



HISTORIC RESOURCES

BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Wakeman, Samuel, Sr. Farmstead Record No. 131
Building Name (Historic) Wakeman, Samuel, Sr. Farmstead
Street Address or Location 640 Black Rock Turnpike
Town/City Easton Village _____ County Fairfield
Owner(s) Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut 200 Monroe Turnpike Monroe, CT Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: secondary structure; Domestic; single dwelling

Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building English barn, Victorian vernacular style Date of Construction c. 1870

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

- Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding
- Fieldstone Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone Aluminum Siding
- Concrete (Type _____) Cut Stone (Type _____) Other Vertical wood siding

Structural System

- Wood Frame Post & Beam Balloon Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel
- Other _____

Roof (Type)

- Gable Flat Mansard Monitor Sawtooth
- Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other _____

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
- Built up Tile Other _____

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions 30' x 70'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden
- Other landscape features or buildings: Stone walls

Surrounding Environment:

- Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural
- High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

See continuation sheet.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

See continuation sheet.

Architect _____ Builder Wakeman, Samuel, Sr.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

Cunningham, Janice, *Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview*, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Todd Levine Date 4/1/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Todd Levine Date 4/1/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.249092,-73.321704

Threats to the building or site:

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

• **Interrelationship of building and surroundings:**

The five-bay extended English barn is a part of the Samuel Wakeman Sr. Farmstead, which also includes a c. 1900 sawmill. The site is owned by Aquarion Water Company and according to the assessor, is listed as 176.2 acres, although the site described henceforth is about 2 acres and has been separated from the main lot as a residential property or lot. The site includes the 19th century five-bay English barn, the 18th century Samuel Wakeman Sr. House, a small shed and sawmill. The ridgeline of the barn is parallel to this portion of Black Rock Turnpike, which runs approximately north-south. The barn is in the center of the site and is behind and to the north of the house with which it is associated. The ridgeline of the house is perpendicular to Black Rock Turnpike. The sawmill is to the east of the barn and its ridgeline is parallel to Black Rock Turnpike. The grade of the site is mostly flat, although further east past the site the site declines slightly. The site is located on the east side of Black Rock Turnpike and is a small part of a larger parcel that runs south to Center Road and includes the Aspetuck Reservoir to the east. To the north are utility buildings associated with the company that owns the site. Further north is Aspetuck Valley Apple Barn, which is apparently the last portion of a once-larger farm. Stone walls demarcate the site to the west.

The area surrounding the site is a mix of open farmland and wooded areas with relatively few residences. To the east of the site is a large open space used until recently as a wood-cutting enterprise, including a 1990s gable-roofed structure used for high volume wood cutting for firewood. Further east is the Aspetuck Reservoir, which is owned and operated by Aquarion Water Company.

The Samuel Wakeman Sr. House was built c. 1760. The 2 ½-story New England Colonial Farmhouse-style residence with gable roof rests on a granite foundation and is sheathed with wood shingles. The main eave-façade faces south while the gable-end faces the street, which is uncommon. The building incorporates a central entry with wide sidelights and horizontal transom and a small hip-roofed entry porch with square columns. Window sash is of nine-over-six configuration arranged in a five-bay façade. Architectural and decorative features include modest eave returns, central chimney, one-story shed-roofed porch on the west gable-end, one-story gable-roofed ell in the rear (north) with a very tall chimney, and narrow corner boards.

• **Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*):**

Architectural description:

Inventory of structures (C – contributing, NC – non-contributing):

House	Mid-17 th c.	C
Barn I	Late 19 th	C
Sawmill	Late 19 th -early 20 c.	C
Shed	Late 20 th c.	NC
Stone walls	Mid-17 th c.	C

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½-story English barn with a pair of evenly-spaced gabled wall dormers on the main eave-façade, which has five bays. The ridgeline of the barn is parallel to Black Rock Turnpike and runs roughly north-south.

Exterior:

The main façade of the barn is the west eave-side, facing Black Rock Turnpike. The first bay, in the far left (north) corner, has a centered two-over-two double-hung window. The main entry is in the second bay and has a pair of full-height exterior sliding doors centered below the first gabled wall dormer. The doors have X-braces in the top half. The apex of the gabled wall dormer has a finial which goes through a cut in the roof, and is attached to ornamental stick work bracket molding below. Centered beneath the apex of the gabled wall dormer is an ocular window opening. In the middle, third, bay is a centered two-over-two double-hung window. In the fourth bay, centered below the second gabled wall dormer, is the secondary entry, a pair of shorter exterior sliding doors. Centered above is a sliding haymow door. Both sets have X-braces. The apex of the gabled wall dormer has a finial

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which goes through a cut in the roof, and is attached to ornamental stick work bracket molding. Centered beneath the apex of the gabled wall dormer is an ocular window opening. There is a fixed nine-pane window in the fifth (south) bay off-center towards the left.

The south gable-end of the barn has a pass-through door with wrought iron hardware off-center to the west on the first floor. To the west of the pass-through door is a fixed twelve-pane window and to the east is a fixed twenty-four-pane window. Above the siding divide in the gable attic is an ocular window opening. There are three window openings in the east eave-side of the barn. The smallest has three horizontal fixed panes and is centered in the southernmost bay. The other two windows are centered in bay two and four, corresponding with the bays with the sliding doors in the west eave-side. The window that corresponds with the main entry in the second bay is a two-over-two double-hung window. The north gable-end of the barn has two fixed nine-pane windows on the main level equally spaced and a centered ocular window opening beneath the apex of the roof, painted over. Through the apex of the roof is a finial which is attached to ornamental gable stick work bracket molding. The window that corresponds with the secondary entry in the fourth bay is a fixed nine-pane window. The barn has vertical siding that is painted red with white trim, modern gutters, a mortared fieldstone foundation, and an asphalt shingled roof with a projecting overhang.

Centered atop the ridge of the barn is a cupola. The cupola has a cross-gable roof and is covered with asphalt shingles. The gables are identical to the gable-ends and cross-gables of the barn, with a finial that is attached to ornamental stick work bracket molding. Each side of the cupola walls have two sets of arched louvered vents.

Interior:

The interior of the barn is made up of hand-hewn and circular-sawn post and beam framing with square rule mortise and tenon joinery. The main post and beams are 7" by 7" with 4" x 4" braces. The gable-end have 7" x 7" dropped girts. The main entry into the middle bay has wood floors, as does the flanking bays. The southernmost two bays have asphalt with a metal lip at the western threshold. The southernmost bay is whitewashed, while the other four bays are left unpainted. Each of the five bays are nearly identical in size; approximately 12' wide by 30' deep.

The attic level is accessed by a ladder from the middle bay through an access opening. The attic level has a 3' knee wall. The hand hewn roof purlins of the barn are all identical, as are the 2" x 6" rafters, indicating that the barn was built in its entirety at once, not in stages. Wood shingles are visible, suggesting that the current roof was simply installed over the wood shingles. The attic has circular sawn queen trusses with vertical metal support rods.

Sawmill:

This 1-story, four bay, gable-roof sawmill is open on both eave-sides except for the end bays and a section in the middle. The north end of the mill is enclosed on all four sides and is called the box room, which was the room used to create lathes and put together boxes for the orchard between 1900-1990. The middle section has walls on the eave-sides, but is otherwise open to the weather. This middle section houses the control area for the mill. The south end of the mill has an eave-side wall to the east and the gable-end wall, but is open to the weather to the north and west. The sawmill is covered with unpainted wood vertical board and the roof has asphalt shingles. The foundation is poured concrete except for the box room, which has concrete block masonry.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Historical background:

The area that is now Easton was first settled in 1762 by men from Fairfield, which included Samuel Wakeman Sr. (1734-1809). It was originally called the Parish of North Fairfield until 1777, when the Parish of North Fairfield and the Parish of Northford together formed Weston, but the incorporated town never functioned, perhaps because of problems caused by the Revolutionary War. It wasn't until 1787 that Weston, then including lands now defined as

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Easton, was incorporated from Fairfield. The Town of Weston's first town meeting was moderated by Samuel Wakeman Sr. Later, in 1845, Easton was incorporated separately from Weston. Samuel Wakeman Sr. likely constructed the house shortly after the mid-eighteenth century. The building once served as a tavern and narrowly escaped burning during the British raid on Danbury in 1777. The house remained within the Wakeman family until the 1870s. Note that Wakeman was a slave owner. "A bill of sale from 1774 records the transfer of a Negro man, Jack, from John Hubbell to Samuel Wakeman for 80 pounds lawful money."

The barn is thought to have been built around 1870. The site was once a part of Aspetuck Valley Farm and was used in the orchard operation from 1918 through the 1990s, when the current 2-acre site was split from the farm and 90% of the orchard was purchased by the State of Connecticut. During that period, the barn was used for a variety of agricultural practices, including hay storage, dairy and most recently apple boxes and jug storage from 1970s-1990s. The asphalt floor with the metal lip was installed in the 1960s. Since the 1990s, the barn has been used mostly as storage.

The sawmill, built around the turn of the century, was used until 1995 to make the apple boxes and storage jugs for the orchard. The attached box room to the north of the mill was used to produce wood lathes for the boxes.

Architectural significance:

The barn is significant because of the size, condition and construction technique used to build it, as well as the original owner/builder. The barn demonstrates how large English barns can become in this area, even though constructing a New England barn, with a single runway from one end to the other seems more logical (and was being touted in the agricultural publications at that time). The norm for extended English barns in Connecticut is a standard three-bay barn with additional bents, resulting in the desired size. Barns built originally with five bays are uncommon.

Within the barn, the standard practice of square rule construction is present throughout. Particularly interesting is the fact that many of the structural timbers are hand hewn. Few other barns in the state that were built at this late of a period, c1870, were built with hand-hewn timbers; most were built with sawn timbers.

The house was likely built by Samuel Wakeman Sr. in the mid-18th century and continued to be in the Wakeman family for a century thereafter. His contributions to the local politics helped shape the towns of Weston and Easton.

• **Sources (*continuation*):**

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 4/1/2012.

Interview with owner, Gary Haines, 4/1/2012, Easton, CT.

Map resources:

Easton Assessor's Records through eQuality property information

website: <http://www.equalitycama.com/tvweb/Details.aspx?city=Easton&cuid=00036400>

Map/Block/Lot 5466 3

Unique ID 00036400

Volume 0601

Zone R3

Acres 174.43

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 4/1/2012.

UTM coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

Print and internet resources:

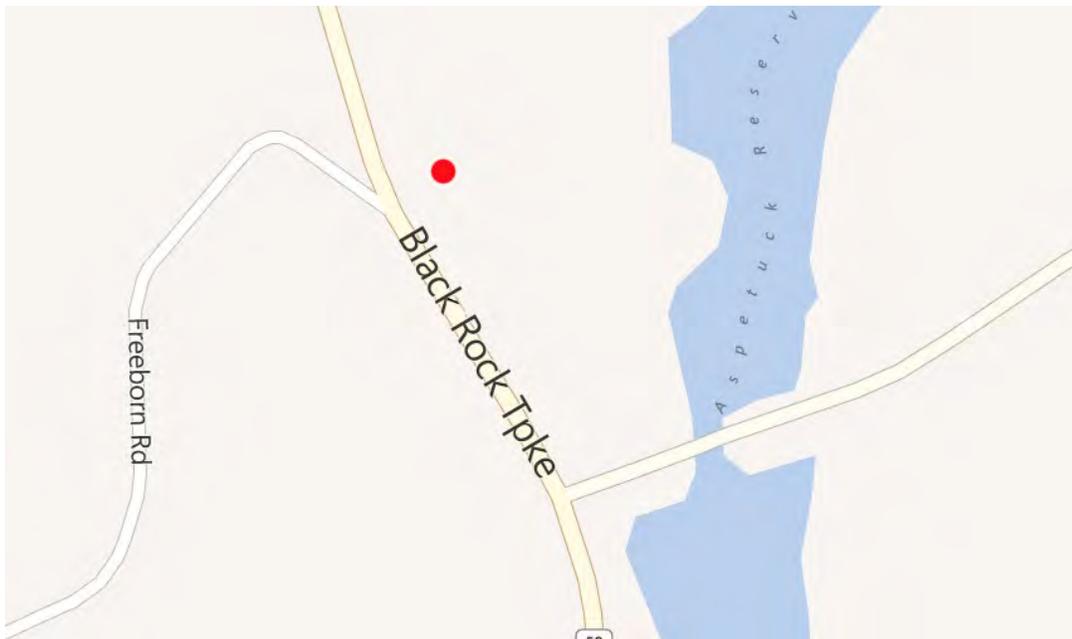
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/10189>

Partridge, Helen, Easton – It's History, Lithographics Inc., 1972.

Rossano, Geoffrey, Baldwin, Joan, Historic Resource Inventory, 1996.

Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,
Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings, University Press of New England,
1997, 213 pages.



1. Location map of 640 Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 4/15/2012.



2. Southwest view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 640 Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 4/15/2012.



3. Southwest view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 640 Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 4/15/2012.



4. South façade of the Samuel Wakeman Sr. House, with barn on the right, camera facing north.



5. Southwest 3/4 view of barn, camera facing northeast.



6. West eave-façade view of the barn, camera facing east.



7. Detail of west eave-façade view of the barn bay four, camera facing east. Note the identical details of the gable dormer and the cupola.



8. Detail of west facade apex of the southernmost gabled wall dormer, camera facing east. Note the finial which goes through a cut in the roof, and is attached to ornamental gable molding.



9. North gable-end view of the barn, camera facing south. Note the ocular window has been painted over.



10. Northeast 3/4 view of the barn, camera facing southwest.



11. East eave-side view of the barn, camera facing west.



12. South gable-end of the barn, camera facing north.



13. Detail of south gable-end the apex of the roof, camera facing north. Note the finial which goes through a cut in the roof, and is attached to ornamental gable molding.



14. Detail of south gable-end of barn door, camera facing north.



15. West detail of the cupola, camera facing east.



16. Interior view of hand-hewn post and beams, with circular sawn bracers, camera facing east.



17. Detail of pegged mortise and tenon, camera facing north.



18. Detail of southernmost bay in the barn, camera facing east. Note the whitewash.



19. West eave-side of the saw mill, camera facing east.



20. Detail of saw in saw mill, camera facing east.



21. East side of the Samuel Wakeman Sr. House, with barn to the left, camera facing east.



22. East side of the Samuel Wakeman Sr. House, with barn to the left, camera facing east.