

PH0010740

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Litchfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718-09-0014	DATE 8/5/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Arah Phelps' Inn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East side of Route 183, facing west, at junction of Prock Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Colebrook

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: Litchfield	CODE 005
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Blum

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rte 83

CITY OR TOWN: North Colebrook	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Colebrook	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Colebrook	STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: Litchfield

ENTRY NUMBER: 718-09-0014

DATE: 8/5/71

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The hipped-roof structure contains two chimneys and an ell at the rear with a third large chimney. The plan is atypical because of a ballroom which runs across the entire front of the second floor although in many respects it corresponds to the four-square, hipped roof, central hallway form. The second floor ballroom causes the stairs to be located in the rear instead of between the two front rooms. They are completely enclosed, with two doors, one of them from the rear of the front hallway, the other from the taproom. The hall above, containing the stair-well, surrounded by a plain rail and uprights, is quite spacious (18 by 11 feet) and provides a dignified approach to the ballroom. The latter, on one side panelled its entire length of thirty-seven feet and containing two fireplaces, makes a fine room. The other three sides have panelled dados and windows with 24 light sashes. Two small bedrooms with walls sheathed both vertically and horizontally in the same room complete the upstairs of the main portion of the building. At a lower level and entered through a low door at the rear of the hallway into the ell are several more small rooms and a narrow stairway leading down to a small room back of the kitchen.

The two front rooms on the first floor contain panelled fireplace walls, dados and folding interior shutters. The taproom behind has panelling over the fireplace with both vertical and horizontal sheathing on the walls. In one corner stands a bar behind which is a door to the bar-pantry lined with shelves, and another door leading to the parlor. Above the counter are slender up-rights forming a grill with a narrow wicket that slides up and down...1

The ell was burned in 1942 in a fire which was stopped at the rear of the hipped-roof main section of the house. In 1965 the restoration of the central section of the building was completed by Mr. Edwin C. Litwin; at the same time the reconstruction of the rear ell was completed in such a way as to conform to the old foundations as well as to the exterior walls. Although no attempt at restoration was intended the owner's knowledge of and appreciation of the original lay-out combined with Mr. Litwin's use of old wood and period fittings have achieved an addition which is well integrated with the original hip-roofed Georgian structure.

1. Terry, Old Inns of Connecticut. Hartford: The Prospect Press, 1937, 1937.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1787

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is the second oldest now standing in Colebrook. It forms the focal point for the second of Colebrook's two Historic Districts. The main section preserves many original features -- plaster, paneling, and even paint, scraped back to the first coat. It is unusual in that it has a ballroom; a taproom with a bar in place; the Inn sign hangs in the front hall, and it is largely furnished, downstairs with original pieces.

The house has been in the same family since the land was allotted in 1720 to the original proprietors, one of whom was Josiah Phelps, grandfather of the builder Captain Arch Phelps who was the innkeeper for fifty years. He built it as a horse change stop for the Hartford-Albany Turnpike. The horsebarn still stands, as do many of the buildings of the farm which came to be known as one of the most successful in the county during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Terry, Old Inns of Connecticut. The Prospect Press, Hartford, 1937.  
 Antiques Magazine, March, 1969.  
 Information supplied by Mrs. John A. (Nancy Phelps) Blum

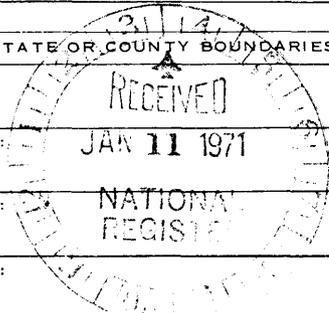
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 01' 03"	73° 05' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Constance Lyster

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE: January 4, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: State Liaison Officer and Chairman  
 Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: January 5, 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

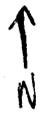
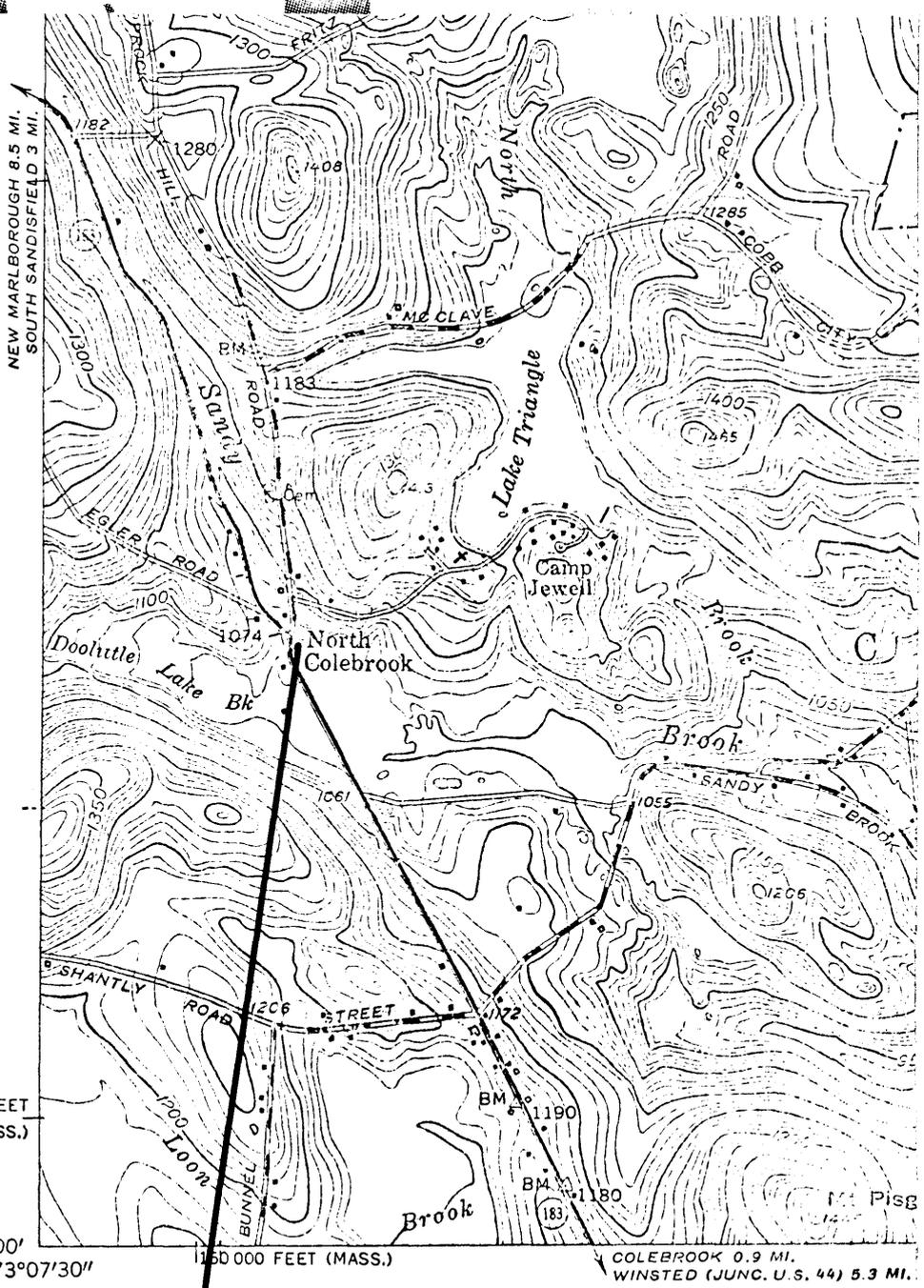
DATE: AUG 5 1971

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

DATE: APR 8 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



370 000 FEET  
(MASS.)

42°00'  
73°07'30"

150 000 FEET (MASS.)

COLEBROOK 0.9 MI.  
WINSTED (JUNC. U.S. 44) 5.3 MI.

(NORFOLK)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission,  
Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

Topography in Connecticut by planetable surveys 1944

Topography in Massachusetts by photogrammetric methods

**Arah Phelps Inn**

Latitude 42° 01' 03"  
Longitude 73° 06' 54"