

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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OCT 30 1992

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 Chapman, David, Farmstead
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 128 Stoddards Wharf Road NA not for publication
city, town Ledyard NA vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06339

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 | 4 | 0 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | | sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | | structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | | objects |
| | | 4 | 0 Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Ledyard, Conn 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.
Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission Date 10/23/92

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:)
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

William Byer 12/14/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility/
storage/field/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The David Chapman Farmstead consists of a farmhouse, built in the Cape form with a gambrel roof, a large barn, and several outbuildings. The house faces south from a rise above Stoddards Wharf Road (Photograph #1). Behind the house the outbuildings form a level farmyard open to the east side (Photograph #s 2, 3, 4). The land slopes away to the east where can be found the remains of a stone-walled pentway, which ran to Billings-Avery Brook. Since the late nineteenth century, the brook has been dammed; its millpond was enlarged in the 1980s as part of a reservoir system. The only other change to the historic appearance of the farmstead and its surroundings was the re-routing of the dirt driveway about 1920. Now running directly from the road past the east side of the house, it formerly entered on the west and passed across the front yard.

The house was constructed in two sections. The east end was built first about 1744 with a rubblestone foundation in the cellar below grade chinked with clay, which is capped with granite blocks. It was a one-room house with a loft accessed by a ladder. The remains of the latter feature are still attached to a beam in the ceiling. The cellar was reached through a trapdoor in the floor or from an external hatchway. The west end was added by 1756 with a small shed-roofed ell. Probably at this time the entire gambrel roof was installed. The attic, now divided into two rooms, was then open. The only exterior change to the building has been the extension of the ell across the rear elevation.

The large barn at the rear of the farmyard has an east-west orientation. A long gable-roofed structure, it was built with standard braced bents with a hayloft on the east end. The two other buildings that form the west side of the yard are a gable-roofed shed and a privy. The barn framing has been repaired and the exterior sheathing replaced but the other outbuildings are in substantially original condition.

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

Period of Significance

c. 1744 - 1780
c. 1744 - 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1746/c.1756

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.

The David Chapman Farmstead is a significant integral part of the agricultural heritage of Ledyard. A representative example of the holdings of a humble subsistence farmer, it has retained its key eighteenth-century buildings, the gambrel-roofed farmhouse and the large barn, which clearly convey their period associations. The later outbuildings add to the historic character of the property and demonstrate its continued use for agricultural purposes at least through the nineteenth century. With its exterior integrity of form, materials, and siting, the Chapman House illustrates the common Ledyard practice of building a house in several stages. Although the barn may have been repaired or partially rebuilt, it has integrity of form and has retained its traditional framing system.

The historic context for this resource is identified and described in the Multiple Resource Nomination Form in E-I., Agriculture, and meets the registration requirements for the property type, Eighteenth-Century Farmsteads.

David Chapman (1719-1805) was the eldest son of William and Mercy Chapman. Although he was a direct descendant of a New London proprietor, William Chapman, he began farming in a modest way by buying several parcels of land here. The first was little more than an acre which he purchased in 1743 from William Rouse, a neighboring blacksmith, probably later his father-in-law. An additional 12+-acre lot was purchased the following year from William Morgan who had a large farm to the west. (See accompanying nomination for the Avery Homestead.) Since David married that year, it is probable that the one-room east end of the house was completed at that time. He and his wife, the former Patience Rouse, had eight children; six were born by the time he expanded the house to its present size in 1756. (The date is inscribed on an interior beam.) In 1796 David deeded the east half of the house to his youngest son, Asa. Two years later he handed over the 600-square-foot barn, possibly the extant building. Asa, who had ten acres of his own to the west, and his brother Levi inherited this property when their father died in 1805. After Asa died in 1825, his widow, Eunice, remarried and in 1848 sold the farm, then consisting of 27 acres on both sides of the road, out of the family. It has passed through a number of owners since that time, with generally decreasing acreage. They included the man who ran a sawmill on the nearby brook in the early twentieth century.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Multiple Property Documentation Form that accompnys this nomination (Section I).

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Bill Library, Ledyard, CT

10. Geographical Data

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UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the land records of the Town Clerk's office in the Ledyard Town Hall in Volume 192:87.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the land and buildings from the period of significance that remain associated with the David Chapman Farmstead.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Jan Cunningham, National Register Consultant

organization Cunningham Associates Ltd. date 4/25/92

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