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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: WHITE'S TAVERN

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 131 Route 6

city/town: Andover

not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Tolland

code: 013 zip code: 06232

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

[Signature] 6/21/91
Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

[Signature] 7/26/91

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: restaurant
 DOMESTIC single dwelling
Current: DOMESTIC Sub: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

COLONIAL

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>WOOD</u>	other	<u>BRICK</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: state.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period(s) of Significance: 1773-1782

Significant Dates: 1773

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description

White's Tavern
Andover, Tolland County, CT

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White's Tavern (Photographs 1 and 2) is a large frame 2 1/2-story gable-roofed house built in 1773. Measuring 42' by 34' in plan, with a 25' x 29' 1-story ell at the rear, the house faces east on Hutchinson Road in Andover, Connecticut, in a rural area of woods, fields, and scattered houses. Hutchinson Road marks the former course of the main road between Hartford and Windham; now the highway, known as U.S. Route 6, bypasses the house to the west, forming the rear property line of the nominated parcel (see sketch map). The broad side of the clapboarded house, facing Hutchinson Road, is five bays wide, with the windows closer together than uniform spacing would provide. The central entrance has a six-panel door (not original), a transom, and a surround consisting of a series of applied moldings on the outer edges of a plain-board frame. This surround is interrupted at the top by an added board, above which is a narrow pulvinated frieze and molded cornice. The interruption of the original moldings undoubtedly resulted from removal of a Victorian porch shown in a c.1935 photograph. A row of dentils runs across the front of the house below the cornice moldings. Windows have molded frames and are fitted with 12-over-12 reproduction sash. The foundation as exposed above grade is built of granite blocks, with fieldstone walls below grade.

In addition to the dwelling, which currently is divided into two living units, the property includes a small 1-story novelty-sided house or cottage to the north (Photograph 3), a privy, and a small 1-story board-sided barn (Photograph 4), c.1900, which originated as an ell on a now-demolished larger barn abutting it just to the east. The age of the small house is not known, but its reported interior of vertical feather-edged boards suggests an 18th-century date. The interior was not accessible for inspection or photography. These outbuildings all appear to be more than 50 years old and are part of the historic complex represented by the property; they are considered contributing buildings. The shed-roofed garage which stands east of the barn site is modern and counted as noncontributing (Photographs 3 and 4).

Two large brick chimneys (stone below the roofline) signal the main house's central-hall interior plan. The hall does not extend the full depth of the house, terminating instead at the partition of the northwest rear room, which extends across the greater part of the rear of the house (see floor-plan schematic). The hall contains a straight open run of stairs to the second floor (Photograph 5), with applied scrollwork on the sides and plain square balusters and newel post. In addition to the center hall, there are side passageways from the front rooms to those in the rear, passing through areas mostly occupied by

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description

White's Tavern
Andover, Tolland County, CT

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the fireplace masonry. Most of the fireplaces are granite.

The interior of the house retains a high degree of integrity, with wide-board floors, plaster walls and ceilings, beaded post casings (there are no summer beams), and raised paneled doors with original hardware throughout most of the house. The woodwork in the front rooms is the most elaborate. Both rooms have raised panel arrangements on the fireplace walls. The southeast room's mantel (Photograph 6) features paneled pilasters, an ogee pulvinated frieze, elaborate shelf moldings forming a cornice, and a crossetted panel above the fireplace. A molded chair rail extends around the rest of the room. In the opposite front room (Photograph 7), a simple raised molding surrounds the fireplace opening, but the walls are finished with a dado or partial wainscot of raised panels. The southwest rear room's mantel (Photograph 8) has a molded shelf and band moldings around the board surround, with additional raised moldings defining a crossetted shape immediately around the opening. As in the northwest rear room, a Victorian tin ceiling substitutes for the original plaster. The fireplace opening of the more plainly finished northwest room is fitted with a cast-iron fireplace, c.1840, with engaged columns and brass finials and bosses.

On the second floor of the house, the partitioning of the rear rooms has been somewhat altered, but the front rooms are highly original. In each of the large front rooms is a fireplace, with a smaller version of the mantel in the first-floor southwest room, and a raised panel wall (Photograph 9) separating the room from the narrower central room over the hall. Although now fixed in place, both these walls retain three large strap hinges which enabled them to be swung up against the ceiling, where retaining hooks are also still in place. Swinging up both walls would create an unobstructed 40'-long room the full width of the house.

A large cooking fireplace (Photograph 10) occupies the west wall of the ell. There is an oven on either side of the large opening, and above, in the attic of the ell, there is a smoke chamber. The raised panels around the ell fireplace are a modern alteration; the other walls of this room, like those of the adjacent northwest room of the main house, are finished with wide molded boards.

The unfinished attic of the house is large and high, incorporating two levels (reflected in the fenestration of the side elevations). The roof rafters are supported by two purlins and a large hewn ridgepiece.

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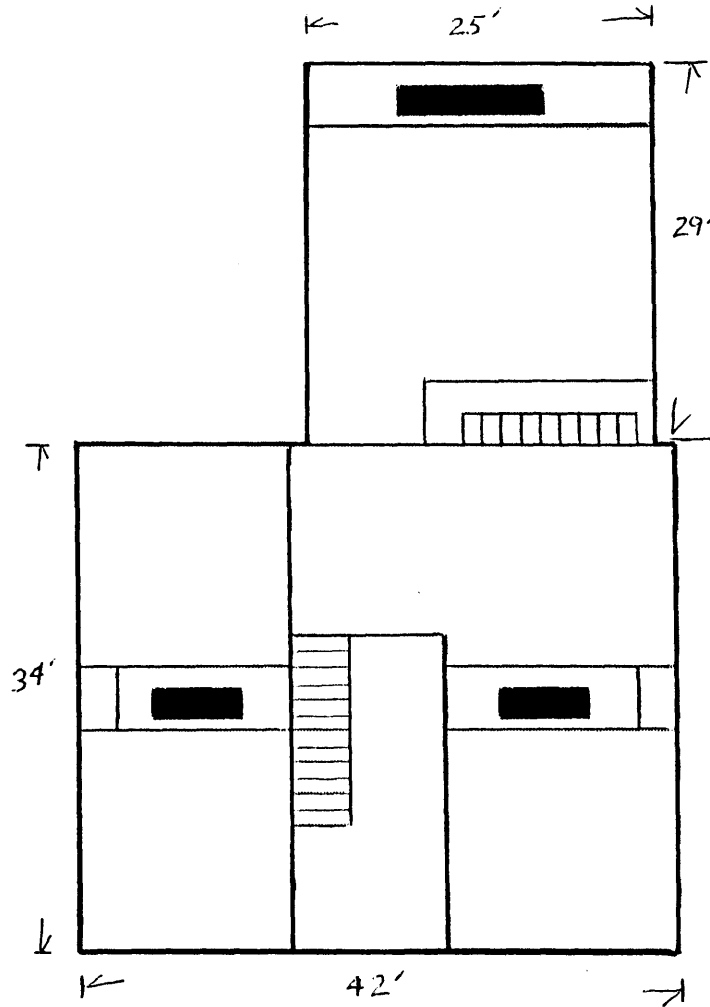
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description

White's Tavern
Andover, Tolland County, CT

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SKETCH PLAN OF HOUSE



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance

White's Tavern
Andover, Tolland County, CT

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examples that frustrate attempts to delineate sequences of development. In White's Tavern, the central-hall plan is a transitional type, since it does not extend front-to-back with full bilateral symmetry, as in houses of the early 19th century. Instead, it retains a larger back room as a vestige of the kitchens that extended across the back of center-chimney houses.

Stylistically, the tavern incorporates both traditional ornament and details influenced by more high-style Georgian architecture. For example, the entry treatment has both the molded surround that was the standard entrance frame of the period and the pulvinated frieze that was the hallmark of Georgian cornices.¹ The interior details are similarly mixed, with traditional paneling and fairly simple mantels enriched with Georgian pilasters and crossetted surrounds. White's Tavern is architecturally significant, then, in demonstrating the continuum in Colonial architecture between traditional, rural plain-style buildings and stylish, cosmopolitan Georgian mansions.

Historical Context

Connecticut in the latter half of the 18th century underwent a period of population growth, expansion of trade, and accumulation of wealth. Among other effects, this development resulted in more travel along the colony's major roads, so it is not surprising to find a large house such as this one serving as a tavern on the major route between Hartford, Connecticut, and Providence (and ultimately, Newport), Rhode Island. Such interior routes became especially important during the Revolution, when the British navy in Long Island Sound threatened waterborne travel and coastal roads.

Joel White purchased 105 acres at this spot in 1772, and the following year his son Daniel White received a license to operate a tavern; this is the basis for the date of 1773. In 1782 Joel White sold the farm to his son, describing it as the place "where Daniel now lives." By that time Daniel White was certainly operating a tavern at this spot, for the itineraries for moving the French army from Newport, Rhode Island, to its eventual campaign against the British identified "White's Tavern, at the sign of the black horse" as a landmark for locating the camps just north of the tavern.² The French called the area Bolton, although Andover was at that time actually part of Hebron and Coventry. Among the French officers staying at White's Tavern was the Marquis de Chastellux, who wrote General George Washington a letter from the inn which is now in the archives of the Library of Congress.

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Significance

White's Tavern
Andover, Tolland County, CT

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In addition to serving as Daniel White's own dwelling and the center of his farm, the tavern appears to have been built with the special needs of entertainment in mind. Most notable, of course, was the large, open second-floor space which could be created by folding up the swinging partitions. Local tradition asserts the resulting ballroom was used for dances, and other taverns of the period with similar spaces are known to have been used for meetings of Masonic lodges and other social groups. The extra rooms made available by the center-hall plan and removal of the kitchen to the ell also aided the building's function as an inn, as did the double ovens and large kitchen hearth.

Throughout most of the 19th century the farm was the property of Gurley Phelps, one of Andover's wealthier farmers who served the town as selectman, judge of probate, and state representative. Phelps did not keep a tavern, but he did continue the property's other roles as a dwelling and a farm. Although not all the outbuildings are as old as the house, they do serve to recall its origin within a primarily agricultural community and therefore contribute to its value as a historic resource.

Small house

The significance of the small house on the property cannot be fully ascertained without more information on its origin. Was it, in whole or in part, an earlier house on the site, or another White home? Or was it moved to the site in the 19th century when the property was the Phelps farm? Architectural historians have noted that small, one-room houses were once common throughout New England, but they have survived in relatively few numbers compared to the larger homes of better-off families. The small house contributes to the site as part of an historically related complex, but it may also have architectural significance in further demonstrating the variety of colonial house types.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Significance	White's Tavern Andover, Tolland County, CT	8-4
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NOTES

1. Almost identical entries are found on two other Route 6 houses in Andover from the same general period.
2. In addition to title research conducted by Philip Brass (see Bibliography), the identification of this as White's Tavern goes back at least as early as an 1888 biography of Gurley Phelps; see J. R. Cole, History of Tolland County (New York, 1888), 916.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- _ State historic preservation office
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 3

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>716370</u>	<u>4625440</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The nominated property is the parcel known as 131 Route 6 and shown as Lot 2, Block 6A, Andover Assessor Map 28.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the house and all related outbuildings.

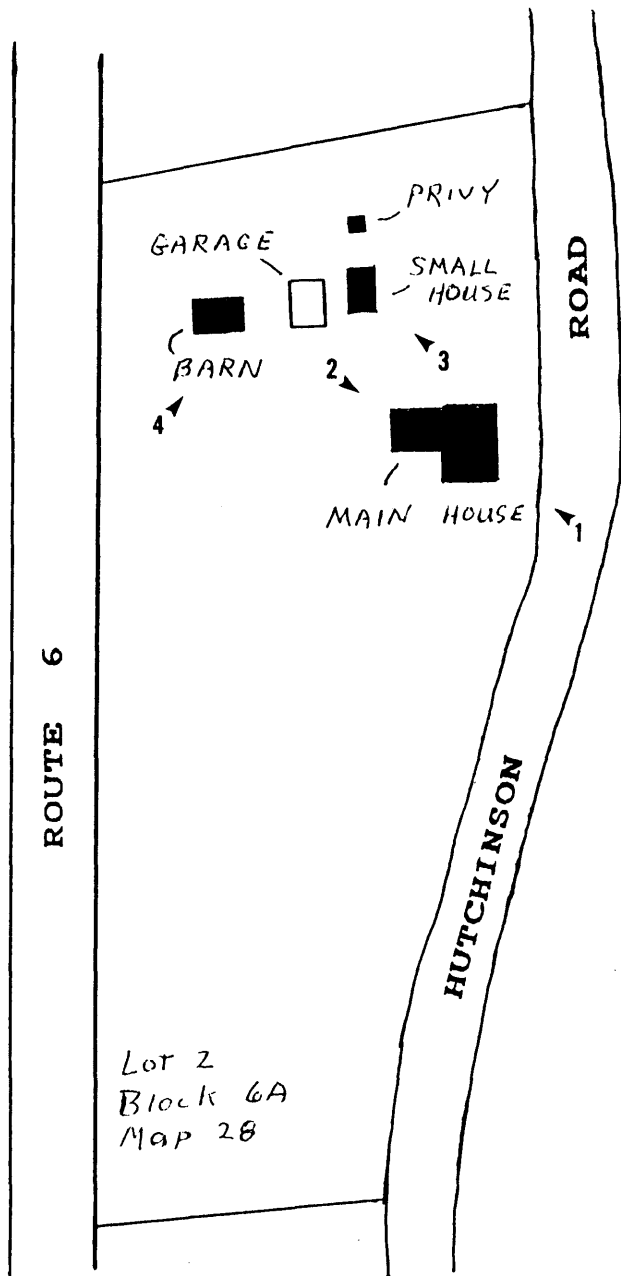
11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: January 21, 1991

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

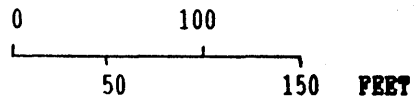


WHITE'S TAVERN

Andover

Tolland County, Connecticut

- Contributing
- Noncontributing
- 2 ▶ Photo Position



APPROXIMATE SCALE

