

PH0090158

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 11 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 8 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC French Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*W. of Greenwich St.*  
*N.W. of Jct. of Lake and Round Hill Rds.*  
Lake Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Greenwich VICINITY

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4th - Stewart B. McKinney

STATE  
Connecticut

CODE  
09

COUNTY  
Fairfield

CODE  
001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME David R.A., John R., Frederick Wierdsma, Nathan R. Allen, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER  
205 East 78th Street (David R.A. Wierdsma)

CITY, TOWN  
New York

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New York

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER  
Greenwich Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Greenwich

STATE  
Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE  
1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Hartford

STATE  
Connecticut

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The group of buildings known as French Farm is located in the Town of Greenwich at the north side of the intersection formed by the junction of Round Hill Road on the west and Lake Road on the east. The 35 acre property, which slopes downward from east to west, consists of both open and wooded acreage.

The main structure, a large manor house [1906], is approached from the east by a long, winding tree-lined drive. This house is of frame construction sided in clapboard with a medium pitched roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Most impressive is the two story columned portico crowned by a pediment. The wings of the house extend on both sides to cover approximately 160 feet.

A country cottage [1911] is located to the northeast of the main house. It is a one-and-a-half story stuccoed house with a bellcast gable roof. The gabled dormers on the east [main] roof flank contain "gothic tracery" muntins in round-headed windows. The long, low roof profile suggests an eclecticism influenced by the building traditions found in warmer climates.

To the east of the cottage is a single building used as a garage and apartment [1911]. This simple two-story structure has long shed dormers in the east and west roof flanks. A greenhouse extends from the south wall, its ridgeline parallel to that of the stucco section.

North and east of the garage-apartment is a barn and silo [1915], the scale of which is rather diminutive in relation to barns and silos on a typical farm. The exterior walls of the barn are coated in stucco of white cement. The silo is made of white-painted sheet metal encircled by steel cable bands, and its conical roof of standing seam metal construction is topped by a conical ventilator cap. The windows are casement, divided into small panes.

A chicken coop, north of the barn and silo, is faced in white-painted cement stucco. The coop is a small low building, stark and functional, with casement windows. It provides a fitting termination to the farm complex of many buildings which is given unity by a uniformly diminutive scale and a common facade treatment of white cement stucco.

A carriage house and stable were destroyed by fire in 1917.

Behind the cottage is a large vegetable and flower garden. About ten apple trees planted in somewhat random fashion west of the garden do not constitute an orchard, but they continue the rural character which is so obvious in the architecture.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 1906-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Van Buren Magonigle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

French Farm reflects a lifestyle and social ideal of the early 20th Century upper class in southwestern Connecticut. The 35 acre pastoral retreat provided for the owners a haven from the fast pace of urban life in New York City, although the farm was still located close enough to allow easy travel to the metropolis. The main house was built in 1906 by the architect Henry Van Buren Magonigle for H.W. Lanier. The farm buildings on the estate were also designed by Henry Van Buren Magonigle at the request of Mr. and Mrs. John French, who bought the property from Lanier in 1907. The property is an example of the successful marriage of landscape design and architecture which Frederick Law Olmstead espoused as an ideal in the late 19th Century.

Magonigle's early training with Calvert Vaux (once a partner of Olmstead) is expressed in the magnificent landscaping along the drive and surrounding the manor house. The landscaping around the farm buildings, however, is simpler and more country-like.

The fruits of Magonigle's formal training in the firm of McKim, Mead and White are realized in his solid stately farm buildings, which form a compact well-proportioned group. Together, the property and farm buildings form a harmonious farmscape which impresses the viewer with its deliberately relaxing rural atmosphere.

Originally situated in a rather rural area, French Farm is now surrounded by the expanding suburban town of Greenwich. Due to the preservation of its original plan, however, French Farm has retained its pastoral aspect, a rare find in southwestern Connecticut today.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot, Sketches and Architectural Drawings in the H. Van Buren Magonigle Collection, unpublished typescript, 1939, Avery Library, Columbia University  
 Sullivan, Francis P., "A Conscientious Artist," Pencil Points, 1935, pp. 521 - 522.  
 Eric Arthur [Toronto] to David R.A. Wierdsma [New York], Dec. 10, 1973.  
 Site plan, property of Mrs. J. French, office of H.V.B. Magonigle, 1912.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 35  
 UTM REFERENCES

*UTM OK*

A	18	614460	4544505	B	18	614455	4544885
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	614105	4544885	D	18	614110	4545505
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine B. Brockmeyer, consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

January 20, 1975

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*John W. Sturges*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/20/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>A. P. [Signature]</i>	DATE 4/3/75
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE APR 2 1975
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	