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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 Ives-Baldwin House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 474 Baldwin Avenue not for publication N/A  
city or town Meriden vicinity N/A  
state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06450

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide x locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 \_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Shannahan Date  
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

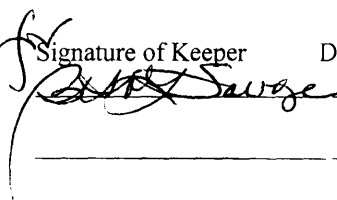
State or Federal agency and bureau  
In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper Date of Action  
 5/1/03

**Ives-Baldwin House, Meriden, New Haven County, CT**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	_ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	_ Total

Name of related multiple property listing \_\_\_\_\_ Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: <u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u>	Cat: <u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Colonial/Georgian</u>	foundation <u>stone</u>
	roof <u>shingle</u>
	walls <u>weatherboard</u>

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

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The Ives-Baldwin House stands in the northeast corner of the Town of Meriden, an area known as East Meriden, or Bangall, very close to the boundary with Middlefield and Middletown. The house is west of an area of low land at the foot of Higby and Beset mountains, and it is south of Mount Lamentation and the notch leading to Westfield Parish. This was a neighborhood of scattered farms until the mid-1960s, when its character became far more suburban. Up to about a hundred years ago more than a dozen eighteenth-century residences still stood in the neighborhood, but today the Ives-Baldwin House is the largest and one of the oldest and best preserved homes in this part of town.

It is located on the north side of Baldwin Avenue, a name reflecting the standing and longevity of ownership of the second family to occupy the house. It stands on a knoll overlooking the plains that stretch to the south. Built originally as a farmhouse, a large dairy barn once stood directly behind the house, but this barn and other outbuildings were demolished by the last quarter of the twentieth century. In the mid-1960s the land was subdivided, and the balance of the farmland has been built upon with a mixture of condominiums, and single-family residences, and a park is located to the west of the house on the corner of Bee Street and Baldwin Avenue.

The two-story double-pile frame house has a center chimney and a gable roof. It is sheathed in clapboards and the main block is said to have been built in 1798, in a style which would have been current nearly fifty years earlier (Photographs #1 and #2). A one-and-a-half-story gable-roof ell dating from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century is located at the rear. The shed-roof porch on the east side of the ell was built in the 1980s, but its design is traditional, and it resembles a much older structure. The house is five bays wide, with modern 12-over-12 double-hung sash windows (Photograph #3, an historic view circa 1900 shows that the original windows were replaced in the late nineteenth century with two-over-two double-hung windows). The portion of the foundation visible from the exterior is formed of large ashlar blocks; the below-ground sections are fieldstone. The double door with three raised panels, a reproduction dating from the post-1970s renovation, is surmounted by a seven-light transom. The windows on the gable ends have molded lintels (Photograph #4). The interior is notable because the plan has been little changed, and the interior finishes, including the window surrounds, original doors, and five fireplaces remain intact. There is a complete set of original interior doors, two of which have been relocated to closets that were added later. A closet has been added in the small northwest first floor room, and on the second floor a walk-in closet and passageway has been created from part of the rear chamber. A stair leading from the keeping room to the rear chamber was removed as part of this improvement.

A small hall provides access to the steep main staircase (Photograph #5). The newel post and balusters are simple and square in section with a molded rail. Six-panel doors lead to the chambers in the front of the house. The post-and-beam construction has been boxed in on the first and second floors of the main block, but the posts were left unfinished in the ell. The ceilings have been plastered or sheetrocked. The fireplace wall in the southeast first floor chamber has the original raised panels (Photograph #6), and stenciled designs dating from the 1980s embellish the south and north walls. The southwest first floor chamber has a simple, but nicely executed fireplace surround, with a mantel shelf surmounting a plain lintel supported by pilasters. At the rear of the house is a spacious keeping room flanked by two small rooms. The keeping room fireplace is large and has its original oven. Ashlar blocks line the fire box. (Photograph #7) Wide plank floors are found throughout the house; oak was used on the first floor, except for maple flooring in the small northwest room, and poplar flooring was used on the second floor. In the late nineteenth or early twentieth century newer floors were laid over the original flooring in several rooms; the entrance/stair hall,

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keeping room, northeast, and southwest rooms on the first floor have pine floors. On the second floor the newer floors are maple and are installed in the southwest chamber and stair hall.

On the second floor there are two chambers and a stair hall at the front of the house, and a large chamber is located at the rear, flanked by two small rooms, one of which has been converted to a bathroom. There is a fireplace with a molded surround and mantel shelf in the east front chamber on the second floor (Photograph #8). An enclosed stair gives access to the attic from the rear of the house. The frame and large chimney stack are visible in the attic, which is illuminated by a large double-hung window in each gable end.

The ell has a fireplace with a simple molded surround (Photograph #9). An enclosed secondary stair rises from the ell to the west rear room. The stair to the cellar is in the ell, below the rear stairwell. In the cellar the stone chimney stack is massive, and there is no wall between the cellar of the main block and that of the ell. The outside entrance to the cellar is at the rear, via a metal hatch which shelters the areaway.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance N/A

Significant Dates

1798

Criteria Considerations

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

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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.

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Timothy Ives

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mill (located a few miles west of the farm) which furnished flour and feed. In 1860 he married Maria Hayden of Westbrook, a daughter of Elias and Maria Smith Hayden, and an adopted daughter of William H. and Maria Hubbard Yale. Maria and Nathan S. Baldwin both taught school for a time, and Maria Baldwin was locally noted for her taxidermy skills. The Baldwins contributed stories about their family and town when a comprehensive history of the town was being compiled at the turn of the century, and their homestead was among the historic houses illustrated in the work. The couple had two sons, Edgar N. and

William H. Baldwin. Both boys were raised at the family homestead. William (b. 1870) attended Yale Business College, and after his graduation in 1891 went to work as a bookkeeper at the Meriden Gravure Company. He soon took charge of his father's milling operations and started a fertilizer business. He acquired a large farm adjoining his family's holdings, and became active in town affairs.<sup>3</sup>

After Nathan S. Baldwin's death, the homestead farm was owned by the couple's eldest son, Edgar N. Baldwin (1861-1927). Edgar Baldwin was employed by the Adams Express Company of Wallingford, and he married Alina Hull, daughter of Charles Hull. After his death, the farm was sold to John J. and Myrtle F. Reynolds. Like the Baldwins, the Reynolds family farmed the land. John Reynolds died in 1944, and in the mid-1960s Myrtle Reynolds sold the property. At that point, the farmland was sold off in parcels. Single-family homes and a condominium complex occupy what was formerly Baldwin farm property. Since then the house has had seven different sets of owners.<sup>4</sup>

Architectural Significance

The Ives-Baldwin House shows the persistence of the Georgian center-chimney house in the rural parts of Connecticut long after most of the more fashion conscious had embraced the center hall plan. Nevertheless, it is a large house, built for a prosperous farmer/carpenter in the last years of the eighteenth century. Although the Baldwins who purchased the house in the second decade of the nineteenth century were also an important farming family, they made few modifications to the house built by Timothy Ives. The integrity of the interior finishes is particularly remarkable. Like most structures dating from more than two hundred years ago, it has seen its share of remodeling, but these renovations were generally minor and sympathetic to the plan and finishes of the house. Apart from the ell, which likely dates only a few years after the construction of the house, the first remodeling was done by the Baldwin family in the late nineteenth century. Photographs from the turn of the century show two-over-two double hung sash windows had by the early years of the twentieth century replaced the original windows. In an attempt to bring natural light into the stair hall lights had replaced the top panels of the front door. The second period of renovation was in the late 1970s and 1980s when a series of owners followed the Reynolds, the last farming family to own the house. New entrance doors were installed, mechanical systems were updated, and the stairs from the keeping room to the upper floor were removed, and some partitions were rearranged. The rear porch was added to the ell. On the interior, the southeast first floor chamber was embellished with stencil designs on two walls. The original paneling on the fireplace wall in that room, consisting of narrow panels, is nice molded and remarkably well preserved. The other decorative woodwork is in a simple, vernacular style, but the craftsmanship of the molded fireplace surrounds, paneled doors with their original hardware, and molded door and windows frames is notable.

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Statement of Significance

Among the approximately two dozen houses dating from the city's first period of construction (c. 1730-c. 1806), the Ives-Baldwin House is among the most elaborate of the two-story center-chimney houses. Built in a time when the area's economy was tied to farming and the raising of sheep, it is remarkable for its size. Most of the remaining houses of this type and which exhibit the same finishes are located in the urban centers in the central or southeast sections of town, on major highways.

The Ives-Baldwin House is a well-preserved example of a large eighteenth-century farmhouse. It is associated with the Baldwin family, who were prominent citizens of the area through succeeding generations. Although the land use patterns of this part of Meriden have altered, the house remains little changed from the era in which it was built, more than 200 years ago. The house is located on the outskirts of a town which became a rapidly urbanized and began its transformation into an industrial center in the early nineteenth century. The post-and-beam construction, plan, interior finishes, and exterior appearance of the house are all original, and a rare survival in the industrial town of Meriden.

Historical Background

The Ives-Baldwin House was built in 1798 by Timothy Ives, a carpenter. Ives was the son of Lazarus Ives (b. 1703) and Mabel Jerome. Timothy Ives was born on Oct. 16, 1731. In 1815 Ives sold the house to Moses Baldwin (1788-1860), whose family was to occupy the residence for more than 100 years. Moses was the son of James Baldwin (1760-1839) and Bethia Goodsell (1764-1798). James Baldwin was a veteran of the Revolutionary War who moved his family to the Meriden Parish (then a part of Wallingford) in 1796 and purchased an interest in a milling operation in the same year.<sup>1</sup>

Moses Baldwin, their eldest son, became a successful peddler, selling notions, dry goods, and miscellaneous household items door to door. This profession was followed by many young men in the area during the early years of the nineteenth century. The items offered for sale were mainly supplied by local factories, of which a number had been established in Wallingford and Meriden by the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century. Household items, buttons, and combs, such as were produced by area factories, were in demand in the rural South, and local men made seasonal trips to make money or barter with the inhabitants along their route. Baldwin married Eda Lyman (1793-1864) around the time he purchased the house from Ives, and their union produced eleven children, of whom eight lived to adulthood. Prior to his purchase of the Ives farm Moses served in the War of 1812, and was stationed in New London. He is said to have improved the Ives farm. He also owned and operated a mill not far from his homestead, probably one on the same site as the one his father purchased from James Hough. He served as selectman of Meriden and attended the local Baptist Church.<sup>2</sup>

Nathan Smith Baldwin (1835-1909) was the couple's youngest son. Nathan attended the local district school and Meriden Academy, and after his father's death took charge of the farm. He was particularly concerned with stock raising, dairying and fruit culture, became interested in improved agriculture practices. A successful farmer, he became a leading citizen of Meriden. He increased the size of the farm until by the end of the nineteenth century it comprised more than 150 acres. Nathan S. Baldwin was active in the Meriden, Pomona, Connecticut, and National Granges, as well as being a prominent member of the Meriden Agricultural Society. In the tradition of his grandfather and father, he also operated the Baldwin

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Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> C. Bancroft Gillespie, comp., An Historic Record and Pictorial Description of the Town of Meriden, Connecticut and Men Who Have Made It. From Earliest Settlement to Close of Its First Century of Incorporation: A Century of Meriden. "The Silver City" (Meriden, Conn.: Journal Publishing Co., 1906), pp.137, 313-14 (first pagination); Baldwin Family Genealogy typescript, available at the Meriden Historical Society; Charles Henry Stanley Davis, History of Wallingford, Connecticut... (Meriden, Conn.: By the Author, 1870), p. 826.

<sup>2</sup> Baldwin Family Genealogy; Gillespie, A Century of Meriden, pp. 346-9 (first pagination).

<sup>3</sup> Baldwin Family Genealogy; Gillespie, A Century of Meriden, p. 137 (first pagination). A photograph of the Ives-Baldwin House is on p. 314 (first pagination).

<sup>4</sup> Baldwin Family Genealogy; Meriden Land Records; Meriden City Directory for 1933.



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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

X 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

name/title Kate M. Ohno

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May, 2002

street & number 81 Pond Hill Rd. telephone (203) 234-2848

city or town North Haven state CT zip code 06473

Additional Documentation

Property Owner

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

name Valerie and Mark Dunn

street & number 474 Baldwin Avenue telephone (203) 634-4549

city or town Meriden state CT zip code 06450

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Bibliography**

Baldwin Family Genealogy. Typescript available at the Meriden Historical Society.

Ferro, Maximillan L., Rosebrook, Ellen Fletcher, and Pfeiffer, Brian. *Historic Resources Inventory: Meriden, Connecticut* (1978).

Davis, Charles Henry Stanley. *History of Wallingford, Connecticut...* Meriden, Conn.: by the author, 1870.

Gillespie, C. Bancroft, comp. *An Historic Record and Pictorial Description of the Town of Meriden, Connecticut and Men Who Have Made It. From Earliest Settlement to Close of Its First Century of Incorporation: A Century of Meriden, "The Silver City"*. Meriden, Conn.: Journal Publishing Co., 1906.

Meriden City Directory. Meriden, Conn.

Meriden Land Records.

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UTMS

Meriden Quadrangle

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	18	685500	4601440

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property consists of the parcel identified by the City of Meriden Tax Assessor's Office (142 E. Main St., Meriden, Conn. 06450) as 474 Baldwin Avenue. It is described in the Meriden, Conn., land records in vol. 1653, p. 351. It is the lot which has been associated with house since the former Ives-Baldwin Farm was subdivided in the 1970s.

Boundary Justification

The property adjacent to the Ives-Baldwin House was developed after the mid-1960s with typical suburban houses of the latter half of the twentieth century. A condominium complex is located north and east of the eighteenth-century house, occupying land once associated with the Ives-Baldwin Farm.

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**Photo Page 1**

1. Front and east elevations
2. Rear and west elevations
3. Historic view c. 1900, Collection of Valerie and Mark Dunn
4. Detail of west elevation
5. Front elevation showing front doors, stair hall, and stairs
6. Southeast front room, first floor
7. Keeping room fireplace
8. Fireplace, east front chamber second floor
9. Ell looking north, showing fireplace