

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

452

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

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JUN - 3 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Amos Baldwin House

Other names/site number: McNamee House; Norfolk School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 92 Goshen Street East

City or town: Norfolk State: CT County: Litchfield (005)

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Mary B. Dunne</u>	<u>Deputy SHPO</u>	<u>5.26.16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

7/19/16  
Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Education/school  
Agriculture /Subsistence-farm  
    
    
    
  

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: New England Colonial

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

**Foundation:** Stone: fieldstone

**Walls:** Wood: clapboard

**Roof:** Asphalt shingles

**Other:** Chimney: brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Amos Baldwin House is a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed, post-and-beam building constructed circa 1765 during the Town of Norfolk's period of initial development. It is located on the west side of Goshen Street, near the Norfolk-Goshen border, in a bucolic and low-density section of northern Litchfield County (Figure 1). The house and two contributing early twentieth century outbuildings sit on the east side of a rural, five-acre lot that slopes upward to the west (Figures 2 and 3). Mowed fields surround the house and the remainder of the lot is forested. The house is expressive of eighteenth-century New England domestic architecture. It retains a traditional form, double-pile plan with a center chimney, clapboard siding, a dry-laid stone foundation and simple Georgian style trim. The wood frame of the house is particularly interesting in that the wall posts and studs appear to rise up to the attic so that the wall plate supports the common rafters of the upper slope of the gambrel, while the much shorter rafters of

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the lower slope are mortised into the lower side of the wall plate at the angle of the lower slope of the roof.<sup>1</sup>

A historic, one-story, gable-roofed rear ell extends from the northwest side of the building. The two early twentieth century outbuildings include a gambrel-roofed stable barn located to the north of the house and a woodshed west of (behind) the house. Dry-laid fieldstone walls extend along the east (front) side of the property and enclose a rectangular yard south of the house. The stonewalls and outbuildings were extant by the early 1940s, when the property functioned as part of a private boys' school focused on productive outdoor activity. The buildings remain on their original site with their historic orientation. Integrity of setting is intact, with the exception that the historic agricultural landscape of open fields has become partially reforested, with smaller fields extant around residences. The house retains the majority of its original materials, Colonial design and workmanship. The property maintains the feeling of a mid-eighteenth-century subsistence agricultural estate that is expressive of the local settlement pattern. It also displays its association with eighteenth-century construction techniques.

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## **Narrative Description**

### **House (Contributing building, ca. 1765)**

#### Exterior

The Amos Baldwin House is set back approximately 50 feet from the road and measures three bays long by two bays deep. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and capped by a modern, brick central chimney that replaced the original chimney. Resting on a dry-laid stone foundation, this eighteenth-century residence is sheathed in clapboards that are four inches thick to the weather. The façade (east elevation) is symmetrical and consists of paired 12/12 double-hung wood sash windows on either side of a central entrance that is aligned with the center chimney. According to a school brochure, most of the multi-light (predominantly 12/12) double-hung wood sash windows on the house have been reused from other local eighteenth century houses (Norfolk School, c. 1940). Louvered wood shutters on pintles flank the windows. The main entrance consists of a wide, single-leaf flush board door with strap hinges and a seven-light horizontal transom. The door and transom are surrounded by a simple casing made up of a pair of ovolo moldings. The soffit of the eave projects approximately six inches from the plane of the building wall and has short returns on the north and south walls. The eave is made of two astragal moldings topped by a cyma recta. Three dormers with flared shed roofs and 8/12 double hung wood sash windows are evenly spaced across the roof. The sides of each dormer are clad in wood shingles. Narrow corner boards frame the façade (Photo 1).

The south (side) elevation has a secondary entrance located at the east end and two windows per floor with a fifth window in the attic level beneath the ridge of the gambrel roof. The entrance contains a flushboard door with a six-light window (3x3) in its upper third and a modern screen

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<sup>1</sup> The structural system was observed during an on-site walk-through of the house by the nomination author.

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door. Triple ovolo molding forms the door casing and matches that of the main door. The windows are 12/12 double hung wood sash are located symmetrically on the wall. The attic window contains 6/6 double-hung wood sash. This elevation has much wider corner boards flanking the ground floor wall. The rooflines are ornamented with bargeboards that have simple bead moldings (Photos 1-3).

Only the southern bay of the west (rear) elevation of the main house is visible. On the ground floor there is a single door with simple casings located just south of the juncture of the main house with the ell. A single dormer matching those on the façade is aligned directly above the door (Photo 2).

With the exception of the door and a small 6/6 double hung sash window on the western end of the ground floor, the north (side) elevation is identical to the south elevation. Its face is flush with that of the ell, but the size of the clapboards on the main house does not match that on the same elevation as the ell. At the foundation level a low bulkhead provides access to the basement, while two window wells provide light into the basement (Photo 4).

The one-story ell is three bays wide by one bay deep. It has a wood-frame structural system, an asphalt-clad side gable roof, and a stone foundation. Its clapboard siding shows slightly more to the weather than the clapboard on the house. The ell has been modified for modern use, both as a school dormitory and modern residence. The south elevation consists of alternating pairs of modern French doors flanked by pairs of modern, insulated, double-hung windows with wood false muntins. A pair of gabled dormers with 8/12 double-hung sash windows project from the roof, almost centered on the elevation. There is a corner board on the west end of the south elevation and corner boards flank the western (rear) elevation. This elevation has a pair of casement windows located slightly north of center on the ground floor and a triple window in the gable end. The northern elevation of the ell is flush with the northern elevation of the main house. It has two secondary entrances on either end, with single, modern doors. A pair of 8/12 historic double-hung sash flanks the east door. All of the wall openings have simple flat casings (Photo 4).

### Interior

The main block of the house has a double-pile plan centered around the chimney. It contains approximately 2,000 square feet and a total of 13 rooms. The first floor has a compact entrance hall in front of the chimney core and an extended hall-and-parlor plan with a long, open rectangular room across the back (west) side of the house. The only extant stairway is located in the southwest corner of the main block.

The main entrance opens into the entrance hall, where shouldered posts are visible. The expected narrow central stair has been removed and replaced by a closet (Photo 5). Four-panel, stile and rail doors lead to the two front (eastern) rooms. Each room has wide board flooring. They both have low wainscoting with wide board dadoes. The shallow brick fireboxes of the fireplaces in each room have Federal style mantels with paneled pilasters *en ressaut*. The mantel in the southern room has rope and scotia moldings (Photo 6) projecting to support the mantel edge,

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while that in the northern room has gouge work dentilation and rope molding in inset in the upper panels of each pilaster (Photo 7). Each of the front rooms gives on to a large room, formerly the kitchen with a large stone fireplace and a bake oven that is directly accessible from the room (Photos 8 and 9). The room has low wainscoting, a simple mantel and a modern ceiling with exposed beams (Photos 8 and 9). In the southwest corner of the house, there is a small room while narrow enclosed stairs to the north of the room lead up to the second floor and down to the basement. The first floor of the ell consists primarily of two large rooms, including a modern dining room to the east and a kitchen to the west (Photos 16 and 17). The east wall of the dining room is paneled in wood that came from other parts of the house. The kitchen has been updated with contemporary finishes and appliances.

On the second floor, three bedrooms and a bathroom are accessed from a large hall at the west (rear) side of the house above the former kitchen. Two of the bedrooms are located above the front (east) parlors. The main stairway was originally located between these rooms, but the stairs have been removed and the space was converted into a contemporary bathroom. A smaller, third bedroom is located in the northwest corner of the main block. The extant (originally secondary) stairway is illuminated by the dormer on the west elevation. Shouldered corner posts, historic wood floors, and paneled wood doors are extant throughout the second floor. The upper level of the ell, which once functioned as an open dormitory with bunk beds, is reached via a hallway that is partially obstructed by a post and a diagonal brace (Photos 10-12).

The basement under the main block of the house has very little headroom. It is approximately 66 inches high and is dominated by a large stone chimney foundation, parts of which have been reinforced with concrete block. Most of the original structure, including the chimney girts, are still intact and some members are only partially hewn. The ell foundation is located at the northwestern corner of the main house and access to it was cut through the foundation of the main house (Photos 13 and 14).

The attic is accessible from a hatch in the large hall of the second floor. The upper slope of the roof is constructed of planks supported by hewn or partially hewn common rafters joined by mortise and tenon joints at the ridgeline. Some of the rafters appear to have been reused, as shown by their even plaster markings. The rafters are attached to a plate by a birdsmouth joint. This large dimension plate is supported by diagonally braced wood posts that appear to run the full two-and-one-half stories from the foundation. They align with what would be the location of the chimney girts. The projecting lower slope of the gambrel is created by angled purlins whose upper end is mortised into the large sill and whose lower end is most likely supported by projecting joists and a false plate at the second floor. The north and south walls are composed of widely spaced stud construction with horizontal sheathing beneath the clapboards (Photo 15).

The Amos Baldwin House appears to have continued in a relatively unaltered state up until the mid-twentieth century. Sometime in the nineteenth century the ell was attached on the western side of the house. It is not until after 1928, under the ownership Richard and Aroline Leach, that the house was altered through the installation of modern conveniences. The second floor of the ell was converted to a dormitory room for the Norfolk School and the front stairs were removed to accommodate a bathroom.

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### **Barn (Contributing building, ca. 1940)**

The barn is an early twentieth century, rectangular, wood-frame building located approximately 200 feet north of the house and perpendicular to the road (Photos 18 and 19). The estimated construction date is based on visual analysis, assessor's data, and its inclusion in the brochure for The Norfolk School. (Norfolk School ca. 1940:8). Aerial mapping from 1952 also depicts the barn and woodshed (UCONN MAGIC 1952). The barn is designed as a ground-level stable barn with the main floor at grade, but the terrain slopes downward at the east end of the building and the east elevation is exposed at the basement level, where a two-car garage addition is attached. A one-story lean-to is attached at the opposite (west) end of the building. The barn has an asphalt-clad gambrel roof with a projecting hood over the west gable peak, wood clapboard siding, and a concrete foundation. Sliding barn doors are centered on each long (north and south) elevation. There are nine fixed, six-pane, wood sash windows on the main level and a double-hung window in the hayloft. The barn is topped with a simple square cupola and ventilation system ornamented by a weathervane. An exterior chimney is located on the north elevation.

### **Woodshed (Contributing building, ca. 1940)**

The woodshed is located approximately 30 feet west of the house and faces east. It is a simple, one-story, 3-bay by 1-bay, rectangular wood-frame building with an asphalt-clad side-gable roof and vertical board sheathing (Photos 20 and 21). Three symmetrically spaced arched door openings are located on the façade. Two of the bays are open and the third contains a recessed door constructed of vertical wood boards. The building was constructed by 1940 and was originally connected to a similar building section forming an L-shaped plan, rather than its current rectangular plan (Norfolk School ca. 1940, UCONN MAGIC 1952). The other portion of the building is not extant, but the remaining, primary portion of the woodshed continues to convey its original aesthetic and maintains associations with the use of the property as the Norfolk School.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "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.)

- 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, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Community Development  
Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1765-1943  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1765: approximate construction date  
1928: Sale of property out of Pendleton family  
1940-1943: Use as Norfolk School

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Watson, Captain John  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Amos Baldwin House derives its primary significance under Criterion C at the local level, as a key local example of mid-eighteenth century residential architecture and building methods in the Town of Norfolk. Its gambrel roofed form signals the advent of this relatively new architectural dwelling form in the northwest region of Connecticut. Treatment of the house during the early twentieth century is consistent with Colonial Revival period trends, which involved an effort to retain the appearance of the property's eighteenth century aesthetic. The property meets Criterion A at the local level in the area of Community Development as a vestige of the historic settlement pattern in Norfolk. The historical record of building demonstrates a development pattern of inheritance, acquisition, loss, and division that appears to have been typical of larger farms in this general locale with individuals and families who were prominent in Norfolk and its development is typical of many farms in the town. It additionally meets Criterion A in the area of Education for its association with the Norfolk School, a private boys' school significant as an example of the early twentieth century educational goals of self-sufficiency, and productive employment, and an appreciation for country living. The period of significance extends from 1765, the approximate construction date of the house, through its use as a boarding school from 1940 to 1943. The end date of 1943 corresponds to the date the school closed.

No archaeological investigations have been undertaken at the site; therefore it is not known if it qualifies under Criterion D. The property is considered archaeologically sensitive due to the minimal ground disturbance around the house and its associations with the settlement period of the town. However, significance under Criterion D is not included in this nomination because no subsurface investigations have been performed.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Criterion C**

#### **Area of Significance: Architecture**

The Amos Baldwin House possesses significance for its expression of mid-eighteenth framing and traditional design. It is one of approximately seven eighteenth-century houses extant in Norfolk based on a review of aerial maps and documentation on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. Since settlement of Norfolk did not occur until the mid-eighteenth century, there is no collection of late seventeenth through early eighteenth century architecture in the community. Of the seven known extant mid-late eighteenth-century houses, the Amos Baldwin House is one of the earliest and is the only example with a gambrel roof. Four of these buildings are two-story, center-hall Georgian-style houses constructed between 1785 and 1795. They include the Captain Titus Ives House (1785) located on Route 44, a farmhouse (ca. 1790) on Route 272, the Pettibone Tavern (1794) located within the National Register-listed Norfolk Historic District, and the Spite House (1795) on West Side Road. The other two buildings are

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a 1.5-story gable-roofed house built in 1776 in the town center (located on Village Green in the Norfolk Historic District) and the National Register-listed Benedict Francis House located in the northwest corner of town. The Francis House consists two sections, including a one-story gable-roofed Cape built in 1795 that was incorporated as an ell to a two-story Federal style house constructed on the site in 1810. Other late eighteenth century houses were originally located in the vicinity of the Francis House forming a community known as Pond Town, but only cellar holes remain in that area (Cunningham 2002).

The house is expressive of mid-eighteenth-century New England domestic architecture through its five-bay by two-bay rectangular massing, double-pile plan with a center chimney, clapboard siding, a dry-laid stone foundation and simple Georgian style trim. The plan is typical of mid-eighteenth century houses across the state. Gambrel roofed versions of the typical Georgian style eighteenth-century house are found in approximately 25 percent of surviving Georgian houses in the northern colonies, but surviving one-story examples are less common (McAlester 1984:139). In Connecticut, the period from 1700 to about the middle of the eighteenth century is marked by the raising of the lean-to so that the house becomes one of two full stories throughout. The addition resulted in the provision of three additional rooms on the first floor and a large attic on the second as seen in the Amos Baldwin House. The shape provided more attic space for storage or sleeping. The central hall arrangement became common after 1750 (Kelly 1968: 16). In this plan, the chimney occupies the central position behind the stair porch and becomes the center or pivotal point about which the plan revolved in its development (Kelly 1968: 8). The Baldwin House retains its wood post-and-beam structural system with hewn and partially hewn framing members, which is consistent with framing trends in the state prior to the shift to power sawing during the latter part of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth century (Kelly 1968: 22).

Although gambrel roof buildings were in fairly common use by 1765, the framing of the Baldwin House appears to be a variant from the common gambrel framing type. As noted by Frederick Kelley in his book, *The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*, most Connecticut gambrel-roofed houses have a common rafter system whose lower sloping rafters are supported by a plate flush with the house wall. At the connection joint between the two slopes a large purlin plate supports the top of the lower rafter and bottom of the upper slope rafter. Inset purlin posts resting on the end and chimney girt support this large purlin. Another common variant was based on a knee wall system where H-bents created by the upper floor joists would project above the top floor to create a knee wall that would support the joint where the roof pitch breaks. However, in this case, the corner post and chimney posts appear to rise up just above the attic floor where the purlin supports the rafters at the pitch break (Photo 15). Since the gambrel projects from beyond the second story, the bottom of the lower rafters must be supported by a false plate that is supported by some form of projecting joist or outrigger. This variant on gambrel roof construction appears to be a distinctive form not known to be a common type in Connecticut or adjacent New York. A systematic literature search has not revealed any published examples of the structural system used in the building anywhere else in Litchfield County or Connecticut (Cummings 1979, Isham and Brown 1900, Kelly 1968, Trowbridge 1923).

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Under Criterion C, this house also contributes to the understanding of Colonial Revival design philosophy in northwest Connecticut during the early to mid-twentieth century. It remained relatively unaltered until this time, when the owners made efforts to both maintain the historic design features and emphasize the traditional aesthetic through the installation of salvaged material from other properties. Starting in the late nineteenth century Americans were fascinated with the nation's colonial architecture. The architecture was associated with a fictive idyllic past associating colonial-era structures with an imaginary life of a well-educated yeoman farmer whose public life was guided by democratic principles. Connecticut was one of the earliest states where systematic analyses by architects such as Isham (1900) and Kelley (1924) as well as the popularization of the style by Wallace Nutting and others led to a continued glorification of the form and its democratic and in this case agrarian associations. Possibly inspired by these associations, particularly in light of its use as an educational institution in the mid-twentieth century, the Leaches began a campaign to both bring the house up to modern standards of convenience and to enhance the certain aspects of the extant exterior, and possibly the interior. This is demonstrated by the Leaches' replacement of all of the windows in the main part of the house with salvaged eighteenth century sash, while removing the center stair to accommodate an upstairs bathroom. The mantels in the front rooms may also have been additions. This approach to the Colonial style is typical of this era of revival, where salvaged building materials were added to buildings and at the same time, original building fabric was destroyed and plans were altered to make way for modern bathrooms and kitchens.

## **Criterion A**

### **Area of Significance: Community Development**

This property meets Criterion A in the area of Community Development for its association with the settlement and subsequent nineteenth century development of the Town of Norfolk. It was established as a residential lot shortly after the incorporation of the town and was subsequently used for subsistence/local market farming by residents who contributed to the growth of other local industries. The construction date for this house is circa 1765, making it an example of settlement trends in the town. This is borne out in land records. One of the original proprietors, Captain Daniel Lawrence Jr. (1702-1790), sold a tract of land to Isaac Pettibone in 1759 (NLR vol. 1 p. 30). This tract was part of the town's first post-incorporation subdivision and included the land that is now the Amos Baldwin property. Lawrence served on a town committee responsible for laying out the roads, lots and common land in the original subdivision (Crissey and Eldredge 1900:50-55). In this role, he may have contributed to the location of the house near Goshen Road. The owners of the land and the house are symbolic of the town proprietors and the more prosperous residents of Norfolk who contributed to its development. By 1760, Lawrence held approximately four land rights, making him one of the larger landowners in the town. Isaac Pettibone was another proprietor who had lived in Norfolk since 1758 and was one of the men responsible for building the town meeting house (Crissey and Eldredge 1900: 53, 66). Captain John Watson acquired the land from Pettibone in 1763. After Watson married in 1771, he moved to Canaan the following year and sold this property to John Beach in 1774. The deed for this sale included the first mention of the house and a barn, which indicates that the house was most likely constructed between 1763 and 1770 (NLR vol. 2 p.4).

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In 1787, the house was sold to Dr. Elkanah Hodges who had moved from Torrington just after his wife's death from smallpox. The story of the house and its owners continues in this vein throughout the nineteenth century, and is typical of farms of this size and the general land development patterns of this area of Norfolk. It was owned by farmers of varying success who, like many in New England, operated additional businesses, while the land passed through generations of different families. It is assumed that this was primarily a subsistence farm, that later became a dairy farm. After passing through members of Hodges' extended family, Amos Baldwin of Watertown purchased the house in 1811. Baldwin was quite successful. He owned the 200 acres of farmland around the house and operated a chestnut shingle mill, a sawmill, and briefly operated a cheesebox factory, all in Norfolk (Crissey and Eldredge 1900: 249, 265). He also served as a member of the Connecticut Constitutional Convention. In the mid-nineteenth century, the farmstead was owned by Ethan Pendleton as a part of his 1,000 acre holdings in the town (Crissey and Eldredge 1900: 568-569). He additionally owned a sawmill and a shop that made black oak clock plates, which he supplied to the major clockmakers just to the south in Thomaston, Bristol and Plymouth. The land and farmhouse remained in the Pendleton family until 1928. In 1870, the house formed part of Abel Pendleton's 240 acre farm.<sup>2</sup> He owned 18 milk cows and employed workers receiving wages of \$200 per year. Since the completion of the Housatonic Railroad in the 1840s, the Connecticut Western Railroad in 1871, and the opening of the Borden Milk Factory in nearby Canaan in 1857, dairy farming was popular in this section of Litchfield County. Milk was sold to Borden as well as delivered to New York via two daily trains. Abel Pendleton died in 1882 and the house briefly left the Pendleton family. The house was purchased in 1884 by Emily Pendleton, who left it to her children Lemuel and Minnie in 1928. They immediately sold it to Richard and Aroline Leach. Up until 1928, the pattern of development, land use, and character and station of the owners of this property was typical for farms of this size in Norfolk.

## **Criterion A**

### **Area of Significance: Education**

As the site of a small-scale private school during the early 1940s, this property meets Criterion A at the local level in the area of Education for its association with New Deal Era education principles and transitional education philosophies in Connecticut. Richard Leach, who purchased the Baldwin House property in 1928 founded the Norfolk School in 1937 with Lincoln Foster, Walter Campbell, and Francis Shepardson. Leach had prior teaching experience in New Jersey. The school was available to males from ages 14 to 20 and operated with a curriculum that combined farm work with a college preparatory education. Leach moved the school to his property in 1940 from its original temporary space in a nearby house on Litchfield Road in Norfolk. It operated at 92 Goshen East Road through 1943, when most of the school's teachers were drafted into military service.

The educational ideology of the Norfolk School contributes to the understanding of New Deal Era philosophy in Connecticut at the time. From the mid-nineteenth century until World War II, education for high-school-age students in Connecticut gradually transitioned from the long-

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<sup>2</sup> Abel Pendleton served a term as a state legislator in 1879.

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standing, privately funded academy system toward free public high schools. The academies, which collected tuition, were typically inaccessible to the working class population and functioned with college preparatory curriculums. The number of public high schools in Connecticut grew after the first opened in 1840, but the curriculum for each school did not necessarily meet the same college preparatory standards as the private academies because the coursework also included general skills aimed at creating good citizens. By 1910, only 61 of Connecticut's 169 towns offered four-year public high schools and many students in rural areas did not attend high school (Rose 2012). Local municipalities funded and managed public schools from the establishment of enabling legislation in 1856 until 1919, when the Connecticut General Assembly passed an act that empowered the State Board and State Department of Education to take greater oversight of the school system (Rose 2012; Van Dusen 1961:350). While the establishment of vocational and agricultural schools in Connecticut became common around 1900, the Great Depression fueled the public high school movement in the 1930s. High school attendance also increased with the offering of two-year programs aimed at students who planned to enter the work force after high school (Ricklin 223). Due to high unemployment rates in the country, education goals during the New Deal era (1932-1945) included a focus on productive employment and the promotion of self-sufficiency. Educators strove to provide students with a range of skills and a strong work ethic. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's tenure, the use and protection of natural resource also became integrated into some high school education programs. High school diplomas also became acceptable as a measure of competency (Rose 2012).

The Norfolk School followed a model used in the Kent School, established by Reverend Frederick H. Sill in 1906, also in Litchfield County. In a 1921 handbook of private schools, the Kent School is described as an educational institution "actuated by ideals of democratic service . . . [and] intended for the sons of professional men who cannot afford the expensive private school . . . A spirit of self-help and cooperation has been developed" (Sargent 1921: 90). The Norfolk School accepted boys in grades 8 through 12 and the faculty combined traditional college preparatory coursework with outdoor labor and activities. Richard Leach served as the headmaster and one of four faculty members. He taught history and biology. The other three teachers gave classes in English, Latin, modern languages, and algebra. In the early twentieth century, college admission requirements contained holdovers from the nineteenth century academy movement such as training in algebra and classical languages. A school pamphlet published after the 1940 relocation of the Norfolk School to this site, includes a statement about the appropriateness of the site for the school's curriculum:

There in the homelike, intimate atmosphere the school has been better able to integrate the intellectual with a full program of healthful, vigorous outdoor work and play. . . The mental and physical health of the students gives satisfying proof that the combination of hard work, hard play, hard studying, wholesome food, and close relationship with the masters produces students capable of making for themselves a place in the world. Outdoor activities of a constructive sort are practiced throughout the year. Much of economics and manual dexterity is learned in syrup-making, wood chopping, reforestation, building construction, [and] crop gathering (Norfolk School c. 1940).

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Norfolk School classes were small and complimented by a strong, student-organized sports program, including skiing, boating, and horseback riding. The curriculum offered at the Norfolk School met both college preparatory requirements and skills that could be used in employment through the Civilian Conservation Corps or other employment programs. This education was just as valuable in rural communities where agricultural economies had declined, as it was in urban industrial centers. The self-help philosophy is aligned with democratic ideology of the time, in which a routine of hard work and constructive leisure activities would create a population of responsible people with a sense of initiative. Educators made efforts to provide equal access to high school instruction among students of all economic strata and perpetuated a principle that the capable workforce would rise through this system. Like the Kent School, the Norfolk School served as an affordable private school option. Connecticut's first female architect, Theodate Pope Riddle opened a substantially larger private boys' school based on similar democratic principles in 1927. The school is known as Avon Old Farms and is located about 30 miles east of Norfolk. Riddle was a personal of President Roosevelt (Avon Old Farms School 2015). Established in 1850, the Gunnery School in Washington, Connecticut (also in Litchfield County) pre-dated these Roosevelt-era institutions, but operated with a similar emphasis on character building and an appreciation for the outdoors.

During his management of the Norfolk School, Leach used a portion of his house for the students' living quarters, dining room, and classrooms. A workshop and laboratory were located in the barn. A converted ice house served as additional quarters.<sup>3</sup> Leach converted the upper floor of the ell into an open dormitory with bunk beds, while also restoring and updating the building. The Leaches removed the center stair in favor of a bathroom and bought multi-light window sash from other old buildings to replace the 2/2 wooden sash. The section nearest the ell was converted to a large open room with the easterly wall paneled in wood taken from an old kitchen. The westerly section of the ell was converted to house a modern kitchen. The majority of the land that comprised the farm used by the students was subdivided during the late twentieth century. When the house was sold in the 1960s, it included five acres.

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<sup>3</sup> As of December, 2015, the ice house is extant but in poor condition. It is located on property



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Name of Property

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**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

Baldwin, Amos House  
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recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Baldwin, Amos House  
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### 10. Geographical Data

#### Acreage of Property 5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.921680° Longitude: -73.210666°

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Then nomination is limited to the bounds of the current property identified as Map Number 6-02, Lot Number 4 (Parcel Number 302) on the Town of Norfolk, Connecticut Assessor's Database. The limits of Parcel Number 302 are shown on Figure 3.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected to cover the full extent of the remaining resources. The ice house associated with the Norfolk School is excluded because it has been subdivided from the rest of the property, is now visually separated, and is in poor condition.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Steven Bedford, Architectural Historian; Additions and edits by Jenny Scofield,  
NR Coordinator, CT SHPO

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: 11 Shafer Rd

city or town: New Hartford state: CT zip code: 06057

e-mail: Sbedford1953@mac.com

telephone: 860-921-0144

date: June 30, 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Amos Baldwin House

City or Vicinity: Norfolk

Baldwin, Amos House

Name of Property

Litchfield County, CT

County and State

County: Litchfield State: Connecticut

Photographer: Steve Bedford (Photos 1-17), Jenny Scofield (Photos 18-21)

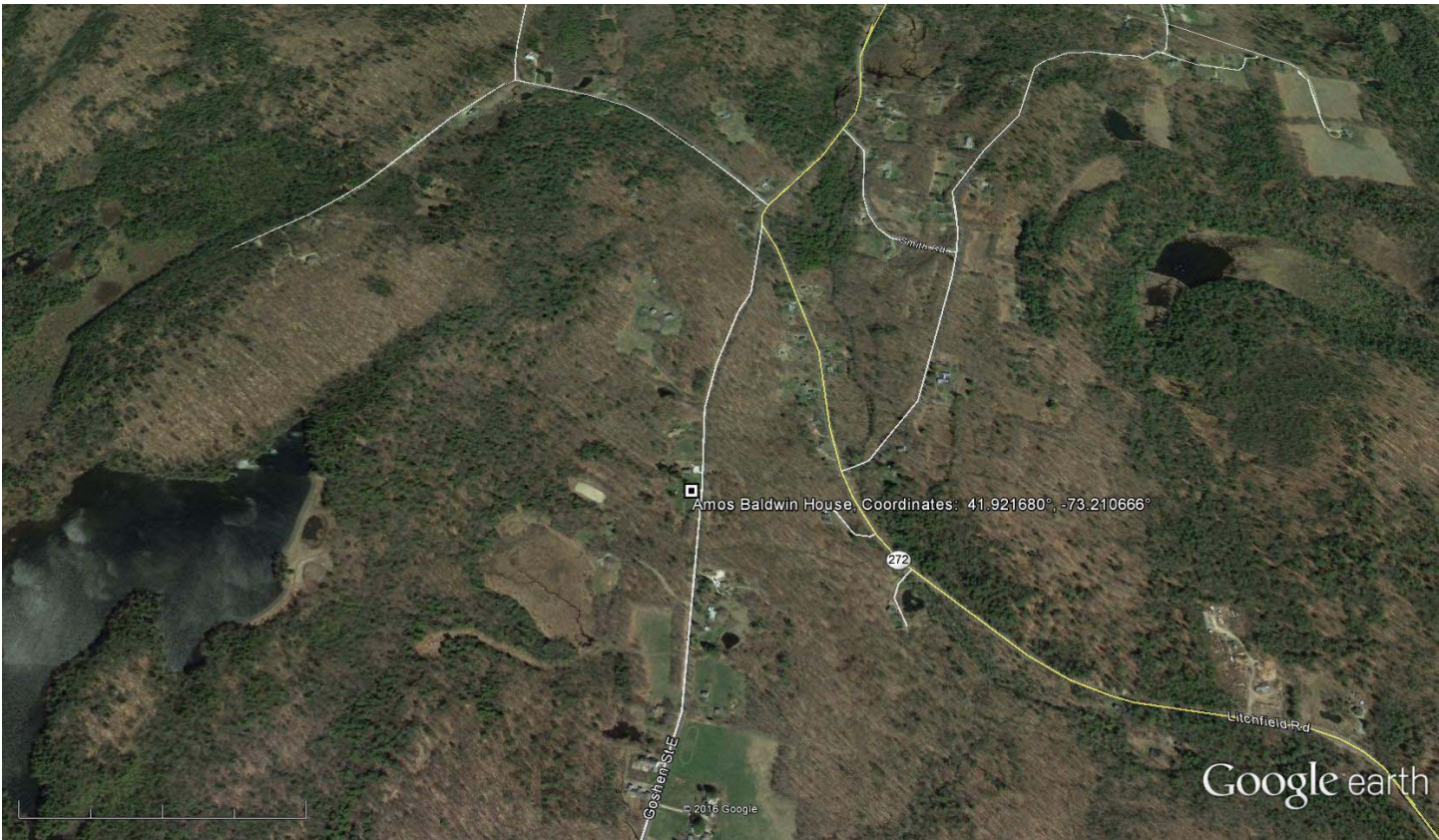
Date Photographed: July, 2013 (Photos 1-17), February 2016 (Photos 18-21)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 21. Facade and southern elevation. Camera facing northwest.
- 2 of 21. South elevation. Camera facing north
- 3 of 21. West elevation of house and south elevation of ell. Camera facing northeast
- 4 of 21. North and west elevation of house. Camera facing southeast.
- 5 of 21. Entry way. Camera facing south.
- 6 of 21. North room. Camera facing south
- 7 of 21. South Room, Camera facing northwest.
- 8 of 21. Large room/kitchen. Camera facing northeast
- 9 of 21. Detail of fireplace in kitchen. Camera facing east.
- 10 of 21. View to former dormitory area. Camera facing west.
- 11 of 21. Southeast bedroom. Camera facing southeast.
- 12 of 21. Northern bedroom, Camera facing north.
- 13 of 21. Fireplace foundation, Camera facing northwest.
- 14 of 21. Fireplace foundation. Camera facing northwest.
- 15 of 21. Attic showing wall and roof structure. Camera facing northeast.
- 16 of 21. View of ell. Camera facing east
- 17 of 21. View of ell. Camera facing southeast.
- 18 of 21. South and east elevations of barn. Camera facing northwest.
- 19 of 21. South and west elevations of barn. Camera facing northeast.
- 20 of 21. Facade of woodshed. Camera facing southwest.
- 21 of 21. View toward west (rear) elevations of house and woodshed. Camera facing southeast.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Google earth



Figure 1. Location of the Amos Baldwin House (source: Google Earth)



Figure 2. Site Plan of the Amos Baldwin House property (source: Google Earth, 2016).



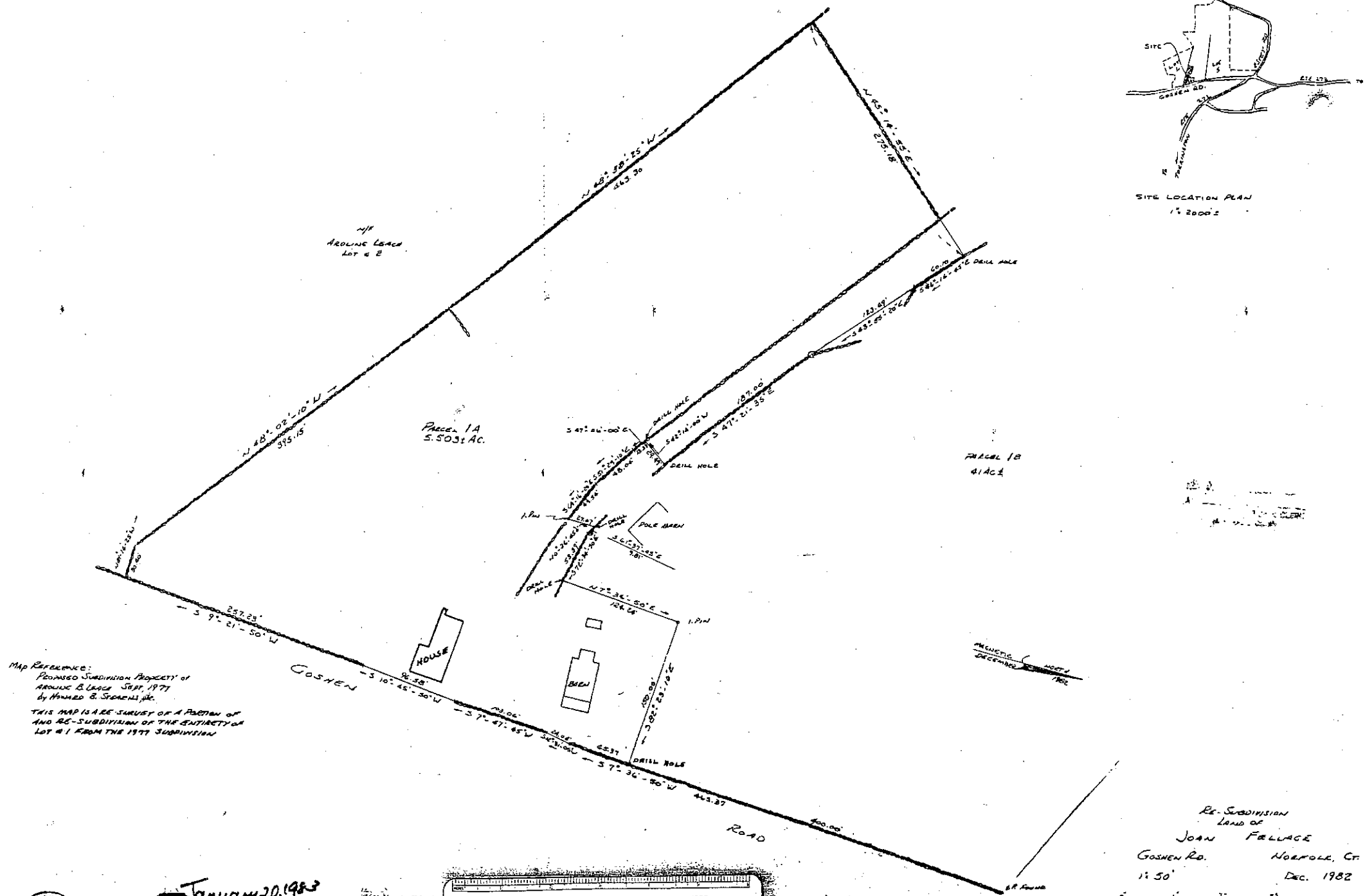
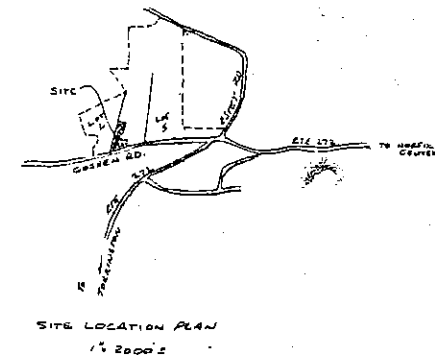
#932

APPROVED BY THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NORFOLK

DATE 1-14-83

Carl Sandler CHAIRMAN

Per State Statute 8-26c all work in connection with  
this subdivision must be completed by 1-14-89



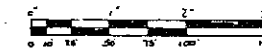
I hereby certify this map and survey to be  
in accordance with class A-2 as defined by  
the Conn. Association of Land Surveyors, Inc.

St. B. Keefe, L.S.  
#3677



JANUARY 20, 1983  
11:51 AM  
DANIEL J. KEEFE, L.S.  
NORFOLK, CONN.

Hall & McChesney Inc  
1978  
DEC 10 1982  
1978



Per B. Keefe, Surveyor  
Norfolk, Conn.

SEP#

Figure 3. 1982 Subdivision Map showing Town of Norfolk , Connecticut Parcel Number 302.



Figure 4. Exterior Photo Key.

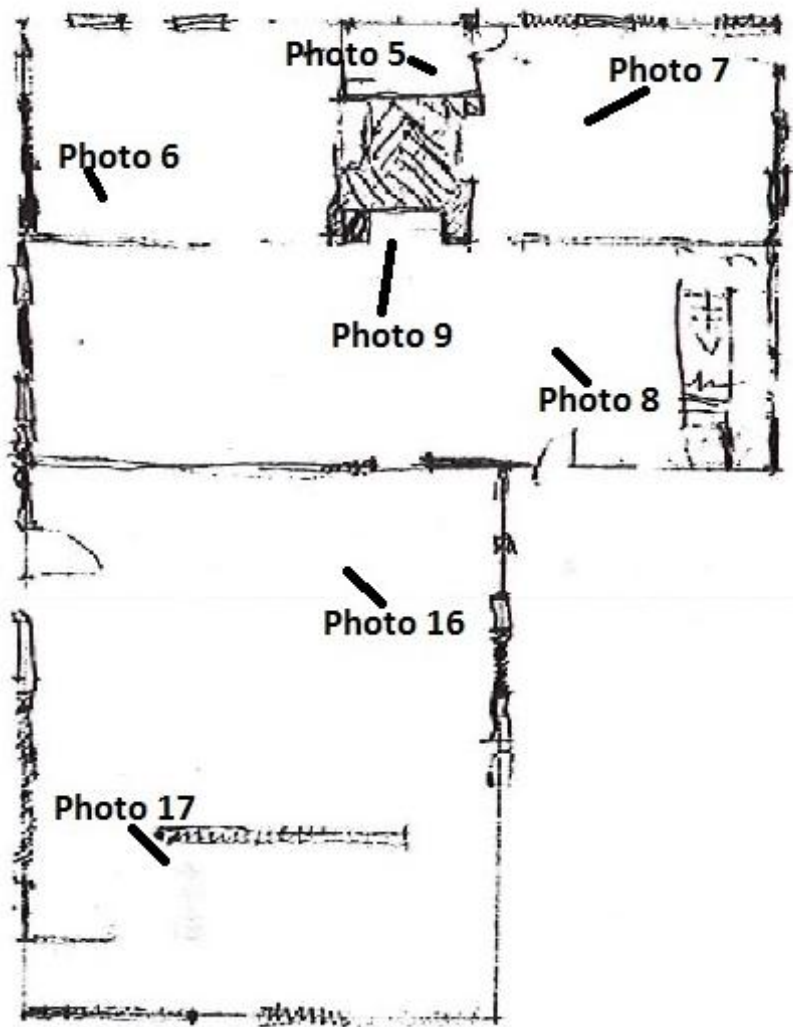


Figure 5. Interior Photo Key, First Floor.

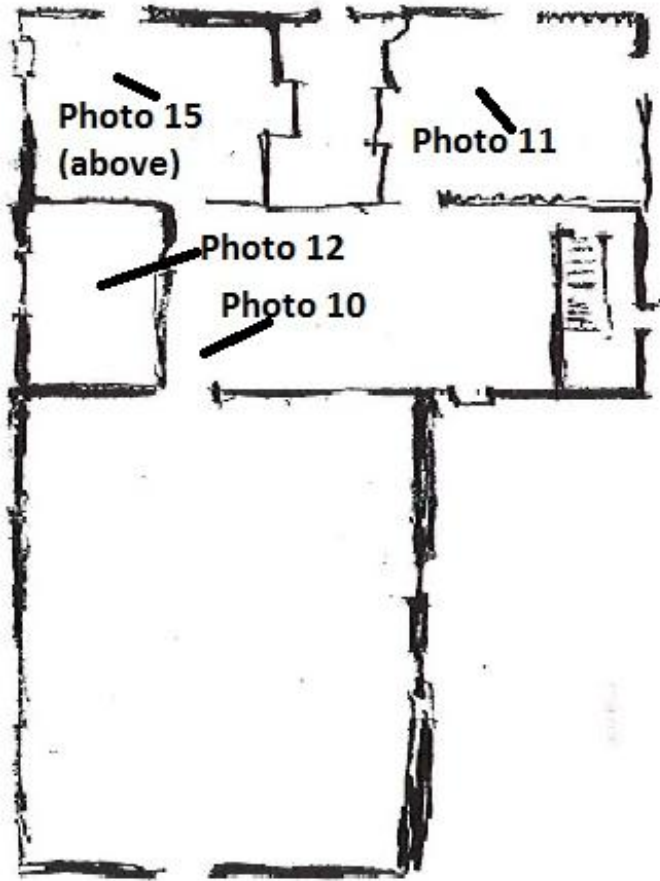


Figure 6. Interior Photo Key, Second Floor.

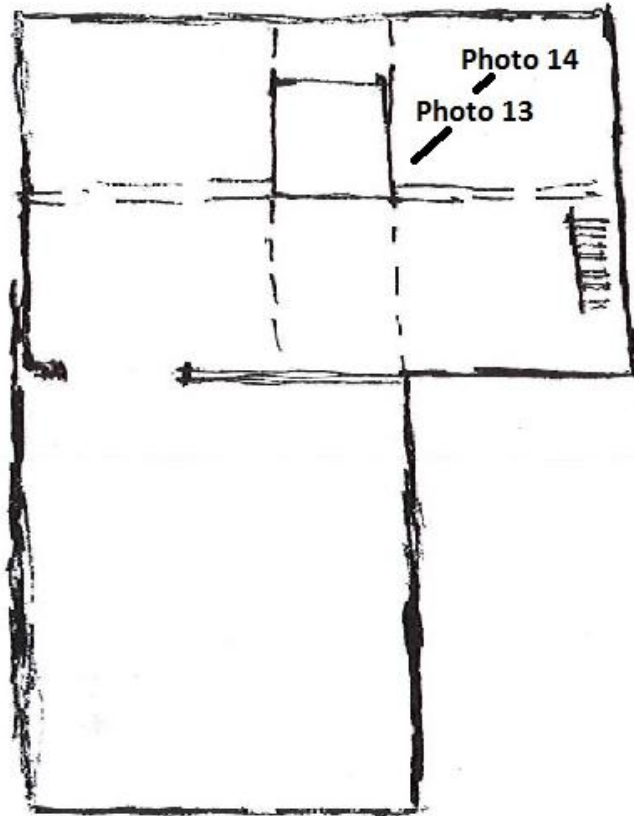


Figure 7. Interior Photo Key, Attic Level.

















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Baldwin, Amos, House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Litchfield

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/27/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/12/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000450

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 7/19/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

June 1, 2016

RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 3 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Mr. Roger Reed  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Subject: Amos Baldwin House, Litchfield County, Connecticut, National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Reed:

The following National Register nomination materials are submitted for your review:

- Printed cover sheet
- CD of National Register text. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Amos Baldwin House to the National Register of Historic Places.
- CD of Digital Photographs

This National Register nomination was approved by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on March 30, 2015. The nomination was initiated by the property owners and no letters of objection were received during the noticing process.

If you have any questions, or if this office can be of assistance, please call Jenny Scofield at 860-256-2766.

Sincerely,

Jenny Scofield,  
National Register and State Register Coordinator

Enclosures

State Historic Preservation Office

One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.256.2800 | [Cultureandtourism.org](http://Cultureandtourism.org)

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