National Historic Landmark: Commerce and Industry

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM** SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jay Gould Estate, Lyndhurst

AND/OR COMMON

Lyndhurst

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Located between State	Route 9 and the Hudson Ri	verNOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
Tarrytown	VICINITY OF	23	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New York	30	Westchester	119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	X_PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн		EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	-XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	-OTHER.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

(W) (W) E		
National Tru STREET & NUMBER	ist for Historic Preservation	
748 Jackson	Place	
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Washington	VICINITY OF	D.C.
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	^{s,ETC} Westchester County Courthouse	
STREET & NUMBER	-	
CITY, TOWN		STATE
White Plains		New York
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	5
TITLE		
Historic Ame	erican Buildings Survey	
DATE	- Veroco Al	
1972 DEPOSITORY FOR		STATECOUNTYLOCAL
SURVEY RECORDS	Library of Congress/Annex - Division	n_of Print and Photographs
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Washington		D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
X_EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED X_ALTERED	X_ORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

, 1

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

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

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

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599 -	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	XCOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
⊥1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1838, built; 1864, enlarged BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Jackson Davis 1880-1892, Gould's occupancy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

Biography

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

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VENDAE BOOKDANT DECOM			
The landmark boundaries	s are coterminu	s with the bound	dary lines of the Trust
property, as indicated	in red on the	attached sketch	map. These boundaries
enclose the extant hist	oric features	within the limit	t of the historically
integral land.			
		nuation Sheet)	
LIST ALL STATES AND COU	UNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING ST	ATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
ORGANIZATION	ood, Historian	a, Landmark Revi	DATE
NAME/TITLE Richard Greenwo	ood, Historian	, Landmark Revi	
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET	Description	ITEM NUMBER 7	PAGE	2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2 CONTINUATION SHEET Biography

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

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

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

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

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

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



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National Trust for Historic Preservation, <u>Historic Preservation</u> vol. 17, #2 March-April, 1965.

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Verbal Boundary Description

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

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

LYNDHURST

THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN CODPERATION WITH THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY DF THE OFFICE DF ARCHEDLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESER-VATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THESE DOCUMENTS WERE MEASURED AND DRAWN WNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROBERT E, HATCH, ARCHITECT FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, JAMES C. MASSEY, HABS, AND THED H M. PRUDON, COLUMBAL UNIVERSITY. PROJECT SUPERVISOR, AND BY STUDENT ARCHITECTS, LAWRENCE J. FUSARO, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, THOM-AS L PRICE, UNIVERSITY OF FOREGON, AND DAVID L BA-KER, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. PROJECT HEADQUARTERS WERE AT LYNDUNGST, A PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST WHICH IS LOCATED IN TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK, DRAWINGS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REDRAWN BY ROGER C. ERICKSON, ARCHITECT, IN THE SUMMER OF 1972.

