

Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

HISTORIC RESOURCES

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) Ellsworth Hill Orchard & Berry Farm Record No. 52419
 Building Name (Historic) Lord-Dunbar Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 461 Cornwall Bridge Road (CT Route 4)
 Town/City Sharon Village Ellsworth County Litchfield
 Owner(s) Bozzi Realty LLC, 461 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon CT 06069 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 Some areas during retail store hours
 Style of building High-drive hybrid English bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 18th-20th c.

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding |
| <input 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: 2 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions 30' x 70' plus modern 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: 1982 Converted to retail store, offices, addition of apple warehouse

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, cottage, former milk house, gravel parking areas.

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:

Cunningham, Jan, 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 11/15/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/12/2012

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.829686, -73.426097

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn, formerly the Dunbar Farm barn, has been converted to a farm store. The modern address is on Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4), which was constructed in the early 1930s, by-passing the village of Ellsworth and running north-south along the east side of the barn. A section of the old Lime Rock-Cornwall Bridge Road, which passes to the west of the barn and was formerly its road access, was re-named Dunbar Road at that time.

In addition to the barn/store, the site includes a small 1-story gable-roofed bungalow residence to the north, facing Cemetery Road, and a hip-roofed structure connected to the bungalow. This appears likely to have been a milk room for the dairy farm, based on its size and shape.

To the northwest, along the west side of Dunbar Road, a row of historic houses and a grange (originally a church) are remnants of the village of Ellsworth. 13 Dunbar Road, a 2 ½-story gable-roofed house whose date is given by the Assessor as 1866, was the Dunbar home, now under separate ownership. The house is a five-bay colonial-style structure with its east eave-side facing the road; the main entry is in the center bay under a columned porch. Three attic dormers project from the roof and a shallow wing projects south from the gable-end. The eaves and gable-ends have deep cornices with molded trim; windows are six-over-six double-hung. Approximately five miles northwest along Route 4 is the Sharon National Register Historic District in the town center on Route 41. Further northwest, the Sharon Valley National Register Historic District recognizes a 19th-century industrial village.

The Barn site sits near the bottom of a long hill sloping down from the western highland area of Sharon Mountain to the Housatonic River at Cornwall Bridge a short distance to the east. Most of the fields and orchards are located to the east of Cornwall Bridge Road, with a small field immediately south of the barn used for an annual corn maze. Customers arrive via a driveway running west from Cornwall Bridge Road to unpaved parking areas at the east and north of the barn/store. Fruits are available in the store or for “pick your own” in season.

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

Architectural description:

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

Barn	18 th – 20 th c.	C
Hip-roofed building (milk room)	20 th c.	C
Bungalow residence	c. 1880	C

The Dunbar House at 13 Dunbar Road, originally associated with the farmstead, is under separate ownership.

Barn:

This is a 2 ½-story plus basement hybrid type barn, 30' x 70', with entries into various locations on its four levels. The gable roof has its main ridge-line oriented east-west perpendicular to Dunbar and Cornwall Bridge Roads. Siding is vertical boards stained dark brown. Windows are a mixture of casement and picture windows, installed in the early 1980s when the barn was remodeled for use as a store and office space. A large 47' x 60' apple storage warehouse with a flat roof is attached at the west gable-end and extends to the south of the barn footprint.

Exterior:

The core frame of the barn was most likely a 30' x 45' English barn with three equal bays. Over the years remodeling appears to have altered it into a high-drive bank barn with an unusual cross-gable structure oriented north-south above the center bay. The gable roof of this structure sits higher than the main ridge-line; its north end projects 12' north of the main barn to form an enclosure for what may have been a high-drive access to the upper hay loft. The current entry into the store is under the high drive, an area that may have been an open passage accessing the center bay of the barn. The south gable-end of the high roof is flush with the south eave-side of the main block, forming the effect of a large wall dormer.

A shed-roofed addition on the east end spans the full width of the east gable-end and its sweeping roof attaches high on the main barn's east gable-end and then slopes down to a basement level wall to the east. This wing now houses the cider mill in the basement level.

A gable-roofed extension continues the roof line of the main block toward the west. A modern concrete apple storage block is attached at the southwest corner and has a flat roof.

Interior:

The interior is finished and heated space, with gypsum wall board surfaces set back from the face of the post and beam frame to showcase the timber framing. The barn is described by the owners as an 18th-century barn, c. 1760. A few posts and beams appear to be of this vintage while others have been replaced and joints reinforced with steel plates. In the east gable-end wall there is an interior window looking into the cider mill below. The barn as a whole has been altered considerably over its long history. Interior finishes obscure much of the structure.

• 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 barn is significant as a major extant structure in the village of Ellsworth, prosperous through the 19th century. The row of historic homes along the west side of Dunbar Road, including the former Dunbar home, along with the massive barn and the agricultural acreage, preserve a historical landscape. The Lord and Dunbar families, as early and long-time farmers and citizens of Ellsworth, were important local citizens. Although the barn has been altered for re-use, the continuation of active agriculture enhances the significance of the building and site.

Historical background:

In the mid-1700s, Jonathan Lord established a farm and built a barn, forming the core of the Ellsworth Hill Orchard barn. The settlers on Sharon Mountain had built a church at Ellsworth in 1797, and established a school. During the early 1800s the area grew as a self-sufficient community with gristmills, dairy farms, flax mills, sawmills, blacksmith shops, a wagon factory, a wicket-ball bat factory, a post office, and an inn, the Griswold Inn. The local Ellsworth Cemetery on Cemetery Road contains stones dating to 1778.

One of the Lords' descendants married Horace Dunbar, and the property became known as the Dunbar Farm. Horace Dunbar lived at the center of the community, now the corner of Dunbar Road and Cemetery Road. The house at 13 Dunbar Road is no longer associated with the barn, but a view along the road toward the north provides a sense of the historic village of Ellsworth. The 1874 Beers map shows H. Dunbar, two churches, the school, a post office, and a handful of other village residents. The 1860 census records show Horace Dunbar, his wife Janett, daughters Esther and Jane, and sons Everett, Erastus, and Philo. By 1870 Everett had married Harriett B. and there were several children. By 1900, Harriett B. Dunbar was the head of the family, while two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren lived in the household. Uncle Thomas Lord, age 73, was living with them as well.

The Dunbar Farm was a dairy farm with the barn housing both hay and cattle. Numerous episodes of remodeling resulted in the tall high-drive bank barn whose outline can be seen in the massing of the present structure. In the early 1930s, today's Route 4 was located to the east of the barn, and the old road renamed for the Dunbars. A hip-roofed structure now located at 1 Cemetery Road, appears likely to have been a milk room for the farm.

In the early 1980s the barn was converted to finished space for a farm store on the second level and offices above. The Bozzi family acquired the farm in the late 1990s. The lowest grade level space is used today as a cider mill, which can be observed from above through a viewing window in the retail store.

Architectural significance:

Although remodeling for re-use has given the building a much-altered appearance, the barn is significant as a major remaining structure in the history of Ellsworth, prosperous through the 19th century. The row of historic homes

along the west side of Dunbar Road, including the former Dunbar home, provide historic context. The Lord and Dunbar families, as early and long-time farmers and citizens of Ellsworth, were important local historical figures. The continuation of active agriculture utilizing the barn for storage and sales, enhances the significance of the building and site, while the preservation of this locally rare example of the high-drive barn type is important.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Charlotte Hitchcock 11/15/2012.

Interview with Michael Bozzi, 8/11/2012, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Sharon Assessor's Records <http://data.visionappraisal.com/SharonCT/search.asp>
Parcel ID: Map 6x/Lot 37

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 12/11/2012.

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

Beers Atlas of Litchfield Country, 1874.

USGS Historical Maps accessed 6/22/2012 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

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

Print and internet resources:

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

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,
<http://www.connecticutbarns.org/52419> .

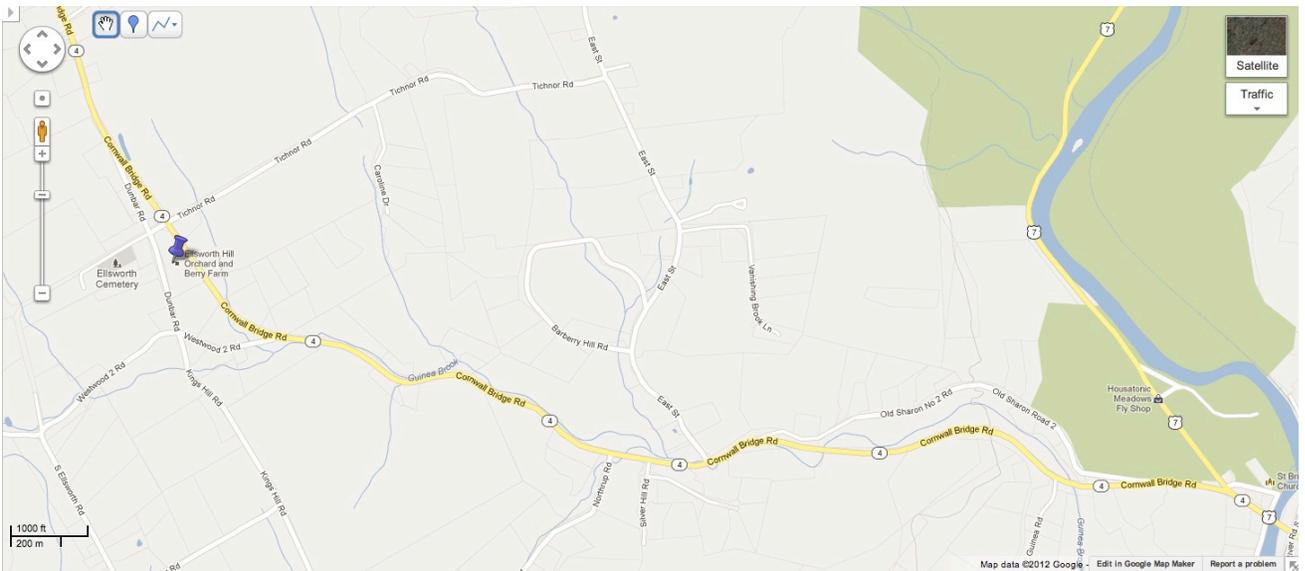
Ellsworth Orchard & Berry Farm website: <http://www.ellsworthfarm.com/> .

Oglesby, Scott, Connecticut Roads website, <http://kurumi.com/roads/ct/index.html> .

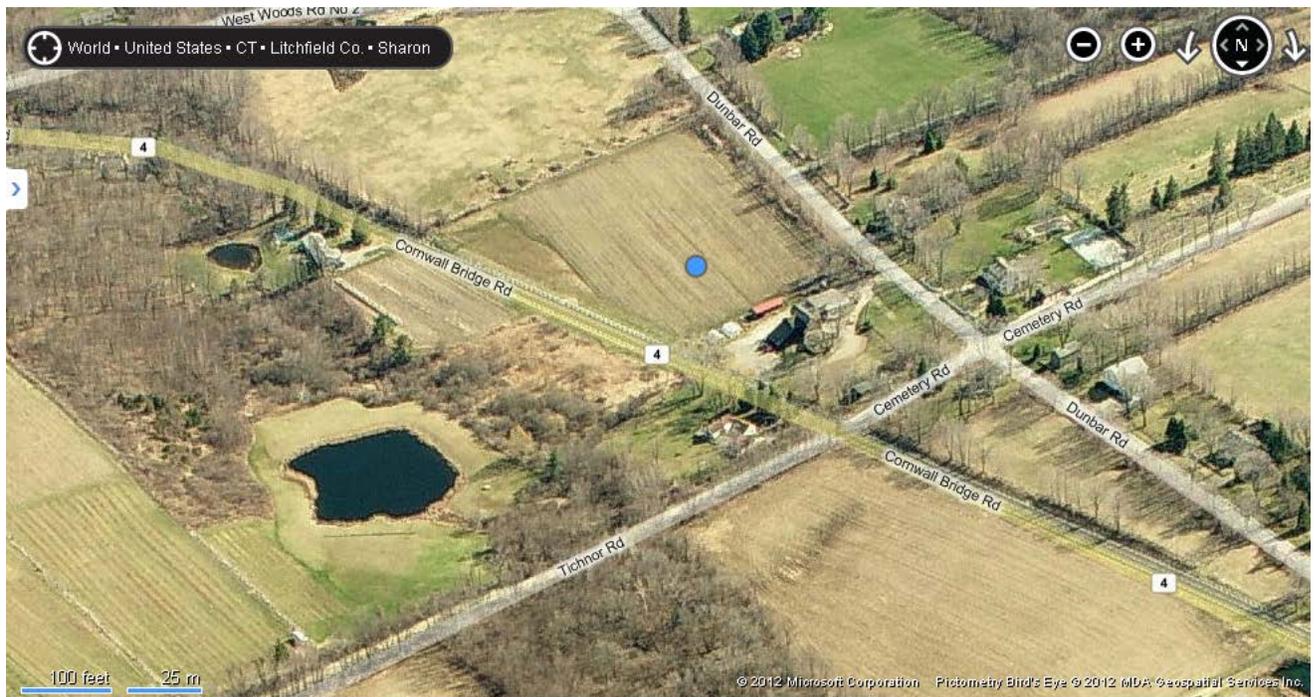
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation,
Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

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

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



1. Location map of 461 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 12/12/2012.



2. North view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 461 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 11/15/2012.



3. Detail Site Plan – base image from Google Maps. The brown shingle roofed building is the barn, with the white flat-roofed apple storage warehouse at the southwest corner.



4. Southeast view of 13 Dunbar Road, historically home to the Dunbar family, now under separate ownership; camera facing northwest.



5. South view of 1 Cemetery Road, building at left is possibly the former milk room; camera facing north.



6. Painting showing the barn from the southwest, prior to remodeling; courtesy of the Bozzi family.



7. Southeast view of barn with the east shed wing at right, the main barn at center rear, and the apple storage warehouse at left rear, camera facing northwest.



8. Northwest view of barn showing the main level entry to the retail store, with the high drive entrance to the upper loft level at left, camera facing southeast.



12. North view of barn showing the high drive ramp to the upper loft level at left, camera facing south.