

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: Dudley Farm Historic District

Other names/site number: Dudley Farm Museum

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: 2351 Durham Road

City or town: Guilford 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Not For Publication: Vicinity: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

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

_____ Signature of commenting official:		_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

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

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

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

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding; animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle

STONE: Fieldstone; Brownstone

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 Dudley Farm Historic District is a nineteenth-century rural property situated in Guilford, one of Connecticut's oldest coastal towns, in New Haven County. Operated as a seasonal museum, this historic farmstead includes a well-preserved vernacular dwelling (c. 1845) with distinctive Greek Revival-style features and associated outbuildings. Situated in the original barnyard of a 130-acre dairy farm, these resources represent the continual use of the same family of farmers—the Dudleys—over four consecutive generations of ownership, from the mid-1800s into the twentieth century. The historic district includes original landscape features and outbuildings in situ, as well as some buildings rebuilt on existing foundations. Two period agricultural buildings have been moved to the property. The farmstead retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials and its feeling and association as a small-scale nineteenth-century farmstead, where the Dudleys supplemented dairy operations with a variety of cottage industries in a manner characteristic of the region's agricultural heritage. In total there are fourteen buildings, two structures, one object and one site; twelve resources are contributing and six are non-contributing.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Narrative Description

Setting

The Dudley Farmstead is located in the North Guilford section of Guilford, Connecticut, a prosperous suburb of New Haven that extends inland twelve miles from Long Island Sound, encompasses 47.6 square miles and is home to 22,500 people. North Guilford is a primarily residential section beginning about five miles above the village center. The area consists of a mix of historic farmhouses and traditionally styled twentieth-century homes set on large parcels interspersed with fields and second-growth woodlands. The 10.5-acre Dudley Farm property occupies a roughly rectangular tract bounded west by Durham Road (Route 77) and south by Killingworth Road (Route 80), remnants of a turnpike system chartered in 1824 (Figures 1 and 2). To the north of the farm is a private residential property and to the east are the Dudley Barrows Woods, a 120-acre preserve owned by the Guilford Land Conservation Trust. The West River (essentially a large stream) runs through a wooded tract on the west side of Durham Road. The farm is primarily level, open and path-free. Mature shade trees and evergreens are scattered throughout. Small, unobtrusive interpretive signs mounted on posts are located near the various resources, and visitors may stroll freely around the property on self-guided tours.

See Figure 2 for the location of resources. All counted resources are identified with a letter label in the district data table and on the map shown as Figure 2.

There are two primary building groupings in the historic district, which preserves the historic core of the 19th-century farm: the Nathan C. Dudley House (i.d. A), located on a prominent, elevated site fronting Durham Road (Photograph 1) and its adjacent woodshed (i.d. B; Photograph 2); and a nearby barn complex (i.d. C and D; Photographs 3 and 4) situated 40 feet to the southeast. Additional outbuildings are loosely scattered throughout the farmstead (Photograph 4). Access to the property is via an unpaved driveway entering about midway on its west, Durham Road, side. The drive passes to a parking area west of the main barn complex and continues south, looping around the yellow-painted Munger Barn (i.d. Q) where there is additional parking to the west. A secondary Durham Road entrance is located opposite the barn. From the lower parking area, the drive forks southeast/northeast. A stone wall borders Durham Road, and additional stone wall remnants are found throughout the farmstead. To the east and northeast of the farmhouse are a small, walled herb garden (1998), a small apple orchard currently under restoration, a sheep pasture and an heirloom vegetable garden (Photograph 5). Low scrub covers farmstead's north end. A community garden (thirty-five plots) established in 1995 and small wood-framed service shed occupy the southeastern corner of the property. On the east side of the farm, in the area of two small poultry sheds and the farm's sugar house (i.d. L; Photograph 6), walking trails enter the Dudley Barrows Woods. The vestige of an old charcoal pit (i.d. R) is located southeast of the sugar house.

The counted resources in the district are described below and enumerated in the district data table. Contributing resources (C) are those that contribute to the historic character and significance of the district. Non-contributing resources (NC) are within the district boundary, but do not currently possess the qualities or associations for which the district is recognized as historically significant. The Dudley Farm was listed on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places, with the same district boundaries, on August 7, 2013. The district data table includes a cross-reference to the resources as named in the State Register nomination.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Dudley Farmhouse Complex

Approached by a footpath running north from the parking area, the farmhouse complex stands on a slight rise behind a white-painted wooden picket fence on the east side of Durham Road. It consists of the L-shaped Nathan C. Dudley House (Photograph 1), fronting west to the road, and the adjacent Woodshed, which stands catty-corner at the farmhouse's northeast corner, adjacent to the rear lean-to, where it encloses a small dooryard to the dwelling's rear (Photograph 2).

Nathan C. Dudley House (1845, contributing building)

The Nathan C. Dudley House is a primarily two-story, gable-roofed building, which originated as a center-chimney dwelling with a rear lean-to. Erected with hewn and milled timbers, it was later enlarged with two wood-framed wings. According to family tradition, the house was built in 1845 by Erastus Dudley (1793–1892) for his son Nathan Chidsey Dudley (1821–1912) and Nathan's wife, Sophronia Annis Rossiter (1822–1904).¹ The first wing, absorbing the east end of the lean-to (southeast corner), was probably added c. 1855 as their family expanded with children. The second wing, creating the L-shaped plan, was erected c. 1907, a few years after the 1904 marriage of Nathan and Sophronia's grandson, Nathan Chidsey Dudley (1881–1963), to Amy Louisa Dudley (1878–1967).² At that time, the house's stone chimney was dismantled and replaced with its present brick central chimney, and the salvaged stones were worked into the new wing's foundation. The entire dwelling stands above a fully excavated basement and is clad in white-painted clapboards. The foundation of the core (1845) section is finished with a course of decorative dressed brownstone. The building's wood-shingle-clad roof terminates in a boxed cornice trimmed with a simple flat fascia running under the eaves. Windows are double-hung wood sash and glazing is primarily a mix of six-over-six and eight-over-eight. Ground-floor windows in the main block, west elevation, are two-over-two, and windows in the rear lean-to display an eight-over-twelve configuration. Louvered wood shutters appear throughout.

The farmhouse's core block displays a symmetrical façade composition punctuated by its central, Greek Revival-style entry portico. Fluted columns in the Doric order support a simple horizontal entablature with a broad, molded profile. Doric pilasters and narrow four-pane sidelights flank the entry, and the wood door has a single, molded vertical panel. Pairs of double-hung wood sash windows flank the portico, and five evenly spaced second-story windows appear above.

The elongated, one-and-one-half story southeast corner wing is set with its ridgeline perpendicular to the house's main block, thus extending the building eastward by three window bays and enlarging it about six feet to the south. A narrow side porch on the main block has a low-hipped roof terminating in deep, overhanging eaves and clad in slate shingles (Photograph 7). Four pairs of slender colonettes rise to a low-arched cornice apron, and turned balusters form the porch railing. A Greek Revival-style side entry on the house's south gable end is framed by Doric pilasters and a simple horizontal entablature and is fitted with a six-pane door. A rectangular attic window with a geometric glazing pattern is centered in the south gable above, which is trimmed with a triangular cornice. A second porch door lit by a pair of elongated, round-arched Italianate-style panes is located at the east end of the porch (Photograph 8). A round-arched window (glazing replaced) is centered above.

¹ Primary records support this date. An analysis by Guilford historian Joel Helander is included in *A Treasury of Guilford Places* (Guilford, Conn., 2008), 221-33.

² Newspapers dated 1907 were reportedly found in the addition's walls, supporting this date.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

The c. 1907 addition consists of an elongated, two-story, balloon-framed wing (32' x 29') set perpendicular to the main block and oriented with its narrow, two-bay-wide gable end, facing west. Doric pilasters and a horizontal entablature trim a south side door. The wing's west gable peak is trimmed with a boxed triangular cornice similar in design to that of the building's south gable end; a tripartite attic window (sash replaced) lights the peak. A low-pitched triangular gable projects to the north, and a three-sided, hip-roofed bay extends below. A single door sheltered by a shingled hood is located on the east elevation. To its south is a hip-roofed kitchen extension, the surviving portion of the lean-to.

The farmhouse interior is devoted primarily to the museum's period rooms (1880–1910), storage areas and office space, all situated in the 1845 section of the house and in the adjoining southeast corner wing. The north wing contains a four-room apartment created in 1995. In the main block, the front door opens to a small central entry hall, flanked by parlors in the traditional center-chimney layout. A narrow hall staircase (Photograph 9) ascends against the chimney to the second floor, turning via a small landing. The south parlor connects via an eight-foot-wide pocket door to the rear dining room (Photographs 10 and 11), in the southeast wing, location of the former farm office and small bath and closet. The kitchen, which preserves its original cold-water sink, occupies the center of the house, with a pantry fitted with wood shelving, closet and bath located to its north. The second story has five chambers (two presently used for archival storage). A rear staircase runs from the dining room to the second floor, and a corresponding rear stair descends from the kitchen to the cellar, where the substantial fieldstone foundation walls of the house are exposed. Otherwise, interior walls and ceilings are plaster over wood lath. Wide-board floors (painted on the second story) are pine. Original woodwork includes the entry stair designed with a turned mahogany newel post, plain square balusters and an elegantly curved rail. A Greek Revival-style fireplace in the south parlor features paneled Doric pilasters and simple entablature (Photograph 12). The distinctive eared fireplace architrave in the dining room is also a Greek Revival design. Colonial Revival-style library trim in the north parlor, was probably added at the time the c.1907 wing was built. This woodwork features a mantel styled with classical pilasters on the south wall and heavy molded door and window frames punctuated by corner blocks (Photograph 13), trimming a doorway leading to the north wing. (Bookshelves on the east wall are a recent addition.) Interior doors are primarily flush-panel, and hardware is a mix of iron latch systems and ceramic knobs of the Bennington pottery type. Dining room woodwork (mantel, doors and pocket door) is notable for its grain-painted design. Glazing in the second-story west windows is original. There are two ornate Victorian-period wood door screens, one on the front (west) door, the other on the southwest porch door.

Woodshed (c. 1845-1860, contributing building)

The Woodshed (Photograph 2) served the Dudleys at various times for cordwood storage and as laundry and workshop; today it is used for museum programs. Built between about 1845 and 1860, this simply massed one-story, timber-framed barn (14' x 24') stands on a low stone foundation oriented with its gables to the north and south. Exterior sheathing is white-painted vertical barn board, and the peaked roof is clad in wood shingles. Two entrances are located in the primary, south gable, where a single hinged door is set to the left (west) of a pair of hinged doors. The interior has an exposed post-and-beam frame and partial loft, fabricated with a mix of hewn and milled timbers, some replaced and/or recently reinforced. The floor is poured concrete. A notable feature is an in-ground cistern (12' deep and 6' wide), located on the left side of the main gable entry.

Main Barn Complex

This primary outbuilding grouping comprises three nineteenth-century, post-and-beam (oak) bank barns

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

aligned in a U-shaped layout, thus framing an elongated rear (east) barnyard (Photograph 3). Some or all were likely standing in some form by 1864, when a deed between family members cites existing barns on the farmstead.³ A Milk House is located about eight feet to the southwest, and an outhouse stands about ten feet to the northeast.

West Barn (c. 1845-1895, contributing building)

The primary West Barn (i.d. C; Photograph 14) is an L-shaped building (one story and loft) composed of two parts. The front section has a simply massed rectangular plan (50' x 24') oriented with its gables to the north and south. A rear ell (18' x 29') is set perpendicular to the northeast corner with its gable facing east. The entire building is erected on a stone foundation with its heavy wooden frame sheathed in unpainted vertical tongue-and-groove board siding. The roofs have simple peaked profiles, with overhanging eaves, and are clad in wood shingles. Framing is a mix of hewn and milled timbers fitted together using the square-rule joinery method (Photograph 15). Numerous original iron strap hinges are preserved.

The rear ell, originally freestanding, is the oldest section of this two-part barn and may be contemporaneous with the c. 1845 farmhouse. Original siding is still evident on the west interior gable. Pine flooring and some framing have been replaced during restoration. The ell is built into its sloping site, so that its south elevation gains a lower level on the rear, barnyard side; a low earthen ramp supported by stone retaining walls approaches the north elevation, where pair of hinged doors rises to the roof eaves, and a small one-story sleigh shed extends from its east gable end. A single queen-post bent divides the interior into two bays. The barn's front (west) section banks up to the building's east, barnyard, side and is approached by a low earthen ramp on its primary, west elevation. This section, oriented with its gables to the north and south, was probably added around the 1870s–80s, and extended to the south at the turn of the century, when its roof was raised, creating a spacious loft (Photograph 16). A metal hay track fitted with a pulley system runs along the ridgepole. A pair of tall roller doors is offset south of center on the primary, west elevation, and a one-story shed-roofed wing (15' deep), once housing a small milking parlor, projects at the south gable end. The interior is built with a four-bay frame (unequal widths), of five bents each. A central threshing floor made of pine plank opens on its south side to a small milking area with a dirt floor, where four wooden cattle stanchions are preserved. The barn's north end contains a workshop area and horse stables. Roller doors on the barn's east, barnyard side, align on axis with its front (west) doors.

East Barn (c. 1850-1895, contributing building)

The one-and-one-half-story East Barn (i.d. D) stands about twenty feet to the east of the West Barn with its north end abutting its companion barn. Enclosing the east side of the barnyard, this elongated (48' x 12') outbuilding consists of two smaller buildings joined end to end (probably nineteenth century) to make a single edifice. Its northern section (tool storage), is the older of the two parts, possibly dating from the 1850s, and was raised atop the roof of a lower (barnyard) shed. The south end was a granary and preserves its original built-in bins and chutes; its lower side contains open pens presently used for sheep. The entire building stands on a fieldstone foundation and is banked westward, gaining a lower level on its barnyard side, where the building's southeast corner is supported on a massive slab of faceted granite (Photograph 17). Two pairs of hinged doors, flanking a six-pane window, provide access on the upper, east side of the barn at grade. Two circular concrete Silo Foundations (one overgrown) are located just to the south of the west barn (i.d.s G-H). A c. 1900 wooden Hitching Post (i.d. I) stands next to the west wagon ramp.

³ Guilford Land Records, vol. 4, p. 177, 1864.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Outhouse (c. 1875-1900, contributing building)

A peak-roofed, wood-framed privy (i.d. E) is set on a low concrete foundation and oriented with its gables to the east and west and its primary elevation facing north. The gables are vented with louvers. Wall sheathing consists of vertical tongue-and-groove siding painted a light rust-red color, and the roof is clad in wood shingles. The interior is fitted with a built-in wooden bench seat with a hinged lid. There are two adult-sized two holes with batten covers. A lower, child-sized seat is located to the right.

Milk House (c. 1860/reconstructed 2020, contributing building)

This small timber-framed bank barn (i.d. F; Photograph 4) stands on its original c. 1860 dry-laid stone foundation/retaining wall rising about six feet high on the site of the Dudleys' former milk house. Rebuilt in 2020, it has a peaked roof (east/west ridgeline) is clad in wood shingles. A hinged door is centered in the building's east gable end (upper grade), while the lower level (south side) is open. Siding is unpainted tongue-and-groove barn board. The interior has an exposed post-and-beam frame of hewn timbers, incorporating a substantial arched crossbeam. Flooring is pine plank.

Restroom/Ice House (2019, non-contributing building)

The Ice House (i.d. J) and Wagon Shed/Garage (see below) are two closely paired buildings that stand about thirty feet to the east of the southeast corner of the East Barn with their gable ends oriented to the north and south. Housing restrooms, the peak-roofed building on the east (2019) was inspired by a late nineteenth-century ice house that previously stood on this site. It has a balloon frame and vertical tongue-and-groove siding painted a light rust-red color. A pair of hinged doors, each with a moon cutout, is located in the north-facing gable.

Wagon Shed/Garage (c. 1875, contributing building)

The shed-roofed outbuilding (i.d. K) to the west of the Restroom/Ice House, a former Dudley wagon shed and garage, stands on a dry-laid fieldstone foundation. This outbuilding has a square plan (18' x 18') and post-and-beam frame. Two interior bays are accessed by two pairs of hinged doors on the west side. Siding is unpainted vertical tongue-and-groove barn board.

Poultry Sheds (2020/21st c., 2 non-contributing buildings)

Two poultry sheds (i.d.s N-O) stand about 140 feet east of the main barn complex, southeast of the sheep pasture. The larger (2020) of these two chicken coops, a replacement for an earlier hen house, occupies the northwest corner of a chicken-wire-enclosed pen, and is used for heirloom chickens (Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds) kept on the premises. A stone wall runs north/south to its west. This simple shed-roofed building with overhanging eaves has a rectangular plan and is set on a brick-and-concrete foundation that is banked moderately to the north. Its rear roofline slopes to the north; the long, south elevation forms the coop's front. Siding is red-painted vertical barn board. Currently abandoned and in poor condition, a smaller coop (6' x 6'), formerly used for guinea hens, stands in an oblong pen to the northwest. A shed-roofed building, it is clad in barn siding and roofed with asphalt shingles.

Storage Shed (c. 2000, non-contributing building)

This c. 2000 utility building (i.d. P) designed to recall a wagon barn is banked into a slightly sloping site about forty feet south of the large poultry shed. It is a simply massed shed-roofed building, erected with a braced post-and-beam frame and oriented with its gables to the east and west and its longer, sloping roof plane facing south. Its south elevation has three open bays. The foundation is concrete, siding is unpainted tongue-and-groove barn board and roofing is wood shingle.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

Blacksmith Shop (relocated early 1990s, non-contributing building)

This simply massed, peak-roofed, post-and-beam outbuilding (i.d. M) stands in a wooded area about thirty feet southeast of the Ice House/Rest Room. It was moved to this site from the Scranton Farm in North Guilford, where it served as a corncrib, and is now equipped with a cast-iron stove used for blacksmithing demonstrations. A pair of doors mounted on iron strap hinges provides entry under a shingled hood in its north gable end, and a rectangular diamond-paned window is centered in the gable peak. Exterior sheathing in unpainted vertical tongue-and-groove siding.

Sugar House (c. 1880/reconstructed 1997, contributing building)

This small wood-framed outbuilding (i.d. L; Photograph 6), used to demonstrate the process of boiling down maple sap to make syrup, stands about sixty feet southeast of the Blacksmith Shop in a wooded area, where it was rebuilt in 1997 using original fabric on its original stone foundation. A stone oven and iron evaporating pans housed inside are original (c. 1900). The monitor roof (east-west ridgeline) is a traditional sugar house feature, designed to vent steam. A single open bay, angled at the corners, is located in its west gable. Siding is vertical tongue-and-groove barn board; the floor is dirt.

Charcoal Pit (c. 1880-1910, contributing site)

The remnant of a circular Charcoal Pit (i.d. R) is located about fifteen feet to the southeast of the sugar house. This site is a roughly circular area about 15 feet in diameter identified by a scattered ground covering of coal.

Munger Barn (c. 1890/Relocated and Reconstructed 2002, non-contributing building)

This c. 1890 post-and-beam bank barn (i.d. Q; Photograph 5), used for events and programming, was dismantled in 1997 at its original site at the intersection of Mungertown and Warpas Roads in Madison, Connecticut, and reassembled in 2002 on its present location, about 140 feet south of the Garage/Wagon Shed. A barn dating to the time of Erastus Dudley (1793–1892), and possibly earlier, stood here until the 1960s. The present building originated as a hay-and-cow barn and was later used by the B. B. Munger Lumber Company of Madison for selling boat lumber. It is a simply massed, peak-roofed building with a rectangular plan, set on a stone foundation (gables set to the east/west) and banked so that it gains a lower level on its south side. Concrete stairs rise at the west gable. Roller doors are centered at the upper, grade level on the north side, and multi-paned doors and window infill appear on the lower, south, elevation. The lower-level interior has a concrete floor, and tongue-and groove pine-paneled walls. The frame combines original hewn and milled timbers with a significant number of replacement timbers. Exterior cladding is yellow-painted vertical tongue-and-groove barn board.

Sheds

The property also contains three small non-historic sheds that are not counted separately. A Garden Shed built in 2009 stands on wood blocks on the east side of the community garden and is reached by a woodland path passing 150 feet south from the Sugar House. It is a simple peak-roofed outbuilding set with its gables north/south and is clad in vertical barn siding with a wood-shingled roof. A pair of wood doors mounted on metal rollers is centered on the west elevation. An Ox Shed built in 2001 is a shed-roofed building located in the sheep pasture near the east side of the property, to the north of the poultry sheds. It is clad in tongue-and-groove siding, roofed with planks and open on its south side. A Sheep Shed built in 2021 is located about 140 feet north of the outhouse. This rustic shelter has an open, shed-roofed design with four wood support posts and a roof of wooden planks laid over exposed rafters.

Dudley Farm Historic District
 Name of Property

New Haven, CT
 County and State

Integrity

Forming a cohesive whole, the Dudley farmhouse and related outbuildings retain integrity as an example of small Guilford farm property consisting of complementary components representing a historic period from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The c. 1845 farmhouse is a remarkably well-preserved example of vernacular domestic design, notable for its impressive Greek Revival-style portico. In this single building, continuity of family ownership and a resistance to change shown by more recent generations have produced a rare, undisturbed record of structural and stylistic development. The house’s fabric and decorative finishes, including wall plaster, woodworking, pine plank floors and hardware, are almost entirely original, exhibiting a high level of integrity through materials, design and workmanship. Evolving organically over time to meet family needs, its floor plan (Figure 3) is also intact, with the exception of the sensitive insertion of one half bathroom on the first floor. Wallpaper (first floor) reproduces original patterns, and historic grain painting (restored 1999) has been carefully preserved.

The main barn complex also has a high integrity value. All its primary, banked, timber-framed sections have stood on their stone foundations since the nineteenth century. These barns, used variously for threshing, livestock and hay, wagon, grain and tool storage, passed through the four generations of Dudleys and into the ownership of the Dudley Foundation with their building fabric and contents (tools and equipment) untouched. Stabilization efforts necessary to open these buildings safely to the public have been judicious and exacting, undertaken by restoration experts proficient in traditional joinery skills. The few, small, reconstructed buildings on the farmstead incorporate historic fabric. Entirely devoid of modern intrusions, this picturesque museum property conveys additional significance through its ability to evoke the feeling and historic associations of the Dudleys’ farm. This authentic agricultural setting, including the core barnyard and its mid-19th-century homestead and barn complex, is essential to the character of the property and critical to understanding the historic value of the buildings preserved there.

Inventory of Resources

Resource Name (Name listed in CT State Register of Historic Places)	Date	Type	C/NC	Photo #	Map ID
Nathan C. Dudley Farmhouse (Farmhouse)	1845	Building	C	1, 2, 4, 7, 8 -13	A
Woodshed (Shed III)	abt. 1845–60	Building	C	2	B
West Barn (Barn I, Erastus Dudley Barn)	abt. 1845–95	Building	C	3, 4, 14-17	C
East Barn (Barn II)	abt. 1850–95	Building	C	4	D
Outhouse (Outhouse)	abt. 1875–1900	Building	C		E
Milk House	c. 1860/2020	Building	C	4	F
Silo Foundation (1)	c. 1920	Structure	C		G
Silo Foundation (2)	c. 1920	Structure	C		H
Hitching Post	c. 1900	Object	C		I
Restroom/Ice House	2019	Building	NC	3	J

Dudley Farm Historic District
 Name of Property

New Haven, CT
 County and State

Resource Name (Name listed in CT State Register of Historic Places)	Date	Type	C/NC	Photo #	Map ID
Wagon Shed/Garage (Old Wagon Shed I, Schoolhouse)	c. 1875	Building	C		K
Sugar House (Sugar House)	c. 1880/ reconstructed 1997	Building	C	6	L
Blacksmith Shop (Blacksmith Shed II)	c. 1900/ relocated early 1990s	Building	NC		M
Poultry Shed (1) (Poultry Coops)	2020	Building	NC		N
Poultry Shed (2) (Poultry Coops)	2000s	Building	NC		O
Storage Shed (New Wagon Shed IV)	c. 2000	Building	NC	3	P
Munger Barn (Barn III, Munger Barn)	c. 1890 (relocated and reconstructed 2002)	Building	NC		Q
Charcoal Pit	c. 1880–1910	Site	C		R

**A windmill on the property, which was enumerated in the 2013 State Register nomination has been dismantled and is scheduled for restoration. The hitching post, silo foundations, milk house, garden shed, sheep shed, ox shed and charcoal pit were not enumerated in the State Register nomination.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

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

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1845-1955

Significant Dates

1845: construction of house

1955: end of active farming

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

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 Dudley Farm Historic District is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the categories of Agriculture and Architecture. Under Criterion A, the property provides important insight into the activities of a family-owned farm typical of its size and period of operation (1845–c. 1955) in Guilford, and throughout Connecticut. The Dudleys' mixed husbandry effort, including a small dairy operation and diversity of field crops, is especially illustrative of regional agricultural patterns in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when farmers produced a modest surplus of goods for local markets and engaged in such cottage industries as ice harvesting and maple sugaring. Under Criterion C, the style, purpose and relationships of the property's collection of buildings is also an important architectural reflection of an active farmstead, representing original and reconstructed buildings from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. The farmhouse's use by an unbroken line of Dudleys preserves an authentic record of this vernacular dwelling's expansion from 1845 to the early 1900s, displaying the influence of sequential stylistic tastes—from the Greek Revival through the Victorian and Colonial Revival eras. Each layer was left intact, before the house was virtually frozen in time (Figure 4) in the early 1900s. The property's outbuildings, including several well-preserved post-and-beam bank barns, preserve significant evidence of technology, material and layouts integral to Connecticut's agricultural building heritage. Placement of barns and sheds in this intact pastoral landscape is also expressive of traditional arrangements. With its furnished house and actively used outbuildings, the Dudley Farm museum preserves an important vestige of Guilford life. The period of significance begins in 1845 when the Dudley House was completed and ends in 1955 when active farming at the property ceased.

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

Criterion A: Agriculture

The Dudley Farm Historic District meets Criterion A in the category of Agriculture for its representation of a local/regional pattern of small-scale agriculture, in which Guilford farmers pursued a practice of mixed field and animal husbandry dating from Connecticut's earliest English colonial period. The Dudleys—among Guilford's town founders in 1639—amassed their farm holdings in the town through the traditional English colonial system of proprietorship, which provided settlers with intentionally diversified types of land—homelot, planting, meadow and woodlot—set off in phased allotments as was useful and necessary. The first farm lots in North Guilford (inland from the shore) were divided off to proprietors in 1692, and clearing began around 1705. Joseph Dudley (1643–1712) and his son William Dudley (1684–1761) increased the family's land holdings by buying out fellow proprietors' rights (a common practice), and future generations continued the pattern with additional purchases and inheritances. By the early 1850s, North Guilford was home to so many Dudleys—at least ten households—that it had become known as Dudleyville.

The genesis of Dudley Farm, located in an area of North Guilford once known as Hooker Hill, lies in a 1746 purchase by William Dudley of a homestead (about 27 1/2 acres) from one Jehiel Evarts on the

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

southwest corner of Durham Road and present-day Elm Street about one-quarter mile to the north of present Nathan C. Dudley farmhouse at 2351 Dudley Road. The Evarts homestead eventually passed to William's great-grandson Erastus Dudley (1783–1872), a farmer and entrepreneur who established a tannery and related mill operations on the West (Menunkatuck) River around 1828. Between 1812 and 1837, Erastus simultaneously expanded the Evarts property by acquiring contiguous parcels bordering the east side of the river and reaching south of the present Killingworth Road with purchases totaling about fifty acres.⁴ That land included a roughly thirty-four-acre plot, where Erastus Dudley built a house about 1830 opposite his tannery. That house, which stood about 360 feet south of the Nathan C. Dudley House in the vicinity of the Munger Barn on the Dudley Farm Museum property, was moved by a team of oxen to 2631 Durham Road by 1868.

In the late 1830s, Erastus Dudley began setting up some of his sons with homes in the area of the Durham and Killingworth Roads crossroads.⁵ Two of these young men, Erastus Franklin Dudley (1816–91) and Luther Franklin Dudley (1814–76), took over the tannery and mill business after Erastus sold it to them and two other brothers in 1841. Family tradition, supported by primary records research, indicates that Erastus followed with the house for his fifth and youngest son, Nathan Chidsey Dudley shortly after Nathan's December, 1844, marriage to Sophronia Annis Rossiter (1822–1904).⁶

Meanwhile, Erastus Dudley's property on the east side of the river had supported farm operations throughout most of the century—and probably much longer, given William Dudley's 1746 purchase of the Evarts homestead. According to the U.S. Agricultural Census, various family members were working this land and adjacent tracts between 1850 and 1870; Erastus Dudley and his sons, Erastus F. Dudley (2008 Durham Road), Luther P. Dudley (2009 Durham Road) and Ebenezer F. Dudley (a later occupant of father's house) are all listed individually as farmers in 1850, 1860 and 1870. In 1864, Nathan Chidsey Dudley purchased his house, barns and 107 acres outright from his father, who was listed in the 1870 U.S. Census (population schedules) as "retired farmer."⁷ The deed indicates that the farm bordered the western side of land Nathan already owned.⁸

Accordingly, Nathan appeared for the first time in the 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census, reporting twenty acres of improved land, seventy acres of woodland and forty acres of unimproved land for a total of 130 acres.⁹ For that year, Nathan's livestock consisted of two horses, eight head of cattle, two pigs and four sheep. The farm's stores revealed that the fields were planted with oats (sixty bushels were on hand) and rye (forty bushels)—as well as Indian corn (50 bushels) and Irish potatoes (forty bushels), two of the leading crops grown in New Haven County in that period. Nathan also reported twenty-one pounds of wool, market garden products valued at twenty dollars (about \$445 in 2021), twenty tons of hay, fifty-eight gallons of molasses, and 200 pounds of forest products (likely cord wood), along with some smaller supplies of barley (grown for animal feed and malting) and 150 pounds of butter. He put the value of his farm's livestock for slaughter at \$100 (\$2,218), and estimated the worth of produce and stock at \$1,085 (about \$24,000). Farm value was set at \$3,170 (about \$70,300).

As of 1870, there were 240 farms in Guilford. (A reduction in number from 251 farms the previous decade presumably reflects the impact of the Civil War years, which probably accounts for the reduced

⁴ Guilford Land Records, vol. 22, p. 48 and vol. 28, p. 306.

⁵ The two nearby houses still stand at 2008 and 2009 Dudley Road near the intersection of the east/west Killingworth Road, which passed between the two properties before being moved north about 150 feet of its original location.

⁶ See deed research and grand list accountings for Erastus Dudley and sons, notes by Joel Helander, Dudley Farm research files.

⁷ United States Federal Census, 1850, 1860 and 1870.

⁸ Guilford Land Records, vol. 4, p. 177.

⁹ United States Federal Census, Non-Population Schedules (Agriculture), 1870.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

value of the Dudley Farm over the previous decade.) These properties ranged in size from as few as eight improved acres to more than one hundred improved acres, with stock and produce valued from as little as \$300 (about \$6,785) to well more than \$1000 (\$22,600). Nathan's valuation of holdings was nearer the high end, his farm acreage was quite average and the size of cattle herd (eight head) ranked a bit below average. At the time, about two-thirds of all New England farms ranged in size from twenty to ninety-nine improved acres, and the majority would have had some surplus products, even assuming the per capita consumption far exceeded the average. The average Connecticut farm size remained fairly high, at about 99 acres. Properties with the greatest potential for surplus ranged from 100 to 499 acres—e.g. the size of Nathan C. Dudley's farm at the time.¹⁰

This 1870 accounting shows thus shows Nathan's farm to be representative of its size, time and place. Nathan likely slaughtered his pigs and lambs to provide food for table, but would have sold wool, potatoes and butter. Trade in such goods provided a means of entering commercial trade when local exchanges prevailed for most goods in the region. A dietary staple, fresh butter was always in demand, and this dairy product—as evidenced by the Dudleys' own prodigious stores of it (Erastus Dudley had 600 pounds on hand in 1850)—ranked among the most salable commodities for small farmers. Even though fluid milk was traded to nearby rural or urban nonfarm buyers long before refrigerator transport became available, it did not travel as safely as butter and cheese, which were routinely transported over relatively long distances. Local farmers mainly traded butter through direct sales to locals or through nearby markets and country stores. While butter appears on Guilford farms in the U.S. Agricultural Census (1850–1870) in large quantities, cheese does not. That butter is not itemized in the 1880 census is an indication that its manufacture had shifted off farms to cooperative creameries.

Throughout this period, Connecticut farmers were benefiting from an established tradition of field days, fairs and farmers' markets designed in part to promote competition and improve the quality of goods. (The first annual field day in Hartford was held in 1818.) In 1874, the Guilford Agricultural Society incorporated as an outgrowth of the Farmers and Mechanics Society, with the mission to “awaken and promote intelligent interest in agricultural and kindred pursuits.” The society's first fair, held in 1859, became a yearly event on the Guilford green, widely known for its parades, competitions and for exhibits mounted in Music Hall on the south side of the common. Reporting on it in 1879, the Shoreline Times noted that eager fairgoers had poured into town from the surrounding countryside. (Although attendees listened to an address on agricultural matters “with marked attention,” there were also accounts of gambling and general rowdiness.) The Guilford Fair, still going to this day, remained on the green until 1969, until it outgrew that location and relocated.

By 1880, Nathan and Sophronia Dudley and three daughters had moved to Church Street in Guilford, leaving the farm operation in the hands of their only son, Erastus Dudley II (1849–1919). Erastus II carried on the farm with his wife Martha Crowell Munger (1854–1931), whom he married in 1875. Data from the 1880 U.S. Agricultural Census indicates the farm was undergoing some changes. Likely as a factor of his father's departure, Erastus, then thirty-one, had increased his hired help, paying \$250 for labor during 1879 (up from \$50 in 1870.)¹¹ The farm had a worker(s) on the job every week of that year. (Pay amounted to about \$4.80 per week.) (These labor values adjust to about \$7,263 annually in 2021.) Twenty chickens had yielded 200 dozen eggs, and one acre of the farm was now planted with apple trees. By the nineteenth century, some twenty varieties of apples were growing in the Central Valley's “apple

¹⁰ Fred Bateman, “The ‘Marketable Surplus’ in Northern Dairy Farming: New Evidence by Size of Farm in 1860,” *Agricultural History* (July, 1978), 354.

¹¹ United States Federal Census, Non-Population Schedules (Agriculture), 1880.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

belt,” which ran from Farmington south to New Haven.¹² (Lyman Orchards in nearby Middlefield is one of the oldest orchards in Connecticut, dating to the 1700s.) With fifty bushels of apples on hand, Erastus was probably engaging in the region’s thriving market for the fruit, used to make cider and applejack. In 1880 the farm also had nine cows and two pigs. Three acres were planted in Indian corn, three acres in rye and one acre each in wheat and potatoes.

The total value of products sold in 1880 by Erastus Dudley II, including ten live lambs, was \$140 (about \$4,067 in 2021)—up forty dollars over the previous decade. The property (its core barnyard still intact with house and barnyard) still contained 130 acres, and sixty acres were tilled. The farm was about average for Guilford, but with 130 acres in total, it was above the state average of 99 acres.¹³ Implements and equipment were valued at \$500 (about \$14,525) and livestock at \$400 (\$11,620 in 2021). Total estimated value of the farm had risen to \$7,000 (\$203,361). The rise in value reflected a state increase: By the end of the century, the market value of farm products per acre (\$7.96 or \$268 in 2021)) in Connecticut was twice the national average.¹⁴

Nathan Chidsey Dudley II (1881–1963), son of Erastus and Martha, represented the next generation to run the farm. In 1904, Nathan—known as Nate—married a distant cousin, Amy Louisa Dudley (1878–1967), and the two generations shared the old farmhouse. The house gained its north addition within a few years. Nate and Amy probably raised their own two children in the south side of the house; Erastus and Martha lived in the north wing, and the two sides had joint access to the kitchen.

Nate Dudley, one of two children, grew up on the farm with his sister Mabel (Dudley) Rossiter (1876–1946). Whereas Mabel was a traveler (and moved off the farm to marry a neighbor), Nate by necessity stayed close to home. An essay written by the young farmer in 1897 when he was sixteen years old describes a relentless string of chores, which began at 4 o’clock a.m., when it was necessary to turn the cows to pasture and curry the horses before breakfast at six o’clock. After a noontime dinner, the men would cut and stack acres of corn or clear stones from the fresh-plowed ground (“a never ending job.”) After supper, there was more work running the corn sheller, mending harnesses, making axe handles or sorting apples. “We generally leave off work at about ten o’clock because we must be rested for the next day’s labor,” concluded Nate with just a tinge of irony. In 1899, Nate Dudley did leave Guilford to pursue a yearlong course in agricultural studies at Cornell University. Founded in 1865 in Ithaca, New York, Cornell was well known as one of the country’s “land-grant” colleges, established under the 1862 Morrill Act. Among the missions of these institutions, awarded land by the federal government, was to teach progressive agricultural methods. By the late 1800s, regional farmers were also exposed to the advancements coming out of the country’s agricultural experiment stations. The first of the many of these influential organizations in the U.S. was created in Connecticut in 1875 at Wesleyan University in Middletown. By disseminating the latest data about planting, fertilizing, pest control, dietary concerns and mechanization, the experiment stations were instrumental in helping small farmers to stay afloat in an era of industrialization. Important experiment station developments included those in dairy barn, silo and windmill technology like that represented by the Aermotor windmill installed at Dudley Farm in the early 1890s. This innovation, fitted with modern steel blades, enabled faster pumping than its wooden counterparts. On the North Guilford farm property, the mill was hooked up to an in-ground well (still

¹² Janice P. Cunningham, *Connecticut’s Agricultural Heritage: An Architectural and Historical Overview* (Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 2012), 15.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 18.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 18.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

intact) just north of the main cow barn, making it possible for Nate Dudley to pipe water directly to an icing tank in his nearby milk house.¹⁵

The Dudleys' cooling system was something of an innovation at a time when it was still commonplace for Connecticut farmers to chill their milk and cream in springhouses by means of running spring water, or to simply place their cans directly into streams. By this time, advent of refrigerated rail cars (1880s) and increased access to wholesale creameries had begun to improve significantly the small-farm market for fluid milk products. Daily trains carried bulk milk and cream from country towns around the state to market centers in Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury, Connecticut as well as directly to New York City. Farmers placed their milk in ten-gallon cans on roadside platforms at crossroads locations throughout town for regular collection by the wholesalers, who numbered the cans to ensure their return to the proper owner, calculating payment according to weight. Like his neighbors, Nate Dudley sold his milk to Brock-Hall Dairy, a Hamden-based creamery with branches in Waterbury and Bridgeport that processed milk, cream and ice cream.

By the 1920s the amount of farmland in Connecticut in proportion to total area (3.1+ million acres) had dropped from seventy-five percent in the previous two decades to forty-two percent by 1920.¹⁶ This change reflected the impact of industrialization and the effects of a western migration of Connecticut farmers in search of better prospects. Immigrant farmers increasingly filled the void. As Guilford's population grew slowly but steadily between 1850 and 1930—increasing from 2,654 people in 1850, to 2,787 in 1900 and reaching 3,818 residents in 1940—the town saw a parallel rise in immigrants, their numbers climbing from 1.5 percent in 1850 to twenty percent in 1900.¹⁷ By 1940, Germans accounted for the largest group of “rural farm foreigners” in the town, and North Guilford became a focus of German and Italian settlement.

Amid these changing demographics, the Dudleys were notable Yankee holdouts. Nate and Amy lived out their lives at the Durham Road homestead, supplementing their income with the help of cottage industries, including ice harvesting and maple sugaring and doing small jobs with their team of workhorses (Figure 5). A roadside stand offered eggs (from a flock of Rhode Island Reds) and gladiolas from Amy's garden. The Dudleys also engaged in charcoal making, a practice common among Guilford farmers in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Michael Shaffer, a North Guilford farmer from Germany who worked for the Dudleys as a hired hand, is recalled as one of the colliers who helped tend the slow-burning fires used to make charcoal on the property. Light and easy to transport by wagon, the fuel found a ready market among brick makers and gun manufacturers in New Haven.¹⁸ Remnants of a charcoal pit are located near the farm's sugar house.

The Dudleys maintained their herd of dairy cattle into the 1950s. By that time, bulk-tank trucks had replaced the old system of individual can pickup after a New York farmer had invented the steel bulk tank in 1948. While farmers were increasingly required to install their own tanks in order to pump milk directly from their milk houses into the wholesalers' trucks, Nate Dudley never complied. When the wholesaler's truck pulled up to Dudley Farm, Nate reportedly poured his milk directly into its tank—meaning that each ninety-pound milk can had to be lifted by hand. At this time, small operations like Nate Dudley's were being forced out of business, due in part to new equipment requirements and the spread of large commercial dairies in New York State. When Connecticut regulators set production quotas in an

¹⁵ The Dudley Farm windmill was dismantled around 2020 and is scheduled for repair and restoration.

¹⁶ Cunningham, op.cit, 18.

¹⁷ United States Federal Census, 1850, 1900, 1940.

¹⁸ *Voices from North Guilford: Stories of North Guilford, Connecticut* (The Dudley Foundation, 2012), 98.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

effort to keep up with the New York milk surplus, many local farms gave up their herds rather than increase their size.

A parallel rise in land values in suburban areas pressured by demand for residential development also made farming increasingly impractical. By the time of his death in 1963, Nate Dudley, in a steady pattern of sell-offs, had reduced his own property's size to its present 10.5 acres. As on many other Connecticut farms, there was also no upcoming generation willing or interested in taking over. Of Nate and Amy's children, the eldest, Erastus Irwin Dudley (1908–1950), died on the farm in 1950. A second son, David Munger Dudley (1909–91), lived a recluse on the farmstead and did not actively farm the property. During his parents' occupation the house was never modernized, with the exception of electrical lines, and David continued to use the cold-water sink and cook over a woodstove. When he died, the house was also without indoor plumbing or central heating. The barns and their contents remained similarly untouched. In 1992, the property passed from David Dudley's estate to the North Guilford Volunteer Fire Department. In 1994, The Dudley Foundation formed as a separate entity of the fire department and took over ownership of the farm.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Dudley Farm Historic District meets Criterion C as a cohesive assemblage of resources clearly expressive of styles, types, technologies, materials, details and farmstead groupings in the region from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. The 1845 Nathan C. Dudley House is an intact example of vernacular domestic architecture, originating as a five-bay, center-chimney dwelling of a traditional Connecticut type, embellished with Greek Revival features and enlarged with its two wings expressive of their respective architectural periods (c. 1855 and c. 1907). The homestead's center-chimney design—incorporating a small central entry stair hall and flanking parlors—is a recognizable format, introduced to Connecticut by English colonists and persisting in some locales for generations. Its appearance in Guilford as late as the mid-1840s is nevertheless notable, for by this date, this old-style Yankee design had been largely replaced by a side-hall, gable-front layout, including numerous examples in North Guilford. Among them are 2871 Durham Road (c. 1840); 2519 Durham Road (c. 1845); and 2208 Durham Road, reportedly built in 1841 by Erastus Dudley for Nathan's brother, Erastus Franklin Dudley. That the elder Dudley had recently opted for a much more modern Greek Revival dwelling raises the question of why he would revert to an old-fashioned floor plan for Nathan's house.¹⁹ The center-chimney type nevertheless had a long life in Guilford. An example is the 1847 Greek Revival-period William E. Weld House (32 Boston Post Road), which displayed a similar five-bay façade, triangular gable cornices and a nearly identical Doric entry portico (since removed) to that of the Nathan C. Dudley house.

Fashionable in Connecticut from the late 1830s into the early 1850s, the Greek Revival Style advanced the use of the ancient Greek orders of architecture and related systems of geometry and ornament. The style spread largely through widespread use of design manuals like those published by Connecticut native Asher Benjamin (1773–1845). Benjamin's initial book, *The Country Builder's Assistant*—the first builders' manual issued in America—appeared in 1797, followed into the 1850s by more guides offering a range of complexity for different economic and skill levels. The popularity of these manuals coincided with the rise of a middle class that could afford single-family homes like Nathan Dudley's just at a time when the Greek Revival was replacing the prior Federal style (which emphasized Roman as opposed to

¹⁹ It is possible that the Nathan C. Dudley House was an older house (moved or preexisting) remodeled in the Greek Revival style, but primary records research and physical evidence strongly suggests that the dwelling was the first to occupy the site. The styling of the more modern Greek Revival house at 2208 Durham Road may reflect the taste of the younger Erastus F. Dudley rather than his father, or the preferences of its builder.

Dudley Farm Historic District

Name of Property

New Haven, CT

County and State

Greek forms.) Homeowners of even relatively modest means now had opportunity to stay current with fashion by adding an impressive, and intentionally noticeable, feature like a sweeping staircase, classical entry or mantelpiece treatment or modish geometric window glazing. The appearance of nearly identical Doric porches (another may be found on the 1787 Friend Collins House, 7 State Street, added as a Greek Revival update) throughout Guilford suggest such elements were the work of the same builders, or that their designers, inspired by—and competing with—one another, were referring to the same books.²⁰

The Dudley homestead probably gained its southeast wing around 1855, when Nathan and Sophronia Dudley's family was expanding (five children were born between 1846 and 1859). The eight-foot-wide pocket door connecting the south parlor to the family's new dining room was an innovation of the 1850s, advocated by Victorian-era tastemakers to facilitate privacy and more generally versatile living and entertaining spaces. The round-arched window and the two-paneled (arched) glass door in this part of the house are hallmark features of the Italianate Style, popularized around the same time as one of the first of the Picturesque modes to supplant the conservative Greek Revival amid a new wave of Victorian Romanticism. In this period, the advent of mechanized assembly-line production meant that consumers like the Dudleys now had easy and affordable access to materials like the porch's uniform roof slates and stock millwork with elaborate turnings like those on the porch railings—details perfectly suited to the Victorian proclivity for texture and ornament.²¹ The impulse to re-introduce Greek-inspired design, reflected in the house's c. 1907 doorway and library (north parlor) woodwork is characteristic of yet another swing in architectural fashion as an expression of the Colonial Revival taste, which prevailed from the late 1800s well into the twentieth century. This revival of the familiar features and vocabulary of colonial and classical revivals dovetailed with conservative New England values, and was entirely in keeping with a rural Guilford building tradition.

A dominant feature of the Dudley property, the farmstead's main barn complex is an important grouping of bank barns illustrating period formats and craftsmanship. The practical bank barn is dug, or "banked," directly into a sloping site with a partially excavated foundation that adjusts in height to the changing grade. The purpose of this eponymously named type—virtually synonymous with nineteenth-century Connecticut farming—is to provide ground-level ingress/egress at multiple levels. The Dudley barns are also excellent examples of the pegged post-and-beam frame, a method of construction using mortise-and-tenon joinery that was transplanted to the New World by English colonists. This type of framing was used by Connecticut farmers for wood barn construction well into the 1900s, even after the balloon frame had become commonplace for other types of buildings. Placing freestanding post-and-beam sections, or "bents," end to end made it possible to enclose the large spaces required for cow and hay barns, and to expand these utilitarian buildings with relative ease, as appears to have been the case of the front (west) Dudley barn.

The Dudley barn framing displays a characteristic combination of timbers, some hewn by hand, using a broadaxe or adz, and others cut using a mechanized milling process. Timbers in the west barn exhibit the marks of a water-powered circular saw, a type patented in 1777 and common to New England sawmills by the 1800s. While mechanized sawing had its obvious advantages, however, sawmills could only accommodate timbers up to about twenty feet in length, a limitation that kept the broadaxe in use long after power sawing was commonplace. For this reason, timbers cut with different technologies were often intermingled in the same barn. Old timbers were typically recycled, as well. One notable advance in

²⁰ For a discussion of the Greek Revival style, see Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York: Dover Publications, 1964).

²¹ For a discussion of the Picturesque movement, see William H. Pierson, Jr., *American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and Early Gothic Styles* (New York: Anchor Books, 1980).

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

joinery methods was the use of the square rule, in widespread use in Connecticut by the 1820s. Prior to this period, each mortise-and-tenon joint was chiseled so that one timber could fit only one possible mate. Adopting the square rule made it possible to carve the joints to uniform, predetermined dimensions; shallow recesses eased final adjustments, allowing for largely interchangeable parts. The squared-off notches that are identifiers of the square-rule method are evident throughout the Dudley barns, and they are excellent examples of an important turning point in a traditional agricultural building technology.

Continuous use of the farm's outbuildings by multiple generations of the same family has also preserved an unusual amount of detail and materials over a period of 150 years. Stone foundations, earthen ramps, wooden stanchions, a wooden hitching post and many examples of nineteenth-century hardware, including iron strap hinges and leather pulls, are original. Grain bins and chutes in the east barn are distinctive surviving interior fittings, as is the evaporating oven preserved in the sugarhouse. The west barn's roof-ridge pulley system, probably installed in the nineteenth century, is a notable remnant of the horse-powered technology the Dudleys used to load their hay into the barn's loft.

Barn groupings are also notable for reflecting traditional placements responsive to climate and the practicalities of necessary farmyard activities. The three-sided barnyard open at its south end, for example, is a standard organization intended to buffer against prevailing winds, while capturing the low rays of the sun, even in the dead of winter. Banking the barns on their east, south and west sides also provided every building in the U-shaped complex with barnyard access. Location of the woodshed adjacent to the farmhouse is similarly sensible, sheltering a rear kitchen dooryard. Proximity also provided access to a system of gutters channeling rainwater through an interior chute to the shed's cistern, all preserved intact.

Repaired and restored, Dudley Farm's domestic and agricultural outbuildings continue to have a valuable purpose in representing a Guilford farmstead as it was actively used from the 1840s to the 1950s. The farm's historic fencing, small pasture areas, gardens and barnyards further contribute to the character of an authentic vernacular landscape, enhanced by the presence of livestock. The buildings and activities of the Dudley Farm Museum, opened in 1995, preserve the physical setting and atmosphere of a traditional family farm in Guilford, where the Dudleys supplemented their small dairy operation with family-run cottage industries from the mid-1800s into the twentieth century.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

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Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

vol. 8, pp. 304 and 337
vol. 17, p. 325

Land Records:

vol. 22, p. 48 (1812)
vol. 28, p. 306 (1827)
vol. 38, p. 2 (1855)
vol. 34., p. 25 (1843)
vol. 40, p. 177 (1864)
vol. 55, p. 496 (1919)

(Probate and deed research by Joel Helander, Guilford, Connecticut Historian)

Tax Assessor Records

U.S. Federal Census Records

Non-Population Schedules:

Agriculture of the United States (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880)
Industry of the United States (1850)

Population Schedules (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1940)

Maps:

Map of the County of New Haven. A. Budington and R. Whiteford, Publishers, 1852
Map of New Haven County. Beers, Ellis and Soule, Publishers, 1868

Interviews: Joel Helander, Guilford Historian (November, 2021)
Doug Williamson, Dudley Farm architect (December, 2021)

Vertical Files, Dudley Farm Museum, Guilford, Connecticut (accessed 2021).

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

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

___ 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): 8721

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 10.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Latitude: 41.355509° | Longitude: -72.720461° |
| B. Latitude: 41.355679° | Longitude: -72.719065° |
| C. Latitude: 41.355284° | Longitude: -72.717899° |
| D. Latitude: 41.353390° | Longitude: -72.717364° |
| E. Latitude: 41.352909° | Longitude: -72.718909° |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 boundaries of the nominated property are consistent with the limits of the parcel identified as Map 105, Lot 024 in the Town of Guilford's assessment records (2022) and are shown on Figure 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundaries encompass the historic core of the Dudley Farm homestead, which was reduced to the present 10.5 acres by 1963. Those boundaries have remained intact throughout the Dudley Foundation's ownership and the period of the property's operation as a farm museum. Frontage on the West River is owned by the Town of Guilford and remains undeveloped. The remainder of the farm was parceled off in the 1940s and 1950s and is held as part of Dudley Barrows Woods, preserved but reforested, and by private owners, primarily as multi-acre residential properties on neighboring roads.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rachel D. Carley
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 10 Camp Dutton Road
city or town: Litchfield state: CT zip code: 06759
e-mail: rcarley@snet.net
telephone: 860-567-5132
date: January 15, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

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

Graphics

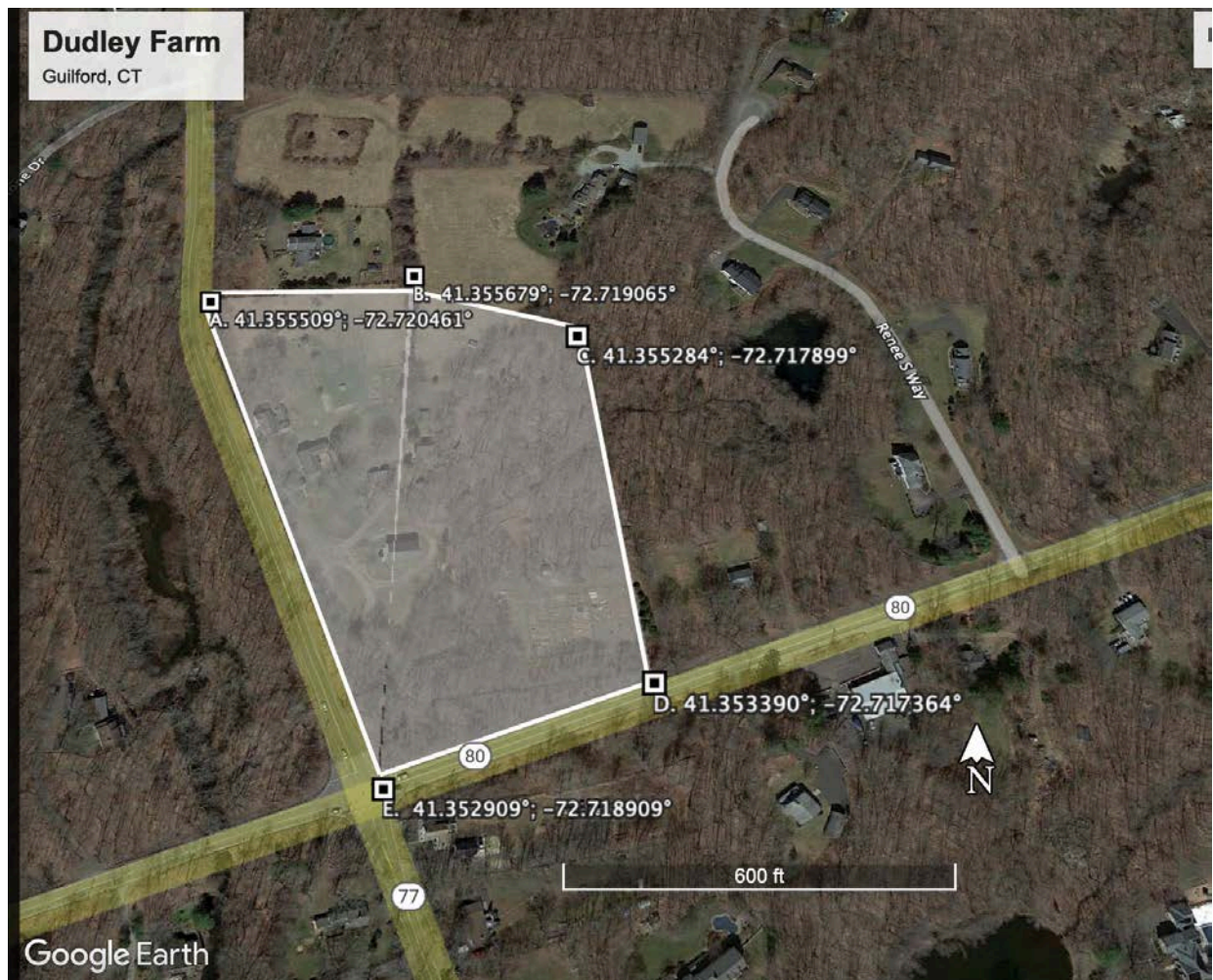


Figure 1. Location of Dudley Farm (base map: Google Earth 2021).

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

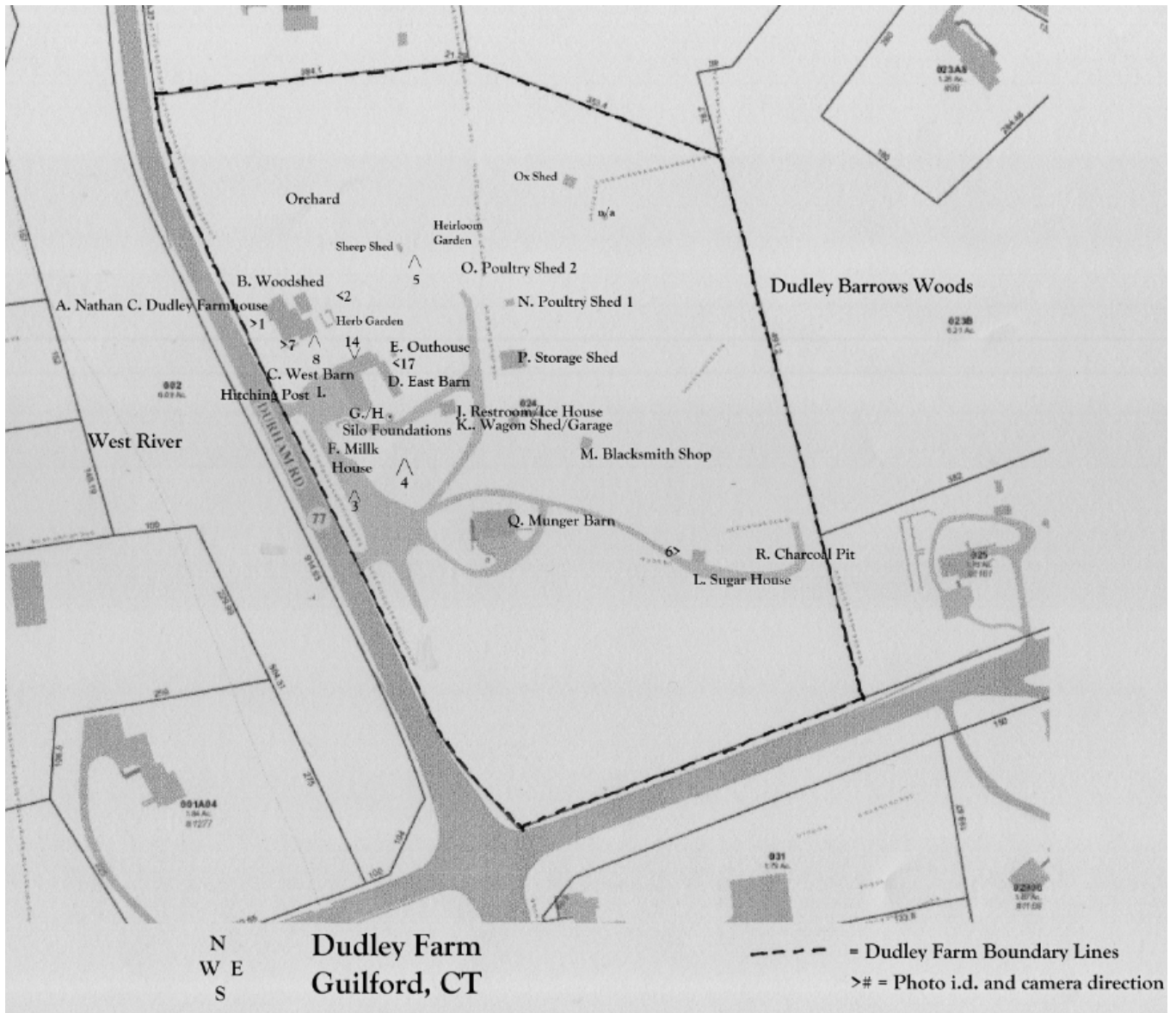


Figure 2. Dudley Farm Site Map and Exterior Photograph Key.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

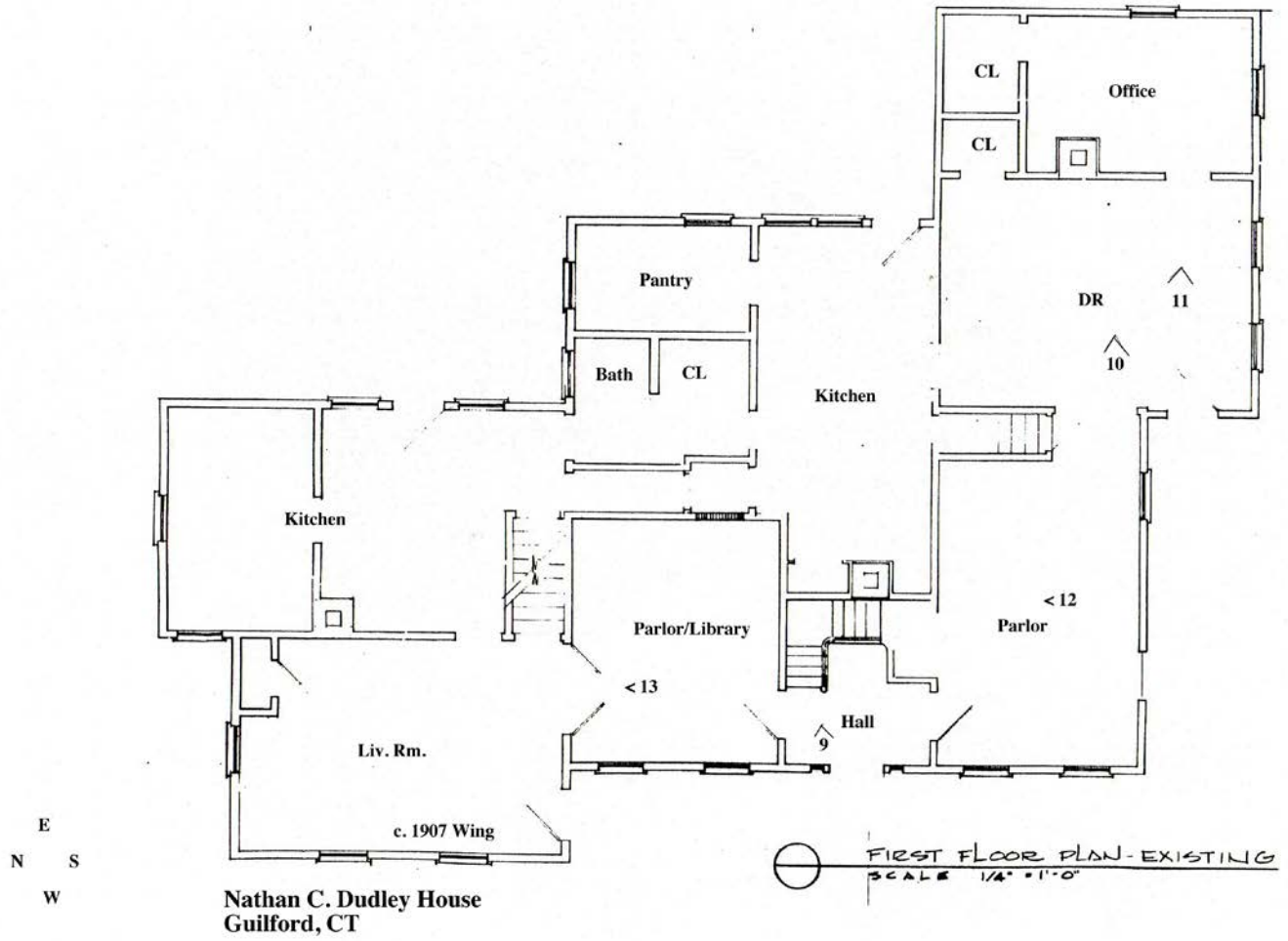


Figure 3. Nathan C. Dudley House First Floor Plan and Photograph Key.

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State



**Figure 4. Nathan C. Dudley House (looking northeast), c. 1895.
Courtesy of the Dudley Farm Museum**



**Figure 5. Amy Dudley with workhorses, c. 1930.
Courtesy of The Dudley Farm Museum.**

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 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: Dudley Farm Historic District

City or Vicinity: Guilford

County: New Haven

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Rachel Carley

Date Photographed: September-December, 2021

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

- 1 of 17. West Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House (looking east).
- 2 of 17. East Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House and Woodshed, right (looking west).
- 3 of 17. Southwest View, Main Barn Complex, Garage, Ice House/Restroom, Storage Shed (looking northeast).
- 4 of 17. South View, Milk House and Main Barn Complex (looking north).
- 5 of 17. Heirloom Garden and Sheep Pasture (looking northeast).
- 6 of 17. West elevation, Sugar House (looking southeast).
- 7 of 17. South Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House, side porch (looking northwest).
- 8 of 17. West Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House, Southeast Wing, Side Door (looking east).
- 9 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Center Stair Hall (looking northeast).
- 10 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Dining Room, Pocket Door (looking west).
- 11 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Dining Room, (looking east to office).
- 12 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, South Parlor, Fireplace Wall (looking northeast).
- 13 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, North Parlor/Library, Doors to North Wing (looking north).
- 14 of 17. Main Barn Complex, North Elevation, West Barn (looking south).
- 15 of 17. West Barn, Front Section, Square Rule Joint (looking south).
- 16 of 17. West Barn, Front Section, Loft (looking south).
- 17 of 17. West Elevation, East Barn (looking east).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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

Dudley Farm Historic District
Name of Property

New Haven, CT
County and State

et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

**Dudley Farm Historic District
National Register Photographs**



1 of 17. West Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House (looking east).



2 of 17. East Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House and Woodshed, right (looking west).



3 of 17. Southwest View, Main Barn Complex, Garage, Ice House/Restroom, Storage Shed (looking northeast).



4 of 17. South View, Milk House and Main Barn Complex (looking north).



5 of 17. Heirloom Garden and Sheep Pasture (looking northeast).



6 of 17. West elevation, Sugar House (looking southeast).



7 of 17. South Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House, side porch (looking northwest).



8 of 17. West Elevation, Nathan C. Dudley House, Southeast Wing, Side Door (looking east).



9 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Center Stair Hall (looking northeast).



10 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Dining Room, Pocket Door (looking west).



11 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, Dining Room, (looking east to office).



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13 of 17. Nathan C. Dudley House, North Parlor/Library, Doors to North Wing (looking north).



14 of 17. Main Barn Complex, North Elevation, West Barn (looking south).



15 of 17. West Barn, Front Section, Square Rule Joint (looking south).



16 of 17. West Barn, Front Section, Loft (looking south).



17 of 17. West Elevation, East Barn (looking east).