
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2013

Revised: 8/2026



Weir Farm NHP Landscape
Weir Farm National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information.

The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Weir Farm NHP Landscape
Resource Level:	Cultural Landscape
CRIS-CL Resource ID:	650059
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Weir Farm National Historical Park
Alpha Code:	WEFA
Park Organization Code:	1953
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	No

Landscape Description:

Weir Farm National Historical Park (NHP) is located in southwestern Connecticut within the townships of Ridgefield and Wilton, in a small community known as Branchville. Weir Farm NHP preserves the home and studio of American Impressionist Julian Alden Weir (1852-1919), as well as the landscape that inspired his paintings and those by other artists with which he associated. The park also contains the studio of sculptor Mahonri Young (1877-1957), who was the husband of Weir's daughter Dorothy. The Weir Farm NHP Landscape is comprised of three distinct historic areas defined by the intersection of Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane: the 10-acre Weir Complex, 10-acre Burlingham Complex, and 39-acre Pond and Woodland Area, as well as an 8-acre non-historic administrative area to the north.

Weir Complex:

The Weir Complex lies north of Pelham Lane and west of Nod Hill Road and is surrounded by suburban residential properties. Representing the historic core of the larger 238-acre farm that Weir purchased between 1882 and 1907, the Weir Complex today features a farmhouse, the Weir studio and Young studio, a barn, several farm outbuildings, and a secluded garden. Since the mid-1990s, the park has completed many projects that preserve and enhance historic landscape character and address park management, interpretive, and visitor services objectives. The Weir Complex is comprised of distinct domestic and agricultural areas linked together by picket fences and stone walls. The area immediately surrounding the Weir house, likely referred to as the "dooryard" by Weir and his family, features a combination of rustic fencing, ornamental planting, and relatively level topography that together define a specific embellished landscape space. Functionally, this ensemble of landscape features supported the daily lives of the park's three generations of artists and included activity in ornamental and recreational gardening. The agricultural area extends north from the domestic grounds and includes the Weir barn, tack house, and various outbuildings and animal enclosures. This area is vegetated in nearly equal parts of woodland and rough-cut meadow grasses and also includes an informally arranged orchard and the stone pig pens west of the Young studio.

Burlingham Complex:

The Burlingham Complex lies South of Pelham Lane and west of Nod Hill Road and is surrounded by conservation land known as the Weir Preserve. Named for Weir's daughter Cora and her husband Charles Burlingham, the Burlingham Complex features a main house, barn, woodshed, potting shed, and sunken garden. Since the mid-1990s, the park has completed many projects that preserve and enhance historic landscape character and address park

management, interpretive, and visitor services objectives.

The Burlingham Complex is comprised of distinct domestic and agricultural areas linked together by stone walls. Arrayed around a former dwelling, the domestic grounds feature a number of finely crafted masonry features, including a rustic stone entrance terrace, a sunken garden defined on three sides by a substantial stone retaining wall, dressed stone stairs, and a potting shed crafted from tooled ashlar blocks of local granite. The surrounding agricultural areas consist of various agricultural buildings and outlying meadows. A barn and woodshed are located at the western end of the Burlingham driveway, centrally positioned to service the fields. The placement of these two buildings, flanked by stone walls, creates a barnyard court opened to the west and east. Five fields, bordered by stone walls, are situated around the barn and woodshed. The three western fields and the field furthest south abut the Weir Preserve. The southwest portion of the southern field contains an orchard.

Pond and Woodland Area:

The Pond and Woodland Area lies to the east of Nod Hill Road and is surrounded by suburban residential properties and open space parcels owned by the Town of Ridgefield and the State of Connecticut. Named for the pond and dam Weir had constructed in the late nineteenth century, the Pond and Woodland Area also features a Caretaker's house and artist-in-residence studio. Since the mid-1990s, the park has completed many projects that preserve and enhance historic landscape character and address park management, interpretive, and visitor services objectives.

The Pond and Woodland Area is comprised of distinct domestic and agricultural areas linked together by picket fences and stone walls. The domestic grounds occupy a small area along the east side of Nod Hill Road and contain the Caretaker's house and rehabilitated garage/barn linked by a gravel driveway and set within lawns dotted with trees and shrubs. At the south end of this area is a visitor parking lot constructed in 1993. The agricultural areas dominate the remainder of this land to the north and east and contain alternating bands of uplands and lowlands that support a dense forested canopy created by a variety of hardwood trees, an extant meadow, intermittent streams, and wetlands. A path leads to the pond and dam at the eastern end of this area.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Weir Farm NHP is a nationally significant property that meets National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Art, Landscape Architecture, Historic (Non-Aboriginal) Archeology, and Prehistoric Archeology. The park derives its primary significance in the area of Art for its associations with noted American artist Julian Alden Weir (1852-1919). Under Criterion B, the park is significant as the place most associated with Weir during the most productive years of his career from 1882 until his death in 1919. Weir's house, studio, and significant portions of the rural farm landscape depicted in many of his paintings remain as a rare intact example of the domestic and creative milieus of a prominent nineteenth-century American artist. The park is also significant under Criterion B in the area of Art as the home and studio of the American sculptor Mahonri M. Young (1877-1957), Weir's son-in-law, from 1931 to 1957. Young created the plaster model for his massive sculpture entitled "This Is the Place," displayed in Salt Lake City, Utah, to commemorate the arrival of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley, at Weir Farm, among other important projects of his career. The park has additional significance under Criterion A in the area of Art as one of the key places associated with the development of American Impressionism during its height as an artistic movement in the 1890s and early 1900s. Weir often entertained members of his wide circle of artist friends at his Branchville farm and some, including noted American artists John Henry Twachtman and Childe Hassam, followed him to Connecticut and contributed to making the state one of the leading centers of the American Impressionist movement.

Weir Farm NHP is also significant under Criterion C in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Art as a preserved vernacular agricultural landscape that served as the subject and inspiration for the art of Weir, Young, and other major American artists. Lastly, Weir Farm NHP is significant under Criterion D in the areas of Historic Non-Aboriginal Archeology and Prehistoric Archeology for its potential to yield substantive archeological data identifying the exact locations and configurations of prominent building and landscape features that defined the Branchville property and provided the subject material for many important and influential artworks by Weir, Young, and several of their colleagues, and for its potential and demonstrated ability to provide information about Late Archaic to Woodland-period settlement and lithic procurement patterns in the Connecticut Western Uplands and late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century residential and farming patterns at Branchville pre-dating the Weir tenure.

The primary period of significance for the park extends from 1882, the year that Weir acquired the property at Branchville, through 1957, the year of Mahonri Young's death. The period contains the entire period between 1882 and 1919 that the property achieved significance for its association with Weir, its subsequent ownership by Weir's

daughters, and its association with Mahonri Young between 1931 and 1957. The district's potential to yield information about Late Archaic to Woodland-period settlement and lithic procurement patterns is covered by a period that extends from 5000 to 450 B.P. and its potential to yield information about pre-Weir residential and farming patterns at Branchville spans c.1780 to 1820.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the park's three component landscapes is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the historic periods of significance (1882-1957) with current conditions. Many of the historic characteristics and features remain today.

Weir Complex:

Natural systems and features, characterized by a distinct woodland-meadow pattern overlaid on sloping terrain, are intact. The spaces and features that inspired the artistic works of J. Alden Weir, Mahonri Young, and others—the house, studios, and domestic areas near the corner of Pelham Lane and Nod Hill Road, and the surrounding gardens, animal enclosures, and agricultural features—are present and still intact. The three most important buildings—Weir house (1760-1778), Weir studio (1885-1886), and Young studio (1932)—have been restored and are open to the public. A barn, tack house, ice house/chicken house, corn crib, and chicken coop remain, as do stone pig pens, a wood pile, well structures, picket fencing, stone boundary and retaining walls, and a stone picnic table with Weir's initials carved into it. Many of these features have also been repaired and restored. A gravel driveway and various stone paths and stone steps link many of these features together. Plantings at the site include the ornamental Secret Garden, an orchard, a demonstration garden in the upper terrace, and other trees, shrubs, and lawns. Sites and views chosen for many of the paintings executed by Weir, Young, and their contemporaries remain intact and are easily discerned on the property.

Since 1957, the most notable structures that have been lost at the Weir Complex are the wagon shed, which collapsed around 1980, and the wood painting deck at the Weir studio. Other features such as the haystack and the Weir mailbox are gone, and the scalding vat now resides next to the Young studio instead of near the wagon shed. However, in 2026 the Adirondack-style canopy well cover was reconstructed. The upper terrace of the vegetable garden has been replaced with a smaller demonstration flower garden, while the lower terrace is turf. Some trees and shrubs throughout the grounds have been removed due to disease or old age, and some foundation plantings are missing due to accessibility projects at the house. Perhaps the most notable change at the Weir Complex is that the land is no longer farmed, which in some areas gradually allowed young trees and shrubs to grow and mature. This land use change has also eliminated the sights and sounds associated with agricultural uses. Since the late 1990s the park has attempted to redefine the boundaries between field and forest vegetation, although not always following the historic boundaries in order to limit views of contemporary off site development. Additionally, because the park includes only 60 of the original 238 acres that comprised the farm during the Weir occupation, residential development now abuts the Weir Complex to the north and west. Nonetheless, the viewsheds that inspired Weir and others are largely intact and easily identifiable, and the landscape still serves as inspiration for visitors and artists.

Burlingham Complex:

Natural systems and features, characterized by a distinct woodland-meadow pattern overlaid on sloping terrain, are intact. The spaces and features that inspired the artistic works of J. Alden Weir, Mahonri Young, and others—the house and domestic areas facing Nod Hill Road, and the surrounding gardens and agricultural features—are present and still intact. The two most important buildings—Burlingham house (1775) and barn (1835)—have been rehabilitated for park offices and visitor and educational programming, respectively. A woodshed, potting shed, and incinerator remain, as do well structures, cold frames, and numerous stone walls. Many of these features have also been repaired and restored. A gravel driveway and various stone paths and stone steps link many of these features together, while a stone patio is extant alongside the house. Plantings at the site include the ornamental Sunken Garden, a terraced vegetable garden, an orchard, and other trees, shrubs, and lawns. Sites and views chosen for many of the paintings executed by Weir, Young, and their contemporaries remain intact and are easily discerned on the property.

The most visible change at the Burlingham Complex since 1957 has been the recent construction of an employee and overflow parking lot west of the barn and woodshed. The area was selected due to favorable topography, an existing access route, and screening created by existing buildings, walls, and vegetation. Other changes have concerned vegetation and have been more subtle. In the 2000s, non-historic vegetation at the garden terraces and around the house foundation was removed and replaced by appropriate material based on historic photographs. Some trees and

shrubs throughout the grounds have been removed due to disease or old age. Perhaps the most notable change at the Burlingham Complex is that the land is no longer farmed, which in some areas gradually allowed young trees and shrubs to grow and mature. This land use change has also eliminated the sights and sounds associated with agricultural uses. Since the late 1990s, the park has attempted to redefine the boundaries between field and forest vegetation, although not always following the historic boundaries in order to limit views of contemporary off site development. The park includes only 60 of the original 238 acres that comprised the farm during the Weir occupation, but the residential development that now abuts other parts of the park has not encroached on the Burlingham Complex because of the conservation land to the south and west, known as Weir Preserve, which is currently managed by the Weir Farm Art Alliance (formerly Weir Farm Heritage Trust, Weir Farm Trust, Weir Farm Art Center) through their subsidiary board, the Weir Preserve Stewardship Committee. As a result, the viewsheds that inspired Weir and others are largely intact and easily identifiable, and the landscape still serves as inspiration for visitors and artists.

Pond and Woodland Area:

Natural systems and features, characterized by a distinct woodland-meadow pattern overlaid on sloping terrain, are intact. The spaces and features that inspired the artistic works of J. Alden Weir, Mahonri Young, and others—the house and domestic areas facing Nod Hill Road, and the surrounding agricultural features—are present and still intact. The two most important buildings—Caretaker's house (1860) and barn/garage (1860)—have been rehabilitated as housing and studio space for the park's artist-in-residence program. A stone causeway and grinding stone remain, as do numerous stone boundary and retaining walls that have been repaired and restored. A gravel driveway still provides access to the house and barn/garage, and an old wagon road tracks between the Truants' meadow and past the stone causeway. Heading north, earthen/grass paths and stone steps traverse through the woodlands to and around the Weir pond and its earthen and concrete dam. An extant stone-lined water diversion system remains as does a small spring and circular pond. Plantings in the vicinity of the house include trees, shrubs, lawn, as well as the Truants' meadow. Sites and views chosen for many of the paintings executed by Weir, Young, and their contemporaries remain intact and are easily discerned on the property.

Since 1957, new additions in the Pond and Woodland Area have included a recently expanded visitor parking area, a new wood footbridge along the path to the pond, and a new set of stone steps on the ridge west of the pond. Several structures have been lost, such as the boathouse at the pond, summerhouse on the pond's island, and the wooden Fishing Bridge, which was located along the pond path and was only fragments by the time the park was established. Some trees and shrubs throughout the grounds have been removed due to disease or old age. Perhaps the most notable change at the Pond and Woodland Area is that two of the former meadow areas, named the Triangular and Ridgetop meadows, are now overgrown due to the lack of active farming since the historic period. Invasive non-native plants are also becoming established, especially in the vicinity of the pond. Additionally, because the park includes only 60 of the original 238 acres that comprised the farm during the Weir occupation, residential development now abuts the east and west sides of the Pond and Woodland Area, except along the extreme north and west boundary that is conservation land owned by the State of Connecticut and the Town of Ridgefield. Except for Weir's "Afternoon by the Pond" painting site from the formerly open Ridgetop Meadow, the viewsheds that inspired Weir and others are largely intact and easily identifiable, and the landscape still serves as inspiration for visitors and artists.

Condition:

The condition of the Weir Farm NHP Landscape is "good" because the conditions of the Weir Complex, Burlingham Complex, and the Pond and Woodland landscapes are "good." There is no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The 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.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

For purposes of the CLI, the large number of cultural features at Weir Farm NHP warrants the creation of a parent landscape – Weir Farm NHP Landscape – and three component landscapes: the Weir Complex located north of Pelham Lane and west of Nod Hill Road, the Burlingham Complex located south of Pelham Lane and west of Nod Hill Road, and the Pond and Woodland Area located east of Nod Hill Road. The three CLIs share the same areas and periods of significance.

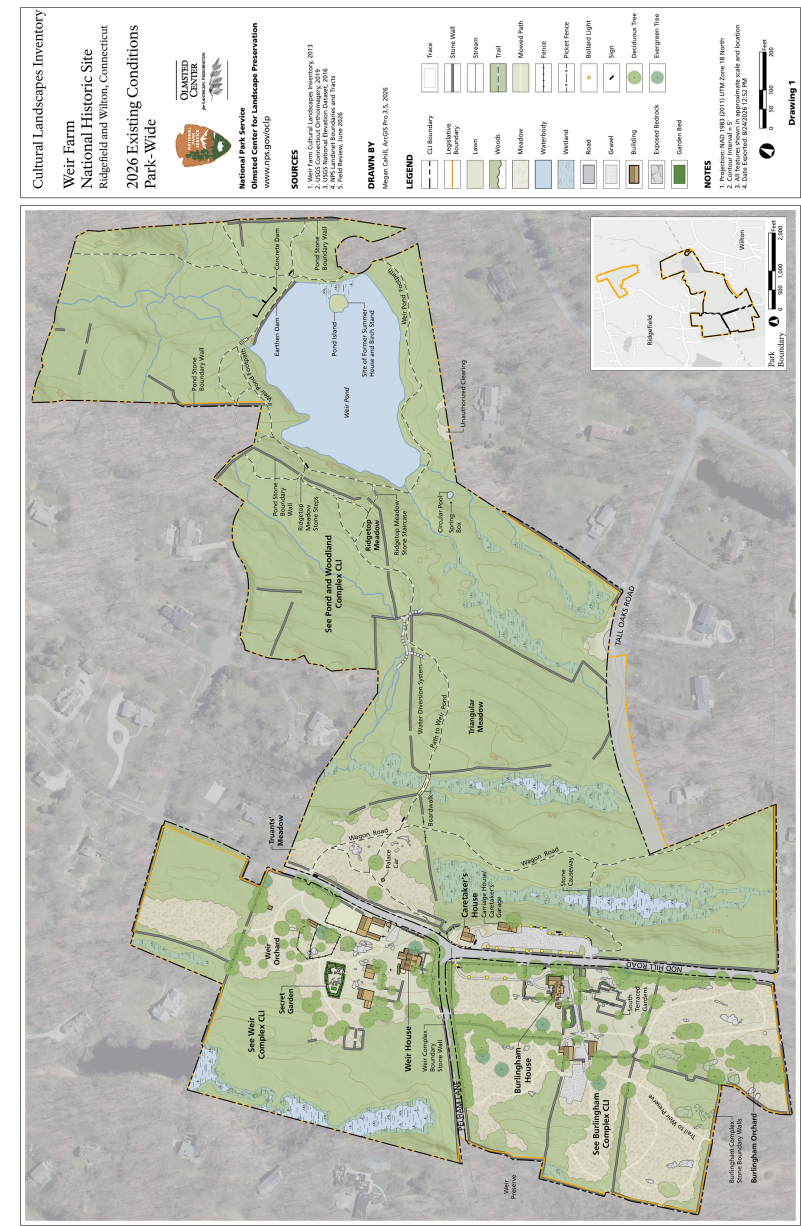
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Beers Farm	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Webb Farm	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Weir Farm	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Weir Farm National Historic Site	Other Name Type:	Current

Site Plan



Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment:	Yes
Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date:	09/23/2013

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Cynthia Zaitvesky and Child Associates, in conjunction with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, completed a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), Vol. 1, Site History and Existing Conditions, for Weir Farm National Historic Site in 1996 to inform a line item construction project at the park. The Olmsted Center completed CLR Vol. 2, Treatment, the following year which included treatment plans and recommendations.

In 2003 the Olmsted Center completed a Level I Cultural Landscape Inventory for Weir Farm. This inventory included all land under park ownership at that time, including a nine-acre parcel to the north of the historic core, utilized as an administrative area. In 2013 an update to the CLR Vol. 2 was completed by Olmsted Center historical landscape architects Tim Layton and Eliot Foulds. The CLR informed the completion of the park-wide and three component CLIs, which were approved by the Park Superintendent on September 23, 2013. On August 13, 2025, the Park Superintendent approved a Level C update for the CLIs. The park contact for this project is Kevin Monthie, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist, at Kevin_Monthie@nps.gov.

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2026

- The name of the park has been updated to Weir Farm National Historical Park.
- The management category remains, Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance) (formerly “Must be Preserved and Maintained”).
- The overall landscape condition was evaluated as “Good” in 2013 and 2025. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2026 is “Good.”
- New site plan
- See the three component CLIs for specific revisions to the National Register, Chronology and Physical History, and Analysis and Evaluation chapters.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Burlingham Complex
Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Burlingham Complex including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

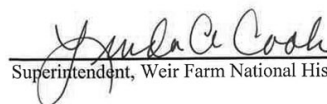
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Burlingham Complex is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

9/23/13

Date

Park concurrence form (Burlingham Complex), September 23, 2013.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Weir Complex
Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Weir Complex including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Weir Complex is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

9/23/13
Date

Park concurrence form (Weir Complex), September 23, 2013.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Pond and Woodland Area
Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Pond and Woodland Area including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Pond and Woodland Area is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

9/23/13

Date

Park concurrence form (Pond and Woodland Area), September 23, 2013.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Weir Farm NHS Landscape
Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Weir Farm NHS Landscape including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Weir Farm NHS Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

9/23/13

Date

Park concurrence form (NHS Landscape), September 23, 2013.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025**

Weir Farm National Historic Site

Burlingham Complex, Pond and Woodland Area, Weir Complex, NHS
Landscape

Weir Farm National Historic Site concurs with the updates for the following CLIs,
including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Burlingham Complex
 Good – Pond and Woodland Area
 Good – Weir Complex
 Good – Weir Farm NHS Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The CLI Updates at Weir Farm National Historic Site are hereby approved and accepted.

KRISTIN LESSARD Digitally signed by KRISTIN LESSARD
Date: 2025.08.13 13:53:20 -04'00'

Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

Date

Park concurrence form, August 13, 2025.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026**

Weir Farm National Historical Park
Burlingham Complex, Pond and Woodland Area,
Weir Complex, Weir Farm NHP Landscape

Weir Farm National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for the Burlingham Complex, Pond and Woodland Area, Weir Complex, and Weir Farm NHP Landscape, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENTS: Good – Burlingham Complex
 Good – Pond and Woodland Area
 Good – Weir Complex
 Good – Weir Farm NHP Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit'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 inventory unit 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 inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit 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.

The CLI updates for the Burlingham Complex, Pond and Woodland Area, Weir Complex, and Weir Farm NHP Landscape at Weir Farm National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JULIA POLAND Digitally signed by JULIA
POLAND
Date: 2026.08.13 07:31:06 -04'00'

8/13/2026

Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historical Park

Date

Park concurrence form, August 13, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption
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Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	08/13/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Weir Farm NHS Landscape has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	08/13/2026	In 2023 three levels of effort were developed for future CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes B and C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 version of the Weir Farm NHP Landscape CLI Update is conducted at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
Connecticut	Fairfield County

Area (Acres): 50.05

Land Tract Number(s)

Weir Complex:
101-01, Parcel X, 6.19 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Tract G-1, 2.00 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-02, 2.00 acres.

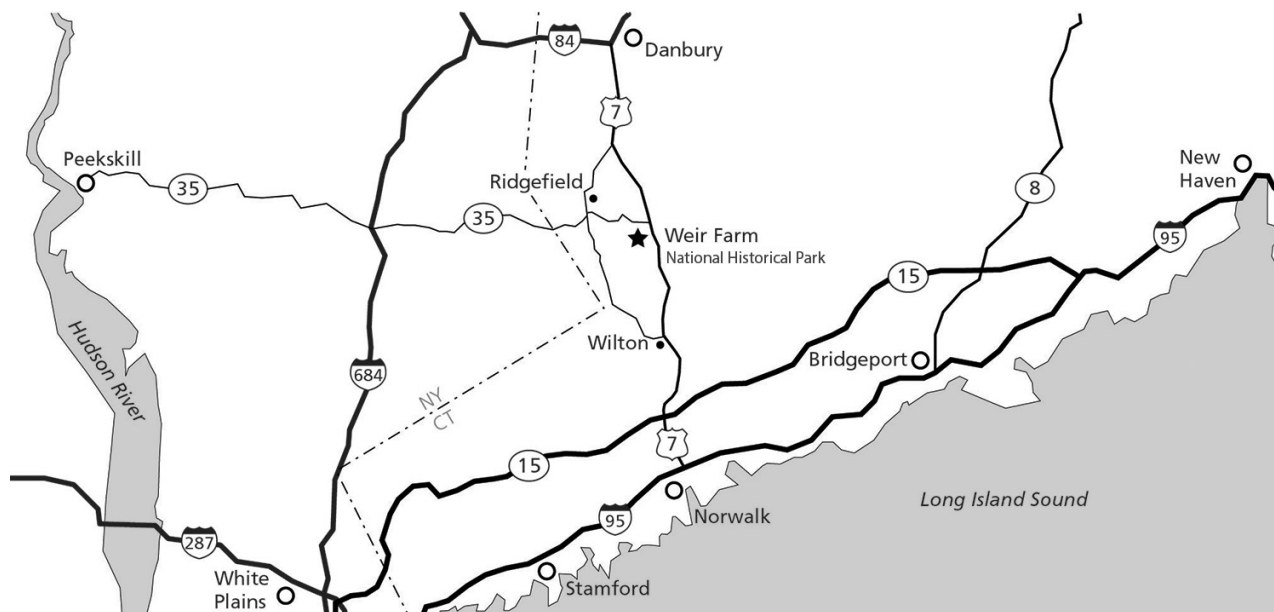
Burlingham Complex:
101-01, Parcel A, 9.78 acres (out of 52.61).

Pond and Woodland Area:
101-01, Parcel 3, 2.05 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Parcel 4, 1.49 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Parcel 6, approx. 1.84 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Parcel 8, 8.80 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Parcel 9, 2.31 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Parcel B, 0.98 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Lot 14, 2.23 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Lot 15, 2.75 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Lot 16, 2.67 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Lot 25, 2.24 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Lot 26, 2.00 acres (out of 52.61 acres); 101-01, Private Reserve (4.80 acres); 101-01, Cold Spring Road (0.50 acres); 101-03, Lot 18 (2.00 acres); 101-05 (2.01 acres); 101-10 (2.09 acres).

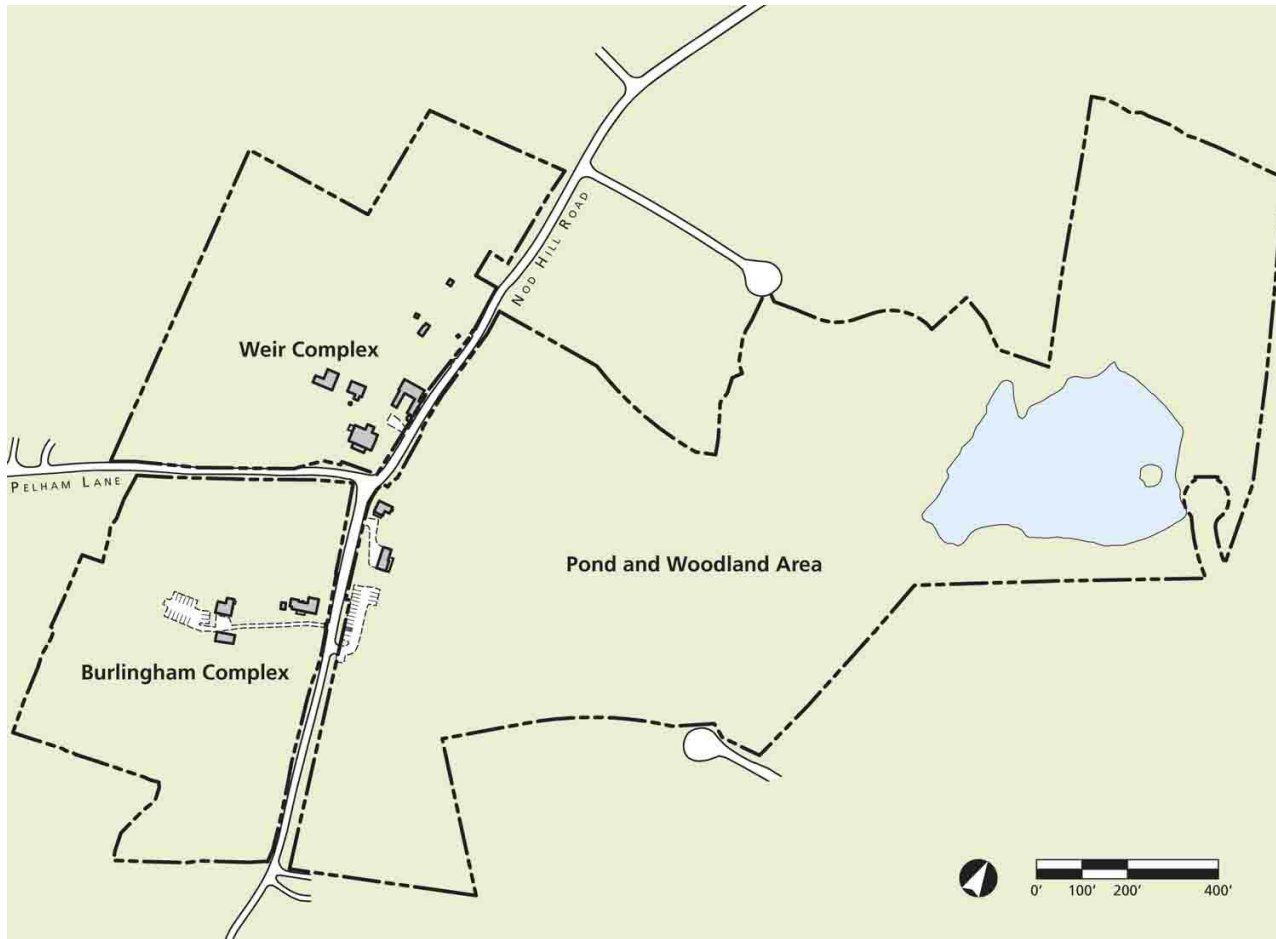
Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Weir Farm NHP Landscape are comprised of the three component landscapes, which are coterminous with the park boundary. See the three component CLIs for boundary descriptions.

Location Map:



Weir Farm National Historical Park, Wilton and Ridgefield, Connecticut. (Weir Farm NHP website)



*Division of the Weir Farm National Historical Park parent landscape into three component landscapes.
(Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation)*

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)

Management Category Date: 09/23/2013

Management Category Narrative:

As approved on September 23, 2013, the Weir Farm NHP Landscape meets the Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance, formerly Must be Preserved and Maintained) management category because preservation of the property is specifically legislated. Public Law 101-485 (October 31, 1990) articulated the preservation of the park and directed the National Park Service with preserving “a significant site of the tradition of American Impressionism” and maintaining the “integrity of a setting that inspired artistic expression...” The historic site would consist of the two-acre core parcel containing the Weir house, studio, and barn, and approximately 60 acres “owned by the State of Connecticut.” Weir Farm is one of only two sites within the national park system that focus primarily on fine art. (GMP 1995: 1,71; Review comments, J.Poland, 7 August 2026)

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

The NPS embraces philanthropic support as a key strategy for stewardship of parks and programs entrusted in our care. The NPS and partners promote partnerships as a way to accomplish mutual goals, leverage resources, increase productivity and collective competencies, and nurture a supportive and collaborative culture for the benefit of parks and the public.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

See the three component CLIs for this justification.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Listed

Eligibility Date: 10/13/2017 12:00:00 AM

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

Weir Farm National Historic Site was established on October 31, 1990 (Public Law 101-485, 104 stat. 1171), encompassing a 2-acre core parcel and around 60 acres of land owned by the State of Connecticut. On January 5, 2021, it was redesignated as a National Historical Park (Public Law 116-305), elevating its importance and significance to preserving the life and work of landscape artist Julian Alden Weir (1852-1919)—a pioneering landscape artist, and one of the founders of American Impressionism. Prior to the park's establishment, the site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

On January 5, 1984, the Keeper of the National Register approved documentation for the 194-acre J. Alden Weir Farm. However, by this time much of the western and southern portions of the district had been sold and subdivided by Young's heirs, which in subsequent years were developed. The documentation identified national-level significance under Criteria B and C in the areas of Art and Architecture. The documentation listed the overall period of significance as 1700-1911 as well as specific dates of importance for the Weir House, beginning with its construction in the eighteenth century and alterations in 1900 and 1911 by architects Charles Adams Platt and the firm of McKim, Mead & White, respectively. Specific features listed or described in the documentation included the Weir House, Weir Studio, Young Studio, Weir Barn, Chicken House, Burlingham House, Caretaker's House, and Weir Pond Dam. The nomination described the farm landscape as influencing the subject matter for Weir's landscape paintings as well as for other artists who visited and painted at the farm, but it did not identify specific features.

On May 17, 1996, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the National Park Service (NPS) on the eligibility of individual park resources for listing in the National Register, as part of an update to the NPS' Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures). Additional resources determined eligible for listing included the Weir Complex-Tack House and Stone Walls (various types); Burlingham Barn; Burlingham Complex-Stone Shed, Wood Shed, Garden Wall and Urn, Stone Walls (various types), and Vegetable Garden Retaining Walls; Caretaker's Barn/Garage; and Pond Side-Stone Walls (various types). Another consultation with the SHPO occurred on September 9, 2004, when they concurred with the NPS that a parcel acquired by the NPS in 2000 – the 8.97-acre Westervelt-DiNapoli/Lecher property – was not historically significant.

On June 10, 2013, the Connecticut SHPO approved additional areas and periods of significance, and a list of contributing and noncontributing resources for the park, as part of their review of draft update to the park's National Register documentation. The SHPO's review made possible the completion of the Weir Complex CLI that same year. The CLI identified national- and local-level significance under Criteria A, B,

C, and D in the areas of Art, Architecture, Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal), Archeology Prehistoric, and Landscape Architecture. The CLI identified two areas of significance: 1760-1882, starting with the initial construction dates of the Weir house through the occupation of the Beers and Webb families; and 1882-1957, starting when Weir assumed ownership of the property, continuing through the years when Young owned and lived at the property and when the property was used as an artists' retreat, and ending with the death of Young. A third period of significance, 2000-1200 B.P., acknowledged archeological resources. The evaluation of resources is noted in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter.

On October 13, 2017, the Keeper approved updated documentation for the 60-acre Weir Farm National Historic Site. The updated documentation eliminated the site's architectural significance and revised the periods of significance. The documentation identified national-level significance under Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Art, Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal), Archeology (Prehistoric), and Landscape Architecture. The primary period of significance was identified 1882-1957, starting when Weir acquired the property at Branchville and ending with Mahonri Young's death. Secondary periods of significance were identified as 5000-450 BP, the site's potential to yield information about Late Archaic Woodland-period settlement and lithic patterns, and c.1780-1820, the site's potential to yield information about pre-Weir residential and farming patterns at Branchville. The evaluations of specific resources are noted in the CLI's Analysis and Evaluation chapter.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance for the Weir Farm NHP Landscape has been adequately documented in the National Register and through consultations with the Connecticut SHPO, which describe the site's numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Weir Farm NHP Landscape is considered "Listed-Documented."

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Listed - Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 10/13/2017 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Weir Farm NHP is a nationally and locally significant property that meets National Register Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Art, Landscape Architecture, and Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic, Non-Aboriginal). The primary period of significance is 1882 to 1957, beginning when Weir acquired the property at Branchville and ending when Mahonri Young died. The park's potential to yield information about Late Archaic to Woodland-period settlement and lithic procurement patterns is covered by a period that extends from 5000 to 450 B.P., and its potential to yield information about pre-Weir residential and farming patterns at Branchville spans c.1780 to 1820.

CRITERION A

Art:

Weir Farm NHP possesses national-level significance in the area of Art as one the key places associated with the development of American Impressionism as an artistic movement. Between 1882 and 1919, Julian Alden Weir's Branchville country home served as a nexus for fellowship among artists and their connection to the rural Connecticut landscape. Through his wide network of friends and acquaintances in the art world, Weir helped to establish Connecticut as one of the early centers of the American Impressionist movement. The group of ten American painters, known as "The Ten," advanced American art through their ground-breaking annual exhibitions held from 1897 to 1919, directly resulted from the

friendships and artistic community fostered by Weir. The contributions of Weir and other famed American painters who visited and painted at Weir Farm—such as John Henry Twachtman, Albert Pinkham Ryder, and Childe Hassam—defined the distinctly American version of the Impressionist style that pervaded art in this country through the 1920s. (NR 2027, Sec.8: 39)

Weir was one of the first artists working in New York City in the 1870s and 1880s to acquire property in Connecticut. Within reasonable distance and easily accessible by rail from the city, Connecticut suburbs like Ridgefield, Wilton, and Greenwich attracted artists like him, who maintained winter studios in the city where they benefited from social, academic, and business connections but preferred to escape the stifling heat and crowds in the summer for more intimate and scenic locations. During a time when factories and urbanization were spreading across the country, much of Connecticut remained a bucolic landscape of farms, rolling hills, rivers, and shorelines that evoked an earlier period in American history. Weir became acquainted with the state's picturesque scenery even before visiting his wife's family home in rural Windham. In the late 1870s, he occasionally joined his parents at the summer boarding house known as "Holly Farm" operated by Edward Payson Holley and his wife Josephine on their 114-acre farm in central Greenwich (demolished in the 1950s). Weir enjoyed the inn enough to stay there in 1878 and 1879 and wrote his brother in 1880, "I have been at work on a six-foot canvas at Holly Farm." Two years later, he acquired his own farm in rural Branchville, Connecticut, less than 30 miles from Greenwich and equally as accessible from New York City. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 39, quoting from Larkin 1996: 13)

CRITERION B

Art – Julian Alden Weir:

Weir Farm NHP possesses national-level significance in the area of Art for Julian Alden Weir (1852-1919), a significant American painter whose artistic works and ability to foster collaboration among his colleagues contributed to the success and legitimacy of the American Impressionist movement. Classically trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Weir began his career as a portrait and still life artist while living in New York City in the late 1870s. Critical acclaim brought Weir to the forefront of the American art establishment in the 1880s, and he held leadership positions in many of the period's most active arts organizations, including the National Academy of Design and the Society of American Artists. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 29)

After 1882, the rural eighteenth-century farmstead in Branchville, Connecticut, that he used as a country residence greatly influenced his painting style, as he shifted to producing landscapes inspired by the work of the French Impressionists and Weir's own colleagues in the New York art community, such as John Henry Twachtman and Childe Hassam. Along with Hassam and Twachtman, Weir was a founding member of "The Ten," a group of artists who organized in 1897 to exhibit their work together and did much to popularize the American brand of Impressionism. Throughout his career, Weir received numerous awards and accolades, reflecting his esteem in both the United States and Europe. His work was collected by major museums during his lifetime, and after his death a memorial exhibition was held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in May 1920. Approximately 450 of Weir's paintings are in collections across the country, and he is represented in the holdings of nearly every major American art museum, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Phillips Collection and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC; the Brigham Young University Museum of Art in Provo, Utah; and the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Connecticut. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 29)

While his peers consistently ranked him among the most accomplished artists of his time, Weir and his work received less scholarly and critical attention than many of his contemporaries during much of the twentieth century. In recent years, however, his artwork and leadership in the art community have again gained renewed recognition, in part through the preservation and public interpretation of his Branchville property, depicted in many of his most noted landscapes, as Weir Farm NHS. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 29)

Art – Mahonri M. Young:

Weir Farm NHP possesses national-level significance in the area of Art for Mahonri Mackintosh Young (1877-1957), an acclaimed American artist primarily known for his realistic genre sculpture who lived and worked at Weir Farm from 1931 to 1957. Young studied art at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, the Art Students League in New York City, and the Academie Julian in Paris and worked in various media including bronze, oil, watercolor, and printmaking. His small bronze statues of laborers and boxers established him as a principal figure in the realist movement that flourished during the first two decades of

the twentieth century. He secured several major sculptural commissions for the Mormon Church, the State of Utah, and the American Museum of Natural History. After his marriage to Julian Alden Weir's daughter Dorothy in 1931, Young spent much of each year sketching, painting, and sculpting at the studio he had built on the Weir property in Branchville. He executed his most significant work, the monumental sculpture "This is the Place," almost entirely at the Branchville studio. Young's work can be found in the collections of several major American institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Brooklyn Museum in New York City; the Peabody Art Collection in Baltimore, Maryland; and the Brigham Young University Museum of Art in Provo, Utah. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 45)

CRITERION C

Landscape Architecture and Art:

Weir Farm NHP possesses national-level significance in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Art as a vernacular rural landscape that served as the subject for significant works of American art. Weir recognized the intimate landscape as a vestige of the region's past that warranted careful maintenance, cultivation, and preservation. His stewardship of the property reflected his affinity for the picturesque qualities of the New England farm and its evocation of simpler times in pre-industrial America. The features within the landscape reflect the typical spatial arrangement of New England farms in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; with clustered domestic and agricultural building complexes; fields and pastures; fruit orchards; and systems of stone walls, paths, and fences. Weir's desire to capture the landscape in his art has been cited as one of the primary reasons behind his adoption of Impressionism in the late 1880s and 1890s. From then on, he and those of his artist friends who also set up easels on the property – including Childe Hassam, John Twachtman, and Albert Pinkham Ryder – found inspiration for works associated with the American Impressionism movement. After Weir's death, the landscape remained a subject of artistic works by his daughter Dorothy and her husband, Mahonri Young, and continues to inspire present-day artists through the park's Artist-in-Residence and Take Part in Art programs. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 51)

The landscape – including the farmhouses, outbuildings, fields, orchard, stone walls, fences, and woodlots that the Webb and Beers families developed beginning in the late eighteenth century – was an attractive remnant of the area's agrarian heritage that Weir determined to preserve for both practical and aesthetic purposes. Although he had no background in farming, Weir took on the farm's operation as fundamental to his residence on the property and sought to continue the agricultural activities of the previous owners. Ostensibly, he intended the property to be a working farm that paid for itself through the production of crops or other farm products. Weir's correspondence with his brother John and others suggests, however, that profitability was not his primary reason for owning the farm. Rather, it appears that Weir was more interested in the farm as a healthy recreational diversion from the city for himself and his family and as a place that would yield inspiration for his art. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 52)

CRITERION D

Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic, Non-Aboriginal):

Weir Farm NHP possesses local-level significance under in the area of Prehistoric Archeology for its potential and demonstrated ability to provide information about Late Archaic to Woodland-period settlement and lithic procurement patterns in the Connecticut Western Uplands and late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century residential and farming patterns at Branchville pre-dating the Weir tenure. The park also possesses national-level significance in the area of Historic, Non-Aboriginal Archeology for its potential to yield substantive archeological data identifying the exact locations and configurations of prominent building and landscape features that defined the Branchville property and provided the subject material for many important and influential artworks by Weir, Young, and several of their colleagues. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 28)

The history of archeological research at Weir Farm NHS Historic District comprises more than a dozen archaeological investigations conducted between 1994 and 2011. All of the work was undertaken to meet compliance obligations under Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consists of identification surveys throughout the domestic core and agricultural periphery of the property; a site evaluation and data recovery investigation at a privy site in the west lawn of the Burlingham house; archeological monitoring of percolation test holes behind the Burlingham house; and an archeological

overview and assessment. (NR 2017, Sec.8: 73)

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criterion D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1882 - CE 1957

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Painting and Sculpture	American Impressionism 1876-1920	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The Romantic Period	

Time Period: CE 1780 - CE 1820

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Ways of Life	Farming Communities	
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	English Exploration And Settlement	

Time Period: BCE 5000 - BCE 450

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	The Earliest Inhabitants:	The Early Peopling Of North America	

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Prehistoric

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Art

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: J. Alden Weir Farm

NRIS ID: 84000825

Primary Certification Date: 01/05/1984

NRIS Name: Weir Farm National Historic Site

NRIS ID: 03000284

Primary Certification Date: 10/13/2017

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1882 - 1957	Developed	For a comprehensive chronology, see the CLIs for the three component landscapes. The primary period of significance begins when Weir acquired the property at Branchville and ends when Mahonri Young died.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION
For a comprehensive physical history, see the CLIs for the three component landscapes of Weir Farm NHP.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Education	Interpretive Landscape	Interpretive Landscape	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Small Residential Landscape	Small Residential Landscape	Yes	No	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The grounds, trails, and the parking lot are open daily, year-round, sunrise to sunset. Visitors can enjoy a variety of self-guiding resources, including maps, brochures, self-guided tours, and Junior Ranger activities. These materials are available on the porch of the visitor center in the Burlingham house, seven days a week. From May through October, the visitor center and restrooms in the barn are open. All buildings, including restrooms, are closed from November through April.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1882-1957 period of significance for Weir Farm NHP.

Location:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. All of the land, buildings, structures, circulation features, and painting sites within the park boundaries were historically part of the property in 1957. The park is approximately 60 acres in size, compared to the 238-acre property owned during the period of significance. However, portions of the park are surrounded by land owned by the State of Connecticut, the private and non-profit Weir Farm Art Alliance, and open space set aside by the town of Ridgefield, so that the integrity of the viewsheds is maintained.

Design:

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The design of the buildings and landscape features, including circulation patterns and building relationships that existed in 1957, remain intact. Changes that have occurred include rehabilitation of outbuildings and replacement of parking lot and pathway materials. The overall design of the Weir Farm, including its individual component parts, retains integrity of design. The park's restoration and rehabilitation efforts have focused on stabilizing, residing, and re-roofing buildings such as the Weir house, both the Weir and Young studios, the ice house/chicken house, and Weir barn. Garden spaces, fences, and stone walls have also been restored or repaired.

Setting:

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. While much of the 238-acre Weir Farm has been sold, the 60 acres managed by the NPS retains its original setting. Single-family residential development associated with the towns of Wilton and Ridgefield abut some of the park boundaries, but most of the houses are surrounded by woods that lessen the visual impact. Other adjacent lands are owned by the State of Connecticut, the Weir Farm Art Alliance, and the town of Ridgefield, which allow for the farmstead setting and several painting sites to be retained. The alignments of the property by Pelham Lane and Nod Hill Road, and the former domestic areas, pastures, and woodlots are basically intact.

Materials:

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The materials of the buildings, outbuildings, driveways, paths, fences, walls, and other resources are largely original or have been repaired or replaced in kind according to "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties." Vegetation is original or is similar to what existed historically, in size, organization, and visual effect, although a few trees, shrubs, and vegetable plantings have been lost or removed. The historic fences and stone walls have largely been replaced in-kind or repaired with extant materials.

Workmanship:

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The houses and outbuildings retain the construction materials and workmanship that existed during the period of significance. Craftsmanship of the outbuildings is retained through careful rehabilitation projects. The stone walls throughout the site provide valuable examples of historic workmanship. Past restoration projects within the park to repair these stone walls have largely been completed using compatible techniques and using extant materials. Painting sites retain the rural quality that made them attractive to Weir, Young, and their fellow artists.

Feeling:

Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The sense

of the past time and place of the peaceful farm where J. Alden Weir, Mahonri Young, and their families and friends lived, worked, painted, and socialized is certainly evident at the park today. Historic landscape features, painting sites, and buildings and structures are extant and reinforce the integrity of feeling. The most notable change is that the fields are no longer farmed, so the sights and sounds of agriculture are gone.

Association:

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Continued occupation and use of the property have helped retain the link between the property and the artists who owned it. While the Weir Farm property now functions as a national historical park, it is still used by artists for its landscapes and remains a vital source of inspiration for paintings and artwork. The park has an artist-in-residence program and other art curriculums that perpetuate the artistic traditions of the site.

Landscape Characteristic:

For a comprehensive analysis of landscape characteristics and features, see the CLIs for the three component landscapes of Weir Farm NHS.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 5

Next Assessment Due Date: 08/13/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/13/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the Weir Farm NHP Landscape and its three component landscapes is “good.” As the three component landscapes of this parent landscape are in good condition, this parent landscape is in good condition. The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property’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.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/13/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

As the three component landscapes of this parent landscape are in good condition, this parent landscape is in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/23/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the Weir Farm NHS Landscape and its three component landscapes is “good.” There is no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The 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.

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report Part 2

Document Date: 2012-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

In 2012-2013 the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation updated the park's CLR Volume 2, Treatment (1997). Consistent with direction expressed in enabling legislation and park planning documents, the landscape treatment philosophy for Weir Farm National Historical Park is to restore missing features and enhance historic character so that the Weir Complex more closely reflects circa 1940 conditions. Application of this treatment philosophy will in time present visitors with a landscape familiar to the Weir and Young families; a setting that served as the inspiration for art.

"In the Weir Complex, visitors will tour the restored buildings and grounds and understand how the agricultural outbuildings supported the farming activities of the families. Plantings consistent with the historic period will thrive in the upper vegetable garden terrace, around the foundation of the home, in the Secret Garden and in the orchard. Small-scale features added during Weir's tenure for their rustic quality or associated with agricultural pursuits, will furnish the domestic and agricultural areas." (CLR Vol.2 Update 2013: 61-62)

"In the Burlingham Complex, the landscape will be rehabilitated to facilitate visitor services, with visitor orientation presented in and surrounding the Burlingham House. The park's educational programs will be supported in the Burlingham Barn. Staff will park in a small, gravel-surfaced parking area accessed from the Burlingham drive and screened from view by existing buildings, stone walls, and vegetation. Plantings consistent with the historic period will thrive around the foundation of the Burlingham House, in the Sunken Garden, in the South Garden terraces, and in the orchard. Small-scale features in the Sunken Garden and South Garden terraces will convey Cora Weir Burlingham's interest in gardening." (CLR Vol.2 Update 2013: 61-62)

"In the Pond and Woodland Area, the Caretaker's House and rehabilitated garage will support the park's artist-in-residence program. A clearly defined pedestrian circulation system will connect the Pond and Woodland Area to the Weir and Burlingham complexes. Pedestrians will pass through a series of open meadows and wooded areas en route to Weir Pond. The pond's water level and the two dams will be maintained to blend into the woodland setting and not stand out as highly engineered features. Contemporary off-site views will be screened to the extent that is practical with appropriate plantings on the park property." (CLR Vol.2 Update 2013: 61-62)

The four primary treatments—preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction—are defined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. As stated in the CLR, Restoration is the primary treatment for the Weir Complex, while Rehabilitation is the primary treatment for the Burlingham Complex Pond and Woodland Area. (CLR Vol.2 Update 2013: 62-63)

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: Yes

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
	For a full bibliography, see the CLIs for the three Component landscapes of Weir Farm NHP.					

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type	Source
WEFA_Weir Complex-Burlingham-Pond & Woodland-NHS_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf			