

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

JAN 27 1982

DATE ENTERED

MAR 11 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

King's Field House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

827 North Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Suffield *me.* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

\_\_ DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 \_\_ STRUCTURE  
 \_\_ SITE  
 \_\_ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

\_\_ PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 \_\_ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 \_\_ IN PROCESS  
 \_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 \_\_ UNOCCUPIED  
 \_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 \_\_ YES: RESTRICTED  
 \_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 \_\_ NO

## PRESENT USE

\_\_ AGRICULTURE  
 \_\_ COMMERCIAL  
 \_\_ EDUCATIONAL  
 \_\_ ENTERTAINMENT  
 \_\_ GOVERNMENT  
 \_\_ INDUSTRIAL  
 \_\_ MILITARY  
 \_\_ MUSEUM  
 \_\_ PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 \_\_ RELIGIOUS  
 \_\_ SCIENTIFIC  
 \_\_ TRANSPORTATION  
 \_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Franklin &amp; Carolyn Carrington

STREET &amp; NUMBER

827 North Street

CITY, TOWN

Suffield VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Suffield Town Clerk

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Town Hall - Mountain Road

CITY, TOWN

Suffield

STATE

Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1981

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

King's Field House is a 2½ story center-chimney dwellinghouse of lean-to form dating from the early 18th century. Although it is situated quite close to a busy road, a modern picket fence and carefully-tended plantings and walkways provide a good setting for the house. Northwest of the house is a small wood-sided guest house, converted from an old shed or shop. The land surrounding the house, including two acres across the road, is partly wooded and part field. The house is about 1½ miles north of the center of Suffield, in an area both residential and agricultural.

The house has the traditional five-bay main facade. The entrance treatment probably dates from the last years of the 18th century, and is the chief exterior elaboration. The flat-panelled double doors are flanked by heavy pilasters above which is a triangular pediment with large dentils. The necks of the pilasters have a series of moldings and a swelling suggesting a pulvinated frieze. Within the pediment is a semi-circular "fanlight" but with no glass: the festoons and radii are applied directly to a smooth wooden backing. The same trompe l'œil is employed in the doorway on the south side, identical except for its narrower dimensions. The windows have old twelve-over-twelve and twelve-over-nine sash, and are surrounded by frames of molded boards, with a bed molding beneath each projecting sill. The house is only one room deep, with an added lean-to across the back. The roof of the lean-to is of a much shallower pitch than the main roof, however, so that there are low rooms on the second level of the lean-to, above the kitchen. There is a cellar beneath the lean-to, but the area beneath the main part is unexcavated; the underpinning is fieldstone. At the north end of the house, and set back to the rear, is a small one-room wing, of some age, but considerably rebuilt. This gambrel-roofed addition, like the garage/screen porch ell to the rear, is small and unobtrusive and in no way compromises the historic form of the house.

The interior of the house reveals heavy framing members, with summer beams in all four front rooms and stout posts which, on the second floor, exhibit considerable flare. A section of the original rear wall has been exposed and covered with glass in order to show the brick filling between the studs. In the attic can be seen the unusual lean-to roof framing, curved rafters which ride part-way up onto the main house's rafters. Early or original interior features include wide-board oak floors, five fireplaces with very large hearthstones, two corner cupboards, most of the door hinges, and a great deal of panelling. Although the kitchen in the lean-to is entirely finished with vertical feather-edged boards, the other four rooms all have three plaster walls and panelling around the fireplaces. The fireplace walls are similar but not identical; each has a bold bolection molding around a large opening, and a simple arrangement of large panels. The structural members are cased with beaded boards, and the summers, girts and plates are finished with a series of moldings creating a room cornice of modest depth. The two lower rooms and the south chamber have a panelled dado, as does the hall, in which the dado is continued up the open stairway. The stairs have turned balusters, a simple cherry handrail, and a scalloped applique on the outside of the string.

The two corner cupboards are similar, but that in the north room is more elaborate. Both have a round-arched opening fitted with curved shelves in the upper part, and a pair of panelled doors below. The plainer cupboard, in the southwest corner of the south room, has a rectangular frame of raised moldings outlining the cupboard, and indeed the upper opening was at one time rectangular.

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(11/78)

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King's Field House  
Suffield, CT

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The north room cupboard's moldings follow the round-arch shape of the opening, with a keyblock formed by breaks in the room's cornice moldings. The resulting spandrels are panelled. A glazed door fitting this cupboard was found in the attic several years ago and remains there.

The house was restored in the 1930s by Delphina Hammer Clark. While most of the material described herein is original to the house or an early modification, and was found in place underneath later walls, an exception was the alteration of the south room's cupboard from a rectangular to a round-arched opening, which was believed to have been the original shape.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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    c. 1723 - built                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    N/A

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

King's Field House is a valuable architectural resource both as a local example of typical 18th-century building and for purposes of comparison with other Connecticut houses (Criterion C). The house has elements of three periods: the house frame itself, the two-room plan of the front part, may be as old as the 1720s; the panelling and front stairway treatment are from mid-century or later; and the distinguished entranceways are inspired by post-Revolutionary Georgian Classicism. Rather than creating any incongruities, however, features from all three periods contribute to the historic character of the house.

The framing itself is heavy and typical of houses built before the mid-18th century, when flared posts began to be dropped in favor of lighter members. Another structural feature of some interest is the technique of superimposing the lean-to rafters on the main rafters. Many schemes were resorted to in order to build a lean-to with ample headroom, including extra plates and cantilevered girts. Riding the rafters up on the old ones, as in this house, must also be included in the catalog of 18th-century housewrights' techniques. The interior is well-preserved and contains much historical material: four rooms of raised panelling, old floors, the cupboards, and the fine front stairway. These interior details constitute an unusually intact and representative example of an 18th-century interior. A later modification to the house is the addition of the entranceway surrounds: the rather heavy proportions of the pilasters, the large scale of the dentils, and the use of the pulvinated frieze were favorite elements of Georgian Classicism. This type of doorway, with its pediment and fanlight, continued well through the Federal period, but with slenderer proportions and lighter details. The blind fanlight is one of a kind, so far as is known: it was undoubtedly made necessary by inadequate clearance below the front girt for a real light. Taken together, these numerous well-preserved historic features make King's Field House significant.

The house is believed to have been built about 1723, by Lieutenant William King (1695-1774). In 1722, he was given this lot, known as King's Great Field, by his father, James King, one of the settlers of the town. According to tradition, he was given an old house as well, which he moved to the site and which formed the back of a new house he built on the site.<sup>1</sup> William King was a wealthy landowner, a weaver, and an influential man in Suffield affairs. In addition to being a militia officer, he served for years as selectman, and was a Deputy to the General Assembly. His son, Ensign William King (1722-1791), inherited this property and most of his father's land. Although he, too, left a sizeable estate of £ 2700 to Seth King (1758-1846), neither the son nor the grandson were as socially prominent as the earlier William King. In addition to farming extensive acreage, the later Kings operated both a cooper's shop and a blacksmith's shop. It is thought that the two shops were located to the rear of the house, undoubtedly within the bounds of the nominated lot.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

- Alcorn, Robert H. The Biography of a Town: Suffield, Connecticut. Suffield, 1970.
- Beach, Mary E. "The King Place, Suffield." Colonial Dames MS, State Library, Hartford, 1931.
- King, Cameron H. The King Family of Suffield, Connecticut. San Francisco, 1908.
- Suffield Quarter Millennial. Suffield, 1921.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9-3/4

QUADRANGLE NAME West Springfield

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 695030 4653040

B               

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is Lot 23A, Block 20, as shown on Suffield Assessor's Map 51.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission DATE August 13, 1979

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 X 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 *John M. Leonard* DATE January 19, 1982

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William H. Bralham* DATE 3.11.82

ATTEST:      CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE

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Although it is difficult to precisely date all the fabric of the house, the building as a whole can be appreciated as an artifact of a prosperous family, perhaps not at the top of the social ladder, but able to afford more than the ordinary in domestic comfort. For example, the large size of the rooms and their high ceilings show this to have been a better-than-average house even in its earliest years. At the time the panelling was added, probably in the 1770s, the same comfortable prosperity is evident. The house lacks the elaborate cornices, shell-carved cupboards, or pilastered mantel schemes of the best Suffield houses. Nevertheless, the very extent of the woodwork, with panelled fireplace walls and dados, modest cornice moldings, and cased framing members throughout the house, sets King's Field House apart from many of its contemporaries, where typically only one or two rooms would be so thoroughly finished. Similarly, the Georgian entrance treatment, later still, is not the most elaborate in Suffield, but its pediment and pilasters are a distinct contrast to the usual simple doorframe of molded boards: a distinguished doorway, fitting for one of Suffield's important families.

King's Field House is also significant as a restoration by, and at one time the home of, one of Connecticut's leading figures in historic preservation. Delphina Hammer Clark was the first woman admitted to Yale's School of Architecture. She was for a long time an associate of J. Frederick Kelly, and worked with him on his investigations of old houses. Active in the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut, she served as the head of their Structures Committee and directed the restoration and preservation of some of the landmark structures of 17th and 18th-century Connecticut.<sup>2</sup> She has compiled an exhaustive and authoritative documentary history of nearly all the historic houses in Suffield, the town wherein she still resides.

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<sup>1</sup>The tradition is substantiated by the fact that the brick filling in the old rear wall of the house is found only in the north part of the wall, implying an ell or wing (not the present lean-to) extended from the south rear. Presumably this earlier part was removed to make way for the lean-to.

<sup>2</sup>See, for example, Delphina L.H. Clark and Frederic C. Palmer, The Buttolph-Williams House, Its History, Restoration and Furnishings (Hartford: Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc. of Connecticut, 1969; reprinted from The Connecticut Antiquarian, 1956).

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REFERENCES (Continued):

Conversation with Delphina Clark, August 8, 1979.

Delphina Clark Notebooks on Suffield Houses, MS, Suffield Public Library.