

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) Walker-Upham-Canavan House & Barn Record No. 7410
 Building Name (Historic) Walker, James and Isabell, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 166 Woodstock Road
 Town/City Woodstock Village East Woodstock County Windham
 Owner(s) Deborah & Richard Canavan, 166 Woodstock Rd, Woodstock CT 06281 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 Extended English bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 18th 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 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>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: 91/2, B Approximate Dimensions 30' x 46'

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, blacksmith shop, foundations of ice house and chicken coop.

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 Repairs by crew from Old Sturbridge Village, mid-1980s

• 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 4/05/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 8/05/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.985449, -71.983192

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This 2-acre property is located in the village of East Woodstock, about 3.5 miles north of the town Common which is located at Woodstock Hill.

Woodstock Hill is a major focus of historic resources in Woodstock, with the village center and Common included in the Woodstock Hill National Register and Local Historic Districts. Route 169, the Norwich Worcester Turnpike, forms the spine of the district, which includes more than 65 properties. The Congregational meetinghouse and Woodstock Hill Burial Ground are important sites. Located within the district is the Henry C. Bowen Cottage, known as Roseland Cottage, a National Historic Landmark property with a significant barn as well as the house. Several other individually-listed National Register properties in Woodstock include the Matthew Bowen Homestead on Plaine Hill Road, the Captain Seth Chandler House, Taylor's Corner, and the New Roxbury Ironworks Site. On the State Register of Historic Places is 483 Center Road, the c. 1803 Ezra Lyon House, which includes a contributing barn. In the current thematic nomination of Agricultural Heritage sites to the State Register the following properties are included: the Johnston-Prym Farmstead at 534 Senexet Road, the May-Peckham Farmstead at 137 Dugg Hill Road, and the Woodstock Fairgrounds with the Brunn Barn.

The site is on the north side of Woodstock Road just to the west of the crossing of Muddy Brook. The brook runs southward through Roseland Lake, before reaching the Quinnebaug River at Putnam. In East Woodstock, a mill pond north of Woodstock Road served a sawmill and a cotton factory. The Walker Farmstead is the second property west of the brook.

The Farmhouse, on a gentle knoll, faces south toward the road, which is lined by a dry-laid fieldstone wall with a flight of granite steps leading down to the road. The c. 1830 vernacular Greek Revival-style house is a 1 ½-story brick structure, 25' x 35', with an 18' x 20' 1-story rear ell. The gable-roof has its ridge-line oriented east-west parallel to the road, and the south eave-side is the principal façade, five bays at the ground level with a center doorway flanked by sidelights and two six-over-six double-hung windows on each side. The upper floor is a ¾ height wall with short three-over-three double-hung windows above those on the lower level, and a blank wall over the door opening. The gable-ends have full-size six-over-six double hung windows, two on each end, with a chimney centered on both gable-ends. The brick walls sit on a granite foundation and consist of running bond with a course of headers every eighth course. Window and door openings have flat arches of canted soldier coursing, and granite sills. The roof is asphalt shingles; cornices and rakes are simple wood moldings with short cornice returns, painted white.

An unpaved driveway runs north from the road along the east end of the house. To the east is a 1 ½-story banked frame structure, the Blacksmith shop. This has its gable-roof ridge-line oriented east-west. The west gable-end is entered at the grade level of the driveway, where there is a pair of hinged doors toward the left and a single hinged pass-through door to the right, with a six-pane window further to the right (south). A twelve-pane window is above in the attic. The south eave-side has three six-pane windows in the main level; grade slopes down toward the east, exposing the basement level where there is a six-pane window and a pass-through door. The east gable-end has a fully-exposed basement level with five six-pane windows. Above is a single window at the main level and a twelve-pane attic window. A fieldstone retaining wall extends east at the north corner, making the transition to the upper level grade. The north eave-side has a single eight-pane window off-center toward the right (west). Siding is wood clapboards, roofing is asphalt shingles, and the foundation is fieldstone.

North of the shop is the foundation of a former icehouse, and to the east that of a chicken coop.

To the west of the drive, the rear ell of the brick house is connected to a wood-framed cross-gable-roofed 20' x 20' summer kitchen. This is connected to a wood room and to a carriage barn, which in turn has an additional bay which connects to the Barn. The complex forms a barnyard sheltered by the house, carriage barn, and the main barn.

The Carriage barn, 20' x 50' overall, is a 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line running north-south. A projecting porch roof shelters the east side. At the left (south) the wood room has a twelve-pane window and a pass-through door, then another nine-pane window. Two open bays are now used for garaging vehicles, and the third,

right-most bay, an addition, is enclosed. There is an attic dormer with a twelve-over-twelve double-hung window above the southern garage bay. At the northeast corner, this structure abuts the southwest corner of the main barn. The south slope of the main barn's roof has been extended to shelter a passageway between the buildings. The carriage barn wing is sided with horizontal clapboards painted white and roofed with asphalt shingles. The interior consists of square rule post and beam framing with hewn timbers including common rafters mortised into a hand hewn ridge-pole.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse, summer kitchen	c. 1830	C
Barn	18 th c.	C
Carriage/wagon shed	19 th c.	C
Blacksmith shop	19 th c.	C

Barn:

The main barn is a 1 ½-story extended English bank barn, 30' x 46', with its ridge-line oriented east-west. The center two bays appear to be oldest, and additional bays were added to the west and east ends. A shed-roofed addition along the north side extends the width. An addition to the west end incorporated a horse stall and tack room. The barn is banked into the hill with the east gable-end having an open basement level. The four bays are referenced from west to east as bays 1-4. Bay 1 has space used for dairy cows with a loft above. The remaining bays are open full-height.

Exterior:

The main entry is a pair of hinged doors in bay 2, in the south eave-side. The 1978 Sturbridge survey photograph shows that the south doors were full-height barn doors at that time; the current doors are not as tall. The 1978 photo also showed a panel of multi-paned windows in bay 1, lighting the dairy area. A small three-pane window was in bay 3 close to the door opening. These have been eliminated during restoration work; the current siding is vertical boards with no window openings. At the west part of bay 1, a roof extension creates a porch over an open area leading to the horse stall and through between the Barn and Carriage barn to the field beyond. The entry doors are accessed by a slight earthen ramp. To the right (east) of the ramp a fieldstone retaining wall makes a transition to a lower grade basement level. The retaining wall makes a right angle turn and continues east as a free-standing wall, parallel to the south wall of the barn. Part of bay 3 and all of bay 4 are supported on posts and are open to the lower level.

The east gable-end has no openings at the main or attic levels. The shed addition creates a saltbox roof profile toward the north. The north eave-side has a retaining wall and pair of doors corresponding to the south side. Above the doors are two glazed panels of eight panes each.

The west gable-end of the added horse stall bay has on the ground level an opening at the right corner forming a passageway through to the barnyard, and adjacent to the left a small four-pane window. Above at the loft level a nine-pane window is near the left corner, and in the attic is a four-pane window. The right (south) corner abuts the north wall of the Carriage barn.

Siding is vertical boards, unpainted, except the west gable-end of the horse stable addition, which has horizontal clapboards painted white. Prior to the 1980s restoration work, much of the siding consisted of hand-cut tongue-and-groove boards, which were replaced with squared boards and interior battens, due the difficulty and expense of replicating the original materials. Roofing is now asphalt shingles on the south-facing pitch, and wood shingles on the north side.

Interior:

The oldest portion of the barn framing appears to be the bents forming bays 2 and 3. These have been repaired with some new material in the 1980s, but much original material can be seen. The bent between bays 1 and 2 exhibits scribe rule framing, jowled or flared gunstock posts, and English tying joints in which the tie-girt is joined at the top of the plate. The plate to the west in bay 1 is joined with a rare jowled plate, a technique for splicing a new plate onto an existing bent by using the larger butt end of a timber to form a tenon lower on the pre-existing post (Sobon). Boarding grooves can be seen on this bent and also the bent between bays 3 and 4. These are indications of the former exterior wall, with the siding boards inserted into the groove to secure them while they were nailed to lower wall girts. The north side plate, now an interior member with the shed addition along the north side, projects beyond its posts and likewise has a boarding groove. These bents have one interior post at the center below the tie-girts. The common rafters are half-lapped and pinned in these center bays, though they appear to be butted in bays 1 and 4.

The eastern bay 4 has its end bent framed with a dropped tie-girt, typical of later square rule framing. Bay 1 is unusually wide, and has been reinforced by additional intermediate posts. This area has a rather low loft floor, with the ground level used for dairy stabling. Whitewashed surfaces are a remnant of this use. In the northwest corner there are remnants of a stone ramp by which the cows walked down to the basement level and out to pasture.

The north side shed addition which creates a saltbox roof profile, extends across bays 1 through 4, and has a hewn plate braced by tie-beams in the plane of the plate, one to each of the major wall posts.

At the extreme west, the horse stable addition, constructed of a mix of post and beam framing and sawn dimension lumber, has a stair to the loft level.

The open basement extends under the main bents and the shed addition, and has un-mortared fieldstone retaining walls. Girders supporting the main floor level appear to date from approximately 1900, as one girder has “SDU 1900” (probably Sidney Upham) carved into the wood.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The connected complex, including a brick Farmhouse, 18th-century barn, and associated outbuildings, altogether forms an unusually well-preserved and carefully maintained example of a farmstead of the late Colonial or post-Revolutionary period. The adjacent landscape of village homes and a mix of open fields and woodlands, still retains much of its historic appearance, although the millpond of the 19th century is dry. The history of ownership by a single extended family, the Walkers and Uphams, from the 18th century through most of the 20th, makes this a rare and exceptional property.

Historical background:

The 1869 O. W. Gray Atlas of Litchfield County shows James Walker as the resident of the site. According to the 1860 Census, the family included James Walker age 52, blacksmith; wife Isabell, 51, daughter Elvira, 20, a school teacher; daughter Emily, 17; and Mehitabel Walker, age 80, likely James’s mother. Adjacent listings of the neighboring families show various trades including shoemaker, blacksmith, weaver, and farmer, as might be expected in a village center.

Ten years later in 1870, James and Isabel were still listed, but as a farming family. In 1880 the couple are still in residence at the ages of 72 and 71, but now joined by their daughter Isabella, age 30, and her husband Gilbert Upham, age 29, with their sons Everett, 9, and Sidney, 1. The Uphams were also farmers.

Two decades on, in 1900 the Census showed Gilbert and Isabella with their children Everett, Sidney, Alan, and Ethel, ranging in age from 23 down to 10. Sidney was identified as a bicycle repairman while the others were at

school. By 1920 only Alan and Ethel remained with their parents, and both were teachers; in 1940 the two were the sole residents. And at the 1975 Bicentennial survey, Ethel was the owner of record.

The house is identified by surveys and by stylistic evidence as dating from between 1725 and 1830; its six-pane sash, wide entry with sidelights, and center hall layout with end chimneys, seem to be consistent with the early 1800s. Several other Walkers (Alfred, Uriel, and Phinehas) were listed in the 1820 Census; it is undetermined whether these were the ancestors of James. Evidence has been found of an earlier house on the site, which burned; this is thought to have motivated the choice of brick as a building material.

Richard and Deborah Canavan purchased the property in the early 1980s and restored the barn with the assistance of a crew from Old Sturbridge Village; the barn had been previously documented in the Sturbridge survey of 1978. At that time, the roof was replaced with cedar shingles but its south side has been subsequently re-roofed in asphalt shingles.

Architectural significance:

The central bays of the Barn, with gunstock posts, English tying joinery, jowled plates, and other early framing details, appear to be of 18th century date. The connected complex – Farmhouse, summer kitchen, carriage barn, English bank barn, blacksmith shop, and the foundations of additional structures – altogether form an unusually well-preserved and carefully maintained example of a farmstead of the late Colonial or post-Revolutionary period. The adjacent landscape of village homes and a mix of open fields and woodlands, still retains much of its historic appearance. The history of ownership by a single extended family from the 18th century through most of the 20th, makes this a rare and exceptional property.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock, 4/05/2013.

Interview with Richard Canavan, 4/05/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Woodstock Assessor's Records, <http://data.visionappraisal.com/WoodstockCT/search.asp>
Parcel ID: 5167/11/42.

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 7/1/2013.

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

Gray, O. W., 1869 Atlas of Litchfield County.

USGS Historical Maps at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> accessed 7/17/2013.

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/7410> .

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

Mott, John A., White, Frank G., Barns of New England, Old Sturbridge Village Research Paper, 1978.

Rogers, Ira, Woisard, Ken (Photographer), Historic Resources Survey Item 171-7-45, Survey of Woodstock, Connecticut, 1977.

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

Sobon, Jack A., Historic American Timber Joinery: a Graphic Guide, Timber Framers Guild, Becket MA, 2002.

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

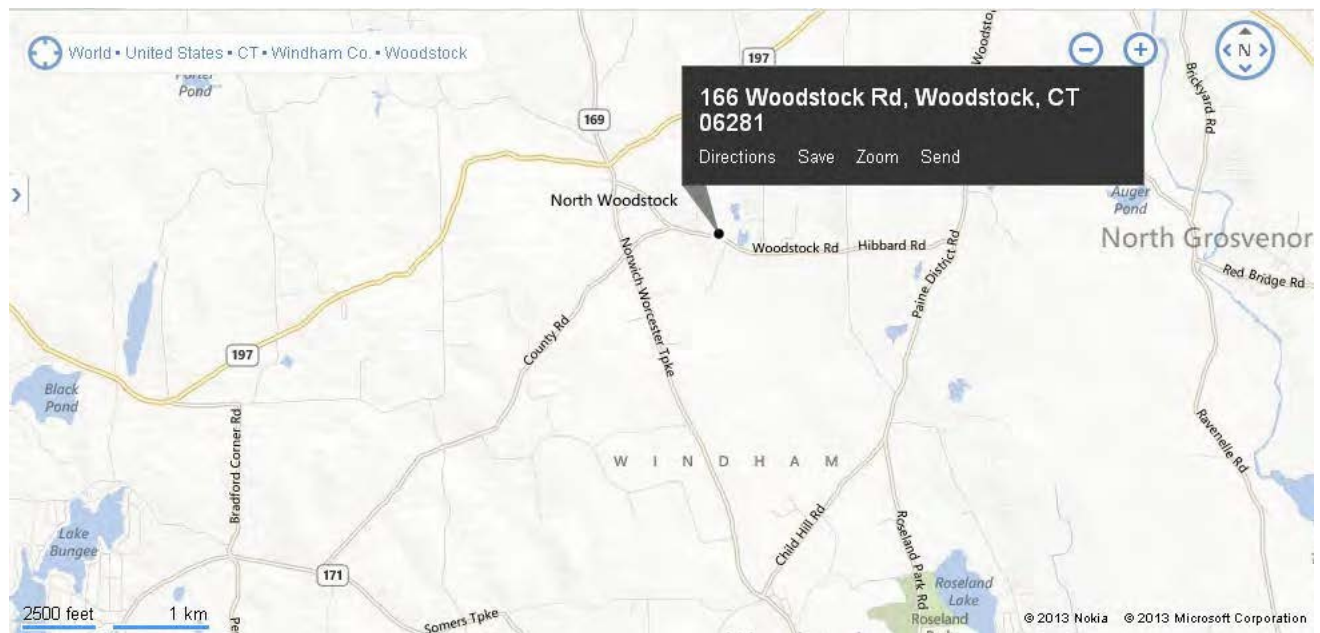
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

Wakely, Cheryl R., A Journey through Woodstock: 1686-2011, Woodstock Historical Society, Woodstock, 2011.

Woodstock Historical Society,

Bicentennial Photographic Survey, Field Data Sheet 171-7-45, 1975-76

Lester Wall Map, 1883.



1. Location map of 166 Woodstock Road, Woodstock CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 7/17/2013.



2. North view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 166 Woodstock Road, Woodstock CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 7/17/2013.



3. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 166 Woodstock Road, Woodstock CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 7/17/2013.



4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources – base image from <http://maps.google.com/>.



5. South context view of 166 Woodstock Road, Woodstock CT, camera facing north; from left to right are the Farmhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith shop.



6. Southwest view of Farmhouse with summer kitchen at left rear, camera facing northeast.



7. Southwest view of Blacksmith shop, camera facing northeast.



8. Southeast view of Blacksmith shop, camera facing northwest.



9. Northeast view of Farmhouse with Summer kitchen at center rear and Carriage barn at right, camera facing southwest.



10. Southeast view of Carriage barn and main Barn, camera facing north.



11. Southeast view of Barn, camera facing northwest.



12. Northeast view of Barn showing open banked basement and saltbox-roofed shed addition, camera facing southwest. Farmhouse is at left rear.



13. Northwest view of Barn with west side of Carriage barn at right, camera facing southeast.



14. Interior view of Barn, camera facing west, showing the bent between bays 1 and 2, south wall. Note the jowled post, the English tying joint where the tie-girt and plate meet the post, and the boarding groove in the lower face of the tie-girt.



15. Interior view of Barn, camera facing southeast, view from bay 1 into bay 2. The same bent as above, seen from the west side, shows the rare jowled plate connection of the added bay to the older frame.



16. Interior view of Barn, camera facing north, showing the bent between bays 1 and 2, center and north wall. The saltbox addition is beyond the northern post of the bent, and forms the north exterior wall. Note the flared gunstock post and English tying joint.



17. Interior view of Barn seen from bay 1 looking into bay 2, camera facing northeast. Note the same bent as above, with the north wall post and the saltbox leanto to the left. The jowled plate is seen here also.



18. Interior view of Barn showing scribe rule marriage mark on the lower part of the interior post between bay 1 and 2, camera facing southwest. The corresponding brace is missing, suggesting that this post may have been re-purposed since the time of the scribe rule mark.



19. Interior view of Barn seen from bay 3 looking into bay 4, camera facing northeast. Note the end girt with its square rule framing and dropped tie-girt, indications that this bay was an addition. The saltbox extension to the north (left rear) continues across all four bays.



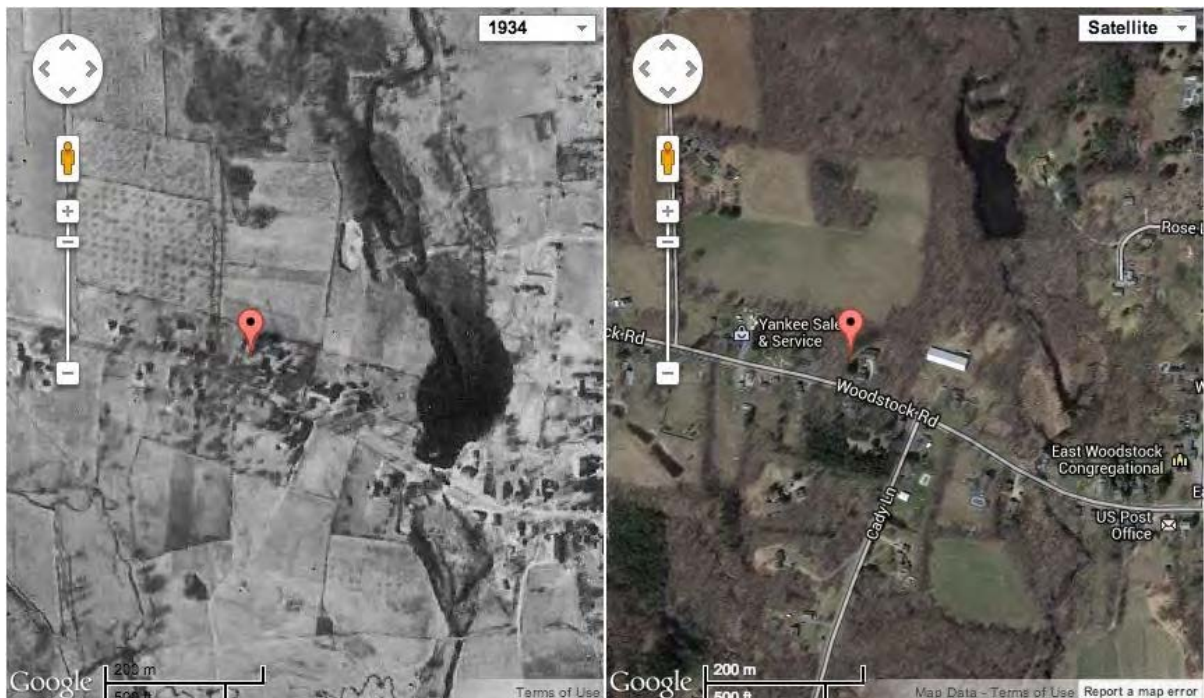
20. Interior view of Barn basement with cow ramp, camera facing northwest.



21. South view of Farmhouse taken in 1975 for Woodstock Bicentennial survey, courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.



22. Detail view of 1883 Lester wall map showing East Woodstock, courtesy of Woodstock Historical Society.



23. 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph (left) of the site compared with modern Google aerial view (right). Note the large lower mill pond, still in existence in 1934 but now vanished. Some farm fields have returned to forest, but much of the landscape remains similar to its earlier condition.