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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 18 1990

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 LEWIS-ZUKOWSKI HOUSE
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1095 South Grand Street N/A not for publication
city, town Suffield N/A vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06026

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>5</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>6</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>3</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.
John W. Shanahan 1/12/90
Signature of certifying official John W. Shanahan, State Historic Preservation Date
Officer
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. 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:)
for Signature of the Keeper 2/21/90 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE:

storage, animal facility,

agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE:

storage, animal facility,

agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK/STONE

walls BRICK/WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

COLONIAL: other: 18th-century vernacular

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lewis-Zukowski House is a 2 1/2-story brick dwelling built in 1781. Located in a rural section in the west part of Suffield, along the East Granby town line, the property also includes a mid-19th-century barn, a large c.1900 tobacco barn, and several smaller outbuildings. The house (Photographs 1-3) is oriented with its broad side facing the road. Its five-bay facade has a central recessed entry with a panel-and-glass door of unknown age and simple moldings outlining the opening. Both doorway and windows (except the second-floor windows which are tucked up close under the eaves) have shallow segmental-arched heads formed of soldier-course brick; since all but the attic window frames are rectangular, there is a stuccoed area above most of the windows. The sills are wood. First-floor windows have modern two-over-two sash and second-floor windows have c.1830 six-over-six sash. The one cellar window (Photograph 1) has what appears to be an original twelve-over-eight window; similar small-pane sash is found in the small attic windows. There is a large brick central chimney. The brickwork is laid in common bond. The house's only decorative feature is the stringcourse, three courses wide, running between the first and second and second and attic stories; the raised courses stop short of the building's corners. Additions to the house include an enclosed porch along the north side (Photograph 2) made over from or replacing, c.1940, a Victorian porch and a small 1-story modern wing (Photographs 1 and 3) replacing an earlier woodshed.

The house's fieldstone foundation continues into stone terraces extending a few feet both in front of and behind the house. The land slopes down to the south, exposing the terracing and, on the south side of the house, an entrance into the cellar with a huge stone lintel, batten door, and spade-shaped hand-forged latch.

The house is now part of a 19-acre tract which includes some wooded land, open land around the buildings, and meadow overgrown with brush to the north. The nominated portion includes only the land immediately surrounding the buildings, about three acres. The land to the north and south was excluded because, in its present condition, it does not convey the appearance of an historic farm.

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)

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance

1781-c.1930

Significant Dates

1781
1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Summary

The Lewis-Zukowski House is significant as an example of vernacular 18th-century domestic architecture, one which illustrates the adaptation of wood-frame building traditions to brick, which at the time (1781) was still an extremely uncommon material for houses (Criterion C). The property also has historical significance because it recalls Suffield's origin and development as an agricultural community, particularly the impact of broadleaf tobacco culture (Criterion A). Finally, the complex is significant because it symbolizes one of the major chapters in the state's social history, the ethnic transformation of the Connecticut countryside as "Yankee" families sold their farms to Eastern European immigrants. When Michael Zukowski purchased this farm in 1905, he became the first Polish landowner in Suffield (Criterion A).

Architectural Significance

The farmhouse which Hezekiah Lewis constructed in 1781 was typical of the domestic architecture of 18th-century Connecticut in all respects but one, the use of brick as the principal material. The house has the broad-side-to-the-road orientation, large central chimney, gable-roofed form, and five-bay, central-entrance facade which are the distinctive characteristics of the type. In addition, the house retains remnants of such typical details as hand-forged door hardware and small-pane sash. Although the house has been somewhat altered from its original appearance, it has retained substantial integrity and continues to exhibit the key characteristics which make it a good example of an 18th-century Connecticut house.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hartford Probate District. Estate of Hezekiah Lewis, 1805. Vol. 7, 182-86.

Alcorn, Robert H. Biography of a Town: Suffield, Connecticut, 1670-1970. Suffield: Three-Hundredth Anniversary Committee of The Town of Suffield, 1970.

Bates, Albert C. Records of The Society or Parish of Turkey Hills. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1901.

Clark, Delphina. Historic Houses of Suffield. Manuscript, Suffield Public 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:

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect St., Hartford, CT
06106

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 3.25 acres

UTM References

A 1 8 | 6 8 9 6 7 0 | 4 6 4 7 8 2 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____ | _____ | _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property extends back from South Grand Street to the rear line of the lot shown as parcel 4, block 21, map 17, in the Suffield Assessor records, with the boundary 50' north of the barn and 50' south of the house. The boundary is shown on the accompanying sketch map, traced from Suffield Assessor map 17, scale 1"=200'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house, barn, and adjacent outbuildings, but excludes the now largely wooded acreage to the north and south. The excluded acreage does not convey the appearance of historic farmland.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Resource Consultants date August 29, 1988

street & number 55 Van Dyke Avenue telephone (203) 547-0268

city or town Hartford state Connecticut zip code 06106

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Suffield, CT

Description (continued):

To the north of the house is a large frame barn, 30' by 60' in plan, covered with narrow-board siding (Photograph 4). The cupola, with louvers boarded over, and round-arched gable window suggest a c.1865 date. Attached to the barn is a shed on the east side, a small ell to the north, and at the west end, an ivy-covered c.1920 concrete silo, a contributing structure. In between the barn and the house are two small c.1925 board-sided buildings, a small milk shed and a hip-roofed garage (Photograph 4).

At the rear of the property is a large tobacco barn approximately 125' in length. Apparently built in at least two stages, the barn probably dates from about 1900. Although most of its vertical-board siding has been nailed shut, originally the boards were hinged so that alternating boards could be opened for ventilation; a large amount of hardware, including hinges and hooks, remains.

Non-historic buildings associated with the complex include two sheds with fencing for pigs and fowl (Photograph 6) and a jerkinhead-roofed garage, c.1940, covered with novelty siding.

The interior was not available for inspection at the time this nomination form was prepared. In the 1930s, it was stated that there were fireplaces and old board floors, but that the mantels were not original (W.P.A. Census of Old Buildings, c.1935).

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Suffield, CT

Statement of Significance (continued):

Brick was rarely used for houses in New England before the middle 18th-century; the first well-dated surviving Connecticut example was built in 1760.¹ Thus, the Lewis-Zukowski House can be considered as part of the first generation of brick houses in the state. It is interesting because the builder simply transferred the architecture of frame houses to the new material, with no change in stylistic allusion or alteration of the central-chimney plan. Most later brick houses are notably more elegant, with Georgian decorative elements, and most incorporate the chimneys in the end walls, either out of practicality or to make a central-hall plan. Stone sills and lintels also become part of the standard vocabulary of brick houses, but in the Lewis-Zukowski House their function is served by the more traditional wood sills and shallow brick arches. The raised courses demarcating the stories are found in other early brick houses in Hartford County towns, including Berlin and Windsor. Their function is unknown; one may speculate that they are a decorative device or they result from the creation of floorbeam mortises on the inside of the walls. The house is located in the general area of Windsor, the center of Connecticut brick-making in the 18th century.

Agricultural Significance

The Lewis-Zukowski House and associated outbuildings recall the development of the area's agriculture from generalized farming in the 18th century to specialized tobacco culture in the early 20th century. When Hezekiah Lewis built the house in 1781, he was a farmer of modest prosperity (his worth was assessed at 44£ in 1785). By the time of his death in 1805, he was somewhat wealthier, perhaps because of his marriage in 1794 to widow Ruth Phelps, and he owned a "clothier's shop" (fulling mill) as well as his 91-acre farm. His estate indicates he continued the generalized farming typical of most Connecticut families of the period: he had a yoke of oxen, 2 horses, 2 cows, and 2 pigs, suggesting that he was primarily raising sustenance for his family, not products for market.

By the middle of the 19th century, the Connecticut countryside had suffered from western competition and out-migration. Farms of the period needed some cash-producing enterprises to survive. In 1850, when this farm was owned by Charles M. Owen, the livestock included not only draft animals and a few pigs, but also 16 sheep and 15 cows and other cattle, resources which enabled Owen to market substantial

¹The Captain Benjamin Allyn II House, Windsor, Connecticut.

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Suffield, CT

Statement of Significance (continued):

amounts of wool, butter, and cheese. The large barn, which dates from this phase, reflects the need for storing livestock feed; in 1850 Owen raised 40 tons of hay, equivalent to at least 1,500 modern bales.

The 1850s marked the beginnings of widespread broadleaf tobacco cultivation in Connecticut. From 1.1 million pounds in 1850, Hartford County's production soared to 4.2 million in 1860, 9 million in 1880, and 35 million in 1920, at which time tobacco accounted for nearly 70% of the county's agricultural output. Connecticut broadleaf was prized for cigar wrappers because of its elasticity and small-veined appearance. As the popularity of cigars increased (there were 5.9 billion made in the United State in 1900), so did the fortunes of Connecticut farmers. Tobacco was labor intensive, but it was an extremely high-value crop on a per-acre basis. Like other Hartford County communities, Suffield moved rapidly into tobacco production in the second half of the 19th century. In 1870 this farm, then owned by Hiram H. Knox, produced 5,000 pounds. Although they continued to market dairy products and raised other crops, Hiram Knox and subsequent owners of the farm found broadleaf production to be a major source of income.

Today the large tobacco barn on the farm serves as a reminder of the dominant role of this crop in the area's history. At first, farmers cured the tobacco in their regular barns, but by the 1870s a specialized structure had emerged. It had movable boards on the exterior so that light and humidity could be controlled to properly cure the crop, and its proportions were long and narrow so that air could penetrate to the center of the barn. Barns were often lengthened as production increased: generally 30' of length was needed to cure an acre of tobacco. The design was subsequently refined with roof monitors, horizontal slats, and slats which could be moved all together, but the earliest form, typified by this barn, continued in use throughout the Connecticut valley. The decline of cigar-smoking and suburbanization have endangered the survival of this once ubiquitous structure. Although tobacco barns are not yet rare, their number dwindles each year.

The other farming structures are considered contributing because they fall within the property's period of significance. The older garage, milk shed, and silo are typical secondary farm structures whose existence adds to the integrity of the farm as a whole.

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Statement of Significance (continued):Ethnic Heritage Significance

The ethnic diversity brought on by heavy European immigration in the years 1890-1910 is usually thought of as an urban phenomenon, and it is true that by 1900 most Connecticut cities were overwhelmingly populated by immigrants and the children of immigrants. However, immigration had an equally dramatic impact on the Connecticut countryside, where farms which had been in "Yankee" ownership for generations were purchased by immigrant families.² Connecticut agriculture had been stagnant or in decline since the early 19th century, and young people were constantly seeking opportunity in manufacturing and trade or in other parts of the country. The arrival of immigrant families willing to put herculean labor into marginal farms gave a new lease on life for rural Connecticut. In the process, most Connecticut rural towns experienced both the tensions and benefits of the meeting of diverse cultures. Eastern European Jewish dairy and egg farmers in eastern Connecticut, Italian truck farmers in the New Haven area, Slovak and Magyar dairy farmers in the northeast, and Polish potato and tobacco farmers in Hartford County all contributed to what was a major social change in the early 20th century, one which has been all but forgotten today.³

Michael Zukowski was a local pioneer of this movement. Arriving in Suffield in 1888, he worked for \$8.00 a month plus board for local tobacco farmer Calvin Spencer. He had saved enough by 1905 to pay Hiram Knox \$2,800 in cash for this farm. Zukowski worked the farm until the 1920s, when his son took it over and he moved to another farm nearby. Today the nominated property is owned by his grandson. According to a local history, Michael Zukowski was "the first of a line of Polish settlers who were to give a new strength and a new perspective to the Suffield community. He was a man of the soil at heart, young, strong, and ready for a challenge."⁴

²For example, in Hartford County in 1910, 28% of the 5,166 farmers were foreign-born; in 1920, 39% of the 4,364 farmers were foreign-born (according to published statistics, Agriculture, U.S. Census for 1910, 1920).

³The takeover of Connecticut tobacco farms by Polish families was the subject of American Beauty, a popular novel by Edna Ferber.

⁴Robert H. Alcorn, Biography of a Town: Suffield, Connecticut, 1670-1970 (Suffield, 1970), 196-97.

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Major Bibliographical References (continued):

Koenig, Samuel. Immigrant Settlements in Connecticut: Their Growth and Characteristics. Hartford: State Department of Education, 1938.

Historical and Architectural Survey of Suffield. Connecticut Historical Commission, 1978.

Lewis, Hezekiah. Probate inventory, 1805. Microfilm, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

U.S. Census Office. Manuscript agriculture schedules, 1850-1880. Connecticut State Library. Also, published reports of the census of agriculture, 1850-1920.

_____. Report on the Culture and Curing of Tobacco in the United States. J.B. Killebrew, comp. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883.

Works Progress Administration. Census of Old Buildings. Manuscript, c.1935, Connecticut State Library.

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Photographs

1

Lewis-Zukowski House
Suffield, CT

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All photographs:

1. LEWIS ZUKOWSKI HOUSE
2. Suffield, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. Date of Photograph: June 1989
5. Negatives filed with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT

East and south elevations of house, view northwest
Photograph 1 of 6.

North and east elevations of house, view southeast
Photograph 2 of 6.

Rear elevation of house, view northeast
Photograph 3 of 6.

Milk shed, garage, and barn, view northwest
Photograph 4 of 6.

Tobacco barn, view north
Photograph 5 of 6.

Fowl pen (noncontributing), view south
Photograph 6 of 6.

