

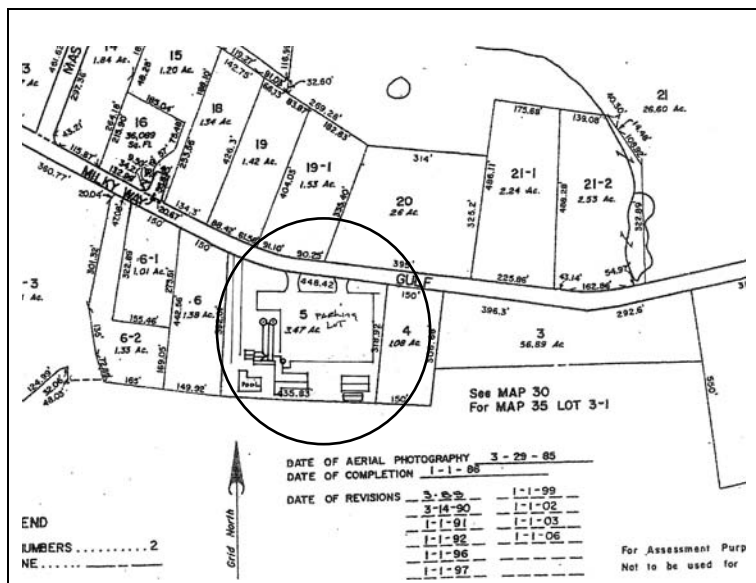
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Geoffrey E. Melhuish

Organization: Turk, Tracey, and Larry Architects, LLC

Date (month / year): September 2011

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

35-5

E

Town: Dartmouth

Place: (neighborhood or village) Dartmouth

Address: 276 Gulf Road

Historic Name: Gulf Hill Dairy Barn

Uses: Present: Social – YMCA

Original: Agricultural – Dairy Barn

Date of Construction: c 1920

Source: Gulf Hill Farm History

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Poured Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

A one-story wood frame structure which was constructed in 2001 is located southeast of the barn. A gable roofed open walled pavilion is located at the west end. A wood frame and plastic sheathed greenhouse also constructed c 2001 is located along the south elevation of the structure. An in-ground pool constructed by the YMCA in 2001 is located south of the barn.

Major Alterations (with dates):

New entrance bay and garage – 2001.

Siding, asphalt shingles, windows, doors, and skylights replaced – 2010

Condition: Good

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 3.47 acres

Setting: The Gulf Hill Dairy Barn is located in a primarily residential area approximately ¾ of a mile west of Apponagansett Bay. The barn is located on approximately 3.5 acres on the south side of Gulf Road. A paved parking lot separates the barn from the road.

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X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The former Gulf Hill dairy barn 276 Gulf Road is located approximately three quarters of a mile west of Apponagansett Bay. The barn is located on approximately three and one-half acres on the south side of Gulf Road. A paved parking lot separates the barn from the road. Open fields associated with the Gulf Hill Farm, which are owned and operated by the Y for the Sharing the Harvest Farm are located to the south, woodlands are located to the east, single-family residential properties are located to the north and modern commercial development is located to the west.

The former Gulf Hill Dairy farm once consisted of a large agricultural complex which was located on both the north and south side of Gulf Road and along the east side of Bakerville Road to the west. The properties associated with the farm complex included residential dwellings, barns, a processing plant, ancillary outbuildings, and an ice cream stand. The "old house" or tenant house located southwest of the dairy barn (south side of Gulf Road) as well as the main processing plant and a bull barn located north of the main barn (north side of Gulf Road) are no longer extant. Extant residential properties associated with the farm complex include: the residence located at 319 Gulf Road (DAR.636) to the west of the main barn (north side of Gulf Road) which was at one time the residence of Joseph and Mary Foster Fernandes, and the cape at 293 Gulf Road (DAR.635) which was the residence of Raymond and Shirley Fernandes. Three of the barns associated with the farm are standing; one is the current YMCA building, the second is the "main barn" located to the west on the north side of Gulf Road which has been rehabilitated into a private residence and the third barn is the calf barn located northwest of the converted "main barn." The former calf barn has been rehabilitated and is currently used as a garage for the residence. The truck repair shop located to the south of the main processing plant still stands on the property of Concordia Yacht Services and is used as a storage facility. A bucket-shaped ice cream stand constructed in the 1930s and once located across the street from the "main barn" in the parking lot of the milk processing plant has been relocated to Apponagansett Park on the western shore of the bay. The stand was located on the site of the YMCA property when the barn served as a restaurant and Children's Museum. A paved drive, stone walls, and allee of trees located west of the dairy barn which provided access to the "old house," remain. The drive, stone walls and allee of trees is located on the property and contributes to the historic character of the setting of the Gulf Hill Dairy. Additional stone walls along the north side of Gulf Road many of which have been incorporated into the landscape of a modern residential subdivision development contribute to the historic character of the setting of the dairy.

The following description is of the Gulf Hill Dairy Barn located on the south side of Gulf Road.

The Gulf Hill Dairy Barn is a long, rectangular, two-and-one-half story, gambrel roofed, wood-shingle sided over concrete, barn with paired wooden silos on the north elevation. The Gulf Hill Dairy Barn includes multiple wood-frame additions, all of which are clad with wood-shingles with asphalt shingle roofs. The barn rests on a concrete slab. The asphalt-shingled gambrel roof is broken at the ridge line by three, large, metal ventilators seated on metal platforms. A wide interior brick chimney that was added when the barn was used as a restaurant and ice cream parlor c 1965 pierces the south end of the east roof plane. Additionally four shed roof dormers are located on the east roof plane and three are located on the west roof plane. Each dormer features a paired four-light fixed sash window set within a simple wood surround. Nine modern metal frame sky-lights located on the lower roof plane provide additional light to the former hay loft. The nine individual skylights replaced the long strip skylight which was located at the south end of the east roof plane. The strip skylight was likely installed in the 1970s to provide light to the inside and exterior views to the dining public. The former hayloft is accessed from the north gable end by eight-light

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued:

over four-panel wood doors located on the second level. A single four-light window is located above the hayloft access door providing additional light to the interior.

The north elevation of the barn is dominated by a pair of attached wood silos. Each silo is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles. Each silo is capped by an eight-sided asphalt-shingle hipped roof capped by a metal ventilator. Exposed wood rafters are visible at the eave overhang. A single shed roof dormer is located on the northern most roof plan of each silo. A single four-light window is featured in each dormer. An eight-light over four-panel wood door located between the two silos provides access to the first floor of the barn. An enclosed wood frame access chute is visible on the south elevation of each silo above the roof of the barn.

The east elevation of the barn features eight, nine-light aluminum clad replacement windows set within a simple wood surround; both fixed sash and casement replacement are present. The windows replaced the single-light windows that were most likely installed when the ice-cream parlor was in operation. It appears that the windows were installed within original masonry openings. A one-story gambrel roof enclosed entry portico is located at the north end of the elevation. The one-story structure is one-bay wide and one bay deep and constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The south elevation of the addition features an entry door while an 8/8 double-hung replacement sash window is located on the east elevation and a nine-light fixed sash replacement is located on the north elevation. A single two-light metal frame access door is located at the south end of elevation. Historical photographs indicate that the door was installed in one of the original window openings. A one-story, two-bay wide and one bay deep structure (perhaps the milk house) is located at the south end of the east elevation to the south of the light metal frame door. The structure is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. A one-story silo inspired entry is located at the southeast corner of the structure. A pair of metal frame and glass doors provides access to the building. Two small four-light replacement sash windows are located on the north elevation.

A one-story wood frame structure constructed in 2001 is located southeast of the entry bay. The structure is not internally connected to the entry bay but is attached at the roof. A gable roofed open walled pavilion is located at the east end of the wood frame structure. The pavilion is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof is supported by wood posts resting on the concrete foundation. A shingled wood frame knee-wall is featured along the foundation. A one-story gambrel roof wood frame gazebo is located at the southeast end of the pavilion. Wood stairs to the north of the gazebo provide access to the pavilion. An in-ground pool is located to the west of the structure and south of the barn. A chain link fence and concrete patio surround the pool.

The west elevation of the dairy barn features two sets of paired six-light over three panel hinged carriage doors flanked by two nine-light fixed sash replacement windows set within a simple wood surround. Additionally, a one-story gable roof addition is located at the south end of the west addition; two metal utility doors are located at the northwest corner of the addition. Three exterior air condition fan units on concrete pads are located to the north of the addition. A two-and-one-half story gambrel roof wing projects from the southwest corner of the barn. Like the main block; the roof is clad with asphalt shingles and the walls are sheathed with wood shingles. A one-story, two-car garage projects from the west elevation of the wing. The garage is capped by a gable roof. Two overhead track doors on the west elevation of the garage provide access to the garage. Two 1/1 vinyl windows are located on the north elevation and a single metal entry door is located on the south elevation. A concrete pad on the north elevation of the garage is enclosed by a vertical board privacy fence.

A one-story shed roof addition is located across the south elevation of the barn. The south elevation fenestration is made up of a single metal entry door at the west end, three 1/1 double-hung replacement windows centrally located and a band of three 1/1 double-hung replacement windows at the east end. Centered on the south elevation and above the addition is the south gambrel of the barn. The south elevation of the barn features two sets of paired 1/1 vinyl windows set within a simple wood surround. Above the windows and below the ridge are two metal ventilation louvers. Centered above the ventilation louvers is a portion of hayloft pulley system which carried bales of hay to the mow.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued:

The interior of the barn is for the most part open on both the first and second floors. The first floor features a poured concrete floor and a mix of materials; wood, brick and concrete as wall treatments. An exposed metal truss system is visible at the ceiling. A brick fireplace hearth is located at the southeast end of the first floor and was installed in the 1960s when the barn was reconfigured into a restaurant space. Office space and bathrooms are located south of the fireplace. Both of the twin silos are visible and accessible from each of the two floors of the barn. Each silo features an exposed brick foundation above the concrete foundation. The outer surface of each silo is sheathed with curved shiplap-siding and the inner surface is clad with vertical wood boards. Wood access ladders and hinged silage access doors remain on both the inner and outer walls of the silos. Exposed wood roof sheathing is visible at each roof.

Like the first floor, a hearth is also visible at the south end of the second floor. Additionally, the lumber truss framing is exposed at the second floor and the entire hayloft pulley system including the metal track, trolley, hay rope and steel hay hook remains. The floor is plywood. Remnants of the Twin Silos kitchen including a clay tile floor; plumbing, and mechanical vents remain in a storage room located at the south end of the second floor to the south of the chimney.

A one-story wood frame structure which was constructed in 2001 is located southeast of the barn. The wood frame structure is capped by a gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A gable roofed open walled pavilion is located at the west end of the structure. The pavilion is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof is supported by wood posts resting on the concrete foundation. A shingled wood frame knee-wall is featured along the foundation. This structure is aligned on axis with the wood frame structure and pavilion located east of the pool. A walkway constructed of formed concrete panels extends between the two buildings. A triangular wood frame climbing wall is located between to two structures to the south of the walkway. The climbing tower is comprised of three round poles with horizontal boards attached. Hand and foot holds are attached to the horizontal boards. A wood frame and plastic sheathed greenhouse is located along the south elevation of the structure.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In southeastern Massachusetts immigrants from Portugal, the Azores and Cape Verde began arriving in the New Bedford area during the mid-nineteenth century largely because of the whaling industry. When the whaling industry declined, the need for employment in the textile industries led to a steady increase of immigrants. The growing populations in nearby urban centers increased the demand for agricultural goods, especially dairy products. Portuguese immigrants began acquiring established farms and agricultural lands in the area for dairy farms.

The Gulf Hill Dairy was started in 1896 by Frank J. Fernandes as Gulf Hill Farm. The business began with a herd of approximately 50 cows. The family run operation included milking, cooling the milk, and home delivery.

In 1907, ownership of the farm passed to Frank's son, Joseph T. Fernandes (Bristol County Registry of Deeds 274/318-319). Joseph was born in Dartmouth in 1880. His wife, Mary Foster Fernandes was born in Massachusetts around 1886. The couple resided with their children, Francis, Raymond, Eunice and Gilbert. The 1910 census records indicate that at that time, the couple resided with a farm hand named Augustus Leardson and Mary W. Souza, a domestic servant, both born in Portugal.

In *Portuguese Spinner: An American Story*, Gilbert Fernandez (spelling of last name changed from previous generation), recounted growing up on Gulf Hill Dairy. "You milked the cows, put the milk in jugs and distributed it. A horse and wagon delivered the milk early in the morning...then on Saturdays, my mother got in her horse and buggy and Evangeline (the horse) drove her to all of the customers to collect the money."

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE continued

In 1918, after an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, with bad milk the suspected cause, Joseph led the movement in New Bedford for safe handling and the pasteurization of milk. *"We were one of the few farms that had the capability to pasteurize. Other farms would bring their milk to us to be pasteurized, bottled, and distributed by Gulf Hill"* (Portuguese Spinner 1998: 269).

In 1925, Mr. Fernandes constructed a new dairy barn of concrete and brick to accommodate the expanding business.¹ Within ten years, the building was expanded and the second story was added. The second story was constructed of wood. At this time, the farm developed a herd of Guernsey cows instead of the more common Holstein and began producing a quality ice cream using the rich milk of the Guernsey cows (Gulf Hill Farm/Dartmouth Historical Commission for the Dartmouth Chronicle).

During the 1930's a mechanized milking parlor was constructed across Gulf Road for a special certified herd of Ayrshire cows. Strict regulations involving the handling of the herd and the milk were involved in certifying a herd and at the time, Gulf Hill Farm was *"one of only two certified dairies in New England"* (Portuguese Spinner 1998: 269). The Gulf Hill Farm Bucket was built in the 1930s to serve the farm's ice cream. The bucket was located on the site of the processing plant which was located across from the milking parlor.

In 1947, after the death of Joseph Fernandes, his sons Raymond and Gilbert took over management of the farm. After Raymond's death in 1952, Gilbert continued to manage the business until 1961. Relatives of the Fernandes family continued to run the Gulf Hill Dairy after Gilbert, but soon it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Clement Lester. The Lesters raised beef cattle on the farm for a short time. Under the ownership of the Lesters, the barn was converted into the Gulf Hill Parlor in 1965. The YMCA history indicates that the Twin Silos restaurant/nightclub on the second floor was added in the 1970s. Historical photos of the parlor and restaurant show a lunch counter and stools in the first floor space and an open dining room upstairs with a bar along the west wall.

In 1982, the property was purchased by the Trustees of the Apponagansett Bay Trust, a local organization established to protect the property from commercial development. In 1985, the property was donated to the Children's Museum of Dartmouth with much of the land held in a Conservation Restriction by the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust. The Dartmouth Children's Museum taught several agricultural programs as part of the museum's educational curriculum including winter farming, greenhouses, community gardens, and maple sugaring. In 2001, the property was purchased by the Dartmouth YMCA, a division of YMCA Southcoast (History of Gulf Hill Dairy/YMCA). The first floor of the barn is used as the main activity center with administrative offices and restroom facilities to the south and the second floor is used for storage. The wood frame structure and greenhouse to the southeast are used to support the agricultural activities taking place in the fields to the south.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Dartmouth Historical Commission. *Gulf Hill Farm*. One of a series of articles written by the Dartmouth Historical Commission for the Dartmouth Chronicle.

Dartmouth YMCA. History of Gulf Hill Dairy. Written by the Dartmouth YMCA for the Gulf Hill Dairy Community Preservation Projects.

Fernandez, G and Kathy Fair. *Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form Area E*. Dartmouth, MA: Dartmouth Historical Commission, August 1983.

McCabe, Marsha L. and Thomas, Joseph D. ed. *Portuguese Spinner: An American Story*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, Inc, 1998.

New Bedford Sunday Standard-Times, October 3, 1965

U.S. Commerce Dept. Census Bureau, 1840-1930.

¹ It is unknown at this time when the barn was clad with wood shingles or if the shingles were original to the structure. A 1965 photo in the Advertising supplement to the New Bedford Sunday Standard-Times, October 3, 1965 shows Thomas Perry, Assistant Restaurant Manager and Albert Espindola, Maintenance Manager, checking blueprints during construction of the new restaurant. The barn is in the background of the photo with what appears to be new wood shingles. The shingles may have been applied at this time to soften the concrete walls.

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View looking southeast at northwest corner of barn.



View looking east at northwest corner of barn.

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View looking southeast along west elevation.



View looking southeast at garage addition.

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View looking west at northeast corner of barn.



View looking southwest of entry.

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View looking northwest along south elevation of barn.



View looking south from second floor.

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Detail view of silo roof interior.



Detail view of silo ladder.

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Detail of hayloft pulley system.



View looking southeast at wood frame shelter and greenhouse.

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View looking south at agricultural fields.



View looking south at climbing Wall.

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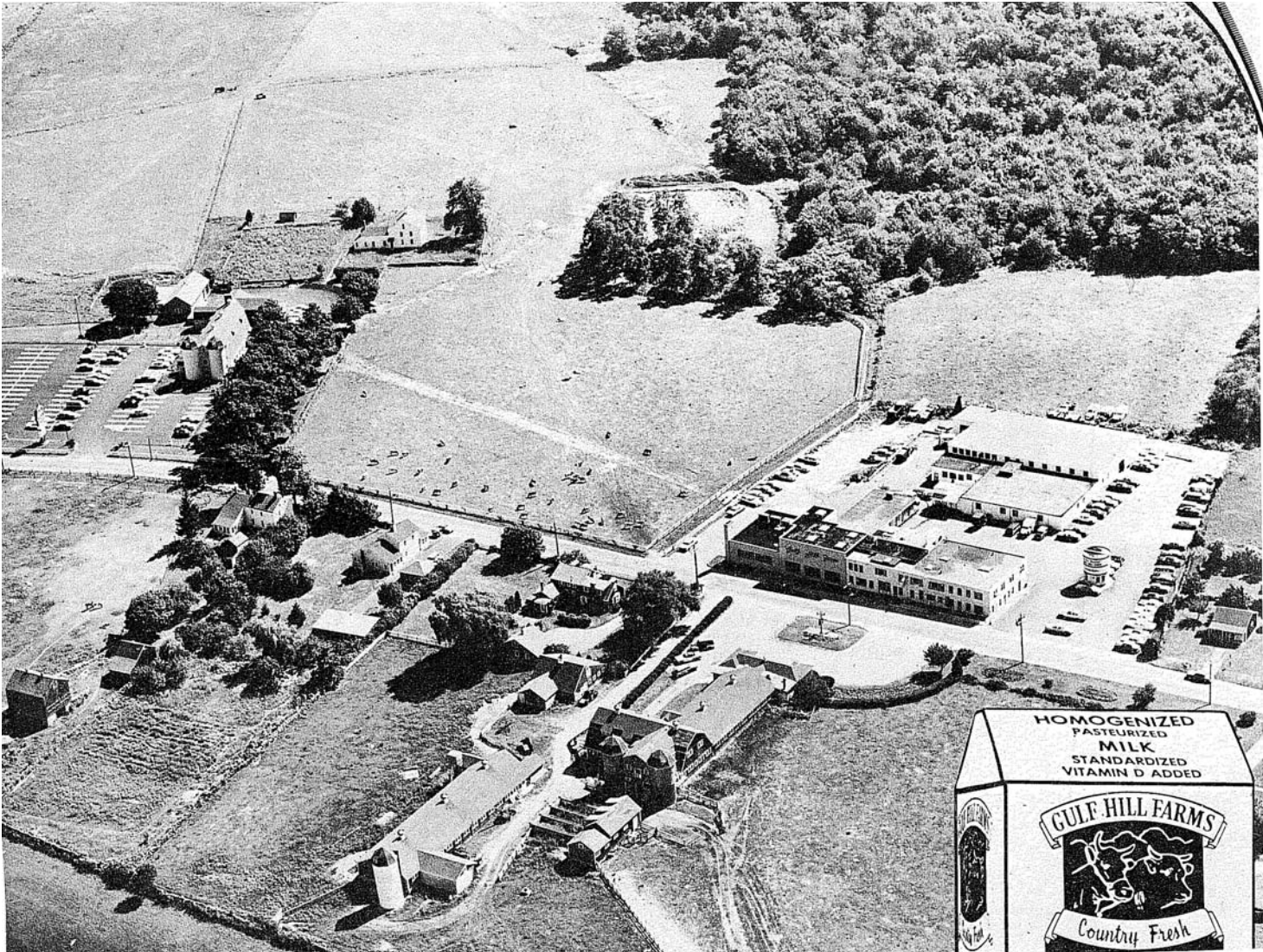


View looking south at drive and allee located west of barn.



c 1990 photograph.

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New Bedford Sunday Standard Times, October 3 1965

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319 Gulf Road (DAR.636)



319 Gulf Road (DAR.636)

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293 Gulf Road (DAR.635)



“Main Barn” view looking southeast

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Calf Barn view east



Truck Repair Shop view looking southeast

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Geoff Melhuish, ttl-architects, LLC

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Gulf Hill Dairy Farm is a residential/commercial/agricultural district which includes the properties located along Gulf Road which were associated with the Gulf Hill Dairy Farm. The dairy farm was established in 1896 by Frank J. Fernandes and operated as a family owned and operated dairy farm until the early 1960s. The properties associated with the farm complex included residential dwellings (292 and 319 Gulf Road), the YMCA dairy barn, the "main barn" and the calf barn, a truck repair shop associated with the demolished Gulf Hill Dairy Milk Processing plant and an ice cream stand. All of the remaining built resources of the Gulf Hill Dairy Farm as well as site features which include fields, stone walls and an allee of trees located west of the dairy barn contribute to the historic character of the setting of a potential Gulf Hill Dairy Historic District. The farm is significant to Dartmouth's agricultural history, the role of which dairy farming played in the economy in the region and for its association with Portuguese settlement in Dartmouth. The Gulf Hill Dairy Farm District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places meeting Criteria A and C at the local level. Further study of the dairy farm and associated structures along Bakerville Road to the west are needed to determine the extents of any potential district.