**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Toll Gate Farms Manure Shed, Bull Barn, &amp; Silo Record No. 11485</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Morse, C.E., Farmstead / Toll Gate Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>111 Chestnut Hill Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
- **Interior accessible?** Yes
- **Style of building:** Banked masonry shed, Vernacular style
- **Material(s):**
  - ✔ Clapboard
  - ✔ Asbestos Siding
  - ✔ Brick
  - ✔ Wood Shingle
  - ✔ Asphalt Siding
  - ✔ Fieldstone
  - ✔ Board & Batten
  - ✔ Stucco
  - ✔ Cobblestone
  - ✔ Aluminum Siding
  - ✔ Concrete (Type Stave silo)
  - ✔ Cut Stone (Type)
  - ✔ Other Vertical wood siding
- **Structural System:**
  - ✔ Wood Frame
  - ✔ Post & Beam
  - ✔ Balloon
  - ✔ Load bearing masonry
  - ✔ Structural iron or steel
  - ✔ Other Precast concrete stave silo
- **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
- **Approximate Dimensions:** Manure shed: 17' x 30'; Bull barn: 20' x 31'
- **Structural Condition:** ✔ Excellent
- **Exterior Condition:** ✔ Excellent
- **Location Integrity:** ✔ On original site
- **Alterations:** Yes
- **When?**
- **Demolition of main dairy barn 1980s**

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

- **Town:** Litchfield
- **Site:** 111 Chestnut Hill Road
- **Owner(s):** Joy Fogarty, 111 Chestnut Hill Road, Litchfield CT 06759
- **Village:**
- **County:** Litchfield
- **Public**
- **Private**
- **District:** S NR
- **UTM:**
- **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: Silo

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 _________________________________ Date 7/24/2012

View Multiple Views _________________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock _________________________________ Date 8/16/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.733002, -73.169514

Threats to the building or site:

☑ None known  ☐ Highways  ☐ Vandalism  ☐ Developers  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration  ☐ Zoning  ☐ Other ___________________________  ☐ Explanation ___________________________
Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Chestnut Hill is located southeast of the center of Litchfield and northwest of the village of Northfield. Chestnut Hill Road runs southward from East Street (Route 118), and traverses the hill along the ridge-top. The Bantam River runs southward in the valley to the west of the hill. Chestnut Hill has a broad nearly flat top large enough to accommodate entire farms. Views to the west and east are expansive. The Davenport family’s Toll Gate Farms at one time extended from today’s 62 Chestnut Hill Road south to 132 Chestnut Hill Road, both still home to members of the Davenport family.

Two Local and National Register Historic Districts are located in Litchfield as are several other individually-listed sites. The Milton Center Historic District is in the northwest corner of the town and includes the village center of Milton with its common, a bridge crossing the Shepaug River, a historic water power site, and approximately 150 surrounding 18th- and 19th-century buildings (the LHD boundary is more inclusive than the NR district). The Borough of Litchfield Historic District, the first historic district established in Connecticut (in 1959) is a mile to the west of the site, and focuses on the town green and approximately 475 surrounding structures dating from the 18th century onward. It is a Local and National Historic Landmark district. Other farmstead sites included in the current State Register of Historic Places thematic nomination represent the agricultural areas surrounding the Borough of Litchfield: Kar-Mic Dairy at 68 Prospect Mountain Road in Bantam; Bunnell Farm at 498 Maple Street in Milton; these two sites at 62 and 111 Chestnut Hill Road; the Iffland Farmstead at 374 East Litchfield Road and Echo Farm at 43 East Litchfield Road, both in East Litchfield; and the Curtiss-Goodwin Farmstead at 34 Goodwin Hill Road in the village of Northfield.

The house at No. 111, on the east side of the road, was a farmhouse for Toll Gate Farms. To the east of the house stood the main barn, an early 20th-century dairy barn with its ridge-line oriented north-south. This barn was demolished in the early 1980s, leaving a flat area of lawn and three remaining outbuildings. 132 Chestnut Hill Road is another c. 1840 home, with a 1 ½-story south ell that appears possibly to be an older cape-style structure. Historic photographs show barns to the north of the house; these are gone. Likewise, a Victorian-period porch wrapping around the front and south corner has disappeared. At 62 Chestnut Hill Road, a c. 1842 2 ½-story Greek Revival-style Farmhouse sits on the west side of the road with its ridge-line oriented east-west and its main entry in the east gable-end. Two gambrel-roofed barns were the heifer barns for Toll Gate Farms (see nomination for 62 Chestnut Hill Road).

This Farmhouse is a c. 1842 2 ½-story Greek Revival-style building with its gable-end facing west toward the street. The three-bay side-hall layout has the entry door in the right (south) bay, and six-over-six double-hung windows with simple casings in the other two bays and in the second floor. The entry door with sidelights is slightly recessed and has a period surround consisting of pilasters and an architrave lintel topped by a projecting cornice. Two stone steps lead out to a front lawn. The attic has a full pediment and there is a horizontal attic window with a 15-pane ornamental muntin pattern and period head and side trim. The house has a 2-story addition attached to the south side and other small additions extending south and east. Siding is wood clapboards painted white and roofing is asphalt shingles.

Barn I, the stone manure shed, stands on a sloping site to the east of the former barn location.

Barn II, the Toll Gate bull barn, stands to the north of the manure shed. The site is an open field. Meadows stretch to the east and south, with distant views of East Chestnut Hill.

The Silo is located at the north end of the main barn site, and now stands isolated since the barn was demolished. The ghost of a sister silo foundation can be seen nearby to the east.

Residential subdivision on large lots has taken place in the late 20th century along Chestnut Hill Road, as the Davenports sold off land incrementally, somewhat altering the agricultural landscape, but several properties retain open pastures and hay fields.
• 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>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1842</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I, Manure shed</td>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II, Bull barn</td>
<td>mid-20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silo</td>
<td>1950s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I – Manure shed:

This stone manure shed is an important survivor from the original complex of farm buildings at Toll Gate Farms. The banked design made it possible to load manure into the west end, then drive the spreader out the east.

This gable-roofed outbuilding is oriented with the gable ends to the east and west. The structure is built primarily of fieldstone laid up in concrete mortar. It banks eastward to adjust to the grade which slopes down toward the east. The stone walls are exposed about four feet above grade at the west end and about eight feet at the east end. The gable ends are finished with vertical board sheathing; two granite steps approach a loft door in the west gable end. The main entrance is located at the lower east gable end and is at present an opening with no doors. The frame consists of a braced structure of milled timbers; the floor is concrete with remnants of a gutter system to drain the manure. The roof is standing seam metal panels.

Barn II – Bull barn:

The former bull barn is an important remnant of the former Toll Gate Farms. This small barn is a 1½-story gable-roofed structure, oriented with its gable ends to the east and west; a shed-roofed wing with two bull stalls extends to the south. The west-facing gable-end has a sliding wood door (vertical panel on the exterior and metal plates inside) set to the south of a single six-pane window. A hinged loft door is located in the attic gable and a panel with a decorative pierced star design forms a vent just under the roof peak.

The north roof slope projects on overhanging rafters. The north end was used for hay. A sliding vertical plank door opens from the east facade. Two hinged divided stall doors provide exterior access to the stalls on the south end, where the eave-side wall is of concrete block masonry. Some of the interior has been repaired with un-matching new material. The floor is compacted dirt. The roof is asphalt shingles. Around 1980, the bull barn was slightly enlarged to the south to adapt the bull stalls as horse stalls. The barn was also raised up and the sills replaced.

Silo:

This towering white-painted silo is a model of the concrete-stave type, in which rows of intersecting concrete slabs, or staves, are locked into place with iron hoops and turnbuckles. A metal chute (partial) encasing a metal-rung ladder is located on the south side. The domed roof is clad in seamed metal.

A sign of progress, the 1950s concrete silo erected at Toll Gate Farms replaced an earlier silo built of wood staves. Staves were also the preferred design for concrete silos because they could be pre-cast and once installed, did not require seasonal adjustment of the hoops as the wooden predecessors had. The farm had two silos, for hay and corn silage. This one remaining silo is an important survivor of the Toll Gate Farms dairy complex and, standing isolated in the open landscape, is a widely recognized landmark on Chestnut Hill.
Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This complex and its barns are significant in conjunction with 62 Chestnut Hill Road, as remnants of a major dairy operation that was an important local business during the peak years of dairy farming in Litchfield. The landscape retains much of the openness of the old agricultural setting and the remaining structures are intact examples of their types – the manure storage shed, the bull barn, and the concrete stave silo. The manure shed and the silo particularly represent technological developments in agricultural methods and equipment at the time of their construction. The house illustrates the conservation of resources whereby the agricultural buildings were constructed to the most modern standards while the older dwelling continued in use.

Historical background:

Toll Gate Farm operated as a dairy farm from the late 1930s until the early 1970s, beginning with 111 Chestnut Hill Road and later incorporating No. 132 and No. 62.

The town’s geological underpinnings consist primarily of moraine, an accumulation of boulders, rock, clay deposits and debris deposited during the last glacial retreat about 11,000 years ago... A number of the elongated, ovoid hills known as drumlins, rounded piles of glacial till, are scattered through town, and a rocky ledge looms by the Naugatuck River near the northeast corner. Otherwise, the topography is notable for a series of parallel north/south ridges that traverse the town to create a repeating corduroy pattern of upland ridges and the alluvial flats that the colonists called intervales. Litchfield founders focused the initial settlement on three ridges they immediately named: Town Hill in the center, and the two Chestnut Hills to the east (originally known as the first and second Chestnut Hills)....

The prevailing ridge-and-intervale landscape offered a combination of agricultural resources to 18th-century farmers. On the ridges settlers found a heavy, fine-textured clay-based soil suitable to a broad range of grain crops. In the intervales, periodic flooding of the river tracts prevented tree growth naturally to create lush meadows. The flooded lands were generally less fit for the plow than the uplands, but adapted well to hay mowing and cattle grazing (Carley, 2007).

Litchfield was laid out and settled by residents from the River Towns of Hartford and Windsor. Chestnut Hill was settled as early as the central village area, with home lots distributed to several of the proprietors in the first land division in 1718.

By the mid-19th century, after the three houses at 62, 111, and 132 Chestnut Hill Road were constructed, they appeared on the Hopkins Map of 1859 (H. Morse, C.E. Morse, and Chas. Bishop) and on the 1874 Beers Atlas (H.O. Morse, M. Dewyer, and Mrs. M. Bishop). In the early 1900s, 132 Chestnut Hill Road was the Webster Cottage – historic photographs show Clara Atwood Webster and her son Irving Abott Webster. 62 Chestnut Hill Road was known then as Long View Farm – the name is painted on the south wall of the central portion of Barn I, now covered by a leanto shed roof.

Around the mid-1930s, Preston Davenport migrated to Connecticut. He had worked in Warren, CT, and subsequently was manager of the High Brook Farm in Torrington, and rented a farm there named Toll Gate. In the late 1930s, Preston and his wife Selma purchased 111 Chestnut Hill Road from Curtis Hatheway, and expanded what had been a small dairy farm into the commercial operation known as Toll Gate Farms.

At the time of their purchase, a large cow barn with two intersecting gambrel-roofed sections stood a few hundred yards to the north of the house. There were two wood-stave silos, one for corn and one for chopped hay, and a one-story hip-roofed garage. The barn is thought to have been moved from Barkhamsted Hollow, CT, before that area was flooded in 1940 in the process of creating the Barkhamsted Reservoir (see nomination for 99 Wright Road, Torrington, for another family affected by the reservoir construction). Indeed, the 1934 aerial photograph of the site...
shows no large barn. The Davenports added a milk room at the northwest corner of the barn, and built the extant manure shed and bull barn behind the house.

In 1944 the Davenports bought the Webster Cottage on the west side of the road at No. 132 to provide housing for their farmhands. In 1946 the farm gained a third property, at No. 62 Chestnut Hill Road, where the barns were used for heifers, dry cows, and for hay storage. The family moved into that house and turned No. 111 over to the their herdsman.

The Davenports raised Ayrshire dairy cows, which produce milk with a high butter fat content. At its height, Toll Gate Farms kept 100 head of Ayrshires. These prized dairy cows produced grade A and Vitamin D milk for delivery to customers in Litchfield, Torrington, Bantam, New Preston, Cornwall Bridge, Winsted, New Milford and Morris. During its peak period of activity, Toll Gate Farms occupied a substantial part of the upland ridge of Chestnut Hill.

In the mid-20th-century decades, Toll Gate was one of only a few farms with its own creamery or processing facility, residential milk delivery route, and their own retail store, Toll Gate Farms Dairy Bar, on the Torrington-Litchfield Road (now US Route 202). The dairy, and retail store operated until 1957. The 111 Chestnut Hill Road portion of Toll Gate Farms was sold in 1973; a number of home lots were subdivided out of the farmland over the years as well.

Preston Davenport was the father of Ed (deceased, 2005) and Lowell “Bud” Davenport who with his wife Susan still lives at 132 Chestnut Hill Road. Lowell and Susan have four sons ranging in age from 39 to 52, of whom one, Jimmy, owns a dairy farm in New York State. William (Bill) lives at 62 Chestnut Hill Road and teaches agri-science at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury while keeping some livestock at the property and at his brother Jimmy’s farm.

In its prime years, the state-of-the-art facility here included the large main barn with two silos, a projecting east wing visible in aerial photographs, a hip-roofed structure which may have been the creamery, the bull barn, and the manure shed.

By the early 1900s, modern dairy-barn design addressed the incorporation of mechanized litter carriers designed as small trolley buckets to run in the alley or on overhead tracks. Advances corresponded with the awareness that the bacteria that causes tuberculosis can survive for extended periods in airborne manure dust. Maximizing sanitary conditions dictated that manure be stored in a separate shed. This was usually a peak-roof structure, of stone or wood, with its gable end banked into a slope. In this straightforward design, the manure could be loaded into the upper level and dropped directly into a spreader for transport to the fields. The lower-level gable end provided egress for the spreader (Carley).

Toll Gate Farm was sold in 1973, and the main cow barn, in disuse, was compromised structurally when some of its siding was taken off and sold for salvage. The weakened barn fell down around 1978, and the remainder of it was removed from the site in 1980 at the time of purchase by the current owner. The hip-roofed building was burned in an arson incident around 1980 and replaced with the present garage structure.

**Architectural significance:**

This complex and its barns are significant as remnants of a major dairy operation that was an important local family business during the peak years of dairy farming in Litchfield. The landscape retains much of the openness of the old agricultural setting and the remaining structures are intact examples of their type – the manure storage shed, the bull barn, and the concrete stave silo. The manure shed and the silo particularly represent technological developments in agricultural methods and equipment at the time of their construction. The house illustrates the conservation of resources whereby the agricultural buildings were constructed to the most modern standards while the older dwelling continued in use.
Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 7/25/2012.
Interview with Joy Fogarty 7/25/2012, at the site.
Interviews with Bill Davenport and Lowell Davenport 8/22/2012, at 62 and 132 Chestnut Hill Road.

Map resources:
Litchfield Tax Assessor Records.

Aerial views from:

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
Beers, F.W., Atlas of Litchfield County, F.W. Beers & Co., 1874
Hopkins, G.M., Jr., Clark’s Map of Litchfield County, Richard Clark, Philadelphia PA, 1859.


Print and internet resources:


1. Location map of 111 Chestnut Hill Road, Litchfield CT – from [http://maps.google.com/](http://maps.google.com/) accessed 8/15/2012

3. Site Plan showing contributing and non-contributing resources; base image from http://maps.google.com/.

4. West view of Farmhouse, camera facing east. Silo is at left rear.
5. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.

6. West view of Bull barn (left) and Manure shed (right), camera facing east across the former site of the main barn.
7. West view of Bull barn (left) and Manure shed (right), camera facing east.

8. Southwest view of Manure shed, camera facing northeast. Note quoins in masonry.
9. Northeast view of Manure shed, camera facing southwest; rear of Farmhouse at right beyond.

10. Interior view of Manure shed, camera facing west. Wood joist framing is not original; added recently.
11. Southwest view of Bull barn, camera facing northeast.

12. Southeast view of Bull barn, camera facing northwest.

14. West view of Silo, camera facing east; rear of Farmhouse at left beyond.
15. South view of Silo, camera facing north.
16. South detail view of Silo, showing the access slot, hoops, and chute, camera facing north. The lower part of the silo typically would abut the barn wall or would be enclosed in an attached shed connecting to the barn.

17. Northeast aerial view of the dairy barn at 111 Chestnut Hill Road, camera facing southeast, courtesy of Bill and Lowell Davenport.
18. Northwest view of 111 Chestnut Hill Road c. 1940 with milk delivery truck, camera facing southeast, courtesy of Lowell Davenport.

19. Northwest view of 111 Chestnut Hill Road, camera facing southeast, courtesy of Lowell Davenport.
20. South aerial view of Toll Gate Farms, camera facing north, courtesy of Bill and Lowell Davenport. 132 Chestnut Hill Road is at the lower left, No. 111 with the main dairy barn at center right, and No. 62 at the top.