**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Brooksvale Recreation Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Brooks, Enos, Farmstead / Town Poor Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>524 Brooksvale Avenue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Town/City | Hamden |
| Village | |
| County | New Haven |

| Owner(s) | Town of Hamden, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518 |
| Public | 0 |
| Private | 0 |

**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: c. 1900

**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: Block masonry)
- ☑ Cut Stone (Type:)
- ☑ Other (Vertical board 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: I: 55' x 30', II: 50' x 22', III: 24' x 13'

**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: Sandblasting of interior.

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If NR, Specify</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Potential</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: Animal pens, pond, hiking trails, bathroom buildings, playground

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 8/22/2012

View Multiple Views _______________________________________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Charlotte Hitchcock ______________________________________ Date 8/22/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.453876, -72.920584

Threats to the building or site:

- None known  ✔  Highways  □  Vandalism  □  Developers  □  Renewal  □  Private
- Deterioration  □  Zoning  □  Other __________________  □  Explanation __________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Enos Brooks barn and house are located on a parcel of land that consists of approximately 100 acres. The Town of Hamden also owns numerous parcels surrounding the site that make up Brooksvale Recreation Park totaling of about 400 acres of land. The site is found on the west side of Brooksvale Avenue with the main driveway extending to the west, leading past the barn on the north and stopping at the main office. A portion of the driveway extends to the south and leads to a parking lot. A private driveway for the Park Ranger and his family, who live in the house, extends to the west off Brooksvale Avenue. A small portion of the driveway branches off to the north and leads to the house, while another portion heads south of the house and leads to the barn. However, a wooden fence blocks the entrance to the park from the house. The farmhouse is situated close to the road on the east side of the property. The English bank barn and additional barns are to the southwest of the farmhouse, with a corn crib directly to the east of that. A parking lot and open field with two baseball diamonds are located to the south of the house and barn, with a secondary parking lot located just to the southeast of that. To the west of the barn is the main office, and a pond is just to the northwest of the barn. Animal paddocks are located directly to the north of the barn. Forested land is found on the north, west and south borders of the property.

The main gable-façade of the 2 ½-story farmhouse faces east with the ridge-line running east-west. The vernacular style house was built c. 1900, and what was once the main entry is located in the middle of three bays. Three wooden steps lead to a small hip-roofed porch with columns. The door is centered within the porch and consists of six glazed panes and two panels below. Flanking the entryway are two six-over-six double-hung windows with trim and shutters. Found on the second floor, just above the first floor windows are two six-over-six double-hung windows with trim and shutters. In the gable-peak is a one-pane awning window with trim. Cornice returns are found on this east gable-end of the house. Attached to the southeast corner of the house is a gable-roof addition and attached to the west gable-end of the house is a shed-roof addition. Bushes, trees and flowers line the perimeter of the house.

Brooksvale Avenue extends to the west off Whitney Avenue (Rte. 10), which runs through the center of Hamden from New Haven to Cheshire. Found along Whitney Avenue are numerous commercial properties and residential neighborhoods. The site is approximately one mile from the border of Cheshire, which is to the north of Hamden. To the are residential properties, wooded land and a small pond. Just to the east of that are 20th-century residential developments. The Farmington Canal Trail is to the east, between Brooksvale Recreation Park and Whitney Avenue. Residential neighborhoods and wooded land surround the site.

• 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn III</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Crib</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

The largest structure is a tall 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed, extended English bank barn which is oriented with its ridge-line north-south. This four-bay, five-bent barn is 55’ x 30’.

Exterior:

The main entry is a pair of full-height hinged barn doors in the west eave-side. The entry is into the main level and is off-center to the left (north). The entry has access via an earthen ramp from the uphill side of the barn; the ramp has
a fieldstone retaining wall aligned with the south gable-end wall, making the transition between the upper ramp level and lower grade around the south and east sides. This structure a 4-bay block, with the entry doors in the 2nd bay from the left (north). There is a six-pane stable window in the left (north) bay. The right (south) bays are blank and some fieldstone foundation is visible as the grade begins to decline toward the southwest corner.

The south gable-end is blank at the main level, and has a square louvered vent in the attic gable near the peak. The basement is exposed at the lower grade level. There is a sliding door in the center of the basement wall, flanked by six-pane stable windows to left and right. A shallow hood with wood shingle roofing runs above the left window and the door.

The east eave-side has a sliding door at the center of the main level, and a shallow hood over the door track. This opens a story above grade in the manner of a hay door. The basement is exposed at the lower grade level, and has a brick wall 2 wythes deep (the end is exposed and visible on the south gable-end). The brick wall extends from the left (south) corner approximately ¼ of the length of the structure and has five openings, from left to right a six-pane stable window, a door, and 3 six-pane windows. The rightmost section of the basement wall has wood siding and contains a pair of hinged doors and to the right (north) a six-pane stable window.

Barn II abuts but does not overlap at the northwest corner. The north gable-end has no openings except a louvered vent in the attic gable. Grade is bermed up to meet the base of the main level.

Siding is vertical narrow tongue and groove wood siding, with a bead-board interior face, possibly tongue and groove, painted red with white window trim and corner boards.

The roof overhangs on all sides, and has purlins extending beyond the wall to support the overhand at the eave line and the center of the rake. A narrow bargeboard trim is along the rake edges. Roofing is wood shingles; there is a short gable-roofed cupola at the center of the ridge-line. Its roof aligns with the main ridge-line and its walls are covered in wood shingles.

**Interior:**

The interior of Barn I is accessed by a set of full height side-hinged doors which lead you into a large open space with wood plank flooring and the bead board face of the siding exposed on the walls. Along the north side of the west wall, found in the northernmost bay, is an approximately 15' x 5' cubby space that includes an enclosed staircase that leads down to the basement. The northernmost bay, second bay from the north and third bay from the north are all approximately 15' in length. The southernmost bay is approximately 10' in length. It appears the staircase that leads down to the basement. The northernmost bay, second bay from the north and third bay from the north are all approximately 15' in length. The southernmost bay is approximately 10' in length. It appears the interior framework was sandblasted or cleaned, as the posts and beams are light in color as if they were new. However, on some posts it is easy to see the circular saw marks indicating this barn was built sometime after the 1870s. The square rule post-and-beam framing includes mortise and tenon joints with tree nails that have not been sawn after they were inserted. Framing in the barn consists of queen posts that extend from the floor up to the rafters of the roof. The end girts are dropped and attached to the posts by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. The common rafters are attached to the plate and meet at the ridge with no ridge-board. Wood planks make up the roof deck. Along the ridge of the roof is what was once the hay fork track, which a chandelier hangs from today.

As mentioned earlier, an enclosed staircase of 13 risers leads from the first floor of Barn I to the basement. The basement is also accessed by a sliding door found on the south gable-end of the barn, and a pair of hinged doors found near the north corner of the east eave-side of the barn. This entryway on the east eave-side is currently supported by two metal columns. The interior space has concrete flooring, a brick wall along the east eave-side, mortared fieldstone walls along the north gable-end and west eave-side of the barn and vertical boards and bead boards along the south gable-end of the barn. Vertical boards are also found on the east half of the north gable-end wall. In the northwest corner of the barn is a room with brick and mortared fieldstone walls, accessed by an open bay along the east side which is also supported by a metal column. The enclosed staircase leading to the first floor of Barn I is found in this room. Hand hewn posts are found near the entryway on the south gable-end of the barn. Throughout the basement, there are modern 20th-century support braces, and whitewash on the walls indicating this barn was used as a dairy barn.
Barn II:
This is a 50' x 22', lower 1-story bank barn structure which has its ridge-line oriented east-west. Its southwest corner abuts the northeast corner of Barn I. The south eave-side is perpendicular to the east side of Barn I, forming two sides of a barnyard.

Exterior:
The south eave-side has its basement level at the barnyard grade. At the left (west) half is a wide pair of sliding doors. To the right (east) is a six-pane stable window, a pass-through door, and another six-pane stable window. The upper level has a hay door off-center to the left, above the basement doors but no other openings.

The east gable-end has a six-pane stable window, larger than those on the south side, near the left (south) corner. There is a small hay door in the main level and a louvered vent with trim in the attic near the peak. The north eave-side has an attached 1-story shed-roofed addition the full length of the barn. From left (east) to right (west) the north side of the addition has a stove-pipe penetration, two eight-pane stable windows, a pass-through door with a gabled porch roof above, an eight-pane stable window, and a pass-through door. The west gable-end has its main or upper level at grade, as the grade is bermed up along the end wall of the shed addition. In the gable-end is a pair of hinged doors and a louvered vent in the attic near the peak.

Siding is vertical boards painted red with white trim. Roofing is wood shingles; the roof has an overhang on all sides and a narrow rake trim. The north side of the addition has a concrete foundation visible.

Interior:
Barn II is accessed by a pair of exterior hung sliding doors on the south eave-side. Gravel flooring, and wood plank walls are found on the south and east walls, while mortared fieldstone is found on the west wall. Timber framing and support posts are found throughout the first floor of Barn II. The interior of Barn II is separated into two rooms. On the west side of the interior area temporary animal pens and in the east half of the barn is a workshop area with whitewash on the ceiling and walls. To the north is an entryway that leads to the interior of the shed-roof addition and along the north wall of the barn is a staircase with 13 risers that leads to the second floor, an entryway to the east leads to the workshop area in the east half. A pass-through door found near the east corner of the north wall leads to the shed-roof addition, while a pass-through door in the south side leads outside. In the addition are concrete flooring, a concrete block foundation and wall on the west side with wood planks just above, with wood plank walls on the north and south sides of the addition. Timber framing and wooden rafters with a wood plank roof deck are found in the addition.

As mentioned earlier, there is a staircase along the north wall of Barn II that leads to the second floor which consists of bead board walls and wood plank floors. The stairs lead to an open room that appears to be used as a workshop. An office is found on the east side of the second floor and is accessed by a pass-through door near the south corner. The workshop area is partitioned off by a plywood wall with an exterior hung metal grate door with a tarp. A large tarp acts as a temporary ceiling in this area. The west half of the second floor is used as storage space. Found in the west wall is a pair of hinged doors that lead outside, at grade. Square rule post-and-beam framing and the mortise and tenon joints with tree nails are visible on this floor. Circular saw marks found on the posts indicate that Barn II was built sometime after the 1870s. Common rafters meet at the ridge with no ridge-board and the roof deck consists of wood planks.

Barn III:
This is a 24’ x 13’, 1-story gable-roofed shed or garage, located as an eastward extension to the shed-roofed addition on the north side of Barn II.

Exterior:
Its north eave-side is flush with the north side of the shed-roofed addition. The south eave-side has two four-pane stable windows. The east gable-end has an overhead door. The north eave-side has a four-pane stable window near the left (east) corner. The west side is attached to Barn II, with only a portion of the attic gable extending above the
shed roof. The foundation is concrete, siding is vertical boards, painted red with white trim, and roofing is wood shingles.

Interior:

Barn III is accessed by an open bay with an overhead garage door found in the east gable-end of the barn. It is also accessed by an open bay in the east gable-end which is attached to the shed-roof addition of Barn II. The interior is a small open room with concrete flooring and bead board walls. The post-and-beam framing is square rule, and the common rafters meet at the ridge with a ridge-board. The roof deck is composed of wood planks. The common rafters, roof deck and post-and-beam framing all consist of existing whitewash indicating this small barn was used in dairy farming.

• 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.

Historical background:

This property was originally owned by Enos Brooks and was part of his farm that at the time consisted of approximately 104 acres of land. In 1861, upon the death of Enos Brooks, the land was deeded to the Town of Hamden to be used as a “Poor Farm.” Also noted in the will was the life lease for Roxana Brooks (Enos’s wife) in order to allow her to live on the property for the remainder of her life. During this era, it was encouraged for towns to care for their poor and indigent. In 1834, a committee was formed to find a place to use as an almshouse for the indigent to live. On February 15, 1850, the town acquired the Tuttle Farm to be used as a Poor Farm. However, in 1861, upon the receipt of the Enos Brooks Farm, the town moved the Poor Farm to this site on Brooksvale Avenue.

Before the establishment of a poor house, the indigent were cared for by families, who bid for the services of poor people. The subjects of this bidding then commuted their upkeep by labor. In starting the Poor House, the people of Hamden accepted a broader view of public responsibility, as the town itself took responsibility for those unable to care for themselves (Clouette & Roth).

The indigent farmed the land and lived in the farmhouse on the property, which was always under the care and supervision of a superintendent. Each year there were approximately 10 to 12 people who lived on the farm. The indigents would farm the land and use the produce as sustenance. Extra produce was sold, and the money was used to maintain roads and bridges in Hamden. Although Roxana Brooks was given the option to live in the farmhouse until her death, she moved out in 1861, and about 20 years later she moved back in before her death in the fall of 1880.

In 1890, the barn that was originally on the property burned down and in the early 1900s, the English bank barn was constructed. In 1947, the Poor Farm was turned into Brooksvale Park (the name was derived from the Brooks family name who gave the property to the town and “vale” meaning a small valley). Sometime before the original barn was destroyed, new buildings were added to the complex including the corn crib (now a sugar house) just to the west of the barn. In 1958, the town turned the park over to the Department of Parks and Recreation, and it currently remains in their care.

The whitewash found on parts of the interior of Barn I, Barn II and Barn III indicate this barn was originally used as a dairy. Today, Barn I is used for various public events, as well as storage of farm equipment and animal feed. Barn II is used for storage, office space, workspace, and to house animals. Barn III is currently used for storage of farm equipment.
Architectural significance:

These barns are architecturally significant due to their exceptional materials used such as the bead board used for the walls. The outstanding square rule framing is still intact and has been very well preserved. The posts and beams are lighter than 18th century barns, reflecting the 19th century knowledge that timbers don’t need to be so wide. These timbers appear to be more pre-fabricated. Also, these barns are significant due to the rarity of their function which was to serve on a “Poor Farm.” Original to the location, these barns remain on land used for agricultural purposes, allowing the barns to retain their agricultural functions.

The establishment of the “Poor Farm” adds historical significance to the property as well. Poor Farms and Town Farms were established in order to keep indigents and petty thieves off the streets. The intention was that the indigents would work the farm, pay off their debts, as well as provide for themselves, and have a place to live. This was a common solution to keeping people off the streets and out of trouble in numerous towns throughout Connecticut. These barns still remain and help to tell the story of their history and the history of the Town of Hamden.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young and Charlotte Hitchcock - 8/22/2012.
Interview with Vinny Lavorgna - 8/22/2012, 524 Brooksvale Avenue, Hamden, CT.

Map resources:

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed on 8/22/2012 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:

1. Location map of 524 Brooksvale Avenue, Hamden, CT - from https://maps.google.com - accessed 8/22/2012.


7. East view of the farmhouse and Barn I (seen through the trees to the left), camera facing west.

9. East gable-end (main façade) of the Poor Farm farmhouse, camera facing west.

10. South context view of the animal paddocks to the north of the barns. Camera facing north.
11. West eave-side (main façade) of the English bank barn (Barn I), camera facing east.

12. Northwest view of north gable-end of Barn I, west gable-end and north eave-side of Barn II (including the shed-roof addition), and north eave-side of Barn III. Camera facing southeast.
13. North gable-end of Barn I, north eave-side of Barn II (including shed-roof addition), and north eave-side of Barn III. Camera facing south.


17. West eave-side (main façade) and south gable-end of Barn I, note the fieldstone retaining wall extending to the west off the southwest corner of the barn. Camera facing northeast.

18. Close-up of the small cupola on Barn I, note the wood shingled roof of both Barn I and the cupola.

20. Interior view of the south gable-end of Barn I, note the queen post framing system. Camera facing south.
21. Close-up of the bead board interior walls of Barn I, camera facing south.

22. Interior view of the small cubby space in the northwest corner of Barn I, this is where the staircase is located. Camera facing north.
23. Interior view of the staircase leading down to the basement of Barn I.

24. Close-up of a post with circular saw marks found in Barn I.
25. Interior view of the southeast corner of Barn I, note the post-and-beam framing with the square rule construction technique using a mortise and tenon joint with tree nails. Camera facing southeast.

26. Interior view of the roof of Barn I, note the common rafters meeting at the ridge and the chandelier hanging from the hay fork track.
27. Interior view of the north end of the basement of Barn I, note the whitewash on the ceiling and walls. Camera facing north.

28. Interior view of the east wall of the basement of Barn I, note the wall is constructed of brick. Camera facing east.
29. Interior view of the west wall of the basement of Barn I, note the wall is constructed of mortared fieldstone. Camera facing west.

30. Interior view of the small room in the northwest corner of the basement of Barn I, note the staircase towards the left and the brick and fieldstone walls. Camera facing west.
31. Interior view of an original post and a new post near the main entryway (in the south gable-end) into the basement of Barn I. Note the hand hewn marks on the original post. Camera facing southwest.

32. Interior view of the temporary animal pens in Barn II and its shed-roof addition. Camera facing south.
33. Interior view of the shed-roof addition on Barn II and the interior of Barn III, camera facing east.

34. Interior view of the temporary animal pens in Barn II, camera facing southwest.
35. Interior view of west room, leading into the east room of Barn II. Camera facing east.

36. Interior view of the northeast corner of the east room of Barn II, camera facing northeast.
37. Interior view of the staircase in Barn II that leads to the attic area.

38. Interior view of the east side of the attic in Barn II, camera facing east.
39. Interior view of the hinged doors found on the west gable-end of Barn II, camera facing west.

40. Interior view of the southwest corner in the attic of Barn II, note the post-and-beam framing with the dropped girt. Camera facing southwest.
41. Interior view of the roof of Barn II, note the common rafters meeting at the ridge with no ridge-board.

42. Interior view of the west side of the attic in Barn II, camera facing east.
43. Interior view of Barn III, note the post-and-beam framing and the white wash found on the rafters and posts. Camera facing east.