

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Williams House

Other names/site number: Lacey Farm, Lacey House, Williams Farm

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: 5 Williams Road

City or town: New Fairfield State: CT County: Fairfield

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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>Stacy Vaizo</u>	<u>2/24/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>DSHPO, CT State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
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:)

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

5/4/14
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>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early Republic: Federal

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone: Granite, Wood: Weatherboard, Asphalt,
Other: Brick Chimneys

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Williams House in New Fairfield is a stately, two-and-a-half-story, timber-framed dwelling that stands perched upon a small rise, fronted by Williams Road in a rural, residential setting. The property is located just outside of the main downtown center, amidst rolling fields and accompanied by other houses that represent a variety of architectural periods. The wood clapboard-clad, caves-front building with its five bays and paired chimneys is rooted in the Federal style, but the recessed entryway, trim work, and cornice returns also suggest transition to the Greek Revival period. The exact date of the building's construction is unknown, as early documentation burned in an 1867 fire that destroyed the original town hall. After examining the building, various craftspeople and architectural historians believe that it was constructed sometime between 1800 and 1835. The Williams House, a single-family residence throughout most of its existence, is exceptionally well-preserved and retains integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Narrative Description

The house rests on its original foundation of cut granite, and is capped by a gabled roof of moderate pitch, covered in asphalt shingle. Of the two brick chimneys, the eastern-most is original, while the western-most has been reconstructed and capped. The main structure is a five-by-two-bay block, measuring 44 feet wide and 30 feet deep, with an original, one-story shed addition adjoined to the west-facing elevation. This addition extends the full depth of the house, and contains one small, double-hung, six-over-six window facing north, and two windows of the same type with irregular lateral spacing placed to the right of a two-paneled replacement wood door, facing west (Photograph 1). A stone walkway extends from this entrance to the short driveway, which runs perpendicular with the road. A second stone walkway leads along the perimeter of the house to the formal entryway of the principal façade. Just before the land slopes to the road below, there are three mature sugar maples, said to have been planted for each family that lived in the house.

The north-facing façade is nearly symmetrical, with the formal entryway and central, second-story window slightly offset to the east (Photograph 2). The eight windows which flank the central bay are vertically and horizontally aligned. All nine double-hung, six-over-six windows are original to the house and are encased in simple beaded trim, and capped by a protruding trim piece supported by a crown moulding. The second story windows are separated from the roofline by a flat, thick frieze band with a bed moulding to the eaves. Two steps rise to the recessed, formal entryway, which contains an original wood door with six raised and moulded panels, flanked on either side by a vertical row of five rectangular sidelights (Photograph 4). The door and sidelight casings are tall and narrow in proportion with a deep run moulding at the center and square corner blocks with raised medallions at the top. A closer look at this trim work reveals a somewhat awkward intersection, with the outermost trim piece and medallions cut in half, suggesting that this Greek Revival entryway was fit accordingly and added to the already present Federal structure (Photograph 5). Two thick, square pilasters support the broad entablature composed of two large horizontally stacked trim boards, adorned with a thin, flat-stock trim piece separating the architrave from the frieze, and a simple crown moulding with a protruding cap. To the right of the entryway is a small, reproduction, lantern-style sconce.

The thick frieze band and bed moulding are also present beneath each of the gabled ends, on the east and west-facing elevations, terminating beneath each of the four cornice returns. Second-story windows are of the same type as those that exist on the north-facing façade. On each elevation, there are two of these, spaced widely apart. The two attic windows above are also the same on both the east and west-facing elevations (Photographs 1, 3). They are the same type and approximately the same size as the smaller windows found within the shed addition, though displaying slightly narrower trim. The first story of the east-facing elevation contains two windows of the same type as found on the second story, aligned vertically and horizontally. Slightly north of central to this elevation is a metal bulkhead, which interrupts a dry-laid, stone

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rubble wall, approximately two feet in height, which runs from north to south and is approximately six feet out from the house (Photograph 6).

Extending from the south-facing elevation is a partially-finished, open yet sheltered porch. The intention of the homeowners is to continue to build this new porch utilizing what is believed to be the original porch footprint. The south-facing elevation has only four windows. The two second-story windows and the eastern-most window on the first story are original and are of the same type as those found on the first and second stories on each of the other elevations. The second-story windows are located within the western half of the elevation, and the first-story window of this type is located just east of central. Just west of central is a six-light wood replacement door which leads onto the porch, and is flanked on the left by the only replacement window in the entire house, a horizontally-oriented, five-by-four picture window, which was installed in 1972 to accompany the interior kitchen remodel (Photograph 3). Before this window was added, there existed two of the same original type found throughout the rest of the first and second stories.

Interior

The basic interior layout of the Williams House is a center hall, double parlor Colonial with a lateral shed addition that houses a pantry, half-bath, and mudroom. The front entry features a main stairway and entry hall that is immediately flanked by a formal parlor to the east and an informal living room to the west. Beyond the front staircase and entry hall in the rear of the house is the kitchen, dining room, and a small office space. Between the kitchen and dining room is the secondary stair and a mirrored basement stair (1st Floor Plan). The second floor is also sectioned into quadrants, and contains three bedrooms with the fourth space renovated to accommodate the master and guest bathrooms. A full, walk-up attic is accessible by a stair located between the guest bath and rear hallway (2nd Floor Plan).

In addition to the chestnut floors and dominant presence of original plaster, the house has retained many other character-defining interior features. Four Rumford fireplaces still contain their original marble and granite hearths, and display both Federal and Greek Revival-influenced surrounds, further emphasizing the integration of these two periods throughout this house (Photographs 7, 8, 9, 10). Arguably the most impressive of these fireplaces is located in the kitchen, and still includes the original bread oven and wood cubby, with the addition of a 1970s wood-burning stove (Photograph 7). Throughout the first story are also the original, five-paneled doors with their Norfolk thumb latches still intact (Photographs 11, 12). The second story contains doors that are commonly associated with the Greek Revival period, exhibiting two, side-by-side vertical panels that run the length of the door (Photograph 13). It is unknown whether or not these doors are original to the house, but it is likely that they were added later-on as a stylistic update. All original window sash are accompanied by a narrow sill with thin-beaded, apron casing and Greek Revival-era backband trim. The formal parlor, located in the northeast corner of the first story, also contains complementary panel trim beneath all three windows (Photograph 14). A particularly notable feature is the pair of large chimney foundations located in the basement, which were constructed using massive timbers laid between

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alternating rows of stone rubble and lime mortar (Photograph 15). The attic displays a combination of hewn and sawn structural members, joined together with original pegs. Original rafters are butted at the peak with wide sheathing boards laid overtop (Photograph 16).

Like the exterior of the Williams House, the interior has also been minimally altered. The majority of changes occurred around 1972, when the Higgins family first moved in. In addition to replacing the two noted windows, kitchen alterations included the construction of simple, custom-built wooden upper and lower cabinets to replace the old dry sink, which was relocated and is still present in the pantry (Photographs 17, 18). The existing second-story bathrooms were carved out of what had originally been a fourth bedroom.

Beginning in 2010, the current owners completed an impressive array of interior and exterior projects to restore and rehabilitate various materials and spaces. Interior work included removal of carpets and restoration of the wide-board chestnut floors, which are original throughout the majority of the house (Photograph 19). Original chestnut boards from the attic were utilized to reconstruct the kitchen floor and to repair sections in the office, and new yet compatible wide-plank oak flooring was installed in the mudroom and half bath on the first floor. In addition to expanding the existing laundry room to accommodate a half-bath, an original exterior entrance was reinstated as well as a wall that had been torn out in 1972. Sections of original plaster, which composes approximately 90 percent of the house's walls, were also restored. On the exterior, projects included removal of the vinyl siding that had been installed in 1980, and restoration of the original clapboards and trim work using epoxy. The homeowners also reconstructed the window trim using a "ghost" paint profile as evidence of what had originally existed, and they repointed the original granite foundation. Projects-in-progress include restoring all of the original window sashes, and installing new custom, flush-mount storm windows. The current owners also selected exterior and interior Federal-period paint schemes, as recommended by staff at *Historic New England*.

Outbuildings

Southwest of the house, in close proximity, is a non-contributing barn that was reconstructed in the mid-1970s by the Higgins family (Photograph 20). There had existed several outbuildings in this general vicinity which were the last remnants of the property's long-standing history as a working dairy farm. After demolishing these structures, the Higgins' salvaged several pieces of the main c. 1880s barn to integrate with the new structure, including the board-and-batten siding, a second-story sliding hay-baling door, window trim, the six-paned gable window, and some of the roof sheathing. The rest of the structure, including the entire circular-sawn timber frame, was reconstructed using new materials in a new location roughly 150 feet southeast from its previous setting. The gable-front barn is approximately 21 feet wide by 27 feet deep, and is clad in red-painted, board-and-batten wood siding, with an asphalt-covered roof. The north-facing elevation contains a pair of large, hinged, vertical-plank wooden doors. A large, sliding, vertical-plank door, original to the 1880s barn, is located at the northern-most portion of the east-facing elevation. To the left of this door is a row of three, small, single-pane windows, containing new glass within the simple historic trim. The same window fenestration exists on the opposite, west-

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facing elevation. The south-facing elevation contains two long, narrow modern windows, arranged side-by-side beneath the gable. The barn contains a workshop area on the ground level, with a steep staircase leading to a lofty storage area. Although this structure includes some materials from the historic barn, the majority of its fabric is new and therefore does not have direct association with the house and property.

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

Period of Significance

c.1830 – 1963

Significant Dates

c.1830 – construction of the building

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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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 Williams House is locally significant under Criterion C as a strong example of an early New England farmhouse that shows transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The interior and exterior fabric is remarkably intact, and the building exhibits original craftsmanship and materials that highlight it as an exceptional example of early American architecture. The building is also notable for having been part of a prominent farm in New Fairfield from early-on in the town's establishment, as well as having housed a local school teacher and a decorated Civil War veteran. Its period of significance begins c.1830 with the building's construction. As was common with early New England farms, the Williams House is located a short distance from the main downtown center of New Fairfield. Its exact date of construction and information about who built it is unknown, as an 1867 fire at the New Fairfield Town Hall destroyed all existing records. However, a deed transfer from 1835 was located in Danbury's town records, and indicates that the earliest known occupant of the house was named Benjamin Carl. The house with its property and accompanying outbuildings went through six families before it was sold to present owners Dana and Stacey Kenny in 2010. Initially, the house was accessed by a small dirt road, which was then extended as the surrounding area experienced further development beginning around the middle of the twentieth century. Despite this growth, the road has remained modest in scale. Although the property associated with the Williams House has decreased, the immediate surrounding area has remained rural in character, and the bucolic landscape is still reminiscent of the house's early days.

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

Criterion C. The architectural fusion exhibited by the Williams House is representative of a general trend that was occurring in America throughout the first decades of the nineteenth century. Until this time, building designs were greatly influenced by English precedent, transported by the settlers into their new country. Following the Revolutionary War, styles began to reflect the newly independent country, beginning with what is known as the "Federal" period. Buildings that date from this period are typically distinguished by taugth, ordered façades, and gracefully executed components such as Palladian windows and slender columns. Although the Federal style still references the English influence of the early Colonial days with its massing and fenestration, the emphasis on distilled detail and ordered elements sets it apart from the richly adorned buildings of the Georgian period in America.

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While the five-by-two-bay, eaves front orientation with massive paired chimney stacks identifies the Williams House as a good example of Federal architecture (Photograph 1), other prominent details suggest a shift toward the Greek Revival style of the early to mid-1800s. The most notable is the front entryway, with its recessed position and staunch, square pilasters distinguishing it as a later interpretation from the typical Federal entryway, which would have been either flush with or projecting from the building, with elements that were generally more slender and refined (Photograph 4).¹ It is unknown whether or not this entryway is original to the house, but more likely it was added to reflect the stylistic shift to the Greek Revival period, as was a common practice and is further evidenced by the appearance of the entryway trim work being modified to fit accordingly within the existing structure (Photograph 5). Another treatment which suggests Greek Revival influence is the thick, flat frieze band which runs directly above the second-story windows on the north and south-facing elevations, terminating with the cornice returns beneath each of the gable ends.

The interior also contains a combination of Federal and Greek Revival elements, most notably regarding the fireplace surrounds. The large hearth in the kitchen, complete with its original bread oven and wood box, displays a simple, bare wood surround, flat in profile with a delicate mantel piece which suggests Federal influence (Photograph 7). Similarly, the surround located in the informal living room is generally flush with subtle beading and a narrow, rounded mantel (Photograph 9). The dining room fireplace displays a surround similar to that which is found in the living room, though smaller in scale (Photograph 10). In contrast, the surround located in the formal parlor exhibits thicker, more deeply carved trim work and projecting pilaster supports beneath a deep, moulded mantel piece, illustrating strong Greek Revival influence (Photograph 8). In addition to the collection of diverse surround treatments, the interior doors also reflect the shifting style of the era. All doors throughout the first floor, displaying five shallow panels, are characteristically Federal (Photograph 11), while doors on the second floor reflect Greek Revival style, containing two vertical panels placed side-by-side (Photograph 13). Although it is difficult to state whether or not the second floor doors date to the building's initial construction, their presence nevertheless continues to emphasize the transitional quality of this house.

The Greek Revival period in America came about as a result of the search for a uniquely American way of building. Although the grounding elements of this architectural style grew from Classical influence, the American interpretation sought to create buildings that reflected a variety of sizes and uses, with designs that are simple yet pleasing and noble yet primitive. This versatility encouraged greater creativity within design, causing the architectural profession in America to gain significant momentum. The change to this new way of designing did not take effect immediately, as is evident from many buildings that were constructed during the first decades of the nineteenth century. A tension between tradition and progress lingered, and was especially present in the older, more rural parts of New England. These areas tended to resist change and instead built according to past Colonial methods, employing occasional updated details to reflect the "new" style.² This concept of incorporating updates with an existing building type is directly illustrated by the Williams House. Whether the Greek Revival features

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were part of the original design or were added later-on, the house stands as an excellent example of the transition between inherited and developing architecture within a rural context.

The Williams House is also one of the only intact examples of Federal architecture within New Fairfield, placing great importance on its preservation. Although the town carries with it a rich heritage, unfortunately much of its early architecture has been lost due to development. A drive through the town center readily reveals this, as nearly every building is either modern or has been renovated to the point of obscuring nearly all of the original fabric. Surrounding the center is a mixture of houses, representing a variety of architectural styles and periods. Although it is clear that this town has experienced a great deal of change since its beginnings, its rural character and the small scale of its buildings and roads has remained intact. The Williams House, with its remarkable combination of original spaces and materials, is one of a handful of properties that reference the town's first architectural era.

According to information obtained from deeds and historic records, the Williams House and the historically associated land functioned as a working farm from at least as early as 1835, through 1955. The first known owner, Benjamin Carl, sold the farm to Alanson Lacey and his wife, Abigail Hodge, in 1835. An early newspaper advertisement written by Zachariah Carl in 1831 describes the farm as including a variety of associated outbuildings, as was typical for this early era of small-scale agriculture:

“For sale, a farm in the north part of town of New Fairfield containing about 139 acres of meadow, plough, pasture and wood land; together with a good dwelling house, barn, cider mill and other out buildings, on said premises are good water privileges and an orchard containing 150 trees. Fences in good repair – terms made easy and any person wishing a desirable place would do well to call and examine for themselves.”³

Because early New England farms were maintained for subsistence rather than production, there tended to be a diverse collection of modest structures to support the range of livestock and crops. These buildings were usually arranged in a close configuration with the main house, with fields for grazing and cultivation stretching beyond.⁴

The farm remained active under the Lacey family, peaking at over 200 acres⁵, though a newspaper advertisement from 1882 suggests that portions of land were subdivided over the course of the mid-nineteenth century:

“The farm formerly owned by Alanson Lacey, situated in New Fairfield, consisting of about 45 acres of good land, nearly all of which can be mowed by machine. Plenty of fruit on the premises. Good house and outbuildings. For further particulars enquire of Leroy Barnum or Austin Vincent.”⁶

During this time in America, attention had shifted to the Civil War, and many families and communities were directly impacted. Alanson's and Abigail's ninth son, Sylvester, went on to

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enlist as a Private in Company A of the 11th Regiment Conn. Volunteers in 1861, acting at major battles in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina throughout his three-year term. The property remained in the Lacey family until 1867, when it was sold to David Stevens Barnum and his wife, Mary. David was also a Civil War veteran, having enlisted in Company K of the 23rd Regiment Conn. Volunteers in 1862. Through bouts of poor health contracted during his duty in Louisiana and his imprisonment in Brashear City, David continued farming before the property passed through several other branches of the Barnum family, finally remaining under the ownership of Charles Harrison Williams and his wife, Jennie Cullen, from 1911 through 1972.⁷

During the late-nineteenth century, farming practices in New England progressed and grew into an industry. With this advancement came mechanized production, larger barns, and greater focus on developing specific commodities for sale. This significant agricultural shift is illustrated by the Williams farm, as it became a locally important dairy and fruit crop operation after it was conveyed to Williams and Cullen. At the time, it encompassed 45 acres of orchards, farm land, and cattle grazing fields.⁸ In addition to contributing to the farming industry of New Fairfield, the Williams' were also well-known from Jennie's occupation as a local teacher. It is due to this lengthy time of prominence within the surrounding community that the property came to be known primarily under the Williams' name. Its lingering importance is also evident when travelling through the neighboring roads, many of which are located on land that was formerly included within the farm boundary. These roads, with names such as "Apple Blossom Lane" and "Old Farm Road," in addition to Williams Road itself, suggest the prominent presence of this farm within the town. Although associated farmland and outbuildings were sacrificed after the death of Charles in 1953, the Williams House has continued to thrive as a dwelling that exudes craft and materials that are beautifully intact, celebrating a story which encompasses nearly two centuries of architectural evolution.

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Endnotes

1. J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1924), 117.
2. Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), 163.
3. Zachariah Carl, "Land and Farm for Sale," *Danbury Recorder*, July 1, 1831 (information obtained by Carol Ballard of the New Fairfield Historical Society at the Danbury Historical Society in Danbury, CT, October 2000).
4. John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982), 157.
5. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road" (Informational sheet provided during Preserve New Fairfield Home and Garden Tour, August 19, 2012)
6. "For Sale, A Desirable Farm," *Danbury News*, October 25, 1882.
7. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road."
8. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carl, Zachariah. "Land and Farm for Sale." *Danbury Recorder*, July 1, 1831 (Obtained by Carol Ballard at the Danbury Historical Society in Danbury CT, October 2000).

"For Sale, A Desirable Farm." *Danbury News*, October 25, 1882.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944.

Kelly, Frederick J. *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1924.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Moody & O'Brien, Land Surveyors. *5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, CT*. [survey report]. 1" = 60'. New Canaan, CT: Office of Moody & O'Brien, 1996.

Preserve New Fairfield, Inc. "5 Williams Road." (Informational sheet provided during Preserve New Fairfield Home and Garden Tour, August 19, 2012).

Stilgoe, John R. *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: New Fairfield Historical Society, Preserve New Fairfield, Inc.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.14

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: 41.456146 | Longitude: -73.492544 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 625901 | Northing: 4590552 |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|

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2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The parcel boundary is defined by the borders illustrated on the attached Survey Report, completed by Moody & O'Brien Land Surveyors on September 16, 1996 for the First American Title Insurance Company.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the extent of the current parcel boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Ritter / Historic Preservation Specialist + Architectural Historian
organization: Hudson Valley Preservation Corp.
street & number: 29 Route 37 Center
city or town: Sherman state: CT zip code: 06784
e-mail kritter@hvpcorp.com
telephone: 413-281-4650
date: May 15, 2013

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.)

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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: Williams House

City or Vicinity: New Fairfield

County: Fairfield

State: CT

Photographer: Kate Ritter

Date Photographed: December 5, 2012

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

Photo #1 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0001)

North elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

Photo #2 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0002)

North elevation, camera facing south.

Photo #3 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0003)

South elevation (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #4 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0004)

Front entryway, camera facing south.

Photo #5 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0005)

Front entryway trim detail, camera facing southeast.

Photo #6 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0006)

Historic stone wall bordering east elevation, camera facing southwest.

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Photo #7 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0007)
Kitchen hearth, camera facing northwest.

Photo #8 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0008)
Parlor hearth, camera facing south.

Photo #9 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0009)
Living room hearth, camera facing southwest.

Photo #10 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0010)
Dining room hearth, camera facing northeast.

Photo #11 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0011)
First-story interior doors, camera facing north.

Photo #12 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0012)
Interior door latch detail, camera facing northeast.

Photo #13 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0013)
Second-story interior doors, camera facing east.

Photo #14 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0014)
Parlor window trim detail, camera facing northeast.

Photo #15 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0015)
Basement chimney foundations, camera facing southeast.

Photo #16 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0016)
Attic framing, camera facing southeast.

Photo #17 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0017)
Kitchen cabinets, camera facing southwest.

Photo #18 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0018)
Original dry sink relocated to pantry, camera facing south.

Photo #19 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0019)
Wideboard chestnut floorboards, camera facing northwest.

Photo #20 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0020)
Non-contributing barn, camera facing southeast.

Williams House
Name of Property

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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.

Williams House
Name of Property

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¹ J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1924), 117.

² Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), 163.

³ Zachariah Carl, "Land and Farm for Sale," *Danbury Recorder*, July 1, 1831 (information obtained by Carol Ballard of the New Fairfield Historical Society at the Danbury Historical Society in Danbury, CT, October 2000).

⁴ John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982), 157.

⁵ Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road" (Informational sheet provided during Preserve New Fairfield Home and Garden Tour, August 19, 2012)


⁶ "For Sale, A Desirable Farm," *Danbury News*, October 25, 1882.




⁷ Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road."


⁸ Preserve New Fairfield, "5 Williams Road."

5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812 – Google Maps

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New Fairfield, CT 06812 40 ft N

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Map Traffic

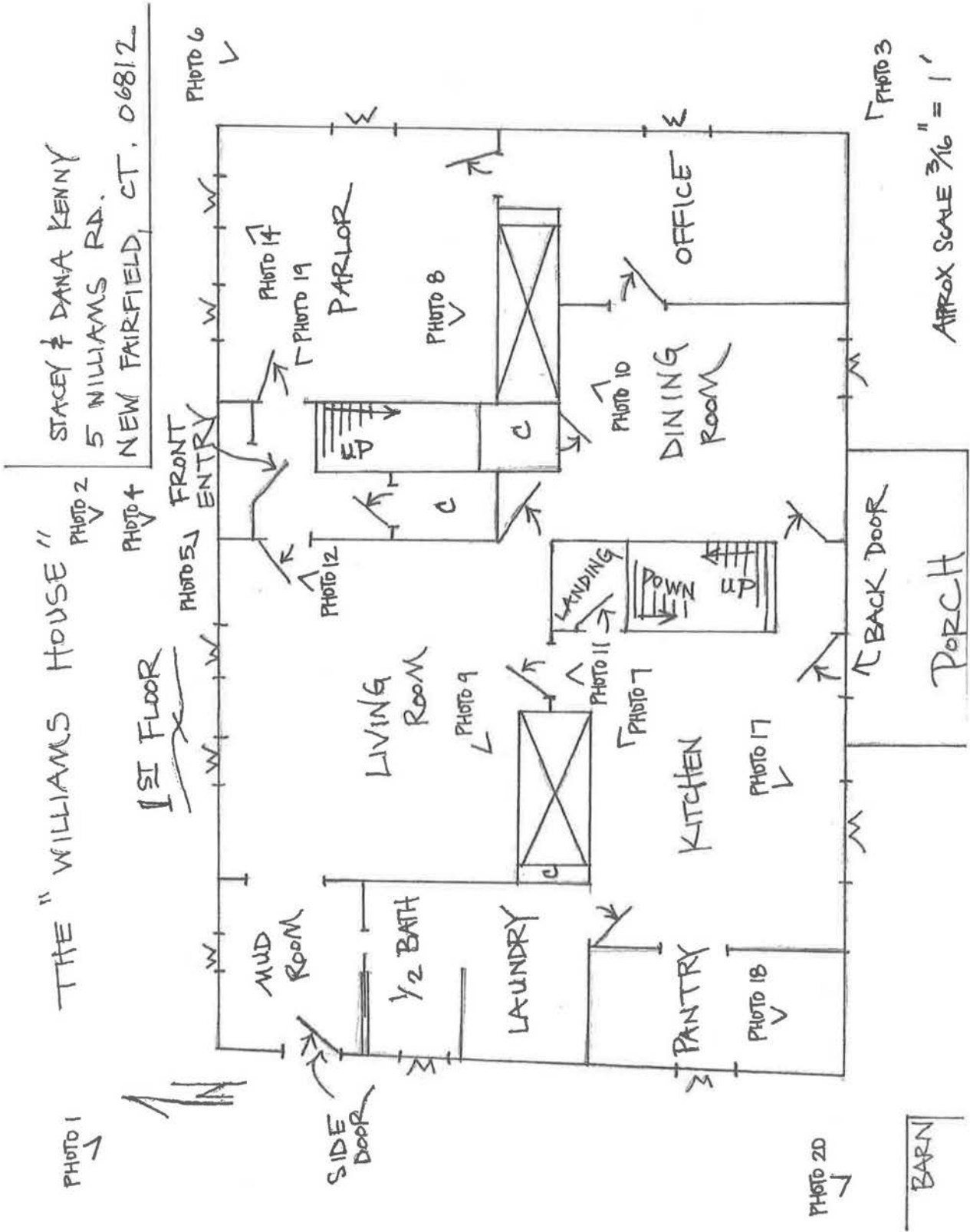
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THE "WILLIAMS HOUSE"

STACEY & DANA KENNY
5 WILLIAMS RD.
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT. 06812

1st FLOOR



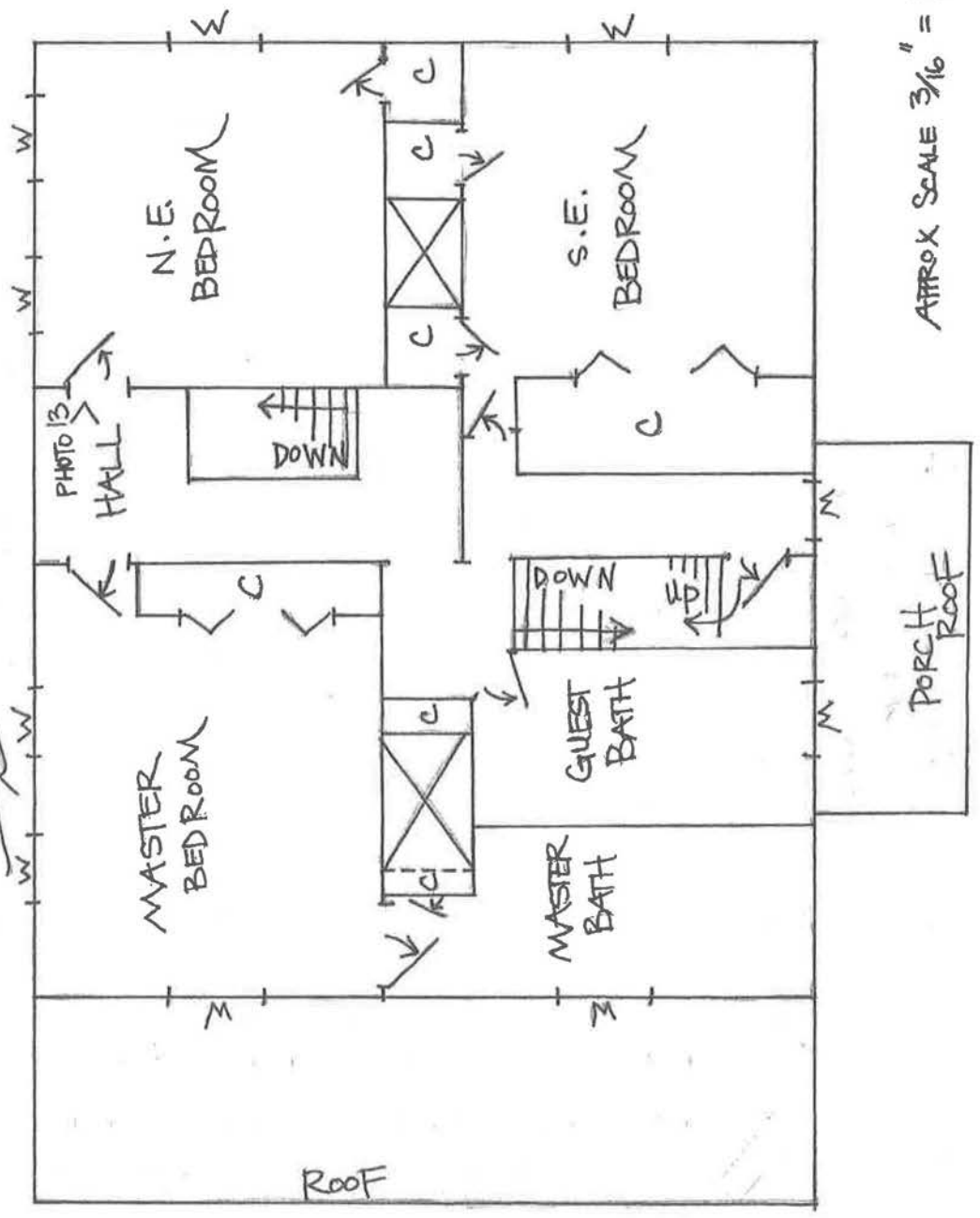
APPROX SCALE $\frac{3}{16}$ " = 1'

BARN

"THE WILLIAMS HOUSE"

STACEY & DANA KENNY
5 WILLIAMS RD.
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT. 06812

2ND FLOOR

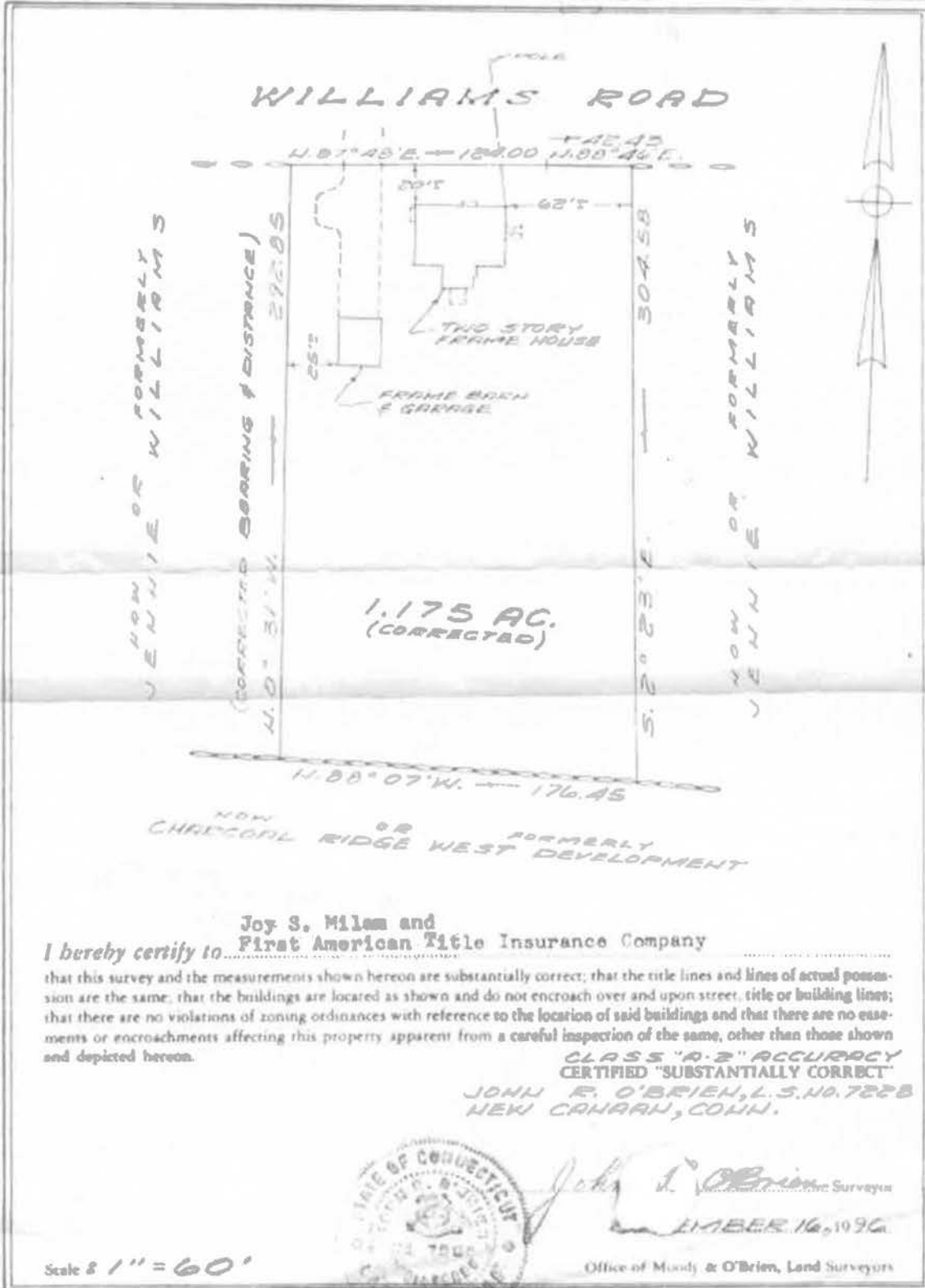


APPROX SCALE 3/16" = 1'

Survey Report

Property surveyed for Joy S. Milan

Location 5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, Connecticut.
Refer to Map #1580 on file in the New Fairfield Land Records.



Joy S. Milan and
First American Title Insurance Company

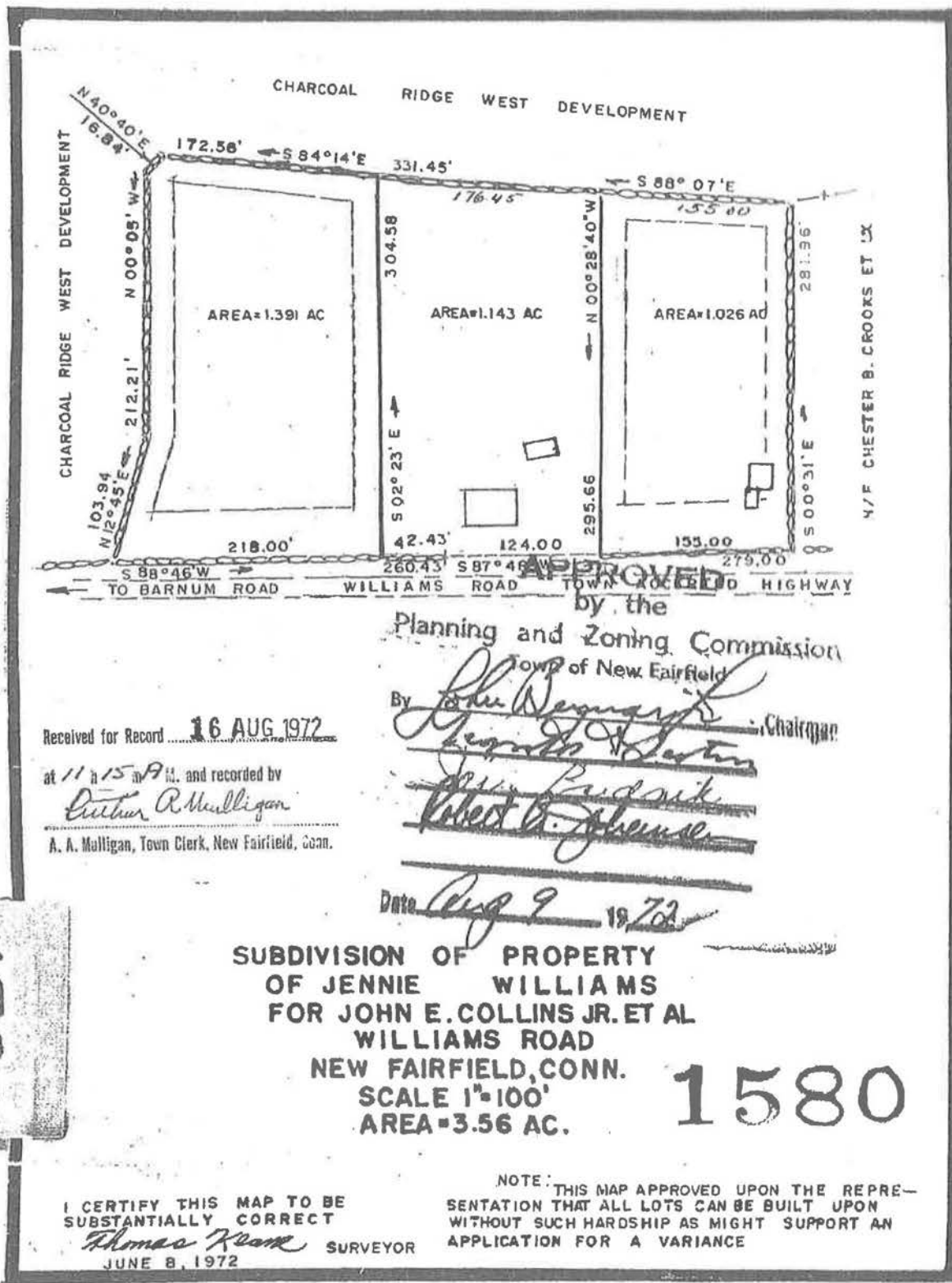
I hereby certify to... that this survey and the measurements shown hereon are substantially correct; that the title lines and lines of actual possession are the same; that the buildings are located as shown and do not encroach over and upon street, title or building lines; that there are no violations of zoning ordinances with reference to the location of said buildings and that there are no easements or encroachments affecting this property apparent from a careful inspection of the same, other than those shown and depicted hereon.

CLASS "A-2" ACCURACY
CERTIFIED "SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT"
JOHN R. O'BRIEN, L.S. NO. 7228
NEW CANAAN, CONN.



John R. O'Brien, Surveyor
DECEMBER 16, 1996

Office of Mundy & O'Brien, Land Surveyors



APPROVED
by the
Planning and Zoning Commission
Town of New Fairfield

By *John Deming* Chairman
Robert A. Johnson
John P. ...

Received for Record 16 AUG 1972
at 11:15 AM and recorded by
Arthur A. Mulligan
A. A. Mulligan, Town Clerk, New Fairfield, Conn.

Date Aug 9 1972

**SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY
OF JENNIE WILLIAMS
FOR JOHN E. COLLINS JR. ET AL
WILLIAMS ROAD
NEW FAIRFIELD, CONN.
SCALE 1"=100'
AREA=3.56 AC.**

1580

1580

I CERTIFY THIS MAP TO BE
SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT
Thomas Ryan SURVEYOR
JUNE 8, 1972

NOTE: THIS MAP APPROVED UPON THE REPRESENTATION THAT ALL LOTS CAN BE BUILT UPON WITHOUT SUCH HARDSHIP AS MIGHT SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE









5
WILLIAMS ROAD

















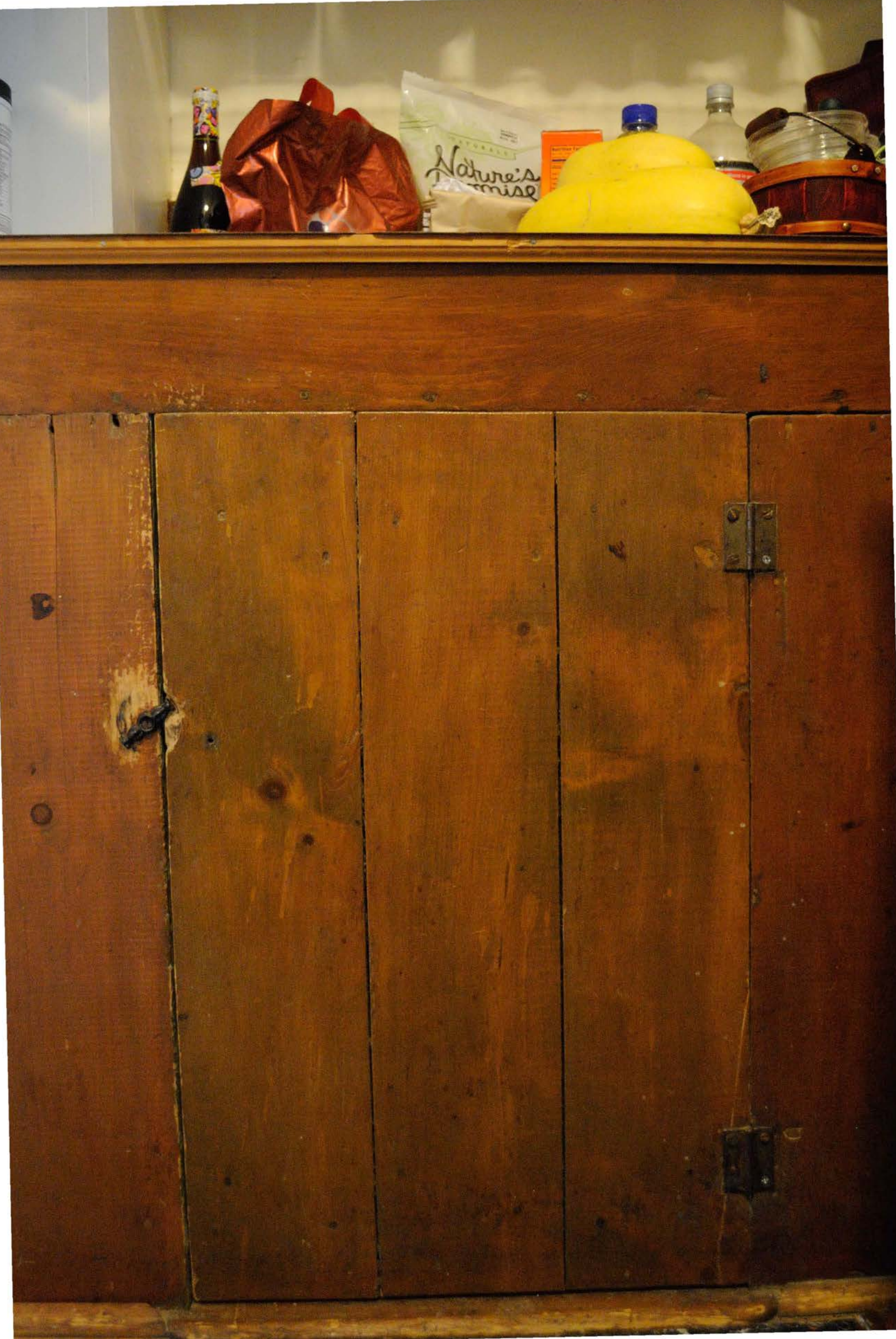
















National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 3/18/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/04/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000525

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/4/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The revised nomination minimally addressed
issues raised in the return by eliminating references
to Criterion A & just focusing on C. Lack
of more interior photographs leaves some questions
about important interior features.

RECOM./CRITERIA C

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/4/14

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 6/07/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/02/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/17/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/24/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000525

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:

See Return Sheet

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER *[Signature]*

DISCIPLINE *Historic*

TELEPHONE _____

DATE *7/24/13*

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Williams House, 5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, CT
Reference Number: 13000525

Reason for Return:

The nomination is proposed for listing under Criterion A (Agriculture, Education, Military) and C (Architecture). The Period of Significance proposed is c.1800-1955. The end date marks when all farming activities ceased. The historic name of the property derives from the Williams family, who owned the property from 1911 until 1972.

The property is located in a suburban development and retains no integrity under Agriculture with no surviving outbuildings or agricultural acreage, even from the early 1900s when farm was considerably diminished. The fact that it was used as a farmhouse does not support significance under Agriculture. Similarly, there does not appear to be any justification that the property is significant under Education because Jennie Williams was a local teacher for many years. Finally, the fact that the son of an early owner, as well as a later owner, served in the Civil War does not support significance under Military. Therefore, the property does not appear to be eligible under Criterion A (Event).

Under Criterion C (architecture), the construction history is not fully documented. The house is believed to have been built in c.1800, but there is no information on the first owner, or why that date was arrived at. It is noted that Benjamin Carl offered the house for sale first in 1831, and that it was purchased by Alanson Lacey and his wife in 1835. They sold the house to David Barnum in 1867, and the property remained in that family until Charles Williams and his wife Jennie purchased it in 1911. Williams changed the use of the farmstead for dairy and orchards.

It is not unreasonable to provide an estimated date of construction from when the period of ownership when it was first used as a farm. It also seems likely that the significant Greek Revival

style changes date from circa 1835 when the Lacey's acquired the property as the changes are similar to plates in builder's guides by Asher Benjamin published at that time. This would limit the period of significance under Criterion C to c.1800 (?) to c.1835.

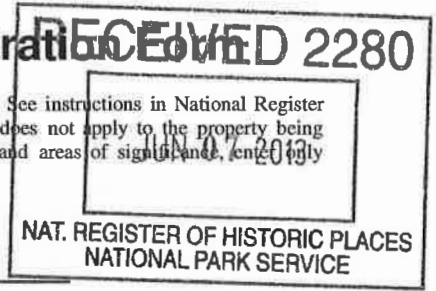
In Section 7, Description, there appears to be an important omission in the architectural history of the house. No mention is made of a central chimney that may have existed in the original house, nor is there any description of the central hall and staircase. These are important features that would help date the house and support its architectural significance.



Roger G. Reed, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2278
Roger_Reed@nps.gov

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Williams House
 Other names/site number: Lacey Farm, Lacey House, Williams Farm
 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: 5 Williams Road
 City or town: New Fairfield State: CT County: Fairfield
 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

Stacey Vairo / DSHPO 6/3/13
 Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
CT State Historic Preservation Office
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 Signature of commenting official: Date

 Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Williams House
Name of Property

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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 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

Returned

Williams House
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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Returned

Williams House
Name of Property

Fairfield County, CT
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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early Republic: Federal

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone: Granite, Wood: Weatherboard, Asphalt,
Other: Brick Chimneys

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Williams House in New Fairfield is a stately, two-and-a-half-story, timber-framed dwelling that stands perched upon a small rise, fronted by Williams Road in a rural, residential setting. The property is located just outside of the main downtown center, amidst rolling fields and accompanied by other houses that represent a variety of architectural periods. The wood clapboard-clad, eaves-front building with its five bays and paired chimneys is rooted in the Federal style, but the recessed entryway, trim work, and cornice returns also suggest transition to the Greek Revival period. The exact date of the building's construction is unknown, as early documentation burned in an 1867 fire that destroyed the original town hall. After examining the building, various craftspeople and architectural historians believe that it was constructed sometime between 1800 and 1825. The Williams House, a single-family residence throughout most of its existence, is exceptionally well-preserved and retains integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Williams House
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Narrative Description

The house rests on its original foundation of cut granite, and is capped by a gabled roof of moderate pitch, covered in asphalt shingle. Of the two brick chimneys, the eastern-most is original, while the western-most has been reconstructed and capped. The main structure is a five-by-two-bay block, measuring 44 feet wide and 30 feet deep, with an original, one-story shed addition adjoined to the west-facing elevation. This addition extends the full depth of the house, and contains one small, double-hung, six-over-six window facing north, and two windows of the same type with irregular lateral spacing placed to the right of a two-paneled replacement wood door, facing west (Photograph 1). A stone walkway extends from this entrance to the short driveway, which runs perpendicular with the road. A second stone walkway leads along the perimeter of the house to the formal entryway of the principal façade. Just before the land slopes to the road below, there are three mature sugar maples, said to have been planted for each family that lived in the house.

The north-facing façade is nearly symmetrical, with the formal entryway and central, second-story window slightly offset to the east (Photograph 2). The eight windows which flank the central bay are vertically and horizontally aligned. All nine double-hung, six-over-six windows are original to the house and are encased in simple beaded trim, and capped by a protruding trim piece supported by a crown moulding. The second story windows are separated from the roofline by a flat, thick frieze band with a bed moulding to the eaves. Two steps rise to the recessed, formal entryway, which contains an original wood door with six raised and molded panels, flanked on either side by a vertical row of five rectangular sidelights (Photograph 4). The door and sidelight casings are tall and narrow in proportion with a deep run moulding at the center and square corner blocks with raised medallions at the top. A closer look at this trim work reveals a somewhat awkward intersection, with the outermost trim piece and medallions cut in half, suggesting that this Greek Revival entryway was fit accordingly and added to the already present Federal structure (Photograph 5). Two thick, square pilasters support the broad entablature composed of two large horizontally stacked trim boards, adorned with a thin, flat-stock trim piece separating the architrave from the frieze, and a simple crown moulding with a protruding cap. To the right of the entryway is a small, reproduction, lantern-style sconce.

The thick frieze band and bed moulding are also present beneath each of the gabled ends, on the east and west-facing elevations, terminating beneath each of the four cornice returns. Second-story windows are of the same type as those that exist on the north-facing façade. On each elevation, there are two of these, spaced widely apart. The two attic windows above are also the same on both the east and west-facing elevations (Photographs 1, 3). They are the same type and approximately the same size as the smaller windows found within the shed addition, though displaying slightly narrower trim. The first story of the east-facing elevation contains two windows of the same type as found on the second story, aligned vertically and horizontally. Slightly north of central to this elevation is a metal bulkhead, which interrupts a dry-laid, stone rubble wall, approximately two feet in height, which runs from north to south and is approximately six feet out from the house (Photograph 6).

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Extending from the south-facing elevation is a partially-finished, open yet sheltered porch. The intention of the homeowners is to continue to build this new porch utilizing what is believed to be the original porch footprint. The south-facing elevation has only four windows. The two second-story windows and the eastern-most window on the first story are original and are of the same type as those found on the first and second stories on each of the other elevations. The second-story windows are located within the western half of the elevation, and the first-story window of this type is located just east of central. Just west of central is a six-light wood replacement door which leads onto the porch, and is flanked on the left by the only replacement window in the entire house, a horizontally-oriented, five-by-four picture window, which was installed in 1972 to accompany the interior kitchen remodel (Photograph 3). Before this window was added, there existed two of the same original type found throughout the rest of the first and second stories.

Interior

The basic interior layout of the Williams House is a center hall, double parlor Colonial with a lateral shed addition that houses a pantry, half-bath, and mudroom. The front entry features a main stairway and entry hall that is immediately flanked by a formal parlor to the east and an informal living room to the west. Beyond the front staircase and entry hall in the rear of the house is the kitchen, dining room, and a small office space. Between the kitchen and dining room is the secondary stair and a mirrored basement stair (1st Floor Plan). The second floor is also sectioned into quadrants, and contains three bedrooms with the fourth space renovated to accommodate the master and guest bathrooms. A full walk-up attic is accessible by a stair located between the guest bath and rear hallway (2nd Floor Plan).

In addition to the chestnut floors and dominant presence of original plaster, the house has retained many other character-defining interior features. Four Rumford fireplaces still contain their original marble and granite hearths, and display both Federal and Greek Revival-influenced surrounds, further emphasizing the integration of these two periods throughout this house (Photographs 7, 8, 9, 10). Arguably the most impressive of these fireplaces is located in the kitchen, and still includes the original bread oven and wood cubby, with the addition of a 1970s wood-burning stove (Photograph 7). Throughout the first story are also the original, five-paneled doors with their Norfolk thumb latches still intact (Photographs 11, 12). The second story contains doors that are commonly associated with the Greek Revival period, exhibiting two, side-by-side vertical panels that run the length of the door (Photograph 13). It is unknown whether or not these doors are original to the house, but it is likely that they were added later-on as a stylistic update. All original window sash are accompanied by a narrow sill with thin-beaded, apron casing and Greek Revival-era backband trim. The formal parlor, located in the northeast corner of the first story, also contains complementary panel trim beneath all three windows (Photograph 14). A particularly notable feature is the pair of large chimney foundations located in the basement, which were constructed using massive timbers laid between alternating rows of stone rubble and lime mortar (Photograph 15). The attic displays a combination of hewn and sawn structural members, joined together with original pegs. Original rafters are butted at the peak with wide sheathing boards laid overtop (Photograph 16).

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Like the exterior of the Williams House, the interior has also been minimally altered. The majority of changes occurred around 1972, when the Higgins family first moved in. In addition to replacing the two noted windows, kitchen alterations included the construction of simple, custom-built wooden upper and lower cabinets to replace the old dry sink, which was relocated and is still present in the pantry (Photographs 17, 18). The existing second-story bathrooms were carved out of what had originally been a fourth bedroom.

Beginning in 2010, the current owners completed an impressive array of interior and exterior projects to restore and rehabilitate various materials and spaces. Interior work included removal of carpets and restoration of the wide-board chestnut floors, which are original throughout the majority of the house (Photograph 19). Original chestnut boards from the attic were utilized to reconstruct the kitchen floor and to repair sections in the office, and new yet compatible wide-plank oak flooring was installed in the mudroom and half bath on the first floor. In addition to expanding the existing laundry room to accommodate a half-bath, an original exterior entrance was reinstated as well as a wall that had been torn out in 1972. Sections of original plaster, which composes approximately 90 percent of the house's walls, were also restored. On the exterior, projects included removal of the vinyl siding that had been installed in 1980, and restoration of the original clapboards and trim work using epoxy. The homeowners also reconstructed the window trim using a "ghost" paint profile as evidence of what had originally existed, and they repointed the original granite foundation. Projects-in-progress include restoring all of the original window sashes, and installing new custom, flush-mount storm windows. The current owners also selected exterior and interior Federal-period paint schemes, as recommended by staff at *Historic New England*.

Outbuildings

Southwest of the house, in close proximity, is a non-contributing barn that was reconstructed in the mid-1970s by the Higgins family (Photograph 20). There had existed several outbuildings in this general vicinity which were the last remnants of the property's long-standing history as a working dairy farm. After demolishing these structures, the Higgins' salvaged several pieces of the main c. 1880s barn to integrate with the new structure, including the board-and-batten siding, a second-story sliding hay-baling door, window trim, the six-paned gable window, and some of the roof sheathing. The rest of the structure, including the entire circular-sawn timber frame, was reconstructed using new materials in a new location roughly 150 feet southeast from its previous setting. The gable-front barn is approximately 21 feet wide by 27 feet deep, and is clad in red-painted, board-and-batten wood siding, with an asphalt-covered roof. The north-facing elevation contains a pair of large, hinged, vertical-plank wooden doors. A large, sliding, vertical-plank door, original to the 1880s barn, is located at the northern-most portion of the east-facing elevation. To the left of this door is a row of three, small, single-pane windows, containing new glass within the simple historic trim. The same window fenestration exists on the opposite, west-facing elevation. The south-facing elevation contains two long, narrow modern windows, arranged side-by-side beneath the gable. The barn contains a workshop area on the ground level, with a steep staircase leading to a lofty storage area. Although this structure includes some

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First paragraph of faint text, starting with a capital letter.

Second paragraph of faint text, continuing the narrative.

Third paragraph of faint text, with a line break.

Fourth paragraph of faint text, starting with a capital letter.

Fifth paragraph of faint text, continuing the narrative.

Sixth paragraph of faint text, starting with a capital letter.

Seventh paragraph of faint text, ending the page.

Returned

Williams House
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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Agriculture
- Education
- Military
-
-

Period of Significance

c.1800 – 1955

Significant Dates

c.1800
1955

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Returned

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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 Williams House is locally significant under Criterion C as a strong example of an early New England farmhouse that shows transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The interior and exterior fabric is remarkably intact, and the building exhibits original craftsmanship and materials that highlight it as an exceptional example of early American architecture. Secondly, the building is also locally significant under Criterion A for its contributions to the broad patterns of small-scale, diversified agriculture in New Fairfield, as well as having housed a local school teacher and a decorated Civil War veteran. Its period of significance begins c.1800 with the building's construction, and continues until 1955 when all farming activities ceased. As was common with early New England farms, the Williams House is located a short distance from the main downtown center of New Fairfield. Its exact date of construction and information about who built it is unknown, as an 1867 fire at the New Fairfield Town Hall destroyed all existing records. However, a deed transfer from 1835 was located in Danbury's town records, and indicates that the earliest known occupant of the house was named Benjamin Carl. The house with its property and accompanying outbuildings went through six families before it was sold to present owners Dana and Stacey Kenny in 2010. Initially, the house was accessed by a small dirt road, which was then extended as the surrounding area experienced further development beginning around the middle of the twentieth century. Despite this growth, the road has remained modest in scale. Although the property associated with the Williams House has decreased, the immediate surrounding area has remained rural in character, and the bucolic landscape is still reminiscent of the house's early days.

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

Criterion C. The architectural fusion exhibited by the Williams House is representative of a general trend that was occurring in America throughout the first decades of the nineteenth century. Until this time, building designs were greatly influenced by English precedent, transported by the settlers into their new country. Following the Revolutionary War, styles began to reflect the newly independent country, beginning with what is known as the "Federal" period. Buildings that date from this period are typically distinguished by taugt, ordered façades, and gracefully executed components such as Palladian windows and slender columns. Although the Federal style still references the English influence of the early Colonial days with its massing and fenestration, the emphasis on distilled detail and ordered elements sets it apart from the richly adorned buildings of the Georgian period in America.

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While the five-by-two-bay, eaves front orientation with massive paired chimney stacks identifies the Williams House as a good example of Federal architecture (Photograph 1), other prominent details suggest a shift toward the Greek Revival style of the early to mid-1800s. The most notable is the front entryway, with its recessed position and staunch, square pilasters distinguishing it as a later interpretation from the typical Federal entryway, which would have been either flush with or projecting from the building, with elements that were generally more slender and refined (Photograph 4).¹ It is unknown whether or not this entryway is original to the house, but more likely it was added to reflect the stylistic shift to the Greek Revival period, as was a common practice and is further evidenced by the appearance of the entryway trim work being modified to fit accordingly within the existing structure (Photograph 5). Another treatment which suggests Greek Revival influence is the thick, flat frieze band which runs directly above the second-story windows on the north and south-facing elevations, terminating with the cornice returns beneath each of the gable ends.

The interior also contains a combination of Federal and Greek Revival elements, most notably regarding the fireplace surrounds. The large hearth in the kitchen, complete with its original bread oven and wood box, displays a simple, bare wood surround, flat in profile with a delicate mantel piece which suggests Federal influence (Photograph 7). Similarly, the surround located in the informal living room is generally flush with subtle beading and a narrow, rounded mantel (Photograph 9). The dining room fireplace displays a surround similar to that which is found in the living room, though smaller in scale (Photograph 10). In contrast, the surround located in the formal parlor exhibits thicker, more deeply carved trim work and projecting pilaster supports beneath a deep, moulded mantel piece, illustrating strong Greek Revival influence (Photograph 8). In addition to the collection of diverse surround treatments, the interior doors also reflect the shifting style of the era. All doors throughout the first floor, displaying five shallow panels, are characteristically Federal (Photograph 11), while doors on the second floor reflect Greek Revival style, containing two vertical panels placed side-by-side (Photograph 13). Although it is difficult to state whether or not the second floor doors date to the building's initial construction, their presence nevertheless continues to emphasize the transitional quality of this house.

The Greek Revival period in America came about as a result of the search for a uniquely American way of building. Although the grounding elements of this architectural style grew from Classical influence, the American interpretation sought to create buildings that reflected a variety of sizes and uses, with designs that are simple yet pleasing and noble yet primitive. This versatility encouraged greater creativity within design, causing the architectural profession in America to gain significant momentum. The change to this new way of designing did not take effect immediately, as is evident from many buildings that were constructed during the first decades of the nineteenth century. A tension between tradition and progress lingered, and was especially present in the older, more rural parts of New England. These areas tended to resist change and instead built according to past Colonial methods, employing occasional updated details to reflect the "new" style.² This concept of incorporating updates with an existing building type is directly illustrated by the Williams House. Whether the Greek Revival features

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were part of the original design or were added later-on, the house stands as an excellent example of the transition between inherited and developing architecture within a rural context.

The Williams House is also one of the only intact examples of Federal architecture within New Fairfield, placing great importance on its preservation. Although the town carries with it a rich heritage, unfortunately much of its early architecture has been lost due to development. A drive through the town center readily reveals this, as nearly every building is either modern or has been renovated to the point of obscuring nearly all of the original fabric. Surrounding the center is a mixture of houses, representing a variety of architectural styles and periods. Although it is clear that this town has experienced a great deal of change since its beginnings, its rural character and the small scale of its buildings and roads has remained intact. The Williams House, with its remarkable combination of original spaces and materials, is one of a handful of properties that reference the town's first architectural era.

Criterion A. According to information obtained from deeds and historic records, the Williams House and the historically associated land functioned as a working farm from at least as early as 1835, through 1955. The first known owner, Benjamin Carl, sold the farm to Alanson Lacey and his wife, Abigail Hodge, in 1835. An early newspaper advertisement written by Zachariah Carl in 1831 describes the farm as including a variety of associated outbuildings, as was typical for this early era of small-scale agriculture:

“For sale, a farm in the north part of town of New Fairfield containing about 139 acres of meadow, plough, pasture and wood land together with a good dwelling house, barn, cider mill and other out buildings, on said premises are good water privileges and an orchard containing 150 trees. Fences in good repair – terms made easy and any person wishing a desirable place would do well to call and examine for themselves.”³

Because early New England farms were maintained for subsistence rather than production, there tended to be a diverse collection of modest structures to support the range of livestock and crops. These buildings were usually arranged in a close configuration with the main house, with fields for grazing and cultivation stretching beyond.⁴

The farm remained active under the Lacey family, peaking at over 200 acres⁵, though a newspaper advertisement from 1882 suggests that portions of land were subdivided over the course of the mid-nineteenth century:

“The farm formerly owned by Alanson Lacey, situated in New Fairfield, consisting of about 45 acres of good land, nearly all of which can be mowed by machine. Plenty of fruit on the premises. Good house and outbuildings. For further particulars enquire of Leroy Barnum or Austin Vincent.”⁶

During this time in America, attention had shifted to the Civil War, and many families and communities were directly impacted. Alanson's and Abigail's ninth son, Sylvester, went on to

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enlist as a Private in Company A of the 11th Regiment Conn. Volunteers in 1861, acting at major battles in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina throughout his three-year term. The property remained in the Lacey family until 1867, when it was sold to David Stevens Barnum and his wife, Mary. David was also a Civil War veteran, having enlisted in Company K of the 23rd Regiment Conn. Volunteers in 1862. Through bouts of poor health contracted during his duty in Louisiana and his imprisonment in Brashear City, David continued farming before the property passed through several other branches of the Barnum family, finally remaining under the ownership of Charles Harrison Williams and his wife, Jennie Cullen, from 1911 through 1972.⁷

During the late-nineteenth century, farming practices in New England progressed and grew into an industry. With this advancement came mechanized production, larger barns, and greater focus on developing specific commodities for sale. This significant agricultural shift is illustrated by the Williams farm, as it became a locally important dairy and fruit crop operation after it was conveyed to Williams and Cullen. At the time, it encompassed 45 acres of orchards, farm land, and cattle grazing fields.⁸ In addition to contributing to the farming industry of New Fairfield, the Williams' were also well-known from Jennie's occupation as a local teacher. It is due to this lengthy time of prominence within the surrounding community that the property came to be known primarily under the Williams' name. Its lingering importance is also evident when travelling through the neighboring roads, many of which are located on land that was formerly included within the farm boundary. These roads, with names such as "Apple Blossom Lane" and "Old Farm Road," in addition to Williams Road itself, suggest the prominent presence of this farm within the town. Although associated farmland and outbuildings were sacrificed after the death of Charles in 1953, the Williams House has continued to thrive as a dwelling that exudes craft and materials that are beautifully intact, celebrating a story which encompasses nearly two centuries of architectural evolution.

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Endnotes

1. J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1924), 117.
2. Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), 163.
3. Zachariah Carl, "Land and Farm for Sale," *Danbury Recorder*, July 1, 1831 (information obtained by Carol Ballard of the New Fairfield Historical Society at the Danbury Historical Society in Danbury, CT, October 2000).
4. John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982), 157.
5. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road" (Informational sheet provided during Preserve New Fairfield Home and Garden Tour, August 19, 2012)
6. "For Sale, A Desirable Farm," *Danbury News*, October 25, 1882.
7. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road"
8. Preserve New Fairfield, Inc., "5 Williams Road."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carl, Zachariah. "Land and Farm for Sale." *Danbury Recorder*, July 1, 1831 (Obtained by Carol Ballard at the Danbury Historical Society in Danbury CT, October 2000).

"For Sale, A Desirable Farm." *Danbury News*, October 25, 1882.

Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944.

Kelly, Frederick J. *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1924.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.

Moody & O'Brien, Land Surveyors. "5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, CT. [survey report]. 1" = 60'. New Canaan, CT: Office of Moody & O'Brien, 1996.

Preserve New Fairfield, Inc. "5 Williams Road." (Informational sheet provided during Preserve New Fairfield Home and Garden Tour, August 19, 2012).

Stilgoe, John R. *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1982.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: New Fairfield Historical Society, Preserve New Fairfield, Inc.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.14

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: 41.456146 | Longitude: 73.492544 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 625901 | Northing: 4590552 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

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

The parcel boundary is defined by the borders illustrated on the attached Survey Report, completed by Moody & O'Brien Land Surveyors on September 16, 1996 for the First American Title Insurance Company.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the extent of the current parcel boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Ritter + Stacey Keany
organization: Hudson Valley Preservation Corp.
street & number: 29 Route 37 Center
city or town: Sherman state: CT zip code: 06784
e-mail: kritter@hvpcorp.com
telephone: 413-281-4650
date: May 15, 2013

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.)

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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: Williams House

City or Vicinity: New Fairfield

County: Fairfield

State: CT

Photographer: Kate Ritter

Date Photographed: December 5, 2012

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

Photo #1 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0001)

North elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

Photo #2 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0002)

North elevation, camera facing south.

Photo #3 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0003)

South elevation (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #4 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0004)

Front entryway, camera facing south.

Photo #5 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0005)

Front entryway trim detail, camera facing southeast.

Photo #6 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0006)

Historic stone wall bordering east elevation, camera facing southwest.

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Photo #7 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0007)
Kitchen hearth, camera facing northwest.

Photo #8 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0008)
Parlor hearth, camera facing south.

Photo #9 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0009)
Living room hearth, camera facing southwest.

Photo #10 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0010)
Dining room hearth, camera facing northeast.

Photo #11 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0011)
First-story interior doors, camera facing north.

Photo #12 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0012)
Interior door latch detail, camera facing northeast.

Photo #13 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0013)
Second-story interior doors, camera facing east.

Photo #14 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0014)
Parlor window trim detail, camera facing northeast.

Photo #15 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0015)
Basement chimney foundations, camera facing southeast.

Photo #16 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0016)
Attic framing, camera facing southeast.

Photo #17 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0017)
Kitchen cabinets, camera facing southwest.

Photo #18 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0018)
Original dry sink relocated to pantry, camera facing south.

Photo #19 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0019)
Wideboard chestnut floorboards, camera facing northwest.

Photo #20 (CT_FairfieldCounty_WilliamsHouse_0020)
Non-contributing barn, camera facing southeast.

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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.

Returned

5 Williams Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812 – Google Maps

+You Search Images Maps Play YouTube News Gmail Drive Calendar More -

Google 41.456146,-73.492544

Get directions My places

3-9 Williams Rd
New Fairfield, CT 06812 40 ft N

Directions Search nearby more ▾

Maps Labs - Help
Google Maps - ©2013 Google - Terms of Use - Privacy

Returned

Imagery ©2013 DigitalGlobe, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map data ©2013 Google Edit in Google Map Maker Report a problem

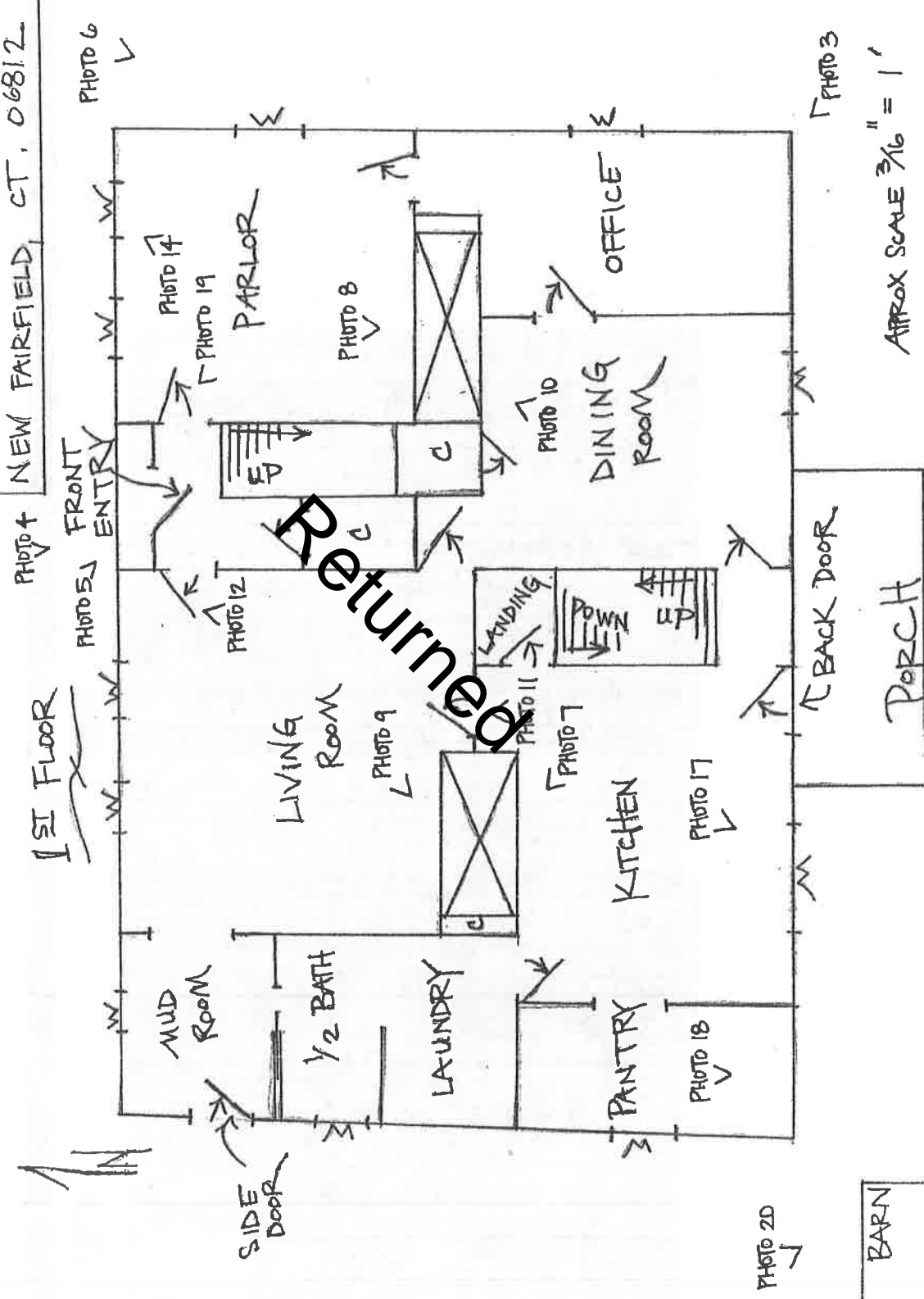


STACEY & DANA KENNY
5 WILLIAMS RD.
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT, 06812

THE "WILLIAMS HOUSE"

1st Floor

PHOTO 1



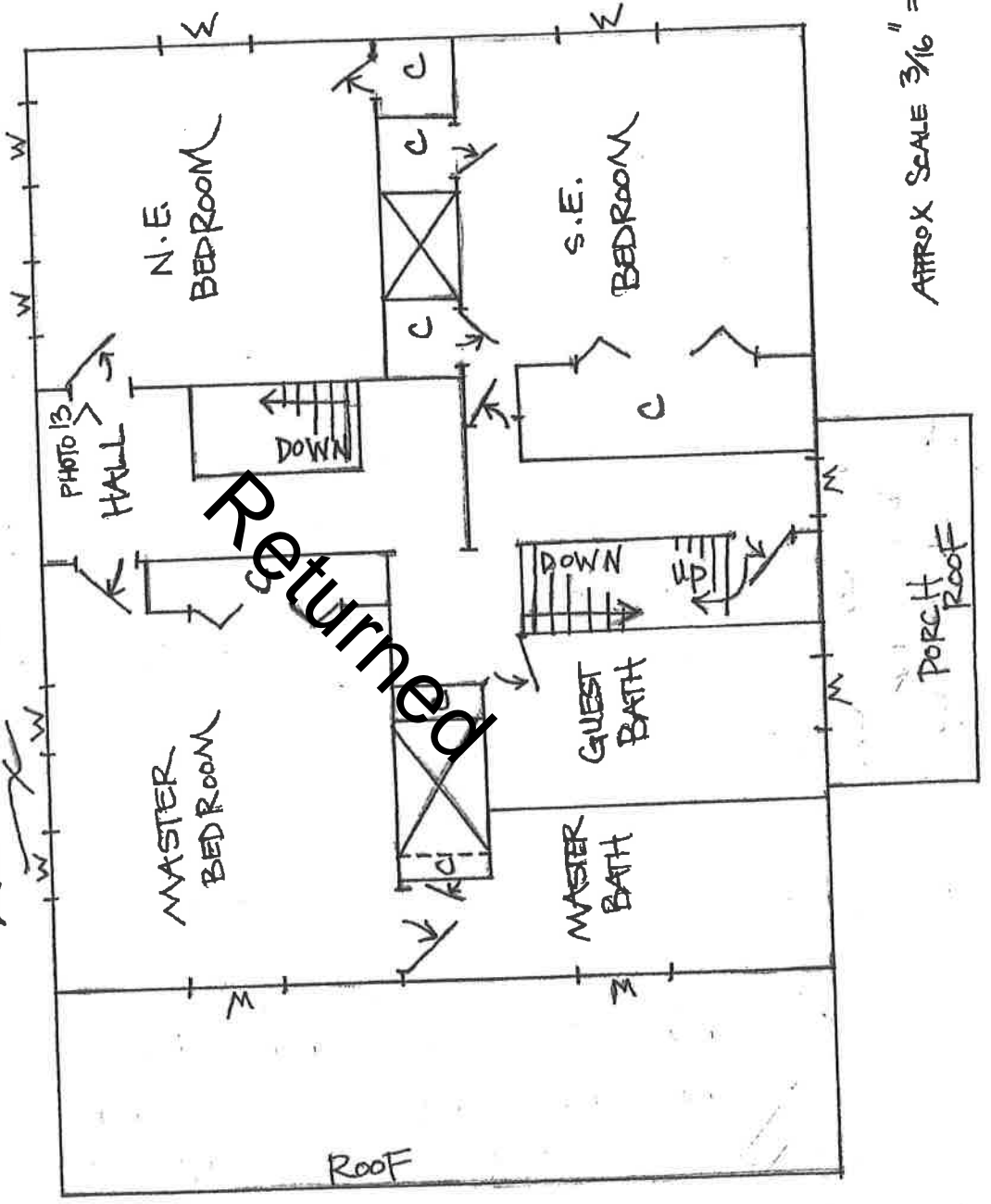
APPROX SCALE 3/16" = 1'

BARN

THE "WILLIAMS HOUSE"

STACEY & DANA KENNY
 5 WILLIAMS RD.
 NEW FAIRFIELD, CT. 06812

2ND FLOOR



APPROX SCALE 3/16" = 1'



**State Historic
Preservation Office**



MEMORANDUM

**TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places**

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

DATE: March 12, 2014

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 12 day of March

2014, for nomination of the Williams House, New Fairfield, Fairfield County, CT, to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form (Revised)
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other CD of TIFF Files

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____