

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received APR 11 1985

date entered

AUG 3 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Whiting Homestead

and/or common Whiting Homestead

2. Location

street & number 291 North Main Street NA not for publication

city, town West Hartford NA vicinity of

state CT code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	<u>NA</u>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Whiting Associates Limited Partnership
c/o M. & O. Butterworth

street & number 81 Sunset Farm Road

city, town West Hartford NA vicinity of state CT

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. West Hartford Land Records, Town Hall

street & number 28 South Main Street

city, town West Hartford state CT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

59 South Prospect Street
city, town Hartford state CT

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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 Whiting Homestead, built c. 1790, is a 2½-story, Colonial, frame, gable-roofed, 5-bay, central-chimney, central-entrance house, covered with clapboards. The interior has fine raised paneling on both the first and second floors. The house faces east on North Main Street in a residential neighborhood of West Hartford, about 1½ miles north of the town center and two blocks south of a shopping center at the intersection of North Main Street with Albany Avenue.

Exterior

The farm acreage that once surrounded the Whiting Homestead has been sold off over the years so that at present less than one-half acre of land goes with the house. Nonetheless, the many large shade trees still standing create an attractive setting. (Photograph 1)

The house is 39 feet wide by 29 feet deep, with a late 19th-century, 2-story, 9x13-foot addition at the northwest corner. The foundations of the structure are brownstone ashlar, and the roof is covered with wooden shingles. The brick chimney, rising from the roof line, is corbeled at the top.

Fenestration of the front elevation is regularly spaced. The windows are 12-over-12, with plain surrounds. The surrounds project slightly at the first floor and are flush with the wall at the second floor. There is a course of fine dentils under the crown molding at the eaves. The 10-paneled front door, approached by a brownstone step, is surrounded by a bold molding in the shape of an eared architrave. (Photograph 4) The house has narrow corner boards.

Fenestration in the south elevation, first floor, from the front consists of a 6-paneled door, window, 6-paneled door and two windows. The architraves of the doors are molded but flared at the top rather than eared, as on the front. There are two evenly-spaced windows at the second floor and one window in the attic gable end. (Photographs 2 and 5)

In the original wall of the north elevation there are windows at first and second floors, vertically aligned, and a window in the attic gable end. Windows in the addition are 1-over-1. On the north elevation of the addition there are two windows at each floor, not aligned. On the front of the addition there is a vestibule, now closed in, with bracketed roof, and windows on each floor, not aligned. The addition has a gable roof. Its molded eaves continue in brief returns. (Photograph 3) The addition has brownstone ashlar foundations, but the blocks are smaller than those used in the foundations of the principal structure.

Fenestration of the rear elevation is irregular. From the south, at the first floor, are a 4-paneled door and a window. At the second floor there

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is a window near the south corner, then one other window two-thirds of the way toward the north corner, followed by an exterior, added, brick chimney. Beyond the chimney, in the rear elevation of the addition are found 1-over-1 windows at first and second floors, aligned. Adjacent to the house at the southwest corner there is a brownstone terrace, on cobblestone foundations, approached by broad brownstone steps from the south. There once was a 2-story porch structure in this location. (Photograph 5)

Interior

The interior surface of the front door is three, wide vertical boards. The door is suspended by long strap hinges on pintles. The stairway rises in front of the door, from the right, in a double dogleg to the left of three risers to a landing, six risers along the front of the chimney to a landing, and three risers to the second floor. (See floor plan.) The balusters of the railing, turned 45 degrees from the square, rise from a closed string that is faced with a bolection molding. Newels are plain like the pickets. (Photograph 6) There is paneling below the string. Four-paneled doors open from the hall to the front rooms. These doorways have casings of flat stock with band moldings that are typical of first-floor door and window surrounds.

The door from the hall to the south room forms part of the paneling that covers the entire fireplace wall of that room. The fireplace is 35 inches high, 51 inches wide and 11 inches deep with a modest bolection molding surround and no mantel shelf. The firebox and hearth are brick. (Photograph 7) A paneled dado runs around the other three sides of the room. The top of the dado serves as the window stools. The door at the southeast corner is like the front door, with wide vertical boards and strap hinges on pintles. There are no summer beams or other beams in the plaster ceiling. The corner posts are slightly flared, cased and beaded. Floor boards are wide, as they are throughout most of the house. (Photograph 8)

In the north front room the doors are similar, but there is no paneling other than in the doors. Floor and ceiling are similar. The fireplace is more elaborate, having an Adamesque mantelpiece. Fluted pilasters with recessed ellipses in their capitals support a broad architrave which has a dentil course, under the shelf. The shelf breaks out over the pilasters. The brick firebox is smaller than its counterpart in the south room, 40 inches wide, 28 inches high and 11 inches deep. It has a brick hearth. There is a cupboard above and to the right of the fireplace. (Photograph 9)

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The original kitchen, present kitchen, north bedroom, roof framing and stone chimney base are shown by Photographs 10 - 16.

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terrace may have replaced the porch) seems like an attractive idea, especially with the access from the second floor, and is a Victorian change whose subsequent reversal can be regretted.

Historical Note

The approximate age of the house has been determined by a study of the land and probate records. In 1671 when the West Division of Hartford, as West Hartford then was known, was partitioned to the proprietors, acreage including the nominated parcel was set off to Rev. Joseph Haynes, son of the first governor of Connecticut. His daughter, Mary, who inherited the land, married Roswell Saltonstall, son of another governor, and upon his death remarried to Thomas Clap, president of Yale University. She was living in New Haven when she died in 1769 leaving her West Hartford land, with no buildings, to her daughter, Mary Whiting. Mary Whiting deeded the land, still with no buildings, in 1778 to her son, Gurdon Saltonstall Whiting, then aged 14. It is presumed that Gurdon Saltonstall Whiting built the house upon becoming of age, c. 1790.

Gurdon Whiting, predeceased by his wife, died at the age of 40 in 1804, leaving two sons, Samuel and Jason, age 10 and 8. In 1817 Jason sold his share of the inheritance to Samuel, who occupied the house until he died in 1876. His daughter, Mary Cornelia Whiting, owned the house until her estate sold it in 1920 to the Lawler family, who lived there until the 1980s.¹ Over a period of almost two centuries, ownership of the house rested in only two families. The house is now vacant and for sale.

¹. The research of the land and probate records was carried out by Elizabeth C. Hatheway of West Hartford. The above account is summarized from her memorandum dated November 1, 1975.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hatheway, Elizabeth C., memorandum dated November 1, 1975. Copy at Noah Webster Foundation and Historical Society of West Hartford.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 0.5 prox.

Quadrangle name Hartford North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	8	7	2	2	0	4	6	2	7	6	6	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 described at West Hartford Land Records, volume 910, pages 111, 113. The boundary includes the remaining land of the original farm that now goes with the house.

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant; edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Comm. date November 14, 1984

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state CT

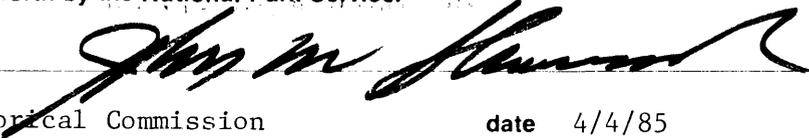
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

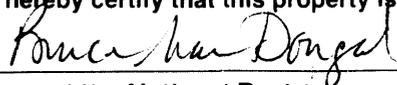
date 4/4/85

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~~Registered~~ ~~State~~ ~~Historic~~

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

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



date 9-20-85

Keeper of the National Register

~~Attest~~ 

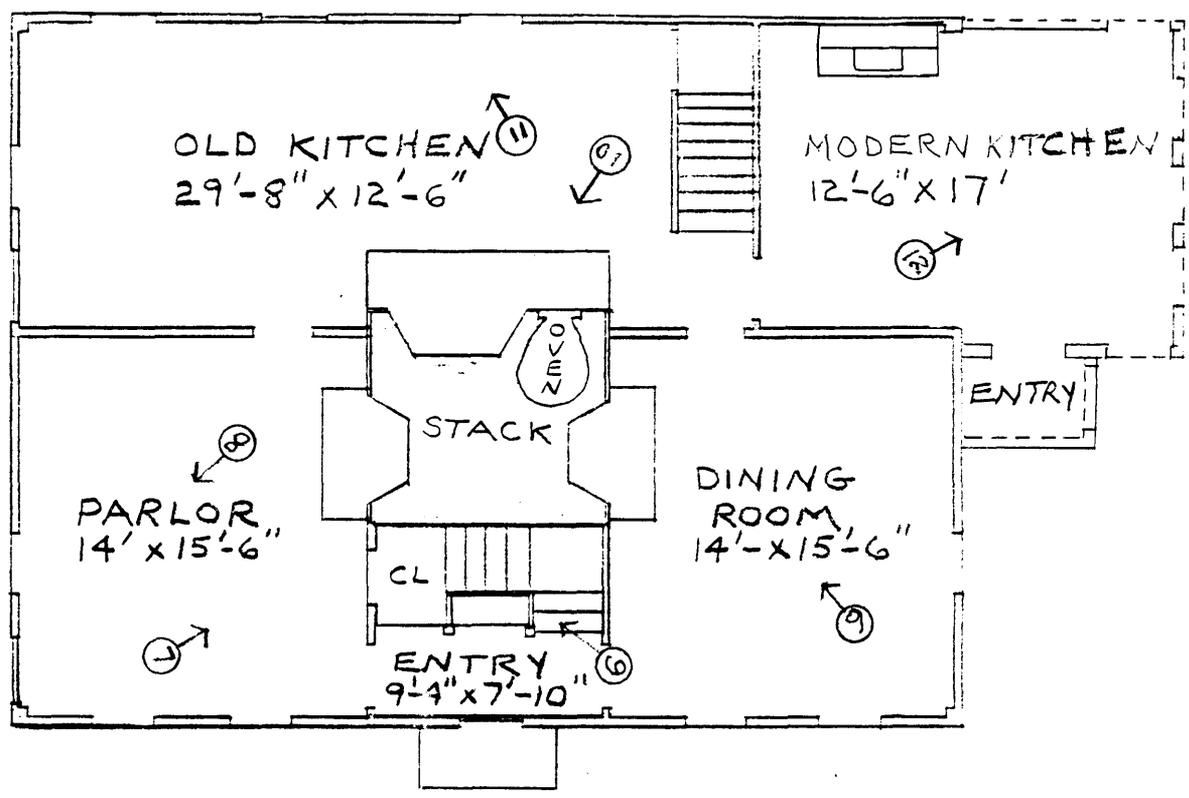
Entered in the ~~the~~ National Register date 8-3-87

Chief of Registration

New owner - owner objection withdrawn

FLOOR PLAN

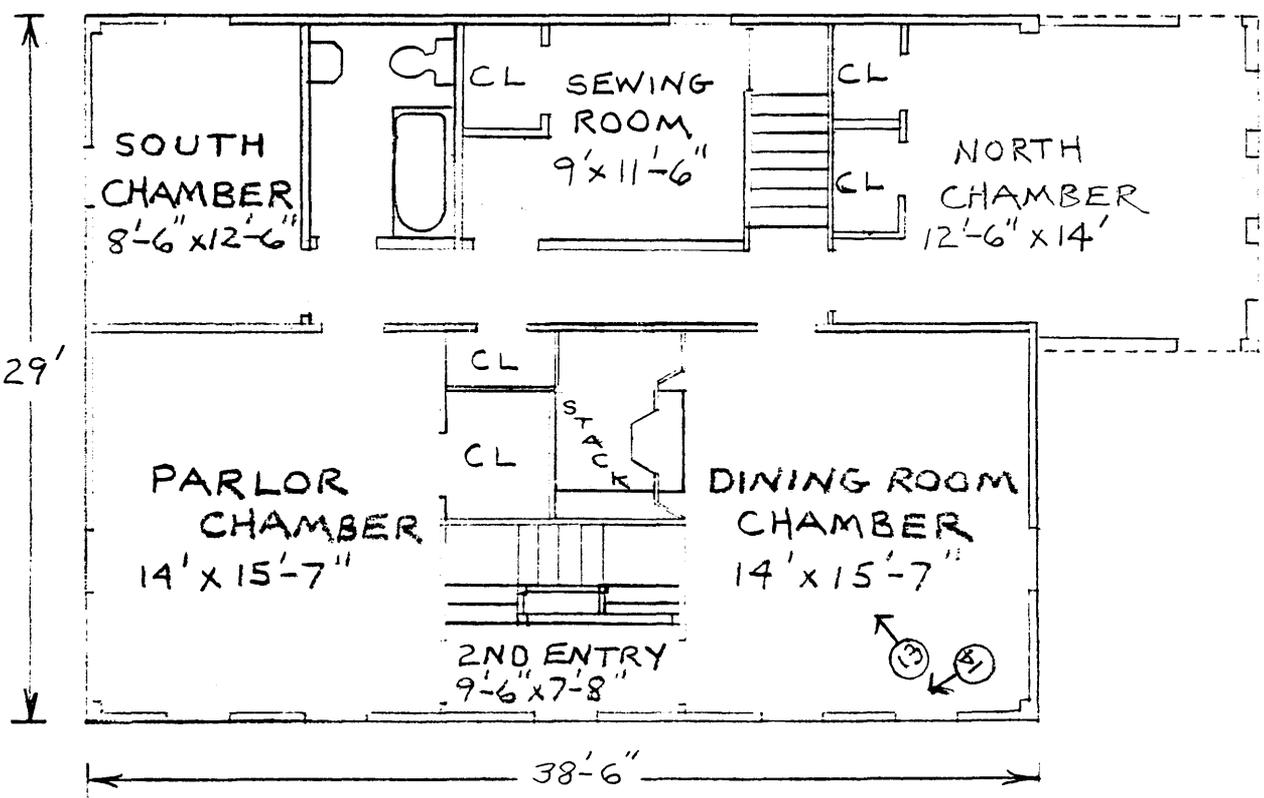
FIRST FLOOR
 1116 #



♂

♂

SECOND FLOOR
 1116 #



2232 # TOTAL

→ Z SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"