

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000290

Date Listed: 4/15/93

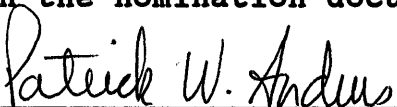
**Bartlett, Daniel and Esther House
Property Name**

**Fairfield
County**

**CT
State**

**N/A
Multiple Name**

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance: Criteria Consideration B should be checked in association with the relocated Read barn. The c.1760 barn meets the criteria consideration as a moved resource that is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a late 18th-century vernacular barn design that is contemporaneous with the main house and compatible with the original setting. The resource maintains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, felling, and association.

U.T.M.: The U.T.M. coordinates are revised to read:
18 635120 4574350.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan of the CT SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Bartlett, Daniel and Esther, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 43 Lonetown Road N/A not for publication
city, town Redding N/A vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 011 zip code 06896

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local (checked), public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (2), Noncontributing (1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, 1 Total)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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: [Signature] Date: 03/04/93
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:
[checked] 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): _____

Patrick W. Andrews 4/15/93
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Single dwelling; homestead

Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Federal

foundation Stone

walls Wood shingle

roof Wood shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Daniel and Esther Bartlett House is a two-story Federal-style farmhouse built between 1782 and 1796. It is five bays wide and two bays deep, with a one-story porch on the south elevation. The house is set far back from Lonetown Road (Connecticut Route 107) on 1.25 acres of lawn and meadow. (Photograph 1) The house's exterior is of pine shingles applied over oak lath, with articulated corner and sill boards and a modest denticulated and modillioned cornice with frieze that abuts the lintels of the second-story windows. The facade is arranged symmetrically, with a central doorway lining up with the central chimney. Windows throughout the house are wood-framed, with twelve-over-twelve sash. (Photographs 1,2,3,4) The doorway is framed by pilasters and a cornice with a transom which features leaded glass tracery. It is sheltered by a portico with gabled roof, central segmental arch, and a cornice with return, upheld by Roman Doric columns and pilasters. (Photograph 5) With the main cornice, the house's gables form closed pediments which enframe round-arched windows of Italianate design. (Photographs 3,4)

The rooms are grouped around a central chimney with a typically massive, eight-foot-square base. (Figures 1,2) The shallow entry hall and front staircase are unaltered. Floors throughout the house are original wide-board oak and pine. Interior doors are original except for those used in a new kitchen, lavatory and storage room on the first floor. The back stairs and attic door with its Suffolk latch are original. The original kitchen is located on the south side of the house, with a panelled fireplace wall and a hearth with bake oven on the side, with access from the oven to an unusual and massive ash chamber in the chimney base below.¹ (Photograph 6) Off the kitchen at the rear of the house (west) is a more formal room, with a brick fireplace with mantel and surround that were replicated when the house was restored in 1980. The north parlor features a carved Adam-style fireplace surround and mantel. (Photograph 8) Interior treatments on the first floor include, besides the mantels and fireplace surrounds, window and door surrounds with elaborate moldings which are similar to types found in Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion.² The walls of the south kitchen are encircled by a chair rail. (Photograph 7) The second floor has three rooms, all plastered and with simple door and window surrounds and baseboards. The north room has a closet with original plaster. (Photograph 9)

Many of the house's features were restored between 1974 and 1982, after the Redding Historical Society began to lease the house and surrounding land for use as a farmhouse museum. Guided by physical and photographic evidence, the

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Daniel and Esther Bartlett
House
Redding, Fairfield Co., Conn.

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house was re-shingled, matching the original wood shingles. Interior plaster was replaced (except in the second-floor closet) to match what existed, and missing molding pieces were replicated on the first floor to match surviving pieces. Mid-nineteenth-century square porch columns which were in poor condition were replaced by the present slender columns which were believed to be compatible with the house's Federal style, and the present front door was installed. The soffit of the portico roof was re-plastered as well. The present denticulated and modillioned cornice is based on physical evidence of dentils uncovered when a mid-nineteenth-century box cornice was removed. (Figure 3)

Also on the property is a non-contributing well house of recent construction and a late eighteenth-century barn, which was moved intact to this site in 1980 from its original location about a half-mile north of the Bartlett House. It is believed to have been built c.1760 for Captain Zalmon Read, Esther Read Bartlett's uncle. It is a good, well-preserved example of an English-style barn, with central doors and threshing floor and box lofts to the sides. Roof boards and floor joists show marks of an up-and-down saw and are believed to be original, while the barn's siding is a century old or more.³ (Photograph 10)

1. Report prepared by John O. Curtis for the Redding Historical Society, March, 1974.
2. Paint Analysis Report by Matthew Mosca, 1981.
3. Interview with Lawrence Banks, Redding Historical Society, October, 1992.

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1796

c. 1796

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Daniel and Esther Bartlett House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved and restored Federal farmhouse of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, unusual for its period and region in Connecticut for its wood shingle siding and distinguished for the integrity and quality of its interior and woodwork. (Criterion C)

Historical Background

The house was built in the late eighteenth century for Daniel and Esther Bartlett, who married in 1778. Both were members of prominent Redding families. Bartlett was the son of Redding's first Congregational minister and his bride was the granddaughter of Colonel John Read, a prominent colonial lawyer, land speculator, and settler for whom the town of Redding was named. The house was in existence by 1796, as the farmhouse of a moderate-sized farm of about 90 acres near the center of Redding.¹ In 1802, the Bartletts sold the house and farm to farmer Jesse Sherwood of Redding, and the property remained in the Sherwood family until 1882.² A succession of farm families subsequently occupied the house until the property was acquired by the Town of Redding in 1973 for the site of a new school. The house and its immediate property began shortly thereafter to be leased to the Redding Historical Society, which has restored the house based on physical and documentary evidence for its present use as a farmhouse museum.

Architectural Significance

The house includes examples of fine craftsmanship such as the moldings and particularly the fireplaces, and the Federal front doorway treatment and portico. In its general characteristics (five-bay symmetrical facade, floor plan, twelve-over-twelve windows, and central chimney with massive base) it represents a typical farmhouse of its period and place. Federal stylistic features appear in the doorway treatment and interior moldings, with mid-nineteenth-century exterior changes in the form of the gable treatments which are not uncommon in houses of its period. The house's massive chimney base

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Redding land and tax assessor's records, in Town Clerk's Office, Redding, Connecticut.

Files of Redding Historical Society.

Paint Analysis Report by Matthew Mosca, June, 1981.

Architectural and Historic Resources Survey of Redding, 1988.

Report prepared by John O. Curtis for Redding Historical Society, March 1974.

Kelly, J. Frederick, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924.

Interview with Lawrence Banks, October, 1992.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 S. Prospect St., Hartford, CT 06106

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.25 acres

UTM References

A

18	6	3	5	3	5	0	4	5	7	4	1	2	0
Zone	Easting						Northing						

B

Zone	Easting						Northing						

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are as described in a lease from the Town of Redding to the Redding Historical Society, Dated August 21, 1973, and recorded in Vol. 88, p. 198 of the Redding land records; as shown in the attached survey dated April 14, 1980.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse and adjacent fields which have historically been part of the Daniel and Esther Bartlett Farm and that maintain historic integrity. The remaining property of the farm is utilized by the Town of Redding as open space (to the west of the house) and for school purposes (to the south), screened from the Bartlett House by topography and by a tall hedge of evergreens.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, Reviewer

name/title William Devlin, Consultant

organization For Redding Historical Society

date October, 1992

street & number 36 Park Lane West

telephone (203) 354-1370

city or town New Milford

state Connecticut zip code 06776

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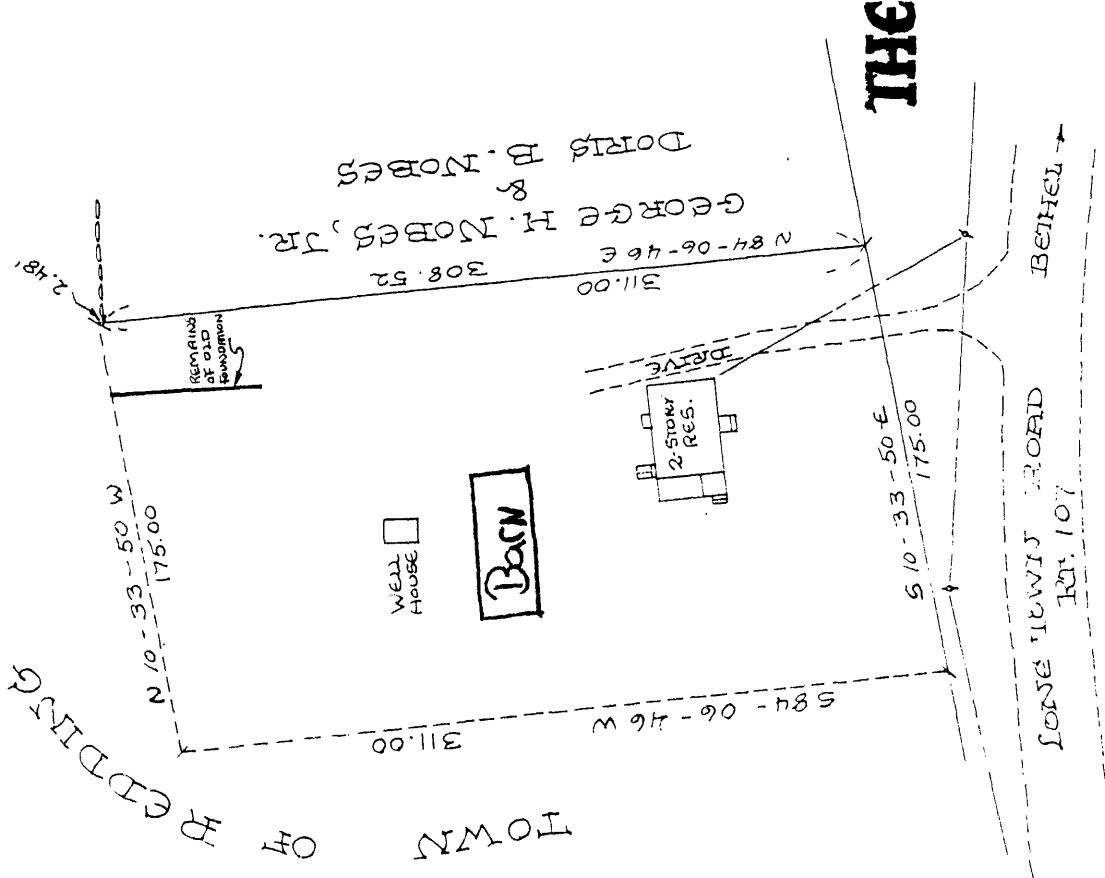
Daniel and Esther Bartlett
House, Redding, Fairfield Co.,
Connecticut

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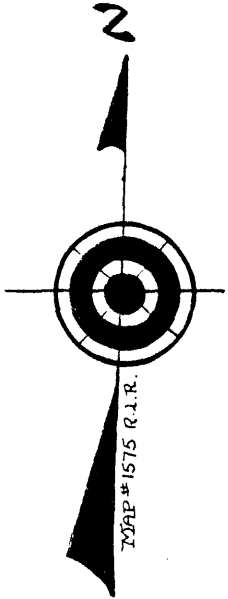
and its second-floor closet are features common in eighteenth-century Connecticut houses. However, the house is a rare example of the use of wood shingles as a siding material in inland Connecticut. As J. Frederick Kelly has pointed out, "the use of shingles as a wall covering of early houses is unusual, except in the towns of Milford, Stratford, and the surrounding locality."³ Moreover, in that vicinity the shingles could be very long, up to three feet, according to Kelly, while those used in the Bartlett House were about 16 inches in length.

Finally, as John O. Curtis has pointed out in an analysis of the house for the Redding Historical Society, the placement of the kitchen on the south side of the house, actually in the front of the house rather than the rear, suggests if not an enlargement of an earlier structure (for which there is no other structural evidence), then the persistence of a much earlier house plan convention, an instance of rural Connecticut's typical conservatism in house design.⁴

1. Redding Tax Assessments, 1796-1851, in Redding Town Clerk's Office.
2. Redding Land Records, 2:312, 2:447, 6:353, 22:467, in Redding Town Clerk's Office.
3. Kelly, J. Frederick, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924, p. 84.
4. Report prepared by John O. Curtis for Redding Historical Society, March 1974.



- LEGEND**
- UTILITY POLE & WIRES
 - - - TRAVELED WAY
 - STONE WALL
 - OPEN LINE
 - LEASE LINE

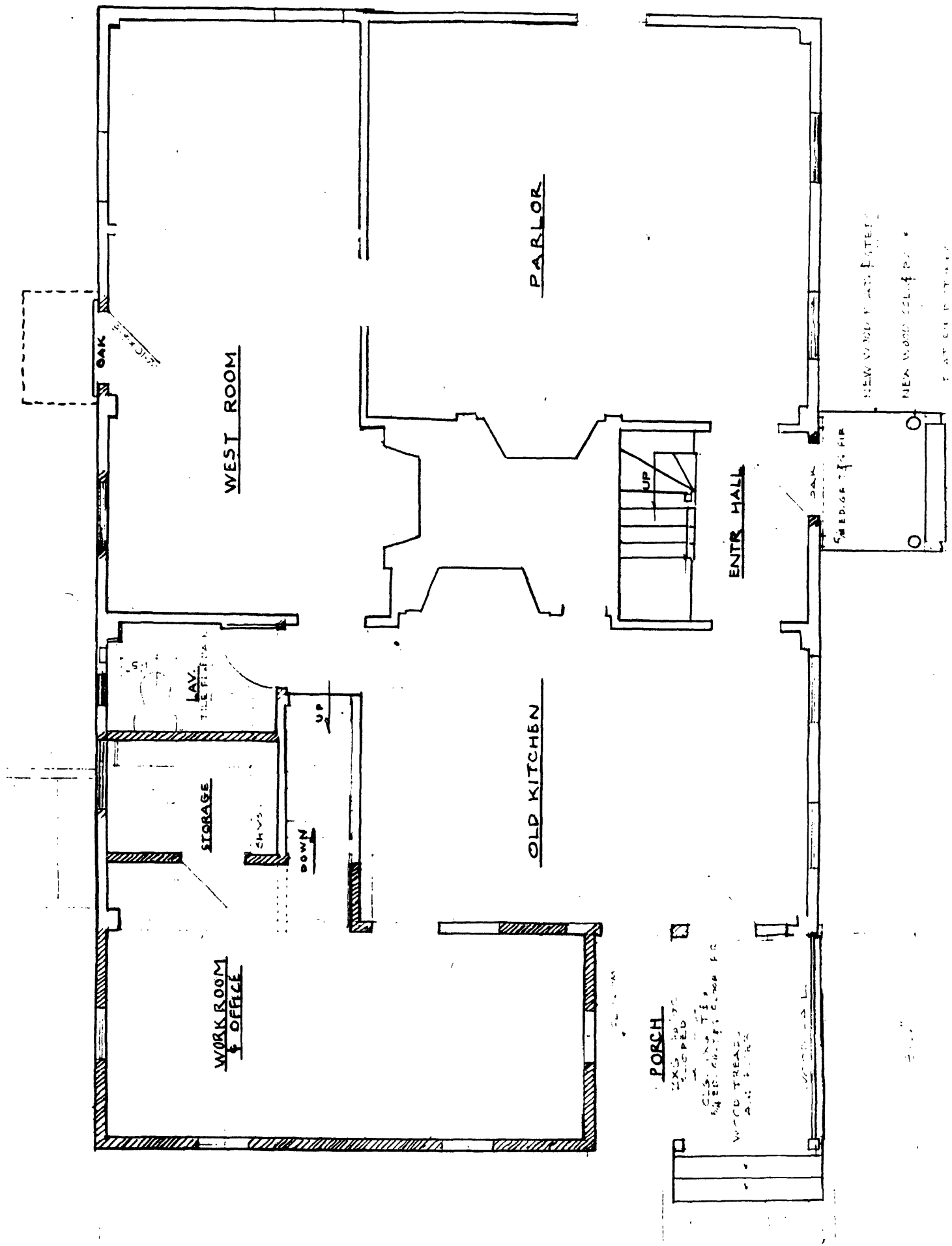


MAP PREPARED FOR
THE REDDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY, IN
REDDING
CONNECTICUT
SCALE 1" = 50'
APRIL 14, 1980

AREA = 1.245 AC.
 ZONE - RESIDENTIAL AND FARMING DISTRICT "A" (2 ACRES)
 REFER TO MAP NUMBER 1575 REDDING LAND RECORDS
 THIS A-2 SURVEY - CERTIFIED "SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT"

John W. Sullen LAND SURVEYOR, REG. NO. 4775, GEORGETOWN, CT.

Figure 1. First floor plan, Daniel and Esther Bartlett House, Redding, Conn., reduced.



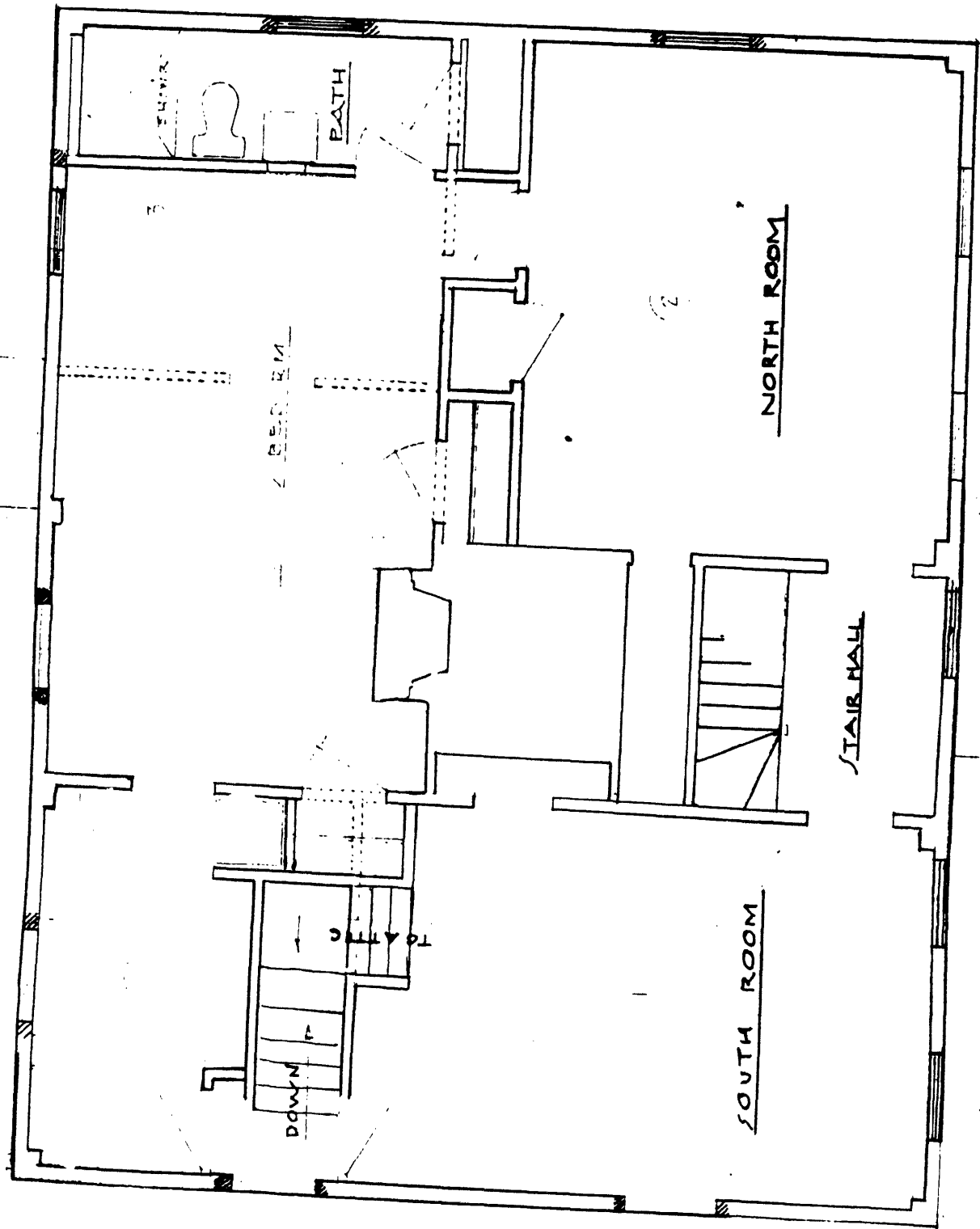


Figure 2. Second floor plan, Daniel and Esther Bartlett House, Redding, Conn., reduced.