### Seward-Atwell Farmstead Record No. 5895

#### GENERAL INFORMATION
- **Building Name (Common):** Seward-Atwell Farmstead
- **Building Name (Historic):** Seward-Atwell Farmstead
- **Street Address or Location:** 25 Sand Hill Road
- **Town/City:** Durham
- **Village:**
- **County:** Middlesex
- **Owner(s):** Thomas and Heather Kannam, 25 Sand Hill Rd, Durham, CT 06422

#### PROPERTY INFORMATION
- **Present Use:** Domestic: secondary structure; 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
- **Style of building:** English barn, vernacular style
- **Date of Construction:** mid-late 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)***
- **Cut Stone (Type)***
- **Other vertical board siding***

#### Structural System
- **Wood Frame**
- **Post & Beam**
- **Balloon**
- **Load bearing masonry**
- **Structural iron or steel**

#### Roof (Type)
- **Gable**
- **Flat**
- **Mansard**
- **Monitor**
- **Sawtooth**
- **Gambrel**
- **Shed**
- **Hip**
- **Round**
- **Other**

#### Number of Stories: **1 1/2**
- **Approximate Dimensions:** 25' x 35'

#### Structural Condition:
- **Excellent**
- **Good**
- **Fair**
- **Deteriorated**

#### Location Integrity:
- **On original site**
- **Moved**
  - **When?**
- **Alterations?** Yes No
  - **If yes, explain:** Open porch added to south side.

#### 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.*
Historic Resources Inventory

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

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

☑️ Other landscape features or buildings: Pool, chicken coop

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 9/18/2012

View Multiple Views ___________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Todd Levine Date 10/4/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.454737, -72.676368

Threats to the building or site:

☑️ None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Other ___________________________ Explanation ___________________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The property sits on 2.38 acres of land to the south side of Sand Hill Road. The barn sits very close to the road in the northeast section of the parcel. To the southwest of the barn is the original farmhouse, and to the south of the barn is a shed, a pool and a chicken coop. Trees line the north, east and west sides of the property, while Malt Brook lines the south side. A driveway extends to the south off Sand Hill Road, and leads to the northwest of the house. A second driveway extends to the south off the road just to the east of the barn.

The 2 1/2 story, five-bay facade which faces west away from the road features a Greek Revival-style door surround with modest side pilasters topped with a simple entablature and projecting cornice. The gable ends feature large cornice returns and an eight-paned rectangular window. The single story eastern ell exhibits eyebrow windows characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Six-over-six sash are displayed throughout. A number of wooden outbuildings are found on the property.

This building was originally constructed ca. 1750 as a 1 1/2-story colonial-period, Cape-style dwelling which was encased within the present Greek Revival-style structure about 1830. The original frame found on the first floor of the building is post-and-beam, as is the later second-floor addition of eastern ell. (Hall).

The house now has a small addition attached to the east eave-side of the house, with a larger addition attached to the east side of this. The reason the facade faces west, away from the road, is that at one time the road ran directly west of the house and led to a mill that was once located on Malt Brook. The road has since been abandoned and a lawn has grown on it.

Sand Hill Road is to the west of Madison Road (Rte. 79) and to the east of Guilford Road (Rte. 77). Madison Road and Guilford Road meet north of the property and turn into Main Street (Rte. 17), which runs through the center of Durham, where the Main Street Historic District is a Local and National Register district including over 100 buildings, the Old Burial Ground, and the Town Green. This property is about 1 1/2 miles from the border of Guilford, and is located in the southern half of Durham. Surrounding the property are residential areas, woodland and some open tracts of land. Across the road, to the north of Sand Hill Road, is a building that was once a small school for the children in the South District of Durham.

• 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>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1750</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>c. 1860</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken coop</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 1 1/2-story, three-bay, four-bent, 25' x 35', English barn with an open porch on the south side. The ridge-line runs east-west, parallel with Sand Hill Road. The barn is sheathed with vertical board siding, unpainted, and the gable-roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The fieldstone foundation is visible along the west gable-end.

Exterior:

The north eave-side of the barn faces the road and includes the main entry which consists of a pair of double-height side-hinged doors with original iron strap hinges. The eave of the roof has a deep overhang. There are no other features on this side of the barn. The fieldstone foundation is visible along the west gable-end of the barn, and a six-pane window is found in the gable-peak.

An open porch with a shed roof encompasses the bottom 2/3 of the barn along the south eave-side, and is reached by three wooden steps. An exterior-hung sliding door with a six-pane window located just above are both centered
on the south eave-side of the barn. Above the shed roof of the porch is a series of three six-pane windows spaced evenly across this side. The eave of the roof has a deep overhang on this side also.

The open porch has a wood plank wall on the east side. The fieldstone foundation is visible along the east gable-end of the barn and two twelve-pane windows with trim are centered on this side at the ground level. A pass-through door with original iron strap hinges and a hood is just to the north of the windows. Just below the dropped girt line siding divide, at the loft level, are two 24-pane windows with trim. A pass-through door with original iron strap hinges and a hood is just to the north of the windows. Just above the girt line siding divide is a 24-pane window with trim with a six-pane window with trim just above this.

Interior:

The main entryway leads into a large space with a loft in both the east and west bays of the barn. Each bay measures 11’ between bents. The typical bents each include an interior post at the center, dropped tie-girts, and queen posts supporting longitudinal purlin plates at the mid-span of the common rafters. The middle bay has a concrete floor while both the east and west bays have wood plank flooring. In the east bay, the floor is raised approximately 6”. The square rule, post-and-beam framing is constructed of a mix of a few hand hewn (probably re-used from another building) and mostly circular sawn timbers. The mortise and tenon joints include tree nails that have not been sown, and protrude from the timbers. End girts are attached below the plate by mortise and tenon joints, indicating this barn was built sometime in the mid-late 19th century. These timbers appear lighter and more pre-fabricated than the heavy timbers found in earlier constructed barns. The common rafters meet at the ridge where a hay fork track is evident, but contains no hay fork. Wood planks make up the roof deck.

A built-in ladder leads to the loft in the west bay, but is also reached by a staircase with eleven risers. The loft has plywood flooring and a railing constructed of heavy timbers. In the north half of the east bay is the other loft which is reached by a curved staircase. Wood plank flooring and a railing made of lighter timbers is found in this loft.

• 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.

The Seward-Atwell barn is an outstanding example of a square rule English barn whose original materials are in excellent condition. Sited very close to the road, this barn has never been moved and remains in its original location. The site also has significance due to the history of both the Seward and Atwell families, who were prominent local citizens. The Sewards were among the first settlers in Durham, and the Atwells had several family members who held public office.

Historical background:

Ephraim Seward (1700-1780) built the small dwelling house that underlies the present structure about 1750. The son of Durham's first settler, Caleb Seward, Ephraim was the 'first white child' born in Durham. In 1752 Henry Crane bought the house along with 'the cornmill standing on the brook with dam, tools, stocks, stones and implements that belong with mill’ (DLR 5:164). Henry (1710-1768) sold the property to his brother-in-law Joseph Francis in May of 1752. Francis's first wife, Sarah (Buck), died shortly after their marriage in 1753, and he remarried Martha (Porter) in 1758. The next owner was Jonas Bishop, who purchased the dwelling and barn in 1769. Bishop (b. 1734) had married Francis's niece, Phebe Crane, in 1763 and was one of the men who listed for Nova Scotia in 1760. Upon moving to Guilford, Bishop sold the house to his son-in-law Jesse Atwell. Born to Jesse and Mary Atwell in 1769, Jesse Atwell, Jr. married Phebe Bishop (1772-1865), in 1790. Jesse, Jr. is recorded as being a farmer, tanner, and shoemaker. His tannery along Malt Brook was later owned by a Mr. Davenport, who manufactured axes. Jesse, Jr. served in the Revolutionary War on Long Island and in 1815 was commissioned a captain of the militia by Governor John Cotton Smith. In 1830 he served as a state representative and as a justice of the peace in 1823 and 1824. The Atwells had ten children, five of whom died of dysentery between October 4 and 10, 1802. Upon Jesse's death in 1834 his two sons, George and Bishop, inherited the house. George quit-claimed his share to Bishop, who was responsible for building the
present structure around the small homestead. Bishop, like his father, was a farmer, tanner, and shoemaker. He was Durham's first representative for the Know-Nothing Party and served as a state representative. In 1837 Bishop married Rachel Fowler, the daughter of Nathan and Chloe (Davis) Fowler. Bishop and Rachel had six children: Waldo F., Charles, John C, Emogene, Georgie, and Waldo R. In 1895, Bishop's two daughters inherited the property and owned it until 1905 when they sold it out of the family (Hall).

A woman named Gladys (last name unknown) was born in the house on this property c. 1920. Her family owned the property until c. 1930 when they had to sell it due to the Great Depression. However, in 1950, the Camozzi family purchased the property, and it became a part of the Camozzi Farm. Around this same time, Gladys married a man from the Camozzi family, and returned to the house she was born in. This property was used as a farm until the 1970s when much of the land was sold off to build modern 20th century houses. Originally, this property was a large farm that occupied the land up to Sand Hill. Howard and Betsy Davis purchased the property c. 1980, who owned it for approximately 20 years before Thomas and Heather Kannam purchased it in 1999. When the land was used for agricultural purposes, the barn housed animals and farm equipment. When the Davises owned the property, the barn was used to store antiques and old farm equipment. Currently, the barn is used for storage.

Architectural significance:

The Seward-Atwell barn is an outstanding example of an English barn whose original materials are in excellent condition. Sited very close to the road, this barn has never been moved and remains in its original location. This is also a wonderful example of a barn transitioning from the use of heavy hand hewn timbers to the lighter more prefabricated and pre-cut timbers predominately used in the late 19th century.

The site also has significance due to the history of both the Seward and Atwell families, who were prominent local citizens during their time. The Sewards were among the first settlers in Durham, and the Atwells had several family members who held positions in the public offices.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 9/18/2012.

Interview with Thomas and Heather Kannam - 9/18/2012, 25 Sand Hill Road, Durham, CT.

Map resources:


Parcel ID: D0064100


Aerial views from:


Historical aerial photography and maps accessed on 10/3/2012 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: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories – accessed 10/1/2012.


5. Northwest context view of the barn (on the left) and the house (on the right), camera facing southeast.

6. Southeast context view of the house, shed (both on the left) and the barn (on the right), camera facing northwest.

8. West eave-side (main façade) of the house, camera facing east.

10. West and south sides of the chicken coop, camera facing northeast.

13. West gable-end of the barn, camera facing east.

14. West gable-end and south eave-side of the barn, camera facing northeast.
15. South eave-side of the barn, camera facing north.

16. East gable-end of the barn, camera facing west.

18. Interior view of the purlin plate and queen post with the mortise and tenon joints and tree nails. Note: the circular saw marks on the timber. Camera facing west.

20. Interior view of the roof framing. Note: the common rafters, wood planks and hay fork track.
21. Interior view of the loft level of the east end of the barn, camera facing east.

22. Interior view of the loft level of the west end of the barn. Note: the built in ladder. Camera facing west.