## GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) **Wheaton Farmstead Barn**  
Building Name (Historic) **Wheaton, Nathaniel Shelton, Farmstead**  
Street Address or Location **68 Wheaton Road**  
Town/City **Washington**  
Village **Marbledale**  
County **Litchfield**  
Owner(s) **Lisa Mahar, 68 Wheaton Road, Washington, CT 06794**  
- 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 **English bank barn, vernacular style**  
Date of Construction **c. 1860**

## Structure Information

**Material(s)**  
- **Clapboard**  
- **Asbestos Siding**  
- **Brick**  
- **Wood Shingle**  
- **Asphalt Siding**  
- **Fieldstone**  
- **Board & Batten**  
- **Stucco**  
- **Cobblestone**  
- **Aluminum Siding**  
- **Concrete (Type ______________)**  
- **Cut Stone (Type Marble)**  
- **Other_Vertical wood siding**

**Structural System**  
- **Wood Frame**  
- **Post & Beam**  
- **Balloon**  
- **Load bearing masonry**  
- **Structural iron or steel**  
- **Other_Square rule framing**

**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 **Main 30' x 40', Addition 42' x 18', Addition 24' x 16'**

## 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: **Restoration in 2012-13.**

## 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: Marble 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  Cupola: Oscar Beeham  Builder

- Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

- Sources:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer  Todd Levine, Lisa Mahar  Date 4/01/2012, 6/03/2013

View  Multiple Views  Negative on File  CTHP

Name  Todd Levine  Date 5/7/2012

Organization  Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address  940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude
41.654571, -73.37093

Threats to the building or site:

- [✓] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Explanation
• Interrelationship of buildings and surroundings:

The barn is the largest and most prominent of the farm outbuildings located on the east side of Wheaton Road in Washington. The site is in the northwestern part of Washington, close to the town line with New Milford. To the southwest is the Hine-Buckingham Farms (Hunt Hill Farm) listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To the north 1.7 miles is the New Preston Hill Historic District. Other historic districts in Washington are the Sunny Ridge and Calhoun-Ives Historic Districts in Washington Depot and the Washington Green Historic District, all to the east of this site.

Just to the northwest of the house is a bend in Wheaton Road: north of the bend the road runs north-south; south of the bend the road runs northeast-southwest. To the south of the bend is a circular driveway that accesses both the house and the barn. Rubble marble masonry walls demarcate the 61.7-acre site to the south, west (fronting Wheaton Road), and north. Rubble marble masonry walls run throughout the site bordering different fields.

The barn is in front of and to the southwest of the c.1845 Gothic Revival-style house with which it is associated. The ridge-line of the house is parallel to the ridge-line of the main block of the barn, which runs southwest-northeast. The 1 1/2-story house measures approximately 30’ x 58’, with a 16’ x 28’ ell, and is notable for its intricate scroll-sawn detailing. The building has a five-bay eave-side façade with a two-sided wraparound porch. The porch is supported by highly detailed diagonal braces with Gothic rose ornaments and scroll-sawn balustrade. The other elevations have flush board and clapboard siding with two-over-two double-hung windows. The front of the house has a gable wall dormer with an arched two-over-two double-hung window. The house also has a wide fascia with heavily applied molding.

The entire site is on a hill, inclining from the west to the east. Just south of the barn is a gable-roofed calf barn. To the south of the house is a gable-roofed smokehouse. To the east of the house are two gardens. To the south and east of the barn are tracts of open space up the hill. Further south and east is woodland. Across Wheaton Road to the west are large tracts of open space. The area surrounding the site is residential, active agriculture, open space and woodland.

• 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>Main barn</td>
<td>Mid 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calf barn</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Mid 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokehouse</td>
<td>Late 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marble rubble masonry walls</td>
<td>Mid 19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main Barn:

This is a 1 1/2-story eave-entry bank barn with gable-roofed additions to the north and south, resulting in a T-shaped plan. Both gable-roof additions have a shed-roofed addition extending west. The grade of the site declines from east to west, resulting in a bank barn. The main facade faces the southwest while the road runs approximately northeast-southwest. For the sake of this description, the main facade faces roughly south.

Exterior:

The original main entry in the south eave-side of the barn is a pair of double-height exterior ledge sliding doors in the middle of three bays, accessed by an earthen and rubble marble ramp capped on the sides with marble stone. Both doors slide in the same direction, to the east; the west is blocked by the south gable-roof addition (Addition 1). The horseshoe hanger hardware for the doors is beneath a wood hood. The ledge doors are made up of diagonal boards. Above the doors are two twelve-pane transoms; one over each leaf. The east bay of the south eave-facade of
the main barn is blank except for a grated rectangular basement window recessed in the marble foundation. The west bay is encompassed by Addition 1.

The east gable-end of the barn has a window space boarded from the interior with vertical board in the main level just south of the north corner and two rectangular basement windows in the marble foundation, both boarded over from the interior with vertical board. A six-over-six double-hung window with trim is centered in the gable attic.

The north eave-side of the barn has an overhead garage door in the middle of three bays. The east bay has two six-pane windows with trim just above grade. The west bay is encompassed by a gable-roofed addition (Addition 2) extending to the north.

The west gable-end of the barn has a basement level due to the decline of the grade, east to west. The basement level of the west gable-end of the barn has an exterior sliding door just off-center to the north with a set of two six-pane windows with trim inset on the top half. The hooded track of the door extends to the north. Beneath the hooded track to the north is a second set of two six-pane windows with trim identical to the door, giving the appearance at first glance, that there are two doors, not one. To the south of the sliding door is a set of two twelve-pane windows with trim. Beneath this window set the grade inclines sharply to the south and the sheathing gives way, revealing the cut marble foundation. The main level of the west gable-side of the barn has two six-pane windows with trim; one centered and one towards the north. Centered in the gable attic is a six-over-six double-hung window with trim.

Addition 1 extends south from the west bay in the south eave-facade of the main block of the barn. The north gable-end of the addition is entirely encompassed by the west bay of the main structure. The east eave-side of the addition has a centered sliding pass-through door with trim flanked by two six-pane windows with trim. Just to the south of the sliding door, beneath the eave in the attic level, is an exterior sliding hay door with its track extending to the south. The south gable-end of Addition 1 has a slightly off-centered twelve-pane window on the main level and a centered exterior sliding hay door above. The top of the hay door is at eave height. The hooded track of the hay door extends to the east. Centered in the gable attic is a six-pane window with trim. The grade declines slightly, revealing more of the mortared marble foundation. The west eave-side of Addition 1 is flush with the west gable-end of the main barn. Off-centered to the south is a shed-roofed addition, extending to the west. Six-pane windows with trim adorn the shed-roofed addition as well as the main level of the south addition. A single six-pane window is just beneath the eave at the intersection of the main barn and Addition 1.

Addition 2 extends north from the west bay in the north eave-side of the main block of the barn. The south gable-end of the addition is entirely encompassed by the west bay of the main structure. The east eave-side of the north addition has a pass-through door just off-center to the north. The grade at the north gable-end of the north addition declines sharply, revealing a basement level. A marble retaining wall tappers towards the north from the northeast corner of the addition. The basement level is mortared marble. The main level of the north gable-end of the addition has two six-pane windows with a third centered in the gable attic. Centered in the west eave-side of the north addition is a shed-roofed addition, which encompasses most of the west eave side. The west side of the addition has two pairs of swinging hinged doors. A six-pane window with trim is just beneath the eave towards the northwest corner.

The structure has vertical siding painted white. The trim around the windows is painted black, as is the fascia of the roof. The roof has a projecting overhang and is covered with wood shingles installed during restoration work in 2012-13. The foundation is a mix of mortared and un-mortared roughly quarried marble. Centered atop the ridge is a vented cupola. The hipped-roof cupola has two sets of louvered vents on each side.

**Interior:**

The floor is made up of wide wood planking. The main entry in the south eave-façade opens into three interior bays, with the western bays open to the north and south additions. The barn has four hand-hewn bents with diagonal bracing, and pegged mortise and tenon joinery with square rule construction. The gable-ends have dropped girts. The interior roof of the barn is supported by hand hewn rafters. A small 1’ x 1’ trap door leads to the basement at the southeast corner of the center bay. The structural timbers range in size – 10” x 10” for the corner posts, 9” x 7”
for the end girts and 8” x 8” for the rest of the girts and posts. The bents associated with the middle bay have metal L-brackets attached to the posts and girts to aid in support. Above the north garage doors in the middle bay appears to be the frame for four sets of transom sash, now boarded over. The roof ridge has a pentagonal ridgepole. Using numerous nails as a means of lettering, “1928” is found on the east side of the west bent of the middle bay towards the south. A non-structural post has extended pegs just beneath the date, apparently used as a ladder to the loft area. The basement level has a dirt floor and cut marble walls, accessed by a wide exterior sliding door.

The main level of Addition 1 has white-washed walls and ceilings, as it was once used for dairy cows. The walls are vertical paneling on the east and south walls, with horizontal siding on the west wall, except for the portion that includes the milk house, which has vertical siding. The floors are wood plank and there appears to be a manure gutter off center to the west running the length of the addition. The post and beams are a combination of hand-hewn and circular-sawn members - 8” x 8” for the corner posts, 7” x 6” for the girts and plates, with sets of two 3” x 4” braces along the bents. The joints are pegged mortise and tenons using square rule construction. There are triangular blinders flanking each hopper window. Located at the center of the west side of the south addition is the shed-roofed milk room, accessed by a swinging hinged door and three wood steps. The milk room measures approximately 10’ x 12’. The attic level of Addition 1 is accessed from either the main barn west bay or from two exterior sliding doors; one on the south gable-end and one on the east eave side. The plate is hand hewn, while the rest of the structural components show circular saw marks.

Addition 2 is accessed from the west bay of the main barn and a paneled pass-through door on the east wall that leads to the exterior. It has finished wood floors, walls and ceiling. The loft area is unfinished and inaccessible except from the west bay of the main barn. The basement area beneath the north bay is accessed through the shed-roofed addition to the west. The walls are mortared rubble marble.

The landscape immediately surrounding the barn includes a set of nine large marble paving stones set into the ground just to the west of the west basement level entry, a marble step beneath the east pass-through door of the south addition and rubble marble ramps at the north and south middle bays of the main barn.

Calf barn:

The calf barn measures approximately 20' x 26'. The west eave-side has three bays with a deep overhang supported by cantilevered extensions of the cross girts and brackets. The main entry is a wide exterior sliding door in the middle bay, extending to the north. The grade inclines slightly from west to east, exposing an un-mortared marble foundation, except in the southwest corner, which is concrete. The south gable-end of the barn has two fixed six-pane windows with trim; one is off-center to the west and the other is centered in the east half of the gable-end. The east eave-side of the barn has three fixed six-pane windows with trim, each centered in each of the corresponding bays, except for the southernmost bay, which is blank. The north gable-end is blank. The barn is covered with vertical boards painted white. The roof is made up of rafters with exposed rafter tails and irregular wood boards. The roof is covered with wood shingles. The interior structure is made up of hand-hewn and circular-sawn post and beams. The joints are pegged mortise and tenons using square rule construction.

Smoke house:

The main entry is an exterior sliding pass-through door off-center to the east on the north gable-end of the smoke house. The horseshoe hanger hardware for the doors is beneath a wood hood. Centered in the gable attic is a six-over-six double-hung window. The interior has a series of vertical lathes over horizontal siding on the eave sides of the building. The smoke house has rubble marble floors inset in the ground. The gable-ends have vertical siding. A brick chimney is located at the north gable-end and is built at a diagonal. The exterior has its main entrance at the south gable-end in the form of a pass-through door. The eave-sides of the building have horizontal siding, except for the attic level, where it has two top hinged doors used apparently for venting. The main entry is flanked by fixed six-pane windows. Centered in the gable attic is a six-over-six double-hung window. The east eave-side of the building has a fixed two-pane window. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a projecting overhang.
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.

The barn is significant as an excellent example of its type, the English bank barn, and because of its construction using readily available marble for all masonry. The marble used on site was quarried from local marble pits, characteristic of the geology of the area in the Housatonic River Valley known as the “Marble Belt.” The site derives further significance for its association with the Wheatons and Buckinghams and their contributions to the marble industry.

Historical background:

Originally, the site was purchased by Joseph Wheaton in 1759. The house appears to have been built c. 1845 by Joseph Wheaton’s grandson, Nathaniel Shelton Wheaton, who was one of the original incorporators of Washington (now Trinity) College in Hartford, CT. Nathaniel Shelton Wheaton was deputed to visit England in 1823 in the interests of the new institution, to secure donations of books for the library and made purchases of philosophical apparatus. While abroad he also made a special study of architecture, which enabled him to prepare plans for the new Christ Church in Hartford, which was consecrated in 1829. At the time, it was perhaps the best specimen of Gothic Revival architecture in the country. The c. 1845 house may be the oldest example of residential Gothic Revival in the state.

The site has been in use for agriculture for generations. The site is currently 61.7 acres and at its largest was just over 70 acres. The farm was originally a small dairy farm. In the 1940s, raised gardens were found on the site to the south and east of the house and are being restored today. The farming fields further south and east were left mostly untouched until the 1990s when an agricultural resurgence occurred with the fields being rented out to local farmers. Farmers planted corn in the fields to the west and hay in the fields to the east.

The site derives further significance for its association with the Wheatons and Buckinghams and their contributions to the marble industry. That Marbledale emerged as the center of this industry in western Connecticut was largely due to Orange Wheaton, son of Joseph Wheaton, who commercially developed three marble quarries on his third share of the 242 acres of land he received from his father in the 1700s. During the 19th century the house was owned by Ralph Buckingham, whose wife Elvira was the great-granddaughter of Joseph Wheaton. Their marriage reinforced the close commercial relationship between these families and their control of the marble industry.

Architectural significance:

The barn is significant because of its building materials and the construction technique used to build the barn. The use of readily available marble for use as the foundation for the barn and throughout the site as stone walls is rare. The marble used on site was quarried from marble pits across the road. The foundation of the barn and other outbuildings is cut marble, the walls rubble marble.

Within the barn, the standardized practice of square-rule construction is present throughout, including in the additions and other outbuildings. That, combined with many of the beams being hand hewn and large (up to 10” x 10”) add to the significance. The barn, although vernacular in design, includes the cupola, which was designed by Oscar Beeham, a noted Washington, CT architect of the 19th century.

The site has been used intermittently since the mid-19th century in active agriculture and is used again in that fashion today.

Finally, the effect of Nathaniel Shelton Wheaton and his family at the local and statewide level continues to be felt even today. His family and their history in the marble industry, as well as Nathaniel’s architectural influence in Gothic Revival architecture, mark Nathaniel Shelton Wheaton as a man who has helped shape the State of Connecticut, particularly in areas such as Washington and Hartford.
• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Todd Levine 11/20/2011.
Interview, archival research and field notes by owner, Lisa Mahar, 11/20/2011, Washington, CT.

Map resources:
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
  Parcel ID: Map 07-02-81
Aerial views from:
UTM coordinates: http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html

Print and internet resources:
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
  http://www.connecticutbarns.org/10189
Gunn Memorial Library & Museum, 5 Wykeham Road, Washington, CT.
Ransom, David F.,
  New Preston Hill National Register Historic District Nomination No. 85001931, National Park Service, 1985;
  Calhoun-Ives National Register Historic District Nomination No. 95001344, National Park Service, 1995;
  Sunny Ridge National Register Historic District Nomination No. 95001346, National Park Service, 1995;
Riordan Land Surveying, Michael J. Riordan, 701 Middleroad Turnpike, Woodbury, CT.


4. View of the c. 1845 house, camera facing east.
6. South view of main barn and east side of Addition 1, camera facing north.

7. Detail of main entry, and rubble marble ramp with marble end caps, camera facing north.
8. Detail of grated basement window set in cut marble foundation, camera facing north.

9. East eave-side of Addition 1, camera facing west.
10. South gable-end of Addition 1, camera facing north. Note shed-roof milk house to the left.

11. South gable-end of Addition 1 and milk house, camera facing northeast.
12. West gable-end of main barn, west side of Addition 1 and 2, as well as shed-roof milk house off addition 1 and shed roof addition off addition 2, camera facing east.

13. Detail of marble paving stones in front of main barn gable-end basement entry, camera facing northeast.
14. North view of main barn and north gable-end of Addition 2, camera facing south. Note shed-roof addition to the right with open door.

15. Detail of main barn overhead door entry, camera facing south.
16. East gable-end of main barn and east eave-side of Addition 1, camera facing west.

17. Detail of cupola on main barn, camera facing south.
18. West eave-side of smoke house, camera facing east.

20. West eave-side of cattle barn, camera facing east.

21. Detail of interior of main barn; hand-hewn rafters, posts and beams, random width roof deck boards. Camera facing northeast.
22. Detail of interior of main barn. Note the ridge pole and the ‘1928’ just above the ladder.

23. Detail of interior of main barn middle bay main entry, camera facing south.
24. Detail of interior of main barn, middle bay hand-hewn post and girt, square rule framing, camera facing southeast.

25. Detail of interior of main barn floor middle bay, trap door to basement, camera facing southeast.
26. Detail of interior of main barn floor middle bay, camera facing north

27. Detail of interior of main barn floor middle bay, 10” x 10” post and beam.
28. Detail of interior of Addition 1, open to the west bay of the main barn, camera facing north.

29. Detail of interior of Addition 1, camera facing south. Note the manure channel to the right.
30. Detail of interior of Addition 1, double braces, camera facing east.

31. Detail of interior of Addition 1, second floor, camera facing south.
32. South view after renovations, May 2013; camera facing north.

33. West view after renovations, May 2013; camera facing east.
34. Northeast view after renovations, May 2013; camera facing south. Note restored doors at main barn.

35. Interior view of main barn after renovations, May 2013; camera facing east.

37. Interior view of basement showing stone foundation walls, new concrete floor, after renovations, May 2013.