

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

**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

Ladew Topiary Gardens and Ladew House

AND/OR COMMON

Ladew Topiary Gardens and Ladew House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

On the east side of Jarrettsville Pike (Md. Rt. 146), 0.5 miles  
northeast of Taylor

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Taylor

\_\_X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: (Garden)

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Ladew Topiary Garden Foundation/Harvey S. Ladew

STREET & NUMBER

Box 58

CITY, TOWN

Monkton

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Ladew Topiary Garden is a 14.55 acre parcel of Mr. Harvey Ladew's estate on the Old Jarrettsville Pike in Pleasant Valley, Harford County, Maryland. Although the garden is only approximately 40 years old, it is a remarkable assemblage of plant materials, landscape design attitudes and topiary designs. The garden has an overall linear plan which follows the Old Jarrettsville Pike in order that most of the estate could be left "open" and free for hunting purposes. The garden is open to the public from April through October on weekends, with special arrangements available for weekday tours. The garden is maintained by the Ladew Topiary Garden Foundation.

Garden and topiary design was a hobby of Mr. Ladew's during most of his life; and although he is not a landscape architect, he did all of the basic design and preliminary installation work himself. Mr. Ladew designed both large scaled formal areas and more natural, intimate ones into his garden. Other than the topiary work, which is found in the more formal areas, the three most important design elements considered in planning the garden were vista, color and texture. The major garden axis provides an uninterrupted view of over 1100 feet across terraced topiary, the large central circular bowl, and through hemlock allees. Minor axes provide shorter vistas across iris beds, pools, streams and lawns.

The smaller, natural areas of the garden are designed around a variety of individual color and textural schemes. The berry garden is totally composed of berry producing plant material. The azalea garden is an unusual combination of azalea varieties planted under a grove of apple trees. A series of white, red and yellow gardens contain flowers and shrubs of appropriate color. The most recent addition to the garden is an iris garden composed of hundreds of iris varieties, topiary, pools and streams.

Most of the topiary is maintained over wire frames. Mr. Ladew's first exposure to topiary was to that of Lady Sophie Scott, in England, and for many years he had his frames made by Lady Scott's supplier, although he eventually began having his designs manufactured in this country.

The entire garden is punctuated with a variety of garden furniture, ponds and small buildings. Several French lead figures decorate the hemlock allees. The azalea garden surrounds a circular pond and fountain and the topiary Chinese junk sits in a naturalistic pool. The large central bowl has an oval pool at its center. Two small buildings serve as both focal points and shelters. A small Greek temple sits at the end of the major garden axis and a tea house, that was once the ticket office of the old London Tivoli Theatre, is placed for seclusion and retreat.

The topiary designs are shaped from a mixture of both yew and hemlock. The designs include a foxhunt, swans, a Chinese junk, a giraffe, a Buddha, hedge

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ladew Topiary Garden is a well-maintained example of combined formal and informal garden design. The formalism of the French and Italian garden attitudes is exhibited in the major axis, long vista, topiary shrubs, and use of both active and quiet waters. The informal naturalistic attitudes of English garden design are illustrated by the extensive use of spring bulbs and color coordinated garden areas.

The art of topiary dates from Tudor and Elizabethan England and was much used in 18th century Germany. It generally has had a very limited use in contemporary gardens as it is time consuming and expensive to maintain. This makes the extensive collection of topiary found in the Ladew Garden an invaluable resource both to the study of the art and the exposure of it to the public. Large-scale gardens themselves are valuable from a similar aesthetic and educational standpoint.

In 1971, the Ladew Gardens received the Distinguished Service Medal of the Garden Club of America for being the most outstanding topiary garden in America.

The Ladew House is important because of its relationship to the Topiary Gardens. At Mr. Ladew's death, the house will become the property of the Ladew Topiary Garden Foundation, who will open it to the public, exhibiting his collections of porcelain, furniture, paintings, and hunting memorabilia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by Ladew Topiary Garden Foundation

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,8 | 37,04,0,0 | 4,38,23,4,0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1,8 | 37,01,5,0 | 4,38,18,0,0 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1,8 | 36,98,4,0 | 4,38,19,4,0 |

D | 1,8 | 37,01,3,0 | 4,38,24,9,0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James A. Caufield, Staff Architect

(cas)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

267-1212

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 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

*John Pearce* 11/20/75

DATE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/17/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5-12-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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windows, garland allees, geometrics (pyramids, spheres, cubes), Lyre birds and sea horses.

PARTIAL LIST OF PLANT MATERIAL IN THE GARDEN

Common Name	Latin Name
Yew	Taxus cuspidate
box	Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa
silver belltree	Halesia caroliniana
Norway Spruce	Picea abies
hybrid rhododendron	Rhododendron
hydrangea	Hydrangea
funkia	Hosta
hollies	Ilex aquifolium, serrata & Latifolia
cotoneaster	Cotoneaster divaricata
privit	Ligustrum ovalifolium
snowberry	Symphocarpus albus
winter honeysuckle	Lonicera fragrantissima
American bittersweet	Calcestrus scardene
Mountain ash	Sorbus acuparia
common buckthorn	Rhamus cathartica
azaleas	Azalea
dwarf privit	Ligustrum vicari
golden raintrees	Laburnum anagyroides
broom	Systsis broscopercos
dwarf willow	Salix purpurea nama
helmlock	Tsuga canadensis
wisteria	Wistaria
spring bulbs	
water lilies	

The Ladew House is on a 7.37 acre parcel immediately adjacent southwest to the topiary gardens. Because of their close proximity, the house and the garden should be considered an integral unit.

The house was constructed in three stages, entirely of frame. The original section, now the right hyphen, is a two story, three bay structure with a shallow pitched north-south A-roof. The conjectured date of this section is late 18th century. The central section is a two and one half story, three bay structure with a shallow pitched north-south A-roof. This was constructed during the mid-nineteenth century and now serves as the main entrance point to the house. The left hyphen and left wing were both

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constructed in the early twentieth century. They are two story structures. The left hyphen is three bays with a shallow pitched north-south A-roof. The left wing is two bays on the front facade with an east-west shallow pitched roof.

On the left, the hyphen was constructed to house an Elizabethan room from England on the first floor and the wing to the house "the oval Library" which is listed in The 100 Most Beautiful Rooms in America.

To the rear, the house is connected to a series of garden maintenance garages, sheds and greenhouse.