

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 10 1989 NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Captain Samuel Woodruff House other names/site number Murawski House

2. Location

street & number 23 Old State Road not for publication city, town Southington vicinity state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06489

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (3, 3, 1, 7), Noncontributing (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total).

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Director, Connecticut Historical Commission. Date: December 28, 1988. State or Federal agency and bureau.

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. (checked) See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. (unchecked) See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 5/5/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone-Sandstonewalls Wood-Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Captain Samuel Woodruff House is a two-story, three-bay Greek Revival-style residence built circa 1840 (Photograph 1). It stands, facing north, approximately one-and-one half miles east of Southington Center on the south side of Old State Road, which was the original path of Berlin Street until it was re-routed behind the house (to the south) in the mid-twentieth century. Near the dwelling are several outbuildings that date from the early twentieth century. The property consists of 3.22 acres and is the remnant of what was formerly a much larger farm (1). Around the buildings is a lawn sloping gently downward to the south, and beyond are wooded areas of deciduous and fir trees (Photograph 2). Residential development of this area is occurring rapidly and has nearly surrounded the Woodruff House property with modern houses, which differ greatly in their smaller lot sizes, setbacks, and ages (c.1960-1980).

The Woodruff House consists of a nearly square main block (approximately 26' x 27'), with a one-story rear ell (14' x 16'), and a one-story addition (8' x 12') adjacent to the ell and main block. The structural system employed is post-and-beam construction. The low-pitched pyramidal roof of the main block rises to a tall central stucco-covered brick chimney. Across the facade, or north elevation, is a wide one-story entrance porch with shed roof supported by square posts and a simple wooden railing which dates from c.1930 (2). Located on the east side of the ell is a small enclosed entrance porch. The residence is wood-framed and the foundation walls for both the main block and ell are a rock-faced brownstone ashlar (3). The exterior is sheathed in clapboards, which replaced flushboard siding in the late 1920's (4).

At the corners of the main block and dividing the bays in the west elevation are wide molded two-story pilasters (Photograph 3). The windows, two-over-two double-hung sash, are flanked by louvered blinds and are topped by wooden lintels. These windows replaced the original six-over-six sash in the late 1920s. An unusually wide entablature encircles the house and is broken up by rectangular attic windows in the south and east elevations. The main entrance, located off center in the facade, features a molded frame with corner blocks, flanked by sidelights and pilasters (5) (Photograph 4). The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. A secondary brick chimney rises from the ell's gable roof.

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The Woodruff House has maintained its original interior layout with some minor modifications. The main entrance opens into an interior hall with a quarter-turn staircase to the second floor. Off the hall at the front of the house is the living room, and to the rear are the dining room, two other small rooms and a steep second staircase. One of the small rooms, originally the pantry, was converted to a bathroom. The other small room, a bedroom, has a curved wall that accommodates the secondary stairwell. The ell contains the kitchen, pantry, and back bedroom. Originally, a large double fireplace opened into the living room and dining room, and was serviced by the central chimney. The fireplaces were removed and a new chimney was installed to accommodate wood and coal stoves (circa 1930). A wall was constructed to fill the space where the fireplace formerly stood. The house has no central heating system.

Three bedrooms are located on the second floor; two have access from the landing hall and one is in the rear. A large walk-in closet occupies the space at the top of the stairs over the entry hall. Access to the attic is provided by a staircase in the rear bedroom. The attic is unfinished; the roof framing is exposed and appears to be original (Photograph 5). Adjacent to the central chimney is a large smoke chamber.

The most notable interior feature is the graceful stairway with Greek Revival-style newel posts and slender rectangular balusters forming a curved balustrade (Photograph 6). The wall along the quarter turn is curved parallel to the balustrade and railing (Photograph 7). The eared door surrounds in the hall, living room, and dining room employ a common Greek Revival motif. Under each window in the living room is a raised panel which extends from the floor to the window surround. Most of the doors are three-panelled with original hardware and appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century. The walls and most ceilings are plaster and appear to be intact. On the first floor, a hardwood floor was installed in the early twentieth century. The original wide board pine floors are found throughout the second floor. A wide baseboard molding is found in most rooms.

Five outbuildings and a working pump are located on either side of the house. A small nineteenth century shed barn (Photograph 8), and a two-car garage (Photograph 9), a large equipment storage shed (Photograph 10), a corn crib (Photograph 11), and a springhouse (Photograph 12), all dating from the early twentieth century are located on the property. Water is supplied to the house from a spring-fed well; however, the old hand-operated pump is still functional (Photograph 13).

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Inventory of the Samuel Woodruff Property

The inventory includes all buildings and structures of any consequence located on the property. All of the buildings and structures are contributing resources. The buildings and structures are numbered to correspond to the Site Plan Map. The building type, architectural style (if applicable), date and photograph reference are listed in that order.

- (1) Captain Samuel Woodruff House, Greek Revival, c1840. Photograph 1.
- (2) Barn, Mid-19th Century. Photograph 8.
- (3) Garage, c1933. Photograph 9.
- (4) Storage Shed, c1935. Photograph 10.
- (5) Corn Crib, Early 20th Century. Moved to property c1928.
- (6) Springhouse, c1930. Photograph 12.
- (7) Pump (Hand-Operated), Early 20th Century. Photograph 13.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1840 = 1935

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Captain Samuel Woodruff House is architecturally significant because it is an excellent example of a well-preserved Greek Revival-style farmhouse in Southington, Connecticut. Its square block with pyramidal roof and center chimney, rare among the buildings of this style in the community, adds considerably to its distinction. Modifications to the exterior have not significantly affected its character, and the house retains most of its fine original interior features. The spacious setting on over three acres of the original farm property with its many outbuildings provides a striking contrast to the adjacent modern subdivision housing and allows the house to be viewed in its rural context. In its vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style and its farm setting, the Woodruff House constitutes an excellent example of a rural Greek Revival style farmhouse.

Architectural Significance (Criterion C)

The plan and detailing of the Woodruff House well illustrates the Greek Revival style. It features a wide entablature, large molded corner pilasters, and similar pilasters demarcating the bays on the west elevation (most visible from the main road when constructed). Though its portico was replaced by a wide porch in the early 20th century, its Greek Revival-style entrance is intact. And, though its flushboard siding was replaced by clapboard sheathing, the modification did not adversely affect its Greek Revival character. Clapboard is characteristic of the period and is found on many similar houses.

The Woodruff House is one of Southington's 46 Greek Revival-style houses identified by the Historic Resources Survey (1986). These houses are categorized by three basic types: two story three bay rectangular houses with gable front orientation; one-and-one-half story rectangular houses, and two story square-plan houses with pyramidal roof and center chimney. Of these three types, the square plan is most rare, with only five examples in Southington.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Local Histories

Abott, Susan Woodruff, comp. Woodruff Genealogy. New Haven: The Harty Press, 1963.

Atwater, Francis, comp. History of Southington, Conn. Meriden: The Journal Press, 1924.

Schneidermeyer, Melvin J. The Sequestered Land - An Historical Atlas of Southington, Connecticut. Southington, 1979.

Timlow, Heman R. Ecclesiastical and Other Sketches of Southington, Conn. Hartford: Case Lockwood and Brainard Company, 1875. 1976 reprint.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Southington Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 3.22 Acres

UTM References

A

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4	6	0	7	1	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of this property, for National Register purposes, are those found in volume 403, page 267, of the Town of Southington land records, being the deed to the present owners.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary conforms to the present property lines. This property is a part of a larger farm property formerly associated with the Woodruff House. The present configuration resulted from the re-routing of Berlin Street, which now runs behind the house to the south. This change in the route of Berlin Street separated the house from the fields to the south.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By _____ Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Barbara A. Lewis and Gregory Andrews
 organization Consultants date December 8, 1988
 street & number 34 Garfield Road telephone 561-2187
 city or town West Hartford state Connecticut zip code 06107

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The Woodruff House is similar in the proportions and detailing of its main block to the other examples of its building form. However, the Woodruff House is unique in its rural character. Its spacious setting on over three acres of the original farm property, surrounded by agricultural outbuildings, creates a decidedly rural vista. The other square-plan houses are located in more densely developed areas (or strips) on smaller lots with shorter setbacks.

Like the C.B. Cowles House (c1860), and the residences at 289 West Street (c1850) and 1051 East Street (c1840), for example, the Woodruff House has two-story corner pilasters and a wide entablature punctuated by rectangular attic windows. And, like the Samuel Clark House (1840) on West Street and 289 West Street, it has pilasters dividing the bays of windows. The scale of these features in the Woodruff House, however, is more monumental than in virtually all of the others. Its Greek Revival-style entrance is similar to the entrance of the Samuel Clark House. Despite the changes that occurred in the early twentieth century, the exterior of the Woodruff House has not changed since the late 1920's; examples such as the Clark House with its greenhouse addition on the ell have received modern alterations. Because of its overall integrity and agrarian setting, the Woodruff House represents an excellent example of a square-plan type of vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse.

The interior maintains a high degree of its original nineteenth century character, despite some minor alterations. The graceful quarter-turn staircase with its Greek Revival-style newel post and slender balustrade is the highlight of the interior. One of the house's most unusual features is its use of curved walls, found along the quarter-turn section of the stairway and in the first-floor bedroom to accommodate the secondary stairway. Other Greek Revival detailing such as window panels and door architraves also enhance the interior.

Historical Note

Captain Samuel Woodruff (1811-1882), the original owner of the house, was a direct descendent of Samuel Woodruff (1661-1742), who is credited as being Southington's first colonial settler. The first Samuel Woodruff was the grandson of Matthew Woodruff, who settled in Farmington circa 1640. The Captain Samuel Woodruff House was built on property owned by his father, Robert Woodruff (1777-1824), and grandfather, Robert (1732-1812). Writing in the 1870's, Heman Timlow in his history of Southington states, "He (Robert Woodruff) lived in a house that stood upon the site of the present home of Cap't Samuel Woodruff, his grandson...." (6)

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Captain Samuel Woodruff was born in Southington on November 12, 1811. He married Emeline Neal in 1834. He is notable in Southington's history for his service during the Civil War. Timlow writes, "...he was conspicuous for the promptness with which he entered the service and the gallantry displayed during his entire career. He led the Southington company through the period of their enlistment." (7) A carpenter by trade, after the war he ran a carriage business which occupied the same premises as his son's (Adna Neal Woodruff) contracting business on Liberty Street. Both Captain Woodruff and his wife died in 1882.

In 1915, John and Josephine Murawski moved to the property and began to acquire adjacent farmland. Together with their three sons, they operated a farm which occupied approximately 110 acres at its largest point. Farming was continued by the family until the late 1960s.

Endnotes

1. This farm encompassed approximately 110 acres during the mid-20th century. See the Historical Note in Item 8.
2. This porch replaced the original one-bay portico with Doric columns. Information supplied by the owner, Edmund Murawski, during site visit in April 1988.
3. Inspection of the foundation shows continuity between the main block and the ell, indicating the ell is original to the house.
4. Information supplied by the owner, Edmund Murawski.
5. The present porch hides the transom over the door; however, the transom appears intact and is visible from the entrance hall.
6. Heman R. Timlow. Ecclesiastical and Other Sketches of Southington, Conn. (Hartford, 1875) p. cclxiii.
7. Ibid. p. cclxxii.

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Maps and Views

Atlas of Hartford City and County. Hartford: Baker and Tilden, 1869.

Directories

Southington Directory, 1869-1935. New Haven: Price, Lee & Co.

Governmental Records

Historic and Architectural Resources Survey of Southington, Connecticut
(August, 1986), Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford,
Connecticut.

Southington Land Records, Town Clerk's Office, Southington, Connecticut.

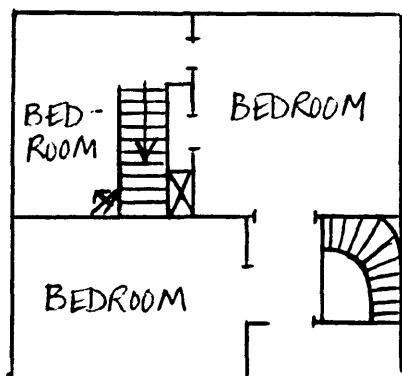
Photographs

Murawski Family Photograph Collection, 1917-1950. Private Collection.

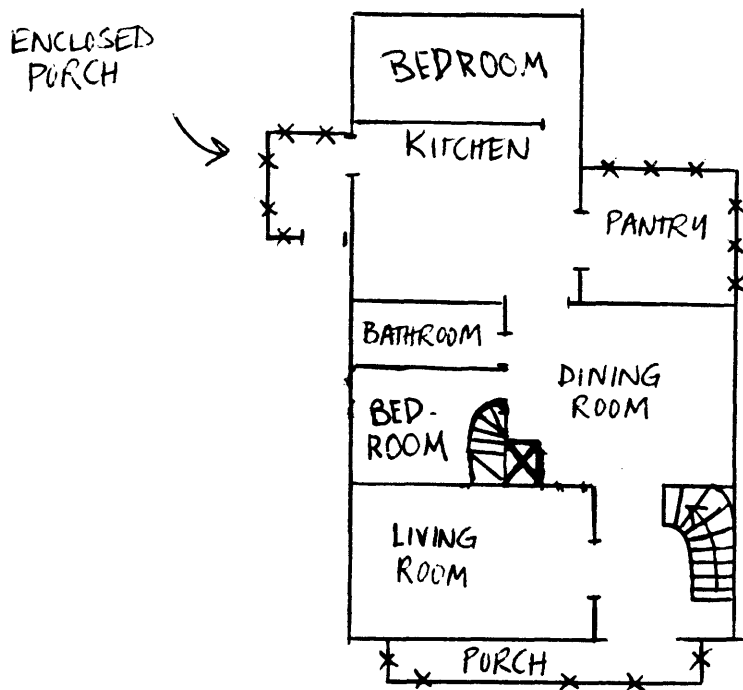
Oral History

Oral history of Murawski Family history of 23 Old State Road from
conversations with Edmund T. Murawski. June, 1988.

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SECOND FLOOR

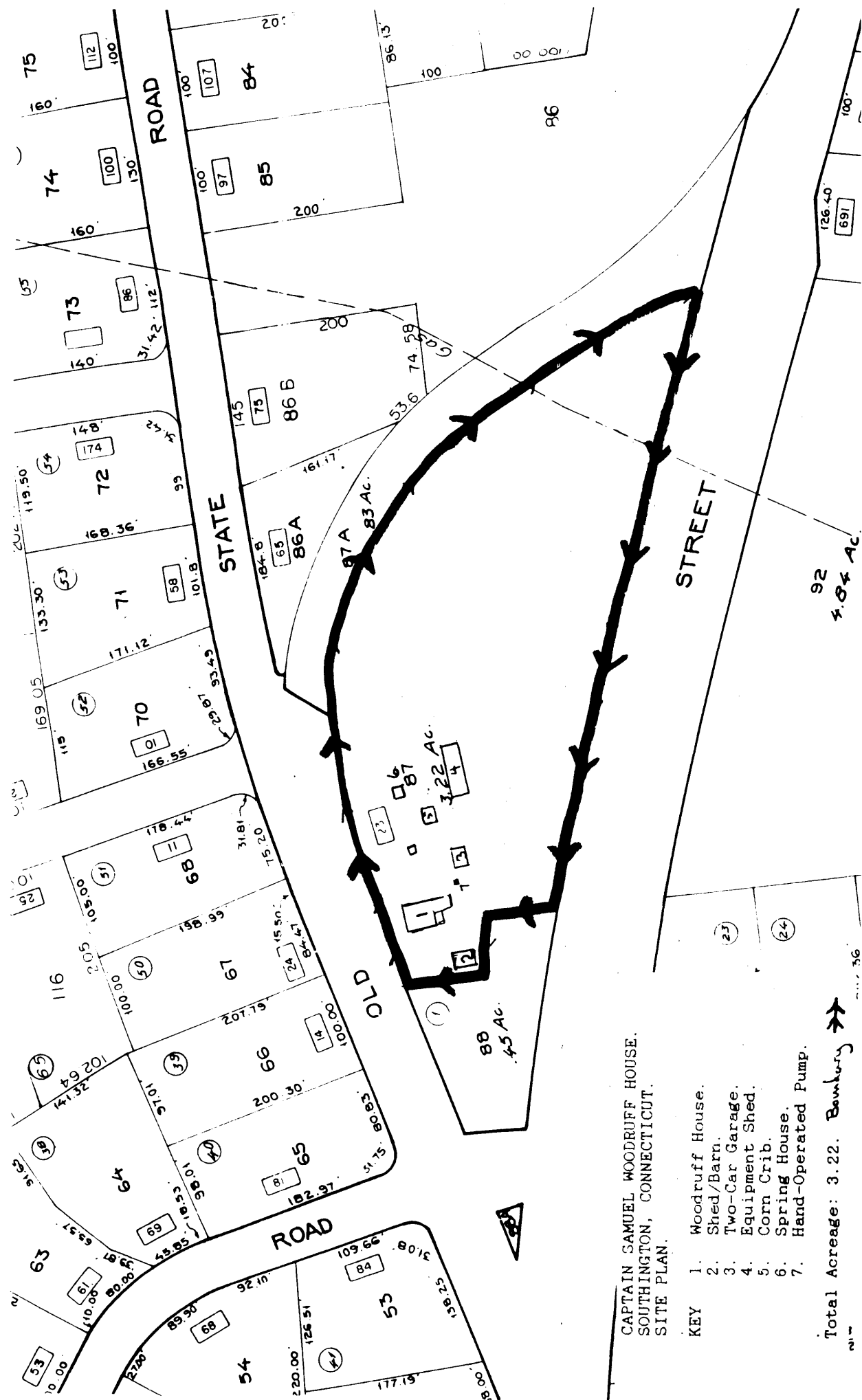


FIRST FLOOR

CAPTAIN SAMUEL WOODRUFF
HOUSE
SOUTHINGTON, CT

SCALE IS APPROXIMATE

*** = c. 1920
ADDITION



CAPTAIN SAMUEL WOODRUFF HOUSE.
 SOUTHWINGTON, CONNECTICUT.
 SITE PLAN.

- KEY
- 1. Woodruff House.
 - 2. Shed/Barn.
 - 3. Two-Car Garage.
 - 4. Equipment Shed.
 - 5. Corn Crib.
 - 6. Spring House.
 - 7. Hand-Operated Pump.

Total Acreage: 3.22. **Bamhury** →

Captain Samuel Woodruff House.

Southington, Connecticut.

UTM References:

18/679400/4607140.



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Photograph 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Captain Samuel Woodruff House
North Elevation | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking South |

Photograph 2

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Woodruff House and surrounding
property | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking Northwest |

Photograph 3

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Woodruff House - East Elevation | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking Southeast |

Photograph 4

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Woodruff House - Doorway | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking South |

Photograph 5

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Woodruff House _ Attic | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Interior 1988 |

Photograph 6

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1) Woodruff House - Staircase | 4) April 23, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical
Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Interior |

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Photograph 7

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Stairway | 4) April 23, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barhbara A. Lewis | 6) Interior |

Photograph 8

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Barn | 4) June 14, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking Southwest |

Photograph 9

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Garage | 4) August 18, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking South |

Photograph 10

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Storage Shed | 4) August 18, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking Southwest |

Photograph 11

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Corn Crib | 4) August 18, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking East |

Photograph 12

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Springhouse | 4) August 18, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Commission |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking West |

Photograph 13

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Woodruff House - Pump | 4) August 18, 1988 |
| 2) Southington, Connecticut | 5) Connecticut Historical Com. |
| 3) Barbara A. Lewis | 6) Looking Northwest |