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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 20 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Taylor's Corner

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Route 171

not for publication

city, town Woodstock

vicinity

state CT

code CT

county Windham

code 015

zip code 06281

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

1

_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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

December 13, 1988

Date

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Alouise Byers

Entered in the
National Register

1/14/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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	Materials (enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE walls WOOD roof ASPHALT other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built c. 1790, the house at Taylor's Corner is a frame gable-roofed 5-bay central-chimney central-entrance structure facing south away from the highway.¹ (Photograph 1) There have been three additions to the house to the east: first, a kitchen wing was added, c. 1800; then, Colonial Revival alterations were made to the wing in the early 20th century; and a further extension was made in mid-20th century. (See first-floor plan)

The main block is built using plank walls without studs. In its front elevation, the 2-over-2 windows are spaced in a 2-1-2 rhythm. The splayed lintels of the first-floor windows and the front door, which is placed slightly off center to the east, are fastened with wooden pegs. The clapboards are lapped. In the west side elevation, there are three windows, evenly spaced, at first and second floors and a single attic window.

The doorway of the rear elevation, off center to the west, is flanked by an added window to the east under a low peaked hood, with three older windows to the east and two to the west. The five second-floor windows are in a 2--1-2 rhythm. (Photograph 2) Three dormers have been introduced in the kitchen wing, which projects back of the main elevation. The east side elevation of the main block is partially obscured by the kitchen wing, which on this front has a Colonial Revival porch and dormers above. (Photograph 3)

On the interior, the front door of the main block opens to a conventional hall with double dogleg stair rising from right to left in front of the chimney. The chimney behind the stair is hollow. (Photograph 4) The west front room has a beamed ceiling, 4-panel doors, and a paneled mantel. (Photograph 5) In the east front room, the principal features are a large overmantel and a summer beam running front to back. (Photograph 6) The kitchen fireplace and hearth in the main block are large, the door covering the bake oven opening is paneled, and the mantel has a molded shelf.² The rear stairway rises from back to front in the conventional location.

On the second floor, the west chamber has a small fireplace, 4-paneled doors, and a summer beam running from the chimney to the side wall. The east chamber has a similar summer, but its fireplace mantel is more elaborate, a difference between the two second-floor rooms corresponding to that found in the rooms below. (Photograph 7) There is a fireplace

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with paneled overmantel in the narrow hall that runs laterally behind the chambers. (Photograph 8) Both Norfolk and Suffolk latches are found on second-floor doors.

The attic is a high space, finished, but showing principal rafters fastened to the ridgepole by mortise, tenon, and pegs. Plank construction of the exterior wall also is visible in the attic. In the cellar, the chimney base is hollow, three sided, with massive timbers supporting the hearths and stack above. (Photograph 11)

In the kitchen wing, added c. 1800, the fireplace is similar to the main block's kitchen fireplace. A summer beam runs from the chimney toward the main block. (Photograph 9) This wing, which consists of a hall and second room as well as the kitchen, was built as a separate structure. It has its own west sill, abutting the east sill of the main block. (Photograph 10) In the cellar, the shape of a former fireplace is visible in the chimney base.

There are no outbuildings, and no visible signs of former outbuildings. The house is now in course of rehabilitation. Rotted sills are being replaced, windows returned to 12-over-12, and the 20th-century alterations reversed.

¹The pattern of highways near the house has changed from time to time. The east-west road behind the house formerly continued eastward to Woodstock center. The north-south road at the eastern boundary of the property was built in the 19th century. Consequently, it seems possible, perhaps likely, that the east-west road originally ran south of the house, with the house facing it, but this likelihood has not been verified.

²Evidence of an unusual former second rear stairway is visible in the southeast corner of the east rear room. It was a double dogleg like the front stair. How it worked in the overall floor plan of the house is not clear.

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

Period of Significance

c. 1790

Significant Dates

c. 1790

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The house at Taylor's Corner is significant architecturally because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of late-18th-century domestic construction, and has been little altered. Its Federal details of splayed lintels and wide fireplace mantel friezes are strong contributing features that help date the house. Criterion C - Architecture

Historical Note

The community of Woodstock, Connecticut, was settled in 1686 as New Roxbury, Massachusetts, by emigrants from Roxbury, Massachusetts. The name was changed to Woodstock in 1690, but the area remained part of Massachusetts until 1749. Woodstock lay on the Connecticut Path, the overland route from Hartford to Boston, and reference to the Connecticut Path appears in early land record entries for the nominated property.¹

Efforts to date the house by study of the land records are not fruitful because of the usual ambiguities of the early documents and because of wide swings in the size of the acreage. At one time, when the farm exceeded 500 acres in size,² it included at least two houses. From about 1800, the chain of title is fairly clear. The deed that records purchase by Henry Holden, Esquire, of Baltimore, in 1817, refers to a new house, possibly this one.³ For much of the 19th century, the farm was owned by the Weaver family and in the 20th century by Clinton Taylor, hence the name.

Architecture

In the house at Taylor's Corner, features characteristic of Colonial style domestic architecture include the 5-bay front elevation, first-floor plan of five rooms clustered around a central chimney, and second-floor plan of two chambers in front of a lateral hall. In addition, several distinctive features of the house are useful in helping to arrive at the likelihood that the house was built c. 1790.

First among the distinctive features are the splayed wooden lintels

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowen Clarence Winthrop. The History of Woodstock, Connecticut, v. 2. Privately printed, 1930.

The History of Woodstock, Connecticut. Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society, 1943.

Heritage and Horizons: Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock: Woodstock Tercentenary Committee, 1986.

Weaver, Jonathan (d. 1862). Probate records, Pomfret #4272, at State Library.

Woodstock Land Records, vol. 7, p. 9; 11/159; 12/385; 13/189; 14/281; 15/193, 211, 214; 17/47; 15/193, 214; 21/299, 301; 22/34, 38; 25/299, 301; 29/575; 30/716; 31/300; 35/426; 36/391; 38/597; 39/31; 40/396; 51/152; 58/282/ 64/6; 65/2, 501; 83/ See continuation sheet 284; 148/78; 174/87.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 16.4

UTM References

A

1	8	7	4	7	9	0	0	4	6	8	0	2	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	8	7	4	7	7	2	0	4	6	8	0	0	2	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

E 18 747320 4680120

B

1	8	7	4	7	8	4	0	4	6	8	0	0	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

1	8	7	4	7	6	9	0	4	6	8	0	1	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described at Woodstock Land Records, volume 174, page 87.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property enclose the land that now goes with the house.

See continuation sheet

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

name/title David F. Ransom/ Consultant

organization _____ date July 5, 1988

street & number 33 Sunrise Hill Drive telephone 203 521-2518

city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

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of the front door and the first-floor windows. (Photographs 1 and 2) This allusion to classical precedent is a stylish feature seldom found in country buildings earlier than the end of the 18th century. The splayed lintels, one of the features observed upon approaching the house, establish at first glance the likelihood that the house dates from not earlier than the late 18th century.

On the interior, the fireplace mantels also display Federal features in confirmation of the preliminary exterior observations. On the first floor, in the west front room the mantel has an eared architrave and in the east front room the mantel displays Federal fluted pilasters supporting a wide frieze. (Photographs 5 and 6) On the second floor, the fireplace openings are surrounded with band moldings under wide raised panels which characteristically extend to the ceiling. When built, the fireplace in the lateral hall probably faced a large open space, possibly a ballroom or possibly a work space for home industry such as spinning and weaving.

The unusual nature of the construction of the chimney stack itself lends additional credence to the c. 1790 date. The U-shaped hollow base on which rest massive timbers which, in turn, support the stack above, and the hollow first-floor level (Photograph 4), constitute a method of chimney construction that did not occur before c. 1790.⁴ The fact that the chimney indeed was in place by 1795 is apparently established by a letter recently found in the chimney during the course of work in progress in the house. (See copy attached.⁵)

While the preponderance of evidence, cited above, points to a c. 1790 date of construction, other features lend some support for conjecture regarding an earlier date. The difference in the framing of the ceilings of the two first-floor front rooms suggests that the west room was built before the east room. The joists of the west room represent a framing system used earlier than the summer of the east room. While the plaster between the joists in the west room probably is a 20th-century finish, and it is possible if not likely that the joists initially had a plaster ceiling beneath them, they are a different framing system, an unlikely circumstance if the two rooms had been built at the same time.⁶

In similar vein, the difference in orientation of the first- and second-floor summers is unexpected. The summer of the first-floor east room runs front-to-back, while on the second floor the summers run laterally from the chimney to the side walls, again unlikely if all the work had been done at one time. Also, by the end of the 18th century, summers generally were above the ceiling, not exposed as in the Taylor's Corner house. Such evidence is not conclusive, however, because country work often was retardataire.

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In contrast to the above enumerated features that possibly pre-date c. 1790, the kitchen wing probably is later. Because of the two separate sills, it obviously is an addition, either built on the site or moved from another location. In either event, the fact that it is a separate but abutting structure is unusual.

¹Land records for the area now known as Woodstock are at the Woodstock Town Office for the years 1749 to present, at Worcester, Massachusetts, for the period c. 1720-1748, and at Boston for earlier years.

²Clarence Winthrop Bowen, The History of Woodstock, Connecticut, v. 2, Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society, 1943, p. 150.

³Woodstock Land Records, volume 15, page 214, May 31, 1817. For the Henry Holden purchase, see also 15/193. In the mid-18th century, the property was known as the Allen Farm. Subsequent owners before Holden were William and John Martin and Amos Paine.

⁴John O. Curtis, Letter dated June 21, 1988.

⁵Copy of the letter is included in the nomination because its date establishes that the chimney was in place by 1795. There is no information concerning the event alluded to in the letter.

⁶The fact that the hearth of the west front room is wider than the fireplace (Photograph 5) suggests the presence, originally, of a bake oven, in support of the hypothesis that this room is older than the rest of the house.

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Curtis, John C. Letter, dated June 21, 1988.

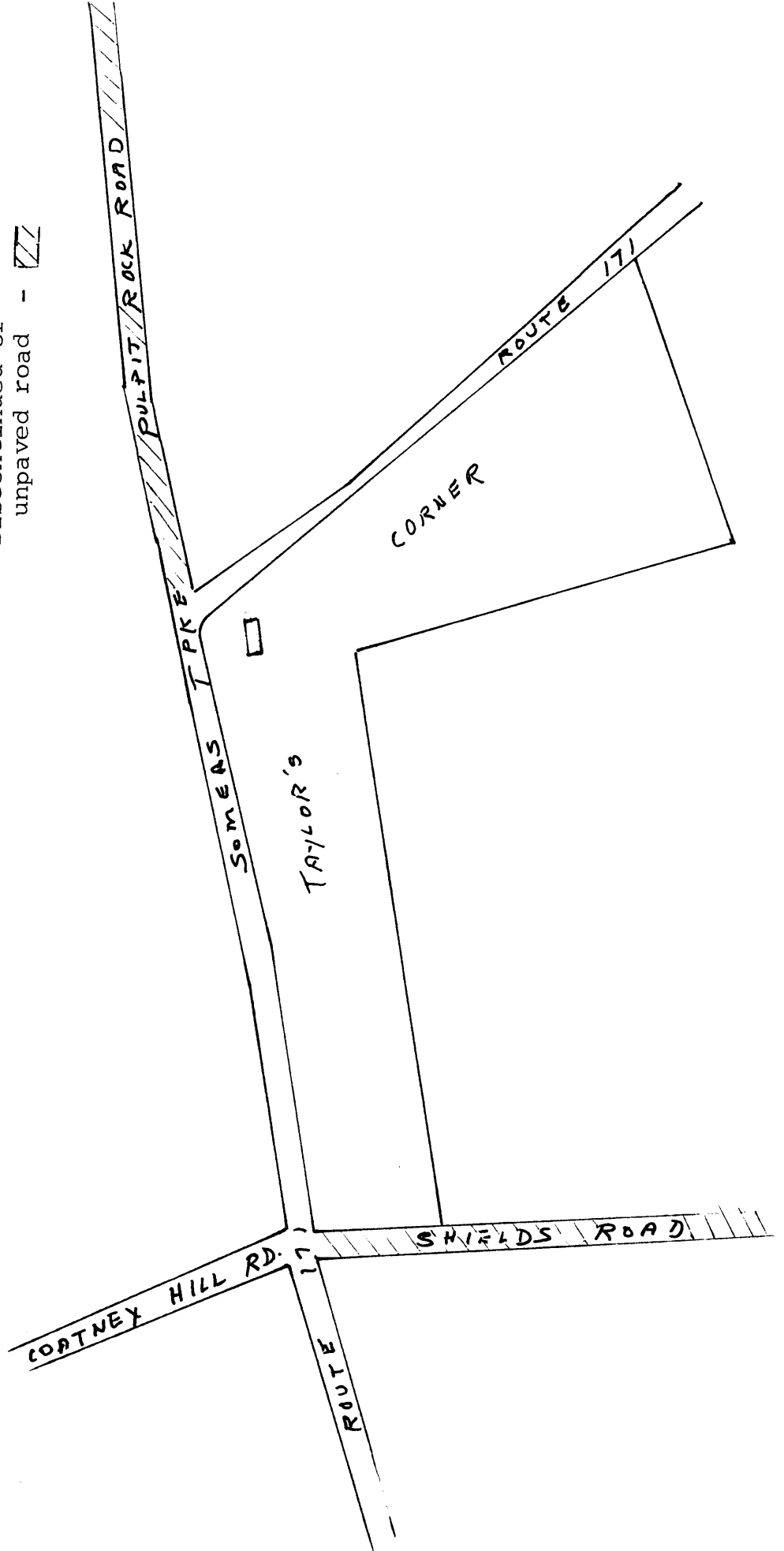
N 4

Taylor's Corner
Woodstock, CT

Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 315' prox.

Discontinued or
unpaved road - 



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Photographs were taken by D. Ransom in December, 1987.
Negatives are in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Captions:

Front elevation of
main block
View North
Photograph 1

West sill of kitchen wing,
east sill of main block
View southeast
Photograph 10

Rear and west
elevations
View southeast
Photograph 2

Chimney base,
inside of U
View west
Photograph 11

East and front
elevations
View northwest
Photograph 3

Interior of chimney,
first floor
View northeast
Photograph 4

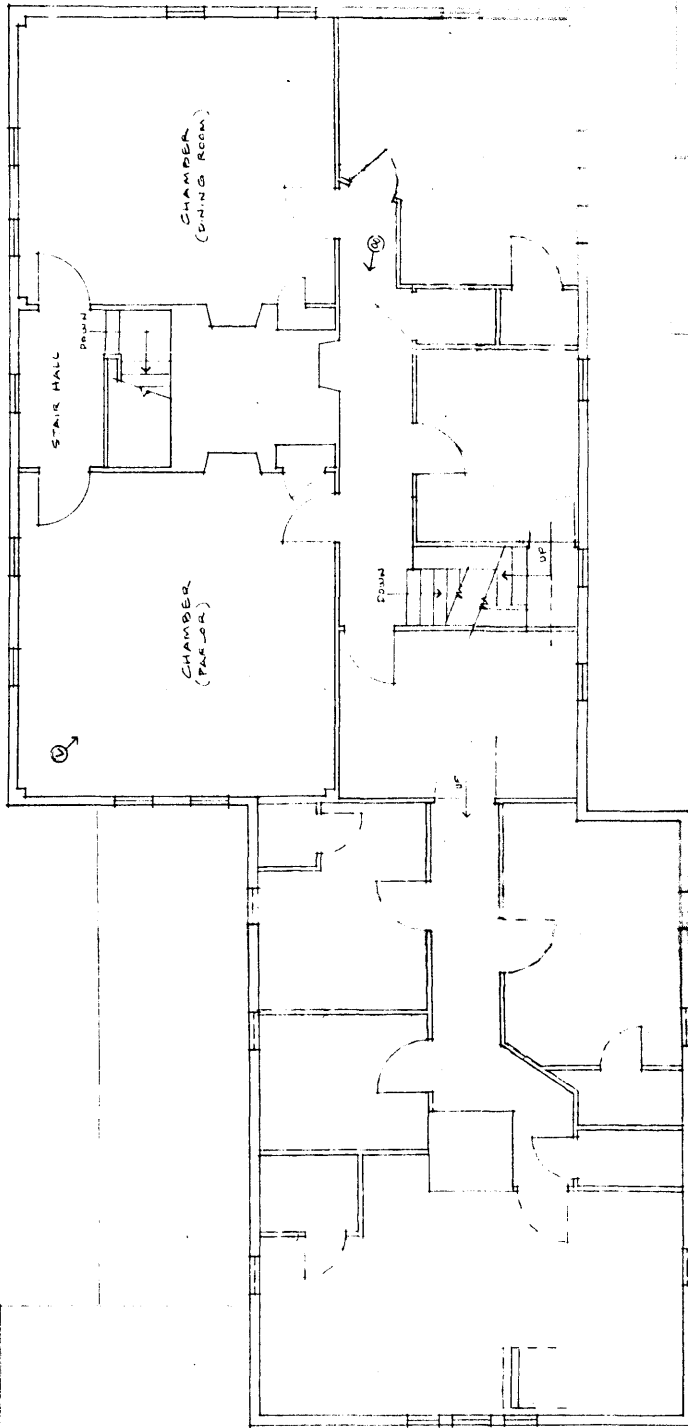
First floor, west
front room
View northeast
Photograph 5

First floor, east
front room
View southwest
Photograph 6

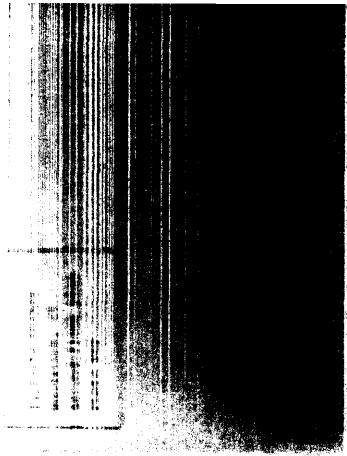
Second floor, east
chamber
View northwest
Photograph 7

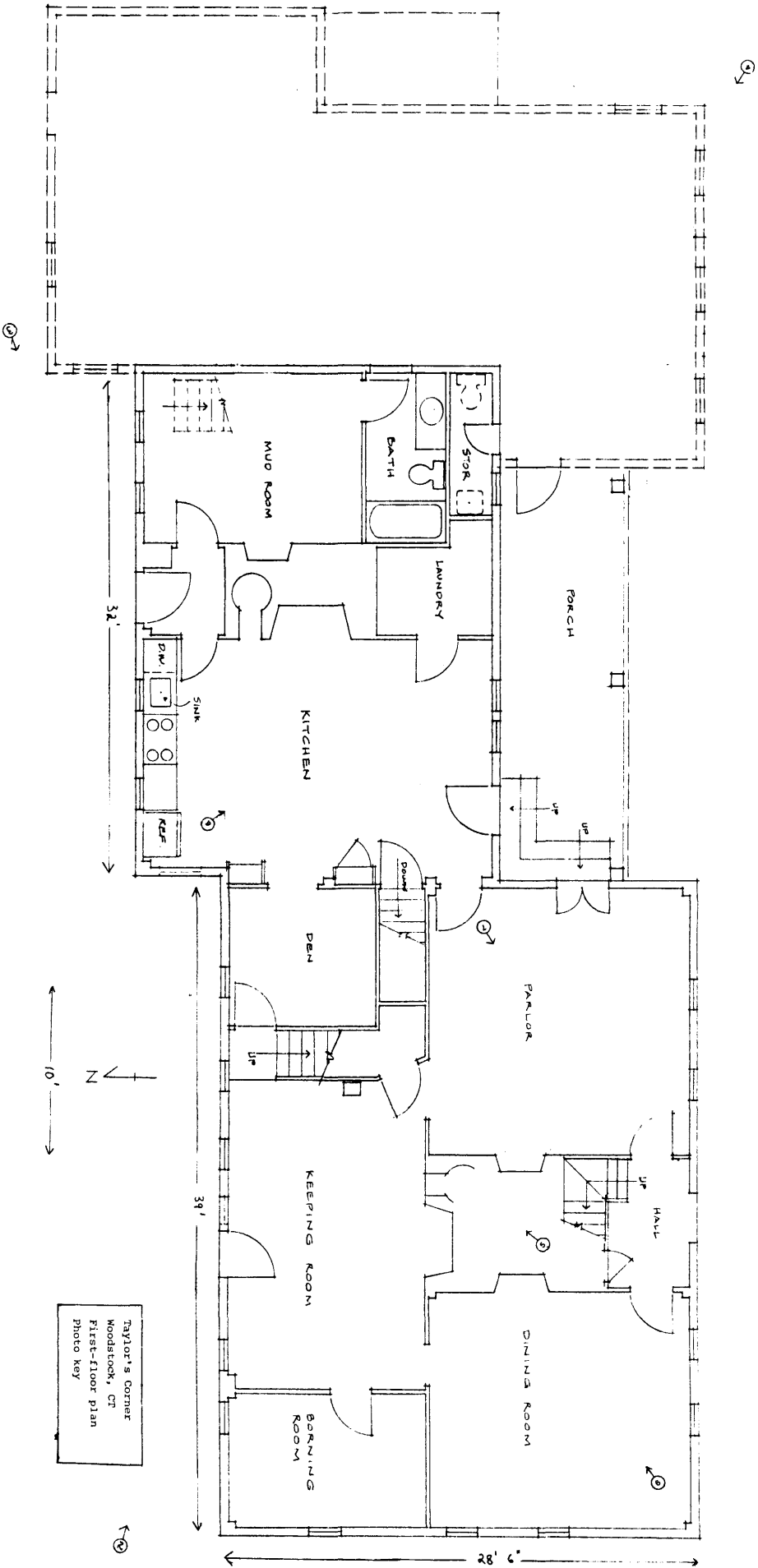
Second floor,
rear hall
View southeast
Photograph 8

Kitchen wing
View southeast
Photograph 9



← 10' →





Taylor's Corner
Woodstock, CT
First-floor plan
Photo key