

0017

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 10 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shelley House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 248 Boston Post Road NA not for publication
city, town Madison NA vicinity
state CT code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06443

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] January 3, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Alvina Byer Entered in the National Register 2/9/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Shelley House is a 17th-century Colonial-style frame farmhouse facing north on the Boston Post Road, U.S. Route 1, about 1.7 miles west of the center of Madison. Classified as a saltbox because it is two stories in front, one story in back, with a long sloping rear roof slope, the house displays many significant early architectural features. It also has a Colonial Revival side porch and added ell to the rear. (See plan.)

The pressures of commercial development generated by the function of the Boston Post Road as a main highway have brought non-residential uses to this neighborhood of Madison. The Shelley House is protected against these influences by tall pine trees and dense shrubbery, which almost obscure view of the clapboard structure from the street. (Photograph 1)

The front elevation is conventionally divided into five bays with central doorway. The second floor overhangs the first. Sash are 2-over-2, presumably 19th-century replacements of the originals. Size of the windows is not uniform; on the second floor the central window is taller than the others, which, in turn, are smaller than those at the first floor. In the 4-panel front door, also not original, the two upper panels are glazed.

In the west side elevation, there are two windows at the first floor, one window off center to the rear at the second, and a horizontal 2-pane attic window. There is a single overhang of attic over second floor. (Photograph 2) On the east side elevation, there is an early-20th-century Colonial Revival hipped-roof glazed porch, completely obscured by shrubbery.¹ A wide door opens onto the porch from the house. Above the porch, at the second floor, there are two windows, with one in the attic.

The rear elevation also is largely hidden by foliage, but the broad rear roof slope and configuration of the 1-story ell are clear. From this vantage point, it is seen that the east ridge line is lower than the west. (Photograph 3)

The central stone chimney is a chief feature of the house. Now pargeted with stucco above the roof ridge, its coursed ashlar construction is visible in areas where the stucco has fallen off. (Photograph 4) An addition to the chimney stack was built on the front (Photograph 5); this is an added

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flue for the fireplace in the west second-floor room.

The interior of the house embodies the standard 5-room first-floor plan of two front rooms flanking a front hall and three rooms across the width of the lean-to. The original kitchen in the lean-to is now the dining room. Present kitchen facilities are in the ell. On the second floor there are only two rooms, one on either side of the stair. Due to the fact that the east rooms on both floors are used for storage and the other rooms are densely packed with furniture, opportunity for interior photography is limited.

In the front hall, the stair rises in a conventional dogleg from right to left. Its original railing, however, was replaced in the 19th century with a walnut balustrade. (Photograph 6) Near the top of the long run is a landing from which a riser continues straight east to the east chamber in an extension of the long run. Another riser at 90 degrees provides a step up toward the front of the house to the second-floor hall.

In the first floor west front room, the fireplace wall is exposed stone. When the present owner of 30 years pulled 20th-century plaster off the stone he found it painted white. The fireplace, while old, is, in his opinion, not original. He considers it likely that the stone was the exterior wall of a 1-room stone-end house. Above the fireplace a summer beam is framed into the 9" x 16" chimney girt with chamfering and lamb's tongue stops. The girt below the joint is similarly decorated. This treatment is repeated at the other end of the summer where it is framed into the end girt. (Photograph 7) The decorative treatment is repeated at both ends of the corresponding summer in the first-floor east room.

The east front room has an exterior door to the rear, pre-dating the lean-to. The fireplace in this room originally had a bake oven. The bake oven was destroyed when the chimney was altered to provide for the kitchen fireplace in the lean-to, but the owner reports that its outline is apparent in the masonry. The first-floor front rooms have no cornices, chair rails, or wainscoting, but do have gunstock posts.

The kitchen fireplace displays a massive stone lintel with bake oven on the left, the whole surrounded by a bolection molding. (Photograph 8) The bake oven is the only brick component in the stone stack. To the right of the fireplace is an early batten door supported by long strap hinges. (Photograph 9) The feather edges of the boards in the door have a central arris, or shadow molding. The ceiling of the kitchen is planks. A narrow second stair rises conventionally from the rear toward the front at the west edge of the kitchen.

The entire lean-to floor was at a level a step down from the front rooms until the floors of the kitchen and the lean-to east room were filled in.

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raised by the present owner. The west lean-to room, still a step down, which usually connects to the kitchen, in this house does not. A door from the west front room opens to this room, which in turn connects to the ell.

The east front room on the second floor has a summer but is plain, with fireplace. It once was divided by a partition under the summer. The west room does have a fireplace with its own flue of stone rising up the front surface of the chimney through the attic, just as it appears above the ridge line. (Photograph 5) The fireplace summer and girt are decorated as at the first floor. This fireplace has a wooden lintel as did, in the owner's opinion, the first-floor fireplaces, originally. The owner reports that the front plate, once exposed, has chamfer with lamb's tongue stops at its ends.

The roof framing visible in the attic consists of common rafters joined without ridgepole and low purlins. The exterior walls of the house are plank construction with no studs.

The parcel on which the house is situated is 120' x 325' in size. There is one outbuilding, a 14' x 37' shed with vertical siding, built with post and beam, mortise and tenon. (Photograph 10) A contributing structure, it may date from the 18th century. The farm formerly extended south to Long Island Sound.

¹The porch is delapidated. The owner talks of pulling it off.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

Late 17C - mid-18C

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Shelley House, said by J. F. Kelly to date from before 1700¹ is significant architecturally because of its antiquity and because of its plan. The house appears to be an actual example of a 1-room stone-end structure to which a second room was added, and then a lean-to, in the classic growth pattern often postulated for Colonial houses but seldom clearly demonstrated. The integrity of the house in this respect is exceptional. (Criterion C)

The structure of the Shelley House suggests that the east portion, which has the lower ridge, was built first as a 1-room 2-story stone-end farmhouse. The 2-story west portion was added next, with its higher ridge. At this time the new flue for the second-floor fireplace, visible in the attic, was added to the front of the stack. It is not clear, for lack of visibility, whether this new masonry contains another flue for the new first-floor fireplace opened in the former stone end of the house.

It is likely that at this time the fenestration assumed its present arrangement of five bays with central doorway. The front door, hall, and stair leading directly to the second-floor room may already have existed. The decorative trim of chamfer and lamb's tongue stops, which appears in the first, east section may have been original there and simply was continued as the house grew.

The 3-room lean-to addition followed.² Why its floor was built at a lower level than the floor of the front of the house is not known. Again, the chimney stack was altered to accommodate the additional fireplace. The batten door to the right of the kitchen fireplace presumably was built at this time. Dates for the changes to the house can only be surmised from the physical details.³ The date of "before 1700" suggested by Kelly, the leading scholar on Connecticut Colonial architecture, seems reasonable for a 1-room stone-end house, especially in Madison, which was settled as a part of Guilford, c. 1649. The second room came perhaps at the turn of

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kelly, J. Frederick. Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. New York: Dover Publications, 1963; reprint ed., 1924.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.92

UTM References

A

1	8	6	9	8	5	6	0	4	5	7	2	1	7	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Madison Land Records at volume 90, page 329.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes land that now goes with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By _____ Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
name/title David F. Ransom/Consultant
organization Connecticut Historical Commission date July 25, 1988
street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005
city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106

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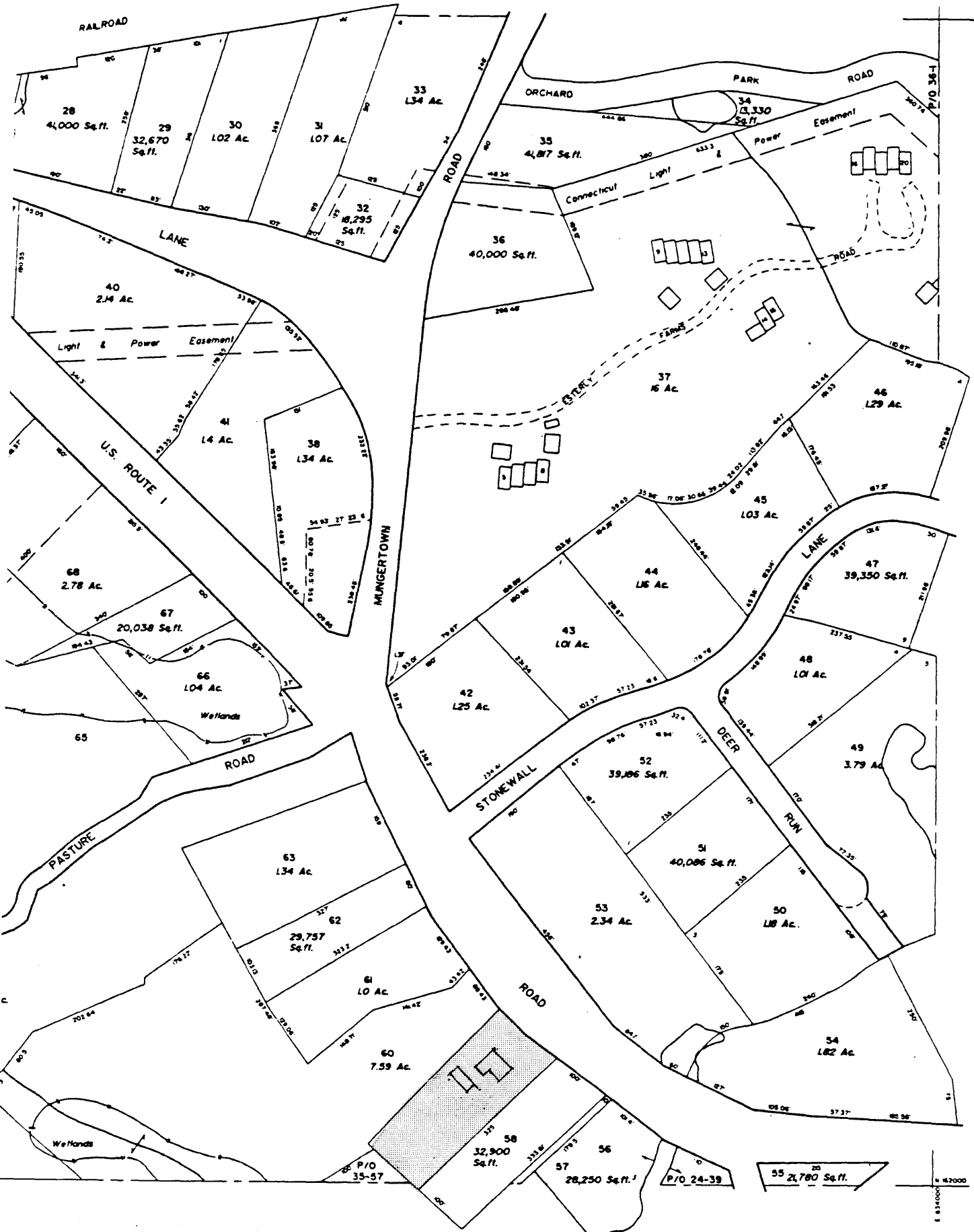
the century, and the lean-to c. 1750. Bake ovens located on the wall to one side of a fireplace, as contrasted to being in the back wall of the fire-box, are generally found in houses no earlier than mid-18th century.

Little is known of the history of the house or the Shelley family for whom it is named. Fragments of incised marble have been found in the grounds suggesting that the Shelleys were stone cutters who produced cemetery monuments.

¹J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (New York Dover Publications, 1963; reprint ed. of 1924), p. 88. The rear second-floor casement window sketched by Kelly and illustrated on this page was destroyed by fire at about the time of World War II.

²Conditions at the time of the visit to the premises did not permit examination of framing to confirm these observations.

³Thus far, no documentation concerning the house has come to hand.

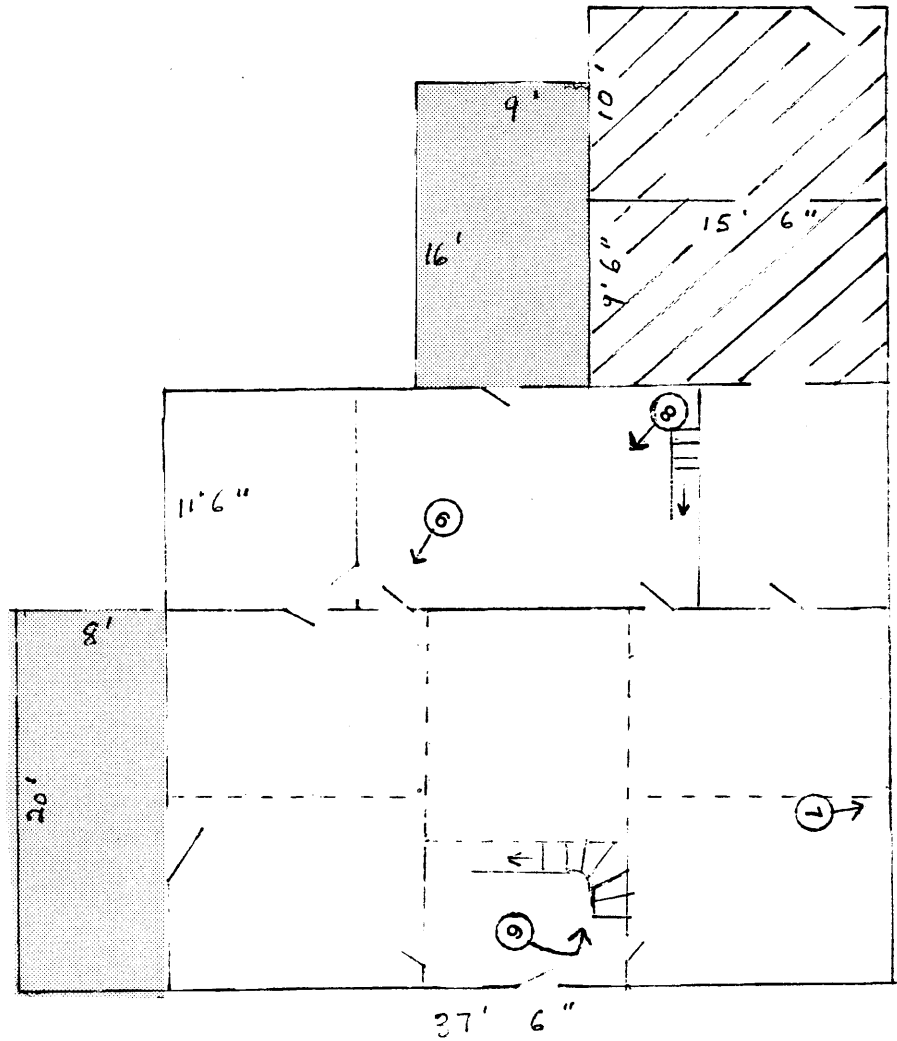


SHELLEY
HOUSE

TAX MAP
TOWN OF MADISON
NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CONNECTICUT
PREPARED BY
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET

	45	
34	MAP NUMBER 35	36
	24	





lean-to

added room

original house



Porches

E11

Photo key



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Photographs were taken by D. Ransom in June, 1988.

Negatives are on file with Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1
Front elevation
View southeast

Photograph 2
West side elevation
View east

Photograph 3
Rear
View northwest

Photograph 4
Chimney
View northeast

Photograph 5
Chimney
View southeast

Photograph 6
Front stair
View southwest

Photograph 7
Summer detail
View west

Photograph 8
Kitchen fireplace wall
View northeast

Photograph 9
Kitchen door
View northeast

Photograph 10
Shed
View southwest