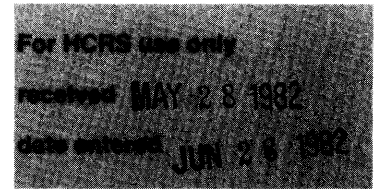


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Augustus Post House

and/or common Hewitt House

**2. Location**

street & number 4 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hebron N/A vicinity of congressional district 1st-

state Connecticut code 09 county Tolland code 013

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Robert M. Elliott, R.A. McCarrison, and Donald W. Fish

street & number 4 Main Street

city, town Hebron N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hebron Town Clerk

street & number P.O. Box 156 Town Office Building

city, town Hebron state Connecticut

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Augustus Post House, commonly known as the Hewitt House, is a 2 1/2-story, Federal-style brick house with a gable roof. It occupies a corner lot on the south side of Hebron's narrow green, at the intersection of Routes 66 and 85. The area is one of mixed use with several stores, churches and houses nearby, many occupying early 19th-century buildings. The house is 35' by 39' in plan, with a 13' extension to the south added in the Victorian period. The addition is of frame construction and is clapboarded. A tall brick chimney rises near each corner of the older part of the house. The building is now used as professional offices, and there is a small parking area at the rear. Landscaping includes small shrubs planted close to the house and a large shade tree in the yard to the west.

The north gable-end facade (Photo 1) has a central entrance with a pair of windows on either side. There are four corresponding second-story openings. The simply molded cornice forms a full return across the gable, and there is a semi-elliptical window lighting the attic. In the Victorian period the original doorway was enlarged to accommodate double doors, and protruding store display windows were installed to either side. These were removed in 1978 and the present Federal-style entrance created: it has a six-panel door, partial sidelights, thin pilasters, and a fanlight transom. The brick on this facade is laid in Flemish bond, and S-shaped beam anchors are visible between stories.

The west side (Photo 2) also faces a major road, and like the north, has Flemish bond brickwork. The older part has a five-bay facade with a central entrance. The doorway is slightly recessed and has both a transom and sidelights. On either side are wide, plain pilasters from the Greek Revival period. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch on square posts, a substitute for the Greek Revival portico shown in a photograph c. 1905 (Photo 9). That portico was also a replacement: an oil painting done about 1830 shows a gable-roofed portico with a vaulted soffit, a design typical for the house's date of construction, about 1820 (Photo 10).

Above the west entrance is a three-part window with a wide center window flanked by two narrow openings (Photo 3). In between are slender paneled pilasters with molded capitals. Above the window is an entablature with a row of small guttae, and an elaborately molded cornice. The whole entablature forms breaks over the pilasters, so that they appear to continue upward with the breaks in the cornice moldings forming capitals. Simple moldings in the shape of ellipses are applied to the necks of the pilasters.

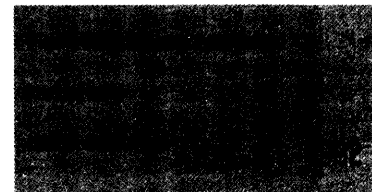
Windows throughout the house are fitted with twelve-over-twelve sash. The upper story east side windows are original, and the others, which have old salvaged panes, are a close match. The openings on the north and west sides have stone sills and wide splayed lintels. There is a bay window on the rear or south side, built out from the frame addition. It is square in plan and has a hip roof and bracketed cornice. Similar paired brackets are found along the cap above the pair of windows on the west side (Photo 2).

The house has a full cellar with tamped-dirt floor. The small windows in the cut-stone foundation are covered with iron gratings. There are at present no outbuildings, though a small frame barn, probably from the mid 19th century, was removed a few years ago, and old photographs show a low one-story addition on the east side connecting the house with an adjacent two-story building, part of the store which once occupied the house (Photo 9).

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

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Augustus Post House (Hewitt House)  
Hebron, CT

## Description (continued):

The interior plan on each level of the brick part has a central hallway, a single large room to the north, and two smaller rooms to the south. Throughout the house are original paneled doors, molded window and door surrounds, and plaster surfaces, including a vaulted ceiling in the upper north room (Photo 8). In the hallway and south rooms are wide-board floors (Photos 4 and 7). Enframing the west entry is a molded doorframe with crossets at the upper corners, a motif repeated in the mantel of the southwest room (Photos 5 and 4). Other fireplaces include one in the upper southwest room with a similar but simpler mantel, and a large kitchen fireplace with bake ovens in the southeast room (Photo 6).

The adaptive re-use of the building as professional offices in 1978 retained all of the then-extant original material. In addition to the reworking of the north facade already noted, a small shed-roofed frame wing along the east side (an infill structure between the house and a store building which formerly stood to the east) was removed and the brick wall rebuilt. Although the exterior has been returned almost entirely to its historical appearance, the interior does not represent a restoration but rather a remodeling in which the historic fabric has been retained and integrated into the new decorative scheme. Thus, the original floors, woodwork, fireplaces,<sup>1</sup> mantels and many plaster walls were repaired and preserved, while modern wall paper, carpeting over nonoriginal floors, chair rails, deep cornice moldings, and fixtures were added. Also, new mantels of a fluted pilaster design were incorporated into the north upper rooms (no mantels had been preserved there), and raised paneling was added to the wall around the southwest room's mantel (Photos 8 and 4).

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<sup>1</sup>

Although they retain their original form and interior brick, the face brick of the fireplaces was replaced in modern times.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Criteria A, C		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c.1820 - built      **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Augustus Post House, known locally as the Hewitt House, is significant as a good example of country Federal-style architecture (Criterion C). A large and in some ways stylish house, it has been associated with several families prominent in Hebron history. Many of the merchants (including one Governor of the State) who made this rural crossroads a commercial center either owned or rented this house, and therefore it has local historical significance as well (Criterion A). Its value as historical architecture is further augmented by its highly visible setting at Hebron's major intersection. Although there are other houses from the same period nearby, none combines the fine detail, brick construction, and prominent location which make the Augustus Post House outstanding.

Although the house is not sophisticated, it is a good rural interpretation of the Federal or Adamesque aesthetic. Based on the designs of Scottish architect Robert Adam, this style called for an amalgamation of freely interpreted Classical forms and elegant geometric motifs. The three-part opening (based on the Palladian window) over the west entrance is an illustration of these principles: the slender pilasters, the small scale of the dentil course, the multiplicity of thin moldings, the ellipses in the necks, and the complex geometry of the cornice with its breaks over the pilasters are all representative of the Federal style as found in the New England countryside. Other notable Federal elements include the prominent lintels over the windows, the full cornice return, the semi-elliptical attic light, and the crosseted form found in the southwest room's mantel and the west entry surround.

In the first decades of the 19th century, Hebron was becoming the town center for the adjacent farmland area. The Congregational church was located there, and many of the town's craftsmen, businessmen, and professional people had settled around the village's common. After 1800 the major roads to Chatham (Portland), Windham, and Colchester were all improved by turnpike companies. The turnpikes brought more travelers to the village and also opened up wider markets for the area's agricultural goods. As a result, there was a general increase in trade, and the village's prosperous citizens built themselves several large houses in the Federal style.

One was the large brick house built about 1820 by Augustus Post. Although not as fancy as some of the houses in the vicinity, its ample proportions, brick construction, and vaulted upper room (a ballroom, perhaps) indicate at least an aspiration to substantial social status. Post, probably some kind of craftsman (the 1830 census lists him as engaged in manufacture), bought the lot in 1819, but it may be that the expense of building such a house was beyond his means, as he sold it in 1824 to the mortgage holder, general merchant and storekeeper Abel Bissell. In the following year Bissell sold it to Stuart Beebe, Esq., who almost immediately went bankrupt. For the next nine years it was owned by Dr. John S. Peters and his business partner

(continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Hartford and Tolland Counties. Hartford: Baker & Tilden, 1869.  
Cole, J.R. History of Tolland County, Connecticut. Chicago: W.W. Preston, 1888  
Eaton, W.C. and H.C. Osborn. Map of Tolland County, Connecticut.  
Philadelphia: Woodford & Bartlett, 1857.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .8

Quadrangle name Columbia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	1	9	2	9	0	4	6	1	4	9	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is recorded in the Hebron Land Records, Volume 94, page 356, and is shown as Parcel 35 on Map 70, Hebron Assessor's records. The boundaries are substantially the same as first laid out in 1819.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, partner

organization Historic Resource Consultants date December 3, 1981

street & number 103 Mansfield Hollow Road telephone (203) 423-8903

city or town Mansfield Center state Connecticut 06250

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date May 21, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/28/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED JUN 28 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Augustus Post House (Hewitt House)  
Hebron, CT

Significance (continued):

Abner Hendee. Peters was a leading politician and was Governor from 1831 to 1833; he apparently rented the house to Joshua B. Lord, another merchant. Storekeepers Salmon Phelps and Benjamin Bissell also owned the house (and adjacent shop or store) at one time, but in the late 19th century the house finally found a long-term owner in W.S. Hewitt, who kept a general store and post office there for many years. The house remained in the Hewitt family until the 1970s. For one hundred and sixty years, then, this house has been associated with the storekeepers who made Hebron Green the business center for the surrounding agricultural community.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

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Augustus Post House (Hewitt House)  
Hebron, CT

Bibliography (continued)

Hebron, Connecticut, Bicentennial, 1707-1908. Hebron: Bicentennial Committee, 1910.

Hebron Land Records, 13:325 (1819); 14:257 (1824); 14:74 (1825); 15:156, 164, 210 (1826); 16:20 (1826); 16:100, 269, 272 (1835), 22:255 (1866). Hebron Town Clerk, Hebron, Connecticut.

Works Progress Administration. "Census of Old Buildings," Manuscript, Connecticut State Library, c.1935. Hebron #17, "Augustus Post House."