

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) Wike Brothers Farm Record No. 52563
 Building Name (Historic) Wike Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 38 White Hollow Road
 Town/City Sharon Village _____ County Litchfield
 Owner(s) Wike Brothers Farm LLC, 38 White Hollow 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 _____

Style of building Extended English bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 19th 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type <u>Poured</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Vertical board 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: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions 37' x 50', w/45' x 33', 14' x 14', 14' x 13', 12' x 10'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? c. 1900

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: See continuation sheets

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: Milk house, ice house, sugar house, smokehouse, silo

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 Lucas A. Karmazinas Date 4/24/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Lucas A. Karmazinas Date 4/25/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.893771, -73.432115

Threats to the building or site:

- None known Highways Vandalism Developers Renewal Private
- Deterioration Zoning Other _____ Explanation Removal of Horse barn

- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Wike Brothers Farm is located on the east side of White Hollow Road in Sharon, a town in the northwest corner Connecticut, abutting the border with New York State. White Hollow Road runs roughly northeast-southwest but will be considered as north-south for descriptive purposes. The site is at the southwest corner of the intersection with Eggleston Road, 0.7 miles north of White Hollow Road's three-way intersection with Calkinstown and West Cornwall Roads, and 3.7 miles south of its intersection with Lime Rock Road (Connecticut Route 112). The property is situated approximately 4 miles northeast of North Main Street (Route 41) and Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4) which meet in the center of Sharon. Here at the town center is found the Sharon National Register Historic District, a collection of 213 historically significant resources dating to between c. 1750 and 1930. Further northwest, the Sharon Valley National Register Historic District recognizes a 19th-century industrial village. The area is located west of the Housatonic River and of the range of mountains that parallel the river and along which the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is routed.

Barn I, an English bank barn, is located along the western edge of the property and is sited some 115' east of White Hollow Road, 150' south of the Farmhouse, and 60' southwest of the Horse Barn, a gable-entry barn with side-entry ell. An unpaved driveway runs northwest-southeast from the road, passing the north gable-end of Barn I and the west side of the Horse Barn, and looping back along the west gable-end of the Farmhouse.

The Farmhouse is a 1 1/2-story vernacular frame residence with folk Victorian details. Built c. 1855, the main block of the house measures approximately 28' x 22' and faces White Hollow Road with its ridge-line oriented roughly southwest-northeast. The house has a rough-cut mortared stone foundation, vinyl siding, two-over-two double-hung sash, multi-pane attic-story windows, and asphalt shingle roof. The five-bay west eave-side consists of a centered entry with two double-hung windows in each of the two bays to the north and south and a 1-story full-width porch. The raised-plate attic has four attic windows in the knee wall, located above the four first floor windows. The porch has square supports with scroll-cut brackets and a hipped roof. The gable-ends have two double-hung windows at the upper floor level. There is a 1 1/2-story cross-gabled ell extending from the east eave-side of the main block of the Farmhouse, this with a 1 1/2-story cross-gable ell on its north eave-side. The details of the ells are largely identical to those of the original portion of the house, however, the foundations under this section of the building are largely comprised of fieldstone and the fenestration consists of a mix of two-over-two, three-over-three, and six-over-six double-hung sash. There is a one-story, enclosed hipped-roof porch with poured concrete stair and double-hung aluminum storm windows at the junction of the east eave-side of the main block and south eave-side of the rear ell.

There are ten outbuildings associated with the farm in addition to the Barns, most of these originally constructed during the 20th century. A 1-story, one-bay frame garage with horizontal novelty board siding and front-facing gable roof with asphalt shingles is located 15' east of the Farmhouse and 150' and 75' northeast of Barn I and the Horse barn, respectively. The roof of the Garage is oriented north-south parallel to the main block of the house and its roll-up garage-style door faces south towards the driveway. There is a 1 1/2-story frame guest house situated 40' east of the Garage. The Guest House consists of a 14' x 16' primary block with a 24' x 24' cross-gable ell extending from its east eave-side. The building has a poured concrete foundation, vertical wood board siding, wood corner boards, and sheet metal roof. The entry is located on south gable-end of the primary block, this facing the driveway. Approximately 125' north of the Garage and Guest house there is an 18' x 34' in-ground pool with 8' x 6' frame pump house. The Pump House has horizontal wood board siding and a front-facing gable roof with asphalt shingles, and the pool is enclosed with a wood picket fence.

Two additional outbuildings are located approximately 37' southeast of the Horse barn. The first is a 1-story frame smokehouse measuring 6' x 7'. The Smokehouse has a concrete block foundation, vertical wood board siding, and front-facing gable roof with asphalt shingles. The building is painted dark red with white trim and its primary elevation faces northwest. Roughly 5' southwest of the Smokehouse there is a modern 1-story frame Maple sugar house with front-facing gable roof. Like the Smokehouse, the Sugar house's primary elevation and entry face west. The building has a poured concrete foundation, vertical wood board siding, and a corrugated fiberglass roof. It is painted dark red.

The farm's sixth outbuilding is located roughly 47' south of the Sugar House, 42' south of the Horse Barn, and 90' southeast of Barn I. Identified as the Wagon shed, this 42' x 24' frame building is 1-story in height and has a front-facing gable roof with metal sheathing. The Wagon Shed stands on concrete footings and has a wood frame, vertical wood board siding, and wide open bay on its west eave-side. The building has a dirt floor and is painted dark red.

The farm's seventh outbuilding is situated directly to the southwest of the Horse barn and 23' east of Barn I. Originally constructed as a 1 1/2-story, 18' x 19' ice house, this building has since been expanded through the addition of a 9' x 19' lean-to along its west eave-side and a 25' x 23' gable-roof rear ell adjoining its south gable-end. The original portion of the Ice house has a front-gabled roof oriented northwest-southeast parallel to the Horse Barn, a fieldstone foundation, balloon frame, mix of horizontal novelty and vertical wood board siding, and a metal roof. Currently used for equipment storage, the original section of the building is accessed via an exterior sliding door located on its north gable-end. The lean-to serves as a woodshed and has a wide, open bay on its west eave-side, a balloon frame, and metal roof. The rear ell was constructed as a workshop and has a poured concrete floor, balloon frame, horizontal novelty board siding, and a metal roof. Two entries are located on the block's west eave-side, these consisting of an exterior sliding door and one-bay roll-up garage-style door.

Another outbuilding, the farm's Milk house, stands 10' north of Barn I. The 1-story frame building measures 12' x 13' and has a front-facing gable roof oriented north-south parallel to Barn I and this section of White Hollow Road. The Milk house has a poured concrete foundation and exterior cooling tub, vertical and horizontal wood board siding, and asphalt shingle roof. The entry consists of an exterior sliding door on the east gable-end and the building is painted dark red with white trim. Adjacent to the northern end of Barn I's west eave-side there stands a concrete stave silo. The Silo is approximately 12' in diameter and is held together with adjustable steel hoops. The building has an aluminum dome roof and is accessed from the barn via a frame connector.

The final outbuilding associated with the Wike Brothers Farm stands on a 30.97-acre parcel separate from that on which the barns, Farmhouse, and other outbuildings are located. Sited on the west side of White Hollow Road opposite Barn I, this 1-story, 16' x 30' frame building was originally used as a calving barn but currently serves as a chicken coop. The Chicken coop has a side-gabled roof, this oriented east-west perpendicular to White Hollow Road. The primary entry consists of a pass-through door centered on its east eave-side. The building has a concrete block foundation, horizontal novelty board siding, and asphalt shingle roof. It is painted a dull gray color.

The 144.02-acre primary parcel has a rolling topography that descends quickly towards the southeast away from the farmstead and White Hollow Road. A lawn of mown grass interspersed with young and mature trees surround the Barns, Farmhouse, and outbuildings, and historic stone walls frame the property and associated fields. The landscape of the property has experienced few changes since the middle of the 20th century and it continues to consist of a mix of pastures, hay fields, and woodland. The barnyard itself represents an excellent example of a typical late-19th or early-20th-century farmstead and the pastures located south of the Barn continue to be used for agricultural purposes by the owners.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	Mid 19 th c.	C	Smokehouse	Early 20 th c.	C
Barn I	19 th c.	C	Silo	Mid-20 th c.	C
Horse barn	19 th c.	C	Wagon shed	20 th c.	C
Milk house	Early 20 th c.	C	Sugar /Guest House	Late 20 th c.	NC
Ice house	Early 20 th c.	C	Chicken Coop	20 th c.	C
Garage	Early 20 th c.	C			

Barn I:

This is a 1 1/2-story, five-bay, eave-entry bank barn, measuring roughly 82' x 50' overall. The ridge-line of its gable roof is oriented north-south, roughly parallel to this section of White Hollow Road. The primary entries consist of two exterior sliding doors on the west eave-side of the main level, these facing the road. Originally a single five-bay

barn with entries in the second and fourth bays, the building's three southern bays collapsed in a storm in 1989 and were replaced with a three-bay tobacco barn transported from Ithaca, New York. The roof pitches of the two blocks vary slightly, with the tobacco barn addition having a lesser pitch but a higher ridge-line due to its greater width. The original northern block has a saltbox extension, with its 1-story east eave-side projecting beyond the east side of the tobacco barn block.

Barn I has a fieldstone and poured concrete foundation and a portion of the slope into which the barn is built has been removed on the southern side of the building, thus leaving the basement level of the east eave-side and both the north and south gable-ends exposed. This provides for lower grade-level access to the banked basement on the south, west, and north elevations. There are 1-story gable-roof additions on the north, west, and south elevations, and connected 1 ½- and 1-story lean-tos on the barn's east eave-side. The barn's siding consists of vertical wood boards, these painted dark red with white trim. The roof is sheathed in horizontal sawn boards and corrugated metal sheeting.

Exterior:

The primary entries to the main level of the Barn are a pair of full-height exterior sliding doors located in the second and fourth bays of the building's west eave-side. The doors have exterior bracing and are mounted on metal tracks – these sliding to the north and south – and multi-pane transoms above. There is a hinged pass-through door flanking the south side of the northern entry and a one-story gabled ell in the southernmost bay. The silo is located adjoining the first bay on the northern end of the west eave-side. Aside from the doors and transoms, the remainder of the west eave-side of the main block is blank, however, the 1-story 14' x 14' cross-gable ell adjacent to the southernmost bay has a hinged pass-through door on its north eave-side, two fixed six-pane windows on its west gable-end, and three fixed six-pane windows and a side-hinged pass-through door on the basement level its south eave-side.

The grade at the south gable-end of the barn declines to the southeast, revealing the entirety of the main and basement levels. The main level of the south gable-end is blank except for a dropped girt-line siding divide. There is an exterior sliding door centered on the basement level, this flanked to the east by a 1-story gabled ell. The 12' x 10' ell shelters livestock in inclement weather and has an open bay on its west eave-side and multi-pane windows on its south gable-end and east eave-side.

The east eave-side of the reconstructed portion of the barn's main block is blank on its main level and is broken by three fixed six-pane windows and an exterior sliding door on its basement level. A pent roof with metal sheathing extends across this section of the east eave-side between the building's main and lower levels. To the north, the 1 ½- and 1-story lean-tos extend across the width of the east eave-side's original three bays. Two hinged pass-through doors are located on the north and south ends of the lean-to's east eave-side, between which there are four fixed six-pane windows.

The main level of the original block's north gable-end is blank, as is the north gable-end of the barn's two rear lean-tos. The only opening on the north side of the barn is a sliding door located on the basement level. The door is mounted on an exterior track that slides to the east behind a 1-story ell. The 14' x 13' ell houses the farm's store and office and has a front-facing gable roof that is oriented southwest-northeast parallel to the barn's main block. The entry to the ell consists of an exterior sliding door located on its east gable-end and there is a single two-over-two double-hung window centered on each of its north and south eave-sides.

Interior:

The interior of Barn I's main level reveals a three-bent, two-bay structure with four-bent, three-bay addition on its south gable-end. The original portion of the barn has square rule post and beam frame with dropped girts and diagonal bracing. The framing consists of sash-sawn primary timbers, these with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. The common rafters have a clear span from plate to ridge. All three bents are braced with steel cables running perpendicular to the building's roof-line. The first of the two lean-tos adjoining the original section of the barn is accessible from the interior of the main level and it extends across the full width of its east eave-side. The lean-to has a square rule post and beam frame comprised of sash-sawn primary timbers with dropped girts and diagonal bracing, these with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. Within the original block and lean-to circular-sawn common rafters

meet at a ridge board where they are nailed in place and then joined with modern collar ties. A hay track is suspended from the ridge-board running the length of the block and an opening centered on the eastern side of the original center bay leads to the basement level via a frame ladder.

The additional (southern) bays have square rule post and beam frame with dropped girts and diagonal bracing. The framing consists of circular-sawn primary timbers, these with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. Center posts are present in all four bents, above which are queen posts rising to lapped purlin plates running the length of the block. The queen posts are connected by dropped cross-ties and have diagonal bracing. The roof of the former tobacco barn consists of circular-sawn principal rafters spanned by narrow purlins. Despite the upper level framing having been replaced, this section of the barn appears to retain its original board floor. The floor is laid longitudinally (southwest-northeast) and consists of sawn boards upwards of 22"-23" wide.

The basement level extends under all five bays of the barn. A mix of sawn posts and steel lally columns support two longitudinal (northeast-southwest) girders running perpendicular to the plane of the bents at the upper level. Floor joists run laterally (northwest-southeast) across and resting on the girders, the west eave-side foundation wall, and the east eave-side plate. The joists consist of a mix of half-round and squared timbers extending under the entirety of the barn's main level, the majority of these being 8" in width.

The floor throughout the basement of the barn is poured concrete, this accommodating manure gutters running north-south along the center aisle of the barn. A central passageway formed by the interior posts and girders runs the length of the basement level. All of the barn's cow stanchions in the main basement level of the barn have been removed and replaced with frame stalls and the building's manure gutters have been filled with concrete or wood boards. While the stanchions in the barn's primary basement area have been removed, evidence of use as a dairy barn remains in its whitewashed foundation walls, posts, floor joists, and the underside of the main level flooring. Further evidence includes a number of surviving stanchions found in the barn's rear lean-to.

Horse barn:

This is a 1 1/2-story, gable-entry horse barn with 1 1/2-story cross-gable addition on its north eave-side. The primary block measures 26' x 50', while the ell is 24' x 22' in size. The ridge-line of the primary block is oriented east-west, perpendicular to this stretch of White Hollow Road and its primary gable-end faces west. The roof-line of the north side of the primary block extends lower than that on the south side of the building, thus giving the roof a saltbox-style profile on its west gable-end. The barn has a dry-laid fieldstone foundation and vertical wood board and plywood siding, this painted dark red. The roof is sheathed in a mix of wide rough-sawn horizontal boards, vertical boards, and asphalt shingles. The window trim, sash, and muntins are painted white, as are the building's corner boards and trim around the door openings.

Exterior:

The primary entry to the Horse Barn is a sliding door centered on the west gable-end of the primary block. The sliding door is mounted on an exterior track that slides to the north. There is a side-hinged hay door centered in the gable above the sliding door and a hay track located below the ridge-line.

The north eave-side of the primary block is blank except for a six-over-six double-hung window near its west gable-end. The building's second entry consists of a pair of side-hinged doors located on the west eave-side of the cross-gable addition. The entry is positioned near the ell's north gable-end and it is flanked to the south by a single fixed six-pane window. The remainder of the ell's west eave-side is blank, as is the majority of its north gable-end. The only opening on the latter elevation is a large hay door centered in the gable, this with a small window and hay track in its upper section below the block's ridge-line.

The grade on the south and east sides of the barn declines to the southeast, revealing the building's fieldstone foundation. A small door opening is located on the basement level of the east eave-side of the Horse Barn's cross-gable addition, this providing access to an unfinished crawl space used for equipment storage. On the main level of the ell and the adjacent east gable-end of the primary block there is a series of horizontally oriented multi-pane windows. Three windows are equally spaced across the primary block while two more can be found in the center of

the addition. A small hay door with strap hinges is located in the ell north of the windows and above its basement level door opening.

Three fixed six-pane windows are placed in an irregular arrangement across the Horse Barn's south eave-side. There is also a side-hinged pass-through door at the northern end of the elevation and a small door opening near the eastern end of the block. The latter door is too small for horses or cattle and may have been used for sheep, goats, or swine. Three hay doors are also located in the upper level of the south eave-side. All have metal hinges and open outwards. A girt-line siding divide extends across the elevation, this even with the loft level floor.

Interior:

The main level of the Horse Barn's main block is used for storage. The four-bent, three-bay building is constructed from an assemblage of hand-hewn and circular-sawn timbers, the former showing evidence of having been recycled from an earlier structure. The post and beam frame is largely joined with nails, however, some pegged joints are present. Diagonal bracing has been employed at many of the building's primary joints. The board floors are oriented laterally in line with the bents and the floor joists above. The main level floorboards are upwards of 15" wide and 2" thick and the loft level floor joists consist of half-round hand-hewn timbers. The rear (easternmost) bay is divided from the remainder of the block by a sliding door and its whitewashed interior hints at its former use as a stable.

A batten style pass-through door leads from the stable bay of the primary block into the ell's main level. The framing within the ell is similar to that in the primary block and likewise consists of a mix of recycled hand-hewn and sawn timbers. The ell is a three-bent two-bay structure divided by a lateral (northwest-southeast) girder supported by a single sawn center post. The eastern bay appears to have been originally used as wagon storage while the western bay houses a large horse stall.

Sole access to the loft level of Horse Barn consists of a hatch and vertical ladder at the southwest corner of the ell. The loft level of the Horse Barn's primary block further reveals its square rule post and beam frame with diagonal bracing. Like that on the main level, the framing consists of a mix of hand-hewn and circular-sawn primary timbers, these with nailed joints. The open space is spanned by a single log dropped tie-girt, this located at the center of the block. The girt is supported by an iron tie-rod brace running between the two exterior posts. The roof is supported by hand-hewn common rafters, these butted at the ridge. A hay track hangs from the rafters and the roof is sheathed in wide rough-sawn boards.

The loft level of the ell is similar to that of the primary block, however, no hand-hewn timbers appear to be present. The ell is likewise spanned by a single dropped tie-girt, this located at the center of the block. A steel rod descends from the center of the girt through the floor to support the girder below. The roof of the ell consists of circular-sawn common rafters which are butted and nailed in place at the ridge. A hay track with intact pulley is suspended from the rafters running the length of the building. A portion of the primary block's roof is visible at the southern end of the ell. This is sheathed in wide rough-sawn boards and wood shingles.

• 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.

Wike Brothers Farm is significant for its intact complex of barns and outbuildings. Since 1868, the farmstead has been held by four generations of the Wike family. The barns include a 19th-century English bank barn significant for its post and beam framing and basement level dairy use; and a 19th-century gable-entry barn. Another significant feature of the Wike Brothers Farm is its concrete stave silo. The farmstead is also significant as it represents the movement of immigrants during the early 20th century into farming in Connecticut. Farmers like the Wikes, of German origin, worked at dairy and poultry farming, supplying the growing industrial cities with produce and meat.

Historical background:

The land comprising the Wike Farmstead appears to have remained undeveloped as late as the early 1850s as no buildings are present on the site on a map of Litchfield County from 1853. In 1856, however, the land passed from Hiram S. Northrup to a William Landon, and by 1859, a map of Litchfield County indicates a residence present on the current site of 38 White Hollow Road. In 1859, the residence is identified as that of James J. Landon, a farmer, and it was likely either William or James Landon who constructed the vernacular farmhouse currently found on the property.

James Landon held the farm until 1866, whereupon it passed to James L. and Royal E. Hayes. The Hayes brothers retained the property for just two years and in March 1868 they sold the land to John E. Wike, an immigrant from Baden, Germany. Born in 1844, John E. Wike arrived in Sharon along with his father, Casper, and siblings Casper, Levi, Helen, and Caroline, c.1860. John E. Wike's future wife, Mary Liner, was born in 1852 and likewise emigrated from Baden. Mary arrived in Sharon c. 1862 and the couple was married in 1870.

John E. and Mary L. Wike eventually had five sons, Frank (1872-1946), John L. (1874-1956), Frederick W. (1876-1910), Edward C. (1879-1969), and Benjamin F. (1885-1947). John E. Wike died in 1891, however, his wife and sons continued to operate the family's dairy farm in White Hollow. As Sharon historian Ed Kirby notes in his anecdotal history, *Seldom Told Tales of Sharon: Book Three*,

For many years beginning prior to World War I into the 1950s the Wike Brothers of Sharon's White Hollow operated a very successful dairy farm. Most of their cattle were Holsteins, the big milk producers, with a scattering of Golden Guernsey stock to raise the butterfat percentage ... Two sons remained on the farm, John who never married and Ed who married Alice R. Judd (1899-1980). Ed and Alice had two children, Edward Jr. (1920-1942) and Helen Wike Humeston, retired Sharon Tax Assessor who at this writing resides at the family Wike Brothers Farm.

Ed Wike, brother John and their hired help farmed at White Hollow. The other two brothers were in business in Sharon village where Frank operated a hardware and livestock feed business just east of the Methodist Church ... The youngest son, Benjamin Franklin Wike operated the first automobile livery service in Sharon. Among the many he frequently drove to and from Sharon Station on the New York Central Railroad were Susan Prince Colgate, widow of Sharon's electric power entrepreneur Romulus Riggs Colgate and owner of Filston, the Colgate estate. By the late 1930s Ben Wike expanded his operation to school transportation. Garaging his buses adjacent to his house at Number 1 Low Road (next to the site of the former Bostwick Grist Mill) he provided transportation for the Sharon Center School and to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School when it opened in September 1939.

On the farm the brothers Wike were hard working and successful. They usually employed two helpers plus one or two more during haying season. At *Neverland* we knew John best. In addition to farming he was elected to twelve consecutive terms from 1917-1918 through 1928-1929 as a member of the Sharon Board of Selectman also serving many of those years as the Sharon Town Road Foreman. With extensive glacial gravel deposits on *Neverland's* 695+ acres and the town in need of gravel, estate superintendent E.J. Kirby and John Wike were able to share services and materials in what was then considered a rather remote section of town.

Note: Current site of the Sharon Audubon Center at 99 West Cornwall Road, *Neverland* is the former estate of Artist Emily Winthrop Miles. Miles donated the property to the National Audubon Society in 1962.

The history of the Wike Brothers Farm is further outlined on the farm's website,

The Wike Brothers, Frank, John L. Frederick, Edward, and Benjamin raised dairy cattle, apples and grains. Fire wood also figured as a cash crop. Wikes worked the land for about 100 years, until Edward, the last surviving brother died in 1969 at the age of 90, leaving the farm to his only surviving child Helen Wike Humeston.

Since 1969 farming has not been seen as economically viable on this small mountain farm. Hay land was leased to local farmers. Several dairy farmers rented the property, but in the last 30 years the pastures have grown up due to lack of grazing, and by 2000 wild rose bushes and bittersweet vine had all but obliterated open pasture.

The family, Helen Wike Humeston and her husband Don had continued to live in the original farmhouse. Lynn Wike Humeston and Donna Hoskins Barlow and her husband Hank Barlow were all living on the property. In 2002 Hank retired and began to do the tasks on his 'Honey Do List'. This list consisted of one item 'FIX THE FARM.' And fix the farm he has.

Hank with the help of an EQUIP grant, and Ben Hoskins, Donna's son have beaten back wild rose bushes, bittersweet vine, milkweed and other invasive species and have fenced long fallow pastures and hay land. Now Hank's employees, 50 head of cattle, 100 chickens and 4 sows and their young are all working together with Hank and Ben to continue to improve the pastures and hay land.

Today the land comprising the Wike Brothers Farm is very much reminiscent of that worked by the five Wike brothers during the early 1900s. Continued careful management by the current owners promises to preserve much of that character. Farmland preservation program support from the Connecticut Farmland Trust further aids efforts to protect the landscape associated with Wike Brothers Farm for the benefit of future generations.

Architectural significance:

Barn I is significant as an intact example of an English bank barn and because of its 19th century framing, which is a good example of square rule post and beam construction largely comprised of sash-sawn timbers. The barn is notable for evidence of basement level dairy use, which include a whitewashed interior, manure gutters, and several surviving metal stanchions. By the early 20th century, agricultural engineers developed a new approach to dairy barn design: the ground-level stable barn, to reduce the spread of tuberculosis bacteria by improving ventilation, lighting, and reducing the airborne dust of manure. A concrete slab typically serves as the floor for the cow stables. Many farmers converted manure basements in older bank barns into ground-level stables with concrete floors, while others jacked up older barns and set them on new first stories to allow sufficient headroom. In the case of the Wike Brothers Farm barn, the building was moved from its original location along White Hollow Road c.1900 and placed above a new basement level dairy. With the stables occupying the entire lower level, the space above serves a hayloft.

Wike Brothers Farm is also significant for its concrete stave silo. Developed as an alternative to wooden stave silos, concrete silos were built according to principals similar to their predecessors yet as concrete does not expand and contract with changes in moisture levels they proved much more durable. The silo at Wike Brothers Farm was likely constructed c. 1940, the peak of the style's popularity.

The barn gains further significance for its association with a 19th-century vernacular farmstead house, which for almost 150 years has been the residence of members of the Wike family, who maintain the property's agricultural use and character.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Lucas A. Karmazinas, 4/24/2013.

Interview with Hank Barlow, Partner, Wike Brothers Farm, LLC, 4/24/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

Town of Sharon Assessor's Records <http://data.visionappraisal.com/SharonCT/search.asp>
Parcel ID: Map 17/Lot 91

Town of Sharon Tax Map Viewer http://www.sharonct.org/images/pdfs/Formsdocuments/SharonTaxMaps_15-35.pdf

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 4/24/2013.

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 .

USGS Historical Maps at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> accessed 4/24/2013.

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/52563>

Kirby, Ed, Seldom Told Tales of Sharon: Book Three, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, CT, 2011.

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>

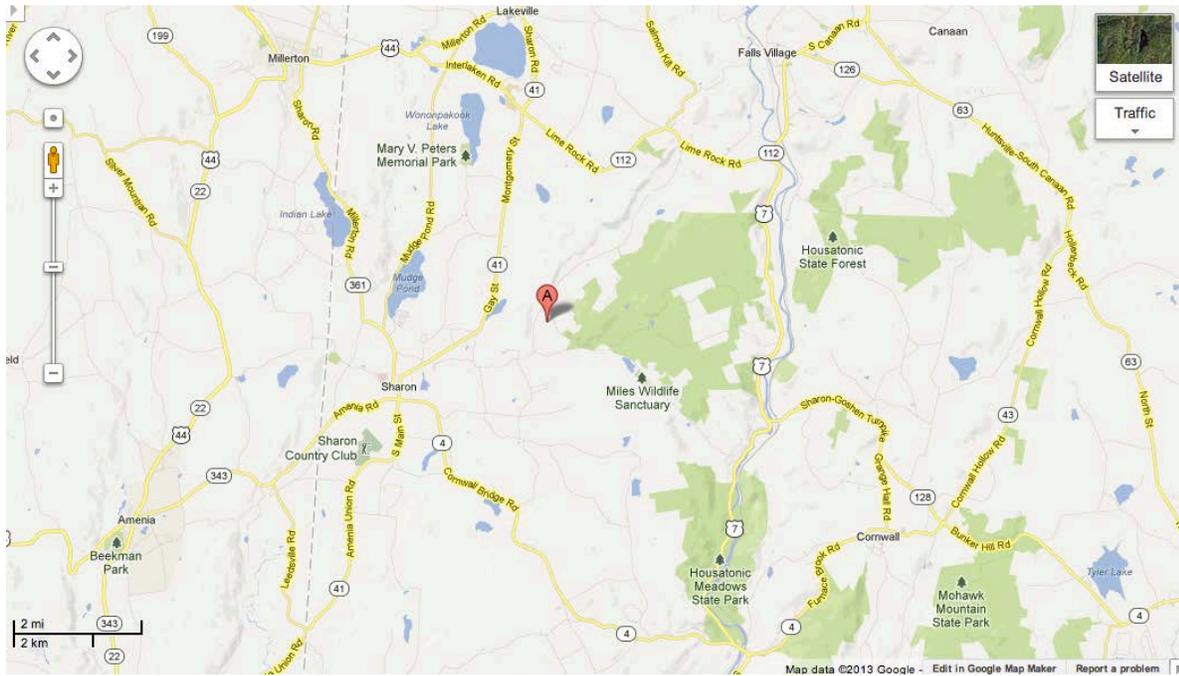
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

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1. Location map of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 4/24/2013.



2. Aerial map view of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT – <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 4/24/2013.



3. Parcel map of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT – from Town of Sharon Assessor’s office, http://www.sharonct.org/images/pdfs/Formsdocuments/SharonTaxMaps_15-35.pdf



4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing and non-contributing resources – base image from Google maps.

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5. Northwest context view of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT, camera facing southeast. From left to right, Horse barn, Icehouse, Milk house, Barn I, Silo.



6. Southwest context view of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT, camera facing northeast. From left to right, Farmhouse, Garage, Guest house, Milk house, Horse barn, Silo, Barn I.

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7. Southwest context view of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT, camera facing northeast. From left to right, Farmhouse, Garage, Guest house, Milk house, Silo, Barn I.



8. South context view of 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, CT, camera facing north. From left to right, Horse barn, Farmhouse, Garage, Pool pump house, Guest house.



9. West eave-side of Farmhouse, camera facing east.



10. East gable-end of Farmhouse main block, east gable-end and east and south eave-sides of Farmhouse rear ells, camera facing west. Note Garage at left.



11. South gable-end and east eave-side of Farmhouse main block, south eave-side and east gable-end of Farmhouse rear ell, and south gable-end and east eave-side of Garage, camera facing northwest.



12. South view of Guest house, camera facing north.

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13. South view of Pool and Pump house, camera facing east.



14. Northwest view of Smokehouse and Sugar house, camera facing southeast.



15. Northwest view of Wagon shed, camera facing southeast.



16. West view of Ice house, camera facing east.

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17. Southeast view of Ice house lean-to and rear ell, camera facing northwest. Note lean-to at left, two-bay workshop addition at right.



18. North gable-end and east eave-side of Milk house, camera facing southwest. Note poured concrete cooling tub at left, Silo at rear left.

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19. Interior view of Milk house, camera facing southwest. Note poured concrete floor, finished board interior, cooling tub at lower right.



20. South side of Silo and west eave-side of Barn I, camera facing north. Note Farmhouse at rear left.

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21. North eave-side and east gable-end of Chicken Coop, camera facing northwest.



22. West eave-side of Barn I, camera facing southeast. Note roof-line divide between the original block and the rebuilt section to the right. Milk house at rear left, west eave-side ell at far right.

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23. West eave-side and south gable-end of Barn I, camera facing northeast. Note west eave-side ell with basement level entry at center, south gable-end ell at far right.



24. South gable-end and east eave-side of Barn I, camera facing north. Note west eave-side ell with basement level entry at left, south gable-end ell at center, original block rear lean-to at far right.

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25. East eave-side of Barn I, camera facing west. Note basement level sliding door at center, original block rear lean-to at far right.



26. North view of the gable-end of Barn I, camera facing northwest. Note lean-to additions to original block at left, north gable-end ell at center left, Milk house and Silo at right.

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27. Interior view of Barn I main level original block, showing framing details, camera facing north. Note dropped girt, diagonal bracing, and common rafters.



28. Interior view of Barn I main level original block, showing framing and roof details, camera facing east. Note dropped girt, diagonal bracing, and common rafters.

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29. Interior view of Barn I main level original block, showing first rear lean-to framing details, camera facing east. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, and common rafters.



30. Interior view of Barn I main level rebuilt section (former Tobacco barn frame), showing framing details, camera facing northeast. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, and principal rafters.



31. Interior view of Barn I main level rebuilt section, showing framing details, camera facing south. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, queen posts with cross-ties, and common rafters.



32. Interior view of Barn I basement level, showing framing center aisle details, camera facing southwest. Note lally columns with steel headers and half-round joists.



33. Interior view of Barn I basement level, showing stall details, camera facing northwest. Note frame stalls, half-round joists above.



34. Interior view of Barn I basement level rear second lean-to, showing framing details, camera facing west. Note metal stanchions, former exterior wall at upper right.

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35. West gable-end and north eave-side of Horse barn primary block and west eave-side and north gable-end of ell, camera facing southeast.



36. North gable-end and east eave-side of Horse barn ell and east gable-end of Horse Barn primary block, camera facing southwest. Note basement level door opening at center, hay door and track in gable of north gable-end.



37. East gable-end and south eave-side of Horse barn primary block and east eave-side of ell, camera facing northwest.



38. Interior view of Horse barn main level, showing framing and floor details, camera facing southeast.



39. Interior view of Horse barn primary block loft level, showing framing details, camera facing southeast. Note dropped girt, hand-hewn common rafters, hay track, and cable support.



40. Interior view of Horse barn primary block loft level, showing framing details, camera facing south. Note dropped girt and diagonal bracing.

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41. Interior view of Horse barn ell main level, showing framing details, camera facing south. Note wide board floor, empty mortise pockets in the recycled framing members.



42. Interior view of Horse barn ell loft level, showing framing details, camera facing northeast. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, and cable support.

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43. Interior view of Horse barn ell loft level, showing framing details, camera facing southeast. Note dropped girts, diagonal bracing, and cable support.



44. Interior view of Horse barn ell loft level, showing framing details, camera facing southwest. Note exposed framing and roof of primary block's north eave-side, indicating that the ell addition was attached to the primary block.