

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) Old Maids Farm Record No. 3671
 Building Name (Historic) Tryon, Captain Noah, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 1099 Tryon Street
 Town/City Glastonbury Village Tryon Town, S. Glastonbury County Hartford
 Owner(s) George Purtill, 2146 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033-2283 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 Tobacco shed, 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 type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>piers</u>) | <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 Corrugated metal

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions 100' x 25'

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: Raised to add concrete floor and piers, leanto added in 1950s

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: Greenhouses

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 Noah Tryon

• 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 Todd Levine Date 5/05/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Todd Levine Date 6/05/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.636092, -72.626439

Threats to the building or site:

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

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• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The 22.2-acre property is a corner plot located towards the west of Tyron Street and the south of Old Maids Lane in the southwest corner of the South Glastonbury section of Glastonbury. A portion of the plot is across Tyron Street to the west, where it fronts on the Connecticut River. The property is situated bordering the town limits of Glastonbury, Portland and Cromwell in a predominantly residential area of rural character. Dense woodland can be seen towards the south-east, east and the north of the property across Old Maids Lane while parcels of open land can be seen towards the south. A residential parcel, carved out of the northwest corner of the property, which is deep in the east-west direction.

The tobacco shed is located towards the west edge of the property, with its ridge-line running east-west parallel to Old Maids Lane to the north. The c. 1840 main residence is located in the south-west corner of the plot on the east side of Tryon Street. The ridge-line of the main residence runs east-west, almost perpendicular to the road. The house is a three-bay gable-end Greek Revival-style house measuring roughly 26' x 50' with a full pediment. The entry in the south (right) bay has a six-paneled door and plain pilasters. A later Colonial revival porch has square posts and an arched pediment. The windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. An oval window in the gable attic on the main façade, facing west, is now fitted with a square louvered vent. A parallel ell extends to the east.

A 1 ½ - story saltbox-roofed English barn is located west of the tobacco shed with its ridge-line running north-south. Two greenhouses are located south of the tobacco shed. A red-painted steel water tank and a gable-roofed pump house with its ridge-line running east-west are located southwest of the shed. To the east of the greenhouses is a single-bay garage. Numerous modern sheds dot the landscape. A large modern barn is well off to the east towards the east border of the site. The property has parcels of farmland with active agriculture towards the north and the east.

Glastonbury has four National Register historic districts, the Glastonbury Historic District, also a Local Historic District, at Hebron Avenue and Main Street in the town center; the Glastonbury-Rocky Hill Ferry Historic District (2.5 miles north of this site); the Curtisville Historic District (west of the town center); the J. B. Williams Historic District; the South Glastonbury Historic District (1.5 miles north of this site) and several individually-listed buildings. This site is at the southern tip of the many recognized historic resources in Glastonbury, most of which are related to the proximity of the Connecticut River and the prime agricultural land along its banks.

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

Architectural description:

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

House	c.1840s	C
Tobacco shed	Late 19 th c.	C
English barn	Late 19 th c.	C
Pump house	Early 20 th c..	C
Garage	Early 20 th c.	C
Utility sheds	Late 20 th c.	NC
Greenhouse	Late 20 th c.	NC
Modern barn	Early 21 st c.	NC

Tobacco shed:

This is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed tobacco shed with a leanto addition. The shed has seven bents, six bays and two aisles. The ridge-line of the shed runs roughly east-west.

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Exterior:

The main entries into the Tobacco shed are two pairs of X-braced hinged doors made up of vertical wood board with wrought iron hinges located in the north eave-side of the shed. These doors are not only used as egress, but also for venting. The north eave-side of the shed is six bays long with seven bents. Corresponding with each bent is a concrete foundation pier. The bay-wide pairs of doors take up the second and fifth bays. The remaining bays have a series of vertical wood board side-hinged vents, used for the curing of tobacco. Each board encompasses the nearly the entire height of the wall, from the top of the piers to the eave level. At grade are top-hinged vertical vents in between the bents at the pier level. Centered in the third bay from the east is a sign board with '15' in white painted numbers.

The west gable-end has three concrete piers, one centered and one at each corner. Similar to the north eave-side of the shed, there is a series of vertical wood board side-hinged vents with each board encompassing the height of the wall, from the top of the piers to the eave level. At grade are top-hinged vertical vents between the piers. Centered in the gable attic is a rectangular pivoting vent. Extending south is the south wall of the leanto, which is covered with vertical wood boards.

The south eave-side of the barn is entirely encompassed with a leanto. The leanto is open on the south side, but has vertical wood board on the east and west ends. A small concrete pier is found at the east and west corners. The leanto is supported on the south side with vertical posts on small concrete piers, one corresponding with each bent. Each post has two diagonal braces, attached by nails. Inside the leanto, the exterior of the Tobacco shed is identical to the north eave-side, except that the doors in the second and fifth bay have been removed.

The east gable-end of the barn is identical to the west gable-end.

The shed measures approximately 100 feet long by 25 feet wide, with the leanto being 17 feet wide. The size of each bay is irregular; from east to west, the size of the bays are 13', 15', 16', 14', 14' and 14'. The sheathing and vents are unpainted vertical wood board. The roof of the shed has a slight overhang with fascia and is covered with green corrugated metal panels.

Interior:

The north eave-side hinged doors access the interior of the shed, which is one large space with a poured concrete floor. There are two aisles running east-west, with the two aisles formed by the single center support post of each bent. The interior is made up mostly of hand-hewn timbers. The diagonal braces are circular-sawn, as are some girts. Extra horizontal rails, most of which are circular sawn, have been added throughout the shed to assist in the support of tobacco bunches that are hung to cure. The shed is made up of pegged square rule construction at each structural joint, although the rails are attached by nails. The interior of the roof has original plank boards with common rafters with a ridgepole. The interior of the leanto is balloon framing with common rafters covered with plywood beneath the corrugated metal roofing.

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• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

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

This tobacco shed and its agricultural setting are significant for their site in active agriculture and for the relationship to the Connecticut River, historically so important to the soil quality and transportation of this area. It is an exceptional example of its type due to its square rule post and beam construction which marks it as an early example. It demonstrates multiple ventilation methods used in tobacco curing. Finally, its association with the Tryon family adds significance to its history.

Historical background:

The farm was once a part of a larger farm owned by a prominent Glastonbury family, the Tryons.

According to documentary evidence, the Greek Revival-style house at 1099 Tryon Street (formerly known as River Road) appears to have been built in the 1840s. The house is attributed to “Captain Noah Tryon” on the 1855 Smith’s map of Hartford County, Connecticut. It appears that Noah Tryon built the house for his daughter Anna across Taylor road to the south, now known as Old Maids Lane. Interestingly, the house appears to be a $\frac{3}{4}$ size replica of the house located at 2 Hopewell Avenue in Glastonbury. Apparently Old Maids Lane is named after two of Anna’s cousin, although she herself could claim the title.

Both the tobacco shed and the English saltbox-roofed barn appear to have been built in the late 19th century. The tobacco shed supported tobacco growing from that period up until 1974. The barn was used for farm animals; a paddock is just to the north of it. The water tower and pump house were built in the 1930s. The leanto was added to the tobacco shed in the 1950s. Sometime in the 20th century, the Tryon’s sold the land to Consolidated Cigar who continued to grow tobacco until 1974. From 1974 until 2000, the site was used as a plant nursery. In 1983, Kogut Enterprises acquired the site. By 2000, at the time the current owner obtained the property associated with 1099 Tryon Street, Kogut had sub-divided all the land, selling most of the remaining lots to the Town of Glastonbury. The metal roof was added in 2000. The site has been used from 2000 until the present for organic farming.

Architectural significance:

The tobacco shed is significant not only for its form and use, but also for the family associated with it. Its form is similar to the standard form of Connecticut tobacco sheds; long, low windowless buildings with pitched roofs. They are characterized by vented sides to regulate air flow. The wood-framed bents sit on concrete foundation piers and the bents are connected by girts and diagonal braces. Typically there are two doors at each end, making the shed a “drive-through,” although some sheds are accessed through doors on the sides as is this one. The interior structural framework serves a second purpose in addition to supporting the walls and roof of the building; it provides a framework for the rails used to hang the tobacco as it cures. This tobacco shed is framed with hewn square rule post and beam joinery, which indicates that it is comparatively early for a purpose-built tobacco barn. The irregular bay size confirms this, as tobacco shed construction became highly standardized in the 20th century.

The shed at 1099 Tryon Street incorporates three of the four ventilation systems found in Connecticut tobacco sheds rather than just one system. This shed combines side-hinged vertical board vents with top-hinged horizontal vents at grade, between the foundation piers, and also uses its double hinged doors for ventilation.

The site is also significant for over a century of continuous active agriculture, particularly the growing of a single crop, tobacco. The site has been in agricultural use since the mid-19th century and continues to be used in that manner today as an organic produce farm.

Another factor in its significance is the family associated with the site. The area extending south on Tryon Street (formerly known as River Road) from the crossing of the brook from Great Pond (an area known as Shingle Hollow) to the drop of the roadway by the Connecticut River, from the west by the river east to the foot of the hill

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on Old Maids Lane is generally known as Tryon Town. The Tryon family had extensive holdings in the area and was a prominent family in early Glastonbury.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 5/05/2012.

Interview with George Purtill, 5/05/2012, 1099 Tryon Street, Glastonbury, CT. Additional field notes by George Purtill, 6/20/2012.

Map resources:

Glastonbury Assessor's Records, Vision Government Solutions, <http://www.vgsi.com>
Map/Lot/Unit : C15/ 7200/ E0028/ /

Glastonbury GIS Viewer, Capitol Region Council of Governments, <http://www.crcog.org/gissearch/>

Aerial views from: <http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 5/05/2012.

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

Woodford, E. M., Smith's map of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1855.

USGS Historical Maps accessed 8/31/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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/3671>

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

Old Maids Farm web page: <http://www.oldmaidsfarm.com/> .

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> .

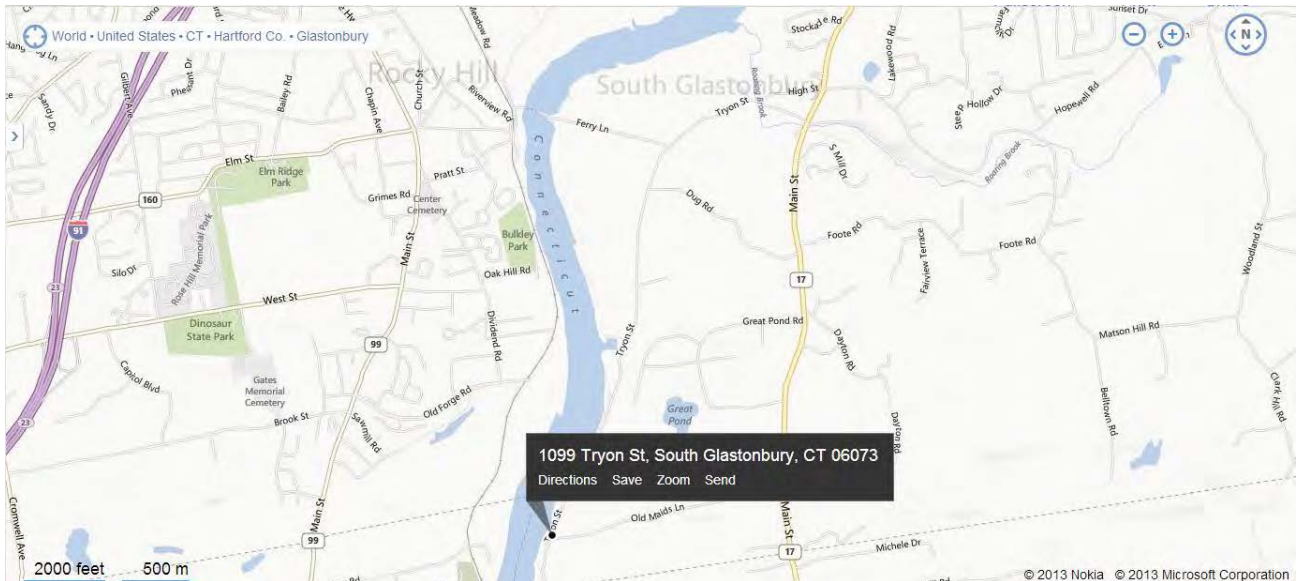
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

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1. Location map of 1099 Tryon Street, Glastonbury, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 9/10/2013.



2. Parcel map of 1099 Tryon Street, Glastonbury, CT – from Glastonbury GIS Viewer <http://www.crcog.org/gissearch/> accessed 6/01/2012.



3. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 1099 Tryon Street, Glastonbury, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 6/01/2012.



4. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 1099 Tryon Street, Glastonbury, CT with contributing resources – base image from <http://www.bing.com/maps> .



5. West view of the house, camera facing east. Note the saltbox English barn and pumphouse to the left.



6. Northwest corner of the English saltbox-roofed barn, camera facing southeast. Note the tobacco shed to the left and the water tank and garage on right.



7. East view of water tank and garage on left, camera facing west. Note the house behind the garage.



8. North view of the garage, which at one time held a Model A automobile, camera facing south.



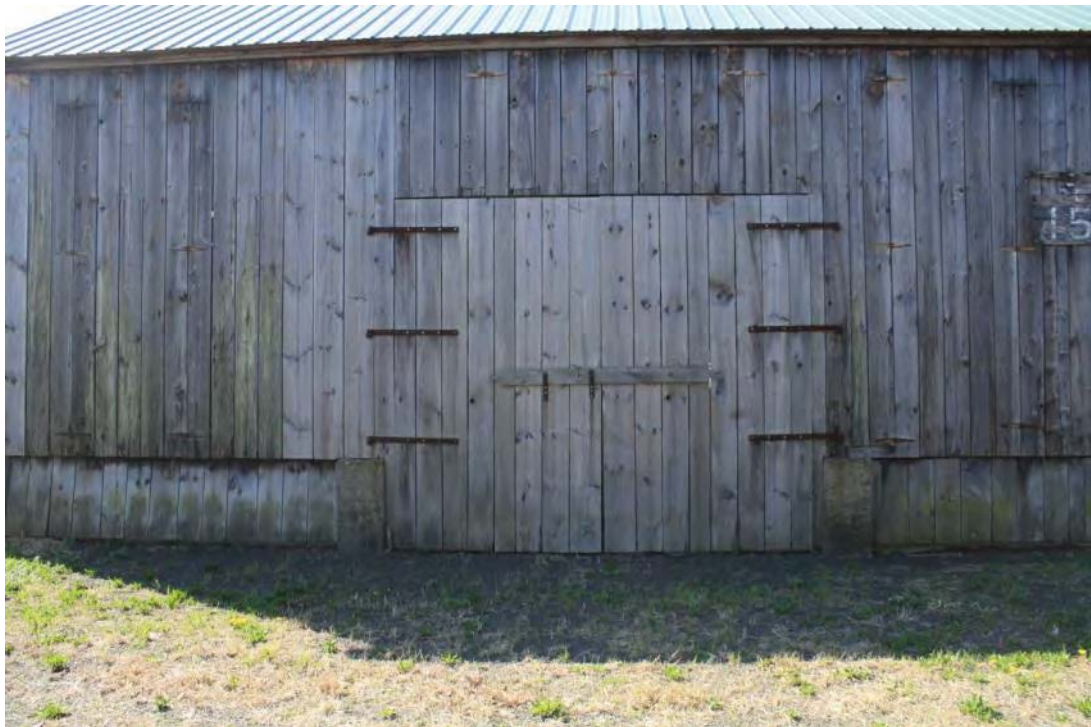
9. North view of greenhouse which are located to the south of the tobacco shed, camera facing south.



10. West view of 2010 modern gable-roofed barn, camera facing east.



11. North view of the tobacco shed, camera facing south.



12. Detail of north eave-side of the tobacco shed, camera facing south.



13. Southwest corner of Tobacco shed, camera facing northeast, showing wagon shed leanto attached at south.



14. Beneath the leanto the original south exterior is visible, camera facing west.



15. East gable-end of Tobacco shed, camera facing west. Note the English saltbox-roofed barn to the right. Side-hinged vents are visible on this side. Infill between the concrete piers is a series of top-hinged vents. The opening in the gable attic is a pivoting vent.



16. Interior detail of the tobacco shed, hand-hewn post, camera facing south.



17. Interior detail of the tobacco shed, extra horizontal beams for rails to cure tobacco, camera facing east.



18. Southwest view of the house, camera facing northeast. Note tobacco shed at the right rear.