

PH0010626

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.06.0013	DATE 10/6/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Nathaniel Backus House

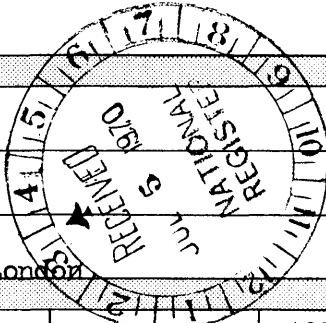
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
44 Rockwell Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Norwich

STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06360      COUNTY: New London      CODE: 011



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Faith Trumbull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

STREET AND NUMBER:  
President: Mrs. David W. Remley, Gales Ferry, Conn.

CITY OR TOWN: Norwich      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Norwich      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: New London

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.06.0013

DATE: 10/6/70

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

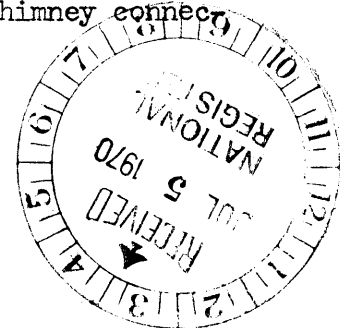
Originally this clapboarded structure stood in the center of Norwich on lower Broadway. It now stands on property owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution and it is a museum.

The house is a sparkling and individualized example of Greek Revival' architecture. It is painted white and is placed with gable end to the street. Its front entrance is located to the south side of its three bay facade. The eaves cornice which is decorated with mutules is carried across the gable ends of the building. This cornice together with the cornice of the shallow sloped roof creates a pediment which encloses an elliptical window with muntins in rising sun pattern.

The panelled door, which according to tradition is original, is enclosed in a rectangular frame of side lights and engaged Ionic columns supporting an entablature and an overdoor light, while all this is framed by fluted mouldings with rosettes enclosed in squares at the level of the intersection of the entablature with the mouldings and at the corners of the upper limits of the door frame. The entablature directly above the door contains a cushion frieze above which is a band of egg and dart moulding which continues in the trim above the overdoor light. A tiny break in the center of the fluting of the door frame suggests a keystone.

The very slight projection of the plain window frames from the clapboarded exterior gives the building a forthright plainness despite its elaborate door. The sash is six over six panes. The foundation is stone as are the broad steps at front and rear of the building. There are two chimneys, both the product of later additions and alterations on northeast and southwest sides of the house most probably with respect to window and door openings there.

DAR investigations have shown the date of the original house to be 1750. That this building was originally a colonial house is evident in the width of the cornice and the proximity of the windows to it, as well as the absence of pilasters from the corners of the structure. When this building was altered to its present Greek Revival form alterations in the positions of the windows and the elimination of a central door must have occurred. Further investigation would undoubtedly reveal additional changes in the interior, including changes in the position of the fireplaces and their chimney connections.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. 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) 1750 with 19th century alterations

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

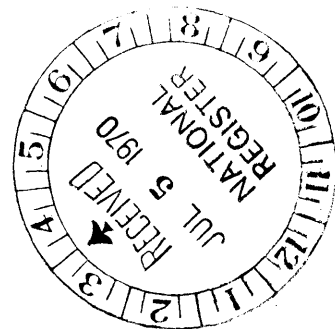
- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" 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 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

This building has historical and aesthetic interest which justifies its nomination to the National Register. It was built by Nathaniel Backus who was a descendent of two of the founders of the town (William Backus and William Backus, Jr.). Nathaniel was born on April 5, 1704. In 1726 he married Hannah Baldwin and they had seven children. According to record, Nathaniel Backus was one of the six men in Norwich who owned their own carriages prior to the Revolutionary War.

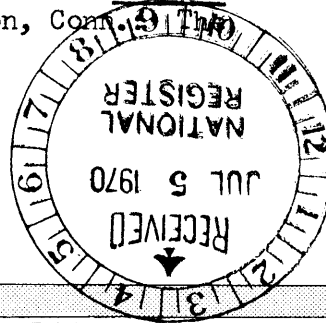
The house is a fine and beautifully maintained example of Greek Revival domestic architecture. It stands in a quiet suburban area where most of the structures excepting the John A. Rockwell house (1818) next to it were built at a later period. The simplicity of the Backus house contrasts pleasantly with the verandahs and asymmetric forms of the surrounding buildings. A plaque on the doorway of the house commemorates the original owner who was one of the most substantial citizens of the town prior to the revolution.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marian K. O'Keefe and Catherine Smith Doroshevich. Norwich  
Historic Homes and Families. Stonington, Conn. Pequot Press, Inc., 1967.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 32' 04"	72° 04' 42"	
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: June 24, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

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]  
State Liaison Officer and  
Title: Chairman State Historical Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 6 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

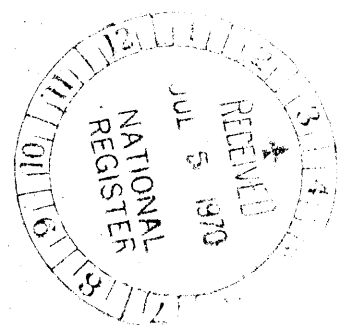
ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: AUG 26 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

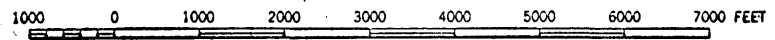
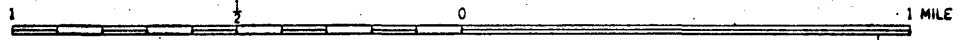


Backus Hse.  
 Latitude  $41^{\circ} 32' 04''$   
 Longitude  $72^{\circ} 4' 42''$



5' 12' GALE'S FERRY 6.5 MI. (UNCASVILLE) 1746 2'30'

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST