

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70,10,09,0023	DATE 10/15/70

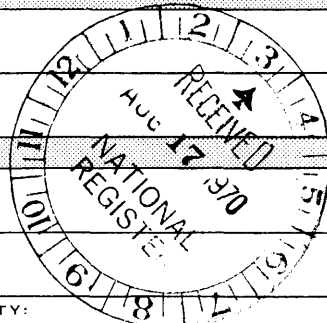
1. NAME

COMMON: (JOSHUA)
Hempsted House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Joshua Hempstead House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
11 Hempstead Street
CITY OR TOWN:
New London

STATE Connecticut	CODE 06320	COUNTY: New London	CODE 011
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Antiquarian and Landmarks Society
STREET AND NUMBER:
855 Asylum Avenue
CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 06
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Building
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
New London

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 06
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967
 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 06
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

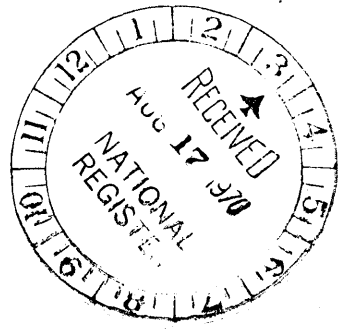
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Though now located a mile from the river in the center of New London, the Hempsted house was originally very nearly on the waterfront. Truman's Brook ran only thirty feet from the house and spilled into Shaw's Cove only a quarter of a mile away: now it flows through an underground conduit.

The house is a frame, two-and-one half story building which is clapboarded on the outside. The front of the house has two gables. The one to the west is three stories tall and projects from the center of the building forming a completely enclosed vestibule or porch. This is an unusual feature for a seventeenth century house, as are also the sliding casement windows installed at the second floor level of the gable on the west. The window openings are narrow. The older section of the house has casement windows at all three levels. There is a great central chimney.

The house is unusually long. In its position facing south, its two foot overhanging cornice, its heavy framing, and primitive lines, the house still shows its early date. The first section, built on the west end had a single summer beam running from front to back. The foundation is of quarried stone. Some of the rough drill marks can still be seen. Originally it was an end chimney house with a "one-room plan", that is it had one room, the keeping room, and a hall on the first floor; a bed chamber and hall on the second floor. Within this oldest section the sills extend into the first floor room, as do the rude corner posts, the end girts, and the summer beams. The roof was very steeply raked--fifteen inches to the foot--and there was a wide dormer on the south front. Recent investigation has disclosed the foundation of a two storey porch of 17th century origins which projected from the front and a vast 17th century fireplace within the leanto section of the rear.

Some of the more recent changes in the house include new shingles for the roof and a new chimney top, the return of the roof of the oldest section to its steep rake, and the rebuilding of the stone chimney in the interior.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Probably 1678

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Social History:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>the Hempstead</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Diary</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

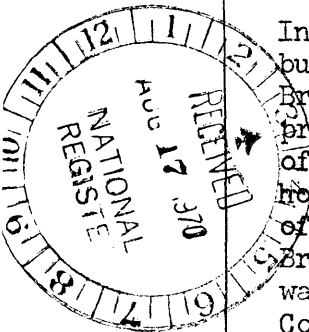
The Hempsted House is one of the oldest houses in Connecticut. It is architecturally and historically significant. It has been the source of several architectural studies, especially those of Kelly and Isham, because within it the stages of development of the 17th century house have been traced; and it has an interesting history because the chronicle of the Hempstead family is bound up with the history of New England.

Authorities disagree as to the name of the builder of the house and the date on which it was erected. Isham says the western part of the house was built in 1647, Trowbridge suggests 1644. According to publications of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society the western and oldest part of the house was built in 1678 by Joshua Hempstead, the father of the diarist Joshua Hempstead. Actually this diary which covers the years 1711 to 1758 is the source of information which provides important evidence for scholarly conclusions about the house, as well as being a storehouse of the detail of life in New England.

The significance that the house had had in the researches of architectural historians as a paradigm of the evolution of early colonial houses is somewhat altered by the discovery in the nineteen fifties of the 17th century kitchen lean-to in the rear of the oldest part of the house. Now instead of being considered "typical" it is viewed as an unique example of a seventeenth and eighteenth century dwelling.

In 1781 during the Revolutionary War the house fortunately escaped burning by the British. By not setting the Hempsted house afire the British demonstrated their appreciation for a feast which although prepared for a family reunion, was instead appropriated by a British officer and his men. Later in the nineteenth century the Hempsted house was used as a station in the underground railway. The last of the Hempstead descendants to occupy the house was Anna Hempstead Branch, a distinguished poetess. After her death in 1937 the house was purchased by the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc. of Connecticut. It was restored in 1956 - 57 and is now a museum, open to the public from mid-May through mid-October each year. In its present restoration the society has emphasized the differences between the seventeenth century and eighteenth century parts of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Isham, N. M. and Brown, F. A. Early Connecticut Houses. New York: Dover Publications, Inc.
 Kelly, J. F. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. New York: Dover Publications, Inc.
The Connecticut Antiquarian. Bulletin of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc., Hartford, Connecticut. Volume VI, No. 1 (June, 1954); Volume VIII, No. 2 (December, 1956); Volume X, No. 1 (July, 1958).
White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, Vol. X, No. 2, p. 5.

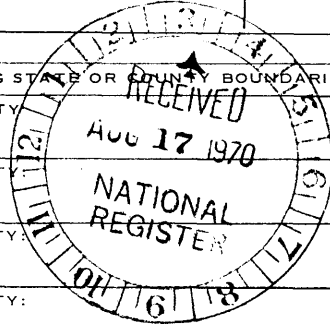
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41	21	09
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72	06	08
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: July 27, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer and Chairman
 Title: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: July 27, 1970

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Asst. Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEP 30 1970

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

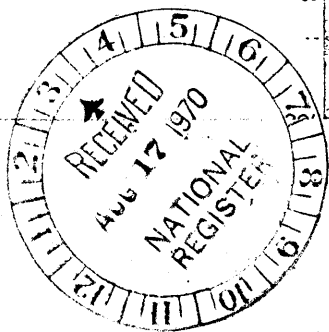
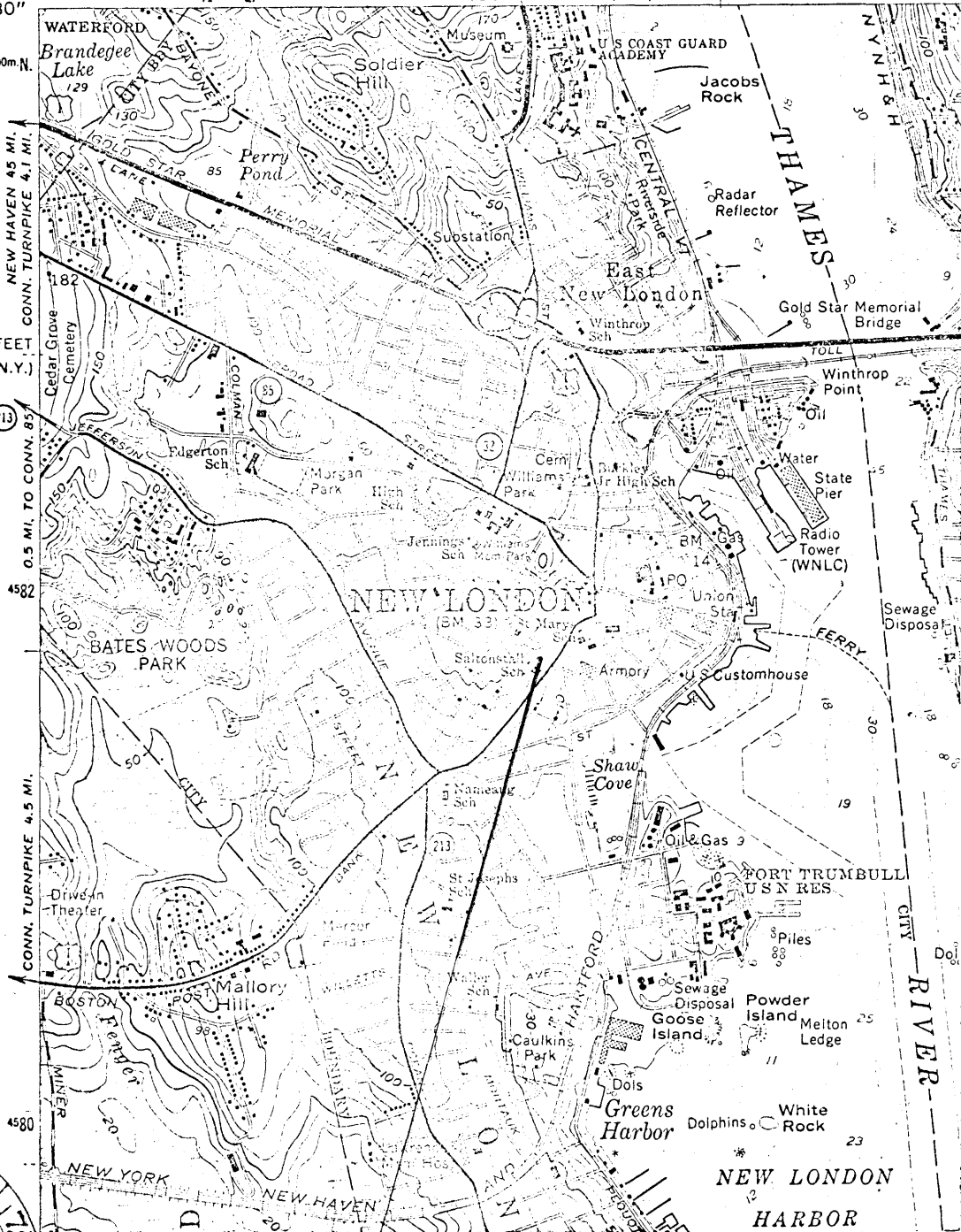
UNCASVILLE 4.2 MI.
QUAKER HILL 1.9 MI.
2 520 000 FEET (N.Y.)

72°07'30"
41°22'30"

741000m E

4584000m N

420 000 FEET
(N.Y.)



HEMPSTED HOUSE
LATITUDE 41° 21' 09"
LONGITUDE 72° 06' 08"