

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Eisenman Farm / Cranberry Hollow Record No. 4995
 Building Name (Historic) Bishop, Lewis / Tuttle, Charles and Lydia / Megin, Sarah and Dennis, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 163 Carrington Road
 Town/City Bethany Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Eisenman, Hope, 163 Carrington Road, Bethany CT 06524 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No

Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____

Style of building Carriage barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th c.

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

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Poured, Block</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Vertical wood siding</u> | | |

Structural System

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

Roof (Type)

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

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
 Built up Tile Other _____

Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions Bl: 24' x 32', w/18' x 26', 12' x 18'; Bll: 26' x 18'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: Former adjacent barn removed; additions, repairs, reuse.

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: S NR If NR, Specify: Actual Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- Barn Shed Garage Carriage House Shop Garden
- Other landscape features or buildings: Stone walls, foundation, orchard

Surrounding Environment:

- Open land Woodland Residential Commercial Industrial Rural
- High building density Scattered buildings visible from site

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

See continuation sheet.

• Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*)

See continuation sheet.

Architect _____ Builder _____

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Cunningham, Jan, Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

Cunningham, Janice, Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Lucas A. Karmazinas, Charlotte Hitchcock Date 1/15/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Lucas A. Karmazinas Date 1/15/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.418835, -72.98151

Threats to the building or site:

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

* Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The site is located on the west side of Carrington Road, seven-tenths of a mile south of its intersection with Litchfield Turnpike, nine-tenths of a mile east of Amity Road (Connecticut Route 63), and one-half a mile west of Lake Bethany, in Bethany, Connecticut. Carrington Road and the Litchfield Turnpike form an X-shaped intersection – locally known as Davidson’s Corner – with Carrington Road continuing to the northeast as Connecticut Route 69 and the highway following the original route of Litchfield Turnpike through Woodbridge and on to New Haven to the southeast. North of the intersection, Litchfield Turnpike travels in a northwesterly course before intersecting Amity Road after approximately one-and-a-half miles.

The primary village centers of Bethany were historically located along Amity Road (Route 63). The Congregational and Episcopal Churches are located on Amity Road near the northern edge of the town, with the Congregational Church carriage shed listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The c. 1807 Wheeler-Beecher House, on Amity Road slightly north of the two churches, is also a National Register-listed property. Other farmsteads in Bethany that are also included in this thematic State Register listing are: the Russell Homestead at 20 Round Hill Road; Clover Nook Farm at 50 Fairwood Road; the Abram Carrington Farmstead (Cherry Tree Farm) at 144 Bethmour Road; the Davidson Farmstead at 539 Litchfield Turnpike, RoJo Farm at 312 Litchfield Turnpike, and the Doolittle Farmstead at 329 Downs Road.

The barn sits on an 11.2-acre site once comprised of open fields, yet over the course of the last fifty years largely reforested in deciduous trees. A large lawn of mown grass surrounds the core of the property, abutting Carrington Road. Here Barn I is sited between the Farmhouse to the north, and Barn II to the south. The Farmhouse is a 1 1/2-story, five-bay, gable-roofed cape-style residence erected c. 1796. It measures 34’ x 27’ and faces Carrington Road with its ridge-line oriented roughly north-south. The Farmhouse has a fieldstone foundation with rough-cut stone blocks above grade, horizontal board siding, wood corner boards and window trim, six-over-six double-hung sash, and a central red-brick masonry chimney. The five-bay east eave-side once consisted of a centered entry with two double-hung windows in each of the two bays to the north and south. However this entry was replaced with a window by the present owners after the entry hall had been converted for use as a bathroom by a previous resident. Current entries to the residence are located on the south gable-end of the main block and in a 1-story, gable-roofed addition adjacent to the southwest corner of the Farmhouse. The former has a wood-paneled door with nine glass panes and frame surround with fluted pilasters and wide entablature.

The side ell measures 18’ x 13’. Once a summer kitchen, it was converted into the primary kitchen by the current owners in the early 1950s. At this time, the west eave-side of the home was extended to the west, thus converting the old kitchen and enlarging it as the living room and exposing the hand-hewn rear posts. Concrete block infill was added to the west foundation wall below the sill and the rear roof-line flared to cover the one-story extension. A Modernist living room interior was created at that time including remodeling of the old cooking hearth fireplace. The attic story of the Farmhouse was originally unfinished except for a chamber on the north side which had plastered walls and a curved plaster ceiling. These details have been preserved and additional attic-story rooms framed out. A number of hand-hewn framing members remain visible throughout the home, most notably in the living room, attic, and cellar.

Barn II is located to the south of Barn I. It is a one-story post and beam structure with a side-gabled saltbox-style roof. The barn faces Carrington Road and its ridge-line is oriented north-south. The three-bent, two-bay storage building has a two-bay opening with two sliding doors suspended from a metal track. The posts, girts, plates, and braces are hand-hewn timbers, while the rafters are circular sawn. The primary framing appears to be of original construction, suggesting that the building pre-dates Barn I. Barn II has vertical wood siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Paired multi-pane hopper windows can be found on the north and south gable-ends, and the west eave-side.

The grade of the property slopes down to the west away from the buildings. Although several 18th- and 19th-century farmsteads remain (see nomination for 539 Litchfield Turnpike nearby), the area is primarily residential, as typified by twentieth-century suburban-type housing on large parcels.

* Other notable features of building or site (*Interior and/or Exterior*):

Architectural description:

Inventory of structures (C – contributing, NC – non-contributing):

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| House | c. 1796 | C |
| Barn I | Late 19 th c. | C |
| Barn II | Early 19 th c. | C |

Barn I – Carriage Barn:

This is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure, measuring 24' x 32', with its ridge-line oriented east-west perpendicular to Carrington Road. As noted, the grade of the property slopes down from east to west exposing a basement level accessible on the west gable-end of the building. Two 1-story, partial-width, shed-roofed additions flank the north and south eave-sides of the barn, these flush with the east gable-end of the main block. The primary entry to the building consists of a pass-through door located on the west gable-end of the north addition. Additional entrances consist of another pass-through door on the east gable-end of the north addition, two pass-through doors located on the west gable-end of the main block, and a two-bay opening spanning the width of the south addition's south eave-side. The barn's foundation is a mix of fieldstone and concrete block; the siding is vertical wood boards, these painted red yet generally faded; and the roof is sheathed in wide rough-sawn horizontal boards, modern plywood, and asphalt shingles.

Exterior:

The entrances to the ground level of the main block are located at the opposite ends of the west gable-end. There is a pair of horizontally-oriented, multi-pane hopper windows to the interior side of each door. These have six panes each and painted white trim. An outward swinging hay door, measuring roughly 3' x 2', can be found off-center toward the left (north) above the windows. A painted hex detail, approximately 4' in diameter, is located in the gable-end of the west elevation. The detail is of Pennsylvania Dutch origin and is inspired by the owner's Western Pennsylvania heritage.

The west gable-end of the north addition has a frame pass-through door flanked on its interior side by a pair of horizontally-oriented, multi-pane hopper windows. Two pairs of similar windows are found on the addition's north eave-side. The east gable-end – that facing Carrington Road – consists of vertical wood siding broken by a single frame pass-through door.

The east gable-end of the main block has a pair of hinged doors in its gable, these providing access to an area originally used for hay storage. A wood block has been placed over the opening where a hay fork once extended beyond the plane of the building, the cantilevered support having since been removed. Two small, four-pane hopper windows flank the hay doors just below the roof-line of the main block.

The shed-roofed addition on the barn's south eave-side has a full-width, one-bay opening leading to a covered storage area, dirt-floored, below the loft level of the main block. A fenced enclosure is located to the west of the addition, this forming a small rectangular yard currently used as a run for chickens. The south eave-side of the main block is broken by a small swing door leading from the chicken run into the building, above which are four horizontally-oriented, multi-pane hopper windows.

Interior:

The interior of the main block's upper level reveals a three-bay, four-bent, square rule post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts and diagonal bracing. The original framing is circular sawn with the posts measuring 6" x 7" and the plates measuring 6" x 6". The common rafters are butted at the ridge. The original tie girts have been cut and removed at the plate, this to accommodate a hay track running the length of the building. A heavy cantilevered beam, tie girt, and purlins were added at the eastern end of the barn to support the hay fork. It appears that the alteration may have caused the barn to spread over time as a steel cable and two dimension lumber replacement ties were installed in order to support the first, second, and third bents, respectively. Long diagonal braces are visible in

the eastern bays of the south side of the barn, forming a triangular truss supporting a clear opening below where the storage space extends below. Steel rods have been added on either side of the post over the center of the opening, these bolted from above and below in order to further support the span.

The west gable-end of the barn shows evidence of alterations subsequent of the demolition of a formerly adjacent structure. Framing members at this end of the barn include a mix of hand-hewn, circular-sawn, and dimension lumber, while the exterior sheathing consists of 4"-wide tongue-and-groove boards, the latter differing from those found on the other exterior elevations of the main block.

Five sliding hay doors are located just above floor level on the north eave-side of the hay loft. These correspond with five horse stalls which comprise the majority of the space within the north addition. A frame stair – the only access to the loft level of the main block – runs down to the west end of the north addition. A pass-through door leading into the yard is located directly to the west of the stair landing and the aforementioned horse stalls run along the north eave-side of the main block to the east. The addition is of balloon construction erected with dimensional lumber. Frame half-walls with iron stanchions divide the horse stalls, each stall having an iron hay bin suspended just below the hay door leading into the loft. The floor of the addition is poured concrete with wood boards lining the floor of the stalls.

The two pass-through doors on the west gable-end of the main block's lower level each lead into small room, these divided from each other by a wall of vertical wood boards. The ceilings and portions of the exterior walls are whitewashed, suggesting that this space once housed dairy cows. Today the northern room is used for storage while the southern space houses a flock of chickens.

A sliding door in the southern room leads into the area below the eastern end of the main block. This consists of a bay perhaps once used for carriage or equipment storage. Part of the bay has since been framed out in order to store lumber. Small openings with swinging doors along the northern side of the space provide light and ventilation into the horse stalls beyond. The shed-roofed addition extending beyond the original one-bay opening consists of a mix of repurposed hand-hewn timbers and dimension lumber. Aerial photographs indicate that the addition was erected between 1934 and 1965, perhaps using framing materials reclaimed from the barn removed from the site during that same period.

* Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This farmstead is significant for its intact complex including the modest 18th-century farmhouse, with two barns ranged along a roadway that remains a narrow unpaved lane. The barn is a good example of a square rule post and beam framed barn which has been adapted to uses including horses, chickens, and a social living space. The property gains significance from its association with two prominent figures in the 20th-century art world, Theodore Sizer and Alvin Eisenman.

Historical background:

The Town of Bethany was incorporated after separating from the Town of Woodbridge in 1832. At that time the property was held by a farmer by the name of Lewis Bishop (b. 1802). On December 17, 1851, the land passed to a Charles Seymour Tuttle (1816-1868), another farmer. The Tuttle were a prominent family in Bethany and the name can be found scattered throughout the area on a map of the town drawn in 1868. At the time he acquired the house on Carrington Road, Charles Tuttle resided in a house four-tenths of a mile away that he inherited from his uncle, the Captain Chauncey Tuttle, in 1844 (currently 429 Sperry Road, built c. 1799).

The 1860 Federal Census records indicate that Charles Tuttle was employed as a farmer and lived with his wife Lydia (b. 1817), son James (b. 1844), and daughters Sarah (1840-1918) and Marion (b. 1852). James was listed as a farm laborer, while Sarah was listed as a domestic servant. Upon the time of Charles Tuttle's death in April 1868,

both the Carrington and Sperry Road properties were passed to Sarah as James had since married and set off to make his fortune out West.

Sarah married Dennis Megin (1847-1941), a farmer and son of an Irish immigrant, in 1869, and they had two children, a daughter, Lillie, and a son, Charles. Dennis eventually rose to local prominence as a peach and dairy farmer. An architectural history of the Town notes that, “S.G. Davidson refers to Dennis Megin as ‘the heaviest peach grower in the town’ who ‘with his fine crop furnishes some of the large stores in New Haven’” (Bunton). The history elaborates further, stating that, “Megin and his son also kept cattle and carried out ‘many schemes in improved farm work’” (Bunton). What these schemes might have been is unclear, however, indications of the Megins having kept a dairy herd on Carrington Road are still visible in the lower level of Barn I.

Sarah Megin died in February of 1918; however, the two properties did not legally pass to Charles until March 16, 1920. By this point in time, it appears that both Dennis and Charles Megin had removed to New Haven and Charles sold both properties to an attorney, Harrison T. Sheldon, the very same day they came into his possession. Sheldon took up residence on Sperry Road while renting the house on Carrington Road to a family by the name of Nachouk who raised chickens on the property.

Following Sheldon’s death on May 1, 1933, both properties were purchased by Theodore “Tubby” Sizer (1892-1967), an art history professor at Yale University, Director of the Yale Art Gallery, and a painter, weaver of hooked rugs, and designer of heraldic banners for Yale’s schools and residential colleges. Sizer and his wife, Caroline Foster Sizer, were the parents of five daughters and one son, Theodore R. Sizer, a prominent education-reform advocate. The Sizers resided in their house on Sperry Road while the Carrington Road property housed workers associated with farming activities the family maintained on both properties, among these being the raising of horses.

On November 24, 1950, the Carrington Road property was purchased by Alvin and Hope G. Eisenman. The Eisenman family relocated from Chappaqua, New York after Mr. Eisenman took a job in graphic design at the Yale University Press. Eisenman had a central role in founding the Yale School of Art graphic design program where he taught for over 40 years, while the family simultaneously carried on a degree of the property’s agricultural character. They raised horses and chickens, and held barn dances, fundraisers, and parties in the barn’s hayloft. Alvin Eisenman died in September 2013. They kept the visible exterior of the Farmhouse intact while modernizing the interior and rear elevation in a 20th-century modernist style. Eisenman contributed the design of Alice Bice Bunton’s 1972 book, *Bethany’s Old Houses and Community Buildings*.

Architectural significance:

Barn I is significant as a typical example of a square-rule post and beam barn erected during the mid-to-late 19th century. Built to supplement a pre-existing building, the barn is a good illustration of the frequency and ease with which agricultural structures were enlarged or altered to suit the changing needs of their owners. An aerial photograph of the site taken in 1934 indicates that the west gable-end of the barn was once connected to the gable-end of another structure, this extending approximately 40’ to the west. The latter was removed at some point during the 1930s or 1940s, however, despite the loss of the adjacent barn, the current structure has continued to support the agricultural activities associated with the property for the more than 70 years since the other section was taken down. Furthermore, the barn itself demonstrates evidence of alteration, expansion, and the recycling of materials that characterize so many of the agricultural structures which have survived from this period.

The site, with its barns and farmhouse, is significant for the Tuttle-Megin family history. Under the ownership of Dennis and Charles Megin the property supported peach and dairy farming activities, the former of which the Megins were locally renowned. The property is also notable for its connections to the Theodore Sizer, a proponent of contemporary art who administered the WPA art program in Connecticut and was instrumental in obtaining the gift of the Societe Anonyme collection from Katherine Dreier and Marcel Duchamp for the Yale Art Gallery.

The Eisenman ownership links the property with the role of the Yale School of Art in the modern art movements of the 1950s and later. At the time that his contemporaries in the School of Architecture were building Modernist homes in the wooded suburbs surrounding New Haven as well as in the city itself, Alvin Eisenman chose to live in a historic farmstead, making his Modernist imprint only in the interior.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Lucas A. Karmazinas, 1/15/2013.

Interview with Sara Eisenman, daughter of the owner, 1/15/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Bethany Assessor's Records http://www.prophecyone.us/fieldcard.php?property_id=2437391
Parcel ID: Map 124/14

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 1/15/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.html .

USGS Historical Maps accessed 1/15/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

UTM coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

Print and internet resources:

Barnett, Joni, *The Barns of Bethany*, Bethany Historical Society, video, 1996.

Bunton, Alice Bice, *Bethany's Old Houses and Community Buildings*, Bethany Library Association, 1972.

Connecticut State Library online: [iconn.org](http://www.cslib.org/iconsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories) or <http://www.cslib.org/iconsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories>

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, *Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory*, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/4995>

Cunningham, Janice, *Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview*, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

Ghory-Goodman, Anne, *Alvin Eisenman, Biography*, AIGA web site, 1991,
<http://www.aiga.org/medalist-alvineisenman/> accessed 1/28/2013.

The New York Times,

“Yale Will Lose a Colorful Aide,” *New York Times*, May 21, 1957, accessed at <http://www.nytimes.com/10/08/2013>;

“Theodore Sizer, Art Teacher and Heraldist, Dies,” *New York Times*, June 21, 1967, accessed at <http://www.nytimes.com/10/08/2013>;

Slotnick, Daniel E., “Alvin Eisenman, Graphic design educator, dies at 92,” *New York Times*, September 9, 2013, accessed at <http://www.nytimes.com/10/05/2013>.

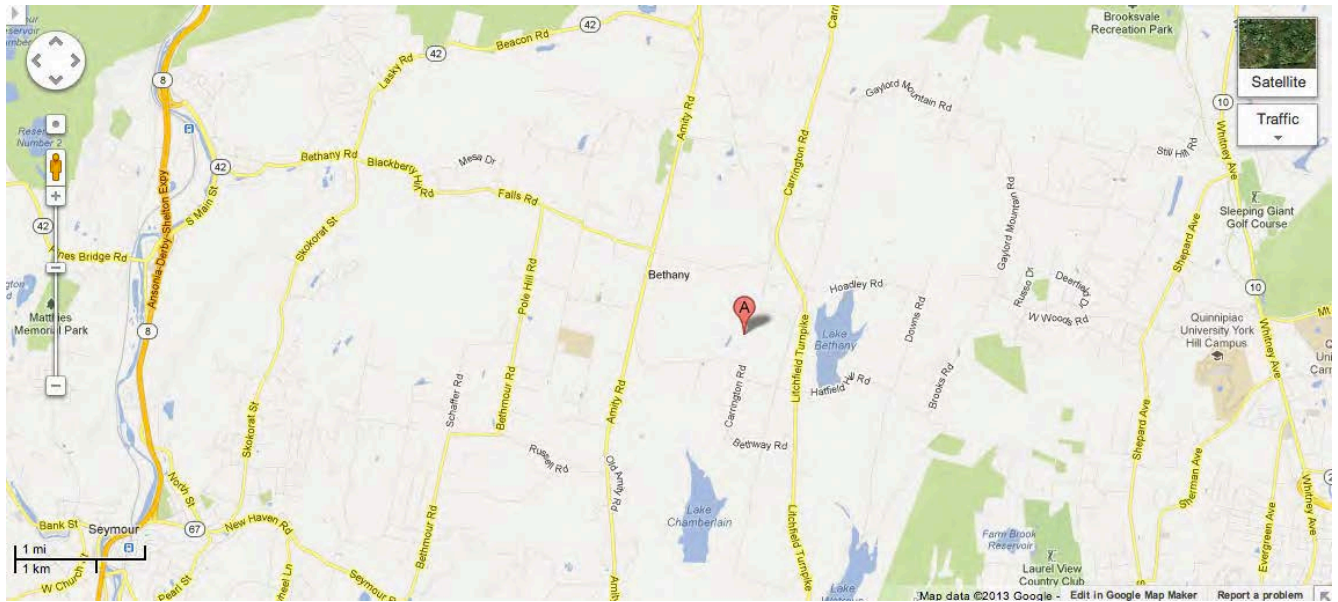
Sexton, James, PhD; *Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn*, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

U.S. Federal Census, accessed at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>

Visser, Thomas D., *Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings*, University Press of New England, 1997.

“Exhibit pays tribute to an icon of graphic arts at Yale,” *Yale News*, May 2, 2011,

<http://news.yale.edu/2011/05/02/exhibit-pays-tribute-icon-graphic-arts-yale> accessed 1/28/2013.



1. Location map of 163 Carrington Road, Bethany, CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 1/15/2013.



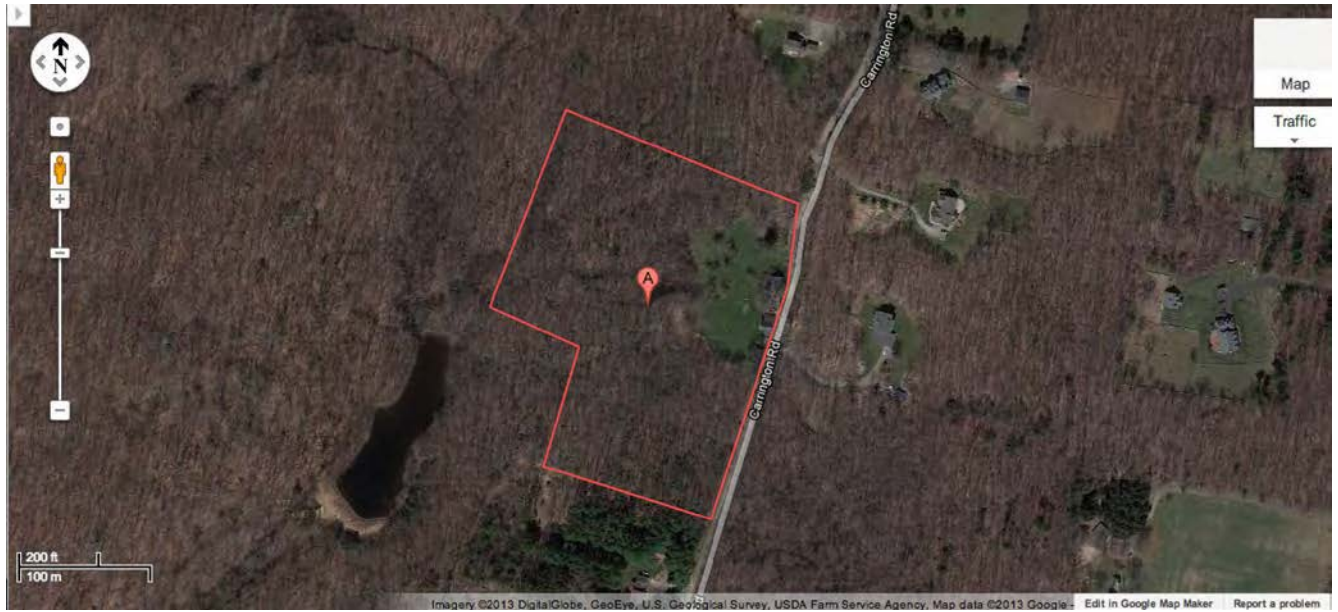
2. Southwest view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 163 Carrington Road, Bethany, CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 1/15/2013.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

163 Carrington Road, Bethany CT

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3. Parcel map of 163 Carrington Road, Bethany, CT – base image from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 1/15/2013.



4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources numbered as Barns I through II and Farmhouse. Base image from Google Earth via Google Maps.



5. Northwest context view of 163 Carrington Road, Bethany, CT, camera facing southeast. From left to right: Farmhouse, Farmhouse kitchen addition, Barn I, Barn II.



6. South and east elevations of Farmhouse and Farmhouse kitchen addition, camera facing north.



7. East and north elevations of Barn II, camera facing southwest.



9. West and south elevations of Barn I, camera facing northeast. Note hay door and geometric detail in gable end.



10. West and south elevations of Barn I, camera facing northeast.



11. East and north elevations of Barn I, camera facing southwest. Note hay doors in gable end.



12. South and east elevations of Barn I, camera facing northwest.



13. South and west elevations of Barn I, camera facing northeast. Note chicken run at southwest corner of barn.



14. South elevation of Barn I, camera facing northeast. Detail of hopper windows and chicken run door.



15. Interior view of Barn I second floor level, showing framing detail, camera facing southeast. Note location of removed tie-girt and framing over south bay opening at right.



16. Interior view of Barn I second floor level, showing framing detail of hay track, camera facing northeast. Note replacement support framing and hay door at rear.



17. Interior view of Barn I north addition, showing horse stalls, camera facing northeast. Note the iron stanchions.



18. Interior view of Barn I north addition, showing horse stall hay catcher, camera facing south. Note hay door opening above.



19. Interior view of Barn I lower level, showing whitewashed walls and ceiling, camera facing east.



20. Interior view of Barn I lower level, showing openings between carriage bay and horse stalls, camera facing northeast.



21. Interior view of Barn I south addition, showing recycled framing, camera facing northeast.