

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET PH0280453

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |            |
| RECEIVED         | OCT 8 1975 |
| 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 Thomas Lyman House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Middlefield Road

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Durham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#2 - Christopher Dodd

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

02

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

007

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED   | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL                  |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT                |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT                   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL                   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                     |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                       |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mary S. Winder and Lillian S. Hardy

STREET & NUMBER

Middlefield Road

CITY, TOWN

Durham

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Durham

STATE

Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1956

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

## 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

A quarter of a mile west and on the east side of Middlefield Road in Durham, Connecticut is the Lyman House. Barely visible through the trees, it is set seventy-five feet back and perpendicular to the road, so that the main elevation faces south.

It is a two and a half story, five bay, clapboard house with an overhang above the first floor and typical 12/12 window sashes. The front entry is very simply framed and has a five paned light surmounting the door. A small classical, Doric porch shields this main doorway. All of these characteristics, as well as the central hall interior plan, are common to many colonial Connecticut houses. However, this home, built in the late eighteenth century, is covered with a truncated hip roof with two chimneys and two dormers.

The Lyman house is joined to the east by a one and a half story clapboard ell with a bell cast gabel roof. Though it has been altered somewhat by the present owner, the ell still retains its original character.

Because of its unusual design the Lyman House seems a large sprawling home, though it also has a very neat and controlled appearance. These characteristics combined make the Lyman House an extremely impressive structure.

# 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/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 *circa 1771* BUILDER/ARCHITECT *Thomas Lyman IV*

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Lyman House was built upon land once called Coginchaug which was granted to citizens who had done a service to the colony in war or peace. Taking its name from the swamp west of Durham, Coginchaug was an unclaimed tract of land, remaining after the boundaries of the surrounding towns had been delineated. Three hundred acres of this land was granted to James Richards.

A portion of this land was bought by Thomas Lyman and his son, Thomas Lyman II in 1709; and they built houses near the swamp. Thomas Lyman II owned an interest in a sawmill across the swamp in addition to his farm and served as a representative in the Assembly for several terms in the 1720's.

Thomas Lyman, III, was born in 1715 and it is his son, Thomas Lyman IV, to whom the building of the Lyman House is ascribed. In 1774 Thomas Lyman, IV, accompanied his cousin, a former Major-general of the Connecticut forces, Phineas Lyman, to Mississippi where General Lyman, his son Phineas and another cousin, James, went to claim a grant of land. After his two cousins and nephew died in the South, Thomas Lyman, IV, moved back to Durham. During the Revolutionary War Thomas marched to Boston as quartermaster of the First Connecticut Regiment.

Upon returning from war he settled down with his wife, Rachel Seward, on property inherited from his brother Stephen who died in 1775. It is at this stage in Thomas' life that the hip roofed house is thought to have been built.

Because "the hip roof was not extensively used in Colonial Connecticut and is particularly rare in rural areas"- the Lyman House is an especially intriguing home. "It is not known how long Thomas Lyman remained in the South following the death of General Lyman but it is highly possible that his architectural ideas stemmed from this source."<sup>1</sup>

In 1818 Thomas Lyman, IV, served as delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. He was supposed to have been a friend of Thomas Jefferson and to have entertained Lafayette at his home in Durham on several occasions. After Thomas, IV, died in 1832 the house was passed down through the Lyman family.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, Lyman, Genealogy of the Lyman Family, J. Munsell, Albany, New York, 1872.

Fowler, Wm. Chauncey, History of Durham, Connecticut, Wiley, Waterman and Eaton, Hartford, 1866.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant

July 31, 1975.

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

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

*John W. Shennah*

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

7/29/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*acting*

DATE

11/20/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles R. Ferguson*

DATE

11.14.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*acting*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 8 1975**

DATE ENTERED

**NOV 20 1975**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Winder, Frank D., The Thomas Lyman House, unpublished report, April 1956. Copy at Connecticut Historical Commission.