

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0677051

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 26 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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

Robert Stanton House

(Davis Homestead)

HABS

AND/OR COMMON

Davis Homestead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Green Haven Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stonington 0710

VICINITY OF

2nd Christopher Dodd

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

New London

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Davis

STREET & NUMBER

Green Haven Road

CITY, TOWN

Pawcatuck

VICINITY OF

Connecticut

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office, Stonington Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Stonington

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robert Stanton ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

"Census of Old Buildings"
1941 W.P.A. Federal Writers' Project
State Library of Connecticut
231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

"Old Houses in Connecticut"
1913 Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames of America
State Library of Connecticut
231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

State Register of Historic Places
1978 State
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robert Stanton House is located in the Pawcatuck section of Stonington Connecticut, on Little Narragansett Bay. The Stanton House is a central-chimney structure, two stories tall with a pitched roof, usually given a date of 1700.¹ Apparently, the west end was built earliest and the east end added later. Much of the interior woodwork may date later, from the time of the east end's construction. Elmer D. Keith characterizes the house as a Rhode Island house, not a Connecticut house, in certain elements of its detailing and construction, such as its eight foot ceilings.² The proximity to Rhode Island of the Stanton House explains this converging influence.

The house is oak framed. Three rafters, damaged in the Hurrican of 1938, were replaced with oak beams milled specifically for the repair. The facade is clapboarded on planking. Shingles on the rear were "modern" according to information recorded by the Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames in 1901, while, it is claimed, the shingles on the end walls are "original".³ Though it is unlikely that the same shingles, dating from the 18th-century, are still in place, nonetheless, they are unusual for their great length, three feet, and height, one foot. The foundations of the house are fieldstone, laid with shell lime. The chimney, brick from about four feet above the floor, was probably rebuilt, in brick, at the time of the addition of the east end. It stands on a fieldstone foundation and has been plastered with concrete in the attic. There is a heavy overhang at the gable ends and a deep overhanging cornice.

The facade, five bays wide, contains nine windows with twelve over twelve sash and a plain door with a six-light transom. Twelve over twelve sash predominate in the rest of the house. Though some of the window frames which project from the walls, have been replaced, others exhibit molded sills and pegged construction, with the sills and heads extending beyond the jambs. In the two attic windows of the east end, the lower sash are two panes high, with the upper, three pans high, while at the west end, the pattern is reversed, two up, three down. Frederick Kelly described this uneven configuration as "the earliest type of double-hung window with rectangular panes,"⁴ and states that the projection of the window frame beyond the exterior wall covering is "a marked characteristic of these early window frames."⁵ Thus, it seems that the windows of the Stanton House, though double-hung are nonetheless of an early type.

There are several one-story single rooms added to the rear of the house. They appear to date from the late 18th- or early 19th-century, while a hipped roof one-room addition probably was built early in the 20th-century. Two barns, one approximately two hundred years old and the other built around one hundred years ago, a greenhouse, several chicken coops, a pig-house, and a kennel also stand on the property. The house stands on a rocky rise in the land at the eastern edge of the property, overlooking the cornfields and salt marsh beyond with the Bay in the distance.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robert Stanton ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The most outstanding feature of the house is the fine interior woodwork throughout. The staircase has raised panelling and is painted ivory and blue, apparently the original scheme, according to scrapings done in the 1930s. Most notable are the elaborate turned balusters, three to a tread. They are mahogany and are thought to have been imported from England. A pattern of three different turnings is repeated on each tread. The newel is twisted as well and twisted pendants mark the turn of the staircase. A fine corner cupboard with a carved shell niche stands in the east room; it, too, is said to have been imported from England, and probably was installed at the time the east room was added. Though unpainted in 1930s HABS photographs, the cupboard is presently painted white. Some of the Stanton family were engaged in trade in Barbados at this time; the supposition that the woodwork arrived from England via the West Indies arose from this fact. Elsewhere on the first floor the panelling and molding is abundant.

The height of the ceilings is 8'3", a fact which Keith states is far more common in Rhode Island houses of this age than in Connecticut houses.⁶ In the west room, there are two summers, both cased. The fireplace wall is panelled and there are two small china cupboards directly above the mantel, which is a composition of several heavily built-up moldings. The posts are heavy but not flared. In the east room, the summer beam has been plastered over. The fireplace wall is handsomely and elaborately finished with fluted panels and heavy molded consoles which support a molded cornice. The mantel is richly molded. In both the west and east rooms, the windows have hinged interior shutters with raised panelling. Also in both rooms, there are molded cornices. The panelling here and throughout the house probably dates from the time of the addition.

Upstairs, there is similar, simpler panelling in the east end room and in the morning room, above the kitchen. The posts here are cased and flared. The kitchen has a particularly large fireplace; there is also a fireplace above in the morning room. There is a double cornerpost in the kitchen suggesting the addition of the east end.

The house is not centrally heated; 19th-century coal- and wood-burning stoves are used throughout. In 1936, the house was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey. The property, approximately 225 acres, is still used as a farm. In the late 18th-century, when the Davises first acquired the property, five varieties of salt-marsh hay grew on

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robert Stanton ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

the property. Presently, 35 acres are cleared for johnnycake corn and hay. There are 45 acres of marshland and 32 acres of woods. The remainder of the acreage is pasture. In 1765, the farm was leased to John Davis of Long Island and, in 1772, the Davises purchased it from the Stantons. Ever since then, it has been the Davis family homestead.

1. Keith, Elmer D., "Write-ups", on old houses in Stonington, p. 467
2. Ibid., p. 268.
3. Palmer, Emma W., "Historical and Technical Information in re Davis Homestead," Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames in America, 1913.
4. Kelly, J. Frederick, EARLY DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF CONNECTICUT, New York, Dover Publications, Inc., 1963, p. 92.
5. Ibid., p. 93.
6. Keith, p. 468.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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		

Criteria: A,C

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1700

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert Stanton House, c. 1700, is significant for the degree to which it is preserved. It is a simple, almost rough, house, architecturally unrefined, whose heavy overhang, weathered siding, and primitive lines bespeak its great age. The house has been almost unaltered since the 18th-century and is in need of repair. However, the interior of this plain house is unexpectedly fine. The quality of the interior woodwork is completely belied by the roughness of the exterior, but is outstanding and lavishly applied. In addition, the house is part of a working farm which has been worked by the same family for over two hundred years. The land on which the house stands is part of the original holdings of the Stanton family; the Stantons were one of four white families who originally settled Stonington, Connecticut.

Thomas Stanton, the first, was an Indian interpreter to the General Court in Hartford. In 1649, he moved to Pawcatuck, becoming one of the first white settlers of the area, and, in 1670, he made out the will of Uncas, the Mohegan chief. His son, Robert, distinguished himself as a youth by capturing King Philip's lieutenant, Canonchet, in a foray led by Captain George Denison of Pequotsepos Manor. In 1677, Robert married Joanna Gardiner. While the original owner of the house is unknown, presumably it was their son, Thomas, who built the house. In 1713, Thomas Stanton married Thankful Denison. Grace Denison Wheeler states that Thomas and Thankful left the house to their son, Robert, born in 1716. It would seem that this son, Robert, was responsible for the addition of the east end and for the interior woodwork, probably done at the same time. This Robert Stanton, whose name now identifies the house, leased it to the Davises in 1765, in whose family the house has remained ever since.

At the time of the American Revolution, the Davises harvested their salt hay and transported it to Groton, where it was stacked ready for use as feed for the horses of the troops of the Continental Army. The remainder was sold to farmers at North Stonington and the proceeds sent to the Continental Congress. Since then, the salt marsh has been known as the Continental Marsh. Salt marsh on the Davis property is said to be the last section of untouched marshland along the coast from New York to Cape Cod and ten acres have recently been placed by the owners in a land conservation trust.

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Architecturally, a number of features of the house are significant. The early double-hung sash, some with molded sills, are still in place. The balusters of the staircase are unusually ornate for Connecticut houses; the fireplace panelling on the walls of both the east and west front rooms is also elaborate and massively built-up. The deep shell niche of the corner cupboard in the east room is comparatively rare in Connecticut houses. Another comparatively rare feature are the hinged interior shutters, found in both front rooms, which do not fold into the window reveal, but rather back against the wall.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Footnotes, Item 7, page 2.

Also,
Stanton, William A., A RECORD OF THOMAS STANTON OF CONNECTICUT° Albany,
Joel Munsell's Sons, Publishers, 1891.

Wheeler, Grace Denison, THE HOMES OF OUR ANCESTORS IN STONINGTON, Salem,
Newcomb and Gauss, 1903, p. 233.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Interviews, September 1978, John Davis, Sr., and John Davis, Jr.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 227.3

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	26,2	76,0	4,5	8,0	10,2	0	B	1,9	26,1	9,2	0	4,5	7,8	6,0	0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	1,9	26,0	82,0	4,5	7,8	7,6	0	D	1,9	26,1	6,2	0	4,5	8,0	3,8	0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Volume 176, page 342 Stonington Land Records

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sarah J. Zimmerman, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

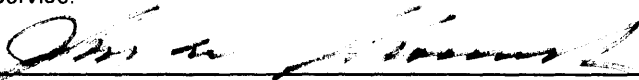
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

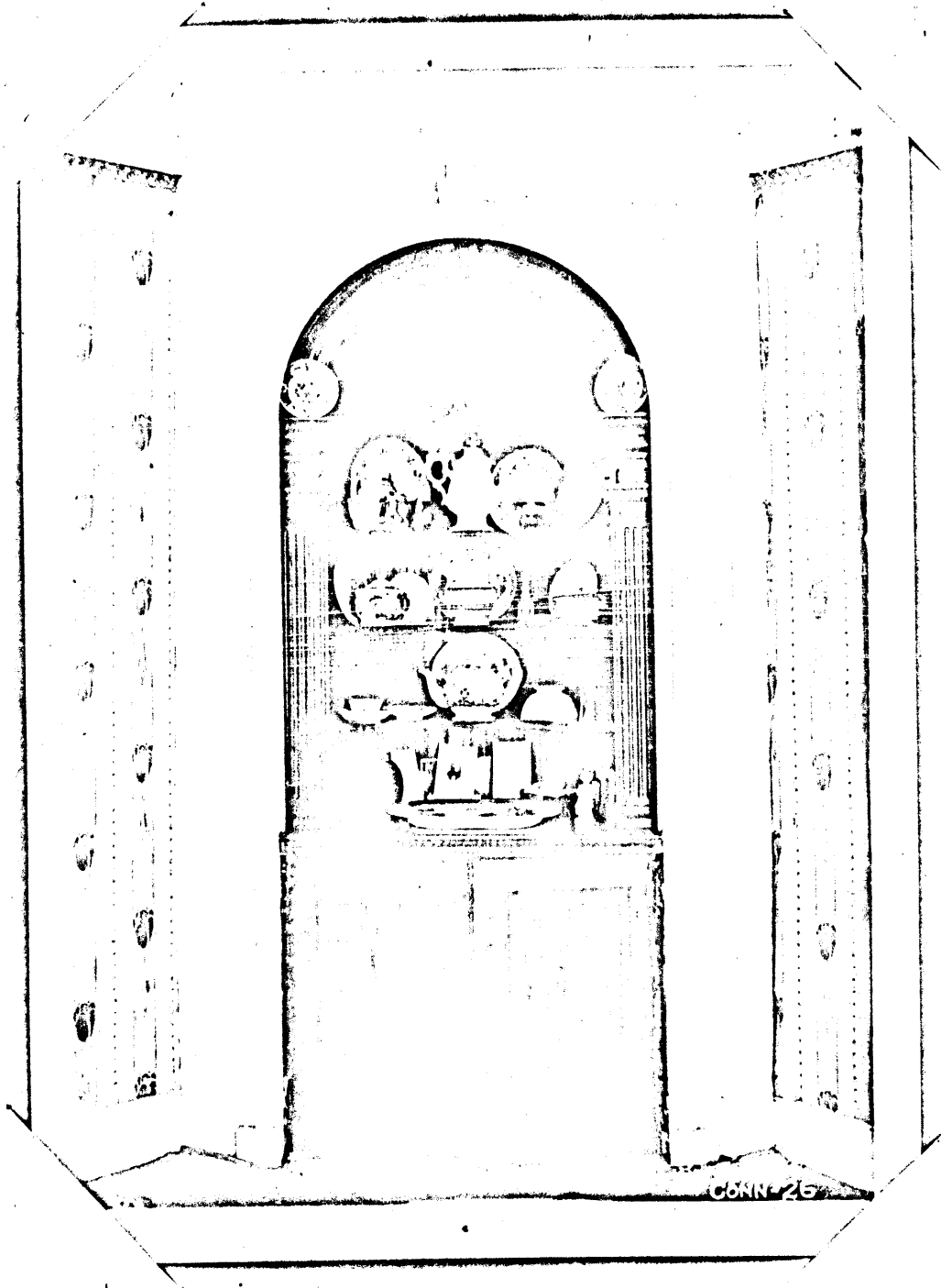
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE	5/4/79
ATTEST: 	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER		5/30/79

THE ROBERT STANTON HOUSE
Stonington, Conn.

HABS CONN. 26

CUPBOARD IN PARLOR

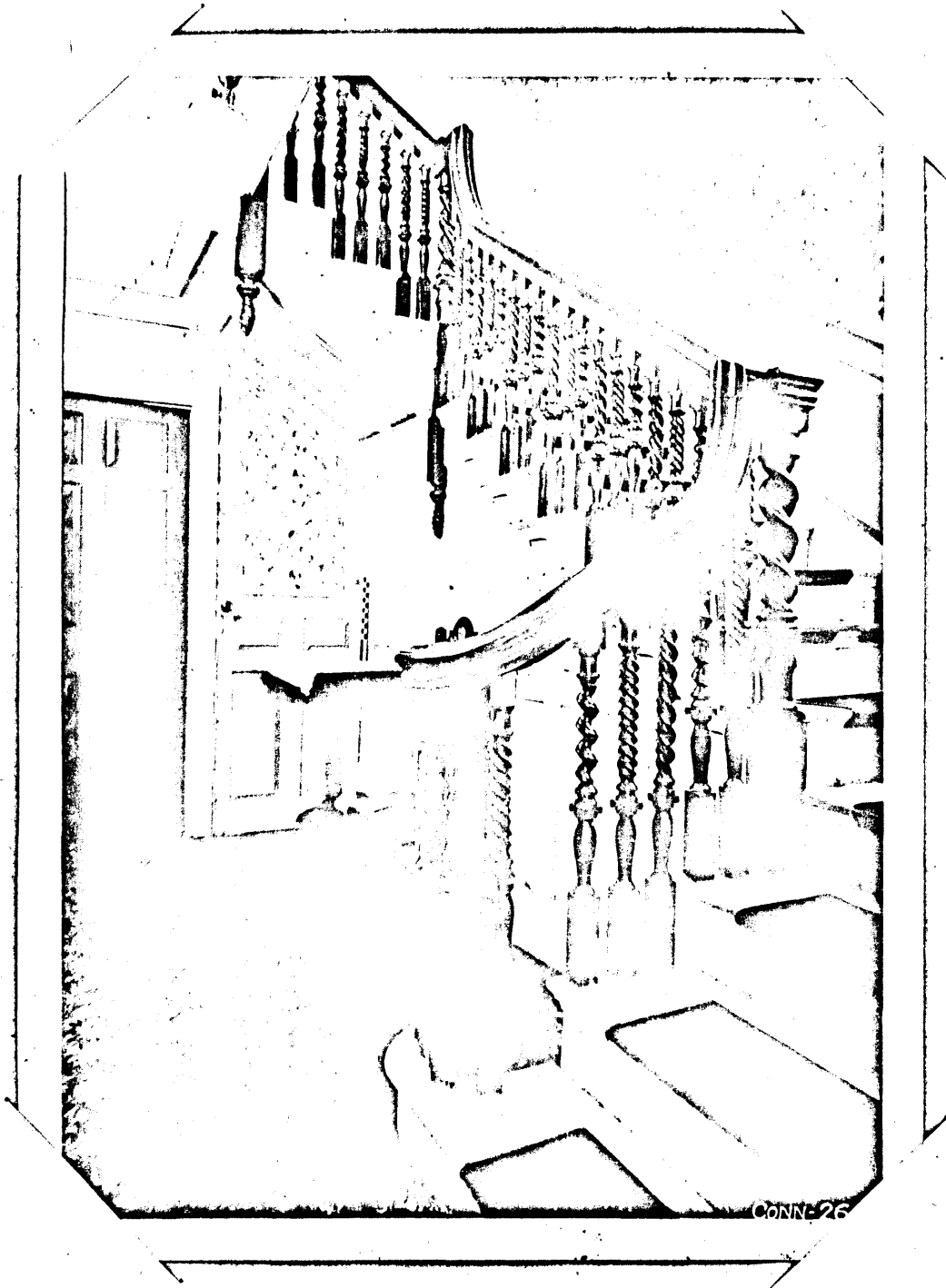
REC'D



THE ROBERT STANTON HOUSE
Stonington, Conn.

HABS CONN. 26

DETAIL OF STAIRS

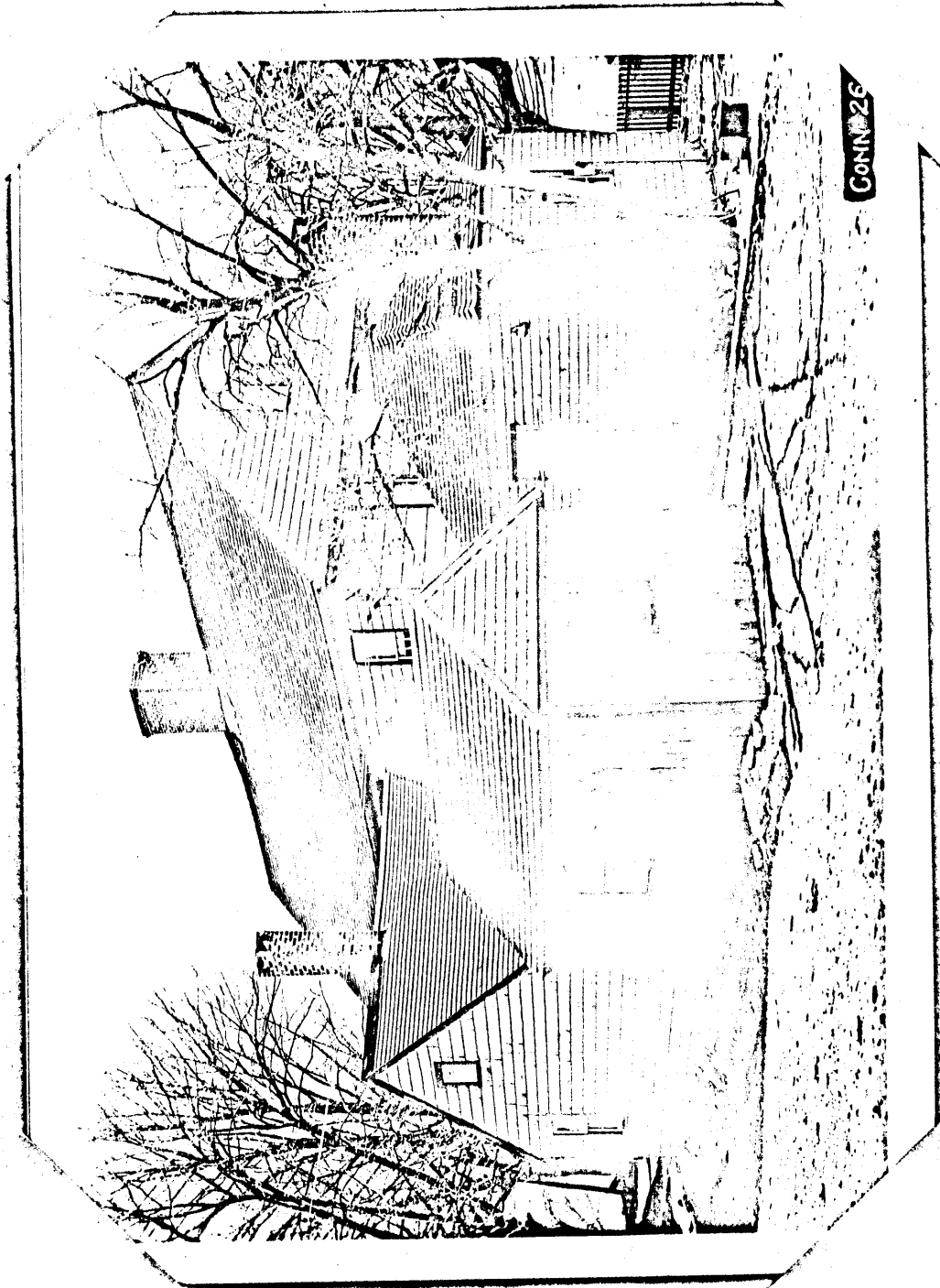


THE ROBERT STANTON HOUSE
Stonington, Conn.

HAB S CONN. 26

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

MAR 26 1979



CONN 26

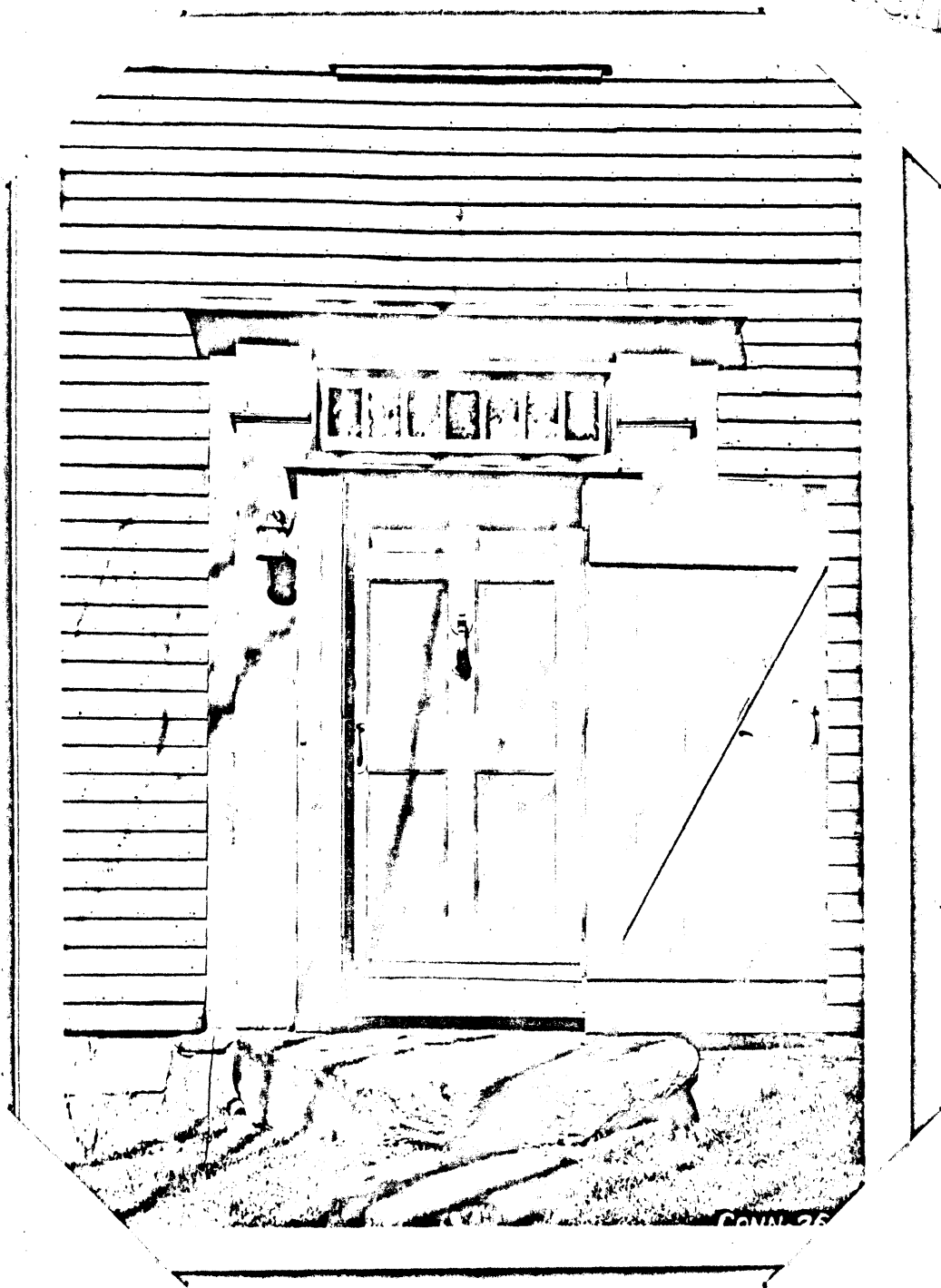
THE ROBERT STANTON HOUSE
Stonington, Conn.

HABS CONN. 26

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1979

FRONT ENTRANCE DETAIL

RECEIVED



CONN 26

THE ROBERT STANTON HOUSE
Stonington, Conn.

HABS CONN. 26

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1979

NATIONAL
REGISTER

SOUTH ELEVATION

(Other photos for this nomination
sent with original copy of nom.)

