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OMB No. 1024-0018



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 8 Ferris Hill Road, also known as 441 Canoe Hill Road

City or town: New Canaan State: CT 06840 County: Fairfield (001)

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Mary B. Dunne, Deputy SHPO</u>	<u>12/13/16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)



Signature of the Keeper

1/31/2017

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- DOMESTIC / Secondary structure (well housing)
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- DOMESTIC / Secondary structure (well housing)
- 
- 
-

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL / Saltbox  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation & chimney: stone  
Walls: wood shake  
Roof: asphalt shingle

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House<sup>1</sup> is a c. 1740, 2 1/2 -story wood-frame saltbox building. The main block faces south toward Ferris Hill Road. Small additions project west and east. The foundation is fieldstone and the center chimney is ashlar granite masonry. The structure is post-and-beam framing, the walls are clad in wide wood shakes, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The site is a 2.14-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Ferris Hill Road and Canoe Hill Road in New Canaan, Connecticut. It is a level parcel located at the crest of a hill in a semi-rural northeastern part of the town (Figure 1, 2; Photo 1). The house is set 20 feet back from the road, and a low fieldstone wall follows the south property line (Photos 2, 3). A driveway with traces of old asphalt paving extends north along the east side of the property to a two-car garage (non-contributing) with an attached screen porch, located 120 feet north of the house (Photo 2, 8). This replaced a barn in 1960. A well-housing (contributing object) is located east of the house, and consists of a circular mortared cobblestone wall topped with a cast iron arched pulley system (Photos 2, 4). A mowed area surrounds the south, east and north sides of the house. Along the west side, the grade slopes down steeply to Canoe Hill Road. A cluster of small trees and shrubbery forms a screen from the road. North of the garage, the site is wooded and a low fieldstone wall is located within the parcel, parallel to the northern property line.

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<sup>1</sup> The historic name of the house given in the 1951 publication *Landmarks of New Canaan*.

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## Narrative Description

### House (Contributing building, c. 1740)

#### Exterior

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House is a three-bay-wide saltbox with a center-chimney three-room layout including a leanto kitchen, typical of the building type. The main block measures 28 feet wide by 27 feet deep. One of only approximately 15 extant (as of 2016) houses built by the year 1740 in New Canaan,<sup>2</sup> the building has typical saltbox massing with a two-story three-bay south façade. The north (rear) elevation is one-story with the roof sloping down from the ridge in a single pitch. A full cellar with mortared fieldstone masonry and a central chimney mass underlies the main block, including the north kitchen. Character-defining features of early eighteenth-century construction and massing are intact, along with evidence of a campaign of restoration and remodeling in a Colonial Revival mode during the early twentieth century.<sup>3</sup>

On the facade (Photo 3), the central entrance has a simple Georgian-style surround consisting of engaged pilasters and a simple molded cornice (Photo 7). A five-light transom with bulls-eye glazing (possibly dating from the major renovation) is set into the lintel above the door. This is flanked by nine-over-six double-hung wood windows on the first floor. Similar windows are in the three bays of the second floor. The sashes throughout the house appear<sup>4</sup> to be wood replicas installed with sash weights and pulleys, though some of the glass is old and may be original. The entry door is a flat-panel stile and rail door with eight panels hung on wrought iron strap hinges. It has an exterior storm door of vertical planking with horizontal battens. A monolithic stone slab forms the stoop. A one-story shed-roofed addition to the east side of the house has its south wall flush with the south elevation; a single matching window is in the south face of the addition.

The east elevation exhibits the saltbox profile (Photos 4, 5). At the first story, the projecting shed-roofed addition extends the width of the southeast parlor and the same roof line extends over a stone-floored porch with a solid plank and batten door with strap hinges, leading into the original north kitchen. A small seven- by twelve-foot room is attached on the north side of the building, with its roof continuing the main roof slope. Matching nine-over-six double-hung windows include: one in the east elevation of the parlor addition, one in its north gable, one in the east wall of the kitchen; and two in the second floor. There is a six-over-six double-hung window in the north addition, a small four-light sash low under the rake of the roof to the north (right) in the second floor, and a four-over-four, double-hung window in the attic.

The north (rear) elevation is a single story in height. The west side of the addition on this elevation has a door with glazed lights, which provides access to a stone-paved terrace along the north side of the building. In the north wall of the original kitchen are two nine-over-six double-hung windows (Photo 5).

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<sup>2</sup> New Canaan Historical Society (NCHS) website list of selected houses over 100 years old: <http://nchistory.org/preservation/historic-homes/>.

<sup>3</sup> For simplicity, this will be referred to as “the major renovation.”

<sup>4</sup> Based on visual inspection and Tillson 1971 notes (NCHS archives).

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Attached to the west end of the building are two modest-sized additions (Photos 5, 6). At the west end of the original kitchen is an 11- by 15-foot gable-roofed room of 1 1/2-story height which serves as the modern kitchen; this is built on a crawl space and has a tall brick chimney, indicating a likely former kitchen stove location. Attached to the west of this and off-set slightly to the north is a one-story gable-roofed space, originally built with slab-on-grade as a milk room at some time after 1947,<sup>5</sup> and later converted to a laundry, bathroom, and bedroom. Windows on the north elevation include a six-over-six double-hung window in the modern kitchen, a pair of nine-light single sash windows in the laundry and bath, and a nine-over-six double-hung window matching those of the main block, lighting the bedroom. The west elevation of the bedroom wing has one matching nine-over-six window, as does the south elevation of this wing. The south elevation of the additions is completed by a shed-roofed entry porch and recessed door into the bedroom and bath area. A nine-over-six window into the modern kitchen and a six-pane window in the attic above are located to the east (right) of the entry porch.

The west elevation of the main block (Photo 6) is partially exposed south of the abutting addition, with a nine-over-six double-hung window into the west front room of the main block, a matching window above in the second floor, a four-over-four attic window and a non-original opening for a ventilation fan to the south (right).

The windows all have simple flat square casings. Siding is unpainted wide-coursed wood shakes that is not original, but is in good condition. The trim is painted a muted old rose color chosen by the Tillsons, who owned the house from 1957 on.<sup>6</sup> Some of the windows have wood-framed screens or four-pane wood storm sash. The fieldstone foundation is not exposed except at the west additions where the grade begins to slope down toward Canoe Hill Road. In the south elevation at the east (right) bay, there is a window well with a three-pane cellar window. Roofing is asphalt shingles over plywood, with the latter laid over the original board sheathing. Narrow trim boards without overhangs are in place at the eaves and rakes. The central chimney is mortared stone ashlar masonry, with two courses of corbelling at the top and a slate cap supported on stone spacers.

Interior

The main block of the building sits over a full basement of mortared fieldstone with a poured concrete slab floor (the slab is not original). The additions attached to the main block have crawl spaces and fieldstone foundations; the westernmost addition and the north addition appear to be slab-on-grade.

At the first floor level, a pair of rooms flanks an entry and an original kitchen extends across the full width of the north side.<sup>7</sup> The south rooms are a 16' x 14' east parlor (the length dimension includes the addition) and a narrower west room of irregular plan, which has been opened to the north original kitchen by removal of a partition (Photos 10-13). At the south center is an entry hall where the front door is located (Photo 11). To the north the original kitchen extends the

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<sup>5</sup> It post-dates the illustration in *Landmarks of New Canaan* (Figure 5).

<sup>6</sup> Diana R. Tillson recorded her decision with her mother to match a color previously used as a wash on the fireplace stones (NCHS archives, 1971 Tillson notes).

<sup>7</sup> This traditional plan is sometimes termed the "hall and parlor" type, the entry was traditionally known as a "porch" and the kitchen as the "keeping room" (Garvin 2001, 96).

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width of the house (Photos 13-15), and measures 10'-6" deep x 27'-6" long. An atypical feature of the building type, the only stair connecting to the upper floor is located in the southeast corner of the north kitchen, rather than in the front entry hall. The stair likely dates from the major renovation, but its position in the kitchen may be original (NCHS, 1971 Tillson notes).

Eighteenth-century fireplaces with monolithic hearth stones are extant in the southeast parlor and north kitchen. In the latter, the fireplace is lined with granite block masonry and a brick-lined beehive oven and iron crane are extant. Simple painted wood mantels are extant in both.<sup>8</sup>

In the southwest room (now dining room), the fireplace wall (east) is canted to increase the width of the room toward the south. The fireplace has a very small firebox opening in an exposed mortared fieldstone wall (Photo 12). It is unknown whether this treatment is original or a Colonial Revival-period modification.

The timber posts in all three rooms are exposed rough-hewn wood with no trim. Walls and ceilings are plastered and painted. Doors are predominantly plank and batten type, with only the front entry and adjacent doors to the east and west rooms being flat panel stile and rail doors. Hinges are of the H and HL surface-mounted type; it has not been determined whether some are original or all date from the major renovation.<sup>9</sup> A central heating system consisting of cast iron steam radiators is in place throughout the house, and also appears to date from the major renovation. Electric light fixtures from the same period include several wall sconces designed to resemble candles in wrought iron holders (Photos 13, 21).

The majority of windows are matching nine-over-six, wood double-hung sash, 2'-0" wide by 4'-2" tall, with sash weights and pulleys, an indication that they were replicated in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century (Photo 17). Several appear to have hand-blown glass, which may be from the original sash.

The floor framing is visible in the cellar (Photos 9). As the dimensions of this building are relatively compact, girders and joists run from the corners of the central chimney mass to the outer foundation walls, and there are no summer beams. Partial replacement of some joists with sawn lumber and installation of a subfloor over the joists appears to have occurred during the major renovation. This allowed the finish flooring to be installed in a different orientation in the southwest room – continuous with the north kitchen, rather than in the likely original placement perpendicular to the joists.

First floor finish flooring is wide plank solid wood, but this appears to have been re-installed or replaced during the major renovation, as evidenced by the orientation and tight fit of joints. Also notable is that the finish flooring in the north kitchen and southeast parlor has its finish elevation higher than the hearthstones, another indication of re-installation of the wide board flooring over a subfloor. There is no flooring joint at the location of the six-foot eastern extension in the southeast parlor.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The design of the mantel with vernacular sawn wood bracket supports is similar to that in the Hanford-Silliman House (King 1981, 44).

<sup>9</sup> Tillson's 1971 notes indicate that some hinges are original (NCHS archives).

<sup>10</sup> Tillson's 1971 notes record that flooring from the attic was used for repairs on the lower floors during the Morse ownership (NCHS archives).

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To the west, the additions include a modern kitchen, laundry, and bath, and down two steps, a bedroom which is said to have been a former milk room (NCHS, 1971 Tillson notes). This has been fitted with windows matching the main house and with cast iron steam radiators of a mid-twentieth-century type recessed into the walls.

The second floor contains two bedrooms, in the southeast and southwest corners (Photos 16-21). The room at the center of the south side (typically a stair hall above the entry) is a mid-twentieth-century bathroom accessible from the southeast bedroom. The space above the north kitchen has a sloped ceiling due to the saltbox profile, and serves as a corridor connecting the stair, two bedrooms, attic, and a bathroom located in the attic of the western addition. The walls of this corridor are finished with built-in closets and cupboards. The south side includes a narrow stair to the upper attic, and some high recessed cabinets above the narrower upper part of the chimney mass. The north side has built-in closets under the slope of the roof, with doors that have iron hinges, probably twentieth-century in date but designed to evoke the Colonial period. Walls and ceilings are finished with painted plaster while the timber posts in the rooms and the timber rafters in the saltbox are hewn, exposed and unfinished. Wood flooring in the bedrooms appears to be original, with some patching.

The upper attic retains original timber common rafters with half-lapped pegged joints at the ridge (Photos 22-24). These are supported on wall plates raised on short knee walls, formed by extended wall posts, approximately one foot above the attic floor. Spaced roof sheathing boards are extant and have been overlain with plywood in the most recent re-roofing. At the end walls, there is evidence of sawn studs and horizontal sheathing, indicating that when the shake siding was installed, repair work was also done to the gable end walls (Photo 23). The stone chimney tapers in the attic and exits through the roof just to the north of the ridge-line (Photo 24).

**Well housing** (Contributing object, early twentieth century)

The dug well to the east of the house is surrounded by a three-foot-high masonry wall of mortared cobblestones. A cast iron arched bracket supports a pulley, not currently in use. The well is covered (Photo 4) and a modern drilled well is located adjacent under a flush stone cover.

**Garage** (Non-contributing building, 1960)

According to historic building and tax record cards (NCHS archives) there was a barn on the property until 1960, when it was demolished and the current two-car garage was built, with a screen porch attached to the south end. The gable roof is oriented north-south and two overhead doors face east. Siding is vertical boards and the roof is asphalt shingles (Photo 8).

**Landscape elements**

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House is sited at the northeast corner of Ferris Hill Road and Canoe Hill Road (Photo 1). The site is a generally flat parcel at the crest of a hill. Grade slopes slightly down to Ferris Hill Road from a level front yard area. A remains of a fieldstone wall edges the lawn, and a set of flagstones and small flight of stone steps lead down to the road. One large old

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shade tree remains from a pair of sugar maples that formerly framed the path, as shown in a 1946 Eberman drawing in *Landmarks of New Canaan* (Figure 5). Until its recent removal, a wood picket fence in deteriorating condition extended across the front property line (Photos 2, 3). The construction of the fence was consistent with examples of Colonial period fences (Hopkins, 1922). Along Canoe Hill Road, the grade of the road slopes down and a steep cliff-like bank forms the western property line. Along the north side of the house, there is a terrace of flagstone pavers which can be reached from the glass door of the north addition. At the wooded northern area, a fieldstone wall runs parallel to the north property line, approximately 40 feet south of the boundary.

### **Integrity**

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House retains a substantial degree of integrity as an example of a typical vernacular eighteenth-century Colonial saltbox farmhouse. The building is located on its original site, although the acreage has been reduced. The building mass, fenestration, center chimney, front yard, doors, stone stoop and walkway remain in their original configuration. Historic landscape elements along the south property line, including a large sugar maple tree and the lower courses of a fieldstone wall, remain extant. Modest later additions at the west side of the building are inconspicuously set back from the façade and small in scale, so that they do not compromise the historic building mass. Extant original interior features include timber framing and fireplaces.

The house also exhibits evidence of a campaign of restoration and remodeling during the Colonial Revival period of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. Window restoration and siding replacement are visible on the exterior. Window sash appear to replicate the originals. Siding is of rougher-scaled wood shakes than would have been original, but wood shingle siding is a typical locally-occurring exterior finish.<sup>11</sup> Interior renovations reflecting the Colonial Revival approach to restoration are intact and have great integrity. These include built-in cabinetry in the first and second floor rooms, the removal of a partition between the southwest parlor and north kitchen, and the introduction of indoor plumbing and central heating systems. Little change has occurred to the house since the late 1950s, with the exception of modern kitchen and bath replacement fixtures and finishes in the two western additions. The building remains an exceptional example of the taste and decision-making of the Colonial Revival period as applied to the preservation of an actual Colonial period building. Within the property, the historic setting is preserved, which contributes to its feeling as an eighteenth-century homestead. The property is a rare surviving vestige of the initial settlement of Canaan Parish and is currently surrounded by larger scale, recently constructed single-family residences.

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<sup>11</sup> Nearby similar houses with restored shingle siding include the 1737 Fitch-St John-Ruscoe House at 4 Carter Street and the 1724 Benedict-Eels-Thatcher House at 453 Carter Street (NCHS archives and web site).

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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.

### 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Exploration/Settlement
- Community development
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1740-1957  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

- c. 1740: construction of original house
- 1772-73: house and owner recorded in Rev. William Drummond's "Journal of Visitation"
- 1872: property acquisition by Gilbert Birdsall
- 1911-1957: house owned by Anna Morse

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level in the categories of Settlement, Community Development, and Architecture. Under Criterion A, the property is significant for its association with the establishment of Canaan Parish and subsequent growth of the community from its period of subsistence agriculture through suburban development during the Colonial Revival movement at the turn of the twentieth century. The property was initially developed by Hayts/Hoyts, a founding family who participated in a movement to establish a new congregation between Norwalk and Stamford, which resulted in a new settlement that became the Town of New Canaan. The property meets Criterion C as a rare surviving local example of eighteenth-century Colonial saltbox and for its representation of Colonial Revival design ideology during an early twentieth century restoration. The period of significance extends from 1740, the approximate construction date of the house, to 1957, the death date of owner Anna Morse.

No archaeological investigations have been undertaken at the site; therefore it is not known whether it qualifies under Criterion D. The property could be considered archaeologically sensitive due to the former presence of a barn, the minimal ground disturbance around the house, and its associations with the settlement period of the town. However, significance under Criterion D is not included in this nomination because no subsurface investigations have been performed.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Criterion A**

#### **Area of Significance: Exploration and Settlement**

The area of Canoe Hill Road and Ferris Road in New Canaan was part of the territory of the town of Norwalk from the time it was established in 1651 by people moving from the Connecticut Colony. By the late 1690s, all land in Norwalk near the Meeting House had been distributed and the Proprietors began providing larger land-holdings in the back country for homesteading by the descendants of the earlier settlers (Taylor 2010, 11).

Land on Canoe Hill was allotted in two grants to Zerubbabel Hayt (1652-1738) (spelled alternately Hait, Hoit, and Hoyt) and his three sons Joseph, Daniel, and Caleb beginning in 1710 and totaling around 275-290 acres. In 1731, Canaan Parish was established, combining territory in the northern parts of both Stamford and Norwalk. Residents were able to build their own church apart from the older town parishes, and settlement of the area increased.

The exact route of Canoe Hill Road was not settled until 1744 but in the early eighteenth century the Hayt family began dividing the land among their descendants, and Daniel Hayt (c. 1679-1756 or -1764) acquired 20 acres at the corner of Canoe Hill and today's Ferris Hill Road. Daniel gave his younger son, Abner Hayt (1714-1797), 4.5 acres of land on which to build a dwelling house.

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No deed survives, but Abner had married his wife Phebe around 1731 and their house is identified in the 1744 Proprietors' record of the routing of Ferris Hill Road from Canoe Hill Road "beginning a little southerly of Abner Hayt's dwelling house, going easterly ..." (King, NCHS deed research notes). A date for the house construction prior to this time gives the generally accepted estimate of 1730-1740.

Only five years later, Abner Hayt sold the house to Jonathan Burwell. Burwell sold his property to his father-in-law, Captain Ebenezer Carter (1697-1774)<sup>12</sup> by 1750. By the mid-1760s the house and property had been sold to Ezra Hayt, who transferred it to his son Matthew Hayt. Matthew married Sarah Lockwood in 1761 (the Lockwoods owned the adjacent property to the north, up to the location of the Canoe Hill Cemetery on Laurel Road).

In 1772-73, the Reverend William Drummond, newly appointed minister of the Canaan Parish church, made the rounds of his parishioners, keeping a "Journal of Visitation" which has become a treasured early record of the population.<sup>13</sup> He met with Ezra Hait, Sr. (1707-1790) as the owner of the property at that time (Bayles 1973, 14). Research indicates that this property was not Hait's primary home but that he lived at a nearby homestead while his son Matthew may have lived here (King, NCHS deed research notes).

In 1801 the independent township of New Canaan was incorporated, combining sections of Norwalk and Stamford. The town consisted of a number of small clusters of settlement, mostly agricultural. The town center of today came to dominate development during the Industrial period of the mid-1800s (Taylor 2010, 7).

The 8 Ferris Hill site remained in family ownership until the 1860s, with the surname spelling evolving to "Hoyt." In 1863 Chauncey H. Benedict took over the property (he appears to have been a Hoyt relative as he acquired the property from the estate of Chauncey B. Hoyt and his household in 1860 included the 81-year-old Abigail Hoyt). Up to this time all the property owners were farmers. The first half of the nineteenth century marked a general out-migration of Connecticut's agricultural population to more productive western lands. During this period of transition evidence suggests that one of the house's occupants may have been Onesimus Comstock, aka Onesimus Brown, a former slave.<sup>14</sup> Onesimus Brown has been traced to the neighborhood but has not been definitively associated with the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House.

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House is locally significant for its association with the settlement of Canaan Parish by settlers of English ethnicity in the early eighteenth century, when Canaan Parish was newly established (in 1731) as a geographic entity distinct from the Norwalk and

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<sup>12</sup> Ebenezer Carter was notable as the sole survivor of the Deerfield Massacre of 1704. He was a child of seven, and was taken to Quebec where he stayed for three years before being brought back to New England.

<sup>13</sup> The original is in the archives of the New Canaan Historical Society.

<sup>14</sup> Born into slavery in Canaan Parish and a veteran of the Revolution, Onesimus was described in a town history as "the last man to live and die in slavery in Connecticut" (Readings in New Canaan History 1949, 154-5). Onesimus was first recorded as a child slave in the household of Jonathan Husted (now 16 West Road) on January 26, 1773 during Rev. Drummond's visitation. Six days later Husted sold the house and land to Moses Comstock, who subsequently conveyed Onesimus to Comstock's aunts Sara and Phebe of Comstock Hill, Norwalk for 39 pounds. Phebe died in 1840, willing him to her niece, another Phebe Comstock. Upon the second Phebe's death, "Onesimus, well provided for, returned to New Canaan to live on Ferris Hill," and is buried in the nearby Upper Canoe Hill Cemetery on Laurel Road (King 1981, 71 and 97).

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Stamford colonies. Early owners Ezra Hoyt and his wife Phebe Benedict Hoyt were recorded as founders of the new parish. Except for the brief five-year period in the late 1740s, the house remained in Hayt/Hoyt family ownership for more than 120 years, through the era of subsistence agriculture, the Revolutionary War, and into the period of the decline of local agricultural production (NCHS archives, deed research). The integrity of the building and property make the site a good example of the agricultural period of New Canaan's history. The distinction of being among the "Visitation Houses" recorded by Reverend William Drummond in 1772-73, marks this house as one of fewer than 30 extant examples. Other nearby "Visitation Houses" include the 1737 Fitch-St. John-Ruscoe House at 4 Carter Street (originally almost identical to the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House; Figure 6) and the 1724 Benedict-Eels-Thatcher House at 453 Carter Street (Figure 7).

**Criterion A**

**Area of Significance: Community Development**

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House is locally significant for its association with the transition of New Canaan to a seasonal destination and suburban community. New Canaan had a brief period of industrial success in the early nineteenth century, with shoe manufacturing as an important industry. By the Civil War period, the shoemakers of New Canaan were failing to compete with other areas in advances in mechanization, and the industry dwindled (Taylor 2010, 7) at the same time that agriculture was declining. However, the construction of a railroad line to New Canaan in 1868 made the town easily accessible as a seasonal vacation destination and ultimately a fashionable suburb for New Yorkers.

In 1872 Gilbert Birdsall (1824-1886) purchased the property, which then consisted of 17 acres. Birdsall was among the first New Yorkers who saw opportunities in New Canaan's farmland. He was superintendent of the horse-drawn Third Avenue Street Railroad Company in New York. Having started in lower Manhattan in 1853, by the 1870s the extension of service to 125th Street required stabling more than 1,700 horses. Birdsall began re-assembling about 200 acres of the old Hoyt farmsteads in New Canaan, to pasture the company's horses for rest and recuperation.

Initially spending summers in New Canaan and winters in New York City, Birdsall and his wife Ann relocated year round to New Canaan in 1874. They enlarged a small inn in the village center into the Birdsall House, a fashionable seasonal hotel (*Landmarks of New Canaan* 1951, Bouton, 22-24; Rockwell, 299-305). Birdsall's pasture acquisitions east of the village included four farmhouses, two of which he updated for occupancy by family. Of these, he gave the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse house to his daughter, Annabelle and her husband Franklin Stevens (b. 1845), who had begun working as a clerk for Birdsall in New York (US Census records). Stevens later managed the livery and stable operation adjacent to the hotel, beginning in 1877. The livery adapted with the times, evolving into the town's first taxi service and automobile garage, operated by the Stevens sons Gilbert, George, and Charles (King 1981, 269).

Birdsall's widow, Ann (1876-1907), assumed management of the hotel after her husband's death, and subsequently the hotel was run by Robert B. and Anna Morse (1874-1957) until the mid-twentieth century (Rockwell and Benedict 1951, 299-305). Anna Morse was the Stevenses' daughter and, along with her brothers, inherited the house on Ferris Hill Road in 1911 from the estate of their grandfather, Gilbert Birdsall (NCHS deed research notes). She evidently took over

Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House

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sole ownership, as she was shown as the owner of a 14.5-acre property in the 1930s (Dolph & Stewart 1931). Anna Morse occupied the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse house, initially seasonally while living on Main Street in New Canaan.

By the early twentieth century it became feasible to live on Ferris Hill Road full time and drive to work in town. Anna and Robert Morse were able to invest in modernizing the house at 8 Ferris Hill Road, installing indoor plumbing and central heat. It seems most likely that Anna Morse was responsible for the major renovation of the house, as she maintained her association with it over four decades. Handwritten notes from 1971 by then-owner Diana F. Tillson attribute various restoration and renovation activities to Anna Morse (NCHS archives, 1971 Tillson notes). The style of infrastructure, such as heating and light fixtures, is also consistent with the work of the 1920s. In the mid-1950s the property was subdivided into two-acre building lots where single-family homes were constructed. By this time, New Canaan was established as a “bedroom community” within commuting distance of New York City (Taylor 2010, 10-14), and both Modernist and traditional-style new houses were developed through subdivision of older farmland and estates.

### **Criterion C**

#### **Area of Significance: Architecture**

The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House is locally significant as an example of mid-eighteenth-century residential design and construction. It is one of the oldest extant houses in New Canaan (NCHS list of old houses), with fewer than 20 known examples dating from before 1740 (Findlay 2016). A small, rural, vernacular example of the saltbox type, the house has minimal ornament and retains excellent integrity of massing and character-defining features including the fenestration, doors, central chimney, and interior framing and fireplaces.

The saltbox building type with its three-room plan, emerged in the seventeenth century as the common building configuration for the early timber-framed houses of the New England colonies (McAlester, 78). The type includes post-medieval-style houses of the 1650s, with minimal ornament and with the lean-to kitchen as an addition, and continued to be constructed during the 1700s in later inland settlements. The north kitchen was often an integral part of the original construction, as in the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House.

In New Canaan, among the pre-1740 houses that remain, two nearby examples are the 1724 Benedict-Eels-Thatcher House at 453 Carter Street, which was the home of the first minister in the Canaan Parish, Rev. John Eels; and the 1737 Fitch-St. John-Ruscoe House at 4 Carter Street. Both are similar in design, center-chimney Saltbox type houses with shingle siding. Both were originally small, approximately 30 x 36 feet in plan, and have been enlarged by substantial rear additions. The Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House remains unusual in retaining nearly its original scale and form, only 28 x 26 feet in plan, and in having only minor additions. By comparison, the mid-eighteenth-century<sup>15</sup> Old Ogden House in Fairfield was 38 x 30 feet in size, large enough to incorporate summer beams supporting the upper floor joists (HABS CONN, 1-FAIRF, 10). A few houses of the period are included in the New Canaan Local Historic District,<sup>16</sup> and are thereby

<sup>15</sup> Date of construction revised subsequent to the HABS documentation (Cummings 1993).

<sup>16</sup> The 1737 Seymour-Comstock House at 38 Main Street, 1742 Husted-St. John-Ashwell House at 46 Park Street, and the 1764 Hanford-Silliman House at 13 Oenoke Ridge, are contributing resources in the Local Historic District.

Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House

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listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places. No other eighteenth-century houses in New Canaan have as yet been documented through nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, except for the David Jr. and Sarah Webb House (ca. 1785) on Ponus Ridge Road.

The early twentieth-century restoration and remodeling of the house also places it as a local example of the Colonial Revival movement during the evolution of New Canaan as a vacation destination and then as a suburb for commuters working in New York. The house as it was during the Morse ownership, exemplified the enthusiasm for Colonial heritage in the early twentieth century, when the Colonial Revival movement in architectural design and planning made it fashionable both to preserve the authentically old (while discreetly adding modern conveniences) and to build new houses in historically-inspired styles.

New Canaan citizens were at the forefront of an interest in American history and heritage, which emerged from the time of the 1876 national centennial. The New Canaan Historical Society was one of the earliest local history organizations in Connecticut, founded in 1889. It followed Litchfield's in 1856 and New Haven's in 1862. The opening of the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford as a museum, in 1899, and the formation of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in 1919 in Wethersfield by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Connecticut, established the practice of preserving and restoring Connecticut buildings of the Colonial period as museums. Figures including Norman Isham, J. Frederick Kelly, and Wallace Nutting helped to popularize the restoration of historic buildings in the early twentieth century (Wilson 2004). More recent iterations of the preservation movement interpret the earlier preservationists as sometimes imposing "restoration" techniques that added romanticized features not authentic to the original buildings. This desire, to make a Colonial period house conform to a romantic ideal of Colonial design, formed a component of the Colonial Revival movement.

Another aspect of the Colonial Revival in the early twentieth century was the design and construction of new houses inspired by Colonial style but incorporating larger scale, more open plans, and convenient modern features like indoor plumbing, electrical and central heating systems, garages for automobiles, and landscaping (Wilson 2004). Architectural firms like McKim, Mead, and White designed these homes in many suburban towns. New Canaan's local talent included Alfred Mausolff, designer of a new Post Office at 94 Elm Street (Taylor 2010, 10). As New Canaan became a vacation and suburban destination, former farmland was subdivided into residential lots of at least two acres, and expansive new homes proliferated. The subdivision of the Morse property (New Canaan Assessor's records) is an example of this trend.

The preservation of the eighteenth-century timber frame, central chimney and fireplaces, overall massing and landscape, exemplify the preservation of an authentic Colonial-period resource. The creation of an open interior layout, and additions of built-in cupboards, electrical fixtures, indoor plumbing, and central heat, all twentieth-century features, mark this as an example of the Colonial Revival treatment of a historic resource. The restoration resulted in sensitive preservation and updating of the building, but with a goal of making it conform to the ideal conception of the Colonial house.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.14

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.168275      Longitude: -73.485906
2. Latitude:                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                      Longitude:

**Or**

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**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nomination is limited to the bounds of the current property identified as Map 39, Block 107, Lot 39 of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut assessment records. The limits of Lot 39 are shown in Figure 2.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected to include the full extent of the extant resources associated with the Hoyt homestead. Prior to subdivision in 1955, the property consisted of 14.5 acres; modern residential development has occurred on the subdivided parcels that now surround this property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Charlotte Hitchcock, Preservation Consultant  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 66 Elmwood Road  
city or town: New Haven state: CT zip code: 06515  
e-mail charlotteh@alumni.upenn.edu, char46r@mac.com  
telephone: 203.397.3803  
date: September 22, 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property location. See Figures 1, 2, 4.
- **Sketch plans.** Photographs keyed to plans. See Figure 3.
- **Historic illustration** showing the house in the 1940s. See Figure 5.

Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
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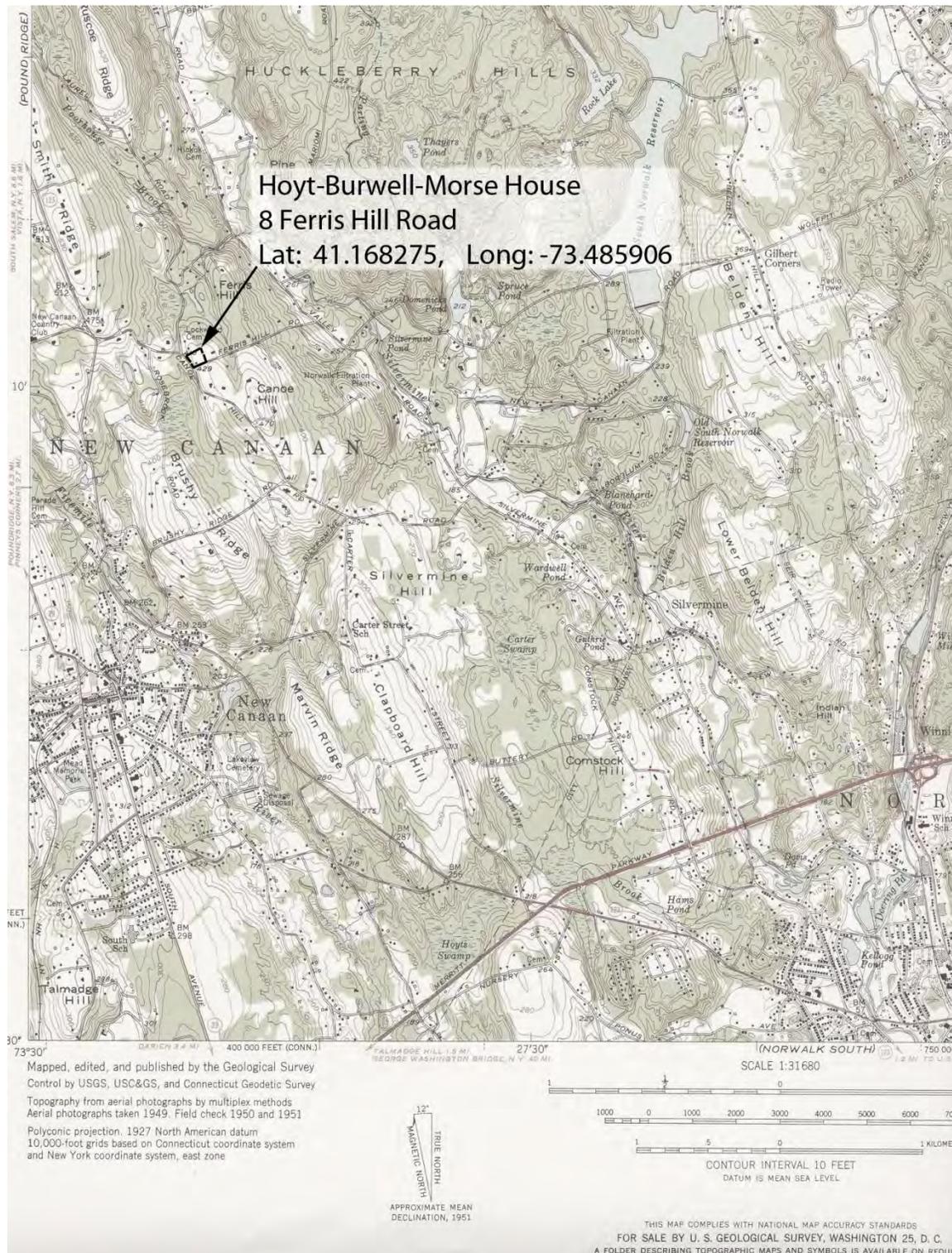
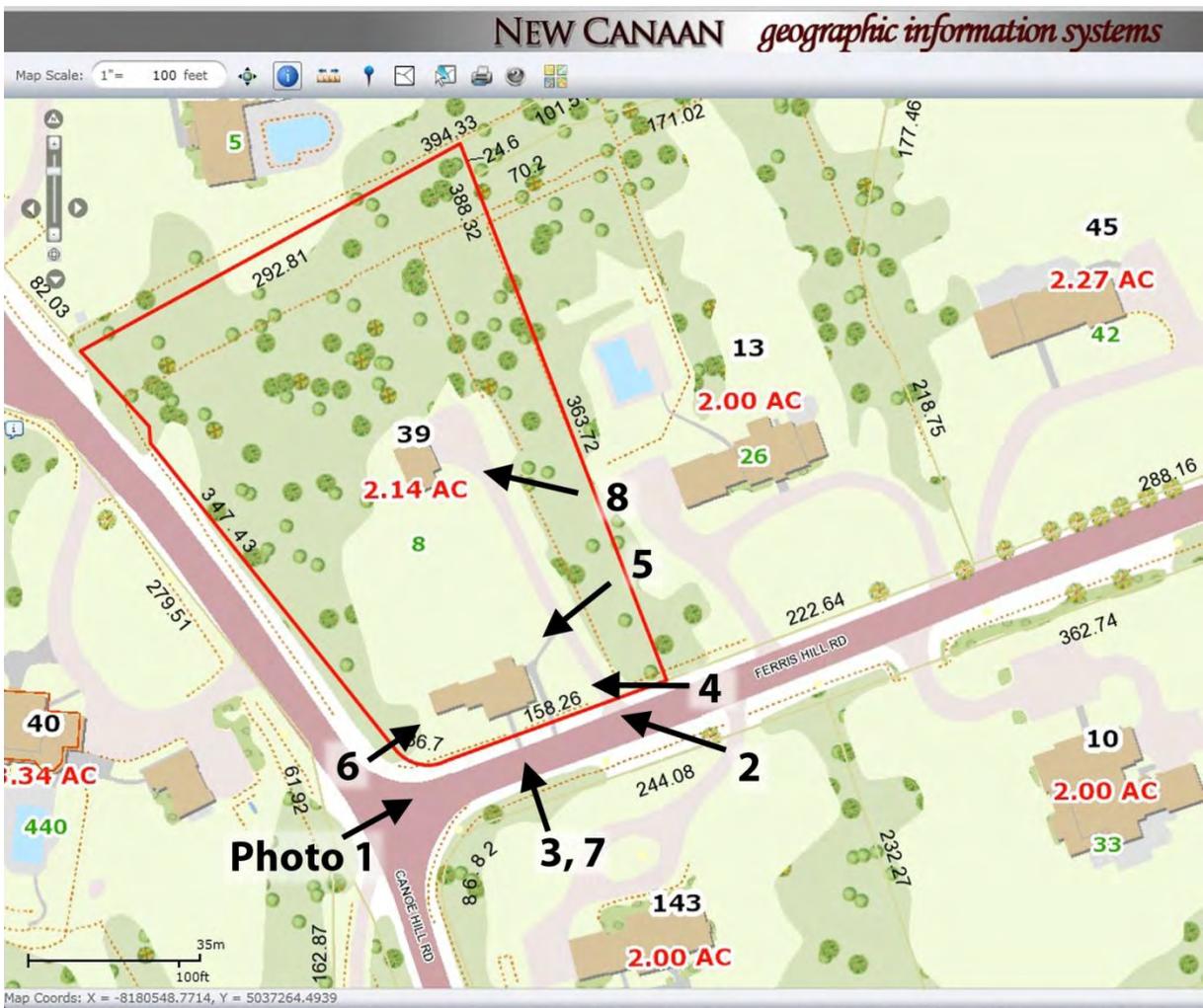


Figure 1. Detail from USGS 1951 Norwalk North Quadrangle Map showing site location; Latitude: 41.168275, Longitude: -73.485906.

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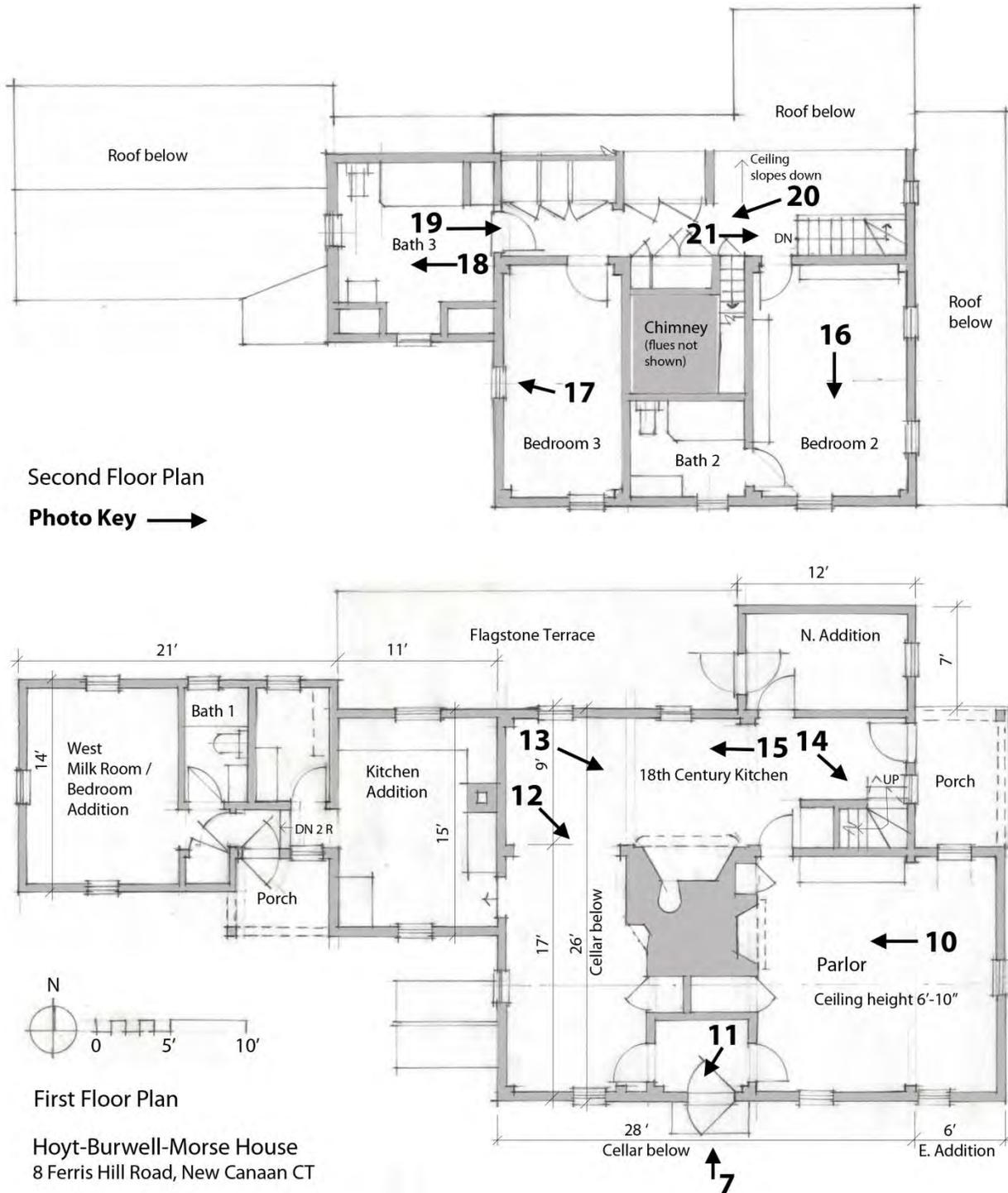
Fairfield County, CT  
County and State



**Figure 2.** Site map showing Map 39, Block 107, Lot 39, identified as 441 Canoe Hill Road by New Canaan Assessor's database, aka 8 Ferris Hill Road. Exterior photo locations are indicated. Base image from New Canaan Geographic Information System (September 2016).

Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
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**Figure 3.** Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House: First and Second Floor Plans. Interior photo locations are indicated. Photos 9 and 22-24 are not indicated, as their locations are in the cellar or attic.

Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
Name of Property

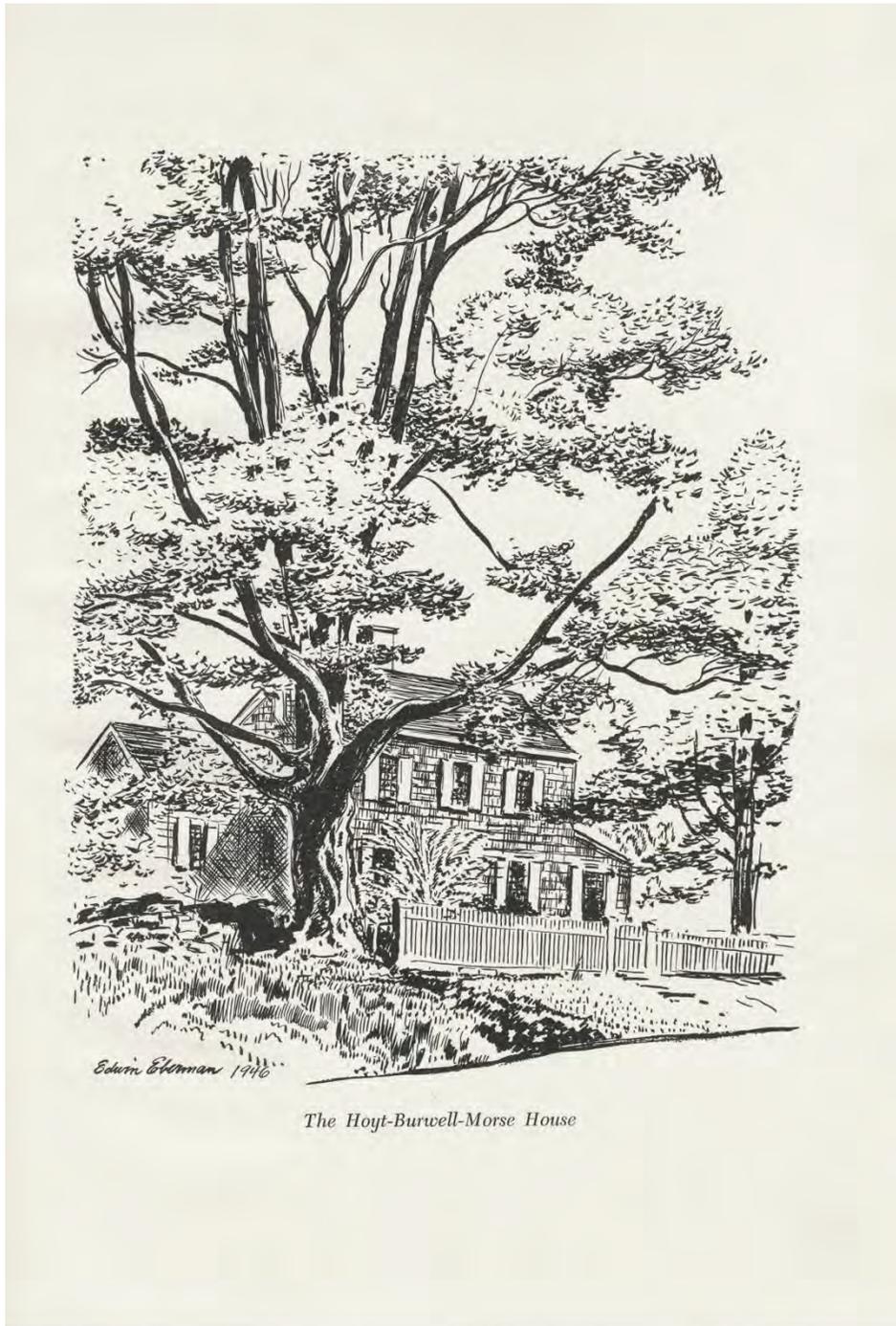
Fairfield County, CT  
County and State



**Figure 4.** Detail of Fairchild Aerial Photograph taken in 1934, showing the site with surrounding farmland. The area to the east and north was formerly associated with the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House. Photograph accessed at UCONN MAGIC Collection. The photo is annotated by the author to indicate the approximate current boundary of the nominated property.

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**Figure 5.** 1946 illustration by Edwin Eberman for the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House (*Landmarks of New Canaan* 1951, 23).

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**Figure 6.** Southwest view of Fitch-St. John-Ruscoe House; camera facing northeast.

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Figure 7. Northeast view of Benedict-Eels-Thatcher House; camera facing southwest.

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
City or Vicinity: New Canaan  
County: Fairfield State: Connecticut  
Photographer: Charlotte Hitchcock  
Date Photographed: August 31, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view, direction of camera:

- 1 of 24. Southwest context view of the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse property from the corner of Canoe Hill Road (at left) and Ferris Hill Road (at right); camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 24. Southeast context view of the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse property showing the house, sugar maple tree, fence, well housing, driveway, and garage (non-contributing); camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 24. South view of the house showing from left to right: western additions, main block of the house, path with steps, fence, and sugar maple tree; camera facing north.
- 4 of 24. East view of the house showing east elevation and well housing; camera facing west.
- 5 of 24. Northwest view of the house showing the north elevation with the saltbox roof, stone center chimney, and west additions (at far right) including brick chimney; camera facing southwest.
- 6 of 24. Southwest view of the house showing west elevation of the main block (at right) and south elevation of the western additions, including the entry porch; camera facing northeast.
- 7 of 24. Detail view of main entry door in the south façade, with stone stoop; camera facing northeast.
- 8 of 24. Southeast view of the garage with screen porch (non-contributing); camera facing northwest.
- 9 of 24. Interior cellar view of first floor framing showing original hewn framing and newer sawn joists, with subfloor above. View of the northeast corner of the cellar, camera facing east.
- 10 of 24. Interior view of First Floor southeast Parlor, showing west wall; camera facing west.

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- 11 of 24. Interior view of First Floor entry showing the paneled entry door with strap hinges; camera facing southwest. Note typical untrimmed exposed timber posts.
- 12 of 24. Interior view of First Floor southwest room (now dining), showing the canted wall and the fireplace; camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 24. Interior view of First Floor north original Kitchen showing the cooking hearth fireplace; camera facing southeast. At far left is the stair to the upper floor, and to the left of the fireplace is a door to the southeast Parlor.
- 14 of 24. Interior detail view of First Floor north Kitchen showing the stair to the upper floor and a typical steam radiator.
- 15 of 24. Interior view of First Floor north Kitchen showing the west and north walls; camera facing west. At the far left rear the wide opening to the southeast room (now dining) is visible, as well as the doorway to the modern kitchen.
- 16 of 24. Interior view of Second Floor southeast Bedroom showing typical radiator, windows, and corner timber post; camera facing southeast. The door at right rear leads to Bathroom 2.
- 17 of 24. Interior Second Floor detail view of typical window sash with rope and pulley; camera facing west in southwest Bedroom.
- 18 of 24. Interior Second Floor view of Bath 3 located in attic of addition; camera facing west.
- 19 of 24. Interior Second Floor view from Bathroom 3 looking east through the north hallway, showing the built-in closets along the north side; camera facing east.
- 20 of 24. Interior Second Floor view of the north hallway, south wall, showing the door and steps to the upper Attic, additional built-in cupboards; camera facing southwest.
- 21 of 24. Interior Second Floor view of the stair down; camera facing east.
- 22 of 24. Interior Attic view of the east wall showing a typical common rafter; camera facing east.
- 23 of 24. Interior Attic view of the northwest corner showing the original knee-wall construction and newer sawn stud framing and horizontal sheathing at the end wall; camera facing northwest.
- 24 of 24. Interior Attic view showing the stone chimney; camera facing east.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/16/2016      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2017      Date of Weekly List: 2/9/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION CONSULTANTS  
439 OLD STAMFORD ROAD \* NEW CANAAN CT 06840

November 10, 2016

439 Old Stamford Road  
New Canaan, CT 08640

Jenny Scofield, AICP, State and National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)  
One Constitution Plaza, Second Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

**Re: Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
Nomination to National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Scofield:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House located at 8 Ferris Hill Road (alternately 441 Canoe Hill Road) in New Canaan, to the National Register of Historic Places.

This property is locally recognized as one of the three oldest houses in our community; home to several of the founding families of our region; and has been deemed to be architecturally highly intact. The house itself has a stone central chimney with a massive rectangular base in the basement, and a regionally unique triangular layout on the ground floor. Few alterations have been made to the house and those which have been undertaken are sensitive to the original saltbox form.

This house is known as a landmark in our town and the broader community and as such received overwhelming community support to save this property from a recent threat of demolition. Adding this property to the National Register of Historic Places would not only honor this property, but would enhance the Register itself as this is truly unique in its state of architectural preservation and important in the history of our region, our state, and our nation.

I thank you for your consideration of this nomination and encourage you to approve it as an addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Scott Long Rothbart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rose Scott Long Rothbart



13 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

203.966.1776

NCHISTORY.ORG

November 11, 2016

Jenny Scofield, AICP, State and National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)  
Hartford, CT 06103

**Re: Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House  
Nomination to National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Scofield:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House located at 8 Ferris Hill Road (alternately 441 Canoe Hill Road) in New Canaan, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The house was home to many families well known in New Canaan history. It is named the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse house reflecting the earliest names to which might be added Birdsall, Carter, Benedict, Bouton and Stevens. All of these residents contributed to the history of New Canaan and are names found over and over in papers and documents.

The house is in the *Landmarks of New Canaan* book published in 1951, and from that publication you can find history relating to the residents. Most people who have lived in New Canaan for any length of time recognize 8 Ferris Hill as a landmark and a good example of early New England architecture. The house nestles into the site and remnants of the gardens done by the Stevens in 1911 and again restored by Diana Tillson upon her purchase are still in evidence.

It is my hope that the application will be approved as an addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Lindstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Janet Lindstrom  
Executive Director

November 29, 2016

Ms. Jenny Scofield, AICP  
State and National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)  
One Constitution Plaza, Second Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Ms. Scofield,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the nomination of the property located at 8 Ferris Hill Road in New Canaan to the National Register of Historic Places.

As the owner of a State and National Register-listed c.1784 farmhouse in neighboring Norwalk, I first took note of the property several years ago, admiring the beautiful siting of the house, its classic proportions, and its striking saltbox profile. When an opportunity subsequently arose to tour the house, I enthusiastically availed myself of it.

The tour revealed an extremely well-preserved home that beautifully illustrates many of the key features associated with rural Connecticut dwellings of the eighteenth century – massive yet elegant scribe-rule timber framing, an enormous fieldstone center chimney with beehive oven, and original wide plank floors. In many ways, 8 Ferris Hill epitomizes the Connecticut saltbox farmhouse of the eighteenth century.

Enhancing the architectural and historic value of the home are several unique details, most notably a chimney stack that is extremely unusual given its large relative size, its basement bake oven, and the corner-facing firebox that opens off of the chimney stack on the first floor.

Within a broader context, it is important to note that 8 Ferris Hill is an integral contributor to the story told by a string of well-preserved 18th and 19th century homes that stretches from once-rural New Canaan down to coastal Norwalk. Anchored by 8 Ferris Hill (one of the earliest remaining structures in New Canaan), this group of homes has much to teach us about how Connecticut, and indeed early America in general, was settled, flourished, and evolved, and how our ancestors lived and interacted.

In light of the above, I hope that you will agree that this valuable and irreplaceable historic resource is more than worthy of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

John Harrington

The Enos Kellogg Homestead  
210 Ponus Ave.  
Norwalk, CT 06850

## **Scofield, Jenny**

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**From:** Findlay Mary [findlayantiques@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 4:40 PM  
**To:** Scofield, Jenny  
**Cc:** Nissley Rev. Thomas; Long Rose Scott; Lindstrom Janet  
**Subject:** 8 Ferris Hill, New Canaan

Dear Jen,

I am writing to support wholeheartedly the nomination of the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House at 8 Ferris Hill in New Canaan to the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically it is significant because most of the early residents of our town passed through it directly, or indirectly by marriage.

Architecturally it is significant due to its age, wonderfully intact original stone chimney, three fireplaces, one with a rare beehive oven in the back, and wood paneled walls, all preserved and maintained for 285 years.

It remains a highly visible landmark, sited high on its original corner, near an historic cemetery where one of its owner's slaves is buried with his headstone. The land around the house is undisturbed but for the remnants of a mid-19th century garden.

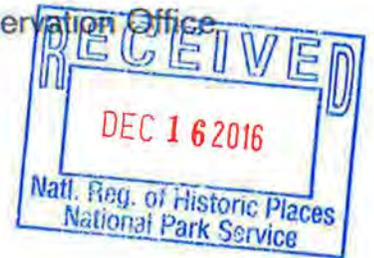
It is a treasure of National importance.

Sincerely,  
Mimi Findlay



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office



December 13, 2016

Mr. Roger Reed  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Subject: Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House, Fairfield County, Connecticut, National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Reed:

The following National Register nomination materials are submitted for your review:

- Printed cover sheet
- 3 letters of support
- CD of National Register text. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hoyt-Burwell-Morse House to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1 CD of Digital Photographs

This National Register nomination was approved by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on November 30, 2016. The property owner initiated the nomination and is placing a preservation easement on the property. Support letters are included for your files.

If you have any questions, or if this office can be of assistance, please call me at 860-256-2766.

Sincerely,

Jenny Scofield,  
National Register and State Register Coordinator

Enclosures

State Historic Preservation Office

One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.256.2800 | [Cultureandtourism.org](http://Cultureandtourism.org)

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