



## FINDING AID

# **MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RECORDS, 1998-2011 (bulk dates: 2001-2005)**

Prepared by  
Laura Anderson  
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National Park Service

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## ***HISTORY***

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is the only national park to focus on conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. Opened in June 1998, Vermont's first national park preserves and interprets the historic Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller property.

The Park is named for George Perkins Marsh, one of the nation's first global environmental thinkers, who grew up on the property, and for Frederick Billings, an early conservationist who established a progressive dairy farm and professionally managed forest on the former Marsh farm. Frederick Billings's granddaughter, Mary French Rockefeller, and her husband, conservationist Laurance S. Rockefeller, sustained Billings's mindful practices in forestry and farming on the property over the latter half of the 20th century. In 1983, they established the Billings Farm & Museum to continue the farm's working dairy and to interpret rural Vermont life and agricultural history.

The park was created in 1992, when the Rockefellers gifted the estate's residential and forest lands to the people of the United States. Today, the Park interprets the history of conservation with tours of the mansion and the surrounding 550-acre forest.

The records in this collection were produced by park staff and contractors. This archival collection consists of correspondence, notes, reports, forms, drawings, blueprints, maps, publications, photographs, negatives and slides that document the establishment of the park and its ongoing operations and preservation.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL  
PARK RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RECORDS, 1998-2011  
(bulk dates: 2001-2005)

<i>CATALOG NUMBER</i>	MABI 13384
<i>VOLUME</i>	2.5 LF
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	Collection consists of correspondence, notes, records, reports, forms, drawings, blueprints, maps, and photographs that document the establishment of the park and its ongoing operations and preservation.
<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	<p>This collection is organized into five series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Series I-Cultural Resource Records</li><li>Series II-Natural Resource Records</li><li>Series III-Facilities &amp; Maintenance Records</li><li>Series IV-Interpretation &amp; Education Records</li><li>Series V-Management &amp; Administration Records</li></ul> <p>Each series will have sub-series (to be determined), which will contain file units.</p>
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Park staff and contractors
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	NO
<i>ASSOCIATED MATERIALS</i>	

***HIERARCHY***

SERIES I: CULTURAL RESOURCE RECORDS, 1998-2011 (bulk dates: 2001-2005)

SUBSERIES A: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE RECORDS, 2001-2005

SERIES II: NATURAL HISTORY RECORDS

SERIES III: MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES RECORDS

SERIES IV: INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION RECORDS

SERIES V: MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION RECORDS

## ***SERIES DESCRIPTIONS***

### ***I. SERIES I: CULTURAL RESOURCE RECORDS, 1998-2011 (bulk dates: 2001-2005)***

These records have not yet been processed, with the exception of sub-series A, Cultural Landscape Records.

This series is subdivided into sub-series:

Sub-Series A - Cultural Landscapes

#### ***A. SUBSERIES A: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE RECORDS, 2001-2005***

These records document the research reports, documentation, preservation and treatment work conducted on the cultural landscapes at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park since its establishment as a national park in 1998. Record types: reports, research notes, correspondence, photographs, maps and plans. The collection currently consists of the Cultural Landscape Report Project Files but will expand as more records are accessioned into this collection.

### ***II. SERIES II: NATURAL HISTORY RECORDS***

These records have not yet been processed.

### ***III. SERIES III: MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES RECORDS***

These records have not yet been processed.

### ***IV. SERIES IV: INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION RECORDS***

These records have not yet been processed.

### ***V. SERIES V: MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION RECORDS***

These records have not yet been processed.

## **FILE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS**

*SERIES I: CULTURAL RESOURCE RECORDS, 1998-2011 (bulk dates: 2001-2005)*

*SUBSERIES A: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE RECORDS, 2001-2005*

### **001. CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT PROJECT FILES, 2001-2005 (MABI-65)**

These records document the research conducted in preparation for the park's Cultural Landscape Report, published in 2005. It is a compilation of reports, receipts, correspondence, photographs, maps, plans, and preservation and treatment work conducted on the cultural landscapes at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. The project was completed by John Auwaerter, Research Scientist, Faculty of Landscape Architecture in cooperation with the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Syracuse, NY 13210. State University of NY, College of Environmental Science & Forestry. *Almost all of the historic photographic images in this file unit are copies taken from originals in the Billings Family Archives, and have copyright restrictions.*

Records include:

Box 1: Planning, Correspondence and Administrative Records; Site History Research Files

Box 2: Site History Research Files

Box 3: Photographs and Graphics

Box 4: Photographs and Graphics

Box 5: Photographic Negatives

Box 6: Digital files

Map Drawer 4: Various maps and Plans

## ***CONTAINER LIST***

Container List for Cultural Landscape Report Research Files (001.001.001 / MABI-65)

### **BOX 1: Planning, Correspondence and Administrative Records**

1. MABI Survey, Bruno Associates
2. CLR Project Agreement
3. Copyright Documentation for Graphics
4. Research Leads/Plans, Bibliographies
5. Correspondence (Olmsted Center)
6. Research Correspondence
7. CLR Outline
8. CLR Review Comments
9. Library of Congress Cataloging / CIP – ISBN
10. Printing / GPO Purchase Order

#### Site History Research Files

11. Horticultural Inventories: 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and two more with no dates

### **BOX 2: Site History Research Files**

12. Research Notes on Index Cards, primarily BFA research
  - a. Bundle 1: pre-Marsh, Marsh and Frederick Billings eras
  - b. Bundle 2: Billings' Heirs, Rockefellers, NPS, and References
13. Curator Janet Houghton's Site History Synopsis, Compilation of Quotes
14. Woodstock History, Elm Street
15. Robert Morris Copeland
16. Charles A. Platt
17. Ellen Shipman
18. Zenon Schreiber, Rock Gardens
19. Martha Brookes Hutcheson
20. Bryan Lynch
21. Theodor Muller
22. Conservation Forestry by Daniel J. Nadenicek, *Frederick Billings and the Intellectual and Practical Influences on Forest Planting, 1840-1890*
23. *The Billings Farm*, an essay by John H. McDill
24. Vermont Geological Survey by David P. Stewart, 1975 (includes 7 folded maps)
25. Geology

26. Pre-Marsh Era, Pre-1789, Abenaki
27. Marsh Family, 1789-1869. This folder also contains three subfolders of documents copied from the BFA:
  - a. Marsh Homestead Deeds, 1859 (Rev. B.C.C. Parker)
  - b. Charles Marsh, Jr. Miscellaneous Deeds & Mortgages, 1847-1869
  - c. Marsh House and Farm Deed, 1869
28. Photocopies of Marsh material from the UVM Archives, includes a copy of Charles Marsh's will
29. Frederick & Julia Billings, 1869-1890, also contains information on William Ralph Emerson
30. Julia Parmly Billings Autobiographical Notes through 1908
31. Estate of Frederick Billings, 1890-1914
32. The Billings Heirs, 1914-1952
33. *Thoughts and Meditations from the Notebooks of Mary M. Billings French*, compiled by Anna V. Rice, 1955
34. Mary and Laurance Rockefeller, 1952-1992
35. NPS, 1992-2001
36. Property Tax Assessment Forms, 1967-68
37. Gardener's Cottage, 3 North Street
38. Bungalow
39. Upper Meadow & Vegetable (Kitchen) Garden
40. Terrace Gardens
41. Hillside Gardens
42. Woodland Garden / Woodshed
43. Drives (Avenues) & Paths
44. Belvedere / Greenhouses, includes an article on Detlef Lienau
45. Mansion Areas / Lawns
46. Archaeology
47. Historic Structures Research: includes general context, Carriage Barn, Belvedere, Mansion, Bungalow, Double Cottage, Gardener's House, Pony Shed, Laundry, Marsh Homestead/Octagon Cottage, Woodshed
48. Background Materials from the Carriage Barn CLR, 1997
49. Horticultural Receipts, 1880s
50. Horticultural Receipts, 1890s
51. Horticultural Receipts, 1960s-1990s

#### Existing Conditions, Analysis & Treatment Research Materials

52. Existing Conditions
53. Analysis Research, includes National Register information and statements of significance, 1997 CLR for Carriage Barn, and 1995 List of Classified Structures
54. Treatment Research
55. Complete set of images reproduced for Cultural Landscape Report from the Billings Family Archives

### BOX 3: Photographs and Graphics

56. CLR Volume I Photographs & Graphics, Chapters 1-3
57. CLR Volume I Photographs & Graphics, Chapter 4
58. CLR Volume I Photographs & Graphics, Chapters 5-7, Appendix
59. CLR Volume II Photographs & Graphics, Chapters 1-4 (images taken in 2001)
60. CLR Volume II Photographs & Graphics, Chapters 5-6 (images taken in 2001)
61. CLR Volume III Photographs & Graphics

### BOX 4: Photographs and Graphics

62. Photographic Research Files of Mansion Grounds (arranged by decade): Correspondence, Pre-1870s, 1870s, 1880s
63. Photographic Research Files of Mansion Grounds (arranged by decade): 1890s, 1900-1910, 1910-1920
64. Photographic Research Files of Mansion Grounds (arranged by decade): 1920s, 1930s, 1940s
65. Photographic Research Files of Mansion Grounds (arranged by decade): 1950s-1990s
66. Existing Conditions Photographs, 2000-2001: Context
67. Existing Conditions Photographs, 2000-2001: Terrace Gardens, Hill, Waterfall Garden, Lily Pond, Upper Meadow
68. Black & White Photographs of Mansion Grounds, Forest and Billings Farm taken by Foulds in 1993-1994
69. Photographs of Historic Maps, various copyrights (these were removed from Folder 72 in Map Drawer 4 to be stored with similar materials)

### BOX 5: Photographic Negatives

70. Negatives of Mansion Grounds, 2000-2002
71. Negatives (polyester) of Historic Maps of Estate Utilities, 1978 (these were removed from Folder 72 in Map Drawer 4 to be stored with similar materials)

### BOX 6: Digital Files on CD

- CLR Volumes I, II, III in PDF Format (3 CDs)
- CLR Volumes I, II, III Master Printing CDs from the Government Printing Office (5 CDs)
- Researcher's Digital Research Files on CD (4 CDs)

### Map Drawer 4: Oversize Maps & Plans

72. Copies of Historic Maps and Plans used for CLR Research (accompanying photographs now stored in Folder 69; accompanying negatives stored in Folder 71)
73. Folder of Oversize Maps and Plan including:

- 4 Oversize Site Plans of Mansion Grounds
- 2 Oversize Views of Easement by Bruno Associates
- Oversize Map of Area
- Oversize copy of Ellen Shipman's Planting Plan for the Flower Garden (original is in the BFA)
- Oversize Map of Woodstock
- Oversize Map of Drainage Improvements, 1981
- 3 Oversize Maps of Secondary Entrance to Drive, 1978
- Map of Proposed Screen Planning, 1971
- Map of Lawn Irrigation, 1976
- Map of Billings Estate, 1887-88
- Folder of Oversize Maps & Plans of Estate & Gardens (misc)
- Folder of 23 Oversize Maps & Plans of Estate & Gardens
- Utility Site Plan, 1998