

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **AUG 1 1975**
DATE ENTERED **OCT 10 1975**

**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 Harrison - Swain House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 124 West Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Branford VICINITY OF #3- Robert N. Giaimo
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY New Haven CODE 009

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 Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET & NUMBER 141 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN Boston VICINITY OF Massachusetts STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Branford STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1966 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

On the Boston Post Road approaching Branford from the west there is a long strip of commercial establishments giving a very unscenic impression. Before entering the rather quaint business district surrounding the old green, however, there stands a row of very old houses, of which one on the left is the Swain-Harrison house.

Built about 1680, it now sits 35 feet back from Route 1 facing south. It is a two and a half story, dark red-painted, clapboard salt box with a central stone chimney, typical of homes built in the late seventeenth century in New Haven County. Five bays are widely spaced along the main facade giving it a very broad appearance which is further emphasized by a plain first floor overhang and box cornice. Two other overhangs are found on both gable ends above the second floor.

The original house was planned with two rooms on each floor, but probably between 1730 and 1740 a lean-to was added forming the salt box roof line. This lean-to was built to accommodate a large kitchen behind the chimney and provided enough space for a small bedroom at one end and a pantry at the other end.

Being very characteristic of late seventeenth century Connecticut homes, the Swain-Harrison house assumes a very modest, yet dignified appearance, which if it doesn't immediately attract attention, makes the approach to Branford green most charming.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey
1975 - State Survey
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1680

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Daniel Swain

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land upon which the Swain-Harrison house was built is just a small part of the six acre (or more) parcel of land granted by the town of Branford to Daniel Swain in 1679. It is probable that the following year Daniel Swain built the original two and a half story clapboard house now standing on about two acres of that original grant. When he died in 1697, Daniel Swain's heirs sold the house and property to Nathaniel Harrison, deputy of the Assembly and Justice of the Peace, hence the name Swain-Harrison.

Daniel Swain was a well-respected Branford citizen of large estate. In 1677 he was appointed townsman (now the position of Selectman) of Branford and was also amongst a group chosen to establish a church there.

If the house that Daniel Swain built seems modest for a man of his position in Branford, it can be understood if the architectural atmosphere of the late seventeenth century is considered. At this point in time immigration from England had tapered off so the latest styles from abroad were less well-known. Carpenters were accommodating themselves to new resources and began to modify their English traditions, and, since commerce had yet to flourish, creating great wealth, as it did in the nineteenth century, the emphasis was on a more practical, plainer house design. The lean-to was, generally, added later to make room for a growing family, though, occasionally it was built as part of the original home.

Seen in this light the Swain-Harrison house is an illustrative result of late seventeenth century Connecticut attitudes. For this reason and because it is one of the finest seventeenth century homes in Branford, the Swain-Harrison house deserves much recognition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corbin, Francis Harrison, Five Generations of Connecticut Harrisons,
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, 1916.

Isham, Norman M. and Brown, Albert F., Early Connecticut Houses,
The Preston and Tounds Co., Providence, Rhode Island, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 8 2 0 6 10	4 5 7 1 6 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant DATE May 15, 1975
Connecticut Historical Commission
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
59 South Prospect Street (203) 566-3005
 CITY OR TOWN STATE
Hartford, 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

John W. Shank

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 5/22/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Al W. Larsen

DATE 10/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg

DATE 10/10/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Qaly