

**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 Family Farmstead and Tavern (Update)

Other names/site number: Thomas Darling House and Tavern (1979 nomination)

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: 1907 and 1910 Litchfield Turnpike

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Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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

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

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

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	<u>7</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, outhouse

AGRICULTURE: barn/wagon shed, wagon shed/stable, barn, granary, hen house

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

This document is an update to the Thomas Darling House and Tavern National Register nomination, which was listed in 1979 (Reference Number 79002639). The purpose of this amendment is to raise the level of documentation to current standards, expand the period and areas of significance, and clarify the boundary. This amendment broadens the focus beyond Thomas Darling and the house to include the outbuildings and landscape as well as information that has come to light since the original nomination was written. (The adjacent James Alexis Darling House property was separately listed in 2020, Reference Number 100005527).

The Darling Farmstead and Tavern property straddles Litchfield Turnpike (CT Route 69, formerly the Straits Turnpike) in the town of Woodbridge in New Haven County, Connecticut. It includes a one-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed dwelling constructed in 1772-1774 and seven contributing outbuildings. Four outbuildings are on the east side of the road while a barn, wagon sheds, and the west barn are on the west side of the road at the southern end of a large farm field (Photographs 1-4). The buildings sit close to the road at the southern end of an approximately 145-acre property. The house sits on the edge of a small, partly terraced knoll and faces south, with its roof ridge perpendicular to the present course of the highway. The T-



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shaped house has a five-bay façade with three evenly spaced peak-roofed dormers in the lower slope of the roof and a pair of evenly spaced brick chimneys at the ridge. A piazza with late 19<sup>th</sup> century details is located on the ground floor of the west gable, and a small, one-story ell abuts the west end of the north wall of the main block. Abutting the northwest corner of the ell is an outbuilding with an L-shaped footprint. It is made up of a shed-roofed section with large sliding doors across the width of south wall adjacent to an open-fronted section with a flat-arch opening with decorative trim, a hay door, and a roundel window in the gable. Behind the open section is a six-stall stable with hay loft. To the east of the main house are a chicken house, granary/piggery, and a five-hole outhouse. Across the street is a large English-style barn with its ridge perpendicular to the road. An open wagon shed abuts its southwest corner. West of the barn is a two-story storage barn with a shed roof. The buildings anchor what is a largely intact rural landscape that reflects the building's settings at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>- and beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century.

Seven small buildings, all part of a Scout camp, have been constructed on the property since 1978. These are all non-contributing to the significance of the property (Photograph 5).

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### **Narrative Description**

This narrative description consists of additions and amendments to the 1979 Thomas Darling House and Tavern National Register Nomination. The house is adequately described in the 1979 nomination.

### Setting and Landscape Features

The Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern is made up of two property parcels on opposite sides of the Litchfield Turnpike – 1907 and 1910 Litchfield Turnpike (Figures 1, 2a, and 2b). They lie on the floor of the West River Valley, with the eastern parcel (1907) running up to the edge of West Rock. The property is crossed by several streams that run into the West River, which runs north-south through the middle of the 1907 Litchfield Turnpike parcel. The buildings are clustered at the south end of each parcel, in a rough east-west line (Figure 3). Much of the property is tree-covered, with cleared fields close to the road to the north of the barns at 1910 Litchfield Turnpike and at the north and south ends of 1907 Litchfield Turnpike. Historic stone walls are located throughout the property and a cobblestone bridge with concrete culverts allows one of the unnamed streams to flow under the road from Litchfield Turnpike to the Boy Scout Camp.

### Outbuildings

The outbuildings described below are all contributing buildings.

#### **Cow Barn (1773, with additions)**

The Cow Barn is an English-style, timber framed barn with an attached lean-to and an open wagon shed (Photographs 6 and 7). The building has an L-shaped footprint, with the main door facing south, the lean-to across the north wall of the main block, and the open shed perpendicular to the southwest corner of the building and wrapping around the part of the ground level of the west gable. The main building and ell appear to rest on grade, except for

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modern concrete pads at the south wall, while the south and portions of east walls of the ell sit on a stone foundation. It is clad in vertical boards (except for the west gable, which is clapboarded) and has an asphalt shingle roof. In addition to the large central door with a four-light transom, there are smaller doors on the south elevation of the main building, each flanked to the east by a multi-light window. The exterior wall of the lean-to has a door at the north end of its west wall while there is a central door in the north wall flanked by what appear to be patches over former window openings. The ell has a high door in its south gable and a second door at the end of its west wall.

On the interior, the hewn frame with principal rafter and common purlin roof has been repaired repeatedly, often with circular sawn timbers or metal fasteners. The central bay is clear at grade level to the rear of the main building, where a fence-like partition with a gate separates the lean-to from the main section. The timber frame in this plane shows evidence of the former rear wall of the building, which was removed when the lean-to was added early in the life of the building. An enclosed grain storage room sits at the level of the second floor over the central aisle, with shoots to help transfer the feed to the ground floor (Photograph 8). The side bays include stanchions and troughs on the west side and an enclosed pen on the east. Integral ladders on the central posts allow access to the second level on each side, where hay was likely stored. Empty joist mortices suggest that there was a third level that is not currently extant. Evidence of pegs that once secured the joists in place suggest that this was a permanent, rather than seasonal, feature of the barn at one point. The lean-to space includes additional stanchions and troughs for the feeding and milking of cows. The wagon shed is a simple, three-sided timber frame structure that abuts the west gable and extends as an open shed past the south wall of the main block (Photograph 9). It has two wide bays open to the east.

### **Stable (mid-19<sup>th</sup> century)**

The stable building has an L-shaped footprint (Photographs 10 and 11). The north-south arm is made up of a gable front section with an open carriage shed at the front (south) and enclosed stable with stalls behind it. The east-west arm is shed-roofed section with a pair of large sliding doors that fill the south wall of this section. The whole building is clad in vertical board sheathing. The opening for the carriage shed section sits under a flat arch with a decorative molding with a door and circular window above it. The overhanging eaves have a simple molding and fascia that continues around the whole building. The north gable has a ground floor door flanked by six-light windows. Sitting above the door are a second-floor door and a round window in the peak of the gable. The east wall has five single pane windows high on the wall at the north end. The shed-roofed section has a rear wall that is in two planes, with the western section further north than the eastern section. The north wall has no openings while the northern section of the east wall has a single four-light window and the southern section has a door and six-light window.

On the interior there are three distinct sections. The carriage shed is an open, dirt-floored space with the timber framing of the wall and floor above exposed and an enclosed second floor. The major timbers are hewn, with the floor joists only flattened on their top and bottom surfaces. The stable section of the building includes stairs to the west of the central entrance in the north wall and five stalls along the east wall (Photograph 12). The space has a wood floor and

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framing of the second floor is visible. Like the open portion of the building, the major timbers are hewn and the floor joist are logs flattened on two sides. The shed-roofed section of the building has an exposed frame of sawn timbers and an undivided interior.

### **West Barn (ca. 1900)<sup>1</sup>**

The west barn is a shed-roofed building with a rectangular footprint (Photographs 13 and 14). The south façade, the tallest of the four walls, has a pair of large central sliding doors flanked by a pair of swinging doors to the west and a 15-light window and swinging door to the east. There are four doors of the same size on the second floor. The west wall has a small vent near the highest point of the sloping roof. The north and east walls appear to be without openings. The interior is divided into three distinct spaces. . The eastern end of the building is divided into two unequal sections. The western section contains a separate room with thick walls partially filled with sawdust, likely intended as insulation for the storage of apples or ice (Photograph 15).

### **Hen House (late 19<sup>th</sup> century)<sup>2</sup>**

The hen house is a small, 1-story, gable front building built into the hillside to the east of the house (Photographs 16 and 17). It is clad in vertical board siding with a wood shingle roof. An entry door is located at the north end of the east gable with a 6/6 double-hung window at the south end of the wall. The south wall has a pair of window openings, one of which has a six-light window in it, low on the wall at the east end with a 12-light window near the west end of the wall. The west and north walls are partially subterranean, with a fieldstone foundation wall below the vertical board siding.

The interior of the building is a single open space with a roosting box for hens and an open loft above the west end of the building (Photograph 18). The building is lightly framed with sawn dimensional lumber. Some of the roof boarding has red paint on its underside, suggesting that it may be reused exterior cladding.

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<sup>1</sup> The original use of this barn is unclear. The west end is has double walls filled with saw-dust, suggesting that it was built for insulated storage, perhaps for apples or ice. Thomas Visser notes, "Like icehouses, these apple storage barns were often fitted with a low ventilator on the roof and sawdust- or charcoal-filled walls around the cold storage (Visser, 197).

<sup>2</sup> Buildings can be identified in one of two ways, either by documentary or other types of historical evidence, such as the insurance certificate for the 1794 barn described below, or by appearance. Historical evidence may refer to the name or use of a building thereby providing clear evidence for a name or a type. Or the building may look like a specific type of building. Building types often have character defining features that are used to identify the previous uses. In the case of the Hen House and the Granary, mentioned below, the buildings have character defining features that have led to their identification with specific uses. The Hen House has windows in its south wall and nesting boxes on the interior. These are both character-defining features of Hen Houses. Similarly, the Granary is raised off the ground on stone piers. This approach, taken to reduce rodent infestations into grain stores, is one of the character defining features of a granary. In the case of the Hen House, there is oral tradition that it was used, at least during the 1950s, as a piggery. Similarly, it is thought that the granary may have been used to house hens. This apparent repurposing of the buildings is consistent with the lifespan of buildings on farms. They are often left to decay if no longer useful, or repurposed. (The outhouse turned shed is another clear example of repurposing on the Darling Farmstead.) These buildings could easily have been repurposed; for the sake of clarity, they are named here based on their character-defining features.

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### **Granary (late 19<sup>th</sup> century)<sup>3</sup>**

The granary is a small, one-story, gable front building with vertical board siding and a wood shingle roof (Photograph 19 and 20). It has a single door in the west gable under a pentagonal decorative header and a low, small door near the middle of the south side. The building has historically sat on stone piers at the corners; the northwestern corner is now in contact with the ground.

The interior of the building is divided into two sections. A low enclosed space with a board ceiling occupies the east end of the building (Photograph 21). It is accessed by the small door in the south wall. The western section of the building includes a floor to roof space accessed by the large gable door; this space also has access to the open space above the enclosed, eastern space (Photograph 22). The plank wall between the two spaces is pierced by a slanted chute running from west to east.

### **Privy (1774)**

The privy is a small, one-story side-gable building with a brick foundation on its north, west, and south sides (Photographs 23 and 24). The building is clapboarded with a wood shingle roof. The door is in the west wall, and there is a small, single-pane window in the south wall. On the interior is a built-in bench with four covered holes; the southernmost opening is smaller and has a step in front of it, suggesting it was for a child (Photograph 25).

### Structures

#### **Stonewalls (1774 and later)**

The property is crisscrossed by dry-laid stonewalls. Some of these appear to match property divisions shown in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century plat map, while others appear to be more recent (although still historic) additions.

#### **Stone Bridge (early 20<sup>th</sup> century)**

The dirt road that now runs from Litchfield Turnpike to the Scout Camp crosses a small stream about halfway to the camp. The road is carried over a concrete culvert embedded in a stone bridge with masonry sidewalls that barely rise above the level of the roadway.

### Non-contributing Buildings (after 1978)

Camp Whiting, a small Boy Scouts of America camp, was created at the southwest corner of the property beginning in 1978. It is not visible from the historic buildings on the property. The camp consists of the following buildings:

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<sup>3</sup> The granary sits in the location of a building depicted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century plat map of the property. However, its construction is more consistent with a late 19<sup>th</sup> century building, suggesting it is a replacement for an earlier one.

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### **Log Cabin**

The cabin is a 3-bay wide, 2-bay deep log building constructed of interlocking square timbers with staggered corner joints and 1/1 windows with triple-track storm windows, a low-pitch gable-front roof, and a cobblestone chimney at the north end (Photograph 26).

### **Picnic Pavilion**

The picnic pavilion is an open, gable-front, timber-framed building 2-bays deep and 1-bay wide (Photograph 27).

### **Firewood Shed**

The firewood shed has a shed roof, clapboard siding on the east and west, and open ends on the north and south (Photograph 28).

### **Outhouse**

The camp outhouse has a side-gable roof, plywood cladding and decking, and a covered porch under the roof (Photograph 29).

### **Leanto**

The lean-to is clapboard with a side gable roof. It is raised off the ground on wooden piers (Photograph 30).

### **Cabin**

The cabin is a small, gable-front building with a low-pitched roof and clapboard siding. It sits on short piers to raise it off the ground and accommodate the sloping terrain (Photograph 31).

### **Cabin**

A second cabin is located in the southwest corner of the property.

### Buildings that are Not Extant (ca. 1800)

Three buildings are referred to in family papers related to the property (plat maps, account books, inventories, and wills) but no longer exist. A mill, shown north of the house on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century plat map of the eastern part of the property, was likely the cider mill that is referred to in Thomas Darling's accounts, Thomas Darling II's distribution, and Mary Darling's distribution (Darling Family Papers). Thomas Darling accounts note that on October 24, 1773, he "Had Nathan Taylor & horse to grind syder" suggesting that the cider mill was horse-powered (Darling Family Papers). One other reference entitled, "Articles to be considered ag<sup>t</sup> the use of Momma's Estate" refers to "two hovels" that Thomas Darling II appears to have built (Darling Family Papers). It is likely that these were "small, rude dwelling[s] open on one or more sides" that Thomas constructed for the use of animals in one of the pastures (Lounsbury, 186).

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Integrity

The Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern has a high degree of integrity. It retains its historic setting among cleared fields, some of which are still currently used for agriculture, along with the tight grouping of historic buildings on their original locations close to a historic road. The historic buildings show limited evidence of modern alterations or intrusions, contributing to the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The non-contributing buildings are located in an isolated part of the property, out of sight from the rest of the area. Taken together, the historic buildings and the relatively undisturbed setting provide a strong sense of what the property looked like during its period of significance; it retains integrity of feeling and association as a historic agricultural property within a rural setting.

**Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern Data Sheet**

Resources	Parcel	Date	C/NC
House	1901-1000-1907	1774	C
Cow Barn	1901-1000-1910	1773	C
Stable	1901-1000-1907	Mid 19C	C
West Barn	1901-1000-1910	ca. 1900	C
Hen House	1901-1000-1907	Late 19C	C
Granary	1901-1000-1907	Late 19C	C
Privy	1901-1000-1907	1774	C
Stone Walls	1901-1000-1907 1901-1000-1910	1774 and later	C (structure)
Stone Bridge	1901-1000-1910	Early 20C	C (structure)
Log Cabin	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Picnic Pavillion	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Firewood Shed	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Outhouse	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Leanto	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Cabin	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC
Cabin	1901-1000-1910	after 1978	NC

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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

SOCIAL HISTORY

TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1772-1930

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1772-1774: construction of house

1789: death of Thomas Darling

By 1930: end of active farming by the Darling family

1973: end of extended Darling family ownership

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Gray, Abiel (builder)

\_\_\_\_\_



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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 Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern is locally significant under Criterion A in the categories of Agriculture, Social History, and Transportation and Criterion C in the category of Architecture. Architecture, Agriculture, and Transportation were checked as the areas of significance in 1979 nomination, with a general period of significance limited to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Under Criterion A, the Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern and the surrounding land provide an illustrative example of a late 18<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural landscape. Thomas Darling, for whom the house was built in 1772-1774, and his descendants, actively farmed the property until at least 1920. At the same time, they were also active in commercial and civic activities. This mix of activities reflects a type of Connecticut farmer common from the colonial period on who mixed subsistence farming with cash crops and professional activities to create a sufficient income. (Hitchcock, sec. 8, p. 11). The property is also significant in the category of Social History, for the relatively well-documented presence of enslaved people in the household during the early decades of its existence, 1772 to approximately 1791. The property is also significant in the category of Transportation for its association with the Straits Turnpike, which divides the property in two. Thomas Darling, II was a founding director of the turnpike (Sistrand, 14).

Under Criterion C, the house is significant as a well-preserved example of a 1.5-story, center hall, gambrel-roofed, high-style building reflecting the local prominence of its owner. It is a relatively modest house in size, but its plan and detailing reflect trends found in the houses of prominent citizens of the period throughout the region. The building's construction is exceptionally well documented through a first-hand source; Thomas Darling kept notes on the construction of the building from the cutting of the first timbers to the day on which it was occupied. This documentation, which includes names and dates for, and descriptions of, the work is extremely rare. The barn is also well-documented. In each case, the documentation allows a better understanding of the network of skilled and unskilled members of the community (and beyond, in this case) who helped Thomas Darling get his house constructed. It also provides clear evidence about the building of a house and barn, commonplace events that are not generally well-documented.

The period of significance extends from the construction of the house in 1772 through the end of its agricultural use by 1930. Specific periods associated with the revised criteria are: Agriculture (1774-1930), Social History (1774-approximately 1791), Transportation (1797-1854), and Architecture (1772-1774).

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

This narrative statement is a supplement to the 1979 Thomas Darling House and Tavern National Register Nomination.

### **Criterion A: Agriculture**

The house, its outbuildings, and the surrounding landscape provide an illustrative example of an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmstead that grew and changed throughout the nineteenth century before achieving its current configuration. It is now a locally significant survivor of a once common agricultural property type, a farm with a diversified landscape and produce that provided a mix of ways to produce income. Because of involvement of the Darlings in civic and commercial pursuits (noted in both the 1979 nomination for this property and in the more recent NRHP nomination for the related James Darling property) farming and managing the land were never their sole pursuits but provided a solid foundation for their other endeavors (Clouette, sec. 8, pp. 1-2; Hitchcock, sec. 8, pp. 12-14).

The early history of the farmstead can be reconstructed through some of the documents describing it. Andrew W. German, Thomas Darling's biographer, notes that at the time the Darlings occupied the house in the mid-1770s, the relative size of Thomas Darling I's holdings was relatively static but productive. His prosperity is reflected in the fact that Darling owned livestock equal to the largest Connecticut farmers of the period (German 1988, p. 86-7 citing Main 220-23). There were oxen, steers, cows, horses, sheep, and hogs to tend. In season, there were fields to plow, crops to plan, sheep to shear, hay to mow, steers to butcher, tallow to render, hides to prepare, hogs to butcher, grain to thresh, flax to mill, cider and beer to make, fences to build, and wood to cut and haul.

Darling relied on a mix of enslaved people, sons, apprentices, and hired hands or tenants to provide the necessary labor for his farm. German comments, "in 1785 [Thomas I] Darling had assessed himself for 16 cows, 7 oxen and steers, 3 horses, one colt, 30 acres of plowland, 157 acres of upland, 23 acres of clear meadow, 23 acres of boggy meadow, 130 acres of bushy pasture, and 50 acres of unenclosed woodland" (German 1988, p. 87, note 8). This land was likely not all in proximity to his homestead and some of it was frequently let out to neighbors to generate income (Darling Notebooks 1772-1773; Darling Family papers). German also notes the products of the land that had cash value: rye, flax, wood, livestock, milk, butter, and cheese, all of which appear throughout Darling's account books (German 1988, p. 87; Darling Family papers). The mix of produce for both the household and for the market allowed Darling to pursue activities beyond simply farming. At the time of his death four years later, Darling held 6 oxen, 36 cattle, 22 hogs, 13 sheep, 3 horses. He also had fifty pounds of tobacco, a crop he cultivated, 20 tons of hay, and a kitchen garden including potatoes, turnips, and corn (Thomas Darling Probate Inventory 1789).

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the property, now owned by Thomas Darling II or his estate, was documented with a plat map, perhaps drawn by Thomas Darling II himself, as he worked as a

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surveyor (Figure 4).<sup>4</sup> (The map is not dissimilar to maps of other properties in the Darling Family Papers apparently drawn by Thomas Darling II). While only land on the east side of the turnpike is recorded, it does provide a clear depiction of the land and some of its uses. At the southwest corner of the map are the House, a second building (labeled “old house” on one of the two versions of the map), and a third building that sits quite close to the current location of the granary building (also depicted on only one version of the map). North of the house and close to the road is a fourth object labeled “mill”. This building was likely the cider mill that is noted in Thomas Darling II’s 1816 inventory (Thomas Darling II Inventory, January 1, 1816). It was valued at \$200 (\$4,465.19 in 2024 dollars), more than half the value of the house, which was valued at \$350 (\$7814.09 in 2024 dollars) (<https://www.in2013dollars.com/>).

The location of the mill lot described in Thomas Darling II’s division, “bounded North & East by land set to James Alexis, South on Mary Darling’s estate, west on Straits Turnpike road”, matches the plat map location of the mill (Thomas Darling II Division, Jan 20, 1817). At least some of the apples crushed in the mill likely came from the property as the distribution of the estate of Mary Darling (Thomas Darling II’s wife) in 1817 notes that son John was to receive the “Barn lot & orchard bounded North on lands of Abram Smith East on Straits turnpike [sic] South on Highway & West on land of Eliakim Sperry (all valued at \$1500 dollars, \$35,503.31 in 2024 dollars) and the barn (valued at \$80, \$1,893.51.19 in 2024 dollars)” (Mary Darling Distribution, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1817). Thomas Darling II’s inventory included grain, corn, pork, beef, tallow, lard, cider, cider casks, potatoes, and cheese. The inventory also included a number of tools, suggesting that it was an active farm with livestock, including sheep shears, hay knives, brush scythes, dun[g]forks, and a plow. It also included a pair of oxen, steers, six cows and a calf, an old horse, three colts, two yearlings, 80 sheep, and hogs. This collection of products, tools, and animals suggests that the farm continued to produce in a way similar to when it was owned by Thomas Darling II’s father.

After the deaths of Thomas Darling II (1815) and Mary (1816), his wife and primary heir, Thomas Darling III assumed sole control of the farmstead. Family documents suggest that he had been doing this at least since his father’s death but much of his work at that time went to the support of his mother and may have been done at her behest (“Articles to be considered ag<sup>t</sup> the use of Momma’s Estate,” Darling Family papers). After her death, Thomas III began a more than 50-year residence on the property. While his farming activities are not well documented, it seems likely that he continued the diversified farming (and land management, since the woodlots on the property were a significant resource) that his father and grandfather had pursued.

Thomas Darling III was occasionally noted in the local papers as winning prizes at agricultural fairs but little else is noted about his farm production (e.g., *The Connecticut Journal*, Nov. 16, 1819, and *The Columbian Register*, Nov. 8, 1859). In the censuses between 1820 and 1860 the Darling household remained small. In 1820, two men, likely Thomas Darling III and his brother James Alexis Darling, were noted as working in agriculture (Federal Census, 1820). After that only one man, Thomas Darling III is shown in residence until 1850, when Tenas Peck, a laborer, was listed as living on the farmstead (Federal Census, 1830-1850). Peck was not listed as being in residence in 1860 (Federal Census, 1860). It seems likely that Thomas Darling III brought in day

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<sup>4</sup> The map is undated; Thomas Darling I died in 1815.

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labor, likely from neighbors, to run his farm rather than relying on enslaved people, indentured servants, or hired men as his ancestors had. (It is clear from earlier account books that his ancestors also relied on the labor of neighbors to supplement that from people who lived on the farmstead.) During this time having a single household member engaged in agriculture is not uncommon. In the 1840 census returns, of the ten households that included agricultural workers flanking Thomas and James Alexis Darling (who was recorded living alone in an adjacent dwelling), five had only a single member engaged in agriculture and the other five had two agricultural workers (Federal Census, 1840).

In 1870 the federal census included Thomas Darling III in both the population and agricultural censuses. The 1870 population census showed that Thomas Darling III (76) was living at home with his wife Lucy (75) and his daughter Lucia (37). The farm included 75 acres of improved land, 25 acres of woodland, and 5 unimproved acres; it had a cash value of \$8000 with \$150 of farming implements and machinery. (By this point James Alexis Darling had received a portion of the farm for his residence, so the property was somewhat reduced in size (Hitchcock, sec. 8, p. 14). The livestock included a horse, three milk cows, two working oxen, three other cattle, and one pig with a total value of \$605. They had grown 25 bushels of Indian corn, 12 bushels of barley, 20 bushels of potatoes, produced 200 pounds of butter 40 tons of hay in the preceding year. The farm was just outside the top quintile in value (22<sup>nd</sup> out of 101) with the most valuable farm in town being Maria Peck Clark's, worth \$25,000 (Federal Census Non-Population Schedule 1870). Thomas Darling III died in 1872 and his division described the homestead lot as being 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres bounded by the road to the west, James Alexis Darling's land to the north and east, and the estate to the south (Thomas Darling III Division, Nov. 26, 1872). It also listed one horse, one cow, and one shoat, with apples, hay, and oats in the barn.

The 1880 federal census included sisters Mary Ann Bishop (60) and Lucia Darling (47) living with Bernard Smith (51), a laborer. That year's agricultural census showed Mary Ann Bishop and Lucia Darling as inheriting only a fraction of the land that had been owned by their father; much of the rest was willed to James Alexis Darling who was listed as a retired farmer in the population census (Federal Census Non-Population Schedule 1880; Federal Census 1880). The women owned 18 acres of tilled land, 12 acres of permanent meadows, pastures, orchards, or vineyards, three acres of woodland, and 10 acres of "other, improved land, including old fields not growing wood" (Federal Census Non-Population Schedule 1880). The farm was now valued at \$3660 with \$25 of implements and machinery and \$75 of livestock. The pair spent \$50 for wages of farm labor, including board, for hired labor that was on the farm for 5 weeks. They sold \$459 worth of produce. Their farm included 18 acres of mown grass and 12 acres not mown and produced 25 tons of hay. Livestock included one horse, two milk cows, and one other cow. Two calves dropped in 1879. The farm produced 160 pounds of butter and had 28 poultry on hand that produced 200 dozen eggs. One-quarter of an acre was devoted to potatoes and produced 25 bushels. The woodlands yielded 10 cords of wood, a \$35 value (Federal Census Non-Population Schedule 1880). A map drawn in 1898 by family friend Donald Grant Mitchell shows a grid of green dots behind the Darling house, suggesting that the family had planted an orchard in this location (the earlier

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division of Mary Darling's property to her son John described an orchard on the west side of the road) at some point during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 5).<sup>5</sup>

The farm returned to its earlier size with the death of James Alexis Darling. His property was inherited by Mary Ann Darling Bishop, who died in 1894 and transferred the property to her sister, Lucia (Hitchcock, sec. 8, p. 14). In the 1900 census Lucia (listed as 65 years old) was joined in the house by her sister's son, Gerard H[alsted] Bishop (35) who was described as a farmer, and his wife, Nellie (38), and stepdaughter, Bernice (18) (Federal Census, 1900). The household also included Ock Gensen (36), a farm laborer, and Maria Miller (38), a housekeeper. The 1910 census is similar, although no hired hand was recorded (Federal Census, 1910). 1920 was the last year that a farmer, G. Halsted Bishop, was listed as living at the house; by 1930 he was listed as a wage or salary worker because of his job as a tax collector (Federal Census, 1920-1930). The 1934 aerial photograph of the area shows eight trees, arranged like an orchard, located across the street (Fairchild, 1934; Figure 6). The 1940 and 1950 censuses, the last two available for the property, do not mention farming on the property. S. Bernice Baldwin was listed as keeping house with lodgers (Federal Census, 1940-1950).

### **Criterion A: Social History**

The property is locally significant under Criterion A: Social History as a well-documented example of a property where slavery was practiced in Woodbridge. Slave-owning in New England, with the exception of parts of Rhode Island, was characterized by features that distinguish it from slavery elsewhere in the colonies (and later country). Reflecting the practice of small-scale subsistence farming in New England, it appears that enslaved people in New England may have worked more closely with their enslavers than elsewhere (Cruson 2007). Enslavement in New England, especially as it was practiced in Connecticut, grew during the mid-eighteenth century, reaching its height in the 1790s before diminishing over the ensuing decades. The property at 1907 Litchfield Turnpike and the owner of the house on the property from 1772 to 1789, Thomas Darling I, provide an illustrative example of slave owning in Connecticut during this period.

### **Enslaved People**<sup>6</sup>

The ownership of enslaved people was not uncommon in Connecticut in the second half of the eighteenth century. Censuses from this period show both the number of people owned, and a gradual decline over the period. In 1756, the colony contained 126,975 white residents and 3,636 non-white residents, the majority of whom are thought to have been enslaved (Trumbull and Hoadley, 492; Cruson, 19). No "negroes" were enumerated in the town of New Haven (which at that time included the area that later became Woodbridge). New Haven County, which had a population of 17,955, had 226 non-white residents, a little over 1.2 percent. However, that was clearly an undercount since only four of the eight towns in the county reported non-white residents.

<sup>5</sup> Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908) was a well-known farmer, essayist, and novelist who wrote literary criticism, travel literature, and essays on country life. He often published under the pseudonym Ik Marvel. (<https://archives.yale.edu/agents/people/74842>)

<sup>6</sup> Invaluable assistance for this section was provided by Christine Pittsley, Special Projects Director at the Museum of Connecticut History, who generously shared her experience and files on enslaved people in Connecticut, especially those related to the Darling family.

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German notes that “Ezra Stiles survey of the ‘compact part’ of New Haven in 1762 revealed seventy-one slaves owned by 43 (17 percent) of the 260 families dwelling in the nine squares and contiguous quarters” (German, 96).

The percentage of likely enslaved people had increased slightly by the time of the next census in 1774. At that time, the census showed 197,856 residents in the colony, with 6,464 non-white residents. Approximately 3.25 percent of the population were likely enslaved. At that time, Connecticut had the largest slave population in New England (German, 96). In New Haven County, the total population had grown to 25,896 people and included 925 non-white people, slightly less than four percent (Trumbull and Hoadley, 489). At this time, New Haven had a population of 8,295 residents, including 145 people of color. Slightly less than three-and-a-half percent of its population is thought to have been enslaved at this time (Trumbull and Hoadley, 488-491).

A turning point was reached in 1774 with passage of the first law limiting slavery in Connecticut, an act banning the importation of any “Indian, Negro, or Mulatto slave.” The stated reason was that: “the increase of slaves in this colony is injurious to the poor and inconvenient” (Cruson, 14). Additional laws enacted to limit slavery were passed in the following years. In 1784 gradual emancipation was introduced, with all children born after March 1, 1784, released from their servitude upon turning 25 (Cruson, 14). Laws were strengthened in 1788, with a law stating that involvement with the slave trade, either directly or indirectly, was illegal (Cruson, 14). Transportation out of state of those slaves who would gain their freedom upon turning 25 was also made illegal. In 1792, it became illegal to transport any slave out of Connecticut (Cruson, 16).

Federal census records show a significant decrease in the number of slaves owned in the state over the ensuing years. In the 1790 census, the number of free blacks, 2,801, exceeded the number of enslaved people, 2,759. By 1810, the number of enslaved people had fallen dramatically to 310. By 1820, the number was under 100, and in 1840, eight years before slavery was completely outlawed in Connecticut, the number had dropped to 17. In 1848, the year slavery was completely outlawed, only six enslaved people remained in Connecticut, and all were over the age of 64 (Federal Census 1790-1840; Cruson, 14-18).

In Woodbridge, there were 15 enslaved people listed and 29 free non-white people out of a total population of 2,824 in the 1790 census. The 1800 census lists a total population of 2,198 with 6 enslaved people and 57 free non-white residents. The population enumerated in the 1810 census is 2,030 residents, with 2 enslaved people and 35 free non-white people. By 1820, the federal census listed no slaves in Woodbridge and 28 free people of color out of a total population of 1,998 residents (Federal Census 1790-1820).

Thomas Darling was a dedicated record keeper (as were many of his contemporaries in the account book-based economy). Many of these records have survived and they provide a glimpse into the enslaved population at the Darling house and some of their work. Other records allow for a broader sense of the enslaved population in New Haven and later in Woodbridge. The extended Darling family ownership of enslaved people generally follows the patterns in the state and more

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specifically Woodbridge. They were enslavers by the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (if not earlier) and appear to have freed their enslaved people by the 1790s.

Thomas Darling (1720-1789) and his extended family enslaved at least 10 people during his lifetime. It appears that many of these people may have lived on the Darling Farmstead property. The earliest reference to the family enslaving people can be seen in the will of Thomas Darling's father, Samuel (1695-1760). The document states:

I will that my Loving Wife Zerviah Darling [1710-1790] have the use of my Clock and all my Plate Except my said best Silver Tankard, And my Negro man London And my Negro Woman Lilly, as Long as She Shall remain my widow. (Will of Thomas Darling I).

Should she predecease their son Thomas, London and Lilly were to go to him. Zerviah died after her son, Thomas, but appears to have died intestate. No other mention of London or Lilly has been found in public documents.

In 1762, Thomas Darling's mother-in-law, Abigail Noyes, freed her two enslaved people, Jack and Sabina (German, 97). In 1772 "Jack Negro" appears in Thomas Darling's memorandum book; it is unclear if this is the same person (Darling, "Memorandum Book 1772"). Thirteen years later Jack and Sabina came to live with Thomas Darling (Darling, "Waste Book," June 13, 1785.). Jack and Sabina appear several times in the Darling family papers, including a note that Sabina died in 1787 "after an attack of palsy, and her nursing and funeral expenses were paid by [Thomas] Darling, Sarah Chester, and John Noyes" (Darling Family Papers; German, 98).

Beginning in 1766, a series of at least eight children were born to enslaved people thought to be already owned by the Darlings, a couple named Timothy II and Chloe.<sup>7</sup> *The New Haven Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1639-1902*, identifies eight children born to Timothy II and Chloe and thought to still be living in 1785. Their first child, Hila, was born October 24, 1765. The second, Gad, on February 2, 1768. A third, Lettice (perhaps transcribed as Litise or Lillie), July 3 (or 5), 1771, and Luke on March 25, 1774. One child may have died prior to the recording of the births. Timothy II and Chloe were married Jan 4, 1774, at the First Church of New Haven (*Early Connecticut Marriages* 1968, p. 12). The four children and an additional un-named one are thought to be Thomas Darling's "five negro children slaves" who were baptized on October 28, 1776, at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in New Haven (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 47). The fifth child is thought to have died before all Timothy II and Chloe's children were recorded in ca. 1785. Timothy III was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1777 (*New Haven Records* v. 2, p. 136). On June 6, 1777, the boy, described as Thomas Darling's "infant negro" Timothy, was baptized (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 52). (The 1850 census record erroneously suggests Timothy III was born in 1775.) At the end of 1777 Timothy II, Chloe, and Timothy III were freed by Thomas Darling; the rest of the children remained with the Darlings

<sup>7</sup> Timothy I is likely the same person who married Kate on February 23, 1775, at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in New Haven. They were both described as "free negroes", and Trinity appears to have been the church used by the family. (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 32). It is unclear if he had ever been at the property of the Darling family, although that seems likely considering his close connection to them (Archives at Yale).

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(German, 98).

After Timothy II and Chloe were freed they had three more children: Titus, born May 13, 1779; Philemon, born July 18, 1781; and Abraham, born March 16, 1785 (*New Haven Records* v. 2, p. 136). In 1781 Titus, described as a “negro son of a black servant” of Thomas Darling, was baptized at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, New Haven (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 83). In 1782 Philemon, described as Thomas Darling’s “negro servant[’]s infant,” was baptized at Amity (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 88).

In his 1789 will, Thomas Darling states, “my will is that my Negro Servants shall be free at the age of Twenty five Years” (Will of Thomas Darling). It is unclear exactly which enslaved people were living in the house at this point – it is clear from later documents that at least Hila, Gad, Lettice and Luke were owned by Thomas Darling as they appear in his probate inventory (Thomas Darling I, “Probate Inventory”).

The 1790 Federal census shows that Abigail, Thomas Darling’s widow, is listed as having four enslaved people in her household. These may have been Hila, Gad, Lettice, and Luke. The name Tim Negroe appears twice with households composed of five “other free persons”: once three entries after Abigail (and near people with the same surname as the owners of the abutting property identified in his 1784 land purchase) and once later in the records (1790 Census and WLR v. [1], p.63). A third Tim Negroe also appears with a household of two “other free persons.” It is likely that at least two of these people named Tim may be related; at this time, it is unclear which two they are.

Hila, Gad, Lettice, and Luke were purchased on July 11, 1791, from the executors of Thomas Darling’s will by Timothy Anthony I, likely their grandfather (Darling Family Papers) (Figure 7). This document also provides ages (and, therefore, birth years) for the four. (By this point Hila was 25 and should have been, by the terms of Thomas Darling’s will, already freed.) It is of note that the enslaved people are purchased for £1.1 s., considerably less than their stated value of £115 in Thomas Darling’s probate inventory. Then on September 12 of that year Timothy Anthony I sold Gad to Timothy Anthony II, referred to as “my son” and “Jr” in the transaction. On October 3, 1791, Timothy Anthony II frees Gad and identifies him as his 22-year-old son (Darling Family Papers). This document demonstrates that there are three generations of Timothy Anthonys: Timothy Anthony I, his son, Timothy Anthony, II (who is likely in his late-30s or older, since we know for certain that 22-year-old Gad is his son), and Timothy Anthony III, who was born in 1775 and so would have been 16 at this time. A similar document from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1796, recounts that Timothy II had purchased Hila from his father, Timothy I, and was freeing her after 5 years of service (WLR, v. [1], p. 553). It is unclear when Lettice and Luke were freed and if they were first purchased by their father before manumission was granted.

The 1800 census includes a listing for Timo Antonio with a household of three “all other free persons excluding Indians” (Federal Census, 1800). The records of the Woodbridge First Congregational Church noted on January 23, 1803, that Cloe, wife of Timothy Anthony II, had frozen to death (*Woodbridge First Index*, p. 123).



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In 1806, a 21-year-old Abraham Anthony of New Haven applied for and was granted a Seamen's Protection Certificate, a document confirming his citizenship, at the Port of Philadelphia.<sup>8</sup> This document, which functioned somewhat like a passport, included a detailed description of the applicant to confirm his identity. Anthony's included the following information (Figure 8):

Abram Anthony negroe man born free five feet 7 ¼ inches high, with his shoes, black complexion, black hair, 21 years of age, marked [by] a cut over his left eye brow, flat nose, mark by a cut on his left knee, mark by the cut by an axe on his foot near his first toe (Citizenship Affidavits).

Henry Wood, perhaps a neighbor from Woodbridge, swore that he "has known and been well acquainted with said Aham [sic] Anthony for some years..." (Citizenship Affidavits). The certificate, which was granted the next day, includes his full name Abraham (Citizenship Affidavits).

The records of the Woodbridge First Congregational Church noted the death of Timothy Anthony, a negro supposed between 80 and 90 years" on September 14, 1807 (*Woodbridge First Index*, p. 124). This is thought to be Timothy Anthony I husband of Kate. On December 9, 1809, Deming Antony, the "1 year-old black child of Hilah [sic] Antony" was baptized at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in New Haven (*Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church Records*, vol. 1, p. 372). She would have been 42 at the time of the birth; no mention of a husband was made. Two days later the Woodbridge First Congregation Church records note that Kate Anthony, had "died in a fit" (*Woodbridge First Index*, p. 125). This is thought to be Timothy Anthony I's wife.

In the 1810 census, a man of color named Titus Anthony was listed as a resident in Salem, Massachusetts (Federal Census, 1810). He is shown living in what appears to be a small Black enclave with 12 families and 38 residents in the town's Northwest Ward. He was living alone at that time.

The Woodbridge First Congregational Church records note that "Hila C. Anthony colored woman and a pauper" had died June 4, 1845 (*Woodbridge First Index*, p. 186). Timothy Anthony (III) appears as a resident of the poor house in the 1850 census (Federal Census, 1850).

The 1860 census shows Abraham Anthony, age 78, living with his wife Dinah, age 56, in a household in New Haven's Sixth Ward headed by John P. Anthony and also including Sarah Anthony, 40, and Sarah Anthony, 20 (Federal Census, 1860). All are described as Black. This

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<sup>8</sup> Mystic Seaport describes the genesis and function of these documents as follows:

In response to the impressment of American seamen by British ships, Congress passed an "Act for the Relief and Protection of American Seamen" in 1796. The Act required customs collectors to maintain a record of all United States citizens serving on United States vessels. Each seaman, once registered with the customs collector, was given a Seaman's Protection Certificate. These certificates vouched for the citizenship of the individual and included identifying information such as age, height, complexion, place of birth, and in some cases eye and hair color. The intention of these certificates was to discourage impressment. (<https://research.mysticseaport.org/databases/protection/>)

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appears to be the last mention of a member of the family that had a direct connection to Thomas Darling I and his household.

The lives and roles of the enslaved people at the Darling house are hard to reconstruct. Much of the work done by the enslaved people, especially the women in the household, does not appear to have been recorded. Their roles have been summarized as “house servants and day laborers” (German, 96), a description Thomas Darling’s account books confirm. The books also show that the work of enslaved men was often used to decrease Darling’s debt to his creditors. It was frequently agricultural work, with Darling credited for the work of Timothy (II) and Gad in mowing, haying, carting, repairing fences, threshing wheat and other jobs for neighbors (Darling Papers). At the time of the construction of the house Darling used his enslaved person, Timothy, to supplement the work of free black man King Dorman in tasks related to the acquiring and milling of the lumber needed (German, 82). The work of the enslaved women (and children) is not as well documented. However, it is likely that they assisted with the household tasks of cooking, cleaning, and sewing traditionally done by women. The housing of the enslaved people is also undocumented; it is thought that they likely slept in the attic, where they would have relatively easy access to the rear stairs directly to the kitchen.

### Land Records

As early as 1775 Timothy Anthony I was a freeman; the date of his emancipation has not yet been found. He earned enough wages after emancipation that in 1784, Timothy Anthony purchased “a certain piece of land lying in s<sup>d</sup> township of Woodbridge in the Parish of Amiety [sic] containing one quarter of an acre” for 50 shillings (WLR v. [1], p.63).<sup>9</sup> The land was bound “East on Highway, North & West on Sperrys Land & South on the land of Widow Lois Wood (WLR v. [1], p.63). 17 years later, in 1802, the property was transferred from Timothy Anthony Sr. to Timothy Jr. and Titus, whom he refers to as “my sons,” either indicating a mistake, since there is a Titus who is known to be his grandson, or the existence of a previously unidentified second son of Timothy [I] (WLR v. [1], p. 82). The document also describes Titus as “of Derby” (WLR v. [1], p. 82). It is described as ¼ acre and bounded “East on the Stage Road, South on the heirs of Elisha Wood Decd. West and north on Land of Abner Bradley with a Dwelling house standing thereon (WLR v. [1], p. 82). Timothy I reserved the right to use and improve the land during the rest of his life. An 1803 transaction between Gad, Timothy [III], Luke, Lettice and Abraham and Timothy [II] transferred the land and dwelling house to the children for \$80. It was described as the house where Timothy Anthony [II] was currently living (WLR v. [1], p. 77). In 1811 Timothy Anthony [likely II] sold Samuel H. Peck and Robert Clarke, Selectmen of the Town of Woodbridge, the same property with “an old house standing thereon” (WLR v. [2], p. 255). Eight years later a piece of land generally matching the description of the land first purchased by Timothy Anthony I in 1784 was sold by Nathan Beers to John H. Anthony for \$20 (WLR v. [2], p. 133). It has not been established whether John H. Anthony is a relative of Timothy Anthony and his descendants.

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<sup>9</sup> Woodbridge Land Records were shared by Christine Pittsley a research librarian at the Connecticut State Library (CSL). The images she shared show only page numbers; volume numbers are guesses that have yet to be confirmed with the documents at either the CSL or Woodbridge Town Hall

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### Indentured Servants/Hired Hands

Darling also benefitted from the work of young men who were indentured to him, along with hired hands and his own sons. (Darling Family Papers, Indenture of Justice Wood, 1775, Indenture of Daniel Thompson, 1791, account books, and Thomas Darling's will). German notes that Darling was 54 by the time he and his family moved into the Woodbridge house and concludes that "it is unlikely he did much of the arduous physical farm labor himself." German includes several examples of the agreements between Darling and his hired help:

For example, in June 1772 he had hired John Cotter, Jr., for four months at £1.10. a month to be paid in the form of forty gallons of rum, Cotter to supply the cask. In April 1785 he "Agreed with Martin Clark to work for me for 6 mo. At 48/ [shilling, or £2.8.] p. mo from this day to 1 Oct next I am to charge Salt Pork at 6 d [pence] p pound & salt beef at 3-1/2 Other provisions at Cash price not to lodge him or wash or mend for him." In December he agreed with Clark "to give him Breakfast & Supper... Morning & Evening – he & Jack & Jean to provide for his fire & mine – I to give at the rate of 40 [shillings, or £2] pr Month when he Works for me all Day – Jack to help him for nothing when I can spare him." (German, 86)

This work kept the farm running and allowed Darling to participate in the work-barter economy of Woodbridge and New Haven.

Subsequent generations of property owners continued to use hired hands to keep the property running. Some of these appear in census records as residents in the house but likely many more were hired for day work as part of the complex web of barter and cash transactions that tied the community together.

### Women

The Darling household always had women in it. There were the wives and daughters of the owners (some of whom, like Abigail and Mary Darling and Mary Ann Bishop, were the heads of the household) as well as the enslaved women and girls and indentured or hired women who all contributed work to the upkeep and improvement of the household. However, because their labor was unpaid and, for the most part, outside the account book economy it was rarely memorialized. Four anecdotal examples exist in the records of the family that demonstrate some of the types of work that the women and girls in the house did. Darling notes in one of his Memoranda Books that on November 17, 1773 (before the family moved into the house) that "Becca Lines went away in the morning last and is to be paid no longer than last Fryday[sic]." In his agreement with Martin Clark, he notes that he will provide breakfast and supper (likely cooked by an enslaved woman) for his field hand and that Jack (a formerly enslaved man living in the household) and Jean, perhaps an enslaved or indentured woman since no Jean appears to have been a member of the Darling family, will provide fire for both Clark and Darling (German, 86). The Darling family papers also include recipes for a variety of foodstuffs. In addition to these references to food preparation and the related fire-tending, a note in the family papers outlines the laundry done during the settlement of Thomas Darling I's estate, likely by one of his daughters (Darling Family Papers). Finally, there is documentary evidence for spinning, weaving, and quilting; in the 1780s some of this (specifically weaving) is noted as the work of Alexandra M. Kirgen (German, p. 87). Beyond these few examples it is thought that the women and girls, both free and enslaved, would have

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undertaken the work needed to produce food, clothe a family, and keep a house warm and welcoming (Nylander).

### **Criterion A: Transportation**

#### **Streights Turnpike<sup>10</sup>**

The farmstead property is divided in two by Litchfield Turnpike (Connecticut Route 63), formerly known as the Streights Turnpike. This road represents a significant period in the development of transportation within the state and has a close link to the Darling family.<sup>11</sup>

The Connecticut General Assembly chartered the Streights Turnpike in October 1797 (*Public Records*, v. 9, pp. XV). The approved route ran from “the New Haven Court House to the Court House in Litchfield” along a route chosen by a committee that had studied the route in 1795-96; the route was established in October 1796 (*Public Records*, vol. XV, p. 114; *Public Records*, VIII, 318 and 457). The road linked producers in the interior of the state with those in New Haven who could move their goods onto distant markets, often in other states or the Caribbean (Avitable, 314-50). Turnpike construction and operation in the United States began after the Revolution, with toll roads being constructed to link new manufacturing and processing ventures in the interior with larger market towns and ports. The need for better intra- and inter-state transportation routes, which had grown slowly during the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the first three-quarters of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as New England (including Connecticut) was integrated into the greater Atlantic markets, was emphasized during the war as the need to move raw materials, finished goods, and men was hampered by the lack of suitable roads (Avitable, 314-350; Sistrand, 7-9). Relying on English precedents, after the war state legislatures enacted legislation that sought to create revenue to repair and maintain heavily traveled roads. Virginia, Maryland, and Connecticut led the way in these efforts, with Virginia passing Chapter XXX of the Acts of 1785 to create the first turnpikes in the country (Wood, p. 7). As noted in the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s own history, “The turnpike era in Connecticut began in 1792 with the formation of the turnpike linking New London and Norwich” (DOT History, Ch. 1). This turnpike, the first in New England and the second in the country, was joined that same year by Connecticut’s second turnpike, a stretch of the Lower Post Road in Greenwich (DOT History, Ch. 1). These two roads were the first of more than 100 turnpikes to be created in Connecticut between 1792 and 1839; in many cases, these roads were not newly constructed but rather improvements on existing roads (Sistrand, pp. 9-10; DeLuca, pp. 52-53).

The Streights Turnpike looked to capitalize on Litchfield’s position as a central market town for northwestern Connecticut and New Haven’s role as a major port (Sistrand, p. 12). Aaron Benedict of Waterbury (now Middlebury), Younglove Cutler of Westbury (now Watertown), James Morris of Litchfield, and Thomas Darling, Jr. were the founding directors of the Streights Turnpike Company. The company agreed to offer 120 shares (including those taken by the directors), and tolls were set by the legislature at their three toll gates, located between Litchfield and Watertown,

<sup>10</sup> This section is based in large part on the research of Andrew Sistrand, as presented in “From New Haven to Litchfield: Life Along Straits Turnpike Road in the Early Republic” (March 2023).

<sup>11</sup> The name of the turnpike appears as both *Streights* and *Straits* in contemporary publications. The General Assembly used the former spelling so that will be used here.

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Watertown and Salem Bridge in Waterbury, and the Straits in Woodbridge (Sistrand, p. 24). A fourth toll was added in 1801 to accommodate the heavy traffic, and subsequent maintenance it required, in the vicinity of New Haven. Construction, which the directors anticipated would cost \$12,000 for the 36-mile road, was performed by local farmers under the supervision of the company's directors. Thomas Darling, Jr., the clerk for the company, also took charge of the construction of the road from New Haven to Waterbury (Sistrand, 24-26). As Sistrand notes, Darling's approach to building and maintaining the road relied on his knowledge of local farmers (his neighbors):

His method was to hire responsible farmers to act as subcontractors, signing "indentures" committing them to completing a portion of the road and then maintaining it for a period of years. Darling had surveyed the road and divided it up into approximately one-mile stretches, expressed in rods (16.5 feet/rod). Local men took contracts for building the road; for example, "Isaac Sperry & Alling Carrington will take 1/3 of the whole road (12 miles) beginning at the New Haven line provided it runs round by the mill in the Streights at £12,000 (but not keep it in repair). Other contracts would possibly be for road maintenance; there was a bid from Stephen Peck, who will take 160 rods, beginning at the New Haven line to the Ripley barn, for \$100. Limuel Sperry will take 3 miles, beginning at Ripley's barn and extending to Thomas Darling's doorway, 360 rods at 6 shillings per rod; Archibald Perkins will take the road through his land, 45 rods at £24.87 (Sistrand, 28-29; Darling Family Papers).

Once the road was inspected and approved in 1800, the company began charging tolls. Correspondence among the owners demonstrates that maintenance was a near constant requirement and an ever-present challenge (Sistrand, 29-31). Financing the maintenance would challenge the owners (and their profits) for the life of the turnpike.

One of the benefits of the turnpike for those with property along its route was that travelers required certain services. Sistrand states:

wagons loaded with farm produce, preserved pork, firewood, lumber, shingles, butter, cheese, barrel staves—all the things needed on the sugar plantations, plus droves of cattle, sheep, and horses all headed for the markets in New Haven. Heading north from New Haven were the West Indian products so much in demand, especially sugar, molasses, and rum. Stagecoaches loaded with passengers and mail, and peddlers loaded with Yankee notions all used the road... All this traffic required enough taverns to service these travelers and their animals, keeping all the old-time taverns busy, and spurring the building of new ones. (Sistrand, 32-33).

It has traditionally been thought that Thomas Darling, Jr. opened a tavern at the farmstead to provide these services, giving himself another income stream related to the turnpike. Recent research undertaken for this nomination update demonstrates that Thomas Darling II did not hold a tavern license but his son, Thomas Darling III and also a resident in the house, did. See below for a list of license holders during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

While the turnpike may have provided opportunities for economic gain to those along it, the economic reasons for its existence began to fade not long after it opened. Trade between New England and the West Indies began to suffer as early as the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a result of the powerful combination of the 1807 embargo imposed by President Jefferson, the War of 1812, and the decline of West Indian sugar plantations. This combination, which greatly affected

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Connecticut's merchants (including those sailing out of New Haven) was intensified by the British abolishing slavery in 1833 (Sistrand, 41). The economic engine that had driven the development of the Streights Turnpike began to sputter.

When the Streights Turnpike opened, Litchfield was both a market town and educational center; each of these provided customers for the turnpike. As the nineteenth century progressed, Litchfield's educational institutions began to fail, with the enrollment at Miss Pierce's school declining from 1816 until it closed in 1833, the same year that Tapping Reeve's law school closed. Similarly, as cottage industries were replaced by the larger factories of the industrial revolution, Litchfield suffered. Its hilltop location also meant that Litchfield was bypassed by the railroads in the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Sistrand, 40).

The 1830s was in many ways the beginning of the end for the turnpike. In addition to the declining fortunes of Litchfield, mail service (once a staple of the road's income) was moved to the Housatonic Railroad in 1837. It was followed by other railroads, all of which drained passengers and freight from the turnpike. Toll revenues were also reduced by the creation of untolled roads that paralleled the turnpike and circumvented the toll gates. Added to the decreasing revenue was the increased cost of maintenance, which was often exacerbated by heavy wagons transporting new industrial products. In 1854 the General Assembly gave turnpike companies legal permission to dissolve (Sistrand, 41-43).

### Tavern<sup>12</sup>

The Darling house has long been thought to have served as a tavern during the 19th century. Relying on the understood history of the building at that time, the 1979 National Register Nomination for the property stated, "The house's second owner, Thomas Jr. (1752-1815), operated a tavern and inn to accommodate cattle drivers and other travellers using the Straits Turnpike which passed by the house." The bibliography for the nomination cites both Henry S. Kelly's report on the house created for the Colonial Dames (in the holdings of the CSL) and Marion Terry's *Old Inns of Connecticut* (1937). Neither of these sources cite primary sources for the statement about Thomas Jr. being a taverner.

Recent research into taverns and tavern licenses in Woodbridge investigated these documents from 1772-1853 (i.e., from the date of the beginning of construction on the Darling House until the end of the records at the State Library).<sup>13</sup> Tavern licenses were awarded annually by the County Court based on nomination from a local group composed of the Civil Authority, Selectmen, Grand Jurors and Constable. The group determined whether local residents were a "suitable person to keep a House of Publick Entertainment" (New Haven County, County Court Records, Papers by Subject,

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<sup>12</sup> Invaluable assistance in accessing records of tavern ownership at the offsite storage facility was provided by Mel E. Smith, History & Genealogy Librarian, and Damon Munz, Government Records Archivist, at the Connecticut State Library.

<sup>13</sup> These licenses are held at the Connecticut State Library in the "New Haven County, County Court Records" (bound volumes) and "Papers by Subject, Travel, Woodbridge." While the New Haven County, County Court Records (bound volumes) are indexed with the indices available on the CSL website (<https://ctstatelibrary.org/new-haven-county-county-court-record-indexes-1666-1837-1841-1855/>) the tavern licensees are not indexed. The indices only show the page of the listings but not the names of the license holders.

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Travel, Woodbridge, 1797). Since Darling family members often held town offices, they were frequently signatories on the nominations. (At times, one Darling would sign off on the nomination of another. In some cases, a Darling appears both as a nominee and a signatory.)

Darling family members held tavern licenses for most years from 1816 (the year after Thomas Darling II died) until 1853, the last year that records for these licenses are available from the state library (see table below) (Figure 9). In an 1836 advertisement announcing the collection of the 1835 taxes reference is made to the “Inn of Thomas Darling” (*Columbian Register*, October 22, 1836) (Figure 10).<sup>14</sup>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Licensees</i>
1816	<b>John Darling</b> , Sylvester Higgins, Archibald Perkins, David Wooding, Ahira Collins David Smith (booklet in misc. file)
1817	<b>John Darling</b> , Archibald Perkins, Ahira Collins, David Smith, Jonathan Law
1818	<b>John Darling</b> , Archibald Perkins, Ahira Collins, David Hurd, Sylvester Higgins, Alvin Sperry
1819	<b>John Darling</b> , Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Andrew Clark, Charles Sperry, Titus Smith <sup>15</sup>
1820	Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Mark Hotchkiss, David Wooding, Elioenai Clark, Andrew Clark, David Perkins, Titus Smith
1821	<b>James A. Darling</b> (crossed out in booklet), Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Calvin Wooden, Roger Peck, Elioenai Clark, Andrew Clark, David Perkins, Titus Smith
1822	<b>James A. Darling</b> , Elioenai Clark, Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, David Wooding, Mark Hotchkiss, Andrew Clark, Titus Smith, David Perkins, Mark Hotchkiss (moved) Roger Peck (replacement)
1823	Ahira Collins, Roger Peck, Archibald Perkins, Timothy Beecher, Elioenai Clark, Titus Smith, Andrew Clark, Joseph Newton, Theophilus Brooks (added), Isaac R. W. Brooks (added)
1824	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Roger Peck, Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Theophilus Smith, Orril G. Bradley, Joseph Newton, John Storrs (added), Obadiah Wheeler (added)
1825	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Archibald Perkins, Theophilus Smith, Ahira Collins, Obadiah Wheeler, Roger Peck, Orril G. Bradley, John Storrs, William Dyer
1826	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Obadiah Wheeler, Orril G. Bradley, Ahira Collins, Theophilus Smith, Archibald Perkins, Eldad Bradley, Roger Peck, John Storrs, Luther Lines
1827	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Theophilus Smith, Archibald Perkins, Ahira Collins, Orril G. Bradley, Luther Lines, Andrew Clark

<sup>14</sup> It was common practice during this period for taxes to be collected in local taverns. An 1828 notice lists the houses of Archibald Perkins, Thomas Darling, and Orril Bradley as locations where taxes can be paid. All three men held tavern licenses for that year (*Connecticut Herald*, May 13, 1828).

<sup>15</sup> As a point of reference, according to Pease and Niles (1819) at this time Woodbridge had 2080 residents and 300 residences. Pease and Niles note that the town only has two taverns in this year. It is unclear why, if six licenses were granted, only two establishments are identified as taverns.

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Licensees</i>
1828	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Andrew Clark, Chauncey Sperry, Orril G. Bradley, Lamon Sperry, Theophilus Smith, Elioenai Clark
1829	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Theophilus Smith, Chauncey Sperry, Elioenai Clark, Orril G. Bradley, Lamon Sperry, Andrew Clark
1830	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Ahira Collins, Archibald Perkins, Theophilus Smith, Chauncey Sperry, Lamon Sperry, Orril G. Bradley, Elioenai Clark, John Northrup
1831	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Archibald Perkins, Ahira Collins, Theophilus Smith, Chauncey Sperry, Orril G. Bradley, Elioenai Clark, Lamon Sperry
1832?	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Orril G. Bradley, Charles Thomas, Elioenai Clark, Theophilus Smith, Archibald Perkins, Ahira Collins, Lamon Sperry, Andrew Clark, Reuben M. Hine
1833	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Elioenai Clark, Orril G. Bradley, Charles Thomas, Andrew Clark, Joseph W. Davis
1834	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Andrew Clark, Orril G. Bradley, Elioenai Clark, Charles Thomas
1835	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Charles Thomas, Elioenai Clark, Orril G. Bradley, Andrew Clark
1836	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Elioenai Clark, Andrew Clark, Jonah Newton, Charles Thomas, Edwin Buckingham (declined), Eber Lines (replacement)
1837	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Jonah Newton, Charles Thomas, Elioenai Clark, Andrew Clark, Thomas Sanford (added at a later meeting)
1838	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Eliona Clark, Andrew Clark, Thomas Sanford, Charles Thomas
1839	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Thomas Sanford, Andrew Clark, Eliona Clark, Charles Thomas
1842	Charles Lones, Thomas Sanford, Elioenai Clark
1843	Charles Lines, Andrew Clark, Thomas Sanford, Henry L. Hotchkiss, Elioenai Clark
1844	Henry L. Hotchkiss, Charles Lines, Elioenai Clark, Andrew Clark, Charles Thomas, David Perkins
1845	Andrew Clark, Elioenai Clark, Charles S. Ackley, Charles Thomas
1846	Not found
1847	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Charles Thomas, Andrew Clark, Henry Johnson, Elioenai Clark, William Clark
1848	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Andrew Clark, Jonah Newton, Abigail Clark
1849	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Andrew Clark, Abigail Clark, John H. Moshier, Jonah Newton
1850	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , John M. Merwin, Andrew Clark, William Clark, Abigail Clark
1851	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Uriah & T.D. Clinton, Andrew Clark, Abigail Clark
1852	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Uriah & T.D. Clinton & Co??, Andrew Clark, Abigail Clark, Aurelius Beecher
1853	<b>Thomas Darling</b> , Uriah & T.D. Clinton, Andrew Clark, Abigail Clark

John Darling held a tavern license from 1816-1819. This may have been for a different location, as he appears in the 1820 census as the head of a household separate from that of Thomas Darling III, who occupied the Darling house at 1907 Litchfield Turnpike. James Alexis Darling, however,



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is thought to have resided with his parents and then the family of his older brother, Thomas Darling III, after returning from living and working in New York City in 1814 and before having his own house built next door in 1842 (Hitchcock, Sec. 8, p. 13). He held a tavern license in 1821 and 1822. Thomas Darling III then held the license for most years between 1824 and 1853.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**<sup>16</sup>

Recent research has uncovered evidence that updates and clarifies some of the information included in the 1979 nomination. Specifically, a review of the family papers by Andrew W. German provided concrete evidence about the construction date for the building. In 1979 the nomination stated that the house was built “around 1765” and that the barn “is believed to date well back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Clouette, sec. 7, n.p.). German documented that Thomas Darling’s Memoranda books for 1772-1774 recount the process of construction of the house and barn through payment of various workers. These show that the work of cutting timbers for the house began in April 1772, that the house frame was raised on August 13, 1772, and that the barn was raised on July 30, 1772. The house was occupied by the family in 1774 (German, 82). The family papers also provide a date by which the barn had been expanded with the lean-to to the north. Insurance certificates for the “barn and stock” were obtained from the New-Haven Fire Insurance Company as early as 1818. At that time the barn was described as being “about forty four by forty feet, built of wood, no other buildings within ten rods of said Barn” (New Haven Fire Insurance Company, Certificate No. 272, in the Darling Family Papers).

#### Piazza

The 1978 nomination notes, “A Victorian porch with elaborately carved posts runs the width of the house, and is a replacement for an earlier, plainer porch” (Clouette, sec 7, n.p.). While the current porch is finished in a style consistent with the Victorian era, and earlier photos show an even more elaborate trim on the porch, it seems likely that this may be the result of the renovation of an earlier porch that was undertaken in the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Scholarship performed after the writing of the earlier nomination uncovered Thomas Darling’s memorandum books from the period during which the house was built (Darling Family Papers, mentioned in German, 85). The books include direct reference to the construction of a *piazza* at the time the main house was built: on May 14, 1773, Darling wrote, “Rubin Bradley carted a Load from Dorman Mill & went over the River & \_\_\_\_ a Load of Sleepers for the Piazza.” Then on December 13, 1773 he noted., “David Sperry sawd [sic] for me about 800 feet of White Wood to Line the pi[a]zza” (Darling Family Papers). One version of the ca. 1815 plat map of the property shows a full-width rectangular space at the west end of the rectangle labeled “house” (Figure 3). It is likely that this depicts the piazza referred to in the memorandum book. Similarly, a photo thought to be from the 1860s or 1870s shows a plainer porch at the west end of the house (Figure

<sup>16</sup> This narrative statement is a supplement to the 1979 Thomas Darling House and Tavern National Register Nomination. The architectural significance stated in that document remains valid today.

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11). While simpler in trim, it shares enough characteristics with the current porch to suggest the earlier was renovated rather than completely replaced to make the current porch.

The presence of a piazza on this otherwise relatively small house speaks to the architectural or stylistic ambitions of Thomas Darling. While some research has suggested that the piazza, along with other elements of the house like the Delft tiles surrounding the firebox, may have been shaped by the Dutch-influenced areas of the Hudson Valley and New York City, both places where Darling had some commercial connections, it is also possible that Darling was using the feature to confirm his elite status in the community (German, 85). Piazzas are thought to have been introduced to New England by John Singleton Copley, who described what one was in a letter to his half brother Peter Pelham, who was supervising the construction of Copley's Boston house while Copley was in New York (Copley, 234-5Hit). Very few are known to have existed in 18<sup>th</sup> century Connecticut, with the Silas Deane House (Wethersfield, 1769), the second Solomon Cowles House (Farmington, late 18C), and the Thomas Hayden-designed John Watson House (East Windsor Hill, 1788-89), being cited as early examples (*The Great River*, 112-13). As the piazza of the Deane house was removed in 1954, the Darling house piazza may be the earliest, well-documented extant example in the state.

#### Abiel Gray

Another indication of Darling's aspirations to elevated social status is his use of Abiel Gray as the builder of his house. Gray worked on several important buildings in the Connecticut River Valley, including the Hartford Meeting House (1735) and the Ebenezer Grant House (1757), where he is credited as a "joyner" (Stoughton, 74-76; Ward, 85; Wigren, 251-52). As a resident of Hartford, Gray travelled a considerable distance to get to Darling's property. Gray had been an associate of Cotton Palmer of Warwick, Rhode Island, a builder credited with the design and construction of meetinghouses in Hartford, Northampton, New Hartford, and Lebanon, Connecticut as well as Portsmouth, New Hampshire (Ward, 66). It seems likely that Darling was looking to benefit from Gray's reputation.

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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

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\_\_\_ 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):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 145 \_\_\_\_\_

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: -72.972960 | Longitude: 41.363482 |
| 2. Latitude: -72.974533 | Longitude: 41.359448 |
| 3. Latitude: -72.984558 | Longitude: 41.360085 |
| 4. Latitude: -72.986445 | Longitude: 41.364500 |
| 5. Latitude: -72.981365 | Longitude: 41.366234 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

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- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 Figures 2a and 2b, is consistent with the limits of the properties identified as Parcels 1901-1000-1907 and 1901-1000-1910 in the Town of Woodbridge Land Records (2024). These boundaries have not changed since the 1979 NRHP nomination.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property includes all of the land associated with the Darling Farmstead that was purchased for conservation purposes by the town in 1967. (A portion of the original Thomas Darling I farmstead remains associated with the James Alexis Darling House.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: James Sexton  
organization: PAST, Inc.  
(Edited by Jenny Scofield, CT SHPO)  
street & number: 569 Middle Turnpike/P.O. Box 543  
city or town: Storrs state: CT zip code: 06268  
e-mail jsexton@ahs-inc.biz  
telephone: 914-527-6416  
date: December 2023

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Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
County and State

**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.
- **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.)



Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property  
GRAPHICS

New Haven, CT  
County and State

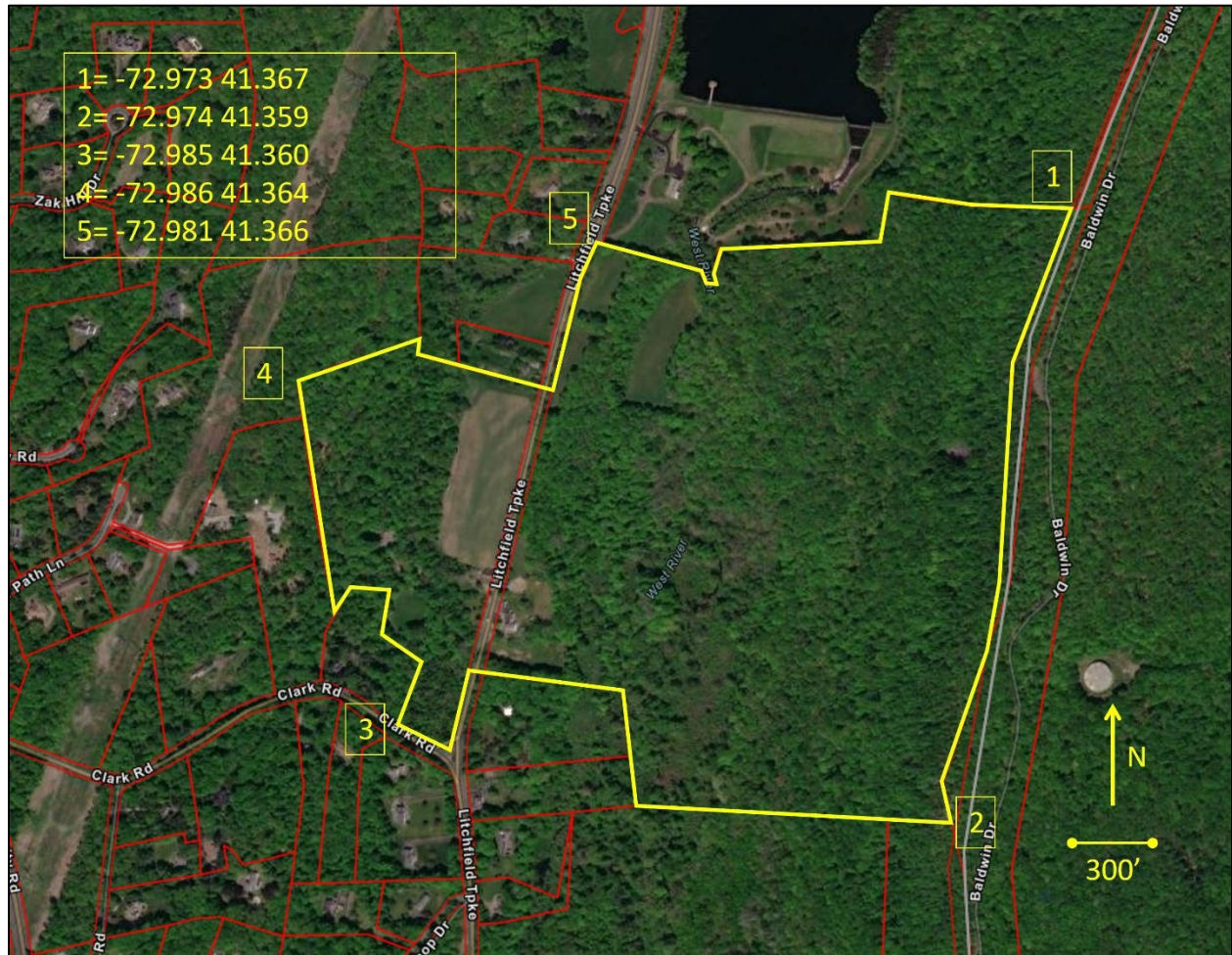
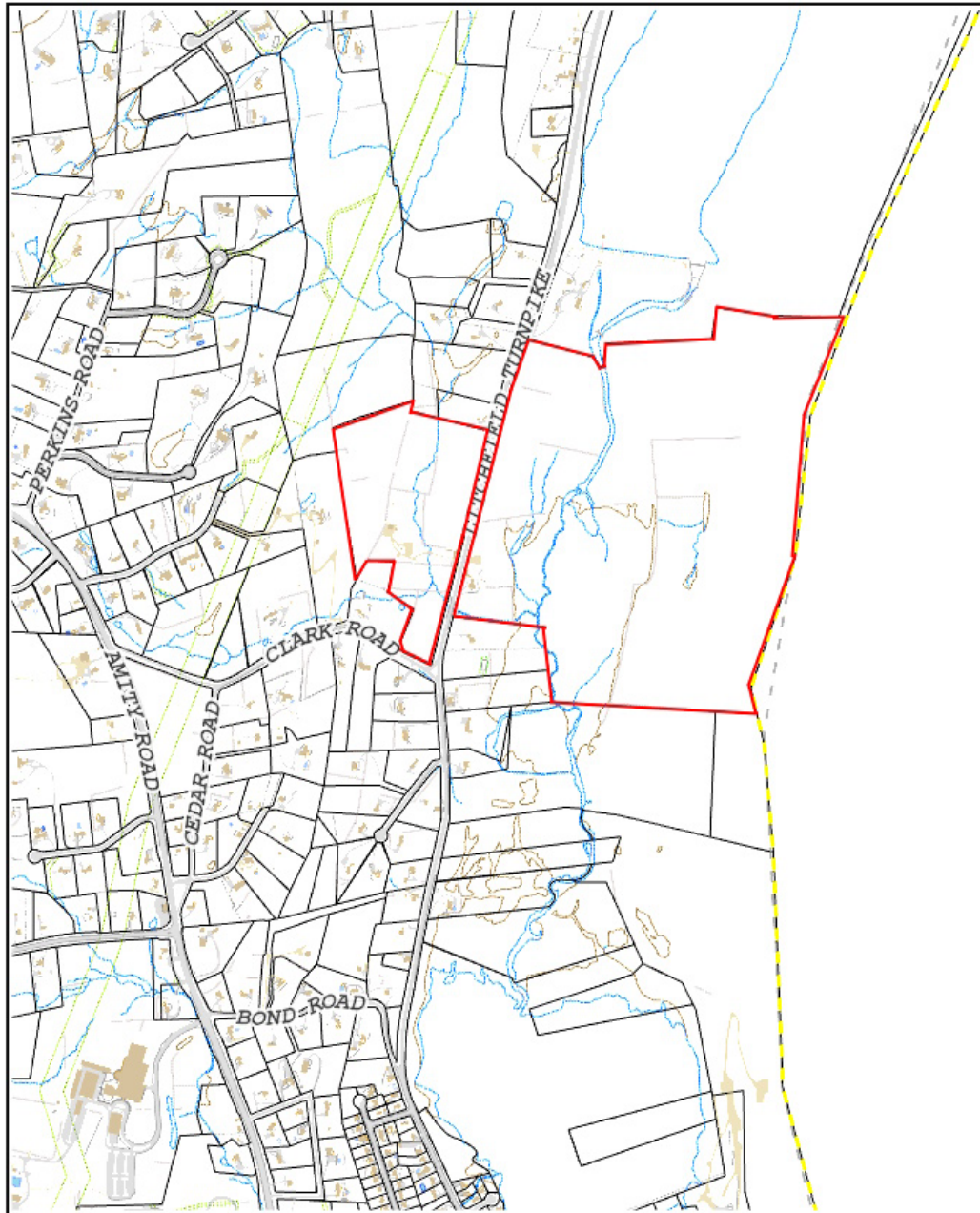


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern; property outline is approximated (Base map: ConnCRIS).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
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## Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern (Update)

Approximate Scale: 1" = 800'



Figure 2. Detail map of the Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern, 1907 and 1910 Litchfield Turnpike.

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
County and State

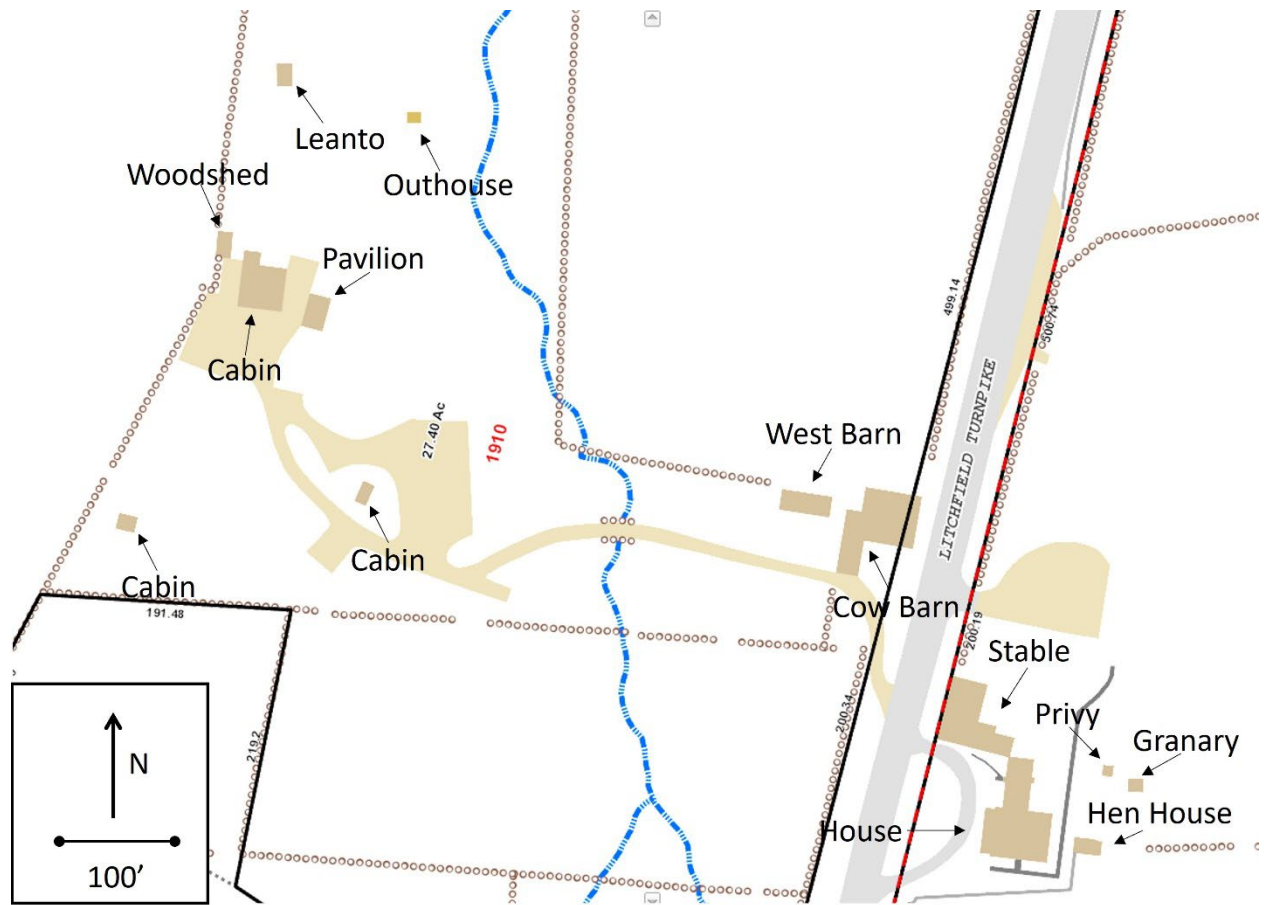


Figure 3 – Plan of buildings on the property (Base Map: Town of Woodbridge GIS). The outhouse was added as it does not appear on the town’s mapping.



Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

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Figure 4 – Early 19<sup>th</sup> century map of the property showing the various parts of the property to the east of the turnpike (Collections of the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property

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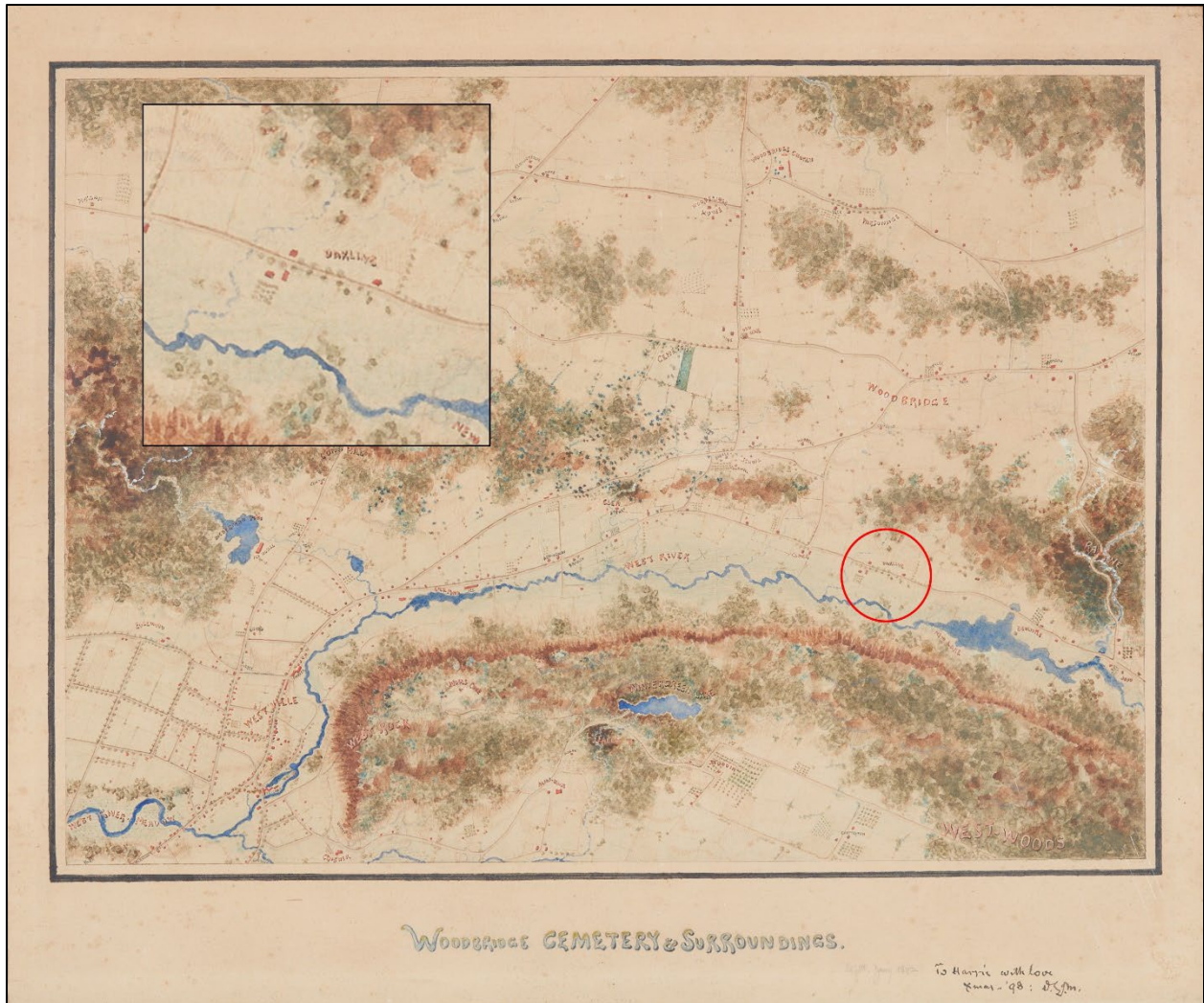


Figure 5 – Donald Grant Mitchell, “Woodbridge Cemetery and Surroundings.” The Darling property is circled in red and an enlargement of that portion of the map is inset.



Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
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Figure 5 – A detail of the 1934 aerial photo of the area with the red arrow pointing to the potential orchard (Collections of the Connecticut State Library).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

New Haven, CT  
County and State

Name of Property

Know all Men by these presents that Whereas Timothy Anthony  
of Woodbridge hath this Day bid of at Vendue held in said Woodbridge  
agreeably to the Order of the Court of Probate for the Sale of the Estate of  
Thomas Darling Esq. dec'd Four Negroes viz: Hila a Negro Woman  
Twenty five years Old - Gad a Negro Man <sup>three</sup> Twenty years of Age -  
Lettice a Negro Girl Twenty years of Age - Luke a Negro Boy  
Seventeen years of age - the said Timothy being the highest Bidder  
and the said Slaves at the time of Sale being sold at the request  
of said Timothy and he to have no other right or Title to them or  
their Services but what the subscribers have right to as being the  
Executors of the last Will & Testament of said Thomas Darling dec'd -  
Now for the consideration of the sum of One pound One Shilling  
Lawful Money in to our full Satisfaction of said Timothy Anthony  
we the Subscribers Executors as aforesaid do make over & Quitclaim  
to said Timothy all our right and Title to said Negroes which  
we have by virtue of our being Executors as aforesaid and from all  
right & Title to said Negroes we and all other under us by these  
presents will be forever barred

In Witness whereof We have hereunto set our Hands & Seals  
this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of July 17<sup>th</sup> 1776

Samuel Darling  
Thomas Darling

Signed Sealed & delivered  
In presence of  
Robert Townsend  
Michael Todd

Figure 6 – Transfer of Hila, Gad, Lettice, and Luke from Thomas Darling’s estate to Timothy Anthony I (Collections of the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society).



Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
Name of Property

New Haven, CT  
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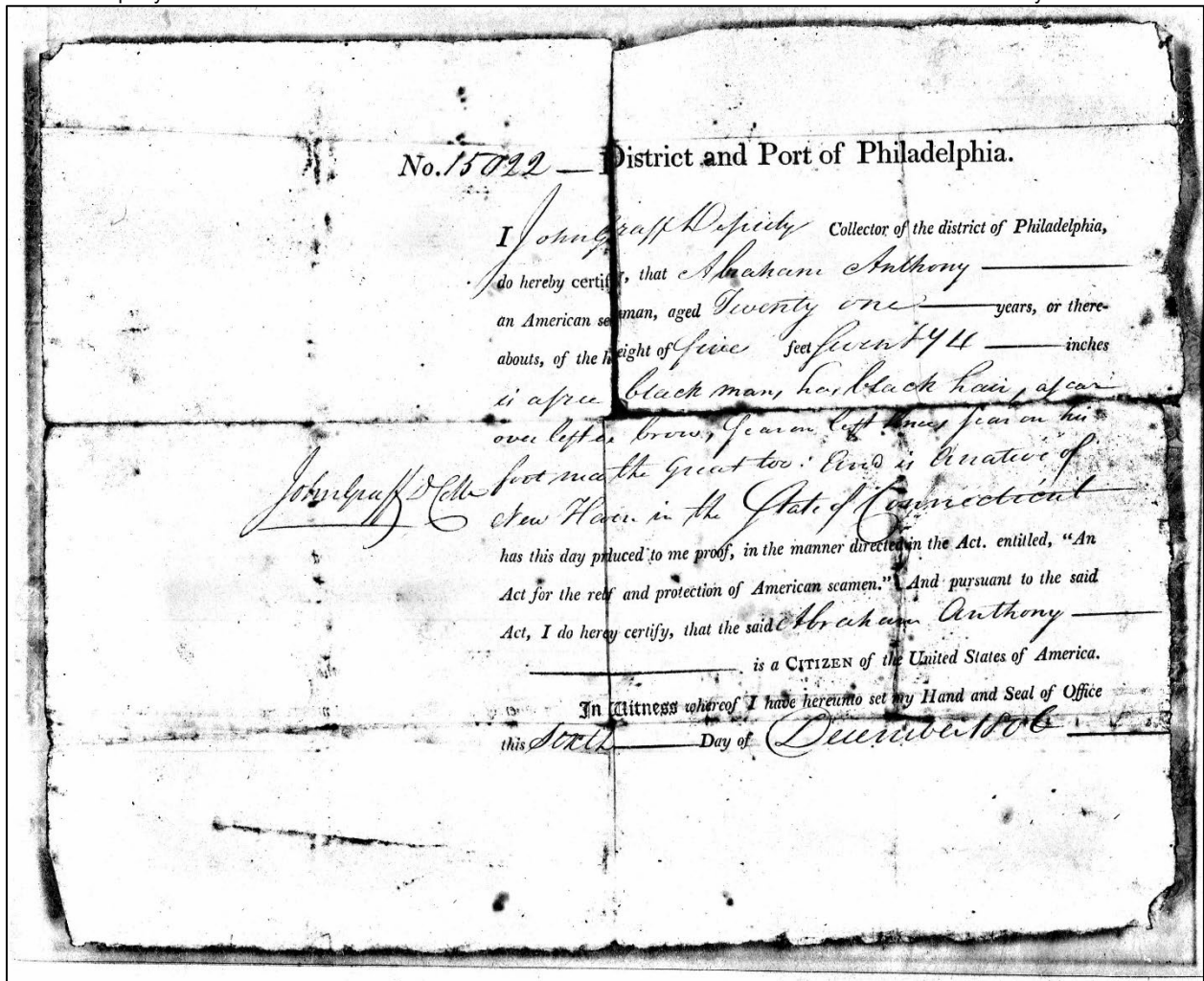


Figure 7 – Abraham Anthony's Citizenship Affidavit.



Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

New Haven, CT

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At a Meeting of the Civil Authority, Selectmen, Constable  
& Grandjurors of the town of Woodbridge, held the 5<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 1824, the following persons were nominated  
for tavernkeepers in said town for the ensuing year.  
Roger Peck, Abner Collins, Archibald Perkins,  
Theophilus Smith, Thomas Darling, Orril G. Bradley,  
Joseph Newton,

Abigail French }  
John Gibble } Civil Authority  
John Darling }  
Noyes Darling }  
Lyman Peck }  
Howard Clark } Selectmen

Mark Spring }  
Abraham Thomas } Constables  
Nathan Stetson }  
Truman Hotchkiss }

Genesee Platt }  
Clark Smith } Grandjurors

Figure 8 – The record of the 1824 nominations for Woodbridge tavernkeepers, including Thomas Darling (Connecticut State Library).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

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shions anted man- 47 NS LS which VIS. 47 d Tai- d Blue ted the ts. 47	<p>of the disease of cattle, for sale by <b>S. BABCOCK.</b> October 15. <span style="float: right;">47</span></p> <hr/> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Tax Notice.</h3> <p><b>T</b>HE subscriber having received warrants to collect a State Tax of one cent, and a Town tax of two cents and a half on the dollar, on the assessment list of the town of Woodbridge, of 1835, gives notice to all whom it may concern, that he will attend to the receiving of said taxes at the Inn of Thomas Darling, in said town, on the 2d day of November, from 9 to 12 o'clock, A. M. and at the Inn of Andrew Clarke, in said town, from 2 to 6 o'clock, P. M. on said days respectively. All those who neglect to attend agreeably to this notice, may depend on paying legal fees for collection.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>AURELIUS PECK, Collector.</b> Woodbridge, Oct. 8, 1836. <span style="float: right;">paid[47</span></p> <hr/> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Taxes must be paid.</h3> <p><b>T</b>HE subscriber having received warrants to collect a State Tax of one cent, and a Town Tax of three cents on the dollar, on the assessment list of 1835, for the town of Bethany, hereby gives notice that he will</p>
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Figure 9 – 1836 Tax Notice identifying the Inn of Thomas Darling (GenealogyBank.com).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
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Figure 10 – A ca. 1870 photograph showing the simpler piazza at the house (Collections of the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society).

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern  
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## 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: Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

City or Vicinity: Woodbridge

County: New Haven

State: CT

Photographer: James Sexton

Date Photographed: Various, see below.

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

1 of 31. Looking north at the Thomas Darling House and the stable. October 4, 2023.

2 of 31. Looking west across the property. The granary is in the foreground left and the cow barn can be seen behind the trees in the background right. October 4, 2023.

3 of 31. Looking north at the barns on the west side of the road. October 4, 2023.

4 of 31. Looking northwest across the largest open space on the property from the northeast corner of the cow barn. October 4, 2023.

5 of 31. Looking west towards the entrance to Camp Whiting. August 18, 2022.

6 of 31. Looking north at the Cow Barn and attached wagon shed. August 18, 2022.

7 of 31. Looking south at the north side of the barn. August 18, 2022.

8 of 31. Looking north at the grain storage room in the Cow Barn. August 18, 2022.

9 of 31. Looking northeast at the back of the carriage shed. August 18, 2022.

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

New Haven, CT

Name of Property

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- 10 of 31. Looking northeast at the carriage barn. August 18, 2022.
- 11 of 31. Looking southwest at the Stable. August 18, 2022.
- 12 of 31. Looking north towards the north gable wall of the stable. August 18, 2022.
- 13 of 31. Looking north at the south façade of the west barn. August 18, 2022.
- 14 of 31. Looking northeast at the west barn with the cow barn and carriage shed behind it. August 18, 2022.
- 15 of 31. Looking east at one of the insulated walls in the west end of the west barn. Circular saw marks are clearly visible on the boards, which are fastened with wire nails, while sawdust infill can be seen on the right where a board has been removed from the bottom of an opening in the wall. August 18, 2022.
- 16 of 31. Looking northwest at the hen house. August 18, 2022.
- 17 of 31. Looking southeast at the hen house. August 18, 2022.
- 18 of 31. Looking west at the roosting boxes in the hen house. August 18, 2022.
- 19 of 31. Looking southwest at the granary. August 18, 2022.
- 20 of 31. Looking northwest at the granary. April 4, 2023.
- 21 of 31. Looking north in the interior of the eastern section of the granary. August 18, 2022.
- 22 of 31. Looking east in the western section of the granary. The chute connecting the two spaces is visible in the lower right corner. August 18, 2022.
- 23 of 31. Looking south at the privy and other outbuildings behind the house. August 18, 2022.
- 24 of 31. Looking Southeast at the privy. August 18, 2022.
- 25 of 31. The privy interior showing four of the seats including the child's with step. April 4, 2023.
- 26 of 31. Looking northeast at the cabin on the grounds of the Scout camp. October 4, 2023.
- 27 of 31. Looking northeast at the pavilion on the grounds of the Scout camp. October 4, 2023.

Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern

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28 of 31. Looking north at the firewood shed on the grounds of the scout camp. October 4, 2023.

29 of 31. Looking southeast at the outhouse on the grounds of the Scout camp. October 4, 2023.

30 of 31. Looking northwest at the leanto on the grounds of the Scout camp. October 4, 2023.

31 of 31. Looking northeast at the small cabin on the grounds of the Scout camp. October 4, 2023.

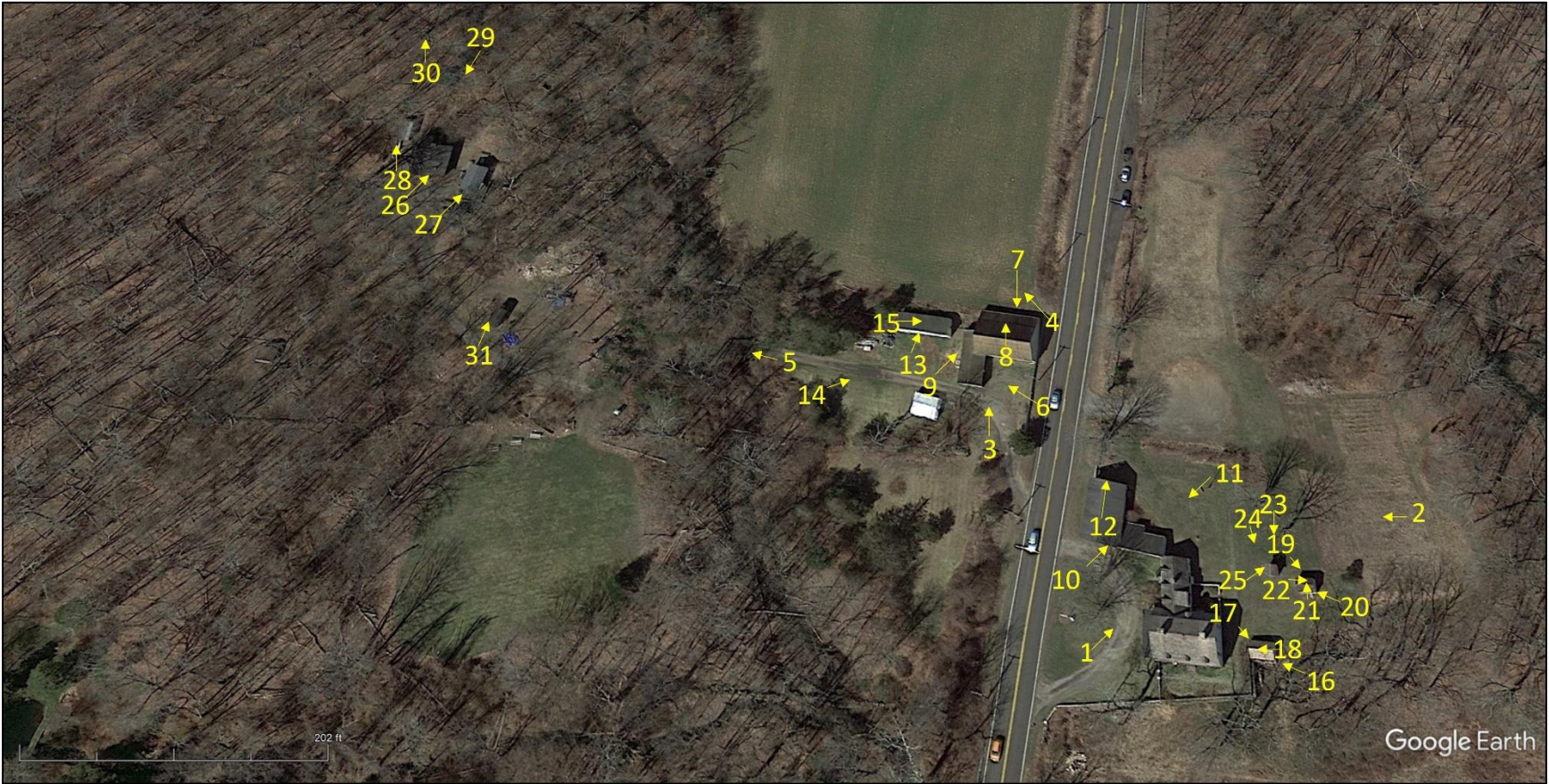
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 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.





Photograph Key showing photo number and view direction.





Photograph 1 – Looking north at the Thomas Darling House and the stable (9378)



Photograph 2 – Looking west across the property. The granary is in the foreground left and the cow barn can be seen behind the trees in the background right.





Photograph 3 – Looking north at the barns on the west side of the road (9408)



Photograph 4 – Looking northwest across the largest open space on the property from the northeast corner of the cow barn.





Photograph 5 – Looking west towards the entrance Camp Whiting (5461)



Photograph 6 – Looking north at the Cow Barn and attached wagon shed (5454)





Photograph 7 – Looking south at the north side of the barn (5456)



Photograph 8 – Looking north at the grain storage room in the Cow Barn (5430)





Photograph 9 – Looking northeast at the back of the carriage shed.



Photograph 10 – Looking northeast at the carriage barn (5464)





Photograph 11 – Looking southwest at the Stable (5399)



Photograph 12 – Looking north towards the north gable wall of the stable.





Photograph 13—Looking north at the south façade of the west barn. (5409)



Photograph 14 – Looking northeast at the west barn with the cow barn and carriage shed behind it. (5412)



Photograph 15 – Looking east at one of the insulated walls in the west end of the west barn. Circular saw marks are clearly visible on the boards, which are fastened with wire nails, while sawdust infill can be seen on the right where a board has been removed from the bottom of an opening in the wall.





Photograph 16 – Looking northwest at the hen house. (5388)



Photograph 17 – Looking southeast at the hen house (5385)





Photograph 18 – Looking west at the roosting boxes in the hen house (5391)



Photograph 19 – Looking southwest at the granary (5377)





Photograph 20 – Looking northwest at the granary. (7744)



Photograph 21 – Looking north in the interior of the eastern section of the granary. (5381)





Photograph 22 – Looking east in the western section of the granary. The chute connecting the two spaces is visible in the lower right corner. (5387)





Photograph 23 – Looking south at the privy and other outbuildings behind the house. (5370)



Photograph 24 – Looking Southeast at the privy. 5375





Photograph 25 – The privy interior showing four of the seats including the child's with step. (7747)



Photograph 26 – Looking northeast at the cabin on the grounds of the Scout camp. (9332)





Photograph 27 – Looking northeast at the pavilion on the grounds of the Scout camp.



Photograph 28 -- Looking north at the firewood shed on the grounds of the scout camp. (9333)





Photograph 29 – Looking southeast at the outhouse on the grounds of the Scout camp. (9334)



Photograph 30 – Looking northwest at the leanto on the grounds of the Scout camp. (9335)





Photograph 31 – Looking northeast at the small cabin on the grounds of the Scout camp.