**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Curtiss, Garner B. / Goodwin, Robert A. Farmstead</th>
<th>Record No. 11508</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Curtiss, Garner B. / Goodwin, Robert A. Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>34 Goodwin Hill Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Litchfield</td>
<td>Village Northfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Edward &amp; Sara Gadomski, 34 Goodwin Hill Rd., Litchfield CT 06778</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling</th>
</tr>
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<td>Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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. 1860

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

- ☑ Fieldstone
- ☑ Concrete (Type cast-in-place)
- ☑ Wood Frame
- ☑ Post & Beam
- ☑ Load bearing masonry
- ☑ Other Concrete

**Structural System**

- ☑ Wood Frame
- ☑ Post & Beam
- ☑ Load bearing masonry
- ☑ Other Concrete

**Roof (Type)**

- ☑ Gable
- ☑ Flat
- ☑ Mansard
- ☑ Monitor
- ☑ Sawtooth
- ☑ Gambrel
- ☑ Shed
- ☑ Hip
- ☑ Round
- ☑ Other

**Number of Stories:** 1 1/2, B

**Approximate Dimensions** Barn I: 36.5' x 42.5', Barn II: 23' x 30.5'

**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: Restoration, partial new foundation in 2011.

**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: Silo foundation

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 2011 repairs: J.C. Merritt, New Milford

- Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

- Sources:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock ___________________________ Date 8/21/2012

View Multiple Views ___________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock ___________________________ Date 8/28/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.692287, -73.117597

Threats to the building or site:
- [✓] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Other _________________________
- [ ] Explanation _________________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The village center of Northfield is located near the southern border of Litchfield, close to the town line with Thomaston, and on a hill west of the Naugatuck River. Goodwin Hill Road is the name of a short stretch of road, named for the long-time farm family at this site, that branches off Moosehorn Road a short distance west of the Northfield Green.

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 6.5 miles to the northwest 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; and the Iffland Farmstead at 374 East Litchfield Road and Echo Farm at 43 East Litchfield Road, both in East Litchfield.

The Farmhouse stands on a hill on the north side of Goodwin Hill Road; a driveway passes west of the house, running north to Barn II, the horse barn, and a tool shed. Barn I, the cow barn, stands to the northeast of the house and east of the horse barn. A c. 1990 metal-sided pole barn is located west of the horse barn. The building group is surrounded on all sides by open hay fields and beyond the fields by woodlands. The hill-top location affords views in all directions; a few years ago when the land was more open, the church spire of Northfield Congregational Church was visible.

The Farmhouse, 25’ x 28’ plus rear additions, is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed structure of vernacular design with its ridge-line oriented north-south. The front entrance is centered in the south gable-end, flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. Two similar windows are above in the second floor level. The roof has deep overhangs with cornice returns, consistent with a vernacular Italianate style, although any ornament has been removed or covered by aluminum siding. The building is set into the hill which slopes downward to the east. The south and north ends have foundations built with mammoth roughly-cut stone blocks.

The east side elevation has an exposed walk-out basement with a brick wall. A wide door with a nine-pane glazed upper section over a three lower panels, flanked by two six-over-six double-hung windows, provides access and light to the basement. This area was used as the milk room for the dairy farm.

Alterations include conversion of a summer kitchen ell at the north side to finished space and addition of an; attached garage.

In addition to the Farmhouse, buildings on the site include a tool shed northwest of the house, a modern pole barn to the north, Barn II – horse barn, to the east of the pole barn, and Barn I – cow and hay barn, further east and banked into the downslope of the hill. A silo formerly stood east of the barn where it was adjacent to the basement level cow stable. Only the mortared fieldstone foundation remains.

• 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>Building</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>c. 1866</td>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>c. 1860</td>
<td>Pole barn</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>c. 1860</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barn I – Cow and hay barn:

The cow and hay barn stands on a sloping site to the northeast of the house. The barn is a 1 ½-story English bank barn with its ridge-line oriented north-south and the main entry in the west-facing eave-side. A shed-roofed extension toward the east

Exterior:

This structure consists of a three-bay gable-roofed English barn situated with its gable ends to the north and south and a shed-roofed lean-to extension on the east side. The main block is 25’ x 36’ and the extension adds 16’. The barn adjusts to grade so that it gains a lower level entered from the south gable end.

The west eave-side has the main entry doors, a pair of full-height sliding barn doors, in the center bay. The south gable-end has no openings in the main level. The basement level has a new concrete foundation which replaced unmortared stone in 2011. A door opening occupies the right half of the main block. To the left (west) there are two stable window openings high in the concrete. To the right are three window openings, replacing five that existing in earlier years. The steep roof pitch over the main block changes to a shallower slope over the eastern extension. The east eave-side of the extension has no openings. The north gable-end has a hay door at the main level of the east extension and no other openings. The east and north side foundations are new concrete. Siding is vertical boards unpainted, and roofing is green metal panels installed with no overhang or any rake trim.

Interior:

The interior consists of a square rule pegged post-and-beam frame, constructed of hand-hewn chestnut timbers. The two bents separating the main barn into three bays are framed with dropped cross girts and queen posts supporting purlin plates. Common rafters are original squared timbers meeting without a ridge pole. A single interior post is at the center of each bent. The queen posts have been braced with nailed double 2 x 10 sawn members, probably to compensate for the removal of a cross tie when a hay track was installed. Some framing members have been replaced in the 2011 rehabilitation; original chestnut members can be easily recognized by their color.

The upper level is still used for hay. The lower level has some original framing with traces of whitewash from its use as a dairy stable. The concrete floor and stanchions have been removed and new foundation piers installed for new support posts. The basement is used for tractor and equipment storage.

The remains of a manure shed and a fieldstone silo foundation stand to the east.

Barn II – Horse barn:

This two-bay gable-roofed barn stands with its ridge-line oriented east-west. The main entry is in the south eave-side, where the right (east) bay has a full-width sliding barn door. The east gable-end has a large hay door in the peak, now fixed shut but formerly of the vertical sliding type. The hay track projects slightly at the peak. The north eave-side has a hay door at the loft level in the right (west) bay and a basketball backboard mounted on the left (east) bay. The west gable-end is blank.

Siding is vertical boards, unpainted. The roof has overhangs at the rakes and eaves; roofing is asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete, said to have been added in the 1960s.

In the interior, the loft joists are of sawn dimension lumber, mortised into the hewn cross girts. Traces of whitewash at the west side indicate the location of the horse stalls. An open riser stair leads to the loft.

At the loft level the square rule post-and-beam frame, of chestnut and oak, is visible, notable for the hand-hewn posts and plates. The end walls have dropped cross girts. The center bent has a cross girt below the loft floor and traces of a truncated tie member above the plates. Steel cables have been added at the floor framing level in both directions for stability. The rafters are sawn, and there is no ridge pole. The original chestnut floorboards in the loft are intact, as is the hay track and fork.
• 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 farm is significant for the two-well preserved barns and landscape setting as well as its history of ownership by one family. Barn I, the cow barn, is highly significant as a beautiful example of square-rule timber framing, notable for the massive hand-hewn chestnut timbers. The horse barn, tool shed, and silo foundation provide indications of the former appearance of the working farm with its cluster of structures. The barns form part of a well-preserved farmstead complex that has remained in the same local family since it was built for Garner Bird Curtiss (1826-1905) who served in the state legislature in addition to farming. Sara Gadomski keeps the farmstead in family ownership to the present time.

Historical background:

This house was built for Garner B. Curtiss, originally of Plymouth, CT, around 1866. The initials G.B.C. are carved into some of the timbers. Curtiss had purchased a 36-acre tract of land ten years earlier from Edward Guernsey. According to census records, Curtis lived in Litchfield by 1860. As of that date, Curtiss lived here with his wife Martha, two daughters, Ella and Estella, and a hired farm laborer named Pierpont Blakeslee. Curtiss was a farmer, belonged to an old Northfield family, and represented the area in the General Assembly in 1875. Following his death in 1908, the farm passed to his daughter Ella. By family tradition the farm passed to unmarried family members, starting with Ella. Estella married a Goodwin and later died in childbirth. Ella raised her two children, Robert and Garner. Garner’s daughter Lucy Bradbury was the mother of Sara Gadomski, current owner.

Robert A. Goodwin (d. 1965), also unmarried at the time, took over the farm, and it passed down through the Goodwin family. Robert Goodwin had a small dairy farm with Jersey cows, and milk cows were raised here until c. 1960. A chicken coop and pig shed stood to the west.

The horse barn housed the Curtisses’ two work horses and later Robert Goodwin’s, and a carriage on the main floor. The upper level was the haymow; hay drops allowed the farmers to fork the hay to the horses below. The foundation was shored up with concrete in the 1960s.

A silo was built at some point after 1940 on the east side of the cow barn, and later demolished. There was also a dug well in the basement level of the barn. In addition to milking cows and heifers, the basement level had a stall for a bull who was brought in at mating time. The heifers always grazed in the woods to the east below the fields.

Goodwin originally had a delivery route for milk, butter and eggs, but later sold his milk to Fred J. Wood’s dairy in Thomaston. Toward the end of Ella Curtiss’s lifetime, she had a nurse, Elizabeth, caring for her; subsequently Robert and Elizabeth married. As Robert aged, he was cared for by his niece Lucy, who with her husband, moved in at the farm, in 1963. Lucy stayed for the rest of her life, and was succeeded by her daughter Sara and husband Ed, the current owners.

The cow barn underwent a major rehabilitation in 2011, with much of the foundation replaced in concrete and structural members replaced in the upper level where needed. The roof was replaced with metal. Hay is still grown and cut on the surrounding acreage, with much of the hay being sold to Arethusa Farm.

Architectural significance:

The farm is significant for the two-well preserved barns and unspoiled setting as well as its history of ownership by one family.

Barn I, the cow barn, is significant as a beautiful example of square-rule timber framing, notable for the massive hand-hewn chestnut timbers. The barn likely was built at the same time as the c. 1866 house. The upper level of this barn was for hay; the lower level (stanchions now removed) housed the cows. A line of square stall windows originally opened into the south gable end, where a sliding door covered the entrance opening. The horse barn, tool
shed, and silo foundation provide indications of the former appearance of the working farm with its cluster of structures. The Farmhouse retains its walk-out basement, used as the milk room.

The barns form part of a well-preserved farmstead complex that has remained in the same local family since it was built for Garner Bird Curtiss (1826-1905) who served in the state legislature in addition to farming. Following a period of ownership by Ella Curtiss, by the 1930s Robert A. Goodwin maintained a herd of about 20 Jersey cows here (and also kept Ayrshires for another farmer)—along with calves and heifers. Sara Gadomski keeps the farmstead in family ownership to the present.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 8/21/2012.

Interview with Ed and Sara Gadomski 8/21/2012, at the site. All historical photographs courtesy of Sara and Ed Gadomski.

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:


3. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources; base image from http://maps.google.com/.

4. Southeast view of Farmhouse, camera facing northwest. Barn I is at the right rear.
5. Interior view of Farmhouse basement, formerly the milk room area, camera facing east.

6. Northeast view of the farmstead, camera facing southwest. From left the Farmhouse at rear, Barn I in foreground, Barn II, pole barn at right rear.
7. Southeast view of tool shed, pole barn (rear), and Barn II – horse barn, camera facing northwest.

8. Northwest view of Barn I – the cow and hay barn, camera facing southeast.
9. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing southwest. Note original hand-hewn interior post and tie girt, queen post supporting a purlin plate. Siding was replaced in 2011.

10. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing south. Note the hay track at the ridge. One cross-tie formerly connected the purlin plates; its truncated end is visible. It was removed to allow movement of the hay fork. Diagonal braces made up of dimension lumber were installed at the queen posts to stabilize the posts.
11. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing northeast. At right rear is the framing of the shed extension. Some rafters and plates were replaced in 2011.

12. Interior view of Barn I basement, camera facing northwest. Note original stonework at west wall, old whitewashed framing, new sills and girder, new concrete north wall.
13. Southwest historical view of Barn I – cow barn, camera facing northeast. Note the single barn door.

14. South historical view showing top of silo at rear beyond barn.

15. South historical view of Barn I, camera facing north, showing cows in the lower level.
16. Southwest view of Barn II – horse barn, camera facing northeast.

18. Southeast historical view of Barn II – horse barn, camera facing northwest. Note vertical sliding hay door, which has subsequently ceased to operate.

19. Interior view of Barn II loft level north wall framing, camera facing north.
20. Interior view of Barn II loft level west wall and roof framing with hay fork, camera facing west.

21. Interior view of Barn II ground level west framing, camera facing north. Cross girt of central bent is hand hewn; loft floor joists are sawn dimension lumber. Cables have been installed in both directions for support.
22. Historical view of Barn I with additional outbuildings later demolished, camera facing northeast. Robert Goodwin used horses throughout his life rather than converting to a tractor.

23. Historical aerial view of the farmstead in the 1940s, camera facing northwest. Note the chicken coop at upper left and the driveway along the east side of the house, allowing access to milk room in the house basement. Standing near the parked trucks are Robert Goodwin’s wife Elizabeth, her son Frederick, and his wife Eva.