### HISTORIC RESOURCES BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Common)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior accessible?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, explain:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style of building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Clapboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Fieldstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[✔] Concrete (Type</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structural System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[✔] Wood Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roof (Type)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Gable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[✔] Gambrel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of Stories: | 1 1/2, B | Approximate Dimensions: | 40' x 60' |

| 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: | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR OFFICE USE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:
- [ ] Barn  [x] Shed  [ ] Garage  [ ] Carriage House  [ ] Shop  [ ] Garden

- [ ] Other landscape features or buildings: _______________________________________________________

Surrounding Environment:
- [ ] 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  Kristen Young  Date 1/11/2013

View  Multiple Views  Negative on File  CTHP

Name  Kristen Young and Todd Levine  Date 1/23/2013

Organization  Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address  940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude: 41.875329, -72.681127

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

This barn sits on 12.2 acres on the north side of Old Day Hill Road. A short dirt driveway extends to the north off the road and leads to the east side of the barn. To the west is a tobacco shed, and to the west of that is a small pond called Thrall Pond. The land surrounding the barns has become overgrown but was once used for pastureland for cows and to grow tobacco. No house is located on this property, and it is believed there never was one.

Old Day Hill Road extends to the northeast off Day Hill Road which runs through the southwest portion of the Town of Windsor. The property is located to the west of the intersection of Northfield Drive and Old Day Hill Road. A few residential properties are found near the barns, but the property itself is now surrounded by large corporate buildings, including Konica Minolta Business Solutions to the west and ING Life Insurance and Annuity to the north. To the east of the property, along Old Day Hill Road, are a few tobacco sheds in a large open field.

Windsor has numerous recognized historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of these are in the eastern area close to the Connecticut River. The Broad Street Green Historic District and Palisado Avenue Historic District lie along Route 159 which parallels the river. Also included in this thematic State Register group of Agricultural Heritage sites is the Lang Farm/Northwest Park at 135 Lang 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>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potato barn</td>
<td>c. 1940</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco shed</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Potato barn:

This is an approximately 40’ x 60,’ 1 1/2-story with basement, gambrel-roof bank barn. The ridge-line runs approximately east-west, almost parallel with Old Day Hill Road. The barn walls are constructed of concrete blocks and the gable ends are of wood with horizontal board siding. Metal panel roofing is found on the south side of the roof (newly installed), while the north side is clad in asphalt shingles. A large cupola is centered atop the ridge and has louvered vents on both the north and south sides with horizontal board siding on the east and west sides.

Exterior:

An entry is found at the loft level on the east gable-end of the barn, and consists of a pair of side-hinged doors with X-bracing. The entryway is flanked by two six-over-six double-hung windows. Found in the gable attic is a six-over-six double-hung window. The grade declines towards the north, revealing a full basement. There are no openings or features found on the north eave-side of the barn. The grade drops again towards the west, along the west gable-end of the barn. A pair of side-hinged doors is centered on the west gable-end of the barn. It is clear a ramp was once used to reach this entry as it is a few feet off grade. The ramp is no longer extant. Above the entry are two windows, and in the gable attic is a six-over-six double-hung window. The grade rises slightly towards the south. No features or openings are found along the south eave-side of the barn, but the grade gently rises towards the east.

Interior:

The barn is accessed by the pair of side-hinged doors on the east gable-end of the barn. The entry leads into a large open loft space with wood plank floors and walls. An upper loft runs the length of the barn. Its floor was constructed at the change in pitch of the roof. Two wooden ventilating shafts are centered within the barn, the northern most shaft has a built-in ladder that leads to the loft. The walls are sloped as the rafters spring from the floor level. Common rafters meet in the center with a ridge-board, and the roof deck is constructed of wood planks.

The basement of the barn is accessed by the pair of side-hinged doors on the west gable-end of the barn, and leads into a large space with concrete floors and concrete block walls. A center aisle is flanked by side aisles on both the
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  
490 Old Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT Record No. 49665  

north and south. The side aisles separate the middle aisle by wood posts with large openings presumably once used for large potato bins to be stored. A small loft is found in the east gable-end of the barn. The wooden ventilating ducts are visible in the ceiling of the basement level of the barn.

• 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 is an outstanding example of a gambrel roof potato barn in its original location and with recent restoration it will be used for agricultural purposes again. The area has lost much of its agricultural landscape, but the surrounding twelve acres on this property have been preserved. The tobacco shed is a typical example of the type. The barns gain significance due to the association with the Shelansky family and the Thrall family. The Shelansky family were Lithuanian immigrants and the Thrall family were prominent in Windsor.

Historical background:
In 1918, William and Anna Shelansky purchased 20 acres of this property from Arthur Phelps. Sometime before 1929, the Shelanskys built the tobacco shed (now known as Shelansky Shed, but was originally known as Shed #14). The Shelanskys owned many acres of farmland during this time, after purchasing surrounding parcels.

After William Shelansky's death, Ann Shelansky sold the property to Howard Thrall, Jr. in 1942. The following year, Howard Thrall, Jr. transferred the ownership of this property to his company H.C. Thrall & Sons, Inc. The property was acquired by Day Hill Holding Company in 1987. By 1992, Windsor Land Holding Company had ownership of the property, and three years later, in 1995, Winstanley Ent. Inc. acquired the property. In 2007, Winstanley Ent. Inc. donated the property to the Wintonbury Land Trust, the current owner.

The Thrall potato barn was built during World War II to store potatoes. The Thrall family realized that if they grew a food crop during the war, they would receive the rationed fertilizer and pesticides they needed for their tobacco fields. Once the war ended, the potato farming ceased, and the Thrall family focused on tobacco farming. Sometime in the 1950s, the Thralls started a dairy business called Fleetridge Dairy that was in operation until 1976. During this time, the Shelansky Shed was used to house young calves, and the surrounding property was used as pastures for the dairy cows. The main cow barn was located in the vicinity of where the Marriott Hotel (28 Day Hill Road) on Day Hill Road is currently located.

The tobacco shed was originally designed for the curing of broad leaf tobacco and was later retrofitted for shade tobacco. At some point, a small addition was added for the storage of the coal that helped to cure the tobacco. This addition is still extant today. The potato barn was originally built to store potatoes in the basement and farm equipment above. After the potato farming ceased, the Thrall family continued to use the barn for storage, although it has been vacant for many years. It is believed that at some point, the barn was used to house farm laborers as there were numerous bed frames found set up in the loft area. During the 1970s, stabilization work was performed on the barn. Today both the potato barn and tobacco shed are vacant. The potato barn is currently undergoing maintenance in order to be used as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm that will be established on this property. Eventually, the tobacco shed will be used for farming purposes as well.

Architectural significance:
This is an outstanding example of a gambrel roof potato barn used for potato storage. It has been well maintained and remains intact to this day. The barn sits in its original location and will be used for agricultural purposes once again, as it was originally intended to do. Many corporate buildings have been constructed in the area, but the surrounding twelve acres on this property have not been developed.

The barn gains significance due to its association with the Shelansky family and the Thrall family. The Shelansky family were Lithuanian immigrants according to the 1920 and 1930 census records of Hartford County. During the
early 20th century, immigrants often moved from New York City to rural areas of Connecticut to buy up farmland and start an agricultural business.

The Thrall family was a prominent family in the Town of Windsor. William Thrall (it is believed he was an ancestor of Howard Thrall, Jr.) was among the original proprietors of property in Windsor. Furthermore, the Thralls owned numerous acres of land in Windsor and were successful farmers. Many descendants remain in the area to this day and some continue to farm.

- Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 1/11/2013.

Interview with Paula Jones, Secretary of Wintonbury Land Trust, and Kevin Gough, WLT member - 1/11/2013, 490 Old Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT.

Map resources:


Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online accessed 1/23/2013: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories


Jones, Paula, Email correspondence on history of the Thrall Preserve, January 2013.

Reski, Vikki, Measured Drawing of the Thrall Potato Barn, Wintonbury Land Trust, June 2011.


5. Southeast context view of the tobacco shed (behind the trees on the left side) and the potato barn (on the right side). Camera facing northwest.


12. Interior view of the west gable-end of the potato barn. Note the wood plank floors, the two ventilation shafts, and the built in ladder on the northernmost (right hand side) ventilation shaft. Camera facing west.
13. Interior view of the northwest corner of the potato barn. Note the slanting walls, which make up the gambrel roof of the barn. Camera facing northwest.

14. Interior view of the roof of the potato barn. Note the rafters meeting at the ridge with a ridge-board. Camera facing east.
15. Interior view of the east gable-end of the basement of the potato barn. Note the loft. Camera facing east.

16. Interior view of the southeast corner of the basement of the potato barn. Note the openings for the potato bins. Camera facing southeast.
17. Interior view of the west gable-end of the basement of the potato barn. Note the concrete flooring. Camera facing west.

18. Measured drawings of the potato barn located at 490 Old Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT. Drawn by Vikki Reski, Treasurer of the Wintonbury Land Trust. Courtesy of Paula Jones and the Wintonbury Land Trust.