### HISTORIC RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Fredsall Farmstead</th>
<th>Record No. 28379</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Lawrence Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>158 Pinney Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Colebrook</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Janet Fredsall, 158 Pinney St, Colebrook, CT 06098</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PROPERTY INFORMATION

- Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling
- Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior accessible?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, explain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Style of building: New England bank barns, Vernacular style
- Date of Construction: 19th c.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Clapboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Fieldstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Concrete (Type ______________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structural System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Wood Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Other ________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roof (Type)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Gable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Gambrel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Material)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Wood Shingle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Built up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Stories:</th>
<th>1/2, B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Dimensions</td>
<td>Horse barn: 32' x 42', Cow barn: 30' x 50'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Integrity:</th>
<th>☑ On original site</th>
<th>☑ Moved</th>
<th>When? ____________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alterations?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If yes, explain:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

- Town # _______ Site # _______ UTM _______

- District: ☑ S ☑ NR If NR, Specify: ☑ Actual ☑ Potential

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*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.*
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

☑ Barn  ☑ Shed  ☐ Garage  ☐ Carriage House  ☐ Shop  ☑ Garden

☑ Other landscape features or buildings: **Stone walls**

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 ______________________________________  Date 3/30/2013

View ____________________________________________________________________________  Negative on File CTHP

Name __________________________________________  Date 8/23/2013

Organization  Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

*Latitude, Longitude:*

41.964794,-73.119915

Threats to the building or site:

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

☑ Deterioration  ☐ Zoning  ☐ Other ________________  ☑ Explanation **Cow barn**
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Lawrwnce-Fredsall Farmstead is located on both sides of Pinney Street, a north-south road running north from Winsted-Norfolk Road (US Route 44) to connect with Rockwell Road, leading to the town center of Colebrook approximately 2.6 miles away. The town center sits in a valley surrounded by wooded hills at the northern edge of northwest Connecticut. The center consists of a cluster of historic residential, commercial and institutional buildings and sites dating from 1767 to about 1920, which are designated as the Colebrook Center Local and National Register Historic District. A second historic district is to the north on Colebrook Road (Route 183), encompassing the Phelps Farm. Also included in this thematic nomination is the Hale Barn at 4 Stillman Hill Road, less than two miles to the northeast. Nearby to the south is a cross-roads known as Mill Brook. This is the southern edge of Colebrook; a mile further south along Route 44 in the next town was Colebrook Station, a milk stop which was the closest approach of a railroad line to the town. Much of Colebrook now consists of second-growth woodlands, replacing an agricultural landscape that was fully developed with fields and pastures 150 years ago.

The total size of the site is 110 acres, of which 98 acres is on the west side of the road, and includes two barns – a Workshop and Horse barn. A 12.5-acre parcel is on the east side, with the c. 1827 Farmhouse and a Cow barn. The family also owns another 37-acre parcel of woodlands west of Route 44. The farm complex clusters along the road in a clearing of open pasture surrounded by woodlands, with stone walls marking the pasture boundaries. The site is on a south-facing hillside, sloping down toward Mill Brook to the south.

The Farmhouse is sited to the southeast of and downslope from the barns. The oldest part of the building is a 2½-story gable-roofed post and beam framed building, 18' x 40', with its ridge-line oriented east-west and its south eave-side facing down the hill. The west gable-end faces the road. This block originally had a central entry porch, center chimney, and two rooms flanking the chimney mass, as can be seen in the interior. The upper floor has four twelve-over-eight windows on the south and two on the west side. It appears that the oldest structure was an 18th-century colonial-style house forming the core of the Farmhouse. The first floor's south side has larger, probably modern windows, a 1-story porch, and an enclosure of the porch at the southeast corner. The eaves and rakes have molded trim, boxed soffits, and short cornice returns; siding is clapboards with corner board trim.

A 2½-story three-bay gable-roofed wing, 16' x 26', extends north from the western part of the main block; this has its ridge-line oriented north-south parallel to the road, and its west eave-side has become the front entrance, with a door between the two northern windows and a third window toward the south. The upper floor windows are nine-over-six sash, but set a foot lower than those on the main block, indicating a change of floor level with lower ceilings in the north wing. The roof profile is dropped slightly below the southern block, and trim is simpler, with no soffits or cornices. The 1-story shed-roofed porch wraps around from the south side and continues the full width of the west side. A 1-story shed-roofed addition partially fills in the northeastern interior angle of the structure. The attic gables have simple multi-pane sash that are vernacular Greek Revival in character.

The roadside is lined by stone walls, mostly dry-laid fieldstone. Along the west side of the house, a terrace has been formed with a retaining wall of roughly-dressed stones, giving a more formal appearance to the entry side.

North of the Farmhouse is the Cow barn, across the road to the west the Horse barn, and to the south the Workshop. The Workshop is a 20' x 26' 1½-story two-bay square rule post and beam structure with an open northern bay and enclosed southern bay. The ridge-line is oriented north-south parallel to the road. The open bay is at grade level, facing the road toward the east, and is used as a carport; an exterior sliding door is in place on the opening, although the west side wall is open. The southern bay is finished on the interior with plastered walls, and functioned as a workshop. It has a six-over-six double-hung window in the east eave-side and two windows in the south gable-end. An attic loft, accessed by a stair along the southwest interior wall, has a hay door in the west eave-side, a twelve-over-twelve double-hung window in the south end, and a four-pane attic window in the north end. There is a partial banked basement accessible from the south and west, as the grade slopes down. Siding is vertical boards, roofing is metal panels finished in green, and the foundation is a combination of granite blocks, facing the road, and fieldstone.
• Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior):

Architectural description:

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

- Farmhouse: c. 1827, C
- Workshop: 19th c., C
- Horse barn: Late 19th c., C
- Cow barn: Late 19th c., C

Horse barn:

This is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed, three-bay eave-entry bank barn. The main entry facade faces east and the ridge-line of the barn is north-south parallel to Pinney Street.

Exterior:

The main entry is a pair of exterior sliding doors in the center bay on the main level of the east eave-side of the barn, where an earth ramp leads to the doorway. Flanking the main entry are double-hung windows – four-over-four sash on the right (north) and a newer one-over-one sash to the left. The south gable-end has a one-over-one window in the gable attic and two on the main level. The west eave-side has a hay door in the center at the main level. The north gable-end has only a twelve-over-six window in the attic. The banked basement is exposed to a lower level grade on the south and west; the basement walls are infilled with board siding and stable windows, in somewhat deteriorated condition. A wide opening in the south end provides access to the basement interior. A fieldstone retaining wall extends east from the southeast corner, making the transition to the grade of main level ramp. The barn is clad in vertical siding and the foundation is a mix of cut granite slabs, capstones and fieldstone walls. The roof has projecting eaves and is clad in green metal panels.

Interior:

At the interior of the main level, the center bay is higher than the side bays, evidently intended for wagon or carriage clearance. The north bay is divided into horse stalls with rolling doors. The south bay is open work space except for an enclosed stair along the west wall; this leads up to the loft.

The structure is a hybrid of heavy timber and balloon framing, with some sash-sawn and some circular sawn timbers. The end bents and plates are square rule framed with dropped tie-girts. The two interior bents support the loft and roof with clear span trusses consisting of a trapezoidal timber frame tied with vertical metal tension rods. The bottom nuts of these can be seen from below projecting through the bottom chord of the truss – the bottom chord is double, with a horizontal member at the lower and upper loft floor levels. Stubby queen posts sit on the top chord of the trusses and support conventional purlin plates. Common rafters of sawn dimension lumber run from the plates, across the purlin plates, to butt against a ridge-board at the peak. This type of truss construction appears commonly in barns of the late 19th century, from about 1870 onward into the early 1900s (see 505 University Drive, Torrington and 541 Albany Turnpike, Canton for examples).

The basement has stone retaining walls on the north and east sides, composed of fieldstone up to grade and massive blocks of cut granite forming a top capstone course that is visible from the exterior. Wood girders of sash-sawn timbers set laterally demarcate the three bays, while joists run north-south, and are a mix of square timbers and sawn 2-inch dimension lumber. A mix of interior wood posts and steel columns support the girders. Some traces of whitewash on the ceilings and the infill walls with stable windows, indicate that this was used for dairy cows during a period of its history.

Cow barn:

The Cow barn is located on the east side of the road, slightly north and uphill. This barn is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed, eave-entry bank barn as well. The ridge-line of the barn is north-south parallel to Pinney Street. The barn is a four-bay extended English bank barn.
Exterior:
The main entry is a pair of exterior sliding doors in the main level of the west eave-facade of the barn, in the second bay from the south. Both doors slide toward the right (south). In the north bay, there is a shorter single exterior sliding door. In the second bay from the north, a hay door is in the upper part of the wall. The north side is blank except for an attic window opening. Grade is at the main level on the west and north sides. A low fieldstone retaining wall of rough granite extends east from the northeast corner and transitions to a dropped grade along the east side, where the basement level opens to the lower level. The east eave-side has two unequal-sized windows, one in each of the two center bays, and a wall infill at the basement level with two pairs of six-pane stable windows and a pass-through door at the extreme right (north) corner. The south gable-end has two open doorways at the basement level and an attic window opening. Siding is vertical tongue-and-groove boards and the roof is asphalt shingles.

Interior:
The interior is a lightly-built post and beam frame with four bays, dropped tie-girts – very low in the interior bents – and square rule framing using mainly sash-sawn timbers. Queen posts support purlin plates which carry rafters of sawn dimension lumber. There are remnants of an interior silo with an open top in the third bay, north of the main entry doors (with a hay door in its outside wall); the interior of the silo is a smooth board surface painted gray. The basement has the remains of a concrete floor with manure gutters and whitewashed walls and ceiling, indicating its use for dairy cows. A stair connects to the main level. The north retaining wall of the basement is buckling inward from the effects of water seepage on the uphill side. Much of the equipment for dairy gone. Since the 1950s the Fredsall family has been occupied with wood products, wood-cutting and sawmill work, rather than dairy.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

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

This farmstead and its barns are significant because they are an exceptional example of a farmstead preserved in an unaltered setting with their original fabric intact. The Farmhouse dates to the early 1800s or possibly earlier, and the barns range in age through the 19th century, with the Horse barn being an interesting example of late 19th-century trusswork. Significance is added by the history of Deacon William Lawrence in the 29th century and later the history of the Fredsall family, immigrants from Sweden. The immediate landscape remains much as it has for the last 200 years, although the surrounding area has seen regrowth of woodlands and some residential development.

Historical background:
The Farmhouse in the Mill Brook village was purchased for $145 in about 1824 by Phanuel (or Penuel) Lawrence, who had come to Colebrook from Killingly. A stone mason by trade, he worked in construction in Colebrook and the vicinity. He married Laura Barber in 1824 and settled at this site, now 158 Pinney Street. Mill Brook was a sufficiently important village to have a post office in the 1800s, and the nearest railroad stop was a mile away at Colebrook Station, just over the town line in Winchester.

Phanuel’s son William P. Lawrence (1833-1917) lived all his life on this farmstead.

Deacon William Lawrence, who lived where Ellen Fredsall now resides on Pinney Street, spent his entire life in Colebrook where he operated one of the finest dairy farms in the community, as well as one of the busiest lumber mills. Sundays were always reserved for church, with the evenings set aside for socializing with his friends and neighbors. He was a deacon of the Congregational Church in Colebrook Center for many years. He set down on paper his recollections of this church in 1917, 86 years ago, when he was 83 years of age (Grigg).

William P. Lawrence’s long life span, including most of the 19th century, encompasses the likely period of construction of all the barns on the farmstead. William Lawrence’s wife was Evaline; their son Robert and his wife
Mabel took over the farm after 1917. By 1940 none of their three children was shown in the Census as living in the household, so with Robert in his 70s, apparently the time was coming to sell the farm.

The Fredsalls had immigrated from Sweden in 1872, when Frederic Ferdinand Fredsall (1852-1923) went to New Hartford. He and his wife Augusta (1848-1922) had several children who died young, but Frank, Alice, Marion, and Roger appear in the 1910 census. By the 1920 census, Frank A. Fredsall (b. 1883) was in Harwinton with his wife Bertha (b. 1896) and daughters Martha and Tekla. He was a sawyer with his own sawmill. By 1940 the family included Lillian and Franklyn (1926-1996). Franklyn and his wife Ellen (b. 1828) moved to Colebrook, purchasing the Lawrence property. Here they continued to cut and saw wood on the property although Franklyn also worked at the Pratt and Whitney factory. Of their children (Gilbert, Janet, Frank, and John), Janet continues to live at 158 Pinney Street while John lives in a modern house nearby. The farmstead continues in agricultural use with some logging, but the barns are currently only used for storage.

Architectural significance:

The Workshop building is likely to be the oldest of the outbuildings, or constructed of recycled older materials. Its square rule framing and squared rafters suggest an early- to mid-19th-century date. The Horse barn is an excellent example of late 19th-century framing with wood timber and iron rod trusses allowing a clear span interior. The Cow barn appears likely to be the last constructed, as its relatively light timber framing differs from the over-structured heavy timbers of earlier times.

This farmstead and its barns are significant as a whole because they are an exceptional example of a farmstead preserved in an unaltered setting with their original fabric intact. The Farmhouse dates from the early 1800s or possibly earlier, and the barns range in age through the 19th century, with the Horse barn being an interesting example of late 19th-century trusswork. The immediate landscape remains much as it has for the last 200 years, although the surrounding area has seen regrowth of woodlands and some residential development. Colebrook, with its nearby historic district, is one of the most intact historic communities in Connecticut, its preservation resulting in part from its remoteness.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 3/30/2013.

Interview with Janet Fredsall 3/30/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Colebrook Assessor's Records: http://data.visionappraisal.com/ColebrookCT/

Parcel ID: 02/03 (98 acres, 2 barns, cell tower), 02/09 (12.5 acres, house, barn), 02/33 (37.5 acres).

Aerial views from:


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.


Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories

Cunningham, Jan,

“Colebrook’s non-involvement with the railroads,” “Dairying in Colebrook,” “Deacon William P. Lawrence’s Recollections of the Colebrook Church.”


3. Site Plan Detail showing contributing resources – base image from Google Maps.

4. South context view, camera facing north. At left are the Workshop and Horse barn. At right are the Cow barn (rear) and Farmhouse.
5. North context view, camera facing south. Cow barn at left with Farmhouse beyond; Horse barn at right with Workshop beyond.

6. West context view, camera facing northeast. From left to right: the Horse barn, Workshop, and Farmhouse.
7. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.

8. Southeast view of Workshop, camera facing northwest. Horse barn is at rear.
9. Southwest view of Workshop, camera facing northeast. Horse barn is at rear.

10a. Interior detail of Workshop.

10b. Interior framing detail at Workshop.
11. Northeast view of Horse barn, camera facing southwest. Workshop is at rear.

12. Southwest view of Horse barn, camera facing northeast.

14. Interior view of Horse barn loft, camera facing northwest. Note the timber and iron rod truss and stubs of queen posts supporting the purlin plates.
15. Interior detail view in Horse barn basement, camera facing northeast, showing the cap course of cut stone blocks.

17. Southeast view of Cow barn, camera facing northwest.

18. Interior view of Cow barn, camera facing west.

20. Interior view of silo wall in Cow barn, camera facing north.
21. 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph (left) of the site compared with modern Google aerial view (right). Woodlands have returned in many areas of Colebrook that were cleared previously.

22. Detail view of Workshop, east side, camera facing west.