**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.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Perry, James and Lucy, Farmstead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Perry, James and Lucy, Farmstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>47 Jonathan Trumbull Highway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Town/City** Columbia  
**Village**  
**County** Tolland

**Owner(s)** Ralph Bemis & Maggie Ewald, 47 Jonathan Trumbull Hwy, Columbia CT 06237  
**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 ____________________________________________________

**Style of building** English bank barn, vernacular style  
**Date of Construction** 19th c.

**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 poured)  
- ☐ Cut Stone (Type )  
- ☑ Other vertical board siding

**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, B  
**Approximate Dimensions** 20' x 30'

**Structural Condition:**  
**Exterior Condition:**  
**Location Integrity:**  ☑ On original site  ☐ Moved  When? ____________

**Alterations?**  ☑ Yes  ☐ No  
If yes, explain: ____________________________________________________

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District: ☐ S  ☑ NR  If NR, Specify: ☐ Actual  ☑ Potential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-1-
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 12/19/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Todd Levine Date 12/21/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.719156, -72.33311

Threats to the building or site:

☑ None known  ☐ Highways  ☐ Vandalism  ☐ Developers  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration  ☐ Zoning  ☐ Other _________________ ☐ Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This property is located on approximately two acres on the north side of Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Rte. 87). There are two barns on this property, a small English barn (Barn II) attached to the farmhouse, and the English bank barn (Barn I). The driveway extends to the north off the road and leads to the west side of the farmhouse, to the south of Barn II. A steep hill, slopes down to the east of the farmhouse; Barn I is banked into this. Barn I is to the northeast of the farmhouse, and Barn II is attached to the west side of the farmhouse. Stone walls border the property on the north and west sides.

The c. 1757 Farmhouse, a 1 1/2-story, five-bay Cape-style structure, sits close to the road, and the ridge-line runs approximately east-west, parallel with this portion of the road. The main eave-façade faces south and has the entry door centered, with six-pane transom above. On both the east and west sides of the door, there are two nine-over-nine double-hung windows with trim. The chimney is centered, indicating a hall and parlor interior layout. A shed-roof addition is attached to the north half of the west gable-end of the Farmhouse, extending to the north. This addition is attached to Barn II, and was added in the 1980s. A gable-roof addition is attached to the east half of the north eave-side of the Farmhouse, extending to the north. The building is clad in clapboard siding and has an asphalt shingle roof.

Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Rte. 87) runs through the Town of Columbia southeast to northwest from Lebanon to Andover. This property is located near the northwest corner of the town, less than a mile from the border of the Town of Andover. Less than two miles to the north is the border of the Town of Coventry, and approximately two miles to the east of the property is the center of Columbia where the Columbia Green National Register Historic District is located at the intersection of Route 87 and Route 66. Across the street, on the south side of the road, is Columbia Lake formed c. 1868 by damming Columbia Lake Brook, a tributary running north into the Hop River. Surrounding the property are numerous residential properties, a mix of historic and modern mid-20th-century.

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

Architectural description:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>c. 1757</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>Mid 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>Mid 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This is an approximately 20' x 30' 1 1/2-story with basement gable-roof three-bay English bank barn with a shed-roof addition. The ridge-line runs approximately north-south, perpendicular to this portion of the road. The barn is clad in vertical board siding, has an asphalt shingle roof, and a concrete and fieldstone foundation. The shed-roof addition is clad in vertical board siding with an asphalt shingle roof and an un-mortared fieldstone foundation.

Exterior:

The main entry is found on the west eave-side of Barn I, and consists of a pair of double-height exterior-hung sliding doors. On the south corner is a side-hinged pass-through door with iron hinges. A mortared fieldstone foundation is seen in the southwest corner of the barn.

A retaining wall is aligned with the west wall, as the grade declines to the east, revealing a full basement level in the south gable-end. An open bay is located in the east half of the south gable-end of the barn. Two pairs of six-pane windows with trim are found in the upper-story. In the gable-peak of the south gable-end of Barn I is a pair of six-pane windows with trim.

Along the east eave-side of Barn I is a recent concrete foundation with granite veneer. A six-pane window is found in the upper story of this side of the barn. The grade rises slightly towards the north.
Attached to the lower half of the north gable-end of the barn is the shed-roof addition, extending to the north. Just above the addition, in the gable-peak of the north gable-end of the barn is a pair of six-pane windows with trim. The east side wall of the addition is flush with the east eave-side of Barn I. A pair of six-pane windows with trim is in the upper story of the east side. An open bay is located in the basement level of the north side of the addition with a pair of six-pane windows with trim just above this. The grade rises to the west. A side-hinged pass-through door with iron hinges is near the south corner of the west side of the addition. A window opening is just above this door. An un-mortared fieldstone foundation is visible along this side.

Interior:

The interior of Barn I is accessed by the pair of sliding doors found in the west eave-side, and opens to a space with wood plank floors and walls. A loft is found in the south bay of the barn, but the north and center bays are open to the roof. What was once a stable for a horse is in the northwest corner, and cow stalls are located underneath the loft in the south bay. The loft is accessed by a ladder. The barn has a post-and-beam frame joined together by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. There is a mix of hand hewn and saw marks found on the lumber throughout the barn. The dropped girts are attached to the posts by mortise and tenon joints, and the plate consists of two boards stacked and resting on the posts. Common rafters meet in the middle with a ridge-board, and the roof deck is made of wood planks.

The basement is accessed through the open bays found in both the north and south gable-ends of Barn I. A gravel and dirt floor is found in this level, with wood plank walls. The new concrete foundation is visible along the east eave-side of the barn, but on the west eave-side is a mix of an un-mortared and mortared fieldstone foundation. A large rocky ledge occupies the entire west eave-side of the barn. Hand hewn marks are found on the floor joists, visible in the basement of Barn I.

* Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This is a typical example of a 19th-century English bank barn with a post-and-beam frame. The barn remains in the original location, and the original frame materials are substantially intact although the plates and rafter framing may have been replaced, and a partial new foundation and siding have been recently installed. The 18th-century Farmhouse and Barn II combine with Barn I to form a typical farmstead complex.

Historical background:

According to the Tolland County map published by O.W. Gray in 1869, the name of the person occupying this property was J. Perry. It is believed that J. Perry is James Perry who was listed at the age of 79 as a farmer living with his wife, Lucy, in the 1870 census records of Tolland County. At some point after the Perrys died, the property was sold to the Smith Family. The Smith Family is believed to have lived on this property for generations. Roland Smith sold the property to David Ramm during the mid-late 20th century. At the time of Ramm’s purchase of the land, the property consisted of 50 acres. In 1985, Ramm sold two acres of his property to Ralph Bemis, the current owner. In the early 1980s, Ramm made renovations to the Farmhouse, including building the shed-roof addition on the west gable-end, attaching Barn II to the house. Barn I was originally used for horses and cows, and to store hay in the loft. Today it is used for storage.

Architectural significance:

This is a typical example of a 19th-century English bank barn with a post-and-beam frame. The barn remains in the original location, and the original frame materials are substantially intact although the plates and rafter framing may have been replaced, and a partial new foundation and siding have been recently installed. Historic houses remain along Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Rte. 87), mixed with some modern 20th century dwellings, forming a northern gateway to the historic district at the town center. This property continues to remain as an example of the past agricultural uses of this area of Columbia.
Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 12/19/2012.
Interview with Ralph Bemis - 12/19/2012, 47 Jonathan Trumbull Hwy, Columbia, CT.

Map resources:
Parcel ID: 004/024
Gray, O. W., Atlas of Windham and Tolland Counties, C. G. Kenney, Hartford, CT, 1869
Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 12/21/2012 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 accessed 12/21/2012: 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/19001
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,

1. Location map of 47 Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Route 87), Columbia, CT – from http://maps.google.com/,
accessed 12/21/2012.


5. Northeast context view of Barn I (to the left), the Farmhouse in the distance, and Barn II (on the right). Note Columbia Lake in the distance to the left of Barn I. Camera facing southwest.
6. Southeast context view of the Farmhouse (on the left) and Barn I (on the right). Camera facing northwest.

7. West context view of Barn I (on the left) and Barn II (on the right). Camera facing east.

9. South eave-side of Barn II. Note the shed-roof addition on the Farmhouse that attaches to Barn II. Camera facing northeast.


15. Interior view of the north gable-end of Barn I. Camera facing north.
16. Interior view of the southeast corner of Barn I. Note the dropped girt, the post-and-beam frame, the hand hewn marks on the timber, and the tree nails. Camera facing southeast.

17. Interior view of the northeast corner of Barn I. Note the dropped girt and post-and-beam frame. Camera facing northeast.
18. Interior view of the roof of Barn I. Note the common rafters meeting in the middle with a ridge-board. Camera facing north.

19. South gable-end and east eave-side of Barn I in 2011 just before new foundation and siding were installed. Camera facing northwest.
20. East eave-side and north gable-end of Barn I in 2011 just before new foundation and siding were installed. Camera facing southwest.

21. Historic photograph (c. 1890) of Barn II (on the left), the Farmhouse (just to the right of Barn II), the stone walls, and Columbia Lake in the far right – photograph courtesy of Ralph Bemis.