

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001438

Date Listed: 9/28/90

Skylands

Property Name

Passaic

County

NJ

State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
for Signature of the Keeper

9/28/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion A was selected but no Area of Significance is indicated. Sue Pringle of the NJ SHPO says to drop Criterion A. Also, the start of the Period of Significance should correspond to the date of the earliest building, ca. 1900. Sue also clarified the conflicting resource count - there are 13 contributing buildings (main house, potting shed, greenhouse, carriage house, lodge, east cottage, cottage, barn, garage, Hillair cottage, Hillair greenhouse, 8 room frame cottage, and a barn). There is one contributing site (the landscaped ground) and one contributing structure (the pumphouse). The form is now officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Skylands
other names/site number Skylands Botanical Garden

2. Location

street & number Ringwood State Park NA not for publication
city, town Ringwood Borough vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Passaic code 031 zip code 07456

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	14	0 buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		15	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
William R. ... 2/28/90
Signature of certifying official Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. *Patrick Andrews* 9/28/90
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain):
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and Culture/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Tudor-Revival

foundation stone

walls stone

wood

roof slate

other stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SKYLANDS is an estate established in 1891 on the western edge of the Ramapo Mountains in the borough of Ringwood, Passaic County, consisting of a manor house and formal and informal gardens (1) [hereafter, numbers in parentheses indicate photographs] designed and constructed between 1922 and 1927, and thirteen outbuildings. American architect John Russell Pope (1874-1937) designed the stone and half-timbered Tudor manor house (3) which has 44 rooms on three floors and a full basement. Working with Pope was Samuel Yellin (1885-1940), who designed interior and exterior electrical fixtures, and Heinegke & Smith who installed contemporary stained glass medallions. Astride a plateau on a northwest-southeast axis, the house is surrounded on the north and east by the Ramapos, and open to the south and west. Built for Clarence McKenzie Lewis (1877-1959), it occupies the same site and orientation as the original Victorian manor house built for Francis Lynde Stetson (1846-1920) in 1897 and demolished by Lewis. Samuel Parsons Jr. (1844-1923) laid out the major contours of the original property for Stetson. Ferruccio Vitale (1875-1933) and Alfred Geiffert Jr. (1890-1957), as well as Lewis, designed and planted the gardens in the 1920's, and Lewis continued planting until 1953, when he sold the property to Shelton College, which in turn sold it to the State of New Jersey in 1966. The original Skylands property of 1,117 acres is now enclosed in Ringwood State Park. The proposed historic site is the heart of this original property, comprising 96 acres which have been designated the official New Jersey State Botanical Garden. Today there are approximately 5,000 species, varieties and horticultural forms at Skylands, "a tremendous collection of mature plants of great variety." The proposed site also contains nine ancillary buildings: a Pump House (40), a Lodge (39), a Carriage House (37-38), East Cottage (41) and Greenhouse (33) from the Stetson era; and a Hillair Cottage (Morris Farm House) (43) and Greenhouse (42), plus another cottage and barn, all four from Hillair, a small adjacent property purchased by Lewis in the 1920's.

The Manor House⁽¹⁾ is not a facsimile of any particular English estate, but a unique creation by Pope in the style of the period from late Gothic to the Renaissance, mostly 16th century, including such typical features as large groups of rectangular windows, oriel windows, intricate chimney complexes, crenelated walls, pargeting, half-timbering on the exterior; rich wood paneling, great hall, moulded plaster ceilings, elaborately carved staircase for the interior. Pope brought all these elements together during the Tudor Revival which began early in the 20th century and produced impressive country houses for the wealthy. His classical training and inclinations gave the Manor House an elegant but austere, almost severe, appearance.

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The building is an oblong mass with various end salients, including a service wing with gabled roofs of different heights (2), a gabled library wing (4), and a gabled west porch (5); many gables have intersecting dormers. The foundation, first floor, main front, library wing and Great Hall exterior are native granite quarried from the original property at Pierson Ridge just above Emerald Pool, where a supply with rectangular fractures was cut so that weathered surfaces could be arranged to appear as the Manor House exterior, utilizing hundreds of years of natural weathering and coloring. Pope's blueprints specified to James McLaren & Sons, Cut Stone Contractors of Brooklyn, that "All stones must be accurately cut, marked section and course number showing the exact place where each belongs. The Stone Setter will be held responsible if stones are taken from where they belong to be put in any other place."

Remainder of the walls are stucco and native oak timbers (7). The verge-boards and wood trim are native oak mostly carved by local artisans with elaborate patterns of grapevines, grouse and other flora and fauna (8). The slate roof was specially designed with "waves" to simulate the Tudor: first laying a wooden roof, then water-proofing, then laying plastered shingles at intervals or "islands", then covering it entirely with heavy slate. There are eight clusters of chimneys; the terra cotta chimney pots were coated with a mixture of cement and black paint to simulate age. Leaders and leader-heads appear to be all-lead antique Tudor leaders, but they are actually copper covered with molten lead in an "unusual process" which Mr. Lewis said saved him \$20,000. Several of the antique designs surmount the architect's insignia "JRP" (9).

All the exterior lanterns (10) and electrical fixtures were designed by Samuel Yellin of New York and Philadelphia, whose style of work tends back toward the Gothic. Yellin, who called himself "the blacksmith," led the 20th century American revival of the use of iron as a decorative art.

Additional exterior decoration includes carved stucco panels, stone carvings over arches and doorways, carved corbels, Gothic heads. The entrance elevation is ground level, marked by the arched stone entrance with the initials "C MK L" intricately carved in the door head. Above the entranceway is an oriel window on an elaborate stone corbel inset with the carving of a swan. The date 1924 also appears here. Carved stone heads appear on each side of the entrance (10). The great oak door is carved with owl heads and initials "S" and "L" for Skylands. Similar corbeled oriel windows appear on the second story of the library wing, both in front and on its northwest side. Above the front oriel is a stone panel carved with an eagle and snake. To the right is a circular tower enclosing an iron spiral staircase. To the left of the main entrance salient is a central square crenelated tower enclosing the grand staircase. Gothic heads and foliage motifs of carved stone are placed at various intervals around these battlements.

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Just below the leaderhead connected to the abutting service wing is the date 1925 and "JRP" (9). A gabled garage juts out, beyond which the property drops down to a service court adjoining the half-timbered service wing. Planted in front of the Manor House on each side of the driveway at the beginning of the entrance circle are two Copper Beech trees which are considered architectural objects co-equal with the house they serve.

The rear facade from the service wing around to the west porch is half-timbered and includes stucco quatrefoils and various window groupings, except for the Great Hall exterior which is entirely stone ashlar and features seven arched windows with 28 lights (6).

Giving every appearance of a 400-year old English Tudor Manor House, the imposing structure nevertheless has a solid modern core of steel and concrete with the best heating, plumbing and engineering that money could buy in 1925. The builder was the Elliot C. Brown Co. of New York City, which also built the country houses of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hyde Park, N.Y., and E. Roland Harriman, Arden, N.Y. On July 18, 1927 Pope's office wrote to Brown "We take this occasion to thank you for the splendid cooperation given us in obtaining this great success."

Visible from the front entrance hall are at least five massive carved stone four-centered arched doorways which characterize the Tudor interior (11). Stone floors mark adjacent corridors, but most of the floors are pegged oak veneer. Third floor and service wing floors are rubber topped. Windows are leaded casements. Wainscoting is prominent, particularly on the second floor.

The main staircase from first to second floor comprises three flights with newel posts, newel caps and balusters of new American oak carved with intricate patterns of lozenges, acorns and rosettes (21-22). The five arched windows on the main landing contain eleven antique stained glass medallions bearing coats of arms, names of knights and such dates as 1554 and 1590. At the second floor ceiling over the stairwell are stone corbels of lion heads. The spiral staircase in the tower runs from the basement to the third floor. The iron handrail was made by Samuel Yellin, as were the sconces set in the winding stone wall. An arched doorway off the main stairhall with little bats carved in the door head leads to an elevator running the height of the building.

The Manor House was specifically designed to contain some English and European rooms which had already been purchased or optioned by Mrs. Helen Lewis Salomon, Clarence Lewis's mother, who had married William Salomon. It was the practice of affluent Americans in the late 19th century "Gilded Age" to buy and transport the whole or parts of old buildings from Europe to their own mansions here. In the waning days of this practice Skylands Manor was the receptacle for a number of rooms imported directly and some rooms that made stops along the way.

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The Great Hall, rising the height of the building, has extensive carved wooden paneling by American craftsmen with pilasters, acorns, lozenges, fleur-de-lis on a high-paneled dado and second-story organ loft, which also includes carved wooden corbels with "wild man" heads (12). Door heads are carved with squirrels and sea monsters in stone. The lofty arched ceiling is ribbed with oak "jesting beams" resting on carved stone corbels of fantastic monster birds. Four sculptured iron chandeliers were designed by Samuel Yellin in a rudimentary bell shape surmounted by horned dragon heads. In the seven great windows (13) extending nearly the full height of the room are 20 antique stained glass medallions bearing such themes as Jonah and the Whale, St. George and the Dragon, and insignia of Bern and Nurnberg (14). Dominating the room, opposite the windows, stands a massive stone mantelpiece with the royal coat of arms dated 1619 from Over Manor in Gloucestershire duplicated by White Allom & Co. in their London showroom, where it was purchased in 1925 by Mrs. Salomon and brought to Skylands. (The original went to St. Simeon, California.)

The large living room (16) is a pine-paneled unit of Scandinavian fir bought through White Allom and Co. from Oulton Hall, Derbyshire. The finely carved mantelpiece with its broken scroll pediment, fruit basket and borders trailing down to the marble fireplace is pearwood. The carved cornice is patterned with rosettes and a geometric figure. Pediments are carved over three doors. Windows hold four antique stained glass medallions (17).

The library (15) is entirely paneled in new American oak, with a beamed ceiling and, two of Samuel Yellin's chandeliers resembling those in the Great Hall. Lined with bookshelves and cupboards, the room's stern lines are somewhat tempered by the carved mantelpiece of pilasters, lozenges and inset arches.

The small study is a dark oak five-sided room with ceiling taken originally from a German Renaissance wardrobe, installed in the Salomon mansion at 1020 Fifth Avenue, New York City, thence built into Skylands when that mansion was demolished. It is the most elaborately carved room in the Manor House, showing animals, putti, foliage, masks, birds, mythical figures, even horned dragon heads. Lewis made this his office, as Mr. Salomon did before him.

The old oak dining room (19) comes from The Tudor House at Lyme Regis, Dorset, but was seen by Mrs. Salomon and bought from Robersons, Knightsbridge Halls, London. The woodwork was described in Antique Panelled Rooms: "The carved oak mantel is very rich in detail and the square panels on either side of the centre arcaded panels of the overmantel are finely inlaid with marquetry of various woods in the Elizabethan manner. Another important feature is the unusually large number of pilasters. There are nineteen of these, and they are of exceptionally fine quality. The fluted and reeded shafts are carried on carved moulded pedestals and the Ionic capitals support carved acanthus brackets." Pope provided a typical

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Tudor ceiling of white plaster work with a motif of grapes and two birds, foliage and acorns. (The same ceiling appears over the stairhall.) Windows hold five antique stained glass medallions.

The breakfast room (20), enclosed by eleven windows on four sides and lined with fine green Italian marble on the other two sides, features an ornate, three-tiered ancient marble lavabo taken from a Venetian palazzo. This was brought to Skylands from the Salomon mansion. The ceiling is white plaster work with winged cupids, rosettes and fleur-de-lis.

On the second floor the master bedroom suite features pine paneling from c. 1680 houses demolished in Bishops Gate, London, a decorated green marble fireplace, 1747 iron fireback, cornice carved with scallops and Greek Keys, and two doorways surmounted with broken scroll pediments. Several other bedrooms here are paneled with similar imported pine from Bexley Manor, Bexley Heath, near London.

The premier guest bedroom (23) is a carved paneled French oak suite from the chateau of the Comte d'Autun, Burgundy. Removed first to the Salomon mansion, it was subsequently brought to Skylands. Wall panels bear carved floral festoons in high relief. The cornice is carved plaster. A carved marble fireplace with pillars is surmounted by a large mirror bordered with wood carving. Four double doors are the most notable part of the woodwork, each with three sets of panels: the lower contain large ovals; the small intermediate panels are carved with delicate foliage and the large upper panels are richly carved with flowers and foliage and putti in shaded relief. The metal mounts are chiseled bronze, gilded. (Panels from the same boiserie are owned by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and New York's Metropolitan Museum.)

Opposite this suite is a "white" bedroom with the oriel window, an English import with plaster cornice in a gilded floral pattern. On the third floor is the "Adam" room with a carved Wedgewood fireplace and windows with one antique stained glass medallion. Also the third floor stairway has a dark oak carved railing, probably German, but brought from Salomon's mansion.

The 40 antique stained glass medallions from 16th century German, Bavarian and Swiss sites came from an English collection and were set in the leaded windows by Mr. Heinegke of Heinegke & Smith of New York City, who did stained glass work at Stan Hywet in Akron and the Harkness dormitories at Yale. He also created the thirteen modern stained glass "pictures" of Lewis, his young children, farm workers (18), various birds and animals throughout the building.

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Skylands has sustained a remarkable state of integrity. In the late 1950's then owner Shelton College built a two-story auditorium and dining hall over the manor's drying yard and turned the adjacent tiled laundry into a kitchen. This pseudo-Tudor wing adjoins the manor on the first and 2nd floor of the servants wing. It is obviously a thing apart. It was added to at its southwest end by the State some time after 1966. From 1984 to date the State has pursued interior alterations that include a sprinkler system, electric Exit signs, fire alarms. Many of the Yellin fixtures have been stored for rewiring. The front and rear entranceways have been given wood/glass doors; the west porch enclosed with wood and glass.

The nominated portion of the grounds encompasses the 96 acres that form the heart of the estate. The boundaries are based on delineating the heart of the estate by using roads and natural landmarks as a clear delineation.* The property is bounded on the west by Honeysuckle Lane and Farm Road, on the south and east by Swan Pond Road, on the north by a portion of Thunder Mountain Fire Road and Shepherd Pond Road. Maple Avenue runs east from the entrance at the two stone eagles, then turns south to bisect the property. Two driveways off Maple Avenue serve the forecourt and service court of the Manor House. Maple Avenue which becomes Orchard Road when it reaches an iron gate between two stone pillars, is bordered by poplars and continues to Swan Pond Road. East Cottage Road runs from Maple Avenue east past the Lodge and south to the East Cottage residence. The maple trees along Maple Avenue have been removed because they were diseased. They have been replaced with American red oak trees. The stone eagles at the main entrance were acquired by the state from Pennsylvania Station in New York City when it was demolished.

Within Skylands, low stone walls border the east side of Honeysuckle Lane, part of the north and all of the south sides of Maple Avenue from the main entrance to the Pump House, from the Hillair Greenhouse across the rear of the Lodge and down the slope along the east side of East Cottage Road where they separate the formal gardens from the Inner Park woods. The West Terrace is also bounded by a low stone semi-circular wall. At the beginning of the Perennial Border a lower level stone wall runs parallel along Maple Avenue to the gate at Orchard Road.

The gardens are designed in the English manner, with formal gardens adjacent and surrounding the house, then trailing off to parkland and forest. Gardens grow and evolve, just as all living things do. The "skeleton" or "bones" of a garden as planned by landscape architects, however, comprise the basic design which insures the integrity of a garden. Skylands' basic design is principally a series of vistas:

*An additional 100 feet has been provided to establish a forested setting for the property.

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Running directly south from the Manor House octagonal breakfast room are five terrace gardens: The Octagonal Garden (24), the Magnolia Walk (25), the Azalea Garden (26), the Summer Garden (27) and the Peony Garden where the vista concludes with the Memory Bench, a gently curved stone semi-circle backed by eight American hemlocks. Lead statues of Diana, goddess of the moon and of the hunt, and a popular presence in traditional formal gardens, originally surrounded each end of the Memory Bench, which also originally contained vaults for the family ashes but which were subsequently vandalized and never used. Various remains of these statues have been stored for repair and restoration.

From the rear of the Manor House is a vista toward the Wanaque Reservoir; from the West Terrace a vista across the West Lawn looks out a vast distance over Bearfort, Waywayanda and Poehuck Mountains and beyond. From the front entrance of the Manor House there is a vista north terminating on a maple tree at the Maple Avenue stone wall; a vista into the Winter Garden of pines, beeches, firs and cedars terminating between a linden and a red oak originally planted by Stetson; a vista through the Annual Garden (32) across an antique Italian marble wellhead placed at the center and through a row of Sargents Cherry trees to a statue of the Versailles Diana on East Cottage Road. This last vista has been cut off by a state planting of a false cypress to shield the residence on East Cottage Road, but can be very easily restored. A vista on the East Lawn culminates in the Lilac Garden which contains over four hundred varieties of eight different species. A vista east from the Lilac Garden across Maple Avenue focuses on a rock in the cactus garden. A vista south along the west side of Maple Avenue ends on a yellowwood tree. A vista extends east from Maple Avenue to a Chinese round garden (30) with a cypress and a stone planter with carved figures. A vista through the Annual Garden and Perennial Border (31) from north to south is marked by a semi-circular stone bench in the Annual Garden and a marble figured planter at the end of the Perennial Border. The bench originally was flanked by nude male and female statues above stalped fountains. All that remains of these embellishments is the female figure which is now placed in the Azalea Garden pool, but the system of pipes for the fountain remains viable. The Crab Apple Vista (28), nearly half a mile long, is a major axis stretching from the Lodge to the stone statues variously called the Four Seasons or the Four Continents. After 60 years these deteriorating crab apple trees were replaced with the same variety (malus atrosanguinea) as Lewis originally planted in 1923 and 1924. Pieces have been broken off the statues and they are covered with graffiti. There is a Horse Chestnut Collection, a Rhododendron Garden (30) and Heather Garden. The Bog Garden, Wildflower Garden along the brook as it runs into the Swan Pond (29), and the Inner Park make the transition from the formal to the wild with hiking trails and rugged terrain. The Pergola in the Inner Park has recently been restored. All these gardens were originally

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planted by Lewis. The Wildflower Garden, Bog Garden and Swan Pond Meadow contain endangered plant species, including the fringed gentian, which has become the symbol for the Botanical Garden. The Swan Pond was designed by Samuel Parsons Jr. for Stetson. The basic rectangle of the Annual Garden was also designed by Parsons.

There are formal paved walks from the Manor House breakfast room and terrace down into the Octagonal Garden and around an octagonal pool containing a teak fountain representing two boys with a swan, and a waterlily display. A rock garden on banks above low retaining walls, also octagonal, lines the walk. Two paved walks proceed down either side of the Magnolia Garden to the stone balustrade where steps lead down to the Azalea Garden. Here the balustrade becomes the wall of the Azalea Garden with a small grotto and pool at the bottom. Overflow from the pool fills the long reflecting pool with its wide stone coping. Overflow from this pool in turn flows between two stone pillars down into a gracefully tapered stone semi-circular basin projecting from the retaining wall of the Summer Garden. Iron work fences across two parallel sets of pillars lead down from the greensward of the Azalea Garden to stone steps opening on a rectangular ground-level stone platform in the Summer Garden containing a stone trough to catch any overflow splashing from the basin. Semi-circular stone benches fill each corner of this garden with its carpet of grass. Wide stone steps lead down from the Summer Garden to the grass of the Peony Garden which concludes with the Memory Bench. Looking north from here is a vista up over the stone work of the five terraces to the octagonal breakfast room and very tip top of the Manor House. No other paved walks exist in the garden. The lawns have obvious "paths" oriented by the vistas.

Only a few minor vistas have disappeared from Skylands, for instance, a hawthorne walk between East Cottage Road and the Crab Apple Vista. A vista from the Manor House entrance to a Norway maple tree in front of the Carriage House has been lost with the removal of the diseased maplet but this will probably be restored by the planting of an American red oak. The original axial design remains largely intact. Plantings of flowers, small shrubs and trees, however, change over the years. Lewis had an iris garden, orchards, vineyard and vegetable garden in the open area where only the Crab Apple Vista runs today through open meadow. The present Annual Garden was called the Formal Garden by Lewis and mainly roses were grown there. Today the Annual Garden receives new plantings every summer of a variety of annuals grown in the Greenhouse to produce colorful formal arrangements for the season. Originally the Summer Garden was a rose garden, but air stagnation caused by the bordering yew hedge made maintenance difficult, so the roses were replaced with day lilies. The state has planted a Pinetum between the West Lawn and the East Lawn.

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The five Stetson buildings at Skylands were designed by architect Alfred Hopkins, Beacon Street, Boston, around the turn of the century. For the Pump House, Carriage House and East Cottage he personally selected the stone, which comes from glacial boulders on the estate itself and was cut to harmonious varieties of textures and colors. The workmanship must be credited to Italian stone masons Stetson brought to this country and housed on the estate. The voluminous U-shaped Carriage House (37-38) was built to house eleven horses, four automobiles and eleven men. In 1921 it was called "one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in America." Lewis kept it as a service garage. When Shelton College owned Skylands, the interior was used variously as a chapel, music room and gymnasium. As a Visitors Center it now houses an auditorium and rooms for Skylands Association offices, library, tool room and volunteer lounge. It is also used for general storage. Some of the interior remains unrestored. The exterior remains in its original condition, including a wall panelled with tiles from the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works of Henry Mercer in Doylestown, Pa. The Pump House (40) with its round arched doorway and windows matches the Carriage House in this respect. It also served as a gate house for Stetson and early on for Lewis. The interior is unrestored; the exterior is in its original state. The East Cottage (41) is a two-story stone residence with eleven rooms serving as a residence for the Superintendent of Ringwood State Park. It was recently re-roofed and repaired on the interior. The exterior is original. (A frame storage garage on a utility road in the woods to the rear is deteriorated.) The three-story gabled Lodge (39) with fourteen rooms is built of stone, timber and stucco. First and second floor front elevation is all glassed-in porch. There are one-story symmetrical wings on either side. With its half-timbering it bears some resemblance to the present Manor House. Mr. Lewis lived here while Skylands Manor was being built. He personally designed the sundial which now decorates the chimney. Shelton College used the Lodge as a girls dormitory. The exterior is deteriorated, but original. Some doors and windows are boarded up as "preventive maintenance." The potting shed (33) of the main Greenhouse is timber and stucco, matching the Lodge. This exterior is original. The Greenhouse itself (34) has been restored several times, particularly its foundation. These Stetson buildings, as part of the original design, contribute to the original significance of Skylands as a major American country estate. Four buildings remain on a 34-acre property Lewis added to Skylands in the 1920's. This adjacent land called Hillair belonged to the Loomis family. The Hillair Cottage (43), also known as the Morris Farm House, was the oldest building on that property and was originally part of the Morris Farm established in 1800. This building has burned down and been rebuilt several times, but retains a sod basement floor and some foundation stones that may date back to the mid-19th century. An eight-room frame building with a gambrel roof, it is used as a residence for the garden director. The small Hillair Greenhouse (42) built early in this century has

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no heating system and is used mainly for storage but its exterior is original. Another eight-room frame cottage and barn is used as a residence and has no relationship with the rest of the site.

There has been no archaeological evaluation of the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture
Landscape Architecture

1891-1940

1922

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Multiple

Architect/Builder

Multiple

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SKYLANDS is a perfect marriage of good design and plant collection. It represents a century of the best in American architecture, landscape architecture and horticulture, the love and devotion of its creators Francis Lynde Stetson and Clarence McKenzie Lewis, and the care and dedication of its public trustees. Here is the work of John Russell Pope, Samuel Yellin, Elliott C. Brown, Heinegke & Smith and unsung American wood and stone carvers embodied in the Tudor Manor House, which holds historic European treasures as well. In the gardens and grounds we have the handiwork of Samuel Parsons Jr., Ferruccio Vitale, Alfred Geiffert Jr. and Clarence Lewis. In the outbuildings from the Stetson era we have the work of Boston architect Alfred Hopkins and unknown immigrant artisans. Skylands represents a bygone era when the wealthy would hire America's greatest artists and professional craftsmen to develop and maintain grand private mansions surrounded by magnificent private gardens. As such it is a part of our heritage worthy of preservation. From the Manor House one may gaze over the fields and forests to the mountains in the hazy distance. It was not by chance that this site was chosen: rather it was carefully selected for its vantage point. The plantings represent the serious efforts of dedicated plantmen in acquiring, planting and nurturing the many trees and shrubs until they attained the effectiveness that comes with maturity. While the site is spectacular in itself, it is even more so as a result of the plantings. A tremendous palette of plants from all over the world was planted by Clarence Lewis over a generation ago. In addition the site naturally supports a wide range of native plants, including endangered species. There are few properties in the Northeast that so perfectly demonstrate the complement of horticultural and architectural excellence. Skylands is a prime example of Estate Planning and Landscape Gardening with a unique role to play in the Mid-Atlantic area. It is a source to be further documented, interpreted and studied today. It should be recognized that this plant collection was assembled not by a gluttonous acquirer but by a man of knowledge and discrimination. Only the best plant varieties were included and the test of time on these leaves us with a rare body of information for contemporary use. All these attributes make Skylands an irreplaceable asset not

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
N.J. Dept. of Parks

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 96 Sloatsburg NY-NJ & Ramsey NJ Quads

UTM References

A

1	8	5	6	3	8	8	0	4	5	5	3	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	8	5	6	4	3	0	0	4	5	5	2	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 1 8: 5.6 3 7 6 0 4 5 5 3 1 2 0

B

1	8	5	6	4	4	0	0	4	5	5	2	9	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	5	6	3	8	0	0	4	5	5	2	1	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Norma K. Herzfeld Chairman, Committee on Historic Preservation
organization Skylands Association date _____
street & number Ringwood State Park telephone (201) 838-6977
city or town Ringwood state New Jersey zip code 07456

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1891-1940

1922

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Multiple

Architect/Builder

Multiple

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SKYLANDS is a perfect marriage of good design and plant collection. It represents a century of the best in American architecture, landscape architecture and horticulture, the love and devotion of its creators Francis Lynde Stetson and Clarence McKenzie Lewis, and the care and dedication of its public trustees. Here is the work of John Russell Pope, Samuel Yellin, Elliott C. Brown, Heinegke & Smith and unsung American wood and stone carvers embodied in the Tudor Manor House, which holds historic European treasures as well. In the gardens and grounds we have the handiwork of Samuel Parsons Jr., Ferruccio Vitale, Alfred Geiffert Jr. and Clarence Lewis. In the outbuildings from the Stetson era we have the work of Boston architect Alfred Hopkins and unknown immigrant artisans. Skylands represents a bygone era when the wealthy would hire America's greatest artists and professional craftsmen to develop and maintain grand private mansions surrounded by magnificent private gardens. As such it is a part of our heritage worthy of preservation. From the Manor House one may gaze over the fields and forests to the mountains in the hazy distance. It was not by chance that this site was chosen: rather it was carefully selected for its vantage point. The plantings represent the serious efforts of dedicated plantmen in acquiring, planting and nurturing the many trees and shrubs until they attained the effectiveness that comes with maturity. While the site is spectacular in itself, it is even more so as a result of the plantings. A tremendous palette of plants from all over the world was planted by Clarence Lewis over a generation ago. In addition the site naturally supports a wide range of native plants, including endangered species. There are few properties in the Northeast that so perfectly demonstrate the complement of horticultural and architectural excellence. Skylands is a prime example of Estate Planning and Landscape Gardening with a unique role to play in the Mid-Atlantic area. It is a source to be further documented, interpreted and studied today. It should be recognized that this plant collection was assembled not by a gluttonous acquirer but by a man of knowledge and discrimination. Only the best plant varieties were included and the test of time on these leaves us with a rare body of information for contemporary use. All these attributes make Skylands an irreplaceable asset not only for the people of New Jersey but for a nation newly conscious of the vital connection between man and his environment.

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New Jersey spurred new growth when it finally granted the Erie Railroad permission to lay tracks from Hoboken up through the Ramapos, thus making a convenient connection with New York City. In the 1880's railroading was the greatest industry in the country, and J. Pierpont Morgan was the dominant force in Eastern railroads. In 1885 he became a charter member of the Tuxedo Club being built in the old iron mine country, and drawing bankers, railroaders, lawyers and some of the wealthiest members of New York society, who built country homes in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., and vicinity. In 1891 Morgan's lawyer, Francis Lynde Stetson (1846-1920), began putting together several pioneer farmsteads in Ringwood, N.J. which he called Skylands. Stetson eventually owned a 1015-acre estate upon which he had lavished "the powers of his great mind and fortune without stint." Skylands was purchased in 1922 by Clarence McKenzie Lewis (1876-1959), an investment banker who lived in New York but maintained a country residence in Mahwah. Lewis replaced the Stetson mansion with a Tudor Manor House designed by John Russell Pope (1874-1937), last of America's Beaux Arts-trained architects. When Clarence McKenzie Lewis chose Pope to design Skylands in 1922, he was considered the Tudor architect. Among the Tudor manors Pope designed were those of Stuart Duncan, Newport, R.I.; Allan G. Lehman, Tarrytown, N.Y.; William K. Vanderbilt, Great Neck, L.I. Pope considered Skylands an example of his "very best residential work." As the dedicated amateur horticulturist that he was, Lewis went to work on the grounds which Stetson had developed. For thirty years he personally supervised every aspect of the gardens that became a showplace for visitors and a haunt of horticulturists from all over the world. Already in 1937, Country Life in America wrote "...Mr. Lewis is first of all a plantsman--a student of plants, a patron of horticulture; and today the estate reflects primarily and magnificently his interests and activities in the direction of plant perfection...beautifully landscaped acres of gardens, borders, terraces, parterres, slopes, bogs, groves, and allees, all so developed as to render them and the estate unique. For, in achieving the landscape compositions, an essential, controlling requirement was the use of choice material in a great variety of designated species, thus stressing the horticultural value of plants."

Pope's first commission came in 1895 when he was only 21 years old and just about to go abroad for further study. He designed a very plain stone chapel at Shepherd Lake in Ringwood as a memorial to Dr. Alfred Lee Loomis, who had been J. P. Morgan's physician: the Church of Saint Luke the Beloved Physician. Shepherd Lake was part of the Loomis estate, now part of Ringwood State Park. J.P. Morgan's daughter, Juliet Pierpont Morgan, married William Pierson Hamilton, a direct descendent of Alexander Hamilton; lived in Tuxedo Park until 1901 when they bought land on the New York side of Shepherd Lake and built an estate called Table Rock. When their daughter, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, barely ten years old, died in the 1919 flu epidemic, the Hamiltons commissioned St. Elizabeth's Memorial Chapel in Eagle Valley where she is entombed in the altar. In 1952 Juliet Morgan

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Hamilton was laid to rest at her daughter's side. Other family members are buried or commemorated in the chapel as are several Loomis family members.

When Stetson established Skylands he had a notion early on of making it another Tuxedo Park, a housing development for the very wealthy, but soon decided to create his own agricultural estate. His mansion, designed by architect Algernon E. Bell, had 34 rooms, including billiard room and library. Built of native fieldstone in English Victorian style, with five chimneys, turret and numerous hip roofs with wide eaves overhanging gables and dormers, it had a busy surface of generally horizontal planes. The house was entirely surrounded by a nine-hole golf course where sheep also grazed at times. He chose Samuel Parsons Jr. (1844-1923), a protege of Frederick Law Olmsted, to lay out the estate. Parsons, founder of the American Society of Landscape Architects and New York City Parks Commissioner, designed the grounds, roads and drainage system. He used photos of his Skylands work, including the Swan Pond, to illustrate his book The Art of Landscape Architecture, Its Development and Its Application to Modern Landscape Gardening, a definitive text published in 1915.

The formal garden contained a thousand rose bushes, many rare blooms. Another rose hedge 300 feet long bordered a small-fruit garden and was flanked by white peonies. The golf course was bordered by a 360-yard rose hedge. Skylands was enclosed by over 30 miles of fencing planted to honeysuckle and grapevines. Between 1909 and 1916 more than 20,000 trees were planted, including 10,000 Norway Spruce and 10,000 Dwarf Pine, Hemlock and similar species. There were 28 miles of roads, five miles of bridle paths.

Skylands was a working farm, usually called Skylands Farm, with 250 acres planted in heavy crops. In 1920, e.g., "the farm department" grew 18 acres of ensilage corn, 120 acres of timothy and clover hay, five acres of beets and 15 acres of oats. In addition to the auxiliary guest houses, superintendents and gardeners houses, architect Alfred Hopkins, who specialized in functional agricultural structures for the gentleman farmer, designed and built a luxurious cow barn and dairy, hen houses, duck houses, piggery, abattoir, sheep barns, saw mill, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, plumbing and paint shop, garages, sheds and tool houses. These buildings extended over hundreds of acres and only an estate manager's residence, several garages, several cottages and the dairy barn remain. These are not within the 96 acres of this designated site. All the other buildings deteriorated or were demolished.

As Morgan's lawyer, Stetson forged the legal links among the Carnegie Steel Corp., coal mines, iron ore mines and railroads in 1901 that created the US Steel Corporation. With a capitalization of over \$1 billion, it was the world's largest industrial combination up to that time. At one time his law partner was Grover Cleveland. Among visitors to Stetson's Skylands were J.P. Morgan, Grover Cleveland

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and Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie called Skylands "the most beautiful country estate in America."

Working for and with Morgan "interests," Stetson handled either directly or indirectly much of the most important railway litigation in the country. At various times he himself was a director of the Alabama Great Southern Railroad; Buffalo, Bellevue and Lancaster Railroad; Buffalo Railroad; Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Railroad; Niagara Junction Railway; Nickel Plate Railroad; South Carolina and Georgia Railway; Southern Railway Co. of Kentucky; Southern Railway Co. of Mississippi. At his death he still served on the boards of the Erie Railroad; New York, Susquehanna and Western; the Chicago and Erie Railroad.

Stetson was a member of the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden beginning in 1908 and a Vice President from 1914. In a resolution of condolence the Board of Managers said he had freely and generously contributed time and money to the institution's development. It noted that Skylands "gave him great pleasure" and he took "keen delight" in all its aspects. "Wild plants were of great interest to him and he was an enthusiastic advocate of the preservation of natural features and the conservation of natural resources." The genus Stetsonia, a gigantic and characteristic Argentine cactus, was named after him for his services to botanical science.

Sterlington, Tuxedo, Arden. These were stops on the Erie Railroad for Erie stockholders and friends. Any Erie train, no matter what its schedule, had to stop on request for these VIP passengers. Arden (now Harriman) was the stop for E. H. Harriman, the railroad king. Sterlington was specially built for Mrs. Hamilton so she and her many guests could make their way through the Sterlington Gate on Rt. 17 to Table Rock. With a station master also the postmaster, the tiny station contained nine post office boxes. Stetson was the other major user, and the Skylands post office address remained Sterlington, N.Y. until 1940.

Clarence Lewis bought Skylands in 1922. Born Oct. 26, 1876, in Jersey City, he was a lonely child and was sent abroad at the age of nine to be educated in Germany and England. While he was abroad his widowed mother, Helen Forbes Lewis, married William Salomon, founder of the New York banking house and direct descendent of Haym Salomon who had helped finance the American Revolution. Upon his return, Lewis lived with them at 1020 Fifth Avenue, attending Columbia University, where he received a Civil Engineering degree in 1898. He went to work as an assistant chief engineer for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, riding inspection cars and checking on routing and bridges, living in Cincinnati. He invented a code for the B&O which he later developed into an international banking code used extensively during the 1920's. When he left the B&O he became the in-house expert on engineering and railroad projects for Salomon Brothers.

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In 1908 Lewis married Annah Churchill Ripley who was born in 1887 in Montclair. They bought a large country place in Mahwah they called Sheffield Hope Farm. Mrs. Lewis had a rheumatic heart but did gardening, developing a rose garden and a dell garden. It was here that horticulture captured Lewis's fancy. Mrs. Lewis died in 1918 and it is said Lewis never recovered from the tragedy.

William Salomon died in 1919. The widowed Mrs. Salomon and her bereaved son eventually agreed to a joint project: gregarious, highly cultivated and extremely knowledgeable about architecture, furniture and the decorative arts, she wanted a Tudor showplace; he wanted plants and gardens. Result: Skylands. Mrs. Salomon worked closely with Pope on her anticipated Manor House, but her health deteriorated and she died in 1927 before it was completed. Some Tuxedo Club members saw the building under construction and asked Pope to build them a Tudor-style clubhouse, which he began in 1926.

Meanwhile Lewis had engaged the most prominent landscape architects of his day, the firm of Vitale and Geiffert, to design the gardens. Ferruccio Vitale (1875-1933), who specialized in private estates, numbered among his clients John Wanamaker and Richard Mellon. Alfred Geiffert, Jr. (1890-1957) designed Rockefeller Center, Princeton University grounds and the National Gallery of Art. Photos of their work illustrate the Encyclopedia Britannica article on Landscape Architecture. The Manor House was on a knoll "looking as if it might slide off," so one of the first tasks was to build the West Terrace. Regiments of Model-T's brought soil up from Ringwood and Sloatsburg. Lewis worked with Geiffert and his own input was considerable. Lewis suggested the Crab Apple Vista to transform the barren golf course. In the Octagonal Garden Lewis placed his rock plants, dwarfs and alpine flowers. Instead of the pleached lindens Geiffert wanted in the Magnolia Walk, Lewis opted for a southern species, sweet bay magnolia, trained as trees, unusual for their size and number this far north. Lewis placed the Bog Garden and Wildflower Garden. For the latter Lewis wanted a "miniature New Jersey Pine Barrens," having soil brought in from there and then putting in appropriate plants. Geiffert's formal gardens were somewhat Italianate with a number of statues. Lewis also originated the Lilac Collection and the Winter Garden which holds New Jersey's largest Jeffrey Pine. Skylands contains four other official "grand trees" of New Jersey.

A major feature of the Skylands landscape is vistas. Lewis had a great feeling for space. Every window has a view. Every vista has a terminus. A sculpture, a flowering tree, a rock, a building draws the eye. In garden after garden, there are no dead ends in any season. This required ingenious planning and helps make Skylands unique. Lewis had loved his railroad days and as he worked with his gardeners he insisted on gentle curves, no sharp angles or curves in his flower beds. A frequent exclamation gardeners heard from him was, "Do you think a train could get around that? A train would never make it!" His attention was caught by

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what was unusual or what would be in "the wrong climate" for Skylands. After that came his concern for the final effect.

In the 1937 exhibit of the Architectural League of New York, where material was admitted only when judged of sufficient merit by a jury, the firm of Vitale & Geiffert (Vitale had died in 1933) and Gilmore D. Clarke, FASLA, selected Skylands for their entry and won a place. This was ten years after Vitale and Geiffert had completed their Skylands work. In Landscape Architecture (July 1937), official organ of the American Society of Landscape Architects, an article on the League exhibit explained: "that landscape architects are becoming more exacting in their requirements: that they will not regard their work as approaching completion until it can show matured landscape effects, and that the jury of award will not recognize work unless it has unusual distinction." In the article accompanying their Skylands photographs, entitled "An Axial Study in the Relation of the House, Garden and View," Vitale & Geiffert and Clarke wrote: "As a problem in garden planning, the relation of the garden to its adjoining house is one that often requires great imagination on the part of the landscape architect. At Skylands...the garden has been designed as a series of terraces to serve as a vista toward the distant hills. The terraces lie, not on the main axis of the building, but on a subordinate axis created by the view from the octagonal breakfast room....To combine many varieties of small plants with a broad landscape effect is sometimes difficult to do successfully. In the view from the breakfast room, a rock garden, on banks above low retaining walls (where the minute varieties can be inspected at near eye level), is kept at the side of the composition. Background trees, edged by the Sweetbay of the Magnolia walks, -- all newly established in what was an open field, -- will eventually provide the heavier masses of foliage needed for vista enframing." Half a century after the Architectural League exhibit, Skylands' vistas have indeed been enframed, and the maturity and variety of its horticultural treasures prove the craft and vision of its planners.

Lewis kept meticulous logbooks of every plant right up to the day in 1953, when, at 77 years old, he no longer had the strength or resources to operate Skylands. Along with the hundreds of pages of technical data, origins and bibliographies are detailed references ranging from "seed collected from a tree about 35 to 40 feet high, and over 16 inches in diameter on the mountainside near the Chieh Lai Temple in China," through "a fern with an entirely different odor found by Mrs. W.K. DePont in the garden of an old house," to "identified by Mr. Verkade (Verkade's Nursery, Wayne, N.J.) when he was paying us a visit."

Skylands was registered as a plant nursery and inspected twice a year by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Lewis imported plants from such remote places as Afghanistan, the Azores, the Belgian Congo, New Zealand, Chile, Kashmir. Plants unique to Skylands include a climbing hydrangea, hydrangeae petiolaris, 'Skylands Giant' growing at the left of the front entrance of the Manor House; a golden form

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of oriental spruce, picea orientalis, called 'Skylands;' and a dwarf iris, dark purple iris cristata, 'Skylands Iris.' Also grown here was isuga canadensis 'Lewis,' a hemlock, and pinus mugo 'Skylands,' a true pine. Lewis was well known to nurseymen, collectors, arboretums and botanical gardens throughout the world, as well as local plantsmen, zealously exchanging plants and information. His "idea of Heaven," it is said, was to join in the talk of the Head Gardeners when they came together occasionally to talk shop at Skylands: from Planting Fields, Old Westbury, Wave Hill and other major private gardens in Westchester and Long Island.

Lewis hunted plants throughout the U.S., England and Europe, then beyond. Nearly every summer he went to the High Alps in Switzerland with his young children who looked on while he clambered around inspecting his favorite alpine plants. He went to Alaska to see if these same plants grew at the same altitudes there. But one of his favorite places was the Pine Barrens, especially around Whitesbog. He also found plants in Bennetts Bog, New Egypt, Martha, Dennisville, Barnegat, Island Beach, Brier Island, Cape May, Lakewood and Merchantville -- mostly in the 1930's.

In 1929 Lewis accepted membership in the corporation of the New York Botanical Garden and became a member of the Board of Managers. He was still a Trustee when he died. Skylands was a hospitable meeting place for horticultural societies and enthusiasts. Less than a week before Lewis left Skylands, Thomas H. Everett, then director of the New York Botanical Garden and "one of the preeminent horticulturists in the world," headed a last visit to Skylands and a testimonial dinner "for a group of appreciative garden enthusiasts familiar with Skylands and cognizant of the great contribution that Mr. Lewis has made to horticulture," as Everett put it in his invitation.

Other Skylands visitors in the Lewis era included such diverse persons as Jean Monnet, the "Father" of the European Common Market; Sir Joseph Duveen, the art dealer; Madame Alda of the Metropolitan Opera; Raymond Ditmars, renowned herpetologist with the American Museum of Natural History, who came often and brought his "snake bag" on hikes; William Poland who engineered the railroad from the Persian Gulf to Teheran and the Trans-Alaskan Highway; George Kittredge, former chief engineer of the New York Central Railroad, who shared Lewis's interest in racing pigeons.

After Lewis sold the estate to Shelton College, he came back periodically to see the gardens. Shelton let them deteriorate, keeping only one gardener, and eventually he could not bear to see Skylands any more. He died in 1959 in New York City, and is buried in the family vault in St. Elizabeth's Memorial Chapel churchyard. At its peak seasons as many as 200 people may have been working at Skylands, running the farm operation, maintaining the roads, caring for the gardens and staffing the Manor House. At least 60 people worked in the gardens. Lewis was a man of relatively modest wealth, and hard hit by the Depression, he cut back on

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personnel during the 30's. Garden care was never diminished. Even in 1956 Shelton catalogued such "Skylands Quantities" as 96 varieties of clematis, 184 tree peonies, 400 bearded iris, 60 beardless iris, 240 lilies (hemerocallis), 100 rhododendrons, 160 azaleas, 70 ivy, 60 pines, 60 maples, 80 firs, 200 lilacs, 600 roses.

The State of New Jersey bought Skylands in 1966 from Shelton College and undertook its restoration. Skylands had been known for obtaining plant material and passing it out liberally to nurserymen. When the restoration began, nurserymen in turn generously brought plant material back to Skylands. During the 1970's Skylands greenhouses and nurseries provided annuals for state parks and historic sites, distributing as many as 20,000 plants per season.

In October 1984 Skylands was visited by John D. Bond, Keeper of the Gardens of England's Windsor Great Park, who manages all the garden holdings of the British royal family. He said that Skylands was a tremendous collection of mature plants of great variety. He also was impressed by the natural surroundings of Skylands. He especially praised the dwarf conifers in the Octagonal Garden. On his departure he took with him seeds from Skylands for England.

Another visitor, many years before, came to Skylands on October 15, traditionally the last day of bloom for the fringed gentian, a meadow flower difficult to grow, for which Skylands was particularly noted. Clarence Lewis, still proprietor at the time, found one for her in the Swan Pond Meadow. Joan Parry Dutton in her book Exploring America's Gardens wrote of her departure, "I had no more to do, except to get myself back, but I could not keep the track of my mind clear. I still saw the fringed gentian; still saw that glorious garden set high among the hills and the color of the leaves against the setting sun as I came up over Eagle Mountain on the road through the woods."

Today this vision remains.

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MAP. "Skylands, Containing 1015 73/100 Acres, The Property of Francis Lynde Stetson.

Ringwood, N.J. 1911. Scale 1 inch = 150 ft." 4'4" x 6'5". Encased in Plastic.

Skylands Carriage House, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, NJ. 07456.

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National Park Service

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Passaic County, NJ

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Continuation Sheet

Skylands, Ringwood Borough,
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Section number 9 Page 6

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Skylands, Ringwood Borough,
Passaic County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

Description of a tract of land situated in the Borough of Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey.

BEGINNING at the point formed by the intersection of the centerlines of Shepherd Pond Road, Honeysuckle Lane, and Morris Road and from said point of beginning proceeding thence

1. Southerly along the centerline of Honeysuckle Lane a distance of 1,920 feet, more or less, to the points formed by its intersection with the centerline of Farm Road, thence
2. Southwesterly along said centerline of Farm Road a distance of 760 feet, more or less, to the point formed by its intersection with the centerline of Swan Pond Road, thence
3. Easterly and northerly along said centerline of Swan Pond Road a distance of 2920 feet, more or less, to the point formed by the intersection of said centerline with the division line between Lot No. 2 in Block 1000 being lands of the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection and Lot No. 5 in Block 1101 being lands of the State of New Jersey, Department of Conservation, thence
4. Northerly along said division line a distance of 1050 feet, more or less, to a point in the centerline of Thunder Mountain Fire Road, thence
5. Westerly along said centerline being also the division line between the aforesaid Lot 2 in Block 1000 and Lot 5 in Block 1101 a distance of 550 feet, more or less, to an angle point, thence
6. Northeasterly, northerly and northwesterly still along the division line between lot 2 in Block 1000 and Lot 5 in Block 1101 a distance of 1325 feet, more or less, to a point in the centerline of Shepherd Pond Road, thence
7. Southerly along said centerline a distance of 1050 feet, more or less, to its intersection with the aforesaid centerline of Morris Road and Honeysuckle Lane and the point of BEGINNING

The above described tract of land is designated as the Skylands Botanical Gardens and contains 96 Acres, more or less, within Ringwood State Park, and is a portion of Lot No. 2 in Block 1000 as delineated on the tax assessment map of the Borough of Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Skylands, Ringwood Borough,
Passaic County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 3

The Skylands nomination includes an additional 100 foot extension throughout this mapped and verbal delineation.

Boundary/Justification Statement

The boundary encompasses the 96 acre parcel that forms the intensively landscaped heart of the Skylands estate as Stetson and Lewis knew it. The major vistas, the significant planting, and the significant buildings are situated within the boundaries of this tract.

An additional 100 feet has been provided to establish an adequately forested setting to the nomination.

Outside these boundaries lie the farmland and forested portions of the Skylands estate. The buildings associated with this portion of the estate have been demolished or are deteriorated to the point that their integrity has been compromised.

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Continuation Sheet

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Skylands, Ringwood Borough,
Passaic County, NJ

Inventory of Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs unless otherwise indicated:

Skylands
Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough
Passaic County, New Jersey
Photographer/Negatives: Lorenza Vidris
58 Cliff Hill Road
Clifton, New Jersey 07011

*Photographer/Negatives: Norma K. Herzfeld
Skylands Association

- #1 - Facade from east. April 1987.
- #2 - Facade from northeast. April 1987.
- #3 - Facade from west. April 1987.
- #4 - Facade from southeast. April 1987.
- #5 - Historical view of Skylands, from south. 1927.
Photographer unknown.
- *#6 - Detail. View from southwest. June 1987.
- #7 - Detail. View from north. April 1987.
- *#8 - Lantern. View from southeast. June 1987.
- #9 - Main Hallway. View from northeast. March 1987.
- #10 - Great Hall. View from northwest. March 1987.
- #11 - Great Hall. View from northeast. March 1987.
- *#12 - Great Hall Stained Glass. View from east. March 1987.
- #13 - Library. View from northeast. March 1987.
- #14 - Parlor. View from south. March 1987.
- #15 - Parlor. View from northwest. March 1987.
- *#16 - Cloak Room Window. View from southwest. June 1987.
- #17 - Dining Room. View from northwest. March 1987.
- *#18 - Breakfast Room. View from northwest. June 1987.
- #19 - Staircase. View from northwest. March 1987.
- #20 - Staircase. View from southeast. March 1987.
- #21 - Second Floor Bedroom. View from southwest. March 1987.
- *#22 - Octagonal Garden. View from north. May 1984.
- *#23 - Magnolia Walk. View from north. July 1984.
- *#24 - Summer Garden. View from south. May 1984.
- *#25 - Summer Garden. View from north. July 1984.
- *#26 - Crabapple Allee. View from south. May 1984.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number P Page 2

Skylands, Ringwood Borough,
Passaic County, NJ

- *#27 - Swan Pond. View from south. May 1984.
- *#28 - Rhododendrons. View from northwest. May 1984.
- *#29 - Perennial Border. View from south. August 1984.
- *#30 - Annual Garden. View from west. July 1984.
- *#31 - Lewis Greenhouse. View from north. May 1984.
- *#32 - Lewis Greenhouse. View from south. May 1984.
- *#33 - Propagation House. View from north. March 1987.
- *#34 - Tropical House. View from north. March 1987.
- #35 - Carriage House. View from southwest. April 1987.
- #36 - Carriage House. View from southeast. April 1987.
- *#37 - The Lodge. View from southwest. May 1984.
- #38 - Pump House. View from northwest. March 1987.
- #39 - East Cottage. View from southwest. May 1984.
- *#40 - Hillair Greenhouse. View from south. May 1984.
- *#41 - Hillair Cottage. View from south. May 1984.

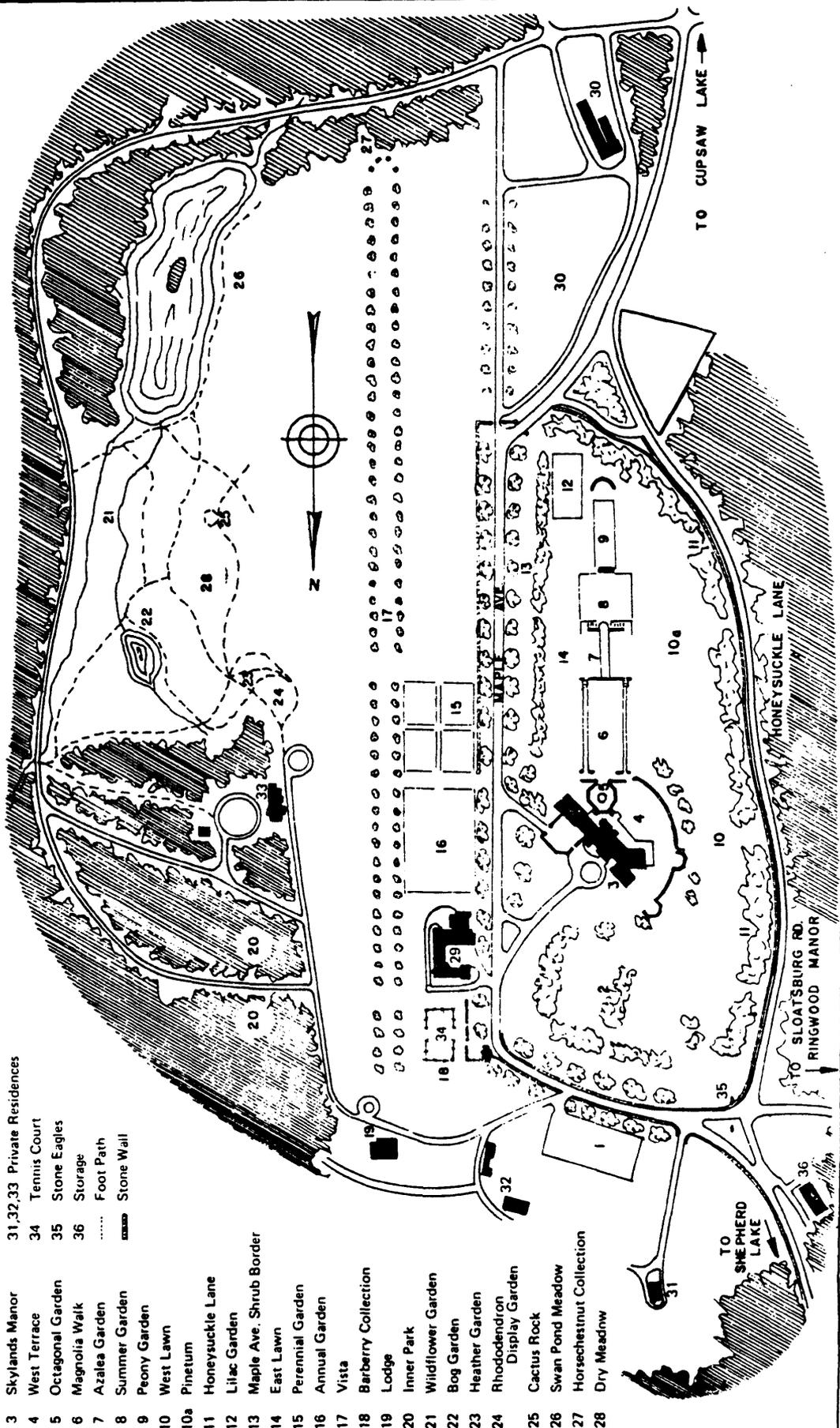
Skylands
 Ringwood Borough
 Passaic County, New Jersey

SKYLANDS BOTANICAL GARDEN

LEGEND

- 1A, 18 Parking Lots
- 2 Winter Garden
- 3 Skylands Manor
- 4 West Terrace
- 5 Octagonal Garden
- 6 Magnolia Walk
- 7 Azalea Garden
- 8 Summer Garden
- 9 Peony Garden
- 10 West Lawn
- 10a Pinetum
- 11 Honeysuckle Lane
- 12 Lilac Garden
- 13 Maple Ave. Shrub Border
- 14 East Lawn
- 15 Perennial Garden
- 16 Annual Garden
- 17 Vista
- 18 Barbary Collection
- 19 Lodge
- 20 Inner Park
- 21 Wildflower Garden
- 22 Bog Garden
- 23 Heather Garden
- 24 Rhododendron Display Garden
- 25 Cactus Rock
- 26 Swan Pond Meadow
- 27 Horsechestnut Collection
- 28 Dry Meadow
- 29 Visitors Center
- 30 Greenhouse & Nursery
- 31, 32, 33 Private Residences
- 34 Tennis Court
- 35 Stone Eagles
- 36 Storage

..... Foot Path
 Stone Wall



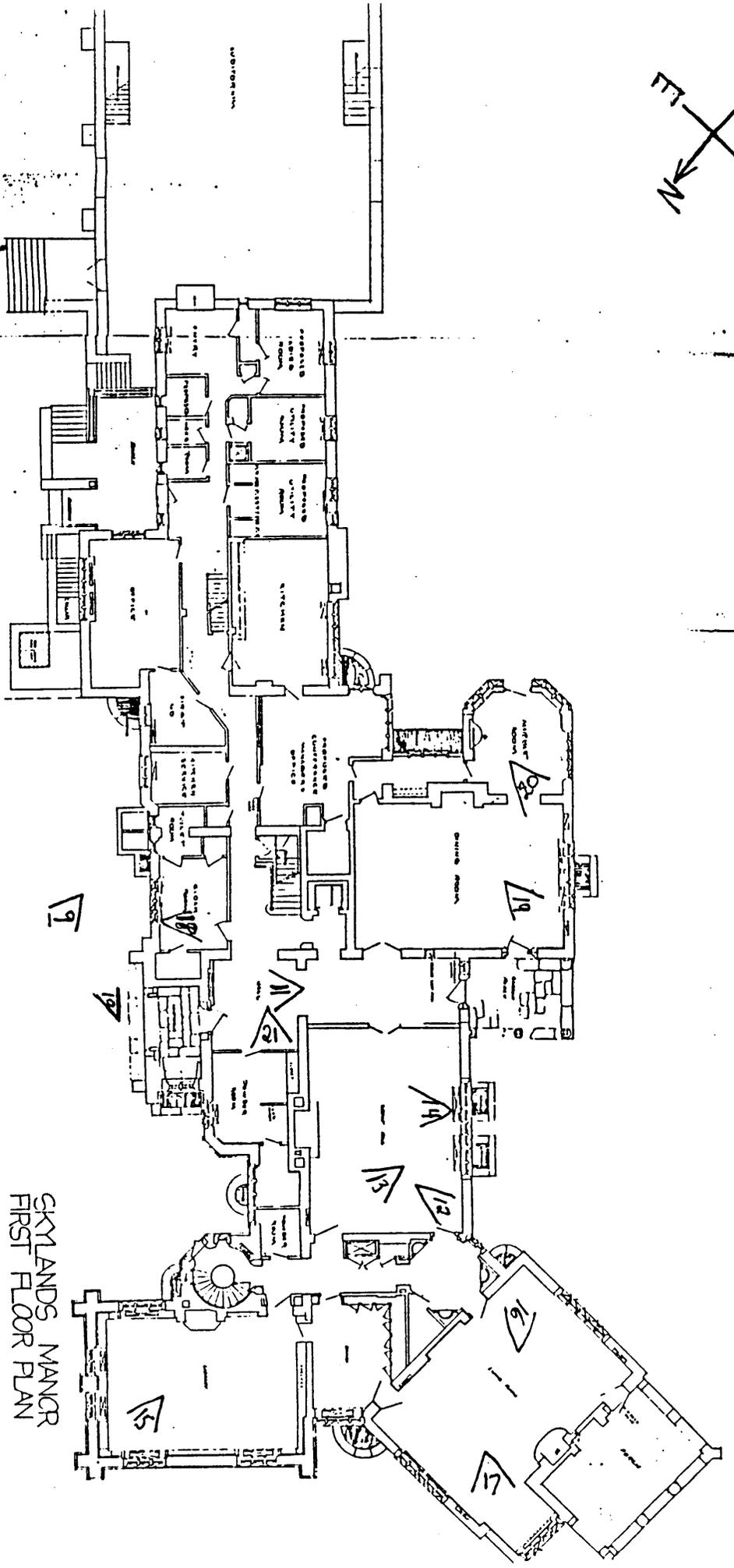
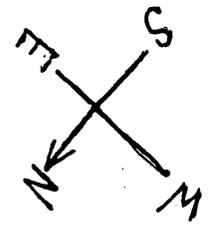
TO CUPSAW LAKE →

TO SLOATSBURG RD.
RINGWOOD MANOR

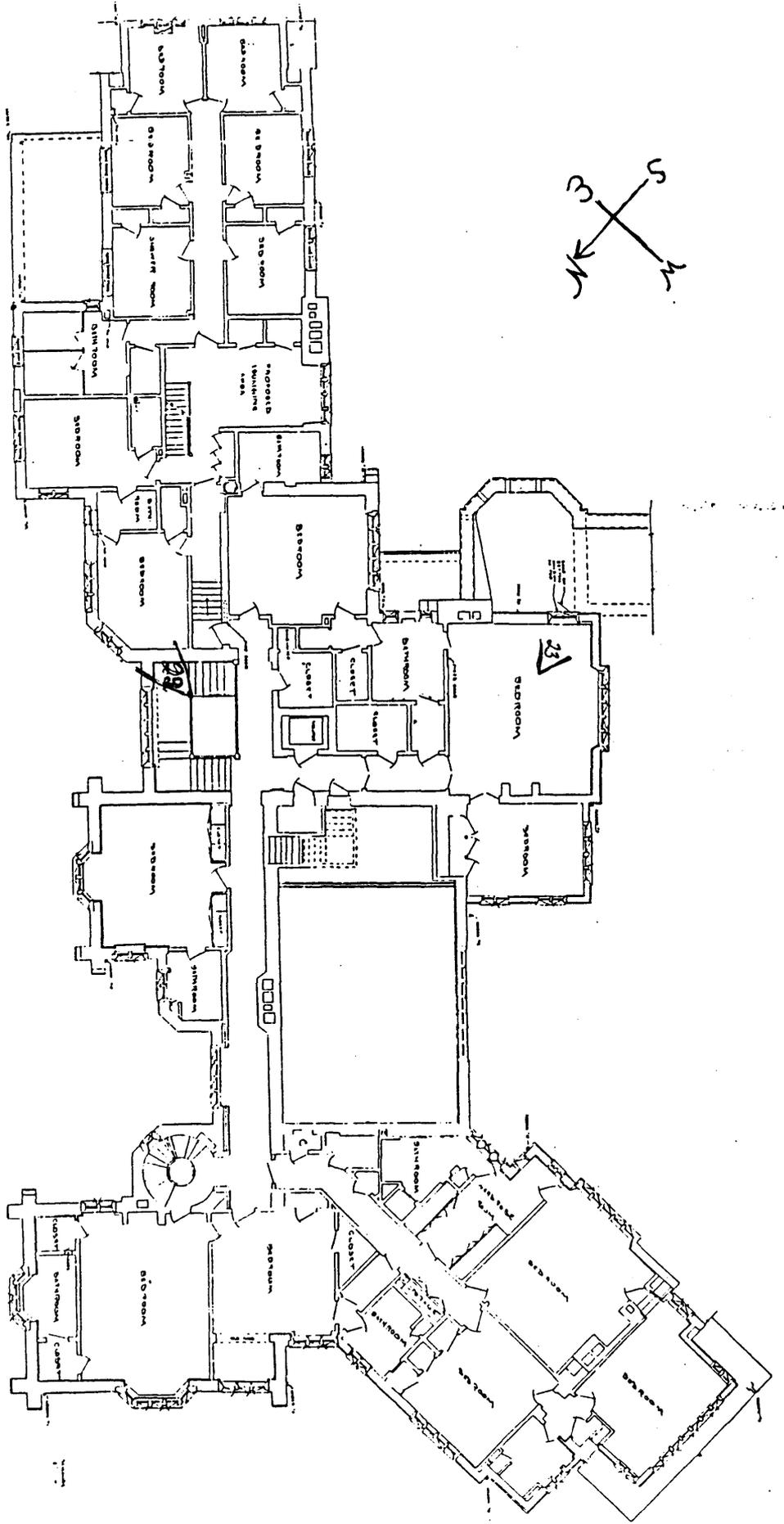
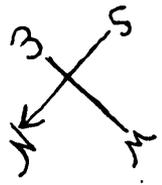
TO SHEPHERD LAKE

5

Skylands
Ringwood Borough
Passaic County, New Jersey



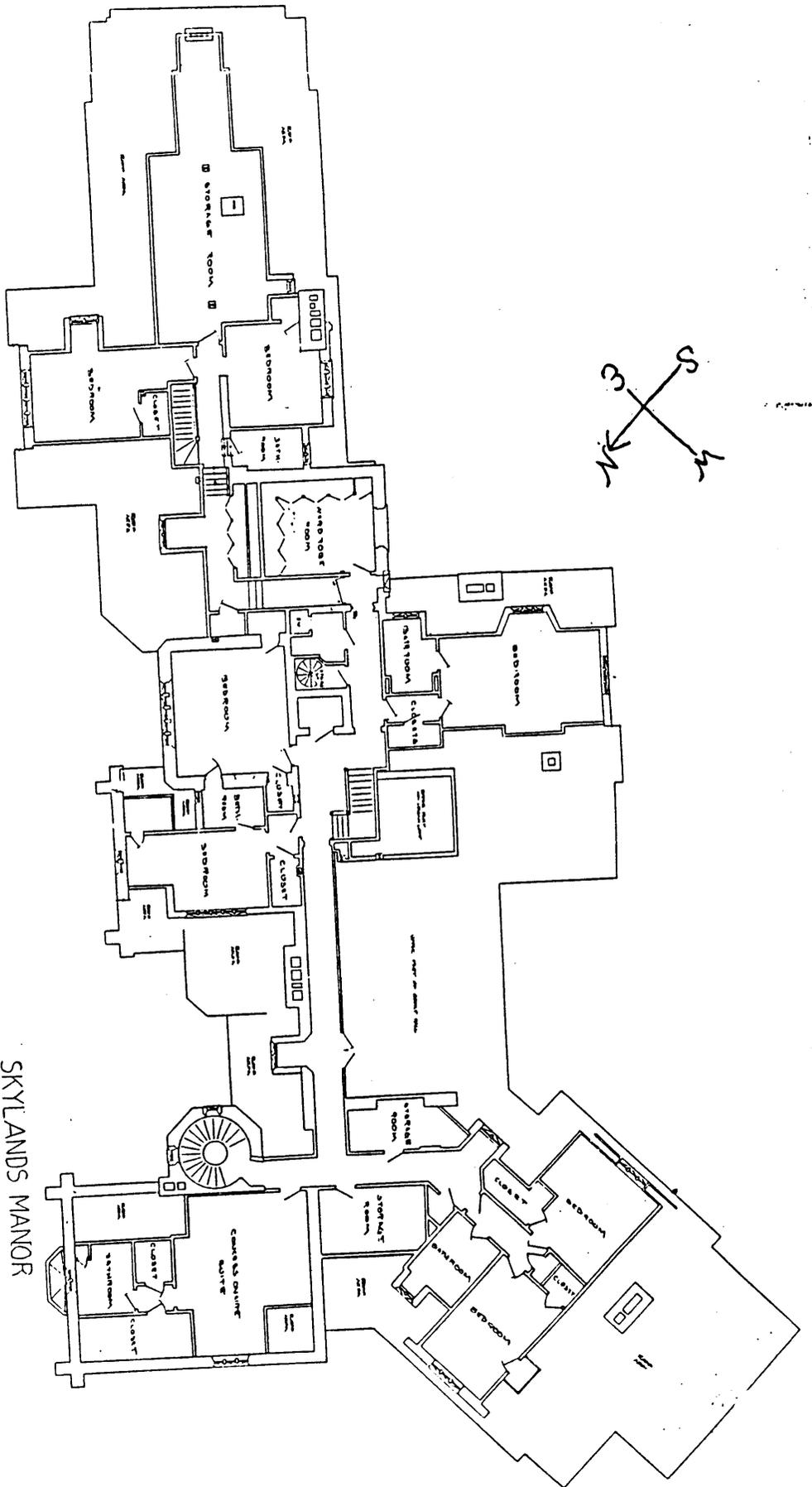
SKYLANDS MANOR
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



2ND FLOOR

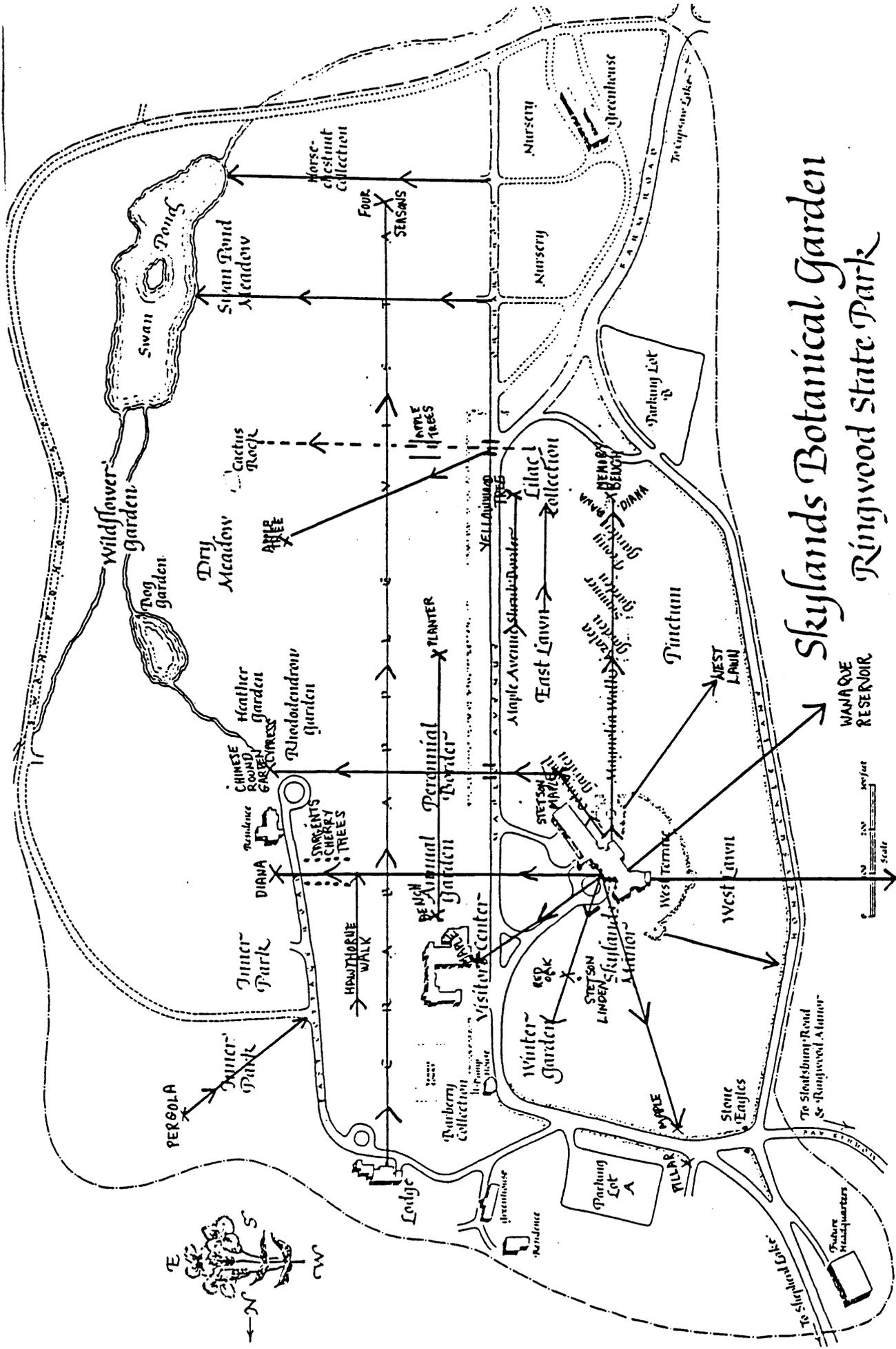
SKYLANDS MANOR

Skylands
Ringwood Borough
Passaic County, New Jersey



SKYLANDS MANOR
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Skylands
Ringwood Borough
Passaic County, New Jersey



Skylands Botanical Garden

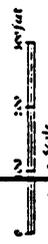
Ringwood State Park

Ringwood Borough, Passaic County, New Jersey

VISTAS

BEARFORT
WAYWAYANDA
POCHLUCK

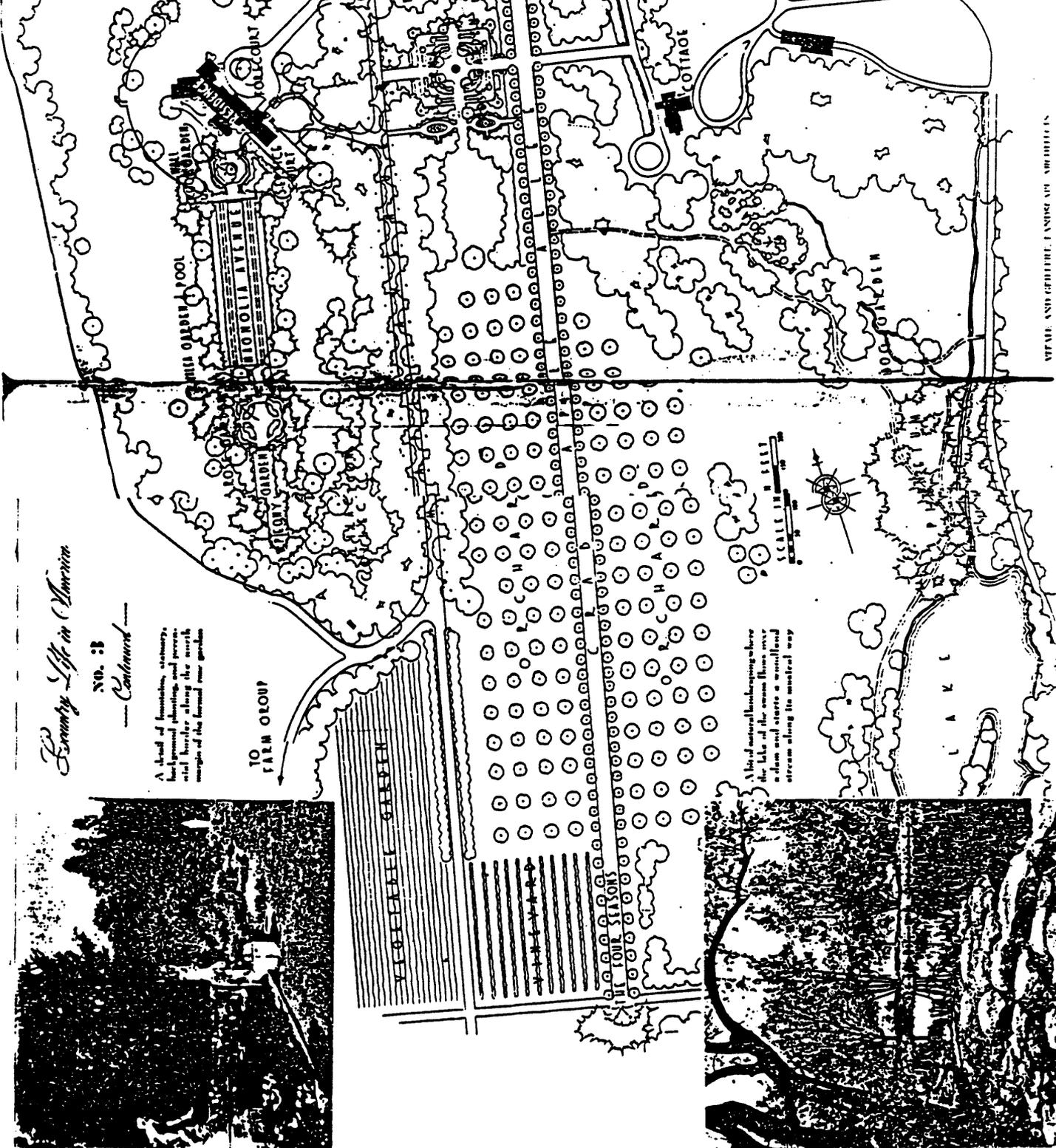
WANAQUE
RESERVOIR



To Slacksburg Road
To Ringwood Avenue

FROM COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA, AUGUST 1921

Skylands
Ringwood Borough
Passaic County, New Jersey



Country Life in America

NO. 33
Continued

A block of houses, a store, a parking garage, and tennis courts, all located along the north-south axis of the formal new garden.

TO FARM GROUP

A bit of natural landscaping here, the lake of the stream through a dam and into a woodland stream along its natural way.

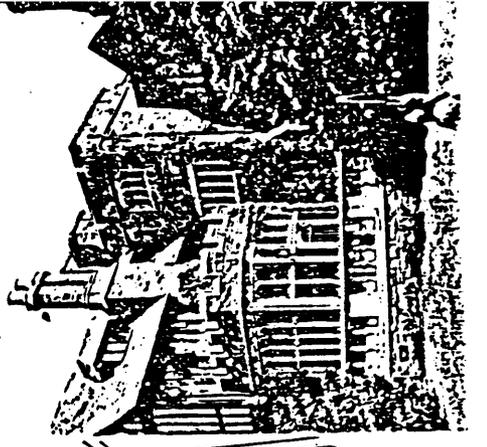
SCALE IN FEET
0 20 40 60 80 100

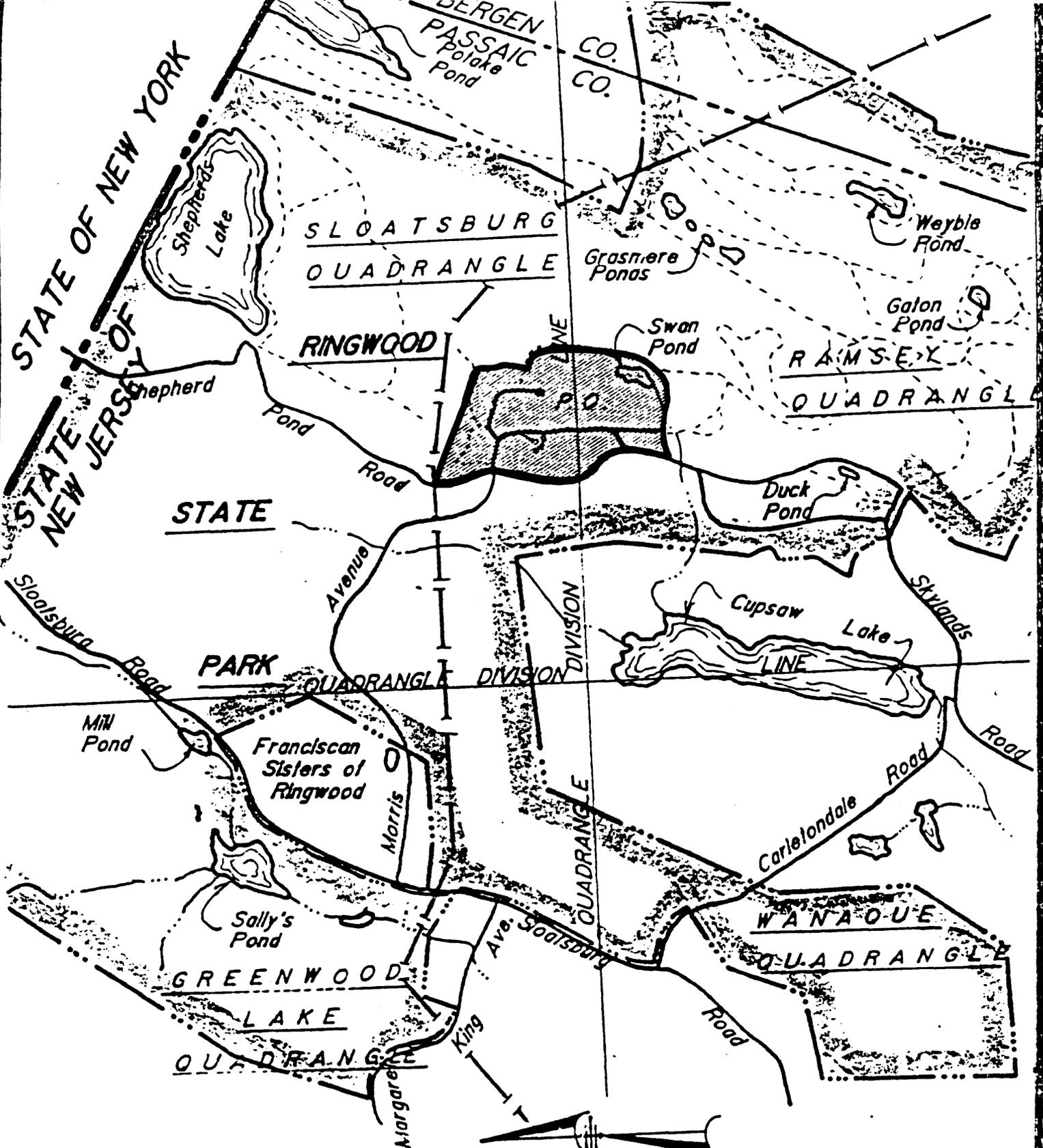


TO FARM GROUP

From the ramparts walk, steps at either side of this double terrace lead to the water garden.

Close by the formal room for trees, a white wooden pergola, always a source of a water tower.





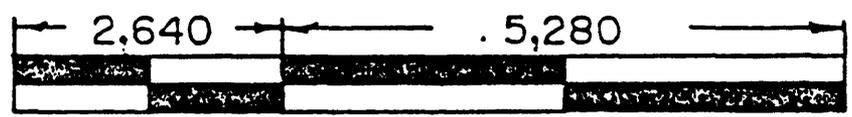
LEGEND

- · · · — STATE BOUNDARY
- · — · — COUNTY BOUNDARY
- · · · — PARK BOUNDARY
- — — — ROADS PAVED
- | — | — PIPELINE
- - - - - ROADS UNPAVED

KEY

MAP

Skylands
 Ringwood Borough
 Passaic County, New Jersey



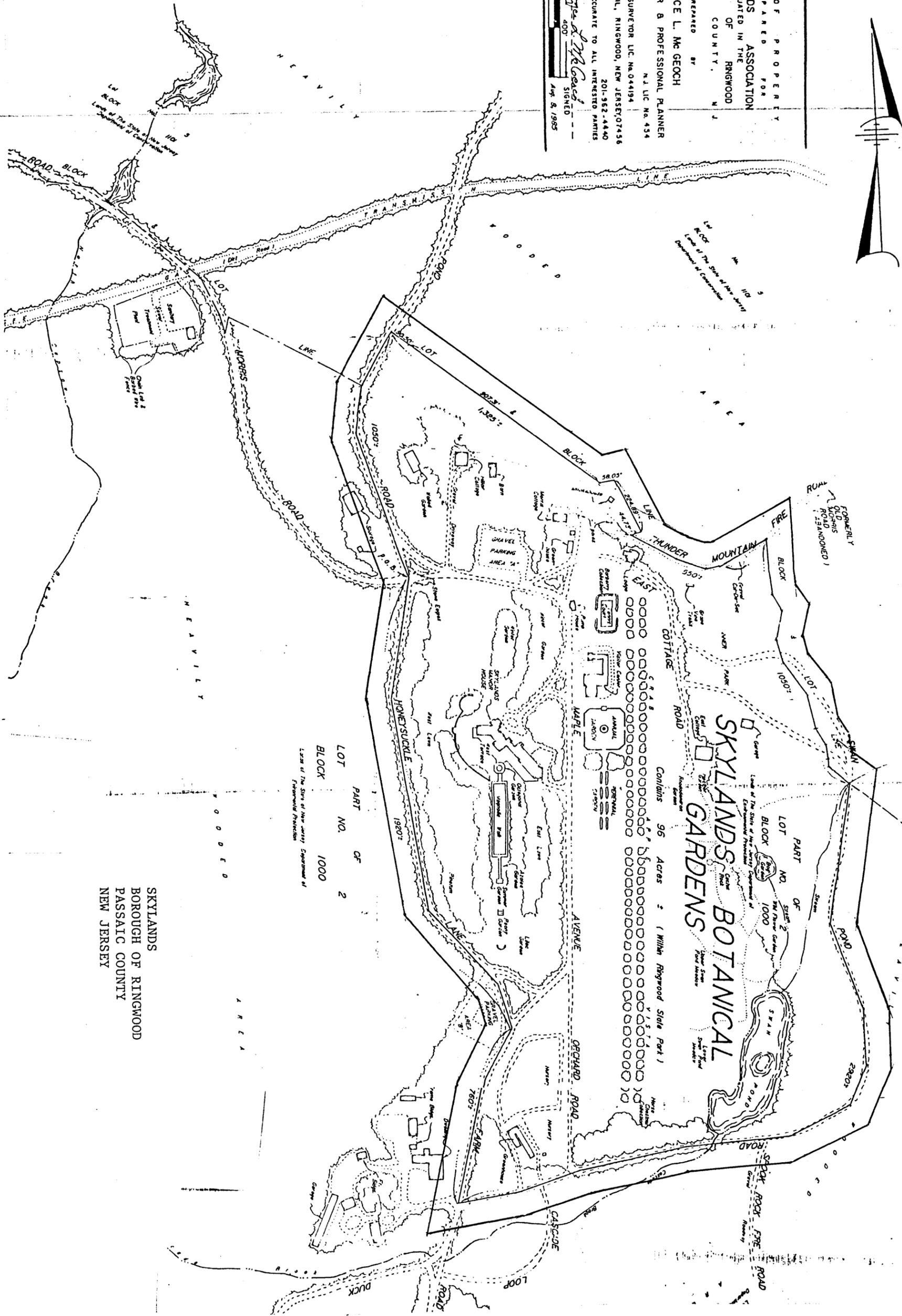


MAP OF PROPERTY
PREPARED FOR
SKYLANDS ASSOCIATION
SITuated IN THE
BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD
PASSAIC COUNTY, N.J.

PREPARED BY
BOYCE L. Mc GECH

LAND SURVEYOR & PROFESSIONAL PLANNER
N.J.L.C. No. 12353 N.J. LIC. No. 454
N.Y. LAND SURVEYOR LIC. No. 044194
87 CHOCTAW TRAIL, RINGWOOD, NEW JERSEY, 07456
PHONE NUMBER 201-982-4440
CERTIFIED TO BE ACCURATE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Boyce L. Mc Gech
SIGNED
Aug. 5, 1985



SKYLANDS
BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD
PASSAIC COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

LOT NO. 2
PART OF
BLOCK 1000
Contains 96 Acres ± (Within Ringwood Side Part)

0 0 0 0 0 0

4 0 0 0 0 0