



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Lyon, Thomas, House, in Fairfield County, Connecticut, reference number 77001390, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 08/24/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7440. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/19/2009
Date

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Lyon, Thomas, House**

AND/OR COMMON
Lyon Cottage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
southeast corner West Putnam Avenue and Byram Road

CITY, TOWN **Greenwich** VICINITY OF **Fourth District**

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

See Continuation Sheet

NAME
Building: Greenwich Rotary Club and Greenwich Lions Club

STREET & NUMBER
c/o Mr. Leonard S. Clark, 40 West Elm Street

CITY, TOWN **Greenwich** VICINITY OF **Connecticut** STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Greenwich Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER
Greenwich Avenue

CITY, TOWN **Greenwich** STATE **Connecticut**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Connecticut Statewide Inventory

DATE **June 29, 1966** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN **Hartford** STATE **Connecticut**

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1926-27</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas Lyon House today is situated close to the south side of West Putnam Avenue just east of its junction with Byram Road. This site is very constricted. It slopes upward at the northeast and trees and shrubs are very close to the building. In addition, existing landscaping with high hedges, over abundant vegetation, terracing, entrance arbor, concrete and slate walks, brick cookout grill in rear (south-east) yard, and small frame shed in southwest yard do not enhance the house. On the hill, northeast of the house is the Byram School, but vegetation obscures it from the Lyon House. Across West Putnam Avenue, a busy four-lane highway, are commercial buildings. Nearby are the Byram River and the New York State border.

Prior to 1926 the house was located across West Putnam Avenue. It was moved in 1926-27 to save it from demolition due to a highway widening. At that time its exterior was restored by Theodore L. Blake, architect, and John L. Duge, contractor. However, since then numerous alterations have been made, particularly on the interior, without consideration for the architectural integrity of the structure. Fortunately most of these appear additive and could be removed.

Photographs taken prior to moving the house reveal that its original site was level and not overgrown by trees and shrubs. In addition, the house had a one-story open front porch and a side porch. Both of these appear to have been built in the 19th century and were removed in 1926-27. A barn or carriage house was behind the house.

Today the exterior of the late 17th century house is characterized by its lack of ornamentation, its salt-box massing, and its textured shingle wall surfaces. The two-story frame building is very small, having only three bays on its main (northwest) facade. The rear (south-east) slope of its steep gable roof extends over the lean-to ending about five feet above the ground. The roof is currently covered with composition shingle roofing. An outstanding feature is the massive, stone central chimney which was moved intact. Covering exterior walls are shingles with semi-circular butt ends. They are reproductions of the original shingles which were in place until 1926. Frederick Kelly said that the building had clay insulation between its studs. Window sash, in most cases, is 6/6 double-hung sash and probably dates from the 19th century. Inappropriate 20th century features include the front stoop with metal railing and storm door with hood, metal storm windows, window boxes, and the garbage bin attached to the north-east side of the house.

The first floor of the house has a two-room plan with kitchen in rear lean-to. Unfortunately recent panelling hides most original fabric. However, summer beams, corner posts, and the kitchen fireplace are partially visible. One room has an Adamesque mantel suggesting an early 19th century remodelling. The roof framing consists of a purlin system with wooden pegs.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES about 1690

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Lyon House is typical of late 17th century shingle-covered architecture in the region around Stratford, Connecticut. It is a simple dwelling with center chimney, salt-box massing, restored shingle siding, and three-bay facade. Although moved and altered it is among the few 17th century houses still standing in this area and is typical of the type of dwelling built by the region's earliest settlers. The house was probably erected about 1690 for Thomas Lyon, Junior, the son of one of the earliest settlers in Greenwich. It was occupied by members of the Lyon family until 1926 when it was given to two Greenwich civic clubs who moved it to save it from demolition.

Thomas Lyon was among the first settlers of the town of Greenwich appearing on the land records as early as 1676. He died about 1690 and left his homelot on the Byram River to his son Thomas. It is probably that about this time Thomas Lyon, Junior, built the existing house. However, different sources give varying dates for its erection ranging from circa 1640 to circa 1701.

The house was visited by patriotic soldiers during the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Trumbull recorded in his journal that on January 31, 1777, he took "post at Lyon's near bridge."

Occupants of the house include Gilbert ("Gentleman Gil") Lyon from 1719 to 1816; Abraham Lyon (1764- 1849); and Underhill Lyon, a prosperous farmer and prominent local citizen who died in 1920. Underhill Lyon's daughter, Mrs. Julia Saunders, gave the house to the local Rotary and Lions Clubs in 1926 when it was threatened by a highway widening project. The clubs saved the building by having it moved across the road in 1926-27 to town property. Due to finances the clubs were not able to use the building as an information bureau as they had hoped. However its exterior was restored with Theodore A. Blake serving as architect. Since 1927 the clubs have leased the building to tenants and a number of incompatible alterations have been made.

1. Quoted in Allan F. Kitchel, Jr., "Historic Houses of Greenwich: The Thomas Lyon Homestead Built Nearly a Century Before the Revolution," Greenwich Press, Feb. 4, 1937.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Leonard S. Clark, Frederick Whelan, Al Henry, other representatives of the Greenwich Rotary and Lions Clubs, June 15, 1976.
 Interview with William Finch, July 7, 1976.
 Allan F. Kitchel, Jr. "Historic Houses of Greenwich: The Thomas Lyon Homestead Built Nearly a Century Before the Revolution," Greenwich Press, Feb. 4, 1937.

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one-third acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	613110	451401800	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Robins Brown Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Connecticut Historical Commission

July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

59 South Prospect Street

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hartford

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

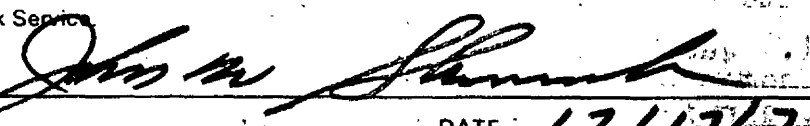
NATIONAL

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

SHPO

DATE

12/17/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4,9 PAGE 1

Lyon, Thomas, House Greenwich, CT.

4. Owner of Property

Page 1

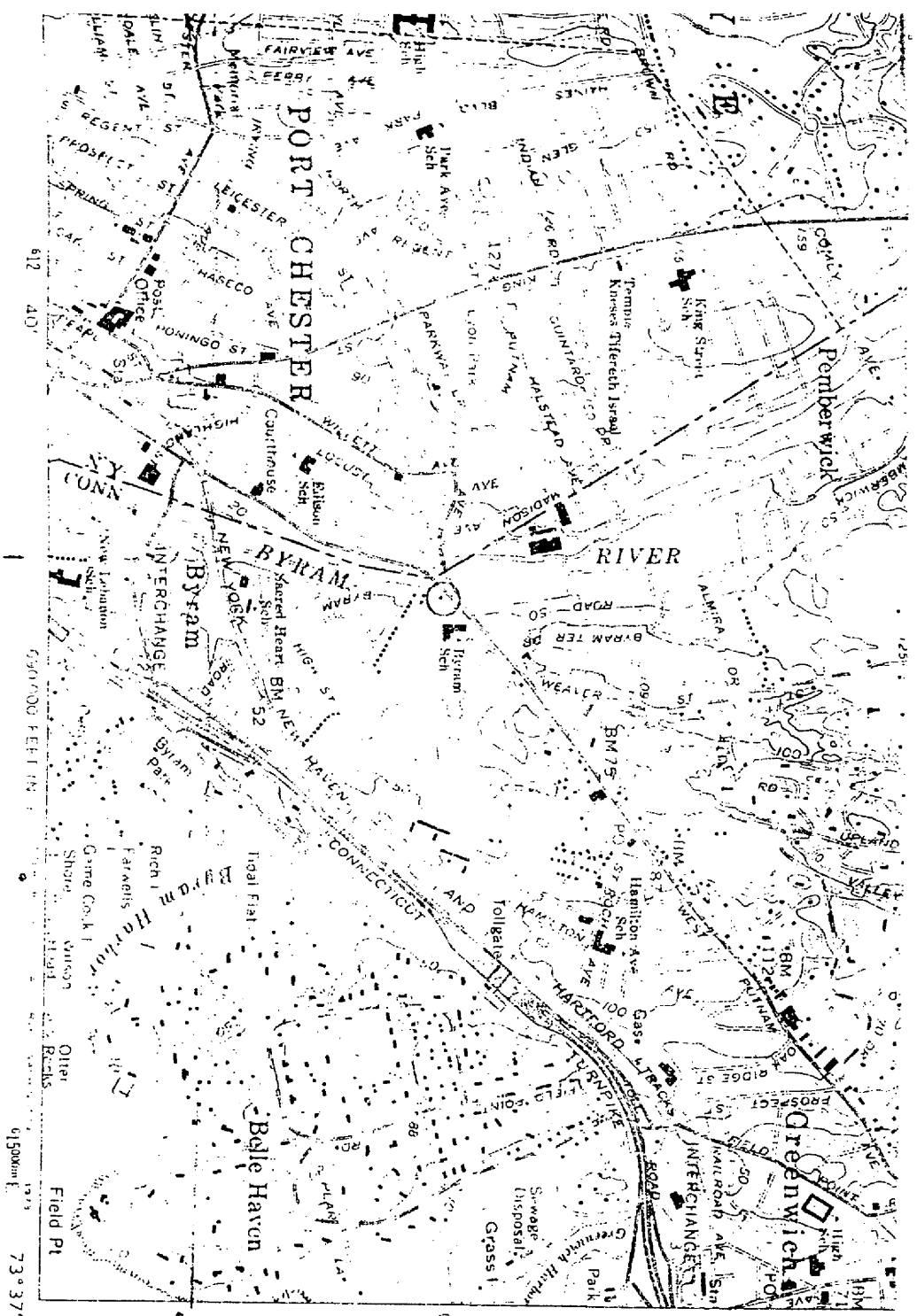
Name: Land: Town of Greenwich
Greenwich Town Hall, Greenwich Avenue
Greenwich, CT.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Letter from Harold L. von Brock, Greenwich Assessor, to T. Robins Brown,
May 14, 1976. Files of TRBrown.

J. Frederick Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New Haven:
Yalite, 1924; reprint ed.; New York: Dover, 1963, pp. 80, 85.

Spencer P. Mead, Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, New York: Knicker-
bocker Press, 1911, pp. 468, 607.



*Lyon, Thomas,
House
Greenwich, CT.
UTM Reference:
18/613110/
4540800*

GLENVILLE, CONN. - N. Y.

NAD 83 - W7337.5/7.5

1960

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