

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lamb Homestead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 47 Lambtown Road not for publication
city, town Ledyard vicinity
state CT code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06339

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7/26/91
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets 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. Entered in the National Register, 9/3/91
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

farmhouse
barn

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

farmhouse
barn

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

New England Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls clapboard

roof shingle (wood)

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lamb Homestead is located in Lambtown, a rural section in the southeast corner of the Town of Ledyard. Standing on approximately 16 acres, this substantial house, situated on a rise in a curve in the road, dominates the surrounding landscape (Photographs #s. 1, 2, 3). Built in the early eighteenth century, the main block of the house is five bays wide and two bays deep. The symmetrical facade is surmounted by a gable roof and a center chimney which is brick above the roofline. The main entrance is flanked by simple pilasters and illuminated by a four-part transom. Modern six-over-six double-hung sash windows are used throughout. A one-story ell, added c.1830 to the rear of the house, is located on the northeast corner of the main block (Photograph #5). This ell was extended c. 1984 by the current owner and a two-story frame garage/studio was constructed at the same time at right angles to the extended ell (Photographs #s 2, 4, 5). A modern deck and swimming pool are located on the south and east sides of the most recent additions. A small frame outhouse dating c. 1920 is located east of the ell (Photograph #6). A small gambrel-roof barn, sheathed in wood shingles, dating c. 1900, is located south of the house on the opposite side of Lambtown Road. The house lot is separated from the surrounding fields by dry-laid rubble stone walls on the eastern and northern boundaries. A modern picket fence divides the yard behind the ell extension and the garage/studio from the yard nearest the road.

The foundation is cut stone above grade, and massive cut stone steps are used at the major entrances. The fieldstone foundation of the chimney stack, chinked with clay, is the dominant feature of the cellar. Tradition maintains that the stone used in the construction of the house was quarried on the Lamb farm, as evidenced by drill-marked and broken stones in adjacent fields. The structure of the main block and ell is post and beam construction. Oak was used in the main block and chestnut in the ell. The construction is visible throughout the house (Photographs #s 8, 10, 12, 13). The pegged and numbered rafters can be seen in the attic. The floor plan is typical of eighteenth-century construction (Figure 1). The entrance opens onto a shallow foyer with a steep stair facing the door (Photograph #7). The stair has a simple Federal-style balustrade. Doors open from the foyer into the parlor and dining room on the southwest and southeast corners of the house. At the rear of the house the large original kitchen is centrally located, with two smaller rooms on the northeast and northwest corners of the house. The rear stairs rise from the northeast corner of the original kitchen. The ell is accessible from the rear of the kitchen, and has been converted to use as the present kitchen. Upstairs, the plan is similar.

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The interior finishes have been carefully preserved in general. Much of the flooring is original. The wide oak floors with shiplap joints are visible in the bedrooms and in the attic. In the kitchen and dining room some flooring was replaced with narrower oak boards. Some chestnut was also used in the kitchen. The parlor floor is entirely yellow pine. Modern flooring is found in the ell and bathrooms. The interior doors and hardware are original to the house. Four-panel doors are used throughout. Two of the doors retain their H & L hinges with leather washers (Photograph #8). Wrought-iron handles and latches are used throughout the main block, and chair rail is used in most of the rooms. Although most of the trim is original, losses over more than 200 years of occupancy were made good during the 1970 renovation. Some panelling around three of the fireplaces was added where it had not survived. This replacement panelling is based on the design of the existing panelling in the house.

The vast fireplace with its dressed stone hearth, surround, and oven is the focal point of the original kitchen (Photograph #9). The molding above the mantel dates from 1970. The wainscoting is simple in design, made of wide flush boards surmounted by a chair rail. In the dining room there is a notable corner cupboard with a denticulated frieze (Photograph #10). The fireplace surround is modern, dating from the 1970 renovation. The parlor fireplace is flanked by two cupboards. The hearth and lintel show signs that a stove was once used in this fireplace (Photograph #11).

The ell once accommodated a milk processing area, a shop, and a hall leading to the main block of the house. These partitions have been removed. In the early nineteenth century the cellar stair was moved so that access was from the ell, replacing the original cellar entrance under the main stair. Traces of the original stair are still visible in the cellar.

During the 1970 renovation, sills were replaced and new sheathing, clapboards, and a wood-shingle roof were installed. A nineteenth-century plaster ceiling was removed in the kitchen, exposing the original ceiling. New exterior doors of a design similar to the originals were installed because the originals were badly deteriorated. The original front door was rehung on the interior.

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)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1714-1940
1714-c. 1920
1714-1897

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.

Significance

The Lamb Homestead is important both in terms of its architecture and construction and because of the contribution of the Lamb family to the surrounding community. The Lamb house is a well preserved example, in its style and construction, of a substantial dwelling such as was commonly built in New England in the eighteenth-century (Criterion C). It is rare to find a house of this period so little altered and still in the hands of the family which was responsible for its construction. The use of the land which surrounds the Lamb House has changed remarkably little, although methods of farming and crops and livestock raised have changed dramatically. In the more than two and a half centuries that the Lamb family has occupied the property, they have been involved in several different facets of the life of the community, supplying church and political leaders as well as teachers and farmers (Criterion A).

Architectural Significance

Built in the eighteenth century, the Lamb House embodies the form, details and setting commonly found in Connecticut residences of the period. At the same time, it is unusual from the standpoint of size and the quality of its details. The house is large, and its careful siting at the top of a rise commanding the surrounding open land makes it appear still larger. The cut stone foundation and other finely crafted architectural finishes on both the interior and exterior indicate that this is not a rough country farm house, but the home of a gentleman of means and taste. The surviving interior details, especially the corner cupboard in the dining room, the main stair, and the fireplace surround in the parlor, bear out this impression. The original plan has been little altered, the only significant change having been made in the removal of partitions from the 1830s ell.

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Historical Background

Family tradition maintains that the Lamb House was built about 1714, shortly after Isaac Lamb (?-1723) sold his property in Mystic, a nearby coastal town, although many of the finishes are more typical of the third quarter of the eighteenth century.¹ Isaac Lamb had settled in Mystic in the late seventeenth century, and like many of the early settlers of coastal Connecticut, he later moved inland. Although the 1714 date is supported only by family and local oral tradition, it is clearly a strong indication that the property was occupied by the family early in the century. The house has been occupied by a lineal descendant of Isaac Lamb since its construction. This house, the first to be constructed in the area, became the core of the what was to become known as "Lambtown," as other family members in later generations built their houses nearby. The earliest settlers of the area were farmers, and Lambtown remains rural and agricultural. Land adjacent to the house lot is still in agricultural use today. Unfortunately, only one agricultural building which reflects this heritage has survived on the house lot because the others were destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.

The existence of an early house on this property is documented by the 1731 division of property between two of Isaac's sons, Jacob and Daniel. Daniel, who occupied the property for most of the eighteenth century, was a prosperous landowner, owning 170 acres at the time of his death. The Lamb family landholdings continued to increase during the nineteenth century. In the early nineteenth-century over 330 acres were associated with the farm.²

The Lamb family has been associated not only with the agricultural history of the area, but also its religious, intellectual and political life. Isaac Lamb and his wife, Elizabeth, were among a dozen founding members of the first Baptist church in Groton, the first Baptist congregation organized in the state, and the fifteenth in what would become the United States. This meeting was the only one of the Baptist persuasion in the province for more than 20 years. The first pastor came to Groton from Rhode Island, an early stronghold of the Baptist faith, because he found in Groton a congregation already organized and in need of a leader. The Lambs were among those who in 1704, one year before the formal establishment of the church, petitioned for the incorporation of their meeting. This was denied, but the congregation proceeded to organize, despite the lack of formal recognition and by 1717, the Baptist society had already established a burying ground and built a meeting house of which Isaac was one of the owners of record. The early years were difficult ones for the congregation, ones in which they faced fines, physical punishment, and imprisonment, and it was not until 1729 that a certificate act was passed in favor of the Baptists. Nevertheless, the Lamb family was staunch in their adherence to their faith and it is impossible to discuss the history of the Baptist Church of Groton without mentioning the names of several generations of the family.³

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By 1754 a new covenant was made and Isaac's son Daniel (c.1702-1783), the second owner of the house, was one of the eight signatories. Daniel's youngest son, Samuel (1748-1834), the third owner of the house, was likewise active in the church, being appointed to manage the church's money and buildings in 1778, and chosen as deacon "and set apart by ordination" in 1809. The relationship between the Baptist Church and radical political thought in New England during the Revolution is well documented, so it is not surprising that Samuel also served in the war on the side of the patriots. Samuel married Tabitha Wightman, a member of one of the most prominent Baptist families in the state. The couple's fifth child, Daniel Wightman Lamb (1783-1859), a teacher, was the fourth owner of the house. His second child, James Chapman Lamb (1810-1897), was to carry on the family's tradition of service to the church, being chosen as deacon in 1837, and serving on several committees to provide preaching and inquire into building a new meeting house (dedicated in 1867). As of 1901, no fewer than six men from the family had been ordained as Baptist ministers.⁴

James C. Lamb, the fifth owner of the house, was also active in local politics, being among the signatories on an 1845 petition concerning the location of the "town house," and a representative to the state legislature in 1849. After his death, his sixth child, Daniel Wightman Lamb (1851-1908), owned the house for a few years. The house then passed into the hands of Daniel Wightman Lamb's second child, Edmund (1884-1974), who in turn bequeathed it to his grandson, the current owner, Edmund H. Lamb, II.⁵

Although the size of the farm has decreased, the house still physically dominates the farmland carved out of the wilderness by the Lamb family many years ago. It remains an important survival of eighteenth-century residential construction, the symbol of generations of farmers who not only improved the land, but made significant contributions to their community.

Endnotes

¹Janice Wightman Bell & Carol E. Smith, eds., Historic Ledyard (2 vols., Ledyard Historical Society, 1987), II, 103. Hereinafter Bell & Smith, Historic Ledyard.

²Ibid., II, 103-4.

³Charles R. Stark, Groton, Connecticut 1705-1905 (Stonington, CT: The Palmer Press, 1922), pp. 126-7. Hereinafter Stark, Groton. See also John Asplund, The Annual Register of the Baptist Denomination in North America to the First of November, 1790, (n.p.: by the author, 1792), p. 15; David Benedict, A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America (2 vols., Boston: Lincoln & Edmands, 1813), I, 273, 277, 519, 533; and George L. Clark, The History of Connecticut (New York & London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1914), p. 139.

⁴Stark, Groton, 130, 134, 149-50. See also Bell & Smith, Historic Ledyard, II, 104. Samuel Stillman Lamb (1816-1892), son of Daniel Wightman and Hannah Lamb, and brother of James C. Lamb, was locally celebrated as an educator, marking his fiftieth year as a teacher in 1883. See Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Teaching of Samuel S. Lamb of Groton (Norwich, CT: Press of the Bulletin Co., 1883). For the role of the Baptist Church in the Revolution see William G. McLoughlin, New England Dissent 1630-1833 (3 vols., Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971), I, 569-587.

⁵Stark, Groton, pp. 95, 105, 151, 158.

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Bell, Janice Wightman and Smith, Carol E., eds. Historic Ledyard (2 vols., Ledyard, CT: Ledyard Historical Society, 1987).

Benedict, David. A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America. (2 vols., Boston: Lincoln & Edmands, 1813).

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Teaching of Samuel S. Lamb of Groton. (Norwich, CT: Press of the Bulletin Co., 1883).

Clark, George L. The History of Connecticut (New York & London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1914).

Map of New London County, Connecticut. From the original surveys under the direction of N.F. Walling, Civil Engineer, No. 81, Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts. (Philadelphia: William E. Baker, 1854).

Smith, Carolyn and Vergason, Helen. September 6, 1781 North Groton's Story. (New London: A Printing Co., 1984).

Stark, Charles R. Groton, Connecticut 1705-1905. (Stonington, CT: The Palmer Press, 1922).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 16 acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Ledyard Land Records V. 58, p. 145.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The current lot is part of the land historically associated with the Lamb Homestead.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator
name/title Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date _____
street & number 81 Pond Hill Road telephone (203) 234-2848
city or town North Haven, CT state CT zip code 06473

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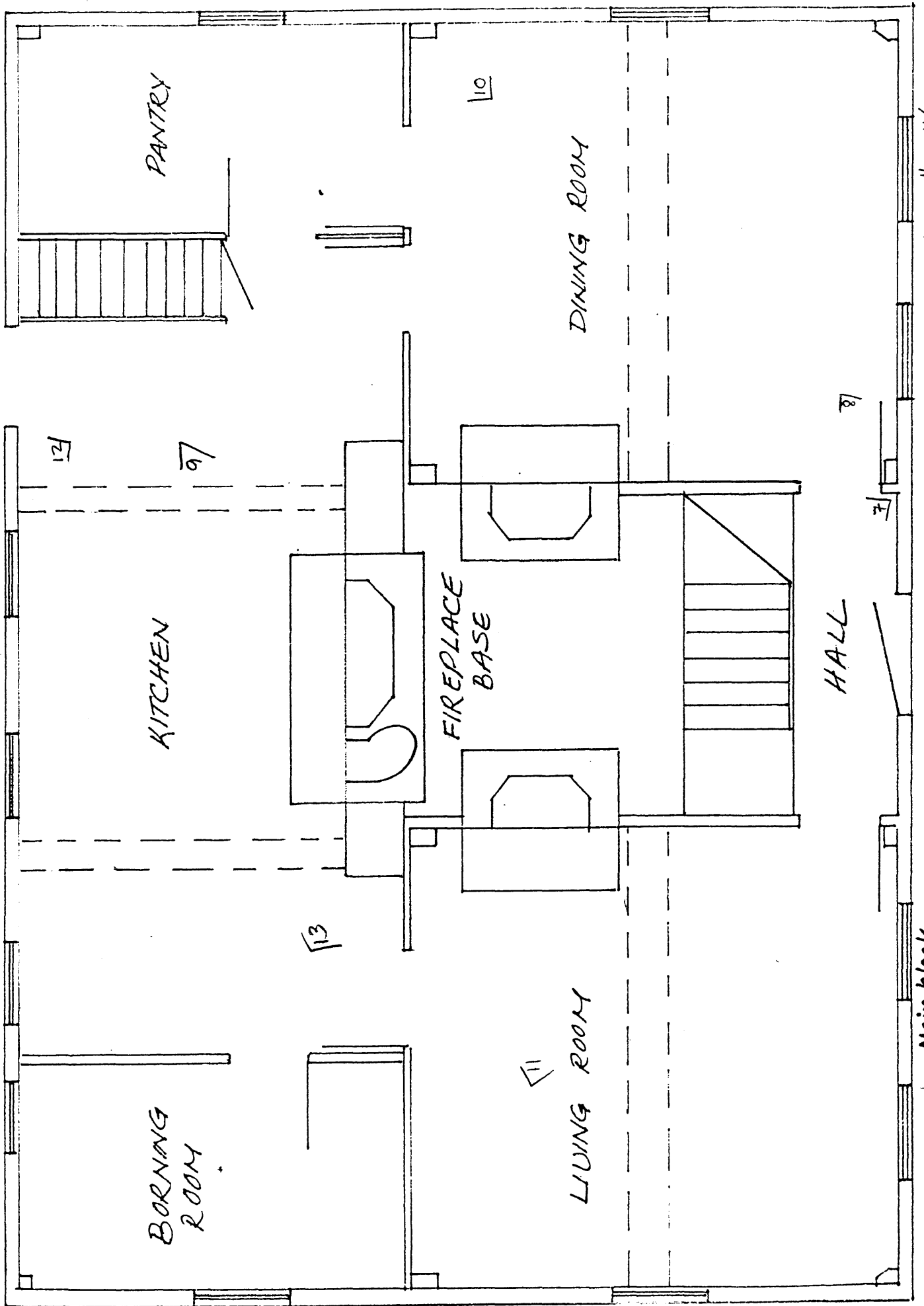
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UTMs

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	749640	4588040
B	18	749680	4588140
C	18	749740	4588140
D	18	749760	4588080
E	18	749830	4587900
F	18	749605	4587710
G	18	749500	4587880
H	18	749610	4588030

TO ELL

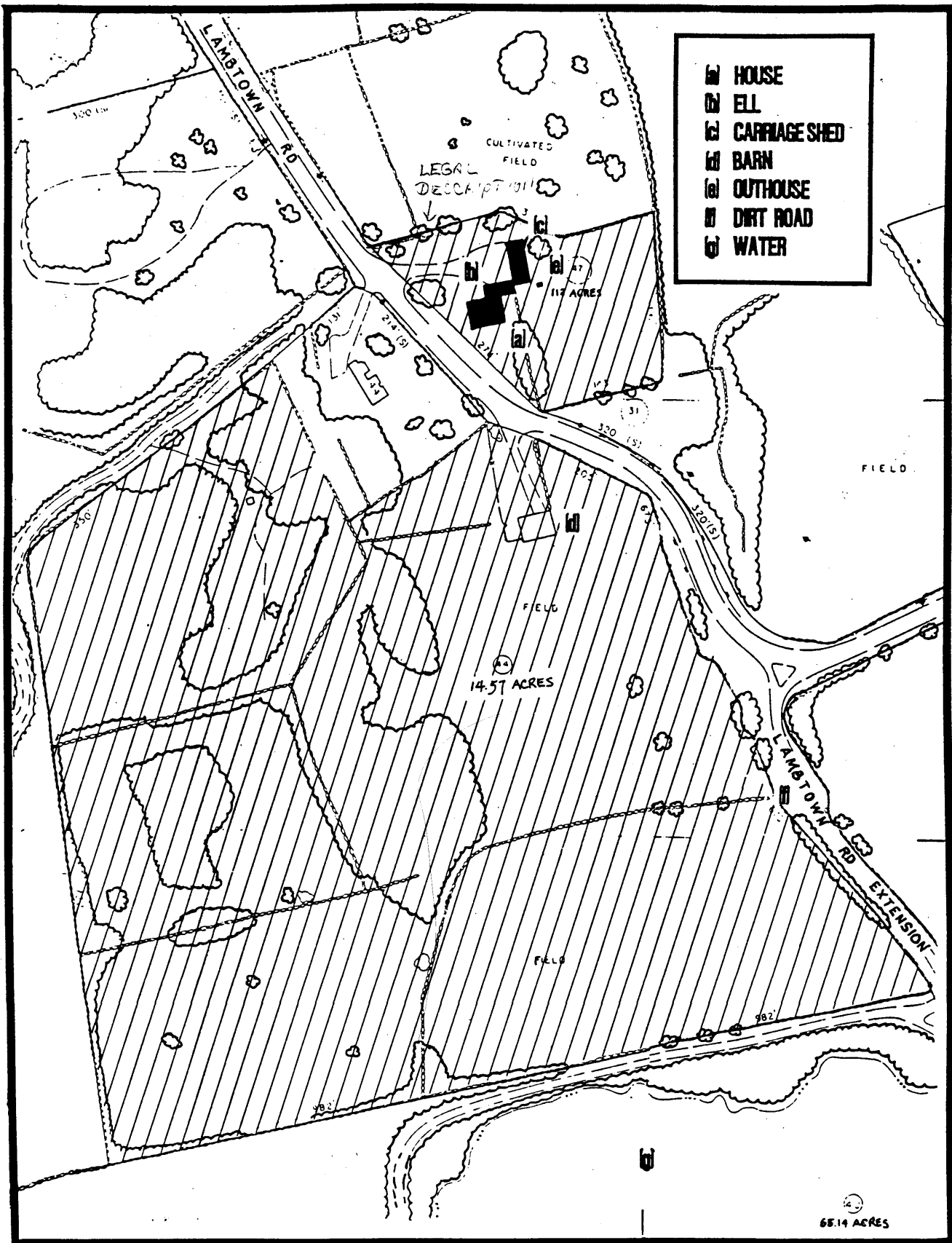


Scale 1" = 4'

Figure 1

Main block
1st floor


LAMB HOMESTEAD
47 LAMBTOWN ROAD



N 210

N 205

E 802,500


LAMB HOMESTEAD
47 LAMBTOWN ROAD
LEDYARD, CT



TOWN ASSESSOR'S MAP
#126 & 127

SCALE 1" = 156.25'