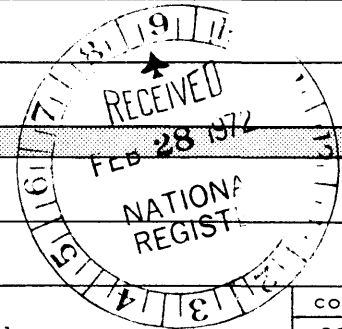


PH0020800

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Hartford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 22	DATE SEP 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Captain Elisha Phelps House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
800 Homestead Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Simsbury

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: Hartford	CODE 003
----------------------	------------	---------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Simsbury Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
800 Homestead Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Simsbury

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
760 Homestead Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Simsbury

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: Hartford

ENTRY NUMBER: 22

DATE: SEP 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

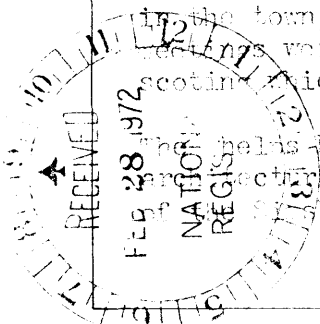
The Elisha Phelps House is a typical late 18th century structure with a gambrel roof, center chimney, and 9-window facade. Besides the elaborate front entry, the row of dentils on the facade is the only decorative element of the main part of the house. There are plain corner boards and the window frames are also without detail. The front entry is a striking piece of craftsmanship. The paneled double-leaf door is flanked by fluted pilasters the capitals of which are in a plant motif. The panes of the six-pane over-door light have arched leads, probably added when a major renovation took place in 1879. The top row of panes in the windows on the facade, and occasionally one elsewhere, is arched in this manner. Variations on this theme occur on the south and north sides in the upper story windows. At the rear, only one window has 12/1 sash and is arched; the rest are 6/6 or 4/4 and plain. There are gabled dormers on the rear of the ell which represent a later accretion, probably of 1879.

The north ell as well as the extensions of the main portion at the rear and south side is apparently a product of the late 19th century. The porch of the ell has slender columns and a plain balustrade. Above it is a small room with the arched panes of glass in the front window and a smaller window to the north. The main chimney is the original stack and is of brick covered with stucco or clay. The roof is composition shingle. The foundation and steps are large sandstone blocks.

The house was extensively remodeled in 1879, but the woodwork and stair-cases of the interior were not altered. The old, wide floor boards have been uncovered in the front rooms of the first floor, but remain beneath newer flooring in the rear rooms. The summer beam is cased and occasionally a corner post is seen. The tavern room, the front room at the north, has been restored to its condition when the house was a hotel. There is paneling surrounding the fireplace, and a paneled mantel above which is a row of seven arched glass cupboard doors with four lights in each. The south parlor has fielded paneling both on the fireplace wall and on the other walls below the chair rail, forming a wainscot. Here the summer beam is cased and the corner posts are flared at the top. The typical long kitchen across the rear of the first floor displays a lower ceiling and has no apparent beams. On the south wall is fielded paneling and on the west wall is a huge fireplace with a very large stone lintel and a bake oven to the right. The "cedarwood room" is behind the old kitchen and is of 1879 vintage, with vertical flush boarding and wainscoting. On the second floor the north parlor was joined to form a large hall room when the structure was a hotel. For many years this was the parlor room in the town, with the exception of the church, and parties, banquets, and meetings were held here. Also on the second floor is interesting wainscoting which runs vertically on one wall and horizontally on another.

The Elisha Phelps House is interesting for its growth and accretion and is valuable architecturally. It has been restored and now serves as the headquarters of the Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1771

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

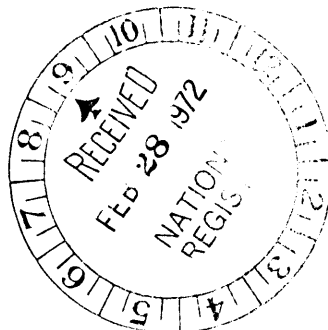
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Phelps House was built in 1771 by Lieutenant David Phelps for his second son, Elisha, born in 1737. Elisha died in 1776 while serving as a commissary in the Continental Army, having achieved the rank of Captain. His widow, Rosetta Owen Phelps, continued to live in the house until 1779 when she married Caleb Hotchkiss of New Haven. It was then bought by General Noah Phelps, a brother of Elisha, who, a few years later, after acquisition of a more pretentions property in the town, conveyed it to his son, Colonel Noah Amherst Phelps. With the death of the younger Noah in 1817, Judge Jeffrey Phelps, a son, became the owner; he willed the house to his son, Jeffrey, Jr., in 1879, who, in turn, gave it to his son, Jeffrey Phelps, 3rd. The house, then, remained in the Phelps family constantly for five generation.

After the War of 1812, the house was used as a tavern and called the Canal Hotel, being on the New Haven—Northampton Canal Line. In 1879 the old house was extensively renovated. The well was covered over, the barn, shop, and wash-house were removed and the old ell, containing kitchen, pantry, bake-oven, fireplace, and back kitchen with fireplace and a dirt floor, was torn down to make room for the new one. Many of these changes are apparent today, for they have not been altered. They are valuable, for the story of a family of some local prominence and their tastes and affluence is told. The house is now owned by the Sinsbury Historical Society and is the main focus of a small historic village complex being established in the immediate area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Croft, R. F. Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut.
New Haven, 1937.
Historic Simsbury Homes: 50 Homes dating from the Colonial Era, 1717-1834.
Simsbury Historical Society, Inc., 1964.
"Open House in Simsbury, Connecticut." May 22, 1941. Antiquarian and Land-
marks Society.

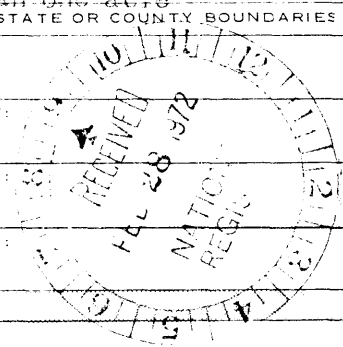
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		41°	52'	34"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		72°	13'	05"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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:
Susan Abbott, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: February 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 02

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Richard [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date February 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

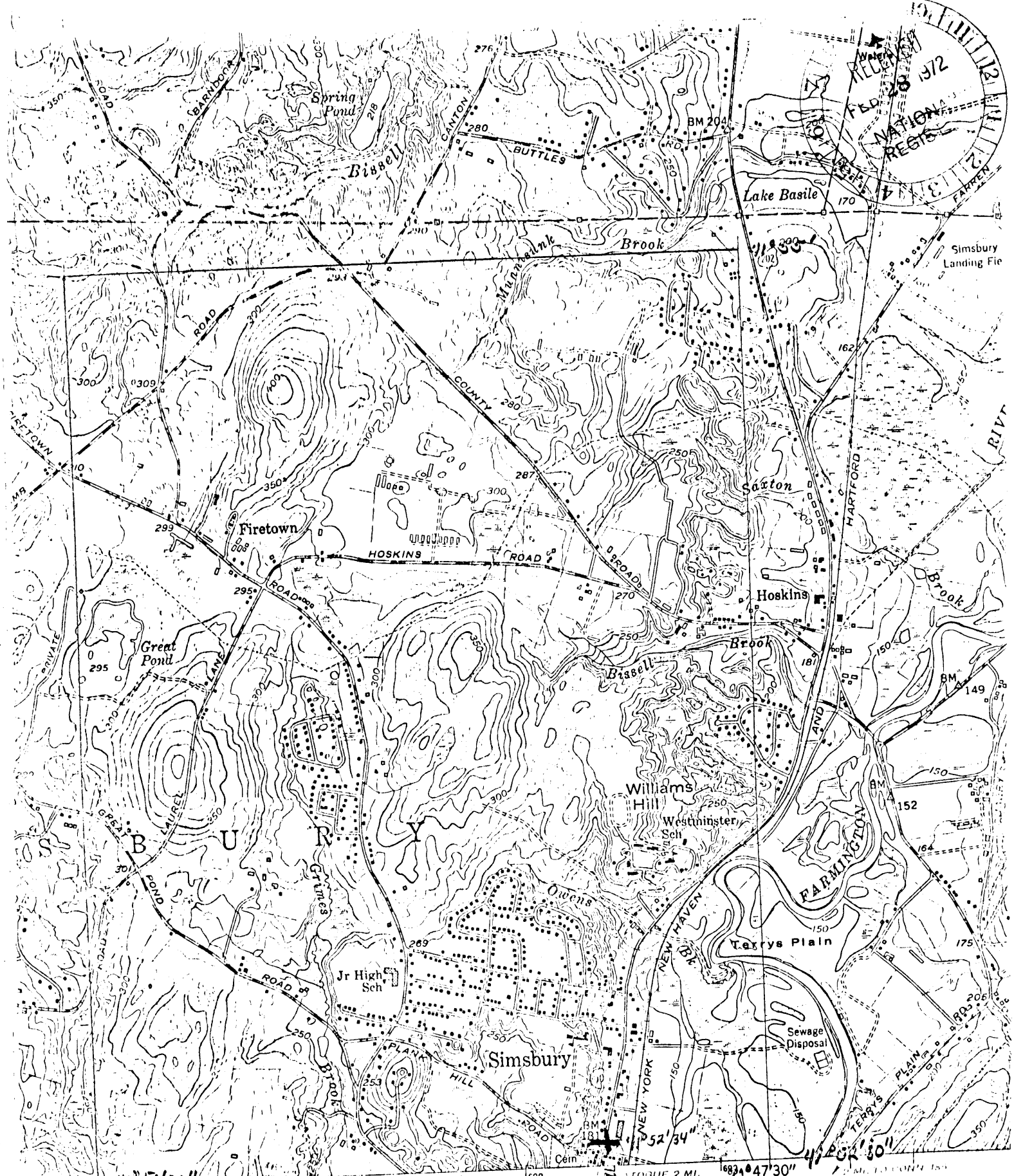
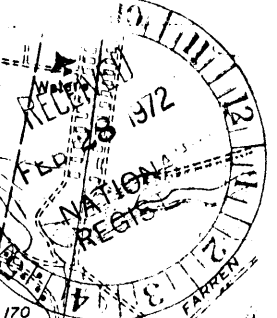
Robert W. [Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/22/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

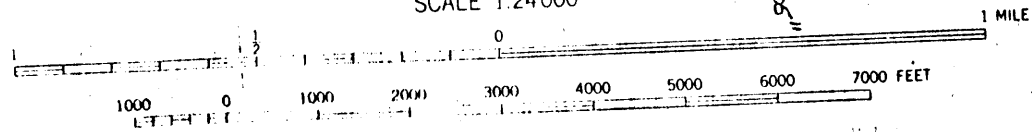
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



(AVON)
6467 IV SE

SCALE 1:24 000



41°52'30"

178°47'30"

175°02'30"

