

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 18 1982

DATE ENTERED FEB 19 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

Oliver W. Mills House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

148 Deerfield Road,

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

1 st

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

**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

Marguerite E. Mills

STREET &amp; NUMBER

148 Deerfield Road

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

— VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Windsor Town Clerk

STREET &amp; NUMBER

275 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

STATE

CT

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1980

— 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 Oliver W. Mills House in Windsor is a 2½-story brick dwelling built in 1824. The gable end faces Deerfield Road, formerly the main highway to Hartford. The neighborhood is a mixture of modern suburban residences and large industrial plants, with a few 18th- and early 19th-century brick houses interspersed. The Oliver W. Mills House shares its lot with a modern cape to the east, but the boundary of the nominated property was drawn between the Mills house and the small garage in the rear which serves the modern house. Plantings include a few young shade trees near the sidewalk and closely trimmed shrubs next to the house's brick foundation.

The facade, or west side, is three bays wide with the entrance offset to the right and recessed within a round-arched opening. Brownstone blocks form steps leading to the entrance. Above the door, which is modern, is a semi-elliptical transom. There is a full return of the simply molded cornice across the front, and in the gable, an elliptical opening fitted with a wooden louver. Windows have brownstone sills, splayed brick lintels, shutters, and two-over-two sash. The front is laid up in Flemish bond, whereas the other walls are common bond, though the contrast is muted by the white paint covering the exterior. Two brick chimneys rise above the asphalt-shingled roof, one in the center and one at the east end of the main house.

A small two-story brick extension to the east, probably built at the same time as the main house, has a modern enclosed frame porch and covered patio added to the south side. Late 19th-century photos show this ell with an open porch recessed within the south wall, but very likely the ell was originally all-brick with a more shallow gable roof covering just the brick part. The woodshed in the rear was added in 1926. Other additions include a Victorian bay window with tall segmental-arched openings on the south wall of the main house and a recent two-car garage adjoining at the north rear.

The plan of the house has three rooms and a hallway in the main house and a large kitchen in the wing. The doorway is finished on the interior with a series of moldings and a carved keyblock above the transom. The straight flight of stairs in the hallway is graced by scroll-shaped cut-outs applied to the outside of the string, simple square balusters, and a plain maple rail which terminates in a carved spiral about the lower newel post. The parlor off to the left has molded baseboards and bed moldings beneath the window sills and an elaborate mantel. The fireplace is surrounded by a series of moldings and is flanked by two smooth engaged columns showing an exaggerated entasis. Above the columns are another series of moldings, a wide frieze with a central panel, and a bold cornice with breaks above the columns and panel. The mantel in the northeast room is much plainer, a simple frame of molded boards with a shelf above. That in the southeast room is also quite plain, but appears to be from later in the 19th century; its proportions are heavy and it encloses an opening in the shape of a four-center pointed arch. The mantels in the chambers above are similar in form, a frieze and molded shelf with breaks above pilasters, but that in the parlor chamber is slightly more elegant, with fluted rather than paneled pilasters. The

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(11/78)

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kitchen in the wing has been thoroughly modernized, though evidence for a fireplace there can be seen in the cellar, where each chimney is supported by brick vaulting. Except in the northwest chamber, later hardwood floors have been laid over the original wide-board oak.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1824 - built      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Oliver W. Mills, builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oliver W. Mills House is of local architectural significance as a good example of a brick Federal house, a form characteristic of the area (Criterion C). The house is of additional interest because its builder and first owner was himself a brickmaker. Brickmaking was a very important industry in 19th-century Windsor, where clay and fuel for kilns were found in close proximity. The industry began in the middle of the 18th century and remained largely unchanged until after the Civil War, when a few Windsor brickmaking enterprises grew to make machine-formed bricks in large factories. Oliver W. Mills was one of the earlier type, a small brickmaker whose house, built from his own bricks, recalls the importance of brickmaking in Windsor's economic history (Criterion A).

Brick buildings were very uncommon in 18th-century Connecticut, where bricks were largely reserved for chimneys (though the Allyn House, one of the few 18th-century examples, stand just across Deerfield Road). But after 1800, they began to be built in great numbers. Exceptionally large concentrations are found in the upper part of the Connecticut River Valley, undoubtedly because this area, and especially Windsor, was such a center for brickmaking. One of the traits which gives the region a distinctive landscape is the number of brick houses from the Federal and Greek Revival periods, and the Oliver W. Mills House is a well-preserved representative of this type.

Apart from the historical importance of the material, the house is valuable as an example of the Federal style as found in the small towns and countryside of Connecticut. The splayed window lintels, elliptical louver, and fanlight transom are common decorative elements, derived from the principles of the Adam brothers, Scottish architects whose influence spread throughout the English-speaking world. Their aesthetic called for a free interpretation of Classical precedents, an attention to geometric ornaments such as the ellipse, and an overall lightness of detail. These principles can also be seen in the interior, particularly the hall staircase with its helical rail and the parlor mantel, with its slender columns and multiplicity of thin moldings. Even the orientation of the house is significant. The placement of the gable end to the street along with the cornice return creates the suggestion of a Classical pediment. This orientation, first introduced in the Federal period, became the standard in the Greek Revival style.

Oliver W. Mills (1796-1866) was a moderately successful farmer and brickmaker. Like a score of other small brickmakers in Windsor, he made bricks by hand on his own land near the river. The 1850 Census shows his brickworks to be worth \$400, probably for the kiln and clay mixer. That year he employed three hands, used 70 cords of wood, and made 300,000 bricks worth \$1500. When asked his occupation, however, he

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Conversation with Marguerite Mills, October 29, 1979.

Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut. Chicago: F.W. Beers & Co., 1901, 944.

U.S. Census Office, Ms. Schedules, Products of Industry, 1850. State Library, Hartford.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.6

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 6,9,4 9,6,0 4,6 3,2 3,6,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is part of Lot 33, Block 24 as shown on Windsor Assessor Map 79 and is also described in part by the deed recorded in Windsor Land Records, Volume 121, page 210. In order to exclude the modern house and garage sharing the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Partner

ORGANIZATION Historic Resource Consultant

DATE December 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 103 Mansfield Hollow Road

TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Mansfield Center, CT

STATE 06250

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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 January 8, 1982

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John A. Brown  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE 2/19/82

ATTEST:  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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called himself a farmer. Although the site of his brickworks has been built over with recent housing, his house remains as a product of his industry. The house reflects its builder by its brick walls, but it also is a reflection of Mills's social status. It is overall a very modest house, with only a few formal touches: the Flemish bond of the main facade, the hall stairway, the parlor mantel. The plainer mantels of the parlor chamber and the still simpler mantels in the other rooms show a progression in the elaborateness of the woodwork as one moves away from the most important rooms. Unlike the contemporary houses of the rich, the Mills house has decorative woodwork in only select places. Yet understood in the context of an example of a modest dwelling, the limited decorative detail takes on significance not only for its intrinsic interest, but also as typical of the more common interior during the Federal period.

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### Verbal Boundary Description (continued):

lot, the bounds of the nominated parcel run from the northwest corner of the lot easterly along the northern boundary, approximately 500', to the northeast corner, then southerly for 80', then in a straight line to a point on Deerfield Road 250' south of the northwest corner, then northerly following Deerfield Road to the first point.