**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) | Williams-Forsberg Farmstead | Record No. 34588 |
| Building Name (Historic) | Williams V, William, Farmstead |
| Street Address or Location | 594 Shewville Road |
| Town/City | Ledyard | Village | Village | County | New London |
| Owner(s) | Anne G. King, P.O. Box 248, Ledyard CT 06339 | 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: Extended English bank barn, Vernacular style | Date of Construction | 1927 |

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

- [ ] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Asphalt Siding
- [x] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [x] Concrete (Type _____________)
- [ ] Cut Stone (Type _____________)
- [x] Other | Vertical wood siding |

**Structural System**

| Wood Frame | Post & Beam | Balloon | Load bearing masonry | Structural iron or steel |
| Other | Heavy timber, concrete |

**Roof (Type)**

- [x] Gable
- [ ] Flat
- [ ] Mansard
- [ ] Monitor
- [ ] Sawtooth
- [x] Gambrel
- [x] Shed
- [ ] Hip
- [ ] Round
- [ ] Other |

**Roof (Material)**

- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Roll Asphalt
- [ ] Tin
- [ ] Slate
- [x] Asphalt Shingle
- [ ] Built up
- [ ] Tile
- [ ] Other |

**Number of Stories:** 1 1/2, B  
**Approximate Dimensions:** 36' x 66'

**Structural Condition:** [x] Excellent | Good | Fair | Deteriorated |
**Exterior Condition:** [x] 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 |

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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 ___________ Date ___________

Name ___________ Date ___________

Organization ___________

Address ___________

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitute, Longitude:

41.435874, -71.961501

Threats to the building or site:

☑ None known   □ Highways   □ Vandalism   □ Developers   □ Renewal   □ Private

□ Deterioration   □ Zoning   □ Other ___________   □ Explanation ___________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This site is located in the eastern part of Ledyard, a rural town in southeastern Connecticut. Shewville Road runs roughly north-south, with its northern section bordering the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation. 594 Shewville Road is south of the Reservation and is located on the east side of the road south of the intersection with Town Farm Road. The road at this point curves, giving it a northwest-southeast direction. Shewville Road parallels Williams Brook along its east bank, with this farmstead property situated on land rising to the east. The 7.91-acre parcel includes a small pond near the center of the lot, with its outlet running southwest toward the brook. A small meadow surrounds the pond. The house is south of the pond and set far back from the road up a small rise, and the barn is to the east. Areas of pasture and paddock for the owner’s donkeys are located along the east and southeast borders of the property. The north and west perimeters are forested. An unpaved driveway enters the site from the road and loops around the house. The barn is accessed by a grass driveway. Extensive fieldstone walls define the driveway and paddocks.

The Farmhouse is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed center-chimney Colonial-style structure, c. 1803, 30’ x 40’ with its ridge-line oriented east-west, at an angle to the road. The five-bay south eave-side faces south and has the main entry door at the center. The double-hung windows are replacements installed in 2000, twelve-over-twelve on the ground floor and eight-over-twelve at the second floor. The entry door has a five-pane transom above. A c. 1817 1-story shed- and gable-roofed addition, 13’ x 27’, is attached at the north side and extends east beyond the main block, and includes a summer kitchen with a cooking hearth as well as a well room and side entry. The house has wood clapboard siding stained dark brown and asphalt shingle roof.

There is a storage shed located north of the house, its ridge-line running southeast to northwest. It has knee walls of un-mortared fieldstone supporting a steeply-pitched roof with asphalt shingles. There is a small outhouse located to the northeast of the house. The outhouse is a wood-framed structure sitting atop a stone foundation, with vertical wood siding. It is topped by a gable roof covered by wooden shingles. The barn is to the northeast of the house, and is angled with its ridge-line oriented northwest-southeast, roughly parallel to the road and set into the bank of the hill rising toward the east.

Ledyard has a number of historic resources that are recognized through listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Nathan Lester House and Farm and the Sawmill are individually listed as Local Historic Properties as well as on the National Register. The village of Gales Ferry has the Gales Ferry Historic Districts No. 1 and 2. The Mashantucket Pequot Reservation is a Historic District. A thematic nomination of 18th-century houses includes properties throughout the town, most of which are rural farmsteads like this 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>Farmhouse</td>
<td>1803</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outhouse</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½ story extended five-bay English bank barn with a shed addition on the southwest eave-side at the basement grade level. The barn is banked into a hillside, with the northeast eave-side at the upper level and the southwest eave-side at the lower grade level. The main entry doors are in the northeast eave-side and the ridgeline runs roughly parallel to Shewville Road.
Exterior:
Principal entry is provided by a pair of double-height exterior sliding doors located in the center of the northeast eave-side at the upper grade level. The two bays flanking the entry on each side have no openings.

Grade slopes down along the northwest gable-end, exposing the foundation wall. The original fieldstone wall is visible and above it a concrete retaining wall which was installed during a mid-1970s restoration project, elevating the main barn approximately one foot to raise the upper level sills above grade.

The northwest gable end contains a fixed six-pane stable window located directly below the peak. There is a three-pane basement window located in the upper concrete portion of the foundation towards the northern corner of the gable end. A pair of unequal-width hinged wooden doors is found at the southwest corner of the basement level. The gable-end of the shed addition is flush with the wall of the main barn.

The southwest eave-side is dominated by an attached addition with a shed roof and overhanging eave at the basement level encompassing the entire side, flush with the gable ends. The shed addition has two bands of windows, one towards the western end and the other located toward the center. Each group consists of a nine-pane window, a pair of six-pane windows, and another nine-pane window. A hinged pass-through door with vertical planking is located between the first and second series of windows. There is a single nine-pane window at the eastern corner. The main level of the eave-side has no openings. The southeast gable-end is similar to the northwest.

The walls are covered with unpainted vertical wood siding with a slightly dropped girt-line siding divide separating the attic from the lower level. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of un-mortared, irregularly coursed fieldstone that was later supplemented and reinforced with concrete.

Interior:
The interior, dating from 1927, is constructed with a hybrid system combining heavy timbers and some angle bracing with stud wall framing and common rafters of dimension lumber meeting at the ridge-board. The five-bay layout has lateral bents with a center post and, slightly dropped girts, no intermediate support of the rafters, and predominantly nailed connections.

The floor of the upper loft level is wood planks and the basement has a concrete floor. The basement shows evidence of subsequent reinforcement by the addition of extra posts and girders. The upper level is lightly framed, and has been repaired by the addition of tension cables at the bents (1950s) and diagonal wood angle bracing (2000).

• 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.

The site is significant because of its association with a family prominent in local history from the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods into the 19th century. It remained under the family's ownership for nearly 250 years. The Farmhouse remains well-preserved and intact along with a landscape of fields and stone walls that represents the rural setting. The barn location appears to be original, dating back to at least the mid-19th century. The present barn structure replaced the original after a fire in about 1927.

Historical background:
The Colonial-period settlement of Ledyard occurred as the New London colony expanded into Groton and then northward inland. The pattern of Colonial land division and the geology of the area inland from the coast made centralized communities difficult to organize, while the settlement of the Indians onto the earliest reservations in the Colonies, resulted in settlles feeling relatively safe in dispersing widely through the area.

The William Williams line owned property at this site as early as 1714, the site then being part of Groton. William Williams IV lived on Town Farm Road nearby and passed his house on to a younger son, as by his death William V had already built a home at this site. A deed to William Williams V (1780-1853) in 1803 shows only land without
buildings, while an increase in taxes shortly thereafter is a clue to the construction of the house. The summer kitchen wing appears to date from 1817. The date of barn construction remains unknown. William Williams V was a prominent and wealthy citizen, a lumberman, justice of the peace, and probate judge.

The farm passed down in the Williams family through the 19th century to James B., and John S. Williams. In 1904 the farm passed to Paul Massey, also a descendant of the Williamses. During the Massey ownership the barn burned, approximately 1926-1927, and was replaced by the present structure. It was configured as a dairy barn, and siding was asphalt shingles over horizontal sheathing boards. The house was likewise covered with asphalt siding. Massey worked in lumbering, using a steam-powered portable sawmill now in the Sloane-Stanley Museum in Kent, CT.

In 1969, William R. and Marjorie L. Forsberg, also Williams descendants, acquired the farm. In 1975 it passed out of the original family line, acquired by Anne G. and Jackson T. King, Jr. in 1976. It is still owned by Anne G. King. The Kings restored and rehabilitated the structures on the property and Anne now keeps donkeys and a horse.

**Architectural significance:**

The site is significant because of its association with a family prominent in local history from the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods into the 19th century. It remained under the family's ownership for nearly 250 years. The Farmhouse remains well-preserved and intact along with a landscape of fields and stone walls that represents the rural setting. The barn location appears to be original, dating back to at least the mid-19th century.

The present barn structure replaced the original after a fire in about 1927, and represents the evolution of farming in the 20th century when the lower level was adapted to use as a ground level stable barn for dairy cows. The attached shed addition would have enabled conversion of a narrow hay barn to the width needed for dairy cows. The site remains in a related use, with the barn as home for livestock and the loft level continuing as hay storage.

**Sources (continuation):**

Photographs and field notes by Anne T. Roberts-Pierson, 12/7/2010; Cora Grunwald, 10/21/2010; Charlotte Hitchcock, 5/25/2012.

Interview with Anne G. King, 5/25/2012, at the site; title search by Anne G. King.

**Map resources:**


Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 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:**

Avery, John, History of the Town of Ledyard, 1650-1900, Noyes & Davis, Norwich CT, 1901.

Connecticut State Library online: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories


4. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.
5. Interior view of cooking hearth, camera facing south.

6. Interior view of stair, camera facing northeast.

7. East view of Shed, camera facing west.
8. West view of outhouse, showing northwest gable-end of Barn at left rear, camera facing east.

10. West view of Barn, showing northeast eave-side at left and northwest gable-end, camera facing east.

12. Southwest view of Barn showing lower stable level, camera facing northeast.

14. Interior view of barn, camera facing west. Tension cable was installed in 1950s, diagonal board bracing in 2000.

15. Interior view of Barn roof construction, showing hay track and cable installed in the 1950s, camera facing east.

17. Interior view of Barn lower level showing sill of main level at upper left and framing of shed addition – wall location dating from 1927 and new pitched roof in 2000. Camera facing east.
18. Reproduction portrait of William Williams V at the age of 19 in 1799, courtesy of Anne G. King.

19. Southeast view of house in 1976 prior to restoration, with asphalt siding; photograph courtesy of Anne G. King.
20. South view of Barn prior to restoration in 1970s, showing asphalt siding, southwest additions which were altered to present configuration.

21. West view of Barn from the west side of the pond, camera facing east.