	NPS	Form	10-900
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OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the	he Interior
National Park Service	

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP	09	2011	

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Cassidy House		
other names/site number John Plumb House		
2. Location		
street & number 691 Ellsworth Street		not for publication
city or town Bridgeport		vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfiel	d code 001	zip code 06605
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Prese I hereby certify that this <u>v</u> nomination <u>request for deter</u> registering properties in the National Register of Historic Plac set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>v</u> meets <u>does not meet the</u> be considered significant at the following level(s) of significant	mination of eligibility meets to es and meets the procedurate National Register Criteria.	I and professional requirements
national statewide local		
Daniel Balelin SHPO	8.23.11	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Regi	ster criteria.	
Signature of commenting official	Date	
Title State or	Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	overnment
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is:	determined eligible for the N	ational Register
<pre> determined not eligible for the National Register other (explain:)</pre>	removed from the National R	tegister
A. Dral	10/19/11	
Signature at the Keener	Dolo of Action	

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2

Cass	idy	House
Name	of F	roperty

5. Classification

Fairfield, CT County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
x private public - Local public - State public - Federal	x building(s) district site structure object	ContributingNoncontributing1buildingssitessitesstructuresobjects1Total
Name of related multiple pro Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a N/A	operty listing a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling		DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
7. Description		
Architectural Classification		Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
		"-tuer aerederies them moneeners)
(Enter categories from instructions.)		foundation: Stone
		foundation: Stone walls: Wood, Board-and-batten

Cassidy House

Name of Property

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cassidy House is an Italianate-style farmhouse, built in 1849 and located in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The house is approximately 1,300 square feet with two stories and a partially finished basement. It retains the original floor plan and many of the original features both on the interior and exterior. This was one of the earliest Italianate-style houses in the area and displays the characteristic wrap-around porch, wide eaves and low hipped roof of this type of construction. This house is also the only known example in Bridgeport to retain the original nineteenth-century board-and-batten siding. It is therefore significant under Criterion C at the local level of significance as an excellent example of early Italianate architecture in Bridgeport.

Narrative Description

The Cassidy House is located on the northwest corner of Ellsworth Street and Crowther Avenue. It is an early example of the Italianate-style which became popular in the mid-nineteenth century. The house is two stories and has a single, central, capped brick chimney with two flues. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features wide, overhanging boxed eaves. The façade is two-over-two bays with a full-width porch across the facade that wraps around to the north and south sides of the house.

The entrance is located beneath the porch on the east side of the house. It features a decorative notched surround and contains a paneled door with a single light in the upper half. Decorative double columns with scrolled central supports and brackets are used along the entire porch (Photograph 7). The exterior siding is the original vertical board-and-batten. The porch ceiling is also original rough-cut boards (Photograph 9). There is a second door on the west side of the house that has been closed off. There is also a deck on the west side of the house that is only accessible from inside.

The exterior windows are the original 6-over-6 double-hung sash with many of the original glass panes still intact (Photograph 11). The surrounds are simple wood frame with louvered shutters framing each window. They are spaced symmetrically on all elevations with a paired set of windows on the east elevation.

A concrete sidewalk leads to the porch. The walkway to the house was originally paved with brick, and a few of the bricks can still be seen to the right of the sidewalk. There are several English boxwoods in front of the porch (Photograph 3); according to previous owners, these were part of the original landscaping and have, over the years, attained exceptional size (about eight feet high) for this type of decorative plant.

Interior

The interior of the house features a side-hall plan with a central stair providing access to the second story (See Floor Plan 1). A formal parlor opens off the entry foyer to the west. The original pine flooring, window frames and interior trim arc preserved in the parlor. An original fireplace surround also remains, but the fireplace has been closed off (Photograph 12). The interior walls are the original lath and plaster throughout the house.

A second door (on the south end of the foyer) connects to the living room, which is floored with a hardwood laminate over the original pine. This room also contains an original brick fireplace, which is functional. The fireplace is surrounded by a wooden mantel with attached crown molding (Photograph 13). There are three windows in the living room, all with the original six-over-six frames and many of the original panes. Some of the original decorative trim is preserved, as well as the original Bennington porcelain doorknobs

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Cassidy House Name of Property Fairfield, CT County and State

To the west of the living room (looking from the front door) is the kitchen. The kitchen has two more original windows with the original panes. There is a brick fireplace in the kitchen, which has been closed off. This fireplace is surrounded by a wooden mantel (Photograph 14). The flooring in the kitchen is the original white pine, which has aged to a caramel color (Photograph 21). There is a small bathroom off the kitchen, which was originally a jam pantry before being converted around 1900. There is another original window in the north wall of the bathroom.

Just beyond the parlor entrance, a stairway leads up to the second story (Photograph 17, Floor Plan 2). To the south at the top of the stairs is the master suite, which consists of two smaller rooms connected by an arched doorway (Photograph 20). To the right at the top of the stairs is a larger room which was used as a nursery. The original flooring and windows are preserved throughout the second floor, though the stairway and landing have been carpeted. The original door latches also remain (doorknobs were not used upstairs; instead, latches were fashioned by a blacksmith out of spoons).

There is a partially finished cellar consisting of a summer kitchen, a storage room and a coal room. There is a fireplace in the summer kitchen, which is functional. This fireplace is surrounded by a simple wooden mantel (Photograph 16). The floor in the summer kitchen is carpeted. The other two rooms are unfinished, with the original exterior stone walls in both rooms and concrete flooring the storage room. The original stone floor is largely preserved in the coal room. The lath and plaster in both of these rooms is exposed and slightly damaged.

Cassidy House Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

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Fairfield, CT County and State

ati	cable National Register Criteria "in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property onal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
, i i i i i	na register noting.)	Architecture
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	a and the firm
	represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1849
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	5.5.000
		Significant Dates
		1849 (Date of Construction)
ter	a Considerations	
	" in all the boxes that apply.)	
rk ">	" in all the boxes that apply.) ty is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
ırk ">		Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
rk ">	ty is: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious	
rk "> pei A	ty is: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
ark ">	ty is: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. removed from its original location.	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A B C	ty is: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. removed from its original location. a birthplace or grave.	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A B C	ty is: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. removed from its original location. a birthplace or grave. a cemetery.	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

The period of significance is the date of construction for the house.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Cassidy House Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Fairfield, CT County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Cassidy House, built in 1849, is one of the earliest Italianate-style houses constructed in Bridgeport, and signaled a shift away from the Greek Revival and Colonial styles which had dominated construction in Bridgeport up to that time. This style of house would dominate the architectural landscape in the city for the next thirty years¹. The Cassidy House meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level as a vernacular interpretation of midnineteenth Italianate design.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Cassidy House was commissioned in 1849 by John Plumb and built the same year by Oliver Burr. Plumb was a farmer by trade who came to the Black Rock area (then part of Fairfield) in 1847 with his wife, Sally, and their three children². On their arrival, the Plumb family built a home on what is now Seabright Avenue. In 1849, Plumb purchased a 24-acre parcel on upper "Church Street" (now Ellsworth Street) for \$1,900 3. The parcel was bounded by Fairfield Avenue, Ellsworth Street, Ash Creek and what is now King Street. This house was the first residence constructed on the north side of Fairfield Avenue (See Map 1).

Plumb raised fruit trees on the land, and built a barn and a saddlery. The family lived on this parcel for 13 years, selling in 1862 to Daniel Curtis for \$3,800 and moving to Meriden. Curtis sold split the property and it changed hands several times eventually being sold in November 1869 to August and Johanna Bahr⁴.

The Bahr family consisted of August, Johanna, and their eight children. The Bahrs emigrated from Prussia in 1845 and lived in New York State before coming to Connecticut in 1869. They farmed the land, raising fruit trees. The property remained in the Bahr family for another nine years, until Johanna Bahr's death in 1890. At that time, the Bahr children sold the property to Charles and Henry Lee for \$7,0005.

The Lee brothers were property developers and subdivided the parcel into building lots, receiving permission from the city of Bridgeport to divide the property in 1893. Bridgeport had annexed the Black Rock district from Fairfield in 1870. As infill and development continued, the centers of Black Rock and Bridgeport began to merge. In 1893, the only existing buildings on the property were the Bahrs' house, barn, and the saddlery on parcel number 87 (see Map 2). The barn and saddlery were demolished to make way for the new subdivision, and the house was sold to Edward and Ellen Cassidy in 1893.6 The house would remain in the Cassidy family for the next 109 years.

Edward Cassidy is listed in the Bridgeport city directories of the time as a "farmer". He died in 1898, and the house then passed to Ellen (or "Nellie" as she was generally called). Edward and Nellie had three children; Edward Jr., Charles and John. Nellie Cassidy lived in the house until her death in 1921. Shortly before she passed away, her son Charles and daughter-in-law Catherine moved in with her. Her other children moved into the two-family house next door at 2 and 4 Crowther Street.

Brilvitch, Charles (ed.) Black Rock: A Bicentennial Picture Bool, 1976 Barbour Collection, Bridgepon Public Library, Vol. 1 M, pg. 26-7

Town of Fairfield Land Records, Vol. 54, p. 158

⁴ Lown of Fauliehl Land Records, Vol. 55, p. 130. Town of Bridgeport Land Records, Vol. 110, p. 80.

Town of Bridgeport Land Records, Vol. 114, p. 232 (Lee-Cassidy transaction)

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Charles Cassidy worked for the Bridgeport Electric Company, and Catherine was a teacher at Bassick High School for many years. Charles Cassidy died in 1928 at the age of 39 in an apparent industrial accident, leaving Catherine and a sixteen-year-old daughter named Marguerite. Catherine Cassidy never remarried and died in 1977 at the age of 91. At her death, she had lived in the house for 57 years.

Marguerite Cassidy was a nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital from 1934 to 1944, at which time she moved to Washington D. C. She returned to Bridgeport in 1952, moved back in with her mother and resumed her nursing career at St. Vincent's. She eventually became supervisor of nurses at St. Vincent's. On her death in 2001, the house passed to Marguerite's niece, Susan Cahalan (Edward Cassidy Jr.'s daughter).

Mrs. Cahalan sold the house in February of 2002 to Rosa Gibson⁷. This sale ended 109 years of Cassidy family ownership of the house. Ms. Gibson owned the house for only four months before selling it to Paulette Green, another of Marguerite Cassidy's nurses, for \$133,000⁸. Ms. Green then sold the house in September of 2004 to John and Ida Hunter for \$188,000⁹.

Architectural Significance

The Cassidy House is locally significant as one of the earliest Italianate-style houses in the Black Rock neighborhood of Bridgeport. Other examples of Italianate architecture exist in the nearby Black Rock National Register Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1979, but most have been altered and none were as early. The district is located further south along Ellsworth Avenue. According to the nomination, one of the first Italian Villas in Black Rock, the Oliver Burr House, located at 228 Ellsworth Street, was built in 1853 and is very similar to the Plumb-Cassidy House. The Oliver Burr house has been significantly altered; a wing has been added and the porch has been redone.

Another similar example to the Plumb-Cassidy House can be found at 213 Ellsworth Street. The Captain Charles Allen House, built in 1854 has the same two-over-two bay plan, but the wrap-around veranda was removed ca. 1978. A number of other Italianate homes were built to house workers from the local shipyard but all date from after 1850 and none retain the same level of intact building fabric. The Plumb-Cassidy House is represents the early shift from Greek Revival architecture to the Italianate style in this area of Bridgeport.

The Italianate style originated in England, but became popular after 1842 when Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books were published, particularly his *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America.* These books exposed America to the style which was characterized by towers or campaniles, low-pitched roofs, wide bracketed eaves and doors crowned by window heads.

While this house is a simple version of the style, it retains almost all of its original features, including the wide wraparound veranda, door and surround, and wide, boxed eaves. It also has the original windows and of note are the ornately carved porch supports and brackets. The house's most outstanding feature is the original board-and-batten siding. Recent field reviews have shown that this is the only remaining home in the area to retain this unusual form of cladding. In 1974. Bridgeport historian Charles Brilvitch reviewed over 150 nineteenth and early twentieth-century homes in Bridgeport. This review found two homes with vertical board-and-batten siding: the Cassidy House and the Oliver Burr House. Subsequently, the battens were removed from the Burr house¹⁰

Town of Bridgepoil Land Records, Vol. 04895, p. 157

Trene of Budgeport Land Records, Vol. 02012, p. 25-

⁷ Town of Bridgeport Land Records, Vol. 06039, p. 264 Brilvitch, Charles: Architecturally Significant Homes of Bridgeport, 1974, p. 52.

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Cassidy House Name of Property

Fairfield, CT County and State

The integrity of the house is further enhanced by the fact that the interior has retained the original floor plan and much of the original finishes. Most of the flooring, many of the window panes, the door hardware and trim, two of the fireplace mantels and the lath and plaster work throughout remains intact from John Plumb's day.

The Cassidy House retains a remarkable degree of preservation of both the interior and exterior. The porch and columns, window frames and shutters, and the boxwoods in front of the house remain unchanged from John Plumb's day. There is another similar house in the Black Rock area (the Oliver Burr house at 228 Ellsworth Street); however, that house has been significantly altered over the years.

Inside, the original floor plan remains unchanged from 1849, and most of the original flooring and interior trim is preserved. Three of the four original fireplace mantels remain, as well as the doorknobs and latches, fireplace brickwork and the original lath and plaster interior walls. Despite the passage of 162 years, this house remains today almost exactly as it was built.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate) N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brilvitch, Charles, Connecticut Historical Commission. National Register Nomination Form, "Black Rock Historic District", March 15, 1979.

Brilvitch, Charles: Architecturally Significant Homes of Bridgeport, Bridgeport: Bridgeport Public Library, 1974.

Barbour Collection, Bridgeport Public Library, Vol. 1-M, pg. 26-7

Jones, Dick and Charles Brilvitch (eds) Black Rock: A Bicentennial Picture Book, Bridgeport: Black Rock Civic and Business Men's Club, 1976.

Justinius, Ivan O. History of Black Rock 1644-1955, Bridgeport: Antoniak Printing Service, Inc., 1955

Public Records:

Bridgeport City Directories, 1890, 1921, 1928, 1979. Town of Fairfield Land Records Town of Bridgeport Land Records United States Census records, 1850 through 1880

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned);

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Fairfield, CT

County and State

Cassidy House Name of Property

Name of Property

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	547024	4666865	3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	= · · ·	Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary was chosen to correspond to the current parcel boundary as shown on the City of Bridgeport's Assessor's Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title John Hunter	
organization Owner	date
street & number 691 Ellsworth Street	telephone
city or town Bridgeport	state CT zip code
e-mail	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Attached Photo Key

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Cassidy House Name of Property

Fairfield, CT County and State

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name John and Ida Hunter	
street & number 691 Ellsworth Street	telephone
city or town Bridgeport	state CT zip code

Cassidy House Name of Property (Expires 5/31/2012)

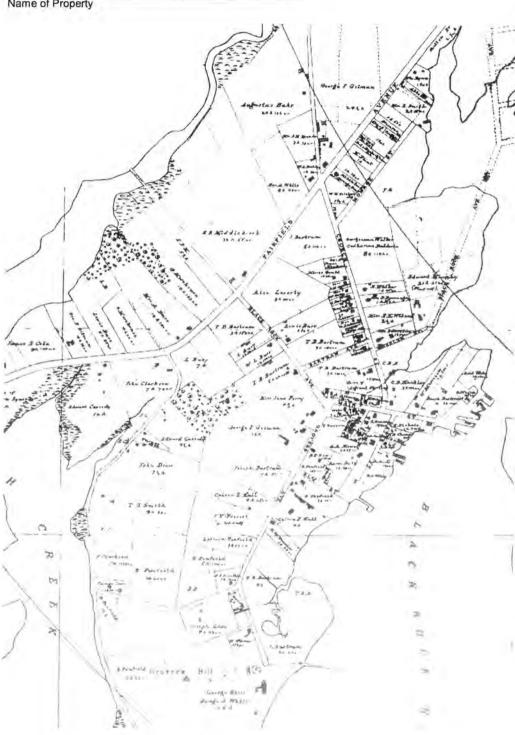
Fairfield, CT County and State



Map 1: Beers, Ellis and Soule's Map of Black Rock, 1867.

Cassidy House Name of Property (Expires 5/31/2012)

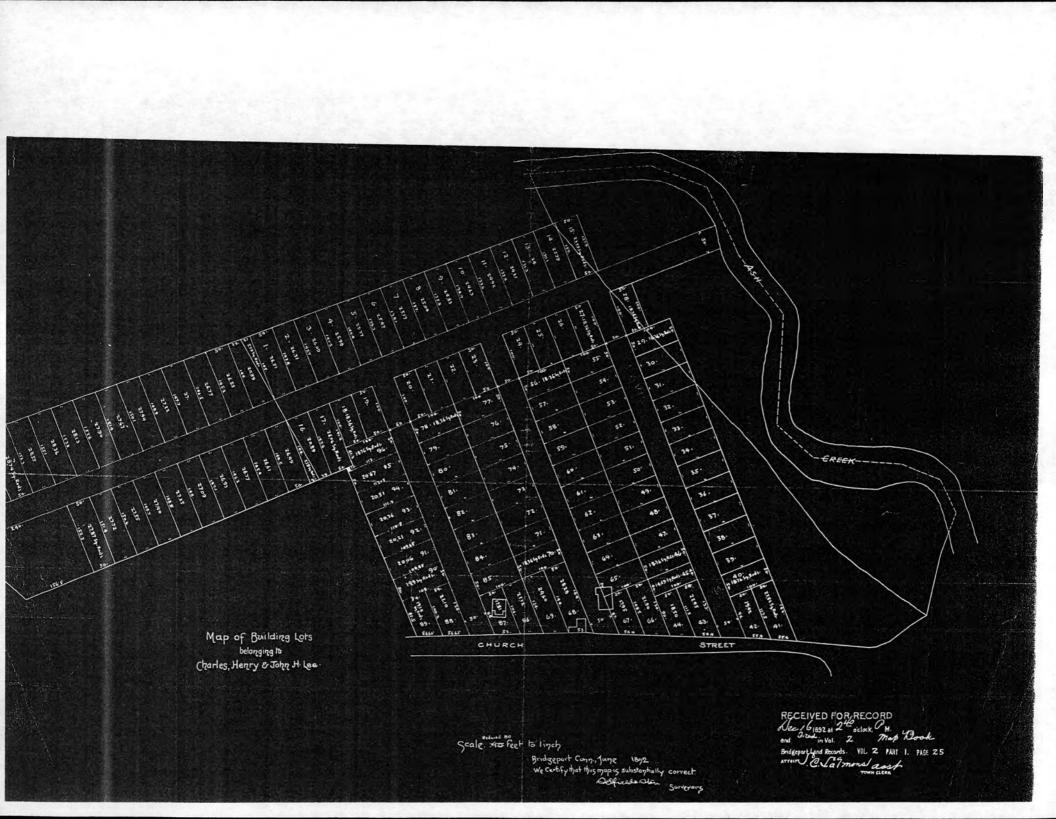
Fairfield, CT County and State



Map 2: 1880 Map of Black Rock

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U S C 460 et seq.) Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing Instructional gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cassidy House NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 9/09/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/04/11 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/19/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/25/11 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000749

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATAPROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESSTHAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:YPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLRDRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

and a second s

REVIEWER NOT	DISCIPLINE History
TELEPHONE	DATE 10/19/11

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.























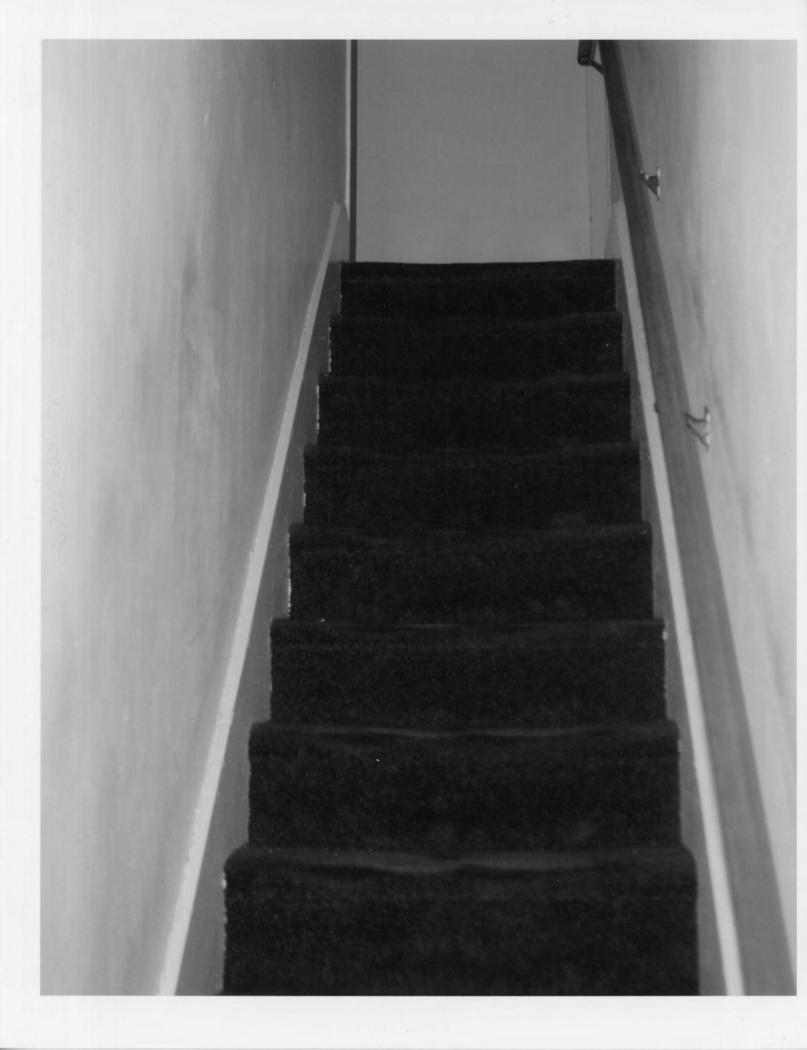






















E-05EE1-704-0 N821

Cassidy House -691 Ellsworth Street Bridgeport, Fairfield County 18 547024 4606865

1	SEP 0 9 2011

- J. Paul Loether, Chief TO: National Register of Historic Places
- Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator FROM:
- SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 20 day of <u>August</u> 2011, for nomination of the <u>Cassi dy House</u>, Fairfield Co.

Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

1	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
	Multiple Property Nomination form
	Photographs
_/	Original USGS maps
	Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
	Pieces of correspondence

Other CD of mages

COMMENTS:

Please insure that this nomination is r	
This property has been certified unde	r 36 CFR 67
The enclosed owner objections do constitute a majority of property own	do not
Other:	