

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675954

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED APR 25 1979	JUL 3 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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 Captain Philo Beardsley House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Beardsley Road
CITY, TOWN Kent
STATE Connecticut
VICINITY OF 6th - Toby Moffett
CODE 09 COUNTY Litchfield CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED - house	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED - barn	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lawrence H. & Halina A. Conklin
STREET & NUMBER R.R. 1 Box KH 29 Beardsley Road
CITY, TOWN Kent
STATE CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent Town Clerk
STREET & NUMBER Main Street - Town Hall
CITY, TOWN Kent
STATE CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Register of Historic Places
DATE 1978
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN Hartford
STATE CT

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain Philo Beardsley House is a two-story frame dwelling with integral lean-to built about 1780. It sits back from the road in a rural area of Kent; most of the neighboring property is open farmland. Attached to the rear of the house is a 1½ story modern gambrel-roofed ell. Across the street and near the road are some related outbuildings also included in the nominated parcel. The larger barn is the equivalent of two stories high and has the ridge of its gable roof perpendicular to the road. There is no cupola. A deteriorated wooden silo is attached. The barn has a 20th-century extension which joins it to a smaller, one-story old barn set at right angles to the first. The age of these two post-and-beam framed buildings is uncertain, but their hewn and up-and-down sawn members and non-interlocked rafters seem to place them somewhere in the 19th century.

The main or east facade of the house is five bays wide with a central entrance. There is a six-light transom over the original panelled door and a simple board frame with molded inside edges. Because of the thickness of the recently-installed rough-sawn clapboards, a strip of molding was applied around the edge of the door-frame. In addition to the new clapboards, there are new beaded cornerboards and wood shingles on the roof. Many of the glass window panes are old, but the sash (twelve-over-twelve on the first story and twelve-over-eight on the second) is a replacement. The underpinning and central stack are of roughly dressed stone.

The construction of the house is typical in most respects, but there are some unusual features. The rear wall of the lean-to is made with oak boards rather than studs, the same method as is used for interior partitions. No summers are visible beneath the plastered ceilings except in the north front chamber. The roofline is kept continuous by framing the rear plate about 2' above the level of the front plate; the lean-to has separate rafters. The roof framing is typical, with numbered rafters pegged together and no ridgepiece or collar beams.

The interior contains a great deal of material preserved intact. The most formal room is the south front room. There the fireplace wall is covered with raised panels generally arranged in three tiers. Above the fireplace opening, which is surrounded by a bolection molding, are two rows of panels. This section of the panelling projects outward slightly, and there is a corresponding break in the cornice above. The latter consists of a row of dentils and cyra moldings applied beneath the chimney girt, with another band of molding against the ceiling. There is a molded chair rail. In the southwest corner there is a two-part corner cupboard with glazed round-arched upper door, cross-buck panelled lower door, and three curved shelves within. The cornice above the cupboard resembles that on the opposite wall and forms breaks over each of three rosette-ornamented pilasters.

The other front room is nearly identical, but lacks the dentillated cornice and corner cupboard. The kitchen has a large stone fireplace, plastered in front, with a brick oven in the rear wall. Attached to the north wall is a plain, small folding table with a single fold-down leg. The kitchen walls are a combination of plaster, a horizontal board dado, and vertical feather-edged boards. Upstairs is an unfinished garret, the very plain north chamber, and the south chamber, finished with feather-edged boards.

Throughout the house (except for a small part of the kitchen) are original oak wide-board floors. Framing members are generally cased with a simple quarter-round molding along the edges, although some are plastered over. The plaster and lath have not been replaced within memory and although the lath is not visible, it is thought to be old if not original. The panelled doors retain their original hardware, including typical latches (Fig. 5).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Philo Beardsley House is of architectural significance (Criterion C) because it is a late example of a distinctive house form, the integral lean-to, and because of its well-preserved interior. The "saltbox" house seems to have first made its appearance in the 17th century, as houses of two-room plan were expanded with the addition of a kitchen at the rear. However, the lean-to was not only or even primarily a method of enlargement: many houses from the first half of the 18th century were built with the lean-to as a part of the design. Although often associated with early construction, the lean-to form continued to be popular, and the Beardsley House, built about 1780, is not atypical for even that late a date. Many schemes were employed in these houses to maintain a continuous roof line, such as using an additional rear plate or cantilevering the girts out to support the principal rafters: the raising of the rear plate in the Beardsley House is but another solution to this problem. Like most houses of its age, this house has had much of its exterior covering materials replaced. Nevertheless, it retains its original entrance, its large central stack, and most importantly, its characteristic form intact.

The house has a few anomalies in its construction. Why was only one wall "plank-framed?" Why is there a summer in only one room? The questions are of interest, if only because students of historical architecture expect symmetry and conformity to already-recognized patterns.

Because modern living facilities are almost entirely located within the ell, the interior of the house has changed very little. Except for window frames, paint (which was matched to the earliest color found), and part of the kitchen floor, the interior retains all its early fireplaces, woodwork, hardware, floors, and early if not original plaster. The folding table in the kitchen is a feature rarely found in place. Indeed, it is rare to find so much intact in one house.

The house has an interesting mix of simplicity and refinement, perhaps partly explained by the rural, somewhat isolated life in 18th-century Kent. The matched panelling in the two front rooms is simple and straightforward, but it is carefully done so that the three-tier pattern is repeated in the doors to the stairs. The chimney girts are treated as a cornice by the addition of moldings and dentils, and breaks in the lower course of molding subtly focus the eye on the fireplace. But at the same time, the failure to bring the cornice around the room or to continue the panelling in a dado distinguish the Beardsley House from its more elaborate contemporaries. Similarly, the corner cupboard shows an attention to detail and a familiarity with Georgian ornament, particularly the rosettes and the breaks above the pilasters, but although the cornice recalls that above the fireplace, the cupboard is not part of a decorating scheme which embraces the whole room. Moreover the cupboard is odd in two respects: it has a central pilaster instead of a key-block, and the other two pilasters rest upon, rather than frame, the arched opening.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beardsley, Isaac H. Geneological History of the Beardsley -lee Family in America. Denver: John Dove, 1902.
- Holt, Nellie B. "Beardsley Geneology." Typescript, State Library, Hartford, 1951.
- Williams, Henry L. & Ottalie K. A Guide to Old American Houses. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1962. Photograph.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 3 3 8 0 0	4 6 1 7 6 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes all of all of Parcel 64 as shown on Kent Assessor's Map 17 and in addition, sufficient land from Parcel 37A across the road so as to include the barn and 25' of adjacent land wherever possible.

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

December 13, 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

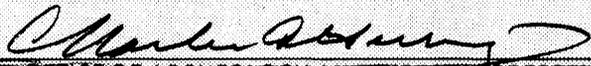
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

March 23, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

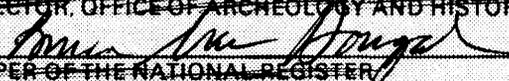
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7.3.78

ATTEST:



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/28/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Captain Philo Beardsley House
Kent, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE one

As of this writing, the barn and adjacent land on the east side of Beardsley Road are under contract to be sold to the owner of the house, but are still held by:

Deborah J. DeVaux et al.
R #1 Kent Hollow
Kent, CT 06757

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Significance (continued):

The cupboard would seem to be a provincialism based upon examples from the Connecticut River Valley, where the corner cupboard flourished. The Beardsley House is important, as it stimulates speculation on how designs spread and about the process by which the social status of the occupants and particular local taste combine to produce certain types of interiors. An exhaustive study of the area's houses would be needed to fully put this house in its context, but the Beardsley House can be seen as the dwelling of a prosperous but not cosmopolitan family.

Philo Beardsley (1755-1826) was given a 100-acre tract here in 1781 by his father Josiah, from Newtown, who bought the land a few years earlier.¹ Such largess itself may be interpreted as an indication that the Beardsleys were a successful family. Philo was a captain in the local militia, and two of his sons and a grandson were representatives to the General Assembly. The Beardsleys made their living farming, as the later but associated outbuildings recall.

¹The deed of 1781 (Kent Land Records 7: 467) implies that Philo had recently moved to Kent. He was married in 1784. Beardsley (1902) says that the house was built by Philo, and no earlier deed mentions a dwelling, including the highway right-of-way deed (1781; 7:57). It is said that the date "1770" was scratched in the plaster on a cellar wall: this would be too early for Philo Beardsley and is hard to explain.