**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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)  **Sinkez Barn Pottery Studio**

Building Name (Historic) **Fellows-Rathbone Farmstead**

Street Address or Location  **209 Millstream Road**

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

Owner(s)  **Michele Sinkez, 209 Millstream Road, Hebron CT 06231**  Public  Private

**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  **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 _____________)
- ✔ 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:** 38' x 42'

**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:  **Some window and door replacement, electrical service.**

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

Town #  Site #  UTM

District:  S  NR  If NR, Specify:  Actual  Potential

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-1-
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- [ ] Barn
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Garage
- [ ] Carriage House
- [ ] Shop
- [ ] Garden
- [✓] Other landscape features or buildings: Stone walls, pond

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  Name Charlotte Hitchcock  Date 5/15/2012
View Multiple Views  Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Negative on File CTHP  Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude: 41.649783, -72.344509

  Threats to the building or site:

- [✓] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Other ________________
- [ ] Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Millstream Road runs approximately north-south, from Main Street (Route 66) east of the town center of Hebron, to Lebanon Road (Route 207) to the south. A stream, Raymond Brook, runs roughly parallel to Millstream Road in a valley just to the west. Millstream Road runs along the side of a gentle hill that slopes to the west toward the brook. A low area east of the house and barn supports a small pond that drains southward and then west to the brook. A small pond is to the east of the barn, and to the south is a private drive leading east to an interior property. The surrounding area is farmland, woodland, and light residential areas. The Hebron Center Historic District is located along Main Street (Route 66) just to the west of its intersection with Millstream Road.

The barn now sits on 1.6 acres of land, although it was formerly part of a larger property including the two adjacent parcels to the north. The house with which this barn is associated is to the northwest of the barn, close to the road. The barn sits back to the east close to the pond.

The house is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed side-hall structure 22' x 30' with its ridge-line oriented east-west and its west gable-end facing the street. An entry door with a simple pilaster and lintel entry is in the right (south) bay of the three-bay façade. Another door is in the south eave-side. The west gable-end has a pedimented attic with a full cornice return and a single six-over-six double-hung window. The first- and second-floor windows are six-over-six replacement windows with simulated muntins, probably imitating the original type. Siding is wood horizontal clapboards and roofing is asphalt shingles. The date of the house is given as 1890; it has vernacular Greek Revival characteristics more typical of an earlier period.

A fenced yard encompasses the east and north sides of the house. A garage is just to the northwest of the house, and its door faces the road, with a short drive leading to it. A recent attached 1-story addition forms an ell extending to the north.

• 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>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Mid-late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 1 ½-story four-bay eave-entry gable-roofed extended English bank barn with a shed-roof addition across the east side, for a total size of approximately 32’ x 42’. The main façade faces west and the ridge-line is oriented north-south, approximately parallel with Millstream Road.

Exterior:

The main entry is to the north of center on the west eave-side of the barn and consists of a pair of double-height side-hinged doors. A weather door is inserted in the left (north) leaf. Located near the south corner is a pair of four-pane stable windows. Several courses of the partially mortared fieldstone foundation are visible on this side and set within the foundation in the southern bay is a three-pane basement window. The main door sill is at grade, below the top elevation of the foundation wall.

Grade remains level along the south gable-end of the barn; a fieldstone retaining wall extending south in line with the east wall forms the transition to a lower grade along the east side. As on the west side, several courses of foundation wall, heavily mortared or parged with concrete, are above grade. Set within the foundation on the west corner is a fixed basement window. Near the left (west) corner on the main level of the barn there is a series of three stable windows; the middle window is a one-pane fixed window while the outside windows are six-pane fixed windows. A six-pane window is at the right (east) corner of the south gable-end of the barn. Located in the gable-attic of the south gable-end is a six-over-six double-hung window with trim.
The grade drops to the east revealing a full basement level along the east eave-side. A shed-roofed addition is attached along the east eave-side of the barn, extending to the east and encompassing this entire side. Its roof pitch is shallower than the main roof but is continuous, saltbox-style.

The south side of the addition, flush with the south gable-end, has a grouping of large windows, formerly six oversized stable window but recently replaced with a three-part casement and picture window combination.

The eave-side of the shed-roofed addition has in the left (south) half of the exposed basement a hinged door flanked by stable windows, to the left a pair of six-pane sash and to the right a single multi-pane sash. The right (north) half has a new overhead garage door which replaced two older doors. Above at the main level there is a double-hung window which recently replaced two older stable windows. To the right (north) there are two stable-type windows.

A fieldstone retaining wall extends to the east as the grade inclines towards the north.

On the north side of the barn several courses of fieldstone foundation extend above grade. In the shed addition portion are two four-pane windows set within the foundation giving light to the basement. A six-pane window is near the left (east) corner of the north gable-. In the gable-attic is a six-over-six double-hung window with trim.

The barn and addition are clad in vertical flush-board siding painted red with white trim. The roof is asphalt shingles. A metal stove flue projects from the west pitch of the roof near the south side. On the ridge-line near the north is a flying goose weather vane.

**Interior:**

The structure is a square rule post and beam frame which appears likely to have been re-constructed from recycled materials or relocated onto the current foundation. The major timbers are hand-hewn, and the interior bents to the north and south of the doors have an interesting configuration with double posts at the center connected by ladder rungs for access to the loft level. The dropped tie girts have open mortises as if there had once been a loft floor framed to them. Above the tie girts there are angled queen posts, but there is only a partial purlin plate, with many of the rafters being full-length common rafters of dimension lumber meeting at a ridge-board at the peak. The outer wall posts of the southern interior bent are not connected by any tie girt. The frame has been repaired in a number of places by sistering on additional wood members.

The floor is wood planking. In the entry bay adjacent to the barn doors, the floor is dropped to grade, with two steps up to the main level. It appears the last agricultural usage did not require driving into the barn.

The southern portion of the basement retains a row of wood cow stanchions with water bowls and has a concrete slab floor with a manure gutter. The northern portion has been reinforced in some areas with steel columns and dimension lumber joists and girders.

- **Historical or Architectural importance:**

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This farmstead and barn are significant as embodying the characteristics of the small subsistence farm at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. The barn and house are intact and in good physical condition. Both represent modest vernacular structures typical of small farmers. The barn may have been lifted to sit over a foundation, enabling it to be adapted to the ground level cow stable function as that became the norm in the 1900s. However it remained small, never attaining the scale of a commercial dairy farm.

**Historical background:**

The house is said to date from c. 1890 although stylistically it has Greek Revival characteristics more typical of the mid-1800s. The Gray map of 1869 shows the road as sparsely settled, with only G. Tenant, Judson Strong, and J.
Howey, living on the east side south of today’s Kinney Road. By 1892 there were still only three houses in the vicinity.

In the 1950s the Fellows family lived at 209 Millstream Road. Daughter Laura Fellows Butt lived here at age six and now lives at 195 Millstream, a 17-acre parcel from which No. 209 was subdivided. Mr. Fellows kept about five cows, some sheep and chickens, and had an orchard. The Fellows family purchased the property from the Rathbones, according to Laura Butt. The current owner, Michele Sinkez, has been here since 2004 and uses the barn as a pottery studio and classroom.

**Architectural significance:**

This farmstead and barn are significant as embodying the characteristics of the small subsistence farm at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. The barn and house are intact and in good physical condition. Both represent modest vernacular structures typical of small farmers. The barn may have been lifted to sit over a foundation, enabling it to be adapted to the ground level cow stable function as that became the norm in the 1900s. However it remained small, never attaining the scale of a commercial dairy farm. The re-use as an artist’s work place exemplifies the way that some barns have been preserved through adaptation to a new use that is compatible with the existing structure.

**Sources (continuation):**

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 5/15/2012.

Interview with Michele B. Sinkez, 5/15/2012, at the site.

**Map resources:**


Parcel ID: 04-19.


**Print and internet resources:**


4. South view of Farmhouse (left) and Barn (right), camera facing north, courtesy of Michele Sinkez.
5. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.

6. Historic view of Farmhouse c. 1900, camera facing northeast, courtesy of Michele Sinkez.
7. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing east.

8. South view of Barn, camera facing north.
9. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing east.

10. Northwest view of Barn, camera facing southeast.
11. Northwest view of Barn, camera facing southeast.

12. Interior view of Barn, west wall of main block, camera facing south, showing repair to post at tie girt.
13. Interior view of Barn, camera facing northwest. Note the left queen post supporting a discontinuous purlin plate, and open mortises in the tie girt toward the right.

14. Interior view of Barn basement level, camera facing northwest, showing stanchions in south bays.