

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 20 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Thomas Hyatt House

and/or common Cashman House

2. Location

street & number 11 Barlow Mountain Road, NA not for publication

city, town Ridgefield NA vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Francis W. and Louise L.C. Cashman

street & number 11 Barlow Mountain Road

city, town Ridgefield NA vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ridgefield Land Records, Town Hall

street & number 400 Main Street

city, town Ridgefield state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Overview

The Thomas Hyatt House was built, c. 1735, as a 2 1/2-story, Colonial, gable-roofed, 3-bay, central chimney, central doorway structure, facing north on Barlow Mountain Road. Later in the 18th century, a wing one room deep was added to the east, increasing the front elevation to five bays. In the 20th century an addition has been made to the house, at the rear, in the angle between the wing and the main section. The interior of the house exhibits many 18th-century features.

Exterior

When Thomas Hyatt built his house on Barlow Mountain Road he built it at grade. Only in the 20th century has the road been lowered with the consequent construction of a stone retaining wall in front of the house. (Photograph 1) An old barn across the road, that went with the house, burned in 1957. As the house is on a knoll, there is a fine view from the rear to the south toward the Titicus River.

In the basic post-and-beam construction of the house there are ten flared gunstock posts, one at each corner, two in each of the front and back walls aligned with the central chimney, and one in each of the side walls. (The post in the east wall presumably was removed when the wing was added.) Heavy beams running in the north-south direction connect these posts at second and attic floor levels. The central beams are supported in part by the chimney. (See Diagram of structure.) Many floor joists run east-west between the heavy beams. In this system there is no need for summer beams, and the side walls, where the joists are supported, are thicker than the front and rear walls which do not support joists.

The front and rear elevations of the house are covered with clapboards and the ends with shingles. The end walls are thicker than the front and rear walls. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. When the east wing was added the front slope of its roof was made in the same plane as the main roof; consequently, as the wing is shallower than the main block, its ridge line is lower. The central chimney of the main section and the chimney at the east end of the wing are stone.

First-floor windows are 9-over-6 and second-floor windows 6-over-6. The paneled front door has double rows of sidelights eight panes high and two wide. (Photograph 2)

The 20th-century construction at the rear of the wing continues the slope of the roof of the wing, with a flare. Two dormers have been introduced in this slope, to light light the second floor. The first floor is largely glazed, in small panes. While foundations of this addition are masonry block, they are faced with fieldstone. (Photograph 3)

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Continuation sheet Surveys

Item number 6

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Ridgefield Architectural Resources Survey

1979 x local

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places

1983 x state

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

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Thomas Hyatt House, Ridgefield, CT

Interior sheet	Description	Item number	Page
		7	1

The plan of the first floor of the principal block is the typical arrangement of the Colonial period, centered on the massive stone chimney. The front door opens to a small hall with large rooms on left (east) and right (west), and the kitchen is in the back. The usual stairway in the hall in front of the chimney has been removed, presumably at the time the 18th-century east wing was added, when another stairway was built. A further change occurred during the 1950s rehabilitation. At that time the floor of the hall was lowered one step below the original level, and the floor of the right room was lowered two steps.¹ As there is no cellar under the right room, lowering its floor level was not impractical. The floor level of the left front room and of the kitchen remain undisturbed, while in the hall and right front room details except floor height but including the paneling were retained. The two front rooms and the kitchen have fireplaces.

The fireplace wall of the west room is entirely covered with raised panelling, including the door to the hall. The fireplace has a molded surround and there is a molded cornice at the ceiling. (Photograph 4) The other interior wall of the room is covered with wide, beaded, vertical boards. Exterior walls are plastered, flush with the window surrounds, and the ceiling is plastered.

The fireplace in the left front room has a more elaborate mantel. The opening is flanked by paneled pilasters that rise through a wide, plain frieze to a high shelf. The shelf breaks out over the pilasters. This mantel may be a late 18th-century addition. There is a built-in cupboard in the southeastern corner of the room, with butterfly shelves.

The fireplace in the rear kitchen, larger than the others (Photograph 6), has a stone hearth, and beehive oven in its rear wall, high up on the left. The simple cupboard in the southwest corner of the kitchen has a door of wide boards below and two crescent-shaped shelves above. The absence of any sign of rabbets for hinges suggests that the upper section never had a door. This cupboard may be original. (Photograph 5) A small room west of the kitchen has walls of wide, beaded, vertical boards and an exposed, flared corner post.

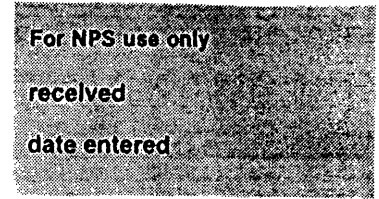
There is an L-shaped cellar, around the chimney base, under the east room and most of the kitchen. The first-floor joists all appear to be original, showing remarkably little if any deterioration. (The rear plate was replaced in part in the 20th century, due to deterioration.) The framing visible in the cellar was examined with the speculation that with its small cellar this house might originally have been built as a one-room structure, but no evidence was found to support such speculation. The cellar was extended under the east wing when the wing was built.

The stone chimney of the east wing, while not as large as the central chimney, nonetheless is massive. As it is positioned within the east wall, there are spaces on each side of it. These spaces are used as cupboards or closets, each with an exterior

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window. Flared corner posts are visible in the closets. The fireplace in the chimney is large. Its oven is to the right of the fireplace opening, in the front wall of the chimney, high up, far more easily accessible than the oven in the back wall of the original kitchen fireplace. The supposition is that this room in the new wing became the new kitchen when it was built. Its oak plank floor appears to be original. The new construction added in the 20th century behind the wing provides a modern kitchen and living space.

Stairs to the second floor rise in an enclosed straight run, front to back, in the wing next to the original east wall of the main block. The second floor of the wing perhaps was a sleeping loft, now enhanced by the new rear dormers. Rear stairs rose from the original kitchen, but have been removed in the mid-20th century in favor of a bathroom on the second floor. The arrangement of a chamber on either side of the central chimney on the second floor is conventional. Flared posts at the corners and near the chimney are visible. Floor boards are wide. The room at the southeast corner has an unusually wide door, over three feet, giving rise to speculation on what went into that room to require such a wide door. A loom has been suggested.

Roof framing, visible in the attic, consists of principal rafters joined at the ridge line with mortise and tenon, without a ridgepole, and wide weather boards.

1. The purpose in lowering the floor height was to accommodate an important American cupboard made, and sent to the Orient to be decorated, in the 18th century.

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1735, c. 1770 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Hyatt

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C (Architecture)

The Thomas Hyatt House is an early-18th-century structure that has been unusually well preserved, both with respect to its framing and its interior details. The presence of an early addition, constructed later in the 18th century, that is also well maintained, gives added interest to this fine example of Colonial architecture. While other 18th-century Ridgefield houses have been moved, suffered severe alterations or lost their relationships with their sites, the Thomas Hyatt House has retained its integrity in all respects.

Historical Background

Thomas Hyatt is mentioned several times in the early records of Ridgefield, indicating that he was a respected member of the community. Initially, in the Ridgefield proprietors' assignment of land by lottery, "Thos. Hyot" drew lot No. 15.¹ Thereafter, he was assigned pew No. 5 on the ground floor of the meeting house. In 1744 Thomas Hyatt served on a joint committee of Ridgefield and Danbury men who "perambulated" the line dividing the two towns, re-marking the trees and repairing the boundary monuments.² Thomas Hyatt served in 1777 in the First Militia Company of Ridgefield,³ and Thomas Hyatt 2nd in the 9th Regiment Militia of the Revolutionary War.⁴

Thomas Hyatt's house remained in the possession of his family until 1832, after which time it passed to the Pulling and Dykeman families. Bedini in his Ridgefield in Review devotes an entire page to the structure, calling it the Pulling-Dykeman House, with the comment that the builder's identity was uncertain although he may have been a member of the Scott family.⁵ The research of the present owner has led to the conclusion that the house was built by Thomas Hyatt.

Both the Pulling and Dykeman families long were active in Ridgefield. One member of the Pulling family served in the Revolutionary War militia, another was a preacher and a third was a member of the first board of directors of the Ridgefield Savings Bank. An early Dykeman participated in the same church seating draught as did Thomas Hyatt, while others served in the War of 1812 and the Civil War.⁶

Subsequent to Dykeman stewardship, the house had a series of owners until in the second quarter of the 20th century it stood vacant for some years. Rehabilitation was undertaken in mid-20th century by the Cashman family who lowered the floor levels of the hall and right front room. The present Cashman owner added the 1-story southeast room in 1932, using a design and materials that sensitively extend the earlier roof slope, foundations and siding.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bedini, Silvio, Ridgefield in Review, Ridgefield: 1958.

Cashman, Francis W., interview December 1, 1982.

Rockwell, George Lounsbury, The History of Ridgefield, Connecticut, Ridgefield: 1927.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Peach Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	2	4	6	0	0	4	5	7	5	0	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is designated on Ridgefield assessor's map as lot 75, map D9. The boundary includes the remaining land that now goes with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant - edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Comm. date July 20, 1983

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

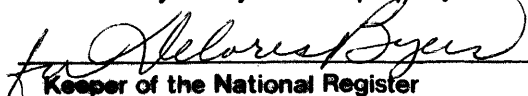
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date January 13, 1984

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

 date 2/16/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Architecture

The Thomas Hyatt House retains many of its 18th-century characteristics, not the least being its rural site on a knoll adjoining the Titicus River. In addition to its post-and-beam framing around the massive central chimney, with original flues, and its added early wing, the house still has many original or very early interior features, including wide oak floor boards throughout, interior walls of paneling and vertical beaded boards, plastered walls and ceilings, raised-panel interior doors and hardware, four fireplaces and two built-in corner cupboards. The history of the house is an integral part of the history of Ridgefield.

Ridgefield Land Records show that Thomas Hyatt bought land on Barlow Mountain Road in 1733.⁷ It is likely that he built his house soon after buying the land, leading to use of the date, c. 1735, for construction of the main block of the house.

The date for the addition of the new kitchen, or east wing, is undocumented. The change in the position of the beehive oven from rear to front wall of the fireplace is consistent with mid- to later-18th-century practice and suggests use of a date c. 1770 for construction of the addition.

As the new addition included a stairway, it is presumed that the stairway inside the front door was removed as part of the work done c. 1770, but conceivably the front stair could have been left in place at that time, to be removed at a later date.

Other features of the house that are of special interest include the partial cellar, unexplained, and the two built-in corner cupboards, especially the simpler one in the first kitchen, which is quite early. The difference in heights of the ridge lines of the main block and the early wing, with the two sections sharing a common front roof slope, also is unusual.

The two kitchen fireplaces offer a demonstration of the development of their type not often found in the same house. In the first kitchen, access to the oven is in the rear wall, high up to the left, difficult to reach when a fire was burning. In the second kitchen, built in the later 18th-century wing, access to the oven is in the front wall of the fireplace, to the right of the opening, far more practical to reach. This progression in fireplace design that occurred as Colonial houses developed seldom can be observed in a single house.

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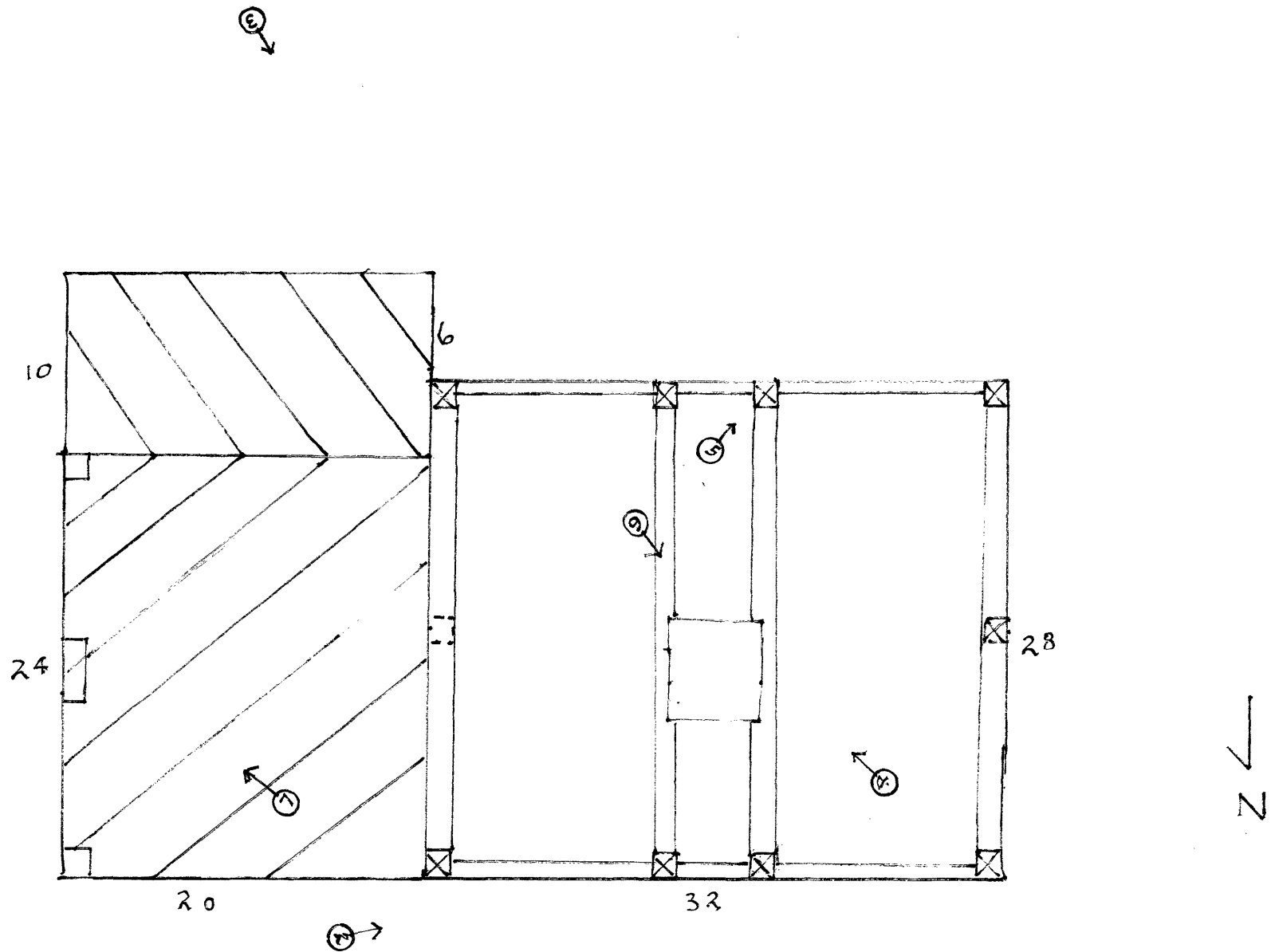
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1. Silvio Bedini, Ridgefield in Review, Ridgefield: 1958, p. 12.
2. George Lounsbury Rockwell, The History of Ridgefield, Connecticut, Ridgefield, 1927, p. 83.
3. Rockwell, p. 139.
4. Rockwell, p. 173. The Hyatt genealogy has not been investigated for this nomination, but obviously there was more than one Thomas Hyatt in the history of Ridgefield. Thomas and Abigail Hyatt sold their "homestead" and 17 acres on North Salem Road to Lewis June in 1831 (Ridgefield Land Records 14/118). After this house burned later in the century, June built a Second Empire style structure that is the subject of a concurrent nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is conceivable that with their original acreages, the two Hyatt properties could have abutted at their rear property lines. See USGS map.
5. Bedin, p. 336.
6. Rockwell, *passim*.
7. Interview December 1, 1982, with Francis W. Cashman. Mr. Cashman has conducted thorough studies of the house's construction and history.



-  Original house, 2½ stories
-  Addition, c. 1770, 1 ¾ stories
-  Addition, c. 1980, 1 story

Thomas Hyatt House
 Ridgefield, CT
 Diagram of structure
 Photo key