

PH0010669

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 17 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
General David Humphreys House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
37 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Ansonia

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: New Haven	CODE 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Historical society headqts.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Derby Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Derby

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Ansonia

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

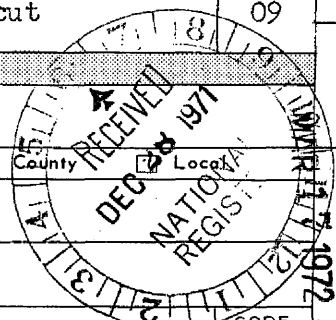
STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: New Haven

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed
 (Check One)

 Altered Unaltered
 (Check One)

 Moved Original Site
 (Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Humphreys House, now undergoing restoration, was built in 1695 and partially rebuilt in 1733. A large, roomy house of typical Colonial style with a 9-window facade and center chimney, it has "three flowers and two flights of stayers."¹ The wide overhang at gable ends is finished with moulding and some of the older clapboards on the north side show beaded edges. Detail is sparse, but the effect is pleasing. The entry porch with modillions is the most decorative element; the rest of the exterior is devoid of ornamentation.

The interior, however, exhibits interesting details. In the original long room running across the entire length of the rear of the house is a very large fireplace, probably part of the original house, having been given a date of 1695 by the late Frederic Palmer, noted restoration architect. The feather-edged sheathing around the fireplace is eventually to be restored. There are smaller fireplaces in each of the other rooms; all will be functional. The flues have not been altered and in the attic the full-size chimney remains; above the roof it has been rebuilt. Feather-edged paneling remains in the stairways, all the way into the attic where the neatly fitted edges are seen in cross-section. The interior paneled doors are fine examples of their style and period. Even some of the floor boards, nearly two feet wide, remain intact on the second floor.

The first project being undertaken by the Derby Historical Society is the replacement of the late 19th century 2/2 sash with proper 12/12 sash, aided by a grant from the Connecticut Historical Commission. The restoration work is under the guidance of the Commission and restoration architects.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

¹Crofut, Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut. p. 512.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1695 and 1733

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house derives its importance from General David Humphreys, born there on July 10, 1752, when it served as the parsonage. Daniel Humphreys, David's father, was minister of the Derby Congregational Church from 1733 to 1787. An excellent student, David achieved high honors at Yale, and graduated in the class of 1771.

Entering the army as a captain, Humphreys was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1780 and became aide-de-camp and secretary to General George Washington. Colonel Humphreys received the English colors at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. When he carried these colors to Congress, he was voted "an elegant sword", presented in 1786.

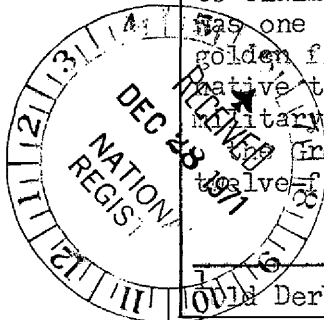
Humphreys' diplomatic career is also notable. In 1784 he was secretary to the commission in Paris negotiating commercial treaties with European powers. After he returned from Paris, he was elected to the Connecticut legislature, where he served one term. During this time, Humphreys was one of the "Hartford Wits", or "Connecticut Wits", a literary group including Timothy Dwight and Joel Barlow. From 1791 to 1797, he was Minister to Portugal and from 1797 to 1802, Minister to Spain. It was upon his return from Spain that he imported one hundred Merino sheep, whose fine, white wool is superior in weight and quality to that of any other breed. In 1806, Humphreys established, in the part of Derby which is now Seymour, one of the first woolen mills in the country to make broadcloth. The mill complex included a somewhat paternalistic community for the workers; evening courses were held for the young men, and a military company was organized and trained. Some of these men, trained by General Humphreys, fought in the War of 1812.

David Humphreys was certainly an outstanding man and Ansonia¹ is proud to claim him as a native son. It has been said that "General Humphreys was one of Derby's noblemen (who) enriched his native land with the true golden fleece." (Crofut, p. 522) His importance extended beyond his native town, however, particularly in his agricultural, commercial, and military efforts. Humphreys died in February of 1818 and is buried in Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, where his grave is marked by a twelve-foot granite obelisk and a copper plaque.

Derby, where David Humphreys was born, became part of the Town of Ansonia, when it was incorporated in 1889.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crofut, Florence S.M. Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut. Volume II. Yale University Press, (New Haven), 1937.

General David Humphreys; Soldier, Poet, Statesman, Manufacturer.
Booklet published by the Derby Historical Society, Derby, Connecticut, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes		Seconds	Degrees	Minutes
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"
				41	19	52
				73	04	30

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: December 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Susan Babbitt*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 15, 1971

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

Ann
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

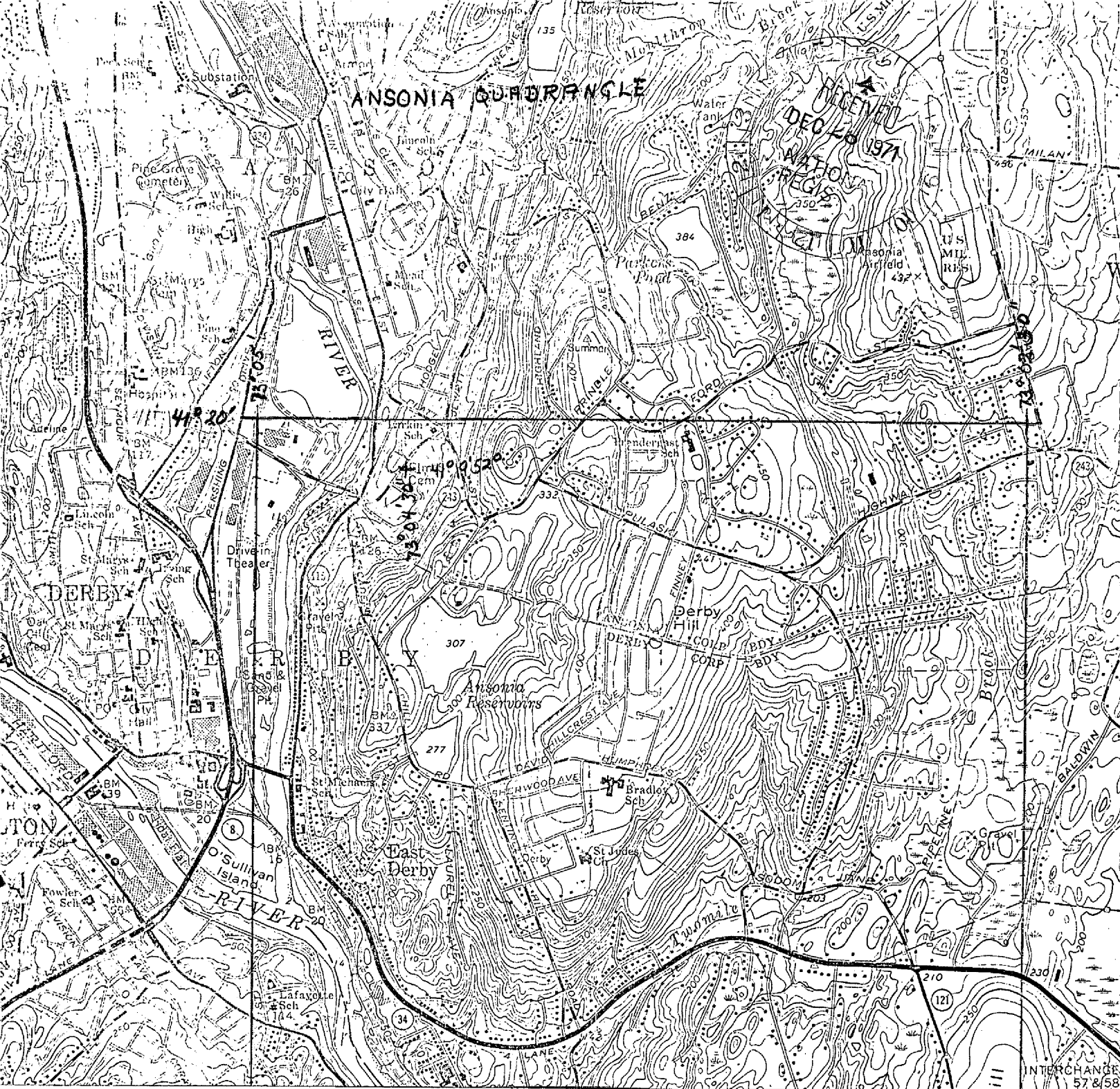
RECEIVED
DEC 28 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER

Date MAR 17 1972

ATTEST:
Walter H. Murphree
Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 7 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



INTERCHANGE 57 & 58

Ansonia Quadrangle

General David Humphreys House