

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 16 1988
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Judah Holcomb House

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 257 North Granby Road N/A not for publication

city, town Granby N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. David Perry

street & number 257 North Granby Road

city, town Granby N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Granby Town Hall

street & number 15 North Granby Road

city, town Granby state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

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 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

The Judah Holcomb House is a two-story, five-bay gambrel-roofed residence of the center chimney type (Photograph 1). A one-story gable-roofed ell was added to the rear (west) of the original house c. 1950. The house is located on the west side of North Granby Road, a residential street in Granby.

The facade (eastern elevation) of the main house (Photograph 1) is dominated by a very good example of provincial woodwork in the form of a Connecticut River Valley style main entrance (Photograph 4). Set into the wide center bay, the entrance consists of a pair of fluted pilasters which rise to support an architrave, frieze, and denticulated cornice; a thumbprint keystone is centered above the doorway. The low relief carvings of the tall caps of the pilasters display a floral motif. A single 4-panel door is presumed to replace the original double door.¹ Most sash throughout the house are 6-over-6 with original plain wood surrounds. These late 19th-early 20th-century windows replace what were probably 12-over-8 sash. Second floor windows on the facade abut the plain box cornice. The wood clapboard siding is largely original. The fieldstone foundation and brick chimney are original; the asphalt-shingled roof is not.

The southern elevation (Photograph 2) contains two 4-over-2 replacement sash at the attic level. The shallow rake is simply molded. The paneled 9-light door is not original to the house.

The western (rear) elevation (Photograph 3) of the house also contains 6-over-6 sash. A single 9-light paneled door is centrally located on the first floor of the western wall. Some of the clapboards on this elevation have been replaced. A one-story gable-roofed ell (c. 1950) extends to the west of the north half of this elevation. The western part of the ell contains a two-bay garage with multi-paneled doors. The ell is sided with weatherboards.

The northern elevation (Photograph 1) contains a casement window in the northwest corner of the first floor. The c. 1950 ell projects north of the main block at this elevation.

The interior of the house contains many original features. A largely intact porch contains original vertical sheathing, halved together at the joints. The original two-run type stairs are enclosed with a molded box string. The stairway also contains square balusters, set diagonally into the symmetrically molded handrail, and two square newels. These are original features.

Both of the front (east) rooms have original floors, simple beaded and cased posts, and paneled fireplace walls; the panels themselves are simple raised rectangles with beveled edges and quarter-round beads. The fireplace in the northeast front room (parlor) of the house is surrounded by bolection moldings and is topped by an original molded wood mantel. Two original cupboards are located to the east of the fireplace. The remaining walls of this room are plaster with paneled wainscoting below a chair rail; the walls are topped by a ceiling mold. An original round-headed corner cupboard (Photograph 5) is located in the northeast corner of this room.

¹Miller, Amelia. Connecticut River Doorways. p. 95.

(continued)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Judah Holcomb House
Continuation sheet Granby, CT

Item number 6

Page 2

Historic American Buildings Survey

1966 Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Judah Holcomb House
Continuation sheet Granby, CT

Item number 7

Page 2

The southeast front room contains another original corner cupboard. An interesting feature of this room is the raised section of the ceiling that is believed to have been constructed for a grandfather's clock. The fireplace wall in this room is paneled in the same style as that in the northeast front room and is original; the bracketed mantel is a later addition. The remaining walls of this room are made up of horizontally jointed feather-edged sheathing.

Original vertical sheathing, halved at the joints, covers the walls of the large room to the west (rear) of the house (Photograph 6). The original fireplace was reduced in size with the addition of brick sides and back. The bake oven, located to the north of the fireplace, contains original 8" square tiles set in a clay mortar. The wide floorboards are original.

A small keeping room is located in the southwest corner of the house. Original horizontal sheathing surrounds the upper half of the room. Also encircling the room is a chair rail with rectangular panels below it; both of these features are later additions and appear to replace the original horizontal sheathing. A ceiling mold along the outer wall of the room appears to have been added sometime after the original sheathing was installed; it is similar in style to that found in the northeast front room (parlor).

The second floor features original wide floorboards, flared corner posts, and extensive use of very wide wood sheathing. The walls in all but the northeast chamber contain some combination of original beaded, beveled, or feather-edged vertical or horizontal sheathing. It is rare to find such an abundance of original sheathing intact in a house of this period.² The northeast chamber walls are plaster and are encircled by a molded chair rail.

Another unusual feature of the house is the existence of a kitchen chamber fireplace.³ The fireplace was covered with bricks and then plastered over sometime after the house was built. Its contours are somewhat visible below the plaster and its existence has been confirmed by the current owner of the house; it is the only fireplace on the second floor.

A small barn (Photograph 7), of post and beam construction, is located on the rear (west) of the property. The barn was probably built in the 19-century and has since been resided. This structure does not contribute to the significance of the site.

²Kelly, J. Frederick. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. p. 145.

³Ibid. p. 74.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1776

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Judah Holcomb House is architecturally significant as a very good example of eighteenth-century Connecticut River Valley regional architecture. It retains many original features from its c. 1776 construction date, chief among them a rare well-preserved Connecticut River Valley style doorway and an abundance of very wide sheathing found throughout the interior of the house (Criterion C).

Architectural Significance

Although there are other well-preserved eighteenth-century homes in Granby and Connecticut, the Judah Holcomb House is important for the abundance of intact, original wide sheathing found throughout its interior. A majority of the boards used for the sheathing average 18" to 20" in width; in addition to the great width of the boards, the sheathing also covers an unusually large amount of wall space in the house. While the use of this much sheathing was not uncommon at the time the house was built, "the occurrence of even a single room which is wainscoted throughout is rare" in Connecticut today. The Judah Holcomb House contains three rooms which are entirely sheathed; most of the remaining rooms contain some form of well-preserved sheathing as well.

The Judah Holcomb House also displays a notable front-entry. The beautifully preserved entry is not the high-style broken-scroll pediment type occasionally seen in the Connecticut River Valley but it is an excellent example of a flat-top vernacular Connecticut River Valley doorway. Few original Connecticut River Valley doorways of any type remain in Connecticut.²

In addition to the sheathing and front entry, the Judah Holcomb House also contains wide floorboards, corner cupboards, and paneled fireplace walls in both front rooms. All these features are original; the house retains enough of its original detail and design to make it recognizable as a gambrel-roofed center chimney plan eighteenth-century house. The addition of the ell to the north-west portion of the main house does not detract from the significance of the property.

Historical Background

Judah Holcomb was born in 1705, the son of Lieutenant Nathaniel Holcomb of Simsbury, Connecticut. Judah Holcomb's grandfather, Nathaniel, was an early land owner in Salmon Brook Society, then a part of Simsbury, and what is now Granby. Judah, along with many other Holcomb children and grandchildren, acquired property in Salmon Brook.

(continued)

¹Kelly, J. Frederick. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. p. 145.

²Miller, Amelia. Connecticut River Valley Doorways.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Tariffville, CT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	8	0	7	0	0	4	6	4	9	7	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Volume 136, page 641. Granby Land Records.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Louisa Roraback, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Architectural Historian

date May 3, 1988

street & number 39 Freedom Drive

telephone 203-693-8610

city or town Collinsville

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 12, 1988

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-16-88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Judah Holcomb House

Continuation sheet Granby, CT

Item number 8

Page 2

Judah Holcomb served as justice of the peace and delegate to the Connecticut General Assembly while Salmon Brook was still part of Simsbury.

Judah Holcomb appears to have built the present house c. 1776. Land records indicate it was at this time that Judah Holcomb deeded his "home lot", including a house, to two of his sons, Judah, Jr., and Benoni Holcomb. An earlier reference to a home lot involves Judah Holcomb and John Saxton, another Salmon Brook Society land owner. But Amelia Miller, referring to this 1747 reference in the land records, states: "The doorway, which probably never had a pediment, is of a style associated with the 1770s and may date to the marriage of Judah Holcomb, Jr., in 1774. It is also possible that the present gambrel-roofed house is later than the one referred to in 1747."¹ The lack of summer beams also strongly suggests the house was built in the 1770s.²

Judah Holcomb II was a private in the American Revolution, and was appointed Granby's first town clerk after the town was incorporated in October, 1786. The house remained in the Holcomb family until 1894.

¹Miller, Amelia. Connecticut River Valley Doorways. p. 95.

²Kelly, J. Frederick. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. p. 67.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Judah Holcomb House

Continuation sheet Granby, CT

Item number 9

Page 2

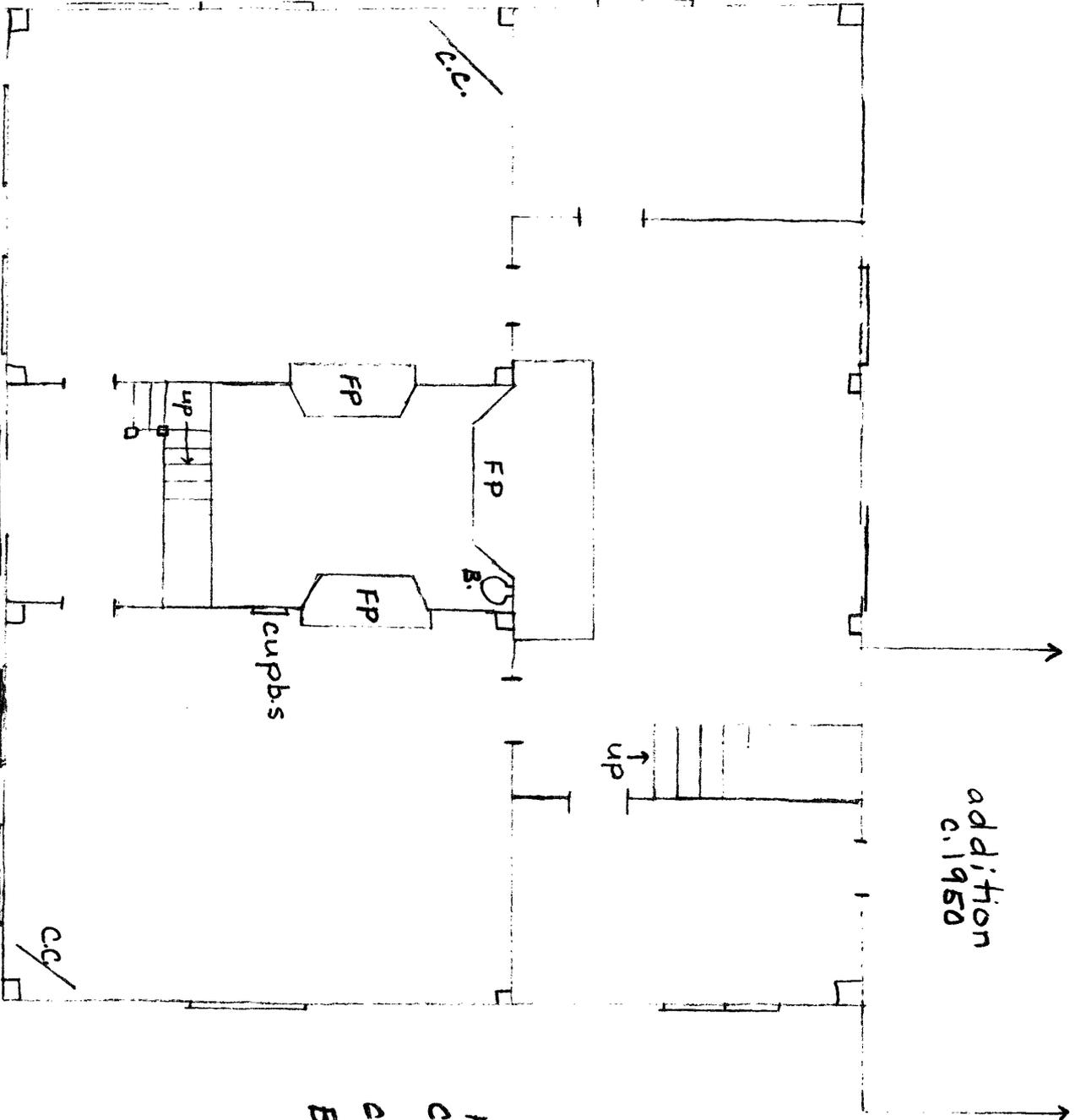
Askew, Barbara, et. al., ed. Granby, CT: A Brief History. 1786-1986.
Connecticut: Granby Bicentennial Committee, 1986.

Kelly, J. Frederick. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut.
New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1963.

Miller, Amelia. Connecticut River Valley Doorways.

Perry, David. Interviews. Granby, CT. July, 1986, 1987.

Phelps, Noah A. History of Simsbury, Granby, Canton. From 1642 to 1845.
Hartford: Case, Tiffany and Burnham, 1845.



JUDAH HOLCOMB HOUSE (First Floor)
C.1776

- KEY
- FP - Fireplace
 - C.C. - corner cupboard
 - cupbs - cupboards
 - B. - beehive oven

NOT TO SCALE



Judah Holcomb House
Granby, CT

Louisa Roraback

April, 1988

CT Historical Commission

Hartford, CT

Figure 1 Floor Plan

First Floor