Hastings Family Farm  
Record No. 1784

Street Address or Location: 472 Hill Street

Owner(s): Lawrence and Susan Hastings, 472 Hill Street, Suffield CT 06078

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: English bank barn, Vernacular style

Date of Construction: c. 1880

Material(s): (Indicate use or location when appropriate):
- Brick
- Wood Shingle
- Asphalt Siding
- Concrete (Type block)
- Board & Batten
- Cut Stone (Type)
- Other (vertical wood)

Structural System:
- Wood Frame
- Post & Beam
- Other

Roof: (Type)
- Gable
- Flat
- Mansard
- Monitor
- Round
- Other

(Material)
- Wood Shingle
- Roll Asphalt
- Tin
- Slate
- Asphalt Shingle

Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B

Approximate Dimensions: 48' x 36'

Exterior Condition: Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

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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: Wagon sheds, pastures

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 11/30/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Todd Levine Date 1/10/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.9928, -72.672447

Threats to the building or site:

☑️ None known ☐ Highways ☐ Vandalism ☐ Developers ☐ Renewal ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☐ Other ________________ ☐ Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn is located on approximately 330 acres of land on the northeast side of Hill Street in Suffield. The road runs generally north but bends westerly here. A Y-shaped driveway extends to the northeast off Hill Street and leads to the east side of the house. A secondary driveway extends to the north off the road on the east side of Barn I. There are many buildings on this property including four barns, two wagon sheds, a shed, and two houses. House I, the primary historic farmhouse, is to the west of Barn I, and to the northeast are a series of modern agricultural buildings. Wagon Shed II is to the northwest of Barn I, and House II is a small 20th-c. gable-roofed house to the southeast. Pastures and agricultural fields surround the buildings. A stream and trees line the east and north borders of the property.

House I, a 1 ½-story five-bay eave-entry gable-roofed building, c. 1835, sits close to the road. Facing south, the main door is centered and is recessed on the south eave-façade of the house. The door is reached by two stone steps, is flanked by two three-pane windows, and has a Greek Revival-style surround. Two two-over-two double-hung windows with trim are found on both the east and west sides of the entryway. In the second story are five two-over-two double-hung windows. A chimney is found protruding from the ridge of the roof in the easternmost bay of the house. A gable-roof addition is attached to the north eave-side, extending to the north. The house is clad in clapboard siding and has asphalt shingles on the roof.

Hill Street extends to the north off Mountain Road (Rte. 168), which runs east-west through the center of the Town of Suffield. Situated just to the south of the Hastings Hill Historic District, the property is a little more than a mile to the northwest of the center of town where the Main Street Local Historic District/Suffield National Register Historic District is located. The Connecticut River is to the east of the property, forming the eastern boundary of Suffield, and the border of Massachusetts is a few miles to the north. Surrounding the property are open tracts of land that appear to be used for agricultural purposes, woodland, and residential properties.

A number of other historic resources in Suffield are recognized, including Hilltop Farm, five miles to the east. Another farmstead in Suffield that is included in the current thematic nomination of Agricultural Heritage resources is the Horatio Lothrop Farmstead at 410 Taintor Street.

• 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</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House I</td>
<td>c. 1835</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barns II, III, IV</td>
<td>Late 20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House II</td>
<td>Mid 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagon Sheds I, II</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheds I, II</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barn I:

This is an approximately 48’ x 36’ 1 ½-story with basement five-bay, six-bent English bank barn with three additions. The ridge-line runs approximately east-west, parallel with this portion of Hill Street. The barn is clad in vertical board siding painted red with a concrete block foundation. The gable-roof has asphalt shingles. Addition I is a gable-roof milk room addition that has concrete block walls and asphalt shingles on the roof. Addition II is a saltbox—roof addition with vertical board siding, a metal roof, a concrete block foundation on the south and east sides, and a brick foundation on the west and south sides. Addition III is a gambrel-roof addition with horizontal board siding, asphalt shingles on the roof, and a concrete block foundation.

Exterior:

The main entry is located on the north eave-side of the barn and consists of a pair of double-height exterior-hung sliding doors that is reached by an earthen ramp. Addition I, the gable-roof addition, is attached to the east corner of the north eave-side of the barn. It extends to the north and is approximately 19’ x 16.’ The main entry is found on the north gable-end of Addition I, and consists of an exterior hung sliding door. A pass-through door is just to the
east of this. On the east eave-side is a six-pane window. A window opening, now boarded, is found on the west eave-side of Addition I.

Two six-pane windows with trim are set within the concrete block foundation of the main block, just to the west of Addition I. A six-pane window is just to the west of the main entry, and a series of four window openings are spaced evenly to the west of this. The grade drops slightly towards the west of the barn. A hay door opening is located in the gable peak of the west gable-end of the barn. The grade continues to drop towards the south along the west gable-end of the barn, allowing the basement level to be at grade on the south side.

Attached to the west half of the south eave-side of the barn is Addition II, extending to the south. Addition II is the saltbox-roof addition and it measures approximately 30’ x 40.’ The main entry to the upper level is found on the west eave-side of this addition and consists of a side-hinged pass-through door. A six-pane window is located near the north corner. The brick foundation is visible along the west eave-side of Addition II. The grade drops along the south gable-end of the barn, revealing a full basement. Four windows in the basement level are spaced evenly along the south gable-end, and a window opening is found in the gable peak of this addition. Along the east eave-side, starting in the south and heading north are as follows: a Dutch door, an open bay with a hay door opening above, and a window opening.

The grade rises to the north along the east gable-end of the barn. Attached to the east gable-end, and encompassing almost this entire side is Addition III, the gambrel-roof addition. Located above the addition is a small window opening, found in the gable peak.

Addition III has flared eaves, measures approximately 36’ x 38,’ and extends to the east. The main entry of Addition III is found on the east gable-end and consists of an open center bay. The main entry is flanked by two window openings. A hay door is located above the open bay. Found in the gable peak of Addition III, and flanked by two small window openings is a pair of sliding hay doors with X bracing. A hay fork track protrudes from the gable-peak, above the hay doors. A series of six window openings are set within the concrete block foundation wall along the south eave-side of Addition III. A metal silo is attached near the east corner of the south eave-side. Spaced evenly and set within the concrete block foundation wall of the north eave-side of Addition III is a series of five windows/window openings. A pass-through door is located just above them.

Interior:

The interior of the barn is accessed by the pair of exterior-hung sliding doors on the north eave-side of the barn. The barn has a large room that is open to the ceiling. The middle bay, where the main entry is found, measures approximately 13’ in length. A post-and-beam frame is connected by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Queen posts support purlin plates at the mid-span of the rafters. Common rafters of sawn dimension lumber are connected to the purlin plate and meet at the ridge with a ridge-board. The roof deck is made of wood planks.

The basement of the barn is accessed through the open bay in Addition III. This has concrete block walls, concrete floors, and wood stalls used for cows. Whitewash is still extant on the floor joists in this section of the barn.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This barn is an outstanding example of a 19th-century English bank barn in its original location. The barn is still in agricultural use and the intact landscape adds significance. The additions illustrate how the subsistence farmstead of the 19th-century evolved to adapt to a 20th-century commercial dairy operation.

Historical background:

The town was first named Southfield, but by 1674 the name was changed to Suffield. Originally part of Massachusetts, in 1749 the town was incorporated into the State of Connecticut. On an 1869 Map of Hartford County, the name A. S. Crane was listed as the owner of the property. In the both the 1870 and 1880 Census...
Records, an Amos S. Crane is listed as a farmer living with his wife Fannie. It is believed that sometime after the deaths of the Cranes, the property was acquired by the Hastings Family.

The property was originally used as a tobacco farm. However, Richard Hastings’s father introduced a few dairy cows to the property and started a dairy farm. Both Richard Hastings and his son Lawrence worked to expand the dairy production by adding more dairy cows. Richard Hastings and his wife Julia owned the property from 1957 to 1990 at which time Lawrence Hastings and wife Susan acquired the property. The barn was used for curing tobacco and for hay storage until the dairy herd was introduced. The property and barn were originally used for tobacco farming, but today it has approximately 280 dairy cows and beef cattle. The farm now produces fresh milk and beef, and the barn is used to house cows.

The concrete masonry basement appears likely to be a modification inserted under the older timber frame. This was a fairly common way of converting an English barn to the ground-level stable layout of 20th-century dairy farming. The gambrel-roofed addition similarly incorporated the modern features of a typical dairy barn in the 1920s or 30s. The small northern wing would have been built as a milk room.

Architectural significance:

This barn is an outstanding example of an English bank barn from the 19th century. The barn is sitting in its original location and the materials have been well preserved, and are intact. Furthermore, the barn is still used for agricultural purposes. Also, the area where this barn is located is still farmland. The additions illustrate how the subsistence farmstead of the 19th-century evolved to adapt to a 20th-century commercial dairy operation.

- Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine - 11/30/2012.
Interview with Hastings Family - 11/30/2012, 472 Hill Street, Suffield, CT.

Map resources:
Baker and Tilden, Connecticut Hartford City and County Atlas, Baker & Tilden, 1869.
Parcel ID: 28/30/146 and 28/30/144
Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 1/10/2013 at UConn MAGIC: http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html.

Print and internet resources:
Connecticut State Library online accessed 1/10/2013: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories
Hastings Family Farm Information accessed 1/10/2013 at www.hastingsfamilyfarm.com


5. Southwest context view of the house and Barn I (to the right of the house). Camera facing northeast.


9. Southeast view of Barn II. Camera facing northwest.

10. South gable-end of Barn III. Camera facing north.
11. East eave-side of Wagon Shed II. Camera facing west.

12. Southwest view of Shed II. Camera facing northeast.


17. West eave-side and south gable-end of Addition II. Camera facing northeast.


21. Interior view of the post-and-beam frame with mortise and tenon joints pegged together with tree nails in Barn I.

22. Interior view of the queen posts in Barn I.
23. Interior view of the roof of Barn I. Note the rafters meeting at the ridge with a ridge-board.

24. Interior view of the basement of Addition III on Barn I. Note the concrete flooring and cow stalls.