

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1378



1. Name of Property

historic name MEDAD STONE TAVERN

other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & town 197 Three Mile Course NA not for publication

city or town Guilford NA vicinity

state CT code _____ county New Haven code 09 zip code 06437

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____, SHPO Date 12-11-08

Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, Historic Preservation and Museum Division/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Andrews _____
Date of Action 1/30/2009

Medad Stone Tavern
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New Haven, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

4	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter only categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTANCE: storage, agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Function

(Enter only categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter only categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials

(Enter only categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof WOOD SHINGLE

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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Item 7. Narrative Description

Interior

The principal room of the Tavern, the Great Room, is in the center of the first floor (Photograph 9) with the pantry and kitchen in the ell behind. Two parlors separated by a hall leading to the porch were placed at the front, with a small bedroom (now a bathroom) to the side. The second floor (Photograph 10) has three large bedrooms and one small bedroom surrounding an upstairs parlor. (The small bedroom was later used as a bathroom; one large bedroom is now used as an office.) A hall separates the two front bedrooms. There is a large work room above the kitchen in the ell that can only be reached by stairs from the pantry hall below. Both sections of the house have full attics (Photograph 11). The basement has two front rooms separated by the hall that provides the direct access to the road in front of the building. There are two large storage rooms behind the front rooms. The basement under the ell can be entered only by stairs from the pantry hall above.

Sources of information on the interior layout, furnishings, and room use in the past include numerous photographs, a sketch plan of the layout of the first floor drawn in 1863, and several deeds and contracts specifying ownership of particular rooms. These documents are now in the Keeping Society archives at the Tavern. Additional information comes from an account prepared by the last family member to live in the Tavern, Leonard Hubbard. Room designations are those shown on the building plans, Figs. 5-8.

General Interior Features

The three fireplace stacks are built of stone up to the level of the second floor ceilings, and are brick above. The fireplace hearths fitted for cookery are of stone construction and have iron cranes (Photograph 14). The fireplaces used for heat only have brick hearths (Photograph 15). The mantels with one exception are of the basic Federal style design, unadorned with decorative elements other than moldings (Photograph 15), as generally used in early nineteenth century country buildings in Connecticut. All stairways traverse between floors without turns. Floors throughout the building are made of planks with varying widths.

Most of the windows on the first floor are large with twelve over twelve lights. The upstairs dormer windows on the Ell are eight over eight, and in the front are eight over twelve.

Interior doors and hardware are standard throughout most of the house. Doors have six panels, the established style in 1803. (Photograph 16). They are fitted with iron rim (box) locks that have round brass handles and brass keys (Photograph 17). The opposite sides have round brass handles and brass key hole plates (Photograph 18). Moldings surround the doors (Photograph 19).

First Floor Rooms

Old Kitchen. This room was built as the kitchen, probably in anticipation of tavern operation, and was used as a kitchen by successive residents until 1949. The room has two outside doors. The Dutch door adjacent to the fireplace opens onto the back porch (formerly the dairy). The door in the south wall opens to the area under the

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roof overhang, and provides convenient access to the well (Photograph 20). Four large windows provide generous illumination. The large fireplace is fitted for cookery, and has a chute for sending ashes to the basement, where they could have been used to make soap (Photograph 21). An adjacent bake oven is brick lined and has a separate flue. It is not fitted with the hinged iron door with draft damper often found on fireplace bake ovens; instead an iron plate is placed against the oven opening for closure.

A wall of variable width paneling forms the east end of the room (Photograph 20). Two doors at the east end are the only communication between the Ell and the rest of the house. The northernmost of these doors opens to a small hallway that contains the entrance to a stairway up to the second floor. The southern door opens to the head of the stairs to the basement, and to the Pantry.

From about 1900 to 1949 the Old Kitchen contained a cast iron sink with about 24 feet of pipe out into the ground and an eight-lid wood-burning stove with three warming racks and two ovens. The sink was under a window next to the fireplace. A large cabinet was mounted off either end of the sink, being about 16 inches above the sink, thereby allowing water pails to rest under them. The water was hauled from a well located under the roof overhang just outside the door in the south wall. From the late nineteenth century onward the chair rail, fireplace mantel, windows and doors were trimmed in white. The walls were covered with brown oatmeal wallpaper. The cupboard at the back of the room dates to about 1790, and was probably brought to the tavern by Medad Stone.

Leonard Hubbard, the last resident, used this room as a sitting room. It has since been returned to its original configuration, and is used for hearth cooking classes.

Pantry. The pantry is the small room five feet wide at the back of the Old Kitchen. The four thirteen-inch-wide shelves that run the full length of the sides are original fittings.

Great Room. This room, 27 feet long by 13 feet wide and also known as the long room, was built as the central room of the intended tavern. A fifteen-over-fifteen window and the hall door to the pantry and kitchen are on the west wall of the room. An additional door in this wall provides access to the south end of the pantry. The south wall has a large Dutch front door and a fifteen-over-fifteen window. On the east wall doors provide access to the back stairway up to the second floor and down to the basement. A door in this wall opens to the present Bathroom, formerly a small bedroom. The east wall of the room has doors to the Living Area, Hall, front stairway to the basement, and the Front Parlor.

The Great Room fireplace is on the east wall of the room. Unlike the mantels on the other fireplaces in the house, this one has carved decoration. A cupboard for glassware and dishes is built into the southeast corner of the room adjacent to the fireplace.

In the mid-nineteenth century the Great Room was divided in two by a partition, and was fitted with a wood-burning airtight stove. The partition and stove have been removed and the room returned to its original

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configuration. In its restoration work the Keeping Society used analysis of paint samples to determine original colors. Traces of original hand- stenciling were found under later layers of paint. Both the stenciling and the original color scheme have been restored (Photograph 22).

Bathroom. This was a small bedroom with windows on the north and west walls. There is a closed-up fireplace on the east wall with the associated mantel and built-in cupboard still in place. This room was converted to a bathroom about 1948. It remains a bathroom today.

Living Area. This is identified as the best parlor of the tavern. It is entered by doors to the Great Room and the Hall. It is generously lighted by two large windows on the south wall and two more east side. It has a fireplace with a brick hearth on the west side. The fireplace is flanked by cupboards fitted with doors and shelves. The fireplace surround is in Federal style. Paint analysis has shown that the trim in this room was originally painted yellow.

Hall. The front hall extends from the Great Room to a large door to the porch on the east front, with doors to the adjacent front rooms. The panels on the staircase to the second floor are stenciled with a decorative pattern. This was restored by Leonard Hubbard about 1980. One panel in the hall was cut into a door to the cellar stairway about 1865.

Front Parlor. This is the second of the two small parlors in the original tavern plan. It has two front windows and one window on the north wall. The fireplace on the west wall has a brick hearth, and is flanked by a floor to ceiling cupboard fitted with doors and shelves. Paint analysis showed that the chair rail and paneling was painted in a dark red, this color has since been restored.

Second Floor Rooms

Smoke Oven Room. This room above the Old Kitchen remains nearly in its as-built condition. It has a large chamber built into the chimney for smoking food. Iron bars and hooks are fitted within the brick chamber for hanging meat to be smoked. For smoking, fire was kindled on a grate at the base of the chamber and vented through a small flue at its top into the chimney stack. Cabinets line the edge of the floor on the sides under the gambrel roof. They have a dark band painted at floor level (Photograph 23). This was an accepted style of decoration in the early nineteenth century. Spinning wheels and a stock of flax found in this room suggest that it served as a work room for spinning in the nineteenth century.

The five rooms in the second story front section of the building were all bedrooms. The east side front of the house has five dormer windows in the slant curved roof. The south and north sides have two windows in the clapboard ends. Two of these rooms have fireplaces. Closet space is sparse, with only three on this floor. Above all of this is one big attic.

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Pink Room. This room retains its original pink paint on the woodwork. In tavern usage it would have been one of the better bedrooms since it had its own fireplace with a brick hearth. There is a cabinet with double doors above the mantel.

A large chair rail runs along the side and back walls. This room has one window, on the south wall. It is entered from the Upstairs Parlor. The room was designed to fit into the gambrel roof where it joins the Ell, as shown by the tapered cupboards (Photograph 24). These illustrate the geometrical technique carpenters used in joining two gambrel roof structures together at right angles to each other.

Upstairs Parlor. This room, also known as the middle chamber, would have been one of the less desirable bedrooms in the tavern since it lacked a fireplace and had numerous doors. It has one window, on the west wall. The back stairs from the Great Room below emerge in this room. Doors lead to the Pink Room, the Upstairs Hall, the Office (formerly bedroom), the Bathroom (formerly a bedroom), and the stairway to the attic. The paint on the woodwork is original.

Green Room. This room has two dormer windows in front and a large window on the south side. There is no fireplace, but it was warmed by a stove.

Upstairs Hall. This 12 x 15 foot hall separates the two front bedrooms. It has dormer window at the east end.

Office. This was originally a bedroom. It has two front windows, and a window on the north wall. The fireplace has shelving on one side and a cabinet fitted with shelves and a door in the other side, next to the north wall. It is now used as office and archive space for the Keeping Society.

Bathroom. The small northwest bedroom is entered from the Upstairs Parlor, and has windows on the north and west sides. The bathroom fittings installed in 1983 have since been removed. It is used by the Keeping Society for its archives, historical documents and photograph collections.

Basement Rooms

Ell Basement. The Ell basement is divided by a partition into two rooms. The west part is a cellar under the old kitchen. It has a fireplace with a stone hearth fitted with an iron crane. It is at the base of the four-flue stone chimney that serves the two stories above (Photograph 25). Since the floor of this room is below ground level, only small windows set in the foundation provide light. A floor of plank boards rest on the dirt floor beneath. A wall of vertical boards divides the room. The transverse saw marks on the boards show that they were cut in an up-and-down saw mill.

The rear room lacks windows. It contains the stairway that leads to the hallway above. Built-in racks provided for storage of the barrels and kegs needed for tavern operation. Residents used this space for storage of cider barrels. There is a two-foot thick stone partition without openings between the Ell basement and the basement of the front section of the building.

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Basement Utility Room. This room affords a view of the back side of the fireplace and oven in the Lower Level Room 1. It allows visitors to study the details of fireplace and stack construction. The stack and fireplace are constructed of stone. The back of the brick bake oven is inserted in the stone structure

Boiler Room. This room is fitted with a large door interpreted as made for admittance of large items of baggage brought by travelers or stores required in tavern operations. It is now used for the furnace that was installed in the 1940s, and for storage.

The east-side cellar level of the front part of the building has two finished rooms.

Lower Level Room 1. This room has two front windows, a side window, and a door in the south wall opening outside. A door in north wall opens into the lower level hall. The large hearth is fitted with a crane for cooking pots. The stack contains a brick-lined bake oven. Large cabinets with doors are fitted on each side of the hearth. These features indicate that that this room was intended to be a kitchen.

Lower Level Room 2. This room has two front windows and one side window. It is entered by a doorway off the lower level hall. The fireplace is not fitted for cookery, and has a storage cabinet with door fitted at one side. It was probably intended to be a bedroom.

Lower Level Hall. This hallway separates the two basement front rooms. The front door opens to ground level, and would have served as the entrance to the tavern from the original road that passed in front of the Tavern. This hall provides the only entrance to the basement from outside the building.

Barn

The present barn (Photograph 5), built with post-and-girt framing (Photograph 26), replaced the original farm barn that burned in 1898. It is fitted with three animal stalls in the basement level, which opens on to a paddock with fields beyond. The stalls are now occupied by horses. The floor above (Photograph 26) is at grade for easy entrance of hay wagons and farm machinery. It has large doors at either end. Hay is stored on the raised floor over the stalls below.

Corn Crib

The corn crib, located between the barn and tavern building, is a two-story rectangular building 21 feet long by 17 feet wide. It has a second floor 10 feet above the first. The wall on the west side of the building is made of slats and is inclined (Photograph 6). Connecticut corn cribs typically had one or two slatted sides with one side facing the direction of the prevailing wind, as does this one. The crib is set on granite blocks two feet high to allow air flow under the building. The blocks are capped with metal to exclude rodents. It is built with post-and-girt construction (Photograph 27).

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Two large bins with slatted sides on the left as one enters the door (Photograph 28) were used to store corn ears. The bin doors were closed with slats inserted in sequence as more corn was added. The floor above was used for storage of domestic and farm items.

Garage

The garage structure (Photograph 7) was built by Norris Hubbard using timber taken from trees that blew down in the 1938 hurricane.

Grounds

The Tavern grounds include ten acres of woodland and pastures fenced with stone walls that preserve the rural, agricultural setting of the Tavern and its outbuildings. The Keeping Society commissioned Lisa Smith, a licensed Connecticut forester (CT License No. F665) to prepare the land management program now being followed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1803 -1865

Significant Dates

1803

Significant Person (only if Criterion B selected)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder (use last names first for individuals)

Stone, Medad

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Medad Stone Tavern, built in 1803, is significant as a structurally unaltered example of early republic tavern construction in New England, and as a rare example of double gambrel roof construction in southern Connecticut. The inventory of historic structures compiled by the Guilford Preservation Alliance describes the graceful gambrel roof sweeping widely out over the façade to form the porch as of a type brought from Dutch settlements on Long Island, where it had been traditional since the seventeenth century. This style of construction was popular at one time along the Connecticut coast. The use of two roofs in an "L" configuration to each other is unique in the New Haven region. The inventory describes the Tavern as "one of Guilford's most magnificent remaining buildings." Its historic significance is enhanced by its setting in fields and woods little changed since the early nineteenth century, and by the extensive collection of furniture, artifacts, and records that were retained by the owners and are now archived by the Guilford Keeping Society.

Criterion C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Tavern Building.

The history of the construction of the Tavern is well documented. Medad Stone [1754-1815] owned a tavern on the Green in Guilford at the corner of Broad and Whitfield Streets, and served as the town's first postmaster. Along with several partners he operated mail service between New Haven and Norwich along the Post Road, which was in notoriously bad condition. In 1803, amid general enthusiasm in Connecticut for turnpike construction as a way of improving roads, Stone and his partners petitioned the General Assembly for a charter to build a turnpike along the Post Road route. Thirty Guilford residents endorsed the petition.

Stone and his partners proposed a turnpike route through Guilford that deviated from that of the established Post Road. Instead of crossing the Green diagonally between Boston Street and Broad Street they proposed a route that followed the present Water Street over Jones Bridge, thence following Jacobs Lane and Three Mile Course to rejoin the established Post Road to the west of town. This route avoided crossing the Guilford Green, and passed along a 66 acre lot that Stone owned on Three Mile Course. Because he anticipated success in his turnpike petition to the legislature, Stone commenced construction of a new tavern on his Three Mile Course land.

Members of the Stone family had owned Falkner Island, south of Guilford in Long Island Sound, since 1715. They used it as summer pasture. Noah Stone bought out other family members to consolidate ownership, and in May 1800 paid Medad Stone \$158 for his share. This gave Medad ready money to commence his tavern project. (The following year Noah sold the island to the federal government, which wanted to build a lighthouse on it, for \$325.)

Unfortunately for Stone, many Guilford residents disliked his proposed turnpike scheme. They prevailed in a Town Meeting vote in September 1803 that appointed two agents to oppose Stone's petition. The General Assembly

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tabled Stone's petition. It remained dormant until he re-petitioned in 1812. The next year a turnpike commission for the Post Road route failed to endorse Stone's enterprise. Although other Guilford turnpike projects succeeded, Stone's did not. Stone never opened his tavern, now located on an obscure by-way, and instead used it as a residence at the site of his farm operations. Here he had 24 acres of plow-land and pasture, and 46 acres of woodland.

At the time of his death in 1815 Medad Stone had an estate valued at \$14,204 that included his residence in town and the Tavern property. His widow, Mary, and daughter, Sally, inherited the tavern and its associated land. Through the years 1815 to 1844 Joel Davis, a farmer, acquired the entire property by payments in money and labor to the Stone heirs. The property was held by successive generations of the Davis family until the last resident family member willed it to the Guilford Keeping Society in 2001.

Connecticut has seventeen taverns on the National Register, but only one in New Haven County. The Stone Tavern is unique in having been built as a tavern but never used as one. The structure remains essentially unaltered. It preserves early republic tavern layout, method of construction, decoration, and fittings. Since the building is not a private residence and most of it is not regularly used for events, the structure is accessible to scholars and architectural historians for study. The unusual joining of two buildings each with gambrel roof construction illustrates the skills and methods of vernacular carpenters in dealing with complex shapes and structural problems.

Tavern Contents.

The value of the Tavern as a historic resource is enhanced by the presence of original furnishings and equipment. Equipment includes the numerous fireplaces constructed specifically for heating or cookery, and the built-in chamber for smoking food. Among the furnishings are tables, chests, beds, chairs, and Medad Stone's desk that remain from the original fitting up of the tavern. The 1720 square dining table, a circa 1700 turned chair, and painted cupboards show how furnishings were passed down through successive family generations. Additional furnishings and artifacts sample the equipment used by the successive generations of the Davis-Hubbard family.

The extensive collection of documents found within the tavern building, enumerated below, enhances the value of the property as an historical resource.

Associated Structures

The existing barn was built to replace the barn that burned in 1898. It was built into a low hillside so that the lower level opens directly onto pasture while the upper level is at driveway grade. The lower level remains in use as stabling for the horses that graze in the surrounding pastures. Hay wagons could enter the upper level at grade so that hay could be pitched directly into the lofts above. The barn is built with traditional post-and-girt framing. Horse-drawn mowing machines, cultivators, and hay rakes used in farm operations are displayed adjacent to the barn.

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The large corn crib set between the barn and tavern remains essentially unchanged from its nineteenth century construction. The garage building is of interest in having been built by Norris Hubbard with timber felled by the 1938 hurricane.

Land and Setting

The Tavern remains in its original setting amid the fields cultivated by the Stone and Davis-Hubbard families from the eighteenth century through the twenty-first century (Photograph 29). It has not suffered the indignities of highway intrusion, urbanization, or residential development. The fields are bounded by stone walls. The pent road at the back of the property remains as an illustration of structures adapted to the management of cattle in early republic times. The adjacent woodland is owned by the Guilford Land Conservation Trust, and is thus protected from intrusive development. Thus the property retains not only the historic structures but their place on the land enduring for over two hundred years.

The tavern property has a particular place in local history both as an architectural landmark and through its association with Medad Stone and the successive generations of the Davis-Hubbard family. The Tavern's builder, Medad Stone, is an important figure in the late eighteenth – early nineteenth century history of the town of Guilford as a war veteran, postmaster, farmer, and multifaceted entrepreneur. In addition to the failed tavern enterprise his personal papers and memorabilia are an important educational resource. Leonard Hubbard, the last owner, served as town treasurer, and was prominent in a range of civic affairs. Through ownership by the Guilford Keeping Society the Tavern property is now used in school programs, adult education classes, and scholarly research.

The value of the Tavern as an historical resource is enhanced by the extensive documentary materials that were found stored within the building at the time it was given to the Keeping Society. These records, coupled with the building and grounds make an integrated account of domestic farm life from early republic times through the mid twentieth century. Of particular interest is the way ownership of the building was divided, subdivided, and later reunited through successive members of the extended Davis-Hubbard family. The rooms owned individually and those used on a shared basis are documented, and can be compared with their furnishings and fittings as they are preserved today within the building.

Study of the structure and documentation is ongoing. The property is an important resource for architectural, agricultural land use, and family life history. It is a source for research in historical archaeology

Sequence of Owners and Occupants

In addition to the tavern building Medad Stone owned 70 acres of farm and woodland on Three Mile Course. He also owned a house in town on Whitfield Street, which the 1810 census shows as his residence. In 1811 he leased the farm on Three Mile Course to Joel Davis, but retained the use of the house, which he called "Mount Pleasant." His widow, Mary, and daughter, Sally, lived in part of the Tavern building from 1816 until 1826. Sally married

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Roswell Bartholomew and thereafter lived in Hartford. Joel Davis's account book shows that he received various household furnishings as part of his profits for caring for the farm. Guilford tax records for this period show the property tax paid by both Davis and Mary Stone, and later by Roswell Bartholomew. In 1834 Joel Davis bought the Tavern property from the Bartholomews. Davis's agreement to purchase specifies contents that were included in the sale.

Joel Davis and his wife Achsah lived in Killingworth before leasing the farm. Joel came from a family of modest means with 11 children, which meant that he needed to make his own way in the world. Achsah Davis was his second cousin. They were married in 1813, but she does not appear to have moved to Guilford until about 1818 as the oldest children were born in Killingworth. Their children were Ruhamah (married E. Wyllys Hull), Henry, George, Harriet (d. unmarried in 1853), Sarah, Joel Leonard, and James Marvin Davis. Joel Davis died in 1861 and Achsah in 1869. The house was divided between Sarah, Joel Leonard and Achsah. The other children received land. Sarah Davis adopted her nephew Frank Wilcox. Sarah died in 1900 and Frank a few years later.

Joel Leonard Davis married Amelia Norton in 1853. They were divorced in 1859. He married Mary Perkins of New Haven in 1863. They lived at the Tavern from the late 1860s until his death in 1900 and hers in 1909. Mary's sister Kaomeo was married to Rollin Woodruff, who was a governor of Connecticut and who built the Rollwood estate on Whitfield Street in Guilford.

Joel Leonard and Mary Davis had two children. Alphonsene Alice Davis, born in 1864, married Norris Hubbard in 1901. Susie Davis was born in 1874, and married Ray Loper.

Alphonsene Alice Davis and Norris Hubbard had one son, Leonard Davis Hubbard, who was born in 1909 and died in 2001. Leonard married Marge Hubbard in 1983, after a 48 year engagement. Leonard Hubbard lived at the Tavern until his death in 2001, when the property passed to the Guilford Keeping Society.

Documents and Records

Over 400 historical documents have been found in the tavern building. Personal paper of Medad Stone include his father's ledger for the tavern on the Guilford Green for 1756-1769, Medad's autographed copy of the 1803 list of all post offices in the United States, numerous sermons, and his collection of the *Churchman's Monthly Magazine* for the years 1800 to 1810.

For Joel Davis there are farm accounts from 1815 to 1839, his pocket book with his personal papers, mortgage payments, and business records for 1830 to 1844, and records of farm transactions between Joel and his son Joel Leonard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Medad Stone Tavern _____
Name of property
New Haven County, Connecticut _____
County and State

=====

Item 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Joel Leonard Davis 1862 probate inventory documents ownership of different rooms in the house by various family members as well as the domestic and farm equipment then in use. Deeds and estate inventories document ownership transactions in detail from 1803 onward to the present.

There are nineteen diaries kept by various family members. Books include family Bibles, school books used by the children, and several nineteenth-century history books

Furnishings and Artifacts

The Tavern building retains a number of furnishings and artifacts associated with Medad Stone: The large cupboard located at the back of the Old Kitchen dates to about 1790. In the Upstairs Parlor a large table with a top made of a single piece of wood is dated stylistically to about 1720. Both of these items were brought to the Tavern by Medad Stone from the tavern built by his father on the Guilford Green.

The desk located in the Pink Room is described by historian William Hosley as an "untutored example of William & Mary style introduced into Boston about 1695 and rarely seen in Connecticut cabinet work." He notes that the desk relates to a genre of early Connecticut art seen in furniture made along the coast of Long Island Sound. The stand-up desk located in the Upstairs Hall was also owned by Medad Stone. Among Medad's possessions remaining in the Tavern are the canteen and musket he carried while in service during the revolutionary War.

The tall case clock located in the first floor Hall has been in place since at least 1864. The Green Room now contains furniture that belonged to Joel Leonard and Mary Davis. It includes a remarkable wheel chair that had been reconstructed from a rocker. This room was later used as a bedroom by Alphonsene and Susie Davis.

Ownership of Individual Rooms

At the time of Joel Davis's death ownership of individual rooms within the house was divided between the different resident family members. This is an unusually late example of giving ownership of individual rooms within a dwelling to different individuals. Achsah, the widow, received a third of the living space. This included the Smoke Oven Room, and the first and second floor Bathrooms (then bedrooms). Achsah and her daughter Sarah had the Old Kitchen. Joel Leonard, the son, received the first floor Hall and the Upstairs Hall, the Green Room, the Front Parlor (their bedroom), and Lower Level Rooms 1 (used as their kitchen) and 2 (used as their living room).

Sarah Davis, sister of Joel Leonard, received the Upstairs Parlor, the Pink Room, Living Area, the Office, and the Old Kitchen (with Achsah).

Joel and Achseh Davis, and later their daughter Sarah used this kitchen while Joel's son Joel Leonard and his wife, Mary, used the Lower Level Room 1 as their kitchen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Medad Stone Tavern _____
Name of property
New Haven County, Connecticut _____
County and State

=====

Major Bibliographic References

- Guilford Preservation Alliance, Inventory of Historic Structures in the Town of Guilford.
- Joel L. Helander, "Medad Stone and his Tavern," Guilford Keeping Society Newsletter 2002.
- William Hosley, New Haven Museum and Historical Society, Newsletter, 2007.
- Leonard Hubbard, *Tavern Tails*, Guilford: The Guilford Keeping Society, in press.
- J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924.
- Arthur Notaro, "The Medad Stone Tavern House Tour," ms.
- Sandra Rux, manuscript notes.
- Lisa Smith, "Stewardship Plan for the Medad Stone Tavern Property," 2004
- Probate inventory for Medad Stone, 1815, Probate Court, District of Guilford, Vol. 19
- Bernard C. Steiner, *A History of the Plantation of Menunkatuck*, Baltimore: published by the author, 1897.

Medad Stone Tavern
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10

UTM References
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

USGS Topographic Quad name Guilford

1 A/18 6/9/2/8/8/0 4/5/7/2/6/6/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert B. Gordon

organization Guilford Keeping Society date August 2008

street & number 55 South Fair Street telephone 203.453.3925

city or town Guilford state CT zip code 06437

email address robert.gordon@yale.edu

Additional Documentation

The National Register requires each nomination consist of the following beyond this 4-page cover form:

- Continuation Sheets for narrative
- A USGS topographic quad map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts or properties having large acreage or numerous resources
- A Photo identification map for districts; one map can serve both as sketch and photo ID map.
- black and white photographs of the property. See policy statement for acceptable use of digital photographs

The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism requires the following for all nominations:

- An additional set of black and white photographs that remains at the SHPO
- Floor plans of properties whose significance is based on their plans
- Color slides or PowerPoint images and presentation of the property to the Connecticut State Review Board

Property Owner

name/title Guilford Keeping Society

street & number 171 Boston Street, P.O. Box 363 telephone 203.453.3176

city or town Guilford state CT zip 06437

code 06437

email address (if available) _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Medad Stone Tavern _____
Name of property
New Haven County, Connecticut _____
County and State

=====
Item 7. Narrative Description

The Medad Stone Tavern is a 10-acre property consisting of the Tavern building (Photographs 1 – 4), a historic barn (Photograph 5), a corn crib (Photograph 6), and a garage (Photograph 7) situated on ten acres of former farm and wooded land. The Tavern building was constructed with 14 rooms and 10 fireplaces in 1803 on farm land that formerly had only a barn on it. The building is oriented with its front facing east toward the adjacent road, Three Mile Course. The structure was built in two sections, the back section designated the “Ell” and the main or front section, as shown in the plans (Photographs 8-11). It was built for use as a tavern, but was never so used (see Item 8). After construction in 1803 a few interior alterations were made to meet the needs of the successive residents of the two families that owned the property until 2001. Upon acquiring the property in 2001 the Guilford Keeping Society, the present owner, commenced removing most of these alterations with a view to returning the building to its 1803 condition.

Tavern Building

Structure and Exterior Features

The Tavern is built with a post-and-girt frame on foundations made of mortared rubble stone. The frame is constructed of six-by-six inch oak corner posts, and ten-by-twelve plates and sills. Four-by-four inch horizontal members are placed at chair rail height and again halfway to the plates. Timbers of two by four inch size are mortised in diagonally, crossing in each of the sections made by the four-by-four inch horizontal members. Where visible in the interior, posts are sheathed with beaded and rabbeted boards. The outside sheathing on the north end of the main house and the second floor south end and the second floor west end are cedar clapboards laid five inches to weather (Photograph 2). The rest consists of upright, matched one-and-a-half-inch planks (Photograph 12).

Both sections of the Tavern have roofs of gambrel design. The ell has two dormer windows on the north and south sides of the second floor (Photograph 3). The east side of the Tavern, facing the road, has five dormer windows in the slant curved roof (Fig. 1). The south and north sides each have two second-floor windows in the clapboard ends. A wrap-around porch extends across the east side and partway along the south side. The north side of the Ell has a closed screen porch. The last resident family member reported that the tavern was painted red originally. Historic photographs from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show paint only on the lower sections of the building. It was not completely painted again until gray paint was applied in the 1930s.

An iron lightning rod is fitted to the north chimney. This is constructed of iron rods looped into each other (Photograph 13). It is a surviving example of early rod construction, made before the principles of lightning rod design were fully understood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Medad Stone Tavern _____
Name of property
New Haven County, Connecticut _____
County and State

=====

Boundary Description

The boundary of the parcel is shown in the attached "Map of Medad Stone Tavern Property" from the Guilford Town Records, Map 70, Lot 18.

Boundary Justification

In order to maintain the historic integrity of the property the boundary includes the Tavern building, barn, corn crib, and garage, and the remaining fields and woodland of the original farm property. This land was worked by the owners of the Tavern through the time that it remained in private ownership, that is, until it was given to the Guilford Keeping Society.

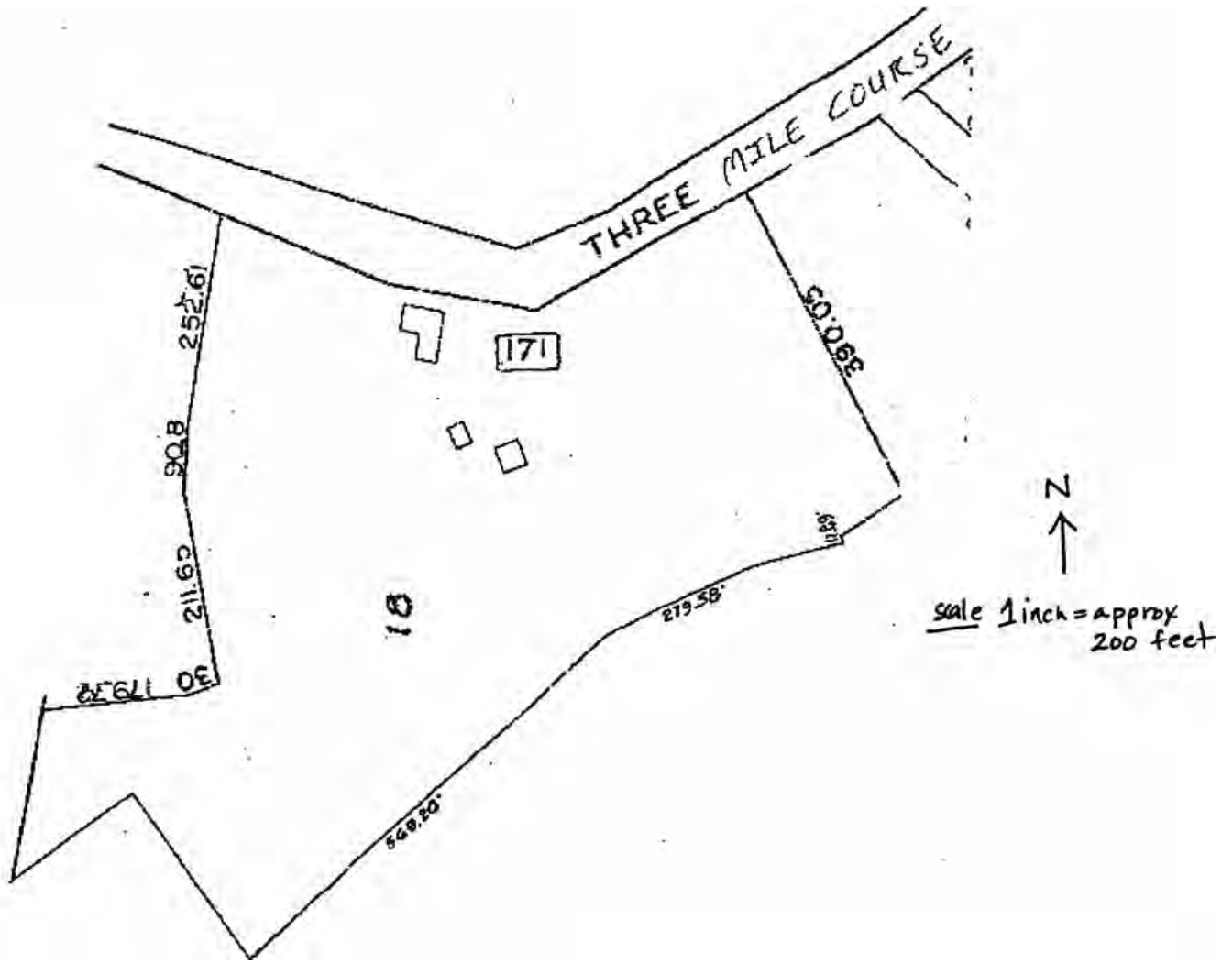
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photograph Captions Medad Stone Tavern, Guilford, Connecticut

Photographs taken by Robert Gordon. Negatives on file, Guilford Keeping Society.

1. Front view of the Tavern building, looking west.
2. Southeast corner of the Tavern building.
3. South side and back of the ell of the Tavern building.
4. Early twentieth-century view of the Tavern building and adjacent fields and woods.
5. Barn built about 1898 to replace the earlier barn that burned.
6. Corn crib front view showing the slanted side facing west.
7. Garage built from wood retrieved from trees felled by the 1938 hurricane.
8. Plan of the basement of the Tavern building.
9. Plan of first floor of the Tavern building.
10. Plan of second floor of the Tavern building.
11. Plan of the attic of the Tavern building.
12. Plank siding on the south wall of the ell.
13. Lightning rod made of iron bars looped together at their joints.
14. Stone construction of the cooking hearth in the Old Kitchen.
15. Brick hearth in the Pink Room.
16. Door to the Pink Room, representative of doors used throughout the house.
17. Iron box lock on the outside of the Pink Room door.
18. Brass door knob and key hole on the inside of the Pink Room door.
19. Molding detail east wall of the Upstairs Parlor.
20. Back and south walls of the Old Kitchen.
21. Hearth and oven in the Old Kitchen.
22. Great Room wall showing original (cased) and reconstructed stenciling.
23. Smoke Oven room showing cabinets under roof eaves with dark band at floor level.
24. Pink room showing cabinets fitted to roof timbers.
25. Hearth in the ell basement.
26. Interior of barn at first floor level looking toward door opening on the back pasture.
27. Post and girt structure of the corn crib.
28. Bins for corn ears on the west side of the corn crib.
29. Pasture land surrounding three sides of the Tavern building.



Map of the Medad Stone Tavern Property

Guilford Town Records, Map 70, Lot 18



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Stone, Medad Tavern
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, New Haven

DATE RECEIVED: 12/19/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/05/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/20/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/01/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001378

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/30/09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

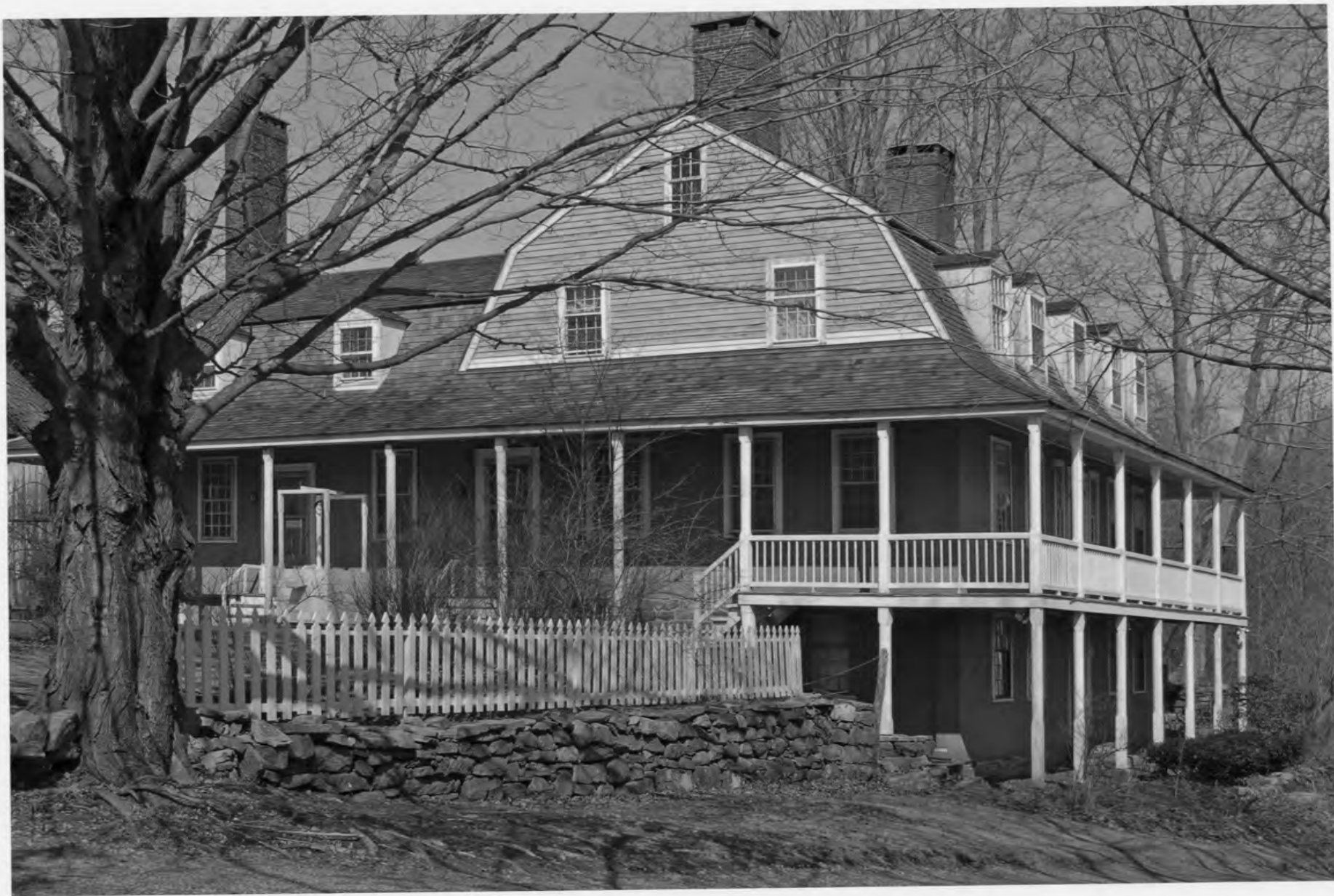
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Medad Stone Tavern, New Haven County, CT

The property is nominated under Criterion C with statewide significance as an intact 1803 tavern. Although built for use as a tavern it was never used for that purpose, which is why Criterion A is not justified. The building was constructed in an L-shaped plan with both the main section and the ell having gambrel roofs, an architecturally unusual configuration. The property also includes a ten acre site with woodland and pasture land that conveys the original agricultural setting of the period of significance from 1803-1865. The latter date reflects the passing of Joel and Achsah Davis, whose detailed inventory documents the interior and exterior of the building.





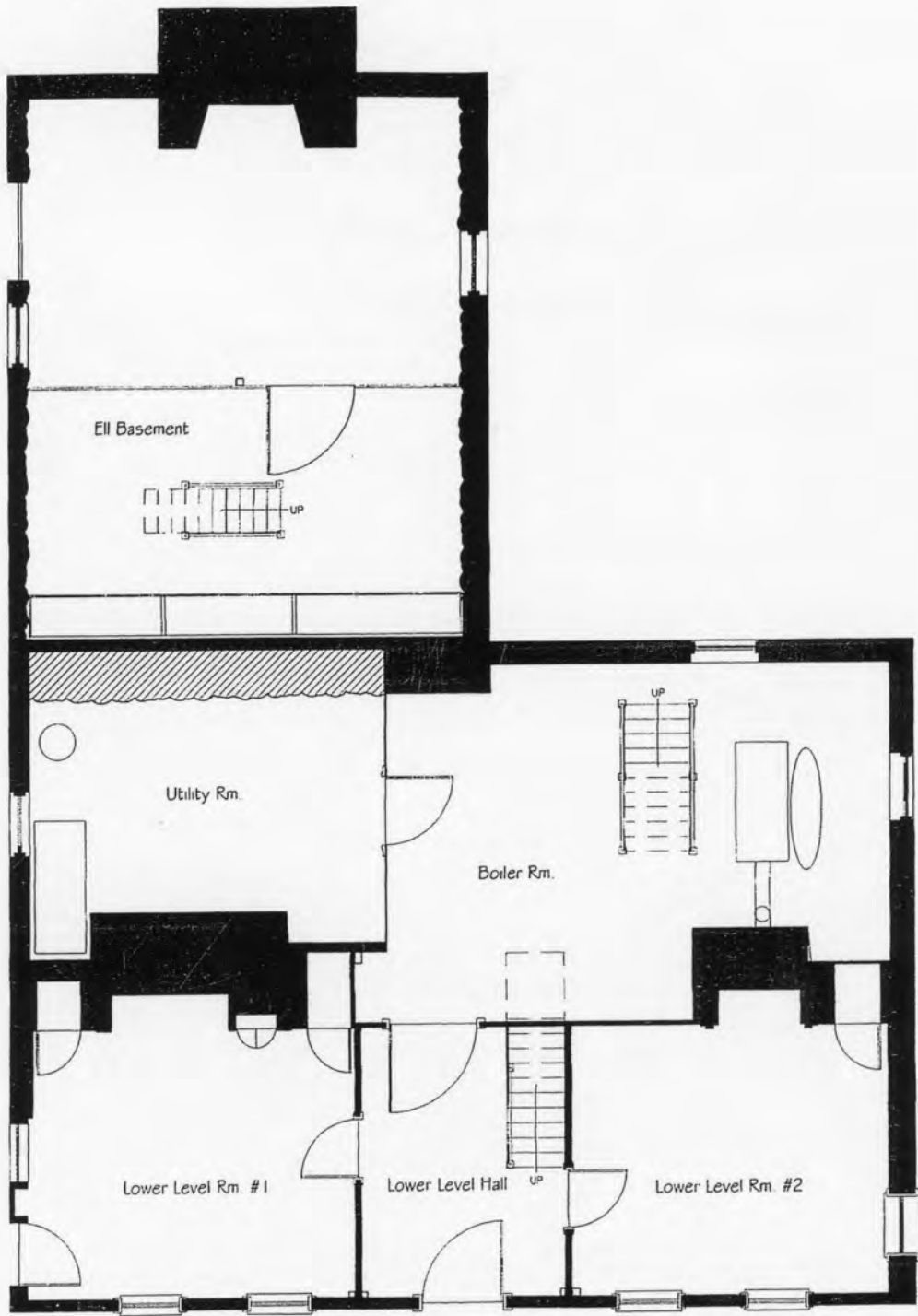




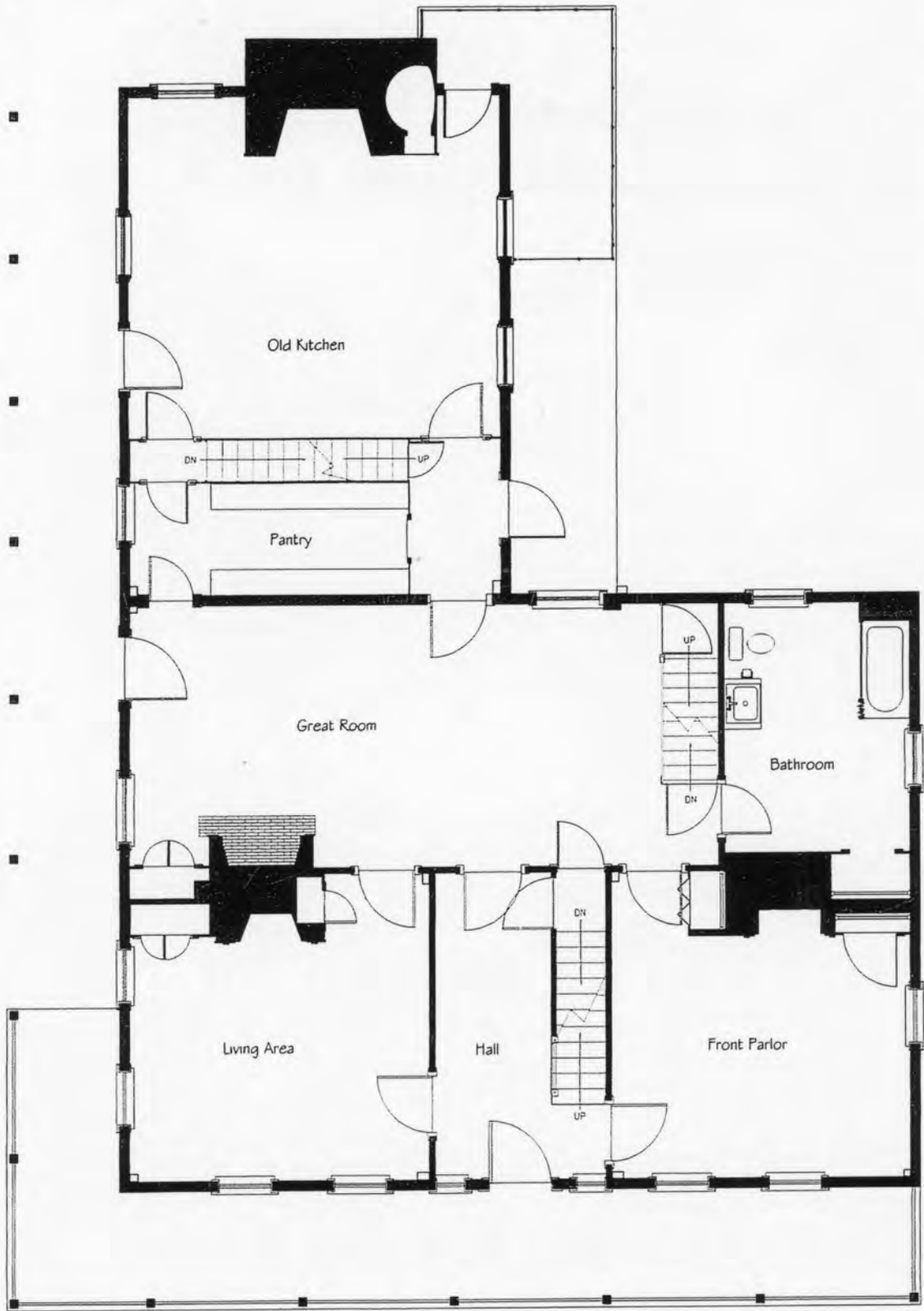




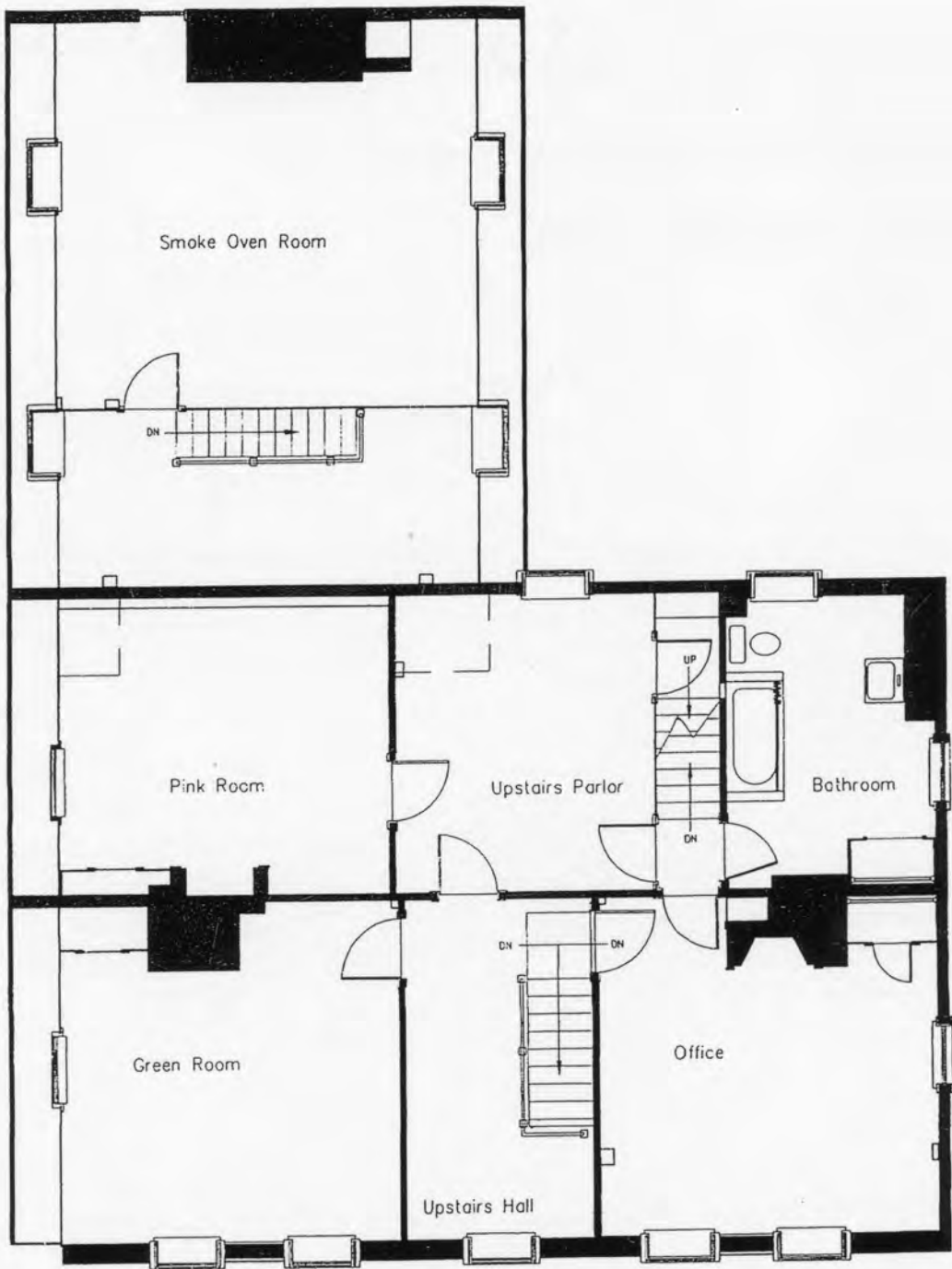




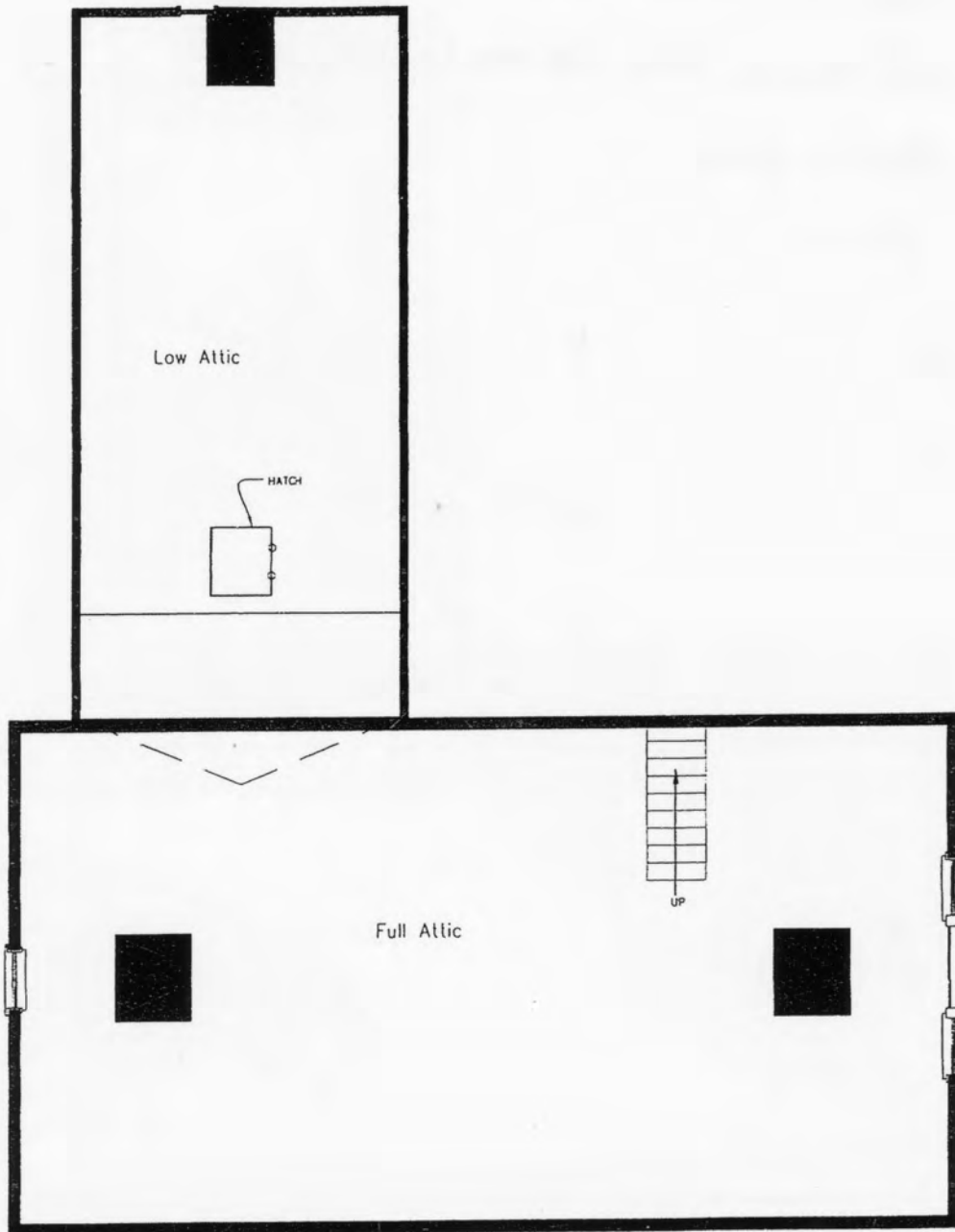
Basement Floor
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



1st Floor
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



2nd Floor
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



Attic Floor
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



























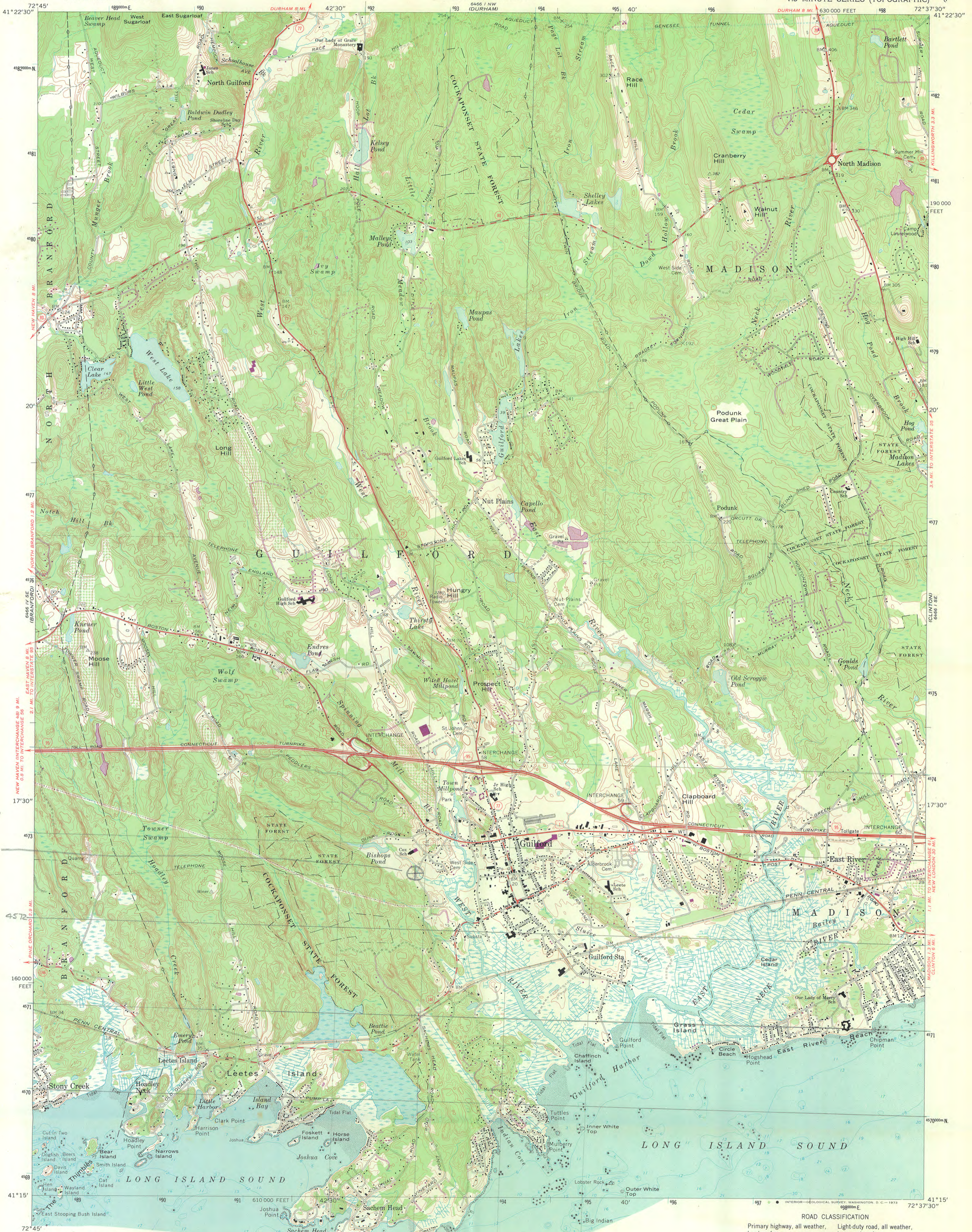






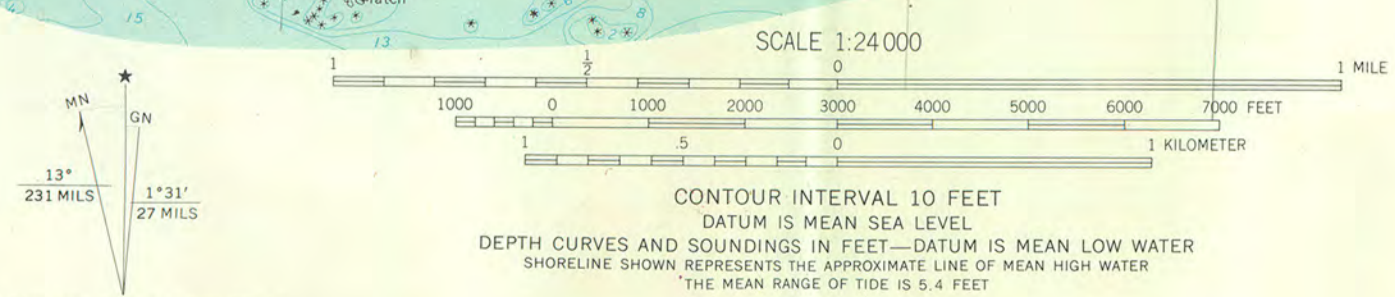






Medad Stone Tavern
E 692880
N 4572660

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1949. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs taken
1966. Field checked 1968
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 217 (1962)
and 216 (1965). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route

GUILFORD, CONN.
N4115—W7237.5/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 6466 I SW—SERIES V816



TO: J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this _____ day of _____
2008, for nomination of the Medad Stone Tavern
to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: ^{USGS} Map to follow

RECEIVED 2280

APR 16 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 14 day of April
2008, for nomination of the Medad Stone Tavern
Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

_____ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

_____ Multiple Property Nomination form

_____ Photographs

Original USGS maps w/one UTM (acreage is 9.71)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s) w/N arrow and scale

_____ Pieces of correspondence

Other Boundary description, boundary justification
and revised Section 10 form

COMMENTS: revised page 4 (to reflect 9.71 acres)

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

_____ Other: _____



TO: J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 29 day of January
2008, for nomination of the Medad Stone Tavern, Guilford, New Haven
County
to the National Register of Historic Places:

_____ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

_____ Multiple Property Nomination form

_____ Photographs

X _____ Original USGS maps

_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

_____ Pieces of correspondence

_____ Other _____

COMMENTS:

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

_____ Other: _____

Roger Reed/WASO/NPS
01/30/2009 10:45 AM

To: Stacey.Vairo@ct.gov
cc
bcc
Subject: Stone Tavern

Stacey,

In addition to the USGS map, we need a boundary description and justification in Number 10. I had to check the NR Bulletin (p.58) myself to see what is required. The sketch map included with the nomination does not have a scale (see p.58).

Also, the attachment sheets need to have the town and county labels on each sheet in case they get separated from the nomination.

We need this information ASAP as Patrick agreed to sign the nomination rather than return it.

Thank you for your help.

Roger



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 9, 2009

Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator
Historic Preservation & Museum Division
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Stacey,

Enclosed please find the USGS map I am returning for the Medad Stone Tavern in Guilford. As I indicated in my email on January 30, the property is ten acres and we need for UTM references points. Also, we need a boundary justification for Section 10.

Please respond to this at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Roger G. Reed
National Register of Historic Places

Enclosures