

PH0025621

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 713.09.0003	DATE 3/11/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Williams (Warham) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Faces west at the intersection of Old Post Road with State Routes 17 & 22

CITY OR TOWN:
Northford

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: New Haven	CODE 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. G.E. Schaeffer

STREET AND NUMBER:
Middletown Turnpike

CITY OR TOWN:
Northford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
North Branford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey, WPA Census of Old Buildings, and Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: (1) 1937 (2)? (3) 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
(1) Library of Congress (2) Library of Congress (3) Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
(3) 75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: (1&2) Washington, D.C. (3) Hartford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
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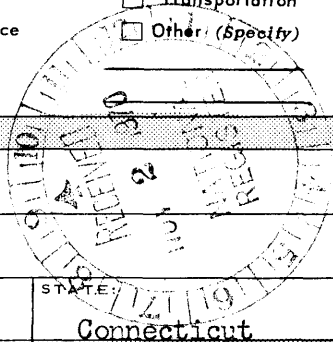
STATE: Connecticut

COUNTY: New Haven

ENTRY NUMBER: 713.09.0003

DATE: 3/11/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY



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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warham Williams House is nicely sited on a slight knoll and angled to the Old Post Road rather than to the much later Middletown Turnpike. The house is very imposing. The magnificent doorway with its broken-scroll pediment is outstanding. This type of door frame is mostly associated with the Connecticut Valley from Glastonbury to Deerfield, and it also appears in Salem and Portsmouth on some of the more elaborate mansions. The style is derived immediately from English architecture and has been called "Wren Baroque." It calls to mind the bonnet-top highboys popular in the Queen Anne and Chippendale periods, which reflect the same desire to avoid a static horizontal and give life to the pattern of the facade. The scrolls terminate in rosettes, which also appear in simpler form above the fluted pilasters. These "Tudor Roses" were as popular in furniture and architecture as in embroidery of this period.

1st floor + those in gable

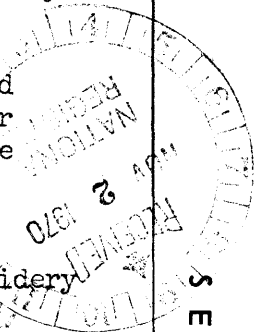
Over the years the house has had to be partially resided, so the original beaded clapboards, graduated in size, survive only on the front and north sides. Old photographs of the house show shutters on all the windows but these have been removed, quite properly, as they would not have been used in the 1750's. Although the house has been painted white for many years, it was not so originally. Underneath at least seven layers of white paint is a rich pumpkin yellow, appearing on both clapboards and trim. White paint did not come into general use until after the Revolution.

Another striking feature of the design is the very steep pitch of the roof, and the unusual treatment of carrying the cornice across the gable ends. This cornice style was uncommon until after 1800, and then used with roofs of much lower pitch.

The gambrel-roofed ell at the rear was not built at the same time as the house, but probably was added shortly thereafter, as that type of roof was not in fashion long. Since the inventory taken after Warham Williams' death lists the "dwelling house and wash room adjoining," it is possible that the ell was the "wash room," and that later on it was converted into a kitchen.

The two-leaf front door, with no window lights above it, leads into a small hallway with large square rooms to the right and left in the typical center-chimney house plan. The woodwork around the stairs is simple rectilinear paneling. The stairs are "closed-string" style, so the step-ends do not show. The balusters are delicately and elegantly turned with a rather attenuated profile. A half baluster is set against each side of the upper newel posts. The bottom newel is turned which is quite a rare treatment.

In the south parlor, as throughout the house, the corner posts, girts, and summer beam are all exposed and cased. There is a compound crown molding making the transition from the girts to the plastered ceiling,



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
COUNTY New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 91,304,0003	DATE 3/11/77

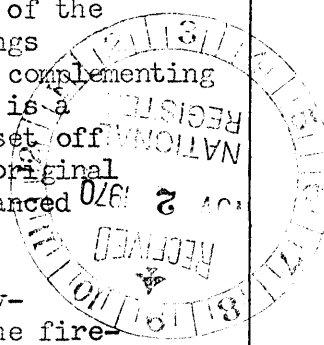
(Number all entries)

- 2 -

Description of the Warham Williams House

again showing an interest in the interplay of light and shadow. The fireplace in the room is of later date and is surrounded with old blue Delft tiles, some being replacements.

The north parlor is the glory of the house. The bottom side (or soffit) of the summer beam is very unusual and gives an interesting effect as it is paneled. The whole chimney wall is paneled, with fluted pilasters going from floor to ceiling on either side of the fireplace. The mantel shelf is supported by compound moldings several inches deep, giving a great feeling of strength and complementing the bolection molding around the opening. Above the mantel is a great fielded panel of one piece of wood, 21 by 53 inches, set off by finer moldings. Also in this room is a corner cupboard original to the house with a round-headed glazed door and nicely balanced paneling on the doors below.



Most interesting of all in this very handsome room, mulberry-colored Delft tiles illustrating Biblical scenes surround the fireplace. Since this room was the "Best Parlor," it may not have been Mr. William's study, but those tiles certainly could have given him many themes for sermons. There are twenty tiles and originally there probably were four more. The subjects range from the Judgement of Solomon, Zacchaeus up in his "Sycamore Tree," to St. Paul being dropped over Damascus walls in a basket. Most surprising is the Annunciation with a bare-breasted Madonna.

Behind this parlor are the rear stairs and a little room in the cold northeast corner which would have been a pantry or buttery. The old kitchen is across the center back of the house. Typical of many houses, the walls here are bevel-and-bead, or feather-edge, boarding. Plaster was much more expensive than wood and was saved for the best rooms. Over the fireplace is a nicely balanced arrangement of rectangular panels.

The partitions between this kitchen and the south parlor were removed. Originally the large kitchen area would have been broken up to include a small bedroom in the southeast corner. Back of this is the ell, of one large room with a fireplace on the east side and a small room beyond. A narrow flight of stairs leads to the attic which may have been quarters for a slave.

In the main part of the house, the two large upstairs front rooms also have fine paneling on the chimney walls with even larger over-mantel boards than downstairs, and beautifully bold bolection moldings around the fireplaces. Rather surprisingly the hearths are raised above floor level. This usually indicated that originally the ceiling beneath was open beamed and unplastered, but in a house

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71.3.09.0003	3/11/77

(Number all entries)

- 3 -

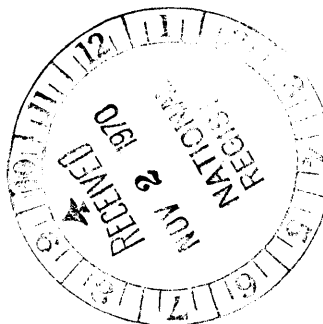
Description of the Warham Williams House

of this date and style, the ceilings certainly would have been plastered.

Also upstairs is one of the most fascinating aspects of this house. It was known for a long time that inside a closet door was a list of people who had painted the house, with the earliest entry being 1792 and the most recent, 1900. However, it was not until Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer started to restore the house in 1943 that the full importance of this list was realized.

In removing the layer upon layer of wallpaper in the "Parlor Chamber" (that is, the room over the "Best Parlor"), the Schaeffers discovered painting on the walls. It is free-hand painting, rather than the later stenciling. The background is a bright blue, over which is drawn a diamond design formed by a running vine of small feather-like leaves. Within each diamond is a flower spray in red, blue, and mustard, with green leaves.

¹ This description has been taken from an article on the Warham Williams House, "Warham Williams: A Country Parson and his Northford Home," by Elizabeth A. Livingston which appeared in the Journal of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, Vol. 18, No. 3, September 1969.



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian! 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1752

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Wall painting</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Underscoring the architectural importance of the Warham Williams House are studies recorded in 1916 in the Old Houses of Connecticut compiled by the Colonial Dames for the Connecticut State Library, in 1937 in the Historic American Buildings Survey for the Library of Congress, as well as in the WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut and numerous architectural guidebooks.

Of particular interest is the freehand painting on a bright blue background in the parlor chamber. Because the blue of the wall matches best the blue paint of the signature of Jared Jessup in 1809, this room is ascribed to him. The combination of Jessup's painting and dated signature is of great importance because it provides identification for at least eight other houses in Connecticut and Massachusetts.¹

The doorway of the house with its broken scroll pediment has an interesting similarity to that of the so-called Reverend John Williams House in Deerfield, Massachusetts (actually built in 1754 by the merchant son of John Williams). However, careful comparison of the two doorways reveals that they could not have been done by the same joiner.

The house is significant also for its association with Warham Williams, son of a well-known and prosperous family, first pastor of the Third Ecclesiastical Society of Branford, and friend of Ezra Stiles who became president of Yale in 1778.

¹"Warham Williams: A Country Parson and his Northford Home," by Elizabeth A. Livingston in New Haven Colony Historical Society Journal, Volume 18, No. 3 (September, 1969) p.67.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kelly, J.F. The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, 1924.

Little, N.F. American Decorative Wall Painting, 1700 - 1850, 1952.

Livingston, Elizabeth A. "Warham Williams: A Country Parson and his Northford Home," in the Journal of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, Vol. 18, No. 3, September, 1969.

Old Houses of Connecticut. Edited by the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames of America. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923.

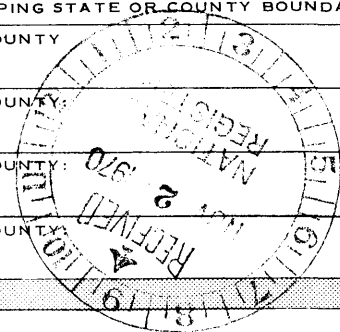
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	23'	33"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	47'	31"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: **Connecticut Historical Commission** DATE: **October 15, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford** STATE: **Connecticut** CODE: **09**

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 Chairman
Title: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: October 15, 1970

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 11 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

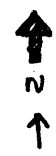
FEB 2 1971

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



WILLIAMS
(WARHAM) HOUSE
Latitude $41^{\circ} 23' 33''$
Longitude $72^{\circ} 47' 31''$



$41^{\circ} 22' 30''$
 $72^{\circ} 47' 30''$

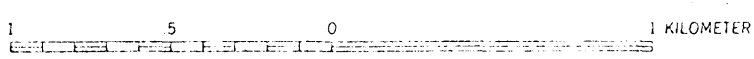
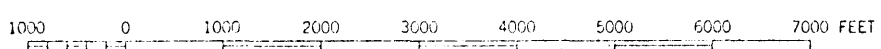
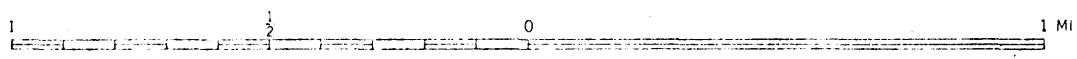
3.3 MI. TO U.S. 5A
5.8 MI. TO U.S. 5

(BRANFORD)
6466 IV SE

1684

3.2 MI.
NORT.

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

WALLINGFORD, CONN.
1954