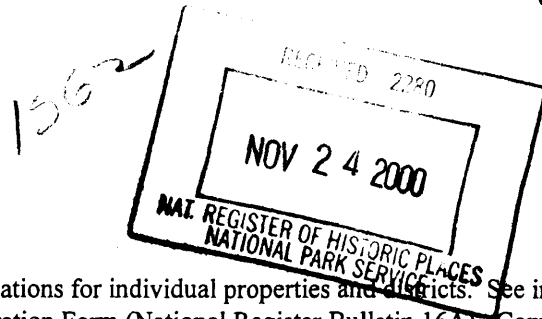


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Burgis, Thomas II, House

other names/site \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 85 Boston Street not for publication N/A

city or town Guilford vicinity N/A

state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06437

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally . ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan October 27, 2000  
Signature of certifying official Date  
John W. Shannahan, Connecticut Historical Commission  
Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**Thomas Burgis II House**  
Name of Property

**New Haven, CT**  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Beal*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
12/28/00

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>  </u>	sites
<u>  </u>	structures
<u>  </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure.

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
COLONIAL/Postmedieval English/Georgian  
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation stone  
walls weatherboard  
roof wood shingle  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 1

The Thomas Burgis II House is a c. 1735 Colonial saltbox located in Guilford Center, a short distance east of the Town Green. It faces north from the south side of Boston Street, the original path of the Boston Post Road. Except for the section fronting on the Green, which contains historic commercial buildings, the streetscape is lined with historic houses built between c. 1660 and 1920. The Burgis House, which is the second oldest in this neighborhood, is sited quite close to the street and set off from the sidewalk by a picket fence. A c. 1900 barn converted to a garage is located east of the house, and a privy of unknown vintage that was moved to the site now stands behind the barn. Both of these outbuildings are classified as non-contributing because of their more recent age. Beyond the house at the rear, open land and a view of an older barn on a neighboring property to the south add to the historic ambience of the nominated property.

The Burgis House evolved over time. As it stands, the house consists of a c. 1735 two-story main block, with two leanto additions and a recessed east wing (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3). The saltbox form was created about 1800 when the roof was reframed and extended first to accommodate the addition of a keeping room, and later modified to incorporate the smaller leanto at the southwest corner. The house was restored in the 1960s and more recently in the 1990s, when the present owners added the wing. At that time the walls were resheathed with clapboard, with a relatively narrow exposure, and wood shingles installed on the roof. Architectural evidence that tends to confirm this historic evolution is discussed below in some detail, as are a number of notable vernacular variations in early eighteenth-century building practice in the house. Where known, relevant interior restoration work is described on a room-by-room basis.

The original main block (40' x 20') has the classic double-cube form and massive central stone chimney of the period. The post-and-beam framing and plank wall construction are typical of the 1730s, as is the original purlin-and-rafter system of the roof. The symmetrical five-bay façade features a central doorway with a Federal-style surround, detailed with attenuated pilasters and a high entablature with projecting molded cornice. Two narrow bands of molding extend across the frieze, pilaster capitals, and clapboard stops. The double-leaf paneled door is a recent reproduction. Plain stock is used for corner and sill boards, window trim, and the boxed eave cornice. Most of the double-hung windows date from the Federal period and have eight-over-twelve sash, and there are six-over-six sash in the gables.

The 1735 one-room-deep plan has the conventional arrangement, with hall and parlor of almost equal size on either side of the stack, with the hall located on the west end (see floor plan). The original cooking hearth in the hall, which was recently restored, has a large stone firebox (87" x 51" x 31"), with a brick bake oven in the upper left rear wall (Photograph #s 4, 5). At the lower right is a small square opening of unknown purpose, possibly a warming oven. It is likely that the opening in the masonry in the corner above is the remains of a second bake oven, since there is evidence of brick in the cavity. A wooden lug pole in the rear wall of the chimney throat remains in place. To restore the fireplace, the present owners removed a smaller c. 1800 firebox and the brick oven on the right that had been inserted in the original opening. The length of the original hearthstone (9'9"), which was still extant, had provided a clue to its earlier width. The owners also extended the massive wooden fireplace lintel (16" x 19" in section) that had been chopped off at the left cheek during the earlier remodeling. The vertical paneling, lintel board, and frame around the opening were designed to approximate the earlier features, but the wall to the left, which has two fielded panel doors, is entirely original, down to the wrought-iron strap hinges and thumb latches. These doors have the typical four panels of the period, but the passage door on the south wall of this room has a three-panel design. Exposed framing with chamfers and lamb's tongue stops in this room includes the longitudinal summer beam (about 12' x 9"), chimney and end girts, and corner posts. Although the ceiling framing was plastered over or whitewashed at some point, the slight chamfer and finish of the joists indicate they were meant to be to be exposed. A plain chair rail runs around the room at the height of the window sills. The cupboard in the southwest corner has a round-arched glazed door in the upper half. The design of spandrel panels, which are shaped to the arch, and the width of the muntins, suggests that the cupboard is the same vintage as the house; grooves cut into the framing to receive the cupboard show how it was installed after construction. The oak flooring, here and in the parlor, and in the front entryway is original. The stairway to the second floor rises from the left (east) side of the entryway (Photograph #6). Like all the original staircases in the house, all stacked in front of the chimney, it is exceptionally wide (approximately 40"). The chamfered newel post with its shaped top (a replacement) extends above the rail board, and the closed string beneath is sheathed with vertical paneling. The chimney stack, once plastered over, is now

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 2

visible on the rear wall of the stair well above the skirt board. Also visible is the back side of the parlor paneling and a rough hewn section of chimney girt, uncovered in the 1990s restoration. A drawing of a sailing vessel on this wall is one of several examples of similar graffiti in the house. The unusual ceiling framing of this space is discussed on 7. 4.

The parlor displays original Georgian fielded paneling and detail (Photograph #7). The unusual fluted pilasters that flank the fireplace have a classical tripartite division to match the rails of the paneling to the right. The rather tall opening of the firebox (52") is framed with bolection moldings and surmounted by an applied torus mold, giving the effect of a pulvinated frieze. A thin mantel shelf between them has been removed. Three fielded panels cover the chimney breast. The paneling on the left side matched the right wall until the early 1800s, when a very shallow cupboard (6" deep) with double-panel doors was installed there (Photograph #8). The butterfly hinges, a typical Guilford design, are also found on the doors of the cupboard in the rear wall. Although it also was installed in the mid-Federal period, similarities to one in the hall suggest this cupboard was crafted in the eighteenth century. Its double-panel doors are set within a round-arched opening, again with shaped spandrel panels on either side. Since the shelving in the upper half conforms to the shallow convex curve of the rear wall, it may have been designed for a corner installation. A plate groove runs around each shelf, just a few inches in from the circumference. Among other notable features of this room are the cased end girts and corner posts, which display rather baroque beak-edge molding. In the 1990s the casework was returned to its original paint layer, which has a deep-red color. The plaster ceiling, which apparently always covered the summer beam, has been repaired. Another three-panel door to the right of the cupboard, which may be original to the house, was installed there when the keeping room was added. At that time the bottom stile was cut to shorten the door.

The keeping room was once a part of a gambrel-roofed dwelling that was moved here and attached to the house (Photograph #9). As will be shown, the addition occurred sometime between 1800 and 1813, as the result of a change of occupancy in that period. The presence of the summer beam, which is rather roughly adzed and chamfered, helps date the gambrel frame to the early 1700s, possibly earlier than the Burgis house itself; the gambrel configuration is clear from the angled open gains in what were the roof purlins. (The outer steeper roofed sections were discarded.) The gunstock posts and the chimney girt that runs between them, are not butted to the older house wall, but offset about 8 inches at the northwest corner post (marked A on plan). At the other end, the frame was extended four more feet with another set of posts. Nominal three-inch joists (20" o. c.) display marks of sawn lath which, together with the smoke aging of the timbers nearest the hearth, suggest that the ceiling was not plastered originally, and may not have been covered at all until later in the nineteenth century. The gambrel girt was cut away at an angle along the back side, apparently to provide enough room to construct a new fireplace at the rear of the existing stack. This fireplace can be dated by the shallower firebox (19"), the stone lintel, and the up-front location of the oven hidden by a door, all consistent with post-Revolutionary work. During the 1960s restoration, the plaster ceiling was removed and several changes made to the fenestration. The center window in the rear wall replaced the original door there; the rear door now opens off the southwest corner.

When the smaller leanto was added, a window in the west wall of the keeping room was covered over and an original in-swinging casement in the house wall was left in place in the upper chamber. The casing of the latter window now frames old boards covered with wallpaper. Although the hand-blocked pattern of the paper (now protected under plexiglass) can be definitely attributed to Thomas Crown of Boston and was first produced in 1805, these boards were installed in the twentieth century by the previous owner.

As expected, on the second floor of the main house, all the embellishment was reserved for the parlor chamber. The fireplace wall there is fully paneled and detailed with an exceptional pair of floating fluted pilasters (Photograph # 10). More commonly such features would rest on a mantle shelf, rather than the molded consoles used here. The pilasters are c. 1990 reproductions, but they were carefully matched to the existing unpainted outline revealed when paint layers were removed down to the first finish. They cover butted stiles, which indicates they had a functional as well as a decorative purpose. The same paint, now gray-green (probably an oxidation of the original blue), was also used on all the casework of the posts, girts, and summer beam.

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**Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT**

Section 7 Page 3

A band of black paint was revealed on the bottom of the cased posts. This treatment, which may once have extended around three sides of the room in lieu of a baseboard, was omitted on the fireplace wall. The firebox is framed with the same type of bolection molding used around the one in the parlor, but it has a very unusual raised sandstone hearth, which is rounded at the corners and displays a carved half-round molded edge. A more typical feature of this room is the clothes cupboard to the left of the fireplace. Because the stack normally tapers above the second floor, such cupboards were relatively common, even in the early 1700s. The passage door in the south wall opens out onto a balcony, which affords a view of the new kitchen wing from above (Photograph #11). Salvaged old timber is used for most of the exposed framing in this section.

The typically English framing system in the upper hall, or passage, also found in the entryway below, is a regional variation characteristic of early work in New Haven Colony towns (Photograph #12). Instead of a series of joists running between the chimney girts, the attic floor is supported by short joists let into a single trimmer joist that supports the outside wall of the stairs. The door to the attic stairs displays linen-fold paneling, the only example of this type in the house. The original hinges remain in place.

The roof framing is a hybrid, with the original purlins and rafters on the north slope, and the modifications to this framing introduced to accommodate the leanto additions on the south side. As built, six small purlins on either side (3"x3") were let into principal rafters (nominally 4" x 8"), which are positioned 7' 6" on center (Photograph # 13). This is another regional building practice, which, of course, results in roof boards laid vertically. As shown in more detail in Photograph #14, when the purlins were removed and new rafters installed to increase the pitch of the south slope, this section was re-sheathed with horizontal boards. Since the new rafters were not sistered to the originals, for rigidity, a sort of purlin near the perimeter acts as an intermediate blocker and raises the roof at the plate. Instead of filling in the gap created at the gables, the plank walls there were replaced with the present stud walls at this time.

Thomas Burgis II House  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** 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 represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Yale Architecture School

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT**

**Section 8 Page 1**

**Statement of Significance**

A well-preserved representative demonstration of the persistence of English building traditions in the New Haven region, the Thomas Burgis II House derives further significance from the quality of its handsome and well-crafted interior detailing. The extraordinary Georgian fireplace walls in the parlor and parlor chamber display a level of style and sophistication rarely found in smaller colonial towns. One of few early houses in Guilford to be fully documented, with a chain of title for the property that goes back to land divisions set to original proprietors in 1640, the Burgis House was the subject of inquiry and study by the noted architectural historian Abbott Lowell Cummings and his students at Yale University from 1989 to 1991. Largely due to the efforts of twentieth-century owners, significant historic fabric and features have been preserved and carefully restored to their largely original condition, and the basic architectural integrity of the original house and its historic additions has not been compromised by the intrusion of modern amenities.

**Historical Background**

Unlike most Connecticut towns, which were settled from Massachusetts Bay, Guilford was founded by people who came here directly from England. Under the leadership of the Reverend Henry Whitfield, the original group of proprietors, about 40 in all, after a brief sojourn in New Haven, arrived in what is now Guilford in 1639. English customs and traditions are reflected in the community they built, which was essentially laid out like a manorial village. Land deeds were first recorded in a Terrier Book, as they would have been in England, the only known usage of that term in the colony. Deferring to Whitfield as their spiritual and civic leader, the proprietors built him an unusual stone manor house that remains as the only example of its type in Connecticut.

By the time the Burgis House was built, Guilford had evolved in a prosperous agrarian and maritime community, shipping timber and shoes to the West Indies. An exceptional number of trades- and craftsmen had flocked to the community in the early 1700s, when Guilford became one of the official entry ports for Connecticut. Among them was Thomas Burgis (d. 1736), a cordwainer or shoemaker, who reputedly was born in Yorkshire, England. According to legend, Burgis was impressed by the Royal Navy and brought to the port of New York, where he attempted to escape but was recaptured. It is said that Burgis carried a scar on his cheek from a saber cut inflicted at that time or during a second successful escape in Boston. In any event, he found his way to Guilford, probably about 1700.

In a period when most cordwainers made shoes just for local consumption and were quite poor, Burgis was a major exception. Not only did he own a tanyard, thereby controlling the means of production, Burgis undoubtedly participated in the shoe trade with the West Indies. Within 30 years he had joined the ranks of the highest ratepayers in Guilford. Not all of Burgis' spectacular rise can be attributed to his business acumen. Burgis married well, a time-honored path to fortune. His bride, Mercy Wright (1680-1747), a local girl, brought a considerable land dowry to the marriage in 1707. Her parents, Thomas and Deborah Wright, both died in 1692, leaving her a substantial inheritance. Although she shared the estate with her sister, Mary, Mercy's portion included the family home. In addition, because of his wife's relationship to Guilford proprietor Edward Benton, her maternal grandfather, Burgis also became eligible to receive shares in any future town distributions of common land.

Thomas and Mercy lived in the old Wright Homestead on Boston Street, where their five children, three sons and two daughters, were born between 1709 and 1724. Their eldest son, Thomas II (1709-1796), the heir apparent, was being groomed to succeed his father in the leather business, when Thomas I died in an epidemic that ravaged the town in 1736, killing 30 people, including his youngest son, Eliab. Burgis had died intestate, but following custom, his widow and son Thomas were the executors of his estate, which was valued at 751 pounds. The real estate described in the probate inventory was the Wright's original homelot with a dwelling house, and a new dwelling, which stood on the other half of the Wright property, land that Thomas I had purchased in 1730 from the heirs of Mary Wright Allin, his sister-in-law. Both houses were valued at 75 pounds. Although birth order did not disinherit younger sons as it did in England, in the modified form of primogeniture practiced in the early colonial period, the eldest son almost always inherited more than his brothers, mainly to assure perpetuation of the family line. Such was the case in the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT**

**Section 8 Page 2**

distribution of the Burgis estate. After one-third was set to the widow as her dower right, a double-share of the remainder went to Thomas II, which included the new dwelling, "land at home," and a millpond, probably the site of the Burgis tanyard. The rest was divided between his brother, John, and his sisters.

Although Thomas II did not receive the house during his father's lifetime, it seems clear that it was built for him. The fact that there was no recorded deed of gift is not surprising. Although colonial fathers often built houses for their sons, such gifts were often conditional. Farmers, as well as tradesmen, waited to see if their sons fulfilled their promise as the future stewards of the family land or business, before committing themselves in the land records, as surely Thomas I would have done if he had lived. Since Thomas II married within a few months after his father's death, it is clear that he was already living in the house when the estate was distributed in August of 1737. Thomas II had married Hannah Dodd in May of that year. His brother John married her sister, Sarah, in 1742. Such sibling exchange marriages were a common way to consolidate estates and keep property in the family. John died "without issue," but Thomas and Hannah had five children; the eldest was Thomas III (1738-1799).

Upon his mother's death in 1747, Thomas II had inherited her dwelling, the old Wright property. The recombined Wright-Burgis estate remained in the Burgis family for another 100 years, passing down to Thomas III and then to his widow, Olive. Olive retained life use in half the property when it was quitclaimed in 1800 by her older children to her two younger daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. It is likely that the first changes to the house, especially the addition of a keeping room for a second kitchen, took place shortly thereafter and certainly before Olive's death in 1813. Hannah and Elizabeth, who never married, shared the house until Elizabeth died in 1844. Two years later, Hannah sold the entire property to William Hart, who immediately subdivided and sold the Burgis House with all but a half-acre to Jason Seward. Seward, whose name appears here on all the mid-nineteenth-century maps of the town, was listed in the federal census of 1870 as a retired 85-year-old farmer, living here with his widowed daughter, Eliza Seward Munger. Seward disposed of some of the land (one lot of 16 rods went for the South East District School down the street) before he sold the remaining three acres with the house to his daughter in 1874. Considerably reduced in size to one third of an acre, the property remained in the Munger family until 1935. Owners since then have included the Chittendens, an old Guilford family, and Helen Pigott, who bought the place in 1956. The restoration she began was completed by the present owner, who purchased the Burgis House in 1989.

### **Architectural Significance**

Several architectural historians have taken note of the unusual way colonial houses were framed in the New Haven area. The first was J. Frederick Kelly, who mentioned several Guilford and Branford examples in *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, first published in 1924. More recently, Abbott Lowell Cummings identified the origins of one of the framing anomalies in the Burgis House, the use of trimmer joists in front of the chimney stack, which he calls the "proper English manner."<sup>1</sup> Cummings attributes the type of roof framing found in the Burgis house as the signature of a local housewright, citing at least five other examples in Guilford, including the Hyland House of 1660 across the street. The key elements that define this vernacular variant are the use of six small purlins in each slope, as well as the vertical sheathing. While Kelly indicates that there was a wider regional distribution of this type of roof, neither historian has suggested that it was derived from English practice.

The case can be made, however, that English thatch roofs were framed in much the same way. Instead of purlins, thatch poles were laid across the rafters. Since it is known that thatching persisted in the New Haven Colony for sometime until banned by the local authorities as a fire hazard, it is possible that a few early houses in Guilford had thatched roofs. It was an easy transition to a wooden roof with vertical sheathing, which was better suited to the New England climate.

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<sup>1</sup> This quote and other comments attributed to Cummings in this section are taken from the videotape of his site visit to the Burgis House, 1992.



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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET****Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT****Section 8 Page 3**

Certainly, all post-medieval domestic architecture in Connecticut was derived from English prototypes. It also is well understood that size and proportions of houses relied on English medieval agrarian traditions and measurements. However, there are distinct differences in the towns settled directly from England as compared to the rest of the state. As colonial architecture evolved in the rest of Connecticut, framing methods became standardized. Departures from standard practice are found only in the New Haven area. As architectural students continue their studies of the Burgis House and others in town, the Guilford builder may be identified. It may turn out that his ancestors came from a region of England where these variants were common practice.

Further research may also identify the joiner who created the remarkable fireplace walls in the Burgis House. They obviously were crafted with the same set of molding planes and other hand tools, thus confirming that they were fabricated at the same time. Since the work was done long before pattern books, which were not widely available until the late 1700s, the joiner was also a talented designer as well as a fine craftsman. Although the Burgis family had the wealth to commission such elaborate work, such a degree of enrichment was rare outside the major port cities, where merchants and ship captains commonly built in the Georgian style. And in the Burgis House, even though the Georgian influence was carried over into the double-cube form of the house itself, such elaboration makes a dramatic contrast with the simplicity of the exterior.

As designed, these walls have the precision and balance associated with the classicism of the Georgian period rather than the more typical asymmetry of the standard colonial paneling. While the panels themselves display exceptional craftsmanship, the innovative pilasters that flank the fireplaces are, of course, the most striking features. As was demonstrated in the parlor chamber, these features had the practical purpose of covering butt joints between paneled sections. The parlor pilasters, which have the typical gradation in size and tripartite division associated with classical architecture, were custom-designed to match the overall wall pattern. The smaller bolection moldings between sections carry the eye to the panel divisions, an effective refinement. The significance of the parlor chamber is enhanced by the so-called floating pilasters, which are rare and perhaps unique. They emphasize the interesting counter-balancing thrust of the fireplace surround against the horizontality of the wall. It is truly fortunate that the owners of the Burgis House have gone to such great lengths to reveal and restore the original beauty of both these rooms, which together form an exceptional architectural legacy.

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Thomas Burgis II House  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .33

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>694450</u>	<u>4572490</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By:**

**Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator**

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Preservation Associates date 5/30/00

street & number 37 Orange Road telephone (860) 347 4072

city or town Middletown state CT zip code 06457

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Philip Schaeffer & Irene Auerbach  
street & number 144 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street telephone (212) 819 8740 or (203) 458 9112  
city or town New York state NY zip code 10011

**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. 470 et seq.).

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Federal Census, MSS, Town of Guilford, 1870

Guilford Land and Probate Records.

Maps of Guilford, 1852, 1874

Steiner, Bernard Christian. *History of Guilford and Madison, Connecticut*. Reprint of 1897 edition. Guilford Free Library, 1975.

Talcott, Alvan, comp. *Families of Early Guilford, Connecticut*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984.

Schaeffer, Philip. Videotape of site visit to the Burgis House, c. 1992.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property is described in the Guilford Land Records in Volume 366, Page 951.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries are drawn along existing property lines to encompass all the land and buildings still associated with the Thomas Burgis House. The original 4-acre lot, reduced to three acres in 1873, was subdivided about 1908. At that time the house lot was reduced to approximately its present size.

(8-86)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Thomas Burgis II House, Guilford, New Haven County, CT**

**Section: Photo Page 1**

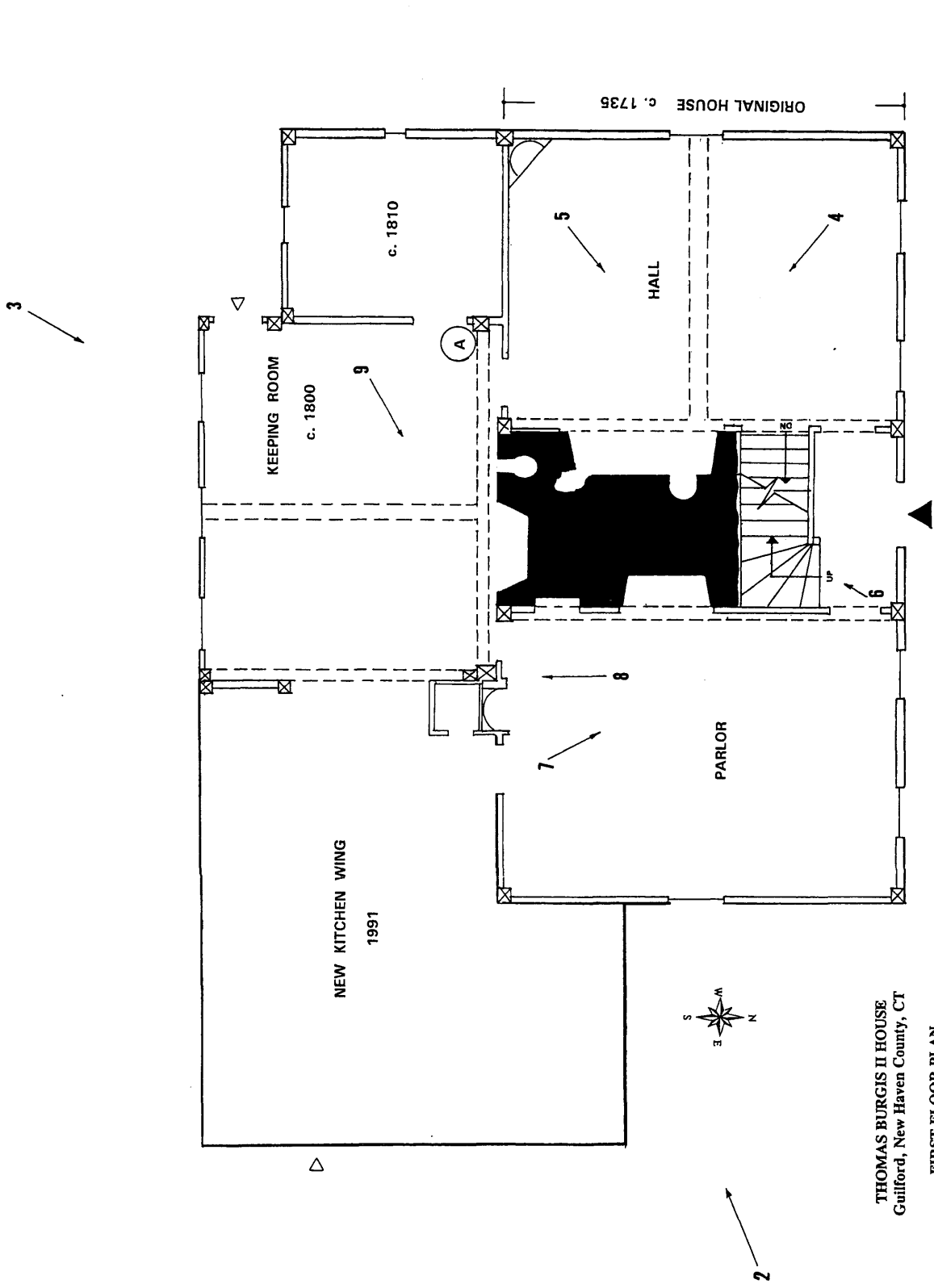
**List of Photographs**

Photographer: Cunningham Preservation Associates

Negatives on File: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: 3/00

1. Façade and west elevation, camera facing SE
2. East elevation, camera facing SW
3. Rear and west elevations, camera facing NE
4. Hall fireplace wall, camera facing SE
5. Hall fireplace wall, camera facing NE
6. Front staircase, camera facing SW
7. Parlor fireplace wall, camera facing NW
8. Parlor rear wall, camera facing S
9. Keeping room fireplace, camera facing NE
10. Parlor chamber fireplace wall, camera facing W
11. New kitchen wing from above, camera facing SE
12. Second floor passage (above front entryway); underside of attic stairs to R, camera facing E
13. Attic, camera facing E
14. Attic, camera facing SE



**THOMAS BURGIS II HOUSE**  
 Guilford, New Haven County, CT

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

Approximate Scale: 1/8" = 1'  
 Arrows indicate photograph views

Cunningham Preservation Associates 7/00