

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) Brown's Turkey Farm Record No. 3151
 Building Name (Historic) Brown, George C. / Brown, Colonel James Franklin, Farmstead / Wychwood Farms
 Street Address or Location 254 Mystic Road
 Town/City North Stonington Village _____ County New London
 Owner(s) Wychwood Farms Ltd. Partnership, 456 Taugwonk Road, Stonington 06378 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 Gambrel ground-level stable barn, Craftsman style Date of Construction 1936

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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>horizontal 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 35' x 75' and 35' x 70'

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: stone walls, silos

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

See continuation sheet.

Photographer Kristen Young Date 2/26/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Charlotte Hitchcock Date 3/20/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.430183, -71.927962

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn (Barn I) sits on 240 acres of land on the west side of Mystic Road (Route 201). On the east side, directly across from the barn, is an additional 125 acres of land with a house, two barns, and a poultry house that are all part of this farm. The house with which these barns are associated was built c. 1987 on the foundation of a previous house that was destroyed by fire. To the northwest of the House, on the west side of the road, is where Barn I is located. To the north of Barn I are two silos and a modern 20th century barn (Barn II). To the northeast of the house, on the east side of the road, are Barns III, IV, and the Poultry house. Stone walls are found throughout the property on both the west and east sides of the road. Forested land is to the west of Barns I and II, and to the east of Barns III, IV (two perpendicular wings of open bay wagon storage), and the 2-story Poultry house. An open field is to the south of Barns I and II, and also to the southeast of the House.

This property is located on Mystic Road (Route 201) which goes from Old Mystic, in Stonington, into North Stonington. Found in the southwest corner of North Stonington, the property is on the North Stonington/Stonington town line. Just to the south, in Stonington, is the intersection of Al Harvey Road and Mystic Road. To the northwest is land of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Reservation. Approximately four miles to the northeast is the North Stonington Village National Register Historic District. Kingwood and Meadow Park is to the northeast of the property, and approximately a mile to the west is the border of Ledyard. A few residential properties are found along Mystic Road.

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

Architectural description:

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

House	c. 1987	NC	Barn II	Late 20 th c.	NC
Barn I	1936	C	Barn III	c. 1832	C
Silos I and II	Mid-20 th c.	C	Barn IV	c. 1832	C
Poultry house	c. 1832	C			

Barn I:

This is a 1 ½-story, T-shaped, gambrel-roof ground-level stable barn with three additions. The north block of the barn measures approximately 35' x 75,' and the south block measures approximately 35' x 70.' The ridge-line of the north block of the barn runs approximately east-west, perpendicular with this portion of Mystic Road, while the ridge-line of the south block of the barn runs approximately north-south, parallel with this portion of the road. The barn is clad in horizontal wood board siding painted white. It has a mortared fieldstone foundation wall extending up to the sills of the stable windows and diamond-pattern asphalt shingles on the roof. Metal vents are located on the ridge of the south section of the roof while a large vented cupola is on the ridge of the north section of the roof. Projecting triangular hay hoods extend the roof of the south gable-end and the east gable-end of the north block. Details such as the multi-paned windows, cornice returns and rake molding, eyebrow dormers and cupola, give the barn an unusually stylish appearance for the building type.

Exterior:

Extending off the east eave-side of the south block of Barn I, near the south corner, is a gable-roof addition, probably the milk room. This addition has horizontal board siding painted white, a concrete foundation, and asphalt shingles on the roof. To the north of the addition, and heading north, are as follows: an exterior-hung sliding door with an eight-pane window set within, four nine-pane windows, and another exterior-hung sliding door with an eight-pane window set within. Two shed-roof dormers with twelve-pane windows are found on the east slope of the roof.

The south gable-end of the south section of Barn I has two exterior-hung sliding doors on both the east and west corners. A side-hinged hay-door is centered above the entries. Flanking the hay-door are six-over-six double-hung

windows with trim. Located in the gable attic is a pair of exterior-hung sliding hay- doors. A hay track protrudes from the apex of the south gable-end and a projecting hay hood from the peak of the roof.

Attached to and encompassing the west eave-side of the south section of Barn I is a shed-roof addition which extends south of the main block as a gable roof. The shed-roof addition has a mortared fieldstone foundation, board-and-batten siding, and metal panels covering the roof. A long row of stable windows in the west eave side indicates use as a dairy stable.

Found on the west gable-end of the north section of Barn I is a banked basement with a pair of door openings with remnants of a hooded track for exterior-hung sliding doors. Near the south corner are two leaves of an exterior-hung sliding door with eight-pane windows set within. This area may have been used to collect manure from the main stable level directly overhead. Above, on the main level of the barn, is a series of eight window openings, some are now boarded. In the upper level of the barn are two six-over-six double-hung windows, and found in the gable attic is a window opening that is now boarded.

The grade inclines towards the north, and a mortared fieldstone retaining wall extends off the west corner of the north eave-side of the north block of Barn I. An exterior-hung sliding door and a window, now boarded, are near the west corner of the north eave-side. To the east is a pair of interior-hung sliding doors flanked by two windows. To the north of this, an open air shed-roof addition with a metal roof extends to the north. Five hopper windows are near the east corner of this side.

To the north of the Barn, linked by the metal-roofed addition, are two Silos. The northern Silo I is a concrete stave silo with a metal dome roof. The southern Silo II is a blue enameled steel Harvestore silo.

Near both the north and south corners of the east gable-end of the north section of Barn I are exterior-hung sliding doors with eight-pane windows set within. Between the doors is a nine-pane window. Above this is an exterior-hung sliding hay-door, and to the north is a window opening, now boarded. Two six-over-six double-hung windows are above the hay-door, and in the gable attic is an exterior-hung sliding hay-door. A hay hood extends from the peak of the roof, with a hay track protruding from the gable attic.

On the south eave-side of the north section of Barn I, there are two six-pane windows spaced evenly. Set within the roof is a shed-roof dormer with a twelve-pane window, now boarded.

Interior:

The entry on the east eave-side of the south section of the barn leads into an open space with concrete floors and white painted wood walls. In the south gable-end of the south section of the barn is the turkey processing area. A wall divides the south section of the barn from the north section. Found in the north section of the barn are cow stanchions along the east and west sides, forming a middle aisle with a layout for two rows of cows facing outward. The manure gutters are still visible, although they have been filled in with concrete. In the east gable-end of the north section of the barn are some stalls that once housed horses. A staircase in the east gable-end of the north section of the barn leads to the loft above.

Wood plank floors and walls are found in the loft area. The balloon framing of the barn is visible in the loft and includes an approximately 2' high knee wall from which the rafters of the roof spring. Each rafter is constructed with trusses at each change of pitch, and a collar tie near the top of the roof. The rafters meet at the peak with a ridge-board. The roof deck is made of horizontal wood sheathing. A hay carrier track is still extant and extends to both the north and south sections of the barn, leading to all three gable-ends.

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• **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 is an outstanding example of a gambrel-roof ground-level stable barn used for dairy purposes that was built in 1936 in a stylish design with some Craftsman and Colonial Revival details. The balloon framed gambrel-roof loft structure has been well maintained and is intact. Sitting in its original location, the site around the barn has changed little throughout time, and many of the surrounding fields are still used for agricultural purposes. The property gains significance through its association with the Brown family, a prominent family in this area who has owned the property for over 150 years.

Historical background:

Since the late 17th century, the property was owned by Thomas Wheeler, who was born in England. He came to America in 1635 and settled in Lynn, Massachusetts with his wife Mary. Together, they had three children: Isaac, Elizabeth, and Sarah. In 1667, at the age of 65, Thomas Wheeler sold his businesses and land in Massachusetts and moved to Stonington, Connecticut. With the help of his son, Isaac, in 1673, he built a homestead on what is now Mystic Road. At the time, he owned almost 4,000 acres of land in Stonington, including what is now 254 Mystic Road.

In 1832, George C. Brown purchased this property, and started a dairy farm, which he named Wychwood Farms. He built numerous barns on both the east and west sides of Mystic Road. After his death in the late 19th century, the property passed to his son, Colonel James Franklin Brown. It was then inherited by his son James Franklin Brown, Jr., and after his death, James Franklin Brown III inherited the property. In 1936, after the original dairy barn was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire, the gambrel-roof ground-level stable barn was built on the old foundation. The original house on the property was also destroyed by fire, in the 1980s, and replaced by the one that is currently standing. In 1991, Wychwood Farms Ltd Partnership was formed and acquired the property. It currently remains in this ownership which is managed by George Brown and his sister Martha Booker.

Originally, the barn was used for dairy cows, to store hay, and the east gable-end of the north section was used to house horses. In 1932, the farm began raising turkeys, which they continue to do today. In 1995, the dairy business ended, and the barn is now solely used to process turkeys.

Architectural significance:

This is an outstanding example of a gambrel-roof ground-level stable barn that was built in the early 20th century. The balloon frame structure has been well maintained. Cow stanchions and horse stalls are still intact in the north section of the barn, indicating a time when the barn was used as a dairy and to house animals. In the loft, the hay carrier track is still extant, although no longer used, it is still functional and represents a time when the loft of the barn was filled completely with hay. Although the barn is no longer used for dairy purposes, it is still used for agricultural functions as a turkey processing building. The barn exterior exhibits unusual touches of style in its Craftsman and Colonial Revival details. Sitting in its original location, the site around the barn has changed little through time, and many of the surrounding fields are still used for agricultural purposes.

The property gains significance due to its association with George C. Brown and Colonel James Franklin Brown. George C. Brown was a prominent citizen and held numerous public offices in the late 19th century. Col. James Franklin Brown served in the Civil War from 1862-1865. After the war, he moved to Savannah where he established a successful grocery business before moving back to North Stonington in 1878. During the early 20th century, Col. James Franklin Brown held public office in town. The farmstead has been in the Brown Family ownership for over 180 years.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 2/26/2013.

Interview with Martha Booker - 2/26/2013, 254 Mystic Road, North Stonington, CT.

Map resources:

North Stonington Tax Assessor's Records accessed 3/20/2013 - <http://www.northstoningtongis.com/>
Parcel ID: 107-6171

North Stonington GIS Viewer accessed 3/20/2013 - http://www.northstoningtongis.com/ags_map/

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 3/20/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 3/20/2013 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 3/20/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

UTM coordinates accessed 3/20/2013: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online accessed 3/20/2013: [iconn.org](http://www.cslib.org/iconn.org) or
<http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories>

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/3151>

Goodspeed, William R., Men of Mark in Connecticut: Ideals of American Life Told in Biographies and
Autobiographies of Eminent Living Americans Vol. II, Hartford, Connecticut, 1906.

Lutke, Jennifer M., North Stonington Village: Ensuring a Sense of Place, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island,
1998.

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

Stone, George H., Cracker Barrel Chronicles II: A Connecticut Yankee Storekeeper Views Village Life in North
Stonington, North Stonington Historical Society, North Stonington, Connecticut, 1986.

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

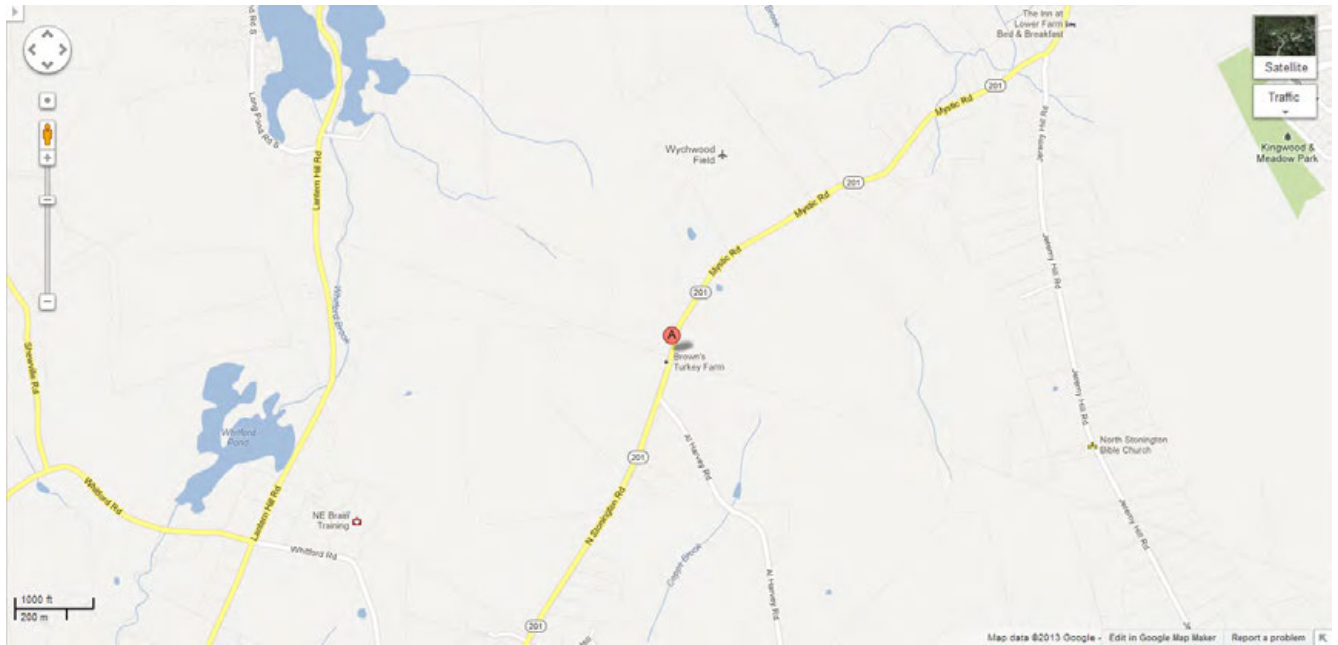
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

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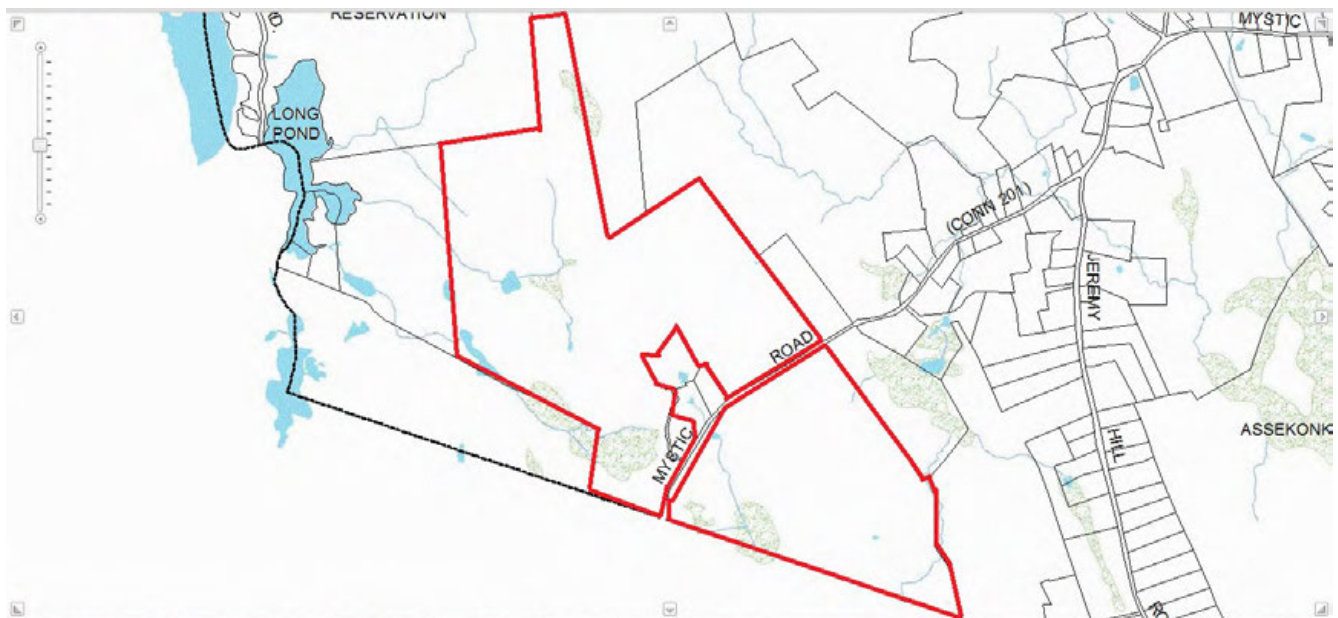
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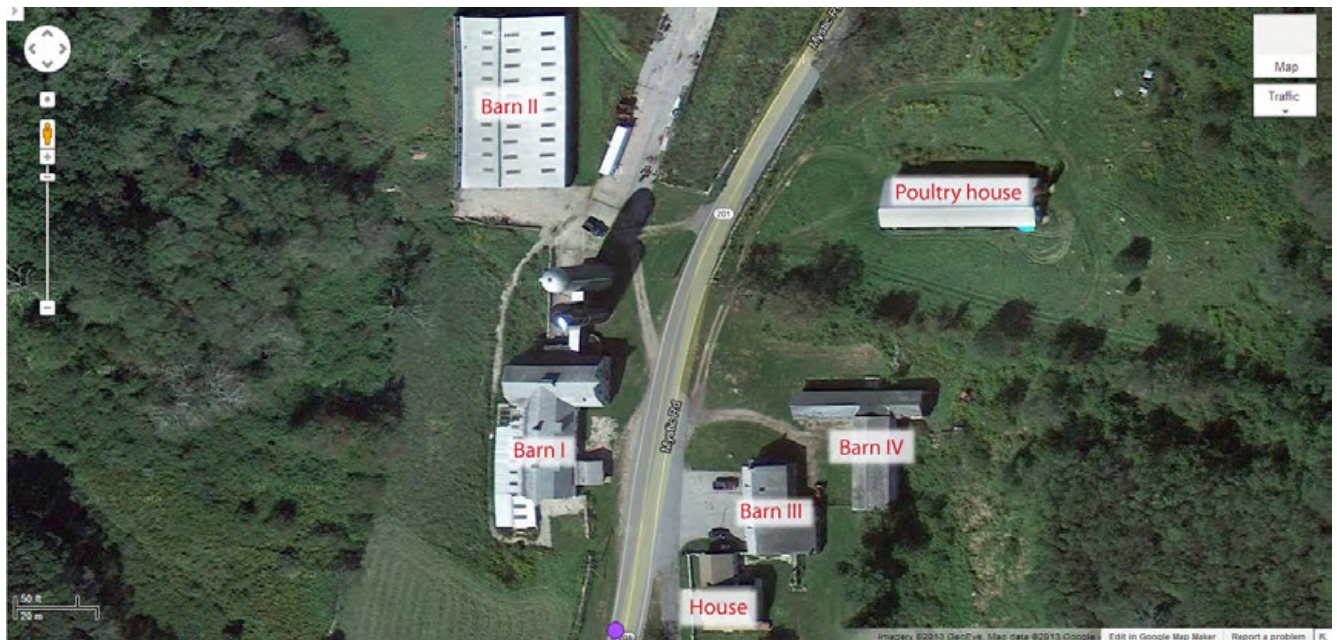
1. Location map of 254 Mystic Road, North Stonington, CT – from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 3/20/2013.



2. Parcel map of 254 Mystic Road, North Stonington, CT - from http://www.northstoningtis.com/ags_map/ - accessed 3/20/2013.



3. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” view map of 254 Mystic Road, North Stonington, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 3/20/2013.



4. Site map of 254 Mystic Road, North Stonington, CT – from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 3/20/2013.



5. Southwest context view of Barn II (on the left), Barn I (in the middle) with its added west dairy stable wing, and a corner of Barn III (on the right). Camera facing northeast.



6. East context view of Barn I and the Silos I (right) and II. Camera facing west.

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7. West view of Barn I (on the left) and the house (in the distance behind Barn I). Camera facing east.



8. West context view of Barn III (on the left) and the house (on the right). Camera facing east.

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9. Southwest context view of the Poultry house (on the left), Barn IV (in the middle), and a corner of Barn III (on the right). Camera facing northeast.



10. West side of the house. Note the stone walls on the west side of the road, along the east boundary of the property. Camera facing east.



11. East eave-side of the south section of Barn I. Camera facing west.



12. South eave-side and east gable-end of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing northwest.

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13. East eave-side of the south section and east gable-end of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing west.



14. East eave-side of the south section, and east gable-end and north eave-side of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing southwest.



15. North eave-side of the north section of Barn I and Silos. Camera facing south.



16. Close up of the north eave-side of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing south.



17. North eave-side and west gable-end of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing southeast. Note the partial banked basement.



18. West gable-end of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing east.

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19. West gable-end of the north section and west eave-side of the south section of Barn I. Camera facing east.



20. South gable-end of the south section of Barn I and west dairy stable addition. Camera facing north.

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21. Interior view of the cow stanchions in the first story of the north section of Barn I. Camera facing north. Note the use of steel beams to create a clear-span space.



22. Interior view of the south gable-end of the south section of the loft of Barn I. Camera facing south. Note the typical scissor truss framing using sawn dimension lumber.

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23. Interior view of the west gable-end of the north section of the loft of Barn I. Camera facing west.



24. Interior view of the hay carrier track in the loft of Barn I. Note the ridge-board where the rafters meet. Camera facing north.