

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675946

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RECEIVED APR 25 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUN 26 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Captain Benjamin Allyn 2nd House

AND/OR COMMON

Captain Thomas Allyn House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 119 Deerfield Road

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

VICINITY OF

1st - William R. Cotter

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arthur K. & Barbara F. Goodale

STREET & NUMBER

119 Deerfield Road

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Windsor Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

275 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Windsor

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1966

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain Benjamin Allyn 2nd House, known locally as the Captain Thomas Allyn House, is a gable-roofed brick house, now a full 2½ stories high but formerly of lean-to form. The house probably dates from mid-eighteenth century but may possibly be as old as 1670 (see below). The house sits up on a slight knoll, quite close to the street, in a mixed-use area of Windsor. Its lot is mostly open, with shrubs planted close to the walls. Nearby are modern suburban homes, some 19th-century brick houses, and two or three large manufacturing plants.

The main or east facade is five bays wide. The windows on the first level and the central entrance are set in segmental-arched openings. The rectangular twelve-over-twelve sash within do not appear to be original, and the side-lighted front door is a replacement for a large Victorian door: it has been suggested that the original entrance had double doors, as a narrow door found inside seems to fit. On the south side is another entrance, leading into the front room. To the rear of the house is a two-story frame ell, of 19th-century construction, which has been remodelled into a garage and an enclosed porch. The roof has asphalt shingles and lightly molded cornice and rakeboards. The partial return formerly at all four corners is now visible only at the north rear corner. There are three chimneys built into the rear and side walls. The two end chimneys emerge where the ridge of the lean-to would have been, that is, in front of the present ridge.

That the house was raised up from a lean-to is apparent from the contrast in brickwork which shows the original roofline. It is difficult to date this alteration as much of the roof was reframed following the 1938 hurricane; still in place are two heavy purlins. The bricks in the lower part are very distinctive: they are high in proportion to their length. They generally measure 3 3/4 inches wide by 7 7/8 inches long by 2 3/4 inches high, but they are very irregular and many vary from these dimensions by 3/8 inch or so. The clay was not compacted much and therefore the bricks have a great deal of texture. The firing was uneven, with some dark and vitrified, but the color difference was not used to form a pattern. The bricks are laid in common bond. Above the old roofline the bricks are of a more common size and texture, except for a single course of the old brick which runs across the gable. The house has been repointed. The chimneys were rebuilt from the attic floor up with brick similar to that in the upper part of the house.

The interior has two front rooms off a central hall, a kitchen which runs 2/3 of the way across the back, and a smaller back room. The hall extends only part way to the rear and has an enclosed straight flight of stairs on the right. The walls are fully panelled and the stairway is finished with feather-edged boards. To the left is the south front room. The fireplace is built out somewhat from the wall and has a bolection molding around the opening, a single large panel above, and a mantelshelf which looks to be an addition. To the right is a cupboard with a round-arched glazed upper door, scroll-cut shelves, and panelled lower door. The panelling in this room is continued in the dado, the window jambs, and the side of the fireplace. The summer beam and the posts (which have but a slight flare) are cased with molded edges. A narrow band of molding forms a cornice along the walls and summer. The room opposite has panelling only above the round-arched fireplace opening and similar beam casing. The back rooms have been considerably altered; the kitchen fireplace is built into the back wall but has been reconstructed. The north front chamber has a panelled dado and cased

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(Captain Thomas Allyn House)
Windsor, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description (continued):

framing members but no fireplace. The south chamber has a fireplace but only the simplest of mantels and plainer cased beam. Reportedly the attic floor above this room was painted, implying that the plaster ceiling and woodwork are later modifications. Throughout the house are wide-board floors of hard pine.

The framing for the floor and interior partitions is tied into the brick walls with iron tie-plates. Visible on the south exterior wall is an S-shaped plate holding a beam which runs parallel to the long axis of the house above the partition between the kitchen and the front rooms; on the north wall the plate is a rectangular piece of iron which seems to be a replacement. In the front rooms there are summers running from front to back and there are also two parallel beams on either side of the central hallway. These four all had tie-plates on the front of the house: the leftmost is shaped like a "1" and the rightmost a "0", but the middle two have been missing at least since 1859.

These tie-plates are part of the controversy surrounding the dating of the house. All agree that the missing numerals were a "6" and a "7" but the order is disputed. The date 1670 is generally held locally, and therefore the house has been associated with Thomas Allyn (d. 1695). Dark stains on the brick have been interpreted by the present owner as indicating the date 1670, but the patterns are not conclusive. Perhaps scientific investigation of the stains could confirm the early date. In that case, the significance of the house as an early brick dwelling would be increased. The legal records are not very specific in describing the property of the Allyn family. The earliest published source referring to the house is Stiles's 1859 History, where the house "formerly Captain Benjamin Allyn's" is dated 1670. However, as Stiles attributed the bricks to Thomas Eggleston (b. 1741) he cannot have intended that date, and in his book of corrections published four years later, he gives the date as 1760 (p. 57). As Stiles wrote only about 30 years after the death of Benjamin Allyn, his statement must be given some credence, the initial typographical error notwithstanding. The most likely explanation for the dating difficulty is that Stiles's first date, 1670, became part of an oral tradition, whereas his correction was overlooked. Since the middle numerals were missing even at the time of Stiles's first work, it is unlikely that anyone has even a secondhand knowledge of the proper order, though it is sometimes claimed.

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 1760 (1670?) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Eggleston, brickmaker

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is of architectural significance because it is an early example of a brick dwelling and because of the well-preserved interior woodwork (criterion C). Even its location in the town of Windsor is significant, because in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Windsor and the surrounding area was a center for brickmaking. The many fine brick Federal and Greek Revival buildings which are characteristic of this area are prefigured by the Allyn House. The man said to have made the bricks for this house, Thomas Eggleston (b. 1741), was a fisherman and brickmaker whose sons continued his brick business in Windsor and in New York State. If this house was built in 1760, Eggleston would have been but 19 years old, perhaps accounting for the unevenness of the brick.

Brick houses were not very common before the Revolution, partly because they were thought to be difficult to heat and unhealthful. From the 1750's through the 1780's, a type of large, gambrel-roofed house, usually of central hall design, did appear in several locations, with at least two examples (no longer extant) in Windsor. The Allyn House, however, seems to owe less to this brick type than to earlier wood-framed predecessors: its original lean-to form and its lack of any ornamental brickwork other than the arched windows distinguish it from the other pre-Revolutionary brick houses. Even its plan is traditional: like many early frame houses with masonry ends, the Allyn house incorporates end chimneys in its walls. But its hallway is not a central hall in the later sense: its enclosed stairway and its termination at the kitchen door show it to be a central hall by default, rather than an attempt to achieve the formality found in true central hall houses, with their elaborate open stairways and full-length halls. Elmer Keith, in his survey of Connecticut architecture, concentrated on the larger type of brick house as instrumental in spreading formal plans and Georgian ornament. The Allyn House, earlier than all but one or two of the other type, illustrates that at least some brick houses were built along conventional lines. There is, or was, a quite similar house in West Springfield, Massachusetts, known as the Day Homestead and dated 1758.

The interior offers several well-preserved features. The use of raised panelling is notably extensive, including fireplace walls, dadoes in two rooms, the window jambs in the south room, and full-height panelling in the hallway. The beam and post casings, the cupboard, and the light cornice molding add to the sense of refinement which permeates the interior. At the same time, the house is considerably simpler than many of its contemporaries: it lacks the heavy cornices, pilastered mantels, shell-carved cupboards and other Georgian elaborations found in the homes of the upper class. The Allyn House seems to be the product of prosperity, but not on the level of the aristocracy.

The Allyns were a successful Windsor family especially prominent in militia-related affairs. Thomas Allyn (d. 1695) is regarded by some as the builder of the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Keith, Elmer D. Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture. Hartford: Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, 1938; reprinted 1976.

Kelly, J. Frederick. Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut. New York: Dover, 1963; reprint of 1928 ed.

Stiles, Henry R. The History of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut. New York: Charles B. Norton, 1859.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|
| A | 1, 8 | 6, 9, 4 | 8, 8, 0 | 4, 6 | 3, 2 | 3, 9, 0 | B | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is Parcel 46, Block 25, as shown on Windsor Assessor's Map 79.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| ORGANIZATION | <u>Connecticut Historical Commission</u> | DATE | <u>December 30, 1978</u> |
| STREET & NUMBER | <u>59 South Prospect Street</u> | TELEPHONE | <u>(203) 566-3005</u> |
| CITY OR TOWN | <u>Hartford</u> | STATE | <u>CT</u> |

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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 March 23, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles O. Henry
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Anna M. Dwyer*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William
 DATE 6-26-79
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 6/25/79

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Significance (continued):

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house, but a date of 1670 seems hard to justify, as it contradicts both an early source (Stiles, 1863) and architectural evidence (lack of widely flaring or shouldered posts, no apparent provision for casement windows). His descendent, Benjamin Allyn 2nd (1736-1827) owned the house at the end of his life and likely was the builder, too.¹ Like his father Benjamin, Benjamin Allyn 2nd was a militia officer and during the Revolution was elected a captain, a title by which he was known for the rest of his life. Although less wealthy than his illustrious ancestor Thomas (who was the second richest man in Windsor), Benjamin 2nd owned a respectable amount of land, around 80 acres.

¹Benjamin Allyn 2nd was married around 1760 and in 1761 was given a tract of 10 acres, which may have included this parcel, by his parents. However, scratched into the panelling of the north room is what appears to be "H.W. Allyn" and an illegible date.

Bibliography (continued):

9

Stiles, Henry R. A Supplement to the History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut. Albany: J. Munsell, 1863.

Taylor, Ada L. "The Allyn House, Windsor, 1760." Colonial Dames Ms., 1928, State Library, Hartford. Contains drawing by J.F. Kelly, 1915.