

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675938

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 25 1979
DATE ENTERED 28 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Andrew Clark House

AND/OR COMMON

Haskell House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Ross Hill Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lisbon 0349

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd- Christopher Dodd

STATE

CT

— VICINITY OF

CODE  
09

COUNTY  
New London

CODE  
011

**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**

- |                                        |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                       |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jerome W. Plum

STREET & NUMBER

Ross Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Lisbon

— VICINITY OF

CT

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Lisbon Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

Lisbon

STATE  
CT

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

W.P.A. Federal Writers' Project "Census of Old Buildings"

DATE

1937

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut State Library 231 Capitol Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Hartford CT

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Haskell House is a striking, Georgian style, central-chimney house, with a pitched roof, located a quarter mile north of Route 138, just east of Newent, a section of Lisbon. It is dated 1738 in a panel set in the chimney. Though stylishly and elegantly detailed, the house follows the traditional central-chimney floor plan. The Haskell House, prominently set on a hill behind a dressed granite wall topped with white pickets, faces south at a bend in Ross Hill Road. The surrounding area is sparsely settled, sparsely wooded land, once primarily farmland, no longer farmed. In 1967, when the present owners purchased it, the house was carefully and lovingly restored. At that time, several wings were added.

To the rear of the 2-story clapboarded main house is a 1-and-a-1/2-story 18th-century ell, once a free-standing house. This may either have been built or moved onto the site as a temporary residence for Andrew Clark, the original owner, since the deed makes no reference to buildings on the site. Two rooms wide with a central-chimney and pitched roof, the ell retains its entrance with a 5-light transom, though it no longer leads outside, but to a 1-story kitchen/garage wing, added at its north-west corner. This wing connects with a 1-and-a-1/2-story antiques showroom at its south-west corner. Thus, the entire complex of house, ell, garage and showroom forms a U-shape. (See Floor Plan.) In constructing this addition, the owners carefully followed traditional methods, even incorporating ancient structural material in the showroom, in a conscientious effort not to damage the integrity of the 18th-century main house and ell. The whole addition, to the side and rear of the main house, is landscaped to be unobtrusive and compatible. To facilitate restoration, the owners purchased a Rhode Island house for "parts". Much of the structural material from that house, also 18th-century, went into the construction of the showroom; when material was used in the main house, it will be detailed. However, almost all of the hardware from the Rhode Island house went into the main house.

The facade of the main house is dominated by an elegant pavilion with a fanlit door and second-story Palladian window. The pavilion, flanked by monumental pilasters, consists of a 2-story unit of flush boarding set against the clapboarded house. The fanlit door is flanked by two, small, narrow, arched windows, one pane wide; in the Palladian window above, the smaller flanking windows are also arched, an unusual, but not rare, feature. All the arches are set with molded keystones. A molding running the width of the central panel delineates the top of the doorway. The central panel then curves inward at the second floor where another broad molding terminates the curve. A shallow pediment topping the bay is dentilled and set with a gilded spread eagle.

The corners are all set with monumental pilasters with Ionic capitals. A cornice molding with mutules and beading circles the house and marks

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Haskell House      ITEM NUMBER 6      PAGE 1

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State Register of Historic Places  
1979                      State  
Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect St  
Hartford CT

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CONTINUATION SHEET Haskell House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

the end gable overhang. Where the pilasters join the cornice, the cornice is ornamented with gilded rosettes. The windows are set with 12-over-12 sash. The chimney, not as massive as an early 18th-century chimney, is set just forward of the ridge and simply corbelled. The foundations of the house are dressed fieldstone. The double-leaved front door with tombstone panels does not appear to be original to the house.

The interior of the Haskell House retains much of its original detailing, most of it quite fine. The porch is cleanly finished with raised panel wainscotting. The balusters of the stairwell are simple, square, cherry posts and the treads are ornamented with moldings and a scroll bracket. The parlor on the right (east) side is elegantly finished with some fine woodwork. Though the mantel is a simple dentilled molding, the posts and cornice are richly treated. The posts are cased with fluted columns topped with Ionic capitals with egg and dart and astragal moldings. A wide molded cornice surrounds the room and is squared into the room at the corners. The chair rail and baseboards are also molded. During restoration, evidence of stencilled plasterwork was found, but, due to the richness of the woodwork, the stencils were not restored. Stencils of the work were given to the Lisbon Historical Society.

The opposite room is less elaborately detailed but nonetheless carefully finished with a simply panelled fireplace wall, wainscotting, and cased posts. In this room, as elsewhere in the house, the chair rail serves as a runner for inside shutters, which have been stored and are not now in place. The kitchen of the 1798 main house was once divided by a partition and staircase, but, in 1967, these were removed. The wide fireplace in the kitchen is surrounded by period panelling, which came from the Rhode Island house. In this room, the original panelled inside shutters have been retained and complement the wainscotting below. A 19th-century bay window was removed from the east end of this room and replaced with a single 12-over-12 window. At the west end, a small room has been converted to a bathroom; next to this room is a side door with 6 panels and a 5-light transom.

Upstairs, the left (west) front chamber has beaded cased flared posts and panelled wainscot with a molded rail. The fireplace is flanked by cupboards and the mantel is ornamented with dentils and a frieze with

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CONTINUATION SHEET Haskell House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

3-part grooves, resembling triglyphs and metope. The long kitchen chamber across the rear is wainscotted and has cased posts. The two small rooms at either end of the chamber have been converted to bathrooms. The front right (east) chamber has a simple fireplace with cupboards and a molded mantel. The posts, plate and girt are cased and molded.

The attic, reached from a staircase in the kitchen chamber, is spacious and lit by two windows at each end. The roof is framed with collar beams. The original floorboards were removed to be used downstairs in the house.

The ell to the rear of the 1798 house also underwent restoration in 1967. The hall, dominated by a large fireplace with a bee-hive oven, retains its early appearance. The east wall is wainscotted with horizontal beaded panelling. During restoration, an old 3-panel door was uncovered in this wall and it was restored using period hardware and handhewn nails on leather backing. An enclosed stairway leads to the attic along the south wall; in the stairwell, the flared corner post is exposed. The west wall has a chair rail to support inside sliding shutters. The posts are flared and cased. The room to the left of the porch was divided in the 19th-century to be used as a buttery; it retains its shelving. In 1967, a 12-over-12 window in the east wall was covered over when the addition of the kitchen wing was made along that wall.

Upstairs, the attic of the ell was refinished with several small rooms in 1967, but the rough posts and beams remain exposed. There is a brick smoke oven in the chimney, which may have been added in 1798 when the main house was built. The foundation in this section is rough fieldstone, as is the chimney foundation. In 1967, the chimney was re-pointed and some sills were replaced. In addition, support beams and columns were added throughout the cellars of both house and ell, which are open and contiguous. Also in 1967, the eagle and facade rosettes were re-gilded.

# 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 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		

Criteria: C

SPECIFIC DATES

1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1798, the Haskell House illustrates the transition from the 18th to the 19th century, its central-chimney floor plan recalling the dominant 18th-century residential type while its sophisticated detailing heralds the Federal style's fascination with surface embellishment. The house is particularly significant for the high quality and craftsmanship of its detailing, evident in its striking central bay and, on the interior, in the parlor. It is easily the finest house in Lisbon, rivalled by few in the area.

The original owner, Andrew Clark, purchased the land in 1792 from Elisha Morgan for \$1079. The parcel included 183 acres of land, with no mention of any buildings standing thereon.<sup>1</sup> Clark, who went to the legislature in 1824 as a Lisbon representative, accumulated a sizeable fortune for the time, leaving an estate of \$23,109.67 when he died in 1831. His inventory, 6 pages long, indicates he was a farmer, as it includes 485 acres of additional farmland, but, the many notes for loans which he held suggest that his neighbors regarded him almost as a banker. His household effects reflect his wealth, with many cherry and mahogany pieces of furniture listed. He also owned a "Brass Wheeled Clock and Mahogany Case", valued at \$33.00, higher than any other single item listed. Apparently, he and his wife, Elizabeth Partridge, were childless, as, on her death, in 1858, Mrs. Clark left the "farm where I now reside, with the buildings thereon," to her sister, Dolly Partridge Herskell (sometimes Haskell), and brother-in-law, George L. Herskell. Herskell was a fairly prominent citizen, serving, in 1861, as a Lisbon selectman, and, in 1862, as a representative to the legislature. Their name, alternately spelled Haskell, now identifies the house. Both the Clarks and Herskells are buried nearby at a cemetery just south of the house on Ross Hill Road.

The panel in the chimney dating the house "1798" is similar to one in the 1795 David Hale House in the center of Newent. (Hale, brother of Nathan Hale, was a minister of the Newent Congregational Church.) Though they may have been constructed by the same craftsman, the greater sophistication of the Haskell House suggests that the builder may have been a highly skilled itinerant joiner. The comparable quality of both interior and exterior detailing indicates that the same builder did all the work at the Haskell House.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bishop, Henry P., HISTORICAL SPACES OF ALBION CONNECTICUT, New York, Privately Published by Author, 1903.  
 Kelly, J. Frederick, EARLY ECCLASTIC ARCHITECTURE OF CONNECTICUT, New York, Dover Publications Inc, 1963.  
 Also, Lisbon Land and Probate Records; Interview, Jerome W. Blum, owner, November 1978

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.2 acres

UTM REFERENCES Jewett City and Norwich Quadrangles

A	1	8	250-050	714911.00	4611.00	620	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C			250	050			D					

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Volume 25, page 425, Lisbon Land Records

## 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  
 Sarah Zimmerman, Consultant

ORGANIZATION  
 Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE  
 December 1978

STREET & NUMBER  
 59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE  
 203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN  
 Hartford


STATE  
 CT

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

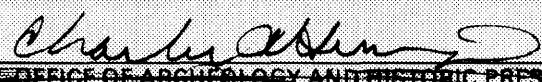
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

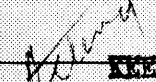
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 


TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission DATE March 23, 1979

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

 DATE 6.20.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:  DATE 6/25/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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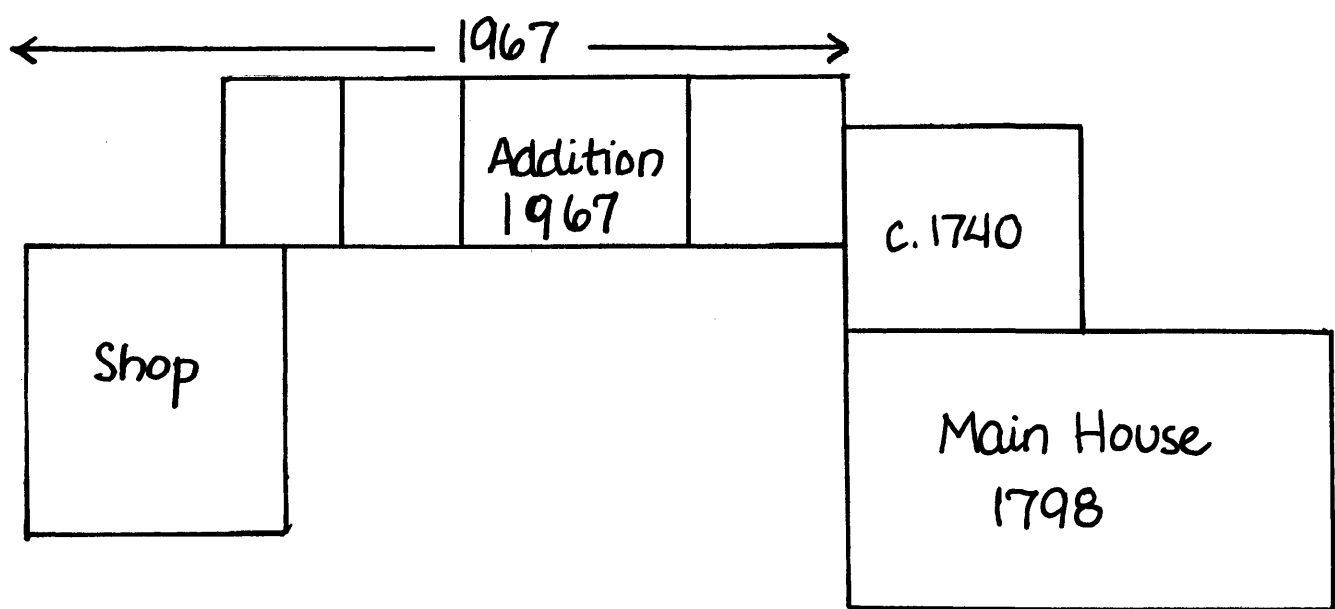
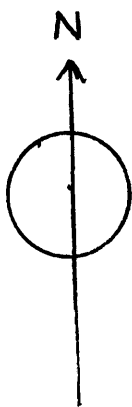
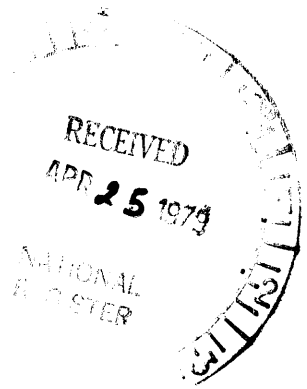
CONTINUATION SHEET Haskell House      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 1

In general, the panelling of the Haskell House is of a high, but predictable, standard, however, the quality of the woodwork in the parlor is outstanding. The casing of the posts with fluted Ionic columns demonstrates an unusual concern for the decorative impression of the room. While, by that date, the casing of the posts was standard, usually, the casings nevertheless clearly express both the form and the function of the beams below. The Haskell House parlor post casings disguise these functional elements, making instead a decorative statement.

The exterior detailing and the treatment of the pavilion show a similar sophistication and decorative concern. The builder demonstrated his sensitivity to the visual impact of the elaborate fenestration by setting the complex entrance and Palladian window against a neutral background of flush boarding. Thus, the observer perceives the pavilion as a unit applied to the facade and can appreciate the repetition of the Palladian motif at the doorway. At the same time, he is not distracted by the horizontal lines of the clapboard. The flat pilasters and pediment further unite the bay as a decorative element. This demonstrates a sophisticated proficiency for embellishment, unusual in a rural community and completely lacking in the design of the house itself, which follows a floor plan by then (1798) so well established as to be a cliché.

1. Volume 1, page 103, Lisbon Land Records.





Haskell House  
Lisbon, CT

(not to scale)