

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) Luddy/Taylor Tobacco Museum & Archives, Northwest Park Record No. 53463
 Building Name (Historic) Lang, Jacob and Dona, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 135 Lang Road (Tobacco museum), 145 Lang Road (Northwest Park)
 Town/City Windsor Village Rainbow County Hartford
 Owner(s) Town of Windsor, 275 Broad Street Windsor, CT 06095 (continued page 2) 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 Museum and nature center during public hours
 Style of building Tobacco sheds, Vernacular style Date of Construction Early 20th 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Pier foundations</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 Approximate Dimensions See continuation sheet.

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: Some tobacco sheds converted to new uses.

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: Farmington River to west & north, parking, soccer field, picnic pavilions, dog park, nature center, livestock, maple sugar house, tobacco museum-archives

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*)

Owner, continued:

The Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, 135 Lang Road, Windsor CT 06095

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 Charlotte Hitchcock Date 7/24/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/31/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:

41.899056, -72.703804

Threats to the building or site:

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private

Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation _____

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

The Farmington River flows through the town of Windsor running generally southeastward to its confluence with the Connecticut River, which forms the eastern boundary of the town. In the northwest corner of the town, Northwest Park sits in a northward loop of the river that encircles the park land on three sides. Rainbow Dam, at the northernmost point of the river, forms a reservoir along the west edge of the park.

The village of Rainbow is located across the river to the northeast while Poquonock is situated along Poquonock Avenue (Rte 75) at a crossing of the Farmington just to the east of the park. Northwest Park is reached via Lang Road, which runs north from Prospect Hill Road, an east-west road that intersects Poquonock Avenue.

Windsor has numerous recognized historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of these are in the area close to the Connecticut River. The Broad Street Green Historic District and Palisado Avenue Historic District lie along Route 159 which parallels the river. Also included in this thematic State Register group of Agricultural Heritage sites is the Shelansky-Thrall Farm at 490 Old Day Hill Road.

Northwest Park is a 473-acre property assembled from a number of parcels purchased by the town over a ten-year period in the 1970s. Most of the land had been used most recently for growing tobacco, and a number of tobacco curing sheds remained. Of the nine sheds extant today, five have been adaptively re-used while four are vacant.

A cluster of tobacco shed structures that have been re-used stand near the c. 1900 farmhouse and its associated horse barn. These include a picnic pavilion, nature center and the Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum. A new archives building stands to the west of the museum and a warming shed (for skiers) is to the east. Additional field barns are scattered to the north and east. A soccer field and dog park have been developed near Field barn I, while Field barns II-IV can be seen by walking on the six miles of hiking trails or bicycling on old farm roads.

The Farmhouse is a 2 ½-story vernacular Queen Anne-style building with a steeply-pitched hip roof and projecting gable-roofed bays on the west and south sides. A wrap-around porch shelters the entry on the west side. Lang Road formerly ran along the south and west sides of the house, ending as a farm road extending northward. It has been re-routed around the east and north sides, so that today the west front façade faces a green space forming a courtyard for the nature center and museum. The Farmhouse has been re-sided with vinyl siding, and is used as staff housing.

Northeast of the Farmhouse is an English barn which appears to have been a horse barn or carriage barn for the farm family. It is a 1 ½-story three-bay gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented east-west. A sliding door in the center bay of the south side is typical for an English barn. Another sliding door is off-center to the right (south) in the west gable-end. There is a pass-through door in the east gable-end and several window openings which appear to have had double-hung sash. Siding is wood clapboards with corner board trim, roofing is asphalt shingles, and the foundation is cobblestone masonry. To the southeast is a small low hip-roofed structure that appears to have been a springhouse. North of the Farmhouse and west of the English horse barn is the modern maple sugar house, a gable-roofed board-and-batten structure.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	c. 1900	C	28' x 33'
Horse barn (English barn)	c. 1900	C	30' x 40'
Tobacco shed/Tobacco museum	Early 20 th c.	C	35' x 120'
Tobacco shed/picnic shelter	Early 20 th c.	C	30' x 105'
Tobacco shed/nature center	Early 20 th c.	C	30' x 195'
Tobacco shed/maintenance	Early 20 th c.	C	30' x 90'
Tobacco shed/animal barn	Early 20 th c.	C	35' x 90'
Tobacco shed/field barn I	Early 20 th c.	C	40' x 180'
Tobacco shed/field barn II	Early 20 th c.	C	30' x 150'
Tobacco shed/field barn III	Early 20 th c.	C	30' x 180'
Tobacco shed/field barn IV	Early 20 th c.	C	35' x 160'
Tobacco museum archives	1989-92	NC	40' x 80'
Warming shed	20 th c.	NC	30' x 90'

Barn – Tobacco shed/Tobacco museum:

This shed is an eight-bay three-aisle gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south. It has been converted to a seasonal museum displaying exhibits on historical tobacco farming. The vertical wood siding has been replaced and secured, but the long iron hook and eye fasteners and the horizontal battens for tilting open groups of alternate boards to ventilate the shed, have been re-installed. Along the lower edge between the truncated pyramidal concrete foundation piers, narrow vertical siding has been infilled for weather-tightness where originally the spaces would have been open or had top-hinged shutters. In each of the north and south gable-ends a pair of hinged doors provides access to the museum, and is similar to the original type of wagon doors, though not as wide or tall. Siding is painted red. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

The interior is a typical early 20th-century type of timber frame structure with two interior posts at each bent and a network of tie-girts and diagonal braces of dimension lumber secured with bolted or nailed connections. The multiple horizontal ties also function as supports for the rails upon which the tobacco leaves were hung to cure. Lighting and a concrete slab floor have been installed for the display area.

Barn – Tobacco shed/picnic pavilion:

This shed, located south of the Museum, is a seven-bay three-aisle tobacco shed structure with its gable roof oriented north-south and with truncated pyramid concrete foundation piers. The typical structure is similar to the museum shed. The side walls have openings cut into each bay with chamfered top corners, forming an open-sided picnic shelter. Similar openings at the gable-ends have taken the place of doors. Siding is vertical boards painted red and roofing is asphalt shingles.

Barn – Tobacco shed/nature center:

This shed, converted to a fully finished building, is oriented east-west, and has a modern glazed entry in the east gable-end. Along the eave-sides, tall narrow glazing panels are reminiscent of the narrow vent panels of the historic tobacco sheds. Vertical wood siding is painted red. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

Barn – Tobacco shed/park maintenance:

This shed is located west of the Nature center and is a six-bay three-aisle shed structure with its ridge-line oriented east-west. The structural elements are typical, similar to the Museum shed. The lower skirt below the siding has been filled in with vertical board siding; the upper siding has been partially replaced but in some areas the original horizontal battens for opening the vents are still in place. The main entry to the shed is a sliding door in the north

side. A secondary doorway is in the east gable-end, off-center toward the right (north). This shed has asphalt shingle roofing and the siding is painted red. The interior floor is gravel.

Barn – Tobacco shed/animal barn:

This is a six-bay three-aisle gable-roofed shed with its ridge-line oriented north-south, and it is located north of the Farmhouse. The eave-side walls have been modified with five tall hinged doors in each side corresponding to livestock stalls inside and pens outside. The north and south gable-ends have pairs of hinged doors the full width of the center aisle. The south end has a hay door above, with a pointed top. The shed structure is standard and similar to the other sheds. The center aisle has a concrete slab floor. Several bays near the south end are enclosed for storage. The exterior is painted cream with barn red trim. The roof is asphalt shingles.

Barn – Tobacco shed/field barn I:

This shed, located along the north edge of the soccer field, is a 12-bay three-aisle gable-roofed tobacco shed with its ridge-line oriented east-west. Its concrete foundation piers are cylindrical, suggesting construction using cardboard tube formwork which may indicate a later date of construction than the other sheds. The frame is typical, similar to the Museum shed. A pair of hinged doors with iron strap hinges is in each gable-end. Roofing is metal panels. The interior floor is dirt.

Barn – Tobacco shed/field barn II:

This shed is located in a mowed field (formerly a tobacco field) along the northern extension of Land Road, near the Brookside trailhead, and has its ridge-line oriented east-west. It is a ten-bay two-aisle shed, with a single interior post at each bent. A pair of hinged doors is located in each gable-end. Roofing is asphalt shingles. The vertical wood siding and eaves have been covered with tar-paper or a similar sheet material; this has mostly worn away. The interior floor is dirt.

Barn – Tobacco shed/field barn III:

This shed is located in a mowed field (formerly a tobacco field) along the northern extension of Land Road, near the Softwood trailhead, and has its ridge-line oriented east-west. It is a twelve-bay two-aisle shed, with a single interior post at each bent. A pair of hinged doors is located in each gable-end. Roofing is asphalt shingles. The vertical wood siding and eaves have been covered with tar-paper or a similar sheet material; this has mostly worn away. The interior floor is dirt.

Barn – Tobacco shed/field barn IV:

This shed is located further north of the previous pair and sits with its ridge-line oriented north-south at the edge of a wooded area so the east eave-side faces an open field and the west and north sides are adjacent to woods. It is an eleven-bay two-aisle shed structure with truncated pyramidal concrete foundation piers. The framing is typical. Large openings in the east side and the north gable-end no longer have doors extant. The vertical wood siding, formerly painted but faded except for traces of paint on the west side, has extant hinges and fasteners for its venting system, of the top-hinged vertical slat type. Roofing is an old type of interlocking asphalt shingle, with some missing sections. The interior floor is dirt.

• 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.

Northwest Park, its landscape, its extant tobacco sheds, and the Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, are significant as an ensemble, because they preserve an agricultural landscape, and the history of its agriculture, under public ownership. In addition, the history of this site as a family farmstead, of the Langs and Klosses, is a contributing example of the history of immigrant farmers from Switzerland and Germany in the early 20th century.

Historical background:

Windsor, Connecticut's first community, was launched in 1633 when settlers sailed from Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts to establish themselves at the confluence of the Farmington and Connecticut rivers. The Native Americans referred to this area as Matianuck.

Windsor's original land area has been divided into a number of other towns, from Litchfield and Torrington to the west, to Tolland in the east. For approximately 100 years (1830-1930) woolen mills and paper mills located on the Farmington River in the Poquonock and Rainbow sections of Windsor provided employment for up to 500 people. Historically, Windsor's economy has been dominated by tobacco farming and brick making. At the peak of production, there were more than 40 brickyards in Windsor. The last one disappeared in the 1960s. The first tobacco crop was planted in 1640 with seeds brought to Connecticut from the Virginia tobacco plantations.

As late as 1869, the Baker and Tilden map showed no residences in the area of Rainbow and Poquonock enclosed by the bend of the Farmington River, and no indication of whether agriculture was taking place. By 1934, the Fairchild aerial photograph shows a series of tobacco sheds, more than half of which are still standing, surrounded by forested slopes along the river banks.

Jacob Lang (b. 1873 in Switzerland), his wife Dona (b. 1876 in Illinois of German parents), and two sons George and Frank, ages 5 and 3 per the 1900 Census, both born in Wisconsin, moved to Windsor in 1899. The Langs purchased a 26-acre parcel from Albert Clack and built the house that now stands at the end of today's Lang Road. Their main activity was orchard fruits, although they grew some tobacco. Lang Fruit Farm was known for its apples and peaches. In 1920 Frank worked with his father on the farm while George was a mechanic in a garage, still in Windsor.

In 1937 the farm was sold to Kenneth (b. 1896) and Alice (b. 1895) Johnson, who continued fruit farming, while Frank and his wife May Lang lived nearby (at today's 104 Lang Road); Frank was a truck driver. By this time also living on today's Northwest Park land, in the northern part, were Robert and Hulda Kloss, a couple in their 60s who grew tobacco.

Subsequently, various parcels comprising today's park were owned by a succession of tobacco farmers including the Rappaports, American Sumatra Tobacco Company, General Cigar Company, Inc., Edport Corporation, and the Blackstone Cigar Company.

Proposals for a town park were first made in 1953. Available state and federal funding allowed purchase of the land over a period from 1972 to 1984 at a time when tobacco growing was in decline. Development of the new Northwest Park was gradual, with planning studies, nature trails, bird-watching and cross-country skiing, and campaigns of removing the hundreds of posts that had held shade cloth over the fields. The Friends of Northwest Park Nature Center formed in 1981 and began with converting one of the tobacco sheds into an interpretive center and cross-country ski rental site. During the early 1980s Mayor Everett B. Dowe, Jr. and Gordon Taylor, Chair of the Northwest Park Citizen Advisory Committee, were instrumental figures in supporting the park. In the spring of 1984, another tobacco shed, 30' wide and 192' in length, was rehabilitated and converted to the Nature Center. The former Lang House became a home for park staff.

The Connecticut Valley Tobacco Historical Society was formed in 1988 to help preserve the artifacts and history of the cigar tobacco agriculture. This society became the beneficiary of a trust fund set up by John E. Luddy who earned his money from selling shade cloth and other items needed by growers. Gordon S. Taylor was its first president.

The Connecticut Valley Tobacco Historical Society in turn made a grant to the Town of Windsor to be used for a tobacco museum at Northwest Park. The resulting Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum consists of two structures. First, an existing tobacco curing barn was remodeled in 1987 to accommodate exhibits of early and modern equipment used to grow the crop. Second, a new, year-round archive facility was built in 1989-92 to exhibit photographs, writings, and other documents about the crop.

Other existing tobacco sheds have been re-used as a maintenance barn, a picnic shelter, and a livestock barn with farm animals. Four sheds remain standing and vacant. The open fields are maintained by mowing, and the forested lands have more than five miles of walking trails.

Architectural significance:

Northwest Park, its landscape, its extant tobacco sheds, and the Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, are significant as an ensemble, because they preserve an agricultural landscape and the record of its agriculture under public ownership. The site, because of its sheltered position encircled by the Farmington River on three sides and the continuing maintenance of the mowed fields, retains the open landscape in which the iconic tobacco sheds stand tall and long. Only the plants, poles and shade cloth are missing to re-create the cultural landscape of the tobacco farming period of the early 20th century.

The museum has preserved both a typical tobacco shed structure and the artifacts and photographic record of tobacco production which has been an important component of Connecticut agriculture and a cash crop for many farmers. The tobacco growing environment occurred in the Connecticut River Valley and also in the Farmington and Housatonic River valleys, where the same type of glacial lake sediment created the flat intervale lands where tobacco has been grown successfully. The efforts of the founders and supporters of the Tobacco Historical Society have preserved this representative example of a type of agriculture.

In addition, the history of this site as a family farmstead, of the Langs and Klosses in particular, is a contributing example of the history of immigrant farmers, in this case from Switzerland and Germany, which changed the character of Connecticut agriculture in the early 20th century.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 7/23/2013.

Interview with Brianna Dunlap, Assistant Curator, 7/23/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Windsor Assessor's Records and GIS Viewer: <http://info.townofwindsorct.com/gis/>
Parcel ID: 15/135/22, 15-136-16, others.

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 8/31/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

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

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

USGS Historical Maps accessed 8/31/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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

Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online: [iconn.org](http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/SiteIndex.aspx#directories) 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/53463> .

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

Friends of Northwest Park web site, <http://www.northwestpark.org/> accessed 8/31/2013.

Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum

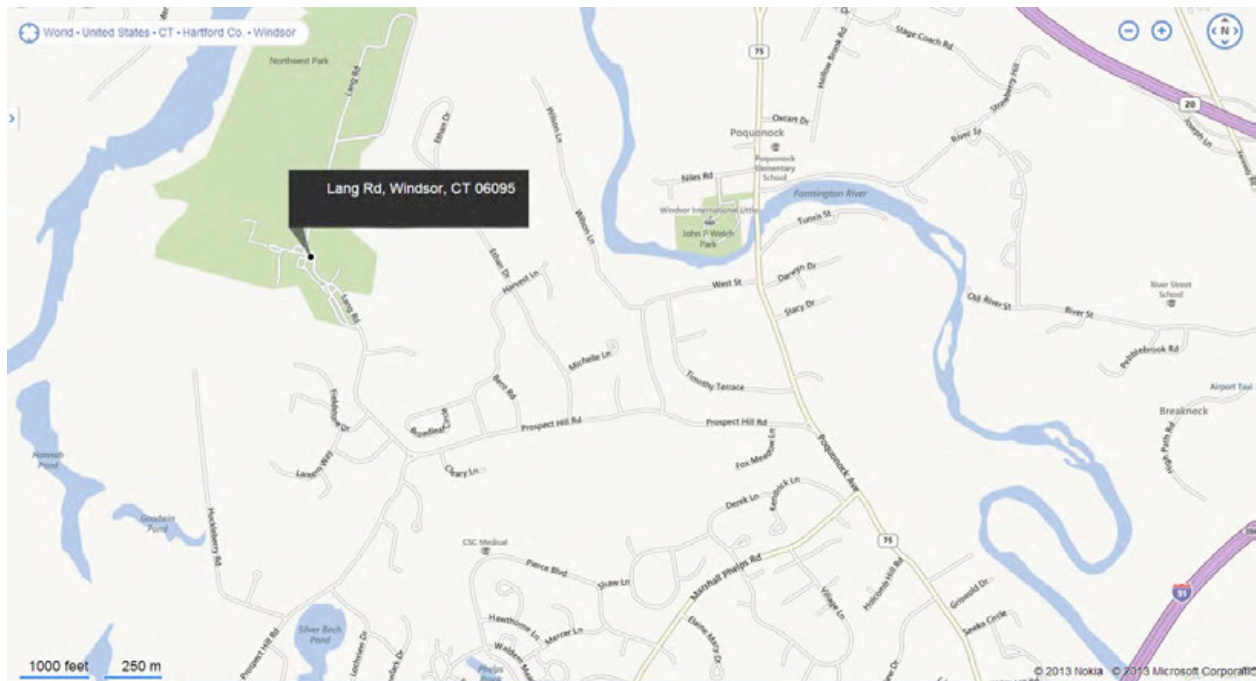
web site, <http://www.tobaccohistsoc.org/> accessed 8/31/2013

museum literature including brochure, timeline and history of Northwest Park and tobacco farming (1988).

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.



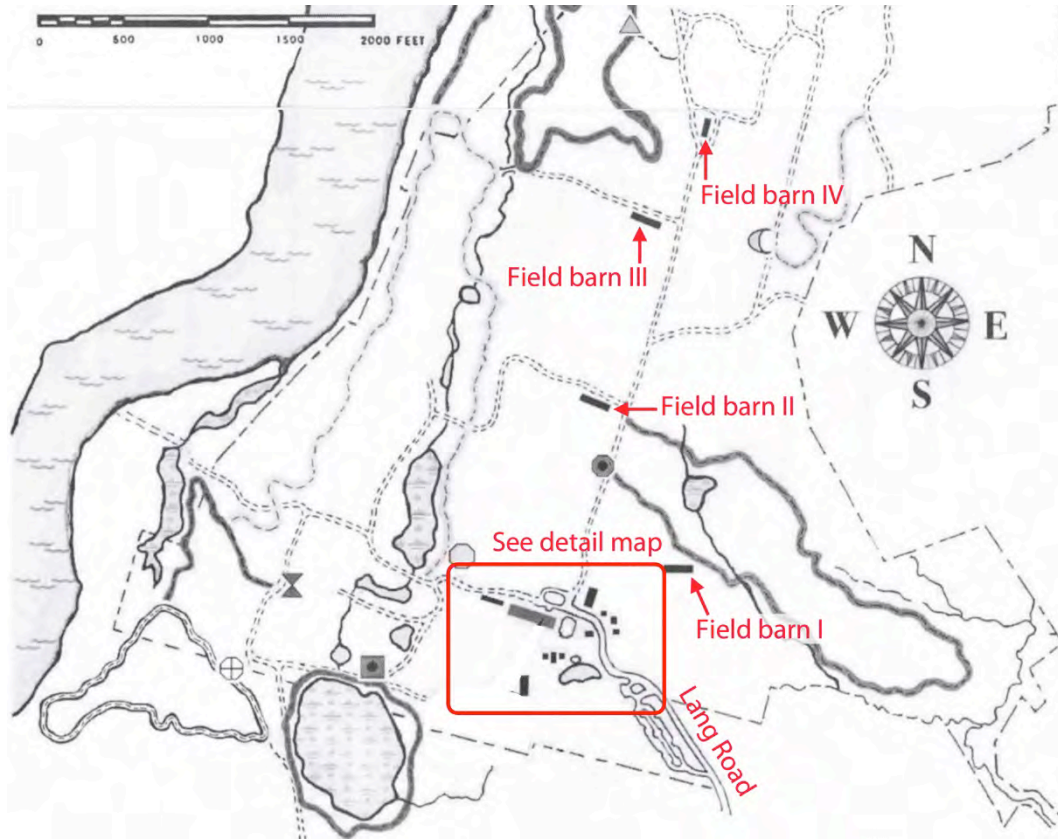
1. Location map of 135-145 Lang Road, Windsor CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 8/31/2013.



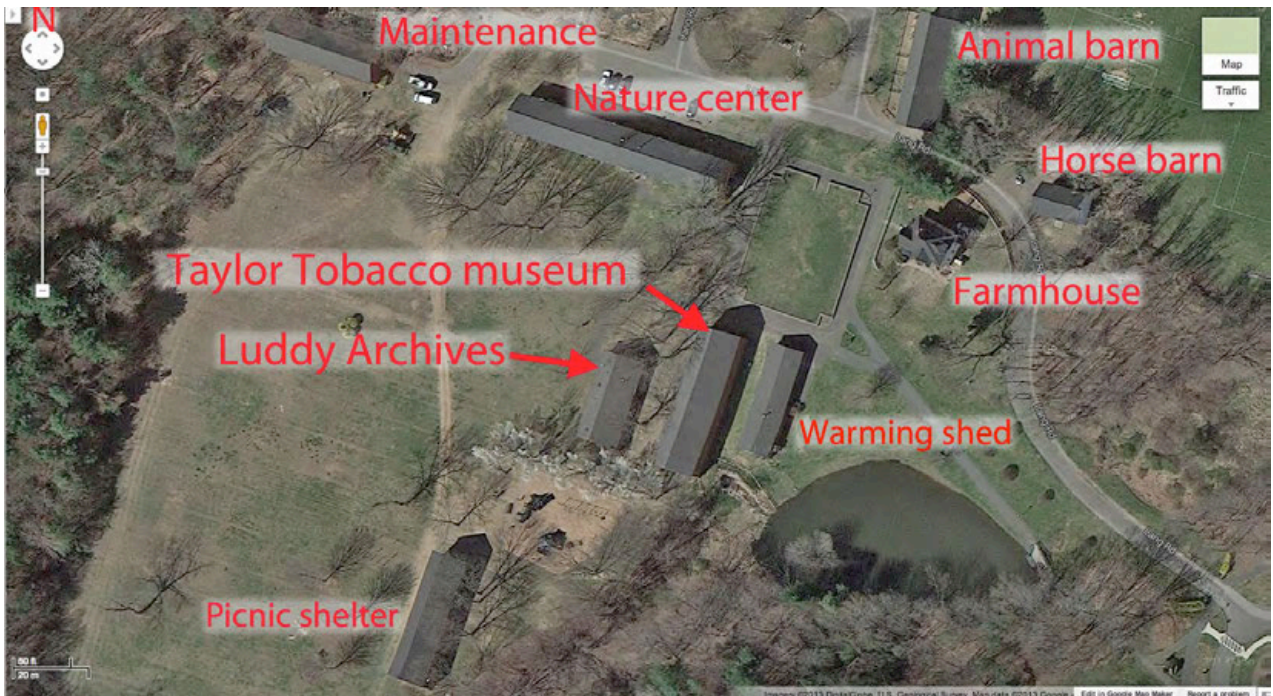
2. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 135-145 Lang Road, Windsor CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 8/31/2013. The central area with the Farmhouse, Nature center, and Tobacco museum is at left.



3. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” detail map of 135-145 Lang Road, Windsor CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 8/31/2013. Close-up view shows the central area with the Farmhouse (white building), Animal barn (right of Farmhouse), Nature center (at upper right), and Tobacco museum (the large building at left) and Archives (smaller building above).



4. Map of Northwest Park with contributing resources indicated – base map courtesy of Northwest Park.



5. Detail Site Plan showing contributing resources in the central area.



6. South view of Farmhouse, camera facing north. Animal barn is at left rear.



7. West view of Farmhouse with Horse barn at left rear, camera facing east.



8. Southwest view of Horse barn, camera facing north. Field barn I (Tobacco shed) is partially visible at right rear. A small structure, possibly a springhouse, is at the far right.



9. Southwest view of Animal barn with Maple sugar house and Horse barn at right rear, camera facing east.



10. North view of Taylor Tobacco museum at left, Luddy archives beyond trees, and east view of Nature center at right, camera facing southwest.



11. Southwest view of Taylor Tobacco museum, camera facing northeast.



12. West detail view of Taylor Tobacco museum, camera facing northeast. Note horizontal battens for operating vents, and hooks for closing vents.



13. Interior detail view of Taylor Tobacco museum, showing nailed and bolted connections.



14. Interior detail view of Taylor Tobacco museum, showing tobacco leaves hanging to cure.



15. Northeast view of Taylor Tobacco museum and Warming shed, camera facing southwest.



16. Northwest view of Picnic pavilion, camera facing southeast.



17. Interior view of Picnic pavilion, camera facing south.



18. Southeast view of Nature center, camera facing northwest.



19. North view of Maintenance shed, camera facing south.



19. Southeast view of Maintenance shed, camera facing northwest.



20. North detail view of Maintenance shed, camera facing southwest.



21. Northwest view of Animal barn, camera facing southeast.



22a-b. Interior views of Animal barn, camera facing south.



23. Southwest view of Field barn I (Tobacco shed), camera facing northeast. Note the metal roof with continuous ridge ventilator.



24. Interior view of Field barn I, camera facing west.



25. Southeast view of Field barn II, camera facing northwest.



26. West view of Field barn II, camera facing northeast. Field barn III is at left rear.



27. Interior view of Field barn II, camera facing west.



28. Southeast view of Field barn III, camera facing northwest.



29. Interior view of Field barn III, camera facing southwest.



30. Southeast view of Field barn IV, camera facing northwest.



31. Interior view of Field barn IV, camera facing south.



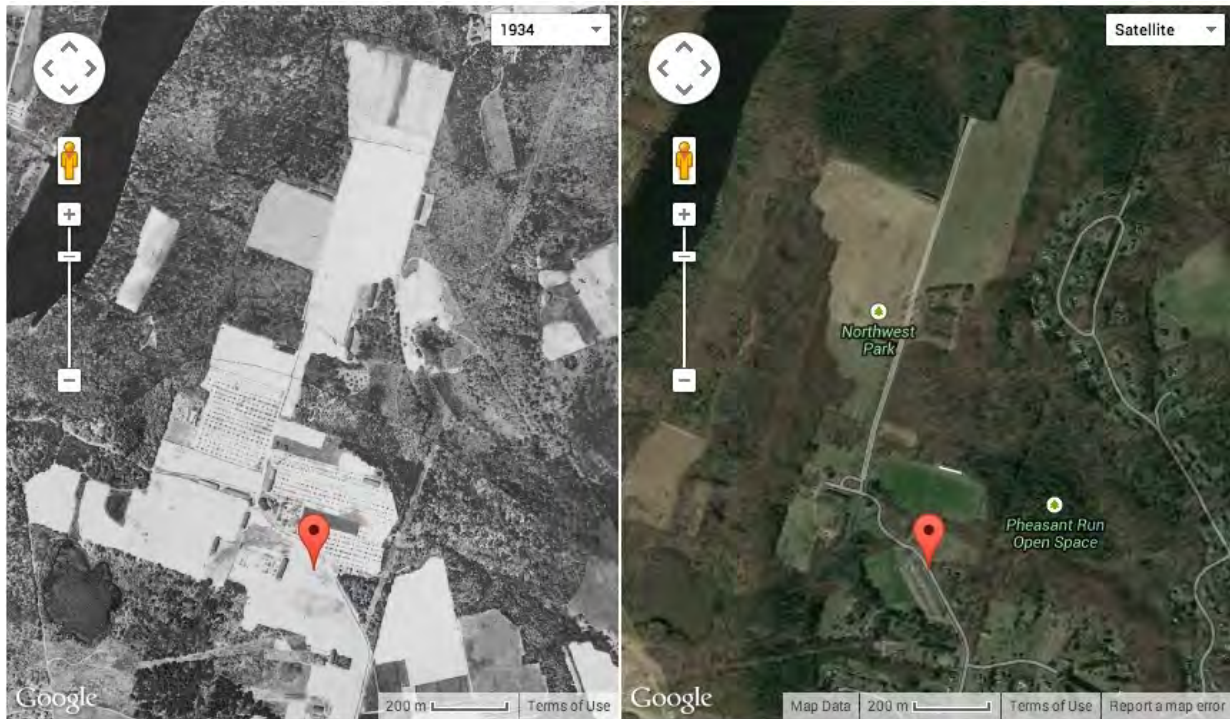
32. North view of Field barn IV, camera facing south.



33. Northwest view of Field barn IV, camera facing southeast.



34. Detail from 1953 USGS map; note the tobacco sheds shown by open rectangles. Five sheds shown are no longer extant, while nine are still standing.



34. Image of the site from 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph, compared with Google Map view today; http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html . The Langs' orchards are visible as neat rows of trees.