

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Grafton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Felsengarten

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SW of on
Lewis Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN: Bethlehem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33 COUNTY: Grafton CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Anne MacLeod

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Nashwaak Motel

CITY OR TOWN: Fredericton, New Brunswick

STATE: Canada

CODE: 260

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Grafton County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Grafton County Courthouse

P. O. Box 208

CITY OR TOWN: Woodsville

STATE: New Hampshire

CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

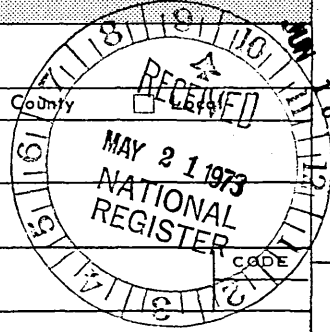
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Grafton

ENTRY NUMBER: 1843

DATE:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original: Felsengarten is a 14.8 acre parcel of rough wooded land on a mountain slope, upon which sits an eight-room house begun in 1896 and completed in 1900. It is built over a full basement of native rock walls and dirt floor and has a retaining wall all along the uphill side to protect the house from downward shifting earth and boulders. The first floor consists of a kitchen with large coal stove, two large pantries, a dining room, entry hall, a large parlor with giant fireplace and large picture window, and an open porch (the roof of the porch recently collapsed under heavy snow). The second floor includes Thomas' study, the master bedroom, a smaller bedroom, a hallway, and an early example of an indoor bathroom. The study and the master bedroom are finished in finely fitted and highly polished wood wainscoting on all walls and ceilings. The second floor abounds with built-in bookcases, shelves, and cupboards used to contain linen, blankets, books, and papers, etc. The third floor has a hallway and two small bedrooms. The house has no central heating system and is otherwise in original condition except for the addition of the following: electric stove and hot water heater in kitchen, replacements of original commode and bathtub in second floor bathroom and electrical wiring in several rooms. Some internal water damage occurred, but a new roof was installed before damage became irreparable. At the same time, the basement walls were reinforced.

The exterior architectural aspect is somewhat unusual, reminiscent of Dutch Colonial form but finished entirely on all exterior surfaces with cedar shingles, many of which are highly bleached.

Theodore Thomas devoted himself to the grounds, laying out avenues and making wood paths, turning a marsh into a pond (after much labor, he made a pond near the house), cutting away unsightly growths, felling useless trees, cutting and pruning. Mrs. Thomas planted extensive flower beds which were well known and admired in horticultural circles. Their industry made Felsengarten a pleasant summer retreat, as described at length in her book, Our Mountain Garden.

Present: Although the grounds are now overgrown and uncultivated, many descendants of Mrs. Thomas' plants and flowers flourish there during the warm months, and her book describing her gardens provides a comprehensive blueprint for restoration of the surrounding terrain.

The property is marked by an air of quiet and solitude conducive to study, meditation and concentrated creative work.

The owner has kept the house in practically the same condition as when Thomas was alive. The original furniture and artifacts (important historical relics, scores, mementos, letters, autographs, photos, and documents) are still in the house. There has been some pilferage of furniture in recent years. Internally, the house is in need of minor repairs such as repainting of wood trim, replacement of some wallpaper, etc., and some furniture needs reupholstering.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

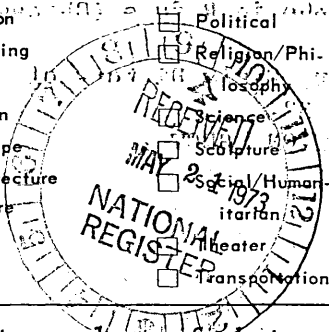
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1896-1900**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Music: Situated on the eastern slope of what was called at the turn of the century, Mount Theodore Thomas, on a rough, wooded tract containing outcropping crests of foundation rock, stands "Felsengarten", the former home of Theodore Thomas, the great American conductor and educator, and his wife Rose Fay, the founder of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Felsengarten, meaning "Rock Garden", was so named because of the rock formations and boulders and the brilliant blossoms of many wild flowers which flourished on the mountain side.

Theodore Thomas, German-born conductor, was the first and most important pioneer in the popularization of orchestral music in the United States. He was born in 1835 and came to this country in 1845. He founded his own symphony orchestra in 1862 and toured across the American continent from east to west, stimulating interest in the symphonic literature and the formation of other orchestras in several cities such as Boston and Philadelphia. He was appointed conductor of the Philharmonic Society of New York in 1876. Also in 1876, Thomas was appointed Musical Director of the Inaugural Ceremonies at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. In 1891, he founded the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which at his death in 1905 was considered by many notables throughout the world as the world's greatest orchestra. He introduced many new works to America including those of Saint-Saens, Richard Strauss, Bruckner, Brahms, Wagner, and Tchaikovsky. His passing was mourned by millions everywhere throughout the world.

The death of Theodore Thomas was regarded as a national calamity, and memorial services and musical performances were held in his honor in nearly every city of the land. At his death, condolences were received by the widow from such personages as:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Felix Weingartner | Richard Strauss | George W. Chadwick |
| Jan Paderewski | Lili Lehmann | John Knowles Paine |
| Wilhelm Gericke | Vincent D'Indy | Emil Paur |
| | William Mason | |

Statues and Monuments were erected at: Grant Park, Chicago; Cincinnati Music Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio (This statue was unveiled by President Theodore Roosevelt on May 6, 1910); Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.; Esens, Germany.

Reminiscences were published by: The New York Times; The Nation; The Chicago Tribune; The Boston Transcript; The Boston Herald; etc. Said the eminent John Tasker Howard, "Theodore Thomas is an epic figure in American history--one of our great heroes. Compare the state of musical culture at the time of the Civil War with conditions today and then thank Theodore
CONTINUED ON CONTINUATION SHEET 1.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Tasker Howard, Our American Music (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1929), 294-305.
 Charles Edward Russell, The American Orchestra and Theodore Thomas (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1927), 250, 255, 262, 271, 291. (Picture of house facing p. 284)
 Theodora Schulze, Symphonic Refuge (Chicago: Music Clubs Magazine, 1973) 20-21.
 Hattie Whitcomb Taylor, Early History of Bethlehem (Littleton, N.H.; Littleton-Courier, 1960), 32.

CONTINUED ON CONTINUATION SHEET 2.

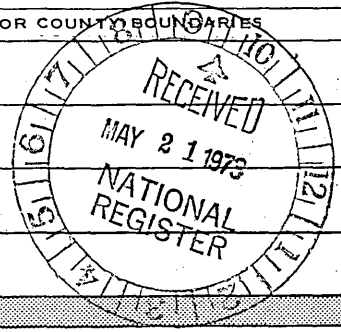
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 44° 15' 21.8"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 71° 42' 29.7"		Degrees Minutes Seconds "	Degrees Minutes Seconds "	
NE	44° 15' 21.8"	71° 42' 12.0"		"	"	
SE	44° 15' 15.9"	71° 42' 12.0"		"	"	
SW	44° 15' 15.9"	71° 42' 29.7"		"	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **14.8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Theodora Schulze, Music Director

ORGANIZATION: The Telemann Society DATE: May 3, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
762 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Acton STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 01720

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

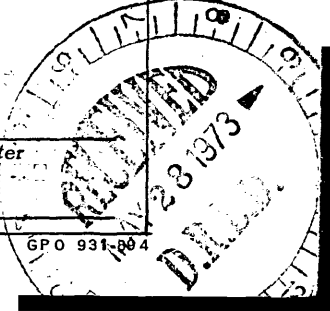
Name: George Gilman
 Title: Commissioner
Department of Resources and Economic Development
 Date: May 9, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/18/73

ATTEST:
Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: June 5, 1973



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAY 28 1973

M. M. J.

NW 19/2835170/4913740

4903 1970

30 12/28/70/4913 500

5664/2835170

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(Continuation Sheet) 1.

STATE	
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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED
MUSIC

Thomas for the difference. It is through his efforts that this country is the home of the best in orchestral music, that almost all major cities have symphony orchestras of the first rank, and what is more important, that in each of these cities there is a public that will listen to the finest symphonic works."

Rose Fay Thomas died in 1929. After the death of Theodore Thomas in 1905, she continued to use the house every summer, and it soon became a mecca to which many famous tourists came to bask in its exquisite beauty.

Mrs. Thomas wrote at Felsengarten two books, The Memoirs of Theodore Thomas, and Our Mountain Garden (describing the Felsengarten estate). Theodore Thomas completed there many of his compositions and orchestrations and programmes for future concerts, and there were received at Felsengarten such items as an original poem by Henry Van Dyke, a ms. composition by John Knowles Paine, and autographed programs from Busoni and others.

Based on an appraisal of the inventory list of the literary and musical contents of the reference books, musical scores, photos, and other mementos housed there, the Newberry Library of Chicago has verified that these items are of significant historical and monetary value. Felsengarten would seem to be a fit continuing repository for these items and the ideal focus point from which to perpetuate the name of Theodore Thomas. The house bears witness to the eminent musical position that Theodore Thomas held in American history.

The historical significance of the site derives primarily from the prominence of its former residents and their world-renowned guests, and from the special solace it provided to one who shouldered vast public burdens for the betterment of American music. It seemed to Thomas a veritable paradise on earth; and he never spent an unhappy moment there.



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(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONTINUED

Rose Fay Thomas, Memoirs of Theodore Thomas (New York: Moffat, Yard & Co., 1911), 447-449; 451-452; 487-488; 543. (Picture of house facing p. 490).

Rose Fay Thomas, Our Mountain Garden (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1904), Entire Book (Illustrated with photos of house and grounds).

George P. Upton, ed., Theodore Thomas, A Musical Autobiography, 2 vols. (Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co., 1905), 112, 213, 224, 245, 254, 256-258. (Picture of house in book facing p. 256).

