

PH0000558

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Connecticut
COUNTY:	Hartford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Viets' Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Newgate Road

CITY OR TOWN: East Granby

STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09      COUNTY: Hartford      CODE: 003

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Clarence W. Seymour

STREET AND NUMBER: 25 Sycamore Road

CITY OR TOWN: West Hartford      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: East Granby Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Turkey Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN: East Granby      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Connecticut Historic Structures & Landmarks Survey

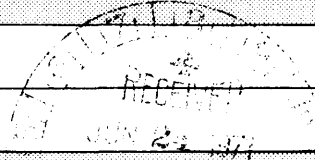
DATE OF SURVEY: 1966       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Connecticut  
COUNTY: Hartford  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE: FEB 23 1972  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

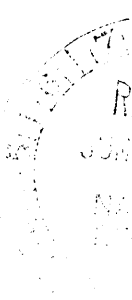
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building as it stands (1971) has undergone considerable modification, largely by additions of various kinds at several periods. It appears originally to have presented an L-shaped plan, the main facade of 9 windows, center doorway, center chimney, and gable roof facing southward and placed at a right angle to the road. The roof of this portion on the east side seems originally to have extended at the rear to about the level of the second floor window sills, giving a lean-to profile. This was modified when a 2-story wing extending to the rear was added, in 1912 according to present owner. This wing extends about 4 feet farther than a parallel wing forming the west facade of the structure along the road. This also is of 2 stories, forms the other leg of the L-plan, and appears to be original, its gable roof framed into that of the main portion. The clapboards on the exterior of both parts are fastened largely with hand-wrought nails and the joints are lapped or skived. Window sash throughout have been replaced by the present 2 over 2 arrangement; frames seem mainly redone also. But at east end of principal section of the house, 3 heavy frames of earlier type with moulded sills can be seen at attic, 2d floor, and 1st floor. Attic sash, 1 panes over 2 with wide muntins, may be an original feature.

Interior could not be inspected, but present owner stated there are 3 fireplaces on first floor, 1 on second floor in main chimney stack; also that an arched ceiling of the ballroom type remains on 2d floor of west wing and that a closed-up fireplace exists at the far or north end of this wing, served by the chimney at this location.

A bay window of late 19th century style appears at center of west wing on 1st floor. The screened porch across principal facade is probably of similar origin. The large center door opening here may once have contained a double-leaf door, but now shows a 2-leaf arrangement of french door type, 24 panes extending to the floor. Peculiar form of the present roof line, giving almost a hip profile as seen from the main front, is caused by an addition to the basic ridge line made by previous owner, one Phelps, in 1912-14, according to present occupant, who also stated that doorway opening on to road at rear of west wing was cut in 1930. By various comparatively recent additions, house has been joined into a continuous structure with extensive barns to the east.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1763 (owner)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

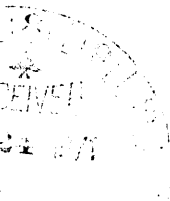
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(From: The Heritage of Granby, 1786-1965. Salmon Brook Historical Society, 1967). p. 140f - There were certain taverns that seemed to be well established, and kept reappearing throughout the records. One of these was the one on Copper Hill Road across from Newgate Prison. The first mention we find of this is in a reference to Dr. John Viets in East Granby. He came to Turkey Hills in 1710, and in 1712 he was "granted the liberty by the Town to keep a house of public entertainment for the year ensuing." His son, Captain John Viets, was the first keeper of Newgate Prison and was supposed to live just outside the prison walls. He was licensed as a tavernkeeper by Simsbury in 1773-6. His son, Luke, is recorded as having a tavernkeeper's license in 1790 through 1834... The map of 1869 shows this spot listed as "B. F. Barker's Hotel", so it was still in business at this time.

(From: Viets, Francis Hubbard: Viets Genealogy. Hartford (Conn.) Press, 1902). p. 22ff - Captain John Viets, son of Dr. John and Catherine (Meyers), was born in Simsbury, Nov. 3, 1712. He gives evidence of having had a practical education for those days... John worked for a time with his brother Henry in the Simsbury copper mines at Newgate... He settled on an estate near Newgate and became a farmer, store and hotel keeper, and an extensive trader... Tradition gives John Viets the credit of introducing potato culture into this part of Connecticut; he is said to have brought the seed from Rhode Island in his saddlebags. ... He was first a lieutenant and afterwards a captain of militia... In 1773 Captain John Viets was appointed master or keeper of Newgate Prison for the ensuing year. In 1775 he was again appointed keeper of Newgate during the pleasure of the Assembly; he was paid this year for his services as keeper £149, 17s, 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. During the early years of the War for Independence he did good service for the patriot cause by keeping Tory prisoners in durance at Newgate... Captain John Viets died of smallpox April 8, 1777, aged 65. He was buried a short distance north of his home at Newgate, and there the remains of his widow were afterwards laid by his side.

A photograph exists in the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society of the original signboard of Viets' Tavern, dating from the tenure of Captain John Viets' son, Luke. It shows the date 1790, a pair of large crossed keys, and the name L. Viets, signed by the painter, Rice. The sign itself was destroyed by a fire in one of the old Newgate Prison buildings in 1904.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Heritage of Granby, 1786-1965. Salmon Brook Historical Society, 1967.  
 Viets, Francis Hubbard: Viets Genealogy. Hartford (Conn.) Press, 1902.

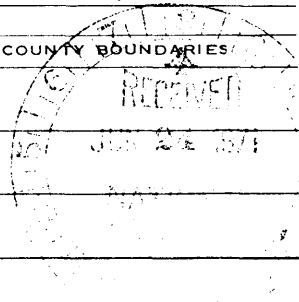
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	57'	43.3"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	44'	41.8"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Herbert C. Darbee Associate Director

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: 21 June, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: Chairman - Connecticut Historical Commission  
 Date: 21 June, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: Jan. 17, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

648 11 SE  
SOUTHWICK

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NORTHWEST CORNER

WINDSOR LOCKS QUADRANGLE

10 MI. TO U.S.  
FEEDING HILLS, MASS. 4.7

72° 45'  
42° 00'

687000m E

688

4.7 MI. TO U.S. 202 & MASS. 10

42° 30" 690

4651000m N



1 WINSTED 23 MI.  
GRANBY (U.S. 202) 2.1 MI.