

PH0505706

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 12 1977

DATE ENTERED

FEB 17 1978

# 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

Bosworth, Benjamin, House

AND/OR COMMON

Squire Bosworth's Castle

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

John Perry Road

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Eastford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Connecticut

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

09

COUNTY

Windham

CODE

015

**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

Mr. and Mrs. Lennox F. Beach

STREET &amp; NUMBER

John Perry Road

CITY, TOWN

Eastford

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Eastford Town Office Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Westford Road

CITY, TOWN

Eastford

STATE

Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

See Continuation Sheet 1

TITLE

Connecticut Statewide Inventory

DATE

1967

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Bosworth House is an impressive Federal Period mansion located in the small northeast Connecticut village of Eastford. The house, due to its elevated open site on the north side of the church green and to its elaborate design, is a focal point of the residential community.

The sloping lot on which the house is situated has been partially leveled by terracing. Surrounding the building are informal yards with trees and shrubs. A pair of large trees frame the main (south) entrance. The property slopes upward at the west where foundations of an early barn and a stone retaining wall which has a stairway made of gravestones are located. In the front (south) yard is a sundial made from a millstone. At the rear (north) of the property is a frame barn erected about 1900 which received a new facade in the 1960's. There is also a 20th century chicken house. Behind (to the north) of the house the property slopes downward.

The timber frame house has a very distinctive massing. Rising from the low-pitched hip roof of the main two-story block is a rectangular one-story mass with a gable roof. Two large brick interior chimneys visually anchor this composite mass to the ground. A small one-story wing is attached to the northwest corner of the building. This wing is believed to be the much altered woodshed. A 20th century garage addition is attached to the rear (north side) of the wing.

The foundations of the house are brick faced with stone except on the north side where the brick is unfaced. Due to the sloping character of the site the amount of exposed foundation varies. Walls are covered with narrow wooden clapboards, painted white. Exterior trim is also painted white, except the louvered shutters (which are found only on the east and north sides). The shutters are painted dark green. Roofs are covered with composition roofing materials installed since 1964. In addition to the two large brick chimneys, a smaller brick chimney rises from the north slope of the hip roof. It is a 20th century addition.

The south, east, and north facades are regular compositions. The irregular placement of windows of the west side suggest that an older building was incorporated into the western part of the 1791-1801 house. Above the foundation each facade rises two full stories and the raised central section has a lower third story and an attic space. The main block is square in plan (41½' by 41½'). Its main (south) and east facades are divided into five bays with the central bay larger than the others. The third story facades have two bays on each side.

The typical window of the first and second stories has 12/12 double-hung sash although windows on the west side vary. The windows of the third story have 8/8 double-hung sash while those lighting the attic have 4/4 sash.

The exterior of the house is embellished with carved Neo-classical ornament. The continuous cornice above the second story overhangs 12" and has vertical fluting on its frieze, while the cornice of the south and north facades of the third story overhangs eight inches.

See continuation sheet 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

Bosworth, Benjamin, House, Eastford, Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Works Projects Administration: Connecticut Survey  
Date: 1930's State  
Depository: Connecticut State Library  
Hartford, Connecticut

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	-
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Bosworth, Benjamin, House Eastford, Connecticut

7. Description

The most elaborate treatment is found on the central bay of the principal facade. Its main facade entrance has plain pilasters supporting a cornice with a fluted frieze. Flanking the panel door are side lights. Above the entrance is a Palladian window. The east side has a similar central bay except its entrance lacks sidelights.

The house has a rather unusual plan for a elaborate dwelling of the Federal period since it has a centrally located enclosed stair. Also, the center hall of the first story is wider than that of the second. Free standing piers in the first story hall support the upper floors. The first story hall has elaborate woodwork including a cornice with modillion brackets and reeded band. Deeply fluted pilasters support similar cornices over several doorways and the fireplace. This unacademic woodwork has bold vernacular vigor.

The southeast room has very elaborate Adamesque woodwork. Its ornate triglyph and metope cornice has incised cross-hatching on the metope surfaces. The fireplace (north) wall has sunken panels edged with rope mouldings. Above the Adamesque mantel are two pilasters with zig-zag row of reeded carving. Window casings are outlined with rope moulding and have incised diamonds across the top and down both sides. The chair rail is incised with lunettes. The fireplace has a handsome cast-iron stove of acorn and oak leaf design.

Other first story rooms have comparatively crude woodwork which suggests that an earlier house was incorporated into the Federal Period building. The southwest room has a simple moulded mantel with six cupboards above. Its chair rail has spaced groups of fluting. There is a thin cornice. The northeast room has simple trim with flush wainscoting and a small fireplace with low mantel. The kitchen has a large fireplace with bake oven.

The centrally located stair is approached by doors from the front central hall and the rear service area. Four stairs lead from each door to the landing, then a single flight rises to another landing and one stair on either side of it gives access to the second story hall. The staircase is very steep.

The second story front (southwest and southeast) rooms each have Adamesque mantels and evidence of early stenciling. Very steep enclosed stairs lead to the third story Mansonic meeting room. It is very simply finished, white plaster walls and ceiling, no cornice and boxed benches. Small, shallow brick fireplaces with very plain trim are located against the east and west walls.

The cellar has a fireplace and a large opening to the exterior which is believed to have been used to provide access for

See Continuation Sheet 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 13 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET      3                      ITEM NUMBER 7                      PAGE      2

---

Bosworth, Benjamin, House      Eastford, Connecticut

merchandise.

The house is relatively little altered. Most interior changes were made in the rear service areas. Since 1964 the current owners have been rehabilitating and restoring the building. New heating, plumbing, and electrical systems have been installed, as well as new roofing materials. Chimneys have been pointed and recapped. The exterior has been painted. Restoration of interior features is currently in progress.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1791-1801

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Vini Goodell, Builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Between 1791- 1801 Vini Goodell, a local carpenter-builder, erected an imposing mansion in Eastford, Connecticut, for Benjamin Bosworth, a merchant. This outstanding example of early Federal Period architecture is among the few remaining examples of a New England mansion with a monitor roof (a smaller, one-story, gable-roofed mass rises above the two-story, hipped-roofed main mass). The upper story housed an early Masonic meeting room.

The exterior of the house is embellished by main facade entrances, Palladian windows, and modillion cornice. While some of the interior woodwork is very simple suggesting that the building incorporates an earlier structure, much is very rich. Particularly outstanding is the trim in the central hall and the finely carved Adamesque woodwork of the southeast room on the first floor. The house has a number of rather unusual features such as a very cramped and steep enclosed staircase and woodwork of varying quality and style which reflect its provincial location and give it a distinctly vernacular quality.

In 1791 Benjamin Bosworth (1762- 1850) bought property on the north side of the church green in Eastford. On this property were located a house and a barn. It is quite probable that the house was incorporated into the **existing house** which Vini Goodell constructed there. This house was completed by 1801 when the Masons met in its third story meeting room.

Bosworth, a merchant, used the basement of the house as his storeroom. He was active in local affairs. In 1829 he served on the building committee for the adjacent church edifice. He was known to be a temperance man.

After Bosworth's death the house was occupied by his niece, Mrs. Dorsett. In 1897 it was purchased by E. Grant Trowbridge, a grand-nephew of General Lyon, a local hero who was the first general killed during the Civil War. Trowbridge, an engineer, lived here until he died in 1963 at the age of 96. During the end of his ownership the house was allowed to deteriorate. In November 1964 it was purchased by the current owners who are slowly restoring it.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Lennox F. Beach, August 17, 1976, notes in files of T. R. Brown, Bear Mountain, NY.  
 Florence S. M. Crofut, Guide to the History and Historic Sites of Connecticut (New Haven: Yale, 1937), vol. 2, pp. 842-43.  
 Richard H. Dana, Jr., "The Old Hill Towns of Windham County, Ct.," White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, X, no. 1 (1924), pp. 8-9.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 3 1/2 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	18	174,189.0	4,642,540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

T. Robins Brown Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

February 1977

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

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

*[Signature]*

TITLE

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

OCT 3, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rethig*

DATE

2/17/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles Atkinson*

DATE

2.14.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER