

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

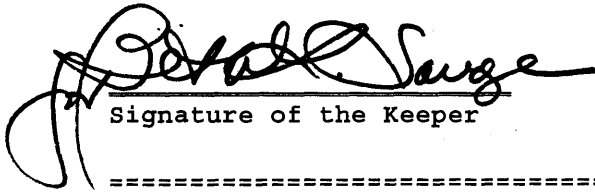
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05001044 Date Listed: 09/21/05

Walnut Grove Property Name New London County CT State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

9-21-05
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Photographs

The photographs were processed in accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy Expansion, specifically: Hewlett-Packard Premium Plus Glossy paper; HP Vivera tri-color ink, cartridge 97; HP photo-gray ink, cartridge 100; using an HP 6800 printer. Disc with images has also been transmitted.

This information has been confirmed with Matt Blood, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, and the nomination preparer, Bruce Clouette.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

AUG - 8 2005

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

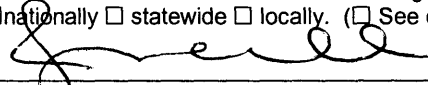
historic name WALNUT GROVE
other names/site number Hammond Estate

2. Location

street & number 305 Great Neck Road not for publication
city or town Waterford vicinity
state Connecticut code CT county New London code 011 zip code 06385

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 7/29/05

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Jennifer Aniskovich, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

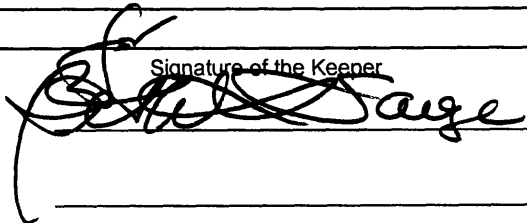
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action 9-21-05

Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Name of Property

New London County, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 7 | 2 | buildings |
| 0 | 1 | sites |
| 0 | 1 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 7 | 4 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Gothic Revival

Colonial Revival

Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, structure
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1822-1940

Significant Dates

1822
ca. 1865
ca. 1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Building Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

State Historic Preservation Office
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Name of Property

New London County, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approx. 40 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Zone Easting Northing</p> <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Zone Easting Northing</p> <p>4</p> <p>■ See continuation sheet</p> |
|---|---|

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Historian

organization Public Archaeology Survey Team., Inc. date April 6, 2005

street & number P. O. Box 209 telephone 860-429-1723

city or town Storrs state CT zip code 06268

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

(Property Owner y **)**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Waterford, Connecticut

street & number 15 Rope Ferry Road telephone 860-444-5834

city or town Waterford state CT zip code 06385

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Waterford, New London County, CT

Description:

Walnut Grove, the former Hammond family estate in Waterford, consists of a large 3-story clapboarded house built in 1822 and enlarged and remodeled, ca.1865 and ca. 1905 (Photographs 1 through 4), as well as three barns and other agricultural outbuildings. The house is situated far back from Great Neck Road and is reached by a long drive; it faces toward the southeast, overlooking Alewife Cove and Long Island Sound. The grounds consist of open areas of fields and lawn interspersed with tall shade trees (Photographs 5 and 6); there are several lengths of tall fieldstone walls east of the house. The estate is part of a larger town-owned recreation area. The buildings and their immediate surroundings are currently leased to the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, which operates theater and theater-education programs.

The estate's main house or mansion measures 56' by 32' in plan, with an 18' by 28' gambrel-roofed ell attached at the rear, from which extends a one- and two-story wing, 59' by 52' in plan (see Photograph 2). The principal elevation, facing away from the road toward the ocean, has the entrance in the center, with two windows on either side. Most windows have two-over-two late 19th-century sash; the six-over-six third-story windows are probably from the Colonial Revival period. Judging from the detailing, the main entrance (Photograph 3) is also Colonial Revival in origin; it features fluted pilasters, a pediment with block modillions, a five-pane transom, and double glass doors. The house rests on a granite foundation. Three large brick chimneys emerge from the roof, two near the ends of the house and one centered just behind the ridge line of the roof; the chimneys are in their original position but were raised to their current height when the house was enlarged.

The house's architectural embellishment includes both Federal-style detailing from its original construction and Colonial Revival features from ca.1905. The former includes fluted corner pilasters and a second-story cornice with dentils and mutules; originally the house was two stories high with a hipped roof (see Figure 1). The house was reportedly raised to three stories by means of a Mansard roof in the late 19th century, then remodeled to its current configuration, a gable-on-hip roof, around 1905. A pent roof encircles the house above the second-story cornice; the third story has paneled corner pilasters and a cornice with a ball-molding course and block modillions (Photograph 4). Other Colonial Revival features include fanlights for the attic story in the gable portion of the roof, a balustraded granite terrace extending across the front of the house, and a hip-roofed porch on Tuscan columns on the rear elevation. The interior has mostly been altered for the theater center's offices, meeting rooms, and residential rooms, but two original fireplaces with what appears to be early 19th-century woodwork remain.

The largest of three former barns on the property measures 78 feet by 45 feet in plan, with the principal doorway on the west end, and is the equivalent of 3 stories in height (Photographs 7 and

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Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Waterford, New London County, CT

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8). Its exterior is covered with clapboards. Gothic Revival detailing includes chamfered boards demarcating the bays and stories, exposed rafter ends, and shed-roofed window hoods on large brackets. A plain louvered cupola is centered on the asphalt-shingled jerkinhead roof. The barn has a 42 feet by 80 feet ell attached to the northeast corner; the angle in between serves as an amphitheater. The ell appears in early photographs, but the two-story shed-roofed extension at the south end of the ell is modern. The theater center uses the barn for performances and workshops; the interior remains largely open. The stylistic detailing suggests the barns dates from ca. 1865, the early years of Gardiner Greene Hammond's ownership. The barn itself is counted a contributing building. The outdoor performance space, including the stage, seating, and lighting tower, is counted as a single noncontributing structure.

Not readily dateable but probably 19th-century in origin is the estate's gable-roofed reservoir (Photograph 9), which measures 20' by 60' in plan and is built of large granite blocks. The earth is mounded up against the sides of the building, held in place by rubble retaining walls. A large batten door provides access to the interior of the reservoir building at the northeast end. Originally used to store water that was later pumped to the main house, the reservoir now serves as the center's scene shop. Another small outbuilding, 20' by 28' in plan, is used as the center's tech office (Photograph 10); a loft door suggests it was originally a stable or small barn. Gothic Revival-style detailing includes board-and-batten siding, exposed rafters and purlins, and pointed and drilled ends of the overlapping loft-level siding. The center's production cottage (Photograph 13, background), also started out as some sort of agricultural outbuilding. One story in height and measuring 78' by 31' in plan, the building has a gable roof with a partial cornice return and a clapboarded exterior. Currently it has windows along the sides, a porch and entry on the east end, and garage-type doors in the west end. In an early photograph (Figure 1), it appears with a large barn-door opening on the south side and no windows. It appears to date to the middle of the 19th-century.

Judging by its architectural details, the former farmhouse (Photograph 11) was probably built at about the same time as the large barn to serve as a residence for the estate's resident farmer. The jerkinhead-roofed building is 1 ½ stories in height and measures 33' by 26' in plan with a 13' by 22' ell on the north side. The entrance is centered on the west elevation, within a gabled projection. A shed roofed porch, a later addition, extends across the front. The farmhouse rests on a stone foundation, and its exterior is covered with clapboards. Two small chimneys emerge from the ridge of the asphalt-shingled roof.

Also on the property is a 1 ½-story Mansard-roofed house (Photograph 12) moved there in the 1988 from its original location across Great Neck Road. It was built in ca. 1875 by the Ironside family and is known as "Sunnyside," and also as the Van Winkle Mansion after a later owner. It measures 61' by 37' in plan and has a clapboarded exterior. The house has four tall French windows on its west elevation. On the south elevation there is a two-story open-porch, the lower story of which is partly

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enclosed for the main entry, which faces toward the southwest. The porch has Stick-Style posts, railings, frieze, and gable-end bracing. A large bay window is placed diagonally across the northwest corner. Scroll-sawn brackets appear on the first-story cornice and the curb of the Mansard roof. On the second story, the dormer windows have steep roofs with bracing in the gables. A large attic-story gable appears on the upper slope of the Mansard roof, facing northwest. Although moved to the site relatively recently, the house is counted as a contributing building because of its architectural interest and because it was the boyhood home of Edward Crowninshield Hammond, one of the estate's long-term owners. It serves as studios and guest rooms for the theater center.

In 1996, a Hammond family descendent arranged to have several family members re-interred in a small stone-walled enclosure from their original resting place in New London's Cedar Grove cemetery. Known as the Hammond Memorial (Photograph 13), the plot includes a large marble mourning figure and several markers in the shape of crosses. The memorial is counted as a noncontributing site.

A one-story gable-roofed log-cabin building, built in 1994, measures 20 feet by 40 feet in plan (Photograph 14). Currently in use as a restaurant and pub, it is counted as a noncontributing building. Also noncontributing is a modern gambrel-roofed plywood-sided garage (Photograph 15) that stands between the farmhouse and the smallest barn.

The following table recapitulates the count of resources and the status of the various components as contributing or noncontributing. Entities that are not of substantial size and scale were not counted, such as a small gazebo east of the main house and a shed used as the theater center's box office.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

BUILDINGS

| Name | Description | Contributing/ Noncontributing Count |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Main House (Mansion) | Three-story clapboarded hip-roofed dwelling, 1822, modified ca. 1865 and ca.1905. Colonial Revival-style detailing. Used for office and residential purposes. Photographs 1-4. | 1 contributing building |

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| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| “Sunnyside” (Ironsides Family House) | Mansard-roofed clapboarded dwelling, 1 ½ stories, Second Empire-style, ca. 1875, moved to property in 1988 from across Great Neck Road. In use for residential purposes. Photograph 12. | 1 contributing building |
| Farmhouse | Jerkinhead-roofed clapboarded dwelling, 1 ½ stories, Gothic Revival-style, ca. 1865. In use for residential purposes. Photograph 11. | 1 contributing building |
| Large Barn | Jerkinhead-roofed clapboarded barn, equivalent of 3 stories, Gothic Revival-style, ca. 1865. One-story ell. In use for theatrical productions and educational purposes. Photographs 7-8. | 1 contributing building |
| Reservoir (Scene Shop) | One story, granite walls with frame gable roof. Probably 19 th -century in origin. Photograph 9. | 1 contributing building |
| Small Barn (Tech Office) | Gable roof, board-and-batten siding, 1 ½ stories. Mid-19th-century in origin. Photograph 10. | 1 contributing building |
| Production Cottage | Former agricultural outbuilding, probably a barn. Clapboarded, 1 ½ stories, garage doors on west end, porch and entry on east end, windows added along sides. Probably mid-19th-century in origin. Photograph 13. | 1 contributing building |
| Log Cabin (“Blue Gene’s”) | One-story log-cabin-type building, 1994, used for pub and restaurant. Photograph 14. | 1 noncontributing building |
| Garage | One-story gambrel-roofed garage, ca. 2000. Photograph 15. | 1 noncontributing building |

STRUCTURE

| Name | Description | Contributing/ Noncontributing Count |
|--------------|---|--|
| Amphitheater | Outdoor performance space formed by barn and ell, with stage, seating, and a tall pole tower for lighting and other technical purposes. Photograph 7. | 1 noncontributing structure |

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SITE

| Name | Description | Contributing/ Noncontributing Count |
|------------------|--|--|
| Hammond Memorial | Small stone-wall-enclosed burying ground with iron fence across the front. Large marble mourning figure and marble crosses marking burials. Created when the burials were removed from Cedar Grove Cemetery in New London in 1996. | 1 noncontributing site |

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Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Waterford, New London County, CT

Figure 1: Walnut Grove in the 1860s, before the third story of the mansion was added. The outbuilding that currently houses the production, the large barn with ell, and the farmhouse are clearly identifiable in this early view. From Bachman, *An Illustrated History of the Town of Waterford* (2000), pp. 58-59.



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Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
Waterford, New London County, CT

Statement of Significance:

Summary

Walnut Grove is significant because it epitomizes an important chapter in Waterford's history, the development of waterfront areas as gentlemen's farms by wealthy out-of-town people (Criterion A). The estate began in the 1820s as the home of Revolutionary War general William North, a resident of New York City who used it as his country home, but it reached its present appearance under the ownership of the Hammond family. Gardiner Greene Hammond was a wealthy Bostonian who made it his summer residence and gentleman's farm starting in 1862. Hammond, the grandson of Gardiner Greene, early 19th-century Boston's wealthiest merchant, was succeeded by his son, Edward Crowninshield Hammond, a business and civic leader who resided in Waterford full-time. The elaborate house, the beautiful vistas provided by the fields and the waters of Long Island Sound, and the large agricultural outbuildings remain to recall the lifestyle and activities of Waterford's wealthiest families.

The house also has local architectural significance (Criterion C), embodying both first-period Federal-style characteristics such as the corner pilasters and cornice and Colonial Revival embellishments, seen in the pedimented entrance, fanlights, and main entrance treatment. The ca.1865 Gothic Revival barn has architectural interest in its own right, as does the relocated Ironside family house known as Sunnyside, embodying both Second Empire and Gothic details in a typically Victorian eclecticism.

Historical Background and Significance

Waterford, established as a town in 1801, is made up of the outlying parts of the original town of New London. For most of its history, Waterford continued the agricultural economy that once characterized nearly all of Connecticut, though it also developed a thriving granite industry in the 19th century, along with a scattering of other small-scale industrial enterprises. In addition to Long Island Sound, the town's coastline includes a numbers of coves and tidal estuaries that originally provided a livelihood for local fishing families and later scenic amenities that attracted well-to-do out-of-towners looking for seasonal residences. Eventually Waterford's salt-water edges were populated by summer homes ranging from clusters of middle-class cottages to mansions that rivaled those of Newport.

Walnut Grove, named for a cluster of walnut trees that once grew near the ledge overlooking the water at this point, has the distinction of being the first place in Waterford to be used as a country retreat by a wealthy nonresident. General William North (1755-1836) is said to have become enamored of the property while yachting along Long Island Sound in 1820. He purchased an

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extensive tract of land and relocated to New London for two years so that he could supervise the building of the house, which was finished in 1822. The house as originally built is remembered as having “long windows opening upon a sizeable porch” (Anderson, 1931). The property also included a smokehouse and a wash house (no longer extant) and “a mound of sod and stones for storing vegetables.” Both local and New York City notables were entertained at the Norths’ dinner parties, which included oysters cultivated by General North in the nearby Alewife Cove. The name “Walnut Grove” would be typical of a country estate of this period, though the first documented use of the name appears on the 1868 map.

William North served as an aide-de-camp to Baron Steuben in the Revolutionary War, rising to the rank of colonel. After the war, he married Mary Duane, daughter of a wealthy and influential New York City judge who had served in the Continental Congress. North himself engaged in politics, serving both in the New York State Assembly and in the United States Senate. When Steuben died in 1796, he left most of his property to his former aide-de-camp, and the following year Judge Duane died, further increasing the fortunes of William and Mary North. North was appointed Adjutant General of the United States Army in 1798 with the rank of brigadier-general, serving until 1800, after which he retired to private life.

North’s daughters, Elizabeth and Adelia, transferred the property in 1835 to Major Thomas W. Williams of New London. Major Williams and his son, Charles Augustus Williams, who engaged in the whaling and sealing business, maintained the property as a country estate, while spending most of their time in New London.

Once again a yachting excursion brought Walnut Grove to the attention of a wealthy visitor. Gardiner Greene Hammond (1835-1903) was cruising the waters of Long Island Sound in 1862 looking for a suitable summer retreat when he landed in New London and made the acquaintance of C. A. Williams, who showed him the property and sold it to him shortly thereafter. Hammond was the grandson of Gardiner Greene, who had amassed a fortune in the West Indies trade and was considered as Boston’s wealthiest merchant in the early 1800s. Hammond was also connected to many other old East Coast families, including the Crowninshields and Mifflins, and he was the great-grandson of the artist John Singleton Copley. Hammond enlarged the house with a third story within a Mansard roof and an ell, remodeled the interior, and extended the porch on the front of the house. He also built the farmhouse to accommodate the resident farmer and the jerkinhead-roofed barn, so much larger and more architecturally distinctive than the ordinary barns of the period, to store hay for the family’s horses and other livestock. The access road, formerly a rutty cart path, was widened and improved into a formal tree-lined drive. Hammond planted the property with fruit orchards and with spruce, beech, larch, and other then-uncommon trees, and an early view shows the field in front of the house plowed for a garden. Hammond regarded the house as a country estate and summer residence, in the manner of those established by wealthy Bostonians at Manchester-by-the-Sea and

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other towns bordering Massachusetts Bay. He maintained his principal residence in Boston, where he died in 1903.

The next owner was Gardiner Greene Hammond's third son, Edward Crowninshield Hammond (1868-1940). E. C. Hammond had a much closer relationship to Waterford than his predecessors. When his mother died in 1877, his father placed him in the care of neighbors George and Anna Ironside, to whom he had earlier sold a lot for a house. The Ironsides considered E. C. Hammond their adopted son, and he lived with them in Waterford while his father resided in Boston. E. C. Hammond was educated at St. Paul's School and Harvard College. Although he served as president of the New London Northern Railroad and the Central Vermont Transportation Company, two corporations controlled by the Central Vermont Railroad, his principal activity seems to have been as a gentleman farmer and a local philanthropist. He was active in local scouting for 23 years and received many honors from the Boy Scouts in recognition of his personal service and financial contributions. His wife, Anna Chapin Rumrill, whose family also had a summer estate in Waterford (they married in 1905), provided the funds for the public library that served Waterford from 1928 to 1960, and she donated a sizeable tract of land in East Haddam for use as a scout camp after her husband's death. E. C. Hammond also represented Waterford in the state legislature, served as chairman of the town's finance committee, and was a director of a bank and a technical high school in New London.

E. C. Hammond was responsible for the Colonial Revival look of the main house at Walnut Grove, including remodeling the third story to its present roof line, the present front terrace, and the back porch and ell. Under his ownership, Walnut Grove maintained a large herd of dairy cattle, though after the Hurricane of 1938, Hammond scaled back his farming activities. Hammond also cut ice from a pond he made on the stream that flows into Alewife Cove and stored it both there and in an icehouse on the estate. He died in 1940, and in 1964 his children sold the property, then encompassing 95 acres, to the Town of Waterford. That same year, the town leased 10 ½ acres to the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, an internationally known program of theater education and performance. The Ironside mansion, Sunnyside, where E. C. Hammond had spent his early years, was moved to the theater center in 1988, and a later Hammond descendent arranged for the removal and re-interment of family remains in 1996.

The use of the Hammond Estate for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center constitutes a minor historical irony. Edward Crowninshield Hammond is said to have provided the model, at least in part, for the unsympathetically portrayed millionaires in "A Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "Moon for the Misbegotten." O'Neill also wrote a poem, "Upon Our Beach," which recounts his trespassing on Hammond's waterfront property.

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Architectural Significance

The buildings at Walnut Grove are of local architectural significance because they embody the distinctive characteristics of particular historical styles and thereby contribute to Waterford's overall architectural heritage. In its fluted pilasters and delicate second-story cornice detail, the main house exhibits elegant interpretation of Classical architecture that was at the heart of the Federal style. The small scale of the cornice ornament and the use of multiple thin moldings is especially characteristic of the period. The remodeling of the house in the Colonial Revival style was clearly intended to echo these elements without duplicating them. Thus, the entrance pilasters are fluted but lack the rounded stops of the corner pilasters, and the third-story cornice detail is of the same scale as the earlier cornice's but uses a ball-motif instead of dentils. Divided-light sash and the gambrel roof on the ell complete the echoing of early Americana that was so in favor in the early 20th century.

The agricultural outbuildings are as architecturally notable as the house, as might be expected from buildings built not only for practical purposes but to serve up an ornamental effect as well. The large and small barns and the farmhouse all embody the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival. This Romantic style, greatly favored in the years just before and after the Civil War for country homes, utilized a variety of Medieval and early English details to create a picturesque appearance. Board-and-batten siding and exposed rafters ends and other supposedly structural elements were commonly employed as part of the style, and are seen at Walnut Grove in the exteriors of the two barns. The jerkinhead roof, while less common, was also part of the Gothic Revival vocabulary, intended to recall the thatched roofs of Elizabethan-era English cottages; their use at Walnut Grove for the farmer's residence and the hay barn furthered the arcadian theme of this early country estate.

Sunnyside, the Ironside house where E. C. Hammond grew up, typifies Victorian architecture both in its use of a particular historical style as its chief source of inspiration and in its eclectic inclusion of details from other genres. The Mansard roof, dormers, and cornice brackets are all characteristic of the Second Empire style, which revived the forms of 17th-century French urban houses. However, the gable roofs on the dormers and the bracing in their faces are drawn from the picturesque Gothic Revival, as is the open stick work of the two-story porch.

With some of the more stylish architecture in Waterford, the buildings at Walnut Grove preserve important details that both contribute to the appreciation of the property as a former gentleman's farm and have value in their own right as illustrations of changing tastes over time.

Integrity

The use of the property for the theater center has had an impact on its appearance, but for the most part the estate as a whole, as well as the individual components, retain the form, materials, and other

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characteristics that identify them as part of a gentleman-farmer estate and therefore help convey the architectural and historical significance of the property. For example, the fact that scenery is stored in the former water reservoir is not readily apparent from the outside, nor has the large barn or the small barn used for the tech office lost any sense of their use to store hay and house animals, other than signage, particularly on the outside. The three residential structures are used for office, studio, and residential purposes, and while this has required interior changes, chiefly in the form of partitioning, the buildings remain readily identifiable as dwellings from their respective periods. The production cottage has been changed the most from its original appearance, chiefly by the addition of numerous windows, though even in this case, the wooden garage doors on the end suggest that the process of modification had at least started during the Hammond ownership. Because of the preponderance of historic buildings with their key defining features preserved in place, the property as a whole continues to read as a 19th-early 20th-century estate.

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UTM References:

- 1: ~~19~~ 19.742000.4577160
- 2: ~~19~~ 19.742120.4577020
- 3: ~~19~~ 19.742210.4577100
- 4: ~~19~~ 19.742270.4577110
- 5: ~~19~~ 19.742360.4577000
- 6: ~~19~~ 19.742300.4576930
- 7: ~~19~~ 19.742600.4576640
- 8: ~~19~~ 19.742470.4576540
- 9: ~~19~~ 19.742400.4576500
- 10: ~~19~~ 19.742280.4576720
- 11: ~~19~~ 19.741990.4576900
- 12: ~~19~~ 19.741920.4577030
- 13: ~~19~~ 19.741930.4577100

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is part of a Town of Waterford-owned parcel at 305 Great Neck Road that includes a town beach and picnic area; the property is described in a deed recorded in the Waterford Land Records, Vol. 262, page 66. The nominated area includes the buildings and grounds leased by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Foundation, the field between Great Neck Road and the nominated complex of buildings, and the fields in front of the complex as far as Alewife Cove. Specifically, the boundary begins on the south side of Great Neck Road at the property line between the town-owned parcel and the state-owned Camp Harkness property, then continues in a northeasterly direction on the south side of Great Neck Road to the access drive to the Walnut Grove buildings. It extends past the drive for 50', then parallels the drive in a southeasterly direction at a distance of 50' until intersecting the boundary of the theater-leased parcel. The boundary follows the line of the leased parcel northeasterly, southeasterly, northeasterly, and then southeasterly again to a corner east of "Sunnyside," the Ironside family house. The next line of the leased parcel runs in a southwesterly direction for 370'; however, the boundary of the nominated property runs for 175' along this line, then turns southeasterly at a right angle and runs to the north side of Alewife Cove, a distance of approximately 2,350'. It follows the north side of the cove in a southwesterly direction to a point in line with the eastern edge of the town recreation area parking lot located some 550' north of the cove. It proceeds in a north-northwesterly direction in a straight line to the northeast corner of the parking lot, then continues in a northwesterly direction to a corner of the leased property west of the main house. It continues along the line of the leased property for 45' in a southwesterly direction, then northwesterly for 287' to the access road to the town beach. It crosses the access road, then runs

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in a southwesterly direction along the north side of the road, continuing in a straight line to the boundary line between the town-owned and state-owned parcels, which it follows in a northwesterly direction to the first point.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the Hammond Estate and its setting, insofar as the surrounding land remains open and undeveloped so as to retain a sense of its historic appearance. The Hammond family owned much more property in this vicinity, and the estate's boundaries varied over time. The proposed boundary for the nominated property, however, includes most of the currently open land that is immediately adjacent to the house. The 50' margin along the access road includes the large beech and other trees on the east side of the drive, but exclude the overgrown land and tennis courts that are part of the town recreation and nature area. To the east and west, the boundary maintains the view from the estate while excluding the wooded areas that are part of the picnic area, parking lot, and beach. Alewife Cove marks the dividing line between the municipalities of New London and Waterford; the New London portion is part of Ocean Beach State Park. Former Hammond property to the north and east of the estate is now occupied by modern residential development and so would not contribute to the character of the nominated portion.

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Boundary of nominated property indicated on 1995 Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection aerial photograph (digital data from Map and Geographic Information Center, University of Connecticut). Scale is approximately 1' = 450'.



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All Photographs:

1. Walnut Grove (Hammond Estate)
2. Waterford, New London County, CT
3. PAST, Inc. Photo
4. March 2005
5. Negative filed with PAST, Inc.

Captions:

- 1: Southeast elevation of house facing Long Island Sound, barn visible at right; camera facing north.
- 2: Rear elevation of house, camera facing southwest.
- 3: Detail of entrance, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 4: Detail of cornice moldings, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 5: Fields between house and Long Island Sound, camera facing southeast.
- 6: Field between house and Great Neck Road, camera facing northwest.
- 7: Overview of largest barn, showing original ell with modern addition at right, camera facing north.
- 8: Northwest elevation of largest barn, camera facing southeast.
- 9: Former reservoir, now scene shop, camera facing west.
- 10: Smallest barn, camera facing east.
- 11: Farmhouse, camera facing north.
- 12: "Sunnyside," Ironside family house, moved to site in 1988 from across Great Neck Road, camera facing east.

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- 13: Relocated Hammond family burials, former barn (production cottage) in background, camera facing west.
- 14: Log cabin pub and restaurant (noncontributing), camera facing east.
- 15: Modern garage northwest of farmhouse, camera facing northwest.