

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
OCT 24 1975  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

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  Sterling Homestead  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2225 Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Stratford VICINITY OF #3- Robert Gialimo  
STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Fairfield CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Cynthia Sterling Pincus  
STREET & NUMBER 280 West Rock Avenue  
CITY, TOWN New Haven VICINITY OF Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall  
STREET & NUMBER Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Stratford STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources  
DATE 1966/1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Hartford, Conn. STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Main Street in Stratford, Connecticut is a wide, tree-lined street along which are many large old homes and churches. A small modern shopping area to the north of these old buildings does not contribute to the nineteenth century atmosphere, but it does not detract from it.

About a block south of this shopping area on the west side of Main Street is the Sterling Homestead. Set back from the street about seventy feet it is difficult to see all of the facade due to the many trees and bushes surrounding it. However, it is an interesting house for it appears to be late Georgian in style but has a number of Federal style features.

It is a two and a half story, five bay, clapboard house, decorated with quoins. The doorway is pedimented and has both pilasters and side windows flanking a wide, eight-sashed door. All of these features plus a Palladian window in the second story, above the door, are Late Georgian characteristics. The facade in its entirety, however, gives a very sturdy, slightly severe appearance. This solidity, typical of the Federal style has been achieved by a cross gable above the Palladian window and doorway. A fan light placed in the gable is a Federal style detail and a dentil cornice adds further decoration.

All these characteristics as well as the dates 1779 and 1790 carved on attic beams suggest that the house may originally have been built in 1779, and have been remodelled in 1790. If this is not the case, and the house, as it appears today, was built in 1779, it would be among the earliest Federal style homes in the state. However, it seems likely, based on research, that the house was built in 1790, for Abijah McEwen was supposed to have built the house in that year.

N.B. Restoration of the Sterling Homestead was done in the 1930's by Chouteau Brown. Columns, porches and modern fireplaces were removed and the house was furnished with a variety of antiques dating back to the seventeenth century.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sterling Homestead, noted both for its architecture and its historical significance, was built on land ceded to the Congregational Church in 1722 for the purpose of building a parsonage for Reverend Hezekiah Gold. The parsonage lot was situated north of another lot originally granted to John Beers in 1676 as a house lot. This Beers lot was then sold numerous times after 1700, until, eventually, both it and the parsonage lot were the property of Abraham Tomlinson in the mid-eighteenth century.

In 1790 Abijah McEwen bought some portion of Tomlinson's property and that same year he is said to have built the house now known as the Sterling homestead. The name of the house was changed because Captain John W. Sterling bought the land upon which the house is situated, sometime in the mid- to late nineteenth century.

Captain Sterling was both a prominent figure in Stratford as well as along the eastern seaboard, for he played a major role in United States trade with the Far East in the early nineteenth century. He was commander of the 800 ton sailing vessel, Splendid, in 1823, the largest ship built at that time, and sailed as far as Canton, China. Many of his books and memorabilia remain at the Sterling Homestead; all documents of maritime interest have been microfilmed at the library in Mystic, Connecticut.

Not only did the Sterling Homestead belong to a well-known sea captain, but it is also an interesting architectural structure. The Late Georgian and Federal details on the facade make it difficult to date, but, combined, they form a facade, exemplary of the transition from one style to the next. Above all, the Sterling Homestead is perfectly suited to a streetscape of gracious old homes.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orcutt, Samuel, A History of the Old Town of Stratford, Tuttle, Morehouse, and Taylor, New Haven, 1886.

Orcutt, Samuel, Tomlinson Family, Price, Lee and Adkins, New Haven, 1891.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	6, 55	7, 60	45	61	5, 8, 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Christine B. Brockmeyer, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

July 7, 1975.

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John W. Shuman*

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 9/29/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*Lowry L. Beers*  
*Ronald M. Beebe*

DATE 1/1/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 12/30/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

"Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town  
of Stratford", General Committee of Arrangements, Stratford, 1890.

Wilcoxson, William Howard, History of Stratford, Connecticut, The  
Brewer-Borg Corporation, Bridgeport, Connecticut 1940.