

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Formreceived AUG 27 1984
date entered SEP 27 1984See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Merestead/~~Former~~ (Sloane Estate)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Byram Lake Road, _____ not for publication

city, town Mount Kisco vic. _____ vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Westchester code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☒ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☒ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Patterson

street & number Byram Lake Road

city, town Mount Kisco _____ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Westchester County Office of Land Records

street & number 148 Martine Avenue

city, town White Plains state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes ☒ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Merestead, the country estate of William Sloane, includes a large neo-Georgian mansion completed in 1907, a nineteenth-century farm complex modified at approximately the same date, and 136 acres of open fields, gardens, and woodlands. Approximately nine acres at the northwest corner of the estate property was sold off during the mid-twentieth century. The estate is located in a rural area of northern Westchester County on Bryam Lake Road east of the village of Mount Kisco, New York. There are ten contributing historic components which constitute the historic Merestead estate complex. The estate buildings and entire original estate lands have remained virtually unchanged since the early twentieth century and the property contains no non-contributing structures.

The following building descriptions are keyed numerically to the map of the estate attached to this nomination.

1. Mansion, 1906-1907

The mansion is the centerpiece of the estate. It was designed in the neo-Georgian style by the noted architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich and was completed in 1907.

The two and one-half story mansion is essentially rectangular in plan with open porches projecting from the north and south ends and a one and one-half story service wing extending east from the northern portion of the main east facade. The walls are constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond with marble watertable, belt course, window sills, and keystones. The hipped roof is covered with slate.

The west or garden facade is symmetrically composed of nine bays with a central entrance articulated with engaged Tuscan Doric columns and an entablature surmounted by a broken pediment. Full length openings with French doors and transoms flank the entrance at the first floor. These are headed by brick jack arches with keystones and equipped with panelled shutters. The second story has nine identical six-over-six windows with jack-arched headers and louvred window blinds. The corners of the facade are detailed with brick quoins. A broad cornice with modillions terminates the second story. Five Georgian style dormers project from the hip roof: each has round-arched, double-hung windows. Four brick chimneys rise above the roofline of this elevation.

The main east facade faces a courtyard and incorporates a round-arched entrance and a columned porch located at the center of a five-bay portion of this elevation. This portion is flanked by a slightly projecting one bay pavilion at the left end and the one and one-half story service wing at the right. Fenestration and detailing is similar to that described for the garden facade with the exception of four small first floor windows which flank the entrance. Four dormers occur at this elevation. A large brick chimney rises above the intersection of the service wing and main portion of the mansion.

The north and south ends of the mansion each include polygonal porches supported by Tuscan Doric columns and crowned by balustrades.

The first floor interior of the mansion is organized around a center entrance hall with extensions at the east side leading to the library at the south end

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date entered

Merestead/Former Sloane Estate, Mt. Kisco,

Continuation sheet

Westchester Co., NY Item number 7

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and the pantry and staircase at the north end. A formal dining room and living room are symmetrically placed at the north and south sides of the entrance hall along the west front of the mansion. At the second story, a transverse hallway leads to the bedrooms at each side with the stairhall occurring at the north end. The service wing includes kitchen and laundry facilities at the first floor and living quarters for the servants at the second floor.

The formal spaces of the interior are detailed in a manner consistent with the neo-Georgian style of the exterior. Walls include panelled wainscots, molded panels and entablatures, as well as elaborate cornices with modillions. Doorways are framed by fluted pilasters and entablatures in the hallways. The doors themselves are mahogany with panelled designs. Fireplaces are individually designed and detailed and usually include marble surrounds and elaborate wooden mantels and overmantels. A variety of electric candle sconces and chandeliers provide lighting in the major interior spaces.

The house's exterior and interior retains a high level of integrity and remains remarkably unchanged since its original construction.

2. Garden House, circa 1907

A single story frame garden pavilion with a hipped roof is located a short distance south of the mansion at the opposite side of the croquet court. Surrounded by gardens and a small rectangular pool, it has engaged columns and a paneled wainscot.

3. Garage Building, circa 1907

A small, one-story, three-car garage with brick exterior and slate-covered gable roof is located next to the main house's service wing.

4. Carriage House, circa 1907

South of the mansion on the south side of Byram Lake Road stands a single story carriage house. The structure consists of a rectangular block with two flanking, projecting pavilions at the main(north) facade. The building is sheathed in stucco and covered by a hipped, slate roof which has several dormers, a chimney, and a rooftop octagonal cupola with a dome. Door openings are located at the center of the north facade beneath a large semi-circular fanlight which projects above the eaves of the roof. Fenestration consists of six-over-six windows and semi-circular lunettes framed within blind arcades.

5. Garage, circa 1907

A modest, three-bay, hipped roof garage is located immediately west of the carriage house. It includes three segmentally arched openings at the main facade, each opening filled with a pair of wooden garage doors, glazed in the upper halves. The roof is covered with slate.

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Westchester Co., NY Item number 7

Continuation sheet

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6. Tenant Farmhouse, mid-nineteenth century

A two-story mid-nineteenth century frame farmhouse built prior to the development of Merestead is located southeast of the mansion on the north side of Byram Lake Road. It forms the nucleus of the extant farm complex purchased by William Sloane to augment his Merestead estate. Originally built as a simple, vernacular structure at an undetermined date, it was modified around 1907 by the addition of dormer windows and a central pediment with lunette in order to make the house more architecturally compatible with the new buildings erected on the estate. The house is rectangular in form and features a full width (five-bay) front porch, a small, two-story east side extension, and gable roofs. An entrance with sidelights occurs at the center of the first story on the main facade which is flanked by two-over-two windows with shutters. The early twentieth century windows in the second story have six-over-six sash. The structure is sheathed with clapboard siding.

7. Cow Barn, circa 1907

North of the tenant farmhouse stands a large frame cow barn with a jerkin head gable roof. The barn is constructed above a raised stone foundation with primary entry gained through sliding barn doors at the center of the east side. A ramp with stone retaining walls leads directly to this entrance from the farmyard. The walls of the barn above the foundation are sheathed in clapboard siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Octagonal ventilation cupolas rise at each end of the roof ridge, which is itself ventilated by a low, full-length monitor.

8. Stable, late nineteenth century

A simple, late nineteenth century stable building pre-dating the estate is located immediately north of the cow barn. The structure is built on a partially raised stone foundation with clapboard siding and a gable roof. Fenestration consists of small, square four-over-four windows. Sliding barn doors are located at the south side facing the farmyard. An octagonal gable end window and a small ventilation cupola appearing at the center of the roof ridge appear to be later modifications dating from the early development of the Merestead estate.

9. Storage/Playhouse Building, early twentieth century

This small, one-story, three-bay, early twentieth century frame structure is situated directly behind the tenant farmhouse. It has clapboard sheathing, a gable roof, six-over-six windows, and a small bracketed hood over the center front door. The building has been used for a variety of purposes including storage and a children's playhouse.

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Merestead/Former Sloane Estate, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY Item number 7

Continuation sheet

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received

date entered

10. Farm support structures, circa 1900

This small farm building group includes four small shed/storage structures which are simple, undecorated, wooden and appear to date from the turn-of-the-century(1900). These structures contribute to the entire farm complex's historic appearance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates ☐ circa 1850 - 1907 Builder/Architect ☐ Delano & Aldrich

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Merestead, the former Sloane Estate, is architecturally and historically significant as a distinguished, architect-designed estate which reflects the early twentieth century lifestyle of the well-to-do who established country seats in scenic northern Westchester County. Merestead, the 1907 country seat of William Sloane, is an outstanding and unaltered example of a large country estate typical of those built by wealthy New York industrialists early in the twentieth century. The distinctive neo-Georgian mansion, designed by the architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich, forms the centerpiece of the estate. A complete set of service buildings designed by the firm remain on the estate, as does a tenant farm complex (portions of which pre-date the estate development). Open spaces, lawns, gardens and woodlands have been maintained in their original locations, complementing the architectural ensemble as originally conceived.

Merestead was constructed between 1906 and 1907, during a period of American architectural history in which historically derived eclectic styles prevailed. This is partially the result of influences exerted by the French Ecole des Beaux-Arts, where many of American's finest architects of this period received their formal education. In the search for appropriate historical sources for important residential commissions, many architects and clients turned to the Georgian architecture of eighteenth-century England and America for inspiration. Merestead represents an extremely handsome twentieth-century interpretation of this style. The mansion is characterized by simplicity and a partially symmetrical plan. Details are derived from historical precedents and are properly scaled and used with a restraint frequently absent from the more ostentatious showplaces of the rich, built contemporaneously with Merestead.

The mansion is the unifying nucleus of the 136-acre estate which in its entirety remains virtually unchanged since its original early 1900s construction. The estate contains all the appropriate hallmarks of fashionable early twentieth century estates constructed in northeastern regions of the United States, including a handsome main house, a working yet picturesque farm complex, formal and informal landscaping, and various distinctive dependencies in a variety of architectural idioms. The Sloanes established the Merestead estate in 1907 by consolidating two adjacent farmsteads.¹ They hired prominent architects Delano and Aldrich to create a variety of new estate buildings and landscapes compatible with the original farm buildings. The result is a successful and distinctive mixture of older and newer estate structures which create a handsome country seat. Merestead contains all the amenities of a distinguished country estate which reflects and fulfills the needs, tastes, and aspirations of a wealthy, New York City based family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Placzek, Adolf K., gen. ed., Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects, 4 vols., New York: Free Press: 1982, vol. 1: Delano and Aldrich, by Stephen McLeod Bedford.
Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approximately 136

Quadrangle name Mount Kisco

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See continuation sheet

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See accompanying map with scale

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Austin O'Brien, Field Representative

organization Historic Preservation Field Services

date August 8, 1984

street & number Empire State Plaza, Building # 1

telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany

state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date 8/23/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-27-84

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Merestead/Former Sloane Estate, Byram Lake Road
Continuation sheet Mount Kisco, NY, Westchester Item number

8

Page 2

The estate was built as a country seat for William Sloane, president of W & J Sloane, a prestigious New York City furniture manufacturing company founded during the nineteenth century by his father. The company continues to manufacture high quality furniture to this day. A collection of furniture manufactured by the company remains in the mansion. The design of Merestead is the product of Delano & Aldrich (William A. Delano 1874-1960, Chester Holmes Aldrich 1871-1940), a New York architectural partnership established in 1903. Both architects were students at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and both initiated their careers in the New York office of Carrère & Hastings. In 1902 they worked together in that office on the construction of the New York Public Library (National Historic Landmark), a monumental Neoclassical building under construction from 1897-1911. The first major commission awarded to Delano & Aldrich after the formation of their partnership was the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, commissioned in 1904. Merestead was commissioned in 1906, early in the partnership and a year before John D. Rockefeller commissioned the architects to design Kykuit (National Historic Landmark), his Pocantico Hills estate outside north Tarrytown. Similar to Merestead, but on a more modest scale, is the Havemeyer House in Irvington built in 1907. Other domestic designs by the firm included the Otto Kahn residence in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1915; the Burden House, Syosset New York, 1916; the Mrs. Willard Straight House, New York, 1920; and the Vicent Astor House, Syosset New York, 1922. The firm is also noted for the following institutional buildings: Christ Church Parish House, Hartford, 1922; the Knickerbocker Club, New York; the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C.; the U.S. Embassy in Paris; the Post Office Building in Washington D.C., 1933; the Union League Club, New York, 1936; the Walland Hanover Building, New York, 1939; La Guardia Terminal, New York, 1941; and several buildings on the campuses of Smith College, Yale University and Cornell University.

Merestead is an architecturally distinguished, early twentieth century country seat in northern Westchester County. Retaining almost complete integrity of siting and design, the complex recalls the lifestyle of America's wealthy industrialists at the turn-of-the-century.

1 Before the Sloanes aquired the property, the area was sparcely settled with scattered farmsteads. The two farms which comprise and pre-date the estate have not been fully documented, but existing information indicates they were established sometime during the mid-nineteenth century. The tenant farmhouse, stable, and farm support buildings (see number seven building list) pre-date the estate development and constitute a portion of the two original farmsteads. The remaining farm buildings were sold off during the mid-twentieth century as part of a nine-acre parcel.

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Merestead/Former Sloane Estate, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY Item number 10

Continuation sheet

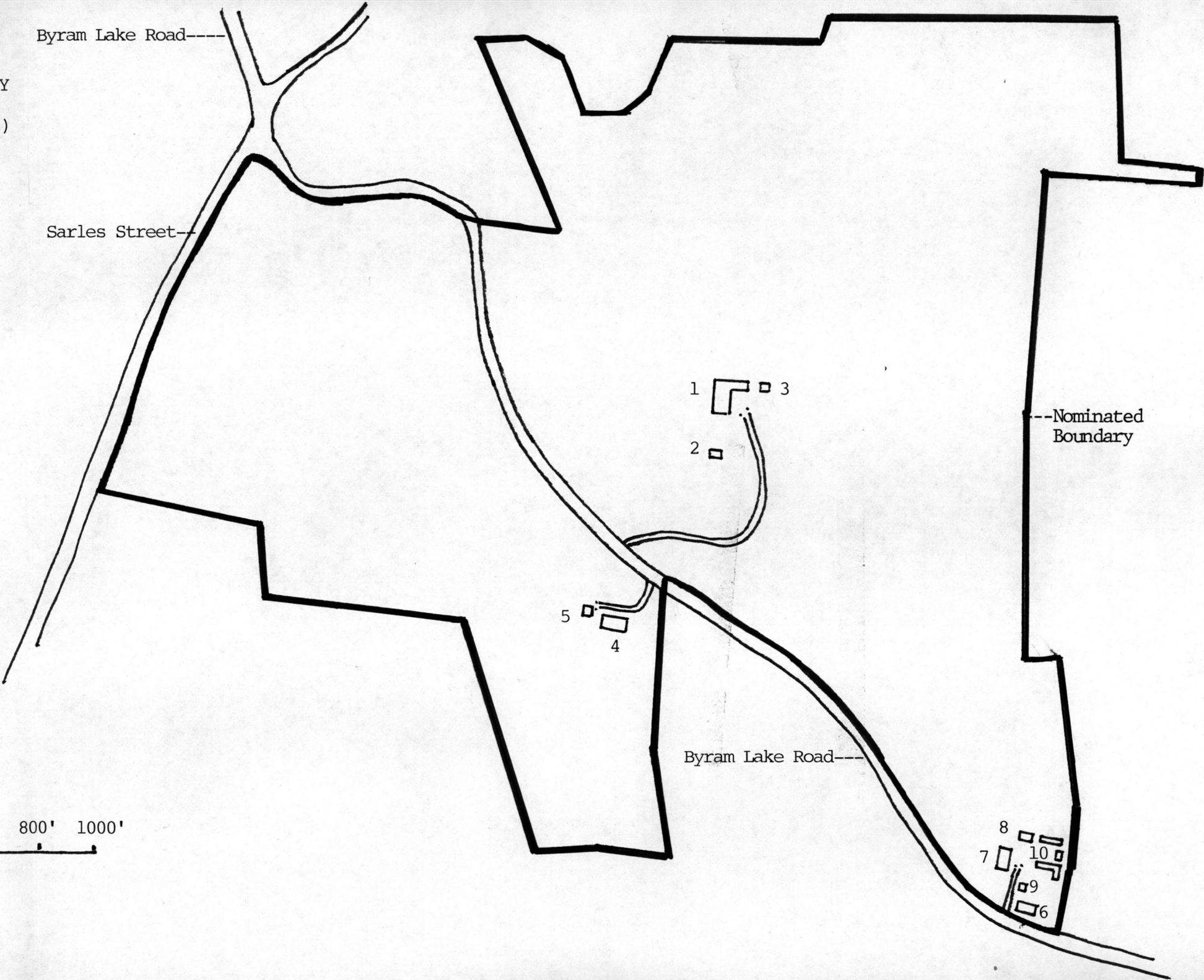
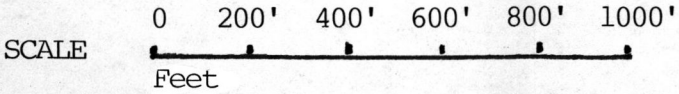
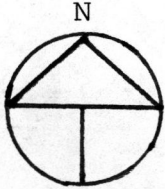
Page 2

Merestead/Former Sloane Estate
Mount Kisco, Westchester County, New York
UTM References, Mount Kisco Quad (All zone 18)

	Easting	Northing
A	608930	4559030
B	608930	4559500
C	609030	4559510
D	608920	4559450
E	608960	4559030
F	609010	4559060
G	609160	4558770
H	609010	4558780
I	608680	4558950
J	608720	4558720
K	608550	4558710
L	608520	4558830
M	608320	4558850
N	608310	4558990
O	608090	4559030
P	608130	4559190
Q	608330	4558200
R	608300	4558440
S	608360	4559460
T	608390	4559360
U	608510	4559350
V	608560	4559530

Merestead/Former Sloane Estate
Mount Kisco, Westchester County, NY
Map with scale/dimension
(Based on town of Bedford tax maps)

- Building/Component Key
- 1 Main House
 - 2 Summer House
 - 3 Garage
 - 4 Carriage House
 - 5 Garage
 - 6 Farm House
 - 7 Cow Barn
 - 8 Stable
 - 9 Playhouse
 - 10 Farm Support Structures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Merestead (Sloane Estate)
Westchester County
NEW YORK

Entered in the
National Register

Working No. AUG 27 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 9/27/84 - 10/11/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-27-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

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

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY
Main House (east side)



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westcehster Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House (west side)

2



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY 82

Main House (south side)



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House (north side)

4



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House/Main east entrance



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House/main entrance hall



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House/Living Room

7



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House/view looking from
Living Room to Dining Room 8



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main House/Dining Room

9



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Garden House and Garden 10



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY

By: A. O'Brien, 1982

Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Carriage House

11



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co, NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

(Carriage House) Garage 12



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Tenant Farmhouse (main facade)

13



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY

By: A. O'Brien, 1982

Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Farm Building (behind farmhouse)

14



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Farm Building Complex



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,
Westchester Co., NY
By: A. O'Brien, 1982
Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Main (Cow) Barn

16



Merestead, Mt. Kisco,

Westchester Co., NY

By: A. O'Brien, 1982

Neg: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Stable

17

Merestead/Former Sloane Estate, Mount Kisco
Westchester County, NY
UTM References/All zone 18
Mount Kisco Quad

	Easting	Northing
A	608930	4559030
B	608930	4559500
C	609030	4559510
D	608920	4559450
E	608960	4559030
F	609010	4559060
G	609160	4558770
H	609010	4558780
I	608680	4558950
J	608720	4558720
K	608550	4558710
L	608520	4558830
M	608320	4558850
N	608310	4558990
O	608090	4559030
P	608130	4559190
Q	608330	4558200
R	608300	4558440
S	608360	4559460
T	608390	4559360
U	608510	4559350
V	608560	4559530

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system,
east zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———
Interstate Route ———
MOUNT KISCO, N. Y.—CONN.

N4107.5—W7337.5/7.5

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 6266 II NW—SERIES V821



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & CONSERVATION

JOSEPH M. CAVERLY
Commissioner

ROBERT E. DISPENZA
Deputy Commissioner

JAMES E. ARLES
Deputy Commissioner

October 21, 1982

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Parks & Recreation
Agency Building I
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

RE: "MERESTEAD" ESTATE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION

We would like to strongly recommend that Merestead be selected for the Register of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation, as well as the National Register. We have been actively involved with Mrs. and Dr. Patterson in their donation of Merestead to the Westchester County and believe that it merits such registration.

The 26-room Georgian Mansion and its surrounding 135 acres will allow the public to view the elegant lifestyle of this family and be able to re-live this lifestyle when it is opened by Westchester as its first County-owned and operated museum. This 74 year old Georgian-style brick mansion was designed by Delano and Aldrich and exhibits outstanding workmanship reflecting the craftsmanship of that period. The current lady of the house, Margaret Sloane Patterson, was born in an upstairs bedroom and wants to share, as an educational process, the day-to-day living process with the future generations. The house still looks as it did when she was a child--with the hunting prints lining the staircase, family portraits, and autographs of Charles Lamb, Robert Southey, and almost all the American Presidents. Many of the Presidential autographs are on letters addressed to her family, including one from Theodore Roosevelt thanking her father for his work in establishing Young Men's Christian Association Chapters, some which have memorialized him by taking the name Sloane House.

Her husband, Dr. Robert Patterson, a retired orthopedic surgeon, was surgeon in chief of the hospital for special surgery and professor of orthopedics at Cornell Medical College and is now consultant for several veterans' hospitals. Dr. Patterson served in World War II as an army doctor in Europe. They moved into Merestead when Mrs. Patterson's mother died in 1962.

The Pattersons have added treasures of their own, some are gifts from Dr. Patterson's patients, including an autograph photo of the Duke and Dutchess of Windsor and a letter from Eugene O'Neill. They plan to bring a collection of old engravings of New York from their city apartment such as an 18th Century sideboard. Most of the furniture came from W. & J. Sloane, the furnishings store that her great grandfather



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founded. Her father was president of the store when he built the house in 1907. There is also a piano, a Steinway, given to her father by Mr. Steinway.

"People will be able to see just how we lived in those days," said Mrs. Patterson, who was born in 1910, as she reminisced about a bygone lifestyle.

We think it is vitally important that this outstanding mansion and adjoining property be listed on the Register to help insure that this facility will remain a living museum to the lifestyle of that era.

If you need any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Caverly
Commissioner


By Robert E. Dispenza
Deputy Commissioner

JC:RED:mp

cc: Ms. Ann Webster Smith
Deputy Comr. for Historic Preservation

file NY Miller 7-31-85

H32 (413)

AUG 1 1985

Mrs. Robert L. Patterson
Post Office Box 59
Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 1985, requesting confirmation that "Merestead" in Westchester County, New York, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This letter certifies that "Merestead," also known as Sloane Estate, was listed in the National Register on September 27, 1984. For your information, we are enclosing a copy of the National Register nomination form. The National Park Service does not provide plaques for properties listed in the National Register. We suggest that you contact Orin Lehman, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, to ascertain whether or not a State or local organization might do so. Mr. Lehman's address is: Commissioner, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12238.

If we can provide further information or assistance, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division

Enclosure

bcc:413

Reading Files
Records Center

FNP:DMiller:dm/kb:07/29/85:343-9536

Sys 8 (NRH) Patterson

/Basic Files Retained in 413

research

"MERESTEAD"
P. O. BOX 59
MOUNT KISCO, N. Y. 10549

National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs -

In November of 1984,
I received a letter from
Commissioner Orrin Lehman
of N.Y. State informing
me that my house -
"Merestead" had been
listed in the State and

National registers of historic places.

I have had no notice from you to this effect and am therefore writing to ask you to confirm this listing and to give me any information on the qualifications of my house, and how I may get a plaque or sign to authenticate it.

I am delighted to have my house so designated and so is the County

"MERESTEAD"
P. O. BOX 59
MOUNT KISCO, N. Y. 10549

Parks Dept
of Westchester (New York),
to whom we have
granted its use by
our wills.

I hope to hear from
you.

Sincerely,

Maynard Irene Patterson
(Mrs. Robert L. Patterson)

May 5th

