### GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Sanford-Tucker Farmstead</th>
<th>Record No. 5282</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Sanford-Tucker Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>1144 Racebrook Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Woodbridge</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>Claudia Weil, 1144 Racebrook Road, Woodbridge CT 06525</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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**

Interior accessible? **Yes**

Style of building: **English barn, Vernacular style**

Date of Construction: **Mid-19th c.**

### Material(s)

- **Clapboard**
- **Asbestos Siding**
- **Brick**
- **Wood Shingle**
- **Asphalt Siding**
- **Fieldstone**
- **Board & Batten**
- **Stucco**
- **Cobblestone**
- **Aluminum Siding**
- **Concrete**
- **Cut Stone**
- **Other**: Vertical wood siding

### Structural System

- **Wood Frame**
- **Post & Beam**
- **Balloon**
- **Load bearing masonry**
- **Structural iron or steel**

### Roof

- **Gable**
- **Flat**
- **Mansard**
- **Monitor**
- **Sawtooth**
- **Gambrel**
- **Shed**
- **Hip**
- **Round**
- **Other**

### Number of Stories: **1 1/2**

### Approximate Dimensions

### Structural Condition: **Excellent**

### Exterior Condition: **Excellent**

### Location Integrity: **On original site**

### Alterations? **Yes**

### 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: Secondary house attached to barn, cemetery next door, Wepawaug River

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 9/29/2012

View ______________________________________ Negative on File CTHP
Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 10/20/2012
Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude: 41.334791, -73.026499

  See continuation sheet.

Threats to the building or site:

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

This 1.91-acre property is the remnant of a larger farmstead. It is located on the west side of Racebrook Road, which runs north-south from the Boston Post Road in Orange to the south, northward to Center Road which leads east to the town center of Woodbridge, where the Congregational Church is the historic anchor facing the green in the Woodbridge Green National Register Historic District. Other agricultural sites of documented historic significance in Woodbridge include the Thomas Darling House and Tavern at 1907 Litchfield Turnpike with its associated barn across the road, listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and the Maselli Farm at 41 Ford Road, listed on the State Register of Historic Places as part of the current thematic listing of agricultural heritage sites.

The Wepawaug River roughly parallels this portion of Racebrook Road on its way south to Long Island Sound. Immediately south of the site is the Milford Side Cemetery. West and north of the property is a four-lot subdivision which was developed from the larger 7.72-acre property in the 1980s, leaving 1144 Racebrook with its smaller lot.

The farmhouse (House I) is a c. 1785 1 ½-story center-chimney Cape-style house with its ridge-line oriented north-south and its east eave-side facing the street. It sits behind a narrow lawn and is set slightly above the road level, with a flight of five stone steps leading down to the road. The house is 30’ x 36’ with a 14’ x 36’ 2-story addition extending westward. The central chimney and fireplaces are intact at the interior, along with the entry porch and stair.

1144 Racebrook Road is [a] post-Revolutionary Cape. It has a ridge-to-street orientation and a gable roof that flares at the eaves, both at the rear and out over the full facade porch, which is supported by plain posts. Under the porch is a five-bay facade which displays 12-over-12 windows and a central doorway with a plain surround. The two-story intersecting rear addition with a greenhouse is an enlargement or replacement for an earlier and much smaller shed-roofed ell (Cunningham).

South and west of the farmhouse is a group of outbuildings.

A 1-story workshop shed, 12’ x 35’, has its gable roof oriented east-west. The east gable-end has a pair of hinged doors offset to left of center and a pass-through door to the right (north). The south eave-side has a large multi-paned window near the left (west) corner, a glazed pass-through door near the center, and a portion of the wall near the right corner is very close to the main barn’s north side. The west gable-end has a pass-through door to the left and a six-pane awning window toward the right. The north eave-side has a strip of six six-pane stable-type windows to left of center and a single six-pane window further to the right. The walls are vertical siding painted red and the roof is asphalt shingles. The interior has been partially finished with gypsum wallboard, is of balloon-frame construction, and has a brick chimney with a wood stone at the center. The floor is a concrete slab.

South of the workshop and set slightly to the east, closer to the road, is the main barn, its ridge-line oriented north-south. Attached to the barn at its south gable-end is a secondary house (House II), a 2 ½-story gable-roofed woodframed structure, 17’ x 37’, with its roof also oriented north-south. The assessor’s record identifies this as c. 1800. The east eave-side of the house is flush with the east side of the barn. The house has three double-hung windows and a door, near the right corner adjacent to the barn, on the ground level, and two windows in the upper level. The roof line is slightly lower than that of the adjacent barn, the walls are clad in wood shingle siding painted red, and the roof is asphalt shingles.

A driveway enters the site south of the farmhouse and leads west to end at the east eave-side of the main barn. At the rear, to the west is a garden area with a small shed in poor condition and a well with a cobblestone housing.

The neighborhood is residential with houses ranging from 19th-century to late 20th-century in age, on large lots, along with the adjacent historic cemetery and areas of 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>House I</td>
<td>c. 1785</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House II</td>
<td>c. 1800</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>Mid- to late-19th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Shed</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Barn:**

This is a 1 ½-story three-bay English barn with its ridge-line oriented north-south. The south gable-end is attached to House II while the north gable-end is very close to the Workshop shed. The remains of a foundation to the west indicate a former addition which extended westward from the northern bay of the west side.

**Exterior:**

The east eave-side faces the road and is the most highly visible side of the barn. The center and right (north) bays have 20th-century overhead garage doors. Above the center bay door is a six-pane window, and at the eave-line a goose-neck industrial light fixture provides exterior lighting.

The south gable-end is covered by the attached House II except at the west corner where the house wall is set back from the corner of the barn. The main level of the south end is clad in wood shingle siding matching the house. The attic gable is clad in asphalt shingle siding, painted red like the rest of the barn and house.

The west eave-side has a pair of full-height hinged barn doors in the center opening. Some of the hinges are wrought iron strap hinges. In the right (south) bay there is a six-pane window high in the wall. The left (north) bay has a mortared fieldstone foundation wall to a height of about seven feet above grade. The former addition abutted the barn at this location. Above the masonry, the west wall is vertical wood siding, as is the remainder of the west, north, and east sides, all painted red.

The north gable-end has two six-pane stable windows near the left (east) corner, a partial concrete foundation wall below the sill level, and a six-pane attic window. The siding is vertical wood, with a siding divide line at the eaves which does not correspond to the dropped girt at the interior -- additional blocking has been installed as nailers. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

**Interior:**

The interior structure is a three-bay four-bent square rule post and beam frame. Each bent has one interior post at the center, a dropped tie girt, and no truss members in the attic level. Most of the timbers have the straight kerf marks of a sash saw. Common rafters are sawn dimension lumber. Some tension cables have been added at the girt level.

The center bay has door openings in both eave-sides, with the west doors retaining the traditional full-height pair of hinged doors. The floor is wood planks and high up at the attic level there are loft joists bearing on the tie girts. The south bay has a loft floor at approximately eight feet above the ground floor level and is set up as a workshop and equipment storage area. Above the loft floor an opening is visible to the attic of House II.

The north bay has a similar loft, accessible by a flight of stairs in the center bay. A brick partition, in the line of the bent between the center and north bays, runs from the center post west to the exterior wall, where it meets the stone half-height wall of the west eave-side. The north gable-end wall has a concrete foundation up to sill height and two six-pane stable windows. The north bay has a concrete floor and white-painted walls and ceiling. It is now used as storage but has been a garage in recent years.
# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

**1144 Racebrook Road, Woodbridge CT**  
**Record No. 5282**  
**5**

- **Historical or Architectural importance:**

**Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:**

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

This barn and its farmstead are significant because of the 18th-century date of the older farmhouse and the intact and well-preserved square rule framed English barn. This section of Racebrook Road, from Derby Avenue (Route 34) north to Rimmon Road (Route 313) traverses the crest of a hill and retains a number of historic houses, several with extant barns. The sense of the historic agricultural landscape is easily visualized; this property exemplifies and contributes to the cultural landscape of agricultural Woodbridge.

**Historical background:**

The detached farmhouse (House I) has the following history:

Although built about 1785 by Abel Sanford, this house is historically important for its association with the Tucker family. By 1800 it was owned by Oliver Tucker, a veteran of the Revolution and a coffin maker by trade. A member of the Congregational church, he owned (with three other families) one of the Sabbath day, or “Sabbaday” houses on the green in the 1840s. These small sheds were used by outlying families who repaired to them for warmth and food between church services, a fairly common arrangement in dispersed communities such as Woodbridge, especially in the eighteenth century. By the 1850s Mary Tucker, possibly his widow, owned the Racebrook property and it remained in the Tucker family for at least the rest of the century. In 1870 Mark Tucker (b. 1820), a carpenter, lived here with his wife Martha, three children of their own, and an apparently unrelated 12-year-old boy, Albert Sanders, who remarkably was born in California. Instead of working on the farm as might be expected, he attended school and may have been their ward (Cunningham).

The second house is listed by the Assessor with a date of c. 1800. If true, it would appear likely that the barn was built later, attached to the house. The barn has characteristics of a mid-19th-century structure, including sash-sawn timbers. Its hinged western doors indicate a traditional structure, as by the second half of the 1800s sliding doors were commonly installed. The stone and brick partial walls are evidence of some change of use over time, possibly a desire for a more fire-resistant construction in part of the barn.

In the 20th century, the property belonged to the Drabkin family for several decades. Following subdivision of the 7.72-acre property in the mid-1980s, Lenore H. Drabkin passed this 1.91-acre parcel to her three children in 1993. The current owners purchased it in 2006.

**Architectural significance:**

This barn and its farmstead are significant because of the 18th-century date of the older farmhouse and the barn which is an intact and well-preserved example of a square rule framed English barn with its original hinged doors on the west side. This section of Racebrook Road, from Derby Avenue (Route 34) north to Rimmon Road (Route 313) traverses the crest of a hill and retains a number of historic houses, several with extant barns. The sense of the historic agricultural landscape is easily visualized; this property exemplifies and contributes to the cultural landscape of agricultural Woodbridge.
• Sources (continuation):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 03/17/2008, 9/29/2012.
Interview with Claudia Weil and Warner Marshall 9/29/2012, at the site.

Map resources:
Woodbridge Assessor's Records: http://data.visionappraisal.com/WoodbridgeCT/search.asp
Parcel ID: 2503/1520/1144

Aerial views from:

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.


Print and internet resources:
Connecticut State Library online: iconn.org or http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,


3. Parcel map of 1144 Racebrook Road, Woodbridge CT – base image from https://maps.google.com/. Parcels on Hollow Oak Road were included in the property until it was subdivided in the mid-1980s.

4. Site Plan showing contributing resources; base image from property survey, courtesy of Owner.
5. Southeast view of House I, the main farmhouse, camera facing northwest.

6. Northwest view of House I, the main farmhouse, camera facing southeast.
7. Interior view of House I kitchen hearth, camera facing east.

8. Interior view of stair, camera facing southwest.

9. East view of House I, the main farmhouse, camera facing west. Barn and House II are at left rear.
10. East view of House II (left) and Barn (right), camera facing west. Workshop is at right rear.

11. East view of Workshop, camera facing west. Barn is at left.
12. Northwest view of House I, the main farmhouse, camera facing southeast.

13. East view of House II, camera facing southwest; Barn is at right.
14. East view of shed in rear yard, camera facing west.

15. Southeast view of well.

17. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing northeast. Note hinged doors and partial-height stone wall at left.

18. West view of Barn, camera facing southeast. House II is at right rear; south wall of Workshop at far left.
19. Interior view of Barn, camera facing northwest from the center bay.

20. Interior view of Barn loft, camera facing northwest.
21. Interior view of Barn, north bay with brick interior partition and fieldstone partial-height west wall; camera facing west.