

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



751

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number Webb, David and Sarah, Jr., House

2. Location

street & number 1161 Ponus Ridge

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town New Canaan

state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06840

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

David Ballin SHPO 8-18-11
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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: _____)

Van Edson H. Beal 10-20-11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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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

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

 EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

 MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

 LATE 19th CENTURY: Colonial Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

 walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

 roof: WOOD: Shake

 other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The David and Sarah Webb, Jr. House is a rambling two-and-one-half-story residence located on the east side of Ponus Ridge, a broad, shady street running north/south roughly parallel to the Rippowam River in the northwest corner of the suburban town of New Canaan. This quiet residential area in a rural setting features a mix of amply proportioned houses in a range of styles and types, including eighteenth-century farmhouses, Colonial Revival estates and mid-century moderns. The property encompasses 4.6 acres, consisting primarily of lawn, mature shade trees and walled and terraced gardens. The house is set back from the road on a slightly elevated site fronted by a bed of pachysandra and a distinctive dry-laid stone retaining wall. The level, grassy frontage between the wall and the road marks the location of the original roadbed. A driveway enters on the north side of the property, circles on the north side of the house and continues back to two outbuildings located to the east. The property contains two contributing buildings—the house and rear carriage house—and one non-contributing guest cottage.

Narrative Description

The house consists of three two-and-one-half-story, peak-roofed blocks (west, center, east) joined by minor connectors and arranged with intersecting gables to form an attenuated plan with an elongated central section set perpendicular to smaller end blocks oriented with their gable ends to the north and south (Photograph 1). The oldest, west block is a circa 1785 timber-framed, center-hall farmhouse fronting Ponus Ridge. The central and east blocks are wood-frame Colonial Revival additions built on brick foundations and dating from the twentieth century. Resting on a stone foundation, the circa 1785 section is a horizontally massed building with a five-bay façade composition and symmetrically placed interior end chimneys of brick. At the second story, the clapboard siding stops short of a wide flush-board fascia incorporating three half-lights (set at center and to the north) and two six-pane windows (to the south). This roadside elevation is dominated by a one-story, flat-roofed living-room wing, added c. 1941 and designed to envelop the centrally placed front door and the northern half of the eighteenth-century facade (Photograph 2). A white-painted brick chimney is centered on the north end of the addition. A three-sided hip-roofed bay projects to the west, and a pair of multi-paned doors flanked by fixed multi-paned lights of the same height forms an entry grouping on the south elevation. A simple wood balustrade crowns the roof. To the right (south) of the wing, a pair of double-hung windows (nine-over-six) fronts the southwest parlor. Simple hood moldings trim the lintels.

The south gable end is symmetrically composed, with a pair of three-sided multi-paned bays on the ground floor and pairs of double-hung windows centered above. A single attic light appears at the south gable peak. The more prominent north gable end incorporates an enclosed peak-roofed entry porch that now serves as the primary entry, set to the left (east) of a tripartite multi-paned window. The classically inspired porch features corner quoins and a molded triangular cornice designed to resemble a pediment. Sidelights flank the centrally placed paneled door and a three-sided oriel is centered above (Photograph 1).

Stretching to the east of the entry, the long north elevation of the central block is dominated by a white-painted chimney. The stone chimneystack rises from a shouldered base at first-story level, then transitions to brick above the eaves. At the east gable end of the central block is an enclosed one-story, shed-roofed kitchen entry oriented to the east. Here, a two-story connector adjoins to the rear block. This easternmost section of the house is a simply massed gable-roofed structure set on a concrete foundation and extending to the east with a one-story flat-roofed ell; a central brick chimney rises at the east end.

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The long south side of the house follows a similar configuration to the north elevation as an expression of the three main blocks joined by minor connectors (Photograph 3). The one-story ell at the east end of the house is crowned by a wood balustrade, and a brick chimney rises at the east end.

The entire house is sheathed with a unifying cladding of white-painted clapboards. Wood shingles cover the roofs and molded cornice returns appear at the gable ends. The fenestration is varied; six-over-six double-hung sash windows predominate at the second story, and an assortment of multi-paned bay windows and French doors is mixed with double-hung sash on the first-floor elevations. Black-painted louvered shutters appear throughout.

Interior

The west end of the first story consists of a variety of sitting areas. The central block contains an entry area, pantry and kitchen, and the rear ell serves as a family room. Bedrooms are located on the second stories of all the blocks.

The circa 1785 block is a self-contained entity in which the original center-hall plan is well preserved (see attached floor plan; Figure 1). The layout accommodates the customary opposing front parlors (north and south) on the west (front) side, a northeast chamber and, in the southeast corner, the former eighteenth-century kitchen. The two interior chimneys provide each of the four downstairs rooms with a fireplace located on the interior wall. The center hall, which runs on an east/west axis, incorporates a staircase on the south side. A plaster coating finishes the walls and ceilings, and the floors are laid with wide boards, consisting of hardwood on the first floor and pine on the second floor. Interior doors include a mix of eighteenth-century batten types and nineteenth-century four-panel doors notable for their flush-bead paneling and brass knobs and keyhole plates.

Each of the four downstairs rooms displays framing embers in the form of gunstock corner posts and exposed or boxed beams. Elements of the hewn post-and-beam framework are also visible in the basement, where the untrimmed floor joists remain open to view. The north chimney rises from a vaulted base. In the attic, the roof framing reveals a system of hand-hewn common rafters secured with pegged tenon joints with Roman numeral scribe marks clearly visible. There is no ridgepole. A section of wood shakes is preserved and visible on the east roof plane, where the central block partially encases the roof of the 1785 house. (The newer roof is framed with stock millwork.) Vertical, bevel-edged boards sheathe the walls of the enclosed attic staircase, which opens off the north side of the second-story hall.

The south parlor, currently a sitting room, is noteworthy for the fireplace located on the east wall (Photograph 4). The wood chimneypiece features a restrained Federal-period design in which an attenuated architrave with a central panel and an overhanging cornice surmounts a pair of reeded, bow-front pilasters. The brick hearth fronts a columned fireplace insert, coal grate and fender; all of brass. These elements appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century. Painted gunstock posts stand exposed in the room's corners. Simple molded casings frame the double-hung, nine-over-six, window sash fronting the parlor on its west side. In the north window, a glass pane is etched with the name "Wm H. Johnson."

The south parlor connects to the former kitchen room by means of a pass-through. The dominant feature of this room is the large west-wall fireplace, lined with random-sized blocks of dressed granite and fronted by a hearth made from a single slab of granite (Photograph 5). The fireplace opening displays an unusual design in the form of a low segmental arch spanned by a band of wrought iron. A course of small, uniform blocks of dressed granite runs above. The Federal Style chimneypiece consists of a plain wooden surround, molded mantel and a rectangular overmantel. A brick beehive bake oven is located to the left. A pair of small plank doors with knob handles fronting the oven appears to be a Colonial Revival feature added in the early 1900s. A glass-fronted china cupboard on the north wall of the pass-through is of similar design and period. To the immediate right (north) of the pass-through door is a section of wall paneled with vertical

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feather-edged boards. An alcove section on the east side of the room opens to the south lawn by means of French doors.

The center-hall stair, a Greek Revival feature dating from circa 1830, displays a distinctive design incorporating turned balusters, a stout newel post turned in multiple segments and a simple molded banister and newel cap of varnished mahogany (Photograph 6). Trabeated fireplace surrounds in the northwest parlor (currently a study) and in the northeast chamber both display the hallmark post-and-lintel design of the Greek Revival style, here interpreted with simple pilasters surmounted by an unadorned architrave characteristic of vernacular Connecticut farmhouse architecture of the period (Photograph 7).

Corresponding with the four-room layout on the first floor, the second story of the west block contains four chambers, two each flanking the central hall. Three are presently used as bedrooms, and a dressing room is located in the southwest corner. A bathroom has been installed between the two front (west) chambers. The wide-board pine floors and four-paneled doors on the second story appear to date from the mid-1800s, suggesting the second floor was remodeled or perhaps finished at the same time that the owners were adding improvements in the Greek Revival Style to the first floor. The enclosed staircase leading to the attic is notable for its feather-edged board sheathing.

The flat-roofed wing at the house's northwest corner contains the Colonial Revival living-room addition containing a single rectangular (30' x 16') seating area designed with the north chimney wall as its focus (Photograph 8). The side walls, of plaster, are finished with a wooden dado and simple molded chair rail. The dominant, symmetrically composed end wall incorporates a pair of arched bookcases with a polished gray marble fireplace and paneled overmantel conceived as the Georgian Revival centerpiece. Each of the matching bookcases is recessed within a framework composed of an arched molding springing from narrow pilasters and trimmed with an elongated fluted keystone block at the center. Slender Ionic columns flank the fireplace opening. The west side of the room opens to a three-sided bay window, and French doors open to the south. At the room's southeast corner a paneled door leads to the central hall of the circa 1785 farmhouse. The molded wooden door frame, designed to encase flanking sidelights, exhibits a carved corner block design, a detail repeated in window and door frames elsewhere in the room (Photograph 9).

The condition of the house, inside and out, is excellent. The self-contained eighteenth-century core is well preserved, as are the Greek Revival-style features on the first floor. The circa 1941 Colonial Revival living room design is also intact. The one-story rear-ell is a c. 1968 alteration, added when the rear wing, formerly a garage, was remodeled as a family room.

The property contains two outbuildings: a c. 1880s wagon shed/carriage house (contributing) and a c. 1940s guest cottage (non contributing). The wagon shed (25 x 27) is a 1½-story peak-roofed wood-frame building situated on a sparsely wooded site to the east of the house and oriented with its gable ends to the north and south (Photograph 10). Wood shingles clad the exterior walls and roof. The principle elevation faces east, where a shed-roofed extension incorporates a pair of sliding barn doors hung on exterior mounts. The doors are fashioned with vertical boards secured with cross bracing. A single hinged door (six vertical panels) is located at the north end of this east elevation, where it provides access to an interior stair leading to a loft level. The building is framed with stock millwork and paneled on the interior with horizontal bead board. Fenestration consists primarily of paired double-hung (two-over-two) sash. The condition is good, with the exception of the left (south) barn door, which is somewhat deteriorated. The integrity is very good; one gable window is a 20th-century replacement, but otherwise the original features are intact. The guest cottage is a small, one-story wood-framed building consisting of two peak-roofed blocks arranged in a "T" plan (Photograph 11). The building, clad in white-painted wood shingles is located to the east of the main house and west of the wagon shed and oriented with the main elevation to the west. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash arranged in pairs. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The condition is good.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

C. 1785-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance represents the period of ownership by the Webb and Davenport families.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The David and Sarah Webb, Jr. House is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A as an eighteenth-century subsistence farm reconceived as a gracious country retreat during a period of suburbanization responsible for shaping the twentieth-century development of southwestern Connecticut. The expansion of the circa 1785 farmhouse during the late 1800s and into the early twentieth century by members of the same extended family paralleled the evolution of New Canaan from a post-Colonial farming community into one of the most sophisticated commuter towns in the state. The 1892 purchase of the property by a New York City resident a century after a distant relative built it demonstrates the influence of a widespread movement to preserve historic farmhouses at a time when subsistence farming in Connecticut was on the decline. Renovations were intended to evoke the perceived charm of rural life while providing the owners with modern amenities. The Webb House also displays characteristics that qualify it for local architectural significance under Criterion C as a documentation of transitional architecture. The oldest, circa 1785 section of the building protected by a sequence of owners as the core of their expanded residence is a fine regional example of a vernacular Federal-period Connecticut farmhouse. Alterations and updates in the Greek Revival and Colonial Revival Styles preserve a genuine illustration of the continuum of tastes affecting Connecticut architecture in their given periods. In particular the twentieth-century additions demonstrate the impact of the Colonial Revival as a powerful and lasting trend in the suburban architecture in the state.

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

Historical Significance

The town of New Canaan originated as a Congregational Church parish known as Canaan, established in the 1730s by farmers settling on the outlying land divisions of two adjacent colonial towns, Stamford (founded 1641) and Norwalk (founded 1651). Located on the west side of the parish near the Stamford border, Ponus Ridge was part of land acquired by the Rev. John Davenport^A (1669-1731).ⁱ In 1782, 3½ acres on the ridge were deeded to Deodate Davenport^B (1730-1808). In 1785 Deodate Davenport sold the land to David Webb, Jr., who had married Deodate's daughter Sarah Davenport (b.1760) in 1783. The Webbs, then living in nearby Wilton, Connecticut, are responsible for building the oldest section of the house (the Federal-period center-hall structure) soon after buying the land.ⁱⁱ By the mid-1790s the Webbs had moved to Warren, Connecticut, and they sold the New Canaan house in 1798.

After a flurry of transactions involving the Youngs, a Stamford family who intermarried with the Davenports, the Webb House passed in 1800 to John Davenport^E (1771-1834), the brother of Sarah Webb. Joseph Davenport (1803-91), nephew of Sarah and John, purchased the house in 1832 and lived there with his wife Julia until 1856. Between 1856 and 1874 Joseph's brother Hanford Davenport and his sons Edward and William controlled ownership. In 1875 the house passed out of the Davenport family, but returned to family hands in 1892, when the house was purchased by Henry B. Davenport (1854-1920) and Flora Dupee (Lufkin) Davenport. Henry B. Davenport was a direct descendant of the Rev. John Davenport^A and a distant cousin of Sarah Webb (several generations down the line). The property passed out of the family for a final time in 1941 when it was sold to Ralph B. Semler.

ⁱ The Davenport line of descent: Rev. John Davenport^A (1597-1669); his son was John Davenport^B (1635-1676); his son was John Davenport^C (1669-1731); his sons were John Davenport^D (1698-1742) and Deodate Davenport^A (1706-61); John's son was Deodate Davenport^B (1730-1808); Deodate's children were Sarah Davenport (b. 1760 and m. David Webb, 1783), Deodate Davenport^C (b. 1766) and John Davenport^E (1771-1834); Deodate's son was Joseph Davenport (1803-91).

ⁱⁱ David and Sarah Webbs' two children, Nathan and Sarah, were both born in Wilton in the early 1780s.

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Ponus Ridge, site of the David and Sarah Webb, Jr. House, roughly parallels the New Canaan/Stamford line in the northwest corner of town. The road—believed to be the oldest in New Canaan—follows the route of a highway laid out in 1709 along the path called Ponasses, where the Native American sachem Ponus is believed to have kept a lodge. Ponus was among the natives named in deeds transferring land here to English settlers in a series of transactions between 1640 and 1700.

The house is distinguished by strong family ties to early members of the first English migration to the Connecticut coast in the 1630s and 1640s. The name Davenport is one of the most important in Connecticut's colonial history. The progenitor of the New Canaan Davenports was the famous Puritan leader, the Rev. John Davenport^A, the separatist minister, orator and scholar who co-founded the New Haven Colony with the merchant Theophilus Eaton in 1638. As Davenport's great, great, great granddaughter, Sarah Davenport Webb descended from a long line of Congregationalist ministers who were instrumental in the settlement of southwestern Connecticut, where the Congregational Church played a major role in colonial town government.ⁱⁱⁱ In 1693 Sarah Davenport Webb's great grandfather, the Rev. John Davenport^C (1669-1731) accepted the call to Stamford to serve as minister of the First Congregational Church and had amassed some 3,000 acres by the time of his death in 1730. Most of the land, including Ponus Ridge, passed to the Reverend Davenport's two eldest sons, John Davenport^D (1698-1742) and Deodate Davenport^A (1706-61).

The brothers promptly had the land surveyed and began to sell it off, thus opening the way for settlement of the backcountry by settlers of Norwalk and Stamford. The Canaan Congregational parish formed in 1731 after the farmers scattered in the district objected to the long trip required to attend religious services in the Norwalk and Stamford meetinghouses on the shore. In 1782, when Deodate Davenport^B purchased the land where the Webb House now stands (from the Nathan Stevens estate), it is almost certain that he was buying back part of the vast holdings that had been amassed by his grandfather, the Rev. John Davenport^C. Land records from the 1790s mention a house and barn and that apples, corn and potatoes were being grown on the property.

Landowners in the Ponus Ridge section of the Canaan parish remained residents of Stamford until the parish incorporated as the town of New Canaan in 1801. (The "New" was added because a town named Canaan already had been incorporated in northwestern Connecticut.) A village center formed only after the establishment of a local shoemaking industry in 1818. In 1832 Joseph Davenport, nephew of Sarah, purchased the Webb house for \$1,800. Davenport may have been benefiting from the expanding economy and it is likely he who made added the Greek Revival mantels and perhaps finished the second floor. The next major change to the house came after the arrival of rail service in 1868. The rail line, incorporated as part of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in 1890, was instrumental in New Canaan's development as a suburb of New York City. Like many of the other picturesque country towns in southern Fairfield County, New Canaan began attracting summer visitors and commuters who traveled to Manhattan to work. When in 1892 Henry B. and Flora Davenport of Brooklyn, New York purchased the David and Sarah Webb, Jr. House for use as a summer residence, a fashion for "country living" was giving a second life to old Connecticut farmhouses, some abandoned and many sold as farmers moved to the Midwest in search of better land.

A lawyer and historian, Henry Davenport founded in 1906 the Home Title Insurance Company of New York and served as its president until his death in 1920. His ownership of the property paralleled the transformation of New Canaan from farm town to suburb. By the time of World War I, the town was fully established as a suburban bedroom community, and by 1930 one-half the working males living there commuted to jobs in New York. A corresponding interest in modernizing farmhouses into appealing

ⁱⁱⁱ Sarah Webb's great, great grandfather, the Rev. John Bishop (1610-94), was called in 1644 as first minister to the Stamford Congregational Church. In 1763 her great grandfather, the Rev. John Davenport^C followed as the second minister of the same church.

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residences—either as primary or second homes—responded to a growing nostalgia for the simple country pleasures associated with New England's past. Henry and Flora Davenport represented an early generation of urban dwellers who escaped the heat and pollution of the city by spending warmer months in the country.

This development also related in part to the desire of people to return to the towns where they or their ancestors had grown up in order to reconnect with family roots. Henry Davenport had spent childhood summers at family property on nearby Davenport Ridge in Stamford, and as early as 1867 his parents Amzi B. and Jane Davenport had built one of the first summer houses in the area. Amzi authored a published family genealogy, and his son surely knew that he was buying the house of his distant cousin when he settled on the Ponus Ridge property in 1892. Henry and Flora named the property Valley View and are believed to have added the central block as part of their renovations. They also cultivated the grounds. Mrs. Davenport was a member of the New Canaan Chapter of the Garden Club of America, and photographs of her garden appeared in a Garden Club of America brochure in 1927. One image reveals that the Colonial Revival living room addition at the northwest corner of the house had not been built as of that date. The room may have been added by Flora before her death in 1935, or more likely by Ralph B. Semler, who bought the property in 1941. Semler also resided in New York and used the Webb House as his country retreat. He was a manufacturer of Kreml hair tonic, originally in New York and later in New Canaan.

Architectural Significance

The David and Sarah Webb, Jr. house is noteworthy for preserving a continuum of architectural features influenced by three major stylistic currents in Connecticut: the Federal, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival. Fronting the road, the main, circa 1785 farmhouse is self contained within the later additions and easily identified as the building's historic core. The interior layout and much of the detailing, including doors, hardware, and early feather-edged paneling, are intact. The scribe-rule joinery of the post-and-beam frame is characteristic of the era, as is the layout, configured with its two symmetrically placed chimneys flanking the hall to create the four-room composition that remains the heart of the larger house. The center-hall plan is representative of a prevalent English colonial type that had largely supplanted its center-chimney predecessor in southwestern Connecticut by the Federal period (circa 1780-1820).

The interior of the circa 1785 block is especially notable for its well-preserved chimneypieces. In vernacular domestic architecture, stylistic changes often first appear in the mantel and fireplace designs. The Webb House fireplaces display an evolution of styles. The granite cooking fireplace and beehive oven, and the graceful mantel treatment in the south parlor reflect the Federal influence. The simple but elegant trabeated designs of the two north fireplaces exemplify the later Greek Revival taste. These chimneypieces, dating from the c. 1830s, are contemporaneous with the staircase and newel post and certain features on the second story, including the pine floors, flush-bead doors, and the inset rectangular cornice-level windows fronting Ponus Ridge Road.

For its own part, the living-room wing contributed to Colonial Revival interpretation of good taste with its display of twin arched bookshelves detailed with keystone blocks and a marble mantel flanked by columns in the Ionic order. The Georgian-inspired composition exemplifies the power that "colonial" motifs had to convey an image of tradition and New England pedigree.

Inspired in part by displays of New England domestic life at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the Colonial Revival originated as a sophisticated architectural style that found its initial admirers among the fashionable clientele of society firms—most notably the New York architectural office of McKim, Mead & White. Credit for sentimentalizing the "Colonial look" and building a populist following for the style lies largely with popular tastemakers and authors like Kate Sanborn (1839-1917) and Wallace Nutting (1861-1941). Extolling the virtues of the country life, Sanborn published a book entitled *Adopting an Abandoned*

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Farm in 1891, a year before the Henry Davenports purchased the Webb House. A one-time resident of Connecticut, Wallace Nutting, a self-taught antiques expert and house restorer, was also influential in spreading the "good taste" of all things colonial by selling tinted photographs of early American domestic scenes and the reproduction colonial furniture. A prolific author of plans for comfortable colonial houses, the Boston architect Royal Barry Wills (1895-1962)—progenitor of the whitewashed chimney and multi-paned picture window—continued spreading the Colonial design gospel into the middle of the twentieth century.

The charming connotations of an historic farmhouse offered tremendous appeal in towns like New Canaan. People settled there (or returned, as in the case of Henry B. Davenport) precisely because it possessed the qualities of a quintessential New England village. For those who wanted a blend of "Olde New England" character and modern comforts, a newly remodeled farmhouse was the answer. The evolving floor plan and rambling profile of the renovated Webb House not only typified the changes of the day, but also directly reflected the impact of the evolving lifestyle of suburbanizing towns. Replacing the stiff formal parlor (reserved for weddings and funerals) of previous generations, for example, a large and comfortable living room offered a place to gather family by the fire for an evening of cards and reading—or to indulge newly popular fashions for entertaining, such as the buffet dinner or the cocktail party. The advent of automobiles brought the addition of rear garages and the rerouting of driveways. As house plans ambled rearward with the addition of modern pantries and kitchens, front doors were relocated to the longer elevations and refashioned with formal entries. Bay windows and multi-paned doors flooded dimly lit 18th- and 19th-century interiors with sunlight while framing views of lawn and garden.

The grounds are another noteworthy element of this site, where the open lawns, mature pine and shade trees and the gardens contribute to a rural setting that complements the house and remains in keeping with the Colonial Revival sensibility of the entire property. The two ancient maples in front of the house were likely planted at the time it was built; such a pair of trees often commemorated a marriage, anniversary or the construction of a new home. Incorporating large pieces of dressed granite, the dry stone wall bordering the original road bed is an exceptionally beautiful example of its type (Photograph 12). The sunken flowerbeds on the south side of the house appear to survive from Flora Davenport's garden, and the 19th-century carriage house is an important surviving outbuilding. By preserving both the original farmhouse and a timeline of changes so clearly reflective of evolving tastes, the property holds a significant place in the architectural

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Davenport, Amzi Benedict. *History and Genealogy of the Davenport Family in England and America from A.D. 1086 to 1850*. New York, 1851.

_____. *A Supplement to the History and Genealogy of the Davenport Family in England and America from A.D. 1086 to 1850*. Stamford, CT, 1876.

Huntington, Rev. E. B. *History of Stamford, Connecticut 1641-1868, Including Darien until 1820*. (Corrected Reprint), Harrison, NY: Harbor Hill Books, 1979.

Kerchus, Nils and Sharon Turo, "David Webb, Jr. House: The History of a New Canaan Home Including a Complete Title Search with an Architectural Description and Genealogical Notes," 2003.

King, Mary Louise. *Portrait of New Canaan: The History of a Connecticut Town*. New Canaan Historical Society, 1981.

Webb, David and Sarah, Jr., House
Name of Property

Fairfield, CT
County and State

"The New Canaan Historical Society Annual," (2), No. 4, June, 1950.

"The New Canaan Historical Society Annual," (5), No. 2, October, 1960.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.6 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	623400	4556441	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The nominated property is bounded on the west by Ponus Ridge and on the north, east, and south by property lines. The property is identified as Block 23, Lot 7 on New Canaan Assessor's Map 26.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the current building parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Carley
organization _____ date 4/11
street & number 10 Camp Dutton Road telephone 860-567-5132
city or town Litchfield state CT zip code 06759
e-mail rcarley@snet.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Webb, David and Sarah, Jr., House
Name of Property

Fairfield, CT
County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Webb, Sarah and David, Jr. House
City or Vicinity: New Canaan
County: Fairfield
State: CT
Photographer: Rachel Carley
Negatives Filed: SHPO, Hartford, Ct
Date Photographed: November 2008, September 2009

1. North elevation, looking south
2. West façade and south elevation, looking northeast
3. South elevation, looking northwest
4. Interior, east fireplace wall of south parlor
5. Interior, west fireplace wall of original kitchen
6. Interior, hall stair, looking east
7. Interior, east fireplace wall of north parlor
8. Interior, north fireplace wall of living room addition
9. Interior, west interior doorway, living room addition
10. Wagon shed, south gable end and east elevation, looking northwest
11. Guest cottage, west elevation, looking east
12. Stone wall, west side of house, looking northeast

Webb, David and Sarah, Jr., House
Name of Property

Fairfield, CT
County and State

Property Owner:

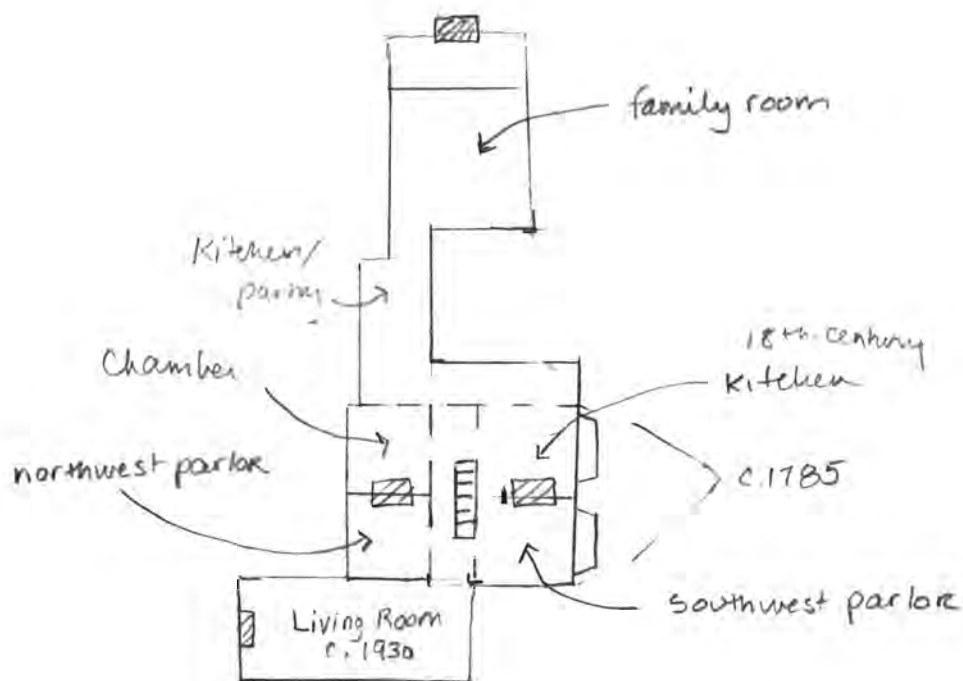
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Cornelius Keating
street & number 1161 Ponus Ridge telephone 203-966-9691
city or town New Canaan state CT zip code 06840

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 18 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.

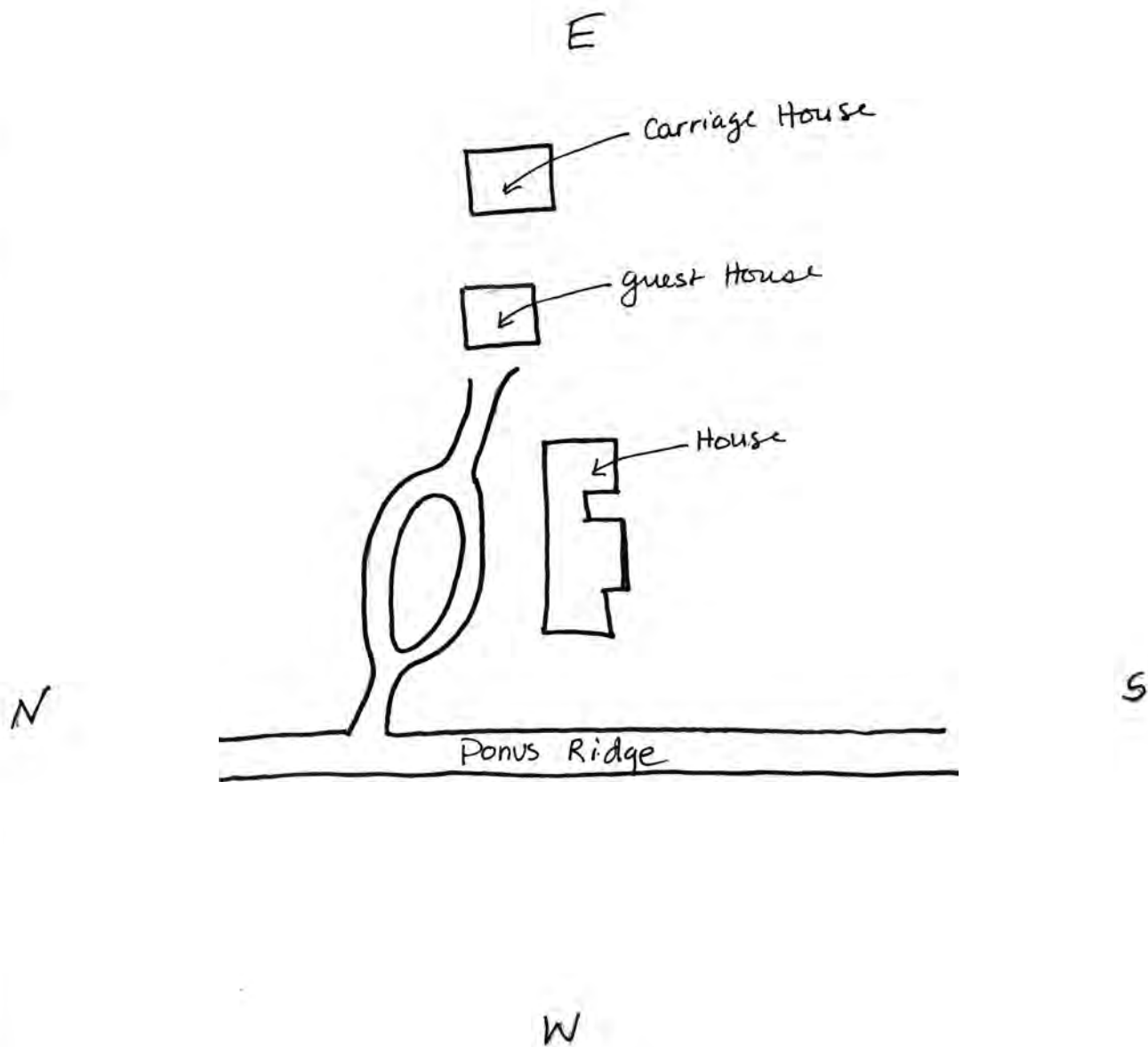
Figure 1



Plan of David and Sarah Webb, Jr House
1161 Ponus Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT
Fairfield County

Site plan

David and Sarah Webb, Jr., House
1161 Ponus Ridge, New Canaan, CT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Webb, David Jr. and Sarah, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 9/09/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/04/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/19/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/25/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000751

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10-20-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.









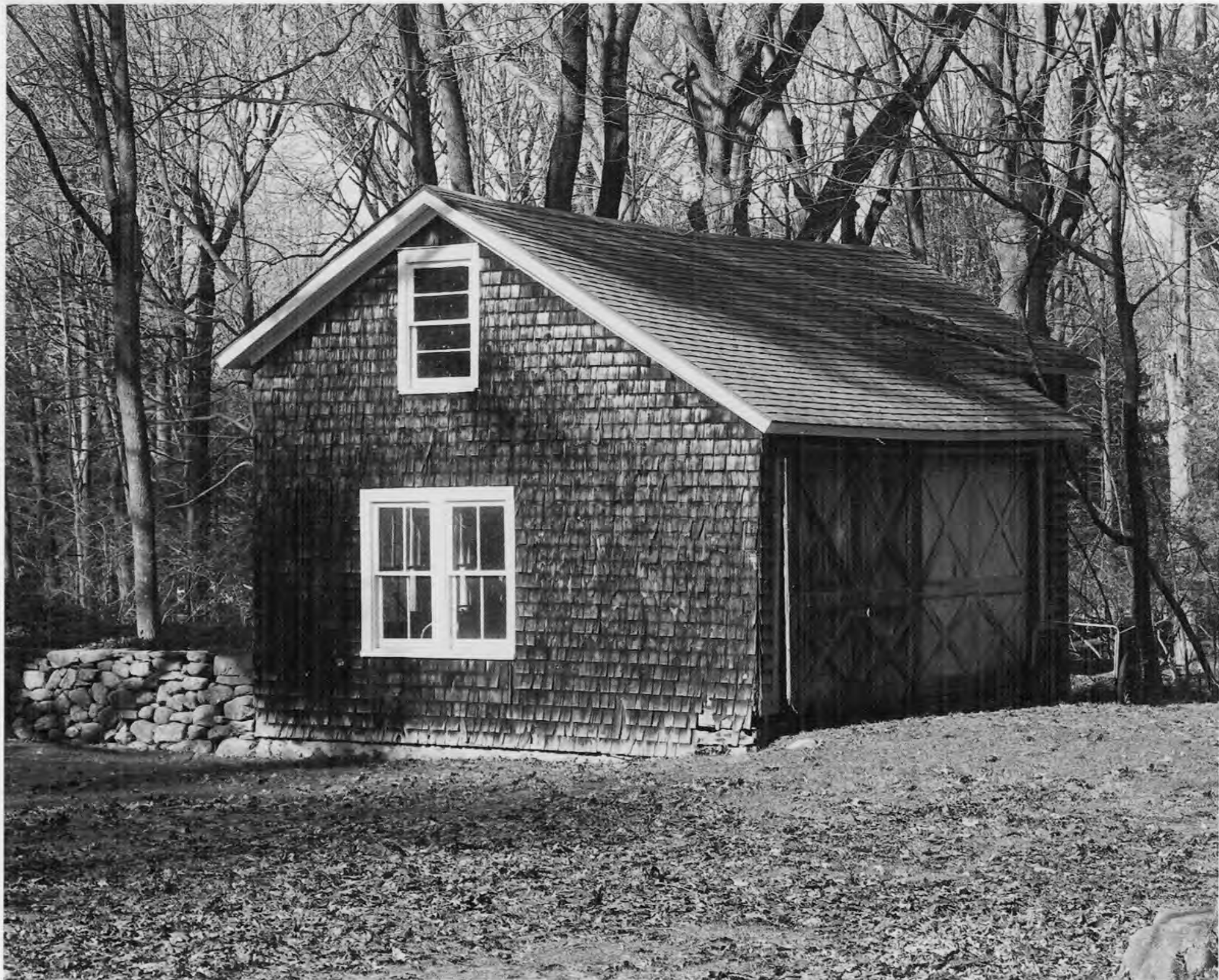


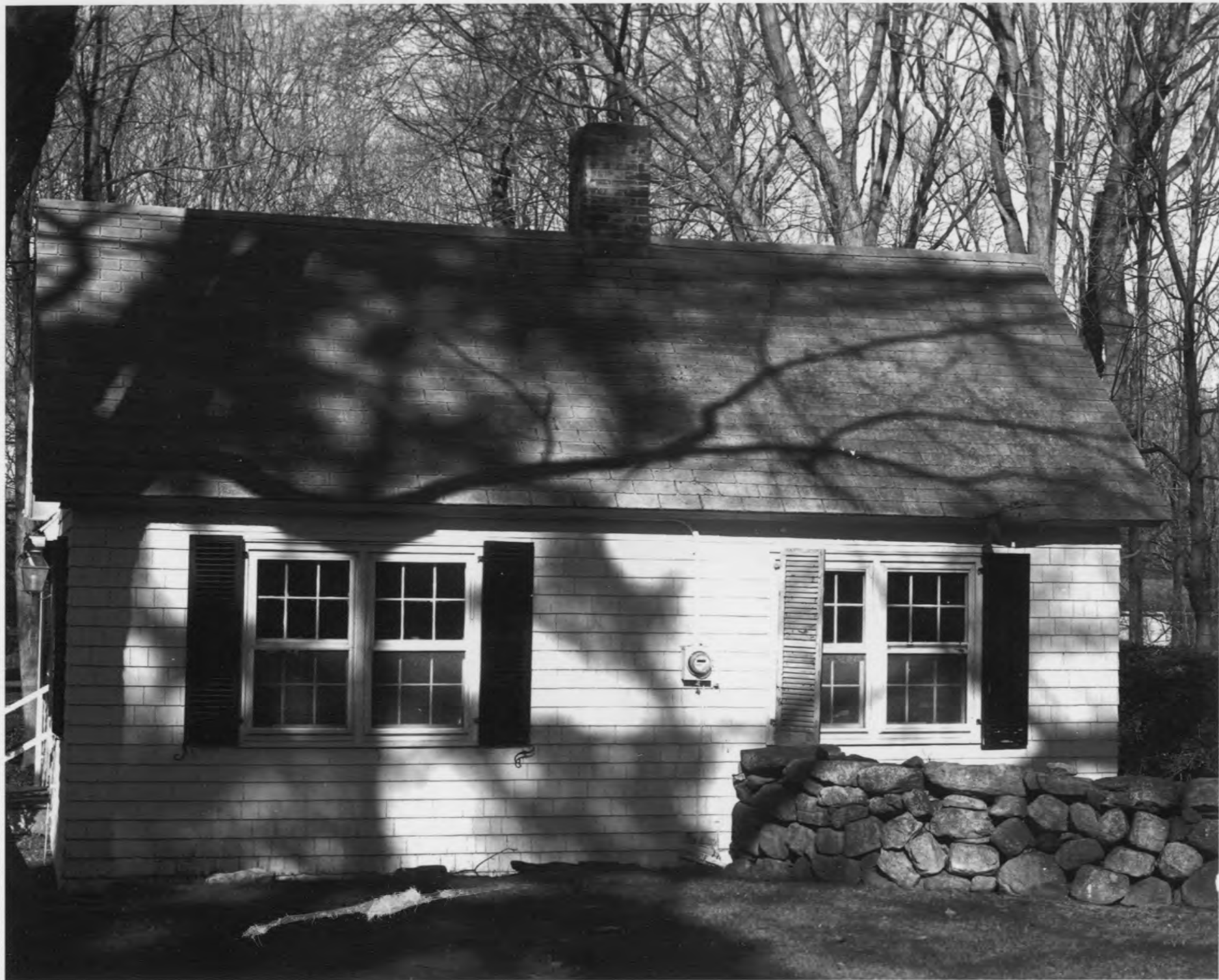








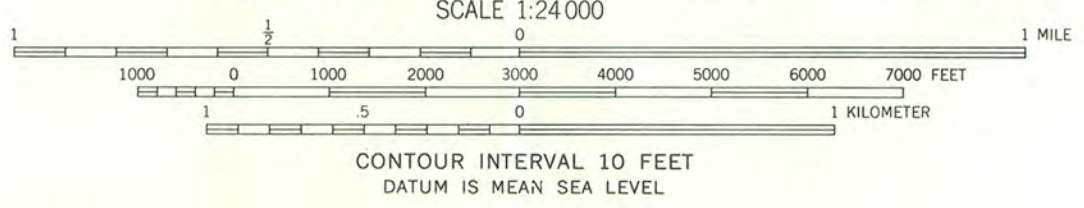








Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1951. Revised 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, east zone
and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



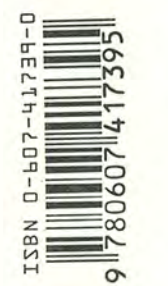
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

State Route
Interstate Route
POUND RIDGE, N. Y.—CONN.

N4107.5—W7330/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 6266 II NE—SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

David and Sarah
Webb, Jr. House
New Canaan
Fairfield County, CT
UTM Reference:
18/623400/455644





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

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 19 day of August
2008, for nomination of the Sarah and David Webb, Jr. House
Fairfield Co.
Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- N/A Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other Negatives

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: _____