NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)	at a for the second	OMB No. 10024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service		ne y native service service. Ne s
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form		4R 9 1994
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties <i>National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</i> (National Register Bulletin 16A). ( by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories a entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewrite	s and districts. See instruction Complete each item by markin documented, enter "N/A" for und subcategories from the ins	g "x" in the appropriate box or "not applicable." For functions, tructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property		
historic name Gwyn Careg		
other names/site number		
2. Location		
street & number Route 44 (southwest corner of	of Wolf Den Road)	□ not for publication
city or town Pomfret (Abington)		🗆 vicinity
state <u>Connecticut</u> code <u>CT</u> county <u>Windham</u>	code _015	_ zip code _06230_
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as and request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set fort meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that thi nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional 03/09/9 Signature of certifying official/Title John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Histori State of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register c comments.)	r registering properties in the l th in 36 CFR Part 60. In my op is property be considered sign comments.) 04 ical Commission	National Register of pinion, the property ificant
Signature of certifying official/Title Date		
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is: I entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. I determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. I determined not eligible for the National Register. I removed from the National Register. I removed from the National Register. I other, (explain:)	L Lntered	in the Date of Action 1 Registen 1 3 년 년

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OMB No. 10024-0018

S. Classification         Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)       Category of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)       Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)         Image: Structure in the count is in the count is in the count is in the count.)       Image: Structure is in the count.)       Image: Structure is in the count.)         Image: Structure in the count is in the count is in the count.)       Image: Structure is in the count.)       Image: Structure is in the count.)         Name of related multiple property listing (enter "NA" if property is property listing.)       Image: Structure is in the National Register       Image: Structure is in the National Register         N/A       0       Image: Structure is in the National Register       Image: Structure is in the National Register         N/A       0       Image: Structure is in the National Register       Image: Structure is in the National Register         N/A       0       Image: Structure is in the National Register       Image: Structure is in the National Register         N/A       0       Image: Structure is in the National Register       Image: Structure is in the Count is instructions)         DOMESTIC/structure is instructions       Image: Structure is instructions       Image: Structure is instructions)       Image: Structure is instructions)         DOMESTIC/outbuilding       Image: Structure is instructure is instructions)       Image: Structure is in th	Gwyn Careg, Name of Property		<u>Windham</u> County and	n, CT State	
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7. Description         Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)         20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival         foundation _stone walls			DOMESTIC/outbuilding/single dwelling		
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roofslate			walls <u>brick</u>		
			roofslat	e	
other			other		

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number \_\_\_7 Page \_\_1

Gwyn Careg, an early twentieth-century country estate, is located outside the village of Abington in the Town of Pomfret. Accessed from the south side of Route 44, it is bordered on the east by Wolf Den Road. (See Exhibit A for a site plan.) Informal plantings of mature trees and open lawns border the long asphalt driveway (1500') which leads to the main house, originally built around 1760, and extensively remodeled and enlarged in the 1890s and again in the 1920s in the Colonial Revival manner (Inventory #1; Photograph #s 1, 2, 3). Other contributing buildings and structures on the estate include a stone gatehouse, located to the west of the driveway, and a wood barn to its east next to the property line there (Inventory #s 2, 4). The estate's greenhouse, to the south near this boundary, is also a contributing structure (Inventory #3). Although it has not been maintained and has lost most of its glazing, its basic metal framework is still generally intact. A small cottage still standing at the rear of the property has deteriorated and is no longer contributing (Inventory #5).

The house is surrounded by 30 acres of land, the core of the former 227-acre estate, developed and landscaped between 1899 and 1937. Features of the eclectic landscape include a manmade lake below and to the west of the house, with natural woodland partially surrounding its shore (Inventory #6). Formal terraces in the Italian manner lead down to the lake from this side of the house (Photograph #4). Immediately to the south of the house is a large walled Spanish garden (Inventory #7; Photographs #s 5, 6).

Changes to the property over time have been primarily due to neglect prior to the present ownership. Although the house is fully restored and operates as a country inn and restaurant and the grounds are maintained to a degree, the process of reclaiming and restoring the gardens and the integral landscape structures has just begun. The lake has been redug and its shoreline landscaped, but photographs of the gardens at the height of their splendor in 1933 indicate that some of the decorative features that highlighted the walled garden or plant groupings throughout the estate are no longer in place.<sup>1</sup> These include statuary, antique sarcophagi (used as planters), classical stone urns, and imported wrought-iron gates. Perennial borders are being reclaimed but some features, such as an old boxwood maze, allegedly transplanted from Virginia, have almost disappeared. Structures such as the boathouse near the lake have collapsed and been removed.

What does remain is most of the superb collection of mature trees transplanted here during the estate years, which made the grounds a "veritable arboretum."<sup>2</sup> Twenty-seven specimens, measured and evaluated by the Connecticut Botanical Society in 1991 as part of its Notable Tree Project, comprise one of the largest collections of specimen trees in the state.<sup>3</sup> Reaching as much as 100 feet in height and many with a circumference of 12 to 15 feet, they include a variety of deciduous and nondeciduous species, both native American and imported stock (listed below with botanical names on 7:3). Eight of the group, now designated new state champions by the botanical society (identified and located on the site map), were planted near the house and walled garden, undoubtedly in accordance with the plan of landscape architect William Jackson of New York City.

The centerpiece of Jackson's design is the walled garden, the most notable feature of the grounds. Its stuccoed stone walls are 11 feet high along three sides, with a lower wall

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_\_

nearest the house. Perennial borders and stone paths parallel the interior perimeter of this almost square enclosure. Based on Islamic prototypes, a common precedent for gardens of this type, it was designed to have bilateral symmetry, with the main east-west axis defined by a shallow open canal and water garden, with a central fountain. Now filled in, the canal terminated at a small existing alcove on the east and an open archway in the west wall, towards the lake. Another archway is found at the southeast corner and a round opening, still containing the original ironwork, is located in the west wall near the northwest corner and provides another glimpse of the lake from the stone path on the south side. A fountain is located in the center of the black and white pebble mosaic floor of the alcove, and round-arched statuary niches are found on two walls. Built into the south wall of the garden is a loggia, which originally displayed fountains on its interior side walls. Two of the smaller examples of specimen trees, a Weeping Hemlock and a Hinoki Cypress, are located within the garden; others, including two Cockspur Hawthorn and an Upright Scots Pine, define the outside corners.

Even though the terraces between this garden and the lake are more open and contain less plant material, they still convey the sense of the formal terraced gardens of the lake villas of northern Italy. The terracing begins just below a stone path, bordered by perennials and set off by a wrought-iron fence, that parallels the outside of the west wall of the garden. Large grassed level areas, separated by low walls with stone steps, extend down the more than 300 feet to the shore. Stone steps also ascend to the house from the highest terrace at its northern end. Urns and stone finials accent the walls. A small reflecting pool is located at the north end of the second terrace and is shaded by mature trees there.

The house itself, constructed of brick and brick veneer painted white, is two and three stories in height and composed of several sections (Exhibit B). The original building on the site, a circa 1760 farmhouse now located at the southeast corner, has a gabled roof running east to west. Its clapboards were replaced by brick during the earliest stage of the remodeling. A small later wing extends from its south side, the former facade. Now the old section is almost engulfed by a series of additions, creating the present building, 50 by 100 feet in plan, with a complex pattern of intersecting gabled, slated roofs. The present facade faces east toward the circular terminus of the driveway, with the main entrance to the house located in the center bay of the farmhouse's gable end. It has an Ionic pilastered surround surmounted by a flat corbeled cornice. Four brick chimneys supply the numerous fireplaces found in the house.

The first major addition, set at 90° and slightly forward of the original farmhouse core, has the appearance of a separate house. Its gabled roof runs north to south and displays three dormers in the front slope. Other additions are found to the west. A former open porch at the southwest corner, now glassed-in, faces the gardens and overlooks the lake; a balcony/terrace is located on its flat roof.

The interior detailing is typical of the formal Colonial Revival. Walls are panelled and beams encased with panelling, especially in the room which is now the entrance hall. In the other rooms, both the public spaces on the first floor and the bedrooms above, door

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 3

and fireplace surrounds are heavily influenced by colonial and classical motifs with Adamesque plasterwork embellishing the friezes (Photograph #s 8, 9).

1. House Beautiful, June 1933, pp. 260-263.

2. "The Trees of Gwyn Careg, Pomfret," <u>Connecticut Botanical Society Newsletter</u>, Vol. 19(4); Winter, 1991, pp. 9-11.

3. Ed Richardson (for the Connecticut Botanical Society), "Trees of the Inn at Gwyn Careg: Measured Oct., 1991," MS. See also Richardson, "Map of the Inn at Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, CT," 10/91 (sketch map not to scale). Copies of both documents in possession of the Inn at Gwyn Careg.

No.	Map Desi	gnation Common Name	Botanical Name	State Rank
1.		Weeping Beech	Fagus sylvatica 'pendula'	4
2.		Japanese Maple	Acer palmatum	2
3.		Sourwood	Oxydendrum arboreum	4
4.		White Ash	Fraximus americana	10
5.		American Beech	Fagus grandifolia	8
6.		Fir	Abies (i.d. uncertain)	
7.		European Cutleaf Beech		6
8.	А	Nordmann Fir	Abies nordmanniana	1
9.		White Fir	Abies concolor	5
10.	в	Japanese Yew	Taxus cuspidata	1
11.	С	Cockspur Hawthorn	Crataegus crus-galli	1
12.		11 11	11 11	2
13.		White Spruce	Picea glauca	2
14.		Cypress, false	Chamaecyparis (i.d. uncertain)	
15.		Weeping Hemlock	Tsuga canadensis 'pendula'	3
16.		Hinoki Cypress	Chamaecyparis obtusa	4
17.	D	Upright Scots Pine	Pinus sylvestris 'fastigiata'	1
18.		Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida	4
19.	Е	Paper Birch	Betula papyrifera	1
20.		Cherry	Prunus (i.d. uncertain)	-
21.	F	Noble Fir	Abies procera	1
22.		11 11	n n	2
23.	G	Japanese Umbrella Pine	Sciadopitys verticillata	1
24.	•	Paper Birch	Betula papyrifera	3
25.		Weeping Cherry	Prunus (i.d. uncertain)	5
26.		Moss Sawara Cypress	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'squarrosa	2
27.	н			1

List of Specimen Trees at Gwyn Careg

Compiled by Cunningham Associates Ltd, from sources identified above, endnotes 2, 3.





#### Gwyn Careg

Name of Property

### 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.
- $\Box$  **C** a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- $\Box$  **F** a commemorative property.
- □ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibilography

# \_

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### <u>Windham, CT</u> County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ARCHI	TECTURE	

#### Period of Significance

1899 - 1937 (Landscape Architecture)

1890 - 1920 (Architecture)

### Significant Dates

N/A

# Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

### Architect/Builder

William Jackson, Landscape Architect

## Primary location of additional data:

- I State Historic Preservation Office
- □ Other State agency
- □ Federal agency
- □ Local government
- □ University
- X Other

#### Name of repository:

Town Clerk's Office, Pomfret Town Hall

Name of Floperty

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property \_\_\_\_\_30

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9	2 5 1 1 7 0	4 6 3 8 2 5 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
2 1 9	2 5 1 3 0 0	4 6 3 8 2 6 0

#### **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 Jo	ohn Herzan, Natio	nal Register Coordinator
name/title Jan Cu	nningham, National Regist	er Consultant	
organization Cunnin	gham Associates Ltd.	date	6/15/93
street & number <u>37 Ora</u>	nge Road	telephone	(203) 347 4072)
city or townMiddle	town	state _CT	zip code06457
Additional Documentation		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

#### **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 <u>1. George R. Flonnes</u> 2. James G. Brooks	s (two separate owners, two lots)
street & number 1. P.O. Box 96 2. No box number	telephone (203) 928 7768 (1.)
city or town <u>Abington (1 and 2)</u>	_ state zip code06230

**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.

Windham, CT

County and State

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

An exceptional example of an early twentieth-century country estate, Gwyn Careg is one of the few relatively intact resources of this type remaining in the northeastern corner of the state. It is distinguished primarily by its eclectic period landscape, the work of landscape architect William Jackson of New York City, which is a representative example of the type of professionally designed estate landscapes which were fashionable around the turn of the century. Further significance is derived from the estate's collection of specimen trees. Contributing to this overall significance is the restored estate house, a well-preserved example of Colonial Revival remodeling with an elaborately detailed interior.

#### Historical Background

Eleanor(e) Clark Murray (d. 1958), a Boston heiress who was born in Pomfret, is responsible for most of the existing estate, which she named Gwyn Careg (Welsh for pure stone). In keeping with the spirit of the times, Gwyn Careg became a showplace, as fabulous as unlimited wealth and imaginative design could make it, requiring 25 full-time gardeners and servants to maintain the house and grounds. Murray was the wife of Dr. T. Morris Murray (d. 1934), a physican and archaeologist from New York City and Boston. A descendant of the Stowe family, settlers with Thomas Hooker of Hartford in 1636, she was the granddaughter of Dr. Alexander Vinton, a noted local physician in Pomfret, and the daughter of Randolph M. and Mary S. Vinton Clark.

A leader of Boston society and characterized in newspaper articles as one of the city's wealthiest women, Murray was in the forefront of those who discovered the rural charms of this part of Connecticut. Because so many of her contemporaries gravitated to the area to transform colonial farmsteads into country estates, what today is dubbed the "Quiet Corner" was then known as the "inland Newport."<sup>1</sup> Few estates of this caliber in the region are still intact; several others have been destroyed by fire. At Glen Elsinore in Pomfret, her parents' estate, the gardens are in ruins.<sup>2</sup>

Murray was quite a local celebrity during her tenure at Gwyn Careg. Even though Pomfret became accustomed to some of her eccentricities, especially her habit of buying up mature trees to transplant to the estate, one such event was dramatic enough to make headlines in the Hartford Times and is still talked about in town.<sup>3</sup> The accompanying article described the moving of a giant 100-foot elm to the estate from nearby Pomfret Landing. The state road between the landing and Abington was closed for 11 days to allow passage of the tree and a special pontoon bridge was constructed over the Cotton River, a tributary of the Quinebaug, since the existing bridge would not take the estimated 40-ton weight. The move was carried out by Lewis and Valentine, the New York nursery firm where William Jackson, Gwyn Careg's landscape designer, was associated.

Murray also indulged herself with rather whimsical notions, such as the construction of the barn, supposedly to house an elephant to amuse her grandchildren. In the same vein, she went to great lengths to create a theatrical atmosphere. For example, to complete the Italian theme of the terraced gardens and the lake, which were skillfully and dramatically

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut
Section number 8 Page 2

lit at night, she reportedly had gondolas available for guests.

Gwyn Careg was sold soon after the contents of the house were auctioned in 1937. According to the catalog, 1000 separate items were up for sale, including antiques, silver, furniture, and <u>objets d'art</u>. In 1942, the Marquess and Marquessa de Talleyrand from France (some sources accord them ducal status) purchased the estate and used it as a seasonal retreat until 1964. In more recent years Gwyn Careg was owned and operated as the More Hall School. Under its ownership the buildings and grounds were neglected; the school itself came under investigation by the state and was forced to close and later sold at auction. Thirty acres with the house were acquired by the present owner in the 1980s. With rehabilitation of the house completed, he is concentrating on restoring the grounds to their former elegance. Although still part of the nominated property, the gatehouse with a small lot is now under separate ownership.

### Landscape and Architectural Significance

Although somewhat diminished since the Murray era, Gwyn Careg still retains enough of its key landscape features, plant material, and specimen trees to convey the former magnificence of the estate. William Jackson of New York City is credited with the landscape design but it is clear that Eleanor Murray set the tone and contributed to the process that extended over a period of 38 years (1899-1937). Jackson's role as landscape architect was to create the type of eclectic landscape that was fashionable in this period, but one that had a comprehensible and visually integrated design.

As demonstrated by the detailing of the house, Murray favored formal classicism, a traditional architectural preference in this period, translated in the landscaping in the Italian terraced gardens. But she also indulged in the turn-of-the century custom of freely combining periods and styles as the gardens evolved over time. While only a photographic record is available today, many small changes were made as Murray collected statuary and other artifacts from all over the world and found a place for them at Gwyn Careg.

More than a half century later, the major design elements of the landscape remain to demonstrate the basic strength of Jackson's original concept. Key to this concept was the skillful placement of the formal gardens to enhance and complement the house. As intended, there is a constant interplay between the house and its landscape. Not only do the various features present pleasing vistas from inside the house, but from any vantage point within these gardens, the eye is continually drawn back to the building. This effect is particularly evident from the lake shore where the terraces ascend to the house, making the latter a more dominant element. A somewhat different dynamic is at work with the Spanish garden. Its higher walls set it apart from the more naturalized areas of the grounds to the south and east; further contrast and definition are achieved by its formal design. But even in this secluded area designed for quiet contemplation, other elements are not totally excluded. Wall openings provide glimpses of other parts of the landscape and frame small vistas of the lake below. Because of the lower wall on the north side, the house itself

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_3

becomes an integral part of the garden, visually and physically connected by a stone pathway.

Although not as individually distinguished as many of the mansions commonly associated with great country estates of the period, the well-restored house still makes a substantial contribution to the overall significance of the property. The architect for the Colonial Revival remodeling is not known. In fact, its slightly awkward massing may indicate that not all of the additions were professionally designed. The interior, however, is more integrated and stylistically consistent, with formal Colonial Revival detailing throughout. Generous public spaces are embellished by panelling and often highlighted by delicately scaled fireplaces. This consistency and level of style extends to the upper floors, where each of the bedrooms is enhanced by individual expressions of Adamesque detail.

"Pomfret: Poorer, but Proud as Ever," <u>Hartford Courant</u>, October 15, 1982.
 Rudy Favretti, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut, personal communication, July 10, 1993. I am indebted to Prof. Favretti, who reviewed the nomination in draft and made many helpful corrections and additions, which include providing further information on Glen Elsinore, where both the house and the grounds were the work of Charles Adams Platt (1861-1933) of New York City.
 Hartford Times. April 11, 1930.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut Section number  $\frac{9/10}{2}$  Page  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

### **Bibliography**

# UTMS (additional)

5.	19	250940	4637810
6.	19	251110	4637860

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass the two lots in their entirety described in the Pomfret Land Records in Book 58, Page 318, and Book 46, Pages 73-74.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass the historic core of Gwyn Careg: all of the landscaped acreage and extant buildings and structures which were associated with the property during its period of significance.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gwyn Careg, Pomfret, Connecticut

Section number Photos Page 1

# List of Photographs

Note: All photographs were taken by Cunningham Associates Ltd., 6/93, except where otherwise indicated below, and the negatives are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission.

1.	View:	East elevation (facade)	Facing:	W
2.	View:	c. 1890 addition	Facing:	SW
3.	View:	West and south elevations	Facing:	NE
4.	View:	Terraces (partial view)	Facing:	NE
5.	View:	Walled garden from outside	Facing:	SE
6.	View:	Walled garden from inside	Facing:	N
7.	View:	Alcove in east garden wall	Facing:	Е
8.		Interior of entrance hall rapher: David Ransom 2/82	Facing:	NW
9.		Typical detail 2nd floor bedroom rapher: David Ransom 2/82	Facing:	N