

413/D-25

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2003



Weir Farm
Weir Farm National Historic Site

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
99 Warren Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 30, 2003

Received

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Memorandum:

To: Randy Turner, Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site
Greg Waters, Horticulturist, Weir Farm National Historic Site

Through: Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation *RP*

From: Laurie R. Matthews, Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

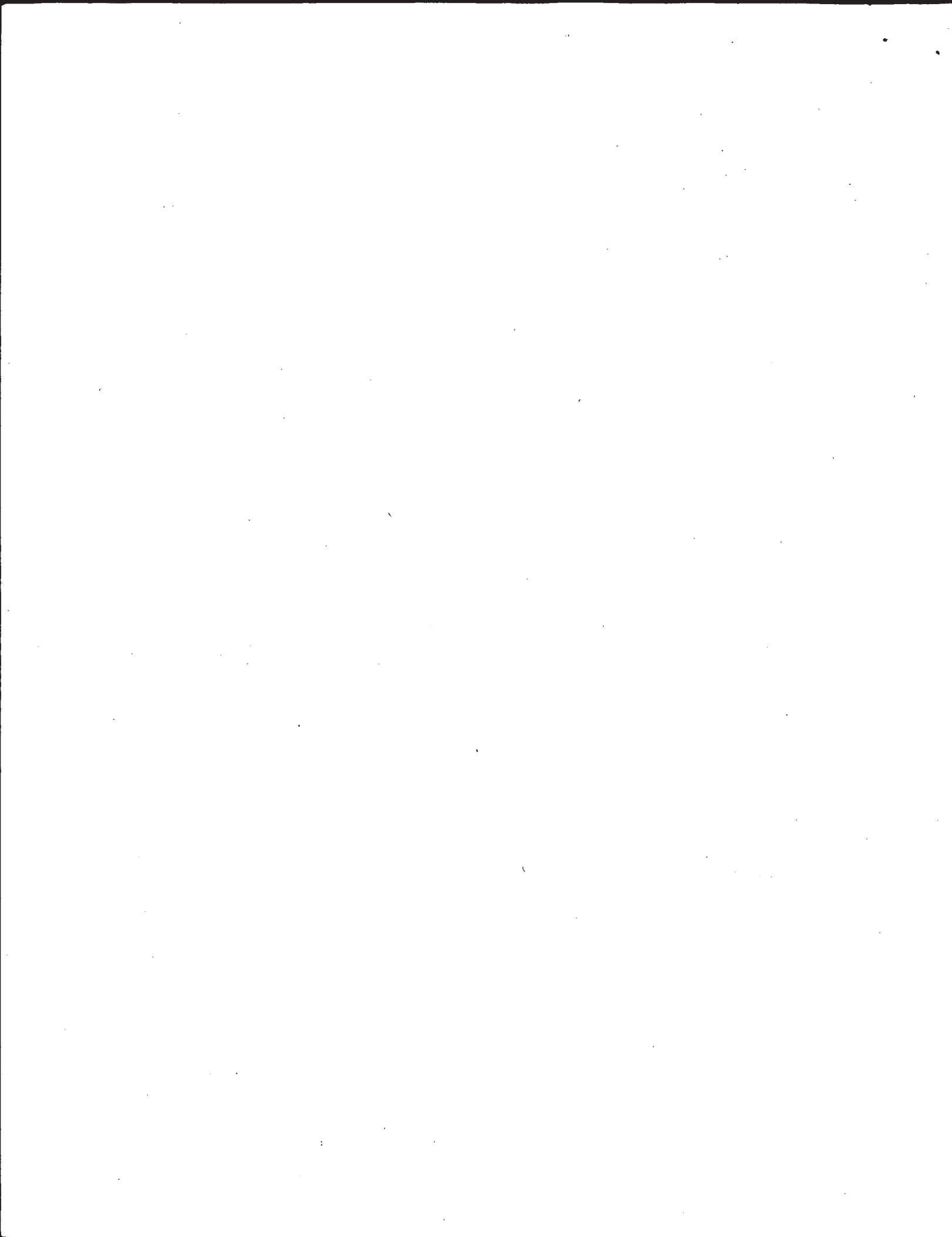
Subject: Final Level I Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Weir Farm Cultural Landscapes Inventory

We are pleased to send you the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) Level I report for Weir Farm. This is a final version of the report you have already reviewed. We have incorporated comments we previously received from the park and the various cultural resource specialists who reviewed the draft with special attention and work with the park to clarify some of the comments we received.

We request that you review the enclosed document. If you agree with our findings, please sign on the space provided and return the letter to our office by January 23, 2004, with the understanding that any additional changes will be made or discussed with the park should there be questions.

Due to the recommendation that the 8.97 acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher parcel, purchased by the NPS in 2000, is not significant according to the terms and definitions of the National Register of Historic Places, the report will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for consensus by the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, a process that will take place following your final review. A draft of the letter to the SHPO is also included in this packet, and includes a summary of our findings as they relate to the National Register listing.

If you have any questions regarding these reports or any other cultural landscape issues, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 617-566-1689 ext. 266 or Laurie_Matthews@nps.gov.



Weir Farm concurs with the findings of the Level I inventory for Weir Farm National Historic Site including the following specific components:

- The 8.97 acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher parcel, purchased by the NPS in 2000, is not significant according to the terms and definitions of the National Register of Historic Places. .

The Level I Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Weir Farm National Historic Site is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Weir Farm NHS

Date

cc: **Hugh Duffy**
Charlie Pepper
Gina Heald
Debbie Smith
Nancy J. Brown



DRAFT

January 2004

Mr. John W. Shannahan
Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

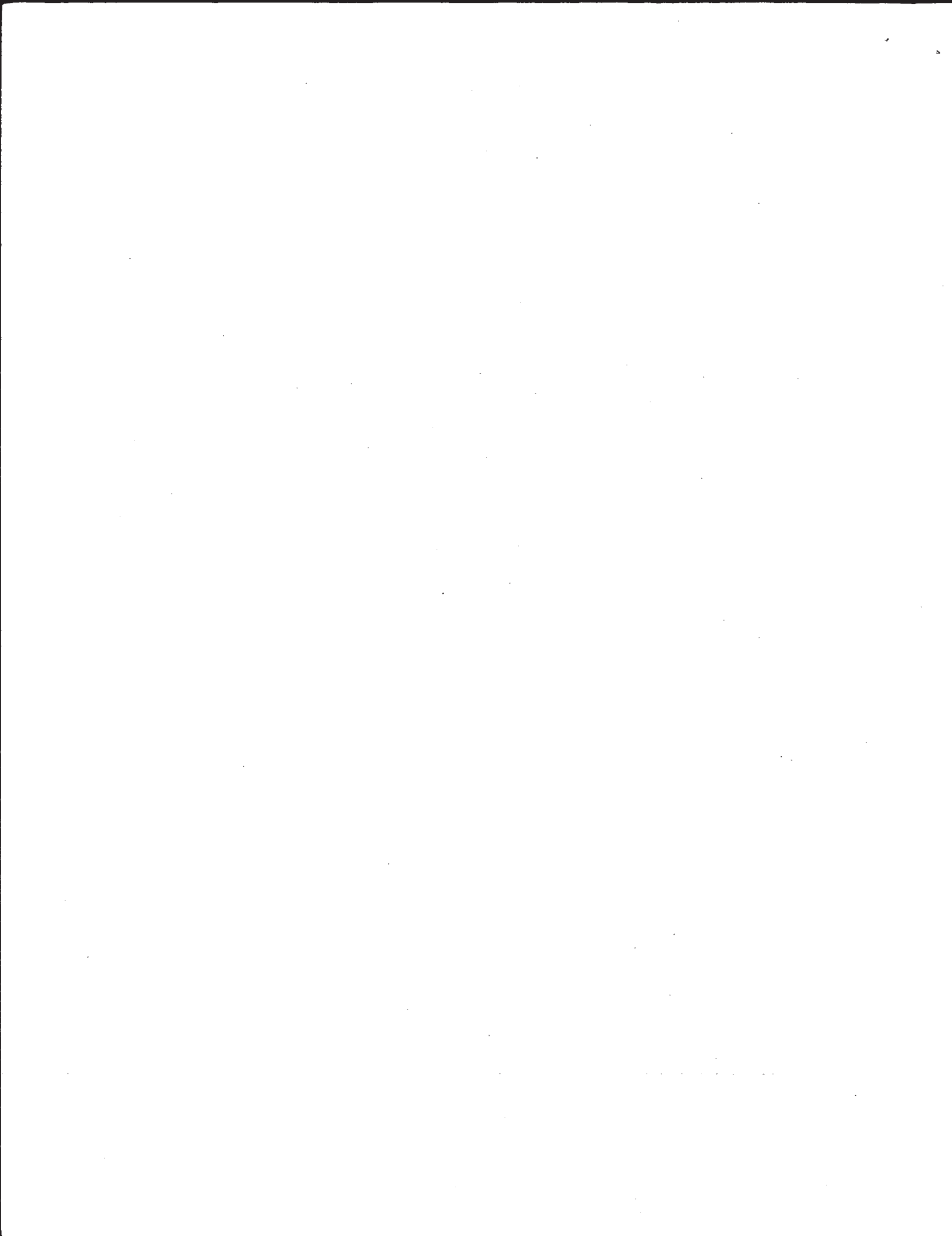
Dear Mr. Shannahan:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Weir Farm NHS. The report has been prepared by Debbie Smith, Historical Landscape Architect, and Laurie Matthews, CLI Coordinator, of the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that require further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties, districts, and sites, they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape. Similarly, the CLI documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort which includes, among others, cultural resource inventories for historic structures and archeological sites. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory had included structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground resources in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Approximately 194 acres of the 245-acre farm owned by J. Alden Weir was listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, and the 59.08 acre Weir Farm National Historic Site (included within the 194 acres) was administratively listed on the National Register on November 30, 1990, after the establishment of the park. Separate documentation has not been prepared for the 59.08 acre Weir Farm NHS. The 1984 documentation does not adequately document the Weir Farm NHS landscape and its individual landscape characteristics and features nor does it reflect the current acreage of the park.



This CLI was completed to the level necessary to provide a recommendation on the eligibility of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher parcel, a property purchased in 2000 by the NPS. Therefore, the CLI being submitted focused on the landscape of the new parcel in relationship to the history and significance of the Weir Farm National Historic Site. It does not include a full analysis and evaluation of the landscape characteristics and features of the Weir Farm National Historic Site, which will be done in the future as part of subsequent CLI efforts.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description (beginning of Part 1), the Statement of Significance (end of Part 1), and the National Register Information (beginning of Part 4).

Based on the enclosed CLI Park Report, we seek your concurrence on the following issues:

- Documentation for the 59.08 acre Weir Farm NHS should be completed
- Documentation should include landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the significance of the property, which will be determined at a later date by future CLIs
- the 8.97 acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property, purchased by the NPS in 2000, is not significant according to the terms and definitions of the National Register of Historic Places.

If you concur with our evaluation for the Weir Farm National Historic Site landscape resources, please sign on the space provided and return this letter to this office within thirty days. Thank you for your attention to these reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laurie Matthews at 617-566-1689 ext. 266.

Sincerely,

Marie Rust

Enclosure

I concur with the above-stated evaluation of Weir Farm National Historic Site.

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

cc: Paul Weinbaum
Peggy Albee
Chuck Smythe
Allen Cooper
Randy Turner
Hugh Duffy
Robert Page
Laurie Matthews
Debbie Smith



Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park

report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Weir Farm National Historic Site and the CLI

A CLR for Weir Farm was completed in 1997, ahead of a CLI, which is typically written first. Early completion of the CLR was necessary to inform a line item construction project at the newly established (1990) national historic site.

Due to a compressed schedule, this CLI will be completed through Level I (vs. Level II) and will include the entire park landscape. The CLI Level I will provide a determination of significance for the recently acquired 8.97-acre site north of the historic core, will provide baseline landscape information for the new property, and will inform a forthcoming line-item construction project associated with the new site. Completion of the CLI Level I for the entire park landscape (vs. just the 8.97-acre site) will also move

the CLI process forward by leading towards completion of a CLI Level II, which meets GPRA goals 1a7 and 1b2b.

Park Information

Park Name: Weir Farm National Historic Site
Administrative Unit: Weir Farm National Historic Site
Park Organization Code: 1953
Park Alpha Code: WEFA

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Weir Farm
CLI Identification Number: 650059
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 650059

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level I

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 4/10/1998
Level 0 Recorder: David Uschold
Date Level 0 Entered: 4/10/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: David Uschold
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 4/30/2003
Level I Data Collection: Laurie Matthews, Debbie Smith
Date Level I Entered: 11/20/2003
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Debbie Smith
Level I Site Visit: Yes

Landscape Description

Physical Description

Weir Farm National Historic Site is located within the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, CT, in a portion of both towns known as Branchville. It includes 68.03 acres within two discontinuous sites along Nod Hill Road. The rural sites are located within a low-density, upscale residential area. The largest site, the park's historic core, includes the home and 59.06 acres of a 241.78-acre farm purchased by J. Alden Weir between 1882 and 1907. Notable landscape features in the historic core include buildings and structures associated with the Weir/Young farm and the Webb farm (later known as the Burlingham property), the Weir Pond (constructed 1896), terraces, gardens, open fields, orchards, stone walls, and fences. The NPS purchased the smaller 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property in 2000 for construction of maintenance, curatorial, and administrative facilities. Extant features on the forested lot include the 1999 Westervelt house, stone walls, and an access road.

Explanation of Significance

Weir Farm is nationally significant as the home and studio of J. Alden Weir (1852-1919), an eminent American impressionist painter. Weir and other notable American artists such as Albert Pinkham Ryder, John Twatchman, and Childe Hassam captured the farm's rural landscape in many of their paintings and sketches. Subsequent owners of Weir Farm followed in Weir's artistic tradition. Dorothy Weir Young, J. Alden Weir's daughter, painted at the farm and her husband Mahonri Young sketched the farm landscape and sculpted in his studio built on the premises in 1932. Doris and Sperry Andrews, artists and friends of Mahonri Young, continued the artistic tradition on the farm. In 1958 they purchased 12.34 acres of Weir Farm, including the Weir house, Weir studio, and outbuildings, from the heirs of Mahonri Young.

Weir Farm is listed as significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with artist J. Alden Weir. The Weir house, the Weir and Young studios, and the farm outbuildings are listed as significant under Criterion C as a unique building complex in the state of Connecticut.

The 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000 is not included within the acreage once owned by J. Alden Weir, and therefore does not possess significance under Criterion B. Research indicates the site was historically used for agricultural purposes and is not significant under any Criteria Considerations as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

Description of Condition

The Weir Farm National Historic Site contains about twenty-five percent of the land owned by J. Alden Weir at the time of his death in 1919. In 1919, about half of the farm was maintained as agricultural fields. A similar amount was forested including extensive acreage surrounding the pond. By 1947, only about one half of the fields remained under agricultural production. As the number of maintained fields diminished, the amount of forest cover increased. Today, at least 75% of the farm within the park boundaries is forested. Open areas maintained by the park include acreage within the historic bounds of the Webb farm (later known as the Burlingham property), acreage immediately surrounding the Weir/Young house, studios, and outbuildings, and an open field dotted with mature trees on the eastern

side of Nod Hill Road, opposite the Weir/Young house. Extant buildings dating from before and during J. Alden Weir's ownership include the Weir/Young house and barn, the Webb house and barn (later known as the Burlingham house and barn), the caretaker's house, and Weir's studio. Additional extant buildings date to the 1930s, including the Young studio and several outbuildings. The NPS has rehabilitated the Burlingham house for use as a visitor center, and is in the process of rehabilitating the Burlingham barn for programmatic use.

A significant portion, if not all, of the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000 for construction of maintenance, curatorial, administrative facilities was historically part of a farm abutting the northern edge of J. Alden Weir's farm. Research indicates buildings associated with the farm were located along Old Branchville Road, outside the bounds of the 8.97-acre property. In 1939, forest covered most of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property. By 1949, several more fields within the property had been cleared, probably for pasture.

In the mid-1980s, the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property was included within 54.19 acres owned by E. Donald and Helen K. Goldsmith, of which 49.72 acres were sold to developers. Although included within the land sold to developers and within two different subdivision plans, only the 1.32-acre Westervelt residence within the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli property purchased by the federal government in 2000 was developed into a residential lot. The remaining 7.65 acres are undeveloped woodland with the exception of a .512-acre access road built as specified on the second subdivision plan.

Integrity Assessment

Weir Farm National Historic Site (excluding the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property) maintains moderate integrity to the J. Alden Weir period (1882-1919), and a slightly higher degree of integrity to the Mahonri Young period (1920-1957). (CLR Vol. 2)

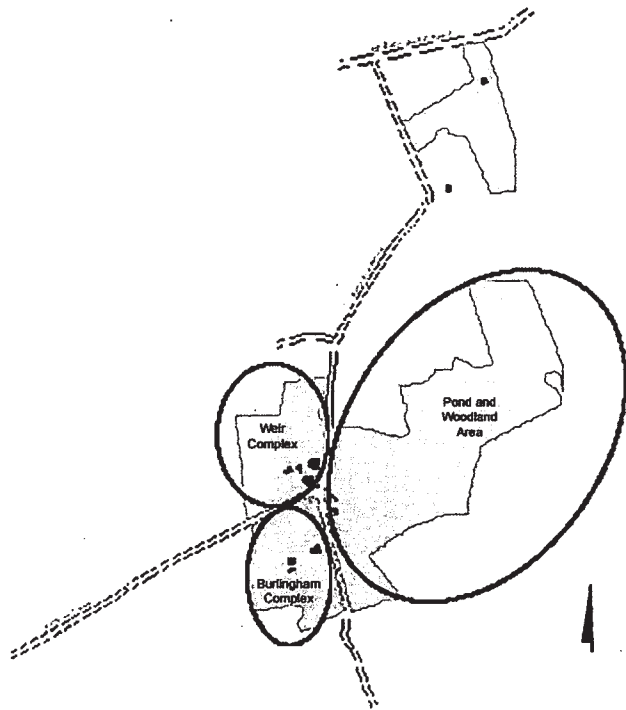
The Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property is not significant according to the terms and definitions of the National Register of Historic Places program.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

Two discontinuous properties make up the Weir Farm National Historic Site parent landscape: the 59.06-acre site originally owned by J. Alden Weir, and the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000 for construction of maintenance, curatorial, and administrative facilities.

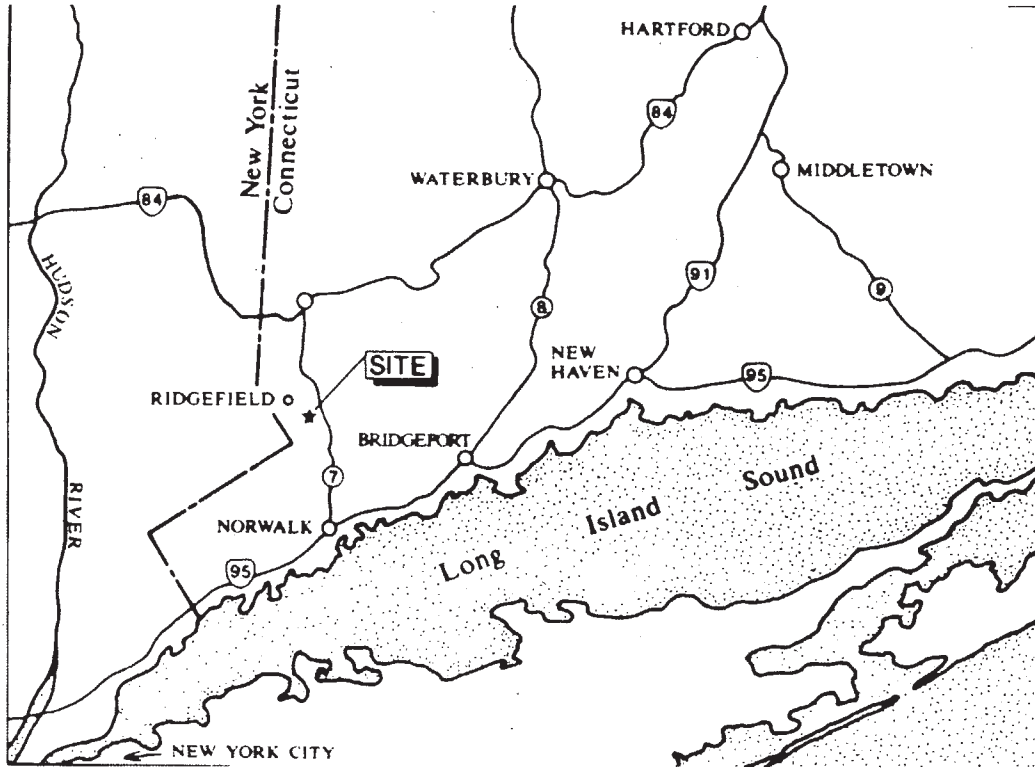
For the purpose of subsequent level 2 CLIs, the parent landscape should be divided into three component landscapes: the Weir Complex, the Burlingham Complex, and the Pond and Woodland Area. This division is based on the recognition of the three component landscapes initially within the park's General Management Plan (GMP), and then subsequently within the Weir Farm Cultural Landscape Report, Vol. 2: Treatment Plan, and the Government Performance and Results Act's (GPR) Performance Management Data System (PMDS).

A level 2 CLI for the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property is unnecessary since research indicates the property is not significant under National Register criteria, and the Cultural Landscapes Inventory is only taken to level 2 if a property is thought to eligible for the National Register.



Division of the Weir Farm National Historic Site parent landscape into three component landscapes (OCLP).

Location Map



Location of Weir Farm National Historic Site (map printed from Weir Farm National Historic Site, Land Protection Plan).

Boundary Description

Weir Farm National Historic Site consists of two non-contiguous irregular parcels within the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, Connecticut, in an area known locally as Branchville. The largest parcel includes 59.06 acres purchased and owned by J. Alden Weir between 1882 and 1919. It includes Weir Farm National Historic Site tracts 101-01, 101-02, 101-03, 101-04, and 101-05 as depicted on drawing 413/80,000, prepared by the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Land Resources Division in 1991 and revised through July 1999. NPS purchased the smaller parcel, known as the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property in 2000 for construction of maintenance, curatorial, and administrative facilities. The site is not associated with J. Alden Weir. It consists of 8.97 acres and includes tracts 101-08 and 101-11 as depicted on the same map.

Regional Context

Physiographic Context

Undulating topography of severe slopes and exposed bedrock define the geologic and landform character of the Weir Farm National Historic Site. Within the bounds of J. Alden Weir's farm there is a 100-foot change in elevation. The Weir/Young and Burlingham property buildings are sited 80 feet above the surface of Weir Pond. Elongated bedrock outcroppings and severe slopes generally occur in narrow bands running in a north-south direction, separated by wide bands of relatively flat terrain. The steepest slope (>30%) runs parallel to and just east of Nod Hill Road, in back of the visitor parking lot.

Cultural Context

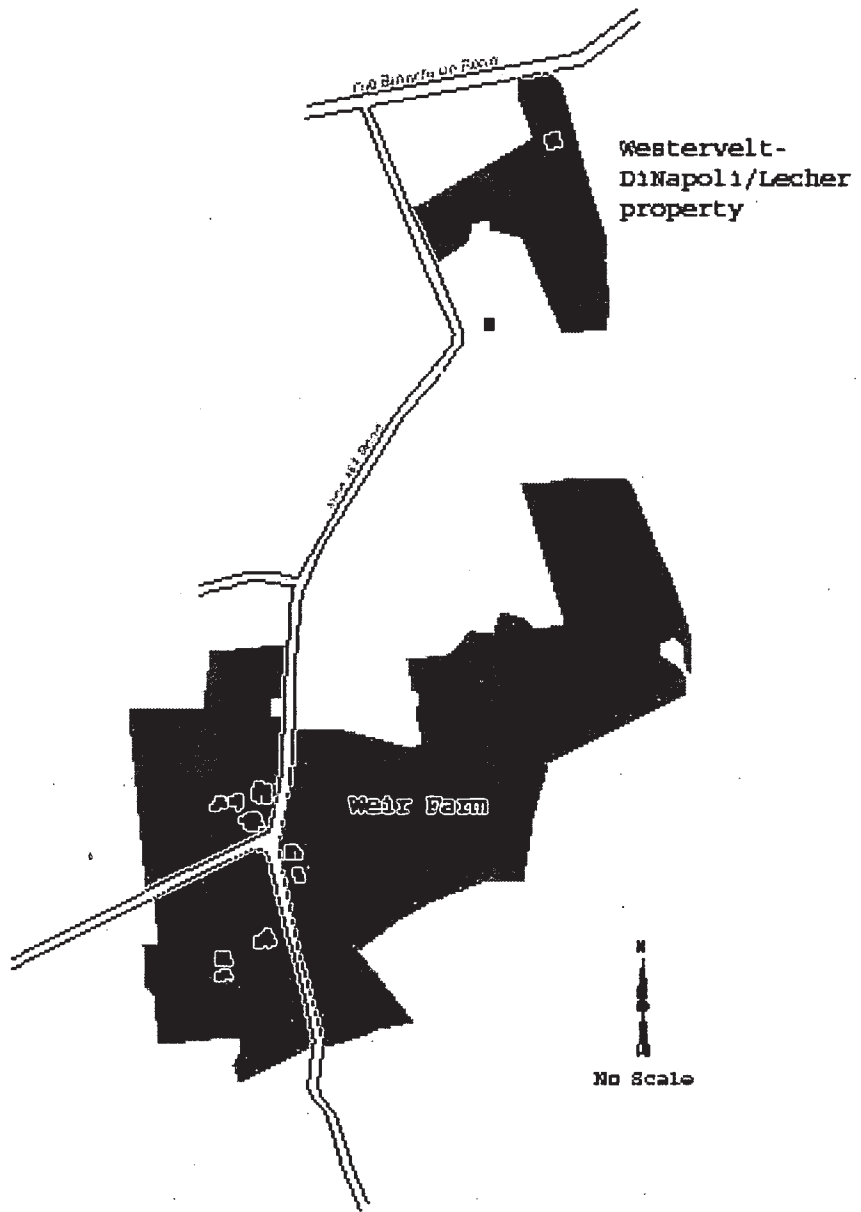
Weir Farm is located within the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, CT. The site is situated within an upscale rural suburban area that includes at least one local farm still in operation. Secondary forest and suburban vegetation dominate the landscape. Contemporary residences border Weir Farm to the north, east, and southeast, and the Weir/Leary/White Nature Preserve (managed by The Nature Conservancy) to the west and southwest. Residences border the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property to the north and west, and land owned by the State of Connecticut borders the site to the south and east. Weir Farm is located at the intersection of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane, both two-lane rural roads.

Political Context

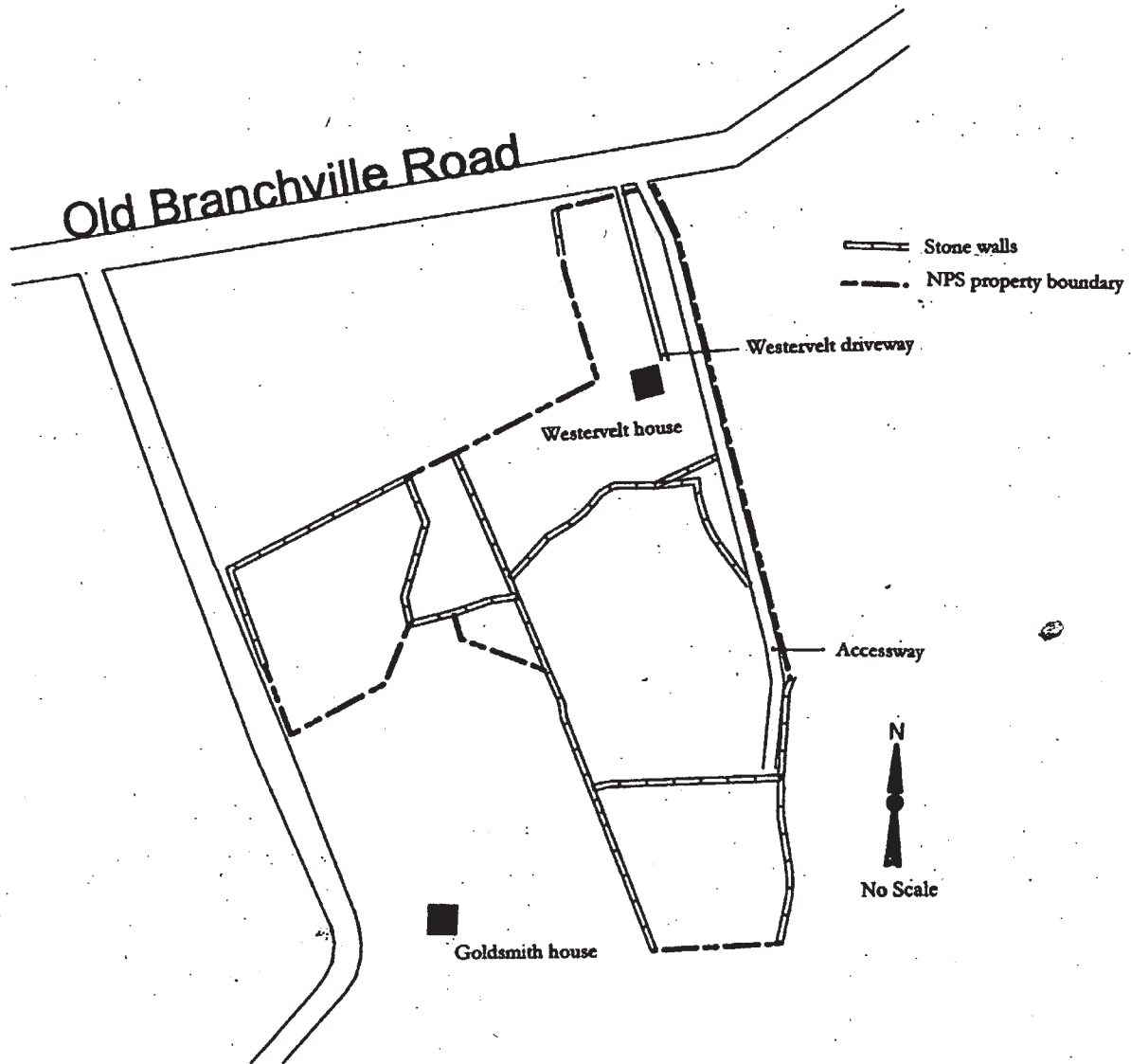
Weir Farm National Historic Site is owned by the federal government and is managed by the National Park Service. The 68.03-acre site is located within the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, CT, approximately ten miles south of Danbury, CT in Fairfield County.

Site Plan

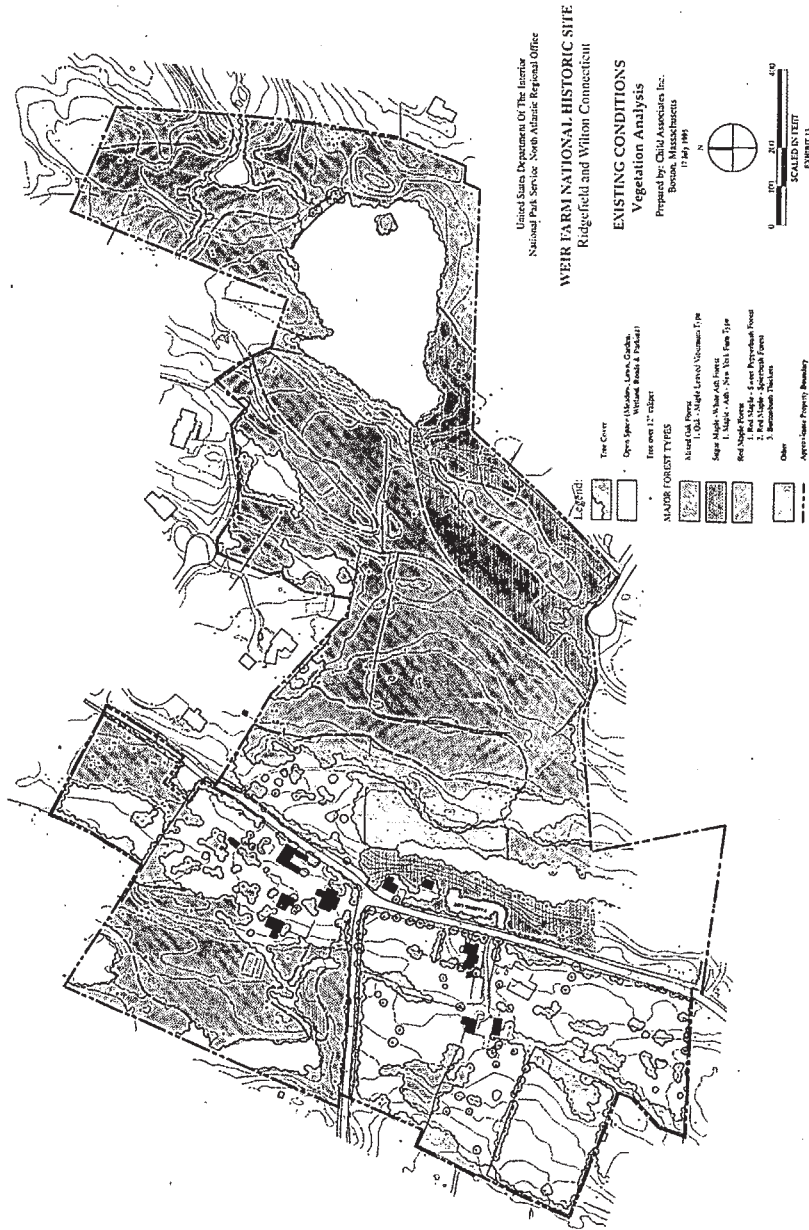
Plan of Weir Farm National Historic Site, 2003 (OCLP).



Plan of Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property, 2003 (OCLP).



Plan of Weir Farm from the "Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm National Historic Site" Vol. 1, 1995, as revised by OCLP in 2003. See Supplemental Information section for larger scale plan.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1748 AD	Land Transfer	Ridgefield Proprietors grant three parcels of land in the sixth 20-Acre Division of the town to Matthew Benedict, Benjamin Burt, and jointly to Joseph Northrup and Henry Whitney (future Beers property).
1748 AD	Land Transfer	Proprietors of Ridgefield grant 41 acres within an area known as Rockhouse Woods to John Belden and an adjacent parcel of 9 acres to Samuel Brimsmade and John Reed (future Webb property).
1760 - 1778 AD	Built	House built on second of three parcels of land granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division ca. 1765 to 1781, later to be inhabited by the Beers family, then by J. Alden Weir (Weir/Young house).
1775 AD	Built	House constructed on 41 acre-parcel within the area known as Rockhouse Woods ca. 1775, later to be inhabited by the Webb family, then employees and members of the Weir family.
1781 AD	Purchased/Sold	James Abbott purchases from Joseph Jackson the second of the three parcels of land granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division (future Beers property).
1782 AD	Land Transfer	The 41-acre and the 9 acre parcels within Rockhouse Woods (future Webb property) are transferred by deed from Joshua Chase to Colonel Stephen St. John.
1789 AD	Purchased/Sold	Anthony Beers purchases the first and second parcels of land originally granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division.
1797 AD	Purchased/Sold	Anthony Beers purchases the third parcel of land originally granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division.
1815 - 1835 AD	Built	Barn (extant) constructed on the Webb farm.

1821 AD	Land Transfer	Following the death of Anthony Beers, the Beers farm transferred to his heirs.
1830 AD	Altered	The Beers farmhouse, later to be occupied by J. Alden Weir (Weir/Young house), is remodeled in the Greek Revival Style ca. 1830.
1832 AD	Purchased/Sold	Jared Webb purchases the 9-acre Rockhouse Woods parcel.
1835 AD	Built	Barn (extant) constructed on the Beers farm.
1836 AD	Land Transfer	By 1836, Lewis Beers had inherited or purchased all three parcels of land originally granted within the sixth 20-Acres Division, as well as two additional parcels.
1843 AD	Purchased/Sold	Jared Webb purchases the 41-acres Rockhouse Woods parcel.
1843 AD	Land Transfer	Jared Webb transfers partial rights to the 41-acre Rockhouse Woods parcel to William Webb.
1847 AD	Land Transfer	Following the death of Jared Webb in 1847, William Webb inherits the remaining rights to the 41-acre Rockhouse Woods parcel.
1855 AD	Land Transfer	By 1855, William Webb acquires the 9-acre Rockhouse Woods parcel.
1860 AD	Built	By 1860 (between 1821-1960, a second house (known today as the caretaker's house) and a barn were constructed on the Beers farm.
1860 AD	Land Transfer	The 30-acre Bouton farm transfers from Eratus S. Bouton, Burr Bouton, and Hiram Bouton to Betsy M. Bouton. All or part of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the federal government are believed to have been located within this parcel.

1882 AD	Purchased/Sold	J. Alden Weir purchases 153 acres within the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton Connecticut, from art collector Erwin Davis for \$10.00 and a painting he had recently purchased for \$560.00. The land was originally part of the Beers farm.
1882 - 1883 AD	Rehabilitated	The Weir/Young house and the caretaker's house are renovated and repaired.
1882 - 1924 AD	Land Transfer	Ownership of the mid-nineteenth century 30-acre Bouton farm changes numerous times between 1882 and 1924.
1885 AD	Built	J. Alden Weir's studio is constructed.
1886 AD	Planted	Anna Weir plants a flower garden.
1888 AD	Altered	About 1888, the first story of the Weir/Young house is expanded westward and the sun porch is enlarged.
1888 AD	Planted	Crops planted on the J. Alden Weir's farm in 1888 include vegetables, grass, and grains.
1890 AD	Built	By 1890, a rustic picket fence bordering portions of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane in front of the Weir/Young house and a stone picnic table with two stone benches are built.
1890 AD	Planted	J. Alden Weir plants a lawn, presumably surrounding the Weir house (Weir/Young house).
1891 AD	Built	An ice house north of the Weir house (Weir/Young house) is built.
1892 AD	Altered	Nod Hill Road in front of the Weir/Young house is altered to improve drainage.
1893 AD	Destroyed	Seven poplars planted on the Weir's farm by Anna Weir (planting date unknown) are blown down in a storm.

1895 AD	Purchased/Sold	J. Alden Weir purchases a ten-acre parcel on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road from Abram H. Gilbert.
1896 AD	Built	J. Alden Weir constructs a pond on the ten-acre parcel the acquired in 1895.
1900 AD	Purchased/Sold	J. Alden Weir purchases 32 acres west of the Weir house (Weir/Young house) for 500 dollars from Ann Eliza Smith. Together, the 153-acre, the 10-acre, and the 32-acre parcels purchased by Weir are referred to in this document as the Weir/Young farm.
1900 AD	Built	By 1900, a low retaining wall extending southward at a right angle from the western corner of the Weir house (Weir/Young house) south porch is constructed.
1900 AD	Altered	The Weir studio is enlarged ca. 1900 by the addition of a lean-to and a water tower.
1900 - 1901 AD	Designed	J. Alden Weir commissions Architect Charles Adam Platt to redesign the Weir house (Weir/Young house). The addition doubled the size of the house. Architect: Charles Adams Platt
1903 AD	Destroyed	A lightning strike destroys one of the porch columns on the Weir house (Weir/Young house), tears up pavement, and splits a large maple tree.
1905 AD	Built	By 1905, a rustic well cover is built west of the Weir house (Weir/Young house), near Pelham Lane.
1905 AD	Planted	By 1905, an informal flower garden stood on the Weir farm, north of J. Alden Weir's studio.
1907 AD	Purchased/Sold	J. Alden Weir purchases 50 acres from the heirs of William Webb. Throughout his life, Weir refers to this parcel as the Webb farm.

1911 AD	Designed	J. Alden Weir commissions Frederick J. Adams of the architectural firm McKim, Mead & White to enlarge the Weir house (Weir/Young house). Architect: Frederick J. Adam
1911 AD	Built	A tack house is built north of the Weir house (Weir/Young house).
1911 AD	Destroyed	Chestnut trees on the Weir Farm begin to die from the American chestnut blight.
1915 AD	Altered	By 1915, the flower garden (Secret Garden) on the Weir/Young farm, north of J. Alden Weir's studio had been enlarged, fitted with a fountain, sundial, and two elaborate rustic gates, and planted extensively with perennials, vines, and encircling hedge,
1918 AD	Built	By 1918, the tack house on the Weir/Young farm is built, or an older tack house is remodeled to assume its present configuration.
1919 AD	Land Transfer	After J. Alden Weir's death in 1919, ownership of Weir Farm transfers to his widow Ella Baker Weir and his three daughters Caro, Dorothy, and Cora.
1922 AD	Land Transfer	Caro and Cora transfer their rights to Weir Farm to their sister Dorothy.
1924 AD	Purchased/Sold	George Fawcett purchases 60 acres from Fred R. Babcock that includes the 30-acre nineteenth-century Bouton farm. The 60-acre parcel includes the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1930 AD	Land Transfer	Dorothy is the sole owner of Weir Farm after her step-mother Ella Baker Weir's death in 1930.
1931 AD	Land Transfer	Dorothy Weir Young transferred the 50-acre Webb farm, hereafter known as the Burlingham property, to her sister Cora Weir Burlingham.

1931 - 1938 AD	Altered	Between 1931 and ca. 1938, a new kitchen and dining room are added to the Burlingham house, constructed in the Colonial Revival style.
1932 - 1940 AD	Designed	<p>Cora Weir Burlingham commissions Landscape Architect Vera Poggi Breed, to design a sunken garden between the Burlingham house and barn. Garden construction occurs between 1932 and 1940.</p> <p>Landscape Architect: Vera Poggi Breed</p>
1932 AD	Built	<p>Mahonri Young constructs a studio adjacent to J. Alden Weir's studio on the Weir farm, hereafter known as the Weir/Young farm. Young builds the studio from designs drawn by his son-in-law, Landscape Architect Oliver Lay.</p> <p>Landscape Architect: Oliver Lay</p>
1932 AD	Built	The building referred to as the animal shelter was constructed ca. 1932 on the Weir/Young farm.
1934 - 1938 AD	Built	The Knoche family, local masons, constructs a stone terrace adjacent to the south façade of the Burlingham house for Cora Weir Burlingham.
1937 AD	Built	Garden terraces west of the Weir/Young house are constructed.
1938 AD	Designed	<p>Cora Weir Burlingham commissions Architect F. Nelson Breed to design a greenhouse and a new Colonial Revival style doorway surround for the main entrance of the Burlingham house.</p> <p>Architect: F. Nelson Breed</p>
1940 AD	Designed	<p>Cora Weir Burlingham commissions Architect F. Nelson Breed to design a stone tool shed on the Burlingham property.</p> <p>Architect: F. Nelson Breed</p>
1943 AD	Altered	The ice house on the Weir/Young farm is converted into a chicken house.

1946 AD	Land Transfer	Lily A. Fawcett conveys all her interest in 66.42 acres to the magazine and book illustrator Robert Fawcett, probably her son. The parcel includes the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1946 - 1947 AD	Built	About 1946 or 1947, the Knoche family, local masons, builds stone garden terraces south of the Burlingham house.
1949 AD	Built	By the late 1940s, the Knoche family builds stone garden terraces north of the Burlingham house.
1950 AD	Built	By 1950, Robert Fawcett builds a house (Goldsmith house) on his 66.42-acre property.
1957 AD	Land Transfer	After the death of Mahonri Young in 1957, ownership of the Weir/Young farm transfers to his children, Mahonri Sharp (Bill) Young and Agnes Young Lay.
1958 AD	Purchased/Sold	Doris and Sperry Andrews purchase 12.34 acres of the Weir/Young farm from Mahonri Young's children, including the Weir/Young house, three barns, the caretaker's house and several outbuildings.
1958 AD	Purchased/Sold	Developers purchase the remaining acreage of the Weir/Young farm, ca. 1958.
1969 AD	Designed	Cora Weir Burlingham commissions Landscape Architect Freide R. Stege of New Canaan, Connecticut to redesign plantings within the sunken garden. Landscape Architect: Freide R. Stege
1969 AD	Land Transfer	Cora Weir Burlingham donates 37 acres of the Burlingham property to the Nature Conservancy, today part of the 113-acre Weir-Leary-White Preserve.

1970 AD	Established	The organization Citizens to Preserve the Weir Farm is established, primarily due to the efforts of Cora Weir Burlingham. The organization forms to preserve portions of the Weir/Young farm not held by Doris and Sperry Andrews from development.
1973 AD	Purchased/Sold	E. Donald and Helen K. Goldsmith purchase 54.19 acres from Agnes (Fawcett) Briggs, Robert Fawcett's widow (remarried). The property includes the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1988 AD	Purchased/Sold	Nicholas R. DiNapoli, Jr. and Carl H. Lecher purchase 49.72 acres from E. Donald and Helen K. Goldsmith.
1988 AD	Purchased/Sold	By 1988, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) purchases 56.69 acres of Weir Farm, including the remaining portion of the Burlingham property, the 12.34 acres of the Weir/Young farm purchased by Doris and Sperry Andrews in 1958, and Weir Pond.
1988 AD	Land Transfer	In July, the TPL transfers 44.78 acres to the State of Connecticut.
1989 AD	Established	Members of the Citizens to Preserve the Weir Farm form the Weir Farm Heritage Trust to act as a grass-root organization dedicated to preserving the property.
1990 AD	Land Transfer	In May 1990, the TPL transfers 9.91 acres to the State of Connecticut.
1990 AD	Established	On October 31, President George H.W. Bush signed P.L. 101-485, 104 stat. 1171 establishing Weir Farm National Historic Site.
1991 AD	Purchased/Sold	"A Better Chance for Ridgefield" purchases 1.32 acres from Carl H. Lecher and Nicholas R. DiNapoli, Jr. The property is included within the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.

Weir Farm
Weir Farm National Historic Site

1992 AD	Land Transfer	The Connecticut Department of Environmental Management donates 52.60 acres of the 54.69 acres it had acquired from the TPL to the federal government.
1992 AD	Rehabilitated	Crew project led by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation prunes hazardous trees and rejuvenates ornamental shrubs
1993 AD	Land Transfer	The TPL transfers the 2.0 acres to the federal government, originally transferred to the TPL by Doris and Sperry Andrews, with life tenancy agreement. The property includes the Weir/Young house, the Weir and Young studios, and the barn.
1994 AD	Purchased/Sold	Roger and Constance Meine purchase 1.32 acres from "A Better Chance for Ridgefield." The property is included within the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1994 AD	Land Transfer	The State of Connecticut transfers 2.09 acres to the federal government, originally transferred to the TPL by Doris and Sperry Andrews, with a life tenancy agreement. The property includes the caretaker's house and garage.
1994 AD	Established	Congress authorizes expanding the park's boundary to incorporate two small parcels once owned by J. Alden Weir.
1995 AD	Purchased/Sold	The TPL transfers 2.0 acres to the federal government.
1995 AD	Restored	The Weir Secret Garden is restored by the Ridgefield Garden Club and the National Park Service.
1995 AD	Planted	Historic sugar maples in front of the Weir/Young and Burlingham houses are replaced in kind.
1995 AD	Built	Interim visitor parking lot is constructed across from the Burlingham house.

1995 - 1996 AD	Restored	The Weir/Young barn, and the exteriors of the Weir and Young studios are restored.
1997 AD	Purchased/Sold	Dan Jr. and Marlene L. Settanni purchase 1.32 acres, presumably from Roger and Constance Meine. The property is included within the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1998 AD	Built	The Settannis build a house, known today as the Westervelt house, on the 1.32-acre parcel.
1998 AD	Planted	The Settannis install a residential landscape around their house.
1998 AD	Rehabilitated	The Burlingham sunken garden is rehabilitated, based on a design by Norma Williams.
1998 AD	Restored	The Weir/Young orchard is restored. Ten historic clone tree replacements are planted (two historic trees remain) and meadow grass is restored.
1999 AD	Purchased/Sold	The TPL purchases 7.651 acres from Carl H. Lecher and Nicholas R. DiNapoli Jr. The property is included within the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli-Lecher property purchased by the federal government in 2000.
1999 AD	Purchased/Sold	The federal government purchases .37 acres (Lot 18) from private owners. This is the last parcel acquired within current park boundaries that was once owned by J. Alden Weir.
1999 AD	Built	A recycled lumber bridge is built adjacent to the historic fishing bridge site.
1999 - 2000 AD	Purchased/Sold	The TPL purchases 7.65 acres from Nicholas R. DiNapoli, Jr. and Carl H. Lecher.
1999 - 2001 AD	Rehabilitated	Trails leading to and around Weir Pond are rehabilitated, including stone crossings, waterbars, and steps.

Weir Farm
Weir Farm National Historic Site

1999 - 2002 AD	Restored	Numerous field edges are restored on both the Weir/Young and the Burlingham property, including Truant's Meadow.
1999 - 2003 AD	Restored	Numerous stone walls, barways, and gates are repaired.
2000 AD	Purchased/Sold	The TPL purchases 1.32 acres from Harvey and Mary Lynn Westervelt, who presumably purchased the property from Dan Jr. and Marlene L. Settanni.
2000 AD	Purchased/Sold	The federal government purchases two parcels north of Weir Farm (7.65 and 1.32 acres) from the TPL to construct maintenance, curatorial, and administrative facilities for the Weir Farm National Historic Site.
2000 AD	Rehabilitated	Crew project lead by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation prunes orchard trees.
2000 AD	Rehabilitated	The Burlingham domestic grounds are rehabilitated, based on a design by Norma Williams
2001 AD	Restored	The Burlingham orchard is restored. Six trees are planted.
2001 AD	Reconstructed	Stone wall along eastern side of Nod Hill Road is rebuilt, just south of the visitor parking lot.
2002 - 2003 AD	Rehabilitated	The Burlingham barn is rehabilitated for programmatic use.
2002 - 2003 AD	Restored	Stone paths and the stone patio at the Burlingham house are restored.
2003 AD	Rehabilitated	Landscape surrounding the Burlingham barn is rehabilitated.
2003 AD	Reconstructed	The picket fence along Pelham Lane and Nod Hill Road in front of the Weir/Young house and the caretaker's house is reconstructed.

Statement Of Significance

Weir Farm was listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and the park was administratively listed on the National Register on November 30, 1990, after the establishment of Weir Farm National Historic Site. As listed in 1984, the district includes approximately 194 acres of the 241.78 acres once owned by J. Alden Weir. The national historic site, whose boundaries are different than the district, includes 59.08 acres once owned by Weir, or about twenty-five percent of Weir Farm at its greatest extent. Separate documentation has not been prepared for the national historic site.

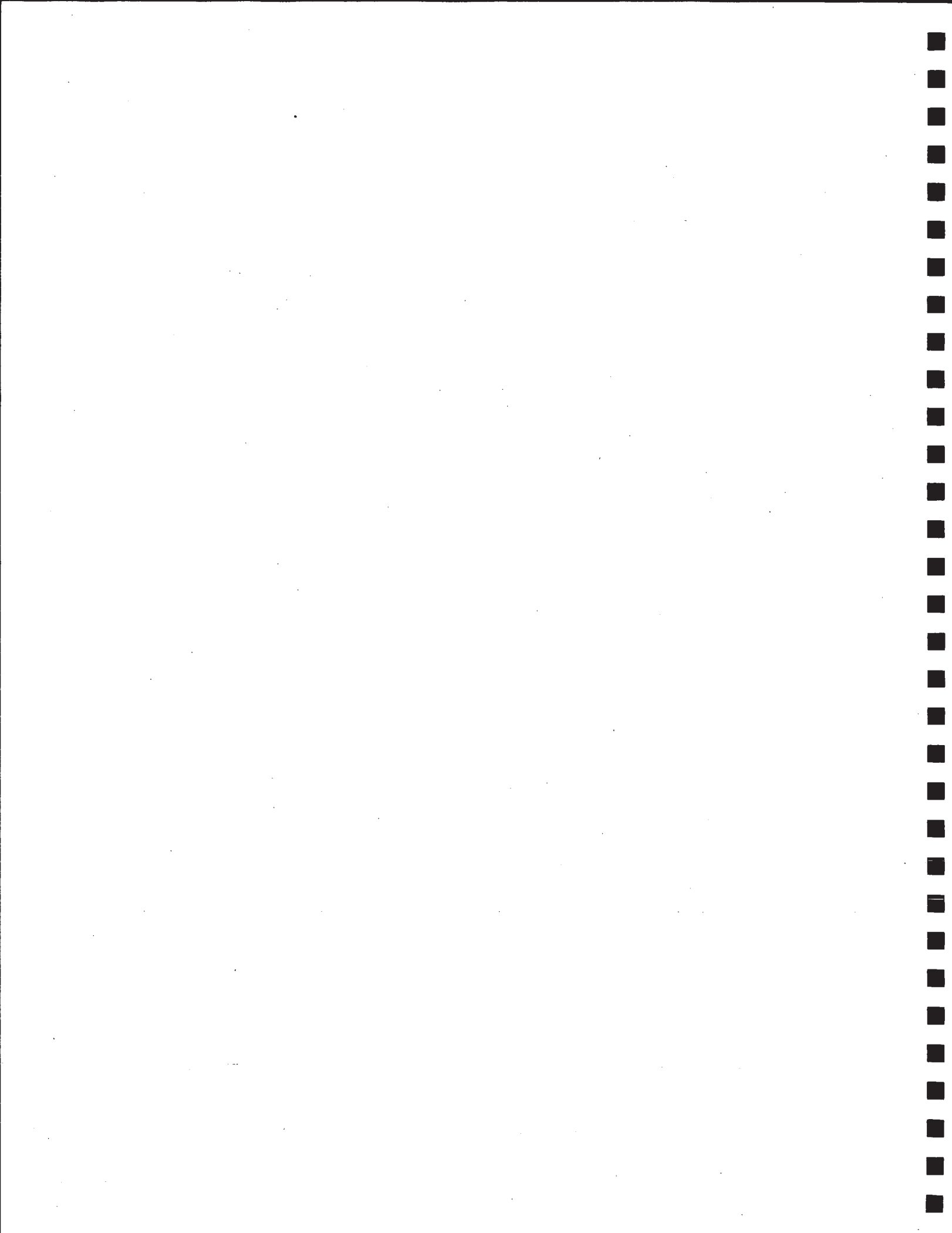
Weir Farm is significant under criterion B for its association with the impressionist artist, J. Alden Weir. The farm provided subject matter not only for his paintings, but also for paintings composed by other American impressionist artists such as Childe Hassam, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and John Twatchman who frequently visited Weir's farm. J. Alden Weir began painting as a boy, taught by his father who was a drawing professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. As a young man, he frequently visited and used the studio of his older half-brother, John Ferguson Weir, in New York City. From 1869 to 1872, Weir studied during the winters at the National Academy of Design in New York City, and from 1873 to 1877 he studied in Paris at the École des Beaux-Arts. In Paris, as an advanced student Weir won awards and exhibited at the Paris Salon. After returning to the United States, Weir joined the Society of American Artists and the Tile Club. In 1878, he began teaching at the Cooper Union and Art Students League, as well as tutoring private pupils, and in 1880 Weir began exhibiting at the American Watercolor Society. During the summers of 1878, 1880, and 1881 he returned to Europe.

In 1882, the year he became engaged to his first wife, Anna Dwight Baker, Weir purchased a 153-acre farm in Ridgefield and Wilton, Connecticut, in an area known locally as Branchville. Weir purchased three additional parcels by 1907, bringing the extent of his farm to 241.78 acres. Weir and his contemporaries are known to have painted thirty-seven landscape views within the bounds of the national historic site between 1882 and 1919. Subject matter included farm buildings, gardens, agricultural fields, livestock, stone walls, wooden fences, roads, woodlots, and the pond.

The artistic tradition continued on the farm following Weir's death in 1919. Weir's daughter, Dorothy Weir Young studied under her father. In 1931, Dorothy married sculptor Mahonri M. Young. A number of ink drawings and paintings attributed to Young depict the farm landscape. Dorothy Weir Young died in 1947 and Mahonri Young in 1957. In 1958, friends of Mahonri Young and fellow artists Sperry and Doris Andrews purchased 12.34 acres on both sides of Nod Hill Road from Young's children. The Andrews have a life tenancy agreement with the NPS. Doris Andrews died in 2003. Like J. Alden Weir and Mahonri Young, a number of Sperry Andrews' paintings depict the farm landscape.

Weir Farm is also significant under criterion C. The Weir/Young house is architecturally significant as an example of a late eighteenth-century building renovated ca. 1830s in the Greek Revival style and then altered at the turn of the twentieth century by the famous architects Charles Adams Platt (1900) and McKim, Mead & White (1911). The Weir/Young buildings are significant as a unique building complex in the state of Connecticut. In addition to the Weir/Young house, barn, and other agricultural buildings and structures, the complex includes J. Alden Weir's studio (1885) and Mahonri Young's studio (1932). Although the architect of Weir's studio is unknown, the design, or alterations to the Weir studio, may have been influenced by architect Charles Adams Platt. Landscape Architect Oliver Lay, Mahonri Young's son-in-law, designed Young's studio. Lay designed the studio with an unusually high ceiling to accommodate Young's over-sized sculptures.

The 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000 is not included within the acreage once owned by J. Alden Weir, and therefore does not possess significance under Criterion B. Research indicates the site was historically used for agricultural purposes and is not significant under any Criteria Considerations as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.



Physical History

Pre - J. Alden Weir Ownership: 1748 - 1881

In 1748, the Proprietors of Ridgefield granted three parcels of land in the sixth 20-Acre Division of the town to Matthew Benedict, Benjamin Burt, and jointly to Joseph Northrup and Henry Whitney. During the same year, they granted 41 acres within an area known as Rockhouse Woods to John Belden and an adjacent parcel of 9 acres to Samuel Brimsmade and John Reed. The first transaction included acreage within the future Beers property, and the second included acreage within the future Webb property. J. Alden Weir purchased land within both properties between 1882 and 1907. (CLR Vol. 1)

Beers Farm: In 1781, James Abbott purchased the second of three parcels of land originally granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division of the town from Joseph Jackson. The 1781 deed transferring the land mentions a dwelling house located on the northwest corner of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane. The house, referred to in this document as the Weir/Young house, is thought to have been constructed ca. 1765-1781. In 1789, Anthony Beers purchased the first and the second parcels originally granted within the sixth 20-Acre Division of the town, including the one with the house. Eight years later he purchased the third parcel within the original land grant. Following Anthony Beers death in 1821, the farm transferred to his heirs. Located on the property in 1821 was the house mentioned in the 1781, a barn, a necessary house, and a wagon shed. The family built a barn along Nod Hill Road just north of the house ca. 1835. By 1836, Lewis Beers had acquired all three of the parcels within the sixth 20-Acre Division, as well as two additional parcels. The ca. 1760-1778 house (Weir/Young house) was remodeled in the Greek Revival style at an unspecified time, probably around 1830. As noted in Lewis Beers' 1860 probate inventory, farm structures clustered around the house included a barn, cow houses, a wash house, and a hog house. His will also mentioned a second barn and additional cow houses north of house and a small house and carriage house on the southeast corner of the intersection of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane. This house is probably the house known today as the caretaker's house. (CLR Vol. 1-2, HSR Vol. I)

Webb Farm: In 1782, the 41-acre parcel and the 9-acre parcel originally granted within the area known as Rockhouse Woods are transferred by deed from Joshua Chase to Colonel Stephen St. John. The deed mentions a small house, referred to in this document as the Webb house, and later as the Burlingham house. Research indicated the house was constructed ca. 1782. In 1832, Jared Webb purchases the 9-acre parcel, and nine years later he purchases the 41-acre parcel that included the house. In 1843, soon after he acquired the 41-acre parcel, Webb transfers partial rights to the parcel to William Webb (relationship unknown). The 1843 deed mentions unspecified buildings on the property, presumably at least a house and a barn. Following Jared Webb's death in 1847, William Webb inherits the remaining rights to the 41-acre parcel. By 1855, William Webb owns both the 41-acre parcel and the 9-acre parcel. (CLR Vol. 1, HSR Vol. III)

The neighboring Beers and Webb farms were located along both sides of Nod Hill Road, their houselots divided by Pelham Lane. Located to the north on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road and bordering property owned by the heirs of Lewis Beers was the 30-acre Bouton Farm. Research to date indicates all or part of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property (8.97 acres) purchased by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2000 was located within the Bouton parcel. An 1858 map indicates the Bouton farmhouse was located along Old Branchville Road, outside the NPS property boundary. (Record of Deeds 22:393, Map of Fairfield Co., Conn. 1858)

J. Alden Weir Ownership: 1882 - 1919

In 1882, J. Alden Weir purchased 153 acres from art collector Erwin Davis for \$10.00 and a painting he had recently purchased for \$560.00. The property was located in the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton Connecticut, and was within the bounds of the late eighteenth-century to mid-nineteenth-century Beers farm. Buildings on the property included the ca. 1760-1778 house (Weir/Young house), a second house referred to in this document as the caretaker's house, a barn, and probably a number of smaller outbuildings. During the year that followed, Weir improved and repaired the two houses. The larger house (Weir/Young house) at the northwest corner of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane became his summer residence and the smaller house at the southeast corner of the same intersection became his caretaker's residence. (CLR Vol. 1, Record of Deeds 28:597)

In 1895, Weir purchased a ten-acre parcel on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road from Abram H. Gilbert. The parcel was originally part of the Beers farm. A description within the deed between Gilbert and Weir and the amount of acreage transferred indicates the property included parcel 8 and a portion of parcel 9 as depicted on the NPS map "Segment 101." With prize money awarded for his painting "The Truants" at the Boston Art Club exhibition in 1896, Weir built an earthen dam across a small stream on the low-lying parcel to construct a fishing pond (Weir Pond). (Ridgefield Record of Deeds 33:356, CLR Vol. 1)

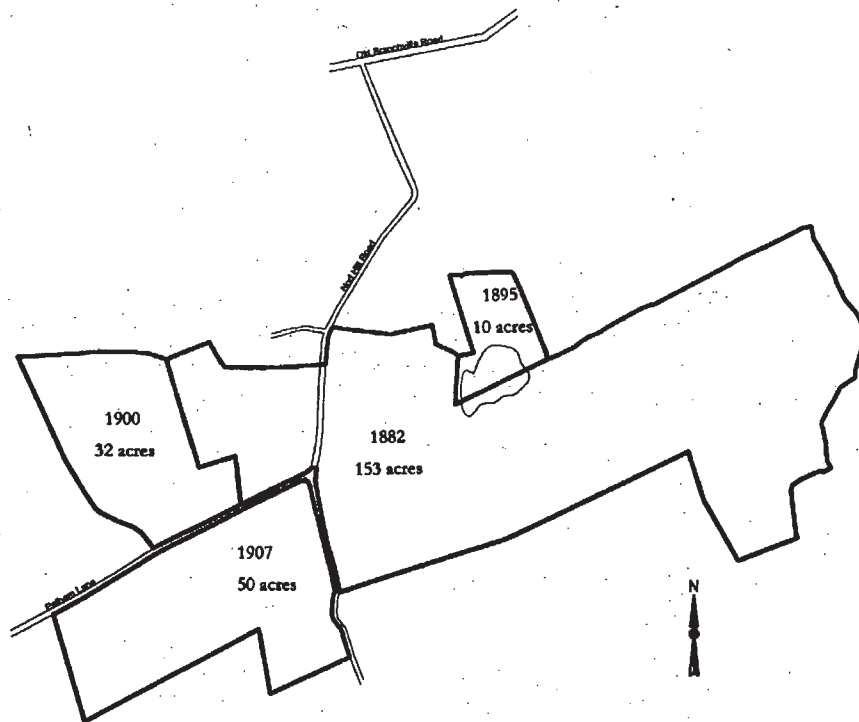
Weir's 1895 parcel abutted all or part of the mid-nineteenth century 30-acre Bouton farm, the bounds of which include all or part of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000. Ownership of the Bouton farm changed numerous times between 1882 and 1919. A partial list of landowners includes A. Fitch, Abram H. Gilbert, Cyril H. Burdett, and Winella Burdett. Deeds located indicate all or part of the 30-acre Bouton farm combined with one or more tracts by 1905 to form a 60-acre parcel, bordered to the north by Old Branchville Road and to the west by Nod Hill Road. Historic maps dated 1867 and 1912 depict a farmhouse on the property in the same general location as the Bouton farmhouse, along Old Branchville Road and outside of the current NPS boundary. (Record of Deeds 33:356, 34:285, 36:196, 45:206, Town of Ridgefield 1867, Map of the Town of Ridgefield, Co. 1912)

In 1900, Weir purchased a 32-acre parcel located west of the Weir house, adjoining his 1882 parcel. Weir bought the land from Anna Eliza Smith. Henry Smith had purchased the parcel from William W. Beers (son of Lewis Beers) in 1871. Seven years later, Weir purchased the 50-acre Webb farm, which included the ca. 1775 house Webb house (later known as the Burlingham house), a barn, and probably several smaller outbuildings. Throughout his life, Weir referred to the 1907 land acquisition as the "Webb farm." (Record of Deeds 33:524, CLR Vol. 1)

Previous research indicates numerous landscape changes occurred on the former Beers farmstead (referred to in this document as the Weir farm, and later as the Weir/Young farm) during J. Alden Weir's lifetime. Less is known about changes made within the former Webb farm, later known as the Burlingham property. Together, the two farms are referred to within this document as Weir Farm. Buildings and structures constructed on the Weir/Young farm include Weir's studio (1885, enlarged c. 1900), a stone picnic table and a rustic picket fence (by 1890), a low retaining wall (ca. 1900), a rustic well (by 1905), and a tack house (1911, altered in 1918). Additional structural features that may have been constructed on the farmstead during Weir's lifetime include an octagon-shaped garden shed and a corn crib. Structural features constructed in association with the fishing pond during the same period include a small boathouse, a small summerhouse, and a bridge. Weir also improved, expanded, and redesigned the former Beers house, hereafter referred to as the Weir house. Later changes to the house

were guided by Architect Charles Adam Platt (1900-1901) and the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, & White (1911). Only a few references have been found regarding ornamental plantings associated with the Weir house. In 1886, Anna Weir (J. Alden Weir's first wife) planted a flower garden. A secondary source indicates the garden was "unsuccessful," which probably indicates the flowers did not thrive in the garden or they died prematurely. By 1905 an informal flower garden stood north of Weir's studio, and by 1915, formal elements were added to the garden, including a fountain, a sundial, and two elaborate rustic gates. The garden came to be known as the Secret Garden. It is also known that J. Alden Weir planted a lawn (1890), presumably surrounding the Weir house, and Anna Weir planted poplar trees, their location unknown. Some or all of the trees were blown down by a storm in 1893. (CLR Vol. 1-2, HSR Vol. I, Vol. II-A, and Vol. II-B)

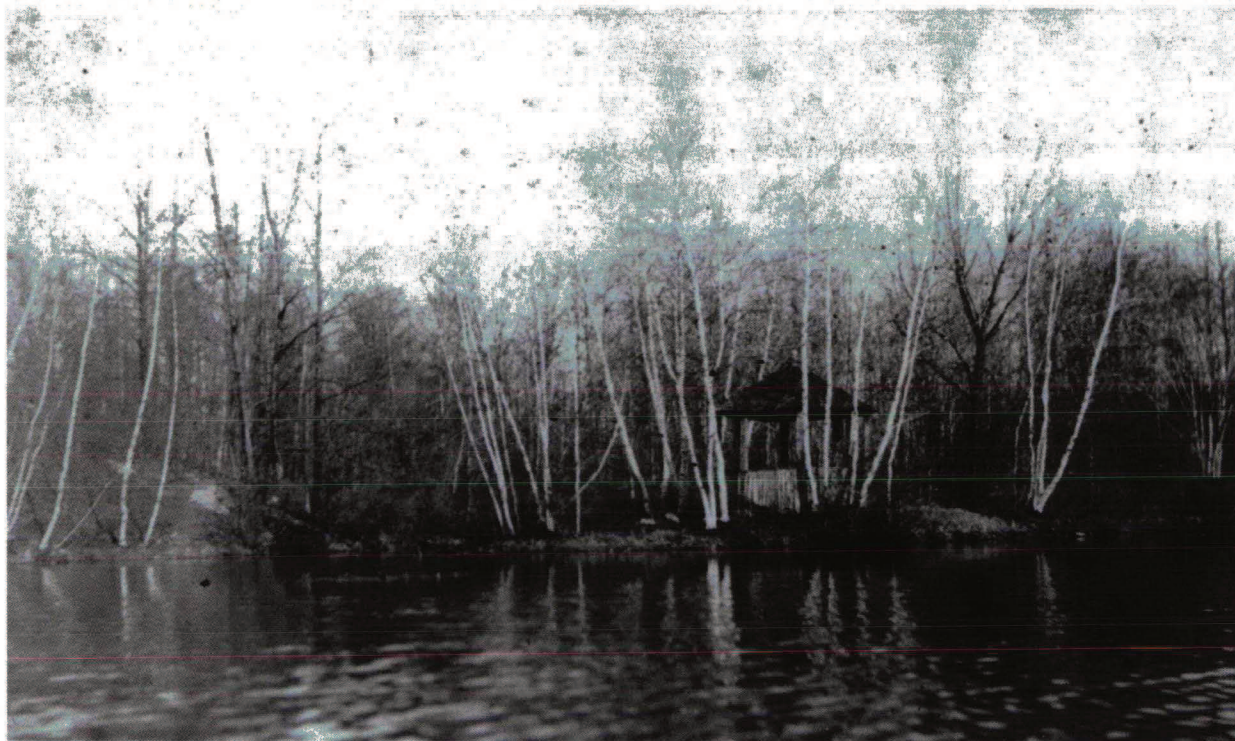
The most important crops grown on the farm during J. Alden Weir's ownership were hay and corn, both cultivated for livestock fodder. Additional grain crops included oats, rye, and buckwheat. Vegetable crops, probably grown primarily for farm consumption, included potatoes, lima beans, celery, tomatoes, and sweet peas. Stone walls provide evidence of the historic field pattern, although available resources do not identify the specific location of crop fields and pasture land. Livestock pastured on the farm included oxen, cattle, milking cows, and horses. Smaller livestock, such as chickens and pigs, were maintained in small outbuildings and pens north of the Weir house. (Larkin)



Weir property acquisitions, 1882 to 1907 (OCLP).



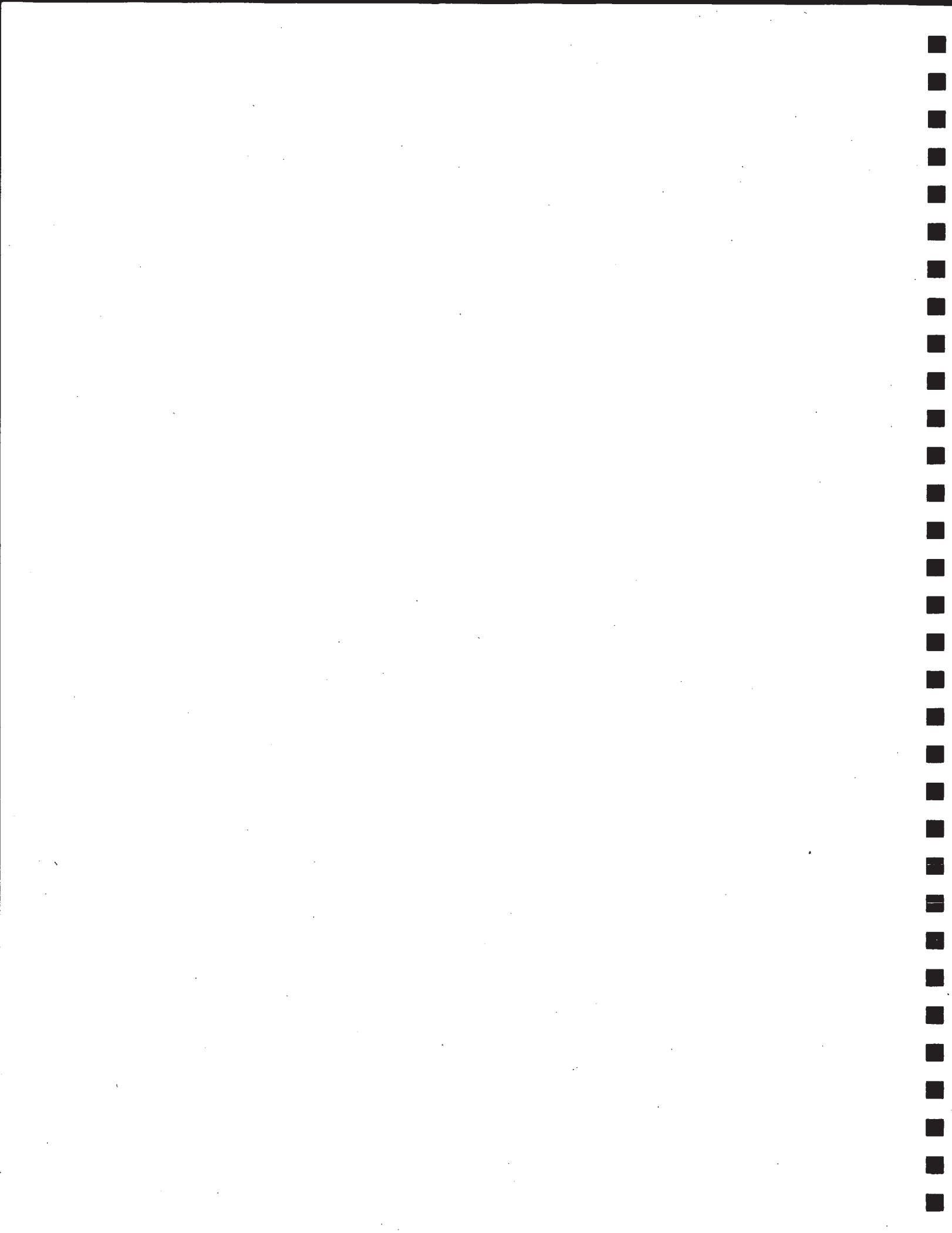
View north of the Weir house, ca. 1915 (WFNHS-HP No. 206).



View east of the Weir Pond and summerhouse, ca. 1919 (WFNHS-HP No. 205).



View southeast through the Secret Garden towards Weir's studio from the garden's northwest gate, ca. 1915 (WFNHS-HP No. 162).



Post - J. Alden Weir Ownership: 1919 - 1990

Weir died in 1919 and ownership of both Weir farm and the Webb farm transferred to his widow Ella and his three daughters: Caro, Dorothy, and Cora. Three years later, Caro and Cora transferred their rights to the two farms to their stepmother Ella and their sister Dorothy. Following the death of her stepmother in 1930, Dorothy became the sole owner of both farms. In 1931, Dorothy married sculptor Mahonri Young. Soon after her marriage she transferred the 50-acre Webb farm to her sister Cora Weir Burlingham. Hereafter, the Webb farm is known as the Burlingham property and the Weir farm as the Weir/Young farm. (CLR Vol. 1)

Weir/Young farm: In 1932, Mahonri Young built a studio on the Weir/Young farm to accommodate large-scale sculpture, adjacent to J. Alden Weir's studio. Landscape Architect Oliver Lay, Young's son-in-law, designed the studio. Other construction projects on the Weir/Young farm during the 1930s and 1940s included an animal shelter (1932, initially used as a chicken coop), garden terraces bordered by stone walls west of the Weir house (1937), and conversion of an old icehouse into a chicken house (1941). Dorothy Weir Young died in 1947, and Mahonri Young in 1957. Following Mahonri Young's death, ownership of the Weir/Young farm transferred to his children Mahonri Sharp Young and Agnes Young Lay. (CLR Vol. 1, CLR Vol. 2)

In 1958, Sperry and Doris Andrews, artists and friends of Mahonri Young, purchased three parcels totaling 12.34 acres within the core of the Weir/Young farm from Young's children. Parcel 1 located in Ridgefield on the western side of Nod Hill Road contained 8.2 acres. It included the Weir/Young house, the Weir and Young studios, two barns, and a chicken house. Parcel 2, located in Wilton on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road contained 2.09 acres and included the caretaker's house, a barn, and a shed. The third parcel, known today as the "Truant's Meadow," included 2.05 acres in Ridgefield on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road, opposite the Weir/Young house. Young's children sold the remaining acreage, including the pond, to developers. Zoning disputes prohibited immediate development of the majority of the acreage sold to developers. (CLR Vol. 1, Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 1986)

Burlingham farm: After acquiring the Webb farm from her sister in 1931, Cora Weir Burlingham added a new kitchen and dining room addition to the Webb house (hereafter known as the Burlingham house), constructed in the Colonial Revival style. Cora also directed numerous landscape projects during the 1930s and 1940s. In 1932, Cora commissioned her neighbor, Landscape Architect Vera Poggi Breed, to design a sunken garden between the house and the barn. The 55 feet long and 24 feet wide garden sits two feet below the ground plane and is surrounded by massive stone walls. As designed, the garden included a low serpentine boxwood hedge separating a panel of lawn from perimeter flowerbeds. During construction of the garden, Cora commissioned Architect F. Nelson Breed, husband of Landscape Architect Vera Poggi Breed, to design a greenhouse and a stone potting shed. Both structures were built near the sunken garden, the greenhouse attached to the southern exterior of the Burlingham house and the potting shed adjacent to and just northeast of the garden. Breed also designed a Colonial Revival style doorway surround for the main entrance of the house. Between the mid-1930s and the late 1940s, Cora directed the local Knoche family of stone masons to construct a series of stone terraces on the Burlingham property: north of the house (by the late 1940s), adjacent to the south façade of the house (ca. 1934-1938 – served as a patio), and south of the house (ca. 1946-1947). The Knoche family was also responsible for construction of the garden terraces mentioned earlier on the Weir/Young farm, and the massive stone walls surrounding Cora's sunken garden. In 1969, Cora Weir Burlingham commissioned Landscape Architect Freide R. Stege of New Canaan, Connecticut to redesign plantings within the sunken garden. Stege's design included azaleas, primroses, and flowering perennials. (CLR Vol. 1, CLR Vol. 2)

Preservation of Weir Farm: Cora Weir Burlingham, and Doris Andrews played important rolls in preserving a major portion of Weir Farm, including the entire Burlingham property and a significant portion of the Weir/Young farm. Following the sale of a significant portion of the Weir/Young farm to developers by the children of Mahroni Young, the women recognized the detrimental effects potential development would have on the Weir pond landscape. Doris Andrews initiated petitions and organized local rallies to save the pond landscape from development.

In 1969, Cora donated 37 acres of the Burlingham property to the Nature Conservancy and by 1970, neighbors and other interested individuals established the Citizens to Preserve Weir Farm, a grass-roots organization dedicated to preserve the pond landscape. Cora left the Burlingham property in 1979, following the death of her husband. She rented the farmstead to a family from New York City. (CLR Vol. 1)

Several notable actions in the 1980s ultimately lead to the preservation of Weir Farm and designation of the farm as a national historic site. In 1983, the Citizens to Preserve the Weir Farm and other interested groups asked the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for assistance. Two years later, Connecticut's Heritage Task Force identified J. Alden Weir's farm as one of the top ten endangered sites in the state. Between 1986 and 1994, the TPL purchased and then transferred most of the land within the bounds of the park once owned by J. Alden Weir to the State of Connecticut. (CLR Vol. 1)

In 1984, approximately 194 acres of the 245-acre farm owned by J. Alden Weir was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district included The Weir/Young house and outbuildings, the Burlingham house and outbuildings, the caretaker's house, and the pond landscape.

By 1988, the TPL had purchased 56.69 acres of J. Alden Weir's farm including the remaining portion of the Burlingham property and a significant portion of the Weir/Young farm. Records indicate land transferred within the historic bounds of the Weir/Young farm included the 12.34 acres owned by Doris and Sperry Andrews within the core of the Weir/Young farm and Weir Pond. The Andrews property included 4.09 acres with a life tenancy agreement: 2 acres surrounding the Weir Young house, the Weir and Young studios, and the barn; and 2.09 acres surrounding the caretaker's house. In July 1988, the TPL transferred 44.78 acres to the State of Connecticut and in May 1990 the organization transferred 9.91 acres. The only acreage retained by the TPL was the 2-acre site surrounding the Weir/Young house, the Weir and Young studios and the barn. (Ridgefield and Wilton Record of Deeds – numerous deeds)

In 1989, members of the Citizens to Preserve the Weir Farm, lead by Doris and Sperry Andrews, formed the Weir Farm Heritage Trust (today known as the Weir Farm Trust), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the property. The group received assistance and funding from the TPL. Also initiated the same year and partially funded by the TPL was an NPS study to evaluate the feasibility and merit for inclusion of Weir Farm within the National Park System. (CLR Vol. 1)

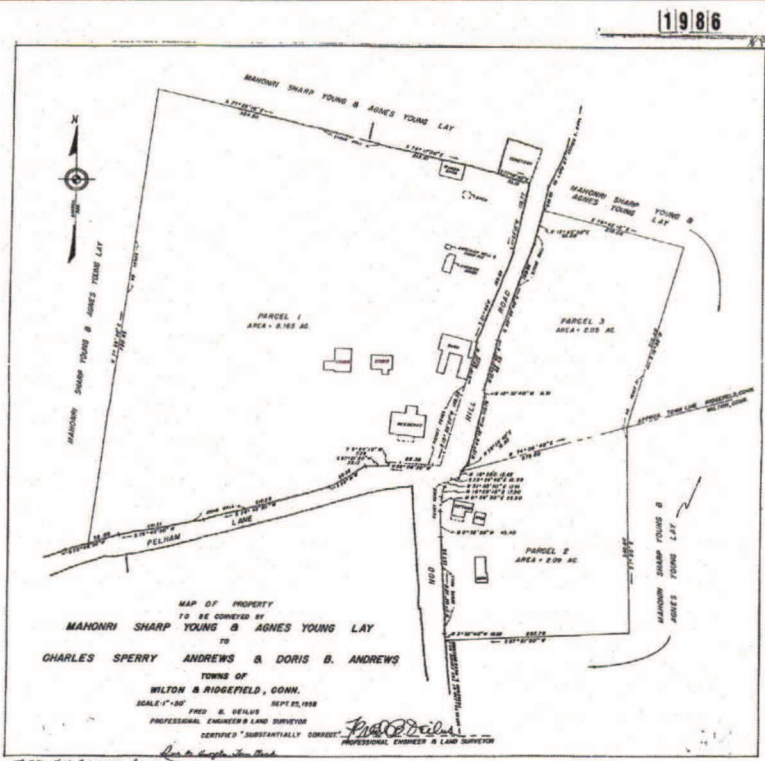
60-Acre Parcel: From 1924 to ca. 1973, members of the Fawcett family owned the 60-acre parcel adjacent to and just north of the Weir/Young farm, the bounds of which include all or part of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000. George Fawcett purchased the parcel in 1924 from Fred R. Babcock. It is not known if, or when, Babcock purchased the property from Winella Burdett, who is known to have owned the property in 1917. A 1939 aerial photograph indicates forest covered most of the Fawcett property. Only a couple of open areas are depicted on the photograph: the site of the farmhouse historically associated with the property (along Old Branchville

Road) located outside current NPS bounds, and Lot 14 (as depicted on the "Final Plan of Nod Hill," 1986) located within the bounds of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000. In 1946, Lily A. Fawcett, presumably George's widow, conveyed her interest in the property to Robert Fawcett, probably her son. Fawcett was a well-known illustrator of books and magazines and reportedly a good friend of Sperry and Doris Andrews. A 1949 aerial photograph indicates additional clearing had occurred, primarily on southern half of the Fawcett property. Within current NPS bounds, the photograph depicts open land in Lot 14, Lot 15, and a portion of Lot 13 (as depicted on the "Final Plan of Nod Hill, 1986"). Steep terrain, large rock outcroppings, and numerous boulders scattered across the landscape indicate the property may have been used as pasture. (Ridgefield Record of Deeds 45:206, 48: 319, Who's Who in Ridgefield)

By 1950, the Fawcetts had constructed a new house along Nod Hill Road, today known as the Goldsmith house. Acreage owned by the Fawcett family fluctuated during its near fifty-year ownership. In the mid-1960s, Robert Fawcett owned 46.3 acres, of which 40 acres were taxed as pasture, 4 acres as tillable land, and 2 acres as a houselot. Robert Fawcett died in 1967. In 1972, his widow Agnes M. Fawcett owned 54.19 acres including all of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property (8.97 acres) purchased by the NPS in 2000. As indicated on the "Map showing Property of Agnes M. Fawcett," the family had subdivided and sold the site of the nineteenth-century farmhouse along Old Branchville Road, possibly around the time their new house was constructed. In 1973, Agnes M. (Fawcett) Briggs (remarried) sold the property to E. Donald and Helen K. Goldsmith. (Ridgefield Town Assessor's Records, Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 5090, Who's Who in Ridgefield)

Subdivision of the Fawcett/Goldsmith Property: In January 1986, Nicholas R. DiNapoli, Jr. and Carl H. Lecher submitted a subdivision plan to the town of Ridgefield for the 54.19-acre Fawcett/Goldsmith property, which included the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property purchased by the NPS in 2000. Titled "Final Plan, Nod Hill, A Planned Residential Development," the plan indicates the Goldsmiths would retained 4.47 acres along Nod Hill Road, including their ca. 1950 house. DiNapoli and Lecher purchased the 54.19-acre site from the Goldsmiths in 1988.

Weir Farm
Weir Farm National Historic Site



Map of property transferred from the children of Mahonri Young to Sperry and Doris Andrews, 1958 (Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 1986).



View southwest towards (left to right) Weir/Young barn, Weir/Young house, Weir studio, and Young studio, ca. 1940 (WFNHS-HP No. 150).



View northwest of the Burlingham house, ca. 1940s (WFNHS-HP No. 87).

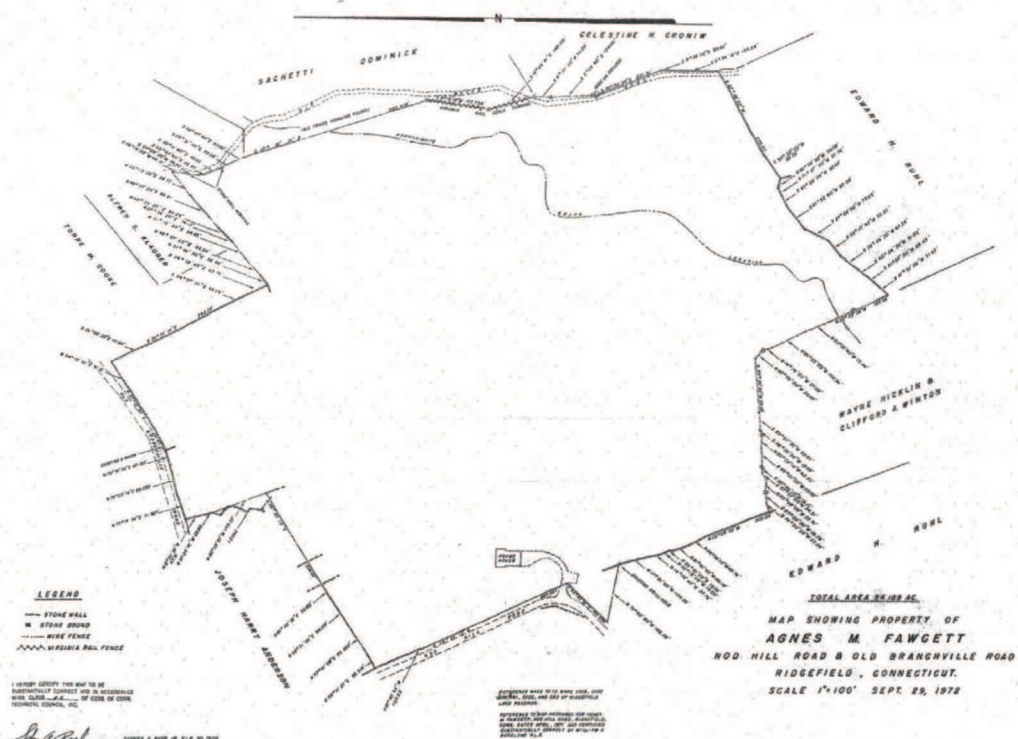


View northwest of the Burlingham sunken garden, ca. 1930s (WFNHS-HP No. 126).

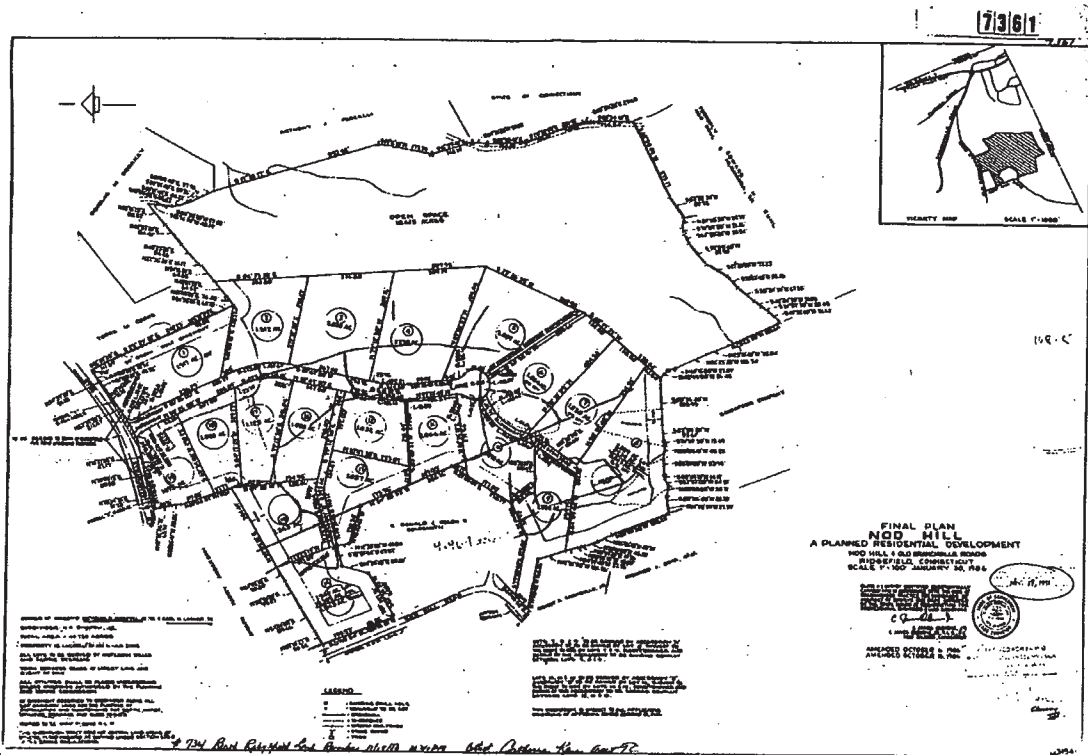
Weir Farm
 Weir Farm National Historic Site



Aerial view of the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property (red outline), 1949. Note Old Branchville Road (left), Nod Hill Road (bottom), and Weir Pond (right), (04/12/49 – U.S. Geological Survey 5-72-GS-IM).



"Map Showing Property of Agnes M. Fawcett," September 29, 1972. (Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 5090)



Final Plan: Nod Hill, A Planned Residential Development, January 30, 1986, amended October 6 and October 16, 1986 (Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 7361).

Weir Farm National Historic Site: 1990 - present

On October 31, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed Public Law 101-405 (104 Stat. 1171, 16 U.S.C. 461) establishing Weir Farm National Historic Site. The Weir Farm Heritage Trust managed the site before the arrival of NPS staff in January 1992. Since 1992, the Trust has continued to serve the property through a cooperative agreement with the NPS. (CLR Vol. 1)

Land Acquisition: In 1992, the State of Connecticut donated 52.60 of the 54.69 acres it held to the federal government. The following year the TPL transferred the two 2-acre parcel surrounding the Weir/Young house (with life tenancy agreement) to the federal government. In 1994, the State of Connecticut transferred its remaining acreage to the federal government - the 2.09-acre parcel originally transferred to the TPL by Doris and Sperry Andrews (with life tenancy agreement), which included the caretaker's house. By 1994, the federal government had accumulated 56.69 acres within the Weir Farm boundary. The same year, Congress authorized expanding the park's boundary to incorporate two small parcels along the eastern side of Nod Hill Road, the last remaining undeveloped land within the Weir Farm boundary. The federal government purchased the two parcels, 2 acres in 1995 and .37 acres 1999, bringing the total land within the bounds of the park to 59.06 acres. (Ridgefield and Wilton Record of Deeds – numerous deeds)

In 1998, Congress authorized expanding the park's boundary by 15 acres for construction of maintenance, curatorial and administrative facilities. The park's GMP, completed in 1995, specified the need for the facilities and determined they should be constructed outside the park's historic core. In 2000 the federal government purchased 8.97 acres north of the Weir Farm for construction of the facilities. The acreage is part of the 54.19-acre site acquired by Nicholas R. DiNapoli, Jr. and Carl H.

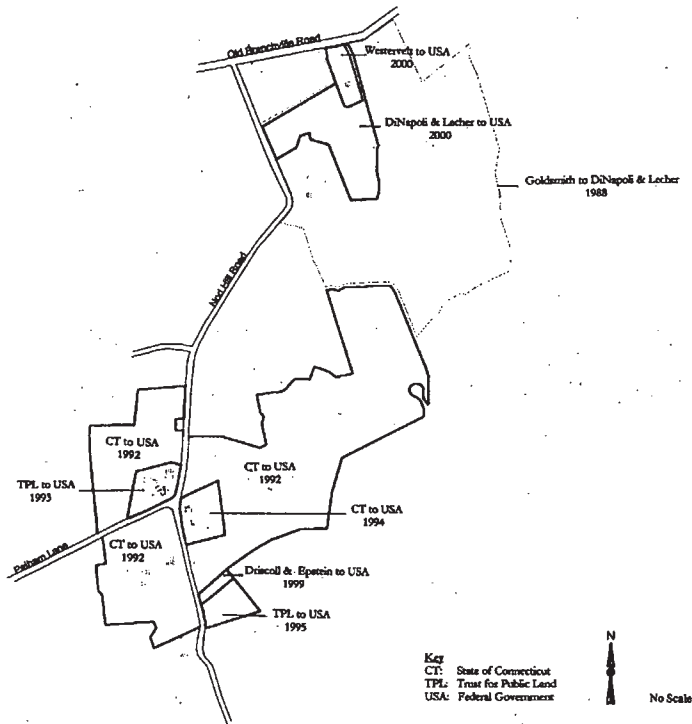
Lecher from E. Donald and Helen K. Goldsmith in 1988. In 1990, DiNapoli and Lecher submitted a substantially revised subdivision plan for the 54.19-acre site to the town of Ridgefield. Although dissimilar from the earlier plan, it was also titled "Final Plan, Nod Hill, A Planned Residential Development." Included on the plan is the 8.97-acre site purchased by the federal government in 2000 that includes a 1.32-acre parcel referred to within this report as the Westervelt property and the 7.65-acre parcel referred to within this report as the DiNapoli/Lecher property. (Ridgefield Record of Deeds 433:745)

Westervelt Property: In 1991, DiNapoli and Lecher quit claim deeded the 1.32-acre Westervelt property to "A Better Chance for Ridgefield" and undetermined acreage to the town of Ridgefield. Between 1994 and 2000 the Westervelt property changed hands several times. In 1994, "A Better Chance for Ridgefield" sold the 1.32-acre parcel to Roger and Constance Meine and in 1997 Dan Settanni and Marlene L. Settanni purchased the property, presumably from Roger and Constance Meine. The Settannis built a house on the site and landscaped the property. In August 2000, Harvey and Mary Lynn Westervelt sold the 1.32 acre site, presumably purchased from the Settannis, to the TPL. Several months later, the TPL sold the property to the federal government. (Ridgefield Record of Deeds 433:745, 491:663, 616:317, Ridgefield Town Assessor's Records)

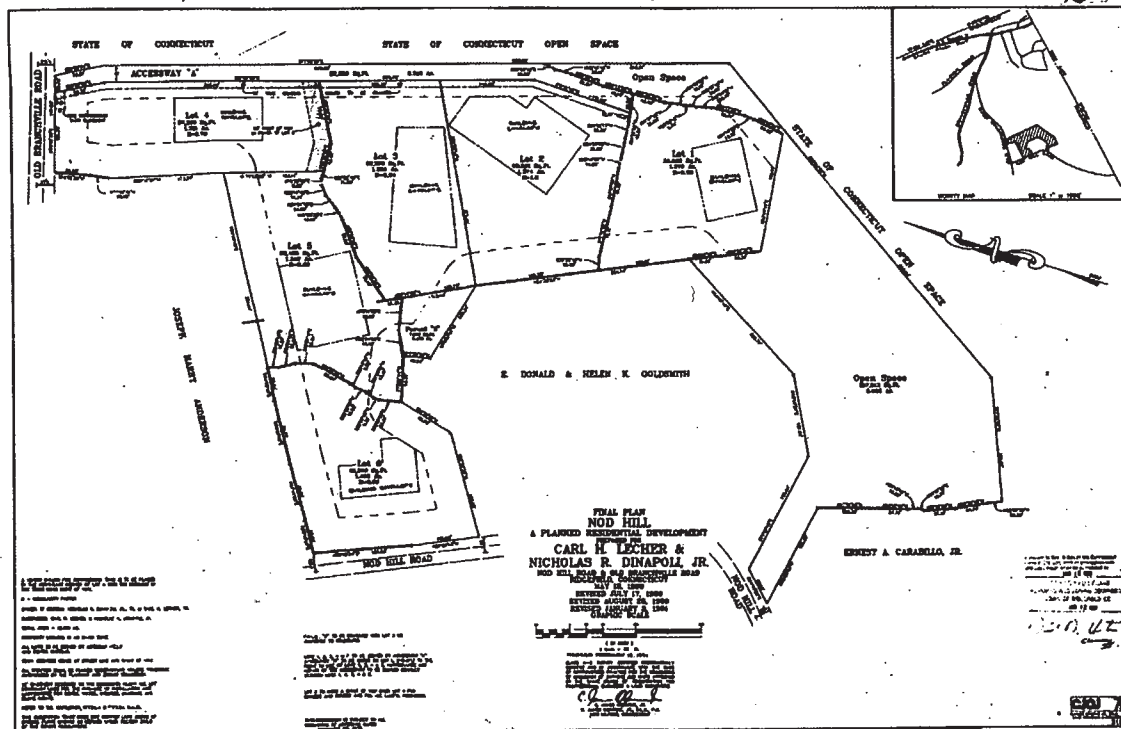
DiNapoli/Lecher Property: In June 1999, DiNapoli and Lecher sold the 7.65-acre undeveloped subdivided site the TPL and in 2000 the TPL sold the property to the federal government. (Ridgefield Record of Deeds 591:1060, 1062, 604:838)

Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Weir Farm Landscape: Since 1992, the NPS has undertaken numerous restoration and rehabilitation projects within the Weir Farm landscape. These include garden, orchard, and field edge restorations; repair and rehabilitation of the pond trail and paths; preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of buildings; and repair and reconstruction of bar ways, gates, and stone walls (see site chronology for specific projects). The projects were supported by a number of research reports and landscape plans. These include the "Historic Landscape Assessment of Weir Garden, Weir Farm National Historic Site," (1994); the "Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm National Historical Site," Volumes 1 and 2 (1996/1997); the "Preservation Maintenance Plan for Weir Farm National Historic Site," (1999); and the "Invasive Species Management Plan" (2002). (WEFA staff comments)

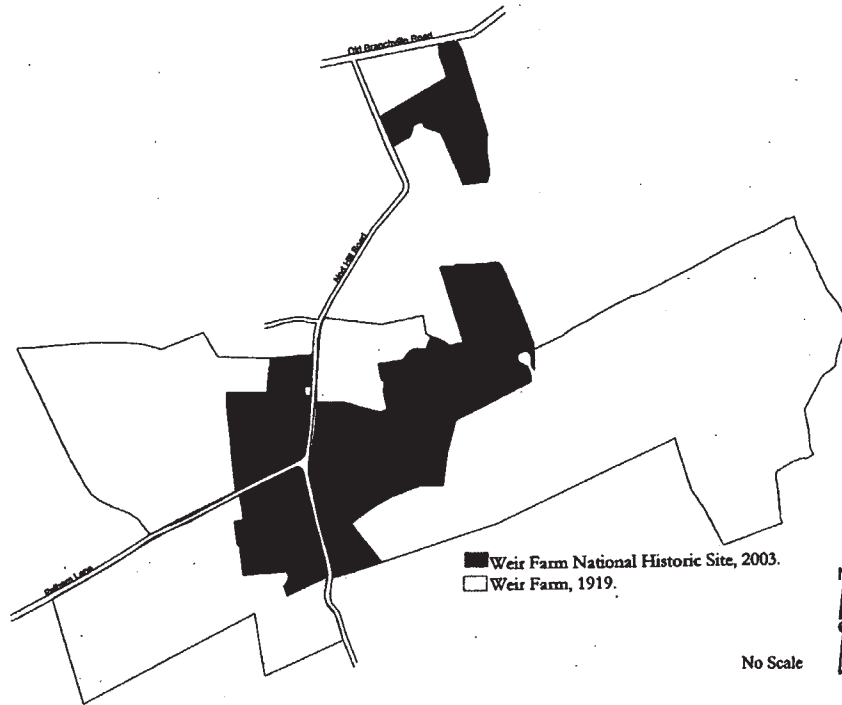
Weir Farm
Weir Farm National Historic Site



Federal government land acquisitions 1992 to 2000 (OCLP).



Final Plan: Nod Hill, A Planned Residential Development, May 18, 1990. Final revision – February 19, 1991 (Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office, Map No. 7835).



Plan comparing the 2003 property boundary of the Weir Farm National Historic Site to the boundary of J. Alden Weir's farm in 1919 (OCLP).

Analysis And Evaluation

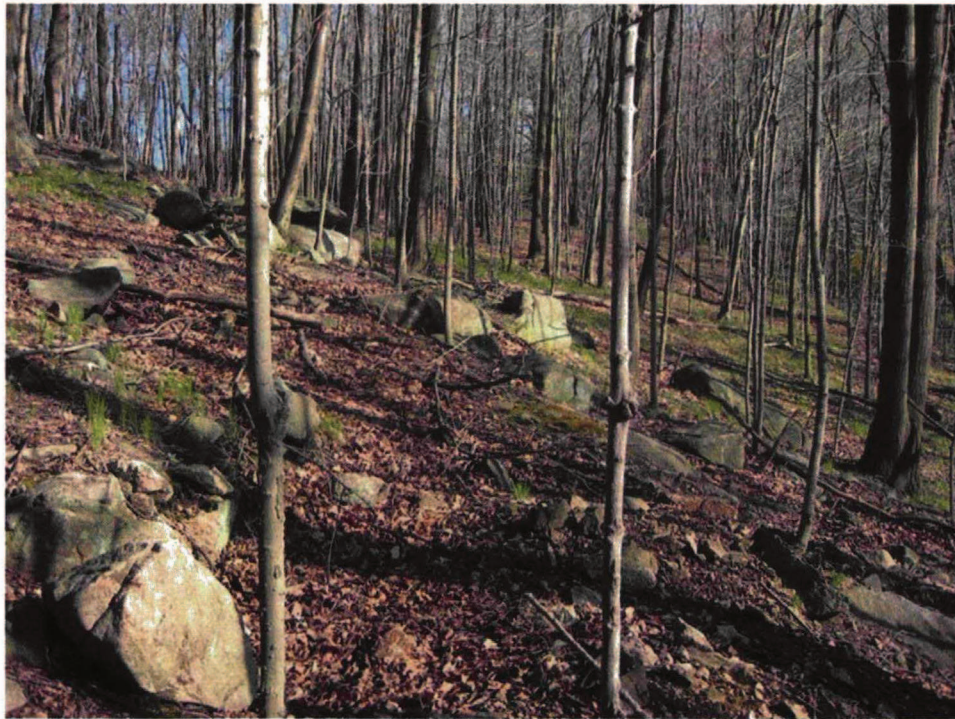
Summary

For the purpose of this CLI Level I, only a general description of existing conditions will be described under each landscape characteristic. In a subsequent CLI Level II this section will provide a description and analysis of each landscape characteristic and of individual features included within each component landscape.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Topography

Exposed bedrock and a series of steep north-south ridgelines separated by flat land characterize the undulating topography. Low-lying lands between the ridgelines tend to hold water, forming wetlands. Large boulders are scattered across the upland landscape.



View of boulders scattered on a hillside within the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property, 2003 (OCLP).



View northeast of rock outcroppings north of the Weir/Young house. Note the icehouse in the background, 2003 (OCLP).



View of wetland north of Weir Pond, 2003 (OCLP).

Spatial Organization

The national historic site consists of two discontinuous properties: the 59.06-acre property acquired by J. Alden Weir between 1882 and 1907 and the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property. Nod Hill Road connects the two properties, which are less than one half mile apart. The intersection of Pelham Lane (east/west) and Nod Hill Road (north/south) physically divide the property once owned by J. Alden Weir into three distinct spaces. Land associated with the cluster of Weir/Young buildings is located at the northwest corner of the intersection. This property includes the Weir/Young house and other associated agricultural buildings, the Weir and Young studios, the Secret Garden, an orchard, an open field, and a stone terrace. At the southwest corner of the intersection is land associated with the cluster of Burlingham buildings. Included on the property is the Burlingham house (visitor center), barn (renovated for programmatic use), and other associated buildings, the sunken garden, an orchard, open fields, and stone terraces. The third and largest parcel is located to the east of Nod Hill Road. It includes the caretaker's house, an open field, extensive woodland (former agricultural fields), and Weir Pond. (See site plan.)

Circulation

The national historic site is located along three rural roads: Old Branchville Road, Nod Hill Road, and Pelham Lane. The two-lane asphalt roads connect and bisect properties within the site and provide visitor access from all cardinal points. A fifteen-space visitor parking lot is located on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road, opposite the Webb/Young house (visitor center). Circulation within individual properties includes a gravel access way and gravel drives, a wagon road, a stone causeway, foot trails and walkways (soil, stone, and wooden boardwalk), and stone stairways.



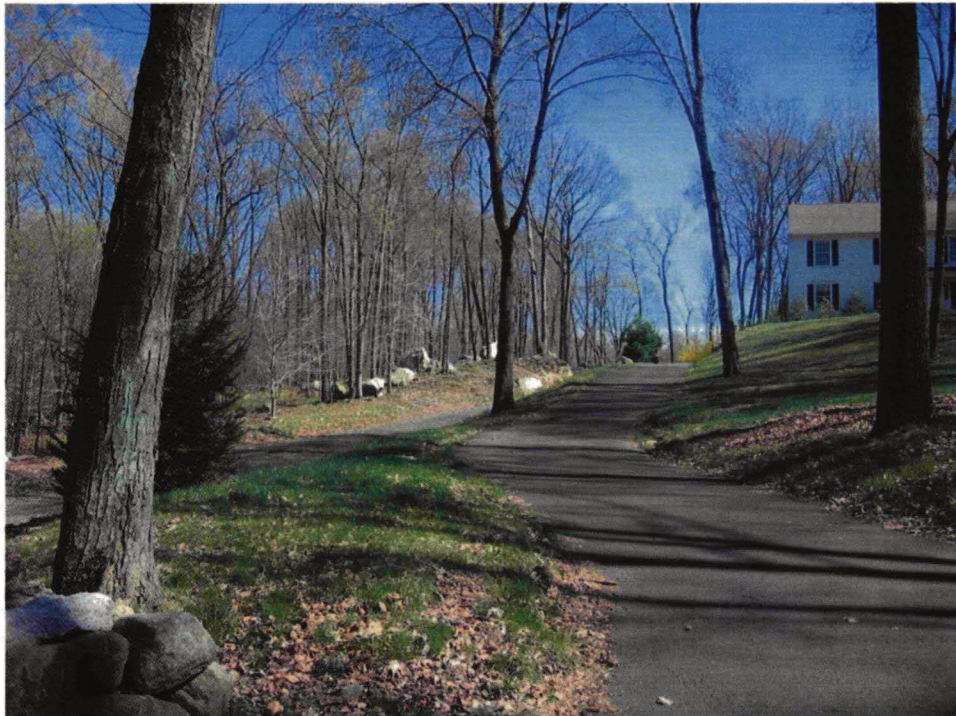
View north of Nod Hill Road, Weir/Young barn in the background, 2003 (OCLP).



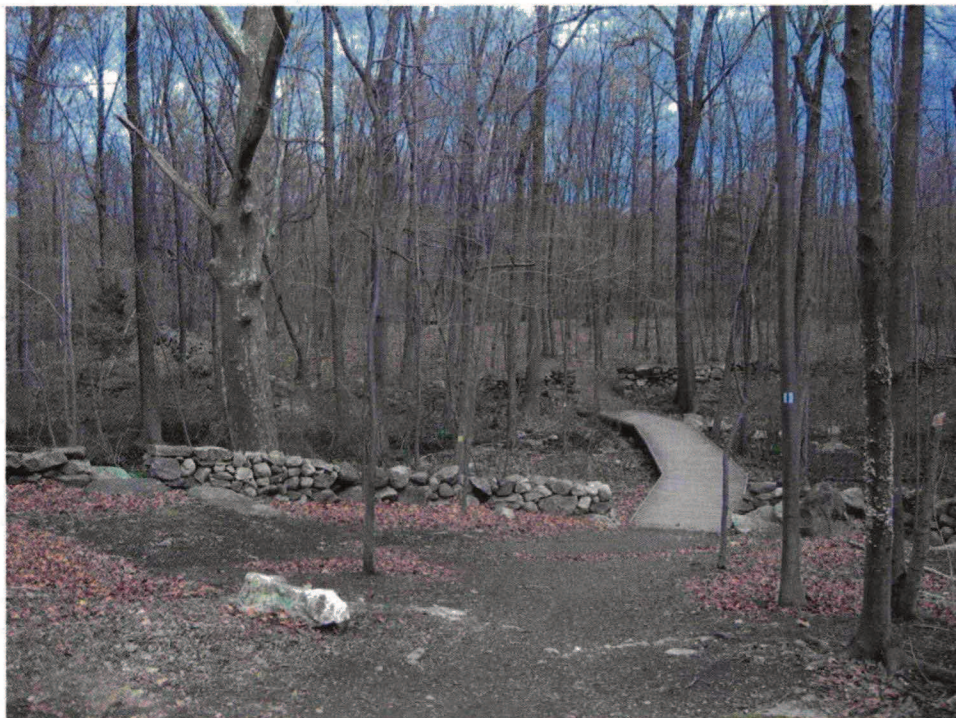
View east of the Burlingham gravel drive. Note the sunken garden, the stone potting shed, and the Burlingham house left of the drive, 2003 (OCLP).



View north of the visitor parking lot, Nod Hill road to the left, 2003 (OCLP).



View southeast of the Westervelt property driveway. Note the undeveloped subdivision access way left of the driveway, 2003 (OCLP).



View east of foot trail and boardwalk leading from Nod Hill Road to Weir Pond, 2003 (OCLP).



View of stepping stone path bordering Weir Pond, 2003 (OCLP).

Cluster Arrangement

Two building clusters are associated with Weir Farm, both located at the intersection of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane. The Weir/Young farm cluster is the largest. Its vernacular building arrangement includes the Weir/Young house (facing Pelham Lane), Weir/Young barn, Weir studio and Young studio. Several smaller buildings and structures are located south of the house including an icehouse, corncrib, several wells, and two stone enclosed pigpens. A maintained field and a formal garden (Secret Garden) connect the buildings and structures within the Weir/Young building cluster. Also historically associated with this cluster is the caretaker's house and garage. Nod Hill Road separates these structures from the rest of the buildings.

The Burlingham building cluster includes four buildings connected by a gravel drive. The Burlingham house stands on the north side of the gravel drive and faces Nod Hill Road. A small stone potting shed sits directly to the rear of the house adjacent to a sunken garden. The Weir/Burlingham barn and a woodshed are located at the western end of the gravel drive. Several stone garden terraces are located within the cluster, most notably a multi-level terrace on the southern side of the drive. (See site plan)

Buildings And Structures

Four houses and several associated buildings and structures are located within the national historic site. Three of the houses and three support buildings pre-date J. Alden Weir's ownership: the Weir/Young house and barn, the caretaker's house, and the Burlingham house, barn, and woodshed.

Buildings constructed during Weir's lifetime and located within the cluster of Weir/Young buildings include the Weir studio (1885), an ice house (ca. 1891, converted into chicken house in 1943), and a tack house (1911, altered in 1918), a corn crib (prior to 1920), and an octagonal garden tool shed (1900-1930). The caretaker's garage located adjacent to the caretaker's house and across the street from the cluster of Weir/Young buildings was built between the mid-1920s and 1947. (HSR Vol. I, Vol. II-A, Vol. II-B)

Buildings constructed within the cluster attributed to his daughter Dorothy Weir Young's ownership include her husband Mahonri Young's studio (1932), an animal shelter (ca. 1932), and several dog houses (ca. 1940s). Buildings constructed within the cluster of Burlingham buildings and attributed to Weir's daughter Cora Weir Burlingham include a stone potting shed and a stone rubbish incinerator. (HSR Vol. I, Vol. II-A, Vol. III)

Only one building is located on the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property, a house constructed in 1998 and previously owned by Harvey and Mary Lynn Westervelt.



View northwest of the Weir/Young house, the Weir/Young barn is to the right, 2003 (OCLP).



View north of the Weir/Young barn, 2003 (OCLP).



View north (left to right) of the Weir/Young corn crib, animal shelter, and ice house, 2003 (OCLP).



View north of the Weir studio, 2003 (OCLP).



View southeast of the Young studio, 2003 (OCLP).



View south of the caretaker's house, 2003 (OCLP).



View northeast of the caretaker's garage, 2003 (OCLP).



View west of the Burlingham house (visitor center), 2003 (OCLP).



View east of the Burlingham house (visitor center) and the stone potting shed, 2003 (OCLP).



View north (left to right) of the Burlingham barn (renovated for programmatic use) and woodshed, 2003 (OCLP).



View southeast of the Westervelt house, 2003 (OCLP).

Small Scale Features

Stone Walls

A network of stone walls criss-cross the national historic site, some primarily served functional purposes while others were constructed more for decoration. The majority of the stone walls mark historic field and property boundaries. They are found within Weir Farm (some are believed to pre-date Weir's ownership) and within the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property. These dry-laid walls run along roadsides, field edges, and through woodlands. The more decorative stone walls and features are found within the building clusters associated with the Weir/Young farm and Burlingham property and along the adjacent roads. These include stone retaining walls, garden terraces, garden walls, a stone patio, and stone walls along Nod Hill Road. The local Knoche family of stone masons constructed many of these features during the 1930s and 1940s.

Miscellaneous Small Scale Features

Small scale features include a stone ledge bird bath, a granite well cover, a stone picnic table, and a carved granite splash block located within the cluster of Weir/Young buildings. All or most of these features are thought to date to Weir's ownership. The wooden picket fence erected in 2003 along Pelham Lane and Nod Hill Road in front of the Weir/Young house and the caretaker's house is a replica of a fence built in the same by J. Alden Weir by 1890.



View northwest from Lot 1 within the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property of stone walls, 2003 (OCLP).



View west of stone walls southwest of the Burlingham woodshed, 2003 (OCLP).



View northeast of stone walls along Nod Hill Road (right) and bordering enclosed area to the rear of the Burlingham house, 2003 (OCLP).



View southeast of stone terrace gardens south of the Burlingham house, 2003 (OCLP).



View northwest of wooden picket fence erected in 2003 along Pelham Lane and Nod Hill Road, 2003 (WEFA).

Constructed Water Features

Weir Pond is located at the eastern end of the national historic site, surrounded on all sides by woodland. Its outline, from an aerial view, resembles the shape of a fish. A small island at its eastern end denotes the eye of the fish. Whether intentionally or unintentionally constructed to resemble the profile of a fish, its shape is amusing considering J. Alden Weir built the pond so that he could fish on his property. An earthen dam constructed by Weir in 1896, to flood the low-lying area (possibly dredged) now occupied by the pond, and a concrete dam built by his daughter Dorothy Weir Young in 1937 to support the 1896 dam, sit side-by-side at the north end of the pond.

West of Weir Pond, a stone lined ditch crosses the foot path leading to the pond. The ditch is thought to have been constructed to manage water flow to the pond during dry summers. Water from a small stream is diverted into the stone lined ditch, which is directed first into an adjacent wetland and eventually into Weir Pond.



View northwest across Weir Pond, towards the island, 2003 (OCLP).



Concrete dam built by Dorothy Weir Young in 1937 just visible to the right of the original dam, 2003 (OCLP).



View west of stone lined ditch diverting water from a small stream (right side of path) across the footpath leading to Weir Pond and into an adjacent wetland, 2003 (OCLP).

Vegetation

Woodland covers significant acreage within the national historic site. The age of the trees vary, though most range from young to medium growth. Open fields reflecting the historic agricultural character of Weir Farm are found in several areas. A number of fields bordered by stone walls and mature trees are located on the Burlingham property. A field dotted with mature trees is also located northeast of the Weir/Young house and another field is opposite the house on the eastern side of Nod Hill Road (Truant's Meadow). Two small orchards, one on the Burlingham property and another on the Weir/Young property, add to the site's historic landscape character. Both orchards include a mix of mature and newly planted apple trees. Domestic plantings, including historic flower gardens (restored), ornamental trees, and foundation plants, are associated with both the Weir/Young and the Burlingham houses. A contemporary landscape including a lawn, ornamental trees, and shrubs surrounds the Westervelt house.



Woodland on the Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property, 2003 (OCLP).



View southwest through field located in the southwest corner of the Burlington property, 2003 (OCLP).



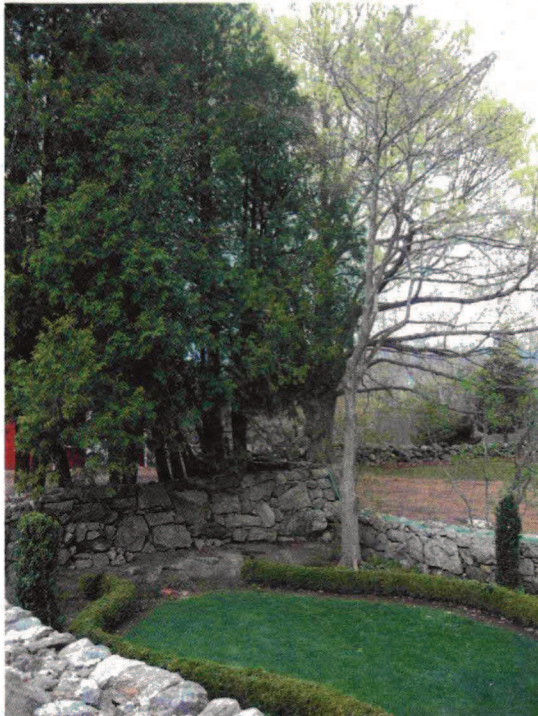
View south of the Weir/Young orchard, 2003 (OCLP).



View west through Secret Garden, 2003 (OCLP).



View of the residential landscape on the western side of the Westervelt house, 2003 (OCLP).



View of the sunken garden, northwest corner, 2003 (OCLP).



Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Beers Farm
Weir Farm
Webb Farm

Current Name(s): Weir Farm

Management Unit: Weir Farm National Historic Site

Tract Numbers: 101-01, 101-02, 101-03, 101-04, 101-5, 101-08, and 101-11

State and County: Fairfield County, CT

Size (acres): 68.03

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 83	18	167000	0

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Inadequately Documented

Explanatory Narrative:

Approximately 194 acres of the 245-acre farm owned by J. Alden Weir was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and the 59.08-acre Weir Farm National Historic Site (included within the 194 acres) was administratively listed on the National Register on November 30, 1990, after the establishment of the park. Separate documentation has not been prepared for the 59.08-acre Weir Farm National Historic Site. The 1984 documentation does not adequately document the Weir Farm National Historic Site landscape and its individual landscape features nor does it reflect the current acreage of the park.

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number: 84000825

Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register

Primary Certification Date: 1/5/1984

Name In National Register: Weir, J. Alden, Farm National Historic Site

Other Names In National Register: Weir, J. Alden Farm; Weir, J. Alden Farm

National Register Eligibility: Undetermined

Explanatory Narrative:

A determination of eligibility for listing the landscape characteristics and features listing on the National Register will be determined when a Level 2 Cultural Landscapes Inventory, which includes an analysis of those characteristics and features, is completed.

Date of Eligibility Determination:

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual:

Significance Criteria:

C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

B -- Inventory Unit is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

Area Of Significance:

Category: Art

Priority: 1

Category: Architecture

Priority: 2

National Historic Landmark Information

**National Historic
Landmark Status:** No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Domestic (Residential)
Use/Function:	Small Residential Landscape
Detailed Use/Function:	Small Residential Landscape
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Farm (Plantation)
Detailed Use/Function:	Farm (Plantation)
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Education
Use/Function:	Interpretive Landscape
Detailed Use/Function:	Interpretive Landscape
Type Of Use/Function:	Current
Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Type Of Use/Function:	Current
Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Museum (Exhibition Hall)
Detailed Use/Function:	Museum (Exhibition Hall)-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

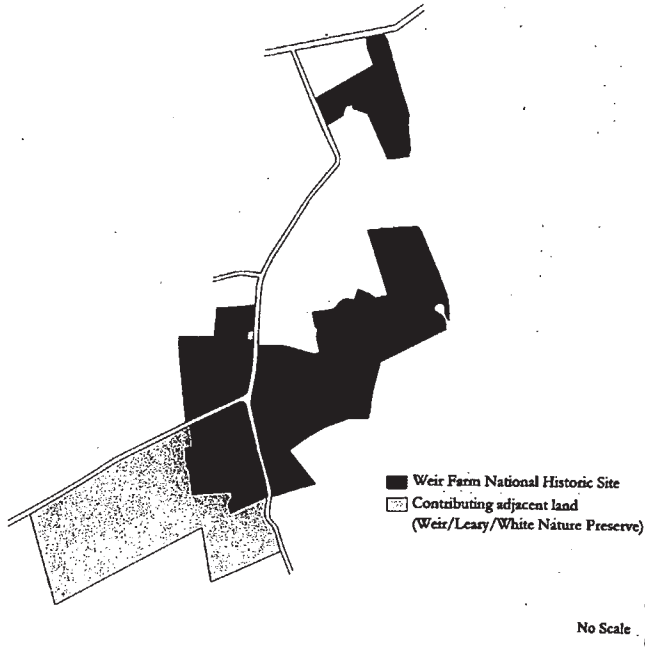
Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Thirty-seven acres of adjacent land, once owned by J. Alden Weir (a portion of the Webb farm, later known as the Burlingham property), contribute to the significance of Weir Farm. This

undeveloped site is part of the Weir/Leary/White Nature Preserve administered by the Nature Preserve. It includes open fields, woodlands, and stone walls. Other undeveloped land, owned by the Town of Ridgefield and the State of Connecticut, contributes to the character of Weir Farm but not to the significance of Weir Farm National Historic Site, since the parcels were not owned by J. Alden Weir.



Map depicting adjacent land that contributes the significance of Weir Farm National Historic Site, 2003 (OCLP).

General Management Information

Management Category: Not Specified

Management Category Date:

Explanatory Narrative:

A management category will be determined at a later date when the analysis and evaluation section is completed and this CLI is completed for level 2.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Undetermined

Assessment Date:

Date Recorded: 11/19/2003

Park Management Concurrence: No

Level Of Impact Severity:

Explanatory Notes: A condition assessment will be determined at a later date when the analysis and evaluation section is completed and this CLI is completed for level 2.

Stabilization Measures:

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple Reservation

Explanatory Narrative:

4.09 acres of the Weir/Young farm are under a life tenancy agreement.

Fee Simple Reservation For Life:

Public Access: Unrestricted

All park property, except for the 4.09-acre area within the core of Weir Farm and the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property are accessible without permission

With Permission

The 4.09-acre area within the core of the Weir Farm and the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property are accessible with permission.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan
Document Date: February 1, 1995

Explanatory Narrative:

The Weir Complex, as defined in the GMP, is to be restored to ca. 1940 to reflect continuous use by the Weir and Young families. It includes a portion of the Weir/Young farm, as referred to in this document.

The Burlingham Complex, as defined in the GMP, is to be rehabilitated to retain changes Cora Weir Burlingham made after the 1940s.

The Pond and Woodland landscape, as defined in the GMP, is to be rehabilitated to re-establish select ca. 1940 landscape features. It includes a portion of the Weir/Young farm, as referred to in this document.

Approved Treatment Completed:

Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved
Treatment Cost:**

**Landscape Approved
Treatment Cost:**

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description:

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs:

Cost Date:

Level Of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description:

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment:	Good
Documentation:	
Document:	Cultural Landscape Report
Year Of Document:	1996
Amplifying Details:	Volume 1
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Cultural Landscape Report
Year Of Document:	1996
Amplifying Details:	Volume 2
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Development Concept Plan
Year Of Document:	1996
Amplifying Details:	Weir Farm Suitability/Feasibility Study
Adequate Documentation:	
Document:	General Management Plan
Year Of Document:	1995
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Land Protection Plan
Year Of Document:	1993
Adequate Documentation:	
Document:	Resource Management Plan
Year Of Document:	1994
Amplifying Details:	Landscape Management Plan for Weir Farm National Historic Site
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1994
Amplifying Details:	Archeological Investigations at the Weir Garden, Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton, Connecticut. DRAFT
Adequate Documentation:	

Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	2002
Amplifying Details:	Invasive Species Management Plan
Adequate Documentation:	
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1994
Amplifying Details:	Historical Landscape Assessment of Weir Garden, Weir Farm National Historic Site
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1991
Amplifying Details:	J. Alden Weir, A Place of His Own
Adequate Documentation:	
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1996
Amplifying Details:	List of Classified Structures (LCS)
Adequate Documentation:	
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1999
Amplifying Details:	Preservation Maintenance Plan, Weir Farm National Historic Site: Feature Inventory and Information Manual
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1999
Amplifying Details:	Preservation Maintenance Plan, Weir Farm National Historic Site: Operations Manual and Maintenance Records
Adequate Documentation:	Yes
Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	1996
Amplifying Details:	The Weir Farm: Working Agriculture and the Vision of Rural Life in New England, 1860-1940
Adequate Documentation:	

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author: Carden, Marie L//Crisson, Richard C
Citation Title: Weir Farm, Historic Structures Report
Year of Publication: 1995
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 017068

Citation Author: Carden, Marie L//Crisson, Richard C//Phillips, Maureen K.
Citation Title: Weir Farm - Site and Weir Complex, Weir Farm Historic Structures Report, Volume I
Year of Publication: 1998
Publisher: Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 017753
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Author: Carden, Marie L//Phillips, Maureen K.
Citation Title: Weir Farm Historic Structures Report, Volume II-A: The Weir Complex
Year of Publication: 1998
Publisher: Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, NPS
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Author: Phillips, Maureen K.//Crisson, Richard C.
Citation Title: Weir Farm Historic Structures Report, Volume II-B:
The Caretaker's Buildings
Year of Publication: 1998
Publisher: Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural
Resources Center, NPS
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Author: Phillips, Maureen K.//Crisson, Richard C.
Citation Title: Weir Farm Historic Structures Report, Volume III: The
Burlingham Complex
Year of Publication: 1998
Publisher: Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural
Resources Center, NPS
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Title: Aerial photograph
Year of Publication: 1939
Source Name: National Archives
Citation Number: C:1-9
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Title: Aerial photograph
Year of Publication: 1949
Source Name: U.S. Geological Survey
Citation Number: 5-72-GS-IM
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Title: Atlas of New York Vicinity
Year of Publication: 1867
Publisher: F. W. Beers
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office

Citation Title: Clark's Map of Fairfield Co., Connecticut
Year of Publication: 1858
Publisher: Richard Clark
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic

Citation Author: Child Associates, Inc.//Zaitzevsky, Cynthia
Citation Title: Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm National
Historic Site, Volume 1: Site History and Existing
Conditions
Year of Publication: 1996
Publisher: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 017183
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: NESCO/OCLP/CRC

Citation Author: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Citation Title: Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm National
Historic Site, Volume 2
Year of Publication: 1997
Publisher: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 403164
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: NESO/OCLP

Citation Title: General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Study, Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton and Ridgefield, Connecticut
Year of Publication: 1955
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 401401
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: NESO/BOSO/OCLP

Citation Author: Henry R. Minor, surveyor
Citation Title: Map of the Town of Ridgefield, Conn.
Year of Publication: 1912
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic

Citation Author: Ridgefield Town Clerk
Citation Title: Ridgefield Records of Deeds
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Ridgefield Town Clerk's Office

Citation Title: Weir Farm National Historic Site Land Protection Plan
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: Other
Citation Location: WEFA

Citation Author: Larkin, Jack
Citation Title: The Weir Farm: Working Agriculture and the Vision of Rural Life in New England, 1860-1940
Year of Publication: 1996
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 403138
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: OCLP

Citation Author: Ridgefield Press
Citation Title: Who's Who in Ridgefield
Year of Publication: 2000
Publisher: Ridgefield Press
Source Name: Internet
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: <http://www.acorn-online.com/whoswho.htm>

Citation Author: Wilton Town Clerk
Citation Title: Wilton Record of Deeds
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Wilton Town Clerk's Office

Citation Author: Mid Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
Citation Title: Segment 101
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Northeast Regional Reality Division, NEB

Supplemental Information