

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

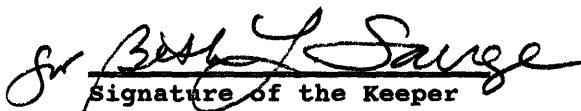
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000760 Date Listed: 05/24/90

Lattin, Nathan B., Farm Fairfield CT  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

5/24/90  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Areas of Significance

Agricultural fields is an applicable historic and current function; however, Agriculture is not justified as a an applicable area of significance, particularly since only Criterion C is indicated. It was entered inadvertently.

3. Classification: Number of Resources within Property

Since the agricultural fields are entered as an applicable historic function, since the boundary encompasses the land associated with the property historically, and since the acreage provides the integral rural setting for the farmhouse, 1 contributing site has been entered.

This information was discussed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

760

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED APR 10 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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). 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 Nathan E. Lattin Farm other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 22 Walker Hill Road NA not for publication city, town Newtown vicinity Sandy Hook state CT code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06482

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 2, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 Total. Name of related multiple property listing: NA. 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 (checked) 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 (checked) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date 4/6/90

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: (checked) 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

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof WOOD/Shingle

other

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Nathan B. Lattin Farm is an irregular parcel of 58 acres (see Survey, Figure 1) in the southeast corner of the Town of New Town. The property is approached via an unpaved town road that leads downhill to become the driveway over the brook into the c. 1750 farmstead. (Photograph 1) Beyond the cluster of farm buildings, the rugged terrain drops off to the south to the Half Way River (Photograph 2) and rises to the east and north to a higher altitude.

Facing north, the three-bay Colonial house on stone foundations is covered with replacement clapboards, has cornerboards, fascias, wooden-shingle roof, and brick chimney. The central entrance of door and side lights is flanked by 12-over-12 windows set in plain frames that project slightly at top and bottom. In the first floor of the east side elevation, two doors are positioned toward the rear, while one window is toward the front. There are two windows in the second floor and one in the attic. (Photograph 3) On the south elevation, a one-story shed-roofed extension projects to the rear. Its easterly section is open as a porch. (Photograph 4) The west side elevation's fenestration pattern is conventional, similar to that on the east. (Photograph 5)

An indication of alterations made to the house is given by historic photographs. A picture, c. 1895, shows the house covered with shingles with a side porch, similar to that now on the rear, protecting the two doors on the east elevation. First-floor windows on the rear were 19th-century 2-over-2 sash. Whether the enclosed section of the rear projection was in place is not clear. Photographs taken in 1978 show the house covered with clapboards with narrow corner boards, a full side porch, and the enclosed section of the rear projection clearly in place. All windows were 2-over-2, and there was no front door. Since 1978, the front door has been re-established, the side porch in effect moved to the back, and the sash replaced. The house was without plumbing and electricity until 1978.

The first-floor plan is the typical Colonial arrangement of two front rooms on either side of a central chimney, a hall at the front, and the kitchen in the back. There is no stairway in the hall, it presumably having been removed when the front entrance was closed up. The west front room has a simple mantel, exposed corner posts, and old horsehair plaster ceiling, but no summer beam. (Photograph 6) The east front room has a more elaborate chimney-piece in the Federal manner and a paneled fireplace wall with crown molding, and no summer. (Photograph 7) The absence of summer beams lends support to the postulated construction date of c. 1750. The kitchen fireplace is

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constructed of coursed stone with a beehive oven in the rear, a feature which is a principal basis for assigning a date of c. 1750 to the house. (Photograph 8) The six-panel door leading to the kitchen (Photograph 8), with its small panels in the center, is further support for the mid-18th-century date.

The stairway to the second floor, not original, is a straight run to the west from a side door. (Photograph 9, First Floor Plan, Figure 2) At the top of the stair a straight central hall runs to the west, with front and back rooms opening to right and left. In the attic the roof framing of common rafters, pegged at the ridge, and collar beams is clearly visible, as is the stone chimney. (Photograph 10) Only that portion of the chimney above the roof is brick, possibly a replacement. All wooden surfaces in the attic are black, an unexplained circumstance.

In the cellar, the massive chimney base is stone ashlar. It has a fireplace whose opening is 45" high by 59" wide by 27" deep with a wooden lintel. (Photograph 11) There is a beehive oven in its rear wall constructed of stone rather than the usual brick.<sup>2</sup> (Photograph 12) The cellar fireplace faces an exterior door at grade on the west elevation.

The cluster of farm buildings is smaller than it once was. Several sheds and coops no longer are standing, but their foundations are visible between the house and the barn. (Photograph 13) The old barn was standing until 1988, when it was destroyed by fire. It has been replaced by a new barn designed and built closely to resemble the original. (Photograph 14) An ice house or root cellar does appear to date from the 18th century. (Photograph 15) The new barn is non-contributing; the ice house is contributing.

The land of the farm acreage is rugged, having many outcroppings of stone and huge glacial boulders. The north-to-south change in elevation from the highest point in the north to the Half Way River at the south is about 300 feet. There are stone walls, which establish the historic field patterns and fill out the 18th-century spatial organization of the land with respect to the nucleus of farm buildings and the river. Because of the land's rocky, rugged character, suitable for little except growing sheep, the farm may have been a component in Newtown's documented early-19th-century sheep-raising industry.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Due to the historic photograph being of poor quality, a copy could not be made for inclusion with the nomination.

<sup>2</sup>This is only the second stone-construction beehive oven to come to the attention of John O. Curtis, leading scholar of 18th-century Connecticut architecture, during his several decades of study.

<sup>3</sup>In 1803 Newtown's sheep population exceeded 4,000. (See Jane Eliza Johnson, Newtown's History and Historian, Ezra Levan Johnson (Newtown, 1917), p. 181.) There was a Sheep Growers' Association at that time. (Papers of the Newtown Historical Society at the Newtown Public Library contain reference to a record book of the association.) Danbury Probate Records of 1802, volume 8, page 40, record the will of Benjamin Lattin of Newtown by which he left 52 acres of his farm to his son Nathan (six acres to a daughter) together with other property, which included four sheep. While it seems self-evident that the Nathan B. Lattin Farm was a farm used for agricultural purposes, documentary evidence such as probate records, local maps, etc., to confirm the specifics of this use have not come to hand.

## 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

Period of Significance

c. 1750

Significant Dates

c. 1750

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Nathan B. Lattin Farm is significant architecturally because its farmhouse is a good example of a mid-18th-century structure that displays many original features, including two fireplaces with beehive ovens in their rear walls. The Lattin Farm embodies a rural historic landscape that demonstrates significant continuity of land use interrelated with buildings and natural features. The presence of these conditions in Fairfield County, which is generally regarded as suburban to New York City, is rare.

### Historic Background

The areas now known as the towns of Newtown and Monroe were settled by people who moved north from Stratford on the Long Island Sound in the 18th century. The Lattin family was among the early residents, living on both sides of the Half Way River, which forms the boundary between the two towns in this neighborhood. Lattins appeared on the grand list at least as early as 1767.<sup>1</sup> An 1856 map shows G. Lattin at about the location of the farm and H. Lattin across the river.<sup>2</sup> The property remained in the Lattin family until the estate of Ella M. Lattin, heir of Nathan B. Lattin, sold the property to Julius Bresson in 1897.<sup>4</sup> The Bresson family, of Stratford, used the house as a summer residence until selling in 1977<sup>5</sup> to owners who brought water and electricity to the farmstead and carried out a rehabilitation. Since the Nathan B. Lattin family was the last in the line, the property is named for him.

### Architectural Assessment

The two-story three-bay gable-roofed farmhouse is typical of its period, with all original structural framing still in place. The two rear-wall beehive ovens, three-bay elevation, and stone chimney give it distinction. Other significant details include the absence of summer beams, the presence of six-panel doors characteristic of the mid-18th century, and the early plaster and paneled finishes. These components are incorporated into the typical floor plan associated with Colonial houses, at the first

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Clark, Richard. Clark's Map of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Philadelphia: Richard C. Clark, 1856.
- Curtis, John Obed. Letter to author, May 25, 1989.
- Newtown Historical Society papers, at Newtown Public Library.
- Newtown Land Records 28/63, 54/400, 268/706, 338/185.
- Danbury Probate Records, volume 8, page 40.
- Johnson, Jane Eliza. Newtown's History and Historian, Ezra Levan Johnson. Newtown, 1917.
- Lattin, Nathan B. Probate File Newtown #1193, at Connecticut State Library.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 58

UTM References

A 18 | 64970,0 | 458,146,0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 | 64960,0 | 458,089,0

E 18 6 4 9 4 9 0 4 5 8 1 2 7 0

B 18 | 64919,2,0 | 458,111,6,0  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 | 64913,6,0 | 458,094,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described at Newtown Land Records, volume 338, page 185.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the land that traditionally has constituted the farm.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David F. Ransom/Consultant, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date 20 May 1989 Coordinator

street & number 59 S. Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06107

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floor, of five rooms disposed around a central chimney.

Since the house is located near a former main road to the river, the reason, according to local tradition, for closing up the front entrance, removing the front stairway, and establishing a lateral stair leading up to the second floor directly from a side door was to convert the second floor to use as an inn. For this purpose it was desirable to have the first and second floors separated without intercommunication, and to have direct access to the upper floor from an exterior door. The second-floor plan of long hallway with small rooms opening off either side is consistent with this scheme. Such alteration to the house within its period of significance adds value to the resource.

The enclosed shed-roofed rear projection may be original. In recent investigations in Southington, Professor Abbott Lowell Cummings of Yale University has determined that similar rear projections consisting in part of enclosed sections and in part of open porches are original. A historic and architectural survey of Glastonbury now in progress has found a similar original rear projection.

The structural framework of the house appears to be complete. Its original features and the alterations within its period of historic significance make it a valuable resource.

Integrity of the Site

Farming was the principal occupation of Connecticut settlers. Throughout the state, and particularly in the context of Fairfield County, open farmland dating from the 18th century, unchanged over time, is an unusual resource in the late-20th century. The current condition of the natural features of the Nathan B. Lattin Farm -- rugged terrain, rocky land, steep slopes, and untouched river -- are consistent with its historic appearance. Farming, including sheep farming, was a significant occupation in Fairfield County before it became suburbanized in the 20th century. The open space of the Nathan B. Lattin Farm is important because it makes a significant contribution toward understanding the broad pattern of local history in the context of farms in Fairfield County.

This rural historic landscape reflects the traditions and lifeways of 18th-century and 19th-century Fairfield farmers. The buildings are integrally related to the historic use and character of the landscape and contribute to its historic significance. The buildings and field patterns date from the same 18th-century era, helping the landscape to reflect its spatial organization, physical characteristics, and historic associations as it evolved during its historic period. Since these characteristics are present now in much the same way they were historically, the general character and feeling of the historic period are retained today. (Photograph 1)



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The spatial arrangement of the buildings is typical of early New England farms. The most important structure is the house, which is the first encountered upon entering the property. The several outbuildings are located at various distances from the house, according to need and function. The ice house/root cellar is closest to the house for the sake of convenience of food supply. The barn is at greatest distance, to keep the disturbance of barnyard noises and odors at minimum disturbance to life in the house. Sheds for storing wood and tools and other minor structures are at intermediate distances. This early New England arrangement of the several structures which collectively constitute the group of farm buildings continues in place at Lattin Farm, thereby contributing to the integrity and significance of the resource.

<sup>1</sup>Jane Eliza Johnson, Newtown's History and Historian, Ezra Levan Johnson (Newtown, 1917), p. 219. Ruins of a Lattin mill stand in Monroe.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Clark, Clark's Map of Fairfield County, Connecticut (Philadelphia: Richard C. Clark, 1856).

<sup>3</sup>Nathan B. Lattin died in 1877. The inventory of his estate included 60 acres of land valued at \$1100. See Newtown Probate File #1193 at Connecticut State Library.

<sup>4</sup>Newtown Land Records, volume 54, page 400.

<sup>5</sup>NLR 268/706.

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**Bibliographical References**

Newtown Historical Society papers, at Newtown Public Library.

Newtown Land Records, volume 54, page 400, 268/706, 338/185.

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Photographs were taken by D. Ransom in April 1989. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1  
General view of the site  
View east

Photograph 2  
Half Way River at  
southern boundary  
of site  
View east

Photograph 3  
Farmhouse  
View southwest

Photograph 4  
Farmhouse  
View northwest

Photograph 5  
Farmhouse  
View northeast

Photograph 6  
West front room  
View southeast

Photograph 7  
East front room  
View west

Photograph 8  
Kitchen fireplace  
View northwest

Photograph 9  
Stairway, 2F/1F  
View east

Photograph 10  
Attic  
View west

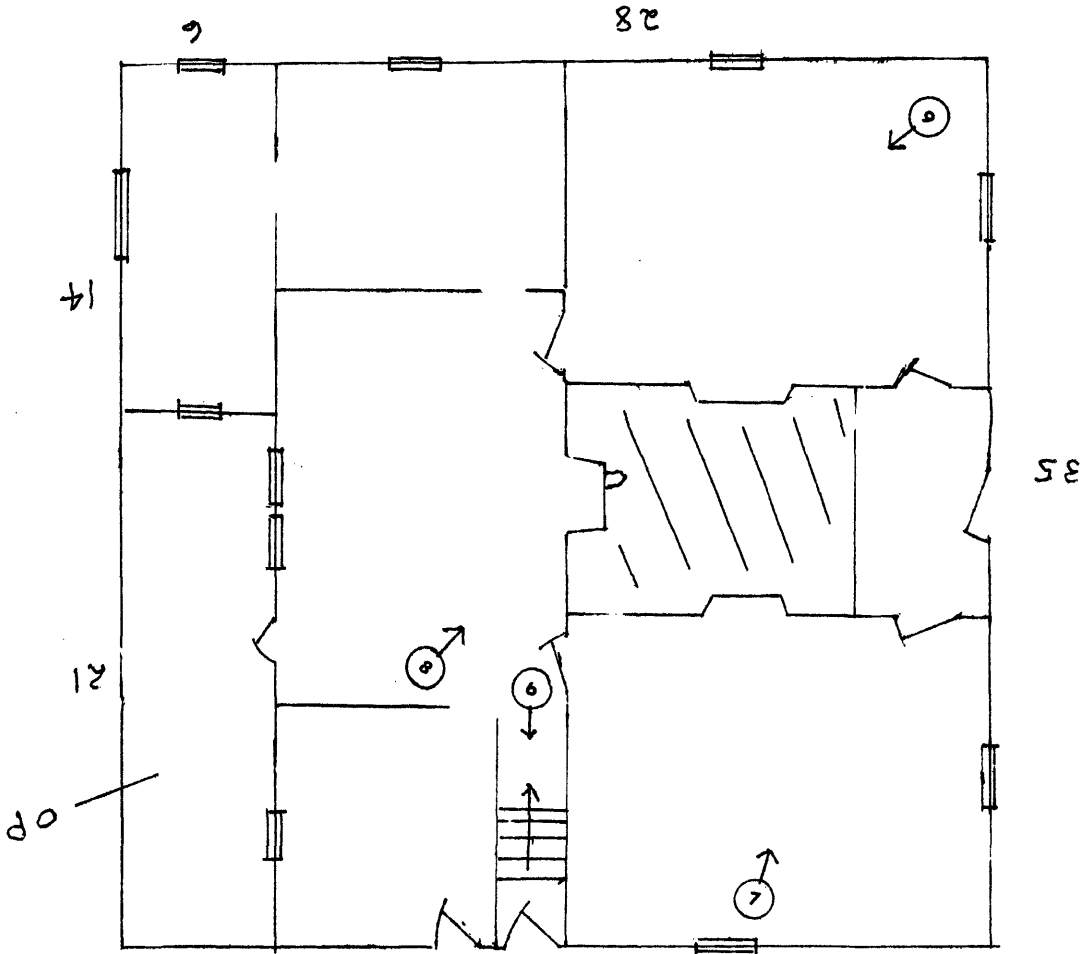
Photograph 11  
Cellar fireplace  
View northeast

Photograph 12  
Beehive oven of  
cellar fireplace  
View east

Photograph 13  
Foundations of lost  
structures  
View northeast

Photograph 14  
New barn  
View northeast

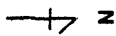
Photograph 15  
Stone shed  
View northeast



Nathan B. Lattin Farm  
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First-floor plan  
Photo Key

Figure 2



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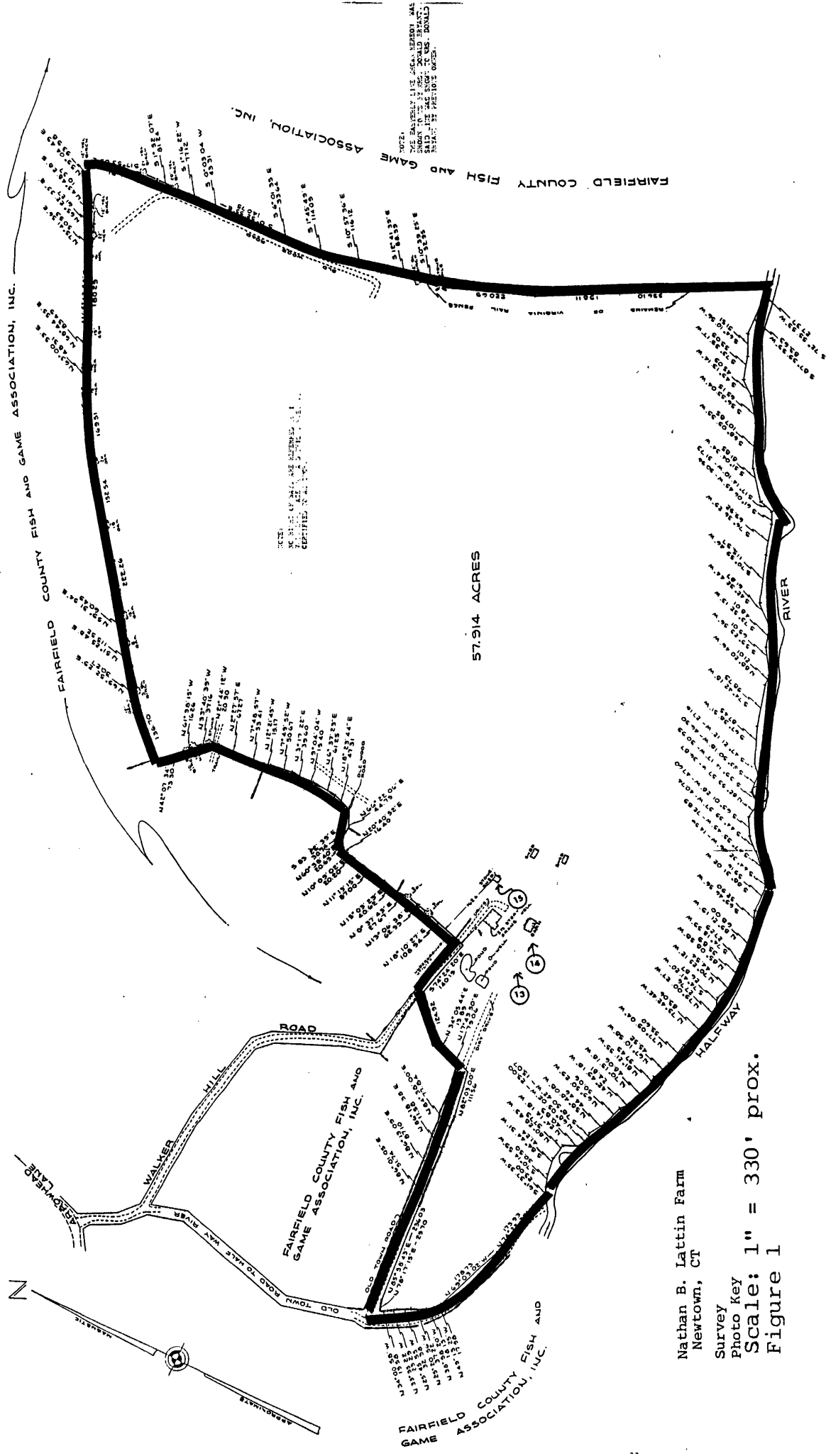
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Stone shed  
View northeast



FAIRFIELD COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, INC.

57.914 ACRES

RIVER

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, INC.

Nathan B. Lattin Farm  
Newtown, CT

Survey

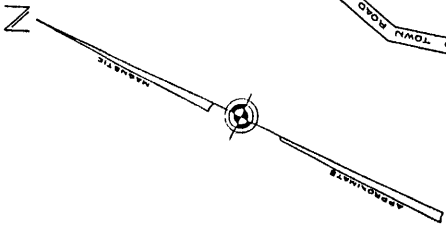
Photo Key

Scale: 1" = 330' prox.

Figure 1

Property boundary

N



FAIRFIELD COUNTY FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTES:  
THE BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THIS MAP WAS SURVEYED AND CERTIFIED BY THE SURVEYOR IN 1972.  
THE BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THIS MAP WAS SURVEYED AND CERTIFIED BY THE SURVEYOR IN 1972.