

**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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Daniel Basset House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1024 Monroe Turnpike not for publication
city or town Monroe vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06468

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shannahan 07/09/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shannahan, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action
8/23/02

Daniel Basset House
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Postmedieval English

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, structure
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1775 - 1782

Significant Dates

1775, 1781

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Known

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Building 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

Name of repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission,
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Daniel Basset House
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.8 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 650 750 4578 920
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. date February 1, 2001

street & number P.O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Edward N. and Barbara Coffey

street & number 1024 Monroe Turnpike telephone N/A

city or town Monroe state CT zip code 06468

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Daniel Bassett House
Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description:

The Daniel Basset House in Monroe, Connecticut, is a 2 ½-story clapboarded dwelling built in 1775 (Photographs 1 and 2). The house has a center-hall plan, with two large brick chimneys emerging from the wood-shingled roof. Windows have plain-board frames and are fitted with 12-over-12 sash. The main entry is centered on the west elevation, the broad side of the house facing the road (Photograph 3). Probably representing an early 19th-century alteration, the entrance features sidelights, transom lights, and large fluted pilasters. There is a slight overhang to the second and attic stories at the front and sides of the house.

The house occupies a large open lot within a neighborhood of generally more modern construction, including the neighboring houses and Monroe High School, located just to the south. Its immediate setting includes stone gateposts adjacent to the driveway, a large board-sided three-bay barn, probably mid 19th-century in origin, and a shed of uncertain date to the north and rear of the house (Photograph 4).

The interior contains a large second-floor room, measuring 11 x 24 feet in plan, that is said to have been used as a ballroom.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Daniel Bassett House
Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance:

The Daniel Basset House in Monroe is significant for its association with the French army's march through Connecticut on its way to playing a pivotal role in the victory at Yorktown (Criterion A). The greater part of Lauzun's mounted troops had settled into a camp just south of the village center in Monroe, protecting the southern flank of the main column of infantry and artillery. On June 30, 1781, a ball was held in the Daniel Basset house to welcome the French visitors. This proved to be the last entertainment for Lauzun and his men. On July 1, 1781, the Hussars broke camp and joined the rest of the army as it passed through Ridgefield on its way to New York State. Because the British controlled much of the area, the army moved quickly and had to be on constant guard. There was now no time for pleasant diversions.

Social encounters such as the one that occurred at this house were an important part of the historical event for both the Americans and the French. The Americans experienced the rare chance to mingle with Europeans, and the French gained insight into the ideas and manners of the people whom they were assisting in their bid for political freedom. Although Lauzun and his officers stayed overnight in another house in the village center, this house has heritage value for recalling the lighter moments enjoyed by the French army before the campaign began in earnest.

The house retains a substantial amount of its historical appearance, including appropriate shingle and clapboard exterior materials, original chimney configuration, and small-pane sash. The slight double overhang is a primarily decorative feature associated with Connecticut houses from the last third of the 18th century, a period when the two-chimney, center-hall form was making inroads on the center-chimney form that had dominated the domestic architecture of the earlier Colonial period. Because it embodies these distinguishing characteristics of 18th-century New England dwellings, the house also has architectural significance under Criterion C. The later entry treatment does not diminish the overall identity of the house as a product of the late 18th-century.

Although they do not appear to be as old as the house itself, the agricultural outbuildings on the property, together with the open land surrounding the buildings, contribute to the property's ability to convey a sense of the Connecticut countryside in the Colonial period, when nearly every family were at least part-time farmers.

The attribution of the house as a site of entertainment of the French troops is based upon local traditions recorded in Edward N. Coffey's *Glimpses of Old Monroe* (1974) and accepted as credible in Robert A. Selig's survey (1999).

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel Bassett House
Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

Coffey, Edward N. *A Glimpse of Old Monroe*. Monroe: Monroe Sesquicentennial Commission, 1974.

Selig, Robert A. *Rochambeau's Cavalry: Lauzun's Legion in Connecticut 1780-1781*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Daniel Bassett House
Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property includes the entire 5.8 acre parcel at 1024 Monroe Turnpike, recorded in the Monroe Land Records, Volume 85, page 543.

Boundary Justification:

The acreage surrounding the house and outbuildings, partly open with stone walls, gate posts, and other landscape features, contributes to a sense of the house's origins as an 18th-century farmhouse.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Daniel Basset House
Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
(Rochambeau's Army in Connecticut, 1780-1782
Multiple Property Listing)**

Section number Photographs Page 1

All Photographs:

1. Daniel Basset House
2. Monroe, Fairfield County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. January, 2001
5. Negative filed with PAST, Inc., Storrs, CT

Captions:

West elevation, camera facing northeast
Photograph 1 of 4

West elevation, camera facing southeast
Photograph 2 of 4

Detail of main entry, camera facing east
Photograph 3 of 4

Granite gate post north of house, with barn at rear in background, camera facing northeast
Photograph 4 of 4