



Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

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) Windy Ridge Farm Record No. 44792
Building Name (Historic) Carter, Ward / Carter, Benjamin and Amelia, Farmstead
Street Address or Location 183 Melius Road
Town/City Warren Village County Litchfield
Owner(s) Gertrude Hill, 183 Melius Road, Warren CT 06754 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; 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 & New England barns, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th., 20th c.

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 Horizontal Dutch lap 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 Multiple blocks in U-plan: 60' x 88'

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: Paddocks

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 _____

• 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 Charlotte Hitchcock Date 2/27/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/25/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.767257, -73.338592

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The site of these barns is a 30.14-acre parcel on the west side of Melius Road, a local road in the northern part of Warren, close to the town line with Cornwall. Just to the north, Windy Ridge Road intersects Melius Road, and connects to the west with Cornwall Road (Route 45), the main north-south route through the Town of Warren. To the south of this site, Melius Road bends westward and also intersects Cornwall Road north of the town center, about two miles from the site. The Warren Congregational Church, at 4 Sackett Hill Road near the town center, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Warren has no listed National Register districts, although an inventory in 2000 recommended a district at the town center and another along the north shore of Lake Waramaug, four miles further south at the southern edge of Warren. Warren is located on an upland area east of the Housatonic Valley and west of the Shepaug River. The northern part of Warren is a remote and pristine rural area with a number of ponds and boggy areas interspersed with second-growth woodlands and some open fields. Some residential development has occurred in the area, mostly on large wooded lots.

The barns at 183 Melius Road are attached in a U-shaped plan forming a sheltered barnyard open on its south side. This complex is made up of several connected barn structures, which will be described as Barn I, the northern leg of the U (and earliest structure), Barn II, the southwestern block, and Barn III, the southeastern section.

A small free-standing Milk room structure sits south of Barn III. It is a 1-story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south. It is entered by a door in the north gable-end, facing toward the barns; a mortared fieldstone exterior chimney is centered on the south gable-end flanked by eight-pane windows. The eave-sides are blank. The walls are clad in wood clapboards painted white and the roof is asphalt shingles.

The Farmhouse is located adjacent to the road south of the barn complex. The house, its earliest portion dating from c. 1790, has two blocks. The north wing is a 1 ½-story Cape-style structure, 28' x 26', with its ridge-line oriented north-south and its east eave-side facing the road. Although clad in aluminum siding, the massing implies that it may be a raised-plate Cape type, originally with eyebrow attic windows below the eaves. Shed dormers have been added, as well as a screened porch along the north side. Windows in the attic on the north gable-end are nine-over-six, consistent with the 18th-century date given by the Assessor's record. The southern block, attached to the first, is a 2 ½-story structure, 24' x 30', with its ridge-line oriented east-west and its east gable-end facing the road. This has a three-bay façade with the entry door in the right (north) bay. This portion has six-over-six double hung windows and a four-pane horizontal attic window, vernacular Greek Revival-style in character. This appears likely to have been an addition in the first half of the 19th century. A full-width hip-roofed porch extends across this gable-end façade and wraps around the south side. At the rear (west) there are multiple additions.

West of the Farmhouse is a Cape-style secondary dwelling, c. 1930, oriented with its ridge-line east-west and its primary façade the north eave-side. An extension to the south gives it a saltbox profile.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	c. 1790 and later	C
House II	c. 1930	C
Milk room	Early 20 th c.	C

Attached structures:

Barn I	19 th c.	C
Barn II	Late 19 th c.	C
Barn III	19 th c.	C

Barn I:

This is a 25' x 34' three-bay 1 ½-story English barn with a post and beam frame. It forms the north side of the barnyard and has been incorporated into the complex by re-siding with early-20th-century horizontal siding. The south eave-side has a hinged pass-through door flanked by six-pane stable windows – a pair to the left and three to the right. The north eave-side has a group of stable windows in each bay – a panel of three in the left (east) and center bays and a pair in the right bay. A metal ventilator, with weathervane, sits on the roof, and matches two other ventilators on Barn II. The roof is continuous with an addition that extends eastward another 32' and contains garage space at the ground level, with two garage doors at grade and a hay door above. This extension has four stable windows in the north eave-side, which is flush and continuous with the side of Barn I.

Interior:

The barn frame is a hand hewn square rule post and beam frame with mortise and tenon joinery. The bents have dropped tie-girts and queen posts support a pair of longitudinal purlin plates. Common rafters are hand hewn as well. A loft floor has been added approximately three feet below the tie-girts, to suit the layout of a ground level stable on the main level, and a series of steps, have been installed for ease of movement up and down over the tie-girts. In the northeast bay a stair down to the main level is flanked by a grain bin with chutes leading to below.

Barn II:

This structure is a 20' x 60' block with its ridge-line oriented north-south. It appears to be of late 19th-century construction, incorporating trusswork to frame the loft level with a clear span over the ground level stable below. The exterior has at the northern gable-end a livestock door at grade and a large hinged hay door and projecting hay hood above. The west side has a row of stable windows at the ground level. The south end has a sliding livestock door at grade and a sliding hay door above. The roof has two large metal ventilators with a decorative pressed metal faux shingle texture in the base, and finials with alternately a cow or horse weathervane.

In the interior there are five bays; the northern two bays are a discrete frame from the southern three bays, as is indicated by the double posts at the joint between the two, visible in the loft level. The northern portion has timber trusses with iron tension rods joined to the full-height side-wall posts. The southern portion appears to have been adapted from a shorter structure by the addition of approximately six feet of additional wall height, indicated by the joints in the posts and diagonal bracing with wood angle braces and metal rods. The roof aligns across all five bays, and is framed with sawn dimension lumber.

Barn III:

This structure is a two-bay 1 ½-story post and beam structure with some balloon framing and sawn rafters. It measures 16' x 24', and has a shed-roofed extension at the ground level, possibly to accommodate the extended length of vehicles garaged in it. The ridge-line runs north-south, butting into the side of the extension of Barn I, with the east walls aligned. The east side has two garage doors opening to the road. Siding is horizontal Dutch lap siding like the other components of the complex, and roofing is asphalt shingles.

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This complex of barns displays the additive character that is common in historic farmsteads which have been adapted from subsistence farming in the early 1800s to commercial dairy farming at the turn of the 20th century. The oldest portion is a typical three-bay post and beam frame, probably from the early- to mid-19th century. The metal ventilators are particularly decorative, unusual for these utilitarian accessories. The early owners were members of one of Warren's first English settler families, the Carters.

Historical background:

Carters were among the earliest English settlers in Warren, settling along what became Melius Road. Today's 250 Melius Road was built in c. 1790 by Benjamin Carter (Cunningham, 2000) and by 1874, as shown on the Beers Atlas of Litchfield County map of Warren, there were several Carter family homes nearby including H. W. Carter and B. E. Carter on Brick School Road east of the North District school. B. E. Carter appears at this location on Melius Road in 1874 while the earlier 1859 wall map lists W. Carter.

The Census of 1860 lists Ward Carter (b. 1788) with his son Benjamin in the household. Town Assessor's records indicate a date of 1790 for the house; in that case it was likely built by the owner preceding Ward Carter. Benjamin Carter, (b. 1828) with his wife Amelia (b. 1829) and children William (b. 1863), Benjamin E. (b. 1866), and Emily (b. 1868), appeared in the 1870 and 1880 Census records; they were recorded as situated between other families listed in both the census and the Beers map, indicating that this site at 183 Melius Road was their farmstead. By 1900 and 1910, William Carter and Emily, brother and sister, were the owners and still farmers. After 1910 they no longer appeared in the Warren census records.

The road later acquired its name from Ludlow Melius, a New Yorker who established a gentleman farm on the road around 1903, at the former Comstock Farmstead, now 102 Melius Road (Cunningham, 2000). The property at 183 Melius Road is thought to have belonged to Mrs. Melius for a time, to have been a boarding house, and to have a possible connection with the Underground Railroad, as evidenced by a tunnel leading from the house toward the barns (information from Owner interview, as yet undocumented). The post and beam barn would likely have been part of the Carter Farmstead, while the later components might have been Carter additions or might well have dated from the c. 1920 period after the Carters had left. Melius Road as a whole presents a series of 18th-century homes, preserving the historic landscape, although with considerable reforestation in the 20th century and some residential development on large lots.

Architectural significance:

This complex of barns is a unique assemblage of parts which create a unified exterior, although the interior reveals varied ages and types of construction. The oldest portion is a typical three-bay English post and beam frame, probably from the early- to mid-19th century. The later portions employ the type of timber trusswork with iron or steel tension rods that became common after about 1870 and can be found into the early 1900s. The farmstead as a whole displays the additive character that is common in historic farmsteads which have been adapted from subsistence farming in the early 1800s to commercial dairy farming at the turn of the 20th century. The metal ventilators are particularly decorative, unusual for these utilitarian accessories. The early owners were members of one of Warren's first English settler families.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 2/27/2013.

Interview with Gertrude Hill 2/27/2013, at the site. Additional photography by Gertrude Hill.

Map resources:

Town of Warren Assessor's Records <http://data.visionappraisal.com/warrenct/> Parcel ID: 33/41.

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 8/25/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.html .

USGS Historical Maps accessed 8/24/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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

Print and internet resources:

Clouette, Bruce, Roth, Matthew, Warren Congregational Church National Register Nomination No. 91001743, National Park Service, 1991.

Connecticut State Library online: [iconn.org](http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories) or <http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories>

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/44792> .

Cunningham, Jan, with Graney, Paul, Architectural and Historic Survey of Warren, Connecticut, Connecticut Historical Commission, 2000.

Peyton, Jennifer A., "Survey of Warren's Old Homes Suggests Two Historic Districts," Litchfield County Times, 10/20/2000.

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

U.S. Federal Census, accessed at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>

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

Warren Historical Society web site, <http://warrencthistory.org/> .

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

183 Melius Road, Warren CT

Record No. 44792

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1. Location map of 183 Melius Road, Warren CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 8/25/2013.



2. Southwest view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 183 Melius Road, Warren CT – base image from <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 8/25/2013.



3. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources – base image from Google Maps.



4. East context view, camera facing northwest. The Farmhouse is at left with the barn complex at right rear.



5. Northeast view of Farmhouse, camera facing southwest. The Cape-style block is at right, the vernacular Greek Revival-style block at left.



6. Northwest view of rear of Farmhouse (at left) and House II at right, camera facing southeast.



7. Northeast view of Milk house, camera facing southwest. Barn II is at right rear.



8. South view of barn complex, camera facing north. At left is the gable-end of Barn II; at center rear is Barn I. Barn III is behind the Milk house on the right. Note the fieldstone chimneys of the Milk house and in the corner between Barn I and Barn II.



9. North view of barn complex, camera facing south. Barn I is at center and the north end of Barn II is at right.



10. Interior view of Barn I loft level framing, camera facing east. This is the north wall of the barn, and shows the dropped tie-girts and queen posts.



11. Interior view of Barn I loft level, camera facing south, showing the western bent with queen post, purlin plate, and hewn rafters. Below the tie-girt, a timber truss with iron tension rods has replaced the interior post, probably in order to provide a clear span at the ground level. Note the hay fork set on the loft floor.



12. Interior view of Barn I, northeast corner, camera facing northwest, showing the grain chutes.



13. Southwest view of Barn II, camera facing northeast. The ground level dairy stable has been adapted for horses.



14. Interior view of Barn II, loft level, camera facing southeast, showing the timber trusses spanning the full width. The shaft to the ventilator can be seen. Beyond the ventilator shaft a double post signals where the far two bays appear to be a separately- framed structure with walls extended upward.



15. Interior view of Barn II, camera facing, showing typical hopper-type stable windows.



16. View of typical rooftop ventilator, camera facing west.



17. East view of Milk house and Barn III, camera facing northwest.



18. 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph (left) of the site compared with modern Google aerial view (right). In this area, many of the cleared fields of the 1930s have reverted to woodlands.