Guilford
Holcomb, Medad, Farmstead / Dudley, Erastus, Farmstead
2814 Long Hill Road
Domizi, Susan F., 2814 Long Hill Road, Guilford CT 06437

Domestic: secondary structure; Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

Barn I: 34' x 60'; see continuation sheets.

North Guilford

Historic Use: English barn, Vernacular style

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain______________________________

Style of building English barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 18th-20th 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 wood siding

Structural System

☑ Wood Frame ☑ Post & Beam ☐ Balloon ☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☑ Other Square rule framing

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 Barn I; 34' x 60'; see continuation sheets.

Structural Condition:

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Deteriorated
Exterior Condition:

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☑ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Location Integrity: ☐ On original site ☐ Moved When? ________________
Alterations? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain: New shed - rear of Saltbox barn, corn crib converted to garage

For Office Use:

District: ☐ S ☐ NR If NR, Specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

☑ Barn ☑ Shed ☑ Garage ☐ Carriage House ☐ Shop ☑ Garden
☐ Other landscape features or buildings: **Well, 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 Charlotte Hitchcock ___________________________ Date 4/24/2012

View Multiple Views ___________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock ___________________________ Date 5/10/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

*Latitude, Longitude: 41.358144, -72.731461*

Threats to the building or site:

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

☑ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☐ Other ___________________________ ☐ Explanation ___________________________

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• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:
The property is located on the west side of Long Hill Road in North Guilford, a village in the northwest part of the town of Guilford. This is a mostly residential area with some agriculture. Long Hill Road runs roughly north-south near the western border of the town, with its elevation rising gradually toward the north. The site is to the south of the village center at the junction of Long Hill and Ledge Hill Roads. There the Meetinghouse Hill National Register Historic District is focused on two historic churches located on Ledge Hill Road and forming the historic center of the farming community of North Guilford. Six miles to the south, centered on the Guilford Town Green, is the Guilford Town Center National Register Historic District, a large district encompassing much of the town between the West River and East Creek; within this area are two Local Historic Districts.

The farmstead is located on 5.84 acres stretching from County Road on the west to Long Hill Road on the east. Structures on the site include a farmhouse, two barns, a shed connecting the main barn to the house, additions to the main barn, a corn crib converted to a garage, an outhouse, an icehouse, and a shed used as a workers’ dormitory.

The farmhouse, built in 1805 in a Federal style, is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed structure 32’ x 40’ set back from Long Hill Road with its main gable-roofed ridge-line oriented north-south parallel to the road. The house has a five-bay eave- façade facing east toward the road, with the entry door in the center under a pedimented surround (not original). The windows, two flanking the entry on each side and five in the second floor level, are six-over-six double-hung with square casings. A historic photograph provided by the owner shows a different style entry surround and a Palladian window in the center of the upper floor. A roofed porch shown in the historic photo has been replaced by a 1-story hip-roofed addition wrapping around the southwest corner of the building. A 2 ½-story gable-roofed ell extends west from the northwest corner of the house. The house is clad in wood shingle siding, although the historic photograph indicates clapboard siding at an earlier time. The roof has overhangs with boxed softits and deep cornice returns. The roof is wood shingles. Two chimneys project from the roof ridge, symmetrically spaced above the walls of a center hall. The owner described evidence of the removal of an original center chimney in the 1850s, leaving defects in the framing which caused structural problems.

Barn I, the main barn, is connected to the rear (west) of the ell by a 1-story shed. Attached at the west end of Barn I are a dairy shed at the southwest corner and a milk room at the northwest. The concrete foundation of a silo is located near the north wall of Barn I, outside the western bay. Barn II, the “Saltbox barn,” is located southwest of the house with its saltbox addition to the west. Southwest of Barn II is the Icehouse, and southeast of Barn II is a relocated corn crib converted to a garage. To the northwest of Barn I near the north property line is a long 1-story gable-roofed building with massing similar to a chicken coop, but which was used as a dormitory for workers.

To the west of the barn complex is a large open hay field that extends west. Between the field and County Road is a stream surrounded by trees. Several large shade trees are grouped around the southeast corner of the property where an unpaved drive enters south of the house and dead-ends against Barn II. A belt of trees also lines the north edge.

• 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>Type</th>
<th>Barn II (Saltbox barn)</th>
<th>Barn I (Main barn)</th>
<th>Shed I</th>
<th>Shed II</th>
<th>Milk room addition</th>
<th>Shed IV (Worker housing)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>1805</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Barn I (Main barn)</td>
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<td>Shed I</td>
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<td>early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk room addition</td>
<td>early 20th c.</td>
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<td>Shed IV (Worker housing)</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
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Barn I – Main barn:

This is an approximately 34’ x 60’ 2 1/2-story eave-entry gable-roofed English barn modified to an extended partial bank barn. The main facade faces south and the ridge-line of the barn is oriented east-west. The barn has four bays. The eastern three bays appear to be the earliest structure, with a central barn door in the center bay accessed via an
earthen ramp. Grade slopes down gradually toward the left (west). The left (west) bay of the three and the added fourth bay to the west, have a raised main floor level and a basement level opening to a lower grade.

**Exterior:**

The south eave-side has a pair of exterior-mounted sliding doors. A patched area in the siding above the doorway indicates formerly taller doors or a transom light above. The earthen ramp is edged on the west by an un-mortared fieldstone retaining wall making the transition to the lower level. The basement level of the left (west) bays is infilled with siding and has an opening flanked by two stable window openings without sash. An additional doorway opening is at the left corner where Barn I adjoins Shed II. At the loft level of the left bay there is a hinged hay door.

The west gable-end of Barn I has a three-pane attic window near the peak above a pair of hinged hay doors. At the main and basement levels the Milk room addition and the Shed II (Dairy) addition are attached. A single stable window opening without sash is near the left (north) corner, giving light into the basement level.

The north eave-side of Barn I includes from left (east) to right (west): the three-bay structure with a pair of full-height exterior-mounted sliding doors in the center bay; an added fourth bay with a projecting shed-roofed tall addition, apparently a connection to the former silo, whose foundation is adjoining, and stable window openings without sash near the right corner and east of the silo, giving light into the basement level.

The east gable-end of Barn I has an attic window near the peak and has Shed I attached to the left (south) half of the gable-end.

The vertical wood siding on the body of the barn is painted white with the trim and the doors painted gray. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has deep overhangs at the eaves and rakes, with finished sloping soffits and a convex molding trim along the fascias. The roof had a hip-roofed cupola as late as 1981, seen in a Historic Resource Inventory photograph.

**Interior:**

The structure visible at the interior is a square rule post and beam frame. The three-bay structure, which appears to be the original portion, consists of four lateral bents forming the three bays. Each bent is made up of a mix of hewn and sawn members with dropped tie girts, two intermediate posts in each bent, and a queen-post system at the roof level supporting longitudinal purlins which carry the common rafters. The queen posts are offset wider apart than the main level posts below. The upper tie beam at the top of the queen posts has been removed for placement of a hay track which is extant, including the horse fork. Some diagonal bracing has been added to stabilize the queen posts.

The westernmost bay can be seen to be an addition – the plate at the eave line and the purlin are spliced at the outer face of the fourth bent and the wall girts are framed more lightly than the three-bay portion. The floor level is raised approximately three feet in the third and fourth bays at the west end, allowing a basement cow stable under that area, where the grade slopes down toward the west.

Rafters are of sawn dimension lumber with a ridge board, suggesting possible replacement at the time of adding the last bay. Flooring is wood planking, with significant deflection in the center bay near the north doors.

The basement under the two western bays is configured as a ground level stable barn, with a concrete slab floor and two manure gutters running north-south. The cows were evidently arranged in two rows with heads facing apart. Wood stanchions remain in the eastern row, with metal water bowls attached. The ceiling is whitewashed, further evidence of the dairy stable use.

**Shed I – Connector:**

This shed is a 1-story structure approximately 16’ x 46’ connecting Barn I with the Farmhouse. The eastern portion is in the form of a wagon shed, with a wide opening facing south to the farmyard and chamfered upper corners. Inside, steps lead to the back door of the farmhouse. The western portion has saltbox-type extensions to the south and north, and appears to have been a workshop. A hand pump is located inside the western portion. The framing
of the shed consists of a mix of partially finished round logs with sawn dimension lumber, and the owner tells of removing an old wood shingle roof that had hand-cut nails. This shed is thought to be an 18th-century structure moved to this location as a connector, with later modifications.

**Shed II – Dairy addition:**

This is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure 14’ x 24’ with its ridge-line oriented east-west. It is attached at the west gable-end of Barn I but offset slightly southward of Barn I’s south wall. The lower grade level is arranged as a ground level stable barn for one row of dairy cows facing north. Metal stanchions remain in place. Above appears to be a hay loft. The south eave-side is in poor condition with missing siding, but appears to have had three stable window openings toward the west corner and a wide door opening toward the east. The interior can also be accessed through a pass-through opening from Barn I. A hay door is located at the upper loft level off-center toward the right (east). The west gable-end has an attic window near the peak. The north eave-side is blank, and is very close to the Milk room. Siding is vertical wood, and roofing is asphalt shingles.

**Milk room addition:**

The Milk room is a 10’ x 12’ 1-story gable-roofed structure located to the west of Barn I, connected by a short passageway. It has a small six-pane window in the west gable-end and in the north eave-side, asphalt shingle siding, and an asphalt shingle roof.

**Barn II ("Saltbox barn" – wagon repair shop):**

This is a 1 1/2-story eave-entry barn, approximately 28’ x 46’. The main facade faces east and the gabled ridge-line of the barn is oriented north-south.

**Exterior:**

The main facade has a double-height sliding door mounted on overhead exterior hardware and centered on the facade so that it slides to the south. Flanking this central door are pairs of shorter side-hinged barn doors. High above each of these side-hinged doors are the signs of previous openings which have been sealed. The area directly in front of the south facade ramps up slightly to the facade and is paved.

On the south gable-end of the barn, the saltbox profile slopes down toward the west to a 1-story western side. The vertical siding is deteriorated at the base of the wall and the fieldstone base is visible. There is a square opening framed with only a sill and lintel in this western half and a horizontal, six-pane window is centered high in the gable attic, again framed only with a wood sill and lintel. A shed addition extends westward; this is a modern replacement of an earlier shed addition. This addition has no openings on the south side. Un-matching paint and old aerial photos indicate the previous existence of a shed along the base of this facade. As recalled by Penny Colby, the barns were painted yellow in the 1970s.

The west eave-side has two large openings with overhead garage doors. The north gable-end has no openings on the shed addition and two framed openings, similar to the south elevation, equally spaced on the first floor, while a small opening is centered high in the gable attic. The vertical siding on the body of the barn is painted white with the trim and the doors painted grey. The roof is partially asphalt shingles and partially wood shingles.

**Interior:**

This structure was relocated to this site, and appears to be a hybrid of various types of framing. The main block is a three-bay English style barn structure; however the framing appears irregular, with a row of posts dividing the interior into an eastern three bays and a western lower three-bay section, as if a variety of timbers were reused.

The upper loft level is accessible via a stairway, and contains a wooden hoisting wheel described as either for wagon repair or for slaughtering. In addition, a steel channel oriented north-south supports a hoisting motor used by the present owner in the 20th century for building prototype machines for laser cutting.
Shed III – Corn crib:

This building has been converted to a garage. It is an 18’ x 36’ wood-framed gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south and the outward-canted walls typical of the corn crib. Unlike the typical crib, it has a full concrete foundation wall on three sides, with the north end open down to grade and having a pair of unequal-width hinged doors, the right leaf bi-folding. A shed addition along the west side extends the width of the structure and has an opening in the north end with an overhead door. The siding is flush vertical boards with no air spaces, again not like the typical corn crib. The east side has no openings, the south gable-end has a stable type window in the main gable and in the shed addition. The south side has no openings. Roofing is wood shingles on the east and asphalt shingles on the west pitch.

Outhouse:

A shed-roofed outhouse is located adjacent to the west side of Shed III. It has a door in the north wall, and vertical wood siding painted white with gray trim and door.

Icehouse:

The icehouse is a gable-roofed 1-story structure, 14’ square, with its ridge-line oriented north-south. An eight-foot wide concrete-walled shed addition spans the west side. The icehouse is constructed with double stud walls with horizontal sheathing, with a cavity formerly filled with straw for insulation (some remnants remain). The principal door is in the north gable-end. The exterior was covered with asphalt roll roofing, much of which is worn away. The attic gables are sided with vertical boards. The icehouse is in poor condition with holes and missing sections of siding, but the straw-filled construction can be seen. The roof is wood shingles.

Shed IV – Worker housing:

This building is a dilapidated 12’ x 40’ structure with its gable roof’s ridge-line oriented east-west. The south eave-side has four window openings whose sash are missing. There is a pass-through door at the right (east) corner and another door with a projecting vestibule off-center toward the left (west). The east gable end has two windows, while the west gable-end has a concrete block masonry chimney. Siding is asphalt shingles and roofing is asphalt shingles.

• 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.

This farm complex represents an unusually intact group of buildings, allowing the viewer to visualize the layout of a working dairy farm. The various buildings and their additions represent the evolution of the farmstead through the 19th and 20th centuries. The original English barn was modified to create the ground level stable configuration. The connected barn layout, rare in Connecticut, is displayed here. The history of ownership by the Dudley family connects the story of this site with other barn sites nearby at 241 Elm Street and 2351 Durham Road (see State Register nominations), also owned at various times by Erastus Dudley and other Dudley family members.

Historical background:

North Guilford was not settled until long after Guilford. It was first divided in 1705, and, as the Guilford historian Bernard Steiner records, “Soon after this, men were accustomed to go up from the First Society on Monday of each week to clear their lands and to return on Saturday. From the circumstance of their dwelling together through the week, the place began to be called Cohabit, a name which it long retained.” Farms were widely scattered and the population thin, as they have remained to this day. Nevertheless, barely ten years later the “North farmers of Guilford” petitioned for a minister, and in 1717 land was allotted to them for a meeting house (Brown, Section 8).
Settlement accelerated when permission was granted for the Second Church or North Society. This farmhouse was constructed by Medad Holcomb in 1805, and sold in 1809 to Reverend William Vaill and his wife. Rev. Vaill was pastor of the North Guilford Congregational Church nearby to the north.

The house and land were purchased by Erastus Dudley in 1841, when he moved here from the Dudley Farm at the corner of Durham Road and today’s Route 80. The property remained in the Dudley family through the first half of the 20th century, with John Dudley, who ran a dairy farm in the early- to mid- 1900s, living here with his sister Sophia until around 1950. Barn I appears to date from the middle of the 19th century, under the Dudley ownership, with its various additions occurring later, including the connecting shed inserted between the barn and house. The roof overhang and soffit suggest late 19th-century style. The introduction of the ground level dairy cow stable is typical of the early 1900s as are the silo and Milk room. The worker housing appears to be contemporary with the Milk room.

Barn II, the “Saltbox barn,” is considered to have been a wagon repair shop or a slaughterhouse, and was moved here from a location along Route 80. The owner recalls that there was formerly a sign for Webber wagons, which were sold and repaired here. Since the Domizis have owned the property, David Domizi has used Barn II for fabricating machinery during the years he was starting his laser cutting business, now headquartered elsewhere.

Architectural significance:

This farm complex represents an unusually intact group of buildings, allowing the viewer to visualize the layout of a working dairy farm. The various buildings and their additions represent the evolution of the farmstead through the 19th and 20th centuries. The original English barn was modified to create the ground level stable configuration. The connected barn layout, rare in Connecticut, is displayed here. The typical habit of moving buildings and refitting old ones for new uses, can be seen here in the connected shed, in Barn II relocated to this site, and in the re-use of the chicken coop. The history of ownership by the Dudley family connects the story of this site with other barn sites nearby on Elm Street and Durham Road, also owned at various times by Erastus Dudley and other Dudley family members.

Sources (continuation):


Map resources:

Town of Guilford Assessor’s Records & GIS Viewer http://www.guilfordgis.com/ Parcel ID: 104018
UTM coordinates: http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html

Print and internet resources:


3. Site plan detail showing contributing structures at 2814 Long Hill Road, Guilford CT – from http://www.guilfordgis.com/

4. Historic photograph showing, left to right, Barn II, Barn I, Farmhouse. Photograph courtesy of David Domizi, date unknown.
5. Southeast view of farmhouse, camera facing northwest.

6. Southwest view, camera facing east. The house west ell and porch addition are at rear. To its left is Shed I, Barn I, Shed II (Dairy addition). At right is the west saltbox addition to Barn II.
7. Farmhouse interior view of center hall and stair (added c. 1850 when center chimney was removed), camera facing northwest.

8. South view of Barn I, the main barn, camera facing northwest. At far left is Shed II (Dairy addition) and at right foreground is Shed I.
9. Northeast view of Shed I attached to farmhouse (left), and Barn I, the main barn, camera facing southwest.

10. Northwest view of farmhouse (far left rear), Shed I, Barn I with silo foundation and projecting connector, Milk room, and Shed II (Dairy addition), camera facing southeast.
11. Northeast view of Barn I with Shed I at left, camera facing southwest.

12. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing northwest, showing typical interior bent (west end bent of the original portion) and fourth bay construction. Hay track and fork are visible at the ridge.
13. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing north. At left is the raised floor structure of the western bays, at center are the north barn doors.

14. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing northeast. At right the barn is open to Shed I.
15. Interior view of Barn I basement showing ground level stable barn dairy layout with wood stanchions and iron water bowls, camera facing northeast.

16. South view of Shed I with Barn I beyond, camera facing northwest.
17. Southwest view of Shed I with Farmhouse beyond, camera facing northeast. A portion of the south wall appears to be a large boulder with rubble masonry above.

18. Interior view of roof structure of Shed I as seen from the interior of Barn I, camera facing east.
19a-b. Interior views of Shed I, camera facing southeast.

20. South view of Shed II with Barn I to the right, camera facing north.
21. Northwest view of Milk room with Shed II beyond and the west gable-end of Barn I at left, camera facing southeast.

22. Southeast view of Barn II “Saltbox barn,” camera facing northwest.
23. Northeast view of Barn II (Saltbox barn), camera facing southwest.

24. Interior view of Barn II, upper level, wooden hoisting wheel in center bay, near east wall, camera facing northeast.
25. Interior view of Barn II, upper level, steel channel with motorized hoist in south bay center, camera facing southwest.

27. Southeast view of Shed III, corn crib converted to garage, camera facing northwest.

28. West view of Shed III and Outhouse, camera facing east.
29. Southeast view of Icehouse, camera facing northwest.

30. Southwest view of Icehouse, camera facing northeast.
31. Northwest view of Icehouse with west side of Barn II at left, camera facing east.

32. South view of Shed IV, Worker housing, camera facing north.