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NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)	OMB No. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	NATIONAL REGISTER
1. Name of Property	
historic name:WHITE'S TAVERN	
other name/site number: <u>N/A</u>	
2. Location street & number: <u>131 Route 6</u>	
city/town: <u>Andover</u>	not for publication: <u>N/A</u> vicinity: <u>N/A</u> <u>013</u> zip code: <u>06232</u>
3. Classification	
Category of Property: _buildings	
Number of Resources within Property:	
Contributing Noncontributing	
4 1 buildings	
Number of contributing resources previously list Register:	ed in the National

Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>

		======		
	ederal Agency Certification	======		
As the des of 1986, a request fo standards Historic P set forth	ignated authority under the s amended, I hereby certify r determination of eligibili for registering properties i laces and meets the procedur in 36 CFR Part 60. In my op not meet the National Regist	Nation that t ty mee n the al and inion,	al Historic Preserv his <u>X</u> nomination ts the documentation National Register of professional require the property <u>X</u>	vation Act n on of irements meets
	hy in flund		<u>6/21/91</u> Date	
Signature	of certifying official		Date	
Direc	tor, Connecticut Historical Commis	ssion		
State or F	ederal agency and bureau			
	ion, the property meets riteria See continuati			National
Signature	of commenting or other offic	ial	Date	
State or F	ederal agency and bureau		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	<pre>l Park Service Certification ====================================</pre>		fot and in.	the
	certify that this property i		National Re	giste /
deter Nati deter Nati	ed in the National Register See continuation sheet. mined eligible for the onal Register See continuation sheet. mined not eligible for the onal Register ed from the National Registe		felour Byen	
	(explain):			
		TSI	gnature of Keeper	Date of Action
6. Functio	n or Use			
==========				
Historic:	COMMERCE/TRADE DOMESTIC	_ Sub: -	restaurant single dwelling	
Current:	DOMESTIC	Sub:	multiple dwelling	
		-		

7. Descripti	on			
Architectura	al Classific	cation:		
COLONIAL				
Other Descri	ption: <u>N/</u>	A		
		STONE WOOD	roof other	ASPHALT BRICK
Describe pre sheet.	esent and h	istoric physical	appearance	e. <u>X</u> See continuation
8. Statement	: of Signif:	icance		
Certifying c	official has		significar	nce of this property in
Applicable N	ational Reg	gister Criteria:	A,C	
Criteria Cor	nsideration	s (Exceptions) :		
Areas of Sig	gnificance:	ARCHITECTURE COMMERCE		
Period(s) of	Significa	nce: <u>1773-1782</u>		-
Significant	Dates:	1773		-
Significant	Person(s):	N/A		-
Cultural Aff	iliation:	N/A		
Architect/Bu	uilder: <u>unl</u>	known		

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	White's Tavern	7-1
	Andover, Tolland County, CT	

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 The interruption of the original moldings undoubtedly cornice. 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 NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Description	White's Tavern	
	Andover, Tolland County,	СТ

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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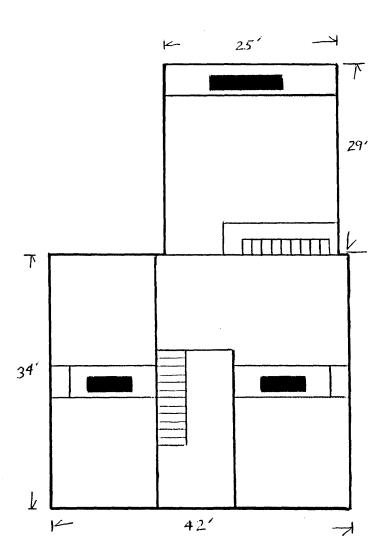
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

White's Tavern Andover, Tolland County, CT 7-3

SKETCH PLAN OF HOUSE



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance	White's	Tavern		
	Andover,	Tolland	County,	СТ

Summary

White's Tavern in Andover has architectural significance as a wellpreserved example of 18th-century New England architecture (Criterion C). With its five-bay gable-roofed form, post-and-beam construction, clapboarded exterior, and interior paneling, it embodies many of the key characteristics of that period's architecture. The building also has historical significance as an early tavern, an indicator of the economic growth occurring in Connecticut during the second half of the 18th century (Criterion A). Although primarily derived from domestic architecture, White's Tavern exhibits specialized features that place it midway between traditional taverns, which were often just one room within an ordinary house, and the large turnpike inns of the early 19th century. Finally, the tavern has historical significance for its documented association with the movements of Count Rochambeau's army during the American Revolution.

Architectural Significance

Well-preserved buildings such as White's Tavern are important because by their continued survival they inform us of both the central tendencies and the variations which, together, characterize the architecture of the period. In many ways White's Tavern embodies the archetypal Connecticut house of the 18th century: a five-bay, 2 1/2story gable-roofed dwelling with massive interior chimneys, covered on the outside with clapboards and inside with raised paneling and moldedboard wainscot. Its small-pane windows, while reproductions, retain much of the appearance of typical period sash. English precedents, the availability of timber and stone, the persistence of traditional forms and construction techniques, cultural isolation in rural New England, and considerations of climate all had a role in producing this distinctive house type, of which White's Tavern is a representative example.

In other respects, however, White's Tavern illustrates variation from the mode. It is larger than most houses of its type, which typically measured about 28 x 38', and it utilizes a two-chimney, central-hall plan rather than the center-chimney plan found in many houses. Although more costly to construct, two-chimney houses offered one more full-sized room and an additional fireplace on each level. The plan became increasingly common after the midpoint of the 18th century, and was usually associated with wealthier families and more cosmopolitan locations, though any generalization must co-exist with counterNPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Significance	White's Tavern	8-2
-	Andover, Tolland County, CT	

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 plainstyle buildings and stylish, cosmopolitan Georgian mansions.

<u>Historical Context</u>

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. NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Significance	White's Tavern	8-3
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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, oneroom 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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	Andover,	Tolland	County,	СТ	

NOTES

- 1. Almost identical entries are found on two other Route 6 houses in Andover from the same general period.
- 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, <u>History of Tolland County</u> (New York, 1888), 916.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
<u>X</u> See continuation sheet.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):
<pre>_ 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 #</pre>
Primary Location of Additional Data:
<pre>_ State historic preservation office _ Other state agency _ Federal agency _ Local government _ University _ Other Specify Repository:</pre>
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property: <u>approx. 3</u>
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A <u>18</u> <u>716370</u> <u>4625440</u> B C D 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: <u>Historic Resource Consultants</u> Date: <u>January 21, 1991</u>
Street & Number: <u>55 Van Dyke Avenue</u> Telephone: <u>203-547-0268</u>
City or Town: <u>Hartford</u> State: <u>CT</u> ZIP: <u>06106</u>

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Bibliography	White's Tavern	9-1
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- Brass, Philip D. "A Survey of Early Andover Homes Dating From Circa 1713 to 1856," typed manuscript, 1979, Andover Public Library.
- Chastellux, Francois Jean, Marquis de. <u>Travels in North America in the</u> <u>Years 1780, 1781, and 1782</u>. Trans. Howard C. Rice. Chapel Hill, 1963.
- Cole, J. R. History of Tolland County, Connecticut. New York, 1888.
- Rice, Howard C. and Anne S. K. Brown. <u>The American Campaigns of</u> <u>Rochambeau's Army</u>. Princeton, 1972.
- U.S. Works Progress Administration. Census of Old Buildings. Connecticut. Manuscript, c.1935. Connecticut State Library.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photograph captions	White's Tavern	Photos-1
	Andover, Tolland County, CT	

All photographs:

1. White's Tavern 2. Andover, Tolland County, CT 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT 4. January, 1991 5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission Hartford, CT Captions: East elevation, view southeast Photograph 1 of 10 North and west (rear) elevations, camera facing southeast Photograph 2 of 10 Cottage and privy north of house, garage (noncontributing) in background, camera facing northwest Photograph 3 of 10 Standing remnant of barn, garage (noncontributing) on right, camera facing northeast Photograph 4 of 10 Interior, first-floor hall, camera facing southwest Photograph 5 of 10 Interior, southeast first-floor room, camera facing northwest Photograph 6 of 6 Interior, northeast first-floor room, camera facing southwest Photograph 7 of 10 Interior, southwest first-floor room, camera facing northeast Photograph 8 of 10 Interior, northeast second-floor room, showing swinging wall, camera facing south. Photograph 9 of 10 Interior, kitchen fireplace in ell, camera facing southwest Photograph 10 of 10

