NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

#FD 1 P

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property		· 🕌	.
historic name:			
other name/site number:	Pompey Hollow In	nn	
2. Location			
street & number: 14 Westford I			
city/town: Ashford		not for publ vicinity:	ication: <u>N/A</u> N/A
state: CT county: Windham	cod	le: <u>015</u> zip	o code: <u>06278</u>
3. Classification	========= e ng perty:		
	buildings sites structures objects Total		
Number of contributing resource Register:0_	es previously li	sted in the Na	tional
Name of related multiple proper	rty listing:	N/A	

	Tederal Agency Certification			
As the des of 1966, a request fo standards Historic E set forth	signated authority under the Mas amended, I hereby certify to determination of eligibility for registering properties in Places and meets the proceduration 36 CFR Part 60. In my open not meet the National Register	that the the that the the the the the the the the the th	hal Historic Preserthis X nominations the documentation National Register professional requestate the property X	rvation Act on on of direments meets
	My my flowing		February 16,	1994
Signature of certifying official			Date	
Dia	rector, Connecticut Historica	l Comi	mission	
State or F	ederal agency and bureau			
In my opin Register o	aion, the property meets riteria See continuation	n she	does not meet the	National
Signature	of commenting or other offici	al.	Date	
State or F	ederal agency and bureau			
	l Park Service Certification	=====		========
enter	certify that this property is red in the National Register See continuation sheet. mined eligible for the	Eds	on H. Beall	3/17/94
deter	onal Register See continuation sheet. mined not eligible for the onal Register ed from the National Register			
other	(explain):		Entered in the National Register	
		for Si	gnature of Keeper	or Action
	n or Use			
<pre>====================================</pre>	DOMESTIC		single dwelling	
	COMMERCE/TRADE		restaurant	
Current:	DOMESTIC	Sub:	single dwelling	

7. Descript	ion				
Architectura			=======================================	-======================================	
COLONIAL		_			
		- -			
Other Descri	iption: <u>N/A</u>				
Materials: f	foundation _ walls _ -	STONE WOOD	_ roof . _ other .	WOOD: Shingle BRICK	
Describe presheet.	esent and hi	storic physical	appearance	e. <u>X</u> See continuati	or
8. Statement Certifying	of Signifi ======= official has	cance	significa	e=====================================	
Applicable M	National Reg	ister Criteria:	_A,C_		
Criteria Cor	nsiderations	(Exceptions) :			
Areas of Sig	gnificance:	ARCHITECTURE COMMERCE			
Period(s) of	f Significan	ce: <u>c.1710-c.18</u>			
Significant	Dates: <u>c</u>	.1710, c.1750, c	.1800	<u></u>	
Significant	Person(s):	N/A		_ _	
Cultural Aff	filiation: _	N/A			
Architect/Bu	uilder:	Not known			
State signif	ficance of p	roperty, and jus	stify crite	eria, criteria	

considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

======================================	
X See continuation sheet.	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual list requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the Nation designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey recorded by Historic American Engineering Re	al Register
Primary Location of Additional Data:	
Other state agency 59 Se	ecticut Historical Commission outh Prospect Street ford, Connecticut 06106
10. Geographical Data ===================================	
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Ea	asting Northing
1 <u>18</u> <u>735640</u> <u>4638650</u> 2 <u>18</u> <u>735930</u> <u>4638500</u> 4 <u>18</u> <u>735930</u> <u>4638500</u> 4 <u>18</u> <u>735930</u> <u>735930</u> <u>1838500</u> 4 <u>18</u> <u>735930</u> <u>1838500</u> 4 <u>1838500</u> 4 <u>1838500</u> 4 <u>1838500</u> 8 <u>735930</u> 8 75950 8	35900 4638640 35670 4638390
See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description: See continual The nominated property consists of a portion known as 14-22 Westford Road (recorded in 70, p. 1075) outlined on the accompanying traced and enlarged from Ashford Assessor	ion of the 36-acre parcel Ashford Land Records, Vol. sketch map, scale 1"=150',
Boundary Justification: X See continuation	sheet.
======================================	
Name/Title: <u>Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronin, re</u>	eviewed by John Herzan,
Organization: <u>Historic Resource Consultants</u>	Conn. Hist. Commission Date: <u>November 29, 1993</u>
Street & Number: <u>55 Van Dyke Avenue</u>	Telephone: 203-547-0268
City or Town:Hartford	State: <u>CT</u> Zip: <u>06106</u>

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
Ashford, Windham County, CT

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The Mixer Tavern, also known as the Pompey Hollow Inn or Inne1, occupies the northeast corner of the intersection of Westford Road (Route 89) and Pompey Hollow Road (Route 44) in the Warrenville section of Ashford, Connecticut. Though numbered on Westford Road, the building faces south toward Pompey Hollow Road, from which it is screened by a dense planting of tall evergreen trees. The tavern, now used as a private residence, is a 2 1/2-story gable-roofed clapboarded house built in several stages, beginning, according to its traditional date, in 1710 (see Figure 1). The main part is a five-bay center-chimney portion (Photograph 1), measuring 34 by 42 feet, to which was added at the west end an additional two bays with an interior end chimney, extending the building by 20 feet. At the rear of the building are two 1 1/2-story ells, each about 33' long, with interior end chimneys (Photograph 2); the west ell is believed to date from 1710, while the east ell was constructed in 1967. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation. The chimneys are built of fieldstone rubble below the level of the second-story floor and brick above. roof is covered with cedar shingles. In the main part of the house, the roof is supported by a principal-rafter, ridgepole, and purlin system stiffened by diagonal bracing at the ends. In the added two bays, the roof's structural system consists of common rafters, collar ties, and a polygonal-section ridgepole. The main entrance (Photograph 3) has a seven-pane transom, a plain-board surround, and double batten doors on strap hinges. Windows are fitted with 12-over-12 narrow-muntin sash (Photograph 4), some of which was removed from other houses and installed in this building in a 1920s restoration. Both windows and the entry have narrow molded caps below which runs a course of delicately proportioned dentils.

The interior of the house features plaster walls, floors of wide hardpine boards, raised-panel doors, applied moldings on window and door frames, and beaded casings for the posts and beams. In the main part of the house, large summers run from front to back in the lower front rooms, and the posts exhibit a pronounced splay. The west front room of this part (now the middle front room) has a complex bolection molding surrounding its small stone fireplace, with the entire fireplace wall covered with raised paneling (Photograph 5). The

¹As might be expected given its age, the building has had several other names over the course of its long history, among which are "Clark's Inn" and the "General Palmer Inn."

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
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room's deep cornice moldings form breaks over the windows, including over the ghosts of the windows in the west wall, now an interior partition. The east front room is somewhat differently detailed. ceiling has been removed, exposing the joists; it can be seen that the summer (also running front to back) did not protrude below the ceiling plaster, as it does in the opposite room. The east room has a paneled dado along the fireplace wall and paneled doors on the cupboard above the fireplace opening. The room's main feature is the partition to a small back room (Photograph 6); reflecting the building's origins as a tavern, it has a paneled half door on the left and a smaller square opening on the right, fitted with a shelf and a fold-down paneled door. The hallway between the front rooms has paneled walls and a stairway with slender turned balusters and scrollwork applied to the sides of the steps (Photograph 8). Halfway up the stairs, a small paneled door gives access to a smoke chamber in the chimney stack, closed off by a rough sheet-metal door (Photograph 9). The rear first-floor room, the original kitchen, has a large stone fireplace with a brick side oven; the walls are finished with plain and beaded wide boards.

The end chimney in the part added to the west side provides corner fireplaces for each of the two downstairs rooms. The front room's fireplace treatment is the more ornate, consisting of a mantel with pilasters paneled to give a fluted effect, moldings forming diamond-shaped ornaments in the necking, and an elaborately molded shelf with breaks over the pilasters and a central tablet (Photograph 9). The rear fireplace has a simple molded surround, above which is a shelf, with the rest of the diagonal wall filled with raised paneling (Photograph 10); the fireplace has a remnant of a cast-iron insert embossed with a papyrus-leaf ornament. The interior of the low-ceilinged west rear ell is open its entire length (though apparently formerly partitioned into two rooms). Its stone fireplace lacks any exterior finish; on the left is a brick oven and on the right, a large circular hearth probably intended for a boiler (Photograph 11).

The second-floor plan follows that on the first floor. The east front room has a small fireplace with a bolection molding and a chair rail; no summer is visible. The middle front room has a molded cornice like that in the room below, a chair rail, and, in the northwest corner, a corner cupboard with a paneled lower door, arched opening, and elaborately curved shelves (Photograph 12). The cupboard's removal from its original location in the southwest corner of the room below

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn) Ashford, Windham County, CT 7-3

was made necessary by the doorway to the addition. The projecting summer in this room runs from side to side. Other interior features of note include small brick fireplaces in the second-floor west rooms, vertical-board wainscoting in the rear rooms, and, in the cellar, a large arched opening in the chimney foundation (Photograph 13).

In addition to the house, the property includes a large garage and shop building (Photograph 14) to the rear of the house, remodeled from a barn built in the 1930s to replace an earlier barn that burned; it is counted as a noncontributing building. However, a small clapboarded outbuilding (Photograph 15) appears to date to the middle 19th century and is counted as a contributing resource. Other landscape features of note include numerous stone walls (Photographs 2 and 14) and, in front of the house, several granite hitching posts and supports for a rail (formerly there was a picket fence across the front of the house). The land around the house is generally open, with a recently-created small pond to the east.

The Mixer Tavern has been relatively unaltered since the early 19th century. Although restoration activities were undertaken in the 1920s and again in recent years, these have generally enhanced the historical appearance of the building by introducing appropriate elements, such as the divided sash and wood-shingled roof. The basic form of the house remains unchanged. Moreover, the exterior entry and window detailing, chimney masonry and fireplaces, interior paneling and other woodwork, floors, cupboard, and bar-room partition are, according to all reports, original to the house.

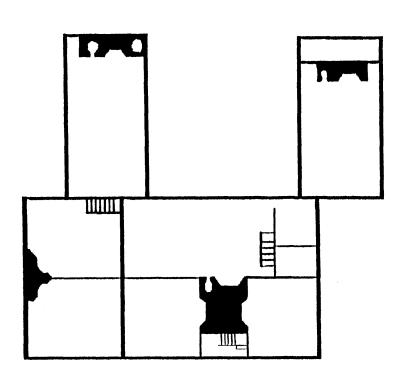
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn) Ashford, Windham County, CT 7-4





Front of House

Figure 1: FIRST FLOOR PLAN

0 20 40
Scale in feet

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn) Ashford, Windham County, CT 8-1

Summary

The Mixer Tavern in Ashford is significant because of the central role that taverns played in the life of 18th-century Connecticut communities (Criterion A). In addition to being, in many places, the only commercial enterprise in an almost entirely agricultural economy, taverns served as gathering places for local residents, forums for public discussions, and inns for long-distance travellers. Although many houses are known to have been used as taverns at one time or another, the Mixer Tavern is especially notable for its long tenure and for retaining physical features, such as the bar-room partition, that indicate its special function. The building also has architectural significance as a well-preserved example of 18th-century vernacular architecture (Criterion C), embodying key characteristics of the type such as the central-chimney form, post-and-beam framing, clapboarded exterior, and interior paneling.

Historical Significance

John Mixer, who bought 100 acres at this location in 1710, was Ashford's first town clerk and its first licensed taverner. Although his tenure here was fairly short—he sold the property in 1722—the building continued as a tavern for many more years. It was known for a long while as Clark's Tavern because Benjamin Clark owned it for one of the longest periods, from 1757 to 1799. Following Clark, it became the property of Joseph Palmer, a doctor and brigadier general in the colonial militia, for which reason it is also known as the General Palmer Inn. The Palmer family owned the house until 1845. The current name, Pompey Hollow Inn, was given by the family that restored it in the 1920s, to reflect the historical name of the Warrenville section of Ashford.

Taverns typically played a number of roles in New England communities. Because of the settlement pattern, most residents were spatially isolated on their individual farms and so needed central places to socialize and exchange news. Along with the Congregational meetinghouse and the gristmill, taverns provided such a place; indeed, it was not uncommon for town-meeting warnings and other public notices to be officially posted at taverns, on the presumption that they would be most widely read there. The public role of the Mixer Tavern is attested to in the minutes of Ashford town meetings, which frequently were adjourned from the meetinghouse to resume there, and by the tradition that it served as a meeting place for local militiamen during the Revolution.

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Significance

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn) Ashford, Windham County, CT 8-2

Taverns also provided communities with links to the outside world, serving as stops for post riders, mail distribution points, and lodging for the occasional overnight guest. The Mixer Tavern probably had more than its share of out-of-town visitors, since the road in front of the house was the principal east-west route between Hartford and Boston. The road was especially heavily used during the Revolution, when inland transportation took the place of waterborne traffic. Among the notable visitors known to have stopped at the Mixer Tavern were the Marquis de Chastellux and four other French officers from Rochambeau's army; they were on an excursion to Portsmouth, N.H., while their troops were encamped in Hartford.¹ In 1797 the road was further improved as the Boston Turnpike, one of Connecticut's first.

Several features of the Mixer Tavern remain to suggest its historic functions. The opening in the partition between the east front room and the small room to the rear clearly was meant to facilitate the serving of customers in what must have been the main bar-room, with the more ornate parlor to the west perhaps reserved for other guests. multiple stone hitching posts in front of the house recall its use as a stop on what was the colonial post road and later, the Boston Turnpike. The large circular hearth also appears to have been intended for some extraordinary purpose beyond what could be accomplished in even the large cooking fireplace in the main part of the house, though what was prepared in the huge kettle that sat there can only be the subject of speculation. Finally, the interior smoke chamber and the unusually large vault in the stack foundation made this house well equipped for food preparation. While individual families sometimes had such amenities, they would have been especially useful for a house that also served as a busy tavern.

¹On November 5, 1782, "we stopped to bait our horses at Mr. Clark's tavern in Ashford township," wrote Chastellux. Benjamin Clark owned the tavern at that time, and the marquis's reference to the nearby Mount Hope River makes it clear that this house is the place he meant. See Francois Jean, Marquis de Chastellux, Travels in North America in the Years 1780, 1781 and 1782, ed. by Anne S. K. Brown (Williamsburg, Va., 1963), II, 479, 616.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn) Ashford, Windham County, CT 8-3

Architectural Significance

In addition to its local historical significance, the Mixer Tavern is important as a largely intact example of the vernacular architecture of colonial New England. Although enlarged over time, the typical centerchimney, five-bay, gable-roofed form is apparent, and through preservation and appropriate restoration, the house's exterior appearance reflects other key characteristics of the type: clapboarded exterior, wood-shingled roof, simple transomed entry, and small-pane divided sash. The interior finishes are also typical of colonial New England building practices, which reflected the region's easily obtainable timber resources: wide-board flooring, beaded casings of the post-and-beam structural members, and raised paneling as the chief decorative embellishment of wall surfaces. The gradation in formality found in the Mixer Tavern--molded cornices only in one front room, and rear rooms finished with plain boards instead of paneling--is also characteristic of the period.

Some of the features found in the Mixer Tavern are not commonly found in 18th-century houses in this part of Connecticut. As atypical elements, they indicate the range of options available to colonial-era builders. For example, while storage niches in the chimney foundation are a part of the standard building practice of the period, a vault as large as that in the Mixer Tavern, one into which one can walk, is rarely found among surviving examples. The inside smoke chamber is also uncommon, and where found, is usually accessed from the attic, not the front stairway. Finally, the framing of the house departs from the arrangement most commonly found in eastern Connecticut in two respects: the use of front-to-back summers in the lower rooms, and the purlin and principal-rafter roof structure. Neither constitutes a rarity; rather, they illustrate variations in building customs that may be attributable to the movement of people from one part of New England to another, or perhaps simply to individual preference.

Over the many decades that the Mixer Tavern has been regarded as a historic house, differing dates have been assigned to the building's several components. The low ceiling and plain-board interior finish of the west wing have undoubtedly contributed to the tradition that this is a remainder from the first building episode dating from c.1710. All parts of the main five-bay structure--heavy framing with splayed posts, use of summers, fireplace bolection moldings--suggest a 1730-1760 date, though the differing projections of the summers on the two sides of this part raise the question of whether it was built in two stages. The two-bay addition at the west end has been interpreted as a c.1760 change, consistent with the framing members that are visible in the

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Significance

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
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rooms in this part, which do not seem substantially different than the presumably earlier five-bay part. However, the use of corner fireplaces, the ridgepole in the roof framing, and the Federal-style mantel in this part suggest a c.1800 date. At least some changes to the house were made around that time, judging by the dentils over the windows and the applied moldings on interior window and door frames, both of which are more common in the Federal period (1790-1820).²

²Henry S. Kelly, who along with his more-famous brother J. Frederick Kelly was active as a restoration architect, examined the house in the early 1930s. He judged the main part to date from the middle "or possibly early" 18th-century, and the two-bay addition the late 18th century. See Bibliography.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
Ashford, Windham County, CT

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- Johnson, Barbara. "Haggetts to Sell Famous Landmark, But Specify It Must Be Preserved," <u>Hartford Times</u>, November 12, 1962, p. 38.
- "Old Pompey Hollow Coach Tavern Recalls Days of the Colonial Period in New England Life," <u>Norwich Bulletin</u>, January 30, 1930, p. 12.
- Prescott, Helen. "Pompey Hollow Inne." Manuscript, 1981, copy provided by owner.
- Snow, Walter. "Pompey Hollow Tavern Recalls Bygone Eras," <u>Willimantic Chronicle</u>, January 10, 1968, p. 11.
- Terry, Marian Dickinson, ed. <u>Old Inns of Connecticut</u>. The Prospect Press, 1937.
- Town of Ashford, 1714-1964: Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. Ashford, 1964.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Geographical Data Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
Ashford, Windham County, CT

10-1

Boundary Justification:

The boundary was chosen so as to include associated land surrounding the house, including contiguous frontage along Westford Road (Route 89) and Pompey Hollow Road (Route 44). This land is largely open, consisting of meadow and stone walls. Additional back acreage under the same ownership was not included because it is less directly connected to the house's setting; it is predominantly wooded and is now cut off from the two roads by intervening properties.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
Ashford, Windham County, CT

Photos-1

All photographs:

- 1. Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
- 2. Ashford, Windham County, CT
- 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
- 4. February, 1993
- 5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission Hartford, CT

Captions:

South elevation (facade), camera facing northwest Photograph 1 of 15

North (rear) elevation, camera facing south Photograph 2 of 15

Detail of entry, south elevation, camera facing north Photograph 3 of 15

Detail of window, south elevation, camera facing northeast Photograph 4 of 15

Interior, paneling on fireplace wall, south middle front room, camera facing northeast
Photograph 5 of 15

Interior, tap room (small room to rear of east front room), camera facing north
Photograph 6 of 15

Interior, front stairway, camera facing northwest Photograph 7 of 15

Smoke chamber accessed from front stairway, camera facing northeast Photograph 8 of 15

Corner fireplace in west front room, camera facing northwest Photograph 9 of 15

Corner fireplace in west rear room, camera facing southwest Photograph 10 of 15

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs

Mixer Tavern (Pompey Hollow Inn)
Ashford, Windham County, CT

Photos-2

Fireplace in west ell, camera facing north Photograph 11 of 15

Corner cupboard, second-floor middle front room, camera facing north Photograph 12 of 15

Vault in chimney foundation, cellar, camera facing east Photograph 13 of 15

Garage/apartment to rear of house (noncontributing), camera facing north
Photograph 14 of 15

Small outbuilding to northeast of house, camera facing northeast Photograph 15 of 15

