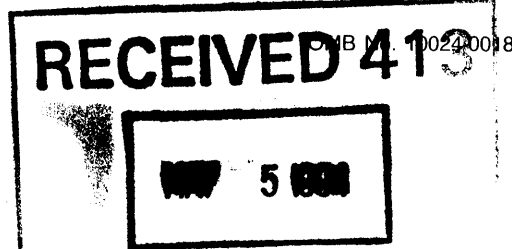


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *National Park Service 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 Working Girls' Vacation Society Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet not for publication NA

city or town East Haddam vicinity NA

state Connecticut code CT county Middlesex code 007 zip code 06423

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.)

John W. Shannahan 04/26/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State of 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register Date of Action 6/3/94

Working Girls' Vacation Society
Name of Property Historic District

Middlesex County, Connecticut
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many 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	
6	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
6	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Working Girls' Vacation Society Historic District NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: part granite
walls Wood: weatherboard, shake
roof Asphalt
other

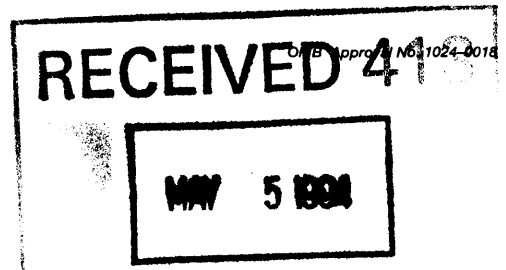
Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1



INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

List of Properties within the Working Girl's Vacation Society
Historic District

The historic district includes the following properties that are identified by street number and by map/lot number on the Assessor's maps of the Town of East Haddam:

- 60 Mill Road (map 11, lot 23);
- 64 Mill Road (map 11, lot 22); and
- 66 Mill Road (map 11, lot 21)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 1

The Working Girls' Vacation Society Historic District (photograph 1) is located in the south-central part of the Town of East Haddam, approximately 3/4-mile northeast of the old Hadlyme Church on State Route 82. The district consists of three residential properties on the south side of Mill Road, a narrow country byway that meanders up and down through an area of low hills regularly punctuated by small stream valleys (Figure 1 and USGS map). Ancient trees and stone walls line the road, suggesting that the area was cleared long ago for farming; dense modern-day forests, in at least their second growth, are now the rule. The district lies in a rural part of East Haddam that to this day has experienced little development. Far removed are the villages of Moodus and Goodspeed's Landing, which were the historical centers of commerce and population in East Haddam. Even Hadlyme, the closest village, is separated by fields and forests and bears no direct visual relationship or apparent historical connection to the district.

Of the seven resources in the 27-acre district, six (85%) contribute to its significance (see inventory). Three are dwellings, two of which were built during the first half of the 19th century and bear strong similarities in their exterior features and vernacular design (photographs 2 and 3). The third dwelling dates from c.1915 and is a vernacular expression of the Bungalow style. The other contributing resources are three 19th-century barns of wood-frame construction (note 1)(photograph 5).

A strong sense of cohesion among the resources results from their similarity in size, proportion, and materials, together with the uniform generous setback from the road of the two older dwellings and the district's landscape features. Although in varying states of repair, the buildings are relatively intact on the exterior (note 2) and are all wood-framed, under two stories in height, and modest in size and architectural detail. Mature trees, some quite old, are abundant. The area around this small district, likewise, has suffered little change over time; with the exception of one 19th-century house across the street (outside the district), there are no other buildings nearby.

The Phebe Howell and Charles Howell houses, built c.1835 and c.1825 respectively, display the combination of 18th- and 19th-century building features often found in rural Connecticut areas (note 3). Among the 18th-century features of the Phebe Howell

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

House, for example, are the pegged post-and-beam framing, the size, proportion, and arrangement of exterior elements, and inside, the room layout and chimney configuration (photographs 3 and 6). Elements of the two houses that support a 19th-century date of construction, however, include the broad roofs and slender chimneys, and, in the Phebe Howell House, the shallow fireboxes with splayed jambs.

The main blocks of the Howell houses are similar in overall respects, including size (e.g., that of the Phebe Howell House is 25.5-feet wide by 22-feet deep). Each is one-and-one-half stories in height with a raised plate in the facade, and with the long side of the gable roofs roughly parallel to Mill Road. Their foundations are granite ashlar, and central brick chimneys surmount the roofs in alignment with the front doors. The Charles Howell House, however, has a five-bay facade with central door, while the door in the Phebe Howell House is located off-center in the four-bay facade. Most of the window apertures appear original, although many of the windows themselves do not. Several different window glazing patterns are in evidence, including six-over-nine, six-over-six, and two-over-two; the windows in the rear projection of the Charles Howell House are modern. Neither front door appears original, although the door casing in the latter house is embellished with fluted pilasters.

Attached to the Phebe Howell House is a four-bay-deep ell, of similarly modest design, with a tall brick interior chimney toward the rear elevation. Projecting across the rear of the other house, in contrast, is a modern, one-story shed-roofed addition. The Phebe Howell House retains what is perhaps its original clapboard exterior, while the main block of the Charles Howell House is sheathed in cedar shakes that do not appear original.

The interior of the Phebe Howell House, while altered in some respects (note 4), retains many original features. The basement under the main block has dry walls of fieldstone rubble, with granite ashlar supporting the sills. The dirt-floored basement is full height, and the original rough-hewn framing is clearly visible. On the main floor, exposed framing elements, also rough-hewn, include corner posts and, in the original kitchen, the summer beam and single girt.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

The attics and roofs above both parts of the house display both rough-hewn and dimensioned lumber, with no roof ridge poles. The large chimney in the main block is rebuilt (note 5), and three modern skylights penetrate the rear slope of the main roof.

The first-floor plan is characteristic of the period: a large central chimney with three flues; small front entrance hall; rooms to the left and right of the entrance; and a large kitchen across the rear, with a smaller room (now a modern bathroom) on the north wall beside the stacked stairs to the basement and second floor. The north front room was modernized c.1950 as a kitchen. One room occupies most of the ell; behind its rear fireplace wall is a stairway to the unfinished attic above. The second floor of the main block, which was formerly finished as three small rooms, is now open and undergoing rehabilitation.

Old random-width floors are evident in most rooms. The walls are plaster, and the two- and four-panel doors, some with old iron hardware, and windows display similar beaded molded casings. The large fireplace in the original kitchen has a granite lintel and jambs, and beside it is a beehive oven with a mid-19th-century cast-iron door embellished with scalloping and the name "Russell & Peach, Chester, Connecticut" (photograph 6). The two front rooms have smaller corner fireplaces (photograph 7), also with some granite components.

The vernacular one-story Bungalow dwelling at 60 Mill Road (photograph 4) has a fieldstone foundation, wood-shingled exterior, and hipped roof with wide overhang. A large fieldstone chimney rises at the back of the main block; there is another, smaller chimney of brick. Few changes appear to have occurred to this modest building, which is very much a product of the early-20th century, in contrast to the Howell houses.

On the properties of the two older houses are three 19th-century barns of wood-frame construction and gable roofs. The one at 66 Mill Road (photograph 5) is similar in size and design to the ell on the Phebe Howell House, which tends to confirm oral history that this barn was formerly attached to the rear of the Charles Howell House.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

Notes

1. The three properties contain no known physical landscape features that are related to the activities of the Working Girls' Vacation Society during its period of ownership.

2. Only the interior of the Phebe Howell House was inspected. According to David Nelson, owner of the Phebe Howell House, the interior layout of the Charles Howell House has been considerably altered.

3. The two-volume historical and architectural survey of East Haddam (1977, 1980) documents the existence of a handful of houses similar in basic construction and design to the Howell houses. Their range in age from c.1780 to c.1855 confirms the continuation of traditional building practices into the 19th century in outlying areas.

4. Alterations include built-up flooring in a few rooms, c.1950 modernization of the northeast front chamber as a kitchen, wainscotting in the old kitchen, removal of some old plaster ceilings, and some replacement six-over-nine windows.

5. The present owner was the recipient of a loan from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for improvements that included rebuilding the chimney.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

Inventory of Historic District Resources

The inventory includes all resources on each parcel of real property within the historic district. Contributing ("C") and non-contributing ("NC") resources are indicated in the inventory by use of C or NC, as appropriate, before the description of each. Construction dates are derived from three sources: the two-volume Historical and Architectural Resources Survey of East Haddam (1977, 1980), Francis H. Parker's "Contributions to the History of East Haddam, Connecticut" (various dates between January 23, 1914, and January 1, 1927, in Connecticut Valley Advertiser), and the November 8, 1988, letter from John Curtis to Doris Sherrow regarding the Phebe Howell House.

Style, Use, and Date

Mill Road

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| 60 | C
NC | Bungalow house, c.1915.
Small modern utility shed. |
| 64 | C

C
C | Charles Howell House, vernacular, c.1825. Alterations include non-original siding, front door, some windows, and modern rear projection.
Mid-19th-century barn.
Mid-19th-century barn. |
| 66 | C

C | Phebe Howell House, vernacular, c.1835. Alterations include front door, some windows, and skylights in roof.
Mid-19th-century barn. |

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "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, or 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)

Social History

Period of Significance

1892-1945

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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 Buildings 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:

Working Girls' Vacation Society
Name of Property Historic District

Middlesex County, Connecticut
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 27

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

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

(Reviewed by John F. Herzan, National Register Coordinator, Connecticut Historical Commission)
name/title Gregory E. Andrews, Consultant
organization Connecticut Historical Commission date April 1994
street & number 1643 Boulevard telephone 203-561-3841
city or town West Hartford state CT zip code 06107

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

The Working Girls' Vacation Society Historic District is significant historically because the properties in the district were owned between 1892 and 1945 by the Working Girls' Vacation Society of New York City, and were used by it for most of that time as a summer retreat for city working women. Founded in 1883, the Society exemplified a mid- to late-19th-century response to the degrading conditions suffered by American women workers in the rapidly industrializing workplace. The district buildings document the operation and philosophy of the Society, which was part of a significant chapter in American social history (note 1).

Historical Significance

The years following the Civil War witnessed an upsurge of activism by American women to claim for themselves a larger role in American society. Along with their efforts to achieve the right to vote, feminists of the period sought to exert a moral influence on social issues. Their initiatives addressed such problems as temperance (e.g., the Women's Christian Temperance Union, founded in 1873) and the degradations of urban living conditions (e.g., the Chicago work of Jane Addams at Hull House and the State Charities Aid Association in New York, founded by Louisa Lee Schuyler, a veteran of Civil War relief work)(note 2).

A problem of special concern was the working conditions of urban women. The rapid industrialization of the American economy during the 19th century created a huge body of workers, composed of men, women, and children, in urban workplaces including factories. Their poor conditions of employment, from both a physical and moral standpoint, became an issue following the Civil War, in part as a result of heightened wartime awareness of the poor sanitation in battlefield hospitals.

The Young Women's Christian Association (1866) was the first of many organizations created during the second half of the 19th century to minister to the "temporal, moral and religious welfare of self-supporting women." (note 3) Led by enlightened upper class philanthropist/reformers such as copper heiress Grace Dodge, a national network of "working girls' clubs" formed in the 1880s. Their mission primarily was to protect the morality of

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

working women, rather than to improve the conditions of the workplace (note 4); their means included the creation of opportunities for social intercourse, self improvement (education), and recreation in a morally uplifting setting. The New York Working Girls' Club, founded by Dodge in 1883 and the first of its kind in the nation, maintained, for example, a clubhouse with a library and extensive series of lectures, classes, and social events (note 5).

The employment-related health needs of working girls were not ignored. The Working Girls' Vacation Society of New York, an offshoot of the Working Girls' Club, was founded in 1883 to provide summer vacations in the country for women with demonstrated health problems. The founders of the society included prominent upper-class women and social workers (note 6). In a pattern repeated in other cities, the Vacation Society made available low-cost stays generally of two weeks in duration at rural locations (note 7). The women guests came from diverse working backgrounds, although most were employed in factories (note 8).

The Working Girls' Vacation Society expanded its operation rapidly amidst general public acclaim. It was regularly lauded by New York newspapers as "one of the best and most creditably known of the city's charities." (note 9) From the society's inception, the vacation retreats were either cottages acquired, often through donation, or those made available by generous benefactors such as Margaret Cook Harper, the wife of the publisher of Harper's Bazaar. During the summer of 1884, 411 working girls were assisted; by 1915 the society had established a network of retreats in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey that served 1450 women each summer (note 10).

The East Haddam properties were acquired in 1892 and 1895, although the society does not appear to have begun using them as a vacation retreat until 1909. Some evidence suggests that Annie White Strathern, the donor of the Phebe Howell House and a society founder, had opened them for guests years earlier (note 11). East Haddam offered a pleasant rural setting that enjoyed convenient access to New York by Connecticut River steamer or railroad. The society named the properties "Cottage Hill" as a

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Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

group, with "Rose Cottage" (Phebe Howell House), "Nancy Cottage" (Charles Howell House), and "Hayes Hall" (the c.1915 building) assigned to the individual units.

Visits at Cottage Hill provided a well-rounded program of healthy meals, educational instruction, physical activity, and entertainment. Gains in weight and milk consumed, as measures of improvements in health, were carefully noted. The responsibilities of the trained resident social worker included instruction in crafts such as making paper flowers and tooled leather purses, and leading hikes and motoring excursions to local sites. Every Friday the guests themselves provided an evening of entertainment. One longtime local resident recalled attending dances in Hayes Hall, the Bungalow-style building at 60 Mill Road, which was built by the Vacation Society as a recreation center (note 12; photograph 4). Occasionally the minister of the local Hadlyme Church offered Sunday services on site.

The society owned the East Haddam properties until 1945 (note 13). Several reasons for the sale are likely. By the middle of this century, vacation societies had experienced a substantial decline in popularity. As the traditional stigma against women in the work force eased and job opportunities expanded, working women became more independent and less likely to seek assistance. From the 1890s onward, furthermore, such organizations were subject to criticism from some women's advocates for the moral rules imposed by the often affluent leadership and their rejection of non-traditional work opportunities (note 14). The need for vacation societies also lessened as workplace conditions improved and work-related health problems declined. Of perhaps some significance, too, is the fact that Katherine Herbert, longtime president and a founder of the Vacation Society, died in 1945.

The Working Girls' Vacation Society mission continues in 1993, carried on by a successor organization, the Stony Wold-Herbert Fund, which provides grants for study and research in pulmonary diseases (note 15).

The district retains a strong sense of its historic character and

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Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

association with the Working Girls' Vacation Society. All of the major buildings from the period of significance (1892-1945) survive, and the imprint of the society is physically evident in the bungalow built c.1915 during their ownership of the district property. The appearance of the district in all respects, both built and natural, has been little altered since 1945 (photographs 1-5).

Notes

1. The district buildings are of architectural interest because of their age and because they are examples of the 19th- and early-20th-century vernacular building traditions of rural New England. Insufficient evidence exists, however, about the historic architecture of the area to claim their significance under National Register Criterion C.

2. See Rothman, Woman's Proper Place (1978), p. 63-91, for an excellent discussion of this topic.

3. Ibid., p. 63.

4. Rothman, op.cit., p. 76, quotes a social worker of the time, as follows: "Factory employment has proven to be dangerous and demoralizing to young women, who without proper early education and discipline, are obliged to aid in the support of the family to maintain themselves. The farther the woman drifts from the family and the home, the more she is in danger from the shoals and quicksand of society."

The leaders of these clubs, primarily middle and upper-class women, actively encouraged working girls to quit factory employment and move into domestic service, which was perceived by them as morally safer.

5. The New York Times, 8/4/1885, p. 8:3, contains a thorough discussion of the operation of the Working Girls' Club.

6. The Vacation Society founders included Katherine Herbert (1858-1945), a wealthy society matron, and Annie White Strathern

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Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

(1847?-1920), teacher and social worker. The New York Times, 1/31/45, p. 21:4 (Herbert obituary) and 10/24/20, p. 22:4 (Strathern obituary). Interestingly, Strathern is buried in the cemetery of the Hadlyme Church.

7. "[The Vacation Society] holds to the rule of helping only those who are broken down in health...the only qualification that a girl requires is a voucher of good character from some reputable person and a physician's certificate." The New York Times, 12/2/1892, p. 10:1; and, 8/4/1885, p. 8:3. See also M. Josephine Allen, "The Boston Working Girls' New Vacation Home," Far and Near, November 1890, pp. 6-7. While a two weeks' vacation was the rule, some women in special need stayed longer, occasionally for up to eight or ten weeks. Unless unable to do so, each woman was required to pay \$1.50 per week. 1897 Annual Report of the New York Working Girls' Vacation Society, p. 6 (hereafter, "Annual Report"); 1936 Annual Report, p. 15; and 1937 Annual Report, p. 21.

8. In 1897, for example, 150 of 589 women guests worked in factories, 83 were dressmakers, and 68 were sales girls. The average wages were \$4.21 per week and the women ranged in age from 13 to 60, with an average age of 22.5. 1897 Annual Report, p. 10.

9. The New York Times, 4/14/1891, p. 8:2.

10. 1884 Annual Report, p. 12 (1884 statistic). The donation in 1884 of a cottage in Greens Farms (Westport), CT was a reason for the society's incorporation. 1928 Annual Report, p. 6. In the 1915 edition of the New York Charities Directory (1915 statistics), the entry for the Vacation Society shows vacation retreats maintained in New York at Santa Clara (a complex of houses, with capacity of 56), Huguenot, and Chester; in Connecticut, at Hadlyme, Cobalt, Farmington, and Green's Farms; and at North Long Branch, New Jersey. At Farmington, the society operated a house that was owned by the Farmington Lodge Society, composed of students and graduates of the Miss Porter's School. 1892 Annual Report, p. 4; 1897 Annual Report, p. 6 (photograph).

11. East Haddam land records, vol. 38, p. 293 (1892), and vol. 40, p. 350 (1895). The properties are first mentioned in the

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Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
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society's 1909 Annual Report, pp. 6-7. Strathern's 1920 obituary, however, credits her with opening, in Hadlyme, the first working girls' vacation home (The New York Times, 10/24/20, p. 22:4), and in 1895 the society leased the Charles Howell House and property to Strathern and Jane Stansbury for life use "to occupy and use...as...a summer house or for purposes of recreation." East Haddam land records, vol. 40, p.351. This life use appears to have become dormant well before 1909. East Haddam land records, vol. 61, p. 70 (7/9/1945 release of life use).

12. Recollections of Jennie Nelson Daniels of Hadlyme (Town of Lyme), CT, as reported to David Nelson, owner of 66 Mill Road, in 1993. In the 1945 deed by which the Vacation Society sold 60 Mill Road, the building was described as a "pavilion." East Haddam land records, vol. 61, p. 83 (1945). See also Annual Report of the Society for 1928 (p. 9), 1936 (p. 15), and 1937 (pp. 21, 31, and 35 with photographs) for reports about Cottage Hill. According to David Nelson, the second floor of the Phebe Howell House formerly was partitioned into several small non-original rooms. This layout, since reversed, may well reflect the residential needs of the Vacation Society. Physical evidence also suggests that the ell was once divided into two rooms.

13. See the two deeds of sale at vol. 61, p. 83, of the East Haddam land records.

14. In her article "The New York Working Girl" in the October, 1896, issue of Scribner's Magazine at page 5, Mary Gay Humphreys lauded work as giving a woman "independence, freedom and power....It leaves her free to do with her life as she chooses." The article encouraged women to assert themselves and protect their rights by joining unions. Humphreys specifically derided the traditional attitude that work is debasing unless in a domestic setting.

15. The Working Girls' Vacation Society changed its name in 1950 to the Katherine Herbert Fund in honor of founder Herbert. In 1974 it merged with the ~~Stony Wold~~ Stony Wold Corporation to become the Stony Wold-Herbert Fund.

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Working Girls' Vacation
Society Historic District
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Atlas of Middlesex County, Connecticut. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1874.

Articles of Incorporation, The Working Girls' Vacation Society, State of New York, dated October 31, 1885 (records of the Department of State, State of New York).

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district, for National Register listing, conform to those found in the deeds into the present owners.

Boundary Justification

The historic district boundaries are the same as those for the properties on which are located the buildings at 60, 64, and 66 Mill Road. These boundaries encompass all of the property owned by the Working Girls' Vacation Society on Mill Road between 1892 and 1945 except for an undeveloped parcel of approximately 1.9 acres lying adjacent to and north of 66 Mill Road.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of the Working Girls' Vacation Society Historic District were taken by Gregory E. Andrews in May, 1993. Negatives for all photographs are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, Connecticut.

Number, Description & View

1. The Phebe Howell House (c.1835), 66 Mill Road, looking southwest from Mill Road. On the right next to the Howell House, obscured in shadow, is the Charles Howell House (c.1825).
2. The Charles Howell House (c.1825), 64 Mill Road, looking southeast from Mill Road.
3. The Phebe Howell House, 66 Mill Road, looking south.
4. 60 Mill Road (c.1915), looking south from Mill Road.
5. 19th-century barn at 66 Mill Road, looking southeast.
6. Kitchen fireplace and mantel, Phebe Howell House, 66 Mill Road, looking west.
7. Fireplace in first-floor bedroom at northwest front corner of Phebe Howell House, 66 Mill Road, looking east.

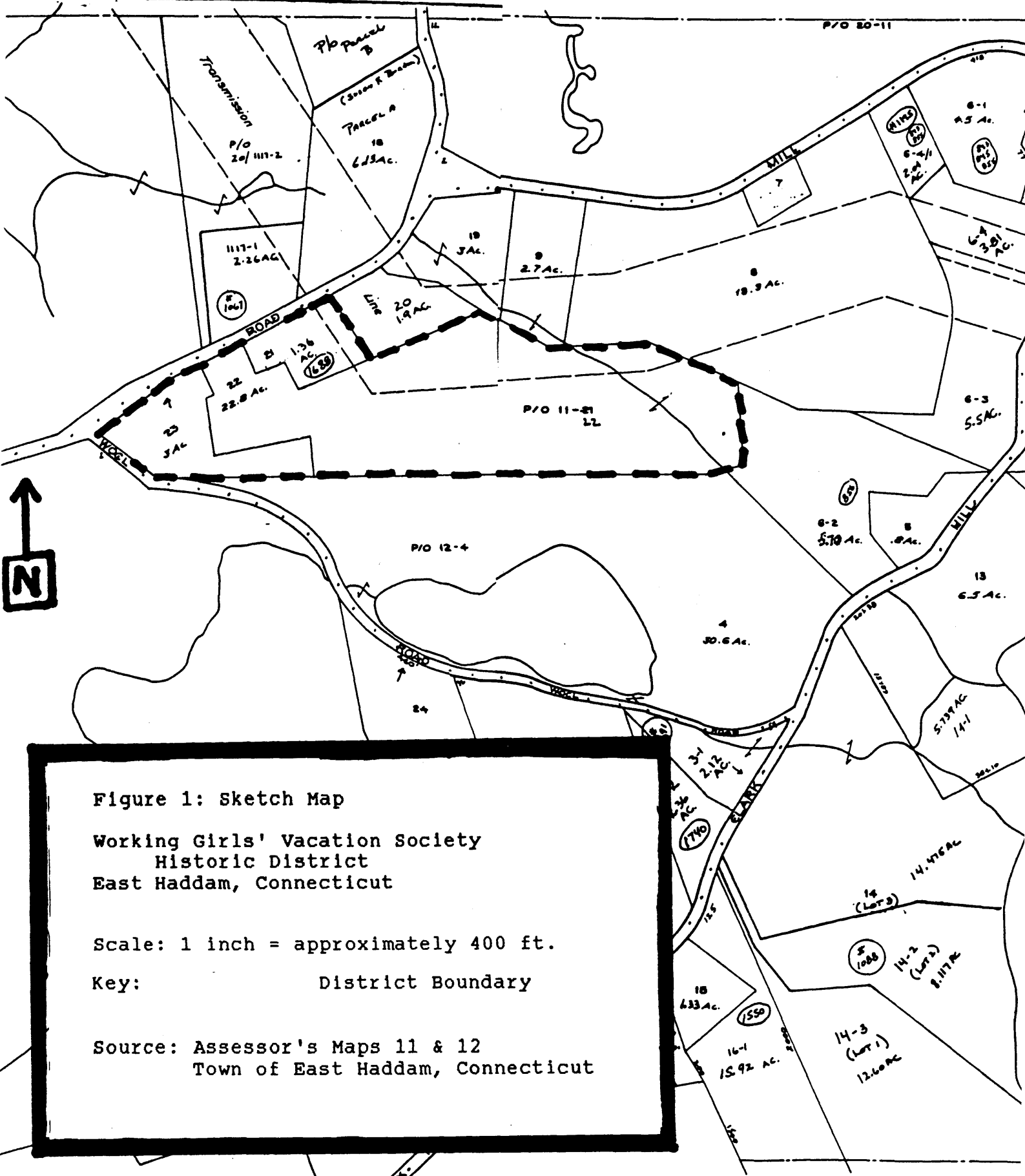


Figure 1: Sketch Map
Working Girls' Vacation Society
Historic District
East Haddam, Connecticut

Scale: 1 inch = approximately 400 ft.

Key: District Boundary

Source: Assessor's Maps 11 & 12
 Town of East Haddam, Connecticut