

= Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop =

The Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop is a historic building that was built between 1772 and 1774 on the green in Norwichtown , now a section of Norwich , Connecticut . It is a 30 feet (9 @. @ 1 m) by 24 feet (7 @. @ 3 m) one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half story clapboarded building with a gambrel roof . The interior has a single brick chimney that was used for the forge , but it has been modified and adapted for modern use with modern doors , electric lighting and heat , and a disappearing overhead stairway that leads to the attic . Joseph Carpenter (1747 ? 1804) was a successful of silversmith , clockmaker , and pewterer , and shared the building with his brother , a merchant . The shop was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 6 , 1970 , and was listed as a contributory property for the Norwichtown Historic District on January 17 , 1973 .

= = Original occupants = =

Born in 1747 to Joseph and Elizabeth Carpenter (née Lathrop) , Joseph Carpenter was a successful silversmith in Norwich , Connecticut . The shop was constructed between 1772 and 1774 and Joseph shared it with his brother Gardner Carpenter , who operated a mercantile business from the shop . In 1775 , Joseph Carpenter married Eunice Fitch , and they had six children . He died in 1804 . Carpenter was noted to be one of the " most successful of the Norwich silversmiths , clockmakers and pewterers ... "

= = Design = =

Facing southeast on the Norwichtown green , the Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop is a 30 feet (9 @. @ 1 m) by 24 feet (7 @. @ 3 m) one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half story clapboarded building with a gambrel roof . Constructed between 1772 and 1774 , the building was built on a stone foundation and has a stone stoop leading to the front entrance . The gambrel roof is framed without a ridge pole . It overhangs the front and back facades by 2 feet (0 @. @ 61 m) , but does not project the sides . At the time of the National Historic Register of Places nomination , the roof used wooden shingles . The interior has a single brick chimney that was used for the forge . The main floor was originally open , with only a single supporting post in the center , but this was later partitioned into several rooms . Modern additions to the shop include modern doors , electric lighting and heat , and a disappearing overhead stairway that leads to the attic . The shop 's cellar was not described in the survey . In 1915 , the house passed out of the Carpenter family , and it was restored by Norman Isham in 1916 . In 1956 , the building came into the ownership of the " Society of the Founders of Norwich , Connecticut , Inc . " . According to the 1966 edition of Fodor 's Modern Guides , the Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop was " still furnished as it was when Mr. Carpenter plied his trade . " The National Historic Register of Places noted that the partitioning was " recent " at the time of its 1970 nomination . In 1997 , a \$ 5000 grant was used to replace the roof .

= = Importance = =

The Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop is an example of a small frame silversmith 's shop , and is believed to be the only surviving example in New England . The shop was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 6 , 1970 and it was listed as a contributory property for the Norwichtown Historic District on January 17 , 1973 . As early as 1917 , the shop was the subject of a preservation effort . The shop was photographed by the Historic American Buildings Survey . The shop was featured as part of a historic house tour in 1993 's " Reflections on the Past . "