

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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APR 16 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Raymond-Bradford Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

Raymond-Bradford Homestead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Raymond Hill Road

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Montville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

U.S.C. N/A VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CT

CODE 09

New London COUNTY

CODE 011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

N/A

NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Alice G. Chase

STREET & NUMBER

36 Harland Road

CITY, TOWN

Norwich

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montville Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

310 Norwich-New London Turnpike

CITY, TOWN

Uncasville

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1981

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

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 Raymond-Bradford Homestead is a 2½-story, hipped roof structure located in a rural area of Montville, Connecticut. The house is sited on a long ridge which runs from the northwest towards the southeast, about 500 feet above sea level. The house's main entrance faces south and, on a clear day, the Thames River and Long Island Sound are visible in the distance. Rising from the south, State Route 163 forms a sweeping curve below the house. Here, it is joined by Raymond Hill Road which runs up the ridge from the southeast. Now a single thoroughfare, this road continues northwest past the house for 2.6 miles to its junction with State Route 82.

Today, the Raymond-Bradford Homestead is a private residence (Fig. 1). A paved driveway separates the eastern facade from, first, a small, frame toolshed and then a frame, two-bay garage. Behind the house (north) are located a privy and a small barn (Fig. 2). All of the outbuildings are painted white and appear to be in good condition.

The form of the house at present reflects a number of substantial alterations made over the years. Without a more detailed investigation of the interior of walls and the removal of floors, it is difficult to speak with complete certainty about the nature and timing of these changes; but, given the evidence which is visible, the following outline of the house's construction history seems reasonable.

There appear to have been three major periods of building. First, about 1710, the original structure was completed. This was a large five-bay, 2½-story house with a gable roof. Evidence of this early construction are the massive basement summer beam (Fig. 6) and the flared posts at the corners of the rear wall. Second, about 1820, the gable roof was removed and a hipped roof constructed in its place. The front and rear plates were rebuilt at this time, leaving only a narrow cornice overhang. Also, Federal-style mantels and doorway trim were added to the front parlors (Fig. 3). Finally, about 1870, the central chimney was removed; and the roof was modified to accommodate two small brick replacements (now one). Small dormer windows were built into either side of the attic, and all the original sash was banished in favor of typical Victorian 2-over-2 replacements. A new staircase and front door were introduced into the now enlarged hallway (Fig. 5); and a kitchen ell, possibly an older outbuilding, was added to the rear of the house.

The exterior of the Raymond-Bradford Homestead reflects its early date of construction and the changes it has undergone over the years in a number of subtle ways. The foundation is random fieldstone with shaped blocks, some quite large, directly under the sills. The nine-window main facade is slightly asymmetrical, with the front door offset to the east. The house is covered with clapboards which are relatively new, although many of the older, beaded clapboards remain

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underneath. Asphalt shingles are applied to the hipped roof. Exterior decoration is minimal. The sash, as previously mentioned, are all 2-over-2 and the surrounds are very plain. Only the Victorian door-hoods over the main and (east) side entrances offer any embellishment. Both are supported by elaborate brackets with drops and have shallow, pitch roofs.

The house's interior reveals similar evidence of change. In the basement, one can see that extensive alterations have been made in the framing of the building, most likely as a consequence of the removal of the central chimney. New girts and floor joists have been installed, although several very old bits and pieces remain, most notably a very large summer beam. Also, it should be noted that the rail and balusters of the stairs leading to the basement appear to date from the early eighteenth century and are probably a section of the original stairway between the first and second floors (Fig. 4).

The main floor contains two front parlors behind which are a kitchen (which extends into the ell), a dining room (the original kitchen), and a small study. All of these rooms have relatively high ceilings, almost nine feet tall. Why these high ceilings exist in such an early house remains a mystery. The front parlors have Federal-style mantels (the fireplaces are closed off) and door trim, while the rest of the rooms are unexceptional. The front hall is all Victorian. According to the house's owner, the new front stair rail, balusters, and newel post were constructed from a Black Walnut tree cut from a woodlot on the property. The main door is typical of the period with two glass panes in the upper, arched panels.

The upstairs rooms are mostly sleeping chambers of little interest. The southwestern room has been divided in half and has an old batten door with original hinges. In the rear corner rooms, the flared posts of the house frame may be clearly seen.

In sum, the Raymond-Bradford Homestead contains a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century elements. It is difficult to give a definitive schedule of all the changes that have occurred to its fabric without expert investigation and analysis; and it must be admitted that there are some startling incongruities between the detailed description and the brief history of construction offered above. In particular, it is difficult to reconcile the size of this house, 2½ stories and two rooms deep, and the height of the first floor ceilings, almost nine feet, with the supposed date of its construction, c. 1710, in spite of the documentary and other physical

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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evidence which supports this assumption. Thus, this house can be described; but a complete understanding of its form remains hidden.

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 checked="" 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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local History
				<input type="checkbox"/> Women's History

SPECIFIC DATES **c. 1710 - built** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Unknown** Folklore

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Raymond-Bradford Homestead possesses two areas of significance. First, the alterations that the house has undergone over the past 270 years reflect the changing economic fortunes and tastes of one family (for the house has descended to members of the same family for its entire existence) in this eastern Connecticut town (Criterion A). Second, the house was built by a remarkable woman whose life is intertwined with a number of interesting events which occurred in the early years of the eighteenth century (Criterion B).

The Raymond-Bradford Homestead is not an architectural monument. It is a rather plain house that has been extensively modified more than once. These changes and alterations represent the evolution from generation to generation of ideas about the relationship between beauty and function in a modest domestic residence. For example, the alteration of the roof and the addition of Federal-style mantels and door moldings about 1820 are evidence that this generation of owners wished to "update" their house to reflect current fashions. The changes made in 1870 were done for the same reasons. Black walnut was the pre-eminent wood used in Victorian furniture, hence the desire to substitute a black walnut stair rail and balusters for the original. The owners of the 1870s also wanted a more functional house. To create more room, they removed the large chimney stack, transforming the house into a central-hall type, and added the kitchen ell to the rear. And, certainly, functional as well as aesthetic considerations prompted them to replace the sash. Thus, although some would argue that the house has been "spoiled" by the removal of many early eighteenth century features, it can also be argued that the alterations which have occurred have left a visible record of the many generations who lived here. And the early 18th-century house frame itself is a rare survival.

This house is also connected with the life of a noteworthy woman, Mercy Sands Raymond. Her history is a part of the broader, relatively overlooked (until recently) history of Colonial women. Most people are familiar with the exploits of Connecticut men in the early eighteenth century: their struggle to clear fields and plant crops, their participation in wars against the Indians, and their deliberations in early political assemblies from which the ideology of our democratic system emerged. However, only because of the labor of many forgotten wives and mothers were the men of the colony allowed to accomplish so much; and, if a man was not around, it often fell to a woman to make decisions to protect and advance the fortunes of her family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, Henry A. History of Montville, Connecticut. Hartford, CT: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1896.

Caulkins, Francis Manwaring. History of New London, Connecticut, From the First Survey of the Coast in 1612 to 1860. New London,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.7

QUADRANGLE NAME Montville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1 : 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 7361960 45961100

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property is a portion of Lot 19, as shown on Montville Assessor's Map 46. Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 19, the boundary follows the southern property line (Raymond Hill Road)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Hal Keiner, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE May 29, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford STATE CT

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 February 19, 1982

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Brauman

DATE 4.16.82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Patrick Anders

DATE 4/12/82

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd):

CT: H. D. Utley, 1895.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of New London County, Connecticut, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1882.

10. Verbal Boundary Description (cont'd)

approximately 610' to the lot's southeast corner, and then proceeds 300' to the north (along Cherry Lane). From this point, the boundary runs westward approximately 660' to the northeast corner of Lot 18, and then follows the eastern property line of this lot approximately 190' southward back to Raymond Hill Road and the starting point of this description.

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Mercy Sands was the daughter of James Sands, a prominent Block Island landowner. In 1683, she married Joshua Raymond, a New London merchant; and they were soon settled at the old home of the Sands family on the island which Raymond had purchased from his brother-in-law.¹ Raymond was often absent from home because of his business in New London; and, in consequence, according to a local historian, Frances Manwaring Caulkins, "...the care and management of the homestead devolved upon his wife who is represented as a woman of great thrift and energy."² Certainly these talents were necessary, for the house was in a very isolated position on the island, far from neighbors.

In the words of the above named author, "it is this Mercy Raymond, whose name has been connected, by a mixture of truth and fable, with the story of the noted pirate, Captain Kidd."³ Because Caulkins analyzes this incident in such a fair and reasonable way, her account is quoted in its entirety below:

The legendary tale is, that Capt. Kidd made her little harbor his anchorage ground, alternately with Gardiner's Bay; that she feasted him, supplied him with provisions, and boarded a strange lady, whom he called his wife, a considerable time; and that when he was ready to depart, he bade her hold out her apron, which she did, and he threw in handfuls of gold, jewels and other precious commodities, until it was full, as the wages of her hospitality.

This fanciful story was doubtless the development of a simple fact, that Kidd landed upon her farm, and she being solitary and unprotected, took the part of prudence, supplied him freely with what he would otherwise have taken by force, and received his money in payment for her accommodations. The Kidd story, however, became a source of pleasantries and gossip among the acquaintances of the family, and they were popularly said to have been enriched by the apron.⁴

Mr. Raymond died in 1704; and his widow decided to move to the mainland. With the money her husband had left her (and Captain Kidd's booty?), she purchased in partnership with Major John Merritt 1500 acres of land in the northern division of New London, later set off as Montville, in an area afterwards known as "Raymonds Hill."⁵ There, according to another local historian, "she built a house on the hill... in which she, with her son Joshua lived."⁶

Mercy Sands Raymond made Montville her home for the rest of her life. With Merritt, she "...gave the land on which the first

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church in Montville was built...;"⁷ and, in general, oversaw the growth of the town and her family with interest and satisfaction until her death in 1741. In conclusion, her life was a combination of domestic labor, adventure, and good fortune; and her house remains a fitting memorial not only to her, but to other colonial women whose names are forgotten not because they worked less hard or had less ability, but because they did not wake up one morning to find a pirate at their door. In an age when property ownership and civic leadership were almost impossible for women, Mercy Sands Raymond was an outstanding historical figure.

NOTES:

¹Francis Manwaring Caulkins, History of New London, Connecticut, From the First Survey of the Coast in 1612 to 1860 (New London, CT: H. D. Utley, 1895), p. 293.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Henry A. Baker, A History of Montville, Connecticut (Hartford, CT: The Case Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1896), p. 575.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid.