### HISTORIC RESOURCES 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY INFORMATION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present Use:</td>
<td>Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Use:</td>
<td>Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility to public:</td>
<td>Exterior visible from public road?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior accessible?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style of building</td>
<td>Dutch gambrel bank/ground level stable barn, Vernacular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>1930s, 1948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Wood Shingle ☑ Asphalt Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Fieldstone ☐ Board &amp; Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone ☐ Aluminum Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Concrete (Type ☐ Block masonry) ☐ Cut Stone (Type ☐ Other) ☐ Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structural System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✅ Wood Frame ☐ Post &amp; Beam ✅ Balloon ✅ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roof (Type)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ Sawtooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ✅ Other Dutch gambrel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ✅ Asphalt Shingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of Stories: 2 1/2 | Approximate Dimensions: 36' x 62' |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structural Condition:</th>
<th>Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Deteriorated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Condition:</td>
<td>☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Deteriorated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Integrity:</th>
<th>☐ On original site ☐ Moved When?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alterations?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain: Rebuilt after a fire 1948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR OFFICE USE:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town #: Site #: UTM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District: ☐ S ☐ NR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- Barn  
- Shed  
- Garage  
- Carriage House  
- Shop  
- Garden  

☑ Other landscape features or buildings: Pond

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  Charlotte Hitchcock, Jane Latus, James K. Grant  Date 2008-9, 5/24/2012

View  Multiple Views  Date 2008-9, 5/24/2012

Name  Charlotte Hitchcock

Organization  Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address  940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

See continuation sheet.

• Subsequent field evaluations:

UTM: 41.839717, -72.88557

Threats to the building or site:

☐ None known  ☐ Highways  ☐ Vandalism  ☐ Developers  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Private

☑ Deterioration  ☐ Zoning  ☐ Other __________________  ☐ Explanation __________________

See continuation sheet.
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn is located on 31.9 acres of land donated to the State of Connecticut by the last private owner, and set aside for passive recreation with access to the adjacent Roaring Brook Nature Center, which uses the land for environment-related programs. The site is north of the center of Canton, between Bahre Corner Road, bordering it on the southwest, and Gracey Road to the east. The Roaring Brook Nature Center is located on Gracey Road, abutting this property at its northeast corner.

The barn sits on a flat bench in a landscape that generally slopes down from west to east. A range of hills to the west rises 300 feet above the site and Roaring Brook runs in a valley to the east of the barn, with a farm pond made by damming the brook. More than half of the property is now wooded, with an area of open pasture land surrounding the barn. The farmhouse which was formerly associated with the farm was to the east of an unpaved access drive that enters the site from Bahre Corner Road; the house has been demolished. Access to the west side of the barn was by way of a cart road that extended northeast from the upper doors, down slope into the field north of the barn. From there a cartway also extended to the north doors of the lower ground floor (see Site Plan Sketch).

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

Architectural description:

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

Barn   1930s, 1948  C

Barn:

The barn is a 2 ½-story bank barn with a Dutch gambrel roof with the ridge-line oriented north-south. The ground level stable barn at grade has its north, east, and south sides fully exposed while the west side is banked into the rise of the hill. The loft level is accessible from an upper level grade on the west side, an unusual arrangement in a purpose-built ground level stable barn of the 20th century.

Exterior:

The ground floor walls are concrete block masonry. Double doors are centered in both gable-end elevations, flanked by two window openings on each side. The east eave-side has a row of nine windows, all boarded shut but appearing likely to be of the typical hopper type. There is a concrete block masonry chimney attached along the east wall, north of center.

The wood-framed upper level has a full story-high wall below the eave-line of the gambrel roof, making it a very tall structure. The south gable-end has two small window openings spaced apart slightly below the break-level of the roof pitch, and a pair of window openings in the attic near the peak. The east eave-side has one hay door south of center. The north gable-end has a large hay door below the peak where the roof extends in a hay hood. There are two large window openings just above the spring line of the roof.

The western eave-side has two dormer entrances at the upper grade which open into the loft level. A large gable-roofed wall dormer has a pair of hinged barn doors and is approximately centered in the west side. To the right (south) is a smaller gable-roofed wall dormer with a pass-through door.

All facades have horizontal asphalt siding with three sides having exposed concrete block load-bearing walls at the lower level. The barn has two steel ventilators on the ridge of the roof.

Interior:

The ground level has a concrete slab floor with raised manger areas along the outside walls and manure gutters in the center.

The main floor is framed with wood joists at 16” centers spanning in the east-west direction. The joists are supported on a concrete block wall on the east and west sides and on two intermediate rows of wood beams
and columns. The west foundation wall, which retains the sloping grade to the west, has a battered (sloped) concrete wall cast against a significant length of its interior face, possibly added later to stabilize the wall.

The asphalt-shingled gambrel roof is framed with wood sheathing over wood rafters spaced at 24” centers. To maintain the gambrel profile, the rafters are trussed at the breaks in roof pitch and at the intersection of the roof and wall planes. There are also widely spaced diagonal braces from the walls to the floor structure to further stabilize the structure (Grant).

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:
1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past – immigrant farmers;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This barn is a fine example of an early- to mid-20th-century ground level stable barn for one of the family-owned commercial dairies that were operating in communities close to urban areas. The upper level entry and banked lower level are unusual features. The barn has added significance as an example of the trend for these farms to be owned and operated by families of European immigrants who moved to North American in the early 20th century, in this case from Germany.

Historical background:

Flora Werner published a story in *Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, a magazine published in Winsted CT from the 1940s through the early 1960s by Lewis S. Mills, a Canton native and an educator in Burlington and Harwinton. In her story Flora reminisced about her family history and the farm. Her father, Sebastian Werner (b. 1813), immigrated from Württemberg, Germany in 1831 and began his new life in New Britain before meeting his future wife, Sophia Josephine Obersthelb Webster (1835-1915), in Elmwood (West Hartford). She was a widow with two young children. They married in 1860 and purchased this farm from the Pflugher family in 1873. They moved to the farm with three children – Albert, Nellie, and Abigail (1867-1954). Maurice (1873-1955) and Flora (b. 1875) were born at the farm. The farmhouse (now demolished) was built for them c. 1877.

Sebastian worked in Collinsville to earn cash for the mortgage payments, walking four miles each way. The family gradually built up a dairy herd and sold cream to the Canton Creamery and later to Bryant and Chapman. Finally in 1955 they discontinued dairying and sold the cows. Abigail had married, becoming Abigail Gracy, and after being widowed in 1900 she returned to the farm with a son Byron and lived with her siblings until her death in 1954. Flora included an account of how the barn burned on July 6, 1948, and how their “adopted son planned a larger one that had ties for 30 milking cows and plenty of hay and storage room.”

Census records for 1930 show the household including Maurice Werner and sisters Flora Werner and Abbie Gracy, along with an adopted son Maurice. Their occupations included general farming and poultry. The census page reveals that several neighbors were also of German ethnicity, including the Bahre family for whom the road is named.

The Werner farm was donated by Flora to the State of Connecticut in 1964 to be used for nature education and passive recreation, along with an endowment. Since that time the farmhouse has been demolished and little maintenance performed on the barn. Some mowing has kept a few field areas open.

The barn was listed on the State Register of Historic Places by virtue of its inclusion in the *Cultural Resource Survey of State-owned Historic Buildings in Connecticut*, 1989 (Staye, p. 301).

A grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Barns Project in 2008 supported conditions assessment and feasibility studies for re-use of the barn by the adjacent Roaring Brook Nature Center, which would be in line with the intentions of the donor.
Architectural significance:

This barn, though needing restoration/rehabilitation, is a fine example of an early- to mid-20th-century ground level stable barn for one of the family-owned commercial dairies that were operating in communities close to urban areas. The typical farm supplied dairy and poultry products to city consumers. The farm also exemplifies the trend for these farms to be owned and operated by families of European immigrants who moved to North America in the early 20th century, in this case from Germany, and replaced English residents who no longer wished to farm in New England.

The barn is typical of the gambrel-roofed loft level barn built above a masonry or concrete stable level, and typical in its generous dimensions and height. It is unusual in being built into a bank with direct entrance into the loft level from the uphill side; this was more common in the earlier styles of barn construction. The side entrance through the western dormer gives this barn added significance.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and written information provided by – CARE (Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion, Inc., P.O. Box 196, Canton, CT 06019), CTHP 2008 Barns Grant application and Final Report.


Interview with Jane Latus 5/24/2012, at the site.

Map resources:


Aerial views from:


Print and internet resources:


McCa hon, Mary Elizabeth, Historic Resource Inventory Item 872, Department of Environmental Protection Cultural Resource Survey, Connecticut Historical Commission, 1986.


Werner, Flora, “Werner Farm, Ingleside, Canton, Conn.,” The Lure of the Litchfield Hills, c. September 1957, Winsted CT.

3. Parcel map of 65 Bahre Corner Road, Canton CT – base image from Capitol Area Regional Council of Governments GIS Viewer http://www.crcog.org/gissearch/

4. South view of Barn and entry drive from Bahre Corner Road, camera facing north.

7. Southeast view of Barn, camera facing northwest.

9. West view of main level with upper entrances, camera facing northeast.

10. Interior view of upper loft level, camera facing north. Note typical gambrel truss framing and hay track suspended below the ridge. Photo courtesy of James K. Grant.
11. Interior view of upper loft level west barn doors and dormer roof framing, camera facing west. Photo courtesy of James K. Grant.

12. Interior view of the lower level east wall, camera facing northeast. Photo courtesy of James K. Grant.