Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Cherry Tree Farm</th>
<th>Record No. 10250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Name (Historic)</td>
<td>Cherry Tree Farm; Carrington, Abram, Farmstead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address or Location</td>
<td>144 Bethmour Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/City</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner(s)</td>
<td>See page 2.</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

**Present Use:** Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Historic Use:** Agricultural/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, Vernacular style

**Date of Construction:** 1933

**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 ____________)
- ☐ Cut Stone (Type ____________)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Wood Dutch lap
- ☐ Horizontal 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
- ☐ Dutch gambrel

**Material**

- ☐ Wood Shingle
- ☐ Roll Asphalt
- ☐ Tin
- ☐ Slate
- ☐ Asphalt Shingle
- ☐ Built up
- ☐ Tile
- ☐ Other _________________

**Number of Stories:** 2 1/2

**Approximate Dimensions:** 30' x 55', see continuation sheet for 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town #</th>
<th>Site #</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District: ☐ S ☐ NR</td>
<td>If NR, Specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-1-
### PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:
- **☑** Barn
- **☐** Shed
- **☑** Garage
- **☐** Carriage House
- **☐** Shop
- **☑** Garden

**☑** Other landscape features or buildings: Two concrete silos, cobblestone fireplace, fenced pastures, 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*)

  Owner name and address:
  Carrington, Hiram D. Jr Family Trust & Edyth Carrington, 144 Bethmour Road, Bethany CT 06524

  See continuation sheet.

  Architect _________________________  Builder _________________________

- **•** Historical or Architectural importance:

  See continuation sheet.

- **•** Sources:


  See continuation sheet.

  **Photographer** Charlotte Hitchcock  **Date** 6/27/2012

  **Name** Charlotte Hitchcock  **Date** 6/30/2012

  **Organization** Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

  **Address** 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- **•** Subsequent field evaluations:

  **Latitude, Longitude:**

  41.398719, -73.026879

  **Threats to the building or site:**

  - **☑** None known
  - **☐** Highways
  - **☐** Vandalism
  - **☐** Developers
  - **☐** Renewal
  - **☐** Private
  - **☐** Deterioration
  - **☐** Zoning
  - **☐** Other ________________
  - **☐** Explanation ________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Bethmour Road runs north-south in the southwestern part of the town of Bethany. At its southern end it meets Route 67 at the Woodbridge town line, and slopes steadily upward toward the north. Cherry Tree Farm is located on the east side of the road .8 mile north. The 86.32-acre property includes an open pasture parallel to the road, and the Farmhouse and Barn at the southern edge of the site. To the east is a wooded area through which a small brook runs, and beyond that is another open pasture and extensive woodland acreage. Pine Brook runs southward through the site, to join Bladens Brook, draining west to the Naugatuck River. Much of the neighborhood surrounding the farm has been developed with mid- to late-20th-century single family homes on a network of suburban-style streets.

The primary village centers of Bethany were historically located along Amity Road (Route 63), which runs north-south along a height of land to the east of Bethmour Road. The Congregational and Episcopal Churches are located on Amity Road near the northern edge of the town, about 3.5 miles northeast of this site, with the Christ Episcopal Church carriage shed listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The c. 1807 Wheeler-Beecher House, on Amity Road slightly north of the two churches, is a National Register-listed property. Farmsteads in Bethany that are included in this thematic State Register listing are: the Russell Homestead, 20 Round Hill Road; Clover Nook Farm, 50 Fairwood Road; the Davidson Farmstead, 539 Litchfield Turnpike, RoJo Farm, 312 Litchfield Turnpike, the Bishop-Tuttle-Megin Farmstead, 163 Carrington Road, and the Doolittle Farm at 329 Downs Road.

The c. 1800 Farmhouse at Cherry Tree Farm is located close to the road, with its west façade facing the road across a lawn; the main barn is to the northeast. The ridge-line of the house is oriented north-south, parallel to the road and to the ridge-line of the barn. The house is a 2 ½-story five-bay vernacular colonial style gable-roofed building with the west eave-side facing the road. The front entry is a door in the center bay, flanked by two six-over-six double-hung windows on both the first and second floors. A 1 ½-story wing extends south, set back from the road slightly, with a 1-story porch in the angle of the main block and the wing. A historic photograph (Bunton) shows an open porch with square posts and a nearly-flat roof. A side entrance to the house was under the porch roof. The porch has since been enclosed. A 2-story ell extends east from the rear of the house, flush with the north gable-end wall of the main block. Siding is vinyl horizontal siding and roofing is asphalt shingles. A stone fireplace is located in the side yard north of the house. The main block is 26' x 32', the south wing 16' x 20', and the east wing 15' x 18'.

To the north of the Farmhouse is a driveway that leads east to the barn and to the southeast to the two-car 20' x 22' gambrel-roofed garage, whose upper floor is a finished space. A circular drive curves around to the rear of the house at its east side. To the north of the barn in a fenced pasture there is a small shed-roofed livestock shelter. The pasture is occupied by a small herd of Belted Galloway beef cattle. A stone wall fronts Bethmour Road along the west property line.

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

Architectural description:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>c. 1800</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete silos</td>
<td>c. 1950</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barn:
This is a 2 ½ -story Dutch gambrel-roofed ground level stable barn, 30’ x 70’. The ridge-line of the barn is approximately north-south.

Exterior:
The west eave-side of the barn has a series of twelve four-pane hopper windows with trim along the main level with an exterior sliding pass-through door in the center. In the lower pitch of the double-pitch gambrel roof are the words “CHERRY TREE FARM” in large white letters painted on the wood shingles. Mortared cobblestone foundation is evident below the floor level on this facade.

The north gable-end of the barn has an overhead door flanked by a four-pane hopper window in each side in the main level. Centered above the door is a sliding hay door. Below the roof peak is a larger pair of hay doors which open by sliding diagonally downward. The roof has a projecting hay hood on the north gable-end with the end of a hay track projecting below it. The north eave-side of a milk room attached to the east side, is flush with the north gable-end wall.

The east eave-side of the barn is mostly encompassed by additions. At the north corner is a small gable-roofed milk room, towards the center are two concrete silos connected to the main barn by gable-roofed enclosures, and towards the south corner is a gable-roofed 25’ x 50’ cattle barn. The south gable-end of the barn has a shed-roofed addition with a deep porch extending south and a loading dock.

The barn has horizontal Dutch lap siding painted white. The roof has a projecting overhang, exposed rafter tails and is covered with wood shingles. On the ridge of the roof are two equally-spaced metal ventilators with cow weathervanes. The gable-roofed cattle barn addition has a single metal ventilator.

Interior:
The interior of the ground level of the main barn is a typical ground level stable barn layout, with two longitudinal girders supported by rows of six steel columns. The cow stanchions have been removed and a new concrete floor poured to replace the original. An enclosed office near the center of the east aisle may have been a feed room. The four-pane windows are in original condition with side cheeks to hold the sash in venting position. The interior walls and ceiling are finished with tongue and groove beadboard.

At the southeast corner an opening leads to the addition, and formerly had a ramp for the cows to walk in for milking, now replaced by steps. The cattle shed is now occupied by the beef cattle but formerly had one row of stanchions and a row of box stalls.

Near the northeast corner a hatch in the ceiling and ladder provide access to the loft level above.

The hay loft is a cavernous space with approximately four-foot high knee walls braced by diagonal struts to the floor. The roof is framed by a series of trussed ribs at two-foot centers, constructed from dimension lumber with nailed connections. The installation of trusses at every rib is somewhat unusual, with every second or third rib being common, and gives this barn a great resistance to deflection, as evidenced by its excellent condition. The end walls are braced by triangular trussed braces, two at each gable-end. Spaced deck boards support the original wood shingle roof, only now in need of replacement. The hay track is extant, suspended below the roof peak, and the fork is still in the barn, though no long attached. The owner demonstrated how the fork and pulley were operated by a rope that exited the barn through a hole at the southwest corner, where it could be towed by a tractor to move the hay fork down the length of the loft. The floor is wood planks.

The two concrete silos are of the type constructed of stacked pre-cast concrete rings and a cast-in-place domed roof.
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 farmstead and its barn are significant architecturally as an exceptional example of the Dutch gambrel dairy barn, with intact silos. The land adjacent to the road remains in pasture use, preserving the agricultural landscape. The barn is a particularly well-constructed and sturdy structure. The family’s care of the barn has been excellent and they have been determined to keep their pastures and woodlands intact. The Carrington family, with their multi-generational ownership of the family farm, have been important in local politics and to the history of their community.

Historical background:

The farm dates back to the early 19th century, with the house, then a 1 ½-story building, belonging to Samuel Brisco, who was documented as a church member before 1800 (Bunton). In 1839 the property was acquired by George and Micah Sperry, and subsequently by Abram Carrington (1829-1908) in 1866. The farm has remained in the Carrington family since that time.

Abram Carrington had moved from Seymour to Bethany. He married twice, first Sarah E. Pritchard of Seymour, who died in 1874, and later Mary J. Patterson of Naugatuck in 1875. Abram’s children with Sarah included Mary E. (1859-1864), Willie E. (1862-1864), Ida (b. 1865) who married William Henry Lowell of New Haven, Charles P. (b. 1867) who moved to Brooklyn NY, and Ella S. (b. 1870) who married Burton (Burt) W. Holbrook of Seymour. Children with Mary included Otis (b. 1875), Burton A. (b. 1877), Henry P. (1880-1909), Rachel M. (b. 1882) who married Sherman P. Woodward of Bethany, Hiram D. (1886-1965) who married Anna Voland, Ralph W. (b. 1888) who married Frances, and Ruth E. (b. 1891) who married T. Beisiegel. Ralph W. Carrington was a school principal in Waterbury; the Carrington School was named in his honor.

Son Hiram D. Carrington continued at the family farmstead, bringing the dairy farm into the 20th century. Hiram’s wife Anna was known for the chicken or steak dinners and luncheons which she served by reservation, specializing in bridge parties. The Carringtons also hosted summer boarders, some of whom were artists and left watercolor paintings of the farm which the family still has in their collection.

Ida Carrington Lowell’s husband William Henry, a railroad machinist, took up photography, and it is due to his work that the family has a collection of photographs on glass negatives. Uncle Burt drove the milk wagon, delivering dairy products to Seymour. Henry served the town as First Selectman.

In 1932 the old barn burned down, and in 1933 the present barn was constructed. The farm then had 250 acres of land, and with the addition of the southeast cow shed, the dairy operation milked up to 80 cows. In the first few years, barn dances were held in the loft, with the piano probably hoisted up through the hay doors, as there is no stair access to the loft level. Cherry Tree Farm always sent the milk elsewhere for bottling; they have a milk room but no creamery space. The dairy operation was discontinued in the mid-1970s. The stable area of the barn was leveled with a new concrete slab floor, and converted to poultry. The egg business was continued into the 1990s.

In 1961, the farm passed to Hiram and Anna’s sons Gordon V. Carrington and Hiram D. Carrington, Jr. When the first son (Gordon) married, the Farmhouse was converted to a two-family home and the parents moved upstairs. When the second son (Hiram) married in 1952, the parents built themselves a new house up the road. After ending the dairy operation, the Carringtons ran an Agway dealership. Gordon also served as First Selectman of Bethany. Now Hiram’s widows Joan lives at Cherry Tree Farm, and Joan’s son Bob runs a land-clearing business from the property. They keep a small herd of Belted Galloway beef cattle and continue haying, both for their own use and for sale.
Architectural significance:

This farmstead and its barn are significant architecturally because of the intact condition and high level of maintenance of the barn and silos. The land adjacent to the road remains in pasture use and hayfields, preserving the agricultural landscape that characterized Bethany until the post-World War II period, and still provides the town’s core identity. The barn is a particularly well-constructed and sturdy building, an excellent example of its type, the Dutch gambrel-roofed ground level stable barn characteristic of dairy farming in the first half of the 20th century. The family’s care of the barn has been excellent and they have been determined to keep their pastures and woodlands intact.

The Carrington family, with their multi-generational ownership of the family farm, have been important to the history of their community. Two family members have been town leaders as First Selectman, and the family has been involved in local community activities including the Bethany Historical Society, of which Hiram, Edyth, and Joan have been board members.

• Sources (continuation):
Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 6/27/2012.
Interview with Joan, Edyth, and Bob Carrington 6/27/2012, at the site.

Map resources:
Parcel ID: 107/124-1A


Print and internet resources:


3. Parcel map of 144 Bethmour Road, Bethany CT – property line is approximate; base image from Google Maps.

4. Northwest view of 144 Bethmour Road, Bethany CT, camera facing southeast. From left to right: stone fireplace in foreground, Barn at rear, Garage, Farmhouse.
5. Northwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing southeast.

6. West view of Barn, camera facing east.
7. Southwest view of Garage, camera facing northeast.

8. Northwest view of Barn, camera facing southeast.

10. East view of Silos, camera facing west.
11. East view of Barn, southeast cowshed addition, camera facing southwest.

12. Southwest view of Barn, camera facing northeast; southeast cowshed addition is at right rear.
13. Interior view of Barn ground level, camera facing west, showing hopper windows and wood interior finish.

14. Interior view of Barn ground level, camera facing northwest, showing column and girder, wood interior finish, ladder to loft level.
15. Interior view of Barn loft level, camera facing south.

16. Interior view of north gable-end wall of Barn loft, showing truss bracing, camera facing northwest.
17. Detail of hay fork at Barn loft level, camera facing north.  18. Detail of hay fork showing manufacturer.

19. West detail view of Barn southwest corner, camera facing east. Note opening below eave for rope controlling the movement of the hay fork.
20. Interior view of southeast cowshed addition, camera facing east.

21. Watercolor painting of Barn and earlier silo, painted by summer boarders Harry and Hilda Olsen, courtesy of Carrington Family.
22. Photograph showing the old barn (burned 1932) during haying, photograph by Wm. Henry Lowell, courtesy of Carrington Family.

23. Photograph showing the old barn (burned 1932) at right, photograph by Wm. Henry Lowell, courtesy of Carrington Family.
24. Group photograph by William Henry Lowell, courtesy of Abram Carrington and his sons. From left, Hiram D., Burton, Abram (with white beard), Henry, and Otis. In the front is Ralph.

25. Photograph of Mary Jane Patterson Carrington by Wm. Henry Lowell, courtesy of Carrington Family.

27. Mary Lowell (daughter of Ida and Wm. Henry) with pigs, courtesy of Carrington Family.

28. Belted Galloway cattle, camera facing east, and tractor in use at farm, camera facing north.