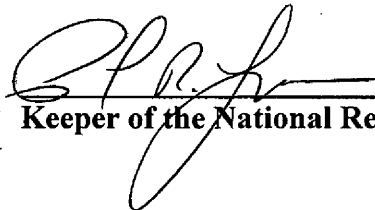




# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Rider, John, House, in Fairfield County, Connecticut, reference number 77001388, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 11/23/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7440. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/19/2009  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

*file*

**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 **John Rider House**

AND/OR COMMON

**Danbury Scott-Panton Museum and Historical Society**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **43 Main Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Danbury**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**5th - Ronald A. Sarasin**

STATE

**Connecticut**

VICINITY OF

CODE  
**09**

COUNTY

**Fairfield**

CODE  
**001**

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

**Danbury Scott-Panton Museum and Historical Society, Inc.**

STREET & NUMBER

**43 Main Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Danbury**

VICINITY OF

STATE

**CT**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Danbury Town Clerk**

STREET & NUMBER

**155 Deer Hill Avenue**

CITY, TOWN

**Danbury**

STATE

**CT**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources**

DATE

**1975**

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

CITY, TOWN

**Hartford**

STATE

**CT**

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

—EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
—RUINS  
—UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
—MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The John Rider House is located on a busy street in a commercial section of Danbury. It shares its large lot with a low, modern museum and a 19th-century frame shop, but these exhibit buildings are situated in the rear and do not visually detract from the property, which is attractively planted with shrubs and shade trees. The house was built in 1785 and is 2½ stories high, frame, with two brick (stone below) chimneys projecting from the gable roof. The ridgeline is parallel with the street, and the main facade features the usual 9-window fenestration. There is a lean-to across part of the rear, added sometime before the 1840's. The roof is framed with common rafters supported by two heavy purlins with bracing between the chimneys. Although it has been reshingled, the clapboards which cover the exterior are mostly early ones and were only recently uncovered; even the red paint is close to the original, based on the color found in the wall between the house and the addition. The exterior lacks any ornamentation. The doors and the windows, which now have 6/6 sash, have plain board frames, and the projecting cornice, partly restored, is unembellished. The somewhat concave pent roof sheltering the entrance is a reconstruction. Above the doorway is a five-paned transom. The large door with six flush panels is fitted, as are other exterior doors, with a hand-forged latch handle, a spearhead design with a greatly elongated point. On the inside, the door is reinforced with vertical battens and is hung on large strap hinges.

The interior room arrangement features two front rooms opening from a central hall which runs half the depth of the building. Between the hall and the kitchen behind it is an unusual transomed doorway. To the north of the kitchen is a smaller back room. Leading to the four chambers above are two sets of stairs, one in the hall with panelled sides and scroll-work and the other closed in between the two back rooms. Except for a replaced chair rail in the north rear room and the wainscoting between the kitchen and back stairs, the interior woodwork is original. In each of the first-floor rooms except the kitchen, the brick fireplace is surrounded by two or three heavy bolection moldings and above is a mantel-shelf supported by bold cyma moldings. Against the plaster walls is set a molded chair rail. Doors are of the flush-panel type, set on H-L hinges, and openings have plain frames with raised molding along the edges. In each of these rooms, remnants of a band of floral-motif stencilling have been found, in different colors, and this has been renewed in the north front room. In the fireplace wall of the other front room are two narrow closets with flush-panel doors. The fireplaces upstairs are very small and shallow with simple shelves, except for the south front chamber, which has a molded mantel like those on the first floor, as well as similar built-in cupboards. The kitchen fireplace is very large, with an oven and mantel shelf resting on heavy moldings. A panelled effect is created on this wall by the door covering the oven, a small cupboard above the opening, and adjacent doors leading to the front room and to the hall. In the cellar are two fireplaces; the one below the kitchen, no longer accessible, is believed to have been used as a smoker. The interior of the lean-to has no early material except the oak floor.

The Rider House is part of a larger museum complex and is furnished much like a residence. This adaptive use has allowed the faithful preservation of original material as well as providing for continued restoration of fragmentary remains, such as the stencilling. The result has been the retention of much of the building's historic integrity, both within and without.

# 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 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 **1785- built** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **FROM**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Rider House is a good representative house from the late 18th century. The dwelling's typical form, as well as appropriate restorations and plantings, provides diversity and a source of historical continuity to the area's cityscape. The house's considerable amount of interesting detail, especially in the interior, makes the building a valuable artifact. Its local significance as a resource is increased by the fact that the British burning of Danbury left the city with fewer old buildings than most Connecticut towns. Additionally, the house is a highly visible and accessible historic place. Located close to the downtown, the museum has developed special programs for area college students, schoolchildren and even pre-schoolers, so that its collections as well as the building itself are available to many people.

Much of the house's original material is in a well-preserved state. The hand-forged hardware is especially interesting, with latches and hinges found on both interior and exterior doors. The stenciling, which may have been done later, is another notable feature which fortunately was found in a restorable condition. The shallow brick fireplaces, the plaster walls and ceiling which conceal the structural members, and the limitation of woodwork to the fireplace, doorframe and chair-rail moldings distinguish this house from earlier interiors. At the same time, the room arrangement seems somewhat of a compromise, since it is based on the central-hall plan yet retains the long kitchen across the back. If the house seems rather plain and ordinary, it was nevertheless an appropriate dwelling for a townsman of middling means.

The house was built in 1785 for John Rider (1760-1833) and his wife, Mary, Jarvis Rider (d. 1845). Rider was a cabinet-maker and a captain in the local militia. His advertisements appeared in 18th-century newspapers and some specimens of his work are still owned by Danbury families.

STATEMENT

As the local historical society is the only one in the area, it is the only one in the area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scott-Fanton Museum Newsletter, n.d. / May 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	6, 2, 9, 8, 8, 0	4, 5, 8, 2, 8, 3, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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

**Bruce Clouette, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

DATE

**August 3, 1976**

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:

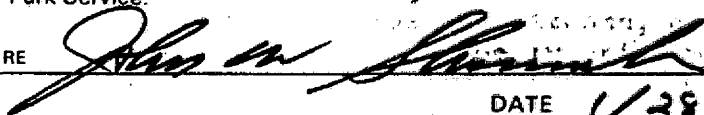
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

**SAPO**

DATE

**1/28/77**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER