DRAFT

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Waccabuc Historic District
   Other names/site number: ________________________________
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: Mead Street and portions of Post Office Road, Tarry-A-Bit Drive, and Chapel Road.
   City or town: Lewisboro
   State: NY
   County: Westchester
   Not For Publication: ☐
   Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.
   I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: ____________________________ Date ____________________________

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Title: ____________________________ State or Federal agency/bureau
       or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register
__ determined eligible for the National Register
__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ removed from the National Register
__ other (explain:) ____________________

____________________
Signature of the Keeper

____________________
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)
Private: __ X
Public – Local __
Public – State __
Public – Federal __

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) __
District __ X
Site __
Structure __
Object __
Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic/single dwelling/secondary structure
- Social/clubhouse
- Religion/religious facility
- Funerary/cemetery
- Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation
- Agriculture/Subsistence/agriculture outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic/single dwelling/secondary structure
- Social/clubhouse
- Religion/religious facility
- Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation
- Landscape/conservation area
7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- COLONIAL/New England Colonial
- EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
- MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
- LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic
- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
- LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: stone, brick; Walls: brick, stone, wood cladding

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a *summary paragraph* that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Waccabuc Historic District is situated in the hamlet of Waccabuc, within the Town of Lewisboro, in northern Westchester County, New York. Mead Street, a former Post Road and the main north-south artery in the district, leads directly north off of N.Y. Route 35 towards Lake Waccabuc (or Long Pond) and Waccabuc Mountain. The residential district includes portions of Post Office, Carriage House and Chapel Roads, and Tarry-A-Bit Drive. Excellent examples of minimally-altered Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts-influenced, Tudor Revival, and even Ranch style structures (in addition to a number of vernacular farm houses and some worker’s housing) are all present. In addition to residences, the district includes the Mead Cemetery, Mead Memorial Chapel, the Post Office building and the Waccabuc Country Club (formerly the Hoe Estate). There is also a variety of vernacular buildings representing the nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural history of Waccabuc. Finally, the granite block wall constructed for George Mead at the base of Waccabuc Mountain in the early twentieth century is a striking engineering feat and should be noted as a significant feature of the district. Perhaps even more distinctive than the constructed environment are the streetscapes and open spaces found throughout this district. Pastureland, meadows, forest and lakeside vistas are interwoven throughout the district in a way that is rare elsewhere in northern Westchester County. Wide setbacks, mature plantings, strict zoning laws and thoughtful placement have made the vast majority of the non-contributing properties unobtrusive to the agricultural feel of the district, particularly along Mead Street. In some cases the streetscapes are distinguishable from historic photos only due to the paved street and the presence of the overhead utility poles.
Narrative Description

Physical Description of the Area

Waccabuc is situated in northern Westchester County within the town of Lewisboro, which lies between the Croton River and the hills of North Salem and Ridgefield, Connecticut. The undulating landscape, once home to primarily agriculture and periodic forestry, rises somewhat dramatically on the north and east sides of the mile-long Lake Waccabuc, the heart of the hamlet. The historic district is composed of relatively low-density suburban residential and agricultural buildings. As agriculture is no longer an economic activity, the landscape has been transplanted by forested areas, fallow farm fields and meadows. Deep setbacks, land preserves, and hidden properties are the norm for much of the district, which helps retain some of the agricultural feel; even the golf course, with its heavily-canopied deciduous trees, contributes to the rural atmosphere. The landscape is dotted with glacial till, and previous generations of farmers moved enormous amounts of boulders and rocks from their fields into farm walls that line Mead Street as well as more carefully crafted stone retaining and decorative walls.

Architectural Overview

High style architectural examples are found throughout Waccabuc but are limited primarily to nineteenth and twentieth century styles. The only Colonial period buildings in the district are Elmdon at 49 Mead Street (Photo 16). Constructed in 1780 by Enoch Mead, the building served as the local tavern. While a later addition is attached on the east, it is sensitively scaled and styled so as not to undermine the integrity of the primary building. The second is the southern half of the farmhouse at 36 Mead Street, The Homestead, a one-and-a-half story residence built in the 1820’s.

The Federal style is represented in three buildings in the district – the Hunt Family residence at 20 Mead Street (Photo 7), the Jacob Gilbert Mead house at 68 Mead Street, and in details on the farmhouse at The Homestead, located at 36 Mead Street (NRHP-listed, NPS #1000294). The Hunt house is earlier and modest in comparison to the highly elaborate and comparatively late (1831) addition to the Mead residence with its early Classical Revival influence. While the then popular Greek Revival style is conspicuously absent from the streetscape, the Jacob Gilbert Mead house does exhibit an elaborate entablature with a frieze more akin to the Greek Revival style.

Two examples of the Gothic Revival style in the district are high style but represent two periods. Lakeview, from 1859, can be regarded as the first resort-era type house to be constructed in Waccabuc. The romantic cupola, designed to provide a view of the nearby lake (hence the name Lakeview), paired gables, and board and batten siding all are features of the period style (Figure 8). Nearby, 4 Chapel Road (Photo 31) is a very late iteration of the style, dominated by a set of paired gables with deep and elaborate verge boards. Other than these prominent character-defining features, the 1903 house known as Fairacre is clearly the product of the eclectic movement, with features that include extensive use of fieldstone, shingle siding, a continuous dormer, low-slung wrap-around porch, and diamond-pane sash.

One of the finest period houses in the district is the high-style Italianate residence at 107 Mead Street, another Jacob Gilbert Mead house (Photo 25). A textbook example of the style prominently located on the hillside, it exemplifies the increasingly larger and finer homes that became part of the Waccabuc landscape.
Waccabuc Historic District

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The Queen Anne style house at 24 Mead Street, the only example of its type in the district, features typical character defining details of the style such as a hipped-roof main block intersected by a number of lower cross-gables; fish-scale shingles; bracketed porch posts and a decorative truss (Photo 9).

One prominent feature of the Victorian era in the district is found on perhaps of the smallest building – the original portion of the post office (Photo 24, Figure 5). The massive brackets that support the overhang on the north elevation are original to the 1880 build date and define the intersection of Mead Street and Post Office Road.

The former estate of Robert Hoe III at 90 Carriage House Road, now the clubhouse at the Waccabuc Country Club, is the most eclectic by virtue of being continuously altered and added to over the last century (Photo 20). Constructed in 1879, the large building was influenced in part by the Colonial Revival; the once prominent Queen Anne spire is no longer extant (Figure 7), but period brackets on the west elevation not visible from the street remain intact.

The Colonial Revival style can be seen in numerous iterations that span six decades. The earliest is the 1895 Tarry-A-Bit (Photo 32). While a transitional style with Queen Anne roots, particularly with the prominent domed turret, the house has all the requisite features of the Colonial Revival, including wrap-around porches on both stories supported by Tuscan style columns, festooned porch rails, and a classically inspired cornice, all crowned by a prominent scroll pediment and decorative roof railing. The next iteration of the style comes in 1928, with the modest Cape Cod house at 102 Mead Street, followed by three ca. 1940 versions in the district. The latest examples are the ca. 1955 “spec” houses at 48 and, especially, 61 Mead Street (Photo 17, Figure 14).

Three examples of the Tudor Revival style are found along Mead Street. The first was the 1903 mansion, Hendy Hap, at 154 Mead Street (Figure 9), followed by Tredinnock, the Tudor Revival house at 163 Mead Street built for Frances Mead in 1917 and designed by noted New York architect Harrie T. Lindeberg (Photos 36 and 37). The last is the magnificent late Tudor Revival Gaard house at 33 Mead Street, designed by architect Carina Eaglesfield Mortimer (Photos 10 and 11).

The Mead Memorial Chapel at 1 Chapel Road (NRHP-listed, NPS#99001443) is a landmark feature in the district, not only for its architectural significance, but also as the cornerstone for the Mead family. Executed in the Gothic mode, it is the work of noted New York architect Hobart B. Upjohn, grandson of renowned architect Richard Upjohn.

The house at 61 Mead Street, dating from 1955, is a one-and-one-half -story Ranch style home with an L-shaped plan and a stone chimney (Photo 17). An integral porch is located beneath the façade eave. An almost identical version of this house identified as “A Mead Property, Waccabuc, N. Y. ” can be seen in an advertising pamphlet for Braislin, Porter & Wheelock, Inc., a real estate company located in White Plains (Figure 14).

New construction is, with only a few exceptions, in keeping with the overall character, scale and massing of the district. One high-style example, designated non-contributing because of its relatively recent construction, is the French chateau-inspired residence at 118 Mead Street (Photo 19).

A number of the buildings in the district do not have definitive period styles, but reflect the rural building tradition of farmers and tradespeople in the area. A good example includes the house known as “MEEKO” at 166 Mead Road, originally constructed ca. 1831 by Revolutionary War veteran Sergeant...
Waccabuc Historic District DRAFT
Name of Property Westchester Co., NY
Jeremiah Keeler for his daughter Mary, a Mead family member (Photo 38). More modest examples include “Wee Croft,” a small cottage at 106 Mead Street, the small cottage on the Homestead property at 36 Mead Street, a diminutive cottage at 62 Mead Street, and the house at 10 Tarry-A-Bit Drive. Associated with this property are the remnants of a small rustic cottage, once known as the Bungalow Club (Photo 33, Figure 11).

There is also a variety of agricultural buildings representing the nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural history of the place. Examples include the period barns at 36 and 174 Mead Street, as well as the magnificent “L” plan barn at 9 Post Office Road. Finally, the granite block wall constructed for George Mead at the base of Waccabuc Mountain in the early twentieth century is a striking engineering feat and a significant feature of the district. Trenched farm walls are ever-present along the streetscapes.

The Mead cemetery is located along the west side of the street, the oldest headstone of which dates from the year 1794 (Photo 5). This monument belongs to Sally Mead, daughter of Enoch Mead and Jemima Mead, who died at age 14 (Lewis 258). The Mead Memorial Chapel is responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery, and most buried there are Mead family or relatives.

Waccabuc Historic District Inventory

There are remarkably few non-contributing resources (buildings, structures, objects, and sites) that are not consistent with the period of significance of the district. The consistency of the deep setbacks (with the exception of the period farmhouses) and tucked away residences has maintained the rural aspect of the community and is a significant character-defining feature of the district. Many secondary buildings are considered non-contributing for their contemporary date; despite this fact, most do not detract from the character of the district to any appreciable degree. For the purposes of this inventory, each of the land preserves were counted as contributing sites; the overall landscape, which includes several wooded and open parcels, was also counted as contributing. The significance of the landscape and the efforts to keep open space intact is the justification for this approach.

Most of the buildings in the district are residential. There are a total of 44 primary buildings. Of the primary buildings, 36 are contributing and eight are non-contributing. There are a total of 49 secondary buildings (barns, garages, cottages, studios, etc.) in the district. Of these buildings, 27 are contributing and 22 are non-contributing.

The nine contributing sites include land preserves, gardens, etc. within the district, as well as its overall landscape. There are six structures; only one is non-contributing. There were no objects counted in the inventory.

The following is the inventory of all the contributing and non-contributing resources within the Waccabuc Historic District. The address in bold is followed by the commonly used name in parenthesis, if applicable. A brief description of the primary building(s) on the parcel is followed by the original build date. Construction dates were primarily culled from the Town of Lewisboro Assessor’s Office but were corrected where known dates exist or obvious conflicts in the assessors estimates were found. Lastly, the parcel numbers, based on tax assessor’s records, are included for cross-reference in parenthesis.
3 Carriage House Road: Two adjacent, perpendicularly-placed, two-story, gable-roofed, wood frame buildings joined by a small, integrated connector. Both buildings are clad in vertical plank siding with shingle siding on the upper third of the elevations. A deep, shed-roofed canopy spans the width of the south elevation. The remainder of the site consists of an unpaved parking lot interspersed with planters. Built ca. 1900 (10802-37-22)

5 Carriage House Road: Parcel consists of seven buildings originally built for the Hoe Farm. Starting at the southeast portion of the parcel and moving clockwise: a modern, rectangular plan, gabled barn with vertical plank siding (ca. 2000) Non-Contributing; a two-story, rectangular plan, gable-fronted wood-frame building. The two-family dwelling, clad in vinyl clapboards, has side-by-side entry doors on the south elevation covered by a shed-roofed canopy (ca. 1900); a three-part interconnected assemblage of vertical plank-sided barn and narrow, one-story, clapboard-sided wood-frame building, and a cross-gabled connector between the two. A change in grade on the west side exposes a lower floor (Photo 22) (ca. 1870); a six-bay, rectangular plan, gable-roofed, vertical plank-sided wood frame garage (ca. 1980) Non-Contributing; a small, CMU utility building with a flat roof (ca. 1950) Non-Contributing; a one-story, irregular plan, vertical plank-sided, wood-frame building with multiple gabled sections and a fieldstone block on the west side (ca. 1880) and; a two-story, rectangular plan, gable-fronted wood-frame dwelling clad in clapboard siding. Attached at the east side is a 5-bay, wood-frame, gabled structure, open to the elements on the south side (ca. 1900).

6 Carriage House Road: Large, two-story, rectangular plan, gable-fronted wood-frame dwelling clad in clapboard siding; a substantial corbelled chimney stack is placed on the north side of the gabled roof. Attached at the east side is a 2-bay, wood-frame, gabled garage addition. Built ca. 1870 (10802-28/51-22)

8 Carriage House Road: One-and-a-half story, irregular plan cottage with projecting gabled sections on the north side. The clapboard-sided dwelling has a one-story, shed-roofed ell on the northwest end. Built ca. 1880 (Photo 8) (10802-26/34/50-22)


90 Carriage House Road: (Waccabuc Country Club) The property lies on both sides of Mead Street. The main building is the clubhouse, a large, one to three-story, irregular plan wood-frame building with multiple telescoping and cross-gabled accretions. Character-defining features include wood clapboard siding, Queen Anne style brackets, raised covered porches, a sleeping porch, large porte-cochere and gabled portico on the street façade. Built 1878 with multiple alterations and additions. (Photo 20 and Figure 7) (10802-36/38/48-22; 10803-8/10-22 and; 10803-54-25)

   Site: Two nine-hole golf courses, one on each side of Mead Street. Built 1912 (west) and 1923 (east). The western course was designed by John S. “Jock” Gullen, the club’s first golf professional. The course forms a rough L-shape; most of the fairways are dotted by bunkers and run north-south. They are situated close to each other with grassy lawns and plantings in between. George Gullen, Jock’s brother, was brought over from Scotland to build the eastern course. This course also follows an L-shape; the fairways are more widely spaced apart and are dotted by bunkers. (Photo 21)
Waccabuc Historic District

1 Chapel Road: (Mead Memorial Chapel), NRHP-listed (NPS#99001443). Late Gothic Revival church building with an undeveloped parcel across Mead Street. Built 1905-07. (Photo 34 and Figure 6) (11154-005-23 and 11155-136-23)


4 Chapel Road: (Fairacre) is a large, two-story, rectangular plan, wood-frame and fieldstone dwelling with a gabled roof and sweeping covered porch that spans the eastern and part of the southern elevations. Character-defining features include a pair of deep-set gables with decorative verge boards on the east elevation, rusticated wood shingles on the wood-frame portions, diamond-pane sash, sleeping porch, and an enclosed horse-shoe porch on the south elevation. Built 1903. (Photo 31) (10802-008-22)

Outbuilding: Contemporary, rectangular plan building. Non-Contributing


14 Chapel Road: (Lakeview) is a two-story, irregular plan dwelling with multiple gabled roof sections. Character-defining features include board and batten siding, wide overhanging eaves, and a prominent four-sided “tower” with round-head sash. Built 1849; 1860 addition; late 20th c. addition. (Figure 8) (10802-007/20/24-22)

Outbuilding: Contemporary, rectangular plan building. Non-Contributing


21 Chapel Road: Irregular plan, two-story, gable-roofed brick dwelling with an attached two-bay garage on the northwest elevation. Character-defining features include a raised, gabled portico and three prominent gabled dormers on the façade elevation. Built 1938. (Photo 35) (11154-43-23)

Mead Street

Mead Street Cemetery: Cemetery site raised well above street level by tiered stone retaining walls; the upper wall has a set of stairs built in. The gravesite contains multiple headstones, the earliest of which dates to 1794. Established ca. 1790. (Photo 5) (10801-21/32/35-21)


20 Mead Street: (Hunt House) is a two-story, irregular plan, wood-frame dwelling with a shallow gabled roof. A full-width, flat roofed, and one-story cross-gabled additions are placed on the west side of the building. Character-defining features include Federal-style door surround, prominent frieze board at the eave line, end chimneys, and stone foundation. Built 1809 with later additions. (Photo 7) (10803-28-21)


Outbuilding: Rectangular plan wood-frame shed. Built ca. 1850.

Structure: Square plan, wood-frame well house. Built ca. 1850.

24 Mead Street: (Hunt House) Two-story, rectangular plan, wood-frame dwelling with a hipped roof with multiple gables. Character-defining features of the high-style Queen Anne house include a wrap-around porch, tripartite projecting bays, and elaborate scroll work on the bay brackets and porch supports. Built 1892. (Photo 9) (10801-17-21)


Outbuilding: Contemporary, rectangular plan, wood-frame garage, Non-Contributing
Waccabuc Historic District

The preserve encompasses five historic fields, which are at different stages of forest succession; the land is primarily wooded. (Photos 3 and 14) (10803-003-21)

33 Mead Street: (Gaard House) One-and-a-half-story, irregular plan, brick and stone dwelling with sweeping gabled roof sections clad in slate shingles. Character-defining features of the high-style Tudor Revival house include patterned brickwork, exposed timber elements, rusticated clapboards, and steel-frame casement windows. Built 1932. (Photos 10 and 11) (10803-02/78-21)

36 Mead Street: (The Homestead) NRHP-listed, (NPS #1000294). Farmhouse with Federal style detailing. Built ca. 1820 with 1831 addition. (Photos 12, 13 and Figure 4) (10801-42-21)

Outbuilding: Rectangular plan, wood-frame barn. Built ca. 1850.

42 Mead Street: One-and-a-half-story, irregular plan, Cape Cod style dwelling with a gabled connector to a cross-gabled 2-bay garage. Character-defining features include a gabled portico and gabled roof dormers. Built 1941 with 2008 addition (Assessor). (10802-17-22)

Outbuilding: Contemporary wood-frame pool house. Non-Contributing

48 Mead Street: One-and-a-half-story, irregular plan, gable-roofed Cape Cod style dwelling. A one-story shed-roofed wing on the south elevation connects to gabled, one-story living space. House may have been altered from its original iteration, including the prominent gabled portico at the entrance. Built 1955. (10802-40-22)

Outbuilding: Contemporary side-gabled shed. Non-Contributing
Outbuilding: Contemporary side-gabled building with shed-roofed ell. Non-Contributing

49 Mead Street: (Elmdon) Two-story, rectangular plan house, with telescoping one-and-a-half-story addition on the east side. A wood frame garage addition on the easternmost end is placed offset to the north. Character-defining features of the original dwelling include wood clapboard siding, end chimney stacks, decorative door surround with sidelights and projecting window heads. Built 1780 with later additions. (Photo 16) (10803-27-22)

Outbuilding: Wood-frame barn. Built ca. 1850.

52 Mead Street: Two-story, rectangular plan, wood-frame dwelling with a gabled roof. Telescoping wings project to the north and south; one story at the south, and one-and-a-half story on the north end. Character-defining features of the Colonial Revival house include wood clapboard siding, engaged chimney stack, and Classical revival door surround with denticulated pediment. (10802-21-22)

56 Mead Street: One-and-a-half-story, irregular plan dwelling with cross-gabled sections on the north and south ends, the “catslide” roof on the south end houses an integrated two-car garage. The modest house is clad in wood shingles and features a prominent fieldstone chimneystack on the central portion of the house. Built 1955 with 1970 remodel. (Photo 17 and Figure 14) (10803-06-22)

62 Mead Street: One-and-a-half-story, rectangular plan cottage with a gable roof. The simple, wood-clapboard sided cottage with overhanging eaves features a finely detailed Federal-inspired gabled portico. Built ca. 1930. (10802-70-22)

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68 Mead Street:  Two-story, irregular plan, wood-frame dwelling with a gabled roof. The high style residence has telescoping wings on the south ends and a cross-gabled section added to north side of the main house. Character-defining features include wood shingle siding, half-round gable-end windows, elaborately detailed cornice and pediments, and a Federal-inspired gabled portico. Built 1831 with additions and alterations. (Photo 26) (10802-19-22)


Outbuilding:  Wood-frame gardeners shed. Built ca. 1850.

74 Mead Street:  Two-story, irregular plan, wood-frame dwelling with a gabled roof. The modest dwelling has an attached 2-bay garage at the southeast end. Features include vertical plank siding and casement windows. Built 1978. Non-Contributing (Photo 18) (10802-23/47/49-22)

Pine Croft Meadow Preserve:  A 9-acre preserve, actively managed as a meadow, held by the Westchester County Land Trust. (10802-60-22)


102 Mead Street:  One-and-a-half-story, irregular plan, gable-roofed Cape Cod style dwelling with a large, square chimney stack. Two offset, two-story, gable-roofed telescoping additions have been placed on the west side and a narrow, gabled wing projects from the main house to the north. The modest Cape has been significantly enlarged but original house intact. Built 1928 with later additions. (10802-10-22)


106 Mead Street:  (Croft Farm) Two story, irregular plan, gable-roofed dwelling with a significant addition to the northwest end of the house; alterations to the north (rear) elevation are also evident. Clad in wood clapboard siding, the original portion of the house features a fieldstone foundation and Federal-inspired, gabled portico. Built ca. 1870 (10802-18/66-22)


Outbuilding:  Wood-frame barn. Build date ca. 1880.

Outbuilding:  Wood-frame barn with appendages. Build date ca. 1890. (Photo 27)

Outbuilding:  Contemporary, wood-frame pool house. Non-Contributing

Lot:  Semi-forested, unbuilt lot between 106 Mead Street and golf course (10802-82-22)

Lot:  Grassy lot north of golf course (10802-83-22)

107 Mead Street:  (Studwell House) Two-story, irregular plan, hip-roofed dwelling. A stylistically identical, one-story wing is attached at the southeast corner. The high style Italianate house features a fully-integrated wrap-around porch and cupola. Elaborate decorative details include stylized porch supports, scrolled cornice brackets, round-head entry door with fanlight, segmental arched windows on the second floor, and a deep frieze at the eave with oval windows. Built 1860. (Photo 25) (11155-32-22)

Outbuilding:  Wood-frame barn. Build date ca. 1880

**Waccabuc Historic District**

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

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**119 Mead Street**: Two-story, irregular plan, gable-roofed house. Clad in wood clapboard shingles, the house features a significant garage addition to the east. Character-defining features include a large Palladian window above a hip-roofed portico. Built 1940 with 1997 additions. (11155-02/137/158-22)


**Lot**: Undeveloped field parcel with trees on property lines; Serves as access to Parcel 10802-59-22. (10802-09-22)

**Long Pond Preserve**: 39-acre preserve acquired by the Nature Conservancy from the Mead family and Waccabuc residents in 1970. The wooded preserve runs along part of the western and southern edges of Lake Waccabuc. (11155-143/145-22 and; 11155-136/146-23 and; 11155-139/140/141/142-25)

**150 Mead Street**: Residential property. Built 1940 with a substantial ca. 1985 remodel. **Non-Contributing** (11154-09/58/63-23)

**152 Mead Street**: (Hendy Hap) Two-story, rectangular plan, gable-roofed house. Tudor Revival-style house with exposed timbers in stucco-coated walls. Character-defining features include leaded glass casement windows, fieldstone chimney stack, and shed-roofed entry canopies. Built 1903 with 1998 rehabilitation. (Figure 9) (11154-64-23)

*Outbuilding*: Contemporary, wood-frame 2-bay garage. **Non-Contributing**


**163 Mead Street**: (Tredinnock) Two-story, irregular plan, gable-roofed house. Tudor Revival-style dwelling with fieldstone elements at lower levels; remainder finished in stucco-coating. Sweeping rooflines covered in slate shingles. Character-defining features include exposed timber elements, leaded glass casement windows, eyebrow windows in roof slope, and large, stucco-coated chimney stacks. Built 1917 with contemporary additions/alterations. (Photos 36 and 37) (11155-05-23)

*Outbuilding*: Stucco-coated 2-bay garage. Built ca. 1921

*Outbuilding*: Cylindrical fieldstone smokehouse. Built ca. 1942.

**Lot**: Semi-wooded, unbuilt lot. (11155-38-23)

**Lot**: Semi-wooded, unbuilt lot on Lake Waccabuc. (11155-150-23)

**166 Mead Street**: (MEEKO) Two-story, irregular plan, gable-roofed house. Despite significant additions to the main house over time, the original block is intact and retains its character-defining features; these include wood clapboard siding, roof dormers, and gabled portico. Built 1831 with additions and alterations. (Photo 38) (11154-07-23)

*Outbuilding*: Wood frame, cross-gabled cottage identified as Sears catalog house. Ca. 1930.

*Site*: Garden attributed to Mott B. Schmidt. The garden includes a series of stone walls and terraces, mature plantings and a side garden. Ca. 1900-1930 (exact date unknown)

**174 Mead Street**: (Workman’s Cottage) One-and-a-half-story, rectangular plan, gable-roofed vernacular dwelling. A hip-roofed wing is attached at the west elevation. Character-defining features include wood clapboard siding, original wood sash windows, shallow roof dormer and a full width porch integrated into the roofline. Built 1915 (Photo 29) (11154-61-23)

*Outbuilding*: Wood-frame barn. Build date ca. 1890.

*Outbuilding*: Wood-frame barn. Build date ca. 1890 with ca. 1950 alterations.
Waccabuc Historic District

**Post Office Road**

2 Post Office Road: (Waccabuc Post Office) One-story, wood-frame, cross-gabled post office building. The otherwise vernacular building features a substantial roof overhang on the north elevation with decorative rafter tails all supported by large, decoratively detailed, curved brackets. The remainder of the building is modest by comparison, clad in wood clapboard siding with varying double-hung wood sash windows. Built 1880 with later additions (Photo 24 and Figure 5) (10803-13-22)


9 Post Office Road: One-and-a-half story, rectangular plan, gable-roofed dwelling. Expanded in the 1960s, the modest house features wood shingle siding with casement and double hung sash windows, but the original dwelling retains its form. Built ca. 1930 with addition/alterations. (11155-115/130-22)


Structure: Root cellar. Built ca. 1850.

12 Post Office Road: Two-story, rectangular plan, cross-gable-roofed dwelling. Despite significant additions to the main house over time, the original block is intact and retains its character-defining features; these include wood clapboard siding, plain overhanging, eaves and simple, gabled portico. Built 1912. (10803-35/36-22)

18 Post Office Road: Two-story, irregular plan, hip and cross-gable-roofed dwelling. Despite significant additions to the main house over time, the building retains characteristic features from Victorian to Colonial Revival periods. Character-defining features include wood clapboard siding, cross-gabled cupola, deep, molded pediments, and fanlight gabled windows. Built 1865 with additions and alterations. (10803-37-25)


44 Post Office Road: Two-story, rectangular plan, gable-roofed dwelling. Despite recent alterations to the Classical Revival style house, the original block is intact and retains its character-defining features; these include wood clapboard siding, double hung wood sash windows, denticulated cornice, and a projecting, denticulated pediment with small, fanlight window. Built 1912 with contemporary alterations. (10812-19/20/21-25)


**Tarry-A-Bit Drive**

8 Tarry-A-Bit Drive: Two-and-a-half story, irregular plan, hip and cross-gable-roofed dwelling. The large, highly elaborate home is extraordinarily well-preserved and features wrap-around porches on both stories supported by Tuscan-style columns, festooned porch rails, denticulated cornice, all crowned by a prominent scroll pediment and decorative roof rafter. A three-story cylindrical tower with a curvilinear roof adds a nod to the waning Queen Anne style. Built 1895. (Photo 32) (11155-170-22)

Outbuilding: Wood frame gardener’s cottage. Built 1911.

Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property

10 Tarry-A-Bit Drive: One-and-a-half story, rectangular plan, gable-roofed dwelling. The modest vernacular house features wood shingle siding with casement and double hung sash windows. Garage addition is placed on the west side, but the original dwelling retains its form. Built 1870 (assessor) with 1983 addition. (11155-03/138-22)

Site: (Bungalow Club) Foundation and fieldstone chimneystack. Built ca. 1920. (Photo 33 and Figure 11)

Waccabuc Country Club Lakefront Parcel: Two-story, rectangular plan, cross-gabled clubhouse. The Stick-style building retains its cupola, overhanging eaves and double hung wood sash windows, but has lost its decorative gable bracket on the north (lakefront) elevation. The remainder of the site contains contemporary outdoor walkways, patios, and docks extending into the lake. Built ca. 1890. (Photo 39 and Figure 10) (11155-148-25)

Outbuilding: (Moved) Wood-frame change room building. Built ca. 1880. Non-Contributing
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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- 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.

- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

- Removed from its original location

- A birthplace or grave

- A cemetery

- A reconstructed building, object, or structure

- A commemorative property

- Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance
ca. 1780–1965

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Waccabuc Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of agriculture, community planning and development, and entertainment and recreation. The small agricultural hamlet of Waccabuc and much of the surrounding land was owned and developed almost exclusively by the Mead Family. After Enoch Mead established a tavern and farm along the Post Road during the late eighteenth century, other members of his family began to settle nearby. Later generations established successful agricultural operations or inns in region, while others made their fortunes in law or real estate. Martin and Erastus Mead built the hamlet’s first large inn, the Waccabuc House, to cater to the growing tourist market after the railroad was completed to nearby Croton Falls. George Washington Mead left his father’s farm in Waccabuc to become a successful lawyer in New York City. He returned by 1870, built a large gentleman’s farm, and instilled a love of the family’s land in his children. By the early twentieth century, George’s children began to focus on how to profit from the family land, without
altering its character. Some continued the family’s farming operations, which focused on dairying, livestock, and poultry. In 1912, they renovated the 1878 Hoe farmhouse into the Waccabuc Inn and built a professionally designed golf course. In addition, they established a cottage rental industry within the hamlet and developed family land away from the Waccabuc hamlet on Mead Street. The Mead family restricted land ownership on Mead Street to family members through the mid-twentieth century, developed a zoning plan, and eventually established the Long Pond Preserve. As a result of the family’s strict oversight and careful management, particularly in the face of twentieth century development pressures, the landscape and architecture within the hamlet of Waccabuc retains a high level of integrity and continues to illustrate its layered history. The Waccabuc District is also eligible under Criterion C due to the wide variety of architectural styles exhibited throughout the community. Excellent examples of Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts-influenced, Tudor Revival, and even Ranch style structures (in addition to a number of vernacular farm houses and some worker’s housing) are all present. Many were built by members of the Mead family and reflect the evolution of architectural styles over nearly two centuries of ownership. The period of significance begins ca. 1780 with the construction of Enoch Mead’s house Elmdon and ends in 1965 as the Mead Family began to sell off its major enterprises, including the Waccabuc Inn. The district encompasses 524.2 acres and includes the historic core of the Mead Family’s landholdings which developed into the small hamlet of Waccabuc; over a quarter of the land within the district, 158 acres, is protected within land preserves.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**History of Waccabuc**

Waccabuc is a hamlet located within the larger town of Lewisboro within Westchester County, one of New York’s original twelve counties. During the twentieth century, Lewisboro primarily became a commuter suburb for New York City, as well as Stamford and White Plains, as those cities grew into major commercial office centers. Between 1960 and 2000 the population of Lewisboro doubled. In the face of increasing development pressures, the architectural and agricultural character of the hamlet of Waccabuc has remained largely intact. This is due by all accounts to the choices made decades earlier by the Mead family.¹

During the eighteenth century, the main north-south artery in the area of Long Pond (Waccabuc Lake) was a Post Road (later Mead Street), part of the larger Vermont Stage Road connecting New York City to Danbury via White Plains. Much of the land in what is now Lewisboro (formerly a part of Salem) was considered a part of Great Lot Number 10 of the Van Cortlandt Manor, deeded to Stephanus Van Cortlandt in June of 1697. As part of the land agreement Stephanus was expected to develop the land (totaling over 86,213 acres), employ tradesman and construct a mill. The “Manor Line” ran east of the Van Cortlandt property and was part of “The Oblong,” a disputed area deeded to New York from Connecticut in 1731. By 1730 the heirs of Stephanus had divided much of that land into lots - most measuring 240 acres. The area was slow to develop and it would be over two decades before the first of the Meads arrived.²

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Settlement and an Agricultural Past

The town of Salem was established in 1731, but the first recorded town meeting was not held until 1747. The town was known as Salem for most of the eighteenth century and included parts of North Salem. During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it was also known as South Salem and Lower Salem, until it officially became Lewisboro in 1840. The Reverend Solomon Mead (1725-1812), of Greenwich, became the first pastor of the Church of Salem in 1752, only five years after the town’s first meeting. Solomon served as the “Independent” minister of nearby Lower Salem for 48 years. It was his decision to settle in the area that attracted relatives to the place.

His nephew, Enoch Mead (1756-1807), bought property in 1776 along the Post Road. Enoch and his wife, Jemima, was the first to settle in the area that would become the hamlet of Waccabuc. After building a simple log home near a “good spring” he constructed Elmdon in 1780. Enoch purchased additional lands in 1784 and 1787, eventually expanding his holdings to over 140 acres. Enoch farmed the land and ran a tavern out of the house which provided the bulk of his income. His place in the community was well-established; he served as commissioner of highways and of the poor. He also served in the Westchester militia during the Revolutionary War under Colonel Thaddeus Crane.  

It was during Enoch’s time at Elmdon that Rochambeau marched along Mead Street en route from Ridgefield to Bedford Village. This was in July of 1781 and the French troops were marching to join with General Washington’s army in a surprise attack on the British at Manhattan. Instead they marched to King’s Ferry to meet Washington and continue to Yorktown – the decisive battle of the war.

Enoch’s son, Alphred Mead, likely inherited his land from his father. After building a house in 1819, he and his wife, Polly Brundige, raised five children and ran what eventually became a thriving cattle business out of the Homestead Farm. Alphred began his business selling root crops, hay, and grain but by 1850 he was selling a large amount of butter and cheese. His sons Alfred, Martin and Joseph were drovers who sold their cattle at Golden’s Bridge. Martin was registered as a “cattle broker” during the Civil War, but he was already involved with his innkeeping franchise by that time.

John Jay Studwell, the son of Rebecca Mead and Joseph Studwell, moved to Waccabuc in 1814 from Greenwich, Connecticut. Instead of farming, he pursued his interest in land development. John worked in the lumber trade and in 1836 married Elizabeth LaFarge Moore. He moved to Manhattan and eventually, along with his brother, Augustus, built a number of brownstones in Brooklyn.

The Resort Era and Gentleman Farming

During the early years of the nineteenth century Westchester County was a patchwork of farms that specialized in supplying New York City with grains, cattle, milk, wool, and fruits. It was this agrarian landscape that greeted Washington Irving when he settled at his country estate, known as Sunnyside, in

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3 Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 259.
4 Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 259, 261; This portion of Mead Street is part of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail.
6 Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 271.
By the middle of the century, transportation was changing the economy of Westchester County. The geography of the county provided natural access to the New York City market, but the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 allowed agricultural products from the north and west to compete with those of Westchester County. By the 1850s, railroad lines further enhanced the transportation of goods across the region, and farmers in Westchester were forced to consolidate and specialize in dairies and orchards to stay afloat in the more competitive economy.

The ease of transportation provided by railroads and the growth of a middle class with disposable income opened the era of resort tourism in the middle years of the nineteenth century. Urbanites sought to follow the example of Washington Irving and recover from the stresses of industrial life in the country setting of Westchester, even if only temporarily. This trend grew to include city-dwellers purchasing rural properties, the beginnings of suburban growth in the county. The competitive agricultural economy forced many small farmers to sell their property, many of which were converted into country estates or “gentlemen’s farms”. A gentleman farmer was a farm-owner whose wealth was generated from sources other than farming and though not involved in the actual farm labor, regarded the ownership and management of a country property as a respectable pursuit. The ownership of a gentleman’s farm was a mark of social status and respectability, as well as a link to history and tradition. Some of these properties were representative, albeit on a modest scale, of the Country Place Era of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and included elaborate gardens and landscaping. The Country Place Era was associated with the wealth derived from industrialization and finance of that period, relatively free from heavy taxation, particularly federal income tax. Displays of this wealth in residential architecture and particularly the elaborate gardens that accompanied these showcase properties, were the hallmark of the Country Place Era. Many of these homes were seasonal, only inhabited in the summer months.

The rapid transportation provided by the railroads also created a new kind of resident in the area; the commuter. During the 1840s several rail lines established commuter service into Westchester County. They included the New York and Harlem Railroad, the New York and Hudson River Railroad, and the New York and New Haven Railroad. The railroads eagerly promoted their commuter services, further popularizing the notion of suburban homes for workers in the city.

These trends in land use were evident at the local level in Waccabuc. After the Harlem Railroad reached Croton Falls in 1847, Martin Rockwell Mead and his brother Erastus capitalized on the accessibility of the Long Pond as a resort community by building Waccabuc House, which stood at the corner of Mead Street and the road to Golden’s Bridge. The four-story inn was constructed in 1856 on the former Benedict farm lot and offered meals prepared using fresh “Waccabuc Farm” products. Erastus sold his interest to Martin, who served as the manager in 1862. At the same time, the Mead brothers tried to promote controlled development in the area. They surveyed land east of Mead Street to lay out Tarry-A-Bit Drive in 1863. Only one plot was sold, but it was never built on and was sold back to the family in 1889. Martin R. Mead died in 1879, but the Waccabuc Inn continued to operate until 1896 when it was destroyed by fire.

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10 Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 263.
George Washington Mead was one of the most business-savvy of Alphred’s children. George graduated from Yale and Yale Law School in 1850 and went on to become partners with his former classmate Enos Taft in Manhattan under the firm name of Mead & Taft. Taking advantage of the growing suburban movement, George also began to expand into the real estate business and developed a large number of houses in Kings County and New Haven. One of his primary goals seems to have been acquiring land.\(^{12}\)

George married Sarah Frances Studwell and together they had twelve children, eleven of whom survived to adulthood. George and Sarah lived for most of the year in Brooklyn Heights and were the first family to formally “summer” at Waccabuc. By 1870, George had retired from law and had become a gentleman farmer, developing a large dairy operation on over 550 acres of Waccabuc land. He sold his milk almost exclusively to the New York Condensed Milk Company in nearby Purdys.\(^{13}\)

In 1877, Thyrza and Robert Hoe II purchased the farmhouse from Martin R. Mead known as Indian Spring Farm. Robert, a Mead cousin of independent means, established a gentlemen’s farm on over 450 acres. After significantly enlarging the main house, Hoe built both an estate manager’s house in 1892 for Henry Johns and another for his coachman. To complete his elaborate farm, Hoe constructed a large cattle barn, carriage house, stone smokehouse, stables and a boathouse on the lake. He was also responsible for building the post office in 1880 and a new schoolhouse four years later. The post office stayed in the Hoe family until 1912, when it was purchased again by the Meads under the Kings and Westchester Land Company.\(^{14}\)

George and Sarah’s eleven children were primarily responsible for either renovating existing farmhouses or building new residences along Mead Street over the coming decades. When George W. died in 1899, his widow, Sarah Mead, contracted architect Hobart Upjohn to plan a memorial chapel in his honor. The stone Gothic Revival style Mead Chapel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as an important monument to the family.

Sarah and George’s children were intent on acquiring control of the Waccabuc lands. In 1905, they formed the Kings and Westchester Land Company to consolidate and merge lands accumulated by the family. In 1919, Kings and Westchester sold off the Brooklyn holdings and changed their name to the Westchester Company. By 1930, they owned 1500 acres in the Waccabuc area. The children were successful and soon expanded to New Haven, where George had purchased property while studying at Yale. The Beaver Hills Company was incorporated in 1907 and from 1922 to 1930 the profits from this development allowed the Meads the opportunity to forestall the development of their beloved Waccabuc lands. At the same time members of the family continued to farm. In 1903, George Mead acquired Herbert Mead’s farm from his mother and named it Croft Farm, where he proceeded to raise white leghorn chicken. George also served as a state assemblyman and town supervisor.\(^{15}\)

The Meads transformed the Hoe mansion into the Waccabuc Inn in 1912. They added the golf course designed by John “Jock” Gullen of Scotland the same year. Gullen served as a resident golf professional on the site for 40 years. It was clear from family records that the Meads ran the inn as a way of attracting potential “appropriate buyers” for their land. The scheme failed and the inn operated at a loss for many years until Alice Mead Neergaard took control in 1920. Despite Alice’s modest success, the property was

\(^{13}\) Horne, “Stewards,” 49.
\(^{14}\) Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 262.
\(^{15}\) Horne, “Stewards,” 53,55; Lewisboro, Assessor’s Records, 293.
The Meads protected the lakefront property from development – going so far as to ask those who had built camps along the shore during George’s lifetime to remove their structures. In a letter from one of the Mead heirs to a lessee, D. Irving Hoyt states, “The only reason the lake is beautiful is because we have tried to be so careful…even an attractive camp as yours detracts from the beauties of nature.”

The key to maintaining the lands surrounding Waccabuc was a steady stream of income from various sources. George and Sarah’s daughter Loretta married Herbert A. Smith, a forester who worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington. Herbert helped to create plans to draw an income from the woodlots and forest lands on the Mead properties.

In the 1930s the cottage rental business allowed the Meads to gain a small income from various rental properties, many of which were former farm buildings. Despite the economic impacts of the Great Depression, the rental cottages continued to provide a steady source of revenue for the Meads until the 1950s, when the cottage rental industry waned regionally.

Development comes to Waccabuc

Suburbanization in America was begun by the railroad but was perfected by the automobile. By the time of the new Grand Central Terminal was completed in 1913, the automobile was beginning to encroach on the preeminence of rail transportation. Across the country, the rapid proliferation of the automobile required the establishment of federal, state, and county road systems. The New York State Highway Department, established in 1898, was one of the first in the country. The Bronx River Parkway, built between 1917 and 1924, was one of the earliest limited-access automobile highways in the country and a major corridor for suburban growth in the first decades of the 20th century. The enhanced mobility provided by private, motorized transportation accelerated the process of suburban growth in Westchester County, a trend that was felt keenly during the boom years of the 1920s as the automobile entered into mass production. During the decade of the 1920s, the population of New York City grew by 21 percent and the population of Westchester County by 51 percent. The town of Scarsdale, located in southern Westchester County along the Bronx River Parkway, grew by an incredible 176 percent in the same period.

In response to the massive demand for housing caused by the automotive-induced suburban growth, developers parceled out lots into smaller and smaller subdivisions. Communities in Westchester responded with zoning regulations, which imposed some order on the proliferation of homes. The suburban communities of Westchester attempted to retain some degree of their original character through the wave of development, and some were more successful than others in this effort.

Waccabuc also struggled with retaining its community identity in the face of the early twentieth century

Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property: Waccabuc Historic District
draft

Westchester Co., NY
County and State:

Trend of rapid suburbanization. The Mead siblings were under constant pressure from sources both within and outside the family to develop their property in order to generate an income. Finally yielding to the demands in 1919, the Meads employed noted landscape architect Charles W. Leavitt to draw up a plat plan for a garden suburb. It was an ambitious plan that created a number of curving roadways providing access to two and four acre lots. It also created a village green and shops.21

Nothing ever came of the plan, largely due to the fact that the siblings could not agree on who should be allowed into their community. They wanted to retain the “feel” of the place despite all economic pressures. They called this unnamable quality the “personal element.” Even when development was a possibility, the family had a strict protocol for construction. Building plans had to be submitted for approval, a right of first refusal clause was written into all contracts and lake access was strictly restricted.22

In 1929, the family placed all of the Mead family lands under the management of Earl Smith, son of Loretta and Herbert. Like his father, Earl studied forestry at Yale and was closely tied to the lands at Waccabuc. Earl developed a clear woodland management plan, managed the rental of agricultural lands and the golf course, and also made plans to construct a dairy. These plans were not enough to sustain the growing number of Meads reliant upon the income of their trusts. It became imperative to sell the land.

In 1940, the family hired Charles E. Dexter, a mortgage broker from New York City, who prepared a report on the possible development of the area. In it, he noted that “…you have a community quite unlike anything else I know of this near New York City.” The family as a whole relented to sale of outlying properties, with the stipulations that Mead Street be retained for family members only. They also created a sufficient number of obstacles to ensure they were surrounded by like-minded people. Style and even color were dictated by the “Committee of Restrictions”, but perhaps most important were the “types” of people allowed to build in their tiny community. Bank balances, schools attended and social organizations were all vetted prior to approval. Prospects were often former cottage renters who had already been vetted by the family and were proven to be “safe.” Susan Henry, the daughter of Earl Smith recalls it this way:

This was about having new residents who are compatible with existing residents in a small community. Although there were always Jewish families and friends among the Meads (and by the way, same sex men couples) there was an anti Semitic view stronger among some than others—this was not uncommon in those days. There was also the desire for new building to fit in with the style of the houses here. For example, Myron Goldfinger (a well known architect), constructed a modern house built in the 1970’s that would not have been permitted on Mead Street. It is on Mead Street but way north of the chapel in the woods.

This practice continued into the 1940s. Just as the family became ready to relinquish their lands, the War prevented construction. By July of 1942, Earl Smith wrote that, “Prospects for sale of land appears to be gone.” Despite the wartime economy, a number of the rental properties including Lakeview and Hendy Hap, as well as 10 acres on the west side of Mead Street, were sold by 1945.23

The rush of suburban growth in Westchester County slowed dramatically during the Great Depression of the 1930s, which was closely followed by a lack of new construction during World War II. The housing industry, repressed for so many years by the Depression and the war, flourished in the post-war years due to the economic and population boom that created a burgeoning middle class. The automotive-powered

23 Horne, 74, 77.
trend of suburban homes and commuter workers resumed from the 1920s, albeit at an accelerated pace. The industrialized production perfected during the war was turned to the production of consumer goods, including building materials. The incredible demand for new construction and the mass production of materials resulted in the construction of smaller, simpler homes with standardized designs constructed on small parcels. The Ranch style home is a classic example of the post-war, mass production home that supplanted the more elaborate architectural styles that were built in the 1920s and earlier.24

The growth of the suburban communities in Westchester County, the spillover from the metropolitan growth of New York City, was prolific. Between 1950 and 1970 the number of residences in the county increased by 40 percent, and the population grew from 625,000 to 808,000.25 This post-war suburban development touched Waccabuc as well, but less significantly. In 1947, plats for two subdivisions were drawn up – Perch Bay and East Ridge – totaling 26 lots. The family hired a dedicated sales agent, V. A. Bowman of Katonah, but sales remained slow throughout the 1950s. In 1960, the Studwell Foundation, acting on behalf of the family sold the golf course and surrounding properties to the Waccabuc Country Club. In 1962, Earl Smith sold his dairy business and began entertaining offers on Waccabuc Mountain lands. These developments took place in 1963 and are north of the proposed district. While some plots have been sold in the intervening years, 158 acres of land have been placed into preserves under protective easements. The Nature Conservancy acquired the Long Pond Preserve, located on the north side of the lake, in 1970 from land from the Studwell Foundation and Waccabuc residents. The Old Field Preserve and Pine Croft Meadow Preserve were created later to help preserve wooded and open space.26 In comparison to many Westchester County communities, Waccabuc remained relatively unchanged during the post-war growth years.

Architectural and Landscape Significance

The built environment in the district contains architectural examples from over two hundred years of land-use evolution and encompasses three primary historical periods, each of which impacted the landscape: agriculture, resort-era development, and suburban development. In each of the development phases, strong characteristics of previous impacts remain as part of that evolution, partly by economic factors, but also by design. For example, the substantial Old Field and Long Preserves have returned to a forested state. During the resort era, large portions of Waccabuc remained largely agricultural and undeveloped and forested areas were left untouched. When carefully planned development came to Mead Street, the rural and resort-era character was left largely intact; the contemporary landscape primarily reflects these two periods. It is this development pattern, more so than the built environment, that gives the district its unique identity; meadows, forest and lakeside vistas are interwoven throughout the district in a way that is simply no longer found in northern Westchester County. Wide setbacks, mature plantings, strict zoning laws and thoughtful placement have made the vast majority of the non-contributing properties unobtrusive to the rural feel of the district, particularly along Mead Street.

It is also true that the collection of well-preserved historic buildings in the district contribute to the significance of that environment, particularly the number which were constructed by generations of Mead family members. From the earliest farmhouses with their Colonial and Federal-era form and features, a strong connection to the agricultural roots of Waccabuc is left intact for contemporary interpretation. The best example is the National Register listed Homestead property (36 Mead Street) with a small “farm group” which includes a later diminutive cottage (Photo 12). The original portion of the farmhouse is a

26 Horne, “Stewards,” 75, 82.
one-and-a-half story building known as a raised Cape, prevalent in the region known as the “oblong,” the disputed territory adjoining New York and Connecticut. This includes the western border of Connecticut from Ridgefield and the eastern portions of Westchester, Dutchess, and Putnam Counties in New York State. A surprising number of these houses remain intact but many are obscured by larger additions and significant remodeling. It takes a keen eye to spot an original one-and-a-half story farmhouse with a large addition as we are used to thinking of smaller appendages as later additions.

The half-story height of the buildings is achieved by the extension of the corner posts from eight to ten or twelve feet which provided the additional space in the attic or “garrett” for storage or additional sleeping room. With this added space the floorplan included a central boxed staircase adjacent to the typical, large central chimney or in a rear corner of the house. Forgoing later alterations and additions, the period of construction for the building type spans over 100 years, and as such floor plans may vary greatly between the houses, though most appear to be two rooms deep. One feature of the raised Cape that raises questions is the inclusion of awning-type, half-story windows, sometimes referred to as “eyebrow windows,” on the upper level of the long elevations of these houses. Some architectural historians attribute this feature to a later period, the second quarter of the nineteenth century, where the influence of the Greek Revival incorporated this as a functional and stylistic element.

As fortunes grew in the nineteenth century, extant houses like the magnificent ca. 1860 Italianate home built by Jacob Gilbert Mead (Photo 25), and the 1859 Gothic Revival “Lakeview” (Figure 8) were reflective of the move toward stylistic trends that would culminate in architect-designed houses of the early twentieth century. These period homes have a remarkable degree of integrity given their age.

The bucolic Lake Waccabuc with the Waccabuc House, intended to attract wealthy residents, spurred a number of comparatively grand homes to be constructed in the community. This trend was part of the emerging Country Place Era, where seasonal homes incorporating elaborate gardens and landscapes were constructed for recreational use, often near attractions like lakes and country clubs. Mead family homes of this era include the 1895 Tarry-A-Bit with its Colonial Revival influence (Photo 32), 1903 “Fairacre” with its rustic “cottage” feel, and nearby “Hendy Hap” (Figure 9), attributed to New York architects Tracy and Swartwout, “gentleman architects” who had both worked as draftsmen in the firm of McKim, Mead, and White. Their well-known 1902 Webster Hotel in New York City was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

In 1905 the Mead family retained noted New York architect Hobart B. Upjohn, grandson of prominent architect Richard Upjohn, to design a chapel for its private use. Upjohn had a prominent career designing ecclesiastical and college buildings. He won numerous design awards and had the distinction of being the architectural supervision of Trinity Church in Manhattan, the 1836 design of his grandfather.

The golf course played an important social and cultural role in the community in the twentieth century and has a long and storied history. Part of the attempt to create an exclusive enclave was the conversion of the Indian Spring Farm to an inn and golf course in 1912. In addition to the social hub for the Mead family and their friends, this central community gathering place was part of the ongoing intention to make Waccabuc more than just a residential community, but a destination for seasonal residents.

27 Kinnear, John K., Phone Interview (14 October 2008).
28 Northwest Highlands, p. 26
One significant cultural remnant of the early twentieth century is the foundation and stone chimney stack associated with the property known as Tarry-A-Bit (Photo 33). These structural remains were part of a log cabin known as “The Clubhouse,” which was built by children of the owner of Tarry-A-Bit so they could drink without offending their mother, who was an advocate of abstinence.  

The mid to late Eclectic Movement homes in the district include “Tredinnock,” a Mead family home designed by well-known New York-based architect Harrie T. Lindeberg (1879-1959) in 1917 (Photos 36 and 37). Lindeberg is considered one of the most prolific designers in the historical revival mode in this period. He is best known for his country houses. 

The Gaard house at 33 Mead Street is a fine example of the later part of the Eclectic Movement where notable architect Carina Eaglesfield Mortimer (1890-1978) masterfully put a rustic charm into a loosely Tudor Revival style home for Alice Mead Neergaard (Photos 10 and 11); Mortimer and Alice Neergaard were friends and ran the (new) Waccabuc Inn together after it reopened in 1920 (WCC, 18). Married in the house that she designed, Mortimer was a well-traveled socialite who “…was with Anne Morgan [daughter of financier J.P. Morgan] in France.”  

This refers to Morgan’s high profile philanthropic efforts in France during and after World War I to help relieve the suffering of the civilian populace. The clipping also states that Mortimer graduated from the Cambridge School of Domestic Architecture & Landscape Architecture, a program developed in 1915 in association with Harvard University that offered professional training in these fields exclusively for women. She is credited with designing New Haven, Connecticut’s first International style residence for Richard Foster Flint, a leading professor at Yale. 

One small but significant site is the garden at the home known as MEEKO, at 166 Mead Street, originally constructed ca. 1831 by Revolutionary War veteran Sergeant Jeremiah Keeler for his daughter Mary, a Mead family member (Photo 38). The garden is attributed to Mott B. Schmidt (1899-1977), one of the most prolific architects of his time. Schmidt is best known for his architectural designs, specializing in American Georgian motifs. Drawings for the remodeling of the house from 1914 include a garden fence designed by Schmidt. A second set of drawings by the architect are for the garden itself. While not known for his garden designs per se, it does show the well-rounded abilities of the classically-trained Eclectic movement architects. True to his design ethic, Schmidt created the garden in the Georgian mode with a rectilinear plan on axis with a seating area at the east end. 

Between the two World Wars, little in the way of other construction was seen in the district. Two notable exceptions are the 1928 Earl Smith home at 102 Mead Street which is best described as a Cape Cod style; stylistically sensitive additions in recent years have not undermined the original style of the house. The second is also a larger Cape Cod style house with a cross-plan garage built in 1941 at 42 Mead Street. Both have significant setbacks which leaves the streetscape uninterrupted. 

The post-World War II period has seen the most explosive growth of Waccabuc as a whole. The district itself has relatively few post-war buildings, but they represent the last efforts of the Mead family to manage growth while realizing a profit. Efforts to market properties produced sales literature (Figure 13) and even plans for houses that were approved and distributed with sales data. True to the post war period, the designs were considerably more modest and restrained than the Country Place Era properties.

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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Waccabuc Historic District DRAFT Westchester Co., NY

Name of Property

The limitation on lot sizes incorporated into the Waccabuc zoning master plan in 1936 has helped to maintain the aesthetic of the community through the post-war growth period. The impetus for this began in 1932 when Lewisboro Town Board created its planning board under authority from New York State. Aside from lake communities and hamlets such as Waccabuc, the town was designated “residential acreage zoning” with one-acre minimums.33 Residential lots in the community are restricted to a minimum of either two or four acres. Some smaller lots exist that predate the master plan, but these are limited in number. Some lake-front communities on the east side of Lake Waccabuc have been re-zoned to allow smaller parcels, but these are located outside the traditional center of the community.34

Contrasting with the high style residential homes is the plethora of modest cottages and vernacular agrarian buildings. The cottages are typically associated with the parcels of primary homes; one exception is the Mead family cottage built on Post Office Road as a seasonal rental property. Other cottages tend to have been supplied for workers on the local farms; two of these small dwellings remain on the country club property.

A number of extant barns from the agricultural activities in the area remain but they too are associated with residential properties; one period barn remains as part of the Waccabuc Country Club complex at Carriage House Road. Only one “farm group,” that is, a collection of farm buildings, remains in the district. Located at “Croft Farm” (106 Mead Street), the grouping of barns, stable, and ancillary buildings cleverly conceals a modern swimming pool (Photo 27). One magnificent barn worth noting is the L-shaped, stone and timber structure at 9 Post Office Road (Photo 28). While the adjacent house was remodeled in the 1960’s the barn is integrated with the changing grade on the property and retains a significant amount of original integrity.

One of the most significant undertakings by the Mead family and Waccabuc community was the formation of the Long Pond Preserve of the Nature Conservancy in the early 1970s. During the 1960s the bulk of the Mead family land holdings were held by the Studwell Foundation and were gradually sold off, the last of which in early 1969. A group of Mead family members and local residents purchased property from the foundation at the west end of Lake Waccabuc with the intention of donating it to the Nature Conservancy. The concern for what “could turn into a rather unattractive new population and pollution center” was the driving force, a clear indication that the Mead family intended to keep development from severely impacting the character of the untouched waterfront. Other efforts at preserving the rural character of Waccabuc resulted in two additional parcels located in the district: the substantial Old Field Preserve, owned by Westchester County and the Town of Lewisboro and the Pine Croft Meadow Preserve, owned by the Westchester Land Trust.

As a result of its development, evolution, and management, Waccabuc is a rare community. In his essay on the Meads, Field Horne describes Mohegan Lake, a similar hamlet in nearby Yorktown. It shares a similar history as an agricultural center turned resort community that eventually became a bedroom community for commuters. That area has been divided into lots measuring as small as 25 by 100 feet to accommodate the overwhelming need for affordable and accessible housing. The density of that hamlet now mirrors those found throughout northern Westchester. Thanks to the persistent resolve of the Mead family, Waccabuc remains relatively untouched.

34 Lewisboro, Personal Communication with Lise Robertson, 2014.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


_____ Personal Communication with Lise Robertson, 2014

_____ Personal Communication with Susan (Smith) Henry, 2014


Waccabuc Historic District
Name of Property

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # 
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # 

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other
Name of repository: Westchester County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 524.2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18 Easting: 617480 Northing: 4573274
2. Zone: 18 Easting: 617529 Northing: 4573301
3. Zone: 18 Easting: 617646 Northing: 4573322
4. Zone: 18 Easting: 618485 Northing: 4572571
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the district are shown on the attached map (Figure 1) drawn to scale from Tax Assessors maps from Westchester County, New York.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Waccabuc Historic District focuses on Mead Street, the primary corridor through the hamlet. On the south, the district begins at the intersection of Route 35 and Mead Street. The majority of properties along Mead Street were included within the district; a small number of parcels with non-contributing resources were excluded. Large preserve parcels at the north and south of the district, Long Pond Preserve and Old Field Preserve, were included; both illustrate the Mead family’s development choices. In the center of the district, the Waccabuc Country Club’s golf courses extend away from Mead Street. Contemporary development surrounds the edges of the historic golf course. On the north end of the district, Mead Street climbs a hill overlooking Lake Waccabuc. The northern boundary was drawn to exclude late twentieth century development to the north of the Waccabuc hamlet.
Waccabuc Historic District

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ___Phillip Esser and Stacey Vairo___
organization: _ Associated Cultural Resource Consultants_________________________
street & number: ___54 Danbury Road., Ste. 227_________________________________
city or town: ___Ridgefield____________ state: ___CT____ zip code: ___06877___
e-mail___phillipseven@aol.com_________
telephone: ___(203) 313-3427__________
date: ___December 8, 2014 (DRAFT) ________

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
12. Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Waccabuc Historic District
City or Vicinity: Lewisboro
County: Westchester
State: New York
Photographer: Phillip S. Esser

1 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
View of southern end of Mead Street at NY Route 35 with view to northeast.

2 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: View of southern end of Mead Street at NY Route 35 – view to northeast.

3 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Old Field Preserve from Mead Street – View to northeast.

4 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Mead Street at Mead family Cemetery – View to northwest.

5 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Mead family Cemetery from Mead Street – View to northwest.

6 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, thrown farm wall from Mead Street – View to south.

7 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Hunt Family home (20 Mead Street) – view to southwest.

8 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, frontage of 17 Mead Street – view to northeast.

9 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Hunt Family home (24 Mead Street) – View to west.

10 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Frontage of 33 Mead Street – View to southeast.
Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property: Waccabuc Historic District

County and State: Westchester Co., NY

11 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Gaard House (33 Mead Street) – View to southeast.

12 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, The Homestead (36 Mead Street) – View to northwest.

13 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: The Homestead (36 Mead Street) – View to northwest.

14 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Access Road to Old Field Preserve – View to east.

15 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, Mead Street just north of Schoolhouse Road – View to northeast.

16 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Elmdon (49 Mead Street) – View to northeast.

17 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Mead Property house (63 Mead Street) – View to northeast.

18 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: 74 Mead Street (Non-Contributing) – View to west.

19 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: 118 Mead Street (Non-Contributing) – View to west.

20 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014

21 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Waccabuc Country Club course – View to southeast.

22 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Outbuildings at Waccabuc Country Club (5 Carriage House Road) – View to northwest.

23 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Cottage at Waccabuc Country Club (8 Carriage House Rd.) – View to southwest.

24 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Waccabuc Post Office (2 Post Office Road) – View to southeast.

25 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Mead/Studwell house (107 Mead Street) – View to east.

26 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Croft Farm farmhouse (106 Mead Street) – View to northwest.

27 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Croft Farm farm group (106 Mead Street) – View to west.

28 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Barn at 9 Post Office Road – View to northwest.
Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property: Waccabuc Historic District
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29 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Workman’s Cottage and Barns (166 Mead Street) – View to north.

30 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, Mead Street – View to north.

31 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Fairacre (4 Chapel Road) – view to northwest.

32 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Tarry-A-Bit (8 Tarry-A-Bit Drive) – View to southwest.

33 of 39. Date Photographed: August 11, 2014
Description of Photograph: Foundation and chimney remnants, Bungalow Club (10 Tarry-A-Bit Drive) – View to south.

34 of 39. Date Photographed: April 18, 2014
Description of Photograph: Context, Mead Memorial Chapel at Mead Street at Chapel Road – View to northwest.

35 of 39. Date Photographed: September 30, 2014
Description of Photograph: 21 Chapel Road – View to northeast.

36 of 39. Date Photographed: September 30, 2014
Description of Photograph: Tredinnock (163 Mead Street) – View to south.

37 of 39. Date Photographed: September 30, 2014
Description of Photograph: View to Lake, Tredinnock (163 Mead Street) – View to east.

38 of 39. Date Photographed: September 30, 2014
Description of Photograph: MEEKO (166 Mead Street) – View to northwest.

39 of 39. Date Photographed: September 30, 2014
Description of Photograph: Boathouse at Lake Waccabuc (Waccabuc Country Club) – View to south.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Waccabuc Historic District
Name of Property

DRAFT

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County and State
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Waccabuc Historic District  DRAFT  Westchester Co., NY
Name of Property  County and State

[Image of a historic house]

[Image of a stone structure in the woods]
Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property

DRAFT

Westchester Co., NY

County and State
Waccabuc Historic District

Name of Property

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Westchester Co., NY

County and State