

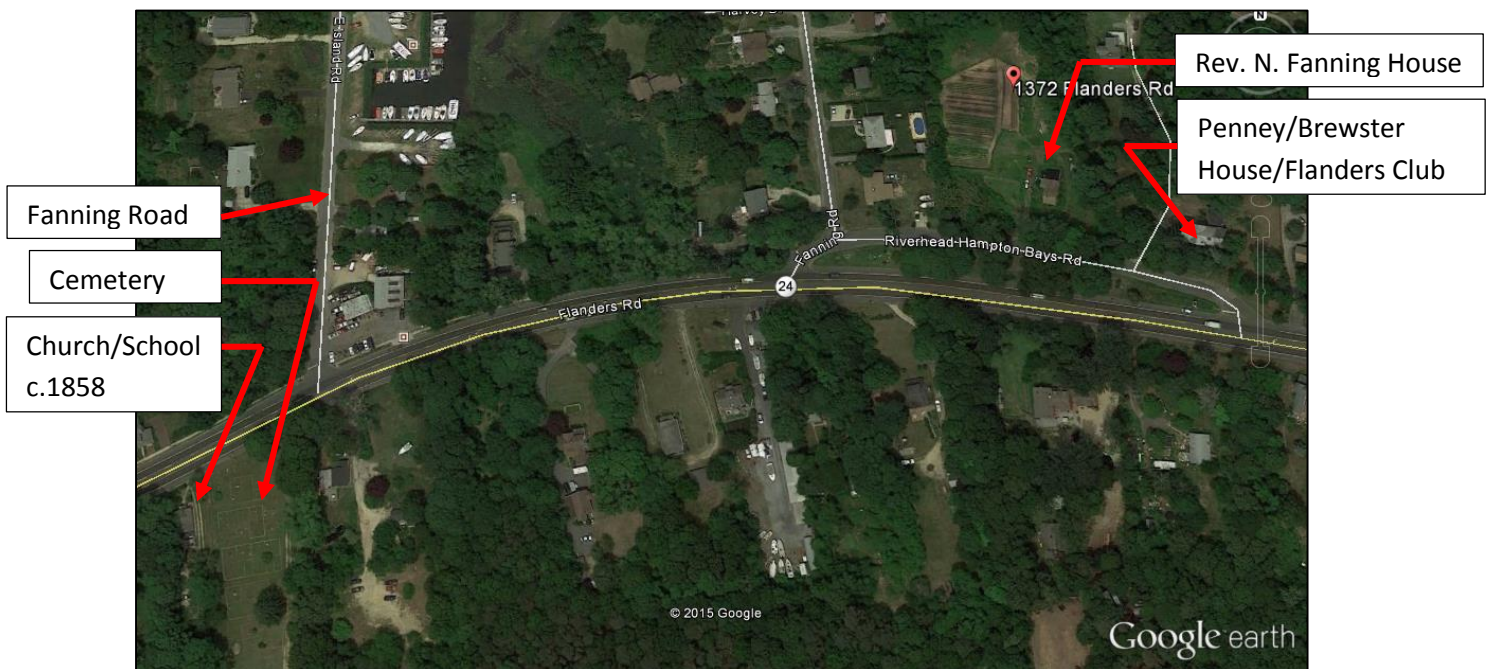
The Reverend Nathaniel Fanning Homestead

1372 Flanders Road, Flanders
Southampton, Long Island, New York
May 2015, Sally Spanburgh



Public View of Property, April 2015

The Rev. Nathaniel Fanning Homestead is situated in the hamlet of Flanders, in the Town of Southampton, Long Island, New York. It lies along the north side of the original route between the hamlet of Hampton Bays (originally named Good Ground) and the Town of Riverhead on a small section of road left unaltered after Flanders Road was widened and straightened in the 1930s.



Aerial Image, 2015

The Rev. Nathaniel Fanning Homestead is a two-story, three-bay wide residence with a side entry in its western bay and a brick chimney that rises through the home's ridge between its two westernmost bays. It has a side-facing gable roof and shed extensions to the rear. The home rests in its original location on a brick foundation and is clad with clapboard siding and an asphalt roof. Double-hung replacement windows decorate the front façade. Other elevations contain a mixture of original and replacement units.

The home was expanded to the north (rear) in the 1980s via rudimentary shed extensions. Recently the home received a one-story sunroom addition on its west side, set back from the front façade and designed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. At the same time, a non-original front porch was removed and a one-and-a-half story detached garage was added on the property to the northwest of the residence.

The subject residence was built for Rev. Nathaniel Fanning (1777-1866) in 1825. He was born in Aquebogue, a hamlet on Long Island's north fork apportioned to the Town of Riverhead in 1792. He inherited the subject property upon his father's death in 1812. In 1819 the Congregational Church of Aquebogue (aka the Steeple Church) "granted him its approval of his efforts at preaching...Flanders in the early days was part of the Aquebogue Parish. With others he crossed the bay to attend the old [Steeple] church until the organization of a branch church [in 1840] led him to devote his time and strength to the village of his home....He carried on the work of his [grandfather's] farm at Flanders and preached where opportunities offered. He was often called to fill pulpits in the absence of pastors. He held revival services in chapels, school houses, and private parlors...He was familiarly known as "Priest Nat" and "a man of great strength of character [who] did much good in his day."¹ Fanning Road, west of the subject property, is named after Nathaniel and/or his family. He is buried in the nearby Flanders cemetery. His sister Catherine (also Katherine) married William Penney. It isn't known if William Penney had any association with the Capt. Robert W. Penny (later Brewster) boarding house immediately adjacent to the east of the Rev. Nathaniel Fanning homestead.

Rev. Nathaniel Fanning descended from the Fanning family of Ireland. "For many generations the Fanning family have been numbered among the representative citizens of Suffolk County, and have been identified with the locality of Flanders for over a century."² Edmund Fanning was the first of the family to settle from Ireland in America (at New London, CT) in 1653. Capt. James Fanning Sr. (1694-1779), grandson of Edmund, was the first of the Fanning family to settle on Long Island, in Southold, via Smithtown. He earned his title of "Captain" by taking an active part in the French and Indian War of 1746. James Fanning Jr. was the son of was known as "James Fanning, 2d" and spent the last years of his life with his son, James III, Nathaniel's father. "He died intestate...and was buried on [the] farm at Flanders, L.I." with a headstone erected circa 1905. "His three wives were buried at [the] same place, the first only having a headstone."³

James Fanning III "did not remove with his father, James Fanning, 2d, when the latter settled in Flanders, Southampton Town, about the year 1763, but appears to have remained in Aquebogue Village, where he had learned the trade of a blacksmith, and which occupation he followed. The house

¹ *A History of the Congregational Church in Aquebogue, Long Island, NY*, William I. Chalmers, 1910.

² *Portrait and Biographical Record of Suffolk County, (Long Island) New York*, Chapman Publishing Co., 1896.

³ *History of the Fanning Family*, Walter Frederic Brooks, Vol. 1, 1905.

that he occupied, and probably built, was located [at the] back of the Steeple Church in that village...” Upon his death, he gave his property in Flanders to his three sons, James IV, Nathaniel – the subject of this report – and Manassah.⁴

James Fanning Jr. purchased property in the “Accabog Division,” in which the subject premises is situated, in 1763.⁵



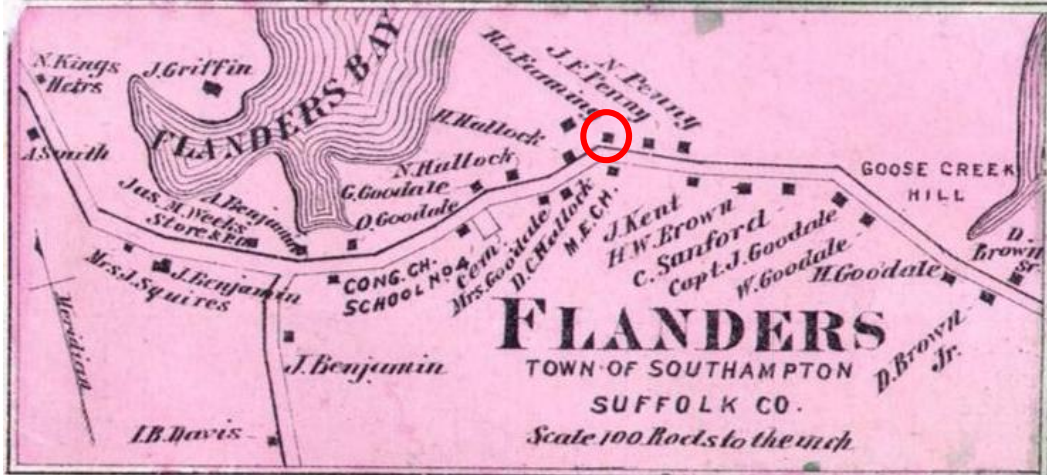
Detail of Proprietors Division Map of Southampton, by William S. Pelletreau Jr., date unknown.



Detail, Smith and Chase Wall Map of Suffolk County, Long Island, 1858: “N. Fanning”

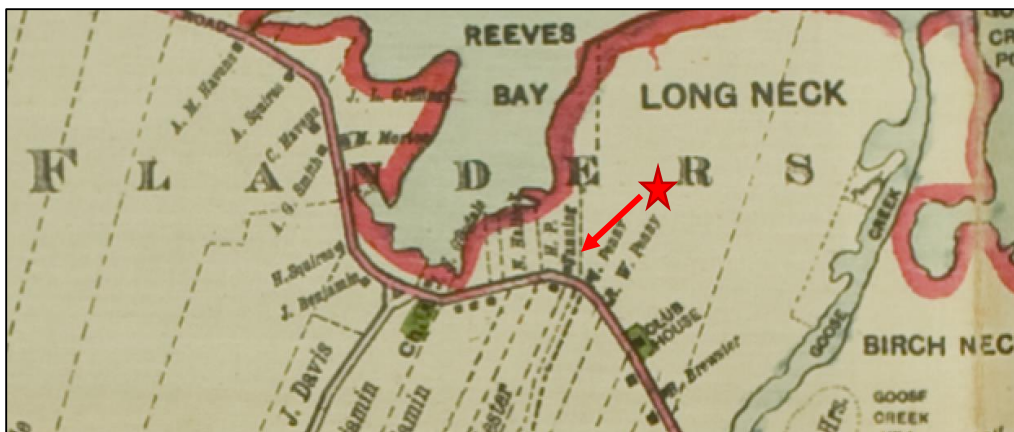
⁴ Liber C of Wills, page 255, 1812.

⁵ Southampton Town Records, Vol. 2.



Detail, Atlas of Long Island, Beers, Comstock & Cline, 1873: "H. L. Fanning"

Upon his death in 1866, Nathaniel gave his homestead to a son, Harvey Lester Fanning (1822-1899) which consisted of the house and two acres.⁶ Harvey L. Fanning was born in the Rev. Nathaniel Fanning Homestead and was thought to be "perhaps the most successful agriculturist on Long Island, as at the time of his death...he left to his family an estate which included over five hundred acres of valuable land, all located in Suffolk County. He possessed the genial manners and strict integrity of purpose which make a man popular throughout the community in which he resides, and certainly such proved to the case with him. His excellent business judgment resulted in making him wealthy, and he received the highest commendation for the interest which he took in all affairs relating to the good of his community."⁷ At the same time, Nathaniel conveyed property adjacent and east of his homestead to a grandson, Harvey P. Fanning, that contained an "old store," a "shed horse stable and hay loft," and "the old dwelling house used for a shop" along with ninety acres of woodland, meadow land, all his farming utensils, all his carpenter tools, wagons, harness horse and cattle. Upon Harvey L. Fanning's death, he left the homestead to his wife so that she provide a home to their daughter Carrie until her marriage.



Detail, Atlas of Long Island, Plan of Southampton, F. W. Beers, 1894: "H. P. Fanning"

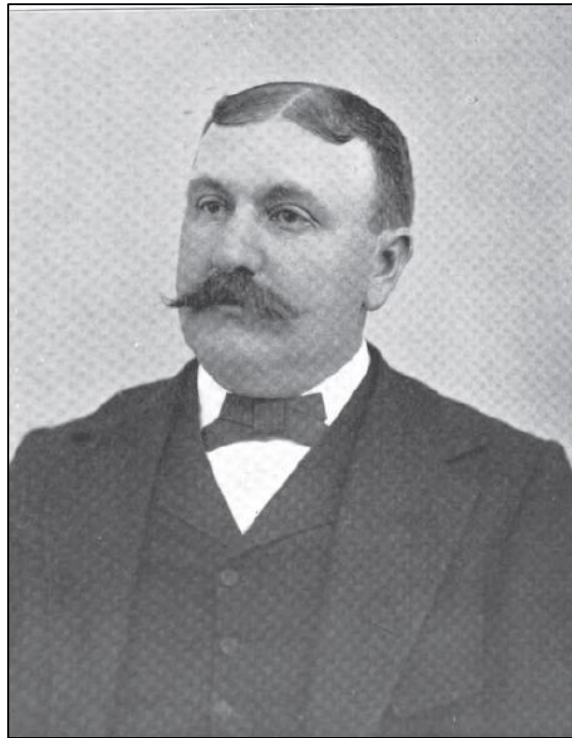
⁶ Liber 9 of Wills, page 255, 1866.

⁷ Portrait and Biographical Record of Suffolk County, (Long Island) New York, Chapman Publishing Co., 1896.



*Detail, Plate 5, Atlas of Suffolk County, Long Island, Vol. 1, Ocean Shore, E. Belcher & Hyde, 1902:
"H. P. Fanning"*

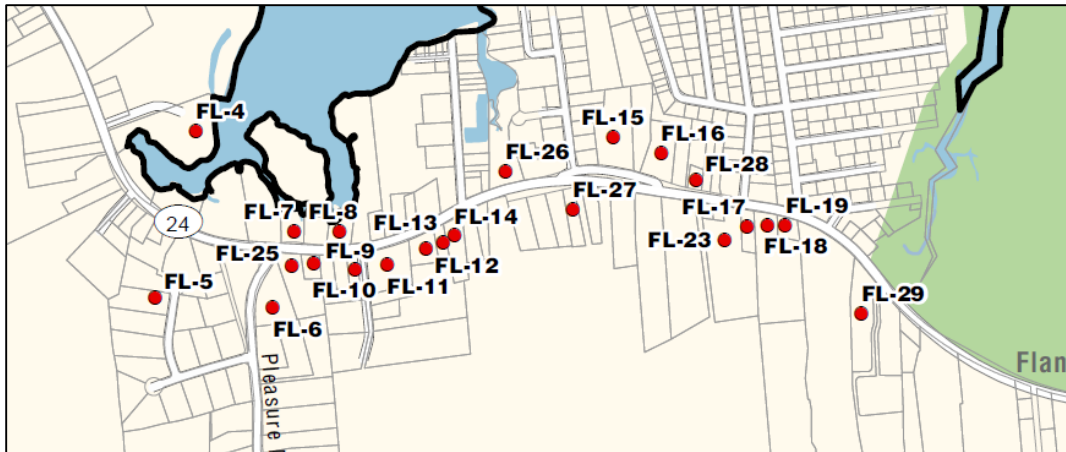
Carrie Madison Fanning married John Henry Carlton in 1890 after which her mother moved to Riverhead (Northville) to live with son Joshua, leaving son Harvey P. in ownership of the subject property and other inherited farmland nearby.



*Capt. Harvey Pierson Fanning (1852-1924)
From Portrait and Biographical Record of Suffolk County, (Long Island) New York*

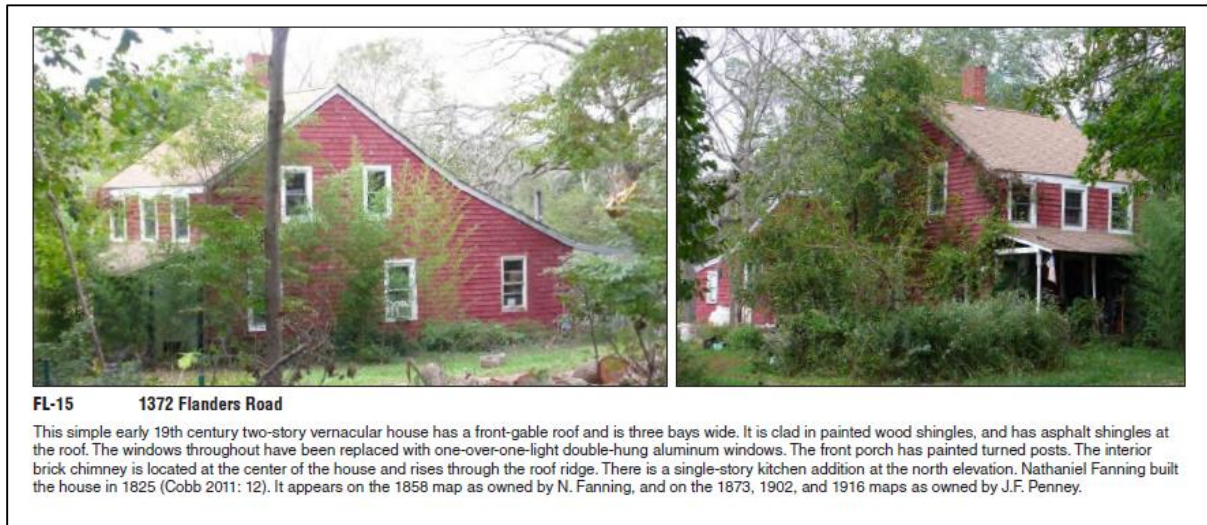
proprietor of the Brewster House (previously the Capt. Robert W. Penny boarding house) situated next door to the east as of 1922.

From 1944 to 1979 the property was owned by George D. and Alice L. Combes, hardware store owners of Lynbrook, New York. In 1979 the Rev. Nathaniel Fanning Homestead and property was acquired by the current owner, Kenneth Ettlinger.



Detail, Figure 9-2, Southampton Historic Resources Survey, July 2014: "FL-15". This map depicts the property as surrounded by a concentration of other recognized historic resources.

The Rev. Nathaniel Fanning Homestead property is situated among a concentration of other recognized local historic resources, such as the Capt. Robert W. Penny (later Brewster) boarding house, the Flanders cemetery, Elbert Brown's service station, the Hallock boarding house, and several vernacular homes.



Subject property as depicted in July 2014 Southampton Historic Resources Survey.

The property has been recognized as a historic resource in the Flanders Hamlet Heritage Area Report (FL HHAR #59) and determined as eligible for consideration as a town designated landmark by the survey of historic resources completed in July 2014 for the town of Southampton (AKRF FL-15). Specifically, it meets the following bolded criteria as described in section 330-321 (B) (1) of the town codes:

- (a) Possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest of value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation;**
- (b) Is identified with historic personages or is the site of an historic event in the Town, state, or nation;**
- (c) Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, period, or style or contains elements of design, details, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;**
- (d) Is the work of a designer, engineer, builder, artist, or architect whose work has significantly influenced an age;
- (e) Because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood;**
- (f) Qualifies for inclusion on the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

Property Ownership Summary, from present to past:

Kenneth Ettliger, 1979-present

George D. Combes, wife and heirs, 1944-1979

Fred S. Howell, c.1920-1944

Harvey P. Fanning, c.1900-c.1920 (b.1852-d.1924)

Mary Ann Fanning, 1889-c.1900 (b.1828-d.1910)

Harvey L. Fanning, 1866-1889 (b.1822-d.1899)

Nathaniel Fanning Sr., 1812-1866 (b.1777-d.1866)

James Fanning III, unknown – 1812 (b.1742-d.1812)

James Fanning Jr., 1763-unknown (b.1719-d.1805)

Proprietors of the Town of Southampton