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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Stoddard, Captain Mark, Farmstead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 24 Vinegar Hill Road N/A not for publication
city, town Ledyard (Gales Ferry) N/A vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06335

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources in Ledyard, Conn.

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.

Signature of certifying official

10/23/92
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau John W. Shanahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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:)

entered in the
National Register

12/14/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
outbuilding/field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof wood shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Captain Mark Stoddard Farmstead is located in the midwestern section of Ledyard due east from Allyn's Point on the Thames River. A secluded site, it is accessed by a dirt road which runs from Vinegar Hill Road about a half-mile away. The farmstead occupies a fairly level ridge, which slopes away to the northwest and southeast and is surrounded by open fields and woodland (Photograph #1). The farmhouse, which faces south, is a Cape with an intersecting gable-roofed ell (Photograph #2). To the north and west are two barns (Photograph #3). The road and the surrounding fields are bordered by stone walls and horizontal board fencing. Other features of the site include a small privy at the rear (north) of the house and a stone-lined well in the center of the farmyard. A large maple tree is located off the southwest corner of the house.

The main block of the farmhouse has the standard form and plan of a Cape (28' x 38') built about 1770. It has a foundation of large quarried granite blocks above grade on the facade and east elevation, with rubblestone on the west and rear elevations. Below grade is a dry-laid rubblestone cellar under the west half only. The massive stone base for the chimney stack occupies almost a third of the cellar and is built into the north and east walls. The house walls are planked and clapboarded with a wide sill board. The central doorway in the five-bay facade has a double-leaf, six-panel door with a multi-paned transom. The characteristic small four-pane Cape windows are located in the eaves of the gable ends, on either side of a pair of six-over-six sash. One on the right of the west elevation is missing. Larger six-over-six windows are used elsewhere.

The first level of the ell, a typical feature of Ledyard Capes, is original construction, probably built traditionally with a shed roof (Photograph #4). It must have been enlarged to its present size within a few years because the finishes on the second floor (split lath and hair plaster) are early materials.

The floorplan of the first floor of the main block is typical, with a parlor and a hall on either side of the stack, with the original kitchen and its small auxiliary rooms across the rear. The only stairs rise from the west end of the kitchen. The second floor has never been modernized and retains its original floors and board and plaster walls.

The larger barn sits on a slight rise, and the ridge of its gable roof is oriented north and south. There are sliding doors on the east side which open onto to the

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Captain Mark Stoddard Farmstead, Ledyard, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 2

field there. A second set of hinged doors opens onto the farmyard on the west side. Its foundation of rough-quarried granite block reveals its eighteenth-century origins. The blocks here and in the connected retaining wall on the south end have irregular short drill holes tapped by hand, which are typical for that period. An unusual feature is the single block piers of granite used for intermediate supports along the center line instead of wooden posts; they also are hand-quarried and at least seven feet tall. Set at right angles at the north side of the yard is a later barn, probably constructed in the late nineteenth century, used to house carriages, wagons, and other farming equipment. It has a wide, open entrance on the south and a small cupola at the center of the ridge. The windows are multi-paned; one in the east gable is double-hung.

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

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

c. 1770 - 1875

c. 1770 - 1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

A rare survival of its type, a completely intact isolated eighteenth-century farmstead, the Captain Mark Stoddard Farmstead is a highly significant illustration of patterns of settlement and eighteenth-century agrarian folkways in Ledyard. No modern intrusion disturbs the perfection of its historic rural setting, which is fully evocative of its period and function. Although there are a few other secluded historic farms in Ledyard, none have this degree of integrity. Not only do the major associated outbuildings remain in their historic location, but taken together with the well-preserved farmhouse, they demonstrate traditional colonial construction methods and common farming practices that persisted in Ledyard well into the nineteenth century. The house and major barn, which define the plan and scope of the farmyard, are clearly co-equal in importance. Both are sited traditionally: the farmhouse to the south to maximize solar gain; the barn with its north-south axis has a sheltered southern entrance for the animal stalls at the lower level and opens both to the yard and the field beyond. Although this barn may have been partially rebuilt or repaired, it is evident from its foundation that it has retained the classic form, plan, and orientation for multi-purpose use that was typical in the 1700s, thus making a major contribution to the significance of this farmstead.

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

Captain Mark Stoddard (1743-1829), the son of Robert and Bathsheba Stoddard, was a direct descendant of the first Robert Stoddard in Ledyard. Mark, who served in the Revolution at Bunker Hill, married Lucy Allyn in 1768, one of several intermarriages between these two leading families; his land may have been part of the original Allyn grant. His youngest son, Stephen (1788-1866), received the farm by deed of gift in 1827. It passed to his son, Stephen M. (1811-1879), who made several whaling voyages out of New London as a young man. In turn, he willed all of his real estate and "neat stock" to his second son, James Allyn Stoddard (1848-1927), doubtless because his eldest, Ebnenezzer, who might have inherited, had left Ledyard for a life at sea. Third officer on the Kearsage during the Civil War, he served as sailing master of the vessel during the famous sea battle with the Alabama off the coast of France. James, who could not take full possession until his mother died and his sister married, sold the farm in 1919. It passed undivided through several owners and was purchased by the present owner in 1983.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Multiple Property Documentation Form that accompanys 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 130

UTM References

A

1	8
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7	4	5	4	1	0
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4	5	9	0	9	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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7	4	6	1	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	9	1	5	9	0
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B

1	8
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7	4	5	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	9	1	4	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

D

1	8
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7	4	6	4	0	0
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4	5	9	0	6	7	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the Ledyard land records located in the Town Clerk's office in the Ledyard Town Hall in Volume 128:347.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass all the land and buildings that remain from the period of significance that were associated with the Captain Mark Stoddard 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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