**HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Information</th>
<th>Building Name (Common)</th>
<th>Riverdale Farm</th>
<th>Record No. 18584</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Street Address or Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>234 River Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Town/City</strong></td>
<td>Killingworth</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner(s)</strong></td>
<td>Weiss, Mark, 245 River Road, Killingworth CT 06419</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL 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
- Interior accessible? Yes
- Style of building: English and ground level stable barn, Vernacular style
- Date of Construction: 20th c.

**Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clapboard</th>
<th>Asbestos Siding</th>
<th>Brick</th>
<th>Wood Shingle</th>
<th>Asphalt Siding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fieldstone</td>
<td>Board &amp; Batten</td>
<td>Stucco</td>
<td>Cobblestone</td>
<td>Aluminum Siding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete (Type block masonry)</td>
<td>Cut Stone (Type ____________)</td>
<td>Other (Vertical wood siding)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Structural System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood Frame</th>
<th>Post &amp; Beam</th>
<th>Balloon</th>
<th>Load bearing masonry</th>
<th>Structural iron or steel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other (__________)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Roof (Type)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gable</th>
<th>Flat</th>
<th>Mansard</th>
<th>Monitor</th>
<th>Sawtooth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gambrel</td>
<td>Shed</td>
<td>Hip</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Other (__________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Approximate Dimensions:** 30' x 34' - 6"

**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:
  - Addition at north end, portion of stable barn demolished, new silo

**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: **Paddocks, Hammonassett River**

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:


  See continuation sheet.

Photographer _________________________ Date 5/19/2012

View ________________________________ Negative on File CTHP

Name ________________________________ Date 6/12/2012

Organization _________________________

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- Subsequent field evaluations:

  Latitude, Longitude:
  41.314056, -72.58292

  See continuation sheet.

Threats to the building or site:

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

River Road runs north-south along the east bank of the Hammonassett River in Clinton and Killingworth. The site is on the west side of River Road with parcels spanning the Clinton town line. The Hammonassett River forms the western west property line. The adjacent property to the south in Clinton, has a campground operated by the Weiss family. Residential plots, barns and woodland can be seen towards the east and north. A cluster of historic homes and farmsteads is located to the north along River Road and Green Hill Road.

The barn complex is close to the road on a slightly elevated knoll above the floodplain level, with open pasture land towards its west and south. A dirt and gravel yard area occupies the east side of the barn group, while fences around the south and west sides enclose the pastures.

The complex includes an English barn (Barn I), and a ground level stable barn (Barn II) to the south, separated by a space where formerly Barn II extended to meet the south wall of Barn I. A 1-story gable-roofed concrete block masonry milk room, 14’ x 14’, is adjacent to the east side of Barn II, and an earlier small milk room structure (9’ x 9’, converted for chickens) stands to the north. A five-bay 16’ x 48’ wagon shed of pole construction with corrugated metal sides and roof is located to the east of Barn II backing up to the road. It is open on the west side and houses a collection of equipment including a 1942 John Deere tractor that is still in use. At the southeast corner of Barn I a workshop shed sits on the foundation of a demolished silo, and has been designed to resemble a corn crib. At the southwest corner of Barn I is the foundation of a earlier silo, with a cylindrical modern silo-like structure designed also to evoke the appearance of the original.

228 River Road, a c. 1790 house now under different ownership, was the original farmhouse associated with the farmstead. It is sited on the east side of the road, on a slight rise above the floodplain level. A five-bay 38’ x 40’ 1 ½-story center chimney cape style house with its ridge-line oriented north-south, the main entry is centered in the west eave-side facing the road. Windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash, the doorway has a six-pane transom under a simple lintel, siding is wood clapboard and roofing is wood shingles. A saltbox addition extends the east side.

The current owner of Riverdale Farm has built a modern house on an adjacent parcel to the south of the barns and pastures, close to the campground.

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

Architectural description:

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

| Barn I – English barn | 19-20th c. | C |
| Barn II – Pole/stable barn | 20th c. | C |
| Milk room | 20th c. | C |
| Old milk room | Early 20th c. | C |
| Wagon shed | 20th c. | C |
| Modern structures (“silo” and “corn crib”) | late 20th c. | NC |

Barn I:

This is a three-bay 1 ½-story gable-roofed English barn, 30’ x 34’, with its ridge-line oriented north-south. The main entrance is a pair of full-height sliding barn doors in the center bay of the east eave-side, facing the road. A matching opening with a pair of hinged doors is in the west façade originally permitted a drive-through operation. The foundations of two silos remain outside the southwest and southeast corners. The barn is partially banked, with a lower level in the south bay a half-level below the main level; this is exposed at the south side. A modern gable-roofed addition, 26’ x 26’, has been attached to the north gable-end.
Exterior:
The eastern eave-side is the main façade of the barn, with the main entrance in the middle bay through a pair of double-height X-braced exterior-hung sliding doors. The northern gable-end of is entirely covered with the northern addition, which has a lower ridge-level. The western eave-side has an open-sided shed-roof addition and an attached shed connecting to the silo-like structure. The southern gable-end of the barn has a sliding door entrance to the lower level at the right (east) corner and two four-pane stable window toward the left and center. The attic has a six-pane window with trim just below the apex of the roof.

A louvered hip-roofed cupola is at the center of the roof ridge. Roofing is asphalt shingles. Siding is vertical boards painted red with white trim.

Interior:
The interior has a three-bay layout with a timber frame with nailed joints. Several of the major timbers are hand-hewn. The bents have a single center post and tie girts at the level of the plates. Queen posts above the tie girts support longitudinal purlin plates at the center of the common rafter spans. The rafters are of dimension lumber and butt at the ridge-line without a ridge-board. The roof deck is random-width spaced boards, indicating an original wood shingle roof. Plywood has been installed over the deck for asphalt shingling.

The south bay only has a basement level a half-level below the main floor elevation. The main floor is offset upwards in this south bath to accommodate headroom at the lower level. The basement level shows evidence of use for dairy cows. The north and south bays at the main level are used for hay storage.

Barn II:
This is a 1-story ground level stable barn, 30’ x 40’, constructed with concrete block masonry lower walls, balloon-framed upper walls, and a clear-span truss roof. The north side originally connected to an older cow-shed and thereby to Barn I; now there is an open yard between the remaining barns. Barn II has a row of four-pane hopper stable windows on all sides and a sliding door at the center of the south eave-side. The upper walls are horizontal wood lap siding painted red with white trim and the lower concrete block masonry is painted white. Roofing is asphalt shingles.

The interior is laid out for two rows of dairy cows facing out. Mangers and watering systems are ranged along the outside walls, with a slightly elevated walkway next to the windows. The dropped center aisle has manure gutters channeled to ports in the south wall for runoff. Metal stanchions are still in place. An area for calves is located at the southeast corner, and a feed room is near the center of the east side.

• 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.

This complex of barns represents the tradition of small-scale family-run dairy farming in the early to mid-20th century. It derives significance from the intact condition of an English barn, used for hay, and a ground level stable barn, home to the dairy cows, with two milk room structures representing the evolution of the dairy business in the 20th century. The land remains a working farm with a small number of beef cattle and riding horses and a garden producing vegetables, which are sold at the campground store. The Weiss family represents the trend in the late 19th and early 20th centuries of immigrant families from Europe moving onto farms vacated by earlier settlers of British origin.

Historical background:
The current owner, Mark Weiss, operates the Riverdale Farm Campsite and maintains the farm buildings mainly as a hobby. He and his wife keep a few beef cattle and riding horses.
Mark Weiss’s grandparents immigrated to the United States, Bruno Weiss from East Prussia in Germany in 1912. His wife arrived after living in Brazil where she was a teacher and a sister was a doctor. Arrangements had been made for them to meet, leading up to her arrival. They began developing the commercial dairy operation and lived in the little house at 228 River Road. Bruno’s son was Gunther.

Gunther Weiss (1928-1998) was a graduate of Hand High School in Madison and the University of Connecticut School of Agriculture and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a dairy farmer in Killingworth until 1968, with the farm consisting of 150 acres at one time. During the 1960s he converted part of the farm into Riverdale Farm Campsite, which he owned and ran from 1964 until his retirement in 1992. He was a founding member of the Connecticut Agriculture Extension Service and served as zoning inspector in Killingworth. The campground is now operated by Gunter’s son, Mark Weiss. Other family members live in homes that they have built nearby, but the original farmhouse at 228 River Street has been sold out of the family.

Architectural significance:

This complex of barns represents the tradition of small-scale family-run dairy farming in the early to mid-20th century. It derives significance for the intact condition of an English barn, used for hay, and a ground level stable barn, home to the dairy cows, with two milk room structures representing the evolution of the dairy business in the 20th century. The land remains a working farm with a small number of beef cattle and riding horses and a garden producing vegetables which are sold at the campground store. The open agricultural landscape is preserved.

The barn structure itself is a generic English barn, but it has received an unusual degree of stewardship, with the owner replicating structures such as a silo and corn crib to retain the overall picturesque character of a traditional farmstead. The farm remains under the ownership of the Weiss family in its third generation, with the campground as a unique means of re-using the land to sustain the farmstead into the 21st century.

• Sources (continuation):
  Photographs and field notes by Thomas L. Lentz, Joanna Chapin, 2/25/2010; Charlotte Hitchcock 5/24/2012.
  Interview with Mark Weiss, 6/14/2012, at the site.

Map resources:
  Town of Killingworth Assessor's Records  http://www.equalitycama.com
    Parcel ID: 39-19A 234 River Road, 7.4 acres; Parcel ID: 39-01D, 245 River Road, 2.8 acres;
    Parcel ID: 39-19, 228 River Road, 6.1 acres
  Town of Clinton Assessor's Records  http://data.visionappraisal.com/ClintonCT/
    Parcel ID: 1/1/1, 111 River Road campground, 25.5 acres

Aerial views from:

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

Print and internet resources:
  Riverdale Farm Campground, 111 River Rd, Clinton CT 06413, web site:  http://riverdalefarmcampsite.com/

2. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 234 River Road, Killingworth CT – http://www.bing.com/maps accessed 6/13/2012. Family members have built homes to the south (left) and north (right) of the farm.

4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources. 228 River Road, now under separate ownership, was the original farmhouse associated with the farmstead.
5. Painting of south view of the barn complex, artist and date unknown, courtesy of Mark Weiss. Note location of two silos.

6. South view of barn complex, camera facing north. From left to right, replacement silo-like structure, Barn I with cupola, Barn II, Wagon shed.
7. East view of Barn I, camera facing west. At far left is the Milk room, from left to right note the old milk room, Barn I, workshop styled like a corn crib, and modern addition at the north end of Barn I.

8. East view of Barn I main block, camera facing southwest. Shed resembling a corn crib sits on a former silo foundation.
9. South view of Barn I, old milk room, and shed. The silo foundation is visible below the shed at right.

10. South view of Barn I lower level entrance at left, old milk room at right.
11. Northwest view of Barn I, camera facing east. At left is the modern addition, at right the main barn and silo-replacement structure.

12. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing northeast, showing north bay and interior bent.
13. Interior view of Barn I, camera facing west, showing west barn doors and northwest corner framing.

14. Southeast view of Barn II with Milk room at right, Barn I at rear, camera facing north.
15. Northwest view of Barn II, camera facing southeast.

16. South detail view of Barn II, camera facing north. Note masonry lower wall construction, drainage port to right of doorway, from interior manure gutters.
17. Interior view of Barn II, camera facing south, showing stanchion and manger areas.

18. Northeast view of Milk room with loading platform for milk, camera facing southwest.

20. Interior view of wagon shed, camera facing northeast.