Photography exhibit chronicles architecture of Weir Farm

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WILTON -- When the eye is focused on the furnishings in a room, it's easy to miss the space's architectural details. Those charged with documenting all aspects of the Weir Farm National Historic Site have seized the opportunity to focus on those details in three buildings, while renovations have rendered the rooms empty for the first time in the history of the park.

Weir Farm will present the first artistic collection of photographs of the building's interiors in the site's history.

Linda Cook, supervisor of Weir Farm, has brought in New York photographer and former artist-in-resident, Xiomaro, to create a photographic record of the interiors of the Weir House. The exhibit, titled "Weir Was Here -- Secret Rooms, Doors, and Windows," will offer visitors a focused look into the historic structures while they remain closed to the public.

"It is our responsibility to document the before and after of the renovations," Cook said. "These are compelling spaces, with the colors and ghosts of things past. All three buildings are currently empty, allowing Xiomaro the chance to focus on the details of these spaces, features that might otherwise go unnoticed in a fully furnished setting."

The renovations of the interior of three historic buildings -- Weir House, Weir Studio and Young Studio -- are designed to bring the park back to the way it was in the 1930s. Then, it was home to the artistic legacy of the Weir family.

Contributed photo An image by New York photographer Xiomaro of a room at Weir Farm National Historic Site.

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"There is a mystery and secrecy to these relatively empty spaces," Xiomaro said. "The same eyes and hands that created works of Impressionism also unlocked these doors and opened the shutters to take in the inspiring landscape framed by the windows."

Weir Farm National Historic Site was home to three generations of American artists.

Julian Alden Weir, a leading figure in American Art and the development of American Impressionism, acquired the farm in 1882. After Weir, the legacy was continued by his daughter, painter Dorothy Weir Young, and her husband, sculptor Mahonri Young. They were followed by New England painters Sperry and Doris Andrews. Today the 60-acre farm, which includes the Weir House, Weir and Young studios, barns, gardens and Weir Pond, is a National Historic Site.

The exhibit can be viewed in the Burlingham House Visitor Center at 735 Nod Hill Road from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays through March 31; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays from April 1 through May 31.

Xiomaro will present five gallery talks about his photographs from 2 to 3 p.m. on January 7, February 5, March 4, April 1, and May 6. Registration is required for the talks.