

**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) White Silo Farm and Winery Record No. 10153  
 Building Name (Historic) Barnes, Albert, Farmstead / Osborns' Upland Pastures Farm (South parcel)  
 Street Address or Location 32 Route 37 East  
 Town/City Sherman Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
 Owner(s) Ralph Gorman, 32 CT Route 37 E, Sherman CT 06784  Public  Private

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding  
 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 Ground level wine tasting room during hours of operation  
 Style of building 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>Stave silo</u> ) | <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: 1 1/2, B Approximate Dimensions 45' x 66', 20' x 66' addition, 16' x 18' shed

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: Ground floor stable converted to winery, silo converted to cell tower

**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: Vineyard, berry fields, stone walls, hiking trails (Naromi Land Trust)

**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, Janice, 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 11/16/2012

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Charlotte Hitchcock Date 12/18/2012

Organization The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:  
41.583964, -73.480275

**Threats to the building or site:**

None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Renewal     Private

Deterioration     Zoning     Other \_\_\_\_\_     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

• **Interrelationship of building and surroundings:**

Route 37 East runs roughly west to east, connecting the center of Sherman with Boardman Bridge and New Milford to the east. The road winds as it crosses a scenic upland valley and Barnes Hill, a high ridge, then descends steeply to the Housatonic River. This site is on the south side of the road as it passes through the narrow north-south valley that has long been in agricultural use. The road turns toward the northeast as it passes the barn. White Silo Farm consists of 17 acres, with the substantial English bank barn set close to the road. A concrete stave silo sits at the southwest corner of the barn. This has been lengthened vertically with a fiberglass extension containing a cell tower, giving it an oddly tall proportion. A modern home is located to the south at the end of a drive that passes along the west side of the barn.

Across the road on the north side sits a c. 1835 Federal-style farmhouse, the Albert Barnes House, a six-bay 2 ½-story center-hall gable-roofed structure with an ell extension to the east. To the northeast of the house are additional barns and outbuildings which, together with the White Silo barn and additional acreage in the valley stretching northward, made up the Barnes Farmstead, later known as the Osborns' Upland Pastures Farm. The open fields are now protected by the Naromi Land Trust along with forested land on the Towner Hill ridge east of the barn.

The White Silo Farm has vineyards, berry patches, and rhubarb beds on its acreage, from which wine is made and “pick-your-own” is operated in season. Hiking trails on the Naromi Land Trust property begin at the White Silo Farm. To the west of the property a string of ponds and wetlands drains southeast and then into Bullymuck Brook which drains northeast into the Housatonic River.

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

**Architectural description:**

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

Barn	19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Calving shed	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Silo	Mid-20 <sup>th</sup> c.	C

The barn was historically associated with the farmhouse and additional outbuildings located at 29 Route 37 East, now under separate ownership.

**Barn:**

This is a 1 ½-story, gable-roofed four-bay extended English bank barn with its ridge-line oriented north-south. A 1-story shed-roofed addition extends along the west side and a gable-roofed Calving shed structure, probably predating the main barn, is attached at the northwest corner. The main block is 25' x 66', the shed addition is 20' wide, and the Calving shed is 16' x 18'.

**Exterior:**

The main entry is in the east eave-side of the barn, and is in the second bay from the south end. It consists of a pair of exterior hung sliding doors. Located just north and south of the entryway are louvered openings with trim, venting the basement stable via an enclosed shaft at the interior. Near the north corner of the east eave-façade are two window openings with trim, lighting the basement via enclosed shafts. On the south corner of the east eave-façade is a small shed-roof extension, extending to the east.

The grade drops dramatically towards the west across the south gable-end of the barn, with a stone retaining wall making the transition, revealing a full basement level. Near the south corner is an exterior sliding door with a shed-roof hood above. At the left corner under the shed roof of an attached addition, there is a pair of French doors providing the entry to the wine-tasting room. A six-pane window is above the doors and in the gable-attic of the is a two-pane window.

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet**

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

4

Attached to the west eave-side of the barn and extending to the west is a shed-roof addition. This addition encompasses the entire lower wall of the west eave-side of the barn. A six-pane window is found high up just below the eave, off-center toward the south, on the west eave-side of the main block of the barn. The west side of the addition has a row of eight six-pane windows with trim, spaced evenly except near the north corner where there is a pair of hinged doors. At the right (south) corner a 1-story gable-roofed shed connector links the barn to the Silo and has a sliding door in the west side.

Attached to the north end of the shed addition and flush with the west wall, is the 1-story gable-roofed Calving shed with its ridge-line oriented east-west. A fieldstone foundation is visible on the west gable-end and a concrete foundation on the north eave-side. Two six-pane windows are in the west gable-end. There are no openings along the north or east sides of the addition.

The barn and additions are clad in vertical flush-board siding painted red with red trim. The roofs are asphalt shingles, and a cupola is centered atop the ridge-line of the barn. This cupola has a gable roof aligned with the main roof, and louvered vents on the east and west sides. A finial protrudes from the cupola; formerly a weathervane was mounted on it.

The Silo is a concrete stave silo on a concrete foundation, all painted white. Formerly a second silo stood adjacent to the east. In recent years the silo has been converted to a telecommunications tower by the addition of a fiberglass extension which has extended the height and altered the proportions of the silo.

**Interior:**

The interior of the main level is a four-bay, five-bent square rule post and beam frame with dropped tie-girts and queen posts supporting longitudinal purlin plates which carry the common rafters at mid-span. The southernmost interior bent has a center post, while the other three interior bents do not. The southern bent has experienced failure of the tie-girt at the center over the post. One of the tie-girts has been repaired with sistered lumber members, while all have tension cables installed across the width of the barn. Numerous other repairs are visible, both sistered reinforcing and added diagonal braces. The rafters are un-planed poles butted at the peak, with random-width board decking overlaid with plywood for a new roof. A hay track and horse fork are extant, suspended below the ridge. The west side wall is open to the shed roof extension which encompasses the entire west side. The east wall has slope-topped enclosures for vents and windows connecting to the basement stable level below. The floor is a plywood layer installed over insulation above the original plank floor, which forms the exposed ceiling of the basement level.

The basement grade level, formerly the dairy stable, has been converted to a winery, kitchen, and sales and tasting room. The structure supporting the barn above is exposed timber, with traces of whitewash. Three longitudinal girders carried on rows of steel columns, support the lateral joists of the main level. Joists vary, from hand hewn and mortised into the girders below the main loft, to dimension lumber at the shed addition area. A new concrete floor has been poured and display cabinets have been created from recycled barn wood. Accessible toilet facilities have been installed and there is a commercial kitchen in conjunction with the wine-making rooms. The tasting room doubles as a gallery with rotating art exhibits.

The interior of the Calving Shed is still in its original condition, with hand hewn post and beam framing and cattle pens. The ceiling is insulated with straw.

**• Historical or Architectural importance:**

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

**Historical background:**

Albert Barnes (b. 1806) built the house on the north side of the road at No. 29 in 1835 as a five-bay eave-entry center-hall Federal style. A sixth bay appears to have been added to its east end. When George Barnes (b. 1842), son of Albert, married Emma (b. 1849) in 1873, alterations were made including a porch along the front, and a raised

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

5

roof. Ells were built to serve as private living quarters for Albert and his wife Catharine (b. 1810), for a summer kitchen, and later for workers accommodations. Edna Barnes (b. 1884) was the daughter of George and Emma. By 1920, George had apparently died, as the Census lists only Emma and Edna, with Edna as the proprietor of a tea room. In 1961, *Sherman Sentinel Houses* described Edna as still living “further up the hill.”

Outbuildings associated with the farm appear to have included barns on both the north and south sides of the road. Tobacco was a locally-grown cash crop in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and the north-side barns do have proportions characteristic of tobacco sheds.

The White Silo Farm barn on the south side appears to be an early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century structure, though possibly rebuilt or re-arranged, as evidenced by the four-bay arrangement with un-matching bents. Its original pole rafters and wide board roof sheathing are indications of an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. As was often the case, the early timber frame may have been jacked up and the dairy stable level inserted beneath, to adapt to the needs of a commercial dairy operation of the early 1900s.

In 1932, Edwin Osborn (b. 1881) rented the farm from Edna Barnes for a dairy farm, and in 1947 he bought it. He tore off the porch of the farmhouse, restoring the structure to its original appearance. The extension from the main house, once a summer kitchen and workshop, was converted to living quarters. Hired hands, who were numerous in the days when tobacco was the cash crop supplementing dairy operations, were housed under the eaves of this extension (*Sentinel Houses*, No. 25).

In 1978, the second edition of *Sentinel Houses* mentioned that three generations of Osborn families were living there. Sons Emerson and Paul and their wives were living in the house and actively farming as the Upland Pastures Farm (a sign is extant on the west wall of the main barn). Farming continued until 1985, when the 189-acre farm was sold to the Naromi Land Trust. The last family member, Charlotte Osborn, continues to live next door to the east of White Silo Farm. The Naromi Land Trust has preserved most of the cleared land for continued agricultural use, the forested ridges to the east and south for open space, and has sold the two parcels now identified as 29 and 32 Route 37 East to separate owners. Several additional residential lots were created and sold as well along the edge of the open fields.

Ralph Gorman and his family purchased a 17-acre portion of the Upland Pastures dairy farm, initially as a retirement home and hobby farm. It has grown into a thriving business. Their intention is to continue the farming tradition and preserve the land for generations to come. They first planted a crop of raspberries, then blackberries and rhubarb. For the next fifteen years they operated as a pick-your-own berry farm. In 1990 the winery opened; the dairy stable floor was renovated and converted to a wine tasting room and production area. In 2010 the Gormans planted their first acre of grape vines and harvested the first small crop of grapes in 2012. The winery produces berry and grape wine, and an unusual rhubarb wine.

**Architectural significance:**

The barn at White Silo Farm is significant as the main barn of a substantial farm that has operated since the 1830s. The barn is highly visible in this dramatically-sited valley location with a backdrop of hills, along a route connecting the somewhat secluded town of Sherman with the busier towns of New Milford and Danbury. Although now subdivided from the Barnes House and other outbuildings, the White Silo barn and acreage were an integral part of this large farm occupying the valley floor. The barn itself is an extant example of a hand hewn square rule English barn with most of its fabric intact. The structure was altered to incorporate the features of a ground level dairy stable in its basement level during the period of commercial dairying from the 1930s to the 1970s. It has been tastefully re-worked to adapt to a new form of agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a winery. Even the cell-tower, often an important source of cash income for farmers, has been creatively concealed within the (somewhat oddly elongated) silo, with the lease terms leveraged to provide various renovations to the farm buildings.

• **Sources (*continuation*):**

Photography and field notes by Mary Jane Magoon, Robin Szendy, 3/20/2009; Gloria Thorne, 1/18/2011, Charlotte Hitchcock, 11/16/2012.

Interview with Ralph Gorman, 11/16/2012, at the site.

**Map resources:**

Town of Sherman Assessor's Records.

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps/> accessed 12/18/2012.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed at UConn MAGIC:

[http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash\\_up/1934.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/1934.html)

[http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical\\_maps\\_connecticut\\_towns.html](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/historical_maps_connecticut_towns.html)

Atlas of Fairfield County 1868.

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

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

**Print and internet resources:**

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Barns of Connecticut Resource Inventory, 2010,

[http://www.connecticutbarns.org/10153\\_36255](http://www.connecticutbarns.org/10153_36255) (record for 29 Route 37 E).

Cunningham, Jan, Sherman Historic District National Register Nomination No. 91000956, National Park Service, 1991.

Naromi Land Trust web site: <http://www.naromi.org/814236> .

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

Sherman Historical Society, *Sherman Sentinel Houses*, published in the Sherman Sentinel, Sherman CT and in book form, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1961, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1978.

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.

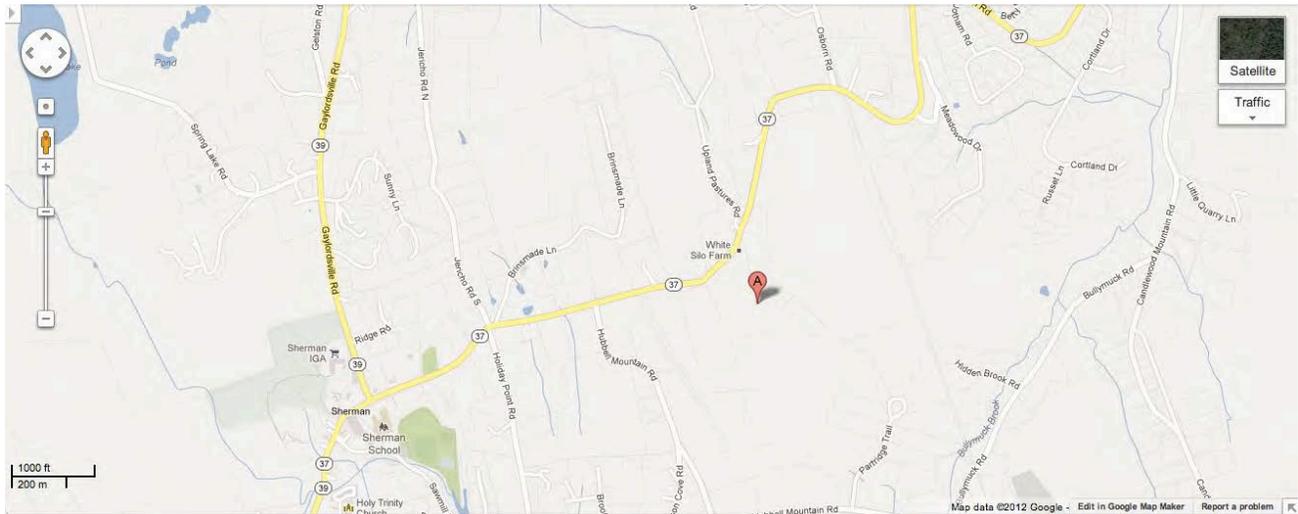
White Silo Farm web site: <http://whitesilowinery.com/winery/about-us/> .

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

7



1. Location map of 32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT – from <http://maps.google.com/> accessed 12/19/2012.



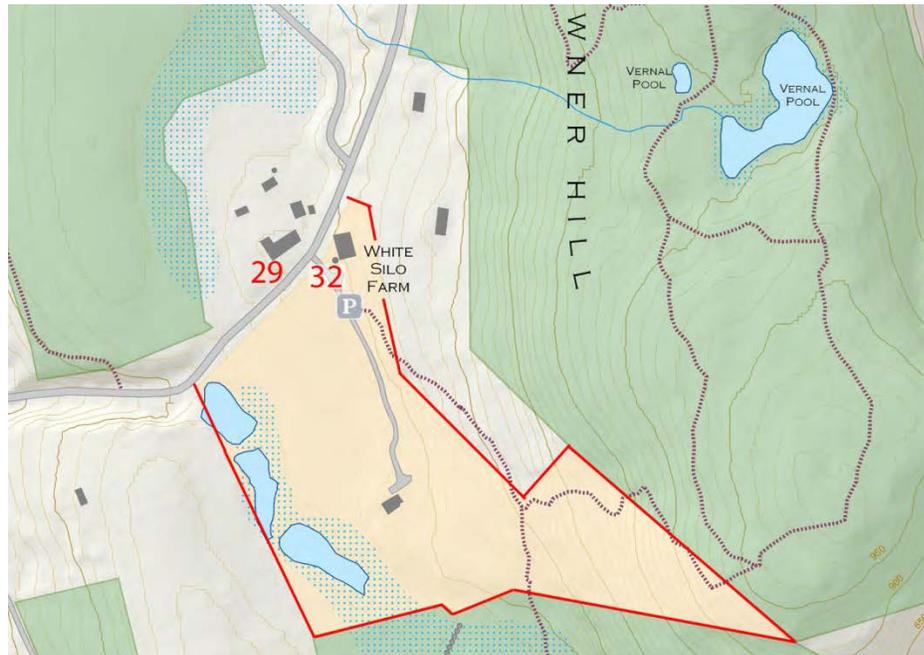
2. East view – aerial “bird’s-eye” map of 32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT – <http://www.bing.com/maps> accessed 11/13/2012. South of (below) the road is the White Silo Farm barn and silo. North of (above) the road is the Albert Barnes house and the other barns of the Osborns’ Upland Pastures Farm.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

8



3. Parcel map of 32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT – base image is taken from the Naromi Land Trust map of Irene’s Woods/Towner Hill Preserve.



4. Detail Site Plan Sketch showing contributing resources, including the Main barn, Calving shed, and Silo. On the north side of the road, 29 Route 37 East is the Barnes-Osborn Farm house and outbuildings.



5. Southeast view of 29 Route 37 East, the Albert Barnes House, camera facing northwest.



6. East view of the north side of the road, the Albert Barnes House at left and outbuildings at right, camera facing west. Note the remains of the collapsed silo at far right.



7. Southeast context view, camera facing northwest. Main barn is at center with the Silo. Barnes House is at left rear across the road. The small shed at right is a new structure for telecommunications equipment, as is the upper part of the silo.



8. Southeast view of the Main barn, camera facing northwest. Note the louvers in the wall which connect to ventilation shafts from the basement stable level.



9. South view of the Main barn and Silo, camera facing north.



10. Southwest view of the Main barn and Silo, with the Calving shed at the left rear, camera facing northeast.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

12



11. North view of the Main barn and Calving shed at right, camera facing south. Shed at left is a new telecommunications structure.



12. North context view, camera facing south. At left is the current home of Charlotte Osborn, former owner of the Barnes-Osborn/Upland Pastures Farm.



13. Interior view of Barn main level roof framing, camera facing north, showing two north bays. Note lap joint in plate over the tie-girt, and indication of possible construction in two sections.



14. Interior view from south bay looking north. Note the hay track and horse fork, bent with interior center post.



15. Interior view, camera facing south. Note the shed roof framing of the western addition at right.



16. Interior view of basement level wine tasting room, camera facing northeast. Girder at left is the line of the west wall of the upper loft level; to left is the shed addition. Doorway at right rear opens to wine-making area.



17. Interior view of basement level wine tasting room, camera facing south. Girder is the line of the west wall of the upper loft level; to right is the shed addition. Note hand hewn mortised framing in the left, older portion.



18. Interior view of Calving shed, camera facing northwest.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

32 Route 37 East, Sherman CT

Record No. 10153

16



19. West view of barn and silo taken in 1985, while still a working dairy farm, camera facing east, photograph courtesy of Robin Szendy.



The Osborn Farm -- November 1961

20. South view of the Osborn Farm in 1961, drawing by Wilson Ware (*Sherman Sentinel Houses*); note two silos at south end of the barn.