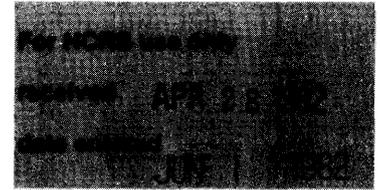


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Nathan A. Woodworth House

and/or common John B. Leahy House

2. Location

street & number 28 Channing Street

N/A not for publication

city, town New London

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 2nd

state Connecticut

code 09

county New London

code 011

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
N/A

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard B. and Carolyn W. Makover

street & number 40 Mott Avenue

city, town New London

N/A vicinity of

state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New London City Clerk, Municipal Building

street & number 181 Captain's Walk

city, town New London,

state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Register of Historic Places
title

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982

federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford

state Connecticut

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

The Nathan A. Woodworth House is a 2½-story frame dwelling at 28 Channing Street in New London. Constructed in a style transitional between the Queen Anne and Shingle styles, in 1890, the house is located on the west side of Channing Street, facing Williams Park to the east. The surrounding neighborhood is residential in character. A low retaining wall of rock-faced granite faces the sidewalk and continues along the driveway. Granite steps lead to the path to the front entrance. Low, pyramidal granite caps flank the steps, which are provided with ornamental iron railings of more recent date. Rectangular in plan, the Woodworth house is approximately 30 feet wide and 50 feet long. A random ashlar foundation of pink, rock-faced granite supports the frame structure. The hipped roof has a variety of dormers and two brick chimneys with corbelled caps and inset granite blocks. (Photograph 1).

The facade of the Woodworth house, which faces Channing Street, is asymmetrical in form. (Photograph 1). A two-story turret on the right side of the facade projects from the building front. A one-story porch of Eastlake design shelters both the first story of the turret and the main entrance to the left of the turret. The wooden base of the porch is decorated with pierced designs. (Photograph 2). Above the porch steps a pediment bears a relief of an arrow flanked by a pair of wings. (Photograph 3). The entry vestibule was originally a one-story structure attached to the main body of the house with a balcony above, as revealed in a photograph of 1901. (Photograph 4). This was enclosed in the early 20th-century to provide additional second floor space. The double entrance doors are panelled, with round-headed, bevelled glass windows. To the left of the entry is a colored glass window with foliate designs. (Photograph 5). The first story is sided with clapboard. Three window openings on the first story of the turret have 1-over-1 double-hung sash. The southeast corner of the house is chamfered at the first floor level to accommodate a window. Curved brackets with a radiating raised design meet at a pendant to support the overhanging square corner of the second floor. (Photograph 6). The transition from the first to the second story is marked by a horizontal series of narrow rectangular panels. Those on the turret and balcony were covered by shingles in the 20th-century. These have been removed to expose the original treatment (see Photograph 4).

In contrast to the first floor, the second floor is sided with three different shingle types in horizontal layers. (Photograph 7). The first layers have the corners of each shingle cut at a 45° angle. An intermediate section has staggered butts. The upper section of shingles have rounded ends. Above the shingles another row of rectangular panels marks the transition between the second floor and the roofline. Windows on the second floor of the turret have 1-over-1 double-hung sash curved to match the turret. The enclosed balcony is faced with plain wooden shingles. Windows in the added portion are provided with 6-over-1 double-hung sash. (Photograph 1). The turret roof culminated in a finial which was removed earlier in the 20th-century. (Photograph 4). This feature is being replaced with a duplicate of the original. A large jerkin-headed dormer set into the hipped roof has paired window sash in a panelled wooden surround which protrudes from the dormer. Decorative vergeboards are also utilized. The dormer is faced with rounded shingles. (Photograph 1).

The south elevation is similar in its basic characteristics to the facade.

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Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

New London Historic District Study
1978 - Local

Records deposited at the Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, Connecticut

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(Photograph 8). A side entrance has a hood supported by curved brackets similar to those at the southeast corner of the house. The hood forms a second floor balcony which is being rebuilt. A wooden housing with a short flight of steps was constructed around the side entrance in the early 20th-century. The roof is pierced by a gable-roofed dormer with an open-bed pediment supported by brackets. The dormer is faced with shingles similar to those used on the second floor. Paired windows with 1-over-1 double-hung sash are set in a wooden surround with chamfered edges. Above the windows is a row of square inset panels. One of the two brick chimneys protrudes through the roof of this dormer.

The rear of the house is distinguished by a porch supported by turned posts. The entrance to the cellar has been enclosed, perhaps at the same time the side entrance was enclosed. A small, shed-roofed dormer has paired window sash. The sides of the dormer are shingled.

The north elevation has a large, projecting bay with a gable roof towards the rear of the house. The corners of the bay are chamfered on the first floor. The second floor overhang is supported by brackets like those at the southeast corner described above. Near the center of the elevation, paired windows to light the main interior staircase are set in a wooden surround with a slightly projecting hood. This hood is covered by the second floor shingles and is supported by small brackets. A colored glass transom is set above the paired sash. Below this, two square windows with central panes surrounded by small frosted glass lights are set in a similar surround without the hood.

The interior of the house is divided into four major rooms on each floor (see First Floor Plan). The hall, entered through the vestibule, contains a fireplace with decorative tiles bearing relief figures of a woman and a musician with a lute on opposite sides. Low relief busts of a male and a female face each other above the fireplace opening. An elaborate mantel and overmantel contains a large bevelled mirror in an egg and dart molding. Shelves on either side are backed by smaller mirrors. (Photograph 9). Door and window surrounds are molded with square corner blocks bearing circular designs. To the right of the hall is a parlor or sitting room. This also contained a fireplace and mantel similar to that in the living room. Both fireplaces were supplied with gas attachments.

To the right of the hall, another large opening leads to the stairway and dining room. A screen with turned spindles defines this spatially. The dining room has a wainscot dado with a large corner cupboard in one corner. (Photograph 10). Beneath the stairway is a small alcove. This contained a red and white porcelain sink which is being relocated within the house. The newel post of the staircase is unusual in retaining most of the original gas fixture attached to it. (Photograph 11). The landing of the staircase is lighted by paired window sash with a colored glass transom. A circular medallion in the center of the glass has the head of a buck painted on it. (Photograph 12).

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At the rear of the house are the kitchen and bathroom. The side entrance leads to a short hallway which leads to another stairway to the second floor. Doors on either side of this led to both the kitchen and hall. The door to the kitchen is being removed in the course of present work. The second floor plan had four bedrooms off a central hallway with a bathroom in the rear. This arrangement is being altered to provide a larger space in the rear for an apartment. Original doors, window and door surrounds, and moldings remain. The attic floor contains two additional rooms for servants. Trim is plain, in keeping with the function of the rooms.

Footnotes.

1. Picturesque New London. Hartford: American Book Exchange, 1901, page 94.

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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
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| <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 1890 Builder/Architect attributed to Bishop Brothers, builders.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathan A. Woodworth House is an excellent example of a building transitional in style between the Queen Anne style and the Shingle style. The building is harmonious in design, with various architectural elements well integrated into the building. The contractors for the house were probably the Bishop Brothers, one of the major 19th-century building firms in New London. The design of the house resembles those from pattern books of the period and may well represent an adaptation from one of these. The quality of both workmanship and materials is consistently high. (Criterion C). The Woodworth house is also representative of the life-style of the upper middle class in the late 19th-century. Nathan A. Woodworth was associated with his father in paper manufacturing in Quaker Hill, a village in the town of Waterford immediately north of New London. The northwest area of New London attracted many families associated with manufacturing interests during the late 19th-century, a demographic movement participated in by the Woodworth family. (Criterion A).

The Nathan A. Woodworth house displays many features typical of the Queen Anne style. The use of the turret, Eastlake style porch, and the variety of dormers are all characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Another distinctive feature is the use of a variety of siding to indicate different floors: the first floor is sided with clapboard, the second with three different types of shingles. Narrow rectangular wooden panels define the separation between the two basic siding materials, clapboard and shingles. Like the later Shingle style, however the Woodworth house emphasizes horizontality. The turret, which often dominates houses in the Queen Anne style, is subordinated to the central mass of the house. Rather than a separate unit attached to the house, it is an integral part of the structure. Likewise, the dormer facing Channing Street is also integrated into the roof structure. Utilizing common Queen Anne elements, the Woodworth house achieves a distinctive character of its own through the organization of these elements.

The Woodworth house was probably constructed by the Bishop Brothers, contractor and builders who also dealt in lumber, coal, and prefabricated building materials. Mary Bishop Woodworth, wife of Nathan Woodworth, was the daughter of Henry Bishop, one of the partners in the firm. John Bishop, another brother of Henry, the most noted builder/architect of New London in the 19th-century, had a separate business. Henry and Gilbert Bishop, principals in the Bishop Brothers firm, built many residences, primarily in East New London. The resemblance of the Woodworth house to designs in pattern books of the period is marked. It is likely that the house represents a free adaptation of current designs to meet the tastes and needs of the owners. Much of the detailing of the house is undoubtedly from readily available prefabricated stock. The newel post with its gas lamp is very similar to a design in the National Builders Album of Beautiful Homes. 1. Such details as the fireplace and mantelpiece in the hall, the corner cupboard in the dining room, the colored glass windows of the entry vestibule and the main staircase, reveal high standards of both

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bachman, Robert L. An Illustrated History of the Town of Waterford. Waterford, Ct.: Morningside Press, 1967.
The Day, April 12, 1890.
Garnsey, George O. National Builder's Album of Beautiful Homes, Vol. 1. National Builder Publishing Company, 1891.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.17

Quadrangle name New London

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

A verbal description of the property may be found in the New London Land Records, Volume 197, page 406. The property is referred to as parcel 2.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale S. Plummer, National Register Nominations Consultant

organization private consultant

date May 29, 1981

street & number 32 Starr Street

telephone 443-4751

city or town New London

state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date April 20, 1982

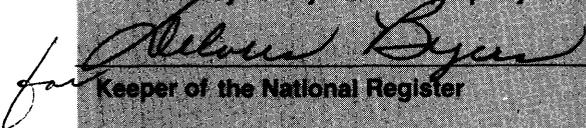
For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

6/1/82

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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materials and workmanship. An unusual feature indicative of this concern for quality is the use of pink granite for the foundation. Local granite quarries yielded stone of a gray or light gray color. Pink stone had to be imported from a distance, although it is possible that some was obtained from shipments intended for the Public Library of New London.

The Woodworth family were paper manufacturers in Quaker Hill, a village within the town of Waterford, located to the north of New London. Papermaking was established in Quaker Hill by the company of W. & J. Bolles in the 1830s. In 1840, Oliver Woodworth, the father of Nathan, purchased the papermill. Major products of the mill included wrapping and tissue paper, of which 3 tons were produced daily by a workforce of 12-15 employees working 11 and 13 hour shifts. In 1870, facilities were added for manufacturing wax paper. Operations continued under Nathan Woodworth's direction after the death of his father in 1892. The firm of Robertson & Bingham had commenced papermaking operations upstream of the Woodworth's plant in 1851. By the late 19th-century, the production of paper goods was the major industrial activity in Quaker Hill. 2.

In 1865, Oliver Woodworth purchased a large lot on Channing Street in New London. He resided in a house on the corner of Channing and West Streets, separated by the house and lot of William Eush from the land purchased in 1865. In 1890, Woodworth sold two building lots on Channing Street to Mary E. Woodworth and Susan A. Crocker, wives of Nathan A. Woodworth and Captain Henry Crocker, respectively. Houses were built on these lots in the same year. 3. The location of the two families on Channing Street reflects the growth of the neighborhood, known as Northwest New London, into a prosperous, middle-class enclave in the later years of the 19th-century. The growth of manufacturing in New London and its vicinity created a new group of well-to-do residents. Mill owners and their families sought out elevated and attractive building lots outside the congested downtown. Among these were the Palmer family, owners of several bed comforter factories, and Benjamin A. Armstrong, the principal owner in a large silk mill.

The Woodworth family shared in the general prosperity of the times. Demand for paper goods increased tremendously by the 1880s and 1890s as both the local economy and the national economy boomed. New uses for paper in packaging and gift wrapping, etc., also contributed to the success of the Woodworth family business. The Woodworth house, both in its location and design, reflects the well-to-do middle class status of its owners. The interior details with gas fireplaces and lights, and with a small porcelain sink beneath the stairs for watering cut flowers brought by guests, is indicative of the life-style of the former occupants.

Footnotes.

1. Garnsey, George O. National Builder's Album of Beautiful Homes, Volume I., Chicago: National Builder Publishing Company, 1891, plate 107.
2. Bachman, Robert L. An Illustrated History of the Town of Waterford. Waterford, Ct.: Morningside Press, 1967, pages 34-35. In 1918, on the

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death of Nathan A. Woodworth, his son Thomas B. Woodworth operated the plant until its sale to a New Haven firm. Papermaking was discontinued in 1931. The abandoned plant was burned by the Quaker Hill Fire Company in 1956.

3. The Day, April 12, 1890: "Captain Henry Crocker and Nathan A. Woodworth will build dwelling houses this spring on the property on Channing Street, facing the park, recently purchased by them."

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Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Genealogical and Biographical Record of New London County, Connecticut.
Chicago: J.H.Beers & Co., 1905.

New London Attachments, Book 2, pages 77, 78, 87.

New London Land Records. Vol. 58, page 693; Vol. 82, pages 232, 246.

Picturesque New London. Hartford: American Book Exchange, 1901.