

10-23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OCT 30 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fanning, Captain Thomas, Farmstead
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1004 Shewville Road not for publication
city, town Ledyard vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06339

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Ledyard, Conn. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *John W. Shannahan* Date 10/23/92
State or Federal agency and bureau John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Michael J. Feyer 12/14/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility/
outbuilding/field/storage
COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls weatherboard
roof wood shingle
other tin/asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Captain Thomas Fanning Farmstead is located in northeast Ledyard just south of the Preston line. Although the property consists of almost four acres, the farmyard occupies about an acre of fairly level land, bordered on the west by Shewville Road and on the east by a granite ledge which rises about 150 feet (Photograph #s 1, 2). The pasture land to the south, bordered by stone walls and rail fencing, is still used for grazing dairy cattle. The farmhouse, a Colonial Cape, is situated near the roadway but faces away to the southeast, where the farmyard is defined by the placement of five outbuildings (Photograph #s 3, 4). The farthest from the house is a large gable-roofed barn with an intersecting gabled wing. Closer to the house along the base of the ridge are a smaller barn and two sheds, one of which was a blacksmith shop. A corncrib is located on the opposite side.

The west end of the house was built in 1746/47 and extended two more bays to achieve its present Cape form about 1789. Confirmation for the two-stage build is found in the differences in the rubblestone foundation and the interior framing. On the early west end, the posts are larger and flared. Its foundation, which is exposed because the grade slopes away from the house, extends several inches beyond the sheathing at the sillplate. On the the other half, the foundation wall is flush with the siding. Inside, the former corner post to the east of the main door is doubled up to continue the framing for the later two bays. It is also apparent that the original house had an end chimney which provided flues for fireplaces in the cellar, which may have contained a bake oven, and the hall. The only change to the form of the house since about 1790 was the addition of a rear ell after 1900, which has been enlarged more recently for a modern kitchen. Minor alterations include the installation of low profile skylights on the southeast slope of the roof and the rebuilding of the center stack which was removed in the 1880s.

The secondary buildings are all intact with wood framing, vertical board sheathing, and rubblestone foundations. The main barn is constructed of 14-foot bents. The haying floor opens on the long east side onto a former cartway at the base of the ridge. The entrance to the animal stalls below is contained within a large stone-walled pen. The barn currently has a new roof with metal cladding, installed after a recent fire destroyed the earlier roof. Part of this barn may be located on the foundation of an eighteenth-century barn that was here when the house was built; the west face of the foundation of its wing appears quite old and is chinked with clay. The second barn, the same size and form as this wing, appears to date from the nineteenth century, as do most of the rest of the outbuildings. Typically, the corn crib sits on stone piers and may date from late 1800s.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1746 - c. 1900

c. 1746 - c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1746/c. 1789

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thomas Fanning

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

The Captain Thomas Fanning Farmstead consists of a well-preserved collection of agricultural buildings which have exceptional integrity of siting, form, and materials. A significant part of the early agricultural heritage of Ledyard, the farmstead as a whole clearly conveys its eighteenth-century function and associations. In addition, because of its well-documented building history, the Fanning farmhouse itself derives further significance as representative example of the evolution of colonial domestic architecture in Ledyard.

One of five eighteenth-century farmsteads associated with the historic context, E-1., Agriculture, in this Multiple Resource Nomination Form, the Fanning Farmstead exceeds the registration requirements for this property type.

The original farm was carved out of a land grant assigned to New London proprietor Joseph Latham, which he sold to Jonathan Brewster of Preston. Captain Thomas Fanning purchased 100 acres with a new barn from Brewster in 1746-47. Identified as a "House Carpenter" on the deed, he probably built the first house here himself shortly after he acquired the land and married. Fanning also built a sawmill on the Poquetanuck River to the west across the road from his house. The lumber for part of the building may have come from Fanning's mill. The farm was inherited by Fanning's son, Frederick, who completed the building about 1789. Part or all of the farm was sold off in 1793 to his brother-in-law, Elisha Ayer, who also acquired the sawmill and water privileges in 1814. Although Ayer never lived here, the property passed down through his family to his grandsons. They quitclained their interest in the farm to their sister, Louisa Moffett, in 1860 "for her sole and separate use free from interference and control of her husband." By this time, the farm included 132 acres and was still identified as the same land conveyed by Frederick Fanning.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Bill Library, Ledyard, CT

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4

UTM References

A

1	9
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2	5	0	1	1	0
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4	5	9	6	2	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described in the land records in the Town Clerk's office in the Ledyard Town Hall in Volume 120:570.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the land and buildings from the period of significance that remain associated with the Captain Thomas Fanning Farmstead.

See continuation sheet

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

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