

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 24 1977
DATE ENTERED OCT 28 1977

**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 Hildene

AND/OR COMMON
Robert Todd Lincoln Estate

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Off U.S. Route 7
S of Manchester

CITY, TOWN
Manchester *me* VICINITY OF
Vermont

STATE
Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Bennington CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First Church of Christ, Scientist

STREET & NUMBER
Christian Science Center

CITY, TOWN
Boston VICINITY OF
STATE
02115 Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the Town Clerk of Bennington

STREET & NUMBER
No Street Number

CITY, TOWN
Bennington STATE
Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE
1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN
Montpelier STATE
Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hildene is situated on 412 acres of land located between the Battenkill River and River Road (easterly section) and extending from River Road westerly over one of the highest ridges in Manchester, toward Route 7. There are two private access roads into the westerly section in which the mansion is located. The property contains a total of 22 structures and amenities. The Main Dwelling, Carriage Barn and out buildings are located on about 140 acres of land within the Manchester Village limits. The farmhouses and barns are located on about 4,000 feet of frontage on the west side of River Road and 3,000 feet frontage on the east side.

The main dwelling (1) built for R. T. Lincoln by the Boston architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge in 1904, is situated at the high point of the ridge commanding unexcelled panoramic views of Equinox Mountain to the west and the Green Mountains to the south and east. The carriage barn (3) and out buildings located in the western section (3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11) were all built within several years of the main dwelling. The farm buildings along River Road (12,14,15,16,17), directly below the promontory upon which the main dwelling is located, date from the early 19th century. They have been used in conjunction with the estate since the time Lincoln purchased the property. The estate's buildings and property are all in remarkably good condition and continue to portray the turn of the century grandeur and exclusiveness.

Buildings within "Hildene":

1) The main dwelling - The Georgian Revival style mansion house, built in the Neo-Colonial mode, is situated on a high promontory overlooking the Manchester Valley at the end of a one mile tree-lined driveway. The driveway is directed so as to afford a striking view of the house when a visitor approaches.

The house is fourteen bays by two bays with a projecting entrance and porte-cochère which bisects the main facade. The structure consists of a two and a half story center section with a hipped roof and two hipped wings, each two stories.

The house is built upon brick foundations with exterior marble facing. A wooden water table surrounds the building above the marble foundation level. The walls of the structure are covered with a light yellow-brown stucco, which is in very good condition. The hipped roofs are asphalt shingle, but the gable roof of the entrance projection still possesses its original wooden shingles. There are five chimneys in irregular placement. Each corner of the exterior walls is defined by wooden quoins. There is a rear porch on the south elevation, west side. Originally this porch wrapped around the west end, but was removed within several years of the building's completion. The removal of the porch resulted in a structural change which added one room to the west wing,

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-1)

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lengthening the roof line and adding a new chimney. A wooden cornice with fret band and modillion brackets surrounds the structure beneath the eaves. Between each modillion on the soffit, attic ventilators have been installed.

The main, or north, facade is divided into two sections by a projecting central gable-front entrance with colossal side pilasters and a one-story porte-cochère with a flat roof and lattice work railing. The projecting entrance is a partially closed porch with three openings on the first story and an enclosed room on the second story. The main opening, leading from the porte-cochère to the front door, is strictly classical in detail with a full entablature with a denticulated cornice, supported by two corner pilasters and two free standing fluted Ionic columns with scamozzi capitols. The side openings, which are unglazed, are shaped as doors, but not used as such. They have side pilasters supporting entablatures, and provide light to the porch. The front door is flanked by two 1/2 sidelights with oval leaded designs. These are in turn flanked by two more 1/2 sidelights with eight rectangular lights each, which light side hall closets. The various elements of the entry are separated by attenuated Doric pilasters. At the second story of the projecting entrance section is a pseudo-Palladian window with a 6/6/sash flanked by two 2/2 sidelights and capped by a semi-circular louvered fanlight with a console centered in the surround. The fenestration of the main facade is designed with 12/12 sash windows on the first story and 8/8 sash windows on the second story. All of the windows have black louvered shutters.

The south, or rear, elevation faces onto a beautiful formal garden. A brick pavement several feet wide and lined with marble curbing extends the full length of the center section of the house. In this elevation the wings are recessed one bay back from the central section. The projecting central section is subdivided into three divisions, each defined by drain pipes attached to the wall. The middle division contains a double door flanked by two pilasters with a flute and reed motif at the neck of each pilaster. The pilasters support a denticulated cornice and a broken segmental pediment with a centered ball-finial on a console. Flanking the double doors are two 6/6/6 sash windows. The two side divisions are identical to each other, each with an 8/8/8 sash window with pilasters with fluted and reeded necks supporting denticulated triangular pediments. Flanking each of these windows are two 6/6/6/sash windows. The roof in the central

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section contains three gabled dormers, the central dormer with a segmental pediment and the side dormers with triangular pediments, corresponding to the first story fenestration.

The first floor interior contains a very formal entry foyer with an intricate multi-spindled staircase leading to the second floor, forming a balcony overlooking the foyer. Organ pipes are encased at the balcony level in very intricate cabinets with spindles and fret moldings. The library, to the west of the foyer, has an elaborate fireplace built into a mahogany panel wall. Across the foyer is the dining room with an ornately decorated panel wall and fireplace. The wall paper in the dining room is layered, achieving a more three dimensional effect. The detailing is derived from Greek precedents, the ceiling cornice being complete with triglyphs and metopes. Through the dining room is a large pantry and kitchen in which a large wood and coal burning stove remain. Other first floor rooms include R. T. Lincoln's study with fireplace and a separate filing room, a guest bedroom and bath, a servants' dining room, and a rear hall to the back stairway.

The second-floor, east wing, contains four servants' rooms, a bath, and a utility room with floor to ceiling cabinets. The central section and west wing contain two bedrooms with complete baths, two bedrooms with a connecting bath, a master bedroom with a fireplace, and linen and storage closets. Each bedroom is equipped with Dutch doors.

The attic is one large room lit by dormers on the south slope. It is totally insulated against the roof, and has ventilated soffits. A great many trunks of old clothing, and cabinets filled with old books and toys are stored in the attic space.

The basement contains two hot air furnaces and is sectioned into various rooms with interior plaster sheathing. An elevator runs from the basement to the attic for passenger and material use. Originally it operated by a rope pull, but has since been electrified.

2) Studio - To the east of the mansion, within the side delivery area, is a five bay by one bay, one story structure built for Mrs. Beckwith as a studio in the early 1930's. It is a frame structure clad with clapboards. It has a centered entrance with 3/4 length sidelights flanked by pilasters. An open verandah with six square columns spans all five bays. The roof is hipped and clad with slate shingles. There is a skylight in the north slope.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-3)

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3) Observatory - An observatory is located to the north east of the mansion on a cliff overlooking the Battenkill River Valley. It is a brick cylinder approximately eight feet in diameter with a rotating wood and canvas hemispherical roof on metal wheels. The brick wall is approximately seven feet high, laid with a common bond in Flemish variation. The structure is presumed to have been built at the time of the mansion. The telescope was removed in the late 1920's and donated to the Burr and Burton Seminary in Manchester.

4) Carriage Barn - A carriage barn is located about 200 yards to the southwest of the mansion house, through a lightly wooded area and on a lower terrain. The clapboarded barn is one and one half stories with an asphalt shingle and wood shingle bellcast hipped roof. It is five bays on the main facade, bisected by a one and one half story projecting gable front entrance, generally corresponding to the format of the mansion. There is a field stone foundation with tooled mortar joints. The barn has 6/6 windows in the first story. There are two bellcast hipped dormers on the north slope of the roof, and five bellcast hipped dormers on the south. Projecting beneath the eaves, surrounding the structure are exposed rafter tails.

The projecting entrance has a gable front with exposed purlins, simulating modillions, and a cornice with plain returns, which are supported by wooden corner pilasters. There are two swinging doors, each with nine lights, leading into the carriage room. The doors are encased by a surround with an entablature. Above the doors in the front gable is a round headed sash window with pronounced imposts and a keystone in wood.

Bisecting the west elevation at the second story is a projecting, gabled, hayloft entrance with a pulley and track below its doors.

On the east side of the first floor is the large carriage room. The stable area is on the west side, containing several horse stalls and more recently added cattle stanchions with a pipe line milker. The second floor contains a spacious estate manager's apartment and a hay storage area over the stables.

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- 5) Potting Shed - A one bay by two bay potting shed is located to the south of the carriage barn in the barn yard. It is one story with a bellcast hipped roof clad with wooden shingles. It is frame construction with clapboarded walls.
- 6) Greenhouse - A greenhouse is situated several yards to the southwest of the potting shed. The foundation and lower walls are concrete. It is in very deteriorated condition and little remains of the glass and framing members.
- 7) Shed - West of the potting shed is a small wood frame shed with clapboarded walls and a wood shingled, hipped roof.
- 8) Pony Barn - Defining the westernmost boundary of the barnyard is a seven bay by one bay pony barn. It is one and a half stories with clapboarded walls and a hipped roof with a gable dormer on the north slope.
- 9) Shed - To the north of the pony barn is a wood framed shed with a hipped roof and clapboarded walls.
- 10) Gazebo - Through the woods, to the west of the carriage barn complex, is a small gazebo made of eight square brick posts supporting an octagonal wooden cornice and a hemispherical wood shingle roof. The floor area of the gazebo is laid in brick. At one time the gazebo accompanied a children's playhouse near this site, which has since deteriorated.
- 11) Ice House - To the north of the carriage barn is an ice house. It is a one and one half level frame structure with a bellcast gable roof of wooden shingles. The walls are approximately two and one half inches thick and composed of three overlapping planks with an outer layer of clapboards. The roof is supported by a scissor truss system. An open ventilator with a bellcast gable roof is centered on the roof ridge. In recent years the structure has been used to refine maple sap.
- 12) Shed - To the east of the ice house is a one story rectangular shed open on one side. It is clad with shiplap siding and has a bellcast gable roof with asphalt shingles.

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- 13) Entrance Gates - Located at the northernmost and westernmost coordinates of the property are entrance gates. They close off the two means of access to the mansion. They consist of four brick posts, two wooden posts and picket fencing arranged in a semi-elliptical shape and bisected by the drive.
- 14) North Farm House - Situated on the west side of River Road is the North Farm. The house consists of a two and one half story, five by two bay, main block with a central chimney dating from 1800, and one and one half story wings on the north and south elevations. The main block measures 40' by 30' and has an entrance with 1/2 sidelights and 6/4 moveable sashes. It has a stone foundation, a slated gable roof and clapboarded walls. The north wing measures 24' by 20' and the south wing is 40' by 24'. There is decorative shingle siding on the east wall and south gable. A colonial revival porch extends the full length of all three sections. Inside the main block are two marble-faced fireplaces. Attached to the west wall of the north wing is a 28' by 30' ice house. Detached, to the west of the house, is a 3' by 3' smoke house.
- 15) North Farm Corn Crib - Located to the southwest of the North Farm is a 15' by 30' corn crib built around 1920. It sits on wooden posts, on cement blocks. The first level has vertical board siding, Above this level the walls slope outward and are clad with clapboards. It has a gabled, asbestos roof with exposed rafter ends.
- 16) North Farm Garage - To the south of the corn crib is a 33' by 20' garage built around 1920. It is of stud construction with clapboarded walls and a gabled, slate roof.
- 17) North Farm Silo - To the southeast of the garage are the remains of a 12' diameter 20' high stone silo.
- 18) North Farm Machine Storage Barn - On the west side of River Road, south of the silo remains is a 40' by 20' frame barn with two sliding doors, a wooden floor, slate roof, novelty siding, and a stone and cement foundation. It was built around 1905.
- 19) Schoolhouse - On the east side of River Road, slightly to the south of the North Farm Barn is a one story former schoolhouse built around 1840. It has a gable roof ornamented towards the street. The wall construction consists of sawn two inch thick planks laid

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 7-6)

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horizontally, one on top of the other. The exterior is sheathed with clapboards. The interior wall slants outward and then inward again. The windows are 9/6 sash windows. There is a plain board frieze and molded corners with returns. The entrance has flanking pilasters supporting an entablature.

20) Main Farm Dairy Barn - On the east side of River Road, 2/10 miles south of the North Farm, is a 70' by 30' dairy barn of two and one half levels. It is of mortise and tenon construction with an attached frame, tongue, and groove, 34' by 14' silo. The barn and silo have slated roofs. There are two large entry doors in front, from River Road. There is an attached milk house with asphalt siding and asphalt roof. The barn was built c. 1890.

21) Main Farm Horse Barn - On the east side of River Road, south of the dairy barn, is a one and one half level, 27' by 36' horse barn with a slated gable roof and clapboarded walls. It contains built-in horse stalls, and was built c. 1890.

22) Main Farm House - Located on the west side of River Road, directly west of the Main Farm Barn buildings, is the main farm house complex. It is an attached farmhouse formed by two 5 by 2 bay, 36' by 24', one and one half story Greek Revival farm houses joined by a 24' one story section. The north block has a central entrance with 3/4 sidelights and an entrance porch over the middle three bays. It also has marble facing on its foundations and a marble walkway. The south block has a large cross gable with returns facing east and three pedimented well dormers on the west side. There is a one story screened porch on its south end. The connecting section has an Italianate door, north of center, and a porch supported on square posts connecting the two main blocks. Window sashes are 2/2 and 6/6 and the roof is slated. The farm house was built around 1830.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hildene estate is a well preserved example of an extravagant and exclusive summer residence built at the turn of the century in the Manchester area. The estate is significant for three primary reasons: it was built for Robert Todd Lincoln and remained in his family until 1975; the excellently proportioned Georgian Revival style mansion was designed by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, and it represents a way of life which is diminishing in our present society and culture.

The Hildene estate was the summer residence of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only son of Abraham Lincoln to live to maturity. Lincoln bought the land for the estate in 1902 and commissioned the highly regarded Boston architectural firm of Shepley, Ryan and Coolidge to design the main house and carriage barn, which were completed by 1904.

Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926) was a lawyer, cabinet officer, and diplomat. He graduated from Harvard College in 1864 and after a short period in Harvard Law School he participated in the Civil War as a captain on the staff of General U. S. Grant. After the war he opened a law office in Chicago. In 1881 he was appointed Secretary of War, a post he filled until 1885. From 1889-1893 he was Minister to the Court of St. James, London. In the latter year he was appointed counsel to the Pullman Company, becoming president in 1897 and chairman of the board of directors in 1911. He was also on the board of directors of the Commonwealth Edison Co. and the Continental and Commercial National Bank.

Lincoln had homes in Washington, D.C. and in Chicago, but he spent every summer at Hildene until his death in 1926. He died at the mansion and was interred in Manchester. His body was transferred to Arlington National Cemetery the following year.

The estate was in the Lincoln family until 1975, when it was bequeathed to the Christian Science Church. Following Robert Todd Lincoln's death, his wife and daughters lived at Hildene, and the last occupant of the house was his granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Beckwith.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 8-1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 412 E 18/656385/4779520
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>657</u>	<u>6210</u>	<u>4778</u>	<u>2715</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>656</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>4777</u>	<u>7500</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	<u>18</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>8710</u>	<u>4777</u>	<u>5110</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>4777</u>	<u>80810</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Co-extensive with the Hildene property lines. (See sketch map)

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

B. Clark Schoettle, Peter Jensen, Charles H. Ashton, Architectural Historians

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

The Pavilion

TELEPHONE

(802) 828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William B. Pinney

TITLE

William B. Pinney, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8-18-77

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

Ronald M. Greenberg

DATE

10-28-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Carol W. Clark *Charles J. Dwyer*

DATE

10-28-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The mansion is completely furnished, with most of the furniture dating from Robert Todd Lincoln's first occupancy in 1904. Lincoln's library and collection of books and documents remain in the house.

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge was a prominent Boston architectural firm which continued H. H. Richardson's practice. After following Richardson's stylistic mode, they turned from it to the more popular Neo-Colonial and Renaissance Revival styles. Among their other works are the Central Building of the Chicago Public Library (1893) and the Albany Union Station (1900), both on the National Register. They are also remembered for adding the porch to Richardson's Trinity Church in Boston in 1895.

The lifestyle of which Hildene is a tangible fragment is today disappearing from the American scene. At the time it was built, wealthy clients were commissioning such lavish summer homes at various points on the East Coast, the best-known assemblage being at Newport, Rhode Island. These clients, through the showcase nature of their residences, influenced the course of American domestic architecture to no small degree. The styles chosen by the wealthy eventually filtered down to less affluent builders and became more pervasive, through emulation by the middle class. Hildene is one of the grander examples of this house type in Vermont, and represents a period which was perhaps the high point of individual conspicuous consumption in architecture.

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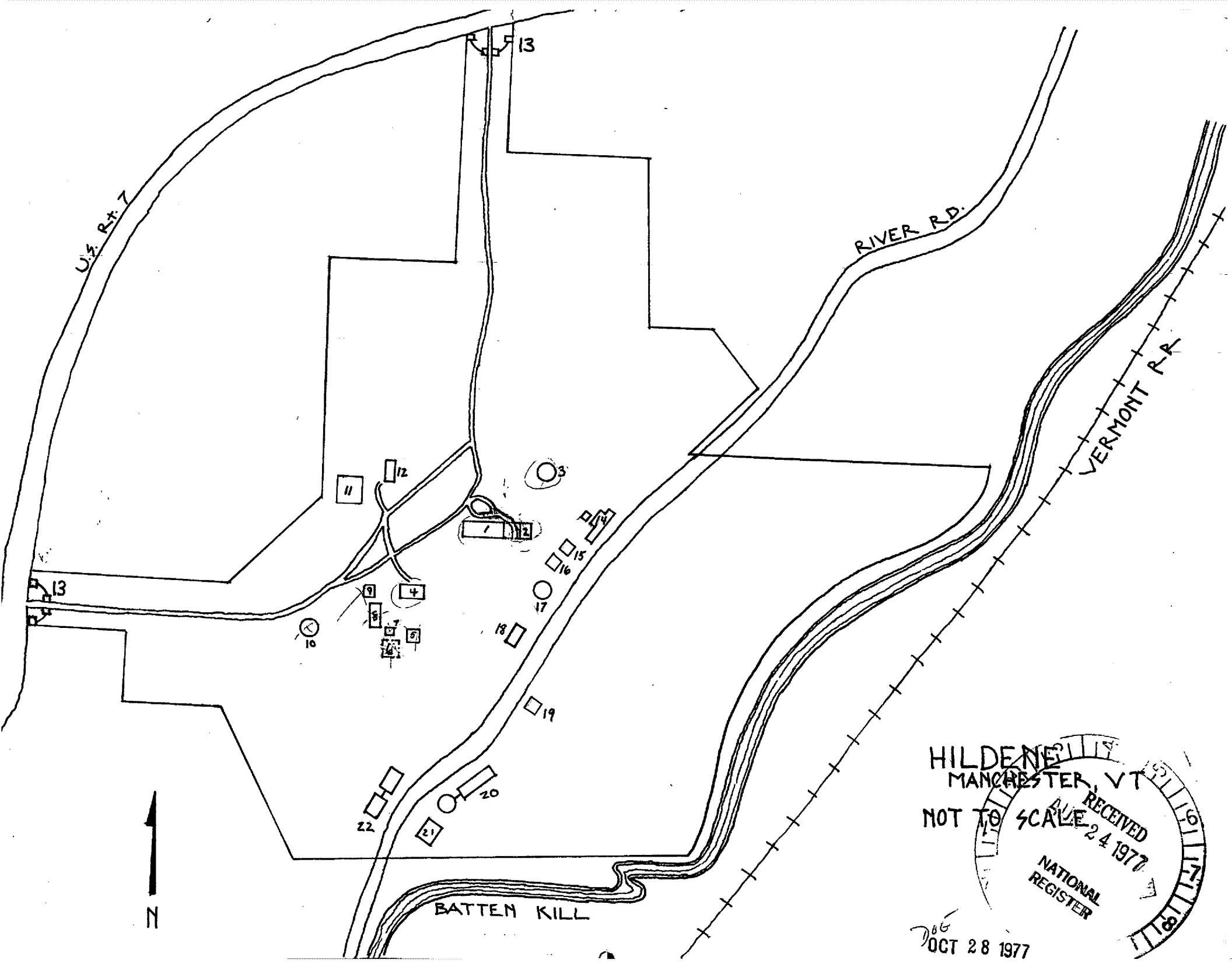
PAGE 1

Collier's Encyclopedia, MacMillan Educational Corp., New York, 1977,
Vol. 14

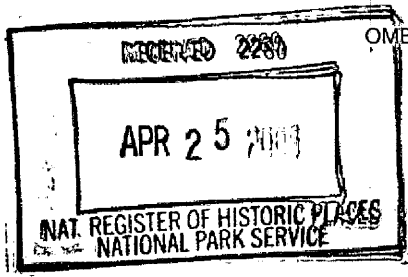
Interviews

Ken Hill, Caretaker of Hildene
Resident of Main Farmhouse, River Road, Manchester

Robert Schmid, President of Friends of Hildene
Manchester, Vermont 05254



HILDENE
MANCHESTER, VT
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NATIONAL REGISTER
706
OCT 28 1977



77000095

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hildene(Additional Documentation)
other names/site number The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene

2. Location

street & number 820 Hildene Road not for publication N/A
city or town Manchester vicinity N/A
state Vermont code VT county Bennington code 003 zip code 05254

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Suzanne Jamel, National Register Specialist, 4-21-06 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 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): Additional Documentation Accepted

Elson H. Beall

6-8-06

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
12	5
3	
5	
0	
20	5

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
22

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC
COMMERCE/TRADE
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

EDUCATION

Subcategory: single dwelling
professional
agricultural field
storage
research facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RECREATION AND CULTURE

EDUCATION
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
LANDSCAPE

Subcategory: museum
outdoor recreation
research facility
animal facility
garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY
REVIVALS - COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite
walls Wood
Brick
Stucco
roof Asphalt
other

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Bennington County, Vermont
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1905-1955

Significant Dates

1905; 1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Lincoln, Robert Todd

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Archives, Hildene the Lincoln Family Home.

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 412 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	
1 18 657620 4778275	3 18 655870 4777510	5 18 656385 4779520
2 18 656960 4777500	4 18 655245 4778080	

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Knight, Curator
organization Friends of Hildene, Inc. date
street & number P.O. Box 377 telephone (802) 362-1788
city or town Manchester state VT zip code 05254

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Friends of Hildene, Inc.
street & number 1005 Hildene Road telephone (802) 362 -1788
city or town Manchester state Vermont zip code 05254

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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This is an amendment to the National Register form for Hildene, listed November 1977. The original National Register application stated that Hildene was of local and state significance. This amendment provides evidence that the building is eligible for the National Register at the national level. In addition, several changes have occurred on the property, which are outlined hereafter.

Main House (Building #1) 1905 contributing

Robert Todd Lincoln's study remains as it was when he lived at Hildene from 1905-1926. The library contains all of his original books and the upholstery and shades were the same fabrics found in a deluxe Pullman Car. In 1908, Lincoln extended the first floor westward by eighteen feet to accommodate an office for Robert Todd Lincoln's secretaries. Lincoln installed an elaborate built-in filing system where he kept all of business papers, personal correspondence and papers concerning his father. When he added the office, Lincoln essentially filled in an existing porch. As a result, there was no heat in the office so Lincoln had a wood burning stove installed. The house was outfitted with a telephone, telegraph and interior communication system to ensure Lincoln's connection between his business interests and his own staff. The house has a symmetrical layout and resembles a Pullman car in its layout. Each floor has an arterial hallway that provides access to all the rooms and bathrooms.

The centerpiece of the house is the grand central staircase and the 1908 Aeolian Pipe Organ. The Lincolns had the staircase especially built. The rise of the steps is approximately 6 inches and the tread is about 12 inches. As a result, the steps are easier to climb than traditional staircases. There are four different turnings on each tread, repeating the extent of the stairs. The corner posts feature an elaborate turning within a turning. The staircase has a Honduran mahogany railing similar to the woods found on an elegant Pullman Car.

Although added three years after the completion of the house, Robert called for an organ in the original designs. The organ console is located in the southwest corner of the entry hall. Upon playing a note on the organ keyboard, air is pumped through sub floor conduits to a blower in the basement. From the blower room, the air is pumped through hollow columns under the port-cochere and ultimately, to the 1,000 pipes located on the staircase landing.

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The organ was completely restored in 1981. The Aeolian Organ is also the reflection of the organs found in Pullman Cars.

The second floor living spaces including the Robert Todd Lincoln's bedroom, Mary Harlan Lincoln's bedroom, their connecting sitting room, the linen closet and four servant's bedrooms have been restored. The rooms received new wallpaper and window treatment and original furniture was returned to the living spaces.

Annex (#2) c. 1908 contributing

Photographic evidence suggests that this building is older than c. 1930 previously stated in the documentation. The one story building was fully restored in the 1980s. It has a porch on the west façade with three wooden entry doors. The annex has a slate shingle roof. There are bathrooms, a kitchen and open meeting space inside. There is small storage room underneath the annex, accessed by the south side. The annex sits at the edge of 300 foot drop.

The Observatory (#3) 1908 contributing

The observatory was fully restored in the 1980s. The restoration began with the removal of trees, the restoration of the brick stairs and the installation of a wrought iron fence along the path. Hildene restored the rotted canvas dome in 1981. In 2002, Hildene restored the telescope. The telescope is one of the few in the country that has a mechanical clock drive mechanism.

Carriage Barn (#4) 1905 contributing

There is a simple wood siding one story addition projecting from the southeast side of the carriage barn. The addition has two doors and several 2/2 double hung windows on the east façade. There are several double hung windows on the west façade. The addition accommodates a large meeting room and two staff offices. This addition does not affect the historic integrity of the carriage barn.

The potting shed (#5) c. 1908 contributing

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The 2 by 2 bay potting shed was restored in 2000. It rests on cement columns and there is sliding door on the east façade. There are single pane casement windows on the remaining facades. There are exhibits inside of the potting shed explaining agricultural practices at Hildene from 1905 to 1975.

The Greenhouse (#6). Destroyed

Shed (#7). Destroyed

Pony Barn (#8). Destroyed.

Shed (#9). Destroyed

The Gazebo (#10) c. 1908 contributing

The gazebo was restored in the 1980s and placed upon the front lawn.

Ice House (#11). Destroyed

Shed (#12) c.1908 contributing.

The Shed was moved to the north side of the carriage barn. It rests on a brick foundation. It was fully restored in the 1990 and it now olds the 1928 Franklin automobile.

Farm Buildings (#13 through #18; #20 through #22), contributing

These farmhouse and outbuildings have not changed since the 1977 nomination. Documentary evidence suggests that elements of both farmhouses date from the 18th Century. All of the farm buildings are contributing.

Schoolhouse (#19), 1832, contributing

At the 1909 March Annual Meeting, the Town of Manchester voted to sell Lincoln the District #10 schoolhouse for \$50. The schoolhouse was closed in 1892 when the Manchester school districts were consolidated. The Lincoln's primary use for their new building was storage. The restoration of the one room 1832 schoolhouse began on May 3,

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1982. The side walls were originally built with 2 x 5 saw planks laid upon each other horizontally with clapboards attached to the sides. There are no vertical posts.

The Wedding Facility Building (#23) 2002, non-contributing

The Wedding Facility Building is a one story, five by three bay, single story building with an asphalt roof. There are open porches supported by Tuscan columns on the south and north facades. The north section of the building has men and women restrooms. There are fixed paned windows on the north, south and west facades. The south part houses a kitchen for caterers. The building is adjacent to a stamped pavement area that accommodates wedding tents.

The Farm Shed (#24) 2003, non-contributing

The Farm Shed is a simple wood structure designed to provide an easy feeding system and shelter for animals. It is made of 2 x 4 wood posts and has a standing seam gable roof with two shed roofs. One roof extends off of the west side and one extends off of the south gable. It does not have a foundation. The main block is open to the west side and there are no windows except for openings on the north, east and south side for feeding animals. It is non-contributing to age.

The Maintenance Shed (#25) 2004, non-contributing

The two story five bay by one bay shed roofed maintenance shed has a cement floor and a metal roof. It's five oversized garage door openings provide room for five vehicles. It is non-contributing to age.

The Gardener Shed (#26) 2005, non-contributing

The Gardener Shed was built into the foundation of the old greenhouse. It has wood siding and a shingle gable roof. It is non-contributing to age.

Trash Pits (#27), contributing

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There are several garbage dumps used by the Lincoln family. These most likely will yield further information about the Lincoln's time at Hildene.

Cutting and Kitchen Gardens (#28), 1908, contributing

The Lincolns used these gardens, located behind the carriage barn for their vegetable garden and flower gardens. There were also a children's playhouse and reflecting pool. The gardens were restored in 1990. There was a lattice fence attached to the northeast corner of the Potting Shed that separated the barnyard behind the Carriage Barn from the Kitchen and Cutting Garden. A trellis covered with grape vines once graced the entrance of the shed. The original brick walk, covered over for many years, was resurfaced. Lincoln's hawthorn allee, a walkway three yards wide shaded by trees that were spaced ten feet apart on each side, was also restored. The allee ran about 200 yards into the woods. Originally, this walkway was a pleached allee – the branches were interwoven to form an overhead arch. The allee was designed to separate the ornamental kitchen and cutting garden from the meadow and main house to the west.

Formal Gardens (#29), 1907, contributing

In 1907, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith, Robert Todd Lincoln's daughter, designed the formal gardens and gave them to her parents as a present. The Lincolns had seen many gardens during their time in England while Robert was a Minister to the Court of Saint James's. Jessie designed the garden to resemble a stained glass cathedral window when viewed from Mrs. Lincoln's second floor sitting room. Close-clipped privet hedges were planted to represent the lead glass separators, and multi-colored flowers were planted between the hedges to represent the stained glass panes. The cathedral-window garden is approximately 150 feet by 70 feet. In the 1980s, the gardens were restored by using the original garden plans and purchase lists. When Friends of Hildene acquired the property, the once close-clipped privet hedges had grown twice as high as originally planted and some of the flowers had succumbed to the ravages of time. Many of the plants that were part of the 1907 plans were either never planted or did not survive the harsh Vermont climate. In 2005, the second phase of garden restoration began with the further clipping of privet hedges and the installation of a pergola at the garden's south side.

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This is an amendment to the National Register form for Hildene, listed November 1977. The original National Register application stated that Hildene was of local and state significance. This amendment provides evidence that the building is eligible for the National Register at a national level. The following statement significance amendment provides a background on Robert Todd Lincoln and the level of significance he attained while at Hildene.

Robert Todd Lincoln was the oldest son of Abraham Lincoln and the only one of four children to survive into adulthood. Lincoln may have lived in the shadow of his father, but he was also, as historian John Goff stated, "a man in his own right." Robert Todd Lincoln was a great American serving his country in business, politics and philanthropy.

Robert was the graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College. He briefly served in the Civil War, serving as a liaison for General U.S. Grants staff. Lincoln took part in the final Appomattox campaign and had the opportunity to meet Confederate States of America General Robert E. Lee. After the war, Lincoln went to Chicago to establish his own law firm, representing the burgeoning energy and transportation corporations sprouting up in post-Civil War America.

With the Republican Party's sheer dominance of post Civil War presidential politics, Robert was a considered as a potential Presidential nominee for the Republican Party from 1880 to 1912. The Lincoln name carried quite a bit of influence during this time and the son of the Abraham Lincoln always seemed to be a logical person to carry forth Republican ideals. Robert's name was also considered several times for Governor of Illinois and United States Senator for Illinois.

Robert was instrumental in getting Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency in 1876 and for his efforts, Hayes awarded him with Assistant Secretary of State. Robert declined the invitation and continued with his law practice. Robert Todd Lincoln did, however, serve as Secretary of War under the administrations of Garfield and Arthur fro 1881 to 1885. During his time, he oversaw the Indian Reservation system and advocated for the punishment of white intrusion of native lands, and the ill fated Greeley expedition in the Arctic. After Garfield's assassination, Lincoln, being a Republican stalwart, was the only Cabinet member to retain his position under Arthur's administration. Lincoln then served as Minister to London during President Harrison's administration.

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Robert Todd Lincoln was special counsel to the Pullman Palace Car from 1894-1897. John Goff wrote of Lincoln's time with Pullman: "Robert Lincoln was regarded as a rather good diplomat, he knew a number of people and therefore we can well designate him as a troubleshooter for the Pullman Company. And in many ways, it needed a trouble shooter."ⁱⁱ

In 1894, he was intimately involved with the Pullman Strike of 1894. As Pullman's legal advisor, Lincoln most likely opined on the calling in of Federal troops to keep the trains moving and to break the strike. This prompted violence and looting in Chicago. With the arrest of the leaders in Chicago, the strike collapsed. The Pullman Strike is a pivotal moment in labor history. After the strike, legislation was rushed through Congress, and the bill for a national Labor Day was given to Cleveland within a week of the strike. Cleveland almost immediately signed the legislation into law.

Robert Todd Lincoln was President of the Pullman Palace Car Company from 1901-1911. He continued as a member of the Board of Directors until his death in 1926. Lincoln was involved with Pullman during the company's peak financial era. Upon becoming president, the company entered a new era of unprecedented growth and monopoly. The company changed its name from the Pullman Palace Car Company to the Pullman Company and Lincoln oversaw the transition of the trains from wood cars to the safer and stronger all steel heavyweight cars. The steel design was introduced in 1907 as a marked improvement over the wooden version. Some 10,000 steel cars were built, in various configurations, the last in 1931. This new steel standard car structure allowed for Pullman to standardize various mechanical systems which resulted in improved reliability and greater strength and safety of their cars. In addition to the financial success under Lincoln's tenure, many thought that in contrast to the wood designs of the 1870s, the "elegant simplicity" of the Pullman between 1900 and 1910 was the "classic apotheosis of car design."ⁱⁱⁱ

During Lincoln's tenure with Pullman, it was known as the "Golden Age" of the railroad industry. Trains with names like Broadway Limited, 20th Century Limited, Santa Fe De-Luxe, and the Overland Limited, carried passengers in ever increasing speed and comfort. By the turn of the century, a train could carry passengers from New York to Chicago in 24 hours. By 1916, 98% of all intercity passenger travel was by train, an unparalleled percentage of transportation use in the United States. It was common for even small towns to be served by six to eight trains per day. The rail system was very flexible. If there were increased passengers or load, companies could add additional cars and trains. The rail lines added new

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services on the first-class trains such as barber and beauty shops, showers, valet service, ticker tapes, and gourmet food. Traveling conditions were even comfortable for the middle class. By 1920, 100,000 travelers checked into a Pullman sleeper every night. No matter the class of the traveler, they were provided service by African-American Pullman porters. Pouring a bottle of beer was a twelve-step process, each step clearly spelled out in the Pullman training manual. The passenger trains also carried mail and express freight. Specially designed Railway Post Office cars allowed the mail to be picked up, sorted, and delivered en-route. Clerks picked up mail in one town that could be sorted and ready for delivery before the train reached its next destination. The Railway Express Agency (REA) was the railroad version of today's UPS or FedEx. The railroads reached their apex in the United States in 1916. The track system reached its greatest extent with 254,000 miles of track. 98 % percent of all intercity passenger and 77% of all intercity freight traffic was shipped by rail. Railroad employment topped 2,000,000 in 1920. Almost every family in America had a father, brother, uncle, or cousin working for the railroad. Although they were a definite minority, women also were working for the railroad, mainly as station agents, clerks, secretaries, and telegraphers. The nation was dependent on the railroads for almost every product produced and consumed in the United States, or imported from overseas. Vacationers used trains for trips to the country, shopping in the cities, or relaxing at resorts. Entertainment arrived via railroad: the circus, traveling theater shows, vaudeville acts, and orators. Sports teams used the train. Newspapers, magazines, and opinion were all distributed by the train.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Pullman Company held a virtual monopoly on passenger trains and the company supplied nearly all of the railroad lines with passenger cars. As the railroad became ingrained in American culture, the Pullman car was the constant amongst all the lines. There was barely any competition when it came to passenger trains. Robert Todd Lincoln was at the helm of this company during this amazing growth period. During his tenure as president of the Pullman Company, Lincoln maintained an impressive board of trustees including William K. Vanderbilt, J. Pierpont Morgan, Frederick K. Vanderbilt, W. Seward Webb, John J. Mitchell, Chauncey Keep, and George Pullman's son-in-law, Frank Lowden who later became Governor of Illinois. These individuals served as heads of several other large companies. Through these interlocking boards, corporate leaders eradicated conflict. J.P. Morgan's presence on the Pullman Board of Directors reflected Morgan's control over American business and especially the railroad industry. By 1906, Morgan had some sort of

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control over 2/3s of the American railroads. By serving with Pullman, Morgan had interest in all aspects of rail travel.

Between 1898 and 1910, Pullman stockholders earned \$187,880,000 in cash dividends. The Pullman Company had two main divisions – manufacturing and renting their cars to different railroad companies. The gross annual revenue for their carrier rental division rose from \$8, 498,000 in 1898 to \$35,365,000 in 1910. The earnings after taxes in 1898 were \$384,000 and in 1910, it was \$10, 418,000 in the rental division. The gross annual revenue for manufacturing divisions rose from \$10,368,000 in 1898 to over \$22,838,000 in 1910.

Historian John Goff spoke of Robert Todd Lincoln during his time with Pullman: “During the Pullman years Robert Lincoln came into his own. He arrived at a time when he was no longer so much his father’s son, but recognized for his own abilities and that was a terribly important thing to him. In cataloging the so-called captains of industry and later they will be called robber-barons and various unpleasant terms, Robert Lincoln is an important figure . . . Robert Lincoln played a major role in the history of transportation in the United States and he also sat on the Board of Directors of a number of other companies.”^{iv}

America’s corporate leaders became symbols of the nation’s growth, progress, excess, or corruption, depending on the point of view. Names like Cornelius Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie, John Rockefeller, and Jay Gould are synonymous with the rulers of the Gilded Age. People like George Pullman and Andrew Carnegie were transformed from poor young man into the richest entrepreneurs of the age. Some of these men such as Carnegie and Rockefeller were known as “industrial statesmen” or “captains of industry.” Through their ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit, they modernized the American economy through improving America’s productivity, making the nation stronger economically and internationally. Other industrialists, such as George Pullman, were often referred to as “Robber Barons” for many ruthlessly used their power through the exploitation national resources and employees, and the corruption of politicians.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Lincoln family began to spend their summer months in Manchester, Vermont. The vacationed previously in popular summer spots such as Deal, New Jersey; Little Boar’s Head, New Hampshire and Long Island, New York. The Lincoln family was just like many other members of the affluent class who were searching for the

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perfect summer residence. When visiting these places, the Lincoln family rented homes or stayed at luxurious resorts.

Robert Todd Lincoln first visited Manchester with his mother and father during Civil War. He did not return to the area for another forty years until he visited the home of his Chicago law partner, Edward Swift Isham. On his return to Manchester, Robert Todd Lincoln fell in love with the plush Green Mountains once again and more importantly, the excellent surrounding golf courses. Isham was a founding member and served on the Board of the Governors at the Ekwanok Country Club. Designed by the renowned Walter Travis, the fledgling Ekwanok Country Club quickly established its reputation as one of the finer golf courses in the United States. With prospects of beautiful surroundings and excellent golf, Lincoln decided to return to Vermont on a regular basis. In the beginning, the Lincoln family either roomed at the Equinox House or rented one of the many available summer cottages in the village. Seclusion, proximity to rail and golf were all important factors. Manchester provided a quieter atmosphere than the summer getaways such as Newport or New Jersey. The Lincoln family eventually decided that they wanted to build a permanent summer residence. The construction of huge and elaborate "summer cottages" was the new norm for families such as the Lincolns.

From 1905 to 1926, Lincoln spent from May through November at Hildene relaxing and conducting personal business and Pullman affairs. As Lincoln became older, the fresh Vermont alternative was invigorating to his health. Manchester provided Lincoln with sufficient transportation and communication, so he was never too far away from work. When he had Hildene built, Lincoln ensured that he could remain close to work with the installation of a telegraph and telephone, both modern advanced amenities for the time period. Remaining accessible to Pullman was one of Lincoln's goals, but enjoying his golden years was equally important. Lincoln enjoyed his idyllic 500 acres, his 1908 observatory, the music emanating from his Aeolian pipe organ and most importantly, the nationally renowned adjacent Ekwanok Golf Club.

During his time at Hildene, Lincoln employed several full time secretaries to whom he dictated his letters twice a week. In 1908, he added a special secretary's office, reflecting the growth and demands of the Pullman Company. Within the office, Lincoln installed an elaborate filing system to accommodate his meticulous and detailed approach to work. With this eighteen foot addition, Lincoln did not extend the heating system, so he had a coal

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burning stove installed for his secretaries during the colder Vermont days. The files contain Pullman annual reports, invitations to annual meetings and personnel issues that were sent to Lincoln at Hildene. Lincoln entertained John Runnells and Norman B. Ream - fellow Pullman Car Company Directors – several times at Hildene. Charles Sweet and Richmond Dean, two other high level Pullman employees, were also frequent visitors to Manchester. When Friends of Hildene was restored in 1978, volunteers discovered over 20,000 letters in the office. These letters, mostly business correspondence, reflected the amount of work that Lincoln conducted at Hildene. When Robert went to Hildene, Robert would at “periodic intervals... shut himself away in his study and cast up his accounts.”^v

In addition to conducting his Pullman affairs at Hildene, Lincoln also used Manchester for attending to his personal affairs and especially his family’s legacy. This fact is reflected that Robert’s Lincolniana collection was kept in Manchester. An important Abraham Lincoln item that was in Robert’s possession was an 1848 daguerreotype which Robert kept in Manchester. In 1925, he wrote to a publisher: “The daguerreotype you mention is in my closed up home in Vermont with a few other personal objects of interest to myself all put away in such a fashion that access cannot be had to them until my return there next summer.”^{vi} In his Hildene office, Robert preserved “anything which he ‘regarded as worth keeping’” which were “housed ‘in a special room’ of his country house in Manchester.”^{vii} Among the interesting Lincolniana found at Hildene upon its restoration was a bundle of papers tied together with a ribbon that said “Insanity Files.” This discovery was the insanity file that Lincoln “had assembled to vindicate his stern, long ago decision to have his mother committed to an institution for the mentally ill.”^{viii} The papers were researched by Mark E. Neely, Jr. and R. Gerald McMurty and published in 1986 in *The Insanity File: the Case of Mary Todd Lincoln*.

Several Hildene design elements reflected Lincoln’s involvement with Pullman. The most obvious was the furnishings and upholstery in the library, his primary work space, which was the same as the furnishings found in an executive Pullman Car. The upstairs linen closet, with its multiple flush cabinets, reflected a single compartment on a Pullman Car. The house layout is also reflective of a Pullman Car, with a long and skinny floor plan with a central arterial hallway running the length of both floors. For their grand central staircase, the Lincolns used Honduran Mahogany, a luxurious item that could be found in many of the deluxe Pullman cars. One of Hildene’s finest features is a 1,000 pipe residential Aeolian organ. An organ or piano was a standard issue on the transcontinental Pullman Cars.

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Hildene appears quite grand and opulent from the exterior, but upon entrance, one discovers a very livable and intimate environment. The parlor, dining room and kitchen were designed to accommodate just family and friends. Hildene was designed with a family in mind, not as a center for gala parties.

While serving as President of the Pullman Company, Lincoln maintained a busy schedule for a man in his sixties. Lincoln made frequent business trips between Manchester and Chicago. Lincoln wrote an associate in 1908: "Very sorry cannot visit you next week. Mrs. Lincoln up to her neck in work and I am too much occupied to be away from here more than a day. Must postpone pleasure." In October of 1909, Lincoln turned down an invitation to visit a friend for he "have returned to Chicago and will be up to my neck in work there." The November 4, 1909 edition of *The Manchester Journal* reported: "Honorable Robert T. Lincoln and his secretary H.A. Matthews left for Chicago, where Mr. Lincoln's duties as president of the Pullman Co. will keep him for some time. Being at the head of a corporation employing over 20,000 men is no small job."^{ix}

When not forced to take trips, Manchester was the long deserved respite for Lincoln. Manchester also offered a retreat from the media driven urban centers, which never managed to forget that Robert Todd Lincoln was the son of the great emancipator. The Lincoln family had lived a veritable nomadic lifestyle and Hildene finally provided a sense of home. Since 1865, Robert had called many places "home" – Cambridge, Massachusetts; Washington D.C.; Chicago, Illinois; and London, England. His work constantly brought him on the road. Manchester provided a semi-sedentary lifestyle that he had been neglected to him for close to forty years. In 1909, Lincoln wrote to someone who wanted to meet with him Lincoln. Lincoln's letter reflects that Hildene was his true primary residence: "My special embarrassment ... it is that Mrs. Lincoln has for so long a time practically made her home at our country place in Vermont that my house here is too much out of order for me to receive visitors in it, and I do not expect Mrs. Lincoln here this winter at all..."

Manchester also provided the prospect of farming for Lincoln, which was turning into a trademark Vermont activity for the summer resident. Fellow railroad magnates Frederick Billings and Seward Webb had established working farms in the Vermont towns of Woodstock and Shelburne, respectively. Hildene's design followed a common theme of gentlemen's farms and rural retreats. Lincoln wanted to build an impressive structure that would suit his family needs and display excellent craftsmanship. At the same time, he wanted

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a house that assimilated with the pastoral setting. The home had to reflect Lincoln's success but at the same time, it blended with the rural and agricultural surroundings. The choice of the Georgian revival style once a reflection of this as the home incorporated the same architectural elements as the traditional farmhouses of New England.

When Lincoln was away from Hildene, he was often vacationing in Georgia, California or Europe. He spent this time away from business. On April 1, 1911, he wrote to Clinton L. Conkling: "I made a long stay in the south, doing nothing whatever in the way of business, and have returned apparently very much more in health, and I hope the condition will at least continue, if not grow better." When in Georgia, Robert was joined by several others including Warren G. Harding, Senator Hale of Maine, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, Senator Brandegee of Connecticut, Senator Saulsbury of Delaware, Speaker of the House Gillett of Massachusetts and Governor James M. Cox of Ohio. Known as the "Little Mothers," the group played golf each day and then assembled from ten until midnight at a table of good talk.

The Lincolns maintained their Chicago winter residence until 1911. This Lake Shore Drive home was destroyed in the 1950s. They changed his winter residence to a townhouse in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington D.C. The townhouse, where he barely spent any time, is now a private residence. The Georgetown home is known as the "Dunlop House" Situated on over an acre of beautifully landscape grounds, the three story red brick home had 40 rooms. Within the gardens, there was a small stone marker set by Alexander Beall who plotted out the town in 1751. John Laird, a Scottish immigrant and successful Washington tobacco exporter, built the house in 1800. Justice James Dunlop who married Laird's daughter eventually occupied the house. The Washington Sunday Star described the Dunlop House: "The Lincoln residence in Georgetown is one of the so called showplaces of that section of the city and the envy of all who see it. It is not so pretentious from the front as from the rear, although it is a large three story colonial brick house that commands attention from any angle ... Filled with fine antiques, old silver and glass, the home and the high walled gardens surrounding it have long been one of the showplaces of Georgetown." While the Georgetown contained more rooms than Hildene, it did not boast the same amount acreage. It was a city townhouse where the Lincolns spent little time. After the death of Robert and Mary Lincoln, the Georgetown home was sold. Hildene remained within the family. Hildene is the only existing homestead connected to Robert Todd Lincoln and subsequent Lincoln generations.

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Lincoln decided to call his home "Hildene," combining the words "hill" and "dene," which was an old English word for valley. Having amassed several hundred acres in various topographic forms, the name was very appropriate. In a 1905 letter to Mr. Henry White, Robert Todd Lincoln wrote that Hildene will be his "ancestral home." The property lived up to Robert Todd Lincoln's wishes. From 1905 to 1975, Hildene served as the home for three generations of the Lincoln family. It was the home that remained the longest within the Lincoln family. Although the family had roots in Illinois, Virginia, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Iowa, Vermont was the one location that continued to serve as home to the Lincoln family. Even when family members moved on, they would return to Hildene for vacations.

Hildene was designed by the Boston architecture firm - Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge which inherited noted architect Henry Hobson Richardson's practice after his in 1886. Using the Romanesque Style, Richardson was one of the most popular architects in the United States during the latter half of the 19th Century. Examples of his work include Boston's Trinity Church and the University of Vermont's Billings Library. In 1892, the firm won the bid for the Chicago Public Library. At the 1893 Chicago Columbia World Exposition, it designed the World's Congress Auxiliary which eventually became part of the Art Institute of Chicago. The firm also won acclaim for its design for the campuses of Stanford University and the Harvard Medical School. In addition to Hildene, it designed several impressive residential structures including financier George W. Norton's Beaux Arts style "Gardencourt" in Louisville, Kentucky; Edward L. Grew's home in West Manchester, Massachusetts; and Roswell Miller's estate in Millbrook, New York. Hildene is one of the few residential works available to public viewing.

Hildene's landscape was designed by Frederick Todd, a New Hampshire born landscape designer, who studied under Frederick Law Olmstead for four years and then moved to Montreal to start his own practice. Todd's projects included the Parc des Champs de Bataille (Plains of Abraham National Battlefield) in Quebec City, site planning and design for Trinity College in Toronto, and restoration of Ile de Ste. Helene (St. Helen's Island) on the St. Lawrence River.

Hildene is the home of a rare residential Aeolian pipe organ. It is believed that the Hildene organ is the oldest residential pipe organ still playing in its original site. It is also believed to

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be the oldest residential pipe organ with a player attachment. Hildene is also the home of a 1908 observatory and telescope. The 6 inch refracting equatorial telescope is one of few remaining that has a mechanized clock drive. According to one telescope expert, there are approximately 24 telescopes in marginal to good working order in the United States. Only a few - 3 or 4 have the mechanized clock drives and some of those clock drives have been altered. The Hildene clock drive is thought to have the best optical train, quality and alignment of any of the existing examples.

Robert Todd Lincoln holds the unfortunate distinction of being associated with three Presidential assassinations. He was asked to attend Ford's Theater the night that his father was assassinated and was by Abraham Lincoln's side during his final hours. Robert was on the New Jersey train terminal platform when Garfield was assassinated. In 1901, Robert was en route to meet with McKinley in Buffalo when he was killed. As an after note, the body of Robert Todd Lincoln now rests within sight of John F. Kennedy.

i Goff, Johns S., *The Pullman Company*, Lincoln Family Symposium, 1993

ii Beebe, Lucius. *Mr. Pullman's Elegant Palace Car*. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1961. Page 134

iii <http://www.nationalrrmuseum.org/collections-exhibits/outline/golden-age.php>

iv Goff, John S. "The Pullman Company." Lincoln Family Symposium, 1993.

v Mearns, David. *The Lincoln Papers*. Garden City, New Jersey: Doubleday and Company, 1948. Page 96

vi bms Am 1925 (1093) Houghton Library, Harvard University

vii Meams Page 96

viii Holzer, Harold. "The Lincoln Grail" *The Lincoln Forum: Rediscovering Abraham Lincoln*. Fordham University Press, New York, 2002. Page 214.

ix *Manchester Journal*, November 4, 1909

x *Washington Sunday Star*

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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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County and State

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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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County and State

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Section number 9 Page 3

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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County and State

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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
Bennington County, Vermont
County and State

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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
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Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois

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Norman Williams Library. Woodstock, Vermont.

Louis A. Warren Lincoln Collection, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Section number Photograph Labels Page 1

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
County and State

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Observatory from west
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-1

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Carriage Barn from southwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-2

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Beckwith Room from southwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-3

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Potting Barn from northeast
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-4

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Gazebo from west
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-5

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Franklin Barn from northwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-6

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Schoolhouse from southwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-7

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Wedding Building from northwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-8

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Section number Photograph Labels Page 2

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
County and State

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Farm Shed from west
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-9

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Maintenance Shed from Southwest
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-10

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Potting Shed and Gardener Shed from East
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-11

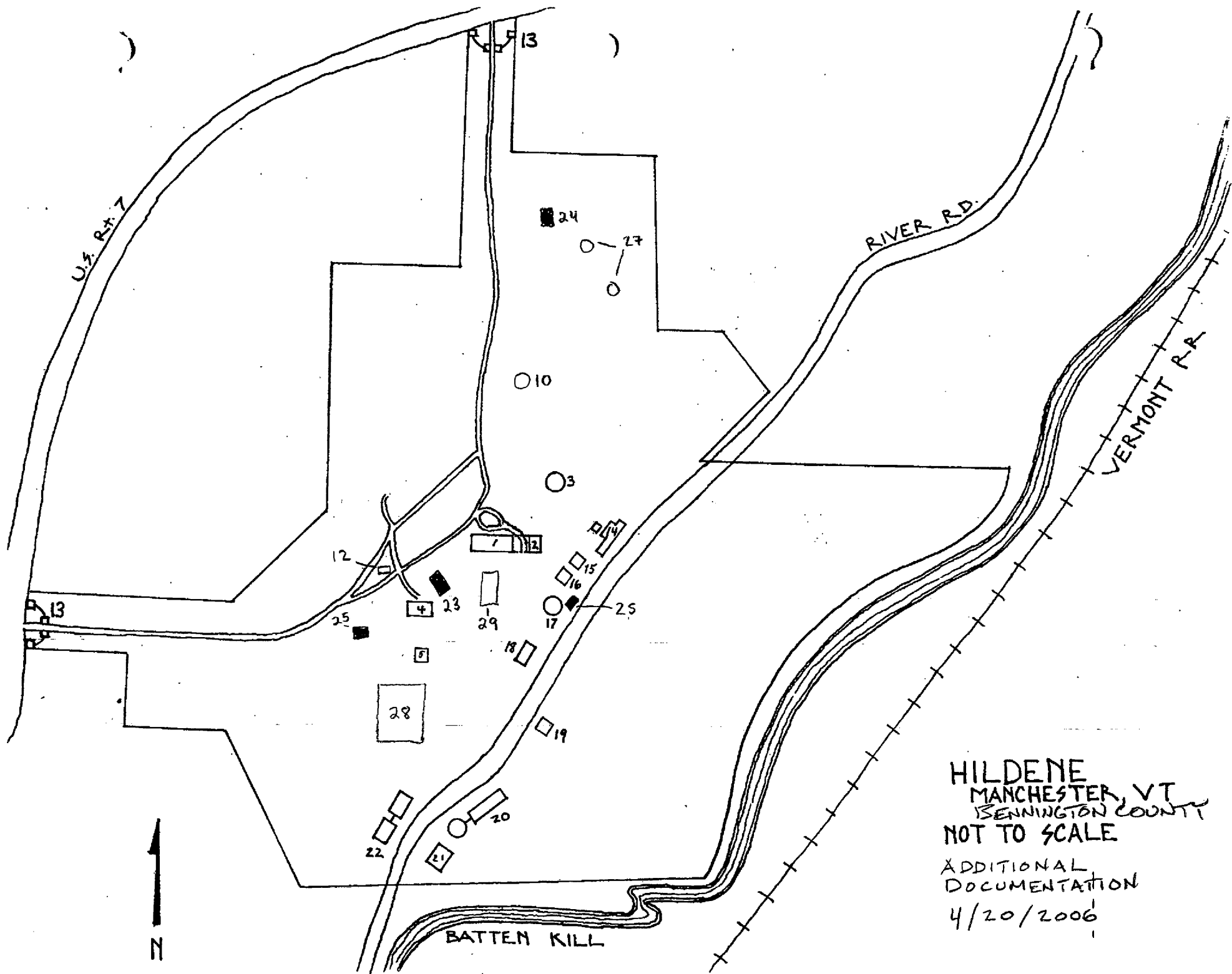
Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Allee from north
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-12

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Gardens from west
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-13

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Library from northeast
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-14

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Office from north
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-15

Hildene (Additional Documentation)
Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont
Credit: Brian L. Knight
Date: March 23, 2006
CD-R filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Description: Organ from East
Photograph #: VT_BENNINGTONCOUNTY_Hildene-16



HILDENE
MANCHESTER, VT
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DOCUMENTATION
4/20/2006