NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Farwell Barn

other name/site number: Jacobson Barn

2. Location

street & number: Horsebarn Hill Road

city/town: Mansfield

not for publication: N/A

state: CT

county: Tolland

code: 0013

vicinity: Storrs

zip code: 06268

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public - state

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0 sites</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0 structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See cont. sheet.

December 4, 2000

Signature of certifying official

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): _____________________

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: AGRICULTURE Sub: agricultural outbuilding

Current: NOT IN USE Sub: ____________________
7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Victorian

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE_________ roof ASPHALT_________
walls WOOD___________ other CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: state____________.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period(s) of Significance: c.1870 - c.1940 __________

Significant Dates: c.1870, 1913-1915

Significant Person(s): ____________________

Cultural Affiliation: ____________________

Architect/Builder: ____________________

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.
9. Major Bibliographical References

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ________
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ________

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_X_ State historic preservation office Connecticut Historical Commission
- Other state agency 59 South Prospect Street
- Federal agency Hartford, Connecticut 06106
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _______________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 25 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A _ _____ ______ B _ _____ ______
C _ _____ ______ D _ _____ ______
_X_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _X_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: _X_ See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette, reviewed by John Herzan, Conn. Historical Commission
Organization: ____________________________ Date: March 15, 2000
Street & Number: 483 Woodland Road Telephone: 860-429-0046
City or Town: Mansfield State: CT Zip: 06268
The Farwell Barn (Photographs 1-5) is a 19th-century post-and-beam framed clapboarded barn that was built as part of a family farm and then in 1911 was acquired by the Connecticut Agricultural College, the institution that became the University of Connecticut at Storrs. The barn is situated well back from Storrs Road (the 18th-century dwelling associated with the barn was destroyed by fire in 1976), and it stands on the crest of a hill that slopes downward to the south. Its siting, coupled with the extensive open land to the south and east, part of the University of Connecticut's agricultural complex, makes the Farwell Barn a visually prominent feature in the landscape (Photographs 7-8).

The original portion of the barn is rectangular in plan, measuring 42 feet by 62 feet, and is oriented with its narrow end facing west toward Storrs Road (State Route 195). The present clapboards are nailed to vertical boards that may represent the original exterior treatment. The west elevation is dominated by a large sliding door approximately 10 feet square. The door is made of tongue-and-groove boards and incorporates an ordinary-sized doorway in the center; two glazed openings occupy the upper corners of the sliding door. There is an additional doorway at the north corner of the west elevation and two upper-level windows. The east end of the barn has two similar upper-level windows, but the doorway has been filled in. There are three levels of windows on the south side, facing Horsebarn Hill Road, most of which have been boarded up (Photographs 2 and 3). A small brick chimney emerges from the south slope of the gable roof near the west end. Beneath the present asphalt shingles lies an earlier roof of cedar shingles.

The barn's exterior is plainly finished, with a simple boxed cornice concealing the rafter ends and board frames around the windows. The roof forms a considerable overhang both at the eaves and at the gables. The only decorative elements are found on the large cupola that is centered on the ridge of the roof (Photograph 6). The cupola has a steep pyramidal roof that curves outward at the eaves, scroll-sawn cornice brackets, and recessed panels at its base; formerly, a weathervane in the form of a cow or steer was set atop the cupola.

Leading up to the west-end entrance is a stone-slab ramp with granite sidewalls; the interior of the ramp is hollow, creating a storage cellar accessible from the lower level of the barn.

The interior of the barn is open to the cupola in the center, with a second floor level along the sides and a third level in the ends (Photograph 9). The sides of the first level are partly enclosed with
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) 7-2
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

vertical boarding for animal stalls and work areas, and along the north and south walls is an interior sheathing of rough-sawn boards. The framing of the barn consists of circular-sawn timbers; the mortise-and-tenon joints are secured with turned wooden pins (Photograph 10). The roof rafters are supported by an intermediate purlin and meet at a ridgeboard. An iron hay fork that travels along a track suspended from the ridge remains in place. In the northwest corner, a set of stairs leads down to the cellar level of the barn, where the rubblestone foundation of the building is visible, particularly along the north wall (Photograph 11). The lower level houses three board-fence pens and a row of pipe stanchions for cattle, with a single name placard remaining, "Velvet 2-65." Concrete has been poured to make a level floor, as well as to provide a manure trench for the stanchions (Photograph 12). Wooden chutes for feed and bedding open from the first floor to the lower level.

Attached to the original barn at the southeast corner is the portion known as the sheep barn (Photographs 2 and 4); it was added in the period 1913-1915 by the College. It measures 35 feet by 92 feet in plan, with a 15 foot by 29 foot shed-roofed connector linking it to the main barn. The exterior material consists of 6-inch wide tongue-and-groove vertical boards. The sheep barn is a single story high, with a loft lighted by five low wood-shingled shed dormers set along its gable roof. The dormers each have a single window of 12 small panes. The south side, now with an added pent roof and mostly open, originally had a series of sliding doors that led out to board-fence sheep pens that are still in place. This portion of the barn is also of post-and-beam construction; however, the timbers are built up of standard lumber (e.g., a 6 x 6 formed from a 4 x 6 and two 2 x 6 pieces). The members are nailed together, and the uprights are set on concrete pedestals (Photograph 13). Remnants of the east-end stone ramp can be seen on the northern wall where the sheep barn joins the main barn.

Set between these two portions of the building, within the connector, is a 35-foot high silo built of 12" x 12" x 6" glazed terra-cotta architectural tiles (Photographs 3, 4, and 14). The silo is 12 feet in diameter and formerly had a conical roof; however, only a remnant of the roof sheathing and the rafters remain, leaving the silo open to the weather. It was built by the college in the period 1913-1915.

The estimated date of construction for the barn, 1870 (it replaced an earlier barn on the site), is based upon the gable-end orientation, roof overhang, sawn timbers and machine-made wooden pins, and stylistic details of the cupola.
The overall condition of the barn appears fair, with little immediate evidence of structural decay other than a slight cant to the cupola. However, the exterior materials are deteriorated: some of the panels at the base of the cupola are broken out; the roofs of both the main barn and the sheep barn are broken through in several places; and bricks have become dislodged from the top of the chimney. In addition to those already cited, modifications to the building's original historic appearance include the elimination of one west-elevation window, a corrugated-metal roof on the connector between the main barn and the sheep barn (the original roof had a shed-roofed dormer that matched the others), and two sheet-metal orb-shaped ventilators that replace the original small octagonal cupolas on the sheep barn.

The boundary of the nominated property was drawn to include the barn lot at the corner of Horsebarn Hill and Storrs roads and 25 acres of open land associated with the barn that extends approximately 3,600 feet to the east. All of the associated acreage retains its open, agricultural character and forms an uninterrupted setting for the barn. The barn and 25 acres correspond to the part of the Farwell home farm, purchased by the State of Connecticut in 1911, that lies north of Horsebarn Hill Road; other university agricultural buildings, including a modern dairy facility, occupy the remainder of the Farwell parcel south of the road.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Description
Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)  
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

View of barn and setting, c.1920, looking northeast
(Garrigus Collection, Dodd Center, University of Connecticut)
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Significance**  
Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)  
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT  
8-1

**Summary**

The Farwell Barn has local historical significance as one of a dwindling number of historic resources that recall Mansfield's long history as a primarily agricultural community (Criterion A). Even while villages of industrial workers were forming around small textile mills on the Natchaug and Fenton rivers and other streams, farming remained the occupation of the majority of the town's inhabitants, as it had been from colonial days. The barn was built about 1870 as part of the home farm of the Farwell family, which had occupied the site since the early 18th century. In the 19th century, the families of Isaac Farwell and his sons Asa and Isaac Farwell, Jr., operated the mixed-husbandry farm, raising a variety of livestock, growing grain and hay for feed, and marketing a small surplus of wool, orchard produce, and dairy products. In 1911 the farm was purchased by the Connecticut Agricultural College, the direct forerunner to today's University of Connecticut, thereby taking on additional significance as part of the development of Connecticut's higher-education system (Criterion A). The house associated with the farm (burned in 1976) was used as a faculty cottage, while the barn itself was integrated into the College's agricultural education program as a beef barn, to which were added an up-to-date silo and a facility to support the raising of sheep. Finally, the barn has architectural significance as an example of a particular type of construction (Criterion C). Termed a "gable-entry banked barn" in Allen Noble's taxonomy of North American agricultural buildings, the type increasingly replaced the traditional three-bay English barn in the late 19th century throughout the Connecticut countryside.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) 8-2
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

Historical Importance of Agriculture

The generalized, near-subsistence agriculture that characterized all of Connecticut in the colonial period and the early 19th century persisted in Mansfield and other towns of eastern Connecticut through the first decades of the 20th century. Generally in the 100 to 200-acre range, these farms provided grain, root crops, apples, and meat animals for their owners, with a relatively small surplus that was exchanged with neighbors or marketed outside the community. Much of the farmer's effort went into producing the hay and feed grains that sustained the farm's draft animals, wool-producing sheep, and fattening swine. Although wheat was not grown much after the early 19th century, buckwheat, rye, and corn remained staples for both feed and human consumption.

As the following table indicates, the number and total acreage of farms in Mansfield remained fairly constant from 1850 to 1920, when the pattern of generalized farming began to shift more to market-oriented dairy and egg production:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Farms</th>
<th>Total Acreage</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>285</td>
<td>29,404</td>
<td>2,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>343</td>
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<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>238</td>
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<td>2,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>23,959</td>
<td>2,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>21,638</td>
<td>3,349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the implications of these numbers is that there were at any one time some two or three hundred barns in Mansfield for much of its history. The barn was a necessary part of every farm, for it allowed a large quantity of hay to be stored, thereby providing feed for livestock even when grazing was impossible.

Although the exact number of barns remaining in Mansfield is not known, the few dozen survivors represent a small fraction of the historical...
Significance Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) 8-3
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

Barns such as the Farwell Barn can thus be considered as increasingly rare examples of a once ubiquitous feature of the landscape. The Farwell Barn's value as a heritage resource linking the present to the agricultural past is enhanced by its highly visible location at the crest of a hill along the town's major north-south road and by its setting within a large area of open land still used for grazing and other agricultural activities.

The Farwells, while somewhat better off than many of their neighbors, were typical of Mansfield's farming families. They had occupied the site since 1736, when the first Isaac Farwell bought "a hundred-acre farm" on what is now Storrs Road. His son John Farwell is believed to have built the dwelling house that was burned in 1976 sometime between 1746 and 1756; the house, barn, and the home farm descended to Isaac Farwell (1805-1881) in 1831. As was common in that period, Isaac Farwell's holdings included noncontiguous pieces nearby in and just over the town line in Willington, so the 50 acres that immediately surrounded the house and barns were actually part of a 200-acre farm during Isaac Farwell's long tenure from 1831 to 1881. In the later years of his life the farm was operated with his son Asa, and statistics from the 1860 federal census indicate that it was just the sort of generalized farm that characterized Connecticut at that time. The Farwell's four milk cows provided what may have been a small surplus of butter and cheese (Isaac Farwell had on hand 23 cheeses at the time of his death), and a herd of 40 sheep allowed the Farwells to market 220 pounds of wool. Two teams of oxen and one horse provided the motive power for the farm, which included among its other livestock six other cattle and three pigs. Most of the farm's produce—corn, oats, and hay—was consumed as feed for the draft animals, cattle, sheep, and swine. The farm's machinery included a winnowing fan, corn sheller, and mowing machine at the time of Isaac Farwell's death in 1881.

Following Isaac's demise, his son Asa received a part of the farm that lay further east on Horsebarn Hill, where he had been living for many years, while Fidelia Farwell, the wife of Isaac's son Isaac Farwell, Jr., purchased the home farm of 50 acres from the estate. The farm appears to have been operated in much the same way by Isaac, Jr., and Fidelia, except that they had added poultry, in the form of 45 hens at the time of Isaac's death in 1904, to their enterprise. In 1908 the property was purchased by George Jacobson of Waterbury and sold three years later to the state for the Connecticut Agricultural College, which thereafter used the names "Jacobson Farm" and "Jacobson Barn" to describe the property.
Educational Significance: the Connecticut Agricultural College

The University of Connecticut traces its origins to 1881, when Charles and Augustus Storrs donated $5,000 and 170 acres in the north end of Mansfield for a state agricultural school. The Storrs family's legacy, preserved in the name of the locality, grew into Connecticut's state-supported centerpiece of higher education, first as a state agricultural school, then as Connecticut's land-grant agricultural college (in 1893, after the passage of the federal Morrill Act), and then, with the addition of degrees in engineering and liberal arts and sciences, as a comprehensive higher-education institution.

The Farwell home farm became a part of Connecticut Agricultural College during an important period of expansion, both of the college's curriculum and its physical plant. In 1911, three years into Charles L. Beach's landmark presidency, the support of Connecticut's 25,000-farmer-strong State Grange allowed Beach to cajole the Connecticut General Assembly into appropriating funds for many new buildings and for enlargement of the campus. Beach created a full-scale college farm on the glacial hills to the north and east, where more than 440 acres were purchased to expand the college's facilities. Beach also reformulated the college curriculum to further, in his words, "the training of young men in leadership in agriculture--as scientific farmers, teachers, investigators and agricultural experts." Beach saw Connecticut's three leading interests as dairying, horticulture, and poultry husbandry, and the college soon reflected these priorities. The poultry plant was greatly increased, using the south half of the Farwell home farm for its International Egg-Laying Competition. A large new dairy barn and a farm machinery building were also added to the complex at this time.

Beach accommodated growing state interest in restoring Connecticut beef and mutton production by making cattle and sheep breeding a vital program in animal-husbandry instruction, a part of his mission in which the Farwell Barn played an important role. Improvements to the barn, which included new stalls, concrete floor, and stanchions, reflected the most up-to-date agricultural practices. Similarly, the sheep-barn addition used materials--timbers built-up from dimension lumber and concrete--that signaled a departure from previous barn-building practice. After its renovation, the Beef Barn, as it became known, and its Sheep Barn addition were featured in the college's general catalogs as state-of-the-art agricultural facilities: the Beef Barn quartering an "excellent herd" of Herefords and Shorthorns and equipped with "box
stalls and stanchions of modern construction . . . a root cellar, platform scales and a hollow tile silo"; the "modern" Sheep Barn, equipped with "concrete dipping tanks, power driven root cutters, and power driven shearing machines. . . housing 100 head of Shropshires of breeding age, together with their annual crop of lambs." The Farwell Barn, refurbished, enlarged, freshly painted, and bestowed with newly graded yards, was a frequent photograph companion of the new poultry plant in 1920s college publications, and thus was very much part of the climate of "modern specialized agriculture" proclaimed by the State Grange, refined by the college experiment station, and brought to the people of Connecticut through the college's graduates, its Farm Weeks, and its very active extension service.

Another way in which the Farwell Barn was used to demonstrate what for the period was modern agricultural practice was its silo. Chopping green feed corn and storing it in a closed container was practically unknown in the United States prior to the 1880s, but in the last two decades of the 19th century, ensilage became increasingly prevalent, especially because green winter feed greatly increased dairy production. The first silos were rectangular or square-plan wooden structures; however, their corners proved to be prone to air pockets, which resulted in spoilage. In the 1890s, circular-plan silos built of wooden staves or hoops appeared. Wooden silos tended to become less airtight with use, as the boards pulled apart or shrank, leading to the next stage in the silo's evolution, embodied in the Farwell Barn's silo, the substitution of masonry for wooden construction. Brick, concrete, and tile all allowed the construction of a larger, more airtight, more durable storage facility. The college received the silo as a donation from the National Fire Proofing Company, which undoubtedly recognized the promotional value in the gift. Silos became so common that today it is easy to forget that, less than 100 years ago, they represented an innovation in agricultural technology. (As late as 1910, one writer denounced the still-common attitude that silos were "an extravagance to be indulged only by those able to gratify their desire for fads.") 2 State colleges and agricultural experiment stations were instrumental in promoting silos, so it was important for the Connecticut Agricultural College to include a silo in its modernization of the Farwell Barn.

Significance

Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)  
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

The Farwell Barn also stands as a unique reminder of the local family farms--the Snow and Crane farms to the south and west, the Valentine farm to the east, the Green, Farwell, and Rosebrooks farms to the north--that were incorporated into the campus of the Connecticut Agricultural College during its period of expansion in the early years of the 20th century. Unlike the Rosebrooks barn, which adjoins a major campus parking lot, the Farwell Barn retains its historical setting, surrounded by open land and continued agricultural usage, recalling both the early years of agricultural education in Connecticut and the community of small family farms that preceded it.

Architectural Significance

The Farwell Barn embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular type of late 19th-century general-purpose barn. In that period, the traditional New England three-bay English barn, with its wide doors on the broad side, was increasingly replaced by what Allen Noble has termed the "gable-entry banked barn." The type is characterized by a ramped gable-end entry, a partly exposed lower level created by setting the barn into a hillside, and proportionately greater length compared with the three-bay barn. Nearly all examples from the period include one or more cupolas on the roof to act as ventilators. All of these key features are found in the Farwell Barn.

Although the gable-entry ramped barn had its precedents in the traditional barns of England's Lake District, the type became common in America only in the second half of the 19th century. A variety of factors contributed to the widespread adoption of the gable-entry banked barn. By 1860, one of the advantages of the English barn, cross-ventilation for threshing in the center bay, was less important, since mechanical fans and other machines had been developed to separate grain from chaff, and were widely adopted; the Farwells had a "winnowing mill" as early as the 1830s. Another advantage of the gable-entry type was that it could be built larger than the traditional barn. The center aisle gave a hay wagon access to long storage areas on either side, whereas the traditional barn required the hay to be pitched into the upper side bays from a single position in the middle of the barn. Finally, because such barns were built into sidehills, they provided an additional lower level for animal shelter or other purposes. A further advantage evident in the Farwell Barn is that the entry ramp could be built hollow to provide storage for root crops.
Another factor leading to the adoption of the gable-entry type was its promotion by agricultural advocates. Popular books, farm magazines, state colleges, and agricultural fairs all contributed to an explosion in farming advice in the late 19th century. The American Agriculturist, in particular, championed the new type of barn, calling the traditional English barn "unsightly, inconvenient, and poorly adapted to any use but that of storing hay and straw" in 1866. In its place the magazine featured many gable-entry banked barns, which it regarded as a more rational and scientific approach to meeting the farmer's needs.

Few farmers could have been unaware of these developments in barn architecture, certainly not in Mansfield. Indeed, of the seven historical photographs of barns in a history of farming in Mansfield, six (including the Farwell Barn) appear to be gable-entry ramped barns from the late 19th century. Today the Farwell Barn is one of few that remain in Mansfield to illustrate this once-modern development in barn design.

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Significance

Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

8-8

Gable-entry banked barn illustrated in *American Agriculturist* in 1872. As in the Farwell Barn, the lower level has cow stanchions and small-animal pens, and the ramp contains a root cellar. Reprinted in *Old Barn Plans* by Richard Rawson, p. 68.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography

Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)  
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT


_____. General catalogs, 1910-1926.

_____. Minutes of Trustees meetings, 1910-1920. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs.


Mansfield Probate District. Estate papers of Thomas Farwell (1831) and Isaac Farwell (1881).


Bibliography

Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) Photographs-1
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

All Photographs:

1. Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn)
2. Mansfield, Tolland County, Connecticut
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission,
   59 South Prospect Street, Hartford,
   Connecticut 06106

Photographs 1, 4, 7, and 8:
3. Ainslie Gilligan Photograph
4. July, 1999

Photographs 3, 5, 6, and 11-14:
3. Gabriel Gilligan Photograph
4. September, 1999

Photographs 2, 9-10:
3. B. Clouette Photograph
4. November, 1999

Captions:

Storrs Road (west) elevation, camera facing east
Photograph 1 of 14

West and south elevations, camera facing northeast
Photograph 2 of 14

Horsebarn Hill Road (south) elevation, camera facing northwest
Photograph 3 of 14

South elevation of sheep barn, added 1913-1915 at the east end, camera
facing north
Photograph 4 of 14
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Photographs Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) Photographs-2
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

East (rear) elevation, camera facing west
Photograph 5 of 14

Detail of cupola, camera facing north
Photograph 6 of 14

View of setting from the south, showing barn, poultry houses across Horsebarn Hill Road, and fields along Storrs Road, camera facing north
Photograph 7 of 14

View of fields to the east of barn, camera facing east
Photograph 8 of 14

Interior of main part of barn, main level, camera facing east
Photograph 9 of 14

Detail of framing, main barn, camera facing northeast
Photograph 10 of 14

Interior of main part of barn, lower level, showing post-and-beam framing and rubblestone foundation, north wall, camera facing west
Photograph 11 of 14

Interior, main part of barn, lower level, showing stanchions and concrete floor with manure trench, camera facing west
Photograph 12 of 14

Interior, sheep barn, camera facing northwest
Photograph 13 of 14

Interior, silo, camera pointed upward
Photograph 14 of 14
Geographical data: Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn) 10-1
Mansfield, Tolland County, CT

UTM References:

1. 18.727960.4633010
2. 18.728670.4633580
3. 18.728620.4633700
4. 18.728650.4633720
5. 18.728720.4632620
6. 18.728780.4633660
7. 18.728840.4633580
8. 18.727980.4632920

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property approximates the north half of the 50-acre "First Piece" described in a deed from George G. Jacobson to the State of Connecticut dated September 16, 1911 and recorded in the Mansfield Land Records, Volume 47, pages 245-46. Beginning at the southwest corner, at the intersection of Horsebarn Hill Road and Storrs Road (Route 195), the boundary of the nominated property runs northerly approximately 300 feet along the east side of Storrs Road to the northwest corner of the lot as conveyed in the deed described above. It then runs in a northeasterly direction along the lot's north line, including the jog that extends northward to a small brook, approximately 3,500 feet to the lot's northeast corner. It then follows the east line of the lot 375 feet in a southeasterly direction. At this point, the boundary of the nominated property turns southwesterly and runs in a straight line approximately 1,500 feet to intersect the north side of Horsebarn Hill Road as it begins its curve to the southeast. The boundary follows the north side of Horsebarn Hill Road to the first point.

The west, north, and east boundaries of the nominated property are thus contiguous with the lines of the parcel as conveyed in 1911. In order to exclude later development (including Horsebarn Hill Road itself), the southern boundary of the nominated property was taken as the road and a straight-line extension of the road at the point where it turns the corner to run in a southeasterly direction.
Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property was delineated to include surrounding land historically associated with the Farwell Barn that retains its historic integrity, contributes to the property's significance, and conveys its historic setting.

The appearance of the southern half of the 50-acre parcel conveyed to the State of Connecticut in 1911 as the Jacobson Farm has been altered by the construction of Horsebarn Hill Road, which approximately bisects the parcel, and by the erection of modern agricultural facilities associated with the University's School of Agriculture on the south side of the road. Consequently, although still in agricultural use, this part does not retain its historic appearance and does not contribute to the setting of the barn. This part of the original 50-acre parcel was excluded by using Horsebarn Hill Road and a straight-line extension to the east lot line as the southern boundary of the nominated property.

The approximately 25 acres that remains to the east of the barn retains its historic appearance as open land in agricultural use; all but the extreme eastern end, which has begun to become overgrown from an adjacent wooded area, remains as open fields. As part of a 19th-century farm, the area would have been used for hay production, pasture, and possibly some field crops, and when it was acquired by the Connecticut Agricultural College, these uses continued. A small portion immediately east of the barn was used by the College for two rows of small chicken coops, since demolished.

Because of the way the land slopes downward to the east, not all of the 25 acres are visible from the barn, but the fields are continuous. At a minimum, the cupola of the barn is visible from most of the acreage; moreover, the barn and its 25 acres appear as a continuous landscape as one travels west on Horsebarn Hill Road, and the entire nominated property is visible from the summit of Horsebarn Hill itself, accessible by means of local walking trails.

Historically, barns were seldom if ever isolated from the farmland, especially the hay fields, that were their reason for being. The open land that remains from the Farwell Barn's historic acreage is therefore integrally related to the function of the structure itself and forms the only appropriate setting for such a building. Many old barns are now surrounded by modern houses and other buildings, so the Farwell Barn gains in significance as an example of its type by retaining an appropriate setting.
Walking Guide to the Quinebaug Shetucket River

Research by Carol Davidge and Erwin Goldstein

The University of Connecticut is an arboretum with many pleasant walks. A favorite is Horsebarn Hill Road, with animal barns open to the public, where you see newborn lambs in spring and fields of pigs, horses, cattle and sheep. Vistas, kite flying, birdwatching during migration season. Near the Dairy Bar with famous UConn ice cream.

Directions: Travel Rt. 195 to the University of Connecticut. From the north, at the third traffic light take left onto Horsebarn Hill Rd. just after the College of Agriculture. From the south, at the third light, take the left onto Horsebarn Hill Rd. just after the College of Agriculture. From the north, at the third traffic light take left onto Horsebarn Hill Rd. just after the College of Agriculture.

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Heritage Corridor Valley National and Shetucket River Walking Guide
Barn hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Milking in the Kellogg Dairy Center: 1:00 p.m.
Dairy Bar hours: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Restrooms: Kellogg Dairy Center, Dairy Bar

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Farms
Mansfield
Four Corners

Trailer
Park

Reservoir

Radio Towers
(WHUS)

Cemetery

Sewage
Disposal

Storrs

BM 661

BM 721

FARWELL BARN

Name: COVENTRY
Date: 10/4/100
Scale: 1 inch equals 1000 feet

Location: 18 727610 4633450
Caption: Farwell Barn
Horsebarn Hill Road
University of Connecticut

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