

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 12 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC
* * **W.H.*
Samuel Miner House

AND/OR COMMON

Amos Hewitt House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*W of North Stonington
off CT 2*
Hewitt Road

CITY, TOWN

North Stonington *vic* VICINITY OF

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Connecticut

CODE
09

2nd - Christopher Dodd

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

Amos G. Hewitt

STREET & NUMBER

Hewitt Road

CITY, TOWN

North Stonington VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

North Stonington Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

North Stonington

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Samuel Miner House is located on a dirt road in the rural town of North Stonington. There are few other houses nearby and the surrounding land is mostly wooded. The house itself dates from 1717 and is a gable-roofed, two-story house built on the one-room, end chimney plan. A lean-to was added at an early date to the rear (north side) of the house; ¹ the slope of the roof is continuous. A more recent alteration is the 1½ story wing which was built onto the west side of the lean-to. Because this modern addition is appropriate in scale, considerably recessed, and is only joined to a small part of the historic house, it does not diminish the visual integrity of the property.

The composition of the front facade is directly related to the one-room floor plan. The main entrance is on the left side and opens into the porch, the small room containing the stairs in front of the stack. To the right are two windows which light the living space, and on the second level there are three windows corresponding to the first story elements. The first-story windows are not quite centered under the upper ones, as originally they most likely were; the openings are also larger. A considerable overhang at the eaves dominates the facade: here one can see the extension of the end girts which support the extra plate. The panelled door is surmounted by a simply molded cornice, the only exterior ornamentation.

Because of modifications, the other facades are quite irregular. On the chimney end, the main house has one window on each floor, though they are not centered on each other. Because the stack is fully enclosed and is located toward the rear, it was possible to build an opening in the gable. When the lean-to was built there was an entrance at this end, but now the newer house is joined at that point. On the other end of the original building there are two windows on the first floor, one on the second and a small one for the attic. The lean-to has an entrance at the point it joins the house, two first-story windows and, as at the chimney end, a smaller attic window. There are two windows grouped toward the west end of the rear facade. The older windows are those of the second story; they are mostly fitted with 12/8 sash. The openings on the first level have 12/12 sash and are glazed with 18th century panes from other buildings. The whole exterior, including the roof, is covered with wooden shingles of fairly modern application. The stack has recently been rebuilt from the attic up of hewn stone laid in rather regular courses.

The interior of the home has been restored with considerable attention to authenticity. Original, or at least very early, elements which remain include three great granite fireplaces, the framing elements which are all exposed, apple and oak flooring in the lean-to, and a sycamore floor upstairs. The most outstanding interior detail, however, is the wainscoting in the upper room. The walls from ceiling to floor are constructed of very wide boards of whitewood and chestnut, pegged into the framing. At one time even the ceiling was not plastered: instead, the attics floorboards were whitewashed.

¹J. Frederick Kelly (Domestic Architecture of Connecticut) examined the house and conferred extensively with the present owner. I have relied heavily on his judgment, particularly his identification of woods.

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 (?) 1717 - built BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Samuel Miner House is of great architectural significance as an illustration of the earliest stage in the evolution of the colonial house, the one-room floor plan. The finishing of the upstairs room is particularly significant because very few completely wainscotted rooms remain; the use of woods other than white pine is also rare. The room is an example of the type of interior finishing which preceded the use of plaster.

Although the one-room plan was a model design in the last half of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, few Connecticut examples survive. Fortunately, the owners of the Miner House decided to expand by adding a lean-to. As a result, the essential layout of the earlier design has been preserved. Local records indicate the house was built by farmer-surveyor Samuel Miner around 1717¹, although the design is certainly representative of the 17th century, as well. The great size of the stack, the narrow front stairs in the porch, the exposed framing, the wainscotted chamber, and the overwhelmingly cramped feeling of a two-room house (if one imagines it without the lean-to) recreate a typical domestic setting of early America. The limited living space afforded by such a dwelling has been seen as a significant factor in the Puritan personality and family life.² Whatever one's interpretation, however, the Samuel Miner House is an important artifact in appreciating Connecticut's domestic architecture.

¹ Kelly thought the house antedated 1700.

² John Demos, A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 46-51.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Amos Hewitt, owner, August, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY six

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	2	5	8	5	5	0	4	5	9	2	4	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

September 11, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

(203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

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

John W. Shannahan

TITLE

John W. Shannahan
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12/16/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

6/18/76

ATTEST: *Charles D. ...*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6-18-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER