

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 21 1987

date entered JUN 2 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WILLIAM JEROME I HOUSE

and or common Cippel House

2. Location

street & number 367 Jerome Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Bristol N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Albert R. & Margaret E. Cippel

street & number 367 Jerome Avenue

city, town Bristol N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bristol Town Clerk

street & number Municipal Center, 111 North Main Street

city, town Bristol state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town 59 South Prospect Street Hartford state CT

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 William Jerome I House is a 2-and-1/2-story, clapboarded 18th-century house with an integral lean-to at the rear. Located in a residential area in which modern houses predominate, the house sits close to the road on a fieldstone foundation, partly obscured by shrubs and bushes behind an old picket fence. The property also includes an old barn and a c.1900 workshop converted from a small chicken house. The land extends many acres in fields and woods behind the house, but only the front part of the lot with the house and outbuildings is included in the nominated parcel.

The house has a five-bay facade (Photograph 1) with the entry in the center, and measures 38' by 30' in plan. Fluted pilasters flank the doorway (Photograph 2), which originally had double doors but now has a modern raised-panel door. Windows are fitted with reproduction 12-over-12 sash. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The chimney is built of stone and in size and proportions is appropriate for an 18th-century house.

The house has post-and-beam construction, with wide flaring corner posts visible on the interior. There are small overhangs of 4" to 6" at both the second and attic stories. Summer beams are visible in one of the two front rooms on each floor. The roof is constructed with principal and secondary rafters. The principal rafters are pegged into extensions of the girts and summers running the depth of the house and support a purlin for the secondary rafters (Photograph 3). Clapboards are nailed directly to the studs. At the rear of the house is a 1-and-1/2-story ell, 20' X 28', which formerly accommodated a second kitchen and a woodshed (Photograph 4). Like the house, the ell is of hand-hewn post-and-beam construction.

The interior includes five fireplaces in the massive stone chimney stack. The large kitchen fireplace (Photograph 5) has an oven in the rear wall. One stone can be removed, opening to a large space in the stack at the cellar level (Photograph 6). The north front rooms on both floors have fireplaces with shallow arched openings. Other original interior features include beaded casings on the posts and beams, feather-edge wainscot in the kitchen, raised-panel doors (including one in a 3-over-2-over-2 pattern) throughout, a simple corner cupboard in the north room (Photographs 7, 8, and 9), and raised-panel arrangements above the kitchen and around the fireplaces in the first-floor front rooms. The front stairway hall has been entirely modernized, and no old floors are exposed. A second corner cupboard from an old house has been added to the south front room. The kitchen mantelshelf is also an addition.

The barn's exterior and roof (Photograph 10) appear to date from the last quarter of the 19th century, with narrow vertical-board siding and peaked frames around the windows. The principal opening is in the middle of the broad side. The massive hewn frame is visible inside, with posts shouldered out to 18" or more. Possibly it is contemporary with the house.

The house and barn contribute to the significance of the resource; the altered workshop building does not. The workshop presently contains the blacksmith forge and tools of the present owner.

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Existing Surveys (continued):

Bristol Architectural and Historical Survey

1978 - Local/State

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Criteria A, C

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1742 - built	Not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Jerome I House has architectural significance as a well-preserved house which embodies the distinctive characteristics of 18th-century Connecticut domestic architecture (Criterion C) and historical significance as a reminder of Bristol's early days of settlement (Criterion A). Built about 1742¹, the house has the distinctive symmetrical five-bay facade, massive central chimney, and clapboarded exterior which are the hallmarks of Connecticut's colonial houses. Interior details, including fireplaces, paneling, and casings on the structural members, also represent well-preserved, authentic features which are characteristic of the period. While not original, the small-pane sash is an appropriate restoration and complements the house's intact historic fabric. Of particular note are the house's integral lean-to form and double-overhang appearance, both common variants on the basic form. The lean-to allowed the usual first-floor rooms without the expense of a full second story. The method of constructing the lean-to, using cantilevered girts and summers to support major rafters, is thought to be a localistic feature restricted to Cheshire, Milford, and other parts of the greater New Haven area². The slight overhang to the stories is a feature common in central Connecticut from the mid-18th century to about 1780.

An early and long-time owner of the house was William Jerome (1717-1794). Jerome came to the area about 1740 and was a founding member of New Cambridge parish, which in 1785 became the independent town of Bristol. He was a farmer and large landowner, owning hundreds of acres nearby. Although wealthier than most members of the community -- his net worth of £ 174 was the highest assessment in 1780³ -- Jerome was representative of the early settlers of Bristol. Most of the early families came either from Farmington, of which Bristol was then a part, or, like Jerome, from the north part of Wallingford, now the town of Cheshire. People settled on the better farmland along the few level uplands ridges in town, with related families often locating near each other. Jerome's son William II built a house (still standing) some distance north of this one. Until the very end of the 18th century, Bristol was culturally and economically isolated from the larger world; its agricultural economy produced little surplus and allowed for few trappings of wealth or stylishness such as occurred in Connecticut Valley towns. Thus the houses of even wealthy people like Jerome were relatively plain; only the unusual arched fireplaces and the simple corner cupboard distinguish this house from that of the average farmer. Jerome's wealth is primarily evident in his ownership of two slaves; he was the only slaveowner in Bristol at the time of the 1790 Federal census.

Bristol in the 19th and early 20th centuries became highly industrialized, followed by a period of intense suburban development that has eliminated most evidence of the town's 18th-century origins. Only a handful of houses of the mid-18th century remain, including the William Jerome I

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clouette, Bruce and Matthew Roth. Bristol: A Bicentennial History, 1785-1985.
Canaan, N.H., 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 2.7 acres

Quadrangle name Bristol

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	7	2	3	0	0	4	6	1	8	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes a portion of the parcel shown as Lot 4, Bristol Assessor Map 55 and referenced in the Bristol Land Records in Volume 579, page 936. The portion nominated is defined by a line drawn south from the northwest corner at Warner Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see sketch map).
N/A

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette Matthew Roth and Robert Griffith, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Resource Consultants date 16 September 1986

street & number 55 Van Dyke Avenue telephone (203) 547-0268

city or town Hartford, state 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date April 13, 1987

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

Patrick Andrews date 6/2/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Betty L. Swasey date 6-2-87
Chief of Registration

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Significance (continued):

Notes:

1. The generally accepted date of 1742 is based upon a deed in the owner's possession; Hurlburt (see bibliography) figured that an earlier-mentioned house is not this one and gave the date c.1748.

2. J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (New Haven, 1924), 52-56. Given the Jerome family's Wallingford origins, Kelly's generalization applies to this Bristol house as well.

3. Farmington tax lists, New Cambridge, 1780, microfilm, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford.

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Bibliography (continued):

Hurlburt, Mabel R. "Jerome-Cippel House," Colonial Dames manuscript, 1950,
State Library, Hartford.

Manchester, Dorothy M. "Cippel House Retains Authenticity," Bristol Press, May
5, 1970, p. 15.

Pratt, Michele A. "The Albert Cippel House," typescript, 1986, Connecticut
Historical Commission, Hartford.

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Boundary Justification:

The theme of the nomination, and the significance of the resource, is primarily architectural. The boundary was drawn, using the property line of the front part of an irregularly shaped parcel, so as to include the house, barn, workshop, and surrounding land. Although the historic use of the property was as a farm-house, the acreage presently associated with the house, largely woods and fields, is only a fraction of the hundred-plus acres owned by Jerome, a tract which now is primarily suburban in character and would not add to the significance of the house.

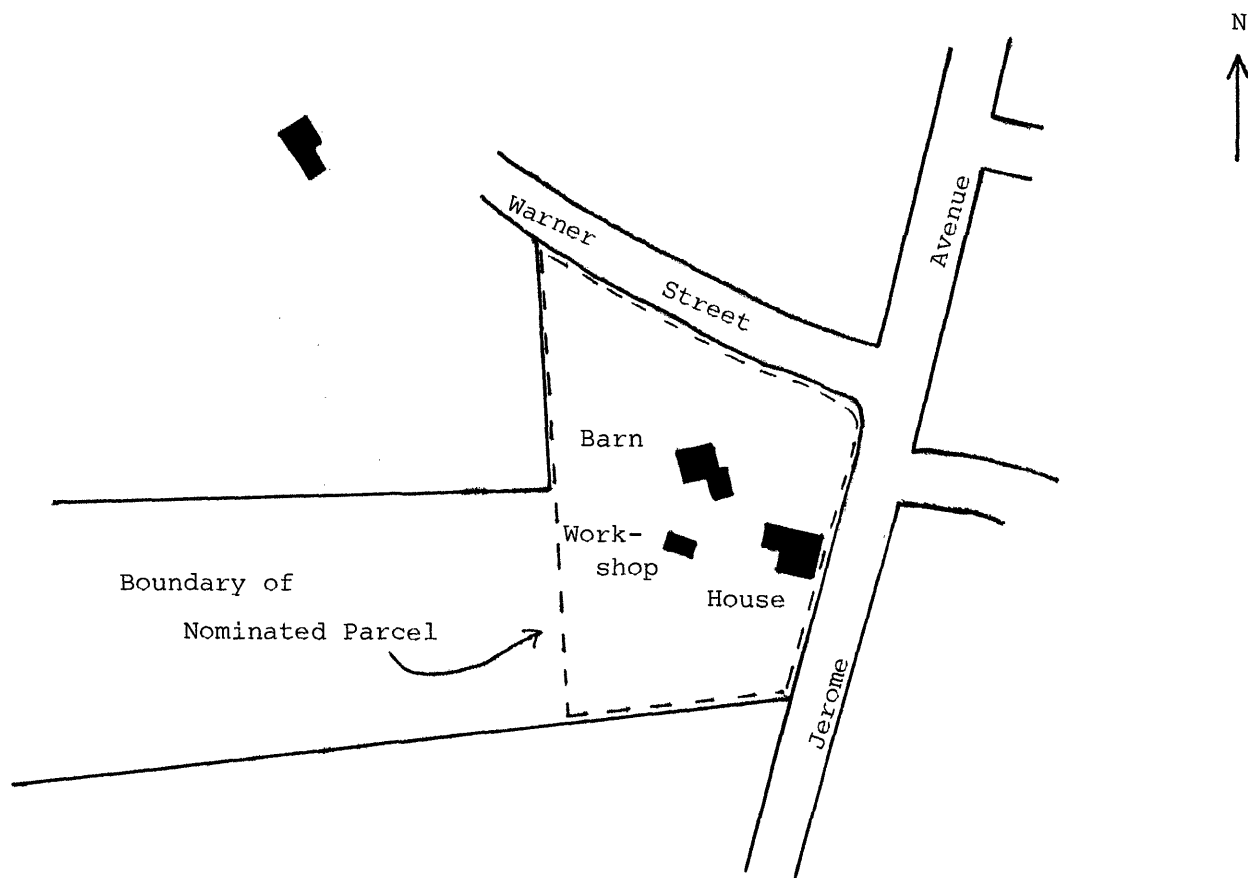
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SKETCH MAP



Traced from Bristol Assessor's Map 55, Scale 1" = 200'