

Report shows last year's park tourism at Weir Farm

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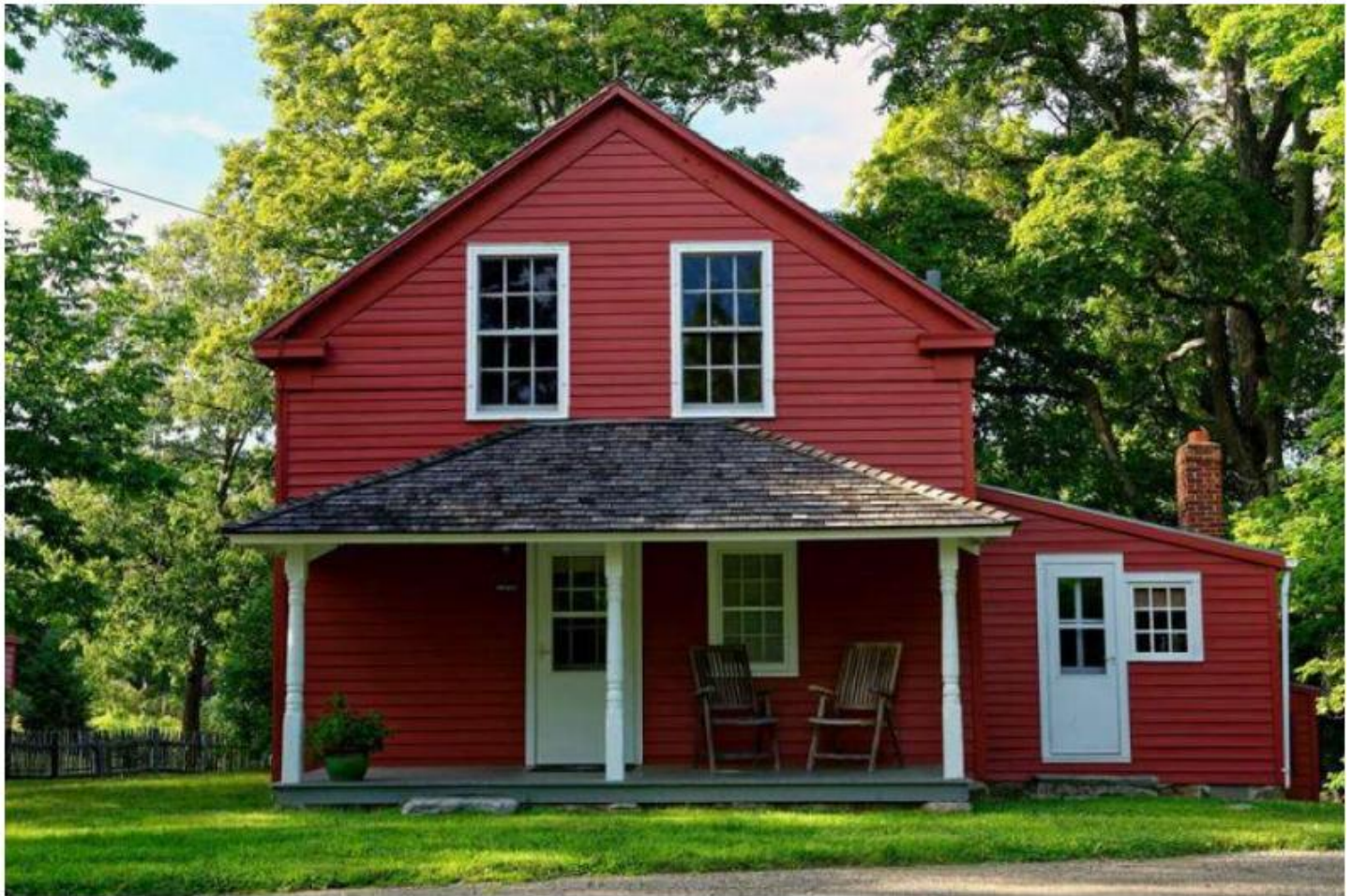
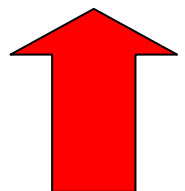


Photo: Contributed Photo / Hearst Connecticut Media

The first book about Weir Farm National Historic Site, Connecticut's first national, will be authored by Xiomaro, the park's visiting artist, in a deal he signed with Arcadia Publishing.



RIDGEFIELD — A recent National Park Service report outlined the number of visitors to Weir Farm National Historic Site last year and the economic boost they brought to the community.

The report shows that 38,095 people came to Weir Farm in 2017 and spent slightly more than \$2.1 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 24 jobs in the local

area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$2.9 million, according to a release. Spending from additional National Park Service sites in the state supported an additional 2 jobs, for a total of 26 jobs supported by visitor spending in Connecticut.

"Weir Farm National Historic Site welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Linda Cook. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis of national parks across the country was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$18.2 billion of direct spending by more than 330 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 306,000 jobs nationally and the cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$35.8 billion.