

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 17 1984
date entered AUG 16 1984

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

1. Name

historic Gilman-Hayden House

and/or common Jonah Williams House

2. Location

street & number 1871 Main Street N/A
not for publication

city, town East Hartford 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 Mr. Joseph Dube

street & number 1871 Main Street

city, town East Hartford N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Hartford Town Clerk's Office

street & number 740 Main Street

city, town East Hartford state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect St.

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gilman-Hayden House (photograph 1) is a Georgian style home built on a berm on the east side of East Hartford's Main Street. The house stands in a residential area comprised of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century homes. Behind the house the land stretches west to the Connecticut River and a region once known as Gilman's landing. The post and beam framed house stands two-and-a-half stories high and is topped by a gable roof. Built in 1784, the five-bay dwelling was designed on the central-hall plan, with twin, interior brick chimneys. It is an early example of the vernacular Georgian style in this community.

The main body of this house rests on a brownstone ashlar foundation, and the entire building, including the rear kitchen ell, is sheathed with shingles dating from the mid-twentieth century. A brick foundation supports the kitchen ell (photograph 2) and a brick chimney rises from the western end of its gable roof. The main entrance of the house is centered in the facade and it displays an early, six-pane overhead. The double-hung window sashes have six lights over six throughout the house. Sheltering the front doorway is a pedimented, gable-roofed Colonial Revival portico supported by Doric columns. Similar columns support the single-story Colonial Revival porch at the south side of the house. The five-bay, two-and-a-half-story form, with one-and-a-half-story kitchen ell, is typical of the eighteenth-century domestic architecture in the Connecticut River Valley, but very few such houses survive in this community today.

The interior of the house contains many original eighteenth-century elements, including built-in cupboards, wide beaded wall panelling, and wrought-iron hardware. On the first floor there are two rooms on each side of the central hallway, and the staircase to the second floor begins at the front of the hall and rises along the north wall to the second-floor landing. This staircase has a plain, square newel post and smooth turned spindles and handrail. The south front room, or parlor, contains a glassed-front corner cupboard (photograph 3) and a brick fireplace. The cupboard, which stretches from floor to ceiling, is divided into upper and lower portions. The glassed-in upper portion has three tiers of butterfly shelves, while the lower portion has a double raised-panel door. The fireplace surround is comprised of wide, smooth wooden panels, topped by a simple mantel. A raised-panel warming cupboard is built into the wall, to the left and above the fireplace, and the remainder of the room has a smooth wainscoting capped by a chair rail on the lower half of the walls. An early two-panel door hung with long strap hinges remains in this room. The north front parlor is dominated by a more elaborate fireplace (photograph 4). Attenuated, raised-panel pilasters flank the brownstone cheek pieces of this fireplace, and beaded wooden moldings underscore the wide smooth panel beneath the mantel. A small, raised-panel cupboard is built into the wall at the south end of the chimney wall. The northwest room is also dominated by a pannelled fireplace (photograph 5). The wood panel above this fireplace measures 32 inches high and 60 inches long, and it is framed by a bolection molding. Below the fireplace mantel, the hearth lintel is smooth-cut brownstone. A smooth wainscoting capped by a chair rail also

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| | 6. | page 2. |

East Hartford Historic Preservation Survey, Phase I.

1980 ----- local

East Hartford Community Development Office, Town Hall Annex, 754 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut.

W.P.A. Writer's Project: Census of Old Connecticut Buildings (Architectural)

1934-1937 ----- federal

Connecticut State Library
Hartford, Connecticut

Item 9. Page 2

Dornbusch, C.E. Military Bibliography of the Civil War: Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives. New York: New York Public Library, 1961.

East Hartford Land Records, Town Clerk's Office, 740 Main Street, East Hartford, Ct.

East Hartford Vital Statistics, Town Clerk's Office, 740 Main Street, East Hartford, Ct.

Goodwin, Joseph O. East Hartford: Its History and Traditions. Hartford, Ct.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1879.

Hayden, Edward Williams. Diaries and Journals MS. (Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Ct.)

Paquette, Lee. Only More So: The History of East Hartford 1783-1976. East Hartford, Ct.: Raymond Library Company, 1976.

Tuthill, William Bodle, Pastor. The First Congregational Church of East Hartford 1702-1902. Hartford, Ct.: Hartford Printing Company, 1902.

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covers the lower half of the walls in this room. Across the hallway, the southwest chamber (photograph 6) has a large, brick-lined cooking fireplace which displays a collection of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century cooking equipment. Wide raised panels surround this fireplace, and behind the lower right side panel a beehive brick oven is cleverly concealed. The house also displays "gun stock" corner posts, wide pine flooring on the second floor and in the attic, and a good deal of eighteenth-century wrought-iron hardware. The central hallway on the first floor retains fine feather-edged panelling, with each panel measuring some 22 inches across.

This house has undergone few major changes in the last two centuries since it was built. A few subtle changes to the exterior can be discerned from a photograph taken by the Connecticut Works Progress Administration (Federal Writer's Project) of 1937. The W.P.A. photograph shows window sash with twelve lights over eight and a somewhat different entrance portico. The house sustained some exterior damage in the flood of March, 1936, and exterior sheathing had to be replaced in some places. The ell of the house now contains a modern kitchen, and this has been remodeled in the past decade.

The setting of the Gilman-Hayden House is dominated by a massive sycamore tree which looms above the south front lawn near the road. The tree is said to be three centuries old, and it still marks the way along the eastern (Connecticut) river bank route from East Hartford to the South Windsor settlement. The area around the house is still rural-residential in nature, and a number of nineteenth-century tobacco barns still dot the landscape and attest to the region's former prominence in the cultivation of tobacco.

There is a late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century barn (photograph 7) standing behind the house, at the southwest corner of the property. The post and beam frame barn has a gable roof and a rabbeted overhang at its gable ends. It predates the hinge-slatted tobacco barns of the region, and although it is presently in a poor state of repair, it retains the form and detailing (e.g., wrought-iron hardware) in keeping with the period of the house.

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 checked="" 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/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history |

Specific dates 1784; 1865–1878 **Builder/Architect** George Gilman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria B

The Gilman-Hayden House (1874)

The Gilman-Hayden House has been associated with prominent East Hartford families who helped to settle the community and guide its growth over the past two centuries. The Bidwells, who sold the lot where the house stands, were among the town's founders, and the Gilmans, who built the house, were also early settlers who dominated the agrarian northwestern district of the community. The Williams family, relatives of the famous William Williams (one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence), occupied the house during the second quarter of the nineteenth century; but it was a relative of the Williams', a young man named Edward Williams Hayden, whose association with this property has created its particular significance.

Criteria A

Edward Hayden

Edward Hayden (1842–1878) owned and occupied this house from 1865 until his death. He was a prolific diarist, and his vivid journals of the Civil War have been preserved at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, Connecticut. The diaries create a clear picture of a young man's agonizing decision to go to war, the impact of the war experience, and the eventual return to the province of farm and town. His legacy is significant as an example of the cultural patterns created during America's Civil War years. He deliberated carefully over whether or not to go to war, listing columns of pros and cons before enlisting in the army. He worried about leaving his family and farm to go and fight for the Union cause. His thoughts and experiences show the impact of the war on a generation of young men.

Hayden was deeply rooted in the traditions of his small New England community and his family was prominent in church and civic affairs. He was the son of Deacon Edward Hayden and Huldah Williams. He grew up on Main Street at the homestead of the Reverend Eliphalet Williams. Eliphalet Williams, brother of Connecticut patriot William Williams, served as pastor of the first church in East Hartford for over half a century before his death in 1803. His puritan influence was carried on after his death by his devoted daughter, Abigail. Abigail Williams, whom Edward Hayden referred to as "Aunt Abby" in his diary, lived in the old homestead with Deacon Hayden and his family. She was "the soul of piety" and embodiment of eighteenth-century tradition, according to local historians.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dube, Joseph, present owner of 1871 Main Street, interviewed October, 1981.
East Hartford Assessor's Records, 1939, 1951, 1971

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ^{.79}
Quadrangle name Hartford North, Connecticut Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 8 | 6 9 5 5 9 0 | 4 6 2 9 1 3 0 | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

North by land now or formerly of Charlotte A. Driscoll, 150.14 feet. East by Main Street, 150.14 feet. South by land n/f of Paul Gagon and Wanda G. Gagon. West by land n/f of Charlotte A. Driscoll, 102.69 feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| name/title | Gail Linskey Porteus | edited by: | John Herzan, National Register Coordinator |
| organization | Independent Research Consultant | date | November, 1983 |
| street & number | 46 Prospect Street | telephone | (203) 342-0254 |
| city or town | Portland | 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 6/18/84

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Through her young Edward Hayden was exposed to the experiences of an emerging republic in addition to his own experience with a country divided by civil war. Armed with this perspective and his notebooks, Hayden went off to Albany in February of 1864 to enlist in Company H of the 61st New York Infantry. After the war, he returned to East Hartford, bought "the Gilman place" (1871 Main Street) which had recently been owned by some of his Williams relatives, and continued to record his perspective of the world.

In his brief thirty-six years of life, Edward Williams Hayden never married or had children, but he did leave a legacy in his keen observations of life. He noted the growing polarity in political thought among his neighbors as they spoke of the "Rebellion" (Civil War), and he recorded his carefully considered reasons for leaving his farming family to join the Union forces. His most compelling words were written on the march and in army hospitals. Historian Lee Paquette has written on some of the highlights of Haydens's war experience:

Hayden's unit shipped out to Virginia and had its first skirmish on May 8th (1864) near Chancellorsville. After a fight on May 12th Hayden, desperate for something to write on, salvaged a notebook diary from the body of a rebel soldier. The diary is a remarkable relic of the war. Beginning at one end is the rebel's narrative. At the other end Hayden commenced his writings. They are interrupted by a bullet hole and blood stain on the small book. As Hayden was sitting down writing his journal, a sniper shot him. His wounds were not critical [and the little book spattered with blood and showing the bullet hole remains to attest to the incident]. In the spring of 1865 Hayden was enrolled in the United States School for Applicants for Command of Colored Troops. He heard the famous black leader Frederick Douglass speak in Philadelphia, and later he arrived for his examination as an officer candidate in the city of Richmond, just a few days after its surrender. He wrote that he visited the deserted capitol building, looking out over the city from its dome and feeling the impact of the vanquished and deserted place. On April 12th Hayden was the first Union soldier to be examined for an officer's commission in Richmond. [He did so well that he was recommended for lieutenant colonel, and he headed for Washington.] Arriving at Alexandria he heard of the assassination of Lincoln and Seward. ". . . went to the house where the President's dead body lay", he wrote. "Saw it moved, and we were at the White House when the procession reached the place. Such sadness I never saw." Hayden never saw more action and his prized commission was never awarded, since black troops were not needed after the war ended. He returned to East Hartford, [bought the property at 1871 Main Street, and worked at

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farming, teaching, and town offices such as Town Clerk] until his premature death in 1878.¹

Bibliographies for Civil War literature include some half dozen diaries written by New England soldiers and later published. In addition, there is surviving material written on troop movements, rosters of soldiers' names, historical sketches and memorial addresses. There is, however, no known account of central Connecticut origin which is more vivid and insightful than that of Edward Hayden.² He exemplifies a small town Yankee from a family deeply rooted in community and church, yet he also proved himself a sensitive and enthusiastic observer of life outside that small town. His diaries have been collected and preserved for future generations, and his home is significant for its association with a representative Civil War soldier and diarist.

Architectural Assessment

The Gilman-Hayden House is representative of the type of house built by Connecticut River Valley citizens in the final quarter of the eighteenth-century. Yet, unlike the majority of late Revolutionary Period homes in the community of East Hartford, this house displays the floor plan and decorative elements of the vernacular Georgian style. Of some fifty late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century houses surveyed in the community between 1981 and 1983 (Historic Preservation Survey, Phase III) only one other wood-framed house has a central hall floor plan. It is the Joel and Jonathan Williams House at 270 Long Hill Street, and it was built fifteen years after the Gilman-Hayden House. While most East Hartford builders clung to the old, central-chimney configuration, often with gable-end overhangs, George Gilman built a house which embraced a new style and concept in the five-bay two-story dwelling. The house retains much of its interior character with large fireplaces, well-preserved panelling, molding, and

¹ Lee Paquette, Only More So: The History of East Hartford 1783-1976, (East Hartford, Connecticut, 1976), pp. 88-93.

² C.E. Dornbush, Military Bibliography of the Civil War: Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives, (New York, 1961), chapter on New England and the Northeast.

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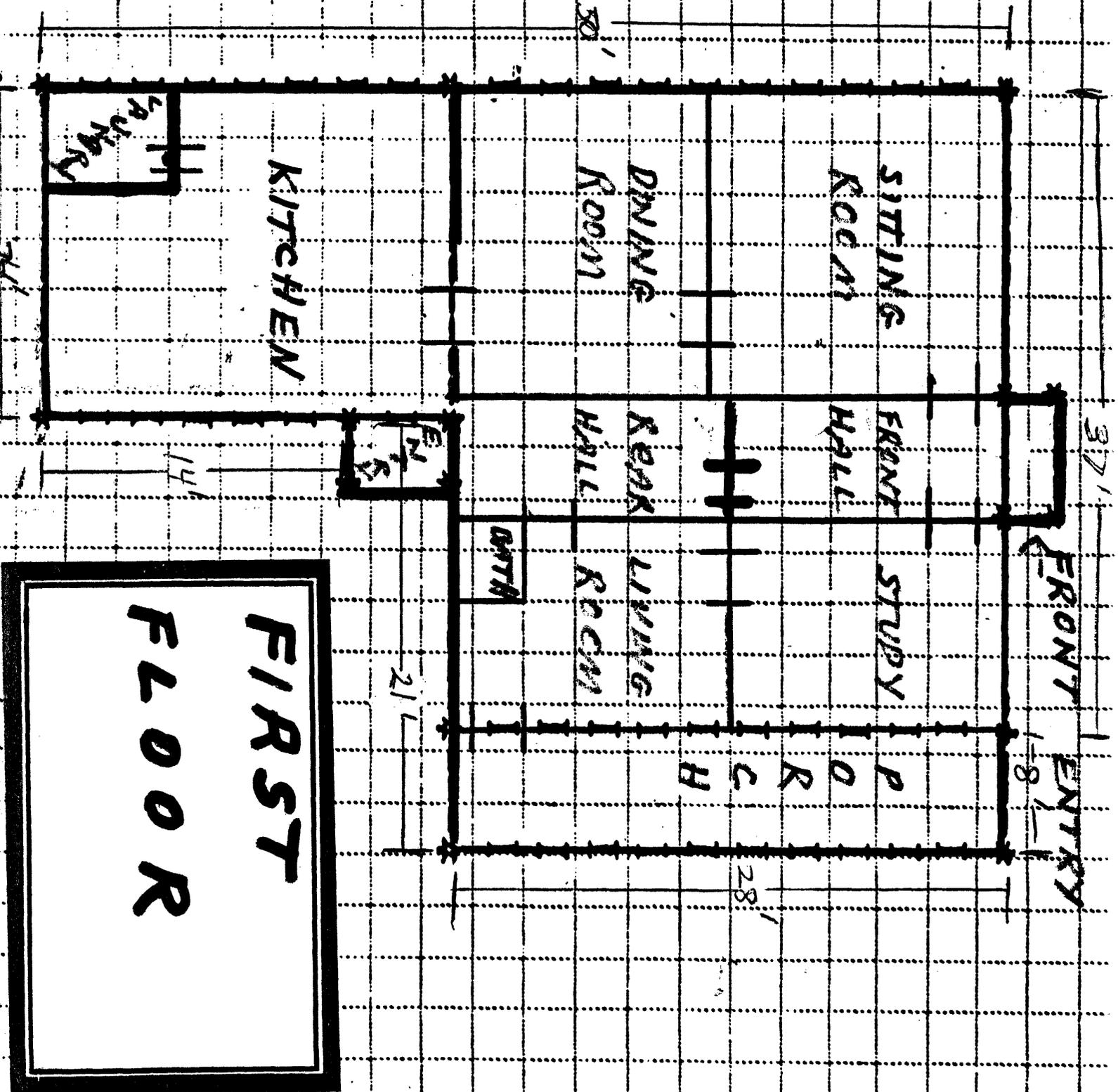
date entered

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hardware. The exterior, although updated, retains the symmetrical form and simplicity characteristic of eighteenth-century homes. The survival of the post and beam framed barn, behind the house, adds to the agrarian atmosphere of the site. Although much of the community once looked this way, there are very few such houses and sites left in East Hartford today.



FRONT ENTRY

SITTING ROOM

FRONT HALL

STUDY

PORCH

ROOM

HALL

DINNER ROOM

REAR HALL

LIVING ROOM

ROOM

HALL

ROOM

KITCHEN

BATH

FIRST FLOOR

37'

28'

21'

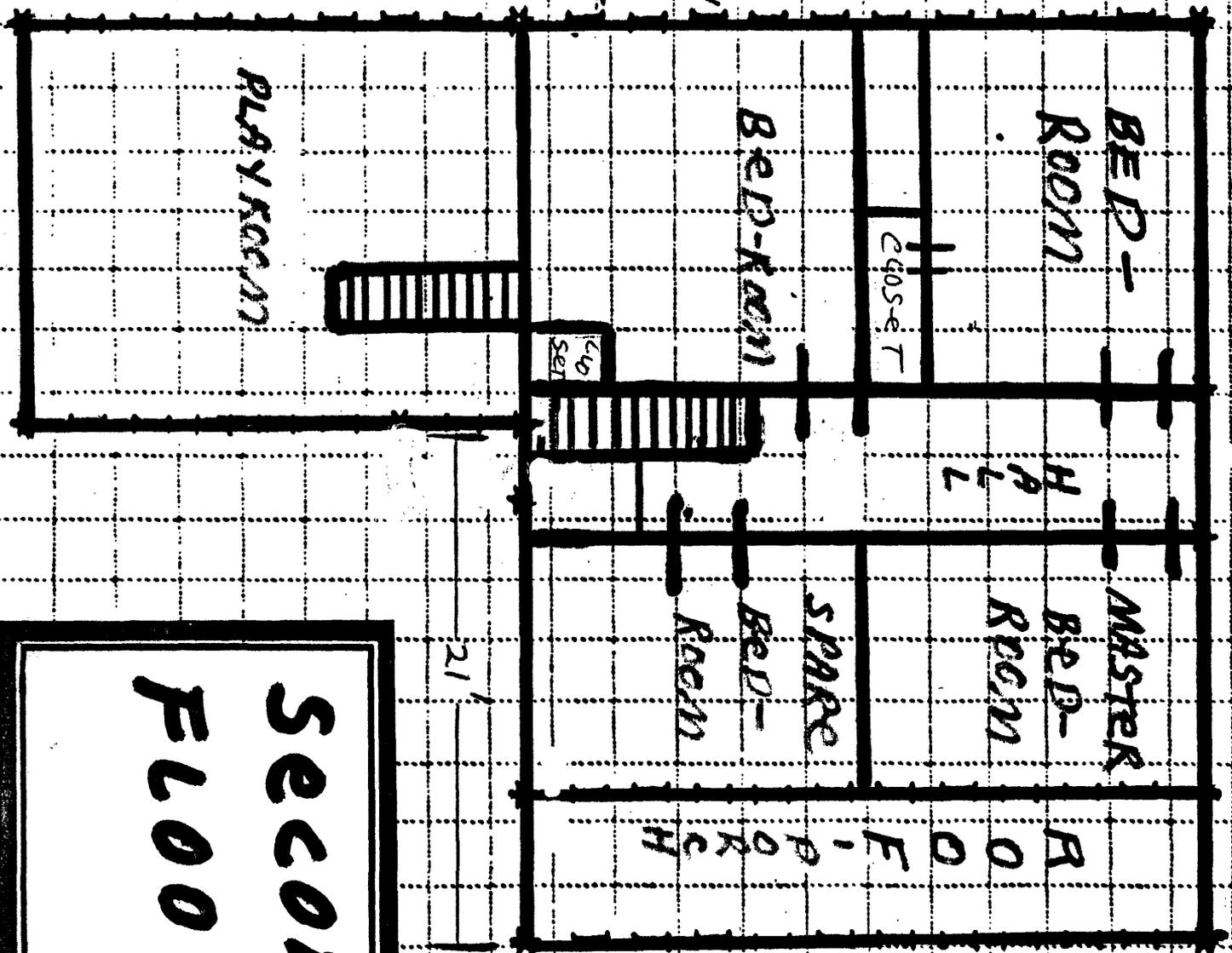
18'

14'

50'

BATH

BATH



45'

BED ROOM

ROOM

CLOSET

BED ROOM

HALL

L

MASTER BED ROOM

ROOM

SPARE BED ROOM

ROOM

PORCH

CLOSET



50'

21'

28'

SECOND FLOOR

PLAY ROOM