

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) Gonzales, Roger, Antiques Record No. 39298
 Building Name (Historic) Swift, Henry, / Dunbar, Everett and Helen, Farmstead Barn
 Street Address or Location 99 Warren Hill Road
 Town/City Cornwall Village Cornwall Bridge County Litchfield
 Owner(s) Roger Gonzales, 99 Warren Hill Road, Cornwall Bridge CT 06754 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Commerce/trade: professional; Domestic: single dwelling
 Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain By appointment
 Style of building Extended English bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction c. 1780

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

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

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, B Approximate Dimensions 26' x 46', plus addition

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? 1930s

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: Residential wing added in 1960s

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: Attached residential unit

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, Jan, 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 2/26/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/11/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.796542, -73.369762

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn is located on the west side of Warren Hill Road (Route 45) in the Cornwall Bridge section of Cornwall. The site, roughly four acres, is one mile southeast of the intersection of Warren Hill Road with Kent Road South (US Route 7); the road rises steeply as it parallels Gunn Brook in a narrow valley along the south flank of South Mountain. Gunn Brook empties into the Housatonic River at a location historically known as Swifts Bridge. The village of Cornwall Bridge is a mile further north along US Route 7. A related historic agricultural site is the Cream Hill Agricultural School, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, approximately 10 miles north of this site in West Cornwall. Other historic sites on the National Register include the Red Mountain Shelter on the Mohawk Trail (a former route of the Appalachian Trail) north of its Route 4 crossing, and the Major John Sedgewick House at 52 Hautboy Hill Road, both in the northern part of Cornwall. These sites are also nominated to the State Register of Historic Places as part of the current thematic nomination: 12 and 22 Popple Swamp Road, 332 Kent Road, 7 Pine Street, and 25 Bunker Hill Road. The surrounding area is rural, with scattered residential and agricultural uses. Warren Hill Road runs in a southeasterly direction into Warren; it will be considered as north-south for the purpose of description.

The barn was formerly associated with a house at 98 Warren Hill Road, on the east side of the road, now under separate ownership. This is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed Federal-style house, 28' x 38', built c. 1800-1810, with its ridge-line oriented north-south parallel to the road. The west eave-side is a five-bay façade containing the main entry in the center under a small gable-roofed porch. A Palladian window occupies the center bay of the upper floor level. Windows in the side bays are six-over-six double-hung in the upper floor, above multi-paned modern picture windows on the ground floor. The house appears to have been altered in the early-mid 20th century with a brick chimney and a full-width porch on the south gable-end. Siding is clapboards, the foundation is fieldstone, and the roof is asphalt shingles.

The remains of two rows of mature maple trees to the west of the house mark where Warren Hill Road was located prior to 1932. In that year the roadway, designated a state route, was re-aligned to its present lower and more western location.

The barn, originally sitting where the road right-of-way now is, was moved west in 1932 by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, and a new banked foundation was built for it.

A 1 ½-story c.1960 residence is located adjacent to the west gable-end of the barn, extending north and west. This is accessed from the interior of the barn. The residence has a gable saltbox roof with its ridge-line oriented east-west, shallower in pitch than the barn roof. The east gable-end is partially attached to the barn, and has two six-over-six double-hung windows at the ground floor level and one above in the attic. The north eave-side has two small attic windows above a multi-paned ground floor window. The west gable-end has an exterior brick chimney, while the grade slopes down toward the north and east, exposing a stucco foundation. The south eave-side has a fully-exposed basement level with a pair of double-hung windows and a pass-through door to the right (east). Above at the main level is a similar pair of double-hung windows. Siding is wood shingles, stained a dark brown; roofing is asphalt shingles.

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

Architectural description:

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

Barn	c. 1780	C
Residence (attached)	c. 1960	C

The c. 1800 house located at 98 Warren Hill Road was formerly associated with this barn.

Barn:

This is a four-bay 1 ½-story gable-roofed English bank barn, 26' x 46', with its ridge-line oriented roughly east-west perpendicular to the road. The north eave-side has the principal entry through a pair of full-height barn doors hung on an overhead track.

Exterior:

The north eave-side is at grade and is the principal entry facade. There is a hinged pass-through door near the left (east) corner. Moving toward the right there are two six-pane stable windows, a hay door above the left opening, and off-center toward the right (west) a pair of full-height exterior sliding barn doors (fixed shut in recent years) with a small four-pane window in each leaf, a painted sign "ANTIQUES," and a pass-through door with a shed-roofed hood supported on diagonal braces.

Grade slopes down toward the south and west. The west gable-end has an exposed basement level consisting of a mortared fieldstone wall with a high basement window off-center toward the right (south). The left (north) portion is encompassed by the c. 1965 residential structure. The portion of the main level that is not covered by the addition has one six-pane stable window located high in the wall. The girt line siding divide on this elevation is dropped. There is a four-pane attic window high up near the peak.

The south eave-side has a basement level opening at the lower grade. The fieldstone end walls are exposed at the west and east corners. From left (west) to right, there is a pass-through door and a strip of five six-pane stable windows, another pass-through door, and a strip of three six-pane stable windows. All the windows are trimmed and have beveled head lintel trim. An earlier photograph shows that a sliding barn door with cross-bracing was removed from the southwest corner and replaced by the pass-through door and windows. The second door is also a recent alteration. The main level has a large 24-pane picture window near the left (west) corner, which is an alteration replacing a six-pane stable window, and four six-pane stable windows are evenly spaced across the eastern bays.

The east gable-end faces the road and its main level is blank except for a small three-pane attic window near the peak. The girt line siding divide is at the eave line on this gable-end. Grade slopes up to the right (north) and the mortared fieldstone foundation is exposed toward the left side. There are two basement windows in the foundation. Siding is unpainted vertical flush-boards, and roofing is asphalt shingles.

Interior:

The interior consists of a four-bay post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts; the three western bays form a typical English barn frame, with the eastern bay a subsequent addition. The bents are designated from west to east, as 1-5. The two bents adjacent to the main door way (bents 2 and 3) span clear without a central interior post. Queen posts above the tie-girts support longitudinal purlin plates at the mid-span of the common rafters. The common rafters for the western three bays are hand hewn, and are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge, a common feature of early framing. Angle braces are at somewhat varied lengths and angles, an indication of early construction before square rule framing standardized the typical layout.

The easternmost bay is evidently an addition to the original three-bay structure, as the plates are discontinuous at the eastern interior bent, the posts are doubled to support the plates for the added bay, and the tie-girt of bent 4 has a rabbet in its lower face, as was traditionally cut to house the upper ends of the siding boards. This indicates its original function as the exterior end bent.

Rafters at the eastern bay are sawn dimension lumber. A slender wall girt at the eave line, above the dropped tie-girt, provides nailing for the exterior siding, resulting in the lack of a dropped siding divide as viewed from the outside. Timbers throughout are predominantly hand hewn, with some sash-sawn angle braces. Some joints show evidence of square rule framing, particularly the queen post connections to the tie-girts. Many of the angle braces in the western three bays are secured with a rare framing technique, using pegged shim blocks in the mortises.

The two eastern bays have a loft floor level, now accessed by a modern stair. The underside of the framing has traces of whitewash, indicating use as a dairy stable at some time. Additional windows have been added by the present owner for use of the barn as an antique shop. In the west wall there is a door into the residential space.

The basement, dating from the relocation of the barn in 1932, has a concrete slab floor. The joists supporting the main floor are of dimensional sawn lumber, also 20th-century. The south exterior wall of the basement level reflects use of the space for a cabinet workshop, with added insulation, doors, and windows. A doorway has been sawn through the west foundation wall to the basement of the residential structure.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

The barn at 99 Warren Hill Road is significant as an excellent and intact example of an 18th-century structure exhibiting an unusual framing technique using pegged shim blocks. With the formerly associated farmhouse standing across the road and several adjacent early 19th-century houses extant in the vicinity, the rural landscape is well-preserved here. A compatible adaptive re-use as an antique shop has preserved the structure in excellent condition.

Historical background:

The historic farmstead consisted of the associated farmhouse, now 98 Warren Hill Road, and this barn, and is dated to c. 1780-1820 (Rossano). Clark's map of Litchfield County, 1854, provides information about the residents of the area. By that time a railroad had been constructed along the east bank of the Housatonic River, making Cornwall Bridge a center of local commerce. Swifts Bridge crossed the river near the base of Warren Hill Road and the area along today's US Route 7 was known as Swifts Bridge and as Calhoun Corners for two prominent families. Branches of the Swifts were identified throughout the area, further south along the main road and up Warren Hill Road, with G. H. Swift living at the corner of today's Bald Mountain Road. A woolens factory stood on the bank of Gunn Brook below this site, and Roger Gonzales notes that a few millstones can be found there still. The site of 98-99 Warren Hill Road appears to have been the home of Henry Swift at this time (Rossano). A school was located just up the Bald Mountain Road.

By the time of the 1874 Beers map of Litchfield County, the property was occupied by E. Dunbar. Census records for 1880 show Everett Dunbar, age 41, his wife Helen, 31, and two daughters, Ellen and Marian. There were also a farm laborer and a domestic servant in the household. Adjacent neighbors still included George Henry Swift, while Addison Pritchard, a wagon maker, had taken over the mill site along the brook.

In 1932, the road realignment resulted in moving of the barn and installation of its new foundation. This may well have been the first time it had a basement, as the evidence suggests cows had been stabled on the main level. The Fairchild aerial photograph of the site shows the barn in its new location and the road re-aligned through the barn's former site. The track of the former road can be seen curving closer to the farmhouse.

Later owners included Louise and Wesley Hoffman, and later Louise Graham, both of whom were friends of Roger Gonzales prior to 1965, when he purchased the barn from a nephew of Ms. Graham following her death. The residential structure had been added in the early 1960s for living space for antique dealers who used the barn; it incorporated materials from a blacksmith shop that formerly stood under the Cornwall Bridge span.

Architectural significance:

Local tradition indicates a date c. 1780 for the oldest portion of the barn. The dropped tie-girts became common in conjunction with the later square rule framing technique, although some examples do exist from before 1800. The intact hand hewn rafters with half-lapped pegged joints at the ridge, are consistent with early construction. Marriage marks were not observed during the field survey. Further detailed analysis would help to verify the history of the barn.

The barn at 99 Warren Hill Road is significant as an excellent intact example of a likely 18th-century structure exhibiting an unusual framing technique using pegged shim blocks as well as original hand hewn rafters and a rabbeted end girt now visible within the structure. Adaptive re-use as an antique shop with a repair workshop in the basement, has facilitated the preservation of this structure in excellent condition. With the formerly associated farmhouse standing across the road and several adjacent early 19th-century houses extant in the vicinity, the rural landscape is well-preserved although there is no longer active agriculture.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock, 2/26/2013. Additional photography: Alec Frost, Dick Lindsey.

Interview with Roger Gonzales, property owner, 2/26/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/12/2013.

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

Clark-Hopkins Map of Litchfield County, 1854.

Beers, F.W., County Map of Litchfield, 1874.

USGS Historical Maps at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> accessed 6/12/2013.

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

Print and internet resources:

Brecher, Jeremy, Cornwall in Pictures: a Visual Reminiscence 1868-1941, Cornwall Historical Society, 2000.

Clouette, Bruce, Cream Hill Agricultural School National Register Nomination No. 76001986, National Park Service, 1976 (Note: the school building was moved to the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association site in Kent in 1994 and re-assembled for use as exhibit space, <http://ctamachinery.com>).

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 Roads, Kurumi.com web site: <http://kurumi.com/> .

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,

<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/39298> .

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

Gold, Theodore, Historical Records of the Town of Cornwall, Case Lockwood & Brainard, 1877, 2nd edition 1904, accessed at http://www.archive.org/stream/historicalrecord00gold/historicalrecord00gold_djvu.txt.

Rossano, Geoffrey, Historical and Architectural Resource Survey of Cornwall, Connecticut, Connecticut Historical Commission, 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>

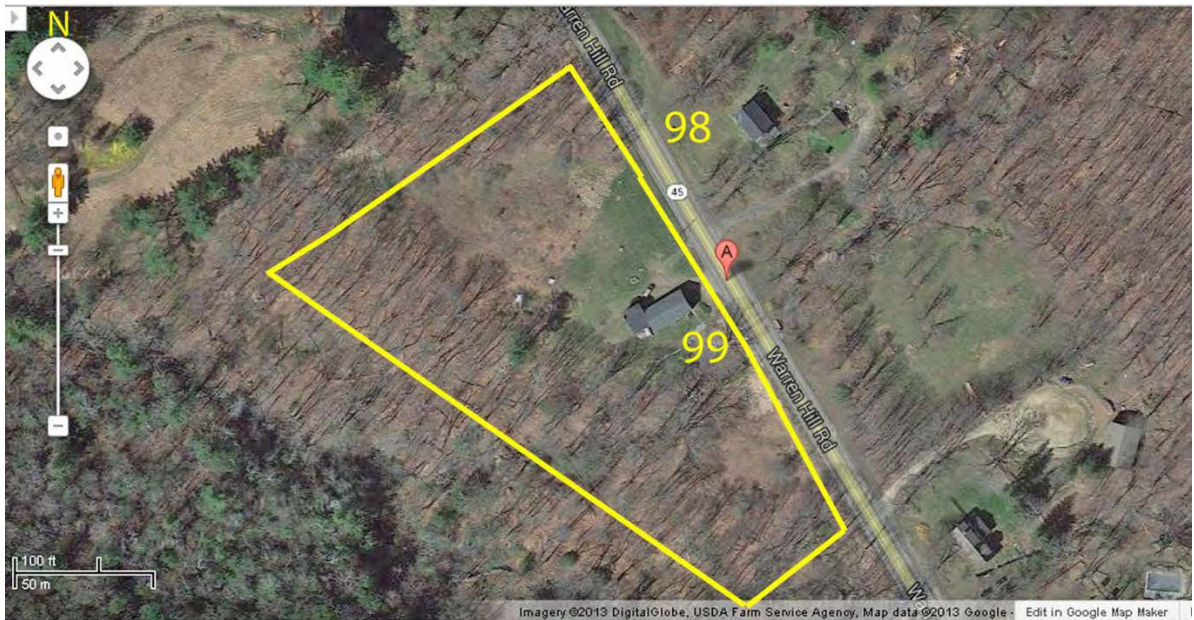
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.



1. Location map of 99 Warren Hill Road, Cornwall CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 6/12/2013.



2. North view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 99 Warren Hill Road, Cornwall CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 6/12/2013. Note: barn is on the righthand side of the road in this view.



3. Parcel map of 99 Warren Hill Road, Cornwall CT – composite from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 6/12/2013.



4. Southwest view of 98 Warren Hill Road, formerly associated with the Barn at 99 Warren Hill Road. Note the row of maple trees; prior to 1932, the road was aligned between trees and house. Camera facing northeast.



5. Northeast view of Barn and c. 1960 Residence, camera facing southwest.



6. Southwest view of c. 1960 Residence and Barn, camera facing northeast. Compare with Figure 7 for recent alterations.



7. Southeast view of Barn, camera facing northwest. Photograph (taken about 2009) courtesy of Alec Frost; note the sliding barn door at the basement level, subsequently replaced by a pass-through door, and the stable window at the main level, replaced by a larger sash.



8. Interior view of Barn tie-girts and roof framing, camera facing west.



9. Interior view of Barn southeast corner of added eastern bay, showing dropped tie-girt, sawn rafters, and wall girt at eave-line supporting exterior siding divide.



10. Interior view of Barn, showing post with pegged shim at angle brace joint; queen post at eastern interior bent (originally the eastern end bent). Camera is facing southeast.



11. Interior view of Barn, camera facing west, showing the eastern interior bent (formerly the end bent) at tie-girt with pegged shim joint and rabbet to receive the top edge of siding boards.



12. Interior view of Barn, camera facing west, showing the eastern interior bent (formerly the end bent) weathered surface and cut nails.



13. Interior detail view of basement level of Barn, camera facing northwest; showing the 1932 west foundation wall where it has been saw-cut for an opening to the residential basement.



14. Interior view of Barn basement workshop, camera facing south.



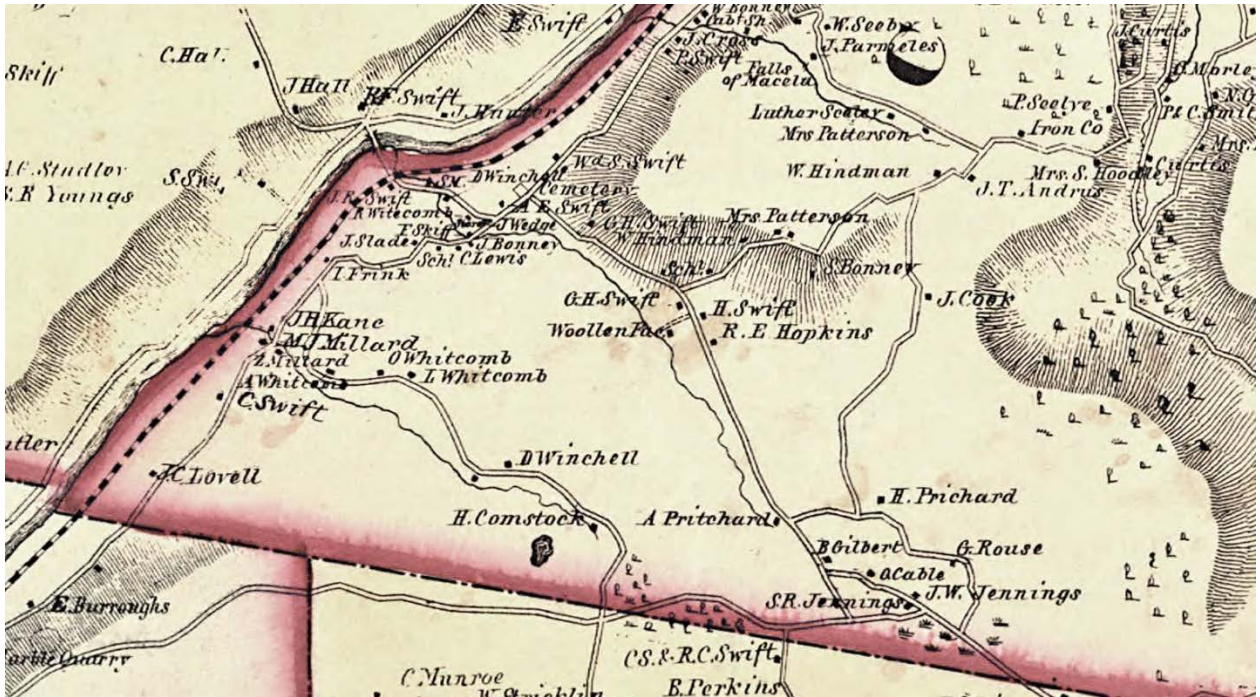
15. Interior view of Barn, camera facing east. Note iron repair strap at left end of tie-girt, pegged shim at angle brace joint, framing of loft with log joists, and rafters with half-lap pegged joints at ridge.



16. Interior view of Barn, main level, camera facing south, showing the doubled posts at bent 4 and the whitewashed surfaces indicating former dairy stable use.



17. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing northeast. Note siding divide where the lower siding is seated in the rabbet on the lower face of the tie-girt.



18. Detail from the Clark-Hopkins Map of Litchfield County, 1854, showing H. Swift as the identified resident. The Housatonic River runs southwestward at the upper left, with the railroad line and the road, now US Route 7, parallel to the river.