

PH0021172

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Windham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.8.09.0016	DATE 8/5/91

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON: The William Jillson Stonehouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 561 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Willimantic			
STATE Connecticut	CODE 06226	COUNTY: Windham	CODE 015

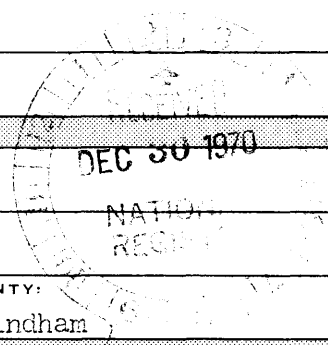
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
will be headquarters for <u>Windham Historical Society</u>				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Town of Windham			
STREET AND NUMBER: 979 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Willimantic	STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Town Building			
STREET AND NUMBER: 979 Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Willimantic	STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Connecticut Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 75 Elm Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hartford	STATE: Connecticut	CODE: 09	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

RECEIVED
JEC
1970
NATIONAL REGISTER

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This ten roomed stonehouse is large and important looking. It was built by William Jillson of Cumberland, Rhode Island in 1825-27. At the time of its construction it overlooked a rocky gorge with the falling water of the Willimantic River with few or no other houses in the immediate locality. At present it stands on the Main Street of the town in an area of deteriorating tenements which house Puerto Rican families employed primarily by the American Thread Company.

The walls are built of native granite in alternating wide and narrow courses of ashlar masonry. After one hundred fifty years the foundations have not settled for there is no bulging of the walls nor cracking at the corners of the door or window openings.

The main house is nearly square. It has two stories, four over four rooms, the ridge of the gabled roof parallel with the highway and with two symmetric chimneys of red brick. There is a one story kitchen ell with its gabled ell roof also parallel with the highway, its axis in the long axis of the house and with its chimney through the ridge line at the outer end. The back wall of the ell is continuous with that of the main house.

The front entry consists of two upright stone slabs as posts, topped by blocks with three parallel incised lines on front and inner faces. From these the semi-oval arch of the doorway springs which is marked on front face with incised lines to indicate separate blocks of the arch but actually it consists of a solid section cut in a curve on either side of the keystone. The window frames and most sash are original or very old, though in very bad condition. Beneath the cornice are mutules with bored holes to represent guttae. Immediately below these runs a row of large oval bead moulding.

The house plan is the center hall four room type. The four roughly square rooms have intervening chimney walls which are elaborated with simple mantled fireplaces in each room. The outer walls are about 17 inches thick and the windows set so that they are more or less flush with the exterior walls. The window sash is small and old if not original. Moldings about the doors are simple as are the chair railings, the unembellished fireplace mantles, the staircase decoration and the inside, swinging blinds and paneling of the casements of the first floor windows. Ceilings are 9' high and floorboards are random width larch (*Larix laricina*), a wood used not infrequently for this purpose in this locality in the early 1800's.

A brick wing attached to the west end of the house for commercial purposes in the 1920's is presently being demolished. It is believed that a railroad spur brought across the property in 1865 with the placing of a new railroad line from Willimantic to Boston but now no longer in use will be removed so proper landscaping of the yards about the house may be completed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1825-27

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 checked="" 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 is architecturally significant because it is an unusual and possible unique stone residence built between 1825-27; and the house has local historical significance as the residence of William Jillson, one of three Jillson brothers from Rhode Island who were the first to purchase water rights in the area of the Willimantic Falls. They established several mills there including a textile mill later purchased by the Willimantic Linen Co. and eventually by the American Thread Co. which was at one time the major industry in Willimantic.

When the Windham Historical Society succeeds in restoring the building it will be used as a museum and as their headquarters.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

~~1. Map to larger scale enclosed~~

2. Legal title to property is vested in Town of Windham, whose Board of Selectmen has "appointed the Windham Historical Society as Custodians to restore the Jillson House on Union Street, Willimantic, Connecticut, and to use it as a Historical Home and Museum."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Genealogy of the Gillson or Jillson Family, Collected and Compiled by David Jillson, South Attleboro, Massachusetts, published by E.L. Freeman and Company, Central Falls, Rhode Island.

Interviews between W. Huntington Jillson (now deceased) and Brae Rafferty, President of the Windham Historical Society.

Windham Land Records, Vol. 26, pg. 424, 475, 487, 498, 499, also Vol. 49, pg. 331.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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°	42'	40"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	12'	35"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Brae Rafferty, M.D. President

ORGANIZATION: Windham Historical Society DATE: May 1, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chaplin STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: November 16, 1970

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

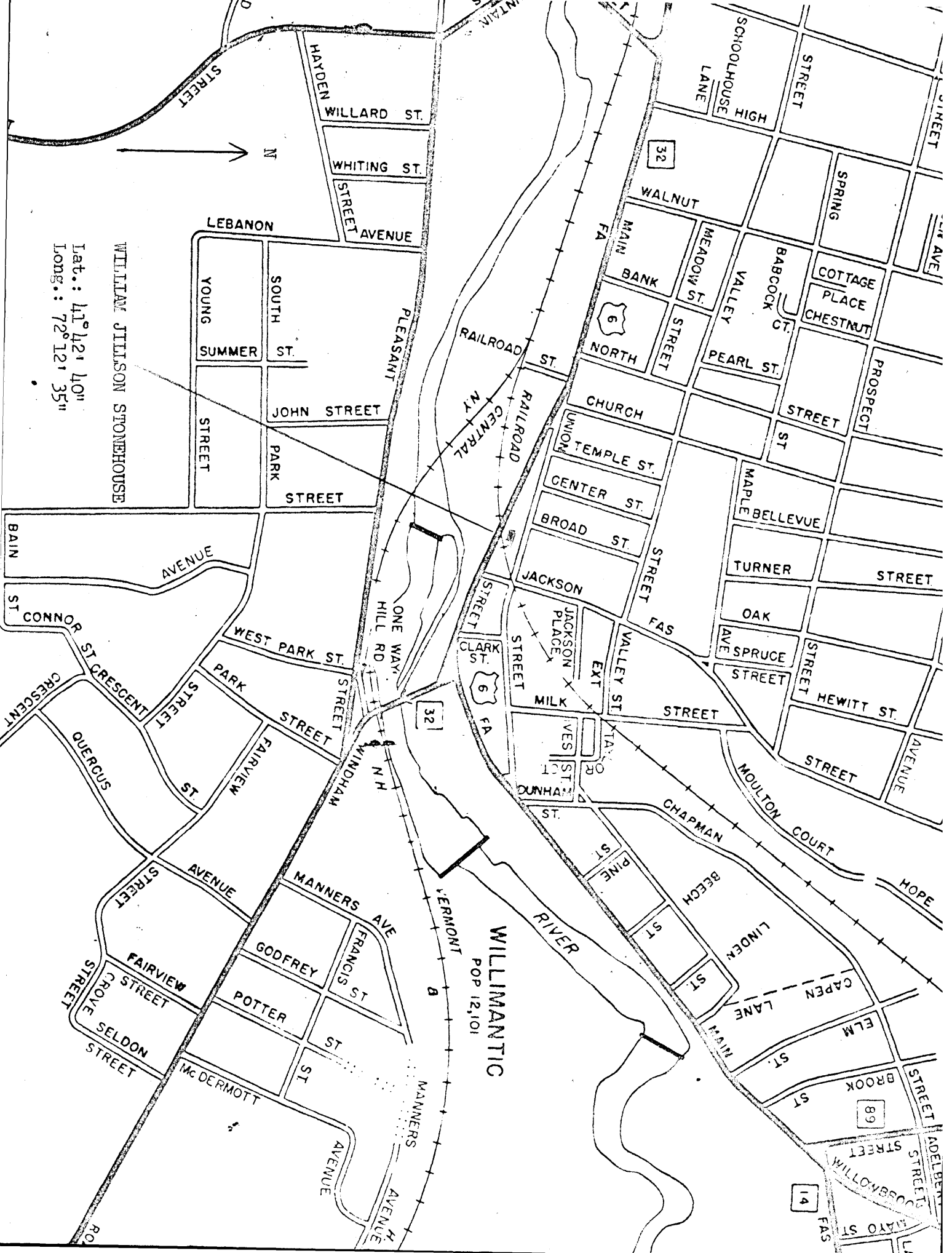
[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: AUG 5 1971

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 27 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



WILLIAM JILLISON STONEHOUSE

Lat.: 41° 42' 40"
Long.: 72° 12' 35"

WILLIMANTIC
POP 12,101

