

PH0021008

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 7	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Humphrey Pratt Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

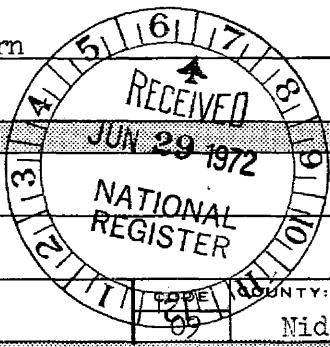
STREET AND NUMBER:
287 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE:
Connecticut

COUNTY:
Middlesex

CODE:
007



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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Mrs. J.W. Stueck

STREET AND NUMBER:
287 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Saybrook

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey
(2) Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: (1) 1961 (2) 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
(1) Yale University
(2) Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
(2) 59 South Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN:
(1) New Haven
(2) Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

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STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: Middlesex

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 7 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

2nd District Congressman: Robert Steele

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Humphrey Pratt Tavern is a very handsome house of large proportions and carefully executed design. Built in the less common central hallway form with twin end chimneys, it exhibits the usual nine-window facade and traditional Connecticut style hewn overhang across the facade and at the gable ends. Window sash is the expected twelve over twelve on the first floor, eight over twelve on the second, and smaller six over six at attic level, with one small two over four pane window for ventilation in the crawl space above. The louvered shutters are a later addition. The eaves of the roof show a small box cornice, which, at gable ends suggests the beginnings of a return cornice just above the second story overhang. The entry portico may well represent later work, being somewhat Greek in style with a wide frieze and columns with recessed panels and modest capitals. The door is multi-paneled and has a five-pane overlight. Shutters here are also inappropriate.

To the rear is a large two-story gambrel-roofed ell housing a ballroom with arched ceiling and a floor said to be of sprung construction. There is a kitchen on the first floor. Windows in the ell are unevenly spaced and do not fall in line from one story to another. Sash is nine over nine on the first floor and twelve over twelve on the second. A one-story wing sits to the south side of the ell, being run off the rear of the house proper. It could not be seen clearly because of foliage. There is a small bay window on the south side of the main part of the house, the only obvious late 19th century feature. All else is homogeneous with the late 18th century.

The grandeur of the house is enhanced by its wood-shingled roof and a stone foundation laid with very little mortar. It is an impressive building, located just below the business section of Old Saybrook's Main Street, in a concentration of 18th century homes, still used as residences, which are rapidly being encroached upon by commercial ventures.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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) . 1785

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Town planning</u>
<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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Built in 1785 by Humphrey Pratt, this building remained in the Pratt family until 1943. Its integrity has survived despite its use as a residence, post office, and tavern and inn. The first post office in the town was in the house, for in 1793, Humphrey Pratt was appointed Old Saybrook's first postmaster.

The central location, at the junction of the Boston Post Road and Main Street, gave rise to its use as a gathering place; in the Connecticut Gazette of July 8, 1801, it is reported that "the citizens repaired to the house of Mr. H. Pratt where a large assembly of gentlemen and ladies partook of social repast prepared for the occasion." Its strategic location gave rise, too, to its use as a stage stop on the run from New York to Boston. A favorite local tradition is that General Lafayette spent a night in the inn-tavern in 1824 and a dance was held in his honor. The ballroom did have frequent use, for an Ordination Ball was held there for the installation of each new minister.

Because this is a locally significant house historically and a rather distinguished building architecturally, it is important that it be preserved. There are those in the town who are working very hard for this southern end of Main Street, but it is unfortunately being crowded by shops and businesses.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allis, Marguerite. Connecticut Trilogy. G.P. Putnam Sons, New York, 1934.
Connecticut Gazette. July 8, 1801.
 Interview with Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Stueck, owners. 1961.
 Society of Colonial Dames Building Survey.

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	° ' "	° ' "		41°	17'	18"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		72°	22'	35"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

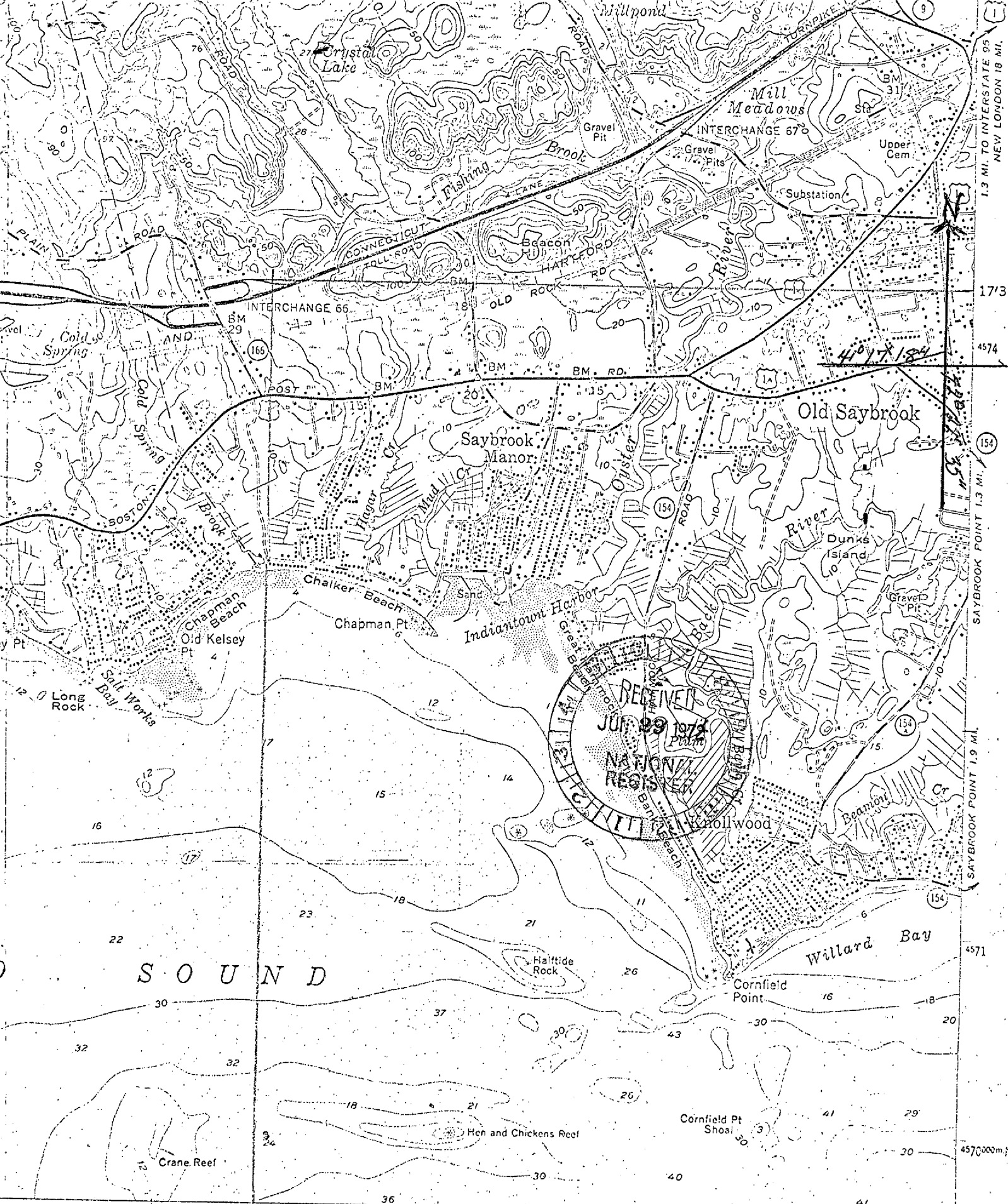
ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: July, 13, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 59 South Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>June 15, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>11/7/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>11-2-72</u></p>
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RECEIVED
 JUN 29 1974
 NATIONAL REGISTER

SOUND