

The Lt. William King Place  
Suffield, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Harold H. Davis, District Officer  
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

THE LT. WILLIAM KING PLACE  
Suffield, Hartford County, Conn.

Owner: Henry M. Clark, Jr., Suffield, Conn.

Date of Erection: 1722

Architect or Builder: William King

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two-and One-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation  
Clapboard sidewalls  
Shingled roof  
Brick chimney

Other Existing Records: "Old Houses of Connecticut" -  
Colonial Dames of America.  
Suffield Quarter Millinial -  
Page 174.

List of Photographs:

1. Front Elevation
2. South Elevation
3. Wall Detail - Northeast Room 1st Floor
4. Entrance Detail
5. Wall Detail - Living Room
6. Cupboard - Northwest Room 1st Floor
7. Barn
8. Wall Detail - South Room 2nd Floor

## THE LT. WILLIAM KING PLACE

Suffield, Hartford County, Conn.

The King Place of Suffield, Connecticut, which should be differentiated from the King House of the same town, was built by Lieutenant William King or his son, Ensign William King, about 1750. There are some who believe, however, that it may have been built as early as 1722.

Lieutenant William King, who we are inclined to believe was the original builder of this house, was the son of James King who came from Ispwich, Mass., in 1679, and with his wife and children settled in Suffield. In the first days of its existence Suffield was called Stoney River and was considered part of the Colony of Massachusetts until 1749. James King is listed as No. 58 of the one hundred first original proprietors and grantees of land in the town. Lieutenant William King received much of his father's estate and left on his death the best landed interest in Suffield. He was a farmer and a weaver beside being commissioned lieutenant of a military company. This commission was a much higher one than a lieutenant today. He was a very capable business man and was much respected by the town people. In 1734 he was elected selectman and served for many years, along with other positions in the town government. In his will he left ten pounds to Rev. Ebenezer Gay to be used to purchase furnishings for the Communion Table of the First Suffield Parish Meeting House and four silver Communion Cups, still in use by the Society, are part of the provision of his legacy.

The house, with its beautiful front doorway, has a lean-to which has caused considerable discussion among students of architecture. It may have been built previously to the front of the house, which might be proven by the fact that the lean-to is the only part of the house which has a cellar. Other sources claim that the lean-to was original with the rest of the house. There is mention of some cheap additions to the house which were used as work shops for the Kings' who worked as coopers and weavers during the off season of farming, but these do not exist now. The present ell is of good modern construction, and the lean-to roof has been raised with curved rafters.

This old dwelling remained in the King family until 1883 when it was sold to James O. Haskins. The present owner, Mrs. Henry M. Clark, Jr., is very cooperative

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to those who can appreciate the very fine corner cupboards, the mantels and fireplaces, the fine stair case with three balusters to the tread, and the summer beams in the two front rooms. Throughout the house there are corner posts which are cased and flare towards the ceiling. Although there is still doubt as to the pros and cons on the different construction dates and opinions on the details of this old structure, we can conclude, however, that it is another truly fine example of early American dwellings of which Suffield is so abundantly endowed.

Source of Information: Manuscript History of King Place -  
Colonial Dames of America.

"Old Houses of Connecticut" -  
Colonial Dames of America.

Suffield Quarter Millinial -  
page 174.

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