**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Building Name (Common) **Bristol’s Farm/Wild Carrot CSA Farm** Record No. 10096

Building Name (Historic) **Bristol Farmstead**

Street Address or Location **541 Albany Turnpike (US Route 44)**

Town/City **Canton** Village **Collinsville** County **Hartford**

Owner(s) **Bristol Farm LLC, 60 Sterling Drive, Canton CT 06019**

Public ✓ Private

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**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 **Some areas during CSA open hours**

Style of building **Horse and carriage barn, Victorian vernacular style** Date of Construction 1870

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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 **Vertical wood siding**

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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: **2 1/2** Approximate Dimensions **30’ x 86’, 16’ x 34’**

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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: **Conversion to CSA farm sales and distribution facility**

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**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: Farmington River to the south across Albany Turnpike

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 Connecticut Western Railroad (later Central New England Railroad)

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer ________________________________  Date 5/24/3012

View ________________________________  Negative on File CTHP

Name ________________________________  Date 6/07/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

UTM:

41.841108, -72.935776

Threats to the building or site:

✔ None known  □ Highways  □ Vandalism  □ Developers  □ Renewal  □ Private

□ Deterioration  □ Zoning  □ Other __________________________  □ Explanation __________________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Bristol’s Farm property is a parcel in excess of 110 acres. It fronts on Albany Turnpike (U.S. Route 44) which runs northwest from the village of Collinsville, in Canton, toward Winsted. The road parallels the Farmington River on its east bank, here running southeastward toward Farmington. For the purpose of description, the road will be considered as oriented north-south, with the farm to the east of the road and river. The site is located about two miles south of the Canton Center Historic District on Cherry Brook Road, and two miles north of the Collinsville Historic District on River Road (Route 179) along the Farmington River.

The farm property consists of a level area of 12 acres or more in the floodplain of the Farmington River. The main barn and farmhouse are located here. To the east the land slopes up, and levels out somewhat at a higher level before continuing to slope up northward.

The c. 1850 farmhouse associated with the property is sited along the north edge of the corner, facing west toward the road. The house is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed structure with its main block having its gable toward the road. This is a side-hall plan with a Greek Revival style doorway in the right (south) bay and a projecting angle bay window in the first floor to the left (north). The second floor has three six-over-six double-hung windows. The attic has a full pediment with a three-part horizontal window opening with trim. The openings are filled with louvers; these match the appearance of a historic photograph dating from 1886. The main block is 22’ x 31’. Attached at the south side toward the rear is a 19’ x 28’ 2-story wing projecting southward with a roofed porch on the west eave-side and a roofed entry in the south side. Attached to the wing and extending toward the east (rear) is a second 2-story wing, 22’ x 22’. A rear porch is partially enclosed as an egress stair. The house is clad in horizontal wood clapboard siding, partially covered with vinyl siding. The roof is asphalt shingles.

The barn is located southeast of the Farmhouse, with its long ridge-line oriented north-south parallel to the road and river. Before 1955 a complex of other barns and sheds stood south of the main barn; most of these were demolished after the 1955 flood. East of the barn on the upslope of the hill there is a round silo foundation remaining, and some traces of old barn foundations.

To the north and northeast of the barn is woodland. The area surrounding the site is scattered residential, active agriculture and woodland. Sterling Drive, which runs from Albany Turnpike northeast into the interior of the property, leads to several house lots which have been split off of the larger farm property for homes of Bristol family members. Several acres of open land are actively farmed. To the north is an expanse of woodland.

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

Architectural description:

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

- Farmhouse: c. 1850, C
- Barn: 1870, C

Barn:

This is a 2 1/2-story cross-gable barn with consisting of a long 30’ x 86’ gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south, intersected by a perpendicular 16’ x 34’ wing extending eastward, resulting in a T-shaped structure. At the center square where the wings intersect there is a wall dormer facing west, echoing profile of the east wing to the rear, and a hip-roofed cupola with pairs of arch-topped windows on all four sides.

Exterior:

The main entries are two pairs of swinging hinged doors centered in the west eave-side of the barn. Each pair of doors has trim with a beveled head and side casings. Flanking the entry are six-over-six double-hung windows with matching trim. Centered above the entries is a single six-over-six double-hung window with trim in the cross-gable-end. Above the window is a sign, with matching trim, with the date 1870 in raised letters. According to the owners, this signage is carved marble.
To the left (north) of the cross-gable is a large opening with a beveled head which has been enclosed with a wall. A historic photograph shows this as an open wagon bay (Miller). Within the former opening is a modern overhead garage door toward the left and a pass-through door near the center. Above the bay is beveled trim similar to the other openings though at a larger scale. To the east of the cross gable is a pass-through door flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows, all three with typical trim. The grade declines slightly toward the southeast corner revealing an un-mortared field-stone foundation.

The south gable-end of the barn has a centered pass-through door, accessed by a set of wood stairs, and a six-over-six double-hung window above, also with typical trim.

Centered in the east eave-side of the barn is the cross-gable addition. The east eave-side of the barn has a series of three six-pane window with trim south of the cross-gable addition. Additionally, there is a recessed hay door above the middle window. The projecting east wing has a pair of barn doors in its south eave-side. The east gable-end has two six-over-six double-hung windows at the ground level and one in the attic. The north eave-side of the wing has a boarded-up barn door opening and the east eave-side of the main block is blank except for a hay door to the loft level.

The north gable-end of the barn has a six-over-six double-hung window with trim in the gable attic.

The barn has vertical wood tongue-and-groove siding painted white with maroon trim and corner-boards. The roof has a projecting overhang with cornice returns on the west cross-gable wall dormer, and is covered with green asphalt shingles. In the late 19th century, the roofing material was standing seam metal. Many of the doors have long iron strap hinges which appear to be original. The cupola has a shallow hipped roof with overhanging eaves, paired two-over-two double-hung arch-topped windows in each face, and wood spire with a horse weathervane.

Along the east side of the barn is a low area and beyond toward the northeast the land slopes up, leading to wet soil conditions along the rear east side of the structure. The east side foundation and framing have settled noticeably.

Interior:

The ground floor interior was originally designed for wagons or carriages and horses. It has been converted for use by the farm operations. The north wing with the former wagon doorway is a retail shop area for sales of produce and preserves. The center area below the cupola is a work area and has a walk-in cooler and an enclosed office. The south and east wings are used for vehicle and machinery storage and repair. The floors are concrete and the structure of the upper floor is visible overhead. This includes a mix of hand-hewn and sawn members. The use of hewn major timbers in a late 19th-century barn as well as the presence of some extra mortises, suggests that some timbers may have been re-cycled from the demolished barn.

The upper level framing consists of circular-sawn square-rule framed post-and-beam structure and a liberal use of simple trusses and iron tension bars. The long plates are again hand-hewn. The framing system is made up of lateral bents with two interior posts supporting a dropped tie girt. These posts are tied to the outer wall posts with iron rods. The plates are at approximately four feet above the floor and support the toes of the common rafters. Above the tie girts are queen posts, offset toward the outer walls from the supporting posts. These posts support purlin plates on which the rafters sit. The central intersection of the cross-gables with the main block is framed as by four main corner posts aligned with the upper purlin plates and having a set of higher tie girts connecting them. The tie girts have a triangular truss mounted above them from the peak of which an iron rod runs down through the tie girt and through the floor, reinforcing the load-bearing strength of the hay loft floor. A similar truss is in place above the east wall wagon door opening. At the peak of the roof intersection is an opening to the cupola whose windows are glazed with colored glass which is a restoration of historic material, according to the owners. The valleys where the cross gables intersect has been a source of leaks, leading to rot and deformation of the supporting framing below the valleys. Repairs have been made by sistering on new material. The floor is wood planks overlain with sheet material (to prevent bat droppings from falling through to below). In at least one location, near the southeast corner, there is a trap door to drop hay to the horses below.
Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

The barn is significant as a unique structure with a history connected to the transition in transportation from the turnpike and its horse-drawn stages and taverns to the railroad. This barn has an unusual and elegant symmetrical cross-gable layout with touches of Victorian ornament, and the upper level exhibits a rational structure with considerable use of trusses and iron tension rods, indications of late 19th-century engineering. The intact condition of the barn adds significance, as does the continuous ownership by one family since 1886 and the continuous agricultural use today.

Historical background:

Prior to 1886, the c. 1850 house at 541 Albany Turnpike was known as Bidwell’s Tavern. Beginning in 1868, the Connecticut Western Railroad was constructing a rail line between Hartford and the Hudson River at Poughkeepsie, and planned the tracks to run along the east bank of the Farmington River, between the then-dirt road and the river bank. Bidwell’s horse barn was in the way; the railroad company built a new barn set back at the foot of the hill that rose to the north. The railroad carried mainly coal from Pennsylvania, went bankrupt by 1880 and was reorganized several times over the next decades. The line was abandoned in 1938. Today the road has expanded almost to the river bank.

Anson Wheeler Bristol Sr. (b. 1841) and Sarah Williams Bristol (b. 1842), married in 1860, purchased the tavern property in 1886. They raised 12 children with an age range of 28 years from oldest to youngest. Seven of them appear in an 1886 photograph, including Helen, Catherine, Sterling, Anson Jr., and Roscoe. The Bristols were dairy farmers who also raised sheep and tobacco. By the 1910 census, three grown children, Christa E, Sterling W., and Catherine, were living on the farm.

The farm was known as River Dale Farm, and later as Bristol’s Farm. Another 1886 photograph taken from the opposite bank of the river shows a complex of barns including a creamery, icehouse, and blacksmith shop to the south of the band that still stands. The hill behind the buildings is open land, with a wooded hill rising beyond. Several of the buildings were damaged in the floor of 1955 and subsequently demolished.

Sterling W. Bristol Sr. (1887-1967) continued as a dairy farmer until World War II, and was a building assessor and judge of probate subsequently. David A. Bristol is the current senior family member, and along with his three older brothers, worked on the farm which at that time had about 35 cows and 1500 chickens. The poultry house was a 2-story building, which eventually collapsed in a winter of heavy snow.

Now the farm property is managed by a family-owned LLC, and a number of family members have built homes on parcels laid out along Sterling Drive. Twelve acres of land along Albany Turnpike, and the barn, is leased to the Wild Carrot CSA farm, an organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm which has been in operation for seven years.

Architectural significance:

The barn is significant as a unique structure with a history connected to the transition in transportation from the turnpike to the railroad. Bidwell’s Tavern would have served travelers along the turnpike road, and therefore had a need for a substantial horse and carriage barn. Following the completion of the railroad, perhaps the market shifted, leading to the sale of the property to a farm family.

This barn has an unusual and elegant symmetrical cross-gable layout, and the upper level exhibits a rational structure with considerable use of trusses and iron tension rods. The lower level has some longer span areas that are made possible by the trusses above. The cross-gable profile and the elegant cupola are indications of Victorian style. The intact condition of the barn adds significance, as does the continuous ownership by one family since 1886 and the continuous agricultural use.
• Sources (continuation):

Interview with David A. Bristol and George Frascarelli, 5/24/2012, at the site.

Map resources:
Town of Canton Assessor's Records http://www.cantonassessor.com/
  Parcel ID: 6-6-35
Town of Canton/Capitol Region Council of Governments GIS Viewer  http://www.crcog.org/gissearch/
Aerial views from:
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/10096
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,
U.S. Federal Census, 1930, accessed at
  http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic
  1997, 213 pages.
Wild Carrot Farm web site: http://www.wildcarrotfarm.com/

4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources, Farmhouse and Barn.

5. Southwest view of farm, camera facing northeast. Farmhouse is at the left rear; Barn at center rear.
6. West gable-end of Farmhouse and front Addition, camera facing northeast.

7. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing northeast.
8. West view of Barn center cross-gable-end with entries and date signage, camera facing east.

9. Southeast view of Barn showing east side of the south wing and south side of the cross-gable wing, camera facing north.
10. East gable-end of east wing, camera facing southwest.

11. East view of Barn showing east side of the north wing, camera facing northwest.
12. Northwest view of Barn showing north gable-end of the north wing, camera facing southeast.

14. Interior view of Barn south wing showing framing for loft floor, camera facing east.

15. Interior view of Barn loft level, facing west. This view is from the east wing looking toward the central square with the cupola above it. Note the low dropped tie girts at foreground and the higher tie girts beyond; the triangular truss members and iron tie rod dropping through the flooring. The purlin plate runs through from east to west at the center of the rafter span.
16. Interior view of Barn loft level, facing north. This is the northern interior bent of the north wing. Note the dropped tie girt, triangular truss above, and iron tie rod dropping through the floor. In this wing the posts continue up to support the purlin plate while in the other wings the queen posts are offset from the lower posts.

17. Interior view of Barn loft level west wall of the north wing, facing west. Note the truss which is located at the wide wagon door opening and allows one wall post to be omitted.
18. Interior view of Barn loft level, facing east. This is the east wall of the north wing; the hay door at right can be seen from the outside in Fig. 11. Note the iron tie rod and diagonal brace.

19. Interior view of Barn loft level, facing west, showing the central area with the cupola above.