**Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register**

### HISTORIC RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Common)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record No.</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 barn, Vernacular Italianate style

Date of Construction: c. 1880

**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 Poured)
- [ ] Cut Stone (Type)
- [ ] Other: Vertical wood board

**Structural System**

- [ ] Wood Frame
- [ ] Post & Beam
- [ ] Balloon
- [ ] Load bearing masonry
- [ ] Structural iron or steel
- [ ] Other: Square rule framing

**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:** 35' x 40' w/12' x 35'

**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: Addition, entry infill

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

- [ ] Town # _______ Site # _______ UTM _______
- [ ] District: S [ ] NR If NR, Specify: Actual [ ] Potential

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*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.*
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:
- [ ] Barn
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Garage
- [ ] Carriage House
- [ ] Shop
- [ ] Garden
- [x] Other landscape features or buildings: Stone walls

Surrounding Environment:
- [ ] Open land
- [x] Woodland
- [x] Residential
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Industrial
- [x] 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 02/16/2013

View Multiple Views  Negative on File CTHP

Name ____________________________  Date 02/16/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.757935, -72.195092

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

The John H. Johnson Barn is located in southeastern Mansfield, on the west side of Storrs Road (Route 195), 500’ south of its intersection with Bassets Bridge Road; 0.5 miles south of its intersection with Browns Road and Warrenville Road (Connecticut Route 89), an area historically known as Mansfield Center; and 2.0 miles north of US Route 6. The barn and associated house and shed are sited roughly 0.9 miles west of Mansfield Hollow Lake. The resources sit on a 12.7-acre roughly rectangular parcel with narrow frontage along Storrs Road and extending approximately 1,400’ westward. The property is located approximately 0.5 miles south of the Mansfield Center National Register Historic District, a collection of 30 institutional and residential buildings dating to between c. 1694 and 1953; and roughly 0.5 miles west of the Mansfield Hollow National Register Historic District, a collection of 15 industrial, agricultural, and residential buildings dating to between c. 1800 and 1900 and located along Mansfield Hollow Road. Other sites included in the current thematic nomination of Agricultural Heritage resources to the State Register of Historic Places are: the Moulton Farmstead Barn at 55 Moulton Road; the Mason-Knowlton Farmstead at 185 Old Turnpike Road; the Phenix Farm / Parker Homestead at 53 Old Turnpike Road; and the Atwood Farm at 624 Wormwood Hill Road.

The surrounding area is predominantly residential, with large lots, some open fields and woodlands. A denser residential development sits to the north adjacent to this property, consisting of a cul-de-sac street lined with homes on small lots.

The Barn, an English barn with partially banked addition, is located along the eastern boundary of the property and is sited some 75’ west of the road and roughly 90’ south of the Farmhouse. An asphalt driveway runs east-west from the road to the north gable end of the barn. The Farmhouse is a 1 ½-story, five-bay, gable-roofed Cape-style residence erected c. 1754. It measures approximately 38’ x 30’ and faces Storrs Road with its ridge-line oriented roughly north-south. The house has a square- and rough-cut stone foundation, horizontal board siding, wood corner boards and window trim, six-over-six double-hung sash, and a central red brick masonry chimney. The five-bay east eave-side consists of a centered entry with two double-hung windows in each of the two bays to the north and south. A Greek Revival-style door surround was added during the mid-19th century. This consists of fluted pilasters and entablature terminating in paneled corner blocks. There is a partial-width, 1-story lean-to addition on the west eave-side of the house, this flush with its north gable-end. A 1-story ell with side-gabled roof is located at the southwest corner of the south-gable end of the main block. This was built c. 1960 and measures 36’ x 20. Except for the foundation, which is poured concrete, the details of the ell match those of the remainder of the house.

A 1-story frame combination shed and privy stands approximately 30’ west of the main block of the Farmhouse. This measures roughly 16’ x 10’ and has a gable roof oriented east-west, perpendicular to the house and barn. The Shed/Privy has a dry-laid fieldstone foundation; balloon framing; and vertical wood board siding painted pale yellow with pale salmon trim, thus matching the barn. The roof of the building is sheathed in asphalt shingles. There are two pass-through doors, one at each end of the south eave-side, leading to the interior of the shed on the east side and the privy on the west. A small, fixed four-pane window is located in the west gable.

The grade of the parcel slopes down to the east away from the buildings and towards the road. A roughly 1-acre lawn surrounds both the Barn and Farmhouse, and extends some 75’ to the west before it meets the tree line. The property and surrounding area were cleared for farmland and orchards during the 18th and 19th-centuries. While these have since primarily reverted to second-growth forest, the area retains much of its historic character, this also visible in the historic homes and buildings lining Storrs Road, as well as those found in the nearby National Register Historic Districts.
• 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>c. 1754</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>c. 1880</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed/Privy</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Barn:**

This is a 1 ½-story, three-bay, English barn, measuring 35’ x 40’. Its ridge-line is oriented roughly north-south parallel to Storrs Road. A portion of the slope on which the barn stands has been removed at the southern end of the building in order to accommodate a partially banked 1-story hip-roofed addition. The barn siding is horizontal wood clapboards painted a pale yellow with pale salmon corner boards and trim. The foundation is dry-laid fieldstone. Dry-laid fieldstone retaining walls on the south and east sides of the building hold back the slope north and west of the addition. The main block’s broad overhanging roof is sheathed with rough-sawn, horizontal boards and has slate shingles on the eastern pitch of the roof and asphalt shingles on the west. There is a large cupola centered along the ridge-line. This has three arched louvered openings on the east and west sides and two louvered arched openings on the north and south sides. Its hipped bellcast roof is clad in copper.

**Exterior:**

The Barn’s main entry is a tall interior sliding door centered on the east eave-side of the building. The door is mounted on a metal track that runs along the floor to the south. The slope of the bank runs all the way up to the sill obscuring the foundation on the east eave-side. The main entry door is broken up into eight panels with the top panels being twice as tall as the bottom. The wood comprising the panels is laid at alternating angles thus creating a herringbone pattern across the door. There is a reduced Victorian vernacular pediment above the entry door and the side bays of the east eave-side are blank.

The grade at the southeast corner of the east eave-side of the barn drops approximately 4’, this held back by a dry-laid fieldstone retaining wall running some 20’ east-west. There is a hip-roofed addition projecting to the south at a lower level from the main block. This measures roughly 12’ x 35’. Centered on the east side of the addition are two evenly spaced, elongated, six-pane casement windows. The ground level of the south gable-end of the barn is entirely encompassed by the addition. From east to west the south side of the addition consists of a six-pane hopper window, a side-hinged pass-through door, two additional six-pane hopper windows, and another side-hinged pass-through door. There is a six-over-six double-hung window with a reduced Victorian vernacular pediment centered in the gable of the main block.

The west eave-sides of the main block and the addition are blank except for the center bay entry door and a small, fixed six-pane window at the southern end of the main block. The original door opening has been framed in and a small pass-through door placed at the center of the opening (the original interior sliding door remains in an open position within the barn).

The grade along the north gable-end of the barn drops slightly to the east, this revealing the fieldstone foundation. There is a small fixed six-pane window on the west side of the north gable-end of the barn and a six-over-six double-hung window with reduced Victorian vernacular pediment centered in the gable.

**Interior:**

The interior of the main level consists of a three-bay, four-bent, square rule post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts, extensive diagonal bracing, and two interior posts within each bent. The original framing consists of circular sawn timbers, these with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. Canted queen posts with diagonal bracing rise from all four bents to purlin plates running the length of the building. The queen posts above the exterior bents have a single brace running up to the purlins and another down to the end girts, while the interior queen posts have two.
braces extending to the purlins and one running down to the tie-beams. The common rafters are circular sawn and they meet at a ridge board. The main level framing appears to be of original construction.

Wide circular sawn floorboards run laterally (east-west) through the center bay and longitudinally (north-south) across the side bays. The wall sheathing consists of vertical wood boards, these covered on the exterior with clapboards, as noted. Circular sawn joists and floorboards have been laid across the loft level of the western third of the northern bay and the entirety of the southern bay. No integrated ladders or stairs are present. Girts once located approximately 3’ above floor level running east-west across the northern interior bent have been removed, yet suggest that the north bay might have originally served as a hay mow. The interior posts of the south bay show signs of having been chewed by livestock, an indication this bay once served as stable space.

A pass-through door located on the western side of the south gable-end leads to the addition. The door opens into a small vestibule where chickens were once kept within a wire enclosure at the ground level. Stairs descend south out of the barn via another pass-through door, or west through another door into a space formerly used as a dairy. The dairy has a poured concrete floor with manure gutter and feeding trough. Also concrete is the exposed foundation of the main barn, forming the lower north wall. Stanchion bases present in the feeding trough suggest that the addition was built to accommodate three cows. The walls and ceiling of the dairy are tongue-and-groove boards, these whitewashed. A small hay door is located on the northern wall of the dairy, this even with the floor level of the main block. A frame workbench runs along the western wall of the dairy and a batten door with horizontal and diagonal interior bracing leads out to the yard south of the barn.

• 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 John H. Johnson Barn is significant as an exceptionally well-preserved example of a Victorian period English barn and because of its 19th century framing, which is a good example of square rule post and beam construction during the period of circular sawn milling. The barn is also notable for evidence of dairy use in the 1-story addition on the south gable-end of the building. Furthermore, it gains significance for its association with a Colonial-era farmstead house owned by a number of notable early residents of Mansfield Center. These include William Hanks, Samuel Sargeant, Isaac Arnold, John Johnson, and others.

Historical background:

In her history of Mansfield Center’s early houses and their first owners, Roberta K. Smith writes in her entry for 435 Storrs Road that,

This area on both sides of Town Street [later renamed Storrs Road after a notable local family] has experienced more changes than any other section of Mansfield Center. Its history is extremely complex. The majority of the first houses, in the original homelots, were on the east side of Town Street, with their respective owners’ pasture lots on the west side. In earliest times, on this particular lot, there were orchards on at least part of the property. There were also, however, at least two early 18th-century houses and a carpenter shop located south of the Samuel Sargeant house [currently to the north at 451 Storrs Road] (Smith, et al).

Smith notes that William Hanks, son of Benjamin and Mary (White) Hanks, built the house currently identified as 435 Storrs Road shortly after buying a portion of one of Mansfield Center’s original homelots in 1752. Smith writes,

In March 1752, William Hanks purchased the northeasterly corner of the sixteenth pasture lot and a few rods more in 1754. Sometime between these two transactions Hanks built a dwelling there and purchased an additional half acre of the fifteenth pasture lot from his father-in-law, Jacob Sargeant.
According to Hanks family tradition, William was involved in the early silk industry and was involved in importing mulberry trees into Mansfield. They believe, too, he was one of the early tailors in New England. He sold his house and property in 1768, and moved to Pawlett, Vermont soon after (Smith, et al).

After Hanks sold the Cape-style house and surrounding property they subsequently passed through a number of hands over the course of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Owners during this period included Samuel Sargeant, also the owner of 451 Storrs Road; Isaac Arnold, a local carpenter; Ephraim Parker, Jr., and John Davis. Arnold is particularly notable in this case as he and his son, Charles Arnold, built or renovated a number of residences in Mansfield Center and likely added the Greek Revival entry surround to the house at 435 Storrs Road. Smith notes that Charles Arnold owned as many as three different carpentry shops in Mansfield at various times, including one just north of the house in question, which no longer survives. Smith also notes that during the ownership of John Davis land records mention the presence of a half-acre mulberry orchard located on the property, this perhaps that originally planted by William Hanks.

By 1857, a historic map of Tolland County indicates that the property had passed to John H. Johnson, a farmer, and he is likewise listed as the owner on an 1869 map of Mansfield. Federal census records from 1870 show that Johnson, then 50 years old, lived alone on the property. By 1880, he was joined by a housekeeper, 26-year old Almyra Johnson, however, if or how the two were related is unclear. Smith notes that it was Johnson who erected the current barn, circa 1880, and mentions that he was also well known for his, “extensive and attractive gardens” (Smith, et al). Local directories indicate that John H. Johnson continued to live in Mansfield Center in 1890 and 1891. Johnson passed away on August 5, 1896, and was buried in Olde Mansfield Center Cemetery.

The identity of the owner immediately following the death of John Johnson is unclear, however, by 1941, the property had been purchased by Charles W. Hitchcock and his wife Louise. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Charles Hitchcock moved to Willimantic, Connecticut, after being hired by a local insurance firm, the John Allen Insurance Agency in 1940. Formerly an employee of the Travelers Insurance Company, he eventually became a partner in the John Allen Insurance Agency, which was then renamed the Allen & Hitchcock Insurance Agency and later the C.W. Hitchcock Insurance Agency. Charles and Louise Hitchcock had four daughters, Sandra, Gail, Dorris, and Barbara. Charles flew planes for the Connecticut National Guard during the 1920s, served in the Connecticut Civilian Defense Council during World War Two, and was active in local civic groups throughout his life. Charles and Louise Hitchcock both lived in the house at 435 Storrs Road for the remainder of their lives, Louise passing away in 1992, Charles in 1993. The house is currently owned by their daughters, Sandra Hitchcock Marschat and Gail Louise Hitchcock.

Architectural significance:

The John H. Johnson Barn is significant as an exceptional example of an English barn and because of its 19th century framing, which is a good example of square rule post and beam construction. The John H. Johnson Barn possesses an atypical degree of decorative detail for a working agricultural building situated in a rural landscape. This is perhaps indicative not only of its builder's social standing, but of the refined character of the area surrounding Mansfield Center. Wood clapboards have been applied over the vertical wood board sheathing and pedimented trim graces the door and window openings. Perhaps the most eye-catching detail of the barn, however, is its cupola. Prominently centered along the ridge-line, its details include a series of louvered arched openings and a copper-clad, hipped bellcast roof.

The barn’s location adjacent to the road and its elegant detailing may be indicative of use as a carriage barn, characteristic of its period, with the evidence of animals such as horses in the main level. The barn is also notable for evidence of dairy use in the 1-story addition on the south gable-end of the building. Such details include a poured concrete floor with manure gutter, feeding trough with extant stanchion bases, and a whitewashed interior. The space accommodating only three cows suggests personal use rather than commercial dairy. Furthermore, it gains significance for its association with a Colonial-era farmstead house owned by a number of notable early residents of Mansfield Center. These include William Hanks, Samuel Sargeant, Isaac Arnold, John Johnson, and the Hitchcocks.
Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Lucas A. Karmazinas, 02/17/2013.
Interview with Sandra H. Marschat, owner, 02/17/2013, at the site.

Map resources:
Mansfield Assessor's Records and GIS Viewer: http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/CT/Mansfield/
Parcel ID: Map 34/97/49
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.

Print and Internet resources:
Connecticut State Library online: iconn.org or
http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
http://www.connecticutbarns.org/index.cgi/10956
Favretti, Rudy J., Kenneth Forman, Roberta K. Smith, and James Slater, Historic Mansfield Center: Site of the
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,

3. Parcel map of 435 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT – from Mansfield, CT GIS Viewer
   http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/CT/Mansfield/

4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources; viewed from the east. Base image from Bing Maps.
5. Southeast context view of 435 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT, camera facing northwest.

6. Southwest context view of 435 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT, camera facing northeast.
7. East eave-side and north gable-end of Farmhouse, camera facing southwest.

8. South gable-end and west eave-side of side ell, camera facing northeast. Note lean-to behind main block.
9. South eave-side and west gable-end of Shed/Privy, camera facing northeast.


13. Interior view of Barn main level, showing framing detail, camera facing north. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, canted queen posts, and purlins.

14. Interior view of Barn main level, showing framing detail, camera facing northwest. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, wall girts, later door enclosure, and loft-level flooring.
15. Interior view of Barn main level, showing framing detail, camera facing northeast. Note dropped girts, center post, diagonal bracing, canted queen posts, and purlins.

16. Interior view of Barn main level, showing end-wall framing detail, camera facing north. Note end girt, center post, diagonal bracing, canted queen posts, and purlins.
17. Interior view of Barn main level, showing roof detail, camera facing east. Note rough sawn board sheathing and slate shingles.

18. Interior view of Barn main level, showing door detail, camera facing east. Note herringbone panel pattern.
19. Interior view of Barn main level, showing detail of south bay, camera facing southeast. Note gnawed posts, wall sheathing, and loft flooring.

20. Interior view of Barn dairy addition, showing wall and ceiling details, camera facing northwest. Note whitewashed interior, pass-through door leading to main level, hay door, clapboard siding.
21. Interior view of Barn dairy addition, showing feeding trough detail, camera facing west.

22. Interior view of Barn dairy addition, showing floor detail, camera facing northeast. Note manure gutter.
23. Interior view of Barn dairy addition, showing wall, window, and ceiling details, camera facing east. Note hopper, and elongated casement windows, workbench.

24. Undated historical northeast context view of Farmhouse and Barn, camera facing southwest (Favretti).