



June 7, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am an architectural historian who meets the National Park Service's Professional Qualifications Standards, 36 CFR 61, for that discipline. I am currently in the process of researching and writing an individual nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Burrall-Belden House, c.1750-1803, at 6 Barnes Road in Falls Village. The early sections of the house were built by Col. Charles Burrall (1720-1803) and it remained in the Burrall family until 1919 when it was sold to the well-known photographer Clarence H. White (1871-1925) who taught summer classes there for his School of Modern Photography. The house is an important, intact example of the evolution of an early Connecticut house from a simple one room vernacular structure to a fine Federal home. The site also includes a former law office, a barn and an outhouse (now a garden shed). This entire group of buildings has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Register Coordinator of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

The house and barns sit directly across South Canaan Road from the South Canaan Congregational Church, c.1804, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Jonathan Burrall, who lived in the Burrall-Belden House in the early 19th century, was an important member of the congregation of this church and he served on the committee which drew the plans for the church building. Both house and church are part of a small hamlet of seven late 18th and early nineteenth century houses which would be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District.

The setting and view shed of the Burrall-Belden House, the South Canaan Congregational Church and the potential historic district that surrounds them are extremely important to their architectural and historical integrity. The Criteria for Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places state, in part that buildings and historic districts must, "...possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association..." These buildings and this potential district currently exhibit these qualities. This area has remained substantially as it was for over 200 years and it is safe to say that the Burrall family would recognize it as home. The view shed of these properties should remain unchanged so that they would still recognize it for at least the next 200 years.

Tod Bryant