

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) Freeman, Orrin, Farmstead Record No. 23840
 Building Name (Historic) Freeman, Orrin, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 37 Maple Avenue
 Town/City Haddam Village Higganum County Middlesex
 Owner(s) Clark Gardner, 37 Maple Avenue, Higganum CT 06441 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Domestic: secondary 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, Greek Revival vernacular style Date of Construction Mid 19th c.

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>vertical wood board 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 Approximate Dimensions 30' x 40'

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: _____

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:

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Kristen Young Date 2/19/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Charlotte Hitchcock Date 3/12/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.494439, -72.561758

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Orrin Freeman barn sits on 4.35 acres of land on the south side of Maple Avenue. The property is to the west of the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hull Avenue. Sitting close to the road, the house is in the northeast section of the parcel. To the southwest of the house is the barn, and to the north of that is a small shed. Two open fields are to the west of the buildings.

The House was built c. 1842, and faces approximately north. The main entry consists of a side-hinged door with paneling and a single-pane window in the top half. The hip roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has wide overhanging eaves. Some features of the house are as follows:

- Exposed rafters supporting overhanging eaves
- Greek-Revival-style entrance, recessed from front wing with sidelights and lintel
- Western elevation has no windows; decorated with full-color mural of the Spirit of '76
- Porch of connecting wings has five massive Tuscan order columns
- Wide friezeboard [sic] features 3-paned attic story windows
- Granite sills; lintels painted over stucco to simulate granite
- Six-over-six sash throughout
- South (rear) elevation exhibits the typical Greek-Revival-style 5 bay, center-hall configuration

An outstanding example of late Greek Revival-style architecture, the Orrin Freeman House is a brick, cube-form building faced with stucco. This 2 story house of loadbearing brick construction has several elements of the Tuscan Italian Villa style, including the exposed rafters supporting the overhanging eaves and the use of the Tuscan order in the columns (Jerome).

The House has a mix of Greek Revival style and Italian Tuscan Villa features. The interior of the house has a typical central hall plan, however, the chimneys are located on the eave sides of the house instead of in the middle. A large staircase in the main block of the house leads to the second story. The wing on the west side of the house appears to have once been servants' quarters, and a steep staircase on the south wall of the wing leads up to the second story.

This property is located in the Higganum section of Haddam, in the north part of town. A few miles to the north is the border of Middletown. To the east of the property is Chester Bowles Highway (Rte. 9) and to the west of Killingworth Road (Rte. 81), both of which run approximately through the center of Haddam where the Haddam Center National Register Historic District is located.

Other sites in Higganum included in the thematic nomination of agricultural heritage sites to the State Register of Historic Places are: the Hubbard Spencer Farmstead at 37 Christian Hill Road, the Captain John Smith Farmstead at 95 Jacoby Road, the Stephen Tibbals Farmstead at 516 Little City Road, and the Orrin Freeman Farmstead at 37 Maple Avenue.

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

Architectural description:

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

House	c.1842	C
Barn	Mid 19 th c.	C
Shed	Mid 19 th c.	C

Barn:

This is a 1 ½-story, 30' x 40,' three-bay, four-bent English barn. The ridgeline runs approximately east-west, parallel with this portion of Maple Avenue. The barn is clad in vertical board siding painted white. It has a mortared fieldstone foundation and rolled roofing. Wide frieze boards are found in each of the gable-ends of the barn, representing a vernacular Greek Revival style.

Exterior:

There are two entries found on the north eave-side of the barn. One of the entries consists of a pair of double-height side-hinged doors with a small weather door set within the west leaf. To the west of this is an entry that consists of a pair of side-hinged doors that lead into the west bay of the barn. The grade declines slightly towards the east, revealing the mortared fieldstone foundation.

Visible along the east gable-end of the barn are the brick pillars on which the barn is raised, creating a crawl space. In the gable attic of the east gable-end is a horizontal eight-pane window with trim. There are no other features on this side. On the south eave-side of the barn are brick and concrete pillars on which the barn is raised. The grade rises slightly towards the west side of the south eave-side of the barn. The frame of the barn on the west end of this side is exposed where the siding is missing.

The frame in the southwest corner of the barn on the west gable-end is exposed where the siding is missing. Found in the gable attic of the west gable-end of the barn is a horizontal eight-pane window with trim. There are no other features on this side.

Interior:

The interior of the barn is accessed by the pair of side-hinged doors on the north eave-side of the barn. It has a typical English barn layout with three bays, the middle of which was used for threshing. The middle bay of the barn once had doors in both the north and south eave-sides, enabling wind to blow through and help with the threshing process. The east gable-end of the barn is open to the roof while the west gable-end has a loft. Found on the interior is the square rule post-and-beam frame joined together by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. The tie girts in the gable-ends of the barn are dropped and pegged together by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Canted queen posts with diagonal bracing toward the outside walls support purlin plates at the mid-span of the rafters. Common rafters spring from the plate and meet at the peak with a ridge-board, and the roof deck is made of wood planks. Hand hewn and sawn marks are found on the timbers throughout the barn. Extra support timbers have been added throughout to help stabilize the barn.

• **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 is a typical example of an English barn built during the 19th-century. The barn, although some of the siding has been removed, maintains its original frame which is still intact. The property gains significance through its association with Orrin Freeman, a prominent citizen in the village of Higganum.

Historical background:

Orrin Freeman (1807-1880) purchased this land in the fall of 1841 and erected his stately home the following year. The first reference to the house is in the mortgage deed in 1843 as 'the said piece of land being the same which Orrin Freeman has lately erected a large brick Dwelling House' (HDM 27:190). Freeman, a bachelor, was a prominent local business man and entrepreneur. Part-owner of a brickyard started by his father in 1801 near the Landing, Freeman, with his brother Luther, also ran a lumber yard and sawmill, at one time the largest such operation in Middlesex County. This mill supplied lumber for ships constructed at the Landing until 1862. He retained full ownership of the Middlesex Turnpike Co. prior to its return to town control and served as judge of probate in Haddam for several years. The house remained in the Freeman family until 1904. Orrin Freeman was a prominent businessman in nineteenth-century Haddam and his high style Greek Revival residence, with elements of the Italian Villa style, gives us tangible evidence of his valuable role in the development of Higganum (Jerome).

In 1908, Eugene Orlando Burr purchased the property and started a dairy farm called Higganum Dairy. A creamery was also found on the property during this time. During the 1938 hurricane, a silo that was located to the west of the

barn, came down and was never replaced. In 1957, Francis Wright Gardner, Jr. acquired the property after Eugene Orlando Burr died. During this time, Francis Wright Gardner, Jr. demolished an addition that had been attached to the south eave-side of the barn, due to its deteriorated state. Clark Gardner acquired the property in 2007, and remains the owner. Today the barn is used for storage.

Architectural significance:

The Orrin Freeman barn is a typical example of an English barn built during the 19th century. The barn has retained much of its original frame which is still intact, although some of the siding on the south eave-side has been removed. The immediate surrounding five acres has changed very little throughout time, and the barn stands as a representation of a time when agricultural practices were prominent even among those who were not primarily farmers.

The barn gains significance through its association with Orrin Freeman, a prominent citizen in the village of Higganum. Orrin Freeman was a wealthy bachelor who was part-owner of a brick yard and lumberyard. He also was the owner of Middlesex Turnpike Company before the ownership was turned over to the Town of Haddam. He also played a large role in the development of Higganum.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 2/19/2013.

Interview with Clark Gardner - 2/19/2013, 37 Maple Avenue, Higganum, CT.

Map resources:

Haddam Tax Assessor's Records accessed 3/12/2013 - <http://data.visionappraisal.com/HaddamCT/search.asp>
Parcel ID: 15/ 124

Haddam GIS Viewer accessed 3/12/2013 - http://107.20.209.214/HaddamCT_Public/index.html

Aerial views from: <http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 3/12/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 3/12/2013 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 3/12/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

UTM coordinates accessed 3/12/2013 : <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online accessed 3/12/2013: iconn.org 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/23840>

Cunningham, Janice P. and Warner, Elizabeth A., Portrait of a River Town: The History and Architecture of Haddam, Connecticut, Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, Middletown, CT, 1984.

Jerome, Stephen, Architectural and Historic Resource Inventory of Haddam, Connecticut, Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1983.

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>

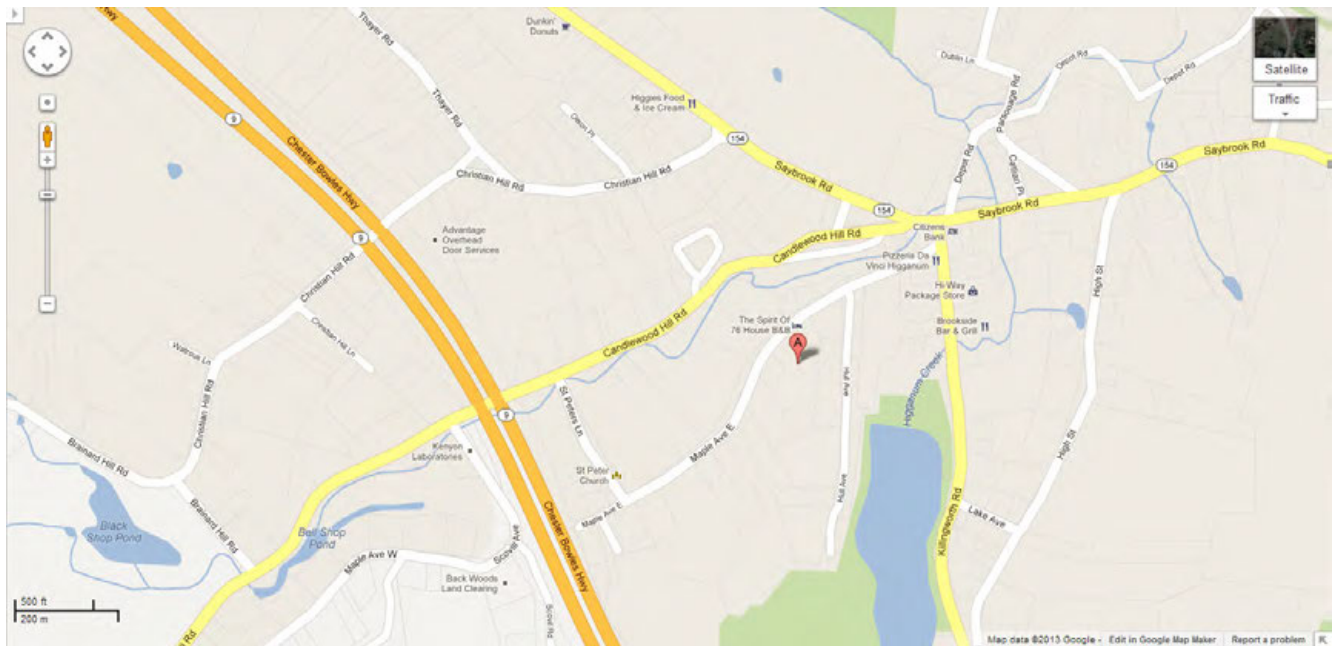
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

37 Maple Avenue, Haddam, CT

Record No. 23840

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1. Location map of 37 Maple Avenue, Haddam, CT - from <http://maps.google.com/> - accessed 3/12/2013.



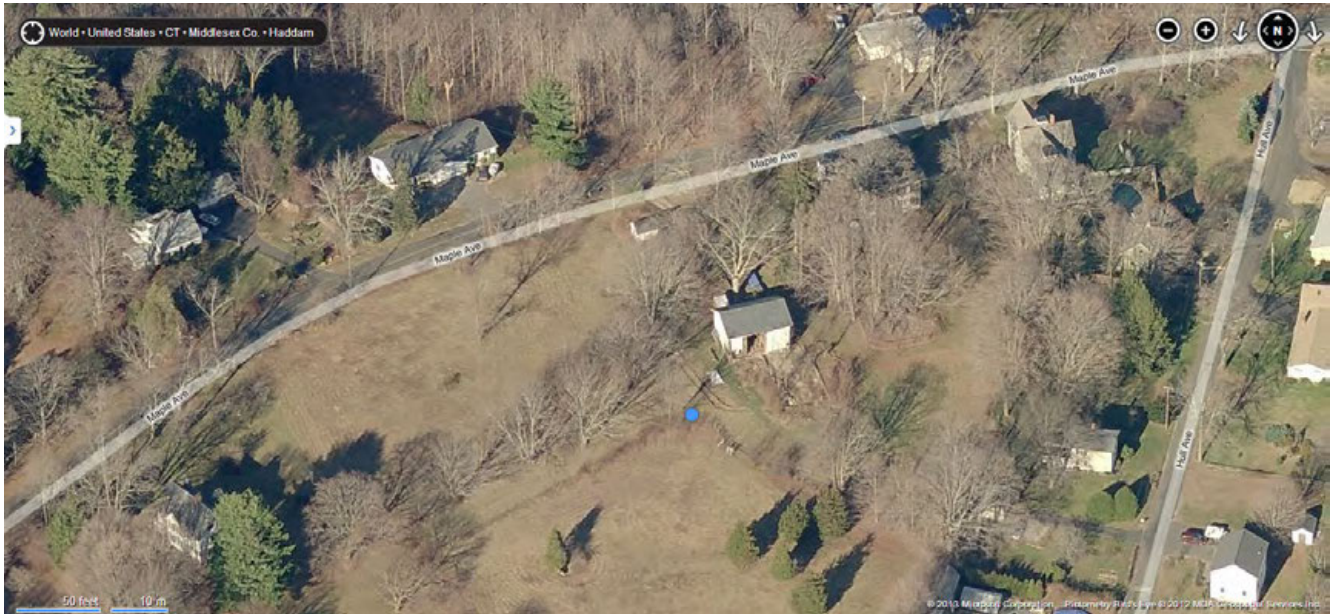
2. Parcel map of 37 Maple Avenue, Haddam, CT – from http://107.20.209.214/HaddamCT_Public/index.html - accessed 3/12/2013.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

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3. South view - aerial “bird’s-eye” view map of 37 Maple Avenue, Haddam, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 3/12/2013.



4. Site map of 37 Maple Avenue, Haddam, CT – base image from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 3/12/2013.



5. North context view of the House (at left) and Barn (at right). Camera facing south.



6. Northeast context view of the Barn (at left) and the Shed (at right). Camera facing southwest.



7. Northeast view of the House. Camera facing southwest.



8. South view of the House. Camera facing north.



9. East gable-end of the Shed. Camera facing west.



10. North eave-side of the Barn. Camera facing south.



11. North eave-side and east gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing southwest.



12. East gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing west.



13. South eave-side of the Barn. Camera facing north.



14. South eave-side and west gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing northeast.



15. West gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing east.



16. Interior view of the east gable-end of the barn. Note the canted queen posts. Camera facing east.



17. Interior view of the southeast corner of the barn. Note the dropped girtd that is attached to the post by the mortise and tenon joint. Camera facing southeast.



18. Interior view of the west gable-end of the barn. Note the canted queen posts and the common rafters meeting at the peak with a ridge-pole. Camera facing west.