

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) Tomlinson Farmstead Record No. 43539
 Building Name (Historic) Tomlinson, David / Gideon, Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 181 Meadow Street
 Town/City Shelton Village Lower White Hills County Fairfield
 Owner(s) Paula Anthony, 181 Meadow Street, Shelton CT 06484 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 Gambrel bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction 1931

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>Horizontal Dutch lap 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 Dutch gambrel

(Material)

- Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate Asphalt Shingle
 Built up Tile Other _____

Number of Stories: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions 32' x 45', addition 18' x 30'

Structural Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site Moved When? _____

Alterations? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: 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

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 Charles D. Glover

• 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 Joseph Hoefflinger, Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/13/2011, 3/24/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 6/30/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.325659, -73.122103

Threats to the building or site:

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

- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

181 Meadow Street is located in the Lower White Hills section of Shelton, where Meadow Street runs northwest-southeast from Maple Street which intersects Leavenworth Road (Route 110) near the White Hills Shopping Center, to Shelton Avenue (Route 108). Meadow Street will be considered as oriented east-west for the purpose of description, since Routes 108 and 110 are officially north-south state routes. The site is located on the north side of Meadow Street, east of Sinsabaugh Heights, a cul-de-sac serving a senior public housing development on land which was formerly part of the original Tomlinson farmstead acreage. The site is a two-acre parcel, the remnant of the much larger farmstead which has been subdivided as the area has changed from a rural agrarian to a suburban residential community.

Along the south property line, a low retaining wall of cut granite ashlar masonry is topped by a projecting cap of larger stones. The c. 1810 Federal-style farmhouse is a 2 ½-story gable-roofed structure with its ridge-line oriented east-west parallel to Meadow Street. The five-bay south eave-side façade has a center entry door with sidelights and a fan-light transom, elegant Federal-style detailing. The entry has a small hip-roofed porch and granite steps. Flanking the entry are two twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows on each side, with narrow cornice hoods above each. The second floor has five similar windows in the five bays. The foundation is cut granite blocks where it is exposed above grade. The house has a center-hall two-room deep plan with two chimneys located in the common wall between the pairs of rooms, hence the roof-line has two chimneys set mid-way between the end walls and center hall. The gable-ends have quarter-round attic windows, two in each end, glazed with a rectangular grid of small panes. The eaves have a dentil cornice and short cornice returns. A 2-story gable-roofed ell extends north from the east portion of the north side, and a 1-story shed-roofed ell is attached to the west portion of the north side. The east gable-end has three un-evenly spaced twelve-over-twelve double-hung windows in the main block. The ell has apparently been remodeled, as a 1944 holiday card, shows a 1-story ell. The west gable-end resembles the east, except for an added door with a gabled hood in the center between two windows. The house is sided with wood shingles but has the corner board trim that would typically be seen with clapboard siding.

The Gambrel bank barn is located northwest of the Farmhouse, near the west property line and is now reached from Sinsabaugh Heights.

A second outbuilding is a 2-story workshop or milk house building, 18' x 23', located north of the Farmhouse. It is a three-bay structure with some heavy timber framing mixed with balloon framed studs and dimension lumber rafters. The western bay is enclosed and the interior finished; this was a milk processing facility during the farmstead's mid-20th century dairy farming period. The south eave-side, facing the rear of the Farmhouse, has in its west (left) bay an entry door with four-pane glazed panel over three solid panels. Flanking this are six-over-six double-hung windows with trim including beveled lintels, one on each side. To the right (east) are two modern overhead garage doors. The upper floor level has three six-pane windows tucked in a knee-wall under the eaves. The west gable-end has one six-over-six double-hung window with trim in the upper level. A brick chimney rises in the upper floor and through the roof, off-center toward the north. The north eave-side has a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows in the western bay. The remainder of the north side has a projecting enclosure for the stair that provides interior access to the upper floor, and a projecting shed addition installed to allow for garaging the owner's Cadillacs in the 1960s and 1970s. The east gable-end has a loading door at the upper level, flanked by six-pane windows with trim. The building has horizontal Dutch lap wood siding, painted red, and white trim. The roof is asphalt shingles and the foundation is concrete.

Another shed is located further north; this is a 20th-century wagon shed in deteriorated condition, which is to be demolished.

The area is predominantly residential, a mix of historic homes and mid- to late-20th-century single-family houses, with the Sinsabaugh Heights community an exception to the typical pattern. To the south across Meadow Street is an extant area of open agricultural land with a very large gambrel barn, giving a sense of the earlier landscape. The northern areas of Shelton, the White Hills, were agricultural until the mid-20th century. Other White Hills farmsteads included in this thematic nomination of Agricultural Heritage sites to the State Register of Historic Places include

the Jones Farm at 606 Walnut Tree Hill Road, the Hubbell-French Farm at 61 East Village Road, and the Wilson Farmstead/Shelton History Center at 70 Ripton Road. The Warren Hubbell Farmstead at 136 Maple Avenue is also on the State Register. Like the Hubbell-French Farm, the Tomlinson Farmstead occupies a site on the crest of the hill that plunges down eastward to the Housatonic River, and the original farmstead land extended to the river bank.

To the southwest approximately 3.75 miles is the village of Huntington, historically the center of settlement prior to the Industrial Revolution. Here is located the Huntington Center Historic District, a National Register district including the village green and a portion of Church Street on each side of the green. A short distance northwest is the Wilson Farmstead/Shelton History Center at 70 Ripton Road.

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

Architectural description:

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

Farmhouse	c. 1810	C
Gambrel barn	1931	C
Milk House/Garage	20 th c.	C
Shed/Barn	20 th c.	NC

Gambrel barn:

This is a 1 ½-story Dutch gambrel-roofed bank dairy barn with an attached addition. The barn incorporates the features of a ground level stable barn in an unusual way, taking advantage of the slope. The ridge-line is oriented east-west, parallel to Meadow Street. Grade at the west and south sides of the barn is at the elevation of the basement level window sills; hence the dairy stable floor is a half-level below grade and the hay mow is a half-level above grade. Grade slopes down toward the east and north, allowing the lower floor to exit at grade on the east gable-end. A 1-story gable-roofed addition is located at the northeast corner and the foundation of a former silo is adjacent to the north side. The barn is sided with horizontal Dutch-lap wood siding painted white, the foundation is mortared fieldstone, and the roof is asphalt shingles.

Exterior:

The west gable-end of the barn has a projecting hay hood at the peak of the roof. Below this a hay track projects through the wall over a large vertical sliding hay door on side-mounted tracks which extend down to the ground. There is a side-hinged hay door at the floor level of the hay loft, to the left (north) of center. This has interior X-bracing, siding on the exterior to match the adjacent wall, and a six-pane vertically-set window sash in the upper part. Two four-pane stable windows and one closed opening are located close to grade, just above the fieldstone foundation which has a few courses exposed on this side.

The south eave-side has a tall hinged door at the left (west) corner, extending from the foundation to the eaves, a story and a half. The door exterior is vertical boards. To the right (east) are five pairs of four-pane stable windows, set with their sill on the concrete parging of the fieldstone foundation. Above the leftmost pair is a similar pair of windows high under the eaves.

The grade drops abruptly near the southeast corner to fully expose the east gable-end. At the lower stable level there is a centered overhead door flanked by a group of three four-pane windows on the left and two on the right. Additional openings below these are partially boarded up. The right (north) portion of the wall is overlapped by an attached 1-story gable-roofed addition. The south eave-side of this addition has a sliding door off-center toward the left (west) flanked by one four-pane window on the left and two on the right. The east gable-end of the addition has two four-pane windows. The north side of the addition wraps around the north wall of the main barn and has a door at the northwest corner and several window openings. The door was used for moving manure on an overhead manure trolley, still extant.

The north eave-side of the barn is similar to the south, with the addition of a doorway leading to the location of the former silo, whose foundation stones are still visible.

Interior:

The barn structure is a well-constructed typical ground level stable barn with a balloon-framed trussed loft level.

The ground level has mortared fieldstone walls up to the window sills. Two lines of steel pipe columns support longitudinal wood girders made up of multiple timbers of sawn dimension lumber. Lateral joists of sawn dimension lumber support the loft floor above. The concrete slab floor is formed with a center aisle containing two manure gutters, two rows of stanchions facing out, curved mangers, and access aisles slightly raised along the outside walls.

At the southwest corner, an enclosure contains steps up to a landing and exist door, with continuing steps up to the loft level. Adjacent to the stair are grain chutes leading down from grain bins at the loft level.

The loft level is a large clear span space framed by scissor trusses at the changes of wall and roof pitch. A knee wall approximately five feet high along the outer walls transitions to the steep roof pitch by means of a series of trusses at each rafter, composed of sawn dimension lumber. Similar trusses brace the transition from the lower steep roof pitch to the upper shallow pitch. Collar ties near the peak support a hay track. An enclosure at the southwest corner separates the grain bin and stair from the hay mow. Two hatches along the outer walls provide for pitching hay down to the stable. The end walls are braced by triangular trusswork anchored to the floor.

The roof deck is uniform narrow spaced boards, and the original wood shingle roofing can be seen between the boards.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criteria:

1. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
2. Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

This farmstead is significant because the c. 1810 house is a rare and exceptionally well-restored example of Federal-style design and its history includes ownership by David and then Gould Tomlinson, members of a locally and regionally prominent family who operated a large and prosperous farm. The barn, a 1931 replacement after a fire, represents a state of the art dairy barn at the time of construction, and exemplifies modern dairy practice in the 1930s.

Historical background:

The house at 181 Meadow Street is believed to have been built by David Joseph Nichols Tomlinson (1779-1828), as he assumed ownership from his father Captain Beach Tomlinson (1726-1817) in 1805. The house is among the few extant examples of Federal-style architecture in Shelton.

Captain Beach Tomlinson was the great-grandson of Henry Tomlinson, the first to arrive from England; Henry (d. 1681) lived in New Haven and then Milford, before arriving in Huntington, then a part of Stratford. Henry's son was Agur (1681-1728), whose son was Zechariah (1693-1768). Zechariah and his wives, first Hannah Beach (1703-1740) and later Mary Holmes (a widow, d. 1749), raised ten children, of whom Beach was the fourth. Beach married Charity Shelton (1736-1809) and they had 14 children of whom 12 lived to adulthood. Captain Beach fought in the Revolutionary War under General David Wooster and later became a major stockholder in the Derby Turnpike as well as acquiring extensive landholdings in Connecticut and Vermont. Beach's sons included Victory Tomlinson (b. 1760) who moved to Plymouth, was the grandfather of Hobart Victory Welton of Waterbury (see nomination for Welton Carriage Shed, Wolcott Street, Waterbury), and was known for his wealth and for an investment in the Waterbury River Turnpike. The youngest child was David Joseph Nichols, born after his father's war service and when his mother was 43.

David J. N. Tomlinson married Elizabeth Ann Beardsley and "lived at the White Hills, in Huntington; had a large farm and dairy" (Orcutt). Their children were Nancy (b. 1812), Gould (b. 1816), and Mary Elizabeth (b. 1820). Gould inherited the farm, and married Sarah Ann Judson (d. 1865) and at the time of Orcutt's publication, was living on as a successful farmer. His sister Mary Elizabeth married Wright Drew, a near neighbor, also a farmer.

Gould and Elizabeth Ann had ten children before her death in 1865. By the 1880 Census, he was living in a household with seven of them. By 1900 Gould was 83 and only Anna, age 52, and Frederick D., age 54 (Orcutt described him as a dentist in New York City as of 1886) were living in the household. In 1902 Anna Maria Tomlinson inherited the farmstead, and she lived there until 1923. She gave live use to Frederick Drew, who had begun working as a farmhand there. He and his wife Edith appear in the Census records beginning in 1910 with their daughters Alice, Edith, and Helen (Anna Tomlinson was there as well at age 61); they stayed until 1945, operating the dairy farm, 240 acres at its peak.

During their time at the farmstead, a tragic barn fire in 1931 resulted in the death of a child. The story is that one of the Drew children and a Glover child were playing with matches and caused the fire. The barn was rebuilt that year by Charles D. Glover, a building contractor who also lived nearby and to whom the Drews were related by marriage.

After 1945, the farmstead was purchased by John Newton Sinsabaugh (b. 1870) and his wife Frances. He was the son of Judge John N. Sinsabaugh, presiding magistrate of the Shelton City Court in the 1930s, and, following a 20-year career with the Howe Manufacturing Company, the owner of an automobile garage and dealership. With his wife Lilas Chadeayne, he had three children: Adeline (b. 1903), John Newton, Jr. (b. 1905), and Loraine C (b. 1908). In the 1910 Census, they lived at Coram Avenue, where the automotive business was located. By 1930, Adeline had left home and John Jr. was a salesman along with his father. In the 1940 Census John Sr. and Lilas were retired, but John Jr. is not recorded. However, in 1949 he and his wife Frances purchased the farmstead on Meadow Street and extended the garage spaces in the Workshop building to fit the length of their Cadillacs. According to the current owner's research, John N. owned the Cadillac-Oldsmobile dealership while Frances was a librarian at Yale University. He died in 1978 and she in 1996. In about 1980 they sold 20 acres of land to the city to build the senior housing development, and after Frances' death, the remaining property was subdivided into several house lots, with the farmstead house and barn on a two-acre parcel, now owned by Paula Anthony. The barn is still used to store hay, although not for livestock.

Architectural significance:

This farmstead is significant because the house, dating to the early 1800s, is a rare and exceptionally well-restored example of Federal-style design and its history includes ownership by David and then Gould Tomlinson, members of a locally and regionally prominent family who operated a large and prosperous farm. The barn, a 1931 replacement after a fire, represents the state of the art in dairy barn design at the time of construction, and is cleverly sited to provide the stable floor with ample light from windows on both sides and a grade-level entry for the stock, while banking the west end to provide easy access to the hay mow. It is in excellent structural condition with no significant alterations and still in use for hay storage. The landscape is altered by residential development, but the sloping site provides a view over the Housatonic River and an adjacent property to the south remains open farmland, giving some sense of the earlier agricultural environment.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Joseph Hoefflinger, 6/13/2011; Charlotte Hitchcock, 3/24/2013.

Interview with Paula Anthony, 3/24/2013, at the site.

Map resources:

City of Shelton GIS Viewer <http://www.valleycog.org/gis.html> (temporarily unavailable).

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/30/2013.

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 6/30/2013.

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

Print and internet resources:

Beardsley, Janelle, et al, A Pictorial History of Shelton, Herf Jones Publishers, 1987.

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/43549>

Cunningham, Jan, Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage: an Architectural and Historical Overview, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation & State Historic Preservation Office, 2012.

Molloy, Leo T., Tercentenary Pictorial & History of the Lower Naugatuck Valley, Emerson Bros., Ansonia, 1935.

Orcutt, Rev. Samuel, A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Tuttle Morehouse & Taylor, New Haven, 1886.

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

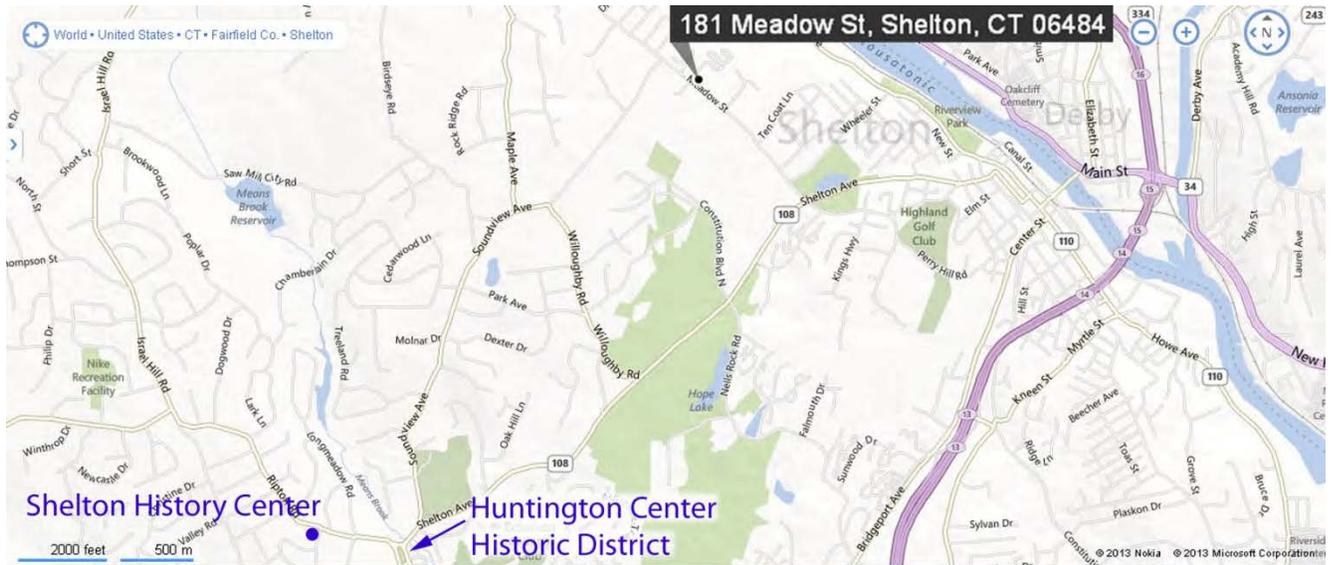
Shelton History Center/Historical Society Archives

Materials on Tomlinson, Drew, and Sinsabaugh families, researched by Paula Anthony,

Images of America: Shelton, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, 2002.

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

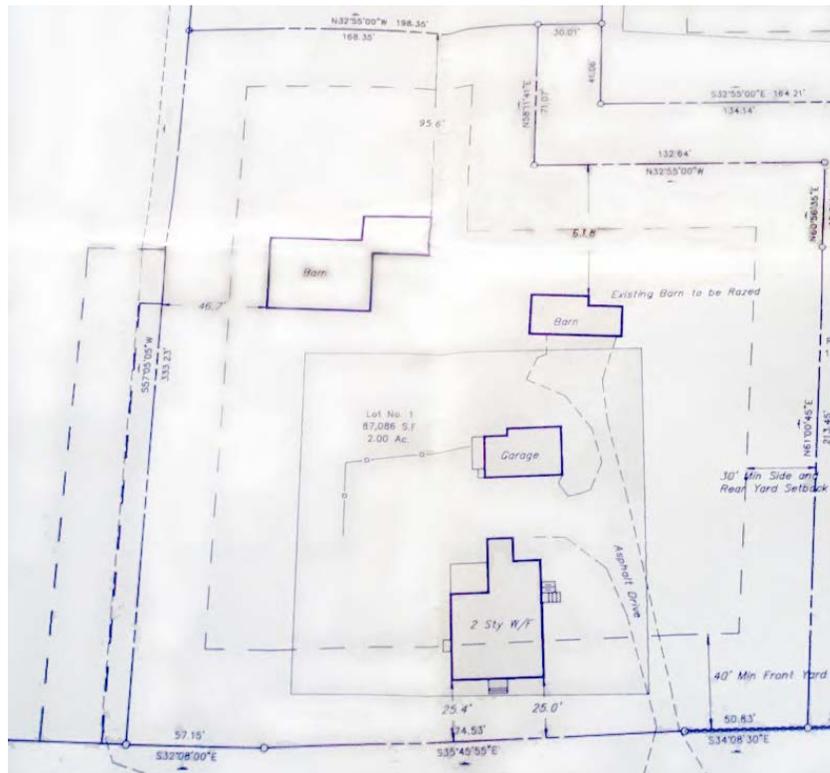
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.



1. Location map of 181 Meadow Street, Shelton CT – base image from <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 6/30/2013.



2. South view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 181 Meadow Street, Shelton CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 6/30/2013.



3. Parcel map of 181 Meadow Street, Shelton CT – from subdivision plan, 1996, courtesy of Paula Anthony.



4. Site Plan showing resources – all are contributing (historic) except the Shed – base image from Google Maps.



5. West view of Farmhouse with Workshop/milk house at left rear, camera facing east.



6. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast. Gambrel barn is at left rear.



7. Southeast view of Farmhouse, camera facing northwest. Workshop/milk house/garage is at right rear.



8. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast.



9. Interior hall view of stair, camera facing north.



10. Interior view of entry, camera facing south.



11. Interior view of southwest dining room showing fireplace, camera facing northwest.



12. Southwest view of Workshop/milk house/garage, camera facing northeast. Note the long view over the Housatonic River valley, which would have been more open in the 19th century.



13. Northeast view of Workshop/milk house/garage, camera facing southwest.



14. Interior view of milk processing area showing valves and gauges, camera facing west.



15. Interior view of upper level of Workshop/milk house showing tank and chimney, camera facing west.



16. Southwest view of Gambrel barn, camera facing northeast. Note the hay door which operates by sliding down.



17. Southwest view of Farmhouse, camera facing northeast, with Farmhouse at right rear.



18. Southeast view of Gambrel barn, camera facing northwest, with addition at right.



19. Interior view of barn hayloft level, camera facing east. Note the triangular trusses bracing the gable-end wall, a sign of high quality construction, and the barriers protecting the hay trap doors to the lower level.



20. Interior view of barn hayloft level, camera facing west. Note the inside view of the vertical sliding hay door and the hay track suspended at the peak.



21. Interior view of barn ground level stable, camera facing east. The east end opens to grade while the south wall at right is partially banked. Note the typical ground level dairy layout with the remains of metal stanchions, manure gutters, and the track overhead for a manure trolley system. Windows have typical hopper opening function with side panels.



22. Interior view of barn stable level, camera facing southwest, showing the entry from grade a half-level above and the grain chutes from the grain bin above.



23. North view of Barn, camera facing southeast, showing the north side exposed foundation wall. The door was access to the silo, which stood immediately north of the barn wall.



24. 1944 Christmas card signed by Edith Drew, from the collection of Paula Anthony.



25. Fairchild 1934 aerial photograph of the site compared with modern Google Map view, base image from http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html.