

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Darling, James Alexis, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1932 Litchfield Turnpike (CT Route 69)

City or town: Woodbridge State: CT County: New Haven

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

FOUNDATION: Sandstone, basalt, concrete

WALLS: Wood shingle

ROOF: Wood shingle

CHIMNEY: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The James Alexis Darling House is a one-and-one-half story simple Greek Revival-style cottage, built in 1842. It is located on the west side of Litchfield Turnpike (CT Route 69, formerly the Straits Turnpike) in the town of Woodbridge in New Haven County, Connecticut (Figures 1, 2). The house faces east and is sited on a level, 1.93-acre lot with a dry-laid fieldstone wall along the street and two wood-frame outbuildings at the rear of the house. The house has a post-and-beam wood-frame structure with raised plates at the roof line, a front gable roof, and a center chimney layout. The east gable facing the road is treated as the formal front with a three-bay side-hall configuration and Greek Revival-style detailing. The south elevation and interior plan incorporate some characteristics of a Cape Cod Cottage building type. A one-story, shed-roofed addition extends to the west. Outbuildings include a small nineteenth-century gable-roofed wagon shed/workshop connected to the southwest corner of the house, and a second free-standing late-nineteenth-century or early twentieth-century stable/garage further to the west. The buildings retain the majority of their historic materials and design and the surrounding landscape is also intact. Seasonal harvesting of hay maintains the open agricultural fields. The Thomas Darling House and Barns, located to the south on town-owned land, were listed in the National Register in 1979 and combine with the James Alexis Darling House to form a substantially intact historic agricultural landscape (Figure 3).

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Narrative Description

Setting and Landscape Features

The James Alexis Darling House property is a level parcel of 1.93 acres, with 200 feet of street frontage. It extends approximately 400 feet west to an intermittent stream at the base of an upland rising to the west. The property is surrounded on all sides by land owned by the Town of Woodbridge.¹ The adjacent town-owned land is maintained as open fields by seasonal haying, and thus keeps the setting of this smaller house intact in the larger landscape of the Darling farmstead. The older Thomas Darling House and its large barns are connected by the agricultural fields with the smaller James Darling House and its more modest barns (Figure 3, Photograph 22, 23). The Town-owned property at 1907, 1910, and 1936 Litchfield Turnpike is protected by deed restrictions specifying use of the open space only for conservation and recreation (Town of Woodbridge Land Records). To the northeast across the road is a reservoir and land of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.

The pastoral setting contributes to the integrity of feeling and association of the James Darling property, which also retains historic vernacular landscape features. The remnant of an old apple orchard is located to the west of the barns at the edge of the agricultural fields. Another important landscape element is the dry-laid fieldstone wall. This runs along the street line of the town-owned land on the west side of Litchfield Turnpike. It extends from the north, across the James Darling property, and south as far as the Thomas Darling barns, with breaks for driveway and field access. A section directly in front of the James Darling House was rebuilt by the current owners in the early 1980s when they purchased the property. The wall has excellent integrity of material and design, and runs continuously for approximately 1400 feet along the west side of Litchfield Turnpike (Photograph 21).

House (Contributing building, built 1842)

Exterior

The James Darling House is a 24-foot x 30-foot, one-and-one-half-story, post-and-beam wood-frame building with a front-gable roof. It faces east toward the road (Photograph 1). An 8-foot-deep one-story lean-to addition is attached to the west (rear) elevation. The building has an exposed foundation made of masonry, predominantly traprock (basalt), likely from the nearby West Rock ridge to the east. The exterior walls are sheathed in cedar shingles that are painted white. The roof is also covered with cedar shingles, and the chimney above the roofline is brick.

¹ The east parcel at 1907 Litchfield Turnpike was deeded to the Town of Woodbridge in the will of G. Halsted Bishop, with life use by Berenice Bishop, who died in 1973. The west parcels at 1910 and 1936 Litchfield Turnpike were acquired by the Town in 1974. A small parcel at the west end of the 1932 Litchfield Turnpike property was quit-claimed to the Town in 1974 by the Olssens, the owners at that time, to allow the Town access between the north and south parcels (Woodbridge Land Records).

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The building is documented as constructed in 1842 (Cunningham, 1995(b), Historic Resource Inventory #101) and has simple Greek Revival-style details including an entry surround and eave and rake details. However, the massing and structural features reflect earlier eighteenth-century building traditions. Viewed from the south, the eave-side profile resembles a Cape Cod Cottage building type, with a high raised plate, steep gable roof, and center chimney (Photograph 2).

The façade (east elevation) has two attic windows above a three-bay ground floor consisting of the entry at the south end and two windows (Photograph 3). The windows are six-over-six single hung wood sash with flat board trim lintels and casings, and wood storm sash and shutters. All are original sash except for two on the rear of the attic level. The six-panel entry door is slightly recessed and has no transom or sidelights. Flanking the door are classical pilasters, topped by a deep entablature and projecting cornice (Photograph 4). The entry is the most prominent element of Greek Revival style.

The north and south (side) elevations have raised plates with attic knee walls. Trim details include simple boxed soffits and frieze boards at the eaves and rakes, corner boards, short cornice returns on the façade, and a wide base at the lower edge of the siding on all sides. The south elevation has a door at the west corner and three irregularly spaced windows similar to those of the facade. The north elevation has two similar windows. The shed-roofed, one-story addition at the west has a door in the west elevation near the south corner and one window (Photograph 5). The door opens under a porch with a shed roof; this connects to the adjacent Wagon shed/workshop.

Interior

The house has an unfinished basement and a finished first floor each with an area of 912 square feet. The attic floor level has a finished area of 720 square feet under ceilings that slope down to the knee walls.

The house has a post-and-beam timber frame with a center chimney stack flanked by principal rooms to the west and east. Visible in the basement, a chimney girt line along the west face of the chimney stack divides the building into its two structural bays. The chimney foundation is a pair of brick piers running parallel to the north and south side walls (Photograph 6). A solid deck of hand hewn six-inch square timbers spans the piers and supports the chimney stack above.

The building has a full basement with mortared fieldstone walls below grade, and includes an extension of the basement below the western lean-to addition (Figure 5a). Each of the bays west and east of the chimney stack has floor joists running west-to-east and framed into the front, chimney, and rear sill girders. Structural members show the distinctive parallel saw marks indicating the use of a reciprocating or up-and-down sawmill, which began to replace hand-hewn timbers in the early 1800s (Photograph 7). The southeast corner of the basement has a bay framed for the stair hall above, with a girder parallel to the south wall from the chimney stack to the front sill, resulting in floor joists perpendicular to the other areas of the structure. In this area is a stair to the main floor level. There is one small window in the south wall, and a door to an areaway at the west corner of the south wall.

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The first floor plan (Figure 5b) includes the center chimney with fireplaces opening to the west, for the original kitchen (Photographs 8, 9, 10), and east for the parlor (Photograph 11). The southeast corner from the chimney stack to the east wall, is a stair and entry hall, making this a side-hall plan feature grafted onto a center-chimney plan. At the northwest corner a small chamber is to the north of the kitchen.

In the kitchen, the fireplace has an iron crane and the lintel has a cast iron plate supporting the brickwork above. To the left (north) of the fireplace is a bake oven placed outside the hearth and with its own cast iron door, complete with a rotating vent for draft control. Below the oven a recessed cavity has space for wood storage. The hearth is made up of large panels of black slate. At the right of the fireplace a door opens to the basement stair, and another door leads to the entry hall. The north wall of the kitchen has built-in cupboards (Photograph 10).

The parlor, in the northeast part of the main floor, has a fireplace whose mantel and surround have a distinctly Greek Revival appearance with bold pilasters, a heavy lintel and a projecting mantel shelf (Photograph 11).

The second or attic level floor (Figure 5c) includes three small bedrooms and a non-original bathroom. The east bedroom has a mantel and fireplace (Photograph 12). The effect of the raised plates is evident in a three-foot-high kneewall along the north and south walls (Photograph 13). A small crawl space in the southeast corner permits a view of the timber framing, as does an access panel to a small attic below the roof.

The interior doors are a mix of four- and six-panel doors and some batten doors in the upper floor. Wood flooring, some of which is chestnut, is applied directly over the joists, and most is painted. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Trim is predominantly simple square wood window and door casings and wood base boards. The parlor has corner bulls-eye trim blocks.

The rear lean-to contains a modern kitchen. A chimney is located against the original west wall and is likely to have served a wood or coal stove in the past.

Wagon shed/workshop

The wagon shed/workshop building is connected to the house at its southwest corner by a shed-roofed porch and faces east. It is a 14-foot by 26-foot, one-and-one-half-story timber framed building, with a shallow-pitched side-gable roof (Photographs 14, 15, 16). The barn is a two-bay structure with the south bay open as a wagon shed and the north bay enclosed as a workshop. An upper-level loft extends over both bays and is accessed by a stair in the workshop.

The wagon shed/workshop appears to date from the mid- to late nineteenth century, as a barn is identified in the probate documents of 1905 for Lucia Darling (Ancestry, probate documents).

The foundation is roughly-squared stone masonry. Siding consists of vertical boards painted white. The roof is covered with cedar shingles. The façade (east elevation) has its south bay open while the north bay has a door and a six-over-six single-hung sash window. A shed roof is attached to the wall with diagonal strut supports and extends over the door and window, continuing the shelter formed by the rear porch of the house. The south gable end has one six-pane window near the peak of the roof. The west (rear) elevation has one six-pane window

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centrally-located at the loft level and one larger six-pane window in the north bay at the ground floor level. The north (side) elevation has one six-pane window at the attic loft level and one below in the workshop area.

At the loft level interior the timber frame is visible, and is a square-rule post and beam frame, with circular-sawn timbers joined with wood pegs (Photograph 17). Common rafters frame the roof, with outriggers sistered on to form an eave overhang at the exterior. Wide plank roof decking supports the shingle roofing. In the lower level workshop, an extant workbench and storage chest are evidence of the historical use.

Stable/garage

The stable/garage is a free-standing building located a few feet to the west of and perpendicular to the wagon shed/workshop. It is a 14-foot by 21-foot, one-story wood-frame building with a steeply-pitched side-gable roof. It faces south toward the agricultural fields and has sliding barn doors in the south elevation (Photographs 18, 19). The barn has a concrete foundation and a projecting shed-roofed extension added to the north (rear) elevation along the east portion of the wall. The owner reports oral tradition that livestock were kept in this barn, and later the Cadillac of a mid-twentieth-century owner required the north projecting shed to accommodate its length (Polk interviews). The barn has wide shingle siding painted red. The interior includes a painted border of decorative stenciling on the east wall; its purpose is unknown but it suggests a use other than livestock, such as a carriage house (Photograph 20). A one-seat outhouse is located attached to the west wall of the barn, and is sheathed in vertical flush board siding. It has a batten door in the south side.

The stable/garage appears to date from the early twentieth-century, before 1934, as it appears in the Fairchild aerial photo of the area (Figure 7).

Integrity

The James Darling House and its property have a high degree of integrity. The house and its outbuildings are in their original locations. The design of the house is a consistently detailed example of Greek Revival style combined with elements of the earlier center-chimney Cape Cod Cottage building type. The setting has integrity; an intact expanse of open agricultural land – with mowed hay fields, historic Thomas Darling Barns and stone walls – immediately surrounds the James Darling parcel, and the woodlands and fields on the east side of Litchfield Turnpike include the Thomas Darling House and Tavern. The Thomas Darling House National Register nomination explicitly includes the entire property associated with the house and farmstead.

The materials and workmanship of the house have good integrity; the house is well-maintained. The originally historic fabric is substantially intact, with a few interior modifications such as a bathroom and modern kitchen inserted in locations that do not impact the principal historic spaces. The house with its outbuildings and surrounding landscape evokes a strong feeling of its historical time and provides a sense of the early agricultural period of the town of Woodbridge and the connection by turnpike from the farms of the interior to the nearby markets in New Haven.

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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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1842 – 1932

Significant Dates

1842 – construction of the house

1932 – end of active farming

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The James Alexis Darling House is locally significant under Criterion A in the category of Agriculture and Criterion C in the category of Architecture.

The James Darling House along with the Thomas Darling House and Tavern, open farmland, and a cluster of neighboring homes (Cunningham 1995 (b)), form an extended agrarian community along this stretch of Litchfield Turnpike. In 1765, Thomas Darling, the grandfather of James Alexis Darling, moved out of New Haven to the rural land north of the city. The James Darling property remained in active agricultural use until 1932. Darling family members, including James Alexis Darling and later his nephew Gerard Halsted Bishop, engaged in farming, and in civic activities such as development of the Straits Turnpike, membership in the local Amity Parish of the Congregational Church, and service in the Connecticut state legislature. Under Criterion A, the James Darling house illustrates the agrarian way of life in a localized settlement that was the predominant tradition in early Woodbridge history. At the same time, James Alexis Darling, like others in his family, participated in the family's extensive commercial and civic activities while farming the land. This was typical of Connecticut farmers for whom cash crops and professional activities supplemented subsistence farming from the colonial period on (Cunningham, 2012).

Under Criterion C, the 1842 house is significant as an example of locally common design trends and the transition from the traditional eighteenth-century center-chimney Cape Cod Cottage building type to a front-gable, side-hall plan, which characterized rural house design during the Greek Revival period of 1820-1850. As a rural dwelling, the house is modest in size and conservative in construction, yet incorporates several character-defining features of the Greek Revival style, most notably its gable façade and the ornamental entryway. The period of significance extends from 1842, when the house was constructed, through 1932. In that year, the death of the owner, Gerard Halsted Bishop, who had inherited the house and also was heir to the Thomas Darling property, resulted in the end of active farming at both properties.

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

Criterion A: Agriculture

Significance of the Darling family:

The Darling family's history in Connecticut began when Samuel Darling (1695-1760) moved from Rhode Island to New Haven in 1722 (Figure 6). Samuel, at that time a shoemaker, and his wife Susanna (1679-1758), brought their two-year-old son Thomas to New Haven. Samuel worked as an artisan and studied law, gaining admission to the bar in 1737 (German, 15-17). The family's improving economic and social position enabled them to educate their son Thomas at Hopkins School and Yale College, where he graduated in 1740 (Dexter 1885, 319). Samuel Darling purchased land in the Amity Parish (now Woodbridge) soon after moving to Connecticut.²

Thomas Darling (1719-1789) followed his graduation with a license as a preacher and the appointment as tutor at Yale College. He held this position for two years, after which he went into import and real estate businesses, at which he was not always successful (German, 29)³.

Just a few years before the Revolutionary War period, Darling moved to Amity, where in 1772-73 he built the house now known as the Thomas Darling House at 1907 Litchfield Turnpike (National Register, 1979). Farming became the focus of activity on the 100-plus acres, while Thomas also held a position as justice of the peace and continued with mercantile interests in New Haven and New York. Two of his children, Samuel and Joseph, studied at Yale (Classes of 1769 and 1777).

After the war, during the 1780s, Thomas Darling participated in successful efforts to form the Amity and Bethany Parishes into a new town, Woodbridge, which was established in 1784. In Woodbridge, Darling resumed the position as justice of the peace and served several terms as a selectman while continuing to farm.

Thomas Darling and his father Samuel exemplified the ability of persons to rise successfully from working-class origins to a position in the social elite of the eighteenth century. His education, position in the academic and religious order, and service in the justice system, all signified acceptance into the elite class of the time.

² The land purchase of the future Thomas Darling house property is cited in a deed of 1722 (Terry, 198). This suggests that Samuel Darling purchased the site of Thomas's future home soon after moving to Connecticut.

³ Thomas married Abigail Noyes (1723-1797), daughter of Joseph Noyes, the minister of New Haven's First Church, where Thomas attended (German, 19). Abigail and Thomas had eight children, seven of whom lived to adulthood. Although not formally trained in the law, Thomas was appointed a justice of the peace, and served for many years. As a judge and as a member of the First Church, Thomas Darling was involved in social, political, and religious affairs (German, 20-21).

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Thomas Darling, Jr. (1752-1815) inherited the family house, and followed his father's example as a farmer, real estate investor, and justice of the peace (German, 108). Thomas, Jr. joined the Amity Parish in 1782 (German, 90). Over the next decades, he was involved in a number of Parish committees. As a major landowner, Thomas Darling, Jr. and his adult sons – Noyes, John, Thomas III, and James Alexis – played an active role in the development of a new form of transportation infrastructure, the turnpike. The Straits Turnpike was routed across their farm land and was economically advantageous for the Darlings (AWHS archives).

Thomas Darling, Jr. was intensively involved in the Straits Turnpike as a shareholder and as an officer of the corporation.⁴ His older sons Noyes Darling (1782-1846) and John Darling (1789-1825) were clerk or treasurer of the company at various times (Figure 9).

The Darlings must have found the Straits Turnpike an advantageous investment. In addition to farming over 100 acres of prime level land along the West River, they ran a tavern and inn, providing accommodations for drovers who were bringing livestock to market in New Haven on the turnpike (Terry, 198).

The Thomas Darling House was passed down to Thomas Darling III (1794-1872), and subsequently to his daughter Mary Ann Darling Bishop (1821-1894) and her husband Charles Bishop (1818-1869), and then to their son Gerard Halsted Bishop (1864-1932).⁵ Son James Alexis Darling (1796-1883) built his own house on a portion of the farmstead.

James Alexis was the youngest brother of Noyes, John, and Thomas Darling III. He spent some time in New York City apprenticing in the family mercantile business or attending school. Several extant letters home to his parents in the summer of 1811, now in the AWHS collection, describe his experience and make it clear that he was known in the family as Alexis (Figure 10). Later, Alexis exchanged numerous letters with his older brother Noyes, which reveal Noyes's efforts to channel his brother's experience in the business, and the vicissitudes of trade during the years before and after the War of 1812.

Alexis left New York and returned to the family homestead, as evidenced by letters after 1814 which are primarily from Noyes to Alexis in Woodbridge. In 1816 a letter concerns the arrangements Alexis must make for a grave monument in the Woodbridge East Side Cemetery, following the death of their parents in 1815 and 1816. Frequent references are made to purchasing agricultural supplies such as seed to be shipped to Alexis for use on the farm (AWHS, Darling Family Letters). A letter from Noyes to Alexis in Hartford in 1833 reveals that Alexis was then serving in the Connecticut State Legislature (Figure 11). The three brothers Noyes, Thomas III, and Alexis were all elected to terms in the state legislature at various times.⁶

⁴ Primary documents in the archives of the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society (AWHS) include copies of shares, records of directors' meetings, and itemized lists of tolls and expenses of maintenance. These records include documents as late as 1837.

⁵ The last surviving descendant, G. Halsted Bishop, willed the house and land to the Town of Woodbridge, with lifetime use by his step daughter, which ended in 1973. The gift included the contents of the house, which now form an archive held by the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society.

⁶ Noyes served Woodbridge as a State Representative or Senator from 1821-1831; Alexis as a Representative from 1832-1833; Thomas in 1837-1838; and Alexis again in 1846 (CGA).

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After living with his parents and brother Thomas for years, in 1842 Alexis built his own house on the west side of the road and north of the big barn. He never married, although after the early death of their brother John and his wife Susan in 1824-25, Alexis and Noyes took on the guardianship of John's daughters (Ancestry.com, probate documents). An 1870 agricultural census listed Thomas Darling III and James Alexis Darling as the owners of 190 acres of land, with 135 "improved" and the remainder "woodland" or "other unimproved." Each owned roughly equal acreage at that time (Ancestry.com, Agricultural census). It appears that Alexis was more content to be a prosperous small-town farmer than to be involved in the mercantile world of New Haven, New York, and beyond.

After the death of James Alexis Darling in 1883, his niece Mary Ann Darling Bishop inherited the house, and after her, another niece, Lucia Darling, lived in it until she died in 1905. Probate records show that in her last 20 years, she was under the custody of her nephew G. Halstead Bishop. The James Alexis Darling House remained in family ownership by the Bishops until 1956.⁷

In addition to his role as a farmer and local political figure, James Alexis Darling played his part in the history of the larger extended family farmstead. Alexis appears as primarily a farmer who stayed on the land but stepped up when needed, as in taking on the guardianship of his orphaned nieces and serving as a State Representative. His modest farmhouse complements the activity of the larger Darling farmstead in the early years of the nation, through the turnpike era, and beyond into the mid- and late-nineteenth century.

Criterion C: Architecture

The James Alexis Darling House meets Criterion C in the category of Architecture for its intact expression of traditional, locally common rural building forms. It is a well-preserved example of a vernacular farmhouse combining elements of eighteenth-century building traditions with features in the fashionable Greek Revival style.

The house has the post-and-beam timber frame and central chimney of a Cape Cod Cottage, a traditional building type in New England. The Cape Cod Cottage typically was a one-and-one-half-story version of the eighteenth century hall and parlor house. The center chimney served fireplaces in the two flanking rooms and the rear kitchen. This might be a leanto addition or integral within the framing of the building. The entry porch or vestibule, with the entry door centered in the façade, lacked a stair. The attic level was usually accessed from the kitchen. The exterior massing was a single symmetrical ground floor topped by a steeply pitched side-gable roof. In the nineteenth century it became common to build a kneewall frame with raised plates (Garvin, 116) allowing more height for the addition of Greek Revival-style entablatures and corner pier details. The added height also provided greater usable space in the attic level. The Cape Cod Cottage was commonly oriented with the façade facing south for maximum solar gain.

⁷ It was purchased by Godfrey and Susan Olssen; according to the census of 1940 they had been living in the house for some years.

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This type of exterior massing can be seen in the Darling House when viewed from the south. At the interior, the central chimney stack serves two rooms, but the plan has been modified. In order to create a front-gable configuration, the house has a side-hall plan, with an formal entry door on the south bay of the east-facing façade and a narrow stair to the attic level. The kneewall frame construction allows space above the windows for a classical entablature, and a sufficient height in the upper level for finished bedroom spaces. The parlor is the east front room next to the entry, while the kitchen is the room west of the chimney stack. A small chamber is fitted into the north side of the house.

Woodbridge has a tradition of similar modest one-and-a-half-story houses oriented gable-to-street and with a two-over-three bay arrangement of the facade (Cunningham 1995 (a), #73). Two windows in the attic typically sit above three ground-floor bays – the door and two windows. The James Darling house with its decorative details is relatively high style when compared with other local examples of the type, which generally have a stripped-down vernacular character without period-specific details or ornament. The houses of this type share the characteristic layout of a single main story with an attic level above. The popularity of this building type extended from the early 1800s until well into the twentieth century.

Examples of the two-over-three front-gable houses (with 1995 Inventory numbers) include:

Darling, James Alexis House; 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Inventory# 101, 1842.

Downs, Sheldon, House; 51 Beecher Road, Inventory# 46, c. 1815.

Bodak House; 140 Ford Road, Inventory #73, 1931.

Smith, Bevil, House; 56 North Pease Road, Inventory# 125, 1853.

Beiseigel, Jacob, House; 29 North Racebrook Road, Inventory# 129, c. 1850.

Lyon, Delajon, House; 1182 Racebrook Road, Inventory# 155, c. 1860.

Munson, Charles, House; 120 Rimmon Road, Inventory# 160, 1815.

These houses contrast with the more typical Greek Revival houses, also plentiful in Woodbridge, that are two stories in height and have a shallower roof pitch. The National Register-listed Dr. Andrew Castle House, 555 Amity Road (Cunningham 2000) is one of these. The Woodbridge architectural survey includes 29 of the two-story Greek Revival style houses; the James Alexis Darling House is the only one-and-a-half-story house in the Greek Revival style. As cast-iron wood (and later coal) stoves became commonly available around the 1830s (Garvin, 116) the Greek Revival-style houses no longer had massive central chimney stacks, but rather slender chimneys at various locations to serve the stoves. The Darling House is distinctive in its adherence to the old center-chimney configuration.

The James Alexis Darling House relates to the older Thomas Darling house as a secondary farmhouse that supports and complements the preserved landscape of the extended family's primary farmstead. In its own right, it is an unusual example of an older tradition of building combined with the fashionable stylistic vocabulary in the mid-nineteenth century.

As suburban-style development has become prevalent in Woodbridge, this is a rare preserved example of the pre-Civil War period farmhouse in its agricultural landscape setting.

Darling, James Alexis, House
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: Historical and Architectural Survey of Woodbridge
Connecticut State Register of Historic Places

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Woodbridge #101;
the property is listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places (1995) by virtue of the
"Litchfield Turnpike Historic District Study Report."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.93 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1. Latitude: 41.364625 Longitude: -72.982260
- 2. Latitude: Longitude:
- 3. Latitude: Longitude:

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4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The boundary of the nominated property, shown on Figure 2, is consistent with the limits of the property identified as Parcel 1503/1000/1932 of the Town of Woodbridge Land Records.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The full extent of the land associated with the James Alexis Darling residence. Darling's significant agricultural activities also occurred on adjacent land managed jointly with his brother, Thomas Darling III; the additional land is included in the property associated with the Thomas Darling House and Tavern.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Charlotte R. Hitchcock
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 14 Stone Quarry Drive, Apt. 104
city or town: Durham state: NH zip code: 03824
e-mail charlotte.rose.hitchcock@gmail.com
telephone: (203) 397-3803 or (203) 215-1948
date: February 29, 2020

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. See Figure 2.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. See Figures 3, 4.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000 x 2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Darling, James Alexis, House
City or Vicinity: Woodbridge
County: New Haven State: Connecticut
Photographer: Charlotte R. Hitchcock
Date Photographed: April-December, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23. Southeast view of James Alexis Darling House, camera facing northwest.
- 2 of 23. South elevation view of house, camera facing north.
- 3 of 23. East elevation view of house, camera facing northwest.
- 4 of 23. East detail view of entry door and surround, camera facing west.
- 5 of 23. West view of house and Barn 1, camera facing east.
- 6 of 23. Basement interior view of brick piers and wood girders supporting chimney stack, camera facing west.
- 7 of 23. Basement interior view of first floor chimney girt framing near the north wall, camera facing east.
- 8 of 23. Interior view of hearth and bake oven in original kitchen, camera facing northeast..
- 9 of 23. Interior detail view of bake oven door, camera facing northeast.
- 10 of 23. Interior view of original kitchen, camera facing north.
- 11 of 23. Interior view of parlor fireplace, camera facing southwest.
- 12 of 23. Interior view of second floor front (east) bedroom fireplace, camera facing southwest.

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- 13 of 23. Interior view of second floor front (east) bedroom showing the height of the raised plate kneewall, camera facing northeast.
- 14 of 23. Southeast view of Wagon shed/workshop, camera facing northwest.
- 15 of 23. Northwest view of Wagon shed/workshop, camera facing southeast.
- 16 of 23. South view of Wagon shed/workshop with house, camera facing north.
- 17 of 23. Interior view of Wagon shed/workshop loft level framing, camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 23. Southwest view of Stable/garage and outhouse, with Wagon shed/workshop at right rear, camera facing northeast.
- 19 of 23. West view of Stable/garage and outhouse, camera facing east..
- 20 of 23. Interior view of Stable/garage showing decorative stencil pattern, camera facing east.
- 21 of 23. Southwest view of fieldstone wall south of James Alexis Darling House, camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 23. Southwest view of Thomas Darling House, camera facing northeast.
- 23 of 23. Context view looking north along Litchfield Turnpike from the Thomas Darling barns toward the James Alexis Darling House, camera facing north.

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 100 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.

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Graphics Log

Figure 1: Location map for 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT. Microsoft Bing Map accessed 11/11/2018 at: <https://www.bing.com/maps> .

Figure 2: Location map for 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT. Detail of 1954 USGS map accessed from the University of New Hampshire Dimond Library on 12/08/2018 at: <http://docs.unh.edu/CT/newhsh54nw.jpg> .

Figure 3: Aerial view showing contributing resources for Thomas Darling and James Alexis Darling farmsteads and the extent of Town of Woodbridge land formerly belonging to the Darling family farmstead. Accessed from Town GIS mapping on 11/11/2018 at: <http://woodbridge.mapxpress.net/default.asp> .

Figure 4: Site map of 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, with exterior photograph key. Base map accessed from Town of Woodbridge GIS mapping on 11/11/2018 at: <http://woodbridge.mapxpress.net/default.asp> .

Figure 5a, b, c. Building plans, James Alexis Darling House, with photograph keys. Drawn by author.

Figure 6. Darling family tree. Compiled at Ancestry.com; exported 11/18/2018 from: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/151951665/family> .

Figure 7. 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph showing Thomas Darling and James Alexis Darling farmsteads. Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 04840. Connecticut State Library, State Archives, RG 089: 11a.

Figure 8. Detail of 1868 *Atlas of New Haven County*, Town of Woodbridge map (Beers).

Figure 9. Samples of the shares issued by the Straits Turnpike company over the period 1797 – 1837. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society (AWHS) archives.

Figure 10. Letter from James Alexis Darling to his parents in 1811 from New York. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society archives.

Figure 11. Letter from Noyes Darling to James Alexis Darling in 1833, while in Hartford serving as a State Representative. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society archives.

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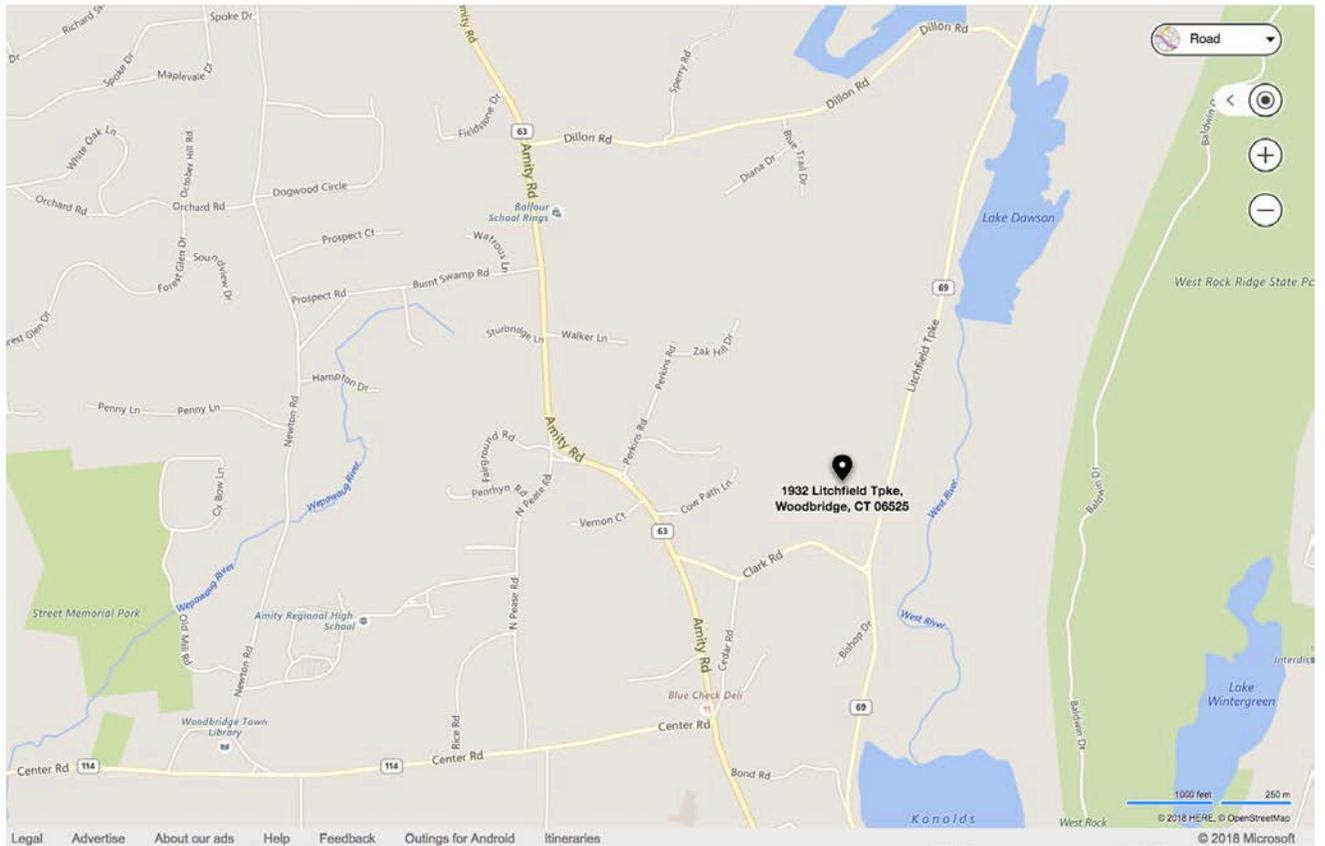


Figure 1. Location map for 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT. Microsoft Bing Map.

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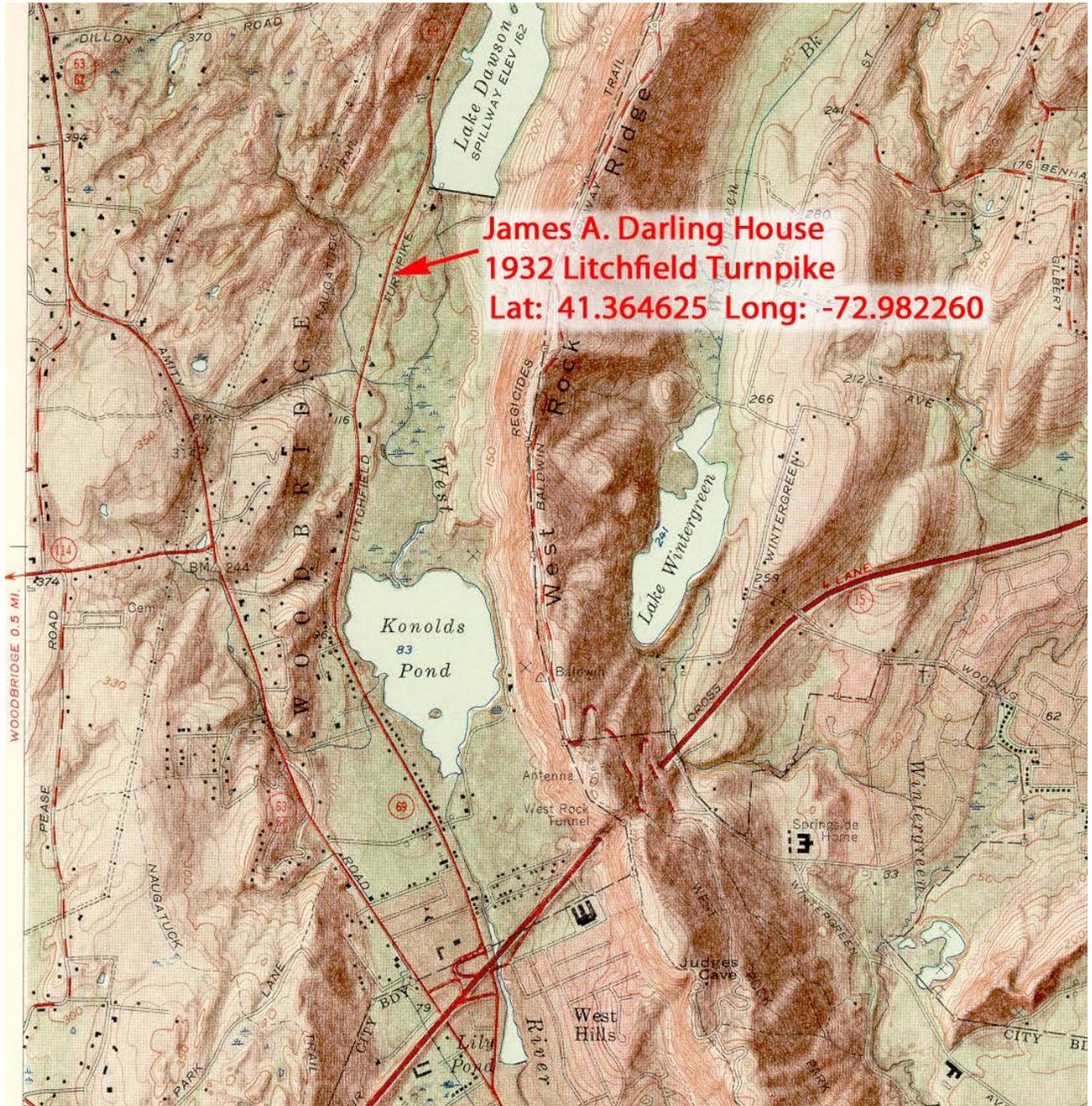


Figure 2. Location map for 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT. Detail of 1954 USGS map.

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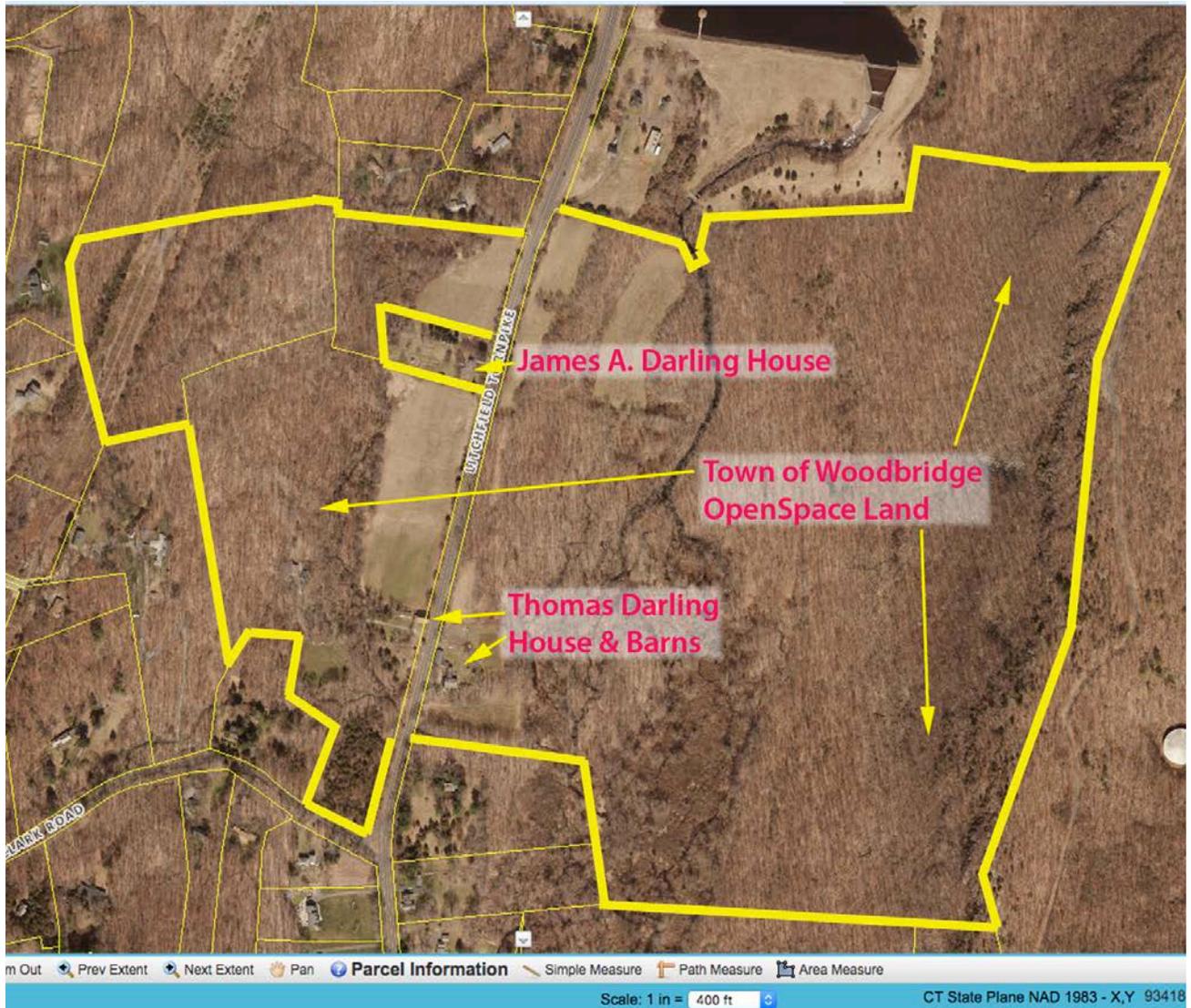


Figure 3. Aerial view showing contributing resources for Thomas Darling and James Alexis Darling farmsteads. Base photograph from Town of Woodbridge GIS. Annotated by Charlotte Hitchcock.

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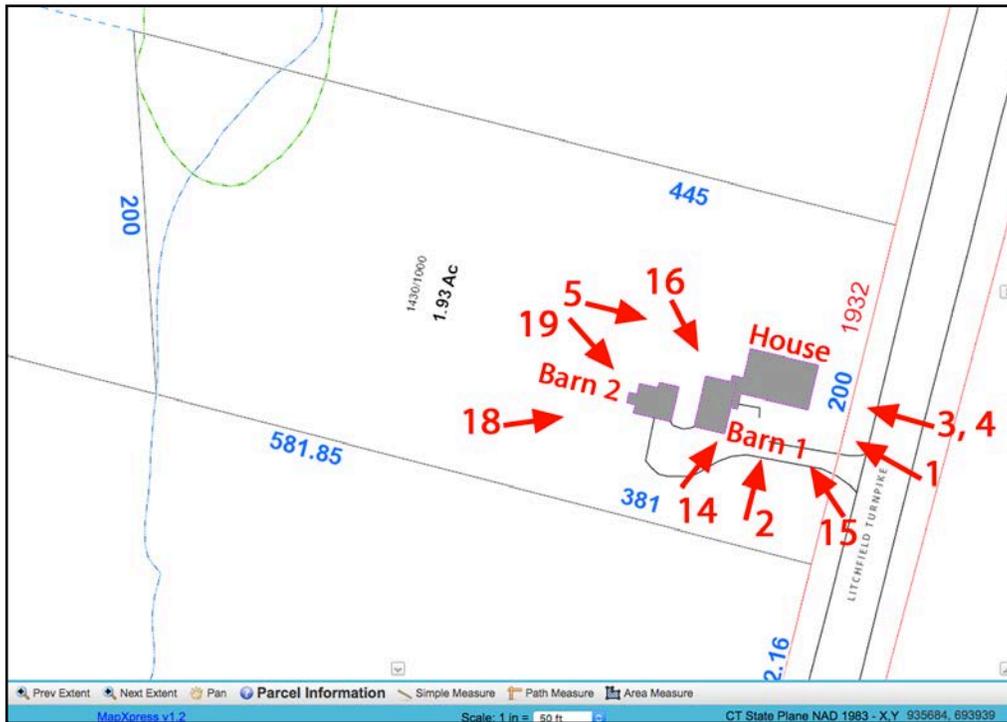


Figure 4. Site map of 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT with photograph key.

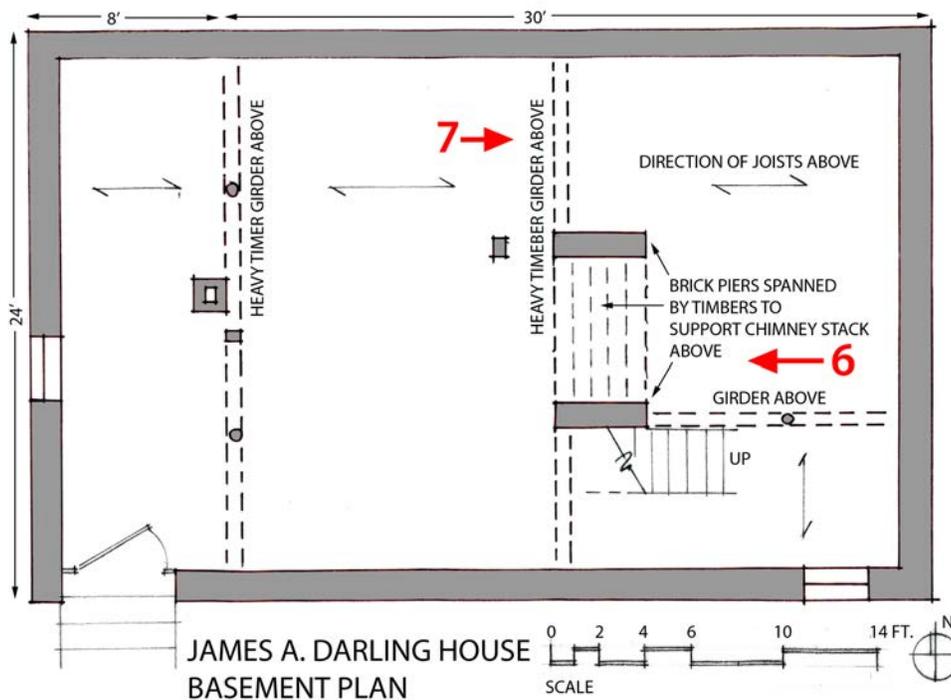


Figure 5a. Basement floor plan, James Alexis Darling House, 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT with photograph key.

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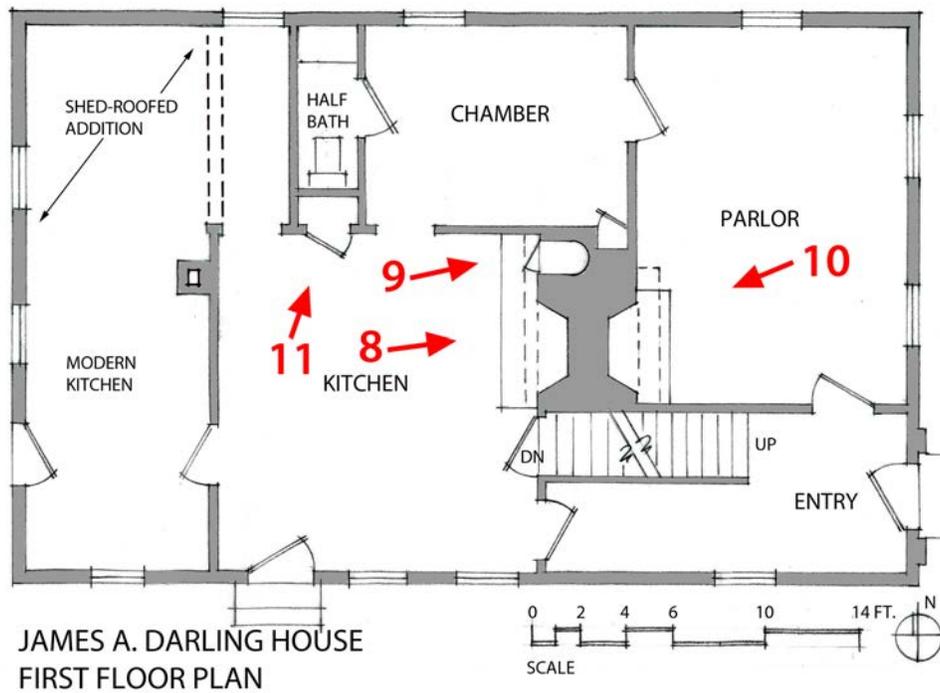


Figure 5b. First floor plan, James Alexis Darling House, 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT with photograph key.

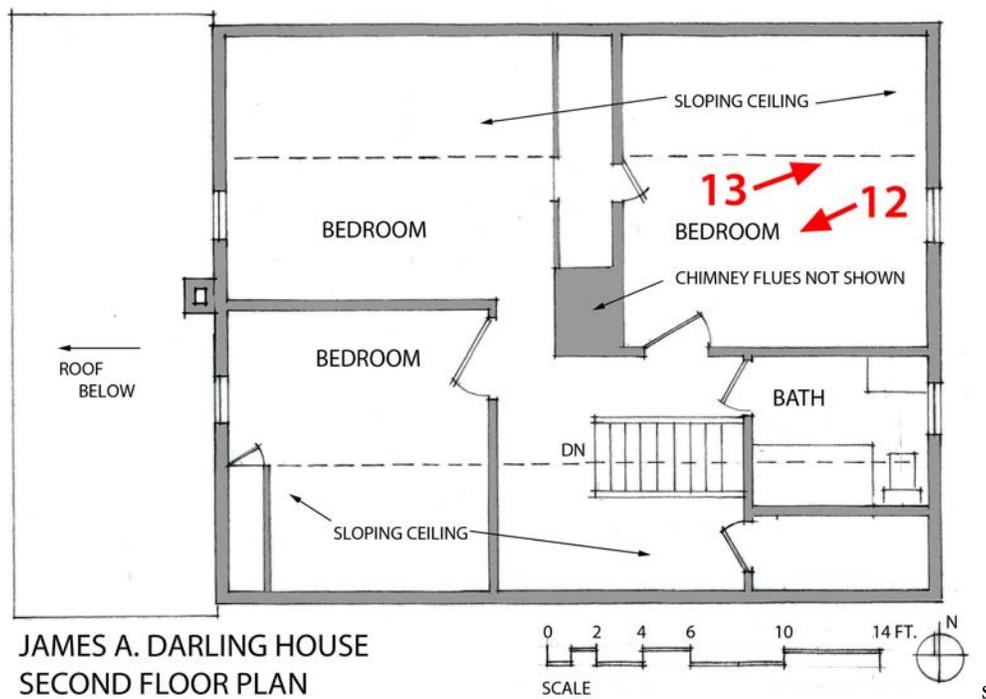


Figure 5c. Second floor plan, James Alexis Darling House, 1932 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT with photograph key.

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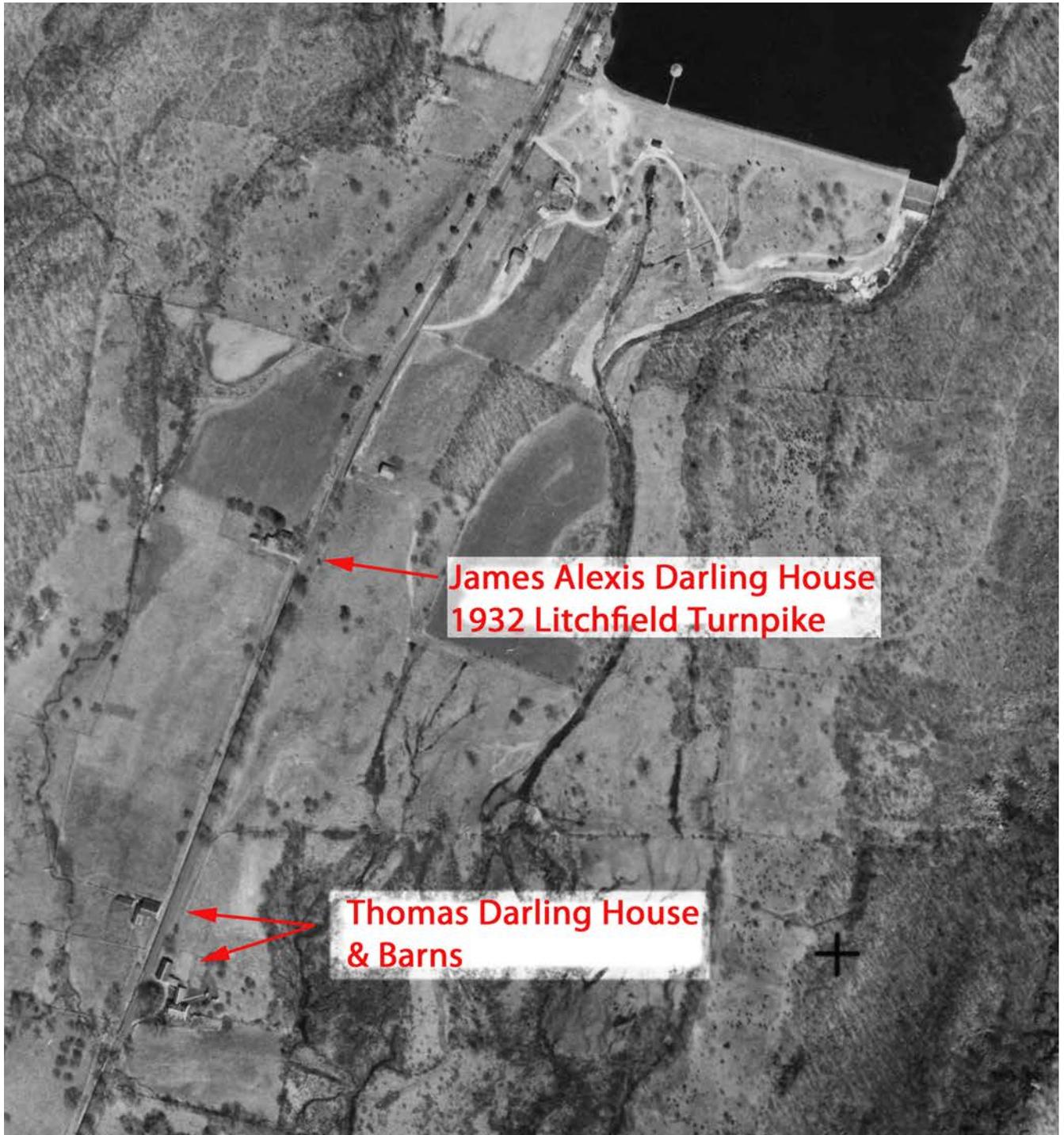


Figure 7. 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph showing Thomas Darling and James Alexis Darling farmsteads. Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 04840. Connecticut State Library, State Archives, RG 089: 11a.

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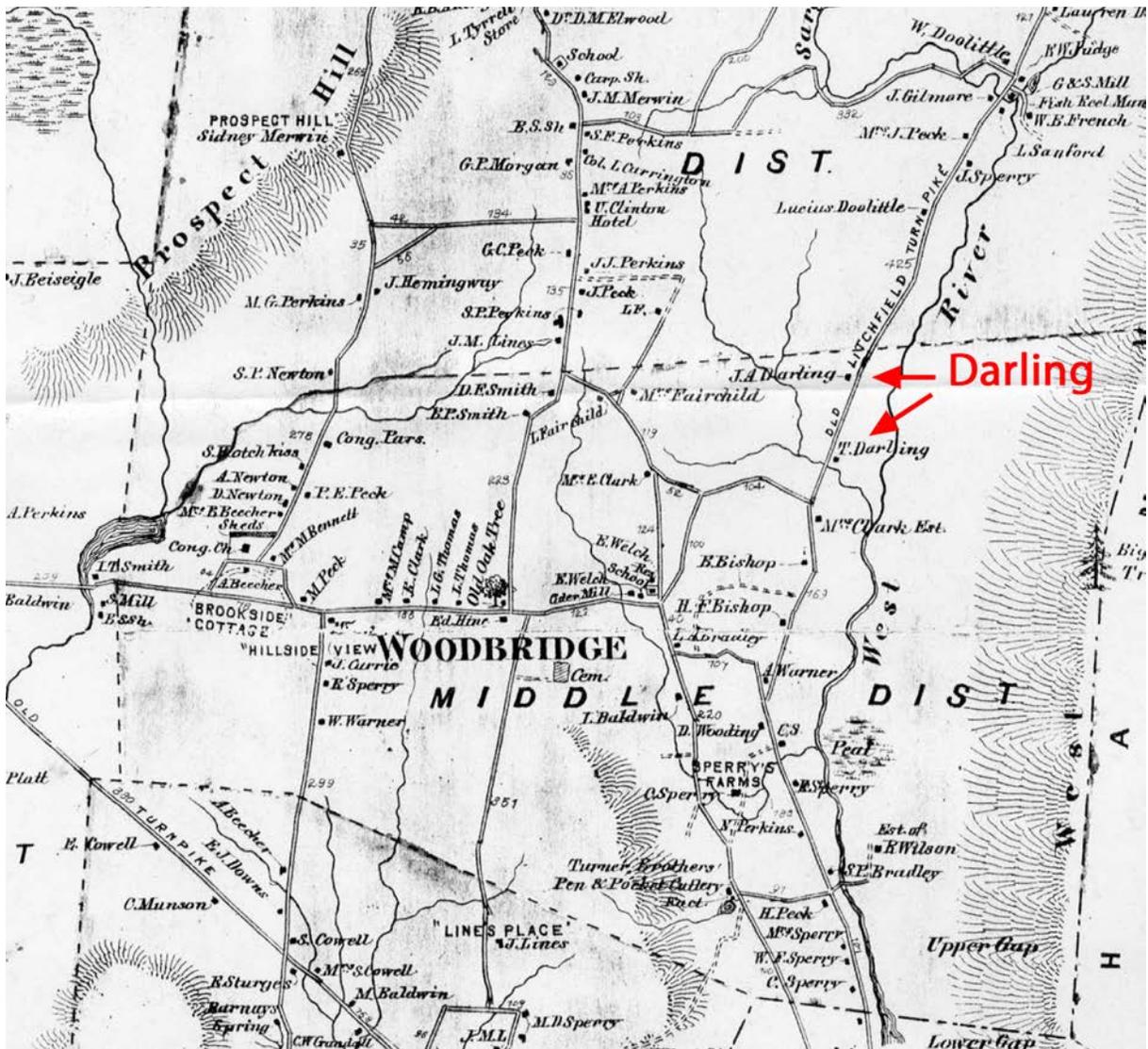


Figure 8. Detail of 1868 Atlas of New Haven County, Town of Woodbridge map (Beers).

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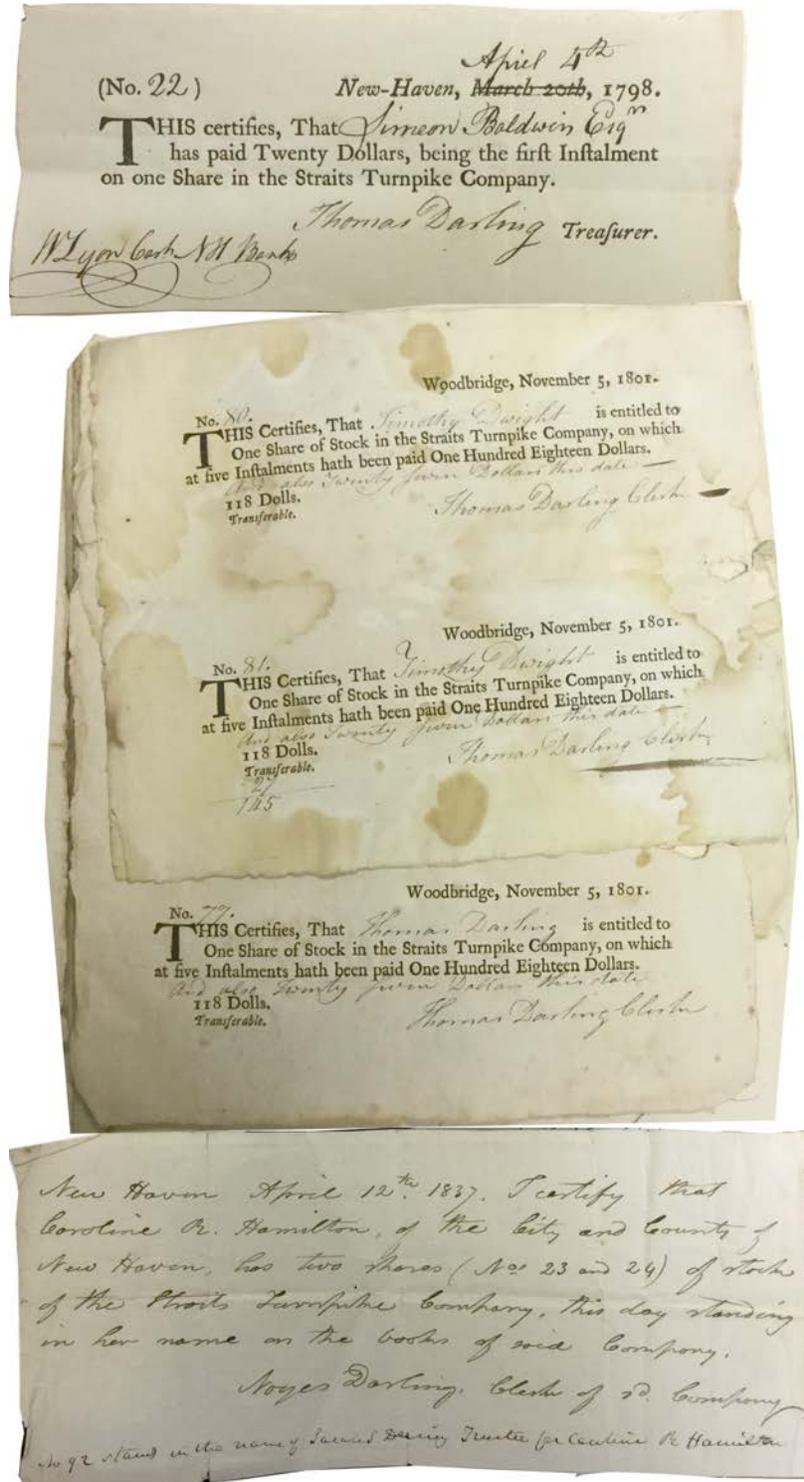


Figure 9. Samples of the shares issued by the Straits Turnpike company over the period 1797 – 1837. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society archives.

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Figure 10. Letter from James Alexis Darling to his parents in 1811 from New York.
Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society archives.

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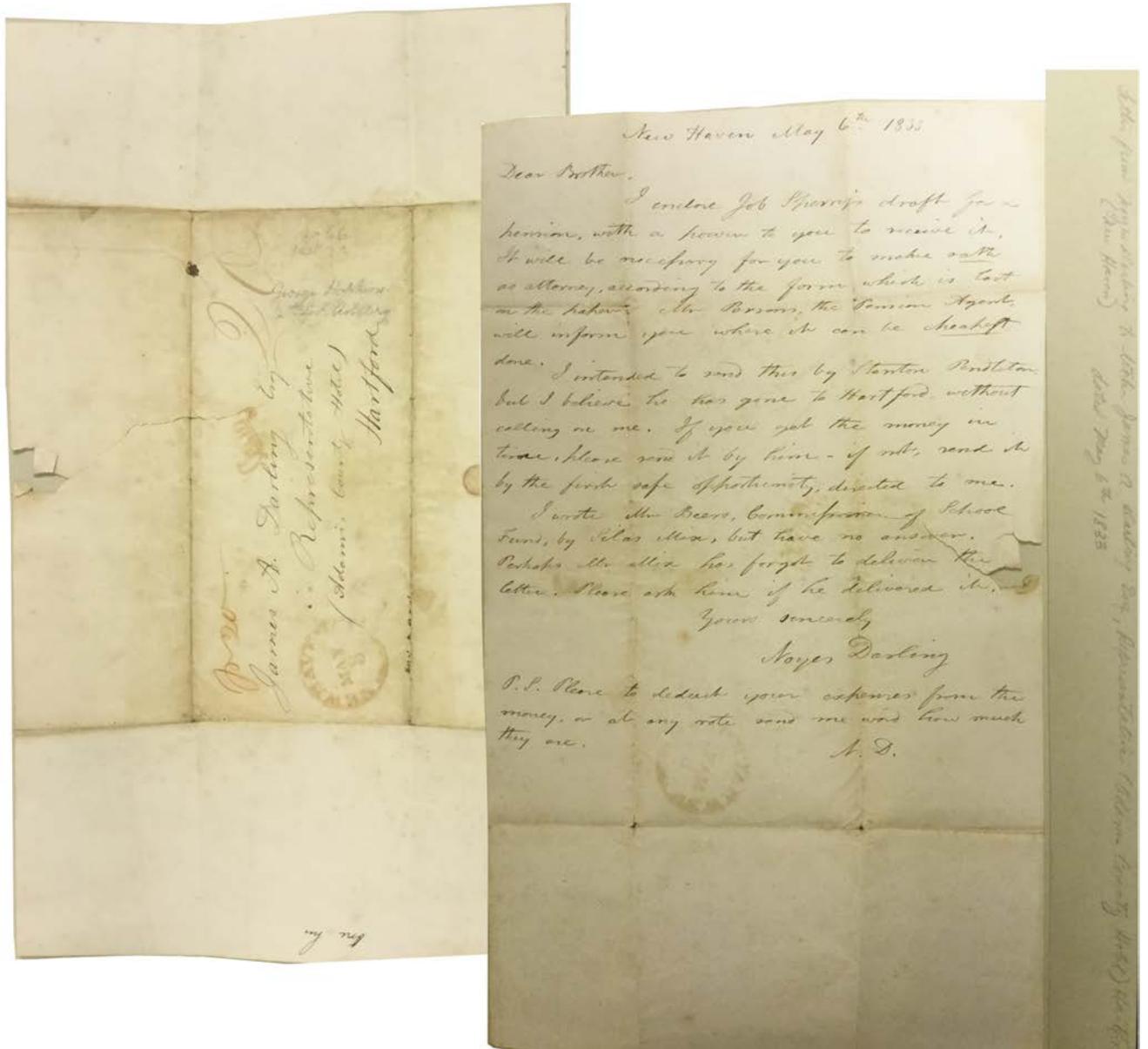


Figure 11. Letter from Noyes Darling to James Alexis Darling in 1833, while in Hartford serving as a State Representative. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society archives.

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Photograph 1.



Photograph 2.

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Photograph 3.

Darling, James Alexis, House
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Photograph 4.

Darling, James Alexis, House
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Photograph 5.

Darling, James Alexis, House
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Photograph 6.



Photograph 7.

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Photograph 8.

Darling, James Alexis, House
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Photograph 9.



Photograph 10.

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Name of Property

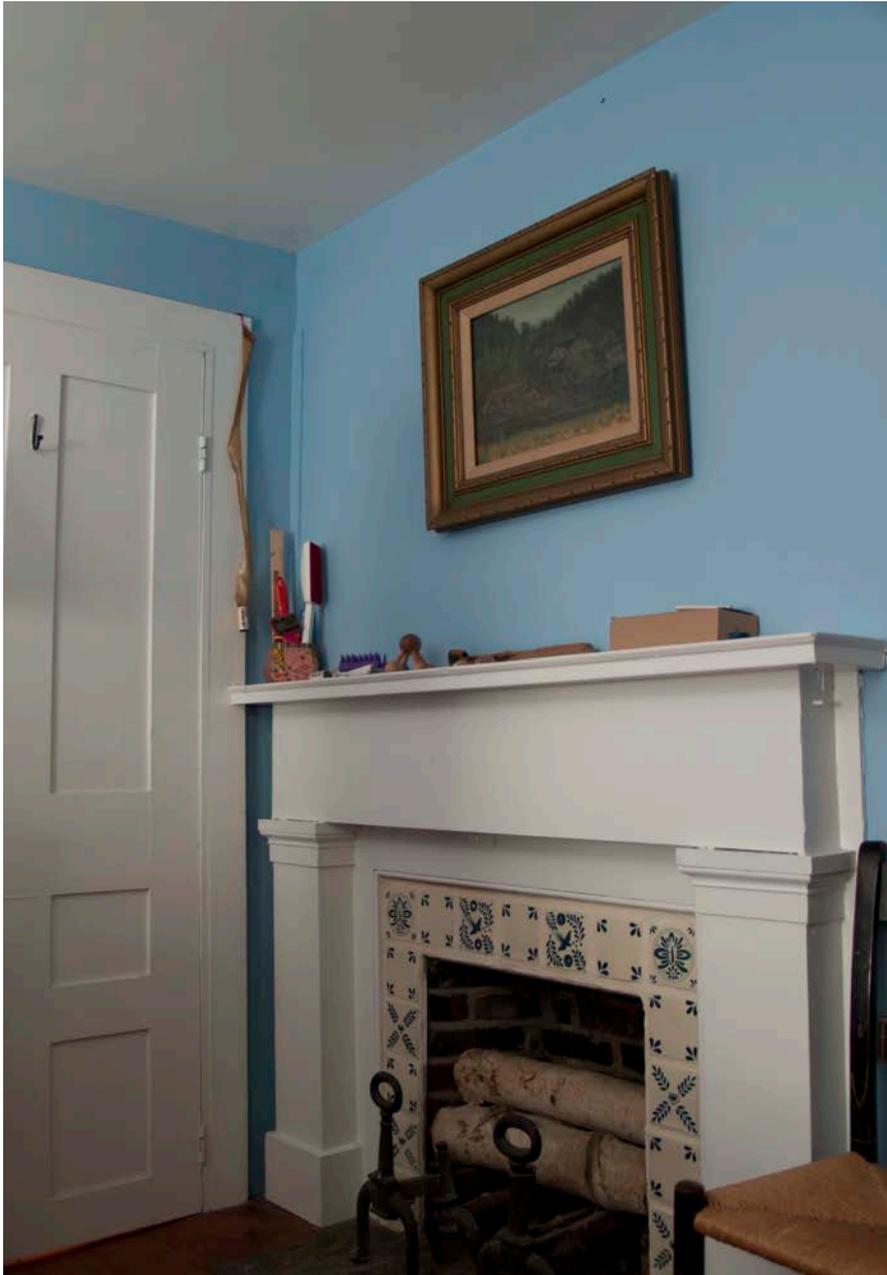
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Photograph 11.

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Photograph 12.

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Photograph 13.

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Photograph 14.



Photograph 15.

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Photograph 16.



Photograph 17.

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Photograph 18.



Photograph 19.

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Photograph 20.



Photograph 21.

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Photograph 22.



Photograph 23.