

What's Out There

Berkshires





Photo by K. McMahon, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations



The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

TCLF provides the tools to see, understand and value landscape architecture and its practitioners in the way many people have learned to do with buildings and their designers. Through its Web site, lectures, outreach and publishing, TCLF broadens the support and understanding for cultural landscapes nationwide to help safeguard our priceless heritage for future generations.

learn more at tclf.org

Dear *What's Out There Weekend* Visitor,

Welcome to *What's Out There Weekend*! The materials in this guide will tell you about the history and design of the places you can tour during this event, the seventh in a series that we offer each year in cities and regions throughout the United States. Please keep it as a reference for future explorations of the Berkshires' great legacy of significant landscapes.

On September 21st and 22nd, 2013, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) will host *What's Out There Weekend*, providing residents and visitors with opportunities to discover almost three-dozen of Berkshire County's publicly accessible landscapes through free, expert-led tours. Ranging from working farms to Gilded Age "cottages" to rich cultural offerings in dance, theater, music, and art, the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts offers a wealth of cultural landscapes to explore. *What's Out There Weekend* reveals important sites along the African American Heritage Trail, historic farmsteads and town commons, Jacob's Pillow and Tanglewood performance spaces, and iconic landscape design at Naumkeag and The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home. The tours reveal the history of these valued places and the individuals who designed or made them. The weekend also highlights the Berkshires' important golf history, with specially arranged tee times at significant courses designed by Wayne Stiles, Donald Ross, A.W. Tillinghast and others.

What's Out There Weekend dovetails with TCLF's Web-based *What's Out There*, the nation's most comprehensive and profusely illustrated searchable database of historic designed landscapes. *What's Out There Weekend* is coming to the Berkshires through a collaborative partnership with Berkshire Synergy Project (BSP).Through BSP, TCLF has developed an active partnership with Housatonic Heritage's Heritage Walk program, pairing a long serving regional organization with a national group to celebrate the Berkshires' unique landscape heritage.

On behalf of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, I thank you for participating in *What's Out There Weekend*, and hope you enjoy the tours.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION

list of sites

1 Ashintully Gardens	p 6-7
2 Bartholomew's Cobble	p 8-9
3 Bascom Lodge & Mt. Greylock	p 10
4 Berkshire Botanical Garden	p 11
5 Bidwell House	p 12-13
6 Chesterwood	p 14-45
7 Elm Court	p 16
8 Freight Yard Historic District	p 17
Historic Golf Courses	
9 Berkshires Hills Country Club	p 18-22
10 Country Club of Pittsfield	
11 Cranwell Golf Course	
12 Greenock Country Club	
13 Stockbridge Golf Club	
14 Wahconah Country Club	
15 Gould Farm	p 23
16 Hancock Shaker Village	p 24-25
17 Hebert Arboretum at Springside Park	p 26
18 Housatonic River Walk	p 27
19 Ice Glen	p 28-29
20 Jacob's Pillow	p 30
21 Laurel Hill Park	p 31
22 Lee Town Park & Main Street	p 32
23 Lime Kiln Wildlife Sanctuary	p 33
24 Mary Flynn Trail	p 34
25 Mission House	p 35
26 The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home	p 36-37
27 Naumkeag	p 38-39
28 Pittsfield Park Square	p 40
29 Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute	p 41
30 Stockbridge Main Street	p 42-43
31 Tanglewood Music Center	p 44-45
32 Tub Parade	p 46
33 Ventfort Hall	p 47
34 W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site	p 48
35 Wahconah Ball Park	p 49
36 Williams College	p 50-51
The Olmsted Firm in the Berkshires	p 52-53

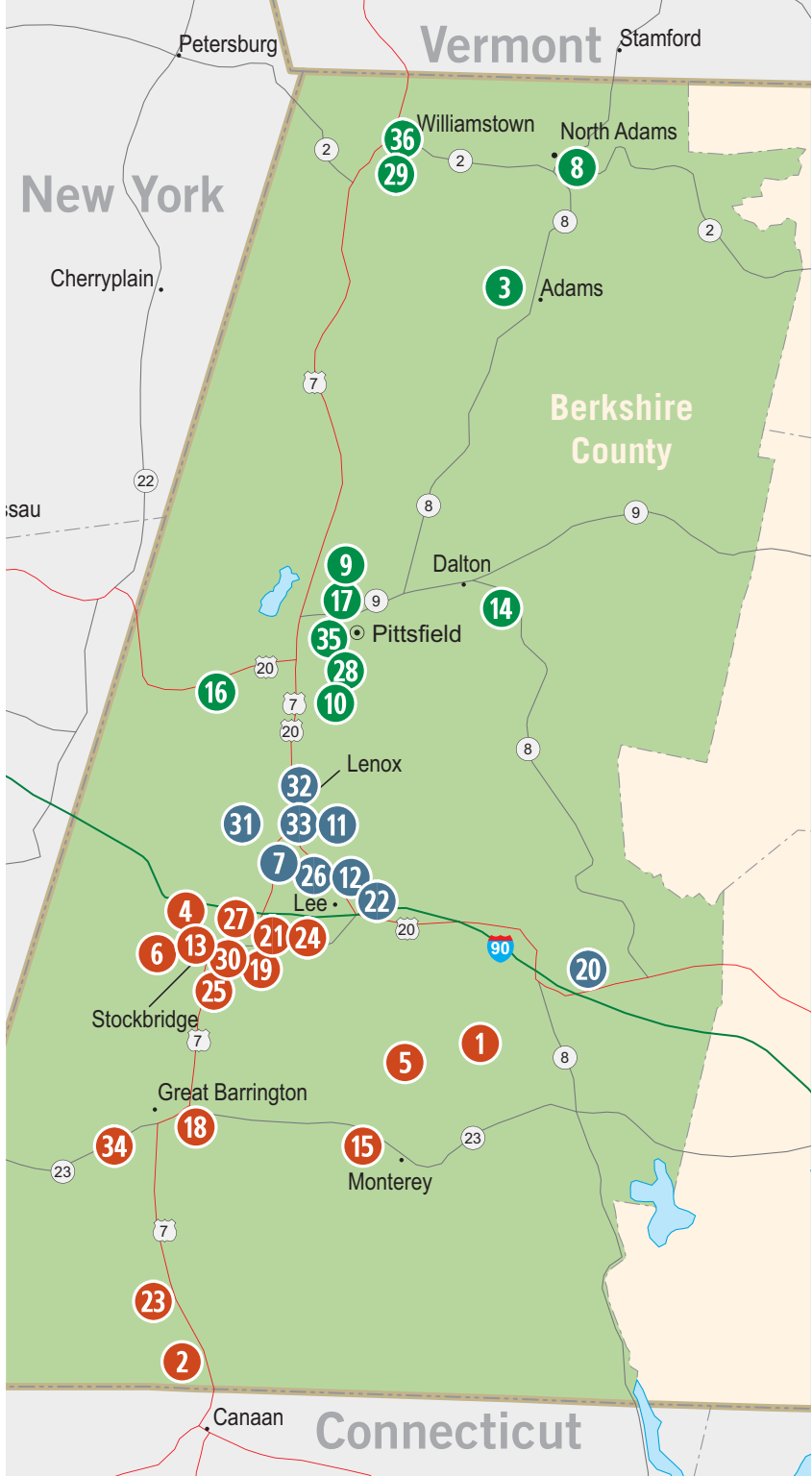


Photo by Diane Cote



What's Out There Weekend

highlights the nation's rich and diverse landscape heritage through a series of free interpretive tours led by expert guides. Hosted in different cities every year, *What's Out There Weekend* brings to light the unique landscape legacy and local character of each city, defined by its publicly accessible parks, gardens, plazas, cemeteries, memorials, and neighborhoods. An extension of the *What's Out There* database, *What's Out There Weekend* provides people with new ways to experience first-hand the landscapes that they see every day but often overlook.

To learn more about the sites in this guide, go online and find out about:

- Individual sites
- The site's designer, type, and style
- Link to the site's primary website
- Related articles or other materials on TCLF's Web site

Visit tclf.org/landscapes to learn *What's Out There*

The estate and the adjoining reservation were bequeathed to a land trust in 1996 and are maintained by The Trustees of Reservations.



Photo by J. Bishop, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations

Ashintully Gardens

This private residential garden in the Berkshires was created over the span of 30 years by composer John Stewart McLennan, Jr., who acquired the 120-acre estate in 1937. The property, surrounded by a 594-acre wooded reservation, was part of a 1,000-acre estate that Egyptologist Robb de Peyster Tytus combined from three farms in 1903. Tytus constructed a large Georgian-style mansion which he named Ashintully, a Gaelic word meaning “on the brow of the hill.” The manor was destroyed by a fire in 1952 but the ruined foundations and the portico’s Doric columns remain. The site is accessed by a half-mile woodland trail and offers scenic views of the Tyringham Valley and Bartholomew’s Cobble.

The garden spaces integrate the land’s existing natural features, such as a meandering brook and copses of deciduous trees, while low serpentine fieldstone walls were added to frame the rolling terrain. On the edge of the property lies a set of stone steps built into a mound that offers sweeping panoramic views of open meadowlands backed by distant hills. Footbridges span the stream and grassy terraces and are strewn with classical statuary and benches. The central focus of the garden is a stone-lined Fountain Pond with a single fountain jet at the center. Other spaces include the Pine Park, Rams Head Terrace, Bowling Green, and Trellis Triptych.

Landscape Style:
Beaux-Arts/ Neoclassical
Picturesque

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Country Place Era

Designed By:
John S. McLennan, Jr.



Photo by W. Hall, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism

Bartholomew's Cobble

This 329-acre scenic reservation in the southern Berkshire Mountains features twin rocky knolls that give the area its moniker, taken from the German word for “rocks” (kobel). The area was named for George Bartholomew, who farmed the land in the early 19th century, and was once part of the 3,000-acre holding of Colonel John Ashley, who first settled there in the 18th century. Ashley’s house, built in 1735 and considered the oldest extant structure in Berkshire County, is located within the park grounds and is open to the public as a museum.

The reserve’s landscape comprises steep, white cliffs overlooking a bend in the Housatonic River. These vertical projections consist of quartzite, limestone and marble bedrock outcroppings, blanketed by a forest of pines, cedars, elms, and ash trees, a variety of ferns, and wildflower-strewn meadows. The cobble’s high point, Hurlburt’s Hill, rises 1,000 feet and culminates in an upland field with sweeping views of the Housatonic River Valley and the Taconic Mountains. The reserve is traversed by five miles of hiking trails which wind past small caves, livestock pastures, meadows dotted with oxbow ponds, and freshwater marshes.

Since 1946, the agricultural land has been managed and expanded by The Trustees of Reservations, which also erected a small natural history museum and visitors’ center.

Landscape Type:
Historic Site
Designed Landscape
Public Park – Scenic Reservation



Photo by R. Cheek, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations



Photo by R. Cheek, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations

Bartholomew’s Cobble was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1971.

Photo by R. Cheek, courtesy of The Trustees of Reservations



Bascom Lodge & Mount Greylock

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Public Park – State Park
Scenic Reservation

Designed By:
Joseph McArthur Vance
Civilian Conservation Corps

This 12,500-acre scenic reservation envelops Mount Greylock, the summit of which is known for its expansive views encompassing the surrounding mountains spanning five states. The wilderness reserve also includes the only taiga-boreal forest in Massachusetts, The Hopper, nested in a 1,600-acre valley and dominated by ancient red spruce trees.

After early settlement as a sheep and cattle farm, by 1800 the mount had become a tourist destination, especially for Williams College students, who cut Hopper Trail to the summit in 1830. In 1885, citizens concerned about deforestation and subsequent erosion formed the Greylock Park Association and purchased 400 acres for recreational activities. The park became the state’s first forest reservation in 1898.

The greatest period of park development occurred during the Great Depression, when an 11.5-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail was constructed across the summit between 1928 and 1931. The Civilian Conservation Corps paved roads, cut 50 miles of trails, created naturalistic firebreaks, and laid fieldstone retaining walls. They also erected the Art Deco-style War Memorial Tower in 1932, the Thunderbolt Ski Shelter in 1937, and Bascom Lodge from 1932-37. The rustic lodge, the summit’s destination point, was designed by local architect Joseph McArthur Vance and is built of oak timbers and local schist stone.

Since 1966, the Department of Natural Resources has managed the reservation. Mount Greylock’s summit was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, while The Hopper was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1987.



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism

Berkshire Botanical Garden

Founded in 1934 by the Lenox Garden Club as the Berkshire Garden Center, the grounds for the Berkshire Botanical Garden were donated by Bernhard and Irene Hoffman. Two years later the site expanded to its present fifteen acres which also incorporated a farmhouse built in 1790.

Shortly after its establishment, the New York Botanical Garden donated a group of daylilies to the garden. Many other horticultural gifts followed, bolstering the garden’s collection to more than 3,000 plants species, many of which are native to the Berkshires. Kenneth Simpson, a local horticulturalist, was retained to design the site plan for 25 display gardens, including a 100-foot long perennial border, a rose garden, a rock garden, a pond garden, a children’s garden, and a productive vegetable garden. A terraced herb garden was designed in 1937 by landscape architect Edward Belcher to showcase a wide variety of ornamental and functional herbs. A Victory Garden was installed during World War II, which later won a National Victory Garden Institute Award in 1946 for its involvement with the war effort. Since then the garden has continued to evolve, showcasing the work of local landscape architects and nationally known designers such as Martha Stewart. The garden, which serves as a center for horticultural education and landscape preservation in the Berkshires, also contains an arboretum and interpretive woodland trails.

Landscape Style:
Picturesque/ Romantic

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Botanical Garden

Designed By:
Kenneth Simpson



Bidwell House

Sited on 192 acres at the center of the original colonial town of Monterey, this house museum interprets the early settlement of the South Berkshires. Built in the 1790s, the house is a Georgian-style Saltbox which was occupied by Reverend Adonijah Bidwell’s descendants until 1853. The land surrounding the house was used for dairy farming from 1750 until 1911, when it was sold to Raymond Ensign who started the short-lived Berkshire Summer School of the Arts on the site. In 1960, Jack Hargis and David Brush bought the property and renovated the house and grounds. The garden design included the recreation of colonial heirloom vegetable gardens, planting perennial beds, and building terraced stone retaining walls around the house. After Hargis and Brush’s deaths in 1990, the property was opened as the Bidwell House Museum.

The site retains vestiges of former orchards and extant farm outbuildings. Hiking trails and footpaths also criss-cross the property, passing through fields and historic woodlands and following three miles of stone walls. The Bidwell House and surrounding area were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

- Landscape Style:**
Colonial Revival
- Landscape Type:**
Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Colonial Garden



Photo courtesy of the Bidwell House Museum



Photo courtesy of the Bidwell House Museum



Photo courtesy of the Bidwell House Museum



Photo courtesy of the Bidwell House Museum

Chesterwood

Landscape Style:
Beaux Arts/ Neoclassical
Colonial Revival

Landscape Type:
Historic Site
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Country Place Era

Designed By:
Daniel Chester French
Prentiss French

Beginning in 1896, sculptor Daniel Chester French made his summer home on this 122-acre property west of Stockbridge. Over the course of 44 years, he created a country estate that included a residence, two studios, an old barn, garden walks, and a tennis court. The Colonial Revival house, designed by Henry Bacon in 1901, was sited within a Beaux Arts site plan to take advantage of views of Monument Mountain and Mount Everett.

In 1898, French built his studio with a graveled terrace furnished with wicker chairs, Mexican ceramic urns, and plants in decorative planters. In an adjacent fruit orchard he created a garden, where straight walks divide the garden geometrically: the cross-axis is flanked by the studio while the main axis terminates in a wrought-iron arch and a pair of white-glazed, terracotta columns which mark the beginning of a woodland walk. Enclosed by a lilac hedge and hemlocks, the garden also includes a pergola, marble benches, and statuary. A small square pool stocked with goldfish and yellow water lilies also adorns the lawn. In 1927, French and his gardener, Charles Dupuy, replanted the garden in a revised palette of pastel perennials.

Chesterwood opened to the public in 1955. In 1962, French's nephew, landscape architect Prentiss French, designed a new circulation pattern to better accommodate visitors. Today Chesterwood is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which uses the grounds as exhibition space for contemporary sculpture as well as works by French.



Photo courtesy of Chesterwood



Photo by Paul Rochelleau, courtesy of Chesterwood



Photo by Paul Rochelleau, courtesy of Chesterwood

Photo courtesy of Chesterwood



Chesterwood was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

Elm Court

Landscape Style:

Beaux-Arts/Neoclassical
Picturesque/Romantic

Landscape Type:

Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Country Place Era

Designed By:

F.L. & J.C. Olmsted
Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
Beatrix Farrand

Located one mile from downtown Lenox, this estate built in 1886 for William Douglas and Emily Vanderbilt Sloane is known for its picturesque views of the Stockbridge Bowl and Berkshire Mountains. The manor, designed by the Boston architects Peabody and Stearns, was enlarged continuously through 1900 to over 90 rooms and is considered the largest Shingle-style house in the country. In 1919, it held the “Elm Court Talks” which led to the creation of the League of Nations and the drafting of the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1888, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s firm, known then as F.L. & J.C. Olmsted, was retained to design the 90-acre estate grounds surrounded by wooded parkland. Over 40 acres of lawn and formal gardens were constructed around the manor, including an ornamental pool framed by a semi-circular pergola once covered in wisteria and a large marble pergola overlooking the tennis courts. A decorative fountain fronts the massive greenhouses, which span two acres in which gardener Frederick Herremans raised fruits and flowers for estate use. In 1908, landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand created large beds with herbaceous plants and roses on the grounds. A giant elm tree, which gave the estate its name, graced the front lawn until it succumbed to disease in the early 1960s.

After 50 years of vacancy and deterioration, the manor was extensively renovated in the mid-2000s and divested to a hotel group in 2012. Elm Court was the last Berkshires “cottage” to remain within its original family and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.



Photo by Adele Grantz



Photo by Adele Grantz



Photo by Adele Grantz

Freight Yard Historic District

Western Gateway Heritage State Park

Located downtown on the banks of the Hoosic River, the Western Gateway Heritage State Park, also known as the Freight Yard Historic District, is the site of the former Boston & Maine Railroad yard. The district consists of six railroad storage buildings constructed between the 1880s and the 1890s which served the rail line that ran between Boston and Albany. In the 1980s the area underwent extensive renovations championed by the Hoosic River Revival Coalition, a public/private partnership. The buildings were adaptively reused as a history and science museum, restaurants, and a TV studio. Extant grain cranes, railroad cars and coal pockets were incorporated into the newly built structures. The project work also included the repaving of the walkways originally installed by Italian bricklayers and the installation of period lighting between the buildings.

The district is home to the western portal of the Hoosac Tunnel, which, at 4.75 miles long, stands as a 19th century engineering feat. The tunnel's completion enabled North Adams to become a booming industrial center, developing from a town of 13,000 in 1878 to a city of 24,000 by 1913. The history of the now-defunct tunnel is interpreted at the Hoosac Tunnel Museum, whose Visitor's Center is housed in the railroad's Shippers Office. The Freight Yard Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Landscape Type:

Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape
Public Park – State Park



Photo courtesy of Western Gateway Heritage State Park



Photo courtesy of Western Gateway Heritage State Park



Photo courtesy of Western Gateway Heritage State Park

Historic Golf Courses

Photo courtesy of Cranwell Resort, Spa & Golf Club



Golf first appeared in Massachusetts with Governor William Burnett and his family over 285 years ago when they arrived in Boston Harbor aboard a ship in 1728. Although he died the following year, his estate's inventory listed "9 gouffe clubs and an iron valued at 2 pounds."

It was almost 150 years until the sport re-emerged again in the Boston area. At that time, baseball shortstop George Wright received some clubs he had ordered by mail, and with permission from the Boston Parks Department arranged to lay out a few holes in nearby Franklin Park. A foursome played the layout on December 10, 1890, with a follow-up match held at Revere Beach the following March. In Spring of 1893 the first permanent course in Massachusetts was established by Lawrence Curtis, who convinced the Executive Committee of The Country Club in Wellesley to "spend the necessary amount up to \$50" to lay out the six-hole course. Within the year, golf clubs were opening all over Massachusetts.

In 1894, golf began to be played in Western Massachusetts, where J.H. Choate, Jr. and Eliot Tuckerman laid out three holes in a meadow in Stockbridge and Katherine di Pollone set up a nine-hole course on her property nearby, leading to the formation

of the Stockbridge Golf Club in 1895. Greenock Country Club, Taconic Golf Club and the Country Club of Pittsfield were established soon after Stockbridge, but the real advancement in golf in the Berkshires happened in the 1920s, when nationally known golf course architects

were engaged to create new courses or improve on existing ones. Donald Ross had a hand in over 50 courses across the Commonwealth, including Country Club of Pittsfield and Greenock Country Club. During the same period, Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleeck worked on Wahconah Country Club, Taconic, Cranwell Golf Course (then known as Berkshires Hunt and Country Club) and enhancements to Ross's work at Pittsfield. A.W. Tillinghast

designed Berkshire Hills Country Club in 1925.

As the earliest course in the area, Stockbridge also started what has become the longest running tournament of its type in the country, not to mention a model for interclub tournaments from coast-to-coast: in 1897 the Stockbridge Golf Club held its first Men's Invitational. Stockbridge also took the lead in establishing the Allied Golf Clubs of Berkshire County in 1904, still active today, which allows reciprocal play between courses and has fifteen member clubs throughout the Berkshires.



Photo courtesy of Cranwell Resort, Spa & Golf Club

Berkshires Hills Golf Club 500 Benedict Road, Pittsfield
Landscape Type: Golf Course – Golden Age Designed by: A. W. Tillinghast

Founded in 1924 by employees of the Pittsfield Homestead Company, Inc. and General Electric, the country club was established on 120-acres of the former Allen Farm. The land's rolling hills and rich soils were ideal for growing lush golf turf. A.W. Tillinghast was retained in 1925 to design the 18-hole golf course which opened as a private club in 1928. The clubhouse was also constructed during this time. After a decline in membership and funds due to the Great Depression and the subsequent demise of the clubhouse to fire in 1941, a tight knit group of 75 members signed obligations to rebuild it and to ensure the club's continued operations.

The course remains faithful to Tillinghast's design, with evidence of his trademark challenging green complexes as well as interesting routing for each hole. The course takes advantage of the site's naturally undulating topography, which underlies Tillinghast's bunkers, constructed ponds, and large sloping greens which are edged by woodlands. Berkshire Hills is the only Tillinghast design in Massachusetts.

Country Club of Pittsfield 639 South St, Pittsfield
Landscape Type: Golf Course – Golden Age Designed by: Donald Ross; Wayne Stiles; John Van Kleeck; Mark Mungeam

Established in 1897, the golf club purchased the 230-acre estate of Sarah Morewood in 1900 including Broad Hall, the property's mansion designed by Henry Van Schaack. The club's pro, Willie Anderson, who won the first of four U.S. Opens that year, advised on the original 9-hole course design. In 1917, Donald Ross was retained to design and construct an 18-hole layout, a process which took several years due to the rugged nature of the site. In 1928, the board hired Ross again to revise the course; his proposal led the club to retain Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleeck to create a new design. By the time Stiles was done, few of the holes remained as Ross had planned them — the playing order was changed, new tees were built, some holes were lengthened, others shortened, and some greens which retained Ross's design were used for different holes. The layout remained unchanged until 1985, when the 8th hole was altered, and again in 2004, when golf course architect Mark Mungeam rescaled some fairways, corrected drainage problems, expanded several greens and added bunkers to challenge the modern game. Stiles's original routing remains intact, and the club remains one of the premier 18-hole layouts in the Berkshires.



Photo courtesy of Berkshires Hills Golf Club



Photo courtesy of Country Club of Pittsfield

Cranwell Golf Course 55 Lee Road, Lenox

Landscape Type: Golf Course – Golden Age Designed by: Wayne Stiles; John Van Kleeck

Located on the grounds of the Cranwell Resort, Spa & Golf Club, this property was originally owned by Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, who sold it to John Sloane in 1894. Sloane built a Tudor-style cottage, which he named Wyndhurst, and commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. to design the grounds. In 1926, the property was bought by a developer from Florida and converted into the Berkshires Hunt and Country Club; Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleeck were commissioned to design the club's 18-hole golf course.

In the late 1930s, Edward Cranwell deeded the property to the Society of Jesus of New England which founded the Cranwell Preparatory School, operated on the site from 1939 to 1975. By the time the school opened its doors, most of Stiles' original holes had become overgrown. Several students and teachers uncovered them and the school operated a nine-hole course for many years.

With the exception of the first three holes on the front nine, the course reflects Stiles' typical approach. Holes 7 and 8 align parallel to the original entrance drive, with the 7th hole leading uphill to a shelved green by the porte cochere of the estate. Holes 9 through 14 each lies within its own landscape setting. Stiles' design also included fairways edged in trees and carefully orchestrated vistas to the surrounding mountains.

The mansion and golf course were converted to a resort in 1993. In the early 1990s many of the tees and bunkers were reconstructed with Stiles' original design in mind.

Greenock Country Club 20 West Park Street, Lee

Landscape Type: Golf Course – Golden Age Designed by: Donald Ross

The Greenock Country Club was listed as a member of the United States Golf Association in 1895, making it one of the first formally recognized clubs in the U.S. The 19th century course was largely unchanged until Donald Ross, the Scottish architect and golf course designer, was hired in 1927 to modernize the 9-hole layout. The course has remained largely intact and still contains many of Ross' trademark design concepts, including elevated greens, tightly mown chipping areas and the incorporation of natural terrain. In the early 2000s, the club restored many of the greens back to their original composition. Greenock is one the few existing 9-hole golf courses designed by Donald Ross and one of 50 Massachusetts courses included in the Donald Ross Golf Trail.



Photo courtesy of Cranwell Resort - Spa & Golf Club



Photo courtesy of Greenock Country Club

Stockbridge Golf Club 6A Main Street, Stockbridge

Landscape Type: Golf Course – Landmark Period and Golden Age

In 1895, Joseph H. Choate, Jr. and Eliot Tuckerman founded the Stockbridge Golf Club, making it one of the first 100 golf clubs in the U.S. Three holes were initially laid out in a meadow east of Church Street, followed by 9 more to the west, all sited on flat land and gently rolling hills along the Housatonic River. Three additional holes were also constructed before 1900 on a third adjacent property, at which time the course was further developed into an 18-hole layout and formally incorporated. The land for this expansion was a combination of several different properties which were donated by local landowners or leased by the Laurel Hill Association, an agreement still in place today. With additional land purchased in the early 1930s, the course was altered and then expanded, reopening for play in 1934. Today, the course remains relatively unchanged from the 1930s design, with minor renovations to refine contours and the installation of an irrigation system in 1994. In 1897, the club hosted the first Stockbridge Golf Club Men's Invitational and since 1927 it has also held an annual Women's Invitational Tournament - in both cases some of the earliest and longest running amateur competitions for golf.



Photo courtesy of Stockbridge Golf Club

Wahconah Country Club 20 Orchard Road, Dalton

Landscape Type: Golf Course – Golden Age Designed by: Wayne Stiles; John Van Kleeck

Located six miles east of Pittsfield, this 18-hole course was designed in 1928 by Wayne Stiles. The club's property occupies a portion of the former Flint Hill Farm which was donated by Frederick Crane, an heir to the Crane & Co. paper manufacturing company headquartered in nearby Dalton.

The club consists of 155 acres surrounded by woods and wetlands. Stiles designed the course to be built in two phases, with the front nine holes completed in 1929; groves of deciduous trees were planted three years later. The back nine holes were completed in 1961, along with the planting of over 2,800 evergreen trees and the establishment of a tree nursery on the land adjacent to the 12th and 14th holes. In 1997, golf course architect Geoff Cornish undertook the renovation of the course's 56 bunkers, with new drainage systems and new sand mounding. Five years later the club initiated the renovation and reshaping of several greens that had deteriorated over the years, and also undertook a renovation of the landscape surrounding the clubhouse to include a perennial garden and a bluestone terrace.



Photo courtesy of Wahconah Country Club

Gould Farm

Founded in 1913 by social reformer William Gould and his wife Agnes, Gould Farm is amongst the oldest residential therapeutic communities in the country. Sited on 670 acres in the pastoral Berkshire Mountains, the farm serves as a place for patients to recover from mental illness through farm work and community stewardship of the land. A white clapboard farmhouse is surrounded by pasture and hayfields and abutted by wooded hills that were once used as charcoal making sites for the iron-ore furnaces in neighboring industrial towns. The property is further delineated by stone walls, wooden fences, and archaeological remains of wells and old farmhouses.

A forest, composed of white pine, red-oak, and northern hardwoods, covers 500 acres of the property. A network of paths and trails for hiking, skiing and the collection of maple sap and firewood meanders through the woodlands. A wetland trail, named Diane's Trail, serves an outdoor classroom for environmental education.

On the western border of Gould Farm lies the Berkshire Fish Hatchery, dating to 1914. The Hatchery spans 148 acres with a spring water aquifer that has facilitated aquaculture in the area since the early 19th century. Today the Hatchery harvests salmon, trout and bass and serves as a public educational resource run jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and volunteers from the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation.

Landscape Type:

Vernacular Landscape



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker

Hancock Shaker Village

Landscape Type:
Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape
Restoration Village

Established in 1783, this 3,000-acre Shaker village was the third of 19 between New England and the Mississippi River. The village was modeled after the Shaker community in Mount Lebanon, New York, where residents were divided into family units with gardens, a dwelling, a meetinghouse, and ancillary structures. Hancock encompassed six units, arranged on north-south and east-west axes, and around 1840 it housed 300 people. By 1960 the population was greatly diminished and much of the property sold. Its remaining 1,000 acres and 20 extant buildings were purchased by Hancock Shaker Village, Inc., which restored the historic structures and opened the village as a living history museum in 1961.

Today Hancock Shaker Village straddles U.S. Route 20, with the majority of structures and gardens located south of the highway. The current Visitor Center was constructed in 2000 at the west end of the property, with extensive working gardens built in the 1960s extending east towards the historic buildings. The buildings are intermixed with fenced paddocks and smaller gardens, sited and planted according to historic research and oral histories conducted with the last Shakers living there. Winding paths weave through the structures and mature shade trees line the highway and agricultural fields to the north. Fourteen of the original structures have been restored, including a unique 270-foot wide circular stone barn built in 1826. A historic cemetery, nineteenth-century water system, and a ceremonial mound are also included in the cultural landscape.



Photo courtesy of Hancock Shaker Village



Photo courtesy of Hancock Shaker Village

The village was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968.

Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism



Hebert Arboretum at Springside Park

Landscape Style:

Picturesque

Landscape Type:

Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate
Arboretum
Public Park – Neighborhood Park

Bordered by a dense grid of residential neighborhoods on the northern side of Pittsfield, Springside Park is the city's largest public open space. The park's 237 acres are bisected by paths and hiking trails which connect open fields, dense woodlands, wetlands, and Springside Pond.

The parkland was assembled from several former farms and suburban estates, thus giving the property an asymmetrical border. The extant structures from these properties include the Italianate-style summer "cottage" known today as Springside House (formerly Elmhurst) and a Gothic Revival-style barn, built by the local businessman Abraham Burbank in 1856. On the grounds of Springside House remains the traces of an original carriage drive flanked by an allée of silver maples, which replaced a collection of elms that had succumbed to Dutch elm disease.

Springside Park also encompasses the Hebert Arboretum, with 50 species of native trees and shrubs and a large diversity of wildflowers. The park's cultural landscape is an amalgamation of a 19th century estate and a planned 20th century municipal park. Springside Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.



Photo courtesy of the Hebert Arboretum



Photo courtesy of the Hebert Arboretum



Photo courtesy of Springside Park

Housatonic River Walk

Although native son W.E.B. Du Bois first appealed to the citizens of Great Barrington in 1930 to clean up the Housatonic River, which had been despoiled by decades of toxic dumping, efforts to restore the polluted waterway were not undertaken until 1988. What began as a volunteer clean-up project resulted in the establishment of a half-mile greenway trail along the western bank of the river in the town's center. Over the course of 25 years, community members have restored the riverbanks' native vegetation and constructed a riverside pathway, designed by Peter S. Jensen. The landscape reclamation, overseen by horticulturalists Monica Fadding and Heather Cupo, replaced invasive species with native dogwood, ferns, willows and asters.

The pathway traverses private property, running behind commercial and residential buildings, and comprises two completed sections linked by River Street. The looped upstream section, first opened in 1992, terminates at the William Stanley Overlook. The downstream section includes the W.E.B. Du Bois River Garden, a park constructed in 2000 on a former trash heap, very near where Du Bois was born in 1868. The raised garden beds contain native woodland plants, while a berm is planted with sumac and native understory. The adjacent rain garden filters runoff and curbs erosion with native wetland plants, and the trail surface is permeable to further infiltrate rain water.

Managed by the Great Barrington Land Conservancy and now cared for by Greenagers, the Housatonic River Walk was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2009.

Landscape Type:

Designed Landscape
Public Park

Designed By:

Peter S. Jensen
Monica Fadding
Heather Cupo



Photo by Rachel Fletcher



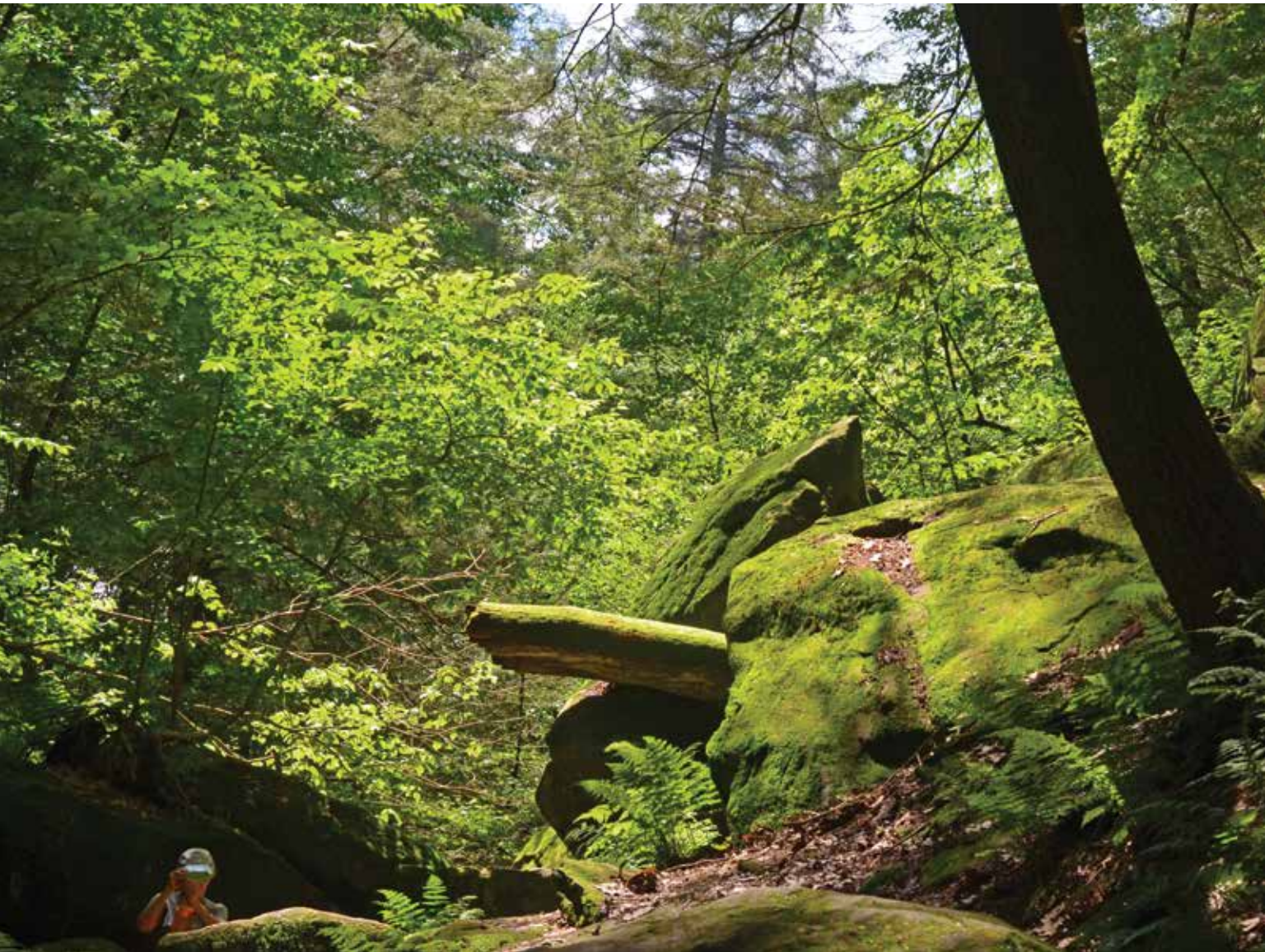
Photo by Rachel Fletcher



Photo by Rachel Fletcher

Author Nathaniel Hawthorne called the geological feature “the most curious fissure in all Berkshire.”

Photo by Gay Tucker



Ice Glen

This dramatic landscape southeast of the town center is known for a craggy, moss-covered gorge and a labyrinthine network of caves enveloped by a nearly two hundred-year-old forest. Sunlight hardly penetrates the bottom of the narrow, quarter-mile-long ravine, where ice formed in the deepest crevices can last into summer – hence the moniker “Ice Glen.”

In 1891, David Dudley Field donated 40 acres containing the glacial cleft to the Town of Stockbridge. With a bequest from its founder Mary Hopkins Goodrich, the Laurel Hill Association, one of the nation’s oldest civic beautification societies, erected a metal bridge across the Housatonic River in 1895, replaced in the 1940s by a suspension footbridge and a rustic fieldstone archway. The Goodrich Memorial Bridge connects Laurel Hill Park with three trails: Ice Glen, Laura’s Tower, and the Mary Flynn Trail. The Laura’s Tower and Ice Glen trails share the first quarter mile up the hill, through stands of white pine, ash, and hemlocks with an understory of maidenhair fern. The Ice Glen Trail splits to the right and continues level for a short distance, passing a flat dedication rock face inscribed with David Field’s name. At the V-shaped north gorge entrance, the footpath spurs into the quarter-mile-long, boulder-strewn ravine. At the southern end of the gorge, stands the largest white pine in the state, towering 150 feet tall with a circumference of thirteen feet.

Landscape Type:
Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape
Public Park

Related Landscapes:
Laurel Hill Park
Mary Flynn Trail



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker

Jacob's Pillow

Landscape Style:
Picturesque/ Romantic

Landscape Type:
Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape
Institutional Grounds – Cultural Campus

Designed By:
Joseph Franz

America's longest running dance festival is situated on 150 acres of rural woodland nestled in the Berkshire Mountains. Settled as a mountaintop farmstead in 1790, the property was purchased in 1931 by modern dance pioneer Ted Shawn for use as a summer retreat and dance school. In 1941, Shawn sold the property to a consortium of patrons but remained involved until 1972. A theatre was built in his honor, designed by engineer Joseph Franz; it was the first theater in the country designed expressly for dance performances. The Jacob's Pillow boulder, situated behind the original farmhouse, serves as an important natural landmark on the site.

Today the complex includes two 18th-century farmhouses, numerous outbuildings, and three theaters. In the crux of the C-shaped Ted Shawn Theatre is the Tea Garden, a sunken lawn bordered by a stone retaining wall and perennial flower beds built in 1942. On the east side of the theatre a low, curved, stone wall encloses a small plaza set with three wooden light fixtures. South of the theatre and contiguous with a hardwood forest lies the Great Lawn, a one-acre green redesigned from a former parking lot in 1986. In 1999, The Wetlands Trail was created, following the course of a former logging trail through stands of hemlock and pine. Other landscape features include a swimming hole with a fieldstone dam and a landscaped Fire Pond constructed in the 1930s. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2003.



Photo courtesy of Jacob's Pillow



Photo courtesy of Jacob's Pillow

Laurel Hill Park

This six-acre park in the village center comprises a wooded hillock that has served as a town meeting place since the early 19th century. The knoll was purchased by Theodore Sedgwick, Jr. in 1834 who wished to preserve it as a public park. In 1853, local resident Mary Hopkins Goodrich formed the Laurel Hill Association, which used the site as a meeting place. One of the earliest civic beautification society's in the nation, the organization took its name from the parkland, which it vowed to protect in perpetuity. The society built a trail, carved a clearing in the woods, and made a grass-covered berm against a large rock that functioned as a rostrum. The Sedgwick family transferred ownership of the land to the association in 1878.

Today characterized by dense thickets of native hemlocks, white pines, and oaks, the land was once covered in mountain laurel. A narrow trail winds through rugged rock outcroppings up to the summit. At the base of a massive, vertical rock projection is a grassy lawn area and a rectangular, rustic stone rostrum, designed by sculptor Daniel Chester French in 1905 and dedicated to Henry Dwight Sedgwick. The Prescott Butler Memorial, erected on the summit in 1928, is a semi-circular granite bench with a carved garland on the back, nestled in a grove.

Laurel Hill Park was listed within Stockbridge's Main Street Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Landscape Type:
Historic Site
Designed Landscape
Public Park

Designed By:
Laurel Hill Association
Daniel Chester French

Related Landscapes:
Stockbridge Main Street
Mary Flynn Trail
Ice Glen



Photo courtesy of the Laurel Hill Association



Photo by Adele Gravitz

Lee Town Park & Main Street

Sited in a wide oxbow of the Housatonic River within a vale formed by the Taconic and Green mountain ranges, Dodgetown was established in 1760 and incorporated in 1777, at which time it was renamed for Continental Army General Charles Lee. Formulated as a typical New England village on a six-mile square, the town's geographic center was marked by the meeting house sited on the corner of Main Street, a north-south artery, and Stockbridge Road (now Park Street) running east to west. When the second Congregational Church was built in 1800, the original meeting house was razed and the parcel converted to a town common.

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Public Park – Greens/Commons/Squares

Fronting Memorial Hall and the Congregational Church, this elliptical island of lawn is ringed with mature deciduous trees and a marble-post and iron-rail fence erected in 1868. The generous expanse of lawn is transected by a diagonal sidewalk that links to Main Street. The park also features sheltered bench seating and a public drinking fountain sculpted from local marble in 1899 by Daniel Chester French, which incorporates an image of the Mohican Chief Konkaptot. Between 1992 and 1998, landscape architect Craig Okerstrom-Lang designed and built improvements for Lee Town Park and the streetscape of Main Street. Improvements included redesigning sidewalks and storefront access and planting zelkova trees in place of the elms which once lined the entire street.

Lee's Town Park is included within the Lower Main Street Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker

Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated two miles southwest of Sheffield, this 250-acre reserve and wildlife sanctuary encompasses undulating pastures, a limestone ridge, fens and wooded swamps, and a deciduous and coniferous forest. The parkland's rugged summit affords panoramic views of Mount Everett and the surrounding Taconic Mountains to the west and north. Fields sown with hay, a constructed pond, fieldstone walls and pasture fences remain as vestiges of the land's agricultural heritage, while a 30-foot high concrete stack, platform, work shed, and several quarry holes attest to the property's brief tenure as an industrial site, when the Massachusetts Lime Company operated a lime quarry and kiln from 1909 to 1912.

In 1963, mathematician Edna Sheinhart made the property her home. She stewarded the agricultural land, used primarily as a sheep pasture, until 1990, when she donated 215 acres to Massachusetts Audubon Society in memory of her friend, Marguerite Darkow. The parkland was fitted with two miles of trails, including the Lime Kiln Loop that passes the foundations of the lime kiln, and the Quarry/ Taconic Vista Loop that skirts the quarries' edges. Portions of these paths were created from an existing ore-cart track and a network of fire roads. Originally called the Mount Everett Wildlife Sanctuary, the reserve's name was changed to Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in 2007.

Landscape Type:
Vernacular Landscape
Public Park – Scenic Reservation



Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society



Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society



Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

Mary Flynn Trail

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Public Park

Designed By:
Laurel Hill Association
Peter Jensen, Open Space Management

Related Landscapes:
Ice Glen
Laurel Hill Park

Created in 2003 in honor of the Laurel Hill Association’s 150th Anniversary, the trail was named for Mary V. Flynn, the first woman President of the Association and the first woman on the Stockbridge Board of Selectman. The 1.2 mile trail was designed and built by Peter Jensen of Open Space Management and follows the course of the old Berkshire Street Railway trolley line, which was in operation from 1902 to 1930. Old trolley trestle abutments can be seen on both sides of the Housatonic River, adjacent to the Goodrich Memorial footbridge that links Laurel Hill Park to the Mary Flynn Trail.

Beginning with a 100-foot long boardwalk, the flat, gravel trail runs east through a forest of birch, pine, and cottonwood, crosses over two wooden bridges, again meeting the Housatonic River. Along the way, remnant abutments are the only tangible evidence of an old swinging footbridge across the river, near a possible trolley stop that would have serviced Stockbridge’s East Main Street to the north. At the eastern-most end, the trail turns, narrows, and loops back alongside the river. It passes through embankments with vines and ferns and crosses two small bridges before rejoining the main trail.



Photo by Laurel Hill Association



Photo by Laurel Hill Association

Mission House

Reverend John Sergeant built this Georgian-style house in 1739, which remained in his family until 1879. By 1926, the structure was imperiled by neglect. Mabel Choate, owner of the nearby estate, Naumkeag, purchased the house with the intention of restoring it. The house was disassembled and relocated to a half-acre, rectangular lot on the corner of Sergeant and Main Streets, where landscape architect Fletcher Steele worked with Choate to restore the structure and design the surrounding Colonial Revival gardens.

Steele’s four garden rooms that surround the house were influenced by George Washington’s Mount Vernon. The Dooryard Garden in the front is a formal space partially enclosed by a tidewater cypress fence and a dark purple-hued brick path that divides ornamental beds of perennials and herbs anchored by shrubs and trees. The Orchard Garden west of the house is traversed by crushed stone walks and contains neat rows of vegetables and small fruit trees. Low boxwood hedges and perennial borders define the geometrically-arranged garden spaces connected by winding paths. The Well Courtyard, a utilitarian space in the rear, positions benches beneath a grape arbor that connects the house to one-story frame building, while the East Lawn provides an open space.

The property was opened to the public in 1930 and donated to the Trustees of Reservations in 1948. In the 1960s, volunteer gardeners dramatically altered Steele’s original planting plan but efforts to restore the garden have been undertaken by since 1990. The Mission House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968.

Landscape Style:
Colonial Revival

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate

Designed By:
Fletcher Steele

Related Landscapes:
Stockbridge Main Street



Photo by K. McMahon, courtesy The Trustees of Reservations



Photo by S. Sheppard, courtesy The Trustees of Reservations



Photo by S. Sheppard, courtesy The Trustees of Reservations

In 1999, the house and gardens were extensively restored. The Mount was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

Photo by Kevin Sprague, courtesy of The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home



The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home

Borrowing the scenery of the central Berkshire Mountains, this 50-acre estate was the seasonal residence of American novelist Edith Wharton from 1902 to 1911. Wharton commissioned architect Francis L.V. Hoppin to design the Georgian-Revival manor, while Wharton herself designed the formal gardens to the east and south of the house.

Wharton was a connoisseur of European landscape design and published *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* in 1904, in which she advocated that gardens should be architectural compositions divided into “rooms.” The estate grounds were conceived as an experiential walk framed by clipped hedges and trees. From the entrance court a flight of stairs led to the house’s main living spaces, which opened to a terrace offering a grand vista to Laurel Lake and the hills beyond. A Palladian stair descended from the terrace and led to an allée of pleached lindens flanked by two formal gardens. The Italianate walled garden featured walks, a rustic fountain with a lion’s head spout, and a simple planting palette. In contrast, the flower garden derived from French and English landscape traditions was planted with petunias, phlox, snapdragons, and hollyhocks and included a dolphin fountain as well as a latticework niche designed by Ogden Codman, Jr. Her alpine rock garden included sweet ferns and grass-covered steps. Wharton’s niece, landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand, designed the estate’s kitchen garden and the entrance drive.

Landscape Style:
Italianate

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate — Country Place Era

Designed By:
Edith Wharton
Beatrix Farrand

Photo by John Seakwood, courtesy of The Mount



Photo by David Dashiell, courtesy of The Mount



Photo by John Seakwood, courtesy of The Mount



Naumkeag

Landscape Style:
Picturesque
Modernist

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Modern Garden

Designed By:
Nathan Barrett
Fletcher Steele

Built as a Picturesque summer home for the Choate family, the estate included a 40-acre farm, greenhouses, vegetable gardens, and a 44-room, Gilded Age mansion designed by architects McKim, Mead & White between 1885 and 1886. Landscape architect Nathan Barrett developed the original design for the terraced gardens in the 1880s. Mabel Choate inherited Naumkeag from her mother in 1929.

Fletcher Steele, often considered America’s first Modernist landscape architect, worked between 1929 and 1956 in collaboration with Choate to design “garden rooms,” the longest commission of his career. Steele’s first insertion at Naumkeag brought Frederick MacMonnies statue, “Young Faun with Heron” to the new Afternoon Garden. His distinctive Rose Garden, with serpentine ground plane patterning, is best viewed from above. No longer operating as a single path, the unifying watercourse originally began at the top of the hill in the Chinese Garden, site of Steele’s Moon Gate, then drained to the fountain in Barrett’s Evergreen Garden, and down a rill to Steele’s most iconic work, the Blue Steps, which led to the cutting and vegetable gardens at the base of the hill.

Upon her death in 1958, Miss Choate bequeathed the house and grounds, now eight acres, to The Trustees of Reservations.



Photo courtesy of Naumkeag



Photo courtesy of Naumkeag



Photo by Charles Birnbaum

Naumkeag was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2007.

Photo by Matthew Vivirito



Pittsfield Park Square

This 1.5-acre oval public green in the heart of downtown is surrounded by commercial, religious and civic structures built since the early 19th century. The square commands the highest point in Pittsfield which was founded on a plateau at the confluence of the East and West Housatonic rivers, between the Hoosac and Taconic mountains.

In 1790, the land for the common was donated by John Chandler Williams. A giant white elm tree dominated the center of the green until it was felled in 1861 at 340 years old. The green space was first improved by Pittsfield's citizens in 1824, when it was given its present elliptical shape; soon thereafter a row of elms and American lindens were planted on the outer edge, followed by the town's first public sidewalks. A second wave of improvements was made in 1871 and 1872, when the oval plot was surrounded by a broad gravel walk with granite curbing and the site graded and replanted with two rows of trees. A Civil War memorial designed by Launt Thompson was placed on the western end of the park in 1872.

Today, a concrete sidewalk lines the perimeter and transects the oval space in two axes creating quadrants of lawn which meet at a large historic fountain at the center of the park. The park also features historic site furnishings and seasonal flower beds. Situated at the center of the Park Square Historic District, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Public Park – Greens/Commons/Squares

Landscape Style:
Beaux Arts/Neoclassical



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute

Situated on 140 acres amid the rolling Berkshire hills, this museum campus was founded in 1950 as a home for Sterling and Francine Clark's collection of European and American art and as a center for art historical education. The original gallery, a neoclassical, white marble edifice, was designed by architect Daniel Perry and constructed in 1952. In 1973 the museum added a red granite administration building to its campus, designed by Pietro Belluschi and The Architects Collaborative (TAC). The museum is surrounded by native hardwood forest, meadows, and a lily pond, and is abutted by a large South Lawn which hosts outdoor concerts and festivals in the summer months. Walking trails circumvent the site and lead to the summit of Stone Hill, affording sweeping views of Williamstown and the Green Mountains in Vermont.

In 2001 the Clark announced a master plan for expansion which would also preserve the unique woodland and meadow character of museum grounds. Seven years later the museum embarked on campus expansion, which began with the construction of the Stone Hill Center, designed by Tadao Ando. During this time Reed Hilderbrand Associates developed the Clark's landscape master plan. Their design preserved the existing pastoral character of the site's meadows and woodlands, while integrating new landscape features that include two miles of walking trails, additional parking, and reorganized vehicular circulation. The design also includes a tiered reflecting pool, which connects the new building with the surrounding naturalistic landscape and harvests storm water for reuse in plumbing and irrigation systems.

Landscape Style:
Picturesque
Modernist

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Institutional Grounds – Cultural

Designed By:
The Architects Collaborative
Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Inc.



Photo courtesy of the Clark



Photo courtesy of Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Inc.



Photo courtesy of Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Inc.

Stockbridge's Main Street was listed as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Photo courtesy of the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism



Stockbridge Main Street

Founded in 1735 by missionary John Sergeant, this farming community was established on a level terrace above the Housatonic River's floodplain. Surveyors laid out a typical New England village centered on the straight east-west road that connected Boston to Albany. The historic stretch of Main Street contains residential, commercial, and institutional structures (mostly of brick and clapboard) dating from the Colonial era through to the 20th century.

The picturesque quality of Stockbridge has been long maintained by its citizens. In 1786, rows of maples were first planted along Plain Street, later replaced by elms. In 1853, one of the country's earliest civic beautification societies, the Laurel Hill Association, was established, which actively planted trees, conserved public parklands, and landscaped walkways.

After the arrival of the Housatonic Railroad in 1842, Stockbridge became a resort community for wealthy "cottagers," who built grand homes and recreational edifices along Main Street. Residential lawns and gardens are separated from the street by sidewalks and wide, grassy shoulders. The sidewalks in the denser commercial section are furnished with concrete and wooden benches shaded by small roadside trees planted near the curbs. The nucleus of the commercial center is the Red Lion Inn, founded in 1773 as a general store, stagecoach stop, and tavern. After nearly being destroyed by a fire in 1896, it was restored in the Colonial Revival style. The inn was saved from demolition in 1968 by John and Jane Fitzpatrick.

Landscape Type:
Vernacular Landscape
Designed Landscape

Related Landscapes:
Laurel Hill
Mission House



Photo courtesy of the Red Lion Inn



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism

Tanglewood

Landscape Style:
Picturesque/Romantic
Modernist

Landscape Type:
Garden and Estate – Country Place Era
Campus

The 210-acre seasonal home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra began as two summer cottage estates located between Lenox and Stockbridge. One of these estates, Tanglewood, was the home of poet Caroline Sturgis and William Aspinwall Tappan. In 1937, after 20 years of informal musical performances in Lenox, Mary Aspinwall Tappan offered Tanglewood to Serge Koussevitzky, director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Koussevitzky envisioned the property as a premier music festival and professional academy, and the Berkshire Music Center (now the Tanglewood Music Center) opened in July 1940.

The sloping upper campus, which includes two 19th century houses, offers expansive views of the Stockbridge Bowl and surrounding mountains. The historic entrance drive is bordered with Norway spruces, while terracotta lions flank the entrance atop brick gateposts. The cottages’ open lawns and informal tree groupings are enclosed with fencing and vegetation, while a vine-clad pergola and a thick hemlock hedge remain as vestiges of the estate’s formal garden. These gardens were installed in the early 20th century by Richard Dixey, the musician husband of the Tappan’s daughter, Ellen. Several Modernist structures designed by architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen were built between 1938 and 1959, including the Music Shed, which contains 5,000 seats and has a curved profile that opens to an audience lawn area. The low-slung, darkly-painted wooden structures nest unobtrusively into their naturalistic surroundings. In 1986, Tanglewood acquired the 100-acre lower campus, which is characterized by fields interspersed with agricultural outbuildings and 70 acres of public woodland.



Photo by Hilary Scott



Photo by Stu Rosner



Photo by Tom Fitzsimmons

Musical performances were hosted in Lenox beginning in 1918, when Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge initiated the South Mountain Concerts.

Photo by Tom Fitzsimmons



Tub Parade

Historic Event

This unique annual pageant was begun in the late 19th century and was held to mark the close of the summer season in the Berkshire Mountains. Women and children from the local “cottages” brought out their finest horses and carriages (“tub” is a British euphemism for cart), decorated them with flowers from their gardens, and paraded down Main Street in Lenox in a competition for the most resplendent turnout. The parade ended with World War I, when the ostentation associated with the Gilded Age ceased due to the advent of federal income tax and other factors.

In 1989, the Colonial Carriage and Driving Society and the local Chamber of Commerce, worked to recreate this cultural tradition. Each September the procession begins at Shakespeare & Company, from whence it circulates twice through the center of town. The parade features the High Lawn Dairy milk wagon, fire pumpers, and a cigar wagon in addition to flower-festooned horse-drawn carriages. Although it is a celebration of the area’s equestrian past, antique automobiles are also included. It ends with the “Old Times,” a public Road Coach built in 1866 by Cowland and Selby, English carriage-makers.



Photo by Kevin Sprague



Photo by Kevin Sprague



Photo by Kevin Sprague

Ventfort Hall

Located in the center of town, the mansion and twelve acres were designed in 1893 as a seasonal home for Sarah Morgan, sister of J.P. Morgan, and her husband George. The Tudor-style brick and brownstone mansion and the site plan were designed by Boston architects Arthur Rotch and George Tilden. Interested in agriculture and horticulture, George Morgan hired John Huss as landscape gardener and Superintendent of his “gentleman’s farm.”

Originally 26 acres, the estate consisted of the hilltop mansion with a sloping lawn extended from the grand front entrance; formal gardens, greenhouses, and lawn enclosed by eight-foot brick walls behind; and evergreen woodland beyond. The gardens and greenhouses have deteriorated and only 1/3 of the brick walls are intact, but many landscape features, buildings, and mature trees remain. Brick steps which are built into the earthen terrace behind the mansion offer access to the lawn and path system that connects into the nearby woodland. The main entrance drive continues in use today, one of three entrances that were framed by large brick piers with wrought iron gates. The Spruce Allée once provided a sheltered vehicular entrance with dramatic views and a parallel walking path, set below eye level, which offered a separated arrival experience for vehicles and pedestrians.

Ventfort Hall is one of about 75 summer homes in Lenox and the surrounding area built between the Civil War and World War I. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 and is home to the Museum of the Gilded Age.

Landscape Style:

Picturesque/ Romantic

Landscape Type:

Designed Landscape
Garden and Estate – Country Place Era

Designed By:

John Huss



Photo by Kevin Sprague



Photo by Adele Gravitz



Photo by Adele Gravitz

W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site

Landscape Type:
Historic Site
Designed Landscape
Public Park

W.E.B. Du Bois, the African American scholar and activist who helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), spent his early years in a small farmhouse in Great Barrington near the Housatonic River. The property had been in his mother's family for more than 150 years. On his 60th birthday, in 1928, Du Bois gained ownership of the house, intending to remodel it into a summer retreat. Unfortunately, his finances never allowed him to finish the project. He kept the property for 26 years, eventually selling it to a neighbor who demolished the house.

In 1966, three years after Du Bois' death, the 5-acre property was purchased by local residents. They formed the Du Bois Memorial Foundation and built a public park and memorial to Du Bois, which was dedicated in 1969 and marked by a commemorative boulder. Today, a footpath and interpretive trail wind through dense woods to a clearing where the boulder still stands. The path continues on to the former house site, where the remains of a chimney are still visible.

In 1983, the University of Massachusetts Amherst began archeological excavations at the site and in 1987 became the property's custodian. Now part of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area's African American Heritage Trail, the W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1979.



Photo by Rachel Fletcher



Photo by Rachel Fletcher



Photo by Rachel Fletcher

Wahconah Ball Park

The park is a city-owned baseball stadium situated on the eastern border of Wahconah Park, amid a residential neighborhood in northern Pittsfield. While baseball has been played on the site of Wahconah Park since 1892, the current structure was built in 1919 and is one of the last remaining ballparks in the United States with a wooden grandstand. The grandstand superstructure seats 4,500 spectators and was designed by local architect Joseph McArthur Vance, who also designed Pittsfield's Masonic Temple, Bascom Lodge on Mount Greylock and the Mahaiwe Theatre in Great Barrington. The view of the outfield from the grandstand is framed by dense thickets of trees located in the parkland beyond.

Throughout the park's history, over 200 different Pittsfield players have gone on to play in the Major Leagues. The park is also home to varsity football games for Pittsfield area high schools and numerous music, theatre, and community events.

Significant renovations to the field and grandstand were completed in 2008. The park was listed in the National Register of Historic places in 2005.

Landscape Type:
Historic Site

Designed By:
Joseph McArthur Vance



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker



Photo by Gay Tucker

Williams College

Landscape Style:
Beaux Arts/Neoclassical

Landscape Type:
Designed Landscape
Campus — Colonial College

Designed By:
Olmsted Brothers

This private liberal arts college, chartered in 1793, is situated on 450 acres of rolling hillside in the Hoosic Valley in northwestern Massachusetts. Originally the Williamstown Free School, it was formed from funds bequeathed by Colonel Ephraim Williams, Jr.

Williams College's early planners eschewed a traditional quadrangle plan, instead freely siting the principle buildings upon adjacent, low hilltops. By 1828, numerous campus buildings, including East and West Colleges and Griffin Hall, were set in open yards clustered around Williamstown's Main Street. The first quadrangle was formed with East College, reconstructed after a fire in 1841, South College (now Fayerweather) in 1842, and the Hopkins Observatory built in 1836.

Beginning in 1902 and for more than six decades, Olmsted Brothers guided the campus formation. Hired initially to advise on the location of the Thompson Memorial Chapel, the firm went on to make large-scale planning recommendations for the entire campus, advising that future development should be more cohesive and planned around discrete quadrangles that would be interwoven with shared green spaces. Their most prominent projects separate from the campus plan included the gardens of the President's House, the grounds of the Hopkins observatory, the layout of the College Cemetery, improvements to the Taconic Golf Course and the incorporation of the former estate of George A. Cluett into the campus acreage.



Photo courtesy of Williams College



Photo courtesy of Williams College



Photo courtesy of Williams College

Today, the grounds reflect much of the Olmsted design intent, defined by quadrangles with diagonal walks, the east-west axis of Main Street and views of the adjacent mountains.

Photo courtesy of Williams College



The Olmsted Firm in the Berkshires

For over 130 years, the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted was the most successful landscape architecture practice in the United States, designing a wide range of public and private projects across North America. After relocating their headquarters from New York to Brookline, Massachusetts, outside Boston, in 1882, the firm completed a significant body of work in the commonwealth, including over sixty projects in the Berkshires spanning almost 100 years, from 1883 to 1979.

While several of the firm’s Berkshires projects were completed during the tenure of Olmsted, Sr., the majority of the commissions took place in the first decades of the 20th century, when the firm was led by his two sons, John Charles Olmsted and his half-brother, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Following Olmsted, Sr.’s retirement in 1895, they formed the Olmsted Brothers, which continued their father’s reformist design legacy, while also expanding the firm into a hugely productive, well-run business with a diverse practice. The two brothers would also contribute to the formalization of the landscape architecture profession as founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). With a staff of over 60, the firm employed many designers who had significant careers, both independently and within the firm, including Warren Manning, Henry Sargent Codman, Charles Eliot, Arthur Shurcliff, James Frederick Dawson, Percival Gallagher, Edward Clark Whiting, and Henry Vincent Hubbard.

The numerous Gilded Age estates, or summer “cottages,” that were scattered throughout the Berkshire’s pastoral hills provided fertile ground for landscape architecture commissions. The firm designed thirty estates, primarily clustered around the bucolic towns of Pittsfield, Lenox and Stockbridge. One of the larger commissions was for the 380-acre grounds surrounding Wheatleigh, the mansion of Mrs. Carlos DeHeredia in Lenox. Much of the

property’s original landscape design has been preserved as “Wheatleigh Park,” which is now operated as a luxury resort. Elm Court, the Shingle-style estate of William D. Sloane, is another extant Olmsted estate design, also located in Lenox.

One of the firm’s largest commissions in the Berkshires was the Williams College master plan. Between 1902 and 1962 the firm renovated much of the campus landscape, including the President’s House, the Cemetery and South College, as well as incorporating the George A. Cluett estate, one of their earlier projects in the region, into the campus acreage. In addition to Williams College, the firm also designed the grounds of several prep schools in the area, including Miss Hall’s School, the Buck School and Cranwell Prep School, which was later converted into a resort and golf course.

The firm designed several public projects in the town of Dalton, just east of Pittsfield, home to the headquarters of Crane & Co., one of the country’s most successful paper manufacturers. From 1897 to 1950, the Crane family commissioned the Olmsted firm to design four of the family’s estates, the grounds of their mill, the town cemetery, and the grounds of the town library which is named in their honor.



View of the George P. Cluett Estate, Williamstown



Olmsted Projects in the Berkshires

City & Regional Planning Projects	Charles F. Sawyer Estate, Dalton, 1922-24
Lenox Village Improvement Society, Lenox, 1907-14	George A. Cluett Estate, Williamstown, 1922-23
Becket Town Improvements, Becket, 1910*	A.W. Eaton Estate, Pittsfield, 1925-26*
Stockbridge Village Improvement, Stockbridge, 1913-17	Mrs. Merle Graves Estate, Pittsfield, 1927-29
Drake Athletic Field/ Playground, Pittsfield, 1915*	Winthrop Crane Estate, Dalton, 1929-31
Merle Graves Community Houses, Pittsfield, 1929	Alanson Fox Estate, Pittsfield, 1933*
Graves-Crane Development, Pittsfield, 1959-72	Robert G. Stewart Estate, Stockbridge, 1933-36*
Rolling Hills Subdivision, Lenox, 1973-74	Sidney Howard Estate, Tyringham, 1938-39*
	Arthur Crane Estate, Dalton, 1949-69
	C.A. Foehl Estate, Williamstown, 1953-56
College & School Campuses	Winthrop M. Crane, Jr. Estate, Dalton, 1957-60
Williams College, Williamstown, 1902-62	
The Buck School, Sheffield, 1907*	Cemeteries & Burial Lots
Miss Hall’s School, Pittsfield, 1913-21	Pittsfield Cemetery, Pittsfield, 1912-15
Camp Becket, Becket, 1939	Dalton Cemetery, Dalton, 1923-29
Cranwell Prep School, Lenox, 1952-56	Crane Memorial, Dalton, 1925
	Catholic/ Fairview Cemetery, Dalton, 1926-29*
Private Estates	Merle Graves Cemetery Lot and Graves, Pittsfield, 1929
Julia S. Appleton Estate, Lenox, 1883-84	Choate Burial Lot, Stockbridge, 1948
J.H. Choate Estate, Stockbridge, 1884-85	
Mrs. Henry D. White/ William Sloane Estate, Lenox, 1885-86, 1924-25	Commercial & Industrial Grounds
Fl. Freylinghausen Estate, Lenox, 1887-88	Pittsfield Rail Road Company, Pittsfield, 1901*
Morris K. Jessup Estate, Lenox, 1888	Sawyer, Regan Company Mill, Dalton, 1922*
W.D. Walker Estate, Brythewood, Pittsfield, 1889-94	North Adams Sewage Treatment Plant, North Adams, 1934
F.T. West Estate, Pittsfield, 1890-91*	Berkshire Life Insurance Company, Pittsfield, 1956-59
W.M. Sloane Estate, Lenox, 1891-94	Crane & Co. Mill, Dalton, 1960-69
William Cullen Bryant’s Farm, Cummington, 1891*	
Mrs. M.D. Ogden Estate, Pittsfield, 1891	Grounds of Public Buildings
Mrs. Carlos DeHeredia Estate, Wheatleigh, Lenox, 1892-1919	Lanesboro Public Library, Lanesboro, 1925*
John Sloane Estate, Lenox, 1893-94	Crane Library, Dalton, 1929
Anson Phelps Stokes Estate, Shadowbrook, Stockbridge, 1893	
Zenas Crane Estate, Dalton, 1897-1903	Parks
Curtis S. Judd Estate, Monterey, 1898*	Valley Park, North Adams, 1903*
Sam Hill Estate, Stockbridge, 1905	
Franklin Weston Estate, Pittsfield, 1906-07*	Country Clubs
W.D. Sloane Estate, Elm Court, Lenox, 1907	Pittsfield Country Club, Pittsfield, 1930*
Bernard Hoffman Estate, Stockbridge, 1912*	

* Limited firm involvement



Photo by Kevin Sprague, courtesy of The Mount: Edith Wharton's Home
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