

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 REV. 8/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

COPY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: _____ Site No.: **42**

UTM: _____

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT: S NR IF NR, SPECIFY Actual Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) **Alva Finch House** (Historic)

2. TOWN CITY **Westport** VILLAGE **Alva Finch House** COUNTY **Fairfield**

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) **25 Cavalry Rd.**

4. OWNER(S) **Crolius, Thpomas & Patricia** 5297/12-A

5. USE (Present) **Residence** (Historic) **Residence** Public Private

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes No EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

7. STYLE OF BUILDING **Greek Revival** DATE OF CONSTRUCTION **ca. 1837**

DESCRIPTION

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: _____ Cut stone Type: _____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

Other (Specify) _____

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable Flat Mansard Monitor sawtooth

Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other (Specify) _____

(Material)

Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate

Asphalt shingle Built up Tile Other (Specify) _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES **2** APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS **31 x 36, 18 x 18**

12. CONDITION (Structural) Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated (Exterior) Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) On original site Moved WHEN? _____ (Alterations) Yes No IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

14. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn Shed Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) **drylaid stone wall**

Carriage house Shop Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land Wood-land Residential Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial Indus-trial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Located on a ridge, the house is one of the few period dwellings in the area.

(OVER)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The handsome, well-proportioned house incorporates the 5-bay, central chimney massing typical of the Federal period with Grecian detailing. The entablature returns on the gable ends, also set with lunette windows. Six-over-six windows are used throughout. The most distinguished feature of the house is the Doric portico which shelters the central entrance and the tripartite frontispiece with geometric side lights and transom surrounding a one-panel door. The detail is one of the better local expressions of the Greek Revival style. A Colonial Revival wing and porch were added to the south elevation. The house is well preserved.

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

John Fitch owned the land on Red Coat Lane as early as 1763, according to the former owner of 43 Red Coat Lane, Betty Solitt. After his death, the land passed to his sons Alva and Samuel who divided the property. Samuel took the Red Coat frontage, and Alva got the land on Cavalry Road. It is assumed that he built the house for it has features of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Alva's widow lived to be 96, so his estate was not settled until 1896 when the house was sold. Local architect Charles Cutler occupied it from 1912 until he built his home on Kings Highway North in 1920. From 1922 until 1925, it was owned by Frazier Peters, a designer and builder noted for his distinctive custom stone houses. In 1938, the house was enlarged by Ruth B. Eckhart, and the current owners acquired it in 1959.

SOURCES

Westport Historical Society: House File.
Adams Manuscript.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: Mary E. McCahon

DATE: May, 1988

VIEW: east

NEGATIVE ON FILE: CHC 14:17

COMPILED BY: Mary E. McCahon, Architectural Historian

DATE: June, 1988

ORGANIZATION: Westport Historic District Commission

ADDRESS: Town Hall Westport, Conn. 06880



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanation _____

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____

PAL, Pawtucket, RI 02860

June 2000

Address: 25 Cavalry Road

Name: Alva Finch House

NR District:

Local District:

Neg No.: 5:37

HRS ID No.: 0075

