Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

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

Building Name (Common)  Munson, George, Blacksmith shop  Record No. 8457
Building Name (Historic)  Munson, George, Blacksmith shop
Street Address or Location 21 North Hill Road
Town/City  North Haven  Village  Montowese  County  New Haven
Owner(s)  Rosemary Addario, 21 North Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473  ☐ Public  ☑ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
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  Blacksmith shop, Vernacular style  Date of Construction Late 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 board 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: 2 1/2  Approximate Dimensions 28' x 24'

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: Roof replaced, parts of foundation have been replaced.

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

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 Kristen Young ___________________________ Date 7/24/2012

View Multiple Views ___________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Todd Levine ___________________________ Date 7/27/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.365956, -72.836565

Threats to the building or site:

☑ None known  ☐ Highways  ☐ Vandalism  ☐ Developers  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Private

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

The George Munson blacksmith shop is located on 1.82 acres of land on the east side of the northwest portion of North Hill Road. The driveway extends to the east off North Hill Road, past the north side of the blacksmith shop, and leading to the house. Situated near North Hill Road, on the south side of the property is the modern house with which the blacksmith shop is associated. The main façade of the house faces west and the ridge-line runs north-south. To the northwest of the house is the blacksmith shop. Across the street (on the west side of North Hill Road located at 18 North Hill Road) is a historic farmhouse with which the blacksmith shop was once associated. A stone wall extends to the north along the western border of the property, from the driveway northward. Trees line both the north, south and east borders of the property.

North Hill Road extends to the northwest off Middletown Road (Rte 17). At the intersection of Middletown Road and North Hill Road is a large farm with numerous green houses. To the north of the property are All Saints Cemetery and Church which is accessed from Velvet Street. To the northwest on Old Velvet Street are large open tracts of land that appear to be used as farmland. Also, to the southeast on Middletown Avenue and North Hill Road are large open tracts of land that appear to be farmland. Intermixed with the farmland are numerous dense neighborhoods with modern houses. To the east of Middletown Avenue is forested land, and to the west are numerous commercial properties and highly dense neighborhoods.

• 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>1968</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 2 ½-story, 28’ x 24’ blacksmith shop with its ridge-line oriented north-south, and its main entry in the west eave-side.

Exterior:

The main entry is found on the west eave-side in the northern most bay of this two bay outbuilding. Each bay is approximately 14 feet long. The building is accessed by a set of hinged doors with what appear to be original wrought iron hinges. Slightly protruding over the entry is a hood. Located in the southernmost bay is a six-pane fixed window with an eight-pane fixed window directly to the south of it. Just below the eaves of the roof, in the northernmost bay is a six-over-six double-hung window, and found just below the eaves of the roof in the southern most bay are two, eight-pane fixed windows.

The grade drops slightly along the south gable-end of the outbuilding, revealing a brownstone and mortared fieldstone foundation. Found on the west half of the south gable-end of the blacksmith shop is a set of hinged doors with wrought iron hinges; a six-pane fixed window set within the western most leaf. Two, eight-pane fixed windows are located just to the east of this entry. Above this, spaced evenly across the second story are two, six-over-six double-hung windows with trim. Found in the gable-attic of the south gable-end of the outbuilding is a nine-pane fixed window.

Along the east eave-side of the barn, the grade drops again revealing a mortared cobblestone foundation which changes to brick on the north corner. An eight-pane fixed window is located in the middle of the first-story. Just below the eaves of the roof are two window openings. The window opening in the south bay is boarded with plywood. The window opening on the north bay is a twelve-pane fixed window.
A brick and un-mortared fieldstone foundation is visible along the north gable-end of the blacksmith shop, and the grade rises slightly towards the west. Near the east corner is a side-hinged pass-through door with a hood protruding slightly above the entry. Directly to the west of this is what was once a window opening, now filled in with vertical board siding, and near the west corner is an eight-pane fixed window. Located on the second story is a set of side-hinged doors with cast iron hinges flanked by two window openings. The eastern most window opening is boarded with plywood, while the western most window opening is a six-over-six double-hung window. Found in the gable-attic is a six-pane fixed window.

The blacksmith shop is sheathed in vertical flush-board siding that is unpainted. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and the foundation is a mix of brown stone, mortared fieldstone, mortared cobblestone, brick, and un-mortared fieldstone.

Interior:
The set of hinged doors on the west eave-façade leads into the interior of the blacksmith shop which is one large open room with dirt floors. This two-bay, three-bent room has square rule post and beam framing with tree nails in the mortise and tennon joint. The band saw kerf marks on the beams indicate that the barn was built in the late 19th century. All the ventilation systems, kilns and ovens used in a typical blacksmith shop have since been removed.

Located in the northeast corner of the first story is a staircase of about ten risers that leads to the second story which is a large open space with wood plank floors. A half wall constructed of wood planks is found on the east side of the stairwell. Along the east and west walls, collar ties have been added during the 20th century to prevent the roof from spreading. In the northeast corner of this story is a small, approximately four foot wide, cubby with a narrow entryway about six feet in height. A built-in ladder in the north end of the second floor leads to a loft through an entryway in the ceiling. The loft consists of a large open space with wood plank floors. The rafters meet at the ridge with no ridgepole, with the roof boards laid out on top. It is apparent the roof has been replaced recently, as the wood planks are of new wood.

- Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The George Munson blacksmith shop is architecturally significant due to the rarity of this building type in the State of Connecticut and its intact condition. This blacksmith shop still stands on its original location, although the setting has lost integrity due to residential development.

Historical background:
From the 1868 Beers map of North Haven, it appears George Munson was the original owner of the property the blacksmith shop is located on. In 1870, George Munson was a farmer at the age of 60 who had a wife and an eight-year-old son named George O. Munson. By 1900, it appears George Munson and his wife had passed away, but George O. Munson (now 38) acquired the property and continued to farm the land with his wife and son. By 1920, according to the tax list, a “shop” was owned by George B. Terry (Iverson). From George B. Terry, the property passed to John W. Terry in the 1930s, and eventually to Edward Terry who sold the property to Samuel Addario during the 1960s. At the time the Addarios purchased the property, the blacksmith shop was no longer in use and the land surrounding it was used as a strawberry patch. Addario erected the modern house that is currently still found on the property.

The blacksmith shop was used as such from the late 19th century until at least the 1940s when it was still listed in the tax lists as a blacksmith shop. During the 1930s, the tax lists indicate the property consisted of 12.5 acres of land, but only 7 acres in the 1940s. A barn, poultry house, and garage were listed as outbuildings on the property in 1940. The property is now residential, and the blacksmith shop is currently un-used. When Addario acquired the property, he dismantled the kiln in the shop and used the brick to build fireplaces in the house he had built. It is interesting to
note the full sized set of hinged doors on the second floor. There was once a pulley system in place in order to hoist carriage parts up to this floor to be worked on. The pulley system has since been removed.

**Architectural significance:**

The George Munson blacksmith shop is architecturally significant due to the rarity of this building type in the State of Connecticut. Like barns, numerous blacksmith shops have been lost. Built in the late 19th century, this blacksmith shop still stands on its original location. It also still has its original framing and most of the building’s original exterior fabric as well. Although the use of the land around it has changed, and the shop no longer functions as such, it still portrays what this property was once used for.

**Sources (continuation):**

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 7/24/2012.

Interview with Rosemary Addario - 7/24/2012, 21 North Hill Road, North Haven, CT.

**Map resources:**


Parcel ID: Map 031/Lot 012

Aerial views from:


**Print and internet resources:**


Iverson, Susan A., Letter of Support to CT Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut 2010 Barns Grant Application, housed at the CT Trust for Historic Preservation.


4. West eave-side (main façade) of the blacksmith shop, note the modern house in the background towards the right. Camera facing east.
5. Close-up of main entry doors on the west eave-façade with original cast iron hinges, camera facing east.

7. South gable-end and east eave-side of the blacksmith shop, camera facing northwest.

8. East eave-side and north gable-end of the blacksmith shop, camera facing southwest.
9. Detail view of mortared cobblestone and brick foundation on the east eave-side, camera facing southwest.

11. North gable-end and west eave-side of the blacksmith shop, camera facing southeast. Note the brick and un-mortared fieldstone foundation.

12. Interior view of the first-story of the blacksmith shop, camera facing south.
13. Another interior view of the first-story of the blacksmith shop, camera facing north. Note the staircase on the right leading to the second-story.

14. Interior view of post and beam framing, note the square rule technique and the tree nails.
15. Interior view of one of the eight-pane fixed windows found on the first-story, camera facing east.

16. Interior view of the second-story of the blacksmith shop, camera facing south.
17. Interior view of the second-story of the blacksmith shop, camera facing north. Note the built in ladder leading to the loft.

18. Interior view of the southwest corner of the blacksmith shop, note the collar ties. Camera facing southwest.
19. Close-up of the collar ties located in the southwest corner, camera facing southwest.

20. Interior view of the north gable-end and rafters. Note the new wood that has been used for the new roof that was installed a few years ago. Camera facing north.