**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.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Bona Farmstead</th>
<th>Record No. 19968</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Bona, Louis, Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>1597 New London Turnpike</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Glastonbury</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>John Bona, 1597 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT 06033</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: **Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding**

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 **c. 1850**

### Material(s)

- [X] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [X] Asphalt Siding
- [ ] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [ ] Concrete (Type ______________)
- [ ] Cut Stone (Type ______________)
- [ ] Other ______________

### Structural System

- [X] Wood Frame
- [X] Post & Beam
- [ ] Balloon
- [ ] Load bearing masonry
- [ ] Structural iron or steel
- [X] Other ______________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| [X] Gable
| [ ] Flat
| [ ] Mansard
| [ ] Monitor
| [ ] Sawtooth
| [ ] Gambrel
| [ ] Shed
| [ ] Hip
| [ ] Round
| [ ] Other ______________

### Roof

- [X] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Roll Asphalt
- [ ] Tin
- [ ] Slate
- [X] Asphalt Shingle
- [ ] Built up
- [ ] Tile
- [ ] Other ______________

### Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions: 30' x 40'

### Structural Condition: [X] Excellent

Exterior Condition: [X] Excellent

Location Integrity: ☐ On original site ☐ Moved When? ______________

Alterations? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain: ______________

### FOR OFFICE USE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District: ☐ S ☐ NR</td>
<td>If NR, Specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- ✔ Barn
- ✔ Shed
- □ Garage
- □ Carriage House
- □ Shop
- ✔ Garden
- ✔ Other landscape features or buildings: fruit orchards, man made lake

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 Kristen Young Date 12/5/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Todd Levine Date 12/10/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.692703, -72.564687

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 approximately 48 acres located on the east side of New London Turnpike. A long driveway extends to the east off New London Turnpike and leads past Barn I on the south side and ends at the east side of the house. There are two barns, a shed, and a modern house on this property. The c. 2010 house and hip-roofed brick and clay tile barn (Barn II) are to the southeast of the English bank barn (Barn I). The shed is directly to the east of Barn I. A man-made lake and dam are to the southeast of Barn I. A flower garden with a fieldstone wall is directly to the southeast of the shed. Surrounding the buildings on the property are old orchard trees, now overgrown with trees and bushes.

The c. 2010 house has a large expansive wrap-around porch. The main entry is located on the north eave-side of the house. Three roof-dormers are located above the porch roof. An attached garage is found on the east gable-end of the house.

Barn II is a 1-story square hip-roofed structure of brick and clay tile masonry, similar to typical apple barns of the 20th century, with a basement, used for storage of fruit. The north side has a double door with diagonal wood planking; the east side has six bays marked by brick pilasters, infilled with clay tile walls. Three bays have multi-paned steel industrial-sash windows. The west and south sides are similar. The west side has an exposed basement wall with access to the basement for storage of fruit.

This property is located on New London Turnpike, which runs approximately through the center of the Town of Glastonbury, almost parallel to Route 2 (which is to the east of the property). To the west of the property is the Connecticut River. Two open space, the Woods at Glastonbury and JB Williams Park, are located to the northeast. Many modern 20th century developments and condominiums have been built in the area, surrounding the property.

Glastonbury has four National Register historic districts, the Glastonbury Historic District, also a Local Historic District, at Hebron Avenue and Main Street in the town center (to the northwest of the site); the Glastonbury-Rockv Hill Ferry Historic District (southwest of the site); the Curtisville Historic District (west of the town center); the J. B. Williams Historic District (northwest of the site); the South Glastonbury Historic District and several individually-listed buildings. The New London Turnpike site is close to many of the recognized historic resources in Glastonbury, most of which are related to the proximity of the Connecticut River and the prime agricultural land along its banks.

• 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. 2010</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I – English bank</td>
<td>c. 1850</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II – Fruit storage</td>
<td>c. 1940</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>c. 1850</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This is a three-bay 1 ½-story with basement English bank barn with a shed-roofed addition. The ridge-line runs approximately north-south, perpendicular to this portion of New London Turnpike. The barn is clad in asphalt siding made to resemble brick. The shingles cover the vertical board siding which is found underneath. It has a mortared fieldstone foundation and an asphalt shingled roof. The addition has vertical board siding, a concrete foundation, and an asphalt shingle roof.

Exterior:

The main entry is located on the east eave-side of Barn I, and consists of a pair of double-height side-hinged doors with what appear to be original iron strap hinges. Set within the northern most leaf of the door is a small weather
door with original iron strap hinges. Attached to the northernmost bay of Barn I, and extending to the east, is the 1-story shed-roofed addition. Two open wagon bays are found on the south side of the addition. There are no features on the east, north or west sides of the addition.

The grade declines slightly along the north gable-end of Barn I, revealing a mortared fieldstone foundation. There are no other features found on this side.

The grade further declines along the west eave-side of the barn, revealing a full basement. Set within the mortared fieldstone wall is a pass-through door, located in the middle bay of the west eave-side of Barn I. To the south of this is a window opening. Found in the middle bay of the upper story is a two-pane window with trim.

The grade gradually rises to the east along the south gable-end of Barn I. Near the west corner of the basement is a pass-through door, set within the mortared fieldstone wall. To the east is a window opening, now boarded. Above the door, in the upper story is a section of the barn where the asphalt siding has come off, revealing the vertical board siding beneath. There are no other features on this side of Barn I.

**Interior:**

The interior of the barn is accessed by the double-height side-hinged doors found on the east eave-side of the barn. A large open space is revealed upon entering the interior of the barn. Wood plank walls and floors are found inside. The construction is square rule post-and-beam framing with mortise and tenon joints pegged together with tree nails. Hand hewn marks and sawn marks are both found on the timbers throughout the barn. Vertical queen posts support purlin plates at the mid-span of the rafters. The girts are dropped and attached to the posts by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Common rafters of sawn dimension lumber meet at the peak with no ridge-board, apparently replaced, reflecting late 19th-century technology. The roof deck is made of narrow spaced wood planks with wood shingles behind them. The wood shingles are believed to be the original roof material.

The basement of the barn is accessed by the pass-through door found on the south gable-end. A large open space with a dirt floor and mortared fieldstone walls is revealed upon entering the interior of the basement. A concrete floor is found along the east eave-side of the barn, where the cow stalls and stanchions once were. A manure gutter made of concrete was laid in the dirt floor, running north-south along the concrete floor. Whitewash is still extant on the timbers, indication of dairy use.

- **Historical or Architectural importance:**

**Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:**

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; history of immigrant farmers.
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This is an outstanding example of an English bank barn with a hand hewn post and beam frame. The barn still sits in its original location, and the landscape immediately surrounding the barn is largely intact. The property gains significance through its association with the Bona family, Italian immigrants who moved to rural Connecticut during the early 20th century. They operated a fruit farm, a common practice of Italian immigrant farmers in the Glastonbury area.

**Historical background:**

In the early 1900s, Louis Bona, an Italian immigrant, purchased this property which included the English bank barn (Barn I), the shed, and a small farmhouse. He started a fruit orchard which had apples, pears, and peaches. The Bonas also had a few dairy cows, and work animals who were housed in the English bank barn. During the late 1940s, Louis Bona built the hip-roof brick barn (Barn II) to be used to store farm equipment in the upper level and cold storage of apples in the basement. After Louis Bona’s death, two of his children acquired the property. The property continued to function as an orchard until the late 1990s. In 2002, John Bona and his brothers inherited the property from their aunt. The old farmhouse was demolished c. 2010, and a new house erected near the site. John Bona, Louis Bona’s grandson, currently lives on the property. The English bank barn is currently used for storage.
Barn II is currently used for storage and the basement still functions as cold storage for apples. The shed has a 20th-century-style hip roof, possibly a replacement.

**Architectural significance:**

This is an outstanding example of an English bank barn that has post-and-beam framing with hand-hewn marks on the timbers. The original materials are still intact and have been very well maintained. The barn evidently pre-dates the Bona family and was in use for dairy by a previous owner. The barn still sits in its original location, and the land immediately surrounding the barn is still a parcel of agricultural land. The loss of the historic farmhouse and suburban development in the vicinity detract somewhat from the significance of the site, however, the immediate surroundings with extant pear orchard and barns retain the agricultural character of the property.

The property gains significance through its association with the Bona family. The Bonas, an Italian immigrant family, moved to rural Connecticut during the early 20th century to start farming. They started a fruit farm which was a common practice of Italian immigrant farmers in the Glastonbury area. Furthermore, the property has remained in the Bona family for over 100 years.

* Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 12/5/2012.

Interview with John Bona - 12/5/2012, 1597 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT.

**Map resources:**

Glastonbury Tax Assessor's Records accessed 12/10/2012 -

http://data.visionappraisal.com/GlastonburyCT/search.asp Parcel ID: G8/ 4760/ N0049


Aerial views from:


Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 12/10/2012 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 12/10/2012: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories


5. East context view of Barn II (on the left), Barn I, and the shed (on the right). Camera facing west.

6. Northwest context view of the house (on the left), the shed, Barn II in the background, and the shed-roof addition of Barn I. Camera facing southeast.
7. North context view of the pear orchard trees in the distance on the hill. Camera facing south.

8. North eave-side (main façade) and west gable-end of the house. Camera facing southeast.

10. South side of the shed, camera facing north.


15. West eave-side and south gable-end of Barn I. Camera facing northeast.

17. South gable-end and east eave-side of Barn I. Camera facing northwest.

19. Interior view of the southeast corner of Barn I. Note the post-and-beam framing with the dropped girt. Camera facing southeast.

20. Interior view of the south gable-end of Barn I. Note the roof with common rafters meeting in the middle with no ridge-board. Camera facing south.

22. Interior view of the east eave-side of the basement of Barn I. Note the concrete floor with the concrete manure gutter. Camera facing east.

24. Image of the site from 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph, compared with Google Map view today; http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html. Large areas of orchards in the 1930s are indicated by the regular row pattern; this are now largely replaced by suburban residential development and space preserves.