

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

OK 422

MAR 22 2002

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oliver White Tavern

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2 Brandy Street not for publication

city or town Bolton vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Tolland code 013 zip code 06043

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shamahan March 21, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

John W. Shamahan, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

John Seage 5/6/02

Oliver White Tavern
Name of Property

Windham County, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Postmedieval English

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description:

The Oliver White Tavern in Bolton, Connecticut, is a 2 1/2-story clapboarded house built about 1750 (Photographs 1 and 2). It faces west, with the ridge line of its wood-shingled gable roof set parallel to the road, at the corner of Brandy Street and Bolton Center Road. A large brick chimney emerges from the center of the house. Windows have simple board frames and are fitted with 12-over-12 sash which were reproduced from an old window that remained in place. The main entry, centered on the five-bay west elevation (Photograph 3), consists of a wide paneled door, a seven-light transom, and a surround of simple stepped moldings. A later one-story ell extends from the house's southwest rear corner. The property also includes a modern garage at the rear, counted as a noncontributing building.

The overall setting of the house includes extensive open fields to the north across Bolton Center Road, where the French forces camped on their way to Yorktown in June, 1781, as well as scattered houses, both modern and from the colonial period. The immediate setting of the Oliver White tavern, its large corner lot of almost three acres, features tall shade trees and extensive runs of stone walls along the roadways.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, structure
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1750 - 1782

Significant Dates

c.1750, 1781

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Known

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Building 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

Name of repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance:

The Oliver White Tavern is significant for its association with an important event in Connecticut military history, the march of Rochambeau's forces through Connecticut on their way to the battle of Yorktown (Criterion A). Along the march route, particularly before the French approached British-held territory, there was ample opportunity for the Americans and French to interact on a social level. Bolton was one of the places where the army's musicians assembled, in this case on the common in front of the meetinghouse in Bolton center, and provided music for the enjoyment of the local community (and a rare chance to dance). Taverns in the vicinity of the camps, where officers were entertained and lodged, provided another opportunity for the French and Americans to meet. These taverns were not, for the most part, specialized structures, but rather large houses in which part of the interior was given over to a taproom and some of the chambers were available for lodging.

The association of this building with the French march is reasonably conclusive. Berthier's map of the fifth encampment shows a house on the site, and it is labeled "Tavern," undoubtedly because it was intended that it be one of the "several houses" in Bolton that would be occupied by the officers of the divisional headquarters (Rice and Brown, *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army*, II, p. 11) . A longstanding local tradition that some of the French were lodged here was recorded in Darbee's State Register of Historic Places documentation (1967).

The house is especially notable because of the visual qualities of its setting. Not only are the landscape features of its immediate surroundings appropriate to its character as an 18th-century house, but also the vista as one looks northwest, to the open fields that were the site of the infantry encampment, offers a unique opportunity to imagine the landscape as the French saw it. Virtually no modern intrusions are visible to a person leaving the house through the front doorway, and one can be reasonably confident that it resembles what the French officers saw as they left the house that day in June more than two hundred years ago.

The Oliver White Tavern retains the characteristics that identify it as a house from the late 18th-century. Its five-bay, center-chimney form was common in the domestic architecture of the period, and its wood-shingle roof, clapboarded siding, and divided sash represent appropriate exterior materials. Because of these features, the house also has significance under Criterion C; it embodies the distinguishing characteristics of 18th-century New England domestic architecture.

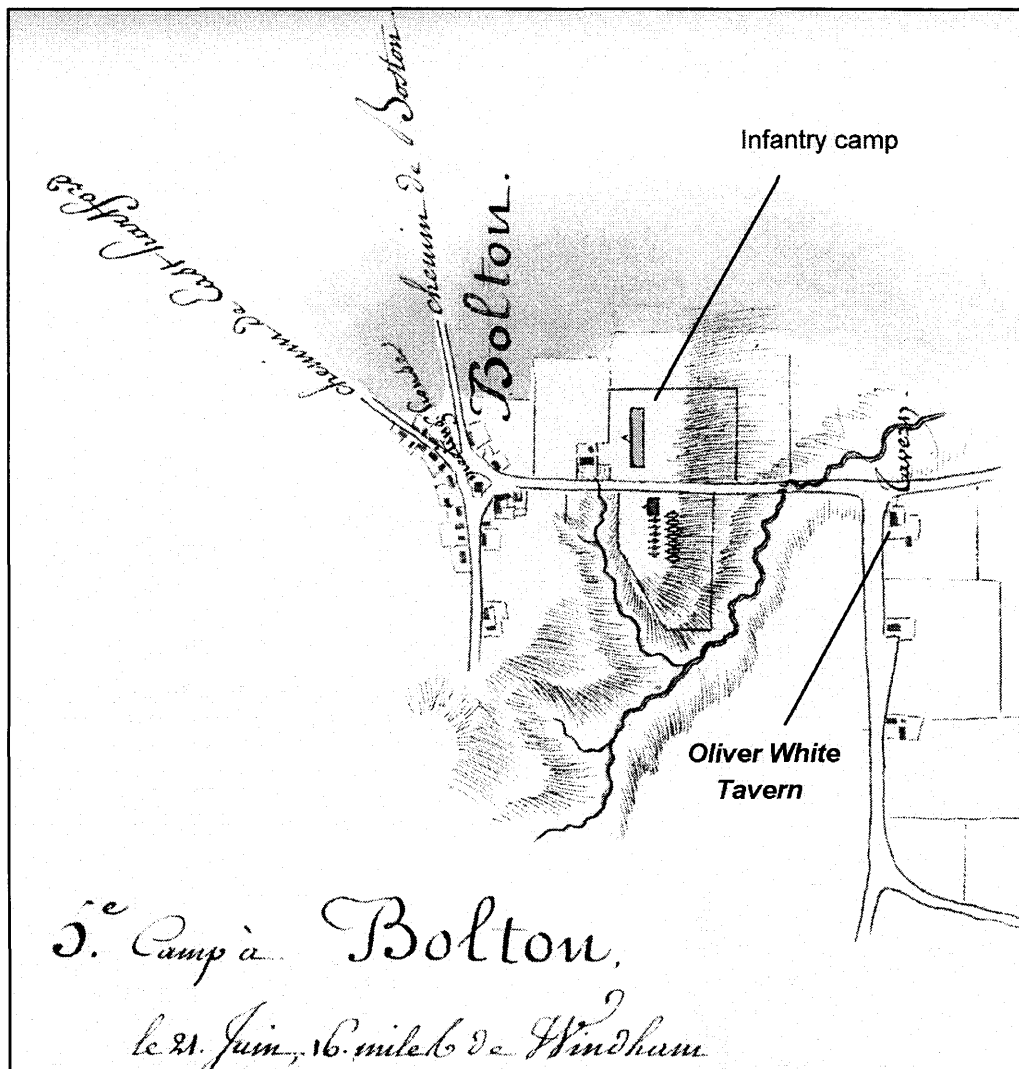
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Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 8 Page 2

Berthier map of the fifth camp at Bolton, with the Oliver White house labeled "Tavern"



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Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

Darbee, Herbert C. "White Tavern," State Register of Historic Places form, Connecticut Historical Commission, 1967.

Rice, Howard C., Jr. and Anne S. K. Brown, eds. *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*. Two volumes. Princeton, N.J.: Jointly published by Princeton University Press and Brown University Press. Map of Fifth Camp, volume II, plate 31.

Selig, Robert A. *Rochambeau's Cavalry: Lauzun's Legion in Connecticut 1780-1781*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 2000.

Oliver White Tavern
Name of Property

Windham County, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 714 060 4627 210
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2

4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. date February 1, 2001

street & number P.O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James and Gayle Klim

street & number 2 Brandy Street telephone N/A

city or town Bolton state CT zip code 06043

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of the 2.9 acre parcel at 2 Brandy Street, recorded in the Bolton Land Records, Volume 101, page 299.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes only the house and its immediately surrounding land, which has old shade trees and stone walls that contribute to the property's ability to convey its historic meaning.

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Oliver White Tavern
Bolton, Tolland County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number Photographs Page 1

All Photographs:

1. Oliver White Tavern
2. Bolton, Tolland County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. January, 2001
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

Captions:

South and west elevations, camera facing northeast
Photograph 1 of 3

North elevation, camera facing south
Photograph 2 of 3

Detail of main entry, west elevation, camera facing east
Photograph 3 of 3