

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Town No.:		Site No.:	
UTM	1:8	6:8	7:2
	7:0	4:6	2:7
	3:6	0	
QUAD:	Hartford North		
DISTRICT		IF NR, SPECIFY	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
	James Butler House			
	2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
	West Hartford		Hartford	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
	239 North Main Street approx. .8 acres Vol. 395, p. 488.			
	4. OWNER(S)			
	Joyce Gray Witik <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
	residence		farmhouse	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	center hall colonial		c. 1800	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ chimneys			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Brownstone ashlar			
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon				
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel				
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
10. ROOF (Type)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth				
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
(Material)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2, attic		35 x 32		
12. CONDITION (Structural)		(Exterior)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN ? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden				
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density				
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				

Set farther back from the road than its 20th century single family neighbors, this house stands on a busy main thoroughfare. A few houses to the north is a center chimney colonial, the Butler Hatheway House.

(OVER)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (Interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

This is a typical Federal Connecticut Valley farmhouse, with a five bay front, ridge to street, two internal brick chimneys and a central hall plan. The 12/12 sash in all the front windows appears to be original. A one story ell at the south rear may or may not be original. There is no ornament or detailing at either doorway or windows.

18. ARCHITECT: N/A BUILDER: Gideon or James Butler

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built either by James Butler about 1816, or by his father Gideon Butler between 1789 and 1816. This house replaced an earlier dwelling on the site. The Butlers were descended from Joseph Butler, an original settler and one of the petitioners for the Fourth Parish in the West Division in 1710. The Butler family occupied the house until the 1960's.

SOURCES

Hartford Land Records, 16:151; 19:477; 31:523...  
 Hartford Probate Records #2914, Thomas Hosmer; James Butler, 1846  
 1854 map, 1869 map, 1896, 1909 and 1923 Atlases  
 Hall, West Hartford, p. 9, 10

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Katherine Cruse	April 1982
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	east	CHC II-35,36
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	E. Hatheway	Nov. 1982
	ORGANIZATION	
	Noah Webster Foundation	
	ADDRESS	
	227 North Main Street, West Hartford	



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

Aluminum-sided; exterior does not appear deteriorated as implied below. Interior includes mantel with pilasters and dentils; appears c.1790 in proportion (Georgian) rather than Federal, but a transitional house in any case. Transomed entry very traditional. Sash not original; was 6-over-1 in 1930s.

HRC 12/85

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known   
  Highways   
  Vandalism   
  Developers   
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal   
  Private   
  Deterioration   
  Zoning   
  Explanaton \_\_\_\_\_