

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - 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) Allen-Thompson Homestead Record No. 14483  
 Building Name (Historic) Spicer, Benjamin, Farmstead  
 Street Address or Location 7 Allen Road  
 Town/City Lisbon Village \_\_\_\_\_ County New London  
 Owner(s) Wayne and Elizabeth Thompson, 7 Allen Road, Lisbon CT 06330  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 bank barn, vernacular style Date of Construction c.1880

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

- |  |  |                                      |                                       |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard             | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |                                       |  |

#### 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 18' x 29'

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 Benjamin Spicer

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Todd Levine Date 1/20/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Todd Levine Date 1/20/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:  
41.602894, -72.038795

**Threats to the building or site:**

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

• **Interrelationship of building and surroundings:**

The barn is beside and to the northeast of the c.1850 house with which it is associated. The total size of the lot is .8 acres and it is a roughly triangular corner lot at the intersection of Preston Allen Road to the south and Allen Road to the east. The lot is bordered to the north by 15 Allen Road and to the west by 266 Preston Allen Road. The barn is located in the northeast section of the site. From Allen Road to the east, the grade declines on the north half of the lot fairly sharply, resulting in the bank necessary for a bank barn. The grade declines again on the south edge of the lot to the street, resulting in a steep bank just north of the Preston Allen Road. The ridgeline of the barn is roughly parallel to Allen Road, which runs approximately north-south. The ridgeline of the house is perpendicular to the barn and runs roughly east-west. Just to the northwest of the house is a 19<sup>th</sup> century summer kitchen, now used as a garage. A well with a gable roof is north of the house and east of the garage. A stone wall lines the south border of the lot, extending the entire length of the property line. The ground level is mostly flat except for the aforementioned grades. To the north of the site is Versailles Pond. Across the road to the east are tracts of open space used for agriculture, with dense woodland further east.

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

**Architectural description:**

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

English barn	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	C
House	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	C
Garage/summer kitchen	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	C

**Barn:**

This is a 1 ½-story English bank barn with a wall dormer off-center in the east eave-side, covered with board-and-batten siding. The main eave-facade faces Allen Road, which runs approximately northwest-southeast. For the sake of this description, consider the ridgeline running north-south. The main entry is an off-center overhead garage door. The grade of the site declines from east to west, resulting in the necessity of a bank barn.

**Exterior:**

The main entry on the east eave-facade of the barn is through a modern overhead garage door, off-center to the north. The door has four rows of four panels, with the top row hidden behind the exterior wall and the second-to-top row glazed. The interior floor elevation is one step above grade; there is no way to drive a car into the barn. Directly above the main entry is a gable-roof wall dormer with a pair of centered hinged hay doors. To the south of the main entry is a pass-through door accessed by a simple wooden box that acts as a step. The grade declines to the south past the corner of the barn, revealing the mortared fieldstone foundation.

The grade at the south gable-end of the barn declines from east to west, resulting in an exposed foundation and basement level. The foundation is mortared fieldstone with a square inset single-pane window off center to the west. The main level has two identical fixed, four-pane windows. Centered above the girt line siding divide in the gable attic is a fixed, four-pane window.

The west eave-side of the barn has a pair of swinging hinged doors in the south half of the basement level. The foundation is mostly mortared fieldstone on the north half of basement level. The rest of the side is blank. The grade inclines at the north corner.

The grade at the north gable-end of the barn inclines to the east back to the grade of the east-façade. Centered above the girt line siding divide in the gable attic is a fixed, four-pane window. The rest of the north gable-end of the barn is blank.

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The roof has a projecting overhang and is covered with corrugated metal panels. The foundation appears to have originally been un-mortared fieldstone with mortared repairs, mostly on the south and west sides. The barn is clad in unpainted board-and-batten siding.

**Interior:**

The interior of the barn is laid out in three bays on the main level. The post and beams are mostly circular sawn dimension lumber with the exposed east beams on the east wall being hand-hewn lumber. The visible joints of the two interior bents (not counting exterior bents concealed behind the wall finishes), have bolted metal L-brackets with nailed diagonal wood braces. The floor on the main level is plywood, as are the walls. The south and west walls are partially painted, the floor and rest of the walls are unpainted.

The sizes of the bays are irregular; the largest of the three is the southernmost bay, while the middle and northernmost bays are of nearly equal size. The middle bay is as wide as the overhead garage door. Just north of the garage door in the east wall is a set of wood stairs with six risers that lead to a landing at the northeast corner. A set of wood stairs with five risers line the north wall running to the west and the attic level. The entire stairway is boxed in with unpainted plywood. The stairs on the main level are accessed by a hinged door. The main level has a number of shelves and cabinets built onto the walls, as well as nails and hangers for tools.

The attic level has 2'-4" high knee walls made of 2" x 6" circular sawn dimension lumber. The interior of the wall dormer doors are Z-braced. The gable ends of the attic are covered with bead board. The rafters are 2" x 6" and share a 2" x 6" ridgepole.

The basement level is only a portion of the foot print of the barn, measuring 9' 6" wide by 17' long. It is lined by the exterior foundation to the south and east, and an un-mortared fieldstone wall that runs the length of the barn, off-center to the south, parallel to the south exterior wall. North of this wall is a crawlspace demarcated by the rest of the foundation.

**House:**

The house is a 2 1/2-story gable-roofed farmhouse with its ridgeline oriented roughly east-west and the main façade facing south.

**Exterior:**

The house has three bays on the main façade; a centered door flanked by a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows. The main south façade has a hip-roofed one-story porch. The second floor has three two-over-two double-hung windows. The west gable-end of the house has three two-over-two double-hung windows on the first level, two two-over-two sash windows and one two-over-two sash window centered in the gable attic. There are 2 basement windows in the south half of foundation. The north eave-side of the house has two-over-two double-hung windows in the east bay, a modern casement window in the middle bay and a modern 24-pane angle bay window in the west bay. The second level has a two-over-two double-hung window in each of the three bays. Extending west, flush with the north eave-side of the house, is a shallow-pitch gable-roofed one-story addition. On the northeast corner of the addition, just west of where the addition and the main block of the house join, is a pass-through door. The roof of the house has projecting overhangs and is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete. The house is clad in wood clapboard painted blue.

**Garage:**

The garage is a 1 1/2-story gable-roofed structure that once served as a summer kitchen. The ridgeline of the garage is parallel to the ridgeline of the house. The main entry faces east. Construction is brick masonry, now concealed by wood siding.

**Exterior:**

The garage has a wide modern overhead garage door encompassing most of the east gable-end. Towards the east corner of the north eave-side of the garage is a six-pane window. The rest of the side is blank. A brick chimney extends through the northwest corner of the north pitch of the roof. The grade declines slightly at the west gable-end of the garage, revealing mortared fieldstone with a centered basement window. Two six-pane windows are on the main level of the garage on the west gable end. The garage is clad in unpainted board-and-batten siding over brick. The roof has a projecting overhang and is covered with asphalt shingles.

**• Historical or Architectural importance:**

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

**Historical background:**

The barn first appears in the land records in 1872 when Benjamin Spicer sold the site to George and Isabella Allen and the deed included, “the house, land and outbuilding.” Prior to that, each change in ownership of the site only included mention of the house and land. It appears that the original house was built well before then, but due to the lack of clear boundary description, e.g., ‘about eighteen rods to the Elm by the stone wall’ in 1846, it was impossible to determine the date. George and Isabella Allen were the great grandparents of the current owners, Wayne and Elizabeth Thompson. The Thompsons said that the original house was a 1 ½-story, center-chimney saltbox. At some point after the Allens purchased the site in 1872, they rotated the house 90 degrees and substantially altered it into its current rendition; a 2 ½-story farmhouse. The summer kitchen, now used as a garage, is brick covered with board-and-batten siding, which matches not only the barn, but the house and outbuildings adjacent to the north of the site, at 15 Allen Road, which was originally owned by the family and later sub-divided. The board-and-batten siding was added or installed on these buildings around the turn of the twentieth century. The barn was actually built to be a workshop, and has always served that function. George Allen was a builder, as was his son, who shares the same name.

**Architectural significance:**

The barn is significant because of its continued use as a workshop for over a century. Although the joinery on the first level is mostly hidden by plywood and the joints at the plate level on the main façade have been altered (from square rule construction to wire nails), the rest of the barn is original. It is a good and well-preserved example of a typical workshop barn from the late 19th century. Historic photographs show the barn on its original site and setting. The site (except the main house, which has been altered), along with the lot to the north, which was also built by George Allen in the same board-and-batten exterior style, shows a continuity of design and pattern for development, using the barn as a basis for building.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 1/20/2012.

Interview with Wayne and Elizabeth Thompson, owners, 7 Allen Road, 1/20/2012.

Town Name Assessor's Records Parcel ID: Map 04/001-0000

Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments GIS Viewer <http://host.appgeo.com/sccog/> Accessed 1/20/2012.

Aerial views from:

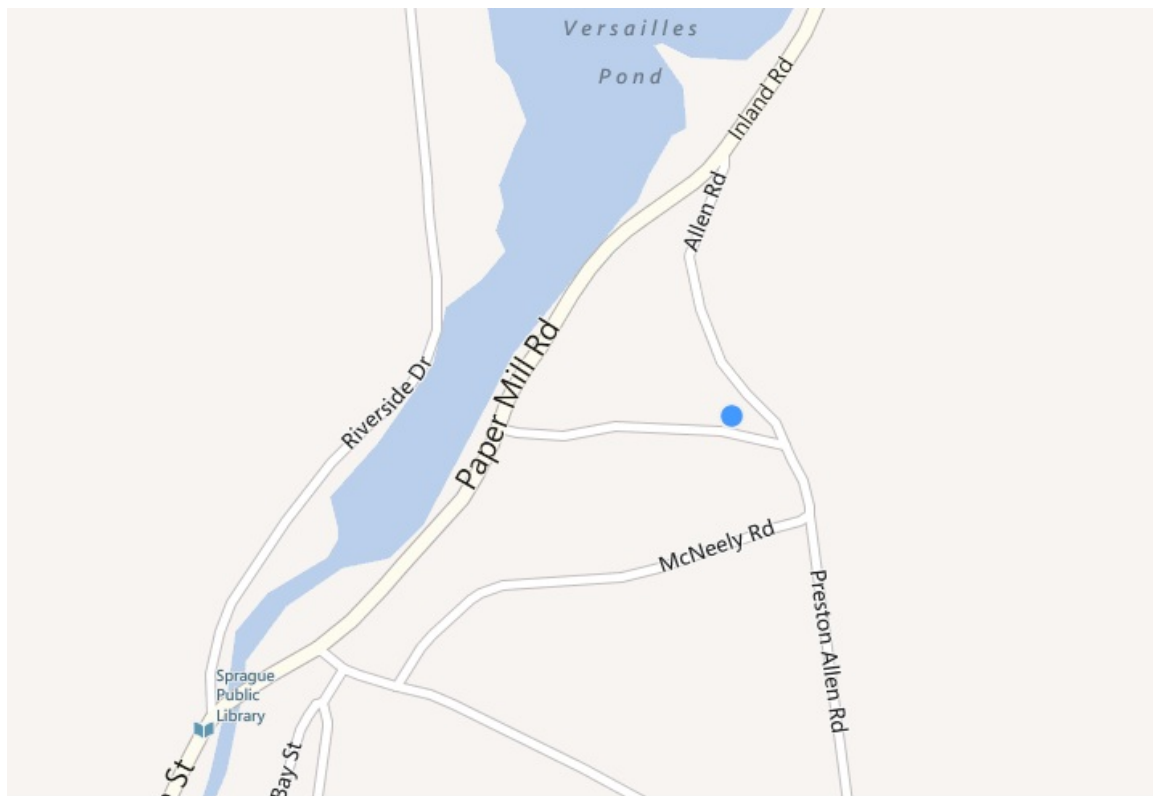
<http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 1/20/2012.

Longitude/Latitude coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,  
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/14483>

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 7 Allen Road, Lisbon, CT from Bing Maps <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed April 2012.



2. Historic photo of original house and workshop barn (to the right), camera facing northwest.





3. Parcel map of 7 Allen Road, Lisbon, CT – from Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments GIS Viewer <http://host.appgeo.com/sccog/>



4. North view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 7 Allen Road, Lisbon, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 02/01/2012.





5. Main northeast-eave façade of barn, camera facing southwest.



6. Southeast corner of barn, camera facing west.





7. South gable-end of barn, camera facing northwest.



8. West eave-side of barn, camera facing northeast.





9. North gable-end of barn, camera facing southeast. A portion of the summer kitchen/garage is visible at the right rear.



10. East gable-end of the summer kitchen/garage, camera facing west.





11. West corner of summer kitchen/garage, camera facing east. A portion of the main house is visible.



12. East corner of house, with barn to the north, camera facing west.





13. Northwest eave-side of house, camera facing southeast, well at right front.



14. Main southeast façade of house, camera facing northwest.





15. Southwest corner of the interior first level of barn, camera facing south.



16. Barn interior view, detail of middle bent and L-brace on the first level, camera facing northwest.



17. Lot to the north of site, 13 Allen Road. Note the garage and house have the same exterior board-and-batten and were built by the same owner.