

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

Jay Gould Estate, Lyndhurst

AND/OR COMMON

Lyndhurst

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Located between State Route 9 and the Hudson River

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tarrytown  
STATE

VICINITY OF  
CODE

23  
COUNTY

CODE

New York

30

Westchester

119

## 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

National Trust for Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

748 Jackson Place

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

D.C.

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Westchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

White Plains

New York

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex - Division of Print and Photographs

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

# 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

Lyndhurst was designed in 1838 by Alexander Jackson Davis, one of the first of a series of his designs which came to be known as "Hudson River Gothic." The Gothic Revival villa was built of brick faced with white Ossining marble for William Paulding, and was probably modelled on Lowther Castle in England. The original house, which now comprises the southern end of the building, was basically cruciform in plan, with an east-west axis extending on the first floor from the entrance porch through a hall and into the **salon** which looks out through beautiful diamond-lighted sash windows over the Tappan Zee. This axis is two-and-a-half stories high with a steep gable roof with finialed gable ends. The north-south axis intersected symmetrically with the other axis at the central hall. To the south of the hall was a large drawing room, and to the north were the dining room, an office and the stair tower, on the northeast corner of the house. The second floor was divided generally into bedrooms, except for the library, which extended the length of the central hall and the **salon** on the first floor. To the east of the library, above the porch, was the master bedroom. The interior woodwork of the original and the later portions of the house is remarkable for its intricacy; each detail was designed by Davis himself and executed by Richard Byrnes, the Irish cabinetmaker, including Gothic furniture. The exterior of the house is characterised by the Gothic features such as; turrets, bays, finials, buttresses, trefoils, stone traceries, and crenellations. Wooden porches ran the length of the south and west sides of the building.

In 1864-65, Davis returned to enlarge the house for its second owner, George Merritt, a New York City merchant. The architect's effect on the house, now called Lyndhurst, resulted in a sacrifice of the symmetry for a more elaborate and picturesque asymmetry. The roof was raised a story along the north-south axis; a wing which housed a new dining room and pantry was added on the north end of the house; adjoining the wing at its juncture with the original house on the west, a four story tower was erected; and on the east, an elegant port<sup>l</sup>-cochere was added onto the porch entrance, which was converted into a vestibule and library.

Davis continued to reflect the detailed exterior in the intricacy of the interior decoration. The new dining room, with its great mullioned bay windows, is notable for its walls, which were carefully painted and sanded to simulate marble. The first floor hall is papered with canvas which has been painted to simulate ashlar stonework. This hall was also covered with a new marble floor in 1865. The varied treatment of the ceilings in the house's 16 rooms includes in most of the principal chambers, rib vaulting or haunched beams carried on corbels.

The basement of the house is divided into kitchen, pantry and storage area. The slate roof has been replaced in part recently with lead-coated copper plates.

After his mansion was enlarged and remodeled, George Merritt next turned his attention to the grounds. Approximately 20 acres were drained and laid out in lawns, an acre and a half was appropriated for a grape arbor, while vegetable gardens were also planted and bordered with fruit trees. To the northeast of

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1838, built; 1864, enlarged; 1880-1892, Gould's occupancy BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Jackson Davis

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lyndhurst, one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in America, was for twelve years the country estate of Jay Gould, the financier. One of the shrewdest and most ruthless operators in the post-Civil War era of unrestrained finance capitalism, Gould is noteworthy for his battle with Cornelius Vanderbilt over the control of the Erie Railroad, his attempt to corner the nation's gold market, and his development of the western railroads.

The palatial house which Gould occupied in the last years of his life was built by Alexander Jackson Davis, in 1838 for former Mayor of New York, William Paulding, and enlarged by Davis in 1864, for its second owner, George Merritt. Gould acquired the estate in 1880, but effected no change in the house, although he did have an immense greenhouse erected to accomodate his hobby, gardening.

Lyndhurst, which overlooks the Tappan Zee at Tarrytown, New York, is presently maintained, with most of its original furniture, as a house-museum by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## Biography

Jay Gould was born in Roxbury, New York, on May 27, 1836. Acquiring what education he could, he became a surveyor in his late teens, and between his eighteenth and twenty-first years he surveyed and helped to produce maps of New York, Ohio and Michigan counties. In turning from surveying, Gould entered into the tanning business in northern Pennsylvania. In 1857, one of Gould's partners committed suicide, an act which Gould's enemies linked to unscrupulous actions on the part of the young opportunist. By 1860, Gould had moved to New York City, and was there engaged in his first speculations in railroads. By 1867, he had garnered sufficient savvy and confidence to engage the mighty Cornelius Vanderbilt in their notorious battle for the control of the Erie Railroad. Although he allied himself with Daniel Drew and James Fisk in this battle, Gould provided the basic strategies, and relied upon his own anonymity to confuse Vanderbilt as to who his real opponent was. The outcome was finally decided by Gould's superior efforts at "persuasion" in the New York courts and legislature. Having purchased the legal sanction through bribes, Gould manuevered himself in the presidency of the Erie Railroad, where he and Fisk, and later partners Peter Sweeney and Villiam Tweed, proceeded to milk the company of its assets through the issue of worthless stock. When he was forced to resign in 1872, he left the railroad with a funded debt of \$64,000,00. The railroad did not grant a dividend on its common stock for the next 69 years.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Chamberlain, The Enterprising Americans: A Business History of the United States (New York, 1963).

Thomas Cochran and William Miller, The Age of Enterprise (New York, 1960).

Julius Grodinsky, Jay Gould, His Business Career (U. of Pennsylvania Press, Phila., 1957)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 70 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	59,5680	45,45330	B	1,8	59,569,0	45,44960
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	59,49,1,0	45,450,0,0	D	1,8	59,49,4,0	45,454,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark boundaries are coterminus with the boundary lines of the Trust property, as indicated in red on the attached sketch map. These boundaries enclose the extant historic features within the limit of the historically integral land.

(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

5/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Boundary Certified:

George J. Emery  
July 2, 1978 date

Nov. 13, 1966

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7/21/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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the house Merritt had a 400' long, U-shaped glass and iron frame greenhouse erected. This building, which was dominated by a 100' tower surmounted by a glass cupola burned to the ground in 1880. By the summer of 1881, Gould, who had only recently acquired the property, had Lord and Burnham, the original builders, construct a similar greenhouse with the same dimensions, which later housed Gould's extensive orchid collection. This building is presently only partially restored. Behind the greenhouse is a long, narrow complex of potting and seed rooms which date from both the first and second greenhouse.

Across the grounds, to the southeast of the house is the stable complex, a U-shaped collection of carriage sheds, stables, and the coach house. The exteriors and portions of the interiors of these brick and frame structures are presently being restored. The old coachman's cottage is just to the east of this complex and is in a dilapidated state. To the east of this is a former kennel, built for Gould's sons, which is now converted into a caretaker's residence. A children's playhouse, the Rose Cottage, is located southeast of the main house, just north of the stables.

Situated at the entrances of the two driveways are the gardener's cottage at the north entrance, and the gatehouse at the main entrance. These two-story stone houses have slate tiled hip roofs, and are presently used as residences. Just west of the gardener's cottage is the more recent swimming pool, which is housed in a glassroofed brick structure. It is presently not in use.

Alongside the mansion to the north is the Laundry/Guest Cottage. This long rectangular two story stuccoed structure formerly housed the laundry, and servants' and guest quarters. It is now used as office space by the National Trust.

To the west of the mansion, down along the shore of the Hudson, are two buildings, the Northwest Cottage and the Bowling Alley. The Northwest Cottage is a small frame house with a steep gable roof and barge boards and pendants. Until 1964, there was a similar house, the Southwest Cottage, located in the southwest corner of the property, but it has since burned.

The Bowling Alley is a long rectangular frame house with two story wings on either end. This building housed a bowling alley and other recreation rooms. One other notable feature of the grounds is Gould's yacht dock on the Hudson River. Reached by a bridge over the Penn Central Railroad tracks, the dock where the Atalanta was moored is now little more than a stone jetty.

Lyndhurst as it exists today as a National Trust for Historic Preservation property, is maintained as a house-museum. The Trust has instituted numerous

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renovations, including the new roofing and exterior woodwork of the mansion. Alterations have been limited to the installation of public restrooms in the basement of the mansion, a workshop in the first floor of the stable, and similar features related to maintenance of the property as a public monument.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Biography

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

While engaged in the Erie affair, Gould also attempted to corner the nation's gold supply. Hoping to prevent the Federal Treasury from putting its gold on the market through his influence with President Grant's brother-in-law, Gould bought up gold at steadily increasing prices. In September, however, Grant grew uneasy and gave the order to sell gold. Gould disposed of his hoard, a panic ensued, and September 24, 1869, became known as "Black Friday."

Although he infrequently left the East, Gould was a major force in the construction and consolidation of the railroads of the West. In 1874, he purchased enough of the Union Pacific Railroad stock to become a director and remained in virtual control until 1878, meanwhile buying stock in the Kansas Pacific Railroad. In 1879, Gould, who had since purchased three other Western lines, threatened to connect one of them, the Central Pacific, with the Kansas Pacific and thereby create a transcontinental line which would be in competition with the Union Pacific. When Gould suggested to the Union Pacific directors that they merge with the Kansas Pacific, they were virtually forced to agree. Soon afterward, Gould received \$10,000,000 for his stock in the Kansas Pacific. Gould continued to speculate in Western railroads and though he sacrificed efficiency and railroad maintenance to clear a larger profit, he was instrumental in raising the necessary capital to finance the railroad construction. As is illustrated above however, he was never loath to lead others into risky speculations, if he could escape with his profit before the paper empires collapsed.

Meanwhile, in New York City, Gould continued to extend his dealings into other fields, although maintaining the same sharp practices. From 1879 to 1883 he owned the New York World; he became part owner of the New York elevated railways in 1881 and practically full owner in 1886; in 1881 he purchased Western Union Telegraph.

Working almost to the end, Gould died of tuberculosis at the age of 57. He remained to the end a cold and unscrupulous man who left behind him no friends.

However Jay Gould may be condemned morally, he was undeniably one of, if not the most advanced thinker in the field of corporate finance. Although he delved into many fields of investment, his primary concern was the trading and manipulation of securities, and in this area, Gould could act with expert timing and split-second decisiveness. Although his positive actions are generally limited to his "brilliant" expansion of the western railroads and although he left a wake of failed speculators and investors in his wake, Jay Gould must be considered a native genius in American corporate management.

1. Julius Grodinsky, Jay Gould, His Business Career (U. of Penn. Press, Phila., Pa., 1957), p.25.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation vol. 17, #2  
March-April, 1965.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

1

Verbal Boundary Description

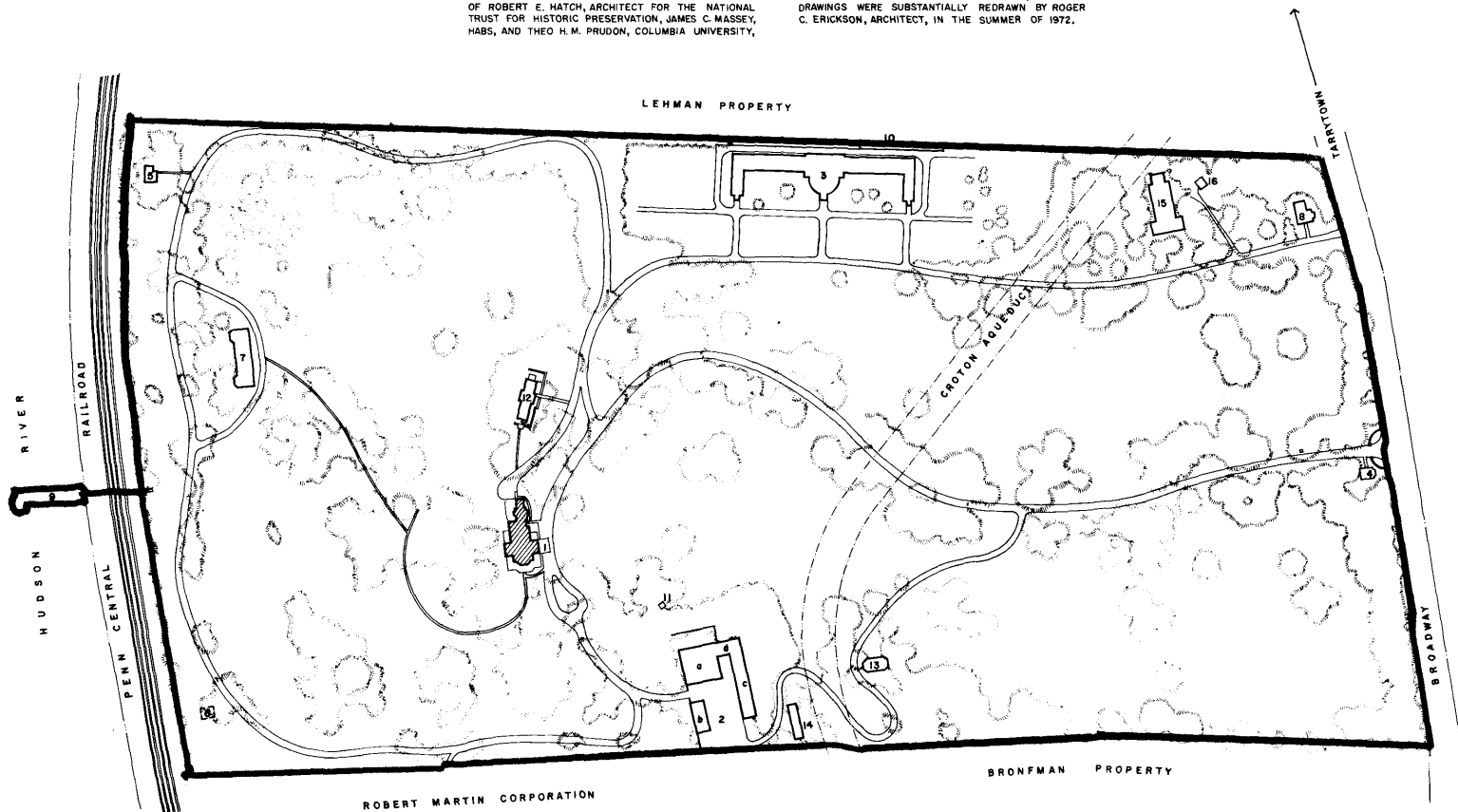
Beginning at the point where the northern property line of the Bronfman Property merges with the western curb of Broadway Street proceed northwest along the said **western curb 1072'**, more or less, to the southern property line of the Lehman property thence west along the Lehman property line 2,145' , more or less, to a point; thence in a southerly direction which is parallel to the Penn Central Railroad 1,235' more or less, to a point; thence east approximately 2,145' to the point of origin.

The bridge that connects the yacht dock as well as the yacht dock are part of Lyndhurst.

# LYNDHURST

THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY OF THE OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THESE DOCUMENTS WERE MEASURED AND DRAWN UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROBERT E. HATCH, ARCHITECT FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, JAMES C. MASSEY, HABS, AND THEO H. M. PRUDON, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,

PROJECT SUPERVISOR, AND BY STUDENT ARCHITECTS, LAWRENCE J. FUSARO, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, THOMAS L. PRICE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, AND DAVID L. BAKER, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS WERE AT LYNDHURST, A PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST WHICH IS LOCATED IN TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK. DRAWINGS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REDRAWN BY ROGER C. ERICKSON, ARCHITECT, IN THE SUMMER OF 1972.



LYNDHURST, A PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, WAS DESIGNED BY ALEXANDER JACKSON DAVIS IN 1838 FOR GENERAL WILLIAM PAULDING, FORMER MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY. THE VILLA WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF DESIGNS BY DAVIS IN THE STYLE WHICH CAME TO BE CALLED "HUDSON RIVER GOTHIC."

IN COLLABORATION WITH ANDREW JACKSON DOWNING, PROMINENT HORTICULTURIST, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, AND CHIEF EXPONENT OF THE PICTURESQUE GOTHIC STYLE FOR COUNTRY HOUSES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, DAVIS PROVIDED THE ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE "RURAL ARCHITECTURE" CHAPTER OF DOWNING'S 1841 BOOK, A TREATISE ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE GARDENING, AND INCLUDED SKETCHES OF "PAULDING MANOR."

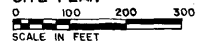
IN 1864 DAVIS DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE MANSION FOR GEORGE MERRITT, THE SECOND OWNER OF THE ESTATE, RAISING THE ROOF-LINE AND ADDING A WING TO THE NORTH, A NEW PORTE-COCHERE TO THE EAST, AND AN IMPOSING TOWER TO THE WEST. GRACEFUL, FINELY PROPORTIONED, AND INTRICATELY BALANCED, LYNDHURST IS A MASTERPIECE OF COMPOSITION, UNRIVALED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN GOTHIC REVIVAL MANSION.

JAY GOULD PURCHASED LYNDHURST IN 1880 AND, UPON HIS DEATH, THE ESTATE WAS WILLED TO HIS DAUGHTER HELEN. IN 1939, HIS SECOND DAUGHTER ANNA, DUCHESS DE TALLEYRAND-PERIGORD, ACQUIRED THE HOUSE AND BEQUEATHED LYNDHURST TO THE NATIONAL TRUST IN 1964.

## KEY TO STRUCTURES

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 MANSION                                   | 7 BOWLING ALLEY                 |
| 2 STABLE COMPLEX                            | 8 GARDENER'S LODGE              |
| a COACH HOUSE & STABLE                      | 9 BRIDGE & YACHT DOCK           |
| b STABLE                                    | 10 SERVICE & LEAN-TO GREENHOUSE |
| c SHEDS                                     | 11 ROSE COTTAGE                 |
| d STABLE QUARTERS                           | 12 LAUNDRY / GUEST COTTAGE      |
| 3 GREENHOUSE                                | 13 KENNEL                       |
| 4 ENTRANCE LODGE                            | 14 COACHMAN'S COTTAGE           |
| 5 NORTHWEST COTTAGE                         | 15 SWIMMING POOL                |
| 6 SOUTHWEST COTTAGE<br>(BURNT DOWN IN 1964) | 16 GARAGE                       |

## SITE PLAN



DRAWN BY: T. L. PRICE, ROGER C. ERICKSON

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
LYNDHURST PROJECT SUMMER 1971  
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

LYNDHURST

TARRYTOWN, WESTCHESTER CO., N.Y.

SURVEY NO.  
N.Y. 5538

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 1 OF 16 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
SERIALS ACQUISITION

635 SOUTH BROADWAY