

**Historical Narrative Report
Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure
25 Wemple Road, Bethlehem, New York**

**Newell Place Conservation Covenant,
Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, NY USACE
Application NAN-2014-00497-UDA/
PR#13PR02690**

Prepared for

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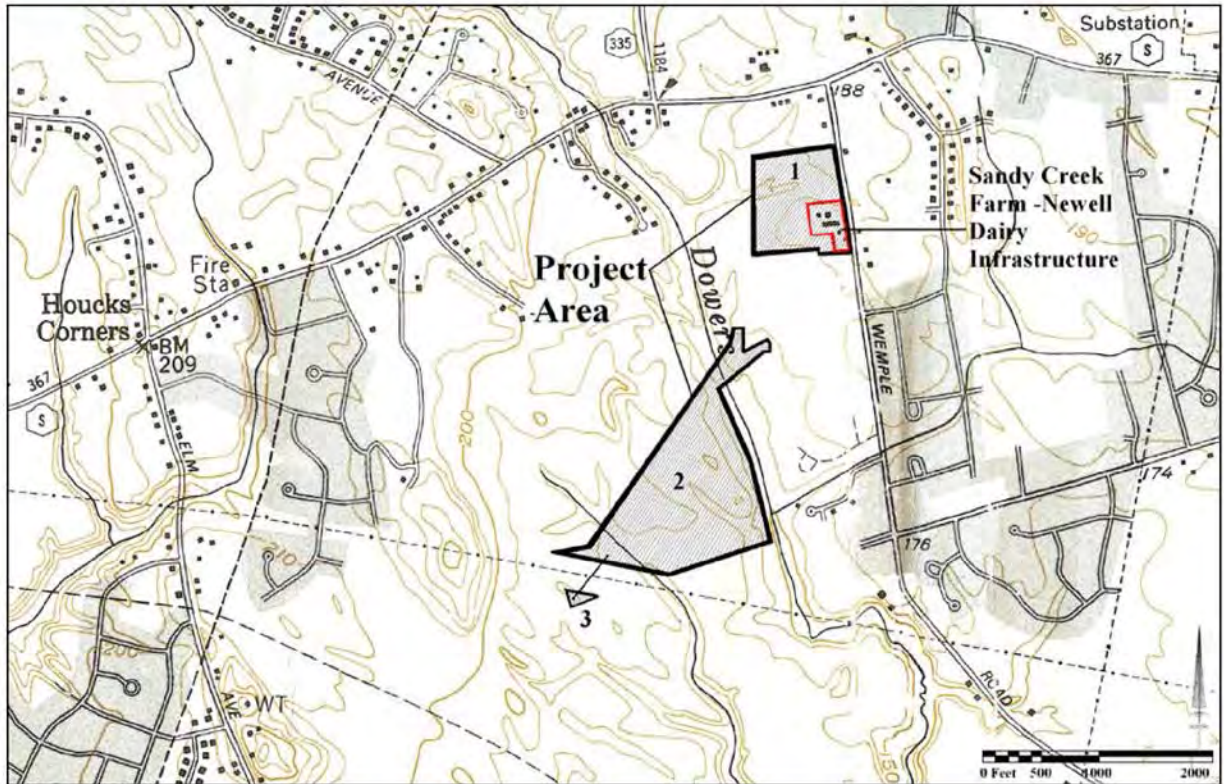


Figure 1. Detail of 1993 Delmar USGS 7.5 minute topographic showing the location of the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure. Adapted from Arch Tech (2015).

Introduction

Birchwood Archaeological Services has been contracted to perform tasks stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the United State Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) and Mr. Thomas Newell and Mrs. Valerie Newell regarding the treatment of historic properties in connection with the Newell Place Conservation Covenant, Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, NY (USACE Application NAN-2014-00497-UDA/PR#13PR02690). This MOA provides guidelines for recording and documenting historic structures associated with the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure (Figure 1). The farm complex dates from the early 20th century and consists of the main dairy barn, a smaller milk house, a small horse stanchion, and two other smaller outbuildings used for storage purposes. Appendix A contains the photographs, while a copy of the structure inventory form is provided in Appendix B.

As part of the MOA, the following report was prepared providing photographs of the farm complex and a historical narrative describing the historical development and significance of the property. A Phase IA literature review and sensitivity assessment was conducted in 2015 by Sarah Majot (ARCH TECH 2015). This report provides a wealth of information regarding the Newell farm complex including a detailed history of the farm and its past occupants. The following information contained in this report has been compiled directly from Majot's Phase IA study (ARCH TECH 2015).

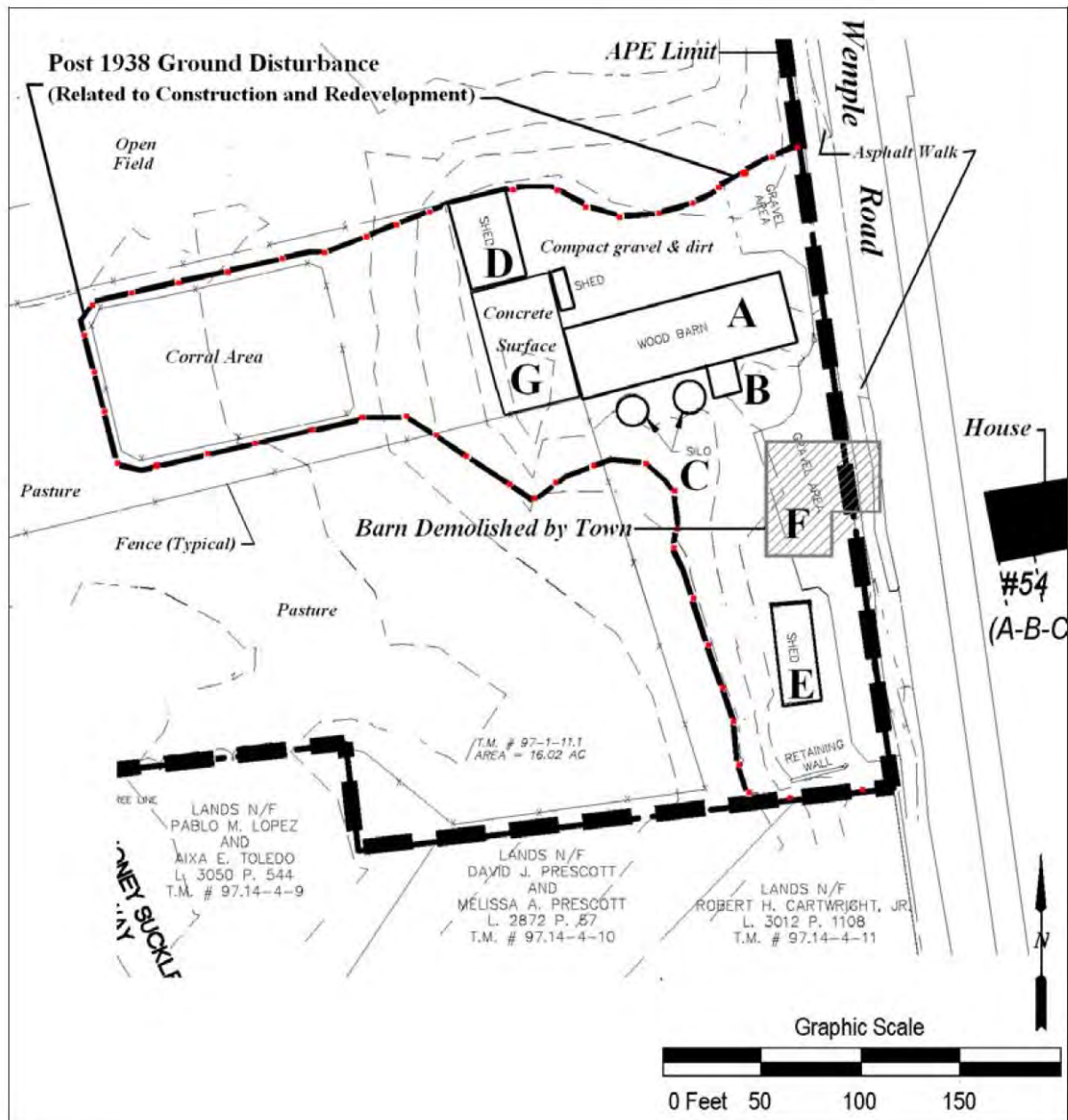


Figure 2. Map showing the location of various structures within the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure. Adapted from Arch Tech (2015).

Historical Narrative: Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure

In 1938, John M., Mabel E., and Ernest A. Newell purchased the 192.97-acre (78.1 ha) farm with “exceptions from the Whitehead Brothers Company (Liber 895-pg 372; ARCH TECH 2015:68). Since this was a remainder deed, the lands actually conveyed, by some accounts, consisted of approximately 165 acres (67 ha) (Brewer 1993:237). These lands became the initial and core component of the Newell’s “Sandy Creek Farm.”



Figure 3. Aerial photograph showing the location of various structures within the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure. Adapted from Arch Tech (2015).

They also included the previously enumerated house at #54 Wemple Road. A map of the related infrastructure for the Sandy Creek Farm has been presented in Figure 2, and an aerial photograph showing the location of the existing farm structures is provided in Figure 3. A historic photograph circa 1960 shows the view northeast of the farm complex (Figure 4). The existing dairy barn (A), milkhouse (B) two silos (C), and equipment sheds (D and E) that exist in the current setting reflect 20th century construction dates. The largest of the existing buildings in the setting is a 20th century, two-story, wood frame dairy barn with a metal covered gambrel roof (Photos 12-34). It has a concrete block and poured concrete foundation. Other noted architectural attributes for the barn include rows of small, single sash/six pane windows on the ground floor (Photo 13) and roof-ridge metal ventilators (c. 1950). This barn is oriented along a west-east axis and is approximately 36 feet (11 m) in width by 100 feet (30.5 m) in length. It can best be described as a ground level, stable barn built for large scale dairy production and use.

The ground level stable barn became popular through the second quarter of the 20th century and its design catered to emerging state regulations for the dairying industry, promoting cleanliness and utilizing developing technology (PHMC 2014). In general, the first floor of



Figure 4. Historic photograph circa 1960 showing the view of the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure from the north.

these barns was typically used to house or stable the cows and other animals, with the upper levels serving as the hay mow. Interior access was through the gable ends of the barn with rows of either wooden or metal stanchions either side of a main aisle on the interior (Photos 19 and 20). The flooring was most often poured concrete with built-in manure troughs and drains. As part of the new regulations, a separate milk storage facility or milk house was also required after 1920 (Hubka 2004:64). The milk house for the Newell barn is detached and denoted as “B” in Figures 2-4. This is a single-story frame structure with a concrete block foundation (Photos 6-9).

The Newell dairy barn is flanked on the south by two, 14-foot (4.3 m)-diameter concrete stave silos, in addition to the milk house (Photos 4, 5 and 32). Concrete stave silos were perfected during the first quarter of the 20th century after ensilage was more widely adapted as supplemental feed for dairy cattle. Their use became popular in the period after 1930 (Hubka 2004:65). Assessment records for the property suggest these two structures were built prior to 1950 (BTA 2014). Although these are general dates, they fit within the overall timeframe for these types of outbuildings and are comparable to the date of the main barn.

Other related ancillary outbuildings within the setting include a modern metal and pole equipment shed located northwest of the barn. This is denoted as “D” in Figures 2-4. The metal shed measures approximately 30 feet (9 m) by 44 feet (13.4 m) and is aligned north to south (Photos 35-37). Assessment records suggest this building was erected in 1940 (BTA 2014). A smaller, metal roofed pole shed used for wood storage is situated southeast of the larger shed. The frame equipment or machine shed was denoted as building “E” in Figures 2 and 3. This building fronted Wemple Road and was oriented along a north-south axis. The wooden structure is approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) by 50 feet (15 m) in size and is open along its east elevation (Photos 1-3). It appears to have a concrete foundation.

Another barn was present in the setting prior to 1998. It was situated between the dairy barn and the frame equipment shed and has been denoted as “F” in Figures 2 and 4. Highway corridor route study maps showed the footprint of this structure as it existed in 1967 (Figure 1). As shown upon the scaled highway maps, this barn measured approximately 60 x 40 feet (18 x 12 m) with a 20 x 40-foot (6 x 12 m) addition. It was a two-story wood frame, side-gabled barn with a single-story shed roof addition (Figure 4). The main structure was oriented north to south, with the addition along the east elevation. The simple drop style horizontal clapboard siding and window treatments were similar in appearance to the related dairy barn. Initial impressions suggest this barn was a 20th century light frame structure, similarly-dated to the main dairy barn. It also appeared to have common, exposed open eave rafters supporting the roof. This structure was likely a multipurpose building used for hay storage, as well as housing other types of animals or young stock.

Historic Context: Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure

Research indicates that the farm had been leased to George J. Diedrich during the period between 1936 and 1938 while owned by the Whitehead Brothers Company. The deed review had confirmed his association with the property. By some accounts, George Diederich had erected the barns in the project area, opposite the house during this time frame (Brewer 1993:237). This may have been undertaken as part of a purchase contingency for the property. The construction of these barns at this date coordinates well with their architectural characteristics. According to the agreement related to the silos, the Grange Silo Company was granted permission by Whitehead Brothers Company to erect and dismantle four silos associated with Diederich. By the time of the sale of the lands to the Newells, at least one of the four silos had already been dismantled.

John Minor Newell (1868-1952) and his wife, Mable (Winans) Newell (1882-1962), along with his son, Ernest A. Newell (1911-1971), purchased the property in 1938. They were originally from Durham, but had relocated to the Village of West Cocksackie in Greene County prior to purchasing the Newell property (Brewer 1993:237).

According to interviews conducted by Floyd Brewer, Minor Newell undertook “general farming and dairying” (Brewer 1993:237). The census data for 1940 confirmed that Ernest, his son, and a hired hand, William Zimmer, were assisting with the farm work through the first years on the property. John and Mable initially had a small herd of Holsteins and were providing their surplus milk to the Normanskill Dairy. The Sandy Creek Farm was also raising grain crops, such as corn, wheat, oats and rye.

Ernest Newell, who had married Florence Sommerville (1915-1995), took over the farming operation of the Sandy Creek Farm after his father died in 1952. He continued the farming tradition established by his father, as well as supplemented his income with logging. In 1954, Ernest partnered with farms operated by Neil Goes, Bernard Mocker, and Edward Mocker to form the 3 Farms Dairy. This dairy cooperative produced numerous milk products, such as cottage cheese, buttermilk, ice cream, churned butter, and sour cream for sale at their facilities off of Route 144. They also had a home delivery service to accommodate the local community (Brewer 1993:237 and 238). While the delivery service was phased out by 1975, the raw milk was still being marketed to larger commercial dairies such as Garelick and Fairdale.

Although Ernest Newell had continued farming at Sandy Creek Farm, he retired in 1969 and eventually sold off the cows. Subsequent to his death in 1971, his son, Thomas, returned to assist in the management of the Sandy Creek Farm and the associated 3 Farms Dairy. While the dairy gradually was phased out as markets for raw milk declined, some young stock was maintained at the Sandy Creek Farm through the latter part of the 20th century (Brewer 1993:238). Florence Newell, Ernest Newell’s wife, died in 1995 (FN 2014). Shortly thereafter, the lands associated with the Sandy Creek Farm transitioned to her sons, James and Thomas Newell (Liber 2407-pg 107 and Liber 2586-pg 933). By 1997, Thomas Newell and his wife,

Valerie, represented the third generation of Newells to own the Sandy Creek Farm, while their children became fourth generation occupants.

Conclusion

Currently, the setting still portrays a rural setting when one is on the farm complex site. Flanking both sides of the property are newer subdivisions of new construction homes, but within the property boundaries of the Newell Property Site, the life of farming can still be felt. As one stands in the rear of the main barn, looking over the vast amount of farmland that was one time utilized by the farm, one sees a grand vista. The associated pastures and fields stretch as far as the eye can see. The interior of the main barn also heavily reflects the life of an agricultural farmer. One can easily envision the barn full of cattle, working hands helping to maintain the farm and carry out the daily chores, the hay mow above full of enough hay to last the farmer through the year until the next hay season. At the current time, this farm complex is a well preserved example of 20th century farming life, an era that is fading away swiftly in the Albany County region.

References Cited

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PHMC Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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2014A Agricultural Field Guide:Outbuildings:Silos

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/outbuilding_types/21198/silo/1272685

Appendix A.

Photographs of the Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure

Photo Log

Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure

Photo 1. Facing northwest. Front of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.
Photo 2. Facing north. Interior of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.
Photo 3. Facing northeast. Rear of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.
Photo 4. Facing north. Exterior of main barn on complex.
Photo 5. Facing north. Grouping of two silos adjacent to main barn.
Photo 6. Facing northwest. Exterior of milk house.
Photo 7. Facing west. Front facade of milk house.
Photo 8. Six paneled front door and clapboard siding on milk house with aluminum storm door open.
Photo 9. Interior of milk house.
Photo 10. Interior of milk house.
Photo 11. Interior hallway between milk house and main barn.
Photo 12. Facing north. Exterior wooden door of main barn. Also clearly showing the clapboard siding and the metal roof material.
Photo 13. Six light wooden sash casement window. Typical of the fenestration of the main barn.
Photo 14. Metal roof detail of the main barn.
Photo 15. Facing northwest. Shows relationship of the main barn, to the milk house, and the two adjacent silos. Front facade of main barn.
Photo 16. Facing southwest. Exterior of main barn.
Photo 17. Facing southwest. Exterior of main barn. Showing front facade, gambrel roof, fenestration layout, and positioning of roof dormers.
Photo 18. Detail of roof dormers on main barn.
Photo 19. Interior of front sliding doors of main barn on first floor.
Photo 20. Interior of main barn, first floor showing layout of stanchions made of steel pipe and wood.
Photo 21. Interior of main barn. First floor.
Photo 22. First floor ceiling joists and stabilizers.
Photo 23. Gambrel roof construction of main barn. View from second floor.
Photo 24. Interior of main barn. Second floor (hay loft).
Photo 25. Interior of main barn. South side of interior facing west. Showing construction of the roof support and the wooden floor.
Photo 26. Interior photo of gambrel roof construction of main barn. View from second floor.
Photo 27. Interior photo of exterior door in main barn on the second floor.
Photo 28. Facing east. Interior of main barn, second story.
Photo 29. Facing east. Interior of main barn, second story. Showing an addition on the western end of the main barn.
Photo 30. Facing west. View of undeveloped pasture from second story of main barn.
Photo 31. Interior of main barn, second story. Showing ventilation mechanism. This chamber follows up to the ridge of the roof to a vent on the roof.
Photo 32. Facing west. Main barn.
Photo 33. Facing north. Rear facade of main barn.
Photo 34. Facing south. Showing main barn and horse stanchions in the foreground.
Photo 35. Facing southwest. Northernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 1. Facing northwest. Front of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 2. Facing north. Interior of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 3. Facing northeast. Rear of southernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 4. Facing north. Exterior of main barn on complex.



Photo 5. Facing north. Grouping of two silos adjacent to main barn.



Photo 6. Facing northwest. Exterior of milk house.



Photo 7. Facing west. Front facade of milk house.



Photo 8. Six paneled front door and clapboard siding on milk house with aluminum storm door open.



Photo 9. Interior of milk house.



Photo 10. Interior of milk house.



Photo 11. Interior hallway between milk house and main barn.



Photo 12. Facing north. Exterior wooden door of main barn. Also clearly showing the clapboard siding and the metal roof material.



Photo 13. Six light wooden sash casement window. Typical of the fenestration of the main barn.



Photo 14. Metal roof detail of the main barn.



Photo 15. Facing northwest. Shows relationship of the main barn, to the milk house, and the two adjacent silos. Front facade of main barn.



Photo 16. Facing southwest. Exterior of main barn.



Photo 17. Facing southwest. Exterior of main barn. Showing front facade, gambrel roof, fenestration layout, and positioning of roof dormers.



Photo 18. Detail of roof dormers on main barn.



Photo 19. Interior of front sliding doors of main barn on first floor.



Photo 20. Interior of main barn, first floor showing layout of stanchions made of steel pipe and wood.



Photo 21. Interior of main barn. First floor.



Photo 22. First floor ceiling joists and stabilizers.



Photo 23. Gambrel roof construction of main barn. View from second floor.



Photo 24. Interior of main barn. Second floor (hay loft).



Photo 25. Interior of main barn. South side of interior facing west. Showing construction of the roof support and the wooden floor.



Photo 26. Interior photo of gambrel roof construction of main barn. View from second floor.



Photo 27. Interior photo of exterior door in main barn on the second floor.



Photo 28. Facing east. Interior of main barn, second story.



Photo 29. Facing east. Interior of main barn, second story. Showing an addition on the western end of the main barn.



Photo 30. Facing west. View of undeveloped pasture from second story of main barn.

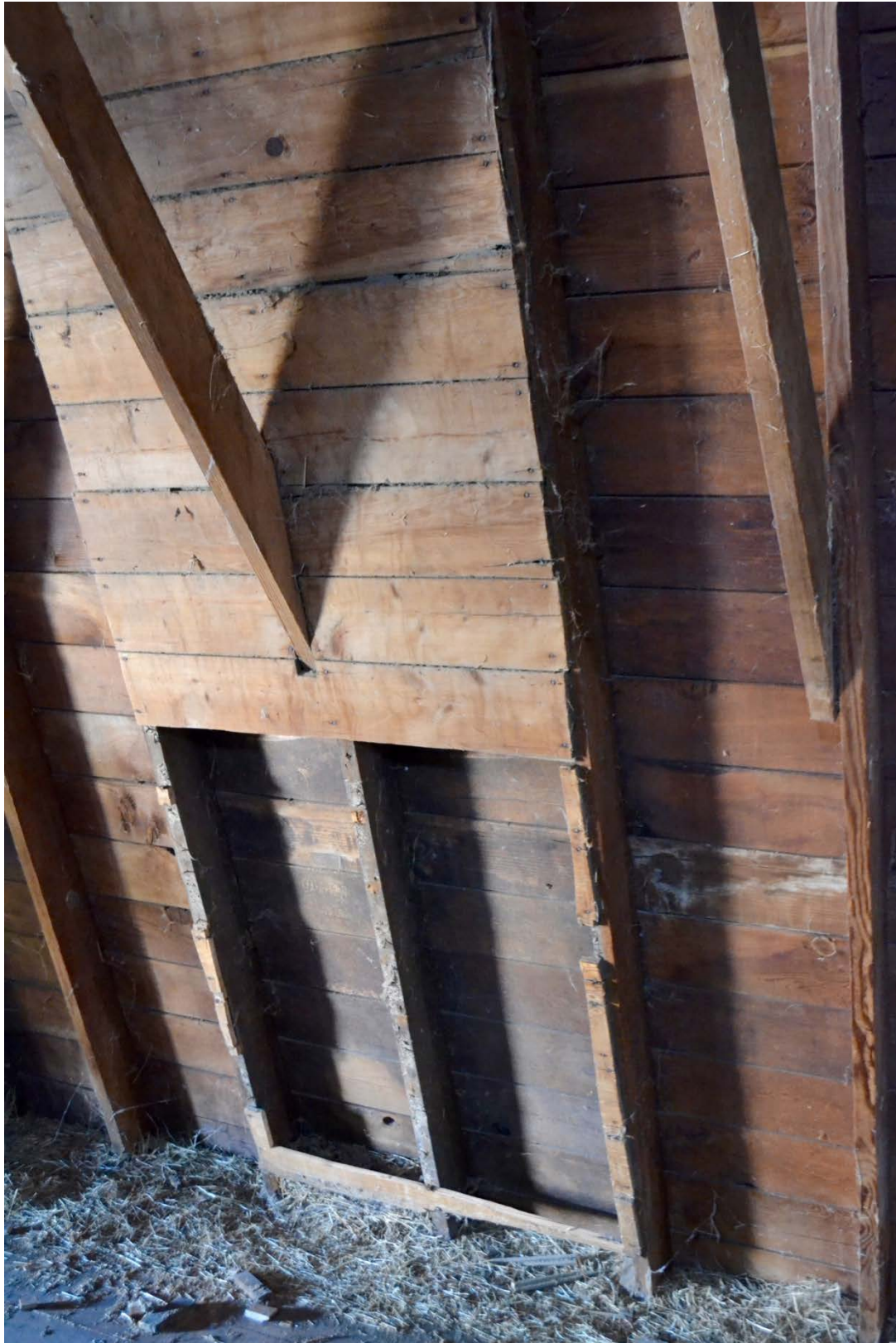


Photo 31. Interior of main barn, second story. Showing ventilation mechanism. This chamber follows up to the ridge of the roof to a vent on the roof.



Photo 32. Facing west. Main barn.



Photo 33. Facing north. Rear facade of main barn.



Photo 34. Facing south. Showing main barn and horse stanchions in the foreground.



Photo 35. Facing southwest. Northern most outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 36. Facing south. Northernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 37. Facing south Interior of northernmost outbuilding on farm complex.



Photo 38. Facing southwest. Horse stanchions.



Photo 39. Facing south. Horse stanchions.



Photo 40. Facing west. View of undeveloped pasture and fields west of the main barn complex.

Appendix B.

NYS Historic Structure Inventory Form Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure

BUILDING –STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Unique Site No
Quad Delmar
Series 7.5' Series

Your Name: Sarah Majot Date: 4/20/15
Your Address: 40 Colvin Avenue, Suite LL 4 Albany, N.Y. 12206 Telephone:(518) 453-2227
Organization (if any): **ARCH TECH**, Archaeological Technical Experts, Cultural Resource Specialists & Historic Researchers

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (S): **Sandy Creek Farm-Newell Dairy Infrastructure**
 2. COUNTY: **Albany** TOWN/CITY: **Bethlehem** VILLAGE:
 3. STREET LOCATION: **#25 Wemple Road**
 4. OWNERSHIP: a) Public b) Private **X**
 5. PRESENT OWNER: **Unknown**
 6. USE: Original: **Dairy Farm** Present: **Gentleman Farm**
 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: **X YES** NO
 Interior accessible: **NO** Explain: **Private Property**

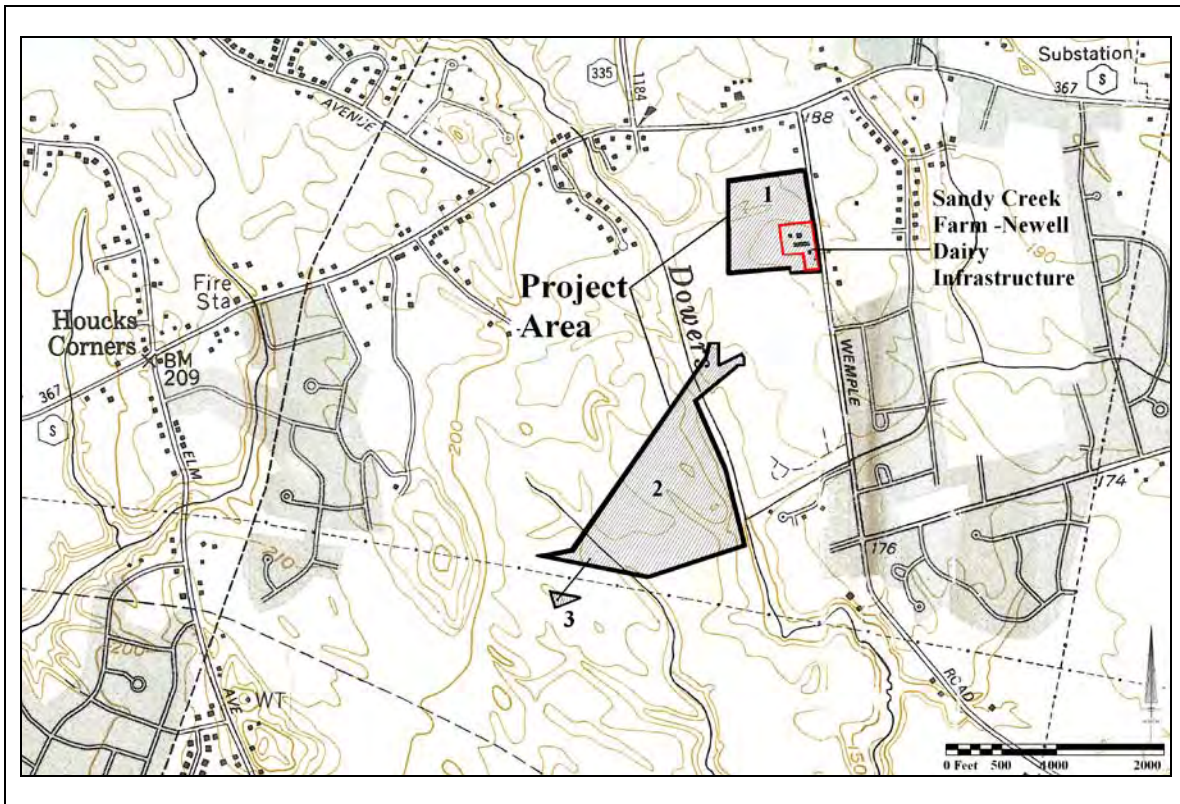
DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: **X** a. **clapboard** b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
 e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: concrete
 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: **X** a. **wood frame with interlocking joints**
 b. wood frame with light members
 c. masonry load bearing walls
 d. metal (explain) _____
 e. other: Mortared stone foundation
 10. CONDITION: a. excellent **X** b. **good** c. fair d. deteriorated
 11. INTEGRITY: **X** a. **original site** b. moved if so, when? _____
 c. list major alterations and dates (if known): Addition along south side
 12. PHOTO: **IMG 4989**



View Northwest

13. MAP: 1993 Delmar Quadrangles-7.5" Series



14. THREATS TO BUILDING:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| a. none known | b. zoning | c. roads |
| X d. developers | e. deterioration | |
| X f. other: will be demolished | | |

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Xa. barn | b. carriage house | X c. garage |
| d. privy | X e. shed | f. greenhouse |
| Xg. shop | h. gardens | j. well |
- i. landscape features: Barn complex is located west of Wemple Road south of its intersection with Feura Bush Road. It is on an elevated rise above the surrounding lands

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| X a. open land | b. woodland |
| c. scattered buildings | X d. densely built up |
| e. commercial | f. industrial |
| X g. residential | h. other: |

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(indicate if building or structure is in a historic district)

The farm complex is not located within a historic district. It is positioned on a slightly elevated rise above the surrounding lands. The main barn abuts Wemple Road and is oriented east west. For the relationship of buildings see the attached mapwork.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

A map of the related infrastructure for the Sandy Creek Farm has been presented. The existing dairy barn (A), milkhouse (B) two silos (C), and equipment sheds (D and E) that exist in the current setting reflect 20th century construction dates. The largest of the existing buildings in the setting is a 20th century, two-story, wood frame dairy barn with a metal covered gambrel roof. It has a concrete block and poured concrete foundation. Other noted architectural attributes for the barn include rows of small, single sash/six pane windows on the ground floor and roof-ridge metal ventilators (c. 1950).

This barn is oriented along a west-east axis and is approximately 36 feet (11 m) in width by 100 feet (30.5 m) in length. It can best be described as a ground level, stable barn built for large scale dairy production and use. The Newell dairy barn is flanked on the south by two, 14-foot (4.3 m)-diameter concrete stave silos, in addition to the milk house.

Other related ancillary outbuildings within the setting include a modern metal and pole equipment shed located northwest of the barn. This is denoted as “D” on the map and in the historic photograph. The metal shed measures approximately 30 feet (9 m) by 44 feet (13.4 m) and is aligned north to south. Assessment records suggest this building was erected in 1940. A smaller, metal roofed pole shed used for wood storage is situated southeast of the larger shed. The frame equipment or machine shed was denoted as building “E.” This building fronted Wemple Road and was oriented along a north-south axis. The wooden structure is approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) by 50 feet (15 m) in size and is open along its east elevation. It appears to have a concrete foundation.

Another barn was present in the setting prior to 1998. It was situated between the dairy barn and the frame equipment shed and has been denoted as “F.” Highway corridor route study maps showed the footprint of this structure as it existed in 1967. As shown upon the scaled highway maps, this barn measured approximately 60 x 40 feet (18 x 12 m) with a 20 x 40-foot (6 x 12 m) addition. It was a two-story wood frame, side-gabled barn with a single-story shed roof addition. The main structure was oriented north to south, with the addition along the east elevation. The simple drop style horizontal clapboard siding and window treatments were similar in appearance to the related dairy barn. Initial impressions suggest this barn was a 20th century light frame structure, similarly-dated to the main dairy barn. It also appeared to have common, exposed open eave rafters supporting the roof. This structure was likely a multipurpose building used for hay storage, as well as housing other types of animals or young stock.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: circa 1936-1938

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The ground level stable barn became popular through the second quarter of the 20th century and its design catered to emerging state regulations for the dairying industry, promoting cleanliness and utilizing developing technology (PHMC 2014). In general, the first floor of these barns was typically used to house or stable the cows and other animals, with the upper levels serving as the hay mow. Interior access was through the gable ends of the barn with rows of either wooden or metal stanchions either side of a main aisle on the interior. The flooring was most often poured concrete with built-in manure troughs and drains.

Concrete stave silos were perfected during the first quarter of the 20th century after ensilage was more widely adapted as supplemental feed for dairy cattle. Their use became popular in the period after 1930 (Hubka 2004:65). Assessment records for the property suggest these two structures were built prior to 1950 (BTA 2014). Although these are general dates, they fit within the overall timeframe for these types of outbuildings and are comparable to the date of the main barn.

Apparently the property, whilst owned by the Whitehead Brothers Company between 1936 and 1938, had been leased to George J. Diederich, a dairy farmer. The deed review had confirmed his association with the property. By some accounts, George Diederich had erected the barns in the project area, opposite the house during this timeframe (Brewer 1993:237). This may have been undertaken as part of a purchase contingency for the property. The construction of these barns at this date coordinates well with their architectural characteristics. According to the agreement related to the silos, the Grange Silo Company was granted permission by Whitehead Brothers Company to erect and dismantle four silos associated with Diederich. By the time of the sale of the lands to the Newells, at least one of the four silos had already been dismantled.

Property Only: Conrad Friday (1792-1819)/Conrad Friday (1819-1937)/James Wiltsie 1845-1854
House and property George W. Coonley (1854-1906)/William Coonley (1908-1912)/Charles Reitz (1912-1927)/
Walter McMillen (1927-1934)/John J. Scully (1934-1934)/Whitehead Brothers Co. (1934-1938)
John, Mabel, and Ernest Newell (1938-1957), Florence Newell (1985)

21. SOURCES:	1767	Jnr. Bleeker	Map of the Manor of Renselaerwick
	1851	J. C. Sidney	Map of the Vicinity of Albany & Troy
	1854	J. Gould & I. Moore	Map of the Town of Bethlehem
	1866	S.N. & D.G. Beers	Map of the Town of Bethlehem
	1891	F.W. Beers	Atlas of the Hudson River-Section 31

22. THEME: 20th Century Farms Complexes-Town of Bethlehem.

ADDITIONAL DATA AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Historic Photograph
View Northeast of the Barn Complex Circa 1960
(Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce 1960:1)



View southwest of the Ground Stable Dairy Barn "A" (IMG 5000)



View northwest of Milk house "B" (IMG 4996)



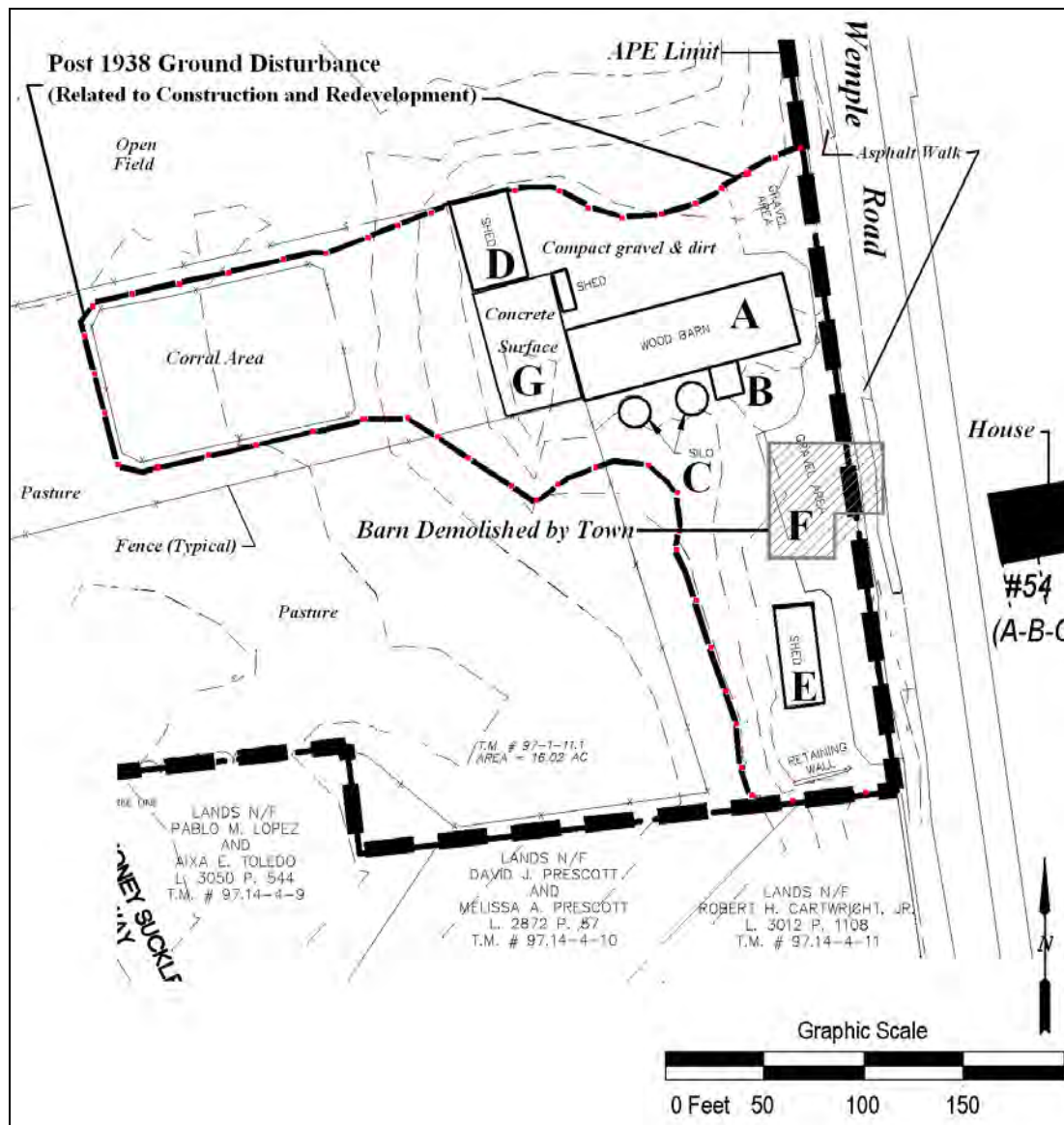
View West of Metal Equipment Shed "D" (IMG 4890)



View northwest of Frame Equipment Shed "E." (IMG 4993)



View East of Complex (IMG 4887)



Map Section Detail
2014 Existing Newell Farm Complex-Buildings and Structures
(Base Map by Ingalls & Associates, LLP)