



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Baldwin, George, House, in New Haven County, Connecticut, reference number 77001411, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 09/15/1977, as evidenced by FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7442. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/12/2009
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**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 **George Baldwin House**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **530 Foxon Road**

CITY, TOWN **North Branford** VICINITY OF **3d - Robert N. Gialmo**

STATE **Connecticut** CODE **09** COUNTY **New Haven** CODE **009**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **William Reed**

STREET & NUMBER **530 Foxon Road**

CITY, TOWN **North Branford** VICINITY OF STATE **CT**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **North Branford Town Clerk**

STREET & NUMBER **Administration Building - Route 80**

CITY, TOWN **North Branford** STATE **CT**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE **1941** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Library of Congress**

CITY, TOWN **Washington** STATE **DC**

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
George Baldwin House	6	one

Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

1975 - State

Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The George Baldwin House¹ sits up on a small knoll, close by the highway in a built-up neighborhood of modern homes. Nearly square in plan, this small, 1½ story frame dwelling has a shallow-pitched hip roof. At the center rear is a small, pitched-roof ell, old but not original to the house; part is an enclosed room and part is an open shed. A 20th-century dormer has been added to the roof in the rear. The underpinning is of unmortared brownstone blocks; there are three stone steps set into the lawn in front of the entrance.

The house was probably built in the 1830's and is a Greek Revival design. The main facade features a central portico flanked by a window on either side. The walls are brought forward two feet or so to form square piers. Within the opening are two fluted Doric columns which rest directly on a stone base. The portico's hip roof merges with the main roof. The doorway has sidelights of four rectangular panes and a single-panel door. There is a broad entablature which runs the circumference of the building, including the portico: it is composed of a plain architrave and frieze, separated by a narrow band of molding, and a cornice with a fillet and ovulo molding. The side facades each have two widely-spaced windows; these, like those in front, have lightly molded frames, shutters, and 6/6 sash. There are two short rectangular openings in the frieze on every side but the front. The exterior is sheathed with horizontal flush boards, except the ell which has vertical siding, and is painted white.

The interior has a central hall and four square rooms but little of the original material remains. At one time there was a shallow fireplace in each room and a corresponding brick chimney, but now there is only the stack in the west corner left; a similar exterior chimney has been added at the east corner. Although the interior has been greatly altered, the rearrangement of the chimneys, asphalt roof shingles and the barely visible rear dormer are the only exterior modifications, and on the whole the building retains its integrity of design.

¹The Connecticut Inventory lists this building as the "Lydia Russell House" and cites a tradition about the house being George Baldwin's wedding present to his daughter. Baldwin did have a daughter Elizabeth (b. 1827) who married Seth Russell in 1857 and resided near her father for a few years. But it seems unlikely that the house could have been built at that late a date. There is no record of a Lydia in the Vital Records. The information provided here agrees with the original HABS report. Both HABS and the Connecticut Survey interviewed one or the other of the 1930's owners and relied on them for their information. One may assume that the tradition was somewhat fresher at the time of the HABS recording. However, the WPA Census of Old Buildings field worker recorded the tradition of a George Bradley (from the same source). This report miscites HABS in giving the date 1842 instead of 1832, and there is no record of any Bradleys, so I assume the WPA surveyor read his or her notes incorrectly.

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 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)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ithiel Town, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Baldwin House is significant because it has been attributed to Ithiel Town and because of its intrinsic architectural merit. Ithiel Town (1784-1844) was one of the outstanding architects of the Greek Revival. An innovative bridge engineer, a founder of the National Academy of Design, and a bibliophile whose architectural library was famous, Town was an important intellectual influence as well as the designer of major public buildings and impressive residences. Any work of Town's therefore has great significance for the architectural historian. Although Town and his partner, A.J. Davis, produced many designs for simple houses (selections from their portfolio started at \$30), most attention has been directed toward their public commissions and formal homes. This small rural house is for that reason especially interesting.

The attribution to Town, recorded from an oral tradition by H.A.B.S. in the 1930's, cannot be easily confirmed or refuted, but it is plausible. North Branford, of course, is very near New Haven, Town's home. The original owner of the house, George Baldwin (1803-1870), lived here until his death. He was a farmer of only middling means, but his uncle and benefactor, Micah Baldwin, was a New York City merchant, and may have known the architect in that city. Town favored the square, central hall plan with four rooms in his larger houses. Moreover, the Baldwin House's simple, bold lines, symmetry, and correct proportions typify Town's approach to the Greek Revival, which was academic, restrained, and often in opposition to his partner's Romantic tendencies.

Considered wholly on its own terms, this small house is an unusually good example of its style. Most houses of the period merely had Greek ornament applied to corners, doorways and cornices or were turned so their gable ends would suggest temples. The Baldwin House, however, is Greek in design. The columns in the portico, for example, are the correct height, not elongated. Their proportions, as well as the heavy entablature, lend a sense of monumentality to what is barely a cottage. The main facade, too wide perhaps by Greek standards, is broken into more pleasingly proportioned units by the portico. Without using the temple form (hipped roof buildings were not uncommon in classical times) or dentils or pilasters, this house properly conveys the solid, somewhat rustic effect of the Doric order. Despite its small size, it has the strength, balance and control which are at the heart of Classicism.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed of Micah Baldwin to George Baldwin, North Branford, Vol I, 544 (1834).

Newton, Roger Hale. Town and Davis, Architects. New York: Columbia University Press, 1945.

U.S. Census, manuscript population schedules for Connecticut, 1850-1870.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 8 3 7 0 0	4 5 7 7 6 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

110 011

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

May 12, 1976

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

SHPO

DATE

JAN 31 1977

OR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER