

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JAN 27 1984**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic NA

and/or common West Mountain Historic District

2. Location

street & number CT. 102
See continuation sheet NA not for publication

city, town Ridgefield Vt. NA vicinity of

state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town NA vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ridgefield Land Records, Town Hall

street & number 400 Main Street

city, town Ridgefield state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good S VAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Overview

The West Mountain Historic District is located about two miles northwest of the center of Ridgefield along West Mountain Road and two streets that intersect it, Old West Mountain Road and Oreneca Road. The largest property in the district was "West Mountain Farm," a working farm of close to 200 acres, now separated into several parcels. The grandest house in the district is "Oreneca," a 1932 Georgian Revival style stone structure of considerable pretension, situated beyond "West Mountain Farm" to the northwest. The Neligan estate, southeast of West Mountain Farm, and the Bulkley family houses are other principal properties.

The amount of land in the district, 425 acres, is large in comparison with the small number of principal structures, 15. This relationship is indicative of the character of the district, which is made up principally of large estates and gentlemen's working farms. The large houses are sited on West Mountain to take advantage of the long vistas of lakes and woodlands leading into Westchester County, New York. This topography is a prime consideration in location of the sites and is a common denominator to the delineation of the district. All but three of the principal structures are considered to contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district.

Boundary Justification

The district boundary is drawn to encompass five estates and intervening properties. The five estates are "West Mountain Farm," the Neligan estate, property associated with "Oreneca" and the two Bulkley family properties. All have Georgian Revival country houses built after 1895 and sited on West Mountain to enjoy views provided by Round Pond and the vista to the southwest into Westchester County. The intervening properties are 253-267 West Mountain Road and 162 and 180 Old West Mountain Road. Parcel C of "West Mountain Farm," Sketch Map 2, has been omitted because it has been developed.

"West Mountain Farm," 233 West Mountain Road

The house at "West Mountain Farm" was built in 1914 by John H. Lynch, to the design of an unknown architect, in the Colonial Revival style. It was purchased in 1962 by Congregation de Notre Dame. The house is a long, thin building, only one room deep in most places, with a central section and two flanking canted wings, the whole forming the shape of a crescent 160 feet long. The first story is stone to the eaves of the slate gambrel roof which are at first-story level. Each of the three sections of the house has a gambrel cross gable with Palladian window flanked by dormers. The gable ends are covered with shingles stained green. The second floor is lighted by dormers in the lower slope of the gambrel.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet Surveys

Item number 6

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Page 1

Ridgefield Architectural Resources Survey

1979

x local

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

State Register of Historic Places

1983

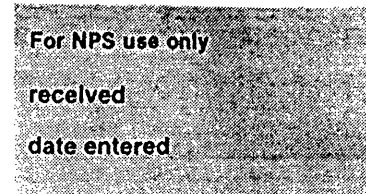
x state

Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford

Connecticut

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet Location, Owners, Item number 2, 4, 7

Page 2

Oreneca Road - Continued

(B12008) Vacant land, 26 acres.
Horblitt, Harrison D.
50 Oreneca Road

(B12009) Vacant land. 1 acre.
Randolph, Sarah B. F.
c/o J. W. Seligman Co.
1 Bankers Trust Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10036

50 1932. "Oreneca." J. Robertson Ward. 2½-
Horblitt, Harrison D. story, Georgian Revival, stone, gable-roofed,
and Jean M. (slate), 44 x 150-foot house. Smaller house.
Garage. 12 acres.

Oscaleta Road

(B13017) Vacant land. 2.5 acres.
Alkiewicz, Andrezej W.
211 West Mountain Road

Rippowam Road

155 c. 1892/1903. "Rippowam." Jonathan Bulkley
House. 3-story, Shingle Style/Georgian
Randolph, Sarah B. F. Revival house with dormers and recessed
c/o J. W. Seligman Co. porch. Cottage, barn and other outbuildings.
1 Bankers Trust Plaza 55 acres.
New York, N. Y. 10036

West Mountain Road

(C13004) Vacant land. This is Parcel D of the Lynch
Town of Ridgefield estate. See Sketch Map .2.
400 Main Street

153 c. 1895. 2½-story, Colonial Revival, brick,
Neligan, Patrick & gable-roofed house of two canted wings 89
Veronica C. feet and 68 feet long, with Corinthian porch.
Farm buildings. 88 acres.

185 NC 1968. 1-story, contemporary, frame, flat-
Melk, Suzanna roofed, 8-room house, with vertical siding.
2 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT
Continuation sheet Location, Owners, Inven-Item number 2, 4, 7

Page 3

tory

West Mountain Road - Continued

- 206 Wittman, Emeline Lynch c. 1730. 1½-story, Colonial, steeply-pitched gable-roofed house, covered with shingles, with additions. Was the farmer's house on 19.5 acres.
- 211 Alkiewicz, Andrezej W. NC 1939. 2½-story, Colonial Revival, gable-roofed, brick house with slate roof. 28 acres.
- 223 Congregation de Notre Dame 1914. "West Mountain Farm" 2½-story, Colonial Revival, stone-and-shingled, gambrel-roofed, long, thin house of 77-foot central section flanked by 84-foot wings. Slate roof. 1963 masonry addition. 51 acres.
- c. 1914. Frame cottage patterned after main house.
- NC 1968. 1-story, masonry school.
- 253 Weinberg, Marian K. c. 1920. 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, gable-roofed (slate), 14-room, L-shaped house, covered with stucco. 13 acres.
- 257 Vallez, Pierce L. & Eliza P. c. 1930. 2-story, vernacular, frame, gable and hipped roof (slate), 22x72-foot house, covered with stucco. Converted from a carriage house. 2 acres.
- 267 MacManus, Frank A. & Geraldine B. c. 1920. 1½-story, frame, vernacular, gable-roofed (slate), 10-room house with wood shingled siding. Converted from a laboratory. 3 acres.
- (B12012) Horblitt, Harrison D. 50 Oreneca Road Vacant land. 11 acres.
- 424 Bulkley, Mary Boyd c/o J. W. Seligman & Co. 1 Bankers Trust Plaza New York, NY 10006 1927. James Gamble Rogers. 2½-story, Colonial Revival, frame, gable-roofed (slate), 5-bay, house with wings to left and right. Cottage and barn. 61 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet Description

Item number

7

Page

1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

In the central section the dormers are gambrel-roofed and in the flanking sections gable-roofed. The same arrangement of gables and dormers appears on the rear elevation as on the front. In the windows the upper sash have many small panes and the lower sash a single pane. There are brownstone sills, and bronze panels with raised sunburst pattern over the first-floor windows that flank the central entrance. The front entrance is formed by a projecting, 1-story portico that has stone piers at its corners and wooden columns between the piers to support a cornice with balustrade. Central, double, glazed front doors under semi-elliptical fanlight are flanked by paired windows under fanlights. The arches of this fenestration echo the central arch of the Palladian window in the second floor and the round arch of the attic window. (Photograph 1) The volume and plasticity of the roof and the use of shingles to cover the gable ends reflect influence from the Shingle Style.

Interior detail continues the Colonial Revival theme. A gracious stairway rises against one wall of the hall to a landing over the front door and below the Palladian window before returning against the other wall to the second floor. A reception room with beamed ceiling and the dining room are located to the right of the central hall. Fluted pilasters flank the doorways of these rooms and the dining room fireplace and the rooms have cornices supported by modillions.

The living room, now used as a chapel, is to the left of the front hall. It is a large room with paneled dado, pilasters, and coved ceiling. The capitals of the pilasters are formed by an egg-and-dart molding. The coved ceiling is lighted indirectly from light sources, original equipment, that are placed inconspicuously over the cornices at the foot of the cove.

The classically detailed millwork, of good quality, is an important component of the interior. The staircase, pilasters, paneling and cornice moldings are painted an off white, as are the plastered walls and ceilings.

A long, enclosed porch runs along the back of the central section of the house. (Photograph 2) It enjoys a view of perhaps 30 miles to the southwest down West Mountain into Westchester County.

In 1963 Congregation de Notre Dame built a substantial masonry addition to the house, to the southeast, as a noviate. (Photograph 3) In 1968 the congregation built a 1-story, day, grade school, now no longer used. Other outbuildings on the remaining 50 acres of the property include a pool house, garage, caretaker's house and a barn. The caretaker's house has gambrel roof, cross gambrel roof and Palladian window. After the main house, and behind it is a whimsical, smaller structure, about the size of a play house, again repeating the same architectural features. The barn has a gabled roof with eaves returns, cupola, a semi-elliptical window in the gable end and shingled siding, in the Colonial Revival style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7

Page

2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

The complex of farm buildings, essential to the Lynch estate as a working farm, is located across the road at 217 Old West Mountain Road. (Sketch Map 3) The principal structure is 25 x 226 feet, running east/west with two 25 x 56-foot wings to the south, mostly one story high and built of stone. The hay barn, the tallest part of the building, is at the west end. (Photograph 4) It is notable for its uninterrupted interior space, made possible by a free-standing roof support system near the walls.² (Photograph 5) The balance of the building, now a residence, housed horses, cows, sheep, chickens and related storage areas. A small frame structure to the north was used for re-cycling animal wastes. Wastes were brought to it by an overhead monorail system for dumping. Liquids were drained off and solids aged into fertilizer. (Photograph 6)

A small, frame structure near Old West Mountain Road was the herdsman's cottage. Other Mountain Farm buildings included the farmer's house at 206 West Mountain Road. This structure, originally a 1½-story house with steeply pitched gable roof, is thought locally to date from ca. 1730. It has been altered and added onto.

"Oreneca,"³ 50 Oreneca Road

The site for the house of the 65-acre estate, "Oreneca," is the top of a ridge between Oreneca Road and Round Pond. The drive curves upward from the road through wide wrought-iron gates to the stone, 3-story, 45 x 150-foot house, built to the design of J. Robertson Ward (b. 1900). From the back of the house the change in elevation affords a fine, unencumbered view down to the pond and its surrounding woodlands. The house was built of locally-quarried stone and extensively trimmed with limestone imported from Caen, France.⁴ The construction is reinforced concrete, with roof framing of steel beams. The front south elevation has a central, 2-story, pedimented portico supported by four colossal, Ionic columns on a high base that is the porch floor. On either side are three bays of shuttered 6-over-6 windows leading to end pavilions that are slightly recessed. At the second floor of the end pavilions is a Palladian window with wrought-iron balcony over a tripartite window at the first floor. This 2-story window treatment is repeated three times on the west end elevation. (Photograph 7) There is a service wing at the east end, while the north elevation, toward the lake, is similar to the facade.

The roof cornice is coved, with acanthus leaf decoration. The molded cornice is the front of the gutter, the whole being of Caen stone. The hipped roof is covered with slate that diminishes in size toward the ridge line. There are several tall, rectangular, stone chimneys, with chimney pots.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, Ct.

Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	Page
		7	3

For NPS use only
received
date entered

The front door opens to a large central hall that is paved with black and white marble in a checkerboard pattern. A wide stairway ascends at low pitch against the left wall to a landing in front of a Palladian window, and then returns on the right to the second floor. The Palladian window is set in a shallow recess that has a three-centered arch. Each tread of the stairs has spindles of three different profiles. At both the first and second floors the cornice in the hall is coved with acanthus leaves, repeating the motif of the exterior roof line cornice. The walls of the hall are covered with raised, wooden paneling, as are the walls of all principal first-floor rooms. (Photograph 8)

The living room, to the left, is a large room occupying the full depth of the house. The fireplace on its west wall has a classical marble mantel. Its engaged, fluted, Ionic columns, with entasis, support an embellished frieze and shelf that breaks out over the pilasters. The moldings of the living room wall panels are gilt. (Photograph 9) Beyond the living room is a sun room, in the end pavilion pictured in Photograph 7. Its floor is marble.

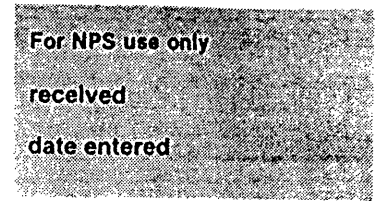
To the right of the central hall are the library, in front, and the dining room at the back. The dominant feature of the library is its elaborate, carved woodwork of deal to drawings by the architect. The north doorway (toward the dining room), for example, is flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters (each with a single volute) that support an embellished pulvinated frieze, dentil course, and broken, segmental pediment with central cartouche. (Photograph 10) The panelling of the dining room is Adamesque with nearly flat but semi-elliptical pilasters and elliptical and triangular recessed panels in the friezes over the doors and under the ceiling cornice. A lateral hall runs between the library and the dining room from the front hall to the kitchen; its walls are paneled and its ceiling is vaulted. There is a small elevator at the east end of the lateral hall; it is paneled in natural wood, like the library.

At the east end of the library, one large paneled section of the wall is false, being in fact a door, leading to the breakfast room. The breakfast room has a corner cupboard with butterfly shelves. Near the breakfast room is a flower room, or potting room,⁵ with its own exterior door. The floor is blue and white tile, the cupboards are blue and white, and there are blue flowers in the frieze of the white tiled wall. The serving pantry and kitchen have blue and white floors and walls tiled to the ceiling. Equipment is original, including refrigerator, marble-topped table, and gas range. (Photograph 11.) The cupboards, blue and white with glazing, and shelving are original.

In the second-floor hall at the top of the front stairs, the doorways are round headed, in contrast to the rectilinear treatment on the first floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT.
Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 4

Several bedrooms have fireplaces, their mantels displaying classical detail. Bathrooms on this floor have hardware fixtures that are either gold-plated or silver-plated.

The house is in its original condition, unaltered throughout, with original equipment. The interior has never been painted.

There is a second, smaller house on the "Oreneca" grounds, in the front, near the road. It is a 2½-story, Georgian Revival, stone, gable-roofed, 5-bay, central doorway structure of ten rooms. (Photograph 12)

Neligan Estate, 153 West Mountain Road

The Neligan estate, of 88 acres, offers, on the one hand, an element of integrity, in that its extensive group of farm buildings are still under common ownership with the main house, while, on the other hand, the house itself, large and imposing has undergone alterations difficult to understand.

The farm buildings are clustered close to West Mountain Road. (See Sketch Map 4.) Sited next to them is an early-19th-century school house, a residence since 1969. It is a 1-story, vernacular, frame, gable-roofed structure that in 1849 had 48 pupils drawn from the West Mountain area.⁶

Beyond the schoolhouse are the garage/greenhouse, horse barn, chicken coop, and kennels, the last two now vacant. These frame buildings are of substantial size, the greenhouse 66 feet long and the chicken coop 90 feet long and two stories high. The horse barn is a 2½-story, gable-roofed structure with its hay door in a projecting gable. Above the hay door is a round arch with its tympanum divided into two quarter-round windows. (Photograph 13) Behind the barn is an animal waste recycling building quite similar to the one found on "Mountain Farm" but in a deteriorated condition.

The main house is further along the drive to the southwest. It consists of two principal wings, canted at an angle of 140 degrees, with different ridge line heights. According to local knowledge, the house and the farm buildings were built at the same time, c. 1895, but the house was substantially altered and renovated, c. 1940. Its original appearance is uncertain. At present the dominant architectural feature of the house is a 2-story rectangular portico along the front of the west wing. Its roof is supported by a cluster of three Corinthian columns at each corner with two single columns between them. Above the entablature there is a balustrade of alternate sections of balusters and parapet. The porch is at the left side of the front elevation of the west wing and the front door is at the left end of the porch. The doorway enframingent is Colonial Revival in style. The paneled door and side lights are framed by four attached Ionic columns that support a full entablature, half-round fanlight and gabled pediment. (Photograph 14)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 5

For NPS use only

received

date entered

The east wing has a slightly lower ridge line than the west wing. The front elevation of the east wing has a projecting chimney whose tall top section is clustered in the manner of the Jacobean style. Yet the windows flanking it have broken pediments, of brick. According to one local account, the exterior of the house was faced with new brick in the renovations, c. 1940, perhaps after a fire; the mixture of stylistic elements may have been introduced at that time.

A broad lawn slopes down at the rear of the house toward a magnificent view to the southwest of lakes and woodlands on into New York State.

James Gamble Rogers House

In the southwest corner of the district, at 424 West Mountain Road, stands a 1927 Colonial Revival, frame house designed by James Gamble Rogers (1867-1947),⁷ consisting of a 31 x 45-foot central block with flanking wings. (Photograph 15.) The main block has five bays and central doorway under a gable roof that is covered with slate. To the right is a 25 x 42-foot service wing while a one-story wing was added to the left in 1948, to provide a first floor bedroom.⁸ A central hall runs through the house with doorway on the back with leaded fanlight and sidelights similar to the front doorway. (Photograph 16.) The rear doorway opens on to a terrace positioned to take advantage of the long view to the southwest.

The classical detailing of the interior is extensive and elegant. The central hall, living room to the left and dining room to the right, have molded cornices with two-tiered dentil courses. In the living room and dining room the fireplaces have surrounds and hearths of green marble. Semi-circular panels surmount the doorways connecting these rooms.⁹ In the dining room the round-headed windows have interlacing muntins. The window to the left of the fireplace is also a door; the upper glazed section slides upward into a pocket while the halves of the divided panel below are hinged. (Photograph 17.) The corners of the other end of the dining room each has a built-in cupboard with shell at the top and butterfly shelves. In the hall a stairway with ramped handrail rises to a landing before the front Palladian window and then returns to the second floor. On the second floor the doors are round headed; one is 3½ feet wide. More fireplaces are found in the bedrooms.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7

Page

6

For NPS use only

received

date entered

"Rippowam"

The house furthest west in the district, almost to the New York State line, is the 3-story, frame structure at 177 Rippowam Road, c. 1895, acquired by the Bulkley family soon after the turn of the century. (Photograph 18) A generation later, a son purchased the James Gamble Rogers House next door while a daughter continued living in the first structure.

The plastic quality of the enveloping roof, the bands of windows and the weathered shingles of the siding of the Bulkley House all reflect the influence of the Shingle Style. The house is as good an example of the Shingle Style as can be found in Ridgefield. On the other hand, its recessed porch with Ionic columns in antis, doorway with side lights and fanlight and hipped roof dormers are in step with the currently fashionable Colonial Revival.

The house has been altered; a ballroom and wing have been removed. The property, in several parcels, approximates 160 acres in Ridgefield, now the largest estate in the district.¹¹

Other Properties

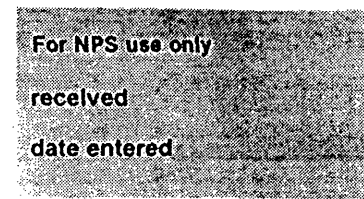
The 21-room house at 162 Old West Mountain Road is an example of a different version of the Colonial Revival as its tile roof is hipped and the sides are covered with stucco. Stucco and tile were not unusual building materials in the first decades of the 20th century. The house at 180 Old West Mountain Road, originally on the same property, is a smaller version of the larger house. 253 West Mountain Road, another large, frame Colonial Revival house has undergone alterations, as have the houses at 257 and 267 West Mountain Road, which originally were out-buildings for 253 West Mountain Road.¹⁰ (Photograph 19)

¹. Congregation de Notre Dame was founded in Montreal in 1698, the first such group to be formed in North America. The Ridgefield facility is the Congregation's headquarters for administration in the United States.

². This type of barn is known as a James Way barn. There are perhaps three or four others in Ridgefield. A similar free-standing interior roof support scheme was used in England in the Arts and Crafts movement. See Mary Comino, Gimson and the Barnsleys, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company 1982, p. 143, fig. 111.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT
Continuation sheet Description Item number

7

Page

7

3. Oreneca was the name of an Indian who sold land to early Ridgefield settlers.

4. Caen stone is soft when quarried, permitting sharp carving, and hardens with exposure.

5. Flower gardens were planted in front of the house. They have not been maintained for some years.

6. Date on the school is taken from the Ridgefield Architectural Resources Survey. The school is now part of the Neligan property.

7. Copies of the signed drawings are in possession of the owner.

8. Architect for the new wing was Ellery Husted.

9. Wall paneling was removed from the living room in 1948.

10. See RLR 112/773 and maps (on file with Town Clerk) 1074, 1089, 1344. This property was the country estate of William Bunker of New York. 257 West Mountain Road was a garage and dwelling; 267 West Mountain Road was a laboratory.

11. The land for "Rippowam" was assembled in a series of transactions (see RLR 38/373-376) in 1891 by Thomas Hoe Mead, of the Hoe printing press manufacturing family, who presumably built the house. His estate sold the property to Irving T. Bush, proprietor of the Bush Terminal Co. in Brooklyn (125 warehouses on 200 acres with 8 piers). Conjecture suggests an acquaintanship between Bush and John H. Lynch of "West Mountain Farm" who was in the terminal and warehouse business in Manhattan. "Rippowam" consisted of 486 acres (see map at RLR 38/377) about half of it in New York State (not included in the district). Bush sold to Jonathan Bulkley (1857-1939), a paper merchant of New York City, in 1903 (see RLR 38/474) who was responsible for the present appearance of the house. The property has remained in the Bulkley family since 1903.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates See Item 7 **Builder/Architect** See Item 7

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C (Architecture)

The buildings of the West Mountain Historic District provide a record in architecture from the early part of the 20th century of gracious living in a rural setting. In style the fine mansions, constructed of the best of materials, are Colonial and Georgian Revival, with a suggestion of Shingle Style influence. The associated outbuildings give a sense of farm life on these gentlemen's working farms that were established on the slopes of Ridgefield's West Mountain to take advantage of the magnificent views to the southwest.

Discussion

The easy accessibility of Ridgefield from New York City combined with the attractive landscape of West Mountain probably explains why the area became the location for gentlemen's farms. Once established, it grew by reputation and by one friend telling another. The Lynch family of "West Mountain Farm," for example, was introduced to the area by their friends the Doubledays of the publishing house. John Hampton Lynch (1859–1929) operated the Terminal Warehouse Company in New York whose property adjoined Pennsylvania Station.

In another case of personal relationship, a son in the Bulkley family purchased the house designed by James Gamble Rogers at 424 West Mountain Road in order to be next door to his family's estate on Rippowam Road. The houses in the district were the key structures around which revolved the rural life, the growing of crops on the farm acreage, and the relationships of friends and families. In combination, these components created a life style, now far less prevalent than it was, for which the Colonial and Georgian Revival mansions are now the chief artifacts.

The last of the big houses to be built in the district, "Oreneca," was the home of a prominent business executive, Philip Dakin Wagoner (1876–1972). An 1896 graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, Wagoner began his career with the General Electric Company. By 1910 he was president of General Vehicle Co., a General Electric subsidiary that produced airplane engines for Great Britain in World War I. After the war he became president of Elliott-Fisher Co. and in 1927 he reorganized the company and its subsidiaries, including the Underwood Typewriter Company and the Sundstrand Corporation, into Underwood-Elliott-Fisher, later the Underwood Corporation. Mr. Wagoner was chairman of the board.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Comino, Mary, Gimson and the Barnsleys, New York: Von Norstrand Reinhold Co., 1982

Wagoner, Philip D., obituary, New York Times, November 26, 1962, 29:2.

Who was Who in America, v. iv, Chicago: Marquis-Who's Who, Inc. 1968

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 425

Quadrangle name Peach Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References See continuation sheet.

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification The district boundary is shown by the dotted line on the accompanying map drawn at scale of 1" = 1000'. For boundary justification, see Item 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant - edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Comm. date July 15, 1983

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone (203) 566-3005

city or town Hartford, state Connecticut

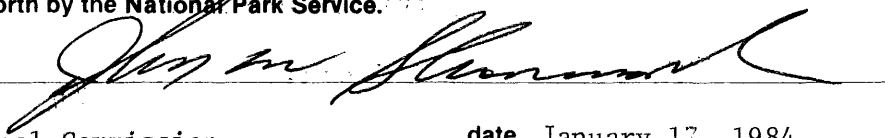
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

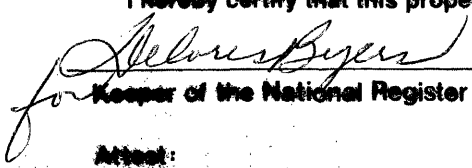


title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date January 17, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/23/84

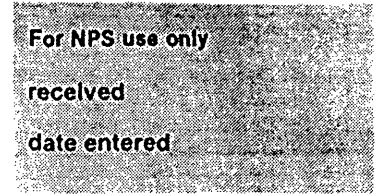
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 1

In building the houses, cost was not a major concern. Professional architects and the best of materials were used, in the case of "Oreneca" to the extent of importing Caen stone for extensive use as trim. "Oreneca" and "West Mountain Farm" had the advantage of being cohesive units planned at one time. The Neligan House, on the other hand, has experienced at least two major building campaigns. The alterations and improvements carried out c. 1940 certainly had the benefit of a large budget, witness the Corinthian portico, but the house does not have the unity of the other two. Instead, it shows the development of an older house when its owners sought to bring it up to date with current fashion. The house designed by Rogers shows a later addition sensitively done.

The houses demonstrate unanimity in perception of what the current fashion was -- Colonial and Georgian Revival. The persistence of the popularity of this idiom from the turn of the century to World War II is clearly demonstrated. Classical columns, entablatures, pediments and Palladian windows in balanced, symmetrical plan and mass, were the order of the day for both exterior and interior. The front halls of "Oreneca" and "West Mountain Farm," built 15 years apart, use the same design of stairs rising against one wall to a landing under a Palladian window and then returning against the opposite wall to the second floor, with ample use of panels, pilasters and cornices.

James Gamble Rogers used a similar basic design for the house that he designed in the district. The relatively simple exterior of this house belies the exquisite classical detailing of the interior. Rogers worked in the same idiomatic program as the others, but perhaps with greater success in scale and detail. It is interesting to note that in both his house and "Oreneca" the doors of the second floor hall are round-headed, and one is extra wide, 3½ feet.

"Oreneca" is especially valuable for study of its type because it is in original condition. Six months after the Wagoners moved in, they decided, for reasons not recorded, not to live in the house, and moved out. Several years later they built the smaller house close to the road and lived there until Mr. Wagoner died in 1962, all the time meticulously maintaining the empty, large house. The present owners acquired the property in the mid-1960s and have been equally meticulous in refraining from making any changes of any kind. Consequently, "Oreneca" presents the rare circumstance of a house in precisely the condition of a just completed 1932 house.¹ The absence of any deterioration is also a striking testimonial to the capability of the building contractor.

The Lynch farm buildings, now well maintained through adaptive use, and the Neligan farm buildings, now deteriorating through lack of use, accurately suggest the intensive agricultural activity that made the estates working farms. The farm buildings are useful in portraying a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT
Continuation sheet

Significance Item number

8

Page

2

chapter in Ridgefield's history that once was important to the town. The early-19th-century schoolhouse on the Neligan property is a reminder of the community that existed on West Mountain before the estate houses were built.

With the exception of James Gamble Rogers, little is known, unfortunately, about the architects. Rogers was one of the great practitioners of the first part of the 20th century. In Connecticut he is known for the Federal Courthouse and Post Office (1913) and the Harkness Memorial Quadrangle, including Sterling Memorial Library (1927), in New Haven, and in Hartford for buildings for Aetna Insurance Co. (1924-26) and Aetna Life and Casualty Co. (1929-31). Little is known of J. Robertson Ward, the architect of "Oreneca,"² while the identities of the architects for "Mountain Farm" and other houses in the district have not yet come to light.

¹. Drawings for "Oreneca" and photographs taken from time to time during construction are in the possession of the owners.

². J. Robertson Ward is thought to be living in England, although a letter of inquiry dispatched through the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects brought no response.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

West Mountain Historic District, Ridgefield, CT
Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10

Page 1

UTM References

A 18/623530/4572900	S1 18/622690/4572670
B 18/623270/4572740	T1 18/622740/4572680
C 18/623120/4572710	U1 18/622930/4572970
D 18/623120/4572650	V1 18/622780/4573100
E 18/622940/4572620	W1 18/622900/4573240
F 18/622960/4572420	X1 18/623040/4573130
G 18/623040/4572440	Y1 18/623000/4573060
H 18/623080/4572400	Z1 18/623070/4573010
I 18/623100/4572300	A2 18/623260/4572960
J 18/623130/4572300	B2 18/623460/4573030
K 18/623140/4571800	
L 18/623050/4571780	
M 18/622960/4571810	
N 18/622520/4571600	
O 18/622150/4572120	
P 18/622040/4572310	
Q 18/621900/4572340	
R 18/621960/4572370	
S 18/621940/4572400	
T 18/621840/4572430	
U 18/621640/4572450	
V 18/621600/4572510	
W 18/621640/4572610	
X 18/621520/4572640	
Y 18/621440/4572600	
Z 18/621280/4572600	
A1 18/621380/4573680	
B1 18/621740/4573460	
C1 18/621780/4573460	
D1 18/621800/4573650	
E1 18/621940/4573640	
F1 18/621860/4573950	
G1 18/622100/4574100	
H1 18/622100/4574290	
I1 18/622420/4573780	
J1 18/622560/4573900	
K1 18/622600/4573870	
L1 18/622470/4573700	
M1 18/622590/4573520	
N1 18/622320/4573360	
O1 18/622280/4573120	
P1 18/622400/4573030	
Q1 18/622480/4573060	
R1 18/622520/4572780	

West Mountain Historic District
Ridgefield, CT

Sketch Map 1

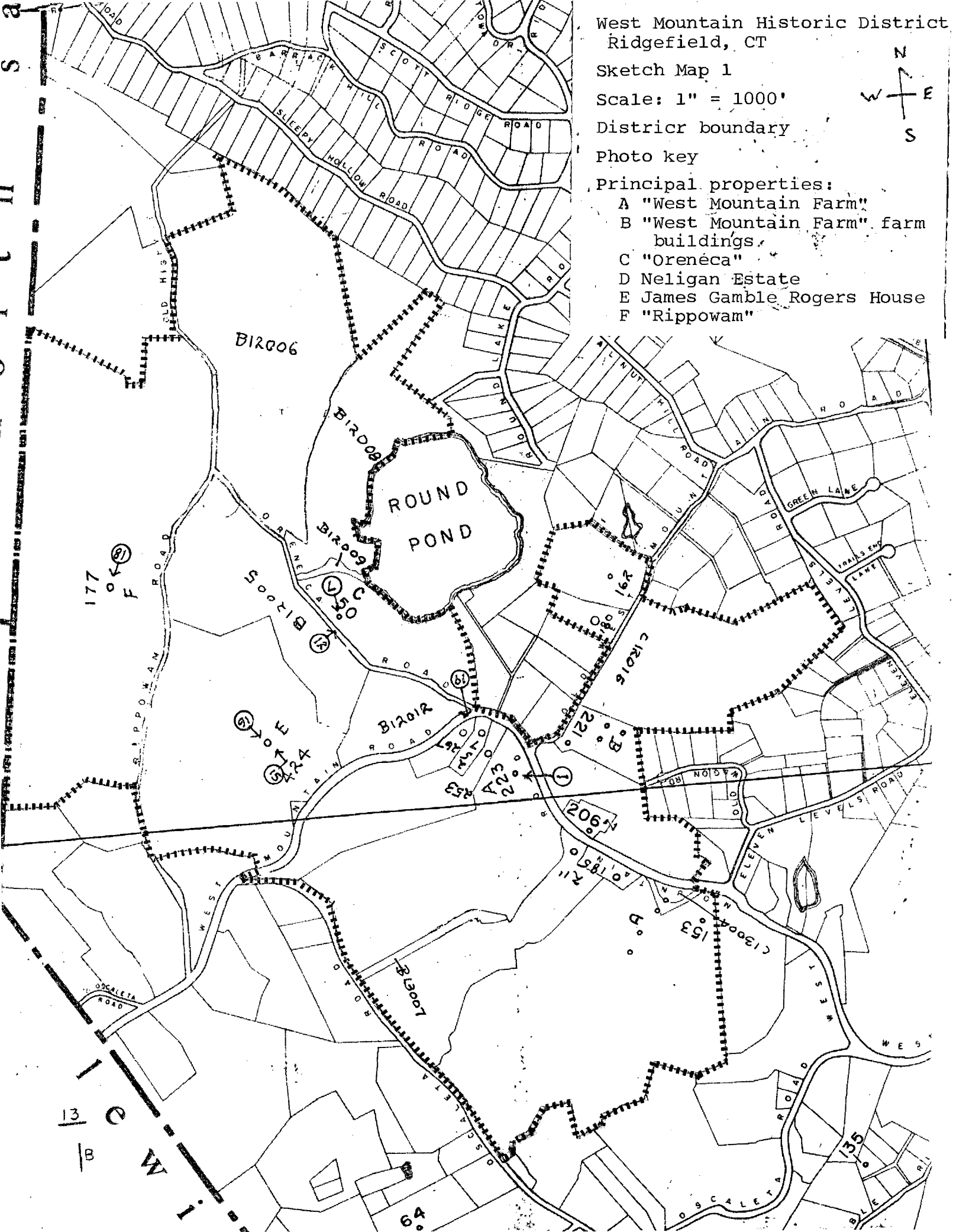
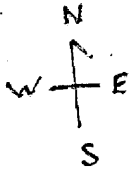
Scale: 1" = 1000'

District boundary

Photo key

Principal properties:

- A "West Mountain Farm"
- B "West Mountain Farm" farm buildings
- C "Oreneca"
- D Neligan Estate
- E James Gamble Rogers House
- F "Rippowam"



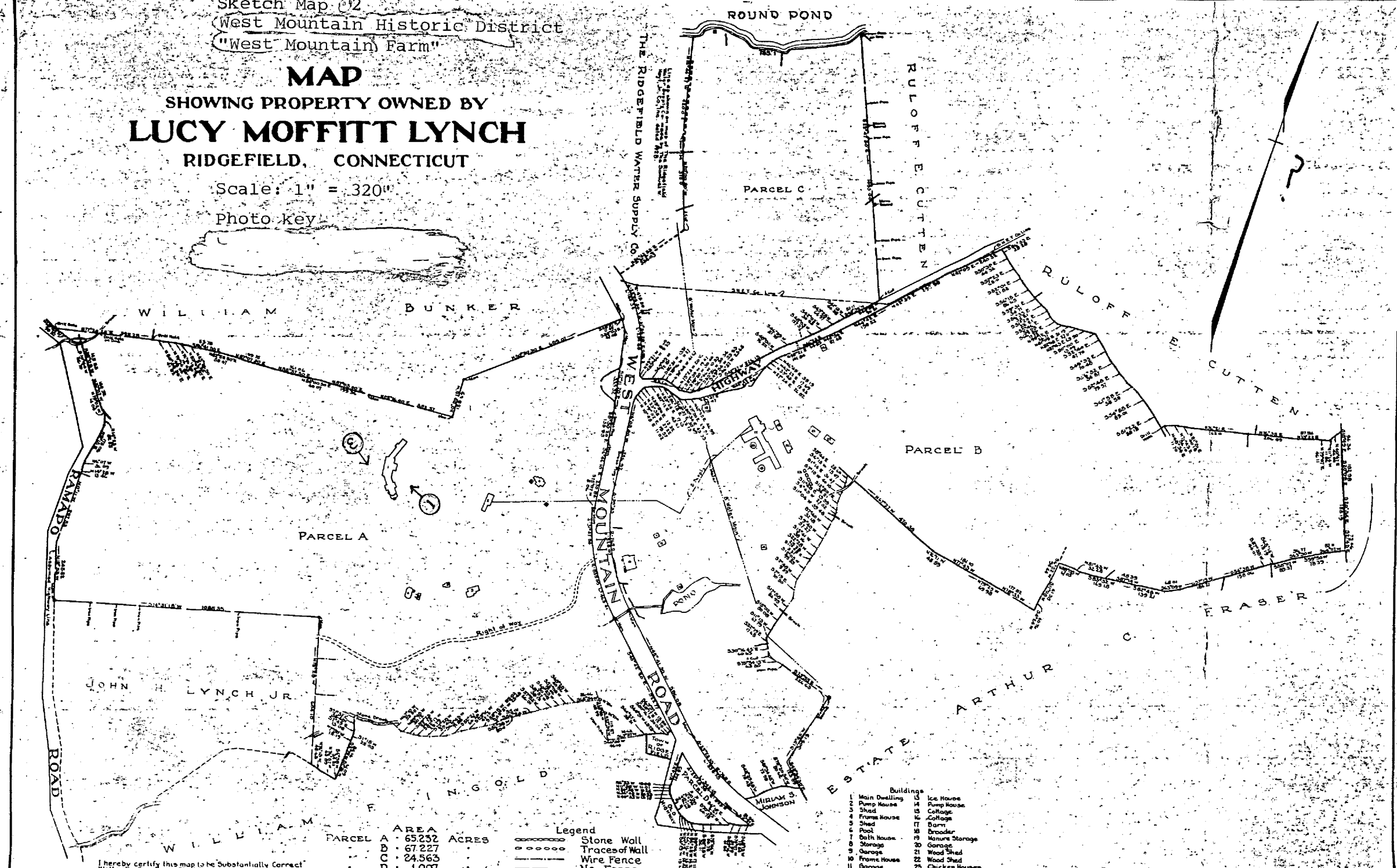
Sketch Map 02
West Mountain Historic District
"West Mountain Farm"

MAP

SHOWING PROPERTY OWNED BY
LUCY MOFFITT LYNCH
RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Scale: 1" = 320'

Photo-key



Parcel	Area	Acres
A	65.232	
B	67.227	
C	24.563	
D	1.007	
TOTAL	158.029	

Legend

	Stone Wall
	Traces of Wall
	Wire Fence
	No Fence
	CHD Highway Line

Buildings

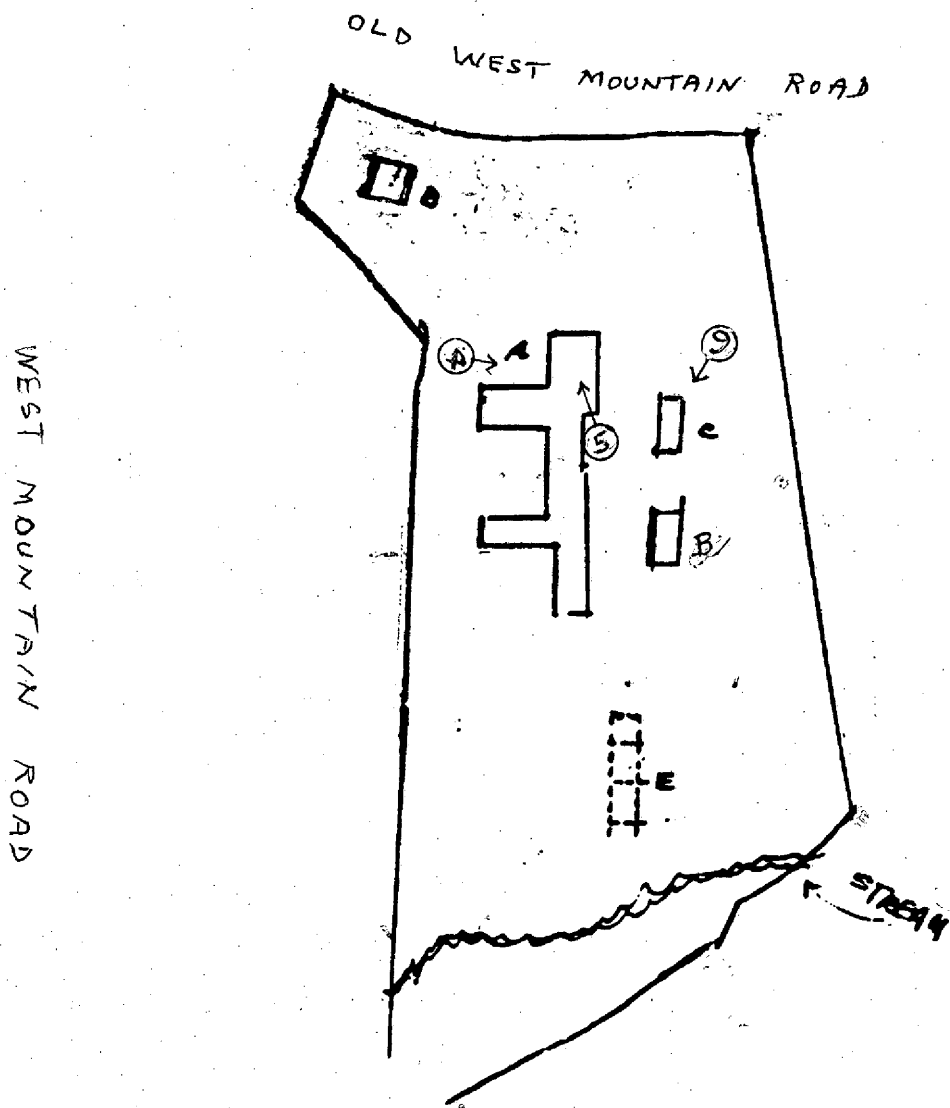
1	Main Dwelling	13	Ice House
2	Pump House	14	Pump House
3	Shed	15	Cottage
4	Frame House	16	Cottage
5	Shed	17	Barn
6	Pool	18	Brooder
7	Bath House	19	Manure Storage
8	Garage	20	Garage
9	Garage	21	Wood Shed
10	Frame House	22	Wood Shed
11	Garage	23	Chicken Houses
12	Storage	24	Brooder
		25	Cabin

I hereby certify this map to be Substantially Correct
Walter A. Goodhue, Civil Engineer
New Canaan, Conn. July 14, 1937

SCALE 160'-1"

Key to buildings:

- A Stable/barn complex, now a residence
- B Herdsman's cottage
- C Waste recycling building
- D Cart barn
- E Stone terrace descending toward brook, formerly location of pig sty

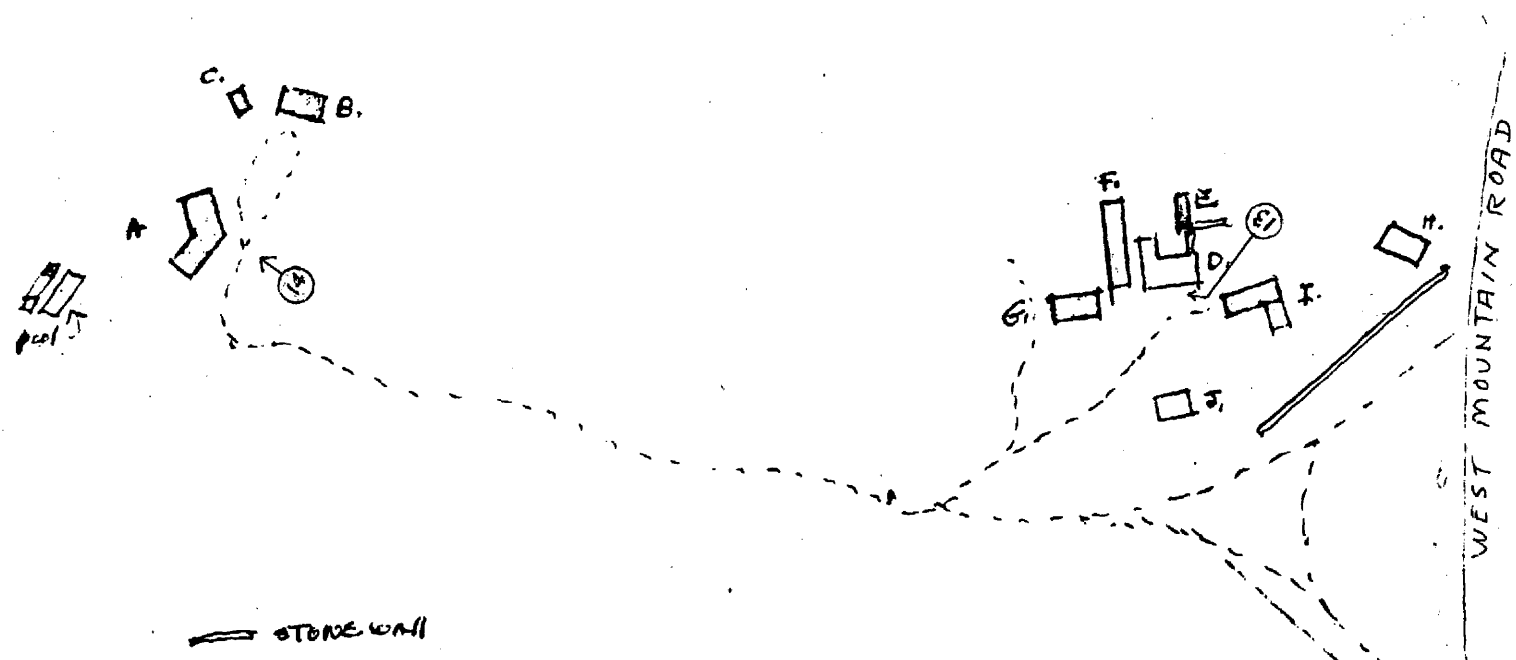


West Mountain Historic District
Ridgefield, CT

Sketch Map 3

"West Mountain Farm"
Farm Buildings

Photo key



KEY TO BUILDINGS ON THE NELIGAN PROPERTY:

- A. Residence
- B. Barn, now a garage
- C. Small pony barn, now a store room
- D. Horse barn, etc.
- E. Manure processing house (unused, deteriorating seriously)
- F. Chicken coop (now unused)
- G. Dog kennels
- H. Old school house for west mountain area, now a residence
- I. Garage & greenhouse
- J. Prefab house (rented)

West Mountain Historic
 District
 Ridgefield, CT

Sketch Map 4

Photo key

