## HISTORIC RESOURCES

**New Haven**

**Barns I & II overall: 24’ x 67’**

c. 1850

Domestic: secondary structure/agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

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**North Branford**

**Dudley House and Barns**

Record No. 51370

Gordon, Washington, Farmstead

English barns, Vernacular style

c. 1850

Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

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</thead>
</table>

- Vertical wood siding

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Building Name (Common)** Dudley House and Barns

**Record No. 51370**

**Building Name (Historic)** Gordon, Washington, Farmstead

**Street Address or Location** 167 Sea Hill Road

**Town/City** North Branford

**Village**

**County** New Haven

**Owner(s)** Susan Dudley, 167 Sea Hill Road, North Branford CT 06471

- Public
- Private

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### PROPERTY INFORMATION

**Present Use:** Domestic: secondary structure/agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Historic Use:** Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Accessibility to public:** Exterior visible from public road?  Yes  No

- Yes
- No

**Interior accessible?** Yes  No

- Yes
- No

**If yes, explain**

**Style of building** English barns, Vernacular style

**Date of Construction** c. 1850

**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

**Approximate Dimensions**

Barns I & II overall: 24’ x 67’

**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:

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**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: Corn crib, pond.

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 ______________________________________ Date 10/27/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Tod Levine Date 12/07/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.340055, -72.754932

Threats to the building or site:

- ✓ None known
-  ■ Highways
-  ■ Vandalism
-  ■ Developers
-  ■ Renewal
-  ■ Private
-  ■ Deterioration
-  ■ Zoning
-  ■ Other ___________________  ■ Explanation ___________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:
These two English barns attached gable-to-gable form an extended barn. The site is an L-shaped lot on the southeast side of Sea Hill Road. The road runs northeast-southwest in this location, but for the purpose of description, the road is considered as north-south with the site on the east side. The barns are near the southeast corner of the site, with their long south eave-side facing toward the southern property line with the adjacent house, a modern home on Fawn Meadow Lane. Also located on this 5.24-acre site are the original c. 1835 farmhouse, located along the west edge close to the road, a 1-story shed north of the house and facing the road, a corn crib east of the house, a modern garage south of the house, and a pond which is north of the building cluster. A paved driveway extends east from the road, passes between the house (to the north) and garage (to the south), and terminates north of the corn crib. To the east of the corn crib is the pair of barns. North of the barns is the pond which occupies the central portion of the site.

The farmhouse is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed Greek-Revival-style structure with its ridge-line oriented east-west and its gable-end facing west to Sea Hill Road. The west facade is a three-bay gable-front. The entry is in the southernmost bay and is framed by pilasters and an entablature. The windows and front door have working shutters. The windows have six-over-six double-hung sash. A horizontal rectangular attic window has louvered shutters. A 1-story wing extends east. The south eave-side has a small 1-story gable-roofed bay window; this and a rear porch are said to have been added c. 1880. The foundation is cut sandstone beneath the main portion of the house and fieldstone beneath the wing, both mortared. The house is clad in wood clapboards with corner board trim. Siding is painted white and the shutters and door are black. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has short cornice returns with period moldings and soffits.

The area immediately surrounding the site is residential subdivisions of the 20th century and woodland. The site is just north of Route 80, which includes commercial sites. To the northwest of the site is Lake Gaillard, a water supply reservoir. To the east are Clear Lake and West Lake.

• 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>c. 1835</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>c. 1850</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>c. 1880</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn crib</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>Late 20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Barn I:
This is a 1 ½-story eave-entry English barn attached gable-to-gable to Barn II, which is nearly identical in form. The eave-sides of the barns are flush with one another, resulting in the appearance of a single extended barn. Barn I measures 35' x 24'. The pair of barns measures 67' x 24' overall. Barn I is the eastern of the two structures and is the older. The ridge-line of the barn runs roughly east-west. The barn has vertical wood siding once painted red, now faded. The roof is shared by both structures and is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation is un-mortared fieldstone.

Exterior:
The main entry is in the middle of three bays in the south eave-side of Barn I. The entry is a pair of full-height swinging hinged doors with wrought iron hardware. The west bay is blank. The east bay has a hinged pass-through door near the east corner.
The east gable-end of Barn I has a dropped girt-line siding divide and a centered boarded-over pass-through door flanked by boarded-over window openings. The north eave-side of Barn I is blank and is flush with the north eave-side of Barn II.

**Interior:**

The main entry opens into the middle of three bays and measures 12’ wide. The plank barn doors have z-bracing on the interior. Immediately upon entering the middle bay there is a pass-through door to the right, leading into the east bay through a partition. The east bay is partially enclosed and measures 10’ wide. Along the west partition are small stalls. Above the stalls is a loft area. The west bay of Barn I has no west end wall and leads directly into the east bay of Barn II.

Barn I is constructed with square rule mortise and tenon timber frame construction. The typical bent has a single interior post below a dropped tie-girt and queen posts supporting purlin plates that carry the rafters. The posts measure 8” x 8”. The girts measure 5” x 6”. The diagonal braces measure 3” x 5” and have kerf saw marks. The ceiling has purlin plates that span from the middle bay of Barn I to the middle bay of Barn II. The rafters are hand hewn and meet at a pegged half-lap joint at the ridge of the roof. The roof deck boards are random-width wood planking overlain with plywood. The floor is dirt.

Barn II:

This is a 1 ½-story eave-entry English barn attached gable-to-gable to the west end of Barn I forming an extended barn form. Barn II measures 32’ x 24’. Barn II is the western of the two structures. The ridge-line of the barn runs roughly east-west. The barn has vertical wood siding once painted red, now faded. The roofs of both structures align and are asphalt shingles. The foundation is un-mortared fieldstone.

The main entry in the south eave-side Barn II is a pair of single-height swinging hinged doors in the middle of three bays, off-center to the east. These appear to be replacements in a former full-height opening. The east bay is blank. The west bay has two six-pane windows with trim and a pass-through door at the west corner. The west gable-end of Barn II has a single boarded-over window towards the south corner and a dropped girt line siding divide. The west gable-end had a shed-roofed addition which has recently been demolished. The north eave-side of Barn II appears to have formerly had a center-bay full-height door opening corresponding to the south side, now filled-in with siding. To the right in the west bay there is a panel of three six-pane stable windows.

The interior is a square rule post and beam framed structure similar to Barn I.

**Historical or Architectural importance:**

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

**Historical background:**

The site in 1832, then 30 acres, was purchased by Washington Gordon from John and Annet Whedon. Washington Gordon still owned the property and was a farmer in 1870, according to the local census. The barn and its identical addition appear to have been built within the period of Gordon’s ownership.

Probate records dated February 1893 enumerate “35 acres with dwelling and other buildings to Rebecca Clark after the death of her husband Admiral Clark.” The property was acquired by the Rose family in 1894 and by the present owner’s parents, John and Jean Dudley, in 1957. The acreage associated with the Farmhouse and barns decreased over time to the current 5.24 acres.

The site had horses and cows in the 1920s and a chicken coop, now gone, in the 1950s. The fields surrounding the current site were used for hay and corn fields. Today, the site is surrounded by modern residential developments, with the farmstead buildings all that remain of a former working farm.
Architectural significance:

Barn I and Barn II are significant as outstanding examples of the English barn type. Both barns were built with square rule timber frame construction. Barn I has hand-hewn chestnut posts and beams. Barn II has circular sawn chestnut posts and beams. Both barns are built with the classic English barn format; three bays of (nearly) equal size with an overall form in a 3:4 ratio of depth to length. The easternmost bay of Barn I includes built-in stalls. Both barns feature purlin plates and dropped girts in the gable-ends. Some of the roof deck boards are as wide as two feet and appear original. Although the neighborhood has lost the integrity of its agricultural landscape setting, the property itself with its farmhouse, barns, other outbuildings, and farm pond, retains the feel of its historic character. The well-maintained house and corn crib have particular integrity. The barns, although needing some deferred maintenance, are excellent intact examples of their type, and illustrate how the classic English barn was typically expanded through replication, thereby extending the length and number of bays.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 10/27/2012. Interview with Susan Dudley 10/27/2012, 167 Sea Hill Road, North Branford, CT.

Map resources:


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.

USGS Historical Maps at http://historical.mytopo.com/.


Print and internet resources:

AFSA-Collected Global Family Tree Files for Washington Gordon, through Typhena Augir:


4. West view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.
5. South view of Farmhouse, camera facing north.

6. East context view of (left to right) garage, Corn crib, rear of Farmhouse, and Shed, camera facing west.
7. West view of the Shed with north side of Farmhouse at right, camera facing southwest.

8. Northeast view of the garage, camera facing southwest.

10. South view showing Barn II to the left and Barn I to the right, camera facing north.
11. Northeast view of Barn I, camera facing southwest, showing east gable-end and north eave-side. Barn II is at the far end of the north side.

12. North view of Barn I (left) and Barn II (right), camera facing southwest. Note former barn door opening at Barn II and stable windows at far right indicating possible livestock stable use.
13. Southwest view of Barn II, camera facing northeast, showing west gable-end and south eave-side. Barn I is at the far end of the south side.

14. Interior view of the barn, camera facing west from Barn I into Barn II.
15. Interior detail of Barn I, easternmost bay with stalls, camera facing west.

16. Interior detail of Barn I, hand hewn square rule timber frame construction with a dropped girt, camera facing northeast. Note hand hewn rafters and wide random deck boards.