

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 REV. 6/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

DEC 21 1983 213

3113

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	18   6   7   6   7   9   0   4   6   0   7   8   2   0
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) \_\_\_\_\_ (Historic) Jonathan Root House (Josiah Root per WPA map)

2. TOWN/CITY Southington VILLAGE Southington 06489 COUNTY Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 140-142 N. Main St. (map 108, parcel 52) 0.45 acre

4. OWNER(S) Rodriguez, Evelyn (vol.306,p.38)  Public  Private

5. USE (Present) Residential (Historic) Residential

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD  Yes  No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN NA

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1720 A

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		

10. ROOF (Type)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
(Material)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	

11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 46 x 31' with 26 x 43' wing

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
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13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN ? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rear roof slope raised, wing added, etc.
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14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
The house faces east on a corner lot. It is set back from the busy street.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The house has five bays of 12/12 windows. The Colonial Revival central doorway is new. The chimney is small and offset to the right, the original central chimney having been removed to make way for a central hall. The rear roof slope was raised in 1942 and the front porch, seen in the photo attached to the WPA form, was removed c. 1960. On the interior a stairway rises against the left wall of the new central hall, in the Georgian Revival manner.

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Jonathan Root ?

SIGNIFICANCE

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The house is significant architecturally because of the great age of much of its fabric. The 5-bay front elevation and third-floor overhangs of the side elevations are original features. There is a fine original built-in corner cupboard in the right front room. This is one of the two or three oldest houses standing in Southington.

The house is significant historically because of its association with the Root family, who intermarried with the founding Woodruff family. Jonathan Root (1707-1794) kept a tavern in the house, but it is not clear whether he built it. According to local legend, George Washington visited the tavern en route from Litchfield to Wethersfield in 1780, but this cannot be verified. Root was a member of the Committee of Correspondence.

SOURCES

Meyer, Dr. Freeman, interview, November 20, 1985.  
Rodriguez, Evelyn, interview, August 28, 1985.  
Timlow, H.R., Sketches of Southington, Conn., Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1875, pp. ccxix, 527, 530.  
Works Progress Administration, Census of Old Buildings, n.d.  
1988 site visit by Elizabeth Kopec of the Southington Historical Society

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

David Ransom

11/85

VIEW

Northwest

NEGATIVE ON FILE

S-25

COMPILED BY

NAME

David Ransom

8/85

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

33 Sunrise Hill Dr.  
West Hartford, CT 06107



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

1988: This house retains its fireplaces and wide board floors..

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Expropriation \_\_\_\_\_