

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 The Stanley-Whitman House

AND/OR COMMON

The Stanley-Whitman House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 37 High Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Farmington

\_\_ VICINITY OF

006

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Connecticut

09

Hartford

003

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING	<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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 The Farmington Village Green and Library Association

STREET & NUMBER

37 High Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Farmington

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Record Room, City Hall  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hartford

Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Constructed around 1660, The Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington, Connecticut is the oldest house in that community, and is one of the earliest frame structures left in New England. Age alone, however, is not the reason for the esteem in which we hold this handsome house. Rather it is because the Stanley-Whitman House is a composition of architectural elements which together present us with an excellent example of the English-medieval building techniques of seventeenth-century New England.

The overhanging upper storey, which we associate so quickly with early New England houses, derives from earlier usage in the British Isles, a feature used there in an attempt to squeeze as much living space as possible out of the narrow medieval streets of Europe. Two types of overhang developed here: that type in which a post running from sill to plate was hewn out at the floor level of the upper storey, thereby creating a shallow stepback, and that type in which two separate framing members created the two difference planes, i.e. a one storey post from the sill to the girt, and another, in a forward plane, from girt to plate. The former type, sometimes called a false overhang (e.g. The Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield, Connecticut) was only able to have hewn a portion of the rather massive post, and thereby was generally limited to an overhang of only a few inches. The so-called true overhang type that we find at The Stanley-Whitman House, on the other hand, creates a much bolder effect through the manipulation of separate timber members, and overhangs a good deal more. The west front of the Stanley-Whitman House has an overhang of some eighteen inches.

The drops which we see at that front are carved from those portions of the upper floor posts which project beneath the floor girt. These, here, are unusually handsome, and reveal a sophisticated approach to the articulation of separate architectural functions through the structural members. Very few original carved-drop houses remain to us today.

The narrow casement windows in this house are not original, but are certainly authentic, the product of a careful restoration in 1934 by the Connecticut authority, J. Frederick Kelly. Sash windows, introduced into England from Holland during the seventeenth century, had not yet made their way to the colonies, and the vertical-mullioned, diamond-paned, leaded casement type with transoms, is altogether typical of this period and for centuries before.

That part of the chimney which remains below the gable also reveals a medieval building habit. Rather than joining the flat fieldstones with lime mortar as is done above the gable for the flat sandstones, they are

(Continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

PREHISTORIC  
 1400-1499  
 1500-1599  
 1600-1699  
 1700-1799  
 1800-1899  
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
 AGRICULTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 ART  
 COMMERCE  
 COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING  
 CONSERVATION  
 ECONOMICS  
 EDUCATION  
 ENGINEERING  
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
 INDUSTRY  
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 LAW  
 LITERATURE  
 MILITARY  
 MUSIC  
 PHILOSOPHY  
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION  
 SCIENCE  
 SCULPTURE  
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
 THEATER  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1660

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stanley-Whitman House, although built as early as 1660, is an outstanding example of the completed two-room New England house, comprising the basic house plus a lean-to at the rear. The Stanley-Whitman House also has an unrepresentative ell at the rear. Its exterior is particularly important as it is an excellently preserved and restored early example of the structural overhang type, and has handsome drops carved from the upper storey posts below the level of the girts. The completed plan with lean-to is the classic New England "saltbox" shaped house, although an ell added at the rear here, now housing museum pieces, detracts somewhat from the clean lines of the saltbox when seen from some angles.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952).  
 Anthony Garvan, Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut  
 (New Haven, 1951).  
 Norman Isham and Albert Brown, Early Connecticut Houses (New York, 1965).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8
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6	8	0	8	8	0
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4	6	2	0	8	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuance Sheet)

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

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

DATE

11/25/74

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

STATE

D.C. 20240

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

Landmark

Designated:

10.9.65

DATE

date

Boundary Certified:

DATE

date

5-20-76

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

DATE

date

Boundary Affirmed:

DATE

date

1/24/76

Acting Director, OHP

date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

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held together by a mixture of clay and straw, a technique long-used in England. The upper part of the chimney was rebuilt about 1700 when the lean-to was added, and used lime mortar at a time when bricks and lime mortar were becoming generally available.

The exterior walls are a mixture of original and modern, riven (split rather than sawed) oak weatherboards, attached with hand-forged wrought iron nails.

The main house (two rooms facing a center chimney) was a 2½ storey building approximately 38' x 33' to which was added, about 1700, the lean-to at the rear. Entirely typical of this period, the lean-to consisted of three spaces: the center portion, used as a kitchen with a new flue constructed into the old center chimney, and a small room at either end of the kitchen. The one with the least sun was used as the "buttery," for storing liquids, and the one with the greatest sun was used as the so-called "birth-and-death" room. Occasionally during this period the garret above this room would have been used for sleeping, but the only spaces regularly used as bedrooms were the two "chambers" above the hall and parlor.

An ell was added to the Whitman House about 1760 and today is filled with the exhibits of The Farmington Museum.

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The Stanley-Whitman House is well-situated midway on a hill, surrounded by trees and an old stone wall, and easily impresses one with its seventeenth-century rustic charm. It occupies about an acre of land in a residential area of Farmington, and since the ownership lines of The Farmington Village Green and Library Association, the owner, create a satisfactory buffer around the property, they will constitute the boundary of the National Historic Landmark. A photocopy of the owner's plat, prepared in 1935 and still current, by Merton Hodge, Surveyor, is enclosed with this form. The boundary of the National Landmark is indicated in red. High Street is the ~~w~~estern boundary, and surveyor lines limit the property at the ~~e~~ast, north, and south.

The property is excellently maintained by The Farmington Village Green and Library Association, and is regularly open to the public for a small fee. Mrs. Janice Riemer is currently the curator, who lives in the upper floor of the house and gives a brief lecture to visitors.