

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 ARDEN (E.H. HARRIMAN ESTATE)

AND/OR COMMON

Arden

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 1/2 miles west of New York Route 17

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Arden

VICINITY OF

26

STATE

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Columbia University

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New York

___ VICINITY OF

New York

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Goshen

New York

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Arden, the E.H. Harriman estate, is located in the Ramapo Mountains in eastern Orange County, New York. Harriman first purchased land in this area in 1885, and by 1900 the original 7,863 acres had grown to 20,000 or thirty square miles. In 1905, he decided to erect a home on the top of the 1,300' high ridge that rises above the Ramapo River and so set his men to blasting out granite for a site for the house and lawn. By the summer of 1909, the house, designed by the firm of Carrere and Hastings, was completed, with only American-made materials used in the structure.

Designed in the style of a French chateau, the gray stone mansion consisted of a basically U-shaped unit. The building ranges from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half stories in height, in addition to the attics under the French roofs. Formal gardens were laid out along the length of the southern facade of the house, as well as a swimming pool, tennis court and fountains ornamented with sculpture.

In 1923, W.Averell Harriman, son of E.H. Harriman, added a wing to the east end of the house. A second wing was added to the east of this wing in 1964 by Columbia University. Both of these wings contain living quarters primarily.

The most recent addition to Arden House, made within the past five years, is a small rectangular classroom wing, attached to the southwest corner of the house, It is faced with the same gray stone as the original building.

The ninety-eight rooms of Arden House are presently used by the Columbia University business school. Six week seminars are conducted here regularly. Fifty-six rooms are used as bedrooms and the rest are in use as classrooms, offices, and recreational and dining facilities. The interior decor has remained basically unchanged though all of the Harriman furniture has been removed. Of the many tapestries and murals which adorn the walls, the two most notable are the murals, Famous Men and Famous Women, painted by Barry Faulkner. It is reputed that the artist used the women of the Harriman family as models for the latter work. The organ room, just inside the entrance vestibule, is perhaps the best-preserved room, its tapestries and elaborate woodwork remaining essentially unchanged.

The other buildings on the hilltop include a carriage shed and the cable car storage house and waiting room. Up until 1941, the cable car operated from the foot of the hill up to the top. Today only the waiting stations at the top and bottom remain. The track and cars have been scrapped and the grade is heavily overgrown.

The Arden House complex at the top of the hill was complemented by a cluster of service buildings at the foot of the hill. These included the massive U-shaped polo stables, the cable car station and the greenhouses. Only the two-story Tudoresque stables and the two-story stone station are still extant. This property is still owned by the Harriman family.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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

1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edward Henry Harriman, a pre-eminent organizer and builder of railroads in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries merits distinction not only for his financial acumen but for his practical ability to renovate and successfully operate railroads as well. Born in 1848, Harriman was a director on his first railroad, the Illinois Central at the age of thirty-five and soon went on to acquire control of the Union Pacific and South Pacific lines. Shortly before his death in 1909 he was even considering the formation of a transglobal transportation system.

Arden, the Harriman estate in Orange County, New York grew out of a parcel of woodland which Harriman purchased to protect from lumbering interests. Eventually his holdings totalled about twenty thousand acres, and in 1905 he decided to construct his permanent residence there. Arden House was completed in the summer of 1909, shortly before Harriman's death.

Arden House is presently owned by Columbia University and large portions of the estate have been donated to the Palisades Park Commission.

BIOGRAPHY

Edward Henry Harrison was born on February 25, 1848, the son of an Episcopal minister, and as a young man he quickly showed his aptitude for business. He left school when fourteen and obtained a job on Wall Street; by his twentieth birthday he had become the managing clerk in a brokerage house. The young financier purchased a seat on the New York Stock Exchange two years later and by 1883 he had become the owner of his first railroad, which he sold at a handsome profit in 1884.

Harriman's successful initial venture in railroads established a suitable precedent for the intense businessman's subsequent career. The Illinois Central Railroad made him a director on May 30, 1883 and four years later the line elevated him to a vice-presidency. Due largely to his sound policies, the railroad weathered the Panic of 1893, even continuing to pay dividends as one line after another failed during that economic maelstrom. The depression following the panic brought Harriman his first great opportunity, management of the bankrupt Union Pacific. He purchased control of the railroad in 1897, even though the line had been biting referred to as but "two dirt ballasted streaks of rust,"¹ and he made it a highly profitable enterprise.

(continued)

¹Riegel, Robert E. The Story of Western Railroads (New York, 1926), p. 311.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradford, S. Sydney. "Arden," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, form 10-317, 5/20/63.
 Kennan, George. E.H. Harriman, 2 vols., (Boston, 1922).
 Riegel, Robert E. The Story of the Western Railroads, (New York, 1926).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 472 acres

UTM REFERENCES

574 400 4572 780
 A | 1 8 | 5 7 5 0 0 0 | 4 5 7 3 0 0 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1 8 | 5 7 2 0 0 0 | 4 5 7 1 0 0 0 |

574 400 4570 720
 B | 1 8 | 5 7 5 0 0 0 | 4 5 7 0 0 0 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1 8 | 5 7 2 0 0 0 | 4 5 7 3 0 0 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

572 960 4570 720

572 960 4570 780

See continuation sheet

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

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

12/17/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/28/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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Harriman's astounding rehabilitation of the Union Pacific added to his already highly regarded stature, and to his wealth. But the Union Pacific served merely as a stepping stone, as in 1901 Harriman gained control of the Southern Pacific Railroad. With the merger of the Union and Southern Pacific Railroads, the nation beheld the greatest combination of railroad properties that had ever been accomplished. Not content to stop there, Harriman, along with James Jerome Hill and J. P. Morgan, formed the Northern Securities Company in November, 1901, which created a gigantic combination out of the Harriman lines, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. It was short lived, however, as in 1904 the Federal Government forced the break-up of the concern. Harriman, during the remaining five years of his life remained extremely active, showing special interest in creating a world-wide transportation system, but his great deeds had already been accomplished.

Harriman's success stemmed not only from his financial acumen, but also from his remarkable interest in the practical side of railroading. Realizing that the greatest volume of traffic hauled by as few trains as possible would produce the largest profit, he thoroughly rehabilitated most of the lines with which he was associated. As the driving force in the Illinois Central Railroad between 1882-1892, he added 1500 miles of track and built or bought 234 new passenger and 8,401 freight cars, with the result that he increased the line's annual gross revenue from about \$8,000,000 to just over \$20,000,000. When he became the paramount individual in the Union Pacific, he first travelled over 5,000 miles on the system and then spent \$174,000,000 in the following years to improve every aspect of the railroad. Harriman, after acquiring the Southern Pacific, spent \$20,000,000 within two years on improvements. As a result of his insistence upon excellence, the Southern Pacific in 1909 carried 10,000,000 more freight-tons than it had in 1901, but with a drop of 3,400,000 freight-train miles run.

The railroad magnate, near the end of his astounding career, built the great house at Arden. He had first purchased land in the area near Tuxedo in 1885, and by 1900 the original 8,000 acres had grown to 20,000. Deciding in 1905 to erect a home on the top of the 1,300-foot ridge that rises from the Ramapo River, Harriman set his men to blasting out a site for the house and lawn and by the summer of 1909, the house had been completed. But on September 9, 1909, Harriman died.

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The Arden National Historic Landmark consists of the 447 acres of the Columbia University property (indicated as ▲ Parcel and outlined in black on the enclosed map) and consisting of four contiguous pieces of land delineated and recorded in the following deeds in the Orange County Clerk's Office Records: Liber 1179, Page 234; Liber 1814, Page 474; Liber 1839, Page 747; Liber 1631, Page 110.) In addition to the Columbia University property, approximately 25 additional acres of land owned by the Harriman family which include the Arden House polo stables and cable car station (and labelled Parcel B) are also included within the landmark boundaries.

These twenty-five acres consist of a rectangular corridor extending west from the western boundary of the Columbia property bounded thusly: Beginning at a point on the western boundary of the Columbia University Arden House property 525' south of the northwestern corner of the said property, proceed northwest in a straight line for 1550' to the westernmost wall of the Harriman polo stable, thence southwest for 350' to the southern curb of the Arden entrance road, thence southeast in a straight line paralleling the northern boundary line for approximately 1550' to the western boundary line of the Columbia property. The NHL boundary thence continues south, east, north, west, and south along the Columbia property boundaries to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose both the Arden House and the associated outbuildings at both the foot and the top of the hill.

* USGS Quadrangles, 7 1/2' series, dated 1957, "Popolopen Lake, N.Y." and "Monroe, N.Y."