

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hazelton, James, House
other names/site number Hazelton-Hayden House

2. Location

street & number 23 Hayden Hill Road not for publication
city, town Haddam vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06438

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] August 2, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] 11-16-88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)COLONIAL/Post medieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granitewalls weatherboard

roof wood shingleother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The James Hazelton House is located on the west side of Hayden Hill Road a few hundred feet uphill (to the south) from the intersection of Walkley Hill Road. It is a center-chimney, five-bay, two-and-one-half-story colonial-period dwelling (40'x31') with an attached gambrel-roofed ell (27'x 19')(Photographs #1, 2). An open garage (ca.1920) and a small shed-roofed, one-story outbuilding located to the southwest of the house do not contribute to the historical architectural significance of the property. The nearest neighboring houses, located downhill to the northeast at the intersection of Hayden Hill and Walkley Hill roads, also date from the eighteenth century. Across the road and above the property is undeveloped woodland and an entrance to Field Park, a nature preserve. Mature trees line both sides of the road and border the extensive lawn to the south and west of the house. One or more barns on the property, which were located to the southwest, have been demolished, leaving only a partial stone foundation wall.

A cut-granite retaining wall extends across the front elevation of the house. In typical fashion the original cellar hole was dug to minimum depth, requiring fill and a retaining wall across the facade elevation (Photograph #3). Both the wall and the low exposed foundation are of quarry-faced granite. Both the gabled main roof and the roof of the ell are wood-shingled. Clapboards laid with a relatively narrow exposure sheath the walls. Screened porches are located at the north end of the main block and the rear of the ell. Wood sash is found throughout with twelve-over-twelve on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second, some with original glazing. The flush panelled front door may be original (Photograph #4).

There have been at least three major changes in the configuration of the building. In its earliest most probable form, it was a one-and-one-half story half house, one room deep, the present south end of the main block. The house was extended to the north to five bays, sometime after 1780, with an addition to the rear, under a long sloping rear roof, producing a saltbox configuration. By the middle of the nineteenth century all of the building was brought under a gable roof with a one- and-one-half story ell added at the rear. This ell was raised a half story with a gambrel roof in 1915. Due to a lack of conclusive documentation, extensive reliance must be placed on physical evidence to date the house and explain this unusual building history which extends back to the early 1700s. Evidence for the half house theory can be found in the cellar and the hall. The building foundation was accomplished in two builds: a narrow wall of dry-laid rubble stone on the south end and a thicker quarry-faced granite wall on the north end. The 15-foot-square foundation for the chimney stack

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has been pointed with modern cement mortar but still displays three types of masonry. It has rubble stone on the south and part of the east side, probably dry-laid, with later quarry-faced coursed granite on the north, which is similar to the stone used in the perimeter foundation walls at this end. The rear (west) face has a third pattern of random, uncoursed rubble. Both the north and west faces may have been part of the foundation for the original house on this property, with only the north face rebuilt when the cellar was extended. In 1971 the floor of the cellar was lowered about two feet and a new concrete floor was poured, along with a footing around the stack. The first-floor deck (joists and flooring) was replaced in 1915, so any differences in construction in this area have been lost. The sills of the house are continuous, however, with circular water-powered saw marks dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Were it not for the fact that the hall and its fireplace appear considerably older than the rest of the house (above the south end), the similarity of sills would tend to cast doubt on the two-builds theory (Photographs #5, 6). The large original kitchen firebox in this room (7'x 4.5'x 3') has horizontally coursed brownstone cheeks, coursed granite in the rear, and a wood lintel. The opening to the beehive oven, located in the right rear wall, is unusual in that it features a crude rubble stone arch (Photograph #7). The chestnut summer beam and the small chestnut floor joists are exposed; both display integral beaded edges. These features, plastered over in the late nineteenth century, were uncovered by the present owner in 1971, as was the fireplace in this room. While the beading on the joists is not unusual, the beaded summer beam is a very rare type unknown to this author.

Evidence for the earlier saltbox configuration can be found in the attic. The chimney stack was rebuilt to accommodate to the new location of the gable ridge (several feet to the rear and above the old saltbox ridge). The empty gains for the ell rafters are visible in the original former rear plate. The rear slope of the present gambrel roof is supported by a major longitudinal purlin with angled braces to the former rear plate. Family tradition dates the change to about 1830. The purlin and its supporting posts, however, appear to be later work. With their smooth sawn finish, they were probably milled after 1850.

The 1971 alteration to the rear ell was designed by Norris Fremont Prentice, a Connecticut architect known for his remodelling of colonial buildings. He designed a new kitchen and bath on the first floor of the ell, relocated the ell stairs, and extended the screened porch across the rear, incorporating a former pantry.

The interior plan that evolved is fairly typical for a standard center-chimney house, with some minor exceptions. There are four fireplaces, three on the first floor and one upstairs in the parlor chamber. Those on the first floor include the early kitchen fireplace already discussed, a later kitchen fireplace in the keeping room, and one in the parlor. The latter two have the same type of construction, with

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granite lintels and cheeks, as does the one on the second floor. The second kitchen hearth also has an oven with a granite trabeated opening set flush with the face of the fireplace.

The staircase in front of the chimney stack is a replacement dating from the 1915 alteration. Both the parlor and hall chambers conventionally open off the upper front hall at the head of the stairs. This hall, however, extends to the rear along the south side of the stair for access to the rear rooms of the main block and the ell. It is possible that the installation of this lateral hall, which reduced the size of the hall chamber, also required the removal of the fireplace in this room.

A variety of finish work is used in the house. All the posts are cased with plain boards, including several of the gunstock type. One of these supports the chimney girt on the north front. The summer beam in the parlor is cased with fielded panelling, also found on the wainscot and fireplace wall of this room (Photograph #8). The panels above the mantel have a "tombstone" pattern. The simple fireplace surround, Federal in character and flanked by plain board pilasters, is later work probably dating from about 1780. A similar surround is found in the parlor chamber, where the wall is sheathed with feather-edged vertical boards (Photograph #9).

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1720 - 1850

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

James Hazelton (builder)

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

The James Hazelton House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved colonial-period house with an exceptionally fine interior and an unusual building history (Criterion C). It has added importance for its long continuous association with the extended Hazelton/Hayden family, prominent citizens of Haddam for over 200 years.

Architectural Significance

As it stands today the James Hazelton House has almost a classic mid-eighteenth century appearance, an impression enhanced by its rural setting. The changes to the house over time are not readily apparent. Only a close inspection of the framing and other internal features reveals the multiple stages of the building, a process that covered two centuries. This almost organic evolution reflects not only the changing needs and tastes of a house-proud extended family over seven or more generations; it is also a case study in the chronological development of the American colonial house, a valuable record for students of architectural history.

Many early Connecticut dwellings consisted of little more than a "hall" with a hearth, (undoubtedly more will be identified as such), primarily because their builders were relatively poor men like James Hazelton. As a young cordwainer (shoemaker), he could probably only afford one room. Although both one and two-room houses were built simultaneously in the next stage of development, the two-room rectangular plan is more common. The new location of the kitchen, the traditional "keeping room," under an added or integral lean-to roof, was another phase. The final conversion from a saltbox to the gabled form is not uncommon, as it was the best way to enlarge a house for a growing family. In its final evolution, the main block then became the more familiar center-chimney colonial with a gable roof. Most of those originally built in this form in Haddam date from after 1750.

The interior of the Hazelton House is exceptionally fine, displaying beaded vertical sheathing in the hall and fielded panelling in the parlor, the present living room.¹ This latter feature used on the fireplace wall, the wainscot, and as casing of

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Crane, Ellery Bicknell. Genealogy of the Crane Family, Volume I: Descendants of Henry Crane of Wethersfield and Guilford, Conn. Worcester, Mass.: Press of Charles Hamilton, 1895. Hartford, Connecticut State Library. Hook, James W. "The Arnold Family of Haddam and East Haddam, Connecticut." typescript. 1952.

_____. Glazier, Prentiss. "Some Descendants of William Clark of Haddam." typescript, 1973.

Lapham, William B. comp. Genealogical Sketches of Robert and John Hazelton And Some of Their Descendants. Portland, Maine: F.H. Hazelton, 1892.

Maps: Brainerd, Wm. Lincoln. Sketch Map of Haddam, n.d. On file Haddam Town Hall.
Kelsey, G.E. Sketch Map in diary, 1842. Tracing on file Haddam Town Hall.
County Atlas of Middlesex County, Conn. New York: F.W. Beers and Company, 1874.
Tyler, Rollin U. "The Early Settlers and Their Homes." In Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Haddam, CT, 1700-1900. Haddam: Devinne Press, 1902.
Walling, H.F. Map of Middlesex County, Conn. New York: H & CT Smith & Co., 1859.

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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 # _____

- Primary location of additional data:**
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Specify repository:
Connecticut State Library
Hartford, Connecticut

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4

UTM References

A 18 707200 4594750
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Haddam Land Records: Volume 76, Pages 169, 170. Haddam Town Clerk's Office, Haddam, CT.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the major portion of the James Hazelton "homelot" that has been transmitted by probate and land transfer deeds since about 1750.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 12/9/87

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the summer beam, appears to slightly pre-date the simple fireplace surround. Although Federal in character, it is not the typically more elaborate Federal-style surround used in this period, somewhat surprising in the most formal room in the house. In fact, it is almost identical to the one in the parlor chamber, a room where simplicity is expected. According to the present owner, it also resembled the surround of the first kitchen fireplace removed in 1971 to reveal the existing firebox. The fielded panelling suggests that the house may have been already extended to five bays before the Federal period, but all the surrounds were later alterations completed at the same time when the obsolete kitchen firebox was reduced in size and cased.

The two fireplaces which were originally used for cooking are very different in form and materials, representing advances in masonry techniques which evolved over 100 years. With their relatively deep fireboxes, they all pre-date the Rumford influence which was making itself felt in more urban areas by the late eighteenth century. The most obvious difference is the placement and type of oven. The oven of the earlier fireplace at the rear of the firebox is an unusual type, with its stone-arched rubble stone opening. The use of coursed brownstone here rather than one-piece quarried brownstone cheeks is also unusual.

Historical Background

By long-standing family tradition, the James Hazelton House was inherited by succeeding generations of the extended Hazelton-Hayden family and never sold. A review of land and probate records tends to confirm that tradition, although in some cases property was deeded over in a man's lifetime. Although a firm chain of title cannot be established, the most probable history of ownership is outlined below, which confirms a circa 1720 date of construction.

James Hazelton (1694-1773) came to Haddam in the early eighteenth century from Killingworth, along with a relative, probably a brother, Charles.² He first appeared in the land records "of Haddam" in 1721/22 (Haddam Land Records [HLR] 2:249). James married Susannah Arnold (1703-1774) in Haddam in 1720. She was the daughter of Deacon Joseph Arnold, Jr.³

James made several land purchases but none of his recorded deeds describe property in the Hayden Hill area. In 1745, however, he purchased more land from Israel Clark, adding to his "homelot" (HLR 4:208). This additional land was described in another deed as part of the 7th division laid out to William Clark, a Haddam proprietor (HLR 4:148), which confirms the location of the "homelot" in Haddam. He gave this same property (the addition to his homelot) to his son Arnold in 1771 by deed of gift with the first half of his house (HLR 8:187). It was described as beginning at the "Fore (sic) Door" and running to the land owned by another son, Charles. Shortly before his death James deeded the rest of his house to Arnold "for love and goodwill...and a certain writting (sic) or bond" (HLR 8:307). The property was described as "which

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half acre my house stands on together with half my house and what I own of the Barn...being all I own Joyning to the house which I live in" (ellipsis added for clarity of meaning by author of the nomination). As the youngest son, Arnold typically received the first half of the house at maturity, in this case age 24, at a time when he might have been expected to marry.⁴ The remainder of his inheritance was turned over to him later in his father's life as an intervivos trust, encumbered by his mother's dower right. The "bond" referred to in the last deed undoubtedly spelled out his responsibilities to his aged parents.

Arnold Hazelton (1740-1815) married for the second time, four years after his father's death, following service as a captain in the Revolution. He returned to Haddam to marry Mindwell Brainerd in 1777, the daughter of Elijah Brainerd. Arnold and Mindwell had no children. In Arnold Hazelton's will drawn in 1797 and probated in 1815 his wife had life use of the property that he willed to John Hayden and John's son, Arnold Hazelton Hayden (Middletown Probate Records [MPR] 10:447-8). Although John Hayden was a neighbor (1790 census) and referenced as a "kinsman" in an earlier deed, the relationship between Hazelton and Hayden has not been established.⁵ The property was inherited in 1869 by Arnold Hazelton Hayden, Jr. (1827-1891). He married Ursula Brainerd. Their daughter, Ursula Brainerd Hayden, married James North Wright of Haddam (late of Michigan) in 1865. Their son, James Hayden Wright, inherited the property in 1892 (part of the property having already been "set to" him) with a dwelling house and new barn. The property passed to the present owner, James Hardon Wright, in 1949 (HLR 76:169-70).

Notes:

1. In the opinion of John O. Curtis, Director, Curatorial Department Old Sturbridge Village, the vertical boards on the fireplace wall may have been salvaged for reuse when this fireplace was restored in 1971, an assumption based on how the boards terminate at the wood lintel. Personal communication to Jan Cunningham, 12/22/87.
2. Charles Hazelton married Abigail Chatfield of Killingworth and apparently did not move to Haddam until the 1740s.
3. Vital statistics in both town and church records are fragmentary in Haddam and Killingworth, requiring confirmation from other sources. One genealogist writing in the twentieth century commented that there was more concern with the registering of the earmarks of cattle. See Prentiss Glazier, "Some Descendants of William Clark of Haddam" MS, 1973 Connecticut State Library. Confirmation for this marriage can be found in the land records where Joseph Arnold refers to James as his son-in-law.
4. His first marriage was not recorded but a tombstone for a Mary Hazelton who died in 1777 can be found in the Thirty Mile Island Cemetery in Haddam next to the stones for Arnold and his second wife, Mindwell. James Hardon Wright, the present owner of the James Hazelton House, personal communication to Jan Cunningham, 12/21/87.

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5. The reference to "kinsman" usually indicates some degree of remove such as cousin, or even in-laws, but extensive research failed to produce any such relationship. It has been proposed by the current owner that Mary Hayden was related to Arnold Hazelton, his daughter by the first unrecorded marriage. It is more probable, however, that John Hayden's wife was Mary Crane (1765-1820), the daughter of John and Phebe Wheeler Crane. This premise is supported by the fact that a Mary Hayden died in Haddam in 1820 at age 55, and the Hayden's first child was named Mary Crane, making it unlikely that Mary Hayden was Arnold's daughter. The Hayden's second child was Arnold Hazelton Hayden. It is possible, of course, that Arnold senior was his natural father. Although illegitimacy was not uncommon in this period, it was rarely acknowledged quite so publicly. The explanation of the names and the inheritance may simply be that a close friendship existed between these neighboring families and Arnold and Mindwell had no children of their own to inherit.