

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) Russell Farmstead / Hill Top Farm Record No. 5116
 Building Name (Historic) Russell, Daniel, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 20 Round Hill Road
 Town/City Bethany Village _____ County New Haven
 Owner(s) Bethany Historical Society, 512 Amity 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 By appointment and during events
 Style of building English barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th c.

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten | <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <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 Approximate Dimensions Barn I: 1644 sf; Shed II: 1054 sf; Coop III: 576 sf

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: 20th c. conversion to dairy, school bus garage addition

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

Surrounding Environment:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

See continuation sheet.

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

See continuation sheet.

Architect _____ Builder _____

• Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

• Sources:

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

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/7/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/25/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.391254, -73.0029

Threats to the building or site:

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

- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This 3.1-acre parcel is located on the north side of Round Hill Road, west of its intersection with Amity Road (Route 63). The site is at the southern border of Bethany close to the town line with Woodbridge. The farm is located on a relatively level saddle of land between Round Hill to the south and a broad plateau to the north. A stream running southwest drains the area. The present acreage appears to be the remnant of a larger farm with the Farmhouse dating from the mid- to late-18th century.

The primary village centers of Bethany were historically located along Amity Road (Route 63), which runs north-south along a height of land. The Congregational and Episcopal Churches are located on Amity Road near the northern edge of the town, about 3.5 miles northeast of this site, 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. Farmsteads in Bethany that are also included in this thematic State Register listing are: the Abram Carrington Farmstead (Cherry Tree Farm), 144 Bethmour Road; Clover Nook Farm, 50 Fairwood Road; the Davidson Farmstead, 539 Litchfield Turnpike; RoJo Farm, 312 Litchfield Turnpike; the Bishop-Tuttle-Megin Farmstead, 163 Carrington Road; and the Doolittle Farm at 329 Downs Road.

The Farmhouse is located on a rise above the road and is a 1 ½-story cape-style building with its ridge-line oriented east-west. The south eave-side faces the road, with a level landing formed by a low fieldstone wall adjacent to the house and stone steps leading down to a narrow lawn area. The south side is a five-bay façade – originally the central door was flanked by two windows on each side. In the 1940s the door was moved one bay to the left (west) and a window moved to the center. The windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. Several courses of fieldstone foundation are exposed at the southwest corner, with grade rising toward the northwest. The west gable-end has two similar windows at the ground floor level widely-spaced and two in the attic close together. The east gable-end has similar fenestration but a fully-exposed foundation with windows and a door to the basement. A 1-story gable-roofed well room addition is attached at the northeast corner; this has its ridge-line east-west and has a full-height fieldstone foundation exposed on the south side. The main block is 31' x 39', the well room is 8' x 13', and a shed addition 7' deep spans the entire north side, extending the roof-line in a saltbox form. This has a continuous row of six-pane windows and two pass-through doors located near the west and east ends. The addition is un-heated and functions as a porch or mud room. The house has wood shingle siding and asphalt shingle roofing.

The Farmhouse interior formerly had a center chimney mass, but most of it was removed in the early- or mid-20th century. The interior layout consists of two parlors at the south side with a narrow room between, formerly the entry hall or porch. To the north, the northwest corner was historically a burning room, the northeast room is the kitchen, and a bathroom and pantry are located at the center. The house is of post-and-beam construction, though significantly modified by the removal of the chimney mass and installation of central heat. The eastern part of the basement was used as a summer kitchen and for canning. The current owners have been restoring it as a house museum, to a pre-World War II period.

Outbuildings include Barn I northwest of the Farmhouse, a long wagon shed (Shed II), to the north, and two chicken coops. The larger of these (Coop III) is a 2-story flat-roofed coop located west of the barns, and the smaller (Coop IV) is a 1-story shed-roofed structure to the northeast of the wagon shed.

Shed II, the wagon shed, is a five-bay structure with its south side open. Much of it is wood construction, but the western gable-end wall is exposed concrete block masonry.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	c. 1785	C
Barn I	19 th -20 th c.	C
Wagon shed II	20 th c.	C
Chicken coop III	20 th c.	C
Chicken coop IV	20 th c.	C

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½-story three-bay eave-entry English barn with several additional bays added to the east end, the easternmost being a school bus garage. The ground level of the western three-bay block has been adapted to use as a dairy cow stable, with the upper loft level remaining as a hay loft. The original frame is obscured on the interior but is visible from inside the hay loft.

Exterior:

The south eave-side of the western block has a series of six-pane stable windows – from left to right, a pair, a triple, another pair – followed by a door opening at the right (east) corner. To the right (east) the south wall of the eastern portion steps out five feet toward the south. A 1-story shed-roofed milk room addition is attached to the east of the doorway. It has a six-pane stable window on each of the east and west gable walls. The upper level has no openings; siding on this block is wood shingles.

The east portion of the barn appears by the deflections in the roof line to consist of three bays. The left (west) bay is largely encompassed by the milk room addition but also had, prior to recent repairs, a small stable window at the ground level (replaced by a larger sash) and a large six-pane window at the loft level (removed). To the right the next bay has a hinged pass-through door and a six-pane stable window. The rightmost (eastern) bay has a sliding barn or garage door and to the right a two-over-two double-hung window matching those of the Farmhouse. The two righthand bays have at the loft level a row of four six-pane windows just under the eave line. Siding was formerly a mix of vertical boards on the milk room bay and horizontal lap siding on the right two bays. During rehabilitation horizontal siding has been installed across all three bays and the discontinuities that indicated construction of each bay as an addition, are less noticeable.

The east gable-end wall of the barn has a slight saltbox profile, as the north wall is stepped out to the north. The gable-end had, prior to renovation, a two-over-two double-hung window in deteriorated condition, now replaced by double-hung sash. The north eave-side of the barn has three windows in the two easternmost bays – two of these appear to be modern while the rightmost is a six-pane stable window. The third bay from the east steps back to the plane of the western block and has a pass-through door and a double-hung window. This portion of the barn has horizontal wood lap siding. To the right (west) the three-bay block has a pair of sliding doors in the left bay with a hay door above, and a modern double-hung window in each of the bays to the right. This section has horizontal wood lap siding.

The west gable-end has wood shingle siding, a slight saltbox profile with the north eave-line lowered, a six-pane attic window near the peak, and on six-pane stable window at the main ground level near the right (south) corner. Grade declines toward the west and the fieldstone foundation is exposed along the west and part of the south sides. Prior to renovations the barns was a mix of unpainted shingle siding and red-painted horizontal siding, with white trim. Following renovation all walls are red with white trim. Roofing, with no overhangs, is asphalt shingles.

Interior:

The western block is approximately 20' x 35'. The ground floor has a central row of posts supporting a longitudinal girder. The girder carries cross girders which appear to correspond to the three bays and terminate at posts in the

north and south walls. Floor joists for the loft level run longitudinally (east-west). The structure at the ground floor has traces of whitewash, the concrete floor indicates the location of a manure gutter running east-west parallel to the south wall, and there are remains of wood stanchions between the central posts – all indicate occupancy by dairy cows in a single row facing north.

At the loft level older post-and-beam framing is visible, including square rule framing, dropped tie-girts with a single central post at each bent (truncated at the floor level and carried by the longitudinal girder below), and pegged mortise and tenon joints. Timbers bear the straight saw kerf marks of a water-powered sash saw. In the north wall at the northeast corner of the three-bay frame, a double post and discontinuous plate show that the western three-bay barn must have had another post-and-beam structure added on to extend it eastward. Further east, the added bays are constructed of balloon framing with sawn dimension lumber. Common rafters are of sawn dimension lumber. Recent repairs have been made with locally-sourced lumber sawn to match the dimensions of the old material. Structural reinforcement with modern technology including hurricane clips, has been inserted during rehabilitation work.

The eastern bays include a workshop and a garage bay.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

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

The Russell Farmstead is significant because of its history of ownership by a single family for over 200 years. The configuration of the buildings still represents the lifestyle of a small family farm and is being preserved by the stewardship of the Bethany Historical Society. The house is substantially intact. The barn has the historic core of an English barn, and reflects the modifications typically made to adapt to early 20th-century dairy requirements. An unusual feature of this farmstead is the school-bus garage and the history of Olive Russell's service to the town as the school-bus driver as the transportation system changed from horse-drawn to motorized.

Historical background:

The farmstead has been traced back as far as 1832 in Bethany tax records, with Daniel Russell (1776-1843) as the owner. Records prior to 1832 are yet to be searched elsewhere, as Bethany separated from Woodbridge in that year.

The property passed to Daniel's son, Daniel W. Russell and then to his sister Nancy Russell (1810-1889). In 1889 ownership passed to Amos Russell (1820-1891), Nancy's brother and subsequently to Harriet E. Russell (1840-1916), wife of a nephew Wright L. Russell (1846-1939). Their son, Arthur E. Russell (1884-1948), inherited the property with his wife Olive. Historic aerial photography shows substantially the same buildings as are extant now, with the surrounding landscape including an orchard to the northwest of the barn complex and open fields to the west, north, and east where today woodlands, housing, and commercial businesses exist.

Olive (1891-1984) and Arthur had 12 children, Lena, Charles, Henrietta, Ruby, Edna, Alice, Merritt, Dorothy, Loris, Sidney, Ernest, and Robert. Olive was also the town school bus driver, first driving a series of horse-drawn vehicles, later a Ford station wagon, and finally a green school bus.

During Arthur and Olive's ownership, the central chimney mass was removed and the front door moved from the center to the present location. The original windows in the house were apparently replaced after 1900, as indicated by a historic photograph (Bunton). The replacement two-over-two sash are typically Italianate style 19th-century materials, and since some of the same windows appear in the bus garage bay of the barn, perhaps the Russells "modernized" with recycled second-hand windows, re-using them for the house and barn.

Ernest and Mary Russell donated the property to the Bethany Historical Society in 2004 and Society members have been working since then to restore and rehabilitate the farmstead.

Architectural significance:

The Russell Farmstead is significant because of its history as a subsistence farm owned by a single family from probably before 1800 until 2004, a span of over 200 years. The configuration of the buildings still represents the lifestyle of a small family farm and is being preserved by the stewardship of the Bethany Historical Society. The house is substantially intact, with the exception of the central chimney mass. The barn has the historic core of an English barn, and reflects the modifications typically made to adapt to early 20th-century dairy requirements. In this case the dairy operation was at a small-scale, with a single row of perhaps 10 or 12 cows. Chicken coops represent the common practice on a family farm, with the 2-story chicken coop being a particularly well-preserved example. An unusual feature of this farmstead is the school-bus garage and the history of Olive Russell's service to the town as the driver who transported children to school as the one-room schoolhouses were phased out in favor of a consolidated school system and the transportation system changed from horse-drawn to motorized.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Melissa Antonelli, 1/05/2008; Charlotte Hitchcock, 10/05/2011, 7/08/2012; Les Warner 2010-2012.

Interview with Les Warner, President of the Bethany Historical Society, 7/08/2012, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Bethany Assessor's Records http://www.prophesyone.us/fieldcard.php?property_id=2438443
Parcel ID: 114/18

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 7/25/2012.

Historical aerial photography accessed 7/25/2012 at <http://www.historicaerials.com/> .

USGS Historical Maps accessed 7/22/2012 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.

Collins, Barrie, "Olive Russell: Bethany's pioneer sSchool bus driver," Waterbury Republican, March 23, 1977.

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/5116> .

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

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>

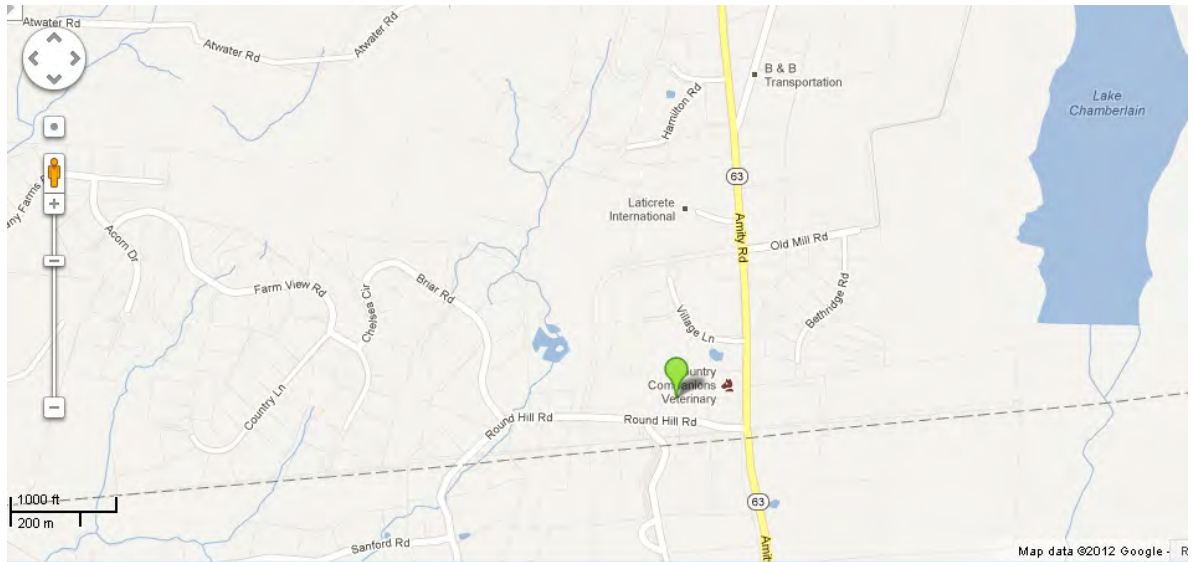
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

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20 Round Hill Road, Bethany CT

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1. Location map of 20 Round Hill Road, Bethany CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> .



2. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 20 Round Hill Road, Bethany CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> .



3. Parcel map of 20 Round Hill Road, Bethany CT – base image from <http://maps.google.com/>. Tree and stone wall lines indicate approximate property boundaries. Contributing resources are labeled.



4. Southeast view, c. 1900 photograph (Bunton), showing original window sash, door, and center chimney.

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5. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.



6. Southeast view of Farmhouse, camera facing northwest. Note basement access in east end and well room at right.

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7. North view of Farmhouse, camera facing south.



8. View of north wall at interior of shed addition, camera facing west.

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9. Detail view of basement showing the east side of the remnant chimney base and first floor framing, camera facing northwest.



10. Southeast view of Wagon shed II, camera facing northwest.

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11. Southwest view of Wagon shed II, camera facing northeast.



12. Southwest view of Chicken coop III at left and Barn I at right, camera facing northeast.

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13. Southeast view of Chicken coop III at left and Barn I at right, camera facing north.



14. Southeast view of Chicken coop IV, camera facing northwest.

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15. Southwest view of Barn I, camera facing northeast. The shingled section is the three-bay English barn; to the right are later additions.



16. South view of Barn I, camera facing north. View prior to rehabilitation work shows different siding on each bay, indicating different times of construction. The projecting addition was the milk room.

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17. Southeast view of Barn I, camera facing northwest. View prior to rehabilitation work.



18. North view of Barn I, camera facing southwest. View after rehabilitation work. Coop III is at right rear.

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19. Interior view of Barn I ground level, camera facing east, showing structural alterations for dairy stable use.



20. Interior view of Barn I loft level, camera facing northwest. View after rehabilitation work shows replacement framing, collar ties, and hurricane clips added to existing post and beam frame with dropped girt. Note left side has vertical board sheathing with wood shingle siding while right (north) wall has replacement horizontal lap siding.

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21. Interior view of Barn I loft level, camera facing northwest, showing interior bent with dropped tie girt.=.



22. Interior view of Barn I loft level, camera facing northeast. This is the easternmost bent of the three-bay English barn frame; note the double post, evidence of a second post and beam frame erected adjacent to the east end of the first frame. Only part of this frame appears to be extant.

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23. Russell family photograph, courtesy of the Bethany Historical Society. Olive Russell seated at the right.



24. Commemorative plaque 2011, Bethany Historical Society.

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25. North view of farmyard from Coop IV, camera facing south, showing Farmhouse at left, east end of Barn I beyond the east end of Shed II at right.



26. South view of Barn I from Round Hill Road, camera facing north, prior to rehabilitation work.