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
Building Name (Common)  Bordeaux Farmstead  Record No. 24073
Building Name (Historic)  Fuller Farmstead
Street Address or Location  159 South Road
Town/City  Somers  Village  Somers  County  Tolland
Owner(s)  Dianne Lenti, 41 Haystack Road, Manchester CT 06040  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  Extended English barn, vernacular style  Date of Construction  c. 1790

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  poured  )  ☐ Cut Stone (Type  )  ☐ Other  Vertical wood 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:  1 1/2  Approximate Dimensions  22' x 48' plus additions

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
Historic Resources Inventory

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- Barn
- Shed
- Garage
- Carriage House
- Shop
- Garden
- Other landscape features or buildings: Farm stand, coop, corn crib

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 8/1/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name______________________________Date 9/17/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.9754, -72.443685

Threats to the building or site:

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

The barn, house, and related outbuildings located at 159 South Road are on a 108.4-acre farm in Somers Connecticut, just north of the Ellington town line and approximately five miles south of the Massachusetts state line. The buildings are on the east side of South Road, which runs approximately north-south. The barn is to the north of the 18th-century house with which it is associated. Adjacent to the barn to the southeast are two gable-roofed buildings; a milk house and a corn crib. To the south of the house are a shed-roofed farm stand and a gable-roofed workshop. Up the hill to the east is a chicken coop. Further east is a wagon shed.

The house is a simple 1 ½-story center-chimney farmhouse, measuring 38’ x 26’. The ridgeline of the house runs north-south. The vernacular house has five bays with a center bay entry. The entry in the center of the west eave-side of the house is accessed by large cut stone steps. The windows are modern two-over-two double-hung sash. In the gable-ends in the attic level are six-over-six double-hung windows. The house is covered with clapboard painted white. The foundation is mortared fieldstone. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a projecting overhang.

To the north of the barn is a small pond. To the north, northeast, and east of the barn are large tracts of open land. Further to the east is woodland. The area surrounding the site is active agricultural, residential, open space and woodland. The site is located .75 mile south of the Somers Historic District centered along Main Street (Route 190).

• 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>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Late 18th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>18th-19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk house, Corn crib</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Mid-19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coop, Farm stand, Wagon shed</td>
<td>Mid-20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This barn is a 1 ½-story extended four-bay English barn with three additions. It has a three bay frame, with a fourth bay to the west of different construction. The ridge-line of the barn runs roughly east-west, perpendicular to the road. Extending south from the westernmost bay of the barn is a gable-roofed addition (Addition I). Extending north from the east half of the barn is a second gable-roofed addition (Addition II). A small shed-roofed addition (Addition III) extends east from the east gable-end of the barn. The main entry of the barn is in the south eave-side. The barn has vertical wood siding painted red with white trim and corner boards, except for the east gable-end, which has unpainted wood shingles. The foundation of the barn is mortared fieldstone.

Exterior:

The main barn measures 22’ x 48’, plus additions. The main entry of the barn is a pair of double-height exterior sliding doors in the second bay from the east. The easternmost bay is blank. In the third bay from the east is a hooded, exterior, sliding pass-through door that extends west into a slot in Addition I. Extending south from the westernmost bay is Addition I.

The west gable-end of the main barn has a fixed six-pane window with trim in the gable attic and is otherwise blank. The two westernmost bays in the north eave-side of the barn are blank. Extending north from the two westernmost bays in the north eave-side of the barn is Addition II.

Addition I is a long narrow 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure, positioned at a slightly oblique angle to the main barn. It has an entry via an exterior sliding pass-through door at the southeast corner on the east eave-side. To the north are two wide open bays and a smaller bay at the north portion of the addition, where the addition meets the south eave-side of the barn. These open bays are only about 5’ tall. Centered above each of the wide open bays is a side-
hinged hay door with wrought iron hardware. In the south gable-end of Addition I are three six-pane windows with trim; two in the main level and one centered in the gable attic. The west eave-side of Addition I is blank.

Addition II has a roughly square footprint, with approximately half overlapping the eastern bay of the main barn and the remainder extending further east. The west eave-side of Addition II is blank. The grade declines slightly revealing a concrete block masonry foundation. The north gable-end of Addition II has a pair of exterior sliding doors in the west half, with both doors sliding to the east. Inset in each leaf is a six-pane window. There is a dropped girt siding divide and centered above is a six-pane window with trim. Addition II extends further east than the main barn, and is flush with the east side of Addition III. There is a series of six six-pane windows with trim on the east eave-side of Addition II. At the northeast corner of the east eave-side is an exterior sliding pass-through door.

The east gable-end of the main barn has a six-pane window in the gable attic and is covered with unpainted wood shingles. Encompassing the entire width of the east gable-end of the barn, and including a portion of Addition II, is Addition III. The east side of Addition III has a centered exterior sliding pass-through door flanked by three sets of six-pane windows with trim. The hooded track of the door extends north. The north end of the addition is encompassed by Addition II. The south side of Addition II has an exterior sliding pass-through door. The hooded track of the door extends west.

**Interior:**

The main entry in the south eave-side of the barn opens into the second bay from the east. Directly to the east is a pass-through door that leads to the enclosed easternmost bay and Additions II & III. Directly west of the entry is a pass-through door that leads to a small enclosed workshop. The bents flanking the bay are separated by horizontal boards nailed to the bents. Above this bay at the eave level is a loft. The interior is constructed of a variety of scribe and square rule mortise and tenon timber framing, with 8” x 8” hand hewn post and beams, and some hand-hewn rafters. Many of the wall girts and diagonals are 4” x 4” with circular saw marks. This bay is 12’ wide and 22’ deep. The easternmost bay is approximately 10’ wide and 22’ deep.

The two west bays are approximately 12’ wide each and 22’ deep. The outer posts of the two west bays have gunstock posts that widen from 8” to approximately 12” at the tops, with tie-girts joined in the plane of the plates. The roof is made up of 4” x 4” rafters and irregular roof boards under plywood. A hay track still remains beneath the hand hewn ridge-pole. At the point where the westernmost bay meets the adjacent bay, a second doubled set of rafters is present. The bents, especially the westernmost bents, have been repaired many times over as evident from the different woods, different cutting techniques of the wood and additional hardware such as bolts and metal staples. The eastern bents, in contrast, have dropped girts. The gunstock posts and tie-girts at the west end of the barn suggest an older date for this section, although older timbers could have been re-used to extend a three-bay barn.

The south eave-side of the westernmost bay is open to the attic level of Addition I.

The eastern bay has a concrete floor, as do Additions II & III. The floor of the rest of the barn is wood plank. At the southeast corner of the barn is a pass-through door that leads to Addition III. Along the east gable-end of the barn are top-hinged vertical board access doors into Addition III.

Addition III is accessed by a pass-through door in the southwest corner on the west wall, which leads to the main barn, an exterior sliding door in the south wall and an exterior sliding door on the east wall, which both lead to the exterior. The north wall of Addition III opens into the south wall of Addition II. The interior of both have white washed walls, concrete floors with manure troughs and stanchions for 16 cows.

Addition I is accessed from the exterior from an exterior sliding door at the southeast corner on the eave-side and the attic level to the westernmost bay of the main barn. The north half of Addition I is open to the east. Inside the sliding door is a pair of swinging hinged screen doors which open into the first level of Addition I. The ground level floor is made up of square rule timber frame construction and partially whitewashed walls. At the south gable-end is a set of stairs to the attic level. The room has horse stalls and a tack room. Taking up much of the room is machinery for a cider mill in the attic above.
• 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 a typical example of an extended English barn with numerous additions. Part of the barn appears to have been built in the late 1700s, as evidenced by the hand hewn gun stock posts and other evidence of early construction.

Historical background:
The site appears to have been originally owned by the Fuller family in the mid-18th century. Leander Bordeaux acquired the site in February 27th, 1894. The farm had corn, apple and peach orchards, as well as nut trees until it eventually shifted to dairy in the 1920s though 1960. Pigs and chickens were also raised on the farm. Addition II & III appear to have been from the early- to mid-20th century. Addition I appears to be contemporary with parts of the main barn and was originally used as horse stalls and later (1950s) for a cider mill, which produced cider up until 2005. At its peak Addition I had three draft horses; with a team of two used to help work the land. Today, the land is used for hay. Chickens still occupy the coop.

Architectural significance:
The barn is significant as a typical example of an extended English barn with numerous additions throughout the years to facilitate the evolution of the site and reflect the changing needs of the farmer. Part of the barn appears to have been built in the late 1700s, as evident from the hand hewn gun stock posts, tie-girts joined into the plate, and hewn ridge-pole. While no scribe rule marriage marks were found, which should be present for a late 18th-century timber frame building, the attic level of the barn was inaccessible, so the lack of scribe rule marriage marks is inconclusive. The later adaptive re-use of the barn for dairy, with Additions II & II, and the cider production, with Addition I, showcase how the a single building can adapt to the farming practices necessary for a farmer to continue to thrive. This farm has been in continuous operation since the 18th century and although the agricultural use today is just a fraction of what it saw in its heyday, it does continue.

• Sources (continuation):
Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine, 8/01/2012.
Interview with Dianne Bordeaux Lenti, 8/01/2012, 159 South Road, Somers, CT.
Map resources:
Somers Assessor's Record: http://www.visionappraisal.com/databases/ct/index.htm - Parcel ID: 05/73.
Print and internet resources:
1. Location map of 159 South Road, Somers, CT – from [http://maps.google.com/](http://maps.google.com/) accessed 08/01/2012.


4. Detail Site Plan showing contributing resources, 159 South Road, Somers, CT – base image from [http://www.bing.com/maps](http://www.bing.com/maps) accessed 08/01/2012.
5. Northwest corner of house, camera facing southeast. Note a portion of the farm stand to right.

7. Northwest corner of farm stand, camera facing southeast.

8. Northwest corner of workshop, camera facing southeast.
9. West view of chicken coop, camera facing east.

10. East view of the wagon shed, camera facing west.

13. Southeast corner of the barn and Addition III with Addition II to the right.

14. East view of barn and Additions II and III, camera facing west.

16. Northwest view of the barn and Addition II to the left, camera facing southeast.
17. West view of barn, Addition II to left and Addition I to right, camera facing east.

18. East eave-side of Addition I, with barn to the right and a portion of the Milk house to the left, camera facing west.
19. Detail of interior of barn, northwest corner, gun stock post and tie-girt connection, camera facing west.

20. Detail of interior of barn, rafters where the original barn meets the addition.
21. Detail of interior of barn, top-hinged horizontal doors on east gable-end, camera facing northeast.

22. Detail of interior of Addition I, square rule construction, camera facing northeast.