

CH-22 NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received MAY 28 1982  
date entered JUN 28 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Holabird House

and/or common Gregg House

2. Location

street & number Kellogg Road, corner of Route 126 NA not for publication

city, town Canaan NA vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Connecticut 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	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Carolyn B. Gregg

street & number Kellogg Road, corner of Route 126

city, town Falls Village NA vicinity of state CT 06031

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Canaan Land Records, Town Hall

street & number Main Street

city, town Falls Village state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title see continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date " " "  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records "

city, town " state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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

#### Over View

The Holabird House is a mid-18th century, 2½-story, 5-bay, central-chimney, central-doorway, gable-roofed, frame structure on stone foundations with wood-shingled siding. Interior trim includes paneling and moldings with carved details, corner cupboards and many wide, feather-edged, beaded boards.

The house faces west on Kellogg Road near the corner of Kellogg Road and Route 126, at the eastern edge of the community of Falls Village in the Town of Canaan. The house is close to the street but has extensive grounds to the rear.

#### Exterior

The Holabird House consists of a 2½-story main block that is 39 feet wide by 30 feet deep, and a 1½-story, 16 x 30-foot wing that runs back from the left rear corner. (See Sketch Map.) In the street elevation the paneled, 2-leaf, central door and glazed transom are not original but the plain doorway surround and flat, projecting cornice may be old. The two windows left and right are placed close together, giving the fenestration a two-one-two rhythm. The windows, not original, have double-hung 6-over-9 sash in plain surrounds that appear to be old. The plain first-floor window surrounds are similar to the doorway surround. The second-floor windows are capped by cyma moldings. The siding is wooden shingles applied over clapboards that are visible in some places beneath the shingles. (Photograph 1.)

In the right side elevation a former doorway toward the front has been closed in. A 6-over-9 window adjoins the former doorway, and there is a second doorway toward the back. The plain surround of this doorway appears to be old, as do the stone steps, but the door itself is a replacement. In the second floor there are two 6-over-9 windows and there is one window in the attic. (Photograph 2.)

The left side elevation of the main block has two 6-over-9 windows in both the first and second floors, placed one over another, under paired 6-over-9 windows in the attic. The wing to the rear continues this wall plane with paired 6-over-9 windows close to the main block and, toward the rear, a tall, glazed area of four sections in an arched opening. The central two sections are a double door that is approached by new wooden steps.

The wing, on stone foundations, is an early addition. (Photograph 3.) A turn-of-the-century picture shows the wing in its present size and shape, with a single window located close to the main block.

The rear elevation of the wing is largely glass with a tripartite window at the main level and a single rectangular glazed opening above. An arched, glazed opening on the south repeats that on the north. Prior to alterations now in progress, the east end of the wing was an open porch with screens in the arched openings. Now the new glazing permits year-round

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Holabird House  
Surveys



Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

State Register of Historic Places

no

1972

State

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford

Connecticut

Federal Writers' Project

Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut, Canaan No. 11

1930s

State

Connecticut State Library

Hartford

Connecticut

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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enjoyment of the fine view of Cobble Hill to the east. The south wall of the wing toward the main block has a 6-over-9 window, a door and paired 6-over-9 windows. The rear elevation of the main block has four windows at the first floor and two at the second, randomly placed.<sup>2</sup>

Presumably, the house, when built, had a gable roof similar to that now in place, but it was removed in the 1880s. Turn-of-the-century pictures show the house with a flat roof. (Photograph 4.) When the present attic and roof were constructed in the 1930s<sup>4</sup> the upper portion of the chimney was rebuilt and the rear dormer was included. The added chimney in the rear slope of the roof is for the furnace.

A former barn south of the house, near Kellogg Road, burned in 1910. The only outbuilding at present is a 19th-century, 26 x 37-foot, frame barn located southeast of the house. (Photograph 5.) (See Sketch Map.) The back yard slopes down and then up again toward Cobble Hill. The grounds are pleasantly landscaped and include several flower beds near the house.

Interior

The floor plan of the Holabird House is the conventional 18th-century scheme of front rooms on either side of the central chimney, a stairway in front of the chimney, and a kitchen with large fireplace back of the chimney. On the second floor there is a bedroom over each of the first-floor front rooms.

The chimney has the usual large, stone base. There is a cellar north of the chimney base, only. The area of the cellar, therefore, is perhaps one-third that of the first floor. In the south cellar wall, immediately back of the chimney, there is a masonry cavity approximately 40 inches wide, 51 inches high and 72 inches deep. The opening has a wooden lintel. There is a flue, leading to the chimney, at the top of the right wall of the cavity, half way back. The interior of the cavity is not charred, and its historical function is uncertain. It may have been for collection of ashes preparatory to the making of lye and soap.

The cellar stairs run down from the south first-floor room, in front of the chimney base. Each step is a single piece of timber 10 inches high and 12 inches wide. (Photograph 6.)

In the front hall, on the first floor, the stairs rise in a three-run dogleg from left to right in front of the chimney. There are three risers to a square landing and turn of 90 degrees, seven risers next to the chimney to a second square landing and turn of 90 degrees and three risers

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back to the second-floor hall. The step ends are molded. Each tread has two turned spindles that support a molded handrail. Newell posts are square. (See Drawing.) The stairway has a paneled dado and the triangular wall in front of the stairs, under the railing, is paneled.

The right front room has a paneled fireplace wall that includes the door to the cellar, to the left of the fireplace, and the door to the front hall. These doors have three raised panels, two vertical panels above a square panel. The hall door has the same raised panels on both sides, but the cellar door has simple, recessed panels on the back. The fireplace has a brick firebox and stone hearth. The fireplace surround of stucco is outlined by a bolection molding. The other three walls of the room are made of wide, vertical, feather-edged, beaded boards. There is a door to the kitchen that is similar to the door to the cellar, while across the room the side door, that is covered on the exterior, is in place and visible. It has four recessed panels. A central summer beam has a paneled soffit. A simple cavetto cornice molding runs around the four sides of the ceiling and along the summer beam. The ceiling is old plaster. There is a small cupboard on the diagonal in the corner of the room to the right of the fireplace. The post in the front of the room at the exterior corner is flared, cased and beaded, one of several such posts visible in the house, while the end girt, cased and beaded, is exposed.

In the left front room, the fireplace has a brick firebox with brick hearth. While this fireplace is smaller and shallower than the one in the first room, it has a similar stucco surround and bolection molding, and an added flat mantel shelf. The fireplace wall is paneled in a 2-over-1 pattern similar to the doors. Fluted pilasters with rosette capitals flank the fireplace. The cornice moldings break out over the pilasters. (Photograph 7.) The several moldings that make up the cornice run around the four sides of the room. The chair rail is an extension of the window sills, over a paneled dado. The walls above the chair rail are plaster. In the front exterior corner of the room there is a corner cupboard with shell top and butterfly shelves. The cornice moldings break out to form a keystone in the arched cupboard opening, and there are triangular panels in the arch spandrels. The lower section of the cupboard has paneled doors but the upper section does not.<sup>5</sup> (Photograph 8.) This room has molded baseboards, which the first room does not, and, like the first room, has wide floor boards. The ceiling is old plaster. There is no summer beam. The cased end girt is exposed.

The large kitchen fireplace is stone with a stone hearth and has a bake oven on the rear wall, at the right. The fireplace opening, under a wooden lintel, is 56 x 93 inches. (Photograph 9.) The kitchen walls are made of wide feathered, beaded boards. In the left corner of the house there is a small room now used as an office. Behind it, in the





## 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. 1740 **Builder/Architect** Timothy Holabird

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Criterion C

The Holabird House is an outstanding example of 18th-century Connecticut domestic architecture. Elements of specific interest include the quality and completeness of its interior trim, the value of the house as an example of expansion from the one-room plan to the two-room plan with lean-to, and its age, dating from the earliest settlement in the Town of Canaan.

Timothy Holabird (1716-1810) first appears as a grantee in the Canaan Land Records in three entries recorded May 8, 1753. One of these entries records the conveyance to Holabird of three acres of land whose bounds "begin at a heap of stones 2 rods wanting 11 links north of the northwest corner of said Timothy Holabird's house,"<sup>1</sup> thereby establishing that the house was built prior to 1753. The absence of any entry in the Canaan Land Records describing the sale of the land to Holabird suggests that he acquired the land and built his house prior to the inception of the Canaan Land Records, which occurred in the year 1740. Canaan was incorporated in 1739, but the proprietors bought the land and began its subdivision in 1737. As it is unlikely that Holabird arrived before the proprietors, and clear from the land records that he was in residence by 1740, it is possible to fix the date of construction of his house with some confidence as between 1737 and 1740.

Later entries in the land records are helpful in establishing that the nominated property is in fact Timothy Holabird's house. In 1786, for "consideration of love, goodwill and affection" he gave two acres, "part of the home lot on which I dwell," to his son, John Holabird (1760-1840).<sup>2</sup> The bounds of the two acres are described, in part, as bordering on John's land. The property on Kellogg Road next north of the nominated house can be traced back through the land records to John Holabird,<sup>3</sup> in confirmation that the nominated house is the mid-18th-century structure built by Timothy Holabird.

Information about the Holabirds is sketchy. Timothy, in addition to being a farmer, his principal occupation, was also a tanner.<sup>4</sup> His son, John, represented his district in the state legislature in 1810, 1812 and 1813. There was more than one John Holabird.<sup>5</sup> A John Holabird died in 1840, and another deeded the property out of the Holabird family in 1880.<sup>6</sup> During the years between 1840 and 1870 the house was occupied by two female members of the Holabird family, Abigail and Polly Holabird.<sup>7</sup>

Conjecture about the physical development of the house is encouraged by several features. The most striking consideration is the difference

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 19.75

Quadrangle name South Canaan

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	F	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
G	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	H	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is described in the Canaan Land Records, vol. 39, p. 365. The boundary encompasses the remaining land that traditionally has gone with the house.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom

organization Architectural Historian date November 15, 1981

street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive telephone 203 521-2518

city or town West Hartford state Connecticut

## 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 May 21, 1982

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

6/28/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





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Significance

1. Canaan Land Records (CLR) 2/76. The History of Litchfield County, p. 272, states that Timothy Holabird of Bromfield, Massachusetts "at an early age settled near the present site of Falls Village."
2. CLR, 4/198, June 14, 1786.
3. The John Holabird House burned in the early 20th century. Under Timothy Holabird's will, his dwelling house and farm were distributed one-half to his widow, Lois, and one-half to his son, John. The inventory describes the house property as bounded on the north by land owned by John Holabird and on the west by the highway and turnpike road. (Kellogg Road was part of the Canaan-Salisbury Turnpike.) See Probate File No. 1617 at the Connecticut State Library.
4. History of Litchfield County, p. 272
5. John Holabird married Polly Belden February 21, 1788. See Canaan Vital Records, vol. A., p. 40. John Holabird of Canaan, married Sephrona E. Hamlin of New Hartford June 2, 1853. See Barbour Collection at Connecticut State Library quoting Barkhamstead Vital Records, vol. 1, p. 238.
6. CLR 22/189, August 16, 1884, John Holabird to Lee P. Dean and Dwight E. Dean. Subsequent changes in title were:
  - 22/227, March 7, 1881, L.P. & D.E. Dean to Norman B. Smith
  - 26/536, September 2, 1930, Arthur B. Smith to Kathrine S. Parsons "homestead of my father, the late Norman B. Smith."
  - 33/99, certificate of devise under will of Katherine S. P. Dean, died March 2, 1951, to her husband, Lee Maltbie Dean; and, certificate of devise under will of Lee Maltbie Dean, died March 18, 1951, to Louise Parsons Stanley.
  - 35/433, April 30, 1965, Louise Parsons Stanley to Beatrice S. S. Lanier.
  - 36/180, November 1, 1966, B.S.S. Lanier to Sally Dunsmore.
  - 39/365, February 19, 1976, Estate of Sarah Kenney Dunsmore to Carolyn B. Gregg.
7. The names A. & M. Holabird are shown for the house on the 1853 Clark map. Mary, Abigail and Polly Holabird inherited the house from the estate of John Holabird. See Sharon Probate Records, 20/123, June 28, 1841. The sisters, Abigail and Polly, by their wills, left the house to their nephew, John Holabird. See Canaan Probate Records, 2/514, October 26, 1869.

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8.

Dean states to the contrary. He says that the original window frames had "molded sills and heads," but he does not discuss the point, or indicate the time or reason for the change. His position gains some support from Photograph 4 which shows a plain frieze under the flat roof overhang, and from the remaining presence of the molded window caps of the second-floor windows on the front elevation. It seems safe to say that the extent of the original exterior elaboration is uncertain.

9.

Sharon Probate Records, 20/33.

10.

Another indication of the recognition given the house many years ago is the recollection by a neighbor who has long been in residence of a talk given in the house about the house by J. Frederick Kelly, the well-known pioneer in the study of Colonial Connecticut architecture.

11.

The sources of the dates given, usually Henry Charles Dean, Elmer Keith or HABS, are cited on the Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut forms, but with no rationale or report of research leading to the dates.

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Bibliography



Continuation sheet

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Canaan Probate Records.

Clark, Richard, Map of Town of Canaan, Philadelphia, 1853.

Dean, Henry Charles, The Holabird House, Old Houses of Connecticut Series, Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames in America, 1920.

Graham, Marie, notes on the Holabird House, 1960, at the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society.

History of Litchfield County, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis & Co., 1881.

Millar, Donald, Colonial Houses, v. 1, New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1916.

Sharon Probate Records

Holabird House  
Falls Village, CT

Sketch Map  
Scale: 1" = 150'

photo Key



