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DATE: 1 February 2007

TO: Bob Fox
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RE: WEFA – Weir House, Weir Studio and Young Studio Preservation

QTY	DATE	ITEM
2	1995-98	HSR Volume II- A, Barn and Outbuildings

COMMENTS:

*Matching copy sent to CT SHPO w/ Ice House
Section 106 submittal 8/3/07*

SIGNATURE

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WEIR FARM OUTBUILDINGS

**WEIR FARM HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
VOLUME II-A**

**DRAFT
1995, 1998**

**WEIR FARM
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT**

**Weir Farm National Historic Site
Wilton, Connecticut**

VOLUME II-A

Weir Farm Outbuildings
Barn • Tack House
Rustic Wooden Fence • Ice House
Garden Tool Shed • Corn Crib • Chicken Coop
Well Houses • Wagon Shed

By

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Lowell, Massachusetts

Draft
1995, 1998

Cover Photograph. Weir Barn Complex - View from the South, Circa 1900-1903. Weir Farm NHS Archives.

TABLE of CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
LIST of ILLUSTRATIONS and CREDITS	xxiii
PREFACE	xxix
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA	xxx
Basic Data	xxx
Cultural Resource Data	xxx
Proposed Use and Treatment	xxxix
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xxxii
Project Background and Scope	xxxii
Historical Context	xxxii
Summary of Research Findings	xxxiii
Chronology of Physical Evolution - Weir Farm Outbuildings	xxxiv
Recommendations for Treatment and Use	xxxv

I.	<u>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and CONTEXT</u>	1
	WEIR BARN and TACK HOUSE	3
	WEIR OUTBUILDINGS and OTHER STRUCTURES	14
II.	<u>PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -</u>	
	<u>WEIR BARN</u>	17
	PHYSICAL EVOLUTION	19
	1815-1835 - Construction	19
	Main Barn	19
	Construction Date.....	19
	Configuration.....	20
	West Wing	21
	East Wing	21
	Post-Construction Alterations	22
	Post 1835 – West Wing and Northwest Corner	22
	Circa 1890 - Lean-to	23
	Circa 1888 to 1895 - Barn Complex	23
	Circa 1895 to 1905 - Barn Complex	28
	Overview.....	28
	Main Barn.....	28
	West Wing.....	28
	East Wing.....	29

Circa 1911-1914 Remodeling	29
Overview.....	29
Siding.....	35
Main Barn.....	35
Lean-To.....	35
West Wing.....	39
East Wing.....	39
Interior.....	39
1882 to 1919 – Fencing	40
Circa 1919 to Present	40
Finishes History	43
Exterior	43
Interior	44
Utility Systems	44
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS	45
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS	47
Overview	47
Walls	47
Sheathing	47
Siding	51
Trim	51

Doorways	51
Main Barn and Lean-To	51
West Wing	52
East Wing	52
Windows	52
Main Barn and Lean-to	52
South Façade.....	52
East Wall.....	55
North Wall.....	55
West Aspect.....	55
West Wing	55
East Façade.....	55
South Wall.....	56
West Wall.....	56
East Wing	56
West Façade.....	56
South Wall.....	56
East Wall.....	57
North Wall.....	57
Roofing Material	57
Sheathing	57
Roofing	57
Paint Finishes	57

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS 59

Overview 59

First Floor 59

Room 101 – Stable 59

Room 102 - Equipment Room60

Room 103 - Wagon Shed 63

Room 104 - Lean-To Shed 64

Room 105 - Oxen Stable 69

Room 106 - Storage Room 70

Room 107 - Threshing Floor 72

Room 108 - Milking Room 75

Room 109 - Pony Stall 77

Room 110 – Garage 78

Second Floor 79

**West Wing - Rooms 201 & 202, South and
North Lofts 79**

**Main Barn - Rooms 203 & 204, West and
East Lofts 80**

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS 84

Electrical System..... 84

Protection System 84

III. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION - TACK HOUSE..... 85

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION 87

Pre 1905 - Original Structure 87

Circa 1911 – Construction..... 88

Circa 1911-1914 - Alterations 88

Post-1925 Alterations 91

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS 95

Foundation 95

Framing 95

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS 96

Overview 96

Walls 96

 Sheathing 96

 Siding 96

Doorway	96
Windows	99
Roofing Material	99
Miscellaneous	99
Paint Finishes	99
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS	100
Overview	100
Room 101 - Tack Room	100
Room 201 - Attic Room (Dovecote)	101
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS	104
Electrical System	104
Protection System	104

IV.	<u>PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -</u>	
	<u>RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE</u>	105
	PHYSICAL EVOLUTION	107
	Circa 1890-1900 – Construction	107
	Historical Appearance	113
	Post-1915 Alterations	119
	Finishes History	119
	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	120
V.	<u>PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -</u>	
	<u>ICE HOUSE</u>	123
	PHYSICAL EVOLUTION	125
	Circa 1891 - Construction	125
	Exterior	125
	Configuration	125
	Finishes	126
	Interior	131

Post-Construction Alterations	131
Circa 1910 - Lean-to	131
Circa 1934 – Cupola	132
1943 - Conversion to Chicken House	134
Overview	134
Exterior	134
Interior	135
Post 1943	136
Finishes History	136
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS	137
Foundation	137
Framing	137
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS	138
Overview	138
Walls	138
Sheathing	138
Siding	138
Trim	138
Doorways	140

Windows	140
South Façade	140
East Aspect	140
West Aspect	143
North Aspect	143
Roofing Material	143
Sheathing	143
Roofing	143
Cupola	143
Paint Finishes	143
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS	144
Overview	144
First Floor	144
Room 101 - Chicken Coop	144
Room 102 - Lean-to Shed	146
Second Floor	147
Room 201 - Attic Room	147

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS 150

Electrical System 150

Protection System 150

**VI. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -
GARDEN TOOL SHED 151**

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION 153

Circa 1900-1930 – Construction 153

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS 155

Foundation 155

Framing 155

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS 156

Overview 156

Walls 156

Doorway 156

Roofing Material 156

Paint Finishes	156
-----------------------------	------------

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS 158

Room 101 - Storage Room	158
--------------------------------------	------------

Overview	158
-----------------------	------------

Flooring	158
-----------------------	------------

Walls	158
--------------------	------------

Doorway	158
----------------------	------------

Ceiling	158
----------------------	------------

Paint Finishes	159
-----------------------------	------------

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS 160

Plumbing	160
-----------------------	------------

**VII. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -
CORN CRIB 161**

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION 163

Circa 1900 – Construction	163
--	------------

Post-Construction Alterations	163
--	------------

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION 165

Overview 165

Structural 165

Foundation 165

Framing 165

Walls 165

Doorway 168

Roofing Material 168

Flooring 168

Paint Finishes 168

**VIII. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION -
CHICKEN COOP 169**

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION 171

Circa 1932 – Construction 171

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION 175

Overview 175

Structural 175

Foundation 175

Framing 175

Walls 175

Doorway 175

Window 177

Roofing Material 177

Flooring 177

Utility Systems – Electrical 177

Paint Finishes 177

IX. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION - WELL HOUSES 179

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION 181

Evolution of Water Supply 181

Granite Well House	181
1890-1905 – Construction	189
Water Tower Well House	181
Wood Pump House	186
Circa-1927 - Construction	186
Artestian Well	187
1936 – Construction	187
Electricity for Wells	187
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	190
Granite Well House	190
Wood Pump House	190
Overview	190
Structural	190
Flooring	190
Walls	192
Doorways	192

	Roofing Material	192
	Pit and Water Tank	192
	Paint Finishes	192
X.	<u>PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION - WAGON SHED</u>	195
	PHYSICAL EVOLUTION	197
	 Circa 1910-1941 – Construction	197
	 Post-Construction Alterations	201
	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	202
XI.	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	205
	CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES	207
	 Overview	207
	 Weir Barn and Tack House	207
	 Weir Outbuildings and Other Structures	208
	SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS	209
	 Overview	209

Weir Barn	209
Rustic Wooden Fence	209
Ice House	210
Extant Outbuildings	210
Granite Well House	211
Wagon Shed	211
XII. <u>APPENDICES</u>	213
APPENDIX A - 1995 MEASURED DRAWINGS: WEIR BARN	215
APPENDIX B - 1995 MEASURED DRAWINGS: WEIR FARM OUTBUILDINGS	225
Tack House	227
Ice House	228
Garden Tool Shed	230
Corn Crib	231
Animal Shelter	232

**APPENDIX C - WOOD ANALYSIS:
RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE 233**

APPENDIX D - PAINT ANALYSIS 241

XIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY 249

LIST of ILLUSTRATIONS and CREDITS

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Anna Weir and Alden Jr. at Weir Farm - view looking north towards barn, open-rail gate and stockade fence enclosing barn courtyard, summer 1888. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP69.....	4
2. J. Alden Weir, <i>Tetherball</i> , circa 1900. Private collection.....	5
3. J. Alden Weir, <i>New England Barnyard</i> , circa 1904. Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.....	6
4. Cora Weir with pony in Weir barn courtyard - view showing east wall of west wing, circa 1900-1905. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP10.....	7
5. Weir farm flower garden - looking east towards barn, circa 1905. Weir Farm NHS archives....	10
6. Weir farm "Secret Garden" - looking southeast towards barn, circa 1915. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP168.....	11
7. Weir house - looking north from Pelham Lane, barn in background at right, circa 1917. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP187.....	12
8. J. Alden Weir, <i>Autumn Landscape</i> , 1888-90. Private collection.....	15
9. Plan of a mid nineteenth-century U-plan farmyard layout. Reprinted from Arthur and Witney, <i>The Barn</i> (1988).....	24
10. Weir barn - view from the south, circa 1895. Weir Farm NHS archives.....	25
11. J. Alden Weir, <i>Farm Scene at Branchville</i> , 1890. Private collection.....	26
12. J. Alden Weir, <i>Summer in Connecticut</i> , circa 1895. Private collection.....	27
13. Cora Weir on sled at Weir Farm - view from the south, barn at right and ice house in background, circa 1900-1905. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP8.....	30
14. Weir barn - view from the south, circa 1900-1905. Weir Farm NHS archives.....	31
15. Weir barn - view of west wall of east wing, circa 1900-1905. Weir Farm NHS archives.....	32
16. Weir farm – view to the northeast from across Nod Hill Road, circa 1900-1905. Weir Farm NHS archives.....	33
17. Weir barn - view from the southwest, circa 1905. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP44.....	34
18. Caroline Weir Ely, <i>Barns at Branchville</i> , circa 1915. Private collection.....	36

19.	Weir Farm - view from the south with Weir barn in background at right, circa 1915. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP206.....	37
20.	Weir barn - junction of east façade of west wing with south façade of main barn. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	38
21.	Mahonri Young, <i>B'ville Haywagon</i> , 1943. Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	41
22.	Panoramic view of Mahonri Young walking on Weir Farm - Weir barn at left, circa 1940. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP150.....	42
23.	Weir barn - view from the south. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1995.....	48
24.	Weir barn - view from the north towards Weir house. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	48
25.	Weir barn - main barn, south facade. NPS photograph by Richard Chilcoat, 1992.....	49
26.	Weir barn - north and west aspects. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1995.....	49
27.	Weir barn - west wing, east facade and south wall. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	50
28.	Weir barn - east wing, west facade. NPS photograph by Richard Chilcoat, 1992.....	50
29.	Weir barn - main barn, south facade, doorway D105. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	53
30.	Weir barn - main barn, north and east walls. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1993.....	53
31.	Weir barn - west wing, east facade. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	54
32.	Weir barn - east wing, west-wall recess, windows W106-W107 and W108. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden 1994.....	58
33.	Weir barn - east wing, east and south walls. NPS photograph by Richard Chilcoat, 1992.....	58
34.	Weir Barn – stable [Room 101], west wall. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	61
35.	Weir Barn - equipment room [Room 102], west wall. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	62
36.	Weir barn - wagon shed [Room 103], west and south walls. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	65
37.	Weir barn - lean-to shed [Room 104], upper east wall. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	66

38.	Weir barn - lean-to shed [Room 104], south wall. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	66
39.	Weir barn - lean-to shed [Room 104], north wall. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	67
40.	Weir barn - lean-to shed [Room 104], west wall, doorway D116. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	67
41.	Weir barn - oxen stable [Room 105], looking northwest. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	68
42.	Weir barn - storage room [Room 106], looking southwest. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	73
43.	Weir barn - storage room [Room 106], west wall. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	73
44.	Weir barn - threshing floor [Room 107], looking north. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	74
45.	Weir barn - threshing floor [Room 107], east wall and doorway D113. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	74
46.	Weir barn - milking room [Room 108], looking north. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	76
47.	Weir barn - milking room [Room 108], looking south. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	76
48.	Weir barn - garage [Room 110], looking south. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1994.....	81
49.	Weir barn - north loft [Room 202], looking north. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	82
50.	Weir barn - north loft [Room 202], looking south. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	82
51.	Weir barn - east loft [Room 204], looking southeast. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	83
52.	J. Alden Weir, <i>The Palace Car</i> , n.d. Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	89
53.	Caroline Weir Ely, <i>Barns at Branchville</i> , etching, before 1915. Private collection.....	90
54.	J. Alden Weir standing at southeast corner of Weir house - view looking north, east edge of Weir tack house in background at right, circa 1915-1919. Weir Farm NHS Archives, HP37	92

55.	Weir tack house - view from the southwest, circa 1915-1918. Weir Farm NHS Archives, HP177.....	93
56.	Glimpse of Weir barn and tack house – looking north from Nod Hill Road side of rustic wooden fence, after 1915. Weir Farm NHS Archives, HP161.....	94
57.	Weir tack house - west and northwest walls. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	97
58.	Weir tack house - northwest wall, Norfolk latch on door in doorway D101. NPS photograph by Maureen K. Phillips, 1995.....	97
59.	Weir tack house - east and southeast walls. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	98
60.	Weir tack house - south wall. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	98
61.	Weir tack house - tack room [Room 101]. NPS photograph by Maureen K. Phillips, 1995.....	102
62.	Weir house and south picket fence - view looking north, before 1900. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP232.....	108
63.	South aspect of Weir house and west side of east picket fence – view looking east/northeast, before 1888. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP231.....	109
64.	East façade of Weir house and south side of north picket fence – view looking north/northwest, before 1888. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP233.....	110
65.	Weir picket fence - looking east, before 1900. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP90.....	111
66.	Weir rustic wooden fence - looking northwest, before 1900. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP27.....	112
67.	J. Alden Weir, <i>The Grey Trellis</i> , (1891). Private collection.	114
68.	Mahonri Young driving wagon east on Pelham Lane, after 1931. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP96.....	115
69.	Dorothy Weir Young on east lawn – view looking north/northeast, 1940s. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP103.....	116
70.	Weir rustic wooden fence - view looking west, between 1900 and 1918. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP160.....	117
71.	Weir rustic wooden fence - view looking east, after 1900. Weir Farm NHS archives, HP40.....	118
72.	Weir rustic wooden fence – view looking north. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	121
73.	Weir rustic wooden fence - detail. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	121
74.	J. Alden Weir, <i>The Ice House</i> , circa 1891. Private collection.	127

75.	Weir ice house - view looking north, circa 1905. Weir Farm NHS archives.....	128
76.	1881 proposed design for an ice house. Reprinted from Halsted, <i>Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings</i> (1881/1987).....	129
77.	Weir ice house - view from the southeast, circa 1910. Weir Farm NHS archives	130
78.	Mahonri Young, <i>The Garden Gate, Branchville</i> , (1936). Courtesy of Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	133
79.	Weir ice house - looking north. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	139
80.	Weir ice house - north and west aspects. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	141
81.	Weir ice house - east aspect. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1992.....	142
82.	Weir ice house - west aspect. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1992.....	142
83.	Weir ice house - chicken coop [Room 101], east wall. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1992.....	145
84.	Weir ice house - chicken coop [Room 101], looking north into lean-to shed. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	145
85.	Weir ice house - lean-to shed [Room 102], doorway D103 hardware. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1995.....	148
86.	Mahonri Young, <i>Branchville Shed - Red Village</i> , 1938. Courtesy of Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	154
87.	Weir garden tool shed -view from the west. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	157
88.	Weir garden tool shed - interior, 1994. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1994.....	157
89.	Mahonri Young, <i>Shingling the Corn Crib</i> , 1932. Courtesy of Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	164
90.	Weir corn crib - west facade. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1993.....	167
91.	Weir corn crib - south and east walls. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1993.....	167
92.	Weir corn crib - roof framing, interior. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1993.....	168
93.	Weir corn crib - wall framing, interior. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1993.....	168
94.	Mahonri Young, <i>Chicken Yard, B'ville</i> , 1941. Courtesy of Brigham Young University Museum of Fine Arts.....	172
95.	J. Alden Weir, <i>Feeding the Chickens</i> , early 1890s. Private collection. Reprinted from Burke, <i>J. Alden Weir</i> (1983).....	173

96.	Weir farm - old chicken yard, view from the east, before 1932. Weir Farm NHS archives HP8.....	174
97.	Weir chicken coop - south facade. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	176
98.	Weir chicken coop - east and north walls. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	176
99.	Weir house and west yard, circa 1890. Weir Farm Heritage Trust, HP236.....	182
100.	Weir granite well house – view from the north, circa 1905. Weir Farm Trust, HP16.....	183
101.	Weir farm - west yard, granite well house at rear right, circa 1915. Weir Farm NHS, HP166.....	184
102.	Weir garden gate, circa 1915. Weir Farm NHS Archives, HP164.....	185
103.	Weir barn – east gable wall. NPS photograph by Robert Fox, 1995	188
104.	Weir barn – east gable wall, detail showing electrical conduits. NPS photograph by Robert Fox, 1995	188
105.	Weir barn – east gable wall, detail showing disconnected electrical conduits. NPS photograph by Robert Fox, 1995	189
106.	Weir barn – east gable wall, end of north conduit at northeast corner of barn. NPS photograph by Robert Fox, 1995	189
107.	Weir granite well house base - view from Pelham Lane to the southeast. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	191
108.	Weir granite well house base – view from the west. NPS photograph by Richard C. Crisson, 1994.....	191
109.	Weir wood pump house - south and east walls. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993....	193
110.	Weir artesian well - concrete cap. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	193
111.	Weir wagon shed at left of view, early 1960s. Photocopy of photograph from private collection	198
112.	Weir wagon shed - interior, early 1960s. Photocopy of photograph from private collection	199
113.	Sperry Andrews, untitled oil painting of Weir Farm outbuildings - wagon shed at left rear, 1978.....	200
114.	Weir wagon shed – foundation and building remnants, from the west. NPS photograph by George Stephens, 1992.....	203
115.	Weir wagon shed - remnants of foundation, view from the south. NPS photograph by Marie L. Carden, 1993.....	203

PREFACE

This report is Volume II-A of the three-volume historic structures report for Weir Farm National Historic Site (Weir Farm NHS). Volume I addresses the Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio, and includes the historical background and context for the entire Weir Farm NHS. This volume addresses the Weir barn and the remaining outbuildings on the Weir complex site. Separate reports address the caretaker's site, which was also part of the original Weir farm (Volume II-B), and the structures on the Burlingham complex site (Volume III). While this report is intended to stand on its own, reference should be made to Volume I for more detail on the relationship of the outbuildings to the site as a whole.

This report was prepared for Weir Farm NHS by the Building Conservation Branch (BCB) of the National Park Service's Northeast Cultural Resources Center. The report was written by Architectural Conservators Maureen K. Phillips and Marie L. Carden. Paint and mortar analyses were conducted by the authors and are included in the appendices and/or incorporated into the text. Measured drawings of the Weir barn elevations were completed by Innovative Architectural Technologies, Inc., of New Haven, Connecticut. The remaining measured drawings were completed by BCB Historical Architect Richard C. Crisson and BCB Architectural Technician Steven Pisani.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Basic Data

<u>Building Name</u>	<u>Building Number</u>	<u>LCS Number</u>
Barn	WEFA-04	40640
Tack House	WEFA-06	40639
Rustic Wooden Fence	WEFA-11	40669
Ice House	WEFA-05	40638
Garden Tool Shed	WEFA-07	40637
Corn Crib	WEFA-08	40636
Chicken Coop	WEFA-09	40635
Granite Well House	WEFA-10A	40670
Wood Pump House	WEFA-10B	40666
Artesian Well	WEFA-10C	40667

Location

Weir Farm is located in the part of Wilton and Ridgefield, Connecticut, known as Branchville, on the corner of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane. The Weir farm outbuildings are situated to the north of the J. Alden Weir house in the Weir complex north of Pelham Lane and west of Nod Hill Road.

Cultural Resource Data

Context of Significance

The 1995 *General Management Plan*¹ (GMP) describes the significance of Weir farm as follows:

- 1) for 37 years, Weir farm was the summer home and workplace of J. Alden Weir, a major and pioneering figure in the American Impressionist Movement;
- 2) the landscape as well as many of the structures on Weir farm were subjects of many of Weir's paintings, etchings, watercolors, and drawings;
- 3) Weir farm was a frequent destination for Weir's circle of artist friends, including Childe Hassam, John Twachtman, Albert Pinkham Ryder, Emil Carlson, and John Singer Sargent, and was the subject of many of their paintings;
- 4) following Weir's death in 1919, Weir farm has continued to serve as artists' home, workplace, and artistic subject: from 1930 to 1955 of the sculptor/painter Mahonri

¹Weir Farm National Historic Site General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (National Park Service - North Atlantic Region, September 1995).

Young, who was married to Weir's daughter Dorothy Weir Young, and from 1957 to the present time for artist Sperry Andrews;

- 5) Weir farm is one of the few surviving remnants of the vernacular Connecticut landscape, with clusters of shingle and red clapboard buildings, fieldstone walls, and remnants of historic orchards and hay fields.

The significance of the Weir farm outbuildings is described in the GMP as follows:

- 1) outbuildings (general): typical outbuildings of a working farm, some (such as the tack house and the garden tool shed) of unusual or picturesque configuration; depicted in paintings, drawings, and etchings by Weir and/or Young;
- 2) barn: was the barn(s) for a working farm in Weir's day, and ... also the subject of some of Weir's paintings and Young's etchings;
- 3) rustic wooden fences: integral components of the structure-landscape relationship, associated with family activities by providing boundaries for animals, security for children, and forming a picturesque and practical border for the grounds.

Period of Significance

The 1995 GMP calls for restoring the structures within the Weir complex to their appearance in about 1940. Therefore, the period of significance for the Weir Farm NHS outbuildings is 1882 (the year J. Alden Weir purchased the farm) to circa-1940.

National Register Information

The Weir farm outbuildings are part of the J. Alden Weir Farm Historic District, which was entered onto the National Register January 5, 1984.

Proposed Use and Treatment

Proposed Use

The GMP calls for interpreting the barn to reflect the Weir and Young era farming practices, which were discontinued by the Andrews family. The remainder of the outbuildings are to be interpreted to reflect their continuous use by Weir and his successors.

Proposed Treatment

The proposed treatment for the Weir farm outbuildings outlined in the preferred alternative of the draft GMP is to restore the structures to their appearances in circa 1940.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Background and Scope

The Weir farm outbuildings comprise all of the existing outbuildings in the Weir Farm NHS that are located on the site of the Weir complex. The outbuildings include a barn, a tack house, a rustic wooden fence, an ice house, a garden tool shed, a corn crib, a chicken coop, and well houses. Also extant are remnants of a wagon shed. Not included in this report is a well house that is located across Nod Hill Road from the Weir complex. This well house was part of Weir complex but is not part of the Weir Farm NHS, and only minimal documentation was conducted on the structure for future reference.

A scope of work and task directive (with supplement) for the Weir Farm Historic Structures Report (HSR) were prepared by Architectural Conservator Marie Carden of the BCB. These documents outlined the background, goal, tasks, methodology, and scope of the project. The project goal for the Weir farm outbuildings was to prepare a modified Level II HSR. The investigation for the report involved: historical research; fabric sampling and analysis, which helped to establish the physical evolution of the structures; documentation of existing features; and evaluation of the impact of adapting the structures to their proposed uses, including evaluation of the impact on character-defining features.

The investigation for this Level II HSR called for only non-destructive and non-invasive techniques, and the scope of this report is accordingly restricted. Evidence of the physical evolution of the barn and the tack house uncovered during the 1995-1996 preservation project for those two structures and information gleaned from research into archival documentation conducted up to 1998 is included in the report.² The physical description of the existing features of the buildings is current as of 1995, before preservation work began. Additional information may be revealed during any future investigation or stabilization/preservation work on the structures. Any such information should be included either in an addendum to this HSR, or in the completion report for the project.

Historical Context

The land on which the Weir farm outbuildings stand was part of the Lewis Beers farm that J. Alden Weir purchased in 1882. The structures are located on Nod Hill Road in Ridgefield, Connecticut, near the border with Wilton, Connecticut, that runs along Pelham Lane.

The outbuildings on Weir farm were (and are) all located to the north and northwest of the Weir house. Many of these rustic picturesque outbuildings were the inspiration and subjects for the artistic activity of Weir and his artist friends who made summer visits to Branchville in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and later for sculptor/artist Mahonri Young, who married Weir's daughter Dorothy in 1931. The outbuildings were also, however, integral components of a working farm. Weir family papers and graphic documentation record that the Weir and the Young families actively farmed the property, and the myriad of outbuildings were required to meet the changing needs of the farm.

²See Tom Ballos, compiler, "Completion Report: Weir Farm Barn Preservation, Weir Studio Exterior Restoration, May 1995 through October 1996," National Park Service/Northeast Cultural Resources Center, Weir Farm NHS, and the Institute for Preservation Technology (1998).

The barn complex in its distinctive U-shaped plan was standing to the north of the house when Weir bought the property in 1882. Other outbuildings are known to have existed at that time but have not survived. All the extant outbuildings at Weir farm other than the barn were built after 1883. Near the south end of the barn's east wing stood a squat octagonal hut, possibly a tool house, that was the precursor for a taller, though still small, eight-sided building that became the tack house. A garden tool shed was located between the house and Weir's studio. Behind the barn to the north stood the ice house (later converted to a chicken house), and further north a corn crib and a wagon shed, all of which were built as needs arose. Several wells were located among the buildings. The barn complex, including the tack house, was enclosed by picket and open-rail and stockade fencing, later replaced with the rustic wooden fencing that has survived around the Weir house yard.

Summary of Research Findings

Except for the wagon shed, which stood at the far north end of the farmyard, all of the outbuildings on the Weir complex that were standing in circa 1940 have survived. The two most important outbuildings, the barn complex and the tack house, have not significantly changed in appearance since 1915.

Information regarding the evolution of mechanical systems on the Weir complex came primarily from physical documentation of the structures and from an account book that Dorothy Weir Young kept between 1927 and 1946. No references were found in the documentation maintained in the Weir Farm NHS archives to the installation of electricity or plumbing in any of the outbuildings except the barn. Inquiries were also made to both Wilton's and Ridgefield's town building records offices, libraries, and historical societies, but apparently no records have survived that would document when electricity and water/sewer services were first extended to the area.

The following is a brief chronology of the architectural evolution of the Weir outbuildings:

Chronology of Physical Evolution - Weir Farm Outbuildings

- Before 1835** **Barn**: Main barn built; west and east wings probably added by 1835, resulting in barn complex with U-shape plan around courtyard.
- Ca. 1882** Weir purchases the old Beers farm.
- Ca. 1880s** Picket fencing surrounds Weir house yard and part of the barn yard; open-rail gate and open-rail and stockade fence encloses south side of barn complex.
- Ca 1890** **Barn**: Lean-to added to northwest corner of barn complex.
Rustic Wooden Fence: replaces picket fence along Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane.
Granite Well House: built to the west of the house after 1890.
- Ca. 1891** **Ice House**: built to the north of the barn.
- Ca. 1900** **Corn Crib**: built to the north of the ice house.
- Ca. 1900-1905** Multi-sided hut standing by this date just south of the barn's east wing.
- Ca. 1910** **Ice House**: lean-to added to south façade before 1934 cupola
- Ca. 1911-1914** **Barn**: east wing enlarged; new windows and glazed sashes installed in barn complex; most of barn complex receives wood-shingle siding.

Tack House: built on site of multi-sided hut ca. 1911; multi-pane windows installed by ca. 1915.
- Ca. 1915-1925** **Garden Tool Shed**: built to south of Weir studio.
- Ca. 1927** **Wells**: Wood Pump House built east of ice house near Nod Hill Road
- Ca. 1910-1941** **Wagon Shed**: built near the corn crib.
- 1931** **Barn**: wired for electricity.
- Ca. 1932** **Chicken Coop**: built a few yards to the northwest of the ice house; probably when old chicken coop torn down for the Young studio.
- Ca. 1934** **Ice House**: cupola added by 1934.
- 1936** **Wells**: Artesian Well dug.
- 1943** **Ice House**: converted to a chicken house; lean-to moved to north end.
- Ca. 1959** **Barn**: receives asphalt shingle roofing.
- Ca. 1980** **Wagon Shed**: collapses.

Recommendations for Treatment and Use

The Weir barn and tack house appear today much as they did in 1915. Except for the ice house, which underwent major remodeling in 1943, the remaining outbuildings and structures as they did in circa 1940. It is recommended that the ice house be restored to its circa 1940 appearance. For the remainder of the outbuildings and structures, beyond restoring the wood-shingle roofing on several buildings these structures will require only repair and/or replacement of some of the character-defining features that have become severely deteriorated in order to restore them to their historical appearance.

It is recommended that the early 20th-century wagon shed that collapsed in 1980 be reconstructed. Sufficient physical and documentary evidence concerning the appearance and location of the wagon shed exists to allow for an accurate reconstruction. It is also recommended that the wood-frame "house" on the granite well house to the west of Weir house be rebuilt as part of the restoration of the Weir landscape.

Documentation of the Weir barn complex has revealed that it is an increasingly rare surviving example in New England of an eighteenth and early nineteenth-century English barn and U-plan farmyard, thus adding to its significance as part of the cultural heritage of the Weir farm. It is therefore of utmost importance that the present configuration and organization of the Weir barn be preserved.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and CONTEXT

WEIR BARN and TACK HOUSE³

The Weir barn sits north/northeast of the Weir house just beyond the back (north) lawn. The barn is a rambling, old, weathered complex of connected structures forming a U-shaped plan (U-plan) around courtyard grounds that seem to have risen while the building has sunk.

Since the early-nineteenth century the barn has been used for much the same purposes by its respective owners. The Beers family, owners of the property from the late eighteenth century to 1882, may have built the original barn and probably added the wings, since the barn in its U-plan configuration were apparently standing when Julian Alden Weir purchased the farm in 1882 for himself and his new wife, Anna Baker Weir. The Lewis Beers inventory of 1861 lists a "barn, cow house, wash house, and carriage house," and it is possible that all of these structures/functions existed within the one barn complex.⁴

The U-plan of the Weir barn consisted of the original main barn at the north end (the bottom of the "U"), with two wings extending south from the main barn's southeast and southwest corners. This plan created a "courtyard" or semi-enclosed barnyard that faced the house to the south. Over its long history the barn complex has housed a milking room, a carriage house/wagon shed, a garage, a tack room, an equipment and tool room, hay lofts, a corn crib, and stalls for donkeys, ponies and horses. At the south end of the east wing but still within the barn complex was a small freestanding hut that may have been a smoke house. Behind the barn on the north side was a fenced-in area, enclosed within a larger fenced area, that appears to have been a pig pen. These were the structures for a working family during the Beers, Weir, and Young families ownerships, and were the subject of artwork by Weir, Mahonri Young and Sperry Andrews.

The barn, with its vertical-board siding and wood-slat awning window sashes, was always a highly visible feature of the Weir landscape, appearing in family photographs and paintings dating to as early as 1888 (figs. 1 & 2). Also seen in many of the views is a squat multi-sided "hut" at the south end of the east wing of the barn that was the predecessor to the existing tack house (fig. 3). Both structures were frequently depicted in artwork by Weir and by his friends and family, indicating that the barn complex was well-used and was valued as a center for farming and family activities, as well as being an object of homely beauty.⁵

The barn was essential for farming, a serious endeavor for Weir. This activity required tools, equipment and a hired man to help with crops and livestock. When Weir was away, the maintenance of the farm was frequently overseen by his brother John, who reported to Julian in 1883 "[y]our crops are doing finely. The barn is full of hay, and the potatoes and corn are in fine shape".⁶ Until at least 1915 the barn was used for animals and their care -- ducks and chickens in the barnyard, ponies and cows in their stalls (fig. 4), and probably pigs behind the barn, and Weir was especially concerned with keeping his animals well-fed and cared for. "We have two pigs laid down," Julian wrote to his sister-in-law, in 1886.⁷ And in 1891 John wrote: "Paul says he never saw the horses in finer condition. Fact is, Paul has been feeding them a bushel of oats a week...to keep them so."⁸

³Citations from Weir family letters are taken primarily from the "Historical Data" section in the draft David Wallace, *Historic Furnishings Report: Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio, Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton, Connecticut* (1995) and from the Weir Farm NHS archives.

⁴Ellen Paul, "History and Documentation of Weir Farm: Land Purchases" (1990).

⁵See Section III - TACK HOUSE and Section IV - RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE of this volume for additional examples of Weir period photographs and artwork showing the barn and the tack house.

⁶John Ferguson Weir (JFW), Ridgefield, to Julian Alden Weir (JAW), 8/02/1883, reel 125/317.

⁷JAW to Ella Baker, later Ella Baker Weir (EBW) New York, 5/03/1886, reel 125/369.

⁸JFW to JAW, Branchville, 9/26/1891, reel 125/494-495.



Figure 1. Anna Weir and Alden Jr. at Weir Farm - View Looking North Towards Barn, Open-Rail Gate and Stockade Fence Enclosing Barn Courtyard (Summer 1888).



Figure 2. J. Alden Weir, *Tetherball* (Circa 1900).

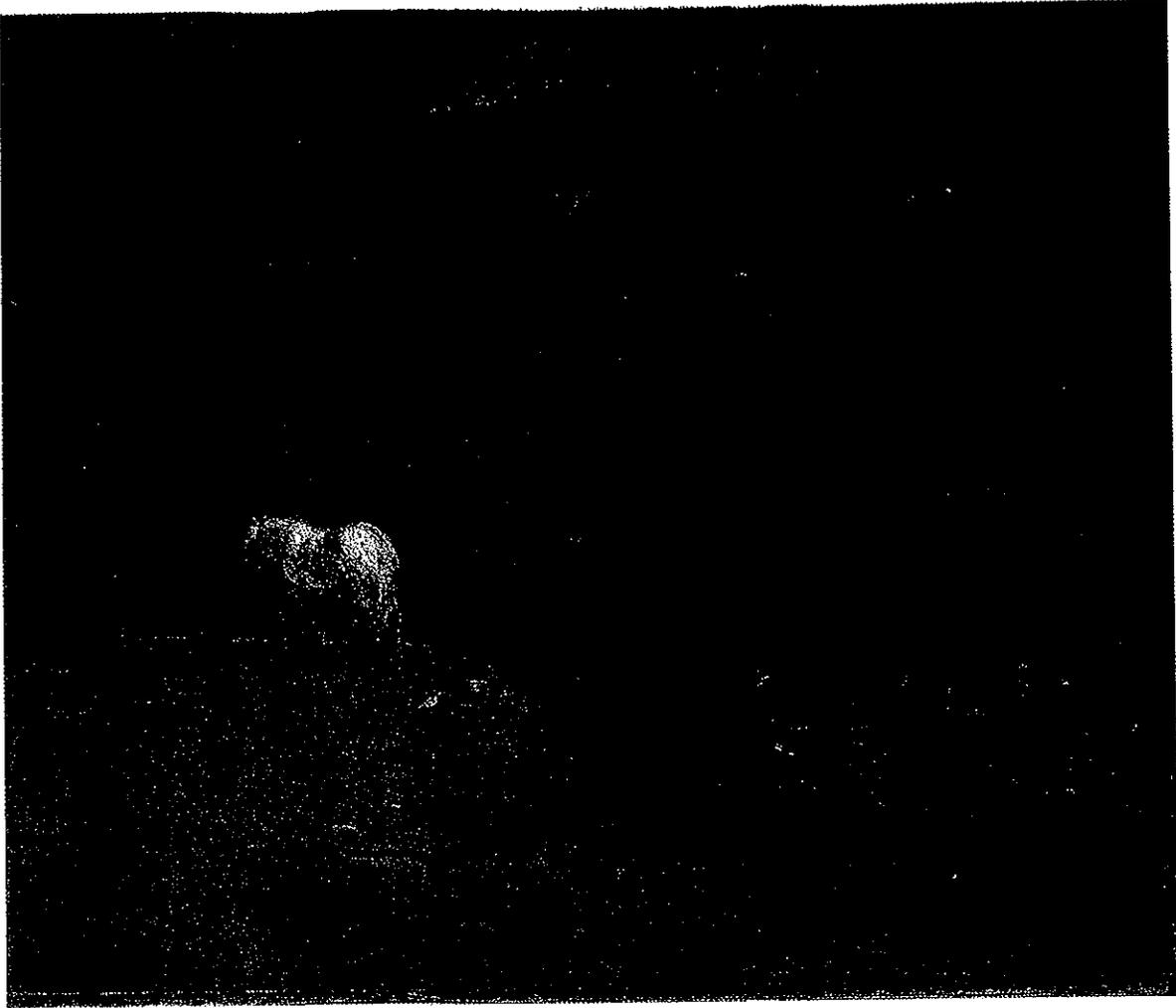


Figure 3. J. Alden Weir, *New England Barnyard* (Circa 1904).



Figure 4. Cora Weir with Pony in Weir Barn Courtyard - View Showing East Wall of West Wing (Circa 1900-1905).

Weir's decision to have a working farm -- one that "supports itself," as John Weir put it -- and not just a vacation place, was reflected in his summer routine. An ideal day for him consisted of farm chores in the morning, a good noon-day meal, and painting in the afternoon. Life at Branchville also gave him a chance to pursue two of his favorite pastimes--hunting and fishing. A letter to his mother-in-law in October of 1883 expressed his enthusiasm over their bounty:

We have been living on game here. . . so we have been reveling in what we call extras. I have had our cider made. . . and have stored away three casks and given one to the Dutchman (his caretaker). Sixty bushels of potatoes and barn full of grain, etc. . .⁹

Julian's and Anna's favorite diversion was driving. Dorothy Weir relates that "[in 1884]...they would harness up the old farm horse and jog for hours over the country roads and lanes..."¹⁰ In 1886 Julian wrote to Ella: "We have a new turnout this year in the shape of a six bar surrey and we think that Diamond [their horse] does not find so much trouble in climbing the hills."¹¹

The farm life also brought the challenge of hardships, as Anna wrote to her sister Ella Baker in 1886 that "one of our Jersey cows has just died. . . [e]verything seems to have gone from bad to worse this year. . ."¹² And in 1899 John Weir wrote to Julian:

Paul discovered last night that the corn was heating in the barn, and this morning it was so hot that I told him there was nothing to do but for us all to turn to and throw it in the field back of the barn. He will stack it out there when it is thoroughly dry.¹³

Despite any discouragements, there is no indication that Weir ever lost his resolve to keep working the farm until late in his life. In 1903 he complained to his friend, the artist Charles Erskine Scott Wood: "We have nothing but rain, fog and cold weather, nothing grows but weeds and we will have to buy hay I fear this winter unless we have a let up."¹⁴ Although John had advised Julian on farm operations and had done considerable work here himself, he generously praised Julian on his accomplishment:

You have developed it all so wisely and well, without marring its character. Paul works as steadily in the field as the rain will allow. He cut the oats today. The barn is full and he has made a haystack at the back. Willie [probably Paul Remy's son] keeps the gardens and the grounds in good order.¹⁵

As late as 1918, a year before Weir's death, crops were still being set out:

⁹JAW to Mrs. Baker, 10/21/1883, reel 125/335.

¹⁰Dorothy Weir Young (DWY), *The Life and Letters of Julian Alden Weir* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1960), p. 165.

¹¹JAW to EBW, Branchville 6/26/1886, reel 125/376.

¹²Anna Baker Weir (ABW) to EBW, Branchville, 8/24/1886, reel 125/379. Ella was to become Weir's second wife in 1893 after Anna's untimely death.

¹³JFW, Branchville, to JAW, 9/11/1899.

¹⁴JAW to C.E.S. Wood, Branchville 6/29/1903, reel 125/940.

¹⁵JFW, Branchville, to JAW, 8/11/1904, reels 125/1017, 529/1176.

We have been able to do a good deal of farm work this fall, having set out strawberries and six-hundred red raspberries as well as getting the garden in good shape.¹⁶

But by December of that year one of his men "... left for a better deal elsewhere," and Weir wrote to Wood: "Everything has gone wrong. I have only one man who is not very competent ... Everything is full of weeds, and [I] am in fear of getting discouraged and he too clearing out."¹⁷ Only failing health and dwindling resources caused Weir to slow down his efforts to work the Branchville farm. He spent the last year of his life at the Baker family homestead in Windham, Connecticut.

By around 1915, Ella Weir, Weir's daughter Dorothy, and probably Dorothy's younger sister Cora (the true gardener in the family - see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME III**) created the "secret garden" behind Weir's studio where a flower garden had existed since at least 1905 (**fig. 5**).¹⁸ There are numerous photographs of the garden that appear to have been taken in its first burst of glory, showing stylized rustic garden gates and fences, a fountain, and many species of flowers (**fig. 6**). Portions of the Weir barn and a reincarnation of the old hut can be seen in some of these views. The barn and tack house appear to have been recently altered, resulting in significant changes to their appearance. Both buildings sport new shingle siding and multi-pane window sashes. The tack house now appears to be several feet higher than the picturesque hut shown in Weir's early paintings and is fronted by a flower-covered fence.

The creation of the garden and the alterations to the barn and tack house may have been precipitated by a 1911 addition to the north side of the Weir house that brought its occupants closer to the landscape and structures to the north of the house (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). Probably also associated with the circa-1915 alterations to the barn's east wing was the acquisition of an automobile by the Weir family (**fig. 7**). The wing was enlarged around this time from a shed-roof appendage to a gable-roof structure that was several feet higher, deeper, and longer, creating more space for what presumably became a garage. That the Weirs had acquired an automobile by 1916 is evidenced by a letter Julian wrote to John in 1916 from the Windham farm: "You and May must come and make a good visit. Ella and I were planning to run down and bring you back in the auto."¹⁹

¹⁶JAW to C.E.S. Wood, Branchville, 11/04/1918, reel 126/0280-82.

¹⁷JAW to C.E.S. Wood, Branchville 12/02/1918, reel 126/0302.

¹⁸The first garden was also depicted in a 1905 series of Weir paintings and sketches. The "secret garden" was given this appellation in the 1930s by Mahonri Young's grandchildren. Cynthia Zaitzevsky (CZ) interview with Mahonri Sharp (Bill) Young (BY), May 1994.

¹⁹JAW to JFW, Windham, 7/09/1916, reel 126/0142.



Figure 5. Weir Farm Flower Garden - Looking East Towards Barn (Circa 1905).



Figure 6. Weir Farm "Secret Garden" -
Looking Southeast Towards Barn (Circa 1915).



Figure 7. Weir House - Looking North from Pelham Lane,
Barn in Background at Right (Circa 1917).

After her father's death in 1919, Dorothy Weir stayed on at the Branchville farm with her stepmother Ella. They employed a tenant caretaker, who lived in the house across Nod Hill Road, to help maintain the farm. After Ella's death in 1930, Dorothy married the sculptor Mahonri Young, and in their years at Branchville the Youngs continued to work the farm. Young's son, Mahonri Sharp (Bill) Young, who first visited Branchville in 1930, recalls the years 1931-47 as a "dynamic" time at the farm:

There was always some farming going on ... there were cows, ... horses, pigs, ... chickens...
They all had to be fed... And they raised a lot of the feed that fed them. . .²⁰

All this activity was mostly for the Youngs' benefit (and probably also her sister Cora and her family who spent weekends and part of their summers at the old Webb farm down the road).²¹ The Youngs did not sell anything produced by the farm, with the possible exception of extra milk produced by the large number of cows that they kept.²² The property was continuously farmed until the 1950s.

Today the building no longer functions as a barn for a working farm, although the pony stall at the south end of the west wing still exists, having been used for the same purpose by the Andrews' children.²³ According to the Doris and Sperry Andrews, the tack house was used to store tack, although that is currently stored in the west wing pony stall. The boards with the names of the Weir children's donkeys "Billy" and "Dolly" written on them are still hanging on the west wall of the stall. Because the Andrews have allowed the barn to remain unaltered, it continues to reflect its historic functions. The milking room is complete but for the cows, and the west wing still contains the open wagon shed and a room for farming tools and equipment. Since 1957 the second story of this wing has been used for storage of furniture and other personal possessions of the Andrews. Portions of the east hayloft of the main barn and the east wing are currently being used by the NPS for storage of building fabric, salvaged primarily from the Weir house.

The barn and the tack house have undergone few changes since the circa-1915 alterations. Consequently, the buildings have acquired the mellowness of age that comes from a long undisturbed existence. The barn seems to have always been regarded as an indispensable structure for maintaining the farm and as a focus of family activities. Because of its close connection to the core of family life, the barn and its yard were a natural and comfortable setting for family photographs and works of art created at Weir farm.

²⁰CZ and Gay Vietzke interview with BY, 1991, and CZ interview with BY, 5/15/1994.

²¹Weir purchased the Webb farm in 1907, and Dorothy gave it to Cora in 1931. See **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME III: BURLINGHAM COMPLEX.**

²²CZ interview with BY, 5/15/94.

²³As a child, the Andrews' daughter kept her pony in this stall. Doris Andrews to Marie Carden, July, 1994.

WEIR OUTBUILDINGS and OTHER STRUCTURES

Although other outbuildings probably existed during the Beers' family ownership, except for the barn, most if not all of the extant outbuildings at Weir farm are thought to have been built after Weir purchased the farm in 1882. In spite of the myriad of functions that were contained within the barn complex, additional outbuildings and structures were required to meet the several needs of the farm and the increasingly sophisticated requirements of Weir's family and friends. One also suspects that Weir subconsciously erected the outbuildings to provide subjects for his art, since several appeared regularly in Weir's paintings, etchings, and drawings.

Fencing, a crucial element of farm life that defined functional areas and controlled the farm animals, was in place by the mid-1880s and was possibly a Beers' legacy. Several pre-1900 photographs of Weir's family and friends document that a wooden picket fence with formal gates extended around the house along Pelham Lane and down Nod Hill Road. The picket fencing can also be seen enclosing the west side of the barn complex, and an open-rail gate with an open-rail and stockade fence acted as the fourth (south) wall to the barn courtyard (fig. 1). For some unknown reason Weir replaced the picket fence sometime between 1890 and 1900 with a rustic wooden fence made up of logs as posts, milled rails, and sapling pickets. This rustic fence, much of which is extant, appears to have been built along similar boundaries as the earlier picket fence.

With his increasing involvement in farm life, Weir began adding outbuildings as needs occurred. A long shed-roof chicken coop (since removed) that may have predated the Weirs' tenancy stood well to the west of the house near the present location of the Young studio (see figs. 79 & 80). Around 1891 Weir had an ice house built 100 feet north of the Weir barn. Every winter Weir's caretaker Paul Remy hauled ice, which after 1896 had probably been cut from Weir's own pond, to the ice house to supply the ice box during the summer months.²⁴ A pump house was built across Nod Hill Road that pumped water to the water tower built onto the Weir studio.²⁵ And a corn crib was built 100 feet to the north of the ice house after the 1899 corn harvest was lost from overheating while being stored in the barn.

There is some evidence that another large outbuilding stood just to the west/northwest of the barn complex until around 1890. Circa-1890 family photographs taken of the house and barn from the south appear show a phantom south-sloping roof to the left of the barn's southwest wing (see fig. 62). An unaccounted-for building can also be seen in an 1888-90 painting by Weir entitled *Autumn Landscape* that depicts the barn complex from across Nod Hill Road to the east, with the phantom outbuilding looming behind the main barn (fig. 8).

All these structures had the quaint rustic appearance of working farm buildings, but between 1905 and circa 1915 a more stylized group of structures began appearing, built in conjunction with the enlargement of a small flower garden to the north of Weir's studio (the "secret garden") and the planting of lush flowering borders around the house and barn. The secret garden was enclosed by a deutzia hedge with entrance through Adirondack-style rustic gates and arbors; the well near Pelham Lane to the west of the house acquired an Adirondack-style wood-frame well house over a stone and granite base. Even bird houses appeared in the same mountain style. The extant garden tool shed and a wagon shed (no longer

²⁴The pond, which was located several hundred yards to the east of the Weir complex on the other side of Nod Hill Road, was enlarged by Weir in 1896 for fishing and boating.

²⁵This building is not located on the Weir NHS property and is not included in this report. Preliminary documentation and paint sampling was conducted for possible future analysis.



Figure 8. J. Alden Weir, *Autumn Landscape* (1888-1890).

standing) may also have been built around this time, the former as the increased gardening needs called for more specialized storage, and the latter when part the southeast wing of the barn was converted to an automobile garage, thus reducing the storage space for the farm wagons and carriages still used in the farming operation.

Active farming slowed down considerably after Weir died in 1919 until his daughter Dorothy married Mahonri Young in 1931. The Youngs spent increasing amounts of time at Weir farm and Dorothy revived the farm life to a level it had not seen for over ten years. When Mahonri Young built his studio to the west of the Weir studio in 1932, the old chicken coop was torn down and a new smaller chicken coop was built near the ice house. The ice house itself, to which a lean-to had been already been appended to the north wall, was given a cupola, and was further altered around 1942 when it was converted to a chicken house (presumably, with the World War II shortages calling for more self-sufficiency, the Youngs decided to house a larger poultry flock). A small wood pump house was also built during this period to the north of the barn near Nod Hill Road.

The Youngs continued to farm using wagons and oxen. Several photographs and drawings record such activities as Mahonri Young driving a wagon through the snow or men using oxen to plough fields. A dramatic panorama photograph taken sometime around 1940 shows Young walking on the farm with a well-worn wagon path leading to the north towards the wagon shed.

With the passing of the Youngs and the purchase of the Weir property by Doris and Sperry Andrews, the farming functions ceased and many of the outbuildings fell into disuse. However, except for the wagon shed (which collapsed sometime around 1980), these outbuildings and the rustic fence have all survived to give testimony to two generations of artists and their devotion to Weir farm.

II. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
WEIR BARN

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION²⁶

1815-1835 - Construction

Main Barn

Construction Date

The construction date of the main barn, the original portion of the Weir barn complex, is not known with certainty. The barn is first mentioned in the 1861 Beers inventory, but physical evidence indicates that it was built between 1815 and 1835.

The original **configuration** of the Weir main barn indicates that it was built no later than the 1830s. The main barn is a typical example of what has been typed an "English barn," whose primary characteristic was the location of its major doorway in the middle of the side wall, as it is on the Weir main barn. This barn type was brought by settlers to the New World from Europe and especially from England, and was commonly built in New England before 1830. The more familiar "New England barn," with the primary doorway located on the gable end wall, was an outgrowth of major economic and social changes in the early nineteenth century and was more commonly built after 1830.²⁷

The **framing** techniques used to build the Weir main barn narrows the possible construction date to sometime between the late 1700s and the 1830s. The barn was framed utilizing a post-and-beam principal-rafter system. The major framing elements (i.e., sills, posts, rafters, purlins, and plates) were hand-hewn chestnut timbers and the down braces were gang-sawn chestnut timbers, all connections joined using pegged mortises and tenons. The rafters were lapped and joined at the roof ridge. The hand-hewn elements were roughly hewn with broad axes, leaving bark on some of the smaller timbers (e.g., joists, rafters, and studs). As a dating tool, the presence of post-and-beam framing has limited usefulness since that framing system was used in New England from the seventeenth century to the twentieth century. However, machine-sawn timbers gradually replaced hewn timbers as the nineteenth century progressed. Thus, the fact that the Weir barn is an "English barn" type and that all the major timbers used in its construction were hand-hewn dates the structure to no later than the first decades of the nineteenth century. The Weir barn does not, however, display the "gunstock" or "shoulder" structural posts typically used in earlier eighteenth-century barn construction. Thus the Weir main barn appears to have been built no earlier than the late 1700s.

²⁶Documentation of the structural evolution of the Weir barn was gathered during physical investigations of the barn complex conducted in 1993-1994; additional information was taken from the completion report for the 1995-1996 preservation of the barn. All information on the structural evolution of the barn is incorporated into this section. See Tom Ballos, compiler, "Completion Report: Weir Farm Barn Preservation – Weir Studio Exterior Restoration, Weir Farm National Historic Site, May 1995 through October 1996". National Park Service - Northeast Cultural Resources Center/Building Conservation Branch, Weir Farm National Historic Site, and Institute for Preservation Technology, February 20, 1998.

²⁷Information on the "English" and "New England" barn types, and on barn construction, was taken mostly from Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1984), pp. 50-65; and Eric Arthur & Dudley Witney, *The Barn: A Vanishing Landmark in North America* (NY: Arrowhead Press, 1988), pp. 61-74.

Analyzing the nails used in building the main barn helps to narrow the period of construction down even further. During the physical investigation of the structure, machine-headed cut nails were found to have been used to fasten extant sheathing and siding in the barn. These nails have characteristics of cut nails manufactured between circa 1815 and 1835, indicating that the extant siding and sheathing was installed during that period. Since no evidence was found that suggested earlier sheathing and/or siding in these areas, it is probable that the main barn was constructed sometime between 1815 and 1835.

Configuration

The original **siding** on the Weir main barn was composed of planed, tongue-and-groove, pine boards that were 9 1/4 inches wide and fastened with cut nails. This siding was installed with no sheathing. Although original pine-board siding currently acts as sheathing under circa-1915 wood-shingle siding on the north, east, and south walls of the barn, it is known that it was originally used as siding since some of the original boards found in protected areas were weathered, indicating that they had been exposed for some time, and then had been finished with red paint before being covered with shingles. The east and west gable ends above the wall plates had both sheathing and siding. The sheathing was random-width, gang-sawn, chestnut boards installed horizontally using cut nails. This sheathing was covered with wood-shingle siding, also attached using cut nails. Surviving original wood shingles can be seen on the bottom of the west gable, which has been protected by a later attached lean-to. The roof was also sheathed with gang-sawn, 1-inch-thick, chestnut boards and covered with wood shingles.

The original **foundation** for the main barn was approximately 2 feet deep and was composed of fieldstone that had been dry-laid, chinked, and then mortared. A few larger permanent stones anchored the structure. Rough-quarried granite was used on the exterior of the east foundation wall, which was visible from Nod Hill Road. Apparently the barn originally had only one large double **doorway**, centered on the south facade (D104-D105). The framing for the extant double doorway on the north wall of the main barn (D113-D114) is not original; however, archeological investigations found that an earth and stone ramp leading from that doorway was constructed before the 1830s, and it is probable that the north double-door opening was installed soon after the barn's construction.²⁸ It also appears that the barn originally had no **windows** except possibly openings at the peak of the east and west gable walls.

The Weir main barn was built in the standard early-1800s tripartite **plan**: a central threshing floor, used for threshing hay and as a platform for unloading wagons; the hay mow, or hay storage bay, on the west end of the barn; and the livestock tie-up on the east (and warmer) side of the barn. The hay mow and tie-up may have been separated from the threshing floor by low 3 to 4-foot-high partitions. The threshing floor (Room 107) was open to the rafters. Hay lofts above the hay mow and the tie-up provided additional hay storage. The hay mow (Rooms 105 and 106) and the tie up (Room 108) each measured approximately 12 feet wide by 25 feet long, with 6-foot-high ceilings. The rooms had doorways at the south ends of their east and west walls (respectively) that opened into the threshing floor. Wide-plank flooring was installed in an east/west direction over large north/south timbers that were used as floor joists, and which sat on the north and south foundation walls.

²⁸Leslie A. Mead, "Final Report, Archeological Testing, Weir Barn and Tack House," Archeology Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center/National Park Service (December 3, 1996), as reprinted in Tom Ballos, "Completion Report – Weir Barn Preservation," p. 52.

West Wing

The west wing of the Weir barn is located at a southwest corner of the main barn, positioned at a right angle to the main barn's west end. Although the northeast corner of the wing touches the southwest corner of the barn, the construction of the wing is independent from the barn. The wing was probably built within a few years after the main barn was constructed. Like the main barn, the west wing is **timber-framed** using hand-hewn chestnut for the major timbers and gang-sawn chestnut for the down braces, all joined with pegged mortises and tenons. The rafters were gang-sawn chestnut that were lapped and nailed at the ridge. The original **siding** consisted of gang-sawn, random-width, chestnut boards. These boards, which originally had battens covering the joints, are similar to the boards that were used as sheathing on the east and west gables of the main barn. The **siding** on the south wall of the wing was composed of planed, tongue-and-groove, pine boards that were 9 1/4 inches wide and fastened using cut nails, again similar to those used on the walls of the main barn. However, although the material used and the method of framing is the same as for the main barn, the hewn work on the timbers in the wing seem to be more skilled than found on the main-barn timbers, and the foundation of the wing is independent to that of the main barn. These facts suggest that the west wing was built after, but not long after, the main barn.

The original west wing had the same basic configuration that it has today - a shallow, two-story, gable-roof structure that measured 36 feet long by 12 feet deep. The framing of the current openings all date to a later period, and except for a loft door on the second story of the south wall (since boarded up), which appears to have been an original feature, the existence and placement of any original **windows** or **doorways** is not known. There have been so many alterations to the foundation of the west wing that determination of its original configuration is problematic. Based on the results of the archeological investigations of the south and west walls of the wing, it is thought that the original foundation was composed of a continuous wall of two to three courses of dry-laid fieldstone.²⁹ On the interior, because there was originally a loft door at the south end of the building, there was probably a loft over what are today Rooms 101 and 102, with the area over Room 103 open to the roof. There is some evidence to indicate that Weir used this loft as a corn crib until his harvested corn overheated in the summer of 1899 (see section **PHYSICAL EVOLUTION AND DESCRIPTION – CORN CRIB**, that follows). However, the extant floor joists supporting the second-floor lofts are post-original circular-sawn spruce boards.

East Wing

The east wing is thought to have been built around the same time as the west wing and soon after the construction of the main barn. As in the main barn and in the west wing, the east wing was originally **timber-framed** with hand-hewn chestnut major timbers (similar to the finer hewing of the west wing timbers) and gang-sawn chestnut down braces, all joined with pegged mortises and tenons. The rafters were set 2 feet on-center, and were butt, cogged, and pegged into the ridge pole. The original **siding** on the east wing was planed, tongue-and-groove, pine siding similar to that used on the main barn and on the west wing, the boards also being 9 1/4 inches wide and fastened using cut nails.

The wing was also built with a **foundation** independent of the main barn, set at a right angle to the main barn at the east end of the main barn's south wall. The positioning of both wings at a right angles to the southeast and southwest corners of the barn, rather than as side or rear ells, created an "U"-shape plan.

²⁹Mead, "Final Report, Archeological Testing: Weir Barn and Tack House," as reprinted in Tom Ballos, "Completion Report," p.51. There was no evidence of a foundation under the north wall, only corner posts set on stone piers. Along the east wall, the extant posts rest on stone piers - the original sills had been cut off at each post and sunk 12 inches below the posts to allow for more head room on the interior.

While there are few surviving examples of U-plan barn compounds in New England, the three-sided barn courtyard was very common in England in the eighteenth century and was not a rare occurrence in many areas of English-settled North America. The plan of the Weir barn complex is strikingly similar to a mid-nineteenth century barn complex plan in southern Ontario reprinted in a recent publication (fig. 9).

The original east wing was shallower, shorter, and lower than the existing structure. The wing measured approximately 10 feet deep by 30 feet long, with bents erected in ten foot increments. The building had a shed roof that dropped from the ridge pole along the west facade down to the east wall plate. The wing engaged the main barn along a 4-foot-long section at the east end of the barn's south facade. Comparison of photographs of the barn taken before and after circa-1915 alterations (see, e.g., figs. 3 & 22) show that the original roof ridge engaged south wall of the main barn at a point somewhat lower than does the extant roof ridge. During investigation of the structure for the 1995-1996 preservation project it was discovered that the building had been raised by over a foot.

The original **foundation** for the east wing was composed of a continuous wall of two to three courses of fieldstone, with foundation supports consisting of larger boulders for the center girts and perimeter sills (the original west-wall foundation is currently hidden under the circa-1915 floor joists). The existence and locations of original **doorways** and **windows** on the east wing are not known since most of the original west wall, which faced the barn courtyard and which would have had the most openings, was removed during the circa-1915 alterations.

Post-Construction Alterations

Post 1835 – West Wing and Northwest Corner

Archeological investigations conducted in concert with the 1995-1996 barn renovation work found evidence of a landscape or structural feature in the area now occupied by the lean-to to the north and west of the barn complex that appears to post-date the west wing's construction. A complex of large flagstones was found off the southwest corner of the barn that may have been a path and doorstep for a former entrance to the barn or part of a flagstone apron that originally extended around the barn. A line of cobbles was also uncovered that ran east/west and was located immediately to the west of the flagstone feature. It was conjectured that this feature may have been a sleeper support for a former floor in the lean-to or a portion of a previous structure.³⁰

At some point before the lean-to was built (see **Post 1835 to 1890 – Lean-To**, below) a wide opening was punched through the north wall of the west wing. Physical investigation revealed that most of the original sill of the west wing's north wall was at some point cut out, and the board-and-batten siding above this missing sill was re-sided with a later generation of vertical boards than that on the upper portion of the wall. This evidence indicates that an opening was created after the wing was built, and that it later was closed again with exterior siding. A stone path was also uncovered during the archeological excavations that crossed the north room in the wing through the new north-wall opening, and to the feature, possibly a previous structure, noted above.³¹

³⁰ Leslie Mead, "Final Report, Archeological Testing: Weir Barn and Tack House," as reprinted in Tom Ballos, "Completion Report," p. 52

³¹ Tom Ballos, "Completion Report," p. 17.

Circa 1890 - Lean-To

The lean-to located in the northwest corner of the Weir barn complex was constructed after the west wing was built circa 1835 and was standing by 1890. It is known that the lean-to was built after the west wing was added to the barn complex because areas of original siding on what used to be the west exterior wall of the main barn and on the north exterior wall of the west wing have survived under the extant lean-to roof. The lean-to construction's "not after 1890" date is established by its first appearance in J. Alden Weir's *Farm Scene at Branchville*, which dates to that year (fig. 11). There is a strong possibility that the lean-to was built in 1890. The extant framing is composed of circular-sawn lumber fastened with wire nails, and wire nails were commonly available beginning in 1890. Unless it was substantially rebuilt during the 1911-1914 renovations to the barn, the lean to was probably built just before Weir's 1890 drawing.

A mid-1890s painting by Weir entitled *Summer in Connecticut* (fig. 12) shows the basic configuration of the lean-to. The structure with its steeply-pitched shed roof spanned the entire west wall of the main barn, and the west wall of the lean-to protruded a few feet from the west wall of the west wing. The lean-to roof joined the west wall of the main barn at the bottom of the gable triangle and sloped down to the west. A wide doorway was located at the south end of the lean-to's exterior west wall near the west wing. An extant doorway between the interior of the lean-to and the main barn at the north end of the lean-to's east wall (the former exterior west wall of the main barn) was probably installed when the lean-to was built.

Since the lean-to tied into the barn to the east and the west wing to the south, a foundation supported only the north and west walls of the structure. The foundation was constructed of a low wall of dry-laid fieldstone. The north foundation was continuous with the north foundation wall of the barn, while the west wall ran a few feet to the west of the west plane of the west wing. Today no foundation can be seen under the west wall. However, the archeological excavations uncovered a line of stones that runs north/south along the exterior of the extant western wall of the lean-to. The line of stones is punctuated by two flat stones associated with the two existing entrances to the lean-to. It is believed that this line of stones originally was the west-wall foundation for the lean-to, and that the existing west wall had fallen off that foundation to its present position immediately to the east of the stones.

The single-room interior space of the lean-to had a wooden floor composed of wide-board planks laid on sleepers, which were in turn laid directly on grade.

Circa 1888 to 1895 - Barn Complex

Photographs of Anna Weir and her children taken in 1888 (see, e.g., fig. 1), a circa 1890-1895 photograph of the barnyard with either a young Caro or Dorothy Weir standing in the foreground (fig. 10), and an 1890 drawing by J. Alden Weir entitled *Farm Scene at Branchville* (fig. 11) depict various aspects of the barn complex and probably show the barn as it existed when Weir purchased the farm in 1882. Visible in the photographs are the main barn with two wings positioned at right angles to each of the main barn's southwest and southeast corners. The resulting three-sided courtyard was enclosed on the fourth (south) side by a stockade east fence and an open-rail gate and west fence. The barn and the wings all had vertical-board siding.

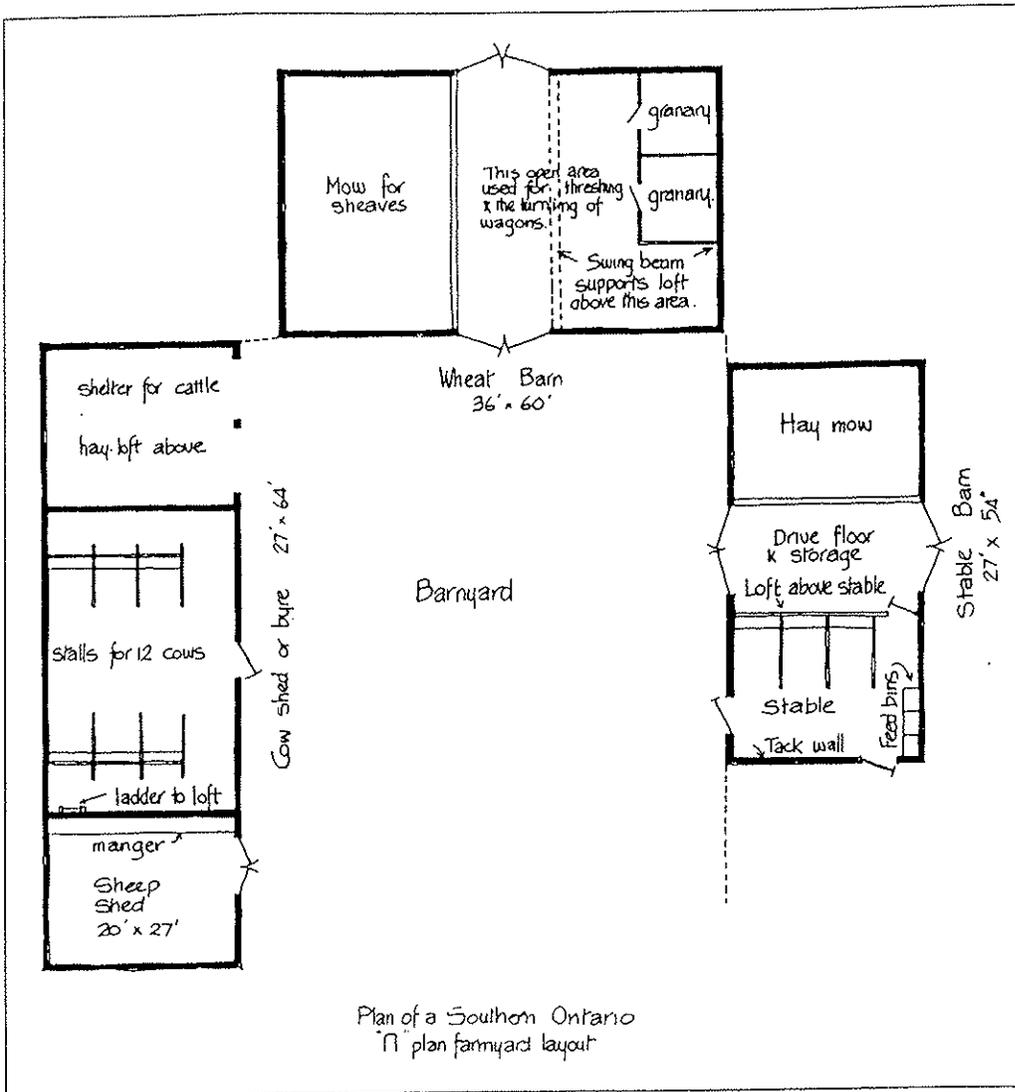


Figure 9. Plan of Mid-Nineteenth Century U-Plan Farmyard Layout.

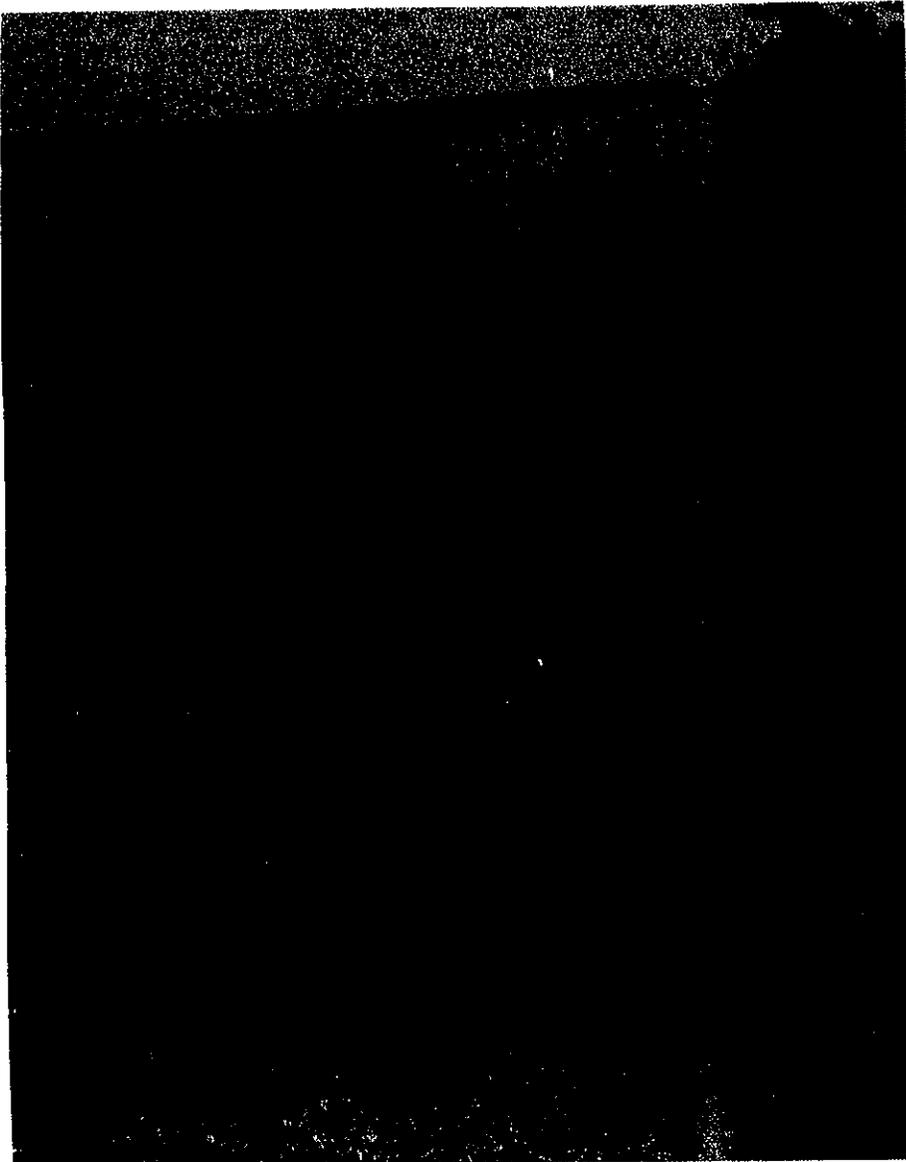


Figure 10. Weir Barn - View from the South (Circa 1895).



Figure 11. J. Alden Weir, *Farm Scene at Branchville* (1890).

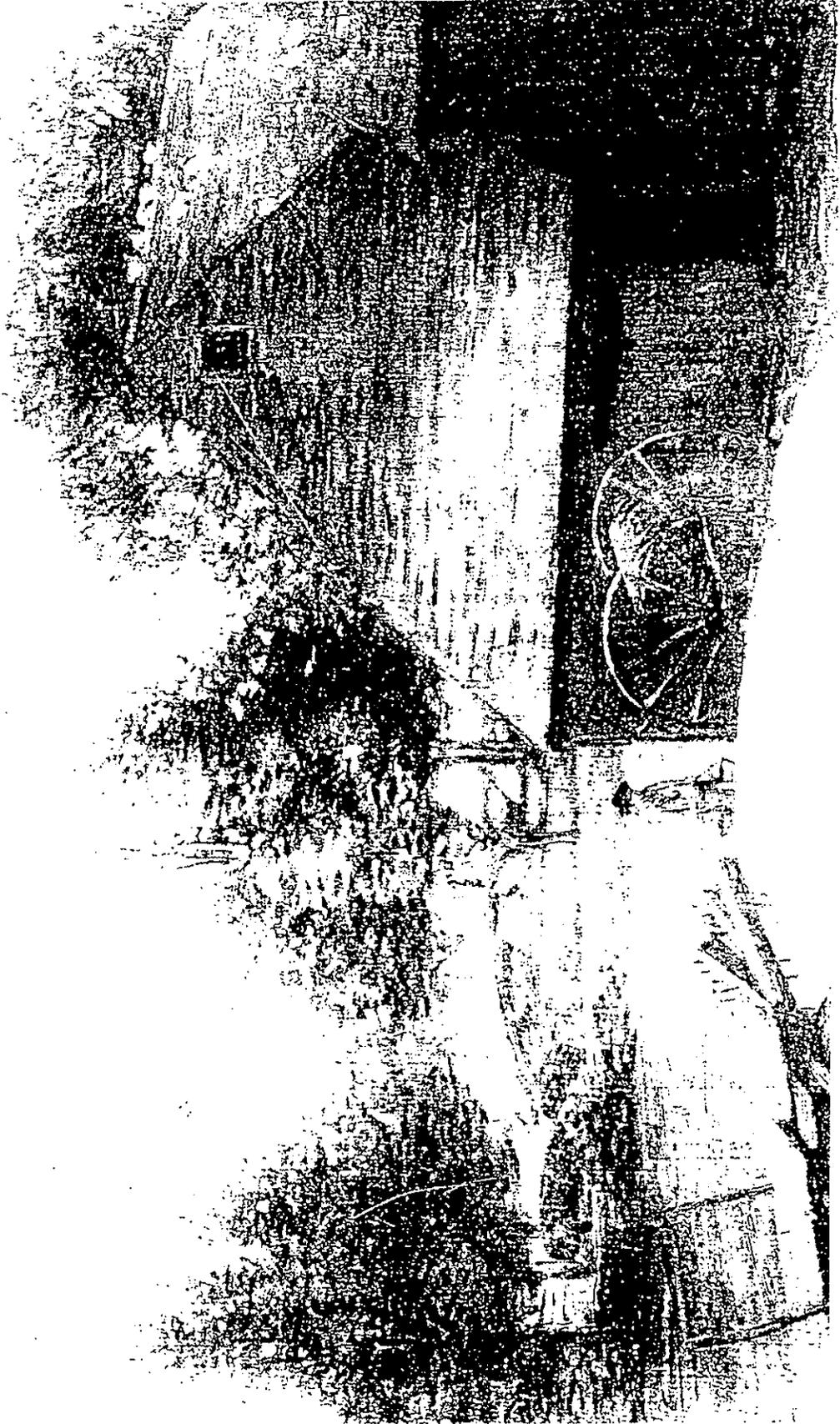


Figure 12. J. Alden Weir, *Summer in Connecticut* (Circa 1895).

Figure 1 shows that there was a large loft opening at the second-story level of the west wing's south wall, fitted with what appears to be a vertical-board hatch door, and a wide doorway at the south end of the wing's east wall that faced the courtyard in the present location of doorway D101 and windows W101 and W102. **Figure 10** shows the south-wall double doorway on the main barn was fitted with two, large, swinging doors constructed of vertical boards over a horizontal-board frame and that the extant single doorway to the east of the south-wall double doorway had not yet been installed. The west wall of the east wing had wide doorways with apparently no doors and as yet no wood-awning windows on the upper wall. Weir's drawing depicts just the northwest corner of the complex with the lean-to peeking out from behind the end of the west wing.

Circa 1895 to 1905 - Barn Complex

Overview

There is substantial graphic documentation for the period circa 1895 to 1905 that provides a clear image of the appearance of the Weir barn complex during that period (see **figs. 3-5 & 12-14**). While all the buildings retained the original vertical-board siding, the appearance of the barn complex structures had changed with the addition of numerous windows and doorways.

Main Barn

In the main barn, by the mid-1890s glazed sashes had been installed at the peaks of the east and west gable walls (**figs. 5 & 12**). Two windows with six-pane sashes can be seen on the first story of the main barn's east wall in **figure 16**, indicating that all four of the extant windows on that wall may have been installed by that time. Weir's 1904 painting *New England Barnyard* (**fig. 3**) shows that the doorway to the east of the south-wall double doorway had been installed that had an exterior vertical-board door and an interior gate constructed of spaced wood slats. Presumably, the gate would contain whatever livestock housed inside while allowing air to circulate on the interior. Also in the painting, a light can be seen through the south-wall double doorways on the back wall of the main barn indicating the presence of the north-wall double-doorway. A circa 1900-1903 photograph of the barn complex (**fig. 14**) shows that the south-wall double doorway had retained its large, vertical-board, swinging doors with the horizontal frame now braced with a diagonal board. This photograph (possibly the model for Weir's *New England Barnyard*) and another taken around the same time (**fig. 4**) show that there was no window on the south facade of the main barn to the left (west) of the double doorway as there is today. It is thought that a window was installed in this location soon after the photographs were taken; examination of the area around the extant sash, which probably dates to circa 1911-1915, revealed that the sash was installed over a prior window opening and surround. Since the opening did not exist circa 1905, the earlier window must have been installed sometime between 1905 and circa 1911.

West Wing

Several family photographs taken between circa 1900 and 1905 (**figs. 4, & 13-14**) document the appearance of the west wing of the Weir barn during that period. The south wall of the wing had suffered several changes. The loft opening on the wall seen in the 1888 photograph (see **fig. 1**) had been boarded up and a smaller rectangular window installed in its place (**fig. 14**). Over the new window was what appears to have been a perch and openings for a dovecote, and a square window with a wood awning had been installed at the apex of the gable.

On the **west wall** of the wing, **figure 12** shows a window with a wood awning at the wall's south end in the location of the extant window W121. A second opening, also with a wood awning, is barely visible to the north of the first opening. This second opening is no longer extant, but its framing can be seen from the wing's interior.

On the west wing's **east facade**, **figure 4** shows that a window fitted with a wood awning and a doorway with a vertical-board door were in place by that time on the wall's first-story level where window W103 and doorway D102 are located today. Also visible is a doorway at the north end of the wall in the current location of doorway D103. Although wider than the first doorway, this opening was not as wide as the current doorway; it also appears to have been fitted with a wood awning or canopy similar to that on the window. There is no window over the original doorway D103, and it is probable that neither of the extant second-floor windows existed at that time. However, the extant doorway at the center of the second story may have existed by 1905. It would have been very convenient to have had an opening from the west wing's loft into the barn courtyard, and analysis of the paint samples taken from the frame and the extant 1911-1914 window sashes on the wall shows that the frame for this doorway has a significantly longer stratigraphy than the sashes, indicating that the opening existed well before the 1911-1914 alterations.

East Wing

Photographs and a *Weir's New England Barnyard* show that by 1904 the east wing's tall west facade had three windows with wood awnings symmetrically placed across the upper level of the wall (**figs. 3, 14, 15, & 17**). Three doorways were located on the first-story level, one near the north end of the wall in the present location of doorway D107-D108 and two others placed close to each other on the south half of the wall. The doorways each had vertical-board Dutch doors, and were fitted with interior gates constructed of spaced wood slats, similar to that seen in the main barn south-facade doorway in **figures 3 and 14**. There was also a small window to the right (south) of the doorways (**fig. 15**) and a wood-awning window on the wing's south wall (**fig. 17**), but no windows on the wing's east wall (**fig. 16**). **Figure 15** also clearly shows the east wing's rubblestone foundation, and that loose boards were laid over stones in front of each doorway.

Circa 1911-1914 Remodeling

Overview

Sometime before 1915 major alterations were made to the Weir barn that significantly changed its appearance, resulting for the most part in the barn complex that exists today. New windows and doorways were created, wood awnings were replaced by glazed sashes in existing windows, the east wing was enlarged, and the lean-to was rebuilt. Except for the west wall of the east wing, the entire complex was sided with wood shingles installed over the earlier vertical board siding. The date of these changes is known from extant physical evidence and from graphic documentation. The window sashes installed in the barn during the alterations had a similar muntin-profile type as those used in the 1911 McKim, Mead & White remodeling of the Weir house, and historic photographs taken circa 1915 of the gardens and Adirondack-style garden structures and a Weir painting also dating to circa 1915 show the newly-shingled barn.³² Therefore, it is known that these alterations were completed sometime between 1911 and 1914.

³²See **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**, and Child Associates and Cynthia Zaitzevsky, *Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm National Historic Site*, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation/National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1996).



Figure 13. Cora Weir on Sled at Weir Farm - View from the South, Barn at Right and Ice House in Background (Circa 1900-1905).



Figure 14. Weir Barn - View from the South (Circa 1900-1905).



Figure 15. Weir Barn - View of West Wall of East Wing (Circa 1900-1905).

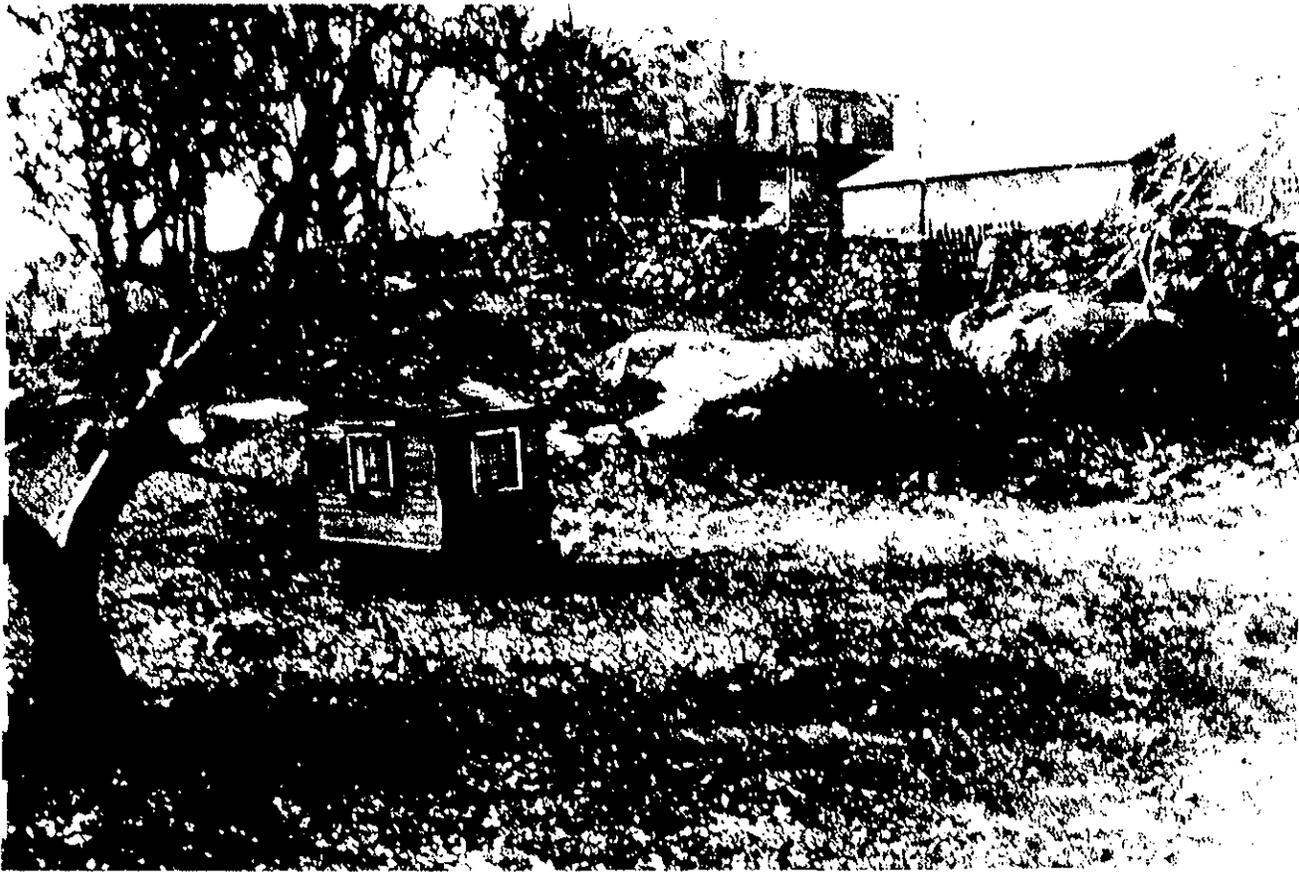


Figure 16. Weir Farm - View to the Northeast from Across Nod Hill Road (Circa 1900-1905).



Figure 17. Weir Barn - View from the Southwest (Circa 1905).

Siding

One of the most noticeable changes in the appearance of the barn that resulted from the 1911-1914 alterations was the change in the siding. Caroline Weir Ely's circa-1915 painting *Barn at Branchville* (fig. 18) and circa-1915 photographs (see fig. 6) show that by this date the barn had attained its shingled exterior. The original vertical-board siding on the main-barn and west-wing walls were covered with wood shingles, as were the east and south walls on the enlarged east wing and the two exterior walls on the lean-to. The only wall that did not have wood-shingle siding was the new west wall of the remodeled east wing, which was given vertical-board siding.

Main Barn

The 1911-1914 exterior alterations to the Weir main barn involved the addition of windows with glazed sashes and the alteration of doorways. The east door in the south-facade double doorway was converted from a hinged to a sliding panel. A circa-1915 painting by Weir's daughter Caro, "*Barns at Branchville*", and a circa-1915 photograph of the Weir house and barn show a white-painted board placed across the top of the double-doorway that concealed the sliding mechanism for the door (figs. 18 & 19). In addition, the extant multi-pane sash in the post-1905 window opening that is located to the west (left) of the south-facade double-doorway was installed at this time. The sash is similar in appearance to the window sashes installed in the circa-1911 dining room addition to the house. Analysis of paint samples taken from the south-facade window sash and from the extant window sashes in the four pre-1905 openings on the first story of the main barn's east wall revealed similar paint stratigraphies, and all five window sashes also have the same muntin profile **Type A** as is found on the 1911 dining room windows of the Weir house (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I, APPENDIX D**). This evidence indicates that all five windows received new sashes during the 1911-1914 alterations.

Lean-To

If the lean-to was built before the conjectured 1890 date then the existing physical evidence indicates that the structure underwent substantial renovations after 1890, and most probably during the 1911-1914 alterations. The extant lean-to framing, is composed of circular-sawn, full-dimension, pine boards fastened together using wire nails. Since wire nails were commonly available only beginning in 1890, and planed lumber replaced the use of full-dimensioned lumber in the 1920s, it is known that the extant lean-to framing dates to between 1890 and the mid-1920s.³³ If originally built before 1890 (and before wire nails), the lean to was rebuilt before 1925 and probably during the 1911-1914 alterations.

The lean-to roof was re-shingled during the 1911-1914 renovations. The step flashing for the extant lean-to roof where it joins the north wall of the west wing was installed behind the 1911-1914 shingle siding of the wing, indicating that the roof was re-shingled simultaneously with the shingling of the barn complex. In addition, several openings were changed on the lean-to walls. Instead of the wide doorway that had been originally located at the south end of the lean-to's west wall, single doorways were installed in the center and at the south end of the new lean-to's west wall. A window was also installed to the right (south) of the center doorway. The extant sash in this window has a similar paint stratigraphy and **Type A** muntin profile as the 1911-1914 sashes on the main barn's south and east walls, and probably dates to the same period. Two windows were also installed along the lean-to's north wall; the extant wood awning in one of the windows was installed after 1940, but the sash in the second window has the 1911-1914 **Type A** muntin profile.

³³See Gordon Bok, "Ordering from Sawmills," *Old House Journal* (May/June 1987).

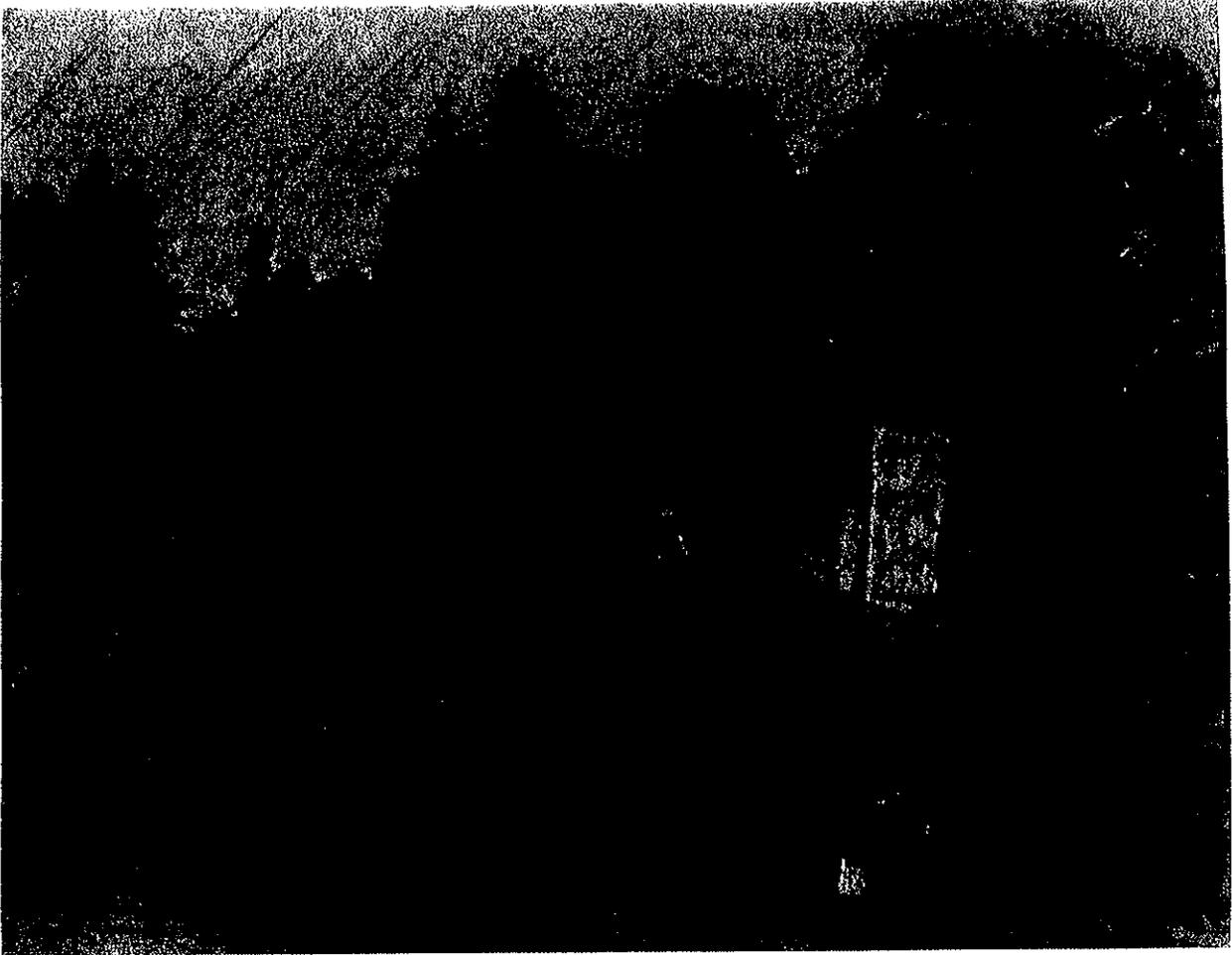


Figure 18. Caroline Weir Ely, *Barns at Branchville* (Circa 1915).



Figure 19. Weir Farm - View from the South
with Weir Barn in Background at Right (Circa 1915).



Figure 20. Weir Barn - Junction of East Façade of West Wing
with South Façade of Main Barn(1994).

West Wing

The 1911-1914 exterior alterations to the west wing also involved doorways and windows. The most dramatic changes were on the east facade that faced the barn courtyard. The former wide doorway at the south end was converted to two windows flanking a single doorway. The doorway at the north end of the wall was widened and protected by a new shed roof that engaged the south facade of the main barn (fig. 10). Two new windows were installed on the second story on either side of the loft doorway. All six windows on the wing's east wall received multi-pane sashes with the same muntin profile **Type A** found on the sash installed on the main barn's south facade and east walls and on the rebuilt lean-to.

On the south wall, the painting *Barns at Branchville* (fig. 18) shows that the rectangular window that had been installed in the former loft opening was given a multi-pane sash. On the west wall, the southern-most of the two pre-1915 windows was left unchanged, while the second window was blocked and shingled over.

The north wall of the west wing was re-shingled. Battens on old vertical siding were cut off above the lean-to to accept the shingles, and step flashing at the sloping junction of the wall and the lean-to roof was installed behind the new shingles.

East Wing

Judging by its resulting appearance, the east wing was the structure in the barn complex most affected by the 1911-1914 alterations. The wing was raised approximately 1 foot 6 inches by adding timbers of that length to the bottom of the original posts. The structure was also lengthened by moving its original south wall approximately 5 feet further to the south, and deepened by adding 5 feet to most of its west side. In the process, most of the original west wall was removed and much of the original framing was replaced with circular-sawn lumber. The original east-sloping shed roof was lengthened to cover the building's new south end, and a shallow-sloped roof was added on the west side that covered the new west addition, creating a catslide (or saltbox) profile. A small area at the north end of the west addition was left open and a short section of the original west wall was retained, creating a roofed open area that was recessed from the new west wall of the structure. The new west wall was given vertical-board siding constructed of planed full-dimension pine and wire nails. The south wall and the newly-extended east wall were covered with wood shingles.

The pre-1911 doorway located at the north end of the east wing's original west wall retained its Dutch door, and the pre-1911 wood-awning window over the door was fitted with a glazed sash. A double doorway and a single doorway occupied most of the wing's new west wall, the openings fitted with doors that slid on a mechanism mounted over the length of both doorways. New windows were installed at the north end of the east wall and on the short north wall of the wing, and the pre-1911 south-wall window was fitted with a glazed sash.

Interior

The 1911-1914 alterations resulted in a reconfiguration of the interior of the Weir barn complex. In the **main barn**, a second layer of flooring was installed in the threshing floor over the original floor, and the hay mow on the west side of the threshing floor was divided into the extant oxen stable and storage room. An opening on the west wall of the storage room that has since been boarded up may have been made at this time for communication between the storage room and the lean-to. The tie up room to the east of the threshing floor may already have been referred to as the "milking room," as it appears that its use has changed little since the barn was built.

The ceiling in the milking room was raised approximately 8 inches to a height of approximately 6 feet 8 inches by insertion of a combination of reused hand-hewn and circular-sawn lumber between the original girts and joists. This alteration resulted in a higher east loft floor. The west loft floor was also raised but only over the oxen stable; circular-sawn blocks inserted between the original girts and floor joists raised the ceiling in the oxen stable to its present 8-foot height. The higher ceiling in this room may have been necessitated by the larger physical size of oxen with long horns being raised in the early twentieth century than those raised in the early nineteenth century when the barn was built. The flooring in the lofts was also replaced with tongue-and-groove pine flooring installed using wire nails. In *Barns at Branchville* (fig. 18), the south facade double doorways are open allowing a glimpse into the threshing floor. Visible on the right of the room is the extant doorway to the milking room and one of the horizontal hatch doors that were folded down to deliver feed to the livestock.

In the **west wing**, the partition walls creating Rooms 101, 102 and 103 were probably installed at this time, reflecting the new doorway and window configuration on the exterior. The opening in the wall between the wing and the lean-to was probably also boarded up at this time. The first-floor area at the north end of the wing received a "ceiling" of sorts that was created out of 6-inch-diameter debarked logs. At some point, salvaged exterior shutters were laid over the logs to create a loft floor.

Most of the newly-enlarged **east wing** was converted into a garage; the remnant of the original wing at the north end of the structure was retained as a pony stall.

1882 to 1919 - Fencing

During the period of J. Alden Weir's ownership of Weir farm, the fencing around the barn courtyard underwent a gradual metamorphosis. In 1888 a picket fence similar to that built around the Weir house yard was positioned on the west side of the barn and an open-rail gate with an open-rail fence to its west and a stockade fence to its east combined to enclose the south side of the barn courtyard (fig. 1). By circa 1900 the picket fence had disappeared, the open-rail fence to the west of the gate had been replaced by a closely-spaced picket fence, and the stockade fence to the east of the gate was now connected to the new rustic wooden fence at Nod Hill Road (fig. 14). And by 1905 the entire barnyard fence had been replaced by a continuation of the rustic fence (fig. 17; see also section IV. - **RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE**).

1919 to Present

The farming operations slowed down after Weir's death in 1919, but were revived again when Dorothy Weir married Mahonri Young in 1931. The Youngs made few changes to the Weir barn complex structure between 1931 and Mahonri Young's death in 1957. A 1943 sketch by Mahonri Young entitled *B'ville Haywagon* (fig. 21) and a panoramic photograph of Weir farm taken around 1940 (fig. 22) document the appearance of the barn during those years. While the building appears slightly the worse for wear, little had changed since the 1911-1914 alterations.

It does appear that some windows were added to the Weir barn during the Young period. The double windows on the north wall of the main barn and on the west wall in the recess of the west wing have muntins with profile **Type B**, similar to sashes found on the 1932 Young Studio. In addition, two 1911-1914 sashes in the west wing - one on the south wall and the upper sash on the west wall of the west wing's recess - were replaced during this period. The extant west-wall sash has muntins with profile **Type B**, and the south-wall sash has muntins with profile **Type D**, both types also found on the 1932 Young Studio.

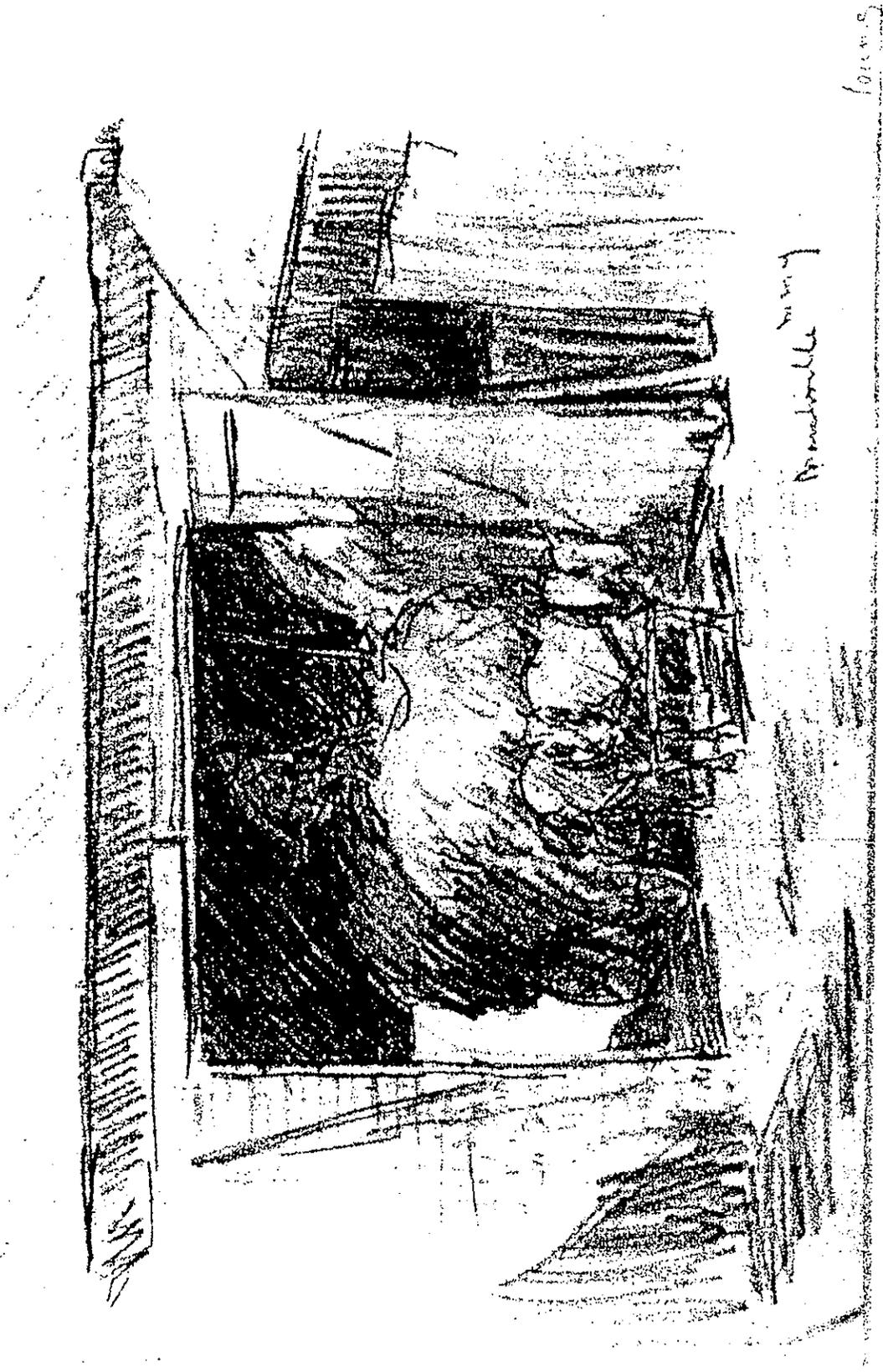


Figure 21. Mahonni Young, B'ville Haywagon (1943).



Figure 22. Panoramic View of Mahonri Young Walking on Weir Farm - Weir Barn at Left (Circa 1940).

The Youngs also made some minor changes to the interior of the main barn. The flush-board flooring in the threshing floor that is extant over the two earlier floors was probably installed during the Young period, as was the poured concrete floor in the milking room. The addition of the concrete floor effectively lowered the ceiling of the milking room to its current 6-foot 4-inch height.

The only major alteration made by the Andrews to the barn complex was to re-roof it with asphalt shingles soon after they purchased the property in the late 1950s. They also removed the canopy shed roof that formerly protected the wagon shed in the west wing. The sash in the window at the west end of the lean-to north wall was replaced with a wood canopy sometime after the panoramic photograph was taken.

The National Park Service performed stabilization of portions of the barn framing in the summer of 1992. This work did not significantly affect the appearance of the barn complex. Rehabilitation of the barn began in the spring of 1995.

Finishes History³⁴

Exterior

The Weir barn has had two major exterior finishes schemes since Weir purchased the farm in 1882. Before 1915 the barn walls were covered with vertical board-and-batten siding that was painted red at least before 1890. Some of this vertical siding, with remnants of red paint and nail holes where the missing battens had been located, is extant on the original west exterior wall of the main barn and on the original north exterior wall of the west wing, both now enclosed by the lean-to.

There is some evidence that at least some of the trim on the walls had been painted black between 1905 and 1915. Behind the white-painted surround on the circa-1911-1914 window sash on the main barn's south facade can be seen an earlier surround that is attached to the original vertical-board siding and which is painted black.

The 1911-1914 alterations to the barn significantly changed its exterior appearance. The east wing was enlarged, new windows and doorways were installed, and the original vertical-board siding was covered with wood shingles on all the walls except the new west wall and doors of the east wing, which were covered with vertical-board siding. After these alterations the siding was left unpainted and window sashes and window, doorway, and wall trim were painted white. Both the shingles and the new vertical-board siding appear to have been coated with creosote, possibly as a preservative, which has had the effect of turning the siding dark brown.

Paint analysis and photographic documentation helped to determine that most of the extant window sashes on the barn date to the 1911-1914 alterations. The window openings installed at that time were fitted with multipane sashes, many of them small-paned sashes similar to those used on the 1911 Weir dining room. Similar sashes were also used to replace most of the wood awnings that had previously protected the pre-1911 window openings. Paint analysis indicates that several of these sashes may have been salvaged from other locations, possibly the Weir Studio, which had new windows installed subsequent to its original construction.

³⁴See **APPENDIX D** for a list of paint samples and locations.

The Weir barn exterior has continued the same finishes scheme of unpainted dark-brown siding and white-painted trim to this day. Since this scheme was used in both the Weir and Young periods, it is the historic color scheme, and is the recommended scheme for restoration.

Interior

The interior of the barn appears to have been unpainted, except that the stable (Room 101), the milking room (Room 108), the pony stall (Room 109), and the ceiling and the north wall in the garage (Room 110) were whitewashed.

Utility Systems

Electricity and lightning rods were installed in the barn at the same time as they were at the Weir house and the caretaker's house. The barn was wired for electricity in 1931, and was fitted with a lightning protection system in 1933-1934.³⁵ The National Park Service upgraded the electrical service in the early 1990s.

³⁵ DWY Account Book, January 10, 1932: "Perregaux - wiring house, barn & farmers house. - [\$] 707.70," DWY Account Book, August 7, 1933: "Lightning rods in house, barn, studio, Bass' house, Wm M. Sears Co. Stamford - [\$] 593.80". A copper label fastened to the south wall of the west wing of the barn states the lightning-rod installation date as 1934.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

[A description of the structural elements of the Weir barn has been incorporated into the preceding **PHYSICAL EVOLUTION** section, and is also outlined in the Completion Report for the 1995-1996 Weir Barn Preservation project.]

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS³⁶

Overview

The Weir barn is located near Nod Hill Road approximately 75 feet north/northeast of the Weir house (figs. 23 & 24). The structure consists of the main barn with an attached lean-to at its west end and two wings. When the barn complex is viewed from the house, one wing (the west wing) is on the left, extending south towards the house from the southwest corner of the main barn; the second wing (the east wing) extends towards the house from the east end of the main barn's south wall. The facades of the main barn and the two wings all face into a courtyard, creating a U-shaped three-sided complex that is open to the house to the south.

Around the outer perimeter of the barn complex, the north walls of the main barn and lean-to are one continuous wall. The east wall of the main barn is recessed 5 feet 9 inches from the east wall of the east wing, while the west wall of the lean-to protrudes 1 foot 9 inches from the west wall of the west wing.

The main barn (fig. 25) is a rectangular, timber-frame, gable-roof structure measuring 36 feet 7 inches long by 26 feet 6 inches wide and two-plus stories high. The attached one-story lean-to measures 13 feet 9 inches by 26 feet 6 inches and has a west-sloping shed roof that is attached to and completely spans the main barn's west gable wall (fig. 26). The overall size of the barn/lean-to footprint is 40 feet 7 inches long by 26 feet 6 inches deep.

The west wing (fig. 27) is a rectangular gable-roof structure that extends south from the south wall of the lean-to and which faces the barn courtyard to the east. The two-story structure measures 36 feet long by 12 feet 3 inches deep.

The east wing is a rectangular one-story structure that extends south from the east end of the main barn south facade, and which faces west across the courtyard to the west wing (fig. 28). The east wing measures 35 feet 4 inches long by 15 feet deep and has a gable roof with a catslide profile. At the north end of the wing's west facade the wall plane is recessed 5 feet, the depth of the wing's west roof slope.

Walls

Sheathing

Much of the sheathing that exists on the walls of the barn complex is early nineteenth-century vertical-board siding. The upper gable walls of the main barn have horizontal-board sheathing, which was the sheathing for the early nineteenth-century wood-shingle siding that covered the upper portion of the barn's gable-end walls.

³⁶Doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the plan of the Weir Barn in APPENDIX A.



Figure 23. Weir Barn - View from the South (1995).



Figure 24. Weir Barn - View from the North Towards Weir House (1993).



Figure 25. Weir Barn - Main Barn, South Facade (1992).



Figure 26. Weir Barn - North and West Aspects (1995).

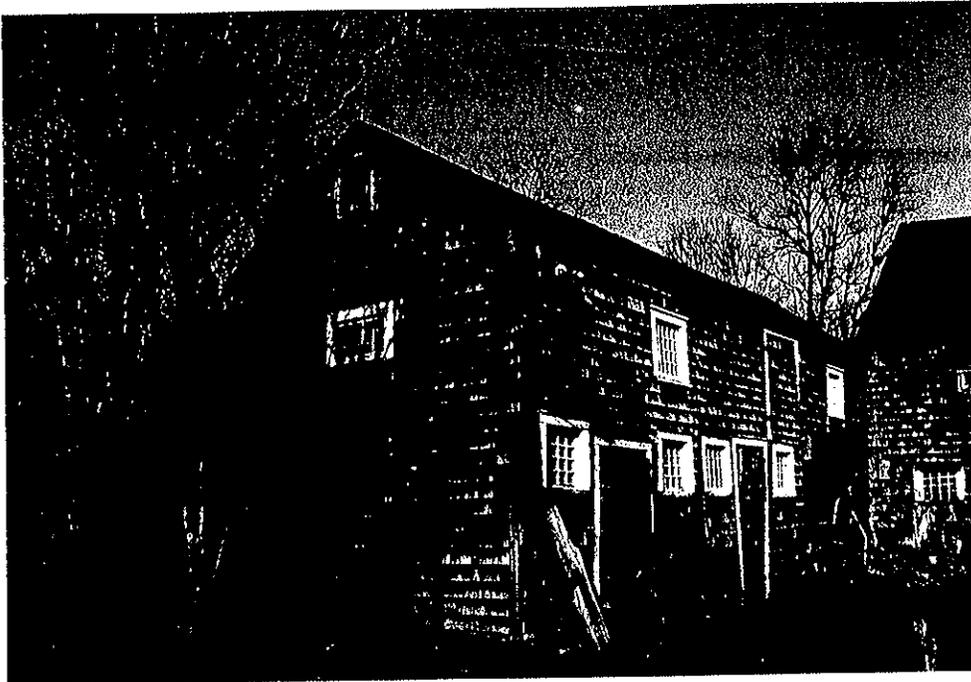


Figure 27. Weir Barn - West Wing, East Facade and South Wall (1993).



Figure 28. Weir Barn - East Wing, West Facade (1992).

Siding

Most of the walls on the barn complex have wood-shingle siding. The narrow south wall of the lean-to and the west facade of the east wing have vertical butt-edge siding. There is also an area of board-and-batten siding above the recessed west-wall doorway and double window on the east wing.

Trim

The only trim on the barn walls is a plain rakeboard on each of the gable ends of the main barn and of the wings.

Doorways

Main Barn and Lean-To

There are six exterior doorways on the barn/lean-to section of the Weir barn complex. The primary entrance is centered on the **south facade of the main barn** (D104-D105) and opens into the threshing floor (figs. 23 & 29). This doorway measures 11 feet 10 inches wide by 10 feet 9 inches high and is fitted with double doors. The west door (D104) slides open to the west, while the east door (D105) swings open to the exterior. Each door is constructed of wood shingles over vertical boards. The boards are attached to a mortise-and-tenon frame that consists of four horizontal boards tenoned on both ends into mortises in two vertical boards, tied together by a cross-brace.

A second doorway (D106) is located to the east of the main entrance on the **south facade of the main barn**. This opening measures 3 feet 7 inches wide by 5 feet 4 inches tall. It is entered via the east wing's recessed area and opens into the main barn's milking room. The door is constructed of butt-edge vertical boards over a wide-board "Z" frame, and is hung on the exterior using a pair of wrought-iron double-strap hinges. The exterior of the door is covered with wood shingles, and the opening is trimmed with a plain-board surround.

There are two doorways on the **north wall of the main barn** (fig. 30). One doorway (D112) is located at the east end of the wall and opens into the milking room. This opening measures 3 feet wide by 5 feet 8 inches high, and is fitted with a door constructed of butt-edge vertical boards on a "Z" frame. The door is covered on the exterior with wood shingles, and is mounted on the exterior using a pair of wrought-iron double-strap hinges. The second opening on the north wall is a double doorway placed directly opposite the entrance double doorway on the south facade. The north-wall double doorway (D113-D114) measures 12 feet wide by 9 feet 6 inches high, and is fitted with two doors. The doors are constructed of tongue-and-groove vertical boards on "Z" frames and each is mounted using three cast-iron single-strap hinges.

There are two doorways on the **west wall of the lean-to**. One doorway (D115), located slightly to the right of center of the wall, measures 3 feet 3 inches wide by 5 feet 6 inches high and currently has no door. The second doorway (D116) is located at the south end of the wall. The opening measures 2 feet 7 inches wide by 5 feet 2 inches high and is fitted with a door constructed of three, vertical, butt-edge boards attached to two horizontal wide-board braces on the interior of the door. The door is covered on the exterior with wood shingles and is hung from the interior using cast-iron double-strap hinges.

West Wing

There are three exterior doorways on the west wing of the Weir barn, all located on the wing's east facade and opening into the courtyard (**fig. 31**). Doorway D101 is located at the south end of the wall and measures 3 feet 2 inches wide by 5 feet 9 inches high. Doorway D102 is located to the north (right) of D101 and measures 3 feet 2 ½ inches wide by 6 feet 6 inches high. Each of these openings is fitted with a door constructed of vertical butt-edge boards attached to horizontal wide-board braces on the interior of the door, and covered with wood shingles on the exterior. Doorway D101 is hung using three double-strap hinges attached to the exterior, while doorway D102 is hung using two double-strap hinges, also attached to the exterior. Both doorways are trimmed with plain-board surrounds.

The third doorway (D103) on the west wing is located at the north end of the wall. This double opening measures 11 feet 5 inches wide by 6 feet 6 inches high and has no door.

East Wing

There are three doorways on the **east wing** of the Weir barn, all of which are located on the wing's west facade (**fig. 28**). One doorway (D107-D108) is located on the west wall of the recess at the north end of the wall. This doorway measures 3 feet 5 inches wide by 7 feet 3 inches high and is fitted with a Dutch door. Each leaf of the door is constructed of butt-edge vertical boards attached to two horizontal braces, and is hung on the exterior using two double-strap hinges.

A double doorway (D109-D110) is located at the north end of the wing's main west wall. The opening measures 11 feet 3 inches wide by approximately 7 feet 6 inches high and is fitted with two sliding doors. Each door is 5 feet 8 inches wide and is constructed of butt-edge vertical boards. The doors open using sliding mechanisms installed at the top of the doors. These mechanisms slide along a metal rod that is attached to the wall over the doors, and which spans the entire wall. A single doorway (D111) is located at the south end of the wing's main west wall. The opening measures 8 feet wide and 7 feet 4 inches high. The opening is fitted with a single door constructed of butt-edge vertical boards and is hung using a sliding mechanism installed on the interior of the top frame of the doorway.

Windows³⁷

Main Barn and Lean-To

South Facade

There is one window (W105) on the south facade of the main barn, located to the west of the main double doorway on the first story level (**fig. 23**). This opening measures 2 feet wide by 1 foot 8 inches high and is fitted with a fixed sixteen-light sash that has muntin profile Type A. The window is trimmed on the sides with a 4-inch-wide plain-board surround, with an asphalt roofing shingle nailed across the top. The wood-shingle siding was installed over the original surround, so that the window is slightly recessed from the wall plane.

³⁷Muntin profile types refer to those contained in **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I, APPENDIX D**.

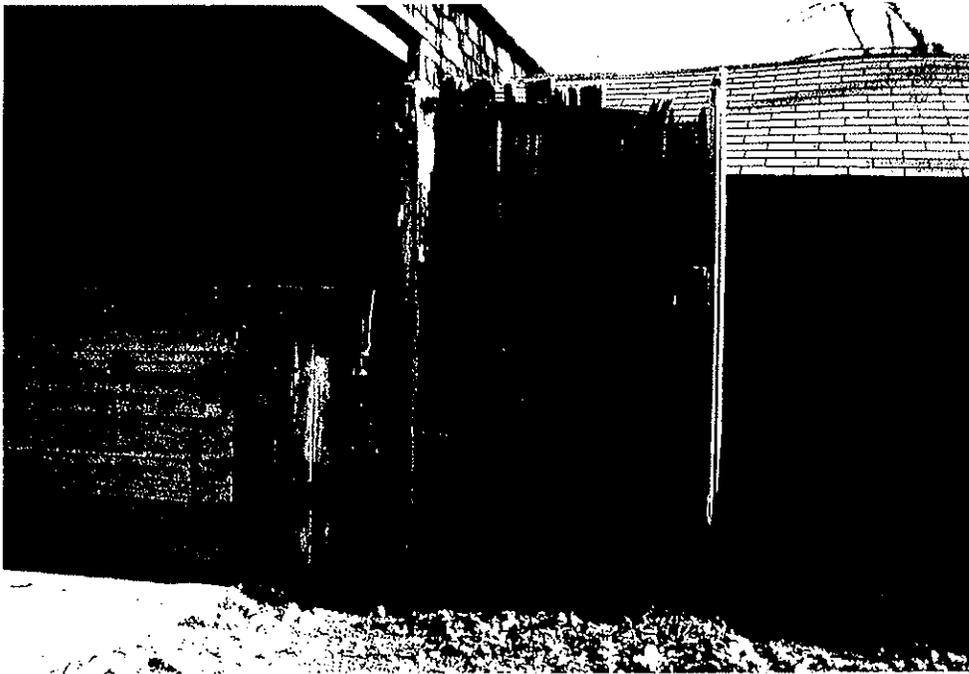


Figure 29. Weir Barn - Main Barn, South Façade, Doorway D105 (1993).



Figure 30. Weir Barn - Main Barn, North and East Walls (1993).

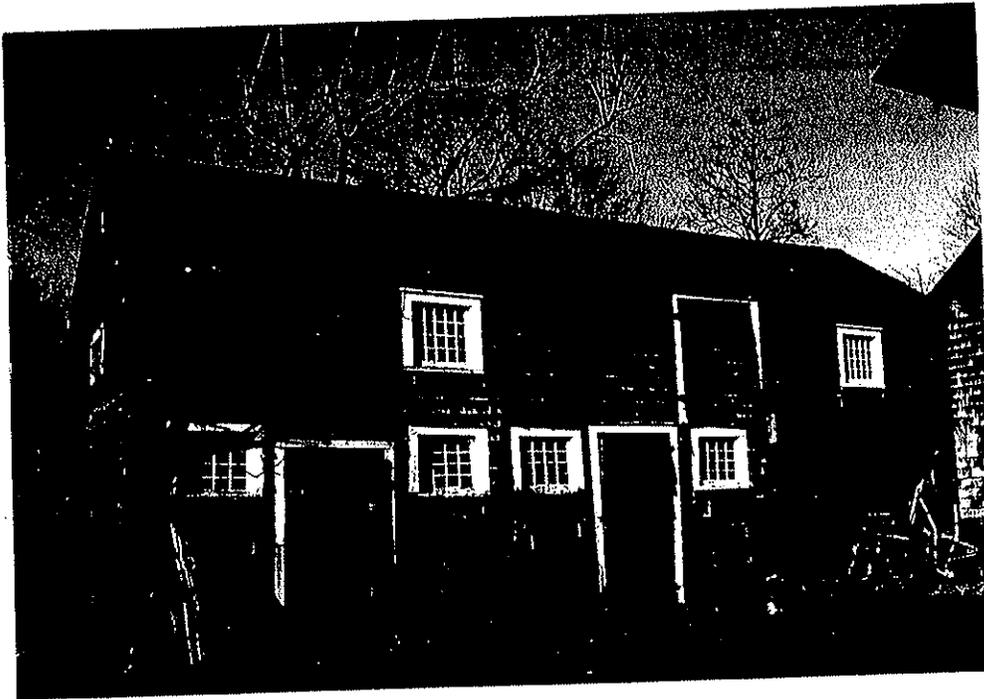


Figure 31. Weir Barn - West Wing, East Facade (1993).

East Wall

There are five windows on the east wall of the main barn: four on the first-story level and one at the gable peak (**fig. 30**). Each of the openings at the first-story level (W111 - W114) measures 1 foot 10 inches wide by approximately 1 foot 8 inches high, is fitted with a six-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**, and is trimmed with a 4-inch-wide plain surround.

The window at the gable peak (W301) was not accessible for analysis. The opening appears to measure approximately 2 feet 9 inches wide by 2 feet high. It is fitted with a fixed diamond-pane sash in which only the muntins have survived, and which has been boarded up on the interior.

North Wall

There are three windows on the north wall of the main barn/lean-to, all located to the west (right) of the main barn double doorway D113-D114 (**figs. 26 & 30**). The first window (W116-W117) is located immediately to the west (right) of D114 and illuminates a storage room in the main barn. This opening measures 3 feet 10 inches wide by 1 foot 6 inches high, and is fitted with two fixed six-light sashes with muntin profile **Type B** that are installed side by side and separated by a 1 1/2-inch wide mullion.

The second window on the north wall of the main barn/lean-to (W118) is located to the west (right) of the double-sash window and illuminates the lean-to shed. This opening measures 2 feet wide by 1 foot 6 inches high and is fitted with a fixed eight-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**. The third window (D119) on the wall is located at the west end of the wall and also opens into the lean-to shed. The opening measures 2 feet wide by 1 foot 8 inches high, and is fitted with a butt-edge board awning that is covered with wood shingles and is hung using hinges attached to top of the frame on the interior.

All three windows on the north wall of the barn are trimmed with 4-inch-wide plain surrounds.

West Aspect

There are two windows on the west aspect of the main barn/lean-to (**fig. 26**). One window (W120) is located on the west wall of the lean-to the south (right) of doorway D115. This opening measures 1 foot 10 inches wide by 1 foot 6 inches high and is fitted with a fixed six-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**.

The second opening (W302) on the west aspect is located at the gable peak of the main barn. This window was not accessible for analysis. The opening appears to measure approximately 2 feet square and is fitted with a fixed four-light sash. The top of the window is boarded up on the inside.

Both windows on the west wall of the main-barn/lean-to are trimmed with 4-inch-wide plain surrounds.

West Wing

East Facade

There are six windows on the east facade of the west wing: four on the first-story level and two on the second-story level (**fig. 31**).

The four windows on the first-story level (W101 - W104) are located on either side of doorways D101 and D102. Each opening measures 2 feet inches wide by 1 foot 8 inches high and is fitted with a fixed sixteen-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**.

On the second-story level, the first window (W201) is located over W102 on the first-story level, and the second window (W202) is centered over doorway D103. Each opening measures 2 feet square and is fitted with a fixed twenty-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**.

All six windows on the east facade of the west wing are trimmed with 4-inch-wide plain surrounds.

South Wall

There are two windows on the south wall of the west wing (**fig. 27**). One window (W203) is centered on the wall at the second-floor level and measures approximately 2 feet wide by 1 foot high. This opening is fitted with a fixed twelve-light sash with a square muntin profile (**Type D**). The second window is located at the gable peak (W303) and was not accessible for analysis. It appears to measure approximately 1 foot 8 inches wide by 2 feet high. The opening is fitted with a butt-edge board awning that is covered with wood shingles and is hung using hinges attached to top of the frame on the interior. Both windows on the south wall of the west wing have 4-inch-wide plain surrounds.

West Wall

There is one window (W121) on the west wall of the west wing, located at the south end of the wall at the first-story level (**fig. 26**). This opening measures 2 feet 3 inches wide by 2 feet high and is trimmed with a 3-inch-wide plain surround. The opening is fitted with a butt-edge board awning that is covered with wood shingles and is hung using hinges attached to top of the frame on the interior.

East Wing

West Facade

There are two windows on the west facade of the Weir barn's east wing, both located in the recessed area at the north end of the structure (**fig. 32**). One window (W106-W107) is located to the north (left) of doorway D107-D108 at the same level as the top of the doorway. This window measures 3 feet 11 inches wide by 1 foot 8 inches high, and is fitted with two, fixed, six-light sashes with muntin profile **Type B** that are installed side by side.

The second window (W108) is located over window W106. This opening measures 1 foot 10 inches wide by 1 foot 8 inches high. It is fitted with a six-light sash with muntin profile **Type B**, and is trimmed on the sides with a 5-inch-wide plain surround.

South Wall

There is one window (W109) on the south wall of the east wing, located at the east end of the wall immediately under the roof eave (**fig. 33**). The opening measures 2 feet wide by 1 foot 8 inches high. It is fitted with a fixed six-light sash with muntin profile **Type B**, and is trimmed with a 4-inch-wide plain surround.

East Wall

There is one window (W110) on the east wall of the east wing of the barn, located at the north end of the wall immediately under the roof eave (**fig. 33**). The opening measures 3 feet wide by 1 foot high. It is fitted with a fixed sixteen-light sash with muntin profile **Type A**, and trimmed with a 3-inch-wide plain surround.

North Wall

There is one window on the north wall of the east wing, located at the top west corner of the wall immediately under the roof eave (**fig. 30**). The opening (W115) measures 2 feet 3 inches wide by 1 foot high. It is fitted with a fixed three-light sash and has no surround.

Roofing Material

Sheathing

The sheathing on the roofs for the main barn and for the west wing is composed of plywood sheets over irregularly-shaped 1-inch-thick boards that are spaced between 2 and 4 inches apart. The sheathing on the lean-to roof consists of plywood sheets.

The sheathing on the east slope of the east wing consists of the tongue-and-groove pine ceiling on the interior. The sheathing on the west slope is composed of plywood sheets installed over the tongue-and-groove pine-board ceiling.

Roofing

The extant roofing material on all the roofs of the Weir barn complex is asphalt shingle.

Paint Finishes

The exterior walls of the Weir barn are unpainted, and possibly unfinished. The wood shingle siding has darkened and is oily, and may have been treated with a preservative such as creosote. The rakeboard on the south gable wall of the east wing is painted white. The rakeboards on the other gable walls are unfinished.

All **window sashes** are painted white or have remnants of white paint extant. The **window surrounds** for the two gable windows on the main barn, the two windows in the recess area and the one window on the east wall of the east wing, and the window on the west wall of the west wing have no extant finishes. All the remaining window surrounds are painted white or have remnants of white paint.

All the **doors** on the barn are unfinished. The **surrounds** on the four doorways on the east facade of the west wing, and on the single doorway to the east of the main barn's south facade's double doorway, are painted white. The remaining doorway surrounds are unfinished.



Figure 32. Weir Barn - East Wing, West Wall Recess, Windows W106-W107 and W108 (1994).

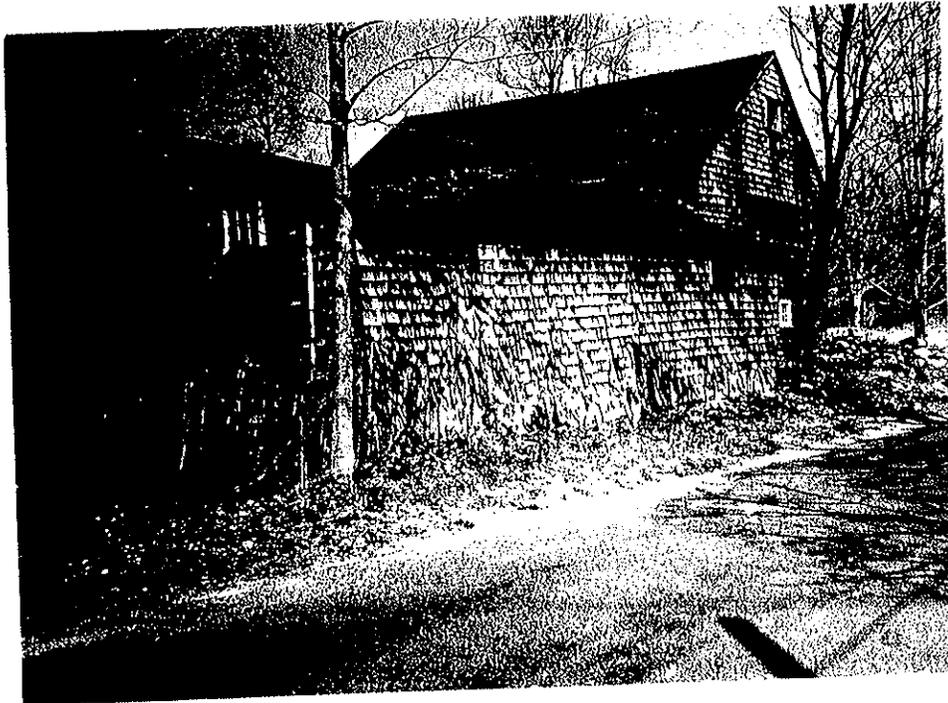


Figure 33. Weir Barn - East Wing, East and South Walls (1992).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS³⁸

Overview

The Weir barn is composed of three major sections: the main barn and the attached lean-to at the barn's west end; the west wing, which runs south from the south lean-to wall; and the east wing, which runs south from the east end of the main barn's south wall.

There are no basements in the Weir barn complex. A low crawlspace is located under the central and west sections of the main barn (Rooms 105, 106, and 107).

The main barn is divided into the central threshing floor that is flanked by a milking room to the east (the old "tie-up") and oxen stalls and a storage room to the west (the old "hay mow"). Haylofts over the east and west sections are open to the threshing floor below. The lean-to is used as a large storage shed.

The first floor of the west wing contains a small stable, an equipment room, and a wagon shed. The second floor is divided into two lofts. The east wing contains a pony stall and a garage.

First Floor

Room 101 - Stable

Overview

The stable (**fig. 34**) is located at the south end of the west wing and measures approximately 11 feet square. The room is entered from the barn courtyard via a doorway on the east wall.

Flooring

The flooring in the stable is composed of butt-edge wide-plank boards installed in an east/west direction. One board is laid across the west end of the flooring along the bottom of a feed bin.

Walls

The west wall in the stable is covered with 8-inch-wide, vertical, butt-edge boards on either side of the window (W121), as is a two-foot-high portion of the east wall below the windows (W101 & W102). The north and south walls, and the lower portion of the east wall, are lined with 6-inch-wide, horizontal, butt-edge boards. The boards on the south wall stop short of the ceiling, leaving a 4-inch gap in the wall through which can be seen the wall framing and exterior sheathing.

³⁸Details on the size and configuration of windows and exterior doorways can be found in **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS, "Doorways" and "Windows"**. Room, doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the Weir Barn plan in **APPENDIX A**.

A wooden feed bin measuring approximately 3 feet high is built across the west wall under the window (W121).

Boards on which are written the names "Dolly" and "Billy" are attached to the girt across the top of the west wall. Nails are driven at random into the girts around the room, probably for use as hooks on which to hang tack.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D101) in Room 101 that is centered on the east wall between two windows, and which opens into the barn courtyard.

Windows

There are three windows in Room 101. Two windows (W101 & W102), which are fitted with multi-pane sashes, are located on the east wall on either side of doorway D101. The third window is located on the west wall and is fitted with a butt-edge board awning.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the stable is the exposed flooring and floor framing for the lofts overhead. The flooring is composed of 8-inch-wide butt-edge boards that run in an east/west direction.

Three joists that had formerly spanned the west end of the room have been cut out at the north and south girts.

Finishes

The walls and ceiling in the stable all have remnants of whitewash. The window sashes are painted white.

Room 102 - Equipment Room

Overview

The equipment room (**fig. 35**) is the center of the three rooms on the first floor of the west wing. This room measures 11 feet square. The room is entered from the barn courtyard via a doorway on the east wall.

Flooring

The equipment room has butt-edge wide-plank flooring installed in an east/west direction.



Figure 34. Weir Barn – Stable [Room 101], West Wall (1995).

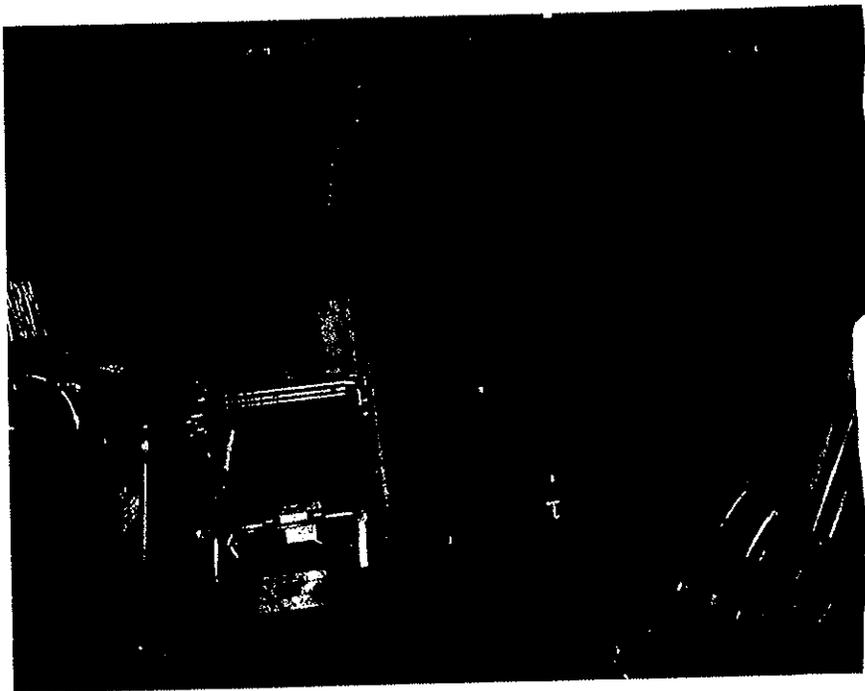


Figure 35. Weir Barn - Equipment Room [Room 102], West Wall (1993).

Walls

The north and south walls in Room 102 are covered with horizontal butt-edge boards. The east and west walls are covered with butt-edge horizontal and vertical boards of various sizes. A former window opening on the west wall has been boarded up. Nails have been driven at random into the upper portion of all the walls, probably for use as hooks on which to hang tools.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D102) in the equipment room. The doorway is located on the east wall between two windows and accesses the barn courtyard.

Windows

There are two windows in the equipment room. The windows (W103 & W104) are fitted with multipane sashes and are located on the east wall on either side of the doorway D102.

A former window opening on the west wall has been boarded up.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the equipment room is composed of the exposed sawn floor joists and flooring of the north loft overhead.

Finishes

The walls and ceiling in the equipment room are unfinished. The window sashes are painted white.

Room 103 - Wagon Shed

Overview

The wagon shed (**fig. 36**) is located at the north end of the west wing and measures 12 feet 8 1/2 inches wide by 11 feet deep. The east side of the room is open to the barn courtyard. There are no windows in the room.

Flooring

The wagon shed has a dirt floor.

Walls

The west and north walls of the wagon shed are composed of vertical butt-edge boards that are currently acting as sheathing on the west wall and as siding in the lean-to shed. These boards were originally exterior siding before the circa-1890 lean-to was built on the north side of the wing and before the barn was sided with wood shingles in 1911-1914.

The south wall is composed of the exposed interior horizontal siding of the equipment room's north wall.

Pieces of curved branches are attached to the west girt and act as hooks for holding boards or other long pieces of equipment. Nails are driven at random into the girts, probably to act as hooks on which to hang equipment.

Doorway

Doorway D102 on the east side of the wagon shed is open to the courtyard.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the wagon shed is composed of the exposed floor joists and flooring of the north loft overhead. The joists are unplanned birch tree trunks, and the "flooring" is composed of long exterior shutters loosely laid over the tree trunks.

Finishes

The walls and tree trunks in the wagon shed are unfinished. The "flooring" shutters are painted green.

Room 104 - Lean-To Shed

Overview

The lean-to shed is located at the northwest corner of the barn complex and measures approximately 25 feet long by 12 feet 9 inches deep. The shed has two exterior doorways on the west wall of the room, and one doorway at the north end of the room's east wall that opens into the main barn. There are two windows on the north wall and one window on the west wall between the two exterior doorways. A former window on the east wall has been blocked.

Flooring

Most of the lean-to shed has a dirt floor. Remnants of a wide plank floor installed directly on grade in an east/west direction are extant along the north wall and the north half of the east wall. The outer edges of the flooring along the east wall have a wide-board edge.

Walls

The east wall is composed of butt-edge vertical boards with nail hole evidence of former battens. On the upper portion of the east wall there is a large opening into the main barn loft where the vertical boards have been cut out (**fig. 37**).

The upper portion of the shed's south wall is the early nineteenth-century exterior board-and-batten siding of the north wall of the west wing (**fig. 38**). The lower portion of the wall is covered with post-nineteenth century vertical boards.



Figure 36. Weir Barn - Wagon Shed [Room 103], West and South Walls (1993).

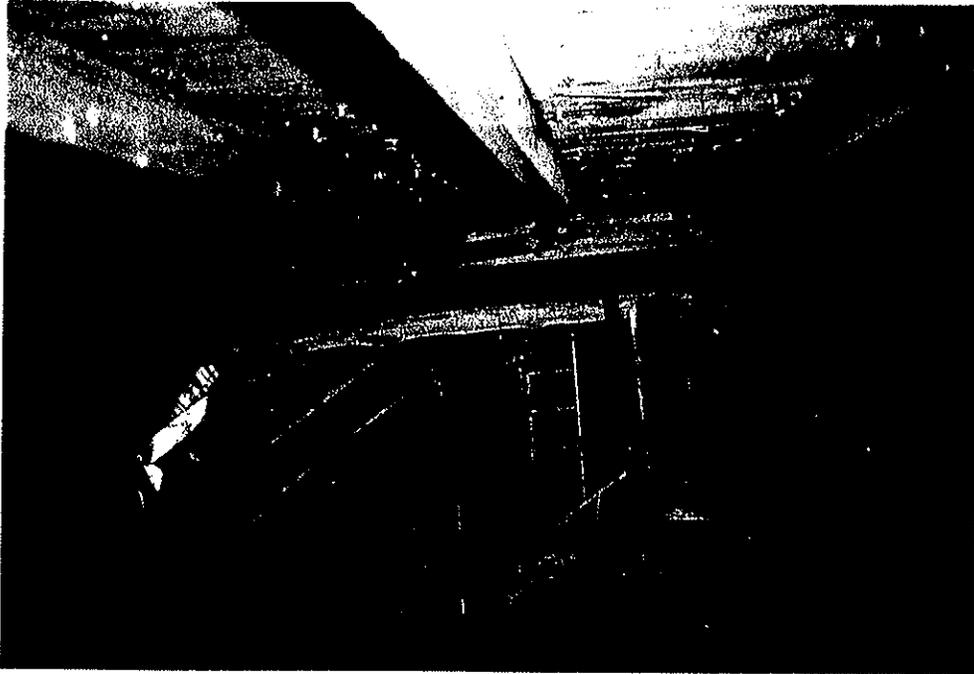


Figure 37. Weir Barn - Lean-To Shed [Room 104], Upper East Wall (1993).

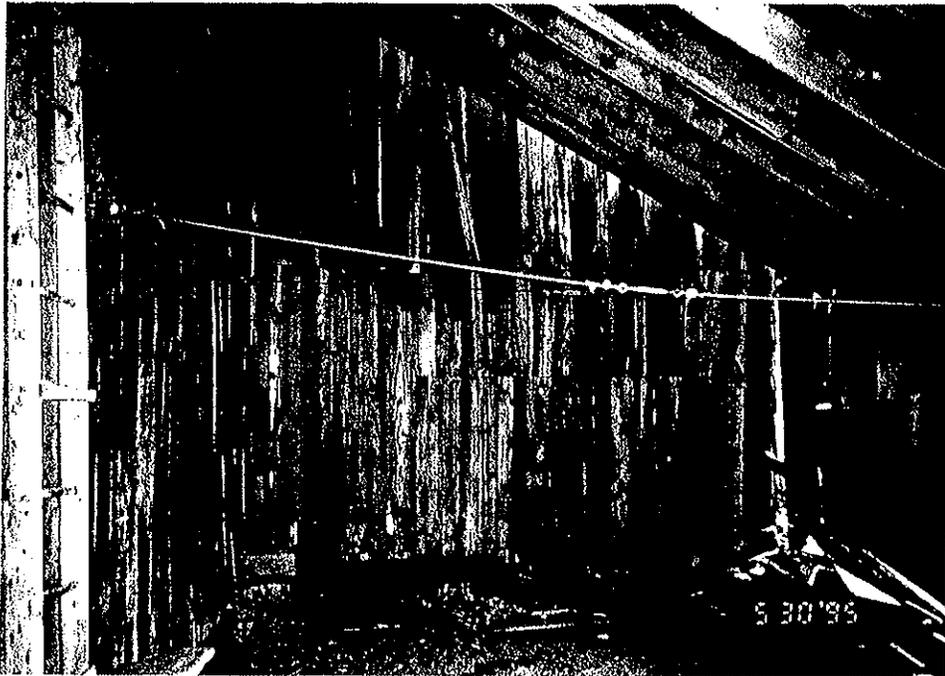


Figure 38. Weir Barn - Lean-To Shed [Room 104], South Wall (1995).

Figure 39. Weir Barn -Lean-To Shed [Room 104], North Wall (1995).

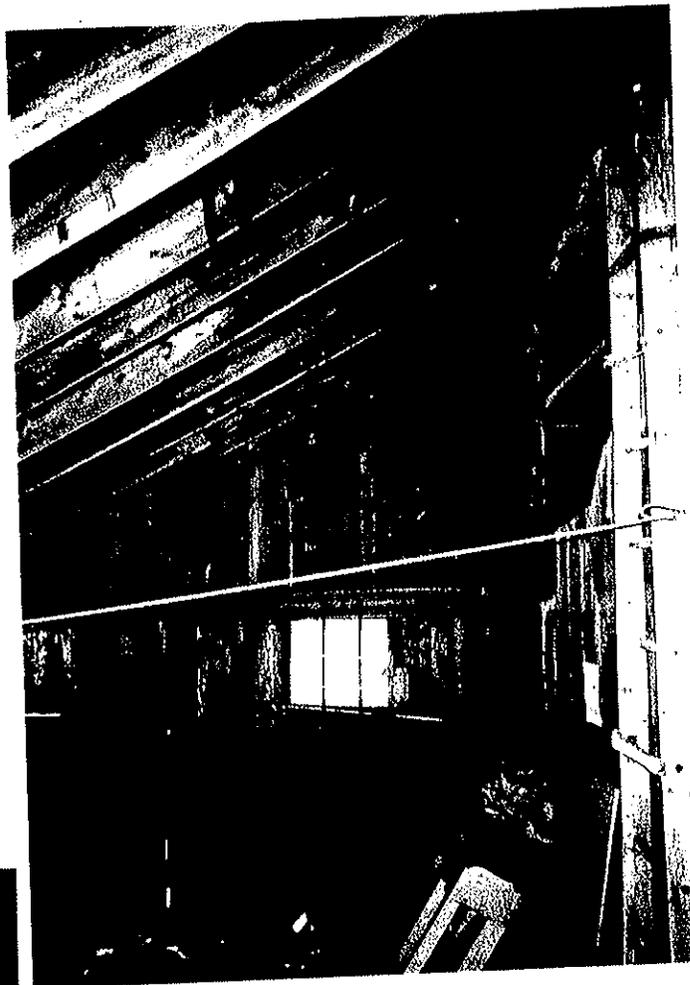


Figure 40. Weir Barn - Lean-to Shed [Room 104], West Wall, Doorway D116 (1995).



Figure 41. Weir Barn – Oxen Stable [Room 105], Looking Northwest (1993).

The west and north walls (**fig. 39**) of the shed are composed of the exposed interior side of the exterior vertical-board sheathing.

Doorways

There are two exterior doorways in the lean-to shed, one doorway (D115) located in the center and the second doorway (D116) located at the south end of the shed's west wall (**fig. 40**). An interior doorway (D117) is located at the north end of the room's east wall and opens into a small storage room in the main barn. This opening measures 2 feet 2 inches wide by approximately 6 feet 9 inches high. It is fitted with a door composed of butt-edge vertical boards supported by several horizontal and cross braces, and is hung using a pair of wrought-iron double-strap hinges that are mounted on the post on the storage-room side of the door.

Windows

There are three windows in Room 104. A window with a multipane sash and a second window with a wood awning (W118 & W119) are located on the north wall, while the third window (also fitted with a multipane sash - W120) is located between the two exterior doorways on the west wall of the room.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the lean-to shed is the exposed shed roof framing and sheathing.

Finishes

The vertical boards on the east wall and on the upper portion of the south wall of the lean-to shed have remnants of barn-red paint. The window sashes are painted white. All other features in the room are unfinished.

Room 105 - Oxen Stable

Overview

The oxen stable (**fig. 41**) is located in the west corner of the main barn, occupying approximately 2/3 of the original hay mow area. The room measures approximately 11 feet 3 inches deep by 15 feet 9 inches at its widest and 8 feet high. The only access to the stable is from the threshing floor via a doorway on the room's east wall. There is a window on the south wall. Two oxen stalls are located in the north half of the room, separated by a north/south partition.

The extant walls and ceiling of the stable display evidence that the ceiling was originally over 2 feet lower than its present height.

Flooring

The floor in the oxen stable is made up of butt-edge wide-board planks that are installed in an east/west direction.

Walls

The south wall in the oxen stable is exposed framing and interior side of the exterior sheathing; the west wall is the exposed framing and east-wall siding of the lean-to. Both the south-wall sheathing and the west-wall siding were originally exterior siding of the main barn before the circa-1890 lean-to was built. The east and north walls are composed of butt-edge horizontal boards.

A partition separating the two oxen stalls extends approximately 4 feet into the room from the north wall, creating two 6-foot wide stalls. The partition is composed of butt-edge horizontal boards that are attached to two circular-sawn, 2-inch by 4-inch boards that have been nailed to loft floor joists at the top.

Two large openings are located on the room's north wall, one over each of the stalls. These openings presumably were used to deliver feed from the storage room (Room 106) on the other side of the wall.

Doorway

The oxen stable has one doorway (D119) that opens into the threshing floor in the center of the main barn. The opening measures 3 feet 11 3/4 inches wide by 6 feet 10 inches high and is fitted with a vertical-plank door.

Window

There is one window (W105) in Room 105, located on the south wall.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the oxen stable is the exposed floor framing and flooring of the west loft overhead. The floor joists are debarked tree trunks that run east/west, while the butt-edge flooring runs north/south.

A narrow section of ceiling at the north end of the room over the stalls slopes down to the original height of the north wall.

Finishes

The window sash is painted white. All other features in the oxen stable are unfinished.

Room 106 - Storage Room

Overview

A storage room for livestock feed is located in the northwest corner of the main barn, occupying approximately 1/3 of the original hay mow (figs. 42 & 43). The room measures approximately 9 feet 9 inches by 11 feet 3 inches and approximately 6 feet high. There is a doorway on the east wall that opens to the threshing floor, and another doorway on the west wall that accesses the lean-to shed. One window is located on the north wall.

Flooring

The floor in the storage room is made up of butt-edge wide-board planks that are installed in an east/west direction.

Walls

The storage room is lined with 12-inch-wide, horizontal butt-edge boards on the north and west walls, 8-inch-wide, butt-edge horizontal boards on the south wall, and with vertical butt-edge boards on the south wall.

Two large openings are located on the room's south wall (**fig. 42**). These openings presumably were used to deliver feed into the oxen's stalls (Room 105) on the other side of the wall.

Doorways

The storage room has two doorways. One doorway (D118) is located on the east wall and leads from the threshing floor. This opening measures 2 feet 10 inches wide by 5 feet 10 inches high, and is fitted with a door composed of two tongue-and-groove planks with beading down the inner edge of each plank. The boards are attached vertically to three horizontal braces that are each beaded on both edges. There is a hole approximately 6 inches square cut out of the bottom edge of the south door plank. The door is hung using cast-iron butt hinges that are attached to the threshing floor side (front) of the door. The door has a wrought-iron handle and an antique box latch.

The second door (D117) in the storage room is located at the north end of the west wall and leads to the lean-to shed (**fig. 43** - see **Room 104 - Lean-to Shed, "Doorways"**).

Windows

There is one window in Room 106. The opening (W116-W117) is located on the north wall and is composed of two sashes installed side by side. A former window or pass-through opening on the west wall has been boarded up.

Ceiling

The ceiling is composed of the exposed flooring and floor framing of the west loft overhead. There is a hole in the ceiling measuring approximately 2 feet square positioned over the feed bin.

Miscellaneous

A feed bin is located in the northeast corner of the room that measures approximately 2 feet deep by 6 feet long. The bin is constructed of horizontal butt-edge boards and is surrounded on all sides by a heavy-gauge 1/2-inch mesh screening.

There is a niche in the southwest corner of the room that measures 2 feet wide by 2 feet 11 inches deep. Its purpose is not known.

Room 107 - Threshing Floor

Overview

The threshing floor occupies the entire central portion of the main barn (**fig. 44**). The room measures 11 feet 11 1/4 inches wide by 25 feet long, and is open to the roof ridge 2 1/2 floors above. The room has a wide double-doorway at each of the north and south ends of the room. Doorways on the west wall lead into the oxen stable and the storage room, and on the east wall into the milking room.

Flooring

The flooring in Room 107 is wide-plank flooring installed in an east/west direction. The subflooring consists of two earlier generations of flooring in the room.

Walls

The walls of the threshing floor are composed of horizontal butt-edge planks installed up to the height of the hay loft floors. Several wide planks are attached haphazardly at the south end of the room's east wall above the horizontal wall boards.

Two horizontal hatch openings run the length of the room along the center of the east wall (**fig. 45**). The doors in the openings are covered with the same horizontal boards that line the lower east wall. Each door is hinged at the bottom with a pair of double-strap hinges, and a block of wood nailed at the top holds each hatch closed. The hatch openings were used to pass feed through to the cows in the milking room (Room 108) on the other side of the wall.

Doorways

There are five doorways in the threshing floor. A double doorway on the south wall of the room (D104-D105) leads to the barn courtyard, and a second double doorway on the north wall (D113-D114) leads to the exterior to the north.

On the west wall of the room, a doorway at the south end of the wall (D119) accesses the oxen stable (see **Room 105 - Oxen Stable, "Doorway"**) and another doorway at the north end of the wall (D118) accesses the storage room (see **Room 106 - Storage Room, "Doorways"**).

On the east wall of the room, a doorway located at the south end of the wall (D120) accesses the milking room (**fig. 29**). This opening measures approximately 3 feet wide by 4 feet 11 inches high, and is fitted with a vertical plank door. The planks have been cut at the bottom in steps to clear the two post-original layers of flooring in the room. The door is hung using three 2-strap hinges attached to the south wall post.

Ceiling

The ceiling is the exposed roof framing and sheathing of the main barn roof, 2 1/2 stories above the room's floor level.

Figure 42. Weir Barn - Storage Room [Room 106], Looking Southwest (1995).

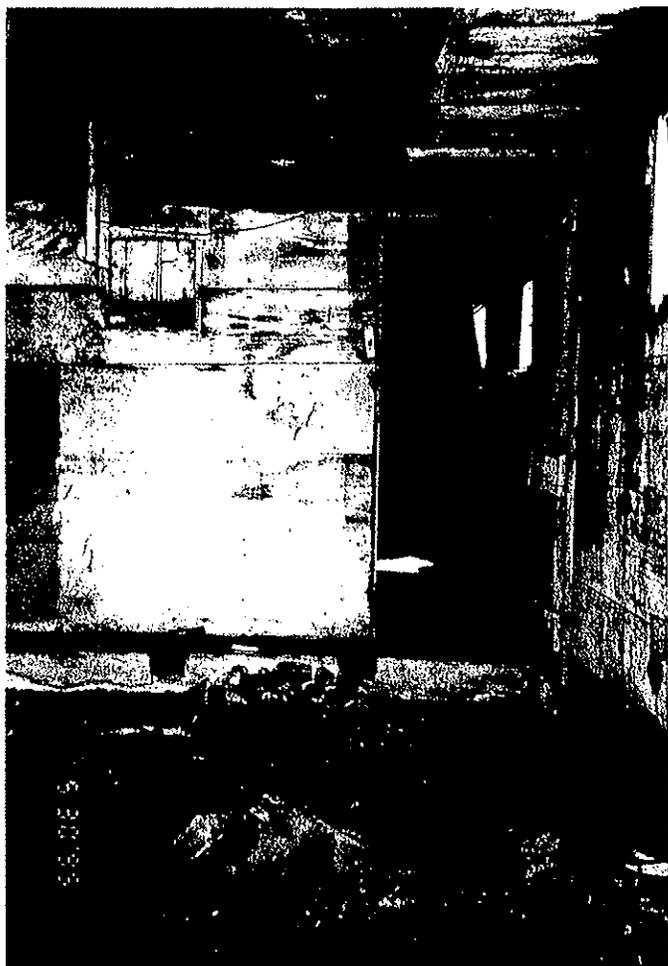


Figure 43. Weir Barn – Storage Room [Room 106], West Wall (1995).



Figure 44. Weir Barn – Threshing Floor [Room 107], Looking North (1993).



Figure 45. Weir Barn – Threshing Floor [Room 107], East Wall and Doorway D113 (1995).

Room 108 - Milking Room

Overview

The milking room (figs. 46 & 47) occupies the east end of the main barn. The room measures 12 feet 1 1/2 inches wide by 25 feet long and 6 feet 4 inches high. Exterior doorways are located on the north and south walls, and a doorway to the threshing floor is located on the west wall. The room retains some of the 1930s accoutrements for milking cows.

The extant walls and ceiling of the stable display evidence that the ceiling was originally over 1 foot lower than its present height.

Flooring

The flooring in the milking room is poured concrete.

Walls

The north and south walls are covered with butt-edge vertical boards. The west wall is covered with butt-edge horizontal boards. On the east wall, the portions of the wall above and below the windows are lined with horizontal butt-edge boards. The area of the east wall between the windows is the exposed interior side of the exterior vertical-board sheathing.

Doorways

There are three doorways in the milking room. One doorway (D120) is located at the south end of the west wall and opens into the threshing floor (see **Room 107 - Threshing Floor, "Doorways"**). Exterior doorways are located at the east end of the room's north wall (D112) and at the west end of the room's south wall (D106).

Windows

There are three windows in the milking room, symmetrically placed along the room's east wall.

Ceiling

The ceiling in Room 108 is the exposed flooring and floor framing of the east loft overhead. The floor joists are debarked tree trunks that run east/west, while the butt-edge flooring runs north/south.

Miscellaneous

A metal apparatus with five farrowing bars and a calf pen are located along the west wall. The partition for the calf pen is composed of horizontal butt-edge boards attached to planed 2-inch by 4-inch boards that are attached to the floor joists above.

Finishes

The window sashes are painted white. All the other features in the room are whitewashed, except the farrowing bars and calf pen, which are unfinished.



Figure 46. Weir Barn – Milking Room [Room 108], Looking North (1995).

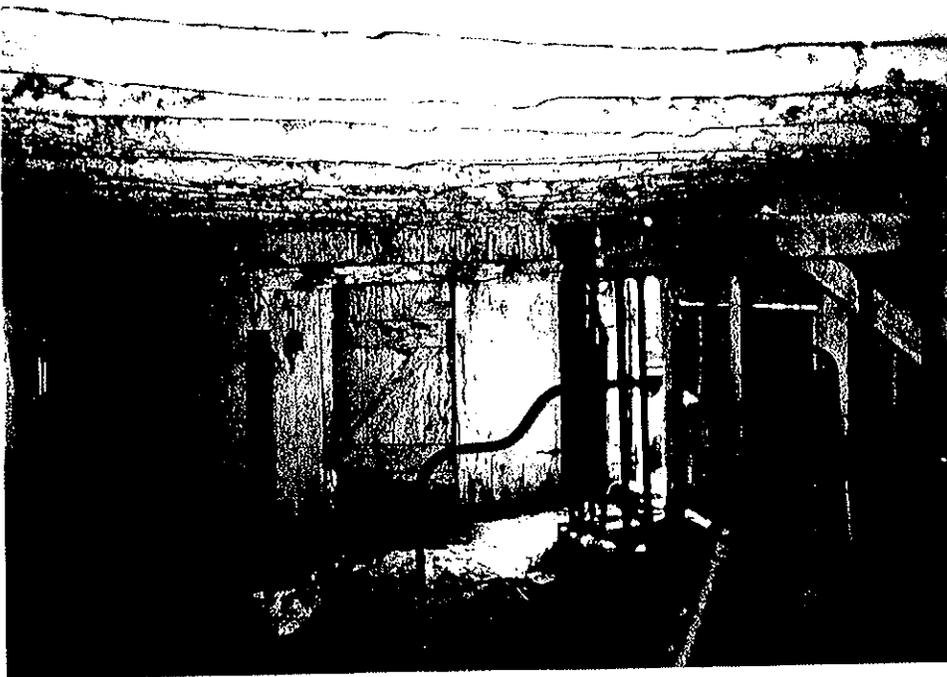


Figure 47. Weir Barn – Milking Room [Room 108], Looking South (1995).

Room 109 - Pony Stall

Overview

The pony stall is located in the northeast corner of the Weir barn east wing. The room measures approximately 9 feet by 8 feet 9 inches. An exterior entry area approximately 5 feet deep is located outside the room to the west, protected by the east wing's west roof slope. A Dutch doorway into the room from the entry area is located on its west wall. Windows are located on the west and east walls.

Flooring

The pony stall has a dirt floor.

Walls

The area of the walls above the top of the doorway on all the walls is tongue-and-groove vertical boards. The walls are lined with tongue-and-groove horizontal boards from the floor level to the top of the doorway. On the south wall, vertical boards spaced approximately 6 inches apart are attached over the horizontal-board wall.

Doorway

There is one doorway in the pony stall, a Dutch doorway located at the south end of the west wall (D107-D108).

Windows

There are four windows in the pony stall. A double-sash window (W106-W107) is located to the north (left) of the doorway, with a single-sash window (W108) located above. One window is located on the upper south end of the east wall (W110), and another on the upper east end of the north wall (W115).

A window that was located next to opening W108 has been boarded up on the interior.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the pony stall is lined with tongue-and-groove boards that run in a north/south direction.

Finishes

The window sashes in Room 109 are painted white. The walls above the level of the top of the door are whitewashed, and below that are painted gray.

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Pre 1905 - Original Structure

Before 1905 a small multi-sided structure with a conical roof stood to the south of the east wing of the barn, the site of the extant tack house. Although similar in appearance, it is thought that the smaller structure was replaced with the extant tack house sometime after 1905.

The evidence for the existence of the pre-1905 building consists of artwork by J. Alden Weir and his daughter Caroline Weir Ely and of several historic photographs. The original building was depicted by J. Alden Weir as part of the Weir farm barn compound in his 1904 *New England Barnyard* (fig. 3), and again in an undated oil painting entitled *The Palace Car* (probably circa 1905 - fig. 52). The view in the 1904 painting is from the south and depicts the east side of the barn courtyard in fairly accurate detail. A multi-sided structure is shown sitting within the compound between a fence to its south and the barn's east wing to its north. The building appears to be a low hut with six or eight walls and a conical roof, walls and roof covered with wooden shingles and the roof peak topped with a ball-shaped ornament. The same outbuilding is depicted in *The Palace Car*, this time with the view of the building from the east looking out over Weir's "palace car" (or moveable studio) and across Nod Hill Road. Both paintings apparently used photographs as models. These photographs (figs. 14 & 16) date to circa 1900-1905, and clearly depict the multi-sided hut at the southeast end of the barn complex. This hut also made an appearance in an pre-1915 etching by Caroline Weir Ely (fig. 53).

In all three artistic renderings, the roof peak of the hut is shown to be several feet lower than the peak of the shed roof of the barn's east wing. That this detail was not artistic license is confirmed by the photographs shown in figures 14 and 16, and in another photograph of the barn complex that dates to circa 1905 (fig. 17). In figure 14, the hut can be seen within the barn compound behind a stockade fence and the conical-shaped roof on the building is clearly visible sitting lower than the adjacent east wing of the barn. In figures 16 and 17 much of the hut is cut off in the view, but enough of the building can be seen to confirm that its roof peak was lower than that of the adjacent east wing of the barn, and that its walls stood no more than 5 feet high.

The location of any doorway or window on the hut is not known. In most of the early views the building's walls are blocked by a wall or fence, and of the views that show the building below the roof line, Caroline Weir Ely's etching (fig. 53) depicts no openings on the south and southeast-facing walls, and the circa 1905 photograph (fig. 17) shows no doorway or window on the portion of the west-facing wall that is visible. A logical conclusion would be that a doorway would have been located either on the north wall or on the northwest wall facing the barn courtyard, as it does on the tack house today.

No documentation has been found that would indicate the use of the hut. It is a fancifully-shaped building for a typical, rural New England farm, and was probably built after Weir purchased the property in 1882.

Circa 1911 - Construction

The Weir tack house appears to have been constructed circa 1911, replacing the pre-1905 hut in the same or a similar location. The tack house was probably built around the same time that the adjacent east wing of the barn was remodeled circa 1911-1914 -- the framing composed of circular-sawn, full-dimension, pine timbers and the sheathing of full-dimension, tongue-and-groove pine boards in the tack house is similar to framing and sheathing materials as used to remodel part of the east wing³⁹. The new octagonal tack house measured between 8 and 10 feet in diameter and 13 feet high, with a doorway on the northwest wall and a window on the west wall. The interior had a small room on the ground level and a dovecote at the attic level. Openings on the upper south wall led to the dovecote.

Because of the similarity of shapes and the fact that the tack house occupies the same site as the early hut, it was originally thought that the hut seen in the pre-1905 views was altered to create the existing tack house. However, physical and graphic evidence indicates that the tack house was not the result of alterations to the old hut but was a totally rebuilt structure. Comparison of the photographs and the artwork that depict the two buildings show an obvious difference in height and size -- they appear to show a building that had a much broader footprint than the tack house, and definitely show that the hut was much shorter. The roof peak of the tack house stands 13 feet high, approximately 1 foot 6 inches higher than the roof peak of the east wing of the barn, which itself had been raised about 1 foot 6 inches during the 1911-1914 alterations (see **fig. 59**). The roof of the hut could not have been more than 8 feet high -- it can be seen in the historic photographs to have been noticeably shorter than the pre-1911, 10-foot-high roof of the barn's east wing.

A preliminary conjecture drawn from this evidence was that the roof of the old hut was raised to create the extant tack house. However, investigation of the tack house during the 1995-1996 barn preservation project revealed that each of the wall studs is not composed of two pieces, which would be expected had the original hut walls been raised (a lower piece being the original stud for the hut and an upper piece used to raise the walls and thus the roof), but is a single board measuring 8 feet 10 inches long. This clearly indicates that the tack house was built at its current height and was not originally a shorter structure.

The tack house was built in a very odd shape. Five of its eight walls measure 4 feet wide, while the other three measure 3 feet 10 inches, 3 feet 8 1/2 inches, and 2 feet 11 1/2 inches wide, respectively. The building that has resulted from these non-standard dimensions has a skewed eight-sided floor plan and an off-center roof peak. Why a structure would have been built in this manner is perplexing. The odd shape does suggest that the tack house may have been built on the original foundation of the earlier hut.

Circa 1911-1914 Alterations

Although similar construction materials were used on both structures, the tack house may have been built before the 1911-1914 alterations to the east wing of the barn. The two extant multi-pane sashes on the tack house are thought to have been installed during the 1911-1914 barn alterations, since they have muntins with profile **Type A** and window sashes with the same muntin profile are known to have been

³⁹ Tom Ballos, "Completion Report," 1998.



Figure 52. J. Alden Weir, *The Palace Car* (n.d.).

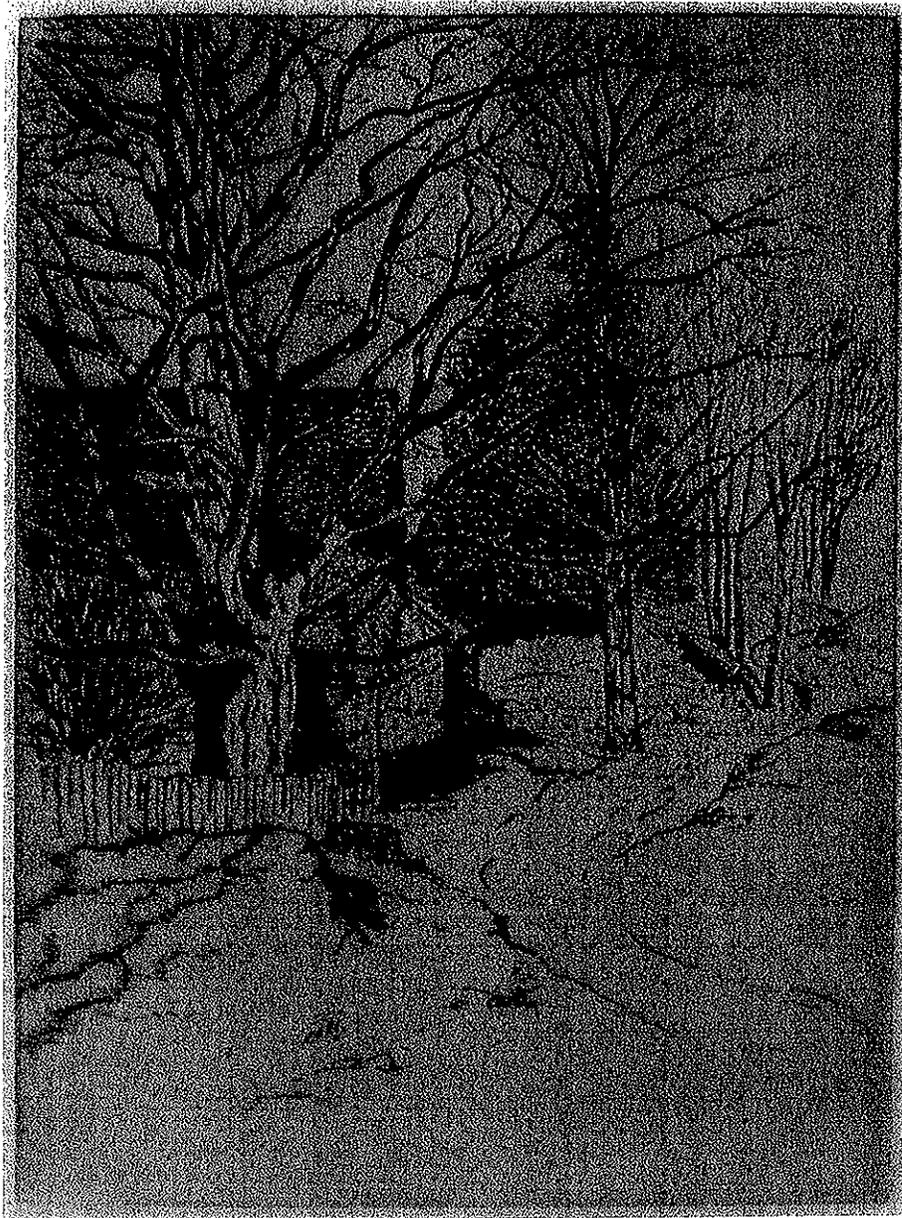


Figure 53. Caroline Weir Ely, *Barns at Branchville*, Etching (Before 1915).

installed in the barn during the 1911-1914 work. However, an earlier window frame can be seen in an area under the extant sash on the west wall of the tack house where shingles have fallen off (**fig. 57**). Either the tack house was built before the barn remodeling and its west-wall window sash was replaced during the circa 1911-1914 remodeling of the barn with the multi-pane sash, or the tack house was built at the same time as the 1911-1914 remodeling of the barn and the multi-pane window was installed soon after.

By 1915 the tack house appeared much as it does today. Its roof and walls were covered with wood shingles and there was one doorway located on the northwest wall. An awning window with a thirty-two-pane sash was located on the southwest wall, and a window with a sixteen-pane sash was located on the upper southeast wall just under the eaves. Openings for what appear to have been a dovecote were located on the south wall. A circa 1915-1918 photograph of J. Alden Weir shows the tack house in the background (**fig. 54**). Although only a portion of the building is visible, it is possible to make out the multi-pane window sash on the building's upper southeast wall. Other photographs thought to date to the same period show the tack house with its extant skewed conical roof, multi-pane sash on the southwest wall, and a perch and three arched openings for the dovecote on the south wall (**figs. 55 & 56**).

Post-1925 Alteration

The circa 1915-1918 photographs of the tack house show a building with the off-center conical roof that it has today. However, physical evidence in the attic/dovecote of the tack house indicates that the roof of the building was rebuilt sometime after the early 1920s. While the corner posts are full-dimension lumber, the rafters are modern, planed, 2-inch by 4-inch, and common use of planed lumber began after the mid 1920s.⁴⁰ Thus the tack house roof was rebuilt sometime after circa 1925. In addition, the rafters rest on 3 ¾-inch high blocks of wood that are attached to the top of the corner posts, indicating that the tack house roof was raised almost 4 inches at the same time that it was rebuilt.

⁴⁰Gordon Bok, "Ordering from a Sawmill," *Old House Journal* (May/June 1987), p. 48.



Figure 54. J. Alden Weir Standing at Southeast Corner of Weir House - View Looking North, East Edge of Weir Tack House in Background at Right (Circa 1915-1918).



Figure 55. Weir Tack House - View from the Southwest (Circa 1915).

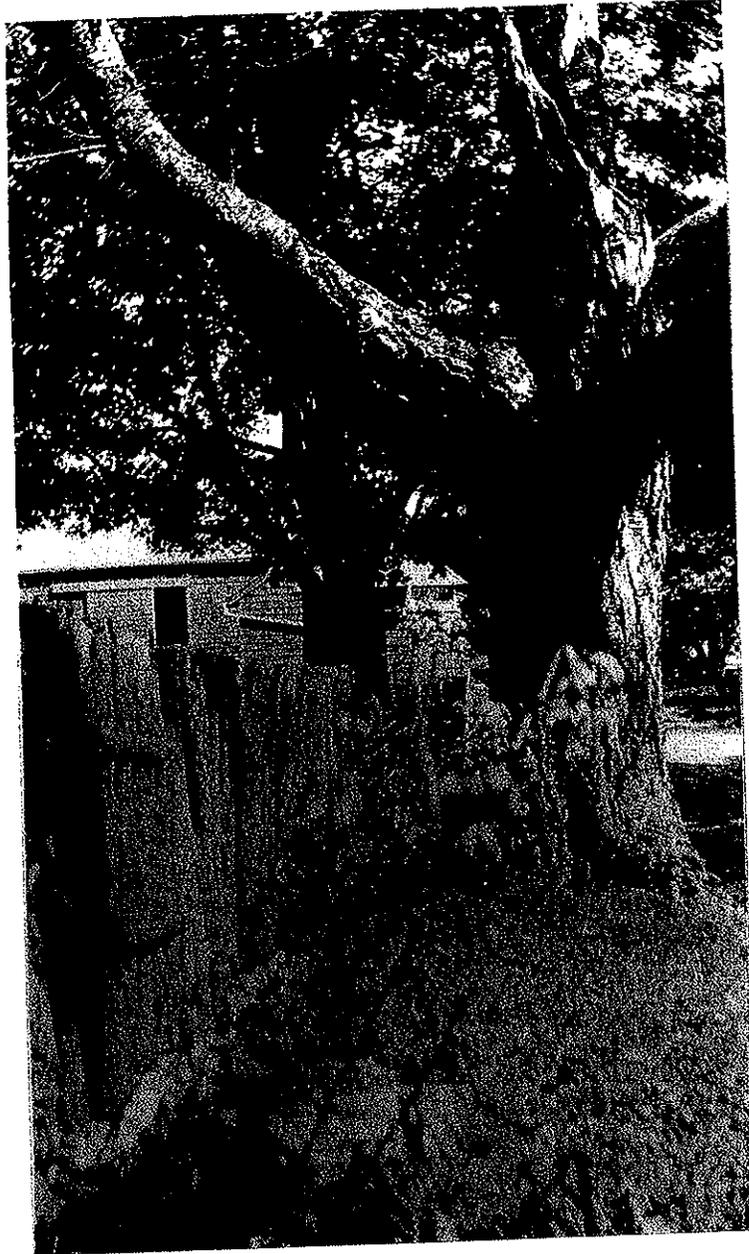


Figure 56. Glimpse of Weir Barn and Tack House --
Looking North from Nod Hill Road Side of Rustic Wooden Fence (After 1915).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

Foundation

The foundation for the Weir tack house, which is currently 2 to 3 inches below grade, consists of dry-laid fieldstone.

Framing

The framing of the tack house consists of circular-sawn, full-dimension, pine studs, sills, and plates fastened together using wire nails. The roof rafters are planed, circular-sawn chestnut timbers with a single circular-sawn chestnut collar tie running east to west. The rafters, which are fastened at their apex using wire nails, do not sit directly on the corner posts, but on blocks of wood each approximately 3 3/4 inches high that sit on the top of the posts.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS⁴¹

Overview

The Weir tack house (fig. 57) is located 4 feet 5 inches south of the east wing of the Weir barn. The tack house consists of an irregularly-shaped, octagonal, wood-frame building that is one-story high, has a conical hip roof, and measures approximately 10 feet 6 inches in diameter at its widest point. The widths of the eight walls vary; five walls are 4 feet wide, and the remaining three walls measure 2 feet 11 1/2 inches, 3 feet 8 1/2 inches, and 3 feet 10 inches wide.

The entrance to the tack house is located on the northwest facade. Multi-pane window openings are located on the southwest wall at door-height level and on the southeast wall immediately under the eave of the roof. A dovecote is situated at the top of the south/southeast wall. The building has wood-shingle siding and roofing.

Walls

Sheathing

The sheathing on the walls of the tack house is composed of random-width horizontal boards, a combination of planed, full-dimension, tongue-and-groove pine and planed full-dimension chestnut..

Siding

The walls of the tack house are covered with wood shingles. There are no fascia or corner boards on the exterior walls.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D101) on the tack house (fig. 57). The doorway is located on the northwest facade (the narrowest of the 8 walls) and measures 6 feet 1 1/2 inches high by 2 feet 2 1/2 inches wide. The opening is fitted with a door composed of vertical, tongue-and-groove, pine boards each 6 1/2 inches wide and equipped with a Norfolk Latch that has wrought iron back plate and a brass handle (fig. 58). The opening is trimmed with a 4 1/2-inch-wide plain-board surround on the sides and a 5 1/2-inch-wide plain board across the top.

⁴¹Doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the plan for the Tack House in APPENDIX B of this report. Muntin profile types refer to those contained in WEIR FARM HSR: VOLUME I, APPENDIX D.

Figure 57. Weir Tack House - West and Northwest Walls (1993).

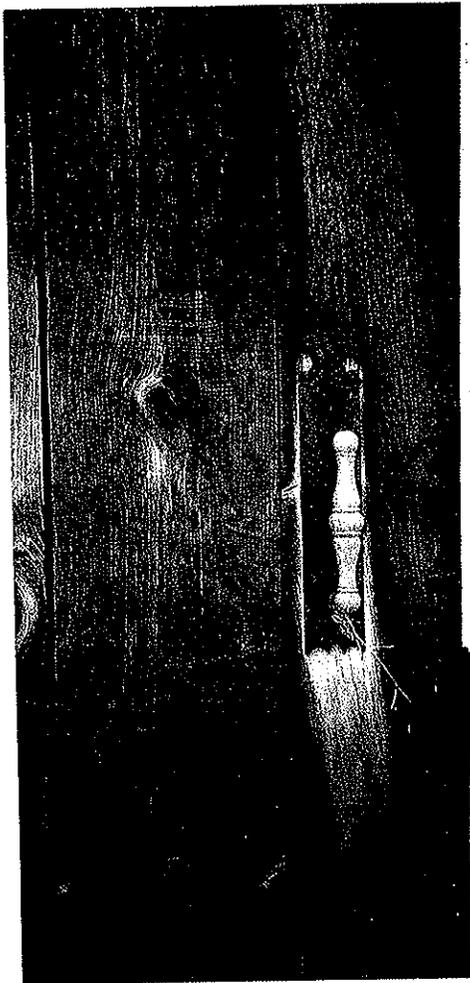


Figure 58. Weir Tack House -- Northwest Wall, Norfolk Latch on Door in Doorway D101 (1995).

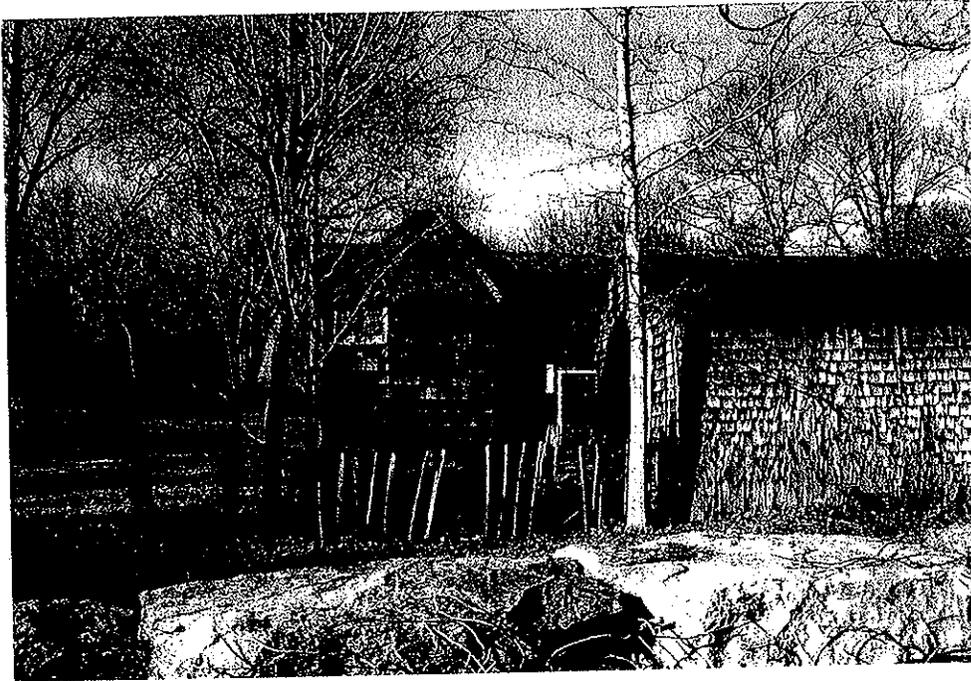


Figure 59. Weir Tack House - East and Southeast Walls (1994).



Figure 60. Weir Tack House - South Wall (1995).

Windows

There are two windows on the tack house. An awning window (W101) is located on the southwest wall of the building adjacent to the doorway (**fig. 57**). This opening measures 3 feet 2 inches wide by 2 feet 6 inches high. It is fitted with a sash of mortise and tenon construction that has thirty-two lights and muntins with profile **Type A**. The window is trimmed with a 5 1/2-inch-wide plain-board surround. The top board of the window surround is at the same height as the top board of the doorway surround.

The second window on the tack house is located on the upper southeast wall immediately under the eave (**fig. 59**). This opening (W201) measures 3 feet 1 inch wide by 1 foot 6 inches high. It is fitted with a fixed sash of mortise and tenon construction that has sixteen lights and muntins with profile **Type A**. The opening is trimmed with a 2 1/2-inch-wide plain-board surround.

Roofing Material

The roof has horizontal-board sheathing. The extant roofing on the tack house is composed of wood shingles. A copper cap covers the roof peak.

Miscellaneous

The entrance to a dovecote is located on the upper south/southeast wall (**fig. 60**). Three arched openings, each measuring 3 1/2 inches wide by 6 inches high, are centered 6 1/2 inches apart on the wall and approximately 9 inches below the eave of the roof. A perch comprised of a 4-inch-deep shelf supported by two 8-inch-high brackets spans the width of the wall below the openings.

Paint Finishes

The window sashes and the window and doorway trim are painted white. All other exterior elements are unfinished.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS⁴²

Overview

The interior of the tack house consists one eight-sided room (the tack room) on the first floor and an attic room or "dovecote" overhead. Entrance into the tack house is made through the doorway on the northwest wall of the tack room. A hatchway in the tack room ceiling opens to the attic room.

Room 101 - Tack Room

Overview

The tack room (Room 101) occupies the entire first floor of the tack house. The room has eight walls and contains approximately 61 square feet. The doorway into the building is located on the northwest wall of the room, and a window is located on the southwest wall.

Flooring

The flooring in the tack room is composed of 3 3/8-inch-wide, tongue-and-groove, fir boards laid directly on the ground.

Walls

The walls of the tack room are lined with vertical, tongue-and-groove, red-cedar boards that measure 7/8 inches thick by 4 inches wide (**fig. 61**).

Shelves are built into the west wall under window W101. The top and sides of the shelves are 12-inch-wide, 2-inch-thick boards on which remnants of wrought nails are visible. Nails in a board on the northeast wall and nails on the north wall act as hooks.

Doorway

The only doorway (D101) in the tack room is located on the northwest wall.

Window

There is one window (W101) in the tack room, located on the west wall.

⁴²Details on the size and configuration of windows and the exterior doorway can be found in **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS, "Doorways" and "Windows"**. Doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the plan for the tack house in **APPENDIX B**.

Ceiling

The ceiling is lined with the same type of red-cedar tongue-and-groove boards used on the walls, installed in an east/west direction. A hatchway that opens into the attic room is located near the southeast corner of the room (fig. 61).

Paint Finishes

The sash in Window W101 is painted white. All other features in the tack room are unfinished.

Room 201 - Attic Room (Dovecote)

Overview

Room 201 occupies the entire attic level of the tack house. It is an 8-sided room that was most recently used as a playroom, but apparently was originally used as a dovecote. The attic room has kneewalls and a sloping eight-sided ceiling and is approximately 6 feet high at its highest point. A window is on the southeast kneewall and dovecote openings are on the south kneewall. A hatchway from the first level is located in the floor near the southeast corner of the room.

Flooring

The flooring in the attic room is composed of salvaged boards of various widths and lengths.

Walls

The walls of the attic room are kneewalls that are approximately 2 feet 6 inches high. Four of the kneewalls (the southwest, south/southwest, northwest, and north/northwest) are lined with the same vertical, tongue-and-groove, cedar boards found on the walls of the tack room below. The other 4 kneewalls are lined with salvaged boards of various widths installed vertically. The boards are installed beginning at the level of the attic room flooring. The top of each of the walls is trimmed with a plain-board fascia.

The tops of the eight corner posts are visible at the top of the kneewalls. Blocks of wood measuring 3 3/4 inches high are attached to the top of the posts and in turn support the roof rafters.

Hatchway

The only access into the attic room is through a hatchway located in the floor near the southeast corner of the room. The opening measures 1 1/2 feet by 2 feet.

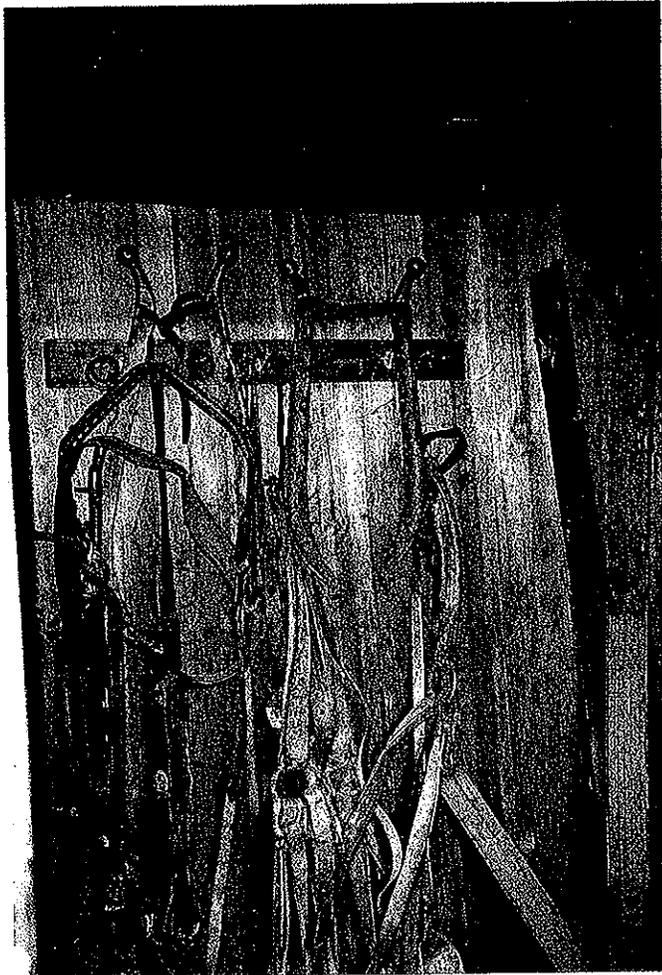


Figure 61. Weir Tack House – Tack Room [Room 101] (1995).

Window

There is one window (W201) in the attic room, located on the southeast wall. The dovecote openings are located on the south/southeast wall.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the attic room consists of the exposed rafters and sheathing of the tack house roof.

Paint Finishes

The sash in Window W201 is painted white, and there are paint remnants on some of the salvaged flooring boards. All other features in the attic room are unfinished.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS

Electrical System

The tack house receives electricity from an extension cord that runs from the east wing of the barn to the top north corner of the tack house's northwest facade, across the wall to the junction of the northwest facade and southwest wall, then down to the top of the northwest-wall doorway, where it enters the building between the doorway and the west-wall window surrounds. On the interior, the wire travels across window W101 and down to an electrical outlet. This "system" was probably installed by the Andrews.

Protection System

A lightning rod is located at the peak of the roof. A cable runs from the lightning rod down the northeast slope of the roof and across to the east wing of the barn.

IV. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1890-1900 - Construction

The rustic wooden fence (the rustic fence) was built by Weir sometime between 1890 and 1900. Its earliest documented appearances were in historic photographs showing the Weir house and grounds before the 1900 Platt addition was built (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). The wooden fence replaced a more formal wooden picket fence that ran along Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane on the east and south sides of the house, and possibly also between the house and the barn to the north. The earlier picket fence can be seen in two historic photographs taken before 1888 (**figs. 62 & 63**). The photographs show that at least one gate was located along the south fence, and that another gate was located along the east fence in line with the east entry of the Weir house. The fence and its square gate posts and post caps were harmonious with the Greek Revival-style entrance doorway on the east facade of the Weir house, shown in a third pre-1888 historic photograph (**fig. 64**). The latter photograph also shows a similar picket-type fence that ran for several feet in a westerly direction from the southwest corner of the west wing of the Weir barn, and then turning north to run along the west side of the barn.

A good comparison between the earlier picket fence and the later rustic fence can be made by examining two additional historic pre-1900 photographs of Weir farm. One view (**fig. 65**) looks east from the east entrance to Weir house and shows the earlier picket fence and east gateway. In the second photograph (**fig. 66**) the view is from across Nod Hill Road towards the east entry of the house and shows the east face of the rustic fence. The east side of the rustic fence has no gate in line with the Weir house east entry, reflecting Weir's decision to relocate the primary entrance to the house to its south side. It is thought that a gate along the east span of the rustic fence was relocated closer to the barn and tack house to the north.

Other types of fencing are known to have existed at Weir farm before 1900. In an 1888 photograph of Anna Weir and the Weirs' infant son J. Alden Jr., a wide open-rail gate with regularly-spaced horizontal boards can be seen in the background set between two posts at the entrance to the barn courtyard. To the east of the gate can be seen a stockade fence running from the east gate post past the south side of the barn's east wing, but the area to the west of the gate is blocked by Anna's reclining figure. However, a circa-1895 photograph of the barnyard (see **fig. 10**) shows that the area to the west of the gate had an open-rail fence with irregularly-spaced horizontal boards. Yet another phase of fencing can be seen in a circa-1900-1903 photograph (**fig. 14**) that shows the stockade fence still standing on the east side of the east gate post, but now a closely-spaced picket fence has replaced the open-rail fencing on the west. The picket fence connects the west post with the southeast corner of the barn's west wing, while the stockade fence now connects the east gate post to the end of the new circa-1890-1900 rustic fence at Nod Hill Road. Eventually, the entire barn courtyard fence would be replaced with a continuation of the rustic fence (see **figs. 17 & 69**).

It is not known why the picket fence was replaced by the rustic fence, since the former appeared to be in good condition in the above-cited photographs. A possible reason is that Weir was interested in the rustic aesthetic popularized by the Adirondack style, and began to introduce rustic features on his farm around 1890.⁴³ This is evident in the rustic trellis west of his studio, discernible in a circa 1900-1910

⁴³Weir had purchased land in the Adirondacks when he married Anna and planned to build a house there. It apparently was never built. Wallace, *Historic Furnishings Report*.

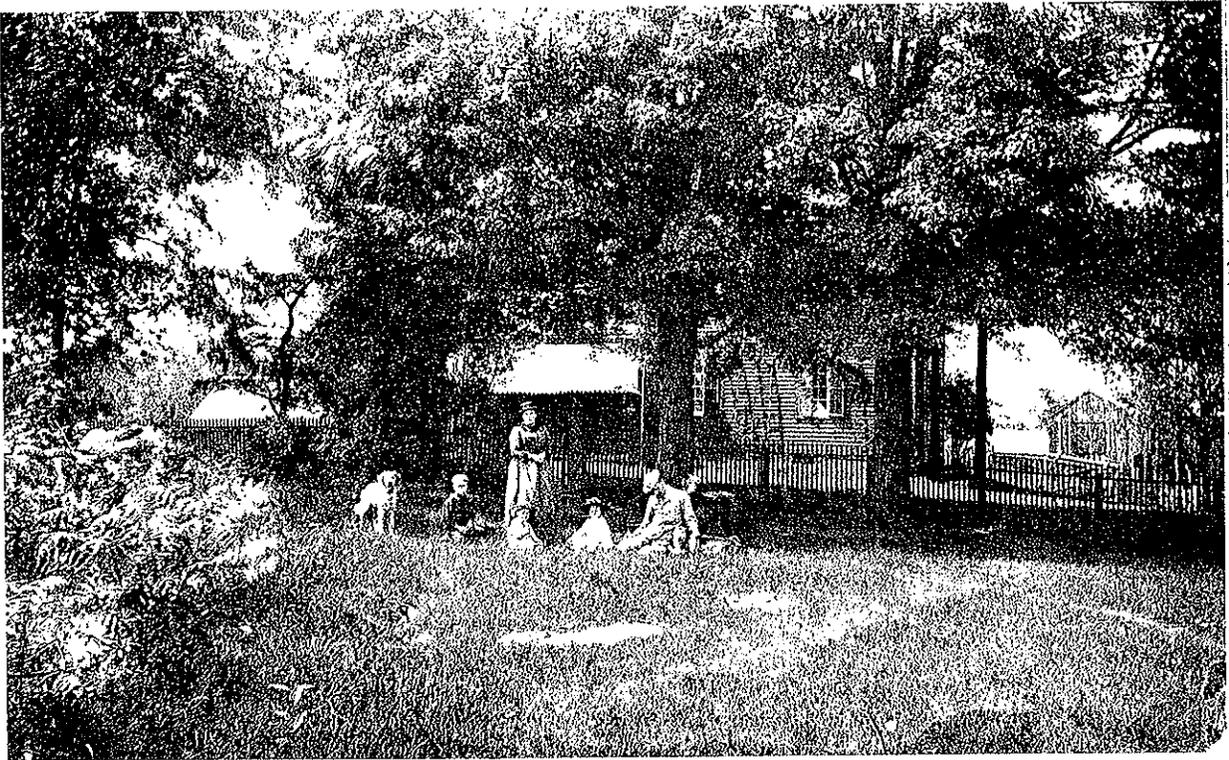


Figure 62. Weir House and South Picket Fence -- View Looking North (Before 1888).



Figure 63. South Aspect of Weir House and West Side of East Picket Fence –
View Looking East/Northeast (Before 1888).



Figure 64. East Façade of Weir House and South Side of North Picket Fence – View Looking North/Northwest (Before 1888).



Figure 65. Weir Picket Fence - Looking East (Before 1900).

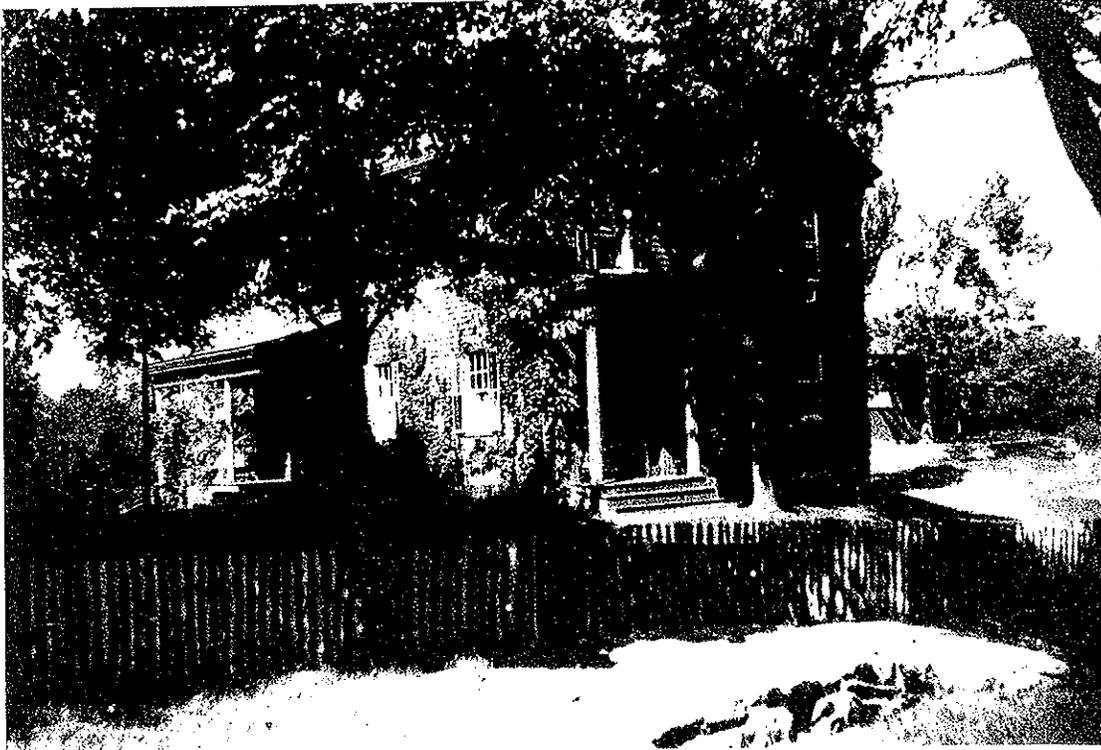


Figure 66. Weir Rustic Wooden Fence - Looking Northwest (Before 1900).

photograph of the farm (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**) and featured in his 1891 oil painting *The Grey Trellis* (**fig. 67**). Family papers mention Paul Remy, Weir's caretaker from 1890 to 1904, making "sapling fences" around the farm.⁴⁴ The rustic style is also seen in an undated photograph of a child standing near a rustic fence and two rustic birdhouses (not shown).⁴⁵ The style would also appear a few years later in free-standing garden gates made of plain wooden poles and small logs and in the wood canopy of the granite well house southwest of the house (see **fig. 6** and **figs. 100-102**).

Historical Appearance

Based on its present condition, the original rustic fence would be difficult to describe without historic photographs. The collapsed pickets and rails have altered its shape and pattern, and severe weathering of the materials hides their distinguishing characteristics. However, its location and direction are still clearly visible, and the photographs clearly show the historic fencing materials.

The rustic fence was installed along the south side of the Weir property along Pelham Lane, its west end probably beginning at a low rubblestone wall that continued to the west down the lane. The south fence, visible in a post-1931 photograph of Mahonri Young driving a sleigh down Pelham Lane (**fig. 68**), was interrupted by a gate approximately 30 feet from the lane's intersection with Nod Hill Road. The fence made a right-angle turn to the north at Nod Hill Road and continued along the east side of the property to just south of the barn compound. This east fence was interrupted by a gate near its north end. The fence made another right-angle turn to the west just south of the tack house and continued west, probably enclosing the barnyard. The north end of the east fence, the east gate, and a portion of the north fence can be seen in **figure 56** and in a circa-1940 photograph of Dorothy Weir Young standing on the east lawn (**fig. 69**).

Both the materials and construction of the fence can be seen in two historic photographs which show the east face, or Nod Hill Road side, of the fence and the west or inside face of the fence from the east lawn (**figs. 70 & 71**). The posts were made from whole logs cut in roughly 3-foot lengths with the bark still intact. The posts were driven into iron braces embedded in boulders for support. The pickets were made from split saplings that were trimmed of small branches. Visible on the flat side of each picket (the yard side) is a dark vertical line with short horizontal offshoots, which are the darker heartwood of the sapling. The fence rails were split logs roughly 7 feet long that were nailed to the outside (Nod Hill Road side) of the posts. The flat side of each picket was, in turn, nailed to the outside of the rails.

⁴⁴Young, *Life and Letters*, p. 193.

⁴⁵Weir Farm NHS archives, HP38.

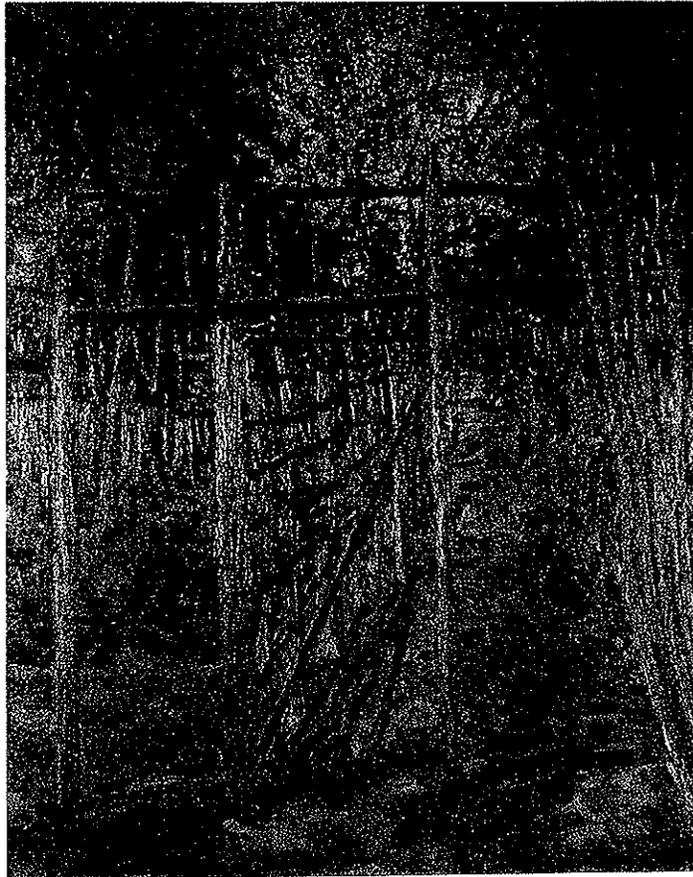


Figure 67. J. Alden Weir, *The Grey Trellis* (1891).

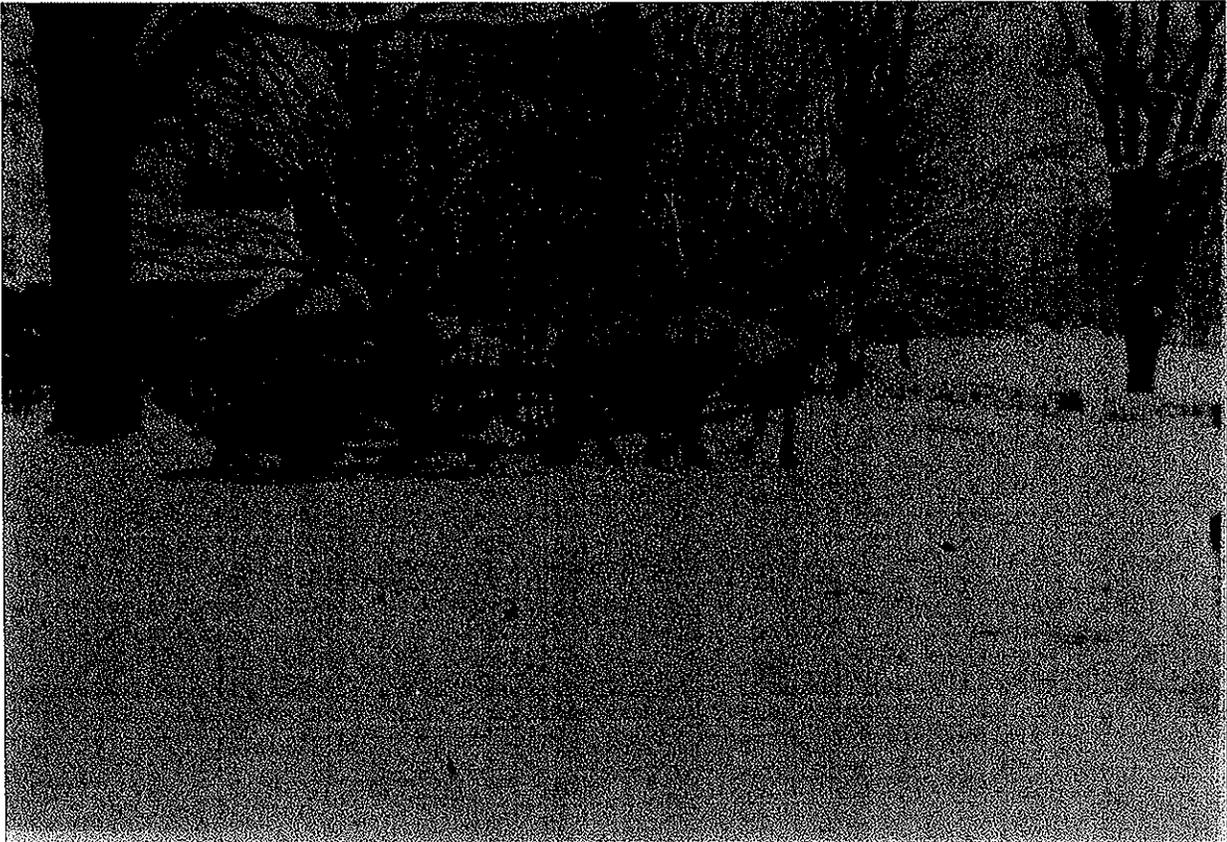


Figure 68. Mahonri Young Driving Wagon East on Pelham Lane (After 1931)



Figure 69. Dorothy Weir Young on East Lawn – View Looking North/Northeast (1940s).



Figure 70. Weir Rustic Wooden Fence – View Looking West (Between 1911 and 1918).



Figure 71. Weir Rustic Wooden Fence -- View Looking East (After 1900).

Post-1915 Alterations

The introduction of the rustic fence at Weir farm was followed by the application circa 1911-1914 of wood-shingle siding on the barn and the tack house and the construction of rustic garden gates. The "rustic look" at Weir Farm, including the rustic fence, was maintained as Weir left it into the 1930s and 1940s by Dorothy and Mahonri Young, according to photographs of the period and of Young's depiction of the grounds in his sketches and paintings (see **figs. 68-69 & 78**),⁴⁶ and Doris and Sperry Andrews allowed the fence and other rustic features to age on their own.⁴⁷

It is not known whether, or to what extent, any replacement of fence parts was done to the rustic fence before it came under National Park Service care in 1992, but by that time many pickets had fallen or were missing. The deteriorated condition of the fence indicates that it probably received little maintenance after Dorothy Weir Young's death in 1947.

The fence on the south lawn was damaged in 1994, possibly around Halloween, according to park maintenance staff, who replaced some rails and pickets with local sapling wood as an emergency measure. Salvaged pieces were stored in the Weir barn in November 1994.

Finishes History

Paint analysis revealed no paint or other finish on samples from the rustic fence, and that it was allowed to weather to its present gray color from the time of its original construction. Preliminary wood analysis at the BCB suggested that the original fence may have been constructed with northern white cedar. This assumption was based on microscopic examination of the wood samples and on examination of the historic photograph details, which show rough saplings that had many offshoots of small branches and a dark heartwood, typical characteristics of white cedar. A more detailed analysis of five samples of wood taken from the extant fencing was conducted by the Forest Products Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (**APPENDIX C**). The analysis showed that the five samples represented four different species of wood: white cedar, sassafras, spruce, and white oak. Two of the samples, taken from a post and a picket, were white cedar.

⁴⁶Family members today recall the fence around the farm. Interview 8/94 of Anna Weir Ely Smith by CZ: "[there] was a rustic fence then. Not sure if it was a different design from now. It was in better condition."

⁴⁷Interview with Doris and Sperry Andrews by Gay Vietzky, Marie Carden, and CZ.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Surviving remnants of the rustic fence are in place on the east and south boundaries of the Weir House lawn (fig. 72). The fence gateway is on the south side and opens from Pelham Lane to a stone footpath that leads to the south entrance of the house. There are a few remnants of the same type of fencing in situ between the barn and the tack house. There are also iron rods embedded in boulders adjacent to the east elevation of the Young Studio. These rods may mark the location of additional rustic fencing installed by Weir and possibly removed by Young in 1932 when he built his studio.⁴⁸

The rustic fence is a picket-and-rail fence constructed of unfinished milled and unmilled wood. Wire nails were used as fasteners in the areas examined by this researcher, which would be customarily used any time after 1890. The fence is seriously deteriorated and on the verge of collapse. The wood is so weathered at this time, it was difficult to identify the species used for its construction, thereby requiring microscopic analysis of wood samples taken from different areas of the fence (APPENDIX C). There may be little left of the original wood, which would complicate or limit the value of analysis.

Extant remnants of the fence include posts, rails and pickets. Measurements of individual elements on the fence vary because of deterioration of the material. The gate posts (fig. 73) measure 3 feet 1-1/2 inches high with a 6 3/4-inch diameter. The split rails measure 2 3/4 inches by 1 1/2 inches and are 7 feet 2 inches long. The split pickets vary in length from 2 feet 11 1/2 inches to 3 feet 1 inch, and each measures approximately 2 inches by 2 1/2 inches thick. Iron rods embedded in boulders, wood or the ground are inserted into the fence and gate posts.⁴⁹ From the exposed iron rods embedded in boulders that remain, it can be determined that the rods are roughly 15-1/2 inches long by 3/4 inches in diameter and have 3-inch prongs at the top that were used for exterior braces.

⁴⁸This may be the fence shown in Weir's circa-1890 painting *The Grey Trellis*.

⁴⁹The iron rods strengthen or support the fence posts, thus promoting its stability. From an interview at Weir Farm in 1993 between maintenance facility manager Bob Fox, BCB architectural conservator Marie Carden, and Ray Meyer, a retired local carpenter. Meyer's father was a local builder (Charles Meyer Builders), who did some work at Weir Farm in the 1930s and 40s, working on the Young Studio, Weir Barn and Burlingham House.



Figure 72. Weir Rustic Wooden Fence – View Looking North (1993).



Figure 73. Weir Rustic Wooden Fence - Detail (1993).

V. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
ICE HOUSE

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1891 - Construction

Exterior

Configuration

The structure known as the Weir ice house was built sometime around 1891, erected approximately 100 feet north/northwest of the Weir barn. Documentary and physical evidence indicates that the extant structure evolved in several phases. The original ice house was a rectangular gambrel-roof structure; the extant north-wall lean-to (originally located on the south façade) and the cupola were added at later dates.

Evidence that helps to date the construction of the original ice house includes artwork, historic photographs and family papers, as well as extant physical evidence in the building itself. The earliest documented reference to the existence of the building was in a letter written to J. Alden Weir by his brother John in September 1891:

The ice still holds out, but Paul says it's about the last of it . . . We have the road over which he draws the ice in good shape for the next winter. . . [A]nother lining of boards for the ice house would preserve the ice better through the warm weather – perhaps filled with saw dust, if that would not rot.⁵⁰

A pastel by J. Alden Weir entitled *The Ice House* (fig. 74), also thought to date to 1891, and an undated charcoal sketch by Weir entitled *Ice House, Branchville* (not shown) appear to be early views of the building. The circa-1891 Weir pastel is a very impressionistic view of the side of the ice house, with vegetation obscuring parts of the building, but it appears to be depicted as a rectangular structure with one large opening at the right end of the long wall. No lean-to or cupola is shown.

The ice house can also be seen, albeit obscured by the branches of a crooked tree, in the background of two historic photographs apparently taken at the same time and dating to circa 1900-1905: one of Cora Weir (born in 1892) as a child approximately 10 years of age standing on a sled in the snow on the ledge to the west of the barn and to the south of the ice house (see fig. 13); and one of J. Alden Weir standing in the snow in a similar location (not shown). A third photograph of the ice house (fig. 75), thought to have been taken around the same time as the circa-1900-1905 views, shows the structure from a similar perspective but more clearly. The south facade and part of the west wall are visible and there is no cupola on the roof. On the south facade there is a small "loft" opening in the gambrel gable. Because of the sun's glare on the light-colored wall it is difficult to see if there is a doorway, although extant evidence on the interior indicates that there was. A large window can be seen at the south end of the west wall

The existing physical evidence in the main building of the ice house supports a construction date of circa 1891 for the original structure. Wire nails, commonly available after 1890, were used in its

⁵⁰JFW to JAW September 26, 1891

construction as well as full-dimension sawn lumber, which was most commonly used between the 1880s and the 1920s.

Surviving evidence also indicates that the opening depicted on the side wall in Weir's circa-1891 pastel and in the circa-1905 photograph (figs. 74 & 75) was an original feature. Marks in the existing vertical-board siding at the south end of west wall delineate where a large window used to be located. Similar evidence exists for an opening at the south end of the east wall. These two windows are thought to have opened to a small room at the south end of the building (see **Interior** below). The windows appear to have been moved to a later addition that is now the north lean-to (see **Post-Construction Alterations: Pre 1934 – Lean-To**, below). The extant frames on the lean-to openings have retained shutter pintles, suggesting that the windows had been fitted with shutters when they were located on the south end of the ice house. These shutters would probably have remained closed most of the time, opened only when someone was in the south room retrieving or packing ice and needed light to see.

The circa 1905 photograph of the ice house (fig. 75) and the extant physical evidence indicates that the south-end windows on the east and west walls were inordinately large for the building. This evidence suggests that the windows had originally been located on another building on the farm and reused on the ice house when it was built circa 1891. Because their sizes appear to be similar, it is thought that the windows in the extant north-wall lean-to are the south-end windows reused yet again in the lean-to when it was built on the south façade of the building sometime before 1934. However, cut nails were found in the lean-to window sills. Since wire nails were used in the circa 1891 construction of the ice house, the presence of cut nails in the lean-to window frames indicates that the frames had been initially used on another building before being installed on the ice house.

It was unlikely that there were originally additional windows on the building since windows would have lighted (and heated) the ice in the storage room. A circa-1910 photograph of the building shows no additional windows on the east wall (see fig. 77). Most of the existing window openings in the original building were installed in 1943.

Although there was no cupola on the original ice house, there may have been some form of roof ventilation (such as a modified ridge vent), a recommended feature for a late nineteenth-century ice house in order to "permit a constant current of air to pass over the upper packing, and remove the collected vapor" (fig. 76).⁵¹ Extant physical evidence indicates that the north gambrel gable also originally had a small window opening similar to that on the south facade. Together the two openings would have provided some cross ventilation for the building.

Finishes

Period publications on farm outbuildings also recommended that the exterior walls of an ice house be whitewashed or painted white to reflect the sun and to keep the interior as cool as possible. The circa-1891 Weir pastel and the 1900-1905 photographs show that the ice house had been painted a light color that was probably white. Paint analysis failed to reveal white paint under the extant red paint on most of the existing exterior vertical-board siding, but paint samples taken from the north-wall siding of the original building (that is not covered by the lean-to) shows early white paint layers. It is not known if the siding on the north-wall is original to the building, but this paint evidence does support the graphic evidence seen in the historic photographs that the ice house was painted white before it was painted the barn red color it exhibits today.

⁵¹Byron D. Halsted, ed., *Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings: Placement, Design, and Construction* (Lexington, MA: The Stephen Greene Press, 1977; reprint of 1881 edition entitled *Barn Plans and Outbuildings*), p. 143.



Figure 77. Weir Ice House – View from the Southeast (Circa 1910).



Figure 78. Mahonri Young, *The Garden Gate, Branchville* (1936).

Interior

Physical evidence indicates that the interior of the ice house consisted of two rooms, with both rooms open to the ceiling (the extant attic floor was not an original feature). Evidence on the south wall and the original exterior north wall shows that there were doorways into the ice house in the same locations as the present doorways D101 and D103, both openings extending from the floor to the wall plate (the south doorway is now 9 inches lower than the original doorway).

Examination of the exposed roof framing in the attic room of the extant building revealed that the ice house originally had a single east/west collar tie, only remnants of which remain on the east and west walls. This timber was placed approximately 8 feet from the south end of the building. Its existence and placement suggests that there may have been a partition at this location dividing the building into north and south rooms. The north room, which would have been the larger of the two rooms measuring approximately 12 feet square, would have been used to store the ice. From nail hole evidence on the collar tie remnants, it appears that this room was lined with boards to help insulate the area, also a recommended feature according to late nineteenth-century publications.⁵² The conjectured south room would have been the smaller of the two rooms, measuring 12 feet wide by 7 feet 6 inches deep. This room may have been a foyer, used as access to the ice stored in the ice room while helping to insulate the latter from the warm outside air.

There would have also been a doorway or opening in the partition dividing the two rooms. The opening would have allowed for access to the ice in the north room during the warmer months. A covering such as board planks would have been placed over the opening to be removed only as necessary. Packing the room in the winter with blocks of ice (along with straw or sawdust insulation) was probably performed through the north-end doorway. It is likely that both rooms of the ice house had a dirt floor.

Post-Construction Alterations

Circa 1910 - Lean-To

Today the ice house has a shed-roof lean-to attached to its north end. However, graphic and physical evidence show not only that the extant lean-to does not date to the construction of the ice house, but also that it was originally attached to the building's south façade.

The circa-1891 Weir pastel *The Ice House* suggests that there was originally no lean-to on the ice house, and from the circa 1900-1905 photographs (see **figs. 13 & 75**) it is known that there was no such feature on the south façade of the ice house at that time. The south lean-to first appears in a photograph of the ice house labeled "milk house" that was taken before 1934 and probably soon after the circa 1905 photographs, or circa 1910 (**fig. 77**). The photograph shows the ice house from the southeast, which can be determined by the presence of the tree just in front of the lean-to that is also visible in the circa 1900-1905 photographs, and from the distinctive rock outcroppings to the southwest of the building. From the circa-1910 photograph it can be seen that:

⁵²Halsted, *Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings*, p. 142.

- the view can be dated to circa 1910: the ice house did not have a cupola (added circa 1934 - see **Circa-1934 – Cupola**), and the tree to the south of the building is of similar shape and size as that shown in the circa-1905 photograph, indicating that the view was shot added soon after that date;
- a lean-to with a shed roof had been built on the south façade of the ice house;
- there was no north lean-to; and
- the loft window in the south gable had been blocked (the outline of the opening is just visible in the view) and a small triangular-shaped opening installed at the gable peak..

The view also shows that the south-end window on the east wall of the ice house had been removed and a window of similar size installed in the east wall of the lean-to. This evidence strongly suggests that both of the south-end windows on the east and west walls of the ice house were moved to the east and west walls of the lean-to (and the former window openings boarded up) when the south lean-to was built.. There is no other evidence that the building was ever used as a milk house, but it is possible that the original south room of the ice house was used to store milk, thus earning the appellation.

The ice house is featured in a 1936 drawing by Mahonri Young titled *The Garden Gate, Branchville* (**fig. 78**), which depicts the garden gate and hedge of the “Secret Garden” from the south/southwest, the corn crib in the background on the left, and the ice house to the right of the gate. The ice house is shown with the south lean-to, the triangular opening at the peak of the south gable, and the cupola with its side vents. Young also shows the original loft window fitted with what appear to be louvers -- it is possible that in the circa-1910 photograph the window had been fitted with a transom or casement panel that by 1936 had been replaced by a louver vent. The window on the west wall at the south end of the ice house has been removed; however, no window is shown on the west wall of the lean-to, although a large window is shown on the east wall of the lean-to in the circa-1910 photograph.

The former existence of the south lean-to is confirmed by extant physical evidence. A line of what appears to be zinc flashing attached using modern steel cut nails (post-1890) extends across the south wall of the ice house just below the “Palladian” windows, ending approximately 9 inches from the edge of the outside walls. The ghost of a possible stringer that held the roof rafters can be seen 9 inches below the flashing. A series of cut-nail holes runs down the east and west ends of the wall approximately 1 foot 1 inch from the wall edge, marking the location of the attached studs for the exterior lean-to walls. These features correspond to the configuration of the south lean-to seen in **figures 77 and 78**.

Finishes

The circa 1910 photograph shows that the ice house and the south lean-to were painted white, as the ice house had been since its construction. Because the physical evidence of the lean-to has survived on the extant siding (flashing, nails, etc.), it is known that this siding pre-dates the construction of the lean-to.

Circa 1934 - Cupola

The extant cupola was added to the ice house after the south lean-to was built and no later than 1934. The feature does not appear in the circa-1910 photograph that shows the lean-to (**fig. 76**), but was depicted, along with the lean-to, in Mahonri Young’s 1936 drawing *The Garden Gate, Branchville* (**fig. 78**). A copper label fastened to the south wall of the west wing of the barn records that the extant lightning rod equipment on the peak of the cupola roof was installed in 1934, which was probably soon after the cupola was built.

That the cupola was added after the ice house was built is also evidenced by several extant physical features in the building, such as the framing in the cupola, which is planed lumber and not the full-dimensioned lumber used in the main building.⁵³ In addition, the extant wooden roof shingles, which are thought to have been installed in the early 1930s, continue under the cupola walls. If the roof had been shingled with the cupola in place, the roof shingles would have run up to the cupola, not under it. Therefore, the cupola must have been built at the same time or after the shingles were installed.

1943 - Conversion to Chicken House

Overview

An entry in Dorothy Weir Young's account book for May 1943 refers to the "chicken house" with two amounts - \$237.64 was spent on unspecified improvements and \$39.55 allocated to a cement floor. This entry probably recounts the conversion of the ice house to a chicken house by the Youngs. A chicken yard with a coop had stood near the present location of the Young studio at least as early as 1905 (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). This chicken coop was depicted in Weir's early-1890s pastel entitled *Feeding the Chickens* (see fig. 95), and in a pre-1932 photograph (see fig. 96). The chicken yard was dismantled in 1932-1933 when Mahonri Young's studio was built and the function of housing the chickens was transferred to a new chicken coop, located approximately 10 to 15 feet off the northwest corner of the ice house. A 1941 Mahonri Young sketch entitled *Chicken Yard B'ville* shows the structure (see fig. 94).

It is known that the building was being used as an ice house at least until after 1931, when electricity was brought into the Weir farm complex (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). Family and friends recollect that the Youngs did not get a refrigerator immediately after electricity was available, but continued to use the ice house to store blocks of yellowish-brown ice from Weir pond for an "enormous" ice box until the early 1940s.⁵⁴ The building was referred to as the "ice house" as late as 1939 in Dorothy Weir Young's account book. The account book entries also record that the Youngs lived most of each year between 1942 and 1946 at Weir farm, rather than returning to their apartment in New York City, which had previously been their normal practice. Mahonri Young's son, Bill Young, recalls that after the beginning of World War II the Youngs "were in Connecticut more frequently and became less spartan."⁵⁵ It is probable that with the advent of World War II and the accompanying food rationing, the Youngs decided to live year round at Weir farm and to increase the size of their poultry flock, converting the ice house to a chicken house to have more room for poultry than the chicken coop provided.

Exterior

The conversion of the ice house to a chicken house had a significant impact on the exterior appearance of the original building. The building was painted red, probably for the first time.⁵⁶ Three large windows were installed on the first level of the east wall. The sashes in these openings were installed sideways (i.e., horizontally instead of vertically) and were used as awning windows. Three smaller square windows were installed above these three windows on the upper level of the east wall. A pseudo-Palladian window arrangement made up of four sashes of different sizes was placed on the upper south gambrel wall

⁵³The dimensions of planed lumber are less than the size designation: e.g., currently the actual measurements of a "2x4" are 1 1/2 inches by 3 1/2 inches. Planed lumber was commonly available after the mid-1920s. See Bok, "Ordering from a Sawmill," p. 48.

⁵⁴Interview with BY & Sperry Andrews 1/12/93; with BY 5/15/94.

⁵⁵ CZ interview with BY 8/21/94.

⁵⁶Dorothy Weir Young's account book 1927-1946, entry for May 1943.

immediately under the eaves. The center sash was installed in what was probably the original south-façade opening that had been louvered in 1936 (see **fig. 78**). The small triangular opening at the peak of the south gable (seen in **figures 77 and 78**) was blocked. Yet another window was installed immediately under the eaves on the north gambrel wall, replacing the original opening on that wall

The two three-pane sashes in the side openings in the south-façade Palladian window arrangement are thought from their muntin profiles to have originally been basement windows on the north wall of Weir house that were removed during the 1911 dining-room expansion. Most of the remaining sashes in the ice house have muntins with variations of profile **Type B**, the same profile type found on extant sashes in the 1932 Young studio (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I, APPENDIX D**). Some of the sashes installed in the ice house, therefore, could have been salvaged from the studio. However, analysis of paint samples taken from the window sashes of the two structures shows that the stratigraphies in the ice house samples are similar but shorter than those in the studio samples. It is more probable that the **Type B** sashes installed in the ice house in 1943 simply had a similar **Type B** muntin profile as the sashes in the Young studio that had been installed ten years previously

It is thought that the extant north-wall lean-to was originally the south lean-to that was relocated to the north wall of the ice house, and that this move occurred sometime when the building was converted to a chicken house in 1943. Since the extant north-wall lean-to appears to be the same size and configuration as the south lean-to shown in **figures 77 and 78**, it is most likely the same structure. When the building became a chicken house, an entry protecting the interior from the heat of the southern sun was no longer necessary as it was when the building was an ice house with a milk room, and in fact the additional heat would have been desirable in a chicken house. Furthermore, the “Palladian” window arrangement that was installed on the south façade as part of the 1943 conversion is a rather elaborate touch for a chicken house, and a shed-roof lean-to plunked under it would have lessened the desired classical effect. In addition, the physical evidence on the interior shows that the north-wall doorway into the extant lean-to was installed when the new attic floor was in place (see **Interior**, following), dating that doorway to no earlier than 1943. The windows on the east and west walls of the extant lean-to, which were probably first used in the south-end windows on the original ice house and then moved to the south lean-to when it was built sometime before 1934 (see **Post-Construction Alterations – Pre-1934 Lean-To**) have sashes which appear to be 1943 replacement sashes, exhibiting the same circa-1943 muntin profile **Type B** as found on the other 1943 sashes on the building.

Extant physical evidence indicates that the lean-to was installed on the north wall at the same time or after an electrical conduit was extended through the ice house. A cloth electrical cable runs through the attic and down the original exterior north wall of the ice house (most of which is now covered by the lean-to). The cable and staples attaching it to the building are painted the same white color as the interior north-wall siding, indicating that both were painted at the same time, and neither exhibits evidence of the red paint applied to the exterior when the building was converted to a chicken house. It would be logical to assume that electrical service was being extended to the building when it was converted to a chicken house in 1943. However, no evidence of outlets or switches has been found in the building. Originally the line went underground to power a pump at an artesian well sunk to the north of the building in 1936, and it appears that the ice house was simply being used as a support for the electrical conduit to this well (see **PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and EXISTING FEATURES – WELL HOUSES: Artesian Well**).

Interior

The primary changes on the interior of the building besides the addition of windows involved flooring. An attic floor was constructed and, according to Dorothy Young’s account book, a cement floor

was poured on the first level over the original dirt floor. Building the attic floor necessitated lowering the south entrance opening by 9 inches and fitting it with a new door. A roosting area was built along the west wall of the first-floor room, and a feeding trough was built under the east-wall windows. Stairs were built along the south wall in the west corner of the room that led up to the attic floor. How the attic floor area was used is not known. A barrier consisting of studs and chicken wire and a stud-frame and chicken-wire door was built around the opening for the stairs. This barrier would have prevented any poultry on the first floor from entering the attic level, and the area therefore could have conceivably been used for food storage.

A doorway was probably installed in the north wall of the chicken coop at this time, accessing the relocated lean-to.

Post 1943

There have been no significant changes to the ice house since its conversion to a chicken house in 1943. It does appear that some wall trim was added after that date. The vertical siding boards that extend under the rake board on the south gable have red paint on them, indicating that the rake-board trim was installed after the wall was painted.

Finishes History

Analysis of the paint samples removed from the exterior and interior features of the ice house revealed that most of the painted finishes were highly degraded, with only one or two layers surviving on each feature. It is probable that most of the surviving paint dates from the conversion of the ice house to a chicken house in 1943.

The paint analysis consistently revealed one to two layers of white paint on window sashes and window and doorway trim, and one to two layers of barn red paint on the siding of both the main building and the lean-to. Significant exceptions to this pattern were the siding on the north wall of the main building (not covered by the lean-to) and the door in the rear (north) exterior doorway (D102) into the lean-to. The north-wall siding had two layers of white paint under one layer of red (the color found on the siding on the entire building). The door in the lean-to exterior doorway displays an extensive stratigraphy beginning with two layers of white, then four layers of greens, and finally two layers of barn red. The door in the interior doorway between the lean-to and the chicken coop in the main building (D103) is constructed in the same manner as the door in the lean-to exterior doorway. However, this door has no evidence of paint finishes, and appears to have always been used as an interior door, possibly in the doorway between the original south and north rooms of the ice house.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

Foundation

The foundation of the Weir ice house is thought to be dry-laid fieldstone. A dry fieldstone foundation is visible on the east aspect of the building. The south, north, and east walls currently appear to sit on grade, but it seems likely that, as with several of the Weir barn complex structures, the ground has risen over the years to cover the foundation.

Framing

The roof framing for the main building of the ice house, which is visible on the interior of the attic floor, consists of full-dimension 2-inch by 4-inch rafters placed 2 feet on center. The rafters on the upper gambrel are attached using wire nails at the ridge to a 2-inch by 4-inch ridge beam, and at the bottom to 3-inch by 4-inch ridge beams on the east and west walls. The lower gambrel rafters are attached to the east and west ridge beams to 3-inch by 4-inch wall plates, also using wire nails. Remnants of an original collar beam remain on the east and west plates approximately 8 feet from the south end of the building. Three non-original collar ties composed of planed 2-inch by 4-inch boards are evenly spaced along the ridge close to the roof peak. The corner posts are covered with siding and were not visible for documentation.

The framing for the cupola, visible through an opening in the center of the roof ridge, is composed of planed 2-inch by 3-inch boards.

There are no floor joists on the first floor of the main building since the flooring is poured concrete. The attic floor is composed of planed 2-inch by 6-inch joists placed 20 inches on center. The joists run east/west and are supported by 2-inch by 3-inch boards that run horizontally along the top edge of the east and west walls of the first-floor room. The attic-floor assembly has been recently braced along the east side of the room using pressure-treated lumber. Four posts consisting of single or sistered 4-inch by 4-inch timbers sit on 1 by 8-inch planks on the concrete floor. The posts support a 4-inch by 6-inch beam running north/south under the attic floor joists. A single 4-inch by 4-inch post braces the attic floor on the west side of the room.

The framing for the lean-to shed roof is composed of full-dimension 2-inch by 4-inch boards placed approximately 2 feet 1 inch on center. The rafters are attached to the top of the south wall, the former exterior north wall of the ice house.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS⁵⁷

Overview

The Weir ice house is located approximately 100 feet to the north/northwest of the Weir barn (fig. 79). The ice house consists of a rectangular, 1 1/2-story, wood-frame main structure with a gambrel roof, and a 1-story wood-frame lean-to with a shed roof. The main structure (the original ice house built by Weir) faces south and measures 12 feet 3 inches wide by 20 feet 6 inches long. The lean-to is attached to the north end of the main structure and measures 10 feet 9 inches wide by 7 feet 5 inches deep. The entire building has vertical-board siding. The main structure's gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles and has a cupola centered on the ridge, while the lean-to has asphalt-shingle roofing.

The **south facade** is one bay wide. The main doorway is centered at the first-story level and a pseudo-Palladian window arrangement is located on the upper wall. On the **east aspect** of the structure, three large rectangular windows extend the length of the **first story** of the main structure, one square fixed window is located over each of the rectangular windows below. The only opening on the **west aspect** is fixed sash window on the lean-to. On the **north aspect**, a doorway leads into the rear of the lean-to, and a single window is situated under the gambrel on the **upper story** of the main building.

Walls

Sheathing

The sheathing on the walls of the ice house is not known.

Siding

The siding on the ice house consists of 7-inch-wide, vertical tongue-and-groove boards on the main building, and 5 1/2-inch-wide vertical tongue-and-groove boards on the lean-to. All of the siding is attached using wire nails. There is a 1-foot-square opening at the top center of the west wall of the main building. A similar-size opening is located at the bottom of the south wall to the right of doorway D101.

Trim

A 7-inch-wide plain wooden skirtboard trims the east wall of the main building and the bottom of the south wall to the east of the main entrance (D101). Plain boards that measure 3 1/2 inches wide trim the edge of the eaves on the gambrel ends of the main building, and 6-inch-wide plain boards trim the three exterior walls of the lean-to.

⁵⁷Doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the plan for the ice house in APPENDIX B. Muntin profile types refer to those contained in WEIR FARM HSR: VOLUME I, APPENDIX D.



Figure 79. Weir Ice House - Looking North (1993).

Doorways

There are two doorways on the ice house. The main entrance (D101 - **fig. 79**) is located on the south facade, and measures 6 feet 4 inches high by 3 feet 7 inches wide. This doorway is trimmed with 4-inch-wide plain surround and is fitted with a dutch door. The lower panel of the door is constructed of 7-inch-wide, vertical, tongue-and-groove boards with horizontal braces on the interior side of the panel. The upper panel consists of a frame and screening with a narrow-board cross-brace on the interior.

The second doorway is located on the north wall of the lean-to and measures 3 feet 7 inches wide (**fig. 80**). The opening is trimmed with a plain 4 1/4-inch-wide surround and is fitted with a door composed of 7 1/2-inch-wide vertical tongue-and-groove boards held together using three, horizontal, 8-inch-wide braces. The door is hung using 1-foot-long strap hinges and has a white porcelain doorknob.

Windows

South Facade

Four window sashes make up a pseudo-Palladian window on upper level of the south facade of the ice house (W205 - **fig. 79**). The center opening measures 2 feet square and is fitted with a fixed four-light sash with muntin profile **Type B-2**. This sash is flanked by two openings (W204 & W206), each measuring 2 feet 3 inches high by 1 foot 5 inches wide. These openings are fitted with fixed, three-light, vertical sashes with muntin profile **Type B-3**. The fourth opening (W207) is located over the center opening. It measures 1 foot 2 inches high by 2 feet wide, and is fitted with a fixed, three-light, horizontal sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-2**. The two flanking sashes have plain surrounds on the outside of the windows that measure 2 1/2 inches wide; the two center sashes and the tops of the flanking windows are trimmed with 4-inch-wide plain surrounds, the upper corners of which have been cut off to accommodate the slant of the gambrel roof.

East Aspect

There are seven windows on the east aspect of the ice house: six on the main building and one on the lean-to (**fig. 81**). On the **first level**, three awning windows (W102, W103 & W104) span almost the entire length of the **main building**. Each opening measures approximately 5 feet 7 1/2 inches wide by 2 feet 10 inches high, and is fitted with a four-light sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-1**. The three sashes appear to be vertical windows installed horizontally on the building. The opening on the east wall of the **lean-to** (W101) measures 2 feet 7 inches wide by four feet 7 inches high, and is currently boarded up. All four windows are trimmed with a 4-inch-wide plain surround. Old shutter hardware was found on the surround for W101.

The **upper level of the east wall** of the main building has three square window openings (W201, W202 & W203), one centered over each of the large horizontal windows on the first level. Each opening measures 2 feet square, is fitted with a fixed, four-light sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-2**, and is trimmed with a 3 1/2-inch-wide plain surround.



Figure 80. Weir Ice House - North and West Aspects (1994).



Figure 81. Weir Ice House - East Aspect (1992).



Figure 82. Weir Ice House - West Aspect (1992).

West Aspect

The west aspect of the ice house (fig. 82) has one window located at the north end on the lean-to wall. This opening (W105) is similar in size to opening W101 on the east wall of the lean-to, measuring approximately 2 feet 7 inches wide by 4 feet 7 inches high. It is fitted with a fixed, four-light, vertical sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-3**, and is trimmed with a 4-inch-wide plain surround. Old shutter hardware was found on the surround.

North Aspect

There is one window (W208) located on the **north wall** of the main building, over the shed roof of the lean-to (fig. 80). The opening measures 2 feet 10 inches wide by 3 feet 1 inch high, and is fitted with a six-light fixed sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-3**. The opening is trimmed with 5-inch-wide plain surrounds on the sides and a 4-inch-wide plain surround along the top, the upper corners of which have been cut off to accommodate the slant of the gambrel roof.

Roofing Material

Sheathing

The sheathing for the main gambrel roof and the shed roof of the lean-to is plywood over 1-inch by 4-inch strapping spaced approximately 4 inches apart.

Roofing

The gambrel roof of the ice house has wood-shingle roofing, and the lean-to roof has asphalt-shingle roofing.

Cupola

A cupola that measures approximately 2 feet 6 inches square at the base is centered on the roof ridge of the main building. Each of the four cupola walls is composed of a fixed louvered panel. A hip roof projects 10 inches from the walls. The four ridges of the cupola roof are covered with copper flashing, as is the intersection of the cupola with the gambrel roof.

Paint Finishes

The walls and wall trim of the ice house are painted barn red, as is the north doorway (D102). The window sashes, the door and window trim, the door in the entrance doorway D101, and the boards in window opening W101 are all painted white.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS⁵⁸

Overview

The interior of the Weir ice house consists of one first-floor room and an attic room in the main building and one room in the lean-to shed. Entrances into the ice house are located on the south facade of the main building and on the north wall of the lean-to, and a doorway connects the two first-floor rooms. An open staircase leads up from the main room on the first floor to the attic above.

First Floor

Room 101 - Chicken Coop

Overview

Room 101 is located at the south end of the icehouse and occupies the entire first floor of the main building (figs. 83 & 84). The last use of this room during the period of significance was as a chicken coop. The room measures approximately 11 feet 9 inches wide by 19 feet 9 inches deep. The main entrance into the building is located on the south wall of the room. A doorway to the lean-to (Room 102) is located on the north wall of the room. Recently installed posts and beams support the attic floor above.

Flooring

The flooring in the chicken coop is poured concrete.

Walls

The walls in the chicken coop are lined with 5 1/2-inch tongue-and-groove boards installed horizontally. A thick-gauge, 1/2-inch mesh screening covers the lower 2 to 3 feet of the walls.

The south wall is patched above doorway D101, marking the original height of the opening.

Doorways

There are two doorways in the chicken coop. The main entrance (D101) is centered on the south wall. The second doorway in the room is located on the north wall (D103) and accesses the lean-to storage shed (Room 102 - fig. 84). The opening is framed using circular-sawn 2-inch by 7-inch boards and measures approximately 3 feet 5 wide by 6 feet 4 inches high. There is no door in doorway D103.

⁵⁸Details on the size and configuration of windows and exterior doorways can be found in **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS, "Doorways" and "Windows"**. Doorway and window numbers refer to those used on the plan for the ice house in **APPENDIX B**.



Figure 83. Weir Ice House – Chicken Coop [Room 101], East Wall (1992).

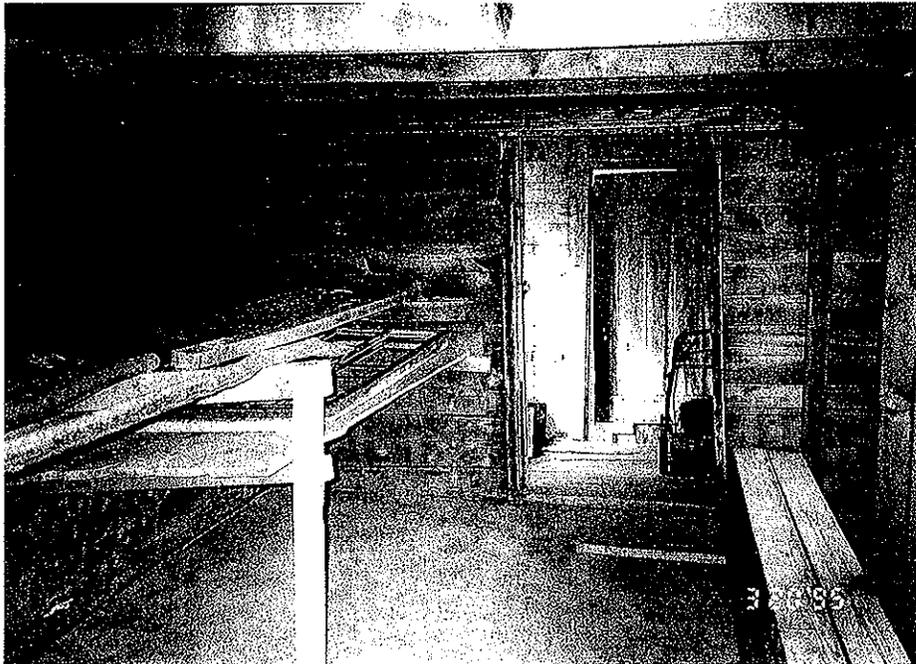


Figure 84. Weir Ice House – Chicken Coop [Room 101], Looking North into Lean-to Shed (1995).

Windows

Three horizontal windows occupy almost the entire length of the east wall of the room (W102, W103, & W104). Each window is fitted with a sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-1**. Each sash is installed as an awning window, hung using two strap hinges attached to a 2-inch by 3-inch header/lintel nailed to the wall over the opening. Bolt latches at the bottom left and right stiles of each sash hold the sashes closed from the inside.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the chicken coop consists of the exposed joists and beaded-board flooring of the attic floor above, with the beading facing down.

Miscellaneous

A 10-foot-long feeding trough is located under the windows on the east wall (**fig. 85**), and a roughly-built roosting structure is extant on the west wall. Recently-installed posts and beams add support to the attic floor above (see **STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS - PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION, "Framing"**).

Open stairs at the west end of the south wall lead west to east up to the attic.

Paint Finishes

The window sashes are painted white. The remaining features in the chicken coop are unfinished.

Room 102 - Lean-to Shed

Overview

An attached lean-to shed is located at the north end of the building. The room measures approximately 10 feet wide by 7 feet deep. It is accessed from the exterior by a doorway on the north wall, and from the chicken coop (Room 101) by a doorway on the south wall.

Flooring

The flooring in the lean-to shed is composed of circular-sawn tongue-and-groove boards that are 5 3/4 inches wide and 1 inch thick, installed in a north/south direction. The floor is not level but slants down from south to north.

Walls

The walls in the lean-to shed are lined with 5 1/2-inch-wide tongue-and-groove boards. The boards are installed horizontally on the east, west and north walls up to the top of the doorway and windows, and vertically above the openings on those walls and on the entire south wall.

Doorways

There are two doorways in the lean-to shed. The rear exterior entrance (D102) is located on the north wall. A hand-wrought hook and latch have been attached to the interior side of the door in D102 using a bent-over wire nail (fig. 85). The second opening (D103) is located on the south wall and leads to the chicken coop. This opening has no door.

Windows

There are two windows in the room, one each on the east and west walls (W101 and W105), that are approximately the same size. Opening W101 has no sash and is boarded up. Opening W105 is fitted with a fixed four-light sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-3**. Although smaller and installed vertically rather than horizontally, this sash is similar to the three sashes on the east wall of the chicken coop. Both openings in the lean-to shed are trimmed with a 4-inch-wide plain-board surround.

Ceiling

The ceiling in the lean-to shed consists of the exposed joists and sheathing of the shed roof.

Miscellaneous

A wood bin is sitting under opening W101. Two small triangular shelves are located in the northwest corner of the room approximately 3 feet and 4 feet from the floor.

Paint Finishes

Remnants of white paint have survived on the sash in opening W105 and on the surrounds of both windows. The walls and the door in doorway D101 have been whitewashed. The door in doorway D102 is unfinished.

Second Floor

Room 201 - Attic Room

Overview

The attic room comprises the entire attic floor of the main building of the Weir ice house. The room measures approximately 11 feet 9 inches wide by 19 feet 9 inches deep. Access to the room is via stairs from the first floor at the south end of the room.

Flooring

The flooring in the attic room is beaded tongue-and-groove boards with the beads facing down (visible in Room 101 below). The boards are 5 1/4-inches wide and 3/4-inch thick, and are installed in a north/south direction using wire nails.

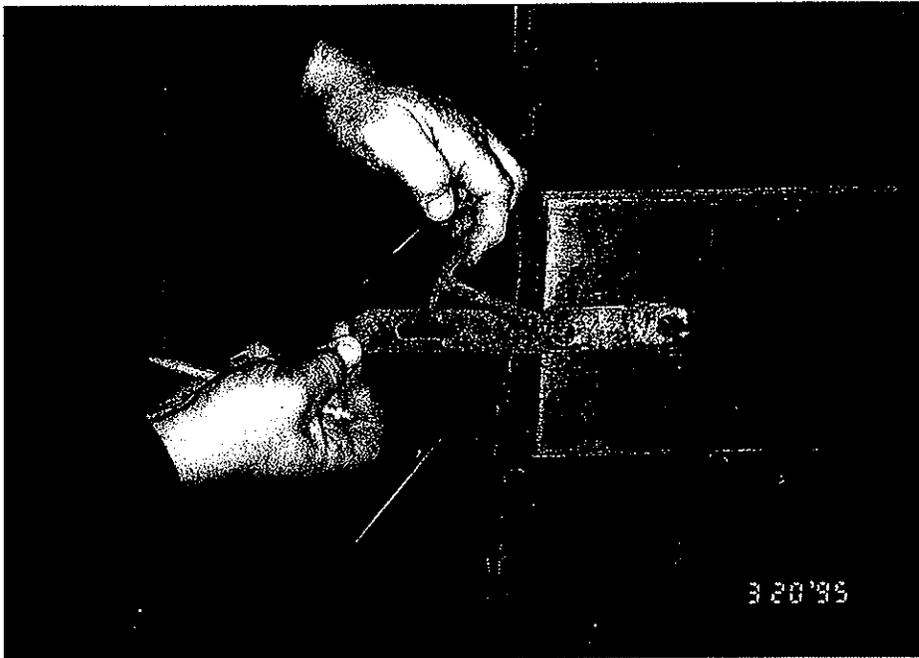


Figure 85. Weir Ice House – Lean-To Shed [Room 102],
Doorway D102 Hardware (1995).

Walls

The north and south walls and the east and west kneewalls of the attic room are covered with plain, 5 1/4-inch-wide, tongue-and-groove boards installed horizontally. The lower gambrel exhibits nail-hole evidence of having been sided at one time; it is currently uncovered with the framing exposed.

Walls have been framed around the stair opening at the south end of the room using planed 2-inch by 4-inch studs and chicken wire.

Doorways

There is one doorway (D201) at the south end of the room at the stair landing that has been fashioned out of 2-inch by 4-inch framing. The opening is fitted with a door that is composed of a wood frame and chicken wire.

Windows

There are five windows and eight window sashes in the attic room. A pseudo-Palladian window arrangement composed of four fixed sashes of different sizes and shapes is located at the center of the south gambrel wall (W205). The 2-foot-square center sash and the vertical sash above it have muntins with profile **Type C-2**, and the two vertical flanking sashes have muntins with profile **Type C-3**.

Three 2-foot-square windows are spaced symmetrically along the east kneewall, each fitted with a sash displaying muntins with profile **Type C-2** (W201, W202, &W203). One window is centered on the north gambrel wall, fitted with a sash that has muntins with profile **Type C-3**.

None of the windows have surrounds. All sashes are fixed in place using bent wire nails driven into the framing.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the attic room consists of the exposed roof framing and sheathing of the gambrel roof.

Paint Finishes

The window sashes are painted white. All other features in the attic room are unfinished.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS

Electrical System

An electrical conduit runs through the main building of the Weir ice house but does not provide electrical service. An electrical line (no longer extant) apparently came overhead from the northeast corner of the barn (see **figs. 103-106**) to a weather head (still extant) on the south façade of the main building. From there the conduit runs up the east side of the south façade, enters the building at the attic level at the top of the south facade wall, runs along the east gambrel ridge beam, and exits through the east side of the north wall of the main building. The conduit then runs down through the lean-to and to the ground, where it used to continue underground to an artesian well that is located to the north of the building. At some point the cable was cut in the lean-to and the power feed underground abandoned. Light gauge wires are spliced to the feed for another use, possibly to the outlet in the chicken coop.

Protection System

A lightning rod is located on the pinnacle of the cupola. A lightning rod cable runs from the cupola down to the lean-to roof, and then across the eaves board and down the north end of the west wall of the lean-to to the ground.

VI. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
GARDEN TOOL SHED

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1900-1925 - Construction

The Weir garden tool shed was built sometime between 1900 and 1930, probably around 1914 in conjunction with the construction of the other garden structures associated with the Weir "Secret Garden". It is known that the tool shed was built after 1900, since it does not appear in a photograph taken between 1900 and 1910 that shows the area of Weir farm to the west and south of the Weir house and studio (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). It is also thought that the tool shed was built before 1925, since it is constructed using full-dimension lumber, most commonly available between 1890 and the mid-1920s.

By the time the shed was depicted in a 1936 untitled sketch by Mahonri Young and in a 1938 Young watercolor entitled *Branchville Shed - Red Village* (fig. 86), it was referred to as "Dorothy's garden shed" after Dorothy Weir Young, who was J. Alden Weir's middle daughter and Young's wife and who inherited Weir farm in 1931. The two Young drawings show that the shed has changed little since that time. The exterior shingled walls and door of the hexagonal structure are unfinished, and the interior is painted blue.

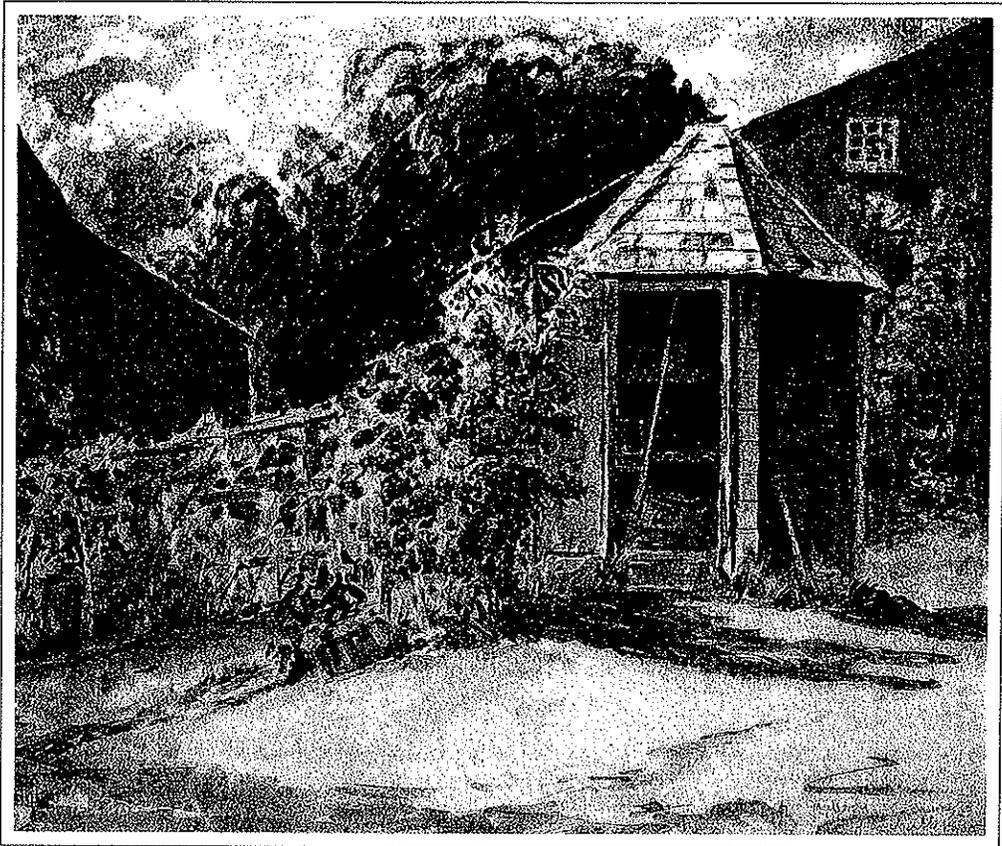


Figure 86. Mahonri Young, *Branchville Shed - Red Village* (1938).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

Foundation

The foundation of the Weir garden tool shed is composed of stone footings supporting wooden sills placed under four of the six structural posts. The southwest wall is supported by a granite blocks. Mortar has been used to patch openings in the southwest and northwest foundation walls.

Framing

The garden tool shed has sills that are 6-inch-diameter logs on the north, northeast and southeast walls, and 6-inch-square timbers on the south, southeast and southwest walls. The timbers rest on the stone or granite footings. The six corner posts are de-barked tree trunks measuring approximately 5 inches in diameter and 6 feet high. Wall plates and rafters are full-dimension 2-inch by 4-inch boards. Each rafter rests directly on the junction of two plates at each of the six corners. Two, full-dimension, 2-inch by 4-inch cross-beams run north/south across the room attached to the top of the north and south wall plates. The sole doorway is framed out on the south wall using full-dimension 2-inch by 4-inch boards.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS⁵⁹

Overview

The Weir garden tool shed is located approximately 11 feet to the south of the Weir studio water tower (fig. 87). The tool shed is a one-story, hexagonal, wood-frame building that measures approximately 9 feet high and 5 feet 6 inches in diameter and which has a conical hip roof. The building has wood-shingle siding and roofing. One doorway is located on the south facade.

Walls

The wall **sheathing** in the tool shed is composed of 5 1/2-inch-wide tongue-and-groove horizontal boards. The wall is **sided** with eleven courses of cedar shingles.

Ventilation holes have been drilled through the top of the lowest course of siding on the southeast and southwest walls.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D101) on the garden tool shed. The doorway is located on the south facade of the building and measures approximately 2 feet 4 inches side by 5 feet 8 inches high. The opening is fitted with a door constructed of wood shingles over vertical boards supported by two horizontal braces on the interior. The doorway has no exterior trim.

Roofing Material

The roof **sheathing** consists of 5 1/2-inch-wide tongue-and-groove horizontal boards. The roofing material consists of eight courses of wood shingles. A copper cap covers the peak of the roof over the shingles.

Paint Finishes

All exterior features of the garden tool shed are unfinished.

⁵⁹The doorway number refers to that used on the plan for the garden tool shed in **APPENDIX B** of this report.

Figure 87. Weir Garden Tool Shed -
View from the West (1993).

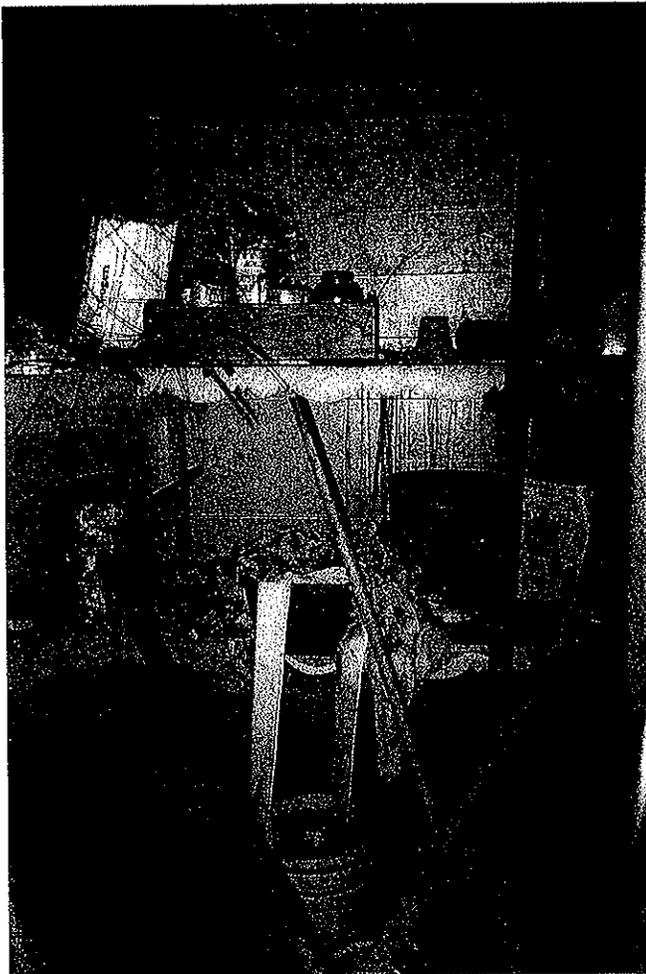


Figure 88. Weir Garden Tool Shed -
Interior (1994).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - INTERIOR ELEMENTS⁶⁰

Room 101 - Storage Room

Overview

The Weir garden tool shed interior consists of one hexagonal room that contains approximately 25 square feet and which is used to store garden tools and supplies (fig. 88). The entrance into the tool shed is made through the doorway on the south wall of the building.

Flooring

The flooring in the tool shed is composed of tongue-and-groove boards laid in a north/south direction.

Walls

The walls of the tool shed are the exposed framing and the horizontal tongue-and-groove exterior wall sheathing.

Two levels of shelves are located on the northwest, north and northeast walls. The shelves are 1 foot 6 inches deep on the rear (north) wall on both levels. The upper side-wall (northwest and northeast) shelves level are 1 foot deep, while lower the side-wall shelves are 7 1/2 inches deep. The shelves are mitered at their meeting corners, and the front edges are decorated with a scalloped trim.

Wire nails and hooks have been driven into the edges and bottoms of the plates and cross beams for hanging tools.

Doorway

The only doorway (D101) in the tool shed is located on the south wall.

Ceiling

The ceiling of the tool shed is composed of the exposed roof framing and horizontal tongue-and-groove exterior roof sheathing.

⁶⁰Details on the size and configuration the doorway on the tool shed can be found in **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR ELEMENTS, "Doorways"**. The doorway number refers to that used on the plan for the garden tool shed in **APPENDIX B**.

Paint Finishes

All surfaces on the interior of the storage room, including the exposed framing, sheathing, and the door, are painted blue.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION - UTILITY SYSTEMS

Plumbing

A water pipe runs from underground approximately 4 feet to the northwest of the building to the southwest wall, where it travels up 2 feet 3 inches and terminates in a faucet.

VII. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
CORN CRIB

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1900 - Construction

The Weir corn crib was constructed sometime before 1920 and probably around 1900. A “corn crib” listed among the outbuildings in the inventory compiled of the farm after Weir's death in 1919 is thought to refer to the extant structure. There was no corn crib on Weir farm in the summer of 1899 when a letter to Weir from his brother refers to “the corn . . . heating in the barn, and . . . there was nothing to do but for us to turn to and throw it in the field back of the barn”.⁶¹ It seems likely that the extant corn crib was built soon after this summer in response to the problem of storing the corn in the barn.

The extant physical evidence supports a circa-1900 construction date for the corn crib. The original framing was composed of a combination of hewn timbers assembled using mortise-and-tenon joinery, and wire nails toe-nailing butt-jointed, full-dimension, sawn boards; the siding was circular-sawn boards. Mortise and tenon joinery was used into the early 20th century, full dimension lumber was commonly used between 1880 and the mid-1920s, and wire nails were available after 1890. If the corn crib were built much after 1900, it is probable that full-dimension lumber would have been used for both the framing and the siding of the building, as was used in other construction on the farm known to date to the 1905-1920s period; if built after the mid-1920s, planed lumber would have been used.

The corn crib was a small, rectangular, gable-roofed structure that was probably raised on posts (the floor framing is now at grade level and is not completely visible). The walls were composed of widely-spaced vertical boards to allow for air circulation, and the only openings were doors on the east and west walls. The walls were probably covered with some sort of fine wire mesh or gauze to exclude vermin.

Post-Construction Alterations

A 1932 Mahonri Young drawing entitled *Shingling the Corn Crib* depicts two men reshingling the corn crib roof and shows the east and south exterior walls of the building (fig. 89). It appears from the drawing that the east-wall doorway had been filled in by this date.

At some undetermined point, heavy gauge 3/8-inch-mesh screening was installed on the walls to cover the gaps between the siding boards, and concrete was poured under the sills at the base of the posts, presumably in an effort to reinforce the support.

⁶¹JFW, Branchville, to JAW, 9/11/1899, reel 529/1137.



Figure 89. Mahomi Young, *Shingling the Corn Crib* (1932).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Weir corn crib (figs. 90 & 91) is located approximately 100 feet north of the Weir ice house and approximately 200 feet north of the Weir barn. The corn crib is a 1-story, rectangular, one-room building that measures 10 feet 1 inch deep by 12 feet wide. The wood-frame structure has a gable roof with the ridge running north/south. The surviving roofing is wood shingle and the siding is composed of open-slatted boards. One doorway is centered on the west wall.

Structural

Foundation

The visible foundation of the corn crib consists of sills supporting the structural posts.

Framing

The framing of the corn crib is made up of hewn timbers assembled using mortise-and-tenon joinery and of milled timbers with their butt-joints toe-nailed with wire nails (figs. 92 & 93). There are four corner posts and four additional structural posts, each measuring 5 1/2 inches by 3 3/4 inches. Timbers of the same size are used as braces situated between the posts approximately 3 feet above the floor level and as wall plates. Rafters are 2-inch by 4-inch boards installed 2 feet on center, and are attached to a 3 foot 3/4 inch by 6 inch ridge board. One collar tie that is a 5 1/2-inch by 3 3/4-inch timber acts as a brace between the west and east wall plates.

Walls

The exterior walls of the corn crib are made up of 1-inch by 3-inch vertical boards spaced approximately 1 1/2 inches apart. The boards are nailed to the wall plates and braces using wire nails. Each gap between the boards is covered with a length of heavy gauge, 3/8-inch mesh, galvanized screening that is secured using roofing nails.

The interior walls of the corn crib consist of the exposed framing and exterior siding.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D101) centered on the west wall of the corn crib. The opening spans almost the full height of the wall and measures approximately 7 feet high by 3 feet wide. The opening is fitted with

a door constructed of 3-inch-wide vertical boards that are spaced approximately 1 1/2 inches apart and attached to two horizontal braces. The doorway has no trim.

Roofing Material

The roofing on the corn crib is composed of remnants of wood roofing shingles over 1-inch by 4-inch battens spaced 3 to 4 inches apart and installed horizontally across the rafters.

Flooring

The flooring in the corn crib consists of remnants of 7-inch-wide tongue-and-groove boards installed over half-round logs used as joists.

Paint Finishes

All of the features on the corn crib are unfinished.



Figure 90. Weir Corn Crib - West Facade (1993).



Figure 91. Weir Corn Crib - South and East Walls (1993).

Figure 92. Weir Corn Crib -
Roof Framing, Interior (1993).



Figure 93. Weir Corn Crib - Wall
Framing, Interior (1993).

VIII. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
CHICKEN COOP

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1932 - Construction

The chicken coop was constructed sometime between 1930 and 1941. The building appears in a 1941 Mahonri Young drawing entitled *Chicken Yard, B'ville* (fig. 94), and was constructed using wire nails and post-1920s planed lumber. The chicken coop is thought to have been built around 1932 to replace the long shed-roof chicken coop that is known to have stood to the west of Weir studio, near the present location of the Young studio (see **WEIR FARM HSR - VOLUME I**). This chicken coop was depicted in Weir's early-1890s pastel entitled *Feeding the Chickens* (fig. 95), and in a circa-1905 historic photograph of Weir farm (fig. 96). The original chicken coop was torn down in 1932 when Mahonri Young's studio was built.

The building was used as a chicken coop at least until 1943, when the nearby ice house was converted for use as a chicken house. Being located so near to the (newly-converted) chicken house, the building may have continued to have been used as a supplementary chicken coop at least until the early 1950s.⁶²

⁶² Sperry Andrews recalls fowl in both the chicken coop and in the ice house during Mahonri Young's time. Interview with R. Fox (n.d.).



Figure 94. Mahonri Young, *Chicken Yard, B'ville* (1941).

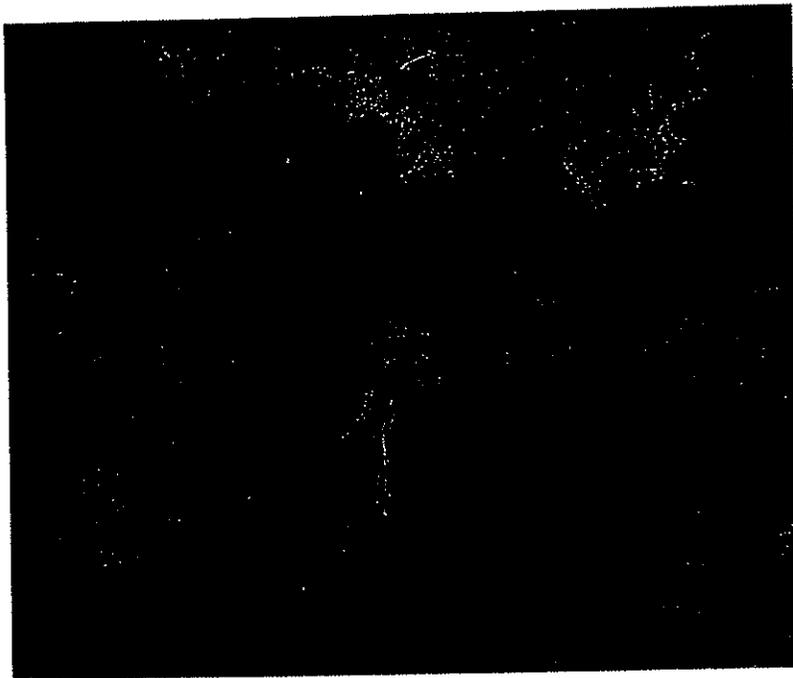


Figure 95. J. Alden Weir, *Feeding the Chickens* (early 1890s).

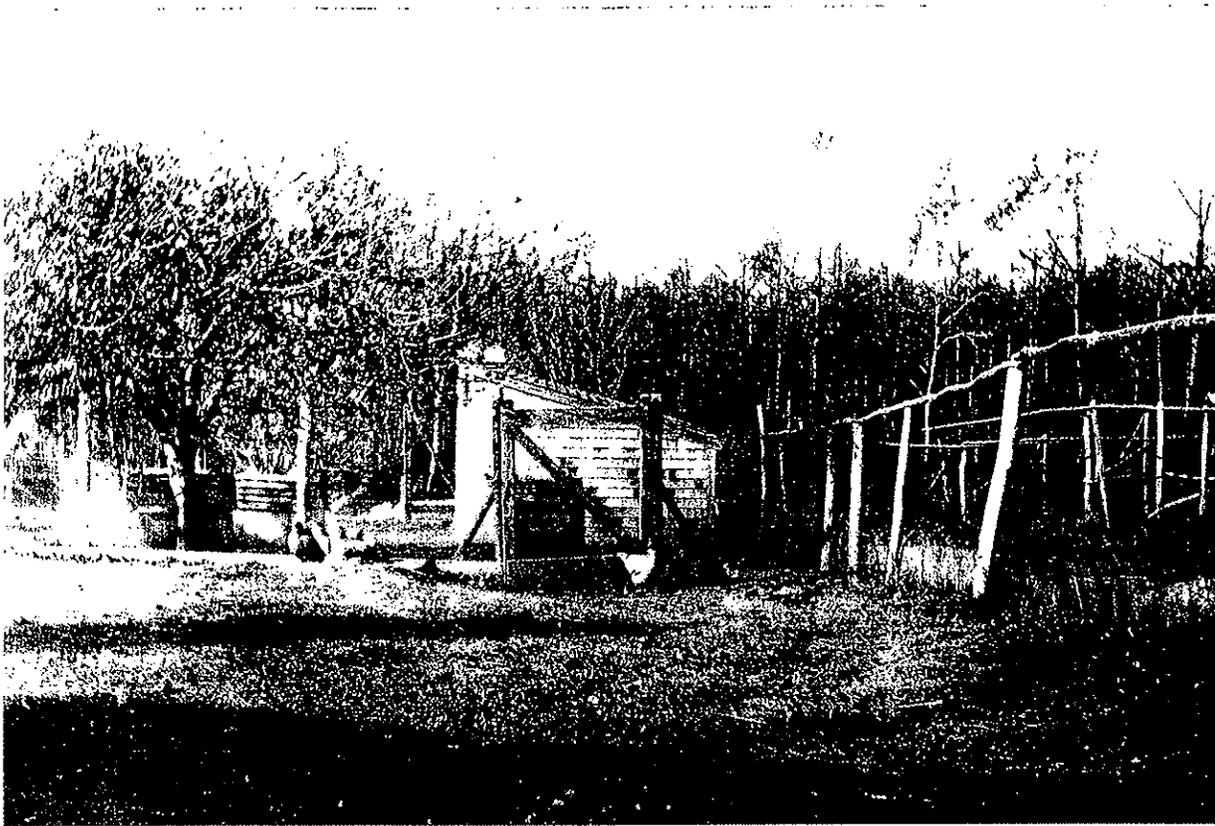


Figure 96. Weir Farm – Old Chicken Yard, View from the East (Before 1932).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Weir chicken coop (figs. 97 & 98) is located approximately 20 feet to the west of the ice house lean-to. The chicken coop is a one-story rectangular building that measures 8-feet 1-inch square and 7 feet 6 inches at its highest point. The wood-frame structure has a shed roof that slopes down to the north and contains one room. One window opening and one doorway are located on the south facade. The building has vertical-board siding and asphalt-shingle roofing.

Structural

Foundation

The chicken coop is supported on the northwest and southwest corners by piers of dry-laid stones, which hold the building somewhat level as the grade descends to the west. The northeast and southeast corners are on stone footings that have sunk below grade, causing the east side of the building to sit on grade.

Framing

The framing of the chicken coop is made up of planed 2-inch by 4-inch boards.

Walls

The walls of the chicken coop have horizontal-board sheathing. The siding is composed of 5 1/2-inch-wide, shiplapped, vertical boards. The interior walls are the exposed framing and exterior wall sheathing.

A small rectangular opening (use unknown) measuring approximately 8 inches wide by 12 inches high is framed-in at the bottom of the south wall to the west of the doorway. The opening is blocked from the interior with boards.

Doorway

There is one doorway (D101) in the chicken coop located at the east end of the building's south facade. The doorway measures 2 feet 1 1/2 inches wide by 6 feet 4 inches high, and has a 4 3/4-inch wide header that protrudes a few inches from the exterior wall plane. The opening is fitted with a door that is

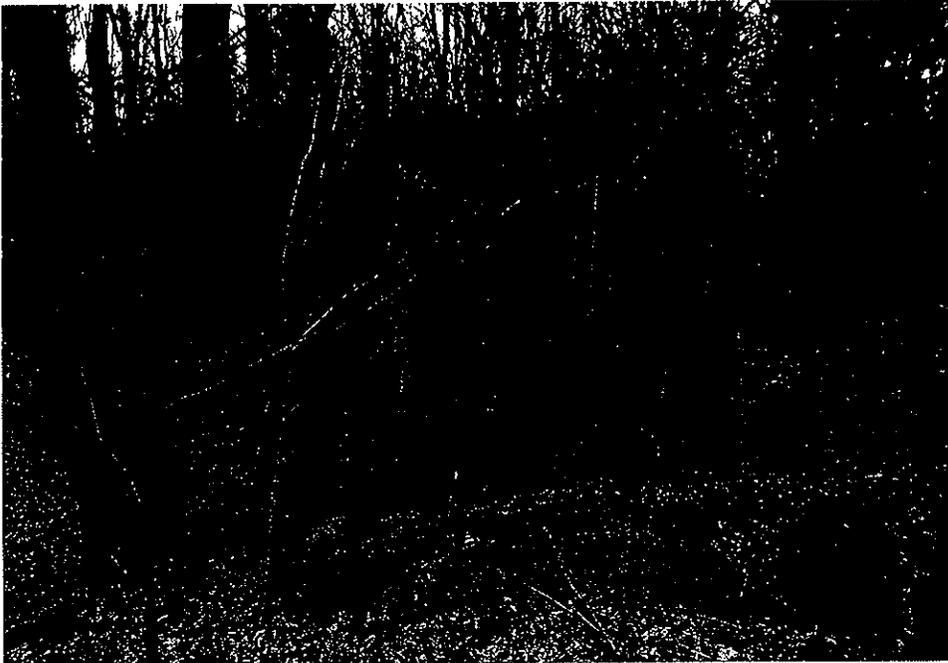


Figure 97. Weir Chicken Coop - South Facade (1994).



Figure 98. Weir Chicken Coop - East and North Walls (1994).

composed of vertical, 5 1/2-inch-wide, tongue-and-groove boards with edge and center beading on the interior face. The door is 6 inches shorter than the doorway opening.

Window

There is one window opening (W101) on the chicken coop, located on the west half of the south facade wall. The opening measures 3 feet 4 inches wide by 2 feet 2 inches high. The window has no glazing but is fitted with 3/8-inch-mesh chicken wire. The top of the chicken wire, which is coming loose, had been nailed to the vertical-board siding over the opening. Two boards that together measure 11 inches wide are nailed under the opening and hold the chicken wire to the siding.

Roofing Material

The roofing on the chicken coop is composed of asphalt shingles that cover remnants of prior wood shingling. A 5-inch-diameter hole has been cut into the roof, possibly for a (now missing) vent pipe.

Flooring

The flooring in the chicken coop is composed of 5 1/2-inch-wide boards similar to the boards used for the exterior siding. Chicken wire has been installed under the floor boards.

Utility Systems - Electrical

An electrical double-receptacle outlet is located on the south wall stud between the doorway and the window. The wire servicing the outlet enters from the vent hole in the roof, and appears to have traveled overhead from the ice house.

Paint Finishes

All of the features on the chicken coop are unfinished.

IX. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and EXISTING FEATURES
WELL HOUSES

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Evolution of Water Supply

Several well structures have survived on Weir farm, providing an idea of the history of water supply on the farm since at least 1888. The source for the family's water evolved from a hand-drawn well to the west of the house that was replaced with an elaborate well house sometime after 1890, to a well and pump house located north of the house and barn complex and on the east side of Nod Hill Road, to a well and pump house behind the Weir barn, and over to an artesian well behind the Weir ice house.

Granite Well House

1890-1905 - Construction

The feature on Weir farm known as the Weir granite well house is the granite, stone, and concrete base to a well house that was built sometime between 1890 and 1905. Located to the west of the Weir house and near Pelham Lane, the original well house consisted of the surviving 3 1/3-foot tall stone base and an Adirondack-style wood-frame house attached to the top.

The well had been used as such before the granite well house was built. A circa-1890 photograph of Weir house taken from the west (**fig. 99**) shows a well in this location, as is evident from the a box-like structure sitting on the ground with a bucket hanging overhead and a well-worn path leading down from the kitchen wing of the house.

The granite well house first appears in a circa-1905 photograph (**fig. 100**). Visible in the view is the well's masonry base and the bottom half of its wood-frame house. In another pre-1915 photograph the well house is barely visible in the background (**fig. 101**). In this view the style of the well house can be seen to be similar to other Weir garden structures that were built between 1905 and 1915 (**fig. 102**).

It is not known when the wood-frame upper structure on the well house was removed.⁶³ It was standing at least until Mahonri Young became a regular visitor to the farm in 1927, as evidenced by an ink drawing of the structure completed by Young at an undetermined date (not shown).

Water Tower Well House

A small, rectangular, wooden well house stands across Nod Hill Road from the Weir NHS on property that is now located outside park boundaries but which used to be part of the Weir farm. This well house is thought to have contained both a well and a pump that pumped water under the road and to the tank at the top of the water tower of the Weir studio. From there the water was gravity fed to the Weir house.

⁶³Apparently it was removed because neighbors were worried for their children's safety. Interview with Sperry and Doris Andrews, 1989.

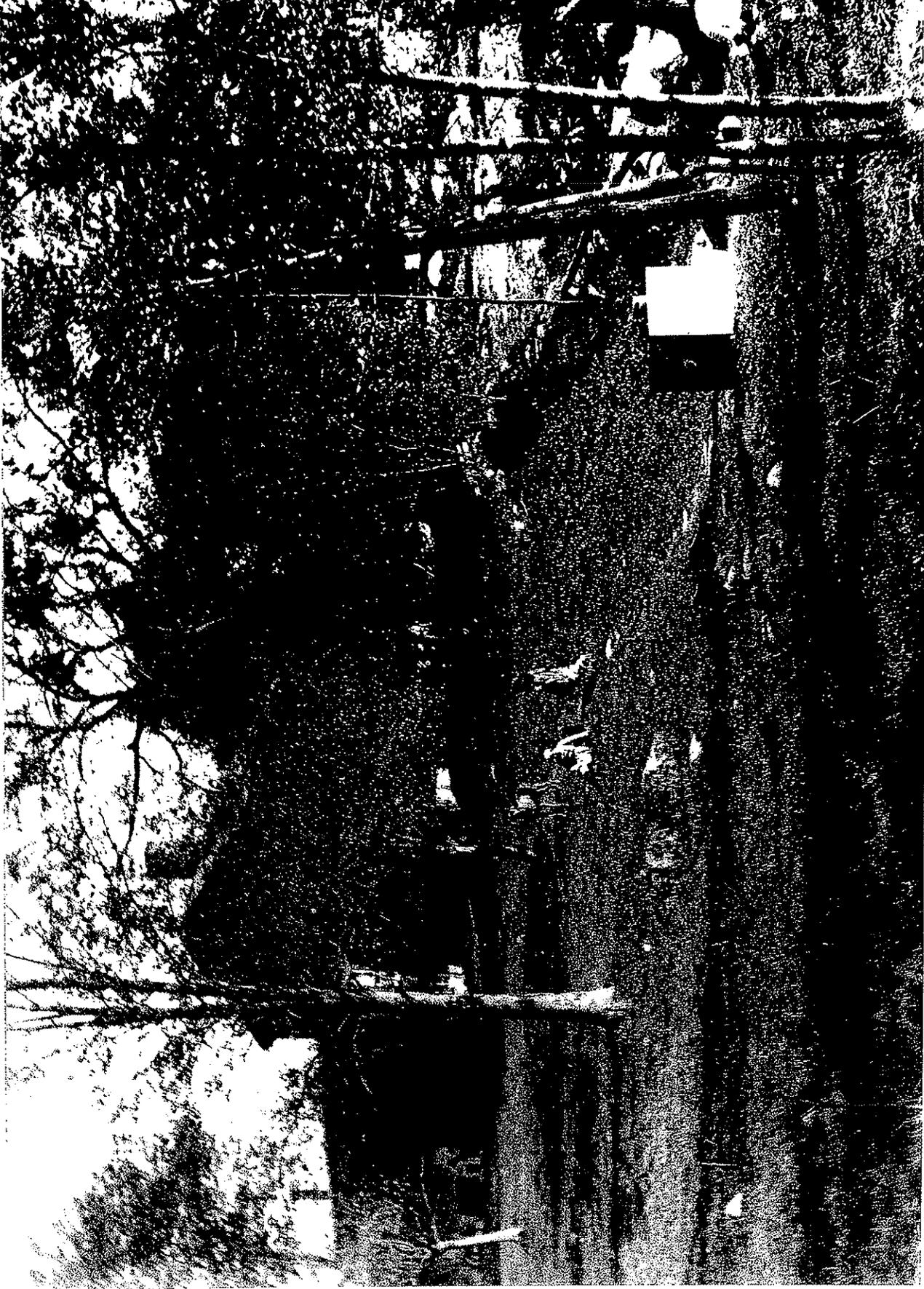


Figure 99. Weir House and West Yard (Circa 1890).



Figure 100. Weir Granite Well House - View from the North (Circa 1905).



Figure 101. Weir Farm -West Yard,
Granite Well House at Rear Right (Circa 1915).

The well cap has two openings. A 2-foot 6-inch-square opening with a copper hatch cover is located at the northwest corner of the well cap 6 inches from each edge. A wood ladder leads down into the well from the top of the opening.

The second opening is a 9-inch-diameter metal vent that is located at the southeast corner of the hatch. An 11-inch-diameter tin funnel covers the vent and is held down with loose asphalt shingles.

X. PHYSICAL EVOLUTION and DESCRIPTION
WAGON SHED

PHYSICAL EVOLUTION

Circa 1910-1941 - Construction

Little is known about the evolution of the Weir wagon shed, which used to stand to the northwest of the corn crib, except that it was built after circa 1910 and before 1941. A circa-1910 photograph of the ice house taken from the southeast (see **fig. 77**) shows no wagon shed to the north/northwest of the ice house where the shed was eventually located. And an aerial photograph taken of the area in 1941 shows the wagon shed sitting near the corn crib well north of the Weir barn. There is a reference to a carriage house among the outbuildings listed in the 1861 Beers inventory. However, this "carriage house" is thought to have been either the barn/shed that formerly was located on the caretaker's site next to the extant caretaker's garage, or part of the Weir barn complex. In the 1920 inventory compiled after Weir's death in 1919, a shed that may have been the wagon shed is listed in addition to the barn(s), the ice house, the pump house across Nod Hill Road (the Weir studio water tower well house), the corn crib, and the old chicken house that use to stand near the present site of the Young studio. However, Sperry Andrews remembered that the building was constructed in the early 1930s, and that it was designed by Oliver Lay for Mahonri Young when Lay designed Young's studio, but there are conflicting memories concerning this latter possibility.⁶⁵

The wagon shed was located 16 feet to the northwest of the Weir corn crib and approximately 200 feet north/northwest of the Weir barn. Extant foundation remnants indicate that the building measured approximately 36 feet 3 inches wide by 18 feet 8 inches deep, its rear (north) wall built only a few inches away from a low fieldstone wall that ran east/west from Nod Hill Road. The building had a dry-laid fieldstone foundation, with later concrete reinforcements around several of the structural posts. Early 1960s photographs of the building (**figs. 111 & 112**) and circa-1978 oil paintings by Sperry Andrews of the outbuildings on the northern end of the property (**fig. 113**) show that the wagon shed was a long rectangular building comprised of four bays that were open to the south, with vertical-board siding on its east, west, and north walls and a wood-shingled gable roof. The building was framed with what appear to have been tree trunks that were approximately 6 inches in diameter. The south slope of the roof extended several feet beyond the southern edge of the east and west walls; the plate along its south eave was supported by braces that apparently tied into the posts that supported the roof ridge

⁶⁵Interview with Sperry Andrews 1/12/93: "Wagons were kept in the barn until Oliver Lay built the wagon shed"; Oliver Lay's son, however, does not think that his father designed the building: interview with Charles Lay 8/7/89.



Figure 111. Weir Wagon Shed at Left of View (Early 1960s).

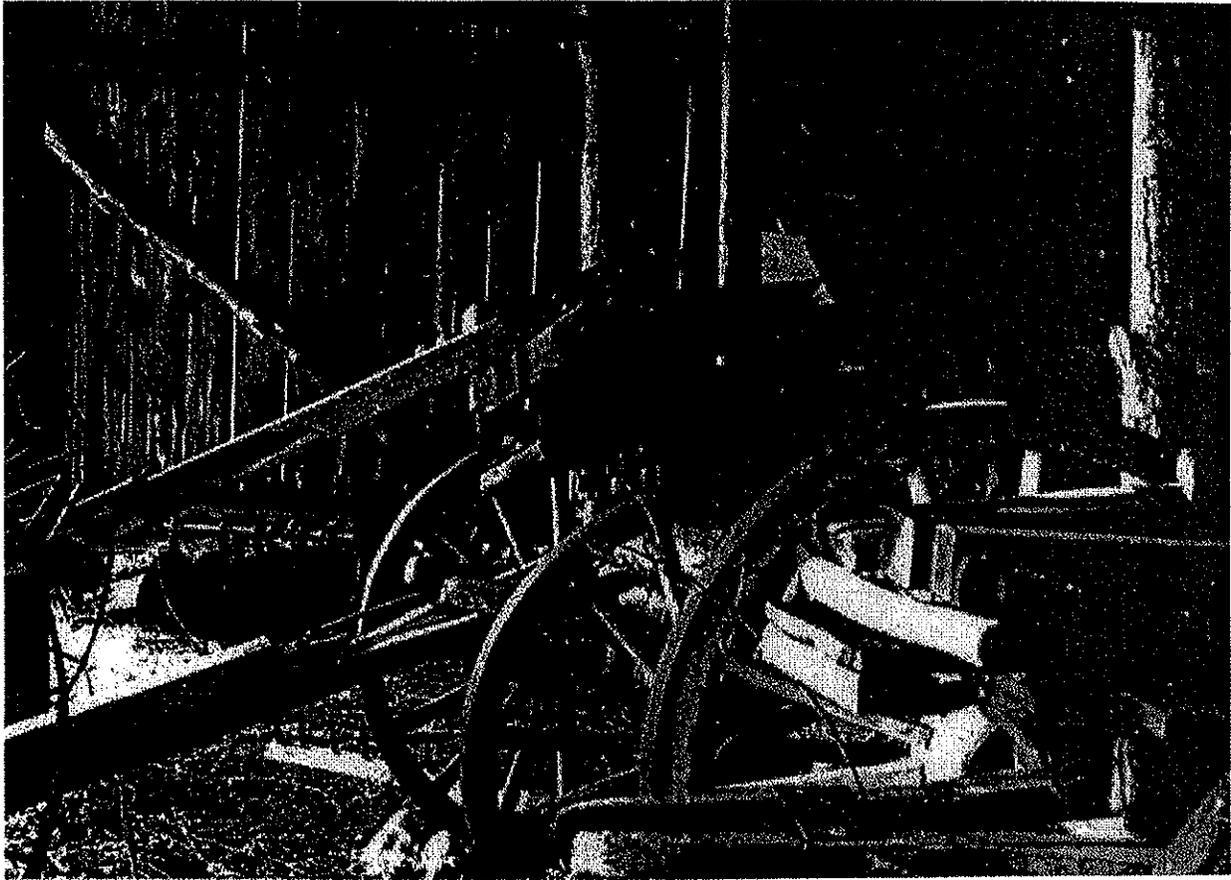


Figure 112. Weir Wagon Shed - Interior (Early 1960s).

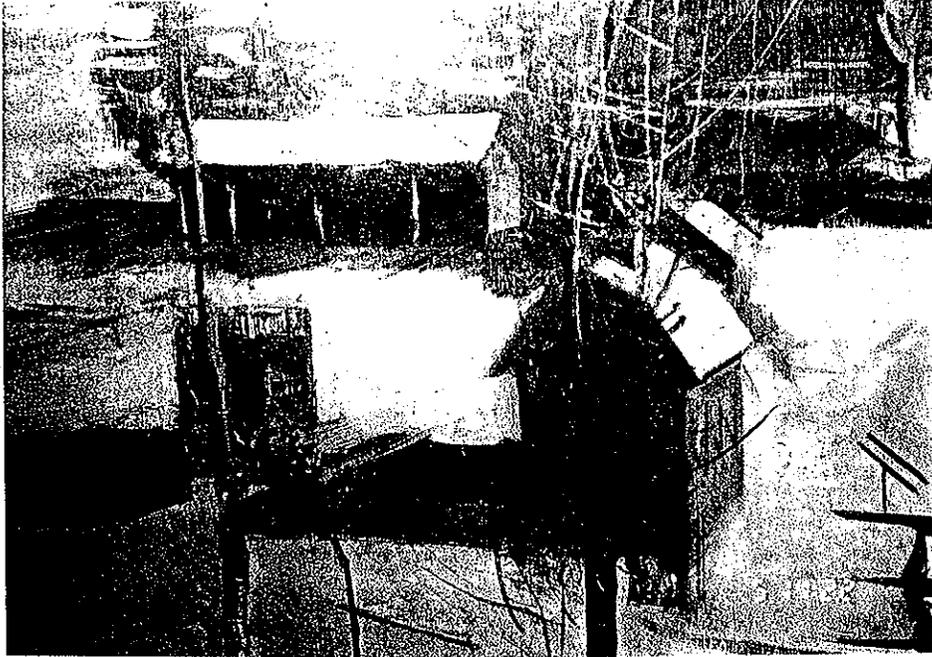


Figure 113. Sperry Andrews, Untitled Oil Painting of Weir Farm Outbuildings. Wagon Shed at Left Rear (1978).

Post-Construction Alterations

The wagon shed collapsed soon after the 1975 aerial view of the Weir farm area and the 1978 Andrews painting recorded its existence. Architectural material from the wagon shed was salvaged from a pile at the wagon shed site and is in storage at WEFA NHS.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Only remnants of the wagon shed foundation and walls are extant, along with four wagons in deteriorated condition (**figs. 114 & 115**).



Figure 114. Weir Wagon Shed - Foundation and Building Remnants, View from the West (1992).

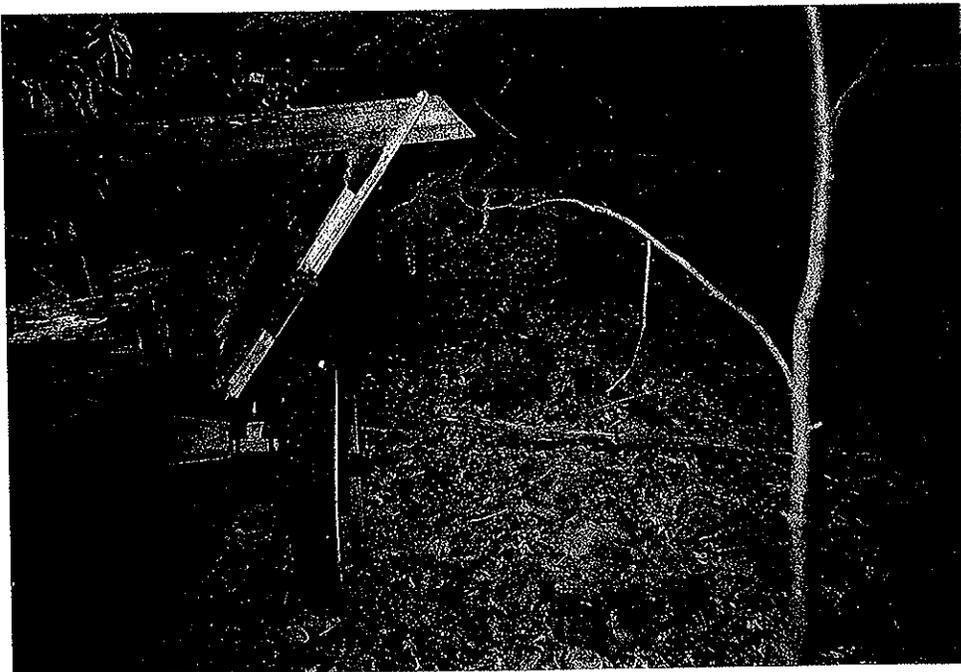


Figure 115. Wagon Shed - Remnants of Foundation, View from the South (1993).

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Overview

The character-defining features (CDF) of the exteriors of the Weir farm outbuildings are those distinctive materials and features that characterize the buildings as they appeared in circa 1940. Of particular importance are the views of the structures and their setting as depicted in Weir's and Young's artwork.

Weir Barn and Tack House

The primary CDFs of the Weir barn are the framing and plan of the "English barn" main barn and the U-plan of the barn complex's connected barn buildings. The U-plan existed in the earliest illustrations of the Weir barn, and both the English barn configuration of the main barn and the U-plan of the Weir barn complex are rare survivors of a barn type that was a common sight in eighteenth and early-nineteenth century New England. Of related primary importance is the barn's rambling, weathered character, which provided inspiration to the resident artists of several generations.

Additional CDFs of the Weir barn are as follows:

- The extant weathered siding -- vertical-board siding on the east wing's west wall, and wood-shingle siding on all remaining exterior walls: this siding dates to the 1911-1914 alterations to the barn and existed during the Weir and the Young periods;
- the original board-and-batten siding in the recess on the west wall of the east wing, the remnants of original board-and-batten siding on the former west exterior wall of the main barn and the former north exterior wall of the west wing (both walls now enclosed by the lean-to): this siding was the earliest siding depicted in illustrations of the Weir barn;
- the window opening (W108) and the doorway (D107-D108) in the recess on the west wall of the east wing: this area is the only surviving portion of the pre-1915 west wall of the wing, which was depicted in Weir and Young paintings and in pre-1915 photographs;
- wood-shingled roofing on all barn roofs: this was the traditional barn roofing which was replaced with non-historic asphalt-shingle roofing in the late 1950s;
- the circa-1915 exterior color scheme, which has survived through circa 1940 to the present: weathered unpainted siding and white-painted trim;
- the extant barn interior plan and features: these reflect the interior of the barn as it existed in circa 1940;

- extant pre-1915 interior features -- remnants of the nineteenth century board-and-batten siding in the lean-to, eighteenth-century doors and hardware in the main barn, etc.: significant because of their prominence in the barn's architectural history;
- the extant flooring (wood, poured concrete, and dirt): of particular importance is the wood flooring, which contributes to the rural character of the barn;
- the location of the barn and its proximity to the house and Nod Hill Road: the house and barn were photographed together in both the Weir and the Weir/Young periods;
- the tack house in its close proximity to and association with the barn complex: the barn and tack house were depicted together in Weir artwork and photographed together in both the Weir and the Weir/Young periods;
- the extant exterior features of the tack house -- an eight-sided structure with the off-center conical roof, wood-shingle siding and roofing, multipane windows similar to those on the barn: this is how the tack house has appeared since 1915;
- the rustic wooden fence that used to define the barn complex: restoration of the fence would greatly enhance the historic character of the barn complex.
- several items of historic farm equipment and tools that have survived in and around the barn: these should be regarded as CDFs and remain in (or be restored to) the barn complex.

Weir Outbuildings and Other Structures

The character-defining features of the Weir farm outbuildings and other structures relate directly to their appearance during the Weir and Young periods. Of particular importance are the views of the structures and their settings as depicted in the artwork of J. Alden Weir and Mahonri Young. Taken as a whole, these buildings represent the evolution of a vernacular New England farmscape between the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Since most of the outbuildings on Weir farm have not been altered since circa 1940 (with the exception of deteriorating fabric), the outbuildings appear today very much as they did sixty years ago.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview

Treatment recommendations for the Weir Farm outbuildings are guided by the General Management Plan (GMP) for Weir Farm NHS. The GMP defines the period of significance for the Weir complex as between 1883 and circa 1940, or the period relating to the property's association with J. Alden Weir, the Weir family, and Mahonri Young. The preferred alternative in the GMP calls for restoration of the Weir farm outbuildings and reconstruction of the wagon shed to their appearances in circa 1940 to reflect their continuous use by the Weirs and the Youngs.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1992) defines **restoration** as "the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time . . .". **Reconstruction** is defined as:

the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving . . . building . . . for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.⁶⁷

Weir Barn

The Weir barn is an increasingly rare surviving example of the English barn and U-plan farmyard, an eighteenth and early nineteenth-century barn plan that was eclipsed by the 19th century New England barn in response to changing agricultural conditions. Special care should be taken when restoring this multi-structure complex so that the integrity of its architectural evolution is not compromised, and that the rambling, weathered character of the barn is retained. Discretion and care should be used when introducing any new fabric for restoration and the structure's irregularities should be allowed to show.

The wood-shingle roofing should be restored to the barn. Any remnants of the prior wood-shingle roofing that exists under the present asphalt shingle roof should be removed and preserved as physical evidence for restoration of the roofs.

Rustic Wooden Fence

Because of its severely deteriorated condition and the fact that several of its elements are missing, restoring the extant rustic wooden fence to its appearance in the early 1940s is not possible. Since there is adequate information to determine the appearance and location of most of its features, it is recommended that the rustic wooden fence be reconstructed as budget and time considerations allow.

⁶⁷See "Standards for Restoration" and "Standards for Reconstruction," *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1994).

Although it is not possible to determine the type or types of wood used to build the original fence, the more important considerations are that (1) the reconstructed fence has the same appearance as the rustic wooden fence seen in the historic photographs of Weir farm, and that (2) the new fence is built using durable materials. It is recommended that Atlantic white cedar be used for the reconstruction of the fence. This species of wood was found to have been used in the extant fence (see **APPENDIX C**) and has an appearance that is similar to the wood in historic photographs of the Weir rustic fence. It is relatively durable, and can be treated with Bora-care™ for greater protection from rot and insect infestation. The ends of the fence posts that will be underground can be soaked in the Bora-care™ solution or rods that contain slow-release Bora-care can be inserted. This product should be used according to environmental protection guidelines; while Bora-care™ is for the most part non-toxic, certain plant species may be injured by the product.

Ice House

The current exterior appearance of the ice house reflects the major alterations made in 1943 when Mahonri and Dorothy Weir Young converted the building to a chicken house. It is recommended that the building be returned to its appearance circa 1940. The restoration can be accomplished by referring to the photographic and graphic documentation of the building and to the extant physical evidence. Restoring the building to its circa-1940 appearance would require the following:

- remove the windows on the east wall of the main building and the palladian-window configuration on the south gable
- return the south gable window and restore the pre-1943 north gable window to louvered openings;
- move the north lean-to back to its original position on the south façade;
- install a sash in the east window of the lean-to that matches the sash in the west wall;
- remove the attic floor;
- block the north-wall doorway in the chicken coop that now accesses the lean-to;
- raise the south-façade door opening to its original height and install the north-doorway door in the reconfigured opening;
- replace the asphalt-shingle roofing on the lean-to with wood-shingle roofing; and
- paint the entire building white.

Raising the height of the south-façade doorway will impact the interior since the 1943 attic floor would interfere with the operation of the doorway. Therefore, the attic floor would have to be removed or reconfigured at the south end of the building. In addition, the 1943 “cement flooring” on the interior should be removed and the dirt floor restored.

Extant Outbuildings

The remaining extant Weir farm outbuildings appear today much as they did in the circa 1940s. It is not anticipated that any features need to be removed or added in order to return any of the outbuildings to their historic appearance, except for the asphalt roof on the chicken coop, which should be recovered with wood shingles. Many character-defining features on the outbuildings are severely deteriorated and require repair or replacement. All repairs and/or replacement of character-defining features on the Weir outbuildings should be made by using materials in-kind.

Granite Well House

The GMP preferred alternative states that since most of the landscape features Weir created were present and unaltered in the Youngs' time, the landscape around the Weir buildings, including features such as the "secret garden," will be restored to its appearance around 1940. It is recommended that restoration of the wood-frame "house" portion of the granite well house, which appears to have been of contemporary construction with the secret garden and its Adirondack-style gates and was standing until at least 1927, be included in the landscape restoration.

Wagon Shed

The preferred alternative in the GMP calls for the wagon shed, which collapsed around 1980, to be reconstructed for use as storage for maintenance equipment. Existing physical and documentary evidence concerning the original wagon shed is sufficient to determine its location, size, and general configuration. There is also enough evidence in the circa-1960s photographs and in the Andrews paintings, and in the extant materials on other outbuildings, to allow for informed assumptions concerning the materials with which the wagon shed should be rebuilt. Detailed construction drawings will be necessary to determine specific construction and finish details.

XII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
1995 MEASURED DRAWINGS
WEIR BARN

APPENDIX B
1995 MEASURED DRAWINGS
WEIR FARM OUTBUILDINGS

APPENDIX C

WOOD ANALYSIS - RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE

METHODOLOGY

In December, 1993, the Weir rustic wooden fence was measured and photographed and 3 wood samples were taken by an architectural conservator from the BCB. Among the possible wood species considered to have been used in the original construction of the rustic fence were black locust, chestnut and North Atlantic white cedar. The wood samples (splinters) were brought to the BCB microscopy laboratory where they were analyzed using a stereozoom microscope according BCB to Standard Operating Procedures for paint analysis. The samples were stored in the paint samples storage drawers and were cross-referenced as artifacts. Both paint sample numbers and artifact numbers were assigned to the samples, as follows:

<u>Paint Sample # (Artifact Sample #)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
WEFA-11-P001 (WEFA-11-A01)	12/93	Rail, south lawn, east of gate post
WEFA-11-P002 (WEFA-11-A02)	12/93	Second post, south lawn, east of gate
WEFA-11-P003 (WEFA-11-A03)	12/93	Bottom rail, south lawn, east of gate (?)

ANALYSIS

BCB Laboratory Analysis

The objectives of the wood analysis performed in the BCB laboratory were (1) to determine whether or not any finishes existed on the rustic wooden fence, and (2) to make a preliminary determination of the species of wood used in construction of the original fence by examining the samples with guidance of the BCB library resources on wood identification.

Analysis of the samples revealed no paint or other finishes. The wood was dry and cracked and its exposed surface has weathered to a silver-gray color. Under microscopy, the interior wood fiber color was a light-gold straw color. Under ultraviolet (UV) light, samples P001 and P003 from the rails fluoresced in colors ranging from pale blue to blue-green and some areas of yellow. The edges near the weathered exterior surface fluoresced gold-brown. A cross section of sample P002 exhibited a honey-comb texture in a strong linear pattern, fluorescing blue to blue-green. A radial section exhibited distinct linear channels containing large tyloses of an iridescent amber-gold color. The differences between the radial section of the post sample compared to the rail samples under fluorescence microscopy are attributed to the fact that the samples may have come from different ring areas of the wood.

The analysis was not able to conclusively identify the species of wood for the three wood samples analyzed. In addition, it appears that many of the existing elements of the fence are not original features, and that several species of wood may have been used to build the fence and to make later repairs. Therefore, it was decided that it would be necessary to remove additional samples from the fence for a more complete population of samples and to have several of the wood samples analyzed by an expert in wood identification. A list of the samples removed is included at the end of this appendix.

Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory Analysis

Five finger-size samples of wood from the Weir rustic wooden fence (along with two samples from decaying trunks in the Weir orchard) were sent to Dr. Regis Miller, head of the Forest Products Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service division, to determine the wood species of each sample. Dr. Miller identified two of the samples as Atlantic white cedar, one as sassafras, one as spruce, and one as white oak, thereby confirming the observation that there are several different species of wood extant on the fence (see correspondence between Marie Carden and Dr. Miller that follows).

RUSTIC WOODEN FENCE ARTIFACTS and LOCATIONS

<u>Sample #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
WEFA-11-A01	11/93	wood sliver	south lawn, top rail, east of entrance gate
WEFA-11-A02	11/93	wood sliver	south lawn, second fence post east of entrance gate
WEFA-11-A03	11/93	wood sliver	south lawn, bottom rail, east of entrance gate
WEFA-11-A04	03/95	wood slivers	east lawn, east face of post
WEFA-11-A05	03/95	wood sliver	picket stored in chicken coop
WEFA-11-A06	03/95	5" wood piece	picket stored in chicken coop
WEFA-11-A07	03/95	5" wood piece	picket stored in chicken coop
WEFA-11-A08	03/95	2 pieces of wood joined w/nails	barnyard, north side of Weir lawn
WEFA-11-A09	03/95	32" piece of wood with notches	stored in animal shelter
WEFA-11-A10	03/95	3 ft. piece of fence post w/nail	stored in animal shelter
WEFA-11-A11	03/95	rusty 4" wire nail	west post of south entrance gate



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Forest
Products
Laboratory

One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53705-2398

File Code: 4700(I)

Date: April 26, 1995

Ms. Marie Carden
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Cultural Resources Center
Boott Cotton Mills Museum
400 Foot of John Street
Lowell, MA 01852-1195

Dear Ms. Carden:

The wood samples you submitted with your letter of April 4, 1995, have been identified as follows:

- Weir Orch. #8 - species of 'fruitwood' (we cannot distinguish between apple, pear and some related species, but since it was near an orchard, I suspect that it is apple, Malus)
- Weir Orch #10 - species of 'fruitwood' (we cannot distinguish between apple, pear and some related species, but since it was near an orchard, I suspect that it is apple, Malus)
- WEFA 11 A04 - Atlantic white-cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides) post
- WEFA 11 A05 - sassafras (Sassafras albidum) picket
- WEFA 11 A07 - Atlantic white-cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides) picket
- WEFA 11 A08A - spruce (Picea) gate
- WEFA 11 A09 - species in the white oak group (Quercus) rail

As requested we are herein returning your wood samples.

Sincerely,

Regis B. Miller
REGIS B. MILLER, Project Leader
Center for Wood Anatomy Research



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Atlantic Region
Cultural Resources Center
Boott Cotton Mills Museum
400 Foot of John Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1195

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 4, 1995

Dr. Regis Miller, Head
Forest Products Laboratory
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1 Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Dr. Miller:

Thank you for your kind response to my telephone call of yesterday, requesting wood analysis. In accordance with our conversation, I am enclosing seven (7) wood samples for analysis/identification of species by your laboratory. These samples are from exterior fences and from an apple orchard at Weir Farm National Historic Site in Ridgefield/Wilton, Connecticut. Our objective is to determine the wood species of each sample. This information is needed for a Historic Structure Report on Weir Farm, now in progress.

The samples are enclosed in plastic zipper lock bags marked with the appropriate sample number and containing a pink artifact card. Some bags contain more than one piece of wood, so that you can pick the best one for analysis. The samples and their locations are:

<u>Sample I.D. #</u>	<u>Location</u>
Weir Orch. #8	Trunk of fallen and decayed tree in the area of Weir's orchard; thought to be apple.
Weir Orch. #10	Trunk of fallen and decayed tree in the area of Weir's orchard; thought to be apple.
WEFA 11 A04	Post, Weir Rustic Wooden Fence; from east side of house
WEFA 11 A05	Picket, Weir Rustic Wooden Fence; stored in Animal Shelter
WEFA 11 A07	Picket, Weir Rustic Wooden Fence; removed and stored in Animal Shelter

(Dr. Regis Miller, 4/04/95)

P. 2 of 2

WEFA 11 A08A

Weir Rustic Wooden Fence; found on ground south of Tack House; one of two pieces joined by wire nails

WEFA 11 A09

Weir Rustic Wooden Fence; long piece of wood with notches about mid-way; stored in Animal Shelter

The Weir Rustic Wooden Fence was built around the turn of the century, of hand-hewn logs and sapling wood, probably from Weir's property. Suggestions of species that may have been used for the fence include chestnut, white cedar or black locust; this is based on family letters and landscape research regarding trees known to be on the property. Weir's apple orchard still exists, but a number of the trees have fallen or deteriorated.

For Office of Procurement and Contracting billing purposes the following information is provided:

Agency Location Code: 14-10-0099-8

Account # 1953-7003-404

Amount \$150.00

Contact person on billing is: Linda Conte (508) 970-5122

Please send the analysis results and return the wood samples to the attention of Maureen Phillips or myself at the Building Conservation Branch of the Cultural Resources Center, at the above address. If you have any questions about this transaction, please telephone Janice Gaudreau at (508) 970-5135, Maureen Phillips (508) 970-5140 or myself at (508) 970-5136.

Many thanks for your help.

Very truly yours,



Marie Carden
Architectural Conservator
Building Conservation Branch

cc: Pat Brumm, Grants/Agreements Section,
Forest Products Laboratory
Janice Gaudreau, Purchasing Agent, CRC
Bob Fox, Facilities Manager, Weir Farm NHS
Maureen Phillips, Architectural Conservator, BCB ✓
Linda Conte, Administrative Officer, CRC

Enclosure

APPENDIX D
PAINT ANALYSIS

METHODOLOGY

Approximately 450 paint samples were taken from the exterior and interior painted surfaces of the Weir Farm outbuildings between the fall of 1993 and the spring of 1995. Samples were removed using an X-acto knife. Each sample was numbered and placed in an individually-labeled coin envelope. The samples were logged using a three-part code that identifies the park, the building, and the paint sample number, beginning with WEFA-04-P001. In this code, "WEFA" is the Weir Farm National Historic Site, "04" is the LCS (List of Classified Structures) structure number for the Weir Barn, and "P001" is paint sample number 1.

Samples were examined at the BCB microscopy laboratory of the using a stereozoom microscope. Paint layer sequences (chromochronologies) were recorded, and spot chemical tests performed. Chemicals used included sodium sulfide to identify lead paint and to help to identify similar layers between samples.

A list of the paint samples taken and the location from which each sample was removed are included in this appendix. Time and space do not allow for the incorporation of the chromochronology tables. However, the findings of the analysis were used to assist in the relative dating of various features of the structures and have been incorporated into the physical evolution section of this report.

PAINT SAMPLES and LOCATIONS

WEFA-04 - Weir Barn

<u>Number</u>	<u>Room/Elevation</u>	<u>Location</u>
P001	R101 - Stable	West wing - W102, sash
P002	R101 - Stable	West wing - W101, sash
P003	R104 - Shed	Lean-to - W120, sash
P004	West	Lean-to - W120, header
P005	West	Lean-to - W120, sash
P006	South	Main barn - D106, door
P007	East	West wing - D201, frame
P008	East	West wing - W202, frame
P009	East	West wing - W202, sash
P010	South	Main barn - W105, frame
P011	South	Main barn - W105, sash
P012	East	West wing - D102, surround
P013	East	West wing - W104, sash
P014	East	West wing - W104, frame
P015	South	Main barn - W105, earlier frame
P016	R106 - Storage	Main barn - D118, door
P017	R105 - Oxen Stable	Main barn - D119, door
P018	East	West wing - W101, sash
P019	East	West wing - W101, surround
P020	R109 - Pony Stall	East wing - D108, door
P021	South	Main barn - W105, sash glazing
P022	[no sample]	
P023	West	East wing - siding
P024	East	West wing - D101, frame
P025	South	West wing - W205, sill
P026	South	West wing - W205, sash
P027	South	West wing - W205, frame
P028	R102 - Eqpmnt Rm	West wing - D102, door
P029	R101 - Stable	West wing - D101, door
P030	South	East wing - W109, earlier frame
P031	South	East wing - W109, sill
P032	South	East wing - W109, frame
P033	West	East wing - W106, sash
P034	West	East wing - W108, frame
P035	West	East wing - W108, sill
P036	West	East wing - W108, sash
P037	South	East wing - W109, sash
P038	West	East wing - W106-W107, header
P039	R108 - Milking Rm	Main barn - D106, door
P040	R108 - Milking Rm	Main barn - south wall
P041	R104 - Shed	Lean-to - east wall, vertical-board siding
P042	East	Main barn - W111, sash

P043	East	Main barn - W111, surround
P044	East	Main barn - W111, sill
P045	East	Main barn - W112, sash
P046	East	Main barn - W114, sash

WEFA-05 - Weir Ice House

P001	East	Lean-to - W101, frame
P002	East	(unusable sample)
P003	North	Main building - siding
P004	West	Lean-to - siding
P005	East	Lean-to - siding
P006	East	Main building - siding
P007	East	Lean-to - W101, frame
P008	East	Main building - W102, frame
P009	East	Lean-to - siding
P010	South	Main building - W206, sash
P011	South	Main building - W204, sash
P012	North	Lean-to - D102, door
P013	East	Main building - siding
P014	West	(unusable sample)
P015	West	Lean-to - W105, frame
P016	Attic Room	East wall - W203, sash
P017	Lean-to Shed	West wall - W105, sash
P018	Lean-to Shed	North wall
P019	South	Cupola - south louver panel
P020	West	Lean-to - W108, frame
P021	South	Main building - D101, door
P022	South	Main building - W205, frame
P023	South	Main building - W205, lower sash
P024	South	Main building - W205, upper sash
P025	South	Main building - W205, sill
P026	South	Main building - W206, sill
P027	East	Main building - W203, sill
P028	East	Main building - W203, sash
P029	East	Main building - W203, trim
P030	North	Lean-to - D102, door
P031	North	Lean-to - siding
P032	North	Lean-to - beaded soffit
P033	Lean-to Shed	Stored shutters

WEFA-06 - Weir Tack House

P001	Tack Room	Southwest wall - W101, sash
P002	Northwest	D101 - door surround
P003	Southwest	W101 - frame (exterior)
P004	Southwest	W101 - sash (exterior)

WEFA-07 - Weir Garden Tool Shed

P001	South	D101 - surround
P002	Southeast	Wall

WEFA-08 - Weir Corn Crib

[No paint on this structure]

WEFA-09 - Weir Chicken Coop

[No paint on this structure]

WEFA-10B - Weir Wood Pump House

P001	East	Wall - fascia
P002	West	Wall - vertical siding

WEFA 11 - Weir Rustic Wooden Fence

[No paint on this structure]

Water Tower Well House

P001	Room 101	West wall - W101, upper sash molding
P002	South	Wall - siding
P003	South	D101 - frame
P004	South (?)	D101 - door (lying in field)
P005	South	D101 - frame, drips of green paint
P006	West	W101 - frame
P007	South	D101 - door
P008	Room 101	South wall - east side, beaded paneling

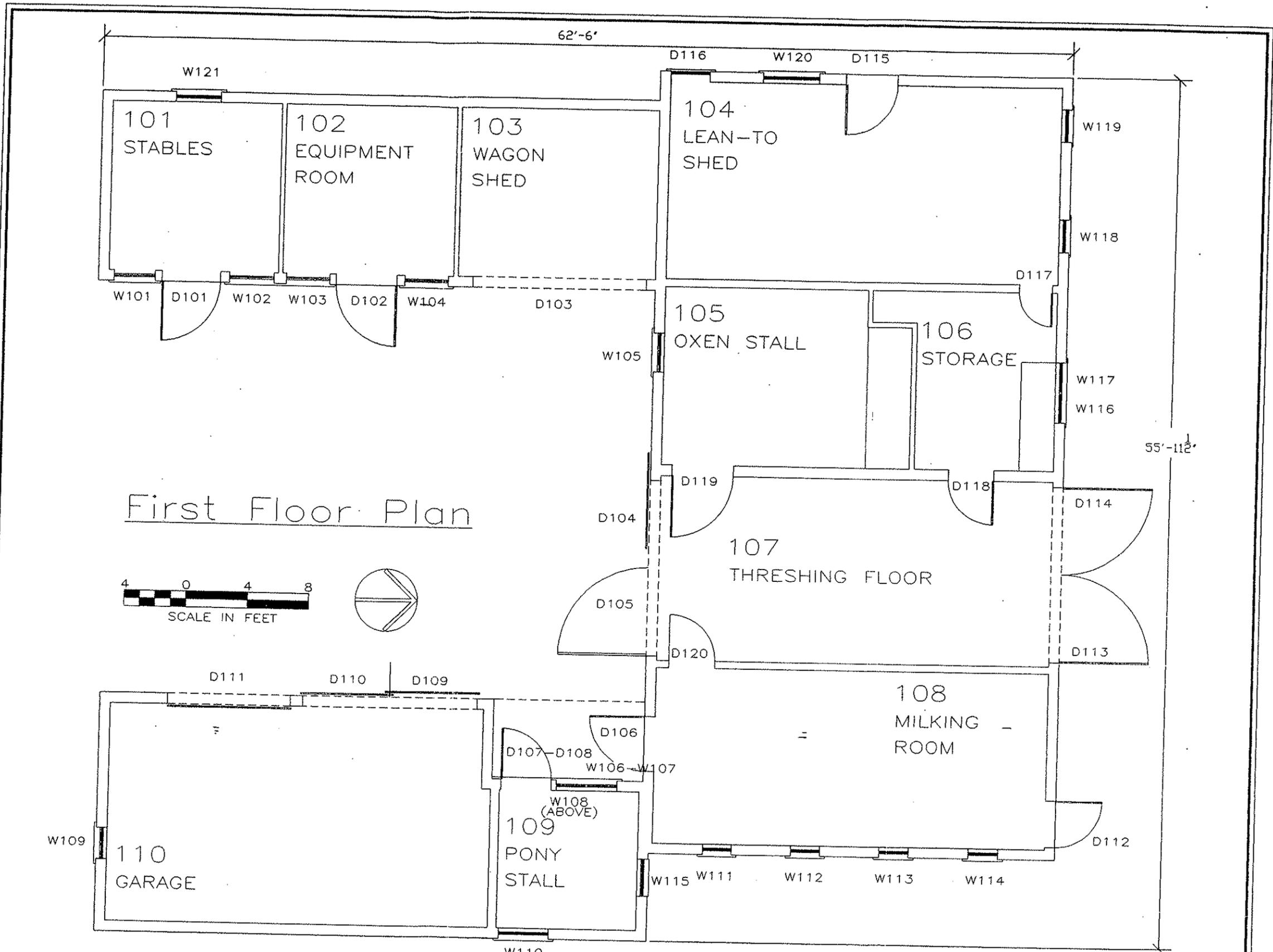
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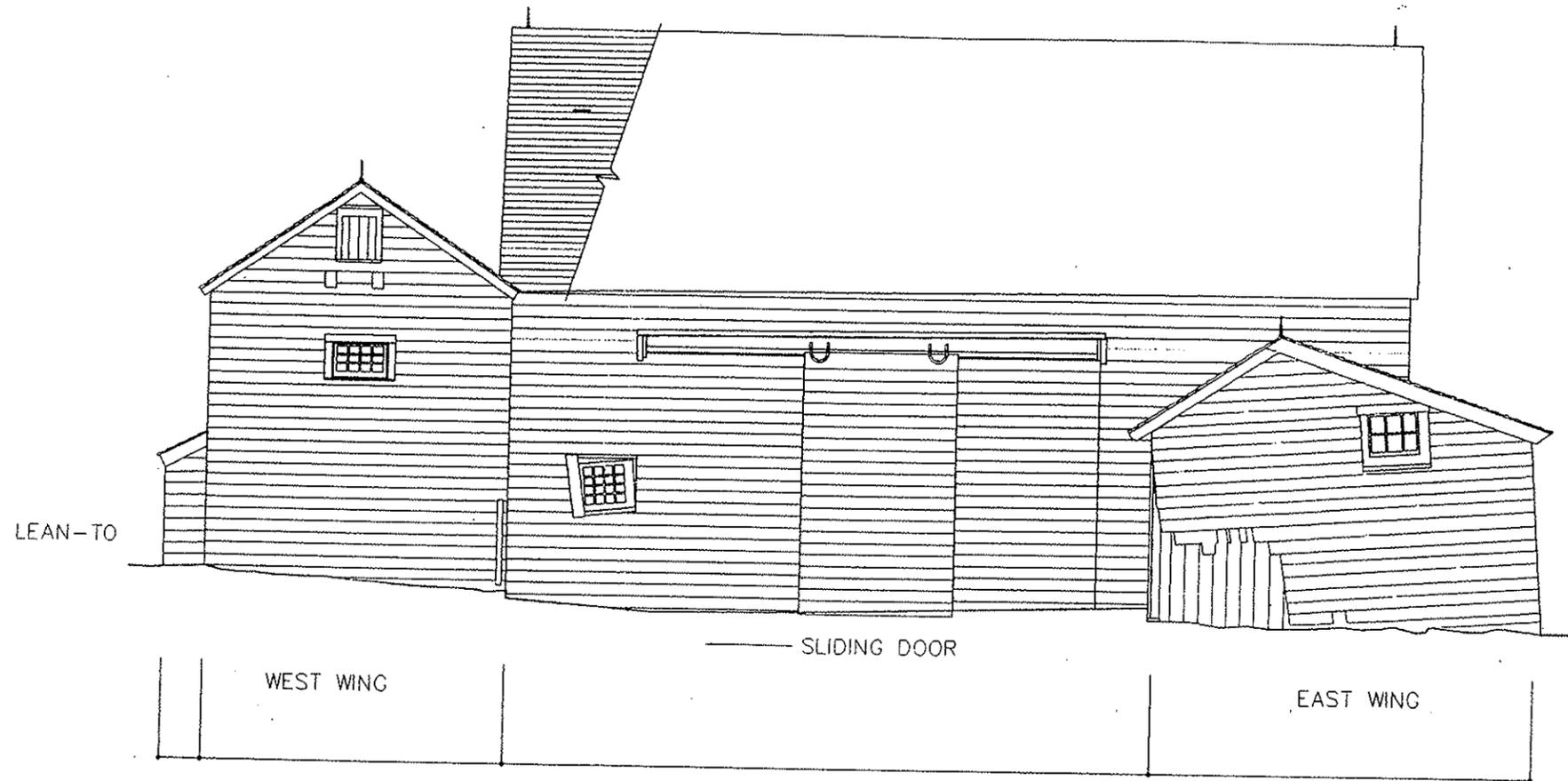
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First Floor Plan

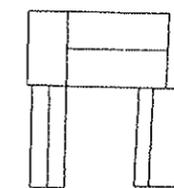
FLOOR PLAN BASED ON FIELD NOTES PROVIDED BY C. MCCOY, BCB/CRC
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South Elevation

1/4" = 1'0"



KEY PLAN 1" = 40'0"



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NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

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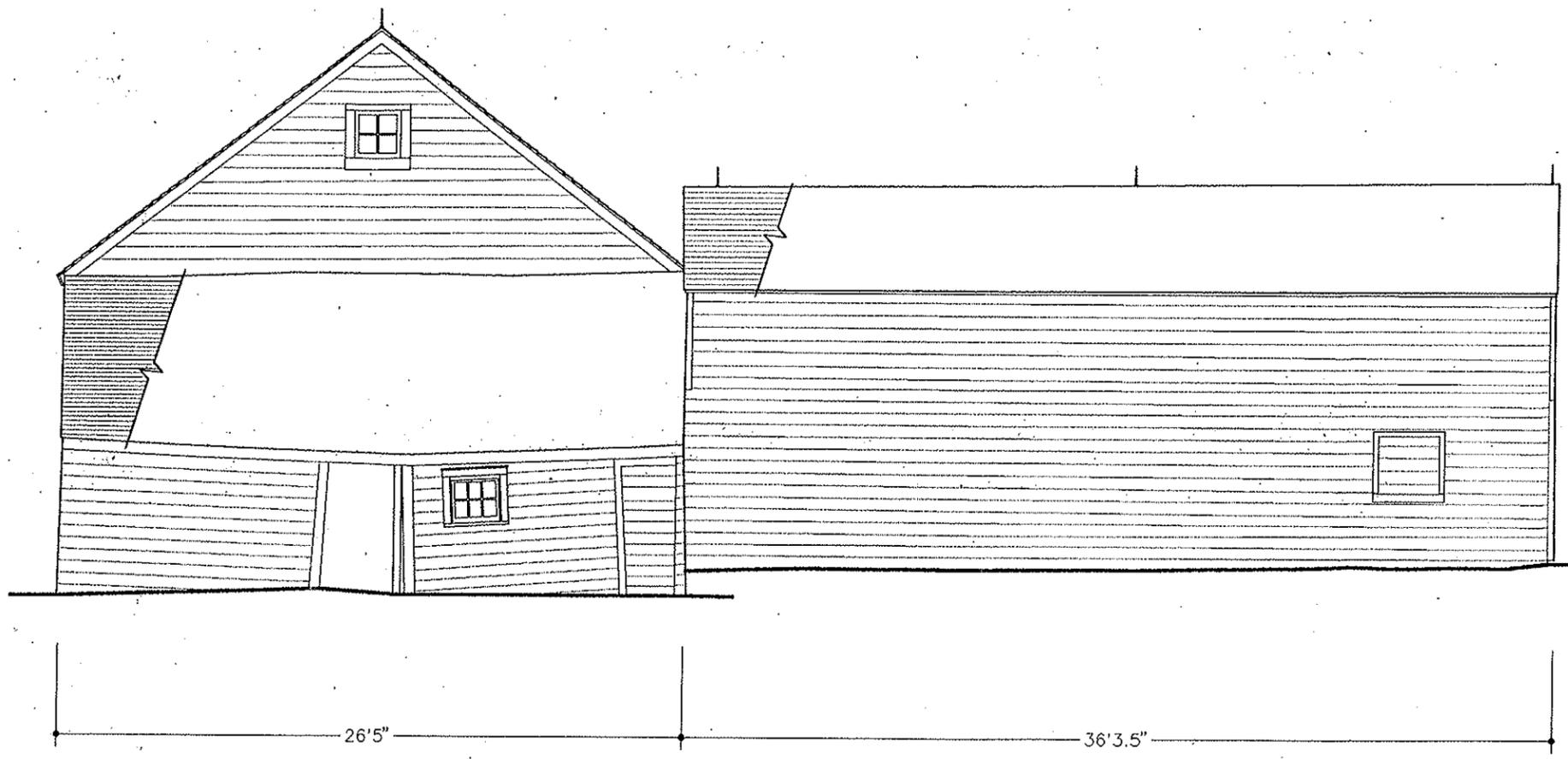
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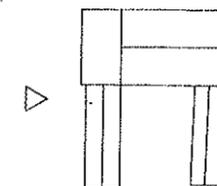
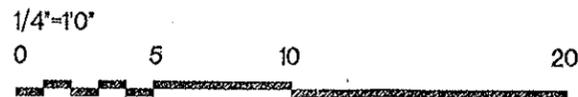
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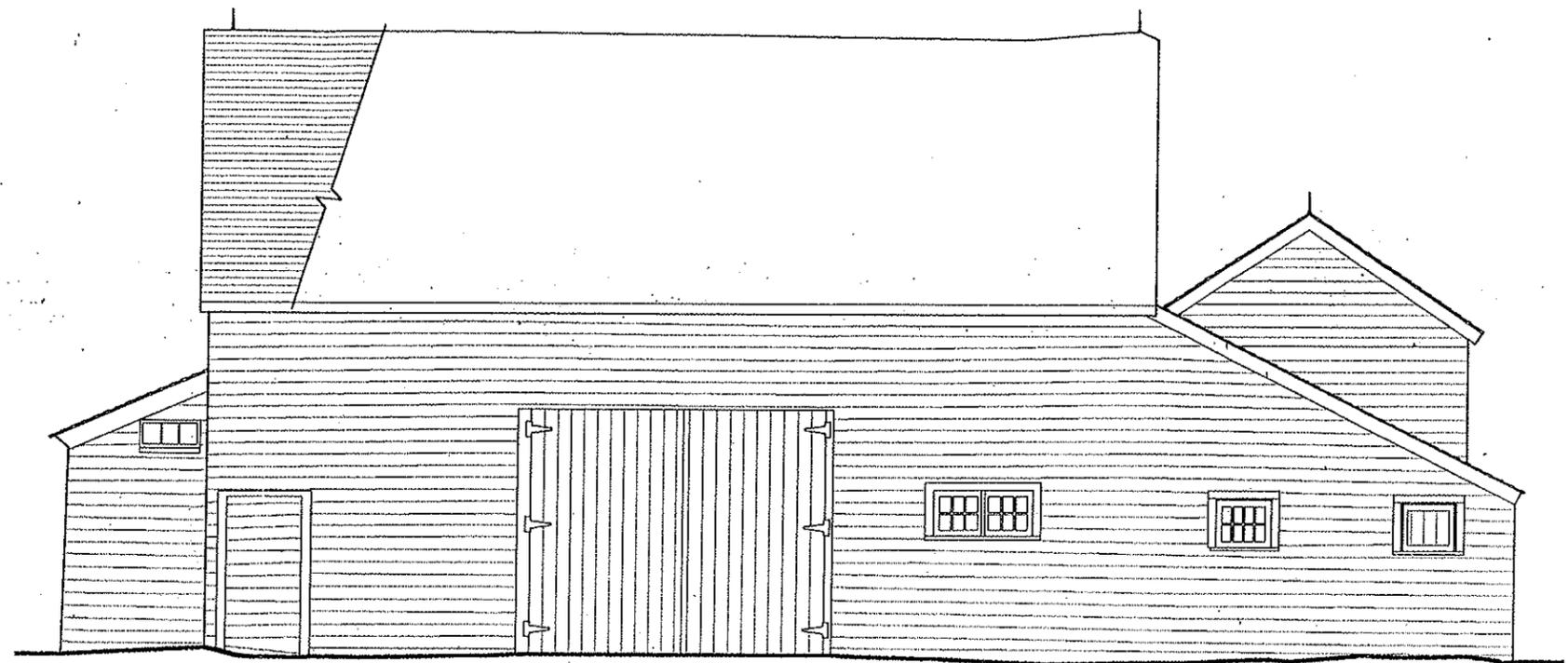
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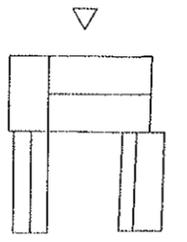
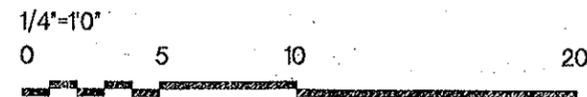
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North Elevation



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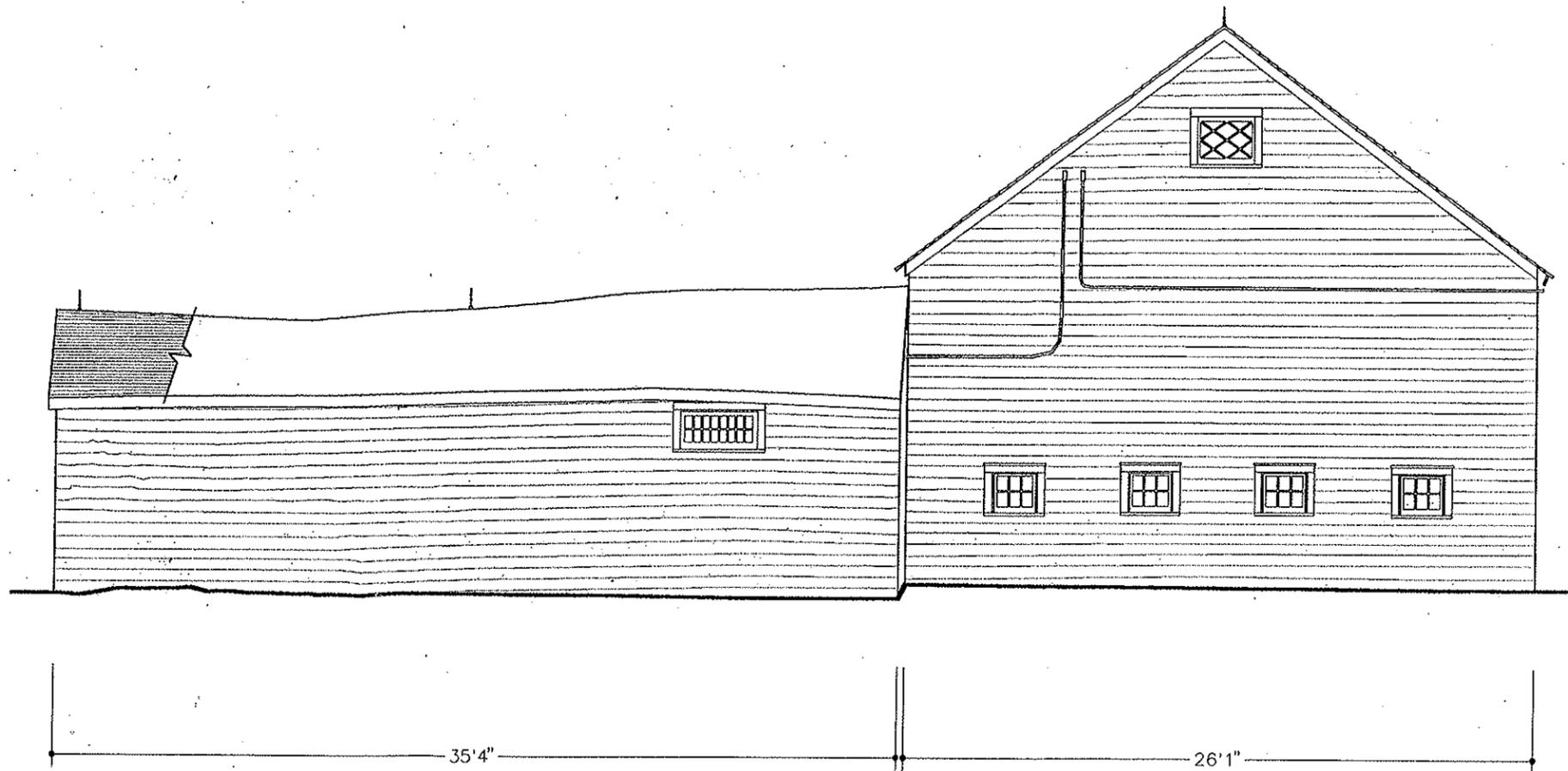
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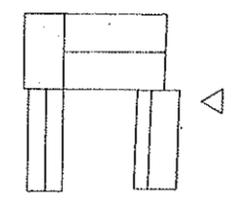
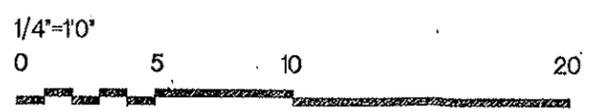
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East Elevation



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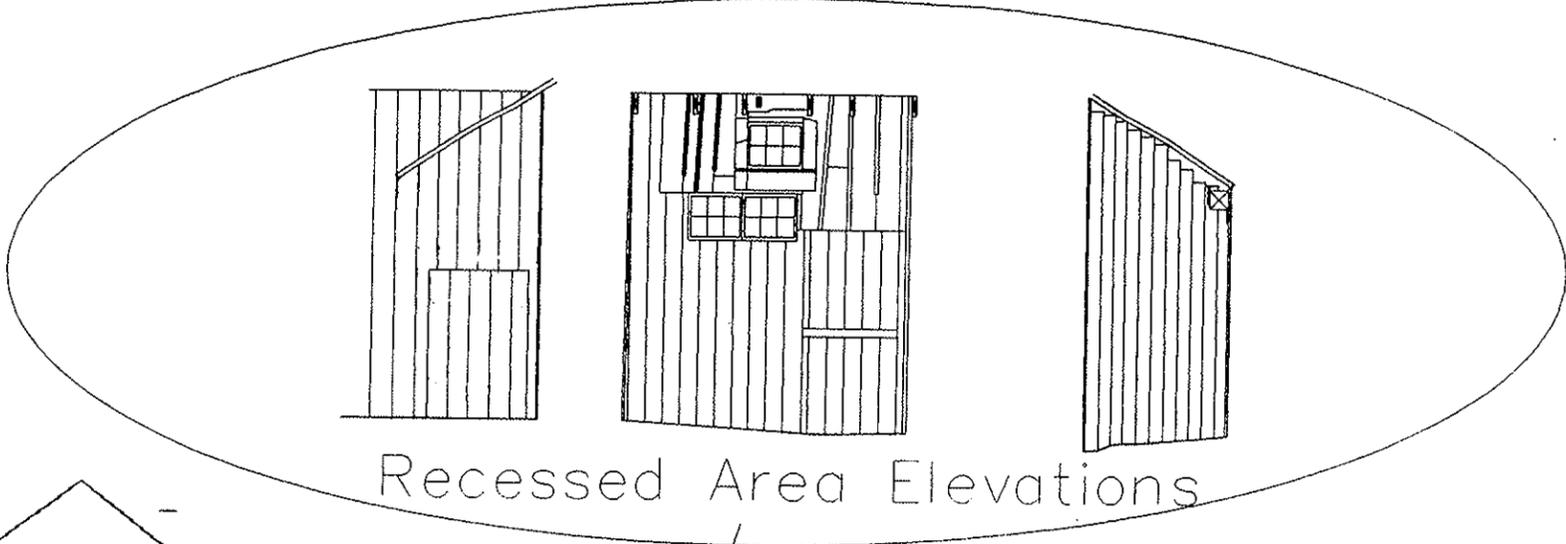
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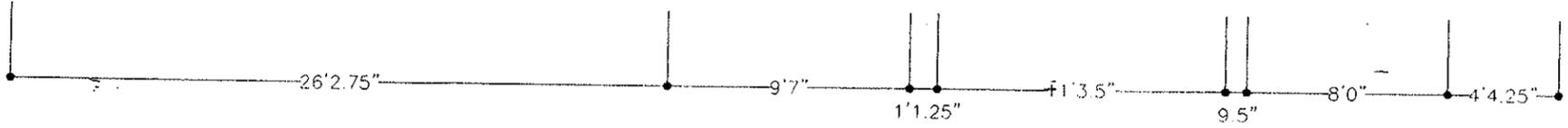
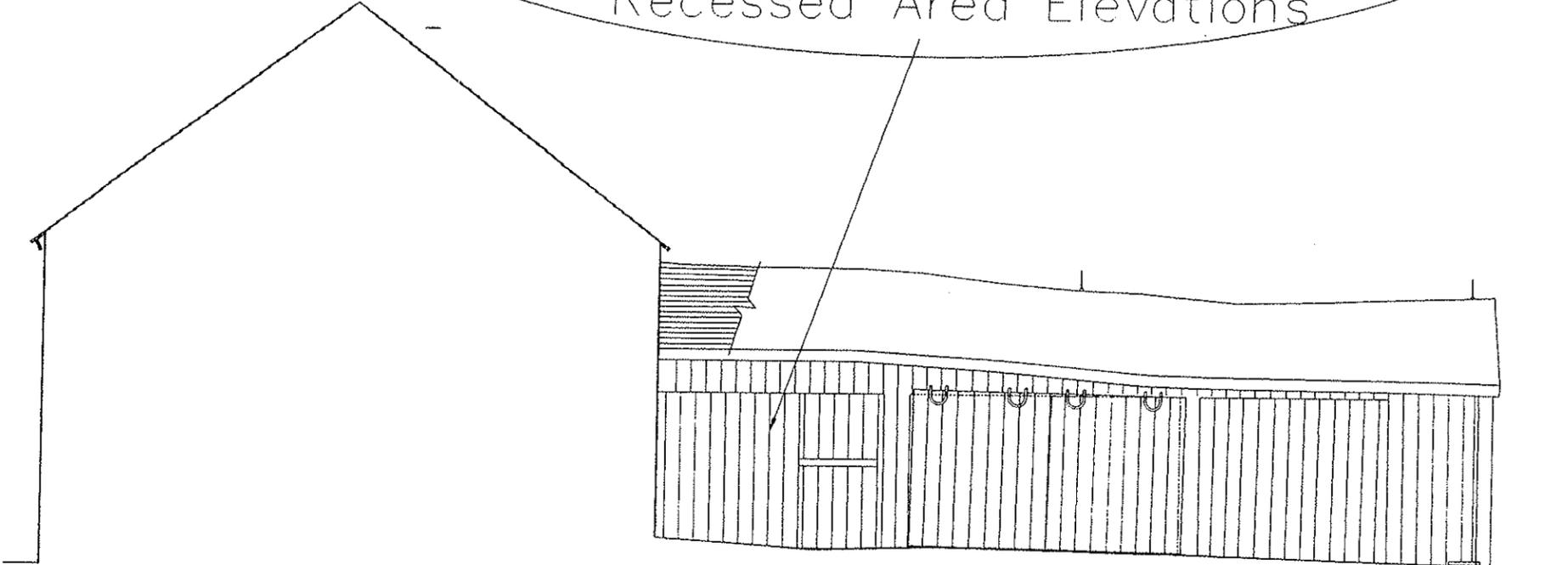
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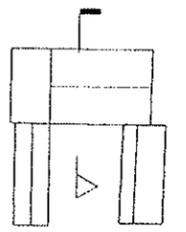
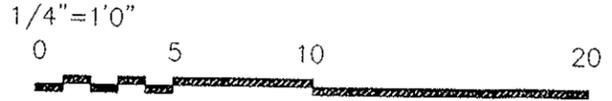
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Recessed Area Elevations



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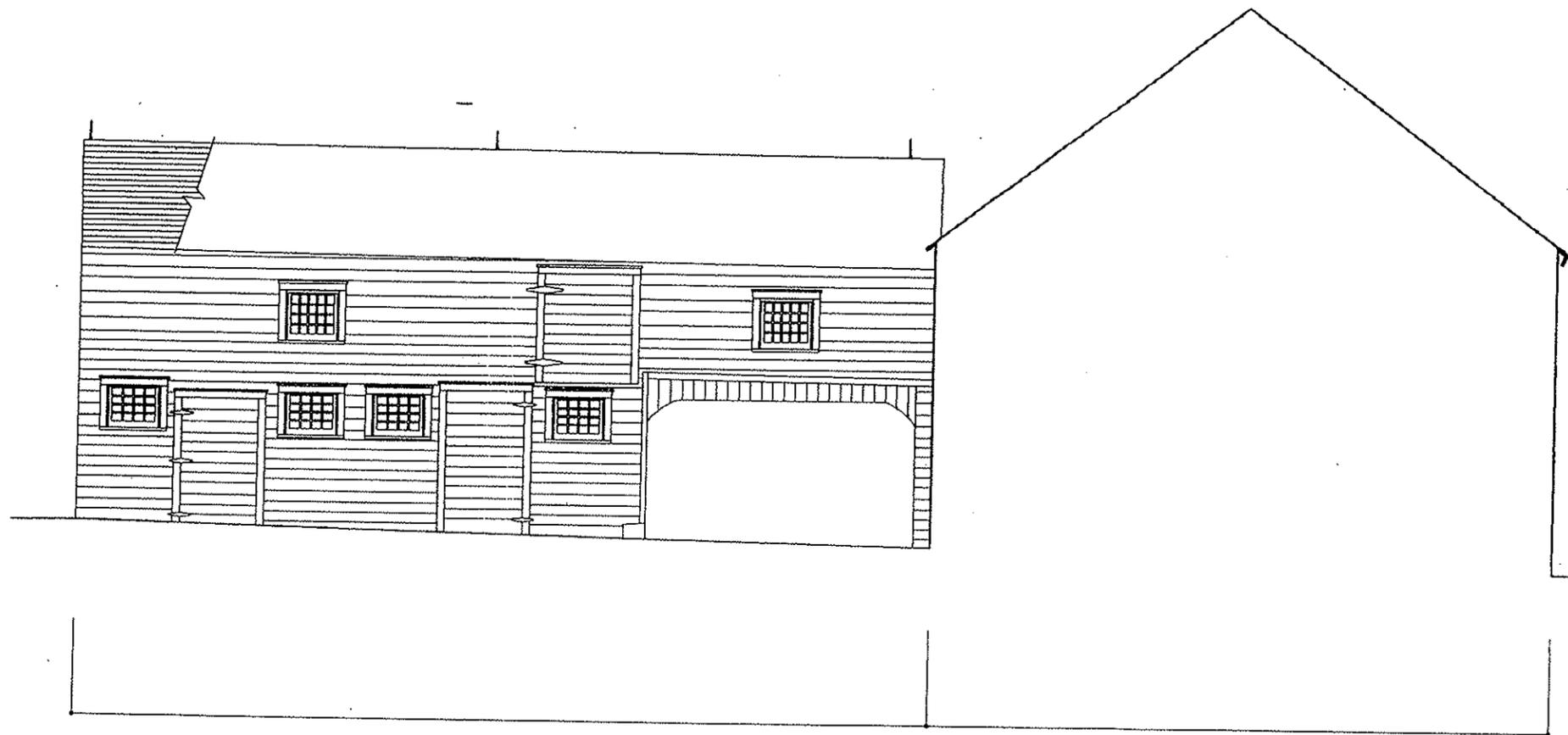


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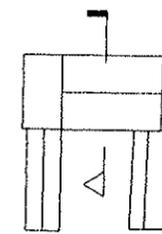
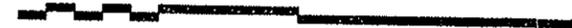
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East Elevation

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NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

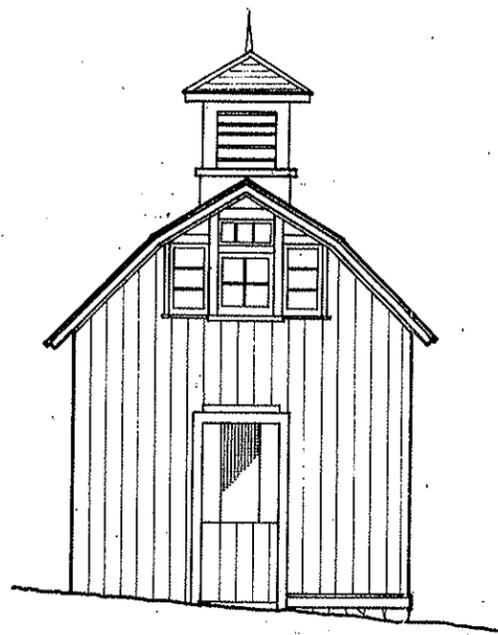
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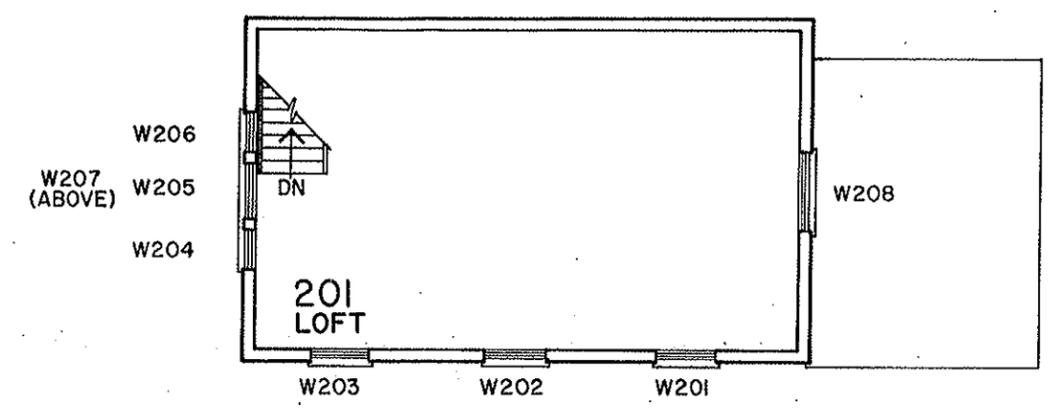
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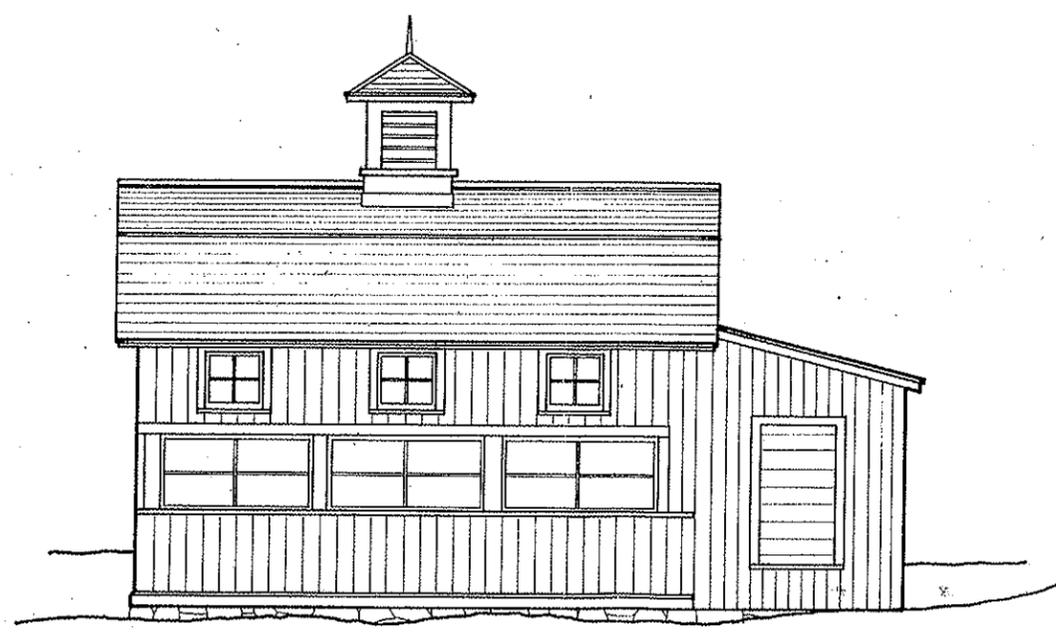
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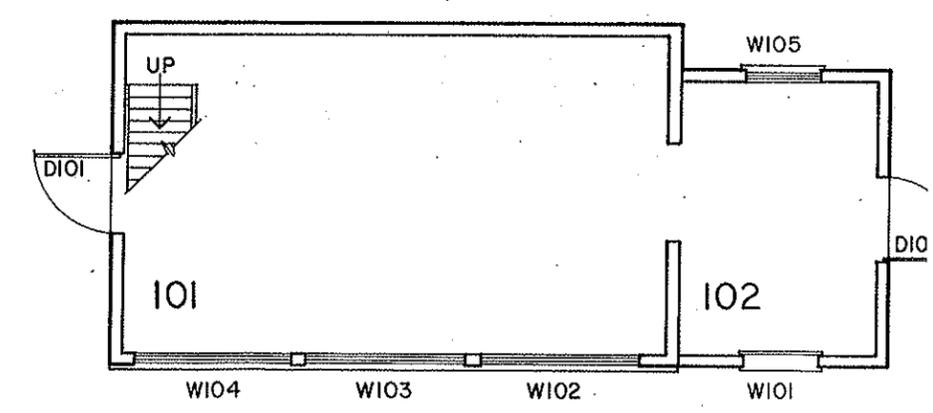
South Elevation



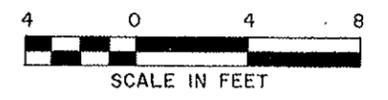
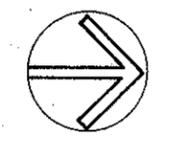
Second Floor Plan

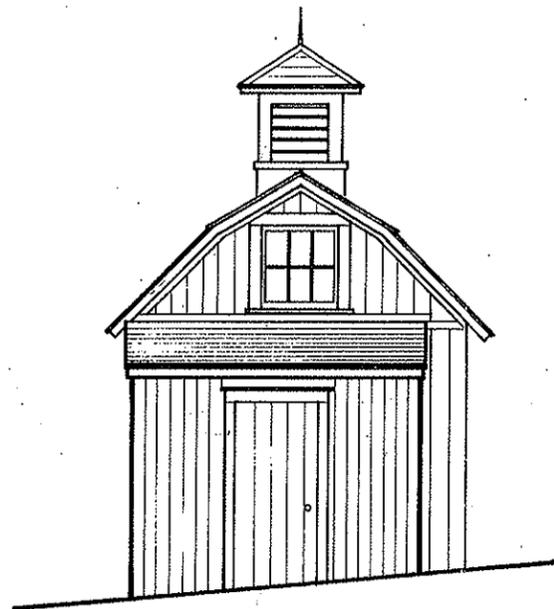


East Elevation

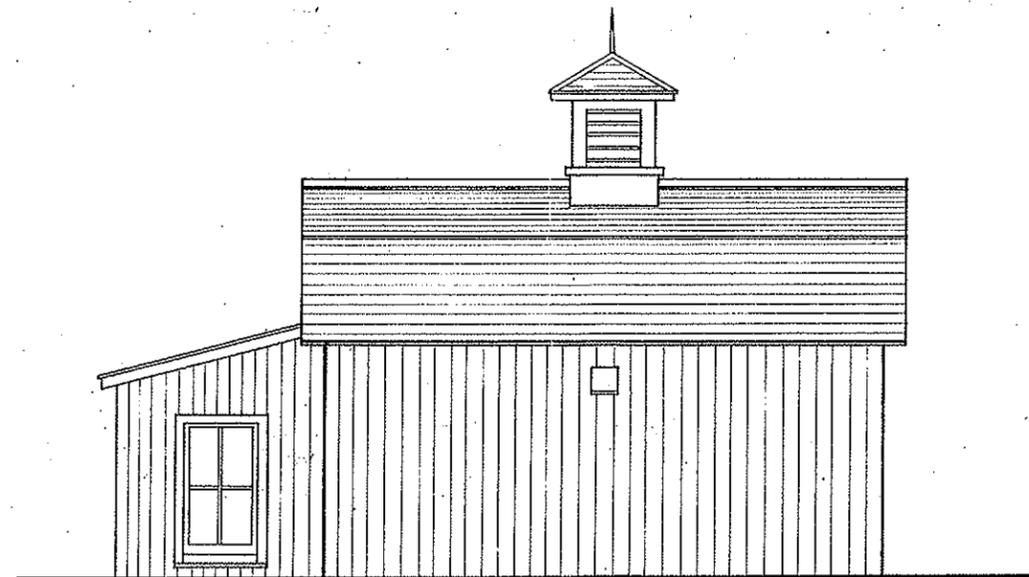


First Floor Plan





North Elevation



West Elevation



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NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

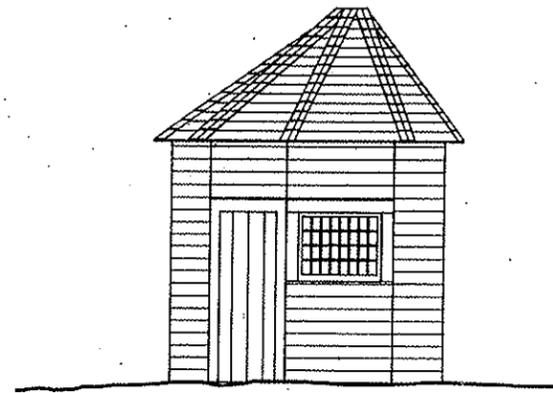
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WEIR ICE HOUSE

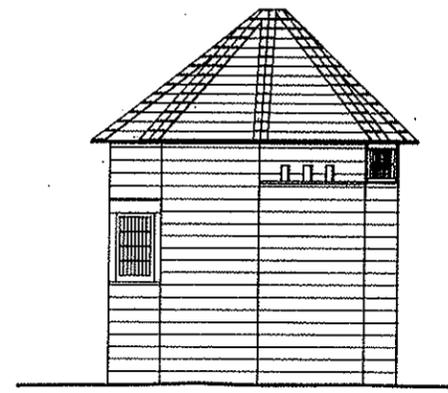
WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE . RIDGEFIELD / WILTON, CONNECTICUT

SURVEY NO.

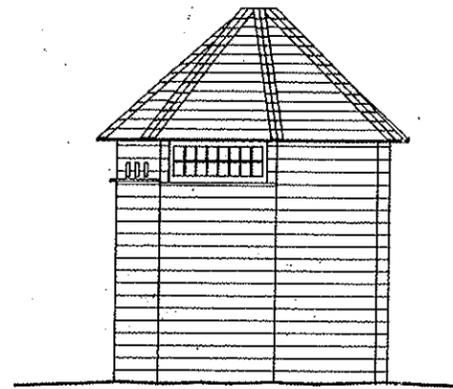
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET OF SHEETS



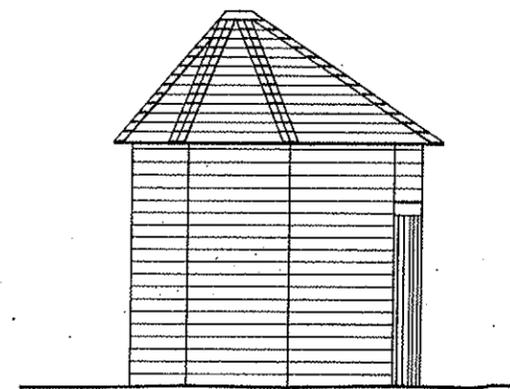
West Elevation



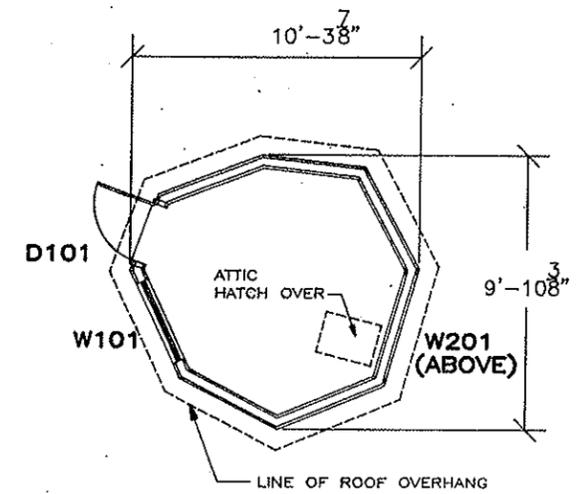
South Elevation



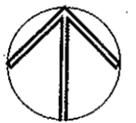
East Elevation



North Elevation



Plan



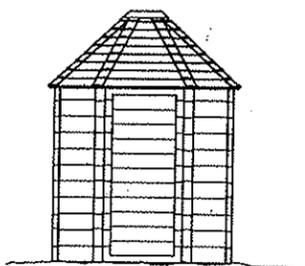
DRAWN BY: BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH/CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER, NESSO, 6/95

UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

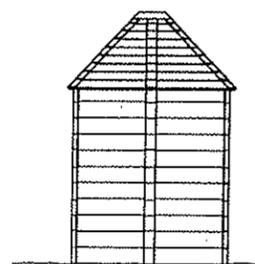
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
WEIR TACK HOUSE
WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE -- RIDGEFIELD / WILTON, CONNECTICUT

SURVEY NO.

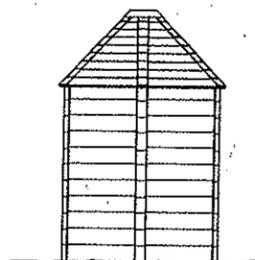
**HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY**
SHEET OF SHEETS



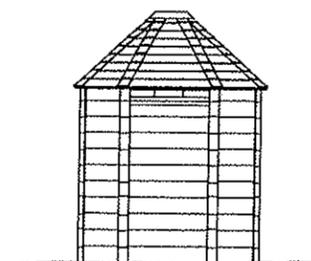
South Elevation



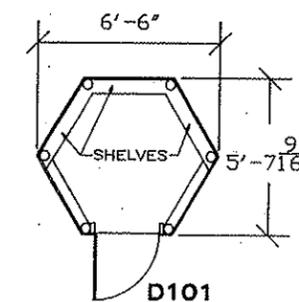
East Elevation



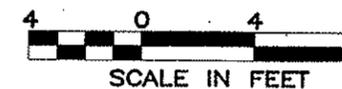
West Elevation



North Elevation



Plan



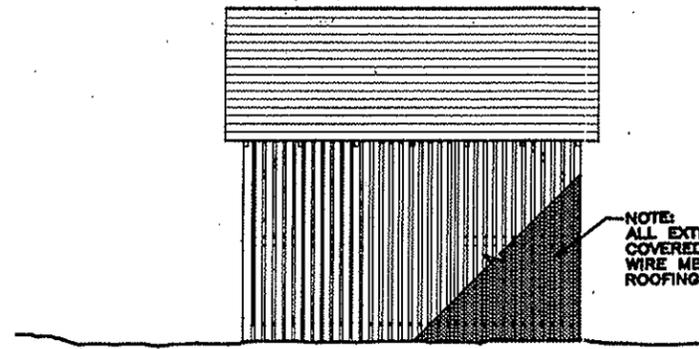
DRAWN BY: BUILDING CONSERVATION BRANCH/CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER, NESSO, 6/95

UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

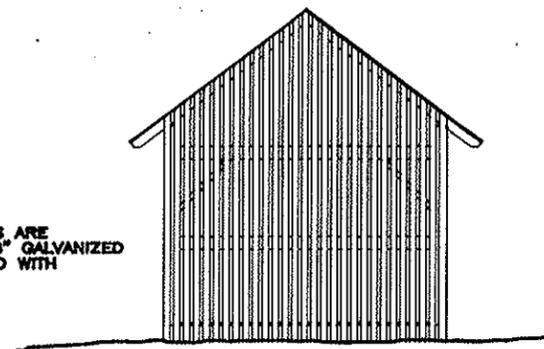
NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
WEIR GARDEN TOOL SHED
WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - RIDGEFIELD/WILTON, CONNECTICUT

SURVEY NO.

**HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY**
SHEET OF SHEETS

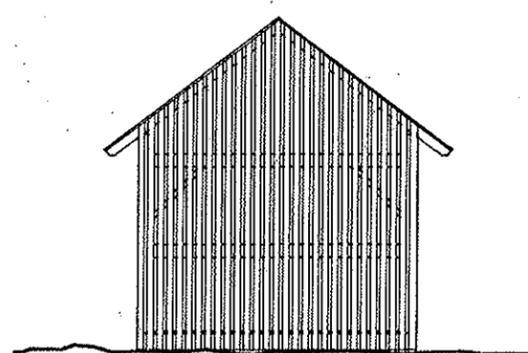


East Elevation

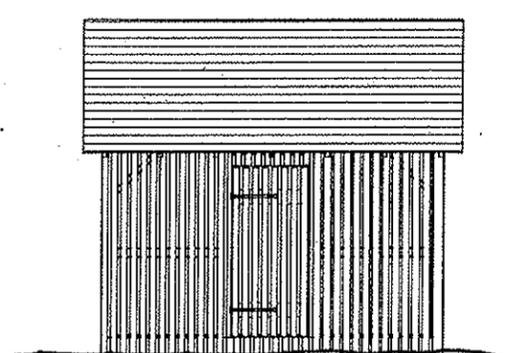


North Elevation

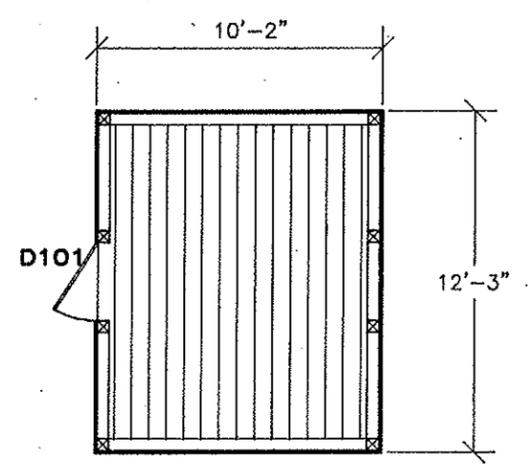
NOTE:
ALL EXTERIOR WALLS ARE
COVERED WITH 3/8" GALVANIZED
WIRE MESH SECURED WITH
ROOFING NAILS.



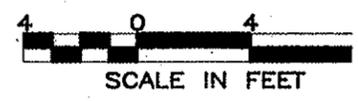
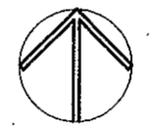
South Elevation



West Elevation



Plan

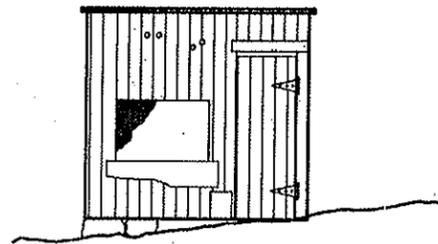


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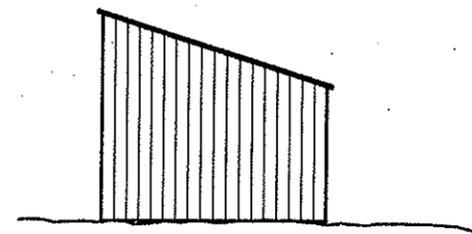
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
WEIR CORN CRIB
WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - RIDGEFIELD / WILTON, CONNECTICUT

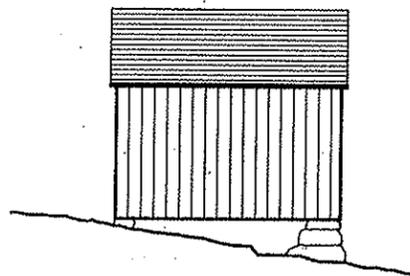
SURVEY NO. _____
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET OF SHEETS



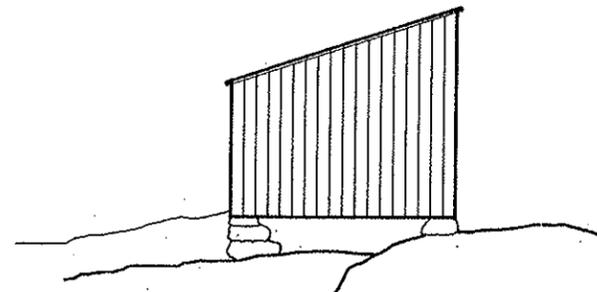
South Elevation



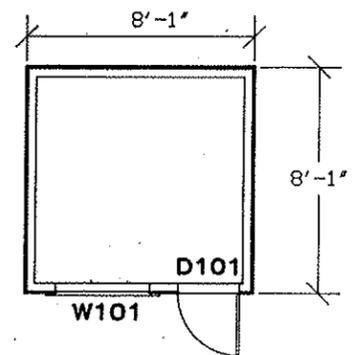
East Elevation



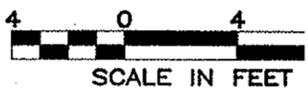
North Elevation



West Elevation



Plan



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UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

WEIR CHICKEN COOP

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - RIDGEFIELD / WILTON, CONNECTICUT

SURVEY NO.

**HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY**

SHEET OF SHEETS