

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

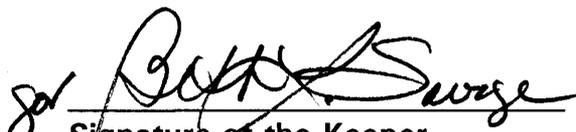
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001380 Date Listed: 12/15/93

Chandler, Capt. Seth, House Windham CT
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12-15-93
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:

The appropriate level of significance for this property is local.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chandler, Captain Seth, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 55 Converse Street not for publication

city or town Woodstock (East Woodstock) vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Windham code 015 zip code 06244

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 10/25/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12-75-93

Captain Seth Chandler House
Name of Property

Windham, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | 2 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 2 | 2 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls weatherboard

roof asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Captain Seth Chandler House, Woodstock, Connecticut

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The Captain Seth Chandler House is a pre-Revolutionary farmhouse, located well back from the east side of Converse Road, approximately 2/10 of a mile from its intersection with Route 197 (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).¹ Access is from a partially paved lane, about 250 feet long and bordered along its south side by a stone wall, which drops down into a dip before rising to the house on its north side. The rest of the almost ten-acre site consists of gently rolling terrain with open fields bordered by stone walls.

To the rear and north of the house are several outbuildings: a contributing late nineteenth-century shed, and two later non-contributing outbuildings, which were constructed in the 1960s when the site was still a working farm. One is a long gable-roofed equipment shed to the northeast; the other, immediately to the rear of the house, is another shed with two open gable-roof sections at its rear, one of which housed a former sawmill (Photograph #6). A stock barn, which had been rebuilt on its original foundation about the same time to the north of the house, was destroyed by fire in the 1970s.

The Chandler House has an uncharacteristic form and plan (Exhibit A). It is composed of two sections: a circa 1760 two-story main block (26' x 28') set on full cellar foundation with rubblestone walls, with a later one-story gable-roofed kitchen ell on the east side. The ell, with its ridge at 90° to the main roof, was probably added after 1780. It has no cellar and once may have been a separate building. Originally only one room, it was enlarged to the north about 1825. A new kitchen addition was added at its north end in 1985.

The floor plan of the main block would be more consistent with a gable-end orientation towards the road. Here, however, the ridge runs with the road and produces a house with two facades, one to the west, the other to the south. Because of this orientation, the chimney (rebuilt in its original location) rises from the rear slope of the main roof, rather than from its ridge. The west main door opens directly into the parlor and the south door on the gable end provides access to the porch and the enclosed staircase to the second floor.

The house was vacant from the 1950s to 1983. It was so deteriorated from lack of maintenance that the present owner had to carry out an extensive rehabilitation. The roof and most of the sash have been replaced throughout. After the asphalt siding was removed, the rotted sills were replaced and new clapboards were installed over the plank walls at the first story of the main block and the stud walls of the ell.

Interior restoration has been completed in the original kitchen and the later kitchen in the ell, where fireplaces have been uncovered, and the small bedroom in the northwest corner. In a few cases, early doors found on site have been returned to the original

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Captain Seth Chandler House, Woodstock, Connecticut

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location, including the four-panelled door opening onto the porch from the parlor, but work on the rest of the house has been limited to exposing earlier finishes in preparation for restoration.

In the large formal parlor, original tombstone panelling is displayed above the fireplace and raised fielded panels form the wainscot (Photograph #7). Earlier finishes exposed under the later layers of paint include feather-graining on all the woodwork. Remnants of early-nineteenth-century stenciling has been revealed on the plastered walls. In addition to the more standard repeating border at the ceiling, there is evidence of contrasting painted panels with stencilled corner decorations.² A recessed cupboard with feather-grained doors is set in the north wall. It is backed up by a small open recessed cupboard, which was uncovered and restored in the adjoining bedroom. The walls of the stairwell, which are sheathed with wide vertical beaded-edge boards, have been painted and wallpapered many times. An unusual sponge-painted random pattern of large polka dots is apparent in an early nineteenth-century layer. There is a simple railing with square-section balusters at the second floor. Decoration uncovered on the second floor includes a painted faux wainscot in a rear chamber.

All of the fireplaces on the first floor were constructed with dressed rose granite blocks. Although the original surrounds and/or wooden chimney breasts of kitchen fireplaces were missing or destroyed and had to be reconstructed, the rest of the sheathing in these rooms is original. It consists of wide beaded horizontal boards in the old kitchen and vertical beaded and feather-edge boards in the ell kitchen. Other remaining early features include small cupboards with butterfly hinges above the original kitchen fireplace, which are located just below the ceiling (Photograph #8). The ell cooking fireplace in the ell has a larger firebox and a beehive oven with its own flue set well forward, confirming the post-Revolutionary time frame of this section (Photograph #9). Brick hearths are found throughout and the single fireplace on the second floor in the parlor chamber is built of brick.

1. Chandler was known locally as "Captain" and the title is used in the family genealogy listed in the bibliography.
2. The owner intends to carefully preserve the feather graining and restore the stencilling of the walls. The original plaster will be saved and fastened where necessary to the split lath.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1760 - c. 1825

Significant Dates

c. 1760; c. 1780; c. 1825

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Captain Seth Chandler House, Woodstock, Connecticut

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The Captain Seth Chandler House is a significant atypical Colonial dwelling which is enhanced by its intact rural setting, virtually unchanged since the eighteenth century. Of particular importance is the quality of the craftsmanship of its interior, most notably the panelling of the parlor and the exceptionally fine stone fireplaces, both uncommon in a rural farmhouse. Further significance is derived from the revealed paint chronology of the interior, a valuable record of changing taste over time.

Historical Background

Captain Seth Chandler (1738-1818), a descendant of an early Woodstock settler family, built his house soon after he purchased the land in 1760 from J. Thomas Baker of Roxbury, in Massachusetts. Chandler had married Eunice Durkee (1740-1824) of Woodstock that year and they had 11 children. Their original lot was a small one, only six acres, part of the third division of outlying land in Woodstock, a town founded in 1686 as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and incorporated in 1749, soon after it became part of Connecticut.

Chandler, who served in the Revolution as First Sergeant in the 6th Company, 11th Regiment, may have been promoted to Captain during the war or his title acquired for later service in the militia. A leader in the community, he was one of the organizers of the East Woodstock parish and also served as town moderator for many years. The house remained in the Chandler family until 1867. In the 1920s, the farm was sold to the Converse family. Under their ownership, the property, then encompassing 300 acres, was a dairy and sheep farm. Although the land continued to be actively farmed until 1983, when it was subdivided and ten acres with the house sold to the present owner, no one had lived there for more than 30 years.

Architectural Significance

This exceptional vernacular farmhouse is one of the few two-story examples in Connecticut that still retains evidence of its original half-house form. While other houses began in this form, most were completed in the full Colonial mode early in their history. In spite of its unconventional roof orientation, which anticipates the much later form of houses in the late Federal period, the original main block is essentially an end-chimney house in plan. Although the massive stack base in the cellar suggests that the construction of the other half of the house was anticipated, since it was large enough to serve as a foundation of another fireplace, the new kitchen ell is located where the hall would have been in the more standard Colonial house. Given the size of the family, more room was clearly necessary; the failure to enlarge the house more traditionally may have been a question of economics.

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The Chandler House has other inherent contradictions. Despite its modest size, the quality of the stonework in the fireplaces is the equal of that found in more urban settings in this period. Furthermore, the stone appears to have been imported; it does not resemble the local rubblestone on the property utilized in the cellar construction. The size of the parlor and its formal detailing are also surprising. Although it is exceptionally well-crafted and representative of eighteenth-century work, the panelling may date from the period of occupancy by the second or third generation of Chandlers. The contemplated authentic restoration, along with the stenciling in the parlor, will further enhance the interior's significance.

The long sustained use of the property for agricultural purposes has contributed to the preservation of the site. The surrounding stonewalled open fields are a key factor in the historic ambiance of the Chandler farm and it appears today much as it did in the eighteenth century. Most historic farms of this vintage have lost this essential open quality. Fields have reverted to scrub and woodland, often concealing the buildings or disrupting the traditional and immediate interplay between house and farmscape. It is unfortunate that the original outbuildings are no longer standing but those that have taken their place, even the most recent examples, have a traditional form and location.

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Bibliography

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. The History of Woodstock, Connecticut: Genealogies of Woodstock Families, Vol. III. Norwood, Massachusetts: The Plimpton Press, 1930.

Chandler, Edward H., ed. The Descendants of John Eddy Chandler and Charlotte Maria Hopkins. Published by the editor, 1944.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in Woodstock Land Records: Book 126, Page 273, in the Woodstock Town Clerk's Office, being the same property delineated on Woodstock Tax Assessor's Map 5701, as Block 6, Lot 12-3.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the historic core of the Seth Chandler Farm and includes all the land and buildings still associated with the Seth Chandler House.

5 ↘

CAPT. SETH CHANDLER HOUSE
 SKETCH FLOORPLAN (1ST)
 APPROX. SCALE 1/8" = 1'

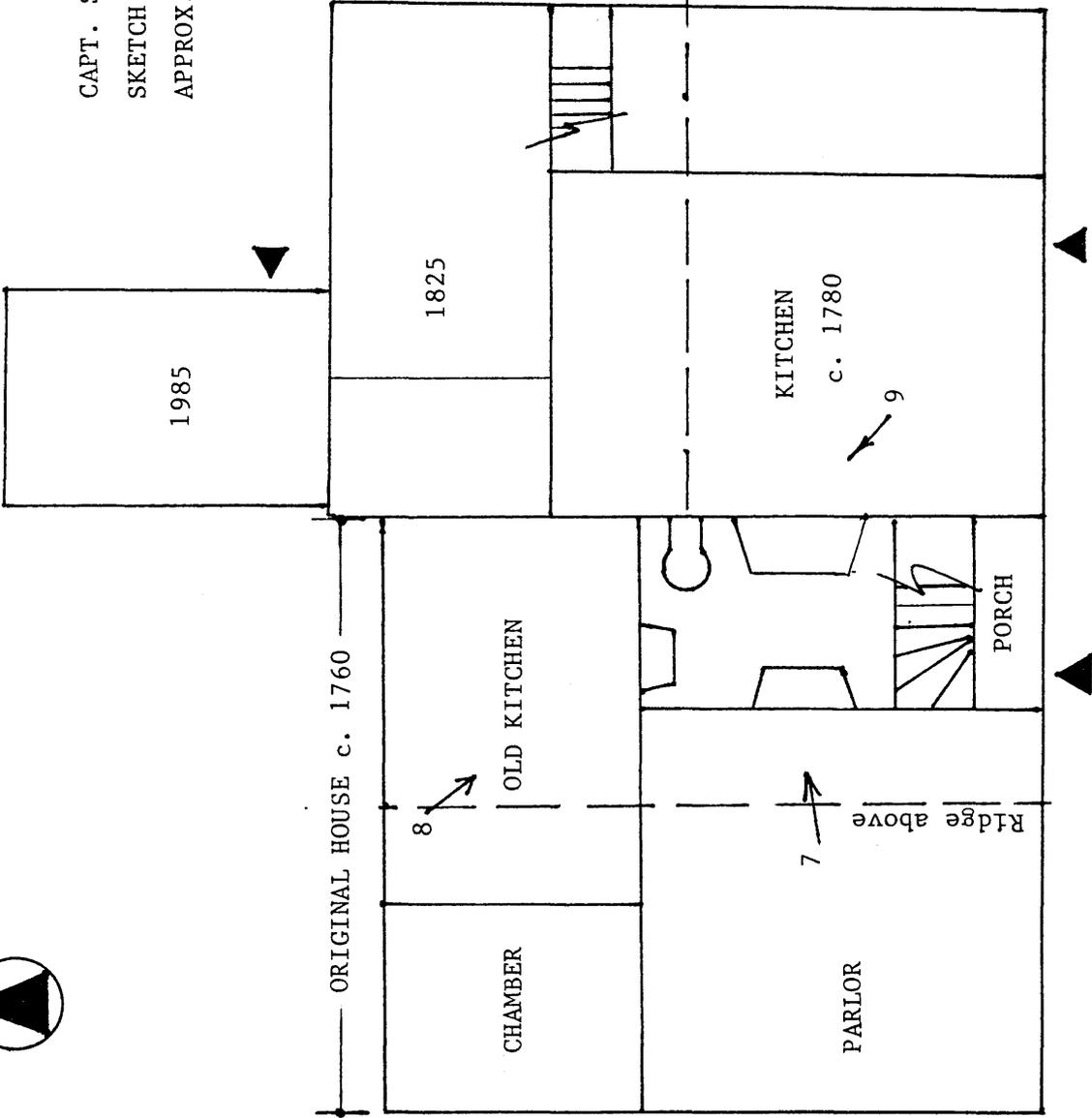
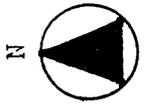


EXHIBIT A

KEY: Arrows indicate photograph views
 Triangles indicate entrances

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Section number Photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Note: All photographs were taken by Cunningham Associates Ltd., 5/93, and the negatives are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission.

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | View: General view of site | Facing: E |
| 2. | View: Facade, main block | Facing: SE |
| 3. | View: South elevation (19th-c. shed at rear) | Facing: NW |
| 4. | View: North elevation | Facing: SE |
| 5. | View: East elevation | Facing: SW |
| 6. | View: Circa 1960 rear shed | Facing: NW |
| 7. | View: Parlor fireplace | Facing: E |
| 8. | View: Kitchen fireplace (in main block) | Facing: SE |
| 9. | View: Ell kitchen fireplace | Facing: NW |