United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

0962 20.1024-0018 EXP. 20732784

For NPS use only

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Type all entries	-complete applic	able sections			
1. Nam	ie				
historic	Holabird Ho	use			
and/or common	Gregg House	:			
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	Kellogg Roa	d, corner	of Route 1:	2.6 <u>N</u>	A not for publication
city, town	Canaan	NA	vicinity of	congressional-district	
state Cor	necticut	code 09	county	Litchfield	code 005
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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Over View

The Holabird House is a mid-18th century, 2½-story, 5-bay, central-chimney, central-doorway, gable-roofed, frame structure on stone foundations with wood-shingled siding. Interior trim includes paneling and moldings with carved details, corner cupboards and many wide, feather-edged, beaded boards.

The house faces west on Kellogg Road near the corner of Kellogg Road and Route 126, at the eastern edge of the community of Falls Village in the Town of Canaan. The house is close to the street but has extensive grounds to the rear.

Exterior was a programme of the programm

The Holabird House consists of a 2½-story main block that is 39 feet wide by 30 feet deep, and a 1½-story, 16 x 30-foot wing that runs back from the left rear corner. (See Sketch Map.) In the street elevation the paneled, 2-leaf, central door and glazed transom are not original but the plain doorway surround and flat, projecting cornice may be old. The two windows left and right are placed close together, giving the fenestration a two-one-two rhythm. The windows, not original, have double-hung 6-over-9 sash in plain surrounds that appear to be old. The plain first-floor window surrounds are similar to the doorway surround. The second-floor windows are capped by cyma moldings. The siding is wooden shingles applied over clapboards that are visible in some places beneath the shingles. (Photograph 1.)

In the right side elevation a former doorway toward the front has been closed in. A 6-over-9 window adjoins the former doorway, and there is a second doorway toward the back. The plain surround of this doorway appears to be old, as do the stone steps, but the door itself is a replacement. In the second floor there are two 6-over-9 windows and there is one window in the attic. (Photograph 2.)

The left side elevation of the main block has two 6-over-9 windows in both the first and second floors, placed one over another, under paired 6-over-9 windows in the attic. The wing to the rear continues this wall plane with paired 6-over-9 windows close to the main block and, toward the rear, a tall, glazed area of four sections in an arched opening. The central two sections are a double door that is approached by new wooden steps.

The wing, on stone foundations, is an early addition. (Photograph 3.) A turn-of-the-century picture shows the wing in its present size and shape, with a single window located close to the main block.

The rear elevation of the wing is largely glass with a tripartite window at the main level and a single rectangular glazed opening above. An arched, glazed opening on the south repeats that on the north. Prior to alterations now in progress, the east end of the wing was an open porch with screens in the arched openings. Now the new glazing permits year-round

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State Register of Historic Places

no

1972

State

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford

Connecticut

Federal Writers' Project

Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut, Canaan No. 11

1930s

State

Connecticut State Library

Hartford

Connecticut

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enjoyment of the fine view of Cobble Hill to the east. The south wall of the wing toward the main block has a 6-over-9 window, a door and paired 6-over-9 windows. The rear elevation of the main block has four windows at the first floor and two at the second, randomly placed.

Presumably, the house, when built, had a gable roof similar to that now in place, but it was removed in the 1880s. Turn-of-the-century pictures show the house with a flat roof. (Photograph 4.) When the present attic and roof were constructed in the 1930s the upper portion of the chimney was rebuilt and the rear dormer was included. The added chimney in the rear slope of the roof is for the furnace.

A former barn south of the house, near Kellogg Road, burned in 1910. The only outbuilding at present is a 19th-century, 26 x 37-foot, frame barn located southeast of the house. (Photograph 5.) (See Sketch Map.) The back yard slopes down and then up again toward Cobble Hill. The grounds are pleasantly landscaped and include several flower beds near the house.

Interior

The floor plan of the Holabird House is the conventional 18th-century scheme of front rooms on either side of the central chimney, a stairway in front of the chimney, and a kitchen with large fireplace back of the chimney. On the second floor there is a bedroom over each of the first-floor front rooms.

The chimney has the usual large, stone base. There is a cellar north of the chimney base, only. The area of the cellar, therefore, is perhaps one-third that of the first floor. In the south cellar wall, immediately back of the chimney, there is a masonry cavity approximately 40 inches wide, 51 inches high and 72 inches deep. The opening has a wooden lintel. There is a flue, leading to the chimney, at the top of the right wall of the cavity, half way back. The interior of the cavity is not charred, and its historical function is uncertain. It may have been for collection of ashes preparatory to the making of lye and soap.

The cellar stairs run down from the south first-floor room, in front of the chimney base. Each step is a single piece of timber 10 inches high and 12 inches wide. (Photograph 6.)

In the front hall, on the first floor, the stairs rise in a three-run dogleg from left to right in front of the chimney. There are three risers to a square landing and turn of 90 degrees, seven risers next to the chimney to a second square landing and turn of 90 degrees and three risers

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back to the second-floor hall. The step ends are molded. Each tread has two turned spindles that support a molded handrail. Newell posts are square. (See Drawing.) The stairway has a paneled dado and the triangular wall in front of the stairs, under the railing, is paneled.

The right front room has a panel ed fireplace wall that includes the door to the cellar, to the left of the fireplace, and the door to the front hall. These doors have three raised panels, two vertical panels above a square panel. The hall door has the same raised panels on both sides, but the cellar door has simple, recessed panels on the back. fireplace has a brick firebox and stone hearth. The fireplace surround of stucco is outlined by a bolection molding. The other three walls of the room are made of wide, vertical, feather-edged, beaded boards. is a door to the kitchen that is similar to the door to the cellar, while across the room the side door, that is covered on the exterior, is in place and visible. It has four recessed panels. A central summer beam has a paneled soffit. A simple cavetto cornice molding runs around the four sides of the ceiling and along the summer beam. The ceiling is old plaster. There is a small cupboard on the diagonal in the corner of the room to the right of the fireplace. The post in the front of the room at the exterior corner is flared, cased and beaded, one of several such posts visible in the house, while the end girt, cased and beaded, is exposed.

In the left front room, the fireplace has a brick firebox with brick hearth. While this fireplace is smaller and shallower than the one in the first room, it has a similar stucco surround and bolection molding, and an added flat mantel shelf. The fireplace wall is paneled in a 2-over-1 pattern similar to the doors. Fluted pilasters with rosette capitals flank the fireplace. The cornice moldings break out over the (Photograph 7.) The several moldings that make up the cornice run around the four sides of the room. The chair rail is an extension of the window sills, over a paneled dado. The walls above the chair rail are plaster. In the front exterior corner of the room there is a corner cupboard with shell top and butterfly shelves. The cornice moldings break out to form a keystone in the arched cupboard opening, and there are triangular panels in the arch spandrels. The lower_section of the cupboard has paneled doors but the upper section does not. 5 (Photograph 8.) This room has molded baseboards, which the first room does not, and, like the first room, has wide floor boards. The ceiling is old plaster. There is no summer beam. The cased end girt is exposed.

The large kitchen fireplace is stone with a stone hearth and has a bake oven on the rear wall, at the right. The fireplace opening, under a wooden lintel, is 56×93 inches. (Photograph 9.) The kitchen walls are made of wide feathered, beaded boards. In the left corner of the house there is a small room now used as an office. Behind it, in the

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wing, is a modern kitchen, and a family room that is largely glazed on three sides.

The partition that probably initially was in place to form a small room in the right rear corner has been removed; at any rate, the kitchen is a large room running from the outside door in the south wall all the way in front of the fireplace to the small office. The kitchen ceiling is lower than the ceilings of the front rooms. The girts running from the chimney to the rear wall are not continuations of the chimney girts in the front part of the house.

In the right rear corner of the house there is a back stairway, entered through a three-paneled door. The stairway has two risers against the back wall, a winder, and seven risers along the south wall to the second floor. From the second floor the stairway rises from another three-paneled door in a similar configuration to the attic. The stairwell is lined with wide horizontal and vertical boards, feather-edged and beaded. The stairway appears to be original throughout, suggesting that during the decades when the roof was flat the upper section simply was unused.

The two second-floor bedrooms are finished, respectively, in the manner of the first-floor rooms beneath them. The south room has four walls of wide, feathered-and-beaded boards and summer beam, like the room under it. The north second-floor room has a dado of wide horizontal boards and no summer, like the room under it. The doors from the hall to both rooms have three raised panels on both sides, like the first-floor hall doors. As built, the second-floor rooms did not have fire-places, but a brick fireplace with stone hearth has been added in the north room. Both rooms have wide floor boards. The third corner cupboard in the house is in the north, second-floor room, directly over the shell cupboard of the first floor. The second-floor cupboard, simpler in design and three-sided in shape, has an upper door that is glazed, with 15 small lights arranged in rows three wide and five high.

The area over the kitchen, behind the bedrooms, has been remodelled in the 20th century and includes a bathroom. The floor is 15 inches below the floor level of the bedrooms.

1.

The doorstep is a headstone, or replica of a headstone, in which incised lettering reads, "In memory of John Holabird, Esq., who died July 1, 1840 aged 80 years."

2.

On the first floor three of the windows are 9-over-6. The supposition is that at a time when the sash were replaced there was a mix-up between the number of lights in the upper and lower sash.

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A snapshot in the files of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society showing the house with the flat roof is captioned "as it appeared 1881-1930."

4.

A neighbor who has been in residence for some years recalls watching the work in progress when the present attic and roof were constructed.

5.

There is a picture of the cupboard in Dean that also shows the top doors missing, indicating that they have not been in place for at least half a century or more. Screw holes for the hinges are still visible.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	-	ing landscape architectur law literature military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1740	Builder/Architect	Timothy Holabird	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

The Holabird House is an outstanding example of 18th-century Connecticut domestic architecture. Elements of specific interest include the quality and completeness of its interior trim, the value of the house as an example of expansion from the one-room plan to the two-room plan with lean-to, and its age, dating from the earliest settlement in the Town of Canaan.

Timothy Holabird (1716-1810) first appears as a grantee in the Canann Land Records in three entries recorded May 8, 1753. One of these entries records the conveyance to Holabird of three acres of land whose bounds "begin at a heap of stones 2 rods wanting 11 links north of the northwest corner of said Timothy Holabird's house," thereby establishing that the house was built prior to 1753. The absence of any entry in the Canaan Land Records describing the sale of the land to Holabird suggests that he acquired the land and built his house prior to the inception of the Canaan Land Records, which occurred in the year 1740. Canaan was incorporated in 1739, but the proprietors bought the land and began its subdivision in 1737. As it is unlikely that Holabird arrived before the proprietors, and clear from the land records that he was in residence by 1740, it is possible to fix the date of construction of his house with some confidence as between 1737 and 1740.

Later entries in the land records are helpful in establishing that the nominated property is in fact Timothy Holabird's house. In 1786, for "consideration of love, goodwill and affection" he gave two acres, "part of the home lot on which I dwell," to his son, John Holabird (1760-1840). The bounds of the two acres are described, in part, as bordering on John's land. The property on Kellogg Road next north of the nominated house can be traced back through the land records to John Holabird, in confirmation that the nominated house is the mid-18th-century structure built by Timothy Holabird.

Information about the Holabirds is sketchy. Timothy, in addition to being a farmer, his principal occupation, was also a tanner. His son, John, represented his district in the state legislature in 1810, 1812 and 1813. There was more than one John Holabird. A John Holabird died in 1840, and another deeded the property out of the Holabird family in 1880. During the years between 1840 and 1870 the house was occupied by two female members of the Holabird family, Abigail and Polly Holabird.

Conjecture about the physical development of the house is encouraged by several features. The most striking conisderation is the difference

Major Bibliographical References See continuation sheet. UIM IL **Geographical Data** 10. Acreage of nominated property $\frac{19.75}{}$ Quadrangle name ____South Canaan Quadrangle scale ____1:24000 **UMT References** A 1,8 63730d D 1 8 6 3 6 8 1 0 4 6 4 5 8 0 0 E 1 1 8 1 6 3 6 9 2 0 1 4, 6 4, 5 8, 9, 0 F | 1,8 | 6 | 3,6 | 9,1,0 | 14,614,519,0,0 G | 1,8 | 6 | 3,7 | 0,6,0 | $H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 4 6 4 5 9 4 0 Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is described in the Canaan Land Records, vol. 39, The boundary encompasses the remaining land that traditionally has gone with the house. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state N/A code N/A county code N/A N/A state code N/A county N/A N/A Form Prepared By name/title David F. Ransom date organization Architectural Historian November 15, 1981 telephone 203 521-2518 street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive city or town state West Hartford Connecticut **State Historic Preservation Officer Certification** The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national state X locai 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 May 21, 1982 For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register Keeper of the National Register Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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between the plain exterior and elaborate interior. The stark surround of the front doorway and window casings may be original and the elaborate carved and paneled interior woodwork may have been added later, perhaps by the legislator, John Holabird, who seems to have been more cosmopolitan and more successful economically than his father, the tanner. ventory of John Holabird's estate, after his death in 1840, included, in addition to the dwelling house and home lot, four other parcels of land totalling 227 acres.

In any event, the paneling, moldings, rosettes and corner cupboard of the left front room make it an unusually fine and complete example of skilled craftsmanship of the period. The house also is outstanding for the sheer quantity of wide, vertical, beaded and feather-edged boards in the walls of the right front room, the kitchen, and the two bedrooms, and for the many wide floor boards. The pattern in the doors of two vertical panels over a square panel is a distinctive Connecticut feature. The cellar is of interest for the large masonry cavity next to the chimney A large chimney base is uniformly found in the 18th-century, central chimney houses, and often there is a central cavity in the chimney base, of unexplained purpose. Here the cavity is separately constructed next to the chimney base, and like the usual central cavity its purpose is obscure.

The presence of the cellar under only part of the house is one of the features suggesting that the house was built in sections. The similarity of the construction and finish of the chambers with their first-floor rooms is another. On the right, in both first and second floors, there is a summer beam and the walls are made of vertical boards. On the left there is no summer beam and there is a dado with chair rail, suggesting that the pairs of rooms were built at separate times. The inference is that initially the house may have had a one-room plan with end chimney. The stucco surrounds of both front-room fireplaces indicate the possibility that the present fire boxes are not original. It would be interesting to look behind the present fire boxes for larger original fireplaces, one perhaps with a bake oven, to confirm that one room initially served for cooking as well as other purposes.

The change in height of the kitchen ceiling (and floor level of the second story) would not occur if the girts had been initially constructed from the front to rear elevations. Thus, the kitchen area may have been built as an added lean-to. The presence of the rear stairway, that is old, suggests that in an alteration subsequent to construction of the lean-to a full roof and attic were built, at which time the rear stairway leading up to the attic was built. As this stairway has three-paneled doors, the interior trim in the front rooms that utlizes the same three-panelled motif may date from the same period of alterations.

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The Colonial Dames book on the house was written, c. 1920, by Henry C. Dean, an architect and brother of an owner of the house. In 1914 Dean, in association with Donald Millar, prepared measured drawings of the house that were published by Millar in his Colonial Houses. 10 Blue-prints of the drawings are bound into the Colonial Dames volume. Dean conjectures that originally the house consisted of the chimney and the first- and second-story rooms on the right (south), with the kitchen in a lean-to at the back.

What happened to the roof, c. 1880, is unknown, but one possibility is that it was damaged by fire. Repairing the damage in such fashion as to create a flat roof may have been attractive from a cost point of view.

Putting all of these possibilities into sequence, the roof configuration would have been changed at each of the following stages in the house's construction and reconstruction:

Initially built in a one-room plan, c. 1740.

Second room added.

Lean-to added.

Full attic and roof added.

Gable roof replaced with flat roof, c. 1880.

Gable roof rebuilt, c. 1930.

As the Holabird House was constructed within a year or two after the proprietors began the development of Canaan, it obviously is one of the oldest houses in the community. Others still standing were built at approximately the same time. The Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut (1930s) lists four: The U. H. Miner House (No. 6), the Crandall Place (No. 9), the House on Beebe Hill (No. 10) and the Wickwire Place (No. 15). Their dates are given as c. 1735 - c. 1740¹¹ and all are located east of the center of Falls Village in the general area of Beebe Hill and the intersection of Route 7 with Route 126 (see USGS map) where the Holabird House is located. The likelihood is that the five houses were built within a year or two of each other, that is to say, all at about the same time.

The complexity of the construction history, the high quality of the interior finish and the place of the house in the history of Canaan as one of the first built in the town combine to give the Holabird House its significance in the history of Connecticut domestic architecture from the Colonial era.

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- Canaan Land Records (CLR) 2/76. The History of Litchfield County, p. 272, states that Timothy Holabird of Bromfield, Massachusetts "at an early age settled near the present site of Falls Village."
 - CLR, 4/198, June 14, 1786.

The John Holabird House burned in the early 20th century. Under Timothy Holabird's will, his dwelling house and farm were distributed one-half to his widow, Lois, and one-half to his son, John. The inventory describes the house property as bounded on the north by land owned by John Holabird and on the west by the highway and turnpike road. (Kellogg Road was part of the Canaan-Salisbury Turnpike.) See Probate File No. 1617 at the Connecticut State Library.

- History of Litchfield County, p. 272

John Holabird married Polly Belden February 21, 1788. See Canaan Vital Records, vol. A., p. 40. John Holabird of Canaan, married Sephrona E. Hamlin of New Hartford June 2, 1853. See Barbour Collection at Connecticut State Library quoting Barkhamstead Vital Records, vol. 1, p. 238.

- CLR 22/189, August 16, 1884, John Holabird to Lee P. Dean and Dwight E. Dean. Subsequent changes in title were:
 - 22/227, March 7, 1881, L.P. & D.E. Dean to Norman B. Smith
 - 26/536, September 2, 1930, Arthur B. Smith to Kathrine S. Parsons "homestead of my father, the late Norman B. Smith."
 - certificate of devise under will of Katherine S. P. Dean, 33/99, died March 2, 1951, to her husband, Lee Maltbie Dean; and, certificate of devise under will of Lee Maltbie Dean, died March 18, 1951, to Louise Parsons Stanley.
 - 35/433, April 30, 1965, Louise Parsons Stanley to Beatrice S. S. Lanier.
 - 36/180, November 1, 1966, B.S.S. Lanier to Sally Dunsmore.
 - 39/365, February 19, 1976, Estate of Sarah Kenney Dunsmore to Carolyn B. Gregg.

The names A. & M. Holabird are shown for the house on the 1853 Clark Mary, Abigail and Polly Holabird inherited the house from the estate of John Holabird. See Sharon Probate Records, 20/123, June 28, 1841. sisters, Abigail and Polly, by their wills, left the house to their nephew, John Holabird. See Canaan Probate Records, 2/514, Ocobter 26, 1869.

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Dean states to the contrary. He says that the original window frames had "molded sills and heads," but he does not discuss the point, or indicate the time or reason for the change. His position gains some support from Photograph 4 which shows a plain frieze under the flat roof overhang, and from the remaining presence of the molded window caps of the second-floor windows on the front elevation. It seems safe to say that the extent of the original exterior elaboration is uncertain.

9. Sharon Probate Records, 20/33.

10.

Another indication of the recognition given the house many years ago is the recollection by a neighbor who has long been in residence of a talk given in the house about the house by J. Frederick Kelly, the well-known pioneer in the study of Colonial Connecticut architecture.

11.

The sources of the dates given, usually Henry Charles Dean, Elmer Keith or HABS, are cited on the Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut forms, but with no rationale or report of research leading to the dates.

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Canaan Land Records.

Canaan Probate Records.

Clark, Richard, Map of Town of Canaan, Philadelphia, 1853.

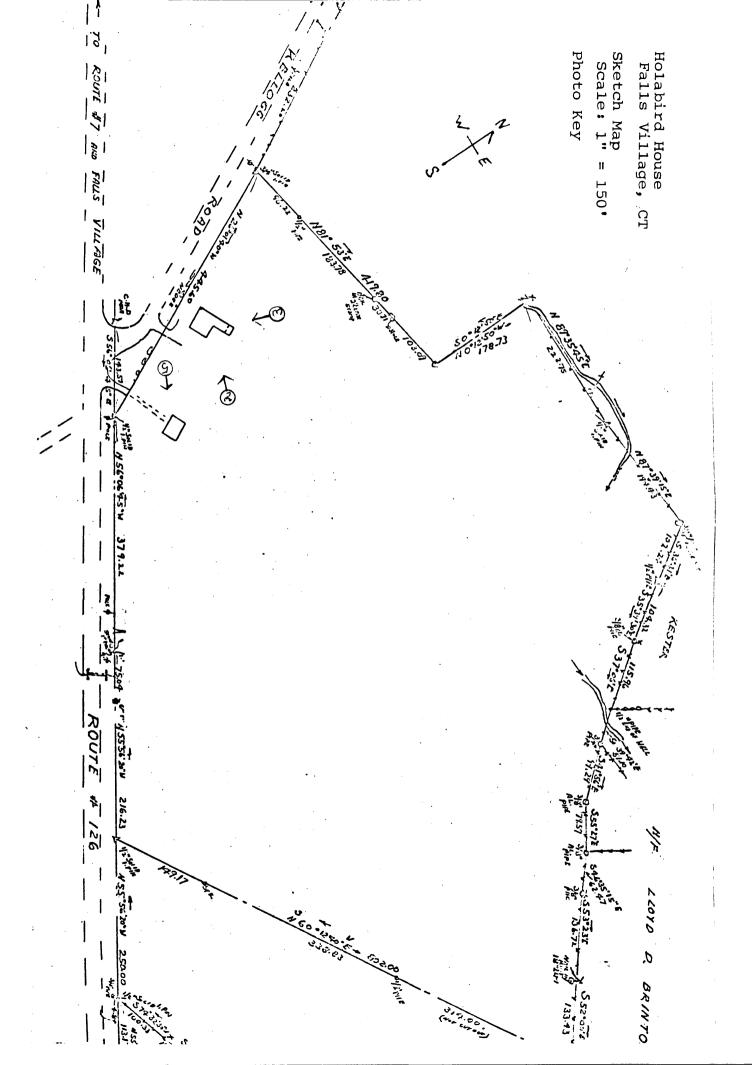
Dean, Henry Charles, <u>The Holabird House</u>, Old Houses of Connecticut Series, Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames in America, 1920.

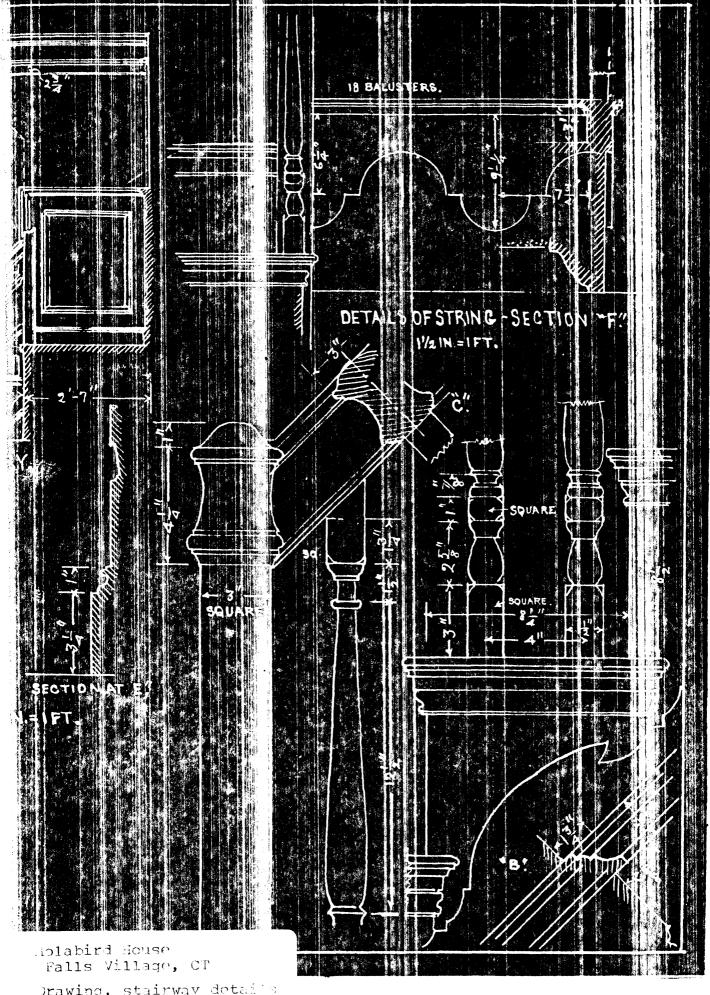
Graham, Marie, notes on the Holabird House, 1960, at the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society.

History of Litchfield County, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis & Co., 1881.

Millar, Donald, Colonial Houses, v. 1, New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1916.

Sharon Probate Records





Drawing, stairway detai's (taken from Dean)