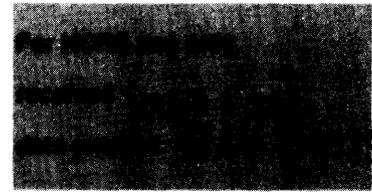


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



882

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

1. Name

historic / Nehemiah Hubbard House

and/or common Nehemiah Hubbard House

2. Location

street & number Laurel Grove Road and Wadsworth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Middletown N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut code 09 county Middlesex code 007

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Juana M.G. Flagg

street & number Laurel Grove Road and Wadsworth Street

city, town Middletown N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middletown Land Records, Municipal Building

street & number De Koven Drive

city, town Middletown 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

The Nehemiah Hubbard House is a Colonial style 2½-story, central-chimney, three-bay, gabled-roof, frame house on stone foundations, built c. 1745. (Photograph 1.) During the mid-20th century, a two-story ell was added to the rear and a kitchen and attached barn to the north. (See Sketch Map and Photographs 3 and 4.)

The house faces east toward Laurel Grove Road at the southwest corner of Wadsworth Street in the Long Hill section of Middletown, Connecticut, about 1½ miles southwest of the center of the city. It is a residential neighborhood on the edge of town. The Nehemiah Hubbard House itself has 10 acres of grounds, mostly meadow and woodlands. Stone walls run along both sides of Laurel Grove Road. There is another 18th-century Colonial style house directly across the road while other nearby houses are of various ages but all are well spaced and well maintained.

Exterior

The central doorway in the three-bay front elevation of the Nehemiah Hubbard House is flanked by a 8-over-12 window on each side at first-floor level. At the second floor the central window over the door is 6-over-6 and the other two windows match those below. The clapboards have 3 ¾ inches exposed to the weather and are fastened with rose-headed nails.¹ The corner boards are plain and narrow.

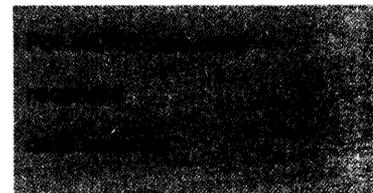
The entrance is elaborate, dating from a 1930s restoration that was carried out under the direction of J. Frederick Kelly and Norman Isham, who were the two leaders in the early study of 18th-century Connecticut architecture. Flanking fluted pilasters on paneled bases with molded capitals, on either side of the door, support consoles on which the deep pediment rests. The returns of the raking cornices of the pediment break out over the pilasters. The fact that the entrance surround and the pediment were created in the 1930s is specifically established by comparison of an early photo with the present appearance of the house and by a statement in "The Nehemiah Hubbard House, 1745," a history of the house written in 1946. It is considered to be likely that that the projecting window enframements and moldings also date from that time. A close-up view of the molded window caps that break out as a continuation of the molding under the eaves shows the wood condition, better than could be expected if it were original. (Photograph 2.) The chances are that most of the exterior decorative trim is part of the Kelly and Isham work. The five-pane transom and six-paneled door may be original.

The gable roof is covered by wooden shingles. Its long rear slope extends over a lean-to section, giving the house a "saltbox" profile. The center of the chimney is offset behind the ridge line of the roof. The chimney, built of brick, is oblong in plan with its longer dimension parallel with the ridgepole, and has a molding formed by two courses of brick that project the thickness of one brick, near the top.

The south elevation has three windows arranged vertically, one over another, in the first floor, second floor and attic, all with molded caps and sills. On the first floor, toward the front of the house, there is a side door with pediment that also dates from the 1930s, although it is not as elaborate as the front entrance. The upper portion of the side door is glazed with 12 panes while the lower section is paneled in the pattern of an X. It is not the original door.

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Continuation sheet Nehemiah Hubbard House
Surveys Item number 6 Page 1

Federal Writers' Project (Middletown #38)

1930s x state

Connecticut State Library

Hartford Connecticut

Middletown, Connecticut, A Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources

1979 x local

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places

1975 x state

Connecticut Historical Commission

Hartford Connecticut

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In the lean-to section of the elevation, there is a door with two small lights under a molded flat cap, followed by a 6-over-6 window. Above it, in the second story, there is a four-pane window with a molded flat cap. There is a break in the roof molding of the rear slope at the second-floor level, suggesting the possibility that the house initially stopped at this point, and the lean-to was added.

The north elevation has the same arrangement of three windows, vertically, and a small four-pane window in the second story at the back. On the rear elevation, in the lean-to wall, there are three 4-over-12 windows. They have molded sills that are different from those of other windows, and the clapboards on this wall are fastened with rose-headed nails of a different profile from those found elsewhere.

Built in 1952, the two-story ell to the rear has a wood-shingled gambrel roof that flares out over an open porch on the south. Three large apertures filled with glass open onto the porch. Above, there are three 6-over-6 shed dormers. A large, stone chimney separates two windows in the end (west) elevation.² (Photograph 3.)

A one-story, gable-roofed wing, built in 1962, extends to the north, with a 6-over-6 window and a door in its front wall. Attached to this wing, and constructed at the same time, is a large 1½-story, gable-roofed barn. Its vertical siding of weathered boards was taken from a tobacco barn. (Photograph 4.)

While the house is sited close to the road, there are ample gardens and spacious grounds in the rear.

Interior

The floor plan of the 40 x 30-foot, 18th-century structure is typical of Colonial style, central-chimney houses. The front door opens to a small hall in front of the stairs, which rise against the chimney. There are front rooms to left and right, with the kitchen in the lean-to area to the rear. The 18 x 31-foot rear wing extends back from the north end of the lean-to, while the smaller wing, 20 x 12 feet, and the 39 x 23-foot barn run to the north from the lean-to area. (See Sketch Map.)

The inside surface of the front door is composed of vertical boards. The stairway, which opens on the right, has a door of vertical boards. The stairway is closed in by a plastered wall. The doors from the hall to the front rooms have four recessed panels on both sides.

The north front room is the more elaborate of the two front rooms. The brownstone ashlar fireplace is 67 inches wide, 45 inches high, and 32 inches deep. The firebox floor and the hearth are limestone. The fireplace is surrounded by handsome woodwork. The mantel shelf is molded, and from it short, shallow, paneled pilasters rise to the chimney girt, and break out in a molding at the girt that extends around the perimeter of the room. There is a wide panel over the mantel, and the balance of the fireplace wall is paneled. A corner cupboard occupies the northwest corner of the room. It has upper glazed doors under a round arch with a keystone block that is formed by the ceiling molding breaking out. The

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lower doors are paneled. The cupboard has butterfly shelves. (Photograph 5.) The flared corner posts of the room are cased and beaded, while the summer beam that runs from above the fireplace to the north wall is cased, beaded and paneled. The floor has wide boards, not original, and the walls and ceiling are plastered.

In the south front room the brownstone ashlar fireplace, larger than the fireplace in the north room, is 86 inches wide, 50 inches high and 39 inches deep, with limestone floor and hearth. There is a beehive oven on the back wall, at the upper right. The mantel shelf is molded and that is the only molding in the room. The walls are made of wide vertical boards, about 16 inches in width, beaded and feathered. The floor boards are wide, and the flared corner posts and the summer beam are cased and beaded. The exposed joists, running from the summer beam to the front and back walls, are beaded. The paneled door to the cellar stairs is between the fireplace and the door to the hall. (Photograph 6.)

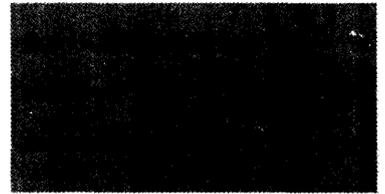
The kitchen fireplace is the largest of the three, 95 inches wide, 56 inches high, and 42 inches deep. It is constructed of brownstone ashlar similar to that in the front rooms, but not as smoothly finished. There is a beehive oven in the rear wall, at the upper left, with a brick lining that appears to be new, while the lining of the south room oven appears black with use. There are wide floor boards and wide vertical boards on the north wall. Cased-and-beaded ceiling timbers run from either side of the fireplace to cased-and-beaded posts in the rear wall. The ceiling timbers are not in line with the chimney girts of the front rooms, but are a few inches closer together. The original floor plan for this lean-to area no doubt provided for the customary three rooms consisting of the central kitchen plus a room on either side. The central kitchen and the south room now are a single space, used as a dining room, with an exterior door in the south wall. There is an opening in the rear wall to the rear ell. The partition separating the kitchen from the north room remains in place (the north wall of wide vertical boards referred to above), but the north room is now part of the modern kitchen added to the north.

The stairs to the second floor, in front of the chimney, consist of one riser, three winders, and a straight run of five risers to a small, square landing from which, with a turn of 90 degrees, one more riser leads to the second floor. A sapling serves as the handrail. The south wall of the landing has wide vertical boards that, together with the railing at the top of the stair well, are the only decorative finish on the second floor. Thin rectangular spindles support a hand rail that is rounded on the top. The newell post is square with a molded top, near the landing, and is matched by a corresponding pilaster at the north end of the balustrade, against the wall. (Photograph 7.) The two bedrooms are plain. The corner posts are not cased. Neither room has a fireplace, although it is reported that both originally did.³ The garret of the lean-to is now a passage and a bathroom. The garret rafters are visible, leading down from the attic plate. (Photograph 8.) The garret rafters are not extensions of the attic rafters.

While 20th-century owners of the house have held the opinion that the lean-to was original, the garret rafters are one of several indications that the lean-to may have been added. Other indications include the positions of the kitchen ceiling timbers, a break in the molding of the rear roof slope, south elevation, at the point where an earlier wall would have been, the likelihood, because of the presence of the oven, that the south front room originally was used for cooking, and the difference in the character of the brownstone of the kitchen fireplace.

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The attic stairs rise north of the chimney. At the top of the stairs there is a trap door leading to a concealed "room", 2 x 4 x 3 feet, back of the chimney, over the kitchen fireplace. The roof framing of the house consists of four pairs of principal rafters that are pegged into a canted purlin on each slope. Common rafters, in between, appear simply to rest on the purlins, although as the attic has been finished off it is not possible to get a good view of the situation. The portion of the chimney visible in the attic is stone to a point just below the ridge line, where it becomes brick. Again, the attic finish precludes an opportunity to assess possible changes at the roof aperture that might indicate whether the chimney originally was all stone.

The cellar stairs run from the south front room under the front stairs to the base of the chimney, which is a massive, great, stone structure. The cellar walls are stone. The cellar floor has been lowered about two feet below the original level, for reasons unknown, but perhaps to give greater height to the cellar. When this change was made it was necessary to lengthen the cellar stairs. The original stairs are wood, constructed simply of hewn triangular blocks pegged to the stringer. They are extended with additional steps of brownstone to the new, lower cellar floor level which is about two feet below the original level on which the stone chimney base stands.

The wing to the rear is a panelled living room on the first floor, with fireplace in the west wall. Its high basement has stone walls on three sides, with a large fireplace in the west wall. The second floor is given over to a bedroom.

1. The nails actually are galvanized, wedge-shaped boat nails. Holes had to be drilled in the clapboards to avoid splitting them when the nails were driven. The new siding was part of the 1930s restoration work. -- Interview June 29, 1981 with Frank D. Winder, architect, who owned the house from 1946 to 1956.

2. Architect for the ell was Robert I. Carter.

3. A hand-written note added to the Colonial Dames' volume on the house, written by Bunce, says that former fireplaces in the bedrooms were bricked up and plastered over.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates c. 1745, 1952, 1962 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria

The Nehemiah Hubbard House, built c. 1745, is a skillfully restored example of Colonial style American architecture. The sensitively-designed, 20th-century additions demonstrate that new construction can be successfully combined with old. Criterion C.) The prominence of the Hubbard family in the Middletown community, and particularly the fact that five Hubbard sons fought in the Revolutionary War, make the house an important structure in local history. (Criterion B.)

Architecture

The three-bay facade of the Nehemiah Hubbard House, the windows arranged vertically in each end elevation, and the basic floor plan keyed to its central chimney are all traditional elements of Colonial style domestic American architecture. The continued presence of these original characteristics to the present time establishes the basic integrity of the house. Other original features, including the paneling, corner cupboard, summer beams, flared posts and front stairs enhance the importance of the house. The fine brown-stone ashlar fireplaces and the original cellar stairs are above average in interest. All of these features considered collectively contribute to the architectural importance of the structure.

The house was restored in the 1930s under the supervision of J. Frederick Kelly, architect, in consultation with Norman M. Isham. Isham was the first to write seriously about the architectural history of early Connecticut houses,¹ while Kelly not only wrote what is still the definitive work on the subject,² but also was one of the first architects to specialize in restoration of 18th-century houses. Their work on the Nehemiah Hubbard House reflects their knowledge and capabilities and is itself an important chapter in the architectural history of the house.

It is possible, however, that the restoration they carried out, particularly on the exterior, resulted in decoration more elaborate than was built originally. One element they created is the entrance pediment. No such feature existed when they started their work, although it is said that some indication of the prior existence of a pediment was found. If so, and if the prior entrance surround was as elaborate as the one now in place, it may have been a 19th-century refinement. The complete uniformity of the window moldings, even to the molded caps over the second-floor four-pane windows in the lean-to, seems unlikely to have survived intact over the centuries, and may not have been an original feature of the house.

The large 1962 rear ell with its gambrel roof was designed to be complementary to the main structure, but not to copy it. Similar stone work was employed, however, for its basement and first floor. The great stone fireplace in its basement is a worthy companion to the three 18th-century fireplaces in the original house. The later additions of the kitchen and barn to the north do repeat the gable-roof configuration of the main block as they form a visual unit with it from the street. However, the fact that the barn is placed on a line with the house close to the street does not have 18th-century precedent. Such an out-building usually was in the back, either freestanding or attached to the house by a series of sheds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

UNRECORDED
RECORDED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10.4

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1,8	6,936,10	4,601,010
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

1,8	6,936,40	4,600,850
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

1,8	6,934,40	4,600,840
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

1,8	6,934,40	4,600,740
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

1,8	6,933,20	4,600,730
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

1,8	6,933,20	4,600,920
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

1,8	6,934,50	4,601,010
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is described in the Middletown Land Records at volume 302, page 164. The 10.4 acres is land that has traditionally gone with the house.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date February 21, 1981

street & number 69 South Prospect Street telephone 203 521-2518

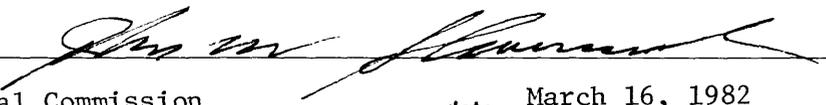
city or town Hartford state Connecticut

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date March 16, 1982

For HCERS use only

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

 date 5-11-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 5/5/82

Chief of Registration

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History

Nehemiah Hubbard I was the great-grandson of George Hubbard (1594-1685) who was one of the founders of Hartford in 1636. George Hubbard moved to Middletown in 1650 where his family played an important role in the development of the town for a century or more. Nehemiah Hubbard I bought the corner lot on Laurel Grove Street in 1744, and erected his house soon thereafter.⁵ During the Revolutionary War five of his sons fought in the colonial forces. Nehemiah Hubbard II (1752-1837) held the rank of Colonel and was Deputy Quartermaster General in Connecticut. On instructions of General Washington, he made the arrangements for the Washington-Rochambeau conference in Hartford, held September 20, 1780.⁶

After the war, Nehemiah Hubbard II returned to Middletown where he engaged successfully in trade and finance, serving as president of both the commercial bank and the savings bank, but he did not live in his father's house, preferring a much grander Georgian mansion at 243-245 Main Street. The old house remained in the family,⁷ however, and was left by Miss Mary P. Hubbard to 39 nieces and nephews, one of whom, Mary Hubbard (Mrs. James H.) Bunce,⁸ bought out the others in 1893. Finally, in 1916 the property was purchased by Colonel Clarence S. Wadsworth, who engaged the services of Kelly and Isham for the restoration in 1930.⁹

1. Norman M. Isham and Albert F. Brown, Early Connecticut Houses, 1900.

2. J. Frederick Kelly, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, 1924.

3. A picture of the house in Bunce shows no pediment.

4. Some of J. Frederick Kelly's drawings for his rehabilitation work are at the Connecticut Historical Society, but not the drawings for this house.

5. Atkins, p. 128, notes that Hubbard bought the land in 1744 "and soon erected a house."

6. Crofut, p. 493.

7. A picture of Hannah Hubbard, a member of the 18th-century family, hangs in the house. It is a study by Charles Noel Flagg (1848-1916), Hartford's best-known portraitist, whose grandson bought the house in 1956.

8. Mary Hubbard Bunce was the author of the Colonial Dames book on the house.

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9. Colonel Wadsworth was a large land owner in the Long Hill section of Middletown. The main thoroughfare, Wadsworth Street, was named after him. He built and lived in a residence patterned after an English Palladian country house that is now a religious institution. The present Wadsworth Falls State Park is a part of his former holdings.

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Bibliography



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Thomas Atkins, History of Middlefield and Long Hill, Hartford; Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1883.

Mary Hubbard Bunce, The Nehemiah Hubbard House, Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames in America, 1919.

Florence S. Marcy Corfut, Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937, v. 2.

"The Nehemiah Hubbard House, 1745", Long Hill, Middletown, Connecticut, no author (Winder), n.d. (c. 1946).

Sketch Map

Photo Key

