

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 31 1982  
DATE ENTERED APR 29 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

Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House

AND/OR COMMON

Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

249 Danbury Road

N/A  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilton

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th -

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Fairfield

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- N/A

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wilton Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

249 Danbury Road

CITY, TOWN

Wilton

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wilton Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

238 Danbury Road

CITY, TOWN

Wilton

STATE

CT

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1975

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 Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House, now the museum of the Wilton Historical Society, is an 18th-century frame dwelling located on the main road through Wilton, Connecticut. The house sits on a small corner lot, behind which is a large low-rise office building of contemporary design. Plantings are informal and include two or three shade trees and shrubs along the low stone wall which runs along the periphery of the lot. Other than one small shed, there are no outbuildings.

The house consists of a large 2½-story gable-roofed part, with its 5-bay facade facing Danbury Road, and a smaller 2-story ell to the rear. The main part is dated c.1760-1780 and has relatively light framing members (8x9" straight posts) and no visible summer beams. The facade or east side has a central entranceway installed in the 1930s, a Georgian motif with fluted pilasters, rosettes and a complex series of cornice moldings. The door is large with crossbuck lower panels. The original door was a smaller, simpler 8-panel door; it was moved to the south side and enframed with a pilastered treatment similar to that of the main entrance. Windows have old twelve-over-twelve sash with much old glass; the muntins are 1¼" wide and the panes are mounted close to the outside. The exterior is covered with beaded clapboards of graduated exposure; though somewhat tapered, these are rabbetted on the lower edge to effect an overlap. Some of these clapboards are deteriorated and others have already been replaced, but the greater part of the exterior is still covered with this old siding. The roof is now cedar-shingled with no overhang and a slight return at the gable ends; in the 19th century it had been redone with severe gable end overhangs and tin roofing. The large central chimney is of fieldstone, like the underpinning; in the cellar are visible three niches built into the stack foundation. Above the roofline the chimney is of brick and has a simple shoulder along the top and a modern cap.

The ell is thought to be older than the main house, but so much of the structure has been replaced or is hidden from view that it is difficult to judge. The ell is post-and-beam framed as two rooms, with a large hewn beam demarcating the two bays visible on the first floor interior. There is a brick chimney at the west or rear end of the ell. The two-story addition has been given a lean-to with the extension of the roof over a modern addition to the north wall. Other modifications include a small shed-roofed addition to the ell's rear wall, a porch across the south side, and dormers along the north slope of the roof.

The interior appearance is a blend of many original features alongside of elements from subsequent restorations. The porch or hall immediately within the front entrance is nearly all original. The stairway takes two turns and has a simple rail supported on slender turned balusters, generally three per stair. The sides of the treads have applied scroll cut-outs and the wall surface below is covered with raised panels. To the right is the north front room, notable chiefly because of its corner cupboard. The cupboard has an upper part, rectangular in shape, outlined by simple moldings and fitted with curved shelves. Below is a single door of two panels. Alterations to the room include the exposing of plates and girts, probably originally cased, and the addition of a dado made of a single board featheredged both top and bottom. The south front room is distinguished for panelling. The panelled fireplace wall features a bolection molding around the opening of the brick fireplace, above which is a single large panel. The topmost of the three-tier arrangement is a row of very small panels, and above them is a cornice of moderate depth; some of the moldings are carried around the room. The room has no added dado, but in the southwest corner an elaborate corner cupboard was installed: it has pilasters, rosettes, a carved keyblock, and a shell-carved soffit. It was added in the 1970s.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House  
Wilton, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Surveys:

The house is a one-structure local historic district

Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House Historic District

1970- Local

Records with Connecticut Historical Commission  
Hartford, CT

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House

Wilton, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Description (continued):

The kitchen contains a huge stone fireplace with two ovens built into the back wall. A dentillated mantelshelf and vertical featheredged boarding have been added to this room. The south chamber upstairs has a panelled fireplace wall, bolection molding, and cornice similar to the room below, but the north chamber merely has one wall of featheredged boards, probably not original. There are both exposed and cased structural members on the second story. Throughout the main house are old wide-board floors: those in the south hall are chestnut or oak whereas those in the rooms are hard pine. The back rooms and the ell have been done over for purposes of adapting the house as a museum. A restroom and gift shop occupy the small back rooms, and the ell has been opened up as one large room with office space in the "lean-to" part. There is more featheredged boarding added there, but older material includes oak floor boards of moderate width and on the second floor, a very simple country-Federal mantel surrounding the fireplace.

# 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			

SPECIFIC DATES      c.1760-1780  
                         restored c. 1930      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House has long been regarded as one of Wilton's pre-eminent 18th-century houses, and it has considerable importance for those interested in Connecticut's early domestic architecture. Although many of its features are the product of restoration, most represent genuine historical material which typifies 18th-century building customs (Criterion C). Moreover, several elements, particularly the siding and early sash, are quite rare and make the house an exceptional historic resource.

The house is typical of dwellings built in the latter part of the 18th century.<sup>1</sup> It has the standard gable roof, central chimney, five-bay form which was ubiquitous in the period. The framing is lighter than most earlier houses, with little or no flare to the posts, no visible summers, and generally reduced dimensions of members. The interior has two well-preserved panelled walls with the roll moldings which served to set off the fireplaces before mantelshelves became the custom. The porch or front hallway is also representative of the period, with its panelled wall surfaces, slender turned balusters, and simple scroll work along the sides of the stairs (though the grouping of the balusters in threes is odd). Other intact early features which illustrate 18th-century building practice include the several rooms with wide-board floors, the stone stack with its niches, the large kitchen fireplace with two ovens in the back wall, and the later country-Federal mantel in the ell.

The beaded and graduated clapboards are especially worthy of note, since the greater part of the exterior is covered with this early siding usually known only through remnants. Eighteenth-century siding materials were more diverse than is sometimes thought and included shiplapped flush boards, shingles, planed and beaded weatherboards, and the familiar clapboard. The siding of the Sloan House is somewhat of a cross between clapboards and weatherboards in that the boards are both slightly tapered in thickness and rabbeted to aid the overlap. Similarly, it is rare to find the wide-muntined 18th-century sash. Usually early houses have had their sash replaced with the narrower early 19th-century sash or else have modern reproduction windows.

The house was restored in the 1930s according to the tastes of the time. In general, the decisions made then tended to be overly stylish and ornamental, inflating the status level which the house represents. Examples are the entrances and the kitchen mantel; a similar criticism can be made of the elaborate corner cupboard. At the same time, some things were done too primitively: the exposed beams, or the feather-edged dado in the front room. The architectural integrity is compromised to a degree by the heavy hand of restoration: when viewing the facade, for example, one's eye is drawn to the elaborate pilastered doorway, appropriate to well-to-do Connecticut Valley homes, but a poor replacement for the modest transomed entrance which formerly graced the house. Nevertheless, the obvious changes to the house should not blind the observer to the significant

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Adams, Mary E. "The Sloan House." Typescript, Wilton Historical Society, 1972.
- Overand, Mrs. Edward et al. The Colonial and Revolutionary Homes of Wilton, Norwalk, Westport, Darien and Vicinity. Pr. priv., Norwalk, 1901.
- Wilton Historical Society. Eighteenth-Century Dwellings in Wilton. Wilton, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

QUADRANGLE NAME Norwalk North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 8 | 6, 3, 1, 8, 1, 0 | 4, 5, 6, 0, 9, 2, 0

B    |    |   

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described in the Wilton Land Records, Volume 150 pages 340 and 342 and also is shown as Card 1 Map 73, in the Assessor's records.

## 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 Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE February 26, 1980

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 X 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 March 9, 1982

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Alborea Byers  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE 4/29/82

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Wilton, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

3

Significance (continued):

genuine material which remains. Indeed, the overly sophisticated restorations are really no different than any other alteration or modernization except that they create a greater visual impact.

Alexander Sloan built the first house on this site in 1732, but the impecunious weaver owned the house for only a few years before selling it to the Elmer family.<sup>2</sup> The main part of the present house was built by Clapp Raymond some time after 1757, perhaps incorporating the earlier house as part of the ell. Local opinion is that the ell is an earlier structure, and while it certainly is of hewn post-and-beam construction, little of the original fabric can be seen, either because it is concealed or because of alteration. Clapp Raymond was a militia captain and a prominent man in civic affairs, but the house has few traces of affluence. The north room's cupboard, for example, is entirely plain, with not a hint of an arch or pilsters. Similarly, the front stairs' scrollwork, while showing an awareness of more formal interiors, is far less intricate or delicate than many contemporary examples. In the 19th century the house was owned by the Fitch family.

Joseph Platt Fitch was a merchant and a locally prominent person who was largely responsible for arranging for the passage of the railroad through Wilton. His children and grandchildren occupied the house until 1936. At that time, the house came into the possession of Philip Van Wyck, who with Wilton architect Nelson Breed, designed and carried out the several changes noted herein, including the new entrance.

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<sup>1</sup>Overand (1901) gives the date as 1780 and attributes it to Raymond, but Adams (1972) while making no definite statement inclines toward an earlier date, perhaps the 1730's. The Wilton Historical Society in their pamphlet simply says after 1757.

<sup>2</sup>Sloan's social status from Eighteenth Century Dwellings in Wilton (Wilton: Wilton Historical Society, 1976), 48.











**n-Raymond-Fitch House**  
 224 Danbury Road  
 Wilton, Connecticut

**Site Plan**



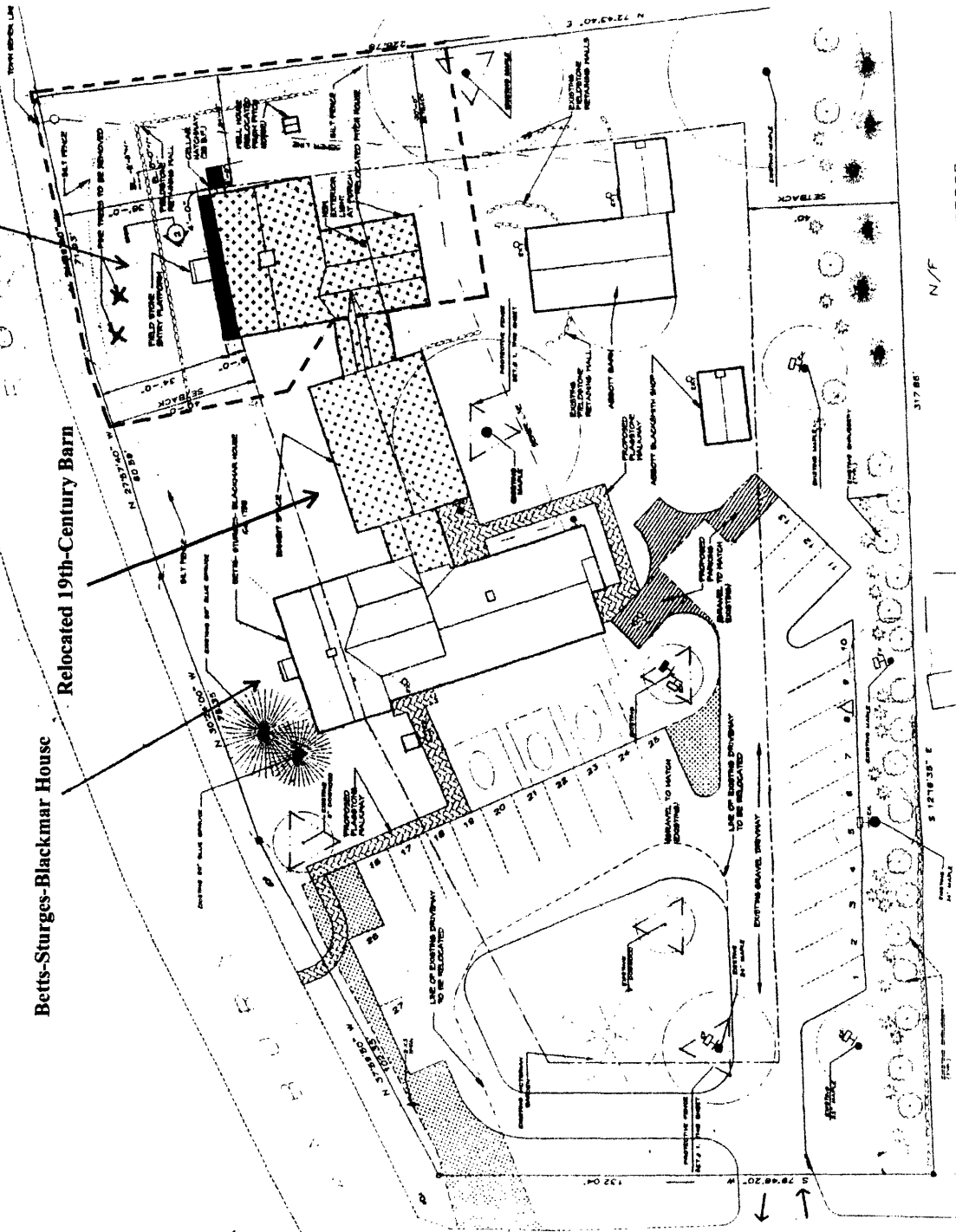
Boundary of Nominated Property

50 feet

Sloan-Raymond-Fitch House

Betts-Sturges-Blackmar House

Relocated 19th-Century Barn



EXISTING DRIVE AND CURB CUT TO BE CLOSED IN ORDER TO AVOID RELOCATION PLAN

317 88' ADELE N/F McCREGGIS