

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - 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) Mead Farmstead, Clover Farm Record No. 10556  
 Building Name (Historic) Mead, Silas Edward and Cornelia M. Wilcox, Farmstead  
 Street Address or Location 215 John Street  
 Town/City Greenwich Village \_\_\_\_\_ County Fairfield  
 Owner(s) Mike and Genevieve Howe, 215 John Street, Greenwich 06831  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 English bank barn, Vernacular style Date of Construction mid-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 type="checkbox"/> Concrete (Type _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone (Type _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>vertical wood siding</u> |                                       |  |

#### Structural System

- Wood Frame  Post & Beam  Balloon  Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Roof (Type)

- Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  Sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### (Material)

- Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  Asphalt Shingle  
 Built up  Tile  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Stories: 1 1/2 Approximate Dimensions 30' 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: Stone walls, cottage

**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 Kristen Young, Genevieve Howe Date 3/21/2013

View Multiple Views Negative on File CTHP

Name Kristen Young and Charlotte Hitchcock Date 5/22/2013

Organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517

• Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude, Longitude:

41.096793, -73.702721

**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 5 acres of land on the corner of John Street and Bedford Road. This property is located in the northwest corner of Greenwich, approximately one mile from the border of New York State on the east and the north. This portion of John Street runs east-west between Riversville Road and the village of North Greenwich (to the east) and Bedford Road (to the west). A driveway extends east off Bedford Road, leads to the south side of the house, and curves to exit onto John Street. A secondary driveway further north off Bedford Road and leads east to the Barn. The house is located near the southwest corner of the parcel and north of the house, sitting close to the road, is the barn. A small cottage is to the northeast of the barn, and a pool is to the northeast of the house. A brook runs north-south through the center of the parcel. A low mortared fieldstone wall, the southern section with a wood picket fence on top, lines the west border of the property. Additional stone walls are found throughout the parcel.

The 2 ½-story, three-bay, Second Empire-style house has a mansard roof and was built c. 1860. The house is sheathed in clapboard siding with slate shingle roof. The main façade faces Bedford Road to the west. The main entry includes a pair of doors on the south corner of the west side of the house. An arched pediment tops the door and the entryway is reached by a stone porch and steps. To the north of the door are two large six-over-nine double-hung windows with shutters. Above are three two-over-two double-hung windows with shutters. Two gable-roofed dormers are above the eave, which has decorative brackets. Extensive additions have been added to the house.

The Cottage is a 1 ½-story Cape-style house with its ridge-line oriented north-south parallel to Bedford Road. The south gable-end has an entry door offset to the left, a six-over-six double-hung window to the right, and a balcony above with a pair of French doors opening to it from the attic level. It has vertical wood siding painted red with white trim and green shutters. The peak of the attic has a martin house with doorways forming an ornamental pyramid pattern.

Tamarack Country Club and Interstate 684 are about a mile to the west of the site. Two miles to the east is the Round Hill Local and National Register Historic District. Wild Flower Sanctuary and the Merrit Parkway (Route 15) are approximately a mile to the south of the property. The shoreline and Greenwich Center are six miles to the south of the property.

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

**Architectural description:**

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

House	c. 1860	C
Barn	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C
Cottage	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> c.	C

**Barn:**

This is an approximately 30' x 40', 1 ½-story, gable-roof English bank barn with a shed-roof addition attached to the north side. The ridge-line runs approximately east-west, perpendicular to Bedford Road. The barn is sheathed in vertical board siding painted red with white trim. It has a mortared fieldstone foundation and wood shingles on the roof. Two ventilated cupolas sit atop the ridge. These were added by the previous owner and are not original to the barn.

**Exterior:**

The south eave-side of the barn faces the house and John Street. The entryway consists of a pair of double-height, exterior-hung sliding doors with a hooded track, centered on this side. An earthen ramp leads to the entryway. Above the doors is a sign reading "Clover Farm." To the east are a six-pane window with trim and a Dutch door with trim and X-bracing. To the west is a small six-pane window with trim. Extending to the south off the west side of the doorway is a stone retaining wall. The grade drops at this wall revealing a full basement at the westernmost

bay. A pair of side-hinged doors is found at grade in the basement level of the west bay. Another stone retaining wall extends to the south off the southwest corner of the barn.

The grade rises slightly along the west gable-end of the barn; however, the mortared fieldstone foundation is visible on this side. Set within the foundation is an opening, which is now boarded. A six-pane window with trim is near the south corner and near the north corner is a six-pane window set high in the wall just below a dropped siding divide.

The grade continues to rise toward the north so the foundation is no longer visible along the north eave-side of the barn. A high six-pane window is near the west corner of the north eave-side. The shed-roof addition is attached to this side of the barn. Just above the addition, near the east corner is a rectangular three-pane window. Extending to the north, the shed-roof addition encompasses the east and middle bays of the barn. There are no features on the west side, but on the north side starting at the west and heading east are as follows: a rectangular ten-pane window with trim and shutters, a Dutch door with trim and X-bracing, and a six-pane window with trim. A stone retaining wall extends to the east off the northeast corner of the addition. On the east side of the addition is a pair of side-hinged doors.

Starting at the north corner and proceeding south along the east gable-end of the barn are as follows: A Dutch door with trim and X-bracing, a six-pane window, another Dutch door with trim and X-bracing, and a six-pane window with trim. A chicken pen extends off the barn on the south half of the east gable-end. A small side-hinged chicken door is below the six-pane window near the south corner. In the gable attic is a six-pane window.

#### **Interior:**

The interior is accessed by the doors on the south eave-side of the barn that open into a typical English barn layout with three bays and four bents. The middle bay would traditionally have been used for threshing and the two outer bays were used for storage of hay and to house livestock. The flooring and walls are of wood planks. A pair of double-height, side-hinged doors are visible on the interior of the north eave-side wall, but are no longer operable. The square rule post-and-beam frame is connected by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. Hand hewn marks are seen on the timbers throughout the barn, indicating a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century construction date. Some modern support braces have been added in recent years. Charred timbers are still extant in the barn from a fire in the 1950s. The typical bent has one interior post at the center. The tie-girts are dropped and attached to the corner posts by mortise and tenon joints with tree nails. The east bay currently houses chickens, but feeding troughs are still extant from when sheep were housed in this section of the barn. The west bay is open to the peak, while the east bay has a loft reached by a built-in ladder. Queen posts support plates at the mid-span of the rafters. The common rafters spring from the plate and meet at the peak with no ridge-board and half-lapped joints, and the roof deck is made of narrow wood planks evenly spaced, typical of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century construction.

The basement of the barn is accessed by the doors on the west corner of the south eave-side of the barn and consists of a large open space with dirt floors and mortared fieldstone walls. The floor joists are hand hewn and still include bark. Whitewash is extant indicating dairy cows were once housed here, although this basement has little natural light from windows.

#### **• 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 is an outstanding example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century English bank barn whose frame has been well maintained and is intact. It stands as a representative of a time when Greenwich was farmed extensively. The property gains significance through its association with Silas Edward Mead, a member of the prominent Mead family.

**Historical background:**

According to an 1868 map of Greenwich, this property was at that time owned by Silas Edward Mead. He was born in 1844 in North Greenwich to parents Silas Deliverance Mead and Emily Louisa Close, and had six siblings: Myrtilla, Emily Cornelia, Sarah Clarissa, Horatio, Harriet, and Ezekial. At the age of 18, Silas Edward Mead enlisted in the Civil War and joined Company I, 10<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry Regiment. He fought in numerous battles, but he was never wounded and was lucky enough to never contract any diseases. He wrote over 200 letters to family members back home about the battles, wounded soldiers, disease, and homesickness. His letters still survive to this day. In 1865, Silas Edward Mead was discharged, and moved back to Greenwich.

In 1867, he married Cornelia M. Wilcox (daughter of Josiah W. and Celestial Wilcox). They had four children: Josiah W., Silas F., Mabel W., and Louisa. According to the 1870 and 1880 census records of Fairfield County, Silas Edward Mead is listed as a farmer, but tradition states that he was also a school teacher. In 1910, Silas E. Mead was honored for his services in the Civil War at the Tenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers annual reunion. Silas Edward Mead died in 1916. His wife, Cornelia, moved to New York State where she lived until her death in 1930.

During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the Scudder family owned the property. In the 1970s, it was purchased by Russell and Laurie Warren. In the early 2000s the Howe family purchased the property and remain the owners. In the 1950s, the barn caught fire but the blaze was successfully put out before the barn was destroyed. Charred timbers are still visible in the barn. Originally, the barn housed livestock, hay, and feed. Today, the barn is used for storage and chickens. Brown bats have also created a home in the barn.

**Architectural significance:**

This is an outstanding example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century English bank barn. The barn is still sited in its original location and it remains in agricultural use. The frame has been well maintained and is intact, despite the fire in the 1950s. Although the surrounding land is no longer farmed and modern houses have been built, this barn represents a time when Greenwich was farmed extensively.

The property gains significance through its association with Silas Edward Mead. He was part of the prominent Mead family, a large family well known in the Greenwich area. Silas Edward Mead is remembered today through his letters written to family members during the Civil War.

• Sources (*continuation*):

Photographs and field notes by Kristen Young - 3/21/2013.

Interview with Genevieve Howe - 3/21/2013, 215 John Street, Greenwich, CT.

**Map resources:**

Aerial views from:

<http://maps.google.com/> and <http://www.bing.com/maps> - accessed 5/22/2013.

Historical aerial photography and maps accessed 5/22/2013 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) .

USGS Historical Maps accessed 5/22/2013 at <http://historical.mytopo.com/> .

UTM coordinates accessed 5/22/2013: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> .

**Print and internet resources:**

Connecticut State Library online accessed 5/22/2013: [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/10556>

Family Central: Family History Services accessed 5/22/2013 at

<http://www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=5400:3132&ref2=5400:11831>

Fold 3, Voices of the Civil War accessed 5/22/2013 at

[http://www.fold3.com/page/1015\\_voices\\_of\\_the\\_civil\\_war/#](http://www.fold3.com/page/1015_voices_of_the_civil_war/#)

Historic Mead Family Burying Grounds Association, Inc. accessed 5/22/2013 at [meadburyinggrounds.blogspot.com](http://meadburyinggrounds.blogspot.com)

“Hallowed Grounds: The Historic Mead Family Burying Ground Association”

Hubbard, Frederick A., Other Days in Greenwich or Tales and Reminiscence of an old New England Town, J. F. Tapley Company, New York, 1913.

Moffly, Donna, Greenwich Magazine, “Greenwich and the Civil War” accessed 5/22/2013 at

<http://www.greenwichmag.com/g/April-2012/Greenwich-and-the-Civil-War/>, Moffly Media, April 2012.

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

The New York Times, “Mrs. Silas E. Mead – Member of an Old Greenwich Family Dies at Age of 87,” October 21, 1930.

The USGenWeb Project accessed 5/22/2013 at

[http://www.ctgenweb.org/county/cofairfield/pages/greenwich/grnwich\\_bio013.htm](http://www.ctgenweb.org/county/cofairfield/pages/greenwich/grnwich_bio013.htm)

U.S. Federal Census, accessed 5/22/2013 at

<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>

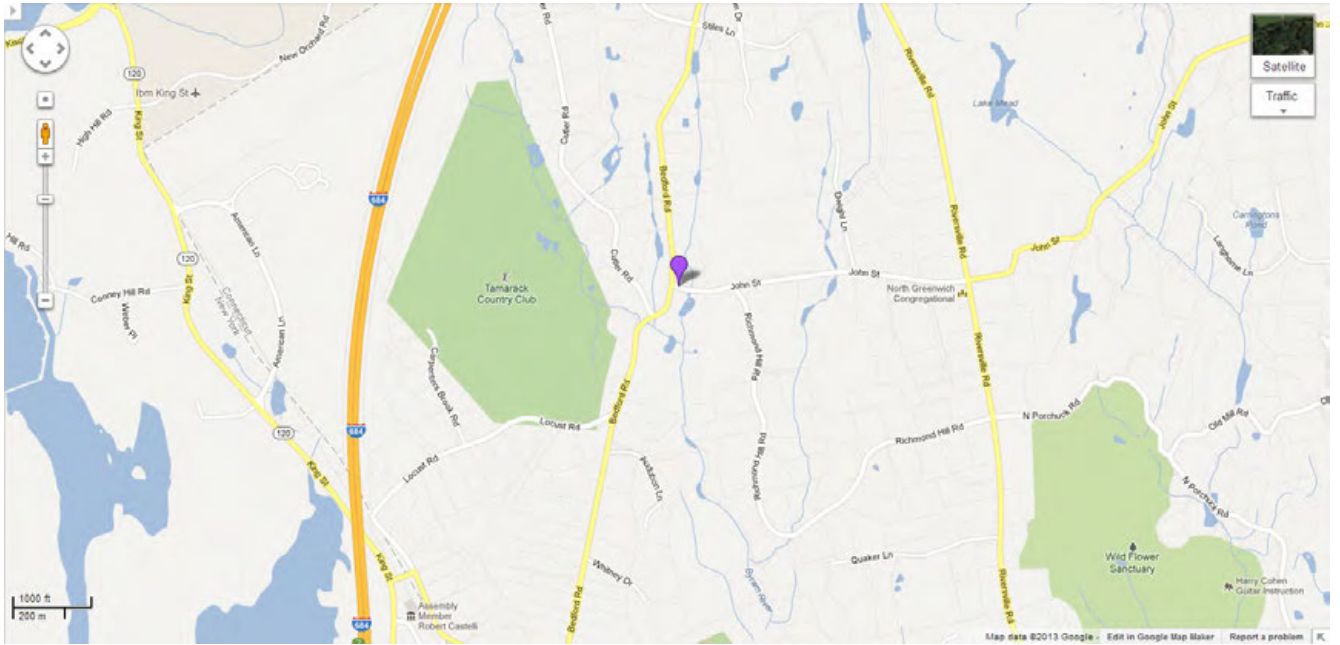
Visser, Thomas D., Field Guide to New England Barns & Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, 1997.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES continuation sheet

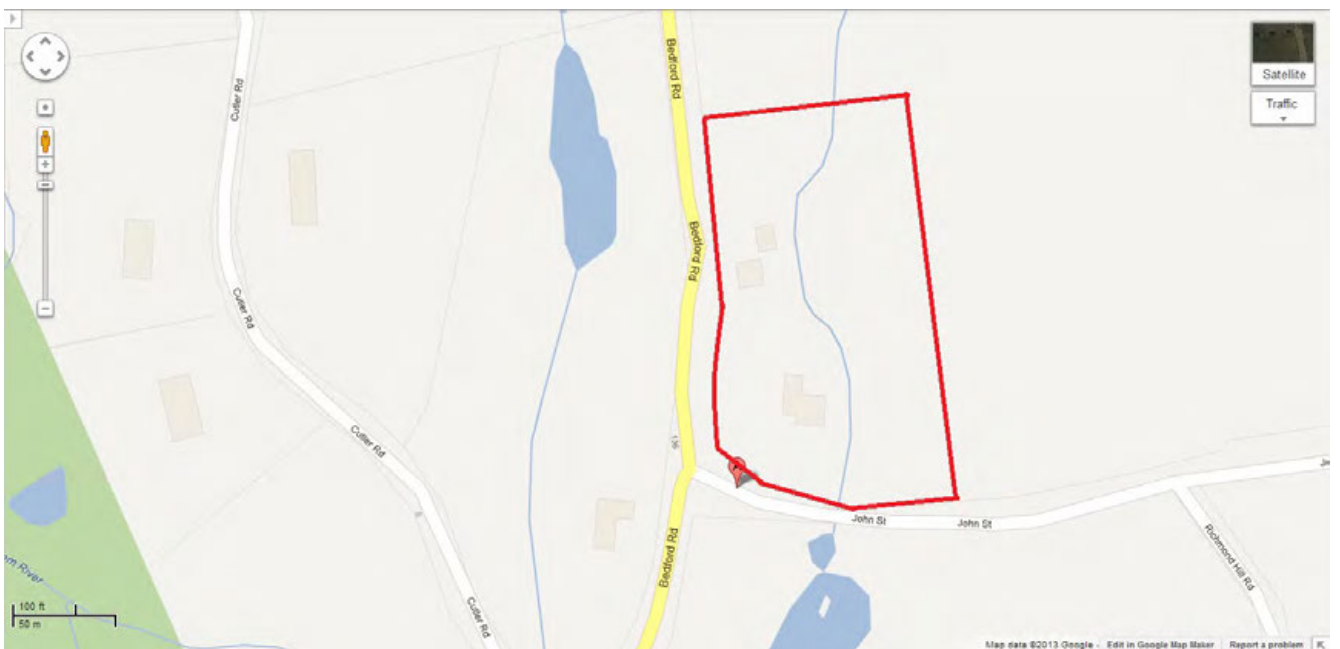
215 John Street, Greenwich, CT

Record No. 10556

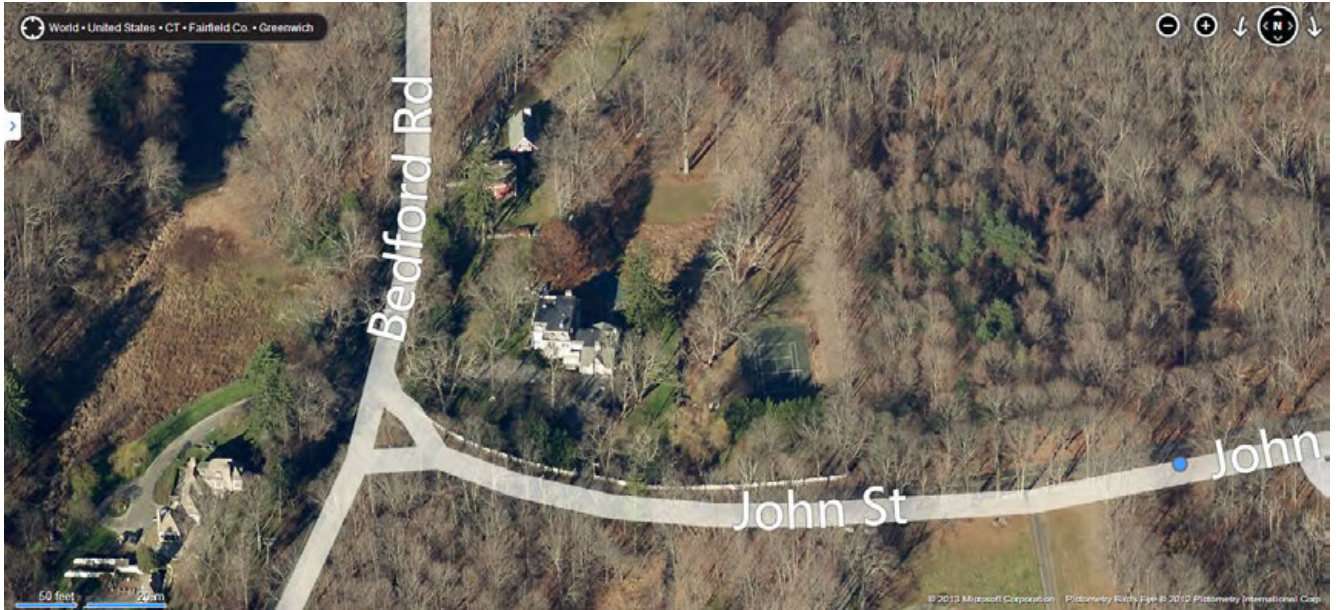
7



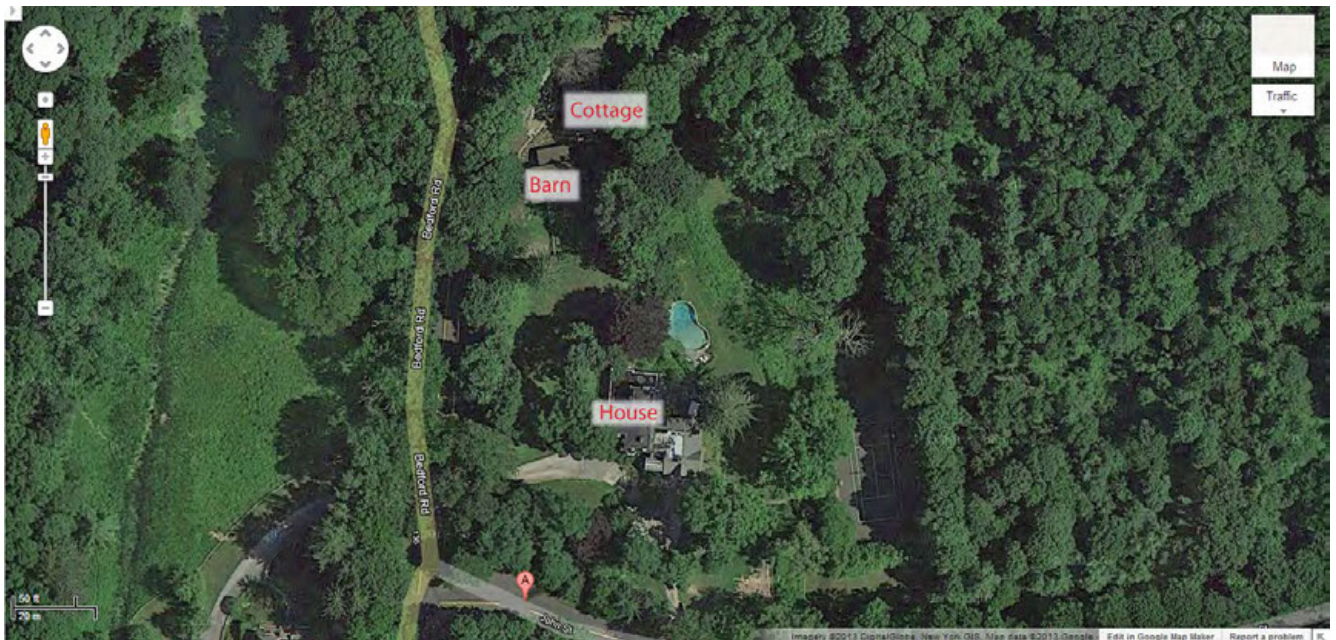
1. Location map of 215 John Street, Greenwich, CT – from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 5/22/2013.



2. Parcel map of 215 John Street, Greenwich, CT – base image from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 5/22/2013.



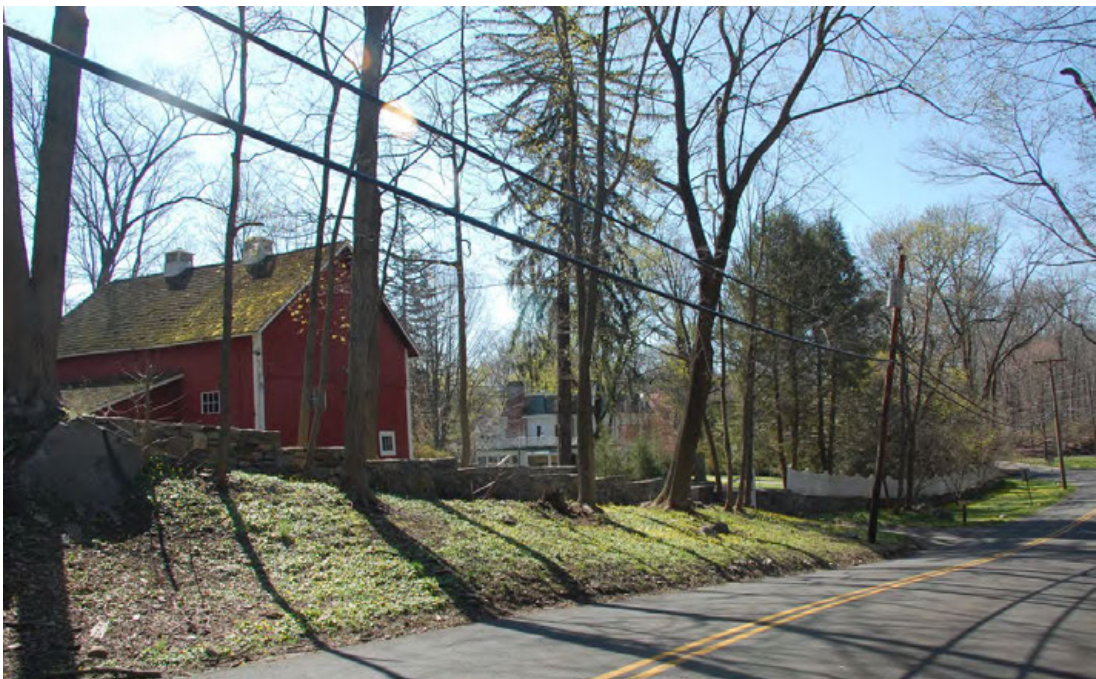
3. South view - aerial “bird’s-eye” view map of 215 John Street, Greenwich, CT – from <http://www.bing.com/maps> – accessed 5/22/2013.



4. Site map of 215 John Street, Greenwich, CT – from <http://maps.google.com> – accessed 5/22/2013.



5. Southwest context view of the barn and cottage behind the barn. Camera facing northeast. Photographs 5, 6, and 8 by Genevieve Howe.



6. Northwest context view of the barn and the house in the distance. Camera facing southeast.



7. South context view of the barn (on the left) and the cottage (in the distance on the right). Camera facing north.



8. Southwest view of the house. Camera facing northeast.



9. South eave-side of the Barn. Camera facing north.



10. South eave-side and west gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing northeast.



11. West gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing north.



12. North eave-side of the Barn and north eave-side of shed-roof addition. Camera facing south.



13. North eave-side of the Barn and shed-roof addition. Camera facing south.



14. East gable-end of the Barn and shed-roof addition. Camera facing west.



15. East gable-end of the Barn and shed-roof addition. Camera facing west.



16. Interior view of the northwest corner of the Barn and the post-and-beam frame. Note the dropped tie girt. Camera facing northwest.



17. Interior view of the west gable-end of the Barn. Note the hand hewn marks on the timbers. Camera facing west.



18. Interior view of the extant manger in the east gable-end of the Barn. Camera facing west.



19. Interior view of the west gable-end of the Barn. Note the rafters meeting at the peak with no ridge-board and half-lap joints. Camera facing west.



20. Interior view of the northwest corner of the basement. Note the mortared fieldstone walls. Camera facing northwest.