**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Building Name (Common) | Jones Family Farm | Record No. 48896
---|---|---
Building Name (Historic) | Jones, Philip James, Farmstead / Broad Acres Farm
Street Address or Location | 606 Walnut Tree Hill Road
Town/City | Shelton | Village | White Hills | County | Fairfield
Owner(s) | Jones Farmlands LLC, 266 Israel Hill Road, Shelton CT 06484 | ☐ 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 __________________________
Style of building | Gambrel bank/ground level stable barn, vernacular style | Date of Construction | 19th-20th 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 Horizontal & vertical wood

**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, B
**Approximate Dimensions:** Barn I: 38' x 86', see continuation sheets

**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: Basement level converted to wine sales & tasting room.

**FOR OFFICE USE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: Christmas trees, vegetable gardens, vineyards, parking areas,

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.


• Historical or Architectural importance:
See continuation sheet.

• Sources:
See continuation sheet.

Photographer James Sexton, Todd Levine, Charlotte Hitchcock         Date 9/2006 - 10/2011
View Multiple Views           Negative on File CTHP
Name Charlotte Hitchcock         Date 4/04/2012
Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:
Latitude, Longitude:
41.332656, -73.171783

Threats to the building or site:
☑ None known    ☐ Highways    ☐ Vandalism    ☐ Developers    ☐ Renewal    ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration    ☐ Zoning    ☐ Other ___________________    ☐ Explanation ___________________

-2-
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Jones Family Farm consists of 400 acres of farmland in several locations in the Upper White Hills section of Shelton. Jones family members also own several adjacent residential properties ranging in construction date from c. 1750 to 2000. The original family farmstead with houses and barns is located on the west side of Walnut Tree Hill Road (also known as Israel Hill Road) to the south of Route 110 (Leavenworth Road) and extends west to Eagle Drive, where there is another complex of barns including a structure remaining from the period of use as a Nike missile command center. Additional acreage is east of Walnut Tree Hill Road, and a third location is on the west side of Beardsley Road, north of Route 110. Much of the land is cultivated as a Christmas tree farm. Additional acreage grows strawberries, blueberries, and pumpkins. Walnut Tree Hill Road curves around the slope of the hill, but for the purpose of orientation it will be considered to run north-south at this point, with the farmstead structures located on the west side.

At the farmstead site, a hilltop looking east over the valley of Means Brook, a 2 ½-story 19th-century home (Farmhouse I) is sited with its ridge-line perpendicular to the road. The south eave-side, a three-bay façade, has the formal entry under a gable-roofed porch; there is a gable dormer in the attic. Windows are two-over-two double-hung, with an arched sash in the center bay of the second floor above the entry. The east gable-end has an ornamental bay window in the center of three bays of the ground floor flanked by two-over-two double-hung windows with square trim. The second floor also has three two-over-two double-hung windows with square trim and the attic has an arch-topped double-hung window. The eaves and rake have deep overhangs with substantial cornice returns on the gable-end. The stylistic character is a vernacular Italianate; siding is horizontal clapboards.

At the rear (west) an attached 1 ½-story wing has a wrap-around 1-story porch on the south and west, and an attic dormer. To the rear of this, another shorter 1 ½-story addition consists of an 18th-century structure which was moved to this location from a spot further west upslope, during the winter season when the ground was frozen (date unknown).

The primary barn (Barn I) is a gambrel bank barn with a milk-room addition at its north end, located to the southwest of the house. House II is east of the barn, and is now the Harvest Kitchen building, used for cooking classes. House III, a 20th-century ranch-style building, is north of the main house. West of Barn I are a 1 ½-story gable-roofed shed (Barn II) formerly used for butchering, with a 1-story addition formerly for calving. North of this is a 1 1/2-story gable-roofed ice house (Barn III) which functioned as the generator shed beginning in the 1940s. West of these is a root cellar with a shed above (Barn IV). North of this grouping is 1 ½-story gable-roofed shed with a shed-roofed addition at the west gable-end (Barn V), recently converted to office space. Further to the west a series of mid-20th-century open wagon sheds are ranged to form a triangular farmyard, and west of these are additional 20th-century equipment and storage buildings.

At the extreme western border of this 127-acre parcel, along the town line with Monroe, is a cul-de-sac road, Eagle Drive, where there is a row of two long 1 ½-story barns of the ground level stable barn type. The southernmost is a gable-roofed structure (Barn VI), the northern is gambrel-roofed with a row of five dormer windows in the roof (Barn VII). To the north of these is a flat-roofed L-shaped 1-story structure (Shed VIII). Some of these structures appear to remain from the Cold War period of 1955 to the mid-1960s when the site was used as a Command Center for Nike Missile Base BR-94.
• 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>Building</th>
<th>Date/Lifespan</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse I</td>
<td>c. 1870</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House II</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House III</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I (Dairy)</td>
<td>19th c. – 1930s</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn II (Butcher, calving)</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn III (Ice/generator)</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn IV (Root cellar)</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn V (Office)</td>
<td>19th-20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barns/sheds VI, VII, VIII</td>
<td>mid-20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional wagon/equipment sheds</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C/NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Barn I:**

The main dairy barn is a tall 1 ½-story gambrel-roofed bank barn structure with its ridge-line oriented northwest to southeast. For descriptive purposes, the up-hill eave-side will be considered the west. Dimensions are 38’ x 86’ with a 12’ x 22’ milk room addition.

**Exterior:**

The west eave-side, from right (south) to left, has as the end bay an addition built circa 1910, with a pair of tall hinged barn doors opening out. To the left is a three-bay English barn structure, which was the earliest. It has a pair of sliding barn doors in the center bay; there is a hinged weather door in the left leaf. The next bay toward the left has a six-pane stable-type window located just above the floor level at the right edge of the bay. Vertical siding sheathes these four bays, which are constructed with post and beam timber framing. Further to the left (north), there is an addition approximately 30 feet long aligned with the walls and roof of the first section, but constructed with 20th-century balloon framing techniques. There is a sliding pass-through door near the left corner, with a stoop and steps down to grade which is declining toward the north. Siding on this portion is wood horizontal lap siding.

The north gable-end of the main structure is the end wall of the balloon-framed structure and has a projecting hay hood at the roof line. A large vertical lift door gives access to the hay mow. Siding is horizontal lap siding. The grade slopes down toward the east along the gable-end and a 1-story concrete block masonry milk room addition with a shed roof is attached at the north gable-end, partially banked into the grade. This has three double hung windows in the north eave-side wall (new replacement sash). A small shed-roofed addition is tucked into the northwest corner of the milk room and the main block, and opens a few steps below the main level elevation. It has shingle siding, a pass-through door in its west side, and a concrete masonry chimney rising through the shed roof and abutting the upper gable-end wall to terminate above the roof line.

The east eave-side prior to 2008 had a basement ground-level stable area for cows and horses, later converted to a gift shop space. Near the left (south) end was an overhead door, to its right a row of four six-pane stable windows, then a six-over-six double hung window, a pair of pass-through doors, then 12 six-over-six double hung windows and at the right corner a pass-through door. The ground level has been renovated to create a wine tasting room. The left (south) portion now has a series of steel and glass overhead doors opening to a trellised stone patio. At the center is a pair of glass entry doors and to the right a long horizontal projected bay window forms a vitrine for display. In the wall of the main level, there is a two-pane stable-type window near the center of the timber-framed portion and at the extreme right corner a similar window. Siding is wood shingles.

The south gable-end has grade sloping up toward the west and a stepped concrete foundation visible at the left (west) corner. Toward the right (east) are two window openings, formerly containing a pair and a triple panel of six-
pane stable windows. Following renovation, these are two pairs of large awning windows. Below the eave line, a slight change of plane indicates a dropped girt line.

The gambrel roof has an overhang at the eaves and rakes, with boxed sloped soffits. Roofing is asphalt shingles. Siding is painted red with white trim.

**Interior:**

The interior reveals three phases of construction. The central portion is a 19th-century three-bay timber-framed English barn, although the tie girts have been removed except at the southernmost bent. Steel tension cables have been installed to prevent deformation. The southern fourth bay is an early 20th-century c. 1910 addition, also timber-framed. The northern portion of the barn was constructed in the 1930s with dimension lumber framed in flat scissor trusses forming sides and gambrel roof profile, and meeting at the ridge-line. Diagonal braces extending into the space a floor level provide stability. The balloon-framed portion matches the gambrel profile of the earlier timber-framed structure. The interior is a single span open space except at the southern bay where there is a loft level. A hay track remains at the ridge-line and a vertical sliding hay door in the north gable-end is operable by a pulley system. A plywood floor and a balcony were installed in the late 1900s. With access from the upper grade, the space is used for school groups and storage during holiday sales seasons.

**Barn II – Butchering, calving shed:**

The main block of this barn is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed timber-framed structure (22’ x 25’) with its ridge-line oriented east-west. A gable-roofed 1-story shed (22’ x 32’) projects southward, set back to the west so that it is attached to the western half of the south eave-side of the main block. The shed has one open wagon shed bay, the right (northern) bay, and one closed bay to the left. The south eave-side of the main block has a pair of hinged doors in its right (east) half. Siding is vertical boards painted red with white trim. The roof has overhangs with closed sloped soffits. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

The east gable-end of the main block has an ornamental arch-topped four-over-four double-hung window in the attic, and a single six-pane stable window with trim off-center toward the right in the main level. Siding on this elevation is wood shingles, with an apparent siding divide indicating a dropped girt in the framing. The north eave-side has two similar stable windows. A third small three-pane window at the right corner in the gable-end of a shed addition. This 1-story shed-roofed addition spans the west gable-end and continues south as the west wall of the south shed structure. The west eave-wall has in its left (north) half, two hinged doors with iron strap hinges. Toward the south, a partial concrete foundation wall extends above grade. Grade slopes up toward the west, with the rear of the wagon shed addition partially banked into the hill.

This building was first used for butchering, with the shed portion used for calving.

**Barn III – Icehouse/generator shed:**

The icehouse (12’ x 16’) is a 1-story wood framed gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented east-west. It has a pass-through door in the east gable-end. The interior is lined with horizontal wood planking typical of icehouses which were used in the early 20th century to cool milk awaiting processing. Later this was converted to a generator shed, when electricity for refrigeration replaced ice. Ice tongs and early wiring remain as artifacts of the structure’s history.

**Barn IV – Root cellar:**

This is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure (16’ x 18’) built into the hillside that rises toward the west. Its ridge-line is oriented east-west. A concrete or parged stone foundation is banked into the hill and exposed on the east downslope side, where there is a pair of hinged doors. The main level above is a wood-framed structure with a hay door in its east gable-end, but no openings on the other three sides. Siding is vertical boards and roofing is asphalt shingles.

The cellar level was used as a root cellar for food storage.

**Barn V – Office:**
This 1 ½-story wood-framed gable-roofed structure (18’ x 24’) has its ridge-line oriented east-west. A shed-roofed 1-story addition spans across the west gable-end. The entrance is a pass-through door in the south eave-side; a second door is located to the left (west) in the addition, and three six-over-six double-hung windows alternate with the doors. The east gable-end has two double-hung windows at the ground level and one in the attic. The west side has a double-hung window in the attic and a row of five tall casement windows in the west eave-side of the shed addition. Two casement windows are in the north side of the addition, the remainder of the north side is blank. Siding is vertical wood, painted red with white trim; roofing is asphalt shingles.

This building was recently renovated for office use.

**Barn VI, VII, VIII:**

These buildings are located on Eagle Drive in the area that was used as a Nike Missile command center in the 1950s and 1960s. All are oriented with the long dimension or ridge-line roughly north-south. The ground floor levels are constructed of concrete block masonry. The southernmost of the three (Barn VI, 34’ x 126’) has a gable roof, the middle building (Barn VII, 34’ x 86’) has a gambrel roof with a series of dormers, and the northernmost (Shed VIII, 34’ x 138’, 58’ x 38’) is an L-shaped structure with a flat roof.

- **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.

**Historical background:**

The Jones farm began in 1848. Philip James Jones (1821-1912), a Welsh-Irish immigrant, purchased the land in the White Hills of Shelton from the Jeremiah Shelton family and engaged in general farming. He sold beef, lamb, eggs, and apples from his horse-drawn cart to the city folks of Derby. Philip James loved the Connecticut hillsides and his motto, “Be good to the land and the land will be good to you,” has motivated all succeeding generations of Jones farmers.

His son, William Henderson Jones, joined him in farming and he eventually established a dairy farm. Philip James and William built the oldest farm buildings in the Christmas yard area, including the family homestead, the dairy barn, the carriage house, and the ice house. They were constructed in the late 1800s. Many of the stone walls were also built at that time.

William’s son, Philip Hubbell Jones continued to develop the dairy operation, then called Broad Acres Farm, and was known as a wise and progressive farmer. His son, Philip Hubbell Jones, Jr. (our current Grandpa Jones), didn’t like milking cows, but ran the dairy farm with his father while growing trees in the back pastures as a hobby. In 1944, Philip sold a dozen Christmas trees to friends. Philip, Jr. and his wife, Elisabeth, then became pioneers in developing and promoting cut-your-own Christmas trees at the farm. The dairy herd was sold in the mid-1960s. In 1994, Philip and Elisabeth celebrated 50 years of operating the Christmas tree farm. Now, in semi-retirement, Grandpa Jones runs a part-time custom sawmill business.

Also in the mid-1950s, a nearly 9-acre parcel of the Jones land on Eagle Drive was taken over by the United States military for the command center and staff housing for Nike Missile Base BR-94. The missile silos were located on a Mohegan Road site, now a town park. After the missiles were decommissioned, the Joneses were able to re-take title to their former land.

Terry Hubbell Jones, son of Philip and Elisabeth, began growing strawberries as a pick-your-own crop during college. After graduation from the University of New Hampshire in 1969, Terry started the blueberries. The farm has continued to grow as Philip and Terry have worked together. In 1985, Terry and his wife, Jean Crum Jones, expanded the farm by purchasing nearby farm acreage (at subdivision prices), bringing the total amount of land now farmed to over 400 acres. They started the harvest-your-own pumpkin patch at Pumpkinseed Hill in 1985. In 2009,
Jean returned to her interest in food, as a professional registered dietician and community nutritionist, by opening the Harvest Kitchen to teach cooking using fresh, local ingredients.

In 1995, the farm’s name was updated to Jones Family Farms to reflect the diversity of crops being sold. Philip Jamison (Jamie) Jones, of the sixth generation, graduated from Cornell University in 1998. Jamie started the Jones Winery and continues to oversee many of the farm’s other operations. Gwyn Jones, also of the sixth generation, graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2002 with a degree in graphic design. She is responsible for creating the farm and winery logos, all the wine labels, as well as farm publications and packaging for special farm products. In 2004, the seventh generation joined the family. Jamie and his wife Christiana Soares Jones had a baby, Jackson Philip Jones and in 2007, they had another son, Samuel Jamison Jones.

Family members are involved in land conservation, farmland preservation, and sustainable farming practice in Connecticut. Terry Jones has long been a board member of the Working Lands Alliance and Connecticut Farmland Trust while Jean Crum Jones writes regularly for the journal of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

**Architectural significance:**

The Jones Farm is significant for its place in the history of Connecticut agriculture. Philip James Jones began the family farmstead as an immigrant farmer prior to the Civil War when the abandonment of Connecticut farms by Colonial-era families was beginning. The family followed the typical pattern, moving into dairy farming by the early 20th century. The old icehouse was converted to a generator shed as the farm converted to using electricity before the availability of the public power grid. Horses continued in use into the 1940s, sharing space in the dairy barn. The family has preserved the story of their farm’s evolution in the buildings and oral histories.

Unlike many others, the Jones family has found ways of remaining in business and prospering by pioneering new crops and agritourism markets including Christmas trees, pick-your-own berries and pumpkins, wine-making, and most recently cooking classes. Family members have also been founders and strong supporters of the farmland preservation, land conservation, and sustainable agriculture movements.

The historic structures at the Jones Farmstead site have exceptional integrity of materials, structure, and setting. The main dairy barn (Barn I) incorporates multiple transformations in its fabric, including the original English gambrel barn, additions extending it at both ends, conversion to a ground level stable barn configuration with attached milk house, and finally the most recent adaptation to the winery function. With all the changes, the fabric has been preserved so that the history of agriculture can be read in the visible structure. Other historic structures including the butchering and calving shed, icehouse/generator shed, root cellar, and the family farmhouse, are intact, telling the story of the 19th-century farmstead. A variety of wagon and equipment sheds at the northwest part of the farm complex keep the visitor well aware of the working farm environment.
Sources (continuation):
Interview with Jean Crum Jones 10/17/2011, at site.

Map resources:
City of Shelton Assessor's Records and GIS Viewer http://shelton.mapxpress.net/ Parcel ID: Map 149.-16, others.
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.
UTM coordinates: http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html

Print and internet resources:
Connecticut State Library online: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories
Jones Family Farm web site, http://www.jonesfamilyfarms.com/
1. Location map of 606 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Shelton CT – from http://shelton.mapxpress.net/ accessed 4/05/2011.

3. Site map detail showing identification key to contributing structures – map image from Jones Family Farm.

4. Plan Sketch of Barn I – plan courtesy of Elijah Huge, Periphery Architecture LLC and Jones Family Farm.
5. East side of Barn I; south side of Farmhouse I, camera facing north.

6. West gable-end of Farmhouse I, camera facing east.
One-story wing at front left is an 18th-century structure moved from elsewhere on the site.

7. East gable-end of Farmhouse I, camera facing west.
8. West side of House II, Harvest Kitchen, camera facing east. At left is the corner of Barn I and the patio.

9. Northwest view of Barn I, camera facing south, showing the 1930s portion of the main barn and the milk room.
10. East view of Barn I, camera facing northwest, photographed in 2006 prior to renovation for winery.

11. South view of Barn I, camera facing northwest, after renovation for winery, showing trellis and patio.
12. Southwest view of Barn I, camera facing north. Sliding doors outlined in white are the center bay of the oldest English barn portion of the structure.

13. Interior view of Barn I upper level, camera facing north, showing balloon framing of 1930s portion. Balcony was added for program use in late 20th century. Note hay track at ridge and hay door at rear.
14. Interior view of Barn I upper level, camera facing south, showing the post and beam framed bays. At upper level transition to balloon framing is seen. Tension cables have been added to support the roof span.

15. Interior view of Barn I typical timber frame detail at purlin, camera facing east.
16. Interior view of Barn I upper level, camera facing north, showing the open hay door with hoisting pulley, hay track at ridge.

17. Interior view of lower level wine bar and sales room, converted from former dairy stable, camera facing north.
18. Interior view of lower level milk room, now a children’s play area, camera facing northwest.

19. Southeast view of Barn II, butcher and calving shed, camera facing northwest.

21. Northeast view of Barn II, butcher and calving shed, with Barn IV, root cellar at right rear; camera facing west.
22. Northeast view of Barn IV, root cellar, camera facing west.

24. Interior view of Barn III, icehouse/generator shed, camera facing south, with insulating plank wall, ice tongs.


27. View of wagon sheds and yard area, camera facing northwest. At left is the corner of Barn III, icehouse/generator, and at right the rear corner of Barn V, office.
28. East view of Barn I with entrance to winery and patio at basement level, camera facing south.