

Agricultural Heritage Multiple Property Submission - State Register

HISTORIC RESOURCES

BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development,
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Anguilla Brook Farm and Garden Record No. 9959
 Building Name (Historic) York-Banker Farmstead
 Street Address or Location 24 Anguilla Brook Road
 Town/City Stonington Village _____ County New London
 Owner(s) Sylvia Lynch & Michael Schefers, PO Box 449 Stonington, CT 06378 Public Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
 Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding
 Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? Yes No
 Interior accessible? Yes No If yes, explain _____
 Style of building New England barn, Shingle style Date of Construction c. 1904

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

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input checked="" 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, block</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>diagonal 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 Octagonal hip silo roofs

(Material)

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

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions 60' x 40'

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: Silos, 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 _____

• 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 Kristen Young Date 5/17/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young Date 7/17/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:
41.384192, -71.87444

Threats to the building or site:

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

• Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This barn sits on approximately two acres of land on the north side of Anguilla Brook Road. A long driveway extends to the north off the road, and curves to the east, ending at the south side of the barn. The house with which this barn was possibly once associated is just to the south, located at 22 Anguilla Brook Road. A large garden is to the southeast, and three silos are directly to the west of the barn. A concrete trough is directly to the north of the barn. Stone walls run along part of the south and west borders of the property, and a brook runs along the west side. Open fields are adjacent to the north and east, and houses line Anguilla Brook Road. Anguilla Brook runs in a meandering course toward the south along the western edge of the site.

Anguilla Brook Road extends to the northwest off Pequot Trail (Route 234) which runs east-west through the middle of Stonington. The property is located in the east half of the town, and the center of Stonington is approximately three and a half miles to the south. Anguilla Preserve is to the north, Pawcatuck Little League baseball fields are to the northeast, and Elmridge Golf Course is further to the northeast. The Interstate 95 highway is to the northwest of the Preserve. Located two miles to the east is the border of the State of Rhode Island. There are three National Register Historic Districts in Stonington, two of which are located approximately 4 to 5 miles to the southwest of the property. These are the Rossie Velvet Mill National Register Historic District and the Mystic Bridge National Register Historic District. Two miles to the southeast of the property is the Mechanic Street National Register Historic District in the Pawcatuck section of Stonington.

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

Architectural description:

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

Barn	c. 1904	C
Wood Silos	c. 1904	C
Stone Silo	c. 19 th c.	C

Barn and Silos:

This is an approximately 60' x 40', 1 ½-story, gable-roof, New England barn with an addition. The ridge-line runs north-south, perpendicular to Anguilla Brook Road. The barn is sided in wood shingles over horizontal sheathing (original) and a combination of diagonal wood sheathing and vertical board siding (new). In 2009-2010, extensive restoration and rehabilitation work involved sill and foundation repairs and new roofing; some windows on the eave-sides were removed while additional windows in the gable-ends were added. Also, during this time, the deteriorated cupola was removed. The roof is metal (new) and the foundation is of concrete and fieldstone. Three unusual silos are located west of the barn.

Exterior:

The south gable-end of the barn faces the road and has a pair of exterior-hung sliding doors with a hooded track centered on this side. Set within each leaf of the doors are nine-pane windows with trim. To the east is a six-over-six double-hung window with trim. In the east corner is an exterior-hung sliding pass-through door with a hooded track. Flanking the top of the pair of sliding doors in the center are six-over-six double-hung windows with trim (new). Just above this centered entryway is a 16-pane transom window with trim. Two six-over-six double-hung windows with trim are in the gable attic. On the west corner of the south gable-end of the barn is a shed-roofed addition that functioned as the milk house. The addition extends to the south and is constructed of concrete block masonry and horizontal wood siding. A pass-through door is on the east side of the addition, and a six-over-six double-hung window with trim is found on both the south and west sides.

The west eave-side of the barn has an exterior-hung sliding door with a hooded track near the south corner. The foundation is visible along this side. There are no other features found on the west eave-side of the barn. Prior to

the 2009 work, a connecting shed joined the easternmost silo to the west wall of the barn. This was removed during the repair work.

A pair of exterior-hung sliding doors with a hooded track is centered on the north gable-end of the barn. Each leaf of the door has a nine-pane window with trim set within it. In each corner is an exterior-hung sliding pass-through door with a hooded track. Above, just below the girt line siding divide are two six-over-six double-hung windows with trim (new). Located in the gable attic of the north gable-end of the barn are an additional two six-over-six double-hung windows with trim.

The foundation is visible along the east eave-side of the barn, however, there are no openings or other features along this side. Prior to the repairs there was a row of unglazed eight stable window openings in the east side. These were removed during sill and wall replacement. New diagonal board sheathing was installed on the lower half of the east eave-side; this has not yet been covered with shingle siding.

Interior:

The interior of the barn is accessed by the entryways in the gable-ends of the barn. The flooring is plywood boards and the walls are wood planks. Lofts are found along the east and west eave-sides as well as high loft in the central north gable-end of the barn. A stair in the north gable-end is used to access these lofts. Built-in ladders are found on the west, north, and south sides of the barn.

The frame is a square rule post and beam frame with balloon framing stud construction infilling the walls. Heavy timbers are joined together by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Circular saw marks are found on the timbers throughout the barn, and appear to have been mass-produced. The tie-girts are dropped slightly and attached to corner posts by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. The typical bents have two interior posts forming a center aisle and two side aisles. Canted queen posts above the tie-girts support canted purlin plates at the mid-span of the rafters. Common rafters spring from the plate and meet at the peak with a ridge-board, and the roof deck is made of narrow evenly-spaced wood planks. Tension rods at the plate level run across the width of the barn at several bents. A hay-fork track, which runs along the ridge, and the hay-fork are still extant. Whitewash is still visible on the timbers of the lower aisle ceilings, indicating a past dairy use.

Silos I, II, and III:

Two of the silos are constructed of wood frame with wood shingle exteriors and interior finish of bent wood lath and plaster, a rare form of silo construction from a period when the wood stave silo was most common. The foundations are of poured concrete. The silo closer to the west eave-side of the barn (Silo 1) was formerly linked to it by a tall shed-roofed connector. The two wood silos (I and II) are linked by a connector and a small shed is attached at the north side of Silo I. These two silos have octagonal segmented hip roofs forming a cone, and skylights have been added, lighting the interiors.

Silo III is constructed of cobblestone masonry, is shorter than the other two, and sits slightly separated to the northwest. It has a similar conical hip roof with asphalt shingles. This is also a rare instance of a cobblestone silo.

• Historical or Architectural importance:

Applicable Connecticut State Register Criterion:

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

This is an outstanding example of a large-scale New England barn from the early 20th-century. The frame is still intact and the barn has remained in its original location. The silos are also rare features of the property, and add to the significance. The barn remains in agricultural use in a preserved landscape.

Historical background:

According to tradition, the York family owned this property and operated it as a dairy farm. The barn is thought to have been built in the early 20th-century, c. 1904 by the York family. In 1934, as seen in an aerial photograph, there were many outbuildings on the property, and the road ran directly to the south of the barn and additional buildings.

During the 1940s, the road was modified and Anguilla Brook Road became a side street off the main thoroughfare, Pequot Trail (Rte. 234). Many outbuildings remained on the property during the 1950s and 1960s, while open land continued to surround it on the north, east, and west sides. From the early 1900s until the parcel was divided in the 1970s, it appears the house with which this barn was associated was the house directly to the south of the property (located at what is now 22 Anguilla Brook Road).

During the mid-20th-century, the Banker family acquired the property and continued dairy operations on the farm. However, by 1970, many of the additional outbuildings had been demolished. In 1978, Sylvia Lynch purchased the property with the barn and silos. It was during this time that the house and barn were divided into different parcels and were no longer associated. Sylvia Lynch continues to own the property, but all the additional outbuildings besides the three silos and the barn have been demolished. Many people in the area still refer to this barn as the “Old Banker Barn,” as they remember helping to milk cows here. The barn is now used as storage space for farm equipment and the property remains in agricultural use. Sylvia Lynch’s Anguilla Brook Farm and Garden has been producing flowers and vegetables since 1995.

Architectural significance:

This is an outstanding example of a large-scale New England barn built in the early 20th-century. The barn remains in its original location and three original silos are still standing. The frame has been well maintained and recently restored. Although the land surrounding the barn has changed over time, the barn still stands in a landscape of open fields and woodlands as a representation of a time when farming was prevalent in this area. The wood shingles covering the barn and two of the silos are unusual features. Furthermore, the shingled wood and stone silos are rare features.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 5/17/2013; additional photographs by Sylvia Lynch, 2007-2010.

Interview with Sylvia Lynch and Michael Schefers - 5/17/2013, 24 Anguilla Brook Road, Stonington, CT.

Map resources:

Stonington Tax Assessor's Records accessed 7/17/2013 - <http://data.visionappraisal.com/StoningtonCT/search.asp>
Parcel ID: 47/ 1/ 3A

Stonington GIS Viewer accessed 7/17/2013 - <http://gis.stonington-ct.gov/mapxpress/>

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 7/17/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 7/17/2013 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 accessed 7/17/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

UTM coordinates accessed 7/17/2013: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

Print and internet resources:

Connecticut State Library online accessed 7/17/2013: [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/9959>

Barns Grant applications and final report, 2009-2010.

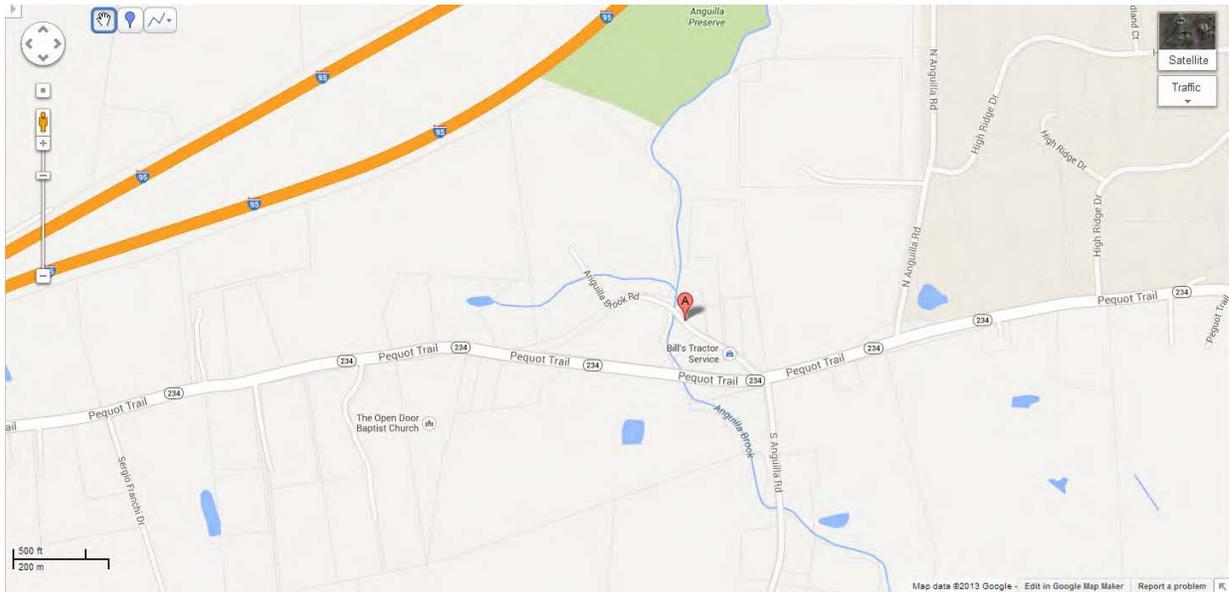
Sexton, James, PhD; Survey Narrative of the Connecticut Barn, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, Hamden, CT, 2005, <http://www.connecticutbarns.org/history>.

U.S. Federal Census, accessed 7/17/2013 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.

Wheeler, Richard Anson, History of the Town of Stonington, County of New London, Connecticut from its First Settlement in 1649 to 1900 with a Genealogical Register of Stonington Families, The Day Publishing Company, New London, 1900.



1. Location map of 24 Anguilla Brook Road, Stonington, CT – from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 7/17/2013.



2. South aerial "bird's eye" view of 24 Anguilla Brook Road, Stonington, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 7/17/2013.



3. Parcel map of 24 Anguilla Brook Road, Stonington, CT – from <http://gis.stonington-ct.gov/mapxpress/> - accessed 7/17/2013.



4. Site map of 24 Anguilla Brook Road, Stonington, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 7/17/2013.



5. Southwest context view of the Silos and the Barn. Camera facing northeast.



6. North view of the silos. Note the stone Silo III in the foreground and wood shingled Silo I in the background. Camera facing south.



7. Southwest view of the three silos. Note the two wood shingled Silos II and I in the foreground and the stone Silo II in the background behind the trees. Camera facing northeast.



8. South gable-end of the barn, east and south sides of the addition. Camera facing north.



9. West side of the Milk room addition and the south half of the west eave-side of the Barn, with Silo I at left. Camera facing east.



10. West eave-side of the Barn and Silo I. Camera facing north.



11. West eave-side and north gable-end of the Barn with Silos I and III (at right). Camera facing southeast.



12. East eave-side of the barn. Camera facing west.



13. Interior view of the Barn, camera facing north. Note the lofts on the north, east, and west sides of the Barn.



14. Interior view of the Barn, camera facing south.



15. Interior view of the northeast corner of the Barn. Note the hybrid frame of heavy timber post and beam frame and lighter wood studs typically found in balloon frames. Camera facing northeast.



16. Interior view of the northwest corner of the barn. Note the mortise and tenon joint with tree nails typically found in post-and-beam frames. Camera facing northwest.



17. Detail of the post-and-beam frame with mortise and tenon joints. Note the whitewash indicating former dairy use. Camera facing east.



18. Interior view of the roof framing. Note the common rafters meeting at the peak with a ridge-board, narrow spaced deck boards, the hay fork, and the hay track.



19. Interior view of one of the wood shingled silos. Note the bent wood lathe and plaster finish.



20. Southeast view of the Barn in 2007, prior to restoration work.



21. Northeast view of the Barn in 2007, prior to restoration work.



22. Southeast view of the Barn and Silos, prior to restoration work, showing connecting sheds between Silo I and Barn.



23. East detail view of the Barn during restoration work, showing timber repairs at east side wall, filling of window openings, and diagonal sheathing.



24. West view of Silos and Barn in 2010, during restoration work, camera facing east. Note removal of shed connectors is in progress.