

# History of Angle Fly Lynch Farm Parcel

Jacob Adler

Eagle Scout Project, 2017

On July 6th, 1953, this property that belonged to Michael Lynch was sold to Regina K. Fox, ending the 50 or so years that the land existed as a dairy farm. The children of Michael Lynch sold over 70 acres, which in the year 2000 became Eagle River, a property to be developed. In 2006, the Town of Somers, the County of Westchester, and New York City DEP pooled their resources and purchased the property which would eventually become Angle Fly.

Since the early 1900s, the Lynch Dairy Farm would have housed many cattle, as demand for milk was high. Much of what the Lynch Farm would have produced would have been sold to New York City, given the close proximity to the Lincolndale train station and the easy access to the city.

At the site, one can note the foundations of a silo, barn, and milk house, used to store feed for the cows, the cows themselves, and the milk produced, respectively. The milk house was still standing up until the early 2000s, but fell in recent years.

The silo would have been a large wooden cylinder with vertical planks to contain the feed, and would have had large metal bands around the outside, similar to a barrel, to keep the shape. The Silo was not present on maps until around 1915.

The barn had running water and electricity, as evidenced by the electrical wiring and pipes that were found at the site during cleanup.

The milk house was a wooden structure with a cement basin in the ground. The milk would have been placed in metal canisters that were placed in the basin in order to keep them cool until they could be transported to New York City.

Much of the information about the farm has been gathered from documents and maps from the Somers Historical Society. On the maps, there is an interesting variation from 1890 to 1915. From 1890, there is a map of the town, showing only a barn at the site. Maps from 1900 and 1905, show nothing at the site. On the previous maps the barn is marked with a black rectangle, yet it is not present on the 1905 map. For 1915 and onward, the rectangle denoting the barn is present again, and with it is a circle that probably referred to the silo. What could have caused this chronological anomaly in the maps? One theory was that a fire broke out and the barn was destroyed. This would make sense, as the barn would have been made of wood, and fires in the local area were not uncommon due to this flammable construction material. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2004), submitted to the Town of Somers by the developers of the Eagle River project, it states that the barn appears to have been built prior to the silo, as the foundation was older. This supports this theory, but there is as yet not enough information to confirm or deny it.

There were many historical artifacts found at the site, some listed below:

- Barn Door Hinges
- Barn Door Handles
- Barn Light Fixtures
- Barn Piping
- A Glove
- A Pitchfork Head
- A Pickax Head
- A Metal Basin
- Ceramic Fragments (Potentially light fixture bases, cups, or even spark plugs)
- A Piston Head (?)
- Horseshoes
- Wire
- Metal Spikes

Along with many others, that will be given to the Somers Historical Society.

To be recognized for their help on this project are:

The Somers Historical Society, for their materials and historical documents and assistance in research

The Somers Land Trust, for allowing the research to be done on their property

The Somers Planning Board, for assistance with maps and history

Citations:

Smith, D. J. (Comp.). (n.d.). Angle Fly Preserve Management Plan Excerpt. In Angle Fly Preserve Management Plan. Somers, NY: Somers Historical Society

Von Ohlsen, B., RLA, & D'Onofrio, G. M., AICP. (2004). Eagle River Town of Somers, New York Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Vol. 3). White Plains, NY: Saccardi & Schiff.

1926\_611\_0116. Map. Somers: Westchester Clerk's Office, 1926. cciv.westchesterclerk.com. Web. 7 June 2017. <https://cciv.westchesterclerk.com/ImageViewer/HistoricalAerialViewerPDF.aspx?A9A88775A3B48F56E486C8055725B02BA10D5E9A035EF658523C7AD37A562A56&ENCRYPTED=2>.