**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Spencer, Hubbard, Farmstead</th>
<th>Record No. 46841</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Spencer, Hubbard, Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>39 Christian Hill Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Haddam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Higganum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Kevin &amp; Tracy Lacomb, 39 Christian Hill Road, Higganum CT 06441</td>
<td>Public, Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 If yes, explain ________________________________

Style of building Carriage barn, Stick style

Date of Construction Late 19th c.

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

- ☑ Wood Frame
- ☑ Post & Beam
- ☑ Balloon
- ☑ Load bearing masonry
- ☑ Structural iron or steel

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

Roof (Material)

- ☑ Wood Shingle
- ☑ Roll Asphalt
- ☑ Tin
- ☑ Slate
- ☑ Asphalt Shingle

- ☑ Built up
- ☑ Tile
- ☑ Other

Number of Stories: 1 1/2

Approximate Dimensions 30' x 40'

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: ____________________________

FOR OFFICE USE:

- Town #
- Site #
- UTM

- 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: pool

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 6/14/2013

View Multiple Views _________________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young _________________________________ Date 7/19/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude:
  41.496314, -72.566469

Threats to the building or site:

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Other ____________________________
- Explanation ____________________________

See continuation sheet.
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:
This barn sits on 2.6 acres of land on the south side of Christian Hill Road. A driveway extends to the south off the road and leads past the west side of the farmhouse, ending at the north side of the barns. There are two barns on this property, both of which are to the southwest of the house. Barn I, a Carriage barn, is directly to the south of Barn II. A pool is to the southeast of the barns. Trees line the west and east borders of the property, separating it from the parcels to the west and east. Forested land is directly to the south, located in the south portion of this parcel.

The 2-story Farmhouse with which this barn is associated is set back from the road, has a hip roof, and was built c. 1875. It has many Gothic Revival and Stick style decorative elements including decorative trusses in the gable ends and bargeboards. A porch is on the north side of the house, and has decorative narrow posts holding up the roof. The main entry is located within the porch and has a transom window just above the door. A two-over-two double-hung window with shutters is to the west of the door. Above are two two-over-two double-hung windows with shutters. The house is clad in clapboard siding painted blue with asphalt shingles on the roof.

Barn II is a vernacular style 1 ½-story two-bay gable-roofed barn or workshop building with a pair of hinged doors in the east gable-end, flanked by six-over-six double hung windows. A hinged hay door is located above for access to a loft level. The north and south eave-sides each have two similar windows while the west gable-end has three. Some sash have been replaced with one-over-one. In the northwest corner a steep stair provides access to the loft level. The structure is a hybrid of heavy timber and balloon framing, with an un-mortared fieldstone foundation and a wood-framed main level floor over a crawl space. It has vertical siding painted red with black trim.

This property is located in the Higganum district of Haddam, in the north portion of town. Christian Hill Road extends to the west off Saybrook Road (Rte. 154), which runs through the east half of Haddam, along the Connecticut River. The property is one mile to the west of the Connecticut River, and half a mile to the west of the center of Higganum. Three and a half miles to the southeast is the center of Haddam, where both the Haddam Center National Register Historic District and the James Hazelton House, also listed on the National Register, are located. Other sites in Higganum included in the thematic nomination of agricultural heritage sites to the State Register of Historic Places are: the Hubbard Spencer Farmstead at 37 Christian Hill Road, the Captain John Smith Farmstead at 95 Jacoby Road, the Stephen Tibbals Farmstead at 516 Little City Road, and the Orrin Freeman Farmstead at 37 Maple Avenue.

One mile to the north are the borders of both Middletown and East Hampton. Approximately three miles to the west is the border of Durham, and four miles to the east is East Haddam. George Dudley Seymour State Park is on the east side of the river, a mile to the east of the property, and Higganum Reservoir State Park is a half mile to the south. Surrounding the property is forested land and residential properties.

• 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>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>c. 1875</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:
This is an approximately 30’ x 40,’ 1 ½-story, gable-roof Carriage barn with an addition built during the late 19th-century. The ridge-line runs approximately north-south, perpendicular to Christian Hill Road which runs east-west. A hipped-roof cupola is centered atop the ridge-line of the barn and has louvered vents on all four sides. The barn is sheathed in vertical board siding painted red with black trim. Fish scale wood shingles are in both the gable-ends of
the barn, providing a decorative element. Decorative brackets and trusses are found in the gable-ends of the barn as well, both indications of stick style. The roof has asphalt shingles and the foundation is poured concrete.

**Exterior:**

The east eave-side of the barn has an open entry, which is reached by a ramp, and appears to have once been a pair of interior-hung sliding doors with trim. Just above this is a pair of hay doors with trim and diagonal bracing. A gable-roof dormer with decorative brackets and truss protrude over the hay doors. Fish scale shingles are found in this gable peak, just above the doors. To the south of the entry is what used to be an opening that has now been sealed. It is the belief this is where a farm stand once operated. Just above this is a six-over-six double-hung window with trim. The addition is attached to the south corner of the east eave-side of the barn, extending to the east. The addition wraps around the south gable-end of the barn, encompassing the lower half of that side.

An open pass-through entry is located on the north side of the addition. A hay door sized opening is in the gable-peak of the east side, and the east half of the south side of the addition is open. The west half has no openings. There are no openings on the west side of the addition. The south gable-end of the barn has a one-over-one double-hung window with trim in the gable attic. There are no openings along the west eave-side of the barn.

The north gable-end of the barn has two single-pane windows with trim along the lower level. A one-over-one double-hung window with trim is in the gable attic. There are no other features on this side besides the fish scale wood shingles, decorative brackets, and a decorative truss.

**Interior:**

The barn is accessed by the entry on the east eave-side of the barn and by the opening in the addition. The barn has concrete floors and wood plank walls. A wall separates the north and south halves of the lower level of the barn. In the north half is storage space while the south half was once used for cold storage for fruit such as apples. The cold storage space has plywood walls, a drop ceiling, and concrete floors. A staircase in the addition leads to the upper level of the barn. This level has wood plank floors and walls. The frame is a hybrid form of post-and-beam and balloon framing techniques. Heavy timbers, typical of post-and-beam frames, are prevalent throughout the barn; however, lighter timbers typical of balloon frames are found in the gable ends. Circular saw marks are visible on the lumber throughout the barn. Both these features indicate a late-19th-century construction date. Furthermore, the timbers appear to be uniform sizes and mass produced. Heavy timbers are attached together by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. End girts are dropped and attached to corner posts by mortise and tenon joints. Common rafters meet at the peak with a ridge-board, and the roof deck is made of wood planks.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This is an intact typical example of a carriage barn from the late 19th-century with characteristic Stick-style details. The associated Farmhouse is intact as well, forming a well-preserved complex. Although surrounding environment and the usage of the barn have changed over time, it remains an example of a time when farming was abundant in this area.

**Historical background:**

The land where this barn stands was originally owned by Richard Walkley IV, a direct descendant of Richard Walkley II who was one of the first settlers of this area. Richard Walkley IV’s son, Gurdon Walkley, inherited his estate after his death in 1811. Gurdon Walkley owned over 300 acres of land in Haddam, all of which he deeded to his children upon his death. Marilla and Jane Walkley inherited this portion of his land. Marilla Walkley married Hubbard Spencer, and after inheriting this land, they moved to Higganum and built a house c. 1875. The deed mentioned a barn on the property that was to be removed by 1872. Due to the construction techniques of both barns, it is unlikely that either of them are the same barn that is mentioned in the deed. In 1881, Hubbard Spencer purchased land from his sister-in-law, Jane. He then had a total of approximately four acres of land.
In 1901, Hubbard Spencer sold his property to his son Abiathar H. Spencer who was living in Hartford at the time. Ten years later, in 1911, Abiathar H. Spencer sold this property to Howard F. Spencer, and in 1950, Elizabeth Spencer acquired the property. In 1955, the property was in the ownership of Lula D. Tuttle, and thirty years later, it was purchased by Rob and Jane Wylie. Kevin and Tracy Lacomb purchased the property in 2000 and continue to own it today. During the 1950s, this property had a fruit orchard and the produce was sold from the barn. Farming operations ceased in the 1960s, and the barns have been used for storage since then.

Architectural significance:

This is a typical example of a carriage barn from the late-19th-century. The barn has been generally well maintained and the frame is still intact. It remains in its original location, although the surrounding area has changed. However, the barn continues to stand as an example of a time when farming was prevalent in this area. The usage of the barn (from a carriage barn to apple storage/farmstand) has also changed, showing the changes farms went through over time.

Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 6/14/2013.
Interview with Tracy Lacomb - 6/14/2013, 39 Christian Hill Rd, Higganum, CT.

Map resources:

Parcel ID: 15/040

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 7/19/2013 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 7/19/2013: http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories


5. Northeast context view of Barn I (left rear) and Barn II (on the right). Camera facing southwest.

6. North context view of the Farmhouse (on the left), Barn I (in the center distance), and Barn II (right). Camera facing south.
7. East gable-end and south eave-side of Barn II. Camera facing northwest.


12. West eave-side of Barn I and west side of the addition. Camera facing east.

15. Interior view of the north gable-end of Barn I. Note the heavy timbers typical of post-and-beam framing and the lighter timbers typical of balloon framing. Camera facing north.

17. Another view of the post-and-beam frame along the east eave-side of the barn. Note the circular saw marks. Camera facing north.

18. Interior view of the roof. Note the common rafters meeting at the middle with a ridge-board. Camera facing north.