UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
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\_\_DETERIORATED
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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### Over View

The Treadwell House is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style structure located just east of the green in Burlington, Connecticut, where the George Washington Turnpike and Route 4 come together. It is a 2½-story, frame, gable-roofed, three-bay house facing south, with an ell to the east. (Photograph 1.) It has an unusual false door on its west elevation.

The buildings surrounding the triangular Burlington green include a church, store, firehouse and several 18th and 19th-century houses. Built by a governor of the state, the Treadwell House has been owned by two ministers and two town clerks. In December 1980 it entered on a new chapter in its history as a branch banking office.

#### Exterior

The principal  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story block of the house faces south toward George Washington Turnpike, with the ridge line running perpendicular to the road. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the rectangular, central, brick chimney cuts across the ridge line in the east-west direction.

The facade has three bays. The door is in the east bay, with two 12-over-12 windows to the west. In the second floor there are three 12-over-12 windows, and a half-round fanlight with chanelled keystone block is in the attic. The fanlight is glazed with tracery. The eaves return slightly, but there is no horizontal cornice and thus no pediment. The siding is clapboards with four inches exposed to the weather while the corner boards are narrow and plain. The exposed foundation walls are brownstone blocks. (Photograph 2.)

The surround of the eight-panel door is edged with an ovolo molding, and has a pulvinated frieze and flat cornice. The window surrounds, by contrast, have cavetto moldings along the jambs and lintels, but plank sills.

On the west elevation, the elaborate central doorway is false. The door is flanked by plain pilasters on plinths that support a narrow architrave and wide frieze. The triglyphs in the frieze have guttae below and mutules above. The cornice is flat, but breaks out over the pilasters. (Photograph 3.) The doorstep is half a millstone. 12-over-12 windows are on either side of the doorway at both the first story and second story. The lintels of the upper windows are flush with the roof line cornice, which has a cyma recta cymatium.

The north elevation repeats the facade, with the exception that a sixth window replaces the front door.

The east elevation has one 12-over-12 window in the second story toward the south, but otherwise is occupied by the east wing. The first section of the wing is a one-story, gable-roofed structure. Its north

The Trondwoll House George Washington Turnpike Burlington, Hartford Cy., CT

### Sequence of Ownership (based on examination of Burlington Land Records)

- BLR, vol. 77/pp. 931, 575. 1979. Town of Burlington to Bristol Savings Bank.
- 54/262 May 26, 1970. Aline W. Barton to Town of Burlington.
- 41/427 June 12, 1957. Henri M. David to Aline W. Barton.
- 41/366 February 1, 1957. Edward F. Trapp to Henri M. David.
- 38/566 June 22, 1954. Edward I. Burr and Helen B. Burr to Edward F. Trapp and Barbara B. Trapp.
- 38/382 June 2, 1952. Keith L. Thompson and Helen T. Thompson to Edward I. and Helen B. Burr.
- 38/231 April 17, 1951. Arthur J. Reeve to Keith L. and Helen T. Thompson.
- 38/123 April 5, 1944. Grace R. Carlson to Arthur J. Reeve. (Sister to brother.)
- 32/202 May 2, 1936. Certificate of Distribution per Probate Court May 2, 1936. Estate of John A. Reeve to Grace E. (Reeve) Carlson. (Father to daughter.)
- 24/449 February 26, 1920. Margaret E. Trimble, Unionville, to John A. Reeve.
- 24/346 May 7, 1917. Henry E. Higgins, Bloomfield, to Margaret E. and Joseph B. Trimble, Hartford.
- 24/254 June 11, 1915. C. R. Lamphier, Canton, to Henry E. Higgins, Bloomfield.
- 24/214 October 27, 1914. Wilbur H. Hoyt to O. R. Lamphier.
- 24/152 October 10, 1913. Decatur A. Sperry and Sarah E. Sperry, Deep River, to Wilbur H. Hoyt, Canton.
- 24/145 September 5, 1913. Herbert A. Smith, Canton, to Decatur A. and Sarah E. Sperry, Deep River.
- 22/393 March 14, 1906. Franklin J. Smith to Herby A. Smith, Canton.
- November 23, 1890. Flora Smith to Franklin J. Smith. ("This deed is given upon condition that the said Franklin J. Smith shall support the said Flora Smith in a comfortable and reasonable manner during her life time and to pay all funeral expense at her decease, and to pay \$60 towards a head stone for said Flora Smith and her husband Joseph Smith.")

#### Page 2 Sequence of Ownership

- 19/91 November 30, 1883. Joseph Smith to Flora Smith, wife.

  (Land now owned in common.) ("The grantor reserves the privilege of residing on the premises during his life time. This deed is also given upon condition that the said Flora Smith is to bear one half the expenses of the house during the life of said Joseph Smith.")
- 14/486 September 20, 1874. Isaac Barnes to Flora Smith. ("Now owned in common with Joseph Smith.")
- 17/204 May 25, 1872. Isaac Barnes for \$750 to Joseph Smith. (One-half land and one-half buildings, to be owned in common.)
- 17/196 April 16, 1872. Philemon A. Scranton and Mary E. P. Scranton, his wife, Augusta, Georgia, for \$1,500 to Isaac Barnes.
- 14/286 January 13, 1866. Richard E. Rice, New Haven, for \$900 to Mary E. (T. or P.) Scranton, wife of Philemon A. Scranton of Augusta, Georgia.
- 15/278 June 19, 1863. Mary E. P. Scranton, Burlington, and Philemon A. Scranton, her husband, of Atlanta, Georgia, for \$900 to Richard A. Rice, Stamford.
- Burlington Probate Records 3/71. Distribution September 8, 1862.

  Mary Elizabeth Scranton (mother and widow, died March 2, 1862) to (adopted) daughter, Mary Elizabeth Scranton "all the rest and residue including piano and library." (Inference is that Mary Elizabeth Scranton, adopted daughter, married a relative, Philemon A. Scranton.)
- BPR 3/27, 28 Inventory of estate of Erastus Scranton, died October 5, 1861, including "homestead". (Distribution not indexed.)
- 8/88 February 12, 1830. Erastus Clapp, New Marlborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, for \$900 to Erastus Scranton.
- 5/266 December 23, 1824. Sylvester Norton, Southington for \$1200 to Erastus Clapp. ("...dwelling house and barn, reserving to myself the building standing on the premises formerly occupied as a store.")
- 2/227 March 13, 1816. John Treadwell, Farmington, for \$1400 to Sylvester Norton and Wait Lowrey. (one-half acre bounded on south by Turnpike Road, Hartford to Litchfield, on north by Litchfield Road, on east partly by Elisha Hale and partly by Norton and Lowrey /consistent with the present irregular eastern boundary, on west terminating in an angle, with dwelling house and other buildings standing thereon.)
- Bristol Land Records 9/163 April 22, 1805. Erastus Gay, Farmington, for \$750 to John P. Treadwell, Bristol. ("...one miduerdis mority [?] of my store in sd Bristol being about one-half acre of land with all the buildings thereon standing which piece of land is in the form of a triangle and is bounded easterly on Lyman Richards and northerly and southerly on highways.")

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elevation has a 12-over-12 window abutting a new, partially glazed door that is protected by a simple gabled hood supported on posts. A 9-over-9 window follows. (Photograph 4.)

The south elevation of the first section of the wing has a 12-over-12 window in a section of the wall that is recessed. (See plan.) In the principal wall of this elevation there are two 8-over-12 windows. The visible foundation wall is built of brownstone blocks similar to those in the main section of the house.

The east elevation of the first section of the wing has a louvered, half-round opening in its gable. At ground level, from the north, there is a night depository, a plate glass window for the drive-in teller, paired 6-over-9 windows and a single 6-over-9 window.

The second section of the wing is a porte-cochere for automobiles approaching the drive-in teller. The vehicle openings have large, basket-handle arches, while smaller pedestrian openings close to the teller's window have round arches. The siding of the porte-cochere is flush vertical boards, while the gable roof has a small cupola that balances the chimney at the other end of the composition.

The present wing is largely new construction, carried out as part of the recent rehabilitation. It replaces an earlier, and probably original, wing of similar size and shape. The original wing was the kitchen, with a central brick chimney. There was a small projection on the south wall that was an enclosed well house, while sheds continued to the east of the kitchen, corresponding to the present drive-in structure. The present wing is wider than the original but has the same general configuration and the same gable roof.

The grounds have little in the way of trees and shrubbery. There is a parking lot in the northeast corner that is relatively unobtrusive. The general feeling of the site is consistent with the rural atmosphere of the Town of Burlington.

#### Interior

The floor plan of the principal block consists of two rooms separated by a central chimney, with the hallway to the east. The front door opens to the hallway, and the stairs to the second floor rising against its east wall. (Photograph 5.)

The interior trim of the principal block, both first and second stories, appear to be almost entirely original, including the sash, window enframements, cornice moldings, baseboards on the second floor, doors, wide floor boards, and doorway enframements. Exceptions are the fireplace overmantel in the front room, (Photograph 6), and the door west of the fireplace in the rear room. (Photograph 7.) The front room fireplace and the door

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connecting the two rooms had been closed up, and were reopened during the 1980 rehabilitation.

The front room has the best quality trim in the house. The doors have five raised panels and the moldings of the door and window enframements are elaborate. The panelled dado in this room, like the fireplace and its chimney piece were created as part of the rehabilitation. The fact that the window sills were cut off sharply suggested the prior existence of the chair rail and dado.

The stairway, a straight run, has three thin, square spindles per tread, and molded step ends. The hand rail is rounded and ramped. A cased and beaded girt is exposed on the right at the level of the second story floor. On the second floor, there are two rooms as on the first floor, but without fireplaces and with plainer trim. In the attic, the roof framing is seen to consist of principal rafters framed into a heavy ridge pole and resting on large purlins. (Photograph 8.) In the cellar, the fieldstone foundations and chimney base are visible, but the framing is obscured by insulation and duct work. Space in the cellar is quite limited.

The wing to the east, originally the kitchen, is now the main banking room. (Photograph 9.)

The new exterior door in the north wall, readily accessible from the parking lot, is now the principal entrance to the building.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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CHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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c. 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Criteria

SPECIFIC DATES

The presence of both Federal and Greek Revival style characteristics in the Treadwell House reflects the changing taste in architecture of the early 19th century. The survival of so much of the original detail, both exterior and interior, and the oddity of the false door add interest to the house. (Criterion C.) Over its lifetime, the house has been owned by a governor of the state, two local ministers and two town clerks, and is now entering upon a new chapter of public service as a branch bank. (Criterion B.)

#### Architecture

The Federal style of architecture continued to be popular in America after 1800, although the Greek Revival style was to become dominant soon after 1825. The Federal style was characterized by symmetrical composition enriched with classical detail. The west elevation, toward the green, is symmetrical with its central, false door and flanking windows. The architrave, frieze and cornice of the doorway are correctly classical. On the facade and the north elevation the fan windows in the gable ends, with their interlacing tracery, are a classical motif often associated with the Federal Style. In addition, the delicate moldings of the window enframement are of the period. In all of these respects, the Treadwell House is a good example of the Federal style, carried out in a country setting soon after the turn of the 19th century.

In other respects the house shows indications of the coming of the Greek Revival style, primarily in the plan. The front door is in one end of the house, and that facade has three bays, with the door in the right bay. This scheme was often a feature of the Greek Revival style. The front door opens to a hall with the two main rooms, front and back, on the left, and the stairs to the second floor on the right, a typical floor plan of Greek Revival style houses. It is to be noted, however, that on the facade and rear elevation the caves returns are short, and do not continue across as a cornice forming a pediment. The pediment usually found in a Greek Revival style house later in the century is not present in the Treadwell House.

In addition, the house has interest because of its architectural integrity It is unusual to find a structure that has sustained so little in

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

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NAME / TITLE	David F. Ransom					
ORGANIZATION	Architectural Hi	storian	-	DAT	ſΈ	January 15, 19
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alterations. So far as is known, not only are the framing and floor plans original, but also much of the detail, including the clapboards, interior and exterior window enframements and doors, sash, cornices, stairs, flooring, and north room fireplace and mantel. During the rehabilitation the chimney was rebuilt, the south room fireplace opened up again, and the south room chimney piece and dado panelling were re-created. These details provide a fine record of early 19th-century building practice.

During the rehabilitation, a study was made of whether there ever was a real door in the position of the false door. As the framing of the studs is uninterrupted and uniform, the conclusion was reached that there never was a real door. The question of whether the false door is original is not so easy to answer, but the workmanship of the frieze tends to suggest that if not original the false door is quite early. The door fits the Federal design composition so well that it is tempting to think it is original.

A turn-of-the-century photograph shows that in addition to the false door the house once had a false window over the false door. (Photograph 10.) The outline of the false window can be discerned by careful examination today as a fine line in the clapboards. It is not known when the false window was removed.

The replacement of the kitchen wing was carried out in a sensitive manner so as to provide efficient adaptive use of the property and simultaneously to maintain the historic shape and massing. Even the drive-in teller facility is made to look as though it belongs. Considerable care was devoted to details in the new wing; for instance, the new visible foundation walls are cut brownstone almost indistinguishable from the brownstone that appears under the principal block.

#### History

Study of the land and probate records, as summarized in the Chain of Ownership  $(\underline{q},\underline{v})$ , indicates that the house was built between 1805 and 1816 by John P. Treadwell (1745-1823), 21st governor of Connecticut. Treadwell was born into a Farmington family of some affluence, graduated from Yale in 1767, soon thereafter engaged in an unsuccessful mercantile enterprise, recouped his fortunes by manufacturing "nitre", became judge of probate in the Farmington district, served as lieutenant governor 1798-1809, and as governor 1809-1811.

Thus, Treadwell was governor during the period when he owned this property. The possibility arises that he may have wanted the elegance of the false front door in the house that he occupied. On the other hand, there is no evidence that he ever actually resided at this location. Treadwell's residence is listed as Farmington, and when he died his funeral service was conducted at the Farmington Congregational Church.

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What Treadwell bought in 1805 was a store, suggesting that his investment in Burlington was a continuation of his interest in mercantile affairs, despite his unsuccessful experience soon after graduation from Yale. The land records indicate that there were three structures on the site, the original store, the new house and a barn, at least until 1824. At that time, the deed of sale provided that the grantor was "reserving to myself the building standing on the premises formerly occupied as a store," and by inference suggests that he proceeded to move away the store structure. When the barn ceased to exist on the site is not known. The fact that the site initially had a semi-public function as a store and the fact that the house was built by a public servant, the governor, established a community service relationship between the property and its owners with the town that has persisted to the present time.

Eight years after Treadwell sold the property, the house was purchased by Erastus Clapp, the associate minister of the Congregational Church. Clapp sold it to the next minister, Erastus Scranton, who owned it until his death in 1861. Thus, for 37 years the house was the home of the local minister.

The next public servant to own the house was John A. Reeve, who served as Town Clerk from 1887 to 1935. After his death the house was occupied by his son, Arthur J. Reeve, who was Town Clerk from 1935 to 1962.

In 1970 the Town of Burlington bought the house and used it for town offices. Later in that decade, when a former school was refurbished as a new Town Hall, the space was no longer needed. A community-wide debate ensued on whether the house should be demolished. The preservation faction led by the Burlington Historical Society finally won, leading to sale of the property for rehabilitation as a branch bank. The rehabilitation was meticulously carried out in 1980, together with sensitive new construction. The front room on the second floor has been set aside by the bank for use as a meeting room for local organizations, thereby continuing the tradition of semi-public and community service.

<sup>1</sup> Nitre is potassium nitrate, used in the manufacture of gun powder, in preserving meats, and in medicine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The area that is now the Town of Burlington was part of the Town of Farmington until 1785, when it became part of the Town of Bristol. The Town of Burlington was incorporated in 1806.

This account of Treadwell's career is taken from Norton, pp. 132-135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Norton, pp. 132-135.

<sup>5</sup> Burlington Land Records, 5/266.

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Arthur J. Reeve's daughter-in-law, Barbara Reeve, has been Assistant Town Clerk from 1962 to the present, thereby rounding out almost a century of service in the office by the Reeve family.

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The Transducti House

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Burlington Land Records.

Burlington Probate Records.

Jehiel Chester Hart, "Reminiscences of Old Houses and Families of Burlington, Connecticut," 1871.

Frederick Calvin Norton, The Governors of Connecticut, Hartford: Connecticut Magazine, 1905.

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Covernor Treadwell House, Burlington, CT

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#### Addendum

The Burlington Historical Society believes that the house was built by Abraham Pettibone and should be known as the Pettibone House. This position is based on an analysis of the land records that diverges from the sequence already given at the point where Sylvester Norton acquired the property.

The Society's position is that Norton did not acquire the property from Treadwell as recorded at BLR 2/227, but instead acquired it from Abraham Pettibone, Jr., as the second of three parcels, recorded at 5/152, April 4, 1823. The parcel is bounded north and west by Chester Wiard, east and south by highways, with buildings standing thereon except for a blacksmith shop, containing about three roods (3/4 acre).

The Society further believes that this is the same parcel as the second parcel in a conveyance from Gideon and Mary Belding to Abraham Petebone, recorded in the Farmington Land Records, 18/6, October 1, 1770. (The Society has said that the house dates from 1770.) This second parcel is described as  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres lying "a part in the third & a little part in the fourth lott  $\frac{2}{2}$  Division" bounded east on highway, south on Ashbell Porter, west and north on highways.

In further support of the position taken by the nomination, the following quotation from Hart, p. 92, is cited. "William Richards. He was the only merchant in Burlington for a number of years. I believe he failed & Gay & Treadwell took the place & for a number of years they were the only merchants in town. Treadwell built the Scranton house."