

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Putnam Farm

AND/OR COMMON Putnam Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Spaulding Road

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Brooklyn *vic.* NA VICINITY OF

2nd -

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Windham CODE 015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jerome B., Jr., and Nancy B. Marshall

STREET & NUMBER Spaulding Road

CITY, TOWN Brooklyn NA VICINITY OF STATE CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Brooklyn Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER Town Hall

CITY, TOWN Brooklyn STATE CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Register of Historic Places

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Putnam Farm consists of a dwelling house built about 1750, a nineteenth-century barn, and several acres of pasture. The farm is quite isolated and the nominated property is itself surrounded by many more acres of open land, some cultivated and some in pasture. The house sits on a terraced knoll well back from Spaulding Road, a country road lined with stone walls and shaded by tall trees. It is a frame house, 2½ stories high, with a wood-shingled gable roof. The rectangular plan measures about 30 x 59', with the house facing the southeast. The main facade is eight bays wide, with two separate entrances. The western entrance only is flanked by two windows serving as sidelights, but both doorways have boldly molded caps above. Windows all have modern six-over-nine sash. Formerly, the house had wooden flat-arch lintels over the windows, but these disappeared when the house's clapboards were covered with the present wood shingles. Other exterior alterations include a small one-story shed-roofed porch, partly enclosed, added to the rear, and the rebuilding from the roofline of the two chimneys, each about a quarter of the way in from the end.

The unusual facade arrangement reflects the underlying structure of the house, which is actually two separately-framed houses set about 3½ feet apart, with the gap filled in by walls, floors, etc. The eastern part of the house seems to be the older, with large summer beams at all three levels and widely-flaring corner posts. For example, the summer visible in the basement is 13½ x 10½" in section, and in the east chamber, the posts increase in exposed width from 8½ to 13". The roof framing in this section consists of large, widely-spaced rafters which support a systems of purlins, five on either side of the roof. This part of the house has a three-room plan: a large east room, or parlor, with the entrance directly from the outside, a smaller room just to the west, and a kitchen and small room across the rear. The stairs to the chamber above are at the north-east (rear) corner. Conventionally, one would expect front stairs and an entrance porch, and it is not unlikely that the east entrance may have led in to the smaller room originally. However, this room is 11'9" wide (not counting the 3½' separating the two house frames), probably too big to have been used merely as a stairwell and entryway.

The western part of the house is framed differently, with lighter members, no flare to the posts, and no visible summers. The roof is the usual system of common-rafters with collar beams. Unlike the older part, this part has vertical planking instead of studs forming the walls. The floors in this section are about 6" higher than those in the eastern part. The plan of this half of the house consists of a large parlor, a hallway with a straight flight of stairs to the floor above, and a modern kitchen at the rear. There is an old cellar under the front room of the western part, and also one under the front room and part of the kitchen of the eastern part, but in between is unexcavated except for a crawl space. The underpinning is fieldstone.

The interior is quite plain. In the eastern part, the framing members have beaded casings, except for the parlor's summer, which was "exposed" some years ago. In this room's southeast corner is a very simple corner cupboard, with a round-arched opening above a lower two-panel door. Within are three curved shelves. The kitchen at the rear has a large stone cooking fireplace with two separate ovens and is finished with a simple dado of plain boards, as is the small adjacent room. In the western part, the window and door frames are more elaborately molded, and there is a chair rail around the parlor. There are wide board floors throughout the house, oak in the eastern part and pine in the western. There are fireplaces

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in every main room except the middle chamber; these all have a frame of boards with molded edges around the opening, a wide fascia above, and a molded mantel-shelf, and appear to date from the early nineteenth century.

Plantings near the house include lilacs and other shrubs, and several large maples in the front yard. To the east of the house is a medium-sized frame barn with vertical board siding. The doors are in the west gable end. The barn would seem to date from the last half of the nineteenth century; its heavy oak frame has been repaired and altered several times, so that timbers of many different ages are visible within. There are also three small modern sheds at some distance from the house and barn. Although the property is primarily used as a residence, the present owners have a number of horses.

The extent of the nominated property includes about 9 acres of open land, some used for grazing, all under the ownership recorded herein. It would be nearly impossible to locate the boundaries of Putnam's historic farm, as he owned thousands of acres, extending even to Massachusetts. Although some of the immediately surrounding land is still open and was at one time or another owned by Putnam, it is not owned by the same owners now. It is appropriate to include some agricultural acreage, because it reflects Putnam's occupation and character, but including more than the 9 acres under the same ownership would not add to the significance of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1750

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is significant because of its intimate connection with the life of General Israel Putnam, Connecticut's foremost hero of the Revolutionary War. Also, the house is a typical 18th-century dwelling (Criteria B & C).

In 1739, Israel Putnam, a native of Salem Village (later Danvers), Massachusetts, bought 500 acres of land in eastern Connecticut from Jonathan Belcher, Governor of Massachusetts. His purchase lay in a part of the town of Pomfret which was later added to Brooklyn when that town was set off in 1786. Only 21 years old at the time, Putnam quickly built a small house on his land which "...had two rooms below, and two rooms above, the ascent being made by a ladder."¹ Returning to Salem, he collected his young wife of less than a year, Hannah, and their first child, Israel, Jr., and together they set out for their new home in early 1740.

Putnam worked with great energy and skill, and soon made his farm a success. He specialized in stock raising and fruit growing, a sensible choice given the poor quality of the land for grain crops. Although isolated from other farms and the growing settlement around Brooklyn Green to the south, Putnam's skill and courage were soon widely known in the neighborhood after he led the celebrated hunt in the winter of 1742-43 for a wolf that had been preying on the cattle and sheep of surrounding farms. This episode ended when Putnam crawled into the wolf's den alone and killed the beast with his musket. Besides his success as a farmer and emergence as a local leader, Putnam also saw his family grow, Hannah giving birth to five more children (who lived to maturity) in the years between 1742 and 1753.

Thus, by the late 1740's or early 1750's, Putnam realized that he needed a larger house. This led him to construct the dwelling we now recognize as Putnam Farm "...the plain, but more commodious house to which the domestic scene was transferred and in which many years afterwards the old hero died."²

It was from this dwelling that Putnam said goodbye to his wife and family in 1755, and left with the Connecticut militia to fight with English regulars in campaigns against the French and their Indian allies. For the next ten years, Putnam served with skill and valor, first as a militiaman, then as a ranger, and finally as an officer in several Connecticut regiments, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. When he returned home in 1765, he was one of the most respected and well-known soldiers in the Colonies.

He was not home long before his wife died. Within a year-and-a-half, however, he was fortunate to win the favor of a wealthy widow, Mrs. Deborah Lothrop Avery Gardiner, who owned a large house on Brooklyn Green. Because of his celebrity, his large circle of acquaintances, and his increasing interest in politics, Putnam and his wife found themselves besieged with visitors at the farm, whose entertainment and accommodation began to put a strain on their finances. To remedy this problem, they decided to move to Mrs. Putnam's house on the green and to open a tavern where their visitors could also become

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Larned, Ellen. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Priv. Pr., 1874-80.
- Lincoln, Alan B. A Modern History of Windham County. Vol I. Chicago: S.S. Clarke Publishing Company, 1920.
- Livingston, William F. Israel Putnam: Pioneer, Ranger and Major General, 1718-1790. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1901.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.4

QUADRANGLE NAME Danielson

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 254920 4634170

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of Lots 3A and 3B as shown on Brooklyn Assessor's Map 28.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A
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STATE	N/A	CODE	N/A	COUNTY	N/A	CODE	N/A
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette & Hal Keiner

ORGANIZATION Historic Resource Consultants

DATE July 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 141

TELEPHONE 423-8903
(203) 423-7874

CITY OR TOWN Windham

STATE CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE February 2, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Armstrong
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.11.82

ATTEST:
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

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their paying guests. This move was accomplished in 1767, and "...was made more practicable by the fact that his son Israel, twenty-seven years of age, who had recently married Sarah Waldo of Pomfret, was glad to set up housekeeping at the old homestead and carry on the work of the farm."³

Putnam's tavern, "The General Wolfe," was soon one of the best known establishments on the road between Hartford and Providence. Here, as the late 1760's and early 1770's unfolded, Putnam met with like-minded radicals who were increasingly chafing under British rule, and began to develop plans to oppose British laws they considered unjust. Hearing the news about the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, Putnam immediately set in motion a plan of mobilization for the militia, and personally led the first Connecticut companies towards Boston.

Putnam's activities as a leader in the Revolution have often been criticized. Already an older man, he was certainly no military genius, but he did manage to hold the Colonial army together until Washington's arrival at Cambridge in July 1775, and afterwards he rendered valuable service in the campaigns around New York in 1776, 1777, and 1778. Worn out, he suffered a stroke in December, 1779, and returned to Brooklyn. He recovered well enough to visit his old comrades in the fall of 1780; but he returned to Brooklyn to live out the rest of his life quietly, surrounded by his family. He was nursed during his final illness at Putnam Farm, his old homestead, and died there in 1790. He was buried in the village cemetery, but in 1888 his remains were removed and placed in a vault below the large equestrian statue erected by the State of Connecticut south of Brooklyn Green.

After his death, his son, Israel, Jr., continued living in the old house until 1795 when he sold the farm to a neighbor, Joseph Mathewson, and emigrated with his family to Ohio. It was probably Joseph's son, Darius Mathewson, owner of the property between 1806 and 1834, who doubled the size of the original house by abutting a second house frame to the original structure. At the same time, he most likely "modernized" the dwelling by adding simple Federal-style mantels and door moldings throughout the old and new sections. In 1839, Darius' son Rufus sold the property to Joshua Collins. The farm remained in the Collins family for the next one hundred years, but for a long period, perhaps the entire second half of the nineteenth century, it was leased to a family named Spaulding, which explains the house's location on "Spaulding Road." After World War II, the farm was sold by the Collins family and was divided by later owners into smaller lots. The present owner purchased the house and the surrounding 9½ acres in 1977.

In summary, Putnam Farm is significant because of its direct relationship with Israel Putnam.⁴ The house reflects the man's character. It is simple and unadorned, the dwelling of a farmer whose main interests were his stock and his crops rather than his material surroundings. The vigor and courage that brought Putnam success in agriculture also helped him become a military leader of considerable ability, and it was fitting that when old age had sapped him

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of these qualities he should return to his old homestead to spend his final days.

Although the association with Putnam makes the house and surrounding land highly significant, the architectural merit of the house should not be ignored. Despite extensive alteration, considerable historical material remains intact, including cased framing members, wide-board floors, a cupboard, fireplaces, and the plain-board dado. Like so many houses of the period, it has experienced change, though in the case of the west addition, the change itself is of interest. The Putnam House affords one the opportunity to compare two separately-framed structures which differ significantly in the dimensions of the posts, roof systems, wall construction, and the inclusion of a summer beam. Even the method of enlargement, filling in between the two parts rather than butting them together is notable, as it would seem much less common than the usual method. Taken as whole, the Putnam House in construction and materials is representative of Connecticut farmhouses of the 18th century.

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FOOTNOTES:

¹Allen B. Lincoln, ed., A Modern History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vol. I (Chicago: the S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1920), 324. The broad outline of Putnam's life herein mainly relies on the most recent scholarly work: John Niven, Connecticut Hero: Israel Putnam, Connecticut Bicentennial Series, XXII (Hartford, CT: The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, 1977).

²Eben Putnam, A History of the Putnam Family in England and America (Salem, MA: Privately Printed, 1891), 90.

³William F. Livingston, Israel Putnam: Pioneer, Ranger and Major General, 1718-1790 (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1901), 156

⁴There exists some confusion over the several structures associated with Israel Putnam. Florence Crofut in her Guide to the History and Historic Sites of Connecticut (Vol. II; New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937) identified this house as built by Israel Putnam, Jr., in 1767. This line was again picked up in the 1968 inventory of the Connecticut Historical Commission. While earlier works are definitive in stating that this was the house built by General Putnam, and the house in which he died, they disagree as to whether it was lived in by Israel, Jr., or his brother, Peter Schuyler Putnam.

Research into the land records of Pomfret and Brooklyn has helped clarify the problem. In 1786 General Putnam, already too ill to sign his name, divided the land into two adjacent parcels, with Peter getting the western part and Israel the eastern. The deeds, however, were not recorded until after the father's death, in 1790. From these deeds, it appears that in the late 1780's the General was living not in town, but in a house on land he gave to Peter. The probate settlement calls Peter's share the house "where sd. deceased used formerly to live." Although this helps explain the tradition that he died in Peter Putnam's house, another deed indicates that after giving Peter the land upon which he was then living, the General moved in with Israel, Jr., for his namesake's grant was made contingent upon his being supported by his son until he died. The documentary evidence therefore confirms the tradition that Putnam died in this house, at that time the home of Israel, Jr.

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Niven, John. Connecticut Hero: Israel Putnam. Connecticut Bicentennial Series XXII. Hartford: American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, 1977.

Putnam, Eben. A History of the Putnam Family in England and America. Salem, Massachusetts. Priv. pr., 1891.

Brooklyn Probate Records, Inventory of Estate of Israel Putnam, 1790.

Pomfret Land Records, Vol. IV, 408; Vol. VII, 146, 147, 265.