

## 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) North, Susan, Farmstead Record No. 53329  
 Building Name (Historic) Ramutan, Joseph and Agnes, Farmstead  
 Street Address or Location 390 Kent Cornwall Road  
 Town/City Kent Village North Kent County Litchfield  
 Owner(s) Susan North, 390 Kent Cornwall Road, Kent CT 06757  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 English 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 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 Pressed metal shingles

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions 30' x 35' plus additions

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: Fencing, in-ground pool, llama paddock, 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 2/27/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 4/03/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:

**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 southeast side of Kent-Cornwall Road (US Route 7) at the southeast corner of Carter Road, near the northern border of Kent. The Housatonic River parallels the road on the west side; to the north is Kent Falls State Park, where in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a marble quarry was located. The site of the North Kent District No. 3 School was on the northwest side of the road just to the south of this property. The Flanders National Register Historic District, the earliest area established by English settlers and town center in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is 2.5 miles to the south. A mile further south is the Kent Iron Furnace, listed on the National Register and the Sloane Stanley Museum featuring the tool collection of Eric Sloane. The town center of Kent is another mile south along US Route 7. Bulls Bridge, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places is a covered bridge crossing the Housatonic River near the southern border of Kent.

The present owner, Susan North, has lived here since 1970. She formerly owned 11.4 acres, but has since sold land, leaving the current 5-acre parcel. To the west across the road a 35' x 65' gable-roofed former barn and a 30' x 70' former tobacco barn have been converted to residences. According to Susan North, these were at part of the same larger property, the Ramutan dairy farm prior to 1970.

The farmhouse at 390 Kent Cornwall Road is sited on a knoll overlooking the road. It is a 2 ½-story Colonial-style structure with its north eave-side facing toward the road, river, and the main barn across the road. The ridgeline is oriented approximately east-west. The five-bay façade has two twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows on each side of a central entry door under a gable-roofed 1-story porch. The second floor has matching windows with a small six-over-six double-hung window at the center above the porch roof. Vinyl siding obscures any original details of siding or trim; original windows are extant. The entry door is flanked by narrow sidelights. The east gable-end attic has a three-part window consisting of a central double-hung sash flanked by narrow sash, also double-hung. The west gable-end has a Federal-style lunette window with radial muntins. Some openings on the first floor have been replaced by modern bay windows. The roof has short cornice returns on the gable-ends and is asphalt shingles. A single chimney is off-center toward the west. The foundation is marble fieldstone masonry, with the west end exposing a half-height basement as the grade declines. A 1-story rear porch across ¾ of the south side has marble masonry steps and a hipped roof.

A driveway enters the site to the west of the house and extends southeast into the interior of the site where it circles around a garage-workshop building. A small brook runs parallel to the west of the drive through the middle of a fenced paddock where several llamas graze and have a small roofed shelter. The garage-workshop structure, 1-story with a gable roof is located south of the house. It is oriented northwest-southeast and has a garage door opening in its northwest gable-end. To the east of this is the barn complex, oriented perpendicular to the house. A small 1-story gable-roofed shed, 9' x 14', is located adjoining the northeast corner of the barn, with its ridge-line east-west; its concrete floor and board wainscot walls suggest use as a calf shed or similar function.

An open area to the southeast is used by a landscape company to store materials. The southern part of the site is wooded. Stone walls line the north and east borders adjacent to Kent Cornwall Road and Carter Road.

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

**Architectural description:**

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

Farmhouse	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Barn I	19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Shed	19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Garage-workshop	19-20 <sup>th</sup> c.	C

**Barn I:**

The barn on this property is located southeast of the Farmhouse and is oriented with its ridge-line running north-south and the entries in the west eave-side. The structure consists of three parts. The central block is a 1 ½-story

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English barn, 26' x 34'. A lower 1 ½-story gable-roofed addition, 20' x 25', is attached at the north gable-end. Attached on the south gable-end is a lower 1 ½-story gable-roofed wagon shed addition, 26' x 32'. All have vertical wood board siding. The west pitches of the roofs are all asphalt shingle roofs. The east pitch of the central block is also asphalt shingles, while the additions have older pressed metal shingle roofing.

**Exterior:**

The central block is a two-bay English barn with a single height sliding door just north of center in the west eave-side. There is one stable window to the left near the north corner, and two hinged hay doors above at the loft level. The east eave-side has a barn door corresponding to the west side, and boarded-up stable windows flanking the door.

The north addition has a series of stable windows in its east eave-side, flanking a pass-through door which is off-center toward the left (north). The north gable-end is blank except for a vent at the peak. A small shed-roofed addition the size of an outhouse, is attached to the northwest corner, with a pass-through door in its west side. The east eave-side has two small stable windows.

The south wagon shed addition has three bay-wide openings in the west eave-side. The south gable-end has a twelve-pane attic window near the peak. A small shed addition is attached to the gable-end. This has a pass-through door and six-pane window in its west gable-end and a small six-pane window in the east gable-end. The east eave-side of the wagon shed has no visible openings but is tarped with plastic sheeting.

**Interior:**

The central block of the barn is a two-bay square rule post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts. The common rafters are of sawn dimension lumber although the major timbers are mostly hand hewn. The rafters span from the plates to the peak without intermediate supports, although a few collar ties have been added in recent years. The interior tie-girt has an added steel tension cable installed below the girt. The loft floor, inserted approximately five feet below the plate elevation, is framed with sawn dimension lumber which has been painted or whitewashed; this appears to have been an addition to the original post and beam structure. The ground floor is fitted out as horse stalls.

The northern addition is constructed with post and beam framing as well, and has unplanned poles as roof rafters. The northern section of this was most recently used for poultry.

The southern wagon shed addition may be the oldest portion of the barn, being constructed with hand-hewn post and beam framing, dropped tie-girts, and hand-hewn rafters supported by a typical queen post and longitudinal purlin system. Here too a loft floor has been inserted at about four feet below the plate elevation. The tie-girts have been truncated, with a central section removed. Some steel cable reinforcement has been added in about 2011.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

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

The house and barn together are significant as typical examples of their type in a rural setting along with adjacent properties that were formerly under a single ownership. They remain in a setting reflective of the earlier character of the agricultural landscape. The 20<sup>th</sup>-century ownership represents the history of northern European immigration and the pattern of immigrants moving onto farms with their already-historic buildings and adapting them for commercial dairy operations.

**Historical background:**

The Farmhouse appears to be roughly contemporary with the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Federal style houses in the Flanders Historic District, where the first village center of Kent was located in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The 1874

Beers Map lists L. Stuart Estate as the owner. Nearby at the time was a marble quarry at the site of today's Kent Falls State Park. This may have been the source of marble stone used in the foundation of the Farmhouse.

In the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Ramutan family, Joseph B. (b. 1882), Agnes (b. 1890), and son Edward (b. 1925) were dairy farmers in Kent. It was from the Ramutan estate that Susan North purchased the Farmhouse and associated barn in 1970 after it had stood vacant for several years. The Ramutans were from Lithuania.

**Architectural significance:**

The house and barn together are significant as typical examples of their type in a rural setting along with adjacent properties that were formerly under a single ownership. They remain in a setting reflective of the earlier character of the agricultural landscape. The Farmhouse retains original window sash and some distinctive Federal-style details, although much is obscured by 20<sup>th</sup>-century siding. The Farmhouse and its barn sit on a prominent knoll, facing across the road to the main barn and tobacco barn in the floodplain of the Housatonic River, at a gateway location near the northern border of Kent. The barn has elements of hand-hewn post and beam framing, combined with later alterations to adapt it to a horse barn and wagon shed. The distinctive tin shingles remaining on the east pitch of the barn roofs are historic materials of interest.

The 20<sup>th</sup>-century ownership represents the history of northern European immigration and the pattern of immigrants moving onto farms with their already-historic buildings and adapting them for commercial dairy operations.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 2/26/2013.

Interview with Susan North, 2/26/2013, at the site.

**Map resources:**

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 3/31/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

[http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash\\_up/1934.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html)

[http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical\\_maps\\_connecticut\\_towns.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.html) .

USGS Historical Maps accessed 3/30/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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

**Print and internet resources:**

Clouette, Bruce, Keiner, Hal, Flanders National Register Historic District No. 79002618, National Park Service, 1979.

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

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/53329>

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.



1. Location map of 390 Kent Cornwall Road, Kent CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 3/25/2013.



2. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 390 Kent Cornwall Road, Kent CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 3/26/2013. Farmhouse and Barns are indicated on the south side of the road. Tobacco barn and Main dairy barn indicated to the north formerly belonged the same farm but are now under different ownerships and converted to residences.



3. North view of Farmhouse, camera facing southwest. Note twelve-over-twelve sash, tripartite attic window, and marble foundation stone.



4. Northwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing southeast. Note attic lunette window and marble foundation stone.



5. South view of former Tobacco barn, camera facing north; now converted to a residence under separate ownership.



6. Southeast view of former Main dairy barn and Silo, camera facing northwest; now converted to a residence under separate ownership.





7. North view of Garage/workshop, camera facing south; Barn is visible at left rear.



8. North view of Barn and Shed (at left), camera facing south.



9. Southeast view of Barn and Shed (at right rear), camera facing north.



10a-b. Interior view of Barn central section, loft level, camera facing south.



11. Interior view of Barn framing, camera facing north at northwest corner of loft level. Note hand-hewn timbers, dropped tie-girt detail.



12. Interior view of Barn loft level, showing connection between central block and north addition, camera facing east. The double corner posts suggest that two complete barn structures were assembled abutting at the gable ends.



13. Interior view of Barn central block, ground level, camera facing east, showing horse stall configuration.



14. Interior view of Wagon Shed addition at south end of the Barn, loft level, camera facing northwest. Note the dropped tie-girt (center cut out for access), queen post, purlin plate, and hand-hewn rafters.



15. Southeast view of Wagon Shed addition with metal shingle roof, camera facing north.



16. Interior view of Shed, camera facing west, showing timber framing.



17. Interior view of Shed, camera facing northeast, showing board wainscoting.