

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *W.P.* Cream Hill Agricultural School

AND/OR COMMON Cream Hill Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Cream Hill Road

CITY, TOWN Cornwall VICINITY OF 6th - Toby Moffett
STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Litchfield CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trust u/w/o T.S. Gold

STREET & NUMBER (Mailing address: West Cornwall, CT 06796)

CITY, TOWN Cornwall VICINITY OF STATE CT

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cornwall Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER Pine Street

CITY, TOWN Cornwall STATE CT

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE CT

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

High on Cream Hill near West Cornwall, Connecticut is a large dairy farm, site of Cream Hill Agricultural School (1845-1869). The land is open and cultivated, primarily with corn, and in addition to the historic buildings, the property includes more recent barns alive with the activity of a working farm. The school itself was conducted in the dwelling house of the founder and in several additions attached to it.

The house which forms the core of the complex was built in the 1770's and is typical of ordinary dwellings of the period: two stories plus attic, five bays wide and two rooms deep, gable roof, central stack, clapboarded. Two Adamesque features were later incorporated. The gables were sided with flush boards and elliptical openings, one of which now has a louver in place of the window, were added. The main entranceway was also given added distinction: a semi-elliptical fan light was placed over the door, which was sheltered by an open-pediment portico supported by fluted columns and paneled pilasters. The changes which have been made to this part - modern sash, a tin roof and aluminum clapboards - do not detract from its appearance much and the building is in very good repair.

Around 1840 a 1½ story ell was added to the left rear of the house. This has an entrance near the point it joins the house, 6/6 sash in two first-story openings and directly under the eaves, three short windows lighting the attic space. Around the same time an open porch was added to the south side, running the full depth of the original house and part of the ell. The porch has a slightly sloping roof supported by a row of fluted Doric columns. For balance, a pilaster one-story high was added to the front facade. The windows behind the porch on the first level were remodelled to extend the full height of the story. Appended to the rear of this ell is a small, shed-like structure in somewhat deteriorated condition.

In 1845 a wing especially for educational purposes was added to the other (north) side. Two stories in height, with an almost flat roof, this addition was centered on the north wall of the main building and at right angles, causing half of it to be visible from the front. Here an entrance was placed, sheltered by a small projection; another entrance was built on the south side, facing the other ell. The fenestration is somewhat uneven with regard to the placement of openings. In this building were classrooms and dormitory rooms.

The final addition was made in 1850: a two-story, square, hip-roofed building surmounted by a square tower. This was added to the classroom wing with only a slight overlap of their walls, so that from the road almost the entire front facade is visible. This part has an entrance on the south side and like most of the complex has 6/6 sash, shutters and is clapboarded. There are four windows on each side except the rear, which is plain, but again these are not placed symmetrically. On the north and south sides there are two small windows under the eaves. The tower is somewhat distinguished architecturally: separated from its small square base by a molding, the tower itself has pilastered corners, flush board siding and a molded cornice. Upon its flat roof is mounted a flagstaff. There is one window on each side. The tower is more than a story in height, and is the most prominent part of the complex. This part of the school had a laundry and service rooms on the first floor and dormitory rooms on the second. Along with the adjoining classroom wing, this is the most historically significant part of the farm, yet these two sections are the most deteriorated, with inadequate roofs,

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sinking underpinnings and unpainted clapboards; they are seriously threatened.

To the rear of the dwelling and school are several barns and sheds dating from the 19th century. One was apparently a wagon shed and is now used as a garage; another is a large two-story barn. There is also a 1½ story barn of Greek Revival design, with pilastered corners and a heavily molded cornice which extends across the complete width of the pediment. Because the Cream Hill School included practice as well as instruction, these outbuildings, indeed the entire farm, are important elements in preserving the historical significance of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845 - founded

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cream Hill Agricultural School, founded in 1845, is commonly regarded as the first institution in the United States devoted entirely to agricultural education. The site is therefore a landmark in America's agricultural history. It is also significant for Connecticut's history, since the school served as a model for the State's land-grant college, now the University of Connecticut. Finally, these buildings are not without architectural interest. The main dwelling shows an evolution from plain colonial building to the more elaborate designs of the Federal period, as represented in the gable windows and the main entrance. The porch, tower and one of the barns are examples of the ubiquitous Greek Revival, in which no structure was thought too mundane to be embellished with Classical detail.

The school was established by T.S. Gold and his father, Dr. Samuel Gold, at their residence and farm on Cream Hill. T.S. Gold (1818-1906) had graduated in 1838 from Yale, an early center of interest in scientific farming. He later served many terms as Secretary of the State Agricultural Board and was one of the most active and influential promoters of scientific agriculture in Connecticut. His school attained a national reputation, and while most of the students came from New York and New England, others came from Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, the District of Columbia and four foreign countries: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Peru and Germany.

The curriculum stressed the chemical analysis of and relationship among soils, composts and manures. Practical instruction in many areas of agriculture, horticulture and surveying was given, and students applied their knowledge in working on the farm and cultivating individual garden plots. Instruction was also given in the usual subjects and in music, art, French and military training. Because it operated at the secondary level, some students were prepared for college. One graduate eventually went on to become director of Yale's Sheffield Scientific School. An average of about 22 pupils were in attendance at any one time, and 272 attended the school before it closed in 1869.

Cream Hill also provided a moral environment for its students. The Golds considered each a member of their family, and exercised a parental supervision over the boys' health, deportment and morals. The hilltop farm was proclaimed free from all "demoralizing" influences. Because of the influence of Gold, this moralistic approach, as well as the manual labor philosophy, was borrowed by the founders of the State Agricultural College, which one historian described as "a lineal descendent of the Cream Hill School." ¹

The School is representative of a transitional period in American agriculture. The discoveries of chemistry, the professionalization of the farmer and the need for specialized knowledge were signals of the coming of modern farming. At the same time, the School promoted older ideas about the moral integrity of the

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husbandman, the purifying effect of the land and working with, not against, the natural environment. Although they are seriously threatened by deterioration, the buildings at Cream Hill are important artifacts. Not only do they have commemorative value, but they and the surrounding farm recreate the optimistic atmosphere of this early experiment in agricultural education.

¹Walter Stemmons, Connecticut Agricultural College - a History (Storrs, 1931), 42.

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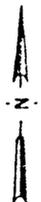
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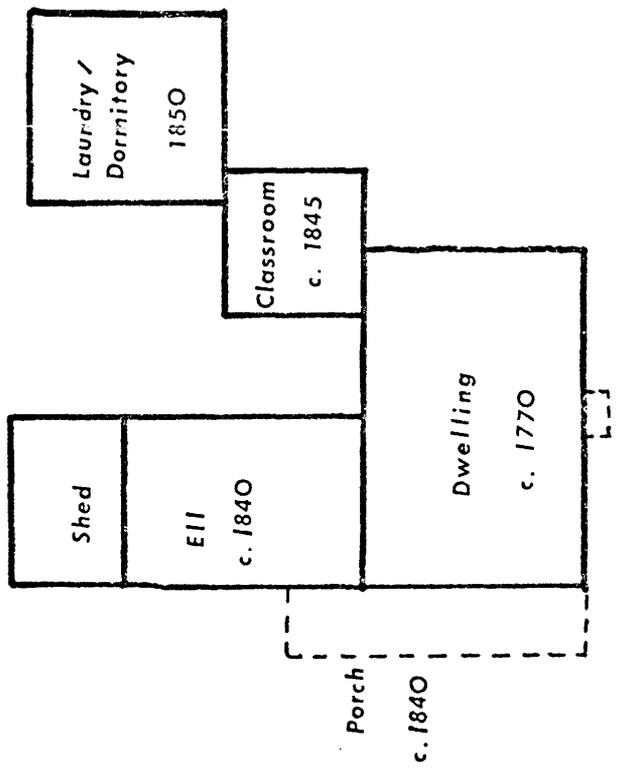
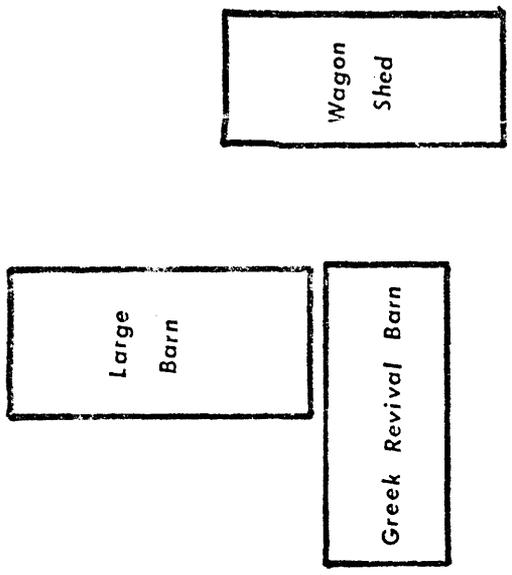
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Stemmons, Walter. Connecticut Agricultural College - a History. Storrs:
Connecticut Agricultural College, 1931.



Cream Hill Agricultural School

SITE PLAN
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



Front Entrance c. 1810

Cream Hill Road