

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0676632

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 15 1979

**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

Ashlawn *(Cypress Point House)*

AND/OR COMMON

Joshua Perkins House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1 Potash Hill Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sprague 0265

___ VICINITY OF

2nd- Christopher Dodd

STATE

CT

CODE

09

COUNTY

New London

CODE

C11

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ruth Robish Roseine

STREET & NUMBER

1 Potash Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sprague

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Assessor's Office, Sprague Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sprague

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

W.P. A. Federal Writers' Project "Census of Old Buildings"

DATE

1937

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut State Library 231 Capitol Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joshua Perkins House, a late 18th-century, 2-story, central-hall, frame farmhouse with a pitched roof and end gable overhang, sits in the fork of Potash Hill and Water Roads, approximately 2 miles south of the Hanover Green. Set back on a lawn with several old trees, the Georgian Perkins House occupies an impressive site. The facade faces south and is dominated by a projecting pavilion topped with a broken-base pediment; a dentilled cornice molding surrounds the building. A 1-and-a- $\frac{1}{2}$ -story kitchen ell to the rear, dating earlier than the main house, with a 1-story storage shed behind, completes the structure. The site includes 26 acres of pastureland to the rear of the house, and a large dairy barn, built after the Hurricane of 1938 destroyed an earlier barn. Sparsely wooded land surrounds the house, but, a half mile to the south, stands a paperboard factory. Below the factory, Route 138 is heavily trafficked, but Potash Hill Road is only lightly travelled.

Both the ell and the main house are set on fieldstone foundations faced with dressed stone. The two brick chimneys of the main house, decoratively corbelled at the top, are original though the chimney in the ell is a smaller, 19th-century replacement. A stone chimney, added in the 20th century for the furnace, is centered against the east wall. Unfortunately, most of the windows are now set with 19th-century 2-over-2 sash. Only in the two attic windows of each gable end do smaller paned sash survive. These are 12-over-6. Also, in the attic of the ell, several small, 6-pane windows remain.

Two flat Doric pilasters flank the 5-bay facade. Two more pilasters set off the central bay and support the broken-base pediment. Though the original door has been removed, replaced with a 19th-century door with two arched windows, the remainder of the late 18th-century detail survives. Two flat pilasters support the broken-base pediment over the door, which is topped with an elaborate 20-pane fanlight. The entrance with its broken-base pediment and supporting pilasters echoes the treatment of the entire bay.

The interior of the Perkins House contains a considerable amount of panelling and molding. The wide central hall is finished with panelled wainscot below the chair rail, forward of the stairwell, while simple flush boarding finishes the rear portion of the hall. The staircase, rising along the left of the hall, is treated simply with sunken panel wainscot to the height of the hand rail; a curving bracket molding ornaments the staircase below the treads. The balusters, two to a tread, are simple square posts.

In the east front room, a dentilled cornice molding and a molded chair rail, with runners for inside shutters (which survive but are no longer in place), circle the room. There is no panelling in this room, but,

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CONTINUATION SHEET Joshua Ferkins ~~House~~ ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

State Register of Historic Places
1979 State
Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford CT

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CONTINUATION SHEET Joshua Perkins ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1
House

when in place, the shutters would have created a similar effect. The mantel in this room is handsomely finished and surmounted with a pulvinated frieze and a course of dentils. The woodwork in the west front room is simpler. A molded cornice surrounds the room, which also has a chair rail with shutter runners, but the mantel is molded only with a dentil course. In the west rear room, the fireplace wall is completely panelled; directly over the fireplace, is one huge panel from a single piece of wood. The rest of the room is wainscotted below the chair rail. The east rear room has been divided into two small rooms; these were not seen, but one is a bathroom. Upstairs, the east front room has a molded chair rail and cased flared posts, but no fireplace, while, in the west front room, similarly treated, there is a fireplace with a mantel identical to the one in the room directly below. The fireplace opening into the east rear room has a simply molded mantel, while the room to the rear on the west was not seen.

The roof of the Perkins House is framed with sawn collar beams pegged into the hewn rafters. In the right (east) chimney stack is a brick smoke oven; both stacks are angled in in the attic so that they emerge symmetrically above the roof. Similar skillful masonry can be seen in the cellar, where several niches are set into the stone walls of the foundation; presumably these were intended for the cool storage of foods.

The 1-and-a- $\frac{1}{2}$ -story ell to the rear, older than the main house, probably dates from the second quarter of the 18th century. The ell has been renovated, obscuring some of its detailing. A modern door in the center of the east wall was said, by the present owner, to be in the original location of the ell's entrance. Opposite this door, a tiny staircase with winding treads leads to the attic. The door to the staircase is of considerable age and constructed of two boards, one narrow and one wider. The room to the right (north) of the door is now the kitchen. A hewn summer beam is visible and flared cased posts are discernible, but the room has been much altered by the addition of modern cabinets and wall covering. The southern room also has a hewn summer beam and the flared posts retain their traditional casing. Under its current wall-paper, the north wall, with a now covered over fireplace, appears to be panelled. The attic above is open and finished with beaded boarding, vertically applied. The pitched roof is framed with hewn rafters. The ell thus appears to have been a simple, 2-room, central-chimney structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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		

Criteria: B,C

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1790 with c.1740 ell

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joshua Perkins House, once known as Ashlawn for the ancient ash trees (now gone) which stood before it, is significant as an expression of rural Georgian architecture and for its associations with the Perkins family, particularly influential in the settlement of the Hanover section of Sprague. Despite a 19th-century change to 2-over-2 sash, the facade retains a good measure of its countrified elegance, with its pedimented central bay and corner pilasters. The Perkins House is one of the finest of its type in the surrounding area, an unpretentious but nonetheless stylish 18th-century farmhouse built for a prominent and prosperous farmer.

Joshua Perkins, the original owner of the house, was the eldest son of Captain Matthew Perkins of the Hanover Society, then a part of Lisbon and now incorporated in the town of Sprague. Matthew's father, Joseph, and his uncle, Jacob, settled in the area, purchasing 800 or 1200 acres of land between the Quinebaug and Chetucket Rivers (today comprising Lisbon) in 1695. Quickly, the Perkinses asserted themselves in local affairs.event, the original name for Lisbon, is believed to have been so called because the Perkinses were from a place of that name in Gloucestershire, England.² Captain Matthew, a founder of the Hanover Society in 1761, held extensive lands, approximately 1000 acres, in Hanover and kept 3 slaves. Matthew Perkins probably lived just north of the Hanover Green on Salt Rock Road. Matthew died in 1773. His ornate tombstone, a symbol of his prestige and wealth, stands in a cemetery a mile and a half north on Totash Hill Road. Joshua, too, is buried there. Like his father, Joshua Perkins was a farmer, no doubt inheriting much of his father's land. He would deed 400 acres to his son, Charles, in 1825. Born in 1740, Joshua died in 1833 at the age of 93; in 1786 and 1787, he served as a selectman and, in 1789 and 1801, he went to the legislature. Whether or not he kept slaves, as others in his family did, is not known. Though there are no slaves listed in the inventory of his estate, his family background suggests he may have owned slaves.

Architecturally, the house is characterized by a design, which, while it is not elaborate, is fairly sophisticated for a rural community. It is one of few central hall structures in the area and the facade, with the motif of the broken-base pediment stated at the roof and again above the door, is handled sensitively. In addition, the quality of the masonry

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Footnotes, Item 8, page 2

Also

Bishop, Henry F., HISTORICAL DISTRICT OF HESBON, CONNECTICUT, New York, Published privately by Author, 1903.
Interview, Ruth Roseine, November 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 26

Scotland and Norwich Quadrangles

UTM REFERENCES

1:24000 Scale

A

18	746300	4612940
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

18	746300	4612760
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

18	746460	4612630
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

18	746500	4612590
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION ³²⁰ F 18/746690/4612780 ⁴⁶⁰ G 18/746540/4612930

Volume 26, page 678, Sprague Land Records

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sarah Zimmerman, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

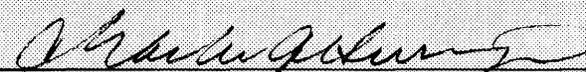


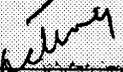
TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE April 2, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER


DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHIOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

 DATE 6-15-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST 
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/13/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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9 10 79

CONTINUATION SHEET Joshua Perkins ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

House

is quite good. The foundations are faced with dressed stone; the storage niches in the cellar, angled chimney stacks and their exterior corbelling all indicate the skill of the mason. The interior woodwork, while simple, is nonetheless skillfully treated. The house was clearly built by a capable joiner, with a good eye for decorative detailing and a skilled hand at masonry.

The acreage on which the house now stands is only a portion of that 400 acres Joshua Perkins deeded to his son. Rights to drainage ditches which Joshua acquired indicate that he was a knowledgeable farmer. Up until 1862, the land was cultivated. At that point, W.S. Breed, ancestor of the present owner, purchased the farm for a dairy farm, which it remained into the 20th century.

1. Perkins, George A., THE FAMILY OF JOHN PERKINS OF IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS, PART III, Privately published by Author, Salem, 1889. P. 12.
2. D.Hamilton Hurd, HISTORY OF NEW LONDON COUNTY, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis and Company, 1882. P. 537.