

= Ashlawn =

Ashlawn , also called the Joshua Perkins House , is a two @-@ story , central @-@ hall frame farmhouse dating from the 18th century in Sprague , Connecticut . The house 's namesake is its first owner , Joshua Perkins , a farmer and son of the prominent Captain Matthew Perkins , a farmer and founding member of the Hanover Society . Ashlawn 's main house has a five @-@ bay front facade with pilasters supporting broken @-@ base pediments . The inside has well @-@ documented woodwork for its moldings and wainscotting . The house has integrated an older structure , likely a central @-@ chimney structure built in the second quarter of the 18th century , as an ell .

In 2002 , the house was maintained by Ruth Rosiene , a descendant of the Perkins . Ashlawn is listed under the National Register of Historic Places as an example of Georgian architecture and locally important for its connection with the Perkins family . It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 4 , 1979 .

= = History = =

The land upon which Ashlawn stands was originally part of a 1 @, @ 200 @-@ acre (490 ha ; 1 @. @ 9 sq mi) parcel purchased by Joshua Perkins ' grandfather Joseph Perkins and great @-@ great uncle Jacob Perkins . The town of Lisbon , Connecticut , was originally known as Newent , the name believed to derive from the Perkins ' place in Gloucestershire , England . Joseph Perkins ' father , Captain Matthew Perkins , was a prominent farmer and founder of the Hanover Society in 1761 . Matthew Perkins held approximately 1 @, @ 000 acres (400 ha ; 1 @. @ 6 sq mi) in Hanover and owned three slaves as part of his assets ; he died in 1773 . Joshua Perkins is believed to have deeded the land . Joshua Perkins , the eldest son of Matthew Perkins , was born in 1740 . A farmer and a selectman , he served in 1786 and 1787 before going to serve in the Connecticut state legislature in 1789 and again in 1801 . In 1825 , he deeded 400 acres (160 ha) , containing the house , to his son Charles Perkins . Joshua Perkins died in 1833 , living to be 93 .

= = Construction = =

Ashlawn , named for the ash trees that once sat in front of the house , is also known as the Joshua Perkins House , after its first owner . Ashlawn is described by the National Register of Historic Places as a " late 18th @-@ century , 2 @-@ story , central @-@ hall frame farmhouse with a pitched and end gable overhang . " The date of construction , both of the main house and its older ell , is unknown , as is the architect . The house rests upon a fieldstone foundation with dressed stone ; the cellar of the house has notches in stone that are believed to have been for the " cool storage of foods " . The register lists the architecture as being Georgian .

The five @-@ bay front facade has two flat Doric pilasters and two more pilasters , located off the central bay support the broken @-@ base pediment . The original door was replaced with a 19th @-@ century door that has a 20 @-@ pane fanlight and is flanked by two flat pilasters that support the broken @-@ base pediment over the door . The main house originally had two @-@ chimney design and another chimney was added to the east wall for a 20th @-@ century furnace . Most of the windows in the house were replaced in the 19th century with 2 @-@ over @-@ 2 sash , except for two attic windows of each end of the gable which retain the smaller paned sashes . The house includes an earlier one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half story ell in the rear that appears to have been a two @-@ room central chimney structure that was integrated into the design of the main house and built in the second quarter of the 18th century . The chimney was replaced in the 19th century . A storage shed also sits behind the house . The property also had a dairy barn that was rebuilt following its destruction in the 1938 New England hurricane .

The register 's nomination gives details of the paneling and molding throughout the house . Entering through the front of the house leads to the central hall with a paneled wainscot below the chair rail , forward of the rising stairwell on the left . There is cornice molding and a molded chair rail with runners for the inside shutters . The woodwork in the west front room has a paneled fireplace and is

wainscoted below the chair rail . The east rear room is divided in two , with one of the divisions being a bathroom . The upstairs rooms have molded chair rails and cased flair posts . However , the east front room lacks a fireplace while the western one is paneled as the first floor 's front west room . The roof of the house is framed by sawn collar beams that were pegged to rafters which were hewn . The chimney stacks are angled so that they emerge symmetrically from the roof .

The original entrance to the ell in the center along the east wall , the door was replaced with a modern door at the time of nomination . Inside , a winding staircase leads to the attic . To the north is the kitchen , retaining a hewn summer beam and flared cased posts while sporting modern cabinets and wallpaper . The room to the south also has a visible hewn summer beam and its original casing on the flared posts . The attic is finished with vertically placed beaded boarding , and the roof is framed with hewn rafters .

= = Importance = =

The National Register of Historic Places nomination form describes Ashlawn as a historically significant as " an expression of rural Georgian architecture and for its associations with the Perkins family , particularly influential in the settlement of the Hanover section of Sprague . " The nomination also notes that it is " one of the finest of its type in the surrounding area " , calling it a stylish farmhouse built for a prominent farmer . The Town of Sprague placed it among the many historic districts in their small area , which " add substantial aesthetic value " on top of being historic .

In 2002 , Ruth Rosiene , a descendant of the Perkins and Ashlawn 's owner , was featured in an article by The Day . Rosiene had been maintaining the house for years , which required repainting every four or five years . A photo in the article shows the latch on the door that was described as possibly original . The article notes that the original sliding shutters are now absent , whereas the original nomination form from 1979 stated they were not installed .

= = Explanatory notes = =