

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 6668486

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 14 1978

**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

and
THORNE/EDDY ESTATES

AND/OR COMMON

1 Thorne Mansion; 2 Eddy Estate (Valley View); 3. Thorne Carriage House
4. Eddy Carriage House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

- 812 Normandy Heights Road
- 45-51 Normandy Heights Road
- 110 Columbia Road
- Columbia Road

*E of Morristown on
Columbia Rd.*

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Morris Township

— VICINITY OF

5th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

027 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- 3 YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK 1, 2, 4
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS 3
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME 1. Morrystown Unitarian Fellowship 3. Mr. & Mrs. George Tissen
2. Mrs. Wilma Towns 4. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Turnquist

STREET & NUMBER 1. 812 Normandy Heights R. 3. 110 Columbia Road
2. 45-51 Normandy Heights Road 4. Columbia Road

CITY, TOWN

Morris Township

— VICINITY OF

New Jersey

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court & Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation Element, Morris County Master Plan

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL — STATE COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Morris County Planning Board

CITY, TOWN

Morris Township

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thorne Estate: The Mansion

Exterior

Aldrich and Delano designs for W.V.S. Thorne's residence produced a twelve-bay, 2 1/2 story facade of severe regularity and balanced fenestration, executed in red brick with white trim. Six chimney stacks surmount the hipped, red tile roof. Full-length first floor windows are composed of nine over nine panes; the second floor windows are six over six.

The main entrance is Roman arched, set with iron grillwork and finished with a pediment; a larger pediment tops the second floor. The cornices are dentiled and the basement windows are lunette.

The entrance is through a brick-walled rectangular forecourt, the axis of which is set at a right angle to the long axis of the house, producing a T-shape plan. Each wall of the forecourt is punctuated with six alcoves designed to shelter plantings. The entrance is through a screen-like iron gate.

Interior

The central wing of the house is a rectangle, flanked by two smaller rectangular wings deeply recessed from the rear facade and projecting slightly beyond the front facade. The main hall is cruciform shaped.

The living room, dining room and library are off the main hall. The front of the houses contains two smaller rooms. The service wing includes kitchen and pantry, service stairs and lift, storeroom, servant's hall and servant's porch. Bedroom suites make up the second floor and servant's quarters originally occupied the attic.

All the principal first floor rooms have french doors and fireplaces. Library and den are wood paneled. The walls in all other rooms are plastered, and a plaster frieze in the main hall depicts signs of the zodiac.

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Thorne Eddy Estates

Morris Township

Morris County

New Jersey 034

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DESCRIPTION

The pantry contains its original sinks, warming ovens and double height cabinets. The floor of the main hall is marble; all other floors are wood.

The Thorne Mansion has had very few changes. The only alteration of any significance is the removal of a small porch at the rear, in order to add an auditorium wing. This wing repeats the red brick of the house.

Thorne Estate: Carriage House

The Carriage House repeats many of the same features of the Mansion - red brick walls, hipped red tile roof and white trim. The building is composed of two 1 1/2 story wings which meet at right angles to form an L shape. The vehicle room is contained in the juncture of the wings and rises full height to the roof with exposed interior brick walls.

The exterior has been subjected to few changes. The interior has been converted to a private residence. The central vehicle space remains unchanged in appearance and function. The weathervane above the cupola represents a steam engine, an allusion to Thorne's railway associations.

EDDY ESTATE, "VALLEY VIEW" : THE MANSION

Exterior

Valley View is roughly crescent-shaped, its 2 1/2 stories composed of Vermont granite and natural shingle. The roof is a series of huge gambrels studded with gabled dormers. Several enclosed porches, an open verandah and a porte cochere, together with a large 2-story curved bay or oriel and a 3-story tower contribute to the complexity of the facade. Three massive granite chimneys provide vertical relief to the primarily horizontal elevation.

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Thorne-Eddy Estates
Morris Township
Morris County New Jersey 034

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE #3

DESCRIPTION

In contrast to the nearly overwhelming mass of granite and stone are a quantity of neo-classic details executed in wood. These include a profusion of Doric and Ionic columns, two Palladian windows, a large lunette window and a garlanded frieze. The porch windows and several of the smaller windows have latticed panes, and stained glass is used in the top sash of several windows.

Interior

The center of the main floor is known as the great hall. This room is entirely panelled in rosewood and mahogany. Hinges and door knobs in the great hall are silver.

Opening directly from the great hall are one of three porches, a reception hall, a drawing room or library, and the wood panelled dining room - an arrangement which provides maximum natural light and cross ventilation. Occupying the remainder of the floor are a butler's pantry with dumbwaiter to bring food from the basement kitchen, a large room behind the dining room used originally for billiards, and a circular music room which occupies the curved bay seen on the exterior. This latter room is decorated with Ionic columns, and a stained glass dome set in a plasterwork rotunda.

The second floor contains bedrooms with private baths and a spacious porch. Each of the bedrooms has double doors: a panelled door for privacy and a louvered door for ventilation. The attic floor holds additional bedrooms intended originally for servants.

Several original features merit special mention. A pneumatic pipe communication system, similar to the type used aboard ships, remains in working order, as does the previously mentioned dumbwaiter. A large wooden tank on the top floor pipes water throughout the house to be used in case of fire. In the basement the exposed masonry allows construction methods to be studied.

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DESCRIPTION

EDDY ESTATE, "VALLEY VIEW" : THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

The same gambrel roofline used to such impressive effect on the mansion is repeated here, together with the same granite and cedar shakes. The front or east portion of this 1 1/2 story rectangular building was finished in 1896 to contain carriage room and stalls below, living quarters and hayloft above. An addition was made to the west side in 1911 in order to accommodate automobiles.

Downstairs the foaling stall and tack room remain. The divisions of the other stalls can be seen; and the small high windows, designed to prevent the horses from exposure to drafts, are unaltered. The large central space, used first for carriages and later for automobiles, has been left undivided.

Upstairs a number of changes have been made to accommodate modern residential use. Aside from a shed dormer and unobtrusive deck, most of these alterations do not obtrude on the exterior.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eddy and Thorne estates are presented as a composite site not merely because their properties are contiguous, but because viewed together they illustrate with unusual clarity some social and architectural aspects of Morris County's version of the Gilded Age, the Opulent Era.

Background

From about 1880 until 1915 or '20, Morristown and environs earned a reputation as a summering place for the wealthy. Pure water, bracing "mountain" air and convenient rail connections were some of the reasons for its popularity. While it was never as popular as Newport, this was one of its appealing qualities, for in Morristown high society could escape the public eye. In 1902, the New York Herald observed, "Morristown, New Jersey is the Millionaire City of the nation. It contains the richest and least known colony of wealthy people in the world." In a 3 to 5 mile radius of Morristown's Green lived some of the wealthiest people of the times.

Normandy Heights Road was the immediate area's most secluded residential district and soon became something of an exclusive enclave. At the top of the heights stood a Frelinghuysen mansion, and at the bottom, sprawling along Columbia Turnpike, was Cedar Court, the extravagant estate of financier Otto Kahn, known for his support of the Metropolitan Opera. The houses in the heights were not the largest or most expensive but they became known as showplaces and developed an unmistakable collective identity. To live on "The Heights" was something special.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. AMERICAN ARCHITECT. February 9, 1916 (Vol. CIX, No. 2094). six pp. of photographs and plans, house of W.V.S. Thorne
2. Baker, Dennis. "Fusion of Form, Material Reflects Her Love Affair," SUNDAY DAILY RECORD, June 23, 1974 p CL & ff. Valley View photos and Story.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

DA	18	546640	4516060	AA	18	547120	4516030
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B	18	547070	4515810	CA	18	546630	4515870
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Columbia Road 400 feet E of its intersection with Normandy Parkway proceed 600 feet N to Normandy Heights Road; thence proceed along Normandy Heights Road 300 feet E; thence proceed 400 feet S; thence proceed 800 feet ESE; thence proceed 500 feet N returning to Normandy Heights Road; thence proceed on Normandy Heights Road 300 feet E; thence proceed 300 feet S; thence proceed 100 feet W; thence proceed 300 feet S to Columbia Road; thence proceed 1400 feet W along Columbia Road to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Revisions-Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section, Trenton, N.J. (609) 292-2023)

NAME / TITLE

Robert Guter, County/State Preservation Liasion

ORGANIZATION

Morris County Planning Board

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

TELEPHONE

(201) 285-6183

CITY OR TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Deputy

4-15-78

TITLE

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Bill Lebowich
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 12/14/78
 DATE 12/11/78

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Thorne and Eddy Estates

Morris County's Opulent Era could easily illustrate F. Scott Fitzgerald's dictum that "the rich are very different from you and me." While this is a true statement it should also add, "the rich are very different from each other." This is especially evident in examining the estates and lives of the Thorne and Eddy families. The Eddy's were a self-made family while the Thorne's were a socially prominent family with an early Dutch settlement background.

Jesse Leeds Eddy whose summer "cottage" Valley View was completed in 1896 at a cost of \$60,000, was a self-made man, whose fortune derived from anthracite mining. Along with a partner, he owned the Pancoast and West End Coal Mines in Scranton, Pa. and sold their coal retail through the Dixon Eddy Co., with their office being in New York City. It was Thomas Dixon, son of Joseph Dixon who was Eddy's partner, who persuaded Jesse to build Valley View after he himself had moved to Normandy Heights in 1893.

Valley view was first called "Graystone", until Jesse and his wife Sarah discovered that the nearby state mental hospital had already adopted their preferred name.

Down the road from Valley View stood the home of Willard Van Schoonhoven Thorne, the scion of a socially prominent family with ties to the early Dutch settlers of New York. W.V.S. Thorne was a Yale graduate with a degree in engineering. He specialized in the standardization of railroad equipment and stock, and was associated with a number of railroads, especially the Southern Pacific. The Thorne family were intimates of the Harrimans, the Frelinghuysens and the Symingtons. According to the daughter of Jesse Eddy who was interviewed in 1974 the Eddys and Thornes did not socialize and the Eddys considered the Thornes "very wealthy".

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SIGNIFICANCE

Just as the backgrounds of the Thornes and Eddys differed so did their lifestyles and the homes they lived in.

The Thorne Mansion, completed in 1912 is a conservative neo-Georgian style. It was designed by Aldrich and Delano. Walter Kidney in his book Architecture of Choice said: "...they were among the foremost designers of white-on-red neo-Georgian houses, clubs and churches; a town mansion such as this (the Willard Straight house in New York City) had counterparts hardly less formal in the suburbs." The Thorne Mansion is one of those counterparts. Among some of the buildings Aldrich and Delano have designed are the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C.; U.S. Embassy in Paris; the John D. Rockefeller Estate in Pocantico Hills, New York and the South Portico of the White House.

Valley View, built 16 years earlier, may be one of the most progressive houses of its time in Morris County. It clearly expresses its owners' less traditional, less class-conscious taste. Although symmetrical in its overall design, it appears irregular when compared to the perfect proportions of the Thorne Mansion. Valley View is clearly representative of the Shingle Style, form of architecture.

Because of its original design and specifically because of its crescent plan, Valley View was long thought to be the product of an experienced architect. It has been established however, that the designer was George Augustus Mills, a local architect who was able to design a fairly significant building with little formal training.

Houses of the Opulent Era are rarer in Morris County today than 18th century ones. The Eddy and Thorne Mansions and their carriage houses are the finest surviving local examples of the Shingle and neo-Georgian styles, respectively. They also provide a rare glimpse at a life style that was part of a critical era in American History.

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- (3) Dunn, Mildred, nee Eddy. Interview with Robert Turnquist, August 15, 1974. Personal information about the Eddys and Valley View.
- (4) JERSEYMAN. July 17, 1896. A note in the social column states that Eddys "are occupying their new house..."
- (5) Kaschewski, Marjorie. THE QUIET MILLIONAIRES (Morristown: Morris County's Daily Record) 1974. Background information on the "Millionaire City of the Nation."
- (6) Kidney, Walter C. THE ARCHITECTURE OF CHOICE (N.Y.: Braziller) 1974. Mentions Aldrich and Delano; discusses revival and modern styles represented by Thorne & Eddy houses.
- (7) Kidney, Walter C. Letter to Robert Guter, February 28, 1975. Comments on Valley View.
- (8) Knowlton, Arthur. Interview with Robert Guter, February 14, 1974. Personal reminiscences of the 91 year-old former head chauffeur of the Thornes.
- (9) MORRISTOWN DAILY RECORD. September 7, 1928. Obituary of George Augustus Mills.

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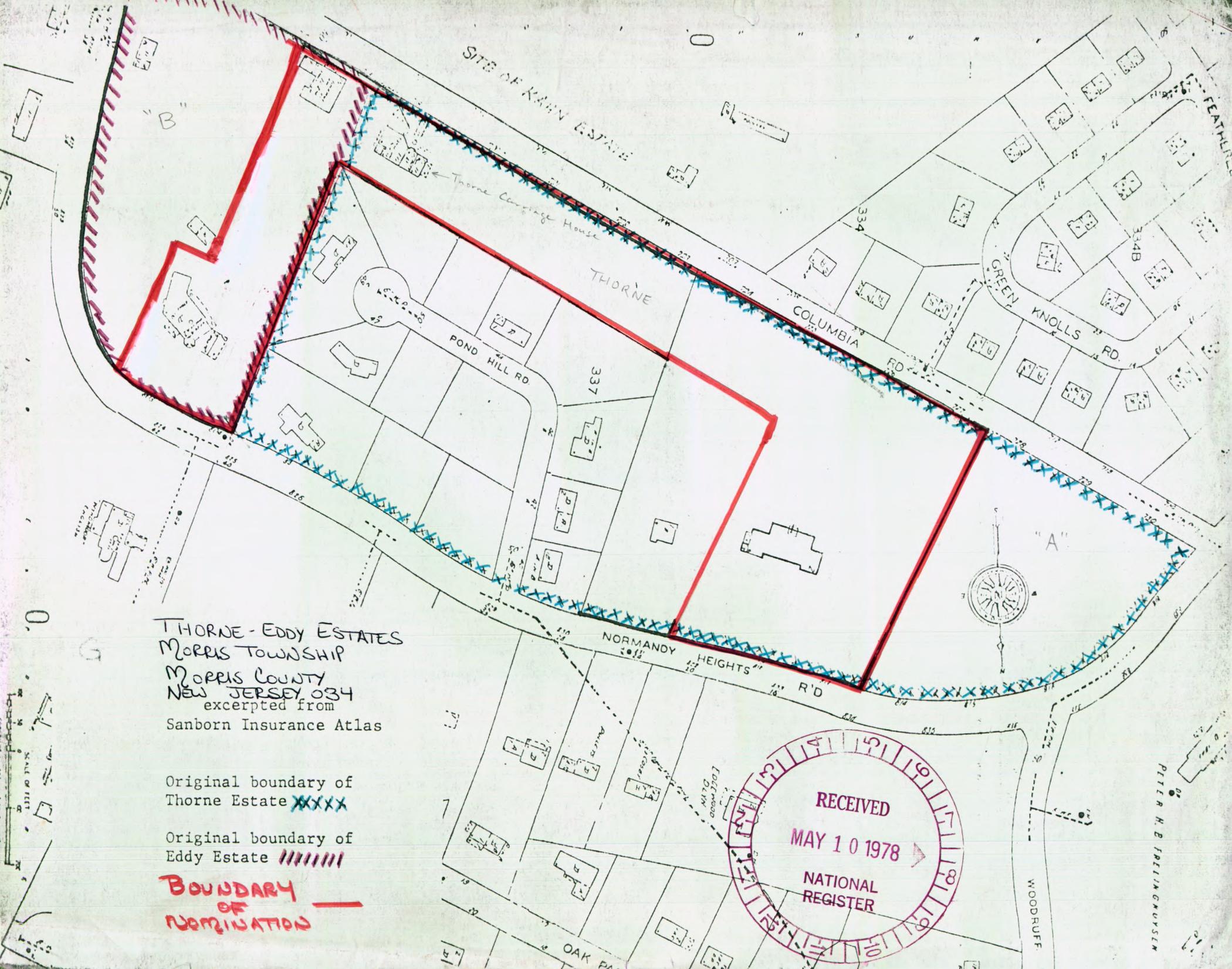
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PAGE

#3

- (10) National Cyclopedia of American Biographies, Volume R, 1942
- (11) _____, Volume 33, 1947
- (12) NEW YORK TIMES, February 7, 1920, Obituary of W.V.S. Thorne.
- (13) _____, January 13, 1960, Obituary of William Delano.
- (14) Surdam, Charles & William G. Osgoodby. BEAUTIFUL HOUSES OF MORRIS COUNTY AND NORTHERN NEW JERSEY (Morristown: Pierson & Surdam, limited edition) 1910. Early photographs of millionaire estates, Valley View included.
- (15) WHO WAS WHO IN AMERICA (Chicago: Marguis Who's Who) 1943. Entry for W.V.S. Thorne.
- (16) Withey, Henry and Elsie Withey, BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DECEASED, 1970.



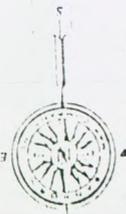
THORNE - EDDY ESTATES
 MORRIS TOWNSHIP
 MORRIS COUNTY
 NEW JERSEY 034
 excerpted from
 Sanborn Insurance Atlas

Original boundary of Thorne Estate **XXXXX**

Original boundary of Eddy Estate **|||||||**

BOUNDARY OF NOMINATION ———

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PETER H. B. FELLINGHOUSEN