

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 29 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dr. Elizur Hale House
other names/site number O'Connor House

2. Location

street & number 3181 Hebron Avenue not for publication NA
city, town Glastonbury vicinity NA
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06033

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

John W. Shannahan September 26, 1989
Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Beth L. Savage 11-13-89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Postmedieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone-part granitewalls Wood-clapboardroof Wood-shingleother brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dr. Elizur Hale House is a 2-story, 11-room, central-chimney New England Colonial residence (Photograph #1) on the north side of Hebron Avenue in Glastonbury, Connecticut, about six miles east of the town center. The surrounding area historically was known as Eastbury, although this name has fallen into disuse. The house lot contains approximately four acres and slopes upward to the north away from the street. Apple trees, remnants of an orchard developed early in this century by former owners, dot the rear and side yards.

An old stone wall runs along the street to the west of the house, which is set back 60 feet from Hebron Avenue. Two large maple trees of great age flank the central front door, which is approached by an old granite slab walk. About 80 feet behind the house is a board-and-batten-sheathed barn that dates from c.1930 (Photograph #2) and does not contribute to the historical and architectural qualities for which the Dr. Elizur Hale is significant.

The gable-roofed Hale House is L-shaped, with a rectangular 2-story main block (40-1/2' x 32-1/2') and a long 1-1/2-story ell (16' x 42') projecting from the northwest corner of the rear elevation (Photograph #3). The facade has 5 bays, with the central entrance flanked by two windows at the first floor, and with five windows at the second. In addition to the structural features, historical evidence (note #1) suggests that the main block was built c.1780. A later date for the ell, c.1825, is indicated by its framing, foundation, and other features (note #2).

The present owners acquired the property in 1971. They have made a number of changes to the house with the intent to restore the original appearance, respond to deterioration, and make desirable modernizations. Prior to their ownership, the house had no central heat, no interior plumbing, and little electrical service. Most of the original structural elements and detailing survive; to the limited extent that components of the house were replaced or restored, the new elements either replicate the old or are, in most cases, sensitive to the old (note #3).

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The foundation walls are random ashlar, primarily granite. The dirt-floored basement covers only about one-third of the main block's floor area, a result perhaps of the rocky ledges and outcroppings common to the vicinity. Most of the wood clapboards in the exterior sheathing are fastened with wrought-head nails and appear to be original. The boards range from 1-3/4 to four inches in exposure. Vertical boards define the building corners and a molded cornice decorates the roof line. The central chimney was repaired and enlarged by the present owners above the roof line to more historically correct dimensions, but the stack within the building is original.

The double-hung sash windows display various glazing patterns and appear to date primarily from the mid-19th century or earlier. Most in the main block are 6-over-6; other patterns include 12-over-12, 12-over-8, and 8-over-8 (Photographs #4 & 5). Contrasting window sizes in the west elevation suggest that some openings were enlarged. The front door has two 9-panel leaves and old, likely original, wrought-iron hardware (Photograph #6). The door and 8-light transom above are set within a splayed architrave casing on the exterior.

The floor plan of the main block is typical of mid-18th-century houses: a large central chimney with four flues; a front entrance hall containing stairs to the second floor; large chambers to the left and right of the front entrance; and a large kitchen across the rear. In the northeast rear corner is a small chamber, and in the northwest corner are a secondary stairway and pantry that has old shelving fastened with wrought-head nails. The second-floor room layout is similar to the first. The room over the kitchen was finished for the first time by the present owners. Over the first-floor pantry is the modern bathroom.

In the ell are a modern kitchen, a new lavatory, and a rear utility room. The great age of the ell is manifested in the brick kitchen fireplace, with stone hearth, that is embellished with a molded mantelpiece, an old stone sink that tradition holds was installed while the house was used as a tavern in the 19th century, and a beaded wainscot.

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The interior wood framing and detailing appear to be original and are in good condition. The framing in the attic, for example, is rough-hewn, pegged with mortise and tenon joints, and braced. The absence of a ridge pole in the roof helps confirm the mid-18th-century age. In the front first-floor rooms, the corner posts are beaded and boxed. The wide white pine floors vary in width (one foot-wide in the old kitchen).

Beveled white-painted paneling is present in the front entrance hall, on the chimney walls in the principal rooms downstairs (Photograph #7), and in the southwest bedchamber upstairs. Other walls and the ceilings are plastered. The overmantel panel in the left front chamber has a long horizontal dimension (69 inches), while the paneling in the bedchamber is denticulated. Corner cupboards with paneled doors are located in the right front chamber and in the small northeast first-floor chamber (Photograph #8). Besides the signature found on the ell wall (note #2), the name "W. Hale" is written on the west attic wall. This signature appear to be that of Walter Hale, who grew up in the house and was the son of Dr. Elizur Hale, Jr.

The paneled wood interior doors are set in molded surrounds, and their hardware, including leather washers in several hinges, appears very old. The steep front stairway has a half turn and an open railing with molded handrail and square balusters turned on the diagonal. Of the four brick and stone fireplaces in the main block, the largest, in the old kitchen, measures 103 inches across the opening and 49 inches high. Two brick beehive ovens are in its rear wall. Several fireplaces also display old iron cranes that are original to the house.

Notes

1. Local tradition dates the Hale House as 1774. In a 1785 note appended to his will, dated 1774, Dr. Elizur Hale, Sr., stated that "The House at Eastbury that My Son Elizur Hale lives in, was wholly built, & the lower Rooms finished at my Expense...."

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Jacobus and Waterman, Hale, House and Related Families(1952), p.49. Given this possible conflict, a date of c.1780 is appropriate.

2. The wood framing of the ell is sawn and nailed, in part with wrought-head nails, in contrast to the rough-hewn and pegged framing of the main block. The ell's granite foundation was also built behind the full rear foundation wall of the main block. During their improvements, the present owners uncovered the name "L.Hale" written on the east ell wall. This signature likely is that of Leonard Hale (1784-1866), son of Dr. Elizur Hale, Jr., and a resident here until his death. While not conclusive, this evidence, together with the features of the ell, suggests that it was built during the first half of the 19th century.
3. The clapboards on the east elevation were replaced in kind (Photograph #4), and some of the exterior windows are new (e.g., the 12-over-8 sash windows in the side gables and those in the ell). Inside, the alterations included re-opening the old first-floor fireplaces, creation of a new kitchen in the ell (with modern appliances) and a new second-floor bathroom in the main block, and finishing the second-floor room over the old kitchen. Wainscotting in this room was salvaged from an 18th-century Glastonbury house on Neipsic Road that was demolished.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1780, -c.1825

Significant Dates

c.1780, c.1825

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The c.1780 Dr. Elizur Hale House is architecturally significant because it is a fine and well-preserved example of a mid-18th-century Colonial Connecticut residence. Its framing and detailing in the main block are representative of local construction practices of the time, as are those of the c.1825 ell. The long association of the house with the Hale family, which occupied the residence for over 100 years, adds historical interest. The Hales were early settlers in Glastonbury and for generations have been a prominent family in town affairs.

Architectural Significance

The main block of the Hale House exemplifies 18th-century Connecticut construction techniques and stylistic elements. Among the many features establishing its age are the pegged post-and-beam framing; the size, proportion, and arrangement of the exterior elements; and inside, the room layout and the wide pine flooring. The structural framework of the building is almost completely intact and in excellent condition, as is much of the fine interior detailing.

The beveled paneling in several rooms, the two corner cupboards, and the front door with two leaves are among the features shared with other 18th-century houses in Glastonbury, which establish the local historic context for the Hale House (note #1). The two beehive ovens in the kitchen fireplace are rare in Glastonbury, which adds distinction to the house (note #2). Also contributing to the building's significance is the strong visual sense of its historic setting because of the old stone wall along Hebron Avenue, the massive maple trees of considerable age flanking the entrance, and the lot size of four acres.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Historical Society of
Glastonbury, CT

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 4.0 acres

UTM References

A 18 709750 4620220
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of this property, for National Register purposes, are identical to those found in volume 178, page 45 of the Glastonbury, CT land records, which is the deed into the present owners.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary conforms to the present property lines. This parcel is part of a larger farm property formerly associated with the Hale House. Over time, the farm was subdivided, leaving the present 4-acre parcel.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory E. Andrews, reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Co-
 organization Consultant date 22 Sept. 1989 ordinator _____
 street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone (203) 561-3841
 city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

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The c.1825 ell has architectural significance in its own right. Rear projections like it were not uncommon 19th-century additions to 18th-century Connecticut homes to provide additional living and storage space. The framing embodies building practices of the time, furthermore, and illustrates the changes that had occurred in technology since the construction of the main house.

Over the past few years, the present owners have greatly improved the condition of the Hale House and enhanced its architectural importance. Original features, hidden by intervening alterations, were uncovered, such as the kitchen fireplace. Though some of the exterior clapboards and windows are not original, the replacements are consistent, in design if not in age, with the surviving elements of the house.

Historical Note

The builder of the house was Dr. Elizur Hale, Sr. (1724/25-1790), a graduate of Yale College (1742) and a prominent 18th-century Glastonbury citizen. No evidence exists, however, that Dr. Hale, Sr., ever lived in the house. He represented Glastonbury in the Connecticut General Assembly during its 1780 session. In March, 1782, the town meeting authorized Dr. Hale and Dr. Asaph Coleman to conduct smallpox inoculations, which placed these men at the center of a controversy that was debated and voted on at town meetings over the next eight years.

Dr. Elizur Hale, Jr. (1751-1796), the first occupant of the house, followed his father in the practice of medicine. According to oral tradition passed from one owner of the house to the next, Dr. Hale, Jr., used the small first-floor room at the northeast rear corner of the house as his office. It is also believed that during his lifetime the house served as an inn for travelers on this main route between Hartford and New London. In his will, Dr. Hale set aside land across the street for what is now known as the John Tom Hill Cemetery, which contains his grave and those of several other family members.

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The first Hale to arrive in Glastonbury was Samuel Hale (c.1615-1693), the great-grandfather of Dr. Elizur, Sr. Samuel was an original proprietor of Hartford and of Norwalk, Connecticut, settling in Norwalk briefly before returning to Glastonbury. Subsequent generations in Dr. Elizur, Sr.'s line were substantial landholders and occupied many civic positions. Each of his direct male ancestors served as a representative to the Connecticut General Assembly, in the case of his father, Captain Jonathan Hale, for 20 consecutive years (1736-1756).

The Hale House and 135 acres around it remained in Hale family hands until 1888. From 1921 until 1970, the property was owned by two generations of the Porzio family, who created a large apple orchard. The present owners acquired the house and four acres in 1971 after the property had been subdivided for development.

Notes

1. For a discussion of characteristic features of 18th-century Glastonbury houses, see Marjorie McNulty, Glastonbury-From Settlement to Suburb (1983), and the documentation prepared by David F. Ransom in 1983 for the Glastonbury National Register Historic District.
2. One of the few other 18th-century Glastonbury buildings with two beehive ovens in the rear firebox wall is the Welles-Shipman-Ward House of c.1750, a property of the Historical Society of Glastonbury that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In an interview on June 1, 1989, Dr. John O. Curtis of Old Sturbridge Village also suggested that the placement of the beehive ovens within the firebox is somewhat unusual for a house of this date, since after c.1750 builders in this area typically were putting the bake oven in the outside brick wall adjacent to the firebox.

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Glastonbury, Town of. Land records, 1750- .

Historical Society of Glastonbury. File for the Dr. Elizur Hale House, 3181 Hebron Avenue.

Historical Society of Glastonbury. The Publick Post, issues of Fall 1979, Summer 1980, and Spring/Summer 1980.

Interviews with Anne and Charles O'Connor, October and December, 1988

Jacobus, Donald Lines, and Waterman, Edgar Francis. Hale, House and Related Families. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952.

Kelly, J. Frederick. Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1963 (republication; first published, 1924).

Keith, Elmer D. Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture. Hartford: The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Inc. of Connecticut, 1976 (second edition).

McNulty, Marjorie Grant. Glastonbury--From Settlement to Suburb. Glastonbury: The Historical Society of Glastonbury, 1983 (revised edition).

Ransom, David F. National Register of Historic Places Documentation for the Glastonbury National Register Historic District (1983)(unpublished; in files of Historical Society of Glastonbury and Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut).

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Section number Photos Page 1

Dr. Elizur Hale House
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Photographs

All photographs are of the Dr. Elizur Hale House, 3181 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, CT, and were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in September and December, 1988. Negatives for all photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>View</u>
1	Facade (south elevation)	North
2	Barn/garage behind the house	North
3	Rear (north elevation) of main block, showing ell	Southwest
4	East elevation	West
5	West elevation	East
6	Front door, interior view	Southeast
7	Paneling in left front chamber	Northeast
8	Corner cupboard in right front chamber	Northeast
9	Fireplace in old kitchen	South