### Historical Resources Inventory

**State of Connecticut**

**Connecticut Historical Commission**

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

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1. **Building Name** (Common): Woodruff, Major Ozem, House

2. **Town City**: Farmington

3. **Street and Number, and or location**: 126-128 Woodruff Road

4. **Owner(s)**: O’Flaherty, Joseph E. and Marie R.

5. **Use (Present)**: Residence

6. **Accessibility to Public**: Yes

7. **Exterior Visible from Public Road**: Yes

8. **Interior Accessible**: Yes

9. **If Yes Explain**: large stone addition on the east

10. **Style of Building**: Georgian

11. **Date of Construction**: 1821

12. **Material(s)** (indicate use or location when appropriate):

   - [ ] Clapboard
   - [ ] Asbestos Siding
   - [X] Brick
   - [ ] Other (Specify)

   - [ ] Wood Shingle
   - [ ] Asphalt Siding
   - [ ] Fieldstone

   - [ ] Board & Batten
   - [ ] Stucco
   - [ ] Cobblestone

   - [ ] Aluminum Siding
   - [ ] Concrete Type: Brownstone foundation

   - [X] Other (Specify)

13. **Structural System**:

   - [X] Load bearing masonry
   - [ ] Structural iron or steel

14. **Roof Type**:

   - [X] Gable
   - [ ] Flat
   - [ ] Mansard
   - [ ] Monitor
   - [ ] Sawtooth

   - [ ] Gambrel
   - [ ] Shed
   - [ ] Hip
   - [ ] Round
   - [ ] Other (Specify)

15. **Number of Stories**: 2½

16. **Approximate Dimensions**: 32 x 38; 27 x 25; 31 x 18

17. **Condition** (Exterior)

   - [ ] Excellent
   - [X] Good
   - [ ] Fair
   - [ ] Deteriorated

   - [ ] Excellent
   - [X] Good
   - [ ] Fair
   - [ ] Deteriorated

18. **Integrity**

   - [ ] On original site
   - [ ] Moved

19. **Integrity of Exterior and Surroundings**

   - [X] Large stone addition on the east

   - [ ] Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

   - [ ] Barn
   - [ ] Shed
   - [ ] Garage

20. **Surrounding Environment**

   - [X] Open land
   - [X] Woodland
   - [ ] Residential
   - [ ] Scattered buildings visible from site

   - [ ] Commercial
   - [ ] Industrial
   - [ ] Rural
   - [ ] High building density

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Situated on the east side of Woodruff Road, this building stands in a rapidly developing residential neighborhood, which expanded following the subdivision of the farmland once associated with this property. The construction of the 1-84 and I-91 interchange has greatly altered the rural character of this area.
The five-bay facade of the Major Ozem Woodruff House faces south away from the road. The central entry door features an arched surround with fanlight. The first floor, one-over-one sash exhibit brick-patterned lintels. Throughout the main block the one-over-one windows display brownstone sills. The twin interior brick chimneys are a common identifying feature of Georgian-style architecture. A large two-and-one-half-story, stone-masonry addition was added to the east elevation in recent years.

This house was erected around 1821 by Major Ozem Woodruff on land he inherited from his father, Timothy Woodruff. Although an exact construction date cannot be determined through land records, Ozem Woodruff house's value jumped from $400 in 1820 to $1000 in 1822, a good indication he replaced an older building with the existing brick dwelling. A 1826 mortgage to the State of Connecticut mentions "a brick dwelling house, gin distillery, grist mill and four barns" (FLR 43:78). Ozem Woodruff (1773-1849) was the son of Timothy and Lucy (Treadwell) Woodruff and a direct descendant of Matthew Woodruff, one of Farmington's earliest proprietors. In 1794 he married Martha Scott (1775-1843), the daughter of Samuel and Lois (North) Scott. They had thirteen children. Ozem was engaged in farming and raised cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs. He also operated a saw and grist mill and made gin, cider, and brandy. The Woodruff farm was also known for its large apple orchard. A few years after his wife's death, Major Woodruff in 1847 left Farmington to join his eldest son, Ozem in Louisiana. He remained there until his death in 1849. Once arriving in the south, Major Woodruff saw an abundance of lumber "decaying" and set up a sawmill in the town of Sandy Creek. George Woodruff (1819-1897), Ozem Woodruff's youngest son, continued to operate the farm in Connecticut. In 1845 he married Harriet Loomis (1820-?), the daughter of Joseph and Charlotte (Woodruff) Loomis. George continued to work the sawmill and distillery as well as the farm, and for a few years sent cider and brandy south to his father. In 1857 he received full title to the farm from the State of Connecticut (FLR 55:252) and he remained here for the rest of his life. The property was distributed to George's three surviving children; William A., Lucy M., and...
Frank A. Woodruff (FLR 74:443). As a young man, Frank migrated to Kansas and Lucy taught school in the East Farms District for a number of years. William Alfred Woodruff (1855-1922) carried on with the farm as well as the saw mill. In 1879 he purchased a year old iron flume and "Houston" water wheel which supplied enough house power to operate two saws (Prentice: 375-15). On October 26, 1886, he married Frances Maria Bishop (1851-1891) of Farmington. She was the daughter of Henry and Harriet (Dunham) Bishop. Ralph Woodruff (1891-1966), William's only son inherited the property in 1925 (FLR 74:443). His aunt, Lucy Woodruff, sold her portion of the "Woodruff Farm" to Ralph in December of 1925 (FLR 83:403). Shortly thereafter Ralph left farming and engaged in the sheet metal business. Edward O'Flaherty acquired the house in 1934 (FLR 89:98) and it remains in that family today.

Although the building has undergone a number of twentieth-century alterations, it remains a good example of a rural Georgian-style farmhouse. The house is historically significant for its association with the Woodruff family and as one of the few remaining tangible links to the area's agricultural heritage.

Sources cont. Grand Lists of Farmington 1819 to 1826 Farmington Room, Farmington Public Library.