National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

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historic	w	EOLIA-T	HE HARKN	ESS ESTATE		: 		
and/or common		Harknes	s State	Park/Camp	Harkness			
2. Loca	tion			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
street & number		Great N	leck Road			N <u>/2</u>	\underline{A} not for publi	cation
city, town Wate	rford		<u>N/A</u> v	icinity of				
state Conne	ecticut	code	09	county	New London		code	011
3. Class	sificatio	on					:	
_X_district building(s) structure site object	Ownership X_public private both Public Acquis in process being cons N/A		Accessib X yes: r	cupied in progress Ile	Present Use agricultu commerci educatio entertain Xgovernm industria	re cial nal ment ent	_X_ museum _X_ park private ro religious _X_ scientific transpor .X_ other: f	esidence c tation
4. Owne	er of Pr	oper	tv	1	······································		·	
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city, town	<u> </u>		V	icinity of		state		
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	I Des	criptic	n			
courthouse, registi				ta ta internet				
street & number	. ,		e Ferry R	· · · · ·				
city, town		Waterfo	ord			state	Connecticu	it
6. Repre	esenta	tion i	n Exi	sting §	Surveys			
title State Regi					perty been determ	nined elig	ible? ye	s _ <u>_</u> _ no
date 1975					federal	_x_ state	county	local
depository for surv	vey records	Connect	icut His	torical Co	mmission			
city, town		59 Sout Hartfor		ct Street		state	connecticut	-

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated _X_good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one Xoriginal site moved date
----------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Eolia, formerly the estate of the Harkness family, consists of 61 buildings and other structures located on approximately 220 acres on Goshen Point, overlooking Long Island Sound just east of the mouth of the Thames River. Developed as a formal seasonal retreat and working farm, the estate is now owned by the State of Connecticut. There are four principal concentrations of buildings: the mansion and associated buildings, the farm, the Marine Fisheries complex, and Camp Harkness, a summer camp for the handicapped. The land consists mostly of open fields bordered by stone walls, through which run tree-lined, narrow roads. The original entrance to the estate was at the eastern end (see map); the mansion was approached by a long road which runs south, turns west toward the farm buildings, and finally runs south again to the mansion and its associated buildings.

The mansion, a 42-room, 2 1/2-story Second Renaissance Revival-style building with Spanish-tiled hip roof (Photographs 1 and 2), was built 1907-1908 and faces the Sound at the southern end of the estate. Built of concrete blocks and other cast forms, it is richly detailed with Palladian windows, columns, and balustrades. Plantings include both a formal garden with Classical pergola and an Oriental garden. The Colonial Revival interior (Photographs 3 and 4) dates from 1924. Nearby is a similarly detailed support complex formerly housing stables, servant quarters, squash court, billiard room, and bowling alley (Photographs 6 and 7). A three-wing greenhouse (Photograph 9), a concrete-block water tower (now missing its windmill), and a four-bay brick carriagehouse are also found in this part of the estate.

The farmhouse (Photograph 10) is one of several buildings which were on the site when the Harknesses started building in 1907. In addition to the 2-1/2-story Greek Revival farmhouse with Victorian porch, there is a large frame hay barn with board siding, a small poured-concrete dairy barn, and a small clapboarded building now used as a garage. The Marine Fisheries buildings are either modern or highly made over from older buildings, except for one small clapboarded garage which retains its original appearance.

Camp Harkness includes Rogers House, reportedly built in 1760 and redone in the Colonial Revival style (Photograph 12); three small frame barns (Photograph 13); the estate caretaker's house, a 1-1/2-story Victorian vernacular structure (Photograph 14); and Dorcas House, a stone and frame building highly altered from its original Queen Anne-style appearance. Nearby are 23 camper cabins, small board-sided gable-roofed structures; an office; dining hall; and several trailers (Photographs 13 and 15).

The buildings are in fair to good condition. Except for the alterations to Dorcas House, done during the Harkness tenure, few have changed much on the

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Eolia - The Harkness EstateContinuation sheetWaterford, CTItem number4Page1

Owners (continued):

The property is administered by two agencies of the State of Connecticut:

Department of Environmental Protection Stanley J. Pac, Commissioner Room 117 State Office Building Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Department of Mental Retardation Brian R. Lensink, Commissioner 90 Pitkin Street East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford, CT Item number 6 Page 1

Representation in Existing Surveys (continued):

Department of Environmental Protection Cultural Resource Survey

State - 1985

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission 59 South Prospect Street Hartford, Connnecticut 06106

Cultural Resource Survey of State-Owned Historic Buildings in Connecticut

State - 1986

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission 59 South Prospect Street Hartford, Connnecticut 06106

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		Harkness	LSLALE	
Continuation sheet Wat	terford,	СТ	Item number	7



Description (continued):

outside from their original appearance. The interior of the mansion is unfurnished and is used for exhibiting bird paintings. A new drive and parking lot have been put in for the park, and a picnic area now covers part of what once was a nine-hole golf course.

The land is largely open, so that even though the four groups of buildings are widely separated, each is nevertheless visible (though details of the buildings are difficult to discern) from most parts of the estate (Photograph 11). Winding through the estate are narrow roads lined by stone walls and plantings of tall deciduous trees. There are four principal kinds of landscaping: lawns and tall trees surround the mansion, greenhouse, and stable/servant-quarters/recreational building; shrubs, flower beds, and gardens are located immediately adjacent to the mansion and greenhouse; beaches, saltmarsh, and stands of <u>Phragmites</u> mark the east and west edges of the estate close to the water; and open fields of grass characterize the north part of the estate. There is also a small woodlot across Great Neck Road.

Of the 61 buildings or structures inventoried, 15 (25%) contribute to the significance of the site. The visual impact of the noncontributing structures is far less than their numerical preponderance suggests. Many are small, inobtrusive buildings such as the gatehouse, toilet building, and beach pavilions, and the three large modern-looking buildings operated by Marine Fisheries are screened by trees from all other parts of the estate. Most of the noncontributing buildings are accounted for by the 30 cabins, shower buildings, and trailers of Camp Harkness. These buildings are spatially separated from the mansion and farm buildings and are visually isolated by trees from the rest of the estate. Also, the contour of the land is such that only the roofs of many of the cabins are detectable from the other parts of the estate (Photograph 11), so they are not visually intrusive. At the same time, the camp buildings are interspersed among buildings which, while not close to the mansion, were functionally related and contribute to the completeness of the site as an upper-class retreat: Rogers House, which served as guest quarters; caretaker's house and barns; and Dorcas House, site of Mrs. Harkness's first work with polio-afflicted children. Although modern buildings have been added to the complex, the Camp Harkness portion of the estate is notable for retaining its integrity of function: it is a direct continuation of the philanthropic work started by Mrs. Harkness there and mandated as part of her bequest to the state.

An inventory of buildings and structures follows.

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Continuation sheet Eolia - The Harkness Estate Waterford, CT Item number 7

Description (continued):

INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Map Number	Name	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
MANSION	& ASSOCIATED BUILDIN	IGS	
1	Gatehouse	Concrete-block and stucco, tiled hipped roof, c.1980	Noncontributing
2	Toilets	Concrete-block and stucco, tiled hipped roof, c.1980	Noncontributing
3	Brick Barn	Brick, four bays, c.1910 (Photograph 8)	Contributing
4	Mansion	2nd Renaissance Revival, c.1908 concrete-block walls, tiled hip roof; Lord & Hewlett, arch.; interior, 1924, James Gamble Roge Gardens by Breet & Hall, Beatrix Farrand (Photographs 1-5)	Contributing rs
5	Water Tower	Concrete-block exterior around skeleton tower, c.1910	Contributing
6	Support Complex	2nd Renaissance Revival, c.1908 (Photographs 6,7)	Contributing
7	Greenhouse	Angle-iron frame, wood sash; Lord & Burnham, c.1910 (Photograph 9)	Contributing
8	Garage	Stuccoed concrete blocks, c.1980	Noncontributing

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford, CT Item number 7

Description (continued):

Map Number	Name	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
FARM BU	ILDINGS		
9	Farmhouse	Clapboarded, Greek Revival, c.1860; attached milk house, concrete, c.1910 (Photograph 10)	Contributing
10	Garage	Small clapboarded garage, date unknown, probably made from small barn	Contributing
11	Barn	Small poured concrete barn, c.1910, stalls inside	Contributing
12	Barn	Large, board-sided barn, late 19th century	Contributing

MARINE FISHERIES COMPLEX

13	Office/Garage	Steel-sided building, c.1980	Noncontributing
14	Laboratory	Stuccoed concrete building	Noncontributing
15	Boat storage	Open concrete shed	Noncontributing
16	Garage	Small, clapboarded garage on rubble foundation	Contributing

CAMP HARKNESS

17	Beach facility	Modern shower/toilet facility	Noncontributing
18-21	Beach shelters	Four flat-roofed pole shelters (Photograph 16)	Noncontributing
22	Barn	Board & batten sided barn, small shed, c.1980	Noncontributing

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford, CT Item number 7

Description (continued):

Map Number	Name	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
23	Office	Small frame building with board siding	Noncontributing
24	Rogers House	Colonial Revival remodelling of c.1760 2-1/2 story house (Photograph 12)	Contributing
25	Barn	Small frame barn, date unknown (Photograph 12)	Contributing
26-30	Brown Cabins	Small frame cabins with board siding, c.1960	Noncontributing
31	Infirmary	Victorian vernacular house, c. 1900, Caretaker's house (Photograph 14)	Contributing
32	Lodge	Board & batten barn, date unknown (Photograph 14)	Contributing
33	Workshop	Medium-sized frame barn, c.1890 (Photograph 13)	Contributing
34	Dining Hall	Modern dining facility, c.1970 (Photograph 13)	Noncontributing
35	Trailer	(Photograph 13)	Noncontributing
36	Staff house	Small frame house of unknown date	Noncontributing
37	Trailer		Noncontributing
38-44	Green Cabins	Six small frame cabins with board siding, concrete-block shower building	Noncontributing
45	Dorcas House	Stone and frame 2-story house, built c.1890, remodelled c.1920	Contributing

(continued)

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Descript	tion (continued):	CT Item number 7	Page 5
Map Number	Name	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
46-52	Blue Cabins	Six small frame cabins with board siding, concrete-block shower building	Noncontributing
53-59	Yellow Cabins	Six small frame cabins with board siding, concrete-block shower building (Photograph 15)	Noncontributing

.

60, 61 Trailers Noncontributing

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	<u>X</u> architecture art	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen	law literature military music	re religion science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
_Criteria A	A,B,C			

Specific dates 1907-1908 - built Builder/Architect See Inventory, Item 7, and below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

Eolia, the former estate of the Harkness family, is significant one as Connecticut. estates in the most complete grand-scale, seaside of Architecturally, it is outstanding as an elaborate example of Second embodying the style's Revival architecture, distinctive Renaissance characteristics: Italian palazzo form, monumentality, masonry construction, and ornate Classsical detailing. The hands of four well-known designers can be discerned in the buildings and grounds: Lord & Hewlett, architects for the mansion; James Gamble Rogers, designer of the other estate buildings; Brett & Hall, landscape architects for the west garden; and Beatrix Farrand, who did later plantings (Criterion C). Eolia is also significant because of its historical context: in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, capitalists were able to amass huge personal fortunes; retain them unfettered by income taxes; and spend them on large houses, armies of servants, grand entertainments, and favorite philanthropies. Eolia is one of only a few houses in Connecticut which illustrates the emergence of a national capitalist elite (Criterion A). Finally, Eolia is significant because of the Harknesses themselves: Edward and Mary Harkness together gave away a sum variously estimated between \$100 and \$200 million dollars, endowing Yale and Harvard Universities, Connecticut College, Lawrence Memorial Hospital (New London), and countless other organizations (Criterion B). Eolia is intimately connected with their philanthropy, because it was there that Mary Harkness undertook in 1920 to provide seaside recreation for children afflicted with polio, something she carried on for more than twenty years. Mary Harkness's final gift, that of her estate to the State of Connecticut, ensured that her work with the handicapped would be continued.

Edward and Mary Harkness

Edward S. Harkness (1874-1940) spent most of his life managing, with his older brother Charles, a tremendous fortune built up by their father Stephen Harkness, who had had the foresight in 1870 to become John D. Rockefeller's silent partner by investing a substantial sum of money in the Standard Oil Company. In 1901 Edward Harkness married Mary Stillman, whose family had railroad and shipbuilding wealth of its own. Together they distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to encourage educational and health-related projects. Edward Harkness was eulogized as "the father of "modern Yale" because so many buildings (eight residential colleges, a theater, and an art gallery) and other institutional advancements were made possible by his generosity. In addition to those already cited, the Harknesses gave large sums to the Waterford Public Health and Nursing Services, Coast Guard

Major Bibliographical References 9.

See continuation sheet

Geographical Data 10. Acreage of nominated property ______ approx. 220____ New London 1:24000 Quadrangle name Quadrangle scale _ **UTM** References see continuation sheet в Easting Zone Northing Zone Easting Northing С D E G н Verbal boundary description and justification The Boundary includes the entire parcel given to the state by the Harkness family and shown on the accompanying map, prepared from aerial photographs by Historic Resource Consultants, Hartford, Connecticut, April, 1986. Justification on continuation sheet. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A state code county code code state county code **Form Prepared By** Bruce Clouette, consultant, name/title edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator Connecticut Historical Commission April 7, 1986 organization date street & number telephone 59 South Prospect Street (203) 566-3005 city or town Hartford state Connecticut **State Historic Preservation Officer Certification** 2 The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: ____ state _X_ national local As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. State Historic Preservation Officer signature Director, Connecticut Historical Commission title

date October 17, 1986

For NPS use only		1	:
I hereby certify that this property is i	ncluded in the National Register		
HolomByen	Watered in the Watered Beststor	date	11-20-86
Keeper of the National Register	्		
	•		
Attest:		date	

Chief of Registration

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford, CT Item number 8



Page 1

Significance (continued):

(lightship radios), and the Connecticut State Police (ambulances).

Mary Harkness set a new direction for their philanthropy in 1920, when she remodelled the Dorcas House to accomodate 30 children from the New York Orthopedic Hospital, all victims of polio, whom she invited to spend the summer at Eolia. She provided six nurses, several school teachers, cooks, and other staff to care for them, and once a month paid for day visits by all the parents. Mrs. Harkness herself spent hours visiting the children and working with the staff to improve the program. The project continued until 1943, when Eolia was taken over for harbor defenses. Mary Harkness died in 1950, leaving her estate to the state with the understanding that it would be used to benefit public health. In 1952 a day camp for the handicapped was started and was soon expanded with overnight accomodations. Cabins and other buildings have been continually added to Mary Harkness's original facility, with Camp Harkness today able to accomodate 350 campers at a time.

Historical Context

Eolia is comparable in size, style, and elaborateness to contemporaraneous mansions built by the wealthy in Newport, along the Hudson, and on Fifth Avenue, and these attributes make it a good illustration of the lifestyle of people of the Harkness's social class. Eolia was only their summer home, though its farm made available a year-round supply of milk, eggs, produce, and flowers for their New York City residence. The mansion and gardens provided room for every conceivable activity or social function, with additional recreation available from the golf course and tennis courts on the grounds and bowling, squash, and billiards in the support complex. In addition to its practical functions, the farm was a showcase for the Harkness's prize herd of Guernsey cattle. Although the Harknesses adapted several existing farm buildings, they also constructed modern new buildings such as the concrete barn and attached milkhouse. The support building, nearly as large and elaborate as the mansion itself, recalls the people who made possible the opulent lifestyle of the upper class: a staff of 15 indoor servants took care of the Harknesses when they were in residence, with about another 40 for the grounds, gardens, farm, and vehicles. The windmill symbolizes the near-total self-sufficiency of the Harkness estate. The completeness of Eolia -- mansions, gardens, greenhouse, stables, garages, servant quarters, farms, guest house -- allows it to illustrate every facet of the lifestyle of the turn-of-the-century elite.

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	Eolia - The	Harkness	Estate		



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Significance (continued):

Architectural Importance

Like some of the mansions at Newport, Eolia employs the form of an Italian Renaissance palace, with the characteristic monumental massing, symmetry, stone construction (albeit cast-stone or concrete), and Classical detailing which are the hallmarks of the style. As might be expected of a family at the apex of American society, its buildings, grounds, and gardens were created by some of America's leading designers. Lord & Hewlett, the New York City firm which designed the mansion, was responsible for many large public buildings in the New York area, including the Bronx County Courthouse and the Second Battalion Armory; the Beaux Arts training of partner James M. Hewlett is evident in Eolia. James Gamble Rogers did most of the other estate buildings and was also a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He designed numerous large church and institutional buildings in New York, notably the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, as well as Sterling Library and Harkness Quadrangle at Yale and the Aetna Insurance Company headquarters in Hartford. The formal west garden and the plan for the grounds were created by Brett & Hall. Franklin Brett and George D. Hall were Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects and among the founders of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects. Trained at M.I.T., Harvard, and the Boston office of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., Brett and Hall had just finished the plan for the new city of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, when they undertook the Harkness project. They have been eclipsed in fame by Beatrix Farrand, who took over as the Harkness's landscape architect in 1919. Farrand, a major figure in American garden design, redid the plantings in the West Garden to accord more with her painterly principles of color and line, and she created the east garden with the Oriental character associated with her work. Eolia is characteristic of Farrand's approach in landscape design, combining informal plantings with It is especially notable because it has substantially formal settings. retained the lay-out and planting scheme which Farrand devised, an accomplishment made possible by C. J. Lamare, the Harkness superintendent who continued in his position under the state's ownership, until his death a few years ago.

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Continuation sheet Waterford CT Item number 9 Page 1	•	Eolia - The	Harkness	Estate			
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Bibliography (continued):

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Geologia

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford CT Item number 10 Page 1

Geographical Data (continued):

UTM References:

A: 18/741400/4575860 B: 18/741690/4575760 C: 18/741810/4575770 D: 18/742000/4576080 E: 18/742120/4576110 F: 18/742100/4576200 G: 18/742010/4576250 H: 18/742000/4576360 I: 18/742090/4576380 J: 18/742160/4576240 K: 18/742200/4576270 L: 18/742140/4576450 M: 18/742170/4576520 N: 18/742120/4576660 0: 18/742150/4576660 P: 18/742020/4576910 Q: 18/742000/4576900 R: 18/741910/4577040 S: 18/741920/4577100 T: 18/741580/4577100 U: 18/741575/4576870 V: 18/741460/4576690 W: 18/741220/4576550 X: 18/741180/4576270 Y: 18/741260/4576050 Z: 18/741420/4575940

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Eolia - The Harkness Estate Continuation sheet Waterford, CT Item number 10

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Geographical Data (continued):

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nominated property consists of the entire contiguous acreage as left by Mary Harkness to the State of Connecticut. The small shoreline notch represents a separate property owned by another party. The inclusion of the entire estate is both desireable and justifiable for historical and visual reasons:

1) The visual unity of the estate extends over the entire acreage. Most of the land consists of open fields divided by narrow roads, stone walls, and lines of trees, just as it did at the time of the Harkness's ownership. The openness and extent of the land were important visual qualities when the estate was operating, as can still be appreciated by entering not at the park entrance but at the original entrance near the Camp Harkness barn (see enclosed map), from which the original entrance drive runs southward, then turns west toward the farm buildings, and finally directly approaches the mansion and related buildings.

2) A major theme of the nomination is Eolia's significance as an elite summer retreat. The entire acreage is needed to properly represent the historical physical extent of the resource. The acreage alone (over 200 acres of shoreline property) helps indicate the Harkness's wealth and social standing.

3) Eolia is significant because the many components of such an estate are represented; this interrelationship is lost if any functional part of the estate is omitted. The farm buildings, for example, illustrate two things: Eolia's role in providing fresh produce not only for the summer season but all year for the New York residence, and the importance of the gentleman's farm (the Harknesses kept a herd of prize dairy cows) as part of the upper-class lifestyle. Similarly, the caretaker's house and the guest house (Rogers House) at Camp Harkness are spatially removed from the mansion but functionally important as parts of the estate. Even the garage building at Marine Fisheries, probably the most isolated of the contributing buildings, was part of the Harkness's farm and helps indicate the extent of the agricultural use of the estate.

4) Eolia is significant because of the Harkness's philanthropic activities, especially Mary Harkness's work with polio-stricken children. The facility she established for this purpose (Dorcas House) is therefore an essential part of the historical site; the modern buildings which have grown up around it point to the fulfillment of her wish at the time of her death that her work be continued.



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Geographical Data (continued):

5) At the same time, the effect of distances, the contour of the land, and intervening stands of trees is that modern buildings such as those at Camp Harkness and Marine Fisheries do not impinge upon either the farm or Mansion complexes. Although the details of the building clusters are not readily apparent from a distance, all parts of the estate are visible from the other parts.





(Harkness State Park / Camp Harkness) Waterford, Connecticut

> Photo Position ①→ Boundary _____ Noncontributing Structure _____



Historic Resource Consultants April 1986

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