

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 16 1985**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Jared Eliot House

and/or common Mulberry Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 88 Old Chaffinch Island Road N/A not for publication

city, town Guilford  vicinity of Mulberry Point

state Connecticut code 09 county New Haven code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. William Cuthbert

street & number 88 Old Chaffinch Island Road

city, town Guilford  vicinity of Mulberry Point state Connecticut

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford Town Clerk

street & number 31 Park Street

city, town Guilford state Connecticut

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

State Register of Historic  
title Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford state Connecticut

(continued)

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	moved date 1723
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jared Eliot House is a two-story, five-bay, saltbox residence with a central chimney (Photograph 1). Its original rectangular plan and some exterior and interior details have been altered since its construction in 1723 (Photograph 4). The house is located off a private road that runs west of the West River. It is surrounded by acres of salt-marshes on the south and east; a wooded rise lies to the west and north.

The facade (south) of the Eliot House is marked by a double-door entry (Photograph 1). Plain, wide-wood casing is simply molded and splayed at the top; seven transom lights are located above the doors. Sash on the facade are twenty-four-over-six. Window surrounds on the first floor have been enlarged; on the second floor they are original and abut the cornice. The cornice is boxed with a slight eave overhang along the facade. This treatment is continued along the roof-line of the western elevation; there is also a cornice return. Originally the roof-wall junction consisted of a simply molded narrow board set flush with the siding; the original can be seen on the eastern elevation (Photograph 2).

The western elevation contains a small ell (Photographs 1 and 3) to its rear (north). The slopes of the ell's roof match those of the main roof, and it is continuous with the lean-to roof of the main house along the north. The cornice treatment is also identical to that of the main house. This ell is believed to be original to the house and is thought to have been used as a "borning room." Sash at this elevation include the twenty-four-over-six found on the facade as well as twenty-over-six and sixteen-over-six in the attic. All are replacement sash; no original sash remain on the house.

Both the northern (rear) and eastern elevations have been altered over the years (Photograph 4). A long, gable-roofed addition extends to the north off the rear elevation (Photograph 3). This addition contains an enclosed breezeway which connects the two-car garage, at its northern end, with the main house. A small open porch lies to the west of the breezeway and contains an entry to the rear of the main house as well as to the breezeway. The length of the gable roof along the west has flared eaves which were added sometime after the addition was initially built. The eastern side of this addition (Photograph 2) contains a vertical-board door to the breezeway and three nine-light windows to the south; a six-light window is located at the northern end. A small shed-roofed addition containing two casement windows extends to the north of the eastern end of the rear elevation (Photograph 2). Three twelve-over-twelve sash are located between this smaller addition and the larger one to the west. The lean-to roof of this elevation contains a large shed roofed dormer to the east and a smaller shed roofed dormer to the west (Photographs 2 and 3). The larger dormer contains two paired casement windows, the smaller an eight-light window. Both dormers are later additions.

(continued)

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Continuation sheet Jared Eliot House  
Guilford, CT

Item numbers 6 and 7

Page 1

Item Number 6 (continued):

Historic American Buildings Survey; 1972, federal; Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT.

Historic Resources Inventory, Guilford Survey; 1981, local; Connecticut Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT.

Item Number 7 (continued):

The eastern elevation contains six-over-six sash at the attic and second floor levels; a larger twelve-over-twelve sash is located toward the rear of the house on the same floor. All have plain casing; none are original. A one-story, gable-roofed addition extends to the east of this elevation at the first-floor level (Photograph 2). Both the north and south walls of this addition contain large sliding glass doors. Another larger addition lies to the east of the one-story addition; its western and eastern walls run parallel to the eastern elevation of the main house (Photograph 5). The addition extends about forty feet beyond the plane of the facade of the main house. Its exterior walls are covered with vertical boarding; its foundation is cement. This addition, along with the smaller one to the west, contains a sun-room and pool.

The fieldstone foundation of the main house is intact; the clapboard exterior was resided in the early 1940s. The large stone chimney was rebuilt using the original stones and extends up to the roof ridge. Above the ridge, brick replaces the original stone masonry. Wood shingles cover the roofs of the main house and all the additions.

The interior of the Eliot House retains much of its original character, resulting from many fine, early eighteenth-century features. The most notable of the rooms is the original kitchen, located on the first floor under the lean-to roof (Photograph 6). Among its outstanding features are the exposed, hand-hewn joists that run from north to south along the ceiling. Most of the joists are slightly chamfered and stained a deep red (with ox-blood, according to some owners). The walls are covered with wide pine sheathing, also stained. Posts and beams are cased, as they are throughout most of the house. The large fireplace, which was covered for many years, was restored c. 1941 along with much of the rest of the house. A new lintel added at that time consists of a large oak beam with a chamfer on its exposed lower edge. The lintel, as well as some of the panelling and floorboards in the room, are old but not original. They were purchased locally and added during the 1940s restoration. Other original features include an exceptional, large Dutch door on the north wall of the lean-to (Photograph 7). It contains original hardware (22" strap hinges and iron latches) and is nail-studded in a diamond pattern on one side. Eliot family history indicates (continued)



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science	
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
				medicine	

Criterion B

**Specific dates** built 1723 **Builder Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jared Eliot House is significant for its historic associations with the Reverend Jared Eliot, an important, early Connecticut clergyman, physician, agriculturist, and metallurgist. Eliot's wide-spread interests and efforts contributed to the development and growth of each of these fields in early New England (Criterion B). His house was the site of many experiments and is one of two surviving in Connecticut that are so closely associated with Eliot and his work.

### Historical Significance

The Reverend Jared Eliot was born in 1685, a son of the pastor of the Guilford Congregational Church. An early student of the Collegiate School of Connecticut (later Yale College), he graduated in 1706. A former student of the Reverend Abraham Pierson, Eliot was recommended by Pierson to be his successor at his pastorate in Killingworth (now Clinton). Eliot began serving in this capacity in 1707 and continued for 56 Years.

In 1710, Eliot married Hannah Smithson of Guilford. They lived in Killingworth until 1718, when Hannah inherited her father's land in Guilford. In 1723, the present house was completed and the Eliots travelled between the parsonage in Killingworth and their country home in Guilford. (A house in Killingworth was completed in 1739 and served as their home while Eliot fulfilled his duties as pastor of the town church; it is still standing.) Although Eliot divided his time between the two houses, his principal agricultural research was conducted in his Guilford home.

In 1730, Eliot was elected a trustee of Yale College, the first graduate to hold such a position. He served 33 years and was instrumental in that university's acquisition of important books from Bishop George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, Bishop of Cloyne, and a renowned philosopher. Eliot also left £10 to the university at the time of his death; this endowment became the beginning of the Yale Library Fund.

Eliot displayed a fertility of thought and mind that was not uncommon among well-educated men of his time. His interests were varied but showed depth as well as breadth. His theological concerns were accompanied by a curiosity for medicine. He studied and practiced medicine until he became one of the leading physicians in New England. He was greatly respected and frequently consulted on medical matters by physicians from all over Connecticut, as well as from Boston and Newport. He trained so many students, some of whom became prominent physicians in their own right, that one medical historian called him "the father of regular medical practice

(continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Guilford

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

18	693650	4571240
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

--	--	--

F 

--	--	--

G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Louisa L. Roraback

Edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Architectural Historian

date June 30, 1985

street & number 39 Freedom Drive

telephone 203-567-0112

city or town Collinsville

state Connecticut

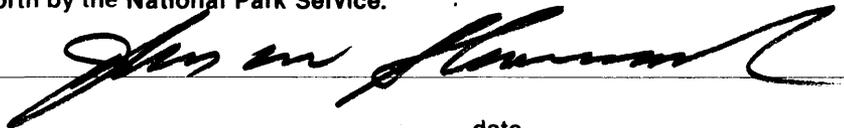
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

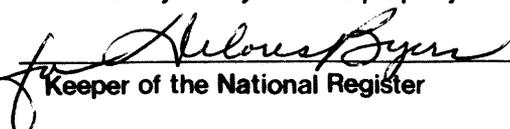


title Director: Connecticut Historical Commission

date October 2, 1985

For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in 1985  
National Register

date 11-14-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Jared Eliot House  
Continuation sheet Guilford, CT Item number 8 Page 1

Item Number 8 (continued):

in Connecticut."<sup>1</sup> Another, James Thacher,<sup>2</sup> described him as "the last eminent cleric-physician in New England."

Jared Eliot's inquiring mind also led him to the field of agriculture. On his farm in Guilford and on land he owned in other parts of the state, Eliot began developing and experimenting with theories on agriculture. In 1748, he wrote the first of six essays relating to farming in Connecticut. His sixth essay, published in 1761, directly concerned work at his Guilford farm,<sup>3</sup> where he was cultivating mulberry trees. Eliot, along with Ezra Stiles,<sup>3</sup> was a proponent of the silk industry and wanted to see it developed in Connecticut, where he and Stiles introduced the white mulberry tree and silkworm. Eliot's extensive work on this subject, carried out on his Guilford farm, led to naming the area Mulberry Point. Eliot's essays, published collectively in 1762, were the first of their kind ever published in the colonies and were widely read for many years. It is interesting to note that Eliot had particular success in this field where others had failed, because of his theological training. An early advocate of care for the environment, Eliot approached his novel, agricultural ideas from a religious, as well as scientific, standpoint. His mixture of Biblical example and scientific thought proved especially persuasive with colonial farmers, and he became an effective spokesman for soil conservation.

Eliot's scientific interests combined with his business acumen to produce another well-known experiment, that related to the separation of iron from the black sand of the Clinton beaches. Eliot was part owner of an iron works in Salisbury; one son would begin such a business near Clinton. Based on observations and experiments, Eliot determined that iron could be removed from local black beach sand and, when melted, produce a metal of fairly high grade. His ideas were recorded in a treatise written in 1762. His paper was awarded a gold medal by the Royal Society of London that same year. He was also one of a few men in the colonies elected a life-time member of the same society.

Eliot died in 1763, but the Eliot House remained in the family until 1828. The house, despite renovations made over the years, still retains many fine details that mark it as an early eighteenth-century residence and it remains a significant reminder of an important man in early Connecticut and American history.

<sup>1</sup>Thoms, Herbert M.D. The Doctors of Yale College 1702-1815 and the Founding of the Medical Institution. Hamden, CT, 1960, p.22.

<sup>2</sup>Dexter, Franklin Bowditch, M.A. Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College. New York, 1885, p. 54.

<sup>3</sup>Ezra Stiles was President and Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale College from 1778 to 1795.

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Jared Eliot House

Continuation sheet Guilford, CT

Item numbers 9 and 10

Page 1

Item Number 9 (continued):

- Biggs, Charles Lewis. "Jared Eliot, Son of Guilford, Scientific, Versatile, Sensible." Guilford Shoreline Times, March 26, 1931.
- Bryan, H.H., 1885 Photograph of Mulberry Farm. J.E.H. Collection, Guilford, CT.
- Cuthbert, William and Janet. Interviews. Guilford, March, 1985.
- Dexter, Franklin Bowditch, M.A. Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College with Annals of the College History. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1885.
- Eliot, Jared. Essays Upon Field Husbandry in New England and Other Papers, 1748-1762. New York: Columbia University Press, 1934.
- Guilford Shoreline Times. "Portion of Historic Old Farm Is Sold." Guilford Shoreline Times, October 23, 1941.
- Kelly, J. Frederick. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1963.
- Lee, W. Storrs. Yankees of Connecticut. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1957.
- Thoms, Herbert, M.D. The Doctors Jared of Connecticut. Hamden, CT: The Shoe String Press, 1958.
- . The Doctors of Yale College 1702-1815 and the Founding of the Medical Institution. Hamden, CT: The Shoe String Press, Inc., 1960.
- . Yale Men and Landmarks in Old Connecticut (1791-1815). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1967.

Item Number 10 (continued):

The Jared Eliot House stands on town lot number 9, the dimensions of which are marked on Guilford Property Map Number 27. (The written description is located in Volume 91, page 572 of the Guilford land records in the Town Clerk's office.) The present lot measures 26.45 acres; the original lot contained approximately 300 acres. The extensive acreage surrounding the house contributes to the integrity of the site and the perception that it was used for agricultural research; however, a smaller parcel of land could fulfill this function as well. Such a parcel has been measured out on Guilford Property Map 27 and includes the house, outbuilding and other features of the lot that contribute to the integrity of the site (Photograph 10).

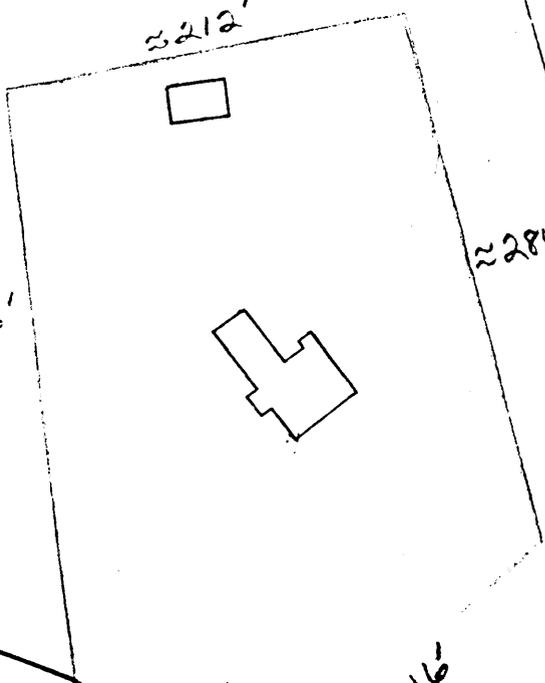
HAVEN

9  
28.20 Ac.

CHAFFINCH

Property Map 27  
Guilford, CT  
Scale 1" = 100 feet ±  
X = Jared Eliot House

13  
12.50 Ac.



≈ 306'

≈ 212'

≈ 284'  
785'

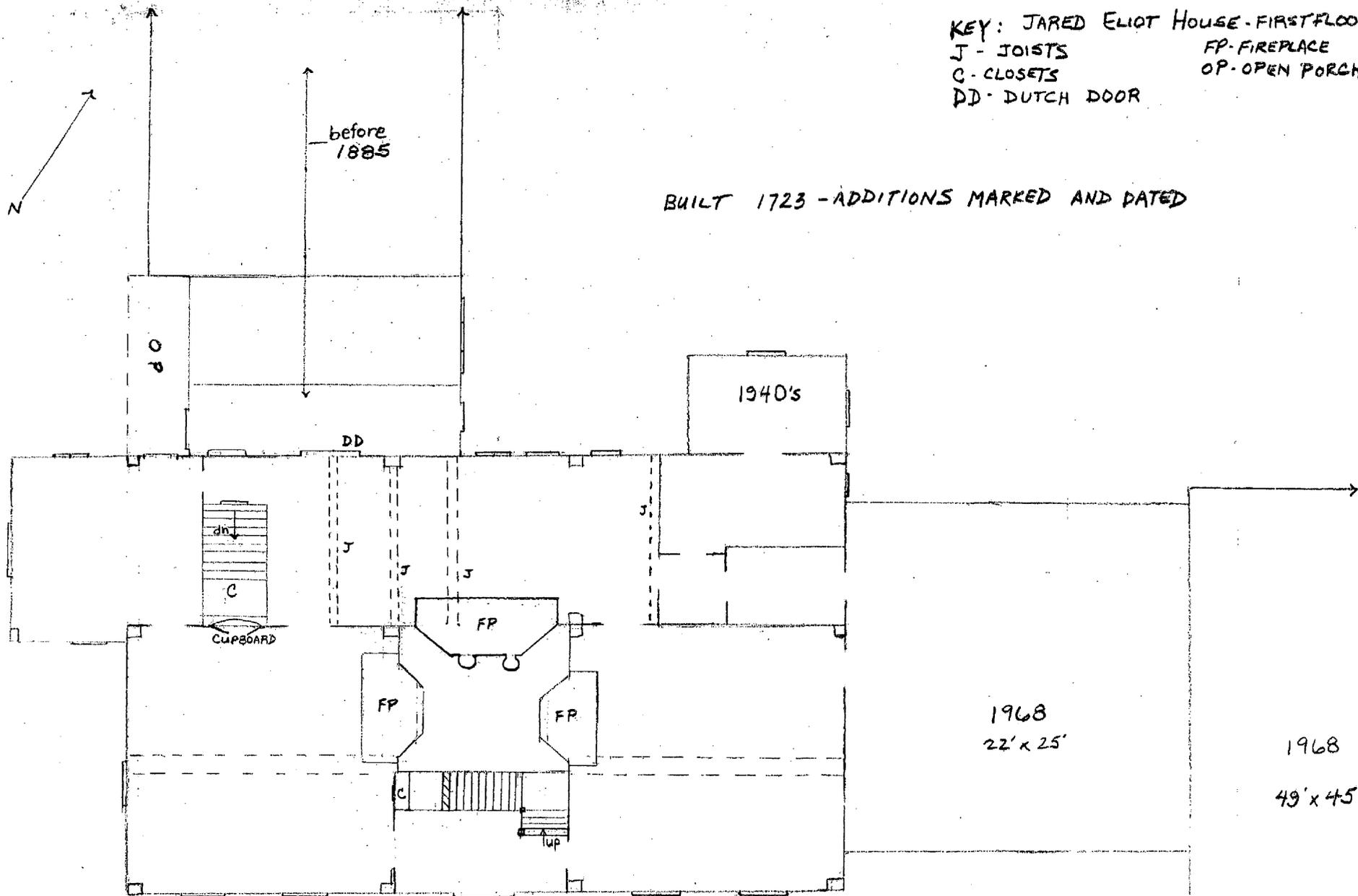
≈ 100'

≈ 216'

Jared Eliot House #10  
Guilford, CT  
Guilford Property Map 27  
1963, corrected 1964  
CT Historical Commission

KEY: JARED ELIOT HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR  
 J - JOISTS  
 FP - FIREPLACE  
 C - CLOSETS  
 DD - DUTCH DOOR  
 OP - OPEN PORCH

BUILT 1723 - ADDITIONS MARKED AND DATED



NOT TO SCALE

Jared Eliot House      plan  
Guilford, CT            #4  
Louisa Roraback  
March, 1985  
CT Historical Commission