

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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| RECEIVED | OCT 2 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | DEC 1 1978 |

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
Clark Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Madley Road

S of Lebanon on

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Lebanon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 2nd - Christopher J. Dodd

STATE
Connecticut

CODE

COUNTY
New London

CODE

011

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Robert L. and Mary K. Munhall ✓

STREET & NUMBER
Madley Road

CITY, TOWN
Lebanon

STATE

__ VICINITY OF

Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER
Route 207 at Trumbull Highway

CITY, TOWN
Lebanon

STATE

Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
See continuation sheet.

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark Homestead is located on a country road one mile southwest of the town hall of Lebanon, a rural town in southeastern Connecticut. It is an early 18th century, five-bay, central chimney, added lean-to house that retains to a remarkable degree its original appearance and integrity. It stands alone, surrounded by open fields with only one neighbor, to the south, visible. The Homestead was the farmhouse for a 100-acre dairy farm until 1973 when 95 acres were sold off, leaving a house lot of five acres. Part of the 95 acres is now inland wetlands, and it is anticipated that four or five houses will be constructed on the remaining acreage. The home lot includes a large barn that was built in 1944 after an earlier barn burned. The foundations of the earlier barn remain.

The unpainted, weathered, two and one-half story house faces east. The windows on either side of the entrance are grouped in pairs. The entrance has a double door under a seven-light transom. A simple, raised molding separates the doors and transom from a flat architrave. There is no hood or portico and there are no steps other than a single slab of stone. The roof of the house has an 18-inch overhang at the front eaves. Underneath the eaves a few courses of original, riven clapboards are in place, while the balance of the clapboards are 19th century replacements.

The south facade has three windows one above the other in the end of the original house, plus two windows and a door in the lean-to. A slight change of pitch in the roof is visible at the point where the lean-to was added. The northeast corner of the house has shifted slightly, a condition overemphasized in the 1966 State inventory form where it is reported that the "walls are buckling and the building has settled considerably." Such severe assessment appears inconsistent with impression gained visually and by interview with the owner that the house is structurally sound. Near the southeast corner of the house is a well, thought to date from the earliest days of the house and used until 15 years ago. This facade also has an external chimney that was constructed in 1950 for the furnace when central heating was introduced into the house for the first time. This chimney is scheduled to come down.

The north facade, now covered with asbestos siding scheduled to be removed, repeats the three vertical windows and two lean-to windows of the south side, and includes a rear ell as well. This rear addition, originally part of a separate structure, was moved to its present location in the mid-19th century. Now considerably altered, it does not affect, and is not considered part of, the original homestead, although it does serve the useful purpose of providing additional living space.

Quite aside from the rear ell, the homestead proper has developed and changed from time to time over the years. As originally constructed, c. 1708, the house consisted of center chimney with small front hallway, and a room on each floor on either side of the chimney - a four-room house. The front facade had three bays, not five, and a single front door, not a double door. When the lean-to was added, c. 1750, the single windows on either side of the front door were replaced with pairs. The next, and last, major changes, c. 1800, were primarily intended to improve appearances. At this time the double front door was

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The Clark Homestead
Lebanon, Connecticut

CONTINUATION SHEET Existing Surveys ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

State Register of Historic Places

1966

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford

x State

Connecticut

WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut

c. 1930s

State Library

Hartford

x Federal

Connecticut

The 1800 improvements included the two-leaf front door and stairway inside. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

position of the original narrow door can still be determined from the framing. The stairway has flat landings, no winders, with square spindles set at an angle to form diamond-shaped supports from the closed string to the hand rail. The wall of the stairway is the chimney, and it is covered with plaster.

The south bedroom has an arched brick fireplace. The entire fireplace wall is covered with raised panelling. The summer, girt, posts, and plates are cased in. The fireplace wall of the north bedroom has the most elegant panelling of the house. Fluted pilasters rise above the molding that forms the fireplace surround. At the bases of the pilasters the country craftsmen tapered the horizontal moldings to a width less than that of the pilasters in contrast to the usual treatment of forming the base wider than the vertical section it supports. The blue paint that remains in part on this fireplace wall appears to be original, as does the dark red paint of the baseboard. The twelve-over-twelve sash in the room appear to have some original lights. All the second floor windows are twelve-over-twelve, and are thought to be original. The first floor sash date from the 20th century.

The rear wall of the bedrooms is the original rear wall of the house, now the front wall of the lean-to attic. At the top of this wall, on the lean-to side, are original riven oak clapboards with tapered ends, simply left undisturbed in 1750 when the lean-to was built on. Also visible at the top of this wall are the ends of the original roof rafters as they extend over the plate, next to the rafters added to support the lean-to roof.

The roof of the attic proper is supported in part by a single massive purlin for each pitch. The fitting of the 1935 brick chimney through the roof shows that originally the stone chimney was larger and that the original, larger opening for it started at the ridge line, not behind the ridge line. Consequently, the observation in both the State inventory form and the WPA Census of Old Buildings that the stack breaks through the roof slightly behind the ridge line is accurate for the present condition but inaccurate for the original configuration.

The Clark Homestead was purchased early in 1978 by a family who reside there and who are embarked on a careful restoration.

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 c 1708

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Moses Clark

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seldom is an 18th century house found in a solitary location where it seems that the clock stopped more than two and one-half centuries ago. The Clark Homestead, in reality only a mile southwest of the Lebanon Town Hall, seems far more remote in both time and place. Its weathered clapboards, stark silhouette, and farm surroundings give a convincing impression of how the house appeared when it was built, c. 1708. Set among several tall trees in otherwise cleared land, but without shrubbery or other adornment, it dramatically suggests the rigorous life of the early settlers.

The Clark Homestead is generally regarded as the oldest house in the town of Lebanon. While it is indeed distinguished for its age, it is equally distinguished for its alterations and improvements in 1750 and 1800, and the ensuing stability during the last two centuries. The Revolutionary War career of James Clark, who owned the land, adds an historic association to this important early American house.

Southeastern Connecticut, especially its rural sections, has seen little economic and industrial development during the 20th century. The tendency of time to pass the region by has been much to the benefit of the Clark Homestead, whose physical situation amid hills and fields of farmland strikes the observer with apparent Colonial authenticity. So little has been done to change the land since the 18th century, and so little has been done to change the house since the 19th century, that the house and its site comprise an outstanding example of early American living.

Rarely is it possible to see such clear evidence of the lean-to addition and its associated change of the front facade from three to five bays. Here the exposed wall in the lean-to attic makes the framing changes easy to grasp. In the south front room, first floor, the existence of a peg for a stud over the center of one of the windows leaves no doubt that originally a single window was placed between the present pair. The clarity of the relationship between the fireplace in this room and the lean-to fireplace is an exceptional circumstance. Similarly, the presence of the original three rooms in the lean-to with their original summers, plaster, wall sheathing, and even ceiling sheathing is a valuable illustration of early conditions.

The development of the house for greater roominess and elegance is easily followed in the addition of the lean-to and the installation of the panelling, moldings, and pilasters. The farm must have been a productive one to support these changes in the direction of comfort and fashion. Many houses received corresponding embellishment on the exterior as well, but here the embellishments were confined to the interior.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orlo Hine, Early Lebanon, Hartford: Case, Lockwood and Brainard Co., 1880.

Selma Pfeiffenberger, A Short History of the Architecture of Lebanon and Its Sources, Lebanon: Lebanon Historical Society, 1975.

J. Stedman, Historic Lebanon, Westerly, R.I.: Stedman Press, 1923.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZONE | | | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is lot 3 on town map 3419 as described in Lebanon Land Records, volume 100, page 718.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

July 3, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut 06106

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

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

September 26, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

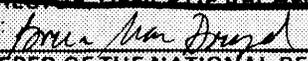


DATE

12.1.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:



DATE

12/1/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The land records indicate that Captain Daniel Clark of Windsor, Connecticut, bought 42 acres of land in 1700 from the original proprietors of Lebanon. He shared title with his son, James Clark. His grandson, Moses Clark (d. 1749) was given the land and built the house within a year or two of 1708.

James Clark (1730-1826) was a captain of the militia. On the command of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, he led troops to Boston and fought with distinction at Bunker Hill. He also took part in the battles of White Plains and Harlem Heights. In 1826, at age 95, he attended the dedication of the Bunker Hill Memorial. On this occasion he was remembered and recognized by the Marquis de Lafayette, then on his famous American tour.

The Clark Homestead exemplifies an important chapter in the history of American architecture. It is particularly interesting as a lucid demonstration of changes that typically took place in such a house as it developed. The house provides an exposition of great merit in early American architectural development.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The value of the Clark Homestead in architectural history derives in large part from the exposition it gives of changes that typically occurred in early 18th century houses. Here we find straight forward, physical evidence of the change from three to five bays, of the change from single leaf to two leaf front door, of the addition of the lean-to with consequent changes in the fireplace and in the roof framing, and of the addition of Georgian trim. The Clark Homestead in presenting this clear record of how a house grew and developed provides an important aid in the study of early American domestic architecture.

CLARK HOMESTEAD

LEBANON, CT

