Middlesex
50' x 25'
early 20th c.

Domestic: secondary structure; Domestic: single dwelling

Portland
50' x 25'

Domestic: secondary structure; Domestic: single dwelling

Tim Sparks & Jennifer Schaefer, 186 Jobs Pond Road, Portland 06480

Chatham Alms House Farmstead / Portland Town Farm

186 Jobs Pond Road

Portland Town Farm Record No. 52514

Extended English barn, Vernacular style

early 20th c.

Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

-1-
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:
- Barn  
- Shed  ✔  
- Garage  
- Carriage House  
- Shop  
- Garden  
- Other landscape features or buildings: ________________________________________________

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 2/6/2013

View ____________________________________________  Negative on File CTHP

Name ___________________________________________  Date 2/12/2013

Organization ____________________________________

Address _________________________________________

- Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude: 41.578266, -72.586884

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

This barn sits on approximately four acres of land on the west side of Jobs Pond Road. A driveway extends to the west off the road and leads to the south side of the house. The barn is to the south of a farmhouse and a small modern shed is to the east of the barn. Surrounding the property is forested land, and a brook runs along the south side of the parcel.

The c. 1840 Farmhouse is a three-bay, gable-roofed structure with cornice returns.

Set on the east [sic] side of Job’s Pond Road with its gable-end facing the street, this 2-story, Greek Revival style building was erected by the town ca. 1840 to shelter the community’s poor. Rising from a fieldstone and granite foundation, the clapboarded, post-and-beam framed structure displays two brick chimneys atop its gable roof. Three 6/6 windows light the building’s eastern end, and a door is set in the southern side of this same elevation. The façade, which is spanned by a flush-boarded main entablature with seven inset eyebrow windows, faces south and has two doors interspersed among its many windows. The western end of the building was expanded in the 1880’s, replacing an earlier addition. Two barns still stand immediately south of the barn (Loether, Porteus, and Sherrow, 1980). [Note: only one barn remains extant.]

Jobs Pond Road is in the southeast part of the Town of Portland, roughly a mile west of the border with the East Hampton. Two miles to the south of the property is the Connecticut River, with the Portland-Cobalt Road (Route 66) along the north bank of the river. This property is to the south of the intersection of Jobs Pond Road and Pepperidge Road, and to the southwest is Jobs Pond. Surrounding the property are forested land and some residential properties. Approximately 3.75 miles to the west of the property in the town center of Portland are the Marlborough Street Historic District, including the Williams and Stancliff Octagon houses, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Indian Hill Avenue Historic District and the Portland Brownstone Quarries are also National Register-listed historic resources in the central area of Portland. Additional farmstead sites included in the current thematic Agricultural Heritage nomination to the State Register of Historic Places are: the Ames Farmstead at 157 Ames Hollow Road, the Hurlburt Farmstead at 193 Great Hill Road, and the Hubbard Farmstead at 332 Middle Haddam 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>Structure</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1840</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Late 19th- early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern shed</td>
<td>Late 20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn:

This is a 50’ x 25’, 2-story, 5-bay, 6-bent gable-roof extended English barn whose ridge-line runs approximately east-west, perpendicular to this portion of Jobs Pond Road. The barn is clad in vertical wood board siding painted red with white trim. It has an un-mortared fieldstone foundation with asphalt shingles covering the roof.

Exterior:

The entries are found on the north eave-side of the barn and consist of two exterior-hung sliding doors. The easternmost entry encompasses two bays and the westernmost entry encompasses three bays. A six-over-six double-hung window is near the east corner of the north eave-side of the barn. A six-pane stable window is to the east of the westernmost entry. The westernmost entry has white trim on each leaf, and a pair of six-pane stable windows are on the second story near the west corner. What was once a hay door with trim, now boarded, is to the east of center on the second story of the north eave-side of the barn.

A pair of window openings, now boarded, is in the gable attic of the west gable-end of the barn. There are no other openings on this side of the barn.
The grade declines along the south eave-side of the barn, revealing the un-mortared fieldstone foundation. Near the west corner of the south eave-side of the barn are two pairs of single-pane windows, one pair on the first story and the other on the second story. There are no other openings on this side of the barn.

The grade rises toward the east gable-end of the barn. Near the south corner of the east gable-end is a side-hinged pass-through door with original iron hardware. To the north, near the north corner, is a paneled pass-through door with trim. In the gable attic of the east gable-end is a pair of six-pane windows.

**Interior:**

The interior of the barn is accessed by the two exterior-hung sliding doors on the north eave-side of the barn. The middle bays have a staircase that leads to the second floor. Both the end bays have walls separating them from the middle bays, and creating storage spaces. Gravel and dirt floors are found in the first story of each bay of the barn, and they have wood plank walls.

The second story is a large open space with wood plank floors and walls. The frame is post-and-beam in style with lighter timbers than were previously used in the 18th-century. The construction suggests the barn was built in the late 19th-century or early 20th-century. Circular saw marks are seen on the lumber throughout the barn indicating the construction date was during the end of the 19th-century or beginning of the 20th-century. The end girts are dropped and attached by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Common rafters meet at the peak with a ridge-board. The roof deck is made of wood planks.

**Historical or Architectural importance:**

- **Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:**
  1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
  2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This barn is an outstanding example of an extended English barn used on a Town Farm. The square rule framing is still intact and has been very well preserved. The barn appears to have been built during the late 19th-century or early 20th-century. Also, this barn gains significance due to the rarity of its function which was to serve on a Town Farm.

**Historical background:**

The Town Farm was organized and built by the citizens of Chatham ca. 1840 as a means of supporting and maintaining the town’s able-bodied poor. Poverty-stricken individuals were assigned each year by local officials to live here and subsidize the cost of their maintenance by working the farm, which was comprised of tracts purchased from Hezekiah G. Pelton and Abner Pelton, Jr. in 1839. The 1850 census taken at the “Alms House” reveals that the occupants were of both sexes and ranged in age from two to eighty years old. Of the total number of sixteen souls sheltered there, twelve were listed as paupers and four were judged “idiotic” or insane. Thirty years later the “Alms House” supported about nineteen people annually. In 1857 Chatham (East Hampton) quit-claimed its interest in this property to the town of Portland and it passed into private ownership in 1937.

Set in a relatively undeveloped rural area of eastern Portland, the Town Farm property originally included 58 acres and served both East Hampton and Portland, then both part of Chatham. The original purpose of this building offers an insight into a 19th century community’s attempts to deal with continuing social problems through institutionalized publicly funded programs (Loether, Porteus, and Sherrow).

The Dickerson family owned this property in the mid-20th-century, and they sold it to Millane Nurseries sometime in the late-20th-century. The property was then purchased by Tim Sparks c. 2002 from Millane Nurseries. He and his wife, Jennifer Shaefer, continue to own the property to this day. The barn, although originally used for agricultural purposes, is now used for storage on the bottom and as an entertainment room on the second floor.
Architectural significance:
This barn is an outstanding example of an extended English barn used on a Town Farm. The square rule framing is still intact and has been very well preserved. The posts and beams are lighter than 18th-century barns, reflecting the 19th- and 20th-century knowledge of engineering design. These timbers appear to be more pre-fabricated. Furthermore, the timbers have circular saw marks on them, indicating the construction date of the barn was between c. 1870 and the early 1900s. Also, this barn is significant due to the rarity of its function which was to serve on a Town Farm. This area remains un-developed, and continues to preserve the original agricultural context.

The establishment of the Town Farm or “Poor Farm” adds historical significance to the property as well. Poor Farms and Town Farms were established in order to keep indigents and petty thieves off the streets. The intention was that the indigents would work the farm, pay off their debts, as well as provide for themselves, and have a place to live. This was a common solution to keeping people off the streets and out of trouble in numerous towns throughout Connecticut. This barns still remains and helps to tell the story of its history and the history of the Town of Portland.

• Sources (continuation):
Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 2/6/2013.
Interview with Jennifer Schaefer - 8/11/2012, 186 Jobs Pond Road, Portland, CT.

Map resources:
Parcel ID: 033/0011

Aerial views from:

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 2/12/2013 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 accessed 2/12/2013 online: 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/52514


Poor House Story website accessed 2/12/2013 at http://www.poorhousestory.com/


Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Hamden, CT, 2005, http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history

U.S. Federal Census, accessed 2/12/2013 at
http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic


5. Context view of the north eave-side of the Barn (on the left) and south eave-side of the Farmhouse (on the right). Camera facing west.

6. Northwest context view of the modern shed (on the left) and the Barn (on the right). Camera facing southeast.
7. East gable-end (main façade) of the Farmhouse. Camera facing west.


16. Interior view of the middle bays of the Barn. Note the wall on the right separating the middle bays from the westernmost bay. Camera facing south.
17. Interior view of the staircase leading to the loft of the Barn. Camera facing west.

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

186 Jobs Pond Road, Portland, CT        Record No. 52514


20. Detail of post-and-beam frame found along the south wall of the loft of the Barn. Note the mortise and tenon joints pegged together with tree nails, and the saw marks on the timber. Camera facing south.