**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) **Marsh Farmstead West Barn**  
Record No. 10114

Building Name (Historic) **Marsh, Henry, Farmstead West Barn**

Street Address or Location **661 Niles Road**

Town/City **New Hartford** Village **** County **Litchfield**

Owner(s) **Giaconia, William A. & Melissa R., 661 Niles Road, New Hartford, CT 06057**  
Public  Private

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: **Domestic: secondary structure**

Historic Use: **Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding**

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 **19th 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 **36' x 26'**

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: **Repair/restoration in 2010.**

### 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: Stone walls, formerly associated with house at 651 Niles Road

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 Lucas A. Karmazinas Date 1/19/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Lucas A. Karmazinas Date 1/22/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:

41.852056, -73.039723

Threats to the building or site:

- [✔️] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Other ________________
- [ ] Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Henry Marsh West Barn is located on the west side of Niles Road, 1.3 miles south of its intersection with West Hill Road, 1.7 miles north of its intersection with Litchfield Turnpike (Connecticut Route 202), roughly 1.25 miles south of West Hill Lake, and approximately 1.1 miles east of the Torrington town line, in New Hartford, Connecticut. The barn sits on 2.76 acres subdivided from the former Henry Marsh Farmstead property in 2004. Originally numbering upwards of 100 acres, the Henry Marsh Farmstead once lined both sides of Niles Road extending east and west along the flanking hills and south 0.2 miles to Cedar Swamp Brook. The headwaters of the Nepaug River are located just 350 feet east of the property, from whence they flow in a generally southeasterly direction before feeding into the Nepaug Reservoir some 4.6 miles away.

The barn sits on an open lot framed to the north, east, and south by stone walls, and to the west by a line of deciduous and coniferous trees. The building is located along the northern border of the property, roughly halfway between its eastern and western boundaries. There is an opening in the stone wall directly north of the barn, providing access from the main entry to a field to the north of a recently-constructed cul-de-sac road extending westward. The barn is sited directly to the northeast of a three-bay, 2 ½-story, center-entry, saltbox-style house, and a two-bay, 1 ½-story garage with front-facing gable roof, both built in 2007. To the north, also on the west side of Niles Road yet now a separate parcel, is the historic Henry Marsh House, a c.1820 brick Greek Revival farmhouse.

On the east side of Niles Road between the barn and the farmhouse are two clusters of agricultural buildings likewise associated with the Marsh Farmstead. These include a 1 ½-story English eave-entry barn with multiple additions, a 1 ½-story New England bank barn with 1-story cross-gable ell, as well as various outbuildings, the majority likely built over the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The grade of the property slopes down to the south and east away from the buildings. The Marsh property was largely cleared for farmland during the nineteenth century, however, with the exception of a narrow band of meadows flanking Niles Road it has since reverted to second-growth forest. Although several eighteenth and nineteenth-century farmsteads remain as testaments to the area’s former agricultural utility (see Barn Survey Records for 554 and 651 Niles Road), its current use is primarily residential, this typified by twentieth-century suburban-type housing.

Other documented historic resources in New Hartford are the Pine Meadow Historic District, a National Register and Local district which is located six miles east in the village center of Pine Meadow, along the Farmington River, and Gillette’s Grist Mill on Maple Hollow Road in the village of Bakersville, 1.5 miles southeast of the Marsh Farmstead. Additional sites in New Hartford that are included in this thematic nomination are: the Burdick Farmstead at 250 Town Hill Road, Cowles-Smith Farmstead at 741 Steele Road, and the Marsh-Tuttle Farmstead at 851 West Hill Road.

• 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>Date</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West barn</td>
<td>Early 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House, garage</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional related historic resources now under separate ownership include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House, 651 Niles Road</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmstead main barns, 658 Niles Road</td>
<td>19th-20th c.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 1 ½-story, three-bay, English bank barn, measuring 36’ x 26’. Its ridge-line is oriented east-west perpendicular to Niles Road. The barn has a drive-through configuration with a pair of entry doors in the center bay of both the north and south sides. A portion of the slope into which the barn is built has been removed at the
eastern end of the building, thus leaving the basement level of the gable-end and part of the south eave-side exposed. This provides a lower grade-level access to the banked basement on the south side. Siding is vertical wood boards, these painted a dark red, and the foundation is a combination of dry-laid and mortared fieldstone. The roof is sheathed in wide, rough-sawn, horizontal boards, modern plywood, and cedar shingles.

**Exterior:**

Entry is by a pair of three-quarter height hinged barn doors on the north eave-side. The slope of the bank runs almost all the way up to the sill, leaving just a few inches of the fieldstone foundation exposed below the entry. The batten-style doors are framed on the interior with three wide horizontal boards and are secured with strap hinges. The side bays are blank.

The east gable-end has no openings on the main level, however, the horizontal board siding forms a uniform girt-line dividing and a single six-pane window with trim is present in the gable. Two widely-spaced six-pane windows with wood sills provide light to the basement level. Mortared fieldstone retaining walls on the north, west, and south sides of the building hold back the hillside.

The details of the south eave-side are identical to those on the north, except for the basement-level entry door at the eastern end of the building. Here the aforementioned retaining wall is recessed from the eastern plane of the building, providing access to a batten pass-through door with strap hinges.

The west gable-end has no openings. The fieldstone foundation is partially exposed, that above grade being laid-up dry. The horizontal board siding forms a uniform girt-line dividing.

**Interior:**

The interior of the main level consists of a three-bay, four-bent, square rule post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts, diagonal bracing, and a single post at the center of each bent. The original framing is a mix of hand hewn and circular sawn timbers, these with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. The plates are continuous timbers 36’ feet in total length. Dimension lumber queen posts extend to short purlin plates that were added in 2010 to the second and third (interior) bents. The common rafters are circular sawn and meet at a ridge board where they are nailed in place. Modern rafter ties have been nailed in place between every fourth interior rafter pair. An extant hay track, of a type commonly installed in the late 19th century, runs along the ridge board for the length of the building. In general, the majority of the main level framing appears to be of original or early construction, however, the current owners recently replaced the sills and exterior siding.

The center drive-through bay retains its original threshing floor, this consisting of 15”-16”-wide boards laid perpendicular to the openings. The center bay is flanked on each side by a low parapet wall. On the east side this consists of two hewn rails pegged between the posts, while on the west it is comprised of hewn rails with sawn boards below. The east bay is partially open to the basement-level stable area, however, whitewashing along the basement walls and wall girts suggest that a floor might have once covered the entire bay. The hay mow is located to the west of the threshing bay. The mow lacks a formal floor and a portion of the southern end of the bay drops to the grade of the basement level. Mortared fieldstone foundation walls frame the opening.

The basement level extends only under the eastern and center bays. Hand hewn posts support lateral (north-south) girders in the plane of the main bents at the upper level and intermediate girders running longitudinally (east-west) in the center of the threshing bay. The eastern bay shows indications of use as a ground level dairy stable during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Cow stalls are framed with circular-sawn lumber, these facing a wood feeding trough, and wood boards line the floor.

The basement beneath the center bay is excavated deeper than that to the east. A ramp at the southwest corner descends below the threshing floor to an area once used to house swine. The swine sty has a dirt floor, mortared fieldstone walls on its north, west, and south sides, and a wood trough along its eastern wall. As described, a jog in the foundation wall at the southwest corner of the center bay opens to the hay mow above.
• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:
   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 barn is significant as an intact example of an English bank barn. With its early-19th century framing, it is a good example of square rule post and beam construction. Subdivision has impacted the integrity of the landscape somewhat; however the group of buildings including the Marsh house, main barns, and West barn, together preserve a sense of the historic landscape.

Historical background:
In 1732, portions of the Western Lands of the Connecticut Colony were divided by the proprietors of Hartford and Windsor with the intent that they would be apportioned for settlement. Hartford was granted the area today comprising the towns of New Hartford, Winchester, Hartland, and the eastern section of Harwinton. A total of 182 Hartford tax-payers received an undivided share in the lands that would become New Hartford and in May 1733 the boundaries of the township were laid out and named after the mother town.

Surveyors agreed that the Town Hill section of the territory was the ideal location for initial settlement. One of the proprietors and first residents of Town Hill was Jonathan Marsh. Marsh settled in the area of 250 Town Hill Road (see also State Register nomination for 250 Town Hill Road, New Hartford) and built a farmhouse where he would live and eventually die. His son, Jonathan Marsh, Jr., also lived in the house until it was replaced in turn by his son, Ashbel Marsh, Sr., around 1800.

The Marsh family held a prominent position in this early period of New Hartford’s history, as well as in the decades to follow. Jonathan Marsh, Jr. served as the local Congregational minister while other family members were prosperous farmers. During the 1770s, Ashbel Marsh Sr. and his uncle, Joseph Marsh, were notable for owning the only two ox carts in town, these having been built by Ashbel’s brother, Jonathan Marsh, 3rd. A local story goes that Ashbel Marsh was once offered 25 acres for his ox cart, which he refused.

Joseph Marsh died a bachelor at the age of 94 years in 1812. He left his house on Town Hill Road to his nephew, Jonathan Marsh, 3rd, who had married Damaris Pitkin in June 1780. Jonathan and Damaris Marsh had six children, Frederick, Wyllys, Lucy, Electa, Cynthia, and Jonathan Pitkin Marsh. Of these, Wyllys Marsh was born on September 23, 1782, and to him and his wife Rhoda was born Henry Marsh on March 4, 1817.

Although it is noted in local histories that Wyllys Marsh resided along with many other members of the Marsh family on Town Hill Road, Henry Marsh eventually departed his father’s home to establish his own farm to the west on what is now Niles Road. He first appears in census records as his own head of household in 1850, and by 1859 is listed on a map of New Hartford as the owner of a house just north of Cedar Swamp Brook at what is today 651 Niles Road. The Marsh house was erected by an unknown builder c. 1820, and it is unclear when Henry Marsh took up residence here or who followed. Henry and his wife, Martha Bumsell Marsh, would raise four children on the Niles Road farm, Wilber (b. 1853), Adalake (b. 1855), Wesley (b. 1857), and Harry (b. 1860). By the 1970s, the property was that of Henry and Virginia Barr, the last residents to own the property before it was subdivided.

The current owner carried out renovations in 2010, which included the addition of purlin plates to stabilize the roof framing, sill replacement, siding, and roofing. The number of windows in the east gable-end was reduced and a pair of three-pane transoms were removed from the north eave-side above the doors.

Architectural significance:
The barn is significant as an intact example of an English bank barn. The early-19th century framing is a good example of square rule post and beam construction. The barn is notable for its intact basement level dairy stalls and swine sty, which illustrate the benefits of bank barn construction. The introduction of space to shelter animals under the main floor of the barn, as in the present case, represents the evolution of the barn over the 19th and early 20th centuries.
The barn gains further significance for its association with a Federal period farmstead owned by a prominent New Hartford lineage, of the Marsh family, as well as with a number of additional intact barns connected to the Marsh farmstead. Subdivision of the land has impacted the integrity of the landscape somewhat; however the group of buildings including the Marsh house, main barns, and West barn, together preserve a sense of the historic landscape.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Lucas A. Karmazinas, 1/19/2013.
Interview with William Giaconia, owner, 1/19/2013, at the site.

Map resources:
Parcel ID: Map 009/037/13/6
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,
Jones, Henry Roger, Sketches of the People and Places of New Hartford in the Past and Present: Section 1-2,
Tribune of New Hartford, New Hartford, CT, 1893.
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,


5. Northeast context view of 661 Niles Road, New Hartford, CT, camera facing southwest. From left to right: Modern House, Modern Garage. Barn is at rear (north) of photographer.

6. Southwest context view of 661 Niles Road, New Hartford, CT, camera facing northeast. From left to right: Barn, barns at 658 Niles Road, formerly same property.


10. West gable-end and north eave-side of barn, camera facing southeast.
11. Interior view of barn main level, showing framing detail, camera facing northwest. Note hay track, interior bent center post, and later queen posts, purlin plate, and rafter ties.

12. Interior view of barn main level, showing framing detail, camera facing northeast. Note dropped girt, diagonal braces, and wide rough-sawn roof sheathing.
13. Interior view of barn main level, showing center bay threshing floor, camera facing northeast. Note parapet rail between center and east bays.

14. Interior view of barn main level, showing parapet rail and boards between center bay and hay mow, camera facing southeast.
15. Interior view of barn main level, showing details of east exterior bent, camera facing east. Note wall girts, scaffold boards, and basement level whitewash.

16. Interior view of barn basement level, showing cattle stalls, camera facing northwest.
17. Interior view of barn basement level, showing ramp to swine sty below center bay, camera facing west. Note hand hewn lateral girder.

18. Interior view of barn basement level, showing swine sty feeding trough, camera facing northeast.
19. Interior view of barn basement level, showing swine feeding trough, camera facing north. Note hand hewn, longitudinal, intermediate girders.

20. Interior view of barn basement level, showing foundation bump-out below hay mow, camera facing west. Note mortared fieldstone foundation walls.
21. Northeast context view prior to renovations, camera facing southwest.

22. North view prior to renovations, camera facing south.