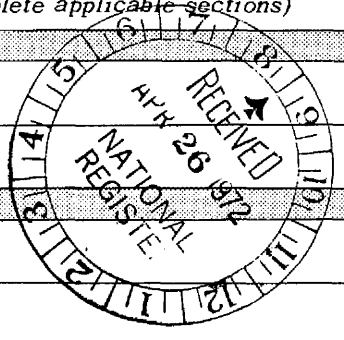


PH0020266

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| STATE: Connecticut | |
| COUNTY: Middlesex | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER NOV 9 1972 | DATE |

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Samuel Eliot House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Joseph Ames Thompson

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

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:
51 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: Middlesex

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 9 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Samuel Eliot House is located on the north side of Main (College) Street on a spit which separates North and South Coves of the Connecticut River at Old Saybrook. At the end of the spit is Saybrook Point, the site of the original Saybrook Fort which guarded the entrance to the River.

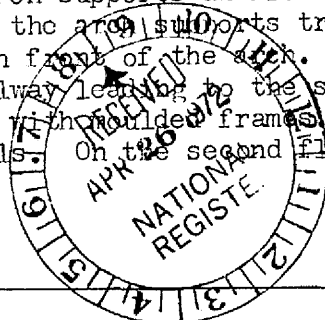
The house is a typical two and a half story twin chimney structure with a more recent two-story gambrel-roofed ell extending to the rear, the first floor of which now serves as a garage. Many of the original clapboards are still on the exterior. The foundation is of field stone, strengthened by cement. The front entry has a built-out portico, set on a brownstone slab with brownstone steps, probably of later date than the main part of the house. Two square columns support the portico and pilasters flank the sidelights of the paneled door. Dentil work lines the front edge of the roof of the portico and sets off the capitals of the supporting columns. Window sash is primarily proper twelve over twelve, replacement of the original. Smaller windows have four over four pane arrangement. A modern screened porch sits on the east side of the house.

Originally the house was comprised of two rooms on either side of the center-hallway. Now a stairway runs between them and a small hallway separates the side rooms. The rear of the original hallway is now part of an enlarged living room which includes the rear room at the east. Upstairs the two front rooms are bedrooms with doors leading to a small room which must have been part of the through hall on the second floor. There is a small room behind the east front bedroom and behind the west bedroom is a large bathroom and closet.

The fireplace in the front room on the east side of the first floor has a fire frame with the inscription "Issac Potts, 1795". Correspondence with the Pottstown Historical Society has revealed no specific information about this particular frame but indicated that Isaac Potts was the son of John Potts who built the Pottstown Historical Society's museum house; the fire frames there are very similar to those in the Samuel Eliot House. Over the frame is a mantel piece with pilasters. There is fine dentil work on the cornice. The fireplaces of the front room on the west and of the back room on the east have classical Doric columns supporting architrave, frieze, and cornice, the top member of which serves as mantel. Upstairs the front rooms have simple fireplaces with plain moulding and projecting mantels. The kitchen and what was the back of the west room on the second floor have fireplaces which have been covered.

The main stairway has a turned newel post and five balusters supporting a hand rail, leading to a pilaster which supports an arch over the stairway. A pilaster on the other side of the arch supports trim work leading to a modillion and cornice moulding in front of the arch. This forms the cornice on three sides of the hallway leading to the stairs. The interior doors are mostly six-paneled with moulded frames. There are also moulded baseboards and chair rails. On the second floor the wide floor boards remain.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

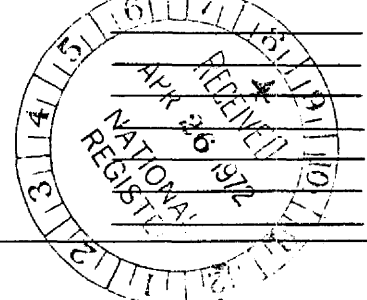
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1737

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <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

This house was the original one on this site and has functioned as a residence since it was built. It renders a feeling of permanence and value to its occupants and to the town because it maintains an architectural heritage.

The official program of the Saybrook Tercentenary Celebration in 1935 states that the Samuel Eliot House was built by Eliot in 1737 when he planned to marry Mary Blague. The son of Jared Eliot, prominent landowner, iron miner, and original trustee of Yale College, Samuel was a physician. Ill health and an early death prevented his marrying and living in the house.

The Saybrook Land Records list Captain Jabez Stowe as the purchaser of the house in 1753. It remained in the same family until 1890. Mary Stowe Newell, daughter of Jabez Stowe, next occupied the house. Her husband, David Newell, was a ship captain engaged in the slave trade. A letter from the American consulate dated August 28, 1819 describes the murder of Captain Newell by African slaves aboard his ship in the Cape Verde Islands. It is possible that it was during the occupancy of the Newells that the iron fire frame was added to the fireplace in the library. Perhaps the late Georgian architectural embellishments such as the classical support columns for the mantels, the cornice mouldings, and the front porch, were added when David Newell was prospering with his overseas trade. Correspondence with the Valley Forge State Park Commission has revealed the possibility of the fire frame's manufacture at Martha's Furnace in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Captain Newell could easily have brought it by ship from New Jersey to Connecticut.

Saybrook Land Records show other owners of the same family to be: Mary Newell Bushnell and Robert Montgomery Bushnell. In 1890 the heirs of Robert Montgomery Bushnell sold the house to Mrs. Amy Butler. Other owners have been Yale professor Edward P. Morris and Dorothy L. Wyeth, sister-in-law of artist Andrew Wyeth. Mrs. Wyeth had substantial repairs made and much modernization done according to a local carpenter who did much of the work.

The house retains many features which evidence its early date. As a whole it is architecturally and historically important.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gates, Gilman. Saybrook at the Mouth of the Connecticut. Wilson Lee Co, 1935.
 Old Saybrook Historical Society Collection. Letters from David Newell.
 Saybrook Land Records, Town Hall.
 Saybrook Tercentenary Committee, "In the Land of the Patentees". 1935.

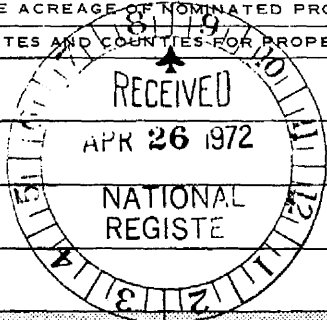
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 41° 17' 02" | 72° 22' 08" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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: Joseph Ames Thompson

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE March 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 500 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Old Saybrook STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

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]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date April 18, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/9/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date Nov. 7, 1972

