**Historic Resources**

| Litchfield Block masonry & late 19 c.- mid 20 c. | Roxbury 1 1/2, B; 2 |
| Multiple structures - see descriptions |

**Domestic:** secondary structure; Domestic: single dwelling

**Agriculture/Subsistence:** agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Fish, Robert A. and Francine, P.O. Box 133, Roxbury CT 06783**

**Trowbridge, John, Farmstead; Wicklow; Edgehill**

**102, 104, 106 North Street (Route 199)**

**Edgehill Farm** Record No. 45469

**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.*

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**General Information**

- **Building Name (Common):** Edgehill Farm
- **Record No.:** 45469
- **Building Name (Historic):** Trowbridge, John, Farmstead; Wicklow; Edgehill
- **Street Address or Location:** 102, 104, 106 North Street (Route 199)
- **Type:** Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

**Conversions to residential use, swimming pool, landscaping**

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**Property Information**

- **Town/City:** Roxbury
- **Owner(s):** Fish, Robert A. and Francine, P.O. Box 133, Roxbury CT 06783
- **Village:** Wicklow
- **County:** Litchfield
- **Record No.:** 45469

**Historic Use:**
- **Domestic:** secondary structure; Domestic: single dwelling
- **Agriculture/Subsistence:** agricultural outbuilding; Domestic: single dwelling

**Accessibility to Public:**
- Exterior visible from public road: Yes
- Interior accessible: Yes

**Style of Building:**
- **Gambrel dairy & English bank barn, Vernacular style**
- **Date of Construction:** late 19 c.- mid 20 c.

**Material(s):**
- **Clapboard**
- **Asbestos Siding**
- **Brick**
- **Wood Shingle**
- **Asphalt Siding**
- **Fieldstone**
- **Board & Batten**
- **Stucco**
- **Cobblestone**
- **Aluminum Siding**
- **Concrete (Type: Block masonry & cast-in-place)**
- **Cut Stone (Type: Vertical wood siding)**

**Structural System:**
- **Wood Frame**
- **Post & Beam**
- **Balloon**
- **Load bearing masonry**
- **Structural iron or steel**

**Roof (Type):**
- **Gable**
- **Flat**
- **Mansard**
- **Monitor**
- **Sawtooth**
- **Gambrel**
- **Shed**
- **Hip**
- **Round**
- **Other**

**Roof (Material):**
- **Wood Shingle**
- **Roll Asphalt**
- **Tin**
- **Slate**
- **Asphalt Shingle**
- **Built up**
- **Tile**
- **Other**

**Number of Stories:** 1 1/2, B; 2

**Approximate Dimensions:** Multiple structures - see descriptions

**Structural Condition:**
- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

**Exterior Condition:**
- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

**Location Integrity:**
- On original site
- Moved

**Alterations?**
- Yes
- No

If yes, explain: Conversions to residential use, swimming pool, landscaping

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**FOR OFFICE USE:**

- **Town #:**
- **Site #:**
- **UTM:**

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<th>S</th>
<th>NR</th>
<th>If NR, Specify: Actual</th>
<th>Potential</th>
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*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.*
PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT’D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

- ✔ Barn
- ✔ Shed
- □ Garage
- □ Carriage House
- □ Shop
- ✔ Garden
- ✔ Other landscape features or buildings: house, pool, sculpture garden, open fields, woodlands, 2 silos, spring house, potting shed.

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  Gilbert Cartagena, for 1960s renovations

- • Historical or Architectural importance:

See continuation sheet.

- • Sources:


See continuation sheet.

Photographer ____________________________  Date 10/13/2011

View Multiple Views  Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock  Date 11/09/2011

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

- • Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
Barn I: 41.569493, -73.314957,
Barn II: 41.5702, -73.314836

Threats to the building or site:

- ✔ None known
- □ Highways
- □ Vandalism
- □ Developers
- □ Renewal
- □ Private
- □ Deterioration
- □ Zoning
- □ Other ____________________________  □ Explanation ____________________________
• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

North Street (Route 199) extends northward from its intersection with Church Street at the village center of Roxbury and connects with the town of Washington. This property is located on the east side of North Street across from the intersection with Juds Bridge Road. A split rail fence and screen of trees and shrubs lines the roadside, largely concealing the buildings from public view. The 2 ½-story gable-roofed house sits on a knoll with its west eave-side facing the road. A full-width 1-story hip-roofed porch spans the west facade. Two major barn complexes flank the house, framing an open U-shaped lawn area to the rear (east).

Barn I, the South Dairy Barn, is located to the south of the house, set toward the southeast and downslope from the site of the house. Barn II, the North Dairy Barn is set on an elevated site to the northeast of the house. Each of these has a silo attached by a 1-story gable-roofed connecting shed. A level lawn area east of the house, framed by the two barns, has been landscaped with a free-form pool and a formal garden. A patio area along the east side of the house looks out onto this lawn. Beyond to the east the land slopes up to a wooded hill. Barn III, the Potting Shed, is located between the house and Barn I. Barn IV, the Spring House, is further to the rear beyond Barn II at the east edge of the level lawn.

The site is entered by driveways to the north and south of the house. The south drive curves to the left to arrive at a parking court between the house and Barn I, whose upper level serves as the garage. A branch heads straight east along the south side of the lower level of Barn I. The north drive curves to the right to arrive at a parking area near the north gable-end of the house. A branch heads straight east along the north side of Barn II and provides vehicle access to the rear of the property. A small equipment shed is located east of Barn II at the edge of the woodlands. The west-facing slope to the rear of the building complex has been recently cleared, as has an area north of the complex, to plant a Christmas tree farm.

102 North Street is a Colonial Revival house, enlarged and remodeled in this style about 1910. Its exceptionally large and deep main block has a five-bay façade with a columned porch across its full length. In the center at the second floor is a three-part window. [Four] later [cobblestone-faced] exterior chimneys, two on the left end elevation and one on the right, pass through the pediments of the broad end gables, which contain paired sash surmounted by an oriel window in the peak. A continuous frieze runs around the house under the roof and pediment cornices. Projecting cornices cap 8-over-8, double-hung sash windows. (Cunningham, p. 117).

The area surrounding this property is a neighborhood of scattered residential development, a mix of historic houses and mid-20th-century to early 21st-century houses, many used as second homes or country estates. A few parcels retain acreage that is kept open, as hay fields or for equestrian facilities, but much of the historical farmland has reverted to second growth woodland.

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

Architectural description:

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

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>Barn I</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silo A (concrete)</td>
<td>Mid 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barn II</td>
<td>Early 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silo B (wood)</td>
<td>Mid 20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn III – Potting shed</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn IV – Springhouse</td>
<td>20th c.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barn I – Dairy Barn:

The overall massing consists of a number of parts that have been assembled over time. At the basement level, a 38’ x 44’ ground-level stable barn for dairy cows has two rows of steel pipe columns supporting overhead girders oriented north-south. The northern 32 feet of this appears to be the basement of an older bank barn and has mortared fieldstone foundation walls (visible at the exterior west wall). The southern 12 feet is a 1-story extension with a shed roof and concrete block masonry half-walls.

At the southwest corner, a 24’ x 22’ 1 ½ -story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south contains the Milk room and a loading platform facing the driveway. The attic level of this wing is accessible from the upper level of the barn and is finished as a game room.

At the east side near the southeast corner a 14-foot diameter poured concrete silo (Silo A) with a domed concrete roof stands about 6 feet off the building wall, connected by a 1-story gable-roofed connecting shed.

The upper level above the northern part of the stable barn consists of a 38 x 32-foot gambrel-roofed 3-bay timber-framed English barn with its ridge-line oriented east-west. This is perpendicular to the layout of the stable barn below. Attached to the east side of the upper level near the north corner is a 20 x 25-foot 1 ½-story gable-roofed ell, with its ridge-line oriented east-west, which has been converted to residential use. The easternmost bay of the barn has also been converted to the residential use with 2 stories of bedrooms. The remaining 2 bays are in use as garage space. Attached to the north side of the eastern wing is a 10 x 24-foot 1-story shed addition, formerly an open wagon shed, which has been converted as part of the residential use. A wood deck has been constructed for the residence, in the space between the eastern ell and the silo.

Exterior:

The north eave-side of the upper level is a three-bay façade which now has overhead garage doors in the center and right (west) bays. A very short 4-foot high pass-through door is in the wall between the garage door openings. The left (east) bay is covered by the shed-roofed addition that was formerly a three-bay wagon shed and is now living space. This addition has seven large casement windows and an entry porch in the formerly open bays. Skylights have been inserted in the roof of the main barn and the eastern wing.

The west gable-end of the gambrel structure has a square attic window near the peak and four evenly-spaced basement windows set into the mortared fieldstone foundation. Grade slopes down from north to south, with the basement wall partially exposed along this west side. Attached at the southwest corner is the milk room structure. Its north gable-end is partially buttressed against the south wall of the main barn and projects west beyond the barn. This exposed portion has a poured concrete retaining wall foundation and a hay door with ornamental diamond bracing and beveled head trim opening into the upper level. The west eave-side of the milk room has unpainted concrete block masonry lower walls with wood framing above. On the lower level there are two six-over-six double-hung windows and a door at the right (south) corner leading to a concrete loading dock on the lower level. The upper (attic) level has three six-pane windows under the eaves.

The south gable-end wall of the milk room has a mortared fieldstone foundation below the floor level, concrete block masonry lower walls, and wood-framed upper walls. The block masonry is 4 courses high, terminating below the window sills. There are two six-over-six double-hung windows at the lower (ground) level and two one-pane windows at the upper (attic) level. The east eave-side of the milk room is partially encompassed by the stable barn extension; the exposed portion contains a slightly recessed pass-through door at the basement grade level. Inside the door is a vestibule in which exterior windows of the stable barn wall can be seen, which implies that this was formerly an open porch or that the milk room was a late addition. A brick chimney in the corner of the vestibule projects through the east pitch of the roof.

The south side of the barn consists of the stable barn extension at the basement level, opening to the lower grade elevation. The exterior south wall has unpainted concrete block masonry half-walls with wood framed walls above in which are a closely-spaced series of nine-pane hopper stable windows. A pair of sliding doors is centered on the interior layout, placing it just to the right (east) of the milk room on the exterior. To the left (west) of the doors is
one window outside the milk room and two more inside its vestibule. To the right of the doors are three more windows. The doors have nine-pane glass panels to match the windows. Above the basement wall's 1-story height, a shed roof extends back to meet the south wall of the upper level barn mid-way up its upper level wall.

Siding on the north, west, and the south side of the milk room is vertical tongue and groove flush-board. At the portion of the upper wall above the shed roof, and the milk room east wall, siding is clapboard.

The east wall of the basement level is exposed at grade for part of its length. At the left (south) is a nine-pane hopper stable window. To its right is the passage connecting to the silo in which there is a stable-type window. Further to the right (north) are two additional nine-pane windows and a pass-through door. These last three are below the modern deck, so are not readily visible on the exterior. The concrete silo sits to the east of the shed addition, the modern residential deck abutting it to the north.

The east gable-ends of the shed addition and of the main barn are sided with horizontal clapboards. Residential doors and windows dating from the 1960s conversion, have been added to the main barn’s east side, and to the south and east sides of the eastern 1-story ell. The attic gable facing east has been in-filled with large triangular glass panels. A chimney projects through the north pitch of the roof. The east wall at the upper grade level has a tripartite picture-double-hung combination window and the east wall of the former wagon shed has three large casement windows matching the north side.

The barn complex is painted white. The roof has overhangs at the eaves and rakes, with sloped board soffits and small eave returns on the gable-ends. Roofing is asphalt shingles. A weathervane in the shape of a pig sits on the ridge.

**Interior:**

The interior of the basement level is in much the same condition as when the dairy cows walked out. The concrete floor has trenches for collecting manure and ramps from the outer raised aisles down to the center aisle; the hopper windows have triangular jamb liners or cheeks to hold the sash in the open position; the walls are plastered and the ceilings finished with wallboard panels and battens – all features characteristic of the hygienic requirements of the modern dairy barn in the early 20th century. The milk room likewise has concrete floor, plastered walls and ceiling, and a large metal sink still in place. A later partition encloses the northeast corner of the stable barn as a utility room for the residential unit above.

At the upper level of the main barn, two bays remain in their original condition while the third (eastern) bay has been walled off and converted to bedrooms accessible from the eastern ell. In the west bays, the framing system consists of lateral bents with two full-height timber posts meeting two longitudinal purlin plates which support the change in pitch of the gambrel roof. Upper and lower rafters are carried on the purlins. The posts divide the space into three aisles. The side portions of the bents have girts dropped below the plate, and an interesting arrangement of three diagonal braces above and below the girts. In the center aisle, the girt is raised to a height just below the purlins, acting as a collar tie. All timbers appear to be hewn including the rafters. The diagonal braces are shaped with tapered centers and expanded ends, giving them a slightly Craftsman Style appearance. Roof decking is random width spaced boards. A layer of plywood has been added above for recent asphalt roofing.

The residential areas have modern interior finishes with the exception of a few timbers which have been left exposed as collar ties.

**Barn II – Dairy Barn:**

The principal block of the barn is a 36 x 56-foot 1 ½-story gambrel-roofed ground level stable barn with hay loft above. This has its ridge-line oriented east-west. To the west are a series of 1 ½-story gable-roofed shed additions connected to the main block. A wood stave silo (Silo B) is located near the northwest corner of the main block and is connected to it by a 1-story gable-roofed connector shed. Along the south side of the main block there is a shed-roofed open-sided shed. At the southwest corner is a 1-story gable-roofed milk room with its ridge-line oriented east-west. A wood deck abuts the south side of the western additions.
Exterior:
The east gable-end is exposed for its full height, exhibiting the cross-sectional profile of the typical gambrel barn. Here a concrete foundation and low curb is visible, topped by vertical wood siding. A central two-panel sliding door with vertical board panels, provides entry to the center aisle of the interior. A six-pane stable window with beveled head trim is located near each corner. Above at the loft floor level is a sliding six-pane hay door. Further above at the peak of the attic is a large hay door opening. A pair of side-hinged trapezoidal doors each has a five-panel frame extending to a point at the peak of the roof. A hay track is visible suspended from a projecting hay hood extension. Siding is vertical flush-boards. A siding divide is seen at the eave line although construction here is balloon framing.

The north pitch of the roof is a flat plane while the south pitch has a Dutch gable flare which transitions to the shed roof of the attached structure covering the south wall. This open shed or porch has its east end wall flush with the main block and filled in solid with sheathing. A small section at the west end is enclosed as an office with a six-over-six double-hung window, while the remainder has a wood deck floor and screened south side, for use as a screen room adjacent to the swimming pool. A row of stable windows in the main barn wall is visible though boarded shut and a series of ventilation hoods has been removed leaving square panel closures (see north side below). The shed roof is supported by a girder and posts along the south eave and an intermediate purlin and posts within the porch. Rafters of dimension lumber are exposed.

To the left (west) of the shed porch is an attached 1-story milk room with a gable roof oriented east-west. It has one six-over-six double-hung window in each of its south and west sides. The milk room has horizontal lap siding up to the eave line and vertical siding in its miniature attic gable, matching the vertical siding of the upper part of the main block’s west gable-end, visible above the roofs of the lower additions.

The additions, a series of 1-story gable-roofed sheds extending west, have been converted to a pool house and residential use and have a variety of late 20th-century doors and windows. A covered passageway between these sheds and the milk room leads to the interior of the main barn. Grade slopes down gently from east to west, and a wood deck along the south wall of the residential space provides a level surface adjacent to the building.

The north side of the barn consists of the residential space at the west end, with a row of double-hung windows, a recess within which the wood stave silo is located, and the north wall of the main barn. The residential wing is clad in clapboard siding painted white.

The silo sits on a mortared fieldstone foundation topped by a concrete curb. A series of steel braces, bolted through the walls into a steel band on the interior of the silo, tie the wood stave structure to the foundation. The lower portion of the wood staves is rotted in a number of places. A boxed-in chute runs vertically on the east side of the silo for accessing the silage; it has a small gable roof. The main silo has a conical roof with asphalt shingles. The silo connects to the ground floor of the barn through a gable-roofed connecting shed which has a stable-type window facing north.

The north side of the main barn has a fieldstone foundation partially visible below the wood-framed wall. There is a row of six-pane stable windows – a band of four at the east and west ends and two single windows in the central portion. Above these is a series of projecting metal ventilators. Siding is vertical flush-board painted white.

Roofing is asphalt shingles. On the ridge of the main block is a metal ventilator topped by a weathervane in the form of an eagle.

Interior:
The interior ground level space is a well-preserved example of the state-of-the-art dairy barn of the early 20th century with a double row of steel pipe columns supporting longitudinal girders to carry the floor joists above. It has the concrete slab floor with a dropped center aisle, trenches for cleaning out manure, and raised outer aisles. The lower walls or dado are finished with smooth vertical wood paneling painted dark green; the upper walls are plastered a light tan. A series of low wall registers appear to connect through in-wall ducts to the exterior ventilator hoods. The windows have interior cheeks to support the hoppers in the open position. The ceilings are wallboard panels with
battens. All surfaces are finished with smooth finishes that can be cleaned easily. Two ladders attached to the outer walls lead through hatches to the loft above. At the northwest corner, a paneled sliding door leads to the silo.

The loft above is framed with dimension lumber. Knee walls rise above the floor level to the spring line of the eaves. A line of posts made from doubled sawn lumber members, rises to support a purlin at the break in the roof pitches. This in turn carries the ends of rafters for the lower steep pitch and the upper flatter pitch of the roof. The supporting posts are braced by diagonal members down to the outside wall at floor level and horizontal to meet the plate. Connections appear to be nailed.

At the southeast corner of the stable barn space are doors to the office and to the passage leading outside past the milk room door. The milk room has plastered walls and a metal sink. The western sheds, formerly tool sheds or other work areas, are now the pool house/residential space.

**Barn III – Potting Shed**

This shed is located between the house and Barn I. It is an 18 x 22-foot 1 ½-story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented north-south. The walls are framed with post and beam framing while the roof rafters are dimension lumber. There are two six-over-six double-hung windows on each side except the north. In the north gable-end a pair of sliding doors is centered at the ground level and in the attic there is a hay door with a projecting beam above, flanked by a small one-pane window on each side. The south gable attic has similar windows. Siding is vertical flush-boards painted white. The roof has a slight overhang at the eaves and rake; roofing is asphalt shingles.

**Barn IV – the Spring House**

This small low structure is to the rear beyond Barn II at the east edge of the level lawn where the hill begins to slope up. The 12 x 14-foot structure consists of mortared fieldstone foundations below grade with a gable roof of dimension lumber with its ridge-line oriented east-west. Both wood-sheathed gable-ends have access doors.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut Register Criterion:

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

This farmstead, with its two barn complexes, is significant because of the exceptional integrity of the structures and the original location in an intact rural community. The history of use represents the historical changes that have formed the community of Roxbury from the 1860s to the present, including commercial dairy and use as a country estate. The two major barns include an English bank barn expanded for dairy use and a gambrel ground level stable barn, purpose-built for dairy cows.

**Historical background:**

This site has important associations with the Trowbridges, who ran an iron foundry and furnace here in the mid-1800s. In 1842 Josiah Bronson sold all the land and buildings associated with the enterprise to John Trowbridge (b. 1785) and relocated his business in Roxbury Center. The 38 acres Trowbridge conveyed had once belonged to John's deceased brother, James. They were the sons of the first John Trowbridge in Roxbury (1752-1807), who built a mill on Baker Road. Presumably the foundry depended on locally mined ore, and since a water privilege was part of the sale, water-powered machinery was used in the refining and/or casting processes. John 2nd, who was listed as a mechanic in the 1850 census, conveyed the foundry to his son, William (b. 1830). In 1856 William sold a quarter interest to his brother, John T., who was the first to build a house on the site. It was standing when he sold the property in 1861 to Samuel Thomas and reserved the use of the "furnace building" for five years and the privilege of moving the “moulding room” off the premises. Samuel Thomas (b. 1823), a prosperous farmer with assets valued at $9000 in 1870, lived here with his wife, Caroline, and their four children. In 1909 the property was sold by his estate to Belle Vernon Carpenter of New York City. Either Carpenter or F. 0. Ayres, a later owner who named the place “Wicklow,” may have done the major Colonial Revival remodeling (Cunningham, p. 117).
Roxbury’s Mine Hill site was mined for silver in the 18th century and for iron from 1864 onward, with its smelting complex along the Shepaug River in the Chalybes section.

The Beers map of 1874 shows Thomas at the site. Census records show Thomas family members in Roxbury from the 1870s through 1910, with occupations evolving from “farmer” to “cattle drover” to “milk producer.”

The 1934 League of Women Voters Map of Roxbury shows Ayres and “Wicklow” as the owner and property name. In the 1910 Census, both Carpenter and Ayres were listed as residents of New York. Frank O. Ayres, age 48 and a Massachusetts native, was vice president of an insurance company. Also enumerated were wife Vera, age 28, son Francis O., age 13, and four household servants. This was evidently the transition to a gentleman farm.

After a subdivision of the property in 1966, the house on 25 acres was purchased by Burt Wayne, a New York interior designer and fashion industry executive. Wayne occupied the home as a country estate until his death in 2008. His niece, Francine Fish, her husband Robert, and their extended family, also made this their vacation home. During the 1960s when the Fish children were young and rambunctious, parts of the barns were converted to accessory dwelling units to provide space outside the elegant main house. The dairy quarters in both barns remained intact and can still be imagined as working dairy barns, although the barnyards are gone and have been elegantly landscaped as a country estate. The Francine and Robert Fish are the current owners of the property and continue to use it as a second home while initiating some working agriculture with the establishment of a Christmas tree plantation.

**Architectural significance:**

This farm, with its two barn complexes, is significant because of the exceptional integrity of the structures and the original location in an intact rural community. The history of use represents the historical changes that have formed the community of Roxbury from the 1860s to the present.

Although barns can be difficult to date precisely, the post-and-beam framing and banked stone foundation of the South Dairy Barn (Barn I) suggests a date earlier than the other structures on the site. The gambrel framing layout with purlin posts and raised center aisle would have pre-dated the change to balloon framing. It is tempting to guess that the stylized shaping of the framing members might have been an early 20th-century touch corresponding with the make-over of the house to its Colonial Revival style in the early 1900s, though the barn could have been built somewhat earlier. The eastern ell also exhibits hewn timber framing, and so could be the oldest component.

The addition of a shed-roofed extension to the lower level made use of the long dimension of the upper barn to become the shorter dimension of the ground level stable barn in the basement. The ideal stable barn would have had ample light from windows on both sides, but the banked condition here caused a make-shift arrangement with the windows clustered in the south end wall. Barn I thus appears as a well-preserved exemplar of an experimental time when the owner, probably Ayres, was improving his older barn with the latest scientific features for hygienic milk production.

The North Dairy Barn (Barn II), in contrast, represents an example of the current thinking on dairy farming around 1910-20. The ground level layout has the optimal dimensions and the hay loft above was built with balloon framing. Flooring, gutters, windows, ventilation, all exemplify the recommended features of the time. The structure is marked as a relatively early example only by the arrangement of purlins and posts to support the roof structure, where a few years later a fully open span would have been constructed with scissor trusses.

The silos also provide samples of the evolution of dairy farming, with the wood stave silo at Barn II being the typical technology until around 1930. The style of opening in the side for manual removal of silage represents the time before the use of power augers. The concrete silo at Barn I, made of stacked pre-cast concrete rings with a poured concrete domed roof, must have been a late addition to the complex just at the peak of the dairy era, as concrete silos generally date from the second quarter of the 20th century.

The farm and its buildings illustrate the evolution of agricultural buildings in Roxbury from the post-Civil War period to the present time, as subsistence agriculture evolved to commercial dairy farming and gentleman farming, and as ownership moved from permanent resident farm families to part-time ownership with serious agri-business
use and later to use as a country estate. The pendulum is swinging back toward some commercial agricultural use. The Thomas family, who farmed here from the 1860s to after 1900, were Connecticut natives and raised children who continued as farmers. Subsequent owners were from New York City, with Frank O. Ayres representing the well-to-do executive who invested in the gentleman farm and ran it as a business. Later, the purchase by Burt Wayne signaled the end of profitable agriculture and the move to a purely recreational use. Like other art-world figures such as Arthur Miller, William Styron, and Alexander Calder, the Wayne ownership made a Roxbury property into a country retreat. The working farmyard gave way to green lawn, swimming pool, and formal garden. The gritty machine sheds are converted to apartment spaces. The fact that the owners since the 1960s have re-used the secondary spaces while preserving the key agricultural buildings, the main barns and silos, make this property a particularly significant example of its type and an illustration of changes through 150 years of history.

• Sources (continuation):


Aerial views from:
   http://maps.google.com/

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

Beers Atlas of Litchfield County, 1874.

League of Women Voters Map of Roxbury, 1934 (reproduced in Carley, p. vi).

Interview with Francine & Robert Fish, 10/11/2011, at the site.


2. Site Plan Sketch based on Roxbury Assessor’s Map 19, Parcel 8 and Google Map http://maps.google.com/.

4. West view of house with Potting Shed (Barn III) at rear, South Dairy Barn (Barn I) at right, camera facing east.
5. Diagrammatic plans of South Dairy Barn (Barn I).

6. Diagrammatic plan of North Dairy Barn (Barn II).
7. East view of South Dairy Barn (Barn I) at left, Potting Shed (Barn III) at right, camera facing west.

8. South view of South Dairy Barn (Barn I), camera facing northwest. At far left is the gable-roofed milk room, to right is the shed addition, at rear the gambrel barn, at right front the concrete silo, and at right rear the wagon shed converted to an accessory dwelling unit.
9. Northeast view of Barn I showing the wagon shed wing converted to dwelling unit, camera facing southwest.

10. Northwest view of South Dairy Barn (Barn I), camera facing southeast. At left is the upper level of the gambrel barn, at right the milk room wing.
11. Interior view of basement level stable barn, South Dairy Barn (Barn I), camera facing southwest. Door at right and adjacent window open to milk room beyond.

12. Interior of concrete silo at South Dairy Barn (Barn I), camera facing up.
13a-b. Interior view of upper level, South Dairy Barn (Barn I), camera facing east. At left the north aisle and at right the south aisle of the interior bent.

14. Southeast view of Potting Shed (Barn III), camera facing northwest.
15. North view of Barn III, camera facing south.

16. West view of Barn III, camera facing east.

17. Interior view of Barn III attic, camera facing south, showing timber framing of walls and sawn rafters.
18. East view of North Dairy Barn (Barn II) and silo, camera facing west.

19. Southwest view of North Dairy Barn (Barn II), camera facing northeast. At left is a pool house/accessory dwelling unit converted from barn additions; at right are the silo, gambrel barn, and small gable-roofed milk room.
20. North view of North Dairy Barn (Barn II) with silo, camera facing southeast.

21. Northwest view of North Dairy Barn (Barn II) with silo, camera facing east.
22. Detail view of silo and ventilator with weathervane, North Dairy Barn (Barn II), camera facing northwest.

23. Interior view of ground level, North Dairy Barn (Barn II), camera facing northeast.
24. Interior view of hay loft level of North Dairy Barn (Barn II), camera facing east.

25a-b. Interior views of silo at North Dairy Barn (Barn II), camera facing west down and upward.
26. Southeast view of Spring House (Barn IV) with Barn II at left rear, camera facing northwest.

27. Southwest view of Spring House (Barn IV), camera facing northeast.