UNITED STATES DEPARTN _...T OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker StreetNOT FOR P COTY, TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury)VICINITY OF 9 STATE CODE COUNTY Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS DISTRICTPUBLIC X_OCCUPIEDAGR BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATEUNOCCUPIEDCOM STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDU X_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENTI OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Lutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF		
Brook Farm AND/OR COMMON Brook Farm LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker Street CITY. TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury)		
AND/OR COMMON Brook Farm LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker StreetNOTFOR P CTY. TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury)VICINITY OFOCE STATEOCECOUNIY MassachusettsO25 Suff CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUSUNCCCUPIEDAGRUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCCUPIEDCOMUNCCUPIEDCOMUNCCUPIEDCOMUNCCUPIEDCOMUNCCUPIEDUNCGESSEDUUNCCUPIEDUNCGESSEDUUNCCUPIEDUNCGESSUNRESTRICTEDINDUNCCUPIEDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNCUPIEDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNRESTRICTEDINDUNRESTRICTEDINDNOUNIL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME LUTHORAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY.TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDSETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER SUTFOLK COUNTY COURT HOUSE, SOMERSET STREET CITY.TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE NORE		
Brook Farm LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker Street CTV. TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury) VICINITY OF O25 CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP DISTRICT DUSTRICT DUBLIC CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS CATEGORY OWNERSHIP SUBJECT DUBLIC ACCUPIED ACCUPIED AGR STRUCTURE BOTH SUBJECT OBJECT IN PROCESS STRUCTED ACCESSIBLE ACCESSIBLE ACC		
IDOCATION STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker Street NOTFORP COMPRESSION CODE CODE COUNTY OF 9 STATE CODE COUNTY OF 9 STATE CODE COUNTY Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP X_OCCUPIED _AGR -BUBIC ACQUISITION OSCUPED _AGR BOTH		
STREET & NUMBER 670 Baker StreetNOTFOR P CITY.TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury)VICINITY OFOCOUPED STATEOCCUPIEDAGR OISTRICTPUBLICUNOCCUPIEDAGR OISTRICTPUBLICUNOCCUPIEDCOU STRUCTUREBOTHUNORK IN PROGRESSEDU STREPUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENT OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES. RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYYS. RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYYS. RESTRICTEDGOV NOMILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMENOMILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMENOMILL COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBERNO SUFFOR KOUNTY OF COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC REGISTRY OF DEEDS STREET & NUMBERNO SUFFOR KOUNTY COURT HOUSE, SOMERSET STREET COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC REGISTRY OF DEEDS STREET & NUMBER SUFFOR KOUNTY COURT HOUSE, SOMERSET STREET COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC REGISTRY OF DEEDS STREET & NUMBER		4
670 Baker Street NOT FOR P CITY. TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury) VICINITY OF 9 STATE CODE COUNTY Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION X_OCCUPIED _AGR DISTRICT _PUBLIC X_OCCUPIED _AGR BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED _COM STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS _EDU STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS _EDU OBJECT _IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _GOV BEING CONSIDERED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDU NO MIL OWNER OF PROPERTY NO MIL NAME Lutheran Service Association of New England INDU CITY. TOWN		
CITY. TOWN CONGRESS Boston (West Roxbury)		
Boston (West Roxbury) vicinity of 9 STATE CODE COUNITY Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION STATUS Coccupied -AGR DISTRICT _PUBLIC X_OCCUPIED _AGR BUILDING(S) YPRIVATE UNOCCUPIED _COM STRUCTURE _BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS _EDU STRUCTURE _BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS _EDU OBJECT _IN PROCESS _EDU _GOV DBEING CONSIDERED _YES. UNRESTRICTED _GOV NO MILL NO MILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NO MILL NAME Utheran Service Association of New England MILL OUNTY OF UCINITY OF UCINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OUNTY OF UCINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION UCINITY OF UCINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION UCINITY OF UCINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION UCINITY OF UCINITY OF COURTHOUSE UTIFOIN	UBLICATION	and the second
STATE CODE COUNTY Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS DISTRICT _PUBLIC XOCCUPIED _AGR BULDING(S) _PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED _COW STRUCTURE BOTH UNOCCUPIED _COW X_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE _ENTL OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _GOV BEING CONSIDERED _YES. UNRESTRICTED _INDU OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _GOV OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _GOV OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _INDU OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _GOV OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED _INDU OBJECT IN PROCESS XYES: UNRESTRICTED _INDU OBJECT IN PROCESS XYES: UNRESTRICTED _INDU OUTHOUSE INDU INDU INDU COURTHOUSE INDU VICINITY OF INDU LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION INDU INDU UTHOUSE		RICT
Massachusetts 025 Suff CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS DISTRICT _PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGR BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COM STRUCTURE BOTH UNOCCUPIED COM STRUCTURE BOTH UNOCCUPIED COM STRUCTURE BOTH UNOCCUPIED COM OBJECT IN PROCESS XXyes: RESTRICTED GOV OBJECT IN PROCESS XXyes: RESTRICTED INO OBJECT IND YES.UNRESTRICTED INO OULDHER YES.UNRESTRICTED INO INO OULDHER YES.UNRESTRICTED INO INO Utheran Service Association of New England YES.UNRESTRICTED INO UTY TOWN YES.UNMESTRICTED YES.U)th	CODE
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGR BUILDING(S) Y_PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COM STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDU OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES. RESTRICTED GOV OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES. RESTRICTED GOV NO MILI NO MILI OWNNER OF PROPERTY NAME utheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West Hartford	eolk 📃	025
DISTRICTPUBLIC XOCCUPIEDAGR BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATEUNOCCUPIEDCOM STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDU X_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENT OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDIND NOMILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMELutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
DISTRICTPUBLIC XOCCUPIEDAGR BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATEUNOCCUPIEDCOM STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDU X_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENT OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDIND NOMILL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMELutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None	PRES	SENTUSE
BUILDING(S) Y_PRIVATEUNOCCUPIEDCOM STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDU Y_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLEENT OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILI OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMEVIES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILI OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMEVIES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILI OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMEVIES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILI OURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBERVIENTY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBERVIENTY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBERVIENTY OF COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE	RICULTURE	MUSEUM
STRUCTUREBOTHWORK IN PROGRESSEDU OBJECTIN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NONIL OWNER OF PROPERTY NAMEUtheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None	MERCIAL	PARK
X_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTI OBJECT IN PROCESS XXYES: RESTRICTED GOV BEING CONSIDERED YES. UNRESTRICTED INDU NO MILI OWNER OF PROPERTY NO MILI NAME Utheran Service Association of New England MILI STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road	JCATIONAL	
OBJECTIN PROCESS XX YES: RESTRICTEDGOV BEING CONSIDEREDYES. UNRESTRICTEDINDU NOMILI OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Lutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS		
BEING CONSIDEREDYES.UNRESTRICTEDINDO NOMILT OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Lutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY.TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY.TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	VERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		TRANSPORTATIO
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Lutheran Service Association of New England STREET & NUMBER 74 Crestwood Road CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None	-	
CITY. TOWN West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
West HartfordVICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE: REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None	STATE	
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None	Connec	ticut
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street CITY. TOWN Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
Boston REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE None		
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	STATE	
TITLE None	Massac	husetts
None		
DATE		
FEDERALSTATECOUN		
DEPOSITORY FOR		
SURVEY RECORDS		



	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT	X_DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	XX_ORIGINAL	SITE
G00D	RUINS	XX ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brook Farm is located on the southern side of Baker Street, just west of its intersection with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Parkway, in the West Roxbury section of Boston, Massachusetts. The brook from which the farm derived its name, now known as Sawmill Brook, runs through the property in a generally northeast-southwest direction. The Brook Farm site is bordered on the northwest, northeast, and southeast by cemeteries, with substantial areas of residential development beyond.

Although the Brook Farm land appears to remain largely in a natural state, its historic character has been altered. Of the original 200 acres at the site (180 acres south of Baker Street, 20 north), only some 20, located primarily in the meadows southwest of the farmhouse, were actually used for agricultural purposes by the Brook Farm community. The remaining sections of those fields now give the appearance of rough pasture land (see photograph 5). Portions of the Piney Woods, where the Farmers walked and picnicked, were cut for fuel while the site was used as a military encampment during the Civil War. More clearing and some changes in topography resulted from the development of Gethsemane Cemetery, laid out on the farm in 1873.

Of the extant buildings at the site, only one, a small wooden residence built c. 1842, is definitely known to have been used by the Brook Farm community. Constructed in the shape of a Maltese cross, the building is known as the Margaret Fuller Cottage, although she never lived there. The cottage has been altered on both the interior and exterior and appears to be in poor condition (photograph 3); it now serves as the residence of the Gethsemane caretaker. Local sources also suggest that the two-story wooden structure which now serves as the garage and maintenance building for the cemetery (photograph 4) may have been constructed by Brook Farmers as their print shop. (However, no documentation of that theory was available at the time of this report, and other sources contradict it). Other buildings at Brook Farm include a large wooden residence with several additions, all in deteriorated condition (photograph 2), which stands on the site of the farmhouse used by the community, and a modern one-story building which houses offices for Gethsemane Cemetery.

Until recently the large residence housed the Martin Luther Orphan's Home, operated by the Lutheran Service Association of New England; the building is now vacant. While Gethsemane Cemetery remains in active use, plans for future development of the residence and the remaining areas of the Brook Farm site are uncertain. Sale of all or part of the property by the Lutheran Service Association has been discussed but no action has been taken to date.



PERIOD PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 XX1800-1899 1900-	AR ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1841–47	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT N/A	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brook Farm Institute for Agriculture and Education, which operated from 1841 to 1847 on a 200-acre site at West Roxbury, Massachusetts, was one of many experiments in communal living carried out in the United States during the first half of the 19th century. It is better known than most of those communities-and has a lasting place in American social history--because of the distinguished literary figures and intellectual leaders associated with it. George Ripley, formerly a Unitarian minister and later literary critic for the New York <u>Tribune</u>, headed the enterprise and was largely responsible for the production of its magazine, The <u>Harbinger</u>. Others connected with the project were Charles A. Dana and Nathaniel Hawthorne (both shareholders), Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, William Henry Channing, and John S. Dwight.

While the grounds at Brook Farm appear to remain largely in a natural state, their character has been altered. Much of the property is now occupied by Gethsemane Cemetery, established by the Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for Works of Mercy, which acquired the site in 1870-71. Until recently the Lutheran Service Association of New England, successor to the original Association, also maintained an orphanage at Brook Farm. Of the extant buildings on the property, only one, a small cottage, is definitely known to have been occupied by the Brook Farm community, and it too has been altered. Visitors are admitted to the site (but not to the buildings) during daylight hours.

Historical Background

The Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education, an experiment in communal living, was established at West Roxbury, Massachusetts, on some 200 acres of land formerly operated by Charles Ellis as a dairy farm. The institute was organized and directed by George Ripley, a former Unitarian minister, an editor of the <u>Dial</u> (a critical literary monthly), and a leader of the Transcendental Club, an informal gathering of intellectuals in the Boston/Concord area begun in 1836. He was aided by his wife, Sophia Dana Ripley, a woman of wide culture and academic experience. Their goal in creating the Brook Farm community was to combine the thinker and the worker, to guarantee the highest mental freedom and to prepare a society of liberal, intelligent and cultivated persons whose relations with each other would permit a more wholesome and simple life than could be led amid the pressure of competitive institutions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA. HICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <u>approximately 188</u> acres



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The dotted line on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map (Newton, Massachusetts Quadrangle, 1970) reflects the approximate extent (some 180 acres) of that portion of Brook Farm located southwest of the present Baker Street in West Roxbury, Massachusetts. Exact original lines could not be determined in the limited time available for on-site inspection. Another parcel of some 20 acres, located northeast of Baker Street, has been completely absorbed in the development of St. Joseph's Cemetery.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	•	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

II FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by S. Sydney Bradford, Historian, 1/20/66 ORGANIZATION DATE

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service	April 3, 1976	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
1100 L Street NW.		
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	
Washington	D.C.	

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL	•	STATE	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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	N/A	National	Historic	Landmark
----------------------------------	-----	----------	----------	----------

TITLE	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPE	RTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY ATTEST:	AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARKS)

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Brook Farm

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 8	PAGE 2

The Brook Farm Project was financed by the sale of stock, a purchaser of one share becoming automatically a member of the institute, governed by a board of directors. The profits, if any, after all payments and improvements, were to be divided into a number of shares corresponding with the number of days' labor performed. Among the original shareholders were Charles A. Dana and Nathaniel Hawthorne (whose novel The Blithedale Romance, 1852, is a fictionalized portrait of the Brook Farm community). Ralph Waldo Emerson, Amos Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, Theodore Parker, and Orestes A. Brownson were interested visitors.

Brook Farm attracted not only intellectuals--though teachers always were present in greater number than farmers--but carpenters, shoemakers, and printers. The community paid a dollar a day for work, physical or mental, to men and to women, and provided to all members, their children and family dependents, housing, fuel, clothing and food at approximately actual cost. For four years the Farmers published the <u>Harbinger</u>, a weekly magazine devoted to social and political problems, to which James Russell Lowell, John Greenleaf Whittier, and Horace Greeley occasionally contributed.

Brook Farm was noted particularly for its excellent school, which in educational theory was modern, desiring "perfect freedom of intercourse between students and teaching body." Disciplinary measures consisted in the attempt to arouse a sense of personal responsibility and to communicate a passion for intellectual work. There were no prescribed study hours, and each student was required to give a few hours a day to manual labour--the girls to kitchen and laundry work, the boys to hoeing and chopping. There was an infant school, a primary school and college preparatory course covering six years. George William Curtis, Father Isaac Thomas Hecker and Gen. Francis C. Barlow were early students there.

Although communal living proved to have disadvantages (Hawthorne found that he was unable to write there and left after six months), for a while it looked as though the ideal of the founders would have something of a practical realization. Within three years the community--or "Phalanx" as it was called after 1844 when Brook Farm adopted some of the theories of the French socialist Charles Fourier (q.v.)--had added four houses, workrooms and dormitories to its original farmhouse and school. It then put all available funds into the construction of a large central building to be known as the Phalanstery, which burned to the ground as its completion was being celebrated on the night of March 2, 1846. That

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Brook Farm

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 8	PAGE	3	

disaster combined with further financial troubles, including Hawthorne's suit against Ripley and Dana to recover his investment in the project, to bring the end of the Brook Farm community the following year. Ripley moved to New York and in 1849 became literary critic for Horace Greeley's <u>Tribune</u>, a position he held until his death in 1880.

The Brook Farm site was sold at public auction in 1849 to the town of Roxbury (now West Roxbury) and for the next several years served as the local poor farm. In 1855 the property was acquired by James Freeman Clarke, a member of the Transcendental Club and a contributor to the Harbinger, who intended to preserve it as an historic shrine. During the Civil War, Clarke allowed the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to use the farm as the encampment for the Second Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry (Camp Andrew). In 1868 Laurence C. and James W. Munroe bought the land and buildings, which they used for a time as a summer boarding house.

Gottlieb F. Burkhardt purchased Brook Farm in 1870 and the following year formed the Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for Works of Mercy, which would use the West Roxbury site to provide a temproary home for orphan children and to establish a cemetery. Much of the present character of Brook Farm is the result of that organization's work. The Martin Luther Orphan's Home was opened in 1872 in a building on the site of the original farmhouse. Subscriptions were gathered and Gethsemane Cemetery was laid out in 1873. The Lutheran Service Association of New England, successor to the original Association, operated the orphanage until the early 1970's; the buildings are now vacant. The cemetery remains in active use; visitors are admitted to the grounds during daylight hours.

FOR NPS USE ONLY	3
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Brook Farm

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Brook Farm Records. Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Codman, John. Brook Farm, Historic and Personal Memoirs (Boston, 1894).
- Curtis, Edith Roelker. <u>A Season In Utopia: The Story of Brook Farm</u> (revised edition, New York, 1971).
- Frothingham, O. B. George Ripley (Boston, 1882).
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Blithedale Romance (Boston, 1852).
- Hinds, William H. American Communities (Chicago, 1902).
- Swift, Lindsay. Brook Farm: Its Members, Scholars, and Visitors (New York, 1900).