30 bushels of Indian corn, 20 bushels of oats, 40 pounds of wool, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100

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pounds of butter, 100 pounds of cheese, and 16 tons of hay. Livestock included one horse, 6 milch cows, 4 oxen, 9 other cattle, 18 sheep, and 3 swine. 5. In 1860, the figures were similar, although the general output seems to have increased. 6.

The Simon Tiffany house reflects its farmhouse origins in the smoke chamber in the attic and the ash pit in the chimney foundation. The root cellar nearby is also a common feature of farmsteads. Although the two outbuildings are not contemporary with the house, they do add to its character. The rural setting of the Tiffany house, isolated from its neighbors and surrounded by stone walls or fences, is typical of early 19th-century rural areas.

Footnotes

1. Peter Sheffield, son of the owners, recalled that the shutters had been discovered in the attic and replaced on their tracks. Unfortunately, as he was a young child at the time, he does not recall much else concerning the restoration. Interview with Mary E. Sherer, September 23, 1982.
- b2. Perkins, Mary E. Chronicles of a Connecticut Farm, 1769-1905. Boston: The Merrymount Press, 1905, pages 19, 47, 51-2, 209, 210. Perkins calculates the total acreage owned by Browne in Salem to have been 8,036 acres, 11 rods.
3. Lyme Land Records, Volume 19, page 233, Probate Records, Estate of Ebenezer Tiffany, New London Probate Court, 1799, no. 5278 in Connecticut State Library.
4. Lyme Land Records, Volume 22, page 306, 232; Volume 24, page 333; Volume 25, page 192, Volume 28, page 24. Salem Land Records, Volume 2, page 596, 5, page 366; Salem Probate Records, Volume 1, page 336-7.

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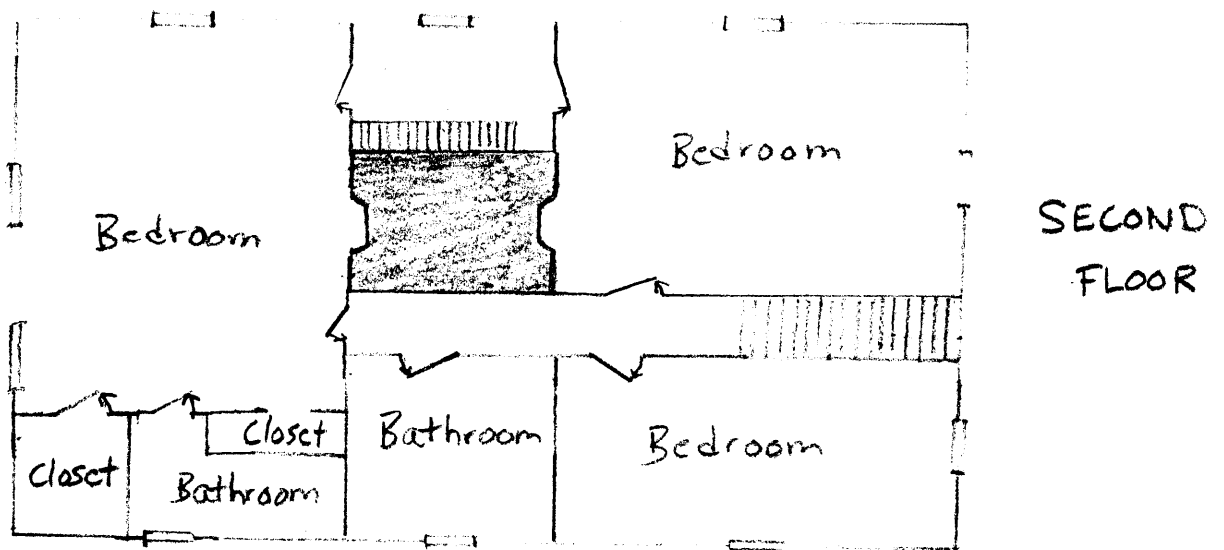
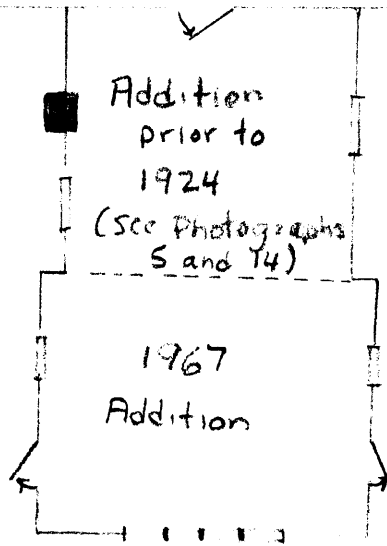
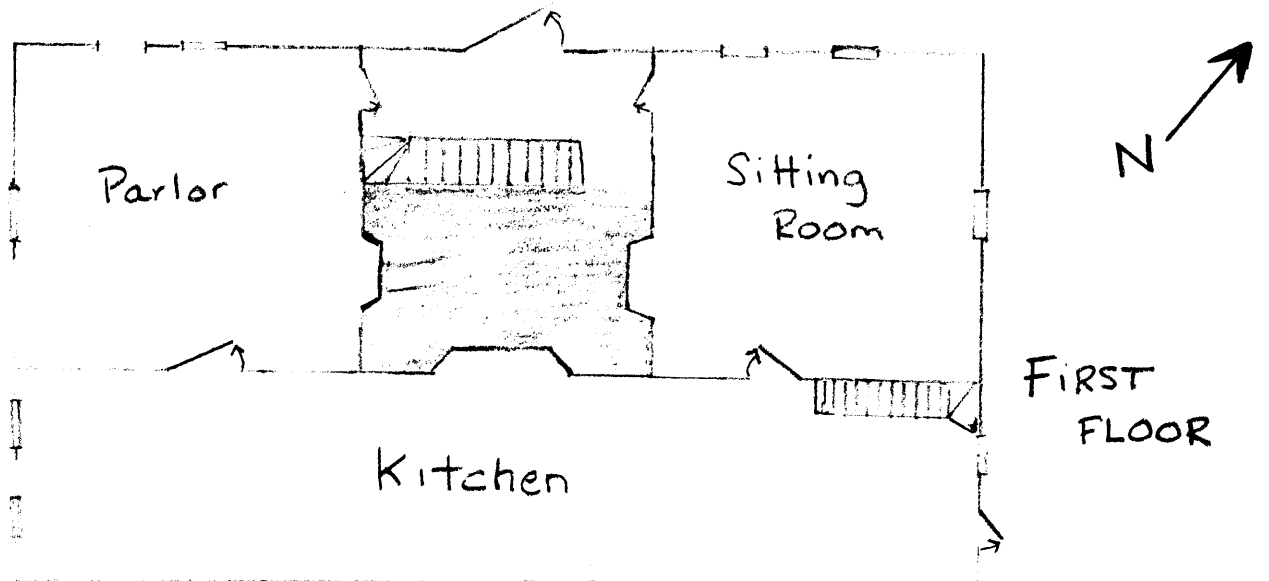
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Bibliography (continued)

Sheffield, Peter. Interview with Mary E. Sherer, September 23, 1982.

Tiffany, Ebenezer. Probate Records of Estate of Ebenezer Tiffany, New London Probate Court, 1799. File No. 5278 in the Connecticut State Library.



Simon Tiffany House
Salem, Ct

not to scale