

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE: | Connecticut |
| COUNTY: | New London |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
William Williams House (1755-1811)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
William Williams House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southeast corner of the junction of State Routes 207 and 87

CITY OR TOWN:
Lebanon

STATE: Connecticut CODE: COUNTY: New London CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|--|--|---|
| District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes: |
| Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> | Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> | Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Object <input type="checkbox"/> | Both <input type="checkbox"/> | Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> | Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> | | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> | Government <input type="checkbox"/> | Park <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Religious <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> | Museum <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lefleur

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 14

CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06249

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon STATE: Connecticut CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5-acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon STATE: Connecticut CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> | Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fair <input type="checkbox"/> | Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> | Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> | Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> |
| INTEGRITY | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> | Moved <input type="checkbox"/> | Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This structure was standing in 1748 when the Reverend Solomon Williams acquired the property and in 1755 he gave the house to his son William. The William Williams House is a rectangular two-story frame structure with gable roof and two interior chimneys set back of the ridge. The main building is about 38-feet wide and 19-feet deep, or five-bays by two-bays in size. A long one-and-a-half story frame service wing projects from the center of the east or rear elevation of the main house. The original exterior clapboard siding, covered over with asbestos shingles since the 1930's, has recently been exposed again. The central doorway, located in the west (front) facade and Greek Revival in style, is framed by a pair of pilasters and sidelights and crowned by a cornice with a wide wooden elliptical arch carved on its face. This entranceway was probably inserted around 1830. Other exterior changes are limited to the removal of the tops of the two original brick chimneys, the addition of a brick chimney at the north end, and the insertion of a one-story two-bay-wide bay-window in the south end of the main house.

The house has a center hall plan: the hall extends through the main house and there is one room on either side. The original stairway is set against the left (north) wall of the hall. To the right is the living room, which has been somewhat altered: the bay-window, mentioned above, has been added in the south wall and the entrance from the hall has been widened and two columns inserted. Of the six original fireplaces in the house, all but the one in the kitchen have been closed up, although their original mantels are still in place. To the left of the hall is the parlor. Here original panelling still covers the entire fireplace wall. The original wide board floors also extend throughout the house.

Upstairs there are two large bedrooms each with a fully panelled fireplace wall. The first floor of the rear service wing contains the dining room and kitchen and above these are four small bedrooms.

The house is in good condition and has never been restored. The structure is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors. A small plaque attached to the building identifies the house as the 1755-1811 home of William Williams.

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B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1755-1811**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The home from 1755 to 1811 of William Williams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Connecticut, merchant, politician, jurist. Of the two extant Williams houses this is the least altered and it is the residence in which he lived during the Revolution.

Brief Sketch of the Life of William Williams, 1731-1811

William Williams was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, on April 8, 1731, the son of a clergyman. He graduated from Harvard College in 1751 and for a period studied theology. He took part in the military operations at Lake George, New York, in 1755, during the French and Indian War. At the conclusion of this campaign he returned to Lebanon and soon set up in business as a merchant. In 1771 he married Mary, the daughter of Johnathan Trumbull (1710-85). They had three children.

Williams held many public offices: From 1760 to 1785 he was a selectman for Lebanon; he was their town clerk from 1752 to 1796. He served as a member of the Connecticut lower house from 1757 to 1776 and from 1781 to 1784; and he was a member of the governor's council from 1784 to 1803. Williams threw himself into the Revolutionary cause, helping compose many state papers for Governor Trumbull and also using his own assets to raise money to cover the cost of sending troops to aid in the capture of Ticonderoga in 1775. Williams was a member of the Continental Congress from 1776 to 1778 and from 1783 to 1784. He signed the Declaration of Independence and assisted in framing the Articles of Confederation. He was a delegate to the Connecticut Convention of 1788 at Hartford and voted to ratify the new Federal Constitution. From 1776 to 1805 he was judge of the Windham County Court and from 1775 to 1809, judge of probate for the Windham District. Williams died at Lebanon on August 2, 1811 and was buried in the Trumbull Plot, a cemetery located a short distance east of Lebanon.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, XX, 293-294. Article by Edward E. Curtis.

Connecticut, A Guide to Its Roads, Lore, and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1938), 415, 416.

Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 4.

Rev. Robert Armstrong, Historic Lebanon (Lebanon, Conn. 1950), 48-54.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 41 38 10 | 72 12 46 | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **6/18/71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **801 - 19th Street N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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