

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 22 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 26 1976

**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

Colebrook Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 183

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Colebrook

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th-Anthony Moffett

VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Litchfield

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fred and Anita Weston

STREET & NUMBER

Route 183

CITY, TOWN

Colebrook

VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Colebrook Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Colebrook Center

CITY, TOWN

Colebrook

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1959

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

DC

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Colebrook Store is one of several 18th and early 19th century buildings which make up Colebrook Center, a small rural village. The store is located close to the street at the northern end of the green, at the intersection of the two major roads. It has been in continual use as a store since 1812. Indeed, the modifications which have occurred, such as the installation of gasoline pumps out front, contribute significantly to the historical value of this property, because they are the result of the store's operating within its original context.

The store is a two-story, rectangular, frame building. Its shallow pitched gable roof extends to form a portico in the front. A small one story lean-to runs along the north side and is used as a post office. The whole is sheathed with clapboards, except for the front facade, which is covered with horizontal flush boards. This facade dominates the building, and indeed, the whole village. The pediment formed by the gable is supported by four slender Tuscan columns. The platform from which the columns rise is almost 2 feet above the level of the street and is made of cement, although it was probably originally of rough, irregular stone, like the rest of the underpinning. The architrave, frieze and cornice are all plainly executed, with simple but strong moldings. A sign, "Colebrook Store," lettered in 19th century style, is affixed to the entablature. In the typanum is a window in the form of an elliptical arch with keystone. The main entranceway is centered and is composed of plain pilasters with molded capitals supporting a very simple entablature; the double doors are partly of glass and partly panelled. Immediately above is a large panelled door giving access to the second floor. Like the doors, the first story windows are not original; they appear to be late 19th century work. They are large, six-paned windows with solid wooden shutters. The corresponding second level windows have 12/8 sash with old glass and like the three similar windows on the side facades, they appear to be very early. There is an external entrance to the cellar on the south side of the building. Overall, the store's external appearance is relatively unchanged.

The interior, however, is considerably altered, having kept pace with the changing demands of a village store. Most of the features--hardwood floor, tin ceiling, counters--seem to be late 19th century work. Today the store carries a wide range of groceries, household needs and gift items.

The structure is a significant historic resource in its own right, as well as being part of a potential historic district. Documentation was complete on this property; Colebrook will be nominated as a National Register district when time permits.

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
The Colebrook Store	6	one

Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources
1975 - State
Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford CT

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1812 - built

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Swift (1769-1858)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colebrook Store is a valuable historic property because of its importance as a local landmark, its commercial function, and its architectural interest as an example of what might be termed "country sophistication." Colebrook Center provides environmental continuity for the property; almost all of the nearby buildings, including the town offices, are of late 18th and early 19th century origin. The store, with its distinctive portico and central location, is a vital part of the group. Moreover, 19th century accounts of the town use "the store" as a reference point in describing other locations, suggesting that it has been an important landmark for Colebrook citizens for over a century.

Like most New England villages in the early 19th century, Colebrook was mostly engaged in agricultural activities. An essential part of this economy was the village store, a place for the exchange of agricultural products, as well as the purchase of supplies and manufactured goods. The Colebrook Store is representative of the two or three small stores which were found in every Connecticut town in the 1800's. However, most of these buildings have either been lost or converted to residential use and are no longer recognizable as commercial structures. Because it continues to operate as a general store, the Colebrook Store is unique in preserving the functional, as well as the physical integrity of a village center.

In studying rural architecture in Connecticut, one is struck by both strong traditionalism on one hand and on the other, the ability of country craftsmen in designing and executing stylish buildings. The Colebrook Store is an example of the latter. It was built in 1812 by Captain William Swift, a carpenter-joiner who spent most of his life turning out bedsteads. Swift, however, through travel or guidebooks, had mastered the elements of the Adam style of architecture. The slender columns, portico, flush siding, semi-elliptical window and plain moldings combine to produce an effect both graceful and unpretentious, an indication that Swift knew the spirit, as well as the elements of the style. In other buildings, such as the Soloman Rockwell House in Winsted (1813), Swift was able to exercise his talent more elaborately, using the Ionic order and adding a colonnaded ell to the main projecting portico mass, but even the plainer Colebrook Store is unusually advanced in a period when most builders were merely appending Adam ornamentation to the basic Georgian design.

