

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0685305

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 2 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 16 1979

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 Solomon Goffe House

AND/OR COMMON
1711 Club Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
677 North Colony Street

CITY, TOWN
Meriden VICINITY OF 5th - Ronald Sarasin

STATE
Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY New Haven CODE 009

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Meriden, Connecticut

STREET & NUMBER
142 East Main Street - City Hall

CITY, TOWN
Meriden VICINITY OF CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Meriden City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
142 East Main Street - City Hall

CITY, TOWN
Meriden STATE CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975 _FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Hartford STATE CT

NAPIER 30
NAPIER PARK
MIGRATED 1/27/79

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 Solomon Goffe House, commonly known as the 1711 Club Inn, is a 1½ story, gambrel-roofed, 18th-century frame dwelling with numerous 20th-century enlargements. Located in a mixed-use area of Meriden, the house has as neighbors single-family homes, a small restaurant, and a modern manufacturing plant. The building is situated very close to the street; its lot is large and open but slopes downward. The house is now vacant and awaiting restoration. Its last use was as a restaurant.

The historic part of the house was built in two stages. The southern and older part is a center-chimney dwelling whose main facade has a pair of windows on either side of a central entranceway; it is believed that this is the first house on the site, dating to 1711. At a later time, two additional rooms were added to the north of the house, with a smaller end chimney and another entrance and pair of windows facing the street. The date of this addition is uncertain, but the framing is considerably lighter than that of the main house. A lean-to extending back from the north part of the house was removed in 1911.

The gambrel roof is continuous over the two parts; the earlier roof was simply extended over the addition. The roof curves outward slightly near the eaves where there is a moderate overhang. A narrow cyma molding between the wall and soffit and another along the eaves finish the otherwise plainly boxed cornice. The rake molds are more elaborate, a composition of cyma, cove, roll and bead moldings; these are badly rotted and parts have been replaced by plain boards. There are five shed roofed dormers spaced evenly across the front of the lower slope of the roof. Because of modern roofing and flashing materials, these lack an historic appearance, but interior detailing shows that the dormers date at least from the Federal period.

The underpinning below grade, as well as the foundation of the larger chimney, is a rubble mortared with clay and straw. Above grade the underpinning is a rough brownstone ashlar.

Modern additions to the house include a porch on the south side, a one-story one-room wing and enclosed stairway on the north side, and a large two-story extension across the entire rear of the house. Most of the house is clapboarded with modern material, except the north wall, which is shingled. (In the attic between the two older parts are remains of early clapboards with "rose-head" nails.) The windows are boarded up; they have small-paned sash which does not seem to be old. The only notable exterior detail is the south entrance. The molded frame around the four-panel door is more than a foot wide and features a series of cyma, roll, cove and quarter-round moldings all topped off by a crown molding centered above the doorway.

Much of the interior, including the ground floor from the chimneys back, was converted into large open dining areas and kitchens and has little historical material left. The second floor was also extended toward the rear and partitioned into small rooms. Other than a dormer whose opening is framed with rope-turn and other moldings, the second floor is devoid of significant remains. The cellar contains a large stone kitchen fireplace with oven. Because the house is sited on a hill the cellar must have formed another story in the rear; whether the original exterior wall was frame or stone is unknown.

In contrast, the three front rooms of the house are very well preserved,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Solomon Goffe House
Meriden, CT

seven

one

with chestnut floors, cased framing members, fireplaces, panelling and cupboards. Dropped ceilings obscure any elaboration of beams, except for the (former) end girt in the middle room which shows a dentil course carved out along its casing. All three rooms have a raised-panel dado with molded chair rail. The fireplace walls in the middle and south rooms are both covered with rectangular raised panels. Both have simple bolection moldings around openings and mantelshelves obviously added at a later date, as they are set against and partially obscure a narrow panel above the fireplace. The arrangements of panels in the two rooms are similar but not identical. Broad and narrow panels are combined in a direct and straightforward composition; the south room's panelling is more vertical in orientation than the middle room's. The latter incorporates a cupboard with curved shelves next to the fireplace. Wide flaring corner posts are visible in the south room.

The north room has the fireplace wall set at an angle so that the end chimney can be shared by this room and one to the rear. The fireplace opening is surrounded by a cove molding of questionable age. Above is a mantel with rope-turn, cyma and bead moldings. Panelling is confined to a large flat panel above the fireplace flanked by two small cupboards with flat-panelled doors. On the other side of the stack is a small cooking fireplace with oven. This may indicate that the two parts of the house were two separate dwellings, or that the tavern was operated in this part, or simply that the kitchen was moved.

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 1711 - believed built BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Solomon Goffe House has local historical significance because it is the oldest house in Meriden, a city with few remaining 18th-century buildings. Although the exterior has been greatly altered and is somewhat deteriorated, the early form of the house can still be appreciated, and removal of accretions and some restoration could enhance the building's historic appearance. Moreover, many of the house's features are in themselves significant and valuable to the student of early domestic architecture.

The house is a good example of an early 18th-century country-style home. The plain exterior, the stark lines, the low first story with the windows right under the eaves, the massive chimney foundation laid with clay and straw mortar, and the heavy framing of the southern part all point to the house's early origin. The south entrance is interesting: the width of the frame and the variety of moldings constitute a woodworker's catalog. ¹

The interior also contains much historical material worthy of preservation and study. In addition to the old clapboards in the attic, the two kitchen fireplaces, and a remnant of trim upstairs, the three front rooms on the ground floor are practically intact. The panelling arrangements in the south and middle rooms, while not likely to date from 1711, are probably mid-18th century, and are notable for their simplicity, asymmetry, exclusion of mantelshelves from the original schemes, and thoroughness in covering the entire wall, including the small spaces above the cupboard and doorway in the middle room. Although the north room continues the panelled dado of the earlier rooms, its fireplace wall is less elaborate, with the opening, mantel, and cupboards above set off by plastering. Because of the rope-turn molding, it is reasonable to date at least the interior of the north room as post-1800. Whether its plainness reflects the style of the Federal period, reduced economic circumstances, or both, is difficult to know.

Not much is known about Solomon Goffe, who sold his property ten years after purchasing it. For most of the 18th century, the building belonged to Jonathan Collins or his son. They may have operated a tavern here; certainly the location would have been favorable, as Colony Street was the major route between Hartford and New Haven.

The historical appearance of the building will be improved when the side facades of the early part are completely exposed and the roofline at the rear restored. Enough of the cornice and rake moldings remains to accurately restore missing and deteriorated sections. Restoration plans call for using the building as a community center.

¹ Although similar molded frames are among the earliest of entrance treatments, the practice persisted past 1800.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beach, Mary (comp.). "Solomon Goffe House, Meriden, 1711." Ms., Colonial Dames Collection, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, c. 1920.
- Gillespie, C. Bancroft (comp.). A Century of Meriden. Meriden: Journal Publishing Company, 1906.
- City of Meriden, Heritage and Cultural Commission. "Historic Preservation in Meriden" Mimeo, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 68,444,0 4,60,228,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building, owned by the City of Meriden, sits on a parcel of land leased from Napier Company, Napier Park, Meriden, CT. The boundary is defined by a line running around the building at a distance of 25' .

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

1 May 1978

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:

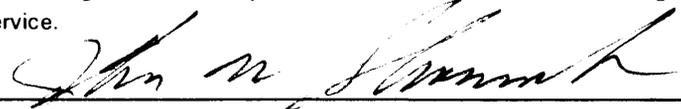
NATIONAL

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

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

September 26, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: 

DATE

1-16-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/15/79