

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0668 346

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
 RECEIVED **MAY 3 1978**  
 DATE ENTERED **OCT 11 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

Lay-Pritchett House

AND/OR COMMON

"Green Mansions" "Lay Homestead"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Westbrook

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Connecticut

VICINITY OF

CODE

06498

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Mary Leonard Pritchett

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 158

CITY, TOWN

Westbrook

VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Westbrook Town Hall

Attn: Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Boston Post Road

CITY, TOWN

Westbrook, Connecticut 06498

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

Green Mansions is situated on a site of approximately three acres on the west side of Stevenstown Road (Connecticut Route 145) north of the intersection with Cross Road (Horse Hill Road), three and one-half miles north of Intersection 64 of the Connecticut Turnpike. In addition to the house, a garage and a small shed are also on the site. The majority of the property is wooded, except for a limited open area on the north, south and west sides of the house.

Green Mansions is a two-story clapboarded frame house. The eighteenth century portion of the house is rectangular (five-bay front) with a twentieth century one-story rear (north) ell. The main portion has an end gable roof which flares slightly at the mid point on the front (south) and on the rear has a long pitch which terminates just below the second story level, thus giving the house the overall appearance of a typical New England "salt box" house.

The two interior end chimneys are of stone; on the west end the chimney is partially exposed on the exterior and reveals a fireplace opening which served the earlier portion of the house which is no longer extant.

The main (south) facade is symmetrically divided by two superimposed pairs of windows on each side of the center entrance doorway. Above the doorway is a single window, and side lights of ten lights each flank the door. On this elevation, all windows on the second story are 6/6; all on the first story 6/9. Shutters, not original to the house, have been added.

The interior of the first floor of the eighteenth century portion contains a center hall with two rooms on either side. In this portion, to the east, are a small living room (south) and library (north); to the west is the dining room (south) and kitchen (north). On this level, the ell (added by the present owner around 1947) contains a large bedroom-sitting area and bathroom. All rooms on the ground floor (except the kitchen) contain corner fireplaces, a feature which is unusual in the area. A corner fireplace also exists in the east bedroom on the second floor. The second story contains two bedrooms. There is a small attic space above. There do not appear to be any alterations in the arrangement of interior space in the 18th century portion.

Hand hewn beams are exposed in all rooms on the first floor; walls are composed of vertical lapped boards with plaster applied on the interior surfaces. The original random width floor boards have been preserved, but are covered with linoleum sheeting. Doors and hardware appear to be original throughout the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAY 5 1978

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lay-Pritchett House ("Green Mansions," "Lay Homestead") is a notable example of a modest late-eighteenth century New England "salt box" type house in which the original spatial arrangement of the 18th century block remains basically unaltered.

Traditionally known as the earliest frame house in Patchogue, the house is built on land which was a part of the original Oyster River Quarter and which has been variously known as "Chestnut Hill," "Horse Pasture," and now "Horse Hill." The land was granted to Robert Lay (the immigrant, 1617-1689) in 1648 upon the earliest distribution of "outlying lands" marking the original settlement of the town. It is the 1648 date which has been traditionally attributed to the original portion of the house (demolished c.1891) whose remaining massive stone chimney forms the west chimney of the present two-story structure. The present house probably dates to the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

The Lay family, whose members built and enlarged the structures, has a long and prominent history in the Westbrook area. Saybrook town records of the seventeenth century indicate that Robert Lay I was the owner of large parcels of land now comprising Essex, Chester, Saybrook and Westbrook. Another historic Westbrook structure, the "Lay Tavern" (c. 1701-3, now demolished) was built by Robert Lay III, grandson of the immigrant. Daniel Lay (1712-1782) son of Robert Lay III, was given acreage on the "Chestnut Hill" tract in 1735, and is said to have built his house there by 1737. One of his three sons, Asa Lay (1749-1814) built an additional structure in 1789. It is likely that some portion of Green Mansions (perhaps the section now demolished) was built by Daniel Lay, c. 1737, possibly on the site of an earlier structure, and that the present "Green Mansions" was added to that portion by Asa Lay in 1789.

Colonel Asa Lay, a lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, was commander of the bodyguard of Baron Steuben and was stationed near George Washington's headquarters at Fishkill, on the Hudson. The tavern built by Robert Lay III was mentioned in early traveler's accounts of the area and it is said that George Washington benefitted from its hospitality during the Revolutionary War.

