Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

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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) **Hurlburt, Jesse, Farmstead** Record No. 51672

Building Name (Historic) **Hurlburt, Jesse, Farmstead**

Street Address or Location **193 Great Hill Road**

Town/City **Portland** Village **** County **Middlesex**

Owner(s) **Richard Kelsey, 188 Great Hill Road, Portland CT 06480**

- Public
- Private

### 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

Interior accessible?  Yes  No  If yes, explain

Style of building **Tobacco shed, Vernacular style** Date of Construction **Mid-19th c.**

### Material(s)

- 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

- ✔ Gable
- Flat
- Mansard
- Monitor
- Sawtooth
- Gambrel
- Shed
- Hip
- Round
- Other ____________

### Number of Stories: **1 1/2**

Approximate Dimensions **25' x 70'**

### 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:

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 ___________ Date ___________

View ___________________________ Negative on File ___________

Name ___________________________ Date ___________

Organization ___________________________

Address ___________________________

- Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude:
  41.599551, -72.572304

- Threats to the building or site:

  ☑ None known  - Highways  - Vandalism  - Developers  - Renewal  - Private
  - Deterioration  - Zoning  - Other _______________________  - Explanation ____________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Jesse Hurlburt barn sits on approximately 100 acres of land on the east side of Great Hill Road. A driveway extends to the east off the road and leads to the south side of the house. The barn is to the south of the house, and a large open field is to the east of both the house and barn. Stone walls border the property on each side. Directly to the northeast of the property is Kelsey's Pond, named for the Kelsey family who currently own this property.

The house sits close to the road, the main façade facing west, and the ridge-line running approximately north-south.

The Jesse Hurlbut [sic] House is a 2 ½-story, 4 bay, Colonial period house which was built on the east side of Great Hill Road in 1800. Its post-and-beam frame, which is currently sheathed in wood shingles, is supported by a cut granite foundation. A 2 story, shed ell adjoins the rear of the ridge-to-street, gable-roofed main block and a 1 story porch is attached to the building's north side. The house is situated on a slight rise overlooking a broad expanse of farmland. This structure is one of the relatively few examples of the simple 4 bay façade, central chimney house plan found in the rural areas of Portland. (Other local late 18th and early 19th century dwellings tend to have been built in either a 5 bay or 3 bay configuration.) The 2/2 windows and glass-paneled front door are late 19th century modifications, but the pilastered doorway with its high frieze is probably original. Another remaining original decorative feature is the denticulated cornice molding under the eaves (Loether, Porteus, and Sherrow). [It is important to note that the house is no longer sheathed in wood shingles, it now appears to have vinyl siding.]

This property is found in the east half of the Town of Portland, and only a few miles to the west of the border of the Town of East Hampton. To the north of the property is the intersection of Great Hill Road, Cox Road, and South Road. The property is surrounded on the north, south, and east sides by Meshomasic State Forest. To the west of the property is forested land and an open field used for agricultural purposes. Other residential properties are along Great Hill Road.

• Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior):

Architectural description:

Inventory of structures (C – contributing, NC – non-contributing):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1800</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Mid-19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
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Barn:

This is mid-19th century, approximately 25’ x 70’, 1 ½-story, gable-roof, 5-bay, 6-bent tobacco shed with a shed-roof addition. The ridge-line runs east-west, perpendicular to this portion of Great Hill Road. The barn is clad in vertical board siding and rests on stone posts. It has asphalt shingles covering the roof on both the barn and addition. The addition is clad in horizontal board siding and has a mortared fieldstone foundation.

Exterior:

The entries are found on the north eave-side of the barn and consist of three pairs of side-hinged doors. The pair of side-hinged doors in the east portion of the north eave-side of the barn is full height, while the two pairs in the west portion are both shorter. Above the doors in the west portion of this side are hinged slats indicating this barn was once used to dry tobacco. There are no other features on this side of the barn.

There appear to be some ventilation openings in the gable attic of the west gable-end of the barn. There are no other features on this side. Near the east end of the south eave-side of the barn is stone infill that was probably added after the barn was no longer used to dry tobacco. There are no other features on this side of the barn.

Attached to the east gable-end of the barn and extending to the east is the shed-roof addition. There are no openings in the gable attic, above the addition. The south side of the addition has a six-pane stable window and a
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HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet
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side-hinged pass-through door with original iron hinges. Near the north corner of the east side of the addition are two six-pane stable windows. The mortared fieldstone foundation is also visible along this side. There are no features on the north side of the addition.

Interior:

The interior is accessed by the entries on the north eave-side of the barn. There is a wall separating the three eastern bays and the two western bays. The interior is open full height, has a gravel and dirt floor, and wood plank walls. This is a typical example of two aisle tobacco shed where a bent has one interior post forming the two aisles. Queen posts above the tie-girts, carry longitudinal purlin plates at the mid-span of the rafters. Hand hewn marks are seen on the timbers throughout the barn. The dropped girts are joined together with the posts by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Common rafters meet at the peak with no ridge-board in the western bays, but with a ridge-board in the eastern bays. The roof deck is made of wood planks.

A partition wall was added in the eastern most bay to divide interior of the addition with the interior of the barn. A side-hinged pass-through door with Z-bracing leads into the interior of the addition. Concrete flooring and wood plank walls are found in the addition. Cattle were kept here, and both the manure gutter and food trough are still extant in the concrete floor. Hand hewn and circular saw marks are found on the timbers throughout the addition.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

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

This is an outstanding example of a tobacco shed from the mid-19th century. Although the function has changed and walls have been added, the frame retains its original layout. The barn sits on its original site, and the property has continued to occupy 100 acres of land.

Historical background:

[Jesse] Hurlbut [sic] acquired the land on which he built the house in 1798 from his father Gideon, who sold him 115 acres. The land was divided by the highway (Great Hill Road) that ran past Gideon’s own house. (An old foundation on the west side of Great Hill Road is probably the remains of Gideon’s house, which was taken down before 1859.) According to the descendants of the Pelton family, who owned an identical house slightly to the north which burned in the early 20th century, Jesse Hurlbut [sic], a farmer, built this house in 1800, a date supported by the building’s architectural features. The property passed from Jesse to his son Chester S. Hurlbut [sic]. In 1873 Chester sold the farm to the neighboring Ralph Pelton, whose descendants still own the house.

Although modern home construction began to increase in the area as the large old farms declined and were subdivided, the Jesse Hurlbut [sic] House remains a representative example of a simple, turn-of-the-19th century farmhouse, a reminder of Portland’s early agricultural heritage (Loether, Porteus, and Sherrow).

William Kelsey, Jr. acquired the property from his father William Kelsey, who married a daughter from the Pelton family. In 1925, Daniel Kelsey acquired the property from his brother, William Kelsey, Jr. Richard Kelsey acquired the property from his father, Daniel Kelsey’s son, in 2003. Originally the property and barn were used for tobacco farming. During Daniel Kelsey’s ownership, the barn was used to house cattle in the addition and was no longer used for tobacco farming. The property continues to occupy approximately 100 acres of land.

Architectural significance:

This is an outstanding example of a tobacco shed from the mid-19th century. Although the function has changed and walls have been added, the frame retains its original layout. The frame has been well maintained and remains intact. The barn sits on its original site, and the property has continued to occupy 100 acres of land. Although the area has been developed throughout the years, the surrounding land remains the same.
Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 2/6/2013.
Interview with Richard Kelsey - 2/6/2013, 193 Great Hill Road, Portland, CT.

Map resources:

Parcel ID: Map 070/Lot 0028

Aerial views from:

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 2/14/2013 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 accessed 2/14/2013: 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/51672

Loether, J. Paul, Porteus, Gail Linskey, and Sherrow, Doris Darling, History and Architecture of Portland, The
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, Middletown, CT, 1980.


Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,

U.S. Federal Census, accessed 2/14/2013
at http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic

1997.


5. Northwest context view of the house (on the left) and the barn (on the right). Camera facing southeast.

6. East context view of the fieldstone wall along the west border of the property, and the house in the distance (on the right). Camera facing north.


10. West gable-end and south eave-side of the barn. Camera facing northeast.


15. Interior view of the southwest corner of the barn. Note the post-and-beam frame with the dropped girt. Camera facing southwest.

16. Interior view of the west gable-end of the barn. Note the queen posts and the common rafters meeting at the peak with no ridge-board. Camera facing west.
17. Interior view of the east gable-end of the barn. Note the queen posts and the common rafters meeting at the peak with a ridge-board. Camera facing east.

18. Interior view of the shed-roof addition. Note the food trough still extant.