

11000-711
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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 Sun Terrace

AND/OR COMMON Frederick V. Field House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Stub Hollow Road

CITY, TOWN New Hartford VICINITY OF 6th, Toby Moffett

STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Litchfield CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Michael M. Taylor

STREET & NUMBER 12 Stonemill Road

CITY, TOWN Storrs STATE Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER Town Hall

CITY, TOWN New Hartford STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "Subdivision Plan Map of Land Owned by Michael M. Taylor"

DATE April, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall

CITY, TOWN New Hartford STATE Connecticut

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

Sun Terrace is situated on 7.86 acres of a wooded hilltop about four miles to the south and west of the center of New Hartford, Connecticut. It is an International Style country house forming an isolated promitory with exposure to the east, west, and additionally, a fine view to the south. The 1 1/2 story building has a skeleton of structural steel and concrete covered with exterior cement stucco and interior plaster in a asymmetrical rectilinear massing, with one dramatically contrasting curved second story surface. It has ribboned and cornered windows with minimum exterior reveals, exposed support columns, cantilevered and flat roofs, and is entirely devoid of ornamentaiton, making it both structurally and visually an excellent example of Internationalist Architecture.

In its original form Sun Terrace's first floor consisted of a large living room, kitchen, and servants' quarters with bathroom. The second floor included a master bedroom, full bathroom, guest bedroom and a large open terrace accessible from both bedrooms set on the extended livingroom roof, hence the name Sun Terrace. (See attached Floor Plans, Figures #1 and #2.) Several innovative design features exemplifying the Internationalist principle which holds form as a residual of function are manifest at Sun Terrace. A spiral staircase, so often used by Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, and other European Internationalists, but used at Sun Terrace possibly for the first time in America, permitted access and egress from the roof top terrace to the ground level. Lighting was indirect throughout the house and utilized flourescent fixtures which at the time were still in developmental stages. Also of note was the livingroom fireplace with curved face extending to the ceiling, (hiding a six foot flourescent fixture) in sharp contrast with the rectilinear setting, formed and faced with soapstone, which was used for its unique properties of heat retention and durability.

In 1936 a detached three car garage of concrete block construction with a slightly pitched frame roof was built approximately 20 feet from the northeast corner of the house. In 1941 a two bedroom, one bath, clapboard covered frame wing was added off the western side of the ground floor. Also built at that time was a dining addition extending from the north kitchen wall which was similar in structure and finish to the original house. (These additions, also designed and supervised by Lescaze, had been anticipated in the original plans.)

The construction of Sun Terrace is a combination of functionality and durability typical of the International Style. The following is an excerpt from a detailed description of the construction of the house which was published in the November, 1932 edition of the "Architecural Record". "Floors and roof slabs formed by laying wire back mesh on top of beams, then pouring 2" concrete slabs. All exterior walls above the first floor are of steel frame construction, with paper back mesh and three coats of cement stucco on exterior, and with 1 1/2" of cork and two coats of hard finish white plaster painted with flat oil paint on

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interior. Interior partitions formed by plastering over paper back mesh placed over steel studs. Metal sash of casement type set into angle frame and welded to the steel structure. All exterior and interior doors are 1 3/4" thick flush kalamein, covered with furniture steel with a satin Duco finish. Exterior doors in blue Duco finish. Interior doors beige. Floor coverings: kitchen, servants' room, lavatory, and entire second floor in linoleum in solid color. Living room, stairs, and halls laid with cork, in colors medium and dark, with cove base 4" high. Interior stairs of structural steel. Treads and risers covered with cork, aluminum nosing. Exterior railing made of first grade wrought iron and painted. Roofing: all roofs slope to form natural drainage. On top of roof slabs 2" cork insulation was placed, then enough cinder concrete to give proper rise and fall for drainage".

Sun Terrace is currently undergoing a total restoration with completion scheduled for June, 1978. The only changes from the original construction occur in the two bedroom wing, the exterior of which has been framed in steel mesh, covered with three coats of concrete stucco, and painted off white to conform to the overall design as in William Lescaze's original specifications.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Fall 1929-Fall 1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Lescaze

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1932 William Lescaze, who "ranks as a pioneer modernist in the United States"¹ completed Sun Terrace, the first country house built in the United States in the International Style of architecture, and his own first residential commission.

William Edmond Lescaze (c 1896-1969) was born and raised in Zurich, Switzerland and studied under Karl Moser at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale in Zurich. After graduation in 1920 Lescaze, with his background in the architectural style which was emerging in Europe, later to be known as Internationalist, came to America. He started as a draftsman for the Cleveland firm of Hubble and Barnes, supplementing his income by teaching French and designing a few interiors privately. It wasn't until the late 1920's however, that he was able to fully devote himself to architecture. In 1929 he met and formed a partnership with George Howe, an established Philadelphia architect in need of a partner with a modernist background to satisfy the demands of some large potential commissions. It was during this partnership (1929-1934) that William Lescaze, who was responsible for the firm's creative input while Howe supervised the business end,² produced some of his most noted works. In 1929 Howe and Lescaze completed the Oak Lane Country Day School near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of the first Internationalist structures in this country. Starting in the same year and finishing in 1932 the firm created the building for the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society. "Not only was PSFS the first skyscraper in which the principles of the International Style were consistently manifested; it is a building that has a place in any general view of the architecture of the 20th Century"³.

During the same period that PSFS was being built Lescaze was commissioned by Frederick Vanderbilt Field, heir to two fortunes of international proportion (grandson of Marshall Field and great-great grandson of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt), then a writer with liberal socialist views in his mid 20's. The resulting Sun Terrace in New Hartford, Connecticut in 1932 was the first residence by William Lescaze to be completed. None of his several residential projects of the late 1920's had been built. It was the compatibility of the client's specified

1. See Item 9, #5
2. See Item 9, #12
3. See Item 9, #10

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

For Major Biographical References see Continuation Sheet Number 4, Item 9, Page 1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.86

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 664829 4635222
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

For Verbal Boundary Description see Continuation Sheet Number 5, Item 10, Page 1.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael M. Taylor

April 30, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Owner

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

12 Stonemill Road

TELEPHONE

(203) 429-9820

CITY OR TOWN

Storrs

STATE

Connecticut

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

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

August 11, 1978

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

ATTEST: William Leborch
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/20/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 12/19/78

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need for a country house to rest in during the summer months and a few weekends in the winter "which would be intelligent about service, sun and air, and with space enough for 2,000 reference books",⁴ in conjunction with Lescaze's Internationalist's views which held that "modern architecture springs from an attitude of mind...concerned with human life and need"⁵ which facilitated the creation of Sun Terrace, the first country house in the Internationalist Style to be built in the United States.

"The National Cyclopedica of American Biography" mentions several of Lescaze's most notable accomplishments. Of specific interest is the mention of the Field House: "Lescaze became one of the most prominent exponents of the so called modern school in the United States and he was credited with the design of the first modern school building, the Oak Lane Country Day Nursery School near Philadelphia, in 1929; the first modern country house, that for Frederick V. Field in Connecticut in 1932; the first fully air-conditioned modern skyscraper, a thirty-three story building for the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society in 1932; the first use of glass block in a residence, his own at 211 East 48th Street, New York City, 1934; the site planning for the first low-cost housing project, the Williamsburg Houses, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1938, occupying 12 city blocks, and with a capacity of 1630 families; and the first building designed exclusively for radio work, that for Columbia Broadcasting System in Hollywood, California, 1938". (For a detailed account of Lescaze's early works see attached Lanmon chronology.)

Between 1929 and 1932, during the period when Lescaze was engaged in designing PSFS, still perhaps the most notable example of Internationalist Style architecture in the world, he designed Sun Terrace, the first Internationalist country house in the United States. Sun Terrace is preceded only by Richard Neutra's "Health" House begun a year earlier as the first International residence in the United States, hence the qualifying term first International "country" house in the United States.

The Internationalists Style of architecture saw its roots in early 20th Century Europe headed by Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in Germany, J.J.P. Oud in Holland, and Le Corbusier in France. The style is characterized by asymmetrical rectilinear composition where effects of mass and weight are minimized in favor of pure volume.

4. See Item 9, #7

5. See Item 9, #15

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Predominant are steel and concrete covered with cement stucco, devoid of all ornamentation and usually rendered white. The roofs are flat and cantilevered and windows abound, often forming corners and horizontal bands with almost a total absence of moldings.

Internationalism saw its beginnings in the United States in the late 1920's. Richard Neutra, who had migrated from Vienna in 1923, designed and constructed "Health" House for Dr. Phillip Lovell in Los Angeles between 1928-1930. This was followed almost simultaneously by the Oak Lane Country Day School (1929), PSFS (1929-1932), and Sun Terrace (1929-1932) designed by Lescaze and together comprise the earliest examples of the Internationalist movement in the United States.

Even though the Internationalist Style in its purist form saw a rapid decline by the end of the 40's, Henry-Russell Hitchcock suggests that "The Internationalist Style was the dominant architectural development of the second quarter of the 20th century" and "is still the basis of the world's architecture even in the 1960's and may well remain so for many decades".⁶

6. See Item 9, #11

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1. Architectural Forum, November, 1933
2. Architectural Forum, January, 1937
3. Architectural Record, November, 1931
4. Architectural Record, November, 1932
5. Architectural Review, 1957
6. Arts and Decoration, October, 1933
7. Arts and Decoration, February, 1934
8. Arts and Decoration, February, 1936
9. "Art in America", Holger, Cahill and Barr
10. "American Architecture Since 1780", Marcus Whiffin
11. "Encyclopedia of Modern Architecture", editor Wolfgang Pehnt
12. "George Howe", Robert A.M. Stern
13. "National Cyclopedia of American Biography" Vol. 54
14. "The Modern House", F.S. Yorke
15. "William Lescaze", Lori Lanmon (upcoming biography)

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Verbal Boundary Description

Being Lot #1 as shown on a map entitled "Subdivision Plan Map of Land Owned by Michael M. Taylor", Bruning and Stub Hollow Road, New Hartford, Connecticut. Scale: 1"=100' April, 1977. F.N. Whittemore, Jr., Land Surveyor Reg. No. 3101

Said lot is further bounded and described as follows:

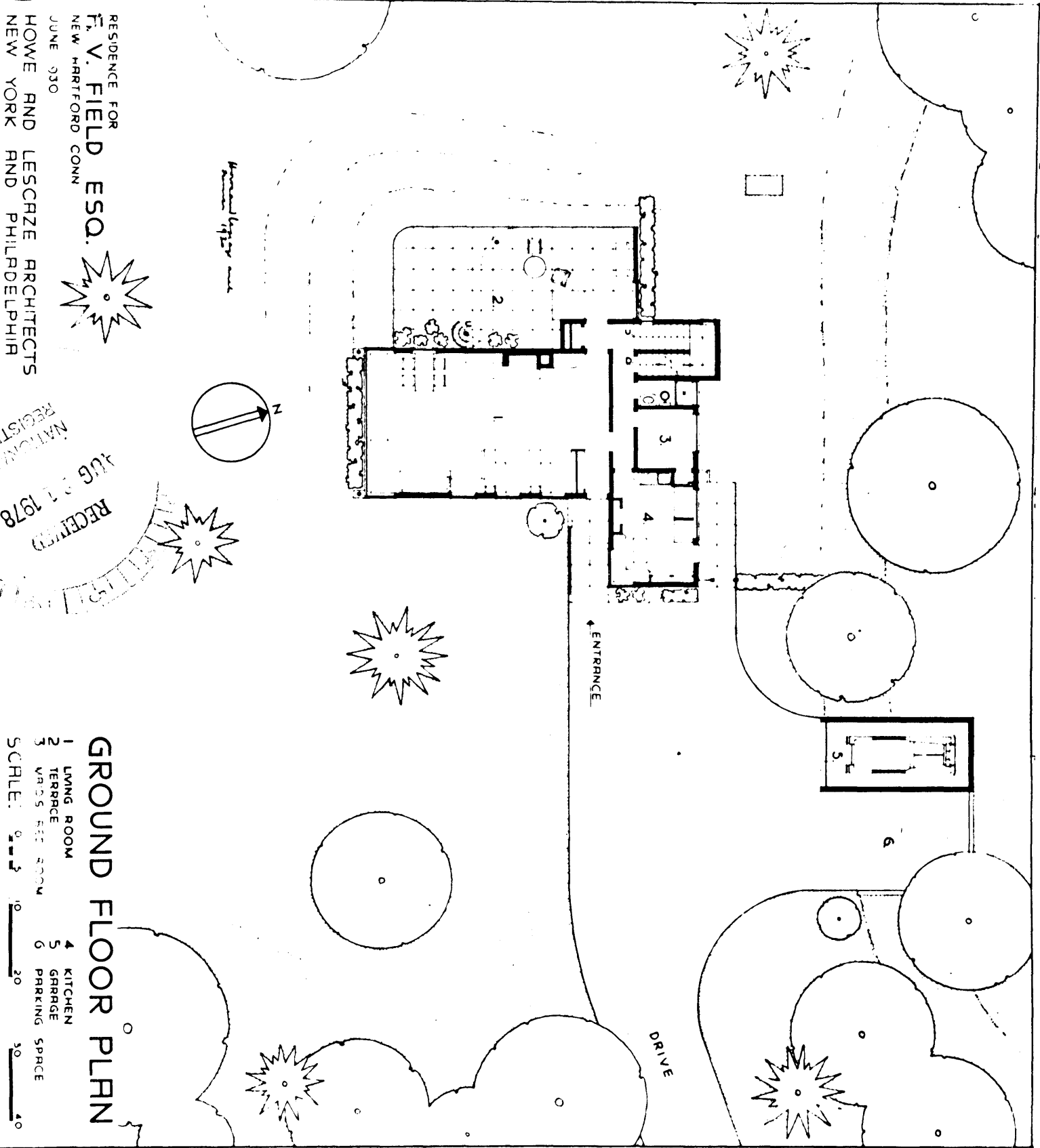
- Northerly: by land now or formerly of the estate of Margarette B. Creevey, 738.50';
- Easterly: by Stub Hollow Road, 438.14';
- Southerly: by lot #2 as shown on said map, 646.46'; and
- Westerly: by land now or formerly of the estate of Margarette B. Creevey, 560.41'.

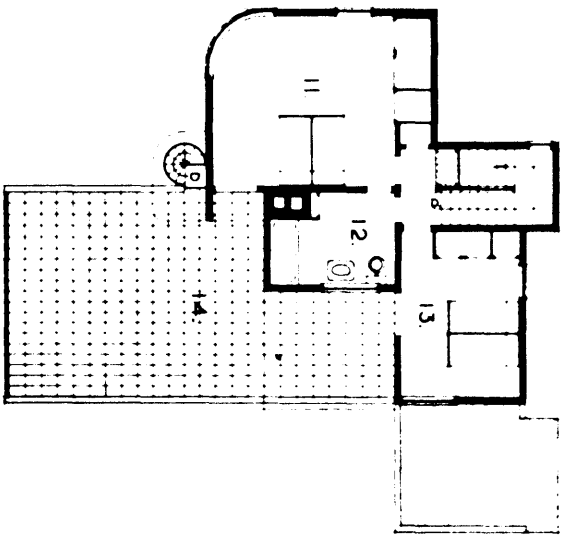
Figure #1

RESIDENCE FOR
F. V. FIELD ESQ.
NEW HARTFORD CONN
JUNE 1930
HOWE AND LESCRZE ARCHITECTS
NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

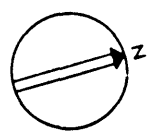
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GROUND FLOOR PLAN
1 LIVING ROOM
2 TERRACE
3 WRD5. FEET ROOM
4 KITCHEN
5 GARAGE
6 PARKING SPACE
SCALE: 1" = 20'





Dimensions (1930s)



RESIDENCE FOR
 F. V. FIELD ESQ.
 NEW HARTFORD CONN.
 JUNE 1930
 HOWE AND LESCRZE ARCHITECTS
 NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- 11 MASTERS' BED ROOM
- 12 BATH ROOM
- 13 CHILD'S ROOM
- 14 TERRACE

SCALE: 0 5 10 20 30 40

