



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Richardson, Nathaniel, House, in New Haven County, Connecticut, reference number 77001405, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 09/19/1977, as evidenced by FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7442. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/12/2009
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 FILE COPY
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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC Nathaniel Richardson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Kelly Road

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Middlebury

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th-Ronald A. Sarasin

STATE

Connecticut

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

09

COUNTY

New Haven

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Francis MacDonald

STREET & NUMBER

129 Newton Terrace

CITY, TOWN

Waterbury

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlebury Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

1212 Whittemore Road

CITY, TOWN

Middlebury

STATE

CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

CT

DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nathaniel Richardson House faces south on a knoll at the edge of extensive agricultural fields. Although there is another house nearby and a school across the street, the neighborhood is quiet and rural, preserving an appropriate setting for this small frame farmhouse, probably built around 1800.

The house is 1½ stories high, rectangular in plan with the usual 5-bay main facade. There is a one-room wing at the east end. The house itself is framed without summer beams and the gable roofs of both sections are constructed with ridgepoles. The little wing is somewhat of an anomaly, however, because it has a large summer, and the joists on one side of it have molded bottom corners (except one which has the top edges molded!). The underpinning is of fieldstone rubble, as is the foundation for the brick central stack. There is a cellar under the main house with an outside entrance at the west end. Most of the exterior is wood-shingled, but recently the clapboards (not original) on the front were uncovered. The windows, which judging from remnants had 12/12 sash, are now boarded up.

The main facade exhibits some interesting ornamentation. Beneath the cornice moldings and the fascia is a row of very small dentils. The main entrance, however, is the major focus of ornament. The doorway is flanked by attenuated pilasters with molded capitals supporting a cornice which is merely a plain, projecting shelf. Above the doorway is a transom with four elliptical lights formed by a wooden mask. The moldings at the transom bar and the necks and capitals of the pilasters are continued in the area between the pilasters and to a lesser extent, in the area surrounding the entranceway, so that an illusion of a cluster of pillars is created.

This treatment is repeated in the interior of the west front room, where similar pilasters surround the fireplace. This parlor is the best-appointed room, and features door and window frames with molded edges, a chair rail running around the room, and two cupboards with flush-paneled doors, one above the other on the right side of the fireplace. The other front room is a kitchen. The large fireplace is surrounded only by a plain raised molding and a simple shelf. The room has a dado of horizontal, wide, beaded boards up to the level of the plain-framed windows. In addition to two cupboards similar to those in the parlor, there is a small recessed-paneled cupboard centered above the mantel; it may have been part of an earlier panel motive, since covered over by plaster. The rear room also has a simple fireplace with cupboard above. Upstairs, there are two finished rooms, one above the kitchen which has a dado like that room's, and one centered at the west end which has all-plaster walls. The rest of the upstairs, including a loft above, is unfinished. Otherwise, throughout the interior one finds plaster laid over split lath, plain cased posts, and upstairs at least, wide board flooring. All the paneled doors seem old but they are of many different types.

The house is deteriorating and has some structural decay in the sills and first floor supports. The front sill and some joists have been replaced. On the other hand, the house retains a great deal of its original or early material, which along with its simple classic lines and attractive doorway, make it a good candidate for restoration.

SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richardson House is of considerable local historical significance because of the relative lack of old buildings in Middlebury, its intrinsic merit as an example of simple domestic architecture, and its somewhat tenuous connection with the Revolutionary War. Although the building is quite deteriorated, local people are interested in its restoration as a residence or other adaptive use.

Overall, the building is fairly typical of small, plain Connecticut farmhouses but it is not without a few touches of elegance. The pilastered doorway (and corresponding front room mantel), the dentilated cornice and the elliptical lights in the transom are pleasant features which relieve the starkness and make this a unique piece of architecture. Interior details reflect the functions of the rooms: the kitchen is finished with a simple fireplace treatment and the more traditional dado of beaded boards, whereas the parlor has an elaborate mantel, molded window frames and a chair rail. Most of the upstairs is unfinished, except for the kitchen chamber, clearly the most important upper room.

Since the end of the nineteenth century, local tradition has identified this building with the tavern run by Nathaniel Richardson (1729-1792) during the Revolutionary War. Soldiers were quartered and fed here on the way to and from the Hudson, and Rochambeau camped nearby. It seems, however, that the framing of the house - no summers, a ridgepole, slender members - would indicate a post-Revolutionary origin. Perhaps this is the small house described in Richardson's will of 1792 (which also mentions an "old house lot"), or it could be a nearby dwelling which he owned and which was occupied by his son Ebenezer (1769-1826). Finally, it is possible that Ebenezer himself built this house at a date later than 1800, as is suggested by the mantel, if original.

The mystery posed by the east wing must also be resolved: here the argument from construction indicates an older date than the main house, and suggests that this was once part of an older building, presumably on or near this site. Perhaps this was part of the Revolutionary-period house, where local myth claims that Washington ate a somewhat disagreeable meal. Regardless of the truth of these legends, however, the Richardson house is representative of the period, just as much as larger and more elaborately ornamented buildings. The Richardson family first settled this tract around 1711, and were ordinary farmers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Joseph (ed.). The Town and City of Waterbury. New Haven: Price and Lee, 1896. Specific references on pp. 457, 554, and 690.

Will of Nathaniel Richardson, 1792, Waterbury Probate Court Records, 2: 145-8.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 18 | 659010 | 4600730 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is part of a much larger plot; present plans to subdivide include two acres immediately surrounding the house.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Bruce Clouette, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE July 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford,

STATE CT

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE SHPD

DATE 12/17/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER