

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 8 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC (Lambert Castle)
AND/OR COMMON "BELLE VISTA" ↓

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Valley Road in Garret Mountain Reservation
CITY, TOWN Paterson VICINITY OF 35th St
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Passaic CODE 031

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Passaic County Park Commission
STREET & NUMBER Lambert Castle on Valley Road (in Garret Mountain Reservation)
CITY, TOWN Paterson VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Passaic County Register, County Court House
STREET & NUMBER Hamilton and Ward Streets
CITY, TOWN Paterson STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2380.28)
DATE 1960
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection
CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original

The following was excerpted from the New York Times (Magazine) in 1897:

"Just above the town (Paterson), on the ridge of hills that look across the broad valley of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers to the towering buildings of Manhattan, lies the castle... - Belle Vista...

"Belle Vista Castle is made of granite and sandstone from the owner's quarries; part of the material is from the grounds themselves. It is built with great solidity like the old Danish and English residences of the 14th and 15th centuries... Since its owner was born in England his taste in architecture tends naturally to English prototypes. That is why the building is so massive, long, battlemented, and low. Rising from a tenace with battering walls, whose rude granite coping gives an energetic underscoring to the whole length of the structure, the granite window frames and courses that mark the floors tell with a certain sternness the chief parts of the building, coming as they do in firm relief against the brown, rough-faced sandstone. Variety is furnished by the square and rounded tower effects, accompanied by one round and one hexagon turret, while the long lines of the building are produced still further to the east in a covered walk, supported by two dozen pairs of pillars, which end in a small square loggia far to the right."

Present

Lambert Castle as a building is in excellent condition as now maintained by The Passaic County Park Commission since 1928.

Lambert Castle was built by Catholina Lambert from 1892 to 1896. He was a very wealthy Silk Manufacturer and was able to build it as his family home and as a show-place for his outstanding collection of art.

The 3-story and basement structure was built of locally quarried brownstone for 1 foot courses and trimmed with similar size dressed granite from New England quarries.

The present Castle is built on a foundation base roughly rectangular measuring about 60 feet by 80 feet. The rectangle shape however is varied by the position of several towers, porticos, etc.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Industry

Catholina Lambert (1834-1923) was one of Paterson's largest silk manufacturers of the 19th century. Belle Vista, which Lambert built in the 1890's symbolized his wealth and importance.

Lambert, born in Yorkshire, England, came to the United States in 1851. He settled in Massachusetts, and in four years he had risen from an accountant's position to being a full partner with Tilt & Dexter silk manufacturers of Roxbury which then changed its name to Dexter, Lambert and Co. Although the name remained the same, three years later Lambert had acquired the entire business, including a New York store. In 1862 Lambert erected a 3 story silk factory in Paterson, New Jersey.

At its peak Dexter, Lambert & Company had upwards to 1,000 employees and an annual business of over 1 million dollars.

Art

When the original Belle Vista was completed in 1893 Lambert provided a special train from New York for 400 guests for a princely house-warming. Three years later another reception was held by Lambert - this time a dedication for his private art gallery which was attached to the house. This gallery was probably New Jersey's finest collection of artistic masterpieces in the state; surpassing even the public galleries.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Industrial Paterson, by L.R. Trumbull, 1882 (p. 198-203)
History of Paterson and It's Environs., (vol.2, pp. 116-117), by
 William Nelson and Charles A. Shriner -- 1920.
History of the Silk Dyeing Industry in the United States, by Albert H.
 Heusser 1924-1927 (pp.200-202)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
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5	6	9	6	1	1	0
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1	5	2	7	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

D. Stanton Hammond (Revisions by T. Karschner, Historic Sites Section
 ORGANIZATION DATE
 The Passaic County Park Commission 1973-74 DEP)

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
Lambert Castle

CITY OR TOWN STATE
Paterson New Jersey

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 Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE NOV 25 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 6/3/96
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Charles [Signature]
 SUPERVISOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-2-76

ROR for WJM 6-2-76

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Passaic County 031
New Jersey 034

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Present (cont)

At the northeast corner of the Castle is a 3-story 20 feet circular tower in that corner.

At the southeast corner of the Castle, there is a 3-story square extension about 25 feet wide.

At the center of the south elevation of the Castle there is a 10 feet by 20 feet covered portico. This serves as the main entrance to the Castle. Midway between the portico and the southwest corner of the Castle is another 5 feet diagonal projection 2-stories high.

The west side of the Castle was planned for service quarters and is of plain brownstone construction. The north side of the Castle is of the same granite trimmed brownstone with a very tall 6 feet square chimney tower, adjoining the present back door business entrance. The Museum entrance is through a north side portico, 1 story high, 15 feet wide, built of the same granite trimmed brownstone. This portico adjoins the circular tower on the northeast corner of the Castle.

This structural description depicts the four elevations which the accompanying photographs will show with much more detail.

Alterations

Now, sad to relate, Catholina Lambert's plans for his English baronial designed Castle of 1892-96, show much alteration in this building's outer appearance today.

Business reverses and labor troubles plagued his declining years and so at his decease at 89 in 1923, the Castle and its real estate location and a modicum of remaining art objects were thrown on the market. Fortunately local figures acquired the Castle and its site for the City of Paterson which later (in 1928) sold it to the newly-established Passaic County Park Commission.

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Alterations (cont)

The original Castle in Lambert's plans to 1896 showed a long 1-story arched gallery extending nearly as long as the present promenade of the Castle's north side lawn. Where the present north side museum entrance portico stands were 2 very ornate matching structures, housing an ornate bar, a billiard room, etc. Beyond that, open arches at first graced the promenade. These arches sometime later Lambert enclosed on both sides to house his expanding art collection of paintings and sculptures.

Then from 1934 to 1936, the County Park Commission razed the whole promenade structure and made considerable interior alterations for offices and museum operations.

When the City of Paterson under Mayor Raymond Newman acquired the Castle property, it was used by city agencies until the Passaic County Park Commission bought the whole tract from the City in 1928 for County Park purposes.

This was fortunate for the preservation of Lambert Castle as such but more fortunately as the imposing headquarters for healthful recreation in a densely populated area of New Jersey.

At the Park Commission's invitation the Passaic County Historical Society established its historical museum in the Castle in 1934.

Visitors registry indicates increases annually-now running in the 25 to 30 thousand totals.

The large library of local history, geneology and bound County newspapers (over 150 years) has attracted national and international searchers because of Paterson's unique manufacturing history.

Much of the historical records of Alexander Hamilton's 1791 Society for Establishing of Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.) is housed in the specially attached fireproof vault.

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Major Bibliographical References (cont)

Passaic Co. Historical Society Bulletin - "Lambert Castle" issues of
May, 1954 and May, 1956

New York Times (Magazine), "A Castle at Paterson, N.J." December 19, 1897
(pp. 3-5)

National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Catholina Lambert - Volume
XVI, (p. 41)