



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

September 21, 2021

Mr. Stephen Anderson, Supervising Environmental Analyst
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Development & Resource Preservation
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701
Hartford, CT 06103

Subject: Southbury Training School Farm Complex
Spruce Brook Road at Purchase Brook Road
Southbury, CT
ENV-22-0248

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the information submitted for the above-named property pursuant to the provisions of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

The Subject Property located at the intersection of Spruce Brook Road and Purchase Brook Road, known as the Southbury Training School Farm Complex, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) as part of the Southbury Training School (NR# 92000368). At the time of listing, the Complex contained 27 resources, 22 of which were considered contributing.

The proposed scope of work consists of demolition of underutilized and or/deteriorated structures, including the following:

- Farm Cottage #1 (NR Inventory #94, Contributing);
- Farm Cottage #2 (NR Inventory #95, Noncontributing);
- Foreman's House (NR Inventory #100, Contributing);
- Foreman's House Garage (NR Inventory #101, Noncontributing);
- Triplex Farmhouse (NR Inventory #99, Contributing);
- Transformer House (NR Inventory #109, Contributing);
- Milk House and Smokestack (NR Inventory #104, Contributing);

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- Bunker silo (not identified in nomination); and
- Abattoir (NR Inventory #84, Contributing).

The proposal also includes demolition of Dairy Barn #2 (NR Inventory #93, Noncontributing). Although originally given a construction date of c.1960, as a replacement of the original Dairy Barn (c. 1940), subsequent documentation indicates that approximately half of the extant barn dates to 1940, and would be considered contributing.

Following a site visit on April 26, 2021, SHPO recommended that the Dairy Barn be retained, in whole or in part, as mitigation for the demolition of the above-mentioned resources. Since that time, the Project Sponsor has continued to evaluate the possibility of retention of the Dairy Barn, but expressed concern about the condition of the other structures, as a matter of public safety. This office has no objection to the demolition of the above-listed buildings, provided that the Dairy Barn be retained while the Project Sponsor continues to consult with our office on suitable mitigation, and the buildings are photodocumented prior to demolition.

The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project, and looks forward to a successful resolution for all parties. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For further information please contact Todd Levine, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2337 or todd.levine@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Kinney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Kinney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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