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L Martin Van Buren

master plan

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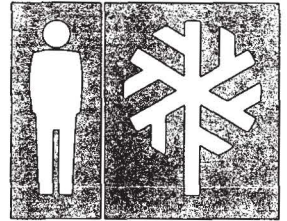
LINDENWALD

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ● NEW YORK

Color Scans

5/30/2003

master plan.



LINDENWALD

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ● NEW YORK

RECOMMENDED John W. Bright
Chief, Office of Environmental Planning and Design
February 18, 1970

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Director, Northeast Regional Office
February 18, 1970

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1	
REGIONAL PROFILE	2	
Location	2	Location Map
Physical Features	3	
Population Characteristics	3	
The Economy	3	
Transportation	4	Existing Land-Use Map
Nearby Historical and Recreational Areas	5	Vicinity Map
	6	Martin Van Buren's Grave in Kinderhook Cemetery, Photo
	7	Nearby Parks and Historic Sites
THE RESOURCE	8	
Van Buren Biography	8	
Lindenwald History	10	Lindenwald Farm — 1845, Map
Physical Description of Lindenwald	11	
	12	Lindenwald Floor Plan, 1848
	13	Richard Upjohn's 1849 Sketch, Photo
	13	Lindenwald Circa 1908, Photo
	14	Lindenwald 1969, Photo
PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT		
CATEGORY; OBJECTIVES	16	
Purpose	16	
Management Category	16	
Objectives	16	
THE PLAN	18	
Administration	18	
Resource Management	18	
	19	Land Acquisition and Zoning Plan
	21	Land Classification Plan
Interpretation	23	
Cooperation with Others	26	
	27	General Development Plan
Phasing of Development	28	
EPILOGUE	29	
APPENDIX	30	
Restoration and Rehabilitation		
Requirements for Lindenwald	30	

INTRODUCTION

Since the first decade of this century, many efforts have been made to preserve Lindenwald, the home of Martin Van Buren near Kinderhook, New York, as a public historic site. Numerous attempts at the State level to preserve the house failed. Subsequent appeals to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and to the Taconic State Park Commission of New York were also unsuccessful.

To continue the campaign for protection of the site, the Association for the Preservation of Lindenwald was formed in 1936. In 1937, this organization sought introduction of a bill for the acquisition of Lindenwald by the State of New York. Simultaneously, it solicited the interest of the National Park Service for possible restoration and administration of the site as a historic shrine.

Interest in the Lindenwald project was expressed by the National Park Service as early as November 1935 and resulted in a historical report, "Lindenwald, the President Martin Van Buren Homestead." On July 4, 1961, Lindenwald was registered as a national historic landmark in recognition of its exceptional value due to its association with President Martin Van Buren.

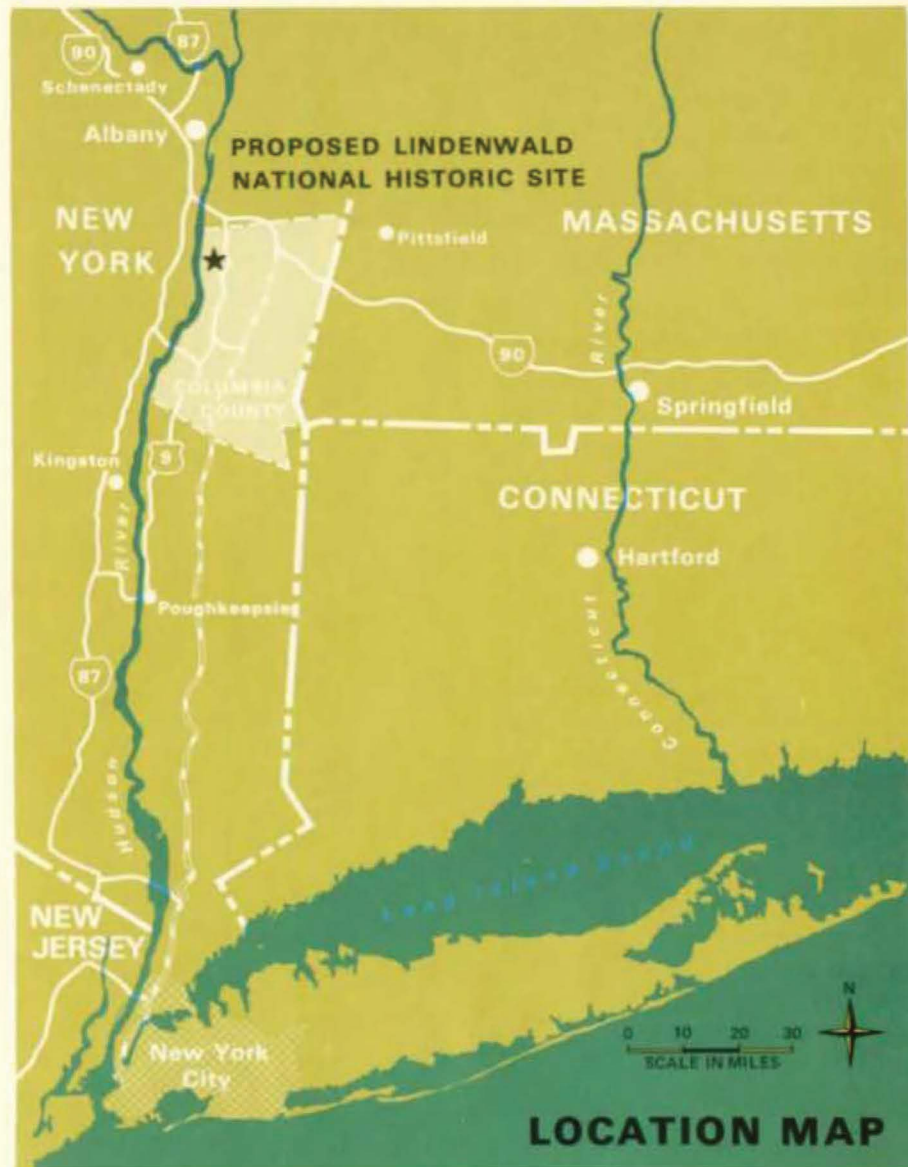
More recently, the Congress asked the National Park Service to do a suitability and feasibility study concerning the establishment of a Lindenwald National Historic Site. The report was published in 1966 and included not only an affirmative recommendation, but also three alternatives for the preservation of the site. In April 1967, the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments endorsed the proposal to establish a national historic site at Lindenwald. Senator Charles E. Goodell and Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., followed by introducing bills in the Congress to establish a Lindenwald Historic Site to be administered by the National Park Service.

This master plan report is designed to provide material for the consideration of the Congress of the United States, and as a management blueprint for the National Park Service, should the area be established.

REGIONAL PROFILE

Location

Lindenwald, the home of Martin Van Buren, is located in Columbia County, New York. It lies several miles from the Hudson River in the northwestern part of the county between the villages of Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Falls. Columbia is a rural county situated along the mid-portion of the Hudson Valley about 100 miles north of New York City and about 25 miles south of Albany. It extends east from the Hudson River to the Massachusetts State line on the crest of the Taconic Mountains.



Physical Features

On the extreme western side of the county, a 100-foot-high bluff overlooks the Hudson River with its low-lying and largely wooded islands and peninsulas. East of the bluff is a 5-mile-wide strip of flat-to-gently-rolling farmland and wooded creek valleys. Lindenwald is located on well-drained loamy soils in this type of terrain.

East of Lindenwald to the village of Chatham the terrain becomes more rugged, gradually rising to over 2,000 feet on the crest of the Taconic Mountains.

The climate of Columbia County is the humid continental type, modified somewhat in the summer by the maritime climate of southeastern New York. Cold air masses from Canada sweep down the Hudson Valley, causing winters to be cold and occasionally severe. Wind velocities are generally moderate, and destructive winds occur infrequently.

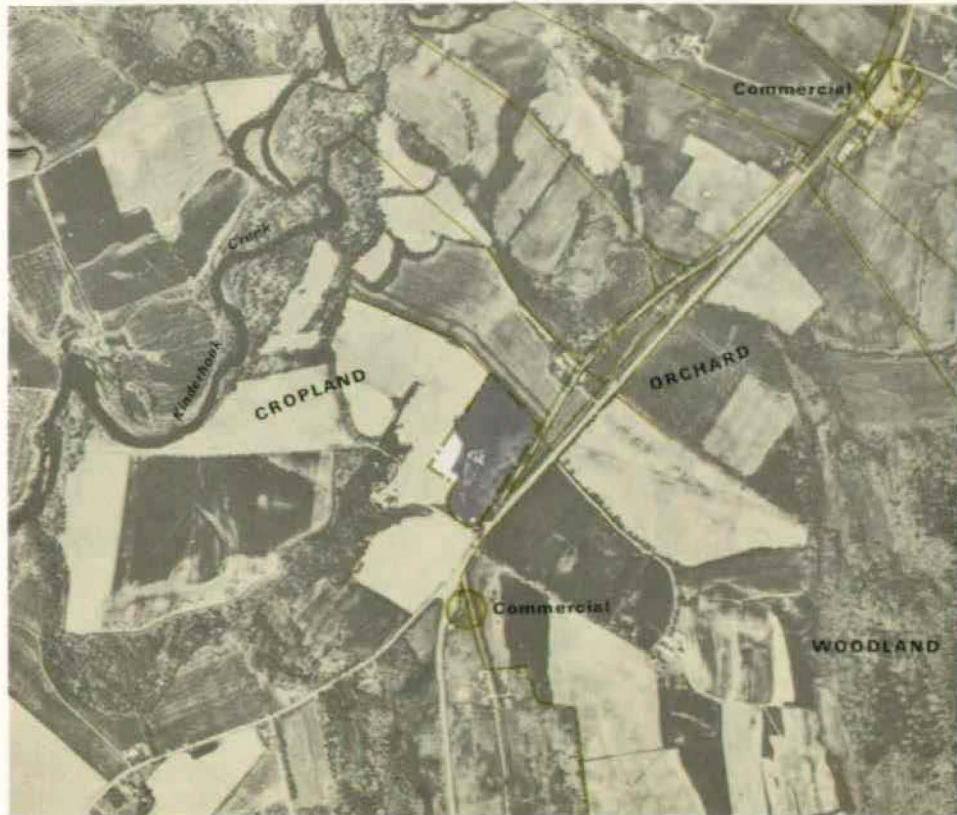
Population Characteristics

Most of Columbia County's residents live in small villages or on farms. The only real urban area is the City of Hudson, whose 1960 population was 11,075. Kinderhook, the nearest village to Lindenwald, had a population just over 1,000. Columbia County had a population of 47,322 in 1960, and except for mountainous Green County, this was the lowest population of all counties along the middle and lower Hudson Valley. Urban pressure will probably not be too great for Columbia County in the immediate future. The New York State Office for Regional Development forecasts a population of about 65,000 by the year 1985. This is an increase of almost 40 percent, but the density will still be a low 100 persons per square mile.

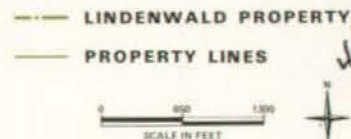
The Economy

Columbia is one of New York State's leading agricultural counties. Nearly half of its area is in farmland, giving the landscape a distinctive rural atmosphere. In the last agricultural census (1964), the county's total value of all agricultural products amounted to 17-1/2 million dollars. Milk is the leading product; nearly half of the 700 commercial farms are dairy farms. The county also specializes in the production of fruit, and to a lesser extent, sweet corn. In 1964, over 100 fruit farms harvested almost 50 million pounds of apples and a significant amount of pears, grapes, and cherries.

Lindenwald is located in Kinderhook Township. This township, along with nearby Stuyvesant, led the county in total acreage in farms and in the production of apples, sweet corn, and potatoes. This is also one of the leading sections of the county in milk production.



EXISTING LAND USE



Excluding farmers, about 9,000 persons were employed by private enterprises in Columbia County during 1967. Over one-third of these worked in manufacturing industries. The number of employees in manufacturing was substantially lower than in the more populous adjacent counties of Rensselaer and Dutchess.

The Hudson River up to Albany has a dredged 32-foot channel which can handle most ocean-going ships. However, few industries in the county depend on river transportation. Most of them are located along the major highways or in the City of Hudson and the larger villages.

Although there are several historic sites and public recreation areas in Columbia County, tourism does not seem to be a major part of the economy. Facilities that cater to tourists are small in number. For example, in 1967 there were only eight motels and hotels in the county, with a total employment of 70 people.

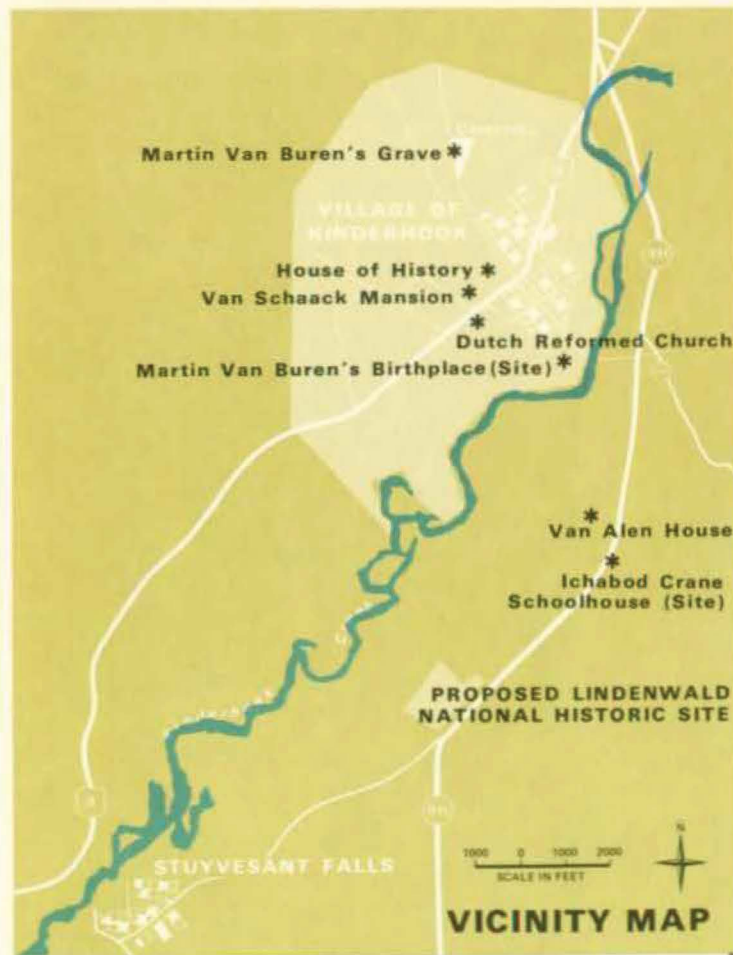
Transportation

Two major traffic arteries—Interstate 87 and Interstate 90—lie near Lindenwald. Interstate 87 parallels the west bank of the Hudson opposite Lindenwald and is the principal north-south highway corridor between New York City, Albany, and Montreal.

Interstate 90, about 10 miles north of Lindenwald, is the major east-west corridor between Boston and Buffalo. It serves Springfield, Albany, and the numerous industrial cities in New York's Mohawk Valley, including Utica, Syracuse, and Rochester.

Scenic Taconic State Parkway is also an important route that passes near Lindenwald. Longest and best known of New York State's parkways, it runs north from White Plains to join I-90 near Old Chatham.

From these major routes, Lindenwald can be reached via State Route 9H which lies adjacent to Lindenwald.



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Nearby Historical and Recreational Areas

The charming village of Kinderhook—only 2 miles from Lindenwald—is a neat cluster of homes with a historical flavor. Many of its residences and churches date from the late 1700's or early 1800's, including the Van Alen House, a restored 1737 Dutch farm home, and the House of History, an 1810 structure where the story of the area's early 18th-century culture is told. The Columbia County Historical Society operates these two properties. One block from the House of History are the interesting Van Schaack mansion and the Kinderhook Reformed Church. Martin Van Buren's grave is in one of the village cemeteries and the site of his birthplace is also in the village.

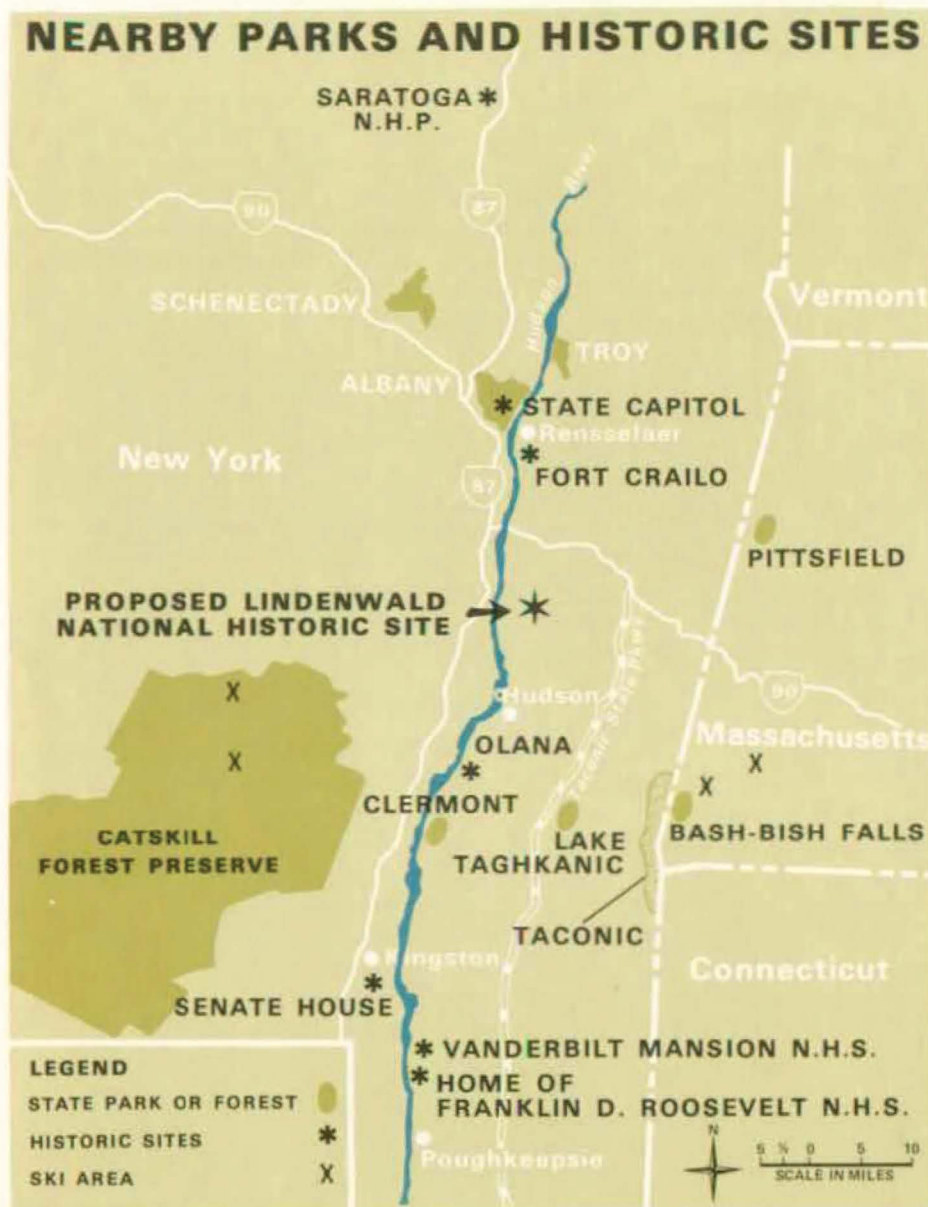
In addition to the village of Kinderhook, there are over 20 historic places of interest along the Hudson River between Hyde Park and Saratoga Springs that are within an hour's drive of Lindenwald, including Vanderbilt Mansion and Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Sites.

The City of Albany has a dozen places of historic interest, including the State Capitol, one of this country's most notable public buildings. North of Albany near Stillwater is the Saratoga National Historical Park, site of the turning point of the Revolution and one of the decisive battles in world history.

Numerous State parks are within an hour's drive of Lindenwald, offering camping, picnicking, water sports, and hiking.



*Martin Van Buren's grave
in Kinderhook Cemetery*



1968 VISITATION TO SELECTED NEARBY PARKS

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	309,000
VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE	277,000
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	170,000
LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK	250,000 - 300,000
TACONIC STATE PARK	115,000 - 160,000
OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE	40,000 - 60,000

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THE RESOURCE

Van Buren Biography

During the first half of the 19th century there were few years when Martin Van Buren was not either a political office-holder or a candidate. Van Buren's public career touched every branch of government, and the respect of his colleagues, including opponents, for his mastery of political maneuvers is revealed in the many nicknames earned in his career: "Little Magician," "Red Fox," and "the American Talleyrand."

Martin Van Buren, the first President born under the American flag, was born in Kinderhook, New York, on December 5, 1782. His family had come to America as indentured servants from Amsterdam. His father was a tavern-keeper and farmer. Martin left school at 14 to become an apprentice lawyer. He stood before his first jury at 15.

Van Buren found his milieu in the rough politics of New York. Beginning with the office of surrogate, then State senator and attorney general, Van Buren gained control of a state-wide political organization called the Albany Regency. He shrewdly used the Regency to establish a political base which led to the U.S. Senate in 1821. By 1827, Van Buren had emerged as the principal northern leader for Andrew Jackson, and after a brief term as Governor of New York, he was rewarded with the Cabinet post of Secretary of State. A conflict in the Cabinet which developed between Jackson men and supporters of Vice President Calhoun was solved when Van Buren resigned, setting a precedent followed by Jackson's antagonists. The President rewarded Van Buren with an appointment as ambassador to England. In London, prepared to enjoy the social atmosphere of his office, Van Buren received word that his appointment had not been confirmed by the Senate. He thus became the martyr of the Jacksonian Democrats, and, in 1832, Jackson's Vice President. Jackson's choice of Van Buren as his successor assured the pinnacle of political success for him in 1836.

The campaign of 1836 was the first one in which presidential candidates traveled about to make speeches and distribute campaign biographies. In the Jacksonian Era, it had been found that the vote of the common man was not to be despised; and with Van Buren, the rough-and-tumble politics he had mastered throughout his career were now part of the highest office in America.

Looking back over the long struggle to his beginnings in Kinderhook, Van Buren triumphantly purchased Lindenwald, the mansion once owned by a boyhood friend, William Van Ness. He hoped for two terms as President before retiring to Lindenwald as an elder statesman. But since he was in office partly through the influence of the still-powerful Jackson, he found himself perhaps the first President to be burdened with the policies of his predecessor. The most disastrous result of this, and the flaw that most marred his term in office, was the Panic of 1837. The boom-and-bust cycle of the 19th century, abetted by Jackson's fiscal policy, fell upon Van

Buren's shoulders, and while he had not caused the depression, he was a handy scapegoat. It was not the fashion of the times for the Federal Government to attempt massive relief of the economic dilemma on an individual level, but Van Buren did advocate setting up a Federal treasury and sub-treasuries to divorce public funds from private money. In so doing, he jeopardized his second term because the measure attacked many "pet" banks in which Jackson men had interests.

Although the issues were real, they were scarcely mentioned in the campaign of 1840. This was the first campaign in which the Whig Party played an important part. The Whigs waged a campaign based solely on public image—and Martin Van Buren was an easy target.

The "Red Fox of Kinderhook," so-called because of his fluffy red sideburns, had always had a penchant for elegance. He was once described attired in "an elegant snuff-colored broadcloth suit with a velvet collar, an orange cravat with modest lace tips, vest a pearl hue, trousers white duck, shoes morocco, kid gloves, long-furred beaver hat with broad brim." These fastidious touches belied the amiable accessibility which had made him a successful politician. The man whom John Quincy Adams had called "the friend of all the world" also loved to play host at the White House, while a band played popular tunes in a major key. The Whigs capitalized on this, and charged that Van Buren spent while the Nation starved. He had expended a third of what Jackson spent to patch the White House, but the Whigs shouted that it was bedecked like a Roman villa. This was the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" campaign, with "Old Tippecanoe" Harrison, a Virginia aristocrat living in a mansion to equal Van Buren's, cashing in on the log-cabin image. At the same time that he was being painted as an aristocrat, Van Buren's decree of a ten-hour day for laborers on public works branded him a dangerous radical, according to the Whigs. The pendulum had swung from the time when the voter wanted a White House occupant who was wealthy, snobbish, and elegant, to the opposite extreme where a man not campaigning in old clothes was the object of suspicion. With the era of the common man in full swing, the voters emerged in unprecedented numbers. Martin Van Buren, one of the most truly democratic Presidents, now hopelessly associated with gold spoons and revelry, was defeated by a log-cabin myth.

Van Buren accepted defeat philosophically. He was the first President to welcome the winner from another party to the White House. He had every expectation of returning to office, and when he retired to Lindenwald, it was to play host in the banquet hall and maintain his contact with public figures. But the banquet hall did not echo the excitement Van Buren had known in Washington, perhaps partly because of his unpopular stand on certain issues after leaving the White House. He lost his party's nomination in 1844 because of his opposition to the annexation of Texas, and the attendant

threat of war. His growing inclination against the expansion of slavery led to his candidacy for President on the Free Soil Ticket in 1848. It is a matter of speculation whether the old magic had ceased to work for the "Little Magician," or whether the enormity of the issues of expansion, war, and slavery prompted him to lay aside some of what he had learned of political expediency. In any case, politics was his life, and, as a supporter of Lincoln, he maintained his active interest in public affairs until his death in 1862.

A later President, Harry S. Truman, once said to a colleague who was chafing under political attack, "if you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen."

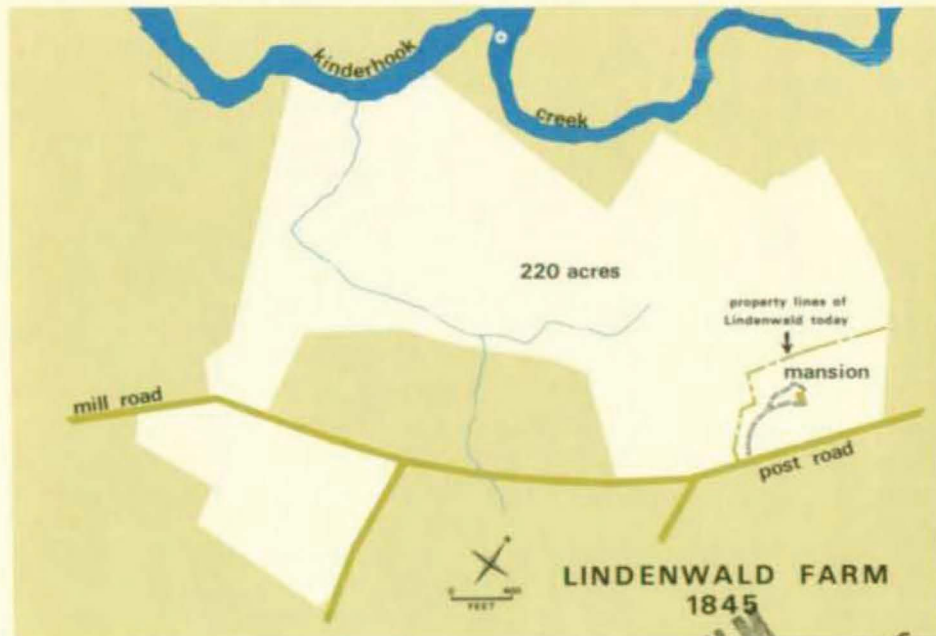
Martin Van Buren thrived on the heat.

Lindenwald History

The history of Lindenwald antedates by many years its purchase by Martin Van Buren. The original house was built in 1797 by Peter Van Ness, a public figure of considerable local prominence.

The builder's son, William, inherited the property upon his father's death in 1804 and retained it until 1824. During this period, Washington Irving was a frequent guest and, for a time, also tutor to the Van Ness children. It is claimed by some that Irving wrote, or at least planned, some of his stories while at the Van Ness home. William Paulding, Jr., bought the house at an auction in 1824.

In 1839, Martin Van Buren purchased the property which consisted of the house and some 130 acres of land. Within 6 years he had purchased enough additional land to bring his total holdings to approximately 220 acres.



While living at Lindenwald, the former President, a widower, enjoyed the families of his sons. According to unconfirmed sources, Van Buren did not enter farming commercially, but rather raised the crops and animals necessary for the perpetuation of the estate. His famous visitors included Henry Clay, Sam Tilden, Winfield Scott, David Wilmott, Frank Blair, and Thomas Benton.

Since Martin Van Buren's death in 1862, the property has changed hands several times, and each time the acreage has been substantially reduced.

One owner, Leonard Jerome, was the maternal grandfather of one of the 20th century's great men, Winston S. Churchill. In more recent years the mansion has served as a rest home.

The present property, consisting of 12.836 acres, was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Campbell in 1957. Mr. Campbell operates an antique business at the south entrance gate to Lindenwald.

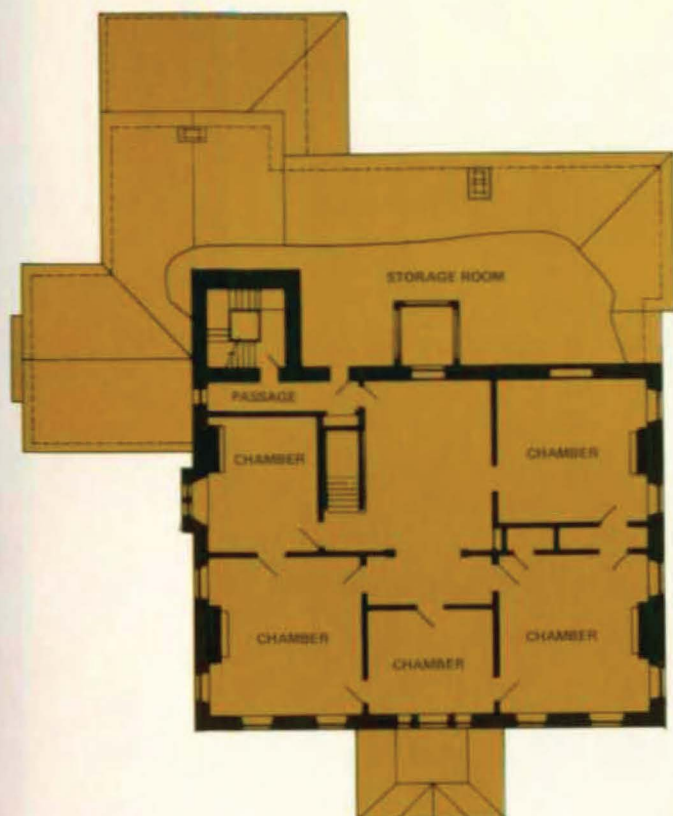
Physical Description of Lindenwald

The Mansion

The mansion at Lindenwald currently represents a series of alterations and additions extending from its construction in the late 18th century and into the 20th century. The original house erected in 1797 is a substantial Federal type with finely executed interior woodwork, mantels and trim, plaster cornices, fluted baseboards, Palladian entrance door, and a central Palladian window above the entrance. The first major alteration occurred in the early 19th century with the removal of the stairway in the first floor central hall to create a ballroom approximately 42 feet long by 15 feet wide. The stair was relocated at that time to an enclosure in the den with the resulting alcove formed off the south parlor in the Gothic style which is in contrast to the classic Federal woodwork of the room. The Gothic Revival style was first recorded in the Tarrytown area in 1838 to 1840. It is possible that the ballroom was the first of the Van Buren alterations. The Palladian-style ballroom retains its original features including the French wallpaper, "Paysage á Chasses."

Van Buren engaged Richard Upjohn in 1849 to design a wing which was added to the rear and formed an ell on the southwest. The addition and the brick tower were erected in the Italianate style. Also a part of the Van Buren additions was a heavily styled Victorian entrance porch. Two dormers and a central gable were added to the front roof slope of the 1797 portion and a dormer on the rear slope to light the third floor. Two original windows in each of the end gables were closed at that time.

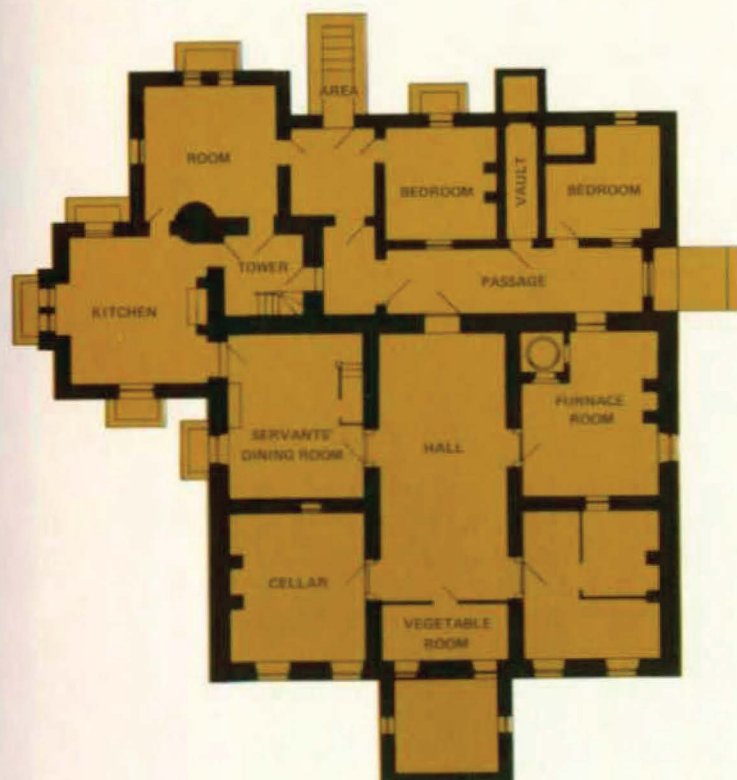
The 1797 house and the 1849 addition have a total of 36 rooms and passageways. Most of the rooms are located at the basement and first-floor levels.



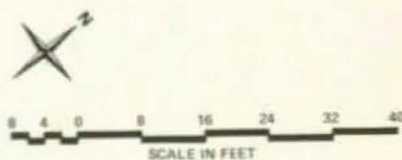
Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Basement Plan



LINDENWALD
CIRCA 1848



Richard Upjohn's 1849 sketch



Lindenwald circa 1908

The 20th-century additions by recent owners include a southern colonial portico extending across the front replacing the Van Buren Victorian entrance, a screened porch, and fenestration alterations on the southwest corner.

The main portion of the Van Buren house is brick, two and one-half stories tall on a stone basement foundation. The Upjohn addition is a large one-story wing of brick with sandstone trim on brick basement walls. The Italianate tower is approximately four stories high with the top level open on two sides to form an observation platform and bell tower. The sides of the tower are pierced with round-headed lancet windows to light the tower stairs and which match the Romanesque windows in the addition. The windows are repeated in larger scale on the enclosed ends of the tower.

The exterior brick walls of the mansion were painted cream and the trim red during the historic period. There is evidence that the walls of the early portion were painted cream before the Upjohn wing and tower were added.

The roofs of the main portion and the tower are slate and the long rear wing is covered with standing-seam metal roofing.



Lindenwald 1969

The original kitchen and service quarters were located in the basement. The early kitchen range with ovens installed by Van Buren is intact and bears the label of Moses Pond & Co., N. 28 Merchants Row, Boston. A modern kitchen has been installed in the former schoolroom on the first floor and in a former bedroom on the second floor.

The mansion has remained relatively unchanged since the historic period. Most of the original hardware remains, including silver-plated knobs and hardware on the first floor and carpenter locks on the second floor. The greatest changes were caused by the installation of the modern kitchens and bathrooms.

Flooring is in good condition. However, due to cut joists and unprofessional patching, the floor in the ballroom is too weak for visitation.

Trim, cornices, door treatment, and mantels are compatible with the Van Buren period and should be retained.

Additional points of interest in the house are an unusually large lobby on the second floor, the two first-floor indoor necessities added by Van Buren, and the President's 1848 furnace which remains in the basement.

Gatehouses

Two gatehouses were erected by Van Buren at the two entrances to the estate on the Albany Post Road. The north gatehouse is marked by the stone basement walls while the south gatehouse remains. The structures were apparently indetical, measuring approximately 14 feet by 22 feet. The remaining gatehouse is a frame, one-story-and-loft structure on a stone-walled basement. The walls are sheathed with board-and-batten siding, and the roof, which is in poor condition, is wood shingle. The simplified Gothic-Victorian motif is further carried out with a jigsaw fascia and dog-eared window and door trim.

The long facades are composed of a central door and two windows and the ends each have two first-floor windows and a loft window.

The interior is partitioned to form minimal living quarters but is now used as storage.

Outbuildings

Other outbuildings include an antique shop, concrete-block garage and a small barn, or wagon shed. The antique shop and the garage were erected by the present owner.

The small barn directly behind the mansion is in a state of collapse. It is not of the Van Buren era; the timbers and construction tend to place its construction at about 1900 or shortly thereafter.

Traces remain on the present Lindenwald property of a barn in the grove of trees to the north of the house, and of a small building, possibly a farm office, on the southwest boundary line.

PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT CATEGORY; OBJECTIVES

The setting, the house, the man who lived there, and the times he knew them: these are the elements of what is worthwhile preserving at Lindenwald. In order that the resource composed of these elements may be most effectively preserved as part of our national heritage, it is necessary to define the purpose and proposed use of the site.

Purpose

The purpose of the proposed national historic site is to interpret the life and public service of Martin Van Buren at the only remaining site that is personally related to the eighth President of the United States.

Management Category

The Lindenwald National Historic Site will be operated by the National Park Service as an *historical area*.

Objectives

Historic Preservation

The management of historical resources will be aimed at restoring the historical buildings and grounds as far as is practicable and at recreating the environment which President Van Buren knew. All efforts will be made to give the historic environment an active, living quality. Secondary portions of historic structures may be used for adaptive purposes.

Land Acquisition

The mansion, land needed for visitor use, and sufficient land for administrative use will be acquired in fee. To preserve the historical scene, critical surrounding land will be controlled by acquisition or easement.

Research

A continuing research program, oriented toward management and interpretation of this historic resource, will be developed.

Interpretive Theme

The interpretive theme at the Lindenwald National Historic Site is the contribution of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States, to the American political tradition.

Development

Non-historic facilities for visitor access, parking, and maintenance will be physically separated from the historical core of the site. Area development will be guided by the architectural character of the site and neighborhood.

Fee Collection

This will be a fee area under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

State and Local Cooperation

The staff will actively participate in community and regional planning.

THE PLAN

Administration

Lindenwald National Historic Site will be administered by the Superintendent, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites. The office is in Hyde Park, New York, less than an hour from Kinderhook. The superintendent and his entire staff have had experience in operating a historic house and grounds similar to Lindenwald. A permanent member of the Lindenwald National Historic Site staff will have day-to-day supervision of the area as unit manager.

Resource Management

The general concept of resource management at Lindenwald National Historic Site will be to recreate and simulate as nearly as possible the historic period, 1849-1862, within the main body of the area.

Lands

In order to protect the historic resources and provide some of the atmosphere of the historic period, certain lands within the national historic site boundary should be acquired outright, while other lands will serve as well under conservation easement. In addition, the National Park Service recommends that the appropriate local jurisdiction zone certain lands for limited development. (See Land Acquisition and Zoning Plan.)

The existing Lindenwald property, containing 12.8 acres and presently owned by Kenneth F. Campbell, must obviously be owned by the United States in fee. Other fee lands include: a 1.7-acre tract southwest of the mansion; a 4.8-acre area that includes part of the Old Post Road right-of-way (50 feet wide by 1320 feet long) and the triangle of land, part of which is State-owned, between State Route 9H and the Old Post Road; and a 2.8-acre parcel on the northeast side of Lindenwald. Fee ownership of part of the Old Post Road right-of-way will insure that it remains a historic tract. The triangular area and the 2.8-acre tract are needed for access, parking, utilities, and a visitor-orientation facility. The proposed fee acquisition areas total 22.2 acres.



LAND ACQUISITION AND ZONING PLAN



LEGEND

- Fee Acquisition - 22 Acres
- Preservation Easement - 20 Acres
- Zoning - Limited Development - 370 Acres ±

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Conservation easements are recommended along all sides of Lindenwald to permit the present farm uses to continue, stabilize the setting, and prevent undesirable development. Also, the proposed easements along the south and west sides were once part of the original 220-acre Lindenwald farm owned by Van Buren.

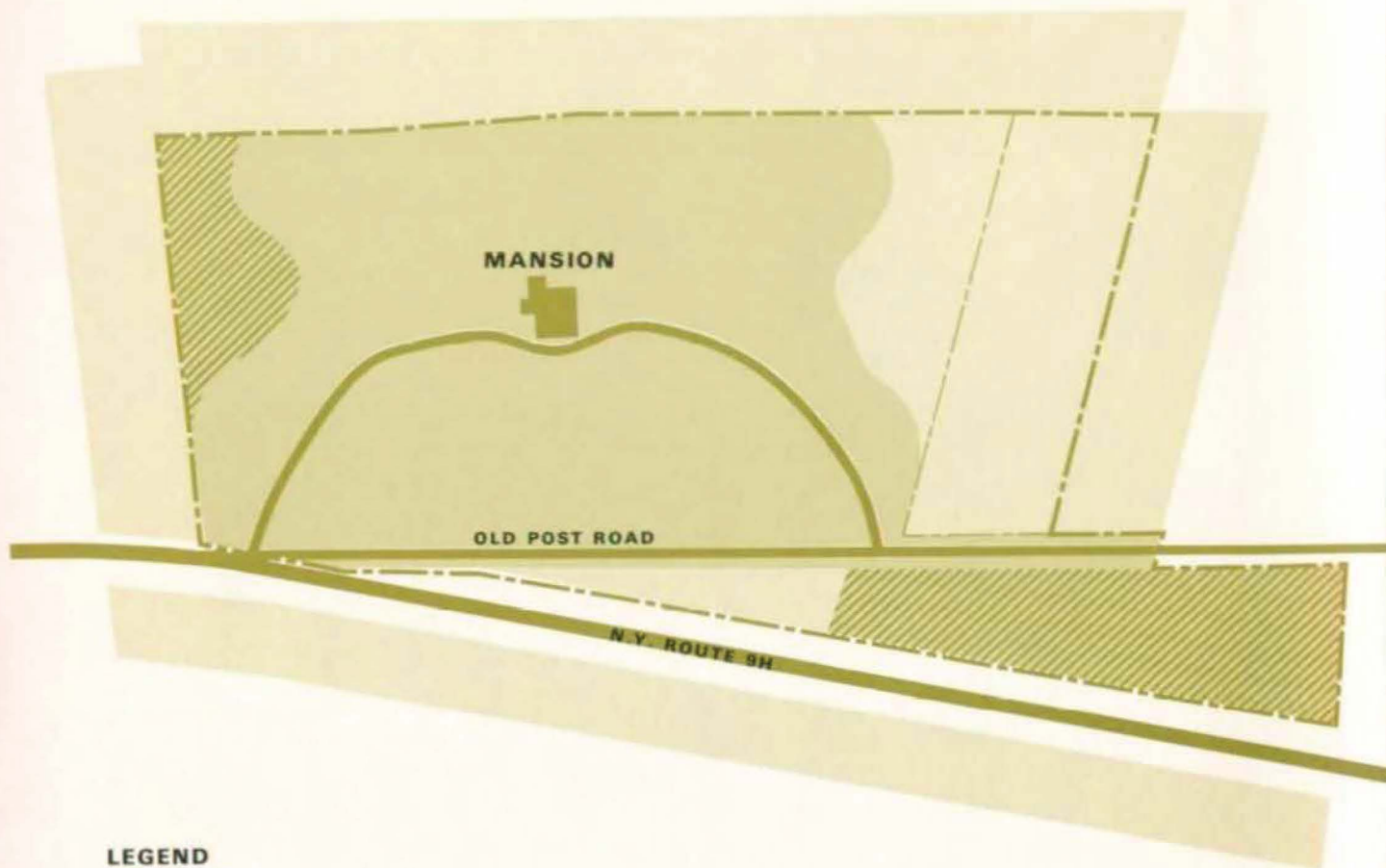
On the north and south sides, the easements are 150 feet wide. On the west side, the proposed easement is 300 feet wide to include a shelf of farmland at grade with the mansion site. There are fine views from this shelf westward to the farmland along Kinderhook Creek—an area that was once part of the original Van Buren farm. A 100-foot-wide easement east of State Route 9H will insure that no adverse development occurs opposite the front side of Lindenwald. The proposed conservation easement areas total 19.8 acres. Thus, the proposed park boundary (fee and easement) will include approximately 42 acres.

In addition to the proposed park boundary described above, this plan recommends areas of limited-development zoning even though Kinderhook Township does not presently have a zoning plan. The areas recommended for limited-development zoning are located: (1) along the State Route 9H approaches to Lindenwald for a distance of 1 mile to the north and 1/2 mile to the south of the proposed park boundary, and (2) part of the original Van Buren farm not included within the proposed park. The proposed zoning area north of the park includes the historic Van Alen House and the site of the Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse.




The purpose of the zoning would be to maintain the rural character in the immediate vicinity of Lindenwald so that park visitors will experience a pleasing landscape as they approach the historic site. With no zoning, there is a strong possibility that the park will become an island within a dense concentration of residential and/or commercial developments.

The recommended areas to be zoned total approximately 370 acres, of which about 230 acres are contained within a 1300-foot-wide corridor of State Route 9H.

The remaining area recommended for zoning is 135 acres of mostly farmland that was once part of the original Van Buren farm. Most of this area lies in the floodplain of Kinderhook Creek about 30 feet below the shelf of land containing the mansion. It provides a wonderful vista from the west side of the proposed park.

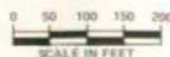


LEGEND

-  CLASS II General Outdoor Recreation
-  CLASS III Natural Environment
-  CLASS VI Historical and Cultural

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LAND CLASSIFICATION PLAN

Restoration

The exterior of the mansion will be restored to the period 1849-1862. Physically, the outside of the structure is in good condition and will require a minimum of restoration and rehabilitation. Selected portions of the house interior will be restored and refurnished. Some rehabilitation will also be required. Only those rooms which are necessary to illustrate Van Buren's life at Lindenwald will be refurnished. According to reliable sources, there are still numerous Van Buren furnishings in private hands in Columbia County. If items personally associated with the eighth President cannot be found, period furnishings must be used. There is also more than adequate space for administrative offices inside the mansion.

The only outbuilding of the historic period still standing is the south gatehouse. The exterior of this building should be restored and the interior used for employee quarters. The exterior of the north gatehouse will be reconstructed with the interior used for storage and other utilitarian purposes. The site or remains of other outbuildings that are obvious or that may be located through archeology will be stabilized and identified. For a more detailed list of restoration and rehabilitation requirements, see appendix.

It is probable that the restoration of the grounds cannot be accomplished in detail without resorting to conjecture. Information about drives, plantings near the house, and the existence of certain domestic animals should be obtainable through research. Exact delineation of the garden, orchards, meadows, etc., will probably have to depend on good judgment applied to the best available information.

Visitor Carrying Capacity

The mansion at Lindenwald can comfortably hold 100 persons at one time. Figuring on approximately 20 minutes for a house tour and another 10 minutes in the immediate grounds—this gives 200 visitors per hour. The maximum daily capacity would then be about 1600 visitors without excessive crowding or congestion and without degradation of the physical resource. Visitation to the mansion should be limited to these capacities to insure each visitor a quality experience.

Visitation

Annual visitation of about 25,000 to the Lindenwald National Historic Site is forecast for the 5th year of park operation. The bases for this projection are the current visitation to a comparable nearby area (Fort Crailo State Park) and the projected population for Columbia County.

Interpretation

The interpretive theme at Lindenwald National Historic Site is the life of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States, and his contribution to the American political tradition. A complex individual, Van Buren inherited a nascent tradition of leadership together with a number of national issues and problems. His contributions, derived from solutions worked out in the context of the still-forming Federal Government, resulted in the permanent establishment of party politics as the normal electoral procedure for control of all levels of government in the United States.

The specific issues and programs which agitated the Nation in Van Buren's day—internal improvements, banking, the "spoils system," nullification—are of interest but overshadowed by the deep moral issues raised by Van Buren's construction of political institutions. These generate unresolved conflicts about which honest men differ—the conflict between party and principle, the conflict between political order and social justice, the conflict between personal loyalty and individual conscience, and the conflict between men and measures. The burden of these conflicts may be the price we must pay to operate the government effectively and responsively. That was the opinion of Martin Van Buren, and, in large measure, that is his legacy to us.

At the park, the resources available for interpreting Van Buren consist of his home, some of his furniture, and a part of his farm. Van Buren acquired the house and land after the most eminent part of his career. We do not know at this time how much of the furniture he bought then, and how much of it belonged to him at an earlier time when he was a more central figure in politics. In any event, almost none of these resources have any specific association with the highlights of his career.

These resources do, however, reveal something of Van Buren's way of life. He had always displayed good deal of style. In the age of the common man, his political enemies often ridiculed his elegant clothing and cultivated manners. In buying and remodeling Lindenwald he evidently showed much the same taste for fashion that he had always shown in his clothes and manners. It was to be a suitable estate for a retired President. He had a large banquet hall built out of the central hallway of the building. Here he would receive and entertain the guests he expected to receive.

Unfortunately, Van Buren's administration had been marked by a severe depression and he left the Presidency in disfavor. Although he retained an active interest in politics for the rest of his life and played a role in the growing controversy over slavery, his term as President did not make him the kind of elder statesman that Washington or Jefferson had been. The banquet hall was seldom used; the political leaders of the 1840's and 1850's did not come; even the quiet of the country disagreed with Van Buren's active nature and he left it as often as he could afford to travel.

He treated farming as an investment, rather than an activity which gave him any deep personal satisfaction. He may even have farmed for political reasons—after all, he considered himself a Jeffersonian Republican, and probably fancied that farming was the only decent thing for retired Presidents! He began to invest in farming early and had \$20,000 in sheep during the 1820's. Someone else undoubtedly managed them for him since he was devoting full time to politics. Even after he retired to Lindenwald, he seems to have hired a manager to run the farm for him.

It would appear then that the actual resources of the park give insight mainly into Van Buren's style of living. It will require a substantial amount of interpretation to bring out the achievements for which he is remembered.

Interpretation should seek to accomplish the following tasks:

- (1) Provide visitors with a basic biographical understanding of Van Buren and his political career;
- (2) Relate the property itself to Van Buren's life by showing what it reveals about the man;
- (3) Suggest the nature and significance of Van Buren's contributions to the development of American political forms and life, as well as the meaning of these contributions to Americans today; and
- (4) Offer visitors an invitation to study Van Buren in more detail, beginning at the park but continuing after their visit.

All interpretation will be accomplished in restored Lindenwald. Other historic structures at the park will be used for purposes of maintaining the historic scene or for park management.

Visitors should receive minimum basic orientation to aid their use of the park as they leave the parking area. An outdoor facility may serve this purpose, utilizing visual and/or printed materials.

Visitors will walk to Lindenwald, entering a historic zone as they cross the restored historic trace. The house, gatehouses, farm, and grounds will be restored to present the property visually to the visitor as Martin Van Buren saw it, and wished it to be seen. The carriage barn should be located, and its foundations stabilized and marked.

Visitors will be free to wander about the grounds as they please, but overt interpretive developments will be kept to an absolute minimum.

Van Buren's rather indifferent interest in farming may be reflected by the presence of a small number of domestic farm animals on the grounds. Sheep, peacocks, doves, etc., all might be appropriate, but final selection should be guided by research. Development of a scale to suggest a living farm should be avoided in the interest of accurately communicating Van Buren's view of, and attitude toward Lindenwald.

Visitors will enter Lindenwald through the side door. A sales and visitor service area may be located in one of the chambers immediately to the right of the door. Consideration should be given to reserving the other chamber in this location as a visitor lounge.

From the entrance hallway, visitors will be routed through the house to the dining room, banquet hall, and red room. From this point they may exit through the den and hall, or through the den, library, and schoolroom to the hall.

Interpretation of the three major goals, cited above, will be accomplished in four rooms on the main floor of the house: the dining room, green room, banquet hall, and red room. A variety of combined media and techniques will be used: audio-exhibit; sound-slide with selective refurnishing; costumed personal services; and fully refurnished rooms. Other rooms on the main floor may be refurnished (the library, den, and perhaps schoolroom) if Van Buren pieces become available, but visitor use of these rooms would be on an informal, self-guiding basis.

Two rooms on the second floor of the house should be developed for special program, school, and seminar use. These should have audiovisual, lecture, and changing-exhibit capability, and should also be flexible enough to accommodate informal meetings. The rooms and the hallway leading to them should be decorated in style compatible with that of the period of the house.

One room on the second floor should house a well-conceived and developed park library for staff and visitor use. Both Martin Van Buren and the period of his Presidency are relatively obscure to most contemporary Americans, and will become more so as time passes. A sound collection of materials related to these themes, housed in an appropriately developed room, will be an important interpretive and management tool.

This library, together with the special program and classrooms on the second floor, will provide the tools for accomplishing the fourth interpretive goal.

The basement of the house, restored, can provide appropriate space for the park's curatorial operations and museum collections storage.

Cooperation with Others

Lindenwald National Historic Site would be no different than any other unit of the National Park Service; dependence will be placed on local cooperation to control land use within a reasonable distance of the park boundary. During the field study, local officials expressed a concern about being able to retain the attractive rural scene in the vicinity of Lindenwald. Many individuals pledged support to township zoning in order to control the type and extent of development in the area. The village of Kinderhook presently has zoning but the township does not.

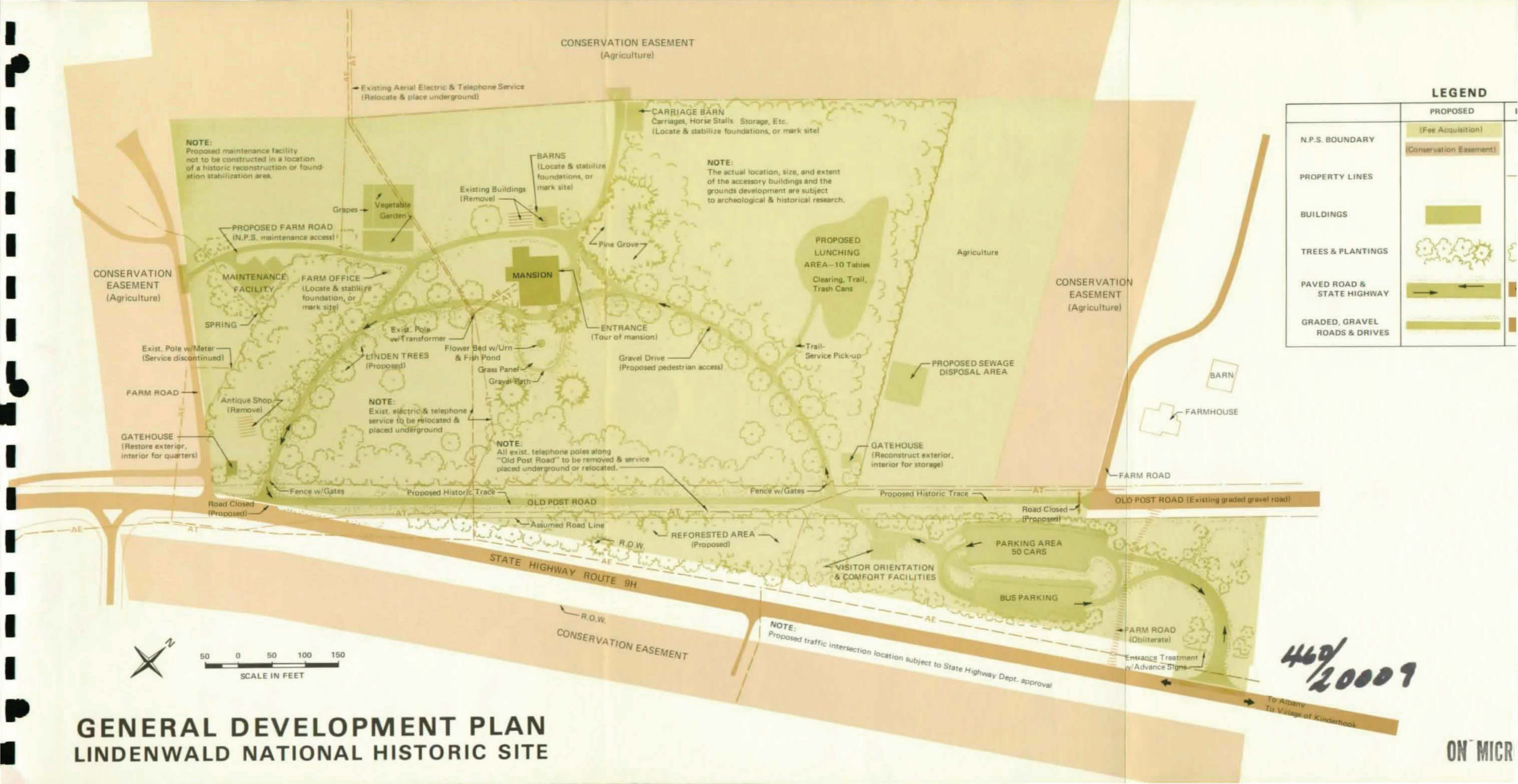
There is a Kinderhook Township planning commission that retains a planning consultant. They are in the process of producing a comprehensive plan that will be completed in two years. Columbia County has a staff planner. Close liaison should be maintained with these two sources.

The Department of Transportation, State of New York, can provide valuable assistance in land acquisition and traffic control on U.S. 9H. Preliminary contacts with resident and district officials of the Department of Transportation indicate a willingness to work closely with the Service in this project.

Valuable research and furnishings assistance will come through the Columbia County Historical Society. This active organization operates the two historic properties, the Van Alen House and the House of History, in the immediate vicinity of Lindenwald.

Throughout the region there are many architecturally and historically significant houses. Most owners of these properties take a great deal of pride in their appearance. The Service should cooperate and encourage the continuance of this effort because the appearance and mood that is created as the visitor approaches the historic site is highly effective.

The Hudson River Valley Commission and the New York Historic Trust are two important sources which have expressed a positive interest in the Lindenwald project. Both should be kept informed and be solicited for advice as required.



CONSERVATION EASEMENT
(Agriculture)

Existing Aerial Electric & Telephone Service
(Relocate & place underground)

CARRIAGE BARN
Carriages, Horse Stalls, Storage, Etc.
(Locate & stabilize foundations, or mark site)

NOTE:
Proposed maintenance facility
not to be constructed in a location
of a historic reconstruction or found-
ation stabilization area.

BARN
(Locate & stabilize
foundations, or mark site)

NOTE:
The actual location, size, and extent
of the accessory buildings and the
grounds development are subject to
archeological & historical research.

PROPOSED
LUNCHING
AREA—10 Tables
Clearing, Trail,
Trash Cans

Agriculture

CONSERVATION
EASEMENT
(Agriculture)

CONSERVATION
EASEMENT
(Agriculture)

MAINTENANCE
FACILITY

FARM OFFICE
(Locate & stabilize
foundation, or mark site)

MANSION

Pine Grove

ENTRANCE
(Tour of mansion)

Gravel Drive
(Proposed pedestrian access)

PROPOSED SEWAGE
DISPOSAL AREA

BARN

FARMHOUSE

FARM ROAD

OLD POST ROAD (Existing graded gravel road)

PARKING AREA
50 CARS

BUS PARKING

VISITOR ORIENTATION
& COMFORT FACILITIES

STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 9H

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

NOTE:
Proposed traffic intersection location subject to State Highway Dept. approval

469/20009

To Albany
To Village of Kinderhook



50 0 50 100 150
SCALE IN FEET

**GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
LINDENWALD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

ON MICR

Phasing of Development

	1	2	3	4	5
Archeological and Historical Research	•	•	•		
Restore and Selectively Furnish Mansion	•	•	•		
Locate and Construct Historic Gravel Drive	•				
Remove Antique Shop, Shed, and Garage	•				
Restore Exterior of South Gatehouse	•				
Grounds Development (Interior—Employee Quarters)	•				
Construct Visitor Orientation and Comfort Facility		•	•		
Construct Access and Parking Area		•			
Construct Utilities and Place Underground; Install Modern Utilities in Mansion	•				
Construct Farm Road (Maintenance Access to Mansion)		•			
Construct Maintenance Area		•			
Reconstruct Exterior of North Gatehouse (Interior—For Storage)				•	
Close Old Post Road and Construct as Historic Trace					•
Grounds Development (Historic Period)					•
Reconstruct Barn					•
Stabilize Foundations or Mark Site of Carriage Barn and Farm Office					•

EPILOGUE

This master plan presents a scheme for preserving part of a historical resource—the former home of President Van Buren. This plan also states how the resource should be developed and used to tell the story of Van Buren. In summary, it states what the Park Service should do in this regard during the next 20 years. But what about the distant future—beyond the next 20 years?

A concept that will provide more activities for the visitor is possible for the distant future. This will depend on utilizing portions of President Van Buren's original farm now proposed for limited-development zoning (135 acres plus or minus). Two possible uses could be picnicking, and hiking and bicycling on an interesting trail system. The initiation of such a hiking and bicycle trail system would provide considerable historical and sightseeing interest. One three-mile segment of the trail system could start at the Van Buren farm, pass along Kinderhook Creek and end in the interesting valley of Kinderhook. A longer loop segment of about 15 miles could connect with a trunk trail along the nearby Hudson River. This segment would offer a variety of vistas (wooded stream valleys, farmland, a majestic river, and historical places of interest).

These proposals should be considered in context with other land uses in the county's comprehensive plan.

APPENDIX

Restoration and Rehabilitation Requirements for Lindenwald

In order to restore the Van Buren house to the historic period and place the building in the proper physical condition to provide for the comfort and safety of the staff and visitors, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Repaint exterior brickwork and masonry.
2. Remove existing front and rear porches and restore porches as designed by Upjohn; the front porch detailing will be determined by the Upjohn presentation perspective and fragments piled at the site.
3. Repair existing slate roof.
4. Repair and restore damaged cornices and exterior woodwork.
5. Repaint the exterior using historically accurate colors.
6. Erect a new structural system beneath the ballroom floor to compensate for cut joists and failing structural system; and effect other building structural repairs.
7. Remove two modern kitchens and restore schoolroom mantel and fireplace, and bedroom mantel and fireplace.
8. Remove modern ceiling material and replaster and patch ceilings and walls where required, including complete replastering of basement kitchen.
9. Remove modern bulk windows in library and schoolroom and replace with Upjohn, Roman-headed, twin windows.
10. Refinish pine floors.
11. Clean and restore damaged areas of French wallpaper.
12. Remove ill-fitting shutters on Italianate wing.
13. Refinish and repaper interior to historic period after architectural investigation is made to determine colors and finishes used during Van Buren's occupancy.
14. Designate first floor chamber near side door entrance as sales and visitor service area, with the adjacent chamber reserved for visitor use on heavy visitation days.

15. Adapt two rooms on second floor; install facilities for special program, school, and seminar use.
16. Adapt one room on second floor; install facilities for reference library for staff and visitor use.
17. Adapt two rooms on second floor; install facilities for administrative offices.
18. Adapt restored portions of basement; install facilities for curatorial operations and museum collections storage.
19. Install rest rooms for staff use and emergency public use.
20. Install new heating and remove existing system; new system will be forced hot air with provisions for humidity control and airconditioning.
21. Install new electrical wiring with provision for service outlets as dictated by interpretive and administrative requirements.
22. Install fire detection and control system.
23. Restore south gatehouse, including new wood shingle roof, west windows and front and rear stoops; restore interior for employee quarters.
24. Reconstruct exterior of north gatehouse. Interior constructed for storage.
25. Reconstruct original barn after archeological research determines its location.
26. Remove antique shop, concrete block garage, and small barn.
27. Stabilize foundation traces of carriage barn, farm office, and other structures as appropriate following archeological exploration of the sites.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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