**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.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Iffland Farmstead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Iffland, Christian and Clara, Farmstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>374 East Litchfield Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Litchfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>East Litchfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Litchfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Donald and Eunice Iffland, 374 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield CT 06759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Public ☐ Private</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 ☐ No

Interior accessible? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain _____________________________

Style of building English bank barn, Poultry house, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th, 20th 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 __________________________

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 I: 36' x 26'; II: 24' x 20'; III: 24' x 16', plus coop wing

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: Barn II relocated within the site, Barn III re-used.

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ S</td>
<td>☑ NR</td>
<td>If NR, Specify: ☑ Actual ☑ Potential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- ✔ Barn
- ✔ Shed
- ☐ Garage
- ☐ Carriage House
- ☐ Shop
- ✔ Garden

- ✔ Other landscape features or buildings: Pond, 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:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer  Charlotte Hitchcock  Date 7/24/2012

View  Multiple Views  Negative on File CTHP

Name  Charlotte Hitchcock  Date 8/15/2012

Organization  Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address  940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.760172, -73.131486

Threats to the building or site:

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

- ☐ Deterioration
- ☐ Zoning
- Other ____________________  Explanation ____________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

East Litchfield Road runs generally east-west in this vicinity, connecting an area to the east along the west bank of the Naugatuck River with East Street and the center of Litchfield to the west. Formerly known also as Connecticut State Route 116, the road became a local access route after 1967 when a new road, today's Route 118, was constructed roughly parallel and to the north. Most traffic for Litchfield now follows Route 118.

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 3.5 miles 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; two sites formerly making up Toll Gate Farms on Chestnut Hill Road; Echo Farm at 43 East Litchfield Road, also in East Litchfield; and the Curtiss-Goodwin Farmstead at 34 Goodwin Hill Road in the village of Northfield.

The Iffland farmstead, reduced to 40 acres from a former larger acreage, is located near the top of a hill sloping up from the Naugatuck River, and on the south side of the road. Just to the west along the border of the property, Spruce Brook runs southward to meet the river.

The farmhouse stands facing the road, a 2 ½-story gable-roofed building with its ridge-line oriented north-south and its north gable-end facing the road. Built c. 1880, the house has been remodeled into a two-family house, where the present owners, the Ifflands, live in one of the units. The three-bay north gable-end façade has two entry doors in the left (east) bay under a 1-story gable-roofed porch. A 2-story gable-roofed wing extends west from the west eave-side. An addition at the southwest corner accommodates a stair access to the second floor apartment. An entry drive runs south from a point west of the house, and curves around toward the east at the rear of the house.

Barns I and II stand to the southwest of the main house, banked into southward slope of the site. Chicken coops I and II are to the southeast slightly lower on the slope. Coop II is a small 1-story shed-roofed structure, formerly a chicken coop and later converted to a maple sugar house.

An unpaved drive enters the site west of the Farmhouse, extends south and curves eastward between the house and barns, ending in a parking area. A track leads southward toward the field to the south.

Large, mature maple trees are scattered on the front lawn area and a fieldstone wall extends roughly parallel to the east property line. Fields open to the south and west, and a small Christmas tree planting is located along the foot of the hill next to a pond. The foundation of a tank or spring house is in the field west of the barns. The ruins of a mill are scattered along Spruce Brook.

• 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>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1880</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>Early- to mid-1800s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>Early- to mid-1800s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coop I</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coop II</td>
<td>1920s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barn I & II:

This structure consists of two 19th-century barns: on the east, Barn I: 36’ x 26’; and on the west, Barn II: 24’ x 20’ attached at the gable-ends. The ridge-lines of both structures are oriented east-west, with the main levels opening at grade to the north and the lower basement levels opening at grade downslope to the south. Siding is vertical boards throughout, painted gray. Barn I has roof overhangs at the eaves and rakes; Barn II has no overhang at the exposed rake and minimal at the eaves.

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½-story three-bay gable-roofed English bank barn. The north eave-side has an overhead garage door in its center bay, a replacement for the original, which by the 1890s would have been a sliding door. In the left (east) bay there is a hinged pass-through door with iron hinges. The right bay is blank and has a sign made from an old circular saw blade with the family name “IFFLAND” painted on it. The roof of the north pitch is pressed metal shingles. A short concrete ramp leads up to the doorway.

The east gable-end has two twelve-pane stable windows, one centered and the second toward the right (north). One course of the stone foundation is visible along the east side. A fieldstone retaining wall aligns with the south wall and supports a flat area at the upper grade level east of the barn.

The south eave-side has a fully-exposed basement with a concrete foundation wall to a height of approximately two feet above grade. The wall is infilled with vertical wood siding at the basement level. From left (west) to right at the basement level there are a sliding door, a six-pane stable window, an overhead garage door at the center bay, and a six-pane stable window. Above at the main level in the center bay there is a six-pane window and a sliding hay door; to the right (east) is a six-pane window. The roof on the south side is corrugated metal roofing which is installed over the original wood shingles. The west gable abuts Barn II, which is smaller than Barn I, leaving an exposed area of the west gable-end at the southwest corner, in which there is one six-pane window with trim.

The interior of the main level is a square rule chestnut post and beam frame with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. The timbers are sawn with straight kerfs indicative of a sash saw mill. Tie girts are dropped, there is a single interior post at the center of each bent, and common rafters are sawn, approximately 4” x 6”, butting into a ridge board at the peak. A loft floor is in the east bay creating a second level. The south side of the center bay has a high header implying that there may have been a second tall and wide doorway; at present there is a hay door opening at the main floor level. The floor is wood planks.

The interior of the basement level is constructed of sawn timbers; a main girder runs longitudinally (east-west) and heavy timber joists are oriented north-south. It is whitewashed and fitted with stanchions and a concrete floor with gutter for one row of seven dairy cows in the western portion. An overhead track and a suspended manure trolley are extant. The eastern bay has two stalls used for horses and calves. The north and east walls are massive fieldstone walls while the south and west have low concrete foundation walls. The west wall has a nine-pane sash opening into the basement of Barn II.

Barn II:

The smaller barn is a two-bay structure of similar construction, which formerly had an interior corn crib on the south side of the main level. The north eave-side has a sliding door in the left (east) bay giving access to the interior via a small concrete ramp. There are no window openings; siding is vertical tongue-and-groove boards painted gray. The floor elevation is stepped down slightly below Barn I. The roof is pressed metal shingles to match Barn I.

Grade slopes down toward the west and south, with a partial fieldstone retaining wall making the transition to the west side where the wall is exposed. The west gable-end has a wood exterior wall at the basement level as well as above, two six-pane stable windows at the main level, and one six-pane window in the attic.

The south eave-side is open at the basement level, with siding applied over the angle braces forming chamfered upper corners. The upper level has one six-pane window in the left (west) bay. The roof on the south slope is metal shingles.
The interior is a post and beam framed structure of two bays. The basement level has a longitudinal girder with a center post support; floor joists run north-south supporting the main level.

**Barn III:**

This long, low 1-story outbuilding is oriented with its gable ends to the east and west. The building sits below the barn and is banked to the south and west to adjust to the sloping site.

The western part of the two-part building is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed, timber-framed structure of milled timbers cut with a circular saw, recycled from a sawmill formerly located along Spruce Brook, that is attached at its eastern gable-end to a long, low ell. The ell has un-equal roof pitches, with a narrow north slope and longer shallow-pitched south slope. The west gable end rests on a substantial fieldstone foundation which jogs to support an outhouse abutting the building at the northwest corner. At the upper, north side, rolling barn doors provide access to every second bay; two four-pane windows and a six-over-six double-hung window light the eastern part of the north wall. The lower, south basement level, where the chicken roosts were located, has been enclosed with glass-paneled windows. The upper level has a series of single and double-hung six-pane sash. A concrete block masonry chimney is located on the exterior of the east gable-end, flanked by six-pane windows and a door to the right. Siding is vertical wood and roofing is metal panels.

The interior of the older, western section is notable for a double-braced truss that frames the former opening in the north eave-side, which required a clear opening when the structure was a sawmill. It has been renovated and finished into a guest bedroom for use by the owners’ son.

The lower level is fitted with a variety of poultry roosting compartments. The roosts were originally open and covered with wire mesh, later glazed with recycled storm windows.

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

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

The farmstead is highly significant as a group of intact examples of square rule timber-frame construction. This farmstead, with the father working at a trade while the family farmed, illustrates the way multiple activities were carried on in order to make ends meet through the early 1900s. The recycled sawmill structure is a unique feature, incorporated into a later functional building, the chicken coop. The farmstead also has significance in the history of immigration, with the Ifflands coming from Germany in the mid-1800s and establishing themselves in Litchfield.

**Historical background:**

Martin Iffland (b. 1832) and Barbara Fuhrman (b. 1832) immigrated to the United States from Germany, and had six children, four sons and two daughters. They first were recorded in Litchfield’s census of 1860, with the first four children.

By about 1860, the Ifflands resided on the south side of East Litchfield Road in the house that stands one door to the west of no. 374 (on the west bank of Spruce Brook). In the late 1800s, the Martin Iffland property went into probate, and the old house was sold out of the family. In consolidating his own holdings, a son, Christian Rinehart Iffland, purchased this newer house to the east (no. 374) and combined that farm with an adjacent piece of property he had acquired from the Martin Iffland estate. He later bought a separate piece from on the western hill from Ernest Howe to use as summer grazing land for his young stock. The Christian Iffland farm also included two fields known as the Long Meadow and the Brook Lot, running south down the hill, behind the house and barns, to Pine Cobble. The farm was well-situated near a grist and sawmill that long operated on Spruce Brook next to the Martin Iffland house. The milldam, which washed out in the 1955 flood, was located where East Litchfield Road crosses the brook.
Before purchasing this property, Christian Iffland and his brother John took over the old “state farm” adjacent to south Torrington and began a business, buying, chopping and selling wood in Torrington. With William Shanley, he also had a lumber and grist mill in Fluteville. Iffland then settled here on East Litchfield Road. A man of many trades, he operated a portable saw mill ...  

The Iffland Farm was a small family operation with a few milk cows (Guernseys) and some young stock raised for beef, along with about 300 chickens and a few pigs. The family also raised honeybees and made and sold butter. Christian’s wife Clara had a delivery wagon and peddled eggs and vegetables in Torrington. Christian and Clara Iffland’s youngest son, Martin (named for his grandfather), was born in this house in 1893. During this first period of Iffland ownership, the farmhouse had no heating system apart from parlor stoves and no running water. (There is still a dug well under the back porch.) A sink just inside the kitchen door on the south, barnyard side of the house operated with a hand pump. Just beyond was the milk room, where the milk was separated from the cream and bottled. A 16-volt, gasoline-operated power plant provided electric light to the house; lines also ran out to the barn that stands to the south (Carley, 2007).

Martin and Barbara's son Christian Reinhart Iffland (1860-1930) met and married Clara Marsh (b. 1864), originally of New Hartford, when he were working nearby at the Marsh farm and she was staying there. They also had a cider mill. Christian R. and his older brother John J. appear in 19th-century census records along with their wives and children, living in Litchfield until the 1920s, when some of the family were in Torrington. Christian worked as a logger, cutting trees and teamstering the logs to the lumber company site where John took care of sales. As a result, Christian was away from home during the week, with Clara managing the farm. They also ran a granite quarry known as Ifflands Quarry.

Christian and Clara’s children were Leroy, Harold (b. 1890), Lula, Otto Christian (b. 1892), Martin Charles (b. 1893), and Ethel (b. 1897). Martin and Otto married two sisters, Laura and Jennie Richard, from Walnut Hill Farm on Richard Hill in Torrington. Martin and Laura remained at the farm and their children were Martha (1929-2011) and Donald (b. 1933), the present owner. Don is an ordained minister and has retired here after careers in the ministry in Plainville, and in education in New Milford.

During the Prohibition period, the cider produced in the Iffland mill provided local people with a drink that they could harden at home. In addition, for a time the underground tank in the meadow west of the Farmhouse is said to have run to a distillery. In the 1930s, the house was converted to a two-family so that Clara could remain in it after her husband’s death while Martin Charles and his family moved into the second apartment. Martin Charles was a plumber and steamfitter who was often away for periods of time. Farming was a secondary activity; there were usually some hired hands doing the farm work. Don Iffland recalls that Cap Goodwin and Jim Rodemyer were hired hands receiving room and board in return for their help.

The Ifflands continued their small dairy operation into the early 1950s. Later they had a poultry farm with 300 chickens, and several additional coops including a brooder house, now gone. The pond at the bottom of the hill to the south was made possible by selling gravel for the construction of the new Route 118 in the 1960s.

Barn I, used as the Iffland hay barn, originally belonged to the Shanley family, who ran a saw-mill, and stood near the Naugatuck River in the Campville section of Litchfield. The barn was taken down and reassembled on East Litchfield Road c. 1896 by Christian Iffland, who had worked for the Shanleys.

Barn II was moved from its perpendicular position (upper eave-side facing east) and joined to Barn I, probably also c. 1896.

Barn III, the Iffland Farm chicken coop, is notable chiefly for its older, western end section, which was rebuilt from the remains of an old sawmill that stood on Spruce Brook. That mill appears on the 1859 Clark map of Litchfield. The truss on the north side was designed to frame a broad opening (since enclosed) that accommodated long logs, which could be rolled directly into the saw. The building was salvaged and reused by the Ifflands. The chicken coop wing was added onto the mill structure around 1923. The glass lights used to enclose the roosts originally were storm windows on the main house. The western end of the coop contains the feed room, which was served by grain.
bins directly above on the upper level. A maple sugar house, converted from another coop, stands to the east. Nearby is a cantilevered gate that incorporates a gear (as a weight) from the old mill house.

**Architectural significance:**

Both the structures of Barn I and II, in good condition, are intact examples of square rule timber-frame construction. The stone retaining walls at the east and west ends are notable features. The introduction of the dairy stable below represents the way a building was adapted to new uses in the early 20th century. This farmstead, with the father working at a trade while the family farmed, illustrates the way multiple activities were carried on in order to make ends meet through the early 1900s. The recycled sawmill structure is a unique feature, incorporated into a later functional building, the chicken coop. The transition from dairy to poultry was a common sequence, with both product lines serving the urban populations of the nearby industrial cities of Torrington and Waterbury. As transportation improved, dairy and poultry products could be transported to customers or to wholesalers.

The farmstead also has significance in the history of immigration, with the Ifflands coming from Germany in the mid-1800s and establishing themselves as farmers in Litchfield while combining farm income with non-farm work including lumbering, quarrying, and plumbing. They were early in the wave of European immigration, but represent the beginning of a significant historical trend that continued through the 1920s.

* Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 7/25/2012.
Interview with Donald Iffland 7/25/2012, at the site.

**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/mash_up/1934.html)
  [http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.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:**


2. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 374 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield CT – [http://www.bing.com/maps](http://www.bing.com/maps) accessed 8/15/2012. Spruce Brook is at the top of the photograph running down to the left.
3. Detail Site Plan Sketch of 374 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield CT – base image from Google Maps, identifying contributing resources.

4. Northwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing south east. Barn I is at right rear.
5. Southeast view of farmstead, camera facing northwest. From left, Coop I, Barn I at rear, Coop II in foreground, east side of Farmhouse at right rear.

6. Northeast view of Coop II (foreground) and Coop I (right rear), camera facing southwest.

8. Southwest view of Barn I, camera facing west.
9. Southwest view of Barn II (left) and Barn I (right), camera facing northeast.

10. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing west.
11. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing southwest, showing dropped girt construction.

12. Interior view of Barn II, camera facing southwest, showing square rule joinery.
13. Interior view of Barn II basement level, camera facing southwest, showing manure trolley system.

15. Northwest view of Coop I, camera facing southeast. The former sawmill structure is in foreground behind the outhouse. The outhouse in the foreground was relocated here (see Fig. 20 for earlier location).

16. Southwest view of Coop I (foreground), camera facing northeast. Barn I is at left rear.
17. Historic photograph of Farmhouse prior to remodeling. Barn I is visible at left rear, camera facing southwest.

18. Historic view of Farmhouse after conversion to a two-family house in the 1930s, camera facing southeast.

20. Historic photograph of Leroy Iffland (Uncle Roy) and his wife Emma Peck Iffland, showing Barn I, camera facing southeast. Note the outhouse at left rear, later relocated to the west end of Chicken Coop I.