**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.

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Building Name (Common)** Porter, Della Wilcox and Roger Fuller, Farmstead  
**Record No.** 20166

**Building Name (Historic)** Wilcox, Ephraim J., Farmstead

**Street Address or Location** 182 Church Street

**Town/City** Hebron  
**Village** Amston  
**County** Tolland

**Owner(s)** Maffessoli, Louis and Audrey, 182 Church Street, Hebron CT 06231  
**Public**  
**Private**

### 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** New England bank barn, Italianate style  
**Date of Construction** 1879

**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

**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, B

**Approximate Dimensions:** 34’ 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:** Cupola removed

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### 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: 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 Ephraim J. Wilcox

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock ________________________________  Date 5/15/2012

View Multiple Views ________________________________  Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock ________________________________  Date 5/30/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.647266, -72.359535

Threats to the building or site:

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

☑ Deterioration    ☐ Zoning    ☐ Other ________________  ☐ Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This 6.9-acre property is located on the west side of Church Street south of the village center of Hebron, where the Hebron Center Historic District is located along Main, Church, and Gilead Streets. The immediate area has historically been farmland, and open fields still remain but a mix of suburban-style home developments and institutional buildings including an elementary school and churches, have replaced some of the farmland.

A 2 ½-story Greek Revival-style farmhouse c. 1849 is located near the east property line, set behind a stone wall and lawn, with its east gable-end facing Church Street. The main block is 22' x 26' with 1 ½-story additions extending to the rear (west) and left side (south). The house is oriented gable-to-street, with its ridge-line east-west. The east gable-end is a three-bay façade indicating a side-hall layout with the entry door in the left (south) bay. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. The entry has a Greek Revival-style pilaster and cornice surround and a door flanked by sidelights with an elaborate period muntin pattern. The attic has a full pediment over a wide frieze. In the attic gable is a pair of smaller six-over-six double-hung windows. Aluminum siding has been installed over the original, including the trim. The foundation consists of massive granite block masonry. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

The house is surrounded by cleared land with scattered trees. An un-mortared fieldstone wall extends along the street frontage of the site, with a break north of the house for an unpaved driveway. Southwest of the house is a 1-story gable-roofed shed (Barn II) with its ridge-line oriented north-south and a shed addition on the west eave-side. Barn II is constructed mainly with balloon framing and is in disrepair. Northwest of the house is the Barn I, and west of it is a modern shed structure. The owner runs a business selling second-hand goods using Barn II and the yard areas. A historic photograph shows an additional smaller barn located southeast of Barn I, with its gable roof oriented north-south.

• 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. 1849</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This is a tall 1 ½-story three-bay gable-roofed New England bank barn structure approximately 40' x 40', with its ridge-line oriented east-west perpendicular to the road. The east gable-end is the principal entry façade, with a pair of paneled barn doors and a transom light above. The west end is similar, though less ornate. The south eave-side is exposed at the basement level. The east and west gable-ends combine a natural slope in the grade with retaining walls that support ramps up to the main level doors. The north eave-side is banked, with several courses of foundation extending above grade. The historic photograph indicates three basement windows in the foundation; these are now covered by growth of shrubbery.

Exterior:

The main barn doors in the east gable-end are a pair of interior sliding doors with vertical boards behind two-panel frames. Above the doorway is an ornamental lintel with projecting moldings forming a hood with ornamental brackets, sheltering a transom with five-pane sash flanking a central two-pane sash. This is in deteriorated condition, although a historic photograph shows the central pediment and shingled pent roof. Above in the attic there is a six-over-six double-hung window and in the peak of the attic gable there is stick-work trim forming an ornamental truss with a screen of vertical wood slats. There is a secondary pass-through door to the right (north) of the main door.
The north eave-side has three small window openings evenly spaced; the left (east) is a round opening, and the other two are rectangular eight-pane stable-type windows.

The west gable-end has a pair of interior sliding barn doors with an eleven-pane transom window above, and an attic window, six-over-six double-hung like its mate on the east.

The south eave-side has a sliding door in the center bay of the basement level and a door and a stable window in the right (east) bay. Above at the main level the center and left bays are, at the time of writing, damaged by the collapse of a structural post and the siding in the south wall. The right (east) bay remains intact, with a two-pane stable window.

The roof is asphalt shingles over the original wood shingles and has deep overhangs with some brackets remaining from the original set. Historic photographs show a cupola with a cross-gable roof and six-over-six windows on the sides; this is no longer extant. The barn has vertical board siding, formerly painted.

Interior:

The barn is framed with four bents forming a three-bay structure. The bents consist of four posts, two at the interior and two for the outer walls, with a dropped tie girt about two feet below the plate line. Above the tie girt a pair of queen posts are canted out to support purlin plates at the mid-span of the common rafters. The Queen posts are braced by diagonal struts roughly parallel to the plane of the rafters. Longitudinal girts connect the posts at an elevation approximately six feet below the tie girts; these are braced with angle braces and have built-in ladders on the east side of the western interior bent. The major timbers have the straight saw marks of a sash saw. Joints are square rule mortise and tenon with wood pegs. Rafters are sawn of dimension lumber with a ridge board; a metal hay track is suspended below the peak. The third bent from the east has lost its south exterior wall post, apparently from a collapse of the supporting post at the basement level, leaving the south wall open. The south eave-level plate remains in place, supported by the redundancy of the interior construction of the bent and the purlin plate. The floor and the basement south wall are severely deformed. The interior of the barn has been used most recently as a workshop, storage, and a garage.

**Historical or Architectural importance:**

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (including women’s history),
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The barn is highly significant as a high-style example of the latest design trends at the time of its construction, and as a showpiece of the work of a prominent local builder Ephraim J. Wilcox. Significance is added by the association with the Wilcox and Porter families, long-time residents of Hebron. Della Wilcox Porter’s position as Town Clerk and church organist, among other activities, place her as a significant figure in 20th-century Hebron.

**Historical background:**

The barn was built by Ephraim J. Wilcox (b. 1843), a skilled woodworker who was also the builder of the Hebron public library and the First Congregational Church at 1 Main Street (NR, 1993) following disastrous fires of 1882 and 1888 which severely damaged the town center.

Ephraim J. Wilcox’s father, Joel (b. 1814), was a skilled carpenter trained locally by his brother-in-law, Benjamin Bliss. His first wife, Lucy Ann Burnham (b. 1817) was a Phelps family descendant on her mother’s side. Ephraim was trained by his father and was known as “a very expert wood worker, having a gift for such high-class carpenter work as stair building and ornamental wood work” (Beers).

After working for some time in Middletown CT and Chicago IL, Ephraim J. Wilcox returned to Hebron and settled on the Phelps homestead, a farm of 175 acres. The Greek Revival-style house would have been on the property already. The 1969 Gray map of Hebron shows J. Wilcox as the owner, probably Joel. Ephraim married Fannie E. Brown (b. 1850) and their two children were Della Eugenia Wilcox (b. 1875) and Herbert Joel (b. 1877).
The date of 1879 on the gable-end of the barn, together with Ephraim's reputation and family history, places Ephraim as the builder of the barn, with its unusual ornamental door hood and scroll-sawn bracketed trim.

Della Wilcox married Roger Fuller Porter (b. 1879) around 1900; their children were twin sons Herbert and Roger. The 1920 census lists Roger as the owner of a grain store and Della as the bookkeeper. The Porter family historically owned the gristmill just west of the town center; possibly Roger was in his family's business. Della also worked for 17 years as the Town Clerk, taught Sunday school and played the organ at the First Congregational Church.

Herbert married Mildred Hutchinson and they took over the farm. Their children included William H., Kenneth, and Janet Porter Berry. William's daughter Heidi Porter Marvin lives in Hebron and provided the historic photographs showing the barn with its cupola and gable trim. The cupola was removed prior to a hurricane (year unknown). Herbert and Mildred Porter raised polled Hereford cattle on the farm for many years.

Following Herbert's death, the farm was sold out of the Wilcox-Porter family, and has been owned by Louis and Audrey Maffessoli since then. The Maffessolis kept some livestock while Louis worked as a draftsman/engineer for the Connecticut Department of Transportation until his retirement.

**Architectural significance:**

The barn at this site is highly significant as a high-style example of the latest design trends at the time of its construction, and as a showpiece of the work of a prominent local builder. Although needing significant repairs at the time of writing, the barn is important for its place in the history of a Greek Revival-period farmstead that was taken over in the later decades of the 19th century and modernized with a New England bank barn representing state-of-the-art technology.

The farmstead is significant in addition because of its association with the Wilcox and Porter families, long-time residents of Hebron. Della Wilcox Porter's position as Town Clerk and church organist, among other activities, place her as a significant figure in 20th-century Hebron. Her father Ephraim J. Wilcox was likewise a key figure in local history, having constructed the town library building and the First Congregational Church after its predecessor was destroyed by fire.

**Sources (continuation):**

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 5/15/2012, Heidi Porter Marvin, 2/03/2011.

Interview with Louis Maffessoli, 5/15/2012, at the site, photographs by Louis Maffessoli, 3/29/2012.

Telephone interview with Heidi Porter Marvin, 5/21/2012.

Map resources:


Parcel ID: 12-52


Print and internet resources:

Clouette, Bruce, Cronin, Maura, Hebron Center National Register Historic District Nomination 93000649, National Park Service, 1993.


4. East view of Farmhouse, camera facing northwest.

5. Detail view of entry, camera facing west.

6. Northeast view of Barn I at right, Barn II at center rear, camera facing south. West wall of Farmhouse rear ell is visible at far left.
7. East view of Barn II, Barn I at right rear, camera facing northwest.

8. Northwest view of Shed, north side of Barn I at left rear, camera facing southeast.
9. East view of Barn I, camera facing west, showing main doors, ornamental attic gable trim.

10. East detail view of Barn I main door transom and hood, camera facing west.
11. East detail view of Barn I gable attic, camera facing southwest.

12. East detail view of Barn I gable attic, camera facing northwest.
13. East aerial view of Farmhouse and Barn I, camera facing west, date unknown, courtesy of Heidi Porter Marvin.

14. Northeast aerial view of Farmhouse and Barn I, date unknown, courtesy of Heidi Porter Marvin.
15. North view of Barn I and east view of Shed, camera facing west.

17a-b. West view of Barn I, camera facing east, showing sliding doors, transom light above.

18. South view of Barn I, camera facing north, showing partial collapse of south wall.
19. Interior view of Barn I western interior bent and west wall bent, camera facing west, showing built-in ladders, angled queen posts, purlin plates.

20. Interior view of Barn I eastern interior bent, camera facing northwest.
21. Interior view of Barn I eastern interior bent and southeast corner, camera facing southeast.

22. Interior view of Barn I interior bents and southwest corner, camera facing southwest.