

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) Mapleleaf Farm Record No. 14922
Building Name (Historic) Mapleleaf Farm
Street Address or Location 768 Gilead Street
Town/City Hebron Village Gilead County Tolland
Owner(s) Ellis, Edward A. and Renee J., 768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT 06248 ☐ 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 Limited - occasional farm tour events

Style of building New England connected barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th, 20th. c.

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

☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding
☐ Fieldstone ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone ☐ Aluminum Siding
☒ Concrete (Type cast-in-place) ☐ Cut Stone (Type _____) ☒ Other Vertical wood siding

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 34' x 80'

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: _____

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: Silo, photo-voltaic array for electricity generation, hoop house, 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:

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/23/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/21/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.685508, -72.417337

Threats to the building or site:

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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT

Record No. 14922

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• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Mapleleaf Farm is located on a hilltop on the east side of Gilead Street (Route 85), which runs generally northwest from the center of Hebron toward Glastonbury. The village of Gilead occupies the hilltop extending southward, with at its center the 1838 Gilead Congregational Church. In the late 19th century, Gilead appears to have been more densely settled than today's Hebron center. The homestead house and barn complex is located on a 93.46-acre parcel bounded on the west by Gilead Street and on the north by Hardy Road. The farm includes more than 400 acres on multiple parcels of land, growing crops to feed its 500 head of dairy cattle (including 240 milking cows), and rents 190 acres as well.

The Farmhouse is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed structure with its west gable-end facing the street and its ridge-line oriented east-west. The core of the house is a c. 1821 three-bay side-hall structure, approximately 23' x 26', with a pedimented attic gable. A 1-story porch with Victorian turned posts covers the west gable end of the first floor and wraps around the south eave-side. The double-hung windows are one-over-one replacement sash. Siding is horizontal clapboard and vinyl siding; roofing is asphalt shingles. A 2-story ell, 17' x 44', extends east from the rear, the ridgeline also oriented east-west, and has a 1-story porch on its south eave-side.

Two 1-story gable-roofed sheds (15' x 32', and 22' x 30') link the Farmhouse with Barn I, a New England barn sited to the southeast of the Farmhouse. The western shed, adjacent to the rear ell of the house, has two pairs of hinged doors with iron strap hinges, and between the doors a nine-pane window. The eastern shed has two overhead garage doors. The north sides of these sheds have exposed concrete foundation walls, as the grade slopes down toward the north.

A shed-roofed milk room, 18' x 19', is attached to Barn I at its southwest corner; an equipment shed, 32' x 48' is attached at the southeast corner by a connecting passageway; and a silo is located at the north side.

The farm also includes a number of additional outbuildings: a pair of pole barns to the east, another equipment shed or garage south of these barns; and several barns, a silo, and two pole barns grouped with the associated farmhouse on the north side of Hardy Road. Additional structures are a cell phone tower on the hill top and an array of photo-voltaic panels that generate electricity. The pole barns are the basic buildings of the working dairy farm, incorporating current state of the art in dairy. Cows in a free stall barn can walk around, eat, drink, and rest at will; the open sides have curtains that are lowered in winter to protect from wind and snow, and raised in summer for ventilation, fans and misters cool the cows in hot weather. The milking parlor was built 1967, and expanded in 1990.

Open pastures and fields surround the buildings to the north, east, and south. A farm pond is located in the northeast part of the property and wooded areas are to the east. The town center of Hebron, and the Hebron Center Historic District, are located 3.5 miles to the southeast at the intersection of Gilead Street (Route 85) and Main Street (Route 66).

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	c. 1821	C
Barn I	mid-19 th c.	C
Silo	mid-20 th c.	C
Pole barns	1967-2012	NC

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½-story gable-entry New England barn approximately 37' x 72' with entries at both ends. The ridge-line is oriented roughly east-west and the barn is connected to the Farmhouse by a pair of sheds attached end-to-end at

the northwest corner. Other structures are attached, including a shed-roofed milk room at the southwest corner and a silo mid-way along the north eave-side.

Exterior:

The west gable-end faces the rear of the Farmhouse and has a tall door opening slightly off-center to the south, with an overhead door at the interior. The doorway is flanked by a window on the left and a pass-through door and a pair of stable windows on the right. The left (north) portion is covered by the attached shed/garage while the right corner has the attachment of the shed-roofed milk room. Above the doorway is a transom opening and in the attic there are two window openings and a vent at the peak.

The south eave-side of the barn is covered by attached additions including the milk room and a narrow shed connecting to the large equipment shed that is adjacent. Above the shed roof of the connector, the top of a pair of hinged barn doors can be seen, with iron strap hinges. This suggests the possibility that the barn may have been constructed as an English barn and later converted to the gable-entry that exists now. The south-facing roof pitch has metal roofing with the words "ENJOY MILK" painted in large letters, visible both from the road and from the air.

The east gable-end has two openings, in approximately the center, with an overhead door, and near the right (north) corner. In the attic there are two window openings and a vent at the peak. An attached shed covers the left (south) corner.

The north eave-side has a concrete foundation up to approximately 30 inches above the floor level. Grade slopes down along the north side, exposing a greater height of the foundation wall. The silo, of the stacked concrete pre-cast ring type, is near the center of the length and is connected to the barn by a low shed connector. There are two long horizontal window openings to the left (east) of the silo, and one similar opening and another square opening to the right of the silo.

The barn has vertical board siding, the roof has an overhang at the eaves and rakes with exposed rafter tails. The north pitch of the roof has asphalt shingle roofing, and there are two metal ventilators on the ridge.

Interior:

The barn interior shows evidence of considerable remodeling over the years. The main structural frame is a square rule post and beam frame with pegged mortise and tenon joints. Many of the timbers are sawn with the straight kerfs indicating use of a water-powered sash saw. Much of the ground level framing has been cut out and replaced by a row of closely-spaced posts forming a barrier enclosing the heifers who live in the barn. Above, however, the original framing layout is visible. The barn appears to be a four-bay layout, with bay widths from west to east of 22', 16', 20', and 18'. Two interior posts in each bent form the longitudinal three-aisle configuration. At the loft level these posts are offset outward and support purlin plates at the mid-span of the common rafters. The north wall has been cut away and the lower portion replaced with concrete.

Rafters appear to be a mix of sawn timbers square in section and some rounded poles; they meet at the ridge butting against a square ridge pole. A metal hay track is attached to the ridge pole. The exterior siding suggests a cross tie-girt location at the plate height although this could not be observed in the interior.

• 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.

Mapleleaf Farm is significant because of the age of the original core farmhouse and barn, dating back to the 1820s, with added significance deriving from the locally rare connected barn and house configuration. Operation of the farm by the fourth generation of one family and their progressive farming methods which are carrying the farm successfully into the 21st century, give it added significance. Ned and Renee Ellis's Mapleleaf Farm is a member of The Farmer's Cow, which markets dairy and egg products produced by the six member farms.

Historical background:

The Farmhouse was built in 1821 and the attached barn about the same time. The 1869 Gray "Atlas of Tolland and Windham Counties," shows this corner as having two houses owned by J. C. Hutchinson and J. M. Way. 780 Gilead Street, the Hutchinson homestead, was named a Local Historic Property in 2010, while John E. Ellis and C. Daniel Way appear to have been co-owners of this farmstead as of 1906.

After moving from another farm within the Town of Hebron, Edward (Ned) Ellis's great grandparents John E. (b. 1857) and Emily (b. 1857) Ellis purchased the present farm in Gilead in 1903. Their son Asa W. (b. 1882) and his wife Winifred (b. 1880) had four children – Edith, Ruth, Lena, and Kenneth (b. 1910-1996). Kenneth and his wife Dorothy (1913-2009) had five children. Son Ned and his wife Renee are the current owners while a sister lives in a neighboring house on Hardy Road.

While the family's dedication to the land has not changed, farming methods have progressed dramatically in 100 years. Until the mid-1960s the farm raised poultry and had only around 20 dairy cows. The Kenneth and Dorothy, then later Ned and Renee, have constructed new facilities, purchased additional land, and expanded their dairy operation to 240 milking Holstein cows and 260 non-milking young heifers. The barn roof at Mapleleaf Farm Inc. proclaims, "Enjoy milk!" with good reason – the farm produces over 5.3 million pounds of milk annually, averaging more than 8 gallons per cow each day.

To help protect farmland in central Connecticut forever, Mapleleaf Farm has recently sold development rights to the State of Connecticut on 250 acres of land and purchased 175 acres of already-protected farmland. Currently the farm grows 275 acres of corn, 90 acres of alfalfa and 50 acres of grass to feed its cows throughout the year.

Architectural significance:

Mapleleaf Farm is significant because of the age of the original core farmhouse and barn, dating back to the 1820s, with added significance deriving from the locally rare connected building configuration. The continued operation of the farm by the fourth generation of one family and their progressive farming methods which are carrying the farm successfully into the 21st century, give it added significance. The barn structure reveals indications of a possible origin as an English barn, including barn doors in the south eave-side, now blocked off, and the squared ridge pole, a feature not common in 19th-century New England barns.

Asa W. Ellis (b. 1882) was a locally and regionally prominent citizen, serving as a state legislator and a deacon of the Gilead Congregational Church.

Ned and Renee Ellis's Mapleleaf Farm is a member of The Farmer's Cow, which markets dairy and egg products produced by the six member farms. The owners of The Farmer's Cow are active members in The Connecticut Farmland Trust and the Working Lands Alliance, involved in protecting Connecticut farmland.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Judy Brown and Deena Watson 6/14/2010.

Interview with Ned Ellis 6/23/2012, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Hebron Assessor's Records <http://www.hebronct.com/assessor.htm> & GIS Viewer:
<http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/CT/Hebron/#>
Parcel ID: 44-27 (93.42 acres), additional parcels.

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 7/04/2012.

Aerial photos by G. Leslie Sweetnam for Farmers Cow

< <http://www.glsweetnam.com/FarmersCow/Farmerscow.html> >

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

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

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

Gray, O.W., Atlas of Tolland and Windham Counties, Keeney, C.G., Hartford, 1869.

USGS Historical Maps accessed 6/22/2012 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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

Print and internet resources:

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/14922> .

Hebron Historical Society, Images of America: Hebron, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston SC, 2004.

Hebron Town Ordinance 94-1, Historic Preservation, adopted 6/16/1994, amended 11/04/2010.

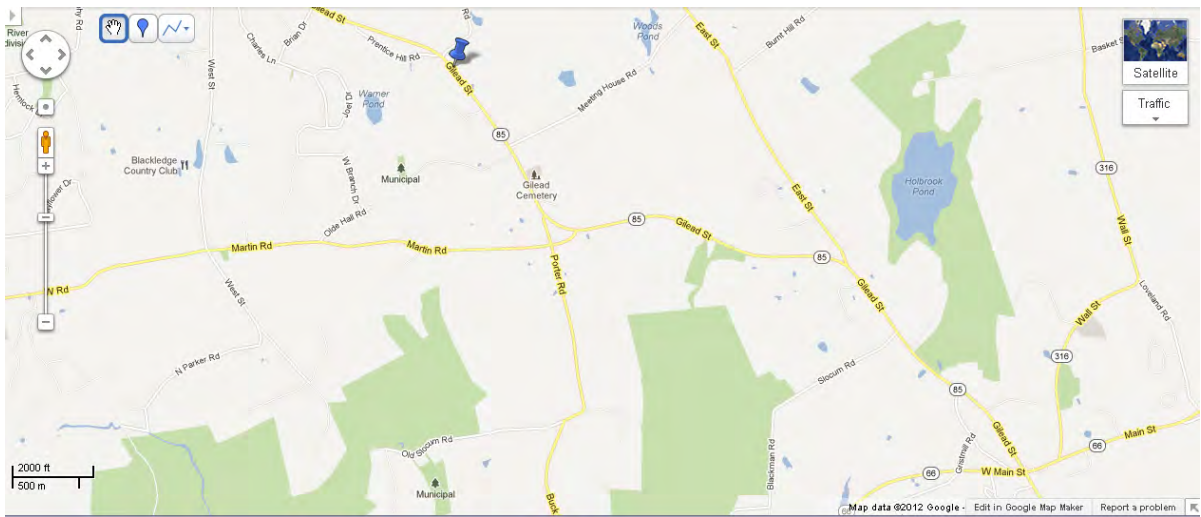
Hubka, Thomas C., Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England,
University Press of New England, Hanover NH 1984.

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

The Farmer's Cow web site: <http://www.thefarmerscow.com/farms/mapleleaf.html> .

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.



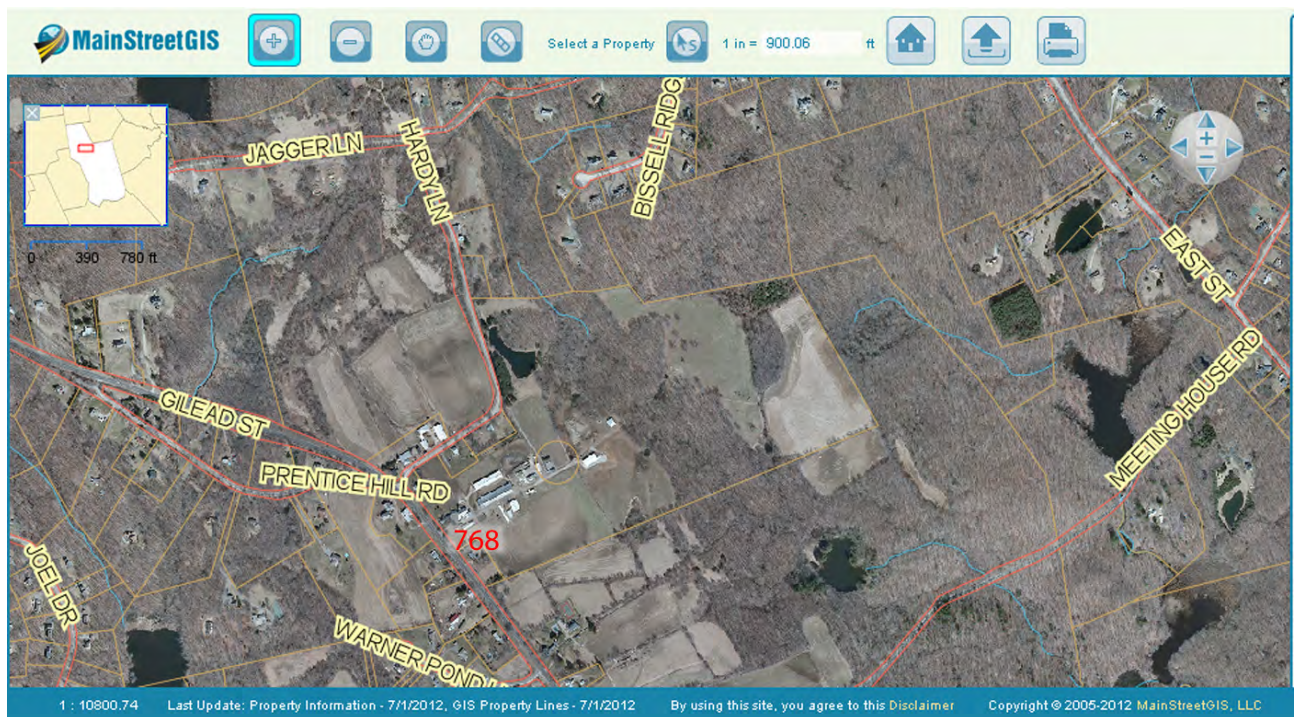
1. Location map of 768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 7/20/2012.



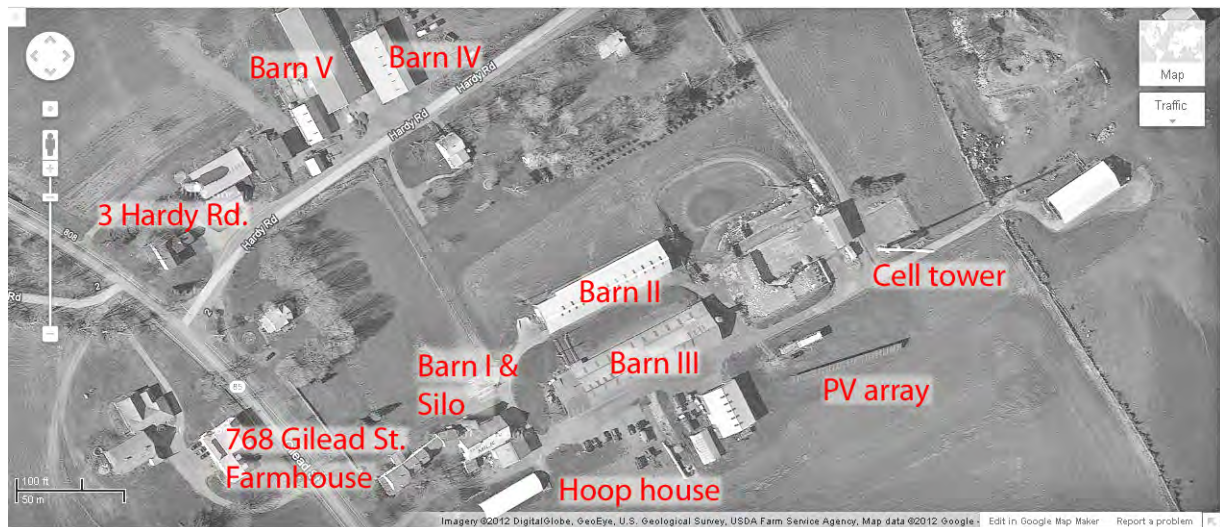
2. North “bird’s-eye” view of 768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 7/23/2012.



3. South “bird’s-eye” view of 768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 7/23/2012.



4. Parcel map of 768 Gilead Street, Hebron CT – from Town of Hebron GIS Viewer
<http://www.mainstreetmaps.com/CT/Hebron/#>



5. Detail Site Plan Sketch. Contributing historic resources are the Farmhouse and Barn I. Other identified outbuildings are non-contributing.



6. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing north; Barn I at right rear.



7. West view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.



8. West view of Barn I, camera facing northeast. At left are the two connecting sheds. At right is the milk room, and at left rear the top of the silo is visible.



9. Southwest view of Barn I, camera facing northeast. Old cave-side doors, now blocked, are visible in the cave-side, beyond the milk house.



10. Northeast view of Barn I and Silo, camera facing southwest. Connecting sheds and Farmhouse are at right rear.



11. Northwest view of Barn I, camera facing east, showing Silo, north side of garage shed, and pole barn beyond.



12. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing east. Note timber ridge pole and hay track; note the offset upper posts, possibly indicating alterations at the ground level.



13. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing west, showing overhead door; note how door opening is offset from the center of the roof-line.



14. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing southwest, showing altered ground level stable area with truncated post timbers.



15. Southwest view of Barn III, camera facing northeast.



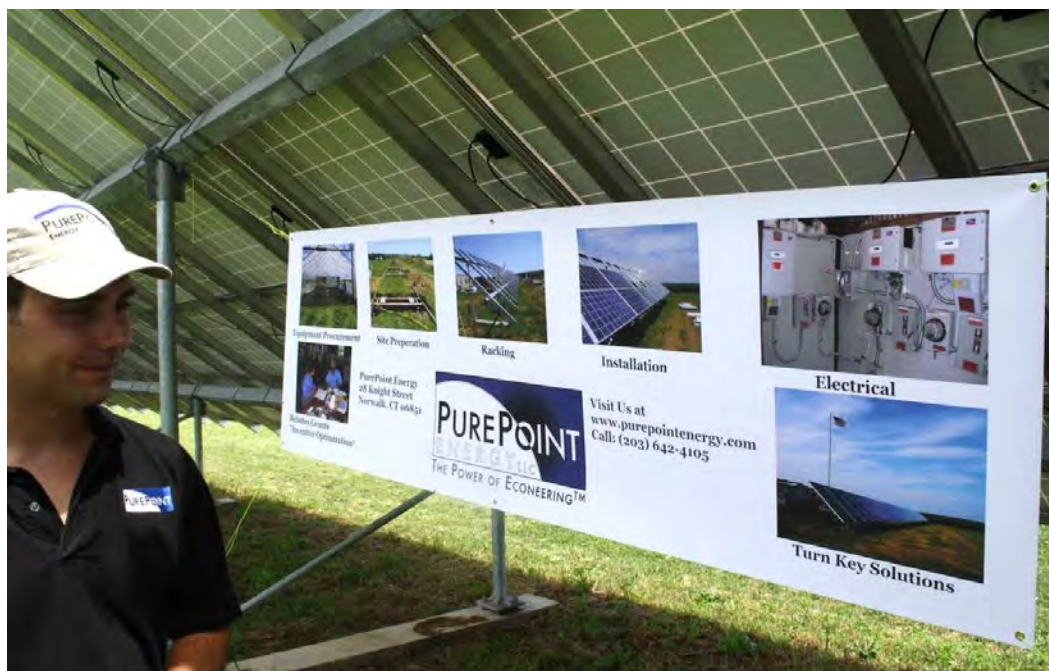
16. South view of barns at 3 Hardy Road, camera facing north.



17. South view of barns at 3 Hardy Road, camera facing north. Barn V, the newest free stall barn, is the bright red structure at the center.



18. Northeast view of Barn V on the 3 Hardy Road parcel, camera facing south.



19. View of photo voltaic array, mounting system and exhibit, camera facing southeast.