

**Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery  
Thomas Daniels House  
I-95, Exit 81, Parkway South and Cross Street  
Waterford, Connecticut**

This Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Program of Site 152-128, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century house site, in Waterford, Connecticut was undertaken as part of a Connecticut Department of Transportation project involving the reconstruction of Exit 81 off of Interstate Route 95. Earlier reconnaissance and intensive surveys by AHS discovered the remains of the house of Thomas Daniels, who was recorded by diarist Joshua Hempstead as building the house in the spring of 1712. Daniels was a “middling-sort” farmer. The archaeological investigation identified a small one-over-one-room house with an end chimney and a stone-lined cellar. Daniels died in 1735 and his probate shows he owned the house, outbuildings, and orchard and 67 acres of land, with little in the way of luxuries.



*Thomas Daniels 1712 House Foundation.*

of puncheon post-in-ground construction. This is the first and only archaeological evidence of this construction technique found in Connecticut. Within this earthfast addition, the post-Daniels occupants dug a sub-floor food storage pit and built a small blacksmith shop off the back of the house that primarily manufactured nails. Other features discovered include three food storage pits outside of the house, refuse middens and a shell midden. These features, and a total of 73,391 artifacts, provide new insight into the architecture, agricultural practices, crafts and foodways of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century household.

After Thomas Daniels’s death, his heirs, his children, deeded the property to a local merchant named Matthew Stewart, with the provision that his widow, Hannah, could remain in the house until she died, which occurred in 1744. The Data Recovery determined that an unknown family or families moved into the house after 1744 and lived there until about the 1770s, at which point the house was abandoned and the foundation buried under an agricultural field.

The discovery of 27 postholes indicated that the latter occupants built an earthfast addition to the house made