

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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MAR 11 1982
APR 12 1982

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
Jonathan Murray House

AND/OR COMMON
Jonathan Murray House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
76 Scotland Road

N/A -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Madison

N/A VICINITY OF Third -

STATE
Connecticut

CODE COUNTY CODE
New Haven

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
June Menzies

STREET & NUMBER
76 Scotland Road

CITY, TOWN
Madison

N/A VICINITY OF CT 06443

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Madison Land Records, Madison Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER
Meeting House Lane

CITY, TOWN
Madison

Connecticut

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS See continuation sheet

TITLE
State Register of Historic Places

DATE
1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Hartford

Connecticut

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jonathan Murray House stands on the south side of Scotland Road in Madison, Connecticut, a little more than one mile northeast of the village center. Its neighbors to the east and west are 19th-century frame houses barely visible through the trees, in a semi-rural setting. There are houses on only one side of the road because the main line of Conrail runs parallel with, and close to, Scotland Road on its north side. A thick hedge of trees separates the tracks from the street.

The house, oblong in plan, 28 x 38 feet, is set close to the road, and faces north (see sketch map). It is a gable-roofed, five-bay, two-story, clapboard structure on stone foundations. Its distinguishing feature is that the roof slopes down to ^{the} first floor level in the manner of a 1½-story house, but there are four rooms on the second floor with attic space above. The house has a central stone chimney and central doorway.

The facade is dominated by the broad, front expanse of the roof, covered by old wood shingles, that slopes down to a level about two feet above the second story floor. At the level of the second story floor there is an overhang, or jetty, of about three inches (Photo 1). The clapboards covering the front wall have 3½ inches exposed to the weather with ½ inch bead and are old, perhaps original. The clapboards on the other three sides of the house are not beaded and are not as old. The front door, under a row of six transom lights, is, on the exterior, two wide vertical boards, on the interior, several horizontal boards, and is hung on long strap hinges. The wrought-iron Suffolk latch is made in one piece with roughly foliate cusp plates. The four windows are 12-over-12 with the overhang forming the lintel. The doorway, windows, and eaves have no moldings.

The overhang continues along the east and west end elevations. The end walls have identical fenestration, consisting of a vertical attic window two lights wide and five lights tall, and two 12-over-12 windows, evenly spaced, at both first and second floors. There is a short eaves return, front and back (Photo 2). The rear face of the roof is longer than the front, and slopes down to the level of the second story floor. There is no overhang in the back; the roof comes down to the level of the front jetty. The rear slope of the roof is covered with mid-20th-century wood shakes. There is a small gable in this slope, off center to the west. A one-story porch with sloping roof has been added across the back of the house (Photo 3). Its rafters are round timbers from which the bark has not been removed.

An old well is located near the east end of the porch. A one-story, gable-roofed outbuilding on high stone foundations, built in 1968, used for a garage and general storage, is near the southwest corner of the house. A barn that formerly went with the house is located to the east, near the road. The house now has a plot of 1.5 acres; early in the 20th century it was 28 acres.

On the interior the central stone chimney has three fireplaces, one in the west room, one in the east room, and one in the room to the rear. There

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(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Existing Survey SYSTEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places is pending relative to a Department of Transportation project.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

are no fireplaces on the second floor. The west front room is the most elaborate. Its fireplace is entirely stone, including cheeks, back wall, floor, and hearth. A fine bolection molding surrounds the fireplace opening. There is raised panelling over the fireplace and on its south side (Photo 4). The reason for this asymmetric arrangement is not apparent. A well molded chair rail over dado of raised panelling extends around four sides of the room. The chair rail is not an extension of the window sills; instead, the sills are set in directly on top of the chair rail. The sills are simply plank sections, rough work in comparison to the moldings of the chair rail, suggesting that the windows are not original. There is a cupboard in the northwest corner distinguished by three tiers of moldings, on the diagonal, where it joins the ceiling, by its coved back, and by the fact that the front edges of its shelves are segmental not butterfly in shape (Photo 5). The ceiling and the walls above the chair rail are plastered. In some areas the plaster is old, with hair. In other areas plaster board has been used. Whether there is a summer beam behind the ceiling plaster is not known. The flooring is wide boards, as is the case throughout the house on both floors.

The east room is similar but plainer. The fireplace is brick, although the hearth is stone and is wider than the fireplace. There is no bolection molding but asymmetric panelling is present, similar in scheme to that of the west room but different in pattern. There is a chair rail along three walls but it is noticeably simpler in profile than that in the west room, and there is no dado. A vertical cupboard to the right of the fireplace is thought to be old because nails holding the shelves in position are driven into the ends of the shelves, from beyond the ends, apparently before the wall was finished.

The kitchen fireplace is the largest and again is all stone except for its floor of oversized brick. The lintel is wood. There is a beehive-shaped oven of brick behind the back wall to the left, near the top of the firebox. Below the oven, just above the floor, there is a second cavity with about the same plan as the oven, but with height of only several inches. The kitchen, now used as a family room and dining room, has three walls of vertical, feather edged, boards. The ceiling is not plastered but the shadow of lath shows on the underside of the joists, indicating that this ceiling at one time was plastered. The joists are now exposed to the under side of second-story floor boards. The small room at the southeast corner is now used as a bedroom, and the room at the southwest corner is now divided into a bath and modern kitchen. Essentially, the original floor plan consisting of two rooms in front and three rooms across the back has been maintained. The absence of back stairs is to be noted; they may have been eliminated in the course of putting in the bathroom and kitchen but no patch in the second

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story floor gives a hint to their former location, if any.

The front stairs are located in the entry inside the front door. They rise from the right, two risers to a square landing, then (no winders) with a 90 degree turn nine risers in a straight steep run to the second floor. The triangular wall space in front of and below the stairs is panelled. The stairway is an open string with two thin squares ~~spindles~~ per tread under a simple handrail. The newel posts are small and square. The wall behind the stairs, in front of the chimney is plastered.

At second floor level the chimney is exposed on all four sides, to the roof. A passageway with a wall on the left and the rough sloping surface of the stone chimney on the right runs to the rear along the east side of the chimney (Photo 6), and then around the corner along the south side of the chimney. There is a room in each corner of the house, all with doors onto the passageway. To reach the northwest room it is necessary to go back around the chimney to a door in the back wall of the room. The space in front of the stairs, over the entry, under the lower slope of the roof, is accessible only by stepping diagonally from the passageway at the top of the stairs. The framing of the house is exposed there, showing the front attic plate, rafters, and braces (Photo 7). This arrangement is repeated on the back of the house, where it is lighted by the dormer.

In the northeast room there is a front wall dropped from the attic plate, and a post next to (north of) the window, apparently supported by the first story end girt. The other three rooms have the same feature. All bedrooms have plastered walls and ceilings, or plaster board. The west front room is larger than the others, and the west rear room, now a bathroom, is smaller. The rafters in this room are exposed.

There are two attic spaces with good sized doors that open into the central space, accessible by step ladder (Photo 8). The rafters are fastened to one another at the apex of the roof by mortise and tenon without ridge-pole. There are no purlins or collar beams or braces. The attic plates, which are mid-way in the slopes of the roof, do serve as purlins to support the rafters.

There is a partial cellar, about five feet high, under the western portion of the house that can be entered only by an exterior hatchway. The base of the chimney is not visible in the cellar, unless the east wall of the cellar is also part of the chimney base but possibly the chimney is built from grade. In the cellar the numerous and sundry efforts made over the centuries to shore up and support the first story floor are visible. Metal columns, wood columns, brick shims, wood shims, and the like abound.

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There are a few square feet of hardwood flooring visible above the floor joists although wide board flooring is uniformly observed from the first floor. The changes and maintenance revealed in the cellar appear not to have altered the basic framing and structure of the house.

6 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 c. 1690

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonathan Murray House, thought to date from the 17th century, preserves with notable integrity original framing, an out-of-the-ordinary second floor plan, and elaborate moldings, panelling, and corner cupboard that make it one of the state's outstanding houses of architectural interest (Criterion C).

Jonathan Murray was born in Scotland in 1665. He arrived in Madison, then East Guilford, in 1685, married Anne Bradley of Guilford in 1688, and thereupon, it is supposed, proceeded to build his house.¹ It is this line of reasoning that fixes the construction date as c. 1690. His descendants continued to own the property for 110 years to 1800, when it was sold to the Neeley family who held it for 123 years until 1923. The present owner is the fifth since that time. The house was not fitted with electricity, plumbing, and central heating until about 1956.

The first floor plan of the house is the conventional five-room arrangement. The important factor so far as concerns the Jonathan Murray House is that here it has never been altered. The interest of the basic plan is enhanced by the excellence of the trim in the west front room. The bolection molding around the fireplace opening, the elaborate molding of the chair rail, the panelling of the fireplace surround and of the dado on four walls, and the corner cupboard all are of museum quality. The facade's beaded clapboards are rare.

The stairway appears to be original and leads up to the second floor that has a plan not known to exist elsewhere. A house with eaves at first-floor level and with four bedrooms on the second floor with attic space above is not discussed in Kelly or Isham & Brown or any other literature known to the author. Speculation suggests that the chimney may have been walled in at some time, but that possibility does not alter the uniqueness of the passageway around the chimney that provides access to the bedrooms. The wide doors to the attic spaces above appear to have been in place since the house was built. In all, it is an unusual arrangement.

Kelly in plate XXXI³ does include, without comment, pictures of two Guilford houses that resemble the Murray House. One, the Bishop House, has a similar overhang but the second-floor end-wall fenestration is different, the chimney appears to be brick, and the position of the eaves of the rear roof slope is not shown. The other, the Hart House, does not have an overhang but does have end-wall fenestration the same as the Murray House. Kelly

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. Frederick Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1963 (reprint of Yale University Press, 1924).

William B. Murray, The Descendants of Jonathan Murray of East Guilford, Connecticut, Peoria, Illinois: 1957.

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

ADJACENT PROPERTY IDENTIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Clinton

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 702640 4573160

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described in the Madison Land Records, volume 130, page 71.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

August 19, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

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 Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE February 16, 1982

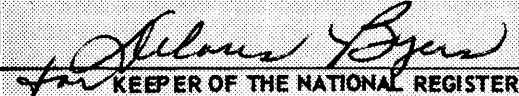
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/12/82


KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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does not describe the interior of these two houses.⁴ The Talcott Bradley House in the Madison Historic District does not have the overhang, and has only three bays in the facade, but does have windows indicating an attic over the second floor. The common factor in these several houses is the roofline usually associated with a 1½-story structure, although these houses have two stories plus attic. This scheme may have been more prevalent in the New Haven/Guilford/Madison colony than in the Connecticut River valley. The second floor plan of the Murray House has not yet been identified elsewhere.

It is to be noted that the stone chimney of the Murray House is intact. Many chimney stacks have a stone base, and then turn to brick. Many former all-stone chimneys have developed maintenance problems near the roofline and have had the stone replaced with brick from below the roofline to the top. In the Murray House the stone chimney is still all stone.

Questions arise with regard to the framing of the house. Is the jetty hewn? Is there a plate at the level of the overhang, and another at the eaves? The answers to these questions probably are yes, but without actually exposing the framing one cannot be certain. Are the upper end-wall posts really supported by the first floor end girts? These questions could be answered by exposing the framing, but the questions of why the panelling around the fireplaces is asymmetric, and what was the purpose of the rear dormer, and what function, if any, did the second floor area over the entry serve are equally intriguing if less likely to be answered.

The Murray House embodies a number of unusual features including the stone chimney, overhang, beaded clapboards, the difference in roof slopes, original floor plan, sophisticated panelling and moldings, corner cupboard, and an overall level of integrity. Collectively, these elements make the house of outstanding quality and interest.

1. There is little additional information on the career of Jonathan Murray. William B. Murray in The Descendants of Jonathan Murray of East Guilford, Connecticut, p. v., states that he was a farmer. His will (1745) indicates that he owned two pieces of property and was a man of modest means.

2. Kelly and Isham & Brown were among the first architectural historians systematically to observe early houses in Connecticut. Their books are the standard sources on the subject (see Bibliography).

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3. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, facing p. 130.

4. The floor plans of these two houses have been determined by field visit, as it seemed important to try to establish whether the second-floor plan of the Jonathan Murray House was standard to the type in the Guilford settlement. The Jonathan Bishop, Sr., House is at 191 State Street, Guilford. The Hart House, so-called by Kelly, is now known as the David Parmelee I House, 68 Water Street, Guilford. The initial observation upon entering both of these houses is that they do not have a stairway inside the front door, in front of the chimney, although both have the conventional space for such stairway. Both houses have the conventional first-floor arrangement of three fireplaces and five rooms, two rooms in front and three in back.

In both houses the only stairs rise from the back of the rear central room in a straight run, after an initial step to a landing, toward the front. Both houses have two large bedrooms in the front that divide the space in front of the chimney for closets. The Bishop House, pursuant to 20th-century modifications, has a transverse hall behind the chimney that gives access to three rooms and a bath on the rear of the house. The Parmelee House has three rooms across the back but no second floor hall. It is necessary to go from one room to a second in order to get to a third.

The Jonathan Murray House is the only one of the three with its front stairs still in place, giving rise to the speculation that it may be the only one with the original second floor plan intact.

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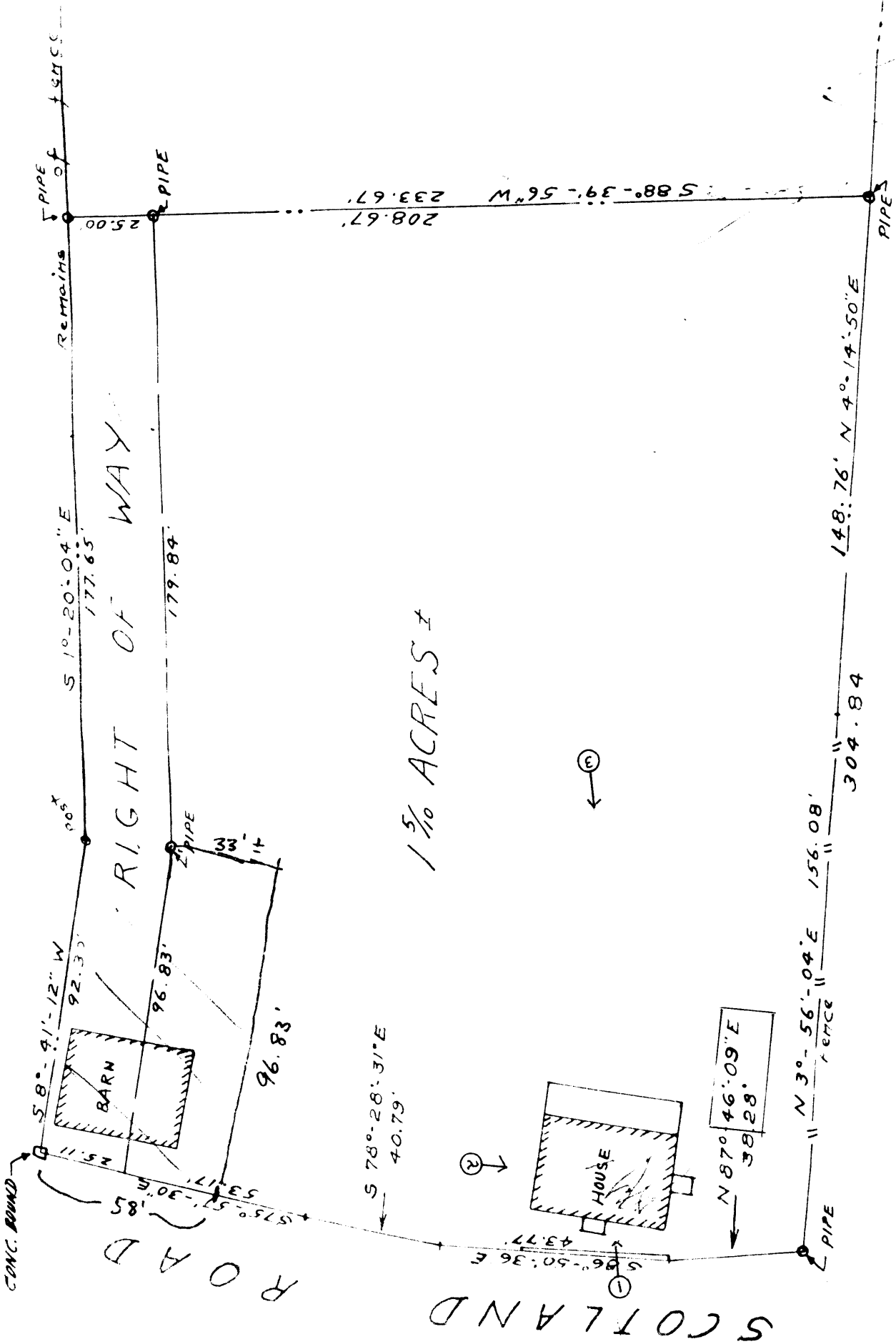
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Madison, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Continued.

Norman M. Isham and Albert F. Brown, Early Connecticut Houses,
New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1965 (reprint of The Preston and
Rounds Company, 1900).

2 ←



Jonathan Murray House
 Madison, Connecticut
 Scale: 1" = 40'
 Photo map

JULIUS BIEHLER AND LENA