Lebanon, Connecticut

Historical and Architectural Resources Inventory
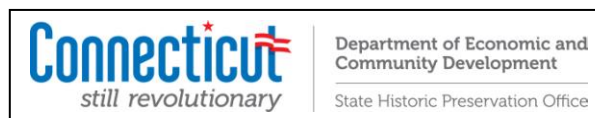## 2013

Rachel Carley, Project Historian

Sponsors:

Town of Lebanon

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office

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Acknowledgments

It has been a pleasure spending the last months exploring the back roads of Lebanon. Special thanks to Phil Chester, Lebanon Town Planner, for initiating and overseeing this project and to Alicia Wayland, town historian. I am also grateful to Donna Baron and Grace Sayles of the Lebanon Historical Society, Bill and Charis Brauch, Bill Champagne, Oliver Manning, Katherine Pellerin, Tom Prescott, Teddy Randall, Jeffrey Rondeau, Jon Slate, Helen Szajda, James Wasylishyn and Irene and Nicholas Wengloski.

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Methodology

This survey of historic and architectural resources of Lebanon, Connecticut was conducted under the auspices of the Town of Lebanon Planning Department by Rachel Carley, an architectural historian and preservation consultant based in Litchfield, Connecticut. The purpose was to add to the existing database of surveyed resources in the town by focusing on its rural and agricultural properties, including barns and other agricultural outbuildings as well as houses. This report (Phase II) concentrated on Babcock Hill Road, Camp Mooween Road, Congdon Road, East Hebron Turnpike, and Exeter, Gates Farm, Geer, Goshen Hill, Hinckley and Kick Hill Roads, Lebanon Avenue, Leonard Bridge, Levita, Lynch, Madley and McCall Roads, McGrath Lane, North Street and Olenick, Scott Hill, Seabury, Taylor Bridge, Valinksy, Waterman, Williams Crossing and York Roads. A previous report (2012) covered other areas of town.

The resources documented here cover a time period extending from the colonial era to the 1930s and are limited primarily to domestic and agricultural buildings. They were selected on the basis of their individual architectural or historical significance and as representations of particular periods, styles and types, using a preliminary listing compiled from data on file at the Office of the Lebanon Tax Assessor. No attempt was made to locate archaeological sites, which would have been beyond the scope of this project. The research, fieldwork and photography were undertaken April to October 2013. Copies of the final report have been deposited with the Lebanon Planning Office, the Lebanon Historical Society, the Jonathan Trumbull Library and the Department of Economic and Community Development in Hartford. Microfiche copies of the report will be deposited by the DECD at the Connecticut State Library and at the Homer Babbidge Library at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Surveys of this type provide accurate historical and architectural data, identify buildings, sites and districts worthy of further study and preservation and serve as the basis for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. It is hoped that the information included here will not only be a useful planning tool for the Town of Lebanon, but will also benefit citizens by helping them make informed decisions about the historic buildings, landscape features and other resources on their properties.

Survey Area and Criteria for Selection

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1983). Criteria for evaluation of properties were based on those of the National Register of Historic Places, administered by the National Park Service under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. Properties listed on the National Register include districts, individual structures, sites and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture, and that contribute to the understanding of the states and the nation. The National Register criteria for evaluation state that:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and

a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, or;

b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or;

c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or that represent a distinctive and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or;

d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

A discussion of individual buildings and groups of buildings that appear to meet National Register criteria may be found in the Recommendations section of this report.

The survey also includes structures that may not clearly demonstrate National Register eligibility as individual resources but are nevertheless associated with an important person or event, or have architectural significance or, while not exceptional on their own, illustrate certain styles or construction methods or contribute to the historical context of the neighborhood or vicinity. These sites may represent clear patterns of settlement and land development or otherwise enhance the understanding of Lebanon's history.

Resources

The project historian conducted research in primary materials preserved in Lebanon town offices, the Lebanon Historical Society, the Jonathan Trumbull Library and the Connecticut State Library. Among these were historic maps, land records, census records, archival photographs, oral histories, newspaper articles and scrapbooks. The consultant also relied on interviews with homeowners and consulted published histories and other secondary sources.

The Inventory Form Explained

A standard digital resource inventory form adapted from the form issued by the Department of Economic and Community Development was prepared for each surveyed site according to guidelines supplied by the commission, which is the agency responsible for historic preservation in Connecticut. The forms provide fields for a physical description, an account of alterations, a statement of architectural and historical significance and a listing of notable/useful information sources. Descriptions are based on an on-site survey, when field notes are recorded for each property. Although this report is primarily concerned with the exteriors of buildings, the project director occasionally

included information about notable interior features for the historical record when it was available. Sites are not marked as accessible to the general public unless they are commercial or public properties that are open during business hours.

Identification, Date and Location: Each site is assigned an alpha-numeric inventory form (IF) number. Street names, numbers and homeowners were recorded as they appeared in the Lebanon Tax Assessor records at the time the information was collected. Tax assessor field cards also provided the approximate size of the buildings (denoted in square footage of living space). The date of construction was usually based on information from tax records, title searches and from additional primary and secondary sources, and occasionally on a visual assessment. The dates in Lebanon tax records are not always reliable, as the town appears to use a default to 1850 when a date is unknown. The photograph(s) on each form show as much of the significant fabric as possible. When ancillary structures and outbuildings at a given address constitute significant groupings, or are assigned their own street addresses in tax records, they are recorded, numbered and photographed individually. Otherwise, the project historian has included a photograph of pertinent outbuildings on the main inventory form.

Materials and Condition: Materials were identified and exterior condition was assessed as part of the visual record made by the project historian during her fieldwork. Buildings lacking obvious problems (by eye) were deemed structurally sound with the designation "good." The designations "fair" and "poor" denote problems like failing roofing materials, peeling paint and rotting, failing or missing elements. "Deteriorated" was reserved for buildings that are failing structurally beyond much hope of repair, due to lack of maintenance and/or because they are vacant or being vandalized.

Architectural Style: This was identified on the inventory forms whenever the structure, material and decorative elements supported such a designation (Colonial, Greek Revival, etc.) according to generally accepted terms used by historians in Connecticut. "Vernacular" refers to localized building types that originated in a given period but do not exhibit any clearly identifiable, or high-style, features. For terms and styles, the project historian used a variety of sources, including *A Dictionary of Architecture*, by John Fleming, Hugh Honour and Nickolaus Pevsner (Penguin Books, 1977 reprint); *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Alfred A. Knopf, 1984); *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*, edited by Cyril M. Harris (Dover Publications, 1983); and *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (Henry Holt, 1994), by Rachel Carley (the consultant on this project).

Explanations of some of the most frequently used typology and stylistic terms are as follows:

Colonial (Medieval and Early English) Settlement Types

Colonial/Vernacular Farmhouse (18th and 19th century): Most of the colonial farmhouses in the survey area are simple one- or two-story wood structures that can be dated to a particular era of Connecticut's domestic building primarily according to their

proportions, floor plans and façade compositions, rather than to any noteworthy exterior detailing. Because these buildings do not display high-style features, they are usually characterized as "vernacular." Reflecting medieval English building methods that were perpetuated for generations in the New World, these simple building types were erected with a traditional post-and-beam framing method and clad in clapboard or shingle. On the early buildings, foundations and chimneys were usually of stone rather than brick.

There are several basic types of colonial Connecticut dwelling, including:

Half House: A simple, 1½-story peak-roofed building, which consists of a single room and an end chimney; the façade is asymmetrical and there was often rudimentary loft space accessed by a ladder. (Examples are now rare.)

Center-Chimney House: Denotes a simply massed two-story rectangular structure with a symmetrical plan, in which the rooms are arranged around a centrally placed chimney. The façade, located on the long side of the house, displays a balanced composition with a central door flanked by two pairs of windows in what is known as a *five-bay* arrangement. Window sash are double-hung, usually with 12 panes over 12, or 12 panes over 8. (Sash are often not original, however.) When the structure is one-room deep, with a narrow gable, it is known as a *single-pile* house; when it is two rooms deep, with a necessarily broader gable, it has a *double-pile* plan. Second-story windows tuck directly under the roof eaves. The roof may be peaked or gambrel.

Variations on the center-chimney type include:

Saltbox: In this traditional Connecticut type, the basic center-chimney form displays a rear 1½-story lean-to, producing a long, low-slung roof silhouette on the backside of the dwelling, where the roofline drops down to the first story. Some lean-tos were integrated into the original framing, while others were later additions. The roof is peaked.

Cape: Denotes a smaller, lower, center-chimney type of 1 or 1½ stories, identified by its distinctive low-slung profile; the roofline drops directly down to the window and door tops. As in the other types of center-chimney houses, the facade, always on the long side of the building, generally has a symmetrical five-bay arrangement with a central entry. Dormers were almost always later additions. The roof may be peaked or gambrel.

Colonial and Post-Revolutionary (Classically Inspired and Romantic Styles)

During the second half of the 18th century, stylistic preferences increasingly reflected the influence of British taste, as colonial building evolved from the rudimentary medieval types of early settlement years to the classically inspired aesthetic favored during the so-called English Renaissance beginning in the late 1600s. In this era, architecture incorporated the now-familiar ancient Roman classical orders (Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite), with their essential "parts," including the columns and entablatures that make up porticos—and features like the Palladian window. These elements, revived during the Italian Renaissance, were unknown to medieval builders and

did not appear in early colonial building.

Georgian (c. 1750–80): This term denotes the first Renaissance-inspired style to have an impact in New England—so called because it was fashionable in the English colonies during the reigns of King George I, II and III. Georgian houses in Connecticut may have peaked, gambrel or hipped roofs and either center-chimney or center-hall plans. The *center-hall* plan, which appeared locally in the late 1700s, incorporates a hall running on axis from the centrally placed front door to the back of the house; chimneys are located at or near the gable ends. As restored, the façade of the 18th-century Governor Trumbull house on the Lebanon Green, 169 West Town Street) is a textbook example of rural Georgian-style taste. Among its distinguishing features are the three-dimensional carved door frame with fluted *pilasters* (flattened columns) and full entablature in the Doric order, with a crowning triangular pediment (echoed in the window pediments). Most Georgian-period houses in Lebanon have much simpler exteriors and have been denoted in this study as "vernacular." Some feature elaborate, classically inspired interior paneling that is more clearly identifiable with the Georgian style, but this is not apparent from the street.

Federal (c. 1780–1820): This classically inspired style is the colonial counterpart to Britain's Adamesque style. By contrast to the heavy and robust decoration of the Georgian era, the more conservative Federal aesthetic is light and delicate, with attenuated lines. High-style Federal design was relatively scarce outside of American port cities. In rural inland Connecticut, it is often easiest to identify Federal influence on mantelpieces and other interior woodworking and finishes. Motifs include elegant geometric shapes, such as the ellipse and the flattened fanlight, used over doors and in gable peaks. The swag, ellipse and rosette are also typical embellishments. It can be harder to pick up the influence on the exterior of rural farmhouses. Federal dwellings in Lebanon typically have a center hall plan.

Greek Revival (c. 1820–1850): This style recalls the classical orders, proportions and motifs prescribed by the ancient *Greek* rules of architecture—as opposed to the ancient *Roman* rules and their Renaissance Palladian interpretations that inspired Georgian and Federal architecture. A Northern European import, the Greek Revival paralleled a revival of Greek culture in the late 1700s and early 1800s, partly influenced by spectacular finds at archeological sites such as the Athenian Acropolis. The style was spread through this country primarily through builders' pattern books.

Many of Lebanon's Greek Revival farmhouses exhibit the familiar *gable-end* format, in which the building is "rotated" so that its narrow gable end, rather than the long side, becomes the façade. In this form, the door is usually located off center, indicating a *side-hall* plan. Other houses display a symmetrical center-hall plan, in which the front door is centrally placed. In either case, the decorative emphasis is usually on the entry, typically enclosed in a post-and-beam (*trabeated*) frame composed of pilasters supporting a flat Greek entablature, usually in the Doric order. Other hallmark features include a wide fascia board under the eaves, a triangular cornice treatment in the gable, and Greek motifs such as the key, or fret, the palmette and anthemion. A number of earlier buildings in Lebanon were updated with Greek doorways, probably in the 1840s.

Rectangular gable windows, often fabricated with geometric *muntins* (dividers) are another signature feature of the style.

Victorian and Early 20th-Century Styles

Coinciding with the English Romantic movement, the Victorian era (c. 1840–1905) introduced to America a period of highly romanticized, *picturesque* styles, often rooted in European revivals like the medieval Gothic. During this era, which coincided with the Industrial Revolution, the balance and order defining earlier classical styles were rejected in favor of fanciful decorations, asymmetrical floor plans and lively silhouettes created with intersecting gables, projecting bays and porches. Multi-hued color palettes came into style and white was rejected.

Victorian Vernacular (c. 1840-1905): This term is used to identify nineteenth-century buildings that are very simply styled, but display forms and features characteristic of the Romantic Victorian period, such as deep overhanging eaves, intersecting gables (L- or T-plan), tall, narrow façades and gables and/or bracketed porches.

Italianate (c. 1840–70): The Italianate style was loosely based on the medieval Tuscan villa and usually features very squarish proportions of the *villa* form, a very low-pitched (nearly flat) roof and deep, overhanging eaves. Round-arched door and window openings and 2-over-2 double-hung windows (parlor windows may be floor to ceiling), ornate console brackets and elaborate door hoods typify the style.

Second Empire (c. 1855–75): The rise of this appealing Victorian style coincided with an overhaul of the Paris skyline under the reign of Napoleon III during France's Second Empire period (1852–70). The French influence soon made its transatlantic journey to the United States, where the style was promoted for imposing civic structures under the presidential administration of Ulysses S. Grant (1869–77). Like other Victorian styles, the Second Empire exhibited many variations at the hands of local builders; the French mansard roof—identified by its steeply pitched profile with a double pitch—nevertheless remained its much-loved signature feature. The only example of a Second Empire building in the survey area is the former Hoxie farmhouse at no. 9 Seabury Road.

Queen Anne (c. 1880–1900): This style displays an eclectic mix of forms drawn from a broad range of sources, including classical, colonial and sometimes even Tudor architecture. In Connecticut, the Queen Anne is best known for its elaborate interpretations in wood. Builders took advantage of newly available, inexpensive stock millwork, scrollwork, spindles and other assembly-line decorations to create whimsical confections. Sleeping porches, bay windows and conical tower roofs and other kinds of architectural appendages and projections are also characteristic of the Queen Anne period in America.

Twentieth-Century Styles and Historic Revivals

Colonial Revival (c. 1890–present): The Colonial Revival incorporates the familiar features and forms of early American building traditions, adapting them—sometimes rather loosely—into contemporary interpretations that "suggest" historical features without slavishly recreating them. Hallmark features include the gambrel roof, fanlight and Palladian window, recalled from earlier periods. Synonymous with traditional New England taste, the revival was largely a reaction to the perceived "chaos" of the Victorian era—in other words, a return to order.

Craftsman/Bungalow (c. 1910–35): The master craftsman and furniture maker Gustav Stickley (1858–1942) is credited with popularizing the bungalow as an attractive, affordable, well-built house type designed for informal living. The bungalow has low-slung lines created by a long, pitched roof that slopes down over deep, bracketed eaves. A front porch is often incorporated into the main roof plane, with its overhang supported on shortened *dwarf* columns mounted on low wooden bases or on rubblestone piers. The porch posts may also be *battered*, meaning that they swell or widen at the base.

Vernacular Barns and Outbuildings

English Barn (18th and 19th century): This traditional type is a peak-roofed timber-framed building with interior *bays*, or sections, divided by post-and-beam *bents*. The main entrance is located on the long side of the building rather than in the short, gable end. An early colonial type, the "pure" English barn has three bays only, no windows and a central wagon door. Variations include the *extended English* barn, stretched sideways with extra bays, and the *banked English barn* (see below). It is usually possible to determine a rough date for a timber-framed barn based on the way it is framed. The *scribe rule* method, involving hand-scribed joints, was used prior to about the 1820s or 1830s. The joints were usually identified with "marriage marks," often Roman numerals or chisel marks. After about the 1830s, the *square rule* method came into use. The square rule allowed a builder to standardize the joints, which can be identified by rectangular notches. Timbers may be hand hewn or milled.

Bank Barn (19th and 20th century): This traditional form takes its name from its multi-level construction; the barn is excavated at the lower story, or *banked*, into a sloping site in order to provide ground-level access at more than one level. Bank barns are notable for substantial stone foundations that can run as deep as ten feet. As the foundation adjusts to the slope, it forms the interior (under-grade) wall, or walls, of the lower level. Many of these barns also incorporate retaining walls. This type did not come into widespread use in Connecticut before the 19th century.

Gable-Front Barn (19th and 20th century): In this peak-roofed barn type, the main entry is located in the short gable end—a common 19th-century form, although it is not common in Lebanon.

***Dairy Barn (20th century)*:** This amply proportioned barn type may be constructed as either a *ground-level* or *banked* building. It usually incorporates a concrete milking parlor outfitted with an efficient system of tie-ups or steel-pipe stanchions fronted by feed troughs and backed by litter alleys. The roof is sometimes peaked, but usually incorporates a double-pitched, trussed gambrel frame (20th century) that accommodates large hay lofts. Another variation is the so-called *Gothic* or *round-roof* type, also designed to provide more hay storage in the loft. A triangular hood usually projects over the loft door to protect the tackle used for hauling hay to the upper level.

Poultry Shed (20th century): This simple but distinctive form consists of a large rectangular building, constructed with a concrete foundation and balloon frame with board-and-batten or some other type of inexpensive wood siding. The nearly flat roof has a shed profile, and banks of windows light the primary elevation. The designs of Connecticut poultry sheds were based on plans devised by the state agricultural experiment station at the University of Connecticut, which continually re-worked this basic format to improve air circulation and insulation capacity. Two-story buildings predominated until the 1980s, when the one-story pole-barn type was introduced.

Other Parts of the Survey Report

The bulk of this report constitutes the inventory forms, which provide a case-by-case history and description of each resource. There are also an overview of Lebanon history and architectural development; recommendations assessing which structures or sites, or groups of sites, may meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; a map detailing locations of the surveyed sites; indices to the forms and images; and an appendix containing existing National Register nominations.

Historical and Architectural Overview

Incorporated in 1700, Lebanon is a rural-suburban community of 55.2 square miles in New London County, where it is located about 32 miles southeast of Hartford and 12 miles west of Norwich. The town encompasses a roughly diamond-shaped tract, with its corners oriented (more or less) to the primary compass points. Bordering townships include Columbia, to west and northwest; Windham, to the north; Franklin and Bozrah to the east; Colchester to the south and southwest; and Hebron to the southwest.

Lebanon is well known for its traditional New England character, defined by a significant archive of historic structures and its famous mile-long green. A remarkable landscape also makes the town especially beautiful, thanks to substantial tracts of undeveloped land and the region's rolling topography, which affords vistas that stretch on for miles. Wetlands account for 19% of the overall area; forest and open space, including 10,000 acres of active farmland, also contribute to an impressive body of natural resources. The largest water body, Williams Pond, is located in the western corner of the town, to the northwest of Brewster Pond and to the northeast of Amston Lake, which straddles the border with Hebron. Red Cedar Lake occupies the southern tip, near the Colchester and Bozrah borders, with Savin Lake to its northwest. Spencer and Big Ponds are situated in the northeast, at the Windham border. To the south, the Yantic River follows an undulating path eastward through Bozrah into Norwich.

Lebanon's well-known geographic centerpiece is its mile-long green, the remnant

A 1772 map of the First Congregational Society reveals that the town common was originally about three times its current size. Only the central portion remains. The meetinghouse occupies its customary crossroads location within the "Town street."

of a significantly larger colonial common laid out on a northwest/southeast plateau in 1697. As in many Connecticut towns of the era, this open space originated as a broad (495 foot-wide) road, known variously as the Great Broad street or the Town street. The main common, also known as a green, was a vital multi-purpose space, where settlers grazed sheep, mustered the militia and gathered to trade goods and news, among other activities. By colonial convention, the broad Town street was also the site of the meetinghouse lot—nearly always, as it was in Lebanon, situated at the crossroads of two highways.

Old maps make it easy to see how Lebanon's main thoroughfares closely follow their colonial paths and preserve a fascinating record of how those routes connected the town to the outside world. The present-day Trumbull Highway (Route 87) originally absorbed the early colonial Town street common as it passed on a roughly east-west course. Running perpendicular, Exeter Road (Route 207) formed the obligatory meetinghouse crossroads on the green. Traveling southwest, this highway connected via

Lebanon Avenue (Route 16) to Colchester (1698), one of only two adjacent settlements incorporated prior to Lebanon. Beaumont Highway (Route 289), running north and west from the northwest end of the common, leads to Windham (1692), the second of the two preexisting towns. Norwich Avenue, traveling roughly east/west across Lebanon's southern tip, traces the route of the old Norwich and Colchester Turnpike, incorporated in 1805 along an older highway. Cutting across the town parallel to Norwich Avenue, State Route 2 is a limited-access highway that underwent phased construction between the 1950s and the 1970s, considerably altering the landscape of Lebanon's southern reaches, where it crosses the Yantic River in the area of some historic mill sites.

All of these main thoroughfares are heavily traveled today. Otherwise, the township, which is quite spread out, is threaded by a network of quiet country roads. Many of their names (Geer, McCall, Cook, Clarke, for example) recall those of early Lebanon landowners. A number of these routes connected outlying Congregational parishes to the central common and meetinghouse.

Most of what survives of the Lebanon Green remains an impressive swath of meadow (27 acres), which farmers still mow for hay. Much of the commerce that once concentrated on or near the green has vanished, and there is no "village" (restaurants, shops and the like) per se. Because the common is such an important landmark, however, its identity as Lebanon's physical and symbolic center remains unshakable. Town hall, library, post office, community hall, three churches, and a general store may all be found nearby, along with the Trumbull House and War Office, among other museums, and the Lebanon Historical Society. The town of Lebanon maintains jurisdiction over the green proper.

The Beginnings

A series of reconfigurations has rendered Lebanon considerably smaller than the nearly 80,000 acres the town encompassed (including present-day Columbia and part of Andover) when it was incorporated in 1700. The original boundaries were the result of a complicated amalgam of transactions that included special land grants from the General Court (beginning with a 500-acre tract in 1663), cessions by Native Americans and outright purchases. The largest of these parcels was the Five Mile Square, which supposedly measured five miles on each side but was actually trapezoidal. This tract, purchased in 1692 by four English settlers from Mohegan chief Oweneco, fanned out northward from a stone marker (which still exists) off Randall Road near Gillette Brook. The name Lebanon, recalling the Biblical mountain location, was confirmed by the General Assembly in 1697.[1]

Most of present-day Lebanon was located in the Five Mile Square. This section was settled as a proprietorship, initially made up of investors, whose shares guaranteed them a home lot and noncontiguous tracts of woodlot, grazing and planting land. These plots were distributed over time in "rights," usually in twenty, forty or sixty-acre chunks, as needed according to a schedule set by the proprietorship. Shareholders determined the order of choice in each distribution phase by lottery—the origin of the term "lot." Any unallocated acreage, known as the "common, undivided lands," remained the property of

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[1] The white cedar trees then growing in Cedar Swamp reminded the Rev. James Fitch, who suggested the name, of the trees described in the Biblical account of building King Solomon's temple.

the collective proprietorship until it was distributed. The initial Lebanon proprietorship had fifty-one members, which was a typical number, and divisions commenced in 1695. [2] In 1700 settlers received permission to establish a Congregational church (the Congregational Church of the Puritans), a powerful institution that dominated political, social and religious life. The first meetinghouse, situated within the Town Street, was built in 1706.

The wide distribution of real estate dictated by Connecticut proprietorships tended to scatter settlers widely throughout a town, and Lebanon was no exception. Even before the Five Mile Purchase, colonists had settled on the 1663 land grant in the Goshen section. In a pattern repeated throughout the colony, these "outlivers" eventually divided off from the first church into their own Congregational ecclesiastical societies. Building their own meetinghouses obviated the need for long trips (usually by foot) to the central meetinghouse. Establishing separate societies also allowed parishioners to raise taxes and take charge of their own church and school affairs.

The first Congregational parish division in Lebanon (the North Society, now the town of Columbia) was formalized in 1720. The Goshen Society formed in 1729, the Andover Society in 1747 (with members from Coventry and Hebron) and the Exeter Society in 1773. (A c. 1843 parish house for the Exeter Congregational Church still stands at 151 Olenick Road, IF 109.) As geographic and social entities, these districts adopted their own identities within the larger town. Another neighborhood, Liberty Hill, to the northwest of the town common, did not originate as a Congregational parish. Yet it, too, was something of its own community by virtue of a crossroads locale on the Trumbull Highway, where it served as a mail stop. (Village Hill, another neighborhood on a section or Route 289, became known in the first part of the 1900s for a German immigrant population.)

Lebanon itself benefited from a convenient location on stage roads between New York and Boston. The town was also an important stop between Albany, Hartford and the port of New London at the mouth of the Thames River. While the shire town of Windham to the north was the colony's leading inland trading center, Lebanon had the advantage of being closer to large sections of Hebron, Colchester and Coventry. Within only thirty years of its 1700 incorporation, the town ranked eighth in Connecticut in taxable wealth. Cartloads of preserved pork, beef and dairy products traveled to the nearby river port of Norwich for distribution to North American coastal cities and shipment to the West Indies. There was also brisk trade in leather goods, barrel staves, woolen cloth, tools, building materials and livestock.[3]

At the time of the first colonial census in 1756, Lebanon had grown to more than 3,200 people, making it the tenth largest town in the entire colony. (Middletown, New Haven and nearby Norwich—the colony's preeminent urban centers—then ranked as

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[2] When founding a Connecticut town, the proprietorship customarily set aside land from the common lands for the meetinghouse lot (hence the name "common"), for the Congregational minister, for roads and for support (not location) of the church and schools. The remainder was distributed to the proprietors, who were free to dispose of their shares, including future distributions, as they chose. For this reason, some proprietors used their shares to speculate. Seventeen of Lebanon's proprietors never moved to the settlement

[3] See Bruce C. Daniels, *The Connecticut Town: Growth and Development, 1635–1790*, (Wesleyan University, 1979), 152–55. According to Daniels, Lebanon gave in to market competition from Windham only after Jonathan Trumbull went bankrupt in the 1760s.

Connecticut's largest towns. By mid-century, Lebanon had gained a proprietary library (only the third such institution in Connecticut) and a handful of private academies, including the North Society's Moor's Indian Charity School, which, founded by the Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, would be the genesis of Dartmouth College.

Lebanon's 18th-century renown as a merchant town depended chiefly on the accomplishments and reputation of a single family, the Trumbulls. The family scion, Joseph Trumbull (1679–1755), traded cattle in Norwich and Boston for English imports and other goods to sell in Lebanon and also engaged in the West Indies trade. Joseph's son Jonathan Trumbull (1710–85) joined the business at the age of 20 and carried on similar import-export ventures in England, investing in whale oil and ships' masts, among other commodities. The younger Trumbull also owned fulling and gristmills in Lebanon, where he had a store, a large farm, tenant houses and extensive real estate holdings. Trumbull enterprises included maritime interests in Norwich and East Haddam, a thriving port on the Connecticut River, as well. Under Jonathan's leadership, the family business in beef and pork developed into the largest meatpacking operation in the colony.

Jonathan Trumbull may be even better known for his long political career, which began when he was twenty-two and culminated in his election as Connecticut governor in 1769.[4] During the Revolutionary War, the Connecticut General Assembly established the Council of Safety to advise Trumbull on war-effort affairs between legislative sessions. More than 500 counsel meetings took place in his Lebanon store building as the council masterminded the delivery of some sixty percent of munitions and other supplies to Continental troops. In the single month of March 1780, the group was responsible for dispatching 1,000 barrels of flour. Six hundred head of cattle followed in September, and two months later, 1,500 barrels of beer and 25,000 pounds of beef shipped out of town.[5]

Lebanon's robust population during the Revolutionary War years surely related to the commercial activity generated by this massive supply effort. During that era the town was the fourteenth largest in Connecticut, with nearly 4,000 citizens and ranked nineteenth in its number of artisans.[6] Well situated out of the military zone, Lebanon was a stopover for many Revolutionary War era dignitaries and troops in 1780/81, was home to the duc de Lauzun's Legion of Foreign Volunteers, which camped on Trumbull's farm fields southwest of the green. George Washington reviewed troops on the common in March 1781 on his way to a Newport, Rhode Island meeting with the comte de Rochambeau, who also visited the town.

Architectural Roots

As elsewhere in Connecticut, domestic architecture in 18th-century Lebanon consisted almost universally of timber structures fabricated with hewn post-and-beam frames. Timber framing was first adapted in the colony in the 1630s by Massachusetts settlers who transplanted this late medieval building technique from England. Political tensions

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[4] Jonathan Trumbull was the only governor of any English colony to side with the colonists, and therefore the only one to survive the political fallout of the Revolutionary War with his governorship intact. Holding continuous office to 1784, he was Connecticut's last colonial governor and first state governor.
[5] George McClean Milne, *Lebanon: Three Centuries in a Connecticut Hilltop Town* (Lebanon Historical Society, 1986), 43.
[6] Daniels, 194.

aside, British building traditions would continue influencing New Englanders well into the 1800s. Styles took root first in affluent ports on the coast and along the Connecticut River (New Haven and Middletown, for instance), where household and decorative goods flowed in from overseas. The latest preferences in building plans and woodworking designs eventually filtered into the interior with the help of pattern books and builders' handbooks. Used widely and liberally by housewrights and joiners, these pocket guides originated exclusively in Britain before the first American "builder's assistant" was issued in 1797 by Connecticut native Asher Benjamin.

The colonial-era structures identified in the survey area represent a predictable range of domestic types, whose variation in size and complexity correlated directly to the financial means of their owners. At the lower end of the economic spectrum was the cape, a familiar center-chimney type that dominated the Lebanon landscape well into the 19th century. The cape was ubiquitous as the "fallback" dwelling type: Its frame was relatively quick and inexpensive to erect, and its multi-purpose floor plan was simple, compact and practical. A surprising number of Lebanon capes preserve their original rooflines, having never been altered with dormers (269 Kick Hill Road, 453 Kick Hill Road, 46 Exeter Road).

Normally, the hallmark feature of the cape is the manner in which the roof falls directly down to the window and door lintels, resulting in a distinctively low-slung

Cape with raised façade, 520 Goshen Hill Road

façade. In an interesting Connecticut variant, however, the façade is "lifted" about 18 inches This creates a gap between the windows and the eaves—to provide headroom in the otherwise low second story (520 Goshen Hill, 112 Kick Hill, 137 Scott Hill Road, IF 113). Most Lebanon capes have a simple peaked roof, but 911 Goshen Hill Road (IF 62) is a good example of another variant, which has a gambrel roof. No. 40 Scott Hill Road (IF 110) may have originated as a "half house," a close cousin of the cape, consisting of a single all-purpose room and a loft.

Tradition holds that the Clark Homestead on Madley Road (IF 94) is the oldest colonial dwelling in Lebanon. It is one of only two saltboxes in the survey area—an early center-chimney type defined by a rear lean-to addition. (The other is located at no. 5 Lebanon Avenue, IF 82.) Yet another 18th-century type was the full two-story center-chimney house, an iconic Connecticut building form that was well established in Lebanon by about the 1760s. Its form, standard throughout the colony, is defined by a symmetrical five-bay façade with a centrally positioned entry (IF 17).

Even in rural farm towns, these houses could be surprisingly substantial (40' x 30' or larger), and their roomy interiors provided a more sophisticated domestic arrangement than the more rudimentary cape or saltbox. The custom of siting these large two-story dwellings prominently on a slight rise very close to the road helped to signal their owners' social and financial standing in the community. Although exteriors were generally plain, handsome carved Georgian paneling (inspired by pattern books) often distinguished the parlors and corresponding upstairs chambers. By the late Georgian

period, the center-chimney layout was replaced by a more fashionable center-hall plan, which prevailed into the Federal era after the War of Independence.

No discussion of Lebanon's 18th-century architectural heritage would be complete without acknowledging the contribution of the accomplished master builder Isaac Fitch (1734–91), a cousin to Jonathan Trumbull on his mother's side. Fitch was born and raised in Lebanon and married Violetta Alden, daughter of Elizabeth Alden, owner of a once-famous shop and tavern located on the northeast side of the town green, near the corner of Exeter Road.

In the early 1760s Isaac Fitch, a versatile craftsman, joined a crew making improvements to Lebanon's aging (second) Congregational meetinghouse. On this project, Fitch worked with at least two other Lebanon builders, Resolved Wheeler and Darius Waterman. Although those men likely worked as housewrights in and around town, we know most about Fitch, owing partly to his close relationship with the Trumbull family. Isaac billed that family for work on two merchant ships the Trumbulls were building at their East Haddam shipyard and repaired the water wheels at one of Jonathan Trumbull's mills. In addition, he helped enlarge the store serving as the War Office and signed an agreement to do work (probably repairs) on the 1762 Tisdale School, a highly acclaimed private academy located near the meetinghouse.

Isaac Fitch is also the documented architect of Redwood (IF 23), built in 1778–79 for David Trumbull (1751–1822), a son of Jonathan. David, another prominent citizen of Lebanon, was then serving as Assistant Commissary-General under his brother, Joseph Trumbull, and as right-hand man to his father. The house was erected shortly after his marriage to Sarah Bacchus of Norwich on a lot previously occupied by the first Congregational minister. The timbers of the older building were reportedly re-used in Trumbull's new two-story structure. Records indicate that Fitch was responsible for the construction, interior woodwork and furnishings; a Mr. Elliott of Boston supplied English window glass confiscated from captured vessels.

Redwood, 1778-9, designed by Isaac Fitch

Redwood ranks among the most sophisticated homes of its era in town. Its imposingly tall chimneys, hipped roof, eared architraves and the block-like "quoins" framing the entry are all characteristic features of Georgian design, then at its height of style in Connecticut. That such a residence was completed as the war raged on is noteworthy, and its extravagance did not go unnoticed: A contemporary referred to the mansion rather satirically as David's "tabernacle."[7]

Isaac Fitch is also thought to be responsible for work on the Rev. Zebulon Ely house at 528 Exeter Road (IF 21), which he probably designed or rebuilt around 1789; he

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[7] William Lamson Warren, *Connecticut Art and Architecture: Looking Backwards Two Hundred Years* (American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, 1976), 1.

also possibly undertook earlier renovations to the Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and Jonathan Trumbull Jr. houses. Isaac's reputation served him so well that in 1785 the governor recommended him as designer for the New London County Courthouse. "Mr. Fitch is the best Architect within the compass of my acquaintance . . . well acquainted with the books of architecture," wrote Trumbull to the New London mayor. "His genious (sic) is extraordinary."[8]

Governor Trumbull's enthusiastic endorsement is notable not only for his reference to Fitch's talents, but also for his use of "architect," a term denoting professional status and academic training that was rarely invoked in Connecticut at the time. Mention of Isaac's books of architecture is also highly significant. A probate inventory of his possessions lists at least three such volumes, including one by the great English architect Sir James Gibbs (1682–1754). Gibbs's publications profoundly affected colonial building in America. His influence is evident at Redwood, which remains an important reflection of how English models built of masonry were imaginatively reinterpreted in wood at the hands of rural New England housewrights.

That such a book was owned by Fitch and existed in Lebanon suggest that some Lebanon residents, at least, were quite current with architectural fashion. Lebanon's current (third) First Congregational Church, designed by David Trumbull's brother John Trumbull—New England's distinguished "patriot-artist"—is further evidence of how sophisticated architectural preferences manifested even in inland towns. As completed in 1809 the building was one of the most elegant brick Federal churches in the region—as understated as Fitch's Redwood was ostentatious.

Growth and Development

Lebanon's population grew steadily until 1790, when there were about 4,100 residents. Declining numbers at the start of the 19th century reflected a statewide pattern. Once-prosperous trading centers began to shrink as residents migrated to better farmland in the Midwest or took jobs in the cities. Lebanon's population declined precipitously from about 2,600 in 1810, before gaining a bit during the next decade, then again falling. Nearly all Connecticut towns to actually grow during the same period—Hartford, Wethersfield, Waterbury, Derby and New Haven—were developing industrial centers.

Throughout the 19th century, the local economy relied on a balance of manufacturing and agriculture. In 1850, when the federal government recorded the first U.S. agricultural census, there were 246 active farms in Lebanon. While many were plentiful in real estate, most were subsistence operations, supported by one or two workhorses, a few dairy cows, a team or two of oxen (the essential beast of burden) and ten to twenty pigs. All but 94 of the farmers listed in the census were also raising sheep, which probably included Spanish merinos, introduced to Connecticut in the early 1800s.

Among the largest of the Lebanon farms listed in the 1850 census was that of David Geer, who owned 500 acres. More typical holdings averaged around 100 acres. Of the produce and crops recorded, Irish potatoes held the top spot. Indeed, every farmer in town cultivated potatoes, and all of them reported having dozens of bushels on hand—one as many as 1,800. Among other stores were buckwheat, rye, oats and the hay and Indian corn used for cattle feed. There were also prodigious stockpiles of

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[8] Trumbull quoted in Warren, 28.

butter and cheese. Among the locals who were growing fruit commercially was Asher L. Smith, who had bought Redwood from the Trumbull family in 1839 and likely built the Greek Revival-style barn behind the house (IF 24). Smith cultivated apples, peaches and strawberries, sold preserved tomatoes in the winter and offered grape juice "for medical and church purposes."

Since the War of 1812, when U.S. embargos interrupted foreign trade, manufacturing in Connecticut had been on a steady incline. Confronted with a lack of their customary imports, residents turned to their own devices to fill the gap. The Yantic River and many smaller waterways in Lebanon supplied power to grist and fulling mills, distilleries and tanneries and a host of small-scale businesses, including everything from shingle, shoe, hat, harness and barrel makers to fabricators of wagons, coffins and plows. The 1849 inauguration of rail service to town, via the New London, Willimantic & Palmer Railroad, helped connect merchants and manufacturers to outside marketplaces and supply centers. In 1873 the New Haven, Middletown & Willimantic Railroad opened a line to Willimantic, with service eventually extended to Boston. [9]

Stone ruins (IF 105) visible from a bridge on McGrath Lane are remnants of a Yantic River dam in the south end of town that powered a large overshot wheel for a satellite plant of the Hayward Rubber Company in Colchester. The branch was established by 1850 to process Brazilian rubber.[10] An 1868 atlas of New London County (Beers, Ellis & Soule) identifies the plant and a nearby storehouse, along with two wagon shops and a sawmill in the vicinity—all conveniently located on or near the Norwich and Colchester Turnpike (Norwich Avenue).

A quarry operated to the southwest of the lake, and a second was located adjacent to a peat bed on Liberty Hill. To its east was Holbrook Mineral Spring, where sulfur water was bottled for sale. A cotton factory was in business on a now-vanished millpond on the south side of Tobacco Street. A factory owned by William Gillette produced bobbins (for silk) made from white birch.

As of 1868, the town had a hospital, eight churches, four general stores, two post offices and seven blacksmith shops.[11] A Yantic River paper factory, capable of turning out about 1.5 tons of Manila paper daily, opened for business in 1873. The 1880 federal census records varied professionals and tradespeople, including shoe- and dressmakers, grocers, hotel- and bookkeepers, woodchoppers, house painters, bricklayers and stonecutters. There were also a judge of probate, a dentist, a bonesetter and two nurses, along with a sea captain and a steamboat hand, who must have worked in one of the nearby river towns.

Farmers still accounted for the majority of citizens. Tenant farming was on the rise, and each spring brought an influx of young men to town from Rhode Island hoping to hire onto Connecticut farms, where conditions were reportedly better. The

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[9] The New London, Willimantic & Palmer line railroad was reorganized as the New London Northern after going bankrupt in 1859. The line was leased to the Central Vermont Railway in 1882. Passenger service ended in 1949. Passenger service on the New Haven line had ended in the previous decade.

[10] The raw product was shipped from New York to Norwich, then hauled by wagon to Lebanon. Processing involved boiling the rubber in water and flattening it into sheets, which were used for making boots and shoes back at the Colchester plant.

[11] James L. Hypes, *Social Participation in a Rural New England Town* (New York: Columbia University Teachers College, 1927), 74.

first of the Eastern European immigrants were also starting to trickle in. Joining forces in 1884, Lebanon residents organized the town's first grange, a local chapter of Patrons of Husbandry No. 21. A new grange hall (currently home to the Lebanon Green Market, 199 West Town Street) opened its doors a year later. Orchard grower Asher P. Smith (son of Asher L.) divided off a lot from the Redwood property for the building site—which probably had something to do with his achieving the post as first grange master.

By the late 1800s, farmers were benefiting from programs and developments being advanced by an educationally progressive state. In 1875 Connecticut had established the country's first state-supported agricultural experiment station, at Wesleyan University, dedicated to improving productivity through scientific research. The Storrs Agricultural School, genesis of the University of Connecticut, opened in 1881.

Inauguration of the town's grange hall coincided with the launch of another important agricultural institution, the Lebanon Creamery (1885). One of the first commercial creameries in Connecticut, this enterprise stood just below a spring on Susquetonscut Brook (behind the present-day elementary school on Exeter Road).[12] Having a reliable buyer nearby for their cream made it feasible for farmers to increase herd size for the first time, because profits could now be made from any surplus.

By the time a display of local butter garnered a gold medal at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the Lebanon Creamery was reportedly the largest operation of its kind in the state. Packaged by hand, its freshly churned product shipped out of town in ice-cooled boxcars heading down the tracks to markets as far away as Providence, Boston and New York. Covered wagons, outfitted with large round collection cans, traveled from farm to farm to pick up the cream, which was also supplied by dairymen in Franklin and Columbia—towns then lacking their own creameries.

The creamery was a clearly a boon to Lebanon farmers, but not necessarily to all of them. At the time of the operation's inauguration, farmers typically made "home" butter with non-refrigerated (sour) cream and kept it cool by hanging it in a well or stashing it in a cellar "butter hole." Commercial-grade butter, on the other hand, called for sweet cream, meaning that any dairyman who wanted to sell his cream for that purpose had to keep it properly chilled in an icehouse. Farmers who couldn't afford that expense—and there were many—were thus shut out of the market. Soon after the creamery opened, it was followed by a cheese factory on Mack Road. This establishment helped mitigate the problem, since cheese could be made without chilled milk.

New Architectural Trends

Throughout the nineteenth century, architectural taste in Connecticut continued to represent British preferences. The Federal style, the first of the post-Revolutionary

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[12] At the time, whole milk for drinking was not a popular commodity. The common practice was to separate the cream, and to feed the skimmed milk to hogs.

expressions, began to show its influence in Lebanon around 1800. The name "Federal" derives from the style's close association with an affluent mercantile class of American Federalists who maintained ties to England after the War of Independence despite the outcome of the conflict.

High-style examples, frequently brick, were generally limited to urban centers like Middletown and New Haven. As was the norm in rural areas, Lebanon's Federal farmhouses were built of wood; as such, they were understated interpretations of an already understated style. No. 9 McCall Road (IF 98) is a typical local version. The façade perpetuates the symmetrical five-bay composition and center-hall plan of the late Georgian period, but its proportions have become more attenuated and its gables narrower, in deference to Federal taste. The house's attic fanlights and tall end chimneys are hallmarks of the period. Nos. 464 Kick Hill Road (IF 77), no. 525 Exeter Road (IF 20) and 947 Exeter Road (IF 31) are also good representations.

Identifying these simply rendered Federal-era buildings can be tricky, however, partly because their characteristics are so subtle. Moreover, many colonial and Federal houses in town, no. 9 McCall Road included, were later updated with Greek Revival entrances after that style came into fashion around the 1840s. The handiwork of a talented craftsman, the doorway on the 1821 Himmelstein farmhouse at no. 6 North Street (IF 106) is an amalgam of both styles.

The immensely popular Greek style spread through New England primarily by architect-builders like Asher Benjamin, who introduced the Greek taste in one of his superbly illustrated pattern books, *The American Builder's Companion*, in 1827. Lebanon's most common Greek Revival farmhouse form was the traditional gable-front version (227 Waterman Road, 138 Goshen Hill Road, IF 122; IF 50). No. 830 Goshen Hill Road (IF 59) exemplifies another variation with a center-chimney plan.

Entry, no. 6 North Street, 1821

If the high number of Victorian-era houses in Lebanon is any measure, domestic building continued apace throughout the 19th century despite the declining population. By mid-century, the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution had become the great equalizer in the fields of architecture and building. Building plans and inexpensive pre-fabricated, assembly-line embellishments—scrollwork, brackets, spindles and posts—could now be sold by mail order and shipped anywhere in the country that had a freight depot. Articles and advertisements in general-interest and homemaking periodicals further exposed the public to new design ideas, and architectural "taste" entered the mainstream for the first time.

When it came to construction, arguably the greatest achievement of the machine age was the balloon frame. This inexpensive, lightweight understructure introduced a welcome alternative to the labor-intensive, hand-hewn timber frames of earlier generations. For one thing, the frame could be easily hammered into place with stock-size lumber and nails, requiring little in the way of skilled labor. By incorporating two-story

studs, running from ground level to attic, the balloon frame also allowed builders to go higher than was generally feasible with hewn frames. One result was the tall, narrow gables, often intersecting, that are a hallmark of the Victorian building (no. 856 Exeter Road).

Early Victorian styles were the product of the English Romantic Movement, which rejected classically inspired design (Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival) in favor of historical styles associated with medieval Europe. Among the first of these to find acceptance was the Italianate, an expression rooted in the building traditions of Tuscany.

856 Exeter Road, Victorian vernacular, 1890

In rural areas, the Italianate found its chief expression in the villa, a comfortable form of country house with modern conveniences promulgated beginning in the 1850s by A.J. Downing and A.J. Davis, popular tastemakers of the day. One of the villa's most distinctive features, its nearly flat roof (with deep eaves for shade), was such an improbable choice for New England winters that its popularity defies logic. Yet that was not the point: Style trumped practicality. The elaborate console brackets and door hoods typical of the style (505 Exeter Road, IF 19) only added to its appeal, and were often applied as updates to make older houses appear more stylish (no. 10 McCall Road; no. 6 Hinckley Road; IF 99, IF 64).

The Lebanon Melting Pot

By the late 19th century, Lebanon's population was starting to diversify as Eastern Connecticut began to absorb waves of European immigrants. By 1880, according to the U.S. census, the town already claimed residents from homelands as diverse as Canada, England, Ireland, Portugal, Prussia, Sweden and Germany. Several families were also specifically identified as coming from the Landgraviate (grand duchy) of Hessen Darmstadt, a state of the Holy Roman Empire that had been allied with the Hapsburgs. The overseer of the cotton mill was Norwegian, and the superintendent of one of the paper factories was Scottish. Many German and Irish women were working as domestic servants, while most of the Irish men filled jobs as millworkers or took up farming.

Eastern Europeans and Russian Jews were another important component of this increasingly heterogeneous mix. Russians began arriving in the U.S. immediately after the 1881 assassination of Russian Czar Alexander II. The first of these refugees to settle in Lebanon were Morris Valinsky, a junk peddler from Springfield, Massachusetts, and his wife Anna. In 1890 the couple bought an abandoned 189-acre farm for $600, putting down $200 in cash and settling the debt with a $400 mortgage from the Willimantic Savings Bank. The family's house and barn have since disappeared, but their name is memorialized by Valinsky Road.

The local melting pot continued to expand in response to an intense national wave of immigration responsible for bringing eight million people to American shores in the single decade between 1900 and 1910. Among them, displaced Poles,

Czechs and Ukrainians also arrived in Connecticut as word of empty farmsteads attracted families to the countryside. Many arrived under the auspices of Jewish relief charities, including the Baron de Hirsch Fund, an extremely influential organization founded in Germany in 1891. At the close of the century, the Baron de Hirsch Fund joined with a London-based group, the Jewish Colonization Society, to become a leading charity for assisting Jewish refugees in the U.S. under the umbrella of the Jewish Agriculture and Industrial Aid Society, and its later offshoot, the Jewish Agricultural Society (JAS).

The primary goal of the JAS was to relocate impoverished immigrants into the healthy air of the countryside to get them out of New York City slums, where conditions were filthy and lung diseases like tuberculosis rampant. In emphasizing farming, Baron de Hirsch also hoped to revive an ancient, but lost, Jewish agricultural tradition and to deflect the anti-Semitism that had been engendered by the more recent association of European Jews with trades and money lending.

The concentration of Jewish farmers in eastern Connecticut was the direct result of the JAS's Connecticut relocation program, which concentrated on two areas—one encompassing Lebanon, Colchester and Chesterfield (A section of Montville), and the other focused on Rockville, Vernon, Ellington and Somers.[13] An army of farm agents helped refugees to identify farms for sale, to obtain mortgages and to qualify for production loans designed to keep farms afloat. Cash became even more readily available when a JAS-sponsored credit union opened in Lebanon in 1912. Within a few years farmers were also able to apply for long-term, low-interest loans under the 1916 Federal Farm Loan Act.

Despite such safety nets, the road to a new life in the Connecticut countryside was not always an easy one. Primarily from backgrounds in the trades, many newcomers were poorly prepared to deal with the challenge of owning and operating a farm in a modern market economy—especially in the Depression years. The history of the old Johnson farmstead at no. 1041 Exeter Road (IF 32) is a case in point. Between 1912 and 1929, ownership of the farm passed through no fewer than ten immigrant buyers in astonishingly rapid succession, changing hands every one or two years. There were also survivors. The property at no. 6 North Street has remained in the same family since 1908, when Louis and Dora Himmelstein, Russian refugees, purchased it with the aid of the JAS.

With no established cultural community to absorb them, Lebanon's newcomers tended to cluster in the same neighborhoods, seeking a sense of belonging among people who shared their language, religion and social customs. A group of Lutherans from Karlswalde, a German ex-patriot colony in Ukraine, populated Village Hill, while Jewish transplants lived primarily in the Exeter and Goshen sections. By 1902, the Jewish community had organized religious services, initially led in private homes by educated farmers who were fluent in Yiddish and Hebrew,

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[13] In 1909 the Federation of Jewish Farmers was organized in New York, with Connecticut forming the organization's largest state association, claiming nearly 400 members as of that year. By 1924 Jews fleeing from persecution and anti-Semitic violence accounted for some two-and-one-half million immigrants in the United States.

before moving to an empty Levita Road schoolhouse in 1933. (A Goshen Hill Road synagogue, IF 60, was built in 1955 after the schoolhouse burned.)

Changing Times

In 1911 agricultural experiment station researchers discovered that the Vitamin A contained in whole milk had nutritional value, and a related effort to get children to drink milk increased demand significantly. Thus began the gradual shift in dairy production from cream to "fluid" milk. Thanks to the JAS, Jewish dairymen, barred from selling to the Lebanon Creamery, found an outlet in the Providence Dairy Company, which sent a milk tank daily by rail to Leonard Bridge Station.

The JAS also kept farmers informed about technological developments and educational events through *The Jewish Farmer*, printed in Yiddish and English. As part of the county farm agent program, Yiddish-speaking field agents made the rounds, dispensing advice and emergency loans. Access to cash and loans encouraged dairymen to grow better feed, like alfalfa, which increased milk yields. Investing in breeds like Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys, enabled farmers to improve production and butterfat content as well.

Poultry farming was another important area of specialization. The Storrs agricultural experiment station was instrumental in advancing the field by introducing the first scientifically designed poultry sheds (1918) and continually offering improvements thereafter. Poultry farmers also adapted old buildings, like the large dairy barn on Exeter Road (IF 40) that the Liebman family repurposed for their large flock of laying hens.

By the early 1920s, Lebanon's population had dropped to a low of about 1,340 citizens. The town's last major industrial plant, the Yantic River Paper Mill (IF 105), had burned down in 1913, and the quarries, textile works and other manufacturers of earlier days had long since vanished. In addition to farming, a number of Lebanon residents had found part or fulltime work outside of the home.

Liebman Farms, 1640 Exeter Road, dairy barn converted to hen house

Some were commuting to jobs in nearby mill towns by car, while others boarded out of town during the week, returning to Lebanon on the weekends.

Farmers continued to run small operations. They raised food for their own use, and peddled surplus produce, eggs and chickens in Norwich and Willimantic. Broilers also went (sometimes by public bus) to a kosher butcher in Colchester. Virtually everyone raised vegetables, and roadside stands were the general rule. The Jaffes on Camp Mooween Road (IF 8) also tempted passersby with cigarettes and ice cream and pumped gasoline (seven gallons for a dollar).

Taking in summer visitors was another common way for families to make ends meet. Come summer, many Lebanon residents (Jaffes and Liebmans included) moved out of their houses and into their barns in order to free up the better bedrooms for paying guests. To minimize the work this ad-hoc lodging service involved, board was usually not included. In the so-called *koch-a-lein* (Yiddish for cook-for-yourself) arrangement, paying guests cooked their own meals, often in separate outdoor kitchens. The Jaffe farm had two such buildings. Taking advantage of a captive market, hosts offered milk, eggs and vegetables to their summer lodgers for an extra fee.

Attractive hotels—part of widespread Jewish resort tradition in Connecticut—were another option for travelers. In the 1920s the Liebmans established a popular local resort known as the Grand Lake Lodge (IF 42) by enlarging a summer boarding house previously run by the Luger family near Williams Pond. Catering to Jewish families, the hotel was hugely popular among urbanites escaping the summer heat. Facilities included tennis courts and a swimming pool; guests enjoyed dances, buffets, picnics and games. The inn, which also hosted conventions, stayed open through early fall in order to hold special dinners in celebration of Rosh Hashanah. A similar facility, the former Lebanon Country Club (IF 9) on Camp Mooween Road featured a nine-hole golf course (later a casualty of Route 2 construction). A third resort on Geer Road attracted young Jewish singles.

Despite the difficulties of the Depression years, Lebanon farmers benefited from the continued support of the JAS and the cooperative extension services

Indoor pool, Grand Lake Lodge

programs. In 1931 the Grand Lake Lodge, always active in the Jewish community, hosted the Jewish Agricultural Society's statewide conference. At the start of the decade, most farms were without running water and electricity. The first subscriber to electricity signed on to Bozrah Light and Power in 1928. A push to deliver service to all farming households followed the winter of 1936–37, when unseasonably mild weather made ice harvesting impossible. Another act of nature, the 1938 Hurricane, also wreaked havoc, reportedly destroying 174 buildings on more than 40 Lebanon farms. Replacement barns, built after the storm using plans from the UConn agricultural extension service still stand at many addresses (748 Goshen Hill Road, IF 56).

Critical to modernization, electricity made it possible to pump water out to barns, to install automated drinking, feeding and waste-removal systems and to power refrigerated bulk tanks (the downfall of the old icehouses). Artificial lighting also advanced poultry farming by extending laying periods.

The development of chicken farming in Lebanon reflects a broader expansion in Eastern Connecticut beginning around the 1920s, owing to the large numbers of

Finns, French Canadians and Jewish refugees from Russia and Eastern Europe who established egg and poultry farms as part of the relocation process. Due to this particular immigrant population, Windham and New London Counties ranked among the largest poultry-producing counties in the United States by the late 1940s. Following World War II, a second wave of German and Polish refugees arrived in the region, traveling on visas that allowed them to enter the United States if they filed as agricultural workers. Many members of this new population also took up chicken farming (IF 61).

A transition from eggs to meat chickens occurred in the 1950s after the development by UConn scientists of a high-energy feed that reduced the growth period for chicks by four to five weeks. The introduction of the chicken barbecue was another major factor in the new demand for broilers. Broiler farming subsequently became a very lucrative business; with a properly heated shed and the correct feed, a farmer could generate a net profit of one dollar per bird. [14]

Most of the large poultry barns found today in Lebanon date from the 1950s and 1960s, when a modern insulated structure became an industry standard. The design, reflecting ongoing research by the UConn agricultural experiment station, was essentially a large rectangular, two- story structure (housing broilers and laying hens) with a very low-pitched shed roof (IF 83). Farmers favored a two-story format because of its smaller footprint; the shed roof minimized construction costs.

Dairy farming underwent major developments in the same period. During the Depression, farmers had been able to get by with as few as eight or ten cows. By the end of World War II, however, they were under pressure to increase production due to surplus milk shipped to Connecticut by large dairies in New York State. State production quotas established in response to the New York surplus were one burden. The shift by wholesalers to tank trucks for pickups also meant that farmers accustomed to sending their milk out in 40-quart cans now had to invest in refrigerated bulk tanks. To adapt to a rising cost-price index, dairy farmers now needed to maintain much larger herds, of 100 head or more, to achieve sufficient output to make economic sense.

In the 1960s and 1970s, expanded herds remained the norm. Dairy farming slacked off significantly in the 1980s after many residents participated in a federally sponsored whole-herd buyout designed to reduce a surplus. The buyout sent thousands of cows out of state to slaughter. Much of the active farmland in town is now leased and under cultivation for corn and hay. About half a dozen Lebanon farms are used for grazing beef cattle. By comparison to the 150 dairy farms in operation at the end of World War I, only five Lebanon farms are now shipping milk. Among them is River Plain Dairy (IF 15), run by Jeffrey Cone, whose father Ted Cone bought a rundown property on Exeter Road in 1968 and brought it back to life. Ted milked from 1968 to 1986 and kept beef stock until 2000. Jeff's herd now includes 40 Holsteins, plus young stock for a total of 100 animals. Most of the feed is raised on site, including hay (50 acres) and corn (56 acres). Each cow produces 22,000 pounds of milk annually.

Once dominating the local landscape, poultry farming also phased out in the 1980s. This was mainly the result of competition from commercial operations in the

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[14] In the early 1950s one Roy Jones introduced the chicken barbecue at the Brooklyn, Connecticut fairgrounds. The idea was to encourage farmers to raise chickens by demonstrating the expanding market for their meat.

Delaware Water Gap area, and farther south in Georgia and Arkansas, where farmers could build sheds more cheaply, without the insulation and other amenities required in cold climates.

Today Lebanon's agricultural landscape is dominated mainly by a handful of major commercial enterprises. The 455-acre Graywall Farm, headquarters of The Farmer's Cow, is the largest dairy operation in town, having absorbed a number of smaller farms. Lebanon is also home to two other massive operations: Kofkoff Egg Farm (Land O'Lakes) on Mack Road (more than 1.2 million hens lay about one million eggs a day) and Prides Corner Farm (IF 120), a wholesale nursery operation that cultivates more than 2,200 types of plants on more than 350 acres. At the opposite end of the spectrum, a number of local families continue the tradition of offering produce and fresh eggs at small roadside stands. The Lebanon Farmers Market, now in its seventh year, also offers a place for local vendors to sell their products, including fruits, vegetables, cheese and honey.

Preserving Lebanon's Agricultural Heritage

Lebanon's move away from family-owed farms has paralleled the town's evolution into a suburban bedroom community. Since 1950, when the population dropped to 1,650 people, the number of citizens has more than quadrupled, putting ever-increasing pressure on one of the town's greatest resources: its land.

The good news is the town's dedicated effort to preserve open space and to promote and protect existing agriculture. As of 2010 some 19,000 acres of real estate (54% of total land area) had been classified under Public Act 490 (1963), which requires Connecticut townships to assess farm- and forestland on the basis of use rather than on development potential or market value. In addition to budgeting funds for land conservation, Lebanon makes town-owned farmland available for lease, and has instituted regulations to establish 100-foot buffers between farms and residential uses. A "right to farm" ordinance is designed to deflect nuisance complaints, and a conservation mandate requires a provision for 50% open-space dedication as part of subdivision plans.

The community currently has 10,000 acres of active farmland, and as of 2014, 5,000 acres of farmland will be under conservation, representing 10% of the state total. In all, 8,000 acres, including all types of land, are fully protected.

In addition to highlighting the historic residential buildings documented on the following pages, it is hoped that this report will raise awareness of Lebanon's agricultural past and inspire efforts to preserve the town's many farm buildings. There is no doubt that the dairy, poultry and other types of barns recorded in this inventory constitute a valuable, if threatened, legacy. While barns and outbuildings are an integral part of such historic landscapes, they seldom attract the spotlight that conservation efforts focus on open space, and thus remain a severely endangered species, threatened by vandalism, fire and neglect. With the loss of each barn goes an irretrievable piece of Connecticut history.

The best tool for barn preservation in Connecticut is the Barn Grant Program of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (www.connecticutbarns.org), designed to help owners understand that abandonment is not the only option. Funds can be used for conditions assessments, restoration plans, feasibility studies and/or to explore adaptive reuse options. Monies are also available for preparing nominations to the State and

National Register of Historic Places. It is highly recommended that the town address ways in which it can help the owners of historic agricultural buildings maintain and reuse these important structures.

Resources Associated with Minorities and Women:

No sites in the survey area were identified as having significant association specifically with women. Many properties, however, are associated with Eastern Connecticut's rich immigrant history, including.

• Kozikowski Farm, 91 Babcock Hill Road
• Jaffe Farm, 9 Camp Mooween Road
• Lebanon Country Club site, 37 Camp Mooween Road
• Leone Dairy Farm, 734 Exeter Road
• Johnson Farmstead, 1021 Exeter Road
• Wasylishyn Farm, 1074 Exeter Road
• Liebman Farms, 1629, 1640, 1644 Exeter Road
• Grand Lake Lodge, 1667 Exeter Road

• Pelkinson Farm, 829 Goshen Hill Road
• Lebanon Synagogue, 857 Goshen Hill Road
• Pokorny Farm 112 Kick Hill Road
• 56 McGrath Lane, St. Mary's Mission Chapel Priest House
• Mill ruins, McGrath Lane
• Himmelstein Farm, 6 North Street
• Horiska Farm, 428 Waterman Road

National Register and Other Recommendations

Maintained by the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places is a federal inventory of significant buildings and sites recognized for their historic, architectural or cultural significance. The listing process for Connecticut properties is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Office of Culture and Tourism, Department of Economic & Community Development in Hartford. To qualify, properties must be proven to have historical and architectural significance according to standards set by the U.S. Secretary of Interior. Any individual or group can propose a particular district or property for listing on the National Register by contacting the National Register Coordinator in the Office of Culture and Tourism.

A property will not be listed if, for individual properties, the owner objects, or for districts, a majority of property owners object. During the time a nomination is under review by state personnel, property owners and local officials are notified of the intent to nominate, and public comment is solicited. Owners of private property have an opportunity to support or object to a nomination. If objections prevent the listing of a qualified district or property, the State Historic Preservation officer may still forward the nomination to the National Park Service, but only for a determination of eligibility. Any property or district that achieves listing for the National Register is automatically included on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places.

Listing on the National or State Registers is an honorific citation only. National and State Register designations do not restrict the rights of owners in the alteration, use, development or sale of their property. However, a review is required if proposed changes involve federal funding, licensing or permits.

Existing National Register Properties in Lebanon:

National Historic Landmarks

Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House (1975), 169 West Town Street
William Williams House (1971), 876 Trumbull Highway

Individual National Register Sites

Clark Homestead (1978), 17 Madley Road.
Capt. Joseph Trumbull Store and Office (1970), 149 West Town Street
Alden Tavern Site (1998), archeological site at a restricted address

National Register Districts

Lebanon Green Historic District (1979), West Town Street and Routes 87, 207, and 289

Recommended listings:

Redwood (David Trumbull House), 589 Exeter Road

An architectural centerpiece of Lebanon's center village, this beautiful Georgian house is considered to be one of the most significant of its era in Connecticut. It was built for David Trumbull (1751-1822), a member of Lebanon's leading merchant families, who was active in the Revolutionary War supply effort. When the duc de Lauzun's legion was sent to Lebanon by the comte de Rochambeau for a winter encampment in 1780, the house served as headquarters for Lauzun. Equally important, the Georgian-style house and interior woodwork were designed by Isaac Fitch, a highly accomplished builder-architect whose work sheds light on architectural tastes of the period. The property is also important for its association with the Asher Smith family, 19th-century commercial fruit growers. The barn, too, is important as a rare example of an English-style barn in the Greek Revival style. Although the site is included in the Lebanon Green Historic District, it should be listed individually due to its high level of quality and significance.

Rural Historic Landscapes

It is recommended that the town of Lebanon evaluate the possibility that certain geographical areas and landscapes may qualify for listing as Rural Historic Landscapes. The Rural Historic Landscape is one of the categories of property qualifying for listing on the National Register as an individual historic site or as a district. Such property is defined as a "geographical area that has been used historically by people, or has been shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy or intervention—and that possess a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways and natural features." For more information, see National Register Bulletin no. 30, "Guidelines for Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes."

Thematic Multiple Property Listing (non-contiguous resources)

Based on the resources documented in this survey, it is also recommended that the town evaluate sites for a thematic, multiple-property nomination of Lebanon's historic farm properties, which would also include sites included in the Historic Resources Survey undertaken in 2012 (Bryant/Karmazinas). This type of district focuses on *shared architectural and historic contexts and themes* and does not require that the properties be contiguous. The resources included, however, must all be individually eligible for the National Register and share similar physical characteristics and historical associations.

A thematic district of historic farm buildings would help to illuminate the stages and patterns of Lebanon's settlement and document the development of a distinctive architectural typology of the surviving agricultural buildings. Such a district would also shed light on the immigrant experience in Eastern Connecticut, provide insight into the economy of local farming and foster appreciation for this important heritage and the buildings (many endangered) that embody it.

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Primary Sources:

Lebanon Tax Assessor Records
U.S. Census Records

Maps:

Baker, William E. *Map of New London County*, 1854
Beers, Ellis & Soule. *Map of New London County*, 1868
Plan of the First Society of Lebanon, 1772

Additional Resources:

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Barn Survey
Historical *Hartford Courant*, Online Digital Resource, Connecticut State Library
Lebanon Historical Society
        Research Files
        Oral History Project

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
        Research Files