**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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) **Prym, Liszlette, Farmstead**

Building Name (Historic) **Johnston-Prym Farmstead**

Street Address or Location **534 Senexet Road**

Town/City **Woodstock**

Village **Elmvale**

County **Windham**

Owner(s) **George & Carolyn Looby, 534 Senexet Road, Woodstock CT 06281**

**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**

If yes, explain ________________________________

Style of building **Extended English bank barn, Vernacular style**

Date of Construction **c. 1865**

Material(s) **(Indicate use or location when appropriate):**

- [ ] Clapboard
- [ ] Asbestos Siding
- [ ] Brick
- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Asphalt Siding
- [x] Fieldstone
- [ ] Board & Batten
- [ ] Stucco
- [ ] Cobblestone
- [ ] Aluminum Siding
- [ ] Concrete (Type ______________)
- [ ] Cut Stone (Type ______________)
- [x] Other **Vertical wood siding**

Structural System

- [x] Wood Frame
- [x] Post & Beam
- [ ] Balloon
- [x] Load bearing masonry
- [ ] Structural iron or steel
- [ ] Other **Square rule framing**

Roof **(Type)**

- [x] Gable
- [ ] Flat
- [ ] Mansard
- [ ] Monitor
- [ ] Sawtooth
- [ ] Gambrel
- [ ] Shed
- [ ] Hip
- [ ] Round
- [ ] Other ______________

(Material)

- [ ] Wood Shingle
- [ ] Roll Asphalt
- [ ] Tin
- [ ] Slate
- [x] Asphalt Shingle
- [ ] Built up
- [ ] Tile
- [ ] Other ______________

Number of Stories: **1 1/2, B**

Approximate Dimensions **33' x 65'**

Structural Condition: **[x] Excellent**

Fair **[ ]**

Deteriorated **[ ]**

Exterior Condition: **[x] Excellent**

Good **[ ]**

Fair **[ ]**

Deteriorated **[ ]**

Location Integrity: **[x] On original site**

Moved **[ ]**

When? ______________

Alterations? **[x] Yes**

No **[ ]**

If yes, explain: **Repair/restoration 2004.**

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # __________ Site # _________ UTM ________

District: **[ ] S**

NR **[x]**

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: _______________________________________________________

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 Restoration: Charlie Thompson, 2004

- **Historical or Architectural importance:**

  See continuation sheet.

- **Sources:**


  See continuation sheet.

Photographer ______________________________________ Date 3/17/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/17/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- **Subsequent field evaluations:**

  Latitude, Longitude: 41.966394, -71.956739

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

This farmstead, on a 20-acre parcel of land, is located in the Elmvale section of the town of Woodstock. The site is near the eastern border of the town where it abuts Thompson, and is northeast of the village center of Woodstock Hill and southeast of the village of East Woodstock. Senexet Road runs east from Roseland Park Road; Elmvale Cemetery occupies the northeast corner of the intersection. Senexet Road turns southward at the point where it crosses a small stream, a tributary of Muddy Brook, and continues southward along the east side of the Muddy Brook valley. This farmstead is on the south side of the road west of the stream crossing. The stream flows out of John Stone Pond a short distance to the northeast, and runs through a small pond on the property and then southwestward through the site.

Woodstock Hill is a major focus of historic resources in Woodstock, with the village center and Common included in the Woodstock Hill National Register and Local Historic Districts. Route 169, the Norwich Worcester Turnpike, forms the spine of the district, which includes more than 65 properties. The Congregational meetinghouse and Woodstock Hill Burial Ground are central sites. Located within the district is the Henry C. Bowen Cottage, known as Roseland Cottage, a National Historic Landmark property with a significant barn as well as the house. Several other individually-listed National Register properties in Woodstock include the Matthew Bowen Homestead on Plaine Hill Road, the Captain Seth Chandler House, Taylor’s Corner, and the New Roxbury Ironworks Site. On the State Register of Historic Places is 483 Center Road, the c. 1803 Ezra Lyon House, which includes a contributing barn. In the current thematic nomination of Agricultural Heritage sites to the State Register the following properties are included: the Walker-Upham Farmstead at 166 Woodstock Road, the May-Peckham Farmstead at 137 Dugg Hill Road, and the Woodstock Fairgrounds with the Brunn Barn.

The c. 1867 Farmhouse at 534 Senexet Road is located at the north part of the site. It is a 1 ½-story saltbox-roofed structure, 25’ x 50’, with its ridge-line oriented north-south and the roof sloping down toward the west to a single-story eave-side where there is also a screened porch extension. The north gable-end contains the front entry, off-center to the right (west), consisting of a paneled door flanked by glazed sidelights. To the left is an eight-over-eight double-hung window and in the attic is a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows. The east side features a cross-gable toward the left (south) and a wall dormer near the center, giving this side a lively asymmetry. A bay window is under the south gable and two pairs of French doors are to the right. Two small double-hung windows under the low eaves at the right (north) corner reinforces the cottage-like scale. The cross gable extends across the south part of the house, ending in a west-facing gable. Siding is wood clapboards painted white and roofing is asphalt shingles. Grade slopes down toward the south, exposing the mortared fieldstone basement on the south elevation.

A small woodshed sits to the southeast of the Farmhouse. The main barn is to the south, with a gravel driveway entering the site from the road and extending south past the east side of the Farmhouse and barn, then crossing the stream, to terminate at a modern garage southeast of the barn. A single-lane dirt drive or farm road extends eastward to meet Senexet Road. Two small chicken coops are located west of the Barn, and a cattle shed is to the west across a fenced paddock. The coops are 1-story gable-roofed structures, approximately 10’ x 12’, with their ridge-lines oriented east-west, a pass-through door in the east gable-end, and ample windows on the south eave-sides. The northern coop (I) is raised on a mortared fieldstone foundation and has a tiny cupola. The southern coop (II) is currently used for poultry. Siding is vertical boards painted red with white trim; roofing is asphalt shingles.

• 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>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>c. 1867</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Woodshed</td>
<td>19th c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn I</td>
<td>c.1865</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken coops (2)</td>
<td>19-20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Cattle shed</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barn:
The main block of the barn is a 1 1/2-story five-bay extended English bank barn with its gable roof oriented north-south. The bays are numbered from north to south for the purpose of description. Three sides of the barn are accessible at the main grade elevation while the fourth, the south, has an exposed basement open to a lower grade level as the ground slopes down toward the south. An attached shed-roofed addition extends from the east side and a gable-roofed addition is attached at the southeast corner; this has its ridge-line oriented east-west. The small stream runs under the latter addition after passing below the driveway.

Siding is vertical flush-boards painted red with white trim. The foundation is fieldstone, visible at the west and south. Roofing is asphalt shingles. A steeply-pitched hip-roofed cupola sits on the ridge; this has pairs of louvered openings on all sides and a finial projecting from the peak.

Exterior:
The main block has five bays. The east eave-side faces the driveway and is the primary façade. Bay 1, the north end, is a wide bay with a low but wide arched opening in the east side, providing access to a wagon bay that is barely five feet high. A photograph from the Sturbridge survey shows the grade dropped slightly and a vintage car or truck parked in this bay. Now the grade is level with the main floor, and the space accommodates only smaller vehicles such as an ATV. Above is a square eight-paneled, interior mounted sliding hay door accessing the loft. Bay 2 is narrow, and contains a grain room toward the east and an interior silo toward the west. At the exterior, a six-over-six double-hung window lights the grain room.

Bay 3, the center bay, has a tall interior-mounted sliding barn door. Above the door is a large transom with two sashes each with 14 panes in a 2 x 7 arrangement. The door originally rolled open toward the left (south) on a floor track but has been re-hung on an overhead track.

The southern two bays are encompassed by an attached 1-story shed-roofed addition approximately 8’ x 15’. The north gable-end of this addition has a full-width multi-pane window (42 small panes) while the east eave-side has a square window with a central light surrounded by a frame of small panes in a Victorian style layout. Below this window a stone water trough projects through the wall, accessible from both interior and exterior.

A 1-story gable-roofed addition, 20’ x 25’, projects southeast from the corner of the barn, overlapping both the east and south sides. This has its ridge-line oriented east-west. The north eave-side extends beyond the previously-described shed addition, and has an interior sliding door at the corner, with a six-over-six double-hung window to its right. The east gable-end of the addition is blank except for a double-hung attic window. Grade slopes down along this end, and the small stream runs under the southeast corner of the structure, which is supported on piers. The south eave-side has a pair of six-pane stable-type windows near the left (west) corner, and the west gable-end is blank.

The south gable-end of the main block of the barn, has a six-over-six double-hung window near the peak of the roof and two similar windows in the main level at the center and left (west) corner. The basement is open, with the exposed end of an un-mortared fieldstone foundation wall visible at the west side as well as two concrete piers supporting posts that carry the main level floor structure; these piers and posts are recent replacements during a 2004 restoration project.

The west side has few openings. From left (north) to right: in bay 1 a two-pane stable window, in bay 3 an exterior-mounted sliding barn door, and in bay 5 a six-pane stable window. The north gable-end has a pair of six-pane stable windows in the right (west) corner of the ground level, corresponding to the open wagon bay visible at the east side. Above at the loft level there are three evenly-spaced six-over-six double-hung windows, and in the attic is a similar window. A former pass-through door, still visible on the interior but now covered with new siding, allowed the cows to leave the barn via a stone ramp.
Interior:
The interior of the main block consists of a hand hewn post and beam frame. The typical bent has a tie-girt joined in the plane of the plate and two interior posts. Canted queen posts rise from the tie-girt to longitudinal purlin plates which carry the rafters at the center of their span. The common rafters are of sawn lumber, with wide board decking over. The floor of all except bay 1 is wood planks. Bay 1 has an exposed dirt floor.

The northern bays have a hay loft above, except at the west portion of bay 2 where there is an interior silo. This consists of a full-height octagonal enclosure with flush horizontal board interior painted with a gray paint or tar coating. The silo is open at the top, indicating that this was a container for dry chopped fodder, not a fermenting silo (as later became the standard, requiring an air-tight enclosure). To the east of the silo in bay 2 is a grain storage room with wooden bins. This connects to the center bay by a sliding door hung on U-shaped hangers.

The southern bays have been fitted as animal stalls. A central north-south aisle extends from bay 2 for access to the cow stanchions along the west wall and a row of horse stalls along the east wall. The shed-roofed addition to the east extends the barn at the area of the horse stalls. This area also has a hay loft above.

The southeast addition, constructed of sawn lumber framing, is currently a workshop.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:
1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past – women’s history;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This property is significant for its outstanding early Victorian period barn in intact condition, with canted queen posts and an interior silo as distinctive features. The barn, apparently functioning as a hybrid between a carriage barn and a working farm structure, reveals the alterations over its first 100 years to adapt it to changing needs including the addition of horse and cow stalls and a workshop area. Several of the owners supplemented their primary income – from operating small factories or mills – with farming activities.

Historical background:
The 1869 Woodford Atlas of Windham County’s map of Woodstock shows Charles L. Palmer living and operating a sash and blind shop at this site. The 1860 Census lists him as 33 years old, and also mentions sash and blind manufacturing as his occupation; his wife Violett was 28 and they had a four-year-old son Frank. The house and barn are thought to date from this ownership, though by 1870 they no longer appear in the Census. The framing and presence of a silo closely resemble at least one other Woodstock farm – compare the May-Peckham barn nearby (see nomination for 137 Dugg Hill Road).

By the 1883 Lester map, F. Sampson was shown here, with a mill on the small pond. The 1880 Census listed Fossion Sampson, age 55, as a lumber manufacturer, and his wife Susan, age 54, and two children George, 21, and Anna, 18, living with them. In the early 1900s, a Johnston family farmed and made furniture. In the 1940s, Mrs. Liszlotte Prym (b. 1911) owned the property; her family operated the Prym Pin Factory in the Dayville section of Killingly, and also raised dairy cows during World War II. From 1939 until the 1980s, William Prym, Inc. manufactured pins and notions in Dayville, ultimately merging with the Dritz Company. The Pryms remodeled the house in the post-war period, giving it the picturesque character with dormers, porch, and French doors. Mrs. Prym, nicknamed “Mooshie,” also raised dachshunds, using the northern coop as a kennel.

George and Carolyn Looby purchased the property in 1971 and continue as the owners and residents. Dr. Looby, a now-retired veterinarian, briefly ran his clinic out of the house basement before expanding offsite. In 2004 timber framer Charlie Thompson performed restoration and repair work, including new sills and basement level piers and support posts, as well as steel angle plates and cables to reinforce the timber frame. The lower part of the exterior siding has also been substantially replaced.
Architectural significance:

The barn has characteristics such as the wagon bay, horse stalls, and steep-roofed cupola, suggesting it was intended as a carriage barn. The evidence of the owners’ operating small mills or factories indicates a hybrid lifestyle with farming activities supplementing the non-farm income. The interior silo is a rare surviving example. The continuous tie-girts are of interest because a number of other local barns with similar canted queen posts have tie-girts truncated at the center aisle to allow configuration as a three-aisle New England barn (for example the May-Peckham barn at 137 Dugg Hill Road). The provision of dairy stanchions in one quadrant indicates a response to changing needs, with a small number of dairy cows at some point. This farmstead sits in an area on the periphery of the village centers, where the agricultural landscape of the 19th century has been preserved with little change. In this intact landscape, the barn is also well-preserved and retains much of its original fabric including the frame, foundation walls, windows, cupola, and interior silo, making it an excellent example of its type, the extended English barn.

• Sources (continuation):

Interview with George Looby 3/17/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Woodstock Assessor's Records http://data.visionappraisal.com/WoodstockCT/search.asp
Parcel ID: 7282/55/27B.

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

Gray, O.W., Atlas of Windham & Tolland Counties, Keeney, Hartford, 1869
Eaton, Wm. C., Wall map of Windham County, Woodford, Philadelphia, 1856.

Lester, John S., Map of Woodstock, Conn. 1883, collection of the Woodstock Historical Society.


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,


Woodstock Historical Society, Bicentennial Photographic Survey, Field Data Sheet, 1975-76.

3. Parcel map of 534 Senexet Road, Woodstock CT – base image from http://maps.google.com/. Resources are indicated – all are Contributing except the Shed and Garage.

4. Northeast context view showing from left to right: Garage, Barn, Woodshed, and Farmhouse; camera facing southwest.
5. Southwest view showing Farmhouse at left rear, Barn, and northern Coop I, camera facing northeast.

6. Northwest view of Chicken coops (I at left, II at right) with the southwest corner of the Barn and partial view of the modern Garage at center rear; camera facing southeast.
7. Southeast view of Chicken coops (II at left, I at right) with the stream running in foreground; camera facing northwest.

8. Northeast view of the Barn, camera facing southwest, showing the east eave-side with the shed-roofed addition at left rear.
9. Detail view of the wagon bay opening, east side of bay 1 of the Barn, camera facing northwest.

10. East view of the Barn, camera facing northwest, showing the trough, main barn door, wagon bay/hay door, and cupola.
11. South view of the Barn, camera facing north. The open banked basement is visible, with the southeast addition at right. Note the stream running under the corner of the barn addition.

12. West view of the Barn, camera facing east, with Chicken coop/kennel at right.

15. Interior view of loft and roof framing of bays 4 and 5; camera facing southwest. Note the canted queen posts and continuous horizontal tie-girt.

16. Interior view of horse stalls; camera facing northwest.
17. Interior view of watering trough at east shed-roofed addition, camera facing northeast.

18. View of exterior portion of trough, from the addition; camera facing north.

19. Northwest view of Barn with Garage beyond, camera facing southwest.
20. Detail of 1883 Lester map, showing F. Sampson house and mill on the stream running into Muddy Brook; map courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.