

PH0005410

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

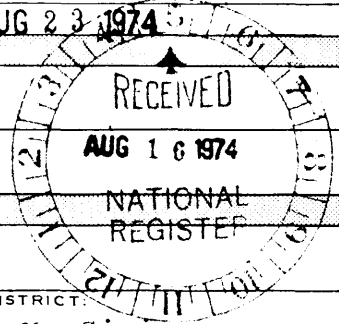
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	Connecticut
COUNTY:	New Haven
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

AUG 23 1974



1. NAME

COMMON: John Barker House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 898 Clintonville Road

CITY OR TOWN: Wallingford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #3-Robert N. Giaimo

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

COUNTY: New Haven

CODE: 009

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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Robert Atwood Meyer

STREET AND NUMBER: Yankee Silversmith Inn

CITY OR TOWN: Wallingford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Town Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: 350 Center Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wallingford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: American Guide Series: Connecticut

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New Haven

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ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 23 1974

DATE:

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

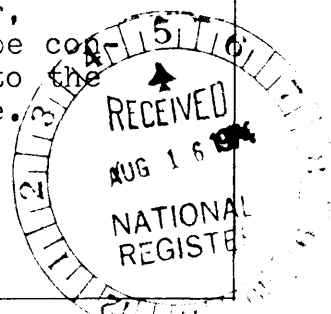
The John Barker House is a 2-story (with high attic) high, gambrel-roofed brick structure on Clintonville Road, in Wallingford, Connecticut. The main block of the structure was built in 1756, and a frame two-story rear ell was added circa 1814. The main house is set upon a low brick foundation and has a field stone cellar. The ell is on a high field-stone foundation. The Barker House is set about sixty feet from the road and with its small pond house and barns across the road, comprise the only surviving structures on the 19-acre tract. Two interior chimneys at each gable form integral parts of the brick walls and act as interior buttresses. The combined height of the roof and chimneys (16 feet) about equals that of the first two stories (19 feet) providing a very pronounced roof consciousness, especially with the absence of dormers. Because of the unequal dimensions of the roof flanks, the roof treatment appears to be more similar to Pennsylvania gambrels that typically New England.

The main (west) elevation has the five-bay equidimensional ordering of typical central-hall houses. Fenestration in the main elevation is 12-over-12 light, and is unusually large in proportion to the facade. Second story windows rise to the level of the moulded wood cornice. All windows, except those in the second story, are surmounted by brick segmental arches to absorb the weight of the bearing wall.

The north elevation contains six double-hung sash windows and a smaller attic light, including three 12-over-12 light windows in the ground floor, two similar windows in the second story, a single 12-over-12 light in the attic, with a single 6-over-6 light above it. All are surmounted by the weight-bearing segmental brick arches. The middle window in the ground floor is a mid-19th century addition. The south elevation has a 12-over-12 light window in each story and a 6-over-6 light attic window, all arranged more or less in a line.

The rear (east) elevation was originally symmetrically ordered, including five windows and a double door. But the addition of the ell necessitated converting the two north windows into doorways, leaving the three 9-over-9 light windows presently visible. The rear door opens on to a single-story wood porch, which, through a side door, provides access to the ell. The porch appears to be temporary with the ell. A stone stairway leading to the cellar is placed in the east wall of the main house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 23 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)

117

John Barker House

Decorative brickwork is prolific on the elevations of the Parker House, especially on the north, south, and west (main) elevations. A water table with a four-inch offset runs around the three walls, but is omitted from the rear elevation. There is a belt course consisting of three courses of protruding brick on all elevations between first and second stories. On the main and side elevations the upper and lower courses are stretchers, and the middle course is of blackened headers. On the rear elevation, it consists of two courses of unblackened stretchers. The north and south walls also have two-course brick belt courses at the cornice level. On the main elevation, a course of blackened brick appears below ground floor windows, and beneath are diamond patterns also executed in blackened bricks. Two more elaborate diamond patterns are repeated on the north elevation flanking the large attic window. Each lower story has a large centered diamond pattern of darkened brick. The middle window on the ground floor interrupts the pattern, indicating that it is not original. There are no decorative patterns in the south elevation, but the date "1756" appears in black headers high on the gable. The two cast iron ties on each gable were added in 1930 to prevent the walls from separating.

The cornice on the main elevation is a moulded wood rain gutter.² The leaders are also wood. The raking cornice on both gable ends is moulded board about six inches thick. The rake is a recent replacement, but was accurately duplicated. Likewise, the sash windows are the originals from the house, but were salvaged from an outbuilding and replaced in the 1930's. The front door is double and paneled, surmounted by a six-light transom with a carved central mutin. The brickwork above the doorway has a scalloped lower edge. The doors, iron hinges, and door handles are original.³

The rear ell is a clapboard-sided frame appendage, having a medium-pitch gable roof and central chimney. Because of the sloping terrain behind the house, the cellar of the ell is at ground level in the rear and much of the stone foundation is visible.

The interior of the house is worthy of description because of its high degree of integrity. It is a typical central hall plan, originally having two rooms on either side of the hall on each floor. Because the chimneys are built into the gable walls, fireplaces occur in the outside walls

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 23 1974

(Number all entries)

17 (2)

John Parker House

rather than on partition walls. A spacious attic is formed by the high gambrel roof, and a full cellar lies under the house. The cellar, having a six-foot clearance, has an enclosed slave kitchen with a massive fireplace in the southeast corner. A brick bake oven is set into the left wall of the fireplace. The ground flooring, as observed from the cellar, is a modern replacement, except for a portion near the fireplace where original construction is evident.

The interior hallway bisects the ground floor. The staircase is on the right side of the hall, rising 11 steps to a landing and then dog-legging to the left up two more steps to the second floor. Interior doors on the first floor are all of six-panel design, and contain original wrought-iron hardware. The southwest room has original unpainted paneling covering 2/3 of the fireplace wall. A built-in cupboard with a tomb stone panelled door is placed to the right of the fireplace. The southeast room is an old kitchen. There is a built-in wall closet to the left of the fireplace. A small doorway in the partition wall permits access to the rear of the closet from the adjacent room. The fireplace is of brick throughout, including the floor. To the north of the hall there is one large room instead of the original two. About 1850 the partition was moved back and the new window added in the north elevation. In the 1930's, the later partition was removed. The fireplace on the western side of the room is the larger and more richly embellished, indicating that the northwest room was once the main reception room.

The second floor plan is similar to the first, except for differences resulting from the placement of stairs. There are four chambers on the second floor, two on each side of the hall. The paneling in the northwest chamber is of particular interest, especially its perspective molding, around the window recesses. The paneling on the fireplace wall in this room is also original, including the closet to the right. The southwest bed chamber has period tomb-paneling from the neighboring town of Durham, which Elmer Keith, a former owner, added about 1930. The southeast chamber has no fireplace. Feather-edge boarding covers all four walls in the southeast room, but only on the stairway to the attic and in the closet are the paneling original.

The stairs to the attic are placed along the east wall of the

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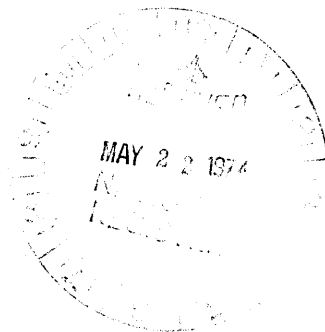
(Number all entries)

#7 (3)

John Barker House

southeast room and ascend in seven or eight steps. The northeast chamber is of little interest except for the built-in cupboards over the doorway to the second floor of the ell. The door goes through an old window opening, and represents a change to accommodate the early 19th century addition.

1. Edward V. Cox III, "The Colonel Barker House," p. 16-17.
2. J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, (1924), p. 130 and fig. 133.
3. Cox, opus cit., p. 12.



3. 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) 1756, c.1814

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 John Barker House is among the oldest brick houses in Connecticut, and is certainly one of the earliest intact brick gambrel-roofed residences in the state.¹ The house was built by one John Barker (1710-1801), a prosperous farmer and slave owner. He was the grandson of a well-known New Haven merchant who was active in the Barbados trade by 1650. Brick construction was still relatively rare in Connecticut during the 1750's, primarily because of the scarcity of adequate clay deposits and lime for mortar. Clay did occur in the Connecticut River bottoms, however, and it is probably that the bricks for the Barker House originated in the vicinity of present North Haven.²

There are certain similarities of construction between the Barker House and Connecticut Hall (1750), at Yale University, which indicate that John Barker's builder was familiar with the earlier College building. Connecticut Hall, a National Historic Landmark, is reputed to be the oldest brick building in Connecticut. The dormitory was remodeled in 1790, but the original brick segmental window arches (now replaced) closely resemble those of the Barker House. The treatment of the water table and use of blackened decorative brickwork is also similar. On the interior, the gently curving brick arches of the fireplaces are identical in the two structures. The great similarity of detail between the two buildings and their close dating may suggest a common builder; certainly the house builder was aware of Connecticut Hall, located 11 miles south of the Wallingford location. Thus, the Barker House is important in understanding the development of brick architecture in Connecticut, as well as presenting an exemplary and well preserved mid-18th century interior.

¹ Elmer D. Keith, Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture, (1938). Edward V. Cox III, "The Colonel Barker House," (1964), 20.

² Yale University has records of its bricks being made and bought from local brickmakers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Cox, Edward V., III, "The Colonel Barker House," (type-script), 1964.
2. Keith, Elmer D., Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture, Hartford, 1938.
3. Kelly, J. Frederick, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924.

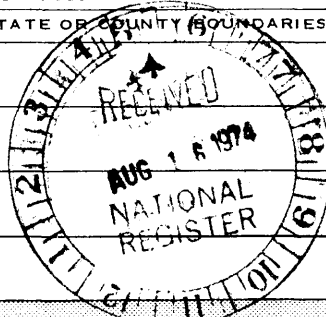
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 24' 27"	72° 49' 37"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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: Stephen J. Raiche, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: Jan. 28, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 59 South Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

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: Harlan H. Griswold
 Title: Chairman Conn. Historical Commission and Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: AUGUST 8, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

R. K. Gustafson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/23/74

ATTEST:
Con J. Huntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.22.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS