



Introduction to Westport's Scenic Rural Roads

Westport's *Scenic Rural Roads* are not a single location, but rather a network that provides travelers with their visual experience of the town. Farms, homes, stone walls, trees, signs, and forests line these roadways and frame view corridors of the rural landscape and nature. Development patterns are sparse - primarily residences and farm-related structures.



A school bus serves homes along Horseneck Road. A farm stand is open on the right.



Views and view corridors along Drift Road. The Westport Town Farm is visible next to the white shell parking lot, at bottom.



Street Design

In general, the vehicular ROW is between 20' - 24' wide on Westport's rural roads. There are very few pedestrian or bicycle facilities in town. Many features of both the built environment (stone walls, signs, and buildings) and the natural world (trees and rolling landscapes) have the effect of "narrowing the apparent roadway width" - in other words, making the roads seem small to drivers. This effect makes them drive more carefully and alertly.



Stone walls, trees, clear pavement markings, and farm buildings frame Horseneck Road.



In many locations, such as Drift Road, features of the built environment "narrow the apparent roadway width."



Development Pattern

Westport's development patterns are a combination of old and new. Meandering roads connect large, irregular tracts of farmland and farmhouses. Modern subdivisions are served by shorter, more regular roadways. Many areas are still forests, wetlands, and fields.



Aerial images of the built and natural environments along one of Westport's most scenic roads - Horseneck Road.



A "Figure-Ground" graphic of Horseneck Road depicts how the area's buildings relate to lot lines and RsOW.



Building Characteristics

The vast majority of buildings along Westport's scenic roads are homes or farm-related structures. Almost all feature simple architecture and materials - gabled roofs, modest windows and doors, and cedar shakes and wood siding. Many buildings are two-stories and face the road. Numerous parking areas feature crushed shells or pea gravel instead of impervious pavements such as asphalt or cement.



A home and farm stand on Horseneck Road.



The Masonic Hall seen from Hixbridge Road.

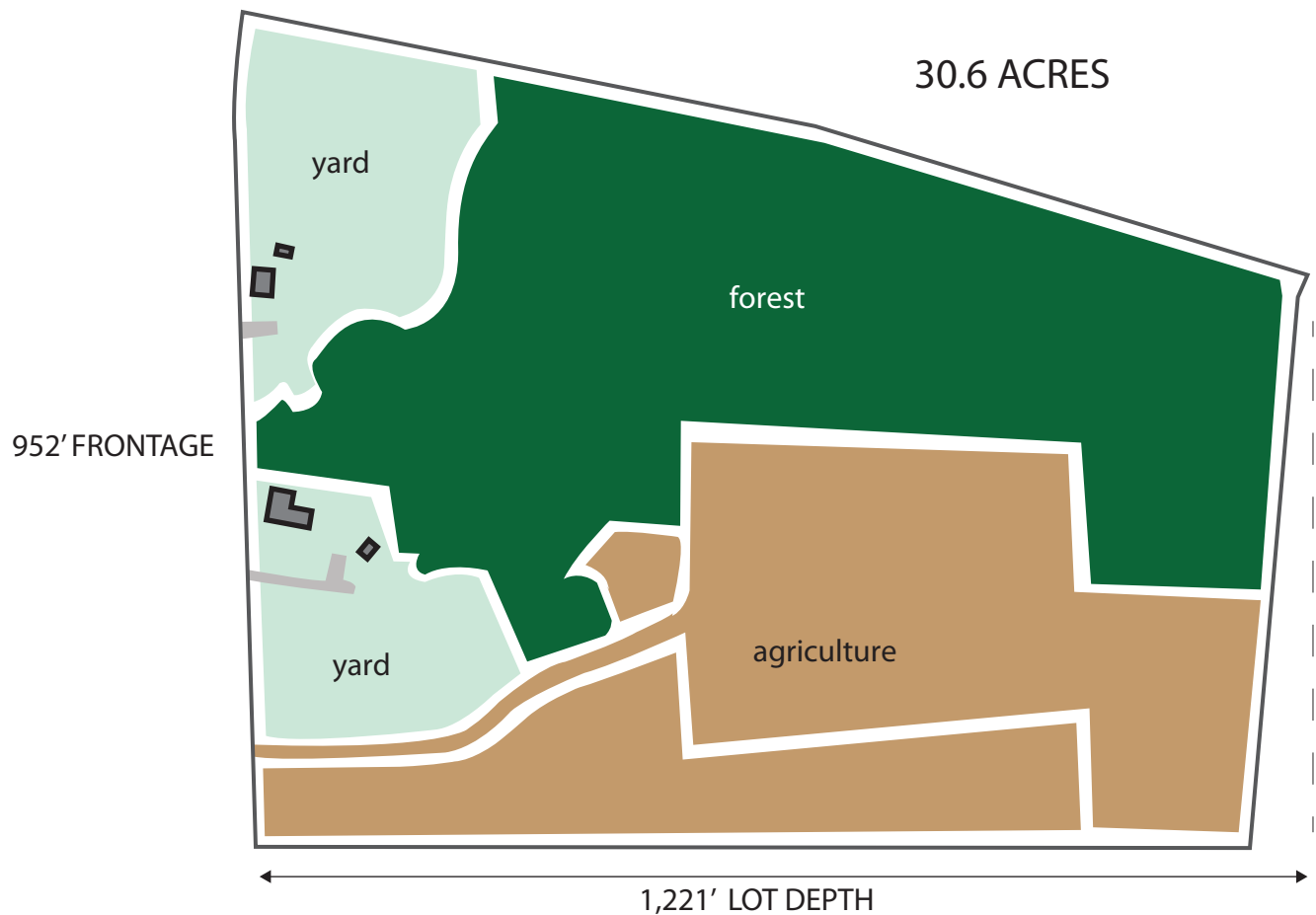


An early 20th century farm house on Horseneck Road.



Example Lot

Many of the parcels that give Westport its scenic character are very large. Many also contain a mix of residences, farming, and natural lands - including the one depicted below. It is important to note that large minimum lots (greater than 5 acres) contribute to the preservation of these landscapes. Small lot sizes (1/4 of an acre or less) also achieve this goal. However, "in between" minimum lot sizes can lead to suburban sprawl and all its associated costs, which range from financial to visual to environmental.



*Lot size = 1,332,936 square feet
*Building footprint = 2,419 square feet
*Lot coverage = 0.18%
*Dwelling units = 2
*DU per acre (UPA) = 0.07
**Building height = Two stories

*Floor Area Ratio (FAR) = 0.0036
**Frontage = 952 feet
**Front setback = 10 feet
**Side setback = 283 feet
**Façade width = 36 feet
**Building separation = 227 feet