**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Glenbrook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Tomlinson, William, Farmstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>429 Quaker Farms Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Quaker Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Al McWilliams, 429 Quaker Farms Road, Oxford, CT 06478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROPERTY INFORMATION

**Present Use:** Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Historic Use:** Agricultural/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**

Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Date of Construction**

Mid-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 Block masonry)
- ○ Cut Stone (Type _____________)
- ○ Other Vertical wood siding

**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 _______________________

**(Material)**

- ○ Wood Shingle
- ○ Roll Asphalt
- ○ Tin
- ○ Slate
- ○ Asphalt Shingle
- ○ Built up
- ○ Tile
- ○ Other _______________________

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

**Approximate Dimensions:** Main 42' x 26', entire structure 108' x 94'

**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: Additions

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:  ○ S  ○ NR  If NR, Specify:  ○ Actual  ○ Potential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-1-
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:
- Barn
- Shed
- Garage
- Carriage House
- Shop
- Garden
- Other landscape features or buildings: Stone walls, cottage, water tank.

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 8/01/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name _____________________________ Date 10/26/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.422274, -73.154578

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

This large English bank barn with numerous interconnecting additions was once the heart of an equestrian farm located at 429 Quaker Farms Road in Oxford, CT. The 45.5-acre site is on the west side of Quaker Farms Road (Route 188), which runs approximately north-south. The road connects with the village of Southford three miles to the north at the intersection with Route 67, and parallels Eight Mile Brook as it runs southward to the Housatonic River. The site is .4 mile south of the Quaker Farms Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes the historic village of Quaker Farms. The area is a mix of open space, woodland and scattered homes. Southford Falls State Park is on the east side of the road to the north along the town line with Southbury, and Posy Panko Park, a town recreation facility, is to the north. Seven Mile Brook crosses the property, running west to flow into Eight Mile Brook. A power line right-of-way crosses the southeast corner of the property.

The property is a mix of some open pasture and dense woodland. The property extends all the way to O’Neil Road to the west. The ridgeline of the main block of the barn runs roughly north-south, parallel to Quaker Farms Road. The barn is behind and to the west of the house with which it is associated. The ridgeline of the house runs east-west. To the north of the barn is a small cottage. To the north of the barn and west of the cottage is a gable-roofed shed. To the south of the house is a well. Further south is Seven Mile Brook running west, which is the impetus for the site’s name, Glenbrook. To the south and west of the barns are paddocks. A stone wall runs to the northeast of the house along the road, then turns west to follow the site’s north border. The grade declines from east to west, resulting in the bank barn configuration.

The house is a Federal-style farmhouse. It features a gable front and wing with a second gable-roofed wing added later. The main façade faces east and is three bays wide, with the main entrance in the south bay. The facade has a pedimented gable and corner boards. Centered in the gable is a fanlight with beaded swag and leaded muntins. The entry is in the south bay and is framed by sidelights and pilasters. The entry is also topped by a fanlight with beaded swag and lead dividers. Above is an ornamental semi-circular fan with a keystone. Similar fans are above the other windows on the first level, which are twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows. The second level windows have faux blue shutters. The house is covered with wood clapboards painted white with blue trim and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Horse motifs are found on the center chimney of the main block of the house, facing east and south. The original house was built c. 1696 and Federal-style additions and elements were added c. 1810.

• 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>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1696, c. 1814</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Mid-19th c. and older</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage</td>
<td>Late 20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>Late 20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 1 ½-story English bank barn with numerous additions. The main block is the southernmost portion of the building. Extending west from the north portion of the west eave-side of the main block is a small gable-roofed addition (Addition I) with its ridgeline running east-west. Attached to the north gable-end of the main block is arguably the oldest portion of the barn, with its ridgeline parallel to the main block, running north-south (Addition II). Extending to the east from Addition II is a gable-roofed addition which runs west-east (Addition III). Starting at the northeast corner of Addition III and wrapping around the north and west sides of the addition is the largest block of the structure (Addition IV). The main entry of the main block faces east and is in the middle of three bays.
Exterior:
The main entry of the barn is a pair of bay-wide, double-height exterior sliding doors in the middle of three bays in the east eave-side. In the north leaf (right) is a weather door with an inset six-pane window with trim. In the south leaf is an inset six-pane window with trim. The entry is accessed by a small concrete ramp. The base of the eave-side of the barn has five courses of wood shingles topped with trim; the rest of the side has vertical siding, both painted red. A gutter has been built into the asphalt driveway to direct water away from the foundation. The grade declines at the south corner, revealing a partial basement level on the south gable-end. The foundation is mortared fieldstone.

The foundation is exposed at the corner of the south gable-end of the barn and then has four sets of modern two-pane windows with trim in the basement level. Just beneath the apex of the roof is a six-pane window with trim. There are two siding divides on the south gable-end of the barn; one at the dropped girt and the other at an intermediate girt. A concrete retaining wall extends south from the west corner of the barn, terminating at an opening approximately six feet from the barn, which leads to three stone steps. The wall continues to the south past the steps. The grade flattens before continuing to decline further west.

The west eave-side of the barn has an x-braced interior sliding door at the corner. A five foot tall concrete masonry unit (CMU) retaining wall extends to the west just north of the wall approximately fifteen feet. At the south corner of the barn is a twenty-foot long fence that parallels the CMU wall, and then turns north. The grade declines sharply to the north, revealing a second basement level and also declines gradually to the west. The lower basement level is mortared fieldstone foundation. The CBM retaining wall has a brick and mortared fieldstone base. The upper basement level has three six-pane windows with trim. The main level of the west eave-side of the barn has a centered six-pane window with trim with a modern two-pane double-hung window directly beneath. Extending west from the north half of the west eave-side of the barn is a gable-roofed addition (Addition I). Centered atop the barn is a large vented cupola with a gable roof and a weathervane.

Addition I has a cast concrete foundation on the south eave-side in the lower basement level. The upper basement level has four six-pane windows with trim. The main level has two window openings. The west gable-end of Addition I has an open lower basement level, a blank upper basement level and a centered window opening with trim on the main level. Just beneath the apex of the roof is a six-pane window with trim. The north eave-side of Addition II is encompassed by Addition IV and the east gable-end of Addition I is encompassed by the main barn.

Extending north from the north gable-end of the main block of the barn and flush with the east eave-side is Addition II. The south gable-end of Addition 2 is encompassed by the main block of the barn. The east eave-side of Addition II has a pass-through door with an inset nine-pane window and trim and a large open bay with a wide modern overhead garage door. Centered above the open bay is a side-hinged hay door. The north gable-end and the west eave-side of Addition II are encompassed by Additions III and IV. The ridge of the roof of Addition 2 extends to the ridge of the roof of Addition III, although the eave of Addition II falls below the eaves of the main barn and Addition III.

Addition III extends to the east from gable-end of Addition II. The south eave-side of Addition III has three bays, each with a modern overhead garage door covered by a pent roof. Above the westernmost bay is a side-hinged hay door. Above the easternmost bay is a set of two one-over-one modern windows. The east gable-end of Addition III has a pass-through door at the north corner of the ground level and two pairs of centered side-hinged hay doors, one in the gable attic and the other directly below. A dropped girt siding divide separates the two. The grade declines at the north eave-side of Addition III, revealing a basement level and the wrap-around pent roof portion of Addition IV. The main level of the north eave-side of Addition III has a series of four modern two-pane windows with trim just above the pent roof of Addition IV. Two windows with trim are at the east corner, one boarded over and the other with two panes. Just beneath the eave line of the north eave-side of Addition IV is a centered pair of modern two-over-two double-hung windows flanked by single two-over-two double-hung windows. The west gable-end of Addition III has a series of five adjacent one-over-one modern windows with trim, just below the girt line siding divide. Beneath the apex of the roof is a six-pane window with trim. The rest of the east gable-end of Addition III is encompassed by Addition IV. Centered atop the barn is a large vented cupola with a gable roof and a weathervane.
Addition IV is a large gable-roofed structure used for equestrian training that has contact with Additions I, II and III, as previously described. The addition extends west from Additions I and II. It has a pent roof that wraps around and extends north from Addition III. The pent-roofed portion of Addition IV has a pass-through door opening at the easternmost corner, a series of five one-pane windows with trim, a second pass-through door off-center to the west, and a third pass-through door at the east corner. The gable-end of Addition IV has a large pair of exterior sliding doors in the center, flanked by small single-pane windows with trim. At the north corner is a set of Dutch pass-through doors. The grade declines to the south revealing a concrete block masonry foundation. The south eave-side of Addition IV has a single-pane window near the west corner. There is a bump-out with an extension of the roof to the east of the window, which extends to Addition I.

The entire structure has vertical wood siding painted red with some white trim except for the west gable-end of Addition IV and the south and east sides of the main barn, which have some wood shingles painted red. The foundation is concrete block masonry, brick and mortarched fieldstone. The roof has projecting overhangs and is covered with asphalt shingles.

**Interior:**

The main entry of the main block of the barn enters into a three-bay structure. The bays measure from south to north: 12’, 12’ and 18’ wide by 26’ deep. The structure is square rule timber frame post and beams cut with a circular saw and fastened with wooden pegs. The posts and beams are approximately 6” x 6” and the diagonal braces 4” x 4”. The bents that bookend the middle bay have a steel I-girder across the top towards the east wall for added support. The middle bay also has a series of cables from plate to plate. The flanking bays have interesting secondary support in the eave walls and gable-ends in the form of wood A-braces connecting to the girts and plates with wire nails. The floor is wood plank circular sawn boards. The walls are tongue-and-groove bead board. The roof has common rafters and original roof boards. The north bay leads to Addition I. The upper basement level of the main barn is accessible through the upper basement level of Addition I and through an x-braced interior sliding door at the south corner of the west eave-side of the barn. The upper basement level has six horse stalls, three on each side of a center aisle which runs north-south. The stalls measure 9’ wide by 11’ deep.

Addition I is accessed through the main barn and the main floor east eave-side wall through Addition IV. The entry through the main barn enters into the second level of Addition II. The hallway is made up of balloon framed dimensional lumber attached with wire nails. Towards the west end of Addition I on the south wall is a stairway with ten risers that leads to the first level. At the southwest corner is a bathroom. To the north is an entry into the observation deck. The observation deck measures approximately 12’ x 18’ and has two sets of two rectangular windows that look down upon the former equestrian training room. The upper basement level of Addition I has the stairway to the main level, an entry into the upper basement stalls of the main barn at its east / southeast corner and to the former equestrian training room to the north. The lower basement level is only accessible from the west exterior and is a single open bay with mortared fieldstone and CBM foundation.

Addition II is accessed by the main level pass-through door at its southeast corner and a wide modern overhead garage door, as well as a third entry from the second level of Addition III. Directly in front of the pass-through door is a set of stairs with eleven risers that leads to the second level. The floor of the first level is poured concrete. The structure is composed of hand hewn and unfinished rough-cut square rule timber frame posts and beams cut and fastened with wooden pegs, indicating a structure older than the adjacent main block. The posts and beams measure approximately 6” x 6” and the diagonal braces, which are circular sawn, measure 4” x 4”. Added support is provided by metal columns, ceiling joists of circular sawn dimensional lumber and a steel I-girder running north-south just west of the open bay. The north bay of Addition II opens directly into the main level of Addition III. The second level has beadboard wood flooring. A twelve-pane window is still in place in the south gable-end of the barn. The rafters are 4” x 4” and have a small rectangular ridge-board. The rafters have birds mouth notching where the rafters meet the plates. Wide ceiling boards are visible, as are wood shingles. The north gable-end of the second level of Addition II enters into the second level of Addition III.

Addition III has been mostly rebuilt using balloon framing on the first level. The floor is poured concrete. The remaining portions of the first level that appear original are a few of posts and beams, and unfinished rough-cut
ceiling beams. The second level is accessible only through Addition II and the exterior hay doors in the east gable-end. The three-bay structure is composed of hand hewn square rule timber frame post and beams cut and fastened with wooden pegs. The two pairs of hay doors in the east gable-end have Z-braces and both gable-ends have dropped girts. The ceiling has approximately 3" x 4" straight kerf sawn rafters with horizontal purlins. Attached to the purlins are wood shingles, later covered with asphalt shingles. A small rectangular ridge-board connects the rafters. Below the ridge board is a metal hay hook track.

Addition IV is accessible through its main entry in the west gable-end into a large open equestrian training room. The structure is composed of balloon framing with wire nails and a trussed roof. The floor of the 50' x 64' room is dirt. An entry to Addition I is in the eastern half of the south wall. The north interior wall of the equestrian training room is the south gable-end wall of Addition II, including a centered twelve-pane window and exposed mortared fieldstone foundation. At the northeast corner of the room is an entry in a corridor running east-west. On the south wall of the corridor are nine horse stalls and a small office; five stalls along the east corridor and four along the west corridor. The office is just west of the entry into the corridor. This corridor wraps around the north eave-side of Addition III and has a pass-through door at its northeast corner.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

The barn is significant as an example of a site’s evolution from general agricultural use to a gentleman farm or country estate, and later as an equestrian training facility. The main block is a fine example of a typical English bank barn, with square rule timber framing from the mid- to late-19th century. Addition II is the oldest portion of the barn, according to the owner, and as indicated by its hand hewn framing. The entire site is particularly significant because of the historic house, dating to c. 1698 and c. 1810, and its location almost adjacent to the Quaker Farms Historic District with which it shares the historic context.

Historical background:

In the 17th century, the height of navigation on the Housatonic River was at Derby, nine miles southeast of Quaker Farms. As early as 1683, settlers one at a time were pushing further inland from Derby along the Derby-Woodbury Road (now Quaker Farms Road) to the Quaker Farms area in what was to become the Town of Oxford. The name Quaker Farms was in use at the time, but the reason for the name is unknown. Early (1708) settlers, freemen of Derby, included members of the Tomlinson, Hotchkiss, Nichols, and Lum families, names which are associated with houses in the Quaker Farms Historic District and with the early history of Christ Church Episcopal. A petition for a separate New Derby (Oxford) parish was granted by the General Court of Connecticut in 1741, and in 1798 the Town of Oxford was incorporated, using land taken from Derby and Southbury (Ransom, Section 8).

The house associated with this site is one of the oldest in Oxford, with a portion of the house dated to c. 1696.

The present dwelling exhibits the classic revival [Federal style] architecture with two and one half stories and fourteen rooms. There are two central chimneys and ten fireplaces, some of which have beehive ovens. There is also a large cellar fireplace, used in the original slave quarters. The first owner was William Tomlinson, who received a land grant on March 8, 1673, along with fourteen other men. He built his home on this land probably about 1696, and later left it to his son Isaac on May 15, 1719. The original dwelling was small, consisting of a kitchen, bedroom and pantry. There may or may not have been a second story. It is said that carts were driven right into the kitchen for loading and unloading. There have been two additions to the house. The first was around 1814 when five rooms were added by the Charles Meigs family and the house obtained its classic revival facade. The second was in the twentieth century when the house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Courtney. Six rooms were added, including a summer kitchen and a reading room, used for religious instruction of children by Mrs. Courtney. The Courtneys also installed the heating and plumbing systems. In addition to owning this home, Mrs. Courtney endowed St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Oxford. Mr. Courtney was a New York Circuit Court Judge and was also involved in the theater. The Courtneys hosted many weekend
sleighing parties for such actor friends as Basil Rathbone, who was a frequent visitor. After the Courtneys, the house stood vacant from 1927-44. It was then purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Slater from whom the present owners bought it in 1966. The house for a considerable period of time has been called “Glenbrook” (Electronic Valley).

The site was originally over 100 acres, including land across the road to the east, later subdivided and developed. The land was used mainly for hay in the 19th and 20th centuries. The barns could hold as much at 2000 bales of hay. Since Al McWilliams purchased the site in 1966, it has been an equestrian farm. The main block of the barn and Additions II and III were already present. Mr. McWilliams built Addition I and IV in the 1970s. According to the owner, it held as many as 60 horses. The last horse was there in around 2000. Since then, it has been used mostly for storage. The site and house were honored in 1985 with a plaque by Governor O’Neill as the oldest house in Oxford.

Architectural significance:

The barn is significant as a fine example of a typical English bank barn, with square rule timber framing from the mid- to late-19th century. Addition II is the oldest portion of the barn, according to the owner, and as indicated by its hand hewn framing. The entire site is particularly significant because of the historic house, dating to c. 1696 and c. 1814, and its location almost adjacent to the Quaker Farms Historic District with which it shares the historic context. The surrounding landscape remains lightly developed and conveys a sense of its historic appearance, with the exception of the regrowth of woodlands and the power line right-of-way which detracts from the integrity of the landscape.

• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 8/01/2012.

Interview with Al McWilliams 8/01/2012, Oxford.

Map resources:


Print and internet resources:


5. Northeast context view of site including house and barn beyond, camera facing southwest.

6. West view of cottage, camera facing east.
7. Southeast view of shed, camera facing northwest.

8. East eave-side of the barn and a small portion of Addition II to the right, camera facing west.
9. Southeast view of the barn and Additions II and III, camera facing northwest.

10. South gable-end view of the barn and portions of Addition I and IV, camera facing north.
11. Detail of the stone stairs and retaining wall adjacent to the southwest corner of the barn, camera facing east.

12. Southwest view of the main barn and a portion of Addition I and concrete block masonry retaining wall, camera facing northeast.
13. West eave-side view of barn, camera facing west.

15. Southwest view of barn and additions, camera facing northeast.

16. West gable-end of Addition IV, camera facing east.
17. Northwest view of Additions IV and III, camera facing southeast.

18. Northeast corner of Additions III and IV, camera facing southwest. Note water tower at the north corner corner of Addition III.
19. East gable-end of Addition II and portions if Addition I and the main barn to the left, camera facing west.

20. East side of barn and additions, camera facing west.

23. Interior view of barn, camera facing northeast. Note south gable-end of Addition II.

24. View of roof framing, tie-girt and cables in barn, camera facing south.
25. A-frame bracing in west wall of the north bay of the main barn, camera facing west looking into Addition I.

26. Horse stalls in upper basement level of Addition I, camera facing south.
27. Detail of horse stalls in Addition I, camera facing west.

28. Interior modern clear span trussed roof framing of Addition IV, camera facing east. Note the shared wall with Addition II.
29. Detail of upper basement of Addition I tack room, camera facing southeast.

30. Detail of main level of Addition II, windows overlooking equestrian training room, camera facing east.
31. Detail of main level of Addition II, hand hewn timbers, camera facing east.

32. Detail of interior framing of Addition II, camera facing southwest.
33. Detail of south gable-end of Addition II, camera facing south. This wall is shared by the main barn.

34. Detail of Addition II rafter tails with birds mouth notching, camera facing east.
35. Detail of Addition II, plate, dropped girt and square rule timber framing, camera facing southeast.