



**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.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Building Name (Common) Parmelee, Chauncy and Jerusha, Farmstead Record No. 20613  
Building Name (Historic) Parmelee, Chauncy and Jerusha, Farmstead  
Street Address or Location 476 Route 81 (Higganum Road)  
Town/City Killingworth Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Middlesex  
Owner(s) Broach, Robert & Florence, 476 Route 81, Killingworth CT 06419  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 barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction Late 18th 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 Scribe 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 Approximate Dimensions Barn I: 26' x 26'

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: 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:

Cunningham, Janice, *Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview*, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 5/25/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/18/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:  
41.389234, -72.564013

**Threats to the building or site:**

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This farmstead site is located on the west side of Route 81, Higganum Road, which is the main north-south road through Killingworth and connects with Clinton to the south and Haddam to the north. The site is just to the south of the intersection with Route 148, an east-west route connecting with Durham to the northwest and Chester to the east. The town middle school, offices, and library are to the south along Route 81. In the vicinity are some areas of open farmland to the north, but largely second-growth woodlands, rolling hills and wetlands. Residential development is scattered on relatively large lots. This farmstead on a two-acre parcel is the historic core of a larger farm that was subdivided in the early 1970s. To the east across the road is the historic Parmelee Farm property now owned by the Town of Killingworth.

The farmstead includes a 2 ½-story colonial-style center-chimney Farmhouse with a gable roof whose ridge-line is oriented north-south. The east eave-side faces the road and has a five-bay façade with the original formal entryway at the center. The entry surround has engaged pilasters, a deep lintel, and projecting cornice. A 1-story shed-roofed addition encompasses the west side of the structure. The main block is 25' x 32' and the addition extends west approximately 14'. Windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash. The eaves have boxed soffits and cornice returns on the gable-ends. There are horizontal four-pane attic windows in the north and south gable-ends. Siding is wood clapboard, and roofing is wood shingles. The house is documented from 1821 but is thought to date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The roof line is thought to have been re-worked to a lower pitch at some time in the past.

To the west of the Farmhouse is a group of outbuildings. Barn I is to the southwest, with its ridge-line oriented east-west and main doors opening to the north to a barnyard framed on the north side by Barn II and the Corn crib. Barn II is a 1 ½-story partially post-and-beam framed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south, now used as a garage and workshop.

The Corn crib is a 1-story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south, elevated off the ground on granite posts. The walls are vertical, unlike typical canted crib walls. The interior is a two-bay square rule post and beam frame with sash-saw kerf marks, pegged joints, and dropped tie girts, indications of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. Siding is vertical boards and roofing is asphalt shingles.

West of Barn I is a 1-story Chicken coop, now used as a greenhouse and potting shed. This has a low-slope gable roof with unequal slopes and the ridge-line oriented east-west. The south side, with the higher eave line, has a panel of four two-light windows and the roof has three skylights. South of the barn group is a small open field. Fieldstone walls line the street front.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/ or Exterior*):

**Architectural description:**

Inventory of structures (C – contributing, NC – non-contributing):

Farmhouse	c. 1790-1821	C
Barn I	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Barn II	19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Corn crib	19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Chicken coop	20 <sup>th</sup> c.	C

**Barn I:**

This is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed two-bay eave-entry or English barn, 26' x 26'. Its ridge-line is oriented east-west, and the entry doors are pairs of tall hinged barn doors in the north and south eave-sides. Based on some charring of timbers, it is conjectured that an original third bay at the east end, which would have been typical, may have been damaged by fire and removed. The roof is steeply pitched.

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**Exterior:**

The north eave-side has a pair of full-height hinged out-swinging doors in the left (east) bay, no openings in the right bay, and a small exposure of fieldstone foundation wall toward the right (west) corner; grade is sloped up to the door sill at the left bay. The east gable-end has no openings. The siding divide is at the eave line, signaling the tie girt in the plane of the plate in the framing. The roof has no overhang at the rake.

The south eave-side has a pair of hinged doors corresponding to the north, in the right (east) bay. These are similarly framed with z-bracing on the interior and vertical flush boards on the exterior and have iron strap hinges. A weather door is in the right leaf. At the left (west) corner there is a pass-through door that gave access to the cow stable area in the west bay of the barn. The west gable-end has a single six-pane stable window in the right (south) half at grade level and a small six-pane attic window near the peak. Approximately a foot of foundation wall is exposed below the siding on this side. The eaves have a very slight overhang, while the rakes are flush, with a narrow rake board over the siding. Siding is vertical boards painted red. The steeply-pitched roof has asphalt shingles.

**Interior:**

The interior consists of scribe rule post and beam framing with gunstock posts. The timbers are hand-hewn, including the rafters, which meet at the ridge in pegged half-lap joints. An unusual feature of the framing is that the center post in each lateral bent is a full-height post, terminating at the peak. The lateral tie-girts, at the plate elevation, have half lap joints with the vertical posts. Gunstock posts accommodate the joining of plate, tie girt, and rafter. Another unusual feature is a longitudinal braced tie high up near the peak connecting the two interior full-height posts – the eastern of these is now an end-wall post but is thought to have been the interior post in the original three-bay structure.

The western bay has a raised floor level, accommodating a stable for cows below, which is entered from the exterior at the southwest corner. The stable area has a concrete slab floor only slightly below the main threshing floor elevation. Cow mangers which were extant in the 1970s have been removed during a structural repair job, but are remembered by the owners, who have lived here since the early 1970s.

Roof decking boards are not original, having been replaced with uniform dimension lumber.

**Barn II:**

This is a 20' x 34' 1 1/2-story gable-roofed structure. The south gable-end has two door openings, a pair of hinged garage doors opening outward on the right (east) and an overhead door on the left. A hay door is above the right side. The east eave-side has one six-pane stable window close to the center. The north gable-end has only a six-pane attic window, and the west side has one boarded-up opening. Siding is vertical boards painted red, and roofing is wood shingles.

The interior has some timber framing with the straight saw kerfs of the sash-saw indicating pre-1900 age, and dropped tie girts visible in the attic loft. The loft floor has been reinforced by addition of a longitudinal girder supported by a line of miscellaneous posts and sawn dimension lumber loft floor joists. There is a concrete floor slab.

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This barn is highly significant for its apparent early date and type of construction. A number of characteristics point to an 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. Much of the original fabric remains and has been maintained in good condition. The complex of extant buildings conveys the sense of an entire farmstead. Its proximity to the other historic Parmelee Farm, on the east side of Route 81, provides a larger scale of historic landscape, enhancing its significance further.

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**Historical background:**

The current owners have researched the history of the property back to 1821 and identified it with Chauncy and Jerusha Parmelee. Chauncy (1793-1869) and Jerusha (1795-1871) Parmelee were farmers, and continued to appear in Census records through 1860. In 1870 Chauncy was gone but Jerusha was still living, along with a multitude of other Parmelees in the vicinity. By 1874, the Beers map of Killingworth shows S. B. Wilcox as the property owner. The Beers map shows a number of Wilcox families as well as many Parmelees in this area of Killingworth. Wilcox lived in Middletown, and may have purchased the farm for its fields. There is evidence that the house was vacant for some years; many local farms were abandoned during this period of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Research for the town-owned Parmelee Farmstead (State Register, 2011) at 465 Route 81 shows that the road formerly passed on the east side of that farmhouse; it therefore was considerably farther to the east of this Farmhouse than the modern right-of-way.

Physical evidence in the Farmhouse and Barn I likely suggests a date earlier than 1800, but this has not yet been historically documented, nor has the history of the presumed eastern third bay of Barn I.

**Architectural significance:**

This barn is highly significant for its apparent early date and type of construction. A number of characteristics point to an 18<sup>th</sup>-century date, including: the steep, medieval-style roof pitch, gunstock corner posts with tie girts joined at the plate elevation, scribe rule framing, hand hewn rafters half-lapped at the ridge, and the unusual full-height center posts with longitudinal braced tie. Much of the original fabric remains and has been maintained in good condition.

The complex of extant buildings lends added significance to the site by conveying the appearance of an entire farmstead. Its proximity to the other historic Parmelee Farm, on the east side of Route 81, provides a larger scale of historic landscape, enhancing its significance further.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Florence and Robert Broach, 04/13/2010; Charlotte Hitchcock 5/24/2012.

Interview with Florence and Robert Broach 5/25/2012, at the site.

**Map resources:**

Town of Killingworth Assessor's Records <http://www.equalitycama.com> Parcel ID: 20-09K

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/18/2012.

Beers, F. W. & Co., Atlas of Middlesex County, 1874.

UTM coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

**Print and internet resources:**

Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency, Historical and Architectural Survey of the Town of Killingworth, 1980.

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/20613>.

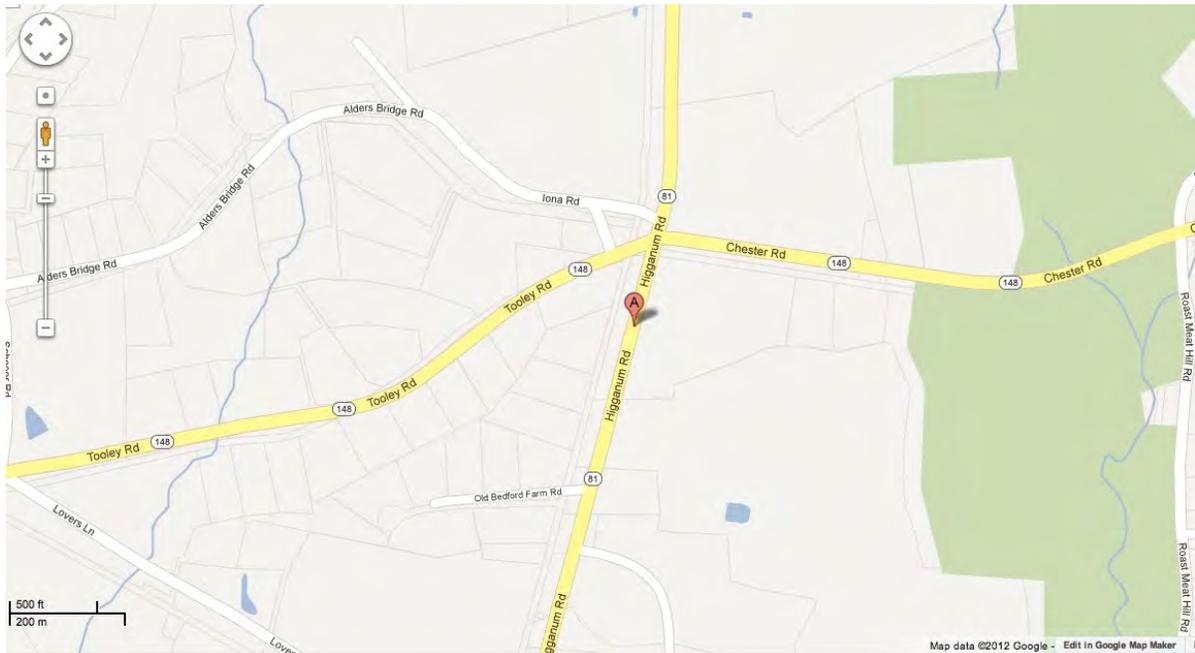
Cunningham, Jan, Parmelee, [Ezra], House (4 Beckwith Rd.) National Register Nomination No. 07000417, National Park Service, 2007.

Parmelee Farm (465 Route 81) State Register Nomination, CT State Historic Preservation Office, c. 2011.

Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

US Federal Census, 1860-1880, accessed through Heritage Online, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/>.

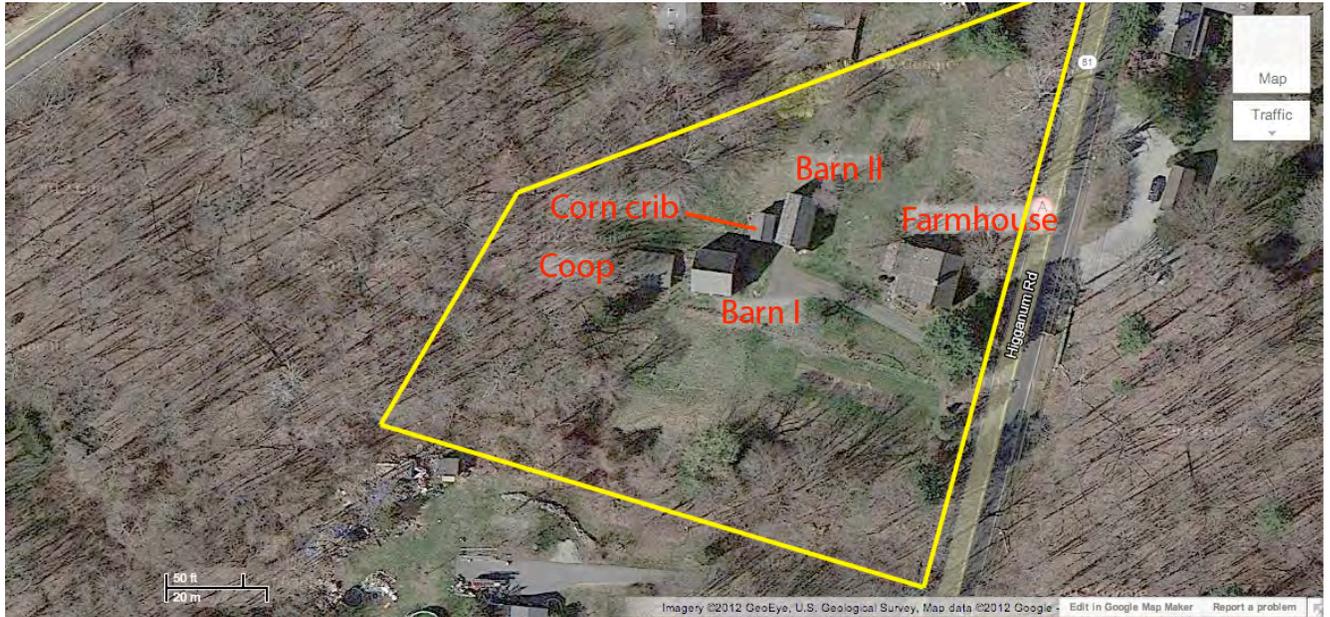
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.



1. Location map of 476 Route 81 (Higganum Road), Killingworth CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 6/18/2012.



2. South view – aerial "bird's-eye" map of 476 Route 81 (Higganum Road), Killingworth CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 6/18/2012.



3. Parcel map of 476 Route 81 (Higganum Road), Killingworth CT – property boundary is approximate; base image from Google Maps from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 6/18/2012.



4. Southeast view of Farmhouse, camera facing northwest.



5. East view of Farmhouse front entry, camera facing southwest.



6. Interior view of Farmhouse south parlor, camera facing north.



7. South view of farmstead, painting reproduced courtesy of Florence and Robert Broach.



8. Southwest view of Barn I with Chicken coop at left, Farmhouse at right rear, camera facing northeast.



9. Southeast view of Chicken coop, camera facing northwest.



10. Southeast view of Corn crib (left) and Barn II (right), camera facing northwest.



11. Northwest view of Barn II (left) and Corn crib (right), camera facing southeast. Note stone piers at Corn crib.



12. North view of Barn I, camera facing south.



13. East view of Barn I, camera facing west. Corn crib is visible at right.



14. South view of Barn I showing hinged barn doors, weather door, pass-through door, and Chicken coop at left rear; camera facing northwest.



15. Interior view of Barn I, southwest corner; camera facing southwest. Note tie girl joining into plate at the top of posts – gunstock shape visible in corner post.



16. Interior view of Barn I east wall, camera facing northeast. Note full height center post up to roof peak.



17. Interior view looking up toward roof peak in east bay, camera facing north. Note longitudinal tie member and angle braces between two full-height center posts.



18. Interior detail view of Barn I showing scribe rule marriage marks and hewn timbers.



19. Interior of loft at Barn II, showing sawn rafters and random spaced decking planks; camera facing east.



20. Interior detail view of Barn II framing at northwest corner ladder opening, showing dropped girt, saw kerf marks; camera facing north.